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# THE CASINO

## The Ongoing Saga of the Iron Gates at Evans Head



Iron Gates narrows with Bundjalung National Park on the right

by Richard Gates

The Iron Gates at Evans Head, an environmental 'hotspot' for many years, has been in limbo since 1997 when the Land and Environment Court brought down Court Orders ordering rehabilitation of the site.

The Orders followed a protracted legal battle over development of the area for residential housing, a development which many regarded as inappropriate because of its impact on the environment and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

The area is well known for its extensive koala population and complex ecologies including coastal rainforest, SEPP 14 wetlands and mangroves. And it was also viewed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an essential part of a wildlife corridor which joined the southern Bundjalung National Park to the northern Broadwater National Park.

Parks had applied on a number of occasions to have it made into National Park, but the government of the day refused to consider the proposition, based on its reasoning that there were higher priorities for protection and their limited funds needed to be spent on these. Some might say that political expediency and a push for housing development via Frank Sartor's failed Far North Coast Regional Strategy was more likely the reason.

Once the Rehabilitation Court Orders were made, Iron Gates Pty Ltd, the developer, went into External Administration, a status it maintains to this day, some 16 years later. No rehabilitation works were done.

The developed area has since regrown, but the infrastructure legacy of roads and curbing and guttering remain, albeit in a declining state, and the two canals dug to drain the estate are there for all to see, a reminder of the past. When it rains heavily, the area floods despite the drains. The flooding is not unexpected, given the site is in a wetland pathway, yet the former Richmond River Shire Council gave permission for this to happen. How come?

Requests from some members of the public to have the 1997 Court Orders executed were dismissed by the Labor government, which raises some interesting questions about how



Extent of the land clearing beside the Evans River

seriously State governments take their environmental responsibilities to the community.

Such a failure begs questions about the extent to which a body responsible for environmental protection actually does its job, and political interference in processes which should be independent of government. The problem is now made worse by pro-developer legislation which makes it difficult for authorities to do their work. You can't prosecute if the law is emasculated.

During the fairly recent development of Council's Local Environmental Plan, requests were made for environmental protection of the site, but Richmond Valley Council ignored these requests and continued to support residential development. Unbeknown to most people, areas of environmental importance were being mapped with a view to future residential development.

In December last year, Richmond Valley councillor Robert Hayes asked some questions about the status of the Iron Gates at a council meeting. What prompted the questions was never made clear.

Council provided answers to those questions at its 24th June meeting (Item 15.2), following public disclosure of the fact that extensive clearing of the Iron Gates had been going on for some time.

The clearing did not include the original site but an opening up of some old areas that had been cleared when previous owners Paul and Dorothy Adams owned the land in the 1950's and had cows and 7,000 chickens (for egg production) and some limited market gardening.

But new areas were also cleared and attempts made to burn off the windrows. The cleared area is estimated to be at least 10ha. The bulldozer has now disappeared from the site but there is said to be a photographic record of it.

At its June 24 meeting, Richmond Valley Council answered Cr Hayes' questions and made its intentions clear that it is still very supportive of residential development on the site.

That support was demonstrated by the offer by council to reduce Section 64 developer contributions for sewerage connection from \$32,437 to \$8,000 per ET, a more than 75% reduction.

If council approves say 70 houses, that reduces the Section 64 contribution from \$2.27 million to \$560,000, a \$1.71 million saving for the developer. But someone has to pay for the cost, and there are no surprises for guessing who that will be!

So here we have a council which keeps telling us it has no money for infrastructure and has convinced the State government that it should have a 39.1% rate rise over the next five years, while at the same time it is giving a developer a huge discount.

The battle for the protection of the Iron Gates is not over and ratepayers need to be asking serious questions of the current administration, particularly given that it is estimated that the Iron Gates has already cost ratepayers at least a million dollars.

All of this begs the question: 'Whose interests are being served by the current council, and how well informed are councillors about what's happening at the Iron Gates?'

## Divestment Rap

The sweat of your brow,  
sister and bro,  
is being used  
to wreck and abuse  
a shrinking environment  
on its last tenement.  
It is a decoy  
to wreck and destroy  
the things that matter  
so oligarchs get fatter.

For here is the truth  
concealed from aged and  
youth.  
The much-boasted economy  
is a veiled infamy.  
Growth is a rosy pic  
just a painted trick  
to hide from view  
from me and you  
the real costs of progress  
we so blindly invest  
is nothing more than a scam  
– a fraud, a racket, another  
program.

