

ASTRO FORECASTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

by Tina Mews

Aries

This is a good moment in time to consider the bigger picture. How do you want to grow and expand? Reflect on your personal beliefs and the motivations that drive them. Be prepared to learn something new and embark on an inner journey of exploration! There may be important endings and new beginnings concerning your homelife.

Taurus

Responsibilities towards others might change your perspective on an important issue. It is a good time to explore your beliefs and values. Communicate your thoughts while being aware of your assumptions. There might be important endings and new beginnings in your relationships with siblings or neighbours.

Gemini

This moment in time asks you to strike a balance between your own needs and those of another. Honest and considerate communication is the key. Relationship issues can be resolved through a willingness to compromise and negotiate. Think with your heart and feel with your head. How do you value yourself or feel valued? You might want to heal and clear old self-worth issues.

Cancer

Take time out for resting, reflection and relaxation. Physical needs have to be taken seriously which may lead to changes in your daily routine. If you have a birthday around June 21 you will have a particularly important year ahead. It is all about you now and the self-image that you project out into the world!

Leo

A change in perspective will open new channels of creativity. You might need to complete an unfinished project first before starting something new. Reassess the larger goals in life and whether they still support your heart's desire. Spend some time meditating on your soul's purpose for gaining clarity of the path ahead.

Virgo

Domestic affairs are at the centre of your attention. The requirements of your private life need to be balanced with the demands of your career. You might have to adjust your expectations on how things should be done if the world would be a perfect place. Spending more time with peers and friends might ease the tension.

June

This year's season of the Cosmic Twins coincides with Venus in retrograde motion. **Venus goes retrograde every 18 months while every eight years the planet of love and beauty has her retrograde dance in Gemini (May 14 – June 26).** Venus is associated with relationships, money and values pointing to the areas in our lives that are currently under review. It is a good moment in time to resolve old standing relationship problems, catch up with friends of the past or complete unfinished creative projects. Major financial undertakings are not advised during this period as we might change our mind afterwards. Furthermore, **Mercury, the ruling planet of Gemini turns retrograde on June 19 (until July 12)** while journeying through emotional Cancer until August 5. The messenger planet spends extra time in the sign of the Crab associated with home, security and family. Its slowing retrograde energy influences our personal interactions and communication patterns which then can lead to misunderstandings and delays.

Mercury is a great networker and supportive of Gemini's quest to reconcile differences by merging intellect with emotion and spiritual ideas with material needs. In Cancer, Mercury strengthens our emotional intelligence and we are encouraged to listen to our intuition. On an interpersonal level, communicating means listening to the other and making sure that the message has been received the right way. However, this might not be as easy as it sounds when Mercury is in the retrograde loop! Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto are retrograde as well indicating that June is a month of reflection and reassessment whether we are on the right path or if we need to adjust our plans and objectives. During the aftermath of the Covid-19 lock-down more patience is needed because we might have to deal with further restrictions of our liberties. On the other hand, we are reminded to be watchful as laws might be pushed through that are against our best interest.

This is a critical month of accelerated change because the next Full and New Moon are also an eclipse. We usually have 2 pairs of eclipses twice a year, but this year we do have 6 eclipses instead of 4! **The Lunar Full Moon eclipse on June 6 at 5.12 am AEST falls on the 16th degree of Sagittarius.** Lunar eclipses are powerful full moons while solar eclipses are highly potent new moons. The Sagittarius influence encourages a broader perspective to see the whole picture. Things that we did not want or were not able to see before might suddenly be revealed. Those born during December 5th-9th might feel this eclipse more strongly. The eclipsed Full Moon is opposite the Sun in Gemini and forms a stressful square with watery Mars in Pisces, a



combination of energies that can give rise to a lot of emotional turmoil, nervousness and anxiety.

In this volatile climate it is essential to remain centred and calm. The Lunar eclipse is opposite Venus retrograde and could offer a great opportunity for clearing away emotional baggage. Relationship challenges can be overcome when we are able to take an impartial and balanced approach. However, decisions made now are driven by our emotions because our common sense might be temporarily eclipsed. Therefore, it is best to wait for a few days after the eclipse to engage in problem solving communication.

The solstice on June 21st (7.43 am AEST) precedes a Solar eclipse by just a few hours. The Solar eclipse falls on zero degree Cancer (exact at 4.41pm AEST) symbolising a new beginning and the start of a new chapter in our collective evolution. Eclipses signify portals of rapid change and this eclipse at a cardinal degree could potentially mark a crucial moment of mass awakening. It signifies the birth of a new consciousness that values environmental concerns (Cancer) more than greed and profit thinking. **This is supported by the Jupiter/Pluto conjunction which will be exact on June 30.** Jupiter, the great visionary, is anxious to move into the future. In the wider collective, we are encountering those who represent expansive Jupiter principles versus those who stick to a more regressive agenda, signified by Pluto in Capricorn. On a different level, this conjunction symbolises the tension occurring between authority figures (Pluto) and the self, or between the vision of a younger more progressive generation and those in power. Nevertheless, we know that we have to adapt our ways to the irreversible changes that already happened, may it be on an environmental, economic or social level. New knowledge and growth opportunities (Jupiter) come from break-downs and releases of the old (Pluto) that inspire a new vision. Everything is up for questioning now!

