

## Fantastic Fashion collections on show

At the height of the Spring season, Nimbin was again entertained by the Nimbin Fashion Show, extravagant and lively, and now in its sixth year.

Christine Strehlan expertly compered the show, which featured 14 designers whose work ranged from tribal to raunchy.

Golden Empress, wearable art by Kyah (pictured), opened the programme, followed by Gaya-Rangi, with her Tribal Earth range, then jumped to Bija & Jedd's bohemian-glam collection from the Mimi Tree, Lismore.

Retro Revamp paired the talents of Jan the Hat Lady and Robyne Love to produce a feathery, eclectic collection, then a jump to Nora Wolters' cavewoman-inspired knitted and crocheted creations.

Satchi's Hempdownunderwear had an ecological air, while Tara Austin's quirky gothic evening wear was a contrast to the Session 1 finale, Jaz and Judy Who's dress-ups on the wild side.

Interval was a time to sample organic wine and champagne, eat the tasty Green Caudron food, and nibble organic cakes by Ali and Sylvia.

The second half opened with Honey's MythReal collection of luxury garments made from recycled metal mesh, and was followed by Myvanwy Fleur's silky, elfin threads and Barbara Mills' vibrant felt garments.

Byron Bay designer BobbyK's well finished rubber collection was made from recycled inner tubes, and designed for those who 'love, lust and desire'.

Pol showed minimal pleated designs in tartan and gingham, before the final collection, Christine Chester's individual, hand-painted garments.

The enthusiastic Nimbin audience showed its appreciation for the high quality presentation with waves of acclamation as each model reappeared for the Grande Finale, which concluded with a triumphant stroll down the new catwalk by organisers Christina Chester and Judy Who.

A DVD of the show by Paul Tait is currently in post-production, and will shortly be available from Bringabong, Perceptio's and Snipping Heads.

Photos: Thorsten Jones



## Aboriginal Artworks in a cultural context

The current exhibition at the Nimbin Aboriginal Arts Culture And Training Centre is certainly impressive, but no less impressive is the renaissance of the Centre itself.

Three major Aboriginal painters are represented in the exhibition: the internationally known Lizbeth Johnson; Deakin University-trained Luke Close and Bunjalung artist Gilbert Laurie. All have had works acquired for major gallery collections.

The works on show are striking. They are large – the smallest is a shade under ½ metre wide – colourful, and diverse in style, celebrating the richness of Aboriginal culture.

There are some collaborative works represented, including some exquisite painted emu eggs by Lizbeth Johnson with woven tops by Granny Breath Weaver.

Curator Luke Close said, "Culture is family to me. It's about sharing. We want this to be the start of something big, to carry on as a Centre, to host and facilitate cultural exchange."

Run by a subcommittee chaired by Auntie Liz Johnson, the renamed Centre represents the realisation of a long-term vision to provide a resource for learning and knowledge-sharing for Aboriginal people in the surrounding district.

That vision has so far involved TAFE, ACE, and now with Yabur Yulgun, the Lismore based Aboriginal CDEP (Community Development Employment Program) Provider, and NSW North Coast Aboriginal Radio Broadcasters.

The Centre's kitchen has been reopened by local TAFE Café Skills graduates and is open to the public during the gallery opening hours, from 11am and 6pm Thursday to Sunday.

With a simple, inexpensive menu of roo burgers or chicken with tasty salads, and sweets including waffles, biscuits and cakes to go with espresso coffee, teas and chai, the Centre is full of surprises.

Find it in Sibley Street, opposite the skate park. Photos: Thorsten Jones



## Mythical, magical gifts at Blue Knob

Are you looking for some special gift that won't cost the earth? Are you looking for a happy destination where you may enjoy some of the North coast's most creative artworks as well as a coffee or a delightful lunch in some spectacular scenery?

Well, it's all here at Blue Knob Hall Gallery, in the shadow of Lillian Rock just seven kilometres North of Nimbin on the road to Murwillumbah.

The Gallery is run by local artists who have put together a collection of works to tempt the discerning, those of you who may not have unlimited pockets but know how to enjoy the unique value of an original creation.

As well as art works for the walls you will find a wide range of potential gifts from dream catchers to inexpensive jewellery, ceramics, exquisite glassware, felt works, one-off garments, silk scarves, sculptures and quality prints. All at very reasonable prices.

So, if you are looking for that magical gift, that spellbinding bargain then visit our new exhibition 'Myths and Magic' which opens on Thursday 11th December and runs through to January 2009 (closed Xmas Day to January 3rd) Thursdays to Sundays, 10am - 4pm.

The Magical Official Grand Opening is at 6.30pm, Thursday 11th December with dinner (\$15) if booked, and we offer a wizard 15% discount on all art-works purchased at the official opening.

Our cafe offers light refreshments. Evening dinners may be arranged for a minimum of ten persons, by ringing the gallery on 6689-7449.

We now have a web page at [www.blueknobgallery.com](http://www.blueknobgallery.com) and can also be contacted by email at [bkkgallery@aapt.net.au](mailto:bkkgallery@aapt.net.au)



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