

Janelle's Page

by Janelle Saffin, MP

As the debate about CSG continues, the claims and counter claims and a more belligerent approach from the CSG mining industry is becoming apparent.

The NSW Government is also warning that we will have gas shortages emerging within the next two years.

I say, show us the evidence.

I have seen such campaigns before and they always end up obscuring the real issue. That is – how can our water and farmers' ability to farm be protected? This is where the energy and debate needs to be focused.

The CSG mining industry says it is not harmful. I recently



read a report prepared by John Williams Scientific Services Pty Ltd for the Australian Council of Environmental Deans and Directors that makes some interesting discoveries, draws clear conclusions, sets out options and gives two

recommendations. They are as telling as they are concise.

Recommendation 1:

The approach used for assessing CSG developments (and any other developments) should be, first, to understand regional landscape capacity, and then to determine if there is capacity for the development without crossing landscape limits.

Recommendation 2:

Current development approval processes should be updated to approve new developments only on the basis of landscape limits and the expected cumulative impacts of the existing and proposed developments.

Further, one of the findings is: CSG projects will always be competing for land, water and infrastructure with other resource development projects, agricultural

uses and urban needs. We therefore conclude as we do for biodiversity protection, that for all development within a landscape it is essential to establish only those landscape activities that appear to allow the landscape to maintain its function indefinitely.

This is clearly the guts of the issue that the NSW Government's approach has yet to come to grips with.

Locally the opposition grows and the number of people speaking out as well. I stand with them.

Julian Assange

I have been contacted by a number of constituents who have joined the GetUp campaign calling for Julian Assange to be afforded the same rights and protection under freedom of the press as any journalist or publisher.

As I said in a statement in 2010, I respect the rule of law, the

foundation stone of our system of government, and that means 'innocent until proven guilty'. I was appalled at some of the commentary at the time in the US and Canada regarding Mr Assange, with some calling for the death penalty.

I recently wrote to the United States Ambassador to pass on the concerns of my constituents and told the ambassador I support calls to ensure Mr Assange is kept safe from the threats of extradition to the USA.

I said many community members would like to be told with certainty and the requisite authority that the United States will not institute legal proceedings against Mr Assange.

Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street
Lismore
Phone 1300 301 735

NSW TAFE cuts: 'a dress rehearsal for Abbott's razor gang'

NSW TAFE students will have to pay more for training after the NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli announced he was cutting TAFE funding, slashing jobs and increasing student fees.

Member for Richmond Justine Elliot said the NSW Liberal Government has announced it will cut 800 TAFE jobs over the next four years and will increase fees for TAFE students by 9.5 per cent.

"NSW TAFE students will pay \$44 extra for Certificate I and Certificate II courses and an extra \$150 for advanced diplomas," she said.

"At a time when the State needs more skilled workers, the NSW Government is cutting staff and increasing

costs to students.

"The government's policies will see a reduction in training opportunities, and those living in regional areas will really suffer.

"These policies are simply a dress rehearsal for what Tony Abbott and his Liberal Party is planning for the tertiary education sector," Justine said.

Justine said Liberal Governments have form when it comes to cutting critical services like health and education.

"TAFEs are on the frontline when it comes to giving people in NSW the skills they need to fill the jobs of the future.

"They are essential in delivering training for



students in our regions and for disadvantaged students.

The State National Party Members are destroying our local schools with their savage cuts.

"This shows that you just can't trust the Nationals," Justine said.

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

New funding for regional tourism

The new Grants Program for regional tourism businesses looking to improve their tourism offerings is now open for applications.

Local MP Justine Elliot welcomed the announcement and highlighted the potential benefits to local tourism businesses.

The new Tourism Industry Regional Development Fund (TIRF) grants program would help achieve industry goals for increased productivity, innovation and quality contained in the National Tourism 2020 strategy.

"A major focus of the TIRF Grants Program will be improving the quality of accommodation and attractions in regional areas such as the North Coast," Justine said.

"Funding will also be available for creating completely new projects to attract interstate and international visitors and extend their length of stay.

"This investment by the Federal Government will help attract visitors to the North Coast. These visitors bring with them important tourist dollars that benefit not only our local tourism business, but also have a positive effect on the rest of the

local community.

"Eligible applicants have until 14 December 2012 to get their applications in, and I encourage tourism operators in the area to investigate this valuable new opportunity."

Assessment criteria for the grant include alignment with Tourism 2020 goals, the strategic and collaborative value of the project for its region, the expected outcomes from the innovation or improvement and the capacity to deliver the project within agreed timeframes.

Grants from \$50,000 - \$250,000 (GST exclusive) will be offered on a matched dollar-for-dollar funding basis.

Successful recipients will be expected to be working closely with regional industry partners, tourism organisations and local authorities, especially where development approval is anticipated.

The program guidelines, application form, frequently asked questions and YouTube videos are available at: www.ret.gov.au/tirfgrants

For further information, call the Tourism Grants Information Line on 02 6243-7604.

Green Growth Scene

by Vanessa Ekins, Greens Lismore City Councillor

The new Lismore City Council is busy meeting to discuss GROWTH. The property developer and National Party Councillors are on a growth mantra and the rest of us acknowledge there is a desire for growth, particularly from a State Government and Council staff point of view. But what form will the growth take?

