

Janelle's Page

by Janelle Saffin, MP

As the Australian Government prepares legislation to be introduced this year for a new school funding system, in response to the Gonski Review, the Opposition Education spokesman, Christopher Pyne has come out with comments that are just plain silly.

The Gonski Review of Funding for Schools recommends a system where there is a set amount of funding per student and then extra money for students and schools that need it most - including remote and small schools, students with disability, kids from poorer backgrounds and indigenous students.

This would make extra funding for disadvantage a permanent feature of a new funding system and would help ensure every school gets the support it needs.

The Gonski review was the first comprehensive review of school funding in about 40 years. It found that the way schools are currently funded in Australia is illogical, inconsistent, lacks transparency and isn't focused on achieving the



best results for our students.

School funding is an issue that many people have raised with me, and there were many local submissions to the Gonski review.

I also put in a submission saying that above all the review 'needs to lead to an equitable arrangement for funding education, and it needs to be seen to be equitable, directing funding to where it is most needed and in ways that it will be most effective for the students.'

The findings of the Gonski Review have been welcomed across the education sector. When the Review came out I contacted all schools and P and C's and P and Fs, and was invited to speak to school communities. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. In fact most people have said- "how soon can these changes come in?"

But the Federal Opposition has shown how out of touch it is by ignoring the findings.

Opposition Education spokesman Christopher Pyne has called for the current flawed system to be kept in place for four more years. He also claims, despite OECD evidence and the Gonski findings that there is no link between low socio-economic background and school results.

These comments along with the Opposition's plan to slash \$2.8 billion from the school education budget, cut trade training centres and teacher development funding, set off alarm bells for anyone interested in the future of our schools.

Education is one of the most important investments a nation can make in its future and the Australian Government is working to bring in a fairer, transparent system of school funding to ensure our schools are delivering the best results for all Australian students.

Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street
Lismore
Phone 1300 301 735

Solidarity with the Truth-tellers

by John Jiggins

Speaking on WikiLeaks, Julian Assange and Bradley Manning, anti-war activist, Ciaron O'Reilly (pictured), entertained his Nimbin audience for two hours at Birth and Beyond on Saturday 21st July.

O'Reilly spoke with good humour and inspirational courage as he recounted his own three-decade journey of opposition to militarism and imperialism as a member of the Catholic Worker community and the Plowshares movement.

For the past two years, O'Reilly's anti-war resistance focus has been centred on accompanying the imprisoned Bradley Manning and the detained Assange, who are both facing the possibility of life imprisonment.

O'Reilly's entry point in the WikiLeaks saga began because he was in London at the time of Julian Assange's first court appearance. He went down to the court, saw a crowd of about a hundred gathered and began to address them, before he realised they were nearly all media.

So, he attended all Assange's court appearances in London, forming, with Ben Griffith of UK Veterans for Peace, the bodyguard that shepherded Assange through the



media scrums into court.

O'Reilly's first Plowshare action occurred over two decades ago at the start of the first Gulf War, when he was a member of the 'ANZUS Plowshares' group that put out of action a B52 in New York state in 1991. He served 13 months in various US jails for the action, and further time in prison as a result of subsequent Plowshare actions at Jabiluka and in Ireland.

O'Reilly's aim is to move people from passive opposition to the war to active solidarity with the truth-tellers. Small acts of human solidarity can have great effect for the anti-war resister, he says, and because Julian Assange grew up in Northern NSW - attending Goolmangar Public School - even the small act of sending a postcard from here to him in the Ecuadorian embassy would provide him with a tremendous boost.

"Once the empire asked us to raffle our sons for their wars. Now all the empire asks is for us to avert our gaze from the screams of their victims," O'Reilly said.

Ciaron O'Reilly will be returning to London in mid-August. His final talks in NSW will be at the Byron Market on Sunday 5th August and at the Unibar at SCU, 12 to 2pm on Monday 6th August.

Helping low-income households on the North Coast reduce their energy bills

Justine Elliot announced Murwillumbah Community Centre is helping financially vulnerable Australians on the North Coast improve their energy efficiency and reduce their energy costs.

The North Coast is one of 50 regions across to country to benefit from the \$29.9 million Home Energy Saver Scheme - part of the Australian Government's plan for a Clean Energy Future.

"The Australian Government knows budgets are tight for many Australian households and this targeted assistance will

provide additional help for families, parents, seniors and other members of our local community," said Justine.

"The HESS hotline is up and running for low-income households on the North Coast experiencing stress in paying their energy bills and they should call 1800 007 001.

"Across the country, not-for-profit organisations are delivering these energy efficiency services to around 100,000 low-income households.

"This includes tailored assistance through home visits by specially-trained

HESS workers to around 50,000 households facing financial and energy hardship.

"The new in-home advisers from Murwillumbah Community Centre will work one-on-one with North Coast residents to advise on the best ways to reduce their utilities bills by improving the energy efficiency of their home.

"Just by making small changes around the house, like getting the most energy efficient washing machine or fridge you can afford, people can save some money on their energy bills.

"Eligible households also have access to financial counselling advice and to services such as the No Interest Loans Scheme to enable them to buy more energy efficiency appliances.

"The Home Energy Saver Scheme adds to the Gillard Government's range of support measures and payments to help families with their utilities bills now and into the future," said Justine.

For further information, go to www.fahcsia.gov.au

Working together for a clean energy future

Locals on the North Coast have told me they want to see action to tackle climate change. We all know the science is very clear - our planet is warming, our climate is changing.

This warming is caused by pollution, by human activity, for this reason we need to cut carbon pollution. A price on carbon is the best way to protect our environment, to keep our economy competitive and to do the right thing for future generations.

