

**Aries**

You have the ability to express yourself with confidence and plenty of energy to achieve your goals. It is a fortunate time for setting fresh goals while you have the support to follow through with your ambition. Nurture your alliances with friends and associates. You are strong alone but stronger together.

**Taurus**

Doing things your own way might generate some upheaval in your home or in your dealings with the outer world. You have the ability to lead the way as long as you are responsive to the needs of those around you. Some responsibilities will be ending soon and you may be ready to pass over the baton.

**Gemini**

The keywords for 2023 are 'simplify and empty out'. If life has become too complicated, try to streamline and prioritise. Mars is still in Gemini until March 26th running your nervous system at full speed. Instead of rushing, prune back. A relaxed mind attracts more favourable circumstances. Pay attention to your creative self and be guided by your imagination.

**Cancer**

It is an excellent time for getting ahead with your goals and plans. Step onto the stage of fame and fortune and transmit your message to the world. Keep in mind what is healthy and true to you and support the projects that align with your inner essence. Tough choices in relationships cannot be avoided because this process is not about pleasing others.

**Leo**

While the Black Moon Lilith has her stay in Leo you more than ever want to be free expressing your true nature. It is not your time for making compromises, rather you feel called to follow your heart. Explore, create, learn something new, go on a journey. The Full Moon on February 6th highlights the need to re-align head and heart, vision with passion.

**Virgo**

Venus, the goddess of love and beauty is transiting your solar 7th house until January 21. This is a fortunate period for harmonious relating and as well as for making peace with those who might be in conflict with you. The Full Moon period (Feb 4-6) highlights the need of finding a balance between your desire of accomplishing your goals and keeping the peace.

## February

The Aquarius New Moon on January 22nd marked the beginning of the Chinese Year of the Water Rabbit. The rabbit represents the cycle of death, rebirth, and renewal as well as the desire for peace and calm. This corresponds in western astrology with the upcoming ingress of Saturn into the watery and empathetic sign of Pisces which takes place on March 7th. Until then, Saturn, the hard task master of reality, is transiting the last degrees of Aquarius and thus ending a five-year passage through Capricorn and Aquarius, the two signs in the zodiac where Saturn has a dominant influence. Simultaneously, Pluto is transiting through the last degrees of Capricorn before the Lord of the Underworld enters Aquarius on the 23rd of March. Pluto is nearing the end of his journey through Capricorn that began in 2008. So, during February, change is in the air as we are heading collectively further into a new era. Additionally, all planets are in forward motion until April 21st when Mercury will station retrograde in Taurus.

**The Full Moon on February 6th in Leo is opposite the Sun in Aquarius highlighting the archetypes of individuality and diversity.** The Leo Moon connects us with our true self and creative essence while the Sun in Aquarius on the other side reminds us of our humanitarian obligations as we are all part of a larger whole. Small individual inputs can result in large-scale effects while everybody's contribution plays a role in our collective evolution.

When the Moon is in Leo, we are more focused on the reflection and acknowledgment from others because we express our gifts with greater passion, generosity and dignity. However, we may experience a sense of rejection when others don't respond to this need or remain too cool and emotionally detached (Aquarius).

The Full Moon forms a stressful square aspect with Uranus in Taurus, the planetary energy field associated with awakening, progress and breaking free from values that have lived out their time and do not support our reality and way of living anymore. Uranus combined with the Full Moon provides fertile ground for emotional drama and volcanic eruptions. A lack of co-operation between parties and too much willful tension or even hurt pride might hinder a peaceful resolution.

In our relationships, personal or otherwise, head (Aquarius) and heart (Leo) may need to be realigned incorporating the Uranian need for change and giving space for individual development. **The Black Moon Lilith is transiting through fiery Leo from January 9th until October 4th** supporting this quest of authentic living according to one's own true values. **Venus and Mars are in a square aspect representing a test in relating just before and during the Full Moon period (Feb 4-6).**

Venus remains in Pisces until February 20th, when the planet of love and beauty shifts into autonomous Aries. Venus advances towards a conjunction with Jupiter in the beginning of March (1-2). This alignment encourages generosity and adventure, even the beginning of a new relationship or business project.

**The New Moon in Pisces occurs on the same day, February 20, just minutes before Venus changes signs.** New Moons are auspicious times for setting new intentions. In Pisces, we are called to go within, relax and align with our intuition and imagination, be led by our inner guides. The only aspect this New Moon forms is an out-of-sign conjunction with Saturn in the late degrees of Aquarius. Saturn is at the end of his journey that began in March 2020 and will enter the next sign, Pisces, on March 7th coinciding with the next Full Moon.

These coming two weeks from New Moon to Full Moon are perfect timing for consciously tying up loose ends, emptying out, simplifying and distilling the wisdom out of the experiences that we have made during the last three years. From this more meditative process the vision of the future is invited to emerge.

- **Navigation by the stars for 2023**  
Plans, directions, concerns for 2023; contact Tina on 0457-903-957; in person, zoom or skype consultations; email: star-loom@hotmail.com  
Gift vouchers available.
- **'Relationship factors in the natal chart: Venus, Lilith, Mars and the 7th house';**  
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All welcome.  
Information and registration: 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com

**Libra**

While Jupiter is in Aries (until May 17th) it is a good time for improving your relationships as you can learn more about yourself when interacting with others. Expand your view and grow in your understanding of those around you, especially your closest partner. Nevertheless, you have every reason to go out and enjoy yourself!

