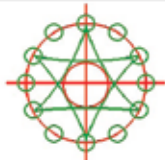


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25th Dolphin Awards

by Pam Bourne

Ballina RSL was abuzz on 6th December as the 25th Dolphin awards unfolded.

The North Coast Music Industry Awards began humbly in 1991. Born out of necessity by Brendan "Mookx" Hanley, Darmin Cameron and Julie "Shanto" Oliver, the awards were a response to the changing music industry on the North Coast. The days of live gigs at every venue were fast disappearing and being replaced by DJs with dance records, poker machines and random breath testing. At the same time many great creative forces and musicians were moving to the area.

Mookx said, "There were literally hundreds of great musicians moving to the area, small studios were burgeoning in the hills and the seeds of a whole alternative industry was being sown by this influx of new talent. We saw the need for an event, an institution that would counter the post-industrialist mindset of the area where busking was disapproved of, pubs were cranking up the TV, pokies and karaoke. Paid gigs were becoming few and far between. So the birth of the Dolphins took place, a way of giving local musicians public prestige and a leg up with their chosen creative careers."

In the first year, the awards caused headaches for the crew. Hundreds of song entries arrived on cassette. Mookx said that it was a statistical and management nightmare. The committee expanded to include Peter

Noble (Bluesfest) and ABC Musician Rick Turk and a bunch of other keen musically-orientated individuals.

The original awards were brass CDs mounted with an inscription. The management was later moved to Lismore, the name changed and the Dolphin Awards replaced the CDs.

2016 celebrated 25 years of the awards. President Dr Brett Hamlyn says "the premise underlying the Awards since inception has been to support, encourage, showcase and celebrate the diversity of musical and artistic talent in the Northern Rivers region". Brett steps down from his position of president after three years.

Mariska Pinkerton said, "My husband Gary Pinkerton became the NCEIA president in 2009 when he had the indispensable Adrian Davies as the awards night coordinator. The following year Adrian moved away, and Gary's hand went up for help. So of course, being the 'good wife' I jumped on board the NCEIA Dolphin Music Award rollercoaster". In 2010 the entries were on hand written forms, and music arrived on CD. The following awards were a combined 2011-2012. It was a bumper year for entries, but it was decided the forms and CD entries had to go, in favor of online entries. By 2013 Mariska was also in the role of secretary, and a webmaster Julian Smith maintained the site. This year the Dolphins were streamed live on Facebook, and on the radio through 92.9 River FM Lismore.

The Dolphin Awards night is always



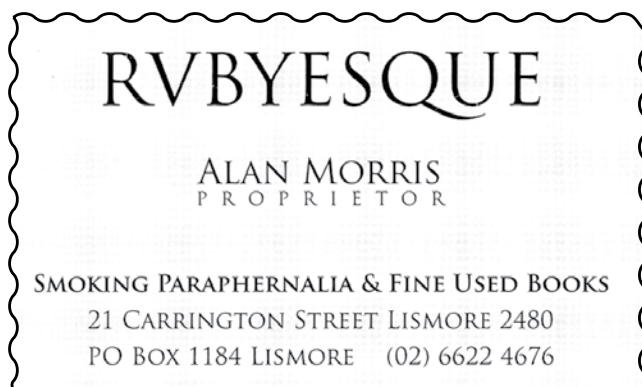
Angus Stuwe Graham



Luke Vassella

amazing, watching bright talent perform, music from many genera's, to see the up and coming names, and the well known performers. A highlight of the night for me was to see Mookx play his song Marijuana Australiana. He said that it was his most "covered" tune, which has earned him some \$35,000 over the years.

This year two artists outshone the competition, Angus Stuwe Graham (pictured) with wins in four categories, and Luke Vasella (pictured) also taking out four categories, including songwriter of the year.



Demonstration at Nimbin Police Station on New Years Day

by Michael Balderstone, Australian HEMP Party

Hospitals are not on the Monopoly board, and with good reason. Competing over the profits to be made from relieving people's pain is a sick sick business.

And the obsession with Big Pharma to maximise its profits by keeping herbs out of the picture as much as possible is actually killing people. No one has ever died from cannabis use, as we keep hearing, and it's so easy to grow that every garden should and will in time have a few plants. Like we have parsley now. For creative thinking, and for pain. Any sort of pain and anywhere in your body. It was in the majority of medicines a hundred years ago, along with the opium poppy, the Creation's two best pain relievers.

The war on drugs may have been a smart money-making idea when it began, but what a backfire. Illegal chemical

drugs are everywhere now with no regulations or quality control. It's just guesswork what's in the little pills the cops don't find, compared to the smelly bulky herb. The herb which is about as related to its fellow illegal drugs as Jesus is to the Church. Not much at all, in case you're confused.

Big Pharma propaganda has a long reach, and their endless fear campaigns on pot have gone deep. Including the roadside saliva testing, which has impacted hard around here on the regular pot users who have been migrating here for decades now. Interestingly, there is a clear spike in car accidents in NSW in the last two years, which coincides with the time roadside saliva testing was introduced. And the response from the cops to this is to increase drug testing, again.

For the millions of Australians who are regular cannabis users – and millions is correct, about two – taking their relaxant of choice away,

Drugwar Diary

or making them even more nervous when they use it and drive, is of course causing much more anxiety on the roads. We all know weed works wonders for anxiety and depression, so of course when you don't use it, after it being your medicine of choice, anxiety increases.

Thousands of tokers have stopped because they fear losing their licence. Most are drinking alcohol more (and getting hangovers you never get with pot!) or using pain-relieving drugs that are not tested, like opiates.

The driving tests must be for impairment, whether it's weed, smack, ice, pharmaceuticals or plain old age.

Finally, some facts emerging from the changes in America. New research from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health states, "Overall, states that passed medical marijuana laws saw an 11% reduction in traffic fatalities, on average, after enacting the laws, and had 26% lower rates of traffic fatalities compared with states without the laws." The findings are published online in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Traffic fatalities down 11% in the American States that have medical marijuana legally available. ANYONE LISTENING?!

"It is also possible that states with medical marijuana

laws and lower traffic fatality rates may be related to lower levels of alcohol-impaired driving behaviour in these states," noted Silvia Martins, MD, PhD, associate professor at the Mailman School and senior author. "We found evidence that states with the marijuana laws in place compared with those which did not, reported, on average, lower rates of drivers endorsing driving after having too many drinks."

An enquiry into Roadside Drug Testing has to happen. The basic magic of cannabis, that so many of us like, is that it relaxes you. The anti-inflammatory properties it has may be the key. It actually helps people in pain to focus on their driving and not their pain.