Many analogies spring to mind but Council is taking a very strategic approach and consulting with the community. The Imagine Lismore project will identify what we want the Lismore area to look and feel like in 25 years. The vision so far

is strong community, protected environment, economic opportunity, affordable transport and food security.

This is pretty good because as a Greens Councillor, I want to see rural lands protected for food production and habitat corridors identified and linked. We need to keep our rolling green hills and deep green valleys for their beauty as well as their function.

We also need to work on our connections between city and village and each other. The next stage in the Imagine Lismore project is holding forums in the villages to get the village vision. Once the vision is clear, Council will fund projects that build the vision. What will we



build?

My main concern about growth is where will it be and what will it look like?

Will houses have eaves and panels and water tanks? Will streets have bike paths and buses? Will the community have gathering places?

To contact me, phone 6624-5500, or email vanessa.ekins@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Call for halt on zone review

The Conservation Ecologists Association (CEA) is requesting that finalisation of the Far North Coast Local Environment Plans be deferred until the State Government completes its review of environmental zones.

The request, to the mayors of Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, and Kyogle Councils, is in response to the NSW Minister for Planning's decision of 20th September (requested by Don Page and Thomas George) to over-ride the councils' Local Environment Plan (LEP) processes by excising environmental zones and overlays in rural areas.

CEA spokesperson Robert Kooyman said that the State Government's decision to excise environmental zones and overlays

from LEPs has effectively removed the environment from local planning.

"Do we really have to remind the State Government that this region is a recognised biodiversity hotspot of national and international significance?" Dr Kooyman asked. "Do they need reminding that historic over-clearing, logging and infrastructure development have resulted in this region having the greatest number of plant and animal species threatened with extinction in NSW?"

Dr Kooyman said there is no indication of what, if any, environmental controls on land use the State Government is going to allow to be restored to LEPs, or in what manner.

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Tina Fuller (B. AppSc - Optometry) At Nimbin Community Centre

From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

As I write this column, Council has been in place for less than two months and has had three formal meetings. Following the election, Council met on October 2 in an extraordinary meeting to elect our deputy mayor for the next 12 months and delegates to internal and external committees.

I'm delighted that Cr Simon Clough, a fellow GoodTimes columnist is the deputy mayor until September 2013. Having held that role for a year in the previous term of Council, I know that Simon is a capable and skilled deputy and a great personal support to me.

Committees

All councillors have accepted roles on committees ranging from libraries to weeds, infrastructure to economic development and sport to environment. Many of the committees and advisory groups have appointed community members who bring their knowledge and passions to enrich Council's decision making.

For the first time the self-named Nimbin Advisory Group has a councillor representative and I'm delighted to announce that I have that honour. Although I could not join the group on November 1, I look forward to meeting NAG members in the New Year and working with them to enhance the relationship between Council and



our most important village.

First Meeting

The first ordinary meeting of the new Council was held on October 9, giving new councillors experience with the breadth of local government decision making and the delights of the debate.

The first item was my Mayoral Minute on Coal Seam Gas in which I asked Council to support a letter to our State and Federal representatives informing them of our recent poll result showing 86.6% of voters reject CSG in our LGA. A further notice of motion from Cr Clough opposed the current land use policies of the State Government that offer no protection against CSG.

There is always considerable discussion about the value of writing letters to our State and Federal government counterparts but often there is little more that councils can do to make our views known. The letter sent sets on record our council's and the

community's strongly held views in opposition to CSG.

Recent decisions by the NSW Government regarding our Local Environmental Plan (LEP) have resulted in a great deal of consternation among local councils. The decision to remove farming properties with an Environmental (E) conservation zone on them from our LEPs seems to contradict previous announcements that decisions on planning would be left to local communities.

There are many landowners awaiting the finalisation of the LEP to allow them to develop much-needed residential, commercial and industrial lands in Lismore so at least the excising of the properties with E zones allows the rest of the LEP to continue along its path to ministerial approval. Lismore Council is also pleased to receive an offer from the Minister for Planning for financial support to ground-truth those excised properties and work with owners to find a workable solution. We now hope that the owners of those properties allow council officers to meet them on-site to facilitate that solution.

Financial Reports

The Council's audited annual financial reports have been accepted and are now on exhibition on the Have your Say link on our website. The tough reality for Council is that we have a \$3.6 million deficit after capital grants have been included. Before those grants, the deficit is \$10 million. While this is cause for concern

and a concerted effort needs to be made over the next decade to rein in that gap, the explanation lies in the recent requirement to build depreciation of Council's billion dollar assets into the equation. Put simply, our asset replacement costs outstrip the amount of money we are setting aside for their replacement at the end of their life. It is time for Council to fix that and while our position has improved over the last year, there is still much more to be done.

It is fair to say that this Council will look at opportunities to divest ourselves of some assets and upgrade or enhance existing infrastructure but we are wary of adding new infrastructure to our assets register unless the benefits outweigh the costs. While external funds assist in building desirable new assets, the whole-of-life maintenance and renewal costs must also be considered by a responsible Council.

SEDS

Over the past 18 months, Council has been collating information and formulating Sustainable Economic Advantage 2020, our sustainable economic development strategy (SEDS). The SEDS has been widely praised as providing an evidenced-based plan to grow our economy by building on our established strengths particularly in the areas of education and health. The document is currently on exhibition and I encourage readers to let us know what you think. www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-EZL-70-54-35

Retreat

Whenever a new Council comes together, there is a need to learn about the business of council and to get to know each other. Councillors and senior staff attended a retreat for the last weekend in October and found, despite the hurly-burly of the election, that we have much in common.