**Scorpio**

The Full Moon on February 6th provides fertile ground for drama and volcanic eruptions. Some restraint is needed when navigating through the motions of the first 3 weeks of the month. Important breakthroughs are possible if you can keep your cool. Try to relax and have some fun instead!

**Sagittarius**

It is now a fortunate time to embark on a steady course and move onto brighter horizons. Your creative self wants to grow as never before. Creating beauty at home or around the home and nurturing harmonious relationships might be your main priorities during this cycle.

**Capricorn**

Pluto is nearing his long journey through your sun sign. It is a good time for emptying out while reflecting on the shifts and changes that you have been experiencing during the last years. Soon you will be on a new route. You might remember this period as a time of building resilience and coming in contact with your true essence.

**Aquarius**

Being true to your heart will become ever more important on your path into the future. Know what is truly nurturing and what fuels your passion, even if it disrupts your sense of stability. During the last few years you had to prove your sense of commitment and responsibility and now you are more assured about where you are standing.

**Pisces**


A new sense of reality is emerging from the depth of your being. Your next birthday marks the beginning of a new learning curve. There are new challenges and tasks to master ahead for yourself. The learning will be about reaching out when the moment feels right. Being is the flow of things while attuned to the cycles of life is your greatest navigation tool.



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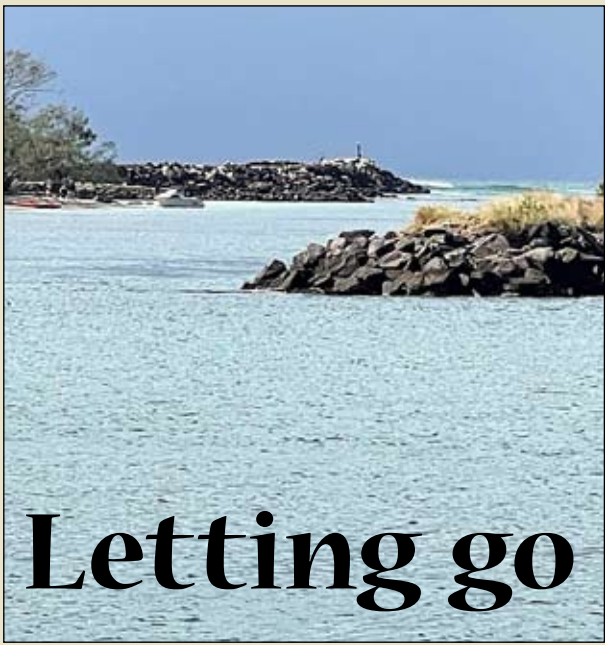


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# Letting go

by Marilyn Devlin

Neptune first moved into Pisces in April 2011. I remember it well. Another huge time of letting go.

Pisces is Neptune's sacred space, he's powerful there. And the house Pisces occupies on the zodiacal wheel... is the very last one on the great adventure around the sun. Neptune takes 164.8 years to complete that task. Last time Neptune 'came home' was 1847-1862. My grandparents were born in 1885. Displaced from their beloved homeland in Ireland, they settled into their new home space in Scotland before taking the big journey across Neptune's vast oceans to the great southern land, my grandmother with two tiny toddlers in tow.

The rest they say is history... life continues. Until it doesn't. How much letting go is required? Yes, we've come a way since the last time Neptune brewed his magick in such a powerful way. A lot changes... and it doesn't. We still encounter all the things involved with living.

We have similar dreams, we make the same mistakes, we yearn for a better life... we long, deep inside ourself for a connection we don't quite understand... yet know it exists. It continues to call us.

I've often wondered the courage it took to board that ship, a one and two-year old in tow, not knowing if they were ever going to make it alive. They were real possibilities. What was the yearning so strong, so needing to move ahead. So wanting a better life... that they would take that risk.

We've a lot to be grateful for... the bequests our ancestors generously leave for us. Of course, today, at least for some of us, the stakes may not be so high. Or for some they are. There comes a time of choice... the voice again, calling you to another land. There's more to learn, more to be. More to celebrate. If you can only let go of where you are.

The Neptune signature was strong in my family... that powerful sixth sense, that 'knowing'. My brother called it the family curse. It's taken a lifetime to get anywhere close to trusting it. Living with that level of sensitivity can be hard. But of course you'd never swap it.

We'll soon be heading into more Neptune territory as Saturn moves into Pisces in March. Lots of water comes to mind. These are times of endings, clearing the space for brand new beginnings. Life continues till it doesn't. It was never guaranteed to be forever.

Letting go of what has been... and that filters down into every level of our being. Who I think I am, what I'm good at, what I've accomplished. Everything I thought made me me ... can be all washed clean. Life then renews and begins again. It takes courage.

"Do I have this much courage?" I've asked myself... to feel so cut and raw, to let go of so much. All the things I've been, everything I've done. All the places I've adventured... over a lifetime. But it seems the Gypsy in me never dies... she's inconvenient at times. While there's breath, another adventure calls. Experiencing both the terror and the excitement of course... they take turns.

So ready to step out once again... into the great unknown. Say my goodbyes to what has been... knowing, trusting deep in my heart that Life always has my back.

