

ASTRO forecasts



by Tina Mews
What's happening
in the heavens?

Aries

Mars journeys through your home sector from September 5–November 4. You can make use of this energy by focusing on projects around the home. On an emotional level, you could be more defensive and self-protective during this period. Mars here could stimulate conflicts within your family. Staying in touch with your feelings helps with remaining cooperative, calm and clear.

Taurus

Use this period for discerning what is worth keeping and deserves further anchoring into the here and now. Putting attention to details will greatly increase your productivity. You can get clarity about the way you envisage them to be. It is good timing for perfecting or finishing creative projects dear to your heart.

Gemini

This is the time of the year where you want to get your house in order, clean out the old and make space so that new developments in your life can be anchored and grounded. Reflect on your goals and achievements if they resonate with your heart. It is a good time to be practical, organized, and applied to the job.

Cancer

Mars, the cosmic energiser, is in your sun sign from September 5–November 4. You have extra energy at your disposal to move your plans forward. Remain patient, if things do not progress at the speed you desire. Use this period for perfecting and refining your ability to express your needs confidently.

Leo

This is a good time to liberate your mind and experiment with different streams of thought. Surprise yourself and then work out what goes and what doesn't. Dare to be the social reformer that you always wanted to be and embody the change that you are envisaging! Follow your passion with a portion of detachment.

Virgo

The lunar eclipse on September 18 occurring on the Virgo/Pisces axis might be the start of a new cycle. Over the next two years you may embark on a new journey as doors open unexpectedly. Simultaneously, there are also things/people/dreams etc., which need to be left behind or who are moving out of your life.

September

September is a time of transition, when the Sun journeys through the earthy and pragmatic realm of Virgo before entering the cardinal sign Libra during the equinox on September 22. We are in eclipse season with a Lunar eclipse (powerful Full Moon) occurring on September 18 followed by a lunar eclipse (powerful New Moon) on October 2. Eclipses happen twice a year, when there is an exact alignment between Sun, Moon and the Earth. Energetically, they function as portals that can open new pathways and options. They amplify our opportunities for transformation and can swiftly shift old programs. The current Virgo passage (August 23–September 22) is helpful for processing the many events of the last months in preparation for the next step.

On September 2, Uranus stations retrograde in the late degrees of Taurus while Pluto re-enters Capricorn on the same day. This will be Pluto's final 10-week visit to this sign for the next two centuries. Pluto, the principle of destruction and regeneration, has been in Capricorn since 2008. We can use the Pluto retrograde period for reflecting on the structures that have been broken down, changed and transformed during the last 16 years. From November 20 onward Pluto will be in Aquarius for the next two decades shifting the energy concentration from top-down control systems (Capricorn) to community and the process of rearranging and rebuilding our human relationships (Aquarius).

The New Moon in Virgo occurs on September 3. Virgo themes are especially highlighted with a lunar eclipse happening later in the month on the Virgo/Pisces axis. Virgo is analytical, pragmatic, pays attention to detail and often concerns itself with health, healing and the right cure for an illness. Virgo likes to repair, perfect and improve. The task is to differentiate between what is essential and what is not, sorting the wheat from the chaff. Mars in Gemini forms a square aspect to elusive Neptune in Pisces until September 5. The challenge is to prioritise, staying focused on what is most essential to avoid being distracted by too many possibilities.

The New Moon ties in with the Jupiter-Saturn square, probably the most significant outer planetary alignment until mid-June next year. Their initial conjunction took place on the December solstice 2020, at zero-degree Aquarius. The current waxing square signals a turning point in this 20-year cycle. The cultural, social and political directions set in motion at the time of the conjunction—the time

of lockdowns, covid crisis, curbing of individual rights and a boost for Big Tech—are measured against the experiences that we have had since then. What worked and what didn't, what are the challenges and opportunities, and where do we go from here? On a personal level, we can reflect on our own goals if they have set us on the right course and resonate with our deeper self.

The Full Moon on September 18 is also a partial lunar eclipse occurring in the late degrees of Pisces. Eclipses can signal endings and new beginning marking a time of rapid change, either from internal (lunar) or external (solar) circumstances. The Pisces Moon is conjunct Neptune, square Jupiter and opposing the Virgo Sun. We might have difficulties with gaining clarity and therefore it is not a favourable time for making important decisions. Mars in Cancer is forming a square aspect with the nodal axis while Venus is in opposition to the wounded healer, Chiron. Additionally, Mercury forms an opposition to Saturn. These are complex energies to integrate and use in a positive way. Our defense mechanisms are easily triggered causing tension in our relationships. It is best to take a step back, observe our assumptions and avoid being drawn into conflicts that drain our energy and do not generate any good outcomes.

The Libra Equinox on September 22 foreshadows the themes of the upcoming annular solar eclipse of October 2. Relationships and their intrinsic power dynamics are in focus, may this be on a personal, social, national or global level. Since the Black Moon Lilith is transiting through Libra in conjunction with the South Node, unresolved issues that originated in the past around equality, justice and fairness are especially in the spotlight. Attitudes based on ancient privilege (deriving from money, power, class, gender etc) are questioned. Lilith conjunct the South Node may challenge us to confront ways we have been holding ourselves back, or falling back to old patterns of relating that don't serve us anymore. There is the possibility of using these intense impulses for freeing our mind and shifting to a new awareness—and thus onto a new path.

Navigation by the stars: Personal and/or relationship astrology; life cycles and your year ahead transits: plans, directions, concerns for 2025/26. Contact Tina on 0457-903-957 for in person, Zoom or Skype consultations; email: star-loom@hotmail.com Gift vouchers available!

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September 8: The Sun & father lineage
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For information and registration, phone 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com

Libra

With Venus, your ruler, the Black Moon Lilith and the karmic South node conjoined in Libra (until September 23), themes from the past to do with fairness, justice and gender equality are stimulated. This is a great opportunity to establish a new balance and honour the differences as well as similarities between all people.

