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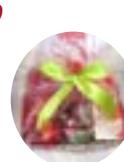


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# THE CASINO

## History in the making

by Dean Draper

History is happening at Bentley – a coming together of a wide cross-section of our community under the same banner, a social movement the likes of, we've never seen before.

This is all thanks to the environmentalist visionaries who have shown the way along the path to sustainability and the mums and dads who have worked so hard over the last five years to raise awareness of the risks of invasive unconventional gas mining. We have now reached the tipping point and entered an exciting new phase of a real mass movement.

The community now answers the call in very large numbers. Thousands of people came together when called to Bentley at 4am one Monday morning. Thousands



more turned up the next call out, people from Casino, Kyogle, Lismore and right across the Northern Rivers.

Among them were farmers, tradesmen, doctors, lawyers, hippies, young and old. Alone these groups are easily isolated and overlooked. Now this coalition of community

groups has formed an unstoppable momentum which the mining industry and the government must listen to.

When you come to Camp Liberty, drive in carefully past our friendly traffic controllers. Take a right at the coffee shop, which by

the way makes a mean soy latte, then continue on past the orderly rows of tents to the carpark near the sportsfield which may have a game of soccer or volleyball happening.

The first place to visit is the welcome tent near the front gate to get information on the camp. Have a chat with the local Bentley farmers who are here every day supporting the blockade against Metgasco.

Feel free to have a tour around the camp, visit the Tarp Mahal at the sacred fire. You might like to take a leisurely stroll up the road to Gates A and B to meet the Simmos, have a cuppa with them, join in the yoga or meditation class. You might even catch a rock legend or two playing: so far we've seen Xavier Rudd (*pictured*), Wolfmother, Pete Murray, Ash Grunwald, John Butler, Blue King Brown and many more.

We're making history. Will you show up at Bentley?

## Richmond Valley Council report card

by Liz Stops

Since June 2013, when its positioning statement on Coal Seam Gas was abandoned, my interest has mainly been to monitor Richmond Valley Council's possible facilitation of unconventional gas mining. Council may make many decisions that benefit the local community, however, while it insists on asserting a position of 'not for and not against' unconventional gas mining, this issue overrides any others.

In my view, resolutions Council makes that may oppose or facilitate the gas industry will have lasting implications on other currently viable commercial enterprises as well as determining future prospects for burgeoning businesses that require a clean green image. Commitments Council makes now are critical to a locality that could be full of promise for productive, ecologically and financially viable ventures providing long term, sustainable employment.

Clarity on RVC's position has consistently been sought during public access time at monthly meetings but responses to talks and answers to



questions have almost always been non-existent, obscure or diversionary.

Despite major problems being raised with Council regarding the Traffic Control Plan proposed for the site of Metgasco's approved exploration well at Bentley Road, the plan was passed without any debate. Concerns included Metgasco being favoured in the plan's design, the presence of Thomas George in the committee recommending approval and the major safety issue of pedestrians placed in danger by being confined under a crumbling cliff face. The latter was a matter that police, when it was brought to their attention, required Council to address.

After a question regarding provision

of a bar in the DA submitted by Forest Enterprises for Metgasco's temporary workers camp, the General Manager made an assurance that no bar had been approved. However, the approved plan does include a bar. This is irresponsible in a potentially volatile situation where the voluntarily alcohol-free protectors camp is close by.

Recently, a new DA for an expanded protectors camp was initially rejected by RVC with no opportunity to address perceived failings, which is a denial of procedural fairness. Is RVC running a political agenda in support of Metgasco? Could RVC be under pressure from the State Government to force a toxic industry on an unwilling population?

## The Jabiru – Australia's largest wading bird

by Angela Froud

The wetlands of our region are the habitat for a wide variety of water birds. Perhaps the most spectacular and exciting to see is the Jabiru or Black-necked Stork.

This huge wading bird has long red legs and stands up to 1.5 m in height. The neck and head are iridescent black, which gleams in the sunlight. The body is white, with black wings which span 2.3m. Its diet consists of frogs, tadpoles, freshwater invertebrates and plants, fish, and eels. The long black bill probes the water in search of food.

This bird is listed as endangered. The wetlands of the Northern Rivers region are an important nesting ground for Jabirus, who need secluded dense trees next to water for breeding. They build a large platform made of sticks for a clutch of 2-5 eggs.

