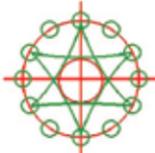


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Cheap shot

by Dionne May

It is the immortal words of the great Mohamed Ali, boxer and powerful social activist, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" that are ringing in my ears as we suffer yet another ignorant, yet unbearably predictable blow to the head of Nimbin's alternative cannabis culture.

One election equals one Nimbin bust. Some of our local boys are in jail and our town was held to ransom yet again for a few convenient and easy notches in the belt of 'drug law enforcement'. The Northern Star announces our boys as gangsters and police statements declare that the citizens of Nimbin are "tired of the drug trade", both misleading and false representations of our alternative culture.

More than one reality co-exists in Nimbin, whether people know, experience or ignore it. In a truly unique microcosm of the outside world, Nimbin's ebb and flow of the weird and wonderful is flushed daily with a river of tourists, sightseers and plenty of recreational and medicinal cannabis lovers... Nimbin truly is unique... and very rarely understood.

This enigma has captivated, corrupted and puzzled many different people in many different ways.

So when the word "gangsters" is sprawled over the local newspapers, I know that this cheap shot basically means time in jail for our boys and pats on the back for the boys in blue.

What it means for our town is something else. With our boys gone and the big void still lamenting in the middle of town since the fire, let the games begin. Local police have always refused to acknowledge or have no understanding of the role these boys play in our village. As convenient and easy targets sitting daily in the same place, there was no police intelligence required to bust the obvious and get easy credit. In actual terms, we have suffered a massive blow to our town's protection and integrity. Once again it seems easy targets for public renunciation will vilify too much money and time wasted on marijuana and ill informed heavy handed police tactics.

Reality... marijuana is illegal. Reality... marijuana is medicine. Reality... Australia's outdated English legal system. Reality... Nimbin's alternative culture. A paradox to trap the unwary. A paradox that allows corporate criminals and political and environmental assassins to dance lucratively in the shadows while everyday Aussies hang their heads in shame, wondering where it all went wrong, and how.

As the growing tide of the mental health and displaced lost souls, coupled with an alarming presence of pharmaceutically and synthetically drugs, continues to encroach upon our small village, those on the ground know that it is going to be a harsher winter in Nimbin now that some of the boys are gone.



Photo courtesy echonetdaily

Now branded gangster criminals, they are caught in the ugly net of unresolved cannabis laws while all the big players just find other runners and Ice gets a hold of Nimbin now that the boys aren't around to stop it. Fear prevails in town and the fresh hope of medicinal cannabis to thousands of sufferers has been jeopardised yet again while politicians and police congratulate themselves for satisfying the insatiable media appetite for propaganda.

But Nimbin is OUR reality, and these are OUR boys. They are only criminals because of an outdated law that many citizens of Australia would like to see changed but have only spineless and hopelessly disconnected politicians to rely on to make it happen. So those of you that voted in our recent democratic election of fools and their bullshit agendas... I ask what were we voting for? Money? Economy? What about people and communities? Our land? Our planet? Our future? The integrity, morality and pride of being Australian in 2016?

Nimbin never advertised or appealed to the mainstream. Nimbin existed because of the energy of the place and its inhabitants... and freedom of choice. Yes, greed has invaded our village in many different forms, legitimate and illegitimate, as it has in every facet of life in Australia 2016. Let greed be an issue rather than the endless tirade against the hemp plant.

So like a fishing net trawling the ocean floor indiscriminately destroying habitat and innocent life in its greedy ignorant wake, so too is the action of Australian police in Nimbin; never realising the damage they have done or the sensitivity of the environment that they plunder. Division and separation amongst the threadbare, ragtag bunch of hippies of Nimbin has never been greater as new energies enter our mix and can no longer be contained by our street code, our Nimbin Lore.

The voices of the butterflies must surely one day unite. The voices of every cannabis lover or 'criminal' wasting in our jails, voices of refugees in our off-shore detention 'jails', the dispossessed Aboriginal people, the homeless and poor of Australia's 'strong economy', the screams of our suicidal and angry youth, and yes, even the mutterings of hippies... are they mere distant echoes in this paradox of a lucky and developed country... even in Nimbin?

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Undawhelmed: Over and out

I've quit the Force. I felt I had no choice. They've ganged up on me so much I can't even get in through the station's secret door without them springing me, and then it's on. Like a war zone. And in the end it's just simple envy, I think.

While I was away with Malcolm on the endless campaign trail, they raided my mates in Rainbow Lane. I've spent so much of the last two decades with those boys, they are like my own flesh and blood. They only know me as the droog who hangs around cleaning up the mess, smoking an odd cone with them and telling great jokes. Now they'll know exactly who I am, but I don't care anymore and I won't be dressed like that ever again anyway.

Over the years I bought dozens of pounds off them, and sold them back often enough too, little do they realise. I've taught them to have a sense of humour and patience with the greedy buyers and I've taught them to be generous to the sick and needy. Greed is the enemy and I taught them that over and over again.

Who can forget the day they all chipped in and gave a pound to the mother who had driven from Melbourne with the little kid with a brain tumour? She broke down there and then and started sobbing in the lane next to her gorgeous little boy, overcome by their generosity.

The final straw was my hair, can you believe it? Turns out that when make-

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

up set my new wig last month, which I refused to have glued on again you may remember, they experimented with new aerial strands amongst it, and it seems they worked perfectly.

Every conversation within five metres of me in the last month or two has been listened to at HQ. I would never have known, but the bullies couldn't resist telling me how I'd dobed in my mates, albeit unknowingly. It was meant to be security for the PM, but turned into a boon for the drug squad.

So while I'm away keeping Malcolm calm, they raid and trash the place. Smashing my young friends into the cement, taking away all the shelters and the sacred table. I wonder if they've discovered it had hollowed out legs that could hold four ounces each!

I can undastand their envy. Young and not so young Force members are trapped in mortgage land, don't earn much and are taxed on it to boot. Then they have to do what they are told no matter what and can't say a word about it. I know for a fact many of them didn't join up for this at all. Most of them smoked a few cones themselves at school but it's not that, it's the money. The risk-taking boys with their fancy cars, new expensive shoes and parties up the Goldy are more than they can bear.

Every work day they have to put on the stupid uniform with all the heavy clobber that means they can hardly

run much less jump a fence. Every day they have to fill out endless senseless paperwork because no-one trusts each other in the system anymore. While the youngsters just keep on and on with their fun and games. It would be too much for most people I agree, but when I tell them the laws have created it, they just don't seem to be able to swallow it.

They have to believe the propaganda, it seems. No one wants to admit they've been going in the wrong direction for decades. It's similar to a lot of this culture's bad habits. They become the norm and people believe and see what they want to, afraid of change.

Fact is, they just trashed a marketplace that's preventing massive suffering in hundreds of people. Its not just envy, it's frustration multiplied a million-fold. They know deep down the game is lost but they're trapped in the system and the hippy kids who stick their noses up at them is just too much. Same as it is for me too now. I've spent too long with the enemy as they say, and become one of them. Or that's what my fellow members of the Force keep hounding me about.