Add COVID, a very strange head space, my home sold, moving to who knows where. All great training I'm sure. This bloody Gypsy is cheeky, certainly unsettles my deeply Earthy nature. But we are what we are... we've been made exquisitely. There's only one of us... so we better make good use if it.

The great adventure of Life where you continue to die and be reborn... until all the sand is gone and the clock is silent.

Honouring Life with all of me. The greatest miracle, the greatest gift.

## Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

### Questions

1. This flag was first seen in 1848 during the Spring of Nations, a wave of revolutions searching for democracy in Europe. Which country proudly flies it today? (Image courtesy of Wikipedia)
2. Can you name the man who lost around \$50B in the last week of January 2023? This guy's wealth was estimated by some at around \$150B in 2022 (up \$100B over three years), putting him high in billionaire stratosphere. He is a controversial businessman who has been much in the Australian news over the last few years.
3. Who won the FIFA World Cup in 2022? Take a bonus point if you know the score and an extra bonus point if you can say which major sponsor tweeted "Well, that's awkward" a few days before the opening match.
4. Which Australian actress won the best Actress Award in the Golden Globes and has been nominated in the same category for the Academy Awards, BAFTAs, Screen Actors Guild Awards and the AACTAs? Bonus point for the name of the film.
5. Lunar New Year was on the 22nd of January. 2022 was the Year of the Tiger. What animal shapes those born in 2023?
6. Is taffeta a type of twisted silk fabric, fine grained lava rock or a finely spun Italian dessert?
7. Boogie, foamie, log, fish, gun, and thruster are all types of what?
8. Can you name the 1996 ARIA award winning debut gold album by late-1990s radio comedy duo Martin and Malloy?
9. True or false? Auckland is the capital of New Zealand.
10. Li is the chemical symbol for which element?



1. Brave Ukraine.
2. Indian businessman Gautam Adani of coal infamy.
3. Argentina beat France 4-2 in the penalty shootout after the scores were 3-3 at the end of extra time. A very surprised Budweiser Beer, tweeted its astonishment on Qatar's late announcement reversing the decision to allow beer sales at matches.
4. The, deservedly, much celebrated Cate Blanchett for TAR.
5. Take a point if you said Rabbit. Take a point if you said Cat. Take 3 points if you said both. Under the Chinese zodiac 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit but under the Vietnamese zodiac it is the Year of the Cat.
6. Used in evening gowns, taffeta is a twisted silk yarn fabric created in Persia in the 12th century.
7. They are all types of surfboard.
8. The Brown Album.
9. False. Wellington is the capital.
10. Lithium.

### Answers



### MISS SOMETHING?

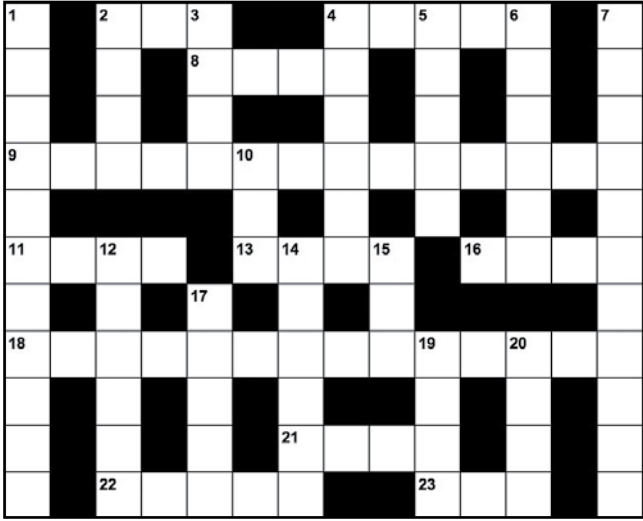
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## Nimbin Crossword

2023-02

by Novata



### Across

2. Formal proposal to buy at a specified price (3)
4. First Christian martyr in Roman Britain, Saint \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
8. German industrialist, first to manufacture cars in an assembly line (4)
9. Victims of ridicule (14)
11. Substance to reduce friction by making surfaces smooth (4)
13. Short note recognising a source of information or quoted passage (4)
16. Crucifix inscription for Jesus Christ (4)
18. Engineering branch dealing with things smaller than 100 nanometers (14)
21. Fruiting spikes of a cereal plant (4)
22. Challenges to do something dangerous or foolhardy (5)
23. One thousand grams (init.) (3)

### Down

1. Intellectually sophisticated through cultivation or experience (11)
2. Man who is the lover of a girl or young woman (4)
3. Slang term for money (4)
4. Come down (6)
5. Discharges of lightning accompanied by thunder (5)
6. Potent narcotic antagonist, effective with morphine (6)
7. Arranging or ordering by classes or categories (11)
10. UN agency affiliated with the World Bank (3)
12. Had confidence or faith in (6)
14. Moves slowly (6)
15. Longest division of geological time (3)
17. Fragrant essential oil typically made from rose petals (5)
19. City in the Asian part of Russia (4)
20. Onerous or difficult concern (4)

Solution: Page 34

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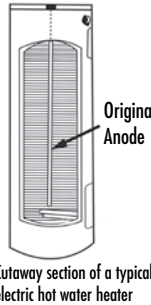
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Community Centre news

by Teresa Biscoe  
co-ordinator

The new year has started with a bang, with lots of plans and changes at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Grants

As the Community Centre is an unfunded organisation dependent on tenant rents for its operating income, grants are an important part of our capital works and improvement plans. We have a number of exciting projects planned for 2023.