Meanwhile the Nimbin streets are being policed more heavily than I can remember in thirty years here, and I'm not the only one alarmed at the changes. One wonders what the real agenda is in this hugely expensive effort to rid the town of cannabis suppliers. Extraordinary for it to be happening right now, while the government is crowing about how medical cannabis is going legal.

It makes me furious. This policing is causing real harm to people already struggling with their pain. We need interim measures immediately to protect genuine medical cannabis users.

2016... One disaster to the next

by Dionne May

With so many disasters in the world of epic proportions this year what relevance does our tiny corner of the universe, our tiny town of Nimbin have? If Nimbin were a song what would she be? With mysterious ancient songlines meeting in thundering chorus at the great Nimbin Rocks, does that ancient beat resonate with, or is it hopelessly discordant to, our modern Nimbin?



Solid Rock beats a rhythm in my veins, *Great Southern Land* and *Sunset Dreaming* stirred my blood as we crossed back across scorching desert plains on our return from Coober Pedy to our homeland of Nimbin before Christmas.

Whilst the journey was monumental, the disasters were ever present in this great land. Huge tracks of land out west sold and prohibited to the public, massive drilling operations across our outback and since the discovery of opals in Coober Pedy over one million, twenty metre holes and their massive piles of rubble, litter the landscape surrounding this murderously hot and utterly waterless town.

Opal was discovered here originally on 1st February 1915 by a 14-year old boy, but rains swelled the town's population in 1918 with an influx of miners. Order began to break down as disputes over claims broke out and water holes became polluted. The name Coober Pedy is derived from Aboriginal/Arabana words, kupa: uninitiated man and piti: rock hole in the ground, so means whiteman's burrow. And with opal being one of the few minerals that can still be extracted economically by a miner working alone with a pick and shovel, they came from all corners of the globe and burrowed like crazy in search of riches, literally ripping up the hard ground with their bare hands and rolled newspaper explosives.

What is left after one hundred years is an environmental horror story. No care, no love for mother nature or the environment in man's greedy grab for her shiny baubles, smashing most large opals in blind grinding fury... opal fever... which the local council and government seem impotent to govern.

The great apathy of 2016, and indeed it seems this whole decade, has well and truly seeped to all corners of this nation.

Hankering for greenery, old worn hippies head back through Adelaide where an oz is still \$200 but the local club sprays you with DNA security marking ("Putting the crime scene on the criminal".... it's the latest thing in SA), through Broken Hill where a Jack Herer shirt gave us a hefty discount



Mining field destruction



20 metre shaft

at the Repco dealer, to the rolling hills of Nimbin.

Town is quiet and the streets are bare when we arrive. We don't hear any music. We walk down the laneway. There are no local boys, so who made the gravy this Christmas?

Like a movie set without actors or a ship without crew, our great dame lies wallowing in treacherous waters. A new whale mural and two discontented koalas haven taken up residence while the old Rainbow Cafe and Museum sites appear gutted, beaten.

Did we step back into the saddest alternative reality of Nimbin? Or the future of Nimbin? Police of covered and uncovered varieties are the new norm. The new polite nondescript cafe-set, bereft of colour and sound, stare blandly into space. Even Daizy's is quiet!

We head down to the old reliable local cafe. Things have changed yet it is our last bastion, the last hope of the smokers of Nimbin and indeed the world. But even here locals are wary: with Christmas and festival punters roaming the streets, it gets harder to spot the undercovers. Unresolved missing persons, two body bags hauled out of Stoney Chute Road, drink driving tragedies beyond par, yet here come the troops searching for a plant again.

Our 67-year old cake lady was arrested after a six-month



surveillance operation; saliva testing has targeted the town and over 42 of our local young men are banned from town or on strict bail conditions until court appearances charged with consorting. Well done NSW Police for failing to protect this town's community and for decimating its population of youth and the very vitality of our town. Merry fucking Christmas!

So goodbye 2016, farewell to some dear locals, Carl, Simone, Floris, Tommy and others too young or too black, some incredible musicians, Prince, Leonard Cohan, David Bowie, John English, George Michael. The inspirational Mohamad Ali and the radical co-founder of the global permaculture movement Bill Mollison. And still far too many souls that may have been saved by the simplicity of access to marijuana.

So let's hope the new year sees Nimbin bursting with music, to drum out the old, weave new hope and memories with new lyrics that pulse with our ancient Aboriginal wisdom yet burst with the passion of our youth. Nimbin is an epic ballad but the chorus has faded. So let's rock the nation people, and dance in the streets. Love and peace to all.

Cannabis in Colorado is safer than food

by Miss Guidance,
Nimbin Hemp Embassy

A recent cannabis expo in Denver Colorado, declared that the regulations for cannabis production are stricter than those required for food producers in the State! This event not only showcased commercial innovations in growing technologies, but focused on the importance of sustainable and ethical farming practices. Many gardeners in attendance grow medical crops and discussions centred on best industry practice to produce high quality organically grown herb.

Under prohibition creative excellence and innovation are stifled and criminalised, while in Colorado, cannabis experts can now come out and focus their efforts openly in mainstream jobs as "Master" Growers, Breeders, Cultivators, and Extractors. The legal cannabis industry also offers major job opportunities for greenhouse designers, biochemists, horticulturalists, soil scientists, permaculture designers, plant health and pest management specialists, and ecologists, to name just a few.

"Hempment" is a major reality in Colorado from the unskilled through to the very skilled.

Over the same time in Denver there were other major Cannabis events for doctors, bureaucrats and growers including a workshop organized by the US Organic Cannabis Association; the Marijuana Management Symposium for officials involved in regulation, enforcement and education around legalized and commercialized marijuana; as well as a three-day course for doctors and nurses offered by Marijuana for Medical Professionals.

In the USA, 28 states allow medical marijuana use, but it still isn't taught in medical schools. Even in Colorado, the largest legal cannabis state, fewer than 5% of physicians have recommended cannabis to patients, and most budtenders in dispensaries have no clinical training at all.

During my visit, there was evidence galore of an abundant 2016 harvest. It seems that all the expertise is paying off. A glut of pot had Denver dispensaries offering \$99 ounces! Now, that price would undoubtedly undercut black market



At the harvest

remnants. We chose 8 x eighths of different varieties to make up the ounce, so got to sample the latest strains in fine recreational herb including Durban Poison, Kosher Kush, Alien Dawg, Rug Burn and Super Northern Haze.

