



Pub murals Willing and able

Enigmatic Lismore artist and musician Jimmy Willing (pictured) has been quietly working on the Nimbin Hotel's verandah, on and off since December, to create seven new panels to replace the faded mural across the front of the pub. "It's my dream of hillbilly Nimbin," Jimmy said, describing his brightly-coloured style as "akin to magical realism (in novels), based on reality but then made fantastic."

Aware of the punishing effects of the elements on the pub's western face, Jimmy has consulted with experienced muralists Elspeth Jones, Burri Gerome and Michael Paitson, regarding the choice of materials for his project. "They were very generous with their advice, which doesn't always happen with artists," Jimmy said. "I'm very grateful to them." Jimmy's panoramic work depicts

idealised aspects of farming life in the 1940's, and shows vehicles, implements, residences and clothing from that time, in a local landscape that features farm animals, pets and wildlife, particularly the singing birds that provide a recurring motif on each panel. Jimmy is using housepaint on weathertex board for the 20-metre long series of scenes. The panels will be lacquered before they are screwed in place from a cherry picker, with completion due before the official opening of the murals, scheduled for Saturday 21st April.

Blue Moon Cabaret



For over 20 years the Nimbin School of Arts has been presenting fabulous Blue Moon Cabarets. The shows continue to be major fund raising events for the NSA, and considerable renovations, additions and hall repainting have resulted from the finance raised at the Cabarets. The first of three Cabarets this year will be held on Saturday 10th March, and as always the show features

an incredible variety of the performance arts: stand up comedy from Glover and Sorrensen, and also Silvina; singers Vasudha and Jem, Laura Nobel, Divishti and Klara, and the Scarlet Singers; bassist Thierry Fossemalle; poet Rebecca Rushbrook, React Circus, Tunttable Falls Circus, Woodford Festival acrobat Derek Llewelin, hoops performer Sienna, dance ensemble Sassy Salsa and the Romaniacs. The Cabaret is catered by Spangled Drongo and is licensed (no BYO). The first sellout show on 10th March will be followed by Cabarets on Sat 1st Sept and Sat 17th Nov, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Fishing for fame

Acclaimed singer/songwriter Chris Fisher is well known on the north coast as a recording artist and through hundreds of performances throughout the region as a soloist and with various bands, most recently Monkey & the Fish. Chris's diverse musical background spans more than 20 years and includes many return performances at many festivals. He has also studied contemporary music at Lismore's Southern Cross University and had works commissioned for documentary soundtracks and conference theme songs. He has won eight Dolphin Awards for original compositions produced on three albums: *Progress* (1989), *Green Hearts* (1994) and in collaboration with Marcelle Townsend-Cross and others, *In Caboots* (2000). Chris's influences are reflected in the range of original material on his albums. He is a confident engaging entertainer and artist, whose lyrics are inspired by personal themes and the people, culture and community in which he lives. His songs are poetic, emotive and topical, with many conveying strong environmental themes. Chris will be playing at The Channon Tavern on Sunday 11th March, and at Tattersalls Hotel, Lismore on Wednesday 21st March. His CD (and samples) available at www.fruitbat.com



The music that changed the world



The debut of The Songs of the Haight Ashbury Stage Show last July drew the largest crowds Stokers Siding Hall has ever seen. Those unable to fit into the Hall created a mini festival outside as the hymns of a generation were celebrated by the best musicians in the Rainbow Region. Performances in Nimbin and Byron in December filled the venues with capacity crowds who experienced a psychedelic night of fun with this exciting production that is going places! The Haight Ashbury is a street intersection in San Francisco that attracted the artists of the Beat generation such as Jack Kerouac and a small artistic community began. As the 50's

rolled into the 60's the area began attracting the disaffected youth of America, who identified with this liberating way of thinking and living. Artists, poets, rebels, spiritualists, revolutionaries and musicians flocked to the area. The Haight Ashbury became a vibrant centre of free expression. It has been likened to a Renaissance whose effects are still resonating today. S Sorrensen, renowned author, comedian and poet, is the Ringmaster, interspersing the songs with hilarious anecdotes and stories from the era. James T, who spent 10 years in Canned Heat, plays the songs he knows so well. Blues diva Lil'Fi sings Janis Joplin with a unique authority that can only come from paying

her dues and living the Blues. Connor Cleary, hailed as one of the region's most impressive young guitarists, breathes Jimi Hendrix from every cell and is electrifying. Bill Jacobi's tramp-roots style conjures Country Joe, Arlo Guthrie and Dylan. World folk songbird Andrea Soler channels the sweet purity of Joni Mitchell and mystical punk diva Diana Anaid sings Grace Slick as only one who has been down the rabbit hole can. This is the authentic Haight Ashbury experience and not to be missed. See it at 8pm Friday 23rd March, at the Civic Hall in Mullumbimby. Tickets are \$25 and available from The Bookshop, 39 Burringbah Street, Mullumbimby and at Organic Revolution, Main Street, Murwillumbah. www.rainbowregiongigs.com



