

# ASTRO FORECASTS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

## by Tina Mews

### Aries

Endings and new beginnings are happening now in your immediate environment and communication outlets. Old networks might end and new ones can be formed. Mars in Leo will boost your confidence and creativity from mid-June until the end of July. Know when "good enough has to be left alone!"

### Taurus

This phase of endings and new beginnings is activating issues around personal values on all levels, material, emotional or spiritual. There might be a strong focus on sorting finances and balancing accounts to improve stability. Venus in Cancer during June 3 – 28, strengthens your need for comfort and lasting emotional bonds.

### Gemini

The current eclipse season highlights issues of personal courage, identity and autonomy. You receive a cosmic push towards expressing yourself more creatively and taking charge of your life. Use the Mercury retrograde period for reviewing your greater goals and purpose. This is a time of important endings and new beginnings.

### Cancer

This is your time for resting and relaxation. Take time out for reflection on the year that is just ending for you. Let go and release what has not worked out and prepare for a fresh start at the solstice on June 21st. Old dreams can be left behind and a new vision imagined. It is a good time to develop faith and trust in a larger more spiritual plan.

### Leo

Endings and new beginnings might bring changes to your social scene. Broaden your network of friends or join a new organization or group, especially if it is focused on helping humanity or the world at large. In any case, re-evaluate where you want to go in the future. Fiery Mars will be in your sun sign from mid-June until the end of July adding extra spice to your plans and endeavours. Avoid acting impulsively and remember, Mercury is retrograde until June 22nd!

### Virgo

This phase of endings and new beginnings might guide you onto a new path. It could be that you are reviewing your life's direction and future goals. It is a favourable time for releasing unrealistic expectations and remaining clear and grounded in the here and now to counteract the overall tendency toward confusion and misunderstandings (Mercury retrograde until June 22nd).

## June

This year's season of the Cosmic Twins coincides with a phase of heightened emotions. Normally, Gemini prefers life to be light and easy-going and takes a more rational approach to conflict and dispute. However, this method will be tested over the next few weeks when Mercury in Gemini has a prolonged encounter with elusive and compassionate Neptune in Pisces, plus Jupiter just entered Pisces enhancing the Neptune vibe. **Mercury will be in retrograde motion from May 30th until June 21st.**

Furthermore, we are in an eclipse season with a **solar eclipse taking place in Gemini on June 10th.** During an eclipse 'the lights go out' and there is an increased likelihood of reacting impulsively. To make things even more intense, on **June 15th Saturn and Uranus will form their 2nd of three exact square aspects** symbolizing the next chapter in this 'mythic war of the titans' signified by the struggle between government regulations and restrictions of movement (Saturn) versus individual rights and freedom (Uranus) that has been dominating the entire year of 2021.

Gemini is the sign of communication and networking and can see any situation from multiple perspectives. However, misunderstandings, delays and unexpected twists and turns are more likely when Mercury is retrograde. Neptune adds an extra level of confusion and uncertainty intensifying the current eclipse season. Extra care and caution are needed when signing contracts or when starting new projects. It is a good period for reflecting, rethinking, revising and revisioning of plans and objectives. This energy can be applied productively for creative endeavours such as writing, poetry, music or dancing.

It is a good idea to keep calm and stay relaxed within all the uncertainty and instability that is going on. It is a critical month as we are journeying through an eclipse season with an emphasis on mutable signs (Gemini, Sagittarius and Pisces). Carefully listening, flexibility and tolerance are qualities to be nurtured while we have to avoid jumping to premature conclusions or insisting on our point of view as the only possible conclusion.

Solar eclipses often coincide with definite endings followed by new beginnings. It involves a process of transformation and points to where change is necessary. Those who have important placements around the 20th degree of Gemini in their natal chart will feel the influence of the eclipse most profoundly. The experience of endings followed by new beginnings can be positive or negative, or even both!

It is a good moment in time to release the past,

including beliefs, relationships, concepts, and structures – may they be mental, emotional, or material – which have lost their usefulness. The eclipse is conjunct Mercury retrograde and widely square Neptune. It offers opportunities for new dreams and visions and can strengthen our intuition and insights. On the negative, it can reinforce misunderstandings and boost wishful thinking while triggering issues around honesty and clarity. It is fertile ground for more unexpected revelations!