The Colorado model demonstrates very civilised drug consumption. Consumers are allowed informed choices with products clearly labelled with percentages of major

cannabinoids, THC, THC-A, CBD, CBD-A and CBN, as well as a list of fertilizers and other growing additives. One package lists "love" as an ingredient – the only flash of "peace-loving stoner" in an otherwise straight mainstream industry. Recreational dispensaries are not only to be found in Denver, but also in small regional towns in the West of the state including Parachute, De Beque and Glenwood

Springs. Very civilized to be out in the sticks and still be able to walk into a store and buy some very fine weed.

I also visited Oaksterdam University, the USA's first cannabis college, in Oakland California during this trip, and discussed with growers and activists the *Adult Use of Marijuana Act* passed by California voters on 8th November. The reactions were divided depending on where people found themselves within the current legal medical cannabis industry.

I found that growers were generally not happy, because it meant tougher regulations for recreational grows, though activists were positive because it mainly moved small time possession and home growing away from criminal penalties, and released many people from jail.

The Act has made cannabis an agricultural product in California with regulations at both state and local levels. It's a pity that Australia can't examine and possibly implement some of these functional and successful regulatory models of both medical and recreational cannabis coming from the US.

Young locals cast in **SHREK** the Musical Jr



Dragon (Bella Broadley) pursues Donkey (Sophie Brazenor), watched by a wretched Knight (Ben Vanem) in the stocks.



Donkey (Sophie Brazenor), Shrek (River Fullagar) a citizen of Duloc (Mia Smith) and Lord Farquaad (Lachlan McGeary).



Going to Duloc: Cinderella (Lauren Boyce), the Big Bad Wolf (Riley Venables), Donkey (Sophie Brazenor) and Shrek (River Fullagar) are intercepted by the Captain of the Guards (Akira Harris).

He is very large, very green and the star of *Shrek the Musical Jr*, Ballina Players' January musical for young people. Children have grown up with his movies, and know and love Shrek, the scary ogre. His story has been called "the greatest fairytale never told".

Thrown out of home at age seven, Shrek is forced to live alone in a swamp, and comes to like his life of solitude until it is invaded by a multitude of pesky fairytale creatures who have been banished to the swamp from the kingdom of Duloc by the wicked Lord Farquaad. Shrek takes off angrily towards Duloc to complain of their presence and have them evicted, and on the way encounters an outspoken Donkey who wheedles his way into being Shrek's guide.

Arriving in Duloc, Shrek makes a deal with the height-challenged and very unpleasant Lord Farquaad, who sends him on a quest to rescue the feisty Princess Fiona from a tower guarded by a fierce dragon, in exchange for peace and solitude in his swamp home. In the tower Fiona waits and dreams of a handsome prince and an idyllic fairytale outcome. Shrek reaches her prison, and while he climbs to rescue Fiona, Donkey is pursued by the lonely and amorous dragon. The quest accomplished, the trio set off to Duloc, with Shrek and Fiona becoming friends. Though she does go to bed rather early, Shrek does not guess that she is cursed to live "by day one way, by night another", a fact that will change his life.

Shrek the Musical Jr has been specially adapted and abridged by Disney for younger casts, based on the Oscar award-winning Dreamworks Animation film *Shrek*, and the book by William Steig. With its memorable characters, striking costumes, catchy songs and fairytale ending, *Shrek the Musical Jr* will be great holiday entertainment for the whole family. Thirty-one young people aged eight to eighteen from all over the Northern Rivers are taking part, with some travelling considerable distances.

Many cast members have had roles in other Ballina Players productions. For 16-year old Lachlan McGeary (Farquaad) this is his 11th Players show, a remarkable achievement. Others, including River Fullagar (Shrek)

and Sophie Brazenor (Donkey), perform with the Dream Dance and Performance Academy in Mullumbimby. The Ballina Players production team is very experienced in working in youth theatre. Geoff Marsh is director, with Sarah Jarvis assistant director and choreographer, and Leanne Broadley musical director.

Shrek the Musical Jr will be staged at the Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina, on January 13-15 and 18-22 at 7pm, with weekend matinees at 2pm. Tickets: Adult \$25; Concession/RSL Member \$22; Child (16 and under) \$15; Family (2A, 2C) \$70. Book on-line at: www.ballinaplayers.com.au or at Just Funkin Music, 6686-2440 (a \$2 booking fee applies).



Novocastrian experimental folk mainstays Vanishing Shapes are kicking off their fifth tour in January, and will return to Nimbin, where their musical style was endearingly dubbed 'fairy music' during a previous visit.

They will be appearing on Wednesday 18th January at Phoenix Rising Café for a dinner and show performance beginning around 6.30pm out 'under the stars' on the alfresco stage.

'Fairy music' is more accurately described as an eccentric amalgamation of various trad-folk styles meshed with modern art music, progressive rock practices and a healthy dose of classical expertise.

With a line-up now consisting

of flute, clarinet, viola, classical guitar and double bass, Vanishing Shapes have been pushing themselves to defy the laws of tradition in folk music. In doing so they have created an array of narrative-driven pieces that bounce between being playful, harrowing and ethereal. Some have been released on their full length album, *Urcheon* (2015) and a concept EP, *Tiny Planets* (2016).

Their songs hint at melodic characteristics of music from Celtic, Turkish and Andean traditions with rhythmic ideas stemming from more juxtaposing influences such as math rock and progressive metal. Harmonic and compositional traits, including form and texture, display a

combination of influences from the realms of classical and jazz.

Despite the bizarre combination of styles that are the driving influences behind their sound, Vanishing Shapes have found a home for their music in some unexpected places. They have received immense support from Newcastle warehouse and house party scenes, and have supported national and international touring acts.

They have performed at festivals including Wollombi Music Festival, Folk by the Sea and Bellingen Turtlefest.

Vanishing Shapes are also playing at the Treehouse Café in Byron Bay on 19th and The Rails Hotel on 21st January.



On the road with Santa, arriving at the Nimbin Bowling Club. The little ones are rapt and will soon be unwrapping... and the aged care residents are suitably impressed.





Witty, raw and emotional

Laurie Agar is a dynamic artist who brings a full bodied performance with lilting vocals, rhythmic guitar and melodic harmonica.

He captures audiences with his generous presence and startling honesty as he sings and plays, telling stories we can all relate to. His songs are witty and humorous yet raw and emotional.

His skill as an award-winning traditional Irish harmonica player is combined with his own sought-after traditional guitar accompaniment

to create sound that can really make people dance.

His music is an eclectic mix of blues, jazz, folk, rock, and Celtic, playing instrumental music as well as originals and covers of artists such as Neil Young, Paul Kelly and Rodriguez.

Laurie Agar's gig kicks off at 1pm and goes until 3.30pm on Sunday 29th January at Sphinx Rock Cafe.