We are told  
sometimes sold  
the much-vaunted idea  
a Rhineheart gonorrhoea  
to carry on with our business  
give no thought to the mess  
of mounds of dregs and trash  
so the economy don't crash.  
We, as always in a hurry  
with take-away coffee  
rush back to work  
for we're no unemployed jerk.  
Yet the fruit of our job  
is being used to rob

future generation  
of its right to delectation.

Time now to stop and look  
we've been led by crook.  
Time to own up –  
time to make up.  
We have the power  
to change forever  
the way we live  
and how we conceive  
and take responsibility  
for the immorality  
of a way of life  
that leads to strife.

The banks are reckless  
with the money they invest,  
notably the big four  
whose profits go offshore  
put millions into mines  
great open pits of grime  
destroying swathes of good  
soil,  
food bowls forever spoiled.  
Forests torn down  
in the name of the crown,  
rare plants and animals  
perish  
for a few to get rich  
while we disclaim  
free of all blame  
yet we let our monies  
be used by cronies.

How can we escape  
the fact that we pillage and  
rape?  
How can we party and dine  
and stay blind



A divestment protest action in Lismore in July

to heartbreaking carnage  
in precious world heritage?  
How can we not hear  
when it's so close to our ear  
the helpless cries of some  
critter  
bereft by the lost of its litter?  
How can we not smell  
the stench of hell  
decaying corpses  
in unrelenting courses?

For our behaviour  
lies in the mirror.  
See the greed in your eyes  
hear others' cries  
own up to what you do  
be part of the crew.

Divest and take away  
the money in their tray.  
Have nothing to do  
with people who screw  
nature for the very few.

Don't be part of this scheme,  
it's a nightmare not a dream.  
Make a change and go  
with banks like Bendigo,  
or your local credit union  
who put their million  
in the local economy  
to benefit you and me.  
So stand up and be counted  
or forever be discredited.

Philippe Dupuy

## Electrohypersensitivity is not a medical term

by Alan Roberts

Some people claim to be able to detect electromagnetic waves because they have a heightened sensitivity compared to other people. Their sensitivity seems to focus on mobile phones, wi-fi and power lines but excludes the typically more powerful signals from TV, radio, CB radio etc.

There's no known physiological mechanism by which we could detect these frequencies and no-one claiming the power of detecting EMR has been able to demonstrate their ability in any of the huge range of double blind tests conducted so far. Here's one that elucidates some poignant factors:

Michael Witthöft, a German scientist who has been looking into medically unexplained syndromes for more than a decade, recruited volunteers, gave them a bevy of psychological tests, and then divided them into two groups. He showed one group a BBC broadcast about the "dangers" of Wi-Fi, featuring all the usual tropes of scare TV: ominous music, uncritical interviews, alarmist narration, and jarring cutaways to cell-phone towers. Witthöft showed the second group a program on mobile-phone security. Then each volunteer was brought into a small room, seated in front of a computer, and fitted with an ungainly headband holding a silver antenna described as a "Wi-Fi amplifier." They were told to push a button—a red Wi-Fi symbol flashed on the screen—and wait fifteen minutes.

There was, in fact, no Wi-Fi in



operation, but Witthöft still observed dramatic effects. Sitting in the room with the (fake) Wi-Fi caused tingling in fingers, hands, and feet; pressure and tingling in the head; stomach aches; and trouble concentrating. Two of the subjects found the experience so unpleasant that they had to stop before their time was up. (Only the more anxious volunteers who saw the scare TV reacted badly.) Witthöft's work, and a similar experiment just published on wind-turbine complaints, draws a direct line between irresponsible journalism and health problems. Following a first scare, according to Witthöft, some people seem to get caught in cycles of negative reinforcement. They experience physical symptoms, leading them to pay closer attention to how their body feels. Hypervigilance leads them to notice more symptoms—is that a new tingle?—and become more alarmed. They then withdraw in an effort to avoid what ails them, which can lead to depression, which can itself aggravate the symptoms. In the worst case, they might head for the nearest cave. (1)

A Korean study of 17 self-reporting

Electrohypersensitives (EHS) and a control group of 20 using smart phones in a double blind test found no ability by the EHS people to detect mobile phone EMR. On the first day of tests the phones were switched on sometimes and on the second day of tests the phones were off but the EHS people still guessed at the same rate despite there being no signal. The control group had a much lower guessing rate each day. (2)

Psychosomatic Medicine (2005 Mar-Apr; 67) reviewed: "Thirty-one experiments testing 725 "electromagnetically hypersensitive" participants. Twenty-four of these found no evidence to support the existence of a biophysical hypersensitivity, whereas 7 reported some supporting evidence. For 2 of these 7, the same research groups subsequently tried and failed to replicate their findings. In 3 more, the positive results appear to be statistical artefacts. The final 2 studies gave mutually incompatible results (ie EMR was beneficial in 1 study). Our metaanalyses found no evidence of an improved ability to detect EMF in "hypersensitive" participants."