**The most important outer planetary transit of this year is the closing square between Saturn in Aquarius and Uranus in Taurus.**

We had the first exact pass on February 18th, followed by the second exact square on June 15th at 13 degree Aquarius/Taurus.

The last exact square will be on December 24th. Saturn and Uranus will stay in orbit until the end of 2022. The current Saturn – Uranus cycle began in 1988 (until 2032). Saturn and Uranus represent very opposing principles; when they contact each other by conjunction or hard aspect a great amount of tension is created.

Saturn concerns itself with tradition, authority, duty, discipline and responsibility while Uranus is the archetypal impulse representing freedom, individualism, rebelliousness and non-conformity.

During the waning cycle we are forced to question the validity of structures built since the start of the cycle back in 1988. It then led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and was a massive step towards globalisation. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, borders have been closed and we have experienced some of the negative effects of this development. On a more personal level, we experience the clash between Saturn and Uranus in the 'vaccine-no vaccine' debate or the question of social pressure versus individual choice.

**The winter solstice happens on June 21st,** when the Sun enters zero degree Cancer marking the longest night and shortest day in the southern hemisphere. It is the opposite in the northern hemisphere and their summer solstice. Jupiter just started its 4 – months retrograde cycle while it coincides with the end of the current Mercury retrograde phase (until June 22). It signifies a time of shifting energies and moods and might be favourable for further reflection, inner journeying and contemplation.

*Navigation by the stars: Personal Astrology 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, June 10th and 24th: Air Houses 3/7/11 in Astrology: Human Relationships and Networking' 10.30am – 1.30pm; All welcome For all bookings and info, contact 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com*

### Libra

This is a great period for expanding your horizons spiritually or philosophically. Your desire to journey abroad for gathering new impressions needs redirecting into different channels. A new vision is emerging as your philosophy of life is shifting and changing. It is a time of delays with unexpected twists and turns which again could bring interesting messages (until June 22nd).

### Scorpio

It is a time of endings and new beginnings which might play out in your relationships. Use this as an opportunity of clearing out old baggage, may it be on the mental, emotional or physical level and make space for a fresh start at the solstice on June 21st. Balance your need for security with your desire for freedom while at the same time respect the sovereignty of others. If you feel you are overcommitted, try to lessen your attachments.

### Sagittarius

The process of clearing out clutter has giving you more space to reconnect with your spiritual aspirations and is reflected in your interactions with others. This is a time when new, valuable connections can be made that align with your inner truth and deeper wishes. Nevertheless, misunderstandings and communication errors are likely while Mercury is retrograde (until June 22nd).

### Capricorn

Issues of work and service, as well as health are under review. Pay attention to the small things of everyday living. It is a favourable time for making lasting changes to your routine and habits, including those concerning your overall health and well-being. Re-structure your life so that it runs more smoothly within the parameters of what is possible.

### Aquarius

For some time now, your life has been a lot about "all work and no play". So, be ready to shift gears and lighten up your day through more fun, enjoyment and creative play. Your children or grandchildren will appreciate extra time spent with them and this gives you the chance to re-connect with your inner child. Let your heart take the lead and allow the head to relax!

### Pisces

The task at hand is to take charge of your private life. Endings and new beginnings in this area has birthed another aspect of your personality that needs to be strengthened and nurtured now. Your imagination is going wild and you might want to channel it into some creative and productive outlets. On the other hand, Mercury is still retrograde until June 22nd, and might play some tricks with your communication and electronic devices.



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# Magick reveals

by Marilyn Devlin

There's been a lot of magick about. I've been feeling it... filtering in from behind the veil.

The great wallops of change, truckloads of upheavals, galactic disturbance and waves of fear we've grown accustomed to these last 18 months. Or more... as the fires began their warning back in July 2019.

There's been more than the average disturbance, disquiet, apprehension and general confusion. Which way do I step... what direction do I go?

So many voices, hands grabbing for flesh... pulling on life force, draining tanks. So many words, so much noise... and underneath it all life continues to beat. Soothes, loves, nourishes, holds.

