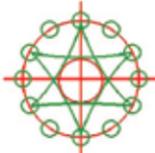


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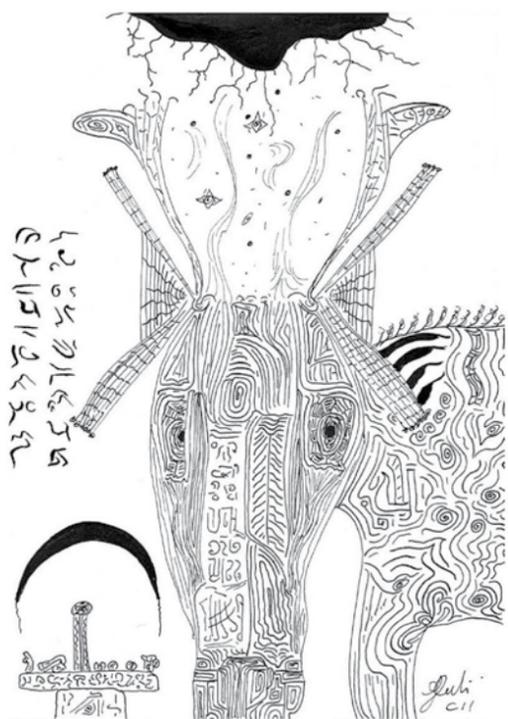
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# Hemp is healthy, the nanny state is not

by Jeremy Buckingham MLC, NSW Greens agriculture spokesperson.

There was a buzz last Saturday when I attended the Hemp, Health and Innovation Symposium in Sydney. The prospects for hemp and medical cannabis are looking up, with the stigma associated with cannabis waning.

Even conservative governments are recognising that medical cannabis can help alleviate symptoms, such as epilepsy in young children, as well as alleviate chronic pain.

The Greens launched our Hemp is Healthy campaign, aimed at making it legal for farmers to sell hemp seed for food products and therefore making it a viable crop.

Under current laws, only hemp fibre can be sold, not the seed, as Australia and New Zealand are the only two countries in the world where it is illegal to consume hemp seed as a food product.

Changing this law would allow Australian farmers to tap into a billion dollar global hemp food market and kick start the hemp fibre industry as well.

Hemp is biologically different to marijuana, with very low amounts of THC, the psychoactive molecule. You could smoke or eat many kilograms of hemp and you would never get high.

Hemp is healthy and is considered a superfood, desired by athletes. It is rich in omega 3 and protein. Many health food stores and pharmacies sell imported hemp seeds, although they must attach a silly label noting it is illegal to consume orally in Australia –



which people promptly ignore.

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) have twice recommended food derived from hemp be made legal. In 2012, they concluded that "there is no evidence of adverse health effects in humans at low levels of THC exposure".

However, federal and state ministers rejected this expert advice and asked for a further review. FSANZ reviewed and reaffirmed its advice that hemp derived foods were safe in 2015, but once again the politicians balked.

The stumbling block is Police Minister Troy Grant, who is arguing that eating hemp may cause false positives on roadside drug tests. The levels of THC are so low that this is unlikely to be a serious issue, and police in Europe and

America manage to deal with this issue.

If the law is changed, major cereal, health food and confectionary brands could legally purchase hemp seed to bolster the nutritional value of their products. This would be a massive boost for Australian farmers.

Hemp is a salt tolerant crop which requires minimal water and is ideally suited to Australian growing conditions. It is also a good option for farmers to grow in their crop rotation to break disease and pest cycles.

The Greens are running a 'Hemp is Healthy' campaign that aims to educate the public and law makers so that we can fully utilise one of the most useful plants on the planet. Political cowardice should not hold back a new billion dollar industry and more regional jobs.

## Unda pressure

Not often I have to go through the agonising process of having my tresses removed. The glue is so torrid it has to be melted with some sort of chemical that they assure me is totally safe. Then why are they all wearing masks?

So the head hair is all gone for the Expo and none of the feral busload from the Bin recognised me of course, even if I hung around for hours keeping an eye on them. I needn't have worried – they were never going to perform anything too drastic – but it's standard procedure to tag any weed crew when they visit the city of normal.

I felt so sick after the hair removal I've refused to let them glue me again but the shaved head has given me a new sense of freedom. I'm kind of asexual now I realise, after so much time as Bethany.

Then a call from Malcolm has me on the campaign trail as a minder. A lost-in-the-crowd suit with an earplug connected to command. What a bunch of drama queens. Constantly on high alert, revved to the max, terrified by their training of a million possibilities to look out for, it was a high stress earplug, like I was hooked into a fear probe.

I turned it off after half an hour, but they could tell back in command and I soon got a tap on the shoulder. Enough. I told the head at the end of the tapping arm I was the PM's personal hash dealer and the stress for their paranoia was most likely passing through into the stash. And I tapped my breast pocket. I swear his mouth dropped open. Their training clearly didn't include this situation.

I slipped my hand into a top left pocket and fished out the little five-gram block of chocolate. Just enough for him to see it but nobody else. Again his jaw dropped and I could see he had no idea if it was real or not. Then he was off.

I never saw him again and kept the

## STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert



radio off as well. I mean, who wants to hear endless nervous chatter like: "The blue shirt by the exit door, someone stand next to him please, check his bag; the lady with the groceries who just entered at the southern end, stop her now; take that soccer ball off that kid it could be a bomb; all clear up on the verandah; northern exit ready with car waiting." On and on and on, never ending, not even an ad break. Imagine the job in control, filtering out the crap and prioritising what to broadcast.

Malcolm's had his own butlers for years, so it's all grist for his mill and quite the normal which the minders all like but resent. Rich bastard. There's no liking the super rich.

Malcolm has his usual blob of oil in the morning porridge but he likes me to be close by just in case. I said to him when I got a chance, "In case of what?"

"You know, I might need to calm down, chill out, I never know what's going to happen on the campaign trail."

Sure enough, a single mother wrapped her arms around him soon after and he was petrified, couldn't get away fast enough. Soon after, he caught my eye and told me he wanted a toke in the nearby toilet at the mall we were in.

I went in first with some other minders and we soon cleared the cubicles, but it was all too ridiculous. The smoke hung in the air and the crowd gathering outside got suspicious. Why was he taking so long to have a pee? It was too weird and it sat him down hard and he didn't want to leave. Even loosened his tie and started dreaming of escaping through a little window.

The others got mad at me and we all agreed it was too risky and he now carries tiny little balls of hash and pops one in every hour or two. "To maintain my detachment," he tells me. It's just a matter of time before he loses track of how many he's had, so keep a close eye on him over the next month and you'll see for yourself what I'm talking about.

