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The good ship Food Co-Op needs more hands on deck

by Virginia Barratt

The Nimbin Organic Food Co-op is a not-for-profit community-owned and managed organisation, with the day-to-day running managed by volunteers. There is a strong committee and co-ordinator roles have been filled by dedicated and skilled individuals.

Founded in 2014 by an enthusiastic group of local people, the Co-op is forging a strong presence in the local community, ensuring regional food security for the future. The hard work of establishing the Co-op and overseeing the day-to-day running in the first instance was taken on by Jay Kelly and Rindi Harradine who put in superhuman efforts and we are very grateful for their commitment.

As a fledgling Co-op, there have been some wobbly moments as we scramble to get our heads around how the Co-op can run in the most efficient and ethical way and to reward our volunteers who keep everything afloat. To that end, the volunteer discount has been increased to 20% on top of our already low prices.

The Co-op is planning to implement a membership discount to incentivise membership. Currently the discount is built into the low prices, so please do support your Co-op by becoming a member, continue shopping and watch



Volunteer Ezra enjoying a persimmon

this space for increased and more visible member rewards and incentives.

The community mandate to the Co-op was to 'keep the organics shop running' and we have been faithful to that community request. Shortly we will run a member survey to begin evolving a unique co-op guiding vision beyond this vision.

The Co-op runs regular meetings and the actions that arise from these meetings have led to a lot of change, growth and development in all areas of the Co-op. The current management structure has been working to define roles and assign responsibilities. Co-ordinator roles have been assigned to people in the areas of produce and grocery, bulk foods, local

producers, membership, volunteers and web and media.

We are seeking an accounts co-ordinator, an off-sider for the produce and grocery ordering who is available during office hours through the week, and a cleaner who is available outside of office hours.

Volunteers are always needed, so if you have the time and commitment, pop in to the shop and arrange a training session, check it out and maybe commit to a regular shift if it seems like your thing! Clare Ridsdale, the volunteer co-ordinator is available on 0427-706-627 for a chat about all things shifty!

In colourful news, the shopfront is being redesigned by Brad and Katie from Izwoz which is very exciting! Look out for the unveiling and launch party.

The Co-op thanks you for your support in establishing this community-owned enterprise and at this point we ask for your continued understanding, patience, and support as we take on the mammoth task of designing a resilient, dynamic community-run organisation.

Email for general enquiries: thenimbinfoodco.op@gmail.com

For volunteer enquiries: volunteer4thenimbinfoodcoop@gmail.com
Phone (02) 6689-1445, website: <http://nimbinfoodcoop.org>



Support your Hospital Auxiliary

Medicine trolley purchased by the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary at a cost of \$2,703, thanks to the support of the Nimbin community

The first of the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary Fundraising Days for 2015 will be held on Saturday, 16th May from 8am to 2.30pm, between the Medical Centre and the rear of the Nimbin Multi-Purpose Service (MPS).

The fundraiser is always a fun day and a chance for both the community and visitors to get together in support of our wonderful and much needed local health service. You can grab a bite from our sausage sizzle, pick up some bargain-priced clothes, books, bric-a-brac, plants and CDs, as well as yummy cakes and biscuits baked by some of our Auxiliary members. So do come and join us for a great day.

Any items for donation can be dropped off at the rear of the MPS from 9am -12pm on Friday, 15th May. Unfortunately we are unable to accept any electrical goods and would appreciate if any clothes being donated are clean and in good order. If anyone has clothes racks to loan for the day, this would be greatly appreciated, and can also be dropped off on 15th May.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary is also seeking new members. Meetings are held monthly although attendance is not compulsory. We are seeking persons who can assist with raffle ticket selling (which works on a roster) and also at our fundraising days as well as any other support you can provide.

By joining our small band of willing workers this will help you to achieve feelings of self-fulfilment at doing something for and with the community of Nimbin and surrounding areas for our local health service.

For more details, contact Maureen Lombard, President, on 6689-1080, or Marceliena Brumley, Secretary, on 6689-1015.

Nimbin Hospital Info

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic: 9th April. For appointments phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health).



Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Phone 6620-7687 to make an appointment (through Lismore Community Centre).

Women's Health Nursing Service

Confidential Pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post natal checks, general health information. Next clinic: 16th April. For appointments phone 6688-1401.

Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy. Provision of Palliative Care in the home. Provide and coordinate Aged Care Packages.

Free health checks

Now in front of the Neighbourhood Centre, every second Friday, 11.30am - 1.30pm. Run by a Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse. Cardiac, diabetic and stroke risk assessments, weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, cholesterol levels, referrals to appropriate Health Professional, if required.

Free respiratory clinic

With Specialist Respiratory Nurse and a nurse practitioner. Second Thursday of each month. Next clinic: 9th April. For appointment phone 6688-1401.

Free diabetic clinic

At Nimbin hospital, every third Thursday of the month. For appointment phone Leanne Boothe 6630-0488.

Nimbin NSP opening hours

Will be open on Mondays and Thursdays, 9am - noon. Arrangements can be made to see a health nurse through NSP.

Cannabis Clinic

Every Monday at Nimbin hospital. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment phone 6620-7634 or Mobile 0428-109-474.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next meeting: 10th April.



In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nmic.org.au



We're back! Did you miss us? Due to the ever-generous and supportive editors of *NGT* (Bob and Sue) giving us so much space in the last two editions for the Sibley Street updates, we thought we should forego our column, so as to not hog too much space. Thanks as ever for the support, *NGT*! As a result we have a fair bit of news to report....

Emergency relief

Most of you will be aware of the savage cuts to social services funds by the federal government last year, including to the Emergency Relief program. The bad news is that as of 1st April, NNIC will no longer be delivering ER as we have known it for the last 20 or more years.

The good news is that the CONC (Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres Far North Coast) successfully tendered for the new ER program funds and we are currently working on configuring the new program to achieve the best outcomes for our disadvantaged clients.

The funds across the region for ER have been very significantly reduced, so whatever we will be delivering it will not look much like the old ER program you are all familiar with. In the meantime, NNIC has been preparing for this by increasing our food

storage so that we can continue to provide food relief for people in need, even though we will no longer be able to provide food vouchers. There will be more info about all this in the coming few months. Donations of non-perishable foods can be brought to NNIC anytime during our opening hours.

Northern Rivers bio hubs project

You may also have heard that NNIC is the lead agency of a large consortium which received funds to undertake pre-feasibility assessment work in relation to a bio hub in Casino, and a trial bio gas plant at Nimbin Valley Dairy.

This work has been going on for the past five years and it is fantastic to obtain some funds which were granted by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage under their Growing Community Energy grants scheme. The project includes conducting conversations around a social license for bioenergy and in particular biogas, so watch this space for info about upcoming community surveys and workshops.

