

# Janelle's Page



by Janelle Saffin, MP

Janelle with Chris Crawford, Northern NSW Local Health District CEO and Minister Tanya Plibersek at Lismore Base Hospital announcing \$80 million in funding.

In May, the Health Minister Tanya Plibersek joined me in Lismore for a major pre-Budget announcement – \$60 million in Federal Government funding for the first part of Stage-3 redevelopment of Lismore Base Hospital. The State Government is contributing \$20 million.

This means that patients will have a larger, better designed Emergency Department, and nurses and doctors will be able to provide better patient care.

I thank Minister Plibersek and former Health Minister Nicola Roxon who both

responded so positively to my lobbying in Canberra for the Lismore Base project.

The redevelopment is a great win for our community and the health professionals and organisations who have all worked with me to secure this funding breakthrough.

Delivering high quality health services to the Page electorate remains my top priority and I look forward to seeing this project realised for the benefit of all residents.

## Budget dental announcement

The Budget included a boost of \$515 million to help the states cut public dental waiting lists, increase the public dental workforce and improve clinics for dental services in regional, rural and remote areas.

I am pleased as I have been lobbying for better access to public dental services for many years and it was one of the issues I raised in my first speech in Federal Parliament. It is one of the issues that many people contact me about.

The dental program will see thousands of people on long waiting lists get dental treatment. As this is rolled

out I will be lobbying for our fair share in Page, where there is great need.

## Human Rights

There is a new focus on human rights in Parliament this year, with all new laws now having to be checked to see if they stack up against our human rights obligations.

Under the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011, which came into effect in January, all new bills and disallowable legislative instruments are assessed for compatibility with the main United Nations human rights treaties Australia is party to.

As part of the Act, a Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights has now been established.

This Act is an important part of Australia's Human Rights Framework which was developed following

the Government's National Human Rights consultation (when I brought the consultation to Lismore more than 100 people attended on a night of flooding rain).

The focus is on ensuring the key principles of freedom, respect, equality, dignity and a fair go for all Australians are considered in everything the Commonwealth Parliament does.

## Coal Seam Gas

The community movement to protect our environment from the proliferation of coal seam gas wells is clearly going from strength to strength.

I spoke in Parliament recently about the 7000 strong rally in Lismore and the earlier Sydney rally where the Northern Rivers was well represented.

As I have said many times, when it comes to CSG we need to exercise the precautionary principle and nothing is worth risking our water.

I spoke twice in Parliament on coal seam gas in May and you can read transcripts online at [www.janellesaffin.com.au/speeches](http://www.janellesaffin.com.au/speeches)

Member for Page  
63 Molesworth Street  
Lismore  
Phone 1300 301 735

# North Coast to share in 'benefits of the boom'

by Justine Elliot MP

The 2012-13 Budget is delivering much-needed cost of living relief to thousands of North Coast households.

This Budget is all about making sure all Australians share in the benefits of the mining boom and our strong economy, not just the fortunate few.

I know many people in our community feel like this is somebody else's mining boom. That's why the budget will spread the benefits of the mining boom to help everyday Australians with cost of living pressures."

The budget delivers a new cash payment to 9500 local families with kids in schools. Parents will receive \$410 for each child in primary school and \$820 for each child in high school as part of the new Schoolkids Bonus.

It increases family payments by up to \$600 for more than 12,000 local families. Flowing from July next year, this extra support will be made to families currently receiving Family

Tax Benefit Part A payments.

It also provides extra money to help pay the bills to 13,063 local young people, single parents and the unemployed currently receiving allowances. Singles will receive a \$210 lump sum payment while couples will receive \$350.

We're also returning the budget to surplus, on time, as promised. Returning to surplus gives the Reserve Bank maximum flexibility to cut interest rates further.

Interest rates are now lower than at any time under the previous Government, and a family on a \$300,000 mortgage is now paying around \$3,000 a year less in repayments.

The Labor Government is also finding room to deliver reforms that make for a stronger community and a fairer society, such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, a big new investment in Dental Health, and Aged Care reform.

## Extra cash to help locals

Thousands of local families and pensioners will soon have extra cash in their bank accounts to help them keep up with the cost of living.

Justine said locals would receive extra assistance from the Labor Government over May and June. "The Federal Labor Government is delivering extra cash to



families, pensioners and other local people to help them make ends meet," she said.

More than 12,300 eligible families and more than 30,400 pensioners will receive an upfront, lump sum payment in their bank accounts.

Families on Family Tax Benefit Part A will receive up to \$110 per child, and families on Family Tax Benefit Part B will get up to an extra \$69.

Single pensioners will receive about \$250, and pensioner couples will receive about \$380

combined.

Other households, including students, carers, job seekers and eligible retirees will also receive extra cash.

"This extra money will go straight into your bank account, and will help you keep up with the cost of living now and over the coming months," said Justine. "And next year, the regular payments that eligible families, pensioners and other households receive will go up for good."

In another boost for households, more than 43,000 locals will also receive a tax cut in July – with most people receiving about \$300 extra a year in their pay packet.

"We know with bills to pay it can be tough to keep up, so we're making sure thousands of local workers can take home more money in their fortnightly pay cheque," Justine said. "And we're tripling the tax-free threshold so that many casual and part-time workers won't have to pay any tax at all."

Justine said the Government would continue to look out for local households. "As Labor builds a strong, clean economy for all Australians, it's important that local families and pensioners are getting that extra bit of help.

"I'm committed to making sure local people keep getting the support they need to help them make ends meet."

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# From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

June marks the official start of Winter on the North Coast, and although Winter is brief and mild in our region, it is the time for extra doonas, scarves and hearty soups at least for a few weeks. In my garden the wattle is in bloom, with the bright golden blossom hanging heavy on the bough.