One careful study of mobile-phone waves found a significant pattern of headaches, but it turned out the headache cluster fell in the control group—those who had not been exposed to signals. (3)

Perhaps this massive research effort could be better directed at the methods and motivations of those spreading what are seemingly unfounded fears?

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Rhythm Shift are an energetic duo who perform polished renditions of popular covers, over their unusually well-produced backing tracks. They have a regular monthly Sunday afternoon gig at Nimbin Bowling Club, next is Sunday 10th August, from 1pm.



Popular local singer/songwriter Luke Vassella is the feature act at The Channon Markets on Sunday 10th August, and returns to the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 31st.

Winning the 'Australia' category at the Australian Songwriters Association Awards in 2013 and 2010, Luke's songs describe a renewed cultural awareness with a sound that is deceptively simple, yet joyously warm.

Come and discover Luke Vassella for yourself this month.

## James Brook gigs



Melbourne-born singer/songwriter James Brook has been a traveller and adventurer for many years and is a Sea Shepherd crew member.

In Tasmania he performed with the Skreech Tramps and Boarding Party, playing fast-paced folk songs of local life and history. Since 1993 he has toured extensively in Europe and Australia, both as a solo artist and as a member of punk group Ecowar.

A seasoned performer who sways a crowd with music of clear reality and earthy emotion, James' music can be classified as earthy modern 21st century indie-folk.

His new EP *South Ocean* is a mini-album contains seven tracks of original pirate folk songs recorded at sea during

an anti-whaling campaign in Antarctica.

This historic recording could well be the most southerly recorded album ever, much of it done below 70 degrees south, and is a unique, authentic modern-day seafaring classic.

James Brook's current, updated set contains stories from the many people and places he has encountered: world politics from the streets of Europe, convict sea shanties, historical tales of colonial history, backpacker life, smugglers, diving, love and the trials of modern life.

Catch James Brook during August: on Saturday 23rd at the Rage Against Abbott gig at the Italo Club, Lismore; and on Sunday 31st at Billinudgel Hotel with Soy Division.



The Lismore Jazz Club proudly presents Acid Bleed at the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday August 31st, from 2pm to 6pm. Admission is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non members. School children are free.

Acid Bleed is an original five piece band playing a virtuoso blend of Hot Gypsy Swing with a Latin Groove. Their repertoire covers a broad range... from familiar standards to plucky Acid Bleed originals ..... all with the hot ACID treatment.....

Based in Lismore and surrounding environs, they have been together for nearly five years and in that time they have put their stamp on the local jazz scene. A popular regular house pleaser at the New Tattersall's Hotel in Lismore on jazz nights for over three years, they have developed a loyal following of supporters and well wishers. They played the Lismore Jazz Club in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and many other venues as well.

On lead Electric guitar is Adam Blenkhorn. His feisty playing and devilishly good looks have been known to cause palpitations. Hold on to your pacemakers and your jewellery. First aid will be provided if necessary.

Jimmy (Shoes) Chiu is on Spanish and Gypsy guitars. He will dazzle you with his devilishly fast fingers. And that's even before he picks up the guitar. Also watch out for his quirky dirty dancing.

Josh (Big Wood) Kirk is on upright bass. He is a collector of fine double basses and fast cars and is otherwise a fine student of the human condition.

Peter Costin-Neilsen is on drums / percussion and manacles. He keeps the band in line with his persuasive methods. He is also said to be very handsome, but doesn't know it.

Andrew Horowitz plays tenor and soprano saxophones and electric violin and mandolin. He just can't make up his mind.

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## August Gigs

Friday 8th	7.30pm	Method
Saturday 9th	6.30pm	TBA
Sunday 10th	4pm	Cliff Fletcher
Thursday 14th	6.30pm	Cari Cari
Friday 15th	7.30pm	Monster Guitars
Saturday 16th	6.30pm	Guy Kachel
Sunday 17th	4pm	David Knight
Thursday 21st	6.30pm	Bo Jenkins
Friday 22nd	7.30pm	Hoochers
Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	E ~ Lions
Sunday 24th	4pm	Ben Purnell
Thursday 28th	6.30pm	Simon Meola
Friday 29th	7.30pm	Sole Output
Saturday 30th	6.30pm	Trombone Kellie
Sunday 31st	4pm	Rob Yeatman

All Gigs are Free of Charge

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## The Channon Open Mic



Arty (left) performed a mixture of covers and originals  
Mike came to listen and performed on a borrowed guitar

by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

Our last open mic on 27th July was blessed with a cloudless sunny day on the lawn of The Channon Butterfactory Tavern.

