

ASTRO FORECASTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

by Tina Mews

Aries

Adjustments to plans and projects can be made now, and you are supported in moving forward. This could be a good time to communicate your ideas to others while Mars is in Gemini (March 4 – April 24). Nevertheless, try not to get into conflict during March 23 – 25 because of being too pushy and attached to your point of view.

Taurus

The first three weeks of this month are great for spending special healing time with friends which can provide you with a creative burst of energy. Use it for following your goals but also look for new avenues of expression. This is a year where trusted boundaries must be tested in search for a new vision. Find out ways how you can go more with the flow and not against it.

Gemini

Mars, the cosmic energy of drive and action is in your sun sign from March 4 until April 24. Mars in Gemini energises the mind and can cause nervousness and anxiety especially when you tend to overthink. Conserve energy, set your priorities and direct your intention towards goals that are worth your efforts. Mercury will be square Mars in Gemini during March 23 – 25 creating fertile ground for confusion and conflict.

Cancer

Dreaming and imagining is all that you are meant to do over the coming weeks. Strengthen your intuition, ponder about the world and the higher meaning behind all of what is happening and has happened already. Much of your energy is channelled into your soul life rather than into outside affairs. The equinox on March 20th signals a new beginning after a period of contemplation.

Leo

The softening Piscean vibes are great for getting in contact with your psychic nature while having a rest from the intensity of the last few weeks and months. Try not to overload your schedule with too many plans and projects, instead take a plunge into the deep waters for rejuvenation and regeneration of your body, mind and spirit.

Virgo

Relationships with others might now reach a new level of closeness and understanding because you can widen your view and move beyond nitty gritty details. It is a time for fusion, for the big picture and the grand vision. Then you will naturally come back to a suitable step-by-step approach.

March

We have reached an important turning point within the yearly cycle as we change into the next season at the equinox on **March 20th**. We have shifted from an intense period signified by a predominance of planets in fixed signs to a lighter, more adaptable mode of energy symbolized by an accumulation of planets in mutable signs and the Sun's entry into Pisces. Venus and Neptune are also journeying through the elusive and watery realms of Pisces. Feelings of compassion combined with an emphasis on intuitive perception and receptivity are highlighted. Pisces seeks unity over separation and love over resentment. Pisces is the last sign in the zodiac. It contains the opportunity of renewal on a deep emotional level that provides us with vitality, inspiration and illumination for the new cycle that starts when the Sun enters Aries, the sign of new beginnings (March 20). Pisces is symbolically related to the sacrifice of the personal ego to merge with the spiritual worlds. Through the personal experience of pain and suffering we have learned compassion and found our soul, our inner essence. The shadow side, however, is escapism or feeling victimised and powerless against life's many challenges.

On March 4th, Mars changes from persistent and determined Taurus to airy Gemini, where the warrior planet is more adaptable and multi-tasking. Being the planet of action in the sign of communication, the task is to remain in dialogue instead of seeking confrontation, to question opinions and allowing others to voice their point of view. The mind is energised when Mars is in Gemini (until April 24). Conserving energy and directing it wisely is essential if we want to complete projects and avoid mental overload. Mercury in Pisces will be square Mars in Gemini during March 23 – 25, marking a period where angry and confused communication could cause chaos and conflict. On the other hand, all planets are in direct motion now until April 26, signaling a strong momentum for moving forward and launching our projects.

The New Moon on March 13th in Pisces is conjunct Neptune and Venus, stimulating our longing for a new reality that is peaceful, ecologically aware and all inclusive. On the downside, we might be feeling confused or 'lost at sea' as we might not be clear about whom to trust and which way to travel. We are reminded

to navigate through the current obstacles by using our wit combined with intuition (Pisces) instead of using unnecessary force. Times of transition are filled with uncertainty even though the new impulse has been set. The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus said that

"the only constant in life is change" comparing existing things with the flow of a river "and you could not step twice into the same river." This New Moon teaches us to trust in the universe not as victims to outer circumstances

but as active co-creators of a new emerging reality. Ceres, symbolising the Great Mother archetype, is in Aries during February until May and meets with Chiron, the mythic wounded healer, on the day of the New Moon. Ceres in Aries wants to make her own choices about her body and her healing process (Chiron). Chiron reminds us of our vulnerability, which is part of our human journey as spiritual beings living in a body that is mortal and limited.

The Full Moon on March 29th is in Libra opposite the Aries Sun in close conjunction with Venus and Chiron. Aries is the symbol for new beginnings and is associated with the courage and capacity to break new ground, and to give courage to others to do the same. Venus stands for our connection with others and forming relationships. The Sun and Venus just started a new synodic cycle 3 days earlier when the planet of love and beauty made her transition from Morning to Evening Star. However, she will not be visible in our evening sky before May 21st when Venus has reached sufficient distance from the Sun. The Moon in Libra highlights the need for balance. The quest of this Full Moon is to find the right understanding between honouring one's individual needs while respecting the needs of others, being in connection with one's own authentic being while remaining receptive and caring in our relationships. Chiron will trigger themes to do with assertiveness and cooperation as well as issues around wounding and healing. With Mars, ruler of Aries, conjunct the North Node we are challenged to remain focused on our most important goals. Trusting our gut feelings will be helpful in finding the best way forward.

