



Granny's Farm revisited

The iconic Nimbin backpackers hostel, Granny's Farm, has re-opened after being closed for 18 months.

During that time, the 10 rooms have been completely refurbished, re-carpeted and repainted, and major drainage, fencing and landscaping work has been undertaken, involving the removal of 25 trees.

Owner-operator David Preedy said, "Over the past 12 months, we've worked on it seven days a week."

The old leaky railway carriages are gone, and in their place is a new colourbond shed, earmarked for a self-contained accommodation option in the future, and the saltwater swimming pool has been returned to its former glory.

The platypus are still in the creek and the swimming holes are still there too, but now there are powered camp sites and a camp kitchen to make creekside camping more comfortable.

Of course, guests can still

choose to rough it in greater seclusion further along Mulgum creek, which winds along the boundary of the 10-acre property.

Granny's Farm opened in 1974, and operated continuously up until 2007. David Preedy said, "When we bought it in 1992, it was the only backpackers in Nimbin. Now there are nine."

David, who runs the place with his wife Rosemary and son Martin, is hoping to attract a broad cross-section of travellers seeking "budget accommodation with style and comfort."

Registered for 40 guests, Granny's Farm offers motel-style double and family rooms from \$50 per night, hostel-style dormitory accommodation at \$25 per night, as well as van-sites and camping.

Facilities include a fully equipped shared kitchen and large recreation room.

To make reservations, phone 6689-1333 or email grannysfarmnimbin@gmail.com

Chris and chips

Chris Seymour (pictured) started making mosaics about four years ago, and has been selling her unique work at The Channon craft markets for three years, where they proved so popular that she has started up her own business from home.

Her newly renovated house on Nimbin's Jarlanbah community now boasts a mosaics workshop and showroom at ground level.

Among the bright array of fascinating objects can be found water features, bathroom organisers, flower pots, clocks, mirrors, bowls, chairs, tables, even a surfboard coffee table.

"I can do things now that are too heavy to cart to the markets," Chris explained.

For example, Chris is currently at work on a metre-tall earthenware pot

that will be transformed into a mosaic garden water fountain, on commission.

Other commissioned projects include a set of pavers and a Balinese table.

See some of Chris' pieces on display in the window of Charters Hardware, or phone Chris on 6689-0185 for an appointment to tour her colourful showroom.



Two outdoor weddings

Long-time couple Teresa Biscoe and Doug Johnson (above) were married at the Tuntable community hall on 3rd October by celebrant Debbie Guest in front of hundreds of well-wishers, in a ceremony that included a hand-binding ritual.

On 5th September, Paul LeBars's daughter Maya married Ryan Levitt (below) at Cable Beach, Broome, with the gusty winds causing problems not only for the bride, but for bridesmaids Angelina and Megan and flower girl Rhyaana, too.



New arrival

Doting dad Andy Gough (below) and his artist wife Georgie were proud to announce the birth of their daughter Aurora Layla Gough, born 12th September, weighing 8lbs 7oz.



Friendship by Misty.

Photo Comp Successes

Nimbin Central School students have again blitzed the competition in this year's Northern Rivers Schools Photographic Challenge 2009 organised by the Lismore Camera Club.

With the theme of Friendship, the competition attracted a huge number of entries, in both traditional darkroom black and white prints as well as digital and digitally manipulated images.

The judge, Peter Hunter OAM, ARPS, AFIAP said he was very impressed with the creativity shown by



Thanks Dad by Tara.

students.

Out of 26 prizes, students from Nimbin Central School won an amazing 12!

Another excellent result was achieved in the Thanks Dad Regional Photographic Competition, with Tara Bayles receiving first place in the secondary school section.

These are fantastic results for a small school in competition with much larger schools in the region.

All the competitors are to be congratulated – keep up the wonderful efforts, Nimbin Central students.



Friendship by Lauren.

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NIMBIN Open Learning Centre

The Term 4 programme of the Nimbin Open Learning Centre offers writing, drawing, yoga, qi gong, bellydance, stained glass, mandala-making and French.

The eight-week term starts 28th October, enrolment days Wednesday and Thursday 21st and 22nd October, 10am-3pm at Nimbin Community Centre.

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Dangerous tree claims another victim

A camphor laurel tree on the verge of Gungas Road has claimed its second accident victim in three years.

