

Janelle's Page

by Janelle Saffin, MP for Page

The Australian Government's 'water trigger' legislation passed the Senate in June -an important step in the battle to protect our water from Coal Seam Gas mining in our local area.

I lobbied hard on behalf of our community to get the Federal Government to use the full extent of its powers to protect our water. The battle is however far from over with the Coalition vowing to undo the legislation, if they get an opportunity.

One of their stated aims is to hand environmental assessment power back to the states. In New South Wales that means a Coalition State Government that has done nothing to protect our region, while declaring CSG exclusion zones around Hunter Valley horse studs and wineries.

The power to stop CSG mining completely in our area rests with the NSW Government which has done nothing to protect us and our way of life, despite promises. We just cannot trust the Nationals to protect our communities from this harmful CSG mining.

Communities across the region have given the message loud and clear- we want to keep the Northern Rivers CSG-free. We will not accept the risk to our water, farmland, environment, tourism, local economy and our way of life.

It is clear the mining companies are hoping for a Coalition federal government in September, to give them the green light on CSG. I am not going to let that happen locally.

Supporting nurses campaign

As a long time health advocate I strongly support the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association's campaign for better nurse-patient ratios in rural areas.

The winning of patient ratios in some areas in 2010 was a great achievement, but more needs to be done, so that rural and regional NSW is given the same ratio.

As the nurses and midwives rightly say, a person's postcode should not determine the quality or quantum of healthcare that



Janelle with Taya Straw of the Nurses and Midwives Association.

they receive. People in our area should have the best level of care possible, and our nurses should not be forced to overextend themselves because of poor nurse-patient ratios.

Although this is a state issue, I believe that it is important for us to make our voices heard on such fundamental issues as our health.

Nurses in rural areas are forced to deal with ratios as poor as 1:8, when they should be more like 1:4, and 1:3 in emergency departments.

This means that nurses, particularly in some specialty units like community and community mental health nursing, paediatric, emergency departments and other critical care units, are stymied in trying to give optimal levels of health care for their patients. These low ratios can potentially be life-threatening in an emergency.

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Additional disaster assistance for NSW farmers

Local MP Justine Elliot and attorney-general and minister for emergency management Mark Dreyfus QC announced additional assistance for farmers hit by the January and February 2013 floods and storms in Byron.

Clean-up and recovery grants of up to \$15,000 will be made available to eligible primary producers.

Justine said, "We want to help communities get back on their feet following the severe weather that has caused so much damage."

These grants will be in addition to the disaster assistance the government has already made available to farmers in these areas.

"This much-needed assistance will provide a boost to our farming sector already facing the long road back to recovery following these devastating events," Justine said.

Category C grants are now available in the 13 local government areas of Ballina, Bellingen, Byron, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Greater Taree, Kempsey, Lismore, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley and Tweed.

For further information on the grants, including eligibility, refer to the NSW Rural Assistance Authority by calling 1800-678-593, or visit their website at www.raa.nsw.gov.au

Further information on Australian Government assistance is available at www.disasterassist.gov.au

Schoolkids Bonus just around corner

The second instalment of the Federal Labor Government's Schoolkids Bonus arrives in bank accounts in July, providing welcome relief for thousands of local families facing back-to-school costs.

Justine said about 9500 local families would start receiving the second instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus from 4 July, in time for parents to purchase back-to-school items for Term 3.

The Schoolkids Bonus helps lighten the load for local families,

In July, eligible families will receive \$205 for each child in primary school, and \$410 for each child in high school.

This money helps parents buy uniforms,



shoes, school books and stationery, as well as other costs like school excursions, music lessons and sports registration fees.

This is the second instalment this year for local families, with the first instalment arriving before school started in January.

Justine said local families would lose this money if Tony Abbott is elected prime minister at the election.

Axing the Schoolkids Bonus will mean a typical family with two kids in Richmond will be \$15,000 worse off over the course of their children's schooling.

I know a lot of families are feeling the pinch right now, and they rely on this extra support to make sure their kids have everything they need for school.

As the holidays come to a close and parents start getting the kids ready to go back to school, they will know how helpful the Schoolkids Bonus is for them. If Tony Abbott becomes Prime Minister, this Schoolkids Bonus payment will be their last.

An Abbott Government will axe the Schoolkids Bonus and hurt local families. Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A, as well as young people in school receiving Youth Allowance, and others receiving certain income support or veterans' payments are eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus.

For the latest information about the Schoolkids Bonus and other family assistance measures, visit: www.australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus or 'like' our Australian Families Facebook page.

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Greens' energy policy to cut power bills and boost renewable energy

by Dawn Walker, Greens Candidate for Richmond

It's a sad reality that both the old parties remain firmly committed to coal, CSG and other fossil fuels. Coal exports are booming under this Government, despite the tremendous economic and environmental opportunities offered by clean, renewable energy.

The good news is that the Greens have announced a new Energy Policy that will reward homeowners' feeding solar energy back into the grid and save local families approximately \$250 a year. That's a saving of over \$15.7 million for households in the Richmond electorate¹.

Under our policy, a new federal Energy Savings Agency will be

established to find \$1 billion in energy savings through avoiding unnecessary investment or 'gold-plating' of the energy grid and energy efficiency savings. Our plan will help drive down power bills and the carbon emissions causing global warming.

Local home-owners and businesses have installed nearly 29,000 solar panels and solar hot water systems to date. This places Richmond third on the list of Federal electorates with the highest uptake of solar energy systems - demonstrating how much our community embraces clean energy. With a Greens energy policy, we could become the solar capital of Australia!

The strength of our policy is that we have the support of small



Green scene

business operators such as Byron Bay based solar business operator, Patrick Halliday. Patrick can verify that solar energy, solar

hot water, and energy efficiency are all working together on the North Coast to ensure expensive network upgrades are delayed or

cancelled.

Despite the Coalition's scare campaign, most people are unaware that for every \$100 of your electricity bill, \$51 is spent on new poles and wires. Only \$9 is due to carbon pricing and low to medium income households are compensated for that.

Renewable energy is also a growing part of our economy that provides many local jobs. Unlike the old Parties, only The Greens recognise that clean energy has the potential to be an economic boom for Australia.

From Tweed Heads to The Channon, locals keep telling me that they want a Government that stops investing public money in fossil fuel mining and works to make clean energy cheaper.

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

From the Mayor's desk

by Cr. Jenny Dowell

June is always a big month at Council as we adopt the Operational Plan for the coming financial year. This one year plan incorporates the budget, works program, rates, fees and charges. This year we also adopted the other two plans that comprise the three levels of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework common to all NSW Councils. Lismore City Council chose to rename our four year delivery plan, ten year Community Strategic Plan and the one year operational plan as more user-friendly 'Imagine Lismore' plans.

The considerable work involved in developing these plans was firmly based on the fantastic community input Council received over the past 14 months. Our community consultations, citizens' jury, place based forums, on-line and phone surveys and direct consultation with various community groups resulted in the draft that was placed on exhibition in May.

Library

During the exhibition period, we received submissions relating to various aspects of the plans. By far the most community reaction was to a proposal to close the Goonellabah branch library. At our June 11 ordinary meeting, Cr Isaac Smith's motion requesting staff to investigate other options to keep the library open was carried unanimously. The community let us know loudly and clearly that they would not tolerate the closure.