We all agree that Lismore needs to grow our population and economy and, to do so, we need more housing, particularly in our urban areas.

Imagine Lismore

Council's 10-year Community Strategic Plan is being developed over a 14-month process we are calling, 'Imagine Lismore'. The rural areas of our LGA have been divided into quadrants each with a place based forum of randomly selected residents.

The third of these forums will be held in Nimbin for residents from the north-west quadrant on November 9 and 10. I am confident that the 20 residents selected to participate will find the experience stimulating and productive.

Youth Activity Fund

Finally, applications are now open until November 30, for grants from Council's Youth Activity Fund. Go to the Have your Say link on council's website and see if your ideas might be eligible.

You can contact me via email, Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au or phone 0402-651-394 or Twitter @Mayorjd if you wish.

Simon says...

by Cr Simon Clough

It was so good to hear the sound of rain on the roof at last night's Council briefing. It's months since we've had a shower of rain. Our street garden has picked up almost over night. I never cease to be surprised by how much more beneficial rain is compared to watering. Down at the community garden this morning both tanks' water levels have increased, a very good thing for water hungry gardens.

Council is getting down to business with jobs being allocated. I'm deputy mayor for 12 months as well as being a representative on Rous County Council. Rous looks challenging with the pressure on to come up with decisions about our water supply future, which put bluntly means to dam or not to dam.

There are powerful messages coming from



the coalition government in Sydney that it wants development at almost any cost. Let's look at a few examples:

1. NSW Energy Minister Chris Hartcher said recently that: "This isn't just about coal and coal seam gas (CSG) ... this is about the Left agenda to destroy the economy". In fact, much of the opposition to CSG stems from a desire to protect our economy. Many of our existing industries rely on access to clean water, healthy soil, clean air and our beautiful rural landscapes, the very things threatened by CSG. In simple economic terms CSG could threaten some of nearly 16,000

existing jobs and \$2.3-billion worth of production in our region.

2. Brad Hazzard described the planning system he wants as one that "empowers local government and affords local residents the respect they deserve". How does he reconcile this view with his arbitrary removal of Lismore City Council's environmental protection zones E2 and E3? These zones were less than 1.5% of the council area and had been arrived at after extensive exhibition and consultation with affected landowners.

3. Perhaps the most glaring concession to development at any cost is the package of policies supposed to regulate coal seam gas. A 'gateway process' for CSG is supposed to protect communities but it only allows for approval or approval with conditions, but not refusal?

There is an Aquifer Interference Policy which is just a policy with no legislative 'teeth' or fines to

back it up.

There is a Strategic Land Use policy that fails to set aside prime agricultural land from the ravages of CSG. The policy is in clear breach of the coalition government's promise prior to gaining power that prime agricultural land would be a 'no go area'.

There is a Land and Water Commissioner whose powers are only to advise the government and keep an eye on agreements between farmers and miners or drillers.

There is still no property right protection for landowners to effectively refuse CSG mining on their land.

There is no protection for drinking-water catchments.

I could also go on to describe the proposed changes to the planning laws which strip much of the power from local government and favour developers, but you'd probably think I was obsessed and boring!

The state government is

also threatening the funding for the Environmental Defenders Office. If the current situation goes unchanged most of the EDO's staff will be laid off in the new year. We have been extremely fortunate to have an EDO in Lismore and it has been extraordinarily helpful for people with very little resources to challenge some of the worst abuses of our system. For information on how you can contribute to saving this essential organisation please go to: http://edo.org.au/edonsw/site/save_your_edo.php

Since the state government has been caught out with a \$1-billion surplus mistake it should have no excuse in

continuing funding for the EDO. It would be great to see a large-scale grassroots campaign to try and retain the EDO, which has done so much for our community!

So if ever there was a time to get involved to protect your local community from the government's 'develop at any cost' attitude that time is now.

Don't hesitate to contact me on any local government issues.

May you be well and happy.
- Simon

You can contact me on 0428-886-217 or simonclough@internode.on.net or Cr Simon Clough on Facebook or my blog: www.crsimonclough.wordpress.com

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Music is life with Tibet2Timbuk2



In for a trans-continental journey from Tibet to India, then on to Africa? Then don't miss Tibet2Timbuk2's 'Music is Life' tour. They will be playing at the Nimbin School of Arts Hall, on Saturday 8th December at 7pm, and will be joined by special guest, internationally renowned bansuri player, Taro Terahara.

T2T2 features Tenzin Choegyal on vocals and dranyen (a traditional Tibetan stringed instrument), Marcello Milani (guitar and vocals), Shen Flindell (tabla, vocals). For this tour, Taro joins them on bansuri, a classical Indian bamboo flute.

T2T2's shows are a melting pot of rollicking Tibetan folk, afro-reggae guitar grooves and intricate Indian tabla – their sound transcends cultural boundaries and ferries the listener between continents, on a journey from the meditative to the joyous!

Their eclectic repertoire includes group arrangements

of Tenzin's Tibetan songs, Marcello's English songs, collaborative songs and instrumentals and even classical tabla solos. The overall sound is full and organic, with all three musicians sharing bass, percussion, harmony and melody roles to create a solid yet easy groove.

