

Is identity politics a problem for the left?

by Aidan Ricketts

There seems to be a bit of an identity crisis on the left of politics these days. There are big challenges ahead but we seem to be more splintered than ever.

We are faced with runaway climate change and rising global fascism. The distribution of wealth is massively tilted in favour of the top global 1%. Corporations dominate our economies and structure choices about everything from food production to environmental policy on the basis of profitability and digital metrics.

Add to that, the massive expansion of the security state, anti-protest laws, surveillance technologies, facial recognition software and the constant corporate data collection we unwittingly allow via social media. It should be obvious to us that the big issues are environmental crisis and this rising totalitarianism, but perhaps it all seems too big sometimes.

This is a time when we really need to build connections beyond habitual activists and reach out to people from across the spectrum of society who are not climate denying neo-fascists to stand together as communities of real humans in nature to resist extremism and ecological catastrophe and to invent a new future.

Unfortunately some of progressive politics has splintered into identity political campaigns that although laudable for their desire to bring the plight of vulnerable minorities into



mainstream awareness, are sometimes very alienating for mainstream people, especially working class and less educated people. Being lambasted on social media for not being abreast of the latest politically acceptable language can quickly alienate people and worse may actively help funnel people into the arms of right wingers.

Social movements work best when they are inclusive and bring the population along with them. Lock the Gate is a great example of a movement that has been able to cut through the things that divide people and build community around the things that unite people. The marriage equality movement also did a good job of building their case within the broader community, utilising inclusive framing. That was identity politics but it was done inclusively.

It is not the causes that are the problem, but it is sometimes the way people prosecute their case. Ironically it probably takes a good education and some degree of social privilege to move in the circles that know the latest acceptable language, so if we want to bring people with us we need to do the long slow work of awareness raising in a compassionate way.

Social media is also part of the problem due to the “echo chamber” effect, where people get a feed of views that support their own and may forget that their campaign is new to some. This tends to breed intolerance and a culture of blaming and shaming those who cross what may be relatively new norms. There are worse examples though: violent mobs trying to shut down talks by intellectuals they don’t agree with; general disrespect for freedom of expression and artistic freedom; questioning long-standing principles of the rule of law like the presumption of innocence; and organised violent resistance to right wing groups in the street. This risks normalising the tactics of fascism in the name of fighting for their views.

Non-violence and civil disobedience by united communities in inclusive social movements, supported by well-developed civil society organisations is the proven way for the Left to bring about change. Now more than ever this is needed. Social movements know that you need to bring the population with you.

Our collective lifeworld is threatened as never before. The lifeworld is the living world of nature and of our planet and all of its species including humans. We can never actually be disconnected from the lifeworld, but we are certainly capable of mass delusion and mass psychosis if we grow to misunderstand our deep connectedness to it. Human centred thinking (anthropocentrism) is one of those mass delusions. We are not the most important thing

happening on this planet, everything else on the planet is.

We are at the start of the tipping point of runaway climate change in which mass extinction is a certainty and human extinction a significant statistical risk. The social upheaval that we can expect to be associated with the breakdown of ecological systems means that we really need to strengthen our collective bonds in community, our respect for human rights and our connectedness to the planet.

In these times one of the most radical political positions you can adopt is to push for a legal and economic system consistent with physics and ecological science. Our earth already has governance principles, understood by First Nations Peoples and by modern physics, but the global economic and legal system is not currently operating in accordance with these principles. Climate change is the first and most obvious of many signs that we are operating far outside of the governance principles of the lifeworld.

The task for humanity is huge. I personally doubt that our governance systems will be turned around until they have proved their unsuitability. The spectacle of vested interests funding climate change denial to serve immediate profit over responsiveness is an example of how resistant to change these major institutions of Capital are likely to be. Governments similarly seem more concerned about maintaining control for its own sake (totalitarianism) than responding to

looming ecological catastrophe.

I don’t think we are going to smash Capitalism, we are going to watch it hit an iceberg at full speed.

We may not be able to turn around our runaway and psychotic systems in time. The change that we need will have to come from reconnecting to the life world, to lived human communities and sowing the millions of seeds of renewal and re-emergence. The renewables industry is a good example of a seed of renewal sown for decades by off the grid hippies that has suddenly proven to be a major part of any sensible response to carbon reliance. There will be many more.

