ASTRO FORECASTS what's happening in the heavens? by Tina Mews

Aries

This is your time to be creative, take risks and have some fun with exploring new avenues of self-expression. Outer circumstances are forcing you to take a more balanced approach. Think out-of-the square when starting a new project and make room for the unexpected during these times of uncertainties.

Taurus

This is the time of the year where the focus is on your personal life. You could well be in a process of a major inner restructuring that challenges you to be authentic and true to your heart's desire. What are the things that really nurture you? If you can walk the higher road, magic happens.

Gemini

Fixed positions and strongly worded opinions are counterproductive. Find ways to air your truth without having to provoke resistance. Be watchful of your thoughts and use your common sense to bring healing to your home environment. Rest and take one step at a time.

Cancer

In the current climate of uncertainties it is more difficult to define priorities and envision the way forward. Be creative about walking your individual path when trying to meet your needs. Not being in control of outer circumstances can create anxiety. Strengthen your inner sense of worthiness and pamper yourself with kindness.

Leo

This is a period to confidently shine in your own light. Nevertheless, you might feel cramped by social expectations that limit your personal style. Dare to change and be willing to make a fresh start; plant a new seed! Act from a position of maturity and integrity and do not worry about what others think about your decisions.

Virgo

This is a good moment in time to look back over your personal year that is just ending. What has worked well, what didn't and how can it be improved? Mars, the planet of personal drive is in your Sun sign until mid-September, activating your need to fix and heal what is broken or out of order. Find the right balance between being assertive and being gentle.

August

ike always, when the Sun journeys through the sign of the Lion (July 23 - August 23), we are encouraged by the cosmos to live our authentic self and thus contribute to the world that we are co-creating. The Sun in Leo inspires the individual search for a larger purpose and finding ways to create inner fulfillment. Leo and the Sun rule the heart centre, our right to exist and be ourselves. We feel happy, content and acknowledged when we can apply our energy to produce something of significance. The New Moon in Leo on August 8th is widely opposite Saturn in Aquarius and closely squares Uranus in Taurus activating the current Saturn-Uranus square and the tension that goes with it. Those who have their birthday in the 1st week of August might feel this tension more strongly and could find themselves in a place where they need to choose between living their purpose or acting according to social expectations. The signs Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius are the "fixed signs" that hold on, dig in their heels and resist when they feel pressured or unsure about how to move along. The downside is that positions can become entrenched and thought patterns stuck in a rut.

Every New Moon signifies a time of beginnings and indicates the planting of a seed. Leo is about planting a seed of creative self-expression that aligns with our greater goals. Nevertheless, this New Moon falls within an overall climate of uncertainty (Uranus) where it is more difficult to find our individual way and form our personal choices (Leo) relative to the societal pressures that surround us (Aquarius). The Saturn-Uranus square will be active until the end of next year, indicating that the problems and difficulties shared collectively are of a 'chronic' nature and defy any 'quick fixes'. To avoid the polarisation of society on a small as well as on a big scale, it is essential to resist the temptation of holding onto fixed positions that are driven by ideologies or fear. The New Moon is conjunct Mercury in Leo, the planet ruling communication. We are experiencing a crisis in communication where strong and opinionated wording used by the media, social and otherwise, can further amplify the break-down of certainties and the split within society. Lilith in Gemini cuts through illusions and misinformation and find ways to air her truth without fear of punishment or rejection (until April 15th, 2022). Mars will be in Virgo until September 15th putting an emphasis on practicality and trying to create order. Mars is squaring the Lunar Nodes indicating a powerful impulse within the collective to act, fix and clean up the chaos.

The Full Moon on August 22nd is a Blue

Moon and the second Full Moon on the Leo-Aquarius axis. The 1st Full Moon eventuated on July 24th. The Moon in Aquarius is conjunct benevolent Jupiter who has returned to Aquarius after a quick journey into Pisces (from mid-May until late July). Jupiter in Aquarius invites us to think out-of-the-square and become more innovative about resolving current problems. Jupiter is revisiting beliefs and futuristic ideas, morals and ethics that have been circulating in the ether since the Great Conjunction from December 21st, 2020. This was the moment in

conjunctions in air signs began.

