

UTEMAN! Man and a ute for hire
0491 128 964

- Tip runs
- Deliveries
- Whatever else your mind desires!
- Courier service
- Taxi

Vehicle is a 4X4 ute with racks that can take objects up to 7 metres in length

NATIVE LANDSCAPES + GARDENS
BUSH REGENERATION
WEED CONTROL
TREES PLANTED

Richard Burer
0266891411
Native vegetation specialist
Right tree Right place



Arrow Photography

Top Ten Finalist from 2000-2015 in the Australian Bridal Industry Awards, Runner-up ABIA awards 2015 and top 5 Australia wide 2015. 2-time Magazine Front Cover Winner.

WE GO ANYWHERE!

M 0415 451 640
E theresa@arrowphotography.com.au
W www.arrowphotography.com.au

terra.
restaurant and lounge
AT NIMBIN BOWLING CLUB

"An exciting contemporary menu in a stylish setting"

FREE ENTERTAINMENT

Every Thursday, 6-9pm **Joey and friends**
Friday 4th March, 6-9pm **Rob Cass**
Saturday 5th March, 6-9pm **Jolanda Moyle**
Wednesday 9th March, 7-11pm **Open Mic Night**
Friday 11th March, 6-9pm **Will Massey**
Saturday 12th March, 6-9pm **Dorian Dowse**
Friday 18th March, 6-9pm **Mish Songsmith**
Saturday 19th March, 7-11pm **Cruise Bros**
Wednesday 23rd March, 6-9pm **Open Mic Night**
Easter Saturday 26th March, 6-9pm **Bob Oort**
Monday 28th March, 1-5pm Easter Monday! **Led Loader**

LUNCH & DINNER BOOKINGS 6 689-1473

Beautiful natural setting next to Mulgum Creek

PHOENIX RISING CAFE

UPCOMING GIGS

SAT 5 th MARCH	Sakrewski-Symons Jazz Quintet	1-4pm
+ OPEN FOR BUSH THEATRE'S 'Wild Marmalade' GIG FROM 6PM		
SUN 6 th MARCH	Beetle Juice	1-4pm
FRI 11 th MARCH	OPEN FOR 'MOVIE NIGHT'	FROM 5.30PM
SAT 12 th MARCH	Smiles & Ink	1-4pm
SUN 13 th MARCH	The Cruise Brothers (Jazz)	1-4pm
SAT 19 th MARCH	The Bean Project	1-4pm
SUN 20 th MARCH	Jolanda Moyle	1-4pm
FRI 25 th MARCH	EASTER Movie Night	FROM 5.30PM
SAT 26 th MARCH	Manoa	1-4pm
SUN 27 th MARCH	Bill Jacobi	1-4pm
MON 28 th MARCH	Sarah Stando	1-4pm
SAT 2 nd APRIL	Carlie Fairburn & Yosi Chopen	1-4pm
SUN 3 rd APRIL	My Figment	1-4pm
EVERY Sunday	Sonic Bliss (KIRTAN)	10am-12noon

www.phoenixrisingcafe.net/events

2 Blue Knob Road, NIMBIN
ph: (02) 6689-1111 OPEN 7 DAYS 9am - 4pm



Music honors for Logan

by Mazz Webb, Nimbin Central School

Local musician Logan Freeborn (pictured) is an exemplary musicologist, according to HSC Music markers.

His research and demonstration of blues piano improvisation has earned him a place in the honour roll of 2015 HSC Music candidates statewide.

Logan's passion for jamming on piano has led to academic excellence in the first HSC Music course to be run at Nimbin Central School. Each student in the course achieved their highest marks through Music, turning their love for playing into great opportunities in their future lives.



Blue Moon Cabaret

Nimbin School of Arts first BIG Cabaret event for 2016 features another huge show with a grand variety of acts: comedy, acrobatics, poets, dance ensembles, singers and musicians, and even a short theatre performance.

The Bella Fontes quartet, who were a popular attraction at the recent Woodford festival, will feature along with No Frills Twins, and singers Laura Nobel, Jimmy Dowling and Freowin Harper; plus the dance acts LaSalsa and Gypsy Rose Soiree, stand up comics Ellen Briggs and Peter Willey, poets Tango and Possum and David Hallett, grand pianist Harry Freeman, and the Drill Hall Theatre's 'Mother's Hat'.

The popular sellout Blue Moon Cabaret (a major fundraiser for the School of Arts) is at Nimbin Hall on Saturday 19th March, doors open at 6.30pm.

The evening is fully catered by Barefoot Affair (no BYO), and bookings are essential at Perceptio (phone 6689-1766).

Classic films screen at the Bush Theatre

Previews by Toni B.

Friday 11th March
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
(2014; dir. Ang Lee 'M')

From the bamboo forests and cobblestone streets of old Judea and Bethlehem, this month's cinematic offerings at the Nimbin Bush Theatre take us back in history, with *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (set in 1779) showing on Friday 11th March, and Monty Python's *Life of Brian* (set in the year 33AD) screening on Easter Friday.

When *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (rated 'M') was released in 2000, it peaked many Westerners' interest in Asian film and actors. Set in China (filmed in Beijing and the Gobi Desert), this Taiwanese-Chinese-Hong Kong co-production was (at the time) the highest-grossing foreign language film in Hollywood history, winning 40 awards and broadening the careers of the actors involved (Michelle Yeoh; Chow Yun-Fat; Zhang Ziyi; Chang Chen).

Directed by Ang Lee (*The Wedding Banquet; Brokeback Mountain; Life of Pi*), who is known for exploring themes of emotional conflict, CTHD deals with the serious matter of traditional teacher-student relationships within the majestic art of Wudang swordsmanship (or swordswomanship in this case, as two of the main sword-wielding characters are female).

There's a latent romance, a renegade student, and plenty of acrobatics to behold... Computer effects were primarily employed only to render invisible the safety wires used by the actors in their fight scenes, otherwise, most of the stuntwork was done by the actors themselves (choreographed by Yuen Wo Ping).

The film's title (taken from a 1930's novel series called the *Crane Iron Pentology* by Wang Dulu) refers to the notion that powerful people ("unnoticeable masters") may exist within our immediate environs if we choose not to remain alert. The long-awaited sequel (CTHD: *Sword*



Zhang Ziyi

of *Destiny*) is due for release this year, so this could be a good time to review the original film before seeing its new incarnation.

Friday 25th March
Monty Python's Life of Brian (2013; 1979; dir. Terry Jones 'M')

Speaking of incarnations, Easter Friday this year brings another serious film to Nimbin, however this film is seriously funny. Frequently touted as being a contender for the "greatest comedy film of all time" (see Wikipedia for sources), Monty Python's *Life of Brian* (1979) was almost never released.

Fearing ardent Christian backlash due to its focus on biblical themes, the original film backer, EMI pulled out at the last minute and Beatle George Harrison stepped in to fund the film's release himself (thanks George!).

Originally rated 'R' to deter potentially offended audiences from viewing it, the film is now rated a teenage-friendly 'M'.

The many people who've already seen this film know that it is a sharp satire that lampoons both the New Testament period and modern left-wing politicking, exploring what can happen when following a leader is done blindly and when well-meaning collectives splinter due to petty differences.



