



## Astrology for 2024: Opening of New Horizons

In astrology we study the cycles of the three slow-moving outer planets - also described as the transpersonal planets - as the key markers of our collective experience through history. These outer planets have long orbits: Pluto 246 years, Neptune 165 years and Uranus 84 years. They all are changing signs during 2023/4-2026 moving the elemental emphasis from Earth and Water to Air and Fire signalling a time of dramatic acceleration with a major shift in frequency. Their synchronised transition marks a historic turning point and a new direction for humanity when fresh ideas and powerful spiritual impulses are seeded. 2024 asks for pushing beyond accepted boundaries, nourishing innovative ideas while remaining open for surprising twists and turns.

### Pluto in Aquarius

The Reshaping of Human Relationships 2023/4-44

Pluto's 2nd ingress into Aquarius occurs on January 21 but he will return to Capricorn just once more from September 1 - November 19, before settling in the sign of the water-bearer for the next 20 years.

Pluto spent already a brief time in Aquarius during March - June 2023. Pluto-in-Aquarius cycles coincide with times of radical change and the emergence of new worldviews. During the next two decades our lives will change in unprecedented ways. At best, we will be creating a more humane, decentralised and horizontally structured society promoting mutual respect and friendship. But there is always a dark side to any archetype that emerges out of the collective, depending on how we use the energy. The low side of Pluto in Aquarius is exclusivity and emotional separation. Also, AI and digitalisation will play increasingly a greater role. The dark side here will become more obvious too and we will ask the question if this new digitally driven world is really helping us to grow and evolve.

Each time when the Lord of the Underworld enters the most social and idealistic sign of the zodiac a period of upheaval, liberation and reflection on what it means to be human is initiated. One cycle back we had the French Revolution, and the American Bill of Rights was written. Uranus was discovered which changed the perception of the universe forever. The scientific revolution followed. Two cycles back Copernicus discovered the heliocentric model and challenged the belief-systems and dogmas of the time when postulating that the Earth with all the planets is orbiting around the Sun. This time we will certainly go further out into space familiarising ourselves with our galactic heritage as new frontiers of comprehension become acceptable and common knowledge. By finding our way forward we also find our way back. When Pluto is in Aquarius, the

relationship between spirit and science shifts permanently reshaping human relationships and identity on a fundamental level.

Pluto is the planetary force of evolution while Neptune is associated with the human need for spiritual connection and the experience of soul. Neptune and Pluto have been forming a supportive sextile during 1945 -1986 and will soon align in a waxing sextile again for the last time during 2026-2032. The Neptune-Pluto cycle takes about 494 years to complete and is associated with the transformation of human beliefs and faith over time.

### The Neptune-Saturn Cycle

Spiritual Questioning and the Dissolution of Boundaries (1989 -2025/6)

Neptune in Pisces: 2011 - 2026; Saturn in Pisces March 2023 - February 2026

Neptune has been in its home sign Pisces since 2011 and will enter Aries in late March 2025. Since Saturn is co-present in Pisces, a lot of our spiritual and visionary ideas can solidify during this late phase of the Neptune-in-Pisces cycle. Once Neptune crosses the threshold to Aries our relationship with the imaginative world will be energised and we may realise more directly how our beliefs transform into physical manifestation for the better or worse! We may work much more consciously with vibration and frequency, and the quality of our thinking.

The mystic, philosopher, scientist and educator Rudolf Steiner was a Pisces Sun with Neptune in the late degrees of Pisces (born in 1861). He developed a theory of knowledge based on the direct experience of the spiritual nature of thinking bringing together science and spirit in a new way.

During 2024/5, Saturn and Neptune are in the end-phase of their 36-year cycle that began in 1989. They prepare for a powerful new beginning when meeting exactly at the zero-degree Aries Point threshold in February 2026. Until then, their combined journey through the most elusive sign of the zodiac could be quite chaotic and volatile signalling a period of spiritual questioning. Since 2020, fears of uncertainty about the future have been all pervasive dissolving boundaries between fact and fiction, truth and propaganda. These factors are contributing heavily to the polarisation of communities, societies and nations.

The challenge on a personal level has been finding balance between imagination and common sense while remaining centred and aligned with our own intuition, examining if we act out of fear or out of love. Neptune inspires with a vision or potential, and Saturn brings it down to earth by building the necessary structures. On the other side, Neptune dissolves where and when we have become too rigid and stuck in a rut.

Dreams and beliefs will be tested for their

validity during the unfoldment of this cycle. For example, 1989 was the Fall of the Berlin Wall accompanied by a dream of unity between East and West. During this end-phase we witness the war between Ukraine and Russia plus the rise of neo-Nazis in the eastern part of Germany and Europe showing that some core structures built since 1989 have failed to fulfill people's hopes and expectations.

### The Jupiter-Uranus Conjunction at 22-degree Taurus on April 21

Opening of New Horizons

Uranus is transiting Taurus since 2018 and will enter Gemini in July 2025. Uranus disrupts and transforms unexpectedly and unpredictably the principles of the sign he is transiting. In Taurus, Uranus has revolutionised our values, economy, agriculture and our relationship with Earth. There is still more change to come in these areas whilst Uranus is transiting the later degrees of this stability seeking sign before shifting into mental Gemini. We can assume that during the Uranus-in-Gemini years (2025/6 - 2033) our ways of transport, communication, technology and relationship to outer space will be revolutionised with knowledge and ideas that may only be in their infancy.

