



A fundraiser for 7 Sibley Street called *Beats, Rock & Bowls* will be held on Saturday 8th March at the Nimbin Bowlo. *Beats, Rock and Bowls* starts at 4pm with DJ Fabien from Sounds on Saturday providing the groovy beats. This is a family arvo, so bring the kids along. \$5 for game of bowls. The fun continues after dinner with *The Antibodies* playing at 8pm. Then the return of Sounds on Saturday with DJs Fabien and Rob playing tunes until late.



by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

The first open mic of The Channon Folk Club for 2014 was held in the grounds of The Channon Butterfactory Tavern on Sunday 23rd February. There was an excellent turn-out and a full board of performers, with a good mix of past and first-time acts. We had our first spontaneous bush dance when “The Ragged Blossoms” took to the stage with Dave calling a couple of set dances. Dave and Stu did a tribute to the late Pete Seeger with a few others joining in. The weather held off nicely, with only a tease of light rain to let us know who is really in control. Our March open mic is again on the 23rd. Please come and join us. Remember it’s Folk and beyond – we do encourage all genres of music and performance. Wishing you sweet music.



Using the theme of ‘Passionate Co-operation’, resident artist Gery Mews organised a stellar line-up of musicians at the Lillyfield Community Hall fundraiser on 22nd February. The Dillion James Band (pictured), Connor Cleary and Lillyfield resident Andrea Solar held the crowd of over 100 people, who greatly enjoyed the music, food and fire. It was a top night, and raised \$1200.



Melbourne’s visionary Songstress Wendy Rule returns to Northern NSW for one night only to celebrate the release of her new album *Black Snake*. Wild, passionate and empowering, Wendy weaves together music, mythology and ritual to take her audience on an otherworldly journey of depth and passion. Highlighting her extraordinary voice, her maturity as a writer, and her willingness to explore all facets of the emotional world, *Black Snake* has once again proven that Wendy Rule is one of Australia’s most uniquely gifted and prolific artists. With an ever-growing international following, this is a rare opportunity to experience her latest work in this intimate acoustic show at the beautiful ‘Castle on the Hill’ in Uki before she sets out once again for a busy year of touring in the UK, Europe and the USA. See more at: www.wendyrule.com The gig will be on Saturday 8th March, 7.30pm at ‘Castle on the Hill’, Uki. Tickets \$20 at: www.trybooking.com or at the door. Kids under 15 free of charge. Chai and cakes will be available. Enquiries: sumaree@bigpond.com



Good Company in Kyogle

The Kyogle Acoustic Music Society is thrilled to announce two upcoming shows in March and April. Our April show is our now-annual Old Time and Bluegrass Jamboree, with national bluegrass award-winners The Company headlining at the Kyogle Showground on Saturday 5th April. MC Gareth Bjaaland will take the reins for a night that features local luminaries The Barkers Vale Brothers, Black Train and Ruthie-Ma-Toothie. Kyogle locals are also making their presence felt, with gothic hillbilly honkytonkers Watling & Bates opening the show, followed by the fabulous Pimmadonnas, born of our local Divarama. Local chanteuse Jacqueline Elliott will keep the stage warm for the The Company while they take a break between sets. Doors open 6pm, and we will gain an extra hour of music as we wind our clocks back at midnight. Tickets for the Jamboree are \$20/\$15 KAMS members/\$10 child/\$50 family (2 adults, 2 kids with \$5 per extra child), with no charge for small children who don’t need a seat. Tickets are available at trybooking.com/EFED, at Macdades Homewares Kyogle, or at the door. The event will be BYO, and food will be available onsite. Overnight camping is available at the showground, contact Helen on 6632-2454 or 0459-537-601 for bookings. Bring your instruments and enjoy some jamming after the show and the next day. Contact KAMS co-ordinator Kym Watling on 0409-534-233 or: kams.kyogle@gmail.com for futher details.



Rich Bell & Friends

Former Light Activation and Suavemente guitarist Rich Bell plays Sunday March 9th at the serene Sphinx Rock Cafe at Mount Burrell from 1-4pm. The cruisy songs, guitar atmospheres and organic laptop beats from the new album in progress will be embellished by singers Alys Hummingbird, Melanie Spears, Lou Van Stone and Amrita Devi. Rich is also playing the following Sunday 16th March, at Uki Market from 9am.



Appearing as a trio for the first time for the Lismore Jazz Club will be Martha Baartz and Greg Lyon at the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday 30th March from 2pm to 5pm. Highly regarded Australian saxophonist Martha Baartz will be performing alongside APRA award winning ABC recording artist Sharny Russell and the legendary bass prowess of Greg Lyon. Presenting a variety of jazz styles and genres, from gospel to swing, tango to blues, and playing music from Martha’s new impressively reviewed album, *Dream Drops*, the afternoon promises to be warm, exciting and of top quality. Martha will be on saxophones and flute. Her compositions and choice of standard repertoire expresses a tremendous depth of talent for writing, and interpreting beautiful Jazz standards, demonstrated over the years leading various successful bands. Sharny will be on piano and vocals. She is widely known for her vocal scat ability, which she often performs in unison with her piano. It is said of her that, “In a world of over-rated and over-stated singers, Sharny is a gem. Listening to her is an exquisite experience.” Greg Lyon on bass is one of Australia’s most experienced and versatile musicians. He is a bassist, singer, composer, producer, arranger/musical director and educator. Although these great local and popular musicians have played for us before, they have not done so in this format. Don’t miss these crowd favourites. Admission is \$10 members and students and \$15 for non-members.

EDO Fundraiser

Story and photo
by Shae Salmon

The crowd was large and enthusiastic at the Lismore Bowlo last Saturday 1st March night when local performers put on a great show to raise funds for our local Environmental Defenders Office.

The talent, abundant and varied, included acts such the No Frills Twins, Sara Tindley, Miss Jodie and Bassix, and the Troy Schmidt Trio.

Bossy Big Heart got the people up and dancing while Jimmy Willing and the Real Gone Hick-ups (pictured) were as entertaining as usual.

Local artist Luke Vassella delivered some fine tunes as did Davey Bob Ramsey and his Band. Davey Bob is to be commended for organising the event which was a great success and appreciated by everyone. Over \$4000 was raised.

All the performers volunteered their time and talent to this worthwhile



cause, as did the Knitting Nannas Against Gas on door duty and the able-bodied cooks on the sausage sizzle. MC of the night was another local favourite S Sorrensen, who was his usual charming and witty self.

The star of the night though was the Principal Solicitor of the Lismore EDO, Sue Higginson. Sue explained with passion how the EDO was a community legal centre specialising in Public Interest Environmental Law and how this remarkable institution was there to assist the community to protect the environment through law and keep governments to account, especially when they were not doing what was necessary to

keep our environment and communities healthy.

Recent challenges by the EDO to a number of new coal mines on behalf of the community has caused a backlash by mining interests, such as the Mineral Council of Australia and the NSW Coal Association.

It seems the NSW and the Abbott governments have put shackles on the EDO's funding money as such challenges are getting in the way of the mining industry, and the industry interests are powerful.

This is an unprecedented attack on a fundamental institute of democracy.

As the EDO is a public interest community legal

centre, it will only bring proceedings where there is a reasonable prospect of success and a good environmental outcome can be achieved.

In all cases it emphasises the need for science to determine outcomes, when making decisions that have a significant impact on the environment.

Sue emphasised the need for the people in our vibrant community to get involved, put the pressure on to keep this most important office alive.

EDO NSW has been in existence for nearly 30 years now; Lismore is the only outreach EDO in NSW and has been operating for eight years.



That Mad Mullum Mob

The Mad Mullum Mob show will be at the Kyogle Bowling Club on Sunday 30th March at 2pm, \$10 at the door.

Combine award winning Australian bush poet Ray Essery (the Mullumbimby Bloke and member of the Naked Poets), international multi-

award winning country music artist Clelia Adams and Byron Bay's Calypso Cowgirl, Kathryn Jones, and you get an interactive, three-hour comedy filled show of mayhem, music and shenanigans.

This show is taking the club circuit

by storm. With a combination of over 50 years performing experience, the Mad Mullum Mob specialises in giving the audience a quality show that is reminiscent of the great shows of yesteryear.

Clelia and Kathryn's exquisite blend of harmonies has bowled over audiences at Gympie Muster, Tamworth and the Slim Dusty festivals, garnering the comment: "the best country harmonies in Australia".

Ray Essery co-wrote River Valley Express with Clelia, a song tracing the old train route through the Northern Rivers, which reached # 1 on the European ECMA charts in January 2013.

Ray continues to perform at Country Music and Bush Poets festivals all over Australia, and together, these three create magic with a fun-filled, fabulously entertaining show.

The Bepores originally hail from Hollywood USA and are currently performing across Australia. They love to bewilder audiences and astound resentful bar staff as they play small venues, trashy pubs and unreserved busking spots.