Of course, winter also means the Lismore Lantern Parade is nearly here. This year's theme is Harvest and a reminder of the abundance of our foods, creativity and community riches. The Lantern Parade, on June 23, is also a reminder of our connectedness and solidarity, protecting this beautiful region from the threats that we face, whether natural or human-made.

## Floods

As I write my column, I've just returned from a business breakfast hosted by the local SES in conjunction with the Lismore Chamber of Commerce and Lismore City Council.

The message to the 70 people present was 'Be Prepared' so that when the big flood comes, our lives and property are protected. With so many new businesses in our CBD, the message needs to be repeated to ensure everyone hears and understands.

The General Manager and I head to Sydney on June 7 to hear about Councils' role in emergency management including the response and recovery phases. While we all

applaud the magnificent work by both professionals and volunteers, each of us has responsibility to be prepared and keep ourselves, our loved ones and our property as safe as we can.

## Coal Seam Gas (CSG)

Unlike floods and storms, Coal Seam Gas is a threat of human origin but, many would argue, it poses a greater long-term threat to our region, our lives and our community well-being. The rally and concert on May 12 was truly amazing, bringing 7000 people together in a show of community strength and solidarity. Both before and since the rally, I have sat in meetings across our LGA and seen people learn about CSG and take on the task of surveying their streets and roads to assess attitudes towards CSG. Those surveys are indicating that between 93% and 99% of households want their community to be CSG Free.

Some people have suggested that the poll to be conducted on September 8 is not needed because we have those community declarations. The poll is still an essential tool to measure the true level of opposition to or support for CSG and give accurate figures to the CSG industry and politicians. We are fortunate to have Southern Cross University staff and students engaged with Council to determine the question to be asked and the Yes-No cases. Contrary to the initial assessment of \$42,000 as the upper most estimate of the cost of the poll, it may be as low as zero. If it is at the revised estimate of \$16,000, I would



suggest that the figure is a small price to pay to enable every voter to tell us their opinion on CSG.

## Koalas

The most significant decision of the May 8 Council meeting was the adoption of the Koala Plan of Management (KPoM). As with our LEP to be considered on May 31, there has been a concerted and vociferous effort by opponents to defeat the KPoM or delay its consideration until after September 8 elections. The vote was narrow (6-5) but the Plan has now been adopted and sent to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for approval.

## Voluntary workers

Cr Yarnall asked Council to discuss with our insurers and regulatory agencies on how we might allow volunteers to help maintain Council assets such as parks and roads. Some of us older residents can recall days when volunteers chipped in to fill potholes, mow road reserves and help get things done. While the associated risks pose very real problems with such a scheme, Council agreed to gather information and discuss this matter at a workshop.

## Draft Housing Strategy

Council voted unanimously to endorse the Draft Lismore Housing Strategy (LHS) for public exhibition until June 19. The LHS is all about increasing the supply and variety of housing for the future. As examples, we know we will need more one and two-bedroom dwellings for our ageing population and more affordable housing close to facilities and employment. Council is also conscious of the need to protect agricultural land from urban sprawl. If you haven't seen the Strategy, I encourage you to have a look on Council's website and let us know what you think by June 30.

## Alcohol free zones

Every few years Councils must re-establish defined alcohol-free zones (AFZ) on streets, footpaths and carparks. The AFZ for Nimbin still allows for drinking of alcohol in alfresco dining areas but prohibits the consumption of alcohol on the streets. The Nimbin proposal has been expanded to include the Western Carpark.

## Budget

After a long and difficult night of deliberations on the coming year's budget, Council has placed its proposed plan of activity and expenditure on exhibition. Many people who lodged submissions for worthwhile projects will be disappointed with the decision not to fund them but those present on May 9 will know how challenging it is for Council to prioritise its activities with inadequate funding. At the end of a long sitting, we arrived at

a balanced \$123.2 million budget. The roads budget has been increased to \$18.2 million, \$5.4 million has also been allocated to expand and improve the wastewater services network and \$2.6 million will be spent on the water supply network.

One of the truly exciting elements of the draft 2012/13 Operational Plan is \$3.8 million for a new recycling facility at the Resource and Recovery Centre in East Lismore. This state-of-the-art facility will allow the recycling of paper, cardboard, plastics and glass to occur on-site, creating jobs and reducing the need to transport recyclables to Carrara.

While Council's cash position is balanced, the net operating result for the year is still a deficit of \$6.866 million. Changes to the way Council conducts business will be required to address Council's long-term financial sustainability. This challenge will be addressed during the development of the new Community Strategic Plan in 2012/13.

The Plan is on public display until Friday, June 15, 2012 in the 'Have Your Say' section on Council's website at [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au), at Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah, the CBD Office, 55 Magellan Street, Lismore and in the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre.

## Community Strategic Plan - Imagine Lismore

Council is about to embark on the Imagine Lismore project. See the separate notification in NGT for this exciting opportunity to plan for our future and, over the next 18 months, develop our 10-year Community Strategic Plan.

## Simon says

by Cr Simon Clough

The anti coal seam gas rally was utterly amazing. It was so empowering marching at the head of over 7000 protesters with Lismore's mayor. Wow! I have to pinch myself sometimes to realise the Council has come so far in less than four years. There is no way this would have happened with our previous mayor. The rally organisers did a fabulous job with every aspect of the rally and concert being done with flair and effectiveness.

The CSG-free communities strategy is going off like wildfire. At this stage 1,859 people have been surveyed in their homes and 97 percent of them have voted to have their area CSG free. Many other communities are lining up to distribute material, hold meetings, build relationships

and declare their roads CSG free protected by community. There's also good news on the poll in conjunction with the election to assess whether Lismore people want CSG. The Electoral Commission has said that the cost will not be \$42,000 as originally stated but will be the same as the last election which also included a poll. This means the cost will be approximately \$16,000 which has already been provided for in the budget.

