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## The passing of Marian Henderson

Eulogy by Warren Fahey

One of Australia's most-loved singers died on Thursday 21st May, and in doing so, broke a long chain with the revival of interest in our folk music.

She joins Gary Shearston, Declan Affley, Tina Lawton, Don Henderson, John Dengate, Gordon McIntyre and, sadly, so many more fine interpreters of our traditional music. She was 78 years of age.

Marian retired from singing many years ago and settled in Nimbin, where she became part of a wide

community, continuing to play piano for friends. Despite a long illness, she threw her considerable energy into art.

A friend, Ruth Miller, told me Marion spent her last months at her son's place near Mt Mee, Queensland, looking out at a spectacular view and surrounded by the native animals she loved.

Marian was there at the beginning of the so-called folk revival. In the early 1960's the ABC series 'Jazz Meets Folk' introduced Marian to a wider Australian public, and she later appeared in *The Restless Years*.

She made several recordings (never enough), including her album *Cameo*, appeared at countless concerts, and was ever-present at peace marches and other demonstrations for a better world.

Her singing was exceptional. Wonderful breathy phrasing and clear enunciation married a husky, beautiful voice that was as comfortable with jazz as folk music. She wrote songs, but in my mind is best remembered for her singing of traditional songs, such as 'Moreton Bay' and 'Streets of Forbes'.

Marian has left a musical



legacy of several beautiful recordings, some accessible on Youtube. We can continue to cherish what is available and to remember her fondly.

A memorial gathering for Marian will be held on Saturday 13th June, 11am at Brunswick Hotel (for lunch) then to Bruns beach to scatter her ashes. All welcome.

## Addressing mental health

by Noelle Lynden-Way, Community Representative

The Mental Health Line phone service is there in case anyone is concerned about their state of mind and needs help locating a mental health professional or local support group. The Mental Health Line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, on 1800-011-511.

It is not a telephone counselling service. It is there to provide access to Mental Health Services and is a free call, unless you are calling from a mobile phone. If you are, then tell the mental health clinician who answers, and they will call you back.

You will hear a privacy message at the beginning of your call. Your personal and medical information discussed during the call will not be shared with anyone who is not involved with the provision of care for the person you are calling about.

You can call about a family member of friend, although it is best if the person phones themselves. Sometimes this is not possible, and in this case you can call and speak to a mental health clinician on their behalf.

Recently I attended a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course, held over two days in Kyogle. The program was created in Canberra in 2000 by an educator, Betty Kitchener and mental health researcher, Anthony Jorm. By the end of 2012, there were over 1000 instructors across Australia, and over

200,000 people had received Mental Health First Aid training. The website address for up to date information about the program is: [www.mhfa.com.au](http://www.mhfa.com.au)

MHFA is designed for members of the public to learn how to assist someone who is developing a mental health problem or is in a mental health crisis. Problems covered included depression, anxiety, psychosis and substance use and addiction.

Mental health first aid is most relevant in situations when it is becoming apparent to others that a person in their family, social or professional network is not coping with their life. The course also provides useful information on how to assist a person who has a history of mental illness or longer-term mental problems.

At present, many people in our community have done a medical First Aid course and are able to assist people if a physical crisis arises and then to call an ambulance. The Mental Health First Aid course is being offered now so that one can learn to recognise signs of mental health difficulties and be able to talk to people with knowledge and understanding.

I certainly learned an enormous amount and will advise through this column when the course is offered again in our region. A Youth Mental Health First Aid course has been developed and it too will be offered in the future.

There is a publication called 'An Information Booklet About Mental

Health Services in the Northern Rivers' published by the Northern NSW Local Health District in March 2014 which is very comprehensive and explains how one can access mental health services in the Northern Rivers. It also deals with information for Families, Carers and Support People and what it means to have a Mental Health Issue.

It contains an excellent chapter on the combination of medication, counselling, lifestyle support, education and rehabilitation and all the Community Health Centres and local Carer groups' phone numbers are listed. One local Northern Rivers Non-Governmental Organisation is GROW, which provides a peer supported program for recovery, growth and personal development for people with a mental illness.

To contact a local GROW group, phone 1800-558-268.

If you would like to obtain a copy of this booklet, contact your local hospital in Bonalbo, Urbenville, Nimbin or Kyogle and ask to be put through to Community Health.

### General information

Remember to call the Health Advice Line on 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. It's a 24 hour, 7 days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will speak to you and assess whether or not you need to go to the Emergency Dept. at your local MPS. Read more information about this service on: [www.healthdirect.org.au](http://www.healthdirect.org.au)

## Nimbin Hospital Info

### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic: 9th June. For appointments phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health).

### Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Phone 6620-7687 to make an appointment (through Lismore Community Centre).

### Women's Health Nursing Service

Confidential Pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post natal checks, general health information. Next clinic: 18th June. For appointments, phone 6688-1401.

### Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy. Provision of Palliative Care in the home. Provide and co-ordinate Aged Care Packages.

### Free health checks

Now in front of the Neighbourhood Centre, every second Friday, 11.30am - 1.30pm. Run by a Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse. Cardiac, diabetic and stroke risk assessments, weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, cholesterol levels, referrals if required.

### Free respiratory clinic

With Specialist Respiratory Nurse and a nurse practitioner. Second Thursday of each month. Next clinic: 11th June. For appointment phone 6688-1401.

### Free diabetic clinic

At Nimbin hospital, every third Thursday of the month. For appointment phone Leanne Boothe 6630-0488.

### Nimbin NSP opening hours

Will be open on Mondays and Thursdays, 9am-noon. Arrangements can be made to see a health nurse through NSP.

### Cannabis clinic

Every Monday at Nimbin hospital. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098.

### Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment phone 6620-7634 or Mobile 0428-109-474.

### Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next meeting: 12th June.



# Nimbin Advisory Group - update

by Diana Roberts

The Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) meets quarterly. Our main purpose is to provide feedback to Lismore City Council (LCC) on engaging with the Nimbin community, to bring significant issues to the attention of council and to provide feedback to council where appropriate. Our most recent meeting discussed some significant local matters.

## Redevelopment of fire sites

This is still at the pre-development stage but an opportunity for community input prior to the development application being lodged is planned.

## Nimbin pool

As the pool is requiring constant and costly repair decisions need to be made for the longer term. Council staff are currently costing options to inform decision-making. Apart from the pool surface there is a need for an amenities upgrade and infrastructure such as filters

and pipework need replacing. Council believe any upgrade to the pool could trigger a requirement for poolside supervision under council's insurance policy. Later this year there will be discussion between council and the community as part of a service review process and the pool will be included in these discussions. In the short to medium term however it's 'business as usual'.