For more info go to: www.triplejuneartthed.com/artist/laurie-agar

NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE MOVIES

Friday 6th January 8pm
The Hunt for the Wilderpeople
(2016, rated CTC) \$10



Hunt for the Wilderpeople is a 2016 New Zealand adventure comedy-drama film written and directed by Taika Waititi who co-produced with Carthew Neal, Leanne Saunders and Matt Noonan. Based on the book *Wild Pork and Watercress* by Barry Crump, the film stars Sam Neill and Julian Dennison. Ricky Baker (Dennison), a defiant young city kid, is sent by child welfare services to live in the country with foster parents, Aunt Bella and cantankerous Uncle Hec (Neill).

When Bella suddenly passes away and child services decide to take Ricky back to a care home, Ricky runs away into the bush with Uncle Hec in pursuit. Child services arrive to find the house empty, and come to the conclusion a bereaved and mentally unstable Hec has abducted Ricky. A national manhunt ensues, and the two have to get over their differences to survive. This film is having a huge impact on folk and our last screening of it was packed so get in early!

This film is guaranteed to leave you grinning from ear to ear with action-packed chase scenes amidst a backdrop of beautiful NZ scenery, and a cheerful taste of quirky kiwi-speak. Rhys Darby (*Flight of the Concorde*) also stars in the film (as 'Psycho Sam') and both Neill and young Dennison have been praised widely for the strength of their acting performances.

Friday 13th January 8pm
Miss Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children
(2016, rated M) \$10



Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children is a 2016 American dark fantasy film directed by Tim Burton, based on the 2011 novel of the same name by Ransom Riggs. For years Abe Portman (Terence Stamp) told stories to his grandson Jake about his childhood battling monsters and spending World War 2 living at "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" at Cairnholm, Wales.

The home's children and their headmistress, Miss Alma Peregrine (Eva Green), possess paranormal abilities and are known as "Peculiar". After 16-year-old Jake receives a phone call from his grandfather, he goes to his house and finds him dying mysteriously. With his eyes missing, Abe tells Jake to go to "September 3, 1943", before he dies. Jake and his father Frank travel to Cairnholm, where Jake finds that the children's home was destroyed during a Luftwaffe raid on "September 3, 1943".

At the house, some of the Peculiar children come out to greet him, startling Jake. They take him through a cave and he finds himself in 1943, when their house is still intact. Miss Peregrine greets him and explains that she belongs to a class of female Peculiar named "Ymbrynes", who can transform into birds and manipulate time.

To avoid persecution for being Peculiar, she and her children hide from the outside world in a time loop she created, set to September 3, 1943, meaning that they all live the same day over and over again and avoid aging. This film is a visual spectacular guaranteed to live up to previous offerings from Tim Burton.

Friday 20th January 8pm
Wild Tales
(2016, rated MA 15+) \$10



Wild Tales (Relatos salvajes) is a 2014 Argentine black comedy anthology film composed of six standalone shorts, united by a common theme of violence and vengeance.

The shorts were written and directed by Damián Szifron, and co-produced by Agustin Almodóvar and Pedro Almodóvar.

It stars an ensemble cast consisting of Ricardo Darin, Oscar Martinez, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Riat Cortese and

many other high profile spanish actors. It was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards and won the Best Film Not in the English Language at the 69th British Academy Film Awards.

The film is composed of six short segments: "Pasternak", "Las Ratas" ("The Rats"), "El más fuerte" ("The Strongest"), "Bombita" ("Little Bomb"), "La Propuesta" ("The Proposal"), and "Hasta que la muerte nos separe" ("Till Death Do Us Part"). Critically acclaimed the world over the film was described by Peter Travers in US Rolling Stone as "wild in every sense of the word."

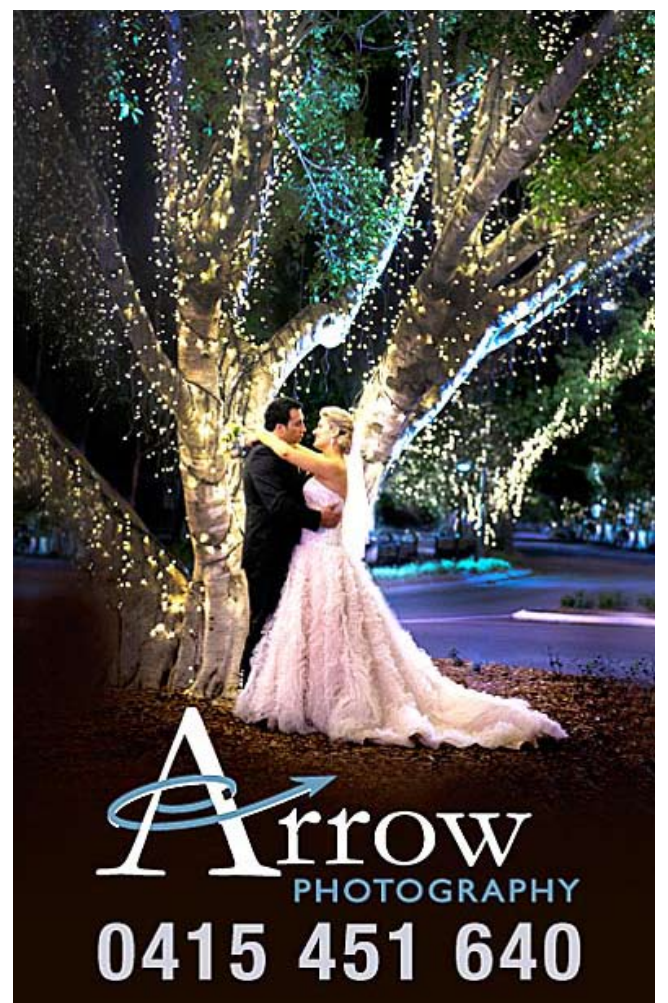
Friday 27th January 8pm
Captain Fantastic
(2016, rated M) \$10



Captain Fantastic is a 2016 American comedy-drama written and directed by Matt Ross and starring Viggo Mortensen. The idea of the movie started for Matt Ross as he began questioning the choices he and his wife were making as parents. From there he wondered what would happen if he were "completely present" in his children's lives, while noting that modern technology had made that difficult. In making the film Ross also took inspiration from his own life, notably being raised in what he terms as "alternative-living communities".

The story centres on a family who are forced by circumstances to reintegrate into society after living in isolation for a decade. Ben Cash, his wife Leslie, and their six children live deep in the wilderness of Washington state. Ben and Leslie became disillusioned with capitalism and American life, and chose to instill survivalist skills and philosophy in their children. Isolated from society, Ben and Leslie devote their existence to raising their kids – educating them to think critically, training them to be physically fit and athletic, guiding them in the wild without technology and demonstrating the beauty of co-existing with nature.

