

ASTRO FORECASTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

by Tina Mews

Aries

Mars in Aries affects you on a very personal level. Your energy is high and your enthusiasm to push ahead is triggered. Nevertheless, a battle of the ego versus the system or your autonomy versus dependency could well start from August 12 until the end of the month as you try to follow your path regardless of obstacles. Try not to overreact when feeling frustrated.

Taurus

This is not so much a time for action, but one for dreams and inspirations. Recharge your batteries by spending more time at home while paying attention to your intuitive side. The Full Moon period (August 4) might bring some unexpected turn of events and you might feel a need for freedom and autonomy. Keeping the balance between your needs and those of others is the key.

Gemini

It has become trickier to be mobile or organise social and business-related events due to the unpredictable circumstances caused by the pandemic. On the one hand you feel like going ahead with your plans and on the other hand you need to consider the larger context that you are living in. So, breathe and go with the flow!

Cancer

Mars in Aries could indicate a new life direction, a new career path but also clashes with somebody in a position of authority. You have lots of energy for pursuing your goals. Take into account that others might not agree with you and might frustrate your efforts. Mars will be retrograde during September until mid-November, so avoid getting into any serious conflict now.

Leo

Travelling overseas is not an option now. You can explore new horizons and go on an adventure by studying different cultures, religions and philosophies. Teaching, writing, publishing or legal work might also be on the agenda. Whatever it may be, you search to bring more meaning into your life.

Virgo

Your energy goes now into joint projects and strengthening your shared resourcefulness. Together you can achieve much more than by yourself. Blockages in your own creativity can be overcome by healing and transforming intense emotions. Issues of power and control, and how to deal with them may come to the surface.

August

This year has marked the opening of a new world era signified by rare outer planetary alignments. Since January, with one Saturn/Pluto and two Jupiter/Pluto conjunctions all in Capricorn, three epochal constellations have already taken place shaking up our previous order. This has forced us to shift from a more easy-going and consumer-oriented lifestyle to more responsible and self-sufficient behaviour constraining us to distance and to isolate ourselves.

On the other hand, the Jupiter/Pluto conjunction encourages optimism as governments attempt to relaunch the economy with generous support packages to ensure the continuation of 'business as usual' once the pandemic has passed. Nonetheless, we are pushed onto a different path with more uncertainty and instability to come.

During August 3-29, transiting Mars in Aries makes its first of three square aspects activating the above mentioned outer planetary alignments in Capricorn (exact dates: August 4, 13, 24). The other two will be completed later in the year. This indicates that between now and late December, we will experience a second wave of the health-related social, political and economic dynamics that began March 20-31. Mars is a trigger planet for crisis. The 'red planet' activates and heats up whatever planetary energy it touches. During the 1st peak of the pandemic, Mars was conjoined Jupiter/Pluto in Capricorn while now it is forming stressful square aspects.

Additionally, every two years Mars orbits close to planet Earth and starts its retrograde cycle, which will occur during September 9 until November 15. On a personal level, Mars in Aries relates to our 'inner hero' as the keeper of our energy, drive, vitality and self-assertion. The Aries/Capricorn square signifies the tension that arises between one's own interests and loyalty to one's individual path versus authoritative rule and the demands of the system that ultimately hinders the expression of the individual free will.

Lilith in Aries will be travelling closely conjunct Mars from August until mid-October (exact August 9). Lilith stands for the underprivileged and suppressed. On the high road, Mars in Aries fights for

the rights of those who have been excluded from mainstream society and for the plight of the weak and disadvantaged.

The Full Moon on August 4 is in Aquarius and opposite the Sun in Leo. It highlights the need to be authentic and true to our self (Leo) while remembering how we are all part of a larger whole (Aquarius). Everyone's uniqueness deserves to be honoured and included. Nevertheless, the Full Moon forms a tight square with rebel planet Uranus. Mars is also in a stressful alignment with Jupiter (see above) which signifies that this Full Moon period could be rather unstable and volatile.

There is potential for a deepening of the current international crisis as well as social unrest and chaos. Mars in Aries ignites the fiery Leo Sun and we could witness some impulsive action fuelled by ego pride and short-sightedness. Probably a good advice is not act carelessly and hastily and think twice before initiating new activities.

The New Moon in Leo on August 19 is a test in patience and self-discipline. Fire (Leo) has to be balanced with Earth (Capricorn), action and inspiration with practicality and sensibility, enthusiasm and risk taking with commitment and remaining grounded. The lesson of this New Moon is if we play with fire we can get burned! Mars in Aries trines the Leo New Moon and all fire planets are in a stressful formation with the powerful and authoritative Saturn/Pluto conjunction in Capricorn (Earth).

On the positive, the fiery energies are highly inspirational and seek a creative outlet. While there is plenty of energy for great leadership (Leo), there is also the danger of ill designed initiatives with questionable outcomes that put our communities, our nation, and the planet at risk.