Multiple experiments in food production, energy sustainability, transport, building new communities that work together and support each other and in repairing the earth are our pressing tasks. Sowing these seeds of re-emergence has become urgent. The Titanic is accelerating towards that iceberg, and we need to launch the life-boats regardless of what the captain says.

In this we work together as communities, as species as races and as genders. Now isn’t that interesting. We are not going to secure a collective future by fighting amongst ourselves. Go gently with your neighbours, friends and with strangers on Facebook, my friends. Try to put aside the cultural differences that divide us, find the common ground and work for our very survival and for the planet.

I may not agree with everything you say, but I will stand with you in the coming catastrophe.

To survive as a species, the planet needs you to care

by Bernadine Schwartz

When Voyager departed in 1990, it began its epic journey and after travelling 3.7 billion miles it reached the edge of our solar system and turned its cameras back to take one last picture. In that final image was Mother Earth, a tiny blue dot as she had never been seen before, and the only object in the solar system brimming with life.

Two thirds of our planet is enveloped in water, and home to an immense collection of life forms, in a world that is so removed from our own. Our oceans over the last few decades, have been hard at work trying to keep up with our relentless progress and have now absorbed 80% of the heat produced from global warming and are approaching their limit.

Ocean temperatures are now at dangerous levels which will eventually lead to emissions of nitrous oxide into the heavily saturated atmosphere.

The planet’s oceans play a big part in maintaining our weather cycles with the Atlantic current having a huge influence on weather conditions in the northern hemisphere where its circulation is slowing down and this is affecting our southern oceans too.

Changes in wind patterns are altering ocean currents. Both these winds and currents are a super highway that transports animals to their destination and if they shift in any way the consequences could be devastating. Ocean currents are also needed to disperse larvae ensuring the formation of more reef building corals and a healthy population of marine life.

Our reefs are underwater rainforests of the oceans and as much as we appreciate their beauty we are doing very little to protect them. In desperation scientists are propagating hardier coral specimens and relocating them to areas severely impacted in the hope that they will be resilient enough to survive in warming waters and restore these dying reefs.

Higher temperatures are having an impact

on just about everything that inhabits our oceans, making it increasingly difficult for many marine species to survive. It’s having a detrimental effect on their development, by slowing their growth, altering the age of sexual maturity and changing their spawning time.

Throughout the planet’s oceans, the intricate food chain is based on algae or a plant species which supports everything and krill is totally reliant on this food source. Algae grows incredibly fast so they can consume as much as they want, producing tons of babies in a very short time and this high production of krill is relied on by many seabirds and mammals, including our much loved whales.

All whales consume huge amounts of krill with the majestic blue whale consuming 40 million krill a day or roughly 8,000 pounds, during its annual peak feeding time. Tragically their feeding method has become a hazardous exercise with increasing numbers of emaciated whales found dead on the beach with their stomachs full of plastic.

Mankind has always had a fascination for whales, just their size alone is breathtaking and they’ve become a popular tourist attraction. As much as we say we love them, we are the ones responsible for the growing numbers of deaths.

Our continued use of fossil fuels is responsible for the changes happening in the chemical composition of seawater and this is having a catastrophic affect on plants, animals that build shells, corals, mollusks and microscopic plankton. If the ocean’s plant species are unable to survive, the entire food chain will eventually collapse and the consequences will be dead oceans.

A review paper in *Nature Geoscience* revealed that a decrease in oxygen levels is so low in tropical oceans off California, Peru, Namibia and the sub surface waters in the Arabian Sea that the water has become lethal to the majority of marine life. Events like this are steadily spreading throughout our oceans.

Upwelling a high content of nutrients from deep within the water column provides food



for the richest fishing grounds in the planet’s oceans. The majority of marine ecosystems such as the Galápagos Islands, receive their nourishment this way. Warming oceans are preventing nutrients from moving upwards to the surface and again this threatens marine life.

When it comes to our oceans, it’s always been a case of out of sight, out of mind, until recently, when the accumulation of plastic couldn’t be ignored any longer. Plastic is invading our whole planet with the sand on some beaches covered with tiny particles of plastic a few inches deep, yet all we can manage is banning the use of plastic bags in major supermarkets, and then we give ourselves a big pat on the back, as if we have achieved something outstanding.

