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THE CASINO

Pay rise for RVC general manager and rate hike approved

by Jill Lyons

Richmond Valley Council met on Tuesday 21st May to discuss many issues, including recommending the approval of a \$10,400 pay rise for the general manager. This amounts to a total rise of almost \$30,000 in the last two years.

One of the councillors explained to the members of the public sitting in the very full gallery the reasons for the pay rise and also said the general manager was fully within his rights to accept it. The general manager was present for discussion of his pay rise, even though he had declared an interest in the matter at the beginning of the council meeting.

The recommendation was approved without any further discussion, regardless of the extremely high vote against this decision on PoliVOTE, a website that offers ratepayers the opportunity to have their say on decisions council is scheduled make at monthly meetings (see story below).

Our council seems once again out of touch with the citizens and ratepayers of the Richmond Valley, and the GM's pay rise is difficult to accept at



GM John Walker

Photo courtesy Valley Watchdog

a time when the Federal Treasurer is encouraging us all to 'tighten our belts'.

RVC has also applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation, which would amount to a 42% rate increase over 5 years (See <http://valleywatchdog.com.au/>). The variation has now been approved, and will impact severely on a community already hard hit by the Federal budget.

RVC, in line with its Community Engagement Policy that "confirms the commitment of Richmond Valley Council to ensuring that community

engagement forms an integral component of informed decision making" (p1), did engage with the community regarding the Special Rate Variation via a letter to all ratepayers, a telephone survey and two public meetings.

However, the survey was structured with leading questions that encouraged the assumption that none of the goals of council could be attained without a rate rise.

The two public meetings were advertised only once in each of the *Richmond River Express Examiner* and the *Rivertown Times*, with very little notice given. As a consequence they were poorly attended, which RVC concluded was a vote of confidence but which may have just meant people weren't aware of the opportunity to have input into council decisions. Many were disappointed to have missed those public meetings.

As well, council received 36 submissions regarding the SRV, 32 against and only 4 in favour. It would seem that only favorable results are taken notice of.

Is it any wonder that people are angry and disappointed with our council?

Evolving democracy

by Joanne Petrovic
Founder, CEO PoliVOTE

PoliVOTE is a company started in the Northern Rivers. Its mission is "the evolution of democracy".

In order to evolve democracy, PoliVOTE publishes proposed decisions of government. It notifies people via email of Council proposals and gives the people the opportunity to have a say on these decisions.

The comments of the people are fed back to their elected representatives before the decision is made.

On 20th May, PoliVOTE had its first small win when the number of people participating in PoliVOTE tripled. The community in Richmond Valley came out in strong opposition to the proposal that the General Manager's salary be increased.

Over 100 people voted

on this particular issue in Richmond Valley, and the proposal was scored an average of 1.59 out of 10. The opposition to the General Manager's increase was driven by both the opposition to senior government officials receiving more money generally, and opposition to the GM's handling of Metgasco.

At the moment PoliVOTE does not publish information about Lismore City Council



decisions, but has promised to start when more than 200 people in the Lismore City Council area have expressed an interest in being notified of upcoming decisions.

If you are interested in having your say on Lismore City Council proposals before the decisions are made, please register your interest at: www.polivote.com.au/lismore.html

Weaving patterns of change

by Linda Wirf
M.Sc (Environmental Management)

Weaving is a great way to recycle all kinds of fabric- old clothes, sheets, curtains, everything!

Casino Environment Centre are lucky enough to have a big loom for weaving rag rugs which was very kindly made and donated by member Alex.

During the last year CEC volunteers have been busy weaving the first 100% recycled rug on the loom - have a look at the finished product next time you are visiting the Casino Environment Centre in Barker Street.

Hand woven rugs made from recycled fabric are beautiful and colourful, as well as being very functional and hard wearing. And they cost nothing to make.

The aim of the loom at CEC is so that anyone in the community can come in and do some weaving when they are in town to help create a communal rug that everyone can enjoy.

In the process, people learn the art of weaving so that they can build their own loom at home and start making their own beautiful rugs.

Weaving is easy and relaxing- watching the colours and patterns emerge is a very peaceful and meditative practice. The joy of using recycled fabric is the way the patterns change when they are woven and how the different colours and patterns work together to create an effect that is always harmonious.

To get people started CEC are offering free weaving workshops so come along and find out how - from setting up the loom and preparing the fabric to weaving the rug.

