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by Mookx

"40 years of colourful characters, alternative thinking, performance, and controversial politics." – ABC North Coast

In October 1976, a bunch of "New Settlers" – gardeners, artists, artisans and woodworkers – started a village market where they could exchange and barter goods and services. They set up a handful of stalls in the grounds of the Channon Hall. There was a token clown and a man hand-making wooden shingles. The idea was to create a regular event with a strict ethic of "make it, bake it, or grow it".

The first two markets were hampered severely by rain, but the third one took off, having been better advertised and postered around Lismore and surrounds. It soon outgrew the Hall grounds and moved to the wide open spaces of nearby Coronation Park, starting modestly in one corner and spreading gradually around the whole huge sports field. It now averages 220 stallholders, 80 per cent of whom sell goods that fit that original ethic, plus special interests like water tanks, solar panels, health, yoga, massage, forest care ... the whole alternative spectrum.

40 years later, on 10/10/2016, thousands of people gathered on an overcast day to celebrate and participate in a success story that seems to know no bounds. By midday the car park was filled to overflow and vehicles lined the roadside for what seemed like miles in both directions. Inside the grounds, stalls, tents, people, entertainers, bands, food vendors, buskers, kids (and no dogs) thronged around in numbers never witnessed before, despite the leaden sky and occasional rainy spells that came and went sporadically during the day. In fact, the intermittent rain caused people to seek shelter often, under the colourful array of available canvas and plastic shelters, stalls and tents. You constantly met up with old and new friends, striking up conversations whilst clutching a hot coffee, mango smoothie, sushi, sweetie or giant bratwurst sausage.

At one point we were huddled under a

tarp near the Coffee Oasis as the rain pissed down, sending big shiny silver drops rolling down stall roofs, and little rivers running off, trickling and twinkling as they caught the light on their earthbound journey. The air was filled with the heavenly perfume of White Cedar blossoms (Australia's only deciduous tree). It seems that the Oasis mob had planted this particular tree seven years ago, right next to their regular stall spot. And here it was, appropriately wishing Happy Birthday to us all as only a blossoming tree can do. The tree was dropping its beautiful scented flowers pitter-pattering on the coffee-cafe roof like rain and spreading all around like a carpet of scented snow. It doesn't get more magic than that.



I was sitting there at one stage, taking refuge from the rain and the milling multitudes, coffee in hand and a head full of memories of days gone by. We used to play music there lots. Often with Frog and Brenda, Paul Joseph... and mainly with our Bahloo trio who were so popular there that one year we were booked to play every three months in the main entertainment tent to the purchasing punters. We did calypsos, reggaes, folk and other light, market-appropriate ear candy. Our folksy acoustic music was greatly enhanced by David Hallett's magical marimbas... giving us a unique, exotic, troppo sound that simply made everybody happy. We were once told, "We sell more stuff when you people play!" No wonder they booked us over and over.

The Channon has always had a political face too, being the perfect venue for large gatherings, circles and ceremonies... a place where locals frequently demonstrate solidarity for

movements like anti-CSG, anti-nuclear and the rights of our indigenous people etc. In 1979 we used this monthly opportunity to congregate and build "spiritual credit" for what we knew was a coming battle for the Terania rainforest. I clearly remember being in the middle of the arena inside a giant circle of people with huge political effigies and stilt-walkers looming above and around us. I was sitting on the grass with a very pregnant Shanto and wondering how the burgeoning baby felt with all those hundreds of voices singing and chanting all around him. Must have been amazing! The shit hit the fan at Terania a couple of weeks later and Madhu was born at nearby Coffee Camp, in a one-hour-labour and miraculously blissful birth. No doubt both mother and baby were still vibrating from all that positive juice we cooked up in that circle on that magic day.

I remember Paul Joseph arriving as Santa Clause one December, being mobbed and knocked to the ground by a horde of sugar-craving kids trying to wrench the sack of lollies from him and make off into the woods with the goods. We literally had to drag the little buggers off him before they did him in. So much for "Ho, Ho, Ho!"

It was such a serious mishap (no kidding) that the next year by arrangement, Shanto arrived as Mary Xmas, dressed in green Santa outfit and handing out seedlings to the kids. A very "Channon" solution.

Meanwhile back at the 40th, Benny Zable appeared, freshly returned from the USA, publicising the Navajo Nation Pipeline cause. You usually find him around the legendary Chai Tent, a major colourful fixture at the market. It takes three hours to erect and another three to take it down that night.

It is also the venue for the infamous Channon Drummers who take over as the day winds down and thump the shit out of their various drums, cowbells, clackers and whackers. They bash on into the evening as the market empties, leaving the park glowing in the dark with the energy of yet another successful occurrence of the original, and dare I say the best of local co-operative community ventures! The benchmark of markets all over the country today.

Happy birthday, Channon Market.

Photos by Mookx and Sue Stock





Yet another terrific gathering of medical cannabis healers and users including an excellent legal advice session from Steve Bolt. Next Medication Workshop in Nimbin Hall is on Saturday 21st January, 2017.

Wanting for nothing

Drugwar Diary

by Michael Balderstone

There's a state of mind where you "want for nothing". I've been chasing it for 40-odd years now and keep getting glimpses, but it moves quickly, like mercury. All the religious texts talk about it. As Buddha taught so simply, "All suffering comes from desire" – wanting other than what you feel in the moment.

There's an entry in Captain Cook's diary that says the Aboriginal people are "A happy people who appear to want for nothing." (Banks on the other hand said they were "No more than brutes"). They did have a long time to work it out before us white mongrels turned up not long ago and tipped their culture upside down.

Cannabis can do it for me when it empties my head and sends me into the "Dreaming", as Auntie Viv says. Meditation, yoga, running, other drugs, even alcohol perhaps can settle different people into the moment where they want for nothing. I think it's the state of being we are all searching for. Peace of mind.