What they don't undastand is that smoking all that weed as an undacuva, and throw in a few mushroom trips to cap it off, and the truth is just too overpowering. If I don't start living it, I'll never sleep well again. And it was hanging out with the hippies and their kids in the lane that taught me that.

Nimbin, a town that can never rest

by Sophia Hoeben

Another overkill of 50 plus fully armed police invading our peaceful town on Tuesday 28th June, which saw ten of our Rainbow Lane herbalists arrested violently as they were sandwiched between police who entered from both the car park and the Cullen Street entrance simultaneously.

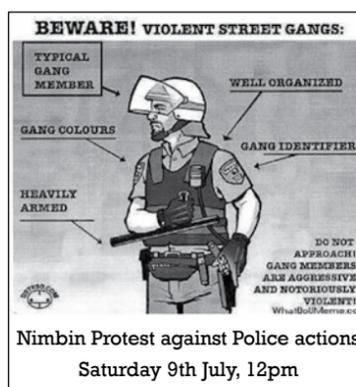
The boys were subsequently arrested, thrown to the ground and handcuffed behind their backs. Witnesses report that the police

had also been given the keys to the boys houses in town where the cops confiscated their money, their phones and goods considered to have been obtained 'illegally'. Another Nimbin resident reported that they had kicked in a door to gain entry, presenting an aggressive front even to those who have nothing at all to do with the sale of cannabis.

As a keen observer and a friend of the laneway boys, there have been many times I've heard them despatch people who asked for hard drugs such as those alleged by the

police. The boys have been steadfast in their refusal to deal hard drugs and work together harmoniously and co-operatively. Far from being the 'drug syndicate' the cops make out, the boys are not only harmless but assist the sick and people in pain, who, in many cases, come great distances for the medicinal herb.

The drug raid in Nimbin was purely political and occurred as a part of an operation called 'Strike Force Cuppa' which also raided premises in Lismore and



Queensland. Most likely any powder or hard drugs found were as a result of these other raids, however, the police chose to present

the media with a version which would suggest that these drugs were taken as a result on the raid in Nimbin as well. Apparently, the police can't tell the difference between a herb and a chemically manufactured drug.

The next day in Nimbin, shopkeepers reported a drop in sales as is the case after every raid, and a strange post-war stillness hung over our village.

So, another protest is being organised for Saturday 9th July, at midday outside the HEMP Embassy. See you there for another smoke-in, and come prepared for a fun day.

Big Pharma rules

by Michael Balderstone

I arrived in Nimbin in the middle of the recent police raid and watched in amazement as the fifty-odd cops who refused to engage with anyone who spoke to them, then proceeded to take down the tent and the tarps in Mingle Park, and cart them away as evidence. The locals, who had seen it all before, knew that it would be over soon and life would go back to normal. But will it?

For the thirty or so years I've lived in Nimbin, Rainbow Lane was always the place where you could score weed and there's been many raids but none quite like this. Not long ago it was a scary place and you might get twenty grams for your ounce, or less, but for some time now there's always been scales on the table (which was also carted away). And in the last couple of years as medical cannabis got so much positive publicity, it became busier and busier. Hundreds of people came every week to the infamous weed market to score their organic medicine. Nowhere else in Australia can you buy outdoor organic pot like that. Everywhere else it's pretty much all indoor hydroponically grown that has never seen sunlight or felt a natural breeze. And no-one wants their medicine to be chemically grown, of course.

Sure enough, as soon as the cops left the market kicked into action again, but barely a shadow of its former self. The lane boys who made sure ice was kept out, now have bail conditions not allowing them closer than fifteen kilometres from Nimbin. Several of them live in the village and have kids at the school. It was purely pot luck if you happened to be in the Lane at the time of the raid, but now we hear the police have been filming the Lane since January! There will be more arrests.

The replacement dealers are of course nervous as hell and getting asked for ice because the police and television reports of

the raid made it sound like they found ice in the lane. The police reported they found all sorts of drugs in the raid with no quantities explained or where they were found. The next day, predictably, ice addicts are coming to Nimbin to score. In many ways, the laneboys do way more policing of Nimbin than the Police. They know way better than the police who is using which drugs, and who is selling them.

In defence of the police, they must get plenty of high level complaints from visitors to Nimbin who insist they're not doing their job properly when they see the very open market with cannabis being traded all day like it's quasi legal. Nimbin would have to be the best drug educated community in Australia, but even amongst ourselves there are some who refuse to understand reality, and 'dob in a dealer'. I remember when the 'cannabis cafes' got raided in a similar very expensive operation. Later we discovered it was the local church groups in town who had written letters to the local member insisting on action. Until then, even the police had been impressed how the street dealers had left town. They soon came back after the raids.

I've been around Australia during the election campaign period and everywhere people are using cannabis, but nowhere as honestly and openly as in Nimbin. In the NT and northern WA, pot was being sold for \$100 a gram to the aborigines in bush communities, sometimes ready-mulled with spin. That's thousands of dollars an ounce! Outdoor weed is scarce and you have to know someone to score. Hydro, grown by organised crime, is never far away.

Back in the Northern Rivers, I went to a Meet the Candidates forum in Mullumbimby where health was the big issue. The pharmaceutical industry came up in conversation endlessly. The pro choice on vaccination crowd was well represented and passionate about the dominating monopoly



of Big Pharma and the doctors who are under their spell. This is where the big profits are in the monopoly game, pain relief. It's a fact that cannabis and the opium poppy between them were in virtually every medicine a century ago before the plants were made illegal.

California votes on November 8th to legalise cannabis for adults over 21 to allow users to carry an ounce and grow six plants, with all sales taxed at 15%. Here in NSW we have a few small FIVE year trials on medical cannabis taking place while the Premier plans on building 7000 new prisoner beds over the next four years costing \$3.8 Billion!

We are being bullied big time by super wealthy Big Pharma who have the police and the polities working for them. There's an interesting interview this month from the

ABC's The Drum with John Howard's ex Minister Jackie Kelly talking about how the NSW Liberal Party is ruled by lobbyists (see: www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5TdI3dXLWA).

When asked who primarily, the first two names she mentions are Johnson and Johnson and Merck Sharp and Dohme. They are the two giant pharmaceutical companies who have the contracts to grow more than half the world's legal opium in Tasmania and now Victoria, all destined for America to be made into their highly profitable painkillers you can buy at the chemist.

Big Pharma companies will fight tooth and nail to stop cannabis escaping its illegal clutches, because if the public can grow a few plants in their backyard they know their profits will be severely affected.

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The giant pharmaceutical companies are endlessly lobbying politicians in Canberra to maintain the war on cannabis, so what about we lobby locally? Make an appointment with your newly elected local Member of Parliament and tell them how prohibition affects your life as a medical cannabis user. Maybe go with some friends who are in the same boat, because you certainly can't drive a car!

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PARENTAL ALIENATION – Life in the void for discarded parents

Few people would argue that one of the worst experiences one can have in life as a human on this planet is losing a child. When a child dies, it is normal for the bereaved parents to experience grief and emotional distress. It is not a normal experience to have to bury one's own biological child. Often families come together in order to console and support one another at such a time.

