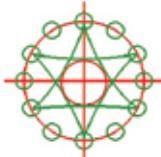


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Not consorting protest at court house

by Michael Balderstone

We have seen many dopey operations in Nimbin over the decades, but there is considerable unrest in the community over the latest Rainbow "Laneboys" raids, with consorting charges and the bail conditions not allowing them to speak to each other or come within 15km of the village.

Everyone who cares about it is encouraged to come and support them and protest at the Lismore Court House from 9am on Monday 5th September when their court cases begin.

The consequences of them not being allowed in the village are increasingly noticeable. Either the police don't know the community very well and are blind to the changes, or don't really care enough and have that much anger towards the hippie village's values. The push is coming from Sydney, or so we are told, and what would they know about life in Nimbin? How would they know how critical these young men are to our village?

But dominating and enabling the whole debacle is the cops' fear of losing their jobs and swallowing the soul destroying mantra of "just following orders". Some of them at least are enjoying a last hard crack before we get legal weed, because it's coming, but many I speak to are privately very frustrated by having to treat cannabis the same as other illegal drugs, like ice.

The war on weed continues to spread suffering and chaos. Prohibition has created a massive criminal indoor hydroponics industry when it could all be grown outdoors organically. And it's created synthetic cannabis which is causing serious psychosis and is making another comeback via online purchasing. Then there are sniffer dogs, modern policing technology and now saliva testing of drivers for even a skerrick of THC in their system, which has driven many away from natural cannabis into using other drugs which aren't tested



for, are undetectable or pass through the body much quicker than pot. We did warn the NSW government prior to introducing saliva testing about changing drug use trends!

"Economic pressures could be behind a dramatic increase in the deaths of experienced male drivers on NSW roads this year," according to the the Centre for Road Safety, I read this week. Now, if the figures had gone the other way, what chance NSW police minister Troy Grant would have been crowing about his saliva drug testing making the difference? The fact is our road tolls are going north and drug use trends have never looked worse.

Many cannabis users have now changed their drug use because of the saliva testing. Especially living in the country, where driving is so critical. I meet people every day now who are stressing about the possibility of being tested and won't risk losing their licence. Or they are still taking the risk and stressing over it. Many are drinking more alcohol, or using other drugs that won't show up on the tests.

Drug use is big business, the biggest on Earth, probably. People in pain spend their last cent, and often more, trying

to rid themselves of pain. We just heard how the refugees on Nauru are all doped up. "They were all in a sedated state... on some sort of sedative, anti-depressant, anti-psychotic or a combination of all of them." Use of anti-depressant drugs has doubled in Australia in the last decade. We are not encouraged to handle pain or find its source so much as blot it out. Hide it, bury it, suppress it, just don't deal with it.

What about learning how to handle it? Cannabis was known as 'God's Gift' in the East for thousands of years, because it helped you sort out your life. It helped you to think, it helped you get detached enough from the emotion to see clearly and work out the way forward. Ironically, we now hear the police force is riddled with PTSD, and no wonder. Weed is excellent for both!

It's time Australia started catching up with other countries who are now finally acting on the new understanding of what a useful medicine cannabis truly is. Come consorting with us against this ignorant assault on our community and the cannabis plant at the Lismore Court House on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th September from 9am. Enough is enough.

Discretion versus discrimination

by Dionne May

Consorting. In legal terms, it is one of the most powerful laws the Australian police have at their disposal. Old consorting laws were amended by the NSW State Government in 2012 to control bkie gangs.

New legislation, the *Crimes Amendment* was brought in with the insertion of various sections. One section, s93x, essentially states that if a person habitually consorts with two convicted offenders on two separate occasions and has been given an official warning, then that person is guilty of an offence and liable to a maximum of three years imprisonment or a fine of \$16,500, or both.

To "consort" under s93x means to "consort" in person by any other means, including by electronic or other form of communication. A convicted offender is a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence. There is no definition in the *Crimes Act 1900* of an indictable offence. *The Criminal Procedure Act 1996* defines "indictable offence" as an offence that may be prosecuted on indictment and includes

common law offences.

Comments made by the then attorney general when the legislation was introduced to parliament included: "It is important to note that the mere fact that the person has met a convicted offender is not in itself enough to establish the offence. There may be a case where a person meets coincidentally convicted persons every day (ie. in a small country town). Coincidence is not consorting."

Lawyer Peter C Proctor, who represented the bkie gangs against consorting laws states: "Consorting legislation is wrong in principle. It has the effect of demonising people and creating a subclass of "convicted offenders" and ostracising them. There is no time limitation applicable as to when the person may have been convicted of the indictable offence. It could be years ago. Further, whether or not a person is charged is purely a "discretionary" matter for the police or should I say "discriminatory".

So now it's Nimbin's time in the consorting spotlight.

It's been two months since the raid in Nimbin that will

see more than a dozen of our local young men face consorting charges in Lismore court house on Sept 5th and 6th. Harsh bail conditions included banning some from their family homes and barring them from their own town and community of Nimbin. Breaching these conditions meant maximum security for some... this court date must have felt like a lifetime in coming. Nimbin has lain bare and unprotected without these lads. Cold winds blow down an empty laneway, that more ruthless runners and confused medicinal cannabis patients wander in unhappy unnatural but necessary alliance. The medicinal cannabis forums continue directly across the road in the town hall while police patrol the lane. The pressure of public and political attention has resulted in one thing only in Nimbin... the ripping apart of our community integrity.

While the argument and very tired war on cannabis persists relentlessly, our local young men face this new tyranny of consorting alone. The powerful bkie gangs with expensive lawyers fought hard and

publicly. The boys have us. We may be a ratbag bunch without degrees and fancy lawyers. We may not wear shoes or have fancy homes and hairstyles. But what we do have in Nimbin is community and a strong sense of morality and ethics.

This consorting law is wrong. It attacks the fibre of our community at the 'discretion' of local police. The acting NSW Ombudsman, Professor John McMillan has released a scathing assessment highlighting exceptionally high levels of police error and children, homeless and Aboriginal people being targeted.

The only voice of opposition we have will be the presence of our community at the court house. Can we intelligently put aside the debate about prohibition and confront the true issue here? I believe all Australians should be outraged by a law that not only separates and divides us, but one that potentially gives police the power to destroy communities. What would you do if your son was facing this charge? If you were facing this charge? Please join Nimbin in our fight for justice.