Andrea Lago, a vivacious 31-year old and mother of three-year old son Tao, lost her life after colliding with the tree on 7th September. Despite emergency services attending, she died at the scene.

Her death was the second in three years at the same place, the top of a sharp curve rising from a causeway. Numerous accidents have been caused there by drivers side-swiping the tree.

Andrea's death sent shock waves around the village, and the tree became the focal point for her many friends to meet and console each other.

A roadside memorial remains there, with flowers, wreaths, poems and other memento mori from her many friends and admirers.

One card at the foot of the tree simply reads, "Never forgotten - in our hearts forever."

Andrea's family flew from Cairns for the memorial service at Tuntabla Falls community hall, which was filled to overflowing to hear tributes from her



partner Nick Bradley, family members and friends.

Afterwards, the coffin was transferred to Cairns for a family burial.

Mourners were left puzzling the question: How many more lives have to be lost to this hazardous tree before it is removed?

*RIP Andrea Lago
1978-2009*

What to say about a beautiful woman who was taken too soon? No words - we won't forget. A private soul, a gentle soul, A strong woman, An amazing mumma, You live in us forever. We miss you.

Tao and Nicky, we love you both. Bless.

- from Ruth and Donna, on behalf of everyone.



Community support sought for concrete skate park

The October meeting of Lismore City Council will consider whether Nimbin will get the funding for a concrete skate park.

Cr Simon Clough has given notice of his intention to move that Council as a matter of priority commit its Commonwealth Community Infrastructure Funding (round 2) of \$449,000 to the planning and development of a skate park in Nimbin's Peace Park.

Mayor Jenny Dowell said that skatepark building company ConVic was asked to put together options, and have recommended a site close to the children's play area.

A critical factor is the timing, to meet the federal government's deadline. Council staff have warned

that an extended community consultation process could mean the project would not be ready for funding in time.

For this reason, the community needs to be united and show its support for the proposal.

As many people as possible are urged to attend the Council meeting on Tuesday 13th October at Oliver Street, Goonellabah. Arrive by 5:45 as teenage skater Connor Anderson is addressing Council in the Public Access Session.

Skateboard mum Laurelli Anderson said, "We need your support at this meeting. We want to show the council that we care about our kids and they need a skate park!"

Contact Laurelli on 0447-891-119 or Michael 6689-1842 to confirm details.

Rainbow Dreaming at NY EcoFest

by Hans Lovejoy

To exhibit culturally significant artworks and journals overseas is a fantastic opportunity.

The Rainbow Dreaming photographic exhibition is a documentation of the events and people of the rainbow region that have shaped this area's 40-year history.

Ex-Nimbin local Harsha Prabhu was invited to present the exhibition at festivals and galleries throughout the US, and I jumped at the chance to lend a hand where I could.

After a gruelling 36-hour plane/transit trip, Harsha and I landed wearily in the metropolis of New York. Nimbin's Benny Zable was there to greet us with a peace flag, and after a day's recovery, preparations were made for the first exhibit at EcoFest.

Now in its 21st year, the environmental trade fair and music festival was for the first



Ecological. Pete Seeger, Nanci Callahan and friends singing up the finale of EcoFest; Harsha Prabhu outside the Rainbow Dreaming exhibit; Benny Zable in Times Square.

time held in Central Park, but the dedicated organising team with very little sleep, working hard to get it right for the festival, was dismayed by the eventual refusal of a permit by the Central Parks Conservancy.

In spite of this, they went on to set up as planned. It was a brave decision by the producer-director Nanci Callahan, calling the bluff of

the bureaucrats who really made life difficult for us and the artists appearing and the public, by closing down entrances to the event.

Harsha and I were lucky to have help from three Japanese girls who arrived the day before the festival - Saya Minami, Sayaka Nakao and Rina Terasaki. It would have been a lot harder without them

We successfully got 25 panels of the Rainbow Dreaming exhibition up on the outside of the EcoFest conference tent and an empty tent that Nanci let us use.

Blessed with a glorious early autumn sunny day, Central Park was packed with an estimate crowd of 25,000 plus people; buskers, roller-skaters, family picnics and the festival made for a memorable day.

The exhibition created solid interest from passers by, and it fitted right in with the other tents displaying alternative fuels, electric cars and eco fashion.

