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Makeover for Nimbin's big map

Lismore City Council has replaced a well-known mural structure in Nimbin's Allsopp Park, as it was deteriorating from extensive termite damage.

The structure has been rebuilt and the mural, by local artist Kathy Stavrou, has been touched up and reinstalled.

Council's Parks and Gardens department has funded the re-building of the structure, and Lismore Regional Gallery has also provided \$2000 from

the Public Art Fund for Leonie to bring the mural back to its original glory before reinstallation.

LCC Parks and Gardens Co-ordinator Marcus Ellison said, "We recognised the cultural significance of the mural – it's an iconic piece of artwork in the village – and we were thrilled to be able to secure some funds so the artist could restore it before reinstallation. The outcome is a great one for the whole village."



Touching up the mural in 2014

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Greens Councillor Vanessa Elkins' selfie with the first helping hands volunteer cleaning team heading out into flood ravaged South Lismore. After the flood, back to work and a site inspection to rezone critical koala habitat for 150 house lots. These farms support the breeding population of koalas that replenish Goonellabah and Tucki. We didn't approve the development and the landholders need to do more research into how koalas move through the farmlands.

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Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, President

It's another busy time in Nimbin with the MardiGrass to kickstart the month. Many of us are still recovering from the effects of the flood, and I know many businesses and families have suffered as a result of this disaster.

Even now we are still seeing the huge piles of debris that Council is working hard to remove. The sight of all the empty shops, and all the heart flags flying on my first visit to Lismore moved me deeply.

I was touched not only by the scale of the devastation but also the courage and heart of a community determined to recover. My best wishes go out to all those affected by this event.

This month the Chamber is hosting another public

meeting on Wednesday 17th May at 5.30pm in the Birth and Beyond meeting space.

We have three really great guest speakers for this month's meeting, and hope we get as great a turnout for this event as we did for the 'Meet the New Councillors' public meeting, held in February.

We had some really informed discussions around what the Council could offer the community and what the community identified as the most critical issues.

Jane Laverty is the local manager of the NSW Business Council. All Nimbin Chamber members are automatically eligible for membership to the NSW Business Council and they have some great services to offer members. Jane will be speaking about how the Business Council can help members in



terms of insurance, workplace advice, government workplace training grants and concessions, and a host of other functions offered by the organisation.

Mitch Lowe, the Lismore Council Economic Development Officer, will be talking about how the Chamber can work with Council on such projects and issues as Nimbin entry signage, advertising in public spaces, the Nimbin Walking Trail funding application, further development of the Nimbin Sound Trail project, tourism development and Mural restoration.

Tina Irish, the Lismore Council Executive and

Administration Co-ordinator, will be discussing the finding of the Lismore Business Retention and Expansion Survey, presenting and communicating Nimbin community values and ethos, collaborative marketing, updates on the fire site developments.

We welcome and encourage people to attend and participate in these meetings. They are an opportunity to directly discuss community concerns and provide Lismore Council and the NSW Business Council valuable feedback so they can improve their service to us. Looking forward to your input.

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Return of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens



Most annoying

The second most annoyingly adhesive particle known to science is moon dust. NASA first became aware of this after the very first moon walk when they tried to clean the astronaut's uniforms.

The dust, having been pulverised by a millennium of asteroid impacts and ionised by solar winds, coated every surface and filled every crack and required extensive vacuuming.

Of course, the most perniciously sticky and abhorrent substance known to science is produced in Bathenstool when both the sewerage works upstream from the township overtop.

This event, that happens every 20 years or so, creates a thick layer of stool which, like moon dust, adheres to every surface. However, 'the stool' also penetrates into every surface, be it wood, plastic even iron.

Bathenstoolers believe it even penetrates people's souls and in the past they would dip newly borne's head first into the substance to harden them up – until the government cracked down on the practice after an outbreak of bacterial meningitis.

In addition to being a fascination to scientists, doctors and moralists, even mathematicians and logicians have been inspired by 'the stool' and have developed what is called the Bathenstool paradox.

This paradox, which regularly appears in the first year exam at the Public Health and Fine Dining University in the township reads as follows: If 50% of Bathenstool stool is removed every time a surface is water blasted, how many water blastings does it take to clean a previously inundated barbecue? Discuss this with reference to public cleanliness.

Right putting brakes on renewable energy

by Tamara Smith
Greens MP for Ballina

Almost 150 years after photovoltaic cells and wind turbines were invented, they still generate only seven percent of the world's electricity. Yet something remarkable is happening.

From being peripheral to the energy system just over a decade ago, they are now growing faster than any other energy source, and their falling costs are making them competitive with fossil fuels. BP expects renewables to account for half the growth in global energy supply over the next 20 years. It is no longer far fetched to think the world is entering an era of clean, unlimited, democratised and cheap power – and it is about time.

However, there is a \$20 trillion hitch. To get from here to there requires huge amounts of investment over the next few decades to replace the old, smog-belching power plants and to upgrade the pylons and wires that bring electricity to consumers. Normally investors like putting their money into electricity because it offers reliable returns.

Yet green energy is different; the more it is deployed, the more it lowers the price of power from any source. That makes it hard to manage the transition to a carbon-free future, during which many generating technologies, clean and dirty, need to remain profitable if the lights are to stay on. Unless the market is fixed, subsidies to the industry will only grow.

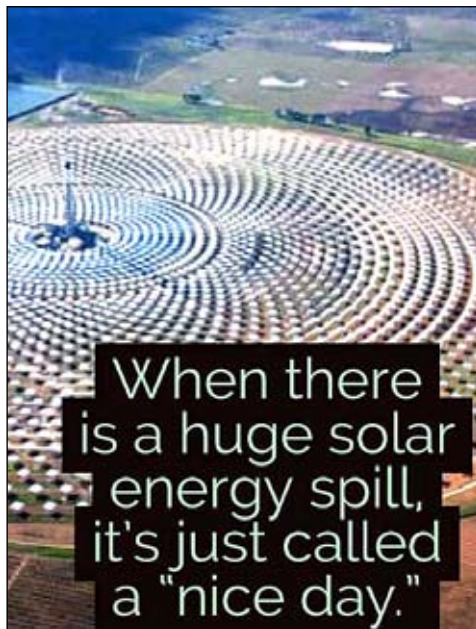
Policymakers are aware of this dilemma. But, instead of doing what all the economic giants of the globe are doing and shifting the paradigms around how electricity is priced, in this country we are seeing a push by the Right to use this issue as an excuse to put the brakes on renewable energy and to demonise it.

There are a few possible reasons why political parties in this country might be doing this: first, ineptitude and simply not being up to the task; secondly, perceptions that to embrace carbon pricing and a new way of pricing electricity is political suicide; and/or thirdly, they are making too much money from the fossil fuel industry.

