Hervey Bay's humpback whales



by Sharlene King, Southern Cross University

A couple's lifetime work reveals mystery of Hervey Bay's humpback whales

The only rest-stop on the southern migration of humpback whales is crowded at this time of year, as a staggering 12,000 females and young detour into Queensland's Hervey Bay.

This phenomenon, now involving approximately a third of the total humpback whale population, has been observed over three decades by Southern Cross University researchers Drs Trish and Wally Franklin (pictured above).

"Our long-term research reveals that Hervey Bay is a wide shallow bay preferred by humpback females, who use the bay as a "nursery" in August by mature females accompanying immature whales, and during September and October for mothers with new calves spending time alone with their calves," Trish Franklin said.

"Hervey Bay is a stopover on the southern journey. The whales spend about two weeks there. This rest-stop is particularly important for the calves and younger humpback whales, providing an ideal nurturing ground that may be contributing to the high survival rates."

The naturally curious calves have lots of energy and no fear. The mothers nudge the calves into the shallows to show them how to avoid beaching, and teach them when situations are safe or dangerous.

That the bay is a mostly male-free zone is important, the pair discovered.

"Our work has also shown Hervey Bay is an important social hub for the whales, resulting in lower levels of competitive group behaviour and fewer male escorts, giving mothers with calves more time alone involved in maternal activity," said Trish Franklin.



This year approximately 35,000 humpback whales are on the great migration along the east coast of Australia. The southern leg sees the cetaceans leave the warm tropical waters of the Great Barrier Reef to return to the cold waters of the Antarctic to feed on krill. Humpback whale numbers overall have steadily increased since the international

steadily increased since the international moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982. During the Franklin's three-decade long

research trips to Hervey Bay the pair has produced significant research, published 26 scientific papers, taken more than 500,000 photos and earned doctorates from Southern Cross University.

The 30-year milestone is also significant because it's the age, scientists believe, of the albino humpback whale known as Migaloo which the pair has a special relationship with.

"We first set eyes on Migaloo in 1992 and again in 1993 near Hervey Bay. Then in 1998 we recorded him 'singing', a behaviour typical of male whales around nine-years old," said



Wally Franklin.

"It was our Southern Cross University colleague Dr Dan Burns and his team who first collected skin samples of Migaloo in October 2004 near Ballina, which confirmed the whale's gender."

In recognition of their work, Drs Trish and Wally Franklin have been announced as the keynote speakers on day one of the World Whale Conference (8-11 October). Organised by the UK-based World Cetacean Alliance (WCA) and co-hosted by Fraser Coast Tourism and Events. The conference will be held for the first time in Hervey Bay.

The Franklins are also part of the bid by Fraser Coast Tourism & Events for Hervey Bay to be designated the world's first Whale Heritage Site. The decision rests in the hands of the World Cetacean Alliance which is assessing the merits of more than a dozen locations around the globe.

The Franklins hope a decision may be announced at the World Whale Conference.

Shopping the Emirates

by Bob Tissott

Dubai, 4:37am.

Aving survived a totally sleepless night with a tailwind, we found ourselves wandering for kilometres in a virtually deserted terminal until eventually the vast, columned hall of immigration enveloped us.

And it was there, with our bags at our feet and our passports gripped in our teeth that we encountered the legendary hospitality of the Arab world.

"Please, please, come through together. How long have you been married? Forty years? Wonderful. That my wife and I should be together as long, Inshallah. Please, go through and enjoy our country."

And with the broadest, whitest smile he ushered us into the world of Islam, the world of the veil. Here in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, designer hijabs and burqas are worn with pride, style and attitude by choice; it's been an eye-opener.

We are fed such a slanted view of Islam from our body-worshipping West, it's been refreshing to have that particular veil lifted.

We found our way to Al Riga and



exhausted to the point of madness, or maybe I just have a big sign written on my forehead that says "SUCKER", but suddenly I found myself the target of every salesman in Dubai.

I was dragged into every shop and stall, while spices, gold, jewels and 'treasures from the Orient' were thrust into my hands. Let the games begin! And to be honest, despite or possibly because of my tiredness, I loved it. Diana was a little freaked out.

She said I got the same look in my eyes as when I saw the 120kg boa in Thailand and insisted on wearing it like a necklace, much to the permanent I'd struck such a good bargain, their children wouldn't eat for days. Diana said the battle for the cashmere was such fantastic theatre that we drew a crowd of tourist onlookers.

At one stage I walked off and the cashmere salesman chased me 20 metres through the crowd yelling, "Bob, my brother, you are a devil! You turn down my best price, my family price and the price for my wife! Take the calculator and name your own!"