It appears that nothing can escape from plastic after a recent study, done by *Nature Briefing*, discovered that mankind now has microscopic traces of plastic in their poo.

Our disconnection from our oceans might explain why so many people can throw a fishing line in the water and don’t seem to recognise that they’re killing a fish, not catching it, believing it feels no pain.

So much on this planet has been sacrificed to make life more convenient for the human race, including stealing the right to life from an infinite number of creatures and we call ourselves an advanced intelligent species. We really are is barbarians in disguise.

The majority of the public are living in their insulated world and until THEIR lives are affected, will persist with a lifestyle that is constantly hammering more nails in our dying planet’s coffin.

After nearly 30 years the rhetoric continues with a pattern of two steps forward, three steps back with no results.

According to the WWF since 1970 there has been a 60% decline in the populations of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles. To get this into perspective, if we lost 60% of the human race, it would be equivalent to removing the populations of North America, South America, Africa, Europe, China and Oceania entirely.

The Chief Executive of the WWF expressed herself poignantly with this very depressing but honest statement; ‘We are the first generation to know we are destroying our planet and the last one that can do anything about it.’

We are living in a democratic system that has been deliberately derailed by Capitalism and no longer operates in the best interests of the people and has set its own agenda.

I’m still confronted by people who don’t agree with me. Why would anyone be opposed to doing all they possibly could to give the young a shot at life and a viable future?

The time is drawing nearer when our planet will no longer resemble the beautiful blue dot it once was. All because of one species’ insatiable greed and their shallow ideology.

If you want to read more, go to: www.news.com.au/technology/science/human-body/plastics-have-entered-human-food-chain-small-poo-study-shows/news-story/81d3383daae87c6429c92bae2803f2c and: www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180611133807.htm

Vale Mick Parr

by Mandie Hale

Born in England in 1958 and raised near Cambridge, Mick Parr serendipitously arrived at Tunttable Falls when he was twenty-three. He was hitch-hiking with no particular destination in mind, and he ended up in Lismore where someone said to him, "People like you go to Nimbin."

He was picked up by a man who lived at Tunttable Falls. They arrived as the sun was setting, with a full moon shining on a valley that looked like Hobbiton. That magic night he fell in love with the place, stayed, and made his home on the community.

When Mick was twenty-seven, he went travelling again. When he returned he met Sandy, and two years later they became the parents of a daughter, Karma. Mick loved being a dad. His parenting was child-centred, good-humoured, sensible, and supportive. Karma wrote a lovely tribute to him when she was at Nimbin Central School when the class had to write about someone who was their hero. She was the only one who chose a parent.

Mick suffered from a severe and progressive scoliosis of the spine, but never let that determine his life. Given a pile of off-cut timber, Mick



Photo: Karma Parr

began building a tiny house which grew organically and had six different levels and lots of steps. As his scoliosis progressed, Mick got a walking stick, then later a wheelchair, which he insisted on pushing himself no matter how difficult the terrain.

Mick always put himself out there, whether it was travelling the world, swinging his partners round at the bush dances, working at the pre-school, or riding horses and helping out at Bill's farm. He was always up for an adventure. Mick danced in his wheelchair with Company Chaos, a mixed ability dance group, and travelled overseas on a Churchill Fellowship to investigate dance options for people with disabilities.

After four years studying at Lismore TAFE where he forged enduring

friendships, Mick gained his Diploma of Fine Art. He exhibited his work at the Grafton Regional Gallery. He built funky furniture and transformed found objects into works of art. He could spot the one treasure in a pile of junk. Mick could also conjure up a tasty dinner, and made wine and beer and had epic pickle and chutney-making sessions.

Mick used to say that we are all just a bunch of stories, and his tales were almost always punctuated by his laughter, and ours. Mick took an interest in young people, encouraging them and passing on his practical skills. Mick always had a great capacity for friendship and with his ready smile and big heart he met and befriended many people in all walks of life.

Mick had no desire to travel any more. He loved his home, which is as much an artistic expression as his other creations, and the small pleasures of life were enough for him. He embraced life and lived it bravely and generously. Mick didn't complain, even when he had every reason to.