It symbolically marked a shift from earth to air and signalled a fundamental change in value systems. This means that new streams of thought are entering our collective consciousness where the sky does not seem to be the limit anymore. It will take some time before the positive qualities of this new cycle will become apparent and hopefully prevail. The last Grand Conjunctions in the air element

corresponded with the age of the
Cathedral Builders followed by the birth
of the Renaissance (from 1226 - 1405). It was
a time when a lot of humanistic principles were
developed. The current conjunction in Aquarius
activates Aquarian themes for the next two
decades or even centuries. Space travel is certainly
part of this development including the ambition
to travel to other planets, while ironically
travelling the Earth or even from one state to
the next has become more problematic! Jupiter
imagines future possibilities.

Nevertheless, we need to have an in-depth conversation about what kind of world we want to build from now on and what kind of society we want to live in. Leo will remain an important sign in all this because the Leo passion of the heart offers the much-needed balance to Aquarian coolheadedness. Protecting and further exploring what makes us humane will be at the centre of these explorations. There is an axiom used in astrology which says: "as above so below". The further we travel into the outer cosmos, the more we will find out about the realms of the inner world and the vastness of the human soul.

Consultation including Your Year Ahead: Plans,
Directions, Concerns for 2021/22;
contact Tina on 0457-903-957, email:
star-loom@hotmail.com
Astrology Mornings at the Lillifield Community
Centre: • Thursday, August 5th: 'Pluto in Aquarius:
2023 - 2044', '10.30am - 1.30pm;
• Thursday August 19th: 'The meaning of the 5th
and 9th Houses in Astrology', 10.30am - 1.30pm;
Zoom Astro-Class: Thursday, August 12th: 'The
Water Houses 4th and 8th', 10.30am - 1pm.
Please contact me for further information on 0457903-957, email: star-loom@hotmail.com

Navigation by the stars: Personal Astrology

Libra

This is a period where you want to search for like-minded souls with whom you can share your ideas and ideals. Expand your social networks, plant a seed of creative self-expression that aligns with your future objectives. Allow your ideas and vision to go beyond current restrictions

Scorpio

This is potentially a very demanding period for you. Observe your inner drive for significance that could get you into conflict with others, including figures of authority. Aim at redesigning your contracts with others if they have become too limiting and create more space for yourself and your projects.

Sagittarius

Your personal vision quest might lead you into unchartered waters. Find productive ways on how to put farreaching ideas into practical form. The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is closer than you might expect it to be. Keep a balanced perspective and resist the urge to convince others. Not everyone shares your beliefs and points of view.

Capricorn

Pay extra attention to your own internal motivations. What is your heart telling you? This is potentially a time of psycho-spiritual renewal and cleansing. Plant your seed of creativity that helps with clearing out the system and frees the life-force.

Aguarius

Jupiter has returned to your sun sign until December 29th and supports you in redefining your identity and in finding new avenues of personal growth. You can now gain greater insight about matters that occurred during mid-April until mid-May 2021. It is an invitation to evaluate and examine your perspective, including your values and beliefs ultimately guiding you towards making the right choices.

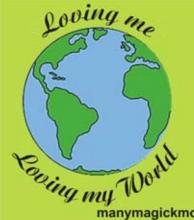
Pisces

While Mars is transiting your relationship sector (until mid-September), important information comes through encounters with others. You might be looking for more commitment in your relationships and are searching for reliable support. Use this energy to work co-operatively on relationship problems. Differences need to be addressed when they arise.





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Dare to speak...

by Marilyn Devlin

ime's whizzing by... same time taking generous glomps of space between it all. Mostly nightmares... Faerie dreams dispersed within the mist.

Hidden, unknown ... likes to scare. What for? What could the motive be? Shaking, trembling, unsure... where to step? Monsters hide behind all corners... scattered in the ash of life.