I suspect all of these reasons come into play, but with the Federal Government having squandered the Australian renewables boom of 2012-13 my father always taught me to follow the money. In February 2015 political donations data released by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) found that mining and energy companies declared donations to the Coalition of more than \$1.8 million in 2013-14. It was reported in 2017 that political donations for 2015-16 totalled over \$2 million to the Liberal Party – more than \$787,000 from resources companies, and \$1.3 million from a single donor, a mining entrepreneur.

In the February 2017 AEC "Summary of Donations reported by Donors—By Party—2015-16", donations to The Nationals New South Wales branch revealed that Southern Oil Refining donated \$21,000 and Caltex Australia Limited donated \$8,480. During the same period donations were made to the New South Wales Liberal Party by Santos Limited, Chevron Australia Pty Limited, Caltex Australia Limited and Origin Energy.

The solution to transitioning us from reliance on fossil fuels to the clean, green economies of the future is to rethink how the world prices clean energy in order to make better use of it. Without a new approach the renewables revolution will continue to stall in this part of the world, and we know what the consequences of this would be for the planet. I like to think that governments in this country are not inept, and it would be great if they could find the courage to move past fears of political suicide if they discuss this matter in a rational way.



Australian sustainability thinker and author of *The Great Disruption*, Paul Gilding, says the politicisation of renewable energy and climate change is holding progress back in Australia, similar to the situation in the US. In a recent talk near Ballina he said that sustainability is not a such political football in Europe, Scandinavia or even the UK as it is here.

Paul Gilding said he believes businesses in Australia have a role to play in influencing the Right to consider sustainable practices because businesses will suffer economically if government gets it wrong with climate change.

I myself have seen Members of Parliament in the NSW Legislature from parties on the Right trying to talk sensibly about these issues, and they are being demonised. The problem is not renewable energy but the out-of-date system of electricity pricing, perhaps along with the vested interests of a few.

Pricing in NSW especially has been made unattractive for householders willing to invest in solar power. Instead of being rewarded and encouraged to help this State move away from fossil fuels, solar households are being ripped off with miserly rates for the power they produce.

NSW is not only falling further behind Victoria in energy and climate policy but also in the amounts being paid to householders.

Victorian solar households earn 11.3 cents per kWh compared to the 4.7 – 6.1 cents per kWh recommended for NSW solar households.

We want the NSW government to lift the solar power tariff after the Victorian Essential Services Commission (ESC) set a price for feeding solar electricity into the grid of 11.3 cents per kilowatt hour, compared to NSW rate of 4.7 – 6.1 cents per kilowatt hour set by Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

The ESC increased the tariff to recognise the benefit solar power provides in terms of climate change, network benefits, and environmental benefits.

Energy minister Don Harwin should amend the terms of reference for setting solar tariff benchmarks to replicate those used in Victoria.

If the government fails to move to give a fair price for solar, then the Greens will introduce a bill to have price determinations factor in an implicit carbon price, network benefits, environmental benefits and health benefits of solar energy.

32,812 households in the Northern Rivers region have decided to support clean, renewable energy by installing solar panels. They should be given a fair price that recognises the benefits of the clean energy they produce.

The Greens have the courage to fix it – who will join us?



Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan at a meeting at the Lismore Workers club encouraging people affected by the flood to apply for a disaster relief grant.

by Kevin Hogan MP Member for Page

Volunteers who give their time play an important role in our community. It was great to announce grants to help volunteers at Nimbin Central School's P&C and Wadeville Reserve Trust.

The P&C received \$5000 for kitchen appliances, whitegoods and storage, while the trust received \$2350 for a range of gardening, power and construction tools. I thank all of our volunteers for the work they do.

The Federal Government has recouped \$340 million in taxes owed by US-based giant Chevron. This is a great win in the Government's crackdown on multi-national tax avoidance.

As Chairman of the Tax and Revenue Committee this is a major focus of mine.

Changes to 457 Visas are good news for locals looking for work. These changes are all about making sure there are Australian jobs for Australians. The changes will better

target genuine skills shortages in regions such as ours. Farmers in the Lismore Council area, including those in Nimbin who have been affected by the flood, can now apply for funding up to \$10,000. These grants can assist in repairing damaged fencing, buying more feed for livestock and other flood-related damage. To apply for a grant go to: www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief or phone 1800-678-593.

The Government will announce record funding for the community legal centres in this month's budget. We will provide a further \$55.7 million over the next three years to community legal centres and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services.

I would like to wish everyone a happy MardiGrass for next weekend. Much like Nimbin itself, this is a very iconic event that draws people to our community from across Australia and the world.

My congratulations to the organisers.

From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith
Lismore City Council

I want to thank everyone in Nimbin and our villages for their hard work in the day and weeks following the flood.

Given the significant rain that fell over that 24 hours, people across the area were dealing with their own flash flooding as houses and farms were badly affected. In places where they have never had to worry about storm water, people were shocked by the amount that fell and rose in such a short period of time.

There have been a lot of council trucks and contractors working on the clean up and of course 1000's of volunteers, from the RFS and SES to individuals and church groups, from across the country. One of the biggest concerns raised with me by people outside of Lismore was the lack of disaster funded clean up.

The state disaster response to rising river flooding being covered, but flash flooding being the responsibility of the property owner, has left most of our villages feeling unsupported.

Given the significance of the rainfall event, the majority of rural residents had flash flooding through houses, sheds and businesses. They should have been able to get a kerbside pick-up like those affected by rising river waters. While it may



seem like a poor choice, rural residents should make sure they apply for council's free tip vouchers if they need to dispose of any waste.

This is one of the issues we will be raising with the state and federal government, so that future clean ups do more to support our whole community. There are also other issues we hope to put forward so that other communities can benefit from the way our community has come together to support each other post flood.

Our roads have also been badly effected by cyclone Debbie, with our rural roads copping the brunt of the damage. When I was a younger fella, we used to love the number of dirt roads we had around Lismore, but they don't hold up well to a once in a lifetime storm event.

Our bitumen roads have done better than expected, where a lot of resurfacing has been done in the last few years. But there is a lot of rural bitumen in a very poor state.

But we know that these council assets are our biggest issue and a lot of these gravel roads were turned to bitumen without any thought on how

future councils would maintain them. So we are now spending a significant part of every yearly budget cutting funds from elsewhere to rebuild and maintain the largest road network in the region.

Almost all our gravel roads need some re-sheeting and drainage work, not to mention the many culverts, causeways and bridges with washed out approaches. We are still scoping the amount of work for disaster recovery funding, but \$40 million dollars is a reasonable estimate.

This budget is not something council can pass on to residents, so we need to work on the state government to get this work done. That unfortunately means it will take more time than normal to get the work completed.