The incoming rush of energy will receive a serious reality check (Saturn/Pluto)! Awareness of this push-pull effect will help with making the right decisions.

Navigation by the Stars: Personal and/or Relationship Astrology; Life Cycles and Your Year Ahead: Plans, Directions, Concerns for 2020/21; contact Tina on 0457-903-957, email: star-loom@hotmail.com

Astro-mornings at the Lillifield Community Centre: Thursday August 3rd and 20th 10.30 to 1pm: 'The Cycles of the Outer Planets: Uranus and Neptune'

New Beginners course starts soon: Please contact me for further information: mobile 0457-903-957, email: star-loom@hotmail.com

Libra

Your energy is focused on relationships and it is not a time to be alone. There might be some opportunities for making new friends or spending quality time with like-minded souls. Finding a working balance between freedom versus commitment in all interactions with others is a theme that needs addressing. Some degree of independence and autonomy is essential for all sides involved.

Scorpio

You like to make your mark on the world, and you might be called upon to take leadership of a special task or project. It is essential that you know your strengths and weaknesses so that you move with the natural flow of energies. On the other hand, your health, daily routine, work, and habits are a source of irritation right now and demand your attention.

Sagittarius

Being creative, having fun and pursuing your special interests are a priority for you right now. It is important to do things that are different from your daily routine so that you can broaden your horizon and widen your overall perspective. Your higher self is searching for new understanding and wants to break out of the everyday mould.

Capricorn

This is a period where your social identity and independent self are at conflict. The part of you that wants to be free and autonomous is demanding attention, especially if there has been too much emphasis on satisfying the necessities of daily survival. Plan for a better work/life balance and listen to your gut feeling.

Aquarius

Partnerships are important now and how to establish greater cooperation and harmony between you and someone else. Drive carefully during the Full Moon period (August 4) because you could be accident prone. Reflect on your hidden motivations as you might not be aware what drives your energy. There might be still an unfulfilled need for appreciation and acknowledgement.

Pisces

Use your resources and abilities skillfully and productively! This is not a time for being wasteful but for making investments that make sense and improve your lifestyle. Put your emphasis on self-sufficiency. You are in a good position for handling the material world in an appropriate way. Balance idealism with practicality.



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The Mars cycle

by Marilyn Devlin

It's August. We made it through July. Jeez what a ride. The atmosphere is still highly activated, but there's another energy I feel blowing in. It feels clear and fresh and open. It brings a promise of new things. It feels good. A pathway through the chaos.

2020 was always going to be a BIG year. It's a year of transition... from one great Age to another. This has been planned for a very long time.

None of us have any memory of living through anything like this, not really. It's all very new. Even comparable events in our history are always expressed uniquely. The Great Creative Power.

But we're human. And as humans we're vulnerable. We feel. Our body absorbs everything around us. One reason we have a nervous system. But more than that... our body is alive and has its own conscious awareness. Each individual part in our body has a consciousness of its own. That 'reality' is a base premise in Tantric philosophy.

I've always remembered the Visceral class I did with my wonderful Ortho-Bionomy teacher. We were connecting with our organs. With our hand and focus. I experienced each organ having a unique personality. Each had a different manner, voice and colour. Their vibration was different. They spoke in their own language. Some were open to be being approached... while others held strict boundaries.

That experience blew my mind. Our body is a living thing both collectively and individually. It's our job to cherish and take care of this miraculous vehicle we were given... enabling us to exist here on this magick Earth.

August is a new month in many ways... with its own energy and personality. It's an opportunity to really ramp up the self-care. In all areas of our life. Dust off that Self-Love.

The cosmic scene is still extra active... and will remain so for a while. There have been some major players using their super powers... committed to getting us across this chasm. Where one space ends and another begins.

Planet Mars is in the spotlight at present, with his extended stay in his home sign Aries. Planets have cycles, just like us. Like all life. Mars is the last 'personal' planet... he impacts us on a personal level.

Being home in Aries, the sign he rules and for such an extended period of time... is certainly turning up the heat. For us all personally. He'll stay in Aries for six months. Last time Mars stayed at home for such an extended period of time was 1941. There was a lot happening back then.

A probable influence... is things are going to be super activated and maybe a little trigger sensitive, so be aware. There's an exaggerated level of body felt energy and power needing to be expressed, affecting us all personally. We need to get moving.

We can choose. Mars represents our personal primal energy, our passion and our desire. What inspires us to move, to act and to express our personal power. In ancient times Mars was known as God of War. Mars energy needs to be moved. If not, it implodes.

How do we choose to use our energy? Where will we direct this mighty force within us... this primal energy that animates our existence.

In my coaching sessions, Desire is a primary focus. Desire is important... it's the seed of all our becoming. It's the vision of our manifestations. Desire is powerful.

With Mars so potently activating our personal energy field over these next six months... what is your desire? What is it you want to manifest into this earthly reality?