Navigation by the stars: Personal astrology consultation including your year ahead: Plans, directions, concerns for 2021/22.

Astro-mornings at the Lillifield Community Centre: Thursdays, March 4th and 18th 10.30am – 1.30pm 'The meaning of aspects in Astrology' All welcome
For all bookings and info, contact 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com

Libra

During the first three weeks of this month, issues regarding health, work, daily routine but also your service to others are at the centre of your attention. Some re-balancing might be needed to facilitate the next step on your journey. Put some special time aside for your personal vision quest and travelling through unknown territory.

Scorpio

This is a great time for feeling inspired and embracing your creativity. It is okay to be a bit less intense and obsessive with achieving your goals while moving through the Piscean waters. Instead, direct your attention towards developing more loving relationships and having fun. This way you can easily secure the support of others on which you will rely for accomplishing future projects.

Sagittarius

The Piscean vibes are great for a trip down memory lane and reflecting on the past, the good and the bad, the pains and the joys. Get in contact with the place within that contains forgotten skills and buried wisdom. Old ego conflicts could be cleared if you approach others in this more unifying and empathetic way. It could be a good time for conflict resolution.

Capricorn

During this period, your imagination is emphasised. You could use your power of insightful communication for creative writing. On the other hand, it might be hard to distinguish between fact and fiction. In your dealings with others take extra care not to confuse issues because your mind could be clouded by your moods and feelings.

Aquarius

This is a very self-expressive time when you have lots of ideas for managing various projects. It is essential to conserve your energy and direct it wisely to avoid mental exhaustion and a scattering of resources. It is a good time for more play and pleasure without having to burn the candle at both ends.

Pisces

Domestic tasks could be at the centre of your attention and you feel obliged to invest most of your energy predominately at home. If you like it or not, you are the one who is in charge and has to take on the responsibility for having everything run smoothly. On the other hand, you might feel tired because of too many commitments. So, take some time out for yourself and ask for support when you need it.



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Mother Earth

by Marilyn Devlin

Welcome Autumn. It became my favourite time of year when I lived in the mountains. The light was extraordinary... the golds and reds dancing in the paddocks. The Devic presence visible around the trees. The quiet celebration, everywhere... Life giving thanks for all that was given. Life is a mesmerising companion to witness.

Here on the coast it can be more subtle... summer holds but her grasp is slipping. We're conditioned toward outward expression... a little fearful of turning our gaze within. Coming back home to our self.

I feel an affinity with Autumn... its quiet magickal ways. Its gratitude... its celebration and extraordinary beauty. Its close and personal presence. Its slowing down, its remembering. Its stillness and its coming home.

Where would we be without our Beloved Mother Earth? If we could only turn our attention around. If we could understand our connection to her... that without her we can't be here. Like a Mother she cares for us, her intricacies and bio-diversities are pivotal to our survival here.

We've forgotten where we stand, what we're really dependent on. We've been tempted away... by promises. Promises of happiness. Promises of things that can never be. Somewhere along the line we moved off the path. Lost in the woods... yet there are no woods, only wastelands. All been cut down. We think that's the way. We've been lied to. Destroying nature is destroying you and me.

And it's more than survival... if there is such a thing. But with our record on Earth, we could be forgiven for wondering if we deserve to survive. Yet it's more than survival... if that's possible, it's about Love. It's about the deepest, purest, all-consuming Love we have for our Mother. The Mother that grants us everything. That is here for us alone... all her children, in their unique and wonderful forms. A Love which many of us have never known. A Love that can reduce us to tears.

I remember those early dark mornings out on the deck, facing east, up in my sacred place in the mountains... ready and excited to welcome the Sun. To experience the miracle of another birthing day. I remember those mornings. I had so many. Tears would slide down my cheeks as I felt her arms around me. Viscerally, physically I could feel them on my skin. Holding me in the most total love.

The presence of Life is so much more than we see. What we're taught, what we think. It's a real sentient being. It's alive and present, always... otherwise we wouldn't be. It's Love itself. It knows only to give. To protect, to honour, to cherish, to support.

It's deep and everlasting. It knows no end... it has no beginning. It is everything. And while we're here... alive and present, we have the opportunity to experience it. To be a part of the greatest miracle.

Maybe Autumn can guide us back... just a little, to remembering. What's really important. What's vital. What's non-negotiable. It's time to stand up, rooted in ourselves... Guardians of the Earth are precious and that's who we are... we've just forgotten.

Perfect (as always) that the Virgo Full Moon guides us into Autumn. Virgo represents the Goddess... I've seen her as the 'Spirit of Earth'. Ahhh, how we welcome her... after a rather turbulent first two months of 2021. And of course it's Pisces time... a time to step back and allow the flow. Open to the magick. See behind the veil. Be guided by our inner knowing.

Sun, Venus and Neptune in Pisces... that's pretty luscious. Time for Magickal Love. And what better place to receive this than from our Divine Mother Earth.

