

Persephone and the Lunar Nodes: Healing the collective shadow

The year starts with Venus being retrograde in Capricorn followed by Mercury turning retrograde on January 14th. Before we can rush into 2022 with new plans and incentives, we may join Persephone on her journey through the underworld and get in contact with our deeper self, the place of inner processing, review and reflection. Venus will be direct again on January 29th while Mercury turns direct on February 4th. The Lunar nodes shift signs on January 18th, moving from the Gemini/Sagittarius axis to Taurus/Scorpio.

The Nodes of fate and destiny are the portals to the otherworld, past and future. The South Node in Scorpio symbolises the place of trauma, which has accumulated over many generations. During the next 18 months, we are all destined to face our collective woundedness. Instead of unconsciously acting out and projecting onto others, we have the choice to engage in real healing work. The Taurus North Node indicates that pain can be healed through remaining grounded in the here and now, by planting a garden, being in the body and aligning with the Earth. The Nodes will remain in these signs until July 2023.

Pluto moves through the last degrees of Capricorn

The conjunction between Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn on January 12th, 2020 changed the course of our collective and personal lives. It correlated with the start of the pandemic and it also was the peak of the Black Summer bush fires in Australia. The big reset button was pressed. The discussion whether it has been done by intent (pandemic) or if it happened by accident has been contentious and divisive.

Pluto is now moving through the last degrees of Capricorn until March 2023 when the Lord of the underworld enters the next sign Aquarius for the first time since 1797. Pluto is crisis and empowerment. It symbolises the shivaite principle of death and rebirth. Pluto destroys what is not working anymore and rebuilds by tapping into new possibilities. Pluto has to do with finality and the struggle to bring the collective shadow to light. The Lord of the Underworld has been traversing through Capricorn since 2008.

During this entire period, we have been witnessing the destruction and re-modelling of long-standing societal institutions including universities, schools and hospitals. Global wealth has vastly moved to large corporations owned by a small elite while overall the surveillance and policing of the masses has gone rampant. This process has accelerated since 2020 and is not over yet; it will continue during 2022.

Venus in Capricorn is retrograde until January 29th signalling a time of re-evaluation. Our relationships including our attitude to values, money and possessions is under review: questioning if the way we spend our money and time supports our true goals, values and humanity.

Jupiter as the only outer planet changing signs during 2022

Jupiter re-entered Pisces on December 29th, 2021 and will ingress into Aries on May 11th. Jupiter in sensitive Pisces signals a time of inner journeying. The Great Protector of the solar system assists with healing the inner chaos before he enters fiery Aries. This shift from the last sign of the zodiac to the first sign presents elements of the old making way for the new and gives incentive to move forward versus only dreaming about it, especially after the inner work has been finalised.

When visionary Jupiter travels through pioneering Aries we might feel the impulse to deal with the crisis in a new way, searching for fresh possibilities and opportunities. Jupiter in Aries encourages the authentic self in us, the desire to be master of our own destiny, take risks and embrace the future with new eyes and energy. Under Jupiter in Aries innovations and entrepreneurship may flourish as more people want to become their own master. Jupiter will be in Pisces again during October 29th until December 21st and then continues his journey through Aries until May 17th, 2023.

The Jupiter-Neptune conjunction in Pisces on April 12th: New hope and optimism versus inflated expectations

The Jupiter-Neptune conjunction occurs every 13 years usually moving from one sign to the next. The last time Jupiter and Neptune met was in 2009 but hasn't been in Pisces since 1856. Jupiter and Neptune are both well placed in Pisces. Jupiter enhances the otherworldliness of Neptune when aligning in the watery realms of this mystical and mysterious sign.



This is good news for artistic projects that thrive on imagination and inspiration as new trends in creative expression are stimulated. Jupiter and Neptune aim for unity and peaceful exchange, dissolve boundaries and inspire humanitarian values. On the downside, these energies can create inflated expectations and paint a too rosy picture. In political terms, the Jupiter – Neptune conjunction tends “to bring a swing to the left with democratic, socialist or even revolutionary tendencies” (Andre Barbault) and is also associated with times of inflation. Jupiter and Neptune tend to bring major flooding that especially impacts people living in coastal areas. In summary, this conjunction will be a subtle influence through most of 2022, softening the edges and bringing new hope and optimism.