The workshops will be held at the Casino Environment Centre using the big loom, so classes will be limited to four people. Days and times will be organised to suit the students.

If you would like more information or want to put your name down for a class give Linda a call on 0406-409-747.



GOODTIMES

Beef Week resonates



Environment Centre characters



by Philippe Dupuy

Beef Week has been with Casino since the early eighties. It started life at a time when the cattle industry was flourishing and Casino was competing with Rockhampton for being the beef capital of Australia.

But times are getting hard for the beef industry. Changing rain patterns, market pressure, costs of machinery, an aging demography as well as degradation of pastures are making it difficult for the average farmer to make ends meet. The danger of having small farmers swallowed up by big corporations is real.

The word danger is not an over-exaggeration because with Big comes destructive large scale farming which involves over use of fertilizers, poisons, genetic manipulation and other nasties but worse new devastating industry such as mining.

It is important to remember and learn from the past. The great forest of the Northern Rivers disparagingly known as the Great Scrub had also at one time held the fame of being the richest area in Australia as a result of the plentiful red cedar but was exploited to extinction. Now as with the once plentiful forest, the beef industry is taking a tumble and already investors



Photos by Gwilym Summers and Peter Page

are looking away from beef to gas through the phenomenon of CSG.

To wait for the government to act would be like waiting for the second coming, the two party system which makes up government is stacked with corrupt people who are only concerned about themselves. The community of this region is the only power that can avert another disaster as the recent events at Bentley has proved.

The time is ripe for ordinary citizens to act and participate. This Beef Week, swarms of people are invading the streets of Casino going in and

out of little shops, buying directly off producers, enjoying and buying local artifacts, handicrafts, artworks.

Buying and shopping local as much as possible keeps the money local, allows small business to hire people who by spending locally add to the wealth of the town. You may pay a little more and sometimes less at your corner store but in the long run the town gains.

The fact is when there are too many big fish they are bound to eat all the little fish, then each other, that is why we cannot have too many big fish, small is not only fun but vital to survival.

Not in that cup, thanks!

by Stewart James

I've been buying coffee in takeaway cups for years and never gave it a second thought. Got my caffeine fix and that's all that mattered. Until one day a few months ago.

I turned up to visit a friend with two flat whites I'd just bought from the local cafe, nicely sealed with their white plastic lids. "Here you go," says I, handing one to him. "Not drinking that!" he says. "Not in that cup!"

He went on to talk about the amount of waste that is created by takeaway food and drink containers, the problems with litter and landfill and how lots of sea animals are dying from the tiny fragments of plastic getting into the ocean from all the junk we humans throw away on land.

Well, he convinced me and now I can't buy anything in takeaway containers, it just makes me feel too bad (and



someone might see me – oh the shame). Do I have to go without my takeaway coffee? Not at all, I just keep my own reusable cup in my car, too easy!

Same goes for takeaway food (Thai veggie curry – yum). I keep a reusable lunch box with a lid in my car too. I've heard you can get proper metal 'tiffin' containers with

different compartments for rice, curry, sweets etc. I'm keeping my eye out for one of those.

Feels great to be doing something good for the planet!

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There is a certain circularity to Wall of Love's gig at Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 8th June.

It was two years ago, almost to the day that three of the band members first came together to jam at this glorious little creekside venue at the foot of a majestic rock formation in northern NSW.

Wall of Love formed from an unlikely but easy compatibility between a Sydney musician whose roots lie in post-punk, disco and inner-city country rock and three friends from Brisbane with a proclivity for folk, who all now hail from northern NSW.

Before moving to Snake Creek in 2009, Shannon Lacy (vocals, guitar, bass) played in Sydney bands The Reillys, Idiom Flesh, The Majestics and Saturday Night Fever tribute band 104 and Rising.

Rhett Brambleby (vocals, guitar, bass) discovered guitar as a 17-year-old exchange student in Ecuador, and the love affair hasn't abated two decades on for this diverse, prolific singer songwriter.

Carmen Myler (vocals, keys)



grew up in a house with no vegemite but rather a steady diet of traditional Irish tunes, and the best and worst of the 70s and 80s, which continue to influence her musicality.

Jamie Irvine (percussion) took to drums early in life but set them aside until the rhythm could no longer be placated and he now seeks to find the ideal work/drum balance.