Despite the competition from Opera at The Channon, there was a good turnout of both audience and performers.

A popular set from regular stalwart, Malcolm Young, warmed the audience for the acts to follow – regulars Toby and Glenn and first timers Arty and recent refugee from Carolina, USA, Mike.



Sunday was the last official meeting of The Channon Folk Club as a name change to The Channon Open Mic is expected to attract a wider cross section of performers and audience. Although we have always embraced music from all genres, our title did not reflect that reality.

The first gathering for The Channon Open Mic will be Sunday 24th August at 2pm. We would love to see you there. Bring a musical instrument, your singing voice or a poem if you wish, or just come and enjoy the talent. Sweet music.



## Devotional Compositions

Brisbane-based trio Spirit of Bhakti will be in Mullumbimby on Saturday 9th August.

Featuring Radha Bornstein (vocals, guitar), Menaka Visvanathan-Thomas (South Indian vocals) and Shen Flindell (tabla), they create music to nourish the soul, with original devotional compositions interlaced with Sanskrit mantra and words from the mystical poets like Rumi, Mirabai and Lord Krishna.

Singer/songwriter Radha Bornstein presents her original devotional compositions via her soulful vocals and acoustic guitar. Raised in a yoga community in California, Radha has been writing devotional songs and poetry from the age of six. She has released several albums, and won a Sunny Award for Original Song of the Year at the age of 16.

Menaka Visvanathan-Thomas weaves a hauntingly beautiful pattern of ancient Indian melody. Menaka has been singing, learning and loving South Indian Classical music since the young age of five years, and received tutelage under the inspiring guidance of her mother,

Vijaya Visvanathan, the principal of the Sri Krishna Music Academy in Brisbane.

Menaka has performed at many events, including the Woodford Folk Festival, QLD Multicultural Festival and Encounters India Festival.

Shen Flindell brings the music to life with his percussive brilliance, uniting each song with sensitive and intricate rhythms.

Since being initiated into the Benares Gharana of tabla in 1994, by one of the great masters of the style, the Late Pandit Kaviraj Ashutosh Bhattacharya, Shen has become one of Australia's leading tabla players. He has been studying, playing and teaching for 20 years, with performances across Australia, India and Japan.

Shen is the visioning force behind the upcoming 'Sangeet Mela' – North Indian Classical Music and Dance Festival to be held in Brisbane on Sunday 7th September.

Spirit of Bhakti will be performing on Saturday 9th August, 7pm at St Martins Anglican Parish Hall, 38 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby, \$15 at the door, bring a cushion.

Details: 0428-539-232.

## This Guy rocks

Guy Kachel grew up in Tamworth the Country Music Capital of Australia. Music was always one of his first loves and it was the music that inspired him to pick up the guitar and start to emulate his heroes.

He esteems and embellishes the legacy of icons such as JJ Cale, John Hiatt, Rodney Crowell and Lowell George with his style of playing and writing.

This country/blues/rock-style artist left Tamworth in 2004 and moved to the Byron hinterland in search of stories and tales to enhance his songwriting repertoire.

The result: wry observations about people immersed in their dreams, dreams that some never escape. Guy's



live shows leave you with no doubt this passionate performer's heart and soul are committed to his music.

Guy Kachel will play Nimbin Hotel on Saturday 16th August, and Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 24th.

## TROMBONE KELLIE



Ms Trombone Kellie and her Muddy Roaders are a 'must-see' live 6-piece band with a twist of Blues, Jazz/Swing, Gospel, Country, Rockabilly and much more, that will liven up any occasion! Appearing at South Tweed Sports Club Saturday 23rd August from 7.30pm, tickets \$20 on the door; or for free at Nimbin Hotel on Saturday 30th.

## HEMP HEADLINES

### Medicinal marijuana: Nationals MP Kevin Anderson reveals proposal to 'license' patients and carers [ABC]

Cannabis permit cards similar to drivers' licences could be issued to terminally ill patients in New South Wales to allow them to carry medicinal marijuana. State Nationals MP Kevin Anderson is planning to distribute draft legislation for the decriminalisation of medicinal marijuana to his parliamentary colleagues in the coming days. The member for Tamworth announced his intention to draft the private member's bill in May, but Premier Mike Baird said his support would depend on how well it addressed supply and regulation issues. Mr Anderson said the bill would propose a licensing system and a medicinal cannabis register that listed terminally ill patients and authorised carers who could legally possess up to 15 grams of the drug. "If the police do come across someone [possessing marijuana] then they will be able to show their card," Mr Anderson said.