The great Change Maker Uranus supports the pathway for this Magickal Love. It's all lined up ready for us to jump on board. Magick Autumn Blessings.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

Questions



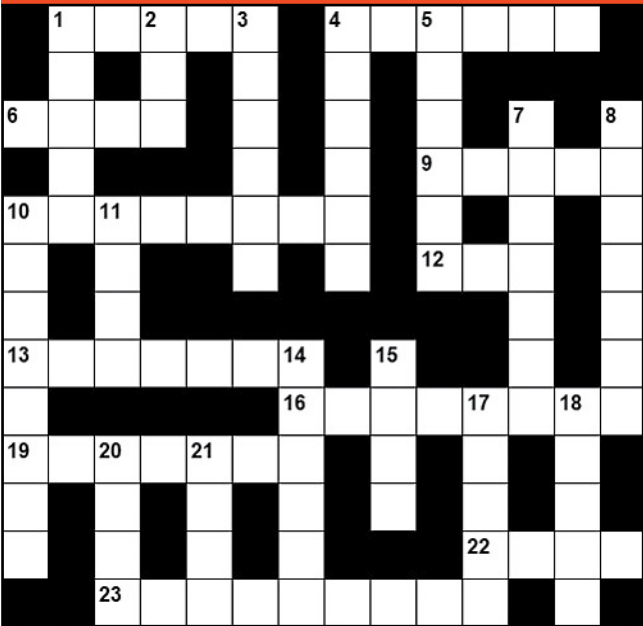
1. The subject of this photo is rare and vanishing fast. Do you know what it is? Add a bonus point if you know where it is. Hint: it's one of the last places that you'd look for one of these. (Photo: abc.net.au)
2. Is the language Farsi spoken in Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq or Ireland?
3. Are Cosmo Gordon, Quatrefoil, Piccalilli and Savonarola butterflies, flowers, gay movies or 19th century English novels?
4. What is the next number in this sequence: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13?
5. What is the heaviest fleece ever shorn from a sheep?
6. It's your turn to pick up lunch. Your friend from the East End says "Well, I'll have a dog's eye and dead 'orse of course." What do you bring back from the shops?
7. Who has won eight of the last eleven Men's Australian Open Tennis tournaments? Bonus point each for which Australian last won and when.
8. Is this colour blue? Be careful!
9. The clavicitherium, ottavino, spinet and virginal are all forms of what musical instrument?
10. The letters A, E, I, O and R are the five most common letters in the English language. Can you put them in order of most frequently used in words to least?

- Answers
1. Eternity Glacier is one of only a handful of tropical glaciers left on the planet. It lies atop Puncak Jaya, a 4884m peak in Papua only a few hundred kilometres from the Equator. The bitter irony of its name is revealed by the fact that, at 0.5 km², it is only 1/40th of the size it was 50 years ago.
 2. Iraq. Also known as Persian, the language can trace its origins back 8,000 years.
 3. 19th century English novels.
 4. 21.
 5. In 2015, 41.1kg of wool was shorn from Chris the runaway sheep in the ACT. His fleece was twice his bodyweight and could have produced more than 70 jumpers or 570 pairs of socks according to Guardian Australia.
 6. Pie and sauce, of course.
 7. Novak Djokovic of Serbia. The last winner from Australia was Mark Edmondson in 1976.
 8. Nobody can say for sure. A scientist may say its wavelength is between 450 and 495 nanometres but philosophers have been arguing about it since Aristotle. What a person perceives when seeing such light is known only to them and no other can know what it is that they perceive.
 9. They are all forms of the harpsichord.
 10. E (11%), A (8.5%), R (7.6%), I (7.5%), O (7.2%).

Nimbin Crossword

2021-03

by 5ynic



Across

1. Make? Skill
4. Riches
6. ---- Navalny (Russian opposition leader)
9. Storms
10. Final stop
12. Knighthood? British order of chivalry (init.)
13. Hard shelled reptiles (all the way down)
16. Secret knowledge
19. Russian playwright (Uncle Vanya, The Seagull)
22. 2, 4, 6...
23. Repentant, remorseful

Down

1. Split (of an iceberg for example)
2. --- en Provence (city in South East France)
3. Wag
4. quaint or fanciful
5. Slowly (music)
7. Train track support? Un-activated spy
8. Muslim
10. Male gonad
11. Brisbane's A-league soccer team
14. Strict, harsh
15. Go bust?
17. Spreadsheet? Perform exceptionally well
18. Alphabetical list of page numbers
20. Never?
21. Execute.

Solution: Page 28



Has Your Hot Water System Been Checked Lately?

Ever Heard Of A Sacrificial Anode?

A sacrificial anode is a vital part of your water system, and having it inspected can be the difference between an efficiently working system and a costly replacement.

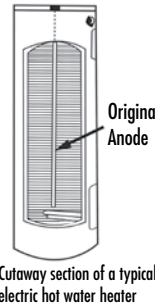
Manufacturers recommend that you maintain the anode in your system in order to prevent damage from rust + corrosion. After its 5th birthday – warranty expires.

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Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 27

	C	R	A	F	T		W	E	A	L	T	H	
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It's raining diamonds on Neptune

by Lucas Verhelst

Neptune, the Ice Giant's beautiful bluish hue consists of compounds that include hydrogen and helium such as water (H₂O), ammonia (NH₃) and methane (CH₄), making it truly "icy."

This hydrogen-helium atmosphere is 3,000 kilometres thick, generating an atmospheric pressure more than one million times greater than the atmospheric pressure on Earth, making the ammonia and methane chemically reactive.