The Saturn – Uranus square is lingering on through the 2nd half of the year

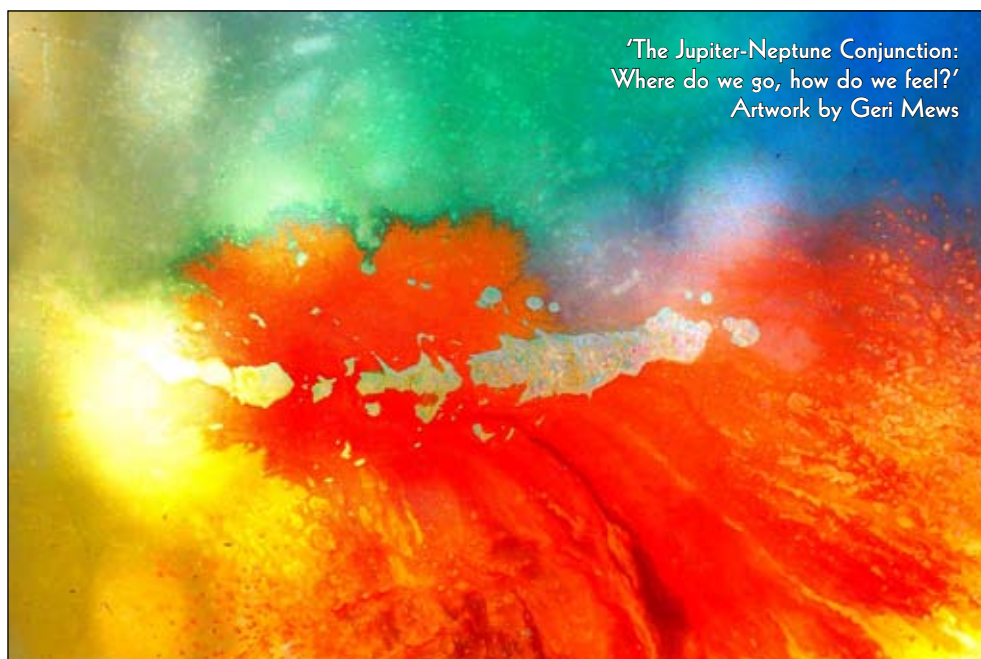
The most important outer planetary configuration during 2021 was the waning Saturn-Uranus square. It had its last exact alignment on December 23rd. Even though they will not meet anymore during 2022 on the exact degree, they will remain close enough for their influence to be felt, especially during January and again September/October/November. Their core theme is the irreconcilable tension that exist between the human urge for freedom and the rights of the individual (Uranus) versus the constraints, control and demands that society puts onto us (Saturn in Aquarius). This has been manifesting and expressing itself in the ongoing discussion on how to deal with the pandemic, the many lockdowns and vaccination policies that have

created the mental stress, anxieties and divisions of the last 12 months. We can expect another wave of the same influence starting most likely in August when Uranus will be conjunct Mars in Taurus and the North Node while forming a square with Saturn in Aquarius. Saturn will bring the reality check regarding any new incentives that started earlier in the year. Jupiter will be retrograde from the end of July until the end of November initiating a time of review and reconsideration of rules or newly introduced laws. Their legitimacy might be questioned by those with open minds. Travel could be a problem again. Many astrologers believe that the pandemic and issues related to it will finally shift when Saturn enters Pisces and Pluto enters Aquarius in March 2023.

Mars retrograde in Gemini brings uncertainty and communication meltdowns at the end of the year

Mars, the warrior planet turns retrograde every 2nd year and then spends about 6-7 months in a sign instead of 6 weeks. Mars enters Gemini on August 21st, will remain in the sign of the twins until the 26th of March 2023, and will be retrograde from October 29th until January 12th, 2023. Mars in Gemini is by nature restless and keeping grounded will be an issue. The retrograde phase is historically an intense time and one can imagine that the red planet will trigger a lot of mental stress, anxiety, communication meltdowns and accidents. It is easy to get into power struggles with those who are in authoritative roles and want to control others. In general, Mars is the principle of action and energy, but when retrograde, it depletes vitality and is frustrating when initiating new projects. Similar to Mercury retrograde, it is a period for reviewing and correcting plans and incentives. However, with Mars we will also review how we manage anger and conflict in our interaction with others. During this time, our approach to conflict, assertiveness and taking action requires rethinking, regrouping and reintegrating. We may be required to draw on our strengths and assert ourselves in some area where we have been too reserved, cautious or inexperienced and might need to find new ways to become empowered. Above all, Mars retrograde is a time when we need to align with our higher purpose, acknowledge our inner warrior energy and have the courage to stand up for our ideals. The danger exists that we can waste our time and energy with endless rhetoric that is devoid of any real action.

‘The Jupiter-Neptune Conjunction:
Where do we go, how do we feel?’
Artwork by Geri Mews



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Aries and Aries rising

The year starts with a sense of moving forward and initiating new projects. The pioneer within you is revived and you like to leap ahead. Your will to achieve is especially strong during February until mid-April. There could be a tendency of taking on too much and overstretching your resources. Plan for times of review and evaluation so that you can be assured to stay on the right course. Benefic Jupiter journeys through your sun sign from May 11 until October 29th and again from December 20th until May 2023 starting a new chapter in your life by updating and expanding your vision for the future. Nevertheless, stay connected with your intuition and pay attention to that inner voice in the background. Keep your accounts and energy levels in balance to be better prepared when your newly started incentives undergo a period of review from the end of July until the end of the year. Mars will be retrograde from October 29th until January 12th 2023 initiating a period of retracing your steps. Avoid being drawn into conflicts or power games with others as communication can prove difficult. Observe your own reactions, curb impulsiveness or spontaneously acting out to avoid accidents and injuries. From December 20th onwards you will find new purpose again and your journey into the future can continue.