The music they make together is unsurprisingly eclectic, delightfully melodic but always about the love.

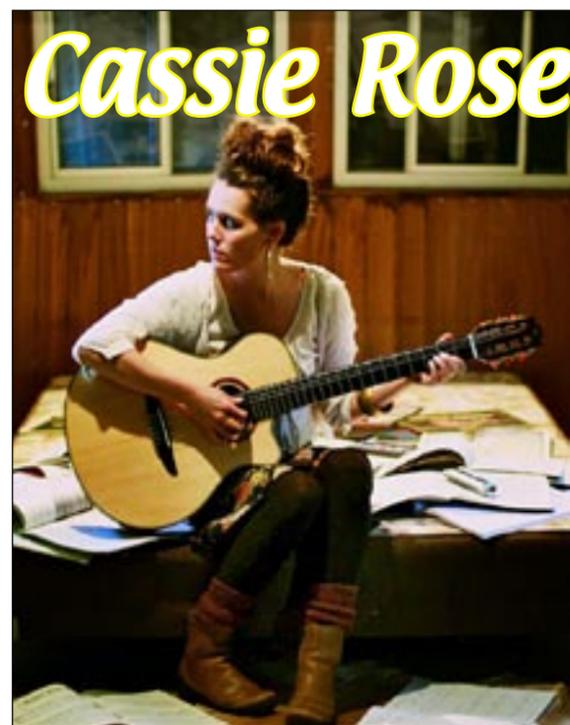
Wall of Love play Sphinx Rock Café, Mount Burrell, Sunday 8th June, 1pm-3.30pm.



Monkey & the Fish

Singer songwriter Chris Fisher with partner Marcelle Townsend-Cross will perform some new originals plus some old faves as Monkey & the Fish at the Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 15th June.

New songs include the single *Hand In Hand* which is being released online this month, inspired by the Bentley Blockade and performed there as part of the repertoire of resistance. This song was recorded in collaboration with many Bentley Blockade singers and musicians.



Re-igniting the flame of simplicity and song... Cassie Rose tells her story from the heart, for the heart. Gently weaving tales of life, love, travel and reflection... oozing honesty and a love for melody and harmony... her soft touch on her guitar paves the way for her truly delicate voice to take play... extending a hand to share her musical and life journey through her songs. Joined by Alex McLeod on guitar. Sphinx Rock Cafe, Sunday July 6th at 1pm.

The Lismore Jazz Club presents the Jenni Cocking Sextet at the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday 29th June from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non-members. Schoolchildren are free.

Singer Jenni Cocking has been a professional musician since 1980 and more recently has graduated from the University of Queensland with a degree in music. She has performed at many festivals including the Edinburgh Fringe

Festival, New Zealand Big Band Festival and several times at the Merimbula Jazz Festival. Jenni has performed at many clubs and functions along the East Coast of Australia, leading bands and creating both exciting and moving arrangements to entertain audiences of all ages.

Jenni's latest project is to bring together her latest band, featuring the amazing John Hoffman and Paul Williams, Will Sargisson, Ian Cocking and Jim Howard, to



record, play gigs and generally have a great time together developing their own special sound. It is this band that Jenni is bringing to Lismore, so be there for an afternoon of great jazz sounds.



Prior to Jenni performing, we will be having a performance by the Northern Rivers Youth Jazz Ensemble, led by Julius Hofstetter. These extremely talented youngsters perform for

us each year and always delight the crowd that attend. It is always great to hear of their individual achievements.

There will be a BBQ from noon, the Youth Jazz Ensemble from 12.30pm and then Jenni Cocking will commence at 2pm. This will be a great fun afternoon of jazz. Come and have a sausage and listen to the young talent that has been harvested here and the more seasoned performers that will be playing.



Burlesque in Byron

It's the Byron Bay Brewery's fifth Birthday and they have three of the amazing headliners from the Australian Burlesque Festival modelling for the fun-loving Bohemian rabble and arty post-modernists of Byron Bay.

From the flesh-pots of Berlin comes the hot pin-up in from the cold, the eye-popping and heart-attack-inducing Lada Redstar. Lada is a burlesque legend and award winner across the northern hemisphere, and Dr Sketchy's guarantees she will blow your lucky Antipodean socks off.

