

A tale of two chassis

Don't get me started
by Harry Gumboot

It was the juxtaposition of the cute little Fiat 500E and the monstrous RAM twin-cab parked outside the Green Bank that caught my attention.

When the obviously non-local couple at the adjoining table at Armonica asked if there was a charging station in the village, I made the connection.

They were staying in Byron and had driven over for the day. They'd planned to return via Murwillumbah, but were now considering back-tracking through Lismore. I directed them to the charger at Rainbow Power.

Their departure (silent) revealed a space too small for your average vehicle to park in because the vehicle behind was taking up two-thirds of the designated parking area.

Having finished my coffee, I decided to pace out the five newly-signed two-hour parking sections between the Green Bank driveway and Cecil Street. Individually they came to 10, 18, 20, 18 and 25 metres in length.

The recommended length of a parallel parking bay in NSW is 5.4 metres, so you can see the issue here. Short of relocating three sets of steps and the hospital's entrance and exit, I see no way of

complying.

But a few lines painted on the road for guidance, plus signage directing larger vehicles such as the aforementioned Wankpanzer to the western carpark – not to mention the two Winebagos parked near the blister last week – might help.

The RAM twin cab is 6.14m long, while the Fiat 500E 3.63m. I suspect that if they ever build an electric model of the former they'll need to sacrifice the tray for battery space.

If you're parked within the legal requirement of no more than 45cm from the curb, you'd better hope the guy in the monster truck has done the same. At 1.9m wide with its mirrors extended, the Fiat, along with many other vehicles, has a visibility issue when pulling out from in front of the two-truck wide monster truck.

Having one's front or rear end ever so slightly over the line is unlikely to raise the ire of a parking inspector. What irks me is a half an empty space at one end of a line of parked cars and a corresponding one at the other end.

Am I being naïve here? Are Nimbin residents too focused on raising their consciousness to notice something as mundane as a parking sign?

Perhaps a third-eye test should be included in local licence renewals.

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A parent's role in realising your dreams

Grow your child's dream with parental support, inviting a lively family discussion where you might offer most valuable – and sometimes even welcome – expertise and knowledge.

Take care to not give uninvited advice, and let the child come forward with questions before you answer a question that was not asked.

You might trample on the tiny seed that has just sprung. You want to fertilise the passion by pouring onto the seed nothing but encouragement.

In order to realise a dream, children need the support of the parents or parent. Take an example from the animal realm. Turtles, lions, zebras and penguins: what do they have in common? Do they make their newly hatched or newly born feel inadequate to tackle life? No way.

One of the prime rules is that every baby turtle, lion cub, zebra fowl and penguin chick is made welcome into the world on the basis of competence. The parents release them into the world knowing they'll be equal to the challenges and sufficiently capable to take on their tasks of growing into mature beings.

The slightest hint of doubt would topple the whole perfect set-up. A look or gesture, or just the thought that would express itself in the body language, that has the



by Antionette Ensbey

whiff of uncertainty would plant insecurity in the young one and that insecurity would be the hurdle to independence.

An animal instinctively knows that such a hurdle is risky for the survival of the youngster and that insecure behaviour renders the offspring vulnerable and dependent on others.

Parents must be aware of their body language and of every spoken word, that none of their gestures or verbal expressions communicates uncertainty over the capability of their child. Growing independence is enabled by the trust in the ability to do so – without parental interference.

Children easily pick up on criticism. They see it in the look they get, the sigh they hear, or the well-meaning advice they are getting for free.

It erects unnecessary hurdles that can only be overcome by investing time and effort. They spend time with explanations,

arguments and the strenuous manoeuvre of convincing their parents that the thing they want to do most is what gives them satisfaction and ultimately success.

Persuasion can be a long drawn-out process, depending on the willingness of the parents to acknowledge the wishes of the child, and give credibility to an idea.

Turning around your parent's opinionated attitude is a true time-waster. That time could have been invested in exploring the options and make things work. The child, not having to convince parents of the advantages of realising the dream, is free to pursue the dream.

And here is the crux of the matter. Even if the parent should be right, even if the child was somehow erroneous with their choice or made a bad choice, the child has to go through the process of finding out without external help, to bring on the full conviction that the choice was not that good after all. Only then can the child fully let go and move on.

If parents keep trying to change their child's mind because they believe they know better, then the child will never be convinced that somehow they've made a mistake in pursuing a certain dream. This does not have to be as drastic as it may sound.

It can be lessons in horse riding or skate boarding, or taking on an apprenticeship. Everybody has to go through experiences in order to learn about the world and about themselves.

Better even, if the choice was a good one, and the child feels complete and happy, it's a fantastic confirmation of will and competence.

Personal success accompanies that feeling, and a light-heartedness surrounds the business of growing up that cannot be substituted by any other means than parents who trust their child and know how and when to support a child's dream.

So next time, when you open your mouth to critically comment on your child's wishes – provided they come from the heart – close your mouth and smile encouragingly, even if what they want to pursue may not be immediately compatible with your own wishes for them.