The star of the day was 90-year old Pete Seeger, who gave a spirited hour-long performance at the grand finale of a most successful 21st EcoFest.

So far the universe has looked after us. Next stop: The Harvest Festival in Woodstock on 11th October.

You can help get this exhibit around the USA by making a donation to: Southern Cross Credit Union Ltd. BSB: 802185 Account No: 134992 Account Name: TF Rainbow Dreaming.



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Boutique Retreat



The Gallery Suite

That secluded motel at 360 Croftons Road, Nimbin has just been re-opened after a major re-fit, which has seen it transformed into boutique accommodation and named *Croftons Retreat*.

The cheerful proprietor, 46-year old Christine Howard, purchased the property in 2007 and has been working on it ever since, spending \$70,000 this year alone, and the results are certainly impressive.

Each of the five self-contained units is decorated in a different style with obvious attention to detail: there's the Scarlet suite, the Gallery suite, the Hereford suite, the Chocolate suite, and the large Crofton suite, the last to be renovated, with its extra-large lounge area.

Everything in the suites is brand new, including queen-size beds (king-size in the Crofton), bathrooms, TVs, stereos (with iPod docks!), air conditioners and fridges; and fully equipped with an iron, hair dryer, coffee plunger and cooking utensils. Christine supplies the makings for breakfast, including farm-fresh eggs on request.

The *Croftons Retreat* suites open onto a cool, wide verandah overlooking a grove of palm and fruit trees with a swimming pool alongside. Sited in the middle of the 80-acre property, down a long driveway from Croftons Road, the suites are far removed from traffic and people, peaceful and serene.

Christine is offering an opening special, with suites from \$155 per night. Bookings can be made on 6689-0030, or through the website: www.croftonsretreat.com.au



Christine in the garden

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Celebration of Childhood

On Friday 23rd October, the Nimbin Parenting Centre will be hosting Universal Children's Day celebrations. The theme for Children's Day is 'A Caring World Shares.'

Nimbin Parenting Centre invites the Nimbin community to share in the day and celebrate the right of children to enjoy childhood. The event will acknowledge the children in our community and present opportunities for children to show their talents, skills and abilities.

Events of the day will commence with a Welcome to Country by Vivianne King, a Bundjalung elder from the Nimbin community and opening speech by Lismore Mayor, Jenny Dowell.

Throughout the day, children, parents and community will be entertained by a variety of performances including the Nimbin School Choir, the Bamboo Drums, Red Inc Signing Choir.



There will be a special performance by the Curly Cousins, who will perform music to encourage children's creative spirit.

Side Show Alley will have face painting and balloon shaping creatively provided by children from Nimbin Central School.

Food and drinks will be on sale or bring a picnic lunch.

The celebrations will be held in the grounds of Nimbin Community Centre from 10am 'til 2pm.

For more information, please phone Gail at Nimbin parenting Centre on 6689-0423 or Helen at family Support Network at 6621-2489.



Snow much fun!

by Marc Everingham

Travelling 1,000km by coach with 33 students and galling around Canberra and Thredbo may not seem like everyone's idea of fun, but let me assure you, it is.

The Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 students from Nimbin Central School travelled to our nation's capital, Canberra for a five-day excursion. The lucky adults accompanying them included the Principal, Mary-Jane Pell, 5/6 teacher, Marc Everingham, High School teacher, Jack Doyle and Assistants, Maureen Carey and Marc LeBars. Although they all indicated having a fantastic time, they were all obviously exhausted when they got back.

Leaving on Sunday afternoon, the bus travelled overnight to Canberra where it arrived Monday morning, and straight away we were off to old Parliament House, National Capital Exhibition and the War Memorial where we all played dress-up and discovered the horrors of war. The students really enjoyed the War Memorial and demonstrated the appropriate solemnity, particularly when

looking for family member names on the wall.

On Tuesday we visited the National Museum where Phar Lap's heart was what many wanted to see (don't ask me why, I thought it was a macabre fascination). After the museum we visited the Sound and Film Archives, and watched episodes of Aunty Jack. The students were horrified to see a fat man with a moustache wearing a dress and threatening to 'rip the bloody arms off everyone', and thought it was stupid, but I could not stop laughing.

The snow on Wednesday was a highlight and it was obvious there was going to be payback between the staff and students. Once we reached the top by chairlift, everyone quickly amassed an arsenal of snowballs, and then it was on. Most had never seen snow and it was hilarious to watch the antics of all the kids (including the adult kids).