Ghosts haunt – dismembered parts – where am I? Where have I gone? What have I awoken into? Nightmares... it just goes on.

Hidden behind masks (ahhh a current 'word')... can't say much without discontent. Anger, mobs... descend. To incarcerate.

Don't be too slow... or you'll be swallowed up whole. They'll spit out the bones. Who cares? Thin on the ground. Hordes rush toward the cliff... 'the

Hordes rush toward the cliff... 'the only way'... we must sacrifice ourselves "for the greater good". Your life useless,

has no meaning. Haste, haste... bury

I wander the streets... hidden at night. Struggling sounds... hideous murmurs. Calling, luring... "Come to me... I will save you"... leave all the rest behind.

Nightmare goes forever. I remember the dream.

T'wasn't a dream – was a journey, into subliminal time/space existence. The worlds between worlds co-existing. Hanging in space... side by side. Or upside down... we have no eyes to see them. But they're there.

We walked... White Buffalo and me, in the new land... razored to the ground. All in ashes, broken down. All brought back to earth.

Gentle tears crawled my cheeks. I felt the lack, the emptiness, the loss. The 'gone'... the solitary silence. All gone... nothing remaining.

It was the air... a new kind of air. We had to learn to breathe it, or we wouldn't survive. It held a special resonance.

An empty world... what could it be? How to cross the dangers lurking? The sudden fall to death... the gnawing abyss hungering below you. The deadening presence. The life without. Only dreams... and they fall into tiny pieces.

Everyone knows. How do I know? Where do I find it? Where do I look? All shadows... following me. I leave behind myself... who will I find to replace her?

What happened? How did we get here? What part did we play in the unfolding? It's not the blaming... it's understanding. What turn was the final one... along the mystery path of nothingness, pretend and illusion.

We're more than that... yet we still got lost. Allowed ourselves to be lead into the valley of death. Shirking responsibility... led by the sparkling gold. Yeah we're all in this together... and Yes there are bigger things in progress.

Like this leap between worlds. We didn't realise it would be this scary. Fear... oh God, do I remember it. As a child of the previous time/epidemic, I lived it daily. It surrounded me... pouring out of every opening. Every human that surrounded me. It consumed everything. It froze the air.

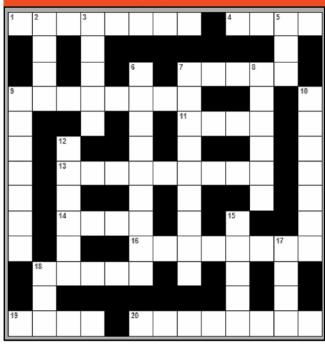
It's the thing I remember most. So don't talk to me about Polio... don't shove that down my throat. I was there. I know how it went. And yet still I stand... wanting to know the 'truth'. Is that asking too much? I've hungered for it... from way back when.

Don't disregard me... don't make me a fool. We're all in this together... something very big is going on. As old worlds die and new ones replace them.

I'm not sure how long I'll be here... to witness it all. But for now... all I have is me... and what I know. We must never surrender our kindness and care. Without them... I can't imagine a world

Nimbin Crossword

2011-01 by 5ynic



Across

- 1. Delicious in cookies, and THC-free (until it
- 4. Analogue recording medium
- 7. Blue
- 9. Resin from hemp plant
- 11. Person from (parts of) Northern Iran, Eastern Turkey, Northern Iraq, Armenia
- 13. In a rushed manner
- 14. Innocent, inexperienced
- 16. Austrian patent clerk
- 18. Village between
 Alstonville and
 Tintenbar
- 19. Up for it? Contest
- 20. In 2012 we entered the 14th b'ak'tun of the Mayan _____

Down

- 2. Brisbane Show
- 3. Face down
- 5. Wrote The Pit and the Pendulum, The Fall of the House of Usher
- 6. Drug Anti-inflamatory
- 7. (5,4) Leg/foot hinge
- 8. You've been smoking too much? Overnight flight
- 9. (and 12 down) (7,6)

 Damage we're inflicting on global weathersystem
- 10. Drug painkiller
- 12. See 9 down.
- 15. Beer mug
- 17. Concept
- 18. Old US slang for cannabis

Solution: Page 32

Ways to connect with your Higher Self

ast month I wrote about the Higher Self (HS) and why I consider it important to nurture a close relationship with this all knowing, all loving part of ourselves.

