Fundraiser for England tour



Nimbin's Uri Ross has been playing football, soccer as it used to be called, about since he started walking. By his own admission, he's got "pretty good at it."

His mum, Marie Cameron, beams as she tells of his progress through the Headers teams and up to the representative level, where he is now in the North Coast regional development squad.

And now he's got the chance to go to England for a junior playing tour of 20 matches over 20 days. The only snag is the

So they've organised a great raffle (see Letters, p6) and now they are planning a fund-raising day at the Nimbin Bowling Club, on Saturday 16th September.

The day will feature social bowls games, performances by the Mona Lizard band, a luncheon and a big auction.

The opportunity to help talented local youth to gain experience of this calibre does not come along too often, so Marie is hoping the turn-out will be good.

"We'll continue fund-raising right up until he leaves on tour, on 8th October," she said.

Chalk4Peace

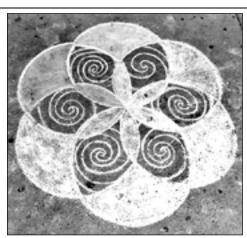
People young and old, from all over the world are being activated to participate in ths global Chalk4Peace art/peace project, taking place in communities everywhere from 15th to 23rd September.

It is hoped that at least one million people will participate in this global outpouring of the heart, which follows the success of smaller Chalk4Peace events in London and in various locations around the world since 2003.

The Nimbin HEMP Embassy, with the Museum, the Oasis Café and other local businesses, is sponsoring "Chalk4Peace Day" on Saturday 15th September 2007, coinciding with Nimbin's new Rainbow Lane Saturday morning produce market.

Chalk will be available on the day starting from 8am, and artists will have until midday to complete their drawing or message for this global public art project for peace. Cash prizes will be awarded for various categories, children and adults.

Michael Balderstone from the Nimbin Museum said, "Nimbin is crawling with terrific artists, people who have kept in touch



with their creativity, in fact it's inside every

"The HEMP Embassy is delighted to sponsor something that anyone can participate in, even if they just write a few words, their thoughts on global peace," he said.

According to the organisers, "Chalk4Peace is about our empowerment. We The People, our global culture, all people everywhere and our common desire to live in peace." Find out more at <www.infinitepossibility.org>

For further info on the Nimbin event, contact Michael or Paris at Nimbin H*E*M*P Embassy, phone/fax 6689-1842.

Nominate a volunteer

The Volunteer of the Year Awards were recently launched by the NSW Minister for Volunteering, Linda Burney, on behalf of the Centre for Volunteering, the peak body for volunteering in NSW.

The Minister, who is Patron of the awards, called for representatives of the thousands of not-for-profit organisations throughout the State to nominate their most committed and productive workers.

There are more than 1.4 million volunteers throughout the State, and hardly an area of life that is not helped by volunteering.

The Mayor of Lismore, Cr Merv King endorsed the call for nominations. "In our own community, we appreciate the tremendous amount of good work undertaken by volunteers.

"There are many, many local people giving their time and energy every day in the

Lismore area. Their contributions range from aged care, education and child welfare and counselling, through to emergency callout, event control, running sporting clubs, environmental care and animal protection,"

The awards are being conducted on a regional basis throughout the State. Regional awards ceremonies will take place during October, and regional winners will take part in State judging. An award ceremony to honour all winners will be held on December 5, International Volunteer Day.

For further information about the awards, or to nominate a volunteer, call Kristin Romanis, The Centre for Volunteering, telephone (02) 9261-3600 or visit <www. volunteering.com.au> Closing Date: 1st October. Eligibility: service for not-for-profit organisation.

The Golden Claw

This latest production from the fevered and occasionally furrowed brow of Bob Tissott is obviously a desperate attempt to cash in on the overwhelming success of his first pantomime, The Troll Hunter, in that it is a shameless sequel. (Is this the beginning of a series to rival Rocky?)

Once again we find those incredibly inept sailors, Bilge & Barnacle, stumbling their way through events much larger than themselves and yet somehow making a difference.

Once again we have two Gnomes (G1 and G2) squabbling over the content and direction of the play until G2 takes matters into her own hands.