The most important planetary event during 2024 occurs on April 21st, when Uranus will conjoin with Jupiter at 22 degrees Taurus starting a new 14-year cycle of technological and cultural revolution.

This cycle correlates with the seeding and explosion of innovative ideas and creativity while new horizons are suddenly in reach. We have the opportunity of making a big jump in the area of life that is emphasised by the conjunction in our own chart. It can be an invitation to take risks, to follow a new inspiration, to suddenly become aware of a new door opening.

On the other hand, the Jupiter-Uranus cycle expands the possibility of sudden revolutionary movements and activities as both planets are associated with the desire for freedom and truth. In Taurus, the potential for seismic activity is heightened as well, especially as this conjunction occurs just shortly after a powerful solar eclipse in Aries (April 8/9). We can expect that the time from March/April - June will be a very eventful period in the year.

During the last conjunction in 2010, we had the Arab Spring and the Icelandic Volcanic cloud that interrupted air traffic for weeks while the conjunction in 1969 coincides with the Moon landing and the legendary Woodstock Festival. During the next conjunction in 1982/3 the Space Shuttle Challenger was launched. In 1997, the Mars Pathfinder, a robotic spacecraft, landed on Mars. It was also the year of Princess Diana's

surprise death. The Storm on the Bastille which triggered the French Revolution occurred during a Jupiter-Uranus conjunction in 1789. Steve Jobs and Edward Snowden are born with a Jupiter-Uranus conjunction in their natal charts and so are Cate Blanchet and Amy Winehouse.

### Jupiter in Gemini

Expansion of the Mind

May 26, 2024 - June 10, 2025

Jupiter enters Gemini on May 26 and will remain until June 10, 2025. Jupiter in the sign of the mental twins invites us to grow wiser in our ability to communicate, network and remain open for dialogue. Gemini likes to explore different points of view without having all the answers. It is a great time for learning something new and to study subjects that expand our perception. Jupiter in Gemini will bring a breath of fresh air, likes to be playful and is great at creating networks of exchange.

Jupiter will receive two squares from Saturn during August and December. Saturn holds onto the past and Jupiter wants to move on. It is essential to remain flexible in one's thinking. Disagreements are possible during these times and conflicts between moral principles (Jupiter) versus rules and regulations (Saturn) may arise. It might be a time when we are having to make a choice between either following our own conviction or conform to outer pressures. The exact dates are August 19th and December 25th.

### Mercury retrogrades in Fire Signs

Aries, Leo, Sagittarius

1 - 25 April in Aries

5 - 29 August in Leo (partial dip into Virgo)

26 November - 16 December in Sagittarius

All Mercury retrogrades during 2023 were in Earth signs. They pushed us to deal with the practical realities of life. The December Mercury retrograde cycle has already been partly in Sagittarius.

When in Fire, Mercury retrograde cycles put the emphasis on our heart's desire and what really inspires us. Rather than relying on information from the outside, we are urged to align with our own truth, listen to our intuition and remain open to new possibilities.

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# STAR SIGN FORECASTS FOR THE YEAR

## Aries

From the end of January until the beginning of April is a perfect period for moving a step forward towards achieving your goals. With Mercury retrograde and a powerful Solar eclipse on April 9, the focus shifts toward inner reflection and clarifying what works and what doesn't. Unexpected new beginnings are possible.

Mars, your ruling planet, is traversing Aries from May 1 until June 10, providing you with fresh motivation. The Lunar North Node remains in Aries until January 2025 supporting your desire for authenticity and independence. Jupiter's journey through Gemini from the end of May until June 2025 lights up your solar house of community and the pursuit of knowledge offering many opportunities for expanding your networks.

The year ends with a Mars-retrograde cycle which will last from December 6th until February 25th, 2025. Expect that projects and connections will be tested and you are reminded of slowing down.

## Taurus

This is a watershed year for many Taureans when you are pushing further onto a new path. This process started already in 2018 but will now have its peak. Jupiter and Uranus conjoin in your Sun sign, exact on April 21. Make extra space for this high-frequency energy because quantum leaps are possible and new horizons are opening for those who are willing to take the risk.

Mars, the planet of drive and action is in Taurus during June 10 – July 21 boosting your energy level and providing you with the necessary momentum to follow your life's goals. Work through resistance and reflect on what is holding you back.

Most importantly, Pluto, the planet of transformation and permanent changes, is about to settle in your solar house of career and life direction for the next 20 years. More than ever, you will be asked to live your life's true purpose.

## Gemini

This is a mixed year, with lots of great opportunities and creative expansions but also equally there will be challenges, endings and limiting influences.

The good news is that Jupiter will be in your Sun sign during May 26-June 10, 2025, generating many opportunities for new beginnings, innovation and visionary projects. Jupiter was last in Gemini during June 2012 – June 2013.

Equally important is Saturn's transition through your solar house of life direction and purpose. If you have done your research and facts are clarified, your influence in decision making processes is gaining. On the other hand, you might feel burdened with more responsibility than you have been asking for.

Mars will be in Gemini during July 21 – September 5, boosting your confidence and desire for pushing beyond set boundaries. Good planning, integrity and formulating a balanced approach will generate the progress that you desire.

## Cancer

With the Lunar North Node still in your solar house of life direction during 2024, you are asked to set sail for reaching your life's purpose. During April, a powerful solar eclipse combined with Mercury retrograde may signal a time of reflection offering a deeper insight into whether you are on the right course.

