

Steps towards a National Disability Insurance Scheme



Janelle's Page

Janelle Saffin MP, manager Jenny London, staff and young people at R.E.D Inc in Lismore talk about progress on the NDIS.

by Janelle Saffin, MP

One in five people in our community have a disability, and many of these people struggle to get the services and support they deserve.

I believe no-one in our community should be left behind – that accident or disability shouldn't take away the chance for a decent life.

At present, services are delivered by state, territory and federal governments, with different policies and products, leading to an uneven result or lack of services in some places.

In its recent report into Disability Care and Support, the Productivity Commission described the current system as 'under

funded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient' and recommended a Medicare-style National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to protect all Australians.

The insurance scheme is something I've always advocated because it provides a standard, fair way of giving individuals the control to secure the services and care they need over their lifetime.

Following the release of the Productivity Commission's final report in August, the Australian Government started work immediately to build the foundations for reform.

Already, important progress has been made.

Last week the Select Council on Disability Reform – a council of

Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street
Lismore
Phone 1300-301-735

Commonwealth, state and territory treasurers and disability ministers – agreed to lay the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme by mid-2013, a year ahead of the timeline set out by the Productivity Commission.

The Australian Government has already:

- Taken the Productivity Commission's report to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), where the Commonwealth, state and territory leaders agreed to the need for fundamental reform of disability services through a National Disability Insurance Scheme;
- Established the NDIS Advisory Group; and

• Delivered an immediate additional investment of \$10 million to support the development of the technical policy work, consistent with the recommendations of the Productivity Commission. It is critical that all governments maintain momentum to progress this important reform and to work together to lay the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Breaking down barriers

I want to pay tribute to all the local disability advocates, in particular the late Jacob Baldwin, who have worked hard over many years lobbying for such a scheme.

A National Disability Insurance Scheme means people with disabilities having a say in how they are supported; it means making sure support really reaches those who need it; and it means breaking down barriers to schooling, work and community life.

It's a long road, but we'll see changes on the way and the Government is working with the states and territories to build a scheme that will benefit all of us, should we ever find ourselves or a loved one affected by a life-changing event.



by Laurelli Anderson

The Brake-n-Enter skateboarding event was recently held at the Nimbin skate park. The free skateboarding workshop was delivered in a fun and festive environment, with all skateboards and helmets freely available on the day to anyone willing to give it a go.

There were more than 60 keen skaters registered and about 100 people there over the course of the day. The weather was superb which helped the event to be a huge success.

"You get to ride proper skateboards guided by insightful coaches who get a kick out sharing their passion," Mr Flude said. "Skateboarding is social mega fun and an artistic expression of your personality."

The event was supported by Skateboarding Australia (SbA), the Federal Government's Australian Sports Commission and Lismore City Council.

SbA's nationally accredited coaches are some of the best in Australia. They gave Nimbin their all and were very happy to pass on the passion, skills and knowledge within the structure of a professionally managed environment.

One of Nimbin's local skaters, Cedar Leeberry, was one of

the official coaches on the day, helping a group of young enthusiastic skaters learn new techniques, Cedar was also one of the locals who was a part of the original design of the skate park with Concrete Skateparks.

Friends of Nimbin Skatepark are running a fundraising barbecue every third Sunday of the month towards an equipment shed, some much-needed extra drainage and an additional pathway to go around the back of the snake run, as well as a circumference of palm trees from the entrance path to right around the back of the shelters.

These issues have been discussed with LCC and the wheels are in motion for these things to be approved and to proceed, but external funding will be needed to go ahead.

People can make donations to the FONSK8 at Summerland Credit Union in Nimbin.

The next FONSK8 Twilight BBQ will be held 20th November between 4-6pm, away from the heat of the day. So mums, have a night off, have a swim, come and sit on the grass and watch your kids skate in the cool of the evening and support FONSK8.

As an added bonus, you don't have to cook!

Foreign minister visits

by Justine Elliot MP

On Friday 7th October, Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd hosted a forum on Australia's International Aid Program.

Around 200 people attended the forum at St Joseph's College at Banora Point.

The Foreign Minister described the difficulties facing the world's poorest people. He explained the actions the Australian Labor Government is taking so that we are playing our part in helping people in other countries who are facing these hardships.

We were told that the problems facing the people living in the Horn of Africa are very real. More than 13 million people require urgent aid.



Member for Richmond
107 Minjungbal Drive
Tweed Heads South
Phone 1300-720-675

Minister Rudd also took the time to explain the Horn of Africa Dollar for Dollar initiative – a campaign he launched on 5th October. The

campaign is an initiative where the Australian Government will match dollar for dollar donations made by the public to AusAID-accredited non-government organisations. The funds raised through the Dollar for Dollar campaign will help to provide food and clean water.

It was a real pleasure to have Kevin Rudd back in Richmond and that so many people had the opportunity to meet him, ask him questions, and to have their photo taken with him.

Federal Government delivering

I am very proud of what the Federal Labor Party has delivered since coming to government in 2007:

Jobs: Nearly 750,000 jobs have been created since we were first elected and 140,000 more Australians employed today than there were 12 months ago.

Paid parental leave: To give babies the best start in life by paying eligible parents up to 18 weeks pay at the National Minimum Wage.

Strong economy: Among the world's largest economies we have the lowest debt, we stayed out of recession, and our economic future is strong.

NBN: Affordable, high-speed broadband to all Australians and Australian businesses no matter where they live. It will mean better education, better healthcare, and better Internet access for Australian businesses.