Dr. Marvin Ross of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California says the methane separates into the carbon and hydrogen atoms that form it, and that clusters of isolated carbon atoms are then squeezed into diamond crystals, which is the most stable form of carbon under such conditions.

A frozen diamond droplet begins to fall from a cloud during a storm, but is pushed back up into the cloud by a strong updraft of wind. It gathers new layers as it falls when it touches other isolated diamonds, allowing individual diamond blocks to reach a size metres in diameter.

When the diamond is lifted, it hits other diamonds. Those diamonds then freeze together, adding another layer to it. The



diamond eventually falls when it becomes too heavy to remain in the cloud, or when the updraft stops or slows down.

Diamond is denser than the methane and ammonia clouds, so the diamonds would start to fall toward the planet's surface as diamond rain forming oceans of diamond.

"Diamond bergs" would float atop a 17,500 kilometre deep ocean of diamond surrounding the rocky core of Neptune. This diamond ocean may consist of blocks of solid diamond – or, if the temperature is extremely high (as some planet models suggest), it might transform into liquid diamond, or a mix of solid diamond and liquid diamond.

Diamond rain releases gravitational energy, which is converted to heat by friction between the diamonds as they fall. This internal energy source accounts for the surprisingly violent storms that are observed on

the planet's surface which in turn will generate even more diamond rain resulting in Neptune emitting more energy than it receives from the Sun.

Exotic rain is just the start of Neptune's talents. Unlike Earth's magnetic field, the fields around Neptune are not symmetrical, and they don't extend from each pole. The ice giant fields originate in a thin, rather variable layer of conducting metallic hydrogen formed as a by-product of making diamonds.

Other exotic processes inside the planet also contribute to its magnetic fields. For instance, the formation of super-ionic structures of water and ammonia, in which hydrogen ions can move freely through a crystal lattice of oxygen or nitrogen, add to the conducting material of the magnetic fields.

A favourable alignment of the planets will occur in 2030. The planets of our Solar

System will be aligned in such a way that a spacecraft could launch and reach Neptune by 2040.

Another fortuitous alignment of the planets will not come for another two generations. A new space probe mission to Neptune would not only add a wealth of information about the planet's internal processes, it could potentially pay for itself.

NASA is currently considering such a mission to discover how such planets have formed in our Solar System and others.

Mission: Diamond Rain, Impossible? Exploring the ice giant up close and learning more about the Solar System's intriguing diamond world will be difficult but not impossible which would make it a walk in the park for the Impossible Mission Force.

But, with so many other demands on our time and resources, why even explore space in the first place? The answer is simple and even more necessary now than ever before, the more we learn about others the more we learn about ourselves, to know others is wisdom, to know yourself is enlightenment.

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Banteng sausages anyone?

by Pobblebonk and Oink

The Australian Government signed the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance) in Ramsar, Iran on 2nd February 1971.

John Grey Gorton was our prime minister at the time. The world's first listed Wetland of International Importance was Australia's Cobourg Peninsula, the most northern mainland part of the Northern Territory. Almost all of the peninsular is now Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.

Pobblebonk and Oink spent a week camped up on the Cobourg Peninsula not so long ago, visiting Victoria Settlement, and other nearby parts of Arnhem Land and later Kakadu.

In 1838, a British outpost was established on the peninsula at Port Essington, called Victoria Settlement. To supply meat to the outpost, 20 Banteng cattle (*Bos javanicus*) were brought from Bali. This northern dream ended in 1849 and the settlement was abandoned and the cattle released.

Today there are 5,000-10,000 Banteng on the peninsular. The Banteng largely frequent the swampy areas that led to the listing of the place under the Ramsar Convention. The Banteng are damaging the national park,



Wild Banteng, Huai Kha Khaeng. Photo: Rushen – Bos Javanicus

and the wetlands in particular.

Problem is, Banteng are an endangered species, and Australia now supports the largest population in the world of this threatened beastie! Not only that, in other places the Banteng have hybridised with other cattle, while the isolated Cobourg Peninsula population has remained pure.

There are currently five species of cattle recognised in the genus *Bos*: *Bos gaurus* (Gaur) with four subspecies; *Bos javanicus* (Banteng) with three subspecies; *Bos mutus* (Yak); *Bos sauveli* (Kouprey); and *Bos primigenius* (Aurochs) with possibly five subspecies.

The Aurochs is an interesting nomenclatural story, similar to that of the horses of an earlier *Nimbin GoodTimes* article. Cattle were originally identified by Linnaeus as three separate species. These were: *Bos taurus*, the European domestic cattle; *Bos indicus*, the humped Indus cattle (also domestic); and *Bos primigenius*, the Aurochs. Aurochs are the cattle depicted in Neanderthal cave paintings at places like Lascaux, in

France. Linnaeus never saw a living Aurochs.

Sadly, they were extinct by the early 1600s, nearly 100 years before his birth. The Aurochs is ancestral to both Indus and European cattle. Recently these three have increasingly been grouped sub-specifically, with *Bos primigenius taurus*, *Bos primigenius indicus* and *Bos primigenius primigenius*, because, like the horse, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature opined that species should not be named after domestic animals but rather wild species, even if the domestic-based name predates the wild-based name.