However, there is another way to lose a child – through parental alienation. Cases such as kidnapping, abduction, court orders or contact denial can cause similar grief responses in the targeted parent where a child is still alive, but non-existent in the life of one of its parents.

The response and the suffering can even be worse than had the child actually died, because the knowledge that the child is still out there, somewhere, means that the targeted parent is unable to go through the usual processes which relieve the symptoms of grief – making sense of the loss and coming to terms with it, and finding positive outcomes from the loss. Many parents never adapt to the bereavement caused by the sudden and complete removal from their life of their biological child, regardless of the cause.

Some of the symptoms associated with complicated grief and which can cause impairment include:

- Shock and disbelief;
- Separation distress – yearning, craving, pining;
- Failure to adapt – difficulty accepting the loss, avoiding reminders of the loss;
- Detachment, numbness, absence of emotion;



Destitute Dad

- Loss of trust, difficulty moving on making friends and pursuing interests;
- Feelings of emptiness, meaninglessness; and
- Rumination, bitterness and anger related to the loss.

Depression and anxiety are also common, often leading to alcohol and substance abuse and general lowering of quality of life.

Alienated parents suffering these grief symptoms can then choose to engage with the legal system and court process, which can be drawn out and gruelling, as the only restoration oriented process available to recover the relationship with their child. They may present with these pathological symptoms at court ordered psychological and psychiatric evaluations, which may influence their evaluation as a capable parent by that 'expert witness'. In giving evidence to the court that parent might exhibit depression and anxiety or may get angry and blame the other party – none of which will usually help the case of that party for access to or residency of the child. However, these are normal responses to grief and if an alienated parent were not

experiencing them, it would be abnormal.

An alienated parent cannot be expected to have a 'normal' grief response and 'find meaning' through the court process while enduring ongoing and protracted denial of contact and/or contempt of court orders. It is difficult for any parent to be told that you have to wait six months or longer before getting a court hearing because of procedural delays inherent in the system, during which time you probably won't see your child at all. Imagine the despair when that hearing gets adjourned for another three months, with no outcomes. Many parents find it difficult to accept the injustices of the system and to not respond with blame and anger, which is not always inappropriate or unjustified. Even in situations where the removal of the child is required for the protection of the child, there should still be concern for the grief responses of both the parent and the child.

In most cases the primary concern is the "best interests of the child", however such interests need to consider the mental health of both parents, especially the one left behind. How is a parent expected to accept a court ruling that it is in their child's best interests to have no relationship with them? How is a child expected to react and cope if the alienated parent commits suicide?

For many alienated parents the result is Prolonged Grief Disorder. For others the pain is so difficult to tolerate that suicide seems like a solution or resorting to other desperate measures such as violence or abduction/kidnapping of the child.

In every family law case there is a winner and a loser, usually after years of waiting and uncertainty. More care needs to be provided to



any parent who is faced with losing contact with their child, to prevent the harms that can ensue, the worst and most permanent being suicide. For many alienated parents there is a vacuum left in their life where their children used to be, a void that seems all consuming. The knowledge that their child is out there somewhere, and that restoration of their lost relationship is possible can keep some going, but can drive others off the deep end with emotional distress and eternal yearning.

Of course there are other factors that can exacerbate and further complicate the grief such as financial stress resulting from property settlements weighted in favour of the other, custodial parent, possibly also leading to homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse etc. Nobody can be properly compensated for the loss of a child, but the system doesn't even try.

There has been significant research into grief responses of bereaved parents, and it is my view that

a comparative study should be undertaken with parents alienated from their children through abduction and/or the legal process.

Unfortunately it seems there is little that can be done to resolve the grief of losing a child, other than to get as much counselling as possible, to do everything possible to restore your relationship with your child, or to walk away and get on with your own life and hope the child will seek you out when they are old enough and want to find out why you weren't there for them. All you can do is try not to blame yourself for their emotional and mental issues and other harm that may have come to them as a consequence of being raised by a controlling and emotionally abusive parent, and accept them back into your life, as best you are able to be there for them, and let them know you love them, and always have.

- Alienated parents can find resources and support online at: www.emmm.org.au and www.facebook.com/paaustralianews

“Is it urgent?” – Symptoms of some common eye problems

by Tina Fuller, Nimbin Optical

Recently I have been receiving more than my usual share of phone calls like these:

Scenario 1

The phone rings on a Sunday.

“Hi Tina, I've had this thing with my eye. (Description follows)”

Tina: “That needs to be looked at straight away, I'll meet you at my office in half an hour.”

“Oh, I can't today, I have people coming for lunch. And I've got a busy week, so can I book in for next Friday?”

Scenario 2

The phone rings on a Friday morning.

“Hi Tina, can I make an appointment for today?”

Tina: “Sorry, I'm booked out 'til next Friday. Does that suit?”

“But my eye is really sore, I feel like there's something in it.”

“OK, drop in today and I'll fit you in. How long has it been like that?”

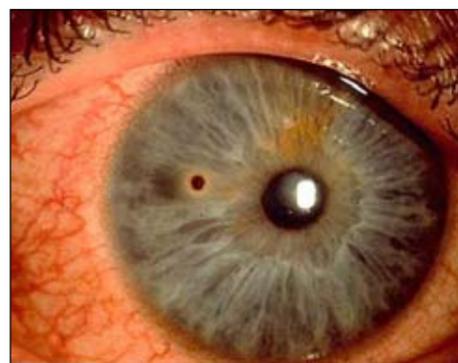
“Uhhh, about two or three weeks.”

Finally my husband said, “I think there's a *GoodTimes* article in that,” and I had to agree. I wondered why sometimes people take their eyes for granted and wait so long before getting things checked. Don't they realise that they could lose their sight? And then it struck me that maybe they don't.

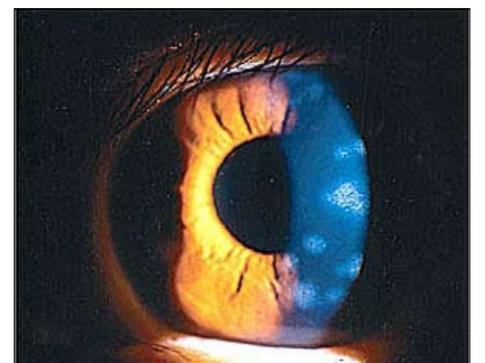
So it's time for me to change that. Here are the red-flag symptoms, which should make you drop what you're doing and get to an optometrist:



Allergic conjunctivitis



Corneal Foreign Body



Ocular Herpes

1. **Seeing flashes of light or floaters** (*shadows or shapes that appear to float around your visual field*) – possibility of a detached retina or a retinal hole.
2. **Foreign Body sensation (feeling like there's something in your eye)** – could be a foreign object or a corneal ulcer; both can scar without treatment. Metal foreign bodies will poison your eye if allowed to rust.
3. **Photophobia (unusual sensitivity to lights)** – often a symptom of a corneal ulcer or serious inflammation.
4. **Vision in one eye worse than the other, or a sudden change** – *often missed, because we keep both eyes open. Close each eye in turn and compare weekly.* Can signal a problem developing in one eye.
5. **Distortion in your vision (straight lines look wavy)** – *again, you must check each eye separately.* Sign of fluid under the retina or macular degeneration.
6. **Double vision or turned eye** – can be

a sign of a brain lesion or serious thyroid issues.