Australians want to do the right thing. We are a confident nation and we're up to the task of protecting the environment and tackling climate change. The Gillard Government has a plan to build a Clean Energy Future for Australia's future generations by charging our biggest polluters.

Less than 500 of Australia's biggest polluting companies will pay for their pollution and return every cent to assist households, support jobs, and drive investment

in clean energy technologies and infrastructure.

A carbon price is paid by our biggest polluters - not ordinary Australians.

Because some of these big polluters may choose to pass on these costs to households we have a household assistance package aimed at those who need it the most.

Nine out of ten households will receive assistance in the form of tax cuts or permanent benefit increases such as through the pension or through family payments.

More than 55,300 people in the electorate of Richmond will receive household assistance through increases in their pensions, income support and family assistance payments and even more local people will benefit from tax cuts.

The tax free threshold will treble to \$18,200 and around 43,000 locals with an annual income of under \$80,000 will get a tax cut with around 36,000 receiving a tax cut of at least \$300 a year.

Pensioners and self-funded retirees that hold a Commonwealth Seniors



Member for Richmond
107 Minjungbal Drive
Tweed Heads South
Phone 1300 720 675

Health Card will also be assisted by receiving \$338 extra per year if single, and \$510 per year for couples, combined. On top of this, all older people with an annual taxable income of under \$80,000 will get a tax cut.

The Government's plan will cut pollution. I'm proud to be part of a government that is taking action to tackle climate change and deliver Australia's clean energy future. Further information about is available at www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au

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Jenny Dowell

FOR MAYOR
on
September 8th

phone 0478 097 644 or visit www.jennydowell.com.au

Can you help?

Join the campaign as we seek to return 'the experienced team' to Lismore City Council. Our villages need a fair and balanced voice to build on the successes of the past four years!

From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell
Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

The July meeting was very well attended by proponents and opponents of two Rosebank development applications plus a handful of potential candidates for the September 8 elections. The latter certainly experienced the variety of issues that need to be covered by the modern-day Council and its Councillors.

Regional Road Funding

Cr David Yarnall received unanimous support for his proposal to undertake major repairs on several of our regional roads ahead of the schedule agreed to by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

RMS (previously RTA) provides 50% of the funding to repair Regional Roads such as Wyrallah, Dunoon, Coraki, Nimbin and Blue Knob Roads. The schedule and funding for these works extends over four years but Council believes that parts of these roads require work now so we have agreed to move work on Dunoon Rd Tullera, Blue Knob Road north of Blade Road and Wyrallah Rd south of Wyrallah village forward to this financial year. We are requesting RMS to commit to their funding share as scheduled. Council will fund the work now. This sensible decision will save Council further costs in future repair and will be welcomed by motorists.

Rosebank Development Applications

The two applications for a Vipassana Meditation Centre and Rural Landsharing Community were both refused unanimously in accord with staff recommendations.

The reasons for refusal have nothing to do with the merits of Vipassana. Rather traffic, road works, tree removal, habitat loss, fire risk, waste-water management, the lack of a report addressing Aboriginal heritage and the negative impact on the rural environment were, together, convincing grounds for refusal.

Modanville Planning Proposal

In contrast to the Rosebank proposal, Council supported a small proposal to rezone land for a rural residential development in Dunromin Drive Dunoon. The application will now progress as a Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning to seek a Gateway Determination as an alternative to an amendment of the Local Environmental Plan.

If granted, the proposal will then go on public exhibition for comment and the necessary assessments of flora and fauna, wastewater management, Aboriginal and cultural heritage and contaminated land.

Lismore Housing Strategy

One of the defining documents of this Council's term of office is the Lismore Housing Strategy. This document provides a comprehensive response to our local housing needs by identifying ways in which we can increase land supply for housing, improving housing choice and diversity and assisting in the provision of socially responsive housing options. The strategy is based on very thorough research and best places Lismore to respond to current and future opportunities.

While it was on public exhibition, it attracted five submissions in support of the strategy



Regional Partnerships

Council is currently developing partnerships with Richmond Valley and Ballina Councils to recover resources from the waste and recycling stream. As readers might know, Council sells mulch and compost at \$25 per trailer or ute load. We also want to build a MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) worth \$3.85million that helps separate glass, plastics, aluminium and paper for storage and resale.

Negotiations are incomplete but we are hopeful that Council cooperation will lead to significant cost savings. Currently Council pays for our recyclables to go by road to Carrara - hardly sustainable and often ineffective as contaminated loads go to landfill despite our best efforts as householders.

Alcohol Free Zones

As I reported last month, the maps for Alcohol-free Zones in Lismore and Nimbin were on exhibition. They came back to Council in July with no submissions and have now been adopted. In Nimbin, the AFZ includes the Western Carpark.

Community Donations

Every year Councillors receive applications for Section 356 Community Donations of up to \$2200. This year we received more than 40 applications for funds from the total pool of \$30,500.

Councillors voted for their top

15 projects and, when the votes were aggregated, 17 of the projects were funded. They included the Italian Monument, Care-Ring Children's Centre, Aboriginal netball, St Carthages Senior Day Care, Autism Spectrum, Women's Health, Mental Health and the Toy Library to name a few.

Community Strategic Plan

The letters have gone out inviting 30 people to participate in a Citizens Jury over an evening and 2 days as part of our Community Strategic Plan. As the signatory of the letter, I am aware that several Nimbin residents have been selected. The demographic and geographic profile of our Local Government Area (LGA) is reflected in the selection of jurists and I'm certain that both the experience and the outcome will prove interesting and worthwhile.

