

# Irresistable Spring Arts

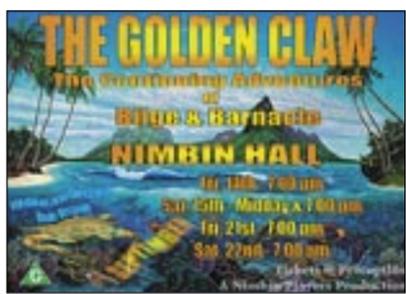


by David Hallett  
Nimbin School of Arts

Emerging from the black frost and then the near flood at the end of winter, Nimbin is once again about to launch into the major cultural events of Spring.

The first big event is the annual Blue Moon Cabaret-Ball at the School of Arts on Saturday 8th Sept. As usual the show is a popular sellout with its fascinating mix of comedy, poetry, song and dance, and the two big dance bands, 'the Utopians' and 'Groove Foundation'.

The evening will also feature new catering from Di's Folly. For those who missed out, the final Cabaret for the year will be on Sat 10th Nov, and the tickets will be available in mid-September.



The Nimbin Players will be presenting their world premiere of Bob Tissott's new play titled "The Golden Claw" in the two weeks following the Cabaret. Not-to-be-missed, the show will open on Friday 14th Sept and run until Saturday 22nd Sept at the School of Arts. Tickets available at Perceptio.



Prior to the school holidays, the 84th anniversary Nimbin Country Show will be held at the Nimbin A&I Showground on the weekend of Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd Sept. Despite being a smaller show this year, the pavilion exhibits will as usual, display a large range of arts and crafts including woodworking and photography.



After "The Golden Claw" the School of Arts will undergo a rapid makeover in preparation for the annual Spring Arts Exhibition. Over 5000 people attended the last year's exhibition which always features the works of many of Nimbin's fine artists, designers, craft workers, photographers and installation artists.

The exhibition opens on Saturday 29th Sept and will be open daily throughout the school holidays until Sunday 14th Oct.

It will be a stunning display of the huge variety of expression from our talented local artists in Paint, Photographs, Pottery, Glass, Felt, Wood, Carved Hebel and more.

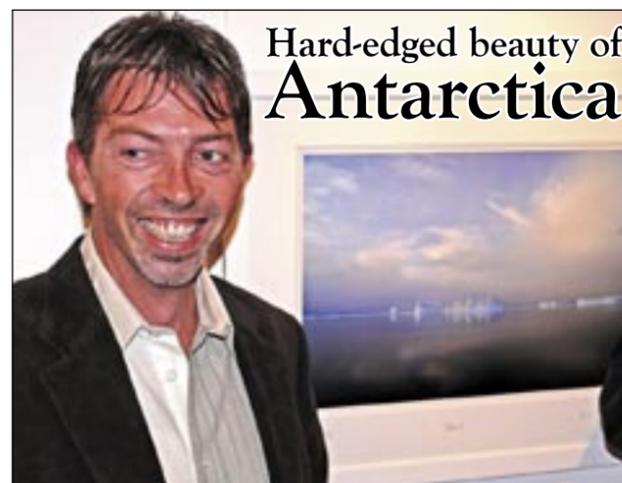
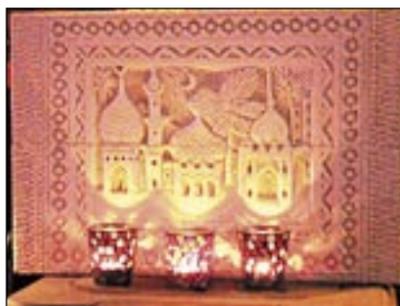
Entry to the exhibition by the public is free of charge, though donations are welcome. Vote for the people's choice prize for the chosen artist to receive \$100.



The weekend of the exhibition opening is a BIG one, as the beginning of the Spring holidays also celebrates the 3rd annual Weave and Mend Festival, Friday 28th to Sunday 30th Sept in the grounds of Nimbin Central School.

There's camping (donation) and workshops (\$5), music and good vibes in the spirit of sharing and learning (free), See you at the shows.

Spring Arts oils: 'The Lake of Disassociates' by Rodney Sharpe (top), 'Christmas Roses' by Margie Rojo (above) and sculpture: lanterns and meditation panels in carved hebel stone by Mac McMahon (below)



## Hard-edged beauty of Antarctica

by Sue Stock

The exhibition "Antarctica" is showing at the Lismore Regional Gallery.

It consists of wonderful landscape photos by Angus McDonald and the late Frank Hurley.

Angus McDonald (pictured) recently travelled to Antarctica as an exhibition artist for a month at the invitation of the Mawson's Huts Foundation, which was formed to "conserve in perpetuity for the Australian people, the unique historical buildings, known as Mawson's Huts, base for one of the most significant expeditions in Antarctic history."

The colour photographs present McDonald's experience of the extreme and spectacular landscapes

he encountered. These images are shown alongside the memorable and iconic black and white photographs of Frank Hurley, who was the official photographer for Sir Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expeditions between 1911 and 1913.

Angus McDonald states in his exhibition, "Nothing I've ever seen can compare to the arresting hard-edged beauty that Antarctica presents. It is pure there, but also fearful and very very still. The essence of Antarctica for me lies in its astonishing scale.... nothing can compare with the extraordinary power that exists in this astonishing place."

The exhibition continues until 13th October and is well worth a visit.

## Fine art at Bentley Hall



The 23rd Annual Bentley Art Prize exceeded all expectations with a record number of 700 entries.

The quality was of a very high standard and according to the Judge Ruth Ryan from Bangalow said that the Landscapes were brilliant and it was a pleasure to judge.