The Jabiru Greenibeinga wetland in North Casino is named after this magnificent bird. Sometimes a Jabiru can be seen from the dirt road that passes by the wetland area, or you can park and take a walk to view more bird species. Jabirus are shy, and you should not try to get close to them. They may



Jabirus at Doubtful Creek

also be seen on dams and wetlands when driving along country roads, so keep a look out for them.

Wetlands are vital for the survival of many kinds of birds, providing food and breeding sites. Inland species travel to our region during dry conditions in search of food. Our wetland habitats have been disturbed by clearing and draining, and

by pollutants from fertilisers and pesticides. Wetlands are also under threat from gas field development in the region.

If wetlands are not protected, we are in danger of losing our magnificent Jabiru, the only Australian Stork, and numerous other species of birds, amphibians and invertebrates which depend on this habitat.

## Bat habitat under attack

by Linda Wif  
M.Sc (Environmental Management)

Richmond Valley Council plans to cut down trees along the Richmond River in an attempt to address a perceived problem with a bat colony that has taken residence there.

They have quoted complaints from two anonymous people to justify this action. There has been no community consultation or environmental impact study as required by convention prior to this action. Instead they have reportedly called on the NSW Government to 'relax red tape' around the culling of bats to address the 'problem'.

The NSW Government in turn is suggesting Council should remove trees and prune vegetation as a way of controlling the bat colony when in fact no proposal to alter riparian vegetation should proceed without a full ecological assessment. The suggestion by the Council and the NSW Government to act otherwise is simplistic and irresponsible.

There is an important issue here – simplistic solutions that target bats

or trees in isolation ignore the holistic nature of the river ecology and the health of other species that depend on this habitat for their survival. For example, removing riparian vegetation will allow more sunlight through the canopy, resulting in increased weed infestation, possibly altering water flow which in turn can impact on fish habitats.

The bats, which are roosting along the banks of the Richmond River, include the threatened Grey Headed Flying Fox. It is Australia's only endemic flying-fox and occurs in the coastal belt from Queensland to Victoria. As the species must forage for fruit and nectar where available, its distribution varies widely between seasons and years which means their roosts are only temporary. The Grey-headed Flying-fox is vitally important for the regeneration and genetic health of forest ecosystems in eastern Australia, performing pollination and seed dispersal for many native trees and in turn serving as food for other species.

Clearing of native vegetation for human development is the key threat



to this important native species. Therefore the solution is to preserve existing forests and plant more trees and not the reverse. Obviously, the bats of the Richmond River would rather not share what remains of their home with a population of destructive violent humans, but until their natural habitats are protected and restored, they don't have a choice.

## Casino Environment Centre turns one

by Philippe Dupuy

The Casino Environment Centre (CEC) was born out of a need to counteract the lies and disinformation that mining companies such as Metgasco, have been spreading in this region.

Last month CEC celebrated its first birthday. In this short time, through the hard work of its volunteers and that of the Richmond Valley GAG members, we have developed a friendly and positive relationship with many small businesses, farmers and residents of this shire. The common thread that binds us all has been the potential destructive impact of unconventional gas extraction in this region.

It is clear that such a dirty industry at our very doorstep is unacceptable. It will turn this region into a gasfield which will significantly impact on our water supply, pollute soil and air, create noise and dust, let alone the social consequences of thousands of bored workers in a small town. To say that this industry will make life unlivable is not an exaggeration. However, the gas scare has been a blessing in disguise, as it has helped bring back the focus on Casino.

Casino and surroundings are truly a place of beauty and inspiration. The wetlands still hide wonders. It is a land where the Jabiru (Black-necked stork) visit, also Magpie Geese, Freckled Ducks and Australian Shovelers. Hundreds of Glossy Ibises heading to their roost is a daily sight. There are still platypuses in the waterways and echidnas foraging in suburban backyards.

There is good work being done by Council and volunteer staff such as the Casino Community Garden, an amazing project backed by the Casino Neighborhood Centre. Go for a short stroll across the walking bridge into the community garden at Queen Elizabeth Park on the corner of Adam and Hartley Streets in South Casino.

Everyone is welcome anytime, or phone 6662-5435 to find out what events are coming up. There is also market day every first Thursday of the month in Walker Street, starting at 5pm.