Exposing the domestic violence industry

The domestic violence industry is at it again. In August, Attorney General George Brandis released new domestic violence guidelines for judges and magistrates, spelling out behaviour which is now to be considered domestic violence in our courts. Included in the list: criticising a partner's appearance or housework skills, threatening to have an affair, or even remaining silent.

This is just the latest ludicrous example of the influence of the powerful domestic violence lobby group, which has such a grip in this country. I've been working for most of this year pulling together evidence about the frightening influence of this huge industry.

I've just published in the *Weekend Australian* the first of a planned series of articles on this worrying development – 'Always Beating Up on Men'. (See the full article at: www.bettinaarndt.com.au/news/help-change-debate)

But here in brief are the main points:

Last year Swedish politician Eva Solberg spoke out about the huge social betrayal of children in her country. The problem? The Swedish government's failed attempts to tackle domestic violence using what she called a "tired gender analysis" that

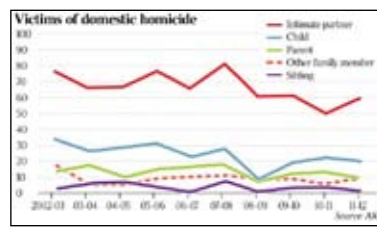
denies women's role in the violence and blames only men.

"Thanks to extensive research we now know with great certainty this breakdown by sex is simply not true," Solberg said.

Australia is still in the grip of that tired gender analysis. We are failing to acknowledge the reality faced by most children in violent homes which is two-way couple violence involving both their parents. Our government is spending hundreds of millions of dollars pouring money into the doomed approach which has so thoroughly failed in Sweden.

But here too, cracks are starting to emerge. Finally key experts are speaking out about the way this important social issue has been distorted by feminist ideology. Their startling conclusions:

- There is no epidemic of domestic violence in Australia, says Don Weatherburn, Director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research;
- A tiny 1.06 % of Australian women experience physical violence from their partners, says the Australian Bureau of Statistics;
- Very few children witnessing their dads terrorising their mothers, but large numbers are being affected



Domestic homicides are decreasing. The number of victims of intimate partner homicide dropped by almost a third (28 per cent) between 1989-90 and 2010-12, according to data supplied by the AIC

- by their parents' two-way couple violence which impacts a third of all couples, says our leading couple expert Professor Kim Halford;
- A huge domestic violence industry is denying this reality by promoting misleading statistics which whitewash women's violence and inflate figures concerning male aggression;
- Legal protection for men falsely accused of violence is eroding as women gain more power to destroy men's lives, says WA Law Reform Commissioner Augusto Zimmerman;
- The real risk factors revealed in evidence-based research – like poverty, alcohol and drug abuse –



by Bettina Arndt

are being ignored while femocrats promote the gender card;

- There's long been no help for male victims and their children, no support, no refuges. Our official policy requires male victims seeking help to be treated as perpetrators; and
 - Vast sums are being spent on ideologically-based batterers' programmes shown to be ineffective, says Deakin University violence prevention expert Professor Peter Miller.
- One in three Australian victims of domestic violence are men. That's very similar to the proportion of males to females committing suicide. Imagine the outcry if the smaller number of female suicides was used

to justify devoting the entire suicide prevention budget to men.

Yet that's exactly what's happening in regard to domestic violence. But finally the real story about domestic violence is starting to be heard. Last week the NSW Government committed to providing \$13 million over four years for Victims Services for male victims of domestic violence. David Leyonhjelm and other cross-bench senators are asking questions about the misuse of government funds on this vital issue.

There was also an amazing segment on Radio National Life Matter's programme recently (www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/male-victims-of-domestic-violence-speak-out/7709502). For the first time the ABC chose to focus not just on female victims but to include wonderful interviews with both a female perpetrator and a male victim of domestic violence.

The funniest aspect of the segment was presenter Ellen Fanning's desperate attempts to downplay the significance of these stories by including carefully chosen statistics emphasizing male violence. She clearly wasn't happy introducing these stories – she sounded as if she had just trod in a pile of doggy doo.

A new way of dealing with conflict

From the very beginning, conflict between people, individually or in groups, has been inevitable. How those individuals or groups choose to deal with that conflict, on the other hand, is entirely optional. Think world wars, think neighbours in conflict over a fence. Principles are the same.

The front page of the August *Nimbin Good Times* hosted two stories of conflict, one between supporters and opponents of a quarry development at Cedar Point, the other over the upcoming car rally around Kyogle.

Before I go on, a couple of declarations. Firstly, I'm new to the area. I have no personal experience of the conflict over the quarry development or the previous motor rally, but I've seen conflict and its divisive impacts in other places. Secondly, while I recognise the legitimacy of rally sports, I'd rather watch the grass grow.

An interesting and important point was made in the quarry development article: "At least some hands were shaken and opposite parties got to eyeball each other for once." All too often people make assumptions about those they disagree with. Stereotypes come to the fore as the focus shifts from the issue to the personal.

In a seminal study of conflict more than 40 years ago, an American sociologist, William Gamson contrasted conventional and rancorous conflict. Gamson portrayed conventional conflict as being where opponents "regard each other as mistaken or as pursuing different but legitimate goals... but not as the representatives of evil forces." Rancorous conflict, however, is where punishment, or its threat, personal vilification and deliberate deceptions are involved.

In rancorous conflict, people throw barbs at one another within the safety of numbers or behind the anonymity of social media. And



by Graeme Gibson

that's before it gets really nasty. We all know what that means.

The Northern Star, 12th August, reported on support for the Kyogle rally on its Facebook page. As a forum for discussion, Facebook supports confirmation bias – the tendency of people to seek out and endorse views that mirror their own opinions. Facebook has little appetite for nuance, weighing up pros and cons.

Interestingly though, one post referred to an academic paper on the tourism value of the World Rally Championship in 2009 and 2011. I'm only guessing, but I doubt many people bothered to read this. For those with a fervent belief that the rally would bring economic benefits with increased tourism and put Kyogle "on the map," the paper makes sobering reading. Yes, there are benefits but they are highly variable, the paper notes.

And the regular benefits of tourism are not found in sports fans who tend to focus on their sport and not cultural or natural attractions. Their spending tends to be related to sports paraphernalia, food, drink and accommodation. Rally sports fans are a particular niche market, the paper notes, being mainly young males unlikely to return to the

destination between events.