The month ends with Mars, the warrior planet entering its home sign Aries (June 29), where it will remain until the beginning of 2021. Mars will be retrograde between September 9 and November 14. Normally Mars spends about 6 weeks in any given sign, but now he will be in Aries for 6 months. We can expect more volatility over the coming period.

Navigation by the Stars: Personal and/or Relationship Astrology; Life Cycles and Your Year Ahead: Plans, Directions, Concerns for 2020/21; contact Tina on 6689-7413 or 0457-903-957, email: star-loom@hotmail.com

Learning Astrology: 'The Movements of Mars in 2020', Thursday 25th June, 10.30am-1pm at the Lillfield Community Centre; 4505 Kyogle Road, Wadeville.

Zoom Astro-Webinar: 'The Cancer eclipse and the upcoming cycle of Mars in Aries', Saturday 20th June, 10.30am-1pm; contact me for Zoom link.

For all bookings and info contact 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com

Libra

This is a great moment in time to re-evaluate your direct environment, the places and things that you are most familiar with. You might feel hungry for new impulses and ready for entering a new chapter in your life, especially concerning your career path and life direction. Consider the bigger picture and how you could grow and expand while also appreciating what you already have achieved.

Scorpio

This is an important time for re-evaluating your relationship with money, all material things and your personal attachments. There are things you might believe you could not survive without. Take the opportunity and clear out old baggage, may it be on the mental, emotional or physical level to make space for a new beginning and a fresh journey into the unknown.

Sagittarius

The powerful vibes of the Full moon eclipse on June 6 in your sun sign could test your patience. Face any situation with the openness of a beginner's mind. It is a good moment in time to empty out and release old baggage. Remain emotionally detached so that you can see the whole picture. "Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change."

Capricorn

This could be the beginning of a new partnership or the deepening of an existing one. The emphasis is on strengthening connections that are purposeful and nurturing. You have been busy with all sorts of everyday activities, deeply involved in your work and routines and now it is time for spiritual renewal.

Aquarius

Friendships may be under review now as you are searching for like-minded souls with whom you can share your philosophy of living. This is all part of you re-defining your identity. It is a good moment in time for psychological and spiritual growth. Your children might be your greatest teachers because they connect you with your own 'inner child' who needs more time for play.

Pisces

During this period, you are asked to balance your public and private lives. A new perspective is needed in your career path. Does your work fulfill your needs for purpose and meaning? This is a great moment in time for tapping into your creativity and transform your hobbies into a fruitful enterprise.



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Spacious Acceptance
Being held in Sacred Space

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by Marilyn Devlin

I'm excited about the Winter Solstice approaching. It's my favourite time of celebration. There's something deep and profoundly nourishing about this important station. When Sun 'stops' and reverses his direction in the core of the darkness. There's quite a bit of revision happening. Many planets in their retrograde cycle... going deeper, revisiting old ground. Making sure the land is clear to move ahead. We've entered Eclipse season. Hold on to your hats. Nothing like some extra shaking up (I need an emoticon here), in a world already in major transition. Our focus, as always... is of paramount importance. What we focus on expands and grows. That's a universal law. And whatever we focus on, give our attention to, we colour it with our self. The 'Observer Effect'. The 'dark' seems big... but the Light is bigger. Few of us have really understood the immense power of Love. We sang about it back in the seventies. They were special times. The Renaissance of Love and Peace. We need to be vigilant. This second 'stage' of Covid or whatever it is... is weirder than the first. Well I think so. At least so far. Returning to the market (for my veggies) after months away... I felt I was walking in an alternate reality. That I'd slipped into another dimension. The Soul Vision Quest I'd embarked on could've been playing a part. But everything felt weird. It was lovely to see humans, that's always nice (well mostly). But there was something about the energetic environment... even with all the smiling, familiar faces... that I couldn't find words to fit. My sensitivity was in overload. It was the strangest experience. So here we are at the half way point of 2020. What will the next half bring? As always most of the 'work' is internal. As we change, so does everything. Waiting on 'them' to do it... well, it's never shown great results. Sure it's good when it can. We are communal creatures after all. But the power lies inside us. Each and everyone one of us. We don't get let off the hook. Our weird and wonderful world. Might get some stickers made. This crossing. This great crossing... between two gigantic worlds. Dark and Light. The great shift of Ages. From the Kali Yuga to the Golden Age. Reading the NGT's May edition... so many wonderful columnists; it struck me clearly. I felt and saw their vision in their words and a wonderful sense of 'revolution' appeared. I could see in each one I read. Our rebirth after our time of retreat. Our coming out after our time of recluse... felt incredibly clear and powerful. This was a revolution birthed from clarity and true intelligence. A powerful grounded and heart-centred focus of 'No More'. A line drawn in the sand. A clarity that was incredibly inspiring. There's been much spoken of the revolution that was coming. But it was if I got a real sense of its emergence. And it's nothing like revolutions of old. I'm not sure how it'll unfold. Life's often mysterious, keeps her cards close to her chest. But it's pure and good... and needed. The Light Bearers refusing to allow the Light to be extinguished. Bit like the Vestal Virgins of Ancient times... that kept the Sacred Flame alight. Allowing no-one to extinguish it. This Winter Solstice... will be a powerful one. If you can, give it your presence. The super potent New Moon Solar Eclipse is on the very same day, wowee... 21st June (AEST). I can feel its approach. It's a time of preparation and standing in our Light. Being ready to support what's real and true, caring and kind. The world that was seeded in the seventies. 50 years ago. Coming home to our self... and our wonderful world. An exciting birthing underneath all the chaos.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