From the heights to the depths... and all stops in between. We've grown accustomed to things we never thought we would.

Light shines brightly, your vision is clear... taken to a place you've not visited before. Then like snakes and ladders you slip back to a lower floor... familiar sounds, old words.

You stop, you rest... you give yourself time. Space to breathe... to remember you're alive... why you're here. Whatever it takes, the priority is clear... don't be swayed by all the noise.

Yes... the magick's been truly comforting to feel. I knew it! It resonated in my bones when I first read those words... 'Jupiter into Pisces'. I felt the celebration inside and I just knew... body is never wrong.

It's the most extraordinary creation beyond anything our genius minds have ever managed to create... or ever will. We'll never own that power... the intelligence, wisdom and clarity of the One Great Power/Spirit... whatever name is placed on it. Yet we carry a tiny piece of it inside us.

Our body is a consciousness machine... created in the most exquisite flesh, blood and bones. The most superior, advanced software... that nothing we've created comes even close.

So... coming back to ourselves. Coming back home. Coming home to here and now... being complete inside my self. Knowing the miracle that is now. Beyond all the noise.

We've recently moved through the portal opening of that sensational Lunar eclipse... so visible for us here in Oz. Eclipses stir potent energy... the mathematical matrix of cause and effect. The movement and shifting of things greater than us.

The worlds around us here on Earth, the great galactic interplay. The uber-intelligence orchestrating it all. All of us playing our part... to move toward the light. To know what reality is. To achieve our purpose here.

Jupiter – home in Pisces – has created a field of softness around us... like a cotton wool barrier, protecting us from the full force of the eclipse. Eclipses mean business... they aim for the bull's eye. Whatever needs to go... to make way for new growth.

The message still got through... even though cocooned within our cotton wool wadding... something inside you is transitioning as 'we speak'. Life from now will never be the same. Some specific part of your life is on the line for total realignment. We go willing or not. And we know how that unfolds.

Yes... the first eclipse on 26th May came in a velvet glove... sprinkles with twinkles of magick star dust... lots of kindness and gentleness. But don't be deceived... it planted its seed. And that seed will grow.

Evolution is beyond our control. The momentum is fast... yet it ambles along. A life here one minute gone the next. While we're here we have an opportunity. Will we grab it by the proverbial horns... or will we let it slip by. We do have a choice... which way will we walk? How will we spend our precious time here on Earth?

More big galactic events in June... go in peace and love. We're alive.

# Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

Erratum May 2021: Ray Walston was the Martian. Bill Bixby was the straight man.

## Questions

- Who is this handsome, multi-talented star of stage, screen and speaker on the right? Here's a hint: he has taken up a new (and large!) musical instrument in recent years. Add a bonus point if you can name it. (Photo: abc.net.au)
- Notable Australian character Jack Absalom left the planet in 2019 at 91. Was he a bushman, cook, environmental activist, painter or publisher?
- What do brass, gravy, copper, kale and tin have in common?
- The operatic female vocal register is divided into three categories: mezzo-soprano, contralto and soprano. Can you put them in order of highest to lowest?
- Is cliticisation a misspelling, an affixation, a promiscuous attachment to whatever happens to be in the right place, or a painful surgical procedure?
- Smith's Bridge is less than 10 kilometres from Nimbin. Where is it?
- Is a basilisk a mythical serpent that can kill with a look or a breath, a small green lizard that can walk on water, or a large brass cannon on wheels?
- Somewhat further afield is Middle Earth where The Lord of The Rings plays out. Thanks to Peter Jackson's brilliant rendition of Tolkien's epic trilogy, many are familiar with the powerful wizards Gandalf the Grey and Saruman the White. Tolkien also introduces another shapeshifting wizard whose power lies with animals and plants. What is his name?
- In 1979 Dennis Lillee stunned the cricket world by striding to the crease in a test against England with an aluminium bat. The cricket authorities took a dim view of this novel innovation and soon banned the use of bats made of anything but wood. The cricket world is once again under siege from innovation with a new bat made of a novel material. Can you say what the new bat is made of?
- In the television series *Breaking Bad* what is Mister White's given name and what is Jesse's family name?