Opponents of the rally have, I think, a legitimate gripe that Kyogle Council approved the rally in February and yet there was no notification to the broader community or affected residents until July. Clearly at odds with council's charter, which includes the provision of community leadership. Nor did the proposal trigger council's community engagement policy. A good case for paying closer attention to the level of government closest to the people.

I repeat, I'm new around here with no experience of these issues. But I reckon I could bet the sheep station this is déjà vu for many. Here we go again. What's needed is a new way of doing things, a new way of making community decisions.

An independent community assembly, representative of the various interests with a commitment to diversity might provide the means. The assembly would use the methods of non-violent conflict resolution. Hard at the issue, gentle with the person would be its mantra. Dialogue rather than debate would be the norm, with respectful meetings based on open conversation rather than formal meeting processes. Learning and skill development would be paramount along with support for civic participation as social capital is nurtured. Along the way, fun would be had. People like to be involved when they know their participation is meaningful, which is the opposite of most community consultation sponsored by government or vested interests.

In Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, lawyer Atticus Finch gives his daughter Scout a lesson for life: "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his [sic] point of view, until you climb inside of his [sic] skin and walk around in it." A lesson we could all do well to remember.

Life after the Solar Bonus Scheme

by Ken Jones,
Rainbow Power Company

In December the NSW government will roll back the Solar Bonus Scheme which pays a Feed In Tariff of 60 (or 20) cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) for all electricity generated by your solar panels.

Home solar power generators have been receiving many offers for their power options after December, being told that they need to replace their gross electricity meters with smart or nett meters. They are being offered a FIT of only six to ten cents per kWh, but only for excess electricity into the grid after household needs.

Last month Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre organised an information session covering the pros and cons of electricity feed in tariffs, smart meters versus nett meters, energy efficiency and on grid battery storage.

Over 100 people were welcomed by Natalie Meyer of NNIC. Nimbin's Rainbow Power Company, Enova Energy (the Northern Rivers' community owned electricity retailer, the first and only one in Australia) and local Nimbin electrical contractor Mark Cave provided technical expertise.

Scott Barrett and Melissa MacCourt of Enova and Mark Cave spoke on the technical issues of smart meters versus nett meters. To change from gross to nett metering will cost around \$300. There was some discussion about whether existing gross meters can be rewired to operate as nett meters. Since the info session we have found out that yes, they can. Essential Energy will soon be releasing information regarding how consumers can have their existing gross meters re-wired to become nett meters at a cost of around \$100-\$150.

Smart nett meters (being offered free of charge by most electricity retailers) are read remotely, so they do not require a meter reader to visit your home, but usually cost about

\$90 a year to be read remotely. Smart meters essentially contain a mobile phone to transmit information about your power usage. They can turn your power off remotely, for example, in a bushfire situation. Not good if you have an electric fire fighting pump. They don't work without mobile reception. Most of the benefits of smart meters seem to flow to the electricity retailers rather than the consumers.

Melissa outlined Enova's offerings pre and post Solar Bonus Scheme and Guy Stewart from RPC demonstrated inexpensive technologies that can save energy, money and carbon emissions around the home.

All of the speakers had plenty to say about on-grid battery storage. Guy gave the meeting a sneak preview of an RPC on line battery sizing tool nearing completion. This tool will help RPC to maximise the economic benefit of installing on-grid battery storage. He also outlined the many battery technologies available. The lithium-based technologies, such as Tesla, dominate the marketplace and should continue to do so for some time.

Rob Barry from RPC outlined the cost of home storage batteries. The consensus was that on-grid battery storage will become a real force in the renewable energy marketplace over the next couple of years.

The take home messages were:

- Decide whether to rewire your existing meter, get a nett/smart meter offered by your retailer, or have an electrician supply a new nett (non-smart) meter, preferably after December so you don't lose your 60/20 cent FIT;
- Increase energy efficiency around the home (there is a lot of inexpensive technology available);
- Investigate additional panels and/or battery storage; and
- Shop around for a good deal on your electricity.

For more information go to NNIC Facebook page: www.rpc.com.au; www.enovaenergy.com.au

The show must go on

by Jeni Allenby

This year's Byron Writers Festival program was an interesting one. I still miss how its strong links with the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival once resulted in unique sessions not found at any other Australian writers festival. However, the fact the festival had invited Ubud friend Rio Helmi this year was a good sign.

But how to attend the event when finances were tight? Volunteer positions were long gone, I thought. But when I checked the website I saw they were still looking for volunteers to help with site set-up.

They are a very nice bunch at the Byron Writers Festival. In return for day passes to the festival, I was given the position of Tape Person, assisting the volunteer team setting up the festival's car park on the Sunday before the festival, and helping put up hessian screens around the festival site on Monday.

The weather was perfect and the site looked glorious, the festival's white marquees gleaming in the sunshine against the green grass and blue sky. Brightly coloured banners and flags fluttered overhead as local artists arrived to install their artworks. Rain was impossible to imagine...

Until a very severe storm hit on Wednesday night. Winds of up to 113kph ripped through the festival site. Rain flooded it so heavily that festival founder Chris Hanley described seeing all the white chairs in the marquees floating. Most of

the hessian screens were torn away, but that was nothing compared to the loss of two marquees.

This is not the first time the festival has faced severe unseasonable weather. In 2008 one day of the festival was cancelled. As Chris Hanley noted at the time, "I started this event and we've never had to cancel anything, we've never had the site turning into the bog that it is, it's unprecedented. We need four or five hours with no rain and most of the water will drain. We've got gravel ordered, crews of people and pumps, it's all sitting there ready."

This meant when the storm hit on Wednesday, the Byron Writers Festival team knew what needed doing. As the festival website later reported, "After an emergency meeting on Thursday morning, Chris Hanley and Director Edwina Johnson galvanised the Festival team, an army of volunteers and several local companies, who worked around the clock to rebuild the site and pump out water in order for the Festival to open the gates to sell-out crowds on Friday morning."

I was part of those crowds on Friday morning. The site was still draining – my gumboots didn't come off for three days. As the festival website later observed:

"In spite of less than perfect weather, the Festival enjoyed its largest crowds ever with a 14% increase in box office takings and over 70,000 individual attendances throughout the entire Festival

period that included workshops, fifteen off-site Feature Events and four days of programming dedicated to schools that reached more than 4000 students. Over 150 celebrated international and Australian writers, thinkers and commentators featured in 123 on-site sessions at Australia's largest regional literary festival."