This trip was the first in a variety of excursions planned for the middle school students. Many students had never travelled this far before and were thrilled not only to be in Canberra but the snow experience as well.

Would I go again? In a flash.

'Melbourne Cup High Tea'

You are cordially invited to a delightfully delicious afternoon of decadence at the Verbin School of the Arts Hall.

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Complimentary champagne on arrival, tea and coffee throughout the afternoon and a fine selection of canapés, petit cakes & other luxury treats.

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Nimbin Preschool Fundraiser - ONLY 100 tickets - Available from Nimbin Post Office from 3 October

Nimbin Vacation Care Spring Program

Dear parents/caregivers and kids,

We warmly welcome everyone to the new Spring Holiday program. Please read the dates below carefully and book to avoid disappointment. To book phone NNIC on 6689-1692 (between 10am and 4 pm).

Please note that the basic fee for Vacation Care is now \$10. We are also now asking for \$2 bus fare on excursions, as well as the usual cost of the activity.

Once again, we will be operating from Nimbin Central School. Please meet us at the front of the MPU at 9am on excursion days. Please pick up your child

no later than 3pm from the MPU at Nimbin School.

Also, please ensure that your child wears

appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat and sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

This program of the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is funded by DoCS.

Date	Program	Cost
Wednesday 7 th October	Excursion to Murwillumbah Cinema to see 'UP'PG followed by lunch at Sphinx Rock Café and Park. There is a small creek at the park which the children will be allowed to wade in.	\$18.50
Thursday 8 th October	MPU - A swim at Nimbin Pool (weather permitting), paper craft, painting and Traditional Games .	\$10
Friday 9 th October	MPU - A swim at Nimbin Pool (weather permitting), followed by crafts, Clay Sculpture and games.	\$10
Tuesday 13 th October	Rock pooling at Flat Rock Beach , Ballina. Children will be allowed to wade in the rock pools but there will be no swimming in the ocean. Please bring a change of clothes or swim suit, towel, money for an ice-cream, bucket and spade, and a plastic bag.	\$12
Wednesday 14 th October	MPU - Crafts and games. We will also walk to Djanbung Gardens for a short educational activity.	\$10

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Women Watching

by Raine

Before winter began in earnest, you may have seen a small group of women sitting at the Rainbow Lane blister on Friday nights. We are older women and call ourselves "Women Watching" and we're there to make a difference on the streets of Nimbin.

The idea came after hearing a lot of complaints about the violence and lack of respect by youth in the Lane. There was damage being done and generally a veil of fear was felt by many having to pass through that area of town. I felt, like others before me, "someone should do something" and after a few investigations found that this time, the someone would have to be me!

I heard about women doing vigil in various places around the world where attention needed to be focused on violence or injustices and thought that was a good idea that might work in Nimbin, so I gathered together a group of women (three) willing to try it out.

We began last November and sat from 7pm till midnight every Friday and it was about a month before the boys got around to asking us what we were there for. We had up till then encountered several "subtle" attempts to shift us on. But we grandmothers (crones) are not so easily intimidated. Sometimes we had our dogs with us and one of the early comments from a young woman to a guy "Can you move those Dog Women on?" amused us, so we claimed the title and called ourselves Dog Women.

They didn't manage to move us on and as I said eventually approached us to ask what we were doing. I explained that we wanted to see what all the fuss was about for ourselves, to provide a safe environment, to claim a bit of territory and generally keep our eyes on the street, including the police behavior. The boys seemed to like the idea.

After a few weeks' observation I thought they weren't any worse generally in their behavior than we were, in my time as a teenager (back in the 50's when we invented teenageness) apart from the excesses so prevalent in this society of drug and alcohol use (we only had beer and brandevino) and this is what I see as the root of the problems.

What we did see on the streets was a lot of verbal abuse, some punch-ups, usually outside the pub from drunk men who five minutes later were hugging as blood brothers. We had our flask (we supplied cuppas to those sitting with us) accidentally smashed by a young woman in a violent drunken tirade that lasted for an hour and eventually was sorted out by police and family. We witnessed unreasonable violent behavior that sprang seemingly out of nowhere and heard a lot of abuse, many times from young women. We also saw a certain amount of self-regulation, care and concern for each other.