Our Walkways Project is underway, and Sam our Maintenance Co-ordinator is busy replacing the old timbers and building back a more functional walkway. This is the last section in a 15-year project that has seen all the covered walkways replaced.

Many thanks to Council for providing funding for \$29,519 from its Section 94 funds which were collected through contributions from new development in Nimbin prior to 2014 for community infrastructure.

We applied last year for a grant via the Community Building Partnerships Program to do essential repairs to one of the outer walls of the Birth and Beyond building (54 Cullen Street), which had been heavily damaged by water. Our application was successful and this will be a major renovation project undertaken by the Centre to preserve this historic building.

Thanks to the NSW Department of Communities and Justice who provided \$21,000 of the \$36,910 required to complete this project. NCCI has pledged \$15,910 from its capital improvements reserve.

The Community Centre has had a long held ambition to develop the Centre grounds into a cohesive, welcoming and attractive space. The committee decided last year that we needed to get in a professional to assist with the process.

We received great news from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, Strengthening Rural Communities Program, that our application for \$2800 of funds to hire a landscape architect to develop a comprehensive and costed grounds plan had been approved. This plan will enable the Centre to apply for further funding to develop our grounds over time and in line with our vision.

The Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre is also completing a grant project this year. They are working on a major landscaping project to improve disability access and the visual amenity at the front, as well as improving the art gallery

space inside. Mahlie Bayles, the Cultural Centre co-ordinator, is keen to have all the work completed for a grand re-opening of the space in late April.

Many thanks to Kitty van Vuuren and Diana Roberts for their great work in preparing grant applications for the Centre.

Tenants

As we welcome new tenants to our Centre, we farewell others.

**G2 Bark Hut Garage:** Unfortunately, we will have to say goodbye to our recent tenant Sally Flannery with her 'Worn Better' slow fashion enterprise. She has had a family matter come up and will need to leave the area to deal with it. This means that the space will become vacant and we will be looking for a new tenant for this great little space with heaps of potential for a small business activity. Please contact the Community Centre if you are interested.

**A4 Acacia:** The Centre welcomes Miki Kobayashi-Hill who is offering Traditional Japanese Massage in the space. Miki, who lives locally with her family, is excited to relocate her business here. She operates Monday to Friday and can be contacted on 0473-548-426 to book an appointment. It's great to see the return of massage therapy to the Centre.

**A2 Acacia:** Ionell Jones, owner of Nimbin Herbs, has sold her business. She has been an excellent tenant and we wish her well in her new adventures. We welcome the new Nimbin Herbs business owner Claudia Grati to the Centre, and wish her every success with her new business.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are an important support for the Centre, particularly in our gardens and grounds, working under the supervision of our gardener Robyn. We would not be able to develop and maintain our gardens to current levels without these volunteers.

Last year we farewelled Glen Sparks, James Gardner and Paxie Wright and welcomed Chris Duffy, Monie Moore and Jane Treasure. This year we welcome new volunteer Kerry Chapman and welcome back Paul Sims, who has returned from his adventures in the west.

Thank you to all our volunteers for their wonderful support of our Centre. Our gardens and grounds look lovely and cared for as a direct result of all their good work.

We welcome volunteers, and are registered with Centrelink for those who have workplace obligations.

The Centre looks forward to a busy and productive year working with the community for the benefit of all.

Life as a wildlife carer

by Celeste Sherwood,  
as told to Sue Edmonds

My motivation to be a wildlife carer was to change the culture of my family, hopefully with spin-off effect to benefit all of humanity.

In our new caring capacity, we'd experience the wonders of wild animals and birds. We'd learn to respect their rights, equal respect for all living creatures... the core of the Gaia theory. And in our capacity as wildlife carers we wouldn't be able to have a dog.

My kids want a dog. We have a cat, but they want a dog. We live in a community where the by-laws preclude dogs and cats... many people have one or the other... but no one is so bold to have both.

I patiently explained about by-laws, how all members of this community signed up for them when they bought in, adding how wallabies hate dogs, but they still want a dog.

As wildlife carers the kids would marvel at nature rather than the TV. They'd learn it's not respectful to put a tutu on a ferret, or for a duck to watch TV, especially the stuff we watch.

We've had lots of experience with pets, most things except dogs, and it's been fraught with failure. No matter how much love was showered on the ferrets, no matter how elaborate was their multi storied, snake proof cage, with tunnels, a splash pool and hammocks, or how beautiful they looked in their sequin studded collars, they still died young. Despite being the richest ferrets in the world, a carpet snake ate them alive, whole.

I lucked on two baby black faced lambs, they would eat the grass, save me mowing, and they'd fertilise as they worked. The family would learn how to shear and spin, and on the long winter nights we'd knit useful things for refugees.

We started a rigorous training programme. These sheep would be taught everything a dog would do, and more. We taught Sit, Fetch, On Guard and Roll Over, and how to chase away snakes. They would be faithful and loyal companions.

The training was a flop. They ate every exotic plant in the yard, the neighbours



fruit trees and never touched grass. They were emotionally needy... baaaaa before dawn and all day long. They stole things, stray toys and chocolate mint biscuits left on the verandah.

The only fun to be had with the sheep was stand back with their bowl of mush, and they'd run up and butt, like furry doggem cars.