Event highlights for me included the 'Indigenous lives through women's eyes' session with Delta Kay and Tara June Winch, chaired by Melissa Lucashenko; the launch of Arts Northern Rivers' Our Way stories / The Elders Book Project; 'Indian women tell their stories' with Rosalyn Dmello, Rajathi Salma and Sharanya Manivannan chaired by Catriona Mitchell who edited the wonderful *Walking towards ourselves: Indian women tell their stories*; 'Canberra uncut' with Sarah Ferguson, Nikki Savva and Paddy Manning chaired by Matthew Condon; and 'Documentary Photography: societies in transition' with Rio Helmi, Tim Page and Ben Bohane chaired by Antony Funnell, which was recorded for broadcast on Radio National.

Rio and Ben also took part in the 'Uneasy nations' session with David Manne, chaired by Ben Knight.



This was the only session where Rio was able to talk about Indonesia. And he did so brilliantly. While I continue to mourn the loss of contemporary Indonesian culture / writers at the Byron Writers Festival, at least Rio filled that gap this year with his passionate eloquence.

The art on-site was well curated and installed, often exhibiting a whimsical nature that appealed to festival visitors, such as Hellen Maughan's *Love a duck* and Peter Neilson's *Oh yes I can flying pig*. It was wonderful to finally meet Rod Johnson, whose work I've admired for years. It turned out he's also a regular Byron Writers Festival carpark set-up volunteer, so we

worked together on Sunday. He displayed several of his exquisite sandstone bears at the festival.

As Peter Warne notes in his article about Rod's art in the *Nimbin GoodTimes* (p.15 May 2016), "(Rod) spent time with the indigenous people of North America, and they gave him the bear totem, which he has since identified with, referring to their quiet, slow way of moving through the landscape while embodying an immense, primeval strength". I watched many visitors interact with those bears during the festival, and was not at all surprised to find they had all sold by the end.

On Sunday afternoon, the weather finally cleared. When it was all over, festival director Edwina Johnson praised all involved: "It took a gargantuan effort to open the 20th Byron Writers Festival and we'd like to thank the Festival team, the volunteers, our partners and everyone in the community who all went above and beyond to make it happen."

I'm looking forward to next year already.



The newly-established Balanced Earth Energy School at Rosebank is a place where the students have the talent and potential for... Energy, in an environment that immerses them in the necessary ingredients to focus these powers.

The BE Energy School is a focussed learning and 'living' experience set on an organic food, fruit and nut property of 30 acres with learning spaces for facilitated sessions including meditation, yoga and... magic! It is in a magical part of the hinterland, with a little waterfall and creek and plenty of places to hide away and master ones Energy.

Kirsten Eve (pictured), founder and Master Facilitator said, "With people awakening to heightened levels of awareness, the Energy school is a place for those open and ready to harness their powers, to retreat and be coached or supported by Masters of Energy of different topics."

"This is an Energy school that honours the ancient and the new sciences proving we are far more than our mind and body. It's time to bring together the awakening ones, to BE the change we wish to see in the world.

The School is modelled on Findhorn, Scotland (www.findhorn.org), a 50-year successful ecovillage and learning place which has thousands of visitors and learners each year.

Balanced Earth is a foundation also, and fees for the school are on a 3-tier basis. Like Findhorn, the School offers free bursary or discounted fees as well as bartering/exchange. The founders have over 20 years' qualifications and learning in many methodologies including Findhorn.

Next Four-day Advanced Retreat: 7th-10th September in Rosebank. For more information see: www.balancedearth.org.au/eco-retreats/be-energy-school

New single ahead of Lismore gig

GANGgajang (pictured) has been part of the Australian pub music landscape since 1984. The band's self-titled debut album dropped in 1985 and contained the hits 'Gimme Some Lovin', 'Giver of Life', 'House of Cards', 'The Bigger They Are' and the perennial 'Sounds Of Then (This Is Australia)'.

These singles climbed the charts to become part of the music revolution reinventing the Australian sound: a sound based on our stories, our places. GANGgajang is now regarded as one of the all-time classic Australian albums, while *Sounds Of Then* has reached near mythical status and continues to connect with new generations of Australian music fans to this day.

Late last year, the band's remaining four original members Mark 'Cal' Callaghan, Graham 'Buzz' Bidstrup, Geoff Stapleton and Robbie James, along with bassist Peter Willersdorf, returned to the studio for the first time since the passing of original member, bass player, Chris Bailey.

In March, they released the first new single, 'Circles In The Sand', taking us back to where it all began. It reminds us once again of who we are, where we live



– and in doing so offers a glimpse of a different, more inclusive future. The song's striking music video was shot in front of majestic Uluru. In doing so, they are the first band to be given permission by the traditional landowners to shoot a music performance video at the sacred site.

Their current single, *Not Waiting Around*, has just been released this week, in the lead up to the band's Spring/Summer *Not Waiting Around* Tour. The

two singles, 'Circles In The Sand' and 'Not Waiting Around' were added to a remastered release of the band's 1985 debut album *GANGgajang*, titled *GANGgajang Remastered*, available for digital download and on CD from the band's website and Facebook page.

The band is planning to return to the studio to finish recording the remaining tracks for a new album.

Support act for the Lismore gig is Antibodies,

an alternative power pop/rock group that tracks talk of life on the North Coast, delivered raw with attitude and a live punk rock edge. Their debut nine-track self-titled CD *Antibodies* is out now – recorded at Bush Tracks Studio in Nimbin.

Catch GANGgajang with Antibodies on Friday 9th September, 7.30-11.30pm at Lismore City Hall. 18+ gig. Tickets \$30 in advance, on sale now from NORPA Box Office, or \$35 at the door if available. No concessions.

THE SECOND GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



recently by the *Tweed Valley Weekly* as encompassing "great professionalism from two experienced performers – dressed up as farcical satire, slapstick comedy, circus trickery and a huge love of the ridiculous. Kids love this show. Adults love this show. Catch it if you can!"

Between them, these well known performers have pretty much covered most of Australia, from doing aerial theatre for the National Maritime celebrations on Sydney Harbour, to every circus and festival in between. Bailey is a talented narrative writer with a shambolic comedic air when he performs that children just love. Michele Thomas is the gymnast and aerial queen with her own set of endearing clowning skills.

