

ASTRO FORECASTS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

by Tina Mews

Aries

The New Moon in Aries on April 12 is a great moment in time for the seeding of new ideas. Nevertheless, before you can leap ahead you might have to deal with important issues from the past that demand your full attention. April 8-12 might test your patience as things might not proceed as imagined. Focus on the bigger picture and develop a strategy how to get there.

Taurus

The weeks before your birthday are great for finishing old projects and reflecting on the year just gone by. What worked well, what did not? The energies of the Full Moon in Scorpio on April 27 might highlight areas in your life that need urgent attention. You might feel pushed into making difficult decisions. Are you prepared to take on more responsibilities or do you need more freedom and time for yourself?

Gemini

This is potentially a very busy time for you, especially in regards to writing, communication and networking. It is important, not to run out of breath; give yourself sufficient time for resting, processing and digesting. Think things over twice before making decisions, especially during April 8 – 12. Avoid jumping to conclusions because you are in a rush and might miss important details.

Cancer

This is an important period where you will be working on a new balance between the past and a new future direction. Imagine yourself seeding something utterly amazing where you are in the limelight, a leader who shows others the way. Conflict could surface in your relationships if you get too busy with your work and career path.

Leo

Our beliefs shape our lives, our bodies and minds. Reflect on your beliefs and their cultural conditioning. Is it time for a new set of values, for new types of inspiration and experiences? Make space and invite the new energy into your life. Creative projects are likely to do well, and there could be a change in your career path.

Virgo

This is a period where you might request more autonomy and independence as you are keen to find your spot in the greater world. What role do you like to play on the big stage out there? April 8 – 12 might bring some confusion because things will most likely not move ahead as expected. If this is the case, step back, have a rest and reflect on how best to plant your seeds for the future.

April

Since the last equinox (March 20) the Sun is journeying through Aries, the sign of new beginnings. The Aries quest is to develop courage and incentive for pioneering into unknown territory. It is the search for identity.

The New Moon in Aries on April 12 is conjunct Venus and Mercury, forming a stressful square aspect with Pluto in Capricorn.

This is a powerful signature for initiating change including setting our intentions of how this change should be realised. Pluto is the planetary energy concerned with the laws of decay, death and regeneration provoked by the instinctual drive of survival. Personally and collectively, we are drawn into a brave new world where the established order has dissolved and reveals its flaws and weaknesses. Nevertheless, failure and collapse carry the seed of the new that slowly but surely will emerge out of the decayed. This current collective transformational process (Pluto) profoundly influences our personal lives (Aries). Nevertheless, brave and courageous individuals (Aries) can carry the impulse of renewal and have the power of stirring us toward a new direction. The New Moon is conjunct Venus, the archetype of connecting and relating. Venus in Aries is in an exact square aspect with Pluto. In Aries, Venus is very independent and idealistic, the warrior queen who fights against domination and control.

Mars, the planetary ruler of Aries, will be in Gemini until April 24th. Mars in Gemini is driven by curiosity and seeks to share a wide range of ideas and information. **During April 8th – 12th Mars is in a square aspect with Neptune, indicating a period of confusion and lack of direction.** Discerning between fact and fiction, truth and misinformation will be the challenge. It is essential to think things through before making decisions while going through the grounding process of doing one's own research. Mars in Gemini plus several planets in Aries correlate with

mental speediness and impulsiveness. So, catching our breath, directing excess energy into productive projects that make us slow down, is the way to go!

The Full Moon in Scorpio on April 27th signals a change in energy.

The Full Moon is opposite a Sun/Uranus conjunction in Taurus and T-squares Saturn in Aquarius. While the cardinal signs Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn are driven by action, the fixed signs Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius dig in their heels. Their best way of defense is 'hold on and resist'. Taurus needs stability and dislikes chaos and change. The Taurus Sun is conjunct Uranus, the planetary force-field signifying revolution, social change and activism. This Full Moon could trigger suppressed emotions as it activates the Saturn/Uranus square, the most important outer planetary formation during 2021. Saturn and Uranus are strongly opposing principles. Their alignments create a lot of tension as Saturn likes adherence to order and the status quo while Uranus is the cosmic awakener and disrupter of old forms so that new patterns can be birthed. Important societal, cultural and economic questions are raised when these forces align. Learning how to live with uncertainty is our collective journey during 2021. Trying to hold onto outdated principles and values will not work as it is not supported by the cosmic flow. This Full Moon highlights the tension that is generated when decisions must be made after a period of intense reflection, research, and consciousness work.