Beef Week of course is

fast approaching (last week of May). This event is very

important to farmers of this

region and a gasfield would

be disastrous to the beef

industry.

Next time you need to shop, shun the big supermarkets, go for a wander and enjoy shopping the local, old-fashioned way. The fruit shop, chocolate shop, quilting and habby, clothes, jeweller shop, shoe shops and recycled shops all have interesting and unusual things to offer and friendly personalised service. Shop local and keep the money in the town.

While you're out and about don't forget to pop into the Casino Environment Centre at 137 Barker Street to catch up on the latest news, see what local produce is on offer or check out the extensive range of natural and organic products. If you have some spare time volunteers are always welcome – it's a great way to meet new like-minded people and stay in the loop.

This town has so much potential – it can be alive and



Volunteers keep the doors open

thriving but it needs all of us to make it happen. To achieve this we in turn we need to re-empower ourselves so we can stick together and support a clean, green and sustainable local economy. The threat

of annihilation has brought us together, so let's use this tremendous energy to bring locally based prosperity and employment to this special place as well as nurturing the community connections.

### Movies expose corporate greed

Video Reviews by Ana Cussinet

The recent Matt Damon movie *Promised Land* documents one small American country town's fight to save their community from being destroyed by Unconventional Gas.

*Promised Land* shows the tactics that big oil and gas employ to divide and conquer rural communities for their own greedy end. Lies, deceit, subversion and misinformation are straight out of the Unconventional Gas playbook exposed in Damon's movie.

Another great watch is *Erin Brockovich* with Julia Roberts (Oscar Winner for Best Actress in this film). A great example of corporate greed at the expense of public health. The 2000 film is a true story about the 1993 lawsuit against Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which was contaminating the drinking water in the town of Hinkley, California with high levels of carcinogenic hexavalent chromium, used to fight corrosion in a natural gas pipeline.

In the movie we see how a single mother and her legal team brought a small town to its feet, and a huge corporation to its knees. Produced by Danny DeVito.

These movies are available at Network Video, Casino.





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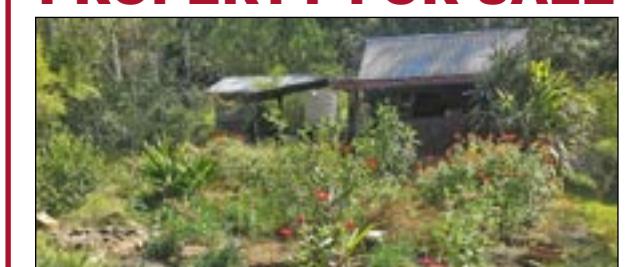
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## The Chad and Murray Gig

Don't miss a great gig featuring Chad Wilkins with Murray Kyle on Saturday 31st May, 7pm at Nimbin School of Arts Hall - \$15. Dariush will be joining them with his spoons and banjo, and Chai and goodies will be available.

Originally hailing from the Lake Tahoe region of California, Chad Wilkins embarked on travel and humanitarian aid work before landing in Byron Shire. Chad recently launched his debut CD, and has been performing a number of concerts on the North Coast. **DanaLee** from Spirited Events

caught up with Chad over a cup of tea... **Chad, how have your shows and CD been received?**

Very well so far! I've been really humbled at the great response my album "Show Us The Way Of The Heart" is getting. And the live shows as well, people tell me it's good, haha, people say they really connect with their hearts through my music.

**Well, that is what I experienced last week in Mullum! Tell me more about your music...**

Well, I believe my music is a bridge between two worlds. I guess the idea

of conscious music like mine is to help folks to open up on a deeper heart level, as well as spiritually.

**What do you mean by 'conscious music'?**

"Conscious" - "aware" - "awake" - "present" - getting all we can out of life, living from the heart, rather than being side-tracked by all the "beautiful distractions" we are surrounded by... like I say in one of my songs 'Find Your Peace'.

**Has your life journey, philosophy and spiritual journey influenced your music and lyrics?**

Greatly! I try to let all of my artistic expression find its source in the deeper parts of me. I like to leave it to the listener to find expression for their own deeper self in it too, but yeah, for me it's all based in my journey.

**What's next for Chad Wilkins and band?**

Well, a bunch of stuff around the region, touring down the coast toward Sydney at the end of May leading up to the Nimbin show with the band on the 31st and another smaller solo show at Crystal Creek on 6th June. Then I'm off to the States for a three-month California tour. I'll be back in Oz early September, looking to record the next album early next year!