Fortunately staff responded and presented an acceptable proposal to the extraordinary meeting on June 25. As a result, Council resolved to accept some efficiencies identified by library staff to enable the branch to remain open on four weekdays (closed Wednesdays) and Saturday morning while returning to a lunchtime closure. In addition, the Lismore library will remain open 1-4pm on Sundays but will close a little earlier on Thursdays (7pm) and Fridays (5pm).

Nimbin Transfer Station

Council initially proposed to increase the charge for the Nimbin Transfer Station (NTS) from \$105 to \$178 to meet actual running costs. As a result of submissions, we have resolved to look more closely at the viability of the NTS and reduce the proposed charge to \$108.57 and to cover the gap from reserved funds. These charges were expected to also attract GST but there is now some new information that they may not. To cover both options, Council voted to include both in our final adoption of rates, fees and charges.

Budget overview

Council's total budget is around \$123 million and while the amount is huge, the dollars are allocated as carefully as any household budget. While councillors have different opinions on how the dollars should be spent, we all come to the table with the best interests of the community at heart. On the night of June 25, as in the months leading up to it, councillors engaged in robust debate to reach a resolution that involves cuts to most sections of the budget.

Against this trend of cuts, Council has allocated an additional \$700,000 to make a total of \$30.6 million or 24.8% of the total budget to roads. Recognising that other aspects of our infrastructure have backlogs too, \$27 million will go to water and wastewater provisions. \$15.5 million will be spent on waste and recycling including \$3.6 million for a materials recycling facility to enable us to manage our own recyclables rather than paying to truck them to Queensland.

As readers will know, the NSW Government pegged the percentage by which general rates can increase to 3.4% for 2013/14. Accordingly, household general rates will increase by that amount. To cover full and actual costs, the charges for water, wastewater and rural waste collection will increase by 10%, 5.2% and 13.7% respectively.

Living in rural areas

At our June 11 ordinary meeting, Council unanimously agreed that staff should add a note to any planning certificates for rural areas reminding buyers that farming activities can create noises and

smells. This might seem trite but new residents do sometimes complain about their neighbours engaging in their livelihood and producing the food and fibre we all need.

Roadworks

Residents of Nimbin will note that some action is taking place on Nimbin Road from High Street into the village with the delivery of pipes and some site establishment works. The road reconstruction works are due to commence mid July. There are bound to be some delays for traffic but please be patient in the knowledge that the road will be much improved and there will be an addition of a much-needed footpath too.

Walk in Nimbin

Council's social planner Christine Minkov and I accepted an invitation from Michael Balderstone to have a stroll along the footpaths on either side of Cullen St to discuss how proposed access requirements might alter the streetscape.

I have been following the impassioned pleas on Nimbin Hook-Ups facebook page and can understand the historical significance of the bench seats and other structures on the shopfront side of the footpath. I also acknowledge that there are rough sections of the path and plantings that pose trip hazards or obstacles to people with limited mobility.

There are standards of access that Council adheres to as a proponent of human rights. I'm sure most readers would agree that Nimbin has a reputation as a welcoming place for all people and would not

want to be assessed as less accessible than it should be. I'm sure the issue will be discussed by the Nimbin Advisory Group and we can come to some agreement on what is reasonable.

Mulgum House

While in Nimbin, I also visited Mulgum House and met the staff and residents who have concerns with access to town across Thorburn Street, particularly before and after school. Council's works section will assess the situation and will advise on any proposals to improve safety.

Traffic Advisory Committee

Council has received a couple of requests to lower the speed limit on Gungas Road. The Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) has suggested 'drive to conditions' signage, vegetation trimming to improve visibility and some gravel maintenance to be undertaken this month.

The TAC also approved a Traffic Management Plan for the annual Nimbin Fun Run on August 25. This event is always well run (no pun intended) and is a colourful spectacle for locals and visitors alike.

Mardi Grass

As usual I had the task of chairing the debrief on Mardi Grass. Without exception, participants including Council officers, police, organisers and community representatives praised the event as very well organised. The new venue went well and there were fewer problems with illegal camping, safety and other breaches.



by Simon Clough, deputy mayor, Lismore City Council

Winter seems to be with us with a vengeance. Please take pity on any cold, wet bedraggled cyclists you may see on the road. It could be me!

On 25th June at an extraordinary meeting Council approved the Imagine Lismore 10, 4 and 1 Year Plans. Councillors and staff have committed an enormous amount of work to these plans. Not only that but a significant number of community members have

committed themselves to the process. The consultation process included over 27 different events, in total 1150 people participated including: 400 people attended the Citizens' Jury and Place-based Forums, 45 young people submitted to the poster competition, and over 400 completed a survey.

So you can see this has been a very comprehensive and inclusive process with all the participants being randomly selected except for a small few from groups who were not represented.

The budget which is part of the plan allocates an additional \$700,000 to roads. This is the first time in 15 years that there has been a significant increase in the roads budget. This increase reflects the determination of Council to tackle the issue of failing infrastructure in our area. Until recently, virtually no councils accounted for the deterioration of their capital assets.

I was successful in getting a number of changes in the budget with the support of the majority of Councillors.

1. \$12,500 was allocated to the environment section which was for vital environmental projects such as National Tree Day, World Environment Day, Earth Hour land care groups and on the ground restoration works. Otherwise these projects would not have happened.
2. Walkability was a key priority for Imagine Lismore. \$100,000 was allocated for footpaths. Previously there were no funds allocated for footpaths.
3. \$25,000 was allocated to revegetation of the Wilson's riverbank as a practical step towards the CBD/Riverbank Master Plan.
4. Lismore is in desperate need of a new regional art gallery. The existing gallery does not even meet basic standards. \$100,000

was allocated last year for storing the collection and \$50,000 for critical repairs. I managed to find \$73,500 to contribute to the redevelopment of 'C' block opposite the library. The Goonellabah library was also supported, but with slightly reduced hours.

There is the possibility that the last round of Regional Development funding of \$436,000 could be allocated to the refurbished art gallery. The gallery is obviously a high priority for the community with nearly \$170,000 being raised in pledges from the community. The arts are a very significant industry in our area and it's important that we have at the very least a gallery that keeps our collection safe. While a 'C' block gallery may not be ideal it seems affordable and it is the right place. In time that area in front of 'C' block and the library should become a plaza that is the heart of Lismore!



Northern Rivers residents are encouraged to take some time this month to prepare a Home Emergency Plan.

The NSW State Emergency Service has released its new online plan to help people prepare for the impacts of storms, floods, tsunami and other hazards.

The online tool identifies key risks specific to the location of the household, and through a simple questionnaire electronically builds a Home Emergency Plan specific to the household's needs and is available online at: www.seshomeemergencyplan.com.au

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Mayor urges 'yes' vote in referendum

Enshrining local government in the Australian Constitution needs a "yes" vote at the upcoming federal election referendum to give the Commonwealth the power to directly fund local government, says Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell.

In the past financial year, federal funding has enabled more than \$12 million of works to go ahead in Lismore.

"The proposed change to Section 96 of the Australian Constitution would guarantee the federal government's ability to directly fund local government projects," Mayor Dowell said.

"The Constitution does not presently recognise the role of local government or allow direct funding from the Commonwealth to councils. Currently, when the federal government gives us money, the action can be – and has been – challenged in the High Court as unconstitutional," Mayor Dowell said.

"Lismore City Council is right now working towards making ourselves financially sustainable. Constitutional recognition would give us certainty that current Commonwealth funding can continue and give us the opportunity to seek new sources of federal government funding."