Other cattle types are the African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), Asian buffalos (5 *Bubalus* species), the American and European bison (*Bison bison* and *B. bonasus*, respectively) and the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), possibly the world's rarest mammal, first known to zoologists in 1992 when it was 'discovered' in a

forested area of Vietnam.

Like the Banteng, the Asian water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalus*) was imported into Australia in the early 1800s to supply meat to remote northern settlements. They too were released when settlements failed, with even more devastating environmental consequences. Their population rose to about 350,000 head prior to extensive culling in the 1980s, as part of the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign.

Their numbers are still high, with probably 100,000 head or more across Northern Australia. They have wreaked havoc on Arnhem Land's Arafura Swamp, extensively altering the drainage.

We have much to regret about our abuse, purposeful and otherwise, of Northern Australia. Our environmental stewardship and our disregard for our Aboriginal people has been, and continues to be, appalling. But more about that at another time.

As Pobblebonk and Oink put the water on to boil for a cuppa, they chatted about the Cobourg Peninsula Banteng and what should be done with this feral species? Oink said, "We should eat 'em!" Pobblebonk wasn't so sure... Hooroo.

Contact Pobblebonk and Oink by email: pobble.bonk@gmail.com

MATURE AGE MUSIC

The world according to
Magenta Appel-Pye

I specialise in teaching piano to adults. I enjoy the challenge and love to give people a skill they have always wanted. As we age, we tend to stick with the activities we have studied and worked hard on in our youth. Think of driving and how difficult it was to start with. Over the years the skills become automatic.

Because we are so used to being good at what we do, the hardest struggle for seniors is their ego. It is hard being asked to use fingers in a certain way and being appalled to find out that what looks easy is not.

I ask my students to leave their judgemental selves outside and come to the lesson with a child's sense of enthusiasm and open-mindedness. But they all say, "I don't know why it's so hard!"

You don't know the symbols, understand the sounds, or know how to use your fingers. You have to think about and co-ordinate two hands doing different things at the same time! And learn to read music. And count. And lay down new neural pathways. You must learn to enjoy being out of your comfort zone.

The canyon between the dream of sitting down and playing the piano like we see others



doing, seemingly effortlessly, is massive. You have to be content to play at the level you are at. There is no competition, no judgement, no end goal except to play a piece well enough that you enjoy it. And to keep your brain active.

It's not for the faint-hearted, but for those who want to delve deeper into the beautiful world of music, have a passion that will last a lifetime, and a skill that keeps your brain growing rather than disintegrating.

It has been discovered, as neurologists tell their patients, that there is nothing better than learning a musical instrument. And you will never be bored.



She says

Maybe the problem is not your wife, but you. Does everyone else mumble as well or is it just her?

Are you actively listening to her when she speaks, or only letting the sound vibrations pass speedily through your ears so as not to disturb you reading your phone, or some important thing that you were thinking?

When you were young did you hang on to her every word, her mellifluous voice ringing sweetly in your ears replayed over and over again as you went to sleep, her words of love cherished? But now she mumbles like she doesn't even expect to be heard.

Mumbling seems like passive/aggressive behaviour. Maybe she stopped trying to communicate with you properly years ago because there wasn't compassionate, intelligent, two-way communication happening. A grunt is not a loving response. If this is the case you could both do a Non-Violent Communication course, or at least buy the book, and read it together.

Or perhaps things have gotten boring and you know each other's stories and don't bother to listen or enunciate clearly because it's all so predictable. In which case you need to get out separately so that when you come home you have something new to talk about.

It is vital to do something because mumbling, grunting and no communication are the death of interesting, friendly, loving relationships.

Or maybe she is mumbling curses, swear words and threats under her breath. It would behoove you to find out what she is saying. Ask her politely to speak up and listen like you did when you were young.

Here's an idea, you could ask her questions about what she is saying. If it is negative about you, work out a way to deal with it and if it is too hard, go to a marriage guidance counsellor.

If it still sounds like mumbling, go and get your ears checked.

Mumbler

My wife mumbles a lot. She didn't do this when we were young. What's happening here?

– Art Iqulayte, Mummulgum

by Uncle Norm and Aunty Maj

HE says

Perhaps you are going deaf. If so, that's great! You've got the perfect excuse for not having to listen to your missus or anyone else for that matter.

My old Mum (may she rest in peace) was deaf as a post and refused to get hearing aids because she reckoned that most of what people said was shit.

Another theory is that you have a classic case of spousal deafness. Well, don't we all?

I think however, this is being combined with your wife having a spousal speech impediment. What have you done? I suspect you haven't the slightest clue.

So, end result, the marriage is in the toilet and you, poor schmuk, don't even know it.

Don't you ever ask, "What was that Dear?" or at least "Can you stop mumbling... Dear?"

I suspect the reason she's mumbling is she doesn't want you to hear what she is really thinking.

I have to admit that I dread when my little bellabusta stops talking and gives me the silent treatment. So at least yours is still mumbling at you.

Here's your options. Ask her why she mumbles at you. This could result in World War 3, but resolve satisfactorily... or not.

Conversely, you could say and do nothing. As long as she's still mumbling there's no problem, right? Finally, mumble back.

You're welcome.

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realise that what you heard is not exactly what I meant."