Support and help from your friends may come at the right time as you get more of an idea where your path is taking you. Groups and networking with like-minded souls open new doors unexpectedly showing you that you are not alone on this journey.

Mars, the planet of drive and energy will be in Cancer for a prolonged period starting on September 5 – November 3 and again during January 7 – April 19, 2025. Mars is retrograde during December 6 – February 24, 2025. This entire period will test and intensify your determination to stand for your truth and align with your authentic self.

## Leo

With Pluto's entry in your solar house of partnerships for the next 20 years, powerful changes will arrive through your engagement with others. Venus and Mars will be joining Pluto during mid-February until mid-March emphasising a period of clarification between your willingness to commit versus your need for freedom.

Jupiter journeys through your solar house of career and life direction until May 26 approaching a conjunction with



Artwork by Gery Mews

electrifying Uranus on April 21. This could not only bring new opportunities for growth but also revolutionise your public image and role in the world. Be ready to embrace change as new doors open suddenly and unexpectedly. Your determination to follow your life's calling might find new strength during June/July.

Mars enters Leo on November 5 and then stations retrograde one month later December 5. The Mars retrograde cycle lasts until February 23, 2025 initiating an inward process of identifying what is really important to you.

## Virgo

Saturn is transiting your solar house of relationships until 2026 bringing tests and trials to your social world and one-on-one encounters. Clarification of each side's responsibilities may be needed especially during March 23 – April 29. Commitments will be tested, and this may coincide with a time of letting go.

The liberating influence of the Jupiter-Uranus conjunction on April 21 falls in your solar 9th house kindling your desire for adventure and exploring new horizons. You might feel drawn towards expanding your knowledge base with innovative studies or through travel.

A breath of fresh air is blowing through your sector of life direction and career from mid-May onwards when Jupiter starts his 12-month journey through Gemini. July 21 – September 5 marks a period of great ambition when you feel compelled to follow your purpose and to reach out to achieve your life's goals.

## Libra

With two more eclipses occurring in your Sun sign, a lunar eclipse on March 24 and a solar eclipse on October 2, you can expect an acceleration of events during 2024.

The emphasis is on relationships and how you can convey your needs truthfully and without holding back. Take note of whom and what you are attracting into your field of influence.

Pluto in Aquarius is about to revolutionise your creative and artistic drive. Especially from January 21 until March 12, you might feel enticed to experiment with different styles of self-expression. This may also affect your parenting approach as you might be moving away from traditional methods creating more space and freedom for yourself and your children.

When Jupiter enters your solar house of travel and higher knowledge on May 26 (until June 10, 2025) you could decide on a new study course. Connections with people from overseas might work out to be quite beneficial during this period.

## Scorpio

Pluto in Aquarius is transiting your solar house of home and family for the next 20 years (from January 21 -September 1; November 19 – January 2044). You may choose more than ever to experiment with different ways of living and need plenty of space for personal development. The foundation of your life has to align with the principles of true friendship, community, and freedom.

Jupiter and Uranus start their new cycle in your solar house

of partnerships, freeing up space and time for a more liberated relationship style that is based on fairness and tolerance.

2024 could be a good year for taking your entrepreneurial side and creative potential onto a more serious level. Find out how your efforts are resonating with others and if you receive the acknowledgement that you desire. Depending on the outcome, you may start on a different path of activity in 2025/6. Mars turning retrograde in your career sector during December 5 – January 7, 2025 might boost this process.

## Sagittarius

Saturn will be another year in your solar house of home and domestic affairs testing the strength of your foundation. During June/July you will get more of an idea about possible zones of weakness, may it be on an emotional or material level. Some essential work might need to be finalised before entering a new cycle of creativity in 2025/6.

Jupiter in Taurus will continue to increase your daily duties and responsibilities until May 26. If you are up for a change, the exciting Jupiter-Uranus conjunction on April 21 can bring sudden breakthroughs in your area of activity.

Jupiter highlights your solar house of relationships from May 26 – June 10, 2025. New opportunities of growth come from those who you attract into your energy field. Keep your frequency high and bright and your intentions focused on desirable outcomes, especially during times of increased tension and stress such as during mid-August and late December.

## Capricorn

Pluto, the great transformer, is leaving your Sun sign on January 21 but will return once more during September 1 – November 19 giving you a last chance to work through unfinished business from the past. Pluto entered Capricorn in 2008 and with his transition into Aquarius you can now leave lots behind. Reflect a moment on the massive learning and growing that you have done during these 15 years!

Jupiter and Uranus meet on April 21 to initiate a new cycle of creativity and entrepreneurial projection. Stretch your boundaries and think out of the square. It is a time for calculated risk-taking.

Saturn continues his journey through your solar house of communication, short travel and neighbourhood. Once Saturn draws closer to elusive Neptune during June/July your perception of reality may shift and interaction with others might become more unclear. Old dreams could be rekindled, and it is for you to work out what is feasible and what is fantasy.

## Aquarius

Pluto, the great transformer, had his first visit to your Sun-sign during March – June 2023 and will re-enter on January 21. Pluto will stay for about 20 years in Aquarius from November 19 onwards. Besides all the challenges this long transit may bring, it is a fantastic opportunity for personal growth and deeply felt changes to your identity.

Expect that your approach to life is going to change in a major way, including how you view yourself and how others resonate with you. Be authentic and own your power, says Pluto! Nevertheless, shadow themes of control might have to be owned as well as you can become more aware of your impact on others.