The Python team

Filmed in Tunisia and featuring the entire cast of that beloved comedic ensemble known as Monty Python, each actor plays multiple roles within the film, which is itself directed by Python Terry Jones and features animations by fellow Python, Terry Gilliam.

Graham Chapman plays the role of Brian, a humble young man who's been mistaken for Jesus of Nazareth ('coz he was born in the stable next door - a result of a mix-up by the three wise men visiting the wrong stable!). There's even a cameo appearance by famous comedian Spike Milligan, who just happened to be visiting Tunisia (his old wartime battleground) whilst filming was underway.

Life of Brian also contains a classic soundtrack, with the famous song 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' bound to leave punters whistling as they leave the Bush Theatre that night - it will be a very good Friday indeed!

Tickets to all Bush Theatre films are only \$10 (available online: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events or at the Café/shop). The Phoenix Rising Café (next door) is always open beforehand from 5.30pm for dinner and drinks, with desserts and hot beverages still available during each film's intermission.

For further info about the Nimbin Bush Theatre and its events: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com or call Venue Manager, David Hyett on: (02) 6689-0095 or 0418-824-598.



Funny money

Betty (Sheena Felton) and Jean (Jaime Sheehan)

Funny Money, a farce by Ray Cooney, is packed with robbery, drugs, escape attempts, sexual innuendo and layer upon layer of mistaken identities. All of this will add up to two hours of non-stop hilarity on the Ballina Players stage from 1st April.

Henry Perkins (Peter Harding) finds that he has picked up the wrong briefcase on the Underground. In the place of his half a cheese and chutney sandwich, he is stunned to find it packed with £735,000.

Henry tells his stunned wife Jean (Jaime Sheehan) that they are off to Barcelona. She objects, because they are expecting dinner guests Betty (Sheena Felton) and Vic (Dane Bodley) for his birthday.

Jean moves steadily from drink to drink as pressures rise. As time is of the essence, and Jean is neither sober nor dressed, Henry decides to take Betty to Barcelona instead.

The arrival of a policeman sends the couple into a spin, and they begin the lies, which escalate. The stage is awash with friends, policemen and a cab driver coming and going and each being told a different story which they try desperately to make sense of.

The action races at a frenetic pace, with sleight of hand with briefcases and their contents playing a big part, as does the fact that a body riddled with bullets and carrying Henry's briefcase has been found in the Thames.

Funny Money will be staged at the Players Theatre from 1st April to 10th April. Evening performances will commence at 8pm and Sunday matinees at 2pm. Book online at: www.ballinaplayers.com.au or at Just Funkin Music, 6686-2440.



Psychic reader Jazmin

Wellbeing4Life

The Wellbeing4Life Expo is being held at the William Smith Pavilion, Lismore Showgrounds on the weekend of 19th and 20th March. Entry is by gold coin.

It is a community-based event with a varied group of exhibitors. The public will see many alternate practitioners and will learn the differences between allopathic and complementary medicines.

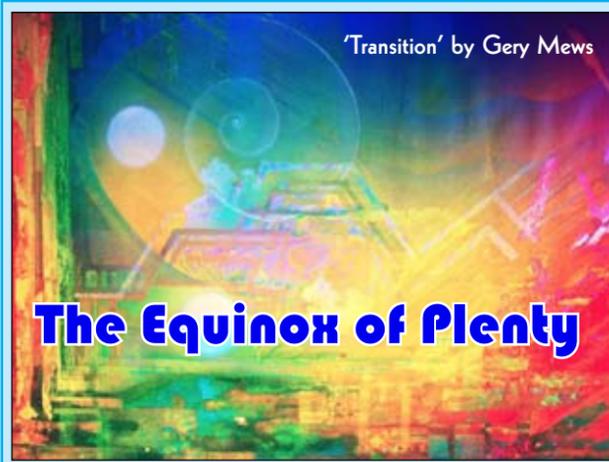
The expo will be featuring the beautiful voice and music of Lou Van Stone, Ian Cameron who is a Master Palmist will be in attendance, as will Nick Turner who is a Master Channel.

Six of the best Psychic Readers will be available over the weekend: Jazmin, Giselle

and Ross from the Nimbin area, Rhonnda from Uki, Ivan from Kingscliffe and Avril from Ocean Shores.

There will be free lectures over the weekend as well as exhibitors with the following: Aura Camera, Raw Food Workshop promotion, Reflexology, Essential Oils, Shamanism, Crystals, Medicinals, Candles, Himilayan Salt Lamps, Himilayan Salt grinders including herbs, Pendulums, Ear Candles, Books, Pineal Activation Light sessions and much much more.

There are still a few sites left, so if you are interested please contact Adrian on 0419-809-661 or email: wellbeing4lifeevents@gmail.com



The Equinox of Plenty

I Feel – I Think – I Do

Hanging Rock Hall, Sunday 20th March, 3.30pm-6.30pm.

The next quarterly event is the equinox of plenty. In the Northern Hemisphere it is called autumn, however this expression doesn't sit well with local seasons and we acknowledge this time with nature's abundance.

The Earth is ripe and the harvest moon is soon upon us and this equinox could be seen as... *a hiatus in the breathing, standing in the silence, between one breath and the next.*

Join with us as we once again connect with our roots and the hidden or forgotten past. This is a family event with games, performance and ceremony. You are welcome to write a wish on a prayer flag, paint a gourd, and play volleyball or soccer. The play will begin at 6pm.

These natural quarterly celebrations are dictated by the movement of the Earth and Sun and provide us with an opportunity to participate in simple ceremony as we acknowledge the Equinox of Plenty with a mystery play.

This seasonal mystery play is an opportunity to make a wish, not from a place of need, rather a wish for yourself or others or the planet. The play will be concluded with a beautiful dance and verse that invites a blessing upon us all.

Please bring a plate of finger food for sharing after the play. Tea and coffee will be provided.

BROADWAY IN LISMORE

Join Lismore Amateur Musical Society for an evening of stand-up, singing, dancing and entertainment celebrating some of Broadway's best.

With soloists, ensembles and duets performing routines from some of Broadway's best loved productions, this night promises something for everyone, with music that has inspired generations of musical theatre lovers.

Some of the most recognised productions from Broadway will hit the stage, bringing together a diverse range of romance, rock and comedy all into one stage show. Hits from *Wicked*, *Chicago*, *Aida*, *The Producers*, *Avenue Q* and *Smash* among others will be featured. The night will be all-encompassing of what it is that makes a Broadway show, with singing, dancing, tap, comedy, sequins and glamour.

Performances: Friday 4th and Saturday 5th March. Bar opens at 6.30pm, doors open at 7pm, curtain up at 7.30pm.

Box Office and online sales available for this performance. Tickets \$37.20 online, \$40 at the door.