Their 2014 tour 'A Musical Stagger down Memory Lane' leaves dumbstruck audiences in need of recovery time. Backed with a hard drive of recorded instrumentals, Vanese VaVoom takes control as she steps up to the microphone wearing fishnet stockings and a plunging neck line.

Elron Cupboard waves his guitar in all directions as he leaps through the crowd onto unsuspecting vacant seats.

They love to mix vintage with popular music, and perform their interpretation of swinging rockabilly. Somehow they weave the stylistic influences of surf music and 50's spy



soundtracks through the whole thing. Kitchy old favourites from Tom Waits, Elvis, the Monkees, Johnny Cash, Etta James, the Stray Cats and ACDC take on a new life when The Bepores get a hold of them.

With the advancement of the CSG industry in NSW, this duo wants to support friends working on the front line of the Metgasco – Battle



for Bentley blockade. With three fire dancing women in tow, The Bepores are putting on a vaudevillian fundraising show of reckless abandonment at Wadeville Woolies. Activists Lee, Chantico and Marie will make a rare fire-dancing public appearance.

Donations can be made by throwing huge wads of cash into the hat and

buying tickets in a basket of donated goodies.

Friday 14th March, 4pm onwards at the Border Ranges Centre, corner Kyogle and Links Roads, Wadeville. Food, drinks, camping and accommodation available.

For more info, contact Marie: awomanwithacamera@gmail.com

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Sunday Gig Guide

March 1pm start

9th Rich Bell
“Guitarist Rich Bell promises an afternoon of spacious songs and laptop grooves, joined by vocalists Lou Van Stone, Melanie Spears and Ioa Gaia”.

16th Loren
A folky kind of singer songwriter who likes to tell a story and loves to sing.

23rd Romaniacs
The Romaniacs original music has been inspired by Gypsy, Folk, Latin, Celtic, Spanish and Eastern roots grooves.

April 6th Barkers Vale Brothers
Two brothers play bluegrass, roots and swing music, original and traditional.

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

March Gigs

Thursday 6th	6pm	Caboose
Friday 7th	7.30pm	Bassix
Saturday 8th	6pm	TBC
Sunday 9th	5pm	Twin Haus
Thursday 13th	6pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 14th	7.30pm	Thorazoo
Sat 15th	6pm	Diana Anaid
Sun 16th	5pm	Eli Hugh
Thursday 20th	6pm	Simon Meola
Friday 21st	7.30pm	Moondog Gypsy Blues
Saturday 22nd	6.30pm	Gavin Doniger
Sunday 23rd	5pm	Guy Kachel
Thursday 27th	6pm	Surf Report
Friday 28th	7.30pm	Tightrope Alley
Saturday 29th	6.30pm	Mr Troy
Sunday 30th	5pm	Lez Karski

All Gigs are Free of Charge

JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING

Hummingbird Bistro

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

FELTING WORKSHOPS at 'Black Sheep Farm' Nimbin in the Creative Learning Centre

Saturday 29th March- 9am to 4pm
(Slipper making workshop)

Sunday 13th April - 9am to 4pm

Saturday 10th May - 9am to 4pm

Cost for each day: \$80 incl. all materials and morning tea

For more info and bookings:

www.blacksheepfarm.com.au

or call Suzanne on 6689-1095



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blueknobfarmersmarket@gmail.com

80 Cullen Street

6689-0199



NextMarket

9th March

8.30am - 4pm

Band of the Day:

Doot

Busker Stage: Siobhan Coccoran

Charity of the Day:

The Channon Hall / Landcare

Enquiries: 6688-6433



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Garry

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you'll miss the best food
in Nimbin"*

Shop 2, 54 Cullen Street

New at Nimbin Artists Gallery



Donna Sharam 'Going Tribal' printed cushions

by Pauline Ahern

Visit the Nimbin Artists Gallery and check out the new hanging with a variety of paintings, prints, photography, sculptures, wearable art, ceramics and jewellery.

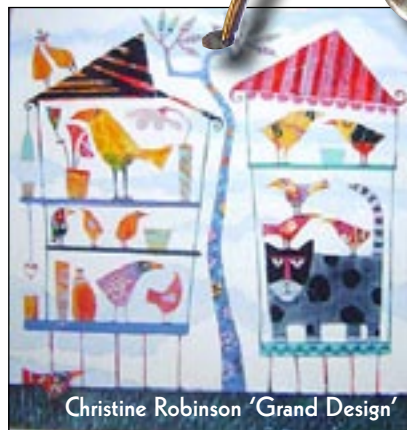
Gift vouchers, which include a complimentary artists card are now available, an ideal gift for art lovers.

For the past few months we have been able to showcase a selection of artworks from the students of Nimbin Central School.

What we didn't bargain on was the large number of enquiries from visitors wanting to buy the students' art.

After the summer holidays, some students chose to price their art and in that short time, one artwork has been sold.

The gallery looks forward to continued collaboration with Nimbin Central School's emerging artists and fabulous art teachers Cath Marshall and Marg Canning.



Christine Robinson 'Grand Design'

The Autumn Arts Extravaganza starts on Saturday 5th April open every day until Sunday 27th April, free entry.

The Gallery hosts this event in collaboration with the Nimbin School of Arts for three weeks of Extravaganza.

The Gallery welcomes all submissions from artists including 'out of area'. Contact the gallery by phone on 6689-1444 or email: nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com.



Martha Bakhtiari
slate and glass mirror

Rod Johnston 'Big Mouthed Beetle'



Kay Hills 'The Loo' linocut print

Journey to Blue Knob

The Journey

Opening night for 'The Journey' at Blue Knob Hall Gallery was a very enjoyable event.

The Blue Knob Choir performed a selection of songs related to the theme of the show, with a delightful performance, followed by the guest speaker for the night, Stephen Wright.

Stephen's opening talk touched on the journeys we can take in life, and as a well regarded author it was a pleasure to hear his perspective and comments about the artwork in this exhibition.

There are many journeys we take in our lives; the one where the outer world moves us literally from one place to another or a deeply personal inner experience.

There are many ways to express the small daily journeys or the journeys of a lifetime.

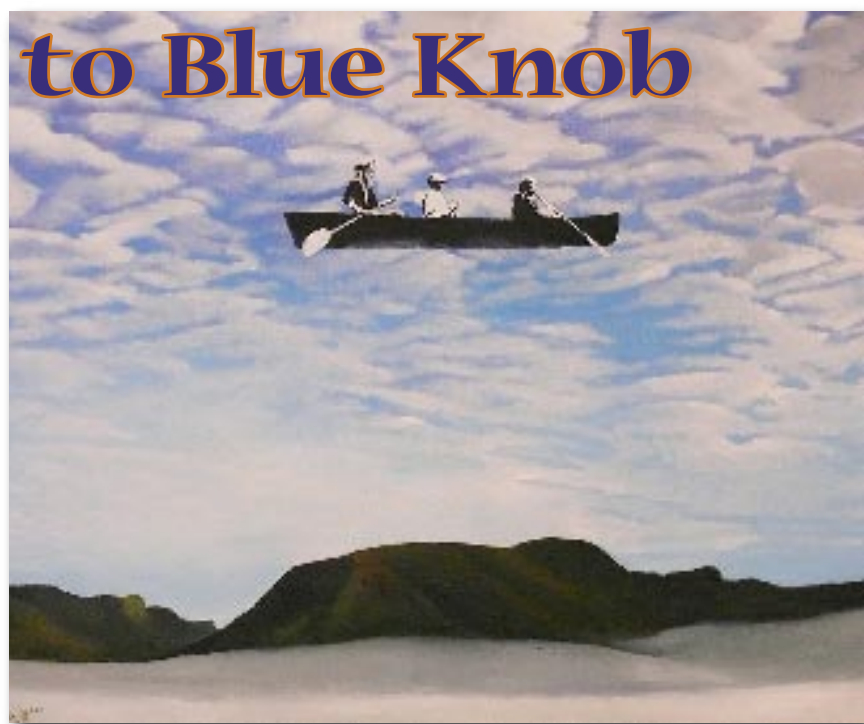
The exhibition will run until Sunday 6th April.

Artist & Friends lunch

The Artists and Friends lunches are held on the last Thursday of each month. The next one is on Thursday 27th March at 12.30pm.

Cost is \$15 per person which includes a set vegetarian mains and a selection of desserts.

Please phone the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you're planning to come.



'A new tomorrow' by Katherine Perrott



'If you've done nothing wrong, you've nothing to worry about' by Paul Roguszka



'The Old House' by Robin Moore

Rikki wins scratchboard award

A new category of Scratchboard has been added to the annual Cardinia Grand Art Exhibition. Entries from artists across Australia and as far away as France, Canada and USA made this truly an international competition.

Winners were announced on the opening night, with 1st prize awarded to Rikki Fisher from Nimbin. Rikki had travelled to Victoria from Nimbin to attend the exhibition, and was delighted to receive her award in front of an enthusiastic crowd of art lovers.