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

Dialogues

by S Sorrensen

I don't know why I bother.
Bother about what?

Oh, you know, my volunteering stuff: the local RFS, the school fundraisers, the community gardens. All that sort of thing.

Well, it's a good thing to do. You help fellow Australians. You contribute to the community.

Why wouldn't you want to do that?

It's pointless.

No. Public service is always honourable and helps everyone.

Public service? Isn't that what politicians do?

Well, yes.

But polities get paid, right?

Yes.

Really, really, well paid.

Not the local council polities, no.

They don't get much.

That's true. They still have contact with reality. But the state and federal politicians get paid really well, right?

Yes. But it's a big responsibility, running a country and –

And they get money paid into their super for life, even if they quit, right?

Yeah, I think so, but their service –

And they get a car, flights for them and their family, computers, phones, \$280-plus a day for travel expenses, tickets to the grand final, chopper flights to parties... Well...

As well as their six-figure base salary.

Yes, I guess. But what's your point?

So, you reckon politics attracts people who want to serve the public and not greedy self-serving scammers.

I'm sure some –

They get to decide what pay they get, yeah?

Yes.

And they decide what pay I get, right?

Are you on unemployment benefits?

Yes, Jobseeker, since Covid.

Well, yes, then the government decides your benefit. And I know you have been given an increase, so –

\$3.60 a day.

Not bad for doing nothing, eh?

It's an insult, that's what it is.

The real bludgers here are the politicians.

Bludgers? I don't think that's fair.

No, you're right. 'Bludgers' is not fair. 'Criminals' is more accurate. These criminals are smugly presiding over the destruction of the environment, which means that they're intentionally inflicting pain on this generation and all generations to come, and on all living things. And they're getting paid for it.

It's a complex issue. There are –

No it's not. Let me explain it to you: when ecosystems break down through abuse and neglect, the physical and civic structures that sustain life break down. Simple. As the previous 200,000 years of humanity understood.

And as everyone who hasn't got a finger in the corporate pie understands.



Oh. I get it. You're an alarmist greenie.

Meanwhile, this jobseeker is fighting fires fuelled by government-assisted climate change and quick-buck land mismanagement. This alarmist is selling raffle tickets to support children's education while polities give buckets of public money to societal vandals. So, why should I bother with free public service in the face of this treason by the government.

Whoa. "Criminals"? That's a bit radical. You –

Actually, you're right. "Criminals" is not the best word. I reckon "child abusers", "murderers", "arsonists", "vandals", "thieves", "liars", "traitors"... Oh dear. You're having a bad day, aren't you?

No! No. Yeah... Sorry about that. I don't know where all that stuff comes from. Anyway, I'm off to the community gardens. Might buy a coffee on the way with my \$3.60. A small one...



Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

Dedicated followers of this column (hello mum) would be cognisant of my on-going melodrama which is the olfactory challenge of the purely fictional provincial township of Bathenstool, that glorious tourist-free destination built at the confluence of the out-pourings of two sewerage works.

In recent days, the stinky city has hosted an almost silent revolution, a sneaky eruption, where a seasoned citizen sewage worker, Micturia, was elected by her colleagues to wield the muck-rake of office and wash down the walls of the chamber with the mayoral hose of destiny.

This was unexpected. The

Weiners take over Bathenstool

big gig was expected to fall to the mature number two: leading bum-burger, Phillis Flatus. However, Flatus had a fundamental failing, he was and is full of shit and couldn't be believed, and this meant he couldn't win over the Weiners.

Few are aware of the growing power of the Weiners in Bathenstool, but this small but influential grouping of outcasts and victimised avante guard, guard their favours well. And they would be avenged.

For throughout the last term of governance, the council had taken on the new help – and as we all know it's hard to get good help. The help they did engage wasn't much help and would be better described as just 'The Harm'.

And 'The Harm' and friends, having been given the job of running the sewerage works, had set about deceiving, destroying and disempowering the very people who had given them the position in the first place.

Their campaign of disempowerment included the denial of access to information, the provision of false and misleading advice, and what really ended The Harm's tenure: a brutal and top-down budget which gutted the workings of both the sewerage farms.

If the Harm and friends had thought the Weiners would accept their new place as chocolate tunnel chumps, they were much mistaken. The deal was made in Denmark, (a famous local bar) over a dark and stormy ale, and The Harm's days were numbered and the Weiners would prevail.

For no sooner had the worker's representative lifted the muck-rake of office than it had descended onto the neck of The Harm, and the tap was turned on and the hose washed the chamber clean.

And so it is and has always been in Bathenstool: the toilets are flushing and the river is unclean.

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**Draft Nimbin
Disaster Plan:**
drop in and tell us your thoughts

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6 PM - 8 PM
NIMBIN TOWN HALL



OPEN TO ALL
DROP IN AT ANYTIME

Following the community workshops in February, the draft disaster plan will be on exhibition for feedback from the community.

You can complete the feedback form or drop into this session to let us know what you think.



Student representatives and school captains induction

by Dan Buckley,
SRC Co-ordinator

On Tuesday 23rd February we held our annual induction ceremony at Nimbin Central School to welcome our new Secondary School Captains, Vice Captains and the 17 SRC students from years 7-11.