Questions

1. What is this construction on the right? Hint: It is not far from the Taj Mahal but the architectural style vastly predates the Moghuls. (Photo: Ken Jones)
2. What is the difference between a White Hat SEO technique and a Black Hat one?
3. Who said "Yours is a grave and sobering responsibility, but it is also a shining opportunity. You go out into a world where mankind is challenged, as it has never been challenged before, to prove its maturity and its mastery — not of nature, but of itself."
4. Which member of the Commonwealth is the northernmost country in Central America? Bonus point if you can name the capital.
5. What was the name of the first smart phone released, which company released it and when?
6. Kind of Blue is widely regarded as one of the best and most influential albums of all time. Who recorded the album and when?
7. Janet Yellen was the first woman appointed to Chair the US Federal Reserve Bank in 2014. President Donald Trump, reportedly "very impressed" with her reappointment interview in 2018, ultimately decided against her citing what reason?
8. A palindrome is a word that spells the same forwards or backwards such as radar. In Australia there are at least eight place names that are palindromes. How many can you name? Hint: The ACT has one beginning with C; NSW one with T; NT one with P; Queensland one with C; SA one with G and Victoria three with H, L and P.
9. Are Eve's Apple, Lady Jezebel, Little Fifi, Lost Rose and Puff: 19th century English novels; birds; butterflies; erotic 20th century artworks; flowers or gay movies?
10. What is suet?

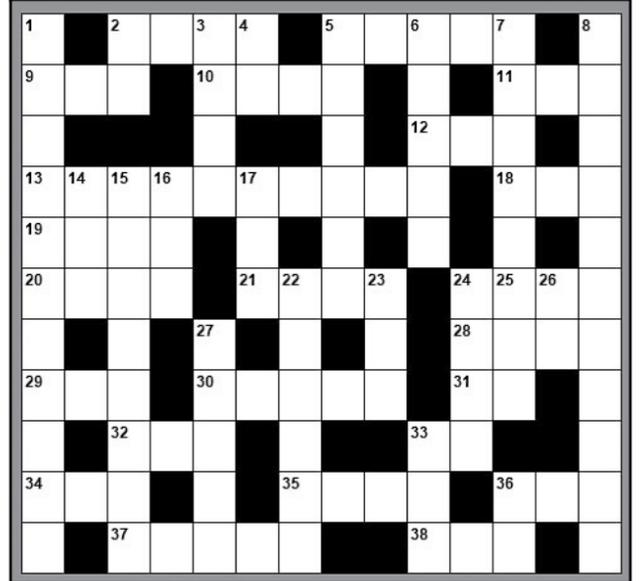


Answers

1. Dried cow pat fuel biscuits prepared in waterproof cow dung structures ahead of the coming monsoon on the Agra to Jaipur road in Rajasthan. A few can be seen drying in the left of this photo.
2. Search Engine Optimisation refers to design techniques aiming to make a webpage more visible to search engines. White Hat SEO invests in the website's long term future by focusing on the human audience and obeying SE rules and policies, while Black Hat SEO is aimed at short term gain through aggressive or deceptive techniques that are not focussed on the human audience, often ignoring SE rules and policies.
3. Rachel Carson in June 1962, just days before the publication of Silent Spring, her revelation that widespread use of DDT was the cause of massive bird die-offs around the globe.
4. Belize, the capital of which is Belmopan.
5. Simon was a double handful of smartphone released by IBM in 1992. It was a cell phone and a Personal Digital Assistant which featured a 4.5 by 1.4 inch LCD touchscreen with a stylus. Simon could send and receive emails, faxes, and pages, collect notes and schedule appointments. It had an address book, calendar and world clock and could even run 3rd party apps. All this 15 years ahead of the first iPhone.
6. Recorded in New York in 1959 by jazz trumpeter Miles Davis and his sextet, the quintessentially cool Kind of Blue is generally considered the definitive jazz album. With over 5 million sales in the US alone, this studio album has extended its reach far beyond the jazz realm to influence many music genres over 60 years.
7. According to officials at the time, he believed she was too short for the job at five feet, three inches.
8. Civic, Tunur, Parap, Aramara, Glenelg, Lal Lal, Harrah, and Parappap.
9. 19th century English novels.
10. Suet is the beef or mutton fat found around the kidneys and loin. Most suet is rendered into tallow for industrial use in products such as soap, fuel, printing inks, candles, unguents and ointments. Suet is, however, an essential ingredient in traditional Christmas pudding, Bedford Clangers, Haggis, Jamaican party, Rag pudding and Spotted Dick, to name but a few of the highlights of the suet menu.