Navigation by the stars: Personal Astrology Consultation including Your Year Ahead: Plans, Directions, Concerns for 2021/22;

Astro-mornings at the Lillifield Community Centre:

• Thursday, April 15th: 'Jupiter enters Pisces', 10.30am – 1.30pm,

• Thursday, April 29th: 'The Water Houses in the Chart and their Mystery', 10.30am – 1.30pm at the Lillifield Community Centre; all welcome

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

Libra

Finding independence in your personal relationships as well as forming a good balance between giving and taking is one of Libra's greatest quest. Be aware that nobody can read your thoughts unless you share them openly. Sometimes it is helpful to imagine how life would look like if you were as fierce as a fiery Aries! Of course you can speak your mind in style, but say what you have to say.

Scorpio

Your health, work and daily routine might demand your full attention. It is an excellent moment in time for starting with a special diet or exercise program. Your body could do with some nurturing care! The Full Moon on April 27 could be emotionally testing as it highlights important family and relationship issues that need addressing. Try not to be reactive, instead, detach and remain open to the concerns of others.

Sagittarius

During this period, you might feel a need to express yourself through something creative or artistic. The challenge is generating a stable income and enjoying financial security while doing the things that inspire you and make you happy. Avoid dispersing your energy in too many different directions. Keep focused on what is essential and attainable.

Capricorn

Home and domestic affairs are at the centre of your attention. There is always a lot to do when it comes to establishing a sound foundation for yourself and those dependent on you. You might have to take on extra responsibilities or start a new project around the home. However, try not to take on too much and push yourself too hard as you might exhaust your energy reserves.

Aquarius

This is a good moment in time for gathering information, resourcing yourself and learning new things which then can be used to build a deeper foundation of knowledge. With Saturn in Aquarius until 2023, this is a helpful period for questioning the validity of your ideals and principles as well as reflecting on your contribution to humanity.

Pisces

When you are aligned with the universe, you can easily attract what you need. Strengthen your intuition and trust; the flow of energy is moving you in the right direction. April 8 – 12 might bring some confusions and it will be difficult to discern between fact and fiction, truth and misinformation. Avoid making decisions on the run.



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Shadow Self

by Marilyn Devlin

My Warrior's been rearing its head... grumbling, rumbling. The 'old' ways have been really getting under my skin. Could be Warrior Mars hanging around our collective evolutionary focal point. It's a planetary thing happening affecting our energy environment.

I understand we're living through times of super-significant change. Like MAJOR shifts. I understand that. I also know in some place deep inside me... that we will get to the other side of all of this... eventually. Could be a while.

On one side of the wall is the 'old' ways of doing things. The systems we've created, how we run our societies and their impact on us. Basically capitalism has driven the show. And major cracks are regularly appearing in the dam wall. And yet things continue... not only the same but in ever increasing grasps. It's more than frustrating...

I'm just a tiny piece in a massive jigsaw... but lately this 'old' way of doing things is really reaching its limit of tolerance. I know I'm not the only one. There's a swell of 'had enough', revolutionary fervour brewing. And of course there are those who appear oblivious.

Strangely, it can be the little things that collapse the cart. For me it was street lights. Certain street lights that were included in a new housing development site created on what was once farmland; surrounded by magnificent vistas of mountains and valleys and open skies.

"Street Lights!" I exclaimed, the sentiment fully understood by my companion. Why street lights? Why continuing the same old blueprint? Why can't we try new things? In harmony with the surrounds... in gentle, unobtrusive presence. Can we do that... blend in? Why stand out like a pimple on a hill? Yes, it can be the little things, like street lights.

I arrived back late that day to my humble cabin... the mangroves and Simpson's Creek. I was exhausted. I realised something... I can't survive without immersion in Mother Nature. I simply can't. Without a window of her uninterrupted rapture, her unadulterated presence... a full immersion, I really don't think I'd make it for long... my spirit would shrivel and die.

We're such a dominant species, us humans... and the 'old' ways of doing things continue to support this dominance.

Yes, it seems the tolerance window has shrunk. Well (planet) Mars has been fanning the flames... especially last week of March. And the March Full Moon will carry this Martian Warrior energy into April.

Then around the next Full Moon in Scorpio (always a big one), April 27th ... super charged Mars will shift into Cancer... turning his Warrior zeal to the energy of The Mother. Our roots, our family... our nurturing, our thriving... our safety. Our home. Our basic needs.