So roads still closed such as Boatharbour, Cawongla, Keerong, Koonorigan and Oakey Creek are likely to be closed for a few months. Given the amount of gravel road work that is needed, the timeframe for a total repair after such a record rainfall event is measured in years.

Council appreciates the way our community has come together after this devastating flood and we will continue to work with everyone to make things better than before. We appreciate the patience shown so far and I know everyone is with us during the recovery.

Koala homes not logging zones

by Dailan Pugh

The very survival of the North Coast's koalas is threatened by proposed increases in logging intensity and imminent extensions of timber contracts, according to analysis presented to the meeting of the North East Forest Alliance held over the weekend near Stuart's Point.

In order to meet current wood supply contracts, the NSW Government plans to zone most of the coastal State Forests for intensive logging and clear-felling, and to remove the already inadequate protection for core Koala habitat.

Analysis by the North-east Forest Alliance shows that of the 6,000 records of Koalas on State Forest in north-east NSW, 92% of them are in the 57% of forests proposed to be zoned for intensified logging, with the highest Koala densities in the 140,000 ha of State Forests proposed to be zoned to allow virtual clear-felling.

Areas of State Forests found in study after study to be core Koala habitat, such as in Pine Creek, Royal Camp and Carwong, are intended to be zoned for intensified logging and committed in contracts to the industry.

Already an intensification of logging, which the EPA describe as "not consistent" with the laws governing logging, is occurring. The intensification of logging and reduction in protections for threatened species, such as Koalas, are being driven by 25-year wood supply contracts first signed in 1998.

Since then, the committed volumes of large sawlogs have had to be reduced by 47% because of the Forestry Corporation's grossly inflated resource



Logging casualty. A month after logging started in Koroelah State Forest in 2013, foresters found an injured Koala at the base of a tree. Rather than taking it to a vet, they left it there, found it dead the next day, then buried it without an autopsy. Photo provided anonymously.

estimations. NSW taxpayers have paid loggers at least \$13 million in compensation for non-existent timber they were given for free, and millions more buying timber from private land to supplement supplies.

Over that time, Koala populations on the north-coast have crashed by 50% (www.aceas.org.au/conserving_koalas_report.pdf). Their demise is one of the costs of logging.

According to the NSW Government *Forest Industry Roadmap*, the Government began negotiating new wood supply contracts late last year and intend to finalise them by the middle of this year, even though most don't expire until 2023 and the biggest one, to BORAL, doesn't expire until 2028.

Susie Russell, North Coast

Environment Council spokesperson said, "We can't afford more of the same. New timber contracts covering core Koala habitat will signal the end for NSW Koalas.

"If the people of NSW want koalas to exist in the wild, then our Government will have to stop giving their feed trees and homes to the loggers. It's pretty simple really."

Ms Russell said, "We call on the Premier Gladys Berejiklian to give a commitment that the Forestry Corporation will not be allowed to intensify logging in coastal forests, and for her to give an assurance that trees and habitat needed by koalas will be excluded from logging, deducted from timber calculations and removed from contracts."



Lindee-Anne, Noelle & Carol supporting KGAG at the Kyogle Bazaar. Photo: Ron

KGAG object to Santos EIS

Kyogle Group Against Gas (KGAG) attended the Kyogle Bazaar with a 'Mobile Objections Unit' and collected around 100 objections to the Santos Environmental Impact Statement, and then a further 70 were collected in just two hours in Lismore on Thursday.

"The volume of signatures collected in such a short space of time clearly show this State Significant Project has absolutely no social licence anywhere – people are crossing the street to sign, driving past and finding a park just so they can come back to make an objection – it's obvious the project is unwanted, many people just wish Santos would go away," Jo Evans from KGAG said.

The Mobile Objections Unit joined up with the Knitting Nannas Against Gas, who frequent Kevin Hogan's office every Thursday for a 'knit-in', but Mr Hogan wasn't available.

The Mobile Objections Unit will be around the traps until about the 15th May. They hope to get to Nimbin very soon so keep an eye out for them.

Commercial water extraction near World Heritage sites

by Xavier Jablonski

My interest in groundwater extraction in close proximity to World Heritage properties began after discovering a 500ml bottle of spring water labelled 'Yaru Spring Water' in a Coles supermarket (Yaru is Bundjalung tongue for 'Rock').

I later discovered it was bottled by a company called Mt Warning Spring Water (MWSW). After browsing their website: www.mountwarningspringwater.com I was quite literally shocked to read the words: "The Mount Warning Spring Water source flows deep below the base of Mount Warning (Wollumbin)", which is of course a World Heritage Site.

This must be marketing spin, I thought. How could this be possible? The blurb 'Our Water' shows a cross-section image of Wollumbin and the aquifer below it with a straw stretching into it from a plastic bottle on the surface. I couldn't believe that it would be legal to extract water quite literally from under a World Heritage site.

After further research, the story only got worse. I found the proximity of the extraction bore to the World Heritage site was not just marketing spin, it was for real... only 4,590 meters (north) to Wollumbin (a distance that can be walked in less than an hour).

I also learned it was about the same distance to two additional World Heritage Sites being Mebbin (west) and Nightcap (south) – not to mention Mt. Jerusalem National Park (east).

I further discovered that there is a



huge bottling factory adjacent to the extraction bore, right there at the foot of Wollumbin, over 4,600sqm in size, no small operation.

It didn't end there... here are few more facts to summarise what is going on right now at the foot of Wollumbin:

- MWSW have been at it for 13 years (since 2004) – literally hundreds of millions of litres have been extracted... extraction is ongoing.
- MWSW operate under a NSW state water access, this license now allows them to extract up to 235

million litres of ground water every year... mind-boggling volumes.

- Their extraction limits and truck allowance are all expanding – currently their truck movement allowance is 218 million litres/year, so they can almost truck out their entire allowance each year.
- The license is paid for by a single \$150 /annual fee and extraction is completely self-regulated (via handwritten log books) and completely un-metered. Furthermore, the water licensee does not pay for the water (by the litre), just the annual fee of \$150 for 235 million litres of the

purest water available on the planet – your water too!

What got my goat the most was my research surrounding the science (or lack thereof). To my horror, I discovered that the combined private (Water Licensees), local and federal scientific studies had performed no significant or independent research of their own at all, and that instead they all referred to the NSW Water State studies (DPI).

So when I came upon the latest State funded study titled *Coastal Porous Rock Rainfall Recharge Study* prepared for NSW DPI Water

(published 9th September 2015), I was excited, I wanted facts. This is the most recent study of its kind and includes the Clarence Moreton Basin as part of the report, of which the Tweed Volcano (including Wollumbin, Mebbin and Nightcap) are part of.