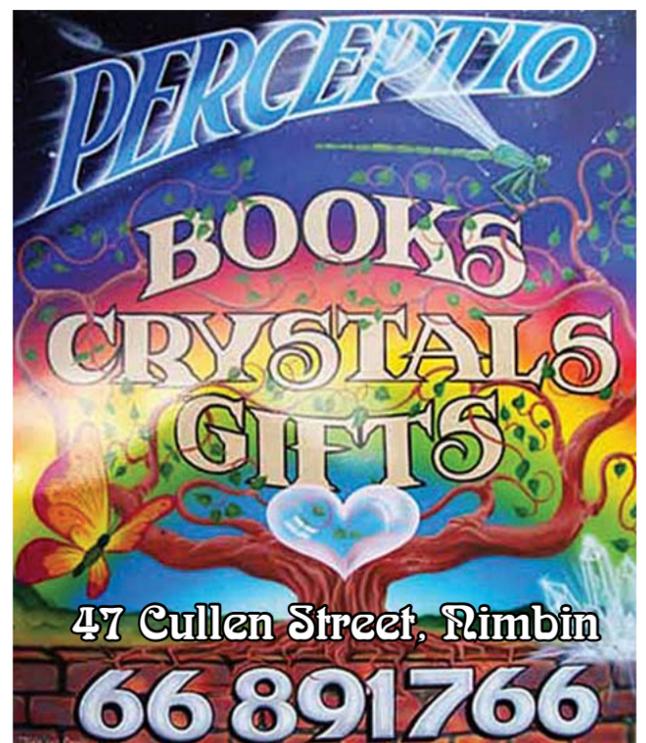
For all ticket enquiries, please contact the Star Court Theatre directly on 6622-5005 or: <http://starcourttheatre.com.au/events/broadway>



Where there's a Will

Photo: Mel Williamson

Will Massey is making a splash on the local music scene with his sets of completely original material, supported by long-time collaborator, percussionist Sammy Stix. Catch them at Nimbin Bowlo's terra. restaurant on Friday 11th March, 6-9pm.



47 Cullen Street, Nimbin

66 891 766

sphinx rock café

3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 www.sphinxrockcafe.com

Sunday Gig Guide

March 1pm start

6th Andy Jans Brown

Uplifting music in the vein of those classic bands who wrote songs you want to sing along to.

13th Yeshe & Cye

Yeshe and Cye will weave their mellifluous magic together and will be playing old favourites as well as new tunes.

20th Tim Stokes

Laid-back coastal riffs, groove based blues/roots/country dance vibes and haunting ballads, with a raw honest moving voice.

27th Acfields

Sibling songsters Dan and Hannah Acfield have been aptly described as "the ying to each other's yang".

April 3rd Bill Jacobi

Bill has proved himself to be a captivating performer – from soulful to foot-stomping.

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

March Gigs

Friday 4th	7pm	Mecha Mecha
Saturday 5th	8pm	Trombone Kellie Gang
Sunday 6th	5pm	Frank Sultana
Thursday 10th	7pm	Hotshots all male revue (\$30)
Friday 11th	7pm	Neil Anderson
Saturday 12th	8pm	Khanage
Sunday 13th	5pm	The Dead Setters
Thursday 17th	7pm	Jock Barnes
Friday 18th	7pm	Q
Saturday 19th	8pm	Thorazoo & friends
Sunday 20th	5pm	Tony Fallon
Thursday 24th	7pm	Cliff Fletcher
Friday 25th	7pm	Jesse Morris
Saturday 26th	8pm	Eastwood
Sunday 27th	5pm	Brommers

All Gigs are Free of Charge

JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING

the mended drum
Open for Lunch & Dinner
Daily Specials

CANNABIS
THE NUMBER ONE PLANT

FOOD
BETTER PROTEIN THAN BEEF

FUEL
CLEANER ENERGY THAN CRUDE OIL

FIBRE
STRONGER TEXTILE THAN COTTON

MEDICINE
SAFER EFFECT THAN PHARMACEUTICALS

RECREATION
HEALTHIER CHOICE THAN ALCOHOL

OPEN EVERYDAY 51 CULLEN STREET 02 6689 1842

NIMBIN HEMP EMBASSY



RVBYESQUE

ALAN MORRIS
PROPRIETOR

SMOKING PARAPHERNALIA & FINE USED BOOKS
21 CARRINGTON STREET LISMORE 2480
PO BOX 1184 LISMORE (02) 6622 4676

Trout's New World Pty Ltd
Trading As
Trout's Enviro Plumbing Plus

WE BELIEVE WATER IS THE BLOOD OF THE EARTH

NEED BOSS, TANK & TOILET
WANGUACTURER, BLDG
GREY WATER FILTERS, LIVING
WATER FLOW FORMS, ON SITE
WASTE WATER SOLUTIONS, DESIGN,
INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE, SOLAR
INSTALLATIONS, ROOFING & CUTTING, GAS FITTER

Phone: **66 890 331**
Mobile: **0412 966 604**
Email: trout@newworldplumbing.com
www.troutnewworld.com

Nimbin Haberdashery & Gas Supply
6689 1466

All supplies for sewing, knitting, embroidery etc;

- material, dyes, ribbons, zips, buttons, elastic, thread
- curtain rods & brackets
- craft supplies
- mending, alterations and repairs

Gas supplies (all areas)

- 45kg for \$125 delivered
- fast, friendly & honest service

72 Cullen St Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm Sat 10am - 12pm

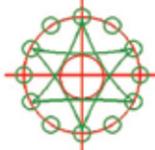
NIMBIN LAW
Solicitors, Barristers & Conveyancers

Competitive rates

- Conveyancing
- Corporations law
- Multiple Occupancy
- Leases & Property law
- Trusts, Wills & Probate
- Litigation in all Courts

50C Cullen St.
Nimbin 2480
(at rear)
PH: 02 6689-1003
nimlaw@spains.com.au

Lawyers in
Nimbin
since 1973



80 Cullen Street 6689-0199

NIMBIN CAFE
.. the OASIS of ..
NIMBIN COFFEE SHOP

Cannabis growers Co-op mooted

by Wayne Wadsworth

The Feds have passed legislation in the Lower house to help establish a medical cannabis industry in Australia. Surprise surprise, you need to be invited to apply for a medical cannabis growers licence.

Poor old Big Pharma is in a flap. We (the people) have their marvellous plant that can replace most of the toxic petrochemical crap that they have been shoving down our throats for years.

But Big Pharma don't own it, so what to do? Maybe those dumb-arse puppet pollies can pass legislation to protect our ill-gotten profits. Mmm good idea, let's start by keeping all those deadbeat dole bludging, tree hugging, anti

coal seam gas hippies out of the market.

What we'll need is some responsible legislation to increase penalties for growing medical cannabis. That will see off most of the black market. We could use the tobacco legislation and just change the name to the 'Responsible Community Cannabis Protection Bill for Safe Medicine'.

So all you growers out there, reality is changing. Sure, you can keep growing the good weed and there will always be a black market, but the reality is that cannabis-hemp-gunja will be a major industry in Australia. You are easily picked off one by one.

An alternative is to create a Cannabis Co-op which helps you grow good



Nimbin seedlings

medical bud legally.

Of course a bit of wild bush bud can still grow free up in them leafy hills of Nimbin and a bit of Mullum Madness will still blow around the hills down to trendy Byron Bay where all those well-heeled hippies live.

A Cannabis Co-op can help the little guys and girls become part of new clean green industry based around the magic plant. Be there or be square.

Show and tell

Well the challenge is out there all you growers – show us what you've got!

Fortunately we still have a sorta free press, so you can pretend you're someone else with a fictitious name like Benjamin Big Hemp.

Sure our last month's plant was industrial hemp, but Sativa is Sativa.