Traffic Advisory Committee

The TAC looked at concerns on Gungas Rd regarding speed and safety and have referred the matter to the RMS to determine appropriate speed limits. The Nimbin Advisory Group will be consulted prior to any proposed speed reduction.

The TAC also looked at the staged subdivision at 15 Alternative Way and recommended a shared pathway, a 50kph speed limit, an upgraded intersection at Sibley St and a bus turn around.

CSG Signs

There has been a recent proliferation of anti-CSG signage in road reserves, particularly in rural areas. Council Compliance staff are in the process of sending letters seeking cooperation from anti-CSG advocate groups for the progressive removal of these signs from within the road reserve and relocation of such signage onto

private land. If co-operation is not received, Council may need to consider removing CSG signs from within the road reserve.

This action is being taken solely for liability, road safety and consistency reasons so if you have a sign on the road reserve, please place it on or inside a private fence. This also applies to real estate agents' signs and candidates' signs for the Council elections.

August

August marks the care-taker period for the current Council in the lead-up to elections on Saturday September 8. Yes, four years has passed since the last Council election when 6 new Councillors were elected. We will have new Councillors in Chambers by mid September so I take this opportunity to thank the current Councillors for working hard for our community.

Despite our political differences, Councillors are all passionate about their duties and responsibilities. It has been an honour for all of us to serve you, the people of our local government area.

Sonia Atkinson

On August 14, I will be moving a Condolence Motion in memory of Sonia Atkinson who, among other things in her amazing life, was an Alderman on Lismore City Council from 1980-1983.

Sonia revelled in being on Council. She loved the large and complex agenda, the debate and asking 'Why?' I'm sure many of her friends will have written about their memories of Sonia. Mine will revolve around the fight for Mulgum House, but as a woman on Lismore Council today, I thank Sonia for being a trail-blazer in this male-dominated local government world.

Simon says...

by Cr Simon Clough

Depending on the will of the people this could be my second last 'Simon Says' as the local government elections are on 8th September. As part of my campaign I've had a couple of street stalls on a Saturday mornings in Nimbin. It's been fun eating Steve's delicious pakoras, enjoying a cup of coffee and catching up on the latest news. I've even had a few people say they would vote for me.

I'm very excited about the 'Sustainable House' project. It feels like it has the potential to capture 40 years of creativity and innovation around the issue of sustainability that has been a major focus of the



Nimbin community. It's also a wonderful opportunity to showcase what is to me the 'real' Nimbin. That is the extraordinary range and depth of community involvement, resilience and the ability to collaborate to achieve a community goal. Apart from inspiring tourists and others about another way of doing things it also has the potential to create more economic activity for

the village.

I got uplifting feedback the other day from one of my friends who has a 10 year old son who is a 'skate nut'. He was telling me about the joys of the Nimbin skate park. Not only is it a 'sick' park according to his son, but the atmosphere is so friendly and supportive that my friend has no worries about leaving his son to skate unsupervised. He commented that there is no other park amongst all the others he has been to around the region where he feels his son is so safe. What a tribute to a community and its young people!

The CSG issue continues to build with Metgasco chief Peter Henderson drinking water from one of their holding ponds. I'm reliably informed the water was carefully scooped off the top of the pond. Mr Henderson

has joined a long line of people of dubious intellect who have eaten uranium yellow cake, drunk 245T, Roundup and various other toxins. Interestingly one rarely hears of them again after their ridiculous media stunts.

On a saner, more positive note over 14 communities have carried out surveys and declared their roads 'gasfield free', 'protected by community' with over 95% of people opposed to CSG. The CSG free roads campaign has apparently gone as far as Nambucca Heads.

Breaking news - Metgasco water samples collected by Lock the Gate have just been analysed by an accredited laboratory. The tests found 13 elements present in the sample at levels considerably above the Drinking Water Standards, the majority of

them heavy metals. Ten of these substances were also significantly above the allowable limits for maintenance of healthy freshwater ecosystems.

Many of these substances are well known for their toxicity and their release into local waterways via the sewage treatment plant or

onto agricultural lands poses a serious threat to humans, domestic stock and wildlife.

May you all be well and happy.

You can contact me on 0428-886-217 or simonclough@internode.on.net or Cr Simon Clough on Facebook or my blog: www.crsimonclough.wordpress.com

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Masters of Sarangi

Four musicians from around the globe have come together for the 'Masters of Sarangi' tour.

The band features father and son sarangi players, Pundit Santosh Mishras and Sangeet Mishras from Varanasi India, Shen Flindell from Brisbane on tabla and Yuki Taniguchi singing mantra/dhrupad.

Yuki's beautiful singing and purity of sound begins the evening as she presents devotional Sanskrit mantras. Yuki travels between Australia, Japan and India, presenting workshops and concerts. She studies Indian classical vocal from Varanasi and mantra yoga in Rishikesh.

Santosh, Sangeet and Shen will delight with a performance of Indian classical music from the Benares tradition.

Santosh and Sangeet are 7th and 8th generation sarangi players. Learning from their uncles, grandfathers and fathers before them, both began their musical training mastering classical vocal, then moved to the sarangi.

This will be a unique cultural experience, invoking the spirituality of classical Indian music from Benares.

The concert will be held at the Nimbin School of Arts Hall on Friday 24th August at 7pm. Tickets are \$16 online at: www.yourbooking.com.au/BSHM or \$20 at the door on the night.

Rich Bell will be providing masterful sound. Chai and other hot drinks and cakes available. Phone 0428-539-232 for more information.