Bailey opens the show as one of his most famous characters – Lorenzo the Ludicrous Lion Tamer, with a snappy repartee which immediately engages audiences. Lorenzo tells the tale of the blossoming love between two refugees in 1920's Paris. This epic fable tells how his parents fell in love and how he came into the world as a result, straight into the clutches of the circus. Thomas and Bailey act out various roles in this story, utilising pathos to great slapstick comedy.

As the show unfolds, you meet a host of zany characters, from Fabiolla (Lorenzo's wife) to a lion, a weight-lifter and a fan dancer that is tamed by Superhero Captain Chicken. Bailey plays acrobatically clumsy and inept to Thomas's great physical agility. Whether on a rope, a lyra, or acrobatically pouncing on Bailey, (tying up his legs, tripping him up, stealing his hat) she is a physical powerhouse with a cute and cheeky grin. Her dramatic poise is a great juxtaposition to Bailey's bumbling jester. They repeatedly build up the dramatic tension that resolves with a great belly laugh every time.

The Second Greatest Show on Earth will commence at 11am and goes for an hour. After a break for lunch there will be a clowning workshop from 1pm - 2pm, which is an opportunity for children to discover and explore their own clowning potential under the watchful eye of two entertaining and experienced facilitators.

The show is only \$5 per ticket, and those who wish to follow it up with the workshop need only pay an extra \$5.

This is a great opportunity for children to watch and also participate in the ageless art of clowning and circus performance. It will be a



magical day out at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open for lunch with a wide range of tasty, healthy and kid-friendly meal options plus superb locally sourced coffees, teas and treats, all situated in the colourful gardens by the beautiful Mulgum Creek. Don't miss this fabulous show!

The show that recently wowed Woodfordia comes to the Nimbin Bush Theatre for a special school holiday show and workshop on Thursday 6th October at 11am \$5 and the Clowning workshop is at 1pm \$5.

The Second Greatest Show on Earth is a circus show for children and adults alike. Well-loved local circus performers Thomas Bailey and Michele Thomas offer this hilarious and engaging show, reviewed

The Bean Project

Emerging from the forests of Belgrave, Melbourne comes a vibrant brass-clad acoustic duo – The Bean Project. Featuring acoustic guitar and French horn, The Bean Project encompasses the territory of folk, jazz and singer-songwriter genres, showcasing a unique and quirky style of original material that is musically beautiful and interesting in equal measures.



gorgeous vocal tone laid along side Turcato's lyrical French Horn versatility.

The duo's influences stretch from The Cat Empire to Johnny Cash, and their sound has been most aptly described as "the odd marriage of cake, city and color and Kings of Convenience."

The Phoenix Rising Cafe has an outdoor stage situated in gorgeous riverside gardens, creating a relaxed ambience within the confines of the Nimbin Bush Theatre complex.

Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open from 6pm for dinner and drinks for a 6.30pm show. BYO alcohol is permitted.

Having won the 2014/15 FReeZA Push Start Battle of the Bands, The Bean Project are steadily making waves around Melbourne, and now it is Nimbin's turn to experience their music.

After playing together in various acts, Ben Langdon and Bryce Turcato focused their attention on creating music that was raw and untreated, forming The Bean Project at the beginning of 2014. With Ben at the helm of songwriting, the project presented a simple yet musically diverse style of original material, complemented by Langton's

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Col Finley	Jody & Innes	Sam Newton
Dana Gehrman	John Krsulja	Sarah Booker
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SUN 11 SEPT	CRUISE BROTHERS JAZZ	12.30PM
FRI 16 SEPT	THE BEAN PROJECT	5.30PM
17 & 18 SEPT	NIMBIN ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL	12.30PM
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THURS 29 SEPT	KIDS' FILM @ THEATRE	12.30PM
SAT 1 OCT	SMILES & INK	12.30PM
SUN 2 OCT	WIL MASSEY	12.30PM
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Bush Theatre films

Friday 9th September, 7.30pm
20,000 Days on Earth
(2014, dir. Iain Forsyth & Jane Pollard, rated MA/15+)

From two visual artists who have pioneered an enigmatic marriage between rock music and cinema comes this intimate 2014 portrait of international cultural icon/Oz rock legend, Nick Cave – musician/writer/actor. Cave has built a career across several continents since fronting post-punk band The Birthday Party in 1970/80's Melbourne and consolidating his career as Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds in Europe and England as well as Australia.

20,000 Days on Earth's narrative unfolds within a fictitious 24-hour period of the artist's life, during the recording of his *Push the Sky Away* album, and in doing so explores the stories that make up a life: it uses 'fiction' as a vehicle to present a poetic form of biographical documentary, as well as allowing Cave to convey how he relates to his own 'creative process' and his various muses.



The title of the film comes from Cave's estimation of how many days that he had been alive at the time of its creation. Various characters from Cave's real life cameo in the film, including Kylie Minogue, ex-Bad Seed Blixa Bargeld, long-time friend/actor Ray Winstone,

and musical collaborator Warren Ellis (i.e. current Bad Seeds member and Dirty Three frontman). Ellis also wrote and produced the score for the movie and Cave collaborated with the directors on the script.

Cave's youngest children, twin sons, also appear in the film. Sadly, one of them died from a fatal cliff fall a year later.

This screening of *20,000 Days* comes on the same day as the latest musical/cinematic debut by Cave – his new album *Skeleton Key* is released worldwide on 9th September and an accompanying film, *Once More With Feeling*, streamed live via various cinema venues the night before – the first works released by Cave since his son's death. This film would be a good one to see before you check out these new works.

Friday 23rd September, 7.30pm
Lars and the Real Girl
(2007, dir. Craig Gillespie, rated PG)

From tragedy to comedy, but still dealing with the depths and complexities of the human psyche, comes the gentle American-Canadian comedy about a man who's in love with a sex toy!

Lars Lindstrom (Ryan Gosling) is a sweet and socially inept young man who surprises his family and townsfolk with the announcement of his new relationship with Bianca – apparently a wheelchair-bound missionary of Brazilian-Danish descent, but in reality she's an anatomically correct sex doll.

Lars' family is encouraged by a local doctor/psychologist to treat Lars' new relationship as being real and 'normal' as a means of therapy, whilst the doctor continues to see him regularly to review his progress. Gradually, the film shows us why Lars



is so fearful of intimacy and, through his proxy relationship with the doll, he is given an opportunity to grow beyond those fears – to say any more would spoil the ending!