And no photoshopping your plant!

For more info, contact Wadzy, email: wadzywell@gmail.com

Faerie rehearsals begin

by Aerie Faerie

Nimbin Ganja Faeries are once again starting rehearsals for the MardiGrass Parade.

We are commencing every Friday from 25th March (Easter Friday), 5.30-6.30pm at the Dance Studio in the Nimbin Community Centre.

If you want to be a Ganja Faerie, we welcome new

faeries, as well as experienced faeries, to join us. We accept all applicants of any gender over the age of 18, and under 18 may be accompanied by an adult.

We only ask that you commit to learning our marching routine, wear the regulation green and black striped tights as part of your faerie costume, and enjoy yourself as a faerie.



2015 MardiGrass
Photo: Brian Alexander

We do have some costumes ready for hire, but you need to get in early and book these if you want a costume reserved for you, or you can look on the MardiGrass website or the

Nimbin Ganja Faerie Facebook Page, to look at previous years for making your own costume, for some ideas.

If you ever wanted to be Ganja Faerie, now is the time.

Unda the Canopy

Fisticuffs are not that unusual inside the Force, and to be expected considering the horrors we have to deal with.

'Unloading' back in the office is a huge part of the job and there's always experts on hand to help. Half the time stressed-out emotional wrecks returning from DV cases are just sent to the gym to take it out on the bag when really they should have a bath and a good cry, says Pipe when I talk to him about it. I came back up into the mountains to see how the tribe survived the annual chopper raid which he said wasn't as severe as usual.

"Maybe they're finally backing off on the bush a bit now they've got ice to deal with," he says. "These hills are full of ex-junkies and ice heads who only smoke weed now. Maybe they're finally discovering pot is a different sort of rehab that doesn't cost them a cent."

I was telling him how the drug driving dramas have split HQ down the middle and Sydney actually broke down into brawling, twice I heard. Old men wrestling on the floor! That's how furious some of them are after a hippy magistrate pulled their pants down exposing very little unda.

"Do they really hate us that much?" Pipe is asking.

"Some of them, yes," I tell him. "It's an insecurity thing. You threaten their values which they've staked their life on. And they work their arses off to pay their mortgage in a very stressful job."

"Their lot," he replies, and not very kindly. "They lied about the saliva testing and keep lying still. They used to get away with this sort of stuff but not any more. Science is hunting them down like feral cats after antechinus and their days of bullying are drawing to a close. Soon they'll be filming themselves wherever they go with go pros."

We're walking as we talk along well-

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert



worn paths under the canopy of giant eucalyptus which every now and then open into clearings which the Tribe take advantage of. It's clearly been a terrific season. The intermittent rains and hot steamy weather in between has massive colas forming that are talking to us in a gentle breeze. Like a soccer crowd doing a Mexican wave. Pipe's crew is staking them up carefully and giving them all a final feed.

"There's enough medicine in this little patch alone for a thousand epileptics for a year, at least." He stares at me. "How much would the pharmaceuticals cost for the same number?" he asks.

"I have no idea, but a lot."

Walking on again, I was telling Pipe some stories about travelling with Malcolm and how he thinks money all the time. "He can't help it, it seems, his head is playing money numbers

endlessly. It thinks economically. He's haunted by the fact that rich old Oz is borrowing another 100 million dollars every day to pay the interest on what we already owe, yet he can't stop spending more all the time. Problems that surface, and there are dozens every day, are dealt with economically. Throw some money at them has been the long standing way of dealing with dramas since anyone can remember. Depending on the polling of course, but whatever it takes to keep the voters onside.

"His head thinks profit on everything," I tell Pipe. "Making money is success to him. It's all a big monopoly game. And that's what his plan with medical weed is. He wants to control growing the crop himself, and sell it. He figures profit from weed alone could balance the current losses we are piling up every day."

Pipe doesn't seem phased. "I don't care how the weed gets out there, so long as it's real organic weed. Just get it out there and the rest will look after itself," he says. "The spiritual qualities in the plant will do their job on the Aussie head space if we give it half a chance. We've got a good start on surrender in this country with the 'she'll be right mate' attitude. The oldest land and the oldest culture, some part of that wisdom goes into every bud grown here. Oz might be in the tail coming round the home bend but we'll be strong in the final stretch. You just watch the next twenty years," he says with a grin, glancing at me over his shoulder.

Somehow that cheered me up no end, knowing how psychic he is.

Legal pot on the way at last

by Michael Balderstone,
President, HEMP Embassy

It's been a good month for cannabis lovers.

First up, the saliva testing got a big kick in the pants by several magistrates who have been letting off drivers who had an "honest and reasonable belief" they were not impaired and had followed 'expert' advice waiting for the medicine to pass through their system. "Wait a week," said the Mullumbimby copper, and the driver waited nine days but still registered positive. The Magi let him off and from everywhere came the experts saying 12 hours is the recommended time. Talk about shooting yourself in the foot. The police car's recording was incomplete.

It seems the saliva testing has dried up considerably since then, and we all wait to see if the police will appeal the decision. Apparently they have asked for an extension of time while they decide. Even George Orwell didn't think of testing our saliva!

Then the Liberal Party leap-frogged the Greens in Canberra and instigated changes to the Narcotic Drugs Act to create a "national licensing scheme for growers". What? Read that again.

Health Minister Sussan Ley (who used to be a purple

haired punk in her youth) said the TGA was "well advanced" in considering downgrading weed to a controlled substance, which will in turn give patients access to locally produced medicinal cannabis with a valid prescription.

Back to Earth now, that sounds like doctors in charge again and maybe Big Pharma with licences like they have in Tassie for growing more than half the world's legal opium. However, it is some real movement, and pot is finally being recognised for the medicinal herb it is.

With an election looming, all the major parties are talking like they've finally had a real joint session in Canberra. Of course they haven't, pity, but every time it's discussed they learn a bit more.

And to top off the month, a Canadian Federal court judge has ruled medical marijuana patients have the constitutional right to grow their own cannabis, wiping out the ban introduced by the previous conservative government. Australia is closely following how they deal with the issue in Canada. We look forward to hearing first hand from Ajia Mae Moon and Dana Larson at MardiGrass. All in all, enough to excite the average yarrdi user to stay alive, and with a bit of grace we may not

have to be buried as criminals after all.

The HEMP Embassy is taking them at their word and we're going to apply for a licence to grow and produce medicine under a Hemployment Plan with a Bob Hopkins-type vision of a cottage industry and a growers co-op. At least put the idea out there! We're the highest unemployment area in the country and at the same time have the most experienced growers, breeders and pot gardeners already doing just what they are talking about. Surely it's a win-win to mull the two together.

Of course, Big Pharma is having sleepless nights and will pull out every stop they can dream up to keep control of arguably the most profitable business on Earth, pain relief. They're more desperate than ever to put pot in a pill, but all the signs are pointing towards whole plant extractions doing the job far better than their secret concoctions. It's driving them crazy.

Medical Cannabis Workshop

Back home, the only Medicinal Workshop in Nimbin before MardiGrass is on Saturday 12th March, 11am at the Town Hall.