Nimbin Crossword

2020-6
by Synic



Across

2. Our national dish?
5. A good one? Stone fruit.
9. Alkali from wood ash
10. Norse trickster god
11. Sicken
12. Bar
13. Related to public speaking
18. South African political party (init.)
19. Excellent? Cannabis
20. Ladies' fingers
21. Light brown? Unbleached linen
24. Green legumes
28. Killer monochrome cetacean
29. Curve
30. Not a droid from Star Wars - R2E2
31. Lip caterpillar?
32. Cricket match between two countries, played over a single day (init.)
33. Okinawan fighting staff
34. Prepare to cook (e.g. fish or game)
35. Not a tennis champion - Williams _____
36. Mating season? Driveway wheel-track
37. Rock
38. Savoury 35 across

Down

1. Sanguine citrus? (5,6)
2. Sports lessons? (init.)
3. Red muppet
4. Therefore
5. Military manoeuvre? Crab claw
6. Mac maker?
7. Chilli rated around a quarter of a million Scovilles
8. Chocolate pudding fruit (5,6)
14. Asian nation, capital Seoul (init.)
15. These Stone fruit are orange
16. Afternoon snack? Infusion
17. Grain for flour, bread, beer, whiskey, and vodka
22. Decorative hors d'oeuvre
23. Card game
24. Self-consciously postmodern? (abbreviation)
26. Cooling system? Mains electricity
27. My Latino friend
33. Womens' underwear
36. Internet domain - Romania

Solution: Page 28



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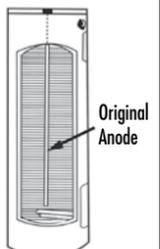
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LOCKDOWN THANKSGIVING

by Simon Thomas

I rejoice for the oil that didn't get burned
and the plastic that never got sold
I'm glad for the ones who had time with
their kids
For the games that they played and the
stories they told
My heart skips a beat when I think what
a treat
It must be for many I know
To shun the alarm and lay arm in arm
With their lover because they have
nowhere to go

I'm happy to hear that the skies became
clear where they used to be smoggy
and brown
Of streams running clean where
pollution had been
Wild animals strolling through town
How good it must be for the fish in the
sea
For the dolphins and walrus and seals
To have less of our muck in their gills
getting stuck
And no plastic straws in their meals

My friends are all baking and cooking
a storm, they're getting their hands in
the dough
They're treating their bunch to a long,
loving lunch
They're changing from fast food to slow
They're getting all mellow and playing
the cello
Or starting a new renovation
Or making a bench while practising
French
Or entering deep hibernation



I think what a fool I was back at school,
and how much I hated to go
I'm sure there are some who are glad to
be home
It wasn't at school where I learned what
I know
Perhaps it's a chance for them just to
dance
They might even learn to be kind
Or how to take care of the little ones
there
I don't call that falling behind.

And then there are folk who are
actually stoked to be finally left all
alone
To sit with themselves, with their mind
and their heart
And literally chill to the bone
For them it's not scary being lonesome

and hairy
In fact, they're enjoying the peace
I know that for some, their time has
now come
And this lock-up is more like release

I wonder sometimes what we're all
gonna feel when this virus has
loosened its grip
Will we see that this part of our lives
was quite real
Or think it was some kind of trip
I hope we might cherish all things that
will perish
The fleeting, the fragile, the frail
I hope we will be a new kind of free
When we flee from our self-imposed jail

For the video, please visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TYzm0H3D_Q

Lyon

by Bob Tissot

So, spend most of a
day scooting across
Belgium and France
and you'll find yourself in
Petit Paris du Sud... or Lyon
as described in the Atlas.

We have lodgings deep
within the cobble-stoned
streets of the Old Town
and spent rather longer
than necessary dragging
a tiny-wheeled suitcase
over large and slippery
cobble, following the totally
incorrect directions given by
someone we mistakenly took
for a local.

Did the Romans not stop
and think when they built
these roads across Europe
that eventually wagon wheels
would be replaced by useless
wheels on suitcases? By the
time we climb the spiral
stone staircase to our room,
one wheel *est morte*.

The key to our room looks
like something from Lord of
the Rings; the kind of key
that fills a man with pride
just to know it's nestled
safely in his pockets. A huge,
black metal and polished
brass heirloom, descended
from the Middle Ages, and
hellishly complicated on the
business end.

Everything in this
neighbourhood is historical.
Old bakeries, glaciers (ice-
cream shops), medieval
museums and of course a
1000-year old cathedral. Our
room, which is old, damp



stone, has a slight aroma
from 1320, a good year.

But next morning it's quite
definitely 18th May, which
just happens to be the lovely
Diana's birthday, so naturally
I pop out for some fresh
breakfast croissants, only to
pop back with none other
than our daughter, who'd
been travelling all night from
Milan to surprise her. The
missus is totally gobsmacked
that we two could keep a
secret so totally under wraps
for so long. Lucky I'd bought
three croissants...

So we're off and about
like the three musketeers
when we spot a fellow in
what can only be described
as striped pantaloons. And
just as if he was wearing a
rabbit suit and our name
was Alice, we followed him.
After a short stroll he met
another peculiarly attired
person, and then another.
They hurry around a corner
and Gadzooks! we discover
a large encampment of
Knights, their grooms,
their women, their swords,

spears and halberds, their
forges for producing the
aforementioned weapons,
in fact the whole kit and
caboodle.

We had stumbled upon
the 699th celebration of
"Independence from The
Pope", and the whole town's
gone completely medieval.
The city's most important
people and old families
get thoroughly decked out
in traditional medieval,
ecclesiastical and guild
apparel, and march through
the streets with all the
traditional pennants flying
high, musicians playing
original instruments, dancing
in the streets, jousting on
the green, bloody everything!
How good is all this?