When Mick made his final journey out of the valley he loved so much, community members and friends lined the side of the track and clapped him as he passed, a fitting tribute to a man who had been dealt a challenging hand, but played it like a champion.

– Edited for length.

Rainbow Power Company – 300% renewable

by Guy Stewart,
Rainbow Power Company

There is criticism that the good news of solar panel cost reduction isn't good enough, and solar cannot continue growing without a massive installation of energy storage.

Solar generates nothing at night so it's impossible to think it will make up 100% of the necessary capacity in the next decade. Therefore pretty soon, solar is going to hit the wall.

This misses an important point, that installed solar capacity will continue to be installed beyond 100% of required capacity. With an off-grid home, and 300% of the required solar capacity installed, production can meet demand even on cloudy days.

It also allows for smaller batteries, as they can be certain they will get recharged, even during bad weather.

It can be difficult to understand. For a home installation it's perfectly fine to have solar capacity at 300% of requirement. But for a whole country? How could we afford it? And it's still generating nothing at night.

It seems impossible, but it also seemed impossible with mobile phones. Mobile phones can now be had for a few dollars. Solar panels are much more durable than a mobile phone, and we are seeing costs fall even faster.

They still seem expensive, yet now they are cost competitive with other new forms of generation. Very soon they will be



more competitive than existing generation as manufacturing continues to expand, given most of the cost of solar is capital investment in plant establishment, once production capacity is built then panel production doesn't decrease.

We won't stop producing panels at 100% of grid demand capacity. New production capacity will slow dramatically but all new structures will have them, as well as the larger utility scale installations.

Solar has been growing exponentially for decades and shows no signs of slowing down.

One other new factor is the electrification of transport. This is a massive energy demand currently met by oil. If this is brought into electricity demand instead, and the incredible amount of electricity storage required for a vehicle (30-100 kWh per car per

family) can be engaged as a functional part of the electrical system, then we will see a further 'enabling' of greater solar penetration.

PV will continue to fall, to fractions of a cent per kWh, and that means that the efficiency of utilisation is less important than the comparative displacement of the high cost alternatives. 9/10th of the kWh of the PV can go to waste and it is still worth having because it might substitute for an expensive kWh that needs to come from a battery.

Fossil fuels are under huge threat, because of much higher fixed costs that will no longer be spread over large number of kWh transacted, as solar will produce even if the market price is 0.1c /kWh – a loss for fuel powered generation.

So what about night time?

Across society night time loads are significantly reduced. We currently control a massive amount of electricity to run at night as off-peak domestic hot water. This is the majority of all domestic electricity use. This could easily be shifted to run at the solar generating peak of the day.

Keep in mind, the alternative is building new coal and gas to replace end of life plants, nearly all due to close in the next 15 years. To me this seems ludicrous, and thankfully it also seems increasingly risky to project financiers that need price certainty for 15 or more years.

That would be like investing in new land telephones at the iPhone launch.

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Bush Theatre gigs



ARTWOMB
Saturday, 8th December 11am to 2pm
Entry by donation
Artwomb is back at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. These are collaborations across all art mediums available to all artists. The idea is folk coming together to create art within a mutually supportive and inspiring art tribe!
Live Music meets Live Art 0 – a fabulous experience for performers, artists and punters. The Cafe will be open. BYO.



Tennyson King Dinner under the stars
Friday, 14th December, 7pm
Entry by donation
Nimbin Bush Theatre are so excited to welcome the amazing Canadian musician Tennyson King back to the Nimbin Bush Theatre as part of his 2018 Australian tour.
Be prepared to be swayed, educated and moved by this artist who has a highly original

way of describing the world around him.
With a deep baritone voice, that calls to mind Johnny Cash, and a no fuss songwriting technique that calls to mind Leonard Cohen, Tennyson King is the real deal and a rare talent.
His alt-acoustica is infused with rock and roll, earthy roots and blues, it's a raw, gritty, and organic.
Tennyson King has performed with notable Canadian acts such as Whitehorse, Sloan, Elliot Broode, and Blackie and The Rodeo Kings. Tennyson recently signed to MusicDish China for full distribution in China, where the album has been received well and featured in media outlets Beijing-based Minimal Radio and Kanijian NOW.
The Cafe will be open serving great food, treats and coffee, as you are entertained by this world class performer in our gorgeous gardens under the stars.