This whole reconfiguration of our systems and structures could continue for a while. But the flames of revolt are certainly being fanned. The troops are agitated, the voices rising, restless movement stirring. The Warrior energy of Mars will demand expression. Mars needs to act... and decisively.

I've wondered what it's asking of me. This new plateau... this new level of being I'm being invited on to... to engage from. 'Cause there's plenty to react to... to feel frustrated with; longing for it to change. But what's this time of shrunken tolerance inviting me to within myself?

As the 'old' ways need to change... I also need to change the way I engage. Especially now, when there's so much dissatisfaction with the status quo. Tolerance in shreds, with frustration and anger easily stirred. What new ways of operating can I engage? What elevated ways of working with opposition and conflict?

We're all in this evolutionary surge together. I figure we're being called to rise... not just in action but in a whole new way of operating.

We may need our Shadow with us in all of this.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

Questions



1. What is crawling across this person's fingers? (Photo: ucmp.berkeley.edu)
2. Which four countries share land borders with Italy?
3. Is a mullion an architectural element, a brain region, a collective noun for a group of bad 80s hair cuts or a panel beating tool?
4. What are homographs and homophones and what is the difference between them?
5. The much loved icy, creamy treat Golden Gaytime is currently under threat of radical gender reassignment. Which notable Nimbinite created this creamy, mouth watering delicacy?
6. Who penned that most memorable Melbourne monologue "The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke"?
7. This is the colour of the first album released by a group once described by the BBC as part of "the 'unholy trinity' of British hard rock and heavy metal during the genre's 1970s 'golden age.'" In 2020 they released their 21st album Whoosh! perhaps in memory of Douglas Adams' enjoyment of the sound of deadlines flying by. Can you name the group and the album?
8. In 1972 Boris Spassky lost the world chess championship title to whom?
9. What is the next number in this progression: 1, 4, 9, 16....?
10. It's Saint Patrick's Day. You're feeding a mob and the dish is colcannon. What do you need?

- Answers
1. It's a velvet worm, also known as peripatus (Phylum Onychophora). They've been around for half a billion years. Having no internal or exo-skeleton, they're hydraulically operated. They squirt glue onto their enemies and their prey. Look for them in rainforest litter, their skin has a lovely velvety feel.
 2. France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia.
 3. A mullion is an architectural element consisting of a vertical division between two parts of a window.
 4. They are both homonyms, words with the same spelling or pronunciation but with different meanings. Homographs are spelled the same way and homophones are spelled differently but pronounced the same way. Did you spot the homograph?
 5. The recipe was devised by that font of creative employment, Bob Tisserot.
 6. C. J. Dennis who immortalised the larrakin, long before they formed the violent pushes.
 7. Shades of Deep Purple released by Deep Purple in 1968.
 8. Bobby Fischer.
 9. 25. They're the first squares of the number line.
 10. Potatoes, scallions, greens, butter, cream and finely diced truffle cacciatore nubs if you're lucky enough to be in Orange where Stefan cures the meats.

LANTANA CLEARING

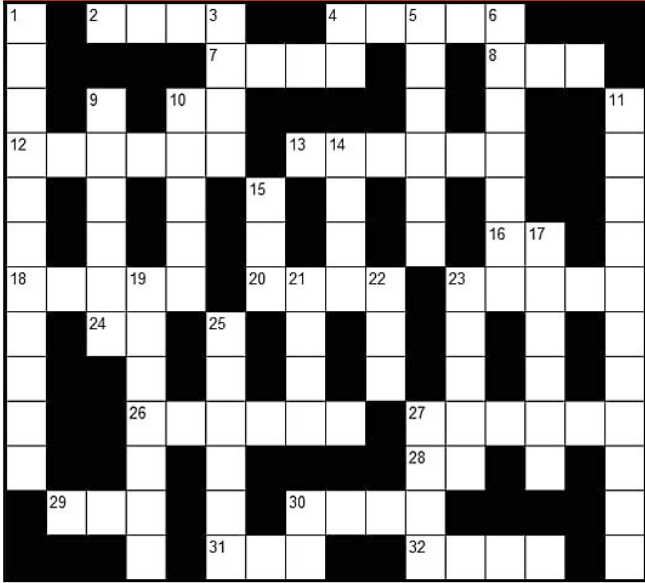
AND FOREST REGENERATION

ecopigs@icloud.com

Noah 0418 113 406

Nimbin Crossword

2021-04
by 5ynic



Across

2. Connects the keel to the sail
4. Black suit
7. Ethnicity
8. The aim of (7 across)
10. Greeting
12. Closed
13. Remove from vehicle, say
16. Editors mark to indicate preferred word
18. Damages
20. Unblended whiskey
23. Major Hindu deity – the destroyer
24. Genre for teen readers (init.)?
26. The sky above the port was the color of television, tuned to a dead channel
27. Soft furnishings professional
28. Intellectual Property
29. Unable to free the Ever Given alone
30. Doof?