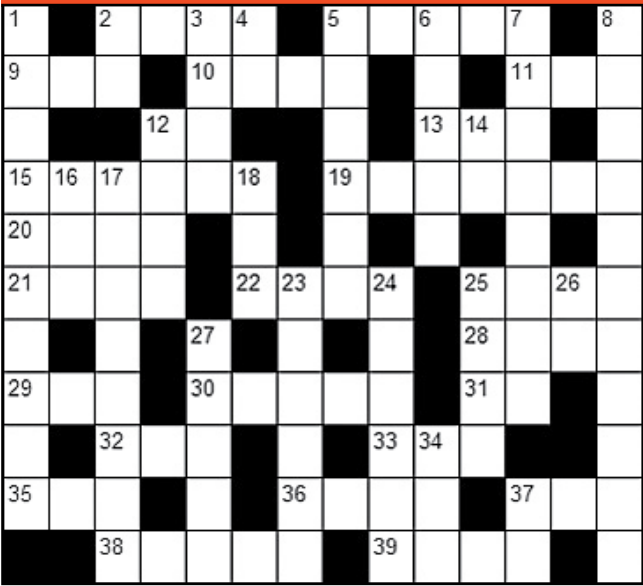
- It's Paul Livingston in his alter ego of Flacco who once, during live performance, replied to a heckler in strangled, screaming, falsetto ultra-soprano: "I will not be deterred! You will be de turred! These days he is an enthusiastic and dedicated ringer of cathedral bells.
- He was all of these things. One of the Bushmen of the Bush, his paintings of outback Australia almost always included a claypan. Absalom maintained that these bald patches between vegetation are the result of hard footed animals such as sheep and cattle treading the fragile Australian landscape which has only known soft footed animals such as bandicoots and kangaroos for many millennia.
- They are all synonyms of money.
- Soprano, mezzo soprano and contralto. In operatic circles contraltos, especially the lowest subcategory, the dramatic contraltos, are said to play only witches, bitches or britches.
- Sometimes characterised as the promiscuous attachment to whatever word happens to be in the right place, cliticisation is a linguistic term describing a change in use such as "that's" replacing "that is" and "that are" to the extent that the "is" loses its prescribed grammatical identity, thus including the "are" in its meaning. More formally, cliticisation is the development of a morpheme that has syntactic characteristics of a word, but depends phonologically on another word.
- Smith's Bridge is at Coffee Camp, just past Bishop's Creek heading towards Lismore.
- They are all basilisks.
- Kadagast the Brown.
- Bambo.
- Walter White and Jesse Pinkman.

## Answers

# Nimbin Crossword

2021-06

by Synic



## Across

- Beneath the peel
- Bosc, Williams, Corella
- Blue jeans? Confederate general
- "all" (prefix)
- Web address (init.)
- Beatified? (abbr.)
- Tactical manoeuvres?
- Speaker
- Egyptian jar for preserving of mummified organs
- Rube? Mark?
- Foolishness (internet slang)
- Greyish yellow/beige
- Trap (for) 20 across?
- Sicilian volcano
- Largest US city (init.)
- Fur/skin disease from mites
- Not the sex assigned at birth (init.)
- Cricket match settled between nations on a single day (init.)
- British special forces unit – specialise in "behind enemy lines" operations (init.)
- Decay
- Chest muscles
- Constrictor snake

- Intoxicate? Rock.
- State of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton.

## Down

- They Share their life fluid?(5,5)
- School sport? (init.)
- They bless the rain down in Africa
- Royal titles (init.)
- Military (crab) manoeuvre
- (Long) ages
- Alleged perpetrators
- Cop van or paddy wagon (5,6)
- Tread?
- Mail and services (init.)
- Regret? Herb.
- Stonefruits
- Whiskey grain
- Hors d'oeuvre
- Culture and education arm of the United Nations (init.)
- Groups
- (Indefinite) article
- Your Mexican friend?
- Remains after fire
- Japanese fighting staff

Solution: Page 28



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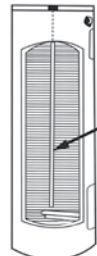
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Nimbin Crossword  
Solution