# Emotions boil over at Sydney Medical Cannabis Symposium



by Michael Balderstone

I heard Lucy Haslam was upset by the jeering directed at the Premier during his speech opening the Medical Cannabis Symposium on the weekend of 14-15th May. More than twenty of us associated with Nimbins HEMP Embassy went down to the big smoke for the show, everyone a long term medical user for a variety of reasons except one, a hemp farmer.

I folded during Lucy's terrific opening speech, and couldn't keep the tears at bay from then on. I struggled to reason with myself, overwhelmed by a tidal wave of emotion. A sob like a gigantic whale welling inside me bursting to explode. We've been trying to get the truth out there on this war on the cannabis plant for almost three decades now, and here's the Premier telling me how they are pushing ahead as fast as they can, on trials. A five-year trial while Big Pharma tries desperately to get control of the supply which so threatens their massive profits. Trials for desperately ill people that Big Pharma can't help, but weed can. For fuck's sake.

He's a good Christian man our Premier isn't he?

Totally hoodwinked by Big Pharma's greed and police fears of losing their power and budget. Jobs and growth stuff. I made myself breathe, scared the sob would escape, thinking about the hundreds of little kids and families I've met whose lives have completely changed through a tiny dose of pot every day. He knows this, the Premier. What's holding him back?

I started shaking, trying to contain the tidal wave, and breathed steadily for a while, tears still rolling out. Two of our people left the room unable to stand it any more. Then another one as more emotion spilt over. A doctor called out for a moratorium first, then some mothers, then another and another. I couldn't not call out to him. There was so much emotion in the room, or passion, as the Premier called it.

Prohibition is driving people crazy, believe me. If it wasn't for the almost reverential respect we have for Lucy and her family, Mike Baird would have been howled out of the hall I reckon. Still, I apologise Lucy. We have so much respect for your work and effort and I would never want to upset you. But how on earth can the Premier and the police still feel

comfortable hunting the hundreds of thousands of people like us, now they know it really is good medicine, this outlawed plant? Sure, do the trials, but meanwhile pull your dogs off would you brother, and you won't need to build those new jails then either.

Apart from that, it was a terrific weekend and already dates are set to repeat it next year, 27-28th May, 2017. The HEMP Embassy stall stood out a mile with our homemade hemp cloth banners amongst the plastic and a huge variety of stock from the shop, ganja faeries and general liveliness.

Andrew Kavasilas's effort to get permission to display a hundred real plants was the highlight of the show and the giant inflatable tincture bottle was right up there too. He tried hard to get the cops to pull over the rented truck full of plants speeding down the highway, but it wasn't to be. Well done to everyone who came on the mission.

Now to the election where the HEMP Party looks like being in the mix once again, despite the changes to the senate voting preference rules. Meanwhile I'm disappearing into the Kimberleys to try and get my emotions under control for it!



## You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone

Ironically yours  
by Dionne May

As time ticked towards midnight Tuesday 31st May, the expiration of the lease of The Oasis Café, it looked like possibly the end of our dream in Nimbin.

Fortunately, an eleventh hour angel appeared and saved the day, at least for now. But will they allow the owners to pave paradise and put up a parking lot... literally?

The Oasis community space was, and hopefully still is, simply a space where in the unknown, unforeseeable encounters and conversations, magic can happen. Reminding us all in those moments that you can never judge a book by its cover, that every man, woman and child has a story to tell, a wisdom or clarity unto themselves that perhaps, just perhaps sharing will uncover and polish, giving a greater meaning to our lives.

So here are the facts as I know them to be. John and Jill Seymour purchased two properties, The Oasis Cafe/Spangled Drongo building and land and the house next door. Their vision is the development of these two sites. Stage One is the development of the house site into The Cubes accommodation which is before council now. If and when this development happens then Stage Two will continue... the complete demolition of The Oasis building and outback area to be developed as a brand new coffee shop/restaurant and our community space behind will become a huge concrete car park.

In community terms, this will mean the end of the only smoker's cafe in Australia and another big empty building site for a year or more... perhaps like The Rainbow Cafe/Museum site. It means there will be perhaps nowhere for our old locals, children and mums, aboriginal elders, brothers and sisters, the broken and the forgotten, musicians and travellers to sit by the fire out the back... all day if wanted or needed. If you never experienced this mad crazy world that survived and thrived on love, then perhaps your head is up the arse of the lies, rules and

bullshit that have corrupted Australia's heart.

Local Nimbin lawyer David Spain is acting on behalf of these developers. With big money now invested in The Oasis site and positions on our local chamber of commerce, it is impossible to see a way out of the clever trap businessmen and their lawyers are designing to maintain a slow and steady decline of our alternative and cannabis culture in Nimbin, without even knowing it.

Yes, it's business Australia 2016. Yes, it's legal... but without morality, ethics or community inclusion, that great big wheel of greed and commerce crushes the little people and takes all the colour out of the rainbow.

Nimbin, we are the last bastion of the little people, the underdogs. We didn't conform to a world so cold, money before people, a good economy at the expense of our country and planet, old growth forests and clean water constantly threatened in the name of money. Some cried, some fought, some got on with their own alternative dream here in Nimbin and some sold out to the enemy.

Rage is growing amongst us and is the voice of tortured souls.... grandmothers and grandfathers wasting away in nursing home; Australians afraid to sit on our streets or greet small children; broken families and single parents lost in the system, nowhere to go except local shopping centres to look at too many products that they can't afford; fathers who work hours for the system and never read a story to their children or play cricket in the backyard; young men with dreams too big in a world too broken, raging without voice or fathers to guide them in these heartless times; girls lost without women to guide them and children and babies without mothers too busy chasing money to pay for them to be in daycare. God help us all if we forget how to have a dream, nurture a dream and how to make dreams come true.

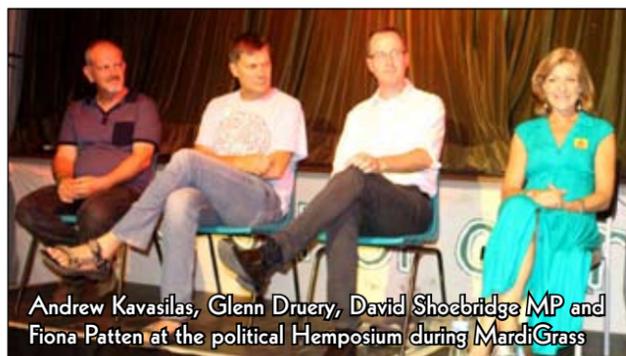
We lost the Rainbow Cafe, the Nimbin Museum... and the authenticity of our alternative town in so many small ways... let's not lose one of the last places dreams are made in Nimbin.