Taurus and Taurus rising

This is another year of change for you and change doesn't come easy when you cherish certainty and stability. There are two eclipse seasons, May – June and October – November. These are times of heightened activities. While new projects and incentives can start in the first half of the year when your energy level is high, be aware that the second half might prove more difficult. This is a year of new beginnings and endings; new beginnings are possible when you can release what has outgrown your own growth process. February might be the best month for new activities and moving forward with your personal agenda. During March – May the focus shifts towards social responsibilities that could interfere with fulfilling your own needs. Your career might become more stressful during this period. That is why some caring friends can ease the pain and burden. You might look back to this time as a major turning point in your life where your value system and attitude towards life underwent a major shift.

You might want to break free during July – August which could open a new way of earning a living later on. Before this can materialise you need to undergo another period of testing during September/October. Instead of throwing out the baby with the bath water, evaluate what is worth keeping and what needs to go. A new chapter will finally open in 2023.

Gemini and Gemini rising

Some long forgotten relationship issues need addressing during January. Nothing less than a journey into the psychological underworld and a meeting with the 'dark twin' may be required. While facing and acknowledging what has been denied you can start healing and moving forward. This inward journey of contemplation provokes a process of changing habits and releasing old patterns so that you are refreshed and ready for envisaging a new life direction during March – July. New opportunities can open especially from May onwards that will bring you in contact with networks of like-minded souls who are supportive of your projects.

It is essential to stay connected to your deep self all through this year as it will be easy to lose the ground under your feet once Mars starts his prolonged journey through Gemini from August 20th until the end of March 2023. This is a period of extreme restlessness where your nervous system is stretched to its limits. If you do not give yourself the needed rest, your energy level can be depleted especially from late October through to the end of the year possibly leading to illness and accidents. Use this period for reviewing priorities and reflect on how you deal with anger and disappointment. Once you are aligned with your true purpose you will know which path to follow, when to act and when to withdraw.

Cancer and Cancer rising

Personal relationships are under review during January and you may want to re-write contracts while working on a new balance. Create space for fresh developments during 2022/23. February – April is the time for a vision quest where you imagine new frontiers while experiencing a phase of hope and optimism. This is a good time for getting in touch with your long-term dreams and start working on their fulfillment. New doors can open during this year especially from mid-May until end-October and then again from December 20st until March 2023 when lucky Jupiter moves through your Solar 10th house. This could signal the start of a new chapter with a fresh perspective on life. Prepare the ground by adjusting, changing and shifting inner and outer boundaries and restrictions that are too limiting for your creative growth.

From the end of July onwards projects and new activities will be under review as you retrace your steps while making sure that you are on the right course. From the end of October until January 2023 unexpected obstacles may block your way forward and need to be dealt with. However, you might not have all the necessary information. Forcing things ahead might deplete your energy especially during October/November. Better to wait it out as the positive flow of energy starts moving again by the end of the year.

Leo and Leo rising

A deep dive into your emotional and psychic reality will bring new insights and growth opportunities especially during the early parts of the year. You might hear the call to adventure from mid-May onwards. Wherever your journey takes you during the earlier parts of the year, you need to prepare for a return by the end of July, until you finally can continue with your adventure in late December. New initiatives to do with travel, higher learning, teaching or even publishing your work are opening, especially if you are looking for them. On the other hand, you might have to review your vision for the future from late July all the way through to the end of November. This will prepare you for the growth process that take place in 2023.

Major endings and new beginnings have to do with your life-direction and greater goals in life. Portals can open unexpectedly during mid-April to the end of May while release and purging of old energetic patterns is especially powerful from mid-October until mid-November. Overall, some critical decisions might be necessary as you have to make choices between career, relationship demands and family goals. The challenge is to find a healthy balance between moving ahead with your worldly plans and the demands of your personal life.

Virgo and Virgo rising

The vibes in the early part of the year will make you especially sensitive towards the demands of others. Your capacity for compassion, unconditional love and the wish to help is amplified. It could even be the case that you attract needy people. From mid-May until the end of October and then again from December 20th until March 2023 opportunities of growth come through tapping into hidden resources, your own and those of others. You may find that people who you supported before are returning the gift. Restrictions and limitations might have to do with the reality of your daily life and how well you can manage to maintain a healthy body-mind-soul equilibrium. Check your workload especially during March-April. You might feel driven to take on too much.

During the end of October until January 2023 you might experience a more competitive environment with too many big fishes in a small pond who are fighting for their territory and recognition. Try not to buy into conflict as communication is difficult during this period. Instead, use this time for reviewing and correcting plans. February is probably the best month for starting a new project and moving forward with your goals.

Libra and Libra rising

Your work and daily routine can be very satisfying and inspiring during the first few months of the year. Dedication to detail may open a new perspective as your microcosmic vision is amplified. This can include some practical improvements to your health. Develop a daily routine that will enhance your well-being in years to come. Be careful with overindulging in sweet and fatty foods. From mid-May onwards until end-October and again from December 20th until March 2023 opportunities for growth come through your relationships with others. June is especially favorable for initiating new partnerships – personal or business that will undergo a period of review, evaluation and sorting out the details from end-July until the end of November.