Weed has been doing it to humans for millennia, and still is. In the East for centuries cannabis was known as "God's Gift" because it was so proficient at doing exactly that, and I think that's what terrifies our leaders about it. The capitalist material system is really about the opposite. We are encouraged to consume and want more as that's what keeps the whole ball rolling. The Economy is today's primary god, and the hippies who drop out and turn their back on the monopoly game are a threat, and expensive!

The first alternative settlers in Nimbin back in the seventies had no dole and shared food, money and helped each other build gardens and houses etc. Then they started getting the dole and life got... more comfortable? Really?

It's very hard to swim upstream. There's huge pressure to conform and not just from Centrelink, but families and friends very often turn their back when we swim against mainstream. It questions their values and efforts. And

over the top of everything is the wet grey blanket telling you the measure of success is all about how much you are worth in money terms.

All of us who are trying to swim against this tide need encouragement, and Nimbin's population is changing. New settlers are arriving cashed up from the cities, and shares on some hippy communes have skyrocketed in price. How we keep our original values is a challenge.

Smoking pot and living in the "Dreaming" is harder and harder. Many many people I meet have stopped their evening joint and have a whisky instead now, such is the fear of losing one's driving licence. Interesting that car accident statistics in NSW have gone up sharply! Seems like the 100,000 saliva tests the police are doing this year haven't helped, but no doubt it would be waste of time telling that to our police minister Troy Grant, the ex-Dubbo cop who has so much power over our lives.

And now the nonsense we're hearing from the government and media making it sound like weed is finally legal for medical conditions has the HEMP Embassy busy with phone calls from people asking if they bring their doctor's report along, can they get cannabis now it's legal? I don't want to sound ungrateful, but nothing has changed for a couple of million Aussie cannabis users who are still being hunted by police. That seems very unfair to me. Now finally, what we have been saying for decades is being proven true, which is cannabis is a unique medicine. Quite simply that's why it's so popular.

It's time the police stepped out of the shadows and support changing the laws on this herb, which no-one has died from in ten thousand years of use. But they have a major conflict of interest as literally half their work is created by the war on drugs, and easily the majority of their arrests are for pot.

Cannabis is nothing like the other illegal drugs, and this is the place to start winding back the war. Drug use is essentially a health issue, as all the experts who don't have vested interests are saying so clearly.

HEMP HEADLINES

WHO Cannabis Report [Drug Science]

The scheduling under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs assumes a scientific justification. However, cannabis and cannabis resin have never been evaluated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) since it was mandated to review of psychoactive substances in 1948. The last evaluation for the international substance control conventions were therefore when the League of Nations evaluated them in 1924 and 1935. In 80 years since that decision, both the social context of cannabis use and the science of drug dependence have dramatically changed. Yet, because there has never been a formal review, both herbal cannabis and cannabis resin continue to remain under the strictest drug control regime possible. As a result, in the absence of a recent scientific assessment, the continued prohibition of cannabis is completely illegitimate, even though it may be legal.

What do we know about marijuana's medical benefits? Two experts explain the evidence [The Conversation]

Currently 25 states and the District of Columbia have medical cannabis programs. On Nov. 8, Arkansas, Florida and North Dakota will vote on medical cannabis ballot initiatives, while Montana will vote on repealing limitations in its existing law. We have no political position on cannabis legalisation. We study the cannabis plant, also known as marijuana, and its related chemical compounds. Despite claims that cannabis or its extracts relieve all sorts of maladies, the research has been sparse and the results mixed. At the moment, we just don't know enough about cannabis or its elements to judge how effective it is as a medicine. What does the available research suggest about medical cannabis, and why do we know so little about it?

SNP vote in favour of medical cannabis in Scotland [volteface]

Delegates at the SNP Party Conference last week voted overwhelmingly in favour of legalising medical cannabis. They also expressed a desire to have this power devolved to the Scottish Parliament. The motion was put forward by Laura Brennan-Whitefield, who suffers from Multiple Sclerosis and argued that having access to cannabis would help ease her pain. Brennan-Whitefield urged her fellow members to "be the party of compassion and common sense". The main voice of opposition to the motion came from SNP councillor Audrey Doig, who was booed by the delegates for saying "I know that the MS card is being played here, but it's not just MS that it be would be used for" and for suggesting that those with the chronic disease should try a "fitness regime" instead.

Turkey legalises controlled cannabis production in 19 provinces [Independent]

Turkey has legalised cannabis production in 19 provinces in order to crack down on illegal production, according to new regulations by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock. Published in the Official Gazette in late September, "Hemp Cultivation and Control of Regulations" will allow highly-controlled and ministry-sanctioned cannabis production in the selected provinces for medical and scientific purposes. Under the regulations, growers must obtain

permission from the government allowing them to grow the plant for a three-year-period, Turkish newspaper *The Hurriyet* reports. Potential growers must produce a warrant proving they have not been involved in any illegal cannabis production activity or narcotic production or use in the past.

Does weed help you sleep? Probably not [Science Daily]

Marijuana users may believe that frequent use helps them sleep, but that perception has been challenged by a new study. It found that daily marijuana users actually scored higher on the Insomnia Severity Index and on sleep-disturbance measures than those who did not use it daily.