From Page 27

B		P	I	T	H		P	E	A	R	S		B
L	E	E		O	M	N	I		E		U	R	L
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# Nimbin Headers getting results



## Grade 7 Blue Miniroos

by Sean Davis

Three cheers for the Nimbin Blue Miniroos! Taking learning in their stride, the young team has been learning the value of teamwork, exercise, learning new skills and making new friends. We have Kai, masterful and mindful; Nemirah moving with grace and direction; Daniel the delightful dynamic dribbler; Dexter the dexterous with a hunger for action; Sibella the rock in defence and attack; Gypsi who roams and defends amazingly; and Leo the light-footed leaper. Together they have had



so much fun and growth through the game of soccer and support from the Nimbin Headers club.

## Women's League 2

by Tess Rutley

With a mix of old and new players, Nimbin Headers brand new 2nd division women's team, put up a good fight on Sunday. Still finding their rhythm, they managed to hold the score at 0-0. Firing up during the last 45 minutes, they stood

their ground and kept the ball predominantly in the opposition's half, keeping the intensity high until full-time. As they find their groove, watching this team progress through the season will be exciting. Let's hope they stick together for a couple of seasons, so we can all enjoy their transformation into a cohesive kick-ass team! With their coach Boud and the very vocal enthusiastic Nimbin supporters, I don't see why not.

# One month in the wilderness

by Simon Thomas

Can you imagine going for a day without scanning the internet, reading a newspaper, or even talking to another living human? How about a whole month completely free of TV, radio, personal interaction or even reading a book? It is a rare privilege in this era of interminable distractions to have the opportunity to carve out the time and resources necessary to experience such simplicity, but it is a feat which I was recently lucky enough to achieve. The venue was a tiny cabin perched high above the dramatic rapids of the famed Shotover River gorge near Queenstown New Zealand, surrounded by a kaleidoscope of autumnal trees and towering, icing-sugar coated peaks. Although rustic and barely big enough to swing the proverbial, the hut was toasty warm and comfortable enough when your only tasks involve nothing more than sitting and sleeping. In normal life, I notice my mind's magnetic attraction to news, trivia and whatever nonsense happens to be the flavour of the day on Facebook with the jaded attention of an addict to their vices, secure in the knowledge that my resistance to their allure will surely crumble while checking the next incoming message. So, it was with some surprise and relief that in the days immediately prior to turning off the tap, my interest in the state of the world faded like a disappearing mirage. As the prospect of "following a story" diminished, so too did my interest in knowing anything at all about the topic, so when the time came to shut down my phone, the only emotion I felt was a vague sense of relief.



I had a program to follow; early morning starts, long sessions of meditation, and a vow to eschew all contact with the outside world except for cases of emergency. We all know that time is a very elastic concept, but with four weeks at hand and nothing "to do," the conceptual became experiential. While the clock presumably adhered to its dogged trudge, I encountered hours which slipped by in a flash followed by moments so protracted that it seemed as though all creation might have taken place within them. Maybe it did. The mind's first reaction to this sudden hiatus in stimulation was to create a theatre of its own. Like popping the lid on a shaken-up bottle of beer, detritus from the depths of my memory showered forth in a desperate attempt to ensnare my attention in anything other than the moment that was. I have to give the ego credit for locating trifles that have remained dormant (and of utter irrelevance to me) for decades, then parading them

in front of my consciousness as though now was the exact point in history that such trivia must be pondered in great detail. Fortunately, having been through this all before, I knew that such displays are best ignored, so each time I felt my attention being drawn to yet another ancient grievance or obsession, I politely departed the interaction and returned to my task of being present in the moment. Eventually, the flailing throes of that part of me which seeks to hold me in its thrall diminished to a murmur and I managed to regain sovereignty over my own precious conscious continuum. For a change, I found that I could rest my attention on that which I elected to be important at the time, and the background noise faded into insignificance. When the static finally receded, I noticed that mind has a quality of intoxicating clarity, and that dissatisfaction is a poor and utterly unnecessary choice.

# Will willing

The world according to  
by Magenta Appel-Pye

Recently my best friend died. She had no family in Australia and no spouse or children, so it was up to her friends to organise her affairs.