Your HS wants nothing more than to communicate with you and guide you to be the best, or highest version of you. If you allow this communication to flourish you can have a beautiful, fulfilling relationship with your higher consciousness.

I know many readers of this column have already established their own unique ways of communication and for those who haven't and would like to know where to start, here are three of the easiest and most effective ways.

1. In Your Dreams

Every night your HS connects with you during your dream state and gives messages and guidance, which may be in the form of some important insight, warning, something you need to let go of, soul lesson you have yet to master, etc.

It's important to remember that every single person in your dreams represents yourself, often a disowned part of yourself that's been hiding out in the deep recesses of your subconscious mind.

If you tend to not remember your dreams, you can train yourself by making the intention before you sleep that you will remember your dreams. Ask your HS to assist you. Immediately upon waking, and before opening your eyes, recall your dreams in as much detail as possible, then immediately upon opening your eyes write down everything you remember.

2. Meditation

Meditation is one of the most powerful ways to consciously connect with your HS. When your mind is stilled enough it's easier to hear that small still voice within. To connect with your HS in meditation you may need to raise your vibration. A good way to naturally do this is to practise holding a profound state of gratitude for your life.

A lovely meditation technique is to imagine a tranquil, peaceful setting. If you like you can imagine your HS as a physical presence, like your very best friend sitting beside you. Or you can imagine yourself surrounded by a



by Auralia Rose

warm, loving energy. Trust and know your HS is always present and is there with

Once you feel the presence of your HS, you can ask questions about anything. The HS does not judge or criticise. Be open to the answers you receive, they may come in a variety of ways: words, feelings, images, or sensations. Go with the first answer that comes into your head; it will most likely be the voice of your HS. Journal everything you receive, as things often become clearer after a while.

3. Journalling or intuitive writing

Firstly, eliminate all distractions; you can use meditation or breathing

techniques to quieten your mind. Have the intention of connecting with your HS and call them to be with you and assist you. Many people advise using the non-dominant hand to write with, as it bypasses the conscious mind.

You can start by asking a simple question and then listening for the immediate answer – sometimes it comes even before you finish the question. Allow your subconscious to guide your hand across the page. Don't analyse or think about what you're writing.

The "voice" and style of your writing may be quite different to your normal style; it can often be poetic or metaphoric and reveal a deeper truth that your rational mind didn't know before.

Communicating with your HS will take you on a beautiful journey. Your life will take on a whole new meaning, and possibly a whole new direction as your HS points you toward what is right for you.

Good luck with it and enjoy.

Sessions available in Lismore. Contact me on 0422-481-007 or go to: auraliarosewellbeing.com

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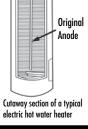
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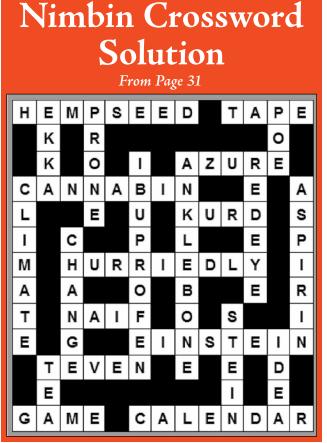


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Grade 13s playing with true Headers spirit

by Mark Wright, coach

The season started with a bang! A dominant 5-3 victory at home against Thistles.

Since then, there has been a draw, heavy losses against the top two teams and hard-fought close games played against the rest of the division.

This included an amazing come-back against Casino. Down 5-0 at half time, the Headers turned it on in the second half, smashing in four goals to finish 5-4.