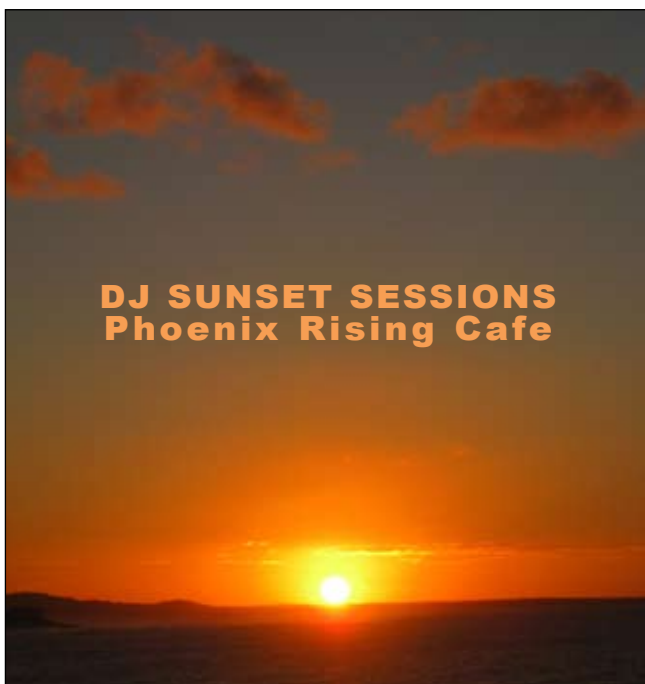
'Commercialization won out': will legal marijuana be the next big tobacco? [The Guardian]

Opinion polls suggest support for legalisation has held up in Colorado where combined sales of recreational and medical cannabis are up by more than 40%, to nearly \$1bn over the past two years. That has forced opponents to focus on a different target: the corporate interests making millions from cannabis. Anti-marijuana groups are painting them as little better than cigarette companies in their pursuit of profit over health, in the hope that will play better with liberal voters. "The marijuana industry is taking pages out of the tobacco industry's playbook because the tobacco industry was so clever and made so much money," said Kevin Sabet, a former Obama administration drug policy adviser who now heads Smart Approaches to Marijuana. "Joe Camel normalised cigarette smoking, especially for young people. The Marlboro man normalised cigarettes for an entire generation. Marijuana wants to follow suit. Normalisation is the cornerstone of that."

Health warnings on drugs shouldn't be provided by police [Huffington Post]

We have seen police in Australia and in the UK send out warnings about dangerous batches of drugs on the streets. Does it strike you as odd that these health warnings are provided by police? The reason this occurs in Australia is because there is no early warning system on drugs in place. An early warning system is one where information on drugs is shared in real time between health workers and officials and then to the public. It doesn't exist here because, in part, that would involve pill testing and providing information to people using those drugs. And we are told this sends the wrong message and therefore can't be considered. Better to fail our kids than compromise our views. And better to let police talk to media and then hope the people using these drugs are watching the mainstream news services. The best option is to inform health networks that include peer networks and websites used by actual users of drugs so they find out quickly what risks exist. The upshot of what we get now are scared parents and minimal impact on the drug market. In contrast, we know that well-informed markets result in better and safer products and keeping consumers informed is quite simply one of the best ways we have to make the drugs safer.

For more Hemp Headlines, go to: hempembassy.net



DJ SUNSET SESSIONS Phoenix Rising Cafe

A recent new addition to the Phoenix Rising Cafe's weekly gigs is the DJ Sunset Sessions, from 4pm to sunset every Saturday.

End your day/start your night with some beats from our wide range of home-grown, local DJ talent; the cafe will also be open for dinner – always a guaranteed quality and flavour sensation, and you can't beat the surrounds for a lazy summer evening.

In November, look out for DJ Ben; Vinyl Richie (from the Antibodies); Dean (from Nim-FM show Vega Vega); and DJ Kieran.

See more at: www.phoenixrisingcafe.net

The Best Little Whorehouse in Ballina

Ballina Players latest production, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, is an entertaining show with a wide range of interesting characters. The most unattractive is Melvin P Thorpe (Dylan Wheeler): larger than life, funny but dangerous.

In the Texas of the 1970s, Thorpe hosts a TV program which specialises in exposés of all kinds – the most recent concerning the number of nuts in peanut bars!

His vanity is amusing but he is also moralistic, hypocritical and self-righteous. He pretends to be shocked but deliberately incites the public and enjoys the results. His campaigns are aimed at maximum reaction and he targets an audience which is susceptible to influence.

For many years, the Chicken Ranch has been run without controversy outside the town

of Gilbert by Miss Mona (Jacquie McCalman). Then suddenly and unexpectedly, Thorpe's accusation comes: "Texas has a Whorehouse in it!"

It echoes through his TV show, accompanied to maximum effect by his singers and dancers and resembling a religious revivalist meeting. Thorpe's latest publicity campaign has begun and he will show no mercy. He is more showman than sincere crusader.

The campaign particularly targets Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd, an old friend of Miss Mona, for supposedly protecting the Chicken Ranch. Rod Ramsay plays the sheriff again as he did in the previous Players production, ten years ago.

The sheriff reacts angrily. Always the showman, Thorpe sets up a street meeting listing his concerns, and films it.



Melvin P Thorpe (Dylan Wheeler) succeeds in provoking Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd (Rod Ramsay).

Unaware that the incident is being filmed, the sheriff twice uses his powers to demand that the road be cleared. He loses his temper and fires his gun, an action that does not improve the situation and plays into Thorpe's hands.

The Chicken Ranch, not usually in the spotlight, is big news and community views are polarised. Thorpe has had success, and he has not finished yet.

Most of the characters in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* were drawn from

real people who existed at the time. Marvin Zindler, the inspiration for Melvin P Thorpe, died in 2007.

Written by Larry L King and Peter Masterson, and directed by Paul Belsham, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* will be staged at the Players Theatre from 18th November to 4th December, Thursdays to Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm. Book on-line at www.ballinaplayers.com.au or at Windrose Travel, 6686-6566 (a booking fee applies).

NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE MOVIES

Films will be showing almost every week at the Nimbin Bush Theatre this Spring and early Summer. Following on from 4th November's screening of 'The Bentley Effect' will be a vast array of cinematic offerings ...