7. **One eye appears larger (or more open) than the other** – same as 6.
8. **Part of your visual field is blurry or obscured, or a “curtain” coming across your vision** – lack of blood supply to part of the eye, precursor to a stroke.
9. **Seeing haloes around lights** – possible corneal swelling due to high pressure in the eye, but also many other causes.
10. **Intense pain in the eye** – extremely high pressure, serious inflammation. **Haloes and pain at the same time are symptoms of an acute glaucoma attack, which can send you blind within hours.** If in doubt, give me a call, as soon as things start to happen. Don't wait 'til it gets unbearable. Give me a chance to give you advice early, so I can tell which you signs which will alert you that things are going bad. It might turn out to be nothing serious. But I would much rather see twenty people

‘unnecessarily’, than miss the one that needed urgent treatment.

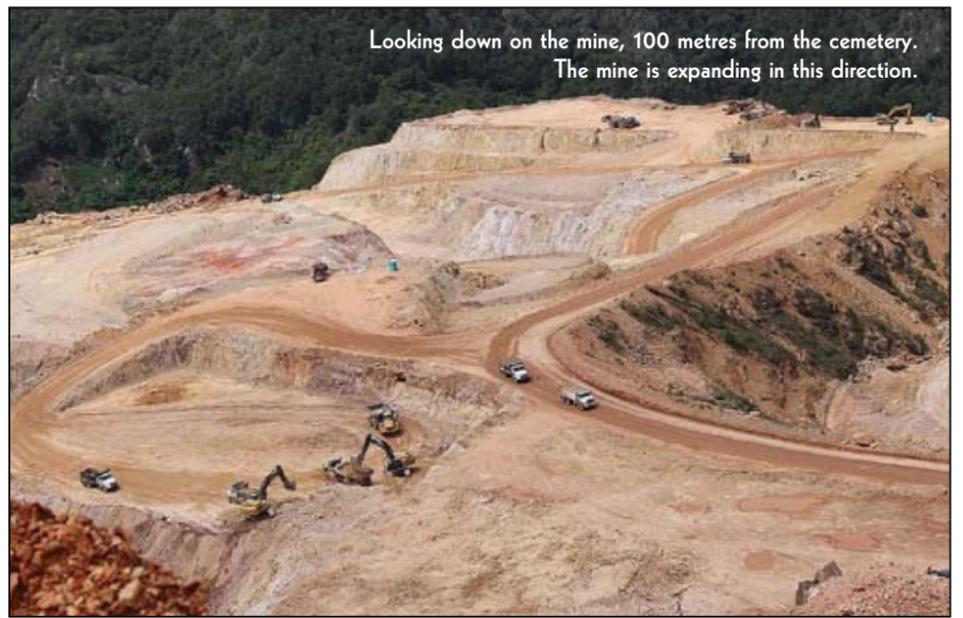
There is one more point I would like to make. Most eye conditions can't be properly diagnosed without a slit lamp and a tonometer. In an ideal world, every hospital and medical centre would have these, but most don't.

The slit lamp gives me enormous magnification, a bright cold light source, and the ability to see a cross section of the eye all the way back to the retina. The tonometer allows me to measure the pressure in the eyeball to check for glaucoma.

Without these, it can be hard to distinguish simple conjunctivitis from a small embedded foreign body, a virus infection, acute glaucoma or an allergy. If you have an eye problem or question, give me a call at any time of day or night, on 6689-0081 (it is redirected to my home whenever I am not at work). My mobile number is on the door of my office at 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin.



The magnificent landscape the open cut mine is replacing.



Looking down on the mine, 100 metres from the cemetery. The mine is expanding in this direction.

Honduras under seige from mining interests

by Warwick Fry

On 7th June, Canadian gold mining company Aura Minerals and the Honduran Government, Army and Police exerted serious pressure on the Azacualpa community to force the signing of an “agreement” to dig up the dead from, and then destroy the community’s 200-year old cemetery, so that Aura Minerals can continue its cyanide-leaching, mountain-top removal, gold mining operation.

There was a sad moment: the company lawyer triumphantly brandishing a Biro under the nose of the straw-hatted campesino who met his challenging gaze with a calm dignity that was almost contemptuous. Journalists and a Canadian-led human rights delegation who had been evicted from the proceedings watched through the windows with dismay this final episode in the marathon six hour negotiating process.

This was the latest in a series of negotiations going back to 2012 and beyond, between Aura Mines and the Azacualpa Environmental Committee. They were meeting in the University of the provincial capital, Santa Rosa de Copan Honduras; a two-hour journey from the village of Azacualpa over tortuous mountain roads near the Guatemalan border. The representatives of the community of Azacualpa had their lawyer, the moral support of our group and the lukewarm sympathy of the local media. The mining company had the Commissioner of Police, the Colonel in command of the local military brigade, the provincial governor and the head of the mine’s private security firm.

The leader of the delegation, Grahame Russell of the Canadian-based human rights organisation Rights Action (<http://rightsaction.org>) pointed out that the arrival of the Minister and the provincial governor was indicative of how seriously the mining company took the international attention that observers like ourselves had brought to the harm the mine was bringing to the community and our presence in the town at the time of the negotiations.

Eight hours later, and we the media had been evicted twice. We snapped pictures through the windows. We did manage to corner the Minister as he conferred with the local media, who said that everything was hunky-dory, everyone had agreed to the removal of the cemetery, and, “Excuse me, I have to go now because my helicopter is waiting and the rain is getting heavy.”

This was two hours before the document had actually been signed. The presence of the police Commissioner was a gentle reminder that three of the community committee were under trumped-up charges going back two years for ‘illegal assembly’ and a new law introduced a year ago, ‘obstructing the work of a mine’.

Fast forward to Episode two. As the leader

of our delegation explained, this was not a setback, but another chapter in a continuing struggle. I returned four weeks later to catch the tail-end of a follow-up meeting. Because the community representatives were not allowed to consult with the community during the July 7 negotiations, their signature of the agreement only amounted to an agreement to continue the negotiations.

The second meeting on 27th June of the Environmental Committee of Azuacapa and the representatives of the Canadian mining company (Aura Mines), followed the forced ‘agreement’ of the negotiations of June 7. It was marked by levels of intimidation that surpassed those of the June 7 meeting.

“To the mining company, bodies are disposable, whether living or dead”

The same line-up of dignitaries were present. The chief of the regional police and the head of the local military brigade, the Provincial governor, the Minister for the Interior, the head of the mine’s private security team, and the north American mine manager with the actual legal representation for the mining enterprise. Technically, only the latter have anything to do with the negotiations.

The lawyer for the Azacualpa committee says that he cannot recall any precedent for the presence of the military, police, and government officials as signatories for this kind of negotiation between an enterprise and a community.