Rikki submitted three entries, and her work entitled 'The Fight' was selected as the winner. The \$500 prize for the scratchboard category was sponsored by US-based company Ampersand, a major supplier of scratchboard art materials.

The three exhibition judges were Jon Dwyer, Australia's leading fine art consultant and specialist; Kerrie Warren, a successful,



renowned and highly respected leading abstract expressionist artist; and David Cumming, who has 40 years of experience in woodcraft with work represented in the Victorian State Craft collection.

The Victorian-based exhibition was held over on

the weekend of 21st-23rd February at the Cardinia Cultural Centre in outer suburban Pakenham.

There were 14 different categories in this year's exhibition, and the addition of a scratchboard category was a first in Australia's Art history.

Lismore's Sleeping Beauty

Can you imagine falling asleep and waking in 2074? What do you imagine the world to be like in 60 years time? Or maybe you will stay wide awake and are working hard to either preserve or wrought a change over time. If so, what is it that you are doing, and what do you see the result to be in 2074?

These are the questions Duke Albada asks residents from Lismore City Council for her latest artwork *Our Present Future*. She describes the project as "a socially engaged arts project exploring visions of our future in connection with place. It is comprised of two distinct components; private conversations between participants and 'the artist', and a locational exhibition to be staged at Lismore Regional Gallery in November."

Ms. Albada is a Northern Rivers based multidisciplinary artist. Over the past few years the focus of her creative practice has shifted from site-inspired public-artworks,



to multilayered digital-storytelling about our relation with place; both spiritually and physically.

The concept for the project celebrates the founding of the gallery in 1954. Gallery Director, Brett Adlington explains, "Rather than look into the past – we've decided to look into the future. This project connects with Lismore Regional Gallery's increasing exploration of participatory programming, and will be the main project acknowledging the upcoming 60th anniversary."

The exhibition, *Lismore 2074*, will be about the present future of Lismore seen through the eyes of locals. Ms. Albada

is currently inviting extraordinary 'everyday' people with insight and passion, off all ages, backgrounds and areas of interest, to register in order to share their vision of the future of this area.

Based on personal connection with this place in the 'here and now' in all its nuances and complexities. The collective stories build an exclusive yet comprehensive picture of the projected future of Lismore and will inspire her artworks.

Register or nominate someone either by email to: duke_albada@yahoo.com or via the registration form that can be found at the Lismore Regional Gallery website: www.lismoregallery.org

Nosin' Around with PAC

I shot this photo of a crested hawk when I lived at Tuntable Creek Road (1km from the Nimbin end) in the early to mid 1990s and I have not seen another one since, so I consider myself very lucky to have stumbled on a roosting bird only about 15 feet up. 'Til next time, happy hunting – PAC.

Crested Hawk (Pacific Baza)

Bar-bellied hawk with a small crest, the female is about 38cm and the male 43cm.

Adults are mainly grey with brown wings and pale rufus bars and yellow eyes. Juveniles are brown.

Range: uncommon to scarce resident of forest and woodland from the Top End down the coast to Sydney. Nest: small cup in upright leafy fork with two to three white eggs.



Felt is possibly the oldest man-made textile. Its origins are unclear, however one theory says shepherds would pack their wooden clogs with pieces of wool, which would then be agitated and compacted during wear to create felt.

Felted wool has a long history in Central Asia. Traditionally, the nomadic shepherds of Kyrgyzstan made felt to cover their yurts and for making shyrdaks (quilted rugs) to add warmth and decoration to their homes. They also use felted wool to make hats, slippers and clothes for warmth during their long winters.

Felt is a non-woven textile and is made by placing clean carded natural wool fibres in the shape or mass desired, then matting, beating, condensing, heating and pressing and fulling them to the required thickness.

While some types of felt are very soft, felt can be tough enough to form construction material, and may be hard enough to turn on a lathe or soft enough to be sewn. It can be of any colour and made into any shape or size, it does not ravel or fray, and is water repellent.

One of the great things about making felt is that it requires no fancy or expensive equipment. The most valuable and hard-working component in the process will be yourself, so prepare yourself for the day of attending a felt-making workshop being well rested and nourished, ready for

a day of creative and physical activity. The transformation of wool into felt is magical and great fun to do. Anyone can make felt!

Using Australian merino wool, you will be able to make a long flat piece of felt using techniques such as nuno or flat felting, and learn how to add other materials such as knitting yarns, silks and materials to give effect. This year, Suzanne will run a special workshop for making warm felted winter slippers.

Felt making workshops will be held in the Creative Learning Centre at 'Black Sheep Farm' in the hills of Nimbin. It is an excellent adventure into felt-making for beginners and more experienced felters, covering both 'traditional' and more modern techniques including flat and nuno felting and three-dimensional felting.

Suzanne McGauley works as an artist at 'Black Sheep Farm' in the hills of Nimbin.

Her main focus is on painting, felting, mosaic making, sculpturing and decorating ceramics. Since 2008 Suzanne has been running Art and Craft Workshops for children and also Feltmaking Workshops for adults in the purpose-built 'Learning Centre'. For bookings and more information about the felting classes, call Suzanne on 02 6689-1095 or go to: www.blacksheepfarm.com.au

Northern Rivers Portrait Prize reboots

According to Lismore Regional Gallery Director Brett Adlington, there are big changes in store for the Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, and he says they are essential to ensure the prize's longevity.

The biggest of these is that subject entries can now be from anywhere in Australia rather than just the Northern Rivers.

"We know this will be the most contentious of the changes, but we see it as

essential to bring a sense of vitality to the award and to the region," Brett said.

"We will be having a dedicated award to those works that do depict a subject from the Northern Rivers, ensuring this strong sub-theme to the prize remains in place."

Other changes include making the Northern Rivers Portrait Prize biennial (the next is now 2015) and allowing entries by artists working in any media rather

than only painting and drawing (with the exception of photography, so as not to conflict with Tweed Regional Gallery's Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture).

"This change reflects the broadness of contemporary artistic practice, so that even a video artist or sculptor working in portraiture can enter. It also means more artists across the region have the ability to enter the prize," Brett said.

New art commission callout

Lismore Regional Gallery and Splendour In The Grass are seeking artists to submit proposals to present work in 2014.

On offer is a \$10,000 'New Art' commission to fund the development and presentation of a new contemporary artwork in a dynamic environment that encourages critical thinking and experimentation.

The organisers are interested in sculptural works or artists engaged in site specific or place-making practices. The work must retain a presence within an audience of up to 25,000 and function over the three days of the festival where it will be exhibited as part of the curated Splendour Arts program.

Applications are due by 4pm, Friday



In 2013, the Gallery and Splendour presented 'Barnraiser', by WA artist Bennett Miller.

14th March. For more info go to: www.splendourinthegrass.com



The camp at Rosella. Photos: Stewart James

by Philippe Dupuy, President

Nimbin Environment Centre

NEC, RIC and the EDO are working together toward a 'Please Explain' (or legal action) over the deliberately lit fires by NSWFW at Mt Nardi. It is a work in progress for Gum, Ruth, Alan and the EDO. Gum, our local Mt Nardi protector, is more than willing to show the damage that was caused to our beloved forest by this deliberate act of vandalism. Please contact NEC if interested.

The Leard and the Pilliga are also under attack from mining companies intent on destroying precious flora and fauna for a fistful of dollars. The Community Van has been taking groups of people out there to help with the blockade. For a full report, check out *Nimbin Enviro Centre* Facebook and group spaces.

Casino Enviroment Centre

Metgasco is talking about a comeback for April at the Rosella tight sand gaswell at Bentley. The community has organised a vigil and has opened a restricted campsite on private land at Bungabee Road, generously offered by the Scaraboloti brothers.

The vigil is still in need of more volunteers. Please register with Nan on 0428-886-335 if you can help. To get on the red alert list and register automatically, phone 0447-399-535.

The talk at the Casino RSM by John Fenton, an anti-gas activist from Wyoming USA, about the disastrous effect of tight sand gas mining had on his community was both moving and powerful. The absence of RVC representatives was glaringly telling.

The Community Van made a third trip to the Leard and Pilliga to provide on the ground support for our brothers and sisters under siege by mining profiteers.

Both NEC and CEC will continue to organise solidarity trips to these regions. Please register your interest with Philippe on 0401-237-903.

The community of the Northern Rivers continues to provide outstanding support to the anti-unconventional gas mining movement. Andrew is building a trailer for NEC and CEC, Peter is putting finishing touches to the silver bullet, including a solar cooker generously donated by the Rainbow Power Company. People are meeting regularly to discuss infrastructure needs, while a group of dedicated women including Lee, Naomi, Adrienne, Jo and others are moving heaven and earth to have water,

composting toilets, an info desk and a great kitchen for when the fight heats up.

If all goes well, Casino will have its own 'Casino GoodTimes' page in the NGT. We have also been offered a 3-hour radio air space on Richmond Valley FM 88.9. Need volunteers to help with that. Please call Philippe for further details.