7 Sibley Street – why are we painting it?

We were instructed by council to remove and stabilise any lead paint in-situ before we move the house, to avoid

spreading it all over the site. Harmony worked hard over two weeks to painstakingly scrape off and catch all the loose flakes of old paint to prepare it for painting. We also want to preserve the exterior cladding boards (which are hardwood and probably come from irreplaceable old growth trees) whilst we raise the funds to relocate the house. All the exterior cladding boards will be used when we move the house. Plus it just looks better and a bit less neglected.

Thanks to Lismore City Council for funds provided via the Heritage Grants program (\$2000) and to Painted Earth and the Green Building Centre for giving us special mates rates on the (non-toxic, environmentally friendly) paint.

More about Sibley Street

Thanks to everyone who came along on 29th March to celebrate the finalisation of the loan for the purchase of the site. Now we are moving onto Stage One of the project. We have a NEW bank account for this purpose – all funds donated will go directly to Stage One and NOT to normal overheads such as the rates. The new account details are:

Bank: Summerland Credit Union

Account Name: NNIC – Sibley St Fundraising account

Account Number: 2230 4372
BSB: 728-728

As before, please add your name if you want to be acknowledged, otherwise all donations will be anonymous.

And just a bit more about Sibley Street

We are collecting names of people who can help with maintenance and repairs at the site as well as a list of stuff we need donated to carry out some basic repairs. If you can lend some hours of your time and some skills or you have some gear you can donate to us, please contact us at NNIC – see the list on the project's website re what is needed: www.sevenonsibley.com

Nimbin Holiday Club

Fun stuff for 5-12 year olds during school holidays. Kicks off again on Wednesday 8th April. See our website or contact NNIC for the program. Thanks again to the Nimbin Community School for allowing us to use their space for the program, and to Kylie Jurd our wonderful Coordinator.

CDAT – Community Drug Action Team

CDAT has been meeting on a monthly basis and is currently working on a survey of local drug users so we can get to the bottom of contemporary drug issues in the community



7 Sibley Street mortgage payoff money-tree planting

to enable us to figure out the most useful targeted harm minimisation strategies. CDAT is open to interested community members – to find out more contact Nat at: admin@nmic.org.au

Community Grain Mill

We are seeking someone to transport the mill from the Food Coop to the Blue Knob Famers Market each week, look after it while it is there and then bring it back afterwards. This work can count towards your mutual obligations if you are a Centrelink customer. Enquiries to Nat at: admin@nmic.org.au

Farewell To Tina Coutts

Our Brighter Futures Family Development Worker Tina is leaving us for personal reasons, and we will miss her lots. A new Nimbin worker will be recruited ASAP and hopefully we will be able to introduce them to you next month.

Vale Vernon Treeweke

We were so sad to hear of the recent passing of Vernon who

we reconnected with during the Aquarius 40th Anniversary when he spent some time here in Nimbin and completed a new mural for the village, his last ever, as it turns out. A truly great Aquarian elder, a sweet and gentle soul and a brilliant artist. We will miss you Vernon, but are grateful you walked here softly among us.

(See eulogy, page 33)

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is a local charity and community-based organisation run by locals for locals, and is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to disadvantaged community members. For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our Community Workers for referrals, support and assistance including material aid. If we can't help we probably know who can.

Kyogle Council notebook

It's been a big month already with various meetings and workshops. Council has been busy around the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and trying to find a way forward in terms of Fit for the Future (FFTF).

Long Term Financial Plan

Councillors had a workshop recently to discuss the LTFP. Some of our figures rely on external funding so when we don't receive that funding, obviously it makes it difficult for us to deliver on the plan.

Recently Kyogle missed out on funding through the Federal Bridge Renewal Program, which has affected our capacity to fund the repair or replacement of additional bridges. We will be appealing this decision in Canberra but won't have a result until after March 25.

The LTFP gives us, and you, the chance to see the big picture of how Council is managing the resources and service delivery of the LGA.

We have an achievable plan and a workable budget, but this budget is affected by state and federal sources of funding. We are looking at opportunities for potential resource sharing and working across LGA borders to achieve good outcomes for our communities.

Fit For The Future

I have had a lot of people approach me about what



is happening around amalgamations. The simple answer is: we don't know.

Kyogle councillors and the general manager had a workshop on Thursday, 12 March, prior to meeting with both Lismore and Richmond Valley councils individually on what our best, possible, negotiated outcome could be.

We will be asking about possible cost efficiencies, maintaining (if not improving) service delivery levels and of course, representation. After these meetings have been held, we will be coming out to the community to talk to you. After all, it is your future we're talking about.

World Day of Prayer

I attended the World Day of Prayer service in Kyogle, coordinated by the Catholic church, which was a non-denominational service. The service was very moving with Betty Fitzgerald MC'ing and husband Tom on the organ. Congratulations to the choir who kept us all in tune.



by Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Kyogle

Meet the candidates

The Kyogle Chamber of Commerce coordinated a "meet the candidates" event at the KMI. All known candidates were in attendance and answered questions relating to not only the Kyogle LGA but the Northern Rivers area.

Many thanks to the Chamber and its members for coordinating the event and providing residents with an opportunity to touch base with all the candidates prior to the election.

International Women's Day

An International Women's Day event was held at the Kyogle cinema by the Kyogle Family Support Services. It was very well attended and women of all ages enjoyed the culinary delights of Ms Sheryl Graham.

I'd like to acknowledge the local businesses for their

generosity in making donations for the raffles, which raised much-needed funds for the Kyogle District Domestic Violence Committee. A big thank-you to Margaret Olive and Kay Crowther from the cinema for assisting on the day.

Big Happenings

The Bonalbo ANZAC Commemorative Ball will be held at the Bonalbo Memorial Hall on Saturday, 11th April. Period dress is encouraged or just come along to catch up with old friends. Tickets are for sale at Gateway Office Supplies, Kyogle or by contacting Christine Gambley on 6665-1121.

April 17 and 18 is the Bonalbo Show so roll along to the dog trials on the Friday (Bonalbo being the birthplace of cattle dog trials) with a free jumping castle for the kids.

The Woodenbong Show is on the April 19 so why not make a weekend of it?

The Woodenbong Yowie country markets will also have its seventh birthday on Sunday, 26 April.

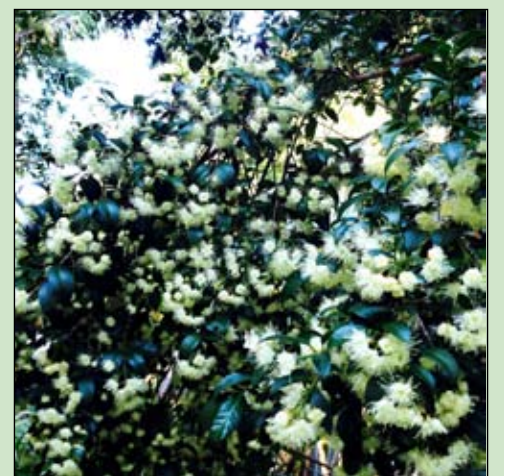
That's a quick catch up for this month, except to say that my mayoral meeting will be in Bonalbo next month. If you would like to come along for a chat or to raise some issue, please contact Janelle McLennan on 6632-0214.