Health agreement: More doctors, more nurses, more beds, less waiting, less waste.

Acting on climate change: Ratified the Kyoto Protocol and reached an agreement on putting a price on carbon that will cut pollution, cut taxes, increase the pension and

create clean energy jobs.

Mining Tax: Giving Australians a fair share of the mining boom – a boost to retirement savings, tax breaks for small business, company tax cut.

Education and skills: Doubled investment in school education, upgraded facilities at every school, and provided more information for parents than ever before. Created 130,000 new training places.

Seniors: An historic increase to the pension, and improving aged care services.

Infrastructure: A record investment of more than \$37 billion in more than 44,000 projects around the country.

Disabilities: Laying the foundations for the nation's first ever National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Blade Road Zorb Ball facility

I am aware that some residents in Blade Road are very disappointed and even angry that Council approved the Zorb Ball Riding recreation Development Application (DA) lodged for 31 Blade Road. While Councillors considered the impact of the facility on amenity of residents, the road network and the environment, the conditions of consent and the permissibility of the activity in the zone were regarded as strong reasons for approval.

The economic benefit of the facility was questioned, but the majority of Councillors (8/2) accepted the opinions of the tourism staff and the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce that an activity that keeps visitors in Nimbin for a longer stay will contribute positively to the economy of the village.

I am aware that DAs have the potential to divide a community and while the DA is being considered, passions are particularly high. At the risk of being told to 'butt out', now that this facility has been approved, I would encourage all residents and the developer to ensure lines of communication and civil relations

are maintained. After all, no one can argue that all parties do not have the best interests of the community at heart.

Lismore Tourist Caravan Park

From time-to-time, Councillors are faced with really challenging decisions that place us between a rock and a very hard place. It is easy to be popular and opt out of those hard decisions but the risks of doing so have the potential to literally put lives at risk. Lismore Tourist Caravan Park is just one of those decisions.

The park has, over decades, become a de facto affordable accommodation facility with residents living there for over 20 years. The problem is that the Park does not have approval for long-stay or permanent residents and nor would it ever be approved as such because the facility is in a high risk flood zone.

Readers might recall the May 2009 flood when Police and others waded through water above waist level to wake and rescue residents from their vans. The potential for tragedy is in the back of all our minds as we considered a report on a new lessee for the facility.

Council's current lease expires at the end of the year and over the past six months, the current lessee has moved all residents to short term



tenancy agreements that expire on November 12. The call for a new lessee resulted in one application by the lessees of the Nimbin caravan park, Peter Mann and Ellen-Joy Denny. While not all details are finalized, staff were authorized to enter into negotiations with the Mann group with the view to coming to an agreement that would also entail ensuring the Park is for short term stays up to 150 days per year.

Councillors voted 6/4 in support of the recommendation that also included a commitment of Council to work with housing agencies to find alternative accommodation for the tenants at the park. We know this will be difficult but recognize that most residents have expressed their wish for more appropriate permanent housing.

Lismore Lake Pool

Readers will have seen that Council is considering the future of the Lismore Lake Pool. This free facility is loved by those who spent many hot afternoons there over the past four decades

and enjoyed its shady surrounds. Unfortunately time marches on and what was acceptable once is no longer good practice. Serious concerns with both the safety of the facility and the capacity of the filtration systems have been known to Council for some time. Each year we have decided to open the pool for the months of December and January only in the hope that things will hold together for another season and no-one will be injured or worse. This year however, the safety risks have escalated considerably after a warning from WorkCover that if the facility opens in its current state, Council will be hit with \$55,000 fines for each breach and further fines if those breaches remain.

Councillors simply cannot ignore these warnings. While there have been some calls to bring the facility up to the required standard, the costs of doing so is estimated to be \$350,000 for the most basic of works.

At our November meeting, Councillors will discuss whether we take funds from another program to undertake these works or consider alternatives to provide more equitable access to our other facilities at Goonellabah and the Memorial Baths. We have sought feedback from identified groups and the general community to help inform our deliberations.

Nimbin Events

I'm looking forward to the Nimbin

Fashion Show and the Nimbin Women's Dinner this month and as I write this, I'm also anticipating a high standard of films at the annual competition for young filmmakers that will have been held on Saturday October 29. Darmin Cameron does a great job pulling this together and showcasing the fine efforts of our young people both in front of and behind the camera.

November Forum

Council has heard for many years that Nimbin residents can feel left out of decision-making. That's one reason I proposed in the previous Council term, to host each year in November, a forum in Nimbin. All Councillors and Senior staff are asked to attend and the community is invited to come and hear the latest news, ask questions and make suggestions. This year's forum will be held on November 21, 7-9pm in the School of Arts Hall. I look forward to seeing lots of people there and hearing what's important to you.

Nimbin Communication has also improved with the formation of the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG), better relations with the Chamber of Commerce and the section of Council's Nimbin Newsletter in each edition of the *GoodTimes*.

If anything is bothering you about Council activities please call 1300 87 83 87, email council@lismore.nsw.gov.au or contact a Councillor (0402-651-394 is my number)

Simon says...

by Simon Clough

This is the second last 'Simon Say's before Christmas. I won't go on about the usual nonsense about how time flies. But it is definitely time to have those summer vegies raging in the garden. Our street garden is looking a little neglected at present waiting for a late spring planting. Meanwhile the Lismore Community Garden is going well with new members and spring plantings. Council has a new draft policy on edible streetscapes (plants on public land that you can eat!) which is very exciting. I know it will all take time but I'm looking forward to foraging along the local footpaths etc eating mangoes, lilli pillis, mulberries...