Additionally, there was a contingent of people employed locally by the mine and nine of the mine’s private security to prevent the entrance of unwanted observers.

The object of the meeting, as far as the mine’s representatives were concerned, was to determine the location of the replacement cemetery. They were frustrated when the Azacualpa community representatives were able to produce at short notice the signatures of ten community members who objected to the removal of family grave sites. A member of the mine employee group tried to snatch the paper and destroy it, but it was rescued and included in the official documents of the meeting.

The meeting dissolved without having arrived at any formal agreement, leaving in doubt what action the mine management might take on July 1. This was the date originally allowed by the local mayor for removal of the cemetery to begin. Hundreds of members of the community are prepared to resist.

During a review of the meeting of the 27th, the committee received a copy of a letter addressed to the Minister by the



Municipal mayor in the hot seat.



A mine lawyer proffers a pen to Osmondo (a community representative, who hosted Warwick when he went up to Azacualpa).

mine employees group, requesting that the Azacualpa Committee be excluded from future negotiations. Their presence, it was claimed, impedes their Human Right to work.

On Thursday 30th June, I took the chicken bus up to Azacualpa. I was met by a local family who hosted me for the night – always the gracious campesino hospitality that keeps me coming back to Central American countries. The whole village, about the size of Nimbin, were against the mine and determined to resist the removal of the cemetery. The exceptions were employed by the mine (some forty – the rest of the 200 employees were imported). They had been threatened with sackings, and offered a carrot of bribes.

I learned that the mining company had

bussed in mine employees and people from neighbouring villages that had nothing to do with the mine, to blockade the cemetery on the Thursday. Flawed intelligence.

I came back with a delegation, stopping off to harass the Mayor of the Municipality that includes Azacualpa. He turned on the charm, handled the grilling well, assured us that he was on the side of the community and that the behaviour of the mine management was criminal. I asked Karen later on the bus if he meant a word that he said. She said, “I have 30 pages of documents proving that he is in the pay of the company.”

• To follow this unfolding story and learn the history, link to the Rights Action website: <http://rightsaction.org>

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WED 13 th JULY	BENNIES' GIG @ THEATRE - Café OPEN	from 5.30pm
SAT 16 th JULY	Joe O'Keefe	12.30-3.30pm
SUN 17 th JULY	Mon Shelford	12.30-3.30pm
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SAT 23 rd JULY	Mish Songsmith	12.30-3.30pm
SUN 24 th JULY	Kiara Jack	12.30-3.30pm
SAT 30 th JULY	Sakrewsky-Symons Quintet	12.30-3.30pm
SUN 31 st JULY	Liquid Amber	12.30-3.30pm
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The Bella Fontes perform at Lillifield Community Centre



Lay down your coconuts and let The Bella Fontes take you on a sun-kissed frolic back to the golden age of Calypso. The Bella Fontes celebrate the radiant sounds of this bygone-but-not-forgotten era with a cabaret cocktail of Calypsonian music, gorgeous

harmonies, infectious dance moves and and hilarious enthusiasm... all presented in technicolor vintage style.

Featuring the musical and theatrical genius of Nadia Sunde, Andrea Soler, Parissa Bouas and James Ross, this multi-talented team of enthusiasm

experts bring their love of world music, audiences and each other to the fore in this exciting new ensemble.

They recently performed at Nimbin School of Arts' Blue Moon Cabaret and were a stand-out festival act at the recent Woodford, Bleach and Wintermoon Festivals.

The set-list is crafted from the best of vintage Calypsonian classics, contemporary songs (performed in a Calypso feel) and original compositions from a multi-awarded songwriting quartet.

Special guest Carl Cleves from The Hottentots will be opening the night with his award winning songs.

The gig is on Saturday 23rd July at Lillifield Community Centre, 4505 Kyogle Road Wadeville (Next door to Barkers Vale Primary School). Doors open 6pm – with delicious food and drinks for sale – show starts 7pm.

Tickets are \$15. Pre-sale tickets are available at The Green Bank in Nimbin and also online at: www.stickytickets.com.au

The Bennies

The Bennies play psychedelic-reggae-ska-doom-metal-punk-rock and are big, wild and loud. They will perform at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Wednesday July 13 at 7.30pm.

The Bennies are a band on the rise. In January 2016 their first single *Party Machine* from their new album reached number 88 on triple j's Hottest 100, some two months before physical copies of the album were even available. The album *Wisdom Machine* made it's debut at number 10 on the Australian ARIA charts. All this buzz caught the eye of Vinnie Fiorello, owner of Florida based

label Paper & Plastic, who released their album in the UK and USA resulting in an invitation to play at infamous Belgium festival Groezrock, alongside their heroes – Rancid.

Tireless gigging warriors, The Bennies will return home from their European and UK tour mid 2016 to continue the second phase of the Australian leg of the Wisdom Machine tour.

Constantly outdoing themselves with every show, this will be their biggest and most expansive tour to date, with 27 shows across each state, regional shows and new destinations they have previously never visited, including by popular



demand The Nimbin Bush Theatre.

The Wisdom Machine Tour is proudly presented by Triple J. The Bennies will be supported by Melbourne based Poison City label mates, Clowns, who play hardcore punk rock and who are also fresh from European tour dates. Also along for the wild ride will be Perth punk-rock trio Axe

Girl, featuring Ness from Jebediah and a Patty Smith meets Tankgirl attitude. Lismore/Nimbin local punk outfit Spanx open the evening.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open from 6pm for a range of meals, cakes and beverages. General admission is \$20. Available at: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events

Showing at the Bush Theatre



Tuesday 12th 12.30pm
Inside Out (kids movie)
[2015 dir. Pete Docter & Ronnie del Carmen, rated PG]

This film will appeal to adults and older children alike as it humorously explores the inner workings of a human brain. This story tracks a significant coming-of-age experience of an eleven-year-old girl (Riley) from within her psychophysiological mind, as well as that of her parents'. The film's script was developed in consultation with numerous psychologists and features emotions as personified characters – 'Joy', 'Sadness', 'Fear', 'Anger' and 'Disgust' – as the girl adjusts to the family's move to a new town.

Friday 22nd 7.30pm
Limitless
[2011 dir. Neil Burger, rated 'M']

Finally, the 2011 thriller *Limitless*. Based on Alan Glynn's novel *The Dark Fields*, this film has an excellent original soundtrack underpinning a visually stylish piece of cinema. Starring Bradley Cooper as the main character, Edward Morra, this story seems to raise more questions than it answers by exploring how nootropic drugs can and/or should be used to expand human cognition. Eddie is a down-on-his-luck writer who is desperate to break a 'creative block'. When he's offered a chance to do so via use of an unauthorised

pharmaceutical product, 'NZT-48', he discovers that the pay-offs of taking the drug apparently seem to outweigh any risks: i.e. he finishes his book within four days, learns to play the piano within three days, impresses people endlessly with his mental acuity and charisma, then successfully plays his hand at the stock market. In short, he becomes a 'new' person as he accesses 100% of his brain. There are risks however, and as the story unfurls we witness an exciting tale with many twists and turns. Also starring Aussie gal Abbie Cornish as Eddie's girlfriend and the legendary Robert de Niro as a financial tycoon. You'll be left pondering where your own limits lie after the film is over, as well as how exactly you would harness your own capacity for personal fulfillment... or not!