Show respect and be curious, because curiosity is the equivalent to confirmation. Honour your child's dream – it is an important part of forming their identity and knowing who they are. That way you signal that you believe in your child's talents and abilities.

If you do, you'll impart the gift of embracing life with the self-assured mastery of a wild animal.

A moment

by S Sorrensen

It's been a while, but it's coming back to me. It's like riding a bike, I guess: you never lose the skill. So, I'm, um, riding a bike along a road that winds through the jungle of Penang Island, Malaysia.

It isn't a push bike, though. I'm riding a 125cc motorbike I have named Blue Light. Because it's blue like the Andaman Sea I sometimes spot through the trees, and it's light, the back wheel skittering over fresh monsoonal rutting.

I haven't ridden for a while, so I was a bit nervous when I began my ride this morning from a motorcycle hire joint in Chulla Street in George Town (which is not a town but a city). The streets are narrow and the traffic intense.

I nosed my bike into the honking mayhem with some trepidation, soon realising that traffic lights are suggestions, stop signs are hopeful, lanes are fluid. Not the best place to refresh my riding skills. But travelling, like life, is a risk. Face your fears, or stay at home (or at my hotel with its air-con and Netflix and cans of Tiger beer chillin' in the fridge).

Over the years, I have noodled through SE Asia on these tough little bikes, boldly going where Lonely Planet has never gone. I do love it, but, as I said, it's been a while. Now



there are more cars, more people, and, let's face it, I'm more old. Death lurks closer, looming like a tropical storm, making me anxious.

In Chulla Street this morning, astride Blue Light in a melee of metal monsters, I saw death; I glimpsed her over my left shoulder. She took the shape of a grinning yellow BMW sports car, her brakes squealing like a banshee as she skidded to a halt behind me, the dashboard car waving frantically. But it was not my time.

Now, with the city left on the coast, I relax. Blue Light dips into corner after corner on this empty road snaking through the jungled hills of the island's interior. I lean ever more confidently into the curves, dancing the bitumen ballet.

It's good to be in the bush, because mostly I have been in Malaysia's cities,

A jurisdictional issue

I'd love to tell you about two matters that are going to take up my weekend, unpaid, but checking section 114Q of the *Family Law Act 1975*, decide best not: "Indictable offence – communication to the public of account of proceedings that identifies parties or others involved in proceedings. Penalty: Imprisonment for one year."

So, I go to something I'm allowed to write about. It's in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). My client seeks a review of a refusal to grant his application for a Working with Children (WWC) clearance. He's a mental health social worker with a doctorate and an impressive CV. There's never been a suggestion he's a danger to children.

Acting for fathers in contested parenting matters, the mother's allegations often start with domestic violence, move through coercive control, and end up, in the more extreme cases, with our client having touched the child inappropriately. So far, we've never run a case where this has been substantiated.

One father tells me his ex is advising women what to do when they want the children full time, and all the child support, even putting them up at her place until they can get into a refuge.

As a social worker and academic, my client works in different States and doesn't need to work with children anyway. But not having a current WWC clearance in that State doesn't help when he applies for jobs. And, understandably, he hates being labelled a criminal.

Under our federal system, WWC clearances are State based, but the Australian Criminal Intelligence Service does the criminal history check. My client already has clearances in other States and can't see why Victoria refused him.

He has now applied for a review by VCAT and asks me to represent him. He's written to VCAT, "I have served out a five-year exclusion with Queensland, and they have accepted my application to remove the exclusion. In addition, my criminal history is over 20-years old and the convictions have been spent."

I remember those convictions well, but don't have space for it here. If you're interested, it's in chapter 15 of *Shiva's Garden II* (free at: johnadams150712.substack.com).

Relevantly, we'd pleaded guilty long ago to subsection 4(1) of the *Summary Offences Act 1988* (NSW): "A person must not conduct himself or herself in an offensive manner in or near, or within view or hearing from, a public place or a



Legal writes
by John 'Sindhu' Adams

school." Police considered his reaction to being removed from a public bar offensive. There was a school nearby. Late at night, of course there were no children there.

A recent VCAT judgement is on point. In that case the application for review was dismissed because the Tribunal lacked jurisdiction. Last year amendments were made to the *Worker Screening Act 2020* (Vic),

from Malacca to Ipoh. Some images are etched in my mind: a group of young women wearing the tudung (Malaysian hijab), carrying laden Nike shopping bags, pouting for selfies, as mall speakers call the people to sales; a Chinese Malay man in a sweat-soaked Manchester United t-shirt, smoking a cigarette while thumb-scrolling his phone while flipping noodles in a giant wok at a street stall.

But the world is increasingly the same. The fingers of corporate imperialism are poking into every corner of the world, forging a homogeneity of blaring but bland branding. Local culture gets caught in the internet, then processed, packaged and shat out in pats of concrete malls that choke, then putrefy, that which was special and different.