Until next time, all the best.

*Kyogle Council: 6632-0214
Danielle.Mulholland@kyogle.nsw.gov.au*

Plant of the month

Brush cherry *Syzygium australe*



by Richard Burer

I know we have featured Brush Cherry a couple of times over the years, but this month I cannot go past it, it's stunning. Mass flowering at the end of March after good rains and hot weather have combined to offer us a massive crop of the delightfully tasteful and beautiful brush cherry.

It's one of my favourite trees, in some ways unbecoming, but it's the feeling that I have of the tree, an old friend, reliable, freely offering food, shade and shelter. There is a very old tree in Nimbin with much history and cultural connection opposite the tip on Calico Creek, check it out, it's a ripper.

So be in the lookout this month for the red/pink ovoid pear-shaped fruits which will no doubt be gracing the restaurant plates of the rich and famous gorging on new "tastes" as they crap on about this and that!

Paul Joseph medical fundraiser benefit at Bush Theatre

History and the future will collide in the Bush Theatre in Nimbin on 11th April in a community celebration to help support Paul Joseph's battle with cancer. The event will feature healthy food, historic film and live music including local and visiting artists. The event kicks off at 5pm, Saturday 11th April at the Bush Theatre, Nimbin.

Paul Joseph is often referred to as a legendary early hippy settler in the Rainbow Region. As Aquarius Songman, he travelled Australia with the White Kompany, promoting the original Aquarius Festival in 1973.

Following the festival, Paul then became the salesman for Nimbin's first large multiple occupancy community at Tuntable Falls, selling shares in the fledgling co-operative all round Australia for \$200 a share. The founding members managed to raise the money to buy the land outright in less than a year, and so began Nimbin's journey from ghost town to the thriving, unique global village it is today.

With over 500 shareholders expected to arrive and, with no dole or welfare support available in those early days, Paul Joseph and other community organisers realised they needed to create local economy and enterprise for people to be able to survive. They bought the old Nimbin Butter Factory, which for

many years had been a pet food factory, for \$19,000 and established the Bush Co-Op.

"We created the Bush Co-Op so that new settlers then could establish a livelihood," said Paul. "When we set up Tuntable Falls community, we established hamlet development over the 1000-plus acres, so that small groups could have more immediate management of their home space and integrate with the rest of the community through monthly Tribal Meetings."

In establishing the Bush Co-Op, the early Nimbin settlers identified individual businesses as "work groups", who could share the space and support services. Paul explained, "We had a wide range of start-up enterprises and saw that the Co-Op idea would be of mutual benefit to the needs of these micro businesses, especially in promotion, administration and joint purchasing."

"I was a founding partner in four different businesses as part of the Co-Op," said Paul. "They were the Summerland Times Magazine, which was the local official tourist monthly, produced in Nimbin and distributed throughout the region; a recording studio which went on to become the very successful "Bush Traks"; a film making group called "North Country Flix" which made four films including

Give Trees a Chance, Save the Trees (made in 1976 and the first community action in the battle to save Terania Forest), as well as *Birth and Beyond* and a movie made for Lismore Council in 1978 called *A Place in the Sun* which Council controversially banned after their first viewing."

"They thought we were trying to make Lismore look 'too hippy'," said Paul. "That film was lost for over 30 years, but our mayor, Jenny Dowell was able to find it a few years ago and I have now had it digitised and shown to a full house at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore. It looks decidedly uncontroversial these days, but reflects a lot of community history in 1978."

"The Bush Theatre was my real dream enterprise," explained Paul Joseph. "I literally cut down the trees and snigged them out of the bush with my draft horse to build the stage. Those iron bark poles, cut from a clearance at Woodenbong still look as fresh as when we adzed them by hand nearly 40 years ago. Now they still hold up the stage and also form part of the cafe seating downstairs, now run by Bringabong. There's a nice poetic ring to that."

Paul Joseph said that this event on 11th April at the Bush Theatre is like a fulfilment of a lifelong dream. "I have been overwhelmed with the love and support received from so many old and new friends and am so grateful for the help and real kindness I have received in my healing journey," he said. "One of my partners

in the Summerland Times, Trish Strange, instigated this event and Dave Hyett, owner of Bringabong and now managing the Bush Theatre, freely offered the venue. It really feels like a dream will be fulfilled for me," said Paul.

"This may well be my own final performance," said Paul Joseph. "I have what they call Stage 4 cancer and there is no Stage 5. My lung tumour has metastasised into my lymph system, brain and bones, so my life is very day-by-day right now. But I don't discount the option for miracles, and am receiving wonderful support and treatment from Lismore Cancer Clinic. We are truly blessed to have such a world-class medical facility here. In the past, cancer sufferers had to travel to the big cities and incur huge travel and accommodation costs. I really appreciate the quality of care and the wonderfully dedicated doctors, nurses and staff who help us here."

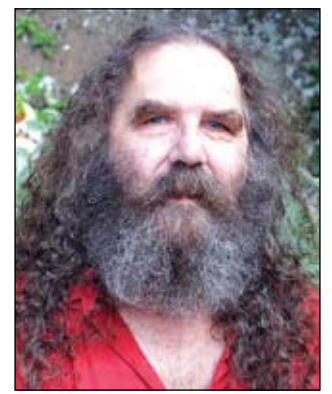
"I have had radiation therapy for my brain and undergoing chemotherapy, but also balancing that with lots of natural treatment, especially diet and supplements to starve the cancers," he said. "Life is all about finding the right balance, and this cancer journey is certainly challenging my wobbliness. I must say I wish that Cannabis was legally available and clinically proven to offer the outstanding cures that people have been reporting."

"I no longer wish to smoke it, but the claims that the oil has anti-cancer qualities and is achieving miraculous

results is very heartening. I just wish we had a compassionate government that would do the decent thing and legalise Cannabis, especially for healing, but also for all the earth saving qualities this valuable plant has always offered humanity."

The fundraiser event, 'Paul Joseph, Aquarius Songman' program will begin at 5pm at the Bush Theatre, Nimbin on Saturday 11th April. Healthy nutritious food will be available from the Cafe and there will be lots of live music outdoors by the magical creek setting. At 7pm there will be a short movie session with a film made by a national TV program in 1977, which shows a wide cross-section of the new settler community of that time, including a section on the original Channon Market when it began at the Channon Hall and several other historic activities. This film has never been shown live before, or screened at all since it was aired in 1977.

At 8pm the gathering will be asked to join in a project to sing and record the theme song of the Aquarius Festival, "May the longtime sunshine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light within you, guide your way home." David Pendragon, himself an early Nimbin music luminary, now running a successful music studio and media production business in Canberra has set up the 'Paul Joseph World Singalong Group' (find it on Facebook) to get friends around the world to join in singing this classic Nimbin song. David Pendragon will compile all the contributions and a video will



be put together featuring all the participants. The wonders of modern technology!