If not for some outstanding saves from Casino, we would have won the game. In 40 years of coaching, I've never seen a team turn a game around like that.

Regardless of the result
– win, draw or lose – the
Nimbin Headers Grade 13
team plays with heart; they
always show up and battle
hard.

Training and game days see a full complement of players on hand. They are genuinely good mates and



Nimbin Headers Grade 13 Div. 2 with coaches Mark and Reuben Photo: Erica Wilson

enjoy playing together. They play fairly and respectfully, regularly producing beautiful passages of play that are a joy to watch. The true spirit of the

Nimbin Headers is exemplified by our mighty Grade 13s.



Headers plan infrastructure upgrades

by Ruben Mack, club president

The village of Nimbin and its surrounds is a growing community. So too are its needs for access to facilities that enable us to participate in activities to support a healthy lifestyle.

Nimbin Headers Sports Club currently has over 200 registered players, with 14 teams playing in the 2021 season.

However, our club is limited to playing on just one field, and we're perhaps the only club in the Northern NSW region that doesn't have match quality lights.

We have lights that facilitate some night training, but they are woefully inadequate and don't allow us to host night games.

We recently had the assistance of Diana Roberts to write a grant application for the Stronger Country Communities Fund. The focus of this grant was to both increase female participation in sport, and to provide a safer sporting environment for our female participants.

Diana worked well with some of our committee members to produce a high quality, competitive grant application and we eagerly await the outcome of this.

In the meantime, we are hoping to move forward with our Development Applications to get Council approval for these lights (prior to the successful grant applications being announced), as well as DA approval for drainage on NH2 and top dressing of both fields. This will enable us to utilise both pitches throughout the soccer season, and will facilitate easier participation for families who have multiple people playing the sport.

The Headers is a volunteer-run, community-owned organisation, and as the region grows we are seeing a steady growth in club membership. There is a real need for upgrades to many aspects of our infrastructure so we can best facilitate this growth and create foundations for the future.

In recent years we have seen some

great momentum in the club internally and also with support and collaboration from people and organisations in the community on various things, which has been a real positive.

We are a sports club after all, and the increased growth is also bringing increased demand for other sports.

For instance, the Headers have taken over management of the Nimbin Tennis Club, and we have playing members over 80 years old here.

We would like to be able to collaborate with schools to provide tennis coaching and have holiday camps, but with the courts in their current state, it is not possible to provide this in a safe way.

We see a bright future for all of this, with a big push for funding and infrastructure development moving things forward.

If anyone has suggestions, questions or anything else related to the club please get in contact with us at: nimbinheaderssportsclub@gmail.com

Go the Headers!

Dining Disappointment

Our new, rich, friends invited me to dinner and, disappointingly, served meat pie and salad. Should we still be friends?

> - Inge St Mangiare, Gundurimba



20 says

es, that sucks like sour lemon sorbet. Norm and I were once invited to a billionaire's party and were greatly excited by the prospect. The lady demanded everyone dress up and actually wrote on the invitation: "Make an effort or don't bother", like we were a bunch of ignorant peasants being summoned to the manor for her entertainment, which I guess was true.

We knew we were only there because she wanted Norm to play the piano, for free.

We arrived in our finery and saw a pizza caravan. "Nice snack," thought Norm as I walked by because I can't do gluten and was hungry because we had fasted all day. But there were no snacks to be found anywhere.

We stormed into the kitchen looking for the banquet, but only a few pots of chai simmering on the stove. Even the pantry was empty of any party food. We were appalled and couldn't be bothered making the effort to stay, so went home for a decent meal. Happily, that lady no longer resides in these parts, and probably has left no real friends behind.

I don't know why dinner invitations are rare these days. Maybe people think everyone is expecting an eight-course degustation menu. But dining together is one of life's true pleasures, which I think we have come to value more than ever due to isolation. So, I guess any effort is better than

Yes, be friends with these people because in one way they have done you a favour. By setting such a low standard, there is no need to worry about having them over and going to much trouble or expense. As long as the company is interesting, the jokes are dirty, and the wine is good, it's OK. Anyway, it is the Aussie way.