Commentary

During the last thirty years or so of the mining boom, the environment as well as ordinary Australians have been under increasing pressure from mega-business working through our political party machines in the Two Party system.

Lower wages and longer hours, indiscriminate coal and gas mining, serious contamination of the Great Barrier Reef and the insidious TPP free trade agreements have been the result. Labor and coalition government policies are virtually indistinguishable, it is just one big party machine. We have become victims of the party machine, yet strangely, most of us are also addicted to political parties. The party machine has become very powerful and is the reason for inaction by our elected representatives. The two main political parties are partying at our expense, but how can we turn this around?

Opposition to mega-businesses' insatiable greed, supported by the party machine, has brought together in people of very diverse backgrounds, creating an incredibly strong political force. We need to look at non-party political structures, eg. Independents, to exploit this potential. The idea of having independent candidates for our region is starting to spread and winning favour with more and more people.

Thomas George, Chris Gulaptis and Don Page have all shown that they are party men who stick to the party line regardless. Their attitudes towards unsustainable mining, logging and other abuses will have disastrous consequences for our community. Their disapproval of the previous government while in opposition was just a cover. They are now supporting those same corrupt decisions that they once denounced.

Party machine and party machinations have well passed their use-by date. The idea of Independents for the Northern Rivers is catching. Time to think independent, time to think who you want to represent you in government. Let's give the Northern Rivers a fresh start! More on this idea as community consultation progresses.

Koala Kolumn

by Lorraine Vass



The contradictions in government priorities are always mind-bending. Take, for instance, koalas.

Prior to the election the NSW Government promised to better protect the State's koalas. In December The Hon Robyn Parker, Minister for the Environment named the Koala as one of four Iconic Species to be given Tier-1 recovery priority in her bold 'Saving Our Species' program.

In April 2012 the Federal Government declared the combined koala populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory 'vulnerable' for the purposes of the Federal Environment Protection & Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

Yet the route preferred by the NSW Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) for Section 10 of the Woolgoolga-Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade, an 80% Federally-funded project, is set to plough through the regionally and nationally significant Lower Richmond koala population, separating three areas of known koala activity.

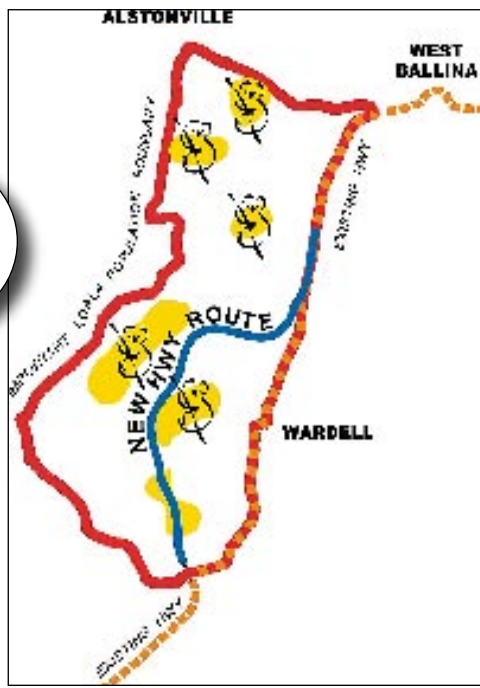
The 13.5 km stretch from the Richmond River to Coolgardie Rd, Wardell bisects a colony of up to 200 koalas. At present 3 underpasses are planned for 5km of it; in effect providing some 12 metres of space out of 5kms to enable koala movement, including genetic exchange.

Putting it mildly, the proposed upgrade project has been poorly informed in terms of potential impact on koalas and is giving only lip service to the conservation and management needs of an "important" population. Furthermore 350 ha of koala habitat will be destroyed. It's neither here nor there that the RMS juggernaut has ploughed ahead with planning this route (including land acquisition) without the necessary approvals.

Renowned Koala ecologist, Dr Steve Phillips told 100 people at a meeting in Ballina last month that the koala population to be impacted is of national significance, meeting two of the criteria for recognition as an "important" population for the purposes of the EPBC Act: (a) It's a key source population either for breeding or dispersal, and (b) It's a population that is necessary for maintaining genetic diversity.

It is regrettable that the upgrade project's Environmental Impact Statement was prepared prior to completion of Steve's study commissioned by Ballina Shire Council and funded by the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, Koala Habitat & Population Assessment: Ballina Shire Council LGA. This study which provides scientific detail about koalas in the southern part of the Ballina Shire, was released at the same time the Preferred Infrastructure Report was exhibited in November 2013.

People are asking, "How can RMS be doing this? Why did we fight for so long to get the koala listed under the EPBC Act?" Well,



the upgrade has been declared a controlled action for the purposes of the Act. Therefore it will require approval from both the NSW Minister for Planning and the Federal Minister for the Environment.

However, assessment will be by way of an accredited assessment process, which in this case is Part 5.1 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The Federal "watchdog" will be relying on the same reports as the NSW Planning Minister!

The preferred route must be changed. There are better and cheaper options. Our preference is to keep to the existing route. It's shorter and the vegetation is already degraded.

Friends of the Koala is calling upon the NSW Minister to refer determination of the project to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) but as research by the Greens has revealed, the PAC is merely a rubber stamp for the Department of Planning, with 96% of proposals referred to them, approved (i.e. 222 of the 234 proposals it determined between 18 April, 2011, and 11 February, 2014).

With next to no chance of the NSW Government rejecting plans for the preferred route, will the Federal Minister stand up for the Koala?

A lot of people who fought hard and long to achieve the Koala's 'vulnerable' listing will be watching. For our members and koala supporters everywhere, the Minister's decision will be a litmus test of the Act's veracity for protecting the Koala.

To find out more, visit and "Like" the *Save Ballina's Koalas* Facebook page.

To report a koala in trouble, or a sighting (live or dead), please ring Friends of the Koala's 24/7 Rescue Hotline: (02)6622 1233. For information about koalas, their food trees, how you can assist koala conservation visit: www.friendsofthekoala.org email: info@friendsofthekoala.org or phone 6621-4664. You can also follow us on Facebook.

To report environmental incidents, including removal of koala habitat ring the 24/7 Office of Environment & Heritage Enviro Line: 131 555.

Happy koala spotting.



CSG Raffle

The Nimbin Environment Centre is holding a raffle to raise money to support the CSG campaign at Bentley.

The prize is a wonderful quilt/wall hanging made by Sydney activist/artist Eileen Haley.

Second prize is a selection of chutneys from Nimbin Delicious. Tickets are \$2 or three for \$5 and are available at the Nimbin Environment Centre.

We hope you can support the fabulous protectors at Bentley.

Plant of the month

Grass Tree *Xanthorrhoea*

by Richard Burer

Xanthorrhoea is a genus of flowering plants native to Australia, and is very common on the north coast including the Nimbin area.

Grass trees grow very slowly, however there is a group of trees at the entrance to 'Pinpuna' community that were grown from seed around 20 years ago and they are most impressive.

Grass trees grow easily from seed, which is shaken out of the spent spear-like flower. These small black flat seeds germinate readily, but are slow growing. They grow at about 2.5 cm a year on average, so get out in the bush and take a

look at some local specimens and have a guess at the ages of this iconic native plant.

Sadly, much environmental damage is done these days by people digging up trees to provide landscaping business with plants for car parks, some of which are hundreds of years old.

Very useful to Aboriginal people, the grass tree provided traditional uses from fishing spears, sweet drinks, resin and incense to a bush compass!

To see some fantastic specimens, take a walk in Nightcap National Park above the village. Take the Mt Mathison loop walk and you will find some real beauties.



Glory, glory, glory

by Triny Roe

Resplendent for a several months of the year with a mass of vibrant blue flowers that fade to pink as the day progresses, Ocean Blue Morning Glory, *Ipomoea indica*, is another ‘but it’s so pretty’ vine until you decide you want to get rid of it.

With evergreen heart-shaped or lobed leaves, the morning glory might have been nicely covering up an old shed, growing along a dilapidated fence or festooning trees on the roadside or creek bank. But now it’s time to go. It is then you discover just how far the trailing, twining vines extend and that the runners which put down even more roots, have extended themselves 10 metres or more under that concrete slab and they’re now popping up in the neighbours’ yards as well.

Frequently colonising disturbed areas, morning glory also interferes with bush regeneration projects as it outgrows and smothers the native species. It is often found on rainforest margins and creek banks.

I. indica is now found throughout the world and is of tropical origin, possibly Hawaii, though another source claims tropical Asia. It is naturalised, and declared Noxious, in many areas of eastern Australia, Africa, Indo-China, southern USA, southern Europe and south New Zealand.

Plants in the *Ipomoea* genus number about 500 species world wide. Also found in the Northern Rivers region and considered environmental weeds are *I. purpurea*, common morning glory, which grows to about 2.5 metres and *I. cairica*, coastal morning glory, which is often found on sand dunes.