Paul Joseph will present a set of songs he has written about the region over the past 45 years, supported by many of his musician friends with his son, Willow Neilson as band leader, and then there will be a variety of musical performances to complete the event at around 10pm.

"It really is a dream come true for me," said Paul Joseph, "to be sharing this event with my family and community. My daughter, Camille has arrived from London and Willow and his wife, Erica from the USA to help and spend special time with me."

"Willow is now a world class jazz musician and tells me his early memories of being put to sleep in my guitar case backstage in the Bush Theatre were formative in his love for music. Now, over 35 years later, to be sharing the stage with him will be a truly joyful experience for me."

The event will be recorded live by Stuart Batten, master soundman of the region, and the video production by Rohan Langford may be live streamed over the Internet to make it available to friends around the world. A true example of global and local interaction.

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Out of Abingdon



Out of Abingdon will be playing on Sunday 3rd May, 3pm-6pm at Lismore City Bowling Club, \$15 / \$10 Members.

Out of Abingdon is Warwick Hargreaves (Guitar / Vocals) and Tina Fullerton (Double Bass / Vocals).

From a passionate desire to make raw beautiful music that grooves and delights, Out of Abingdon have built a unique sound that draws from influences including Stevie Ray Vaughan, Grant Green, Bjork and Nina Simone. Their understated elegance draws the listener in ...

Out of Abingdon toured to the UK and Europe in 2011 and 2012 playing shows in London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paris and Berlin, and have played over 600 gigs together in the last six years, at festivals including the Edinburgh Fringe, Brisbane International Jazz, Noosa Jazz and the Gold Coast Folk, Gulgong Folk and Neurum Creek Music Festivals and at clubs, bars and cafes within Australia.

They have independently recorded and released three albums, and in 2014 released their first official video '3-Piece Suit', a slightly cheeky ode to tango.

Warwick and Tina love playing music, and their passionate performances connect with audiences wherever they play.

AFRO MOSES

Crowds at the Phoenix Rising Café enjoyed great food and rhythms from showman Afro Moses in March. He is from Ghana, doing an Australian tour at the moment with his amazing band.

He plays many traditional African instruments with tribal beats and a touch of reggae. He has an honest charm and powerful vocals, with grooves to get ya movin'.

Afro Moses will be playing at MardiGrass on Friday night, back at the Bush Theatre. Support acts will be the fantabulous Kerriane Cox and Womyn of the Sun.

Don't miss this gig.

Great Green Cabaret



In the tradition of the School of Arts wonderful Blue Moon Cabarets, something special is being planned for this year's MardiGrass. Cabaret producer David Hallett is booking a Great Green Cabaret for Friday 1st May at the Nimbin School of Arts.

The BIG variety show will feature four comics from the visiting Laugh Mob, together with Irish singer Willy McElroy, Kerriane Cox, Jody Yates, Neil Pike and Avalon; dancers, the Barkersvale Steppers and Gypsy Rose Soiree; acrobatics from Darcy Grant and Emma McGovern, plus Hartje Hout; poetics from Lenno and host David Hallett, and a dance set from the Baby Durgas.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm sharp start. The verandah cafe will be open for dinner and snacks. Entry is by MardiGrass wristband or \$15/\$10 conc.

Hartje Hout (pictured) will be back up on her trapeze at the Great Green Cabaret.

Blue Moon Cabaret a swinging success



Another brilliant selection of entertainment dazzled the capacity crowd for Nimbin's first Blue Moon Cabaret of the year, marking another successful fundraiser for the hard-working Nimbin School of Arts committee.

Among the 16 acts of the bill were (*anti-clockwise from above*) Jaz of the Fantasies Erotique dancers, The No Frills Twins, guitar virtuoso Bevan Cuthbertson, Eve of Eve and Bear, who performed a Mozart aria to electric guitar accompaniment, the affable Kharn, and nerve-wracking acrobats The Pitts.

Photos: Darmin, Paris, Sue



Kerriane Cox records new live album in Nimbin

Kerriane Cox will be presenting Jingki to the world in her upcoming live album recording at the Nimbin Bush theatre starting at 5pm on Saturday 18th April.

Kerriane celebrates her five years in the Northern Rivers at her first port of call, the Nimbin Bush Theatre, with an evening of ceremony, storytelling, song and celebration.

Originally from the Kimberley region in Western Australia, Kerriane set off on a journey of discovery and empowerment for both herself and her people.

The Northern Rivers was the chosen destination, due to the good works that conscious people were doing here in protection of the environment and civil

liberties.

In her five years in the area, Kerriane has amassed a strong following and solid support base.

The evening will start at 5pm with a cleansing ceremony around the fire with all present being welcomed into the circle of creation when the storytelling and song begin.

Jingki will be a night to be remembered, an experience of a lifetime which the audience will be an integral part of the show and celebration.

Tickets are \$15 and are available online at: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com or at the door. For further details, contact David Hyett on 6689-0095 or email: dhyett@linearg.com



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Sunday Gig Guide

April 1pm start

12th Georgina Pollard
This Lismore musician's sumptuous musical voice will delight you, revealing her creative and humorous sides.

19th Deva Tree
Blurring the lines of contemporary folk music, Deva Tree draws inspiration from both the physical and spiritual worlds.

26th Cassie Rose Band
Enchantingly deep, yet sweet and soft... her sound is an alternative acoustic infusion of flavours.

May 3rd The Outback Gypsies
Two voices, hearts and guitars... contemplative and intimate lyrics and on the flip side, up-beat songs challenging the mainstream

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers
53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

April Gigs

Thursday 9th	6.30pm	Kayza
Friday 10th	7.30pm	Split Chickens
Saturday 11th	6.30pm	TBA
Sunday 12th	5pm	Righteous Voodoo
Thursday 16th	6.30pm	The Dawn Chorus
Friday 17th	7.30pm	Run Dos Run
Saturday 18th	6.30pm	Demon Drink
Sunday 19th	5pm	Bonez
Thursday 23rd	6.30pm	Gavin Doniger
Friday 24th	7.30pm	Mecha~Mecha
Saturday 25th	6.30pm	TBA
Sunday 26th	5pm	Cisco Caesar

MardiGrass Line-up
Fri 1st: **Fat Albert** Sat 2nd: **Diana Anaid, Blackbird Hum, Azadoota** Sun 3rd: **Ritchie Williams Band, Blue Skillet Rovers, Bluesville Station**
All Gigs are Free of Charge

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Phone 6632-3518

Opening Hours

Tues - Fri: 10am to 4pm
Saturday: 9.30am to noon

- Promoting local and regional arts;
- Providing emerging artists with opportunities to display and market their artworks in a professional exhibition space;
- Fostering cultural experiences for community and visitors to the area.

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

An Extravaganza of Autumn Arts

by Peter Ptschelinzew

I was going to wax lyrical about all the wonderful work that artists brought in for our last hanging at Nimbin Artists Gallery.