Scorpio

The energies of the moment are aimed at team building and working together to further a mutual goal. Nevertheless, find a working balance between your own ambition and creative desires versus the demands of the group. Observe your feelings and thoughts as you may get easily fired up over differences in points of view. Speak your truth confidently and with love.

Sagittarius

Observe your feelings and impressions especially in the days surrounding the lunar eclipse (September 18). You may receive the first inclinations of a future change in direction. A similar eclipse took place in September 2016. Reflect on where you would like to go, whether you are on the right path and what you can leave behind because you do not need it anymore.

Capricorn

This is a great time for expanding your horizons and working on your broader perspective in a more detailed way. Visualise where and what you want to achieve, which mountain to climb. On the other hand, it is a helpful period for identifying and letting go of what is no longer relevant in your life.

Aquarius

Pluto is back in Capricorn until mid-November, when the planet of transformation re-enters your sun sign for a 20-year visit. Use this period for reflecting on what has broken down and changed for you in the past years and what you would like to leave behind so you can start lighter and refreshed when Pluto re-enters your sign. These are challenging times filled with even greater opportunities!

Pisces

The organisational mode of the current Virgo influence helps with solving day-to-day tasks and keeping your feet on the ground. On the other hand, the intense vibes of the Lunar eclipse in your Sun sign (September 18) may stimulate your imagination but can also cause confusion. Avoid making important decisions around this time as you might feel pulled between moving towards the future while being held back by something from the past.

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Celebrating love and life

by Marilyn Devlin

Nothing is as it was – nothing can ever be the same. How do we deal with so much newness – open, to the expanse of wonder – and unfamiliar, over and over again.

It's either a tensed form of rugged holding – clinging on for life itself – or else a calm flow, a letting be... at every juncture, each and every step.

With joy in the heart – permeating your world – the one you create to hold you safe. And see you safely held – loved and nurtured through everything you encounter. Is that a possible reality?

Of course (cause for celebration) – we have life – it pulses through our veins – it grants us animation – brightens our mind as it trudges through deep and dark forgotten places.

Standing on the threshold – as one life crumbles, returning to the dust from which it was made. Where light dims, then flashes brightly. Where warning signs bellow... blast our ears.

This old and new... a sign, a signature, walking side by side... internal conflict manifesting externally, we are responsible for everything. Nothing happens in isolation.

And yet there's love – floods of compassion melt the harshness – the brilliant core shines inside – beckoning, whispering, never raising its voice – 'follow me, follow me' to the garden of beauty, where you can be. Where you can be where you're meant to be.

There are so many disguises – so many tricksters – half knowledge can be dangerous – selling lies or is it ignorance. We wander aimlessly – bare feet through tiny shards of glass – the see-through castle no longer stands. As one life dies and another is born.

Springtime – a season morphs and changes shape. Of course they're all dependent on each other – nothing walks alone in real life, except us humans.

Everything changes – the balance is compromised – the promised things never arrive. Something different sits in your post box – will it warm or will it chill. Will it comfort or will it threaten.

All the new – all the old piled in a corner – waiting for the match to burn it, only ashes left – idle, dead, or so it seems – nothing dies, just changes shape.

Everything is and then everything is not – and round and round we go. A musical merry-go-round, up and down, swing around – the magick circus lures us in. You go in, you never come out the same.

How do we deal with so much uncertainty. How do we stand on these teetering piles. Stripped bare, essentials remaining – we start again, with new feet and new eyes.

Of course they're not brand new, just recycled from all before. Life – we'll never get to its core – the mystery forever remains.

September's the anniversary of my birth – so long ago, so much in between. So much presenting every single moment – looks the same, but never is.

We burrow down to the core – how is it down there, is it light or is it dark? Does it vibrate a forever more or does it threaten to pull you down? You need to know who your enemies are. The ones that steal your peace, the ones that rob your precious time.

Springtime in the mountains – I've always been grateful for that. In the shadow of the Three Sisters, protecting, nurturing, holding me close – who knows what's ahead when we take those first few breaths.

Who knows what promises we pledge, unimaginable really in this tiny, weeny form – helpless to take care of itself. Out of the protected cocoon – into a wild, wild world.

The mysteries are endless – I know, I've pursued them. While life continues, I'm continually grateful.

September opens with the lovely Virgo New Moon... yes there are challenges... Father of Time has certainly been insisting we stand on solid ground and get it right.

We can never lose faith in Life. It's always there for us, until it isn't. Life and death – the revolving door. With so much happening in between.

Just as well we're so brave and so loved.

Finding courage

by René Norwie

Being courageous is one of those elusive things that can happen spontaneously or deliberately, with intention or instinctively.

However it happens, it is defined by the moments we find bravery and determination in spite of our fears and doubts, and in hindsight, we realise just how courageous we can be.

On 3rd August, Nimbin Storytellers had a fantastic storytelling night exploring the theme of 'courage' at the Nimbin Bowlo.

We heard an incredible array of personal stories of:

- how a crash landing gave the chance to rewrite her narrative (René Norwie);
- jumping right into the hot frying pan of a cult to find his real self and his tribe (Gwilym Summers);
- surviving a nail-biting near-death experience (Cath Smith);
- how an everyday moment made her reconsider an impulse to panic (Leanne Logan);
- how a personal health crisis helped her find real love (Katinka Smit);
- witnessing the temerity of animal courage at a showdown on a chicken ranch (Warwick Fry); and
- stepping forward when circumstances require someone to do something (Cindy Thummel).

Our next event is Fireside Stories at Hanging Rock Hall, on Saturday 28th



September from 5.30pm. Admission is \$10 p/p (concession \$5 p/p), cash only.