Council's October meeting The zorbing Development Application was a significant issue for Nimbin and especially the residents of Blade Road. The application was approved 9/2 with 53 conditions on the development. I voted for the application, although I

could sympathise with the concerns of the local residents. As a councillor I believe I have to make decisions for the whole community and in a situation where the proposed use is permitted, unless there is significant destruction of amenity or the environment the proposal should pass. I was impressed by the fact that there have been major moves by the developer to minimise noise and disruption to neighbours and that there is to be no food, drink or entertainment on site. I couldn't help thinking of the situation if a "bad neighbour" farmer had the property such a person could make loud noise, have a pack of dogs and destroy the land and there would be no need for a development application and little that the neighbours could do. I trust that what seems like a great community on Blade Rd can work together with the developer to the benefit of them all.

Cr Yarnall moved a motion supporting federal independent Tony Windor's bill to protect water and food resources from coal seam gas (CSG) mining.



Being very concerned about the local situation I moved an amendment for Lismore City Council and Rous County Council to work together to protect the catchment of the Wilson (formerly Lismore) Source from coal seam gas mining. I'm personally aware of a proposed well about a kilometre from the Source and very close to the river. There seems no way the contaminated produced water from such a well could be prevented from going into the river, let alone any damage that maybe done to underground water supplies. Rous has spent \$40m constructing the Source and yet there is no legal requirement for the miner to notify our water provider! When you see the concessions the state government has given to the CSG industry (no royalties for 5 years), and compares the situation to the solar industry

(which is in total government induced disarray), and the wind turbine industry which looks like it may be effectively banned through state legislation, you can clearly see that renewable energy is no match for the "Carbon Mafia"!

I was successful in getting support for a submission questioning the need for TransGrid's 330kV transmission line from Dumaresq, through Tenterfield to Lismore. The line is to cost \$227m and may cost up to \$283.5m. It seems hard to justify this huge cost for coal fired electricity when:

- it can be reasonably anticipated that the recently introduced carbon pricing legislation will further reduce the demand for carbon based electricity;
- latest research shows that large scale photovoltaic energy generation is now at price parity with coal generated electricity (Bloomberg);
- the Northern Rivers region has by far the greatest uptake of photovoltaics in NSW over the last 3 years;
- neither TransGrid or the electricity retailers have tried to institute any form of demand management

to reduce electricity consumption in this region, and;

• there has been no consideration of any large scale decentralised energy systems for this region.

The Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology commented on the TransGrid proposal in the following terms:

"...the construction of the power line would be about nine times more expensive, even at the highest requirement for network support put forward (61MW). If only 22MW is required, construction of the new power line would be more than 20 times more expensive than the non-network options."

It would be great to see

this huge amount of money redirected to setting up a smart grid system to reduce electricity consumption, and the balance to be spent on renewables projects.

I'm currently experimenting with an electric bike that I have on loan. My first surprise was that it is 3 times heavier than my bike, which is about 7 kgs. It is also considerably slower, but it does need less human energy, which means you can arrive at meetings etc without the need for a shower. I'm hoping that I may be able to reduce my car use if it's a viable form of transport.

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Rally cry for Point



by Franca Wolfe

Forty kilometres north of Broome at James Price Point is the intended location for a proposed gas hub, the largest in Australia and – at 24 square kilometres – the second largest in the world.

I recently visited Broome in North Western Australia, in the Western Kimberley region. It is madness that such a project can be permitted to take place in this amazing and pristine wilderness.

Broome locals along with visitors, including from Nimbin, are bunking down at the Manari Road blockade to attempt to prevent damaging work from being carried out by the Woodside Company.

This development has the backing of the local council, and the WA State Government. The miners are currently waiting on Federal

Government approval, but in a recent reply to a personal letter sent to the Federal Government (by myself) it seems that this will also be granted, along with the huge expansion of the Olympic Dam uranium mine in SA, and the establishment of a nuclear waste dump at Muckaty in the NT.

Below is an extract from a letter from Neil Roberts, Principal Advisor for Resources, the Office of Martin Ferguson, Minister for Resources and Energy and Minister for Tourism, dated 4th October 2011.

“The Australian Government is determined that the development of an LNG precinct positively

influences the long-term social and economic wellbeing of Indigenous communities across the Kimberley by maximising social and economic opportunities. The concept of a common-user LNG precinct to process the Browse Basin gas reserves will greatly assist in limiting the overall industrial footprint of any such development.”

Martin Ferguson is also Minister for Tourism, and tourism operators in Broome are not expecting good outcomes if the gas hub goes ahead.

The Broome community is divided in its opinion of the proposed development. Although it seemed to me that most are against the project, the topic is very emotive and there is a high level of anxiety in the community.

People’s lives will be affected by this big change and there is a feeling of despair and powerlessness amongst the residents. Due to the harsh environment of the Kimberley and the remote isolation of Broome, a resilient community has evolved here. But right now they need assistance, as the power of the mining companies and the Government is stacked against them.

For more up to date information on this issue see Facebook sites Protect the Kimberley, and Save the Kimberley.

Also on the internet:

www.envirokimberley.org.au

www.savethekimberley.com

www.wilderness.org.au/kimberley

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSoXP7kAnzY

Mining ponds fail check

On the National Day of Action on Coal Seam Gas (16th October), 13 inspectors scrutinised Metgasco’s wastewater ponds on Richmond Valley Council land at Woodview, adjacent to the Piora quarry about 10km west of Casino.