All films at the Bush Theatre cost \$10 entry, with tix available at the door or online: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events Phoenix Rising Café serves dinner, drinks and desserts from 5.30pm for the Friday Movie Nights and, of course, is open all day whilst kids' flicks are on. Entry to *Inside Out* includes a serve of popcorn. For further info and tix: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events or call Venue Proprietor, David Hyett on: (02) 6689-0095 or 0418-824-598.

Climbing the Wall

Northern Rivers five-piece band Wall of Love will bring their eclectic mix of country/pop/rock/folk to a place that feels like home, Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 24th July.

The band are all songwriters, each informed by their own influences, which always makes for a genre-defying, diverse set.

They formed in 2012 from an unlikely but easy compatibility between enigmatic singer songwriter Shannon Lacy (vocals, guitar, bass) whose roots lie in post-punk, disco and inner-city country rock and

three friends from Brisbane with a proclivity for folk – Jamie Irvine (drums), Carmen Myler (vocals, keys) and Rhett Brambleby (vocals, guitar, bass) – who all now hail from northern NSW. In 2014, mercurial guitarist Simon Clarke came on board, bringing with him melodic tones and a talent for arrangement and musical alchemy.

Their sound may span everything from folk to blues to pop to psychedelia, but a common thread of melody and harmony make for a sweet, eclectic mix that is all about the love.



The gig is free and family-friendly, and as always the fine food and beverages served by Sphinx Rock Café's delightful team will

make for the perfect winter's afternoon.

Wall of Love play Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 24th July, 1pm-4pm. Free.

The Channon Open Mic

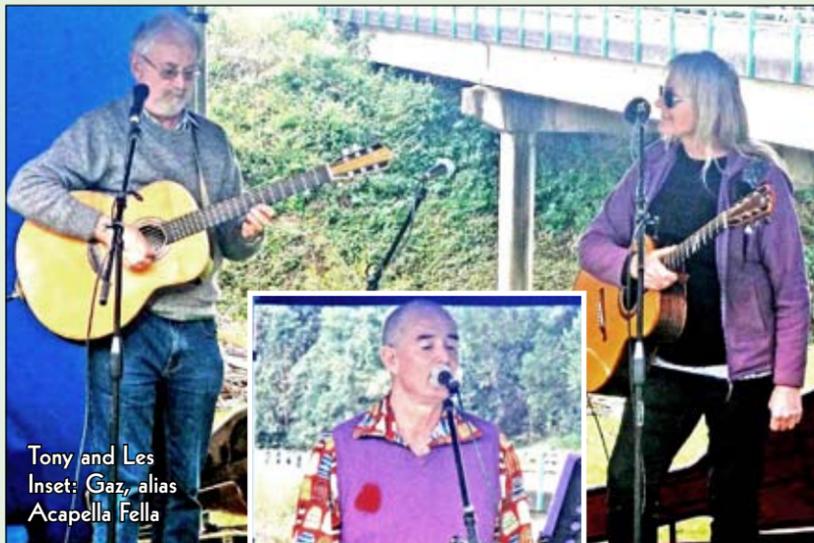
by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

What a great afternoon at The Channon on the 26th June, albeit there was quite a chill in the air with the sun rarely showing her face.

The music flowed until almost dark with some solid performances. Duo, Tony and Les, were a crowd favourite with a nice mix of finger picking, ballads and originals.

We also heard from regulars, Glen and Toby and not-so-regulars, Zig, Acapella Fella, Joy and Alana and Tom. Locals Mel, Jay, Steve and Kev put a nice set together with my help drumming on a couple of numbers.

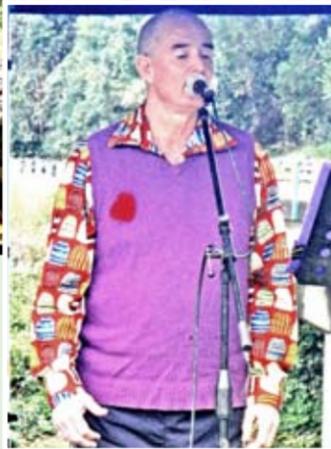
If next month is again chilly, we will likely be inside with the fire going. Either way we will be there from 2pm



Tony and Les
Inset: Gaz, alias
Acapella Fella

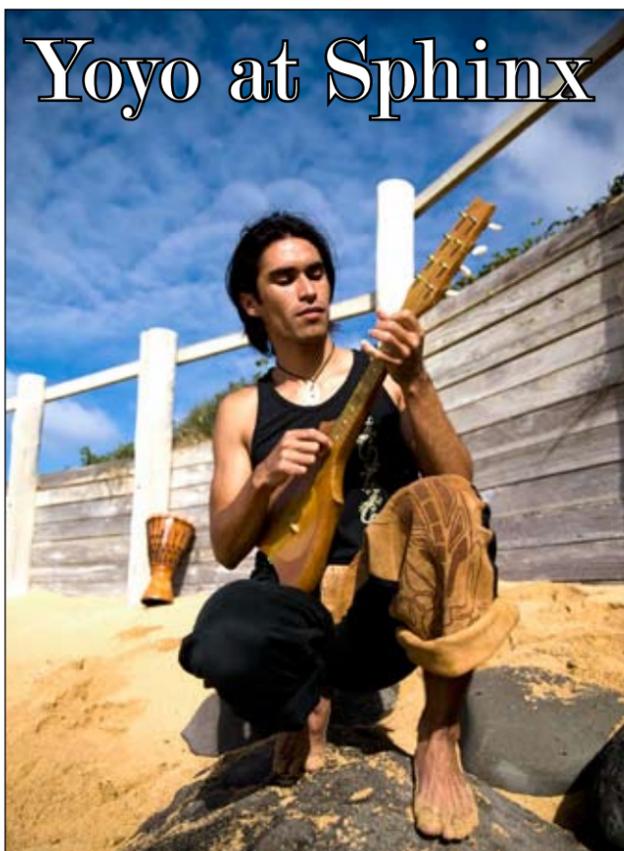
on Sunday 24th.

Don't forget the Tavern restaurant is open for lunch from noon to 2.30pm and dinner from 6pm to



8pm and snacks in between.

Love to have your company in July. Wishing you sweet music.