This will be the third referendum on this issue.



Local Government NSW (LGNSW) has praised the passing of legislation allowing the referendum.

The legislation passed through the Senate recently, 46-8. Joint president of LGNSW, Cr Ray Donald, said it was a significant day.

"Since Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the Federal Government's intention to hold a referendum to financially recognise Local Government in the constitution, LGNSW and its members have been keen to inform our community just how important this referendum is," Cr Donald said.

He added that an unsuccessful 'Yes' campaign would lead to the loss of vital community infrastructure.

"No-one should underestimate the importance of this referendum – at stake is vital federal funding for our roads, parks, community centres and libraries."

Greens hail bill changes

The NSW Legislative Council has agreed to two Greens' amendments to the Local Land Services Bill 2013.

The first amendment restores triple-bottom-line natural resource management, and the use of sound scientific knowledge in decision-making.

The second modified an existing object in the act "to provide a framework for financial assistance and incentives to landholders including, but not limited to, incentives that promote land and biodiversity conservation."

Greens candidate for Cowper, Carol Vernon (pictured) said, "Farmers and landholders who want to



manage their land to promote environmental restoration and biodiversity deserve financial support."

"The Greens would like to see a system of rates reductions for landholders who dedicate parts of their land to environmental restoration or conservation," she said.

The psychology of denial

by Robert J. Burrowes

Some people deny the prevalence of violence in modern society. Why do they do this?

If you terrorise a child out of taking action to change its circumstances for the better, then that same terror that stopped it changing its behaviour will cause the child to now unconsciously delude itself that there is nothing wrong.

It must do this because the human organism is genetically programmed to be an integrated whole in which mental functions work together to generate the appropriate behaviour in each circumstance.

Initially, it will simply repeat the original process of mental assessment and try again, one way or another, to escape the violence.

But if it is repeatedly stopped from carrying out the logical behaviour, it must find another way of dealing with the problem to restore a sense of consistency.

After its functional responses have been routinely blocked for some time, the child "learns" that functional behavioural responses "don't work", so it increasingly resorts to deluding itself that there is nothing wrong.

Once it has suppressed awareness of these feelings, mental assessment ("there is nothing wrong") and behaviour (not allowed to act for change) are consistent. But, of course, only in a dysfunctional and delusional way.

As a result, the child becomes progressively more dysfunctional in its responses and increasingly deluded about the circumstances of its life.

As the child grows into adulthood, its mind now routinely deludes itself that violence is not happening because, unconsciously, it feels powerless to do anything about it.

It is less frightening to delude themselves that the violence never happened and still isn't happening, and to even take action to prevent the efforts of others to tell the truth.

There are, of course, many other adverse outcomes of this denial process. Many people refer to climate change (which sounds almost benign) and some even argue that it is a natural phenomenon. Some accept that we will experience disasters as a result of this 'change', but many are so frightened of acknowledging the true state of affairs that they normalise what is taking place.

This problem has enormous implications. One fundamental outcome is that once you have terrorised a human being into thinking, feeling and behaving in a delusional/dysfunctional way, it is difficult to get them change. The fear of even becoming aware of this is overwhelming.

What can we do? We must stop terrorizing children to do as we want. If you want to join the worldwide movement to end human violence, consider signing online The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World: <http://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com>

Keep those rescue rotors turning!

Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter is holding a new annual appeal day, Chopper Day, on Friday 2nd August – with a variety of ways to show your appreciation.

Chopper Coffee will see local cafes serving coffee in specially marked chopper coffee cups, with buckets on-hand to drop donations into. You can be part of the fun by posting a photo of your cup in the most crazy place or scene on the Facebook Page www.facebook.com/helirescue

Chopper Colours is a chance to use your imagination in holding an event

themed with the chopper colours of red and yellow.

Chopper Contract involves contracting to reach a goal before Chopper Day and agreeing to make a donation to the service if you don't achieve it.

Chopper Tradies Challenge pits tradies against each other to see which trade can raise the most money for the helicopter.

Rescue Helicopter general manager Kris Beavis said Chopper Day will be an annual celebration.

"Chopper Day is a day to recognise the benefits of having a world-class rescue



helicopter service in our region that's available 24 hours a day, 365 day a year, free-of-charge," he said.

"We need the community's help in adopting Chopper Day every year. Make it your day to donate; after all, you never know when it might be you or a loved who needs the helicopter in the future."

Boral exits wood-chip market: was it pushed or did it fall?

The North Coast Environment Council (NCEC) has welcomed the recent decision by Boral Timber to exit the export wood-chip business.

For more than 30 years, conservationists have worked to end this destructive activity which has seen millions of trees from North Coast forests taken to be wood-chipped and shipped to the paper mills of Japan.

Now Japanese paper mill operators want to be able to sell their paper with a label proclaiming that it has come from responsibly managed forests or plantations, and "business as usual" forestry in Australia is no longer acceptable.

They now require woodchips to be certified under the Forest Stewardship Council scheme as "not damaging high conservation values".

Boral had recently applied for its wood-chipping operations to be certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) label and audits were conducted of forestry operations on the North Coast.

Conservationists mounted a strong campaign in opposition: organising submissions, commissioning expert opinion, and taking the auditors to a number of sites to demonstrate the environmental damage caused by logging.

"We believe we were able to effectively demonstrate that high conservation values are definitely being damaged by forestry activities in the public forests of NSW," said NCEC president Susie Russell.

"While the audit and certification results have not been released, we can only speculate that Boral and the



Forestry Corporation failed to convince the auditors that their logging is not harmful.

"Being unable to sell woodchips with the FSC label, Boral had no option but to close down this component of their business."

"This gives the NSW Government an opportunity to dramatically reduce the intensity of logging that is trashing North Coast forests," she said.

"Our forests are worth more standing. They provide food and shelter to species of animals found nowhere else in the world. They protect our catchments and downstream water quality, and, if left to grow old act as a reservoir, providing water in times of low rainfall."

"Our question to Premier (Barry) O'Farrell is this: "Will he give our forests a reprieve and let them grow older so they can provide future generations with valuable environmental services?"

"Or will he subsidise another wood-chipping industry that props up a handful of logging and trucking jobs at the expense of environmental benefits for all?"

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Say 'No' to synthetic highs

by Michael Balderstone

The 40th Aquarius anniversary has just been celebrated in Nimbin, and we heard endless stories of all the acid and mushrooms consumed by our visionary heroes back in 1973.

Somehow that was all OK and in many ways it was very different 40 years ago. We didn't have a huge choice of mind-altering substances available on the black market then. Weed was organic and grown in the sun and dirt, you knew what you were getting. And it wasn't grown by organised crime gangs with no responsibility for the final product.

But now we have a new consequence of prohibition: fake cannabis. Made in China marijuana. Big Pharma's Pfizer was the first to make synthetic THC, one of sixty odd cannabinoids so far discovered in the cannabis plant.

But it was wipeout material. Without the other cannabinoids to balance the effect, smokers were flat on their backs.

They buried the recipe, but of course it got out and soon integrity was overboard in the greedy rush for dollars. As governments banned the popular synthetics, the factories in China, Africa and India just kept altering the molecular structure until most of their products have more in common with amphetamines than cannabis.



Photo courtesy PerthNow

And they are messing up people's heads.