31. US Agency charged with preventing pandemics (init.)
32. Unhearing

Down

1. Symbolic leaders
3. 1982 SciFi movie
4. Years since the birth of Christ (init.)?
5. Brand new (of clothing)?
6. From Stockholm
9. Prayer beads
10. Shouts
11. Fire worshipper
14. Zero
15. Cane spirits
17. Arm muscles
19. Back rub?
21. Opposed
22. Bath
23. High(er) note?
25. Flawed?
27. Passed away
30. Radio Controlled?

Solution: Page 28

MISS SOMETHING?
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Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 27

F		M	A	S	T			C	L	U	B	S
I					R	A	C	E		N		W
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Not all men are still boys

by Simon Thomas

I like to think that I don't have much in common with the nauseating hoard of inadequacies known as our Prime Minister, but I have to admit that there probably are a few: Anglo, Sydney-bred, middle class fifty-something bloke. So why is it that almost every utterance that flees his simpering lips leaves me quivering with rage or disgust?

Suburban childhood back in the 70s was a doddle for me but once puberty hit, things got a lot more complicated. While some parts of my body stretched and grew with merciless imprecision, others remained stubbornly juvenile. Likewise, my brain was swamped by a festering compost heap of conflicting messages, most of which were useless at best and often downright destructive.

The social hierarchy at "Penno High" consisted of gendered tribes which interacted in a random and bewildering fashion. Even the girls, to whom I was not especially attracted, scared the shit out of me, but if I happened to end up in conversation with the subject of one of my fleeting infatuations, it was like watching a horror movie unfold where I was the protagonist with no inkling of the plot.

Whatever words she happened to utter would slam into my hormone-deranged brain like stray particles in a nuclear reaction, igniting mushroom clouds of confusion and emasculating insecurity. My customary gift of the gab evaporated, and random sentences would tumble from my mouth in a humiliating jumble. Perhaps that's why Morrison's infantile drivel riles me so



comprehensively – he reminds me of my adolescent self.

Meanwhile in the boy's camp, conversation was conducted almost exclusively in the language of foolhardy bravado, shouted in hoarse tones. Any form of weakness, such as a spark of kindness, was identified with uncanny clairvoyance and viciously repudiated.

Although I managed to talk my way out of serious fights, the threat of low-level violence was constant. For example, a haircut was grounds for universal ridicule, no matter how much of an improvement it may have been on the previous style, and birthdays were particularly stressful because every other boy had the right to punch you once for each year of life.

Brutality was the only form of physical contact that boys could exchange without being accused of the most heinous imaginable crime (homosexuality). Unless you were in the rugby team of course, which for some strange reason seemed free of some of the usual heteronormative protocols.

However misanthropic the attitude of boys to one another may have been, it was positively saint-like when compared to the way that girls were viewed. Their value was assessed entirely through



perverted appraisal of their body parts and their perceived willingness to be subjected to male sexual gratification. Although mostly devoid of sexual experience, we boasted mindlessly of what we would do to them if only given half a chance.

Occasionally, a story would do the rounds relating to what I later recognised as horrendous sexual assaults involving groups of boys and a lone, vulnerable girl. The guffaws of the perpetrators would echo around the concrete quadrangle as they recounted their triumph while thumping one another in jubilation.

For the victim, it was game over. They were forever shamed as a slut and often subsequently coerced into further abuse.

Most men emerge from this swill of delusion as we forge mature relationships and leave our adolescent insecurities behind, but not Scott Morrison. That's why he clings so desperately to the few females with whom he feels safe, those who bow to the misogynistic dogma of his depraved cult.

Would you put a man with an adolescent brain in charge of the country? I wouldn't.