Despite precautions of swivels on tethers, and cleared flat land, one sheep managed to asphyxiate itself. The bereft twin went to live in a vegetarian household far away.

We went shopping for a new pet, and got a tiny, yellow, fluffy duckling. She caught on quick, engaged with all household activities.

She'd give advice when we were in the garden, insisted on living in the house with us, and watched too much TV. She was dressed up, put in prams, nursed, cuddled, sat on and loved.

One of her self-appointed tasks was to guard the chicken eggs. She'd stoically sit there, waiting for the kids to come out to play. Stumpy, the belligerent goanna with three and a half legs would come and go. One day he sucked out her innards leaving an empty, feathered carcass, with hardly a speck of blood to be seen. Her funeral was a sad occasion, she was a duck with spunk and personality.

I missed the training to be a wildlife carer, but this was overlooked because of the shortage of volunteers.

My first call was to set a possum trap in the roof for some elderly folk. I managed to break a bit of the manhole, set the trap and left, covered in cobwebs. Returning two days later the bait was still there, no possums, still plenty of cobwebs.

Next assignment was to go with the local policewoman while she shot a severely injured wallaby. My job was to save the baby, it was dead on arrival.

My first real rescue was an echidna which had a smashed snout. I took it to the vet, who euthanised it. I collected a baby galah who had a smashed up wing, transported it to the vet, who euthanised it.

A scaly-breasted lorikeet with severe depression moved into the ferret cage. It stood in the corner, staring blankly at the wall. One morning it was lying in its corner, dead as a dodo.

A screaming parrot was disturbing customers at a coffee shop, so I was called to take it away. After a few days in the aviary I built to rehabilitate injured birds, it died, and thousands of lice crawled out. I nursed a baby bird who required feeding with a special syringe every 30 minutes. It puked up every feed. I slept beside it. After a week it died. The tawny frogmouth was more dead than alive, so it wasn't a surprise when it went to heaven.

My second echidna had its tongue stuck in a metal hose nozzle. I was advised to spray it with ice water to help it retract, then take it to the vet. He euthanised it.

Our yard resembles a graveyard and we are always in mourning. Thinking about the wonders of nature, I've decided it would be good for our family to have an animal which has a long life. That's why we're getting a dog.

Blue Knob Writers Group

The group meets regularly at the Hall-Gallery-Cafe, and have recently been exploring the theme of The Seven Deadly Sins. Here are some of their writings.

Greed and gluttony

by Neil Plim

The energy companies and their proliferating profits continue to bask in their windfall gains, lawfully generated by the marketplace.

Without effort or investment, gold rains down uninterruptedly into the coffers of the wealthy companies and their shareholders. This fortuitous time gives rise to a moment of reckoning where the energy providers or government taxation agencies are entitled to deliver a portion of this windfall to those most in need.

The attitudinal powers of greed and gluttony appear to be impervious, as the needy in society stand languishing in a mire of poverty. The 2022 profit levels of the corporate sector rose by 28.5%, in contrast to the wage level rise of 6.8% (Bureau of Statistics figures). These figures reflect the disparity in our nation's communities.

Adding insult to injury, the corporate profits are contributing to the inflation spiral, in turn driving more people into the poverty cycle.

Greed and gluttonous behaviour reign supreme, overpowering the needs of the already disenfranchised people in our society.

Monks with dirty habits

Where in the bible does it say that paedophilia is okay?  
It must be somewhere in that almighty tome for it to be a cornerstone of the Church of Rome.

Why do monks have dirty habits?

Where in the bible does it say that cruelty and inhumanity is okay?  
When indigenous peoples are so abused, how can the churches protect the accused?

Why do monks have nasty habits?

Where in the bible does it say that sodomy with children is okay?  
The Church is meant to care for the vulnerable rather than just to protect the venerable.

Why do monks have grubby habits?

Where in the bible does it say that covering up serious crimes is okay?  
It preaches that telling lies is a sin yet it closes its rank and collaborates within.

Why do monks have grimy habits?

Pride, sloth, gluttony, wrath, lust, envy and greed are mortal sins, but aren't these your Cardinals' sins?

– Jane Foundling





Tamara Smith MP with Bob Brown  
Photo: Chibo Mertineit

# Protecting the Tarkine

by Shae Salmon

What a treat it was Saturday night 28th January to hear the wonderful and erudite Dr Bob Brown, patriarch of the Australian Greens, speak at the Lennox Cultural Centre.

He was up to support Ballina Greens MP Tamara Smith on her quest to be re-elected in the upcoming March NSW State elections. The Cultural Centre was full of Greens members and like-minded citizens intermingling with Greens politicians and State candidates – Tamara for Ballina and Adam Guise for Lismore. Councillors from Ballina, Lismore and Byron were there also, and our own NSW Upper House MP Sue Higginson.

Bob spoke passionately about the

urgent need to protect the valuable and majestic Tasmania's Takayna/Tarkine rainforest from the ravages of humans. Mining giant MMG (one of China's many multinational enterprises) is planning on dumping tons of toxic waste in one of our most valuable and pristine forest areas – posing significant risk of annihilation to many forest species including the threatened Tasmanian masked owl. And what beauties they are.

The point is that none of our precious native creatures should be threatened with extinction. We have the ways and means to stop poisoning our wild areas and nurture our wild creatures. While a Federal Court Appeal has halted the destruction – for the moment – Tanya Plibersek (Australia's new Minister for the Environment) can override the

court's decision.