And once again we have an "Evil Genius", Dr. Von Braun (he's even nastier than Vlad The Troll Hunter), who needs to be stopped before he gets away with the ah, but that would be telling wouldn't it?

Throw in The Professor and Mary-Anne, Tom Jones, a couple of Von Braun's henchmen (Dexter & Sinister), a dusky island maiden,

Rainbow posters on show



In rehearsal. The Professor examines the claw for the edification of Bilge and Mary-Anne.

a Queen, a Deity AND a talking Volcano (not to mention sharks, spiders, giant crabs and the most banana skin accidents since The Three Stooges) and once again you have fabulous family entertainment right here in

Playing at Nimbin School of Arts Hall Fri 14/Sat 15 & Fri 21/Sat 22 September, tickets available @ Perceptio's Nimbin, phone

Starlight charity auction

Nimbin Bowling Club's Family Fun Day and Charity Auction, run in conjunction with the Northern Rivers Hotel Social Club in August, proved a resounding success.

As well as face-painting by Tania, a jumping castle and disco music accompanying social bowls, the afternoon featured the auction, conducted by ex-butcher Col Hannigan.

A large range of goods and services, generously donated by businesses and individuals in both Lismore and Nimbin were auctioned off, with a total of \$3,381 raised for the Starlight Children's Foundation Australia.

Col Hannigan said, "Congratulations of you for getting behind it."



A collection of historic local poster art will be on display at the Nimbin Regional Gallery (the Rainbow Building) at the Nimbin Community Centre, from Saturday 29th September to Sunday 14th October, from 10am to 4pm daily.

In selecting works for the exhibition, the curators have favoured posters relating to historically significant local events. Each poster is accompanied by a story and together the works document the visual and cultural history 'new settlers' in the Rainbow Region. In the early 1970s new settlers began to arrive 6620-3378 or 6689-1666.

in the Northern Rivers seeking alternatives to urban consumerist lifestyles and brought with them a sense of celebration which revived country-hall culture. The 1980s and '90s saw the arrival of new subcultures spawning new festivals, and the expansion of the local college into a university saw the growth of student social culture.

Dances, fetes, markets and concerts were held and new preschools and schools sprang up, adding to the reasons for fun and fundraising in local venues. 'Rainbow Posters 1973-1994' is a selection of the artwork created to advertise some of these many events.

Posters were hand-drawn, silk-screened, roneoed and offset printed before photocopiers were common. Designs morphed art deco and psychedelic styles with bush themes and selfparodying humour, and the works are now collectable items.

The exhibition will be opened at 1 pm on Saturday 29th September. Contact Graham Irvine for more details, <girvine@scu.edu.au>.



Under New Management Grand Re-opening – Friday 7th September

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Nimbin's street cameras: Are they worth the money?





Big Brother is watching. Exclusive images of a street trader filmed by a Nimbin StreetSafe camera. Police have alleged he was dealing drugs, and released the camera footage as part of the prosecution case to the defense legal team. The 7-minute clip reveals selective panning, tilting and zooming by an operator.

by Alex Charles

In the beginning of 2005 streetsafe or surveillance cameras were installed in the public domain of Nimbin's main street by Lismore City Council, with live feed and recording capability to the local Police Station. Have the cameras proved to be an effective tool in the deterrence of violent crime and property damage, or are they ostensibly used to target soft crime and monitor community behaviour?

The cameras were made operational in July 2005, and their introduction was funded by a self-imposed levy on the Nimbin Business community via the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce. How the controversial levy morphed from a community promotion proposal, with a limited time frame, to a drawn-out commitment to fund a crime fighting tool is difficult to determine, but Lismore council is adamant that the technology was brought to the town at the behest of the Nimbin Community, particularly the now defunct Chamber of Commerce. The Nimbin Business rate is being applied along the lines of \$8,000 per annum to repay the loan for the camera network, and \$2,000 per annum for economic development initiatives in Nimbin. The first payment was made in 2004/05 and the last is scheduled for 2016/17, with a total principal paid of \$70,000 and a total interest repayment of \$29,011.

Evaluation of the cameras' effectiveness is determined through the Police Community Consultative Committee, and by the police themselves in consultation with Lismore City Council, and the opportunity for feedback is limited due to the inconsistency of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, although Police sources suggest that the broader community feel safer, and have a 'positive feeling' in regards to monitoring in the village.