This process may start in mid-February until late March when the relationship planets Venus and Mars are conjoined in Aquarius. Finding the right balance between intimacy and personal freedom will be the task at hand.

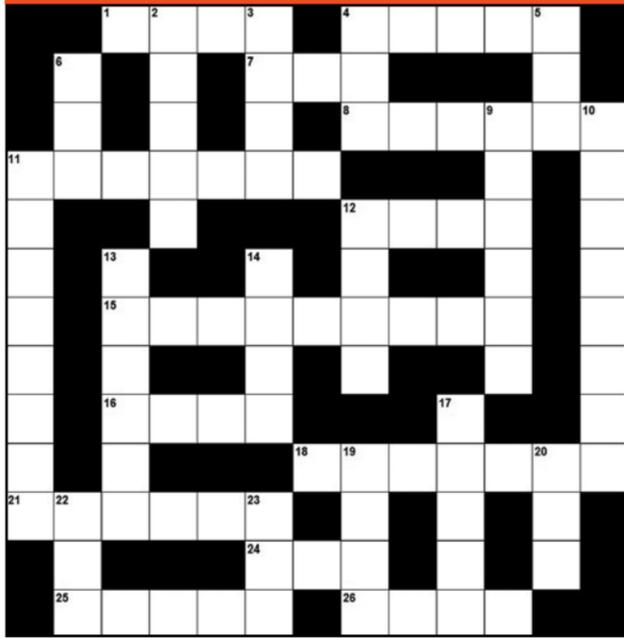
## Pisces

Saturn will be another year in your Sun sign generating experiences of a major re-orientation. It is a time of letting go, especially with Neptune transiting through the last degrees of Pisces. Their closest encounter during 2024 will be during June/July. This is a year of important endings as a new (old) part of yourself wants to be born and given expression from 2025/6 onwards.

Jupiter is activating your solar house of home and family from May 26 until June 11, 2025 bringing new opportunities for growth and expansion in this area of your life. Your family may grow or you might put on a beautiful home extension. If you plan to move to another location, this is a helpful transit to make use of. Mars journeys through this part of the zodiac from July 21 – September 4 boosting your zest for action, adventure and change.

# Nimbin Crossword

2024-01  
by Sycic



## Across

1. Egg yolk emulsion
4. Police frontman
7. Weather bureau (init.)
8. Media, e.g. Insta, Mastro, Facebook
11. Castle courtyards? Cream liqueur
12. Ukraine's capital
15. "Capital" of the Scottish highlands
16. Software control panel? Quick sprint
18. Sickness
21. \_\_\_\_\_ Spielberg, Soderbergh
24. Pioneering internet service provider (init.)
25. Meet a thrust (in fencing)
26. Browser bundled with Windows. You should install Firefox and use that instead.

## Down

2. Acute, obtuse, reflex or right
3. Do as you're told
4. Text
5. Notoriously violent driving game (init.)
6. \_\_\_\_ Lovelace – first computer programmer
9. Commit (funds?)
10. Force that pivots around a fulcrum? Kompromat
11. Harbingers of doom from Irish myth
12. Maidstone is the county town
13. Centre
14. IT?
17. Clean up (software)
19. Lazy? Run engine at resting RPM
20. Small gulp
22. Select (on phone)?
23. Vote, against

Solution: Page 34

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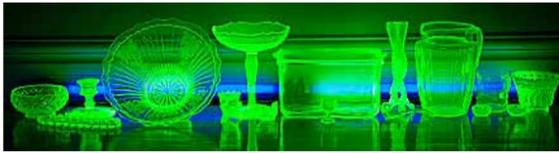
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## Nimbin Trivia Time by Eclectus



### Questions

1. What are these ethereal things? (Image courtesy Realfintogive)
2. If you come across a costermonger in the street, do you turn and run the other way, pat it, buy something from it or pluck it and stick it in your lapel?
3. You may have heard this old standard recently, but just when was Auld Lang Syne written? Late in the 16th, 17th, 18th or 19th century?
4. Which marine and aeronautical navigation light is this colour (with apologies to our many RG colourblind readers)?
5. What came first, the car or the petrol bowser from which to fuel it?
6. Paramount Commander, Paramount Tuff Mudda, Salute Governor, Sunrise Wild Warrior, Vacationer Roughrider, La Vista Matador are all types of what?
7. In which Australian state will you find Beedelup, Manjimup and Nannup?
8. Igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary are the three basic types of what?
9. What are goat wattles?
10. In the recent Boxing Day Test against Pakistan, which Australian cricketer was given out on consecutive balls by the same umpire, only to survive with successful appeals to the third umpire both times? Take a bonus point if you can name the umpire.



1. Uranium glass. Uranium was first identified in the late 18th century. It's use in glassmaking was popular by the mid 19th century, producing a heavy glass that fluoresces under ultraviolet light. It typically contains up to 2% Uranium, usually as a salt such as sodium diuranate. Some 20th century uranium glass contains up to 25% uranium, generating unhealthy levels of radioactivity.
2. You buy some fresh produce from the costermonger's cart or basket. These mobile street vendors provided a valuable service to the poorer classes of London and, indeed many English and European cities from at least the 15th century. They made fresh produce available to those whose long and arduous labours did not allow them to visit retail markets.
3. Auld Lang Syne was written late in the 18th century (1788-9).
4. The starboard (right hand side facing the front of the vessel or aircraft) is green, while the port (left) side is red.
5. Sylvanus Bowser of Fort Wayne, Idaho in the United States invented the bowser and took it to market in September 1885, significantly predating the automobile industry. Initially designed to pump kerosene for lighting and cooking. Bowser introduced improvements and safety features such as the delivery hose for fuelling cars with petrol. The term bowser has fallen out of use in the US but the term petrol bowser remains in use in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.
6. Caravan.
7. Western Australia.
8. Rock.
9. No, they're not trees! They're the small appendages of skin that hang from goats' necks. Seen mostly in dairy and pygmy goats, nobody seems to know what they're for. Just another vestigial something or other that evolution thought better of.
10. All-rounder Mitch Marsh, once for hitting the ball when he didn't think he had and then for hitting the ball when he was sure he had. The unfortunate umpire was Joel Wilson.