Wet bottoms



by Pobblebonk and Oink

We have been feeling a little house-bound, wet and mouldy, just like most folk in the Northern Rivers at the moment. As the rain pools in the garden, floods are creating havoc and rich soils across the state.

Australia has long been subject to floods. The boom-bust nature of some of Australia's most iconic species' population cycles is testament to our flood-drought cycles.

In the hinterland, flooding drains into low-lying floodplains and into coastal areas via intricate river systems, while some areas drain slowly into ephemeral wetlands and soaks, creating longer-term sustenance which may take years to drain.

While flooding in high-relief catchments like much of the Northern Rivers can occur very rapidly, these systems tend to drain equally as fast.

Other areas drain at much slower rates due to the lack of relief in the landscape. In the outback, floodwaters drain very slowly via deep, slow-moving rivers often into a series of inland basins.

One example of this involves a number of large system river systems, the Cooper Creek, Georgina River and Diamantina River systems draining southward into Lake Eyre. Flooding in these systems occurs slowly as these rivers breach their banks and flood across the land, often via braided drainage lines.

The draining of these flat landscapes tends to be equally slow, again creating longer-term sustenance which may take quite a



while to drain.

But in the urban environment it's a different deal. Over 1.3 million homes now have a flood risk rating. Half a million are homes in flood risk parts of the Brisbane River, and in the Lismore area there are 20,000 homes.

Flooding is nothing new to us folk in the paradise of the Northern Rivers. The levee system built to protect Lismore has cost close to \$21 million with a third of that from local ratepayers, but as we're building more levies, we're also introducing more hard surfaces and altered drainage.

This is often associated with intensive urban development, sited on floodplains, particularly on cheaper, lower-lying flood-prone land, a situation often facilitated by incompetent council decision-making in relation to inappropriate development approvals.

Pobblebonk discussed how flooding is thought to be on the increase across the globe as a consequence of atmospheric warming, greater precipitation and extreme weather events, all associated with climate change.

As Pobblebonk and Oink put the water on to boil for a cuppa, they chatted more about the floods and mould. About science and dire futures. As we write, Lismore seems to have weathered well this time, with places like Taree and Windsor copping the jackpot.

Oink quipped about Pitt Town Bottoms and wet derrières. Pobblebonk told him not to be crass... Hooroo.

If we have raised your hackles, if you have a comment or a question, or even a suggestion, you can contact Pobblebonk and Oink at the email address: pobble.bonk@gmail.com

Toastmasters cures glossophobia

The world according to
Magenta Appel-Pye

When I joined Toastmasters, I had a strong motive. I wanted to do Mandy Nolan's stand-up comedy course, Virgin Sacrifice. I knew that if I enrolled, I would probably drop out because of my glossophobia, fear of public speaking. I spent a decade learning this extremely valuable life skill. As I moved around during those years, I joined different clubs and made many friends. I found it an excellent way to meet good people when I moved to a new area. A vast array of people shared their fascinating stories, all coming together to work on developing themselves. Apart from eventually feeling confident standing up and talking in front of people, there were many other skills to learn, such as evaluating, mentoring and being the Toast Master which I enjoyed so much I became an MC for community events. Now when I am called up to speak publicly I do so with confidence, skill and enjoyment. After ten years of Toastmasters I finally did Mandy's comedy course. I remember waiting to go on-stage feeling only eager anticipation, not fear, and I enjoyed the experience immensely. However, I discovered that what I most enjoyed was writing my stories and sharing



She says

Dear Sid, firstly, what does 'being in the present' actually mean? Researchers have found that there is a three-second window of 'now'. Apparently, that is the duration of a single present moment. This three-second phenomenon repeats in everything from speech, movement to poetry. On average, the length of time we can keep something in mind without writing it down is three seconds. Psychologists call this window of alert perception "the feeling of nowness". It can also be called "flow". Flow is the experience of being fully immersed in an activity and wanting to be nowhere else, even with all the pains, sorrows, and imperfections of that place. No matter how you do it, when you surrender yourself fully to what is taking place in the here and now, instead of the ruminative *if only* or the anxious *I should*, you begin to inhabit the three-second window of now. But it is hard not to worry about the future. Some people think they are being caring by worrying, but they are just projecting negative outcomes. Most of the things I've worried about in my life never happened. What a waste of time and energy that could have been better utilised. Taking action is better than worrying. Hanging onto hurts others have inflicted keeps us tied to the past. It can be hard to let go, but this is where forgiveness is a huge step forward in our spiritual growth. I find the quickest, easiest way to get into the present is to watch and count my breath, thinking about three seconds, then the next three, etc. So, Sid, find something you and your girlfriend love to do together, and together discover the joy and power of Now.



them with others. I always loved and admired the *Nimbin GoodTimes* as a true, free voice of the people, and was especially inspired by Mooks' wonderful column. So, I wrote a piece and submitted it to the editor and asked if they wanted me to write a regular column and they said "yes" and called it *The World According to Me*. Several years later I added *She Says; He Says* with my husband, Norm, which is great fun and we learn a lot about each other by writing it. Sometimes we even heed our own advice!