### Greens unveil push to legalise marijuana [Canberra Times]

Terminally and chronically ill Canberrans would be allowed to grow marijuana and use the drug to alleviate their pain and symptoms, under a proposal by the ACT Greens to legalise medical cannabis. Greens minister Shane Rattenbury has released new draft laws and a discussion paper for community feedback on the proposal. Mr Rattenbury believed the time was right to consider the benefits of medical marijuana. "A growing number of countries around the world have legislated to legalise its use and public surveys conducted by the Commonwealth Health Department show nearly 70 per cent of Australians support legalising cannabis for medical purposes," he said. Calvary Hospital emergency medicine specialist Dr David Caldicott said he supported legalising medical marijuana. "I think the issue regarding medical marijuana is one of compassion. What we're talking about is providing an alternative tier of symptom relief for people who are largely dependent on a far more dangerous drug, which is morphine. To provide an alternative to that is always good," he said. He said a supervised, mandated system would also open the door to more medical research into medical marijuana.

### Australia tops UN report into drug use [National Nine News]

Australia has topped the United Nation's 2014 World Drug Report with a higher proportion of people getting high than anywhere else in the world. We had the highest recorded drug use in the world for ecstasy, 2nd for prescribed or black market opioids such as codeine and morphine, 3rd for methamphetamines, 4th for cocaine and 7th for cannabis use.

## STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

Funny world. I've been ordered to go up to Nimbin of all places. What a joke.

It's nothing compared to the capitals, just a giant puffball of publicity, but the big boys are worried that a guy they've had up there in deep cover might have crossed the lines, might be giving some of those hippies a GREEN light, haha, get it? He might have "friends" among those loonies he's allowing to get away with it. I'm supposed to make like I'm there to help WEED out the bad apples, but really I'll be reporting on him... what a laugh.

It's a dirty business this undercover work. Treachery in all directions. You can't even rely

on your superiors to back you up if things get embarrassing.. but you are still supposed to do embarrassing things to get the goods on the people you're going to GRASS on, oh yeah.. sick business this reality.

Oh well I've arrived in this tin POT village with all its hairies running around. Seems like every second person on the street is trying to sell you something. At least it's not like some places. "Little boys", "little girls" and "my sister" aren't on the list. I've got to get some scruffier clothes though, to fit in here. I don't understand. If they're all selling drugs and making a fortune, why is the arse hanging out of most of their pants? Sydney or Melbourne it's not. Most of these guys wouldn't survive there.

They'd get eaten alive by the real arseholes, stood over, ripped off and bashed up. They're probably only here because they can't make it in the city.

Where the hell is this "Bethany"? Stupid code names. He's supposed to be a master of disguise. Might even be made up like a chick. Sick business this. I'm waiting outside the Post Office like they told me, waiting for someone to say "Everything's out of season right now", and I've got to say, "Surely there's something?" Who thinks these things up? It's getting late. All I've heard all day is "Want some weed?", "Marijuana?" and "Cookies?", so at least I look like a possible undercover. No-one's called me a narc yet. Bugger this. I'm going down to the pub for a cold one.

Pub's not bad. Usual mix of drunks, dealers and loudmouths. Back verandah seems OK, even a few customers lighting up spliffs. They get away with it if the stocky

barman doesn't catch 'em. He makes 'em put 'em out. Some of these women have a laugh like a chainsaw. I suppose that's part of why we get drunk. So something like that doesn't stop us. With the number of things that can put you off, it's a wonder the race has survived. Maybe alcohol has saved us from extinction? I'll hang on to that thought. "Another one bartender!"

Hullo! Things are looking up. Nice sheila chatting me up. Guess she's bored with the locals. Nothing like fresh flesh to get you excited. "Let me buy you another." Really, she's not the prettiest girl in the world, but a good line of patter and a nice pair of personalities if you know what I mean. Strewth, I'm getting pissed here. Animal? Yeah well, I'm a bloke, and anyway, what makes you think humans aren't animals. In this line of work you don't see anything else. "Look darlin', why don't I book a room, and we can piss on after closing?"

Bewdy! Always best not to say, "How about it?" Better to be indirect like. Not many girls like it direct. Poor taste.