### Answers



## The Power of Love

by Marilyn Devlin

So much shifted – morphed into new states of being. We arrive at this juncture with new eyes and a clean slate. Where to from here?

2023 held a punch... it's power veiled... but man, did it go deep. It rearranged so much.

Physical structures are slower to change... chunky and solid they don't move that fast. They're set in their ways... their roots go deep. Like some giant plodding mechanical – veins filled with concrete. Outer things take time.

It's an extraordinary place to stand – between old and new selves... and yet to birthing new worlds.

It feels weird, it feels strange... a stranger in a new world. Acclimatising to the environment we find ourselves transported to.

This isn't a change of scene... it's a whole new way of being here.

It's as well it was veiled... or we would've freaked right out. Refused to budge - held on with all our strength. Well, we still did some of that anyway.

We don't like change. Even if we say we do. Especially fundamental change... all the way through.

It takes courage... it takes knowing, deep down... knowing that life has our back and has never let us down.

We need to step up – move to a higher elevation. We need clarity... we need our senses to guide us.

It just reminded me of that special bath. Shamanic baths I called them. My dear friend who created that space for me has now departed earth.

It was that crazy time... on the cusp of 2020... as our country burned. I was transported to this visionary space where the message was clear. We're going to have to adapt... to new ways.

And while we do... there's protection there.

A lot's changed since that birthing cusp of 2020... just four short years. One thing has remained though... we're still here... with our power and our purpose and the joy we hold within ourselves.

We create our world with everything we do, think and feel. We're not powerless... in fact the total opposite. We get to choose how we want to exist.

2024 has an air of uplift. The great god of the heavens Jupiter holds major influence. He's known as the Great Benefic... the Cosmic Benefactor... inviting us to set sail on the vast seas of optimism.

He brings opportunities for personal growth... he encourages expansion.

He asks us to lift our vision... explore new lands... seek wisdom and higher learning. Up our game to a whole new frontier.

He blesses us with an expansive outlook... and hope for the future.

Opportunities will be many. And yes... within it all... the changes will continue. There's still a lot to unfold.

One thing that caught my eye in the birthing chart for 2024 was the merging energies of Pluto and Aphrodite... both sitting exactly at the karmic degree of endings and new beginnings.

My brain's a bit empty of 'meanings'... after the big clean out of 2023... but there's a sense that this joining is significant in the opportunities of 2024.

Pluto was a major player in 2023 finishing his journey through stately Capricorn... and during this first month of 2024 he sets his focus on to Aquarius... last time he did this was 1777-1798.

Pluto is the Great Transformer... his power is mighty.

Aphrodite... known to most of us as the Goddess of Love, Beauty and Desire... is the archetypal feminine energy of attraction, seduction and creative expression.

She influences all forms of love. A transformative force that brings love and joy into our lives. She's the power of attraction. We attract from the inside/out. Everything begins inside our self.

We keep on learning how to lead the life we desire.

You could say Pluto merging with Aphrodite... at this pivotal karmic point... reminds us of the great 'Power of Love'.

May 2024 be your best year yet... lotsa love.

# Preschool performances



Every year at Tumble Falls Preschool, the children put on a performance for family and friends.

The performance showcases what the children have been fascinated with, learned about, and developed their skills in, throughout the last few terms at preschool.

This year our end-of-year performance was inspired by these interests and learnings, with performances developed by Miriam, our movement/dance teacher, Megan our music teacher, and Simon our circus teacher, supported by our educators.

This year as the weather warmed up, the children began noticing the land mullets appearing, and so began a process of investigation into our native reptiles. Working with Miriam, they used their knowledge as inspiration for their land mullet dance.

The children explain how our land mullet dance worked.

Eva: "We put music on first."

Alice: "And then we came scuttling in, going round the black sheet in a circle."

Eleusis: "The black sheet was the land mullet that we made come alive with our hands, listening to the music."

Eva: "We moved our hands around in it, going up and down, and then our bodies in and out. We became a giant land mullet."

Perry: "Then we turned from land mullets to school children and made land mullet faces then back to our normal face."

Eva: "We did it with Miriam and I liked it."

Then the children sang 'Twinkle Twinkle' while playing tuned bells with Megan.

Esther: "The bells have different colours which represent different sounds. So you have to play the right colour at the right time."

Then everyone moved outside to watch the children's circus with Simon. Again the children explain.

Alice: "I liked swinging down, jumping onto the mat and then rolling."

Eva: "I did a star shape in the sling and then did hanging upside down like a monkey."

Eleusis: "We did lots of climbing and tricks in the sling. I showed everyone spinning the hula hoops."

Perry: "I balanced with one hand and one foot in the air on the balance beam."

Esther: "Yes, so did I."

And to great applause the children bowed and another fantastic end-of-year show was finished.