**Friday 11th November, 8pm
Victoria**
(2015, dir. Sebastian Schipper; rated MA/15+) \$10

On Friday 11th November there will be a screening of a German film that has been touted to be a 'masterpiece' in its genre: Sebastian Schipper's 2006 film *Victoria* was filmed in one single continuous take between the hours of 4.30am and 7am in Berlin. The film's subtitle is 'One city. One night. One take.' As the online film review site Rotten Tomatoes states: "Victoria's single-take production is undeniably impressive, but it's also an effective drama in its own right -- and one that juggles its tonal shifts as deftly as its technical complexities." Victoria is a young Spanish woman who is new to Berlin. She works in a café and doesn't speak any German and doesn't yet know anyone in the city. After a late night of dancing she meets several young men who invite her to wander through the city. It's 4am. They hang out sharing drinks and smokes and generally having a good time. One of the men accompanies her when she leaves at daylight to start her waitress job at the café and as events unfurl she becomes involved in a bank heist that *Hollywood Reporter* describes as being a "... kinetic, frenetic, sense-swamping rollercoaster ride ...". The film

has won many awards for its directing, cinematography and sound design. Film dialogue is in German and English.



**Friday 18th November, 8pm
Spear**
(2015, dir. Stephen Page; rated 'M') \$10

At the Bush Theatre on Friday 18th will be the screening of a poignant, utterly beautiful and unique piece of Australian cinema: Artistic Director, Stephen Page's adaptation of his Bangarra Dance Company's own stage performance piece, *Spear* (2015). Young indigenous actor Hunter



Page-Lochard (Stephen Page's son, whom many may know as the young 'Cleverman' from the TV series of the same name) plays the central character of 'Djali' – a young Aboriginal man who is on a journey to understand what it means to become a man and, in particular, a man with

ancient traditions living in a modern world. Djali's journey takes him from grimy Sydney city streets to majestic Australian landscapes such as Sydney Harbour and northeast Arnhem Land, all the while surrounded by the Bangarra dance team as they act out the expression of not only his journey, but that of many indigenous men who have struggled to survive in 'white' Australia. In doing so, the film explores alcoholism, suicide, resilience and celebration of spirit. Whilst mostly peopled by male actors/dancers, there are several female roles, including Yolande Brown as the emotionally nurturing 'Earth Spirit'. This contemporary story told through movement and dance is underscored by an evocative soundtrack composed by Stephen's brother, David Page (who

sadly passed away in April this year). *Spear* is an extraordinary achievement for a first-time feature film, though given the artistic experience of everyone involved in the production, that fact shouldn't be surprising. Even if you were lucky enough to have caught this film on ABC

TV's online *iView* platform, this very special film will be just magic when seen on a large screen and through a professional sound system. Viewers will leave the film feeling deeply moved and uplifted despite some of the serious content.

**Friday 25th November, 8pm
The Fall**
(2006, dir. Tarsem Singh; rated 'MA/15+') \$10

Another stunning visual feast not to miss is Tarsem Singh's acclaimed 'masterpiece' *The Fall*, showing at the Bush Theatre on Friday 25th November. Singh made his name as a professional producer/director of television commercials and music (R.E.M.'s *Losing My Religion* video is an example of his work). Singh made this film in 'piggyback' fashion as he travelled the world for other professional jobs. Filmed in 28 different countries over a period of four years, it is done with such panache (in terms of scene composition and costumes) that no special effects were required to turn it into a dazzling piece of cinema. Apart from the glorious eye-candy offered by *The Fall*, this movie is a celebration of storytelling and how it affects both the tellers and the receivers of stories ...

There are two narrative threads providing overall structure for the film: (1) An injured man, 'Roy' (played by actor Lee Pace), entertains a 6-year-old girl, 'Alexandria' (Catinca Untaru), with a marvelous fantasy story whilst both of them are recovering in a hospital in 1915 Los Angeles (the girl

has a broken arm and the man has been injured in a failed film stunt); and (2) The girl's imagination takes hold as she conjures up his tale in her own mind ... Slowly, the stories merge to reveal twists and tensions that give this film substance to complement its style.



**Friday 2nd December, 8pm
The One Hundred-Foot Journey**
(2014, dir. Lasse Hallström; rated 'PG') \$10

Friday 2nd December will see a fun comedy-drama-foodie romp on-screen with *The One-Hundred Foot Journey*, the tale of a spicy competition between two restaurants in southern France: One, an upscale restaurant with a Michelin-star rating and the other a new traditional Indian eatery. Seasoned actress Helen Mirren stars as 'Madame Mallory', the

established restaurant owner whose nose is put out of joint when the Kadam family sets up shop across the street, one hundred feet away in fact. The Kadams themselves are refugees from India where their own restaurant was destroyed in an election dispute (and the matriarch/head cook Mrs Kadam lost her life). By chance they end up in the same village as Madame Mallory. Much drama ensues as staff of the established restaurant attempt to sabotage the new Indian restaurant, yet through initial antagonisms some more fruitful bonds are formed, including a romance or two and the melding of apparently disparate cuisines. Directed by Lasse Hallström, the film, produced by Stephen Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey, is in English.

Tickets to each film are \$10 and are available online, at the door, or from Phoenix Rising Café next door, which will be open from 5.30pm for dinner. For a relaxed meal before the 8pm film screenings, we suggest that you arrive and order early – you can enjoy the tranquil twilight besides Mulgum Creek, and whilst you wait for your meal, you may even spot a platypus! More info available online at www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events



Theatre strums Indigenous songs at cafe

Corey Theatre is one of Australia's most important emerging indigenous singer songwriters. Originally from Daylesford in Victoria (Jaara Country) and now living in Adelaide, Corey is a singular artist whose extraordinary talent is capable of speaking eloquently to our sense of national identity.

Through both his work as a leading exponent of Guditj-Mara language revival and his deeply personal and genuine approach to songwriting, Corey's songs convey a sense of country and place few other songwriters are capable of. Despite the seriousness of his message, Corey's music is uplifting and upbeat. His music is curious and playful; it keeps love at the core of its message and always advocates the merits of taking a laid back approach to life. In short, this young man is a star on the rise and his music is timely, important and profound.

His debut single *Ngathuk Ngalina* is sung in the Guditj-Mara language and features legendary artist Archie Roach. Corey is a strong believer in the use of



music as a medium for language revival and he actively explores this philosophy through his own artistic expression.

Drawing on community knowledge and historical documents, Corey uses his music as a medium to revive his language, a tongue that has not been spoken fluently for close to a hundred years.