Their debut CD, entitled *Music is Life*, won the 2008 QSong BEMAC World Music Award with the composition, Crane Song. Tibet2Timbuk2 have performed at numerous festivals around Australia, including Bellingen Global Carnival, Woodford Folk Festival and Queensland Multicultural Festival.

Tickets are available for pre-sale (\$16) at: www.trybooking.com/CAMI, or \$20 at the door. Chai and cakes by Ali. For more info phone 0428-539-232 or email: spirited.events@yahoo.com.au

For more on the band, go to: www.tibet2timbuk2.com



by Peace Freeborn

The next Sunday market is on 25th November.

The last market featured a great assortment of musicians who provided a variety of music from Irish folk by Shameless O'Hooligan through to an acoustic set from local icons Doug and Biskit.

The markets were also visited by Cameron, the Health Inspector from Lismore Council on our first fourth-Sunday market. Every food retailer passed inspection and no fines were issued.

Stall numbers are steadily increasing, as are the numbers of cashed-up tourists.

Nimbin Markets: great music, great food, and great community. We look forward to seeing you there.



Piano notes to nurture

by Vale Mendelson

Escaping from the highly efficient world of technology into the adventurous unknown of real life can be a refreshing treat.

Those who were lucky enough to absorb the natural acoustics backstage at the Nimbin Hall on 13th September during the performance of music students were unanimous in their delight.

The concert, arranged by piano teacher Gerard Lynam, was an informal gathering of his students. From beginners of tender age to more advanced students, each became a "star", and appreciated for their individual worth.

Gerard encourages natural, sincere progress and nurtures each student's unique talent by allowing them the freedom of the creative adventure. The audience was transported by the grand piano into wonderlands of music.



Vocals and additional musical instruments, as well as some original compositions by the students were enthusiastically received, adding to the growing impression that music is, and should be, a delicious playtime.

In respect for Gerard's usual manner of equally acknowledging each performer, I will not mention individual names here – no need to, as each is a virtuoso in their own right.

Bravo Gerard Lynam, and all those who are in the service of creativity, by keeping the arts alive in our children, so we may all yet evolve to a finer consciousness.

Filmmakers from across the region are invited to submit their works of any genre, up to 30 minutes in length.

Byron All Shorts celebrates the filmmaking talent of the Northern Rivers region and encourage audiences to experience the many amazing films and local stories that are produced here each year.

Entry to Byron All Shorts competition is restricted to filmmakers from the Northern Rivers.

Byron All Shorts finalists will screen beside the best in the world at Flickerfest-Australia's only Academy® accredited short film festival; over the Australia Day



weekend at Bangalow A&I Hall.

Entries close 16th November. Entry Forms at www.iQ.org.au

Get your shorts out

Have you got a cracking comedy short? An amazing animation? A drop-dead gorgeous drama?

Well you're in luck, because if you are from the Northern Rivers you can enter Byron All Shorts film competition.

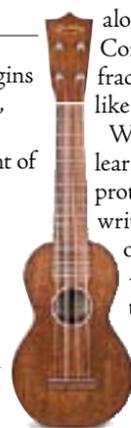
Ukulele Fractivists unite for fun and freedom

by Megan James

Unless the dastardly NSW government begins to listen to the voice of the people very soon, there are going to be more and more demos and direct actions to block the establishment of CSG wells in our beautiful region.

Music makes such a difference at these actions and so... Nimbin Ukulele Collective Entertainment Mob (NUKEM)... or Nimbin Ukulelean Peaceful Protesters (NUPP)... or the Enthusiastic Nimbin Ukulele Fractivists (ENUF)... is starting up.

At 4pm on Wednesdays, from 7th November, we will be bringing our ukes



along to the pizza oven area at the Nimbin Community Centre for an hour or so of pure fractivist fun. We'll work out what name we like the best and let you know!

We've got some great anti-CSG songs to learn, as well as old and new community protest singing favourites – and we can write some more too. Imagine a ukulele orchestra turning up for every protest – we can NUKEM with our talent until they roll their drilling rigs right out of the Northern Rivers (and right off the planet). Come along, bring your singing voice and your friends – and bring your uke if you've got one!

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Sax and drums and jazz, jazz, jazz

Alto saxophonist David Ades will play at the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday 25th November at Lismore Jazz Club's last event for the year.

The music lasts from 2-5pm, admission is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non-members.

David Ades is at ease playing for kicks and coins on the sandy streets of Byron Bay or inside the hallowed Sydney Opera House.

He will be playing with Zac Hurren on tenor saxophone, Thierry Fosmalle on bass, and David Sanders on drums.

Zac is Katie Noonan's husband and a member of Elixer. He has recorded with his own trio and has performed in New York.

Thierry Fosmalle is a member of the award winning group FATS and has played with everyone from the Whitlams to Blow, one of Australia's most celebrated modern jazz groups.

Dave Sanders is one of the busiest drummers on the North Coast and has played with the Steve Russell trio, The Jack Thorncraft Trio and The Lisa Hunt band.

They will be playing standards associated with Miles Davis and Charlie Parker as well as some of David Ades' originals featured on the critically acclaimed CD *A Glorious Uncertainty*, released this year.



Goodbye to Gabrielle

by Lisa Grant

It's been an emotional week for the Conscious Dance Community with the creator of the Five Rhythms dance practice, Gabrielle Roth, entering her final stillness and leaving this life.