When tragedy strikes the family Ben Cash leads his children on a road trip of discovery resulting in a culture clash with life outside the wilderness.



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SAT 7 JAN	LIVE MUSIC/DANCE GIG	FROM 6PM
FLAMENCONICA	TIJUANA CARTEL + GUESTS	8PM \$30
FRI 13 JAN	MOVIE NIGHT	FROM 6PM
FILM	'MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN'	8PM \$10
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FAIRY MUSIC	VANISHING SHAPES	BY DONATION
FRI 20 JAN	MOVIE NIGHT	FROM 6PM
FILM	PEDRO ALMODOVAR'S 'WILD TALES'	8PM \$10
FRI 27 JAN	MOVIE NIGHT	FROM 6PM
FILM	'CAPTAIN FANTASTIC'	8PM \$10
SAT 28 JAN	DINNER UNDER THE STARS	6PM
JAZZY FOLK	THE BEAN PROJECT	BY DONATION
SUN 5 FEB	HAT FITZ & CARA	2PM
CD LAUNCH W/ 50PIECE	NTHN RIVERS FOLK CHOIR	8PM \$25

www.phoenixrisingcafe.net/events
www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events

The return of Tijuana Cartel

International hipsters, Tijuana Cartel present a show to remember on Saturday 7th January at the Nimbin Bush Theatre from 7pm.

Fresh from extensive touring, Tijuana Cartel will bring their posse of passionate players to Nimbin for what promises to be an evening of ecstatic vibration.

Bound together by their mutual love of instrumental, trippy and mind-expanding music, producer-performers Paul George and Carey O'Sullivan are a truly formidable force.

As the cornerstone of Australia's 'East meets West' electronic scene, Tijuana Cartel have an uncanny knack for blending layers of rich, atmospheric soundscapes with laid-back rhythms and luscious vocals, to form an electronic beats tapestry that gets frets moving and people dancing.

They've spent the last decade mixing in influences that hadn't been fused before, with a penchant for Middle Eastern scales, dance beats and a general psychedelic approach to song structure and ethos. Not married to one genre or another, they happily change direction in search of new flavours and inspiration, whenever the moment takes them there.

This gig is also a chance for cartelier, Paul George, to present his own solo incarnation, *Black Rabbit George*, where he explores further the acoustic guitar that lies at the heart of the Cartel, but this time more thoroughly rooted in the



folk/roots genres that originally inspired him to take up the instrument.

Named after a character from Richard Adams' novel, *Watership Down*, who escorts bunnies between the worlds of life and death, George's capacity as a storyteller emerges with this act, his guitar weaving soulfully between lyrics.

There are also two separate DJ acts in the show for the night: DJ Future Roots (with Jonick as MC) and DJ Care Bear.

This night of contemporary world

beats and more traditional folk themes promises to be another special event for the iconic venue, The Nimbin Bush Theatre.

Tickets for the whole show cost \$30 and are available online from the Theatre's website: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events or at the door and, as always, the adjoining Phoenix Rising Café will be open and serving fine food and beverages prior to the show, from 5.30pm.



Returning to Nimbin via the forests of Belgrave, Melbourne come this vibrant brass-clad acoustic duo – The Bean Project.

Featuring acoustic guitar and French horn, they could be described as lyrical folk with a strong narrative. The Bean Project encompass the genres of folk and jazz, showcasing a unique and quirky style of original material that is musically appealing, touching and fascinating all at once.

After playing together in various acts, Ben Langdon and Bryce Turcato focused their attention on creating music that was raw and untreated, and formed The Bean Project in 2014. The duo present a simple yet musically diverse style of original material, complemented by Langdon's sublime vocal tone blended with Turcato's distinctive French horn explorations.

Having won the 2014/15 FReeZA Push Start Battle of the Bands, and performing with Melbourne names such as The Twoks, The Woohoo Revue and 8Foot Felix, The Bean Project are steadily making waves around the country.

Their last gig at the Phoenix Rising Cafe made a big impression on the locals, who were keen for some more!

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."

Catch them at 6pm on Saturday 28th January, free entry, at the Phoenix Rising Cafe's outdoor stage, situated in gorgeous riverside gardens, creating a relaxed ambience within the confines of the Nimbin Bush Theatre complex.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open from 6pm for yummy locally sourced meals, beautiful local coffees and teas and sweet treats. BYO alcohol is permitted.

Trio format for Monkey and the Fish

Lismore-based Chris Fisher and Marcelle Townsend-Cross, aka Monkey and the Fish, create a special vocal harmony and presence.

Their songs tell personal and universal stories woven through milk and honey melodies and upbeat contemporary folk and roots grooves.

Excellent guitar work, and vocals with eclectic influences and magic songcraft, combine in entertaining and uplifting performances.

In their 15 years of collaboration, Chris and Marcelle have received many accolades and developed a strong following for live and recorded work. They

have won a total of nine NCEIA Dolphin Awards, and received nominations in the 2015 Australian Songwriters Awards.

Performance highlights include several Woodford Folk Festival gigs and UK tours in 2011 and 2016.

Engaging and evocative lyrics resonate and connect with audiences, with their live sets drawing on material from four studio albums, plus feature songs from their new album, due for release in March.

Catch them at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 15th January at 1pm. For this gig, they will be joined by the legendary George Urbaszek on bass.





HAT FITZ AND CARA

It is a great privilege for the Nimbin Bush Theatre to host Hat Fitz and Cara, who are in increasing demand worldwide and who have been touring festivals around the globe relentlessly, with the launch of the Australian release of their 4th album, *After the Rain*, at the Nimbin Bush Theatre at 2pm on Sunday 5th February, entry \$25.

They promise to create a daytime spectacular for this launch with their award-winning ol'timey roots show, and will be joined by the 50-piece Northern Rivers Folk Choir for a good portion of their set. They will be supported by well-loved local bluesy songbird Elena B Williams.

This dynamic duo's first single, *Doing it Again* from the album was engineered, produced and mixed by the well-respected Govinda Doyle who was behind the No. 1 single *Big Jet Plane* for Angus and Julia Stone. This track is a romping, stomping peek inside a relationship holding strong through all kinds of weather.

Cara said, "We wanted to keep the authenticity of the track and so decided to accompany the piece later on our vintage kit with original rawhide and 1920's marching snare. This seemed to complement the percussive contour of Fitz's playing on the Australian-made Greg Beeton's

resonator mandolin. So that's how it really happened."