World famous improvising legends The Necks return home for their much-anticipated annual Australian tour in February and March. The tour includes the trio's first show in their own right in the Opera Theatre of the Sydney Opera House. Having begun as a private jamming project with no plans to perform publicly, The Necks are now getting calls from Brian Eno wanting to collaborate with them, and Nick Cave inviting them to perform at festivals. They are renowned globally for creating immersive, hypnotic concert experiences over two one-hour sets, with acoustic piano (Chris Abrahams), bass (Lloyd Swanton) and drums (Tony Buck) slowly conjuring sound mountains out of thin air and leaving audiences utterly mesmerized. "There's a state I reach while playing with The Necks of complete

emptiness, where the music is flowing through you and you just have no sense of self at all," says Swanton. "I think that's probably a fantastic state for people to listen to you in. It's certainly a great state to be in, because you're almost floating." "Ever since the beginning, The Necks have had a concept that we walk out on stage and the music – and that's not just sound, it's a whole relationship that we have with each other – will take care of itself," says pianist Chris Abrahams. The unforced trajectory of The Necks' career is also taking care of itself, with 2011 having been another huge year for The Necks. They released *Mindset*, their 16th album (and first on vinyl) to great acclaim, as well as touring Australia, North America and Europe. The latter being their most successful yet, a barnstorming 19-date workout with a string of sold out shows, including two in London and a highly acclaimed series of concerts with ambient legend Harold Budd. The Necks are, simply, at the top of their game. Don't miss them. The Necks are playing Byron Bay Community Centre on Wednesday 28th March, tickets at www.byroncentre.com.au Full tour details and music at: www.thenecks.com

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Nimbin Artists Gallery



Jaqueline King - Phoenix Rising



Jaqueline King - Phoenix Rising



Edith Streiner - Rhapsody

by Peter Ptschelinzew

March is busy at the Nimbin Artists Gallery because, as we all know, the Autumn Arts Extravaganza is upon us. It's shaping up to be another fantastic exhibition with submissions covering a broad range of categories – painting, drawing, printing, etching, photography, conceptual, wearable art and a number of 3D submissions.

This is an absolute final call for proposals for ready-to-hang and not previously exhibited work. Proposals must include the number of pieces, media, approximate size and price, and any special display requirements. Photos of the work and some information about the submitting artist are needed, especially from artists not known to the gallery. Get something to us before 12th March.

As mentioned in a previous edition of the NGT, the team at the gallery curates the Extravaganza and makes final decisions on what is hung.

The Extravaganza runs from Saturday 31st March to Sunday 22nd April inclusive, in the old town hall for our normal opening hours of 10am to 5pm. There will be music each day at 2pm performed by local musicians, and of course, lots of fabulous art mainly from our talented local artists but also from farther afield. See you there.



Dierdre Wybrew



Lae Oldmeadow

Blue Knob Hall Gallery latest exhibition



Fantails Eye view of the Fishwick house by Ian Fitsimons



Interior by Christine Wynyard

The opening at Blue Knob Hall Gallery's first exhibition for 2012 'Open House' was a great success with about 60 people braving the inclement weather to come out and support our local gallery. This exhibition runs till Sunday 25th March, with the next exhibition 'Into the Garden' following the 'Home' theme for this year.

Yum Cha

Held every second Saturday of the month – the next one being on Saturday 8th March at 12pm. Bookings are absolutely essential phone 6689-7449 (please let us know whether you have any special dietary requirements). A great way to catch up with friends in a beautiful setting sampling Steph's lovely Chinese delicacies with a pot of endless green tea.

Farmer's Market

On every Saturday, 8.30am -1pm. A fabulous range of fruit, veggies, seedlings, woodfired breads and delicious pastries, as well as local home-made produce. The grain mill is also available to grind your own grains or buy from the market.

Artists and Friends Lunch

Held on the last Thursday of each month at 12pm – the next one being on Thursday 29th March. Cost is \$15 per person for set mains and dessert. Please ring the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you are planning on coming along.

Ireland Over Here



Local instrument maker Geoff Welham playing a hand-crafted harp

An Irish-Australia folklore and music history workshop, 'Ireland Over Here' will be the first KAMS event for 2012. Musician and folk historian Chris Sullivan will present the workshop and Julie Metcalfe and the Folkmasters will provide music to complement film and photographic displays.