Blue Moon Cabaret



The Nimbin School of Arts will be presenting a stunning programme at the Blue Moon Cabaret on Saturday 1st September. This is one of their biggest shows in several years, and tickets are selling out fast.

Just returned from overseas, the Hussy Hicks (pictured) will be featuring, along with singers Ivy Lucille, Essie Thomas and the Rennee Searles Band.

There will be acrobatics from Lou Harwood, plus Derek and Adam from Brisbane, comedy from

Steady Eddie and Robert Grayson, flamenco from Serena Joy and company, a performance act by Sue Boardman, together with Scott and Harry, David Helipern and host David Hallett.

Tickets for this major fund-raising show are \$30/\$25C, available at Perceptio's Bookshop (6689-1766). Catering is by Spangled Drongo and the show is licensed (no BYO).

The final Blue Moon Cabaret for 2012 will be on Saturday 17th November.



The Lucky Wonders, named "Gig of the Year" by Rhythms Magazine, launch their new album *Lay Down My Arms* at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 2nd September.

Recorded with the Gold Coast's Govinda Doyle, who co-produced Angus and Julia Stone's *Jetplane*, the new album is a beautiful, rich collection of songs about trust, acceptance and hope. Two tracks from the album were finalists in the International Songwriting Competition, and Byron's favourite indie folksters are heading straight to Europe after the launch for a rigorous touring schedule of eating, drinking and singing.

Opening the show on 2nd September are the wonderful, uplifting vibes of Raise the Roof Gospel Choir, who can be heard at: www.weebly.com/raisetheroofgospelchoir

Sunday arvo sing up

Long time hippie songmen (you name it, they'll try and save it!) Brendan 'Mook' Hanley and Paul 'Peej' Joseph have become highly successful local multi-media mongrels (or is that moguls?)

Armed with their ever-growing, award-winning and globe-trotting string of topical, informative, musical film clips, they are planning a further assault on the innocent unsuspecting public of Lismore and surrounds.

D Day is Sunday 5th August at the Lismore Bowlo from 2 'til 5pm. Old fashioned variety meets multi-media in a time warp of massively participatory fast-paced entertainment around themes of CSG and Water.

The fun will include fine community singalongs (with or without uke/guitar/yak horn); 'CSG the Radio Play... Chemicals, Stupidity, Greed';



the highly infotaining puppet show 'The Worm's Turn'; and 'The seX Factor talent Quest... sometimes called The Vice'.

As the worms say 'Can't Stop Goodness!' and that's what this is all about. There's no better way to spend a Sunday arvo than to have a coldie down at the Lismore Bowlo with friends while singing yer hearts out, learning new songs to spread around and sing around campfires, protests, weddings, funerals and revolutions.

Roll up, tune up, front up and sing up, 2-5pm Sunday 5th August, Lismore Bowlo, Molesworth Street, entry \$10. Proceeds will fund ongoing anti-CSG productions.



A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday

Is the next gig to be presented by the Lismore Jazz Club on Sunday 26th August, from 2pm to 5pm, at the Lismore City Bowling Club. Admission is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non members.

This tribute show will feature the musician's singer Sharny Russell (left) and the versatile and charismatic Elizabeth Lord (right). They will be accompanied by Australia's finest accompanist and jazz pianist Steve Russell and the internationally recognized studio musicians, Jack Thorncraft on bass and Dave Sanders on drums.

As a pianist, vocalist, composer and educator, Sharny is known for her great originals and dazzling keys/vocal improvisations. Her CD, *A Good Thing on Hold*, won the 2004 APRA Jazz award. She performs regularly with internationally



known jazz guitarist George Golla, and they have produced two albums, *Velvet Jazz*, and *Velvet Live*.

Elizabeth Lord is a regular guest entertainer onboard cruises presenting a cabaret format that includes her original compositions. For Elizabeth music is a language that you are learning your whole life. It's something you fall more deeply into, over and over again as you develop in all other areas. Being a mother, a wife, a traveler and a writer informs her ability to express music as an emotional language.

Steve Russell has appeared with James Morrison, Katie Noonan, Kristen Berardi, Dave Ades and James Sherlock, and performed support gigs for Wynton Marsalis and John Scofield. His 2004 studio recording, *When The Light Comes*, won the Dolphin Awards' Album



of the Year and Best Jazz Album. He has another CD, the recently released *Dark Matters*.

Jack Thorncraft began his career as a jazz bassist playing at the legendary El Rocco jazz basement in King's Cross. He moved to London in 1969 playing in all the London jazz rooms, including the world famous Ronnie Scott's jazz club where he worked with US stars Jon Hendriks, and opposite the Illinois Jacquet Trio with the genius of the drums (Papa) Joe Jones. Jack also worked with

Dudu Puckwana's Spear (later Assegai), a Zulu band featuring the great Louis Maholo on drums. In 1999, Jack released his CD *Sing Some, Play Some* for which he received an Aria nomination.

Dave Sanders' ability to cross the boundaries of genre and style has made him an asset to many acts within the music industry both as live performer and experienced studio musician. Sensitive to the music and musicians around him Dave is just as happy to sit back and play swinging brushes as he is to smash through a high volume high energy show.

This will be one unforgettable afternoon of great music by great musicians!

"In a world of over-rated, over-stated singers, Sharny Russell is a gem... an exquisite experience." – Eric Myers, *Jazzchord*.

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Business Profile

Nimbin Tattoo Studio has been open for three months now, and is proving to be one of the premier tattoo studios on the East Coast.

The proprietors recently celebrated with an official opening night, which was well received by all who attended.

The talent of the artists Sophie and Beki (pictured) is evident all around, from the symbolic dragon at the entrance, to the artwork in the shop and the incredible tattoos produced daily.