In the Discussion Summary (page 30), the report clearly states the fact that "the Clarence Moreton Basin has no groundwater model reports (to draw upon)". I scoured the report and came up with empty tables listing the Clarence Moreton Basin void of data. I began to wonder why the Clarence Moreton Basin had even been included in the report if they knew pretty well nothing about it?

So sadly, it is official: neither Local, State or Federal governments have any comprehensive scientific mapping or modelling of the Clarence Moreton Basin or related groundwater (aquifers) in the basin, let alone any specific detail on the Tweed Volcano aquifers. The science simply has not been done. How are these licenses granted if the science is baseless?

So here we have an existing ongoing licensed, private, corporate action apparently extracting precious pure groundwater by the mega-litre from under no less than three World Heritage sites without a scrap of real science behind it.

How can we call this sustainable? How is this legal? What would UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee think about this?

So while you read this article, just remember this is happening as you read. This is real, and there is no sign of it stopping... yet.

Hemp for IMF: industrial, medicinal, food

by Wayne Wadsworth

Can hemp save the world? Or your world?

In combination to changing the global economic system run by the IMF and World Bank, it probably can.

This amazing plant, which served humanity for thousands of years, has the *potential* to indeed save humanity. That's a big statement so where's the proof? And why did humans' most useful plant become illegal in the 1930's?

Up until recently I believed the hemp was made illegal because of its ability in the industrial fields and the desire of the Banksters to do away with competition, to the emerging oil and petrochemicals industries.

Even myself, a committed and well-read active hempster, had no idea that hemp was used widely as a medicine prior to it being demonised and outlawed, firstly in the USA then the rest of the US-controlled countries.

I also had very little idea about hemp's amazing food value in that it has essential omega 3, 6 and 9 oils and twice the protein of meat.

The demonising of hemp

To really understand Hemp's demise, we have to look at the interests of the big Banksters who were pulling the strings, of the forces aligned to get rid of hemp and replace it with synthetics and forests.

There is a very simple reason why hemp had to go and that is it was a people's democratic plant. Farmers could easily grow it and the processing

of the plant into industrial medicinal and food needs was becoming increasingly cheaper and easy to do. In fact, engineers in the US had built a new decortication machine that would have revolutionised the processing of hemp materials.

Hemp did not need huge amounts of finance and bank loans for it to be developed into a myriad of industrial and consumer goods. However the emerging mining, oil and petrochemical industries needed very large amounts of capital and bank loans to get the industries happening.

These new industries were also controlled by wealthy families. Banks could make loans to a relatively small number of wealthy business men who had connections in the big end of town.

Hemp leaned itself to small and large family farming and small to large manufacturing plants. On the other hand oil and mining leaned itself to very large companies with centralized and large manufacturing processes.

Banks only had to make loans to a handful of people and the profits were very handsome in comparison to existing farming businesses.

The Banksters with the aid of big business, the free press, politicians and the state agencies demonised hemp and had it made illegal in almost every country aligned to the USA.

The master plan was to demonise hemp as a wicked narcotic drug, which caused black men to rape white women and cause psychotic episodes of anyone who

participated in the wicked weed, leading to murder and mayhem. The state was used to terrorise anyone using hemp and was responsible for ruining millions of people's lives through lies, propaganda and deliberate deception.

The USA carried out this huge lie all around the world with the help of their local hacks for over 70 years. Ironically, the return of hemp is not because of its industrial and consumer goods use, but its medical and recreational uses.

Even more ironically, US businessmen are making millions from its reintroduction for medicinal and recreational use while Industrial hemp is still illegal in many states of America. Go figure that one.

If you want to know the latest updates and the many rapidly evolving uses of Hemp come along to this year's Industrial Medical and Food (IMF) talks at the IMF Tent at this year's MardiGrass.

Hemp IMF Tent

This year's MardiGrass Hemp (IMF) tent will promote global and local hemp solutions for industry, medical and food use. Our highly experienced Hempies have had many years of experience in developing all things hemp.

Saturday program

- 10.30am to 11am **Developing Small Hemp Businesses In Australia with Radha Rene**
- 11am to 11.30am **Hemp Building in Australia with Binnah Pownell**
- 11.30am to 12 noon **Hemp Biochar, Hemp**



Farming and Hemp University with Dolph Cook Charmaster

- 12 noon to 12.30pm **Super Strong Hemp Products... Just add water!** With Martin Ernegg.
- 12.30 to 1pm **Carl Martel – Hemp Farmer**
- 1 to 1.30pm **Medical Cannabis – Dr Deb**
- 1.30 to 2pm **Healthy Soils, Healthy Plants, Healthy People**
- 1.30pm to 2pm **Cannabis Co-ops, Healthy Farms Reversing Greenhouse**
- 2pm to 3pm **Melting POT Q&A**
- Q&A on all things HEMP.

Sunday program

- 1.30pm to 2pm **Dolph Cook Charmaster – Hemp Farming, Biochar, Hemp University.**
- 2pm to 2.30pm **Carl Martel**
- Industrial Hemp Products**
- 2 30pm onwards **Make your own herbal medicines.** Mystery guests POT luck!

Lest we forget... the war on pot

Ironically yours

by Dionne May

Soldiers, victims of the prohibition laws, suffering and dying children, grieving, isolated and abandoned families... all victims of soulless governments in suits. Lest we forget Australia that many courageous good hearted Aussies have, and continue to, fight and suffer for the sake of noble ideals and a peaceful future for all. 61,522 Australian soldiers died in WW1 and over 27,000 in WW11.

In Nimbin a civil war continues to rage. How can we count the death toll of this silent, sinister war against the plant cannabis? How many children with epilepsy have died since even last MardiGrass? How many of our community members are now missing in action?

Our war has never been heroic. Soldiers of cannabis found some kind of peace and harmony in living humble lives here. Rejected from mainstream society for our choice of a herbal smoke and a lifestyle more harmonious to ourselves, our community and the planet herself, we led relatively healthy lifestyles and tended our glorious plants. Some just smoked their own bounty, others helped out friends and made medicines. We passed on our knowledge and lore to the many eager ears and open hearts that

found their way to our tiny little green village from all corners of the globe.

For deep in the net that binds our town, have always been formidable characters with hearts full of compassion and love born of pain and rejection. They have fought against the destruction of our rainforests, the injustices to our native Aboriginal peoples, the take-over of gas drilling at Bentley and hemp activists continue to fight against the prohibition law. A law that continues to separate and destroy families of Australia in all walks of life. We continue to protest all the petty and gross violations against our civil rights here in our village, the secret surveillance camera operations that rounded up our sixty-seven year old cake lady for 'supply', more than forty local men on the deeply contentious consorting law and decimated small time cannabis growers.

Our annual chopper squads hovering over our local schools has escalated to a wholesale onslaught of police power in Nimbin that has locals reeling, imprisoned or simply lost in this now empty and unprotected town.