But this is nice, cruising through an ancient jungle. Wind in my face. Maybe that's all there is now: the wind in your face. Maybe it's enough that anxiety, death's shadow, cannot keep up with me as I crouch over the handlebars to reach nearly 40km/hr on a downhill bit, lightly touching the brakes to corner into a predictable future.

I hear a scream, a shriek. Startled, I check my mirrors. No BMW with smoking brake pads. I look over my left shoulder. The bike wobbles. There! Flitting through the jungle canopy! Is it her? Is it time?

Unbalanced, I go too wide into a blind corner. I hope there's no car on the road. There isn't.

There's only a startled monkey pondering death in a changing world.

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The Dao of Yin and Yang

"The Dao brings forth One. One brings forth Two. Two brings forth Three. Three brings forth all things. All things carry Yin and embrace Yang, achieving harmony through their union."

This passage comes from the Dao De Jing, a text written by Laozi in ancient China, traditionally dated to the 6th century BCE.

It shows that everything in the universe comes from a single source, splits into two opposing forces, and through their interaction, all things are created in balance and harmony.

Any attempt to explain the meaning of the Dao is ultimately futile, as Laozi states: "The Dao that can be spoken of is not the eternal Dao." Jiddu Krishnamurti, a 20th-century spiritual teacher, expresses the same idea simply: "The word is not the thing."

Yet language is what we commonly use to communicate. Attempting to describe the utterly indescribable with human language, given our limited minds, is impossible. Nevertheless, giving the "perfume of the word" remains important. The most common

translations of the Dao are The Way and The Source. One can say that the Dao is the source from which everything arises. The concept of emptiness can also help describe the Dao, as illustrated by the American theoretical physicist and philosopher Dr David Bohm, who viewed "emptiness" not as a void but as a plenum, an infinitely full, creative and undivided ground of being.

Interestingly, Dr. Bohm's idea is similar to that of the Heart Sutra, compiled between the 1st and 6th centuries CE: "Form is emptiness, emptiness is form; form does not differ from emptiness, emptiness does not differ from form."

In other words, the world we perceive is not separate from emptiness; rather, it arises from emptiness, showing how all forms emerge from a fundamental, formless source - the Dao.

The dance of Yin & Yang
From the indescribable Dao, One, the unity, was manifested, and from it, the complementary opposites Yin and Yang were born. Yin represents the receptive, inward, and passive aspects of the universe, such as darkness, cold, softness, and stillness,



by Chi Fung Lee

while Yang represents the active, outward, and creative aspects, such as light, heat, strength, and movement. Through their dynamic interaction, all things arise, and harmony is maintained in the natural order.

The ancient Chinese medical text, the Yellow Emperor's Inner Classic (compiled approximately 475-221 BCE), states: "Yin and Yang govern the natural order of the universe; they guide the foundation of all things. They are the mother of all change, the root of life and death, and the dwelling place of the spiritual life. In treatment, one must address the root of disharmony in terms of Yin and Yang."

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is founded upon the fundamental principle of Yin and Yang. This principle informs the

understanding of physiology, the development of disease, diagnostic methods, and therapeutic strategies. Every physiological change and symptom is understood in terms of the dynamic of Yin and Yang.

Ultimately, the aim of TCM is to restore and sustain this equilibrium within the individual.

TCM practitioners act like detectives, examining the balance of Yin and Yang in their patients through diagnosis, and like mechanics, repairing and restoring harmony and function in the body.

By carefully assessing the interplay of Yin and Yang - including any excesses or deficiencies, hot or cold, they can recommend treatments such as lifestyle adjustments, dietary guidance, acupuncture or herbal remedies to restore balance.

A glimpse of the Dao can help us live more peacefully in this material world, freeing us from clinging to physical possessions, as well as from fear and attachment to thoughts and emotions.

Chi Fung Lee is an AHPRA & AACMA registered acupuncturist in Coffee Camp. Phone 0478-239-298.

So they say...

Senior Sex

I am 83 and my new boyfriend is 77 and we're having the best sex of our lives. How do I tell my conservative children?

- Fanny Cummington, Jiggi

with Uncle Norm & Aunty Maj

Magenta says...

Senior citizens are definitely getting it on. Apparently STDs are more common in the over-70's than any other age group. It is very important to guard against embarrassing, uncomfortable and even life-threatening diseases. So, I hope you guys are doing the right thing. Or both got checked out by the doctor before going commando. I am fully aware of oldies' raging sex lives, because my mother insists on telling me all about hers, bragging that she, also, is having the best sex of her life. Maybe it's because of her false teeth? I'm jealous. She's even got sexier underwear than me!

She told me he was a bit kinky and wanted some bondage so she tied him up to the bed and then went and got herself a cup of tea. I listen dutifully to her stories and jokes.

My naive, unsuspecting sister walked in on them doing it twice. Once I can understand, but twice? She has since learned to knock before she barges in.