I noticed that Metgasco is spruiking that it will spend \$2b in this region over the next 20 years. Needless to say this is a very narrowly defined economic benefit that does not take account of the social and environmental costs. The impacts on much more financially important industries such as agriculture and tourism will be severe and permanent but of course those costs are not mentioned. Nor are the social costs such as house rentals (in some areas

up to \$3,000pw), closing of local businesses and the destruction of community connections. Essentially it's the old trick: we'll keep the profits and the community and the environment can pay the real costs.

The good news on the Council front is that my motion to approve the koala plan of management in the SE of the Council area was accepted by 6 votes to 5. Opposition to the plan was quite intense especially from the 'no-one can tell me what to do on my land' group. I was very disappointed to see this group attacking Friends of the Koala as being ineffective bleeding hearts. Friends of the Koala is a volunteer group that has done an amazing job rescuing approximately 300 koalas a year. Not only do they have to access food for these animals which is a major undertaking, but they also experience the awful fact that 70 percent of their charges will die or have to be

euthanised.

The timing of the approval of the koala plan could not have been better with the Federal Minister for the Environment declaring them a threatened species and grants such as over \$2 million being given to Tweed Shire for linking koala habitats, \$3 million went to the Coffs Harbour area partly to protect koala habitat. The koala plan of management gives the Council the perfect foundation to access large amounts of funding for provision of koala food trees and other projects to enhance our extraordinary koala population.

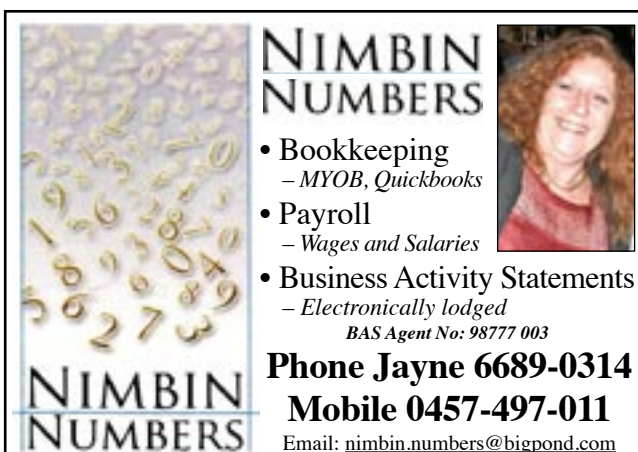
Council will be considering its draft Local Environment Plan (LEP) this week. This is the foundation planning document for the next 10 years or so. The 'no-one can tell me what to do on my land' group will be out in force demanding that there be no environmental or other restriction on their land. I

often wonder who they would turn to if a neighbour were to do whatever they liked on their land such as building an intensive piggery adjoining their neighbour's home!

Personally I would like to see more environmental protection in the LEP. We are fortunate enough to live in one of the most biodiverse areas in Australia and it is simply not good enough to believe that self regulation will protect our beautiful heritage.

I will be standing for Council again in the election on 8th September. I have a great team on my ticket. Please ensure that you are registered to vote. We desperately need to ensure the advances that this Council has made are protected and continued.

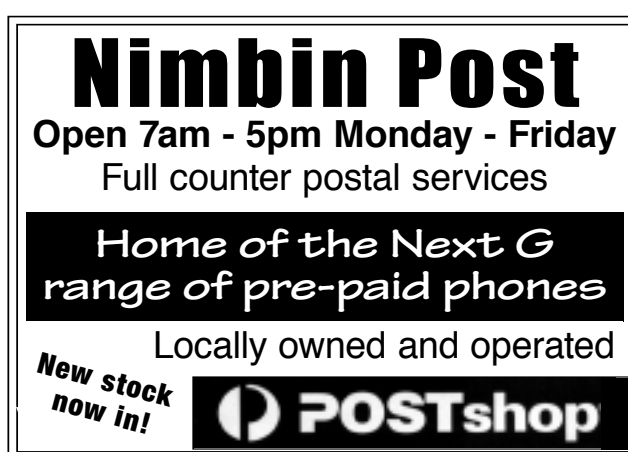
You can follow me on Facebook - Cr Simon Clough, Lismore City Council. Phone 6624-2894, mobile 0428-886-217



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# ARTISTS GALLERY

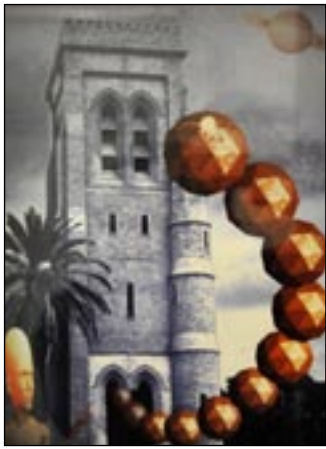
by Peter Ptschelinzew

You may have noticed something different in Nimbin village in recent days. It's not the same. Something's different. Something's missing.

It's true, the Nimbin Artists Gallery has been closed since last Monday. How can this be you may well ask. Should we call the Polite?

Fear not. When this issue of the NGT hits the streets we will (hopefully) be half way through a long-talked-about freshen up. The Gallery is being painted and we will rearrange things a bit – we may even wash the curtains!

We plan to reopen on Monday 11th June after we re-hang the artwork. So there'll be some new art



to see from our artists at that time. We've already added a new piece of digital art from Rob Harle and sandstone sculptures from Rod Johnston – a welcome addition to our 3D collection.

We look forward to seeing you when we reopen.

# Sphinx cafe rocks

Sun Hyland (pictured) and his band return to their second home on the North Coast to share their warm and funky acoustic grooves and multi-layered harmonies.