A few bobkes on the bed is all you have to kvetch about, then you're lucky. A survey in 2020 found that 44% of adults have held on to their childhood teddies and dolls (guilty) and as many as 34% of adults still sleep with a soft toy every night. At least she doesn't collect war paraphernalia and guns!

ve heard it said that the key to a happy life is to have low

I imagine that, since your hosts are allegedly rich, you were expecting to be served up baked goose, suckling pig poached with truffles and chocolate crème brulee for dessert, all washed down with a few bottles of Chateau Lafite Rothschild followed by fine cognac and Cuban cigars. Instead you got a dog's eye and salad.

I can understand your disappointment, but was the pie gourmet, made by hand with slow-cooked angus beef in a red wine sauce, or was it a frozen supermarket one? Was the salad at least organic and maybe homegrown?

Perhaps you should consider yourself lucky, because in other countries you could have been served up frogs, insects, snails, or maybe a rat, bat or hamster. That meat pie doesn't sound so

I was once asked to stay for dinner with a friend and got canned Tom Piper braised steak and onion with mash and white bread and butter on the side. I was so hungry I could have eaten the arse out of a dead skunk, so I ate with gusto and gratitude.

Just because your hosts are rich, doesn't mean they don't have simple tastes, although a few mushy peas wouldn't have gone astray. Consider also, that if your expectations had been met, you could well have spent the next few days on the porcelain graveyard purging it all out of your overworked guts.

In the end my friend, a free feed is a free feed, and that's a rare thing these days. When the time comes for you to reciprocate, you might consider serving Chiko rolls and Pluto dogs. With salad of course.

What is the fastest cake? Scone. How do you start a pudding race? Sago.

Send your relationship problems to:

normanappel@westnet.com.au

The world according to by Magenta Appel-Pye

7hen I moved to my new home garden, only grass on a steeply sloping block.

So, I got it all taken out, every last blade, added soil and put in raised garden beds and an orchard. One year later, we eat from our garden every day.

I included native trees and shrubs to entice the local fauna back to this ravaged newly-built estate.

For me, gardening is one of life's greatest joys. A garden is a hard taskmaster but a bountiful, beautiful mother. All of life's lessons are experienced here.

Grandfather Sun propelling new growth to burst forth. The Aqua Goddess saturating us with her loving water that we might flourish. But in just the right balance, for too much of either is disastrous. The deep secrets of death, decay and renewal lay buried in the compost bin.

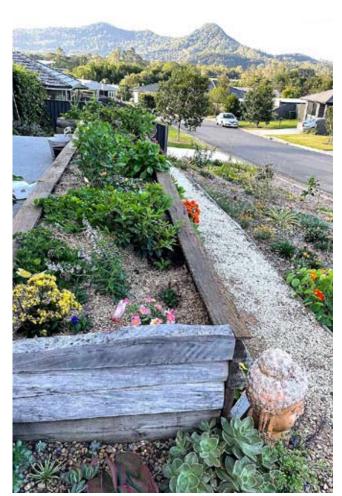
My garden is my church. It grounds me and gives me solace, a place to think, to enjoy alone and also to share with friends It fulfills so many needs: hobby, teacher, counsellor, dear friend, trainer.

Admittedly as I age, most of my injuries come from gardening because I don't know when to stop, or I pick up something too heavy. And there are always dangers lurking such as ticks, wasps, ants, and snakes which can bite, sting or cause awful diseases like Lyme, or kill yo outright!

So, do I stay inside, spending life immersed in screens, developing diseases due to lack of Vitamin D and obesity?

No, I get out there to watch with great delight plants grow, bud, bloom and fruit, the fecundity feeding us and the bees, bugs, birds et al. There is always something interesting going on.

Not only does being in the garden ground me, it is also brilliant for mental health. And isn't that a big consideration currently?