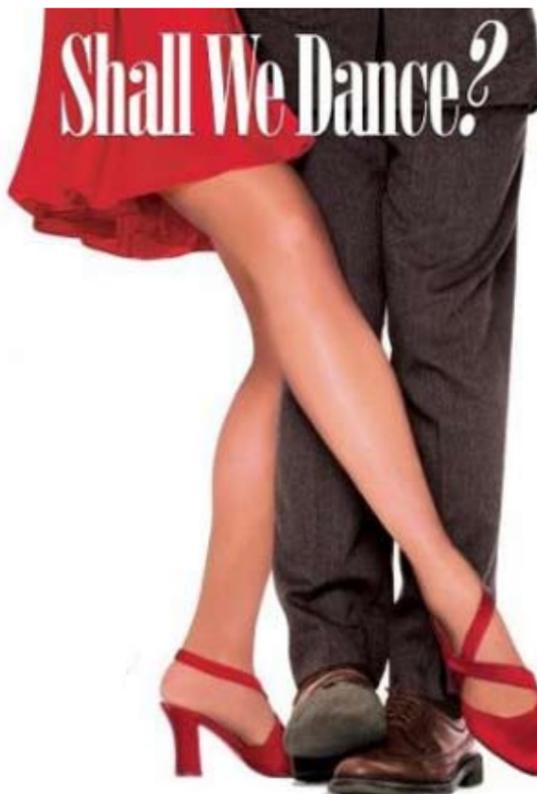


Yoyo Tuki is a musician and visionary artist from the Polynesian island of Rapa Nui (Easter Island).

Yoyo's music, which is sung predominantly in his native Rapa Nui tongue, has gathered a worldwide following. It has been described as soulful, emotive and spiritual with contagious rhythms and melodies.

His most recent album *Hoko Manu* has caused quite a sensation since its release in January 2011. Guided constantly by the 'Kuhane O Te Tupuna' (the spirit of his ancestors), Yoyo's music and art comes from a sacred space, and are deeply intertwined.

Catch his gig on Sunday 10th July, 1pm at the Sphinx Rock Cafe.



Nimbin Flix movie

The 1996 Japanese smash hit *Shall We Dance?* is a film about honour and shame, yet following your heart and passion, and it is our movie for July.

Each evening on his way home from work, an accountant sees a beautiful woman in the window of a dancing school. He is fascinated by her and eventually signs up for dancing lessons. This beautiful and touching film is a must-see.

Screening at Birth and Beyond on Saturday 9th July. Doors open at 6pm and the film starts at 6.30pm. Free for members or \$10 casual. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

We hope to see you there.

– The Nimbin Flix Team



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Sunday Gig Guide

July 1pm start

10th Yoyo Tuki
A fusion of Rapa Nui (Easter Island) roots with music influences from around the world.

17th Guy Kachel
The grace and soul of the blues interspersed with the country strains of his youth, and the tempering power of rock and roll.

24th Wall of Love
A five-piece band offering up a sweet, eclectic of mix of sounds that are all about the love.

31st Amrita
Katrina Ross & David Sykes come together as Amrita to create soundscapes inspired by devotional music from the East.

August 7th Raku O Gaia
Raku has an uncanny ability to engage the very soul of an audience; an incredible performer with a wonderful energy.

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July Gigs

Friday 8th	7pm	Mecha Mecha
Saturday 9th	7.30pm	Fat Albert
Sunday 10th	5pm	Rickie Langford
Friday 15th	7pm	Manziere
Saturday 16th	7.30pm	Papa Funk
Sunday 17th	5pm	Ben Purnell
Friday 22nd	7pm	Run Dos Run
Saturday 23rd	7.30pm	Thorazoo
Sunday 24th	5pm	Brommers
Friday 29th	7pm	Will Massey
Saturday 30th	7.30pm	Money Shot
Sunday 31st	5pm	Rhyece O'Neil

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The Fibre Show

Opening night. Photos: Marie Cameron



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The Fibre Show is currently showing at Blue Knob Hall Gallery. It has been a very successful exhibition, with visitors coming to see the original and unique work that the fibre artists and artisans of the area produce for this annual exhibition.

The exhibition opening was well supported with Cherie Shadwell as the guest speaker affirming the value of these arts and a venue that continues to support the wide range of work and the fibre artists of the community. John Hosking provided some relaxing music and created a lovely atmosphere for all those attending.

Fibre artists have a lot to talk about and love to share their expertise and enthusiasm. One of the most delightful experiences of this exhibition is often the discussions that can be heard about fabric, stitching, felting, weaving, textiles and fibre.

There is still plenty to see and this

show will run until Saturday 16th July.

The next exhibition coming up at Blue Knob Hall Gallery is Macrocosm/Microcosm. The Opening night will be held on Friday 29th July at 6.30pm.

Moore Workshop Space

• Encaustic workshop

A fantastic two-day Encaustic Workshop was held by Mo Godbeer in the Moore Workshop Space in June. A great experience and a wonderful medium to learn about. Look out for another workshop planned in August. For any enquiries you can contact the Gallery on 6689-7449.

• Paul Roguszka Drawing Class

A great drawing workshop has been running over six weeks with Paul Roguszka, with Paul's wealth of knowledge and going back to basics with drawing, it is a valuable addition to the ongoing 'artistic hub', that the Blue Knob Hall is becoming.

Ceramic Studio update

Classes are really ticking along in the studio. Since we opened in March, we have had over 60 students coming to regular classes. Now that we have the kiln up and running, we are doing firings just about every week, with some fabulous work coming out. The Mosaic Tile Making Workshop we are running in August and another one in September are now full.

And we are currently organising a Master Class for a two-day workshop in September which will feature figurative ceramic making with Gwen Mulder.

Artists & Friends Lunch

The next Artists & Friends Lunch will be held on Thursday 28th July at 12.30pm with a main meal which includes dessert for \$19 (vegetarian) or \$24 (non-vegetarian meat dish).

Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you are planning to attend.

SOUND IMAGES AT THE ROXY



'Clouds Now & Then' by Sue Boardman



'Ice Carving 1' by Michael Hannan

Whilst music is a time-based art, it has many similarities with the visual arts.

Compositions of sound and image are the bases for the next exhibition, 'Sound Images' being held at the Roxy Gallery, Kyogle.

'Sound Images' involves Northern Rivers visual artists Sue Sawkins, Merle Rankin, Sue Boardman and Michael Hannan responding to ten selected works by composers from the

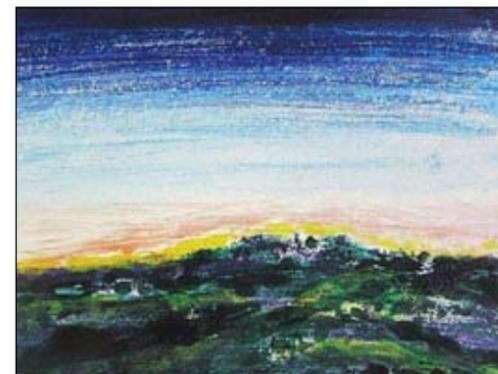
Northern Rivers: Barry Conyngham, Richard Meale, Peter Martin and Michael Hannan.

With an interest in drawing upon the similarities of music and visual arts, this group of artists have concentrated on a selection of musical composition by contemporary classical composers who live in or have strong associations with the Northern Rivers area to serve as a stimulus for Northern Rivers visual artists to

mount an exhibition around the ideas of visually responding to sound.

"We use similar language to describe what is happening in a work: concepts such as colour, texture, line, density, contrast, form, spatiality and movement.

"The unique styles of individual composers and visual artists move us and inspire us in similar ways. Both artworks evoke emotional responses based on our understandings of



'Dawn Song' by Merle Rankin

the cultural meanings associated with different genres and periods."