It's quite likely there'll still be lots going on around us... but August brings a fresh breeze of knowing... reminding us of our power to create the reality we envision.

Also a supportive month to Up the self-care, love and honouring. There's only one of you.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

Questions

1. What is the thing in front of this guy? (Photo: reddit/imgur)
2. In June, Verkhoyansk, a Russian town of some 1,300 or so souls, recorded a temperature of 38°C. What is so remarkable about that? For a bonus point each, what other two things are remarkable about Verkhoyansk?
3. Continuing with the theme of extremity (which will reach its extremity extremely shortly) what is an extremophile? Bonus point if you can name the most successful polyextremophile on and/or off the planet.
4. Have you googlewhacked today? If so, or even if not, what, exactly was it that you were, or could have been, doing?
5. Where in the human body will you find the hammer, anvil and stirrup?
6. Jimi Hendrix was not the first international visitor to London who took the English music scene by storm when he lived at 23 Brook Street, Mayfair (1968-1969). Which equally fresh and unconventional muso lived next door at number 25 before him?
7. Which Sunshine Coast/Brisbane band, unearthed by Triple J in the late nineties, included Shane Nicholson, Nathan Lockwood, Scott Rutherford and Brad Taylor?
8. Who is the youngest Nobel Laureate?
9. Does the term contrapuntal refer to English literature, music, politics, revolutionary struggle or sport?
10. For what is Eldrick Tont Woods best known?



1. A corpse flower (Rafflesia arnoldii). Growing parasitically on the roots of vines in the jungles of Sumatra and Borneo, it is the largest individual flower on earth at almost a metre across and 11kg. It is open for seven days and emits an odour of rotting flesh to attract pollinators.

2. 38.0°C in Verkhoyansk was remarkable because it was the first time that a temperature above 100°F had ever been recorded above the Arctic Circle. Verkhoyansk is also noted for its exceptionally low temperatures, the lowest ever recorded being -67.8°C (-90.0 F) in 1892. Only Antarctica is colder at -93.2°C (-135.8°F) in 2010. Verkhoyansk now holds the record for variation in temperature at 105.8 C (190.4 F).

3. Extremophiles are organisms that do not dwell in the Goldilocks Zone. That is, organisms that inhabit places too hot (thermophiles, cold (cryophiles), acidic (acidophiles), salty (halophiles), etc (etceterophiles). The tardigrade from September 2019 is an extremely successful polyextremophile but *Homo sapiens* is even more successful.

4. Googlewhacking, not to be confused with googlewhackblasting, googlewhackblat paradoxing or antegoogolewhackblasting, is the art of obtaining a single hit with a two-word search where both words may be found in a dictionary. It does not pay to skate on line about an enjoyable googlewhack as that very act will immediately destroy it. Sorry, your extremely obsessed quizmaster lapses.

5. Known to Otolaryngologists, formerly known as Otonasopharyngologists (ear, nose and throat specialists) as the malleus, incus, and stapes, these are the middle ear ossicles which transmit sound from the eardrum to the cochlea so that we may hear it. They are the smallest bones in the human body. Truly sorry, it's becoming an extreme problem.

6. George Handel, Baroque composer and impresario, lived at number 25 from 1723 to 1759.

7. Pretty Violet Stain.

8. Malala Yousafzai was 17 when she shared the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize with Kailash Satyarthi "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education." Yousafzai, from the Swat Valley in Pakistan, has been a passionate advocate for education rights from the age of 11. On a bus trip home from an exam at the age of 15, she was shot in the face by a Taliban gunman in a targeted assassination attempt. She continues her advocacy for children's right through the Malala Fund.

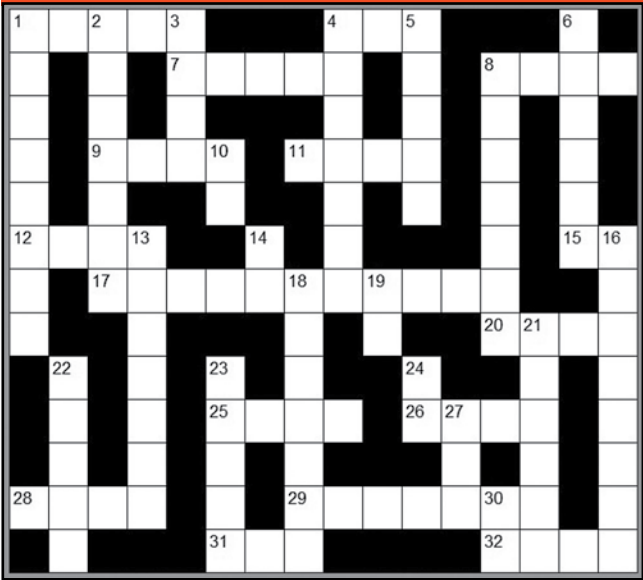
9. In music, contrapuntal means having two or more tunes played simultaneously.