"God, I'm pissed," the mating call of the blonde. Tiny rooms, bit bare. Not much of a bed, but any port in a storm. She is really pissed, so I reckon me chances are good. Reckon she's flaked, lying back on the bed, clothes all messy, slurring away. I'll just cop a feel. Holy cow! Two things, she suddenly sits bolt upright and slams me one, but I've grabbed a couple of round hairies, so it's a bloody bloke! I belt him back. A right hook to the mouth. Lay him out. Damn this village of the damned. Are any of these sheilas real? Is there anything good in this village?

In a fit of irony I blurt out, "Surely there's something?" The bloodied mess on the floor croaks out, "Everything's out of season right now"

Oh no! I've groped and bashed the local undercover!

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## Blue Knob's elemental



'Blue Knob in Mist' by Jodi Calkin



'Blue Holes' by Sue Boardman



'Fire & Ice' by Helen Cooling

The theme for the new exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery is 'elemental'. The word elemental conjures up a myriad of ideas, images and feelings. It can be the most fundamental, primal needs of mankind, or symbolic of powerful natural forces or passions.

We often see the elements represented as Earth, Air, Fire and Water, and are a basis for many healing modalities and spiritual beliefs.

The artists and members of Blue Knob Hall Gallery have been given a wide ranging theme for this exhibition and the work in this show represents once again that art is a powerful force and artists can be very passionate about their work.

The exhibition runs until 28th September.

### Next Artists and Friends lunch

The next lunch will be held on Thursday 28th August 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.

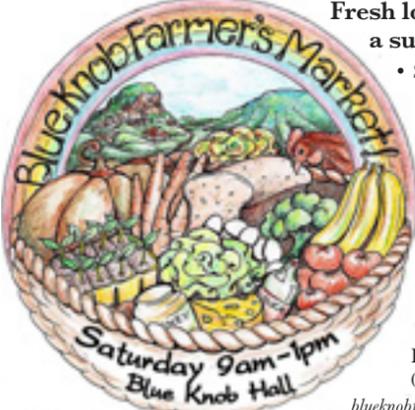
### Blue Knob Hall Cafe news

We will be starting an exciting new concept at the Cafe in August - 'Food Lover's Sunday' which starts on 17th August with a Moroccan feast by guest chef Houssein. Food Lover's Sunday will feature a different ethnic feast every Sunday. Bookings are absolutely essential.

### Pumpkin Festival & Bush Dance

The annual Pumpkin Festival and Bush

Dance held on Saturday 26th July was a great success once again, as the 4th birthday celebration for the Blue Knob Farmers Market and a fundraiser for the Hall. The amount raised was \$1350, and many thanks goes from all of us at Blue Knob Hall Gallery and Cafe to all the amazing work by volunteers that went into making this really fun annual event happen once again. See you all next year!



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## Arts in August

### An Afternoon of Artful Actions

Saturday 9th August, 1.30pm, Lismore City Hall, free

Presented by NORPA, Lismore Regional Gallery and the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, a new Generator cross art-form theatre work in development called *Dreamer* has brought together four prolific local writers who have each created a short story about a dreamer that captures the spirit of the Northern Rivers - a melting pot of visionaries, inventors, the creative or creatively mad, the rebellious and the do-ers. Writers are Melissa Lucashenko (reading by Rhoda Roberts), S Sorrensen, Mandy Nolan and Jim Hearn.

The afternoon begins with a panel discussion, Art Over Empathy: Art and a Better World, featuring Deborah Kelly, Leonie Lane, Rhoda Roberts and S. Sorrensen. Artworks from

Lismore Regional Gallery's exhibition *Protest Songs: Artful Actions* will be on show, a selection of music that challenges the status quo will be performed by The Northern Rivers Conservatorium Youth Jazz Orchestra from 3-3.30pm before the *Dreamers* performance, followed by an Olive and Luca pop-up diner and bar from 5-7pm.

### Through These Lines

Wednesday 20th August, 11am-1pm, Lismore City Hall, \$28-39 Tickets: 1300 066 772

Follow Sister Florence Whiting on her four-year odyssey on tours of duty in the Dardanelles, Lemnos, Egypt, France and the Western Front.

Based on the letters and diaries of Australian army nurses in the World War I, *Through These Lines* by Cheryl Ward offers a unique theatrical experience, performed by a talented



ensemble cast of six with authentic costumes and props, for an immersive experience of the tumult of war.

### Back Alley Gallery Street Party

Saturday 30th August, from 3pm, Lismore laneways

National and Local Street Artists accompanied by awesome DJ's and bands will enliven the laneways of Lismore's central business district. Enjoy the live music and street art at this family friendly event.

