

Khadi Wolf-Brooke comes of age in New York



My name is Khadi Wolf-Brooke and I am almost 18 years of age. I was asked to keep in contact with Nimbin, and time has flown and now that I am leaving the country I thought I would give you some history as well as what has been happening. I was a home water-birth, born at 'Lillifield' which is an MO at Lillian Rock and I am a life vegan. I attended Rainbow Ridge Steiner School until Year 8. When I was 15, I lived in the hinterland at the Gold Coast during the week, where I attended full-time ballet and studied Year 10 by Distance Education, and I came home on the weekends and to teach. I used to teach dance classes for 4 to 11 year olds in the backstage room in the Nimbin Town Hall in Nimbin for about 18 months. The group performed twice at The Nimbin Concert of Dances, and my brother Jarieus and I performed as well. I also danced at the Nimbin Fashion Show. Before I left Nimbin, I went to England to attend a Royal Ballet Summer School, Williamina Bowers and my mum Elizabeth Wolf organised a variety concert at the Nimbin Town Hall to help raise funds the turnout and support was extraordinary. There was also another variety concert organised a couple of months later. I left Nimbin in January 2007 to attend The National College of Dance in Newcastle to study for a Diploma in

Dance Studies. In 2007 I obtained my Certificate III and at the end of 2008 I gained my Diploma. During July 2007 I travelled with a group from National College of Dance to compete as a classical ballet group at the American Youth Grand Prix in New York. We also auditioned at various schools in New York, Washington and Miami. I was offered a 1 year Traineeship at Ajkun Ballet Theatre in New York, to commence Tuesday 10th March this year.

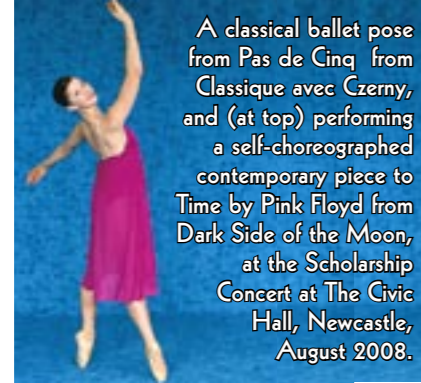
(If you go to the site www.ajkumbt.org and click company members my name appears with a photo and biography to be added soon.)

I had a break at the end of 2008 and came back home to Nimbin to visit friends and family that I had grown up with and I drove two close friends up to Woodford Folk Festival and had the time of my life. I also caught up with familiar faces and made new friends.

I have been working at Hoyts in Charlestown, to help pay the airfare, resigning two days before leaving. I have also been helping pay for the tuition fees for New York. I have applied for a travelling scholarship but they are hard to come by as funding is limited and there is not a lot in Australia for dancers or the arts in general.

My experience in the USA will be intense, as I will be training with Ajkun's professional company members, and auditioning to perform with them. Ajkun rehearses and performs at the

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A classical ballet pose from Pas de Cinq from *Classique avec Czerny*, and (at top) performing a self-choreographed contemporary piece to *Time* by Pink Floyd from *Dark Side of the Moon*, at the Scholarship Concert at The Civic Hall, Newcastle, August 2008.



City Centre NY as well as in different entertainment venues around New York - Harlem School of the Arts, New 42nd Street Studios and The Ailey Citigroup Theater. I will be catching a lot of trains and getting to know this big busy city that never sleeps.

I will be spending the first two weeks with a friend that Mum Elizabeth met when she went to Morocco, and fortunately our Sri lankan neighbour has an aunt in New York who will put me up until I turn 18 on the 13th April.

Then I will be staying in accommodation for women in Manhattan run by nuns its the cheapest we could find at \$305 AUS per week with breakfast only. I am on a B2 Tourist Visa so I legally can't work, although Moby owns a vegan cafe I could wait for him and plead my case that I am willing to wash dishes but I can cook great vegan muffins and cake..I will keep you posted.

So it's here that I would like to thank Elizabeth and Stephen, especially mum who has always supported me in my dance and moved the whole family to Newcastle to be with me... as for Jarieus, he has a lot of potential as he has wonderful teachers with strong technique which is a must, and he can backflip front and back which is an added plus as a dancer.

Love to Lisa, Chia, Stone, Max, Williamina, Ali, Russell, Rainbow Ridge Steiner School and the Nimbin community who have supported me in the past.