The Art Prize was opened by The Federal Member for Page Mr Ian Causley who retires from politics this year. He is quoted as saying that it was a credit to the organizers for staging such a wonderful event year after year.

Exhibitors came as far as Bathurst, Tamworth, Narrabri, Moree, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Gold Coast plus many local artists.

The Tursa Open Painting Prize was won by David Lake from Bathurst with his painting "In the Sun - White Cliffs". Tom Offord from Clunes secured the RSM Acquisition Prize with his painting "Thompson Shaft - Broken Hill".

Also a record number of people visited Bentley over the weekend to view the art and enjoy true country hospitality.

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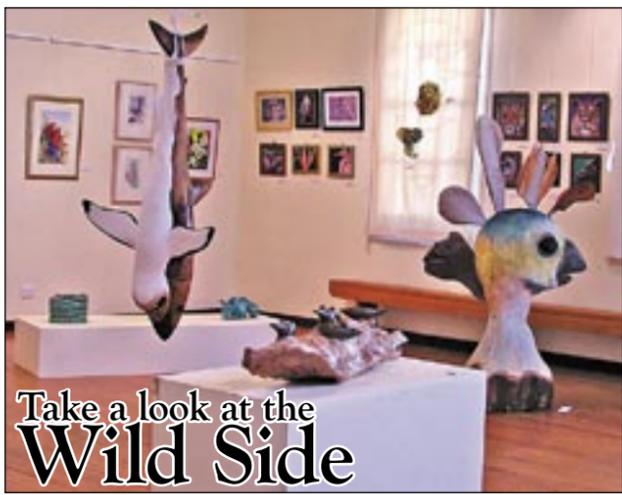
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# Entertaining Poetry Cup



## Take a look at the Wild Side

by Heather Kimber

We've landed a 1.5 metre shark, there's a harbour porpoise, not to mention the lions, tigers, elephant, gorillas, a pink cow and a mythical 2.5 metre giant chook called Quetzlcocoatool! These are just some of the fascinating sculptures and paintings on show at Blue Knob Hall Gallery's latest exhibition 'On the Wild Side'.

Several artists from Wildlife Art Australia including Bob Harris - photographs on canvas; Jean Mulligan - gouache on paper; Katherine Castle - watercolours and John Pumpurs - photographer and expert on local frogs species are exhibiting at Blue Knob Hall Gallery for the first time.

Twenty-four local and regional artists have come together with a fascinating

collection of over 50 major works from all things fauna and flora.

Exhibits also include Warwick Saxby's netsucke-like bronze cast 'pods' mounted on native cherry, Belinda Roelvink's colourful and whimsical acrylic on canvas interpretations of nature's fauna, Margie Rojo's almost spiritual oil on canvas 'Shared Space', Francisco's powerful sculpture of metal, brass, eggs, sand and deep thoughts titled 'It's still their land!', and Shirley Miller's detailed acrylic on canvas titled 'My Place'.

We are also supporting the local WIRES group with an educational display of photographs of some of the fine voluntary work they do for our injured wildlife.

This show is open Wednesday to Sunday 10am-4pm until 14th October.



It was a weekend of high drama, laughter and tears, but most of all, an extraordinary range of contemporary poetry, delivered live in polished performances.

Nimbin's 5th annual Performance Poetry World Cup went off without a hitch, which was a credit to the organisers. Jane Treasure, who described her role as 'dogsbody' said, "It worked so well, there was quality right from the beginning."

Judging panels distributed wry observations, salient advice and encouragement, as well as \$50 consolation prizes, as the competitors were whittled down through the heats from 40 to the final eight.

The Sunday night final was a tour de force of the poetic arts, with each eight-minute piece finely honed, and timed almost to perfection.

After due consideration by the three judges, Tug Dumbly was declared the winner, with Tessa Leon taking out the \$500 People's Choice Award.

Tug Dumbly received the \$2000 prizemoney, as well as the very shiny Cup. "I'm thrilled and it's a buzz," he said.

"This is the first cup I've ever won, for anything. I'm going to fill it with champagne."

Though a frequent performer at festivals around Australia, it was Tug's first visit to Nimbin, and he was suitably impressed. "It's a beautiful village, with great accommodation, generous folks, I was visited by wallabies galore," he said.

Organiser Gail M. Clarke thanked all the local businesses that had supported the event. "We couldn't have done it without them," she said.

The Cup winner returns the following year to be a judge, "I'm looking forward to it," said Tug.

Plans are already underway for next year's World Cup. See the website for details <[www.nimbinpoetry.com](http://www.nimbinpoetry.com)>

**Poetic.** The finalists (clockwise from top right): Tug Dumbly, Tessa Leon, Ghostboy, Suzanne Jones, Tug again, Jason Darling, Gary Dudley Utz, Robin Archbold and Daniel Pearson.



## In brief

• Carolyn and Garry, of Nimbin's Retro Café, have been conducting a Children's Art Competition, which is judged bi-monthly. The winners this month in the categories Five and under: Tully (pictured), Six to nine years: Georges, Ten to fourteen years: Gabriella. Carolyn said, "We also have a Patron, and are much honored to welcome well known Nimbin artist Mr Mac McMahon."

• Message Sticks, Australia's leading Indigenous film festival, is heading to the Birch Carroll & Coyle Cinema in Lismore, Thursday 6th and Friday 7th September, and it's free.



• The Australian International Animation Festival returns to Lismore on Friday and Saturday, 14-15th September at Southern Cross University. On show will be a selection of the best international, Australian and local films from over 2000 submitted this year. 17 sessions will also be held on a wide range of related topics. Full program details are available on <[www.aiaf.com.au](http://www.aiaf.com.au)>



Doll Face by Andy Huang

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