### Of The Heart

Until 31st August, The Channon Gallery

To celebrate Arts in August, The Channon Gallery will be dedicating the front of the gallery to an exhibition of Lismore district artists, including Aña Wojak, Dan McDonnell, Gery Mews, Lindsay Hunt, Rikki Fisher, Shaun C. Murphy, Steven Perrin, Theodore Kennett-Raj, Dawn Thirlaway, Michael Hallam, Anna Nordström and R. J. Poole.

A TASTE OF ART

[www.blueknobgallery.com](http://www.blueknobgallery.com)



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GALLERY • CAFE



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**10th August**  
8.30am - 4pm

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**Luke Vasella**  
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## Woodart

Italian-born artist Judy Rhum has moved to the Northern Rivers area, and is now producing art with a distinct regional flavour. She says:

"I've a strong passion for graffiti and street art since ages... I really like the way colors of drawings and cities mix and match each other.

"When I started painting walls I was living in Milan, then when I moved from the city to the countryside I learnt



how to take advantage of the colors of nature and contrast bright paintings.

"So, I started this new project: Woodart, painting with brushes and natural colors on some dead trees randomly found in the wood."

See more of her unusual work at: <http://judyrhum.tumblr.com/>



# Nimbin Artists Gallery



'Invisible Threads' by Katherine Perrott

by Pauline Ahern

Winter chill is upon us and our thoughts turn to warmth and comfort. Let the Nimbin Artists Gallery help satisfy your needs.

We have an eclectic range of tea

pots and cups, coffee mugs and soup bowls perfect for wrapping your chilled hands around whilst supping on a hot beverage.

You could slip on a pair of Susanne's hand-felted slippers, hug to your bosom a Helena hand-felted



Ceramic bowl by Lee Ryan

hot water bottle, sit in front of the fire and gaze up in wonder at your newly purchased painting, print or photo on the wall.

It's a lovely time to be in the garden with maintenance and upkeep and find a special place for one of the unique sculptures in stone, ceramic or metal the gallery has to offer.

Step out on a winter's evening in a individually crafted wearable art creation, the gallery has jackets, vests, jerkins, scarves and fru-frus,

a little something to set you apart from the crowd at surprisingly modest prices.

Are you a local artist? The committee (all volunteers) are interested in expanding the range of local art. Drop in to the gallery with your portfolio or email the gallery at: [nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com)

The gallery also has a facebook page for comments and updates of events.

There has been a lot of interest in Lee Ryan's ceramics and we are pleased to extend the duration of 'guest artist' for Lee until the next hanging on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Guest artists are 'out of area' creatives who add a different perspective to our local artists, do you know anyone who may fit the bill? Please contact the gallery, we have a hanging of new works every six weeks and can accommodate at least one guest artist per hanging.

Congratulations to local artists Susanne Waldern for winning



'The Great Dame' by Donna Sharam

the encouragement award at the Border Art Exhibition and the extraordinary talented Lae Oldmeadow for the overall winner.

Drop into the gallery any day for a squiz and a chat with our friendly volunteers.

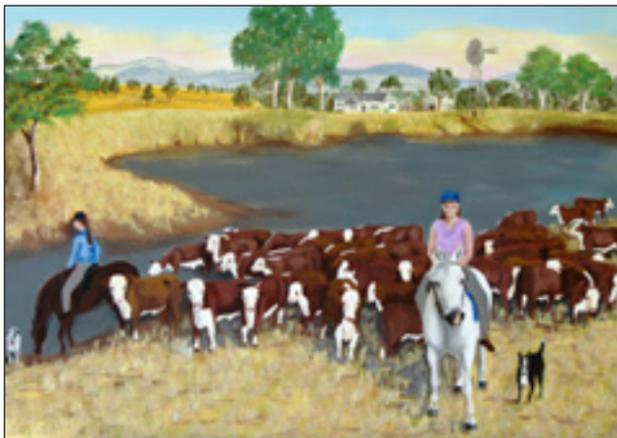
## Shared Art

The Roxy Gallery, Kyogle is proud to present an exhibition by Anne Langley, Mahogany B, Ruth Dixon, Carol Fickling and other guest artists.

This is the second combined exhibition from this group of eclectic ladies who meet regularly in a shed and share thoughts on literature, collective experiences and accumulated knowledge and discuss insights into all things political and experiential.

While bringing on-going paintings and new sketches to the group, sharing newly discovered nuances about art making and painting techniques, their agenda of sharing collective thoughts is not just limited to art practices. They regularly voice their political opinions, both of the local, state and federal governments and their individual views on the appropriateness of some of the specifics the government's choices.