Come and join in

the sight and sound of 'Sound Images', on show at the Roxy Gallery until 30th July.

The art of *Melissa Hume*



by Peter Warne

This month at Nimbin Artists Gallery we are focussing on the work of Melissa Hume, fabric maker, dress designer and creator of beautiful garments.

Melissa has been designing and making clothes in some capacity for most of her working life. After her initial training in New Zealand, she moved to Adelaide where she opened a shop doing dress making and made-to-measure garments for special occasions.

The prosperous eighties brought her lots of customers, permitting her to indulge in her love of high quality fabrics and fine, natural

textiles. Melissa always dyed a lot of the fabrics she made clothes from, drawing her inspiration from nature.

Fifteen years ago she learned to make felt, and the ability to create her own fabrics opened up a whole new field of possibilities – she was able to indulge in a new range of materials and textures, from silk to cotton and all the different qualities of wool.

Creating felt led Melissa to the discovery of Nuno, a relatively recent felting technique developed by a NSW felt artist, Polly Stirling, in about 1992. Nuno (the Japanese word for cloth) involves felting a loosely fibrous material, often unspun wool, onto a lighter,

sheer material such as silk. This opens up a panoply of textures and effects, with variations possible in the weight of the finished fabric and the suppleness, as well as a great range of colour, texture and design elements.

Melissa is motivated by her passionate desire to make beautiful, unique garments which clients can take delight in wearing. She is aware that when people wear clothing that they love, an intimate form of self-expression is facilitated. When you see the garments Melissa has produced, there is what I would call a sense of esthetic flush – a warm internal response to the colours, at once intense and subtly contrasted, and the textures that simply

invite you to touch and feel.

She feels strongly that the joy of wearing such lovely garments should be within reach of ordinary people, not just the super-rich, so her creations are priced accordingly.

When questioned about the philosophical background to her work, Melissa refers to the Arts and Crafts Movement, which started in Britain about 1850 and, eventually spreading to Europe, the US and Japan, and ran till about 1910. It was as much a social movement as an artistic one, concerned with the dignity of the individual, as opposed to the 'servile labour' that was imposed on the masses of factory workers, as the reach of the Industrial Revolution engulfed society.

Searching the internet, I learn from Wikipedia, that the golden rule of the movement's leading artist, William Morris, was: "Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." This could be seen as encapsulating Melissa's approach – beauty and functionality should be combined, and this quality of object should be available to a broad public and incorporated into everyday life.

Call in to Nimbin Artists Gallery right through July, to see and admire Melissa's work. And ladies, you might just find the shawl or jacket which will add gorgeous colour to your life and keep you warm through winter.

Instances: The art of the maker

A solo show by Jeremy Austin at Serpentine Community Gallery

To make is to see. Making marks inside and outside the studio is a way of initiating a dialogue with oneself or the wider community, which in turn creates conversations that can be used to articulate an idea into an instance.

Whether it is drawing in a sketchbook, marking a canvas or spontaneously painting a public wall, this moment of interaction between artist and the surface creates new instances which may be drawn upon further versions within the art making process. Or this could simply be a continued exploration of recurring characters and motifs.

This exhibition looks at the art of the maker and the various versions of a work that come into existence throughout the process. Sketches and further iterations of

an idea or concept usually go unseen and forgotten once the final work is completed, are all instances that were once at the forefront of the artist's creative mind on their journey of making.

Spontaneous creativity is an examination of personal identity, community discussion and social engagement is the focus of Austin's art practice. His exhibition will explore making and its processes.

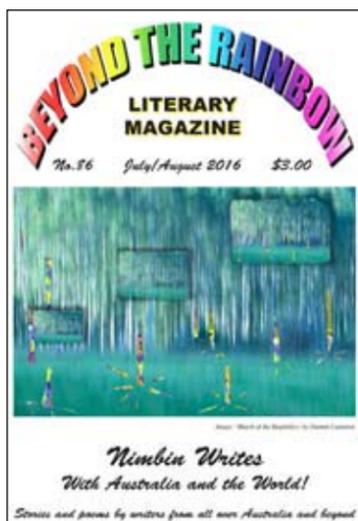
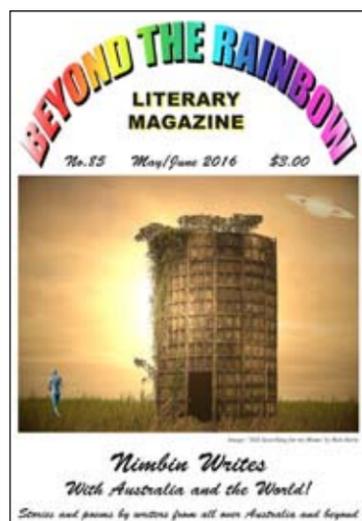
Jeremy Austin is a visual artist who works in a variety of mediums out of his studio in Lismore. Growing up in his father's art store, surrounded by art materials his entire life he found himself becoming a keen mark maker. Never straying far from the tactile world he graduated with a Bachelor of Visual Arts with a focus on light projection, sculpture and animation. Austin's work has been featured in International Animation

Festivals both in Australia and London.

Now a keen painter, illustrator, street artist and screen printer, Austin has continued his exploration into mark-making by creating new works in a variety of mediums for his latest solo show 'Instances' which opens Sunday 10th July at Serpentine Community Gallery.



'Identity Masked 1', Mixed media on mounted board



Issue 85 cover art (left): 'Still Searching for my Home' by Rob Harle
Issue 86 cover art (right): 'March of the Biophillics' by Darmin Cameron

Facelift for literary magazine

Beyond the Rainbow has been produced in Nimbin by local writer Tamaso Lonsdale, presenting stories and poems from all over Australia and beyond since 2002.

Originally published by Mousetrap Media, the bi-monthly publication was rescued when that organisation folded, and is now being produced by the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, with the editorial assistance of Rob Harle and Bob Dooley.

This has seen some changes in presentation, including full-colour covers featuring a different Nimbin artist in each edition.

Bob Dooley said, "This is an

excellent sister publication for the newspaper, providing an outlet for poetry and longer-form fiction that can have difficulties in placement in the *GoodTimes*."

Contributions from writers are welcome, preferably by email to: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or by mail to *Beyond the Rainbow*, PO Box 20146, Nimbin 2480.

The July-August edition is out now, featuring contributions from Nimbin locals Nathalie Buckland, Robert Bruce, Tonia Haynes and Rob Harle; other Australian writers Rita Carter, Dorothy Ifould, Roslyn J. Motter, Adrian Rogers, Desmond

Bishop and Paul Truttman; and Indian poets Aju Mukhopadhyay and Sanjeev Sethi.

At present, the 16-page magazine is produced in a limited print-run, but it is hoped to increase the circulation and also produce an on-line edition.

Subscriptions to *Beyond the Rainbow* are available at \$30 per annum posted (6 copies), and may be ordered via the contact addresses above. A limited number of copies are also available for \$3 each at Perceptio's, Nimbin Environment Centre, and the Visitor Information Centre.