The long visit of Mars in Gemini in your house of travel, studies and vision from July 20th until March 2023 will challenge and change your perspective. The task is to resolve details without getting lost in them. Knowing how to navigate in the general direction is the priority. From late October until January 2023 it is especially important to keep an open mind as one could easily be drawn into a battle of beliefs. Invest in projects that are close to your heart and are worth your while.

Scorpio and Scorpio rising

Over the next 18 months you will leave much behind. It is truly a time of endings and new beginnings and sometimes it might feel as if fate is playing tricks on you. The good thing is that lessening the load will free time, space and energy for imagining new projects for the future. Your creative potential and energy is enhanced and you could branch out in new areas of creative expression. Your hobby could become your job during the later part of the year and especially also in 2023. Nevertheless, there are a few obstacles on the way which have to do with your domestic life and the many obligations to do with it.

There never seems to be enough time to do it all, which has sometimes a negative effect on your relationships. This is the area requiring more attention and positive input during 2022. March – April and July – August might be periods of testing how well your relationship is working. Unresolved relating issues will surface and need to be dealt with. Then again, the eclipses during the year are taking effect in Scorpio and Taurus. Mid-April – end-May and mid-October until mid-November are periods of heightened activity where sudden endings and new beginnings can eventuate. It is the time of shifting and changing!

Sagittarius and Sagittarius rising

During the first part of 2022 you may want to make improvements to your existing home, making it more comfortable, or building an extension. If you want to move, this might be a good time. Seeing the big picture, is your forte, but during this period your perspective is expanded including your ability to be compassionate towards others, especially your family. This is especially the case if you work on your communication skills as this is your area of testing and learning until March 2023. It appears that 2022 is another year spent in your local environment, even though Sagittarius likes the far away and loves travelling. From mid-May until the end of July new business ventures are favoured, especially if they are of a creative nature. 'Retrace your steps' is the slogan for the later part of the year, especially from end- July until end-November while a more difficult relationship period might start by the end of October lasting until January 2023. Everybody seems to be more frustrated because of a general lack of progress which can cause interpersonal communication meltdown. Take it as a period of supporting others through their personal dilemmas, be generous in your heart instead of getting into conflict.

Capricorn and Capricorn rising

The year starts with a time of reflection and review. Examine possibilities and prioritise what is really important to you. During January, you can say goodbye to outdated values while freeing yourself from relating patterns that do not work. Instead, commit to partnerships that are authentic and honest. This is an inspiring period of learning and opening to new ideas and lasts until mid-May. Expand your horizons through education or training in new skills, broaden your interests. February is a great month where things are moving forward for you and your energy level is high. From mid-May until the end of October your desire to grow and expand might be focused on your home and family. If you haven't already, put down roots and build on a secure foundation. This process will continue from December 20th until May 2023.

Finances and limited resources might restrict how far you can expand. Financial scrutiny or lack of support from others for your plans is a theme of the year and might block some of your entrepreneurial activities. On the other hand, things might move into a new direction unexpectedly. Remain open for potential twist and turns. Your period of retracing steps starts in June and goes all the way to late October. Move with the flow and you will do well.

Aquarius and Aquarius rising

This is the last year of Saturn transiting Aquarius. Review your personal values that make up your identity and examine if they support or block you from growing into a different, more fulfilling direction. With Jupiter and Neptune in Pisces conjoined until mid-May, the energies are shifting towards a more unifying, less restrictive perspective. March-April could signal an important turning point where fixed boundaries are dissolving. You might feel inspired to envisage a new path ahead imagining fresh possibilities. This can be a great opportunity for releasing thoughts, attitudes and beliefs that are not fitting anymore and are preventing you from moving forward. Then, from mid-May, you might feel a shift as your mind will become more optimistic and open to new ideas which can help you to achieve whatever you want. It is a great time for expanding your horizons through education or training in new skills.

Your home-life will be in flux and a lot of your challenges are caused by having to create a balance between your home life and your professional ambitions. The desire to break free from past conditioning and create the domestic life that you envisage might be especially accentuated during July-August. Appreciate the warmth and love that you receive from your personal relationships as unexpected events could clear the path for new developments.

Pisces and Pisces rising

The conjoining of Jupiter and Neptune in their home sign provides many wonderful opportunities for Pisces during much of 2022. Until mid-May and again from the end of October until December 20th, you are starting a new 12-year cycle of personal growth and expansion. Imagine new possibilities in your creative expression including poetry, music, writing, photography and dancing. It signals a time of inner journeying and healing as your perspective on life becomes more unified and enriched with new meaning and purpose. Jupiter enters Aries on May 11 until the end of October signaling a time of increased abundance and activity. Put dreams into reality now and start reviewing them by the end of July.

The extended Mars cycle from the end of August until March 2023 might motivate you to get started with projects around the home. During the end of October until January 2023 a period of review and reflection could bring delays to your plans and goals which might frustrate your enthusiasm. Accept that restrictions and boundaries are part of life and dreams will be tested on their validity. When you lose your flexibility and are too invested in your own agenda fuelled by beliefs that are too idealistic, conflict can easily erupt during this period especially around domestic affairs.