I am sorry I never got to dance with her, but know that now she dances in all of us, allowing us to drop deeper into our dance and find what is there.

Nimbin Spirit Dance is a safe space to take time out from our daily lives and

tune in deeply to what our body is telling us. It is a place to dance like we have always wanted to and simply surrender to the beat, the breath, the movement, allow ourselves to let go of the mask and fall in love with who we truly are.

Spirit Dance takes place every Tuesday 10am-12pm (during school term) and every 2nd Saturday 2-4pm at the Jarlanbah Community Centre (a drug, alcohol and child-free space). Cost is \$15.

Contact Lisa for more information on 0428-221-290.

Last Open Mic For 2012



Liora

by Gail Loader, Publicity Officer, The Channon Folk Club

'Bring a song, bring a verse, bring a friend' - from 3pm 'til dusk, Sunday 25th November

The Love Cats are the Folk Club's Opening Act this month, so come and listen to half an hour of some fun and funky music followed by our usual open mic.

The Channon Folk Club is a local group of 'folk' who volunteer their time and talents and hold an Open Mic on the fourth Sunday of the month at The Channon Butterfactory Tavern, outdoors when weather permits.

Our motto is 'folk and beyond' so we encourage an eclectic mix of musical styles but still with an acoustic feel.

Usually each performer plays three songs; just write your name on the board on the day.

Providing the best sound for each performer can sometimes be a challenge so send us an email or have a chat with Steve or Rayzor on the day if you're planning an act with lots of musicians and...

If you really want to play on the day, get there in plenty of time to get your name on the board, we can't always guarantee there'll be enough time, or daylight to fit everyone in.

There's great music, hot food and drinks from the bar, including tea and coffee.

Book the courtesy bus by ringing The Tavern on 66 886 522

Please Note: Folk Club is having a Summer Holiday; we'll be back, Sunday 24th March 2013.

www.folkclub.thechannon.com.au

Earth Mother CD launch



On Saturday 8th December at the Bush Theatre, Kerryanne Cox presents "Earth Mother", featuring Sisters Healing Earth (pictured), singing songs from their newly released CD, *Earth Mother*.

There will also be guest appearances from Mona Lizard, The Nomad Bellydancers, Steve on the oud, Mantlepeace plus special guest Kerryanne Cox.

The evening will begin with a ceremony at 4.30pm.

MAGIC OF KIRTAN

Chakradhyan (pictured), founder of the Chant Yoga Kirtan school in Melbourne, will be in Byron to lead a kirtan and a beginners' kirtan workshop at Red Tent Yoga.

Kirtan will be held at 7pm on Friday 16th November at Red Tent Yoga, Byron Arts and Industrial Estate. Cost is \$15. The kirtan workshop will be held on Saturday 17th at a cost of \$90.

Kirtan is a form of devotional chanting originating in India, derived from yogic traditions.

Classically trained in the yogic arts at the Bihar School of Yoga in India, Chakradhyan's experience draws on knowledge of the yogas of mantra, nada and Bhakti to create a kirtan style that weaves Satyananda Yoga kirtan with elements of folk rock.

His raw and emotive kirtans engage group participation and allow an honest expression of joy, opening participants to access the rare and essential magic of kirtan, known as bhava.

The workshop (for beginners) is an immersion in kirtan and chanting where you will learn how to lead kirtan with a group, or simply learn for your own enjoyment and personal spiritual practice. Participants will learn the fundamentals and essential energy work of kirtan, as well as gaining an understanding of the harmonium and voice techniques.

Bookings are essential. Phone 0428-539-232.



Unique soul/blues guitarist



Johnny Johnson, Chris Cain, Kenny 'Blues Boss' Wayne, Dianna Greenleaf, Barbara Blue and Kyla Brox, who have all chosen Lez as guitar man for their Oz tours.

A regular at the Bridgetown and Narooma Blues festivals, Lez played at the Byron Bay Festival with the Bondi Cigars and later with Johnny Johnson.

Lez has just relocated from W.A. where he was a founding member of the Albany Blues Club and their house band, 'Mooseknuckle'.

Now based in the Northern Rivers, he performs solo acoustic, or with his own 'Lez Karski Band'.

See Lez at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 11th November.

Lez Karski has been the unique soul/blues guitar and vocal style of The Foreday Riders, Hippos, Bondi Cigars, Donkeys, and Nervous Investors.

He's also been the preferred sideman for visiting US Blues artists, like the late great

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November Gigs

Thursday 8th	6.30pm	Adam Brown
Friday 9th	5pm	Kellie and the Daze
Saturday 10th	5pm	Dave Murry
Sunday 11th	5pm	T.B.A.
Thursday 15th	6.30pm	Open Mic
Friday 16th	7.30pm	Broadfoot
Saturday 17th	5pm	Tim Griffin
Sunday 18th	5pm	Richie Williams
Thursday 22nd	6.30pm	V. Grant
Friday 23rd	7.30pm	The Hoochers
Saturday 24th	5pm	Guy Turk
Sunday 25th	5pm	The Antibodies
Thursday 29th	6pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 30th	7.30pm	Skydaddy

All Gigs are Free of Charge

Hummingbird Bistro

Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta; Thurs \$10 steak 250g

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in November?