They'll be playing a free gig at the Sphinx Rock Café, Mount Burrell, at 1pm on Sunday 24th June.

Come and be inspired by this uplifting conscious music, ranging in styles from Roots Reggae to Folk Hop.

Featuring songs from his 2011 album *Wake Up*, Sun will be accompanied by Mel Dobra on vocals, River Satya on percussion and vocals, Chloe McKeand on keys and vocals, plus special guests.

Andy Jans-Brown and his band COZ\*MIC blend



melody, groove and feeling together in an uplifting show which takes its audience on a thought-provoking journey from the beauty of heartache to the wonders and highs of an existential gratitude for being alive. They are set to release their debut double album, *Letting Go!* which is a celebration of all things beautifully human.

Andy will be playing a free pre-launch gig in his trio format on Sunday 17th June at Sphinx Rock Café, starting at 1pm.

# New era for Stokers

For 34 years Stokers Siding Pottery has been showcasing the arts and crafts of artists from the Tweed, the Gold Coast, Byron and beyond as well as their own pottery made on site by their in-house potters.

Now, at 71 years of age, potter Bob Connery (pictured) has decided to call it a day.

The distinctive building, which has been a popular destination for many years, will however not lie idle. Four businesses operate within its walls and when the Pottery leaves there will be three remaining.

Vintage Soul has been operating in the building for eight years now, showcasing fabulous collectables antiques and craft items.

Moo Moo Stitches celebrates one year in the building with its popular classes in patchwork and UFOs (Unfinished Objects), and a range of fabrics, haberdashery and other sewing craft supplies for sale.

The secret cave of the Love Mae girls (and Sean) has been operating from the building for three years, two of them with a shopfront, but now



mainly online or via stockists. So there will still be plenty of reasons to visit the Pottery building in Stokers Siding. Bob Connery's pots will still be showcased and available within the remaining businesses.

Come and join us on Saturday 9th June between 2pm and 6pm to celebrate our 34 years and to welcome in the new era. Enjoy some refreshments and snap up a bargain at our sale, which continues until late June.

Find the pottery at 224 Stokers Road Stokers Siding, phone 6677-9208, online at [www.stokerspottery.com.au](http://www.stokerspottery.com.au)



# Bentley Art Prize

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Bentley Art Prize entry forms are now available at most Art Galleries, Visitor Centres, Picture Framing, Libraries and Council Chambers.

The Art Prize will be held in the Bentley Public Hall (midway between Lismore and Kyogle) on 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August. Over \$8,500 in prize

money is on offer.

This year the theme for the drawing class is heritage buildings, using Grafite, Charcoal, Ink or Conte. Entries close 25th July.

For info contact Helen Trustum on 6663-5283 or email [helen-trustum@hotmail.com](mailto:helen-trustum@hotmail.com) or visit the website [www.bentleyartprize.com.au](http://www.bentleyartprize.com.au)

# NORPA June schedule promising for old and young alike

## Biddies

Some of Australia's most loved actresses star in the new Australian comedy *Biddies*, which takes a light-hearted look at being female (and mature) in today's world. *Biddies*, by playwright Don Reid, plays at NORPA Lismore City Hall on Friday 15th June at 7.30pm.

In *Biddies*, a group of ordinarily marvellous women find themselves back in their

infants school classroom plying their needles in a good old-fashioned session of 'stitch and bitch'. Their confessions are frank, their rivalries intense and their jokes outrageous. They discover a common frustration with the limitations of being female and mature in a world still largely defined by men. These gals are feisty, vulnerable, and in full bloom!

*Biddies'* distinguished cast



features six of Australia's most loved actresses – Maggie Blinco, Annie Byron, Vivienne Garrett, Julie Hudspeth, Donna Lee and Linden Wilkinson.

*Biddies* plays NORPA Lismore City Hall on Friday 15th June at 7.30pm. Tickets are \$47 adults, \$38 concession (Groups of 4+ and seniors get concession rate). For tickets call NORPA 1300 066 772 (Mon-Fri 9am-2pm) or purchase online at [www.norpa.org.au](http://www.norpa.org.au)

## I, Bunyip

*I, Bunyip* is a unique performance of puppets, visual effects and multi-media that takes audiences deep inside the mysterious heart of Australian imaginings. Long known for their magical, life-like puppetry and performances, Erth's shows have transfixed children across the globe including their hugely popular Dinosaur Petting Zoo, which delighted children in Lismore



last year. *I, Bunyip* promises to be equally mesmerising, with an inimitable cast of unique Australian characters brought to life on stage.

Children and adults will be introduced to authentic stories, passed down in Indigenous communities for hundreds of years. Developed in consultation with five different Aboriginal communities around the country, *I, Bunyip* is a rare chance to meet very real

characters from Australia's oldest stories with one of the country's most exciting performing arts companies.

*I, Bunyip* plays NORPA Lismore City Hall on Monday 25th June, 5.30pm and Tuesday 26th June, 10am and 1.30pm. Tickets are \$16.50, or family of 4 for \$60. School discounts and teacher resource kit available. For tickets call 1300-066-772 or purchase online at [www.norpa.org.au](http://www.norpa.org.au)

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# Bloodlines

Coming up at the Roxy Gallery this June is an exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture by local artist Leandrah (Lee-Anne Young).

Leandrah holds many talents and degrees in education, art and naturopathy, as can be seen by her regular article in the *Nimbin GoodTimes* on natural medicine.

'Bloodlines' is the title for her solo exhibition at the Roxy Gallery from the 12th June to 7th July, with the official opening on Friday 15th June from 6pm.

This exhibition of works are reflections of Leandrah's relationships to both family and land. Stemming from Gundagai, as a fifth generation on both sides of



her family, Leandrah has drawn on connections of her father's free settler Scottish descent and her mother's Scottish, English, Warajari (the large matrilineal aboriginal tribe with Lake Cowal as its centre) descent. "I'm the girl from Gundagai!"