But, truth be known, they brought absolutely nothing in, not a sausage. No new thought-provoking sculptures, no spectacularly colourful landscapes or digital art, nothing. You could hear the crickets chirping when we got to the 'Review New Submissions' part of our meeting.

But, that was because they were holding onto their new work for this year's Autumn Arts Extravaganza. It will have been open for a number of days already by the time you get this edition of the *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

As I sit here a week before our opening, I have a list of about 50 artists, including plenty of new ones, ready to bring their heartfelt efforts in for us to hang. As always, you'll be delighted, surprised, inspired, maybe shocked. Anything but bored.

If you haven't been in for a look yet, it's well worthwhile - and it's free! The last day of the Extravaganza will be Monday 27th April. See you inside, and give the volunteers at the desk a pat on the back for their efforts while you're there.



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'Journey' by Suzy Maloney (above)
'Dance to the Music #1' by Darmin Cameron (top right)
'WhianWhian' by PeterPtschelinzew (right)



Iconic art



'Bluebird of Happiness' by Gareth Lindsay Deakin

The new exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery is titled 'Icons'. Coming up to an Easter break that is celebrated in different ways, either from a religious background, folkloric or cultural influences, we are reminded that there are so many ways this word can be interpreted.

Taken from the Greek (eikōn - image, eikenai - to be like) we even see the word 'icon' being used these days in the most mundane of ways to mean a pictorial representation of a facility available on a computer system!

The artists exhibiting in this show have freely interpreted this theme from the religious/spiritual aspects through to the simple beauty of a personal 'icon', or what is seen as iconic in the world.

The Opening night for this exhibition will be held on Friday 10th April from 6.30pm, with a set vegetarian meal and a choice of dessert provided by Joline of Cafe Blue Knob for \$20 per person. Those who would like to stay for dinner, please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 as bookings are essential.

The exhibition will run until Sunday May 17th.

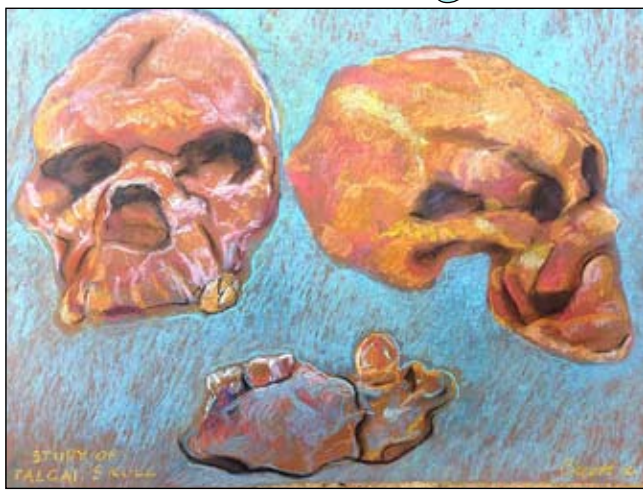
Artists and Friends Lunch

The next Artists & Friends lunch will be on Thursday 30th April at noon. Cost is \$18 per person for a set main and dessert. Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you are planning on coming.



'Holy Cow' by Suzy Maloney

The Talgai skull



Burri Jerome returns from Bunya Mountains and the Goomburra Range with more paintings for his exhibition at Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative in Flood Street, Leichhardt, Sydney.

Goomburra is the origin of the eleven thousand years old Talgai skull of a 15-year old boy found at Dalrymple Creek, Talgai station in 1884. It was hidden for years because it defied the

popular view at the time that Aboriginal people had only been here for a few hundred years before white settlement. This skull was the first real evidence refuting this.

The skull finished up in the Macleay Museum in Sydney University's Anthropology Dept. The repatriation process has begun says Burri, who has done several drawings of the skull for the exhibition.

Burri Jerome is an extraordinary plein air artist, capturing the ancient pathways and cultural catchment of his people. Burri Jerome brings the country to life with light and colour. His landscapes are breathtaking and are a continual portrayal of his love for nature.

"I would like the landscape to be recognised as an entity, as a personality I work towards the humanising of the landscape, an old tradition here.

Old people talk about figures or personalities; I paint portraits of these personalities in the landscape." – Burri Jerome

There will also be four exhibiting artists in the foyer and front galleries of Boomalli: Oral Roberts, Jo-Anne Driessens, Deborah Taylor and Brittany Hegedus.

The exhibition opening will be on Saturday 18th April at 4pm.

Serpentine Gallery



by Anna Dorrington

Two talented local artists are each giving their take on 'Line and Body' in the next exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery, 17a Bridge Street, Lismore.

Georgina Dorrington's exhibition is titled 'The Body in Abstraction'. Georgina states "You never see all of me, so I'll only show you parts of me" about her exhibition. It runs from 1st to 14th April.

Anna Dorrington's exhibition is titled 'Colourful Feminism'. Anna states, "Women have always found ways to bring colour



by Georgina Dorrington

into their lives. I have with this exhibition indulged in both my abstract side and 'yes' my handcraft side." Anna's exhibition runs from 1st to 21st April.

The opening night is on Friday 10th April, 6-8pm. Come along and support these two artists and look through their eyes on line and body! It is a free event.

ARTWOMB

Contributions from performing and visual artists are invited at the ArtWomb during MardiGrass 2015.

For the second year, the Mingle Park Stage will host ArtWomb from 11am-2pm on Sunday



3rd May. Performers are invited to feature their original works on the shared stage. All styles and genres are welcome to collaborate live with other musicians and performers. ArtWomb offers a stage fully loaded with quality instruments, a core team of hosts to support all performers and a comfortable space for artists to share and create.

Mirroring the original and collaborative work woven on the stage is the ArtWomb open canvas. Painters, so often engaged in a solitary pursuit, are invited to enter a