The citizen inspectors were confronted with the smell of sulphur from the ponds, and there were rips and patches in the pond liners – some below the waterline, allowing the wastewater to leach out.

There were pheasant coucal feathers in the water, showing an impact on wildlife, and the fence was down in one place, potentially allowing cattle intrusion.

Citizen investigations of Metgasco installations have previously turned up leaking gas wells, unlined drill and wastewater pits, overflowing waste pits and filthy flaring techniques.

Metgasco’s lack of due diligence appears to be a breach of its licence conditions, which could be another headache for embattled CEO Peter Henderson as the opposition to CSG mounts.

Metgasco currently has a DA before council to extend these ponds, which are on a spur between the headwaters of two creeks that flow into Doubtful Creek, then Eden Creek and into the Richmond River.

Future inspectors should wear masks, unless they want to appear on the front page of the Northern Star (21st October) under a “Gotcha” headline, courtesy of Metgasco’s security camera.

This appeared to be an attempt



to smear Getup for allegedly taking pictures of a Metgasco installation at Dobies Bight. Police are still investigating alleged trespass for someone walking into a paddock two months ago.

Alan Roberts, secretary of Nimbin Environment Centre said, “We consider the breaking of a minor law of trespass to be legitimate in order to prevent the breaking of a greater law.

“Government exempts the CSG industry from most of the important environmental laws and fails to regulate even flagrant breaches of what laws do remain. Citizens who want a liveable planet are left to fill the role that government and industry has abrogated.

“It’s a bit rich getting a moral lecture on private property from an industry accustomed to gaining entry to other people’s private property by bulldozer and police intervention as is common practice at Tara and is happening now on the Liverpool plains.

“At Tara, British Gas put their own chain and lock around the gate into people’s private property, forcing the landowners and visitors to negotiate with security guards for access to and egress from their property. Such is the CSG industry’s respect for private property.”

Kyogle staunch on mining

by Richard Deem

October 16th was the National Day of Action against coal seam gas mining, and thousands of marchers turned out across New South Wales, Western Australia and in Queensland.

In Kyogle about 570 marchers turned out to demonstrate their anger at Metgasco’s plan for a coal seam gas pipeline.

Some started their march at Lake Harrison, while others started their march at Memorial Park. The

two groups joined together at the Exchange Hotel and continued down the Summerland Way to the Kyogle Information Centre and amphitheatre.

The proposed pipeline would run between Kyogle and Geneva, diving under the lake on its way to Queensland - taking gas to Swanbank power station and / or overseas.

Landholders who initially expressed relief that their properties were not on the proposed pipeline route soon realised that because over 2,000 wells will be required

to provide the gas, a gas field will spread in all directions from the starting point of the Pipeline at Cedar Point – wherever the gas can be found.

Many people learned for the first time that the pipeline may be dug under the Lions Road – a loophole to enable it to technically not pass through the World Heritage-listed Border Ranges National Park.

Many locals are sceptical that this can be achieved without ruining the road and encroaching on the park.

Speakers included Paul Hobbs, of Lynchs Creek, Wayne Somerville, from Toonumbah, and Brian Monk, from near Tara.

Brian Monk’s 5,200 acre property has been surrounded by coal seam gas operations on his neighbours’ properties. Adverse health issues, which he blames on the mining operations, have forced him and his family to move out. He is now seeking

accommodation in the Northern Rivers area.

Wayne Somerville, a clinical psychologist, said coal seam gas devalued rural land and the anxiety and fear caused by the encroachment of the industry will cause an increase in suicides, anger and violence.

“For a farmer the land is their life’s work and the value of that land is often their only superannuation and the only legacy they have for their children,” he said.

“We were thrilled with the turnout” said Leah Hobbs of Group Against Gas (GAG) Kyogle. “We were overwhelmed with the community spirit, people were coming from all directions donating their time and their equipment to make it all work.

“This community gathering sends a strong message to our Governments that communities will not let this industry ruin our precious water supplies.”

Kyogle Council’s mayor, Ross Brown, and several councillors also attended the day.

Queues formed to sign a



petition to Kyogle Council asking for assistance to block the pipeline. The Information stand sold more than 150 Lock The Gate signs, and members of Group Against Gas Kyogle, which organised the event, reported numerous additions to its list of supporters.

Other attractions were a children’s baby animal zoo, face painting, food stalls, and music provided by numerous talented local musicians.

It was a joyous day which showed exactly what is at stake should coal seam gas development go ahead in the Northern Rivers area.

GAG Kyogle thanks

businesses and individuals including Kalinga Bulk Transport, NORCO, Brett Hamlyn, Kym Watling, Kyogle Acoustic Music Society, Davey Bob Ramsay, Barkers Vale Brothers, Jurassic Joe, Genevieve and Dave Davies, Roothie Ma Toothie, Use by Date, The Pepper Boys, Marty Lessyanar, Leannrah, Fred and Karen Rose, Daniel and Malcolm Parker, the Visitors centre, the Exchange hotel, Gloprint, Kyogle Council, and all 65 committee members of GAG Kyogle.

More information about GAG from gagkyogle@gmail.com

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Faeries give Show a sparkle

The Ganja Faeries were this year invited to participate in the opening ceremony of the Lismore Show as the organisers tried to pull the community together and celebrate the region's diversity.