I don't know why youngsters are so repulsed by old-age sex. It is wonderful to know that, with luck and looking after yourself, you can have fun well into old age.

Fanny, you and your boyfriend (I think one is never too old to be called a boyfriend), are wonderful examples of positive aging and joyous living. Explain to your children that physical intimacy is important for health and well-being and even more-so as we age. There is no age limit for physical love.

If they love you, they will understand. If not, well fuck 'em!

A flasher jumped out in front of two old ladies. One had a stroke and the other one missed.

Send your relationship problems to: magentaappelpye@gmail.com



Norm says...

Dear Fanny, firstly, congratulations on finding a fella of his age with all his hydraulics in working order. He must be taking his saw palmetto and pygeum pills. I'll bet you're a pretty hot chick as well.

It's amusing, if not galling, to observe the attitudes of the young to senior citizens having a bit of nookie. They find it so disgusting that they would prefer to think they were actually delivered by the stork rather than by their parents having hot, sweaty, bump and grind, penis/vagina orgasmic sex to produce these little bundles of joy.

They think that sex is something they've come up with themselves and that it should only be the preserve of the young and gorgeous, conveniently forgetting that every creature on the planet has sex. Even our 16-year-old dog is still up for it.

If you feel you want to tell your children (you probably want to tell everybody!) just tell the little fuckers. After all, you're 83 for goodness sake. You shouldn't have to worry about what they, or anybody else, thinks of you. Invite them over for afternoon tea only to find you both at it like a pair of snakes on the kitchen floor. That'll put them in the picture.

A therapist has a theory that couples who make love once a day are the happiest. So he tests it at a seminar by asking those assembled, "How many people here make love once a day?" Half the people raise their hands, each of them grinning widely. "Once a week?" A third of the audience members raise their hands, their grins a bit less vibrant. "Once a month?" A few hands tepidly go up. Then he asks, "OK, how about once a year?" One man in the back jumps up and down, jubilantly waving his hands. The therapist is shocked - this disproves his theory. "If you make love only once a year," he asks, "why are you so happy?" The man yells, "Today's the day!"

Why guide nourishment? To balance yin and yang

by Anand Gandharva

Humans need food. Until global anti-violence laws include flora and fauna, free will makes a person consume like an herbivore, a flexitarian, a carnivore or an omnivore.

If the latter fights for sustainability, as many are today, they are heroes for nature, but also part of the problem: protecting environments yet destroying them: stewards of trees with the one hand, ruthless killers with the other.

The omnivore dieter is like a spoiled child; 'I want my cake and eat it too', protects nature, but also funds bulldozing woods, air pollution, CO₂, methane, temperatures rising, fires, floods, land clearing, wildlife extinction, ocean plastic, poisons.

A world no future kid can live in.

Many people feel all ills stem from overpopulation. While birth control can be very good, the underlying issue is consumption.

Sustainable protein sources are plentiful: vegetables, fruits, nuts, mushrooms, tofu, powders, artificial proteins, etc.



From Google: 'The cow in the room': a metaphor, like the 'elephant in the room' referring to the often-ignored, major environmental impact of animal agriculture (especially cattle) on climate change, biodiversity and health, despite calls for sustainable food systems. Reducing meat consumption is a crucial, yet overlooked, step to meet climate goals, alongside transitioning to renewable energy and electric transport.'

Or see: <https://eat4thefuture.com/food/the-cow-in-the-room-why-we-keep-ignoring-it>
The above article spells it

'Yin Yang Universe' by the author

out well, for example saying: "There are multiple reasons we don't hear diet choices as the number one change you can make to help climate change. One of the main ones being that the dairy, beef, egg industries do not want us to know the impact because they profit from our ignorance..."

Traditional farming impacts living. Population rose three times in past 50 years. Some things had to give: wilderness, regrowth, rewilding, wildlife. In this area only a third of

New industry is in value adding on plant product, like macadamias and other nuts, avocado, berries, bananas, seeds, tea tree, other oils and medicines including THCs, creativity, tourism, renewable energy, SCU, hospital growth, rural and ecological services, that help farmers to regenerate or rewild land where needed.

The decisions on what food to choose is not only what one consumes, but how much. If a person can't give flesh away, then do more with less. There are also financial arguments for change. A report in the New York Times quotes the cost of a 'steak' receiving AUD \$25 per plate subsidy. If you are eco-friendly, you pay for most of this unfairly, in the form of taxes for

health, agriculture, energy, security, emergency service, environment and more.

Anxiety over human-induced climate change is high; some 50% of the community favour lowering animal nutrition. No-one wants to be told what to eat, but if major parties do not create a net zero nutrition policy, switched-on voters may insist on meaningful change.

If in doubt, go with the flow. Vote with your feet, see: <https://faunalytics.org/animal-ag-in-climate-media>
Bio-capacity is fading fast: the universe has two forces like a magnet, up and down, hot and cold, left and right, etc. Be a tolerant co-designer of the future. Balance yin and yang.