Some of the "folk" live
the medieval lifestyle
permanently; travelling from
fete, to re-enactment, to
festival, to anniversary all
year long. There's been a lot
of medieval in Europe. One
of the bands in pantaloons
came from Portugal
(pictured, above) and they

could really get a crowd of
serfs bouncing around.

Up on the hill dominating
Lyon is the only Notre Dame
that still has its roof intact –
the Basilica de Notre-Dame
de Fourviere. On closer
inspection, turns out to be
two churches, one on top of
the other. Deeper down still
lie the remains of the old
Roman Forum (Fourviere)
and Amphitheatre.

The Amphitheatre is
massive, and with killer views
of the two rivers, up here
would have been Excitement
Central for the Romans. I
doubt if the funicular railway
was working then, but I
bet the rich Romans had
something slave-powered to
take them up and down the
hill. We descended through
the Rosary Garden, winding
down the hill to town. If
you're not sure what a Rosary
Garden is, think Penance
and Hail Marys. Google has
nice pictures.

We saved the most
traditional, old-school
restaurant 'til last. What
a treat! A carafe of local
Beaujolais, an onion soup
you could eat with a fork, the
stinkiest cheese a nose could
wish for, and 100% Gallic
Xtreme attitude, particularly
after I sent my wine glass
back to the dishwasher. The
waiter inspected it, held it to
the light, and muttered as he
took it away. A replacement
never materialised and I had
to take one from the next
table. But you know, that
sort of behaviour just adds to
the experience.

Barcelona tomorrow –
heading back to the sun.

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Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 27

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

Benefits of the lockdown

The world according to Magenta Appel-Pye

Despite much difficulty for many during this time, there has also been much good. Being forced to socially isolate for two months has had unexpected benefits.

Norm has never taken that much time off work in his life and therefore has never slowed down enough to get to deep rest and relaxation.

To start with it was difficult for him, so we did yoga nidra (free) on-line every afternoon, and after a few weeks he was enjoying his siestas. He now has increased vigour and better health.

I rang someone every day, especially those who live alone. Spending time renewing friendships made me happy. We have become so busy doing, running around, full of FOMO (fear of missing out),



working long hours to pay for rents and mortgages on houses that we're hardly ever at. And then we go away on holidays!

People in Nimbin have a better view of what constitutes a good, happy life. It is a strong, inspirational community.

Being forced to slow down, stay put, go inward was an opportunity to find out what wasn't working in our lives and in the world. I realised that the most important thing to safeguard our future as well as our happiness was connection

with others.

It was lovely how neighbours, practising social distancing, stopped and talked to each other for lengthy periods.

We got to actually know each other rather than just wave as we walked by, rushing home to do a million things. We all offered help and support.

Overcoming shyness, I played my saxophone on the front veranda at sunset rather than behind closed doors.

People came outside with their families and enjoyed that magical time of night, chatting, apart yet together.

This rampant capitalism where the growth of companies is the highest and only priority does not make the average person happier.

The extreme rich don't pay tax and continue to get wealthier while the rest of us are their tired workers.

But change is happening. Mother Nature is seeing to that.



Auntie Maj and Uncle Norm

Cleavage

Dear SSHS,

Why is it that women wear really low-cut tops, but when we check out their cleavage, they act all offended?

- Dave Booby, Round Mountain

She says

Men know that the definition of cleavage is the gap between pleasure, and women know how much men love to worship at the altar of the sacred titties.

But really, it's not all about you men. Yes, there is a bit of power-tripping going on here. When girls develop breasts they begin to understand the power their cleavage has.

Suddenly grown men lose their ability to look us in the eye, and even to speak properly. We have a good laugh about it behind their backs, sometimes even in front of them.

Fashion often dictates the wearing of low-cut tops and dresses and, as we live in a hot country it is more comfortable to have as much air flow as possible.

However, as much as men enjoy our breasts, they aren't all fun for us. Society expects us to wear over the shoulder boulder holders, with dangerous underwire all day, every day. Our girls get uplifted, squeezed and separated in these torturous contraptions.

The bigger the breasts, the more uncomfortable it is, and the less you're allowed to be seen in public without one. It could cause accidents! So who could blame us for having a bit of fun and using our breasts to our advantage?

I seduced Uncle Norm by going into his piano shop wearing low cut tops and playing the piano. He was already drooling when I would tip him over the edge by 'accidentally' dropping my music on the floor, thus having to bend over in front of him.

He tells me he used to bang his head repeatedly on his desk after I went out. Oh, what fun! Eventually I snared him and he didn't even realise he was merely a prawn in my game of chest.

Dave, it all depends on who's looking and how. It's natural selection. If the man is not to her liking, then she discourages him by acting offended. If the man is considered worthy, then, as long as he's discreet, she not only doesn't mind, she actively encourages it.

Only experience will teach you how to do it right. Maybe Uncle Norm will show us his tips.

HE says

Dear Davo, sounds like you've been copping a bit of flack, mate. Granted, there is nothing more delightful for a red-blooded male than to behold a bodacious pair of tatas, expertly packaged in a way that makes you lose all cognitive function.