Protesting against logging of our forests has always been a passion for Bob. He was arrested in November last year peacefully trying to stop the on-going onslaught on Tayanya's swift parrot in particular. The beautiful little parrot is just one of the many species that Bob was there to protect.

There was something most uplifting and inspiring being surrounded by people who actually care about our natural world and our whole future. The worst part of it all is the overwhelming greed, selfishness and ignorance of the big polluters, and the governments we have to fight, to try and save our precious environment.

Thank goodness we have people like Bob – wise, wonderful and unrelentless in his pursuit to protect nature.

# Mean, tricky politics

by Louise Doran

In response to the demand of thousands in the community who turned out to rallies and signed petitions for trains, for many years the Liberal National Parties (LNP) promised in 2011 to provide a "16 trains a day commuter train service" on the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line and to "Build the rail connection between Murwillumbah and the Gold Coast".

Such a service "would cost less than the current bus service" and the "social, environmental and flow-on economic benefits would be enormous", they said. Yes, it certainly would.

So why are the LNP and the MP for Tweed, Geoff Provest, now ignoring the community's transport needs and spending untold millions of taxpayers' money destroying this valuable train line and replacing it with a very expensive bike track for a few fit cyclists? The first section of bike track from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek, costing \$14.4 million, is about to open.

But people who lost everything in the devastating floods and living rough while waiting for homes, which you'd think would be the government's first priority, will be waiting a very long



National party election poster, 2011

time. What an absolute betrayal of the community's trust as well as a blatant and corrupt waste of taxpayers' money.

The Labor Party (ALP) is little better. They also ignored the Northern Rivers community's demand and need, for traffic busting and emissions-reducing train services on the line. The ALP cares little about the accessibility transport needs of people with disabilities or seniors who no longer drive and are unable to use inaccessible, cramped buses.

Too bad if people need the toilet on a rough, two-hour trip. Instead of holding the LNP government to account and demanding they provide the train services they'd promised, as we pay them to do, the ALP also betrayed the community and voted for the LNP's legislation to allow the line to be destroyed!

Mean tricky politics and the waste of taxpayers' money are all we get in one of the busiest tourist regions in Australia. The destruction of this train line not only condemns this region to increased traffic gridlock and carbon emissions, plus the huge cost of building and maintaining more roads, but also increased climate disasters - fires, floods and droughts.

This behaviour is the reason voters at the last Federal election showed they'd lost trust in the major parties and voted for many decent Independents who had campaigned for action on climate change and integrity in politics. This saw the end of the Morrison Government and the lowest vote ever for Labor.

Thanks to those Independents, we now have a more democratic Federal

parliament with decisions being made in the best interest of the country and the people, rather than in the interest of keeping lazy, deceitful, do-nothing career politicians in a job.

To keep voting for these mean, tricky career politicians, who have shown repeatedly they have little concern for the needs of the community, but will waste eye-watering amounts of taxpayers' money, as well as lie and deceive communities to get elected then deliver nothing, will condemn us all to disaster.

Please fill in our on-line rail survey to help us gain much-needed information about reinstating regular train services in the Northern Rivers at: [www.northernriversrail.com.au](http://www.northernriversrail.com.au)

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Please feel free to share this with your family, friends, community and networks.

**Have your say on family law reforms**

The Albanese Government has released draft legislation intended to make the *Family Law Act* simpler and safer for separating families and their children. Recent inquiries, including the 2019 Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry and the 2021 Parliamentary Joint Select Committee inquiry, have highlighted the challenges facing the family law system.

In the nine years the former government was in office there were at least two dozen reviews into the family law system, with hundreds of recommendations that were simply ignored.

Extensive court delays, protracted litigation, inaccessible support services and inadequate protection for people at risk of family violence, are just some of the issues that have dogged the family law system for many years.

The Albanese Government's draft *Family Law Amendment Bill* intends to place the best interests of children at the centre of the family law system. "These long overdue proposed reforms



intend to replace the confusing law around parenting arrangements with a simpler child-focused framework that will guide parents who can agree on their own post-separation parenting arrangements.

"It also intends to streamline the process for courts who determine parenting disputes where agreement cannot be reached," Attorney General Mark Dreyfus said. Currently, custody arrangements

require the court to consider two primary factors and thirteen additional factors; and be guided by four objects, five principles and one presumption. The proposed reforms would replace these with six simple 'best interests' factors for courts to decide what the best parenting arrangements are for each child.

Recent inquiries have shown that the presumption of 'equal shared parental responsibility' provisions are widely misunderstood, causing prolonged litigation and conflict. The draft legislation repeals these controversial provisions, making clear that the best interests of children are paramount.

A consultation paper seeks feedback from stakeholders on the amendments in the Bill to improve the drafting and implementation of the reforms. Submissions on the Bill are due on 27th February.

Information on how to make a submission is available at: <https://consultations.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/family-law-amendment-bill>

**Bright new opportunity at Rainbow Power as CEO recruitment begins**

by Elowyn Paitson

Rainbow Power Company will begin recruitment this month for a new position of CEO, seeking an experienced manager to provide leadership to the organisation as it embarks on its next phase of growth and corporate development in the renewable energy industry.

Many in our region are by now familiar with the Rainbow Power Company story.