Hat Fitz and Cara can in no way be mistaken for a dainty duo. They are festival favourites throughout Canada, Australia, Europe, and the UK and it has been said they pack more energy into one song than most have in an entire career. A gutsy combination of hill-style gospel blues with old timey flavourings and stripped down to just voices, guitar and vintage drums, Hat Fitz and Cara embellish impeccable rootsy originals with soulful vocals, reminiscent of a time once forgotten.

Their fourth album, *After The Rain* has a unique vintage sound that these two have created themselves yet it is packed with a modern punch that cannot be denied, once seen live.

Their 2012 album, *Wiley Ways* was voted Best Blues Album at the Australia Blues Awards and UK's *Spiral Earth* magazine.

Hat Fitz and Cara were 2015's semi-finalists representing Australia in the International Blues Challenge. Their third album, the Jeff Lang-produced album *Do Tell*, spent three months standing at No.1 in the Australian Blues & Roots charts, and entered the Amazon charts at No.17 in Europe. Cara was awarded Female Blues Vocalist of the Year in 2015 at the Australian Blues Awards chain awards for *Do Tell*, and they have been listed as semi-finalists in the International Songwriters Competition.

This will be an unforgettable show and a not-to-be-missed opportunity for all roots music fans.

The Phoenix Rising cafe will be open all day with a range of delicious locally sourced meals and hot and cold drinks. BYO permitted.

New Ancients to host inaugural BLESS UP

The BLESS UP is an all ages celebration of youth culture and ideas, designed by the New Ancients – a duo who really know how to party!

The New Ancients are Corey Fisher and Gabriel Sands, who met in their early teenage years and discovered a shared interest in HipHop culture, dancing and music. Over the last ten years they have harnessed a combined passion for bringing people together and throwing parties with something special added to the mix. The New Ancients have thrown parties in Melbourne, Canberra, the Gold Coast and Northern NSW Rivers areas and now it is Nimbin's turn!

The New Ancients noticed a gap in the party scene that is aching to be filled again, all ages wholesome and soulful events that stay



interesting by developing and encouraging new ideas and artists with an emphasis on youth cultures. Their parties have been inclusive celebrations of the mind and spirit of young people.

Personally influenced by the revolution that is the Hip Hop culture, the mission statement of the New Ancients is to create and

hold a space of love through music, spoken word, artistic installation, dancing, positive vibes, and spontaneous co-creation.

The Nimbin Bush Theatre is very excited to host the inaugural BLESS UP, a unique party, with a view to creating a quarterly event. The BLESS UP will focus on uplifting local youth,

community and artists from all over the region through fun, love, colour, creativity, celebration and unity.

The exciting line-up includes DJs Strawberry Blonde, The New Ancients, Hip Hop artists Freefall Generation, sonic author Wicked Hermit, Dr T's Folk Jamboree, Sweet Az and Moody B.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be on hand with meals, cakes, coffees, teas, cold drinks and friendly staff. Camping is available at the Nimbin Showgrounds for \$10 per night.

Get to BLESS UP, an all-ages festival of music, words, installation and celebration, on Saturday 14th January, 3pm-12am at Nimbin Bush Theatre. Entry \$15. This is a drug and alcohol free event. Presales available at: nimbinbushtheatre.com/events

California-born, Byron-based roots artist, environmental activist and educator, Steve Manoa is finishing his national tour promoting his new single, *My Medicine* at Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 22nd January.

He draws upon his reggae and folk influences to weave a dynamic soundscape of upbeat songs with positive messages and powerful intention.

This tour is leading up to the crowd-funding campaign and recording of his first full-length album in early 2017.

After completing his PhD in Environmental Education in Fremantle, Steve Manoa moved to the Byron Bay region and lived at the Bentley Blockade

in 2014 for three months, where he helped produce the album *Songs of the Bentley Blockade*, showcasing the grassroots music that was written by the Bentley 'water protectors'.

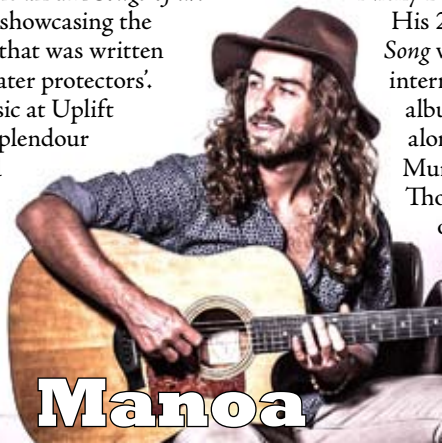
Sharing his music at Uplift Festival (2014), Splendour In The Grass and Nimbin Roots Festival (2016), Steve Manoa has also played alongside and supported various roots musicians including Oka,

Murray Kyle, The Floating Bridges and Nicky Bomba.

His 2015 single *The Water Song* was included on an international compilation album *Songs of Water* alongside Shimshai, Murray Kyle, Dustin Thomas, PEIA, and

others, and 'The Water Song' music video was launched in collaboration with Uplift Connect in 2016.

For more info, go to: www.stevemanoa.com



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Sunday Gig Guide

January 1pm start

8th Hunter & Smoke

This music will move your booty and your soul.

15th Monkey & The Fish Trio

Folk, blues, reggae, country, rock and jazz are intertwined with lyrics inspired by personal and universal themes

22nd Manoa

Manoa draws upon his reggae and folk influences to weave a dynamic soundscape of upbeat songs with positive messages and intention.

29th Lawrence Agar

A mixture of original songs, covers, folk, jazz and blues standards, and traditional Irish music

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January Gigs

Friday 6th	7pm	Trombone Kellie Gang
Saturday 7th	7pm	Cliff Fletcher Band
Sunday 8th	5pm	Adam Brown
Thursday 12th	7pm	Brommers
Friday 13th	7pm	TBA
Saturday 14th	7pm	Drift
Sunday 15th	5pm	Guy Kachel
Thursday 19th	7pm	Q
Friday 20th	7pm	Sour Rypes
Saturday 21st	7pm	Rawnchi
Sunday 22nd	5pm	Adam Brown
Thursday 26th	7pm	Richie Williams
Friday 27th	7pm	Boewood
Saturday 28th	7pm	Anti-Bodies
Sunday 29th	5pm	TBA