# Cabaret 360 in Uki

Tickets are selling fast for this year's Cabaret 360 after the announcement of some of the performers. Local favourites include The Pitts Family, Lorenzo the Libidinous Lion Tamer, and Lil Fi.

Cabaret 360 is on this Friday 8th and Saturday 9th June at the Uki Hall, Uki.

The Pitts are a circus family from Tasmania and are now living in the caldera. Their show fuses highly skilled acrobatics with unusual juggling, bizarre contortion and off-beat humour to provide a stunning and hilarious show that reminds us of the benefits of marrying strangers. Featuring special guest, the smallest acrobat in the world. The amazing Wee Pitt! With over 15 years of experience performing in over 14 countries, in circuses, theatres and on the street, The Pitts have thrilled audiences the world over with their odd-ball sight gags, comical contortions and audience interactions.

Lil Fi (pictured, top) is one of the original roots music performers on the festival circuit today. She is a dynamic entertainer with a unique songwriting style. This multi-award winning performer is a bit of a wild card as she sings with an Australian twang, which was unheard of in the blues when she started out, (only a handful of people do this still). At last year's Cabaret 360, Lil F, astonished audiences by singing a contentious song about illegal refugees while dressed as a puppet! This year she plans to surprise audiences whilst touching on contemporary political issues once again.

Lorenzo, the Libidinous



Lion Tamer (aka Thomas Bailey) is also originally from Tasmania Theatre companies, but has recently launched himself on the local theatre scene. Lorenzo's hilarious act, which involves comedy, circus and the taming of wild animals, was recently seen at the Ukiopia Festival 2011 and Studio 44 Dragons and Drag Queens Cabaret.

Others may know Thomas from his outstanding and much talked about performance at last year's Cabaret 360, in the role of the a Japanese business man with his blow-up doll. Thomas is sure to be an audience favourite once again.

Tickets are available from the Uki Supermarket, the Organic Revolution Murwillumbah, and online from [www.ukitopiaartscollective.com](http://www.ukitopiaartscollective.com)

Wine, beer, hot drinks and cakes will be available for sale on the night.

# Folk at The Channon

by Gail Loader

Lots of excellent musicians braved the cold for our May Folk Club meet.

Mal started the day with a skilful rendition of *Albatross* then played some great Arlo Guthrie music.

It was really good to see Michelle back, playing this time in her new duo with David.

Glen continues to impress with his slide guitar and Weissenborn.

Matt Barwick made an impressive debut, playing all his own stuff, and we're hoping he'll be back soon.

Then we had a hat trick, with Cleo, Serinna then Jaeden playing one after another, witnessed by their old primary school teacher, who was blown away by all their performances... and so were the rest of us!

Thanks to Mel and Heine for their performance and then the perfect end to the day when Richard sang some beautiful Irish folk songs

Providing the best sound for each performer can sometimes be a challenge (providing sound for 16



different acts in one afternoon can be a huge challenge), so send us an email or have a chat with Steve or Rayzor on the day if you're planning an act with lots of musicians

And if you really want to play on the day, get there in plenty of time to get your name on the board. We can't always guarantee there'll be enough time, or daylight to fit everyone in.

To contact The Channon Folk Club or to get onto the club's email list, please use the new email address: [thechannonfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:thechannonfolkclub@gmail.com)

You can follow Folk Club on Facebook, or you can check out the website:

[www.folkclub.thechannon.com.au](http://www.folkclub.thechannon.com.au) or you can experience the

real thing at the next Open Mic, 2pm till dusk on Sunday 24th June at The Channon Tavern.

# Spirit dance classes

Nimbin Spirit Dance is a moving meditation practice. It is about connecting to the present moment through free form dance. By breathing deeply and moving with our breath we are able to release emotions and thoughts and reconnect to our spirit.

This can lead to states of ecstasy and a feeling that you are 'being danced' with no effort. When we are able to be fully present in each moment by being deeply connected in our physical form, we are left with peace and love. This is deeply healing to ourselves, our families and our communities.

When you arrive at class I will have slow music playing which allows us to stretch, breathe and move slowly to help us ground ourselves in



the space. The music builds through different styles up to high energy and then down again into stillness. I offer some guidance but this is a personal journey into your own authentic dance.

Classes will be held at Jarlanbah Community Centre every Tuesday, 10am - 12pm, and every second Saturday 2pm - 4pm. Costs \$10. This is a drug, alcohol and child-free space. Contact Lisa (pictured) for more info on 0428-221-290.

## THE ROMANIACS

The Lismore Jazz Club will be hosting the ever-popular local group, The Romaniacs, on Sunday 17th June from 2pm to 5pm at the Lismore City Bowling Club.

Admission is \$10 members and students and \$15 for non-members.



# Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246



## June Gigs

Friday 8th	7.30pm	<b>Khanage</b>
Saturday 9th	5pm	<b>Brodie Grahme</b>
Sunday 10th	2.30pm	<b>Bill Jacobi</b>
Thursday 14th	6pm	<b>Fair Weather Freaks</b>
Friday 15th	7.30pm	<b>Hoochers</b>
Saturday 16th	4.30pm	<b>Liam O'Connell</b>
Sunday 17th	2.30pm	<b>Scott Day</b>
Thursday 21st	6pm	<b>Wandering Eyes</b>
Friday 22nd	7.30pm	<b>Diana Anaid Trio</b>
Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	<b>The Dillan James Band</b>
Sunday 24th	2pm	<b>Bassix</b>
Thursday 28th	6pm	<b>Guy Turks</b>
Friday 29th	7.30pm	<b>Cool Runner</b>
Saturday 30th	6pm	<b>Siskin River</b>
Sunday 1st July	2.30pm	<b>Surf Report</b>