Friends

by Magenta Appel-Pye

Friendships are an important, meaningful part of our lives and I find myself a bit low on them. Many have been lost over time; death, moving away and break-ups as deeply hurtful as any love relationship. Even though I suffered greatly from the losses, I know I need to make new friends, even if their ideas are different from mine. Especially then.

Chronic loneliness and social isolation increase the risk of premature death by 26% and is more harmful than physical inactivity or obesity.

I read a wonderful book called *The Secrets of Successful Friendships*. They say there are different kinds of friendship, each addressing a particular kind of loneliness:

- **The professional friendship** meets our need to be understood and liked at the same time. We see not only compassion in another's face, but discover they are just as muddled, hurt and confused as we are. Reciprocity is psychologically crucial.
- **The friend who balances us**, sometimes our opposite, who meets our need to discover in another the missing parts of ourselves.
- **A teasing friendship** alerts us to small but real defects without hurting us so much that we run away. The best teasers make their affection for, and appreciative understanding of us plain as they pinpoint a failing. The best teasing is mutual.
- **The occasional friend** meets our need to be loved for our own merits, without our failings getting in the way because the encounters are brief and occasional.
- **A thinking friendship** meets our need for another to care enough about our emerging ideas to help us know our own minds.
- **Micro friendships** meet our need to sense that our complex humanity can be recognised by complete strangers. Taking time to have small chats about nothing in particular with people we don't know and



may not ever get to know fully can make our day more joyful.

- **A friend to be silly with** meets our need to happily acknowledge, and thus disarm, our secret understanding of our own existential idiocy.
- **An old friendship** meets our need to keep alive the best of who we used to be. Here are a few they missed:
- **The party friend** - great for a good time but they don't hang around for the hard times.
- **The drug friend** - fun to get stoned with but often boring when straight.
- **The spiritual friend** - good for spiritual discussions, meditating with and retreats but if you show your dark side, some run away.
- **The dancing friend** - great fun to see bands with, but falls away if you are injured.
- **The musical friend** - many happy hours spent playing and talking about music but don't know anything about them personally.
- **The sport friend** - wonderful when you can play but drops off the edge if you can't.
- **Couples** - lovely while everyone is getting along. Disasters when someone breaks up or fights.

There are many friendships worth pursuing for different reasons. The main skill of being a good friend is to learn the art of listening properly. A good friend helps us to find ourselves interesting.

We know we have found a true friend when we feel patiently witnessed in our entirety, in all our painful and chaotic complexity.

A Damoclean Age

by Michael Brooke

There was a crazy brilliant Buddhist monk, the late Bhikkhu Nanamoli who, in a moment of disheartenment, described the 20th century as a Damoclean Age.

Damoclean means a time of imminent and severe peril, akin to the experience of Damocles who was made to sit under a sword that was precariously suspended by a hair.

Nanamoli was born in England and survived the two horrendous World Wars. He died from a heart attack in a lonely village in the heart of a forest in Sri Lanka. He was a man with a keen and subtle mind, and he was an eminent scholar. He donned sandals and a saffron robe and adopted the ways of Buddhist meditation.

It's a wonder that he would retreat to such a faraway place in a tropical country to die so removed from his birthplace. He wrote: "If I insist on having only beauty before me, I know only horror will be behind me, therefore I shall not dare to turn around."

If Nanamoli could have foreseen this 21st century, what would he say of it? "Here we go again, human conflict, our timeless everlasting now?" Probably



something like that. In this age, where could he escape to?

As a Buddhist he was inclined to being enigmatic, so he might tell us a meaningful story, cryptically... of a man who went to a theatre, but when he thought it was time to leave, he found that the real audience was elsewhere and he was part of a show containing the drama he had come to see.

He would understand there was no escape, he was unavoidably part of the action - again and again he would find himself trembling, sitting as we all do, under a precariously hanging sword.

But never mind, for this age is the age of spring cleaning... spring after spring, and the furniture gets shabbier and shabbier and has to be replaced, and the walls get filthy and have to be repainted, and the tiles fall off in the bathroom and have to be glued back, and the owners grow old and are succeeded by their

children...

And the house falls down and has to be rebuilt, and the state collapses and has to be reformed, and the world economic system gets out of date and has to be remodelled, and the world sources of supply dry up and new ones have to be found, and the climate changes and the sun gets hotter and we all get deranged... and this is 'Progress'.

Is progress a precariously hanging sword? Nanamoli suggests the story of progress is almost, not quite a fairy story. Nanamoli tells it well: "When we are children we are not quite deceived by the fairies with which our minds people empty places. We are not quite deceived by the 'Let's Pretend'. But when we are grown up, we forget that as children we imagined many impossible things, and so we do not know the truth about the impossible things we now imagine."

Nanamoli had little faith in truth and progress as defined and imagined by, for instance, prime ministers, presidents, military generals - he warns that they 'almost' deceive us.