## Marijuana and Sex go together

The Australian Sex Party and the Marijuana (HEMP) Party have reached an agreement to share joint tickets in a number of states at the coming federal election, creating a new socially progressive coalition.

In an attempt to win the last two Senate seats in each jurisdiction, which under the new Senate voting rules are an unknown quantity in many states, the parties will combine their resources and votes in Queensland, Tasmania, SA, WA, NT and the ACT, while in NSW the parties will run separate tickets but will preference each other.

Australian Sex Party leader and Victorian Upper House member, Fiona Patten, said, "The major parties have not delivered on so many important progressive social



reforms and as a result, Australia looks like the Hermit Kingdom of the southern hemisphere."

"Progressive minor parties have a real ability to push the traditional parties forward," she said.

Marijuana (HEMP) Party spokesperson, Andrew Kavasilas said, "The major parties will continue to stall on medical cannabis even

though they are all nodding their heads."

"Successive governments have continually avoided our farmers as they called for hemp seed food approval to allow them to access international markets," he said.

The new coalition was announced at the Sex/Marijuana (HEMP) Party Queensland Senate launch in Brisbane during May.

# Make sure your progressive vote counts

by Aidan Ricketts

This coming federal election is one of the most exciting in memory. The double dissolution means that twice as many Senators are up for election so your vote and your preferences really matter. There's also the new Senate voting system where for the first time you are in the driver's seat deciding which parties to direct your preferences to rather than having that decided by faceless party hacks.



by Aidan Ricketts

The lower house contest, at the time of writing is running neck and neck between the two old parties with the added juice of a resurgent Greens party with a new leader and a chance of gaining the balance of power in one or both federal houses. That could bring real change.

Whether you live in the federal seat of Richmond or Page, your seat is marginal and will most likely come down to the wire so every vote and every one of your preference choices matters.

The old parties would have you think it's a choice between two narratives. Labor is spruiking its traditional commitment to health and education and fairness whilst the LNP has a mantra of jobs and growth based on a 1980s theory of trickle-down economics that gives big tax cuts to large corporations and wealthy individuals. The Greens on the other hand offer a

chance to propel the country out of the old fossil fuel economy and into the future with serious climate change policies and a focus upon stimulating the emergence of the new renewables economy.

The politics of political donations, the stranglehold that the fossil fuel industry has over the old parties and the deliberate choking of the renewables sector represents a major policy difference where the Greens can make a real difference to this contest. Renewable energy represents the biggest chance for real future jobs and growth.

Renewables would boost the economy of our region because it generates dispersed employment in installation, rather than centralised mechanised coal mining and grid distribution. We also have locally owned firms ready to roll it out. There's some jobs and growth for you.

Negative gearing is another big one. Both Labor and the Greens propose to wind back

the tax breaks for property investors to let young people have a chance of eventually owning a home. Here's to a bit of intergenerational equity.

Asylum seeker policy is a hard old chestnut and only the Greens offer an alternative to the concentration camps offshore.

The Greens are also the only one of the three parties with a chance of serious political influence who have a strong policy in favour of drug harm minimisation and decriminalisation of personal use. It's not the wide ranging 'legalisation' many people want, but it's sure a step forward.

So there's a few of the big policy differences, so how do progressive voters maximise the power of our preferences?

As this is about voting progressive, I'm going to go out on a very short limb and suggest this means you won't be voting LNP (but it's always up to you). In the local contest, If you strongly prefer the Labor policies to the LNP but want to give the Greens a push with bringing climate change to centre stage, it makes sense to number the smaller party ahead of your choice of major party. This is because your first preference vote will register as a vote for the smaller party's policies and then if they are not elected will be passed on at full value (always worth exactly one vote) to your preferred major party candidate. Once your

vote reaches one of the two most popular candidates it rests there for the final count and doesn't travel any further down the line.

In the Senate now, if you are voting above the line you need to number at least six parties. Because 12 senators are being elected your preferences matter even more. If you want to vote for a micro party or parties, there's a chance they won't get a senator up, so to make sure your vote counts. In the final election of the senate it is wise to make sure that at least the Greens or Labor or both are in your list. This is because if your vote gets 'exhausted' (because you didn't vote for any party that got elected) then your progressive vote may not contribute to the make-up of the new senate.

The good news now is that any party that you choose not to place in your list at all can get no votes from you, which is a big step forward from the old system.

In writing this piece I acknowledge my own leanings, (my daughter is a Greens candidate) and the fact that I've made assumptions about what it means to be voting 'progressive', but my aim has been to air the issues and provide a bit of strategic advice to like-minded voters.

Enjoy your five minute festival of democracy in the polling booth, it's not everything; but it's certainly something.



Costa, Rusty and Neil display some good examples

## Beards for trees

Men across Australia are being called to grow a beard this winter and raise funds to help plant one million trees for conservation.

BeardsOn, established 2014, is a not-for-profit environmental organisation that holds an annual challenge running for the full 90 days of winter, with the aim of getting as many men as possible to grow a beard to help do something great for the environment.

Every \$2 donated will see a native tree planted in an Australian community. Any public green space – schools, community regeneration groups, councils and organisations looking to engage in tree planting projects can apply for grants.

In 2015 the BeardsOn organisation planted over 10,000 trees at Bundanon Trust property supporting Landcare Australia. This year, The Rainforest Information Centre is supporting BeardsOn reach their new target of planting one million trees.

Ruth Rosenhek, Director of the Rainforest Information Centre said, "If you can grow a beard, you can participate in this effort to plant trees and help address climate change, provide habitat for animals and sow the seed for better green spaces for all to enjoy."

Jimmy Stanton-Cooke, Co-founder of BeardsOn said, "We're calling on all men to grow beards of any shape or length, get friends, family and loved ones to sponsor them and with the donations we'll plant trees. It's that simple. It's something so organic and effortless, and by doing so you give back to your planet and everything on it. So grow yourself a winter blanket this season that gives back".

The BeardsOn Challenge runs from 1st June to 31st August, and growers can sign up at: [www.beardson.org](http://www.beardson.org)

## Vote for independence, I say!

by Hayo van der Woude

The voting reforms for the senate do not go far enough. Parties are still advantaged while voters for independents need to fill in more numbers. This may only be remedied in the next hung parliament!

Hang the parties! I'm hung-up on a 'hung' parliament. Parties are by nature perfectly amenable to manipulation via their pyramid structure and brawling factions. Parties are 'owned' by the capitalist system. Non-compliant PM's or parties are dumped.

Our systems generally, and parties in particular, lack integrity. Individuals motivated by ideals cannot maintain integrity. That's why we're far better served by independents.