## Crime Prevention Plan

Council is currently developing a crime prevention plan for the Council area, including Nimbin. There are very few areas of crime council can effectively deal with and the NAG had some discussion around this and issues such as the effectiveness of street cameras. Fortunately Nimbin is a comparatively low crime area. A crime prevention action and implementation plan is scheduled for presentation to the June council meeting and its adoption will assist council to attract funds to support further crime prevention initiatives.

## Nimbin water supply upgrade

Council has appointed a consultant who will be carrying out detailed survey and design work for the proposed upgrade.

On completion council will undertake a tender process to appoint a contractor with a view to works commencing either late this year or early next year.

Council will keep the community informed through press releases to local media, *Nimbin GoodTimes* and publication of articles in council's *Local Matters* newsletter.

## Footpath trading

Council advised it is about to embark on a program to regulate footpath trading in Nimbin (as they have done in Lismore) and were seeking advice from the Nimbin Advisory Group around mechanisms for informing the community.

Expect to see information in the *GoodTimes*, Council's *Local Matters* newsletter and hopefully broadcast on Nim-FM.



## Ice cream bean trees removal

Council is undertaking a staged process to replace these trees, two in Allsopp Park and two on Cullen Street outside Armonica. The trees are considered environmental weeds. Apart from damaging rock walls and blocking drains they also require constant pruning. Removal and replacement with more appropriate species is to be staged over the next five years. In the meantime pruning for safety will continue.

## Garden Club/Council partners

A partnership has been forged to clean up around signs in the village.

If you'd like to join the Garden Club and be part of this initiative contact [nimbingardens@gmail.com](mailto:nimbingardens@gmail.com)

## Would you like to join NAG?

The NAG currently has two vacancies and Council is seeking expressions of interest from community members. Please consider applying. If you are interested submit your expression of interest to: [council@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lismore.nsw.gov.au) (attention General Manager) or write to General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A Lismore 2480. Applications close 26 June 2015.



## 25th anniversary of the Nimbin Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen was started by the Older Women's Forum in July 1990 and handed over to NNIC in 2004. Come along on 3rd July to celebrate the many thousands of litres of soup served over the years, thanks to the hardworking SK team and donations from local businesses and the community. Donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated – next time you are shopping maybe throw in something extra to drop into us at NNIC for distribution to people in need.

## About to pay tax?

You can ease some of the pain by choosing to move some of your tax across to your favourite charity. Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a registered charity and donations of \$2 or more to us are tax deductible. Donate to: Summerland Credit Union BSB: 728 728 NNIC Gift Fund Acc. 22205341 and send us an email so we can send you a DGR receipt. Or else drop in at 71 Cullen Street. We use these funds to provide material aid to people in need, and to support activities such as the Nimbin Soup Kitchen.

## In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

[www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)



## Bioenergy survey

The (on-line) Bioenergy survey closes at the end of June. We are keen to hear from you as the first step in our community consultation process around a social license for bio energy in the Northern Rivers.

Pet or animal owners (current or previous) are encouraged to do the (on-line) survey also currently being conducted to contribute to research about the links between animal abuse and domestic violence. See our website for the links to the above surveys: [www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

## CDAT survey

Nimbin CDAT will be commencing a survey in June about drug and alcohol use in our community. The survey aims to get input and feedback from people who use

alcohol/drugs to help us to better understand how we can best support them and the community to address issues and reduce harm. The survey will of course be completely anonymous. Next Nimbin CDAT meeting: Thursday 28th June at 1pm at NNIC.

## NAIDOC week: 5-12 July

This year's theme is 'We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate'. 2015 marks the 30th anniversary of the 'Handback' of Uluru to its traditional owners on 26th October 1985. More at: [www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)

## Memberships

Memberships to NNIC fall due every year on 1st July. A gentle reminder to existing members to drop in and renew – why not get in early

and avoid the rush! You can help us to keep doing what we do by joining NNIC for only \$5.50/year – your memberships make a very real difference to us. Food Equipment Library memberships also fall due on 1st July - \$22.

## Other dates for your diaries

• **Sustainable House Day 2015: Saturday 19th September** – featuring Trade Expo, Speakers and this year's design competition entrants. For more info see: [www.sevenonsibley.com](http://www.sevenonsibley.com)  
• **Nimbin Country Show 2015: 26th and 27th September** – featuring Sustainability Alley.

## Mental health tip

Count your blessings. Try to write down three positive things for each day. This

can lead to increased mental wellbeing. More at: [www.mindhealthconnect.org.au](http://www.mindhealthconnect.org.au)

*Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is a local charity and community-based organisation run by locals for locals, and is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to disadvantaged community members. For information about services and activities available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our Community Workers for referrals, support and assistance including material aid. If we can't help we probably know who can.*

# Kyogle Council notebook



by Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Kyogle

past stories and see the excitement of the competitors.

My Mayoral meeting coincided with Friday's dog trials at the Bonalbo Show, and a number of residents had an opportunity to raise issues with me.

## 100km Challenge

Sam Elley and Leah Hobbs have conspired to see me expire by walking 100km in May. The three of us were raising money for Nepal and the local Domestic Violence Committee. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Challenge.

## ANZAC Centenary

The Centenary of the ANZACs was amazing this year, with a range of events being held across the LGA. Congratulations to the RSLs of Kyogle, Mallanganee, Bonalbo, Old

Bonalbo, Urbenville and Woodenbong, who were successful in obtaining a Federal grant to help them co-ordinate something special for 2015.

## Yowie has an owie

Woodenbong's Yowie made an appearance at the 7th anniversary of the country markets. He had suffered an injury but was soon put right! At the Show, I met the prospective Showgirls and Junior Showgirls, who were all just lovely. The atmosphere was great, although the weather was a bit blowy.

## Fit For The Future (FFTF)

Council continues to progress with its FFTF submission. We are completing the Rural Council template, and public meetings will be held at Kyogle, Bonalbo and



Woodenbong so residents can ask any questions they might have about our future.

The submission will soon be on display for public input. In the meantime, we will continue to plug away.

## Kyogle Garden Club

The Kyogle Garden Club held a very successful Friendship Day with busloads of visitors coming from across the region to share information, growing tips and specialised information. Angus Stewart from the ABC was there to share his gardening wisdom, and a good time was had by all.

## Kyogle Quota

The Kyogle Quota AGM was held this month with members being sworn into their official positions for the year. Carol Marriott remains the president. For such a small club,

they raise amazing sums of money, especially through their upcoming lamington drive! My order is already in.

## Biggest Morning Tea

There is a raft of Biggest Morning Teas coming up – hopefully I'll see you at one or more of them.