From the USA we present the absolutely gorgeous international icon,

Miss Coco Letric. Straight from Texas to Byron, Coco is set to melt hearts and inspire arty greatness with her killer curves and smouldering beauty.

As if that's not enough, festival founder and the lady bringing these world-class performers to our country, Australia's wonderful Dolores Daiquiri will dazzle the art-monkeys with her classic elegance and lush costumes.

Our awesome MC, Miss Mae Wilde will ensure our lucky audience of artists and thrill-seekers don't embarrass themselves with unseemly bouts of swooning and slack-jawed gaping. To keep everyone's blood sugar up, there

will be food, chocolates, prizes and other inducements for our enthusiastic punters.

So remember, it's on at the special date of Wednesday 11th June, the day before the spectacular Australian Burlesque Festival comes to town. Don't miss this unique Dr Sketchy's at Byron Bay Brewery. Doors open at 6pm and the session starts at 6.30pm.

Entry is a ridiculously tiny \$15. Dress fabulously and supply your own art materials. Make sure you bring everyone you know, whether drawing or not, as long as they're over 18 and keen to have some cheeky fun.



Jesse Morris, the acoustic troubadour, is back on Australian shores and sharing some conscious blues, roots and reggae at selected local venues throughout June. Jesse has returned from a solo 7-month tour across five countries, and a soul-searching pilgrimage through Cambodian jungles, Himalayan mountains and far eastern shores.

Now a resident of Byron Bay, he has brought with him a new set of conscious songs, a worthy fundraising cause for children in Cambodia, and a strong message about the earth, change and growth.

"I have spent this last year reconnecting with the world, my instrument and myself. I have had the pleasure of being able to write and play in new places nearly every day and see the earth from a new perspective," said Morris. "I am a very lucky human

to be able to write and play music in this chaotic world, and I want to share these new stories and visions."

All CD sales and a percentage from ticket and venue proceeds will be going back to Koh Rong, a Cambodian island community, to support its school and conservation centre.

To support this worthy cause and be treated to some local and conscious blues and roots, come on down to Lulu's in Mullum 7th June 11am, Mandala Organic Arts Café 14th June 7pm, Frankie Brown Byron 18th June 7pm, Sphinx Rock Café 22nd June 1pm, and Doma Café Federal 29th June 12pm.

Jesse Morris' three albums and two EPs are available on iTunes and foghorn records.

For more info: www.jessemorris.net or: www.facebook.com/jessemorrisband

Queens Birthday party

Once upon a time, in a dimension not so far away, there were prancing Princes, kinky Queens and popstar Princesses, some seriously dirty Daddies and the occasional Frog.

Times were Grimm and Faerie Tales were fractured.

At the 'Fractured Faerie Tales' Queens Birthday Party on Saturday 7th June, Tropical Fruits invites you to enact your faerie tale fantasy, or glitter up your girlhood dreams and craft a character of your own.

The evening's entertainment will be sure to bring out the mythical creature and brave dancer in all of us! Local Legend DJ Platypuss will set the scene

for sonic adventure, charging forward from 8pm 11pm through lands unknown!

Taking up the journey will be none other than old thyme favourite fresh from the UK, DJ Neroli, who is sure to hold us spellbound 'til the witching hour (2am)!

As tradition joyfully demands, our Birthday Party would not be complete without the shimmer and sparkle of our Faerie Godmothers, Queen Destiny Haz Arrived and Princess Saphira Von Wilde, performing shows at 11pm.

With a licensed bar, cosy outdoor smoking area, generous wooden dance floor and the venue at Lismore Showgrounds, only a stone's



Destiny Haz Arrived

throw from the Lismore CBD, this is the one winter party not to miss!

Tickets at the door, cash only: \$25 members, \$30 concession, \$35 guests.

So come one and all to our Fractured Faerie tale, where even if we all turn into pumpkins, we'll be sure to live happily ever after!



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Sunday Gig Guide

June 1pm start

8th Wall of Love

Local band offering up a sweet, eclectic mix of sounds that are all about the love

15th Monkey and the Fish

Beautiful guitar, magical songcraft and presence; masterful arrangements of popular songs and emotive, evocative originals

22nd Jesse Morris

Jesse Morris makes true, honest Australian roots music; songs about people, places and life

JULY 6th Cassie Rose

Enchantingly deep, yet sweet and soft, her sound is an alternative acoustic infusion of flavours

Swing out to Stokers Siding

Stokers Siding/Dunbible Memorial Hall in Stokers Siding village has a great wooden dance floor, and a committee that organises great Hall support events.