Many years ago I helped her make a will, even though her circumstances had changed dramatically in the ensuing 12 years. But where was it? During the time we could not find the will, our hands were pretty well tied. Without proof of Executor, it was difficult to do anything.

We eventually found it and were able to proceed as we dealt with the funeral home, bank, real estate agent, selling her car, disposing of her possessions etc.

I talk to many people about this issue because it is so important, not for the deceased, but for the loved ones left behind. Many people tell me, "I don't need a will because I don't have anything." This is usually completely inaccurate. They may not own a home, but they own a car and usually some possessions that have some value, even if only sentimental.

OK, it's not pleasant thinking about our own demise and working out your estate



Rest in peace Tiana Ross, 7/4/1962 – 28/3/2021

but please, for the sake of those left behind, make a Will! You can buy a kit from the newsagents for \$15 and do it yourself. Just make sure you get it witnessed and signed properly and tell your Executor where it is.

If you have property and possessions you want to go to specific people, spend the money and get a solicitor to do it properly.

Once it's done you can forget about it and get on with your life. By doing so you will save much stress and unnecessary work for your loved ones whose time is better spent grieving and making a beautiful funeral for you.



## She says

Bill, turn off the TV, get your head out of your computer and get out there! Dating sites may be OK, but it is only in the flesh that you can get to know someone, read their body language, and smell their pheromones.

It's easy to find women if you know where to look. Yoga classes are full of healthy and flexible yoginis. Partner dancing classes such as salsa, tango or ballroom, are desperate for more men, so you'll be a hero just walking in the door.

If you are spiritually inclined, you could join a meditation, prayer, or psychic development group where you will meet more lovely women than you know what to do with.

Caring, kind-hearted women are social, community-minded people who like to help others and can be found volunteering. The Meals on Wheels ladies enjoy feeding people and know how to drive. A woman working at an op shop will probably be a thrifty shopper and not waste money on expensive new items.

Yummy single mummies can be found volunteering at the school tuck shop. These Madonnas can produce offspring and look after them, and hopefully you as well.

The trick is to make sure you pick something you are genuinely interested in, rather than going just to find a girlfriend. Otherwise you may find yourself eventually feeling lonely within a relationship, which is perhaps the most soul-destroying loneliness of all.

## HE says

If you've gotten along nicely to this point in your life, why would you want to stuff things up by getting a girlfriend?

If women came with an operating manual, there'd be more warnings and disclaimers in the book than a Leopard tank. Granted, if you

## Lonely

I am 27 and have never had a girlfriend and I'm lonely. I don't even know where to begin. Can you help me?

– Bill Dudmann, Tuggeranong

by Uncle Norm and Auntie Maj

find the right girl, and master the required operational procedures, you could arguably have a lot more fun than fanging around in a battle tank.

But, be warned, life will change. You can forget about watching what you like on TV. In fact, you can forget about TV altogether. She will want to go out. This will probably include something called dancing. You might already know how to dance, but I reckon if that's the case, you wouldn't have had to write to us.

You'll also have to see a lot less of your mates. Especially the more drunken and disorderly ones. She'll ban them, no ifs or buts. If you have any hobbies or pastimes that currently give you hours of solitary joy, they'll have to go too. Making her happy will be your prime imperative. Still feeling lonely?

So, now that you know the risks, and assuming you're still keen, let's get started.

I don't know whether you've actually dipped your wick, but I think it would be a good idea to jump in the ute and find a reputable knockshop. Learn where everything is, where it goes, and have a few practice runs.

Next, you'll want to start meeting prospective girlfriends. Forget the internet. Nowhere else is false advertising more prevalent than on-line dating sites. You'll get sucked in by a photo of a gorgeous bombshell, only to find she's a transvestite orangutan from Borneo, looking to marry an innocent schmuck like you so she can get a free leg into the country.

Go to Byron Bay. I'm told there are more single women on the hunt for a bloke there than anywhere else in Australia. Mind you, if you're hoping to hook one of them, you're going to have to like such things as yoga, vegan food, and tantric sex (don't ask!).