In Corey Theatre's own words, "Recording *Ngathuk Ngalina* was a real honour for me as a musician and songwriter. Archie Roach is one of my all-time favorite artists and one of Australia's most important songwriters and performers.

"Also being an Guditj-Mara man, it was a privilege for me to be able to sing with him. It really was a dream come true; it's an experience I will never forget and one that has strengthened my commitment to music as a medium for language revival and restoration."

Ngathuk Ngalina is the title track from Corey's upcoming full-length debut album due out later this year.

Corey Theatre plays the Phoenix Rising Cafe 6.30pm Saturday 5th November. The cafe will be open from 6pm with a range of delicious meals and drinks. Meal bookings recommended on 6689-1111. BYO permitted.

Music starts at 6.30pm. \$10 entry. More info at: <https://nimbinbushtheatre.com/events>

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Annie & Bern are excited to release their second originals album, *Risk It For A Biscuit*. Its 10 tracks travel an undulating path, encountering transcendence, hope, risk, revelry, grief, rapture, commitment, heartbreak, liberation and discretion.

They're touring by road from their hometown of Melbourne to Brisbane and back, and performing their romantic, vintage-style originals and 1960s covers at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 20th November, 1-4pm.



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Last call for youth film fest entries

The 18th November deadline for entries in the Nimbin Youth Film Festival is rapidly approaching. Once closed, the official judging takes place followed by the Screening and Award Presentation in the Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 3rd December at 2pm. There is over \$2000 in prizes to be won.

The films from local young filmmakers are guaranteed to surprise, enlighten and entertain. They will be screened on a big screen, with a big sound and a big audience. The whole community is invited, and entry is free.

2016 saw the festival grow, thanks to sponsorship from North Coast NSW TAFE. A new section was created for 19 to 24 year olds, with an extra \$600 in prizes plus trophies. This is going to translate into a more diverse range of films in style and genre, and this will make for exciting viewing.

Plus announcing the Nimbin Youth Film Festival's 'Drink Safe' award, sponsored by the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre and the CDAT Team. \$500 will be awarded to the video with the best message for young people on how to reduce the harm of alcohol and reduce use.

The video must be no longer than three minutes in length and can be in any video storytelling format. It could be a video message delivered by one person or a group, a short movie, an advert, animation, it can be humorous and



funny, it can be deadly serious, it could be a song and a music video, or shot in black and white. The most important element of the video is its message and its power to influence and speak to other young people and support them to 'stay safe around alcohol.'

If you have a film, the time to enter is now.

Last year's overall winner Devina Saberi (pictured) had this to say about the competition:

"I was quite hesitant to enter the competition initially. But I had a bit of coaching from my parents, they said go ahead and try, so I thought it was worth a try.

"When I did win the first prize (\$300) and the Sustainability Award (\$200) it was just a big shock, it was really great!

"It was incredible how many opportunities I have had from winning the competition. The screening at the festival, the prize money was something that was really helpful, cause I was able to buy some film equipment from it. Winning was quite encouraging.

"Also as well as that, part of the prize was to go to SAE (film and media college) and take part in a film workshop over a couple of days and that was fully paid for me, and just being able to talk about it, and now my film will be shown at the Nimbin Show. So just things like that, it has been an incredible experience.

"What I love about this competition is it does not matter what you film on, it does not matter the quality of your equipment or anything, it is just about your creativity and really giving it a go."

Watch Devina's 2015 winning film at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxO0SRFmKig

For entry details visit: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com

The Festival is sponsored by Lismore City Council, North Coast TAFE NSW, Nimbin School of Arts, Social Futures, Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, Nimbin Environment Centre, Nimbin Pizza and Trattoria, Nimbin Hills Real Estate, The Green Bank, Nimbin Apothecary, Armonica, and Pot of Gold.

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Mullum Music Festival

by Mel Williamson

It's time for the annual Mullumbimby Music Fest, 17th to 20th November, one of my favourite festivals of the year.

A diversity of fantastic music, variety of fabulous venues, street busking and theatre, comedy, the infamous Orleans style street parade... and its unique warm and relaxed vibe, make it a favourite for both punters and performers alike.

Long time festival fave, Susannah Espie (pictured) will be performing, as well as newly taking over the reins as festival patron, along with a plethora of international and Australian performers, including Eilen Jewell, Nattali Rize, Henry Wagons, Ben Wilson, The Meltdown, Vulgargrad, Skunkhour and many, many more.

If you still haven't made it to a Mullum fest, make this year your year to check it out – you will most definitely not be disappointed; and will probably find yourself adding it to your list of annual 'must-go-to' festivals. Daily to three-day passes are available, camping on hand at the showgrounds.

Find out more at: www.mullummusicfestival.com



Wendy Rules Uki



Wendy Rule returns to Northern NSW in November for one show only, in the beautiful setting of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Uki.

Wild, wise and empowering, Wendy's music draws on her deep love of nature and explores themes of mythology, mystery, and our relationship to the cosmos. With an extraordinary voice that moves from soaring heights to intimate whispers, she invites her listeners on an otherworldly journey.

Wendy is now based in the USA, so this is a rare opportunity to experience this world renowned artist in such a local and intimate space.

Ukitopia (under the auspices of Uki Residents Assoc.) presents Wendy Rule at the Holy Trinity Church, Kyogle Road, Uki, on Thursday 24th November at 7pm, \$20 entry.

NIMBIN DJ CLUB

DJ? Like to dance? For the past six months, Djanbung Gardens has been hosting the monthly Nimbin DJ Club, basically an open-deck night for DJs (and the people who like to dance) – all DJs are welcome to come down and put their name on the board for a set.

Music, lights, open space for fire-twirling... and another side of the diversity of musical talent Nimbin has to offer.

The wonderful Abundance Cafe is open for dinner on the night. DJ Club is held on the fourth Friday of every month, 6 – 11pm. Next night is 25th November at Djanbung Gardens, 74 Cecil Street.