We would like to congratulate our 2021 School Captains, Kiani Tribolet and Harry Jobson as well as our Vice Captains,

Alex Ryffel-Hughes and Bonnie Whitney.

Our Primary School Captains were formally acknowledged during the same assembly. We congratulate our 2021 Primary School Captains, Amelie Sledge and Yuta Penn, as well as our Primary SRC representatives, Amber Bradley, Francis Terry and Rezna Bels.

We look forward to seeing the achievements of our new SRC during 2021.

Community connections



by Stephen Gallen, Director

"Connections are made slowly, sometimes they grow underground. You cannot always tell by looking at what is happening. More than half a tree is spread out in the soil under your feet. Penetrate quietly as the earthworm that blows no trumpet."

— from *Connections* by Marge Piercy

It's a new year at Cawongla Playhouse, with some old hands returning, and some new arrivals being welcomed.

At this time of year, we really notice the joys, the challenges and the complexities of how a group forms – and how a community comes together.

Relationships and connections spark and sputter, some fall apart and others take hold. There are powerful moments of shared experience and solidarity. And then there are equally intense flashes of conflict, insecurity and discomfort.

Beneath it all, the repeated experience of being together day after day, living and playing, working together begins to have an impact.

Slowly, quietly, gradually something emerges. Something that can't be rushed, can't be pushed, can't be faked.

It's an amazing privilege to see these very young children collectively and on their own terms build and experience something so rich and valuable – a community of their own.

Secondary student achievements recognised

Nimbin Central School held its re-scheduled 2020 Secondary Presentation Assembly on 9th February. 73 students received awards, with several receiving multiple awards.

Among the presentations were several new awards, in the categories of Agriculture, Sustainable Futures, Innovation and Resilience.

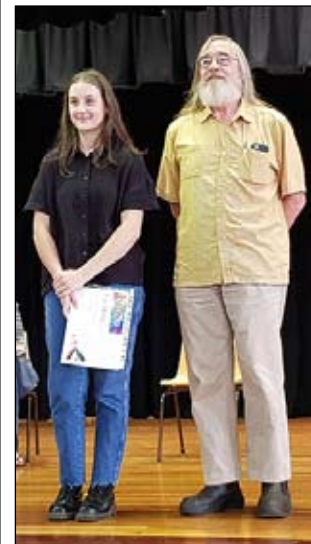
Two Nimbin CWA Resilience Awards were presented to Beth Cooper-Wares and Aden Morgan by Nimbin CWA President Linnet Pike.

These awards were initiated by the late Faye Scherf.

The Primary School Resilience Awards were given by Nimbin Community School. Zoe Farmer and Cruz Gower were presented with their awards by Judy Hales.

The *Nimbin GoodTimes* 'Write On' award was presented to Ellen Adlington of Year 9 (now Year 10) by Bob Dooley.

The Nimbin Artists Gallery award went to Ocea Watson, a student in the same Year.



Write On Award winner Ellen Adlington



Resilience Award winner Aden Morgan

New kindy kids settle in at Nimbin



Nimbin Central School has welcomed the new 2021 kindergarten students.

They are thoroughly enjoying all things at "big school", including learning through play.

We have learnt the school routines, and have enjoyed making new friendships, developing a sense of belonging at Nimbin Central.

Thank you to our P&C for gifting every new kindergarten student a new school hat to ensure they are able to play freely in break times.

We look forward to sharing updates with you throughout the year.



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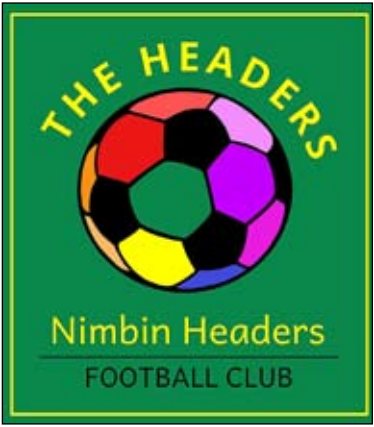
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Happy times for the Headers



by Torsten Wittkopf

It is that time of the year again for Nimbin Headers, the start of another season. The club is abuzz with activity. Fields are being prepared, the canteen is being cleaned and organised, senior training has begun, and new balls and equipment are being ordered. After last year's success, despite Covid-19 throwing a spanner in the works, the Headers are anticipating another great year. More senior players than previous years have already signed up. At this stage, registrations for Miniroos and juniors remain low, so if you are a parent of children aged between 5 and 16, I urge you to consider signing your child up to this fantastic sport. After all, soccer has the highest participation rate by far, ahead of any other sport in Australia. This is naturally for good reason; the sport is safe, it teaches kids life skills as well as football skills, kids love being part of a team and their team mates often become lifelong

friends. The heart of the community beats for the community on the soccer pitch. All the fans of the Nimbin Headers who watch grand final games, speak of this with their attendance and jubilation when the Nimbin Headers come away with a win. All the players in the 1st division men's team started as young kids and they have now grown into young men and have become the backbone of the community. Sign your child up to play and watch their journey unfold. The moment your child straps the boots on, they will gain an untold number of like-minded friends and so will you. Go the mighty Headers!