All Gigs are Free of Charge

## Hummingbird Bistro

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

# NIMBIN BOWLO



25 Sibley Street  
Phone 6689-1250

## What's On in June

- **Open Mic Nights** - Wednesdays from 6pm
- **State of Origin Bowls Day** - Sunday 10th
- **Trivia Quiz** - Every Saturday, from 7pm
- **Courtesy Bus** - Book at bar
- **Free Broadband** - Over 50's
- **Club closed Mondays in winter**



## CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner Tues - Sun
- Friday Banquets
- Take-Aways  
Phone 6689-1473



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## Sunday Gig Guide

### June 1pm start

**10<sup>th</sup> Romaniacs**  
Original tunes inspired by gypsy, folk, Latin, Celtic, Spanish & Eastern roots

**17<sup>th</sup> Andy Jans Brown**  
Blending grooves with a pop sense of catchy melodies

**24<sup>th</sup> Sun Hyland**  
Sun brings joy & spreads positive messages to all

**July 1st Julie & the Folkmasters**  
Authentic Irish- Australian folk music with Julie Metcalfe

# Could Nimbin produce all its own food?

by Jim Arachne

At the Blue Knob Farmers Market we have lots of conversations about food security and production. Could the Blue Knob community, or Nimbin grow all its own food? The short answer is; "Yes, easily."

Looking at two overseas examples shows us just how feasible this might be.

## Growing Power

In Milwaukee the Growing Power urban farm of just two acres has an annual output of 20,000 plants and vegetables, thousands of fish and livestock including chickens, goats, ducks, rabbits, and bees. Yearly food production is worth \$250,000. 300,000 pounds of compost are created from woodchips and six million pounds of waste food. Most of the compost is sold and the rest used to fill 25,000 pots in greenhouses and the open air for vegetables.

In the meantime, heat from compost manufacture warms greenhouses so that they produce all year round in a climate similar to a cold Hobart with regular snowfalls. Aqua-ponic systems produce fish with ponds recycling dirty water through filtering watercress plants for return to the ponds.

Growing Power is the brainchild of Will Allen, and connects with 10,000 city dwellers in a low income area of the city.

## Russian family agriculture

On a larger scale, 35 million Russian families (70% of Russia's population) work 8 million ha of land (virtually all backyard plots) and produce more than 40 percent of Russia's agricultural output.

What is more amazing is each family does this on individual plots of around



The Russian dacha system of backyard growers produces 92 percent of the nation's potatoes, 8 percent of berries & fruit and 77 percent of vegetables.

24m x 24m each with virtually no machinery and little financial reward. This dacha system produces 92 percent of Russia's potatoes, 77 percent of vegetables, 87 percent of berries and fruit, 59 percent of meat and 49 percent of milk. Cereal grains are generally produced on broad-scale systems.

It is usual for a family of four to produce all of the family's needs in vegetables, fruits and berries, and – for rural residents all their milk, eggs and meat – and have plenty left over to trade, give to friends or extended family, or to sell in nearby cities.

Gross monetary value of all this produce is US\$14 billion. This is greater than the contribution of the whole Russian electric power generation industry, significantly greater than all of forestry, wood-processing, and pulp and paper industry combined and significantly greater than the coal, natural gas, and oil refining industries combined.

Russians' dacha food production system has strong

social and political support. A national holiday, Gardener's Day, underscores the importance of growing food. Spending summer holidays on the dacha is akin to Australian's spending summer by the sea. As well, the grim famines and food shortages of the past remind people of the value of knowing how to produce their own food.

## Nimbin food production

So Nimbin could easily grow nearly all its own food – but would we? What would motivate this shift? The Growing Power farm in Milwaukee was started and sustained by a skilled visionary, Will Allen. In Russia, the government gives free dacha plots to anyone who will work them, which can be passed on by inheritance, and there is no tax payable on income from the land.

While we're waiting for a visionary leader to emerge, or the government to give free land grants, Blue Knob Farmer's Market aims to contribute directly to improving local food security and sustainability.

If you'd like to know about talks, seminars and workshops in food production and self sufficiency run by the 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.

# Bush Theatre screen previews

Reviewed by Belinda Green

## ROMANTICS ANONYMOUS

Fri 8th and Sat 9th June

7.30pm \$10

Jean-René is the hapless owner of a boutique chocolate-making business whose sales are drying up. Along comes Angélique, a young chocolatier, who turns up at the factory in response to a job offer. Jean-René and Angélique fall in love but have absolutely no idea how to express their feelings for each other.



who must face the ultimate test when they discover their child is very ill. Gathering their friends and family around them, they confront the ordeal together as a form of warfare. This results in a film about a contemporary couple who surprise even themselves with their ability to fight not only for the life of their child, but for each other.



## IRVINE WELSH'S ECSTASY

Fri 22nd and Sat 23rd June

7.30pm \$10

From the author of Trainspotting comes a new movie, with the drug of choice

being Ecstasy. This film presents the conflicting views surrounding the best way to live life, particularly in the lower socio-economic classes of Scotland.



## ANTON CHEKHOV'S

### THE DUEL

Fri 29th and Sat 30th June

7.30pm \$10

THE DUEL gives life to the classic Chekhovian tale. This is a gorgeously cinematic movie that is sensuous, passionate, dramatic and peppered with delightful moments of levity inherent to the great novella.



# STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

The unthinkable has happened. Of course, at every supposedly random drug test at the Station, if I happen to be there, I'm sent to the front of the line. The twisted envy from the rest of the Force is almost psychotic. They can't stand that I'm allowed to smoke as much as I want. The ATI (Authority To Inhale) is the most treasured card in the Force pack.