People globally are making unusual political choices, such as joining IS or supporting a Trump or an Abbot. Unknowingly, they are being worked over. They seek to blame fellow victims. Capitalism's "trickle up" of wealth from the 99% to the 1% is to blame.

Capitalism is not synonymous with Democracy, as per the Cold War propaganda. It destroys Democracy and the politicians' allegiance to the voter.

The 'survival of the fittest' mantra has us believe it's ethical that the weak shall perish for the benefit of the whole. But Darwin was impressed by Nature's display of cooperation within and between species. The weak die naturally as a matter of course.

Asking Capitalism to change voluntarily, is akin to asking carnivores to refrain from meat. Self interest makes the system incapable of transforming from within.

Earth, together with co-operative humans, can easily provide abundance for all. Peaceful



advancement may be induced by bypassing the global corporate economy and banking as much as possible. It weakens their profit and power. Governments are bereft of ideas and initiatives for the benefit all. They're followers.

Abundant ideas are available for compassionate inclusiveness communities. Humans need food, shelter, free energy, healers to advance health, and time to enjoy life and community. That makes lawyers, accountants, sickness industry workers largely superfluous. They could be stress free in a world just around the corner.

For example, it may take a lifetime to pay off a house, or it may take two people six months to build one. Thus a group of 10 could build 10 houses in a year for themselves. And then for others in exchange for services, without cash and loans!

## Let's dance

Willy McEloy (at centre) cut loose with an improvised ensemble at the Bob Dylan 75th Birthday Tribute Concert in Nimbin.

The well-attended concert, which featured some 15 local singers, with many stand-out performances, raised over \$2000 for the School of Arts all and the 7 Sibley Street sustainability project.



Snez is a singer/songwriter from the Blue Mountains, who is on tour in June throughout NSW and Qld sharing stories and songs from her new album *House on Four Wheels*.

With lyrics that are inventive and fresh, Snez delivers pop/folk music with an equal slice of depth and quirkiness.

Her songs weave influences from her Macedonian working-class family to create powerful, personal and intimate performances.

Snez will be performing at an Open House Concert in Alstonville on Wednesday 15th June. Phone 0409-141-601 for ticket bookings/ address – \$10 entry. limited seats.

Stephen Lovelight is a prolific songster, having written five albums of psychedelic, melodic rock and taking out Studio 301's Artist's Development award for best Sydney songwriter in 2007.

Recently he has been getting deep into the sound of the South, plunging the licks and riffs of the blues

greats: Robert Johnson, Skip James and all the folky and rock artists they influenced.

His approach to finger style and slide blues guitar is a kind of tribute to the gritty and honest origins of all that he loves about popular music.

Stephen Lovelight is playing at the Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 26th June from 1pm.



# Return to the Forbidden Planet in Ballina

Great Balls of Fire! Ballina Players' stage explodes with light and sound as Captain Tempest's spaceship hits a meteor shower and is drawn irrevocably towards the forbidden planet, D'Illyria.

What happens next is the subject of the Ballina Players great 60's rock and roll sci-fi musical extravaganza *Return to the Forbidden Planet*.

All the classic 50's and 60's hits such as 'Shake, Rattle and Roll', 'Pretty Woman' and 'Who's Sorry Now' are featured. The whole stage comes to life as one huge spaceship blasting a compilation of rock and roll greats. Singer-actors become on-stage instrumentalists.

Rock and roll lyrics are cleverly woven into the story. The damaged spaceship is forced to land on the forbidden planet, where they find Prospero, the mad scientist (Graeme Speed), his spirit robot on roller skates, Ariel (Josh Green), and his beautiful daughter Miranda (Jamaika Smith). Miranda falls in love with the chisel-jawed Captain Tempest (Brian Pamphilon, best Male Actor in a Musical at the 2015 Gold Coast Theatre Awards).

Tempest struggles with his feelings as he sings the rock classics 'Good Vibrations' and 'Young Girl Get Out of My Mind'.

Meanwhile the ship's cook, Cookie (Trevor Stone), also loves Miranda, as he reveals in the lyrics: "Well let me tell you 'bout the way she looks."

Prospero has developed a magic



As the monster approaches, Captain Tempest (Brian Pamphilon), Cookie (Trevor Stone) and Cutie Cull (Sheena Smith) give a spirited rendition of 'Gloria'.

potion, the X factor. He and Ariel come on board the space ship to repair it. As Prospero drinks the potion, he, Captain Tempest and Miranda all sing 'Shaking All Over'. Well may Prospero shake, as this unleashes a foul creature.

*Return to the Forbidden Planet* has it all – humour, fun, sci-fi adventure, spectacular special effects, a love story told largely through red-hot rock classics, a magic potion and a frightening space monster.

Directed by Clem and Shelly Halpin, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* will be staged at the Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina from 17th June to 3rd July. Evening performances start at 8pm and matinees at 2pm. Adults \$30, Concession/Member/RSL \$28, Child (12 and under) \$20.

Book online at: [www.ballinaplayers.com](http://www.ballinaplayers.com) or at Just Funkin Music, phone 6686-2440, where a \$2 booking fee applies.

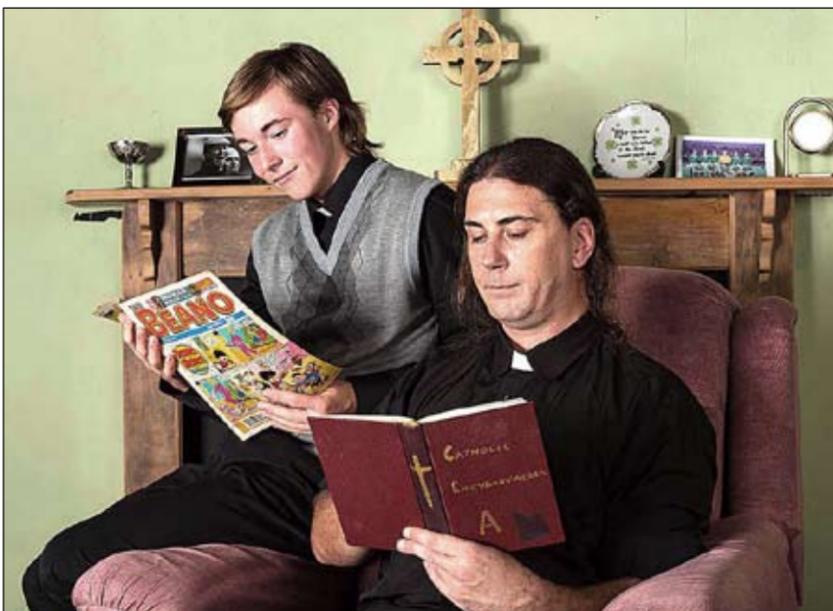
# Father Ted pokes a finger in Lismore

Lismore Theatre Company's latest play is based upon the cult British comedy *Father Ted*, a 90's classic Irish comedy set on the fictional Craggy Island and following the goings-on at the Craggy Island Parochial House.