Join us around the fire to share its warmth and connect through true personal stories on the theme of rebirth. Locals will be sharing their stories of second chances, reinventions, and reincarnations. Come and experience storytelling in this timeless way. BYO

camping chairs please.

Food will be Japanese flavours provided by Andre and Kaori (from Wednesday markets) available from 5.30pm, cash only.

Want to tell your story? Email us at: nimbinstorytellers@gmail.com or visit: www.nimbinstorytellers.com to find out more.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

1. Who are these cheery senior citizens, once well known to many Nimbinites and fellow travellers?

Credit: Ron Eshel/ Invision/AP



2. Who wrote and sang, "No stems, no seeds that you don't need: Acapulco gold!"

Schoooooff, mmmm, bad-assed weed!!" Take a bonus point each for the album and the year of release?

3. What golf shot is both an ace and an eagle?

4. Does a Bulbul have feathers, fins, fur or none of the above?

5. What does "passerine" mean?

6. What cometh before a fall?

7. In the aged and abundantly alliterative nursery rhyme of the same name, what did Peter Piper pick?

8. There are six new sports for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Take a point each for those you can name.

9. Which South-east Asian country was known as Siam until 1939?

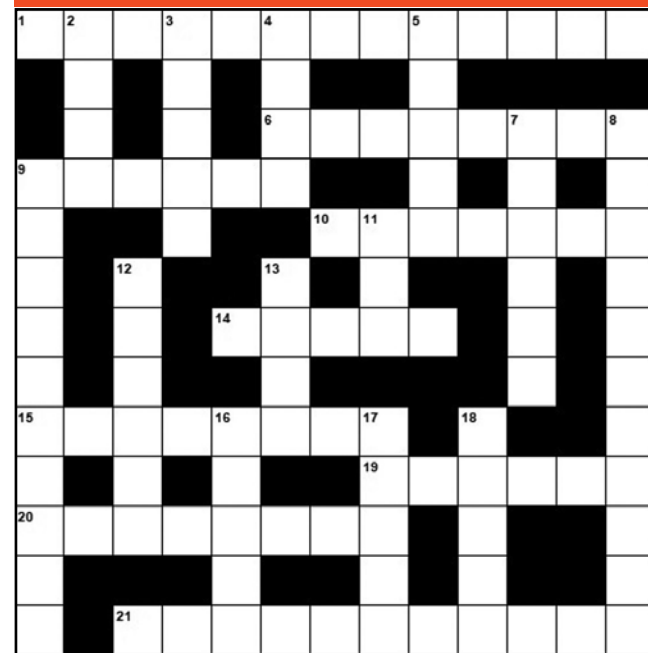
10. Peregrine Took, Meriadoc Brandybuck and Samwise Gamgee are brothers in arms of which unassuming protagonist of what epic tale written by whom over most of the first half of the 20th century and finally published in 1954? Take a point each.

- Answers**
1. Chech and Chong in "Acapulco Gold Filters" from their 1971 debut album *Chech and Chong*.
 2. Chech and Chong in "Acapulco Gold Filters" from their 1971 debut album *Chech and Chong*.
 3. A hole-in-one on a par 3.
 4. Feathers. Bulbuls, (family *Pycnonotidae*) are passerine songbirds.
 5. Passerine means perching, as in birds, as in bulbuls.
 6. Pride. See you next year, New South Wales!
 7. A peck of pickled peppers, although one wonders why, however, as he seems to have lost them as soon as he picked them.
 8. Baseball, Cricket, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Squash, Softball.
 9. Thailand.
 10. Frodo Baggins in *Lord of the Rings* by J R R Tolkien.

Nimbin Crossword

2024-09

by 5ync



Across

1. 15 across – apex predator
6. Deposited by creeks
9. Break a cipher
10. Classic cocktail – vermouth, Campari and gin
14. Strongly flavoured
15. The common ancestor of all birds
19. Enrol (for military service, say)
20. Hard, corrosion-resistant metal
21. 5 Across – armoured creature with bony plates along its back

Down

2. Padlock? Ivy league uni
3. Cook's garb to prevent stains? Where the fairway meets the putting green
4. Narrow margin of victory

(in a horse race, say)

5. Making staff redundant? Chopping off
7. Sexy
8. 15 across – 3-horned animal
9. 15 across – enormous herbivore
11. A (15 Across) first emerges from this
12. Where edges meet? Control a market by being the only supplier.
13. Volcanic ejecta
16. Major WW1 trench warfare offensive
17. According to myth, Rome was founded by Romulus and ----
18. Cathedral of the red centre

Solution: Page 34

Follow the 'how to vote'

As a student of history and sociology I was taught that it was important to outline any biases or any perceived conflicts of interest before making your arguments.

To wit, my partner is second on the Greens ticket. Virginia Waters. She is a great advocate for our community and if you elect her you will be well represented, no matter your ideological point of view.

With that said, my electoral advice is simple: at each polling station there will be people handing out 'how to votes' for each team or individual running. Follow the 'how to vote' of the group you wish to elect. Each of these teams has spent months working out the best way to vote to get your representative elected.

Respect their work. Many of these psephologists have spent decades studying these systems and they have witnessed the electoral catastrophes that good intentioned but ill-informed pundits and plaudits have produced.

I'm going to say it once more... so there is no confusion... follow the 'how to vote'.

Those of you who have lived through the last month of me trying



Revenge of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens

to break open the 'quasi optional preferential proportional' system, know that it is a complex initially top down and, in the end, a bottom-up system that makes voting below the line a risky venture, particularly for mid ticket candidates.

Keep it simple sweetheart. There is no special secret way to vote that ensures electoral success. In practical terms you can't get a number two without a number.

Of all the recent elections, this one is the most difficult to predict. Apparently almost 10% of the electorate have relocated, and yet our electorate has more registered voters. Who are they all? I suspect there are more tradies living and voting here since we started rebuilding after the catastrophic flooding and landslips of '22. And more risk-taking small business people.