Nimbin Trivia Time by Eclectus

Questions

- 1. What is this towering treat called? Add a bonus point each if you can say what it's made of and when it first graced the dessert table. (Photo: brainstudy.info)
- 2. Is Bob Dylan 75, 80 or
- 3. Brass is an alloy of which two of the following metals? Copper, tin, zinc.
- 4. The Marx Brothers made a very successful transition from vaudeville to the big screen in the first half of the 20th Century. How many of the five can you name? Hint: Karl was not one of them.
- 5. The ancient supercontinent Gondwana once made up about two thirds of the Earth's landmass. Which of the following was NOT part of Gondwana: Africa, Antarctica, Arabia, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Madagascar, New Guinea, New Zealand, South America, Spain?
- 6. What historic event that touched all of Australia took place on Valentine's Day 1966?
- 7. Is Grana Padano an art style, cheese, historical period, pasta or political movement?
- 8. Litoria caerulea literally translates as blue beach frog. By what more accurate name is this familiar frog known locally? Bonus point if you can say how it got its
- 9. Ash Barty's great win at Wimbledon broke a long tennis drought for Australia when she won The Championships in July. Her mentor Evonne Goolagong was the last Australian to win the women's singles final. Was that 20, 30 40 or 50 years ago?
- 10. In 1973 the National Gallery of Australia, with encouragement and assistance from the Whitlam Government and to howls of conservative outrage, bought Blue Poles for \$1.3M. Who painted this interesting abstract impressionist work and what is it worth today?

\$350M today. work by Jackson Pollock. It is estimated to be worth 10. Originally titled Number 11, 1952, Blue Poles is a

1980, 41 years ago. She also won in 1971, 50 years 9. Evonne Goolagong was the last Australian to win in

changed its green skin to blue. found on a beach and preserved in formalin which specimen collected for scientific examination was its misleading scientific name because the first 8. Our much loved Green Tree Frog obtained

12th Century in a fashion similar to Parmigiano in northern Italy. It has been made since the 7. Grana Padano is a cheese from the Po River valley

been in service longer than the pound. Australian dollar. Next year the dollar will have sovereigns, crowns and guineas) to 100 cents to the threepences, sixpences, florins half sovereigns, Australian pound (not to mention haltpennies, 12 pence to the shilling and 20 shillings to the 6. The introduction of decimal currency took us from

5. Bangladesh and Spain.

facher was a ventriloquist. Minnie's mother was a yodelling harpist while her eems that grease paint ran in the family's who managed them until her death in 1929. It name; Her matriarchy was a well kept secret) mother Minnie Marx (aka Palmer, an earlier stage and Gummo were groomed for the stage by their 4. The multitalented Groucho, Chico, Harpo, Zeppo

3. Copper and zinc.

May this year. 2. Bob Dylan celebrated his 80th birthday on 24th

Century.

appeared in the literature very early in the 19th adorned with toffee drawn into thin strands. It first profiteroles cemented together with toffee and often 1. The croquembouche is made from cream filled

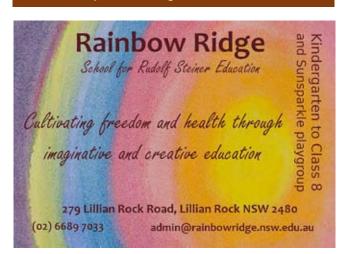
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need to talk to your parents."

by Joe Landers, Tuntable Falls school

't was never a comfortable experience to hear this from my teachers, back in my school days. It meant I had, once again, pushed it a bit

And I didn't like telephones in those situations because so much could get passed on to my parents in the time between leaving school on my bike and parking it in the shed at home, arriving to a wildfire of emotions let loose well beyond any hosing down with my perspective. So I tried to avoid the 'talking to parents" consequence.

At school these days, we aim for more self-responsibility in resolution of conflicts, with a focus on emotional awareness, empathy and self-initiated reparation.

But last term, things got away on me and I really did need to talk to the parents of a few students, urgently.