The studio has received some great feedback from both the local and wider communities. The space created is one of creativity and quality and has been instrumental in developing a loyal and dedicated following amongst its clientele.

Opening hours are from 10am Wednesday to Saturday, until late as required. Appointments are advisable. Phone 6689-1393, to ensure your booking suits

your lifestyle and your artist is dedicated to you.

Walk-ins are also well catered for.

We invite you to drop in and say hi when you are in the neighbourhood. We can design, assist with design, liaise via email on your requirements and offer professional advice on all your tattoo requirements to ensure you receive the best results.

Our staff are friendly, our equipment is state of the art, we are fully certified with the local health authority and pride ourselves on the cleanliness of our establishment. All skin piercing equipment is single-use disposable for your confidence and safety.

Follow us on Facebook and see the photos of the opening and feedback from our friends.

Shaun and Lavina look forward to welcoming you to their studio and assisting with your personal journey through this wonderful and individual expression of art.

Words, music, song...

Weaving the Divine, an evening of spoken word, music, song and love, returns on Thursday 9th August to Red Tent Yoga, with its transparent acoustics and instant atmosphere.

Peter Walkingourworld's spoken word narrative draws upon the elements of water, earth, air, fire and creation. Ioa Gaia will channel spoken and sung light-language to the spacious atmospheres of Rich Bell's guitar, while Dana Lee sings of love, unconditional or otherwise.

The first took place on a wet and wintry night in July and those who attended spoke in glowing terms of the show's magic, depth,

relevance, great sound and look. As the world evolves in divine alignment with the ascension of the planetary energy, so does the weft and weave of the divine tapestry of the show! The four players will interweave intimately, and you too will be invited in breath, movement and voice.

Bring a comfy blanket and pillow, an open heart and Weave the Divine with us on Thursday 9th August at Red Tent Yoga, 23 Tasman Way, Byron Industrial Estate. Tasty treats from the Salty Sisters during the interval.

Doors at 7pm, show starts promptly at 7.30pm – \$15. Under-16s by donation.

Personal tuning fork



Internationally published author, Deborah K Bates (pictured), will sign copies of her best seller, *Your Personal Tuning Fork: A Guide to the Endocrine System* at Perceptio's in Nimbin on Saturday 18th August at noon.

The book takes you on a journey into your body and its processes and systems at both the physical and metaphysical level.

As a reference piece, its purpose is to guide the reader regarding the functionality and processes of the endocrine system, with a goal towards self-empowerment

through knowledge.

It is an enlightening unique approach to the root causes of some of our most common health issues. It is easy to read and a daily reference for everyday solutions to everyday issues that interfere with daily life.

It presents safe, simple techniques to enable a creative approach to self-care which engenders greater wellbeing at a holistic level as a way of achieving sustainable health and at the same time allow you to make your own discoveries about your being. This easy-to-read, one-stop guide covers the endocrine glands, hormones, stress overload, chakras, meridians, acupuncture points, exercises, symptom repertory, body system charts, complimentary therapies guide, thyroid and chakra self care tests, balancing techniques and daily tuning plans.

It will leave you feeling empowered to become your own health-master to take charge of your well-being and life.

The ritual in small things

by Rebecca Ryall, Tea Medica

With the mid-winter sun streaming down through the tree tops, I'm busying myself chopping wood and building a wood pile, collecting and breaking up kindling, and hanging out with my 5-year old, who has today learnt to crochet. She is contentedly sitting on a rock in the sun, crocheting and chattering about the process.

I'm musing about the zen of wood chopping; about the art of the perfect woodpile; in short, the ritual to be found in the myriad everyday tasks which make up this life. In her own way, so is my daughter. She is marvelling at the length of the chain she has crocheted over the last hour or so; amazed that before today she had never done this. She is so proud of herself, so in awe of the ease of the operation, which before now seemed so mystical, so insurmountable.

Reflectively, I'm admiring my growing pile of wood. In truth, it's probably only about a week's worth, and in a matter of days my impressive pile will be reduced to a smattering on the ground. I'm enjoying the physical challenge of wielding the axe, of finding the perfect cut in the wood; calculating how many pieces I can cut each into, and what size they will be. The greatest satisfaction can be found in reducing an



impressive round of wood into a pile of kindling, using nothing but the blunt force of the block splitter, brute strength and canny reckoning.

To do so in the context of my little place in the woods, as my daughter chatters on a rock behind me, and the resident kookaburra watches from the branch of the spotted gum, swooping down to collect the odd centipede or spider which scuttles out of the wood; the soundtrack of the forest, the added visual of the winter sunlight through the leaves – this for me constitutes the ultimate contentment.

In this moment, this little patch of sunlight, I experience immense gratitude. Never mind the phone calls I should be making, the laundry that needs hanging out, the emails that keep screeching at me from the computer. This is my little pocket of bliss.

'A performer you will never forget'



Josh Taylor is heading up to the North Coast for another tour. Born in Warrnambool, Josh says, "I grew up on smoked eels and Jimi Hendrix." He started playing guitar at age thirteen after learning piano for three years, and honed his skills playing a mixture of guitars and keyboards while developing his hard hitting, melodic original songs, heavily influenced by his fathers' records. Catch him at any of his dates in August: Fri 10 – Australian Hotel (Ballina) with band;

Fri 17 – Shaws Bay Hotel (East Ballina); Sat 18 – Illawong Hotel (Evans Head); Fri 24 Coraki Hotel; Sat 25 – Nimbin Hotel; Sun 26 – Riverview Hotel (Murwillumbah).



Diana Anaid trio in full flight in July at the Nimbin pub, where they return on 24th August.