Music samples at:  
[www.chadwilkinsmusic.com](http://www.chadwilkinsmusic.com)

## The Channon Folk Club



by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

Local songsters Norm and Cathy Bell opened the proceedings at our last open mic on Sunday 27th April.

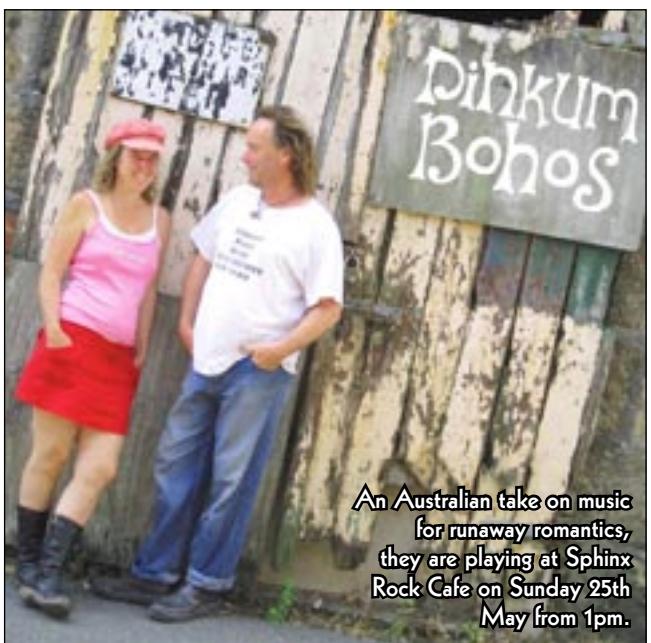
It probably wasn't such a great decision to set up outside on the day. No matter how hard we tried, we couldn't will that storm to swing around us.

The second song into the opening set was marred by a medium heavy shower, but the small dedicated group of listeners was not phased.

Next up were Norm's Kyogle friends Pete on guitar and Tony on bass who played a number of blues standards, with Norm showing his versatility by joining in on drums.

A few of our regular locals rounded off the afternoon, including Joy (pictured).

Sunday 25th May is our next open mic. Please feel free to join us with a musical contribution or to just listen in. Don't forget we are now starting at 2pm, at The Channon Tavern.



An Australian take on music for runaway romantics, they are playing at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 25th May from 1pm.

## Bach to the Future



Following the warm rapport established at their last concert in Kyogle, Trio Continentale return by popular demand to the Kyogle Memorial Hall on Saturday 17th May at 2pm.

Kyogle and District Arts Council (KDAC) are delighted that the response to Trio Continentale's last concert has inspired the members of three piece ensemble to piece together a new program which will treat our Kyogle audience to a wide range of works from Classical to Contemporary.

This afternoon event has been titled 'Bach To The Future' and will comprise of further works from some of the composers previously played at the '3+More' Concert the KDAC hosted last year.

Included in this production will be music from Reinecke, Bohm and Piazzolla – and Trio Continentale have developed some exciting new arrangements of works from Bach and Caccini, along with premier arrangements of popular movie themes.

'Bach To The Future' will also include a wonderful set by local Lismore musician Steven Mueller. Steven recently performed at David Brink's 'Oprasy' exhibition opening and his amazing classical guitar and Elvis Presley renditions were thoroughly enjoyed by all the guests. The KDAC decided to invite Steven along to support Trio Continentale.

'Bach To The Future' will be a delightful afternoon of live acoustic music, and of course, afternoon tea! Tickets can be purchased at the door at prices: Adults \$10; <16yo \$5; Family \$25 (2a, 2c) prior to show commencement at 2pm, and once again the Kyogle and District Arts Council will be supplying a wonderful afternoon tea for a gold coin donation.

In a nutshell: something for everyone!



### Guest Artists

The OKA boys showed up for a memorable pop-up gig at Bentley Blockade on Saturday 3rd May.

Photo: David Lowe

## CAXTON STREET JAZZ BAND



Lismore Jazz Club proudly presents the Caxton Street Jazz Band at the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday 25th May, from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non members.