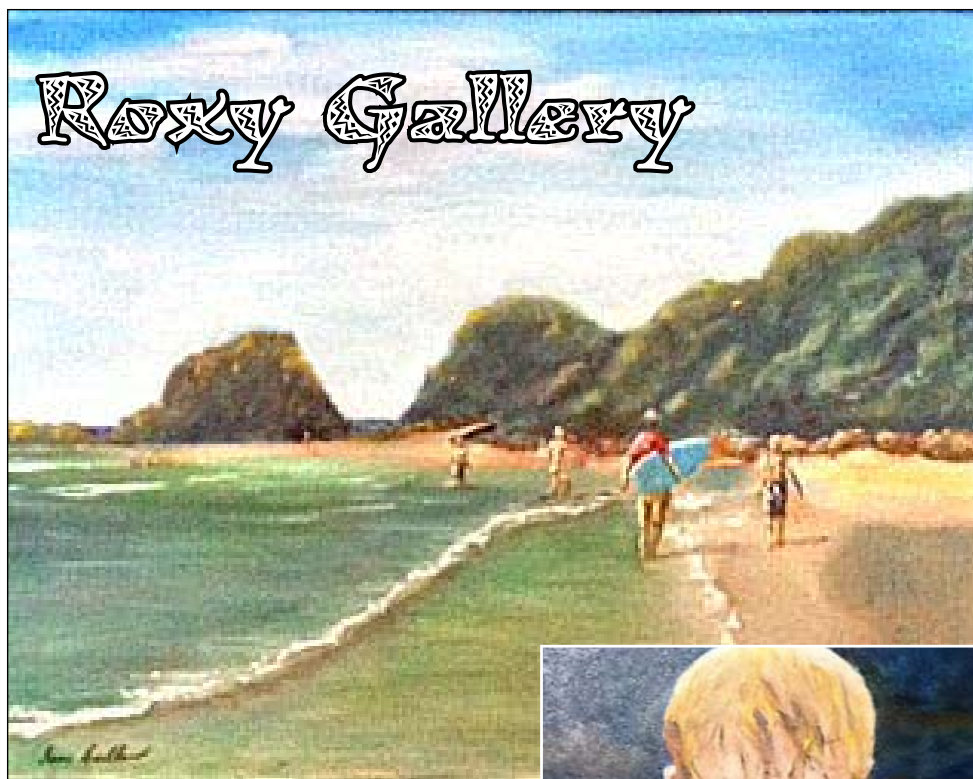
new realm of creativity; collaborating with others on a large canvas which may be likened to musicians having a jam. A joyful experience for practicing artists or novices alike, ArtWomb nurtures artworks as

different artists fuse talents and ideas upon canvas, an inspiring space for all to share in creativity, helping capture the spirit of the Nimbin community and MardiGrass 2015.

Lovely acrylic paints, wonderful fresh music, poetically mardigrass.

A three-hour session from 11am to 2pm will precede the big law reform rally on the Sunday at the Mingle Park Stage. For further information or to ensure your space in the performers program, please call Nadine on 0421-731-642 or visit: www.artwomb.org

Roxy Gallery



'The Pass, Byron Bay' by Ian Cullen

'Healing Art From The Verandah 2' is the title for the second exhibition at the Roxy Gallery Kyogle by Robert Jackson, Susan Jackson, Dot Cullen, Ian Cullen, June Doohan and Elizabeth Brand, six local artists who meet up on the Jackson's veranda regularly to create art.

The group primarily use this time as art therapy, to forget their problems for a day and just be creative amongst friends.

Raking up an accumulated eighty years being involved in art making, this group of friends are all very good judges of art and provide each other with critical appraisal on works being created.

They explore many mediums with each person having their own specialty. Susan works beautifully with colour pencil, Dorothy and June are accomplished watercolourists, Elizabeth is magic with pastels while Ian and Robert work mostly with oil and acrylic paints.

Healing Art From The Verandah 2 will be on exhibition at the Roxy Gallery from 8th April until Saturday 9th May, with the official opening taking place on Saturday 11th April from noon. All are welcome to meet up with the artists on this occasion and discuss their works on show.

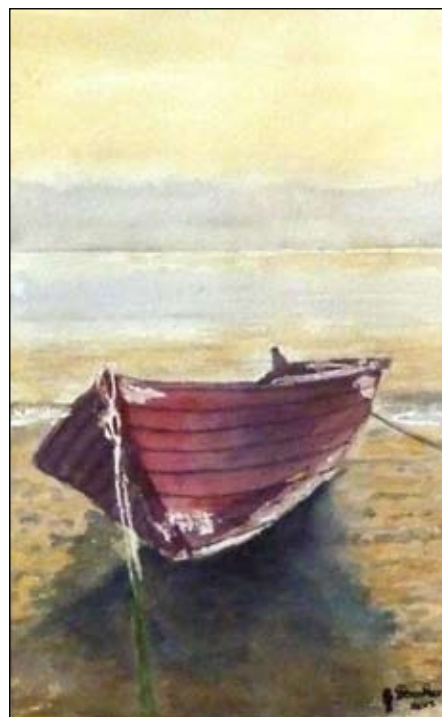


'Heather Orchid' by Bob Jackson

'Red Boat' by June Doohan



'Little Boys Will Be Boys' by Elizabeth Brand



Myfanwy's winter feltmaking workshops

Creative felt bags

Is also a 2-day workshop Saturday 6th June and Saturday 13th June. Make your own perfect bag! Do you like texture, colour, BIG, small, quirky, bright, simple, soft or ? Come design a bag tailor-made for you, by you!

For both of Myfanwy's workshops, new and experienced felt makers and sewers are welcome. Workshops will be held at the Wild Turkey feltmaker's studio on Robb Road Community, Lillian rock, Nimbin. The workshops will run from 9-4 both days.

Tuition will cost a total of \$160 (\$80 a day), plus the cost

of wool used (unless you bring your own, which you are welcome to do!) There is limited space available, so a 50% deposit will be required to hold your position.

Any questions, phone Myfanwy on 6689-1512, or email: myfanwy@von-we.com



Unexpected Vests

Is a 2-day workshop Saturday 9th May and Saturday 16th May. Come be creative and make your very own felt vest. Your favourite colour, style and fit to warm and adorn your body this winter.



Ganja Faeries' exploits in Sydney

by Chantico and Biskit

Nimbin Ganja Faeries (pictured) and the NSW Compassion Club have returned from a triumphant journey to the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras supporting HIV and AIDS patients in their right to access medical cannabis.

This group, among others, has been excluded from the current proposed medical cannabis trials, as only patients with terminal illness have been accepted in the current proposal. We are the voice for those who are too unwell or afraid to speak out.

This year is the fifth time the faeries and Nimbin crews have gone to Sydney for this

amazing event to highlight medical cannabis issues and this year we joined with the NSW Compassion Club.

This year, with the support of the HEMP Embassy, we were able to have accommodation all together, which helped enormously in coordinating the entire crew and float and gave us the opportunity to highlight as a group, the Medical Cannabis Issue.

Thanks, it not only helped organisationally, but for the first time as a group we were able to celebrate our success together after the event, rather than being dispersed to scattered accommodation.

The truck crew took the float to Parliament House while the Faeries made their

way via public transport, educating people and having a good laugh with the NSW cops, as many support the issue, along the way.

When we finally made it to our float, we once again experienced the amazing atmosphere and support of everyone we encountered at the parade, including Sydney Mayor Clover Moore and Greens MLC Lee Rhiannon.

We were dazzled by the incredible theatrical costumes and floats at this event. There were some funny moments as the faeries on their own were confused with the Irish float who seemed happy to adopt us as Ganja Faeries to their own float, which they assured us was totally Irish.

The team worked incredibly



hard making a new float and banners that better reflected the medicinal cannabis issue, rather than the original Big Joint which better reflects recreational use, and produced some fantastic new

costumes for the Sydney crew so we could strut our stuff with pride at the big event. We would like to thank all our supporters and the team that worked tirelessly to create a fabulous float for

the event. Thanks especially to those who anonymously donated and /or bought our ganja faerie t-shirts and booklets, without which our journey may not have been possible.