So a crew of Ganja Faeries, Polite Force, Jingo the dog, the Plantem and High Society came together, complete with two ponies, one dressed as a green unicorn.

Faery Chantico said, "It was quite a surreal experience with all the cars and trucks going around the ring and all of us dancing and walking, followed by a group from Lismore with fire dancers."

A good dancing beat was provided by Jimmy Willing and the Real-Gone Hick-Ups, playing from the back of a vintage truck.

"The response to us being there was definitely positive and as diverse as our region, with lots of support for hemp and law reform," Chantico said.

A Faerie's Tale by Dionne May

What a huge effort from our fun-loving, colourful and just a little bit naughty Ganja Faeries.

Last week a very unusual call went out to all faeries to frock up cos we'd been personally invited to participate in the Lismore Show Parade. So with faeries all aflutter, wings whipped out ... Spring Faeries sprung into action.

How exciting – and in Lismore! Finally they see the light, and it's all green...

So as magic happens so often around here, against a purple and red rippling sunset, the coolest contingency of Ganja Faeries gathered that Lismore could have only ever have dreamt about. I think we even surprised ourselves a tiny bit. Ooohhhh such a lovely spectacle that we were!

Around 20 Faeries, the Hemp Bar Gang with Polite squad including dogs and activists, The Plantem, The Hempress and Cannabis Queen as representatives of the Royal Nimbin High Society, two finely decorated ponies, oops one pony and one unicorn, and lovely little Ganja children.

How cool are we? How friendly, how colourful and how happy?

It mattered very little that the crowd was stunned by our presence.

So we danced we played we laughed and we frolicked – in Lismore! It didn't matter that we danced in churned-up soil, or that the new garbage truck (recycling at least) was in front of us and that the petrol fumes of revved-up cars nearly choked us.

No we were simply delighted to be there and delighted to cause a bit of a stir to remind them that their closest town, Nimbin, rocks.

Anyone seen Daniel?

Daniel James O'Keeffe disappeared from his family home in Geelong, Victoria, on Friday 15th July 2011.

Daniel is 24 years old, 180cm (6ft) tall, with dark brown hair and hazel eyes. He is a talented Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Mixed Martial Artist and teacher, who has many friends. He has depression, and has been without his medication since he left.

His mother, Lorraine O'Keeffe has spent the past four months travelling up and down the eastern seaboard searching for her son, and was in Nimbin in October.

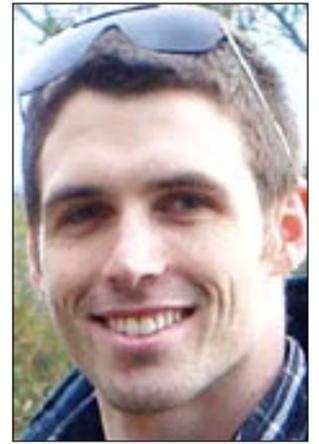
She said Daniel was at home when she left the house at 9.15am on the day of his disappearance. She rang his mobile phone at 9.30am, but there was no answer.

She has not seen or heard from him since.

He was last seen wearing a grey hooded jumper, jeans and Ugg boots. He left all his belongings, clothes, car and wallet.

"Dan is lovely, gentle, generous, thoughtful, friendly and approachable guy who is respected by his students, admired by his friends and adored by his family," she said.

Mrs O'Keeffe said there



had been no solid leads despite many rumours and investigations by Victoria Police and a private investigator hired by the family.

"Reported sightings have so far either been wrong or reported too late," Mrs O'Keeffe said.

"We all firmly believe Daniel is alive, and the search for him continues. Someone, somewhere, knows something about Dan's disappearance."

More than 14,000 people have joined a Facebook page to raise the profile of Daniel's disappearance: www.facebook.com/dancomehome

The family has also set up a website that has more photos at: www.dancomehome.com

If you think you've seen Daniel, phone 000.

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuvva

UNDA JAMES PRICE POINT

My new meditating life didn't last long as the Boss texts cynically, out of the blue. "New karma for Bethany, little trip to the Kimberleys. There's a bunch of her Nimbin mates up there causing trouble at the gas project."

The next day, fully feralised again, I'm stepping off the plane in Broome to be instantly surrounded by fellow Force members, if only they knew. Nothing I can do but cop it sweet. If any of their sexual offers had ever

eventuated they'd have died of fright, I mused, but with no girls in their team they couldn't search me properly and if only I'd kept Beth's wicked feral tongue in its hole I would have got away much quicker. They never found the tola of hash of course.

The first blockade is a sandfly dustbowl thirty k's into the middle of nowhere. Hippy drug free protest camps I know well from other jobs so I hitch on to the "move on order" camp near the beach. The hash opens doors like a skeleton key and I can soon sort out who's who and what's going on.

Back on the frontline there's a few familiar faces from the Hempbar monitoring days

and we're just settling in when the cops arrive.

If it wasn't so tragic you'd laugh. The cops in their hot uniforms and covered in heavy clobber are left for dead by the Nimble ferals who dart off into the scrub to avoid getting a MOO.

The trucks pass through for a time until the cops are called back to Broome and the ferals block the road again. And so it goes.

This is exactly what the Big Boss Control Freaks are terrified of and the SS (Satellite Stats) are showing a growing number of of EE's (Environmental Extremists) gathering in the God forsaken place as the Boss, and Canberra, call it. Half



the local Force is already out on 'stress and fatigue leave' and most of them feel bad about the billion dollar gas project anyway. They like their town the way it is, and as the latest feral banner at the protest screams... NO JOBS ON A DEAD PLANET.