The recent death from "Made in China" synthetic LSD – it cost \$1.50 online – is just a warning. The cops and politicians say make more laws, but the horse has long bolted. People want synthetic pot and acid more and more because its cheap, available and LEGAL!

I've tried Kronic. It's shocking, totally unlike weed. Chemical, nerve-jangling and mind-splattering! Certainly mind-altering, but very unpleasant. Increasingly young people want to try these substances. These kids are not criminals, just curious.

Prohibition has bred lies and hypocrisy that have eroded respect for drug use advice. And we need to stop listening to the police's advice on drugs. How come they are seen as the experts? They are very conservative and have an interest in preserving their jobs and their power.

Senate bid

The Australian HEMP Party is on track to run Senate candidates in all the Eastern states and still hoping to include WA and Tassie.

Campaign manager Jim Moylan has emulated Obama's election strategy using social media to build membership, branches, donations and debate. We are honoured to have Ray Thorpe, the founder of the Happy High Herb Company and renowned for his courage, vision and rationality, join the HEMP Party as a South Australian Senate candidate.

Candidates announced so far are... **QLD:** #1 James Moylan, #2 Robbo Da Yobbo, **SA:** #1 Ray Thorpe, #2 Chris Calvert, **NSW:** #1 BJ Futter. (Newcastle Happy Herbs store owner), #2 TBA.

The HEMP Movement in Australia took a long time to take off, but we now have a genuine political movement in this country.

www.australianhempparty.com

HEMP HEADLINES

Big profits driving drugs market [SMH]

Australians are spending more than \$7 billion each year on illicit drugs, according to groundbreaking research from the Bureau of Statistics. Drug experts and campaigners say the data shows attempts to police the "war on drugs" are completely dwarfed by the population's demand for the products, with Australians spending about seven times more buying drugs in 2010 than governments spent enforcing drug laws. Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation president Alex Wodak said "In the short term, political forces always triumph. In the long term, economic forces always win".

Why our drug cops need the dealers [Canberra Times]

If you really must use illegal drugs but do not want to get into legal trouble, cocaine is probably the drug of choice. In part because it is the drug of choice, after alcohol at least, for the rich and well-connected, including politicians, judges and lawyers, police appear to have virtually decriminalised its use. The annual risk of going before the courts if you are a user is about one in 500. By contrast, about one in 20 heroin users are in trouble with the law each year, and about one in 60 users of amphetamines or ecstasy seem to get into trouble. One in every 32 of the estimated 1.9 million cannabis users gets into trouble.

Casual marijuana use becomes common on TV [Boston Globe]

Pot is everywhere on TV. The cultural shift parallels a legal one. It comes as Massachusetts joins 17 other states (and Washington, D.C.) in legalizing medical marijuana, and just as Washington state and Colorado allow legalized recreational use. And the pot use on TV shows is mostly portrayed as casual, and in a nonjudgmental way. In the late 1980s and early '90s, as the Reagan-era War on Drugs continued to escalate, pot on TV was yoked into the same category as cocaine, heroin, and

other hard drugs; now it's more in league with adult alcohol use — relatively safe, if used responsibly.

Why the war on drugs has been made redundant [Guardian]

Currently, it is barely possible to detect new drugs at the rate they appear. It has long been clear that the drug war approach of criminalising possession rather than treating problem drug-users has been futile. The revolution in the recreational drug market is a stark reminder of this reality. The war on drugs has not been lost, it has been made obsolete.

Artificial reasons to ban synthetic drugs [Newcastle Herald]

Most drug taking is not done to harm someone's family, to make a fool of one's self or to injure society. It's a form of self-medication, like having a drink, and a way to escape the pressures of life and the ravages of a mind that just won't stop. Everyone uses drugs. Whether it's tea and coffee, beer and wine, marijuana and ecstasy, Panadol and Viagra or even prescribed benzodiazepines or morphine. The problem with the current debate on synthetics is that many people are saying: "My drug-taking is OK but yours is not".

Leading the pack on recreational drugs [SMH]

New Zealand will soon become the first to regulate new recreational drugs based solely on their harms. From August all new psychoactive substances that contain approved ingredients meeting safety standards will be sold in a new, legal market. The rest will be banned. The response sits in stark contrast to the ever-increasing focus of many countries including Australia on law enforcement. And Tasmanian academics recently estimated that about four entirely new chemical substances, and 10 retail outlets selling them to Australians, are emerging each month.

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

Unda sowing sods

Tragically, I've had to delete Bethany, she is no more. I was really starting to like her too. It has happened to me before, but not for a long time. The Boss says I'm too stoned, and slipping. He sent me to do text jerk training as punishment. One of my least favourite assignments is "phone jerk", as it's known on the inside. Now there's more twitter and facebook talk than phone calls and we all have to do mandatory retraining, which I had successfully avoided, until now.

In hours I've probably spent years



of my life listening to talkback radio as an Unda. Sometimes up to four stations at a time. Orders are simply to subvert any radical anti government or destabilising talk. Often nothing happens worth phoning in about for days on end but other times I'd talk a dozen times in an afternoon, and as a dozen different voice characters as well. VC's we call them. I've got mixed up as to who I was before,

starting off as a Greek greengrocer and suddenly becoming a dressmaker. "Split personality," I explained that time, making it up as I went. "The marawana did it to me."

I was in the backyard of a well-known Nimbin tourist attraction when I got the emergency text. "SOD needed on Triple J". I went straight to hide in the car, tune in, and call.

There's a manual giving you options of what to say, like they use for school reports, so you don't actually have to think much.

They were talking about medical weed getting legalised and took my call immediately, because, well, that's another story. "You don't want to legalise marawana. I've lost count of how many friends I've lost to marawana psychosis." The Manual's called 'Maintaining Doubt and Fear' and the instructions are simple. Sow doubt,

seeds of doubt. SODs we call them.

I'd just been smoking some wicked cones with the boys off the street, and my imagination was fired to the gills as I talked on. "One smoke can send people crazy and they never recover. My aunt in Perth had to send her son to the mental house." Sounding dumb is not always smart but people think it's weed damage, another SOD, says the Manual. Reefer madness thrives like a juicy gossip cancer on shock jock radio.

But I was too stoned and casual and I'd called up as Maria, a greengrocer from Geelong, with a wild Greek accent. She was one of my favourite phone jerk VC's. Maria went on, "I've lost count of how many of people I see go psycho from smoking the harmless weed. Harmless youse say! My cousin Mathew, he ate a chicken, raw. And my uncle's cousin think she can fly or sometink, she jump

out a window."

Next thing I look up and two of the boys I'd just shared the session with are staring at me through the car window, listening. The training kicked in. I started the car immediately, kept the phone on my ear, and Bethany drove straight out of the carpark never to be seen again.

Suddenly the phone I'd almost forgotten about talks to me. "Very sorry to hear that Maria. So did you ever smoke yourself?" I hung up. Probably spoiled my input, the boss said when he heard the tape, before sending me to the retraining.

It looks like the greenies are using SOD as well, and why not? Fear politics rule. I swear I recognised an Undacuva on the phone. "My auntie's children are sick all the time since they moved next door to the CSG well. And bubbles are coming up in their driveway too."

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Stanza shootout

In the 11 years since its inception, the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup has achieved legendary status unmatched by any other event in the world of Australian performance poetry.

This year's Cup takes place on 3rd and 4th August, and is held in the Nimbin Town Hall. The final is held on Sunday night in front of a perennially full house.