The workshop will be followed by an Irish music session featuring the Folkmasters and local instrument makers John MacDowall, who makes and exports unique bodhrans and washboards; and Geoff Welham, who hand-crafts celtic and Paraguayan harps. The after-workshop

session is free and all are welcome to bring an instrument and join in, or just enjoy some food, music and good company. KAMS will be holding a raffle and a sausage sizzle, hot beverages and dessert will be available from The Showground Trust. Bring your own cold drinks as required.

It will be held at the Kyogle Showground on St Patrick's Eve, Friday 16th March from 6-7 pm, entry fee \$10.

For further information, to be added to our mailing list, to become involved with any of projects, or to donate to our growing instrument library, please contact Kym Watling on 0409-534-233 or email: kymwatling@gmail.com

Become one with the Mother Spirit

Internationally renowned, award winning, Aboriginal performing artist Kerriane Cox (pictured) will be bringing a powerful and soul-filled night of music to the Eltham Hall. All the way from Beagle Bay on the Kimberly Coast WA, Kerriane's music celebrates the spiritual depth of her culture and the struggles of the First People's road to empowerment.

Each song is a story of transformation, a healing journey towards sovereignty. She will be accompanied by some of the region's best musicians, incl. Vasudha Harte on keyboard, Sheila Fink on percussion, Laura Targett on violin, and Tracy Stephens playing bass.

Audiences will be treated to a captivating support set by Queensland heritage/folk singer/songwriter and bassist Julia Rose, renowned for her soaring vocals and tales of love and life on the road. Compared vocally to Joan Baez and Roy Orbison, Julia is sure to take you on an unforgettable musical experience.

Come and share a rare evening of Song and Stories with Kerriane Cox and Friends, and become 'One with the Mother Spirit' on Saturday 31st of March, doors open 7pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, concession \$15, children under 14 free. Tickets are available from the Eltham Village Gallery, phone 6629-1649.



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Koala Kolumn



by Lorraine Vass

The Environment Minister's announcement last month to extend the deadline on announcing his decision on the Koala's threatened species nomination under federal legislation is not the most dramatic news to have come out of the nation's capital of late.

Minister Burke has now promised to share his decision with us on 30 April.

It sounds like he is persuaded by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee's latest findings that there is a need to treat populations differently in different parts of Australia. This in itself is a back-flip. Previously the Committee has consistently recommended not to list, in part because the national koala population is variable - too many koalas in some areas and declining populations in others. The Committee has apparently suggested to the Minister that any listing might be generalised to State boundaries. The Minister has asked for more precise boundaries.

Whether to be encouraged by this protracted consideration for koalas on the Northern Rivers really gets back to the category of listing the Minister may announce. Only if he comes out with "vulnerable to extinction", will the wait have been worthwhile.

Just how bad things are for koalas in our coastal areas is brought home by Tweed Shire Council's nomination for listing as an Endangered Population under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 of the coastal population from the Queensland Border to the Brunswick River. Recent field work has estimated koala numbers at 144 animals remaining along the Tweed Coast. In the south, from Dunloe Park to Brunswick Heads in the northern reaches of Byron Shire, the resident populations known to be present in the recent past appear to have disappeared although sightings are occasionally reported.

While the situation is better away from the coast many koalas are living in very marginal habitat, which takes its toll on their health and longevity.

A good example is the Tucki-Wyrallah area south-east of Lismore which still supports a lot of koalas. Generally they



To report a koala in trouble, or a sighting, or to book a tour of the Koala Care Centre please ring Friends of the Koala's 24/7 Rescue Hotline: **6622-1233**.

For information about koalas and their food trees, and other ways in which you can assist the koala conservation effort on the Northern Rivers, visit: www.friendsofthekoala.org or email: info@friendsofthekoala.org or phone **6622-1233**.

are easily seen because of the characteristically isolated paddock trees and small clusters or lines of food trees, many along the roadsides.

Local residents in the district keep a close eye on their koalas. Over some weeks, a little fellow had been causing concern because of the length of time he was spending in a clump of denuded trees close to the road verge on Tucki Road. He was high enough and was apparently moving around; the trouble was there were few food trees in the vicinity.

Eventually the decision was made to bring him in with the help of Essential Energy. Pat Barnidge, Friends of the Koala's Care Co-ordinator liaised with Lismore Depot's Electrical Technician, Stephen Brown who organised the rescue logistics, traffic control, men and equipment. The rescue, performed by Friends of the Koala's Simon Dobner from an Essential Energy work platform 'bucket', went without a hitch.