- 10. He is the reigning US Masters golf champion. Better known as Tiger, he now holds five Masters, 15 majors and 82 PGA Tour wins, one behind Slammin' Sam Snead's all-time record set in 1965.

Answers

Nimbin Crossword

2020-8
by 5ynic



Across

1. Cheers!
4. Foxhole?
7. Citizen of Baku?
8. Bear of little brain
9. Longest forearm bone
11. Yemeni port city
12. Thing?
15. Destination
17. 19th century Russian composer
20. 20th century Swedish pop group
25. Classical antiquity - small harp
26. Spiral? IUD
28. Fifth book of the New Testament
29. Cakes
31. Pastry meal
32. Shame

Down

1. Coffee and liqueur dessert
2. Holds the burden of proof
3. Mountain meltwater lake
4. Scorn
5. Thing words
6. Woods
8. Kiwi? Dessert
10. (and 24 down) Sydney-based hard rock band
13. Tropical stone fruits
14. Frequency modulation radio (init.)
16. Room for growing citrus indoors in colder climes
18. Mean? Not great (slang)
19. Brightness? (Init.)
21. Beachside resort city, Mississippi, USA
22. Set on fire
23. Single masted sailship
24. See 10 down
27. Unfertilised egg(s)
30. 2009 Pixar film

Solution: Page 28



MISS SOMETHING?

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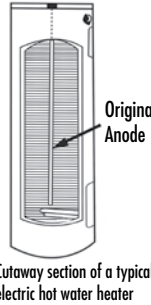
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Former 2Nim-FM DJ and Nimbin local, Leaf van Amsterdam presents his fourth poetry book, *Moral in a Bottle: The Best of Leaf van Amsterdam* (2020).

Leaf's work has been featured in the Northern Rivers *Beyond the Rainbow* literary magazine.

Copies of the schizophrenic poet's new collection may be purchased via: leafvanamsterdam@outlook.com.au

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Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 27

T	O	A	S	T		D	E	N		F
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Buddhist songs for children

by Simon Thomas

Shortly before I left Australia at the beginning of the year, I was approached at a Buddhist gathering by a woman who was preparing to open a new preschool in Singapore under the auspices of our common teacher Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche.

She asked if I might write a few songs specifically to fit into the curriculum of their new school. "Sure," I agreed. I mean... how hard can it be? Write a couple of ditties for small children.

Zoom calls are the flavour of the year, and it was on one of these strange methods of communication that I learned the full scope of what I had agreed to. An old friend of mine, Heather Sanche from Vancouver Island, is designing the curriculum and has big ideas when it comes to music.

"Well, we need one for packing away the toys, another for lining up, and another one before they eat their lunch," she explained.

"Okay so three songs... that should be okay," I replied.

"Oh no, we need one for each theme as well, like impermanence and community. And then we want some for the ceremonies too."

By the time we had isolated every nook and cranny of the curriculum which required a song, we were at a count of 16. I remember muttering something about it being a 70's double album, however having worked with a committee some years back trying to establish a Buddhist



primary school in Lismore, I know how difficult it is to get something like that off the ground. I was happy to volunteer, but that is a lot of songs!

Wherever I travel in the world, I bring the bare essentials to do home recordings, but I need help to produce a song to professional quality. I enlisted my mate Gary Dyson from London, well-known for his beautiful voice and innovative dance tracks, to help in production. He was happy to assist, but strapped for time, as the UK was just opening back up from Covid suspension.

That was when we learned that all the songs were to be translated into Chinese, so we would have 16 more versions to record!

I needed some help, so applied to the

Khyentse Foundation in the USA for a grant, given that they were already supporting the preschool. Luckily, they could see the value of the project and approved my application, on condition that I write a few more songs for a Buddhist primary school near Woodstock.

With a modest payment available, I approached a young musician and producer in New York named Max Milner, who is bringing his huge talent to the project.

Even though the team in Singapore is translating the songs into Chinese, and we can use the same music track, I still need somebody to record the Chinese versions. I decided to contact a rap artist/comedian from Shanghai named Tadi, who magically appeared in Bodh Gaya, India a couple of years back, when I needed somebody of just his talents for a big show I was running.

Tadi wrote straight back to me saying, "You won't believe this! Two weeks ago, I opened a new recording studio designed especially for children and families. I have kids coming in to sing every day and we are looking for original material for them to record."

So, despite the Covid doom and gloom, the future of Buddhist songs for children is looking bright!

If you would like more information, please follow my Facebook page: www.facebook.com/simonthomasmusic or visit me on Bandcamp: <https://simonthomasmusic.bandcamp.com>

I will make all the songs available by donation when they are ready.

In transit

by Bob Tissot

So, here we are on the other side of the universe (oh all right, the planet then), facing 24 hours of claustrophobia, re-cycled oxygen-enriched pathogens and mind-deadening entertainment between us and home.

We've broken this down into three 8-hour sections for reasons of sanity and the safety of other passengers.