Tumble Falls Preschool is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8.30am to 4pm during school terms.

We can be contacted via email: [tumblefallspreschool@gmail.com](mailto:tumblefallspreschool@gmail.com) or phone 02 6689-1179.



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## Nimbin Central School and the HSC

by Sally Thompson, Principal

Nimbin Central School has again 'punched above its weight' in HSC results.

At our school, our teachers are experienced, and they hold high expectations. We refuse to adhere to the notion that only those in private, well-resourced, and metropolitan schools can achieve amongst the best results in the State.

Because of our small size, our teachers can really build lasting and trusting relationships with our students and their families. From early in their schooling, we identify how our students learn most effectively and what their passions are. We then tailor their curriculum pathway, and our teaching content and styles, to these needs.

We also harness the amazing creative and conceptual potential of our community in the classroom. Our community is one of diverse, global, and critical thought. This means that our students bring unique and mature perspectives on the world with them to school every day.

Our classrooms are rich with provocative discussions and opportunities for creative expression, and this develops and refines the complexity and depth of our students' ideas.

## Nimbin's sporting superstar

by Sally Thompson, Principal

On behalf of the whole Nimbin Central School community, we would like to extend our congratulations and admiration to Mikayla Frey (pictured, left), who was crowned National Triple Jump Champion in Western Australia in December.

She secured the title with a jump of 11m 75cm.

We have marked Mikayla's jump on a footpath at school, which sparks a conversation each time we walk past.

Mikayla is an amazing young person who, at 14 years of age, in addition to her rigorous training schedule, is also achieving success in her studies at school.

Mikayla, we are all so proud of you!



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# Nimbin Headers 2024 season fast approaching



by Lewis King

As January rolls around again, another year of football begins at the Headers.

Last year was a big year for the club with a record number of senior teams and some major infrastructure goals achieved.

Thanks to all the hard work of our committee and Club President Ruben Mack, we secured grant funding for drainage works on NH2 field and a full lighting upgrade.

This turned out to be very timely indeed, as halfway through the season one of our two training lights faded to a dull glow. Maybe it knew its time was up as the new lighting poles were stood next to it.

Full match lighting on both fields is a game changer. It allows for proper training sessions; players can see the ball clearly at night; and we can utilise two full fields.

In the past nearly all our home games washed out due to wet weather

were rescheduled as away midweek games due to our lack of lighting.

Now these games can be played here, in Nimbin, which is much more appealing than driving all the way to Ballina or Byron on a Tuesday night for an 8pm kick off.

We also look forward to playing regular night games during the upcoming 2024 season, especially earlier in the year when the alternative is playing at 12:30 on a 30-something degree day in the blazing sun.

The drainage on NH2 (our second field) has also been completely re-done, which was badly needed as in wet years the pitch was completely unusable most of the year.

With both fields operational and the new lights up and running, it's perfect timing for the club to grow. This year we're aiming for 5 Mens teams and 3 Womens teams, our biggest year yet.

We welcome all players young and old, new and experienced to come join

the best football club on the Far North Coast.

## Player Registrations

To help streamline the registration process we're introducing the following Registrations Guidelines:

Player Registrations open on 1st February.

- Returning players from previous season have two weeks to register and pay fees to guarantee a place in a team.

- After 14th February, teams will continue to be filled with players on a first come first served basis.

Register early to ensure your place in a team!

- Players must pay fees at time of registration to be considered "active" and to be allocated a spot in a team (contact the club if you are experiencing financial hardship).

- All teams will be formed by a subcommittee, in consultation with coaches and players.

- Players will be allocated to a team based on the following factors: registered and fully paid; level of skill and fitness;

commitment to training and games (pre-season and during season); uphold club values and player code of conduct; team cohesion.

- Player selection for the higher division mens teams will be based off attendance and performance at training for the period of January, February and March.

Training will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm during pre-season, beginning Thursday 25th January.

## Call for Coaches

To accommodate this growth at the club we are in need of more coaches for our senior teams.

If you've coached before or have an interest in giving it a go, please come down to a regular training session or Coach Development Day and get involved.

We will be running Coach Development days with Torsten Wittkopf on Wednesday 24th January and Wednesday 21st February from 5.30pm at the field for all coaches and team managers.

Torsten is the Club's Technical Director and Coach of our Men's Championship team, with many years' experience developing players and coaches.

## Canteen Helpers

This year more helpers are needed in the canteen.

Each home game, teams will be required to allocate two people to help in the canteen, and parents of MiniRoos and Juniors also need to lend a hand before or after their child's game.

Helping for an hour or two in the canteen is a great way to contribute.

## Working Bee

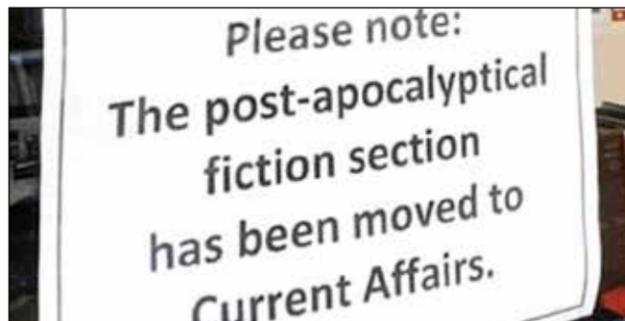
A working bee will be held at the fields on Sunday 28th January from 9am.

We need all hands on deck to get the grounds and buildings ready for the upcoming season.