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FRI 11 NOV	DINNER / MOVIE NIGHT	5.30PM
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SUN 13 NOV	CRUISE BROTHERS JAZZ	12.30PM
FRI 18 NOV	DINNER / MOVIE NIGHT	5.30PM
MUSIC DINKUM BOHOS		
SAT 19 NOV	NATHAN BIRD	12.30PM
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SUN 20 NOV	ELENA B. WILLIAMS	12.30PM
FRI 25 NOV	DINNER / MOVIE NIGHT	5.30PM
SAT 26 NOV	JOLANDA MOYLE	12.30PM
SUN 27 NOV	BARKERSVALE BROTHERS	12.30PM
FRI 2 DEC	DINNER / MOVIE NIGHT	5.30PM
MUSIC DINKUM BOHOS		
SAT 3 DEC	INDONESIAN FESTIVAL 11AM-5PM	
INCLUDING GAMELAN CONCERT @ BUSH THEATRE 7PM		
SUN 4 DEC	BEETLE JUICE	12.30PM
FRI 9 DEC	DINNER & LIVE MUSIC:	6PM
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www.phoenixrisingcafe.net/events
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The Channon open mic

by Rayzor

The October 23rd Open Mic was a big hit. Visitors enjoyed a pleasant afternoon on the lawn of The Channon Butterfactory Tavern listening to some great music.

Regular stalwart, Tobi kicked off the afternoon followed by young singer, Serinna returning to Open Mic after some years. Serinna inadvertently set the theme for the afternoon by singing a couple of her original compositions.

Then followed Tony with mostly originals, then Joye with all originals and later Brent maintained the theme, accompanying himself on keyboard.

Glen trotted out his home-made VW hubcap, and his three-stringed 'whatchamacallit' that hadn't had an airing since its debut over a year ago.

Chris sang some familiar songs that turned into 'music trivia' with the audience trying to guess/remember the composers. We had turned full circle with Tobi wrapping up the afternoon with a couple of numbers, backed by Bodhi on drums.

The Channon Open Mic goes on holidays after the November session. So make sure you catch the next one on the 27th, and then we are back on 26th February.

Hope to see you in November.



Bodhi in the engine room and Joye, who played all original songs.



A taste of Indonesia

On Saturday 3rd December, Nimbin will play host to a special Indonesian-flavoured festival at both the Nimbin Bush Theatre and outside in the courtyard and Phoenix Rising Café stage next to Mulgum Creek.

There will be dancers, music, food stalls and more for you to enjoy throughout the day from 11am through to 5pm, followed by a special evening concert inside the Bush Theatre at 7pm. There will be no charge for the daytime portion of the event but the evening concert of Gamelan music and dancing has an entry fee of \$15.

The whole event is being organised and presented by a non-profit Gold Coast-based Indonesian dance troupe Seharum Nusantara. Formed in 2009,

core members of the group perform regularly at festivals and community events throughout Australia and overseas.

Aiming to promote harmony amongst all people by introducing their mother culture to Australians, the group often seeks the support and participation from local Indonesians and multicultural groups wherever they perform. Their events often include tuition and participation for those who are keen to learn some new ways of expression through dance, including the Tari Piring (plate dance), Manuk Dadali (Garuda eagle dance), the Giring-Giring dance (using bamboo poles filled with dry beans), and the Betawi dance.



Then, at 7pm, there will be a beautiful concert of traditional Indonesian music with a mini-Gamelan orchestra inside the Bush Theatre, replete with more dancing. This will be a very special event on the Nimbin calendar, so don't miss it.

Tickets to the evening concert are available via the Bush Theatre's website at: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events and more up-to-date information regarding the whole event can be found on its Facebook event page.

sphinx rock café

3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 www.sphinxrockcafe.com

Sunday Gig Guide

November 1pm start

6th Method

Swampy, acoustic guitar and drum kit driven rock and roots music with a heartland tinge.

13th Jesse Morris Band

Uplifting songs about the earth, travel, change and growth, to inspire love, freedom and kindness.

20th Annie & Bern

Annie & Bern deliver catchy acoustic-pop to lift the heart.

27th Cheynne Murphy

Cheynne Murphy is a folk-alt-country rocker hailing from the neverlands of Byron Bay.

December 4th Willy McElroy & The Immigrants

A fusion of Celtic, Soul and Folk dealing with contemporary struggles of oppression, love and kindness.

Jesse Morris Band return from tour

The Jesse Morris Band are no strangers to the troubadour life, having played over 200 shows over the past year across Australia, New Zealand and Asia, with a string of releases and more touring plans for 2017.

This tour celebrates their latest release the *Freedom* EP which features the title track *Freedom Has No Measure*, a track co-written with a volunteer teacher and co-founder of a small Cambodian island school. Proceeds from this EP go directly back to supporting the school.

Soul-infused gypsy storytelling, acoustic roots and reggae, conscious blues and roots, positive soul music, eclectic beats and good vibrations for people of all ages.

Check out: www.facebook.com/jessemorrisband for more details, or head over to iTunes or bandcamp to download a copy of the new EP.