## Mayoral Meeting

I will hold my next Mayoral Meeting at the Risk Hall on Wednesday, 17 June, from 10am-noon. If you would like to come along for a chat or to raise some issue, please ring Council on 6632-0214 and book a time so that you won't be kept waiting. If you can also advise the Council officer of your issue and contact details (i.e. phone numbers, email, etc.) This will help me to make some background enquiries so that any information you receive is correct and up to date.

*Kyogle Council: 6632-0214. Danielle. Mulholland@kyogle.nsw.gov.au*

# Let the good times rock'n'roll



Zayden weaving his magic

And the staff band



Animal acts

Comperes Lili and Lakeisha



by Mazz Webb

Music poured out across the valley from the many talented students and teachers of Nimbin Central School on the last Thursday in May, at the annual Café Central.

Val Mace produced superb harmonies with several choirs and a capella groups, while new music teacher Laura Nobel featured in nearly 20 items with students, who are now being tutored to become even more high quality musicians and singers.

Laura's soulful, skin-tingling singing also graced the staff band, which belted out 'Knock on Wood' and 'A Little Help From My Friends'.

Star spotters may have thought they spotted Frank Zappa, David Bowie, Joe Cocker and Kate Bush, but alas, it was all make-up and costumes.

Simone Barnes ably led the team of voluntary caterers to provide a rich array of curries, pasta and scrumptious desserts.

Community support of this event was outstanding, making the night a heart-warming success.

## The poets' songwriter

A former Blue Mountains resident, Kim Banffy is a singer/songwriter from the Byron Bay area, who has just launched her debut album, *State Of Bliss*.

Her music is reminiscent of 60s-70s singer/songwriter style, with a more modern, poppy, at times even slightly jazzy twist. Kim's songs have been compared by other musicians to Joni Mitchell's, and her voice to Joan Baez meets Karen Carpenter. Kim has been dubbed "the poets' songwriter" for her ability to build evocative word pictures with lyrics and her skilful use of metaphor.

Musically, Kim has a depth of experience singing four and five part a capella harmonies in a wide variety of musical genres from the age of 14. She has eclectic musical tastes and experience, which influence her writing of melodies, and interesting rhythm and time signature choices.

There are definite classical and jazz influences evident. More contemporary influences she mentions are Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne, Tom Waits, Suzanne Vega and Carole King.

Kim's life experience shows in songs of substance and maturity. Her lifetime interest in language, rhyme, metre and the devices of poetry ensure that you will want to hear the lyrics of these songs, and to appreciate Kim's tuneful use of melody.

Kim will be playing Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 7th June at 1pm.

take time out to wax lyrical with the camera about these forgotten singers and to pay tribute to the contribution that they've made to music and entertainment. As Bruce Springsteen says in the film, commenting on the short distance (i.e. 20 feet) between the big name performers and their backup singers, "It's a bit of a walk. That walk to the front is... complicated".

Although this movie explores the personal and professional sadness of those backing singers who wanted to be stars, but couldn't make it, it's still a film that's bursting with life, with

music, and with energy... and it's showing at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Friday 12th June as part of the Theatre's regular monthly movie night program.

Film starts at 7.30pm and costs a mere \$10, but \$20 will also get you a delicious meal and entertainment at the neighboring Phoenix Rising Café from 6pm. Come on down, the fires will be burning, hearts will be warm and yes, sticky date pudding will be available at intermission.

Tix available at the door or online at: [www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events](http://www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events)

## Friday Flix

The history of showbiz is littered with stories of talented people left out of the limelight – valiant professionals whose unsung efforts enabled brighter stars to shine.

A recent Oscar-winning documentary film, *20 Feet*

From *Stardom*, aims to help rectify this historical 'blind spot' by shining the spotlight, for a change, onto the background vocalists whose voices we've all heard, but whose faces we've rarely seen.

Those faces, it turns out, are mostly female and mostly

black: the daughters of preachers and churchgoers who learnt their trade whilst harmonizing in choirs and singing Baptist hymns, where the focus was on 'the blend' – the joining of many individual voices into a sweet-sounding whole – rather than standing in the limelight. Their voices have been the secret ingredient in many famous hits from the '60's onwards.

The film is, nonetheless, graced with famous faces such as Sting, Mick Jagger, Bruce Springsteen, and Stevie Wonder. These legends of the music world



## Environmental beach-vibe

Christine Olive (real name Christine Finlay – Olive is one of her middle names) was a curious and creative child who wanted to 'save the world.' Today she says she hasn't changed.

A self-taught and self-managed, 23-year old multi-instrumentalist from Auckland, she has been writing and performing for over 10 years. Having immigrated to the east coast of Australia in 2010, she suffered a 'creative block' after her Aussie music industry friend passed in a fatal road accident three weeks before her flight. After travelling, connecting with her Asian roots and taking up the sport of surfing, Christine was writing again in 2013.

She describes herself as an 'aspiring

philanthropist.' "When people ask me what I want to do for a living – because sometimes it appears I try to do a thousand things at once – I tell them philanthropy is where I'm headed. I just want to help others. Help the planet. I want to do good." Olive has predominantly performed at environmental-based events. At least 10% of her profits go toward climate change projects and she does voluntary work in third world countries.

Her debut album 'For Shore' was recorded, partially-written, mixed and

printed in 12 days during a charity trip to the Philippines.

Says Olive, "It was pretty crazy recording in such a short amount of time, but I was stoked to be able to play everything on the record apart from the electric guitar... only because I didn't have one on me. It's a small step up for me musically and a very exciting start – plus I'm pretty sure we broke a world record or something!"

Christine Olive will be playing the Nimbin Hotel on Saturday 6th June.

Keep up-to-date with Christine at: [www.christineolive.com](http://www.christineolive.com)



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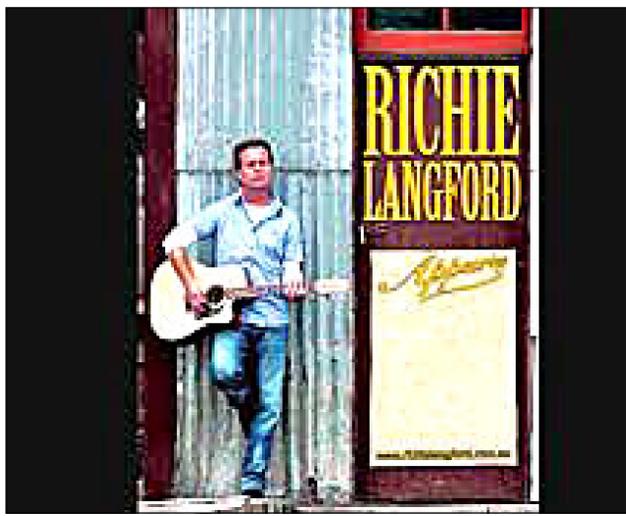
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RIPPER OF A COMEDY



# Richie Langford

Richie Langford is an accomplished singer, songwriter and guitarist from Melbourne, a one-man blues band who performs using foot percussion, resonator, acoustic and electric guitars, harmonica and loop pedal.