Of course it's not random, and anyone can disappear when the test team turns up. Few bother, as I'm the only one to ever register. It's always been like that and our Stations official DTR (Drug Testing Records) always shows one "positive" each month where the others have zero. Until now.

Not one, or even two, but three of the Mardigrass coppers registered positive including someone we all know would never choof. They all claim it came from passive smoke, but some in the Force are insisting on evidence.

"Busting a bong session is enough to register, if you happen to walk into the room at a critical moment", said the nerdy little labman, who seemed to know a lot about it.

The Boss freaked at me, as you hippies say. "I've been covered in stinking bong smoke a dozen times myself doing busts. You've sold out on me. It's the beginning of the end. Soon the men'll be refusing to walk the beat in case a puff of smoke drifts up their nose from that curs-ed Hempbar cafe you keep hanging around."

"You know without the weed busts we're all out of work so it's important to hold some information tightly, Bethany." He looked at me with daggers. "And clearly there's proof now your weed sends people mad, so it's for everyone's good we catch the smokers before they go crazy. Agreed?"

"Meanwhile, you're to stop playing chess and having hot showers at that mad museum, and no more clean clothes for the next few weeks. Look the part, grub. We pay you enough."

I never said a word, but behind me were not

very quiet mutterings from a lot of the troops about testing positive for weed and being hung out to dry until you can prove you didn't inhale, while the mortgage payments click over like clockwork. There's no doubt change is afoot.

And it's official, drones are in for the next weed-hunting season. Maybe up to four for the Northern Rivers alone, and training courses are being offered soon if you're prepared to spend a month in Goulburn in winter to learn how to drive the little 'flyin eyes'.

The Boss was excited until I reminded him if he catches all the weed, we're out of work on that score also. It's like the Dalai kept telling me. People can't think things through. Or they head off on a sidetrack if they don't like the look of the conclusion that's starting to appear on the horizon.

The Boss is also furious at suggestions from the Mayor the police should pick up rubbish as they go about the beat. "Unless they are on a call, why not?" She said it's just about improving our public image, but we all know council actually can't afford the cleaners.

The tunnel and the old fuel tanks unda the footpath outside Nimbin's Emporium have been discovered, so none of us can use them anymore. Tons of primo weed have been stashed in the old tanks over almost three decades. Right in the middle of the village unda everyone's noses, until some midnight brass thief unscrewed one of the plugs in the footpath and shone a torch in.

HipiLeaks Canberra 2005: Prime Minister Howard says that the older generation's permissive attitude toward marijuana was one of the main reasons for Australia's mental health problems. Those attitudes informed the behaviour of young people today, who see their parents smoking cannabis and can't see anything wrong with following their example. Cannabis encourages users to think for themselves and causes too many to turn their backs on long-term careers. We are forming a CPPU (Cannabis Psychosis Propaganda Unit).

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# MARDIGRASS WASH-UP

by Harsha Prabhu

MardiGrass in Nimbin is a movable feast of colour, music and social networking, along with mind-bending substance ingestion. The marijuana harvest is in, and the green hills and valleys of Nimbin are awash with the best buds known to man. I used to live in Nimbin in the early nineties and always try and make the pilgrimage to Nimbin at this time. Consequently, I've been to quite a few MardiGrasses, not that I can claim to remember too much of what went down.

I was in Nimbin at the first MardiGrass in 1993. Compared to today it was a modest affair, with perhaps a hundred people in attendance. I remember Bob Hopkins dressed as a nun; and Jimmy Willing and his horse-drawn gypsy cart; and an assortment of Nimbin musos playing all kinds of instruments. We assembled at the Bush Theatre and walked across the old Mulgum Creek bridge with the Big Joint (made out of bamboo and cloth) to the police station, stopping on the way for exuberant jams. Bob, who was the main inspiration for the MardiGrass, presented himself for arrest. Memory tells me that the police just noted his contact details and we continued to party at the Rainbow Cafe.

MardiGrass began as a small community event: a protest at the marijuana laws, as well as a celebration and sharing of the ganja harvest. MardiGrass sees Nimbin at its best, as a caring community with much to be happy about, and it's not just the abundant ganja. Nimbin has been a pioneer in the sustainability movement from the early seventies, seeded by the Aquarius Festival of 1973. Cannabis culture and activism was a key component of this movement and this flowered into the MardiGrass. Despite Bob Hopkin's misgivings over MardiGrass and marijuana hijacking Nimbin (NGT May 12), MardiGrass is now part of Nimbin lore and here to stay.

Some years MardiGrass was washed out due to torrential rain and Nimbin was cut off from the rest of the world. Many lost money on food stalls and infrastructure, but we musos didn't care as we continued our marathon, all-night jam sessions in the street outside the Rainbow Cafe. One year Nathan & Shelli from Nimbin's sister village Woodstock were down with a documentary on Nimbin. Another year it was the reporter from High Times magazine. The word went out on the grapevine that something magical was happening in Nimbin in May. What started out small, soon grew mega, and MardiGrass began to attract punters in their thousands. The police response to this was over-the-top, with saliva-testing vans on the roads and riot police, mounted police and sniffer-dogs in the village.

Nimbin has been scape-goated for its radical views on drug prohibition and its people have paid a price via constant police harassment and becoming fodder for the criminal justice system. This has been especially heavy on the young and on the Aboriginal community, who are both at risk of ending up in prison for minor possession of marijuana offences. But the tide could be turning. The police response this year was, by all accounts, less



Faye Scherf addresses the rally

aggressive. Coming into Nimbin on Friday via the narrow, winding Tuntable Creek Road, we were pulled up by a copper in his car who did a U-turn to chase us down. He administered a breath test. It could have been worse. Perhaps the recent Australia21 report, authored by leading academics, health, legal and law enforcement experts, calling for an overhaul of the government's drug policy and an end to prohibition, has already begun to bite. There seems to be consensus on the important issue of medical cannabis, among other initiatives (See the report at [www.australia21.org.au](http://www.australia21.org.au)). Nimbin has been at the cutting-edge of this push for change, and her people deserve our respect.