The Caxton Street Jazz Band, now in its 37th year, presents hot, swinging jazz in a manner that elicits enthusiastic responses from listening and/or dancing audiences. The band includes some of Australia's leading jazz players in their idiom, and not only appeals to jazz aficionados, but also to the general public at large. The band's ability to stay true to its roots, while still being able to entertain, is testament to the quality of the music and musicians, and shows that traditional jazz can have a wide public appeal when performed in the manner of the Caxton Street Jazz Band.

Whilst the band's roots are firmly planted in the hot jazz of the early 1900s, many other influences are represented in its output. These include big band



swing, mainstream jazz, folk, country, rhythm and blues and popular music of the 30s, 40s and 50s. The band sets out to give this music a fresh new edge that appeals to today's audiences. The variety of its repertoire has been a contributor to the band's unprecedented popularity in recent years, with demand for performances coming from Jazz Festivals, Jazz Clubs and private functions throughout Queensland, and northern and central coast New South Wales.

Personnel include John Braben (trumpet), Paul Williams (clarinet/tenor sax), Tom Nicolson (trombone/banjo/vocal), Bernice Haydock (piano/vocal), Andrew Shaw (double bass), Bob Mair (drums/washboard).



## Machinery Drive rocks Billinudgel

by Grumpy

It was rumoured that Billinudgel is a bit quiet on a Saturday night, so when I read that Machinery Drive were playing at the pub, I thought I'd check it out. So glad I did. They entertained an enthusiastic, appreciative crowd until late in the evening with some "industrial strength" party sounds.

I first saw Machinery Drive (in a previous incarnation) in the early noughties, and they still deliver a night of top music, a great mix of covers and originals. This is a three or four (sometimes five) piece outfit that consistently pumps out 'real' rock 'n' roll, loud and live.

With three guitarists and a drummer, Machinery Drive might just change your mind.

may look like many other bands but the difference is in their sound; good ol' honest Aussie pub rock. The thumping bass guitar anchors the sound, along with the drums (and let me tell you, this drummer really rocks when she gets into it), giving the guitarists the freedom to really cut loose.

When they bring another voice into the mix, she blows everyone away with her great vocals and energy. This girl provides a whole new dimension to the performance.

If you're a fan of pub rock and get the chance to hear Machinery Drive play, do yourself a favour and get there. You won't be disappointed. If you're not yet a fan, Machinery Drive might just change your mind.

# DUSTIN THOMAS

After wowing Australian crowds this April on a national tour with Nahko and Medicine for the People (including their inaugural main stage appearance at the Blues Festival), and also with some powerful solo headline performances including the Bali Spirit Festival and the Sydney Spirit Retreat in March, USA's singer/songwriter/author/activist Dustin Thomas returns to Australia for one week of intimate shows before returning to the States for a national summer tour.

In just two years, this energetic young performer's storytelling prose has captivated audiences at premier festivals and venues across the globe, with soulful depth through reggae/rock, beatbox-folk tunes. Thomas' instant notoriety has catapulted him on stage with some of the world's biggest names in the industry, including Xavier Rudd (Australia), Matisyahu (USA), Keller

Williams (USA), The Dirty Heads (USA), Trevor Hall (USA), Beats Antique (USA), SOJA (USA), Cas Haley (USA) and Nahko and Medicine for the People (USA).

Having recently completed a tour with Nahko and Medicine for the People (USA) along the east coast of Australia, with highlight performances on the main stages of the Byron Bay Blues Festival, Thomas now completes his Australian tour with select solo performances to launch his recent debut album, Mountain High, a selection of nine tracks taken from a collection of hundreds, and dedicated to the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster and to the healing of our oceans and waters.

"I've gone so many ways with songs; some spiritual, some prayerful, some reflective and political, some full of longing and heartache, some joyful, triumphant, ecstatic, and adoring- as



I continue to travel and grow, my container for these hymns grows, and while they do, I want to share them with you. This collection is my most current offering, a warming soul soup of all those little faiths and flavours."

Combining meditations on social-justice and contemporary spirituality with hymns both beautiful and striking, Thomas invites you to join him on a universal quest for truth - asking honest questions of love, loss, worship and war, through songs that channel joy, bravery and grace. "All can be transmuted. No debt can last forever. No suffering runs so deep that love cannot wash clean."