But we were not threatened and one young man said we wouldn't be. I told him we'd call on him for help if necessary and he assured us we were safe. That was reassuring.

In the future, I would like to interview some of the boys and girls if they're interested, to tell their stories about growing up in Nimbin, what it means to be a Rainbow Lane boy, how they see their community and perhaps what they want in their future.

Some evenings there were up to seven women sitting with us and others dropping by for a cuppa. Other times, we were down to two.



Raine

Many times we were congratulated by people in the community, but not a lot of participation was forthcoming. We also got suggestions from the street on how we could do better ("You should..."), which we ignored.

We stopped for the winter. I like working for the community but I'm not a martyr. We've started again, now it's warmer. Our first night back, there were only two of us, but it was quiet. Interesting as always, but quiet. Hopefully, we'll have more women joining us as time goes by.

We have gained a bit of recognition from Lismore Council's Community Drug Strategies and some training has been offered, along with perhaps a little funding, which will put towards cuppas and snacks for those dropping by.

We feel that older women are most suited to this project, as we have moved through the mothering phase and can approach a problem in a different way. This is also an excellent opportunity for women to meet and connect with each other and the young people of this wonderful village without judgment, fear and misunderstanding.

I'd like to thank Regina and Nathalie for their support and participation in this project and Sal who called in after work most Fridays. Thank you also to those who dropped in from time to time and inspired others to care. That's my hope anyway.

With greater participation, I feel this project can grow into something that will make a difference. Showing you care. If you are interested in becoming involved, please call me on 0427-336-910

Go Pink for Breast Cancer

Nimbin Bowling Sport and Recreation Club Ladies will host their Pink Ribbon Day fundraising in support of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, funding research for prevention and cure on Sunday 25th October, commencing the day with a scrumptious BBQ from 8am.

This year the theme is "All Things Pink Fancy Dress" with prizes for Most Outrageous, Most Creative Costumes, Best Dressed Male, Toddlers to 5 Years and 5 to 12 Year Olds.

Enjoy a game of bowls and lots of fun activities throughout the day, along with the Monster Raffle - your pick of the table.

Come along and enjoy this annual event for a very worthy cause. BBQ, Green fees and Fancy Dress competition entry: \$10 per head/\$2 per child.



Celebrating. Greg Ezzy and acting rector Alan Shaw give communion; Faye Sherf and Peg Wells.

St Marks Church Centenary

by Pam Bourne

People came from as far north as the Sunshine Coast, and south as far as Coffs Harbour to celebrate the centenary of St Mark's Anglican Church at Nimbin. Over 100 people attended a church service, and even more filled the church grounds for a picnic lunch and BBQ.

Memories were shared of marriages and christenings amidst a hum of activity as old friends met again who hadn't seen each others for years and plenty of reminiscing occurred. Former pastors attended to see the changes to the Nimbin church, including the use of church land to provide for the Nimbin Community Gardens. Alan Griggs was the cook for the day, over a bush BBQ, and the gardens were beautified by the community garden landcare group. George Larson came up from the hospital, assisted by Shane Clapham.

Some families, like the Robinsons, had generations of involvement at St Mark's church Nimbin. Norm and Bernice Robinson were married in St Mark's Nimbin on Friday 21st August 1954 by Reverend Wilbour Dook. Their daughter Helen was christened in St Marks on 23rd December 1967 by Rev Bill Lewis. Bernice's parents were also married at St Mark's in 1934.

The church bells rang for service, where the Venerable Greg Ezzy presided, as the Bishop has had heart problems and taken three months leave. Alan Shaw was acting rector. Another minister Margaret assisted, she is also the hospital chaplain. Peg Wells, aged 92, cut the 100 years cake at the end of the service.

I spoke to Church Warden and organist Faye Scherf who had decorated the hall with lovely flowers from her

garden. She would like to encourage anyone to come. "If anyone wants to bring a guitar and sing some gospel songs, or play for the hymns fine. We don't always have traditional hymns, we have scripture tunes, jump for joy and clap your hands," she said. "It doesn't matter if they haven't got shoes or a clean shirt. Jesus wore a sackcloth and sandals or bare feet. Everybody's welcome. We have a cup of tea after the service, and Jim's wife makes some lovely cakes."