Father Ted Crilly's problem is that his boss, Bishop Len Brennan hates him, and won't come near his parish. Normally this would suit Ted fine, but after cheating in the All-Priests-Five-A-Side-Over-Seventy-Fives football match, he has been set a forfeit. He has to kick Bishop Brennan up the arse!

Aided only by his tea-obsessed housemaid, and his two fellow priests (one a simpleton, the other addicted to floor polish), Ted embarks upon what he thinks will be the final forfeit of his life. Along the way he has to protest a blasphemous film, deal with a bad tempered solicitor and spend a night with the body of a fallen comrade.

The LTC's version is based around three of the TV scripts, which have been adapted to suit the stage. Expertly crafted by writers and creators Graham Linehan and Arthur Mathews, the series poked a sometimes none-too-gentle finger at Irish Catholicism, and



at the Vatican in particular.

*Father Ted* often riffed on famous movies such as 'Speed', 'Night of the Dead' and 'Apocalypse Now', and featured a number of famous guests during its run, including Graham Norton.

The LTC show will run over two

weeks: 7.30pm on the 10th, 11th, 17th and 18th June; 2pm on the Saturdays 11th and 18th June; and 4pm on the Sundays 12th and 19th June.

Tickets cost \$20/\$15 and are available at the door, or you can book online at: [www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au](http://www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au)

# Nimbin's eccentrics brought to the stage

*To Catch a Snail*, an original play by Daniel Soler, will be presented as a dramatised reading at the Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday, 25th June at 7pm.

Daniel Soler and Belinda Marsh (pictured) are teaming up once again with an eclectic group of readers to perform this quirky and hilarious play for your entertainment.

Emma Pickford is a train-spotter, addicted to telemarketing. Her husband Stan, a Vietnam vet, dies suddenly, leaving her in charge of his marijuana crop.

Her next-floor neighbour, a dwarf,



a mad fortune teller with a stuffed poodle, a retired transvestite, and an ex-circus

ringmaster all join in the fun.

Based on a true story, slightly exaggerated, Daniel says, "The play mixes the Molièresque comical and the theatre of the absurd."

This reading is a prelude to an anticipated full performance towards the end of 2016. Limited audience, and tickets are only \$12.

Proceeds will go to the Nimbin Town Hall and actors and crew.

Any enquiries, please phone Daniel on 0439-754-456.

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SUN 5 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	Minus One	12.30-3.30pm
FRI 10 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	'MOVIE NIGHT' - CAFE OPEN	from 5.30pm
SAT 11 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	Jolanda Moyle	12.30-3.30pm
SUN 12 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	The Cruise Brothers (Jazz)	12.30-3.30pm
MON 13 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	Dinkum Bohos	12.30-3.30pm
SAT 18 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	Lou Bradley	12.30-3.30pm
SUN 19 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	Khan & Eva	12.30-3.30pm
FRI 24 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	'MOVIE NIGHT' - CAFE OPEN	from 5.30pm
SAT 25 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	Sarah Stando	12.30-3.30pm
SUN 26 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	Carlie Fairburn & Yosi Chopen	12.30-3.30pm
SAT 2 <sup>nd</sup> JULY	Beetle Juice	12.30-3.30pm
SUN 3 <sup>rd</sup> JULY	Andy Holm	12.30-3.30pm
TUE 5 <sup>th</sup> JULY	'KID'S MOVIE' - CAFE OPEN	12.30pm
FRI 8 <sup>th</sup> JULY	'MOVIE NIGHT' - CAFE OPEN	from 5.30pm
SAT 9 <sup>th</sup> JULY	Brommers	12.30-3.30pm
SUN 10 <sup>th</sup> JULY	The Cruise Brothers (Jazz)	12.30-3.30pm
TUE 12 <sup>th</sup> JULY	'KID'S MOVIE' - CAFE OPEN	12.30pm
WED 13 <sup>th</sup> JULY	BENNIES' GIG @ THEATRE - CAFE OPEN	from 5.30pm
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# Mazstock Festival, now in its eighth year!



Mazstock, Lismore's premier boutique rock festival, returns for its eighth consecutive year.

On the long weekend of Saturday 11th June, bands from across the Northern Rivers region and from as far afield as Wollongong, Sydney and Brisbane will converge on the Italo Club in North Lismore for an all-day, all-night rock extravaganza.

This year we're focussing on hot chick rock action, so expect to see and hear a lot of women in rock rampaging across our three stages.

Headlining this year is Sydney's **Bunt**. These guys have just celebrated 20 years together and have quite the underground cult following, particularly in Japan where they have toured every year since 2009. If you like quality garage rock 'n' roll with sick stage antics, this band is un-missable.

Wollongong's premier rock legends **Leadfinger** are making the long haul up with a new album. They're longtime Lismore favourites, and two members play in the **Hot Sweets**, also from Wollongong and headed up by the divine Carrie Phillips.



Along with Carrie's divine rock moves we've got femmes fatale fronting up in Brisbane's **Marville** and **Dirty Liars**, as well as Lismore's own Callachor sisters in the raucous **Spanx**.

This will be the Lismore debut for **Loose Pills**, whose hopped-up power pop has been touted as Sydney's answer to Cheap Trick.

Well known singer songwriter Mick Daley (The Re-mains) returns home to the region with his **Corporate Raiders**, also boasting the very busy members of **Leadfinger**.

Last year's stand-out band were **Forever Since Breakfast**, so they've been invited back for another go.

Appearing for the first time at Mazstock are Port Macquarie's **Royal Chant** and

Coffs Harbour's **Son of Jaguar**. The bill is rounded off by Lismore's own **This Thing Called Progress**, one of the most authentic punk outfits around, and Mazstock mascots, Nimbin's **Antibodies**.

This year's artist-in-residence is Justin (Julla) Livingstone, famed for his work in Lismore's Back Alley Gallery. Julla will be creating a live art piece as the festival kicks into gear.

Also look out for the limited edition Mazstock zine, which is sure to become a collector's item.

Venue: Italo Club, Barrow Lane, North Lismore. Tickets are \$25 on the door and doors open at 1pm sharp on Saturday 11th June. With thirteen bands over nine hours at only \$25 entry, this is the hottest ticket in town. In fact, the only ticket in town.