How will they respond to a council which called for its own sacking?

Who knows but it's a sociologist's dream – it's environmental catastrophe watch – how will humanity deal with this great upheaval?

You know how I'll be voting. I'll be following the Greens how to vote.

And I recommend you do likewise.

To journey from bloody bedlam to peacefulness

by Michael Brooke

Half a lifetime ago I was a triage nurse in a busy Sydney hospital – lots of nasty stuff, messy worrisome work, long hours.

It was a typical hospital emergency: painfilled people, a lot of noise, distressed patients. I imagined it as a kind of anteroom to Dante's Inferno. The air stank of fumigants, smells of disinfectant, blood of the injured, the reek of suffering in so many forms. It was not a happy place.

After nine years and nine months working there (yes I counted the days) I was burned out, exhausted. In the vernacular I was 'buggered', so I resigned.

I immediately went to live in a Buddhist forest monastery, Wat Buddha Dhamma, in the heart of a National park – a flight from city life to live anew in a cloistral wilderness. It felt like I'd stopped the world and tumbled off. Birds and eucalypts, meditation and chanting, and silence. It was weird.

I was not a Buddhist but, wonderfully, I found I liked the vibes. My heart rate slowed from hypersonic to an amble.

I got to know about silence and meditation from the abbot, Phra Khantipalo, who was a strict teacher, intolerant of 'idle chatter'. He advised, keep your voice box locked and learn to listen.

Learning to listen was the best of his lessons. Keeping the box locked was harder. Silence remains the hardest.

Silence! I still can't properly reach it. Mostly I'm noisy. I have a compulsion that I can't drop, that I must watch the world news on the box, and on my computer, and on my phone obsessively. And obsessively I have to share it.

And it's all bad. There's a conflagration in Ukraine and I have to see it, I tear my eyes away from the savagery in Gaza, and in Africa they are fighting again... poor Africa.

I feel, as the poet Mary Oliver writes: "As though it were my own twilight. As though it were my own vanishing song." I am, you see, an old retired nurse who has learned a bit about suffering. I don't know how to not see it nor how to shut off the sound of it.

The wise fellow Gordon Hempton wrote "Silence is not the absence of something but the presence of everything... It is the presence of time, undisturbed..." I imagine a state of being wherein no-one is shouting, there's no machinery grinding, no gunfire, not a woman or a child crying.

I imagine a kind of silence, like an Australian forest is a quiet place, where silence is not an absence. It's a bird song. A cicada is fortissimo abuzz. Rain falling is a rush of sound and rhythms. And now a melody of swarming of insects in flight.

Something whispers... the wind.

If I, too, am as quiet as these and listening keenly I may hear the presence of some tiny passer-by 'silently' roving beetle. To experience the soul-swelling wonder of such silence, which is the presence of everything, I must learn to hear it.

A moment

by S Sorrensen

I get upset easily these days. I go from cool happy bloke to upset man-child faster than a politician's turnaround, and, often, for unreasonable reasons.

I mean, I don't fall to my knees, sobbing like a Subaru on three cylinders, pound the ground with my fist, turn my face to the heavens, tears forming like oil drops around a blown head gasket (never lend your car), and scream, "Nooooo!"

No, I don't do that.

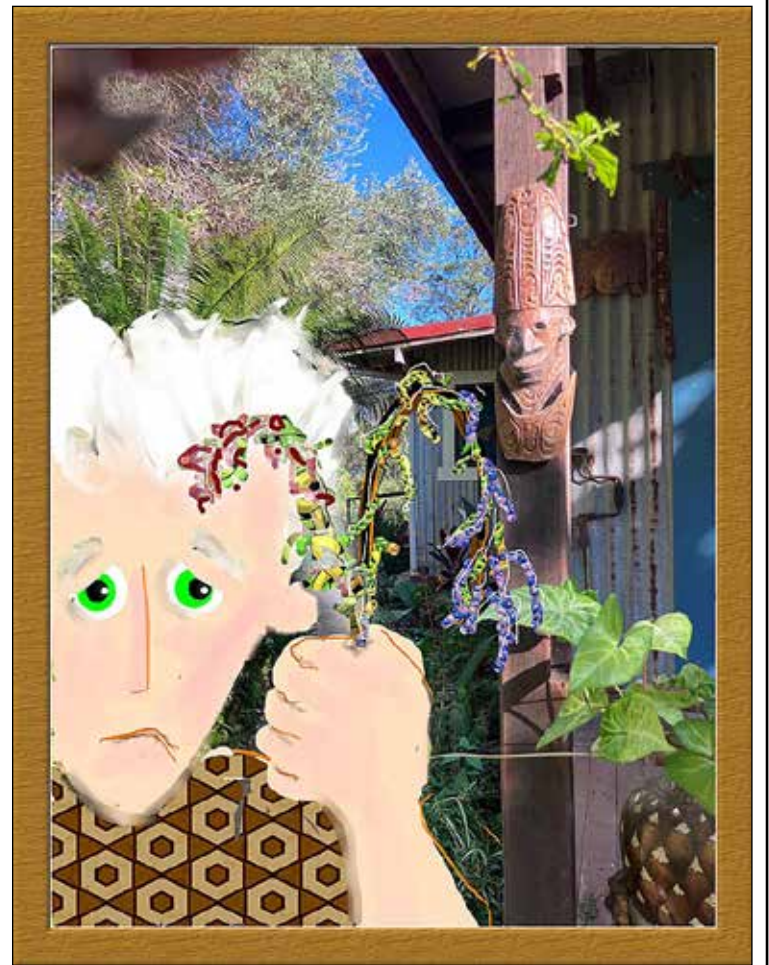
Neither do I get so angry over a trivial matter that I do something really stupid. Like get drunk. Really drunk. And smoke a cigarette. And text her...