- **Social Bowls** - Every Sunday, from 9.30am
- **Open Mic Nights** - Wednesdays 14th and 28th
- **Trivia Quiz** - Every Saturday at 7pm, with bar prizes
- **Raffles** - Fridays 7.30pm - Meat & veggie trays, chooks
- **Courtesy Bus** - Phone the bar
- **Closed Mondays**

CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner Tues - Sun
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Home of the 'Big Bowler'

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Sunday Gig Guide

November 2pm start

11th Lez Karski
Lez has been the unique soul/blues guitar & vocal style of the Bondi cigars & Hippos to name a few...

18th Sarah & Harry
Blending groove with a pop sense of catchy melodies; together they put a twist on so many tunes that you know & love

25th Loose Tuesday
Five piece band hailing from the sunny Northern Rivers - listen & love the sounds of their progressive folk & rock

December

2nd Laneway
They tell stories with a melding guitar & voice that makes such sense it is instantly familiar & distinctly unique



by James Creagh

Telstra's plans to upgrade cell phone reception in the Nimbin valley could threaten local beehives.

It has been speculated for some time that mobile phones and mobile phone towers may be one of the causes of the decline in bee populations.

Hives around the world are already under threat of hive collapse from environmental factors. Where the new

tower goes is still to be determined.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported in 2009 that Indian studies found "that a sudden fall in the bee population was caused by towers installed across the state by cell phone companies to increase their network".

The electromagnetic waves emitted by the towers crippled the navigational skills of the worker bees that go out to collect nectar from flowers to sustain the queen.

In an experiment, a mobile phone was kept near a beehive. The worker bees were unable to return, leaving the hives with only the queens and eggs, and resulting in the collapse of the colony within 10 days.

Good harvests

Local beekeepers are reporting good harvests, one of the advantages of the dry spell, and the trend should continue for the rest of the year.

About a dozen new bee boxes are on their way to Grafton to be filled with bees, which will be allowed to settle in before finding new homes, mostly with new beekeepers.

Beekeeping is booming, with many others sourcing bees locally to start their first hives, and others increasing their number of hives.

Nimbin Natural

Beekeepers have offered support for beekeepers through workshops, monthly meetings and bulk-buying of boxes and equipment. This has raised awareness of food security, knowing the risks that bees live with.

The greatest risk would be the arrival of the varroa mite or the Asian bee.

Nmbngee Community

Last meeting of the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers was held at Nmbngee Community at Alan Snell's home.

Alan's workshop provided a great space for members to assemble their boxes and frames and make frame holders, a handy tool to have when opening a hive. Thanks to Scott for opening a few of Alan's hives and showing the workings of the hive.

It was great having a few new and local experienced beekeepers to share

information about keeping bees.

Bee space offered

Anyone who would like to keep bees but doesn't have space should contact Helena at helenaberandi@yahoo.de or Dolph and Gillian at gillian@biocharproject.org

These keepers are offering space on their properties in the Mt Burrell area.

Swarms

The beehive in the old camphor at the community centre swarmed a few weeks ago. Unfortunately they moved on too fast to catch. The remaining hive is quite active and there is interest from the community centre to have it removed, given its closeness to the day-care centre.

A beekeeper from Blue Springs community is offering to relocate the hive.

If you spot a swarm, call Bayleigh on 0413-976-342.

Mullum Workshop

An introduction to beekeeping workshop will be held at the Mullumbimby Community Gardens on 18th November.

For more info contact mullumbees@gmail.com
The Mullum gardens are a learning centre for organic gardening, composting, water conservation, energy efficiency.

Kat and Graeme from Mullum attended the last meeting of the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers and are keen to start their own local beekeeping group in Mullum.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be at Nmbngee Community, Lillian Rock. All ages and all level of experience welcome. For more info contact: jamescreagh@hotmail.com

Blue Knob Farmers Market

by Jim Arachne

At the Blue Knob Farmer's Market, we've finally found some time to sit down and look at the figures from our Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show back in late September.

What we found, strongly encouraged us to really continue promoting and practising the 'Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local' theme that the market is based on. Nearly \$4,000 of income for local growers was generated in The Alley. Our Paddock to Plate Café contributed \$3,000 with virtually everything on the four-item, plus sweets and drinks, menu being grown and purchased within 10 km or so of Blue Knob Market. Likewise the Market Stall saw around another \$1,000 going to backyard and professional food producers.

The obvious benefit is that this money tends to stay



in the area – compared to cash paid for similar items at big supermarket chains where money flows away to interstate or overseas suppliers, investors and owners.

In a case study illustrating just this point the UK New Economics Foundation found that "An organic farm's income generated twice as much money for the local economy [on a dollar-for-dollar basis] as a supermarket's income in the

same area." In some instances money spent locally may be worth almost 400 percent more to the regional economy than money spent out of the area.

Another main focus in Sustainability Alley, the Speakers' Tent, provided focussed, professional information for around 250 enthusiastic people with back-to-back presentations on topics as diverse as native bees, bush foods and edible weeds and growing and building with hemp.

split in the rain. However, vegetables from tropical and sub-tropical regions flourish in these conditions. This workshop will cover growing tropical greens such as Egyptian and Brazilian spinach, climbers like snake gourd and winged bean and underground vegetables such as yam and cassava. Workshop participants will also receive; cultivation notes and recipes for each vegetable, a sub-tropical vegetable seed catalogue plus some sample tastings.