This diverse small group of artistic women each with their own definite opinions, their own understandings and



'Taking the steers out' by Anne Langley

individual skills, have recently sought professional advice in technical development of paintings and are now all entering a new and exciting phase of artistic pursuit.

The exhibition runs until 30th August.

## Felt together



by Suzanne McGauley

"Felting" is the term most often used to define the transformation of a protein fibre into this warm and wonderful fabric. In the strictest sense, felting describes the procedure of taking batts of wool fleece (raw wool that has not yet been spun into yarn), adding hot, soapy water and kneading the wool batt until the fibre scales interlock.

The word "filz" is found in Old High German. This language was in use prior to the 12th century, an indication that when felting today we are continuing to explore a very ancient craft. The microscopic scales that cover individual filaments of animal hair are responsible for the fibre's unique ability to mat or felt together. Felting occurs when the fibre is moist and physically agitated, and is enhanced by a change in the neutral pH to either acidic or alkaline conditions and the application of heat. With warm water and soap these scales swell open, causing the filaments to snag and interlock with one another when agitated. This knotting causes shrinkage, resulting in dense, strong felted fibre.

Black Sheep Farm's felt-making workshops are designed to introduce the basic techniques used to make felt. Students will be able to create a flat felted piece of art like a wall hanging, a table runner, a wrap, a nuno felted scarf or wrap or to work three dimensional. Wool tops used are mainly from merino sheep.

Participants work independently on their own trestle tables and can create their own individual piece. We encourage parent child teams to work together on one project as well. It's a good opportunity for friends to spend a day working creatively in a beautiful friendly environment. A felting workshop is an enjoyable day of learning the art of felting in good company.

The first part of the day will be used to design and lay out the coloured wool and to embellish the surface of the wool.

In the afternoon the actual felting process will take place, wetting and rolling the wool. Materials will include Merino wool tops in a wide range of colours, hand spun wool, tussah, silk, mohair, and exotic threads and fibres. At the end of the day students can take home a unique piece of creation.

All materials supplied, as well as morning tea with freshly baked cake and cuppas. Bring a healthy vegetarian dish to share for lunch.

The next felting class at 'Black Sheep Farm' Nimbin – in the Creative Learning Centre – is on Saturday 23rd August, from 9am to 4pm. Cost \$80 including all materials and morning tea. Classes are for all levels. Limited spaces. Group bookings welcome – get in contact with us for special deals.

For more info and bookings go to: [www.blacksheepfarm.com.au](http://www.blacksheepfarm.com.au) or phone Suzanne 02 6689-1095.

## Master Artist



'Out of the darkness' Sumatran tiger

Nimbin wildlife artist Rikki Fisher has returned from a trip to Cary, North Carolina in the USA. The reason for the visit was to exhibit her artwork at the 3rd Annual International Scratchboard Exhibition.

Earlier this year the International Society of Scratchboard Artists declared Rikki a "Master Scratchboard Artist", one of only 15 in the world.

In 2013 Rikki won the top award in the Open category in Vancouver, Canada, taking home the Gold Award – Best in Show.

This year Rikki entered her work in the Master's category and came away with Bronze for her work entitled 'Out of the Darkness'.

Prior to the exhibition Rikki was one of three judges invited to jury the Open category. Rikki said, "It was a huge privilege to be invited to be a judge. There were 71 entries in this particular



Rikki demonstrating her technique using an airbrush

section and the high standard of work made it hard to decide."

Following the Opening night, a weekend workshop was held as part of the exhibition. Rikki was invited to be one of the teachers, demonstrating her scratching technique by using a fibreglass brush and also an airbrush.

Rikki was delighted to meet so many of the artists she previously only knew via email and Facebook. It is unlikely she will attend next year's exhibition in Arizona, but Rikki is looking forward to the 2017 exhibition to be held in Australia.

## I'll be your mirror

In August 1974, Lou Reed toured Australia for the first time.

A woman wearing a Transformer sweater attended his first press conference, and Lou sent her to find the person who had made it, with the following message: "I've decided not to sue, and would like to order 20."

The woman who made the original sweaters now lives locally and has joined forces

with a group of local artists and musicians to present I'll be your mirror, a tribute to the late great poet/musician in knitted form.

The exhibition, consisting of knitted garments, photographs, videos, projections and a selection of Lou Reed music, both live and recorded, will open on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August (Opening Event) at the Serpentine Gallery.



A series of 11 new Transformer sweaters (modelled above), one for

each song on the album, was designed to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.