No. I don't do that. (But really, how hard can it be to screw the soy milk cap back on? Not a half-turn so it's barely gripping; turn 'til tight! Just in case someone, a cool happy bloke for instance, were to shake the soy milk before adding it to their morning coffee – a perfectly plausible action, given the soy sediment situation – and the lid flies off, unleashing a spray of soy milk over everything, including an open iPad.)

When I get upset, which is becoming more often, I stomp through the garden mumbling to myself. I really tell those bastards what I reckon. (Oh, poor thing. Only \$3bn profit this year?) I stop occasionally to savagely yank out a weed. (Take that!) And I devise plans.

I open my iPad, hoping it has charged this time (a soy-based electrical issue), and plan a detailed course of action that perfectly combines my running away from the issue with revenge. The plans mostly don't happen, but the planning feels good: Dutton homeless in Gaza. Gina on the dole. Donald who?

I'm not the only upsettee. We are growing in number. We should get together. The Easily Upset People's Support Group. We could demand more government action on... everything!



"What do we want?!"
"A perfect world!"
"When do we want it?"
"It's too late!"

No, it wouldn't work. People don't like upset people. Even upset people don't like upset people. The times when upsetity lays heavily on the upsettee are coincidentally the times when friends suddenly have something on. Far away. All day. Yes, and tomorrow too.

Maybe a Facebook group? That's good for hate. And no real connection with a person is required. Someone in the group needs support? Send them an emoji. No, send two emojis – to show you really care.

Of course, the challenge is to understand the root cause of the increasing global upsetability. I know my triggers: tailgaters, theatre talkers, chemtrailists, bombed children, smug capitalists, unmuffled Harleys... (It's a long list.) But is there is a common origin of these diverse disquiets?

Why be upset at all? We have only a moment in the sun. Our life is short, a flash in the pandemonium. Not enough time to understand much of the universe or ourselves, but just enough time to hear a magpie aria, to gaze at a winter sunset, to taste a tempura zucchini flower. Beautiful, right?

So why the upset epidemic? After many millennia, we are recently separated from the planet, from the mother. Bubble-wrapped in duty and distraction, bloated on opinion and opioid, deafened by digital noise, blinded by the light of a trillion screens, we are mostly numb to her fever, her failing health.

But maybe, on a subconscious level, we still feel her. Mother. She is hurting, we feel it and we get upset – even without knowing it's her. (It's the bloke with the bloody noisy dogs.)

I squeeze two drops of super glue where the cap meets the soy milk container and place it back in the fridge.

Ultraviolet (UV) Index

by Magenta Appel Pye

As the weather starts to heat up again and we're spending more time outside, I want to talk about the UV index.

There are record levels of solar ultraviolet on Earth's surface these days and Australia has one of the highest levels of UV radiation in the world, with Queensland being the skin cancer capital of Australia.

I have fair skin and grew up spending summers outside. The fairer your skin is, the more careful you need to be. As teenagers we would sunbake to get that 'healthy' looking tan we so admired.

After having had chemotherapy and radiation, my skin will forevermore be extremely

susceptible to burning and so I keep a keen eye on the UV index and plan my day around it. It's annoying that I have to scroll down past the bottom of the screen to find it right at the end. It's even below 'what the weather feels like' for goodness sakes!

Keep an eye on your skin. Get a partner or friend to check your back regularly. If there are any weird looking spots or spots that change quickly, get to the skin doctor promptly. It may save your life.

The UV classifications are:
• low levels (1-2), no sun protection needed;
• moderate (3-5);
• very high (8-10); and
• extreme (11+).

Last year we saw UV readings of 11 regularly, which means extreme risk of harm from unprotected sun exposure. Unprotected skin and eyes can burn in minutes. Yes, minutes! Eyes as well.

You must take all precautions – cover up, polarised sunglasses,

sunscreen and, if possible, stay out of the sun.

It is not a good idea to tan when the UV index is above 6 as it very much increases the likelihood of sunburn, skin cancer, and long-term damage.

The simplest advice is that when the index is at 3 or higher, protect your skin.

The summer sun in Australia is up to 10% stronger than similar latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere. Air currents high in the atmosphere sometimes bring ozone-depleted air from Antarctica's ozone hole to Australia, letting even more UV through.

I once asked a skin specialist what the best cream there is for your face and skin and she said "sunscreen."

Before you go outside, get into the habit of checking the UV rating. It only takes a few seconds and may surprise you.

It is important to look after you and your family's skin.

Using local raw clay

by Aimee Morrissey

One of the things we are dedicated to in our preschool is to be mindful of our sustainable practices. We are always striving to be thoughtful about the provenance of the resources we use with the children.

We have a permanent clay table at our preschool where our children get to freely explore and revisit working with clay.

We provide plenty of space, time and opportunity for free investigation and creation using clay. It is a wonderful medium for the children to use for their artistic expression.

The children are provided with real clay tools and we teach the children

techniques to use the clay if they want to achieve a particular result.

Clay is relaxing for the children to work with and very pliable for small hands.

We usually buy the clay from a local clay supplier but recently we were gifted a lot of clay from a local family's backyard that backs onto bushland.

The children have observed the difference and noticed that the raw clay has lots of rocks and natural materials throughout it. We have encouraged the children to work with the raw clay with all its uniqueness.

We have been experimenting with the clay and we are learning filtering processes with the children.

We have soaked the rough clay, and then worked it, removing the natural



materials in the clay, until it became smooth and workable clay.

This has given us a wonderful opportunity to look at the difference between our refined clay and the raw clay that has come straight from the ground.

Investigations at Tuntable Falls Community School

by Ginger O'Brien, teacher

In 2023, Tuntable Falls Community Schools' K-2 teachers participated in professional learning to adopt 'investigations.'