Cynics of town always foretold this future as medicinal cannabis rose on her inevitable pedestal while still illegal. So crushed between this new phenomenal demand and a piss weak government stands alone our tiny town, without the protection of our Laneway Boys, to face

the might and dollar of the NSW Police Force and every two-bit hustler that used to be chased out of town.

Meanwhile mainstream mutter about discontented hippies and waft their hands in disdain at cannabis smoke, even now on Cullen Street, and local police still seem to be clueless regarding the cannabis debate. So fewer locals now smoke in town. There is literally nowhere left to go. Yet many tourists still believe that cannabis is legal here in Nimbin, and in that we have at least won a small war.

So this MardiGrass there may not be too many locals around. Either banned from town (the latest cruel bail conditions), or simply too tired of fighting against the bullshit of new nasty hydro, chemical and ice dealers, the town of Nimbin is at an all-time low.

Our wish would be for the town to rally again so please put on your green and remember our fallen heroes who provide the only shadows from this glaring new Nimbin reality.

Let cannabis unfurl her magnificence to shine such a blinding light of sense and love to all that stand in her way to help her heal this sad and troubled world. Thank you brave souls for coming this MardiGrass, we never needed your loyalty more. Peaceful 25th MardiGrass to the world from Nimbin.

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Celeste and Esha



The psychedelic blues crew

BLUESFEST'S HIDDEN GEMS

Story and pics by Celeste Oss-Emer

I love BluesFest, not just for the world-class musical line-up but also for the amazing and colourful people that you meet that just enrich the whole experience and also for discovering the hidden gems, those musical acts that you have never heard of, or seen before, that just knock your socks off and become your new favourites.

I met Dazzy in the falafel line and she was so colourful and joyful that I had to make friends with her. I wanted to order what she was having! Dazzy had been to 25 BluesFests for the full five days. I met her on day five and she was still buzzing and I wanted to know the secret to her lasting energy. She said, "Find a good man and take him home!"

That's when Dazzy introduced me to Jen's, her man, dressed in zebra print pants and fabulous faux mullet. We talked about our festival highlights and then Jen's pointed to a tent with the sounds of a jazz band and said, "I can't stand Jazz, it sounds like the musicians are playing while they fall down the stairs." I added "whilst on acid!". "Ya ya ya" declared Jen's. There's definitely every kind of musical genre at BluesFest.

Celebrating its 28th year, the eclectic and multi-genre lineup of talent certainly satisfied the heaving crowds. It's not just a BluesFest anymore but hailed by Rolling Stone Australia's Samuel J. Fell as a "celebration of eclecticism". Jazz from the Miles Electric Band, prog rock by Snarky Puppy, 90's hip-hop from Mary J Blige, soul gospel by Mavis Staples, country-calypto from Jimmy Buffet, roots music by Bonnie Raitt.

BluesFest certainly delivered on its name with some fine Blues by Mud Morganfield, son of Muddy Waters, serving up some Chicago Blues with such a powerful voice and strong stage



The grand daddy of Blues, Buddy Guy

presence with a cracking band. The Grand daddy of Blues, the legendary Buddy Guy also put on an unforgettable packed show at the Crossroads stage. This man is the coolest and he's still got it in spades, working the crowd, playing his guitar with his sweat towel and even with his butt!

The Santana show was like a heaving, sexy, dance street party, the crowds loving 'Black Magic Woman', and *Oyo Coma Va* classics and he even made the cover of Enya's *Sail Away* sexy. Santana says he judges the success of a show on its baby-making potential. I'm sure from the looks of the many entwined couples there'll be some Blues Babies born!

I had a friend that said I shouldn't miss seeing Beth Hart and I'm so glad that I made my way to the Mojo stage. Beth Hart's performance was mesmerising and powerful, picking you up and soaring, absolutely ripping it up, then smashing you down with heartbreak. She is a roaring tigress who paces the stage, totally owning it, then a heartbroken sister, bleeding, raw and real. Channelling all the emotion, the pain, the passion and the fury of all the great divas who have come before: Janis, Aretha and even a little Tina Turner. Her song 'Sister Heroin' was for her sister whose life was taken by

addiction and which also had a cruel hold over Beth Hart for many years. She is back to full health, addiction-free and also penned the loving tribute 'My California' to her loyal husband who stuck by her for 25 years through all the highs and lows.

Another discovery at the Delta Stage was the Record Company. The only guys having more fun than the punters were the Record Company, bringing with them their raw and gutsy US energy, and I have to say it was infectious! With 7-year-olds to 70 somethings moving and grooving. They came screaming out of the blocks with grinding, stripped-back rock, Blues fusion. Dirty grinding riffs, wailing slide work coupled with unshakably solid rhythm section... continually wowing the crowd with their raw intensity and ability to keep pushing beyond overdrive. A genuine crowd pleaser and I'm convinced Aussie audiences will fall in love with this refreshing, rocking, intensely energetic US three piece. It was their first time to Australia and I'm sure they'll be back.

I also discovered the beautiful Nikki Hill at the Delta stage, a belt it out Blues and Rock singer from North Carolina in the US. She did a touching tribute to the late, great rock and roll legend, Chuck Berry, with 'Sweet Lil Rock & Roller'.

Another discovery was Aussie Blues and roots icon Lloyd Spiegel. He was outstanding at his first ever BluesFest, a great storyteller and ripping guitar player.

What a special Blues festival, I was lucky enough to take my 13-year-old daughter Esha (*pic top left*) along for the ride, who also made her own discovery when she went to see Remi, an Aussie hip hop funk artist at the Jambalaya Stage. She loved it and found a new favourite, a hidden gem amongst the stellar line-up of BluesFest 2017.



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AUSTRALIA POST



by David Hallett

Taxi is a very simple but entertaining movie that has won a few international film awards.

Acclaimed Iranian director Jafar Panahi (*The White Balloon*, *Closed Curtains* and *This Is Not a Film*) drives

a cab through the streets of Tehran. Also known as *Tehran Taxi*, this film is essentially a docudrama made by a director who has been banned from making movies in Iran.

The movie is set in a taxi while it roams around the city, Tehran. The changing passengers speak openly about what is on their mind.

A female teacher and a young man discuss the death penalty, a bootlegger offers the new season of *The Walking Dead* and some Woody Allen movies, two old women want to transport their goldfish in a glass bowl to a holy place, a young



woman wants to transport her much older husband who has been injured in an accident, and a cheeky little girl explains the rules of

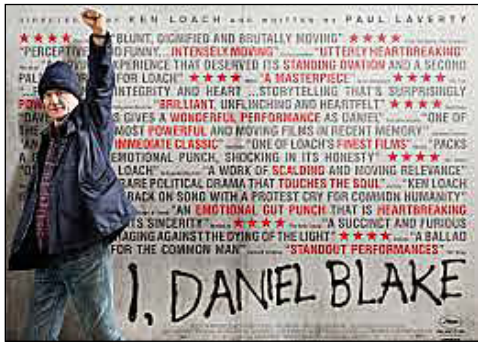
Iranian filmmaking and her entitlement to a frappuccino.