But you can't go around checking out ladies' racks as if you're looking at the goodies in a French patisserie.

Why? Never mind why, it's just not the done thing. You'll end up with a reputation of being a lecherous, shameless pervert.

Yes, I know, we're all deviates underneath it all, but you have to be able to show that at least some small part of your brain is not just geared towards sex.

You have to learn the art of seeing without looking. If you are fortunate enough to meet an attractive sheila with a spectacular front veranda, pretend you're a newsreader on TV.

Consciously make an effort to look at her face when you're talking to her and, occasionally, very subtly, check out the teleprompter.

You don't want her thinking that all you're interested in is playing with her puppies: even though that's the truth and nothing but the truth. You have to show that if she does give you the key to the city, you're man enough to handle it.

Seems to me you're still a young bloke learning the ropes and going through a bit of cleavage obsession. That's OK, we've all been there, it's quite natural, and nothing that 25 years of marriage won't fix.

Finally, to answer your question as to why women wear low-cut tops. Because they can.

"I packed a squaw for ten years and let me tell you, a woman's breast is the hardest rock that God almighty put on this earth." - from the movie *Jeremiah Johnson*

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

Dialogues

by S Sorrensen

Good to see ya, mate. Cheers.

Cheers.

Ah, that beer's not too bad. Japanese. Can't get the usual drop. It's tough when you can't get essentials, eh?

Yup.

Hope you didn't mind me just popping 'round. Haven't seen you since the pandemic started.

No.

It's legal now. Visiting. About time too. I was going stir crazy. How about you?

Well, at first I -

You can't just tell people what to do. Can't go here; can't go there. Can't get what I need. Can't even visit my mum, for God's sake. It's against our rights - as people, as citizens, as Australians. And why? I got more chance of being eaten by a Ballina shark - and I never go to Ballina - than getting this coronavirus thing.

That's because the lockdown worked, I guess.

But you can't just take people's rights away. It's National Reconciliation Week this week.

So? Every day or week seems to celebrate something. Last week, Jane told me it was World Bidet Day or something. Who cares? I don't use a bidet. Why would I? I've got hundreds of rolls of toilet paper at home.

I think last Thursday was World Bee Day.

Like, buzz buzz bees. Bees are in trouble around the world.

Yeah? Good. I'm allergic to bees. I come up in a big rash when I'm bitten.

Stung.

Whatever. Bee Day, Reconciliation Week, Humpback Month. It doesn't impact me.

Well, it does. Aboriginals have had their rights - as people, as citizens, as Australians - denied.

Not these days. I know an Indigenous bloke drives a Lexus. He's doing alright.

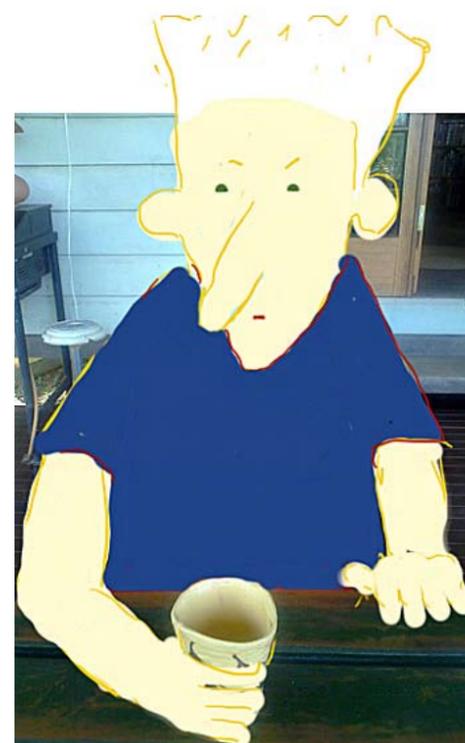
Indigenous people are suffering. They die younger. They're in jails and not in government. They have their lands taken.

They have their sacred sites destroyed - I'm not responsible for stuff that happened centuries ago.

Rio Tinto blasted a Pilbara sacred site with 46,000 years of history - this month.

Oh.

The Queensland government took Aboriginal land for the Adani project - last year.



Oh.

The racism is happening now. It's ingrained in our culture. More Indigenous children get taken away from their parents by the government now than when it was official government policy to do so. Can't even visit their mum, for God's sake.

That's sad. But, hey, it's got nothing to do with me.

You benefit from it.

No I don't.

Yes you do. So do I. The wealth of this country, our jobseeker money, comes from resources taken illegally from the Indigenous people.

Illegally?

Terra nullius was a lie; is a lie, a lie which our Constitution is built on.

But I didn't take the land or the kids.

I know. Neither did I. But this is our country too now - if we really want to belong here - so, if this really is our country too now, we now share responsibility for what happens next.

OK, but I'm not the prime minister. What can we do?

Right now? Let's acknowledge the Bundjalung people whose land this is. May they, and we, continue to look after it. And enjoy it. I raise my glass.

Kanpai.

Mmm. Good beer.

Dear reader, welcome to one of the few remaining local journals - and farewell to the Murdoch rags (and good riddance).

But I digress.

Humans are so paradoxical, for although they love novelty they dislike change; they struggle with the drudgery of the repetitive and continual, yet live out their lives in habitual ways - re-enacting the same behaviours for good or ill, over and over.