Referred to in online forums as the "premier outlaw performance poetry event in Australia" and "the Mecca of performance poetry", it is a formidable challenge for even the most accomplished practitioners. Cup contestants are

required to perform eight minutes per performance, as opposed to two minutes in a poetry slam format.

Finalists have described the 3 x 8 minute high-pressure performances as the "iron man" event of competition poetry.

Judging is conducted by selected experts, as opposed to random audience members at slams.

The prizemoney is widely distributed; the winner receives \$2000, and all other finalists get \$300 each.

There is also a People's Choice Award of \$500, and Encouragement Awards of \$50 are liberally dispensed.

Gail and her deputy, Janie Treasure, co-ordinate fund-



Stephanie Petrik

raising activities throughout the year, ensuring this grassroots event remains viable and independent.

The list of winners and competitors includes performers who have featured at national and international poetry and writers' festivals.

The event has become something of an annual pilgrimage for performers, attracted by the hospitality

On lead electric guitar is Adam Blenkhorn, whose feisty playing has been known to cause palpitations. Hold on to your pacemakers. First aid will be provided if necessary.

Jimmy (the Gypsy) Chiu is on Manouche guitar. He will dazzle you with his devilishly fast fingers. And that's even before he picks up the guitar. Josh (Big Wood) Kirk is on upright bass. He is a collector of fine double basses and fast cars. He plays with much heart and conviction. Peter Costin-Neilsen is on drums/percussion and manacles. He is the mysterious and elusive Mr Cool of the band. Andrew Horowitz plays tenor and soprano saxophones, electric violin and mandolin. He just can't make up his mind.

Admission is \$10 for members/students, \$15 for non members.



Tunable youth throw a party

What better way to gain valuable experience and bring your community together than to host a celebration?

This was the thinking that brought together a group of committed local youth to exploit their vast range of ideas, talents and imaginings to envision the up-coming night of music and fun at Tuntable Falls Community Hall on 12th July, featuring Brisbane band Kooii (above).

"We wanted to have a party that our parents and friends would come to and dance," said Saki Hayashi, 16, part of the project from its inception and one of the event's DJs. "Something that we'd enjoy too. And we wanted to throw it our way."

Building on their 40th anniversary celebrations, Tuntable Co-op has supported this youth initiative by engaging them in a co-operative process to produce the event; everything from budgeting and advertising, poster and decoration production through to catering and security planning.

"It's been a steep learning curve but the excitement of attracting a world class funky dub/reggae act like Kooii, who've played Mullum Music Fest and Earth Freak, to our valley has made the crew really pull together," said organiser Miko Hayashi, 20. "Now we need everyone to come out, support our efforts

and have a great night."

The event kicks off at 7pm with food available from 6.30. Lismore funky folksters and winners of the Lismore Young Songwriters award, Ben Wilson and the Job Seekers play first, then Kooii will have the house groovin', with Renegade Productions and local DJs supplying sweet beats until the wee hours. There will be something to bop to for everyone at this all ages event.

Tickets are available in advance at Nimbin Craft Gallery and in Lismore at Music Bizarre (10% booking fee applies) for \$20/adult and \$15/Under 18 and at the door for members and their guests.



Get your dose of Acid

Acid Bleed returns to the Lismore Jazz Club on Sunday 28th July at the Lismore City Bowling Club from 2pm to 5pm.

Acid Bleed is a six-piece band playing a virtuoso blend of hot Gypsy swing with a Latin groove. The repertoire covers a broad range from familiar standards to plucky originals.

The group members hail from Lismore and surrounding environs, and have been together for almost

five years.

In that time they have put their stamp on the local jazz scene. They are regulars at the New Tattersall's Hotel in Lismore on jazz nights and played the Lismore Jazz Club in 2011 and 2012. Vocalist Gerri Loong has a powerful and dynamic voice that mixes sensitivity with raw nerve and a desperate edge. She has all the necessary ingredients and more.



Alive and kicking

by Rayzor

Despite what you may have heard to the contrary, The Channon Folk Club Open Mic is still alive and kicking. We 'kick' on the 4th Sunday of the month on the lawn adjacent to The Channon Butter Factory Tavern. The weather god turned on a glorious day's sunshine for us last Sunday (23rd June), however, the turn-out was surprisingly small. The performers were happy to indulge in a few extra songs to fill in the afternoon and

the audience enjoyed an afternoon of sun and music. Unfortunately our opening act, Liora Claff and Doug Kelly, had to cancel as Liora lost her voice when hit by a winter 'lurgi'. Fortunately they will be our opening act on July 28th when we hope to see many of you there. Want to perform? The style of music is your choice, though we do encourage an acoustic feel. Just turn up on the day - we start around 2pm - and put your name down on the blackboard. Meals are available at the tavern on the



Malcolm Young displayed some fine guitar finger picking.

day. Our new email address is thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com or phone Rayzor on 6688 6100. Let us know if you would like to be on our email list to receive notifications of upcoming Folk Club open mics and occasional special events supported by The Channon Folk Club.



3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 www.sphinxrockcafe.com

Sunday Gig Guide

July 1pm start

7th Monkey & the Fish
Magical songcraft resonating definably with Australian sounds

14th Dallas James
A melodic and simplistic sound, featuring beautifully reverberant vocals and poetic lyricism over gentle strumming of an acoustic guitar

21st Andrea Kirwin
"My music is simple, soulful and uplifting. I like to think that my emotions travel through songs and touch the listener in a beautiful way."

28th Red Feather Road
A local singer songwriter from the Northern Rivers

August 4th Bassix
Keeping it simple, lovin' the bass, telling stories and letting it all out.

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in July?

- **Sunday 7th** – Ray's Farewell Bowls Day
- **Sunday 14th** – Club visit: Casino Railway
- **Monday 15th** – Ladies Gala Day
- **Open Mike** – Wed 10th & 24th
- **Folk Jam** – Wed 17th, 6.30pm

- Lunch & dinner Tues – Sun
- Friday Banquets
- Take-Aways
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July Gigs

Thursday 4th	6pm	Bo Jenkins
Friday 5th	7.30pm	Tightrope Alley
Saturday 6th	5pm	TBA
Sunday 7th	4pm	Diana Anaid
Thursday 11th	6.30pm	V Grant
Friday 12th	7.30pm	Method
Saturday 12th	6pm	TBA
Sunday 14th	4pm	Simon Meola
Thursday 28th	6pm	Post Mortemists
Friday 19th	7.30pm	Rusty Datsuns
Saturday 20th	6pm	TBA
Sunday 21st	3.30pm	Bonez
Thursday 25th	6.30pm	Darren Gallagher
Friday 26th	7.30pm	Fat Albert
Saturday 27th	6pm	Lez Karski
Sunday 28th	2.30pm	Ian Rowe

All Gigs are Free of Charge

Hummingbird Bistro

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

STAGE SHOW A MONSTER HIT

NORPA will open the doors to its newly renovated home, Lismore City Hall, with the smash hit adaptation of Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*, performed by Sydney's Ensemble Theatre.

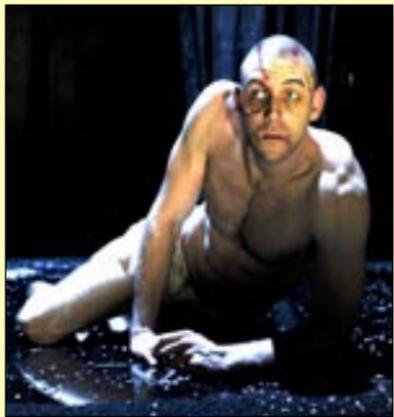
The performances on 19th and 20th July will be the first chance audiences will get to experience the transformed Lismore City Hall with new seating, acoustics, lighting, a redesigned foyer, bar and access.