His music has been influenced by artists such as Tony Joe White and Tom Waits, and has a distinct rootsy swamp groove. As an independent recording artist, his music has been played on Melbourne radio stations 3RRR and PBS.

Richie has opened shows for James Reyne and Grace Knight (Eurogiders). After a busy few years playing at festivals, hotels in and around Melbourne (and at the city's best known music venues such as the Caravan Music Club), Richie is armed with a guitar case full of blues and will be playing Sundays at the Nimbin pub on the 21st and Sphinx Rock on the 28th.

# CC the Cat

Australian dynamic roots act CC the Cat are an anthem pumping, drum and bass-heavy, brass-blowing, booty-shaking, eye-popping reggae-funk-soul explosion fronted by sexy soul diva Claire Cottone (aka CC), whose powerful soul voice ranges from gutsy depths to soaring heights.

CC's addictive songs push genre boundaries from reggae, ska and dancehall to funk and soul, acoustic rock and twist of jazz, making the live show a journey across a mesmerising mash of musical planes. CC the Cat have toured Australia tirelessly for the past seven years and have produced some of Australia's most epic roots recordings on an independent level.

The Brisbane/Gold Coast-based 5-piece released their second full-length album *Songs from the Sea* in August 2013 off the

back of a successful crowd funding campaign which demonstrated CC's close relationship with her dedicated fanbase from around the world.

*Songs From the Sea* follows CC the Cat's 2010 debut, reggae odyssey and radio fave *Inna Babylon Jungle*, which was described by Rave Mag reviewer as "one of the best Australian reggae albums I've ever heard".

*Songs from the Sea* has proven to be a solid follow-up to the debut album, with its lead singles sitting in the top ten nationally in Airplay for two months and hitting #1 at Brisbane's 4ZZZ. The album's lead singles were selected by vinyl label Vital Signs Records to be pressed on 7" vinyl.

The tracks range from upbeat pop-ska love tunes, to deep beautiful soul tracks, happy reggae numbers, bangin' dancehall and old-



school funk, with guest performances by some of Brisbane's most prominent musicians including members of Bobby Alu, Kingfisha, Bullhorn and the Queensland Orchestra.

CC the Cat's live show is packed with fat drum and bass polyrhythms, punchy horn breakdowns and coordinated dance moves, gorgeous vocal harmonies, and a heap of fun, love and energy.

CC's 5-piece line-up currently features super-funk bassist (CC's sister) Julia Rose, drummer Dave Bell (Kingfisha), trumpeter Steven

Buchanan (Bullhorn) and trombonist Ange Gadd. Between them, band members have played nearly every major festival stage in Australia.

CC the Cat have played main stages at Woodford Folk Festival, Island Vibe Festival, Nannup Festival, Earth Freq, Mardi Grass, Parklife and regularly play sold-out shows on the Gold Coast, Brisbane and Byron Bay as well as regularly touring the East Coast from FNQ to Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

CC the Cat will be playing a rare solo gig at Nimbin Hotel on Sunday 28th June from 4pm.

Beautiful natural setting next to Mulgum Creek

## PHOENIX RISING CAFE

### June Gigs

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Yolanda Moyle	12-4pm
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Brommers	12-4pm
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Nice Verdes	12-4pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Behind the Firewall	12-4pm
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Cruise Brothers (Jazz)	12-4pm
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Dinkum Bohos	12-4pm
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Sarah Stando	12-4pm
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Sara McCafferty	12-4pm
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Monkey & the Fish	12-4pm
Every Sunday	Cosmic Bliss	10am-12noon

(see [www.phoenixrisingcafe.net/events](http://www.phoenixrisingcafe.net/events) for info regarding individual performances)

Open 7 Days 9am to 4pm - ph: (02) 6689-1111

## sphinx rock café

3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 [www.sphinxrockcafe.com](http://www.sphinxrockcafe.com)

### Sunday Gig Guide

**June 1pm start**

**14th Telegraph Tower**  
Barnaby Smith going solo with a crafted melancholic baroque folk aesthetic style.

**21st Kerriane Cox**  
Inspirational, humble multi-award winning performer Kerriane, a philanthropist and human rights activist, has spent a large part of her life travelling and inspiring people all over the world.

**28th Richie Langford**  
A singer, songwriter, guitarist from Melbourne playing Roots & Blues.

**July 5th Kiara Jack Trio**  
An original Indie Roots band from the Gold Coast. 'World' meets 'Contemporary' with a dash of rhythmic experimentation.

# Winter Solstice cometh

The Hanging Rock Community celebrates the Winter Solstice on Sunday, 21st June.

Come along and celebrate the shortest day of the year at Hanging Rock's Equinox ceremony. Help birth the new Sun cycle and find out about the mystery of the 'Eye of Horus' on Sunday afternoon.

Live music from 3pm with the ceremony at 5.30pm. Gold coin entry, and please bring a plate of finger-food to share. Tea and coffee for sale.



Sunday 21 June 2015  
Live music from 3 and ceremony at 5.30  
FIRE CIRCLE

## Mr Speaker & the Party People

Byron's gypsy hiphop funk reggae specialists – Nimbin pub Friday 26th June, 7.30pm

## Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

### June Gigs

Friday 5th	7.30pm	Bassix
Saturday 6th	6.30pm	Christine Olive
Sunday 7th	5pm	David Barbara
Thursday 11th	6.30pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 12th	7.30pm	Split Chickens
Saturday 13th	6.30pm	Koby
Sunday 14th	5pm	Brommers
Thursday 18th	6.30pm	Dinkum Bohos
Friday 19th	7.30pm	Diana Anaid
Saturday 20th	6.30pm	Slim Pickens
Sunday 21st	4pm	Richie Langford
Thursday 25th	6.30pm	Kazya
Friday 26th	7.30pm	Mr Speaker
Saturday 27th	6.30pm	Harry Nichols
Sunday 28th	4pm	CC the Cat

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in the Creative Learning Centre

• Nuno felt & flat felting workshop  
Saturday 13th June - 9am to 4pm

• Slipper making workshop  
Saturday 25th July - 9am to 4pm  
Cost per workshop: \$80 incl. all materials and morning tea

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# The Fibre Show



'Dolly Odd Sox' (1 of 5) by Anthea Moffatt  
Photo: Woman with a Camera

The Fibre Show, a much awaited event each year at Blue Knob Hall Gallery, has kicked off with great enthusiasm.