The Present

My wife is always obsessing about the past and worrying about the future. How can I help her get into the here and now with me?

– Sid Arthur, Nimbin

by Uncle Norm and Aunty Maj

HE says

The reason that women dwell in the past, and ponder the future, is that they are deeply intelligent beings. We men, on the other hand, are about as deep as a potty. Women know that to look back to the past helps you to understand the how and why of what's happening now. Like for example, had you not drunk a bottle of whiskey with your mates last year and attempted to drive home, you would still have your licence today. The future is something women are very good at predicting. Mainly because they have it planned already. They know they're going to marry you, how many kids you're going to have, what sort of house you're going to live in and where, and how they're going to bury you. As for the present, just look around. Likely you live in a clean, organised house. You sleep in clean sheets, wear clean grundys, and have a fridge full of food. Everything you need in order to give the impression that you are a functional, civilised human being and not some poor loser schmuck is effortlessly and gracefully provided by her being very much in the present. As for us codgers. We can't remember the past, and we have no future, so it's the present where it's at baby. It's all about what's on telly, what's for dinner, rumpy pumpy and let's go down the pub and do it all again tomorrow. La dolce vita. I would suggest if you don't want a future where you'll be looking back nostalgically to the past, that you just keep your head down and your mouth shut. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is mystery, today is a gift. That's why they call it the present.

Dialogues

by S Sorrensen

God, I wish it'd stop raining.
What did you say?
I wish it'd stop raining. The bridge is over.
We're flooded in.
I wish it would rain for a year.
Oh, you're just being contrary.
No, I'm not.
Ha! That's funny.
If it rained for a year, things would change. And things need to change in a fundamental way.
Like what?
You wouldn't be in town working, helping some blokes in suits in Sydney make an extra couple of million.
Not exactly fundamental. But everybody's got to work, eh?
No they haven't.
There you go again –
I'm not being funny. That was unfunny contrariness. You don't have to work. The First Nations people didn't work. Indigenous people didn't go to work.
Yes, they did. They hunted and looked after country and stuff.
Yeah, but it wasn't like 'work'. It was what they did. It was living. 'Work', like for the man, is a modern idea and 'work' is a concept that's been exploited to hell. Jobs, jobs, jobs.
What would I do if I didn't work?
What are you doing now?
I'm sitting here with you, drinking coffee and watching the creek rise over the bridge.
Well, that's one thing you can do when you don't work.
But it's not work.
Is it work when you're teaching your kids to respect women, and not push in front of older people in the queue at Pizza-in-the-Park night?
No. Of course not. That's –
Is it work when you march for the right of women to be safe in our society? When you camp in the mud protecting the land we live on against environmental degradation?
No. It's just what I do.
Our life is divided into 'work' and 'leisure'. It's



an artificial division to milk you – and the planet – for every last dollar. And it absolves you of responsibility for what you do.
But you work.
I don't call it work. I choose to do it. I take responsibility for it. I enjoy it too, so it's hard to say if it's work or leisure. It's just, um, what I do.
What do you mean?
You know Jeff? Well, he works in a coal mine up north, right? He can justify that because of the social legitimacy and moral high ground that's been plastered onto the idea of work, no matter the harm it produces.
Whoa, that's rough. Jeff's a good guy, and he's just working to look after his family.
Yeah, you see? The words have it. Jeff's a good guy because he works; looks after his family, even if that work harms his family and everyone by aiding climate change.
I don't know...
And Martha – you know her – she's a bad guy, because she doesn't 'work'. She just lazes around, protesting all over the place against Australia's refugee policy. And she bludges on the dole – parasite! – which she spends locally, not stashes offshore to avoid tax.
Wow. I'm going to quit my job, take responsibility for my actions and rise above the exploitative and fake work-leisure divide.
Really?
No. But, if it rains for a year, who knows? I might have to.
Another coffee before the sun shines and you go back to making others rich?
Yes. Thanks.