In the Unda report I emphasised all the EE's were non-religious and probably non violent, which keeps it at a low priority. I didn't tell them about the plans to bus up east coast fashion ferals to initiate them into the real thing.

The Boss scoffed at my report, he never likes me but can't resist Beth and her sexy hippy ways.

He forgets who I am even more than I do, and there was a strange moment when he softened, but was quickly embarrassed.

They're all embarrassed this week. Millions spent on the new global gang files only for the footage of the London riots to show it was never the gangs but the poor unemployed who did the looting.

And nothing scares the control freaks like a headless serpent. Angry and unpredictable, centuries of inequality is coming home to roost as the Empire's karma catches up with the Motherland, says the Dalai in a text.

Speaking of which, the NLB finally made it onto the GGWD (Global Gang Watch Database). The entry says (as advised by

local Unda activity!) these healthy and wealthy potboys pose little real threat and in fact are known for their humour, football skills, and generally courteous if a little crude behaviour. Occasional tantrums are known when they drift into chemical drugs or a girlfriend departs. Left alone with their herb they are relatively harmless.

It is worth remembering when visiting them for business that 2 x 20 cent and 1 x 10 cent coin weighs an ounce. Gang danger rating... H (the lowest possible!)

In other local news, the ADHD kid has been replaced by thieves in the little weed village and as the Boss says, excited at the new tactics, it's much cheaper and more effective. No one knows who it is and everyone starts to suspect each other. ADHD actually pulled the tribe together but thieving can tear 'em apart from the inside he thinks.

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Ukitopia Festival

The Ukitopia Festival, 18-20th November, is a Celebration of Uki life, arts and culture and will happen over three days in eight venues spread around the small village of Uki.

The festival incorporates the Images of Uki Art exhibition, Words of Wollumbin, Songwriters on the Songline, The Aussie Oddities Emporium, the best of Uki and districts live music, Uki school performances, Street performances and buskers, The Red Piano Bar and Restaurant, Chalk board acoustic space at the Lounge Lizard Café, Elders storytelling space, Rockin' Sunday at the Uki Pub, Trashformers creative arts and children's workshops, youth bands, historical display, a Word Matrix, Buttery Bazaar markets stalls, the Wishing



Ivy Lucille at Ukitopia 2010

Ceremony, plus 1000 native trees to give away.

The music performances have been selected to feature our local musos and to give a space for young and emerging artists. Acts will include: School



Lifeline at the Ukitopia Festival 2010
Photo: Vibrant Imaging

Children performances, The Whopping Big Band, Indigo Collins-Cook, Suavemente, Sound Cheque, The Granny Rapper and the Prodigal Son, Healing Earth, Loren, Bill Jacobi, Lifeline, Fiddlers Creek Children's Theatre, Ivy Lucille, Andrea Soler, Blue Moon Gypo, Renee Searles, Wendy Grace, Ivy Lucille, Mystic Beats, DJ Overlap, DJ Dakini, Murray Kyle,

Geoff O'Mallee, My Figmant, Gillian Haylar, Off The air, In The Pubic Eye, The Maples, James T, Lil Fi and the Candy Apples, Jerome Williams and Elias Harmony.

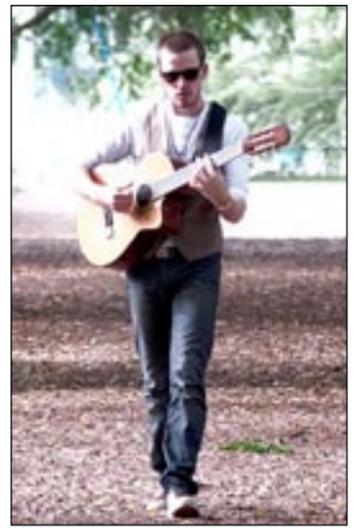
This is a free community festival with donations of \$15 greatly appreciated. Look out for the program booklet available shortly, and stay tuned for more info at www.ukitopiaartscollective.com

The Quick Brown Fox is no lazy dog

If you move in the European soul music underground, the name James Higgins will be familiar to you. As a producer, singer and songwriter, Higgins (pictured) has earned himself the reputation of being a true connoisseur of funk, soul and acid jazz.

This young Australian has toured Europe and performed on stage with the likes of Jamiroquai, The Brand New Heavies and the Sneaky Sound System. As time passed he became the front man for his own group Soul Continuum: they've played as the support for Los Amigos Invisibles and Katie Noonan and the Captains.

Over the past few years, Higgins has braved the unknown and emerged as a solo artist. This prolific writer searched for a name that would best describe him, and The Quick Brown Fox was born. Brown loves being creatively independent, he designed his own website to build a whole new fan base and launch his debut EP *Where Does*



Your Apple Grow?

Fully established in his solo persona and sporting a crisp grey suit complete with his Grandfather's gold watch, he loves to perform at his soul-funk best.

For his first Northern Rivers gig, Higgins will set The Quick Brown Fox free at the **Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 13th November at 2pm.**

Mish's soothing piano

Local tunesmith, Mish launched her new CD, 'Pure Piano Reflection' to a glowing response from a big crowd at The Channon Art Gallery last month.

The album grew from a request from a family friend in poor health, Bill, for soothing music. In the process of assembling a collection of her recorded work to burn to disc, she found she still had some room at the end, so added some piano improvisations. These worked so well that Bill requested more of them, and the result is the new album, containing 52 minutes of delightful, reflective piano music.