NIMBIN BOWLO



25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in August?

- Saturday 4th – Annual General Meeting – 10am
- Wednesday 9th – Open Mic Night – from 7pm
- Sunday 19th – Visiting Club, Ballina Rabbit Trappers
- Monday 27th – Women's Gala Day
- Trivia Quiz – Saturdays 7pm
- Raffles – Fridays 7.30pm

CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner Tues – Sun
- Friday Banquets
- Take-Aways

Phone 6689-1473



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Sunday Gig Guide

August 1pm start

- 5th **Breaking Heart**
Brisbane folk songwriters Michael David and Lee James
- 12th **Tim Stokes**
Byron based singer/songwriter plays blues, roots & folk
- 19th **Andrew Morris**
Acoustic, alt-country and rock originals from his 5th solo album, 'Shadow of a Shadow'
- 26th **Rusty Datsuns**
Fresh take on modern folk with a healthy bluegrass twinge; winning hearts after their formation during the 2011 floods

September

- 2nd **Lucky Wonders**
An Album launch with special guests
Raise the Roof Gospel Choir

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

August Gigs

Thursday 2nd	6pm	Ian Rowe
Friday 3rd	7.30pm	Sabotage
Saturday 4th	4pm	Richie Williams
Sunday 5th	4pm	The Blue Ruins
Thursday 9th	6pm	Adam Brown
Friday 10th	7.30pm	Skydaddy
Saturday 11th	3.30pm	TBA
Sunday 12th	3.30pm	The Good Ship
Thursday 16th	6.30pm	OPEN MIKE Let us hear You
Friday 17th	7.30pm	Moondog
Saturday 18th	3.30pm	Manju
Sunday 19th	3pm	Chris Fisher
Thursday 23rd	6pm	Scott DayV
Friday 24th	7.30pm	Diana Anaid and Band
Saturday 25th	2.30pm	Josh Taylor
Sunday 26th	3pm	Surf Report
Thursday 30th	6pm	Roesy
Friday 31st	7.30pm	Thorazoo

All Gigs are Free of Charge

Hummingbird Bistro

Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta;
Thurs \$10 steak 250g

Blue Knob Market at the Nimbin Show

by Jim Arachne

The Nimbin Show is next month! Blue Knob Farmer's Market will be there again on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 of September - but with a difference. Instead of all the stallholders moving to the Showgrounds we'll have just several stalls showcasing the varied produce of the Market. This will allow us to expand and display some other great ideas as our Show contribution this year.

Foremost of these will be a Sustainability Village - a whole array of exhibits featuring sustainable and alternative food production and self-sufficiency techniques. Some of these will be; beekeeping, biochar, tropical fruit, building with hemp, local rice and other grain growing, permaculture, local sustainable-meat production, cassava growing and cooking, plus lots more.

In the Village we've planned a 'Paddock to Plate' Café. Featuring fresh, locally grown and hand-made produce, hungry showgoers can take a break from the Show and tuck into a delicious change from the usual hotdogs.

The Speakers Tent will be a key part of the Village. The Tent will have a great line-up of presentations from local experts, focusing on self-sufficiency and sustainability skills you can take home and use. Make sure you pick up a copy of the September *Nimbin GoodTimes* to get more precise details and times.

On the topic of sustainability, the market has just celebrated its second birthday with a pumpkin-themed bushdance and feast. The event drew over 100 people from their warm homes to a hilarious evening of dancing and feasting,



James Creagh at the 2011 Nimbin Show. Blue Knob Market stallholder and Winner of the Most Sustainable Farm award.

Photo: Woman with a Camera

and raised over \$1500 towards renovations and improvements at the Blue Knob Hall and Gallery.

The success of this event is an inspiration to do the same next year, but even better. A full Pumpkin Festival with growers' competitions, pumpkin displays, cooking bakeoffs, talent shows and pumpkin carving that will culminate in a wild bushdance and feast!

Festivals such as this were once a big part of country social life and helped create and sustain community and pass on valuable food production skills.

Growing Successful Seedlings - Workshop on Saturday 18th August with Greg James

This is a hands-on, two-to-three-hour workshop teaching skills of successful seedling growing. We'll be making seed-raising mix using a range of quality ingredients for participants to take home and use.

Techniques to reliably get over 90% germination rate for seeds and subsequent seedling establishment will be a focus of this workshop.

Greg James is the co-founder of Farmers Choice Organics, an organically

certified nursery originally near Byron and now located at Murwillumbah. Farmer's Choice can produce around 20,000 seedlings per week and previously sold at eight outdoor markets and 14 different retail outlets.

Greg will share some of the knowledge and skills he and partner Vanessa have developed to mass-produce healthy, vibrant vegetable seedlings.

NOTE: The workshop fee is \$30 and \$20 concession. Numbers are limited to 12 to allow all participants to fully participate.

Registration is essential. Please send your name and contact details to Jim at uloborid8@gmail.com

Please note, this is not a workshop for commercial interests but is focussed on improving home food production in the local area.

If you'd like to hear about other seminars and events at the Blue Knob Farmers Market please send your name and email to Jim at uloborid8@gmail.com

The market runs Saturdays, rain, hail or shine, 9am to ~12.30pm, corner of Blue Knob and Lillian Rock Roads, 8km from Nimbin, in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.



Fresh local produce for a sustainable future.