Paisley (named for one of the concerned residents), was declared by the consulting vet to be in good health although a bit undernourished and somewhat underweight for his age. He's now in homecare where he is eating his head off in the company of a couple of other youngsters.

The issue of managing koala survival in marginal habitat is a major challenge addressed in Lismore's Draft Comprehensive



Undernourished koala, Paisley – bagged by Friends of the Koala Rescuer Simon Dobner for transportation to the vet

Koala Plans of Management as well as those being prepared by Tweed and Byron councils.

While many landowners have enhanced their remnant patches of native vegetation by including koala food tree species, more needs to be done in extending corridors if koalas are to be free of stress and kept off the ground where they are prone to predation. Projects like Koala Connections in Tweed and Rehabilitating and Connecting Koala Habitat in the Richmond Catchment in the Richmond Valley and Lismore local government areas are already achieving good results.

During this year Friends of the Koala is at the Lismore Car Boot Market selling plants and providing information on the second market for the month. We'd love to see you, and catch up on your koala stories.



Doctors for the environment

Doctors for the Environment have declared a landmark court hearing. It is the first time any medical organisation has challenged the building of a coal power station. Doctors are concerned that the burning of poison will cause sickness.

NSW has 62 power plants in which 90% use coal. Tahmoor Colliery located near Picton has a 7 megawatt coal mine waste gas power station on site. It uses all its toxic gases from the extraction process whilst digging up royal coal. How many coal mines have their own power generation? OK, so where are all their current toxins going if not being generated into energy? Into the air and water.

Coal mines have a particular problem with the removal of gas while blowing up the earth they state that it is hazardous to breathe and can explode at any time. It is a huge safety issue in which they just release it in the air. Do they not breathe the same air or are they clouded by plastic money. On the envirogen.net.au website they state that methane is a particular potent greenhouse gas with the potential to be 21 times more toxic than carbon dioxide. Australia exported 405 million tonnes of black coal in 2010-2011. How much of those gases were trapped and not released into the atmosphere?

Well of the 62 power stations, only two use CSG waste. CSG, we are aware, is just another dirty poison that is already being produced now when coal is extracted. This is not a new energy source - it has been used in Australia since 1996 at Appin. It is only new to this area because the earth is our backyard and also the habitat for us and all other species. We are in this position due to our own blindness towards our beautiful earth. Not all but some.

The great change is that now more people are aware of what toxic chemicals are here and being produced and are making a stand for it to be stopped. I have a friend who has been writing submissions and taking action against coal in their own area for 30 years. They watch, act, write and live in greed-created destruction as more coal mines are approved in their backyard. People Power is the only source of Power left and we must all remain **united!** Wake up Australia - don't drill and blow up Australia.

So if it is not fracked is it OK? No! We need 100% renewable power.

Drop into the NEC get the facts on CSG/coal, not the science fiction...

NEC bus to UNESCO conference

NEC, along with other local groups, is taking the journey to Gladstone to express their concerns in relation to the destruction of our World Heritage Area.

UNESCO is here to do a comprehensive assessment of the destruction that has already taken place. Australia did not seek permission to dredge 46 million cubic metres over the next 20 years to make way for LNG operations linking the Lions Way pipeline from our own backyards.

Poison

Green is the easiest colour for the eye to see. The lens of the eye focuses green light almost exactly onto the retina. Green is a tonic for the eye, since ancient times green has been used as a respite for sore eyes. Green is the most prevalent colour in nature and has great healing power. So let's spray it with chemicals and look at brown rot death. Leave the dead plant matter there so we can be reminded of death in nature.

I was driving to Lismore on Monday and the 'Welcome to Lismore' sign has been sprayed with toxic chemicals. Nice greeting. Tweed council is no better - they had the same approach last year 'Gateway to the Rainforest - Welcome to our poison'. We live in a sick world with evidence linked to cancer but some insist on still poisoning lives. What will it take?

I had a conversation last year with a young lady whose farmer father has cancer. She said he never took any care when mixing chemicals on his property and now wishes he had never risked his own life, because it is now in the process of taking his life!



Movie Night

Nimbin Bush Theatre on Sunday, 11th March at 6pm. Food and Refreshments available.

END:CIV is a movie by Franklin Lopez and a subMediaTV production. It is inspired by *Endgame 1* and *2*, and examines our culture's addiction to systematic violence and environmental exploitation. The movie will be presented by the filmmaker.

Note: Franklin Lopez will also present *END:CIV* on Friday 16th March, 7pm at the Byron Uniting Church Hall, hosted by Byron People for Peace and Justice.

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