Both Jim and Mij grew up on farms growing vegetables in cold areas with below freezing temperatures and occasional snow. On moving to the Northern Rivers neither could find any easily available information on growing vegetables especially suited to the wet summers. So both set out to teach themselves about this. Information in the workshop is based on their own experiences growing tropical vegetables for some years.

Note: The workshop fee is \$30 and \$20 concession. Numbers are limited to 20 to allow all participants to fully participate. Registration is essential. To register please send your name plus phone and email to Jim at: uloborid8@gmail.com

Blue Knob Market runs Saturdays, rain, hail or shine, 9am to ~12:30pm, corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock roads, 8km from Nimbin in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.

Sharing Local Knowledge

Sat 24 Nov. 10am-12.30pm

Growing Sub-Tropical Vegetables, Jim and Mij – Registration essential.

During the hot, wet season lots of our European and American sourced vegetables don't do so well. The broccoli and cauliflowers have long since bolted to seed, as has the lettuce, unless slugs have gotten it first. Zucchini succumb to mildew and the tomatoes founder and

CSG Idol

Calling all musicians, singers, songwriters, poets, fashionista, circus, cabaret, burlesque performers, choirs, groups, flower arrangers... Are you the next CSG Idol?

Coal Seam Gas Idol will give artists working in many performance genres the opportunity to perform original or adapted works on a theme of CSG. There will be fabulous prizes across the ten categories.

Enter now and share your flair on Thursday 29th November at the Italo-Australian Club in North Lismore.

Categories

- **Open CSG Idol** – original song (3 minutes max) about CSG. Songwriters are urged to register their interest as soon as possible.
- **Junior CSG Idol** – for 12-18 year olds – Write and perform an original about CSG
- **Blast From The Past** – Protest songs from past era's that are relevant to CSG today.
- **The Brad Hazzard Singers Section** – satirical groups category – Perform a satirical original or adapted song (3 minutes max) and call yourselves the Brad Hazzard Singers
- **Fashions in the Gas Field** – for the fashionista who wants to make a statement about CSG using fashion as a conversation starter. Design, make, assemble



an outfit and arrange for someone to model it on the big night.

- **Averse to CSG** – spoken word section – Original poetry (3 minutes max)
- **Haiku and Ikebana** – Traditional haiku poem presented with Ikebana flower arranging on a theme of CSG
- **Rap and Tap** – Original rap about CSG with beats provided by tap dancing
- **Burlesque Frack Dancing** – We don't know what Frack dancing is either. Prize for the competitor or group that comes up with the most convincing burlesque frack dance.
- **The O' Farrell Family Circus and Cabaret Section** – This category is for folks who enjoy circus and/or cabaret (3 minutes max) on a CSG theme of your choosing. To enter or get more info, phone Liora Claff 6624-4216, email: liora07@gmail.com
From the people who brought you 'CSG The Musical', this is another fundraiser for CSG-Free Lismore.

Fresh local produce for a sustainable future.

- Self-sufficiency workshops
- Community Grain Mill
- Local & visiting musicians

Corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Roads
Only 8km North of Nimbin

Enquiries contact Peter 6689-7484 or email: blueknobfarmersmarket@gmail.com

NIMBIN NUMBERS

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- Tax Preparation
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged

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This World Aids Day, Enough is enough!

by Anthony Bower, Director, Mullaways Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd.

For many years now Mullaways Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd. have been growing, researching and openly dispensing medical cannabis tincture to chronically ill and dying Australians, who have letters of support from their doctors. A tincture, which is non-psychoactive, has been tested by both NSW Health and NSW Police with 'no illegal substances detected'. Over the years the patients have had overwhelming results in the management of chronic pain, nausea and appetite.

All the current research out there shows that over 8-million Australians suffer from chronic pain and they live with this pain daily. Over 80 percent of these people receive very little or no treatment from our government, health systems and doctors. Over 2 million of these people suffering are the elderly of our country. All the research shows that chronic pain left untreated leads to devastating effects on the welfare of people's lives, and the longer this goes on untreated the worse it gets.

I'm often asked by many people, how they can help. The 1st of December (World AIDS Day) will be the three-year anniversary of Mullaways Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd openly dispensing its cannabis tincture. We are currently organising an email campaign to the Australian Government. We will be sending emails to all the health ministers, State and Federal, in office and opposition, asking them questions and their views associated with the Special Access Scheme and medical cannabis in Australia.



We're asking people to go to the Mullaways website and read over the information and become educated on the issues surrounding medical cannabis in Australia and about what Mullaways has been doing to try and assist these chronically ill and dying people. We'll be posting a form letter on the website that people can read and if they agree with it they can attach their email/details and send it off to the Government. If they prefer they can write their own email and send it off to the Government.

We encourage all Australians to get behind this. Everybody out there needs to start spreading the message. There's an election coming up, so everybody needs to stand up, ask some questions to the Government and have a go. This is the time to make it happen.

For more information about Mullaways Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd. and its views towards legal regulated medical cannabis in Australia, to view Mullaways tinctures analysis results, to view patient survey results and much more, go to www.mullawaysmedicalcannabis.com.au

And remember..."You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you." - C.S. Lewis.



Sativex trials show promise

A report by Julia Medew in the *Sydney Morning Herald* indicates that cannabis could soon be available to Australians as evidence mounts for its medicinal use.

Her report says Australian doctors are testing the cannabis mouth spray Sativex in cancer patients who are suffering with pain that does not respond well to opiate painkillers.