"It is not a lack of love, but a lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages."  
– Friedrich Nietzsche

Send your relationship problems to:  
[normanappel@westnet.com.au](mailto:normanappel@westnet.com.au)

# Dialogues

by S. Sorrensen

Do you think he's up there, looking down on us?  
No, I don't. I'm not religious.  
I'm not talking religion; I'm more about spirituality.  
Well, I don't think he's spiritually or religiously up there looking down on us.  
I think he is. I can feel his presence.  
Really? He's dead.  
Yes. But his soul, or spirit, or eternal essence is looking down on us.  
Oh. He wasn't the sort of guy who looked down on people. Unless they were dickheads.  
What do you mean?  
Nothing. I'm just not into the whole afterlife or heaven or re-incarnation or whatever thing.  
Why have this gathering then? What's the point if there's nothing after life?  
Because I loved the guy and I want to celebrate that. And I like gatherings. And red wine. I'm raising a glass to a good man. There's no need to overthink it.  
But you're raising your glass. To heaven, eh? To him?  
Oh god...  
Did he believe in something more? He did yoga, didn't he?  
I don't know. Is yoga a religion now?  
I can do the reverse table top pose. Ardha Purvottanasana.  
That must be helpful. God probably needs a downward facing table.  
Oh funny. You knew him for all those years and you don't what his spiritual leanings were?  
He liked ambient music. What can I say?  
I like spirit trance grooves.  
What can I say?  
Something, I'm sure...  
Like us all, I guess, he was on a quest to – I don't know – to find some meaning in life but...  
That's what I mean!  
...but he was smart enough to realise that life is random. Good people get sick; Murdoch gets rich; There is no meaning beyond being



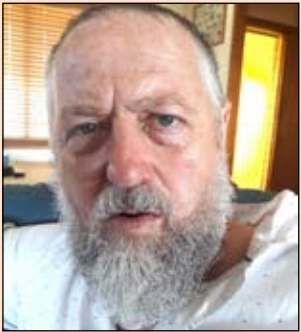
a... a... person of virtue.  
Virtue? Can virtue exist without some moral direction from a higher source?  
I don't think so. How would you know right from wrong; how a virtuous person should live?  
See how hot the fire is now?  
What? Yes... Good fire, man.  
I don't believe in God, karma, the Force or chemtrails, yet I'm not pushing you onto the fire. That's me being virtuous, despite my lack of interest in a divine authority. Where does my virtue come from?  
You want to throw me into the fire?  
No. I'm making a point. I believe in humanity. I believe in humanity because of people like him. Because people like him show me that virtue, that acting kindly, is actually who we are. It has no ulterior motive, like getting to live forever with blonde angels singing or virgins winking, or entering nirvana with sleepy eyes, or being reborn as a Masterchef winner. Virtue is humanity. It accepts life. It accepts death. And, mate, I was joking; I wouldn't push you into the fire...  
I know. You're funny. He's probably looking down right now and having a good laugh.  
Oh god...

Throughout my time as the Loon, I have laboured over the imagineering of a mythical and altogether stupendously rational township by the name of Bathenstool.

This wondrous place, replete with it shitbox cars that spin endlessly around and around its 'Dunny Bowl' entertainment centre; its mayor and her ceremonial muck rake and sustainable night soil cart of office; and even Suction the leader and tennis coach of the universals, whose gaggle of super secretaries have recently purchased a church at the macadamia crossroads.

But few, I would contend, know the prehistory of the squat and stinking place.

For before the establishment of the sewage works that employs all its inhabitants, on some level,



Revenge of the Loon  
by Laurie Axtens

the place was an almost impenetrable vine jungle inhabited by a tribe of people who called themselves 'The Deadly'.

Together with the forest, the Fecal of Bathenstool virtually wiped out the Deadly and their jungle, leaving behind less than less of a single percent of the forest and its people.

Over the years the guilt has weighed heavily on the

Bathenstoolers, and with the place is such a shitty state they decided to say that it was still 'The Deadlies' land before every meeting.

It sounded pretty good to the few remaining Deadlies, who decided they'd just camp on the outskirts of town for a few years.

Alas for these original inhabitants, they didn't realise that they still had to pay rates – even if it was their land – and the council resumed it and auctioned it off to a bucket of hammers and kids who used them to think with. In this way Bathenstool council continues to live up to its maxim: caveat emptor.