Built from 25 years of research, 'investigations' is a play-based child-centred pedagogy that delivers a personalised and holistic approach to teaching. It encourages children to become active participants in their learning underpinned by all curriculum areas.

The sessions run three times a week in the morning. Structured for children to discover and investigate a wide range of activities such as tinkering, construction, art, craft, science, maths, literacy, sensory and dramatic play. Teachers scaffold investigation sessions with learning

intentions and purpose for learning. Pausing to inquire students on their problem-solving skills and justify their process and reasoning.

Neuroscience and developmental psychology are major disciplines that guide pedagogical practice in investigations. Brain research tells us that young children respond best to active learning.

Investigations is a balance of explicit teaching and actively investigations, tailoring a range of social and emotional experiences to suit the needs of the children.

In the two years since the program was adopted, Teachers and aides have seen tremendous improvements to behaviour, confidence, retention and problem-solving skills in the students. This nurturing and inclusive program provides a seamless



transition from childcare or preschool to kindergarten.

If you are interested in joining our school in 2025, transition sessions will be held on Thursdays over three consecutive weeks: 24th and

31st October, and Thursday 6th November.

Contact the school office on 0491-466-619 or check out our school Facebook page: Tuntable Falls Community School.



Precious little creature

This amazing little gecko (at left) is a Border Ranges Leaf-tailed Gecko (*Saltuarius swaini*) which is native to our area. Measuring only about 20 cms fully grown, it can cling onto rough walls and eats insects and bugs.

If you see one at your place looking for a feed, leave a saucer of water out for it so it doesn't get stuck in the sink.

Puggles painting and pancakes

Join us on 21st September from 10am to 1pm in the marquee at the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary for an extra special morning of art-making led by contemporary artist Cat Gerke and Keeper Ellie.

Kids will be inspired to create a cockatoo-inspired masterpiece made with painting, printing and decoupage!

The morning also includes a pancake breakfast and some adventures around the sanctuary with Ellie, including watching the Free Flight Bird presentation. Cost \$50 per child.

Contact: www.byronbaywildlifesanctuary.com.au

The Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (previously the Macadamia Castle) is

PUGGLES PLAYTIME

SATURDAY SEPT 21st AT THE SANCTUARY! 10 AM - 1 PM - \$50 PP

PAINTING & PANCAKES

A special morning kids art class with contemporary artist Cat Gerke, a pancake breakfast and wildlife adventure with our Keepers!

BOOK NOW

located at 419 Hinterland Way, Knockrow, phone 6687-8432.

It is open seven days a

week, offering a daily activity schedule including keeper talks and wildlife education presentations.

Rainbow Ridge
School for Steiner Education

SPRING FAIR
SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER
10 AM - 3 PM

Celebrate Spring with performances and live music, good food and drinks.

String ensemble, children's music, maypole, fantastic stalls and fun activities for everyone.

Bring a picnic rug and enjoy the beautiful grounds at Rainbow Ridge Steiner School!

Due to location, this event is cash only. Please remember to bring change.

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Nimbin Headers: More than just football



Grade 11

by Lewis King

As the senior season draws to a close (only finals left to play) and MiniRoos games have finished up, I look back at 2024 and what an incredible year it has been for the Headers.

This year has been an historic one with so many improvements, many new players and supporters and an incredible vibe at the club.

The value of a sporting organisation and what it brings to the local community really is quite amazing. We are an open and welcoming club and, although we are not perfect, we really are moving in the right direction.

The night games have been fantastic with the amazing canteen crew serving up delicious meals. The Headers is basically another restaurant in town, and meals can be enjoyed while watching some great football and cheering each other on.

I definitely had goose bumps the first time I drove through the gate

to watch a Nimbin home night game, the Womens 5ths playing Woodburn, on a chilly winter evening.

I ordered some food (a delicious chicken curry) and caught up with one of my best mates from school, as we watched our kids, the next generation of little Nimbin Headers, run around in excitement.

There were children playing, families on picnic blankets braving the cold, teenagers and adults of all ages enjoying the food and friendly atmosphere in anticipation of history in the making.

Every single night game I have been to since, was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. People turn up in droves to experience the magic of football in Nimbin under the lights, in an inclusive community spirit.

And it hasn't just been the night games, many weekends have been spent coaching, playing, volunteering and spectating at the club. Often on a Sunday afternoon dozens of families are spread in the sun, kids

running freely, adults chatting and watching the games, joining in the home town chants of "Come on you Headers" or "It's a corner - Ooooooh". It's beautiful.

Summer socials

Our six-a-side summer socials begin early October. Get your teams together and join us for a friendly kick Tuesday evenings, men and women aged 15+ playing in mixed teams. Registrations opening soon at: playfootball.com.au

Nimbin Headers Celebration

To mark such a successful year at the club and celebrate our connection with the whole Nimbin community we are having a party at the Headers fields, Saturday 19th October.

Join us from 4pm till midnight for live music, kids entertainment, food vendors, drinks and DJs later in the night. \$10 entry, and camping available onsite (for those wishing to indulge responsibly).

Look forward to seeing you all there.



Grade 6 Pademelons

Fatigue and upgrades in Earth's ascension

Crystalline Clarity

by Daryl Spilberg

Both our beautiful planet and the realities we collectively

coexist within, are currently undergoing an incredible metamorphosis, ushering in a monumentally huge change at an increasingly rapid rate. The most common term

for this is the "ascension process" or "shifting from the 3rd dimension into the 5th", where Earth and humanity are rising in consciousness and ascending to new heights.

A collective shift this significant has never happened in Earth's colourful history and thus it is to be expected that it will come with some challenges, trials and discomfort. As a spiritual counsellor and Crystal Dreaming practitioner, I am seeing an increasing number of people feeling affected by this current shift. Contributing to this is a very long list of ascension symptoms that are becoming increasingly apparent, culminating in an overall sense of fatigue.