From a very well attended opening, and the Fibre Festival run by the Blue Knob Farmers Market on Saturday 23rd, this winter show and Festival has proved to be as popular as ever.

With Eric Smith opening the exhibition, music provided by John Hosking and Peter Warne, and dinner

provided by Cafe Blue Knob, it was an enjoyable, warmly felt evening where Fibre shone in all its glory on the walls and in the variety of clothing worn by the guests, who often come out to this event in their felted garments, fibre jewellery and more often than not one of Melissa Hume's or Myfanwy Stirling's beautiful vests.

This annual exhibition shines light on the world of fibre and all its versatility, functionality and beauty, from wool to wood, felting to carving and weaving to stitching; it represents the diversity and practicality of all that is fibre.

Anthea Moffatt's 'Dolly Odd Sox', a series of dolls, with her iconic images hand painted on to the fabric are a fundraiser for Medecins Sans Frontieres and are a wonderful addition to the exhibition.

The Knitting Nannas 'yarn bombing' our verandah posts proves that the fibre arts continues to be a strong expression of the value fibre plays in every part of our lives in all parts of the world, as a protest medium and at the heart of our everyday lives.

The Fibre Show runs until Sunday 12th July.

### Artists and Friends Lunch

The next Artists and Friends lunch will be on Thursday 25th June at



'Coral Reef-Symbiosis' (detail)  
by Lynda Clark

12pm. Cost is \$18 per person for a set vegetarian main, or meat option at \$22, and a dessert. Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you are planning on coming.

### Silk Paper Workshop with Zoya Guild

Sunday 28th June, 10am - 1pm

This Silk Paper Making Workshop with Zoya Guild on Sunday 28th June will be held in the Moore Workshop Space at Blue Knob Hall Gallery. Cost is \$35 including materials. Places are limited to six people, so if you would like to participate in the workshop please let us know as soon as possible.

Book with the gallery on 6689-7449 or email: [bkhgallery@aapt.net.au](mailto:bkhgallery@aapt.net.au)

## Winter collection at Artists Gallery

by Peter Warne

The days are getting colder, but Nimbin Artists Gallery is warm on the coldest days, with the help of our new reverse cycle air conditioning. And if you intend to visit, or perhaps bring friends who are visiting from near or far, remember that we have now gone into our winter opening hours - 10am to 4.30pm.

We are still getting a steady stream of visitors, local, interstate and international, and we are regularly hearing how surprised people are by the quality of the work on show and the reasonable prices. It's true about the prices, you just have to look in a few galleries in the capital cities to see that serious art works can be bought here for a fraction of what you would pay there - for works by our most established artists, think hundreds, in the capitals, for works of the same calibre, think thousands.

Alright, most of us are not out to buy a major art work very often, but at the gallery we also have prints of some of the more popular paintings, or smaller versions in cards, as well as the wearable art, the sculpture, pottery, not to mention jewellery, cushions, tea cosies and hot water bottle covers.

We have a new hanging for June. New to the gallery is our current guest artist, June King from Kyogle. She paints in watercolour and oils, and hung a range of paintings in the recent Autumn Arts Festival. She specialises in oil paintings of landscapes capturing the character of the somewhat drier countryside around Kyogle, and does some lovely flower studies in watercolour.

There are some interesting new smaller, affordable works from Leigh Arnold. Of two 3D works Leigh submitted, one was bought immediately, but there is one left, with the glasses to view it - it's amazing. (We also made the astonishing discovery that some of the other paintings round the gallery, when viewed through the 3D glasses, also took on a certain 3D effect. Come



'Spaces' by Leigh Arnold

in and try this.) There is also a range of intriguing statues from Alana Grant.

Secretary Gigi has just uploaded some pictures of our new hanging on our Facebook page, so check them out and you might find yourself tempted to visit. We've had about 550 likes since the



'Iris' by June King

page was started, so why not add one more? Also have a look at our website: [www.nimbinartistsgallery.com.au](http://www.nimbinartistsgallery.com.au)



Statue by Alana Grant

# Serpentine Gallery

## Deeply superficial

A celebration in stitches by Mary Adams (pic right) at the Serpentine Gallery until 16th June, featuring tributes to rock and roll stars past and present; legendary ladies of song and screen; the father of Op Art; some fab ads and famous firsts.

Also, for the first time in 3D, homage is paid to Lou Reed and some of his finest songs; and great masters in the world of art.

Come take a walk on the wild side. You'll want to slip your fingers between the layers of these technicolour dreams.

## Moving

Members Exhibition 17th – 30th June

The next members' exhibition is called 'Moving', which is a theme that could be approached from a number of different angles.

Members can play with the word 'moving' - emotionally moving, physically moving (house, etc,) or use a medium which embodies

movement e.g video, performance, mechanisation. Clocks, windscreen wipers, cement mixers can also be used in alternate ways...

You could also consider a documentation of travel, artist books etc; a series of drawings that tell a story (flip books etc); or things that make the viewer move e.g interactive works. Our window spaces offer a wonderful environment for performance, and it would be great if a variety of artists could roster to do short performances throughout the exhibition.

The exhibition runs from 17th – 30th June, with the opening night celebration on Friday 19th June, 6-8pm.

Get your work into the gallery by Tuesday 16th June at the latest – Happy thinking!

## Life Drawing

Monday Night Life Drawing sessions cost \$10 and consist of two hours of life drawing with a 30-



'Small Town Girl', featuring Vasarely's Zebras (design Bill Walker).  
Photo: Katrina Mathieson

minute break in the middle, when mid-draw snacks are provided. Table space and some easels are available. Please bring your own paper and drawing utensils (and easel if you want to be sure you can draw from one). We will be having a life drawing exhibition in July, so now is the time to come along and get some practice!



'Subconscious Awakening' by Scott Whittingham. This painting was the winner of the 2014 Serpentine Art Prize

## Serpentine Art Prize

This is the second year that the Serpentine Arts Gallery is hosting this very special members exhibition. The theme this year is 'Place'. A \$500 art prize is being offered for the best entry (judges to be announced closer to the date).

Painters, photographers, sculptures, performing artists, installation artists etc. are all welcome to enter!

Get your entry to the Serpentine Arts Gallery by 10th August to enter. (Performances need to be registered with the gallery by this date also.)

[www.serpentinearts.org](http://www.serpentinearts.org)



'Tuscany Landscape, Italy' by Deborah Brown

The June month at the Roxy Gallery, Kyogle will see two exhibitions in one by three local artists Deborah Brown and Rodney Brown in 'Europa' and Jenny Kitchener in 'Time Flies', showing from 10th June to 4th July and all are welcome to the official opening on Friday 12th June, 6-8pm.