Women's Football in Nimbin

by Carol Boomsma

The Football Far North Coast season officially started at the end of February, with a record number of senior teams across the region competing in the pre-season competitions, the men's ANZAC Cup and women's Callan McMillan Memorial Shield. The Nimbin Headers Women's teams have been training now for three weeks, in anticipation and excitement of the upcoming preseason competition. After not being held in 2020 due to insufficient nominations, this year the Callan McMillan returns with an impressive 12 team nominations across the region. Much of the excitement around female football comes

from the 26% increase in female participation across Northern NSW over the last five years, according to Football Far North Coast. This year, Nimbin Headers Sports Club have easily attracted the numbers to field two women's teams. Many of our past players have signed up again, some for their 11th consecutive season. What makes us come back year after year? Long term player Marlaina Garcia explains how football "...offers each of its members a moment each week to focus, connect with others and to be our best selves. "It challenges us physically to push ourselves; psychologically to lift and critically examine our skills; emotionally to give ourselves to a cause beyond ourselves, our families, our immediate lives." New players are welcome, and this year we have quite a few joining us for their first season. Many of our players are from Nimbin and surrounding areas, some travelling from Lismore and beyond. They come to this club because they have ties to the community, or simply because they want to be part of something special. Our women's team helps exemplify the Nimbin Headers Sports Club's reputation for fairness and inclusion. For many of us, football is not just about fun and fitness, it's about friendships and community. We have two coaches this year. Nigel Hayes, a Nimbin Headers stalwart, is back to support, encourage and motivate the 4th division team. We are so grateful to



2020 Headers Women's team photo with their awesome coach Nigel Hayes

Nigel for what he brings to training and game days. Boud Jansen has kindly volunteered to coach the 3rd division team this year. New to the club in 2021, Boud brings enthusiasm and wisdom to the team. Volunteers like Nigel and Boud are the backbone of community sports clubs, and we thank them for their contributions. Community members are

encouraged to be involved in the club. If this sounds like you and you'd like to find out more about how to get involved, please get in touch either via our Facebook page or by email: nimbinheaderssportsclub@gmail.com Keep an eye on the Nimbin Headers Sports Club Facebook page for upcoming games, and come down to support your teams and your club.



2021 Nimbin Headers Women training at Nimbin Central MPU

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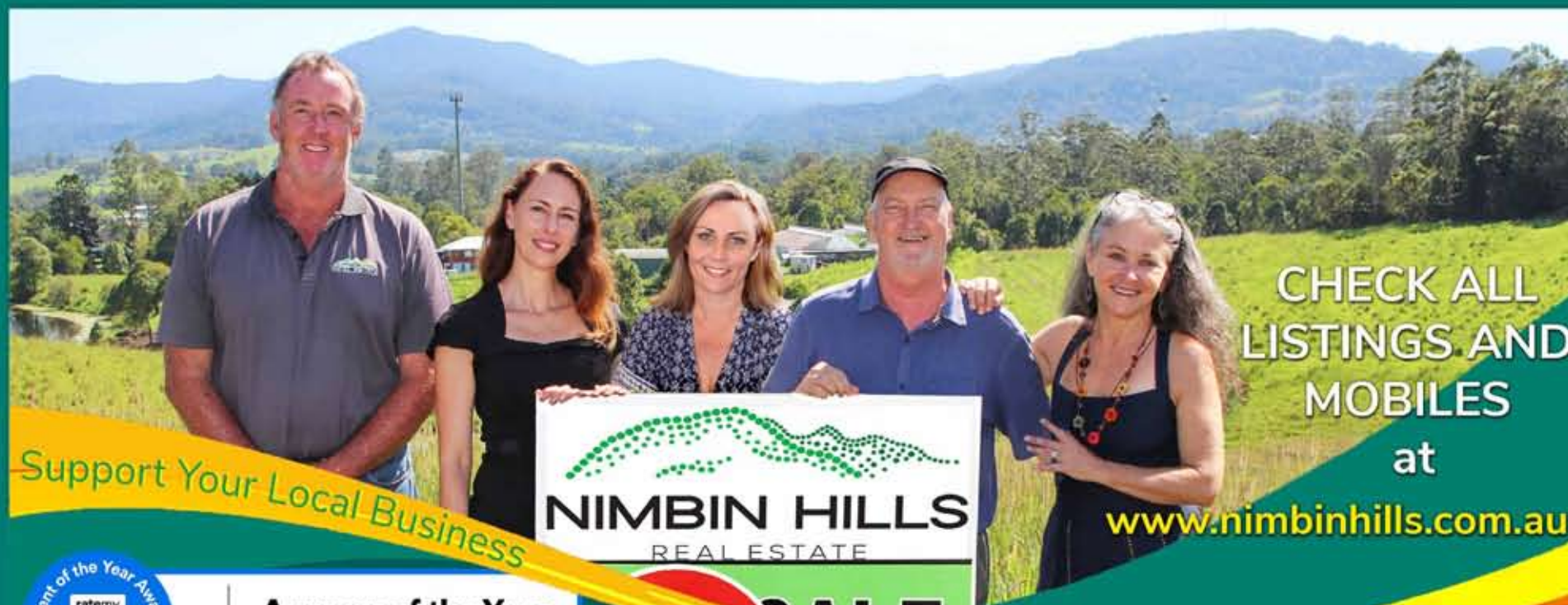
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