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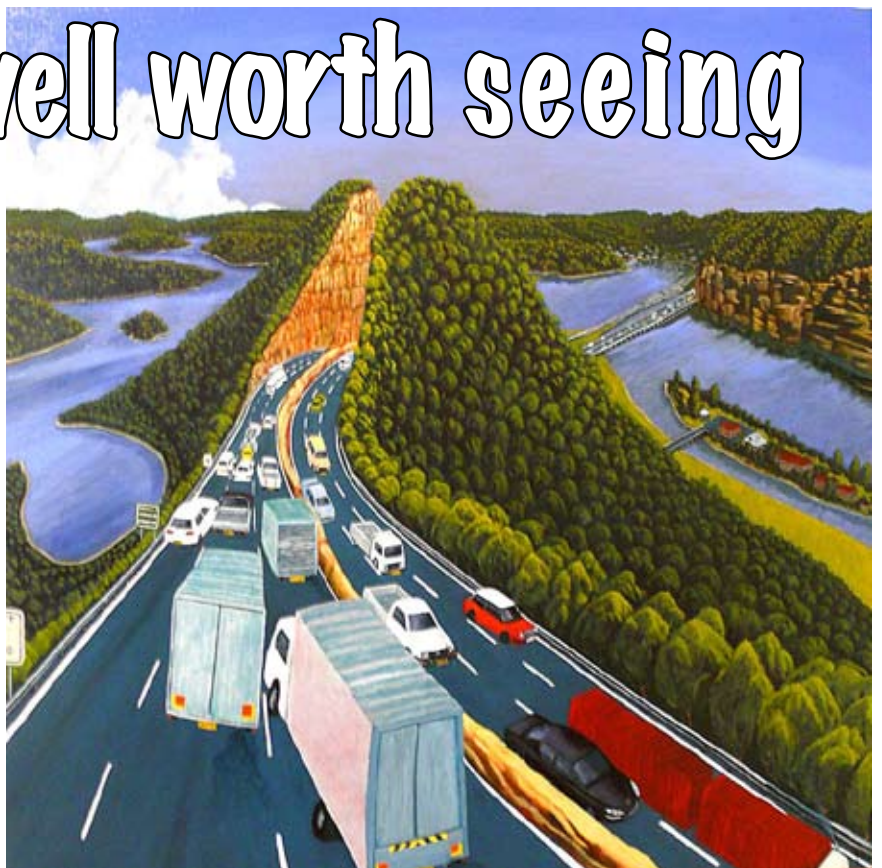
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GALLERY • CAFE

A show well worth seeing

The Artist's Choice

This exhibition is running until Saturday 4th February. It is an annual exhibition where the artists and artisans contribute any artwork, sculpture or images that they choose to exhibit without the constrictions of a theme to work to. This exhibition is always a popular one and expresses the wide range of mediums the artists at Blue Knob Hall Gallery create.

Ian FitzSimons' painting 'The Pillars of Hercules' (pictured) is a great example. The journey into Sydney and the recognisable landscape of the Hawkesbury creates a visceral response to the journey into urban chaos. It is, as always, a show worth seeing.



'The Pillars of Hercules' by Ian FitzSimons

Matchbox Magic – Fundraiser

Artists and members have been inspired to think outside 'the box' for this fundraiser; and the artists who exhibit here have come up with some quirky and fun pieces. This will continue to the end of the exhibition and support this community Art Gallery and Hall. Each piece is a minimum of \$20 and any contributions over that are always welcomed.

Colour and Light

The first exhibition in the New Year is called 'Colour and Light', with the Opening Night being held on Friday 10th February at 6.30pm.

Artists & Friends Lunch

The next Artists & Friends lunch will

be held on Thursday 23rd February at 12.30pm. For more info, please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you would like to attend.

Ceramic Studio

The Blue Knob Ceramic Studio celebrates an incredible first nine months since we opened. Classes will begin again on Thursday 12th January and spaces are filling up fast. If you are interested in attending, please contact Heather at the Gallery. Phone 6689-7449.

Blue Knob Cafe

Local couple Rebekah Webster and Simon Lionnet will be in the kitchen at Blue Knob Cafe from Thursday 5th January.

We are looking forward to a new beginning and another colour on the 'palate' that is Blue Knob Hall Gallery and community.

The official Opening of Blue Knob Cafe will be held at the Opening of the 'Colour & Light' exhibition on Friday 10th February at 6.30pm.

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A very Nimbin Christmas lunch

by Pampussycat Bourne

The School of Arts filled with happy faces, laughing and much catching up, as the community came together for the annual Nimbin Christmas Luncheon held on the last Friday before Christmas.

Familiar faces and happy chatting filled the hall, while several hundred people came and went, enjoying the feast prepared and served by volunteers. Trays of tropical fresh fruit to tempt the taste buds. Roast chicken, ham, and a variety of salads, even catering to the gluten free, followed by pudding or cake with custard or ice cream. Locally made fruit and berry cordial was on tap thanks to Chantico. This year 270 people came for dinner, down from last year where 320 people were fed. That had been the biggest year to date.

A surprise performance by Mookx Hanley on ukulele entertained everyone.

The lunch brings people together. There are many people in Nimbin without family. Nimbin has a history of having "extended" family, and has long been a village where the word community stood for "common unity". For those isolated, ill or without family, Christmas can be a lonely time. Raffles were donated and drawn, helping fund the day.

Santa and elf arrived at 1pm on the Fire truck with siren sounding, to delight of the youngsters. Gifts were given to the eagerly waiting children.

The Nimbin Christmas lunch was birthed many years ago by the Nimbin Older Woman's Forum. "Thanks to the community for supporting soup Friday and the Christmas lunch," Faye Scherf said. "It was wonderful to see so many people coming out to enjoy the day. A big thank you to the crew for putting it



all together."

The first Nimbin Community Christmas was in 1992, and totally funded by the donations from Soup Friday. The roasts were cooked in the Bowling Club ovens, and cold foods kept in their fridges, leading up to the lunch.

Faye handed over the reins to the Nimbin Neighborhood and Information Centre ten years ago, where Gail M Clarke does much of the organizing for this huge event. Gail said, "Lunch is still put on by the Soup Friday crew. Donations throughout the year help to fund the event. There is a dedicated crew who turn up every year to make it happen. Faye cooks a big chocolate cake each year, and the rest of the food is prepared fresh on the day."

Judging by the numbers who come each year to share a meal, catch up and enjoy a taste of Christmas, Nimbin-style,



this event is very much a cornerstone of events, all inclusive, free to attend and much appreciated.

As the day is put on by volunteers, perhaps you could help next year. Perhaps you could help put some toys into Santa's sack, help to wrap the gifts, or donate a basket of goodies for the raffles? Maybe you could perform live music during the meal, provide produce or prepare salads and help serve lunch. Contact the Neighborhood Centre to volunteer for 2017.