The phase-three trial is the last of several studies required for manufacturer GW Pharmaceuticals to try to licence the drug in Australia for use by people with diseases including cancer and multiple sclerosis.

Brian Le, a palliative care specialist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, said four Australian hospitals and 300 patients were taking part in the study in 20 locations around the world.

If the drug is found to be safe and effective, he said it could be available



to patients in the next few years.

Dr Le said phase-one and phase-two trials of Sativex in more than 400 cancer patients found it relieved pain with few side effects. He said psychiatric side effects were very rare in the doses used and that patients did not report feeling "stoned".

"Our experience is that pain improves and the patients actually feel better. They're more able to do daily activities, sleep better through the night without pain and think clearly, so instances of feeling confused or out of it are low," he said.

Patients in the trial cannot drive because Australian laws prohibit driving with cannabis in the system.

HEMP HEADLINES

USA: 75 Years of racial control

Marijuana was prohibited by the federal government 75 years ago in October, 1937. By signing the Marihuana Tax Act, President Roosevelt banned all uses of cannabis in the United States.

Harry Anslinger, the administration's first Drug Czar, said, "There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage.

"This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others."

USA: Marijuana like you've never seen it before [CBS News]

Soft drinks, peanut butter sandwiches, truffles, breath sprays, skin ointments - almost anything can be infused with marijuana, and in Colorado, entrepreneurs are developing all manner of new pot-infused product lines.

These products are a far cry from the dorm-room stash of weed in a plastic baggy, and some of them deliver the medical benefits of the drug without the high.

NSW: Law reform issues re synthetic drugs

Public hearings were held in October for the NSW parliamentary inquiry into law reform issues regarding the prohibition of synthetic drugs, which are designed and manufactured to have the same effect as prohibited drugs.

The committee will consider the adequacy of current NSW legislation and any other related matters. Twenty-two submissions were received from interested parties, including from Alex Wodak [Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation] and Fiona Patten [Sex Party].

VIC: Trolls hit cannabis campaign [The Australian]

A Victorian state-funded youth cannabis awareness campaign has been hijacked by internet trolls who have posted links to pro-cannabis websites. The \$300,000 'Don't Let Your Dreams Go Up in Smoke' campaign was launched by Victorian Health Minister Mary Wooldridge in October, but within 24 hours the page had attracted little more than 100 "likes" and a flood of negative comments from young people labelling it "out of touch" and providing links to sites such as the pro-marijuana 420 Smokers Club. Comments included "this page is full of lies" and "smoke weed every day".

Web links to these stories and others at www.hempembassy.net or tune in to the Hemp Hours on NimFM 102.3 on Fridays from midday to 2pm.

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

Uniformed Undacut

The Boss seems bemused by the idea of legal weed tincture in the chemists, but even he says wait until you get cancer before they give it to you. Watching his wife's best friend recover from death's door has turned him right around on medical pot but getting it from your doctor has him almost crying in relief.

A bud in the hand of a doctor is clearly a totally different product to a bud in the hand of a dirty hippy. He even feels justified in raiding crops now, saying he's "protecting Government business".

"Gillard'll be growing it in huge warehouses next year, Bethany. You can tell your hippie mates it's all over. You've been undacut."

I left depressed and started thinking about why I went Undacuva in the first place. Always had a problem with uniforms. Pipe said everything goes back to your childhood. "You want to get rid of the weeds, you got to pull 'em out by the roots."

My early memories of dad coming home are sketchy but he sure was moody. And always in uniform!

Uniforms are critical in the Force. People come out of the change rooms as different people to how they arrived, and it's not just the gun on their hip. Or the Taser



and all the other clobber weighing them down so they have to run like pregnant rhinos. The uniform is power and permission to use it. The Force uniform opens doorways no key can fit. People are frightened before they even see who's inside it, and the uniform wearer is acutely aware of it. Other people climb into pin-striped suits and feel important, but they are no match for the Force uniform which can detain and search anybody anytime, really.

Explaining corruption in the Franks is irksome and the job no

one wants. Unfortunately for me, my timing was astray when I last knocked on the Boss's door.

"They expect us to be superhuman: collecting druggies' cash by the bootfull, who wouldn't leave a few grand behind the wheeljack? Watching gangsters throw money around like it grows on trees, driving cars we can only dream of. Of course some men succumb, but not you Bethany. I never thought greed would get the better of you girl, with all your self righteous spiritual babble."

I'd asked him for a pay rise, first time in years, and now I have to sit out his ranting. Undacuvus get special rates because we lose the protection and power of the uniform, but the uniforms reckon we have it easy. Especially me in the Bin where I just loll about playing guitar and smoking cones, or so it seems to them.

I could never wear the uniform

power trip comfortably. Even before the years of UIT, Unda Invisibility Training, which is the opposite to the power uniform strut. They want to be noticed and we are trained to be as invisible as possible. Unda work is not for everyone. You have to let go of the uniform, and the power.

HipiLeaks: DEA Washington to Canberra. Oct 2012. The Australian HEMP Party representatives over here monitoring the various states cannabis voting in the upcoming election are every bit as nosy as the CSG spies we recently irritated for you. We are monitoring and recording every move from them, as you requested. They are consuming a lot of cannabis themselves with a seemingly unlimited supply from their licensed American friends. We are making no arrests as there are strict instructions for the war on drugs to stay off the President's agenda during the campaign.



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