DJ Chris Munky AKA Snareophobe (Bristol)
Saturday, 15th December, 7pm
Entry \$10 All Ages
We are very excited to present, live from Bristol, DJ and Producer Chris Munky (aka Snareophobe) playing on our outdoor stage for a special evening of DubWise beats.

He started touring in 1999 in San Francisco & has since relentlessly toured Canada, the USA, Asia, India, Europe, Australia and the UK, Bombay to Vancouver, to Glastonbury, beach festivals to aircraft hangars, both as support and headline act, with a blend of original music, mashups and classic tracks. Soul-laced music selections come from a vast collection of both vinyl and digital archives.
This impressive DJ sets journeys through a range of tempos; spanning jungle, hip hop, garage, breakbeats and dubwise music.
Cafe Open for dinner and treats. BYO OK.



NYE. Sebastian Winter Dinner under the stars
Monday, 31st December 7pm
Table Bookings available. BYO
For a night of glorious piano played by a passionate prodigy we present Sebastian Winter, who will accompany a fine dining buffer experience for a relaxed and sophisticated NYE.
Sebastian Winters was born on a cargo ship in the port of Amsterdam. At a young age he drank a glass of tequila sunrise and began to play the piano. Drawing influence from the likes of Philip Glass, Ludovico Einaudi and Yann Tiersen, Sebastian's music is both powerful and subtle, inspiring

those who listen to take a journey into their imagination.
His music will capture your senses in a gentle caress, complemented by gorgeous meals lovingly prepared.



Magpie Diaries
Thursday, 3rd January 2019, 1pm
Entry by donation
Born and bred a Dashville man, Magpie Johnston grew up on the same rural property where he now hosts some of the best weekend outdoor parties Australia has to offer.
It's been a rollicking 13 years since the first Gum Ball was held, where he first stood on stage alongside his brother Dan in their teenage rock 'n blues outfit, Johnny Real and The Lovemakers.
Over the years, just as the audiences have grown, so has Magpie and his musical vocation. Originally Magpie Diaries was a performance concept where Magpie set out to compile and perform all his random writings, from time spent travelling, under the influence or in solitary confinement.
The songs are soulful and timeless, some are new, some old. One thing is for sure though, this music will appeal to anyone who enjoys laid back music with a gritty alt-country heart.
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Thursday 27th
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Mullum Music Festival was simply a 'wow'

by Mel Williamson

Once again the Mullum Music Fest proved a yearly festival highlight. There is an infectious and cruisey music-loving vibe that permeates the whole town, transforming it into an experience rather than just another music festival – even a wild storm and temporary loss of power couldn't stop the show going on. The music, as always, was diverse and high calibre – local and overseas artists alike. Of particular note for me this year were Bombino, Tangents, Horns of Leroy, The Cartridge family, Out of Range, Tim Snider, Turner Brown Band, Hat Fitz &



Cara, and Mike Love (who was simply a... just, 'wow' way to end the festival). Everyone who attended found their own musical delights over the weekend; with appeal to all ages and musical leanings.



As well as music, the festival also had street performances, circus, dance, and comedy. There was certainly no shortage of entertainment. The festival crowd would also have to be one of the most diverse

and friendly I've come across – many wonderful random connections and conversations always interspersed throughout. A small niggle this year was that the late night Village Vanguard sessions didn't quite hit its usual mark of being a great 'last dance for the day' gathering. Small niggles aside, the Mullum Music Fest is one of the best small town festivals in Australia, and a total gem in the northern NSW festival arena. Love music. Love Mullum Fest. To make sure you don't miss out next year go to: www.mullummusicfestival.com and get yourself on the mailing list.

Confusing them with our joy

Cloudcatcher Media has launched a new performance concept in activism. *Confusing Them With Our Joy* will be a live, two hour musical multimedia show about the Northern Rivers' historic victory against invasive gasfields and what it means for our future. It will premiere on the fifth anniversary of the Bentley win, in May 2019. The experience will unfold across three big screens (a spectacular triple HD total image, twice as wide as Cinemascope), separated by two musicians, using a combination of documentary and new imagery. The musical spine will be provided by the much-loved bard of the movement, Luke Vassella. This show will be immersive and interactive, the closest thing to being back there on the frontline.