On the surface it feels small and funny, but underneath it is seething in anger and defiance at the Iranian government. Panahi subtly pokes fun at the authorities in a hilarious and yet warm manner.

If you are not looking for twists and turns like an intelligent or a big budget film this film won't disappoint you.

Screening Saturday 13th May, doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen St, Nimbin. Entry \$10. Cake, tea and coffee available for purchase.

NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE MOVIES FOR MAY



Friday 12th May, 7.30pm

I, Daniel Blake \$10 entry, rated MA15+

I, Daniel Blake is a 2016 British-French-German drama film directed by Ken Loach and written by Loach's frequent collaborator Paul Laverty. Ken Loach is known for his socially critical directing style and for his socialist ideals, which are evident in his film treatment of social issues such as poverty, homelessness and labour rights. It stars Dave Johns as Daniel Blake, who is denied employment and financial support despite his doctor finding him unfit to work. The film won the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival and the Prix du Public at the 2016 Locarno International Film Festival. Widower Daniel Blake, a 59-year-old joiner, living in Newcastle, UK, has had a heart attack at work. Though his doctor has advised him not to return to work, Daniel is deemed fit to work and denied support allowance. Daniel befriends a single mother, Katie, after she is sanctioned for arriving late for a job centre appointment. Katie and her children have moved to Newcastle from a London centre for the homeless with no affordable accommodation available in the capital. Daniel helps the family by repairing objects, teaching them how to heat rooms without electricity, and crafting wooden toys for the children. When Daniel's work coach tells him he must work harder to find a job, Daniel spraypaints "I, Daniel Blake, demand my appeal date before I starve" on the official's building. He earns the support of the community, including other benefits claimants, but is arrested. What unfolds is a telling fable of how the welfare system has cheated and failed a good man who had bad luck. The situation that Daniel finds himself confronted with is a universal metaphor for those who fall through the cracks of the western capitalist system. Daniel is a good man, with bad luck, who finds himself where none of us want to be, but who is proud enough to hold his head up and demand better treatment.



Friday 19th May, 7.30pm

The Red Pill \$10 entry, rated M

This is a controversial film that explores gender inequality from a unique perspective. When feminist filmmaker Cassie Jaye sets out to document the mysterious and polarizing world of the men's rights movement, she begins to question her own beliefs. Jaye had only heard about the men's rights movement as being a misogynist hate-group aiming to turn back the clock on women's rights, but when she spends a year filming the leaders and followers within the movement, she learns the various ways men are disadvantaged and discriminated against. *The Red Pill* challenges the audience to pull back the veil, question societal norms, and expose themselves to an alternate perspective on gender equality, power and privilege. In the words of the director herself, 'My hope for this film is to educate audiences on the issues that face men and boys in our society today and analyse why the current gender discussion is not fully inclusive. I don't have all of the answers, but I believe the first step in the right direction is asking the uncomfortable questions. I know this film may cause visceral reactions in some people, but I now believe that if you aim to understand, you will never be offended.' Having been pulled due to protest from many mainstream cinemas, The Nimbin Bush Theatre is presenting this film in the spirit of defying censorship. If you do not agree with an opinion does it mean that opinion can not be heard? We aim to support both our men and our women, and the first step is an open and honest discussion.



Friday 26th May, 7.30pm

Lion \$10 entry, rated M

In 1986, Saroo, a five year old, lives with his family in Khandwa, a small village in rural India. One day Saroo follows his brother to a job and they arrive at a nearby train station, where Saroo decides to stay back and take a nap. His brother tries to wake him up, but Saroo is too tired. When Guddu does not return, Saroo searches for him and boards a train presuming Guddu is aboard. He falls asleep again in one of the compartments, and wakes up to find the train in motion. After several days it arrives in faraway Calcutta. He spends the night in the station with some street children, but is then woken up when a group of men kidnap them. Twenty years later, after many adventures, Saroo, now a young man, moves to Melbourne to study. During a meal with some Indian friends at their home, he comes across jalebi, a delicacy he remembers from his childhood. He confides that he is adopted, and his friends suggest he use Google Earth to search for his hometown in India. One evening, while scanning Google Earth, he notices the rock formations where his mother worked, and then finds the area where he lived. Saroo returns to his hometown, where he has an emotional reunion with his biological mother and sister, but learns that his brother is dead - killed by a train the same night that they went to the station as

children. Saroo's mother never gave up hope and believed that one day her missing son would return, and never moved away from the village. Saroo later learned that he had been mispronouncing his own name, which was actually Sheru, a diminutive for sher, the Hindi word for "lion". This is a highly inspirational film that has moved audiences worldwide with its honest account of one man's journey home.

Friday 2nd June, 7.30pm

Absolutely Fabulous - The Movie

\$10 entry, rated M

The ever-glamorous and self-indulgent Edina and Patsy are now in their 60s; Edina is still running her PR agency, which is quickly running out of money and interest. The duo realise that Edina needs a miracle to save her PR company and renew her reputation. Bubble wakes up a hungover Edina, who has come home from a fashion event. Edina realises that she signs a deal for an autobiography that day. Edina wakes Patsy up and tells her about her book, and how it will be "made into a film because it's about her life", whilst Patsy self-applies Botox. Patsy learns that supermodel Kate Moss is changing her PR, and immediately a farcical adventure ensues as the ladies decide to make finding Moss and signing her to Edina's PR company their mission. Many cameos pop up throughout the film, a veritable who's who of international comedy stars who were no doubt lining up to be included in this hilarious romp, including Barry Humphries, June Whitfield, Dame Joan Collins, Dame Edna Everage and Rebel Wilson. For this special presentation the Nimbin Bush Theatre is encouraging punters to dress up in their fabulous best, and to BYO champagne. The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be serving special gorgeous special delights to add to the absolute fabulousness of this fabulous event.