I. indica, a vigorous, robust vine, grows quickly, sometimes visibly in one day, sending out long shoots reaching 15



Morning Glory



metres. It loves to climb trees but can also creep and crawl along the ground and up and over small shrubs, quickly forming a smothering blanket. This vine creates thick thatches in the soil as the stolons take root. It is drought tolerant and doesn’t mind the cold. It even grows in areas where conditions are freezing, like Canada. It doesn’t get out of control there as the plant dies off each year in the snow, reshooting in Spring. In the warm, wet subtropics of northern NSW there’s nothing stopping it.

Reproduction is mostly from pieces of stem as fertile seeds are rarely set. The plant is spread to bushland and roadside often from domestic garden waste dumping. Further spread can result from roadside slashing or floodwaters.

In Hawaii, *I. indica* stems and roots were ground up and used in traditional

medicine as a poultice for broken bones, bruises and other aches and pains. External application only. It was never ingested due to its toxicity.

The Mayans and Aztecs used extracts of *I. Violacea*, and *I. Purpurea*, cousins of *I. indica*, in their spiritual practice. The seeds of these species are reputed to contain an hallucinogenic compound but also contain toxins which can cause nausea, headaches and liver damage. So don’t try this at home.

Chemical-free management of morning glory is labour intensive and requires regular follow-up. Where trees are covered by vines, simply cut stems at the base. The vines will eventually wither, disintegrate and drop out of the branches without damaging the trees. Trace stems back to their point of origin, digging up the roots as you go. Be careful to remove as much vegetative material as you can, as even small pieces will re-shoot readily. Be prepared to check the site frequently for a couple of years.

As with other overgrowing weed species, act quickly to identify and deal with new incursions. A weed in time will save nine or ninety!

Happy weeding.

Children’s needs and social violence

by Geoff Dawe

In early January, 2014, in Sydney, Daniel Christie was killed by what has been called a coward-punch. A reporter in *The Sunday Telegraph* (19/1/14) wished Shaun McNeil, the puncher, “... would just f... off and die.” The response can be seen as hate journalism, the same as the punch thrown by Shaun, which can be presumed to be motivated by hate.

Cardinal George Pell in the same issue of *The Sunday Telegraph* goes some way toward looking at the causes of hate when he says, “parental neglect and absent fathers often contribute to a vicious unfocused rage...” However, Cardinal Pell loses something of the Christian message in his belief that deterrence through “significant punishments” has some validity.

Deterrence does not look at the innate beauty of every individual and consider ways that beauty can be retained rather than lost to the prevailing ignorances of the human-created world. Deterrence assumes individuals are intrinsically bad and must be helped to the righteous path; it assumes human nature at the start is imperfect or inadequate.

As with the idea that there can be weeds or pests, deterrence attempts to intercept the possibility of imperfection rather than notice that the environment in which species have grown, raises to prominence the “goodness” or “badness” that potentially exists in every part of nature. Sue Gerhardt in her excellent summary of child development studies in *Why Love Matters*, says in regard to infants’ emotional capacities, “like a

plant seedling, strong roots and good growth depend on environmental conditions.”

Violence in a society is the result of conditions creating violence. To violently retaliate against individuals who are violent, is like pouring petrol on a fire to put it out. Jesus, Mohandas Ghandi and Nelson Mandela all made that quite clear. Jailng violent individuals as a long-term solution to violence, is spreading the fire. Cardinal Pell acknowledges “...few people are improved by jail.” Why then is not the fire extinguished by removing the fuel; by removing the causes of violence?

Young men’s anger may be the result of them not being raised in conditions suited to the human evolutionary continuum. Even if it is not, it makes sense to raise all children in accord with human needs. There are many neglected children’s needs in Western culture that could be restored, that do not have to do with buying more stuff. One can be seen in an article ironically, in the same newspaper issue as that reporting Shaun McNeil should “just f... off and die.”


The article was called, “Don’t drink the breast milk, and other new mum advice.” The headline is not attempting to show the links between human well-being and breastfeeding, but negating it, for all those readers who do not tend to go beyond headlines. The female author says about the taste of breast milk: “Sweet but also creamier than cream with a sour-ish back of the throat ack-ack kind of tang. No wonder babies are always throwing up.” No doubt the article is meant humorously, but it is not funny while breastfeeding



rates are impoverished and young men are delivering one-punch death blows because they are angry.

Any cursory glance at the evidence for the behaviour of infants adequately held and breastfed compared to those who are not, is enough to suspect a causal link between post-natal infant care and young men’s aggression.

The jailing of angry young men, the introduction of CCTV cameras, the thinning of the blue line compared to alcohol-fueled violence, the marches and pledges emphasising the need to not be violent to women, can be seen as the excessively compounded downstream costs of the desertion by parents of children’s needs. Furthermore, it would appear the civilizing process, accentuating materialism, has led to confusion among parents as to what children’s needs actually are. Clinical psychologists, Josef Langmeier and Zdenek Matejcek in the book *Psychological Deprivation in Childhood*, conclude that “advances in industrial technology have ... increased the emotional deprivation of [children] living under conditions of material and educational well-being...”



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Ferment and prosper...



by Carla Muhling and James Creagh

The recent Fermentation Festival at the Blue Knob markets in early February attracted about 300 people to enjoy a short talk and demonstration from fermenting master Sandor Katz. Katz has been fermenting for the past 21 years and has travelled the world learning and teaching on the subject. He has become a specialist, publishing several books, including Wild Fermentation, The Revolution Will Not Be Microwaved, and most recently The Art of Fermentation, a bestseller in Australia's cookbooks category. There were also talks by local fermenters and an array of delicious and interesting fermented food samples. The exhibition was not limited to food, with discussions on using fermentation for dyeing clothes and creating microbial brews that improve soil health. The crowd came from far and wide to experience this unique event, with people travelling from Sydney, Coffs Harbour and Brisbane, and there was a lot of interest in making the festival an annual event. Fermentation is a process of transformation, and when applied to some foods can make them more nutritious and easier to digest. Fermented foods are the superior way for obtaining probiotic intake, which is necessary for maintaining good gut health and from there, good wellbeing.

On 9th March Carla Muhling is running a workshop with Johnny One-Tree at Starseed Gardens in Byron Bay from 9.30am-4.30pm. Bookings are essential. Please contact: carla@fermenters.org or see the Facebook page Foods That Heal for more information.



The Blue Knob Farmers Market is behind the publication of a beginners' guide to fermentation, with the recipes of the 15 fermenters from the festival. It will soon be available from the local farmers markets at Blue Knob and Nimbin. Copies of Sandor Katz's book The Art of Fermentation will be on sale at Blue Knob when they become available. Photo at top by Guy Stewart

Greens back weed review

The Greens NSW spokesperson on agriculture, Jeremy Buckingham, has welcomed the draft NSW weed management review. Mr Buckingham is calling on the NSW Government to make the required resources available to ensure its full implementation. "The establishment of a 'permitted list' for sale of plants within NSW is an important first step in stopping the spread of weeds, as is the move to a tenure-neutral approach which ensures both public and private landholders are responsible for controlling weeds," he said. "The Greens have been working with farmers for many years in calling for these reforms and moved amendments to this effect which were rejected by the Government in 2012." Mr Buckingham says the distribution and impact of weeds is a threat to biodiversity, at an annual cost of \$475 million to landholders. He says it is essential that the permitted list for the sale of plants from nurseries is developed by experts and not by the industry, as is suggested in this report. "We need to strengthen enforcement, improve transparency around weed declarations and build our capacity to respond to new incursions. Mr Buckingham said the review provides a framework to do this, and vowed the Greens would continue to hold the Government to account on behalf of farmers and the environment. "Now is the time for the Government to step up and create a well-resourced legislative and organisational framework for weed management in this state."