Rock & Roll dance night on Saturday 14th June at 7.30pm, with the Cadillac Rockers (pictured), a very talented, up-and-coming 50s/60s/swing dance band, whose average age is 16yrs.

They have played many festivals including Coolie Rocks On, charity and community events, and are now swinging on in to Stokers Siding. Doors open 7pm, supper available

and raffles. Tickets: \$15/\$10conc/\$7 (sorry no eftpos), at door or at: www.trybooking.com/88506

The Stokers Siding 15 Minutes of Fame is always held on the first Friday in the month (except January) at the hall. The next is Friday 4th July, with a Christmas in July theme. Come dressed for the occasion and enjoy some early Xmas cheer! Family friendly.

Entry is \$10. Cabaret seating, meals from \$10. Sorry no eftpos. BYO. Find it on facebook: www.facebook.com/StokersSiding15MinutesofFame



STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

"The gate is indeed narrow, my brother," says the dreadlocked feral calling himself Adam, every morning when he wakes up at Bentley.

"With the grey masses, heads bowed to one side, convincing you to stay in the safe known world you are so used to. The familiar, where you know what's going on. Pulling heart strings you never knew existed." He's talking to himself, but plenty are listening in the close damp camp in the early morning before daylight. We're all talking to ourselves, but he knows he is.

"Through the narrow gate I could see the colourful, the mad and crazy. The weird and wonderful were beckoning. And you know, they are the brave and real. They who dare to become. The humans being rather than the human beings."

I lay awake, knowing way too much but still entrenched in the camp after weeks advising the Boss on the blockades, 'morale, finances and numbers', as the instructions said.

"It's impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of

heaven he said, and it's the simple truth." Adam drones on while I roll over and pull the blanket over my head, trying to make a point.

"And blessed are the hippies for having a go at least," a muffled voice from the dark calls out.

To live at the heart of the earth warriors camp, I have to be one. No dole, no money, work for the earth and trust you'll get fed like, what bird was it, the ibis. Yes, fed like the ibis who doesn't worry about tomorrow. Adam talks to the birds, I've seen him.

In the office, the Boss calls them the NARCS. New Age Raging Christians. Uncompromising protectors of the earth, no matter what. They have a mission that makes total sense behind their shining eyes and inside their throbbing hearts. To them at least, and to me also I must admit after living with them. Of course their personal journeys distract them every now and then, but the NARCS are a true green army, ready for action. And which the masses are happy to feed, as I wrote in my report.

Steve Jobs smoked a joint every day and thanked weed for getting him into



Image courtesy elitedaily.com

the midstream of the creative pulse of inspiration. Inspiration he'd say, means in spirit. In Undacuva circles he holds the record in the CS, Corruption Stakes, a highly secretive yet not at all inner betting circle in the Force. I dare not tell you more. Jobs holds the CS record at \$50 million which was paid to delete all references to the holy substance in the movie JOBS.

Apparently soon after he died they started filming a script full of fat joints blowing smoke all over the screen, inspiring joint sessions. The record payment to cut all those scenes meant they made the movie for free. Another wild idea discovered high in a snowbound mountain cave, in a stoners mind.

I thought of Jobs when they punched the details of Operation COB into the

Apple at Force HQ, Clear Out Bentley. He would have loved that he helped. When they asked for a virtual outcome for 800 cops clearing out 4000 locals, the machine answered quickly: minimal three fatalities. And that was just in the Force. How many knitting grannies and suicide bongers is completely unpredictable it said. Maybe dozens! When he heard it, the Premier immediately said pull the plug.

We are an unhappy and angry lot, the computer reading said, a number of whom are prepared to die for the earth. Much of the computer's answer reminded me distinctly of my reports on people like Adam, spiritual visionaries. They've found a meaning and purpose that makes total sense. The NARCS rule it seems, for now at least.