Eventually we walked away with the shawl to hearty applause all round, much hugging and laughing, and promises to name our first-born children after each other. Best time I've had for ages. As the sun was setting, we returned to Al Riga searching for food, and ended up with the largest plate of food I have ever seen. It took three strong men to carry the plate to our table, nearly. A mix of humus, salad, fresh hot bread, fried pastry-covered spiced meat, shredded lamb, stuffed vine leaves and so much more. We eschewed the cutlery and with left hands firmly under the table, dived in until a single mouthful more would have proven fatal. And all around us, up and down the street, not a drop of alcohol to be seen. Just mint tea. Refreshing.



TEETOTALLER

The world according to Magenta Appel-Pye

ecently I was at a new friend's place and she was plying me with alcohol. I informed her that I didn't drink.

"Oh, you're a teetotaller," she exclaimed with quite a bit of judgement and disappointment, for people like to have friends with similar habits. I felt the need to explain that it's not that I didn't want to drink alcohol and be one with most of the country when socialising and relaxing, it's that I can't drink it because it makes me sick. I mentioned that the word 'teetotaller' means "total abstainer or advocate of total abstinence from intoxicants." I said was neither of those as I enjoy marijuana occasionally which, I'm sure is classed as an intoxicant. She told me that she had never smoked a joint in her

life and was proud of it. I told her that was nothing to be proud about. But I did not call her a teetotaller even though the definition fits.

Our fledgling friendship, for I do like her, is probably not going to flourish.

However, I have recently discovered, from a TV show, a form of alcohol that I can tolerate, and has wonderful benefits. Gin soaked prunes.

You put the prunes in a jar,

our "pod" (1.8 x 3m), but being too excited to sleep we headed off on their incredibly efficient metro system, like a couple of slightly hysterical zombies, to explore the famous gold and spice souks (markets), making only a couple of small 'faux pas' along the way.

The first was when we realised we were in the Gold Pass (Reserved for Princes) carriage. Scuttled back to the next, where a woman informed me I was in the "women's only" carriage. Talk about cat on a hot tin roof; I moved along very quickly out of that one.

Found the souks and that's where things got really entertaining. Now maybe it was just because I was disappointment of my spine. Whatever. I believe that being a very tactile person made everything that much easier all round.

They put their arms around my shoulders as they led me deep into their lairs and I laughingly put my hand on their hearts and called them my brothers as I extricated myself, sometimes with a purchase but always with laughter and smiles on everyone's faces.

I walked away with a complete set of local clothes (an Abaya, head scarf and rope) some fresh Omani frankincense and the most incredibly soft cashmere shawl for Di. They all agreed that cover them with gin and wait two weeks, preferably longer. The prunes plump up with the gin and are delicious and relaxing.

I remember why people love their alcohol. It was posited that four prunes a night alleviates aches and pains after two weeks. Well I don't know about that because one is enough for me. But they certainly make you sleep and shit better. I imagine the Doctor asking.

I imagine the Doctor asking, "Do you drink?" to which I would reply, "No, but I eat."

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She says HE says



She says

Believe it or not, Norm and I have often been referred to as a mad, eccentric couple. We look at each other and ask "why?" What are they judging us on? Our clothes, our hair, our beliefs? We seem perfectly normal to each other and function as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

Normality is in the eye of the beholder and is based on a judgment that humans should all act, look and be a certain way. However, this changes from country to country, even different regions.

A colourful, vibrant dresser who prefers bare feet, rainbow flares and amber beads seems like a freak in the city. Whereas put one of those city slickers all dressed in black and wearing, what we consider silly things, like ties or high heeled shoes, in our shire and they look like the grim reaper going to a funeral. You can always tell the new city arrivals – they're still wearing their all-black ensembles.

I love the guy who goes shopping dressed in a normal t-shirt on the top but underneath he is wearing a pink tutu over black, ripped stockings. He is dressing authentically for him and I admire his courage.

Is acting (for often it is acting) normal something to aspire to? Or would it be better if we stopped trying to fit in to other people's ideas of what they think we should be?

One day Norm was walking the dog and a little girl saw him and asked if he was a clown. He told her he wasn't and she said "are you sure you're not a clown?" He just happens to have bushy hair and was dressing in his usual, colourful manner. So you see it's all in the eye of the beholder.

John, your girlfriend obviously sees your true worth and loves you for it, regardless of what differences her mother perceives or wants for her daughter. It's probably your difference that attracts her.

Tell her mother you love and accept her even though she is a mean-spirited, judgmental, interfering bitch. Light and love.

Revenge of the Loon by Laurie Axtens

s we are all aware, there is only one issue, one multigenus existential issue and that is how our decadence and over-population is

Normal

Dear SSHS,

My girlfriend's mother told her she should find a boyfriend who is more 'normal'. WTF?

> – Curly McNutt, Nimbin

He says

I once wrote a letter to the paper and they misprinted my name as Normal Appel. I was outraged. I wrote back demanding they correct it, declaring I'm anything but.