Dr Pot, Andrew Katelaris, is flying up from Sydney again to discuss his latest

methods of using the magic medicine and solicitor Steve Bolt, whose recent court case has given the police dry mouth, is coming to talk about saliva testing and new cannabis legislation. Local Andrew Kavasilas will also speak about the proposed changes, how they impact on the current situation and what to look out for when considering using cannabis for medical purposes.

Anyone else who would like to speak about their medicinal use or experience is welcome to just turn up or contact the HEMP Embassy beforehand to discuss if you want. Healthy hemp food will be on sale in the hall cafe.

MardiGrass

MardiGrass is less than two months away on 29th and 30th April and Sunday 1st May. Preparations are well underway, and anyone is welcome at the weekly MOB (Mardigrass Organising Body) meetings, every Friday



from 4.20 at the HEMP Embassy.

A new highlight for this year is a special comedy session on Saturday night in the Hall with S. Sorrensen, Alan Glover, Steady Eddy and more. Called HOSS, The Hemp Olympix Sports Show, it promises to teach the NRL and AFL Footy Shows a few new tricks.

MardiGrass tickets can be purchased at: www.nimbinmardigrass.com to support our law reform cause and at \$50 for a full weekend

pass or \$100 with three nights' classy camping at the Showground included, it has to win some sort of prize for good value.

Of course, we are depending on volunteers as usual to ensure a good weekend, so do think about how you might like to help. Market stalls (no crap please) and community groups who would like to use the weekend as a fundraiser should get in touch soon. Phone 6689-0326 or email: head@hempembassy.net

Medicinal cannabis rip-off

by Robin Stein

As a healer, I am always looking for better healing methods for my patients. And now that the US has succeeded with their prediction to give one in two people cancer, I have had many requests for cannabis oil from my cancer patients. Most of those patients are quite ill and can't afford the hefty price of \$250.00 for a 15 or 25ml bottle of oil, which is the going price in the Nimbin village. So I've also been interested to discover what it actually costs to make a tiny dropper bottle of pure oil.

I have also been searching for better ways to relieve pain without the consequences of medical pain killers, and this search has also led me to medicinal cannabis oil. The oil is frequently made by soaking parts of the plant in Ethanol for six months and then reducing the liquid right down at low temperature, or even in the sun. However, I am told by several people in Nimbin that 'nobody' actually soaks it for that length of time and tinctures are sold after two months. So if nobody is soaking their green matter for the prescribed amount of time, doesn't this affect the strength of the final result? And doesn't this show us that Nimbin may indeed be the pioneers who are making this magical oil available for those who need it? But doesn't this also show us, that we may not actually be known as the pioneers, but rather, we will be known instead for using methods of extortion on those who can least cope with being ripped off?

A few weeks ago, I purchased a Green Oil Machine (pictured) which is the only machine that returns your ethanol. It was not an easy purchase and it took a month before the machine was actually sent to me. It has no directions and the man who sells them doesn't see the need to communicate with anybody. The machine itself is actually a 'water distiller'.

I purchased two x 2oz bags of heads with some of the entire plant for \$40 each, plus 2oz of leaf for \$20 each, for a total of \$120. This mix was put into the freezer overnight and then soaked in hot water for a few hours to remove the chlorophyll. Then the mix was soaked in ethanol for several hours, strained, then placed into the machine. The greenery does 'not' go into the machine. The machine was turned to 100°C and the tube placed into



the bottle to recapture the ethanol, which trickles constantly after about 10 minutes. In 45 minutes from the moment the machine was turned on, the oil is ready. It is FECCO – fully extracted cannabis oil. The fecco oil is required to kill cancerous tumors, and two drops, four times daily is required for this healing.

At the end of that 45 minutes, I was left with a thick, black sludge that I broke down to half/half with organic olive oil. And counting my original investment of \$120, plus a little bit added to cover the cost of my machine, each of my 15ml bottles will cost \$75.

*Please note that this cost is not \$250. And it is not even \$150 or \$100... You have been seriously ripped off if you have paid more than \$75!

The cost for my fecco oil, which has not been watered down, will be \$75 for 15mls. And I seriously expect all who are selling the oil to people suffering from cancer will lift their game. I don't know about you, but I'd prefer for Nimbin to be known for being brave enough to show the world exactly what this oil can do for the health of humankind and animals, than for the people of Nimbin to be known for extortion.

My partner suffers enormous pain, and we have tried every oil made in Nimbin but none have touched it. The only oil that has diminished his pain considerably is the oil I have just made. For me, that says it all.

Greedy weedies

by Dionne May

Have you been outside lately? The summer rains and sunshine, an alchemy of warmth, wonder and pure energy are making everything grow like crazy, especially weeds.

Lantana, crofton and wandering jew are literally spreading their greedy selves over everything. With little or no respect to native plants or human intentions, they burst through fences, swallow up whole gardens and even dare to grope my majestic old trees. Not content to maintain their own space, it often to me seems like they are just plain old greedy, racing undeterred towards more land, more light, more water, more everything with no thought or respect to their neighbours. So are they a necessary part of our biology or perhaps a shocking biological analogy of our human world?

The dictionary definition of greed is rapacity, avarice, discontent and a mortal or deadly sin. Take away the last part and couldn't you be describing a weed?

I've been hand-clearing the land around my home for fourteen years now. Over this time I have tried to cultivate some kind of working relationship with my weeds. The slower process of working by hand has really allowed me the time to understand their cycles to try and work with, not against their greedy intentions. Accepting their differences while containing their greed. Fighting back when necessary to maintain some balance.

With humans it's far more tricky, especially in our modern world where greed is now largely accepted as success and riches. Ethics and morality be damned!

Egos and money and greed rule the day.

In Nimbin's alternative environment, the green weed rules supreme. As with nearly every single commodity including land and water in Australia 2016, even the weed it seems, is now being controlled by greed and money. The price of a pound which stayed virtually unchanged for two decades has nearly doubled in price in recent years. Weed is now big money, more than \$10 a gram for bush buds, and much more if a few dealers have taken their cut. And never before have there been so many other drugs in demand by visitors willing to pay any price to any dodgy character on our streets for any dodgy, but less detectable chemical drugs. Cookies are even being flogged on the streets by runners. No care, no love, no information.

Are human weeds invading as pervasively as plants? How, as an alternative community, do we contain this greed while maintaining our pride and ethics for medicinal and recreational marijuana and hemp products that are both environmentally and ethically beneficial to our community and planet? With division about cannabis prohibition endemic in our own community how do we even decide who's a 'greedy weed' let alone what we can sensitively do about it? Who do we even consult?

Now that the sick and dying of Australia are trying to negotiate these noxious weeds, surely it's time for a more mature and morally ethical government to end prohibition and start a process that can finally give Nimbin a proud platform for hemp and cannabis information and a healthier system of weed management?

Happy Horses Bitless

Natural Horsemanship



Suzy Maloney B.Eq.Sc. 0401 249 263

'Control with Kindness'

happyhorsesbitless@gmail.com
www.happyhorsesbitless.com

Croc hunt in Nimbin

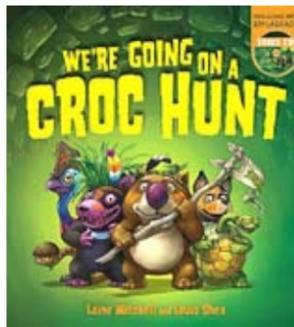
by Carina and the team at Nimbin Childcare Centre

At Nimbin Early Learning Centre we do a lot of different creative experiences such as turtles, crabs, and also a dog made out of the letter 'D'.