Starting out in the early 1980s, three Nimbin locals began putting together simple 12v systems to sell at local markets; meeting a growing need for electricity among the New Settlers of the time who were building homes out beyond the reach of the 240 power grid and had a desire to reduce their impact on the earth through off-grid living.

Incorporating in 1987, RPC ran out of a small shop in Cullen Street for several years, supplying 12V power systems and appliances, and teaching people how to build, use and maintain their power systems. The early 90s saw the company move to a purpose-built factory in Alternative Way.

Throughout the following decades, RPC continued to grow and innovate, establishing itself as a leader in the Australian solar industry and one of the largest employers in the local area.

The development of pre-programmed, shippable solar systems saw RPC supplying solar across rural Australia and the Pacific region, while the talented team of RPC installers supplied power to thousands of businesses and homes the local area.

As the technology has become more affordable, and the impacts of fossil

fuel use on our environment ever more apparent, the solar industry has exploded in Australia.

Once one of a handful of companies building and installing alternative power systems, RPC are now a part of a large market, participating in the global movement towards sustainable energy production.

For many years RPC had a unique employment structure, operating mostly without hierarchy, with principles of egalitarian co-operation at the core of decision-making processes.

Growth in the company and staff numbers led the company to introduce a more traditional structure around five years ago, with the introduction of a more formalised management structure across multiple departments.

Rainbow Power, and indeed the entire region and country, faced enormous challenges over the past few years. Drought-induced bushfires in 2019 impacted staff and the local community deeply.

The onset of Covid early in 2020 presented myriad impacts on business through lockdowns, supply chain issues, continual changes to legislation regarding business operations and staffing, and staff shortages due to illness and isolation rules.

Just as we began to emerge from the pandemic, the February and March 2022 floods devastated our region, along with much of the East Coast of the country.

Despite these upheavals, RPC made some fantastic achievements over the past few years. Construction of a new manufacturing facility in the factory along with further development of our pre-built shippable solar systems doubled

our output capacity in that department.

Enforced work-from-home requirements led to the development of new internal communications processes, greatly increasing workflow efficiency. Remarkably, RPC managed to remain profitable and continue to grow through a period that sadly saw many businesses falter or fail.

Rapidly rising energy costs have led to enormous growth in the solar industry in recent years, as consumer awareness of the looming energy crunch and the environmental impacts of fossil fuel use continue to grow.

This growth, along with the deep dedication and hard work of RPC staff and leadership, allowed the company to succeed through this period of adversity, while continuing to reimagine the future of renewable energy through a variety of innovative projects.

RPC begins recruitment this month for a Chief Executive Officer, seeking the right candidate to lead us through the challenges of powering the future. This unique role will require a complex understanding of the solar industry.

The ideal candidate will have sales and manufacturing knowledge, a solid foundation in general business and reporting, strong leadership skills and the ability to keep innovation and technology in sight.

While we would love to hire from within the local area, the recruitment will be Australia-wide, ensuring we can find the best person possible to lead RPC into the future.

If you are interested, please contact: [companysecretary@rpc.com.au](mailto:companysecretary@rpc.com.au) or go to: [www.rpc.com.au/careers](http://www.rpc.com.au/careers) for further information.



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- Training provided
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For full details and application information: [www.rpc.com.au/careers](http://www.rpc.com.au/careers) or visit us at 1 Alternative Way, Nimbin or call 02) 6689-1430.

Please feel free to share this information with your family, friends, community and networks.



All our links are clickable in the web edition. Visit [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com) and click away!

**Nimbin Crossword  
Solution**

From Page 31

W		B	I	D		A	L	B	A	N		C		
O		I		O	P	E	L		O		A	L		
R		N		S			I		L		R	A		
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D						N		H		S		A	S	
L	U	B	E			C	I	T	E		I	N	R	I
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Training = freedom

Fitness available for all ages and ability

by Tom Jones

Another month and another check in! Did you manage to get your 10,000 steps per day in last month? If you did, are you noticing changes?

Maybe you have a bit more energy or maybe you are sleeping a little better? You might notice your mood has improved a little.

Maybe you only managed to do it a couple of times per week and that's also good, something is better than nothing. That something can always be improved upon. The battle is you against yourself and I am here to remind you that you can do it!

Anything meaningful takes time, so give yourself a break if you didn't quite smash all of your goals last month, pick up, dust off and try again. Maybe we are supposed to make mistakes, maybe the strength is in the struggle.

Personally, I feel reflection then finding gratitude is how I can make micro improvements to myself which benefits me and those around me. To slowly chip away the preconditioning to figure out who we really are is something that takes time and possibly at the very core of the meaning of life.

The layers are like an onion that need to be peeled back, each time you peel one back there is another right there ready to be peeled back too! A few hundred years of



religious dogma, scientific dogma and political charades will do that to a man or woman!

We should try to have compassion for our own chemical-animal humanity and always remember to retain one's sense of humour when we are watching the folly of our own selves. Maintaining composure in stressful situations is a skill that can be honed and developed.

Consistent gym training can act as a very useful teacher; however, the key is consistency. Present the body (and mind) with small amounts of discomfort each day to generate strength in the long term. Just remember though, acute stress for long bouts is detrimental.

Keep It short, sweet and effective. Unless you are training for long distant running, keep training stressors within 1 to 1.5 hours again, depending on age and health factors.