Pipis

The place is Ryan's cut, one of the last unmined sand dune formations on Australia's East coast, the giant windmarked bulk of it like a white elephant. It is here, as a four year old, that I discover pipis. As I drag my feet through the sand they turn up, like overturned stones out of the wet sand, showing themselves in all of their storm coloured green, grey, and golden bivalve beauty. Just as soon as they are exposed they stick their thick tongues out and pant their way back into the sanctuary of the wet sand. As a child I delighted in their abundance – they were fat and sleek, the ubiquitous contents of every fisherman's bucket, left in rotting piles beside beachside carparks, taken home by children to spit out their sand in big steel stock pots, their indigo butterfly shells scattered along the beaches. A generation later and the pipis are gone. As an adult I search for their tell-tale holes in gutters of sand. I sink my feet into that edge of biodiversity between the sand and sea, and twist, hoping to throw up piles of them in the wet slush. No longer found in great size or numbers anywhere, they are reduced to a rare novelty, no more than the size of a child's fingernail. Our social memory is short. The rivers, forests and fauna of our childhoods, are reduced to mere shadows of themselves a generation later, their diminishment taken for granted by our children who are born knowing no other. Will our grandchildren in turn accept the normalisation of a far greater diminishment until the very idea of "nature" itself is simply a romantic infatuation of some uncivilised pagan past? I spent many years grappling with this idea of ever-normalised, ever-diminishing nature, until I read Jared Diamond's book Collapse – How Societies choose to Fail or Survive. Here, Diamond explains in cleverly crafted detail how intergenerational ecological amnesia was a contributing factor in the collapse of human societies from the Middle East to Easter Island. What did those Polynesian woodcutters say to one another as they chopped down the last tree on Easter

Island? Was there nothing to be heard but the axe's maddened hack, the Lorax's sickening smack? We have made an enormous mistake in not embedding real sustainability into our social institutions and practices. Instead, we have become so used to an over-supply of materiality that we equate sustainable consumption as a "lack" when it is actually a kind of radical abundance. True sustainability in our population and our practices guarantees an abundance for all ad infinitum, whereas the current state of affairs means that we will not only all know great poverty but eventually



Permaculture Principles with Anastasia Guise

perish. The thing is, though, things are turning around. So many of us have decided that our children will be the generation who turn to their children and warn of the overconsumption of the past, only to be told, "Ok Mum, that was in your day. Now our clean rivers are full of fish, our forests abound with orangutans and birds, and our food and water is the purest its ever been." It's 2014, Ryan's cut, the white dune marked by the world's incessant wind. I drag my feet in the sand as my children lag behind. Suddenly, a slick piece of coloured stone pops up under my feet. I examine it more closely, and discover another, and another. I thrust my arms into the wet sand and bring up a mosaic. The pipis are back, fully grown and beautifully-coloured. My children cannot understand my tears of joy. Community Permaculture will hold a residential PDC in 'Sustainability and Resilience', 7-19th April at Billen Cliffs. Full details at: www.communitypermaculture.com.au Earlybird price \$1200 until 12th February. Phone 0413-907-014 or 0428-274-385.

Steam-weeding trial in Byron

Steam, long used to power equipment in industry, or clean around the house, is now being trialled in the outdoors – for controlling weeds. Byron Shire Council recently tried out a steam-weeding machine at the Suffolk Park sports field carpark. The Council's parks and gardens superintendent, Andy Erskine, said from initial results it appears that its best use will be for treatment of pavement weeds. Certain weed types such as flat and broadleaf fit best under the applicator hood and are immediately burnt back. "What we don't know at this stage is how many treatments a site may need for differing weed types to be killed off," Mr Erskine said. Staff will monitor the site over the coming weeks to determine the



The machine in action

effectiveness and best use practices. "It may not be suitable for all public sites, but we are hopeful we can use the chemical free weed killer at targeted sites such as playgrounds," he said. Byron Shire Council resolved in

November 2013 to be chemical-free within five years. "We needed to set a benchmark against which we can list our achievements. We've taken the first step," Mayor Simon Richardson said. "While it might not be suitable for all locations due to weed types or labour costs, a change in how we manage weeds has significant benefits for new work practices, our community and the environment." The shire's chemical-free focus will be targeted at high-use public spaces, and not major riparian and biodiversity enhancement work. Steam weed technology is being used at councils around Australia including Fremantle and Leichhardt, and is being trialled at Maroondah, Yarra and Greater Dandenong.

Blue Knob Farmers Market

by Jim Arachne

A very serviceable new concrete slab (complete with mosaics!) has been poured for the main market area, come and try it out. Also check out the new verandah extension for the Blue Knob Gallery's Café (my new favourite on Heather's menu is the buckwheat crepes). New stallholders are appearing, including some sourdough bakers, local meat sellers and mulch growers. With the mulch, you can pick up 1 or 2 bales in your ute, ask for bigger loads to be delivered after the market, or order larger quantities for the following week.

Next Festival This will be a "Fibre and Fabric" event in late May. This includes; fibre production from plants and animals (flax and alpacas for example), fibre processing (spinning demonstrations with a chance to try a spinning wheel yourself), backstrap weaving, felting



and other cloth production techniques, dyeing using natural pigments, and many other hands-on demonstrations and workshops. If you'd like to be added to the Market mailing list to be informed of upcoming talks and events email Jim at: uloborid8@gmail.com

Johnny sharing his fermented weeds Blue Knob Farmers Market runs every Saturday, rain, hail or shine, 8.30am to noon, on Blue Knob Road near the corner of Lillian Rock Road, 8km from Nimbin in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.

Coffee Camp swimmers push limits

Coffee Camp Primary School joined with six other local schools for a swimming carnival in mid-February at Lismore Memorial Baths.

Inspired by the loud cheers from parents and fellow students, the Coffee Camp swimmers pushed themselves to their individual limits and beyond for a number of nail-biting finishes.

Taimana and Luka were the junior champions while Dashi, Shakira, Tahlia and Oscar were runners up for their age groups. Congratulations go to all our participants for doing their best and having fun while doing it.

And thanks to all the parents, grandparents and uncles and aunties who came along to support the school.



Luka and Taimana, Junior Champions, displaying the trophy with principal Mr Boyd.

Danika Hogan-Woodbridge, a Coffee Camp school newsletter reporter, interviewed some of the participants to get their reactions after the exciting day.

"It was fun and I was very surprised by winning Junior Girl Champion."

– Luka.

"I got four 2nds, one 1st and I got the runner up for Junior Boys Champion."

– Dashi.

"I went in a lot of races and got places too!" – Arnhem.

"I didn't get any places but I tried. I can't wait to go in more races next year." – Edie.

"I was in the relay and it was great fun." – Taimana.

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The discovery of trees

by Diane Wilder

At Nimbin Pre-School, we have discovered that our Milli has been drawing and painting trees (right) for a very long time. She has inspired some of us to think about trees and to represent trees in our drawings. So we have formed a tree study group with Milli, Gryff, (above left) Luano and Tokie (below left).

As part of our study, we ventured out into the Showgrounds to find trees, to draw trees and to discuss trees. Drawing trees is beginning to be



a transformative experience for these children. Their initial drawings have been transformed into a forest that harbours animals day and night. Sometimes the forest catches fire, and sometimes it is as peaceful as a starry, starry night.

But most of all, it is the children's forest where imaginative storytelling takes place, leading the children to alter their visual representations of trees within their drawings.



Tuntable Falls school garden

by Michelle McDonald

Who knew you could grow a jungle in just seven weeks? That is just what the children at Tuntable Falls Primary School managed to do over the summer holidays (with a little help from the sun and occasional rain). We returned to our garden this year to find that our summer cover crops had indeed covered our entire garden.

Giant orange pumpkins worthy of any country fair, lay fat and golden amongst the foliage. Butternut-shaped, olive green pumpkins clambered their vines up the garden walls and across the ceiling. In other beds, green manure plants stood tall and strong and threatened to take over the paths.

Taking a deep breath and setting to work, children and adults alike have taken just a few weeks to tame this

wild beast. Beds are ready for autumn planting, their green manures dug in and soil mulched. The kitchen is groaning with ripe, red tomatoes and pumpkins a-plenty, last years' garlic harvest and fresh herbs picked daily.

To balance all this hard work we set our creative minds and willing hands to completing a beautiful mosaic mural, which was started last year by Thomas and the Lower Primary class. It is now hanging on one section of our Outdoor Classroom, and our minds are already turning to ideas for the next panel.

With all of this work done, you might think we are resting on our laurels. No such thing, dear friends. There are salad green seedlings to plant and protect from the harsh summer sun, strawberry plants to be fed and watered, their runners re-potted, and paths to be weeded and topped-up with wood chips.



Seed planting time is always exciting and full of promise. Coming to the beginning of autumn, what seeds can we plant?

+ Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower, Leeks, Radish, Salad Greens, Silverbeet, Peas + Calendula, Cornflower, Marigolds, Nasturtium Salvia, Snapdragon, Sweet Peas

Happy Gardening!

Journeys of exploration at Cawongla

by Playhouse Educators

"I feel happy when my mummy gives me hugs," four-year-old Azi says, as he draws a picture of his Mum and Dad and little brother Huwyn for the new "Family" wall at Cawongla preschool.

Our intention at the start of this year was to honour our families through exploration. Using art, photos and stories, we will explore identity, diversity, homelife, emotions and our sense of belonging. Azi's drawing and comment kick-started the process beautifully.

Our sense of belonging extends from our family to our place... and this year at Cawongla we are exploring our place in the world via sound. Through planned and spontaneous experiences that incorporate the science and poetry

of sound, we aim to inspire and support children to wonder, to inquire. How do our senses explore sound – how do we hear, see, smell, taste and feel sound?

In order to explore all this, we've turned our preschool into a soundscape. We're noticing the different bird-calls and which bird is speaking. We're discovering that the toilet block resonates with so much noise it can feel really loud! And we're wondering – will the lentils we're sprouting each week grow better if they hear Chopin playing in the background, or Queens of the Stone Age?