Don't miss this powerful performer before he returns to the US:

- Saturday 10th May: Byron Bay Brewery (free entry) See: [www.bryonbaybrewery.com.au](http://www.bryonbaybrewery.com.au)
- Sunday 11th May: Sphinx Rock Cafe, at 1pm

## Aquarius Anniversary Folk Concert

Since May 2012 the Nimbin community has raised \$130,000 towards the Seven-on-Sibley project. This fantastic local fund raising effort is edging towards the goal of completing the purchase of the 7 Sibley Street property and then moving on to the next stage of the sustainability project.

There have been many fundraising events and donations over the past two years, including a big folk concert during last



year's 40th anniversary of the Aquarius Festival. So it seemed ideal on this 41st anniversary of the festival to stage another folk concert featuring some of the wonderful singer/



songwriters of Nimbin and the Northern Rivers.

The Aquarius Anniversary Folk Concert at the Nimbin School of Arts will be held on Saturday 10th May. The evening show will feature

Nimbin's own Andrea Soler (far left), Mook Bahloo, Michael Fairley, Neil Pike and sisters Tessa and Laura Rutley; together with young award winning singer/pianist Gracie Hughes and Irish singer and frontman of the Wild Zinnias band Willie McElroy (left), plus some special wonderful acrobatics from Dr Wolf & Co.

This intimate folk concert will be a highlight of this year's festival anniversary, and most importantly all proceeds will go to the Seven-on-Sibley project. Doors and cafe will open at 7pm with the show starting at 8pm, and tickets are only \$10.

## Shakespeare's Dream: sexual revolution?



**Titania, Kasadevi Curtis, slumbers as Oberon, Michael Lill, looks on.**



**Magical fairies Tara Brady, Danni Duncanson, Ebony Webb.** Photo: Montana Wambach

This year, we celebrate the 450th Birthday of William Shakespeare, and in his honour the Drill Hall Theatre Company is staging his most famous romantic play, a celebration of the triumph of love.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a lusciously psychedelic extrapolation of the joyous nature of the most beautiful and powerful of human emotions. The Drill Hall Theatre Company has wholly embraced this theme by setting their production in Mullumbimby in the late 1960s.

By setting the production during the socially revolutionary 60s, the Drill Hall Theatre Company is modernising the setting while keeping the original thematic relevance fiercely alive; a young woman rebelling against patriarchal oppression in order to marry for love.

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

Shakespeare's character of Hermia is as relevant today as she was over 400 years ago when it was written, a fiery daughter determined to rebel against the conventions of her time to defy her father's will and marry for love, not duty, and in doing so puts her very life in jeopardy.

Running parallel to this visceral earthly drama is an ethereal tussle between Oberon and Titania, the King and Queen of the Fairies, that has important implications for their earthly counterparts.

Kasadevi Curtis plays Titania with the regal dignity and beautiful grace befitting the spiritual Queen who represents the feminine power that underpins Shakespeare's work.

"It is a fantastically liberating role to play. It doesn't happen very often to be

able to play such a free spirit," Ms Curtis said.

"She's a woman entirely released from social constraints who's going through a wildly transformational experience. She goes on a journey that allows her to completely follow her inner most desires," she said.

"It's a bit of a cliche, but it's really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play this role - it's an amazing experience. The whole process has been fantastic and I can't wait until Opening Night!"

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* opens April 25 and the season runs for three weeks until May 11 at The Drill Hall Theatre, 2 Jubilee Street, Mullumbimby.

Tickets are now on sale through The Bookshop, Mullumbimby, or by visiting [www.drillhalltheatre.org.au](http://www.drillhalltheatre.org.au) and following the ticket sales links.

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**Sunday Gig Guide**

**May 1pm start**

**11th Dustin Thomas**  
On a universal quest for truth, Dustin asks honest questions of love, loss, worship and war, through songs that channel joy, bravery and grace.

**18th Murray Kyle**  
Be inspired by the powerfully tender performance of this esteemed local singer songwriter.

**25th Dinkum Bohos**  
Hailing from a freewheeling bohemian tradition that's rooted in Australia's rustic heart, an Australian take on music for runaway romantics.

**JUNE 1st Dallas James**  
Dallas James is a singer songwriter from just west of Byron Bay; his mellow, acoustic tunes tell poetic heart-felt stories of struggle, love, loss and hope.

**Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers**  
53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

**May Gigs**

Thursday 8th	6pm Bill Jacobi
Friday 9th	7.30pm Rob Yeatman & Darklight
Saturday 10th	6pm Brommers
Sunday 11th	5pm Twin Haus
Thursday 15th	6.30pm Soul Output
Friday 16th	7.30pm King Louie Band
Sat 17th	6.30pm TBA
Sun 18th	5pm Rohan
Thursday 22nd	6pm Kazya
Friday 23rd	7.30pm The Strands
Saturday 24th	6.30pm HEADERS FUNDRAISER
Sunday 25th	5pm Nathan Kaye
Thursday 29th	6.30pm Lez Karski
Friday 30th	7.30pm Skinwalkers Band
Saturday 31st	6.30pm TBA
Sunday 1st June	5pm Adam Brown

All Gigs are Free of Charge

**JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING**

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



## Roxy Gallery

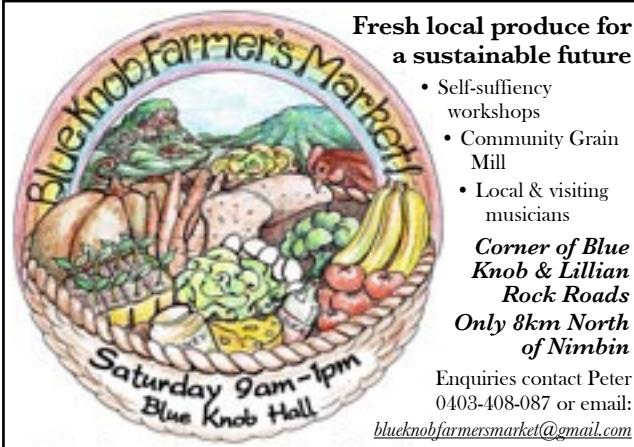
143 Summerland Way Kyogle  
Phone 6632-3518

### Opening Hours

Tues - Fri: 10am to 4pm  
Saturday: 9.30am to noon

- Promoting local and regional arts;
- Providing emerging artists with opportunities to display and market their artworks in a professional exhibition space;
- Fostering cultural experiences for community and visitors to the area.

Email: [roxygallery@kyogle.nsw.gov.au](mailto:roxygallery@kyogle.nsw.gov.au) Web: [www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au)



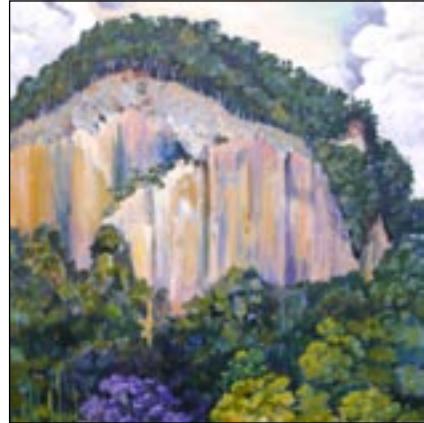
## Blue Knob Hall Gallery

### Current Exhibition: The Tree of Life

'The Tree of Life' is the universal symbol of creation, and is the theme for the current exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery.

'With its roots in the waters of the Underworld, Its trunk in the Earthly world Its branches in Heaven It is seen as accessing other worlds'

This exhibition has produced some rich and thoughtful artworks and also includes sculptural work by Michael



'Billen Cliffs' by Helen Cooling



'Margaret, my mother's mother'  
by Holly Cuthbertson

Brooke and bowls by Rainforest Bird Baths. The exhibition ends on Sunday 25th May.

### Next Exhibition: Annual Fibre Show

We would like to invite all fibre artists to exhibit your wonderful fibre creations in this exhibition.

Each year the Blue Knob Hall Gallery holds an exhibition devoted to the fibre arts. It reflects a wide range of skills, personal statements and new creative expression. It's a fantastic show told in fibre.

This annual exhibition focuses only on the fibre arts, therefore we would like all or part of any work to be made from fibre or have fibre as a major element in it. Please pass on this invitation and email your fellow fibre workers to come forward too.

The Annual Fibre Show will open on Friday 30th May at 6.30pm. Dinner will be available for \$15 per person and \$4 desserts. It is essential that if you are intending to stay for dinner, please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 as spaces are limited.