Strange things can happen at MardiGrass. One year, I looked up from my bongos at the jam session on the street and there she was: I was smitten. I don't remember much else of that MardiGrass. That was a long time ago and I have learnt many a lesson in love since. This year I stuck to my faithful djembe and did not let my vision stray.

Apart from the music – there were some cool young bands featured through town – and the musical jams, we had a few cranking ones at the Oasis Cafe and on the street, plus the workshops and talks, and an amazing parade – as always, the Ganja Faeries stole the show – and the Hemp Olympics, moderated by two stand up comics, Mardi Grass is always a great time to catch up with old friends.

On my last day in Nimbin I bumped into Neil Pike. Neil is the quintessential hippie, a cyber-activist-musician, almost an elder statesman of the community. Like most hippies I know, Neil is a busy man. Neil was busy getting arrested at Terrania Creek at Australia's first successful anti-logging protest in 1979. He has been busy playing in bands, including the Pagan Love Cult. Busy producing documentaries for the Rainforest Information Centre on projects in India. And busy being Australia's foremost unofficial pundit on hallucinogenic plants

Neil, who seems to temper his innate cynicism by wearing rose-tinted sunnies, was happy to see so many young people at this year's MardiGrass. It was a feeling I shared. While the overall numbers seemed down from earlier years, the presence of the young is a sure sign that there is a whole new generation who are tuned in and there's no way to stop the change. Chibo's Hemp Torch has many claimants among GenY!

We left Nimbin on Monday evening with the sound of Johnny Ganja singing in our ears and the sun going down behind Nimbin rocks and the valley bathed in marmalade light. Thank you Nimbin. See you at MardiGrass 2013, your 21st. and also the 40th anniversary of the Aquarius Festival. Won't that be a party!

# MARDI-DIARY FROM THE 'GRASS BUNKER

by Michael Balderstone

Monday before. Been raining for weeks, but the crop is in and smoke wafting up and over the camp seems to be inhibiting a lot of things happening except for joint rolling on the Embassy verandah. About 1000 joints rolled by our volunteers from all sorts of exotic herbal combinations. Meeting regarding the Big Joint repairs was not particularly comforting, with mental images of BJ exploding over the heads of the assembled throng.

Tuesday. What a great warm up for the weekend. We marched from the Court House to hand deliver letters to the cops, Saffin and George. It throws out our routine of setting up for the weekend, and we never really recover. More French volunteers arrive with either no tent or tents that can't handle endless rain. Anyway the grassy slope behind the Embassy is better as a mud slide.

Wednesday. Still raining. DA Jim builds a huge tarpaulin rainproof refugee camp behind the Embassy. Bill McHenry brings the fence and the masses of volunteers queue up to unload and by dark it's mostly set up. We had to put up a "no more volunteers, sorry!" sign. Hundreds were turned away.

Thursday. At daybreak Franko and Glen sweep, bucket and suck empty the fetid pool of filthy water that lies in the gutter outside our supermarket all year. The vollies stitch hessian on the wrong fence because they nod in agreement to any instruction even if they don't understand.

Friday. Rain slows. Michael running around like a man possessed because he didn't delegate enough, and hadn't counted on the 70-odd volunteers mostly being French and not speaking English. The opening ceremony timing was all over the place, but nothing worries Kaptan Reefer and the Konescrapers, who had been playing on the street all week after driving to Nimbin from Adelaide.

Saturday. No rain. Beautiful day. The Police Force win their first Hemp Olympix Cup ever, for the hemp rope "Tug O' Drug War". They'd obviously



Pic by Greg Soward

practiced after last year's humiliation, and we suspect they employed cunning tactics deliberately arriving an hour late knowing the dreamy Polite team would have wandered off. So our team of ten was drawn from anyone wearing Polite in the crowd. This meant the cops only just managed to pull over a team of bedraggled old hippies, women, and children. The cops' first drug war win, ever!

The Big Joint at 4.20 nearly did explode, then the biggest moon of the year over a not too crowded village. Cool music and vibes. The only hiccup, special guests from ADLRF and LEAP (Dr Alex Wodak and Paul Cubitt) had to sleep together in a double bed due to a misunderstanding at their accommodation. Sextop author Canadian Mamakind kept them awake most of the night in the next room too!

Sunday. The Forum in the Town Hall was of the highest quality with speakers from overseas as well as around Australia. Before the Rally began Lucky laid a wreath at the Police Station and honoured those who have fallen in this senseless war. The Protest Parade was terrific and much thought and effort on floats by so many people was much

appreciated by the big crowd lining the street. Points for Herbal Highs Nell who sponsored the prohibition protest art awards. The Rally arrived to Lewis Walker's extraordinary dancing and Welcome to Country words, and the much-treasured Tuntable vocals of Diana Anaid. The third consecutive night of music in the Town Hall was possibly the best with Tassie band Dublo loving Nimbin.

Monday after. Pull down the fence, collect wheelie bins, pack up tents, collect signs, etc. Followed by the big clean-up, with vollies heading out of town in every direction, to try and leave the village cleaner than a week ago. Then the big lunch in the Hall to finish.

To summarise, the weather was stunning after the rain stopped for the first time in weeks, and the biggest moon of the year shone on a not too crowded village which saw very few problems. Certainly in part due to the police giving us a bit more space to be ourselves. Many thanks to the sensible among them and the hundreds of others who helped make it such a good weekend. And know that every day is a day closer to the end of Nimbin being a village crowded with criminals.



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