- Self-sufficiency workshops
- Community Grain Mill
- Local & visiting musicians

Corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Roads
Only 8km North of Nimbin

Enquiries contact Peter 6689-7484 or email: blueknobfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Nimbin Natural Beekeepers Group



by James Creagh

Spring has arrived early this year. The bees have been feasting on the early flowers like stone fruits and liquid ambers. Standing below the liquid ambers and listening to the sound of thousands of bees above is a joy to hear. With the many wet days we've had recently it has been difficult to get in and check the bees and the honey stocks but today was a good day to harvest ready for the Saturday market.

Like the bees the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers group has been busy preparing for the coming season by ordering boxes and starting to assemble them. It is exciting to be part of an enthusiastic group dedicated to such an amazing and threatened insect.

Nimbin Natural Beekeepers

In May we decided we would be known as the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers Group. Our purpose is to promote beekeeping in our area using more natural methods. We meet usually once a month and offer support to new beekeepers and hold a space for sharing information about keeping bees. Bees throughout the world are being threatened. In our area small hive beetle is a real problem for feral and box bees, but easier to manage if they are in a boxed hive. The threat of the Asian bee making its way to our part of the world is still very real. They could compete with the European bee and there is the additional risk it could introduce the varroa mite that has and continues to be a cause of great losses in all continents except Australia.

We have been meeting irregularly and have recently been getting ready for the spring by ordering bee boxes. We recently ordered round 35 hives, an encouraging number with some experienced but many new beekeepers ready to go. This is a very positive indication of the interest in bees and for food security for our community.

The next meetings will be spent assembling them getting ready to fill with bees this coming spring. A very special thanks to Pascal for coordinating this order.

There is interest in placing another order for bee boxes etc. Email us to let us know if you're interested.

Swarms

We will be making it known this spring that the group is available to collect swarms. Swarms are a mass of bees that will temporarily nest usually on a branch of a tree or fence while some of the bees search for a new home. They can hang around for up to a few days. Swarms do pose the risk of stinging people and animals and can often struggle to find a suitable home, sometimes ending up in the wall of a house that can be difficult to remove. Our contact person is Thomas, phone work hours 6689-1423 and after hours 0421-097-776.

Nimbin Show

The Nimbin Natural Beekeepers are planning on joining the sustainability village at the Nimbin Country Show. Anyone interested in joining us in encouraging beekeeping let us know. Eric has offered to organise a raffle as part of the NNBKG space. The idea is to put together items related to bees e.g. honey, bees wax, bee artwork, candles, plants that bees would enjoy, honey cake etc. It will help cover the cost of the space and can be used as seed money for bee materials that the group can share.

Equipment Library

Anyone interested in accessing the community beekeeping equipment can visit the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre where they will give the complete picture on how to use the gear. There are two honey extractors and some protection equipment as well as a queen rearing kit.

Bees in the News

It was reported in the news recently that a man was caught at Sydney airport attempting to carry several queens into the country from Europe. The bees were found not to carry the varroa mite but there have been six cases of queens being smuggled into Australia that have carried the mite over the last 10 years. The varroa mite has devastated bee colonies throughout the world except Australia. The article reported that when the varroa mite entered New Zealand in 2000, the feral bee population vanished in two to three years. The boxed/managed hives declined but not at the same rate. The story also mentioned that Australian scientists were interested in starting a program to breed Australian bees with a resistance to the varroa mite but it was unclear if funding would become available.

Next meeting

If you're interested in joining the group, attending the next beekeeping workshop or meeting, email jamescreagh@hotmail.com or phone 6689-7575.

Photos: Woman with a Camera



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HEMP HEADLINES



World's biggest marijuana dispensary targeted by the Feds

[Sacramento Bee 13/7 Peter Hecht] The biggest medical marijuana dispensary on earth has been targeted for closure by federal prosecutors in Northern California, USA. Harborside Health Center is Oakland's second largest retail tax payer, last year paying combined taxes in excess of \$3 million. Should Harborside be forced to close, 100,000 patients will return to the illegal marketplace and more than 100 current employees will become jobless.

Most Canadians firmly in favour of decriminalizing marijuana

[canada.com 2/7 Mark Kennedy] Two-thirds of Canadians think the law should be changed so that people caught with small amounts of marijuana no longer face criminal penalties or fines, a new poll has found. The nationwide survey for Postmedia News

and Global TV, which examined the state of Canadian values, revealed that the public is distinctly offside with the Harper government on the issue.

Australian cannabis growers questionnaire – launched July 2012

<http://ndri.curtin.edu.au/research/grow> A team at the National Drug Research Institute [NDRI] has been working on an online survey of cannabis growers for over six months now. On 13 July they launched the survey after piloting with OzStoners. This survey aims to better understand small-scale cannabis growing and growers in Australia..

USA: Meet Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein

[tokeofthetown.com 13/7 Steve Elliott] Jill Stein, the Green Party nominee for President of the United States, has a very clear concept of the mainstream roadblock to marijuana legalization. "We consider marijuana a substance which is dangerous

because it is illegal," she told Toke of the Town in an exclusive interview Friday morning. "But it is, in fact, not dangerous; it is far less a health concern than perfectly legal substances such as tobacco and alcohol." When Stein says so, it perhaps carries a little more weight than if your average politician said it; besides being a mother and a housewife, this 1979 Harvard graduate is a medical doctor. And she believes that marijuana prohibition is a really bad idea.

Aussies the biggest recreational drug users

[news.com.au 27/6 Paul Toohey] Australians and New Zealanders are the biggest recreational drug users in the world, according to the 2012 *United Nations World Drug Report*. The use of ecstasy is in decline in Australia, but cocaine use is on the rise and Australians and New Zealanders consume more marijuana per capita than any other country. Altogether, annual use among Australians and New Zealand for all drugs except for heroin 'remain much higher than the global average,' said the report, published a short time ago in Vienna.