"Funny," he says, "how many claim to have the key to unlock the secrets of life, the universe and everything, but where are those who will show us, by example, where is the keyhole for their key?"



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ASTRO FORECASTS



by Tina Mews
What's happening in the heavens?

Aries

The lunar eclipse shifts the emphasis on health, daily routine and service to others. It is a good time for launching new health practices. Mercury is still retrograde until March 21 marking a 3-week period of possible delays and communication difficulties. Venus in self-motivated Aries from March 6 onwards supports an independent and direct style in your dealings with others. Displaying patience is the key to success.

Taurus

The lunar eclipse shifts the emphasis on your relationship with your children, your artistic self-expression, romantic needs and your relationship with your own 'inner child'. The Virgo energy supports the healing of old childhood wounds which may lead to re-thinking and clarifying your objectives for the future.

Gemini

The energies of the lunar eclipse on March 3 put the emphasis on domestic affairs and family matters. Home improvement projects may occupy your attention as you try to make rational decisions. Mercury is still retrograde until March 21, marking a time of delays and possible misunderstandings. Tap into your intuitive wisdom for guidance.

Cancer

With a line-up of planets in your solar house of career and life direction during March and April, you may be called to step up into new responsibilities and leadership roles. Allow your light to shine and take advantage of new opportunities, even if this might feel challenging at first. Things start moving forward from March 21 onwards, once Mercury turns direct.

Leo

The Virgo energy of the lunar eclipse places the focus on ordering your finances and making adjustments to better balance your accounts. Also, issues of sharing are emphasised, what to give and what to receive, and how to invest your energy wisely. Partnerships and contracts that have recently been seeded are under review to ensure they are built on solid ground.

Virgo

The focus is on personal identity and how to create a new balance in your relationships. The lunar eclipse in your sign brings powerful personal insights about clearing out old attitudes, worries and opinions. Mercury in direct motion from March 21 onwards improves communication, especially in your relationship with others.

March

March begins with a lunar eclipse in Virgo on March 3, following the solar eclipse in Aquarius that occurred on February 17. Eclipses mark endings and new beginnings and often bring to light what has been lying in the dark. The Virgo energy is helpful for paying attention to important changes of the last few weeks for further processing, analysing and digestion. At the same time, Mercury is still retrograde until March 21, supporting a deeper reflection and review of the latest personal as well as collective events. With Mercury still in Pisces until mid-April, we are asked to trust our intuition when trying to make sense of it all.

The total lunar eclipse in Virgo is opposite the Sun in Pisces. The lunar eclipse occurs in our night sky at 10.37 pm and is visible in Australia. This "blood moon" eclipse shifts our focus on health, daily routine improvements, and being practical about innovative ideas. The overall message of the eclipse is a clearing out of the old to make space for the new energy seeded at the New Moon eclipse in Aquarius about two weeks earlier.

Neptune, the ruling planet of Pisces, is now in Aries since January 27, the sign of the warrior, and will remain until 2039. Neptune's evolutionary intent in Aries (until 2039) is to take responsibility for our personal mission without getting swept away in somebody else's ideology, thereby maintaining our integrity and sovereignty. Fact checking becomes a must in these times of fake news as well as trusting our own creative powers when following our dreams.

The Saturn-Neptune conjunction which occurred on February 20, marked the beginning of a new cycle, a powerful cosmic reset moment of our collective cultural-spiritual vision.

It manifests through the archetype of Aries, adding a fiery, combative but also fearless dimension. As the first sign of the zodiac, Aries represents new beginnings and the renewal of hope and courage. It is a call to step into our power and claim our birthright to live our full potential. The shadow side of Aries follows a "might makes right" approach. In the current climate old attitudes and shadow expressions of the outgoing Piscean Age with its religious wars, conflict-ridden ideologies and hierarchical structures still find some ground to hold onto. Yet the Aquarian consciousness revolution brought forward by the people - meaning by everyone of us - empowers equality, collaboration, and spiritual renewal and it cannot be stopped.

Venus enters Aries on March 6 and

will remain in this fiery sign until March 30 calling for greater awareness around balancing our need for connection with the urge to follow our instincts. It is less about compromise and more about authentic expression. Simultaneously, Mars in elusive Pisces until April 10 urges us to walk the path of the spiritual warrior who serves the needs of the collective and fights for peace, empathy, and inclusiveness rather than ego-driven conquest.

Jupiter stations direct in Cancer on March 11. Jupiter will remain in Cancer until the end of June bringing growth through nurturing, home, and family. While Jupiter is still in Cancer, the energy is well suited for supporting domestic projects. However, the shadow expression is an over-protectiveness against anything that feels unfamiliar and foreign.