It is for these reasons that a second wave and third wave of Covid-19 infections are inevitable.

The novelty of this novel virus has already worn very thin, and the drudgery of social isolation and personal hygiene has grown onerous and seemingly absurd.

Some of the new ways of living together have become habitual, but I've noticed hand sanitation is already on the wane and our country has never adopted masks - unfortunately.

How severe the new waves will be is difficult to say. The reality of the virus hasn't changed - it's a highly contagious airborne pathogen with exponential infection rates.

It doesn't appear to be a rapidly mutating virus, which is good news. We might be able to stamp out the eruptions before they grow into a wave.

We should test everyone now or at least do random community testing to get ahead of the game.

What isn't clear is how our economy will look once the jobkeeper and 'doubled'



Revenge of the Loon

by Laurence Axtens

jobseeker payments halt or revert to previously unsurvivable levels in September. Are we headed for a severe recession or a crazy boom?

While service industries have crumbled, goods sales have been going through the roof.

And then there will be the next unexpected mass catastrophe - what will it be? A plague of thrip? A civil war? Maybe a black frost that lasts weeks? An attack from the Coal Seam Gas industry? Or just another even bigger fire season?

Probably all of them. Everything is getting bigger and faster and more chaotic. Enjoy.

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Nimbin Central welcomes back students

by Cath Marshall, principal

It was a sea of orange at Nimbin Central School on Friday 29th May, with the entire school community wearing the colour and sharing a sausage sizzle and ice cream lunch, games and fun activities, to celebrate the first week back together with on-site learning.

After a quick transition to remote learning and then seven weeks of supported Learning from Home, due to the Covid-19 crisis, staff and students were excited and happy to be able to come together again for face-to-face teaching and learning.

We are delighted to be able to have students back not just as educators but also as part of the community.

The 'new normal' at school includes strict hygiene protocols and we would like to thank students for their co-operation and understanding regarding these – hand sanitising, wiping of desks and

computers and hand washing have become part of our everyday routines.

There are still some restrictions on school activities including excursions, assemblies, meetings and volunteers and we appreciate your respectful acceptance of these measures at present.

We are all looking forward to these too being lifted.

We would also like to thank all our parents and families for being supportive, flexible and working so hard to support your children during Learning from Home.

We understand the challenges this presented and congratulate you on the way you met these for the benefit of your children and the entire community.

As a school, we have been examining the positives we have learned from the period



Admin staff Christine Riley, Kathleen McMahon and Veronica Doyle



learning community into the future.

One of the most important and heartening messages for us has been the power of community – and of ours in particular.

of extreme change we have been through and what we can use to move forward as a

Cawongla-style pumpkin soup

by Leanne Logan

The kitchen at Cawongla Playhouse has been busy of late.

There's always the smell of fresh herbs, collected from our vegie garden by the children, and dining tables decked with flowers picked fresh each week.

These two jobs head the list of the things the children vie for – and so does washing up! You have to be four years old to wash up at Cawongla – it's a rite of passage thing – and the eager faces of the watching three-year-olds tell you that it's something worth growing up for.

But not everyone likes washing up, just as not everyone likes cooking. So we share the jobs at Cawongla preschool, and that works out well, particularly when we, as adults, receive children as competent and capable.

So it was recently, on the day that Reiko's family donated a homegrown pumpkin, that we had several chefs keen to be in the kitchen. "Soup!" was what Reiko wanted to make and she knew just



how to do it: "You roast the pumpkin, add water and salt and mash it up."

What a joy-filled job making pumpkin soup was in the company of confident and involved children. Even oiling the oven tray inspired interesting observations: "It's very slimy, and it's making lots of sounds."

When the pumpkin was cut, the children were amazed at the number of seeds. "We could scoop them out and

plant them," Reiko suggested.

Shivali added: "Then they'll grow into another plant!"

So enthusiastic were they that both girls carried the pumpkin halves around the preschool showing everyone the seeds. Then it was time for cutting, and as sharp knives were brought out the rules were discussed about how to keep everyone safe.

After baking it was time to mash – of course everyone wanted a turn at that. "Look, it makes a pattern," Tom observed as the pumpkin squished through the masher.

Making the soup took a good part of the day for some children. Some tried the soup, others didn't. Some came back for seconds.

You could say we made pumpkin soup that day, or you could say we had a big sharing – of family connection, of conversation, of food, of learning – or more succinctly, of things that matter.

Yep, another day at Cawongla Playhouse.

Preschoolers enjoy return to the playground

by Carina, Annalyce and May, educators

Our friends are very excited to be back at the Nimbin Early Learning Centre and have missed each other.

We are enjoying a lot of time outside in the playground.

We made a frog hotel which is a creative shelter for attracting green frogs and keeping them safe from predators.

The children really enjoyed being involved in this project

and collecting rocks, dirt and pipes.

The most loved songs at the moment are *Tiny Tim*, *Caught a Fish* and *Mr Clown*.

We used recycled paper to make paper kites. First, we drew on the paper then turned them into kites.

The most exciting part was we got to fly them around the playground all afternoon.

Please feel free to call the Centre on (02) 6689-0142.

We are open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm.





by Lisa

It has been so wonderful to have many of our children back at Nimbin Preschool.

We missed everyone so much, and as we talked to children, we realised they missed preschool too.