"We're thrilled to be opening our season and our new home with *Frankenstein* – it's one of the best shows of 2013 with great reviews and sold-out shows recently at the Sydney Opera House," said Julian Louis, NORPA's artistic director.

"This is a rollercoaster ride of a story – it's moving, scary and beautiful. The creature is the ultimate outsider and it is through him we explore notions of love, trust, friendship."

Director Mark Kilmurry says Nick Dear's adaptation of the novel was a huge hit for London's National Theatre in 2011.

"The play gives the Creature a voice. This is a Creature that talks, that can be articulate about the way he feels – and the way he feels is very angry. We've got some exciting young talent on stage in this piece with Elena Kats-Chernin doing original music for solo celloist Heather Stratfold.



Lee Jones as the Creature
Photo: Heidrun Lohr 375

"Being a film horror buff from way back, I'm very excited about doing this play – it's not for the faint-hearted."

Ensemble Theatre has gathered a dynamic cast of young actors who, along with a live musician, take to the stage in the Australian Premiere of this classic gothic drama. Fast, furious, dynamic, dark, funny, cheeky, scary, compelling... *Frankenstein*.

Tickets cost \$47 for adults, seniors \$42, concession \$38, under-18s \$20. Running time 100 mins (no interval) Recommended for ages 15+, semi-nudity. Bookings through NORPA Box Office: 1300-066-772 or online at: www.norpa.org.au

Learn to sing in Italian, play ukelele and outwit smartphones

The Open Learning Centre is offering some exciting courses next term.

For a very small fee (\$55 for one course, \$100 for two) you can be stimulated and enriched through learning new skills and making new friends in a supportive and creative atmosphere.

Ever wanted to learn Italian? How about learning through music and song? Tutor Antonio will be using this novel and fun method to have you speaking and singing fluently.

Paris Naday is also offering a new course – in the operation of Small Smart Screens. Don't be outwitted by your Smartphone, computer or any other gizmo cast off by your children or grandchildren, come along and find out how to use it!

Cat's ever-popular Thursday Sewing Club continues to improve sewing skills in a fun and friendly environment. If you have secret dreams of creating fabulous gear, this is the class for you.

Local artist Carole Barrett continues to teach new techniques and provide inspiration for exploring many different media and approaches to drawing. So if drawing is drawing you in, come along to Carole's class.

The Creative Writing course is run by acclaimed local poet and author Christine Strelan. Christine is also offering a Collage Conspiracy course for those keen to recycle old images to create fresh new works of art.

Herbs for Health offered by Christine's sister, Fiona, is an introductory course to the herbs used in naturopathy, their preparation and uses.

And the Ukulele class, led by Megan, is going from strength to strength. This term, beginners



will be offered the opportunity to come to the class half an hour earlier for special tips and one-on-one attention. If you have a lonely, neglected ukulele in the cupboard, pick it up and bring it along. There are also ukes available for loan or sale.

If you are interested in any of these courses, or have a skill that you would like to share with others, come along to the enrolment days on the first Wednesday and Thursday of next school term – July 17th and 18th.

Classes start the following week – and each class needs a minimum of four students in order to run, so enrol if you want to be in it.

Enquiries to Judy Hales or Christine Strelan at the Nimbin Comskool 6689-1477.

RECLAIM YOUR AUDIO ARCHIVES

by Steve Thornton and Donato Rosella

Due to the closure of the Bush Trax recording studio in Nimbin, we have been left with a large number of studio tape reels, of which one or more may have your name on the box.

If you are out there somewhere, or somebody knows your story, could you please contact us, and advise us as to what to do with your recordings?

The titles of the recordings include: Aeon Rehearsal; Amadawn; Bapu Mamoos; Blue Fins; Bourkanback Boys; Paul Brosgarth; David Birch; Jerry Byers; Cathy Campbell; Ron Carpenter; Cloud Nine; Cold Turkey; Gael Curry; Garry Dennis; Linda Dickens Band; Mick Diggles; Geoff Dutton; Dayal Singh; Nerida Elsey; Eye to Eye; F111s; Ron Farmer; Rex Forwood; Forest Song; Matt Gaggin; Greg Gardner; Krystle Gentz; Marge Graham;



Glendon; Greening Australia; Patrick Glinatsis; Gumption (S.L.U.T.); Gavin Hamilton; Sue Haworth; Audley Hickling; Brian Highett; Brett Hitchcock; Hoodwink; John Hule; Hungries (Sing Sing); Idol Minds; Illegal Beagle; Jakarta; Peter Keayes; Ester King; Roger Knight; Kotaba; Matthew Leonard; Allen Lloyd; Lynn (Sing Sing); Magic Pudding; Steve Manuel; Mataranka Band; Matheson Bros; Frank Millward; Moral Support; Roger Munsie; Edward Nartin; Dennis Natrass; Nya Nunga; The Papers; Pen Short; Pete Sarawak; Col Phillips; Pip & Julie; Pirate Radio;

Kym Pitman; Kerith Power; Rare Thistle; Mark Richards; Russia Rocks; Sara Lee & The Tarts; Wendy Simpson; Simulators; Slightly Dazed; Slip of the Tongue; Ray Sorensen; Sounds of Judah; Michael Southwall; Space Wars; Stephen Talking (Synthesiser); Dave Stirling; Streetwise; Sylvia Smith Singers; Vanya; Vision; Vita Tantra; Tony Wilkinson; Stan Wood; Yosie Suprpto; Yossi & Black Brothers; Young Drums. To reclaim your audio archive get in touch by email: theexplodinggalaxy@bigpond.com or send a text message to 0428-813-459 or mail to PO Box 258 Nimbin 2480.

Kirtan – the sacred voice

Kirtan is an integral part of yoga, the yoga of sound. It is an ancient devotional practice that involves 'call and response' chanting of sacred sounds.

Kirtan quiets the mind and draws our awareness inward, allowing us to connect more deeply with our true selves. The practice of Kirtan is simple and can be practiced by everyone.

On Saturday 13th July, Melbourne's Chant-Baba, Chakradhyan will be offering two workshops in Mullumbimby for Kirtan enthusiasts.

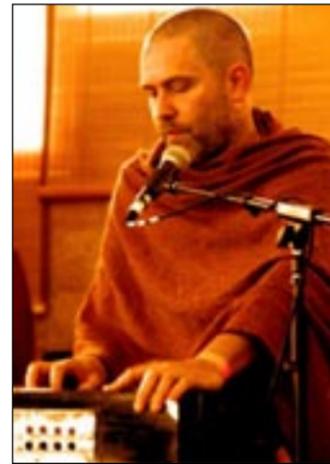
From 9am – noon he will conduct a harmonium workshop – for getting to know your instrument, learning chords and some music theory to

complement Kirtan. Players will learn to lead a Kirtan with harmonium as accompaniment.

Following on at 1pm is "Kirtan and the Sacred Voice – a path to the heart", which develops a greater understanding of Kirtan, including the five essential stages of Kirtan, energy work, techniques to improve the voice and train the ear, cultivating feeling and connecting with the group, and practical experience of leading a kirtan.