Confusing Them With Our Joy will honour the artists of all kinds who were such a big part of the movement's success, including many unseen gems, moments of pathos, comedy, animation and a big dose of the disruptive joyful confusion that the Northern Rivers of NSW has been famous for since Aquarius. Not just a film, this will be a touring multimedia show about a community which refused to become a gasfield. *Confusing Them With Our Joy* asks – what did we learn that could help other communities staring down the fossil fuel and climate change threat? Can we fight the global struggles we face with humanity, art and joy? Along with tickets to the live shows in 2019, we are pre-selling double CDs, a movie version of the performance and a number of other great rewards. The show is designed to be scaleable.



Cloudcatcher Media team David Lowe, Luke Vassella and Eve Jeffery

It can play anywhere from community halls to large outdoor spaces. Check out the new trailer and lots more at: www.chuffed.org/project/confusing and www.confusingthemwithourjoy.com/. *Confusing Them With Our Joy* will be produced by the award-winning team of David Lowe, Eve Jeffery and Luke Vassella, of Cloudcatcher Media, and directed by David Lowe, who has been shooting this epic story since 2012.

Monkey & the Fish at Dunoon & Bush Factory



Monkey & the Fish Band will host a special end of year PLuCKeRS and PoETs, Dunoon Sports Club monthly jam and open mic, on Sunday 9th December. Kicking off from 5pm with a full set from Monkey & the Fish, the afternoon will segue into an eclectic array of planned to spontaneous musical collaborations from well-known and up and coming songsters and to musicians from our creative community. Great atmosphere and food on the deck, capped off with another set from the locally acclaimed and much loved Monkey & the Fish: Chris Fisher, Marcelle Townsend-Cross, George Urbaszek and Johnny Shaw. Monkey & the Fish will also be playing under the stars at Nimbin Bush Factory on Friday 4th January from 7pm.

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7pm

DONATION

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- Friday 14th, 6pm Mish Songsmith
- Friday 21st, 6pm Brommers
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Magical meeting at the Bush Theatre

by Louise Mehta

Something magic happened to me recently. I'd been working with well-loved local, Jazmin Theadora on writing down her life story. Jazmin is a great storyteller and has a great story to tell.

She has had numerous writers to get her story published into a book. Her most recent writer is the very talented S Sorrensen who asked me to film an advert to put on GoFundMe.

Jazmin was contacted from England by a film crew who asked if their TV show presenter could have a tarot reading with Jazmin and could they please film the reading? Jazmin agreed. The show is called *Cruising with Jane McDonald*.

Jazmin casually said, "If you're interested Louise, someone is coming to film me from the UK at the Bush Theatre. Jane McDonald arrived with a big film crew... two enormous cameras and their operators, a very cool director, the sound person, boom operator, client liaison chap, make-up lady, drivers and others in the entourage.

I was starstruck when Jane McDonald floated in – all glam in a hot pink kaftan dress. I avidly watched her crew prime themselves and set up their positions.



Jane then comes to stand next to me, waiting to walk into shot to start the filming. I smile at her.

Jane: "Alright, love?"

Louise: (recognising her distinct accent)

"Hi, are you from Yorkshire?"

Jane: "I am, love!"

Louise: "I'm originally from Yorkshire, in Wakefield."

Jane: "I'm from Wakefield town too!"

Louise: "I'm from Sandal."

Jane: "Me too, wow!"

Louise: "Ooooh, you're not from Chevet Lane are you?"

Jane: "I am! Oh my god."

Louise: "What house number? We must have had the same neighbours."

I lived there from age 6 to 18 and my parents still live there. This is truly amazing considering there are 66 million people in the UK. Jane hugs me like an old friend.

The director overhears our conversation: "This is a great story but we want to get on with filming the tarot reading with Jazmin first and then we will film the two of you... if that's OK?"

My friend Karen lends me some mascara. The tarot reading goes smoothly. Jane and I then talk to the camera.