And so it is now across Bathenstool, and everywhere where there are rational and caring people, that being on someone else's land doesn't mean they own it in any way but mythically.



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# Whole school cultural awareness day

*"This land's history is the Indigenous history, not a penal colony, not a federation of states, not corporate governance. The cultures of Indigenous people have cared for this country for 99% of its human habitation. This really sunk in."*

This was one of the insights noted from participants in the Cultural Awareness Day at Nimbin Cultural Centre on 23rd April.

From his perspective as a Heritage Conservation Officer, Ashley Moran presented a day of inspiring information to the staff and committees of Tuntabale Falls Community School and Tuntabale Falls Early Learning Centre.

We were introduced to the processes of recording significant sites across New South Wales, all of which gave insight into the sophistication and complexity of the culture on this land for the past 60,000 years.

These included photos, descriptions and explanations of marked trees for burial and ceremonial sites, carved and scarred trees from shield, canoe and implement making, fish traps, initiation sites, ceremonial rings, burial sites, massacre sites, rock art paintings and engravings, tool sharpening sites, seed mill sites, stone arrangements, birthing sites, midden sites and also sites that are linked to stories.

One of the valuable activities we did was experimenting with some of the symbols which Aboriginal culture uses, in conjunction with the songlines, to pass on the knowledge required to live with the land, to teach the seasonal calendar with six seasons that specify where to find food, medicine and water resources and how to prepare these foods and medicines, where to find the best wood and stone for tool making, which animals to hunt and when, what plants are available and what they can be used for, and so much more.

"What I previously saw as squiggles on canvas, I now understand to be part of an indigenous education system for passing on many aspects of living in this country."

The Thomas Dick photo collection is an amazing resource to view, and was so much more valuable to have explained by Ashley. He also discussed many of the cultural practices of marriage, initiation, punishment, burial, and fire stick



farming practices of timed, controlled, low intensity burns. This particular area, The Big Scrub, was like a shopping centre for Indigenous foods and resources.

We finished the day with a tour of the local area, with descriptions of the Dreaming stories that fit the local landscape. It is exciting to hear of the planned new walking track through Mount Jerusalem and Dunoon with safari camping along the way.

The awareness that we have gained from this day as a whole school will enhance this year's ongoing student project focused on the book *Young Dark Emu* by Bruce Pascoe. Students are reproducing some of the houses, technology and agriculture that are detailed in this book, as evidenced from the documentation of European explorers.

We are aiming to present this project to the community later in the year. Other classes are focusing on Indigenous sustainable land practices in comparison with others around the world.

*"I am in awe at how little we still know about Indigenous culture. What Ashley taught us was mostly specific to the Bungalong people, and that small peek into their way of life was a reminder of the incredible richness of culture that we would find all over Australia if we knew how to ask the right questions and look for the right clues."*

# Memorable Queensland school camp



At the end of April, the intrepid Year 7 and Year 8 students of Nimbin Central School ventured to the foothills of Mt Barney, Queensland, to take part in a three-day camp with the team at Camp Kokoda.

The range of activities challenged the students, especially those with a fear of heights. There was zip-lining, high ropes, the milk-crate stack, giant swing and canoeing, all aimed at pushing the boundaries of our comfort zone.

The students had to take responsibility for carrying all their gear, setting up camp, cooking all meals and leaving the campsite ship-shape.

Some of the bushwalking was arduous and the camp fare on offer not to everyone's taste, but the crew bonded together, met the challenges head-on and had a memorable experience.



## Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

Based at the Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre

### DROP IN SERVICES –

Monday-Friday 10am-2pm drop in for a cuppa and a chat, use computers, or get help to access services and useful information.

• Device advice: Thursdays 10am-12.30pm, help with your phone, tablet or laptop, with Mark. Call NACRS or drop in.

### SOCIAL GROUPS – all invite only:

- Weekly Tuesday Social Group at Bottlebrush Studio, 10.30am-1pm. Morning tea and light lunch (\$10)
- The Channon Seekers & Sages Group 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 4th Thursday, 11am-2pm
- Koonorigan Hall Social Group 4th Monday, 11.30am-2.30pm

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