Previous instrumental and singing experience is not required, just a willingness to learn and be open to the practice.

Price for the workshop varies from \$55 for one workshop to



\$110 for the full day.

For more information about Chakradhyan and his kirtan school, please visit: www.chantyoga.com and for bookings phone Spirited Events on 0428-539-232.

NEW FOLK MUSIC JAM NIGHT AT THE BOWLO



Come along and join in the fun at the Folk Music Jam at the Nimbin Bowlo, Wednesday 17th July, from 6.30 to 10pm. Bring your instruments and voices or just come along to listen. The session will be acoustic and is open to everyone, regardless of ability.

The jam will be held every alternate Wednesday from the 17th July onwards at 6.30 - 10pm. Folk music from any

nation or time is suitable. Hope to see lots of you there to share the music and fun.

The Open Mike night will continue on alternate Wednesdays as usual, which means that every Wednesday there will be music in Nimbin at the Bowlo.

With your support we can keep the music alive in Nimbin.

Enquiries to Jan Hendrie: 6689-1404.



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by Katie Cawcutt

Nimbin celebrated the Merry Month of May 2013 for the 40th Anniversary of Aquarius by staging the Circus Arts and Crafts Fair, a colourful and vibrant event held in the Nimbin Community Centre.

It was a family fun day with food stalls selling cakes and lemonade by Tuntable School and Preschool, and craft stalls and demonstrations.

Moksha showed her amazing weaving skills, Tonia and Darryl set up tie-dyeing, Judy's tepee added to the atmosphere and she set up origami, and John created a beautiful little hut from reeds and grasses near the pond area.

Circus workshops and entertainment were provided by Tuntable Circus, React Circus from The Channon, and Sista Gurl. The kids were engrossed.

Hoop skills were shared by the Wednesday Dance Studio group, the Clown Army entertained kids with fun and games – and helped with the clean-up. Moppy arranged

for the Off the Rails choir from Lismore to come and perform.

What fun the children had throughout the day with the Nylon Zoo-keepers, who came all the way from Melbourne to create a magic atmosphere.

With their Big Pink Salmon as a central feature, they had kids fully engaged with their fun activities.

Bo Khan looked after stage events with a blackboard programme of volunteer music and acts, including a couple of impromptu songs by Trippy the Clown for the kids, and a surprise appearance by Ren and friend in medieval costume to play some lovely music.

Anna and Hartje did a sensational entrance on stilts, followed by a brilliant acrobatic act on stage.

Rosie and volunteers opened the Seniors' Centre and made Devonshire teas, and were available for St. John's support, which fortunately was not needed. In the Dance Studio, Roy set up films in the afternoon, and screened the first film shown at the Aquarius Festival,

called Narcissus and Echo, and directed by Alan Ingram.

Also shown were footage from the first rock festival in Australia, at Ourimbah, in 1971, and recent film by Tedi (Tor) Davis.

During the day, Sam erected a beautiful new mural over Neil's garage and Aquarius headquarters at the Bark Hut, painted by Elspeth Jones.

A big thanks to Nimbin Community Centre for sponsoring the event with free access to the grounds and Dance Studio, Nimbin Community School for sponsoring the visit by the Nylon Zoo, Summerland Credit Union for the loan of their gazebo, Lismore and Nimbin Tourism for support with posters and promotion, Michael Balderstone for lending the big green carpet, Swift Treweek's colourful poster, and several other people who donated cash to help make the day such a delight.

And special thanks to all the volunteers and participants – especially the children.

Local artist wins gold

Local wildlife artist Rikki Fisher has a mile-wide smile after winning gold at the International Scratchboard Society of Artists Annual Exhibition.

It was the first time Rikki had entered this competition and she was amazed to receive an unexpected email saying:

"Congratulations! Your work 'Nip' (pictured) was selected as our Best In Show – Gold Award for the Open category! All of the judges really enjoyed your work and were impressed by the composition, flow of lines and general technique on the piece. Congratulations again!"

The 2013 Exhibition was held in Vancouver Canada, with entries predominantly from North America and just two from Australia.

Next year the Exhibition will be in North Carolina USA, and Rikki plans to attend.

To see more scratchboard images go to www.rikkifisher.com and www.scratchboardsociety.com



Brushless at the Brush-Off

Local artist Patrick Haynes (pictured) has emerged from his cave, transcendent, with his river dreams and schemes transformed into oils.

Patrick is an exponent of transcendental art, which transports both the artist and the viewer beyond form to the formless. It has also been called sacred, meditative, shamanic, spiritual, contemplative, channelled and integral, and seeks to evoke our memory of oneness.

A former art director for News Ltd newspapers, Patrick paints with his hands. "Using all ten fingers removes the concentration on



a single point," he said. "It's like chaos theory on canvas."

Patrick's landscapes include local places of Aboriginal cultural significance, and his large, interesting collection

on display also includes portraits and nudes.

The showing runs from 1st to 14th July at the Brush Off art gallery, 76 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

Joining Forces

The Roxy Gallery, Kyogle; Serpentine Gallery, Lismore; and Blue Knob Hall Gallery have again joined forces in bringing art and artists of this region together.

For the past four years, these three galleries have worked together to highlight the wonderful array of talented artists that exhibit and support their community gallery spaces, by holding group exhibitions in consecutive galleries.

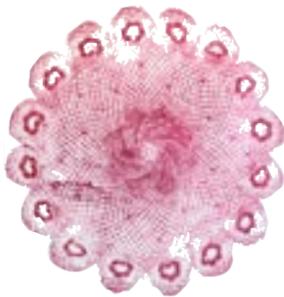
All three gallery spaces work closely with artists of this region by promoting and supporting their talents through their exhibition programs, and all three galleries rely on community

support to make them the success stories they all are.

'Collaboration 3@2' is the concept behind this year's group exhibitions between the three galleries, two of which will hold an exhibition around the concept of collaboration.

'You & Me' will take place at the Roxy Gallery from 2nd July, and run through till 3rd August, with the official opening taking place on Friday 5th July from 6pm.

'Me & You' will open at the Serpentine gallery on 30th July and run through until 19th



August, with the official opening being held on Friday 2nd August.

These exhibitions are opportunities for all three galleries to highlight the wonderful array of talented creative people living in the Northern Rivers Region, and provide enriching cultural experiences for all residents and visitors to our area.

Feather & sacred mandala prints
by Katie Alleva

Add colour to Winter

Gery Mews has taught watercolour classes at the Lillifield Community Centre since 2000, incorporating the ideas of Goethe and Steiner.

The 19th-century philosopher, poet and artist Goethe developed a colour theory based on the principle of darkness and light. He researched the relationship between colour and human psychology and explored the impacts of different colours on mood and emotion.

Rudolf Steiner extended these ideas, and included colour experienced as an expression of season and seasonal change. In this course Lillifield will work with colours and themes that convey the flavour of Winter.

Students will explore "wet-on-wet" water colour techniques, a process of healing in colour, working with natural organic pigment. The experience is not dependant on the skill level of the participant. Practising artists and total novices will feel inspired to embark on



this journey.

This is a six-week course that will be held at the Lillifield Community Centre on Tuesday mornings, 10 am-12.30 pm, starting Tuesday, 23rd July. The course tuition fee is \$120, and materials (paints and paper) can be purchased at the course.