We had Winter Solstice Lantern Parade coming up, a great time for the children to celebrate the seasonal changes, play with fire, and sing songs together. The musical side of things is pretty much my responsibility usually and in previous years, it has been a good opportunity to show off things we had been working on in class.

However, this year, the focus in music has been on getting a good grasp on music notation and being able to sightread sheet music. This has involved a lot of playing, predominantly, on marimbas, guitars, keyboards and djembes, which is all well and good until you need to present an outside mobile music performance with the whole school. What they can do was not very portable. This needed a major re-think in a short amount of time.



Time to reach into the toolkit and pull out one of our school's major strengths, Parent Involvement.

"Students, I need to talk to your parents."

I contacted one mum who used to teach music to the students in previous years, who has a wonderful collection of songs, gathered or composed, including solstice songs, songs about the elements, and group dance songs, all perfect for this night. She was very happy to come in on our Garden Day and teach the students the melodies and moves, and to lead it all on the night. Very talented. Very generous.

That seemed to get the ball rolling. I then had a parent offer to dust off his bagpipes and herald in the students' lantern parade with his haunting highland airs.

Then another couple of very talented parents offered to present their fire dance of flourishing flames. Spectacular!

Another parent turned up with a newly-composed song celebrating the caring and beautiful environment of our school. Once again, he was very happy to give a day teaching the students how to sing it and even recording it, as well as leading the whole school performance on the night.

So all of this, combined with a beautiful bonfire and spectacular feast prepared by, you guessed it, the parents, made for a very enjoyable community celebration of the longest night and the oncoming lengthening of the days.

Like all big families, there was an issue with who was available to wash up, but in hindsight, it probably should have been me. I seemed to have only spent the night hollering out introductions for the next parent-led performance.

It was a wonderful and enjoyable night. So I am very glad that I resorted to that ageless teacher strategy of "talking to the parents."

Cawongla Playhouse

Tuesdays Wednesdays Thursdays Enrolling ages 2 1/2 - 5

5325 Kyogle Road Near Cawongla Shop



6633 7167 cawonglaplayhouse.office@gmail.com





by Leanne Logan

t would be easy to think that a playhouse, like . Cawongla, is all about playing. And if you were to think that, well, you wouldn't be wrong. But you also wouldn't have the full story.

At Cawongla Playhouse, whether on a day when we are bustling with preschoolers or on a Monday morning when families come here to enjoy playgroup, lots of play goes on. And on the surface, it may look like that's all that's happening.

In the dance studio children move to their preferred sounds, often songs from Frozen. From the new workshop, the sounds of hammering and sawing ring out. The kitchen garden is busy with children cooking up a storm or making



fragrant potions. The art studio tempts one and all into works charged with life big and small.

Children occasionally run on the verandah and indoors, as they move from one place to another, needing to quickly source some material they suddenly realised they needed. They're

running because this thing, whatever it is, is imperative for the continuation and connectivity of what they are doing and experiencing. And when we stop to look at all this, and observe quietly, we see that what is happening in each of these places is so very much more than a game

and "just" playing. This intense concentration, being fully immersed in their activity, juggling ideas and discovery and

and negotiating, all in a matter of moments in some cases, or hours in others, is astonishing when you think about it.

They are three, four and five year olds, completely engaged in active, skilled practice. And learning as they go. So at Cawongla Playhouse we honour that play.

We refrain from interrupting or yelling out: "Slow down, you're on the verandah!" We discretely pop a hat on a head, hoping it won't take that particular child out of 'the zone' they are in with another or others.

For that zone, in that place with those particular children in that moment in time is so important in the life of that child and those children. It is all the meaty parts (or chunks of tofu) that children want to get their teeth into.

The whole scenario is what we, as educators, have thought, talked and read about, reflected on and wondered. It's what we refer to as pedagogy. Somehow it seems easier and sounds nicer to call it 'play' but, of course, that wouldn't be the full story.

> Cawongla Playhouse can be contacted on 6633-7167.





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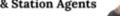
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