For cooking this month we focused on making yummy smoothies using yoghurt, mango, bananas and berries.

We also went on a croc hunt using the book *We are going on a Croc Hunt* which was lots of fun, role playing the book around the centre.

Have you ever thought about your child coming to a centre based child care and education? Well, drop in and see us at Nimbin Early Learning Centre in the Community Centre complex for a booked orientation morning to get to know us



and the group. Please feel free to call the centre on 6689-0142 to book in for our Wednesday mornings orientation which is between 10.30 and 11.30am.

If you would like to book your child/ren into the centre for a permanent/casual day please just ask/ring and we can check our availability.

Fees: Short day (9am-4pm): Perm \$15, Casual \$20; Long day (8.30am-5pm); \$20/\$25.

Paddock to plate pesto



Tahne (above) and Ruby and Indiana (below)

by Lisa Torpey

Last month, I shared a moment from Tuntable Falls preschool where the children were inspired to make pesto pasta by noticing how huge the basil bush was. We often use the produce that we've grown in our cooking at preschool.

The children take part in the whole process of creating food right through to the cleaning up.

After careful planning and finding a recipe, we picked the basil, and Tahne, Lieka, Alila and Ruby plucked the leaves from the stems. Once we'd done that, Ruby and Indiana expertly peeled and chopped the garlic. We use real implements in our cooking, including sharp knives, tongs, blenders etc. This means the children learn how to use them with precision.

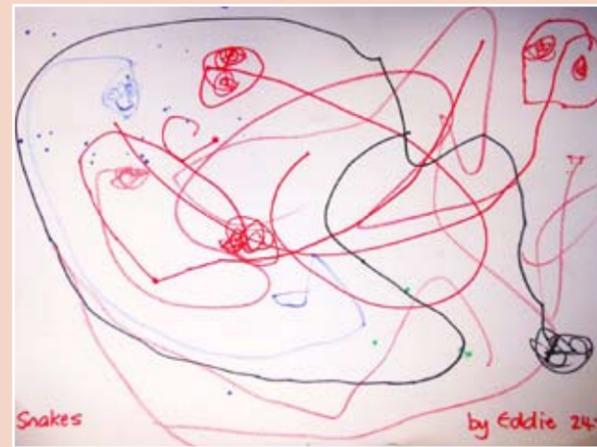
They put the garlic into a bowl, Tarua added the olive oil, cashews and salt, then Tahne blitzed it all. "We forgot the lemons," said Tahne. So he cut them in half, and Jaavren squeezed them in to the juicer. We added the juice, and Tahne proceeded to process the pesto. "We need more garlic Lisa", he proclaimed. So we added more, and blitzed and tasted until it was perfect.

Near lunch time, Ari and Theo helped me fill a pot of water, and when it was boiling, we added the pasta. Charlie helped me drain it and stir through the Pesto. Alila and Tahne served the pasta to the children... many of them had seconds, it was scrumptious. We were a bit sad that Frankie wasn't here that day (as it's her favourite food.) We froze some pesto for her for later.

Tahne asked if he could wash up... he is really good at it too.



DEEP BELONGING



At Cawongla Playhouse, deep belonging is important. It's that feeling of wanting to be here, of knowing those who are here or learning about them, of caring for our place and all who are here.

Like, for example, the skink that Noah found this week. And the snail that River discovered. Even the python skin we found. That skink belongs. So does the snail and the snake skin. What's more, all bring exciting learning.

"This is the awesomest thing!" three-year-old Carter exclaimed when he saw the snake skin. "It's a python. Look how long it is! Does it have teeth? Does it have eyes?"

Kalida measured the skin: 190cm. "How long is 190cm?" Myrtle asked. "Look at all those scales, too many to count, hey?"

Kalida extended on that thought with her knowledge about scales and other creatures. "Like a fish when you scale it," she added.

Eddie observed that "it wanted to get its skin off." We questioned why that would be. River's reasoning: "It's putting off its skin because it gets too warm."

From the sensory exploration of the snake skin, we moved to snakes in literature and media. In *Jo and the Snake* we looked at how we can keep ourselves safe when snakes are about. Reading *Fibi & the Snake* took us to a world where we protect snakes. In *Won-um-bee and the Yilba*, an indigenous DVD that's often requested by the children, Wonumbee, the snake, and Yilba, the goanna, start off as best of friends but, through greed and jealousy, end as enemies. Why did they choose that path, we ask, when we know there are better ways to problem-solve?

We invite you to visit and see where we belong. As a community, we will come together on Sunday 3rd April for a fun Trash'n'Treasure (9am-noon). Should you like to book a stall (\$10) or get more information, please phone us on 6633-7167.

The importance of play

by Katrina

Another school year has begun at Rainbow Ridge, and we have welcomed our new kindergarten children and their families.

One of the things that stands out in a Steiner kindergarten is the emphasis placed on imaginative play. Today many educators observe not only the disappearance of play from the early childhood curriculum but also an increasing inability for young children to self-initiate play and sustain it.

Play is often seen as something other than work, and separate from learning. In Steiner Kindergartens, play forms the basis of learning. So many of the NSW curriculum outcomes can be achieved through play.

We begin our day outside. The children create and build in the sandpit, play imaginative games, help the teachers to prune, plant and weed the garden. We come upstairs for songs, morning circle and morning tea. After this more focussed time, the children are ready for inside play.

The Kindy room is set up with cubby frames and big wooden blocks for the children

to climb inside, a home corner, dress ups, small felt toys, pebbles and crystals for the children to use in their play. The teacher helps guide play when needed and is usually involved in a craft activity or baking which children can participate in also. After we tidy up, we gather for circle games and a story before lunch. Then we have another outside play followed by a rest, some drawing or painting and afternoon tea.

Play does not come easily to all children who may be shy or more used to structured activities. There are many skills needed to play co-operatively. When all the children are fully immersed in play, a sense of deep peace and well-being enters the room.

Usually by their ninth or tenth year, children's ability to play imaginatively begins to diminish. It is a small window of incredible opportunity. According to Steiner in *The Education of the Child*, "through play, the child works freely to discover how the spirit must move to best shape their constitution according to inner predetermination."

Play is very important work indeed.

Nimbin Community Preschool



Competent Collaborative Community

Enrolments available now

Preschool: Nimbin A&I Showgrounds, Cecil St.
Phone/Fax: (02) 6689 1203
Email: nimbinpreschool@bigpond.com

Tuntable Falls Community School



Unique place
Unique education

www.tuntablefallsschool.nsw.edu.au
6689 1423 tuntableschool@gmail.com

Now enrolling

Garden dialogue at preschool

The beginning of a new year usually heralds a thinking that all needs to start afresh: that cycles and transformations that went before are no longer in existence or relevant to the present.

At Nimbin Preschool, we started to question this phenomenon when presented with an array of newly-grown seedlings for our garden. The subsequent planning of the garden beds through image-making, as indicated in the photograph, led us into this important conversation about renewal.