If you can spare even just an hour, come on down and lend a hand, this club is run by volunteers and together we can continue to make it a great place to play and watch the beautiful game.

## Important Dates

- Wednesday 24th January: Coach Development Day 1 (5.30pm at the fields)
- Thursday 25th January: Senior Men's and Women's training begins (6pm start)
- Thursday 25th January: Goalkeeper Training with Keeper Coach Gordon King (6pm start)
- Sunday 28th January: Headers Working Bee (We need YOU)
- Thursday 1st February: Player Registrations open (Go to: [footballfarnorthcoast.com.au](http://footballfarnorthcoast.com.au))
- Thursday 8th February: ANZAC Day Cup and Callan McMillan Team nominations due
- Wednesday 21st February: Coach Development Day (5.30pm at fields)
- Friday 1st March: ANZAC Day Cup and Callan McMillan Competitions Round 1
- Thursday 7th March: Senior & Junior Team Nominations Due
- Friday 5th April: Senior & Junior Leagues commence
- Saturday 4th May: MiniRoos games commence



# GamesTime in Lismore

by Param Berg

Is anyone out there into "co-operative games"? It's really a thing.

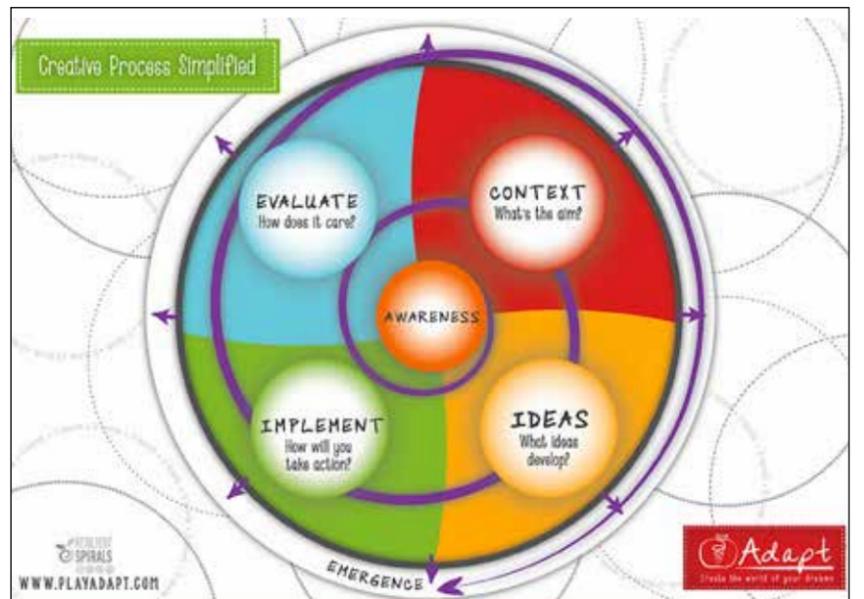
We're talking about board or card games that are designed to be played by a team against a situation, or with a situation set by the game. It's a growing and intriguing genre.

On Thursday 25th January, from 4 to 8pm, at Timbre cafe (which will not be open as a cafe) in Conway Street Lismore, an unknown number of people are getting together with friends and strangers to play.

And you're invited! Especially if you have a co-operative game to share. Or at least a game that has two teams working in competition.

As much as the fun of the game itself, this event, 'GamesTime in Lismore' is about meeting new people and jumping into a team situation with them, right off the bat. And hopefully will become a regular fixture.

One of the games definitely to be played, possibly with more than one set of it to hand, is called Adapt. This is a fairly new creation, rooted in Permaculture principles, but extending them into dealing with all sorts of needs, desired outcomes, or issues.



It's a game in which the action is almost entirely verbal as the group combines forces on whatever each participant brings to the table, prompted by a simple though penetrating set of question cards.

It is challenging, but fun, and spirals from seeds to fruits, ie the "emerging" result.

Other games available so far include, Backwords, Pandemic, Cranium, and the activists' game Beautiful Trouble.

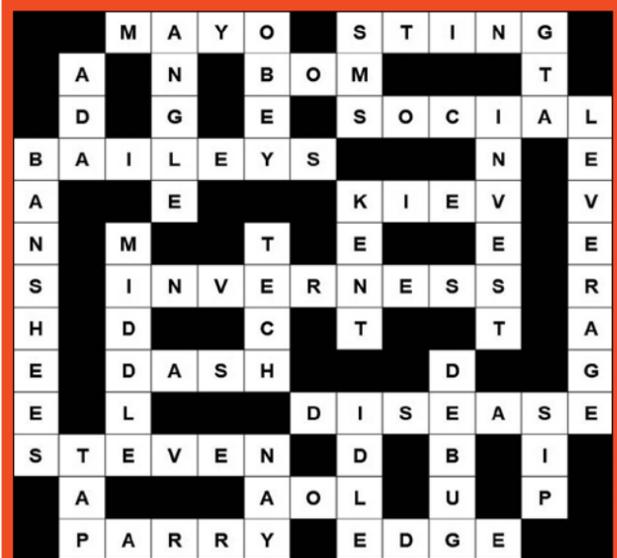
Which is why organisers are hoping for more to turn up on the day. And lots of people.

This is also a pot-luck supper opportunity, so bring some finger food to share (not heavy meals needing plates and cutlery please). Put it in your diary now!

PS: Even the organisers have virtually no experience with any of these games, so don't think you need any!

## Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 32



# Fundraiser for Open Mic



Joey fronts the house band.  
Photo: Mel Williamson

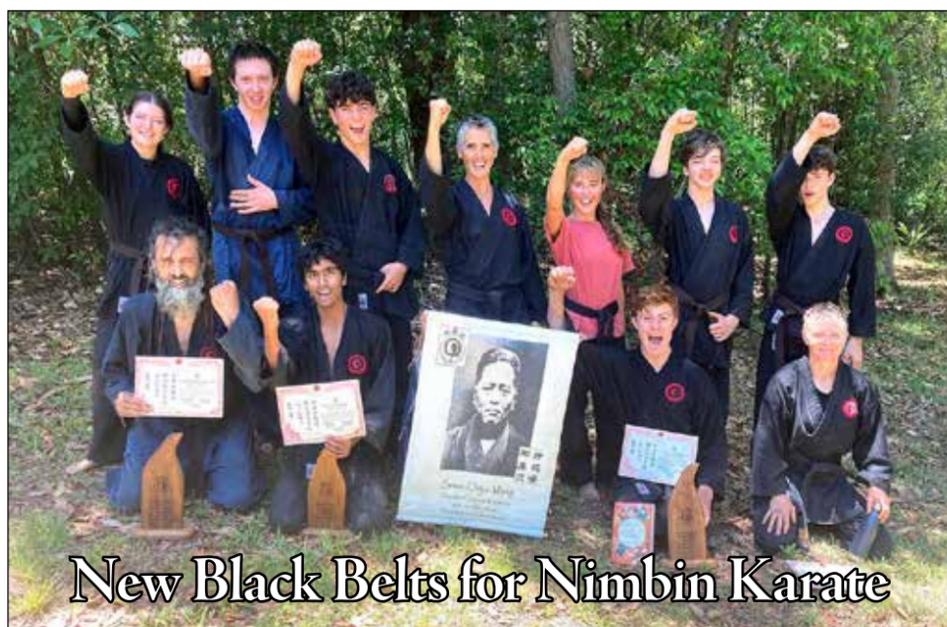
Nimbin Bowling Club's monthly Open Mic night had a solid year in 2023, with good attendances and an always-surprising array of tuneful offerings.

However, over the years, some musical equipment is now in need of repairs or replacement, and the stage lighting is overdue is due for an upgrade.

A fundraising trivia night is being held on Saturday 20th January, starting at 7pm, with great prizes, a raffle and an auction. The bistro will be open from 5pm, and drinks are at club prices.

The January Open Mic will be held on Wednesday 17th, delayed due to mural painting.

It is hoped that the musical workers on the landslip road repairs, now working at Naughton's Gap, will also be rocking back.



## New Black Belts for Nimbin Karate

by Sensei Rachel Whiting

Congratulations are well due to the four students who made it through their gruelling 3.5 hour black belt grading in mid-December.

Dave Raval, Shivam Raval, Eden Freeman and Sarah Antill all demonstrated impressive spirit and unrelenting determination during the demanding testing in the heat of nature's early Summer.

Thank goodness for the shade of trees, and the relative softness of the earth underfoot to ease the falls.

The testing started with strong basics and moved into ever-more complex combinations of movements, forms, partner applications, weapons defence, defence against a group attack, disengagements and holds, throws, on-the-ground work...

A moment was given here and there to breathe in deep, centre and clear the mind amongst the chaos. And then the big finale of endless sparring one-by-one against the crew of six supportive fellow students in attendance (whose energies were still fresh and bright), over and over. Could they stay on their feet? Could they keep rising to the endless challenges?

Such is the gift of the grading – learning to harness the spirit, to not allow the mind to cause doubt, or give into fear, to stay present in the body, to keep responding to whatever arises. Mind. Body. Spirit. Emotions. Bringing them together to forge the malleable strength of the Warrior heart.

Self-control, care for one another, humility, respect, perseverance. And then, there's the 'Ju'... the 'soft'. It is 'Go-ju' after all – 'Hard-soft' style. Circular, winding, redirecting, intelligent, using the opponent's energy, sticky hands, all the senses alive and responsive. Ah! And it is done.

Nimbin Karate now finds itself with nine black belt students. The most recent 'graduates' have all trained for 4-6 years, and now have their P's so to speak. Now they are ready to pass on and refine their skills.

Our dojo is a place where people can enter as white belts with no experience, realise they are safe, encouraged and supported, and that they can do the journey of gaining strength both physically and mentally with us. We lift people up, we don't put them down. Feel free to come try karate in 2024.

Contact Sensei Rachel on 0427-778 837, or email: [gojudojo@protonmail.com](mailto:gojudojo@protonmail.com) Web: [www.gojudojo.com.au](http://www.gojudojo.com.au) FB: TOGK

**Nimbin Bowling Club**  
Welcomes you to a Night of Trivia  
in support of the Nimbin Community.

WHEN: Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month).

WHERE: Sibley's Bistro, Nimbin Bowling Club. Lots of fun for all.

**FUNDRAISING for The Nimbin Bowlo Open Mic.**

Great prizes to be won on the night as well as a raffle and auction.

BOOKINGS are Encouraged. Priority Given for Meals in Bistro.

Nimbin Bowling Club 02 6689 1250 Sibley's Bistro 02 6689 1473

THEME: Best dressed - "Glam and glitter and all that jazz..." - prize!

TIME: 6:00 pm For 7:00 pm Start. ENTRY: \$3 gold coins

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Wishing you and your family a  
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