Been to Europe? Want to go? The first time in Europe for Deborah and Rodney Brown

# Roxy Gallery

was inspirational and motivated. Deborah exhibited a collection of her photographic work in a show entitled 'View Finders' (Roxy Gallery Nov. 2013). 'Europa' is a body of work inspired by fond memories of sites and experiences of their trip to Europe. The arches, alleyways and stone walls of France, The Netherlands, Spain and Italy feature strongly in their paintings. From vast vistas to doorknockers, Deborah and Rodney's acrylic paintings capture the essence of Europe.

Wings, time and change are some of the themes that Jenny Kitchener explores in her latest exhibition 'Time Flies'. A variety of artworks, including linocuts and screen prints, will showcase a selection of past and present work.

An obsession with insects and their amazing abilities and adaptations will be displayed as beetles and butterflies fight for space on the gallery walls. Insect pollinators and their importance to the production of food underpins much of Jenny's more recent work.

Hovering in the centre of her latest prints are curious crossbred insects; half mechanical and half biological. These prints aim to bring the viewers attention to the manufacture of



'The Game of Drones' by Jenny Kitchener

pesticide-proof robotic drone pollinators, which are being created to feed the human desire for new and 'better' ways to produce food and make a 'healthy' profit.

Nothing measures the passing of time like a calendar on the wall. Every year since 1988 Jenny has printed a small edition of calendars to be given to family and friends. A selection of twelve calendar images will also adorn the



'Conversation Florence, Italy' by Rodney Brown

walls of the Roxy Gallery.

The exhibition will also feature hand-crafted jewellery of two very different styles. 'Green Pigeon Creations' is the work of Kath and Ian Rodgers, whose many trips fossicking around Australia have resulted in unique pieces created by the talents of both. 'Steam Punk Designs' by Louise Gilbert combine old elegance with modern detail, creating wearable jewellery for today.

# Felt making – a beautiful ancient craft

## Introduction to felt making workshops

Learn the fascinating art of felt making and create your own stunning piece of felt art.

In the process of felt making, wool fibres shrink and come together to form a dense mat when subjected to heat, friction and a change of alkalinity – hot water, soap and a lot of rubbing and rolling! At a microscopic level, tiny scales on the surfaces of the individual fibers become tangled and locked together.

"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 like a wall hanging, a table runner, a wrap or a nuno felted scarf. There is also the opportunity to work three dimensional to produce felted slippers, a tea cosy or a hot water

bottle cover. These workshops will be an opportunity to explore colour combinations, surface design and embellishments that can be incorporated into the felt without sewing.

One of the great things about making felt is that it requires no fancy or expensive equipment. The transformation of wool into felt is magical and great fun to do. Anyone can make felt.

Every participant works independently on their own trestle table 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.

Felt making workshops will be held in the Creative Learning Centre at 'Black

Sheep Farm' in the hills of Nimbin.

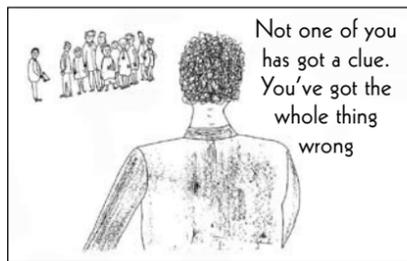
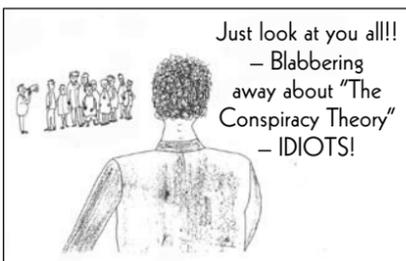
- Nuno felt & flat felting workshop – Painting with wool. This will teach how to make a felted piece of fabric eg. wall hanging, nuno felted scarf. Saturday 13th June from 9am to 4pm, cost \$80 incl. all materials and morning tea.
  - Slipper making workshop – Learn how to make warm winter footwear in a riot of colour. Saturday 25th July from 9am to 4pm, cost \$80 incl. all materials and morning tea.
- Group bookings are welcome. 'Black Sheep Farm' also offers eco friendly self-contained accommodation in a rainforest setting. Make it a craft weekend! Classes for all levels. Limited spaces.

For bookings and more information about the felting classes, call Suzanne on 02 6689-1095 or go to: [www.blacksheepfarm.com.au](http://www.blacksheepfarm.com.au)



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# Opinion



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## If you look for answers, you'll likely find monsters

It really does start to look like a lame act of denial and social manipulation by the evil psychopaths in the upper echelons of our new-world order when one of their debunking stooges takes the trouble to write, for a small, local, community newspaper, a cunningly worded and dismissive, "psy-op" commentary trying to dismiss a very real and well-documented problem.

Yet, there it was, a jam-packed full of heavily embedded, mocking refutations article trying to pigeon-hole aware and awake people into the old-convenient "conspiracy-nutter" basket.

This encoded message began with scatterings of nameless, alleged, out-and-about, viewpoints supposedly "heard" from people, followed by the writer's unscientific and factually bogus replies. Our views were then kneaded some more with a sprinkle of the writer's quasi-psychological, behavioural science analysis on "group mentality" hitched to the back of the most spurious, omission-riddled, "research" (YouTube only!) - presented as factual validation for disproving the existence of something.

"Geo-Engineering" (as it is properly referred to by the scientific community and NOT "chemtrails" by debunking skills) is a very real program. Do your own research: go to [ToxicSky.Org](http://ToxicSky.Org) and [GeoEngineeringWatch.Org](http://GeoEngineeringWatch.Org) for starters. Bill Gates is one of the largest investors in the program (he also is a large investor in Monsanto who are developing drought resistant and aluminium resistant food

crops and he's bought large water assets around the world. It's all there on the public record.

Geo-Engineering is a well-documented, corporate and military RandD funded, Government backed and controlled program that has been deployed in all of the NATO countries. This program has been conducting atmospheric releases of chemical substances, quite openly in the scientific community on public record, since weather manipulation initiatives were first tabled back in the early 1950's. An exponential increase in intensity has seen millions of additional tons of alumina particulates dumped into the atmosphere in the past 15 years.

We owe it to our children's health and their futures to stop this Psy-Op skulduggery of trying to ridicule and deny the facts about Geo-Engineering from preventing us from taking a community stand against it.

The shills try to label us as "religious chemtrail zealots" and disseminate nasty views such as "Only crazy people think they are spraying aerosols".

I've got one for you: "Only psychopath shills try and argue we aren't being slowly poisoned by Geo-Engineering."