Revenge of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens

Every species that sexually reproduces has some level of sexual attraction. Primates even exhibit a desire for sexual pleasure in addition to the function of replication, with evidence of both orangutans and humans indulging in oral sex. Throughout our investigations of primate and even dolphin behaviour, there is overwhelming evidence of sexual harassment, abuse and rape. And we know as humans that harassment, abuse and rape create strong negative long-term emotional, psychological and physical

Attraction and rejection

scars on its victims. As a species, our attempts to limit these assaults have focused almost completely on repressing women's freedoms; by enforcing dress codes, restricting their access to places and bringing them under the ownership of men as their 'protectors'. Obviously and understandably women aren't content to be owned and controlled – if they want to go to the beach by themselves or wear crocheted g-string bikinis, that's their prerogative. Any negative effect on men isn't and shouldn't be their concern. So here we are. The statistics tell us that 95% of the women in our community have suffered or are suffering from sexual harassment, and that around one woman a week dies at the hands of their sexual partner. What is to be done... we need another sexual revolution, men need to learn the complex and nuanced language of attraction and rejection. We men need to disconnect our egos and self esteem from sexual compliance. What we don't need however is more sexual repression - we need more sexual education and more thorough socialisation. Sex is a powerful hard-wired stimulus, if we try to crush it, it will derange even further than it has already, and emerge in the drug-spiking darkness with more violence and domineering will. We are at a time of great opportunity – what we do here could transform our society – we need to accept the challenge and rise to it no matter how fearful it makes us.

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Local student off to Sydney to battle it out in the pool



Francis Terry (pictured), a year 6 student at Nimbin Central School, has blitzed his way through the competition in the PSSA swimming to qualify at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre at the end of the month.

Francis won the Age Championship at the Terania District meet in Lismore and went on to the Zone event

held at Alstonville.

Francis narrowly missed out on first place in his 50m Freestyle event, but managed to qualify for the regional event which was held at Coffs Harbour, and his continued success has earned him a place in the State Championship taking place on the 31st March.

We wish Francis the best of luck to bring home the title.



Gillian and Judy

CWA's first trivia night a big success



by Linnet Pike, Nimbin CWA President

We're very proud of CWA Nimbin Branch's achievements and resilience throughout the vicissitudes of our first two years. And beyond grateful for the on-going loving support of our wonderful community.

This was evidenced by the turn-out for our inaugural Trivia Night on the 20th March at the Nimbin Bowling Club, where we set up in the Green Keepers Bistro. The onset of Covid and the loss of Trivia Nights hit our community's trivia tragnics extremely hard.

CWA Nimbin had to step up... we take rural hardship and isolation very seriously. We all needed our brain cells utilised and our laughter muscles exercised.

Our members Claire de Lacey and Jane Foundling took on the huge task of co-ordinating a large Trivia Night, supported by the Bowlo, the Bistro, the Newsagency, and the Servo as generous sponsors. Our members and the keen Trivia Mob came out on a night of torrential rain and with enormous goodwill. Thanks also to all the CWA vlunteers.

A great night was had by all, with help from all sides. I think we pulled off a fair, amusing and challenging night for all. Many Trivia players noted that the carefully compiled and well-guarded questions were a true delight and there is certainly a buzz about the next Trivia Night.

We were very grateful to our hosts, the Nimbin Bowlo, and the Green Keepers Bistro who kept the delicious food coming.

Our Cooking Officer Dee Waugh generously and aptly offered an Indigenous artwork depicting Bush Tucker as the art piece to be auctioned. Max Pike, from our local Nimbin Rural Fire Brigade, brought his years of theatrical experience to bear in acting the role of auctioneer on the night.

It was a big gig for a relatively young CWA Branch to pull off; however we had a wonderful time and all our guests enjoyed the night. We're very mindful that we live in a tight, loving, generous and supportive community and are very pleased that we've pulled this off.

Trivia Nights will continue... on the third Saturday of each month. Hope to see you on the 17th April at the Nimbin Bowlo in the Green Keepers Bistro for our next Trivia Night. Book through the Green Keepers Bistro, phone 6689-1473.

There will be reminder posts both on our public Facebook page CWA Nimbin Branch, and on other social media sites such as Nimbin Hookups.