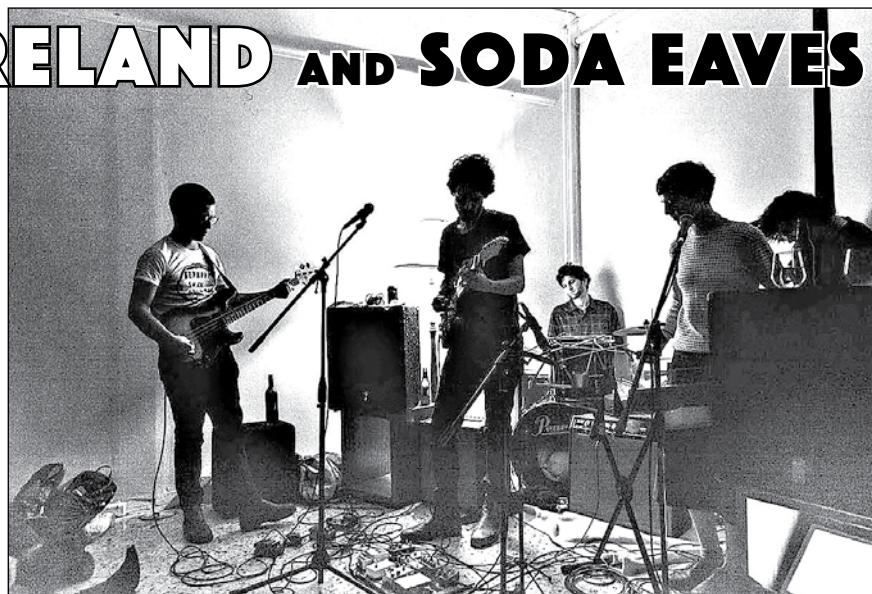
JORDAN IRELAND AND SODA EAVES

Jordan Ireland and Soda Eaves bring their lucid dream-folk explorations to the Phoenix Rising Cafe garden stage 6.30pm Friday 9th December, \$5 entry.

Jordan Ireland is the former frontman of folk collective The Middle East. Under the solo moniker Stolen Violin he released *Temperate Touch, Tropical Tears* in 2013 to critical acclaim.

His latest release, *Jordan Ireland and Purple Orchestra* was listed in *The Guardian* as one of the top ten underground releases in Australia this year and described as, "strings, strumming, barely perceptible percussion, piano and flute... with Ireland's voice murmuring melodies from the deep, languishing in the possibilities of the irresolute. The pastoral psychedelica of early Pink Floyd or the gently soaring vocals of Kishi Bashi are fair comparisons, though Ireland's songs are hazier and more diaphanous."

Jordan Ireland has a highly individual approach to the creation of music and describes his latest creation as encompassing, "the birds, the air and the purple mood" while *The Guardian* used the description "lush baroque pop".



Soda Eaves is the loose musical vision of Melbourne-based poet Jake Core. Soda Eaves has released two LPs: *Like Drapes Either Side* (2013) and *Murray Darling* (2016). Jake has published two collections of poetry, with a third due in the coming months. His music is a lyrical punk-folk that sounds like Leonard Cohen with an added eerie darkness, telling stories with a poetical edge. *The Music* described him as "an artist wholly immersed in his craft. It's hard not

to be drawn into his quietly crowded world."

Together, these ground-breaking artists promise a night of musical entertainment with a cerebral theatrical edge.

The Phoenix Rising cafe will be open from 6pm with a range of delicious meals and drinks. Meal bookings recommended on 6689-1111. BYO permitted. Music starts at 6.30pm. More info at: <https://nimbinbushtheatre.com/events>

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

November Gigs

Friday 4th	7pm	Josh Arent Duo
Saturday 5th	7pm	Adam Hole Band
Sunday 6th	5pm	Matt Stillert
Thursday 10th	7pm	Leszek Karski
Friday 11th	7pm	Sea Bomb
Saturday 12th	7pm	Signals
Sunday 13th	5pm	Wil Massey
Thursday 17th	7pm	Ben Purnell
Friday 18th	7pm	Q
Saturday 19th	7pm	Fish on Fire
Sunday 20th	5pm	Brommers
Thursday 24th	7pm	Surf Report
Friday 25th	7pm	Shem - Bob Marley celebration
Saturday 26th	7pm	Eastwood
Sunday 27th	5pm	Adam Brown

All Gigs are Free of Charge

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Next generation artworks



Exhibition of Nimbin Central School HSC work, featuring visual arts, textiles, ceramics and photography, will be held in the school's MPU this month.

The works, which show a wide range of subjects and techniques, will be available for sale at the exhibition, to be held during school hours on Tuesday and Wednesday, 8th and 9th November, with the opening night on Monday 7th, from 4-6pm.

Entry is by gold coin donation. All welcome.



Hearth & home and first pots off the block

Hearth & Home - The art of the domestic

The current exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery is an interpretation by the artists of those places where we find rest and comfort, or the territory/landscape in which we humans, animals and insects call 'home'. There is a wide range of work with sculpture, tapestry weaving, embroidery, carving, photography and paintings on show until 12th November.

First Pots off the Block

This is a selection of works created by the students who have been making use of the wonderful Blue Knob Ceramic Studio space. All aspects of the studio have been embraced - from hand-building to wheel thrown work, glazing, and the spirit of a shared environment to work in. This will also continue until 12th November.

The Artist's Choice

This annual exhibition allows artists and artisans to contribute any artwork, sculpture or images that they choose to exhibit without the constrictions of a theme to work to. The Opening Night for *The Artist's Choice* will be held on Friday 18th November from 6:30pm, with guest musician Andy



'Some Inherited Treasures' by Deborah Brown

Walker. This evening will be co-ordinated by the members of the Gallery until a new cafe operator commences in January 2017. Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you would like to attend.

Matchbox Magic

A novel idea inspired by a fundraiser held in a community Gallery in Auckland, which featured artworks made on, in and

with matchboxes. Artists and members have been inspired to think outside 'the box' for this fundraiser; and once again we are giving all the artists who exhibit here a chance to contribute and support their community Art Gallery and Hall with their contributions. Each piece will sell for \$20 and is a great opportunity to purchase those small gifts that are often given over the festive season ahead.



Ceramic mosaic tile by Jeff Parr

Artists & Friends Lunch

The next Artists & Friends lunch will be held on Thursday 24th November at 12:30pm. This lunch will be co-ordinated by the members of the Gallery until a new cafe operator commences in January. For more info, please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you would like to attend.

Cafe at Blue Knob Hall Gallery

Joline Shervey finished her time at Cafe Blue Knob at the end of October. We would like to thank her for her contribution here and wish her well in her next adventure in life. The Cafe at the Gallery will be run on a limited basis by members of the Gallery, with Paul Scott (original owner and operator of Sphinx Rock Cafe) helping to co-ordinate this process until new Cafe operators can commence from January 2017.