The next celebration will be the dedication of the church by the bishop on 25th June 2011. It should have been dedicated on the 19th Sept in 1909 but the floods prevented the bishop from attending. It was another two years before he was able to do the dedication.

The Anglican church has many outreaches, aged care, landcare, and during the Aquarian celebrations a few years ago the church held an Aquarian art show. Faye remembers, "A few years ago, MardiGrass weekend, when Nimbin was completely washed out, people were marooned here sopping wet and freezing cold. So we opened the church here and we housed quite a few people for a couple of nights until they were able to get to where they had to go. They had a bit of warmth and

drying out, and there was food available. Rev George McCostus were here at the time. He held a thanksgiving service afterwards, the church was packed, many people connected with MardiGrass came along as they were so grateful. That is what Christianity is all about. Open your heart. Love your neighbour."

A new rector has been appointed to Lismore, he starts at the end of November. St Marks holds a service on the 4th Sunday of the month. The current one service a month at St Marks was trialled for a year, Faye says she will be asking the church to reinstate a second service per month at St Mark's. Although members join with the Uniting Church on the 2nd Sunday of the month, Faye says it is not enough, but admitted that ministers of all denominations are getting a little thin to the ground.

As for all inclusive services? Faye said, "Last week we had Ivan Shepherd here conducting the service, and we also had Alan's cattle dog Red sleeping on the carpet in the aisle, we had the dingo Layla just on the doormat outside, the cats came for a visit, and all the magpies were warbling their little heads off outside. I thought, if that's not an Aussie church service, I don't know what is!"

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All that's Jazz

The Lismore Jazz Club is currently in a rejuvenation phase with a new and keen committee, and has expanded out to Kyogle, Casino, Tenterfield and the rainbow regions of the area.

There was an excellent response to its initial press release, and now the club is seeking input from jazz lovers in the Northern Rivers about what listeners and enthusiasts would like to hear. See contact details below.

George Washingmachine

LJC will present George Washingmachine, the hot jazz fiddler and vocalist, with his group featuring guitarist Nigel Date on Thursday 29th October 7-10pm, at the Lismore City Bowling Club. Entry is \$15/\$10 members.



Self-portrait

George is a festival favourite and unabashed showman. Originally trained in classical music, George turned to jazz in the 1980s, working the jazz traps of Sydney for years.

So if you're looking for a swinging experience, underpinned by a delightful sense of humour and superb musicality, don't miss this gig.

Jazz on the Radio

Jazz can be heard on radio programs around the region, including soon on Kyogle's new community radio, 87.6 Kiss-FM, thanks to the efforts of LJC members Barry and Vivienne Hooper, who will present the program with their vast collection of music.

Syd Sycamore presents the program *Just Jazz* on 2NCR, 92.9FM on Thursdays 12-2pm. He plays a whole range of jazz genres, and includes a What's-On of gigs in the area.

Over Byron way, Bay-FM 99.9FM has Quentin Watts' *Blues and Jazz* program on Mondays 2-4pm, and also *Jazz Moods* on Sundays 10am-noon.

Heading for the hills, Nimbin has *Jazz and World Music* with Wolfgang on Nim-FM 102.3 on Thursdays 12-3pm, and Tenterfield has Robin Elks on 98.7 and 89.7FM on Monday evenings from 8-12pm.

Join the Club

Membership of LJC is only \$20pa, which includes membership rates for gigs.

Applications can be made on-line at www.lismorejazz.org.au or by picking up a membership form at Tom's Music Shop, Kyogle or by phoning Mike Stebbings on 6663-7148 or 0412-235-070.