The definition of 'normal' is, 'functioning in a natural way, lacking observable abnormalities or deficiencies.' So, by definition, this rules out virtually the entire human race.

Look at our political leaders here and abroad, total degenerates the lot of them. All displaying observable abnormalities and deficiencies.

Take a short drive out of our little rainbow bubble and check out the freakshow you'll

find in the shopping malls at the Gold Coast. These all-consuming, grog-swilling, toiletblocking shoppers with their snouts in the food court are what the government and the big corporates lovingly refer to as the heartland. In other words, normal.

Is that who you wanna be? As John Lennon says, "They're all fucking peasants as far as I can see."

Many years ago, in circumstances too complex to go into, I was introduced to my wife's ex-parents-in-law. An elderly couple straight out of Australian Gothic.

They couldn't believe Magenta had forsaken their fine, upstanding, white Anglo Saxon son for a short, swarthy, frizzy-haired wog like me, and gave me the stink eye. I still swell with pride when I remember

this. The upshot here is, your parents-in-law

are not supposed to like you, and you're not supposed to like them. That's the way of the world mate, it's, well, normal!

"Normal is nothing more than a cycle on a washing machine." – Whoopi Goldberg

Send your relationship problems to: normanappel@westnet.com.au

bloody well should be. Fire-proof your housing and yards, get the leaves out of your gutter, insulate and establish cooling for your home, have your roofing checked and renailed. Sell up if you own coastal property and buy inland.

Change is happening,





Nimbin's warrior women

by Marlaina Garcia

It's an interesting era in which to be a woman.

There's a lot of pressure. We have fought for our rights to equal pay (still a gruelling battle), for equal responsibility in the home (still a battle for some), for respect and dignity in our relationships, our communities and our own psyches.

And all of us are trying hard to prove that we are up to this task, whilst shouldering the duties of mothers, of professionals, of daughters, of sisters, of wives and of friends in our own worlds.

Sometimes it is hard to balance it all. Sometimes it's difficult to find some space for ourselves. For time to be present. ...just the white line.

...and the ball.

...and our team backing us all the way. The greatest achievement of the Womens' Headers team this year must be how it has offered each of its members a moment each week to focus, connect with others, and to be our best selves. It has challenged each of us physically to push ourselves; psychologically to lift and critically examine our skills; emotionally to give ourselves to a cause beyond ourselves, our families, our immediate lives.

This year we were fortunate enough to attract two teams of women to form the mighty Womens' Headers, in Thirds and Fourths teams. And we were even more fortunate to attract the coaching skills of Peter Robinson and Nigel Hayes, who diligently attended Tuesday fitness and Thursday coaching sessions.

The result has been a season of community, challenge and personal achievement.

The Third Division Women's team welcomed the talent of many young players to the fold this year. The versatility of players like Sam, Indhi, Cedar, Lotus, Lucia, Ella, Sammy J and Freya supported our star striker Ruby Grabovsky to greatness in the forwards.

The sure hands of Amelia Bryce in goals stopped attackers in their tracks. The stability, experience and skills of Carol Boomsma, Kat Balkin and Myf Stirling in a courageous Robin Stabler stepped up with golden hands to protect our goals, despite working horrendous all-night shifts catching babies as a midwife.

Its defensive half, made up of the amazing Mickey Sticks, Marlaina Garcia, Sarah Jakeman and the unstoppable Anna King, showed teams from all around the Northern Rivers just how difficult it is to cut down a Nimbin warrior woman.

We welcomed back from child-birth and rearing Geraldine Kerr, Ashley Jones, and Marina, alongside the greatness of Lishia O'Reilly and Csilla Foraita in our centres, who always proved as sure as houses.

We also welcomed for the first time the beautiful Anna Hussle to our team, who gave 110%. The dedication of our stars, Phoebe Torzillo, Jodie Wakeman and Sudiipta Dowsett gave our team an attacking edge, which despite missing out on the finals, held its head up high.

Our womens' teams have continued to exemplify the ideals of sportsmanship, determination and courage throughout the season. We stand as a beacon for women in our community, who want to challenge themselves, stand alongside their fellow females and fly the Nimbin banner proudly. Great season girls. Love you all.

What a wonderful 2019 season the Headers have had. Our Miniroos finished their competitions on the weekend of 31st August. All our competitive teams represented our club with pride and determination.

With the regular season over, it's semifinals time for the Grade 16's, the Grade 14 All Blacks, the 3rd Division Women, 7th Division Men and 2nd Division Men. Good luck to all our teams and we look forward to seeing you in 2020.

Miniroos / Junior Trophy Presentation and Club AGM will be held on Sunday 12th September at 10am at the Headers fields. The Headers encourages and welcomes new committee members in 2020. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information about how you can be involved in our wonderful club.