Raffi, our AirBnB host, never returned from Vienna so we left his key under the mat, bid farewell to our barrio buddies and with a final eyeful of the Sagrada Familia we headed for the airport.

As we squeezed aboard the airport shuttle I must admit to muttering some slight un-pleasantries regarding people who bring bloody great double-basses onto packed trains, but then as soon as the doors closed, a man with a trumpet further down the carriage yelled out "Un, Dos, Très" and a jazz band, with members secreted throughout the carriage, ripped into a cracking rendition of 'When the Saints Go Marching In'.

We left Barcelona grinning, with a spring in our step and a song in our hearts. It didn't take long for our airline of choice to knock that out of us!

I won't dwell too long on the joys of flight... in fact

that should do.

Arrived in Dubai at sunrise, feeling both right-royally rooted yet gratefully familiar with the gargantuan arrivals hall. Our luggage has tootled off on its own adventure, promising to meet us back home and so we're strangely unencumbered as we slide through customs and into a long, black car with heavily tinted windows.

Anywhere else they'd call this a limo, but here it's just a taxi, and we're silently whisked away to our hotel, where a sumptuous breakfast and heavily-curtained, sound-proofed room awaits us.

We awake for lunch and spend the rest of day in our private pool... floating, sipping chilled juices and writing this journal. As the sun disappeared somewhere over Saudi Arabia, our chauffeur returned us to Dubai International and our second night of joy began.

This one was leavened by the fact that due to an inexplicable booking error, we were served two of every meal and snack... each! Our fellow passengers were GREEN with envy at the incredible bulk of airline food served up to us. Our fold-down tables groaned under the weight, and our incredulous, slightly hysterical laughter infected half a dozen rows in both directions, plus the cabin crew. The night passed...



Arriving in Singapore, we get heat-scanned by the army as we leave the plane; there are rumours of a new virus in China and the authorities here aren't taking any chances.

We register as "very chilled" and head straight for the terminal roof, where we've heard that for a small gratuity one can gain access to gym, restaurant and POOL!

After a decent soak I drag a chaise lounge into some deep shade and slip into a happy stupor 'til the afternoon, when my internal hollowness reminds me that airline food simply evaporates somewhere between tongue and tummy.

So off we venture to forage and graze, and discover one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World! The Jewel in Singapore's Crown. Which explains the clever naming... Jewel Changi Airport.

It's a massive glass dome connecting the three passenger terminals, which are separated enough to need a monorail to connect them.

The dome covers a man-made forest valley, five stories

tall with rivers, walking trails and cosy nooks, with the centre of the valley featuring the world's tallest indoor waterfall – The Rain Vortex, which drops into a massive inverted glass bell, thereby eliminating splash and spray.

I may have claimed that the waterfall at Cloud Mountain Dome was the biggest in the world, but Jewel wasn't open then. Fame is so fleeting.

I try to find a decent coffee before departure and discover the Coffee Lovers Cafe where you can choose bean variety, roast strength and method of extraction.

But computer-controlled roasting and recipe-controlled preparation by a cute young thing who probably doesn't drink the brew she's constructing, will never equal a gifted barista. I swill and we board.

Back at the Goldie, we're amazed to discover our slightly bored luggage waiting for us. Customs are casual and the air smells like Australia.

Mount Warning (sans dome) is just outside and we drive off into paradise.

Piano dreams

Many people dream of playing the piano their whole lives; some actually achieve it. I recently gave a 36-year-old woman, Amanda, her first piano lesson. She had bought a piano years ago and had moved it to three different houses.

Her passion is strong, and when she met me, she asked if I could teach her. I explained that to succeed she must be dedicated, patient, humble and good at recognising patterns. Learning to play the piano is a difficult process for anyone, but especially adults. It is far better to learn when young and your brain is flexible. Happily, the ability goes into your long-term memory, so it is easy to recover the skills as an adult. Amanda's image of playing Clair De Lune may take years of lessons and lots of practice. The reason people

become musicians is because they practised many hours for many years. The hardest part of teaching an adult is the assault to their ego. They're so used to being good at what they do, that they get a shock when they struggle with something that looks easy. New neural pathways have to be developed, especially to fingers that have never worked independently before. And everything is opposite on both hands. Reading music is like learning another language, but well worth it because it is the universal language. They must bring their child minds of excitement to learn, accepting mistakes and letting them go. They must learn to split their brain into two streams of concentration for right and left hands doing different things. It's hard! So why bother? It's proven



The world according to Magenta Appel-Pye

that learning a musical instrument grows new brain cells. And the piano is the king. You will enjoy your solitude and be fascinated to learn for the rest of your life. You will never again be bored. And the joy of music lasts a lifetime, no matter when you start. The brilliant sitar player Ravi Shankar, who believed in reincarnation, was asked what he would like to come back as. He humbly replied, "A better musician."