Lars and the Real Girl won an Oscar for 'Best Original Screenplay', several awards for Gosling's acting, and whilst one wouldn't expect that a film featuring a sex doll would be rated PG, the film has been widely touted by reviewers and teachers as being a fine example for modeling tolerance of 'difference' in human relationships.

Thursday 29th September, 12.30pm
Spirited Away
(2001, dir. Hayao Miyazaki, rated PG)

As September draws to an end, the NSW school hols begin! This means there'll be several children's events at the Bush Theatre, starting with the beautiful hand-drawn anime film, *Spirited Away* (a Thursday matinee during the first week of the holidays).

Listed in the 'Top 10' of the British Film Institute's Top 50 Films For Children Under the Age of 14, this could be a 'must see' film for people of any age.

This fantasy/mystery by revered Japanese filmmaker

Hayao Miyazaki features witches, magic, dragons, stinky spirits and other curious creatures. These are the characters that 10-year-old Chihiro meets when she and her family are on a road trip in the country. She finds herself on the wrong side of the river as night falls and she becomes trapped in a mysterious spirit world.

She also discovers that her parents have been turned into pigs and must summon all of her courage to save them and to find a way back to the world of mere mortals. It is a twisted plot that is majestic to behold for its enthralling beauty.

\$10 tix to each film are available at the door or online at: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events The theatre's café (Phoenix Rising Café) serves dinner, drinks and desserts on Movie Nights from 5.30pm before the movie starts, with cuppas and sweets during intermission. The Café is open throughout the day, so parents are welcome to enjoy the garden and water views while their kids are inside the theatre.

For further info and tix, go to: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events or call Venue Manager, David Hyett on (02) 6689-0095 or 0418-824-598.



Nimbin Flix presents...



The movie for September is an older classic called *Noises Off* (1992). This film is based on a play, and is absolutely hilarious.

Movie-goers should prepare for a great night out of laughs and silliness as Michael Caine tries to direct a play with various personalities, including his own, and their chaotic lives behind the scenes.

The movie starts at 6.30pm (doors open at 6pm) on Saturday night, 10th September at Birth and Beyond. Food and drink available for purchase, as usual.

Turn your pre-loved art into re-loved art

Funds are needed to save the old house at 7 Sibley Street, and to assist this project, a fundraising art auction event will be held in October.

The auction will include not only works donated by practising artists, but art that is donated from the collections of people in the community.

Do you have a work of art or craft that is in a cupboard rather than on your wall? Is there a piece that you once loved but is no longer to your taste? Your pre-loved art will help this inspiring project, as well as passing the artwork on to someone else who will love it.

Anyone who would like to donate their pre-loved art, or any artists who could donate a piece of their own work, please contact Mandie Hale at: halegarden@yahoo.com.au Thank you!

The Art Auction will be held on Saturday 15th October at Nimbin Town Hall, open for viewing 10am, auction starts at 1130am. Art lovers save the date! Promising a great variety of new and pre-loved artworks for all budgets ...and helping 7 Sibley Street at the same time.

For further info on the 7 Sibley Street project, check out the website: www.sevenonsibley.com

SHUNYA AND FRIENDS

When Shunya walked into the Nimbin Art Gallery and saw Darmin Cameron's painting *A Parallel World*, he knew he had found the perfect cover image for his new album *Rescue Flares*.

The finished CD – another elegant and spacious collection of songs, grooves and chants with singer Amrita Devi – has been well-received locally and in

the UK, where the indie singer-songwriter and producer Shunya, formerly of Light Activation and The Blue Aeroplanes, has just completed a solo tour.

On Sunday 2nd October at the Sphinx Rock Café, you can enjoy a trio line-up with Shunya on guitar and vocals, Amrita on harp and vocals, and Madir on guitar and cahn. 1pm start.



Elena B Williams

Elena's new album will be out in November, featuring musicians from the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra along with some of Byron Bay's best artists. Elena will be playing at Pheonix Rising Cafe on Sunday 4th September, 12.30pm and Sphinx Rock Cafe, Mt Burrell Sunday 11th September, 1pm.

Bart Stenhouse at Sphinxy

The Sphinx Rock Cafe is presenting an exciting rare solo performance by local jazz, flamenco and world multi-instrumentalist Bart Stenhouse.

Bart performed as a guest artist at the India International Guitar Festival in Calcutta in January this year.

He performs on electric and flamenco guitars as well as electric mandolin (played in the South Indian style) and plays a combination of original compositions (which combine jazz, North Indian and flamenco influences), re-arranged jazz standards, traditional flamenco and classical guitar pieces. A truly unique mix!

Bart performs at the Sphinx Rock Cafe, Mt Burrell at 1pm on Sunday 18th September. Visit: www.bartstenhouse.com and: www.sphinxrockcafe.com for more details.



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

Sunday Gig Guide

September 1pm start

4th Craig Atkins
Craig can gain inspiration from anything and everything, it's all sound.

11th Elena B Williams
"Elena B is an open vessel and her spirit is aligned to sing in the collective consciousness of the moment – moment by moment – allowing for deep and powerful moments to be born in song!" – Toni Childs

18th Bart Stenhouse
Bart is a newly local musician, now based in the Jiggi Valley, who performs original instrumental compositions that blend Flamenco, Indian Classical and Jazz music styles into an engaging and interesting mix

25th Luke Vassella
A full time musician since 1998, Luke is well known on the NSW North Coast and beyond as an inspirational performer

Songsters shine at The Channon

by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

Once again the weather gods smiled upon us for our August Open Mic at The Channon.

By 2pm it was looking like it may have been a non-event with just myself and a first-timer, Russell and a handful of audience folk. But, in fine Channon style, the musos started to trickle in.

The first couple of performers were seemingly playing to a few of the 'faithful', however the veranda was packed with diners who I am sure were enjoying the dinner music even though most could not see the stage. We had a steady flow of performances throughout the afternoon and

eventually a healthy number of listeners.

Apart from the regular performers, Tom's daughter sang some nice harmonies with him and accompanied on mandolin – her first public performance. A couple of French visitors were the other out-of-towners who were well received.

Songstress Leona travelled from Iluka for her second appearance at our Open Mic and nicely rounded off the afternoon with some original songs with backing from Glen and yours truly.