It all falls to the ground in the end and 50+ published research papers from around the world have raised alarming concerns with chronic, yearly elevations of heavy metal poisoning of the soil causing extensive plant/tree die-offs. Unlike "Naamah Lamech", soil samples don't lie about their true composition!

"Naamah Lamech" (the writer's pseudonym) is a biblical Hebrew legend about a woman who marries a demonic fallen angel and becomes a demonic goddess herself. Wow! That is a real New World Order gag-name! So illuminating! Geo-Engineering and demonic angels, nudge-nudge-wink-wink to the Satanic Rothschild's cabal conducting Agenda 21.

How often do we see the day begin with a beautiful blue sky then the lines appear and a bizarre, striated, alien-cloud vista grows from the constant plane after plane spewing long, thick tubes of Hell-knows-what into the air we all are breathing. They don't dissipate (like a true contrail should after a few minutes) instead they puff-out and make the afternoon sun filter through a hazy, greyish blanket of smog that causes an ugly, rainbow-like ring around the setting sun, like oil on water... did you ever see days like this growing up as a kid? Not in 35 years did I ever see this bizarre, blazon depositing of substances into the sky.

But, according to Naamah, it's perfectly normal and we're all just being over-reactive "conspiracy-mind-control-nutters".

Please, ignore and beware of the mocking, trivializing and nasty monsters you will find when you look for answers to Geo-Engineering.

- Naamah-Paste

Mark Rengel  
Lismore

### In plain sight

Have you looked up lately to notice the long streaks in the sky or the constant haze on the horizon? Some days seem normal, but now most days our skies are little more than a bleached milky blue.

Our region is being targeted by an insidious experiment called weather modification or Solar Radiation Mangement (SRM). It involves the release of toxic high altitude aerosol emissions from aircraft. These planes do not track normal traffic lanes - sometimes one can observe five crossing the sky within a minute timespan.

The reflective metallic particles include aluminium, barium, strontium and sulphur hexafluoride. The persistent contrails are designed to linger in the upper atmosphere to combine with normal moisture, clouds and vapour to create an artificial blanket effect in the guise of reducing global warming.

These nano-sized aerosols were designed in 1991 by research scientists in the US. (Patent: 'Welsbach Seeding for Reduction of Global Warming' See: [www.geoengi-](http://www.geoengi-)

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**SRM**  
**SOLAR RADIATION MANAGEMENT**  
...PROGRAM CONTINUING INTO 2015...  
...SPRAYING OUR SKIES TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING...  
PROF. CLIVE HAMILTON  
(Member of the Australian Board of Climate Change Authority)  
[www.geoengineeringwatch.org](http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org)  
search site for interview  
**HEALTH WARNING**  
This massive experiment is being conducted without public consent or disclosure, saturating the atmosphere with reflective metallic nano particulates which include aluminium, barium and strontium. These aerosol emissions appear in our skies as wispy plumes and streaks. They are toxic to human health and contaminate the environment.  
Neurosurgeon Dr. Russell L. Baylock  
[www.globalresearch.org](http://www.globalresearch.org)  
see also Weather Warfare: Beware of the US Military's Experiments with Climate Warfare... Written by Prof. Michel Chossudovsky

[www.geoengineeringwatch.org](http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org))

Eventually the toxins are released by rain onto the earth and into our waterways. The health implications are great, with increases in diseases such as asthma, dementia, Alzheimer's and chronic fatigue syndrome. Neurosurgeon Dr Russell L. Baylock is concerned that the continuation of this spraying will lead to an impending health disaster and irreversible contamination of the environment (Russell L Baylock, MD: 'Chemtrails, Nanoaluminium

and Neurodegenerative and Neurodevelopmental Effects')

Considering that Australia is one of the most over-regulated nations in the world, why is this program allowed to continue when it is in violation of countless health and environmental laws? With further investigation one discovers the experiment is financed independently from the government, and raises basic questions of sovereignty. The reality is that we are now globalised, and corporations rule the world.

When one does question or petition authorities, a strategy of responses are activated, referred to as the 'plausible denial' pyramid (Gabriel Stetter, *White Skies*). These include: deny the program exists, refer to another department, tag the subject as a conspiracy, or refuse to discuss owing to national security issues.

In 2013, former Premier of British Columbia, Bill Vander Zalm put politicians on notice in an open letter, stating, "Geoengineering and Chemtrails are defined as a military-industrial complex

program." (See Prof Michel Chossudovsky, 'Weather Warfare: Beware of the US Military's Experiments with Climate Warfare' at: [www.globalresearch.org](http://www.globalresearch.org))

On other fronts, corporate media is so powerful that censorship by omission denies Australians the truth. The weather bureau ignores the artificial clouds which were not found in any authoritative textbook of meteorology published before 1990 (See: [www.bluenomore.com](http://www.bluenomore.com)). These aerosols cannot be explained away as common vapour contrails as they do not dissipate and are evident hours later.

We Aussies are a complacent lot, we live our busy lives, eyes downcast, texting and tweeting about the mundane, oblivious to the reality of what is happening. As unbelievable, surreal and inconvenient as it is, we need to lift our eyes up to the skies. It has been said: "To achieve massive deception, take the very thing you wish to obscure and hide it in plain sight."

- Clive Hamilton [www.geoengineeringwatch.org](http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org)

Emily

# Another medicinal cannabis workshop happening June 20

by Michael Balderstone

When the truth is so simple, why does it take so long to be discovered?

So many young people try Cannabis but only a small percentage persevere with using it regularly. It's expensive and illegal for a start, as well as the social stigma and doubts the authorities may be right with their psychosis and reefer madness warnings. Those who do love its effect and keep on using, have a reason of course. Managing pain, depression or anxiety, keeping fury or alcohol at bay, or numbing old wounds. Whatever the reason, many of us have gathered on the Northern Rivers to be among like-minded people and not feel the alienation and judgement I keep hearing about from potheads who live in other

communities.

The June edition of National Geographic is a huge endorsement for Cannabis, and if you can find a copy it's an extraordinary read. Stuff you would only have read in this paper or the Nimbin News a few years ago, and then thought nutty hippies were smoking too much. The story ends with 'Cannabis has an embarrassment of riches'. Suddenly the lies have died and green is the new gold in America and the wave is fast crossing the Pacific to Oz. A new Medical Cannabis company has floated on our Stock Exchange every month this year.

And am I dreaming that already Nimbin's 'druggie' reputation is not quite so grubby? Increasingly we are getting different visitors who are not judging us like they once did. They might be realising the whole

planet is a hospital and we're just an intensive care ward! Perhaps they might start wondering just what did the hippies get wrong.

And so the HEMP Embassy is hosting another of its popular Medical Cannabis Workshops in the Town Hall on Saturday 20th June.