Of major concern for the children were our bare garden beds, and what had happened to the vegetables that went before. At this point we wondered if our explanations that the soil needed replenishing and/or that the vegetables that went before, were old and spent, was really adequate or relevant.

So, what is relevant to



discuss? The multi-sensory evolution of a garden? The identification of a garden as continually transforming rather than ending and starting again? The garden as a catalyst for finding out what happens when we leave it for a length of time unattended and what we need to do next?

In essence we are beginning to question why we feel the

need to shelter children from what really happens. It is about acknowledging the importance of the past and how this affects the present.

Even though we have new children at preschool, the children attending from 2015 are the catalyst for building this culture of continual movement around and within a core that remains the same.



by Nicola Apps, the SEE teacher

Magic is real at Tunttable Falls Community School. Juno, otherwise known as Papa Joe, is seen here taking his Cleansweep 8 for a tour around our kitchen garden at Tunttable Falls.

Part of the Shadehouse Committee, Juno has been busy with friends Sky and Bodhi, measuring how much water the irrigation systems use. Admiring Juno's flying skills are Maddy, Rosella and Grace, the Garden Girls,

who make up the Propagation Committee.

The Garden Girls have been hard at work turning a green cover crop into the soil, to improve the humus content. They have planted some beautiful flower seeds and seedlings, along with coriander for the kitchen.

This amazing moment was captured by Halle, a member of the Photojournalism Committee. Stay tuned for more exciting news from Tunttable Falls Community School.



Students get wet and wild

by Marc Everingham

A break in the weather, temperatures nudging 30 degrees and the turquoise waters of the Lismore baths provided the perfect backdrop for Nimbin Central School to hold their annual High School swimming carnival.

The day started with the large inflatable obstacle run. Sounds harmless enough, you are probably saying to yourself. For the students yes, for the teachers, no.

I don't think the teachers realised the vulnerable situation they were putting themselves in when they joined the queue, stepped out onto the inflatable, reached the first or second obstacle and realised there was an impatient 13-year old right behind them.

Do you think that 13-year old was going to respect the ineptness of the teacher or wait patiently? NO! They attempted to destabilise them anyway possible by jumping or shaking or if all else failed, simply pushing them out of the way. They showed no mercy. (They also seemed to forget who sets their tests)



Once the so called novelty events (only called this because the kids thought it novel to watch their teachers close to drowning) were over, the serious carnival events started.

The age races soon singled out the solid swimmers from the crowd, with some major efforts from the age champions. Year 7 Nyah Shrivell and Joey Travis; Year 8, Zaydn Ayers and Grace Bellamy; Year 9, Jaiden Bell and Sammaya Okan; Year 10, Banyan Freeborn; Year 11/12, David Aspden, Logan Freeborn,

Ruby Diemer and Brydie Waters.

We wish the qualifying swimmers the best of luck when they get to represent Nimbin Central at the Zone Swimming Carnival in Lismore.

This year also saw the student team of David, Zaydn, Logan and Tai take out the student v teachers relay event. Always a hard fought competition, this year was no different.

Alas, however the outcome was something I'm sure the students won't let their teachers forget.

NAIDOC Week celebrates Apology

Nimbin celebrated the eighth anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations on 13th February this year with colour, good vibes and plenty of great tucker.

It was a joy to celebrate the resilience, humour and vibrancy of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander culture in true Nimbin style.

The theme of the event 'Heal Our Past, Build Our Future: Celebrating Our Heroes' was embodied naturally throughout, and recognised that as a community we all have significant roles to fulfil in the healing process of the Original people, this beautiful country and ultimately ourselves.

Once again, the connectedness and openhearted nature of the Nimbin community was re-affirmed and it was good to see the 'Goorie-grapevine' in action, with plenty of mob attending from other



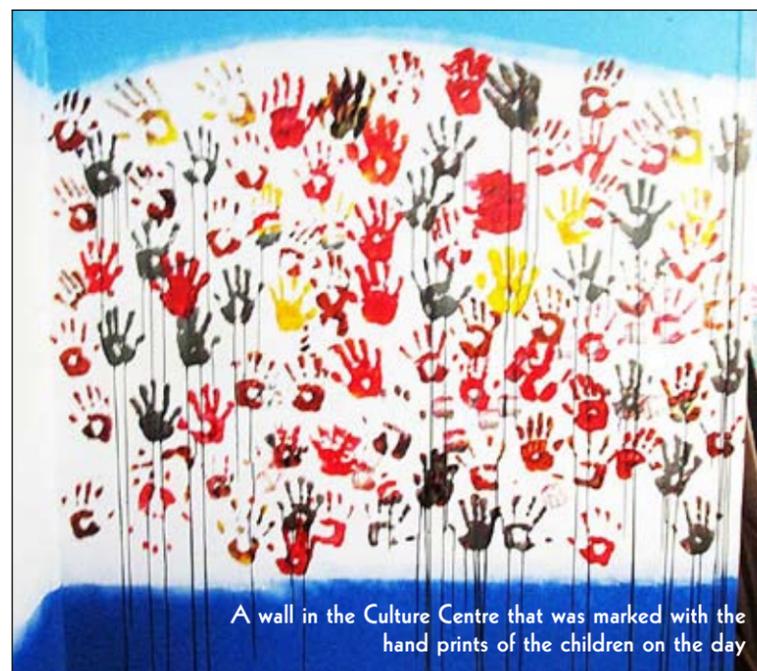
communities on the day.

Billy Smith generously crooned his way through the day, contributing vibrancy and rhythm to the celebration. Much thanks to community Elders and Mob, for generously sharing their cultural knowledge and experience and creating a respectful space for all present. Special thanks also to local community members and groups who contributed their time and energy on the day.

This day was made possible through a successful grant application by the Nimbin Community Centre for the eighth

anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations grant through the Healing Foundation. Respect and gratitude is due also to Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service, for working in partnership with the Nimbin Community Centre and mob.

A big thanks to the local ladies who put so much effort into preparation and were the heart and soul of the event with the wonderful food provided. We are also very grateful to the Ngulingah Local Land Council who supported the revamping of the Nimbin Aboriginal Arts and Cultural



A wall in the Culture Centre that was marked with the hand prints of the children on the day

Centre, and the local mob who worked tirelessly to create such a welcoming space.

Thanks to the Nimbin community for your heartfelt

support and finally an acknowledgement to this beautiful and vibrant Country, the ever present Ancestors and Spirits and also Elders both past and present.

A DIFFERENT WWI EXHIBITION

Quakers (Religious Society of Friends)
Witness to peace and non-violence during WW1 and beyond.
*An exhibition prepared by Quakers for the Centenary of WW1.
It is about peacemaking rather than military action.
It is about non-violence rather than violence.
It is about challenging militarism.*

10 PULL-UP/RETRACTABLE BANNERS

KYOGLÉ: Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March, 10am-4pm
and Saturday 19th March, 9am-1pm at Council shopfront,
Summerland Way
LISMORE: Tuesday 12th April – Sunday 1st May at Lismore
Library Foyer.

'Earth, Air, Fire & Water' reprise

The artists who continue to exhibit and support this community gallery have contributed artworks that reflect the inherent elements that make up the universe as we know it.

From landscapes to still life; installation and sculptures, we see that all life is earth, air, fire and water.