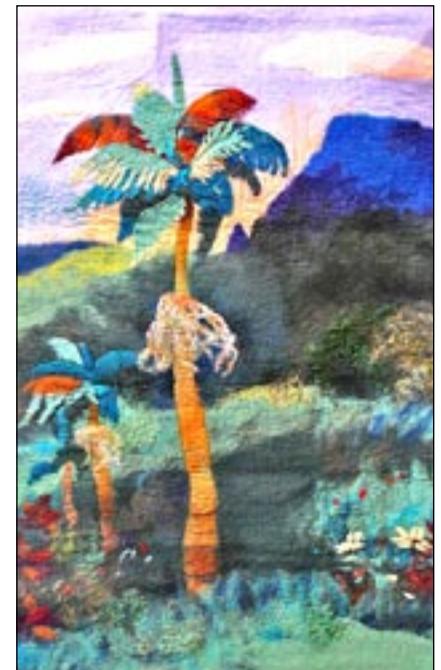
Please note: There will be no Artists and Friends lunch for May, as the opening of the Annual Fibre Show is being held on the following night.

### Felting Workshop with Catherine Dunham

Saturday 14th June 9.30am – 4pm in the Moore Studio Space. Create a still life or landscape picture with the wet felting technique using merino wool, silk and other fibres. \$60 per person, materials included. Contact Catherine on 6689-7101 for more information or to make a booking. Bookings are essential as spaces are limited.

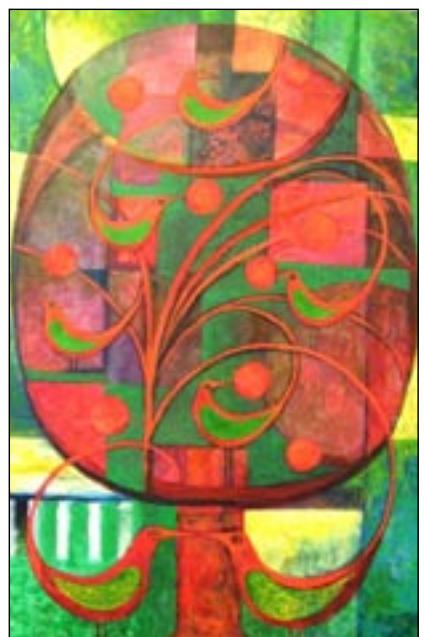


'Ghost Gum' by Shirley Miller



'Bangalow Bride' (Felt hanging)  
by Robin Moore

## Issues known but never spoken about...



From the 'Tree of Life' series by Anthea Moffat

The Roxy Gallery has the distinct privilege of exhibiting a new body of works by the exceptionally talented and highly regarded local artist, Anthea Moffatt.

Since her last show in 2010, Anthea has been incensed by the current government's actions and policies in regard to asylum seekers and has felt compelled to examine the fundamental concepts of human rights, in time and space/place. With the deft use of

distinctive colour, perspective and shape Anthea explores some major contemporary issues.

Consistent throughout her previous three exhibitions has been the symbology of "Tree Of Life", (above) the concept of sisterhood, and the dynamic decorative abstractions of perspective, which she has used to inlay meaning to each artwork, and seeks to provoke a thoughtful response from the viewing audience.

This exhibition of Anthea's has been entitled "recent paintings" and is a collection of vibrant and thoughtfully constructed artworks. Each piece is laden with deeply poignant reflections about contemporary issues, each intended to be thought provoking, having the capacity to challenge any apathetic points of view to the infringement of basic human rights. Her highly skilled use of stylized motifs of fauna and flora, the inclusion of decorative architectural shapes, her abstraction of perspective, all go into alluding to time and place, reflected within the natural environment.

These works portray a dynamic understanding and insight into current social and political affairs.

For some time in her work, Anthea's exploration of motifs together with her distinctive use of figurative and architectural form has provided her with a distinctive platform, from which she expresses notions of time and place.

This new body of works are a progressive development for Anthea, who has undertaken nineteen one woman shows in her forty five years of exploring her creative passions in art making. She has exhibited in Sydney and Canberra and on the far north coast of NSW, where she lived for 27 years. Her works are represented in public and private collections from the Australian University in Canberra, the University of Wollongong and private collections in Australia and overseas places such as Germany, UK, USA, Jamaica, Sweden and Finland.

'Recent Works' by Anthea Moffatt will be officially open on Friday 9th May at 6pm with the exhibition open to the public from 6th May to 31st May.



'Bird 2' by Anthea Moffat