The September Open Mic falls on the 25th of the month from 2pm, and then from October we start at 1pm.



Visitors Jaquie, Deb & French

I do hope you can join us for our first outing in spring 2016 – it's a lot of fun with all levels of proficiency and heaps of enthusiasm – doing our best to support live local music.

Yours sonorously.

Luke Vassella

Luke Vassella returns to play at wonderful Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 25th September with his ninth CD album, *In a North Coast Town*.

The album is a celebration of people and places around the North Coast. Following the album's release to a capacity audience at Tullera Hall in June, Luke recently completed a successful six-week tour along the Queensland coast.

Music writer Bernie Howitt has written: "In a North Coast Town captures the essence of country living. It's as pure an Australian album as you can get; a singer, a guitar, and some great songs. If you ever travelled through or lived on the NSW North Coast, this album will resonate."



Spring Equinox

Spring is a time to celebrate, a time of fertility and creation, a time to dance and sing.

This natural quarterly celebration is dictated by the movement of the Earth and Sun and provides us with an opportunity to participate in ceremony and an opportunity to connect with nature, each other and the now that is happening constantly.

Celebrate the Spring Equinox at Hanging Rock Hall on Saturday 24th September, 3pm 'til late, entry by donation.

Join with us as we once again connect with our roots and the hidden or forgotten past. This is a family event with performance and ceremony, and delicious food for sharing will be available.

The performance will be a wonderful mixture of Goddess identities interwoven with song from a male choir. The goddesses will showcase



the many archetypes of the sometimes denied – however never forgotten – spirit and wisdom of the world as we humans dance through time and space as children of the transformation.

The performance acknowledges the Eternal Mother in her many forms.... Mahimata, Tiamat, Isis and Sophia.

There will be garland making from 3pm, Kirtan 4pm, Circle Dance 5pm, Performance 5.30pm, Music Jam into the night. Bring flowers for the garlands and archway, bring an instrument for the jam, bring voice to sing, bring feet to dance

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September Gigs

Friday 2nd	7pm	Mecha Mecha
Saturday 3rd	7pm	Kellie Gang
Sunday 4th	5pm	Slim Pickens
Thursday 8th	7pm	Brommers
Friday 9th	7pm	Run Dos Run
Saturday 10th	7pm	Romaniacs
Sunday 11th	5pm	Bill Jacobi
Thursday 15th	7pm	David Knight
Friday 16th	7pm	Occa Rock <i>RETRO NIGHT</i>
Saturday 17th	7pm	Diana Anaid
Sunday 18th	5pm	Surf Report
Thursday 22nd	7pm	Neil Anderson
Friday 23rd	7pm	Q
Saturday 24th	7pm	Eastwood
Sunday 25th	5pm	David Barbara
Thursday 29th	7pm	Riley Fitzalan
Friday 30th	7pm	Kellie Knight & Mark Heazlett

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GALLERY • CAFE

Art on show at Blue Knob

The current exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery is Macrocosm/Microcosm; there are still a few weeks left for this show to run.

This is a great exhibition with artworks from 26 artists representing their personal interpretations of the theme. The large sculptural installation by Rebekah Seriah Webster, 'As Above - So Below', holds the central space in the gallery and represents the 'macro' with its powerful presence, with Helga Moghini's 'Egg' telling us where it all begins.

This exhibition closes on Saturday 17th September.

enjoy the availability that such a space has created in the community.

The Opening for this exhibition will be on Friday 30th September from 6.30pm, with a performance by the Blue Knob Choir and Jeni Kendell will be our special guest to open the show.

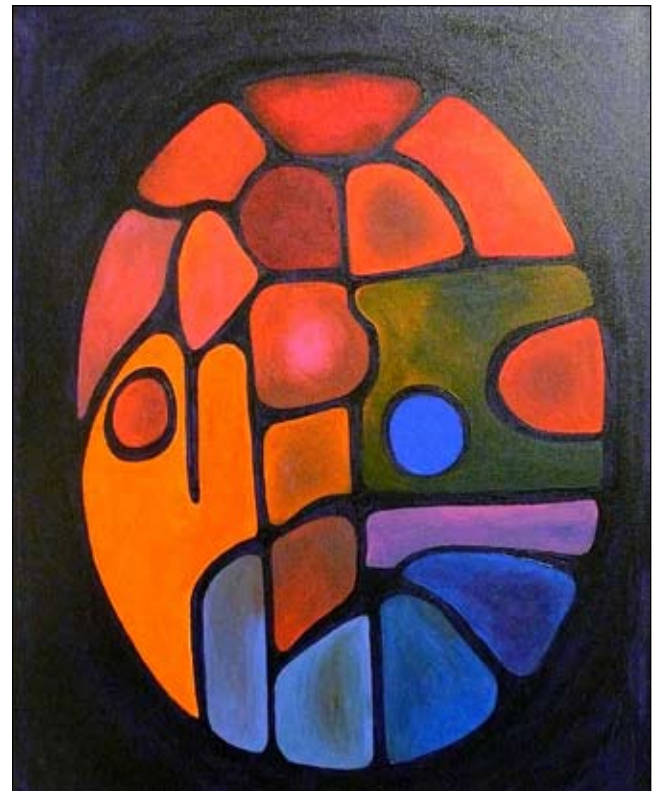
A set menu meal will be available from Cafe Blue Knob on the night, \$20/\$25, dessert included. For more information or you would like to book for a meal please phone the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you would like to book a meal.

Artists & Friends Lunch

The next Artists & Friends lunch will be held on Thursday 29th September at 12.30pm with a main meal which includes dessert for \$19 (vegetarian) or \$24 (non-vegetarian meat dish). Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you are planning to attend.

Cafe at Blue Knob Hall Gallery - Expressions of Interest

Blue Knob Hall is currently looking for expressions of interest from any local people who might like to take on the running of the Cafe as from January 2017. Please contact the Management Committee on 02 6689-7449 or by email: bkhgallery@aapt.net.au for further information.



Above: 'Egg' by Helga Moghini

Below: 'Tango' (still from video) by Christine Wynyard



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Fibre Frolics at the Roxy

September sees the Roxy Gallery in 'Fibre Frolics' with a new exhibition of vibrancy to bring Spring on.

The Shadwells are known identities to this region for their interesting works in fibre. As a mother and daughter team, Cherie and Fiona have been creating interesting works, with Cherie's interest in basket-making using natural fibres and Fiona's interest in marbling material.