There is currently a huge upgrading of energy and light codes for those willing and ready to receive them. Indeed, this upgrading has been happening and will continue to for quite some time as the changes continue to gain speed. Just as the meandering caterpillar

morphs into a graceful flying butterfly, there is an intricate process involved in receiving the incoming light codes and energy to upgrade us energetically as well as on a DNA and cellular level. This is helping our energy systems change to hold the increasing consciousness and light, shifting to a higher frequency and towards a more loving and unified reality.

To move forward into the ascended future of this world, our bodies will need to be able to adapt to hold enough light and consciousness to be able to do so. This means that our physical, energetic, emotional and mental bodies need to be purified to be able to receive and integrate the aforementioned upgrades, codes and energies.

This can be a very exhausting process and contribute to the overall sense of fatigue. Some may be feeling chronically sick or unwell, with old or strange new illnesses and symptoms flaring up, either for purging through purification work or conversely weighing one



down densely due to neglect.

There are a huge number of ways one can work on their own ascension, but a few suggestions are: cleaner diet, energetic work, meditation, shadow work, improving and removing bad habits and cycles, exploring and healing fear and related triggers, personal education and truth seeking, frequently disconnecting from technology and spending time in nature, working on breaking patterns and conditioning that do not serve our Divine Highest good.

We are currently being gifted the opportunity

to manifest a bright new Earth and future beyond our wildest dreams - one filled with love, unity, peace and harmony. To get there though, we need to take responsibility, working on ourselves and collectively to usher in the golden age that Earth is destined to step into. Hang in there - there's definitely more twists and turns ahead, but it will be well worth it in the end!

For spiritual counselling or a Crystal Dreaming session to help with your ascension process, feel free to get in touch for a chat at: www.crystallineclarity.com.au or phone 0422-717-905.

Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 31

T	Y	R	A	N	N	O	S	A	U	R	U	S
A	P	O	X									
L	R	S	E	D	I	M	E	N	T			
D	E	C	O	D	E	N	R	R				
I	N	N	E	G	R	O	N	I				
P	C	L	G	T	C							
L	O	T	A	N	G	Y	I	E				
O	R	V	C	R								
D	I	N	O	S	A	U	R	U	A			
O	E	O	E	N	L	I	S	T				
C	H	R	O	M	I	U	M	U	O			
U	M	U	R	P								
S	S	T	E	G	O	S	A	U	R	U	S	

Off-grid upgrades: things to consider

by Rainbow Power Company staff

From lead acid to lithium-ion batteries

When it comes to off-grid solar systems, the choice of batteries plays a crucial role in determining the efficiency, longevity, and overall performance of your setup.

If you're currently using lead acid batteries, you might be aware they have a typical lifespan of 6-7 years, which can stretch to a decade if meticulously maintained.

However, the first signs of battery failure often appear without warning, usually when a single cell goes bad, indicating that the rest may soon follow.

When it's time to replace your batteries, transitioning to lithium-ion batteries, specifically Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄ or LFP), can significantly enhance your system's capabilities.

Why replace lead acid batteries?

Lead acid batteries, while reliable, come with a set of limitations.

They typically allow you to use only about 50% of their capacity to avoid damaging the battery.

As they age, their performance degrades, often without any early warning signs.

The sudden failure of one cell often means the others are not far behind, which

can leave you in the lurch if you're relying on your off-grid system for consistent power.

The advantages of lithium-ion batteries

Switching to Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄) batteries presents several compelling advantages:

- Efficiency and Usable Capacity:** Unlike lead acid batteries, LiFePO₄ batteries allow you to use 100% of their capacity without causing damage. This means you get more usable energy from the same capacity, enhancing the efficiency of your system.
- Longevity:** Lithium-ion batteries have a significantly longer lifespan compared to lead acid batteries. While lead acid batteries might last up to 10 years with proper care, LiFePO₄ batteries can last much longer depending on depth of discharge, providing a more reliable long-term solution.
- Cost Efficiency:** Although the initial investment for lithium-ion batteries can be higher, the cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is 30-80% cheaper over time due to their longer lifespan and greater efficiency. This makes them a more cost-effective choice in the long run.
- Robustness and Reliability:** Newer lithium-ion batteries have been



rigorously tested and proven to solve many of the issues faced by off-grid users.

These batteries are designed to be robust and reliable, ensuring that your power needs are consistently met.

Choosing the right battery for your system

When upgrading, the type of system you have will influence your choice of replacement batteries. Here are some considerations:

- 12/24 Volt Systems:** These systems can be more expensive to upgrade, but the benefits of switching to lithium-ion batteries still apply.
- 48 Volt Systems:** Many customers opt to upgrade to a 48-Volt system when replacing their batteries, as these systems can handle larger loads and offer better efficiency.

Our battery solutions

At the forefront of our offerings are the ZYC batteries, developed by former BYD employees.

These batteries have been rigorously tested over the past few months and have proven to be a robust solution for off-grid

applications.

They address all the common issues faced by off-grid users and offer unparalleled reliability.

We also offer alternatives such as PowerPlus batteries, which cater to different needs and customer preferences.

Additionally, for existing SMA and Victron systems, Pylontech batteries are a great option, and for those looking for a more specialised solution, the latest Pelio battery might be the perfect fit.

Conclusion

Upgrading your off-grid solar system from lead acid to lithium-ion batteries is a smart move that can significantly enhance your system's performance, reliability, and cost-efficiency.

Whether you choose the cutting-edge ZYC batteries, PowerPlus, Pylontech, or Pelio Battery, making the switch will ensure that your off-grid power needs are met more effectively and sustainably.

Invest in your energy future by embracing the superior technology and benefits of lithium-ion batteries.