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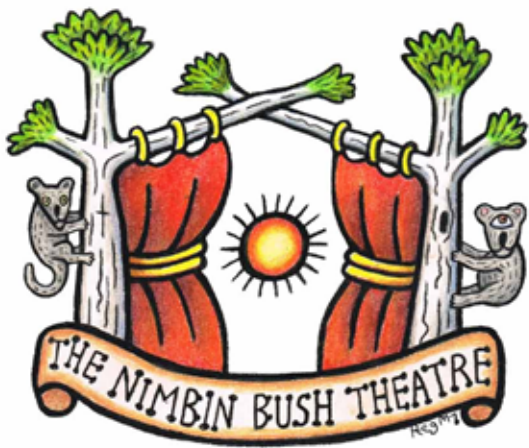


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 Sat 6pm - Tomi Gray
 Sun 10am - **SONIC BLISS** (Morning Chillout)
 Sun 11am - **50-PIECE** Northern Rivers FOLK CHOIR
 Sun 5pm - **PETER LEHNER**

Fri 12 May **Movie Night**
 7.30pm **MA/15+** 'DANIEL BLAKE'
 \$10 One man's fight for
 justice & dignity



Sun 14 May **Mothers' Day**
 12.30pm **RIVERSIDE JAZZ**
 FREE The Cruise Brothers



Fri 19 May **Movie Night**
 7.30pm **M** 'THE RED PILL'
 \$10 Gender equality:
 Feminism v's men's rights?



Sun 21 May **Exhibition**
 11am **PHOTOGRAPHY**
 ENTRY by Steve Axford
 BY DONATION (featured in 'Planet Earth II')



Fri 26 May **Movie Night**
 7.30pm **M** 'LION'
 \$10 Inspiring true story:
 Lost & refound



Fri 2 June **Movie Night**
 7.30pm **M** 'ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS'
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 \$25 w/ local legends
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 AUGUST - 'Soda Eaves Band'
 SEPT - Nimbin Roots Music Festival



A PIE IN THE FACE

by Pampussycat Bourne

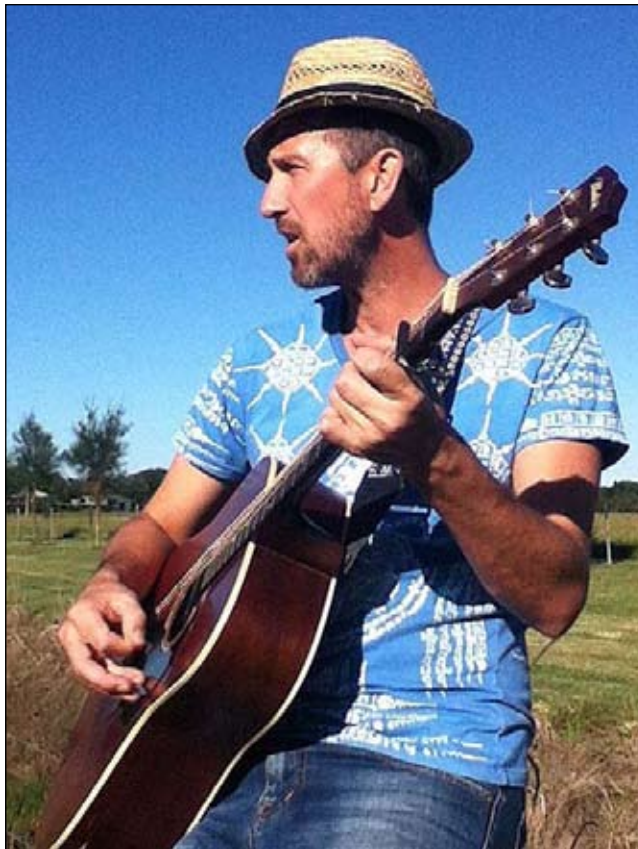
Mandy Nolan's Big Gig Comedy nights at Ballina celebrated its 10th anniversary in April, to a packed room. Feature comedians were Tom Seigert and Johnathon Atherton. Mandy MC'd and gave us more laughs.

The night ended in style, with flowers for Mandy and cake for the crowded room. Tom and Johnathon gave Mandy the classic comedian punch line: cream pies in the face!

Big Gig Comedy nights at Ballina RSL are held on the last Thursday of the month at 8pm. Entry is free.

Mandy Nolan and Ellen Briggs will be bringing their hilarious show 'Women Like Us' to the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Friday 16th June at 8pm. Tickets \$25, available online at: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events

Cliff Fletcher at the Bush Theatre

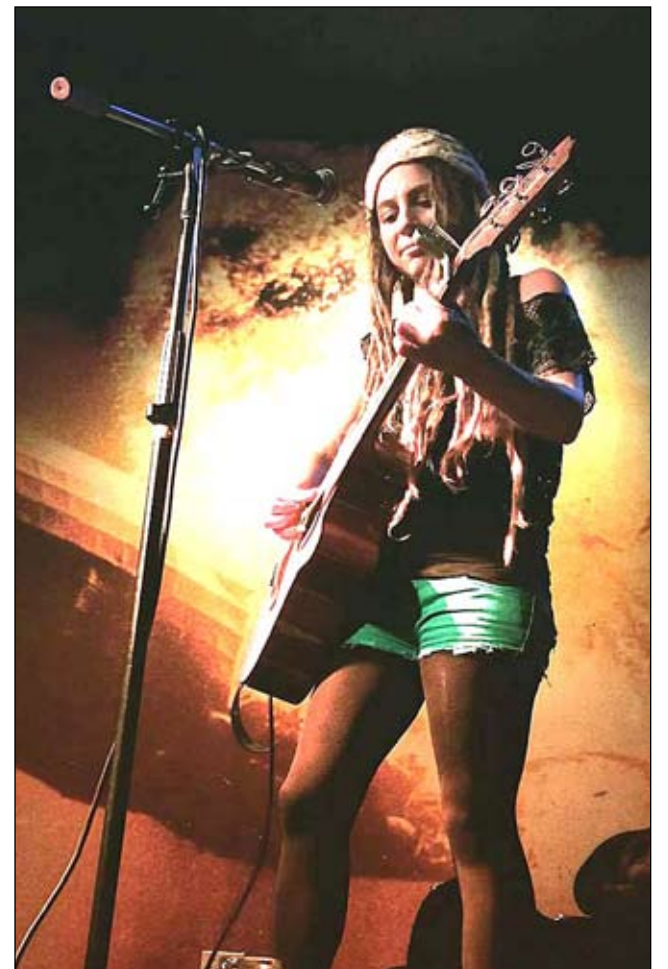


Cliff Fletcher (pictured, left) is a singer songwriter based in the Byron Bay area who is returning to Nimbin to sing for the faithful and to no doubt convert many more.

His passionate guitar-driven songs will move and entertain you as Fletcher has a fine understanding of performance and of how to interact with a crowd. His engaging stage manner and relaxed approach make his music accessible and highly enjoyable as he travels through genres – from Creedence Clearwater Revival to originals with a chilled ease. His guitar work is consummate, passionate and sweet.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open for locally sourced and lovingly prepared meals, award winning coffee and sweet delights. Dine sitting by the Mulgum Creek listening to a fine musician tell you his story with his beloved guitar in hand. BYO and kid friendly.

See Cliff play on Saturday, 20th May from 12.30pm.