Cherie Shadwell recently gave a speech at the annual Blue Knob Hall Gallery Fibre Exhibition Opening that clearly defined her interest in this area.

"Working in fibre is one of the oldest art forms. One which was inspired by practical needs but soon became something so much more. Fibre, knots, macrame, weaving, the loom, fabric, tapestry, needlecraft. There is so much which can be crafted from nothing more than a single thread. I love the idea that so much art begins with this single thread which in turn leads to these wonderfully expressive forms.

"As a basketweaver, there's so much freedom and joy available in exploring what can be achieved with nothing

more than dried out grass you collect from the yard. It's such a fundamental organic process and yet so expressive and so contemporary. I love the process of learning techniques which are literally thousands of years old, and that we can apply these ideas in contemporary idioms to create very fresh, new looks."

'Fibre Frolics' will be on exhibition at the Roxy Gallery from 7th September through to 3rd October, with the official opening proceedings happening on Thursday 8th September, 6-8pm, which makes for a pleasing way to start the turn of the seasons into Spring. Joining The Shadwells in this exhibition are Lynda Clark and Deborah Brown, both creative workers who bring fibre to life.

Lynda Clark is known in our region for her contribution to making 'Love Wraps' and happily sits in the gallery on the first Tuesday of each month working with her Love Wrappers knitting and crocheting wraps to go to underprivileged people all over the world. Deborah Brown has developed an interest in using paper to create



'Birds In the Garden' by Lynda Clark

objects of adornment.

From a single thread, 'Fibre Frolics' has grown into a vibrant and colourful exhibition that will delight and engage.

Starting from Tuesday 20th September and continuing on until end of year, Lynda Clark will be holding a Creative Yarning gathering at the Roxy Gallery on the third Tuesday of each month, from 10am. All welcome, just bring your yarn.



'Marbled Pianola Tune' by Fiona Shadwell



'Butterflies' by Lynda Clark



Basket Selection by Cherie Shadwell

Artist of the month – Edith Streiner

by Peter Warne

This month's feature artist is Edith Streiner, a self-taught printmaker and illustrator who has been showing her works at Nimbin Artists Gallery for many years. When you first look at Edith's work your impression is of a highly disciplined artist with a meticulous control over the media she works in. Her prints are examples of the finest rendering of figures, forms from nature and forms of the artist's own creation, all delivered within the constraints of the tightly managed media.

When one looks closer into the content of these works, one discovers, in total contrast to the restraint of the presentation, a wild imagination, which grapples with elemental prototypes – sea creatures, rocks and nameless beasts – in a world which seems pre-human, and in which, where the human form does occur, it is often not a dominating figure but a shape emerging from the churning forces of nature.

Edith learned very young to release her imagination through drawing. She refers to long winters in her early childhood in Canada, where she would sit at the table with her German artist mother and explore various forms of visual art and be immersed in the traditional folklore of Grimm's fairy tales and the work of Wilhelm Busch, the poet, writer



Adoration

and illustrator.

Her adult life in Australia led her to a strong engagement with the Australian landscape and, especially, the experience of the sea. She first worked with boat builders, restoring old timber vessels, and later became a painter/ decorator. For years Edith lived on boats sailing the east coast of Australia and into various parts of Indonesia. Her love of the sea only grew stronger in the three-year period she lived in a cave on Magnetic Island. The marine theme is an important part of her work today, and though Edith has given up extensive boat travel, she and her husband still maintain a small trailer sailor which she says

keeps them connected to the water.

Edith's work has covered various forms of printmaking. Relief printing involves cutting into a material such as lino or wood, and then applying ink to the intact parts of the surface, standing 'in relief' relative to the cutout parts. The paper is pulled through a press, allowing the uncut, inked sections to transfer the ink to the paper sheet, while the cut out parts remain the colour of the paper.

By contrast, intaglio printing (*intaglio* – 'cut in' in Italian) requires the artist to cut outlines into the base material, usually metal or perspex, and then the sheet is immersed in acid, which etches the image away. The plate



Mangrove Mooch

is then inked and the ink pushed into the recessed cuts, and printing the form of the etching onto the paper when it is pulled through the press.

More recently Edith has extended these techniques to collagraph printing. This process involves sticking various low profile objects onto a board, e.g. string, cardboard, cloth, leaves, etc., to produce an embossed and textured finish. The plate is then shellacked many times to waterproof it before inking and printing.

Edith's collagraphs show a playful exploitation of the unpredictability of the medium, and she somehow finds forms

which again suggest humans emerging from primal, random forces in the natural world. The impression of delicate, controlled precision has now disappeared, though the control of the medium is still present in full force. The marine theme is still at the forefront.

Drop in to Nimbin Artists Gallery during the month of September to see the display of Edith's works, including a 'work in progress' piece where you will see a partially finished example, accompanied by an explanation, so that you can understand the steps that led up to that stage, and form an idea of what the finished print will offer.



Two solo shows by local artists

During September the Serpentine Community Gallery is pleased to present two solo shows by local artists – Anna Dorrington's "Fairytales" and Zac Theroux's "A work in Progress" (pic left).

"My interests lie in the area of feminist critiques of the history of women in society in the 1960s and 1970s, and the effects these social conditions have had on contemporary constructions of society and women," Anna said of her upcoming show.

Local to the region, psychedelic artist Zac Theroux takes his inspiration from the world around him, and worlds within him. Having recently moved to Lismore after care-taking a

property in the rainforest, Zac is bringing his art out to play.

Walking the knife's edge between dark and light, his vibrant, provocative subjects both shock and intrigue. Zac is looking forward to connecting with more artists in the local region.

An opening celebration will take place on Sunday 11th September from 2pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The gallery is located at 17 Bridge Street North Lismore. For more information contact the gallery on (02) 6621-6845 or view www.serpentinearts.org

Bentley Art Prize

by Helen Trustum

The 32nd Annual Bentley Art Prize held on the 5th, 6th and 7th August.

Maria Heaton won the Champion Painting award and also the Richmond Dairies Open Painting award with 'Sunshine Delight' (above).

Also, Rikki Fisher's 'His Majesty' (right) won the Art other than Painting Section, and also the Popular Exhibit category of the Prize.

Wonderful exhibits, great attendance and an excellent array of exhibits made a perfect weekend.

Don't miss it next year!



by Zac Theroux



by Anna Dorrington