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"Major cold: pheasant hens brood"

Jo Law

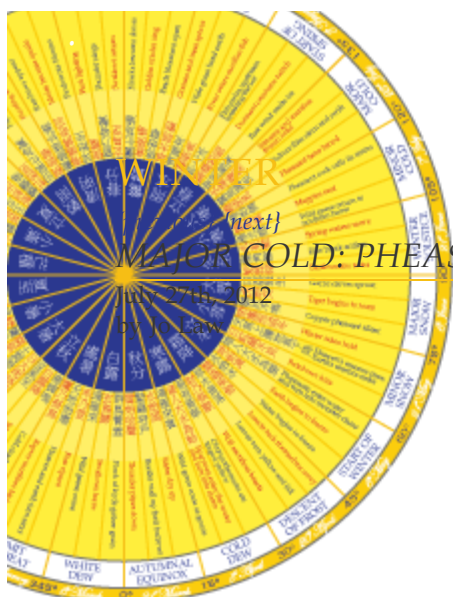
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THE ILLAWARRA AND BEYOND



{ABOUT THE PROJECT}

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[Contributor's User Manual](#)
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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}

December 2012

MTWTFSS

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 hope that the coldest season will soon draw to an end.

Bird life does not quieten down throughout Illawarra's mild winter. On Wollongong campus, a rather fearless large bird, possibly a pearl guinea fowl, harassed customers of the library's cafe, jumping onto tables and sending piqued students running. She was particularly keen on the toasted panini, which is the cafe's trademark. Elsewhere, a pair of wood ducks, more conventional in their diet, ventured afar from the waterways to graze on open lawn.

In Austinmer, three King Parrots (*Alisterus scapularis*) decided to try their luck and stopped briefly on our front deck to see whether any edibles have been left out for them. In Hollis's

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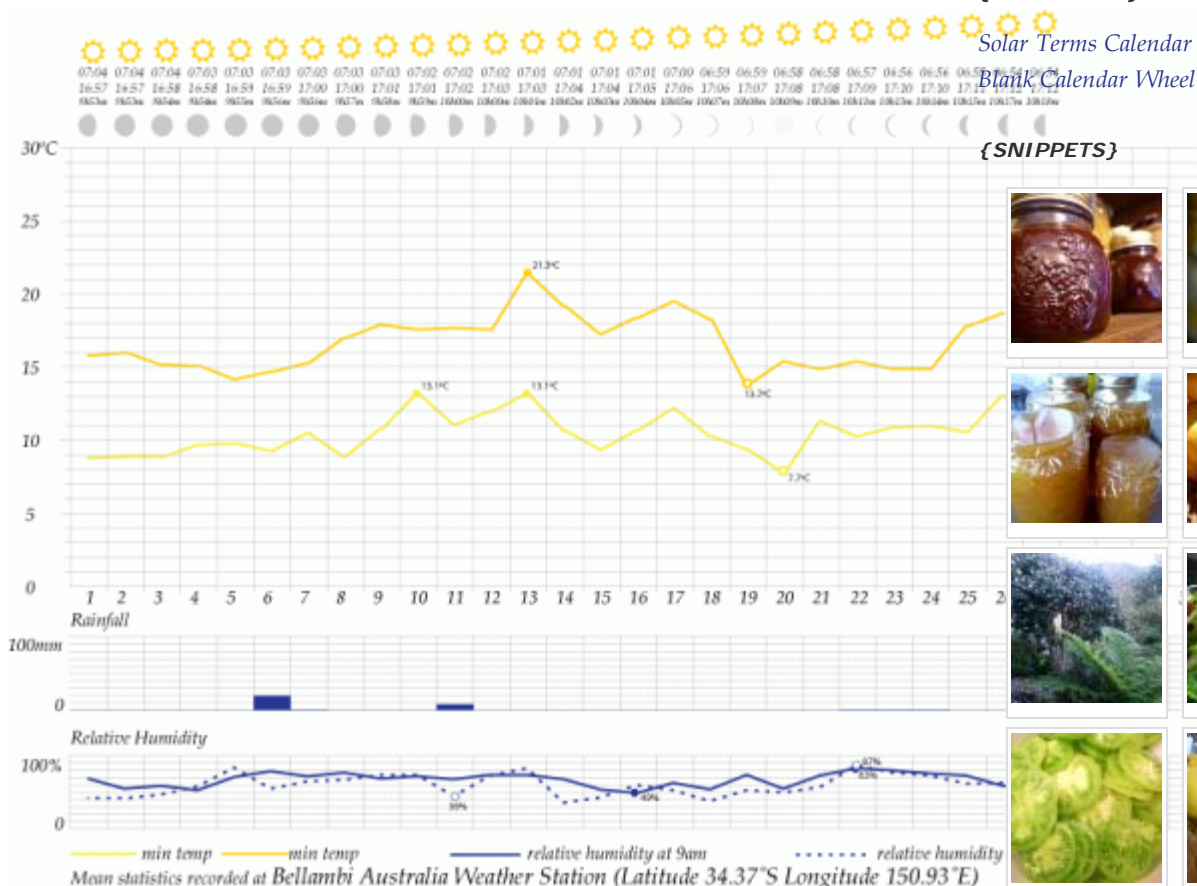
first spring, waiting for the King Parrots was something we did in the afternoon while we have our snack. This fascination with the birds continue to this day but we no longer have seeds for the parrots as this also attracts the more troublesome Currawong (some of whom carry the dreaded bumble foot disease or *Staphylococcosis*) and Sulphur-crested cockatoos (some of whom likes to eat the house as well).

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When no food appeared to be forthcoming the three parrots flew up to the neighbour's Camellia tree and started eating the flowers, apparently satisfied what the plant life has to offer.

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{NOTABLE COMMENTARIES}

illusAlmanac Illustrated Almanac



2:39 PM Jan 12, 2012

@girlnagun Meanwhile,

fan-mania continues here whether hot or cold/ Faa!! Faa!! chirps the small one.



IllusAlmanac Illustrated Almanac

4:46 PM Dec 20, 2011

@girlnagun Yellow-tailed,

Red-tailed, may I ask? Just the sulphur-crested vandals here ripping off upripe passionfruits!



IllusAlmanac Illustrated Almanac

1:49 PM Nov 15, 2011

@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

2:48 PM Nov 13, 2011

@IllusAlmanac: more...?

Lzzzzz....d....Zzzzzz...

<http://t.co/UMv7syaG>

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