ERIN CROWLEY

NZ born and based Erin Crowley (pictured, right) contrasts the intimate ambience of sweet, barely-accompanied acapella songs, against tracks using a loop pedal, laying slick, funky bass lines, swinging upbeat rhythms and sweet vocal harmonies.

She builds powerful choruses that are accentuated with the kick of her stomp box and a passionate vocal style. Think Alanis Morissette meets Jewel, with the ethics of Bob Marley, the political aspirations of Lennon, and in the style of Eddie Vedder. Erin Crowley is making big waves in New Zealand and will be in town for one day only singing her powerful songs. If you like independent women with a lot to say, and a talent to match, don't miss this gig.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open with delicious meals, award winning coffee and sweet treats served in the gorgeous Bush Theatre gardens by the magical Mulgum Creek.

Erin plays the Bush Theatre on Saturday, 27th May, at 12.30pm. Free entry, BYO, kid friendly.

ArtWomb is your canvas



ArtWomb will once again host a session of original music and art creation at the annual MardiGrass law reform rally in Nimbin on 7th May.

From 11am to 2pm you are invited to join our crew of musicians and artists to share your own music or performance art, sketch and paint in a comfortable and collaborative space at the Mingle Park stage.

Over the past three years ArtWomb has facilitated the creation of a joyful canvas reflecting the imaginations and creativity of those coming to MardiGrass to support the call for law reform. As we see positive changes in the laws approach to marijuana in Australia we are excited to see what this

year's collaborative canvas will reflect.

Alongside the painting and sketching our house band The Fill Inns keep the vibes flowing with their quality music and poetry as they support other performers and punters to share and explore their own musical talents.

You're welcome to come along with a piece to share or simply contribute to peace by picking up an instrument, jumping on a drum or grabbing a microphone.

Join ArtWomb for an opportunity to contribute, share your story and your creativity at this year's Nimbin MardiGrass. For more info or to secure a 10-20 minute slot message us through ArtWomb on Facebook.

Steve Axford's fungi photography

For this special event Steve Axford gives a presentation on his time lapse photography of fungi and mushrooms sourced from our local rainbow region and used in the acclaimed David Attenborough BBC documentary film – *Planet Earth 2*. Axford, of Lismore, is known around the world for his unique interest in nature and in particular, Fungi.

Axford considers his photography as an avenue into the natural world. His work has taken him around the world from Moscow to China and he has been published in global publications such as *NatGeo* and *New Scientist*. More recently he has developed a keen interest in fungi time-lapse.

Planet Earth II, possibly the most lavish nature documentary ever made, has catapulted the images taken by Axford from the forest floor to the world. Axford



started photographing rainforests around Lismore, on the NSW North Coast, about 10 years ago, and in retirement the hobby became an obsession.

Time lapse footage of Axford's fungi photography have gone viral online as people around the world started to notice that he was discovering plants

never seen before. One of them was a fungus which is now called a blue truffle. "It's a completely new thing — never seen before — and he's found that on the forest floor," Dr Tom May from the Herbarium of Victoria said.

This fungi photographer has also been using his homegrown talents overseas, where he is helping scientists document the rare species of fungi to be found in China's rainforests.

This is a unique opportunity to witness a master photographer and passionate environmentalist telling the story of his obsession with local fungi and the adventures he has had documenting them.

See Steve's presentation on Sunday, 21st May from 11am. Entry by donation.

The riverside Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open with delicious meals, award winning coffee and sweet treats.

Tenori return to Kyogle for encore

By popular demand the Kyogle and District Arts Council have asked Tenori to come back to perform at the Kyogle Memorial Institute on Sunday May 7th at 2 pm.

The Kyogle and District Arts Council really love the Kyogle Memorial Institute's performance space and as a community organisation they work at providing good quality opportunities for the community to engage in. Following on from the success of their last performance at the KMI these three very entertaining professionals are keen to do another show for us. Tenori employs the talents of three of Queensland's powerhouse singers: David Kidd, Craig Atkinson and Andrew



Pryor who all were part of the acclaimed *The Ten Tenors*. With a combined sixty years' international experience in the industry, these polished professionals know exactly how to put

on a dynamic, uplifting and hugely entertaining show. They bring their sense of fun and sophistication to classics from the worlds of Opera, Music Theatre, Jazz and everything in between.

Individually, they have beautiful voices. Together they sing like the band of brothers they are, with the camaraderie and precision that more than a decade of harmonising together can bring. If you enjoyed their last performance you are bound to be highly entertained with their new line of songs and comical antics.

Tickets will be available at the door on the day which will open at 1.30pm for a 2pm start for the show. Prices for the show are adults \$20, children under 18 \$5 and family (2 adults and 2 children) \$40. Make it a date and support the arts in our community by joining Tenori in their performance.



Sadie and Jay

Sadie and Jay's contemporary and original folk music leans to the alternative with a tinge of blues and roots and occasional theatrics!

Jay plays guitars, bouzouki, banjo and mandolin while Sadie plays electric and double bass.

They sing captivating songs blending vocals of rare calibre with an evocative back-drop of intricate finger style playing.

Sadie and Jay released their first original album *Curious* in 2015. They have won

several APRA/AMCOS song writing awards, and played many Qld/NSW venues and festivals. They toured the UK last year and will be returning for their second UK tour next year.

In May they head back into the studio to record their second originals album.

They will be playing at The Great Green Cabaret, Nimbin School of Arts on Friday 5th May, The Channon Tavern on Saturday 6th May at 7.30pm and at the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 4th June.

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Sunday Gig Guide

May 1pm start

7th Bassix
 "Catchy Pop that has been out on the town for a wild night with the Blues..."

14th Wall of Love
 A five-piece band from northern NSW offering up a sweet, eclectic mix of sounds that are all about the love.

21st Cecilia Brandolini
 Cecilia is one of those refreshingly brave performers who are not only adept across multiple instruments, but has also honed that rarest talent of all; a style and voice of her very own.

28th Kim Banffy
 Kim's songs attract an audience that appreciates meaningful lyrics & interesting melodies. Her music is reminiscent of 60s-70s singer/songwriter style.

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May Gigs

TRIVIA NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7pm

Friday 5th	8pm	Occa Rock
Saturday 6th	3pm	Wayward Suns
	7pm	Khanage
Sunday 7th	2pm	Diana Anaid Band
	6pm	Fat Albert
Thursday 11th	7pm	David Knight
Friday 12th	7pm	Moondog Blues
Saturday 13th	7pm	RBT
Thursday 18th	7pm	Elliots
Friday 19th	7pm	Q
Saturday 20th	7pm	Cliff Fletcher Band
Thursday 25th	7pm	Scott Marriot
Friday 26th	7pm	Avid Society + Bent Bullet
Saturday 27th	7pm	Dog Tags + Dreams of Indigo

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