Auntie Maj and Uncle Norm

She says

Women over 45 have had to re-wire our conditioning about having to do it all and thus the cleaner. But anyone with half a brain knows that what we pay the cleaner to do is only a fraction of what actually needs to be done. We get a cleaner for two hours a week to do the basics of vacuuming, mopping the floors, and cleaning the bathrooms. Uncle Norm seems to think this is the sum total of housework required. Not only do I pick up and sort out things before the cleaner gets here, I also do extra cleaning jobs while she's here, and put things back in their right place after she goes. These days I book Norm in to help before she comes. Every time he makes a fuss, then begrudgingly cleans all the loose tobacco and roly papers off his dressing table. He bins a few beer bottles, then tells me the dog needs to go for a walk to do whoopsies. I ask the dog if she really needs to go again even though she's been for a walk in the morning and she replies, "Absolutely, woof!" Off they prance, with him thinking he's doing something for and with the family. It drives me crazy. So, Gary, you and your stupid question can just fuck off!



Cleaner

My wife insists on cleaning the house before the cleaner arrives! Worse still, she tries to make me help her. I don't get it. Could you shed some light, or at least give me the dirt on this?

– Gary Grimes, Dirty Creek

HE says

You've touched on a fine old chestnut here. This phenomenon of matriarchal mayhem has been going on since antiquity. My mum used to make me clean the room before the cleaner arrived. When I questioned her logic, she'd just tell me to do as I'm told. That's exactly what my little broomstick says to me now. Nothing's changed and likely never will. Yes, it defies logic alright, and you've got to wonder what the hell the cleaner is doing for another two hours after we've already been through the place like a dose of salts. I may as well change the oil, air filter and spark plugs in the car before taking it in for a service. I'm afraid the only bloke who could truly answer this question would be Sigmund Freud and he's dead. So, I guess it's up to me. The only thing that comes to mind is shame. Our wives, mums, nannas and mistresses all suffer from it. Heaven forbid they let anyone into their home that would see what a truly disgusting cesspool they really live in. I'll admit that I do remove all the beer bottles, pie bags and rotting BBQ chicken bones from my car before taking it in, lest my mechanic think I use it as a garbage bin. The upshot here Gary is that this is one argument you're never going to win. So, you will have to make the effort to find out and remember what day the cleaner is due and arrange to leave the house early and make yourself scarce. It's an age-old solution to an age-old problem. Instead of cleaning house I just watch an episode of Hoarders and think, "Wow, my house looks great!" Deep Thought: when you clean out the vacuum cleaner, you become a vacuum cleaner.

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

Dialogues

by S Sorrensen

How do you know it's not true?
How do you know it is?
I'm just saying that it could be true.
And I'm saying that it's not.
Yeah, you say that. But where's your proof?
You should prove your conspiracy is true. I don't have to prove it isn't.
Why not?
Look, I can't prove that, say, there isn't a God keeping track of us all or that there isn't a giant crop of marijuana being grown by NASA on the far side of the moon to feed aliens the World Bank is keeping there or whatever. But, given the scientific realities, I'm pretty sure that there isn't and there isn't.
Well, der, mate. We both know you can't grow a crop if you don't have sunlight, eh?
Well, you can if you have enough grow lights. Remember Gary's set-up? Anyway, there is sunlight on the far side of the moon.
No. You're wrong. They don't call it the dark side for no reason. It never gets sunlight. Actually, it's more correctly called the far side because we on Earth never see that side of the moon. It always faces away from us. But it does get sun –
See? There you go again: always trying to win an argument by sprouting facts.
Sorry.
No, you're not. You think you can hide truth behind a barrage of facts. The light will shine despite your bushel.
What?
It's a Bible saying. But I suppose, since you don't believe in God – despite the proof – you don't believe in the Bible, either.
Proof?
'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God.'
Is that proof?
Yes. It's from the Bible.
Oh.
We know what you're doing with your science and your facts. We're not stupid, you know.
Who's we?
Just normal people who are sick to death of the Illuminati hiding the light, the true truth, with their bullshit science bushel. Can't you see what's going on? The evidence is right in front of you.
Like chemtrails?
Yes. Have you noticed there are fewer of them now? Their work is done; the virus



is spread. Well, most planes have stopped flying – Exactly. And 5G? Wuhan was the first place in the world to roll out 5G and then the pandemic starts there a few months later. Big coincidence, eh? 5G towers and airlines working together... Yes, the Umbrella Corporation... Isn't that from 'Resident Evil'? ...owned by President Evil, aka Bill Gates. Bill Gates? He wants to inject tiny trackers into the human population, under the pretence of a coronavirus vaccine. He wants to know where everyone is? Yes. The new GPS – Gates' People Surveillance. Why? God does it... So, all the scientists, doctors, pilots – they're all in on this... conspiracy? Yes. It's not true. How do you know it's not true? How do you know it is? I'm just saying that it could be true. And I'm saying that it's not. Yeah, you say that. But where's your proof?