Serpentine turns 10

The Serpentine is proud to present *Decadence* – the Gallery's 10th birthday exhibition.

Exhibiting artists include: Lindsay Hunt, Leigh Arnold, Michael Clifton, Marilyn Smith, Ken Swan and Theodore Kennett-Raj.

All are invited to join the celebration and vote in the People's Choice Award while perusing the fine works of our region's local artists.

The Official Opening is on Friday 4th November, with Peter Woods, CEO of Arts Northern Rivers, at 8pm. The People's Choice Award will be selected at the end of the exhibition, with a \$200 cash prize to the winner.

Entertainment will be provided by Anthony Smith from Icehouse and Flowers who will be playing tracks from his upcoming solo album, ranging from piano pieces to electronica. Other performing artists include: Otto Nomous, word artist; poetry by local poet Wera Teves; a fire performance by Vivianne; and a dance performance with Jim Hobbs and crew. Also, there will be wine, cheese and cake of course.

Come and celebrate this milestone in our local arts history. Dress 'decadently', as there are prizes for best dressed. So, get ready for our party exhibition to celebrate a decade of creativity.

Thank you and congratulations to all our members – The Serpentine Gallery is 10 years old and going strong.



Art auction success

by Mandie Hale

A huge thank you to all who supported the 7 Sibley Street art auction fundraiser, which raised \$7500.

The artists who donated works and people who gave their pre-loved art are too numerous to be mentioned here, but will be acknowledged on the project's website.

Special thanks to Guy Stewart and Nat Meyer, to Steve Hale, Chibo Mertineit and Chris Harris for their help on the day, and Max Pike for doing such a great job as auctioneer.



TAFE sowing seeds

Lismore TAFE is putting its students' works on show. One of these shows is a premiere screening of a hand-drawn animation by Kerry Negus, titled 'Every Seed'.

The animations contain an environmental message and a little bit of magic. This animation is being shown at 2pm on Tuesday 8th November at The Space gallery, Lismore campus TAFE, Conway Street, Lismore. All welcome.

Gail Spendelove

by Peter Warne

The feature artist at Nimbin Artists Gallery this month is the fused glass artist, Gail Spendelove.

Gail is not one of our regular artists, but has been invited to show her works as a visiting artist. Her fused glass objects immediately hold the attention for their luminous colours and their intriguing designs. Some of the most striking items in her display are the woven glass bowls.

That's right, woven glass. Totally confounding our concepts of material and function, our expectation of flexible strength in woven materials clashes with the delicacy and luminous colours or translucence of finely spun glass.

The story of Gail's career is one of an artist who has constantly pursued her ideal of beauty in the colours, textures and light effects of glass through creating new technical capacities in her work. She started her artist's career with mosaic making, but even before leaving that field she experimented with placing the mosaic pieces at different angles.

After attending a fused mosaics

workshop at the 2009 Mosaic Symposium in Brisbane, and realising the possibilities of fused glass, she became hooked on that medium as her main focus.

Fused glass is an appallingly unforgiving medium, which requires kiln periods of different durations at precisely controlled temperatures. The cooling phase is just as important, similarly requiring control of temperature and duration at each phase.

If that isn't enough, the actual rate at which the temperature is raised or lowered is also critical. Any deviation with any of these elements will produce a different effect. Gail keeps meticulous records of temperatures and timing, explaining that she is constantly learning and at times inventing the techniques from one production to the next.

Gail has not just pursued technique for the sake of technique: rather, her technical pursuits and explorations have been driven by an unfailing search for new forms of aesthetic expression. Apart from a few workshops she has attended, she says there are surprisingly few

training opportunities in fused glass in Australia, with the result that she is largely self-trained, learning these difficult techniques through hard experience and a good measure of trial and error. She also devours any books or other written material she can find on the subject.

Among her works on show at the Gallery through November, you will see a variety of bowls and plates of extraordinary colours and effects. 'Crystal Waters Bowl' is a lattice-work of frosty blues with clear transparent parts, suggesting the short-lived beauty of a creation in ice.

'Chooky Time Clock' presents a chook and its baby chick in a merry melange of bright colours, fused on a rippled glass panel, the raised glass figures giving a sculptured effect. In a wonderful meeting of image and function, this cheery fantasy is also a functioning clock.

These and other examples of Gail Spendelove's uncommon glass creations can be seen at Nimbin Artists Gallery over the next month, so drop in and have a look.



Lattice Bowl, Autumn Colours



Chooky Time Clock

Flynn and Amma plus one



by Ruth Tsitimbini

The month of November at the Roxy Gallery sees a grandmother and grandson and a friend exhibit in 'Flynn & Amma Plus One'.

Flynn Anderson, his grandmother Christine Cameron and family friend Susannah French will exhibit a collection of their recent works from 9th November, running through to 3rd December, with the official opening on Saturday 12th November, 1-3pm.

As a grandmother who loves exploring creative techniques, Christine has inspired her grandson



Flynn and nurtured his creative talents.

Both have an interest in working in pencil and watercolour, producing images through scratch boarding and linocut prints along with exploring new and varied ways to express their interest in creating images through art.

Living in the Northern Rivers region for many years, Christine has engaged in the creative arts industry of this region through her inclusion with different arts organisations by assisting with exhibition installations, managing art prizes and displays.

As a child, Susannah

French was influenced by her grandmother, who was a prolific artist and she has painted, drawn and appreciated art, for as long as she can remember.

Whether it's the genres of landscape, still life or portraiture, Susannah works in a variety of mediums and chooses what best describes the subject being depicted.

This exhibition will be the last show before the Roxy Gallery's annual end of year exhibition highlighting the festive Christmas season.

The gallery is seeking expressions of interest from artists wishing to be a part of *Array of Sunshine*.

Expressions of interest forms can be obtained from the gallery, or by emailing: roxygallery@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

'Not the Roses' linocut by Christine Cameron