Since installation of the cameras they have been actively monitored by authorised

Council personnel two days per week, but a budget reduction from June 30th 2007 has curtailed this to one day a week. It should be noted the specific times for active monitoring are flexible, and the cameras operate and record 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a data storage capacity of two weeks. Bill Macdonald, Lismore Council's Co-ordinator of Traffic and Emergency Services adds, 'Police are unable to download or interfere with the recordings in any way, although access to the footage may be gained by Police using the correct protocol, and a total of 38 written requests have so far been made this year.'

The governance and safeguards for the use of data collected by surveillance cameras is overseen by the Attorney General's 'guidelines' and Lismore Council has initiated a Code of Practice and a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and Police in accordance with this document. Both the memorandum and the code are directed at Council Officers and security personnel, and importantly. only allow Police access to tilt and zoom controls in an emergency, denying unethical or prurient use.

There is an ongoing maintenance program, which Bill Macdonald states is \$5,000 p.a. and a monitoring budget of \$15,000 p.a. coming from Lismore Council's general revenue. "There has been one incidence of vandalism and no complaints about the cameras usage in the two years of operation," he said.

To be able to gauge the effectiveness of the surveillance cameras in Nimbin village, and to justify the investment that the Nimbin business community, the Police and the Council have made in the purchase, monitoring and maintenance of this technology, it is necessary to establish pathways of communication to the community via the Consultative Committee, and hopefully the re-jigged Chamber of Commerce.

Women initiate police liaison

by Raine

Nimbin has been a thriving village with a mixture of multicultural, alternative, organic and peaceful lifestyles for over 40 years. The culture in Nimbin is diverse on many levels, be it race, lifestyle or occupation people choose in the region, and all have existed cohesively for all this time until recently, when mainstream media decided to criticise and demoralise our community for the appetite of the urban sprawl.

Three women from Nimbin approached the Police Office at Goonellabah to address these issues, and others relating to our community.

Raine West, Karen Roberts and Nathalie Buckland approached Superintendent Bruce "Bluey" Lyons to clarify issues that had been expressed in what they considered an inflammatory way in the press, and to make him aware of their perspective as Nimbin women. Lyons told the women that he too was displeased with the bad press, but also reiterated that the street dealers would be cracked down on.

Karen spoke as the mother of five children and expressed her wish to have them grow up in a safe and supportive environment. Raine emphasised the unique qualities of Nimbin and the strong creativity within this community.

Spt. Lyons agreed that there could be benefits if the police became involved in the community, possibly running some activities for our youth, and suggested we talk with our new resident sergeant Mat Johnson, who was invited to the new Women's Heart Quarters (Rainbow Gallery) for a cuppa and to meet some of us in an informal setting.

On Thursday 29th August, Sgt Mat Johnson, his wife Karen and Constable Tracey Linton came to the Women's Heart Quarters for a meeting with some of the women. Concerns for the effect on Nimbin the additional police would have were



Optimistic. New Nimbin sergeant, Mat Johnson, who was previously a weapons training instructor at Goulburn Police Academy.

expressed by the women, and the possibility of seeking other ways to communicate with each other were discussed.

The initial barriers were lowered as we bridged the 'them and us' gap. It was obvious some of the ideas expressed were new to them and us and perhaps a little understanding for each has begun. From little things big things grow.

All change must start with yourself, so say "Hi" to the next policeman/woman you see, even if they're trying to search you!

This liaison between the Heart Quarters and the police will continue. We're watching!

Variety Club bash hits town

When the Variety Club of Victoria organised its Melbourne to Byron Bay bash, it wisely factored in a smoko in Nimbin - on Friday 31st August, 90 cars came tooting, squealing and even baa-ing down Cullen Street, so their owners could have their passports stamped at the Nimbin Hotel, where a sausage-sizzle awaited them. Below, the amazing Looney Tunes Mercedes, father and son Ken and Anthony Loughnan, and pink hippies Di and Jill Lewis from the pink Babemobile. They raised over \$1 million for charity.









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Children's Choice campaign co-ordinator Bianca Urbina said there was an "urgent need to place the issue of preschool funding squarely on the agends of all political parties in the lead-up to the forthcoming Federal election."