For more information and bookings please phone Gery on 6689-7413 or email: gerymews@hotmail.com

80 Cullen Street 6689-0199

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Creative Felting

Felting has a rich history that goes back thousands of years. From earliest times, this versatile fabric has been used in many different cultures, from nomads of Asia and Mongolia, to the warriors of China and the soldiers of Rome. Evidence of felt has been found in Turkish wall paintings dating back to 6500 BC. Hand-wearing, durable and warm, throughout history it has been used to make carpets, blankets, tent coverings, boots, hats and much more.

There is a revival of interest amongst crafters who are re-discovering the joys of working with a textile that can be worked flat, moulded, used three dimensionally and embellished with embroidery, appliqué and beads. Hand-rolled felt has an entirely different quality from commercial machine-made felt.

Felt is incredibly versatile. Apart from being warm and insulating, hand-rolled felt can also



be soft and snugly, or elegant and wearable. It is strong, can be as fine as gossamer, or as chunky as a thick woollen jumper. Felted fabric can be used to make practical items or beautiful work of art. It has a unique appeal, the techniques are easy and there are endless possibilities for artistic expressions.

The transformation of wool into felt is magical and great fun to do. Anyone can make felt, and for small items it is a very quick and easy process.

"Black Sheep Farm" Felt-making workshops are designed to introduce the basic techniques used to make felt where students will be able to create a flat felted piece or a nuno felted garment.

The next Felting Workshops will be held on Saturday 17th August from 9am to 4pm. Cost \$80 incl. all materials and morning tea in the "Creative Learning Centre" at Black Sheep Farm in the hills of Nimbin.

For more information and bookings contact Suzanne, phone 02 6689-1095 or go to: www.blacksheepfarm.com.au



Hooray for local support!

by Pauline Ahern

The regular support that artists at the Nimbin Artists Gallery receive from the local community, either enhancing their own collection, gift purchasing, or proudly bringing family and friends to the gallery, goes a long way in keeping this artists co-operative viable.

A big thank you to all.

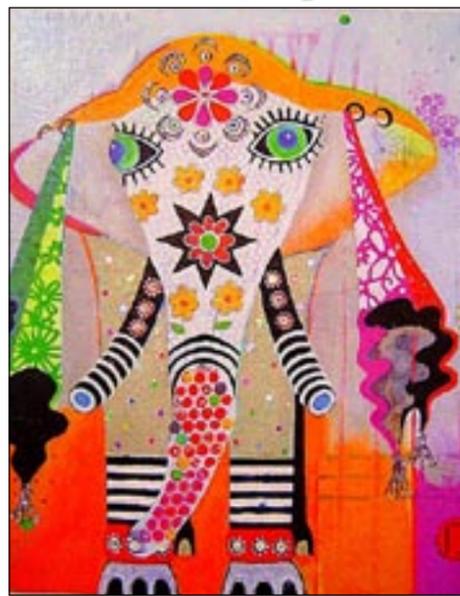
'Wearable Art', comes to the fore this time of year as we soak up our wonderful North Coast winter weather of balmy sunny days and cold crisp nights. Visitors from overseas are amazed at the quality and variety of our wearable art, and are thrilled to take home a unique piece for a friend or themselves.

Collectors of local art will be pleased to see new works from Donna Sharam, Katherine Perrott, Denis Meagher, Christine Robinson, Joanna May and many others.

Rod Johnston has been chipping away at lumps of sandstone and creating 'one-offs' that defy the imagination, and require new homes.

Each exhibition lasts for 5 to 6 weeks. Next rehanging will be on 29th July.

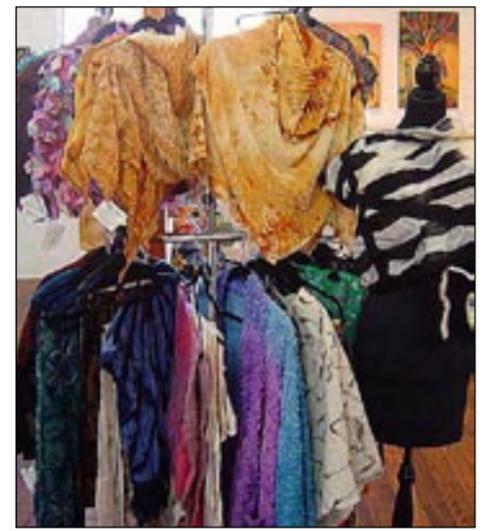
Come in for a browse and a chat and check out the new art.



'His Royal Highness' by Donna Sharam



Detail of 'The Magic Cord' by Katherine Perrott



Wearable art from various artists

Blue Knob Hall Gallery

The Fibre Show

The clothing, basketry, tapestry and sculptural works at Blue Knob Hall Gallery have surprised and been admired by all those who have visited the Gallery in the last month. The fine work by the artists has lifted the calibre of these crafts from their humble beginnings into the realms of wearable art and major artworks in themselves.

Fibre art has become such an integral part of the art and craft heritage of this unique part of the world, and continues to find enthusiasm from younger generations.

This is an inspiring and innovative exhibition and is worth a visit. The Fibre Show runs until 4th August.

Ceramic Studio Project

Wow, look at us now! We have just completed the Ceramic Studio

to lockup stage and doesn't it look terrific! It has been a truly incredible, amazing and rewarding project. The worthwhile skills people have learned, the friendships forged, the community spirit nurtured - it's all good!

Blue Knob Hall organised a 'Thankyou' dinner on Saturday 15th June for all those wonderful volunteers (above) who helped to get the studio to this stage. It was a fabulous night with about fifty people attending. It really felt like a big family gathering, with the kids watching movies, while the rest of the family sipped on some really quite amazing mulled wine; ate some delicious food and danced to Peter Calkin's fine music.

Guy Stewart also showed a little movie he had put together from the beginning of this project to its present stage. It was really an eye-



The volunteers

opener - from the initial pouring of the slab, to the time spent milling the timber, to the actual building. It was a great reminder of what has happened, and we're hoping that the funding bodies will also be impressed!

The Farmer's Market also presented Blue Knob Hall Gallery with a cheque for \$1,500 which was raised at the Pumpkin Festival

Bush Dance as a fund-raising event for the Hall. We are very grateful for their generous support. They have been instrumental in lifting the Hall to new heights as a community venue, gallery and cafe, and their help along the way has been tremendous.

For now, we will have to bide our time with the next stage of the Ceramic Studio, as we've run

out of money. We have and will be applying for grants to do the internal fit-out of the Studio, so it still could be some time before we're ready to rock and roll.

But rest assured, this is going to be the best ceramic studio in the southern hemisphere!

Next Artists and Friends Lunch

The next lunch will be held on Thursday 25th July at 12.30pm. Cost is \$15 per person and includes set mains with a choice of desserts. We hope you can come along. Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you're planning to be there.

Cafe Artworks

We are thrilled to have Mitchell O'Mahoney's chalkboard artworks installed in the Cafe. It really has made a huge difference to the atmosphere of the cafe and customers have been very impressed. Mitchell is aiming to make a business out of chalkboard art, so if anyone wants any signs designed by Mitchell, please let us know!

Daisy

NIMBIN

GO CRAZY IN DAIZY

Jewellery, incense, stickers, postcards, beanies, hats, sarongs, bedcovers, wallhangings, cushions, thongs, CDs trance & local, slippers, beads, sunnies, chimes, etc...

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A TASTE OF ART

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blueknob hall
gallery

Open Thursday to Sunday 10am - 4pm
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 GALLERY • CAFE