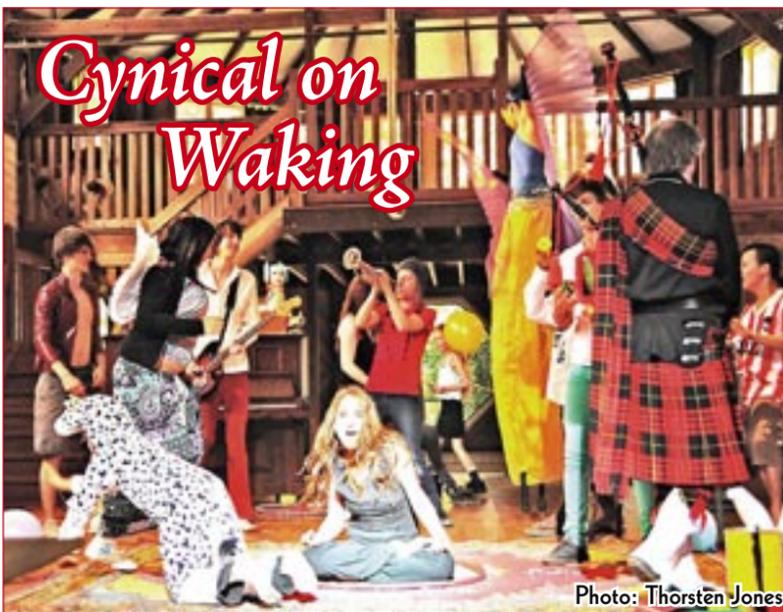


Photo: Thorsten Jones

After four critically acclaimed albums, fame within Australia and the States and a list of accolades that stretch long and gracious, Diana Anaid has unleashed the lead single from her forthcoming album.

The new single, *Cynical On Waking*, takes you back to the Diana

Anaid who first shocked Australia. With tuning reminiscent of her very first album, this track features the unique heavy-handed guitar bashing and honest lyrics that she has become known for.

To support the release of the single, Diana shot a video clip with

an eccentric cast of local characters (*some above*) in the Tuntable community hall last month. Watch the video at: popdirt.com/diana-anaid-cynical-on-waking-video/76189/

This month Diana will hit the road with her band on an east coast tour, playing Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

Dragon at Grafton

Review by Pam Bourne

The air was alive on Friday 18th September as the crowds rolled in to see iconic rockers Dragon at the Grafton District Services Club.

The show began with the classic hit song *April Sun In Cuba*, which enticed the first dancers to the floor. With the venue filled to capacity, it was a very steamy evening.

Music lovers grooved to the music, remembering classic Dragon songs including tunes *Are You Old Enough*, *Speak No Evil*, *O Zambezi*, *Sunshine* and *Age of Reason*. Dragon also pumped out well known cover tunes including Johnny O'Keefe's "Shout", much to the delight of the crowd.

We had a taste of a few songs from the new CD "Happy I Am", which was available after the show. The crowd sang along with the tunes, one local jumping onto stage to share the vocals with Mark!



Mark



Todd

Dragon have returned with a vengeance after a ten year break.

They were formed in 1973 in New Zealand, but came across to Australia when they outgrew their homeland. Dragon sold over two million records in just over 30 years.

Bass player, Todd Hunter has now reformed the band. In its current incarnation, the band is fronted by the legendary Kiwi singer Mark Williams, Canadian guitar-slinger, Bruce Reid and drum wizard Pete Drummond.

It was indeed an exciting night in Grafton, and maybe the start of many more!

Suzi Quatro and Elvis

Interview by Pam Bourne

Suzi Quatro has just completed an Australian tour. She played at Twin Towns on 18th and 19th September. Clad in leather, the Queen of Rock n Roll, Suzi turns 60 in June next year.

While in Australia she released her new song *Singing With Angels*, written about Elvis Presley. Suzi says that Elvis is the person responsible for doing what she does. She said he has been "part of my life, sitting on my shoulder, coincidence after coincidence".

"Since age five, I was watching the Ed Sullivan show, one of my sisters who was a teenager was sitting next to me. He comes on, she starts screaming, I don't know why she was screaming, I watch Elvis, he's doing *Don't Be Cruel*. Anyway, now I know why she was screaming! My dad comes in, looks at the screen, looks at us, and switches it off. It was in that moment that I decided that's what I am going to do with my life.

"So flash forward, 1964 I formed my first band, we do lots of Elvis songs. I'm searching for an image. I'm still young. 1968 I watch his comeback special. He's got on leather. So I decided I was going to wear leather as well. In 1971 I go to England and record my first album. On that album I put *All Shook Up*. 1974 I tour America with my band. We are in Memphis and the phone rings. Honest to God I nearly shit myself. He says, "This is Elvis." He said "I just heard your version of *All Shook Up*. Would you all like to come to the mansion, ah ha ha?" And I said, No Thanks I'm Very Busy. The truth is that I just wasn't ready to meet Elvis, I just wasn't ready.