The musicality evident in Mish's themes and variations is hardly surprising - she took up



trumpet at the age of seven, and later learnt piano to accompany herself as a singing waitress in London before emigrating.

Since graduating from the Contemporary Music school at Southern Cross Uni, Mish has toured widely, released her successful independent album *Soul Songs*, and picked up two Dolphin Awards along the way.

Her new CD shows there's still a lot of music in this personable and clever young woman. One to watch.

Jazz Club Notes

The Lismore Jazz Club is presenting the **Martha Baartz Quartet** on Sunday November 20 at the Lismore City Bowling Club from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non members.

The Martha Baartz Quartet features Martha on alto saxophone, John Hoffman on flugelhorn (John is regarded in the music industry as one of Australia's finest lead and jazz trumpeters), pianist extraordinaire Steve Russell on piano and the beautiful tones of Thierry Fossemalle on double bass.

This quartet is sure to please the avid jazz fan.

These prominent musicians



will play their hearts out with new arrangements of old tunes made famous by Stan Getz, Joe Henderson, Ornette Coleman, Hank Mobely and Julian (Cannonball) Adderley, just to name a few.

Telling a story with their beautiful harmonies, deep swing and latin feels, and exciting and explorative improvisations.

The Martha Baartz Quartet's playing has been described as "(F)rom hard driving funk to evocative ballad, from blues to Latin to Tango...fastidious and edgy, but playful and fun too...full of emotion." (Leon Gettler, *The Age Green Guide*.)

These guys give it everything they have.

The O'Donnells



Brisbane family band The O'Donnells are heading to the Kyogle Showground for a night of country, bluegrass and gospel on Saturday 19th November with the Kyogle Acoustic Music Society (KAMS).

The family shares a love of high energy bluegrass music and brings a fresh approach to the Australian country music scene with their strong vocal harmonies and traditional acoustic music.

The O'Donnells formed in 2009 and the band comprises parents, John (banjo) and Wendy (guitar), together with their three children, Johnny (18, bass), Jacqui (16, mandolin) and Katelyn (13).

In 2009, the band won the Overall Senior and Open Group awards at the Queensland Country Music Festival's Champion of Champions event.

In Dec 2010, they released their self-titled debut album, featuring a range of original and classic bluegrass, gospel and country tracks. The CD has been requested by radio stations internationally.

The O'Donnells received a finalist nomination as 2011 Group or Duo of the Year in the Queensland Country Music Awards for Recording Artists and in June 2011 won the Springfield Qld Battle of the Bands.

The O'Donnells will be supported by the Barkers Vale Brothers with a special guest appearance by The Kyogle Country Line Dancers. Dennis Grace, musical director of the Kyogle Country Music Association will open the show with some favourite country tunes.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$20 Adults, \$15 KAMS members, \$10 youth, with children admitted by gold coin donation. The show is all-ages and alcohol-free. Doors open 6:30 pm, show starts 7 pm. Food and beverages are available from the Rotary food van and Xpresso Coffee.

Contact Kym Watling at KAMS on 0409-534-233 or kymwatling@gmail.com if you would like to reserve a seat.

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What's On in November?

- Continental Carnival - Nimbin's Premier Bowls Event - Friday 4th, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November
- Saturday Arvos - Club Pairs - 12.30pm - Prizes
- Saturday Nights - Trivia - 7pm - Cash Jackpot
- Rock'n'Roll Bowls - Every Sunday, 9.30am
- Courtesy Bus - Phone or book at bar
- Free Broadband - Over 50's

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KAMS fun for families



Kyogle all-ages all-schools band

The recent KAMS Family Event featuring the Perch Creek Family Jug Band topped off a year of enjoyable events that have brought local musicians together for collaborations to support headline artists.

EnC Projects, featuring Ethan Reilly and Connor McKenzie, opened with a very professional and highly amusing set, featuring works from comedians Flight of the Conchords and Tim Minchin. The boys had the audience roaring with laughter and joining in with their onstage shenanigans.

The then two-week-old All-ages All-schools Band delivered a high-energy performance despite its infancy. The

band was comprised of local primary school pupils Ellie McElroy (vocals), Oak Landers (guitar), Rory Haydock (flute), and Grace O'Shannessy (violin), who had teamed up with whistle player Mary Canon, members of the Kyogle Community Choir, Jurassic Joe, Courtney Macdade from the Maples, and Kym Watling from KAMS.

The band was joined onstage by the Perch Creek Family Jug Band for an impromptu acapella performance of *Down to the River to Pray*, which was a favourite of the evening.

The Davies Family, Dave and Genevieve Davies, performed some outstanding rhythm and blues, which

featured gymnastic performances from daughters Lowana and Ellie from the family-run Circus Express.

The Perch Creek Family Jug Band performed an eclectic set from times gone by when families were happy to sing and play together. The band drew an ovation from crowd members and MC Jean Warburton sent them back for a well-deserved encore.

KAMS is an unfunded program of a not-for-profit organisation, and would not be able to run these events without the help of volunteers.

KAMS will celebrate its first birthday with a Country, Gospel and Bluegrass Show on Saturday 19th November at the Showground. The award-winning O'Donnell Family from Brisbane will be supported by the Barkers Vale Brothers.

Dennis Grace, musical director of the Kyogle Country Music Association, will open the show with a few tunes and the Kyogle Country Line Dancers will put on a display.