Bianca made the comment during a wellorchestrated media conference at The Channon Children's Centre in August. "It's an equity issue," she said. "NSW has one third of the nation's kids, yet has the highest preschool fees in Australia, averaging \$33 per day, three times the national average."

A trainee teacher, Bianca has energy and enthusiasm as spokesperson for the cause of affordable preschool education, and produced confident performances for the network media.

Enlisting support from her friends and neighbours at The Channon Children's Centre, Bianca was able to provide first-hand experience of the dire situation facing community preschools in NSW, which will be forced to

year of recurrent funding to keep the services accessible and affordable, but we also need a national framework to ensure equity between the states and systems and set benchmarks for investment and quality," Bianca said.

Australia spends as a percentage of GDP just 0.2% on early childhood education in contrast

"International research has shown that earlier investment in education yields a

The campaign will continue nationally through the network of community-based pre-

"We need a commitment of \$123 million a

raise its fees next year to meet award increases.

to other countries at 0.7% of GDP.

higher rate of return in national economic productivity and prosperity," she said.

Bamboo and carbon reduction

New international studies have confirmed the effectiveness of non-invasive clumping bamboo in reducing greenhouse gases.

Manuel Ruiz-Perez, Professor of Ecology at the Autonomous University of Madrid, said, "Healthy, natural forest stores more carbon than a bamboo plantation at any given time: however the bamboo plantation, because of the speed at which it grows, removes more carbon from the atmosphere in any given period.

"If the bamboo is used to make long-lasting products, it will sequester



more carbon over time than almost any other land use," he said.

A study by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan found, "Bamboo sequesters at a rate of C=50% dry weight; e.g. an average grove of Bambusa Tuldoides in Kyoto has a carbon sequestration rate of 1,700 - 1,820kg per hectare."

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- degrees South Tolerates extremes of precipitation - from 30 to 250 inches per annum
- Timber quality bamboo culms can br harvested after 4-5 years, whereas traditional hardwoods are harvested every 40 - 60 years
- Annually renewable if harvested
- in an intelligent way
- Grows one third faster than the fastest growing tree. It is the fastest growing plant on the planet.
- Currently being used as a "mop-crop" at a local sewage treatment works
- Extensive root system provides erosion control on hillsides, riverbanks and roads
- Becoming a key initiave in reforestation and protection in areas prone to earthquake
- Various species used as windbreaks, stock fodder, stock and security hedges, noise and dust barriers
- Able to photosynthesise through the culms even if it loses all leaves

For more information on bamboo, contact BamboOasis on 6689-7423

Local profile: Donny Croft by Shakti Burke Donny Croft is almost a local: he's lived

at Toonumbar for 33 years. "We bought our small cottage by the Iron Pot creek in 1974 for the princely sum of two thousand dollars," said Donny, strumming his guitar on the verandah. Amazing.

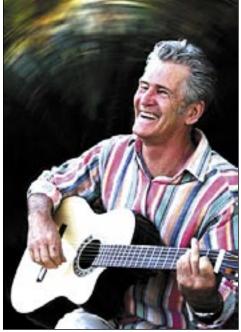
With the family grown and flown, Donny and his dogs have the run of the place. Birds answer the guitar chords. "Life's pretty quiet out here," said Donny, who will often welcome the dawn after reporting on an 8pm to 3am international cricket test or One Day international, on his vastly popular internet site <aussiecricket.net>.

"I've really grown to love Kyogle," he said. "There's a fascinating mixture of old world farming tradition and new ideas and projects. It's a thriving community. We have many very talented musicians, artists, actors and innovators."

Donny volunteers at the Kyogle Neighbourhood Centre ("we like to think of it as the Heart of Kyogle") and points out that despite no government funding, they've achieved plenty in the community, recently rebuilding a computer for a child with learning difficulties. "Come up and see us if you have a problem. If we can't help, we'll direct you to someone who can," Donny said.

Motivated by his concern about global warming, Donny has set up a website for the local climate change group, KyogleCAN! at <www.kyoglecan.com>. It has a forum for Northern Rivers people about reducing carbon emissions.