Jane: "Well, I come to the other side of the world and I meet someone from my hometown."

Louise: "We even live on the same street!"

Jane: "You've done well... getting out of the rat race."

Louise: "What about you? Glamorously travelling the world for a job, on international TV with a film crew and your own show!"

Jane: "It's not all it's cracked up to be!"

Maybe not, but it looks like ultimate success to me. Tune into *Cruising with Jane McDonald* on SBS on Saturday nights at 7.35pm when it features Australia, to see our full conversation.



The Channon open mic

by Ray Flanagan

Sunday 25th November was the perfect wrap-up to our 2018 Open Mic series.

The weather was clement and there was no shortage of performers lining up to contribute to a wonderful afternoon's entertainment.

Regular performers Glen and Tobi offered up a few tunes and later Glen teamed

up with Ollie and Joe with Joe playing some sizzling violin.

Singer, guitarist and songwriter, Earth Wizzard, returned after his Open Mic debut in September and The Bunya Nuts made their second Open Mic appearance. Teresa, from the Bunya Nuts, and her husband Phil did a few numbers (pictured, right), and later Phil teamed up with Norm to finish off the

afternoon with Phil playing some sweet lead breaks on acoustic guitar.

However, the performance of the day had to be young singer/guitarist, Tee (pictured, left) (I think it is short for Tiana), who borrowed a guitar and ripped into a mixture of covers and original songs with a 'truckload' of feeling and a great voice to match.

We now take a break during December and January and we'll return on 24th February, from 3pm.

Do you want a reminder a week before the Open Mics are due? If so, get your name on our email list by emailing us at: thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com

All the best for the 'Silly Season'. Hope to see/hear you next year.



The Death of Stalin – a black comedy

In early-1953 Moscow, under the Great Terror's heavy cloak of state paranoia, the ever-watchful Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin, collapses unexpectedly of a brain haemorrhage.

Inevitably, when his body is discovered the following morning, a frenetic surge of raw panic spreads like a virus among the senior members of the Council of Ministers as they scramble to maintain order, weed out the competition, and, ultimately, take power.

But in the middle of a gut-wrenching roller-coaster of incessant plotting, tireless machinations, and frail allegiances, absolutely no-one is safe;



not even the feared chief of the secret police, Lavrenti Beria. In the end, who will prevail after the death of Stalin?

While Scottish satirist Armando Iannucci is best known for his British and American TV series, he has a broad engagement in other areas: radio, publishing, web-based projects and music.

His first feature film was the highly acclaimed black comedy *In the Loop* (2009) which satirised British and US politics in relation to the invasion of Iraq.

Iannucci's black satirical edge is sharpened even further in his second feature *Death of Stalin* (2017) which

follows the political in-house mayhem that surrounded Stalin's death in 1953. The film features an outstanding ensemble cast including Steve Buscemi, Michael Palin, Jeffrey Tambor and Simon Russell Beale.

In summary, the *NY Times* review of *Death of Stalin* stated: "Armando Iannucci, a virtuoso of political evisceration, turns horror into comedy in this comic shocker about a strong man and his world of ash and blood."

The film will be showing at Birth and Beyond, Saturday 8th December. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm screening.

Members free, non-members welcome for \$10 entry.



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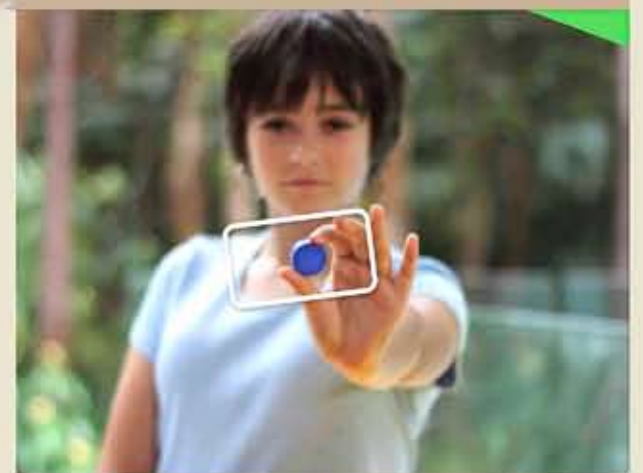
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