The Sun enters Aries on March 21 (1.45 am AEDT) marking our autumn equinox and the spring equinox on the northern hemisphere. Mercury stations direct just a few hours later. Then, all planets are in forward motion until May 7 drawing our attention to new areas of exploration and possibilities. We are still in the New Moon phase with Sun, Saturn, Neptune, Venus, Moon and Chiron all in Aries, the sign of new beginnings. The New Moon occurred just 2 days earlier, on February 19 in the late degrees of Pisces, the end of the zodiac. The zero-degree Aries point, the marker of the equinox, is an important threshold where the cosmic energy moves us from the old to the new. It is a fertile time for starting new projects and acting on our vision. With Saturn now in Aries until April 2028, we are called to make bold decisions about the direction we want to take when moving towards the future. In all this, it is important to keep the bigger picture in mind, that we are amid a collective process of change that has never happened before in this way.

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Libra

This is a time to adjust your work routine as your body asks for more rest and your soul calls for time out and spiritual renewal. Once your ruling planet Venus enters Aries on March 6, you may become more assertive in your relationship needs. Boundaries that are non-negotiable need to be clarified while others belong to the past and are allowed to dissolve. Take your time in sorting it out.

Scorpio

The emphasis is on expressing yourself creatively and finding validation from your friends for the energy you put into joint projects. With Mercury retrograde until March 21, communication may not be that easy. Unforeseen difficulties and delays are possible, so take extra time for following through with your projects. All will work out in the end.

Sagittarius

Allow for changes in your life direction and adjust your role in the world as some doors may be closing while new ones are opening. Balance your time spend for career advancement with quality time at home and a happy, fulfilling family life. Use the Mercury retrograde period for reflecting on your priorities and finalising unfinished business.

Capricorn

This is a time when your beliefs and opinions about life and your everyday duties are tested for their validity. Use the Mercury retrograde period (until March 21) for creating some quiet time to gain clarity. On a deep level, you are working through mental patterns formed in early life. You may decide to let go of certain responsibilities and opt for spiritual renewal.

Aquarius

Use this time to reflect on what really matters in life, what you truly value from the bottom of your heart. This exploration may bring to the surface unresolved self-worth issues. What do you really want and do you believe you are worth it? Avoid major new purchases while Mercury is retrograde as your values may change during this period (until March 21).

Pisces

The lunar eclipse (March 3) places emphasis on personal relationships. It is time to strike a balance between your own needs and those of another. With Mercury still retrograde until March 21 and Mars in Pisces until April 10, it will be more difficult to find clarity about your true feelings and motivations. Give yourself time and allow situations to unfold.



Welcoming the Fae

by Marilyn Devlin

Ahhh... the arrival of these deliciously cool mornings. Bliss. March... autumn is on its way. Autumn was my favourite season when I lived on the property. The light was magickal... (great for taking pics)... the golden light illuminating the joyful dancing molecules existing behind and around all form.

It's when the Fae world comes alive... actively present and visible to the eye. The protection from the searing heat... a place of ease, to be seen... and to be.

The celebration of life that's happening constantly beyond our physical senses.

Oh god I miss the magick. The magick that feeds me and makes me vital. The love and joy and celebration that is always happening... behind the veil, the illusion of matter.

Oh yes... matter is real enough... when you live in a body on a very physically presenting planet (Earth). This duality... the form and the unformed... a challenge that confronts us daily.

Nothing is by chance. The influence from my philosopher father... lives within my cells. "There is no such thing as an accident"... "There is no such thing as a coincidence"... His little sayings still echo through time.

He had his challenges... even with his brilliant mind and awareness. He lived and participated in wars... as a young boy. He bore the devastating wounds and dysfunctions... that these inhumane activities create in our ever-sensitive nervous systems.

And of course... the trauma... the wounding, continues in energetic form throughout time. Energy cannot be created or destroyed. There's something bigger than our meandering minds. Our current views.

But hey... I'm getting serious... which I'm want at times. This search for meaning, explanation and purpose has walked with me since I was a young child.

With my experiences and heritage... energy, to me... the presence and impact of... is very real.

I began my search in metaphysics during that pivotal and transformational time of puberty. I read once that whatever interest is sparked in us around the age of twelve... is a sign to our gifts... what we're specifically created to pursue.

It was true for me. Our purpose originates from inside... not out. We come with so much of what we need. We can polish and refine them... add further knowledge and understanding to what we already know... deep in our blood.

Well... the big times continue. The recent energetic crossing over into a new cycle of being and becoming. Everything is cyclic... of different lengths and impact.

Neptune and Saturn's completion of an old cycle... moving into an entirely new beginning, a new energetic environment. A process we've all walked through during January and February... has been significant. An event that's said not to have occurred since 6300 BC.

In simple terms... major changes are afoot. Well... I think that's becoming more visible to us all.

The world as we've known it... is morphing into a different form. Birthing... as any woman knows who's birthed a child... can be messy.

All new beginnings... come with significant endings. And endings can be difficult for us.

How can we proceed... feet on the ground, one tiny part of everything... how can we chart our course... there's always a right way through everything.

Doesn't mean there won't be challenges... life on Earth is full of them... it's also full of joy and celebration... and opportunity beyond our meagre mind's imagination.