## Nimbin Flix movie

The next movie night is on Saturday 11th June at Birth and Beyond.

Doors will open at 6pm and the movie will start at 6.30pm. Delicious food available on the night. Tickets \$10 on the night or \$50 for a year's worth of movies.

The film this month is *La*

*Famille Bélier*. Paula Belier speaks for her whole family. Both parents, Rodolphe and Gigi, and brother Quentin are deaf, so 16-year-old Paula, who's not, must negotiate the hearing and speaking world for them.

What none of her family knows, even Paula, is that she has a beautiful voice.



Friday 10th June 7.30pm

### The Dark Horse

[2014; dir. James Napier Robertson, rated 'M']  
The game of chess as an analogy for the game of life will be the subject of the first Movie Night at the Nimbin Bush Theatre this month, with the mostly-Maori NZ film *The Dark Horse* (2014, rated 'M') showing on Friday 10th June. This deeply affecting movie has won many awards and has been lauded as being "one of the best NZ films ever made" (RNZ National Review).

Based on the real-life story of a brilliant chess player, Genesis 'Gen' Potini, whose life path is frequently disturbed by a severe bipolar disorder, the film's director, James Napier Robertson, chose to make this film thanks to Gen's unbridled optimism and courage. Actor Cliff Curtis put on 60 pounds for the leading role, which shows how Gen chose to be a leader of his people by passing on his knowledge of chess (and of life) to the troubled youth of his community, giving

## Showing at the Bush Theatre

them a positive focus as an alternative to fighting in gangs. Napier Robertson wrote the script while playing hundreds of games of chess with Potini and talking to him about his life and mental illness.

Friday 24th June 7.30pm

### The Big Short

[2015, dir. Adam McKay; rated 'M']

A very different side of human frailty is explored during the next Movie Night on Friday 24th June with Adam McKay's *The Big Short* (2015; rated 'M'), based on the bestselling book by Michael Lewis, *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*. Like the book, this film manages to explain how the 2007/2008 subprime housing loan bubble burst (and consequent global financial crisis) came to be, by showing how several hedge-fund managers not only saw the crisis coming but chose to profit from it rather than warn the world. Numerous other players learn of this scenario and either get involved in the profiteering or deny the impending crisis' possibility (sound familiar?), but not without some ultimate emotional fallout. Film critics, historians and economists have applauded the film for making a complicated tale "palpable for the layperson, even if it triggers outrage at the fat cats who helped cause

it" (GN) because it is "fast, witty and righteous ... of this mindblowing denial and cover-up" and is a "solid historical explanation" (The Guardian).

Tuesday 5th July 12.30pm

### The Wizard of Oz

[1939, dir. MGM, rated 'G']

But wait, don't forget the kids! There's two daytime movies showing during the NSW school holidays for children, although these films are likely to appeal to adults as well. The original iconic version of *The Wizard of Oz* (1939; rated 'G') which made Judy Garland's career (and Toto's!) will screen on Tuesday 5th July, followed by the clever and insightful Pixar animation, *Inside Out* (2015; rated 'PG') on July 12th. Both films screen at 12.30pm and entry includes a serve of popcorn.

Friday 8th July 7.30pm

### Pleasantville

[1998, dir. Gary Ross, rated 'M']

All films at the Bush Theatre cost \$10 entry, with tix available at the door or online: [www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/](http://www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/) events The adjacent Phoenix Rising Café serves dinner, drinks and desserts from 5.30pm for the Friday Movie Nights and, of course, is open all day while the kids' flicks are on..



# Dubmarine

Dubmarine have been playing major festivals all over the planet, and now it is Nimbin's turn to experience the power of this visionary band.  
The unmissable Dubmarine are a nine-piece tour-de-force

who combine high-energy dub, dancehall, reggae, drum'n'bass, creating an intergalactic groove that gets people dancing!

Backed by a powerful brass section and led by the vocal gymnastics of Indigenous superstar/Gangulu man D-Kazman, Dubmarine are on a mission to produce bass-crunching, rhythm-pounding, hip-shaking modern music that fuses elements and influences from all around the world.

Supporting Dubmarine are Byron Bay's reggae and dance hall collective The 4'20' Sound, a collective of reggae musicians and producers influenced by traditional Jamaican sound system culture – performing as DJs and as a dub-band with live instrumentalists and ragamuffin MCs.

Their music is inspired from the traditional sound system culture and alternates from roots reggae into digital dancehall with heavy bass steppa beats.

Opening the night will be up-and-coming Tweed Hip Hop artist Chiggz, whose out-of-the-box approach to synthy Hip Hop was recently featured on Triple J unearthed.

Catch Dubmarine, The 4'20' Sound plus Chiggz at Nimbin Bush Theatre on Saturday 4th June at 7.30pm. General admission: \$25. Book tickets online at: [www.nimbinbushtheatre.com](http://www.nimbinbushtheatre.com)

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open from 6pm for a range of delicious meals, cakes and beverages.

Sibling songsters Dan and Hannah Acfield spent part of their youth living on the Tuntable community, in a musical home-in-the-making, and remember many a long car trip harmonising with each other.

Their grandfather Ron was a professional bass player in showbands, touring with acts like Louis Armstrong and Cat Stevens, first on his double-bass, but increasingly on his black Maton electric bass, which became the mainstay of his full-time work in the Channel 9 studio band.

Mum and Dad, Trevor and Laraine are musical too, and a guitar is never far away in their Lismore home, even now.

Dan and Hannah went on to study music and establish their individual musical careers, and became accomplished songwriters and performers in their own right.

In 2012, despite living in separate cities, Dan in Brisbane and Hannah in Melbourne, the pair collaborated in a side project, releasing singles and an EP, *Turning a Page*, which received widespread music media acclaim.

The duo have created a colourful blend of folk-pop and alt-country, with endearing live performances telling stories through song, bolstered by beautiful vocal harmonies and occasional sibling banter.

Following a successful crowdfunding campaign, The Acfields released their first full-length album, *The Acfields*, in late 2014, and have toured extensively with festival appearances in NSW, Queensland and New Zealand



throughout 2015.

Currently Hannah is living in the Northern Rivers for three months while the pair write and record their second album, so there's a window of opportunity to catch a local gig.

The Acfields are playing at the Sphinx Rock Café, Mount Burrell, Sunday July 3rd from 1 – 3pm.



## The Channon open mic

by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

After several months we finally got the chance to set up outside on the lawn of the Butterfactory Tavern. One could not ask for better weather. How warm has this May been?

The perfect climate brought musicians "out of the woodwork" so we had a full chalkboard of performers. There were regulars, once-in-a-whilers and even one first-timer, Matt, who opened proceedings with some very polished guitar playing and singing.