Carnival Carnival

2nd April to 31st May
Thursday - Sunday, 10am-4pm
Blue Knob Hall and Gallery

Human societies seem to need to break the day-to-day routines of life by creating occasions for people to gather together to celebrate and display, feast and frolic.

Often it seemed that the frequency and splendour of these events was most evident when there was a great difference between the very rich and the very poor.

In Christian countries, the time before Easter - Lent was regarded as a period for fasting, for 'putting away the pleasures of the flesh' - the origin of the word Carnival: but before

Lent started there was a period of festivities - processions, celebrations and feasting - what we now call a Carnival, the name having slipped slightly, as sometimes happens.

Aspects of this concept *Carnival* will be seen reflected in the works on display. The official Opening will be on Friday 3rd April at 6.30pm, followed by a feast of dining at the veranda café Dinner \$15/ dessert \$4 if booked (6689-7449), and there's a 15% discount on all artworks purchased at the official opening! Please visit our web-page at <http://www.blueknobgallery.com>

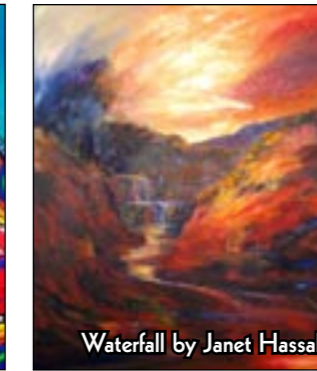
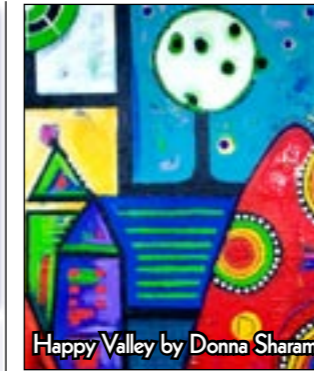
Artwork (clockwise from top left) by: Robin Moore, Gareth Deakin, Kelleh Lash, Sally Seymour, Gareth again, and Stuart Cussons.



by Sally Baxter

Nimbin's 50th Blue Moon Cabaret was definitely one of the best. The rich diversity of talent and spectacle is a soul-satisfying feast. From dancers to comedians, to song and poetry, the standard was exceptional. Fred Cole introduced the night with definitive aplomb on the grand piano followed by famed local pianist Harry Freeman who vocalised the sensuous jazz waltzes of Sadie Jones. Comedians such as the elfish Leif, The Pitts family ensemble, complete with 'baby' Pitt, and Brisbane stand-up comedian Fiona McGary lightened and ignited the festive mood.

The dancing was interspersed throughout the evening with dance acts including the amazing Nomad Hareem Sword dance, the very sharp and attitudinal hip-hop gig from ShaCarRav, the brightness of the Can-Can girls, and Bobbin's performance piece with grand piano and musical bowls. The Baby Durgas soothed the audience, as did local Irish singer Alyanya with her exquisite voice. Local poets, Archie, Christine Strelan, and David Hallett provided plenty of food for thought...as did the Green Cauldron who provided fine food for edible consumption in the very social pre and intermission breaks. For those who love to dance, the night concluded with The Groove Foundation - a multi-instrumental band that delivered vibing dance rhythms late into the night. The Blue Moon Cabaret is an event not to be missed. Not only due to the fact that it's an important performance arts event, but also because it's an essential fund-raiser for our local Nimbin Hall. The next one is on Saturday, 12th September... see you there!



Nimbin Autumn Arts Extravaganza

4th April - 26th April
Daily 10am - 5pm
Presented by Nimbin Artists
Gallery at Nimbin School of Arts Hall.

This is a magnificent exhibition of more than 300 works in diverse media, including painting, sculpture, glass, furniture, felt, collage, porcelain, and mixed media.

Music performances will take place at 2.30pm on most days, including grand piano, cello, violin, Middle Eastern and Renaissance music, song, flute, clavichord, Celtic harp, guitar and more.

The 51 entries for the EnviTE prize will also be on show, with the winner announced at the Official Opening on Saturday 5th April at 11am. Check it out.



