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Rain water: wild geese heard north

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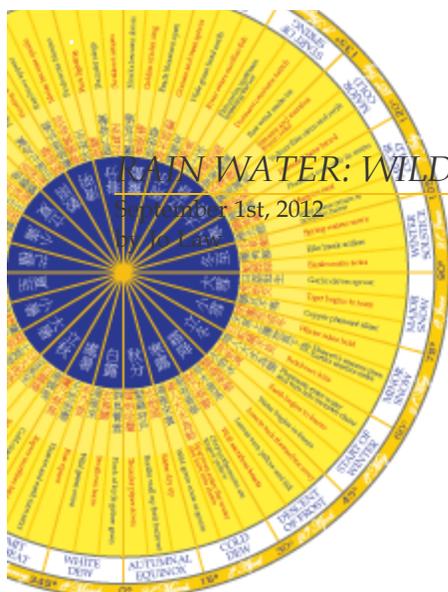
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THE ILLAWARRA AND BEYOND



RAIN WATER: WILD GEESE HEAD NORTH

September 1st, 2012
by Jo Law

{ABOUT THE PROJECT}

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{OBSERVATIONS}

Autumn
Beyond

- Austinmer 34°18'S 150°56'E*
- Canberra 35°18'S 149°07'E*
- Coalcliff 34°14'S 150°58'E*
- Coledale 34°17'S 150°57'E*
- Mount Kiera 34°24'S 150°51'E*
- North Wollongong 34°25'S 150°53'E*
- Nowra 34° 53' S 150° 36' E*
- Riversdale 36°01'S 149°12'E*
- Shoalhaven River 34°52'S 150°44'E*
- Taree 31°54'S 152°27'E / 31.9°S*
- Wollongong 34°25'S 150°52'E*

Snippets
Spring
Summer
Winter

{CALENDAR}

In this pentad, the meteorological reckoning of season marked its first day of spring. And we have come to the last entry of the *Illustrated Almanac*. Since we embarked on this journey in September, 2011, we have completed 1 revolution around the sun covering some 940 million kilometres. The sun is once again at 150° on our imaginary ecliptic, it climbs higher every day and will do so until June 21st, 2013. In the meantime, the day continues to lengthen. In just a little more than a month, on October 7th, 2012, daylight saving will begin in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. Hollis' new bathers arrived in the post and I find myself thinking about summer clothes and cotton yarn. ... [{read on}](#)

« Sep

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RAIN WATER: RIVER OTTERS SACRIFICE FISH

August 27th, 2012
by Jo Law

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{SNIPPETS}



This pentad began with a very warm spring day. Bellambi (AWS) recorded 26.7°C on Thursday August 23rd. Where we were in Sydney, the highest temperature reached 30°C. In the city, many people wore their summer ensemble perfect for the hot sun; leaving some of us, who caught off-guard by the sudden shift in weather, wandering with our woollens tied around our waists or stuffed in our bags from a cold country. Like a Proustian madeleine, the warm air jolts the body and, for a brief moment, I was immersed in a hot Sydney summer's day. ...

Posted in [Spring](#) | [No Comments »](#)

START OF SPRING: FISH SWIM UPSTREAM AND BREAK THE ICE

August 22nd, 2012
by Jo Law

{NOTABLE COMMENTARIES}

 *IllusAlmanac* Illustrated Almanac
2:39 PM Jan 12, 2012

On a cheerfully sunny morning, Hollis and I visited the Botanical Gardens in Wollongong. Upon entry we were greeted by two roosters and a hen, free-ranging on the grass. As Hollis tried to make friends with the birds, I was drawn to inspect the impressive vegetable patch nearby. Bordered by bright marigolds and flanked by colourful rainbows and silverbeets, the extensive bed was offering full and round purple and white images; in between fresh pale green broad beans were well on their way to offer up some pods.