HEMP HEADLINES

The Mike Baird story: how a Liberal princeling became Australia's most popular politician [The Guardian]

Baird plans no truce in the war on drugs. "I find it remarkable and surprising," he says, "that local school fundraisers become opportunities for recreational drug use amongst my peer group". That drugs are everywhere he interprets not as evidence that the war has failed but the need to throw yet more resources into the fight. More cash will be available for education and rehabilitation and there is the prospect, perhaps, of medical marijuana one day. But there will be no new injecting rooms, continued use of sniffer dogs and a tripling of roadside drug testing.

Cannabis Oil is gathering unstoppable momentum as a world class healer [Medical Marijuana 411]

Truth be told, the healing power of cannabis has just barely been tapped. And, for those who don't need to use cannabis medicinally, why not add it to your diet? The nutritional profile of hemp is

unparalleled. As Dennis Hill writes, "Nature has designed the perfect medicine that fits exactly with our own immune system of receptors and signalling metabolites to provide rapid and complete immune response for systemic integrity and metabolic homeostasis."

Man escapes conviction for driving under influence of drugs after eating hemp seeds [Canberra Times]

A Canberra magistrate has urged ACT lawmakers to test hemp seeds to see if they could trigger drug-driving screening tests used by police on the territory's roads. Magistrate Bernadette Boss made the statement as she declined to convict a Hackett man who tested positive to driving with cannabis in his system. Timothy Pendelton, 33, pleaded guilty in the ACT Magistrates Court to drug driving. He told the court that he had not used cannabis and claimed the positive result had been caused because he had been eating products that contained hemp seeds,

including hemp protein, at the time of the test." I don't smoke drugs," he said and cited a previous Magistrates Court case in which a 37-year-old Canberra woman's drug-drive case had been dismissed because she had been eating gluten-free muesli that contained the seeds. Dr Boss granted the non-conviction order, saying that it was incumbent on the state to prove that the hemp could not trigger the same result as cannabis in a roadside drug test. Mr Pendelton smiled and said "winner" as he left the court.

Marijuana study: Suspending kids for pot smoking may encourage further use [Herald Sun]

Suspending children from school for drug use could actually encourage their classmates to smoke pot, rather than deter them. Data from more than 3000 students from year 7-9 from Victoria and Washington State in the United States was analysed. They found that students who were at schools that were counselled and got abstinence messages about the drug were 50% less likely to smoke pot.

Hempship at MardiGrass

For those of you not familiar with the Earthship design concept, it is an eco-housing concept pioneered by renegade architect Michael Reynolds in Taos, New Mexico USA.

The concept is comprised of six integrated living systems and is traditionally built out of tyres, bottles and cans, set in the semi-arid conditions of the area.

Come and find out more about the concept with local Earthship weirdo, Duuvy Jester (pictured). He will discuss the concept in depth.

Terraeden Biotecture, the collective Duuvy is a part of, has been experimenting with adapting the design



concept to different bioregions.

This being the subtropics as well as being Nimbin, Duuvy will unveil the local adaptation... the Hempship!

Come and hear him speak each day during MardiGrass behind the Hemp Embassy, by the pizza oven at 1pm. Free the weed!

Addiction or Freedom: it's your choice

by David Ward



Descending into the retirement of addiction often represents a striving for unconsciousness, an escape from painful reactions to an unconscious world. The compulsive indulgences of addiction are an effective alternative to accepting the unacceptable.

The substances and behaviours in question are perfectly suited to achieving the unconscious state. Once this state is entered it can be very difficult to re-awaken. The cravings for this dulling of awareness are so powerful as to override all the body's inbuilt mechanisms of protection. Without consciousness, the inner voice of survival is silenced, its only means of communication are through the sensations of pain and discomfort, which are mostly ignored.

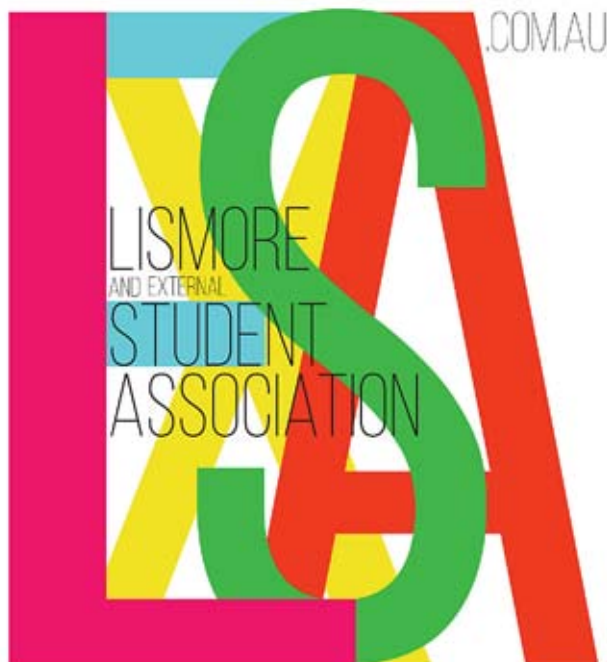
To come out of this retirement phase and allow the body to recover and regenerate, it will be crucial to reinstate the awareness and intuition. Only then will it be possible to accept the seemingly unacceptable and re-engage with all aspects of life. Cravings for escape give way to cravings for engagement, a new life begins and the world is much richer for it. The body rejoices, and through the process of regeneration actually becomes younger and more fully functioning with the passing of time, thereby reversing the aging process.

This is the fountain of youth, freely available to all who are actively caught in addiction.

Through research and personal application, I have developed a method, which if fully applied will excuse you of all unwanted compulsions. To benefit from this method, this chance for a new life, an individual must actively and methodically engage with it, they must believe that it is possible and know that they really want it. It all hinges on this knowing, this being ready, this awakening, these are the magic elements.

The best way for me to spread this opportunity is to actively continue my practices and in so doing be my own best advertisement for my particular brand of freedom, one that really works. The evidence or proof of the benefits through those leading by example is invaluable not only in instilling this magic in others, but also as a powerful assurance, reminder and responsibility to stay on the path themselves.

Thanks to the Vital Choices program, addiction can now be a matter of choice. An uncompromised and unencumbered life is waiting for you, whenever you're ready. Living is believing. Phone David on 0447-820-510



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Speaking up for Elio

Ironically yours

by Dionne May

Helping with the Hemp Food catering, I ducked in and out of the Third Medical Cannabis Forum in Nimbin. The hall was wonderfully decorated and the numbers swelled as the information about cannabis was delivered.

A woman with a pram catches my attention. She looks both serious and incredibly self-contained: that look of a person with a great burden. Her husband stays hovering by her side, their second healthy child in his arms, while their son is propped listlessly in his pram. Elio is his name, and he is three and a half years old and suffering from an unknown form of epilepsy. His eyes are glazed with pharmaceutical drugs that cloud his very existence. When these parents produced a medical cannabis trial form to their doctors, they were met with disapproval and their intentions notified to the police under the medical profession's "duty of care."