Belinda Roelvink at Caddies

Belinda Roelvink's Goanna Exhibition at Caddie's Café is the result, she says, of "discovering the colourful life forms in my present surroundings." Belinda (above) has been living in Nimbin on and off for over a year, at Jarlanbah community. "The wildlife, all the flora and fauna, have really inspired me," she said. "I have never lived in such a beautiful, rich place, full of amazing treasures." Colours have always been predominant in her life, shown in her use of oil pastels in the '70's. Animal subjects naturally appeared in her paintings after she had tackled landscapes later in Melbourne. Originally from London, Belinda has travelled on and off for most of her life, and sees herself as being on a spiritual quest for the rest of her life. "I have been collecting images from distant lands over the last 30 years, in the hope that one day I might find a place where I can paint uninterrupted. "That place has been Nimbin. I can't seem to move on - it has so much to offer."

Concert of Dances

by Pampussycat Bourne

Saturday 21st March saw Nimbin come alive to the colour and movements in the 8th Concert of Dances. Over the years, this annual event has showcased many different styles of dance, from around the world. This year was no exception.

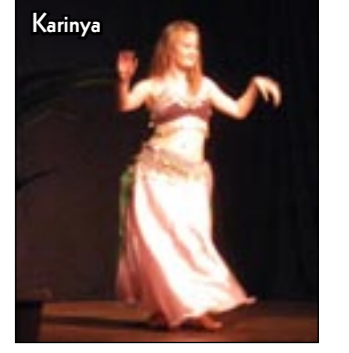
Deborah Turner co-ordinated the event. She said, "It was a great success. I've only heard good feedback. All costs were covered, and the audience and performers enjoyed the night."

The audience was bedazzled by belly dance, with a tribal style of movement by Monsoon. Karinya performed a solo belly dance, wild and unabashed. The Nomad dancers performed a harem story, colourful, sexy and humorous, with swords, canes, swirling colours, a eunuch (Oscar) and sheik (Andrew Kavasilas).

The gun-toting gals in Friesian cow black and whites, the Tap bitches, always get a great reception. They brought their cowgirl tap to life, and a second tap dance piece was performed with a song by "Smiling Ruth" Miller.

Can Can always raises eyebrows, and Saturday's concert brought two acts. Too Loose To Trek were sexy reminiscent of the wild west, with ruffles and high kicks, and a young trio called The Remainers danced a Cowgirl Can Can.

Youth were well represented, with Turn The Tables performing a modern Hip Hop/ Funky Jazz piece. Very MTV! Malivan (Ib) delighted the crowd with a taste of the orient, presenting



two classical Thai Dance pieces. The movements are intriguing, and slinky, with long metal nails emphasising the hand postures. Her costume was also traditional. Daniel Kestler is a martial art expert, who teaches classes at the Nimbin Fitness Centre. He brought his craft to life with two pieces: Tai Ji Quan movements, gentle and graceful, and Shaolin Kung Fu moves, powerful, strong, and restrained.

Medieval villager overtones and a simpler life were portrayed when the ladies took the stage with an Israeli Circle Dance. I half expected them to pick up harvest baskets as they finished.

Donato and Bobbin shared a sassy Tango improvisation. Unfortunately the African Dance by Inez was cancelled due to an injury. African dance classes are happening at the Nimbin School of Arts Hall on Wednesdays at 11am. Great for fitness, all are welcome.

Elegant singing instructor Williamina was the master of ceremony for the night. Lighting by Bob Tissot, sound by Tim Tonkin. Gail Clarke, Rosie and Pam worked the kitchen, dishing out scrumptious fare. The kitchen was a fundraiser towards this year's Performance Poetry World Cup. Raffle tickets were being sold by the School Of Arts as a fundraiser for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

The night was filmed by Paul Tait, and a limited issue DVD of the night will be available. To obtain your copy, give \$20 to Deborah Turner or phone her on 0428-452-479 to reserve your copy.



April Gig Guide

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Friday 3rd | De Karpo |
| Thursday 9th | Mick McHugh |
| Friday 10th | Redbelly Black 6-9pm |
| Thursday 16th | Vasudha + Jem |
| Friday 17th | Stipsky |
| Sunday 19th | Cheyenne Murphy |
| Thursday 23rd | George Scott |
| Friday 24th | Positive Timing |

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What's On in April?

- **Easter Opening Hours 10-13th April** Fri 10-6, Sat 10-9, Sun 9.30-8, Mon 10-6
- **Anzac Day Saturday 25th** from noon Anzac Service, The Irish Trio, Two-up
- **Friday night raffles**
- **Sunday Social Bowls** from 9.30am



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12th - Vasudha & Jem
19th - Luke Vassella & John Gift
26th - Rebecca Ireland

May 3rd - Sarith

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