Breakfast Club donation

Garden Club president Kerry Hagan presenting the cheque for \$500 to Nimbin Central School principal, Cath Marshall

by Kerry Hagan

At the Nimbin Garden Club AGM last year, we decided that from the funds we raise from our little raffles we have at each Garden Club meeting, we would donate to the Nimbin Central Breakfast Club as a priority.

Up to 70 kids are fed for free every morning before school, the idea being that no Nimbin child would ever have to go to school hungry!

As it turned out, we were

unable to have our monthly meetings due to Covid-19, so we decided that the funds we raised from our Christmas raffle, \$500 would be donated to Breakfast Club.

We would like to say a big thanks to all the businesses in town and beyond for the wonderful donated prizes that make this possible.

Also a huge thanks to Mark for his untiring work at putting the Breakfast Club together every morning.

Swimming pool touring

by Sue Edmonds

Nothing like a new car in the family to inspire another tour of swimming pools, this time in far-away places. Betty Blue took the 2300k's comfortably, with enough room for op shop gleanings, before or after a swim.

First stop was Goondiwindi with its lovely art deco cinema, and spa pool in the caravan park. The public pool was closing next day as it was getting a whole new imported fibreglass insert, a mere \$3mill with new filtration system, a wonderful example of a successful sports rort.

The pool manager loved the facility, and related how the pool was a central part of the lives to so many people in Gundi. They opened at 5.30am, hardly dawn, for whoever wanted to swim so early.

The painted wheat silos in Thallen are stunning, a good stop for Betty Blue to keep up with herself after a lifetime of not going far.

She cruised onto Dirrambandi where we had pre-booked "a cabin overlooking a pool". We were disappointed to discover the pool was now a gravel pit: "too much work" explained the proprietor. The vegetation wasn't too much work... three huge cacti at our front door.

We parked Betty Blue where there was once a pool and she didn't even get wet. Not like the last time I tried to park a car in a pool, she was ruined forever; the deepish water played havoc with everything, especially the mechanics and electrics.

Cancelling the two-night booking, next morning we cruised off to Lightning Ridge, where the caravan park has its own thermally-heated



Silos at Thallen

spa pool.

The public pool was something to behold. In all our touring we've never seen such an amazing complex. It contains the usual 50m pool, this time wider than average, four children's water parks, with home-made mushrooms and caves. There's also an island where the current takes you along, unless you choose to walk against the current, an excellent exercise for those who do much sitting in dream cars.

The crème de la crème is their diving pool, in its own building, containing a tower with 1m, 3m, 5m, and the lofty 10m platforms. One wall of the diving building was for climbers, if you feel you must scale something. One needs a certified instructor to climb and dive from the top of the platforms.

State diving championships are held in the Lightning Ridge diving pool. It's a rare treat to discover something so ambitious, in far-away places.

The complex is managed by the

community, with some financial assistance from the local council. They are determined to keep it in community hands. A *Big Country*, on the ABC, recently showcased their pool, with its fascinating history. Started by five determined schoolgirls with cake stalls, the fund-raising went on for years. Now it's proud and strong in their community.

Betty Blue didn't hesitate when we returned through Dirrambandi next day, en route to St George. They have a new spa pool built near the 50m pool. Access for all was a priority in its design, and is a welcome addition to the public facilities of the small town. Now they are adding a children's water park with fountains and lighthouses.

The ever-helpful women in the op shop assured us that the short cut to Mitchell, saving about 100k, was fine, so off we went, heading north west, wondering what pools are out there. And there is probably

Part 8



Lightning Ridge kids pool

something in an op shop we didn't know we wanted, or needed, or might need sometime.

Tapping into the thermals throughout that area is happening in many towns. The 5th edition of *Australia's Great Thermal Way* by Steve Lambert, has maps and histories, listing over 70 spas to visit, there are 22 in Queensland.

Mitchell has just completed two thermal spa pools with access for all physical abilities. The water jet was aimed too high for me, and I needed to be hoisted up by my bathers to get the effect of a massage from water pounding.

There was a strange relationship with the usual 50m pool, it has a separate entrance, with separate entrance fee. Strange, because the spa and the 50m pool are immediate neighbours. Methinks it's all to do



Betty Blue at Dirrambandi

with the dollar.

On to Roma, where the caravan park has its own free pool, and down the road there's a huge bottle tree to hug. We saved the pool for a fresh day, and there was the most amazing fabric/ wools/ cooking stuff/ everything really shop waiting for us.

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