"I'm so sorry," I say, giving this brave young mum a much-needed hug. She dissolved into tears in my arms. She just wants to save her child.

"I have blood cancer," a quiet, well-dressed lady in her mid-thirties says to me as I stand next to the information table at the entrance to the room where the first medical cannabis forum in Sydney is still in session.

"I'm so sorry," I reply, but she brushes my sympathy aside with a mere glance of recognition.

"Can cannabis help me?" she continues with serious intent. "My doctor just told me two days ago. I don't even know what blood cancer is and I have to start chemotherapy on Monday. I don't even feel sick." She laughs self-consciously and shrugs her shoulders.

The other ladies at the table and I are speechless, each of us acutely aware of this dreadful reality, the cancer epidemic growing alarmingly in our culture. The fear. Each of us offer our advice. I caution her to the nature of the drugs her doctor is about to inflict of her body and urge her to at least seek a second opinion, research her options.

"Go inside. These doctors speaking today are inspiring," I tell the woman. "I know a family whose son had testicular cancer at 16 and with the aid of cannabis oils, tinctures and cookies he is now cancer-free. I can only share what I have seen to be true," I add.

The lady looks strange. Quickly she says, "I have three children. My eldest boy has just had chemotherapy for that. They removed his testicles."

These memories haunt me. Tears won't help these people. Why does it seem like too few people see the gross injustice and sheer bullshit propaganda that stands between sufferers of cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, aids, post traumatic stress disorder, glaucoma... the list is long.

Children are needlessly suffering here in Australia. They can't speak and their parents and carers are already battling so much. Won't you help Elio gets access to this proven natural ancient healing plant?

Greens MP Dr John Kaye



(pictured, right) attended the Sydney Forum and described our drug laws as irrational. He believes we need to get the law out of cannabis. His experience with a Grandmother ringing him for help for her granddaughter suffering epilepsy, opened his eyes to the situation and clear medical miracle that cannabis is. He urged other politicians who are unsure to "speak to the Mothers! There is no point waiting for five years for clinical trials," he says.

Dr. Andrew Kataralis reminded everyone that science and the art of prescribing cannabis HAS improved. The Endo-Cannabinoid System within the human body is finally being understood and studied. The Hemp seed, one of most nutritious and easily digested foods on the planet, containing protein, essential amino acids and essential fatty acids, is still banned from human consumption in Australia.

Hemp makes more fibre, food, fuel and medicine than any other plant.

One acre of hemp produces 300 gallons of oil, 3 tonnes of protein and 30 tonnes of fibre. As a "smother crop" it is highly efficient in keeping



Australia's voracious weeds at bay and any crop grown after a hemp crop has an increased yield of 20 to 30 per cent.

Mikki Norris, cannabis expert from the US reminded everyone that hemp was the foundation and indeed friend of great civilisations and the growing empires of China, India and Africa. For Muslims, it was the alternative to alcohol. A pacifier preferred over alcohol's volatile side effects. She implored everyone to come out of the cannabis closet. Users of cannabis are usually colourful and caring individuals.

"Help dispel the myths and stereotypes. Help children and pain suffers access this medicine. Reclaim our ability to define who we are," were Mikki's closing remarks.

Thanks to all the speakers and delegates from the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Medical Cannabis Users Association and the Help End Marijuana Prohibition HEMP Party. Everyone who gave of their time and energy for this critical work.

How can you help? The Nimbin MardiGrass is on again from 3rd May, protesting the war on drugs



and the prohibition of cannabis. Nimbin has a new Cannabis Medical Heart which made its first appearance recently in Sydney's MardiGrass. Now the medical heart is ready to beat its healing rhythm in her home town.

This year please come out of the closet. Walk in the parade behind the heart to show your support of medical cannabis to the world. Show Elio and all those other children that you care enough to put your prejudice aside, your fear aside and help make a change.

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

I've been looking for Pipe and can't find him. Most unusual. He knows I have to send in a report on the harvest and he's my best source and happy to co-operate. Of course we play it down and take a few snaps of diseased plants so they are reassured their plant viruses are still alive and the hippies aren't getting rich. The envy in the Force is extremely strong towards stoners and you shouldn't be surprised by it.

How would you like an alarm to rip you out of bed? Hippies don't even own clocks. And the uniform? Half asleep you drag on the uniform and it's like a mask that warps and forces you to become that which you are trained to be. There's no more relaxing and being yourself, whoever that is. After a few years of the morning ritual a new persona takes over and you become just another tool on the workbench at the mercy of the mechanic. And if you think the way

he's fixing the car is insane then you better not mention it, or even let him catch you thinking about it.

Most of us who join the Force are well meaning but naive and by the time I got a mortgage and two kids I was trapped. Applying for Cops, Covert Operations, was the break of my life. I think they expected me to fold after a few years smoking the devils weed but of course the opposite has happened and the jealousy I have to contend with from workmates means they virtually never talk to me. I come in the rear door when I report to the Boss and avoid the oldtimers who know my history.

They've grown fat and soft while I'm thinner and fitter than ever and glowing with health. A lot of it is Pipes orchard and what I've learnt from him about avoiding processed food. And the mountains, walking over the Ranges for hours on end along

barely visible pioneer logging tracks decades overgrown. It's not only wonderland but a fitness camp to boot.

Pipe finally emerged into the clearing where I knew he would eventually.

"I can't show you everything can I," he says with a twinkle.

"I know you don't and fair enough, but I do appreciate our relationship brother."

"Me too," he says and sits on a rock under some tree ferns and almost disappears. We rarely mention how he knows I'm undacuva like no one else does but alone miles from another human it comes up occasionally.

"What pictures have you taken," he asks and I hand him the tiny thumbnail camera. The snaps are from a few ordinary patches carrying their brown spot disease dropped from the chopper a few years back. Pipe says he has it beaten with new strains he's developed but it angers him. Plants are his life and like brothers and sisters to him. He talks to them more than he talks to humans and says they taught him everything he knows.

I really don't know what's true or not amongst what he tells me because of course he's not sure what I pass on, but he tells

me it's a massive harvest. Double double agent stuff can be super stressful as you can imagine but we just don't go there and refuse to worry about it. Who cares anyway? We both know the war on weed is over really, the Gov has been well and truly overgrown and the more they harass the deeper it goes until most Ozweed is indoors now.

But not Pipe's treetop crops that I have sworn to not reveal the secrets of. Hopefully you can work it out for yourself from that. I've been up in the Ranges for two weeks straight and only came down to write this. Pipe won't be down for a month or more. The girls collect the harvest after he's picked and dried it in the caves. I could stay up there forever. After a couple of weeks I noticed my mind started leaving behind the worldly dross and I thought I got a glimpse once or twice of what Pipe calls his....holy emptiness!

HipiLeaks: Force HQ to all LAC. The spread of ice means we can ramp up our WOD* before it's called off. Increase roadside drug testing threefold with particular focus on high unemployment marijuana-using communities for maximum positive results, with big profits to follow from unlicensed drivers. *War On Drugs

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