An all-ages alcohol-free New Year's Eve show is also in the pipeline.

For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact Kym Watling on 0409 534 233.

A Soiree of Heartsongs

Join us at Kaivalya Meru Community Saturday 5th November for Kevin James' beautiful heartsongs and chants.

Kevin is a devoted musician travelling the world sharing his music and leading chanting circles. For the last seven years they have been regular events in Byron Shire and now he's coming over the range for the first time.

Touching the hearts of many a person, Kevin's music is a world fusion of chanting. Weaving ancient Mantra's from various traditions with his own prayers and heart song, he has drawn upon influences from traditional Indian Kirtan, Bhajans, Celtic and Sufi chants mixed with western folk sounds and world instruments. His songs are a gentle way to reconnect with the heart and co-create a positive vibration for the world.

"We are facilitating mantras of devotion and prayer, with a universal approach that is applicable to the growing movement of people who are interested in what we all have in common, rather than our differences, who wish to celebrate our unity,



regardless of our beliefs." "Chanting is by far the most healing, centering, transforming and enlightening thing in my life. It is such a great honour to be sharing in the way that we do. The way of the heart has led me to do this work of reconnection through sitting in circles and chanting universal heart mantras."

This will be our final Soiree for 2011, so come celebrate what has been a wonderful year of music.

Kaivalya Meru is located at 3981 Kyogle Road, Lillian Rock, 2.7km from the Nimbin turnoff. Please bring a torch. Dinner and yummys available from 6.30pm with music starting at 7.30pm - \$15. Tickets are available from Sphinx Café and Nimbin Organic Shop. For info, phone 0428-539-232.

Bush Theatre screen previews

by Belinda Marsh

Jean de Florette

In order to force the sale of the adjoining land, a mean and selfish farmer and his retarded nephew plot to plug the only water source to that land.

This is the first chapter in the story of the hunchback Jean, who inherits a small farm in Provence. Starring Gerard Depardieu, Yves Montand and Daniel Auteuil, this touching tale is one of director Claude Berri's finest films.

The unforgiving yet beautiful scenery of southern France is captured by the camera lens, and the viewer will no doubt appreciate this bittersweet tale.

Winner of many BAFTA film awards, including Best Film, Best Cinematography and Best Adapted Screenplay (from Marcel Pagnol's novel).

Rated: PG. Runtime: 116 mins Subtitles: English. Year: 1986



Manon des Sources

This is the final chapter of Marcel Pagnol's novel, *Jean de Florette*. A beautiful and shy shepherdess plots vengeance on the men whose greedy conspiracy to acquire her father's land caused his death years earlier.

Emmanuelle Béart is superb as Manon. Revenge, love, and shocking irony highlight this sequel. Though deeply tragic, the story unfolds with charm, wit, and high spirits. Another award-winning film by Claude Berri.

Rated: PG. Runtime: 109 mins Subtitles: English. Year: 1986



The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

This is a true story based on the editor of *Elle* magazine, Jean-Dominique Bauby, who suffered a massive stroke

in 1995. This left him with "locked-in syndrome" (he is almost entirely paralysed).

The story unfolds from Bauby's very limited perspective, though his mind, and his inner voice are active and witty. Guided by a dedicated speech therapist who teaches him to communicate by using the only moveable part of his body, his left eyelid, he dictates his memoirs.

A moving and gripping story of persistence and dedication. This multiple award-winning film, including Cannes, Golden Globes, BAFTA etc is a must-see.

Rated: M. Runtime: 112 mins Subtitles: English. Year: 2007



Amelie

An introverted young woman, Amelie, sets herself the task of changing the lives of others with her delightful mix of shyness, energy and mischievousness. Along the way, she meets her soulmate - that is, if she can ever gain the courage to express her feelings to him.

Amelie is a wonderfully uplifting film that features a sparkling performance by Audrey Tautou. It's the kind of motion picture that's both intelligent and immensely likable - just like the main character.

Nominated for five Academy Awards.

Rated: M. Runtime: 122 mins Subtitles: English. Year: 2001



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November Gigs

Thursday 3rd
Friday 4th
Saturday 5th
Sunday 6th
Thursday 10th
Friday 11th
Saturday 12th
Sunday 13th
Friday 18th
Saturday 19th
Sunday 20th
Thursday 24th
Friday 25th
Saturday 26th
Sunday 27th

Robert Saric
Dr Baz
Mick Diggles & Barry Harvey
Ritchie Williams
Bill Jacobi
Bassix
Sye McRitchie
Good Ship
Blues Corp
Azadoota
Dan Hannaford
Adam Brown
The Hoochers
Robert Saric
Bevan Spiers

Gigs start: Thurs 6.30pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7pm, Sun 4pm

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Lunch 12-3pm Dinner 6-8pm, Friday 6-8.30pm

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Sunday Gig Guide

November 2pm Start

6th Vesica Pisces

Vesica Pisces captures beauty through the tapestry of sound and becomes a vessel of sonic enchantment

13th Quick Brown Fox

Baring his soul and singing the gospel truth with his funkier foot forward

20th Vic Florey & the Pepperboys

Legends Vic Florey, Dave Basten, Shane Thompson and Davy Hill

27th Stipsky

They are crazy about funky world music. It's fun to play, to listen to, and a great beat for dancing

December 4th Sam Joole

Sam is a true storyteller and entertainer, playing unique acoustic Australian music. Magdalena Mira accompanies.

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For more info please contact us

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