As we settle into place, we look to engage with what we have. Our garden needs love after the long summer break, so we're structuring time to ensure we are connecting our learning within our environment. This means observing,



reflecting, describing, planting, mulching... there's so much to learn and do in a garden.

Our kitchen too is a place of great education – numeracy, language, fine motor, social skills and sensory experiences are all part of our weekly cooking endeavours.

Our lives and our place feel rich as we settle into 2014. It's with gratitude that we are here.

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Fat Rascals

The world according to...

Magenta Appel-Pye

Middle-aged men seem to be the only demographic left to pick on. Fair enough, everyone should have a go, but I love middle-aged men, well my one anyway. These days they're targeting them with balding treatments, men's face cream, Ferraris for the rich and weight loss plans. They have to create a market for these guys to spend their hard-earned money on, and what better way than to create shame and insecurity?

One thing, well two, that get particularly denigrated are manboobs. My husband has a particularly good set, which I like. It's like getting a burger with the works, one with all the squeeze toys. He's always telling his tennis mates 'Don't look at my chest when you're talking to me, look at my face, mate!' He might have a gut and a voluptuous set of fat rascals, but he's agile on the tennis court. The guys call him

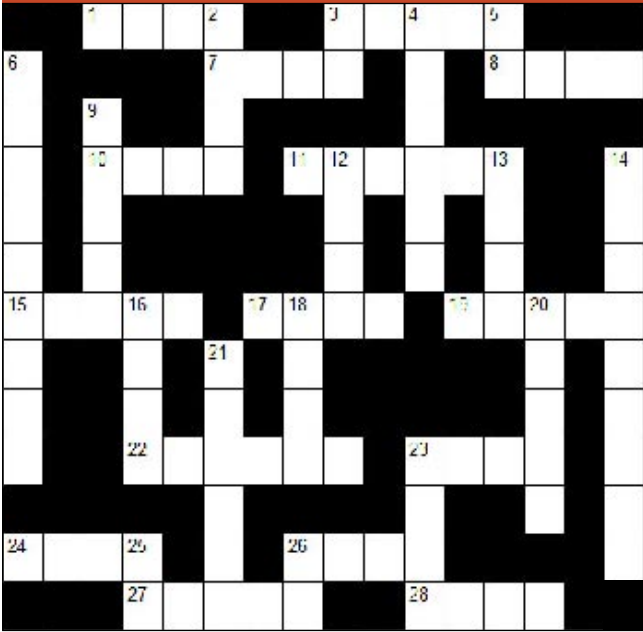
The Flying Buddha. But he does find the jiggling jugs uncomfortable, (welcome to a woman's world). I'm thinking of buying him a bro for this birthday.

Last week I was doing a stand-up comedy gig in Byron and, of course, Norm came along to support me. We were sitting there innocently minding our own business when a she-man minced up to us and asked if we were a lesbian couple. It's not the first time he's been mistaken for a woman, what with the fat rascals and the springy mop. You can't blame the poor guy/girl. I've told him he needs a haircut, but he's indignant that at this age his hair can do what it wants. I think he's just flaunting what he's got because lots of his friends are going bald. But it's gone way past the interesting genius Einstein look and grown into more a Crusty the Clown/woman with a very bad perm quaff. At least he had a good comeback; "No, we're just good friends!"

www.magentaappelpye.com.au

Nimbin Crossword

2014-3
by 5ynic



Across

- Unwise? Spreading spots
- Smelling salts
- Killer whale
- Mythical? Himalayan beast
- Egyptian Goddess of Fertility
- Who transmits confidential information to third parties
- _____ Gras
- Versatile plant material
- Range
- Suffer? Last
- Has (poetic)
- Spots which might make up 1 across?
- Purified water? Turquoise
- Resin used for adhesives, insulation and solder
- Enjoy fine fare

Down

- He jumps on one leg? Plant used to brew beer.
- Egyptian sun god
- One who smokes
- Belongs to me
- Natural skin pattern?
- Big cat, burning bright
- Test
- _____ Parkes - US civil rights activist
- Natives of the South Tyrol and the Eastmark (German speaking)
- Drug
- For all time
- Coffee with chocolate
- Rainbow region's 6th colour
- The most potent, or intelligent part?
- 4th of the 8 compass points
- Yes

Solution Page 31

Soul astrology and the path of destiny

A workshop on 'The Moon, the Ascendant and the Lunar Nodes' will be presented by Gold Coast astrologer Maggie Kerr and NGT Starloom columnist Tina Mews.

This workshop is based on some core ideas from Esoteric or soul-centered astrology. Maggie will explore how the Soul (Moon) and the Personality (Ascendant) are meant to work together in a practical way.

Our Soul makes its entrance into incarnation through the "Eastern Door" as we initialise our current life process. Physically this is the birth as we leave the "great oceanic waters" of the 12th house and pass through the birth canal of the Ascendant. So by examining the Ascendant's sign, rulers and aspects, we can describe the actual birth experience and how this creates the "birth script" – our initial and most significant unconscious belief about being in the world thereafter.

We then connect the Moon's sign/house/aspects story for information about what is 'familiar' to our Soul from previous incarnations. What we may need to heal or integrate this lifetime to allow



the Soul full expression of her purpose for incarnation via the Ascendant or "personality", which is ultimately the Soul's Vehicle for doing its work in the world.

Tina will explore the Lunar Nodes and the way they tie in with our 'path of destiny'. The North Lunar Node is the place where cosmic energy enters while the South Lunar Node represents the point where energy exits, indicating possible energy 'leaks'. The South Lunar Node has long been associated with our 'Karma' and spiritual, emotional or/and physical inheritance, while the North Lunar Node represents what we can achieve with this life, our 'Dharma'.

The workshop will take place on 26th March, 10am – 4pm; registration 9.30am. Fee: \$80 / \$70 concession. Morning tea provided; bring your own lunch. For bookings, phone Tina on 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com

trivia

Devised by our Quizmaster, Marty

Trivia returns to the Nimbin Bowlo monthly,
starting Saturday 15th March at 6.30pm.

Questions

- What chemical element has the allotropes graphite, coal and diamonds?
- Who won the Archibald Prize in 1978 for his autobiographical triptych "Art, Life and the Other Thing"? The "Other Thing" referred in part to his heroin addiction.
- What is the best selling novel of all time?
- What is the principal ingredient of tequila?
- Who was the lyricist for Elton John during his early years?
- If a dish is described as "Florentine" what should it contain?
- What is the capital of Estonia?
- In what country was méthode champenoise (the modern system of making champagne) invented?
- What colour is raw sienna?
- Where are the cheapest seats at a bullfight?

1. Carbon. Strangely the lead in your pencil isn't actually lead. It's carbon in the form of graphite. 2. Brett Whiteley. Sadly he died in 1992 from too much of the other thing. 3. A Tale of Two Cities. Some may consider The Bible and that other book as being novels but they are usually given away not sold. 4. Blue Agave. To be true tequila it must be made in the Tequila region of Mexico. 5. Bernie Taupin. He must be a genius to make Elton the Muppet famous. 6. Spinach. So Popeye is a Florentine Seaman. 7. Tallinn. What can I say about Tallinn? Not much really. 8. England. That's right folks – Dom Perignon read about it in a paper presented to the Royal Society by the English scientist and physician Christopher Merret in 1662 and started production almost 40 years later. 9. Yellow-brown. When heated, it becomes a reddish brown and is called burnt sienna. This is the sort of question you get when your quizmaster consorts with an artist (see question 2). 10. In the sun. Anyone who goes to a bullfight should be roasted in hell, never mind sitting in the sun.

Answers



by Zuela Christie

You may imagine that your ancestors are long gone, but they are truly co-present in you, in the genetic inheritance which is in every cell of your body. You will be present in your descendants, and in the consciousness of everyone you have touched in your life. We need to embrace both our blood and spiritual ancestors. We cannot get rid of them. We are made from them. Even if we hate them, we are only hating ourselves. We need to reconcile with the parents inside and find a way to peacefully coexist. Unconditional acceptance is the first step in opening the door to the miracle of forgiveness. If we cannot accept ourselves as we are, with both positive and negative

parts, we will never be able to accept others.

When a person's positive seeds are watered in life, it is partly due to luck and partly through effort. The circumstances of our lives can help us water the seeds of patience, generosity, compassion and love. The people around us can help us water these seeds, and so can the practice of mindfulness. But if a person grows up in a time of war or in a family and community that is suffering, that person may be full of despair and fear. Parents who suffer a lot and are afraid of the world and other people, water the seeds of fear and anger in their children. If children grow up embraced by security and love, the good seeds in them are nurtured and grow strong.

If you can look at your ancestors in this way, with their strengths and challenges, like all of us; you will understand that they were human beings who also suffered and tried their best with what they had. That understanding can erase all rejection and anger, and help you become more peaceful and less afraid.

A practice for accepting our ancestors:

Breathing in and breathing out, you visualize your ancestors, and you see all their positive and negative points. Be determined to accept them fully in an aura of love, forgiveness and gratitude.