Colombia decriminalizes cocaine, marijuana

[rawstory.com 29/6 Stephen C. Webster] Colombia's Constitutional Court has ruled that people cannot be jailed for possessing cocaine and marijuana for personal use. The decision ratifies a previous Supreme

Court ruling that said people cannot be jailed for possession of a so-called personal dose. A 2009 law placed the dose at up to 20 grams of marijuana and one gram of cocaine.

Los Angeles council bans medical marijuana dispensaries

[Guardian 25/7 Rory Carroll] Los Angeles may soon be off the map as a pot-smoking mecca following a city council vote to ban storefront medical marijuana dispensaries. LA's 762 registered dispensaries – some say there are actually more than 1,000 – will receive letters ordering them to close or face legal action, signalling the likely end of a freewheeling era that let pot shops sprout upacross the city. The council decision followed mounting complaints from police and neighbourhood groups that legalisation of medicinal marijuana – which remains legal – spawned seedy stores that peddled weed to recreational users on medical pretexts. Most patients lacked the skills or time to cultivate marijuana, one dispensary owner told the council. Others warned that sweeping restrictions would herald a return to the black market.

Email head@hempembassy.net if you would like to receive our weekly global drug news summary. Web links to these stories and others at www.hempembassy.net or tune in to the Hemp Hour on Nim-FM 102.3 on Fridays at midday.

Mullaways Medical Cannabis



Mr Bower holding up his Mullaways Medical Cannabis sign for the police in the helicopter, who took the photo before taking the plants

Tony Bower's ongoing struggle to get his medical cannabis tincture legalised goes to court in Kempsey on Monday 27 August. A support convoy will leave Nimbin's HEMP Embassy the day before at around 10am.

"It's a heroic effort from Tony," says Michael Balderstone, president of the embassy. "The 200 odd medicinal plants confiscated by the police were all labelled with a number representing a patient who had been referred by a doctor.

"Tony has spent so much time and energy trying to do the right thing to get taken seriously and we applaud him. "He also made no secret

about what he was doing, growing the plants right next to his home and advising authorities of what was going on.

"It would have broken a lesser man to have the entire crop taken just as it was ready for harvest, but Tony barely blinked and ploughs on regardless.

"Unquestionably his medicine works for many, many people and the word has spread. "We field phone calls in the Embassy every day, like he does, and it is no fun telling people dying from cancer that we cannot help them, when we know how easily we could if we had enough tincture to go around."

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

UNDA CSG

There's a lot of nervous energy around the Station these days. The CSG (and we all know what that stands for) lunatics are getting very hot unda the collar, not that there's a neck tie between them, those greenies and farmers. The Force has always got on with the farmers. We don't only share gun stories with crims over a beer, we do it with farmers as well. Now they've hooked up with the greenies it's a dilemma and old friendships are being tested.

The Boss always looks at me sideways but now I can see he's in

real conflict, and he's picking on me. "The more we hammer the weed the more troubles on the street. I know I know you've been telling me that for years Bethany. So why should I keep you there?"

I didn't say a word as I've sort of lost the plot, which fortunately fits the persona I'm playing. Plus, my mind is crammed with hippy talk these days, Pipes dreams. I'm starting to 'awaken', he says. When I refused to eat the snaggers at the weekly barby the Boss got real narcky. "The hippies are getting to you Beth. You're not taking their crap seriously are you? Don't lose us Beth!"

I haven't drunk beer with them for

months, which is enough to raise total suspicion I would have thought, but they seemed to go along with it. But refusing a snagger. Very un-Australian drawled the sarge, though he didn't give a rats arse.

Meanwhile there's a new crew in my favorite little weed village. The ADHD kid has gone but replaced by the Notepad. Nothing worries the hippies more than the coppers standing there writing notes about them. They already feel like zoo animals with tourists filing past taking photos of the freaks. Now the uniforms are taking notes on them. Very intimidating.

I can tell you they're adding up the new PPN's (Potential Problem Numbers). The new point allocation system now includes 5 for long hair, 4 for a beard, and 4 for bare feet, which make it very rich pickings for these newbys who've never seen so much hair on one street in their life

before. Come to think of it Nimbin could call herself the "Hairiest little village south of the Equator".

They review the numbering system annually and thanks to the infamous Bin and his Tribe in the middle east, beard points keep going up and up. Ever seen a beard in the Force? The newbys are vying with each other for the bonus overseas trip, ADHD claimed as his own for years. The new check means any score over 10 gets picked on, searched, harrassed, pulled over if you have a car. Fines, fines, until you leave town. Simple really, except the Bin is packed with 'over tens' and some of the Jesus freaks (long hair, beard and bare feet is almost mandatory) wouldn't hurt a fly. They don't even smoke the herb, much.

"Don't tell me you've turned into a Jesus freak now as well," says the wide-eyed Boss one day in the corridor, picking on me again. I

pretended I was in role and shuffled off like Beth does. Thank God I've got the green card so I can always use weed as an excuse. Wandering off muttering nonsense is exactly how they expect a stoner to behave after the Goulburn Academy classes. But I couldn't get away quickly enough and he grabbed me by the arm.

"A new job for you Bethany. We need you unda the CSG protester's noses. You're out of the Bin and into the gas baby." Now he's trying to be funny. "Get yourself a shovel and a pair of gummies. You could be a farmer's wife but I suppose feral Beth fits in well enough. Straight after Splendid on the Grass you head to Casino."

Every man and his dog in the Force is going to Splendid. There's a new obsession on alcohol behaviour. Won't worry me and they know to keep the dogs well away from us green card Undas.



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