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Nimbin Crossword Solution

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How to maintain a long-term relationship

The world according to
Magenta Appel-Pye

What is considered a long-term relationship and what are the best ways to be in one?

Psychologists say that the intoxicating feeling of passionate love lasts from about 18 months to, at best three years. After the high dissipates it's natural for worries to creep in.

It is said that the three most important things for a long-term relationship are: Shared values – if you're not on the same page, you are going in different directions and therefore your relationship may not weather the storms.

Grit – you both must decide to hang in there, especially during the hard



times. An advantage to being legally married is that it's an extra incentive to stay together because it's harder to get out of.

Sense of humour – you must be on the lookout for the funny side, especially

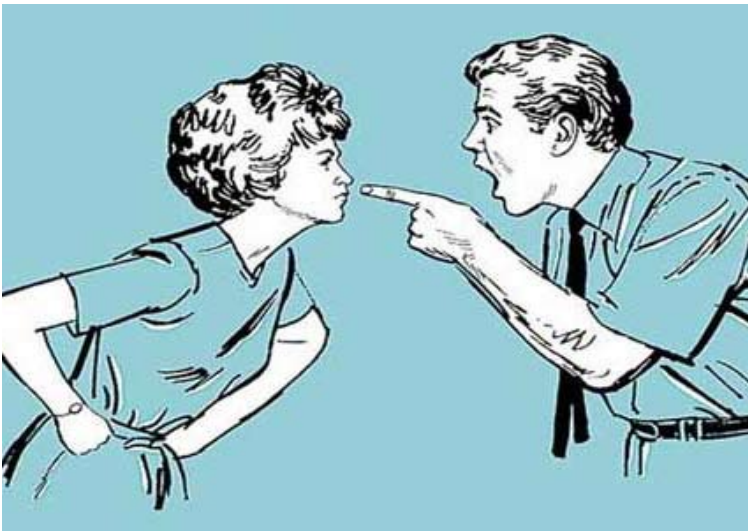
when things are hard. A good laugh is a wonderful release and puts life back into perspective, even if it is a warped one. If you have forgotten how to laugh, find a Laughter Yoga group where they fake it until they make

it and reminds you how to find the funny and laugh for no good reason.

Romance often goes out the window as we take each other for granted over time. Make an effort. If you can't think of anything, ask your partner.

Make a list of things you appreciate about your beloved and tell each other one specific thing every day. Just make sure it is genuine. We all need to know we are appreciated and this is a simple way that really deepens relationships.

Maintaining physical touch is vitally important. Hug each other when you go out and come back. A 10 second kiss when you part affirms your love and is very romantic. Yes, you have to count. But make sure you've cleaned your teeth first.



by Uncle Norm and Aunty Maj

She says

John. Your wife may have been patiently waiting for years to spend some quality time with you. Obviously she still loves you enough to want to extend your life expectancy by doing healthy, life-enhancing activities with you.

Otherwise she'd get air-conditioning and TV in your shed and, having restocked the beer and refreshed your salted peanuts leaves you alone. Maybe for the rest of your life.

In your stupidity, you might think she's the best wife on earth. But she's slowly killing you off. She'll collect your life insurance, and get a Latin lover dance partner.

Your wife is probably menopausal, or pre or post, it goes on for years. Many women now take female partners. It's not called menopause for nothing.

So John, enjoy the fruits of retirement, I'm sure you've earned them. Just remember that together you must create a happy balance between being together and being alone. Then your life together will be enhanced by your time apart. You will have new ideas to talk about, local gossip, nature sightings, the people you met, the things you did. Most importantly you will both be happy.

I read a report (somewhere?) that the 60's was consistently voted as the happiest years of people's lives. I suppose it depends on health, wealth and relationships. But if you have them somewhat in place, then now is the time for you and your wife to enjoy yourselves. Do something new, a creative project, or fulfil your life-long dream of getting the vehicle and travelling around Australia for a year or two.

Open your heart and open your mind to dream a new vision of your future together. And yes, sometimes you might have to do something you don't like. Suck it up John. And remember, those who are happiest are those who give back to the community.

A retired husband is often a wife's full-time job – Ella Harris

Retirement Blues

I have recently retired, only to find that my wife now expects me to go with her to the gym, yoga classes and other boring things that she likes. Help!

– John Payne, Cedar Point

HE says

I'm sorry mate. This is a fuckin' tragedy. You work your ass off for forty plus years, looking forward to retirement. When you can finally get out on the golf course, go fishing, write your memoirs, build a hot rod, join a rock band, only to find that you're not retiring at all. You're just changing careers.

You've spent your whole life lifting and lugging, shimmying up ladders working up a sweat in the heat, and now she wants you to go to the gym and do it for fun. Then she wants you to go to yoga and twist your body into positions nature never intended while you do your best not to soil your underwear in a room full of bossy women. The horror...

The trouble with blokes is we are ever the optimists. We think retirement means having fun, but we forget one important and obvious thing: we're married. This means, if you want to stay married, and not have to go back to work, then you'll have to bite the bullet and acquiesce to her somewhat.