"'We're all in this Together' is our motto, and we can all make a difference, be it switching off lights or helping to spread awareness of the many issues involved," Donny said. "I'd like to see more public money put into renewables and more



Climate Action Networker. Donny is very passionate about music. Photo: Paul Daley

promotion of Green Energy electricity. What's happening in California is a good example, with the renewable energy industry (ie, solar, wind, etc) booming and creating tens of thousands of jobs."

Donny has lunched with his mum every Monday for the past 25 years. At 102 years of age, Lorna Croft is a favourite at Kyogle Aged Care. "Mum lived at Kyogle Court for twenty years," explained Donny, "then briefly at Casino while the new Community Health Unit was under construction in Kyogle. 'They're building you a multimillion dollar new home' I would tell mum."

And why not? Mrs. Croft is one of Kyogle's most senior citizens, and Donny is almost a local.

School at the End of the Rainbow



'Reverence and Beauty' is the theme of Rainbow Ridge School's Open Day, to be held Saturday 22nd September from 10am to 3pm.

Rainbow Ridge School is situated on seven acres of bushland at Lillian Rock, 12 km north of Nimbin, and caters for Kindergarten through to Year eight.

The school's vision is "to offer a universal education in balance and harmony with the environment, embracing Rudolph Steiner's educational philosophy and growing with the changing needs of time."

Rudolph Steiner education aims to help children develop strength of will, warmth of feeling and clarity of thought. All facets of a mainstream curriculum are taught, drawing upon the children's natural strengths of creativity and imagination.

Learning necessary skills in maths and language are enhanced through storytelling, drama, music, art and craft.

There is a strong emphasis on caring for

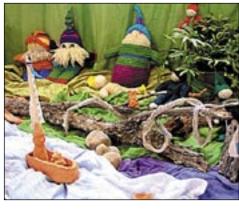
each other and for the environment in which they work and play.

Rhythm, discipline, respect and love support the children in their quest for selfknowledge, understanding of others and the world around them.

School buses commute daily from Lismore, Nimbin, Doon Doon and Larnook to the school.

For prospective parents for 2008 there is a Kindergarten Orientation Day on Saturday 27th October from 9am to noon.

For details on enrolments and/or for general enquiries please call the office on 6689-7033, or visit the new website at <www. rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au>



Follow the Rainbow Serpent through 8 rooms representing the Aboriginal, pioneer and hippie eras.

This interactive museum, designed for visitors to meet locals, has evolved into a full-on educational experience for some people.

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Central Rox Café is born

Tanya Bell, canteen manager at Nimbin Central School, loves the canteen but was not happy about the name.

"Nimbin Central School Canteen' sounds so dull," she said, "so with co-operation from the P&C committee, I decided to change it."

Back in Term 1, Tanya launched a student competition to create a design brief and logo for the Central Rox Café, to be used on signage and promotional materials.

Year 6 student Chinta King won the competition with her swirling free-form design, from seven well-developed entries submitted by primary and secondary students. For her efforts, Chinta won \$20 of vouchers

from the canteen and Nimbin Newsagency. The sign was made during Year 10 work experience last Term, and Elijah Gentle and

Bonnie Bedggood chose signwriting, under the direction of art teacher Marg Canning. The completed sign has now been installed, and a digital version is nearly ready to go,

"I think it makes the canteen sound like somewhere you want to go now," she said.

much to the delight of Tanya Bell.



Tasty artwork. Chinta King, winner of the design competition, with Tanya Bell and the new sign.

Mac sings with Choir of Hard Knocks

What a buzz! Mac McMahon has just sung in the Sydney Opera House with the Choir of Hard Knocks. The choir is made up of homeless people many with drug, alcohol and mental problems. The choir had unprecedented success with three sold out shows at the opera house and a CD that sold over 65,000 copies to go Platinum.

Mac was invited to sing with the choir through the Choir of Hard Knocks musical director Jonathon Welch, who was also musical director of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir for five years. Mac is a life member of the SGLC and had sung with them for eleven

"The Opera House performances were a knockout, standing ovations and with audience participation gave everyone a great sense of involvement and support. Music legend Jimmy Barnes also shared the stage and we all joined in with his hit song "Flame Trees" and closed the show with "Happy Together", "Freedom Train" and a choreographed "Shout" which brought the house down," Mac said.



