



**Maranoa Town & Country Mail**

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**Editorial**

# What do you think?

By Justine Miller

Have you ever heard of Nikola Tesla? He was a charismatic, crazy and smart Serbian inventor born in 1856. His childhood seemed fairly unremarkable, one of five children who was born in modern day Croatia. After school he went to university a couple of time to study electrical engineering but dropped out repeatedly. He read lots of books, memorizing complete books.

During his early life, Tesla suffered a peculiar affliction in which blinding flashes of light would appear before his eyes, often accompanied by visions. Much of the time the visions were linked to a word or idea he might have come across, at other times they would provide the solution to a particular problem he had been encountering; just by hearing the name of an item, he would be able to envision it in realistic detail. Tesla would visualize an invention in his mind with extreme precision, including all dimensions, before moving to the construction stage; a technique sometimes known as picture thinking. He typically did not make drawings by hand, instead just conceiving all ideas with his mind.

During his lifetime, Tesla invented fluorescent lighting, the Tesla induction motor, the Tesla coil, and developed the alternating current (AC) electrical supply system that included a motor and transformer, and 3-phase electricity. Tesla is now credited with inventing modern radio as well. In total, Nikola Telsa was granted more than one hundred patents and invented countless unpatented inventions. In 1943 Tesla died in New York City alone and destitute, having lost both his fortune and scientific reputation. During his fall

from notoriety to obscurity, Tesla created a legacy of genuine invention and prophecy that still fascinates today.

Why am I sharing this story? To me it highlights how obscure this world is, and how complex we are as individuals. We are so determined to label people, occupations and beliefs but is it actually possible to make sense of people and life, or should we simply try to accept the mystery and beauty of humanness and stop trying so hard to understand it and manipulate it. Look at Tesla, he was thinking about things so far ahead of his time he was labeled an alien, truly believed to have come from outer space. Yet the Tesla coil, invented in 1891, is still used in radio and television sets and other electronic equipment today. You don't have to be Tesla to misunderstood. I would describe myself as super-sensitive. I do not cope well when people don't like me, I collapse when threatened, bullied or confronted. My heart starts to race and I feel sick when I feel like my confidence or friendship has been betrayed. I regularly do not think before I speak, and I have a complex arsenal of defense mechanisms designed to prevent people from really getting near the real me. Yet at the same time I am incredibly passionate about certain topics so regularly find myself having deep and personal conversations with people, defending and debating things that are very dear to my heart with people who do not agree with me. The words that are coming out of mouth do not always provide an accurate depiction of what is really happening in my head and heart. I am sure people misinterpret or misunderstand me constantly, due to my actions and words. Do you feel misunderstood like this?

So next time you ask somebody what they do, judge a person by what they wear or have a pre-conceived idea about a certain school or town, think of Tesla, and try to keep an open mind, we don't really know what is happening in their mind but it just might be amazing!

 Read more at [www.happyatherbgully.blogspot.com.au](http://www.happyatherbgully.blogspot.com.au)

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