So, you may well have been victim to a load of misinformation and half truths. Certainly social media is full of the guff. You can however rest assured nothing has changed – Covid-19 remains a highly infectious virus with a 1 to 15% fatality rate depending on age and co-morbidities. We have successfully lowered the rate of infections so far, but thanks to some very poor management of infectious cases and quarantine we have lots of spot fires and Victoria is already in a second wave. If it gets away, there is no hauling it back. Once the infection rate goes over 1 and the number of current infections moves into the thousands, our chances of identifying and isolating the cases becomes virtually impossible. And I for one, treasure my elderly friends; and my family and I are in high risk categories anyway. It does appear that Oxford University has produced a vaccine, however it has been pre-purchased by the bigger international players, like the US and England. That may prove a blessing in disguise. All medications are required to under go years of trialling – and there are reasons why it takes that long. Many drugs have made it into the market only to be withdrawn because they have produced serious unwanted side effects. A synthetic that messes with your immune system – that would require extensive study, and thanks to the UK




Revenge of the Loon

by Laurence Axtens

and the US we're going to get a huge living experimental trial before we're required to take it. The up-shot is we should start wearing masks in public places, keep hand-washing, isolating and testing when we feel sick for some years. Don't be drawn in by the conspiracy theorists. Think about it this way – if I'm wrong what harm will it do you? You'll have clean hands and look funny for a few years. If they're wrong, you and your loved ones could be dead or have serious lung, heart and brain lesions. It's a pretty simple choice.

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Celebrating Winter Solstice

Traditionally, every year Tuntable Falls Community School celebrates Winter Solstice with a lantern parade.

Preparations include learning about how the earth and sun physically rotate to create the solstice, learning a new song and making wonderful lanterns to brighten the longest night, welcoming a new solar year.

This year we are celebrating our school's successful re-registration with NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority), allowing our unique school community to operate into the future.

In class, the literacy activity was researching how other cultures around the world celebrate winter solstice and how these celebrations have changed over time.

Did you know our winter solstice coincides with summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, where they are celebrating the longest day and

shortest night?

In the lead-up to solstice, the students made and decorated lanterns using coloured tissue paper and pieces of cane, and we learned to sing a song together as the whole school.

This year the Guruman class (Years 4/5/6) composed a song about the winter solstice called the 'Longest Night'.

*The end is a new beginning
The circle of life goes on
From darkness the light returns
With the dawning of the sun.*

Due to Covid restrictions, the school was not able to have our customary Winter Solstice evening gathering.

To make up for missing out on a lantern parade, music, warm fire and a shared meal, students held their parade in the afternoon and the event was recorded so that parents could share in the experience.



Bus connections

Our students come from all over Nimbin and the surrounding area. Our school bus connects at Nimbin Central with buses coming from Lismore, Blue Knob and Stony Chute. Our school bus also connects with The Channon bus at the intersection of Tuntable Falls Road and Tuntable Creek Road.



Measuring up

by Carina, Annalyce and May,
Educators at Nimbin Early Learning Centre

To follow on from last month with Auslan sign language, we have been learning to sing days of the week in Sign.

They have also been learning other everyday words that someone who has a hearing impairment may need.

Some of the children have shown an interest in different heights and who is taller than who, so we created a Let it Grow height chart on the front window with the children and their heights so they can measure up against each other to see who is the tallest and shortest.

We have started to create a Space theme corner, as some of us have been imagining being in a rocket ship and taking off to the moon.

Please feel free to call the Early Learning Centre on (02) 6689-0142. We are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm.

Kayden learning about number recognition and counting

difference

by Leanne Logan

As I reflected for this article, I first turned to the familiar, something we have been doing at Cawongla Playhouse since I started here – raising silkworms.

There is something so nurturing about a life cycle that happens each and every year, where over a period of three months we get to witness birth, growth, transformation, death and the possibility of life again, happening right before our eyes.

For the children it's more than just a delight – or a horror depending on their take on silkworms. It's scientific discovery melded with moments of magic.

So I went to the filing cabinet and pulled out the sheet of white A4 paper studded with little grey eggs, knowing that some of those eggs from last Spring would already be hatched.

I'd seen the mulberry trees budding at preschool, and I knew nature knew also.

But as I pulled out that A4 sheet, a smaller torn-off scrap of paper came with it and fluttered to the ground.

My handwriting fell face up, revealing words that I didn't remember writing: "Carla Rinaldi's (Reggio Emilia) point is that it is through our differences and needing to cross them, that we dialogue and connect – without difference, there's nothing to connect to or with..."

For a moment I stopped in



my tracks. What was more important – to write about the known and the familiar, or face the challenge of difference? In today's world, we embrace difference.

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) strives for an outcome where: "Children respond to diversity with respect". But in real time, sitting around the tables at preschool or playing in the sandpit or playground, differences – and crossing

them – often causes tension, upset and arguments.