My little bodybuilder makes me go to the gym too. It sucks, but she showed me that my mobile phone thingamajig can play music with Spottybum which makes it far less tedious. You can even listen to the cricket!

So, you see old son, you can work your way around things a little bit, but I can't think of anything to alleviate the misery of yoga. I can only advise that you do what you always would have done throughout your long working life. Take a sickie.

"Except for an occasional heart attack, I feel as young as I ever did" – Robert Benchley

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



The wheel turns

by Marilyn Devlin

It's Christmas Day as I write. Tried yesterday to get words on the page, but it all felt a bit like gobbledygook. Who knows, maybe this will too. It's just that kind a time. Memories drift to the surface... my body's tired... my psyche exhausted. Life, in the last days of 2021. I feel like a wrung-out old rag.

Been a hell'a've year. Sitting in the last days (in many ways) as years exchange. Our life giving Sun's already renewed its focus... over the Sacred Solstice. A lot of us are left lagging. "What's next?" I feel kinda numb. It's quiet outside... celebrations are noticeably sombre this season.

So what's in store for 2022? "All those twos sound very promising," I've said often. The closing of such a traumatic year. And they do. There's a lot of magick in all those two's. We can be forgiven for not feeling particularly bubbly... we need to give ourself time to digest and assimilate all that's happened. It's been enormous. Way bigger than 2020.

Things don't change overnight. Everything's a process. It takes time. Like nature we're a part of a flow... a process that takes us from A to B. And from there... further on.

The conditioning we've had as a collective species... humans that is... is deep and thorough. In fact most times we don't even question it. We learnt it so it must be true. So much of what we do and think is learned behaviour... imprinted on us (often in childhood) from others.

This is a time, looking at the bigger picture... of enormous change. The Great Wheel turns... things die, others are born. But underneath it all... we, all living creatures require very similar things. To nurture life certain things are necessary. And when they're threatened or removed chaos ensues. We've had chaos on steroids this last year.

As you read this... 2022 will have arrived. The whistles and kisses... the colourful display, come and gone... on the surface, a celebration of the great wheel of time. Time marches on. For us... as we go through the motions... our speed may've slowed. Our enthusiasm a little bruised. Our hopes a little fragile. Our desires buried deep.

We're a resilient bunch. All life is. So we grab 2022 by the antlers... hold it close to our chest. We love it, we caress it. We give to it our wishes and our hopes. We welcome its promise to deliver us from suffering. We hope for a better world.

On the galactic level... 2022 brings many gifts. Of course the dismantling, the corrections, the re-routing will continue... but there'll be a lot more light. When I've looked ahead I see a lot of brightness. And a lot of YIN. Jupiter in Pisces will procure magickal visions of other worlds. We just gotta capture them and bring them down to earth.

All those twos? Two's about togetherness, love and harmony. Co-operation, collaboration, union... relationship. 2022 heralds a special season of renewal for Relationship. Especially with the great Lovers Venus and Mars bookending 2022 whilst moving through their deeply powerful retrograde cycle.

There's a lot of promise in 2022. Well there always is. It's just with the promise comes other things. And as we're moving through such a transformational and correcting time... what's gotta go has to rise. And the stuff that's gotta go holds on for dear life. It brings out all its finest weaponry. It'll use everything to hold its place on the throne. Wars... of a sort, at least in this kind of way... are inevitable.

The redistribution of power can be a messy game.

So leaving you with the Magick... but yes that's just one part of the game... the fragile path forward we walk. Amidst all the smoke and falling pieces... there's a huge amount of golden light... a lot of brilliance. And a heap load of Magick.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus



Questions

1. What is this striking image? (Image: Wikimedia commons)
2. Many species of millipede have fewer than 100 legs. Do any have 1,000 or more? Bonus point if you can say how big the biggest millipede ever to walk the planet was.
3. In what state is the Tarkine Wilderness?
4. Which peculiarly Australian measure of volume is roughly equal to 2,000,000,000,000 cups?
5. What is the westernmost point of mainland Australia?
6. In another journey of discovery, the year 2000 saw the Coen Brothers collaborate with Charles Durning, George Clooney, Holly Hunter, Homer, John Goodman, John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson and numerous folk musicians, among others, to create a sepia retelling of an ancient tale. Can you name it? Add a bonus point if you can name the preferred pomade of the leading man. Add two bonus points if you can name the goddamn imposter pomade despised by him.
7. What is the fish emblem of New South Wales?
8. Pat Cummins, Australian cricket captain, was recently required to withdraw from the Adelaide Ashes Test because he was a close contact of a known Covid-positive patron at a restaurant. What sort of restaurant was it?
9. Who won the ARIA for best blues and roots album in 2021?
10. Where does a beaver live?