The audience too was seduced by

Mother Nature's unseasonal May weather and were not disappointed.

Our next Open Mic is scheduled for 2pm on 26th June at The Channon Butterfactory Tavern. All performers and listeners are invited to attend. No booking for a spot – just turn up on the day. For more details, give me a ring on 6688-6100.

Don't forget The Tavern restaurant is open on the Sunday for lunch from 12 to 2.30pm and for dinner from 6 to 8pm, and snacks are available in between.

Keep the music alive and live.

## Nimbin choristers invade Bowlo open mic night

Nimbin's long-standing choral group, the Vocal Minority, gave a surprise performance at an Open Mic night during May.

It is the first time that the Bowlo's popular Open Mic series, now in its fifth year, has hosted a full choir, and the response from the packed house was as resounding as the acoustic performance itself.

Led by choirmistress Val Mace, Vocal Minority performed six short pieces from their extensive repertoire during their 20-minute set, including such favourites as 'Chanson d'Amour'.

Enquiries regarding joining the choir can be directed to Val on 6689-1700.



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**Sunday Gig Guide**

**June 1pm start**

**5th Loa**  
This lady, her music, and the delivery of voice for the tales she offers, will take your breath away.

**12th Romaniacs**  
An eclectic mix of vocals and instrumentals, with acoustic and electric guitars, mandolin, violin, and a unique array of percussion.

**19th Kim Banffy**  
A singer/songwriter from the Byron Bay area whose songs have meaningful lyrics and interesting melodies.

**26th Stephen Lovelight**  
His approach to finger style and slide blues guitar is a tribute to the gritty and honest origins of all that he loves about popular music.

**July 3rd The Acfields**  
Sibling songsters Dan and Hannah Acfield are "the ying to each other's yang".

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**June Gigs**

Friday 3rd	7pm	Cliff Fletcher Duo
Saturday 4th	7.30pm	Vibration and colour
Sunday 5th	5pm	Slim Pickins
Thursday 9th	7pm	Adam Brown
Friday 10th	7pm	Dirty River Duo
Saturday 11th	7.30pm	Immigrants
Sunday 12th	5pm	Craig Akins
Thursday 16th	7pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 17th	7pm	Dear Willow
Saturday 18th	7.30pm	Consitium
Sunday 19th	5pm	Rhyece O'Neill
Thursday 23rd	7pm	Leif Morris
Friday 24th	7pm	Xara Fiasco Duo
Saturday 25th	7.30pm	Buck Dean & Green Lips
Sunday 26th	5pm	Tegan Ellena

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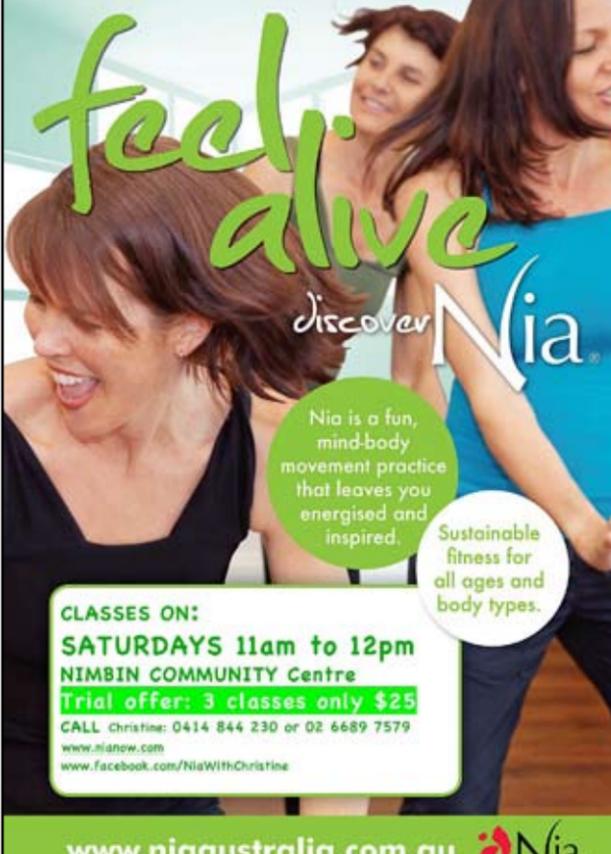
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'Schich(7) Go(5) San(3)' by Masu Kotaka

The first fibre exhibition held at Blue Knob Hall Gallery in 2005 was called 'Feeling for Fibre', where "Twenty-five weavers, quilters, felt-makers and sculptors address costume, custom and comfort" (archives quote). The aim was to showcase the innovative, creative and functional forms that felt making and fibre were becoming. It has become an annual event that continues to express the vitality of fibre in all its forms. Felt making in particular was transformed by the experimentation of two local women, Polly Stirling and Sachiko Kotaka who developed what is now widely known as Nuno Felt. They began teaching the process and started a felting revolution that has spread far and wide. Sachiko taught her mother and sister felt-making, and for many years now Masu Kotaka and Hisako Seiko (Kotaka) send Masu's exquisite Japanese paper dolls and Hisako's delicate

needle felted fairies from Japan, especially for this exhibition. We feel very honoured as this is the only place they exhibit their work, and we are excited to see what will arrive each year. The exhibition and the work changes from year to year, with Polly and Sachiko still supporting the 'fibre arts' and contributing their stunning pieces for each show. The creative/political has come together again with a piece from Lynda Clark. Her crocheted, knitted, felted, bleached coral reef is a soft, gentle work with a tough message. There is a big variety of work on exhibition, from the very wearable vests and jackets by Melissa Hume, to the decorative, the sculptural and the pieces that just make you smile, such as Lae Oldmeadow's - 'Not just a doormat'. There are some wonderful creative works contributed by many artists and as always this exhibition is an experience to savour.



Lynda Clark with 'Coral bleaching'



'Storm over Lillian Rock' by Ali Walker

**More Workshop Space**  
Mo Godbeer will be running an Encaustic workshop on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June. The cost is \$250 with all materials provided. Mo is a well known teacher in this medium and you can see more about her at: www.mogodbeer.com If you would like more info please contact Mo on 0412-817-651 or email: mo@godbeer.com

or \$24 (non-vegetarian meat dish). Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you are planning to attend.

**Artists & Friends Lunch**  
The next Artists & Friends lunch will be held on Thursday 30th June at 12.30pm with a main meal which includes dessert for \$19 (vegetarian)

**Ceramic Studio**  
We have just had our first bisque firing which turned out well, and so it's full steam ahead! Classes are being booked rapidly, with only a few spaces still left in late July. We are planning to run a mosaic/tile making workshop which will take place in August over three Saturdays. For more information, please contact Heather at the Ceramic Studio on 6689-7449.