Feature artist of the month - *Adriana Huls*

by Peter Warne

Adriana Huls' art is a challenge. Where most artists start with an object, figure or scene from present reality and represent that through a process that could be described as ingestion followed by expression, Adriana taps directly into her unconscious and from there elaborates on an interior event, which is then expressed through a drawing or painting.

Adriana comes from an artistic family and has been actively involved in drawing or painting since she was very young. After living for some years in an artists' commune in Amsterdam, studying writing in a rebellious fashion for four years, she lived from the age of 18 to 32 on a cargo barge and traversed the canal systems of the Dutch and French countryside. At that stage she was producing nature drawings from the landscapes she was passing through.

She came to live in Australia and started painting in acrylics, oils and fluoro paints. From her years in Amsterdam she also brought

a strong involvement in music. She attended dance parties where electronic composers delved deep into the tones and textures of electronic music in the quest for powerful psychedelic experiences. Adriana was engaged in enacting her paintings at large electronic parties, working directly onto a surface which was projected onto a large screen above the dancers.

When she is working at peak output, she works with a furious intensity, producing for long days, hour after hour without a break, continuing until she is physically exhausted and can barely hold a pen or paint brush in her hand. She told me about her practice phases, where she works with her left (non-dominant) hand, with both hands at once, or with her eyes shut. When asked what she was practising with these methods, she said courage and freedom.



Nimbin Artists Gallery will be displaying a selection

of Adriana's paintings and line drawings through January.

Submarine Playground takes us into an underwater world populated by various mythical and imaginary sea creatures: there's a

spirit in a boat, a swan, and the central theme is set by the two small water sprites, playing what looks like a board game, which may be the play of creation, or the game of life.

The larger part of *Still Point* is a riot of forms in vibrant oranges, reds, browns, depicting birds, goblins, human and other

creatures. All this forms a broad frame around a scene in a totally contrasting mood, in cooler blue greens and pearly white. One's first impression is of looking at a soft, dreamy landscape through a heavily coloured, frame.

Alternatively the central oasis of calm is the main subject, and the hyperactive surround is just there to contrast and highlight the mood of that subject. This viewer is drawn to seeing the surrounding jumble as representing the turmoil of our everyday mental activity (our monkey-mind), through which one is either seeing outwards, to the pastoral landscape of a yearned for world beyond our daily life, or seeing inwards, a glimpse of the unmoving, unconditioned self at the heart of our being.

*After the kingfisher's wing
Has answered light to light, and is silent, the light is still*

At the still point of the turning world.

– T.S. Eliot, 'Burnt Norton'

Drop into Nimbin Artists Gallery and experience a range of Adriana's arresting works through January.

Youth films impress judges

by Darmin Cameron, NYFF 2016 Organiser.

The Nimbin Youth Film Festival was created to encourage young people to make and show their films to a live audience on a big screen. These young filmmakers are enticed off YouTube and into a darkened room, honouring the grand tradition of cinema.

Each year since 2010 an expectant audience has filed into the Nimbin Town Hall and taken their seats to watch these films projected large with a cinema-sized sound.

Young, old and in-between are witness to the judges selection of films, awards are announced, and trophies and cash prizes handed out. This year the mayor of Lismore Isaac Smith presented the awards and congratulated the winners. This year over \$2500 in prizes and trophies were awarded to the entrants.

The festival celebrates the fact that young people now have the technology to make films. Never before in the history of filmmaking have young people controlled the filmmaking process. Past winners have been as young as nine with films sometimes made on an i-Pod. The festival awards good stories and their entertainment value.

There is a big plus for adults in watching these films – they get to see what young people are thinking about. Adults can gain insights into what young people care about, what they are interested in, and what is influencing them. These films made by young people can be very revealing. Hopefully this will bring more understanding, more compassion and more empathy for the challenges young people face in the 21st Century transitioning from childhood to adulthood.

Following are the top six winners as picked by the judges Jeni Kendall, Paul Tait and Paris Naday including the judges' comments.

Senior section 19-24 years old, sponsored by TAFE North Coast NSW

First Prize: *Retail Therapy* by Carly Frankham.

We see the everyday trauma of the checkout! Hell. The acting throughout this short drama is fantastic and in particular the woman checkout employee who is exceptional and we imagine will have a huge future. The



Winners 2016 with Lismore mayor, Isaac Smith. Photos: Goba

cinematography has high impact shots and is well thought out. With reverse angles etc. it has great sound and perfect editing – we all gave it very high marks for direction. Could not fault this film which created tension and drama and was a good tight story very well done. Please all keep going as a team.

Second Prize: *Dress to Express* by Stone May. A contemporary complex story of a boy growing up and coming to the realisation that he wants to express himself as female. We see the difficulties this brings with his family as the story unfolds. This drama is very well done and developed, the acting is wonderful and the content is treated with great sensitivity and attention to detail.

Technically it could have been improved with more time spent on fine cut editing. More time could have been spent on the audio mix and have been better balance of shots and a few shots cut out or cut down. All-in-all, very well done. Again, please keep the films coming.

Third Prize: *Rowboat Ronnie* by Max Shearman and winner of the Laugh out Loud award. We all loved this animation that is so funny and well done in every way. The story is crystal clear and the style of the animation so suits the narrative. The animation is fantastic and the sound so imaginative and well done. Again, could happily see this in the cinema or on TV. You also have a real future in animation.

Junior section under-18 years old, sponsored by Nimbin School of Arts, Social Futures & Nimbin Environment Centre

First Prize: *The Day They Met Clive* by Alako Myles.

A very sophisticated story well told. Excellent soundtrack, subtle facial expressions and close ups with great expression and impact. The standard in this animation is fantastic and could easily be seen in the cinema or on TV. Cannot fault it and think you have a real future in animation.

Second Prize: *Hitch* by Henrika May.

A well done story with a blend of dream and reality and very interesting concept. Editing could have been a little smoother in delivering the story but camera and sound very good.

Third Prize: *A Family Story* by Eleanor Gibson. A very young girl interviews various members of her family and gives us an interesting insight into their lives and a context for her own life. Very fresh and great off beat questions that really revealed a lot about her relatives and the structure of modern Australian families. She had thought about the questions, spoke very clearly and she patiently heard the answer without interruption and thanked each person with respect. The set-up for the filming was considered and the audio was clear and good. Perhaps Eleanor could have given us an introduction to what she was about to do with the film. Could have been a



Winner Junior Section Alako Myles with the mayor.

tad shorter but very engaging and we would encourage this entrant to keep going on her journey with filmmaking.

To see the films visit the Nimbin Youth Film Festival Facebook page and follow the links. For more info: www.nimbinyouthfilmfestival.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, Pot of Gold Café.