Then in 1977, I'm in Japan on tour. I get a call



from Burmont Studios in California. They said would I please fly across and audition for a part in this big TV show called *Happy Days?* So I say OK and flew over. After the audition they told me to go back to the hotel room, so I am sitting right next to the phone waiting for it to ring. In the background is the TV. The phone rings and they say "You've got the part for fifteen episodes," Great! That was fantastic. And at that exact instant on the TV flashes across "the king is dead!" How weird!

Finally two years ago I was coming Down Under, and I wanted to do a little bit of an unplugged thing so you could learn a little about me. In this I wanted to talk about Elvis, I wanted a song about him, I didn't have one. So I thought I'd just write one, which I did. It became kinda the hit of the tour. Everybody loved it. So I went back to England and phoned the Jordinares, Elvis original backing band, and said how would you like to do this tribute song with me? Five minutes later I was in Nashville, recording my tribute to the man who has meant so much to my life, WITH his people! I tell you I had goose bumps.

I do believe in destiny. It was not my destiny to meet Elvis, it was my destiny to write this song, *Singing With Angels*."



Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers
53 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Phone 6689-1246

October Gig Guide

Friday 9th	Stipsky
Thursday 15th	Mama La La
Friday 16th	Anarchist Duck
Saturday 17th	Trasharama Travelling Film Festival
Thursday 22nd	Neil Anderson+ Friends
Friday 23rd	Somersault
Saturday 24th	Cheyenne Murphy Duo
Sunday 25th	Grumpy Neighbour
Thursday 29th	Open Mic Nite/Jam
Friday 30th	Pink Zinc

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What's On in October?

- **Sunday 25th – Pink Ribbon Day** – from 8am, breakfast, pink fancy dress, fun activities, prizes, monster raffle
- **Barefoot Bowls** – Sundays from 9.30am
- **2-4-2 Bowls** – Saturdays – register by 11am, start at 1pm, uniform required.
- **Smorgasbord Lunch** – 1st & 3rd Sundays



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• Lunch & dinner Tuesday - Sunday



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by Terry Beltrame

What a fabulous couple of days we had over the weekend of Nimbin's 89th Annual Country Show!

The show committee did a superb job in organising and arranging spaces and events so that everything was hunky dory for exhibitors and officials alike – a huge thank you for all the time and effort these dedicated people put in to make our Show a smooth running success.

At the judging of the Brewers Corner, Deb Guest, Derek Cooper and myself worked our way through 22 beers of varying degrees of quality and style. Our final adjudication was unanimous as was our overall assessment of the entries exhibited.

The category for light to medium bodied beers (lagers, pilseners, ales and draught) was not as high a standard as last year, with many beers being a bit thin and lacking in depth of flavour. There were also many beers that had the "home brew" smell of sulfide (H₂S) – maybe last summer was too wet for a number of products in the region.

Despite this, the winning entries were pretty bloody good, first prize going to Marc LeBars for his "Pale Ale" that had everything you'd like in a hot weather beer – soft and creamy in texture with a good length of flavour and some nice hoppy character to finish it off, which is exactly what Derek did, finished it off.

Second place went to Ben Egan with his interestingly named "Shit Hot Ale" (and it was) and Marc also took

out third place with a "Real Ale". Nick Buckley, formerly from Nimbin, won the Medium to Full Bodied beer category for the second year running with his "Scottish Heavy", a beautifully balanced and flavoursome beer that really shone through the crowd.

Fransisco was only half a point away, with both second and third placings for his "Nut Brown" and "Ruby Porta" respectively. This category was much stronger and it really was difficult to pick a winner – we had to go back and reassess three times before we came to a final decision.

Coopers Home Brew Division again came to the party with some excellent prizes in the way of beer kits, merchandising material and collectables. Not to be outdone, Neville Plush and Mal Rothwell also contributed a significant amount of cash as prizemoney, making the awards bag nicely rounded for the winning exhibitors.

In the future, we'd love to see more entries. Get brewing now and put a couple of bottles aside (that's all you need to enter), as six months in the bottle does wonders for your brew.

Next year we're going to have the judging on Saturday with the exhibitors tasting on Sunday, which will give more people the opportunity to enter, watch the judges at work (!) and be involved with the Show.

Finally, a big "Cheers" to all the exhibitors who made the effort to be a part of this ever-growing category.

Without exhibitors, there's no show.



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