"Dear ancestors, I am you, with all your strengths and weaknesses. I see you have positive and negative seeds. I

understand that you have been lucky and that good seeds like kindness, compassion and fearlessness were watered in you. I also understand that if you were not lucky and negative seeds like fear, greed and jealousy were watered in you, then the positive seeds did not have a chance to grow."

Making peace with your ancestors takes some practice, but it is important to reconcile with them if you are to settle the fear within yourself.

Be thankful that you have the resources in the present to set about changing the patterns within you from the past. All the grief and fear and pain that your ancestors inherited and accumulated and had to store and pass on because they were not equipped and supported to do otherwise – and here you are able to do the great pioneering work with your current consciousness for everyone. The changes you make now are also received by the spirits of your ancestors wherever they are, and serve everybody's advancement.

Written with excerpts and the actual practice taken with thanks from Thich Nhat Hanh, a Buddhist monk. Taking baobab essence in the Australian Bush Flower range will help you to get in touch with your ancestral energy and shift deep-seated family patterns on every level. Polarity energy balancing is a comprehensive healing modality to assist you on your journey of transformation.

Zuela can be contacted on 0429-501-387.

ASTRO FORECASTS

by Tina Mews

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

March

In our yearly round we have reached Pisces, the last sign in the zodiac and the end of the cycle. Symbolically, the two fishes swim in opposite directions; one fish is swimming towards individuality while the other one swims towards universality. In many ways, Pisces is associated with the urge of fusing the material and spiritual realms without getting lost in either of them. More often than not, the choice seems to be either saving others through self-sacrifice and service or suffering the consequences of escapist tendencies and ego-denial. Being a water sign, many individuals who carry a strong Piscean signature find it difficult to define boundaries, since water is formless and can take on any shape or colour of its environment. Thus, they are like psychic sponges that absorb, mainly unconsciously, the moods and vibes of those around them. On a lighter note, the Piscean individual has a vivid imagination and can excel at dance, acting, music and many other forms of creative self-expression. Equally, many of them are gifted healers or dedicated health and welfare workers.

This month begins with a New Moon. Sun and Moon are conjoined in the fluid and sensitive sign of Pisces, inviting us to go inward. This is further helped by Mars, the planetary energy associated with action and drive that changes direction on the day and will be retrograde from March 1 until May 20. A retrograde planet is close to the earth in its orbit around the Sun, so while its influence is strong, it is in a more indirect way. Mars can be quite troublesome when retrograde because our initiative to start new projects can backfire and deplete our energy; things do not move forward as expected. Mars retrograde stands for frustrated energy, irritability, disruptions, drawn-out legal cases, health concerns and injuries. We are urged to retrace our steps, go back over situations and make corrections to plans. These seven weeks are best used for reviewing the ways we handle our emotional energy and how we deal with conflict. Mars is in the relationship sign of Libra, emphasising the need for balancing self-interest with our need for connection. Care has to be taken, not to follow the inner compulsion of enforcing our version of order and cosmic harmony onto our fellow humans. This Mars retrograde phase can help to restore confidence and courage to stand for what we value, once we are sure about our true ideals and vision. However, those who initiate outright conflict or act hostile or impulsively while Mars is retrograde will lose!

Saturn, the planet symbolising restrictions and limitations, turns retrograde on March 2, one day after Mars. Saturn will remain retrograde until July 20, thus slowing down the normal rate



of current affairs. Worldly ambitions may undergo setbacks and we might have to revisit plans and projects that we started in late 2013. Unforeseen commitments might complicate our lives and we are asked to put in extra effort, patience and endurance. However, this might be a good thing, because the more erratic energy of the moment might find its correction and counterbalance in 'Father Time' Saturn putting on the brakes. Ultimately,

before we can move forward we have to complete unfinished business from the past. Jupiter moves direct (March 6) after four months of retrograde motion. Jupiter rules growth and expansion and brings about the potential for fresh developments and understanding. It is in a tight formation with the change provoking Uranus/Pluto square, which is active until 2016. During the next 3 months Jupiter might be the force that fuels innovative ideas and could signal a much needed shift in perspective. Jupiter is the symbol for judges, religion and religious leaders. There might be pressure for reform, especially in this area. The Full Moon in critical Virgo (March 16-17) opposing the Sun in undefined or undefinable Pisces illuminates a need for flexible boundaries between unrestrained acceptance and discernment, retreat and involvement, intuitive knowing and logic. We might feel inspired to transcend daily routines, let go of differences, and flow with 'the waters of life'.

March 21 is the day of our Autumn Equinox, when the Sun crosses the threshold into Aries, the sign of pioneering activities and new enterprise. March ends with a 2nd New Moon, now in Aries (March 31), a cosmic tune-up to the energy of 'new beginnings'. It is truly essential that anybody who feels destined to function as a 'pathfinder', leading the way in these complex times is informed and inspired by a worthwhile cause or vision. It is equally important that such an individual keeps open for the input of others. The danger is 'to run with it' without considering the needs and feelings of others. But more about the strengths and weaknesses of the Aries archetype in next months' column!

For personal astrology consultation and/or a forecast for 2014, contact me on 6689-7413 or 0457-903-957, via e-mail: star-loom@hotmail.com or visit my web page: <http://nimbin-starloom.com.au>

Astrology classes at the Lillifield Community Centre: Wednesdays, 10am – 1pm: 'The Art of Chart Delineation'; Thursdays: 10am – 1pm: 'Working with the Principles of Astrology to Facilitate Self-Awareness and Well-Being'.

A one day workshop on Wednesday 26th March at Lillifield Community Centre with Gold Coast astrologer Maggie Kerr and Tina Mews: The Moon, the Ascendant and the Lunar Nodes: Soul Astrology and the 'path of destiny', based on some core ideas from Esoteric or soul-centered astrology.

Aries

Mars is the ruling planet of Aries and, as the mythic god of war, symbolises your energy of assertion and the way you handle conflict. Mars is currently in Libra and now retrogrades until the end of May. You are asked to reassess your partnerships and contracts with others. Use this time to work through power imbalances and issues of inequalities.

Taurus

Venus, your ruling planet, enters the quirky sign of Aquarius on March 6 (until April 6) after an extended 4 month period in serious and cautious Capricorn. You might find that socially you feel much more at ease now and enjoy spending time with your friends again, especially if you have felt emotionally stifled and withdrawn.

Gemini

The current cosmic emphasis on the watery realm of Pisces might confuse the left-brain oriented twin, while the other part might enjoy this increase in imaginative forces. You might find that it is easy to dream 'big schemes' right now, while it seems to be more difficult to keep up with realising your own ideas. Therefore, keep breathing!

Cancer

Your need for a mystical experience is heightened right now and you can trust your intuitive powers. The energy is great for making adventurous plans which could prove successful. Other people might help you in achieving your goals. Just remember that things don't come as quickly as you would like it. Perseverance is the key.

Leo

At the moment you can grow immensely in your ways of understanding when you come from your compassionate heart. Helping others is more rewarding now than working on your own projects. There are things in your life that are ending and need to be released. Prepare yourself for dreaming up your new vision at the equinox on March 21.

Virgo

Your emphasis is on partnerships at the moment, creating new ones as well as furthering those that already exist. The Full Moon in your sun sign (March 16 – 17) might find you reassessing boundaries between your wishes and those of others. Try to balance your personal needs with your duty to those around you, even though it might be difficult to define exactly what you are looking for.

Libra

You are being challenged to become assertive and focused on your personal goals. Independence and self-confidence are keys to your growth right now. You may even find yourself thrust into leadership roles but might feel easily upset when others do not live up to your expectations. Try to be patient, also with yourself.

Scorpio

Right now you might easily become stuck on certain ideas and find it difficult to change your mind, because your senses of personal power or direction in life seem to be somehow weakened. Be aware of possible emotional outbursts and try to stay flexible. Communicating your thoughts to others will improve again around mid month.

Sagittarius

It is your time to retreat and search for the freedom within. Your journey to change the world starts from the inside. Therefore, try not to impose your version of the truth on others because you only will meet with rejection. Rather, encompass other people's personal philosophies without feeling threatened, so that others trust you with their spiritual problems.

Capricorn

Right now it is essential for you to have independence and autonomy to follow your calling. However, be aware that your way of taking action might challenge others. Therefore, choose your words wisely and try to keep a balance between mind and emotions. This might be an excellent time for creative writing.

Aquarius

Venus, the planet of beauty and love is journeying through your sun sign from March 6 until April 6. During this period your creative abilities might be enhanced as well as your need to spend time with friends. It is important that you keep an eye on your financial affairs, because there may be a lack of clarity surrounding money and possessions.

Pisces

Your imagination is always powerful but right now it plays an even stronger part in your life. This energy is best channelled into creative or humanitarian projects that help others or benefit the greater whole. However, you also might feel like hiding away from the world because of your super-sensitivity. Try to find the right balance between involvement and detachment.