We have one chance... and it goes fast. With an expiry date that constantly moves closer... which we mostly ignore. We're here to experience the most amazing existence we can... within the limits and confines of natural law. Of universal law... of the right way forward.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus



Questions

- The mountain pygmy possum (*Burramys parvus*) clings on in the rocky alpine areas of southeastern Australia. The size of a mouse at 45 grams, this tiny marsupial has been IUCN Red Listed as critically endangered since 2008 and its population, estimated at 2000 individuals, has not increased since. It confronts extinction in the face of habitat destruction, feral cat and fox predation and climate change. This little creature that calls some of the coldest parts of mainland Australia home is the only marsupial in the world that does what? Image courtesy of Bush Heritage Australia, <https://www.bushheritage.org.au>
- Who were the Furies? Hint: don't be confused by the silly 2019 film of the same name!
- Were the Furies Greek, Roman or Australian?
- Tossed up during a World Anti-Doping Authority press conference at the recent Milano Cortina Winter Olympic Games, what is the latest area of investigation for WADA?
- Murray Ball's cartoon celebrating quintessential Kiwi quirks, *Footrot Flats*' main protagonist is a dog. What is the dog's name? Careful!
- The address for a website is more formally, known as a URL. What does URL stand for?
- Which five letters can be arranged into two words, one meaning to educate and the other meaning to ignore education and application of knowledge to short circuit the path to success? Hint: they both begin with consonants and they have two adjacent vowels in the same order.
- True or false? There is less than an hour's difference between the length of a day on Mars and a day on Earth.
- Naturally occurring glass has been around for billions of years due to volcanic activity and lightning strike. The first record of manufactured glass was over five and a half thousand years ago in Egypt. But this glass was opaque. When was clear glass first manufactured? Around 5,000; 2,000; 1,000 or 500 years ago?
- Animal, Mineral or Vegetable: Lode, loris, lomandra? Take a point for each correct answer.

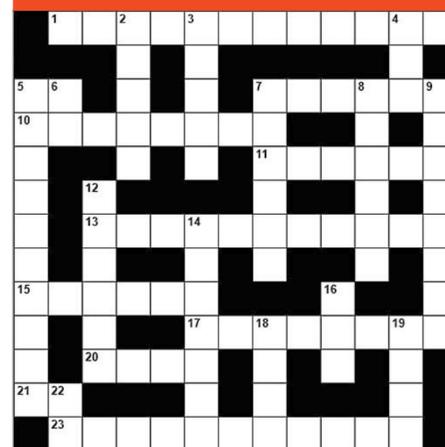
Answers

1. The mountain pygmy possum is the only marsupial that hibernates, sitting just as millions upon millions far away. And therein lies a question for another time.
2. Three witches: Alecto (anger); Megaera (jealousy) and Tisiphone (avenger).
3. Greek (although the term Furies is Roman). They live in the underworld.
4. Pentas. Men's ski jump competitors are really, really, really competitive. It seems, WADA is "going to take a close look" at the emerging issue of hyaluronate injection pens enlargement in the men's ski jump. Ski jumpers rely heavily on the surface area of their skintight suits for lift. Very heavy! A bigger pens means a bigger suit with more surface area and therefore more lift. Naughty ski jumpers should keep an eye on the unfolding story from the previous two questions in coming quizzes!
5. The dog has no name. Not even Nemo. He is only ever referred to as the dog or dog.
6. Universal Resource Locator.
7. Teach and cheer.
8. True. A Martian day (known as a sol) is about 24 hours, 39 minutes, 35 seconds long.
9. Angelo Barovier is credited as the first to make clear glass at Murano in the 15th century. In the interest of transparency, there is more to come on the recent history of clear glass in this eclectic quiz.
10. (M) lode is a vein of metalliciferous ore within a rock formation. (A) the loris (subfamily Loridae) is a nocturnal, arboreal wet-nosed primate native to tropical South and Southeast Asia; (F) lomandra (Lomandra species) are grasses, largely native to Australia, that protect the riparian zone from erosion.

Nimbin Crossword

2026-03

by 5ync



Across

1. Teaparty MC (3,3,6)
5. Batavia's doom (init.)
7. Oyster-enjoying pinniped
10. Barrier? Hurdle
11. Banished
13. Feline who said "I am not crazy; my reality is just different from yours." (8,3)
15. Middle Baltic nation
17. (3 down)'s chess antagonist
20. Junta replacement?
21. Hairstyle
23. An absolute bounder, late for an important date (5,6)

Down

2. Terra
3. Heroine of varying sizes
4. Tallest native bird
5. (Kingdom) down the rabbit-hole
6. Stomach muscle
7. Snouty beetle
8. Treasures, as sought by Indiana Jones
9. Drug induced stupor?
12. White Vinegar's acid
14. The forbidden text
16. Prompt? Pool-stick
18. Primadonna?
19. Way out, man
22. Cry of pain

Solution: Page 34

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