If you are just starting out your journey, be kind to yourself and don't 'punish'

yourself, tread lightly and pick up pace where necessary. Fitness is a gift, not a curse.

Whether it's strength, fat loss, improved health markers, improved mental health, improved self-esteem, or just want to look good naked, lifting weight, pushing weight, pulling weight and squatting with weight is fundamental and should be learned and utilised, for the actual 'greater good'.

We are facing times where not just physical strength is needed for the oncoming challenges. Mental strength, which can be accumulated from consistent training, is needed to make sure that we maintain trust in our own bodies, questioning our own minds and trusting our own intuition.

Practising these three things (throw in a bit of empathy too) leads to freedom. Freedom is where you are in control of yourself, and once you start to take control of what you are eating, saying, thinking, feeling and doing, then you will have that freedom.

Training equals freedom. Retaining your sense of humour is also a form of freedom too! For this month, I wish you luck, love and gratitude in your pursuits. Align with your soul and listen to your gut.

Feel free to email me for training programs, food advice or anything training related! [charliejones5891@protonmail.com](mailto:charliejones5891@protonmail.com)

Not a gym junkie? Then these group fitness classes are for you.

Particularly as we move into middle and older age, pretty much all of us know we would see physical and mental benefits if we undertook some regular, targeted exercise.

Improving balance, so there is less chance of a fall; general strength, to improve bone density; flexibility, to improve range of movement and cardio, for heart health are all essential to our wellbeing.

So here is the paradox, just as we reach that part of our life, it becomes difficult to find an appropriate and affordable training programme. I know many of you will be nodding right now, so here's the good news.

For some time, I've been accredited by AUSActive and have been offering classes and PT sessions that provide exactly that. Hopefully you can find something that suits your needs.

**Living Longer, Living Stronger classes**  
Held at the Nimbin Activities Centre (located at the Nimbin Showground) the 'Living Longer Living Stronger' programme is created by COTA NSW and is designed to help people aged 50+ get fit, stay strong and maintain bone density.

This provides a one-on-one assessment of an individual's fitness level, then creates an exercise programme, taking into account physical limitations as well as ability, tailored to that individual.

Class-members then follow their own specialised programme, at their own pace, in a friendly and unchallenging environment, under my supervision as an accredited fitness professional.

As you improve (and you will), the individual training programmes are revised to align with your current state of fitness. Fees are \$40 for the initial assessment and then \$10 per class.

Classes are held Monday 10.30am, Tuesday 4pm, Thursday 4.15pm and Friday 10am.



Group fitness classes and personal training

I also offer a one-hour group class, designed to suit all fitness levels, on Mondays at 9.15am for a fee of \$10 pp. This class is comprised of a half-hour of dance fitness followed by a circuit of strength, cardio and core exercises.

For those who prefer a less 'gym-like' exercise experience, I offer 'light pace' held at the Nimbin Hall on Tuesdays at 9am.

These classes feature low impact cardio and strength exercises, dance and games. They are designed to improve general fitness, brain and body flexibility, agility and balance. Fees are \$10 per class.

Based at the Nimbin Activities Centre at the Nimbin Showground, I also provide personal training, either one-to-one or in a small group (two or three people) for half-hour or 45 min sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Fridays. Prices vary according to time and the number of people in a group.

As a qualified fitness instructor, it's my intention to provide a guided fitness experience that focuses on my client's personal fitness goals and work to gently improve any existing physical limitations that may hinder their fitness.

I think that the most difficult exercise for many of us to perform, is to get in the car and come to a class. Once you're over that hurdle you're already half way to a healthier body. Let's see what we can do together.

I look forward to chatting to you about your personal goals.

Contact Gail Pierce on 0409-452-620 or email: [gail.pierce@bigpond.com](mailto:gail.pierce@bigpond.com)

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Grant  
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Sundai  
0413 751 184

AGENT OF THE YEAR  
| 2020 | 2021 |  
AGENCY OF THE YEAR  
2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022



NEW



82 Basil Road  
Nimbin 5334sqm  
\$680,000 Agents John & Samara

NEW



131 Crofton Road  
Nimbin 2.025 hectares  
\$695,000 Agent John

NEW



1656 Cawongla Road  
Cawongla 5.9 hectares  
\$1,200,000 Agent Jacqui

NEW



295 Tuntable Falls Road  
Nimbin 5.26 hectares  
\$510,000 Agent John

UNDER OFFER



176 Gungas Road  
Nimbin 6070sqm  
\$725,000 Agent Sundai

NEW



41/78 Cecil Street  
Nimbin 2023sqm  
\$299,000 Agent Samara

NEW



1/133 Thorburn Street  
Nimbin 339sqm  
\$410,000 Agent John

UNDER OFFER



6/26 Mitchell Road  
Georgica 1.5 hectares  
\$650,000 Agent Jacqui

NEW



89 Cullen Street  
Nimbin 1088sqm  
\$680,000 Agent John

NEW



5 Swift Road  
Coffee Camp 2715sqm  
\$1,195,000 Agent Jacqui

NEW



28 Standing Street  
The Channon 1034 sqm  
\$820,000 Agent Jacqui

NEW



54 Twin Pines Road  
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\$1,250,000 Agent Jacqui

## FEATURED PROPERTIES

FEATURE



32/265 Martin Road, LARNOOK - 9735sqm 3 1 6

Price - \$765,000 Agent Jacqui Smith

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