Don't get me started! Rail trails

by Harry Gumboot

Forgive me Goddess, for I have sinned. I have now ridden the Northern Rivers Rail Trail between Murwillumbah and Crabbes Creek on several occasions and enjoyed the experience immensely.

This will no doubt make me a pariah in the eyes of those who advocate for the return of rail. But even I have some reservations about other sections of the route.

When finished, the trail will be 128km long. That might be reasonable day's ride for some of us – especially with the gentle grades that are a legacy of the original role – but your average recreational cyclists, especially those with kids in tow, needs a break every 10 to 15km.

This works from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek, with a bike shop and bike hire at M'bah, food at the Tweed Regional gallery (needs a path winding around the outside area rather than the steps that require one to leave one's bike at the bottom of the hill); a roadside fruit stall near Dunbible (bring change); coffee, cake and other delights at the old Stokers Siding railway station (check opening hours); a general store at Burringbar that does excellent food and coffee, plus a bottle shop across from a park that's ideal for a picnic; a pub and several cafes at Mooball, plus bike hire; and a general store with outside seating at Crabbes Creek.

The planned extension to Byron Bay is a no-brainer. There's an historic pub, fantastic pie shop, and other food outlets at Billinudgel; plus pubs, restaurants and several supermarkets at Mullumbimby.

Which is why Lismore should have probably begun by going east rather than west. There's already a shop and restaurant at Bexhill, plus a pub and gallery at Eltham. Extend the route out to the tunnel near Booyong and that's a good day out for most people.

As for Lismore to Casino: I walked a fair bit of the route during the CSG protest at Bentley 10 years ago. It's magnificent country, but a big ask without anything more than a pop-up coffee cart at Bentley.

It might have been better designed as a bridle path, with cycling as a secondary activity. It will never be as busy as the Tweed section, which opponents will be quick to point out.

Dare I suggest redeveloping the old Ballina branch line? You can do your own research on that one.



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95 ACRES | 3 BED | 1 BATH | 2 CAR DAMS | VIEWS



\$795,000
57B CECIL STREET, NIMBIN
3 BED | 2 BATH | 4 CAR
ENGINEERED ECO FRIENDLY BUILD | SOLAR SOLAR HOT WATER



\$1,350,000
585 SKYLINE ROAD, GOONELLABAH
5.5 ACRES | 3 BED | 2 BATH | 6 CAR
CREEK EASEMENT | POOL | TOWN WATER RAINWATER | SHEDS | VIEWS



\$1,950,000
14 WEISMANTEL ROAD, NIMBIN
24 ACRES | 6 BED | 4 BATH
NIMBIN WATERFALL RETREAT



\$845,000
7/78 CECIL ST, NIMBIN
2000SQM | 3 BED | 2 BATH | 1 CAR
ARCHITECTURALLY DESIGNED



\$660,000
6/4 WALLABY ROAD, STONY CHUTE
5 BED | 1 BATH | 2 CAR | OFF GRID, M/O
SHARE VIEWS, QUEENSLANDER



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82 BOGGUMBIL ROAD, ROCK VALLEY



UNDER OFFER
74 ROSE ROAD, TUNTABLE CREEK



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Samara
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Sundai
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Suzy
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AGENT OF THE YEAR
| 2020 | 2021 |
AGENCY OF THE YEAR
2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023



FROM THE HILLS TO THE COAST!



NEW

2-4 Boorabee Street
Kyogle 1012 sqm 3 1 2
\$449,000 Agent: Samara & Sundai



NEW

144 Runnymede Road Land
Kyogle 7837 sqm
\$330,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW

19/265 Martin Road
Larnook 2 Acres 3 1 4
\$495,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW

9/56 Robb Road
Nimbin 3.76 Acres 3 2 3
\$620,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW

28 Cullen Street
Nimbin 769m² 3 1 2
\$495,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW

835 Nimbin Road
Goolmangar 1012sqm 3 1 4
\$575,000 Agent: Jacqui



NEW PRICE

5 Swift Road
Coffee Camp 2715sqm 4 1 7
\$1,080,000 Agent: Jacqui



SOLD
by Sundai

317 Oakey Creek Rd
Georgica 8.5 Acres 4 1 4
CONTACT AGENT Agent: Sundai



SOLD
by Jacqui

372 Ettrick Road
Ettrick 101.59 Acres 2 1 3
CONTACT AGENT Agent: Jacqui



SOLD
by Jacqui

50/265 Martin Road
Larnook 2 Acres 1 1 3
CONTACT AGENT Agent: Jacqui



SOLD
by JOHN

41 Alternative Way
Nimbin 594 sqm 3 2 2
CONTACT AGENT Agent: John



SOLD
Samara & John

98 Wallace Road
The Channon 4.9 Ac 3 1 2
CONTACT AGENT Agent: Samara & John

FEATURE PROPERTIES



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180/265 Martin Road, Larnook
\$795,000 Agent: Jacqui 6 2 4 2 Acres

This rare offering features two homes on 2 acres in Billen Cliffs Eco Village. The main house has 4-5 bedrooms, a spacious kitchen, renovated bathroom, and verandahs. The charming cottage includes 1-2 bedrooms, a loft, and a stunning bathroom with views. Both homes offer solar power, water tanks, and fruit trees. Ideal for extended families or rental income, with privacy provided by a rainforest gully.



53 R H Smith Road, Mountain Top
\$1,250,000 Agent: John 8 3 1 40.75 Acres

Just under 5km from Nimbin Village, this 40.75-acre retreat blends modern amenities with rustic charm. The property features a main house, self-contained cabin, studio, treehouse, and more—ideal for Airbnb or retreats. Enjoy stunning views, lush forest, and abundant wildlife. With solar panels, rainwater tanks, and an all-weather driveway, this secluded haven offers tranquility and convenience in one.