There are moments of chaos and conflict when a difference of opinion or thought or action or want is challenged. Confusion reigns, until the children work it out agreeably for themselves, or seek support from an educator.


Perhaps embracing these learning moments is a big part of what a preschool education is all about – growing our children to independence, promoting tolerance and acceptance, seeing children as the competent and capable young people they are.

So as I finish writing this, I guess it really didn't matter whether I chose familiarity or difference – as with everything in life, it is actually all one.

Cawongla Playhouse is open Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm – phone 6633-7167.

Kindies show commitment and resilience





The 2020 Kindy students at Nimbin Central School only had four weeks at school at the beginning of the year before being moved to Learning from Home.

Principal Cath Marshall said they handled this sudden change well and worked hard, with their teachers and parents/ caregivers, to continue their learning from home.

"We have been delighted with their enthusiasm and continued eagerness to do their best back at school," she said, "and their hands-on maths program is particularly popular."



An excited return

by Heather Jessup, Artist and Educator

In recent weeks, Tunttable Falls Preschool has been exploring the children's thoughts and feelings around the recent restrictions put in place caused by Coronavirus.

The excited return of our children to preschool has provided the opportunity for us to hear about the children's extended time at home with their families. The children communicated their experiences through storytelling, water colour and pen drawing.

The children shared stories of walks to collect pecan nuts and fruit, jumping on trampolines with brothers and sisters as well as spending time with family pets and animals.

There were some explanations by the children as to how and why the virus was affecting their holiday time. Charlie explained: "We stayed at home a lot because of the virus. We went for a little walk and we played on the circle trampoline."

The children's artworks and stories have been documented and made into a book for the children and their families to enjoy.

We will also exhibit their artworks in an upcoming art exhibition. Stay tuned for details.

We are open three days a week throughout NSW school terms on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.30am until 4pm. We are located on the beautifully unique Tunttable Falls Community, a 10-minute drive from Nimbin. A bus service can be arranged if necessary.

Call us on (02) 6689-1179 for any enquiries, or email us at: tunttablepreschool@gmail.com

Come and play with us at preschool

by Katie Pennant, Teacher – Director

The mist is rising off the hills as we watch an excited mob of children start to venture into our little school for a day of learning, laughter, tears, squeals and joy.

We thought, in this article, to explain some of the thinking behind our program at Nimbin Preschool.

Democracy

Children need to feel strong and capable in their learning environment. We achieve this through giving them power to make real decisions.

We start our day with a gathering to check in on our feelings and talk about what we really want to do today.

The educators then shape routines of the day around the children's plans.

We listen deeply, write down their plans and respond with motivation.

Play

Play is central to all that is good for children (and grown-ups actually). It is defined as "a physical or mental leisure activity that is undertaken purely for enjoyment or amusement."

The definition is still wildly contested, but we know that children learn to be innovative creative thinkers when they spend time engaged in deep play.

We see children completely lost in the world of the imaginary – the block becomes the car, the stick the steering wheel and off they go to discover the world.

As adults we struggle to enter this magical place but small people do it effortlessly if we give them time, space and an accepting educator.

Nature

We live in one of the most beautiful and biodiverse areas on earth and we want our children to feel connected to this space. We spend most of our

day outside either in our beautiful playground or wandering around the paddocks and showgrounds.

Connection to the earth's elements supports the children's wellbeing.

Animals

Our guinea pigs, rabbit, chooks, and support dog Giddy are our friends that we care for every day. Caring for animals helps children feel responsible and nurturing, teaching care and compassion.

Love

Building a community takes time, patience, care respect and loads of love. We spend time creating strong relationships between everyone. Our school is a big extended family.

Please call us and arrange for a visit. We would love to welcome more families into our little school. Phone Katie on 6689-1202 or email: nimbinpreschool.director@gmail.com

Beating away the Covid blues

by Andrew Dixon, Relieving Principal

Walk through the gates of Coffee Camp school on a Wednesday (Post Covid-19 of course) and you will hear the booming sounds of drums echoing through the valley.

Coffee Camp Public School has acquired the services of Peter Jaggle (Young Drums) to provide our children with expert musical tuition in drumming and marimbas.

The children are working on Japanese culture and are enjoying the opportunity to get stuck into some very

large Taiko drums.

Coffee Camp children love Wednesdays, as they get to help beat away the Covid Blues.

Ms McEwen, our CAPA teacher, is delivering guitar and ukulele lessons to students each Tuesday, working towards a presentation piece at the end of term.

Due to Covid restrictions, the school performance pieces will be filmed and sent home to families at the end of term.

Keep your eyes posted for our 2021 Kindergarten Orientation days which are held during October and



November, early in Term 4.

If you would like more information about Coffee Camp PS, please feel free to call 6689-9259.



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PURCHASERS: PETER & BARB

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*138 Gungas Rd	*12/78 Cecil St	*9/924 Blue Knob Rd	*1/50 Gungas Rd
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NEW

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*John 4 2 1