Children learn through experiences and play. They rely on social situations and imaginative play to create new understandings and skills.

When children feel a sense of belonging, they feel safe and secure to explore, grow, and be.

We strive to provide this environment for our children. We create and nurture our preschool family.

We were keen to find out what our little people missed the most while they were not coming to preschool.

So we asked them, what do you like to do at preschool?

LS: "I like to play on the swings, playing in the sandpit, and finding

treasure. I like eating snow peas in the garden."

SK: "I like going for a big walk. I like finding frogs, Eastern Dwarf frogs!"

EW: "I like building homes for my animals with the magnets, playing with my friends, playing soccer, and going for walks."

AH: "Playing with Ezekiel and playing soccer."

RB: "I like finding frogs and playing with Ezekiel and Andrew."

MK-H: "I like to sing and dress up. I like to play superheroes and unicorns!"

LS: "Play with Lilah in the sandpit, play unicorns with Lilah. I like to paint and making things."

Aren't we busy?

If you have a child aged 2.5-6 years you would like to experience all of this and more, we have vacancies now!

Drop down and see us at the A&I showgrounds, Cecil Street Nimbin, or phone us on 6689-1203.

Environmental cost of solar panels

by Diana Gosper, Rainbow Power Company

You may have heard the renewables naysayers happily espouse coal and coal seam gas (or nuclear power!) when they speak of rubbish tips around the world filling up with unwanted solar panels.

Panels generally have a lifespan of 20-25 years, but up to 40 years – with reduced capacity – if they are a quality brand and are used correctly.

Australia, being the country with one of the biggest uptakes of solar, should rightly be concerned about the end life of solar panels, and we should be leading the way when it comes to recycling and repurposing our used panels, which are the major waste incurred when producing a new solar power system.

Studies have shown that Australia is set to have 900,000t of solar panel waste by 2050, by comparison to say Russia, which is estimated to have 150,000t by 2050. Clearly Australia needs to improve when it comes to responsible recycling and disposal.

Positive news is that solar panels are becoming thinner, meaning less materials are needed, and less energy is required to make them, bringing the environmental cost further down.

Here's the thing: Australia, with our golden plains and wealth for toil, can foreseeably be a leading protagonist when it comes to the generation – and recycling – of solar panels and components.



And you can take heart; the Australian Renewable Energy Agency is funding a \$15 million panel recycling project, and that is just the beginning.

Sustainability Victoria are starting a solar panel product stewardship, and experts are keen to adopt the practices of other countries like France, which in 2018 developed Europe's first solar panel recycling plant; with co-operation between industry, governments and recyclers, they developed a program that sees 90-96% of the materials salvaged from a used solar panel get recycled.

Sure, federal state and local governments are going to be facing a big challenge, but the rewards are clearly there in the long run; studies have shown that one solar farm the size of Lismore Shire could power the country for a year.

There should be a legal and financial incentive for businesses (at least, if not households as well) to recycle their panels, it makes good financial and environmental sense to make the most of the material contained within them, and it wouldn't be hard to incentivise larger businesses

to change to solar with battery storage and reap the fiscal benefits.

In a 2016 study on solar panel recycling, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) said that in the long term, building dedicated PV panel recycling plants makes sense.

It estimates that recovered materials could be worth \$450 million by 2032 and exceed \$15 billion by 2050. Australia alone is expected to produce \$100 million worth by 2032.

One thing is for sure and certain, every shonky solar dealer that gets in and then gets out, rorting the public with substandard panels, are not only potentially pushing the price of renewables up, they are also a part of the waste problem.

Reputable manufacturers and suppliers are participating in responsible recycling and/or stewardship programs.

There are a number of things that can be done with unwanted or superseded panels:

- Lobby your polities and ministers to put a solar panel recycling or buy-back scheme into place for solar

panels, and hang onto them until they do. (Currently one company in Australia is recycling solar panels, Adelaide's Reclaim PV.)

- Sell them as is. Sites like FB marketplace and Gumtree have a buy and sell section in your area.

- Give them away. Same as above: sites have a 'free' section where you can post your items for interested parties to come and collect.

- Find a scrap dealer who will take them for free.

- Pay for them to be disposed of as electronic waste.

- Pay for them to be recycled.

- Upcycle them into a table or other useful item and sell at markets or give to friends as cool eco gifts.

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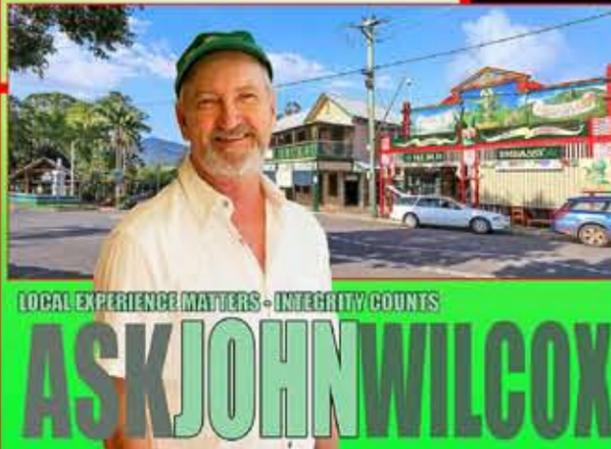


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