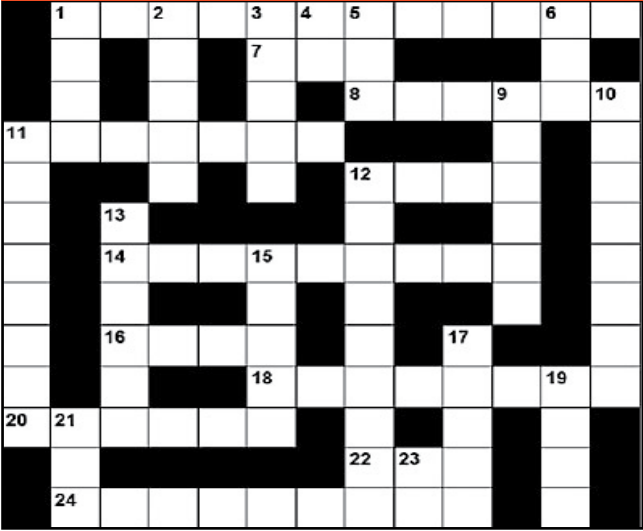
1. It's a fractal pattern generated by a Mandelbrot equation. That's a mathematical equation that generates its particular pattern in the same way up or down scale. Pretty blues to complement this month's blue question.
2. The name millipede has been broadly regarded as a load of old cobbler, with wide acceptance that none even get close to 1,000 legs, with around 750 the highest recorded. That is, until the announcement a week before Christmas that a new genus (*Eumillipes persephone*) had been discovered 60 metres underground in Western Australia. With 1,306 legs, it is the first known "true" millipede. At less than 10 centimetres long and only a millimetre across, *E. persephone* is a light weight millipede compared to *Arrhoplectura* which roamed the planet over 300 million years ago. It didn't even have 100 legs, but no-one ever kicked sand in its face at 2.5 metres and 50 kilograms.
3. Tasmania and threatened (in the conjunctive sense, for all you Boolean algebra buffs out there).
4. The Sydney Harbour, measuring exactly one Sydney Harbourfull, is about 500 billion litres (depending on the tide) which is roughly equal to 2 trillion cups.
5. Steep Point at Shark Bay in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia is about 670 kilometres north of Perth. Just by Dirk Hartog Island, Steep Point, in July 2006, recorded the highest measured tsunami in Australia at 7.9 metres.
6. Oh Brother, Where Art Thou retells Homer's Odyssey in a depression era southern US social setting. Ulysses Everett McGill's preferred pomade is Dapper Dan. Not that pale imitation, FOP.
7. The Blue Groper.
8. Steak. Bes kine!
9. Archie Roach for *The Songs of Charcoal Lane*.
10. A beaver lives in a lodge.

Answers

Nimbin Crossword

2022-OI

by Novata



Across

1. Seemingly out of fashion devices for time-telling (12)
7. Scottish for "own" (3)
8. Delicately beautiful (6)
11. Popular word of praise, awesome (7)
12. Iconic Aussie rock band (4)
14. Freelance photographer, pursues celebrities (9)
16. Recent baked US cultural invasion (4)
18. Bundle of sensory nerve fibres going to the thalamus (8)
20. A form of Japanese theatre (6)
22. Sometimes we have to do this, to get another to do what we want! (3)
24. This version is for serious coffee lovers! (9)
3. Contaminate with a disease or micro-organism (5)
4. Upper MidWest US state (abbrev.) (2)
5. Useful conjunction (3)
6. To do this is to enjoy one of the simplest pleasures in life (3)
9. Ever-popular kids' food (6)
10. Japanese form of chicken sate (8)
11. Nocturnal burrowing animal of African grasslands (8)
12. Interruption in the intensity of something, such as a storm (9)
13. Great coolness and composure under strain (6)
15. Garlic mayo (5)
17. Popular game with club-goers! (5)
19. Cute baby which frolics in paddocks in Springtime (4)
21. No healthy life without plenty of clean, fresh ____ (3)
23. The old phone message: "____ the third stroke, the time will be....." (2)

Down

1. Common exclamation in action comics (4)
2. Spanish island off the East coast of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea (5)

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.

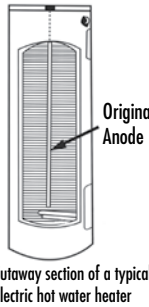
Manufacturers recommend that you maintain the anode in your system in order to prevent damage from rust + corrosion. After its 5th birthday – warranty expires.

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Unique place and unique education



by Joe Landers

As a history project this last year, the Guruman class of years 5 and 6 students took on the task of investigating the origins of Tuntable Falls Community School, as part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations.

They constructed a set of pertinent questions and conducted a series of interviews with students, parents and teachers from the first year of the school in 1981.

As well as the educational value of creating historical documentation, I also have a personal interest in this as I have previously lived in a community which had, in its memorandum, the formation of a school as one of its goals.

This didn't eventuate as it wasn't logistically possible, so I am well aware of the challenges involved in this venture.

It is testament to the success of Tuntable Falls Community that they have not only established the school, but successfully maintained it for 40 years.

That's a couple of hundred students

The early days

who have had the benefit of being schooled in a beautiful environment influenced by all of the social assets that come with community living: co-operation, inclusion, communication, connection and respectful relationships.

The stories that arose from the interviews were fascinating but didn't always show the things-were-different-back-then aspect that we assumed would be strongly evident. Some things are still the same.

For example, the people we interviewed talked about the impressive generosity of multiple volunteers to build the school structures, tick the bureaucratic boxes and teach the classes.