The special guest speaker this time is Paul Lawrence, who survived an astounding 43-hour surgery in 2010 and endured a mega dose of radiation in 2013 to treat his recurrent Chordoma. After exhausting all avenues modern medicine has to offer, he has transformed his health and stopped all pharmaceutical medications by turning to medical Cannabis, diet and a healthier lifestyle.

Paul talked at the MC workshop in Sydney and is an excellent

speaker and long-term potsmoker. His story of a world-first operation to remove a tumour the size of a football in his spine was recently told on the ABC's 7.30 Report: [www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2015/s4241088.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2015/s4241088.htm)

He's an exceptional example of how good Cannabis can be as a pain manager and how it can relieve your pain and help heal you without turning you into a zombie. Many chronic pain sufferers are changing from opioids to Cannabis, and it's interesting that deaths from opioids have dropped 25% in American States where they allow MC.

At the Embassy we are hearing from a lot of people who are having great success with Cannabis for anxiety, depression, seizures and autism, as well as cancer treatments. Many people are learning from the

web that Cannabis may help them, and it's tragic they have to go to the black market for help. No-one I know wants to wait for the NSW trials, which are stuck in the starters blocks by the sound of it anyway.

Hemp farmer and HEMP Party secretary Andrew Kavasilas will also be speaking at the Workshop, along with local healers Radic Al and Chris Harris, solicitor Steve Bolt and more to be confirmed.

The Workshop will run from about 11am 'til 4.20pm. Donations at the door are appreciated if you can. There is an Eighties Fluoro Disco Party in the Hall in the evening, a fundraiser for the Aquarius Foundation, and all HEMP Party members are invited to a meeting and dinner at the Bush Theatre in Nimbin from 6pm that evening.

It's in the nature of my work to be unpredictable, and it's emphasised in our training. "Don't create patterns. Never walk the same track twice." They drummed it into me so hard it's now a natural part of the job, so the Boss shouldn't whinge when I turn up unexpectedly in the middle of his media briefing.

All the local story vultures were there, including a couple that like going national with weed stories from the infamous Bin. Of course records are kept on any journo who writes positive stories about the hippies herb, or even lifestyle. I walk in just as the Boss is nailing them to the floor. Talk about timing.

"As you well know we provide about 75% of your news stories. Now if you want this friendly service we give you free of charge every day to remain the way it is, then some events need to be minimised in the interest of public safety and everybody's health."

He blusters a little as he sees me slide in through the back door. I'm not supposed to be there and look more like his mother than anything else. For a moment I thought I'd play her, but quickly realised he mightn't keep up. I retreat and sit in his office, but they can all see me through the glass walls. I'm looking like I'm straight off the Bin's one street, and one of the journos keeps staring at me. I think she recognises me and I remember her nervously scoring weed from the lane. I recognise her tats.

The Boss shoulders on, "The MardiGrass may be colourful and fun for you, but for us it's a political nightmare. All these druggies gathered in druggieville for their annual drugfest. The last thing we need is you reminding them that it's on. We all know they have little memory, and we want your help in making sure numbers are kept to a minimum. A last minute story on the roadside saliva testing is acceptable and even maybe helpful as a deterrent, but

## STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

even better if they don't even know it's on."

He glanced at me staring at him as hard as I could. Lies, lies, lies. He knows it and I know it. Using the dumb druggie language is the oldest trick in the book when he knows full well our herb is totally different to the other drugs.

"Any questions?" He looks around the room.

"What about ice? Isn't that more of a worry than cannabis?" asked the young reporter with the tattoo. She's from the local daily and no doubt knows way more about drugs than the Boss, simply because she's tried some. She took the jump. Faced her terror, threw it aside and leapt into the unknown. No wonder so many never do it.

"We'll be focusing our saliva tests and dog searches on finding any illegal substances and of course ice is included. But this community who celebrates marawanna every year is different. They've got different morals and values, and that's a bigger threat than any drugs to destabilising our social values." He glanced down at a piece of paper when he said the last bit, and I realised he was just following orders. Reading off his Boss's memo. Of course. That stuff never changes.

"It's important to not promote their thinking and drug use in a positive light is what I'm saying, because," he paused. "as we all know they start on marrawana and then they try ice."

The tattooed girl persevered. "They're less likely to get caught with ice, so maybe easing up on pot might help."

He stared at her for a long second, making it obvious he was reading her

name tag, then said. "We just follow orders and don't make the laws, miss, so to us if it's illegal it's illegal and it's our job to catch any druggie. So thank you for that, and I look forward to not hearing any promotion of this celebration of criminal behavior."

And with an almost flourish he opened the glass door and walked back into his office where I was sitting like an old friend. The tiny but still a media pack left quickly with the ashen-faced girl glancing at me as she went. She knew I recognised her and by now had worked out I was Unda I'm sure.

The boss was furious I'd stumbled in on his ultimate power moment and me his number one weedman who knows so well what crap it all is. Straight away he launches into me. "You're now in on this Bethany. I want you to make sure the people from America talking about the changes over there get no attention at all. Not one story about them is to be in any media. OK?" I agree of course and he softens immediately.

"Did you know the crime rate has already dropped over there more in one year than ever before? The writing's on the wall, but we can rub most of it off, Canberra says. It's not in texta they said, just chalk. Whatever happens don't let it out that twenty thousand people are already employed in the marawanna industry in Colorado. You know how they all feel about jobs. Apparently some coppers have quit their jobs over there and now sell the drugs they used to hunt."

I had to laugh and he smiled a little himself. "I can't keep on playing this game forever you know," he sighed as he sat down at his desk.



## Ganja Faeries say thanks

The Nimbin Ganja Faeries would like to thank everyone for their great support at MardiGrass this year.

A special thanks to Ray and the Happy High Herbs team for awarding us first prize in the float awards, this will help fund another year of the Ganja Faeries studio and costuming costs.

This year we had our best turnout ever, with close to 30 Faeries in the parade, in their fabulous green sparkly beautiful best. They really worked hard in rehearsal and in the parade to make it all work so well.

Once again our annually chosen queen, Tara graced the head of our float with her customary beauty and charm, flanked by the Original Brother Gilbert from the lead of parade who smoked and blessed us all. We'd also like to mention our fantastic drummers who keep the beat of the MardiGrass parade and give us the groove to do our Faerie Dance in the Parade, and our awesome funky marshals who really kept the road clear for us while we were dancing.

For those businesses and individuals who support us through the year by stocking our faerie books and other fundraising items, you keep it all being able to happen. Thanks Tribal Magic, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Nimbin Environment Centre, Happy High Herbs, Daisy's, Perceptio Bookshop, and Nimbin Craft Gallery – your support helps us to get out and say "Decriminalize Now".

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