With a song in their hearts. Mac with Clarko, member of the Choir of Hard Knocks, and other choristers in the foyer of the Sydney Opera House.

The Choir of Hard Knocks struck a chord with Australian viewers with their ABC documentary earlier this year and Mac was able to meet many of the members of the choir who featured in the documentary.

A party in the marquee on the foreshore in front of the opera house after for all the choir members and supporters was a very warm and fuzzy closure to a wonderful experience.

Musical kids shine

by Val Mace

On Wednesday August 1st Nimbin Central School's secondary vocal ensemble, Tuesday's Lunch performed at Shine 2007, two concerts which celebrated the musical talent of eleven schools in the area.

They were great shows with a very high standard of performance. We were all thoroughly entertained and inspired.

Tuesday's Lunch certainly did shine and were a credit to the school and their community. I'm very proud of them for doing such a great job at their first big gig out of school. Our reputation for great

vocal groups is intact.

Singer/songwriter and rising star, Lyvinnea Drage from Year 8 also gave a fantastic performance of her song "Beautiful Soul". It was her biggest venue and crowd so far, but I'm sure there are much bigger things to come for her.

Coming up in September is the Lismore Eisteddfod with events for woodwinds on Sunday 9th, strings on the 10th, and vocals from Friday 14th through to Sunday 14th at Lismore City Hall.

Watch for Nimbin's tuneful adult choir, Harmonic Convergence performing on the Sunday at 2pm.

New dance classes in the wings

Pipyn is a contemporary dancer who has only just got back into the country and returned to the North Coast area after seven years away.

He is a professional dancer with over ten years experience in training and performance, and is offering to run classes in Nimbin at the Community Centre dance studio.

The contemporary dance classes, for both beginners and experienced dancers, would be in six week blocks, with an up-front

payment of \$60.

Pipyn said, "I have designed the classes as a fun and relaxed journey into dance and the wonder of the physical moving body."

Age is open, but Pipyn must have ten people to start. He will arrange a time for class most suitable to everyone's availability.

Please contact Pipyn by email to express interest, at <pipigrooves@yahoo.com> until he gets a phone on!

'Stand Up and Stomp Out child abuse!" This is the message The Stomp It Committee, a group of Masters Students at Gnibi College of Indigenous Australian Peoples, are sending to the Australian public as part of National Child Protection Week 2007.

The Stomp It Awareness Carnival is on Sunday 9th September at Southern Cross University Lismore Campus Sports Oval, from 10am to 4pm. It is an alcohol free, child friendly event organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) and Southern Cross University.

Legendary Indigenous performers Kev Carmody and country music/gospel singer Roger Knox will head concert's stellar entertainment lineup along with internationally acclaimed didjeri-bone player Tjupurru and a children's corroboree choreographed by Indigenous storyteller/dancer Dhinawan.

The rich and diverse entertainment program for families and children also includes bush tucker food workshops, the "Thanks Dad!" photo competition and cultural activities from entertainers/educators Mereki, John Huckle and Helen Moran.

Families will also have access to an array of information on the day at the "safe place" tent where regional service providers and clubs will showcase their services, and a panel of experts will discuss action plans to tackle



inter-generational trauma and abuse in Australian communities.

Trevor Knox, head of the Stomp It Committee said, "We hope the people of Australia from all races and nationalities will support this event, because abuse happens in every community across all social and cultural backgrounds."

The challenges of fatherhood

The 4th annual Fatherhood Festival is proud to announce a public panel discussion with one of Australia's most admired fathers Terry Hicks, in conversation with ABC Radio National producer/presenter Mick O'Regan.

The father of former Guantanamo Bay inmate David Hicks, Terry (pictured left) will examine how he's faced an almost unprecedented parental challenge. What are the limits to which a father will go to protect his child? What is the source of his strength?

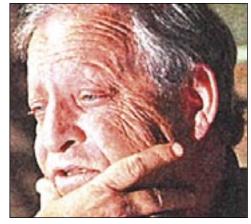
The event is on at 8pm, Saturday 8th September at Bangalow A&I Hall. Tickets are \$20/\$10 at the door or on line at <www. fatherhoodfestival.com>

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