We still see this generosity today in the local response to the bushfires, testament again to the resilience of this community spirit, and we still have strong involvement by parent volunteers in the governance of the school.

Also, we are still surprising our official inspectors when they come to accredit the school, but in different ways. Last year, they were impressed when we enlisted volunteers from our year 6 class to change their pothole-damaged tyre. 40 years ago, they were welcomed by a surprised collection of staff and students, fresh from skinny dipping in the creek and a long way from their clothes.

The biggest difference between then and now is the growth of the school from a couple of sheds in a paddock to today's classrooms, kitchen, office, garden, and spectacular playground, all nestled in amongst the beautiful trees and waterways.

I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to work at this school and am very grateful to all those people who have contributed to its success over these years.

Happy 40th Anniversary, Tuntable Falls Community School!

Progress for Jarjum Aboriginal Preschool

by Sue Edmonds

Jarjum Aboriginal Preschool has been around since the early 1980's. Over the years it's been housed in church halls and a house converted into a very small preschool.

At last Jarjum has a purpose-built premises with large rooms, a family room, decent toilets and shower facilities, a fabulous sand pit boarded with sandstone blocks and a water feature in the yard for kids to pump their own water for play.

Bright murals and plaques welcome the kids into their own preschool.

It's been a very long haul to get this far. When Jarjum applied for the land at Clifford Park in Goonellabah the Lismore City Council insisted they buy the land, while simultaneously giving land to Trinity School at no cost.

In 2014 the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet slashed Jarjum's funding while Tony Abbott talked about "lifestyle choices". It took a lot of extra work to get the funding reinstated.

The Federal Government



has only partially funded the preschool, the remainder has resulted from submissions to philanthropic organisations, once again a huge amount of work to get it there.

Now Jarjum Aboriginal Preschool can leave their inadequate renovated house and move to a purpose-built centre.

Several Nimbin community groups have made ongoing

commitments to Jarjum. Jarlanbah Permaculture community has "paid the rent" for 16 years, the Nimbin Community School has donated for seven years, and the Nimbin Garden Club donated funds for fruit trees which now flourish in the old centre. It's hoped the old centre will become a homework centre.

It's been a very long haul

to start to close the gap and get suitable accommodation. Fortunately Jarjum Preschool has a very far sighted director and a committed board and now they have succeeded.

The opening of the new centre was a joyous occasion, with elders sharing some history after a smoking ceremony led by Gilbert Laurie, and some traditional dancing from the little kids.

Blast Off! Collaborative storytelling event

Rainbow Ridge School students from Years 2 to 7 recently participated in 'Blast Off!', a collaborative storytelling event that will be visiting primary schools and early childhood centres throughout the Northern Rivers in 2022.

The event tells the fictional tale of a young Indigenous girl – Jessie Joanne Jackson – who loves everything to do with space. But Jessie's love affair with space leads her to an unexpected discovery – a discovery that could help the very planet she lives on. It is the initiative of local storyteller, author and educator, Leanne Logan.

As the creator of Storytelling at your Service, a theatrical storytelling venture that has been operating in the Northern Rivers since 2017, Leanne uses storytelling

and collaborative workshops to engage and nurture the power of childrens' and adults' imaginations.

"Albert Einstein is quoted as saying: 'The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious'. Oral storytelling slots perfectly into this," Leanne said.

"When we are told a story, we inhabit what we are told. We feel, we live, we engage with the narrative in a way that can work mysteriously within us, and can be life changing.

"There are educators around the world today teaching science and maths concepts to children of all ages through the 'magic' of oral storytelling and interaction.

"The focus of the four stories I present are sustainability, nature and environmental awareness,

diversity, inclusiveness, wellbeing and gratitude," Leanne said.

"I wrote 'Blast Off!' for many reasons – to celebrate humanity's deep connection with space, to honour our First Nations people's intelligence, skill and knowledge, and on a personal level, to help allay my own fears for the future.

"As the writing process went on, Blast Off!'s central theme evolved to become one of caring for the Earth, and that theme fits well into all school curriculum – and life in general – in this day and age!" Leanne said.

Rainbow Ridge School Class 4/5 teacher, Jane Robinson, said it was a wonderful experience. "Blast Off! is a story of hope, love and trust that touched each and every heart in the audience," Jane said. "Leanne

is a true storyteller, holding her audience with magical anticipation. I believe each child left with a sense of hope for the future, which is what we all need right now.

"After the story, my combined class – aged between 9 and 11 – enjoyed the interactive element of Leanne's storytime. It was absolutely delightful: playful, fun and team building. We are so looking forward to Leanne's next big adventure."

In 2022, Leanne will be Storyteller in Residence at both Cawongla Playhouse and Bentley Community Preschool.

"Working deeply with children and educators via storytelling is an honour," Leanne said. "I'm really excited for this coming year. Apart from all its other



benefits, storytelling is a gateway to enhancing literacy, in all its many forms, and in that alone it has so much value."

For enquiries, contact Leanne Logan on 0487-600-119 or email: storytellingatyourservice@gmail.com

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welcome
2022

To Our Valued Customers And The Wider Nimbin Community
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