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June Gigs

Thursday 5th	6pm	Mr Troy
Friday 6th	7.30pm	Mecha Mecha
Saturday 7th	6.0pm	Little Zenith
Sunday 8th	5pm	Brommers
Thursday 12th	6.30pm	Surf Report
Friday 13th	7.30pm	Papa Funk
Saturday 14th	6.30pm	TBA
Sunday 15th	5pm	TBA
Thursday 19th	6.30pm	Gavin Doniger
Friday 20th	7.30pm	Sabotage
Saturday 21st	6.30pm	Tuesdays Good
Sunday 22nd	5pm	Sarah Grant Duo
Thursday 26th	6.30pm	Bo Jenkins
Friday 27th	7.30pm	Bassix
Saturday 28th	6.30pm	The Nigel Mctrusty Experience
Sunday 29th	5pm	Dead Setters

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- Fostering cultural experiences for community and visitors to the area.

Email: roxygallery@kyogle.nsw.gov.au Web: www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Blue Knob Hall Gallery



Alena wrap (detail) by Melissa Hume

The Fibre Show

Blue Knob Hall Gallery's annual fibre exhibition is on again, reflecting hundreds of hours of skill and creativity from the artists and craftpersons in this area and beyond.

Fibre art is an integral part of the art and craft heritage of this unique part

of the world, with new generations of artists excited by and carrying on the skills and traditions of working with fibre.

This year's exhibition has a stunning installation by local artist Claire L'Arrivee. She has shown how the transformation of the humble fibre can turn into a major work of art, and a thing of beauty.

Where art becomes wearable, plant fibre becomes functional, threads become stories and fibre is celebrated in all its forms.

This is once again an inspiring and innovative exhibition and continues to prove the durability of the Fibre Arts.

The Fibre Show runs from 29th May - 20th July.

Gallery and cafe news

New Gallery and Cafe Opening hours:
Thursdays 10am - 4pm; Fridays 10am - 2pm; Saturdays 8.30am-2pm; Sundays 10am-4pm.

Due to unavoidable family commitments, the Cafe will be functioning on a limited basis from Thursday 19th June to Sunday 29th June. Therefore no meals will be available during that period of time. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

There will be no Artists & Friends lunch in June. The next one will be on Thursday 31st July at 12.30pm. Cost is \$15 per person for set vegetarian mains and a choice of desserts.

The Cafe will however be open on both Saturdays (22nd and 29th June) for coffee during the Farmer's Market, and will be fully functional again from Thursday 3rd July.



'Gifts from a Mother's Garden' by Linnie Lambrechtsen



'The Greatest Brew on Earth' (Teacosy) by Eric Smith



Tropical Butterfly Shawl by Sachiko Kotaka

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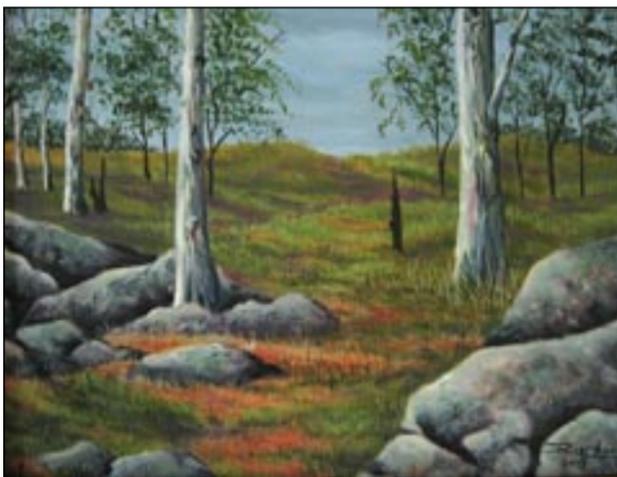
THE NAME SAYS IT ALL

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'From Kyogle to Crete'



In the new exhibition, 'From Kyogle to Crete' the Roxy Gallery will be exhibiting paintings by Ruth Riordan that explore environments across continents.

This is the first solo exhibition by Ruth Riordan, and the works in this show stem from her own personal journey tracing her father's life story, comprising a collection of landscape paintings that tell a story of the environments Ruth's father lived in, and the landscapes they both have shared.

Ruth's father, Frank Ezzy fought in the Middle East, Greece and Crete from 1940 where he was taken prisoner. He escaped the POW camp with two other Australians and these three men then became sheltered by a Cretan farmer and his family, who cared for these men for two years before they were finally evacuated in 1943.

Ruth captures in this body of work, a story of how landscapes from two different continents link up to tell a stronger story of fragility, vulnerability, delicateness and commonality.