SEASONS ↗ ROXY



'Last Season's Litter' by John Walters

The Roxy Gallery will be exhibiting all the seasons when members of the Practising Artist Network installs their new exhibition Seasons at Roxy Gallery. Practising Artists Network (PAN) is a non-profit incorporated association that is committed to furthering and promoting visual arts in the Ballina, Byron Bay, Lismore and surrounding region, through networking, exhibitions, social and creative events, advocacy and lobbying. For their Seasons exhibition, PAN artists have considered the many aspects of seasons. Dry Seasons, Wet Seasons, the four seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. There is even a belief that Australia has five seasons. Not only are there climatic seasons, herbs from the garden or exotic spices from afar bring culinary seasons to the kitchen and table. Featuring works in all forms of media, including oils, acrylics, pastels and ink, through to sculptural stone and ceramic works, PAN artists have interpreted their own narrative of Seasons. Seasons - A time of year, bringing different climatic conditions or, alternatively, bringing flavour to food. Seasons at Roxy Gallery exhibition will run through until 2nd July with the official opening being held on Saturday 11th June from noon to 2pm. Take the chance to join with us to meet the artists and discuss their favourite season.

# The art of Pauline Ahern



'Cast Asunder'

by Peter Warne

This month at Nimbin Artists Gallery we are focussing on the work of Pauline Ahern, a mixed media artist who has been exhibiting her eclectic works with us for many years. Pauline's art is characterised by her inventiveness for finding new materials to work with and new methods for utilising the materials, so that she virtually creates a new genre every time she finds some new object of inspiration or a new material.

The variety of media used by Pauline is astonishing. It's as though she has a

restlessness in her which drives her to continually seek new ways of shaping things and of representing things. Thus we see copper wire knitted to produce a variety of sculpted forms, we see rust patterns created on cloth, and in her mobiles and stabiles we see all sorts of shapes and objects created out of wire, especially, following a recent theme she has been exploring, heart shapes.

As well as extending and changing the use of different media, Pauline has an uncanny knack for finding insignificant, forgotten objects, in op shops, at garage sales, or anywhere else, and reconceiving them



'Universal Love'

into some surprisingly original form. For example, while hunting for every possible representation of hearts for her Heart Art display at the recent Autumn Arts Extravaganza, she found an old, sequined, heart-shaped purse. After pondering on it at length, asking what she could do with this odd little accessory, she came up with the idea of separating the two halves, doing some joining up with wire, the mounting it on a small bust like an undersize tailor's model, and came up with a novel bra made of two hearts. This results in a kind of tongue-in-cheek cuteness, so quirky that you have to chuckle. Decorated with a necklace similarly fashioned out of wire, including an elaborate pendant, and we have a parody of a shop window model.

Another aspect of Pauline's work involves her lifelong engagement in political protest, against war and for nuclear disarmament, and world peace and justice. She has thus devoted a part of her creative energies to works of a political nature. Several examples of this side of her work can be seen in her feature spot in the Gallery through June. At times, as in her representation of the torrent of rage, lies and threats directed from around



'Lake Eyre - Reflections'

the world at Julian Assange, she conveys her deep indignation at the injustice. In one other work, 'Government secrets - Australia's shame', she presents a horrifying picture of two faces, two individuals who are quite featureless but whose mouths are stitched up. The combined effect of the anonymity with the pain suffered suggests the total indifference of those who hold power over these souls – they are not treated as human beings, they are merely objects dealt with in terms of what advantage can be gained from their treatment.

Come in and see Pauline's display at Nimbin Artists Gallery throughout June, starting on the 5th.

## Changes ahead for Weave and Mend Festival

by Granny Breath Weaver

Everything comes and goes – ever returning. Returning creates great opportunities for new habits, new ideas, new patterns and great change, like the Age of Aquarius returning again.

The Weave and Mend Festival has been offered the grounds at Djanbung Gardens Permaculture Centre, in Cecil Street. Great changes have been made there and a thriving sense of community prevails.

Our first festival at Djanbung

Gardens will be held from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October, with our usual three-day camping and day visitors welcome. There are good facilities and a café on site.

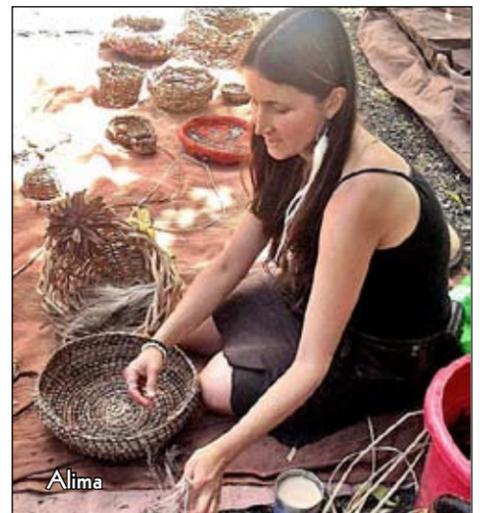
Many thanks to our Community Centre for being there for us during these last years of looking for more appropriate and comfortable space. And again – change. We have a new enthusiastic co-ordinator, Hellena Post, from Nimbin markets.

Look for more information on the festival in the coming months.



Moksha

*"Though the Great White Roots of Peace care not for names, egos, labels, images that rest like yesterday's leaves beneath the pulsing of this season's life, nevertheless all are honoured as every root of peace weaves together in a great concentric ring (tree ring) network of light that runs through the first Great Mother and flows through the blood of everyone who has ever lived to make this a better world."*  
– Ken Carey, Return of the Bird Tribes



Alima

## Collective energy

by Hellena Post

I'm so thrilled to be able to help this festival keep weaving and mending its way through Nimbin's stories and yarns, and to keep creating itself in the self-organising path that was crafted by Granny Breath Weaver.

When the first Weave and mend Festival happened over ten years ago, our family, which was a lot smaller then, happened to be passing through. I met Raine at The Channon market and she asked me along for the first one, but we couldn't make it.

But for ten years after, every time it rained and I wished

I was somewhere other than where I was... I thought of those beautiful weavers in Nimbin at the Weave and Mend Festival and my heart smiled.

I'm so excited about the shift of venue to Djanbung Gardens this year, with all the potential that brings. There's already been ideas and concepts floated about applying weaving and basketry skills to create sculptural interactive play and shelter areas, but let's see where our collective energy takes us!

Thank you Granny Breath Weaver for creating this festival, and for trusting me with its growth and future.



Julia, Chantel and Narelle



Photos by Sara McCafferty, 2014

Judy