[{read on}](#)

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START OF SPRING: DORMANT CREATURES TWITCH

August 17th, 2012
by Jo Law

One may interpret seasonal changes through a number of avenues: temperature fluctuations, hours of sunlight, precipitation and other weather events. Behaviour of living things contribute to the experience of spring. As budding new shoots make their appearance through the soil or on bare branches, those higher on the food web may sense that the time of plenty is drawing near. 'Dormant creatures twitch'; some may come to the conclusion that it is a good time to breed. Thus, for many species, the reproduction cycle begins. ... [{read on}](#)

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START OF SPRING: EAST WIND MELTS ICE

@girlnagun Meanwhile, fan-mania continues here whether hot or cold/ Faa!! Faa!! chirps the small one. [Illustrated Almanac](#) Dec 20, 2011 8:46 PM
@girlnagun Yellow-tailed, Red-tailed, may I ask? Just the sulphur-crested vandals here ripping off upripe passionfruits! [Illustrated Almanac](#) Nov 15, 2011 1:49 PM
@girlnagun A cicada shell on a mulberry leaf: where are the cicadas? Then we heard a song that night <http://t.co/z2WRL0qP> [HollisBridgeman](#) Hollis Bridgeman Law Nov 13, 2011 2:48 PM
@IllusAlmanac: more...?
Lzzzzz....d....Zzzzzz...
<http://t.co/UMv7syaG>

August 12th, 2012
by Jo Law

Yes, it is spring, according to the Chinese Almanac. The almanac uses astronomical calculations to reckon the seasons, where four positions of the sun on the ecliptic serve as reference points. These quarter points, as they are known, are the solstices and equinoxes. On the solstices, the sun observed from Earth to be directly overhead at the tropics (of Capricorn $23^{\circ} 26' 16''\text{S}$ or Cancer $23^{\circ} 26' 16''\text{N}$). At these points, the sun 'stands still', it will go no further but instead 'reverses' direction. Allowing for a delay in the heating and cooling of earth's air temperature (known as 'season lag'), the almanac places the start of seasons at the mid-points between solstices and equinoxes ... [{read on}](#)

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MAJOR COLD: STREAMS AND MARSHES FROZEN SOLID

August 7th, 2012
by Jo Law

Beautiful sunny days continued into this pentad with the highest maximum reaching 20.8°C on Sunday August 5th. The highest overnight minimum was 11.5°C. No rainfall was recorded during this period and humidity remained low (between 30% and 62%). Far from 'streams and marshes frozen solid', feelings of cold melted away when one basked in the warm sun. My birthday is amongst these last days of winter. ... [{read on}](#)

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MAJOR COLD: VULTURE FLIES STERN AND SWIFT

August 1st, 2012

by Jo Law

In this second pentad of 'Major Cold', the sun was warm but the air felt chill. The daytime maximums returned to mid-teens after having reached higher temperatures in previous days. Correspondingly, night time minimums sank to below 10°C. On a sunny day, we surveyed the beach after a storm and saw that the ocean brought to shore mostly sponges and cuttlefish. Our effort to regain normality after a prolonged period of sickness was once again foiled by another bout of illness. I, too, now long for the end of winter. ... [{read on}](#)

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MAJOR COLD: PHEASANT HENS BROOD

July 27th, 2012

by Jo Law

As the sun moves to 120° on the ecliptic, we enter the last solar term of winter. This first pentad of 'Major Cold' began with aptly wintry conditions with the daytime maximums reaching the mid-teens and overnight minimums hovering just above 10°C. Persistent light rains were followed by a glorious warm sunny Wednesday. It was succeeded by a moody overcast day that ended with a thunder storm. The pentad closed with another beautiful winter's day.

The Chinese Almanac continues to focus on bird life but these 'observations' appear to be more a metaphorical gesture towards the raising yang than descriptive of actual phenological occurrences. Perhaps these images of spring activities fuel the hopes that the coldest season will soon draw to an end. ... [{read on}](#)

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DUCK!!

July 25th, 2012

by Hollis Bridgeman Law



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GO GO PARK, FLY FLY KITE

July 25th, 2012

by Hollis Bridgeman Law



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