The Senior Presentation is on Saturday 21st September, 7pm at the Nimbin Hotel. To our wonderful sponsors throughout

making our environment unliveable for all multicellular organisms across the globe. Even discussing how to stop coal mining, end coal seam gas, halt continent-wide wild fires is like arguing what sort of lock to put on the gate long after the horse has bolted. Even if we instantly banned plane flight and went back

Even if we instantly banned plane flight and went back to living without any modcons or cars and started eating weeds from out of the backyard, the planet will still warm two degrees. That's a catastrophe. The changes –

mass inundation, huge wild fires, prolonged severe heat waves and extreme storm damage – are coming no matter what we lock on to or boycott or politically purge. If you aren't scared, you and it's about to accelerate significantly. Business as usual is not an option.

Our major party politicians, their media masters and a plethora of shockingly stupid jocks have their heads so firmly wedged in the sand that they have learnt how to not only breathe through their arses, but how to talk through them as well.

Climate emergencies are just like other emergencies – they require rapid action, the time for words is long past, do what you can and do it now. the centres and backs enabled the team into the semis.

The final was a nail-biter, which went

down to extra time, and despite their defeat, the thirds proved their tenacity and courage against a tough Byron squad. The Fourth Division Womens' team has proved itself dedicated and resilient. After the retirement of star goalie and captain, Deb Lindsay, the year – gratitude and thanks to you all for your ongoing support. We couldn't do it without you.



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www.nimbingoodtimes.com



Nimbin's born and bred youngest real estate agent, Uri Ross has just made some big moves.

After winning the nationally recognised RateMyAgent award for Nimbin, Uri was contacted by some big fish.

"The first calls came in just after Christmas, and I was very reluctant to even speak to the recruiting officer. He was very persistent and a reasonable fellow," said Uri.

"I saw out the financial year and weighed up the three offers I had and as you do when selling a house, you take the best offer."

Uri claims the new model he is operating under is amazing, very advanced with technology, lots of support and extremely professional.

"Working for @Realty not only gives me the pay rise I was after, but also gives my vendors a reduction from the standard commission that is being charged in the area," he said.

"It's win-win for everyone. I'm all about helping people sell generally their most expensive asset in a professional manner in the most stressless way possible."

Uri is not your average agent, he does his own photography, drone footage and editing for his vendors at no cost.

"Nimbin is my home, and one of the best communities in the country without doubt, I'm all about helping people who want to excel and I would like to invite any business owners that would benefit from free drop footage to contact me to help maximise their exposure."

Contact Uri at: uri_ross@atrealty.com.au phone 0423-280-278, web: www.atrealty.com. au/uriross or find Uri on Facebook.





Nimbin Bushwalkers celebrate by Juan Kemp

Sunday 11th August saw the club head off to The Channon market to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Terania Creek blockade.

The incredible efforts put in by all who participated those 40 years ago were instrumental in stopping the logging and creating the Nightcap National Park.

We set up a display stall with many other like-minded organisations to showcase the

great outdoors we have available to us. The many historical displays were well received and enjoyed by all, well done to those responsible.

On the day, we had 11 members taking it in turns to man our stall, while others wandered about sampling the wide choice of food and beverages.

A great day was had by the members attending, and not often do we get together for a relaxing social occasion that also had such a significant history that benefits all bushwalkers.

Walks programme

Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September – Springbrook NP, Gold Coast Leader: Peter Moyle 0412-656-498

Grade 4, some undulating tracks, may be rough in places and slippery if wet. We came here in March on short notice and had some great short walks, 5-6 km. It was a bit showery overnight, but the days were fine and the rainforest and waterfalls were at their best. It will be a bit cooler and dryer, but the walks will still be good. \$6.65 per person per night. I have booked some sites, so if interested register with me as I have some extra spots available. See: https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/springbrook/camping.html#the_settlement_camping_area

October walks

- Sunday 13th October Billinudgel Nature Reserve South Golden Beach Leader: Peter Moyle 0412-656-498
- Friday 25th to Sunday 27th October Sheepstation Creek, Border Ranges NP Leader: Megan Myers 0415-063-302

More details at: http://nimbinbushwalkers.com



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Lot 4/4 Blue Knob Road, Nimbin \$620,000	 Privacy and serenity. Beautiful block to creek 	Lots 1 & 25/4 Blue Knob Rd - \$287k & \$247k	870 Stony Chute Rd, Nimbin \$735,000
• Beautiful old home w/ authentic restoration		• Lot 1 - Flat front block closest to creek & town	• Large family home with two-storey extension
• Amazing views to mountains. Walk to village		• Lot 25 - Gentle easy to build block. Full services	• Large pool in beautifully landscaped grounds

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