Her own personal journey has seen her retrace her

father's footsteps to find the descendants of the Georgiakakis family of Koustogerako, Crete who had the compassion and tenacity to protect these three soldiers in a foreign land.

As a practising artist, Ruth has been pursuing her interest in painting, working in watercolour and exploring the medium of oils when studying with Coraki artist Joanna Burgler. She calls herself a lazy realist, as she likes to paint scapes she sees without being overly realistic.

Ruth has lived in the Kyogle region for over 11 years and actively shares her skills and love for painting with members of the Casino Men's Shed painting group.

'From Kyogle to Crete' is on exhibition at the Roxy Gallery, Kyogle until 28th June.

Nimbin Artists Gallery

by Peter Ptschelinzew



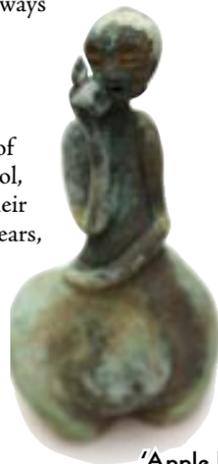
'Untitled 3' by Emma Poletti-Cook

A really nice part about being involved in a community gallery is when people come together to help out. Another is the people you meet.

Although I've been involved with the gallery for a few years now, I'm still meeting new local artists. Some have never been involved with the gallery, some may have shown work sometime in the past and some are newcomers to the area. The mix is one of mature artists who are new to the area or may have been away for travel/study/life and come back – both enrich the mix.

And young artists. It's always great to see more young artists, three of whom are represented in the photos with this month's piece. The gallery is supportive of artists from the local school, and we look forward to their contributions in coming years, if not sooner.

But these aren't the only young artists, and these aren't the only new pieces on show. So visit the gallery soon and check out these and other inspiring art.



'Apple Eater' by Alana Grant



'Caterpillar' by Lee Blake

Reflecting on Lismore

Jan Davis is one of the region's pre-eminent artists, and has lived and worked in the Northern Rivers for more than twenty-five years, making a substantial contribution to local culture as an artist, art educator, and advocate for the arts.

Dual feelings of closeness and distance were what drove Jan in her new body of work, and it represents a significant point of departure for her. "Big Garden reflects on my 25-year relationship with Lismore," she said. In Scottish Gaelic, Lios Mór translates as 'big garden'.

Jan has based her work around a large central installation, which refers to her understanding of this landscape by physically interrupting the way the viewer experiences the space in her exhibition.

A large timber 'viewing platform' dominates the gallery and prevents the viewer from getting as close as they would ideally like to the ink landscape drawings on the walls, which are close enough to see the folds, stitches, puncture marks and overlapping washes of colour, working as a metaphor for the complex geology and history of the place and how it is perceived.

There are also propagated native grasses grown from seeds collected in the artist's garden and inkjet prints that attach to the walls like wallpaper, and incorporate botanical imagery, also drawn from her garden.

Jan said, "The installation aims to generate an experience of bodily separation from the land, while paying homage to its botanical richness and enduring history."

Big Garden is showing at Lismore Regional Gallery until 13th July.

Jan Davis is Adjunct Associate Professor of Visual Arts at Southern Cross University. Her work is held in the National Gallery of Australia, the National Library of Australia and in State and regional collections.



Gardenesque I (detail)



Gardenesque II (detail)

No to Homophobia

As part of the ACON 2014 Anti-violence project, the North Coast Lesbian Alliance has recognised International Day against Homophobia

(17th May) with a large banner hung at the Byron Community Centre, which will remain in place until the end of June.

The banner (pictured) calls for our community and passers-by to speak out against Homophobia, Lesbiaphobia and Transphobia, and embrace diversity, sending out a clear message that this kind of discrimination will no longer be tolerated on this planet or in our daily lives.

NCLA's Epona Winter said, "We are looking at leaders, teachers, community and health workers, and other members of our vibrant community to come out as role models and say that discrimination, harassment and violence against gays, transgenders, and lesbians is unacceptable." For more information visit: www.dayagainsthomophobia.org



Nosin' Around with PAC



This Tawny frogmouth photograph was taken late afternoon in autumn. I was quite surprised it stayed there while I change lenses to a 300mm. But it kept a sharp eye on me through the whole proceedings. And after I had finished, I backed away leaving it in peace once more.

You can get two or three young birds sometimes, but not on this occasion.

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