This exhibition was themed to celebrate the opening of the Blue Knob Ceramic Studio, and the elements that go into the making of a piece of pottery.

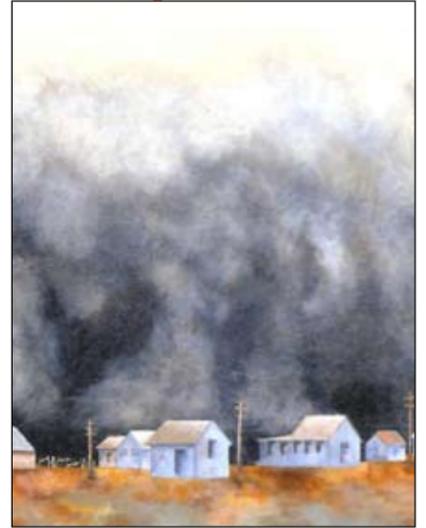
The crucible of the kiln can bring forth the unknown, when a precious form is placed in the kiln, the end result can be exactly what you want or an unexpected surprise!

Much the same as the artists and the work in this exhibition have gone through their own process of discovery.

The show runs until Sunday 3rd April.



'Waiting Gondolas' by Deborah Brown



'Dust Storm over Oklahoma circa 1936' by Anne Cook

Artists & friends lunch

The next Artists & Friends lunch will be held on Thursday 31st March at 12.30pm with a main meal which includes dessert for \$18 (vegetarian) or \$23 (non-vegetarian meat dish).

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

Blue Knob Ceramic Studio now open

by Heather Kimber

The opening of the new Blue Knob Ceramic Studio was incredible. So many people attended.

The mayor of Lismore, Jenny Dowell officially opened the studio and the Earth, Air, Fire and Water exhibition. She had some wonderful things to say about Blue Knob Hall and our local community and what has been achieved here by the generosity of the community and the many volunteers.

Jenny also mentioned that there were "very few other communities in the greater Lismore region that had achieved so much."

Four plaques for the ceramic studio were unveiled as part of the ceremony. These were: Blue Knob Ceramic Studio Opened 19 February 2016. Dedicated to all the



community volunteers who helped build this studio.

Tait Gallery & Workshop. Dedicated to Paul Tait for his tireless efforts and help in building this lasting asset for our community.

Kendell Art Library. In honour of Jeni Kendell and her selfless dedication to our community and this art space.

In Appreciation of Nimbin Artists Gallery and in memory of Chris Marchant,



a potter whose studio equipment was generously donated.

Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced are starting on Thursday 10th March.

The Studio will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturdays with sessions at 10-12pm and 1-3pm. We want to make this facility available and affordable for everyone. The cost is a \$10



Mya with clay

annual membership fee and each 2-hour session will cost \$5 (plus cost of materials and firings).

Bookings have been phenomenal and so we urge you to book your place to use the studio as spaces are limited, and are fast filling. Call the gallery on 6689-7449 or email: bkhgallery@aapt.net.au for enquiries.

Different strokes by inclusive folks

Last year a number of members from the Casino Men's Shed contributed items of woodwork into an exhibition at the Roxy Gallery exploring the nature of wood, and as was discovered, works from both male and female members were included.

This inspired a number of the groups' members to book the exhibition space for this year and in March the Roxy Gallery will display 'Different Strokes'.

This exhibition will open to the public on March 9th, with the official opening being held on Thursday 10th March from 6 to 8pm. It will run through until 2nd April.

As the title for this exhibition implies, there is more than woodwork going on in the Casino Men's Shed.

Established in 2012, the Casino Community Men's Shed Art Group was formed by Harvey Reddell and his wife, Kay, who wished to share their love of oil painting with other members.

Since then, under the guidance of Ruth Riordan, the group has been very

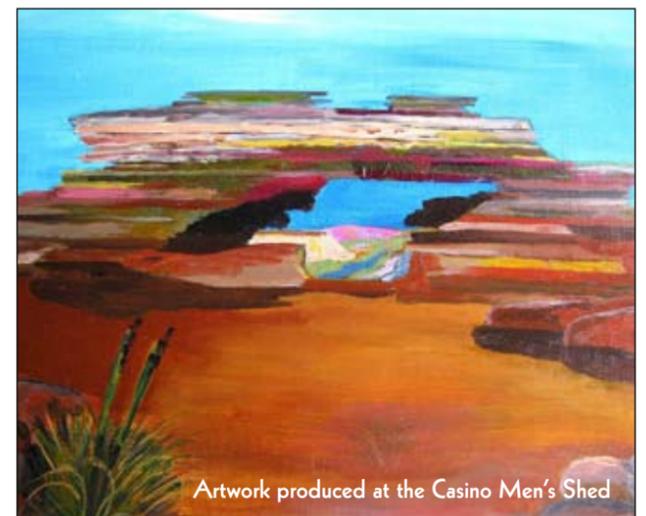


'Boat on the water'

successful. The group consists of 12-15 people from both sexes, some who travel from Mallanganee, Coraki and Lismore just to take part in a day of being creative and learning new skills.

There are different age groups and nationalities who all explore diverse styles and media in art making. The Casino Men's Group is not an exclusive club but an inclusive social space to be creative in.

All the members are delighted to have an opportunity to display and sell their works through the Roxy Gallery.



Artwork produced at the Casino Men's Shed

SIMPLE HERBS, CUSTOM BLENDS & TEAWARE



39 CULLEN ST NIMBIN
DISPENSARY OPEN SIX
DAYS:
9.30am – 5pm
OTHER TIMES BY
APPOINTMENT:
PHONE 0423-596-368

www.teamedica.com.au



Roxy Gallery

143 Summerland Way Kyogle
Phone 6632-3518

Opening Hours

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

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

Email: roxygallery@kyogle.nsw.gov.au Web: www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au

CAREFREE CEREMONIES

Unique & Personal Celebrations

by Gwen Trimble

- Weddings
- Commitments
- Vow Renewals

0427-486-346

A/H: 6689-1490

www.carefreeceremonies.com
gwentrimble@dodo.com.au



NextMarket 13th March 8.30am – 4pm

Band of the Day:

Double Bass Ray

Busker: Kerriane Cox

Charity of the Day:

Tuntable Creek Landcare & Hall

Enquiries: 6688-6433

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

Featured artist - Katie Lloyd

by Peter Warne

For the month of March, the featured artist at Nimbin Artists Gallery is Katie Lloyd, whose art has always been distinguished by an independence of approach and a readiness to fly in the face of convention.

Katie took up professional painting at a relatively mature age, and has concentrated on watercolours, with the occasional addition of pen drawn details. Until recently, her images have usually featured animals, which she painted in an impressionistic manner often with part of the image being obscured or 'washed out' by the light, similarly to the way a photograph might have a patch obscured through refracted light.

This is the result of Katie's technique, where she might put one or two spots of pure paint on the paper, and then



build up the image using a watery brush to wash the colour across a given area. This brings a transparency and suffuses the image with light, and achieves two further goals. First, it introduces an element of chance into the technique which gives a vibrant immediacy to her paintings, and secondly it leaves room for the viewer to complete the picture as co-creator with the artist.

A sustained reflection on the role of the feminine in our

society has led her to shift her main focus to what she calls the seat of femininity, the vulva, or the yoni as it is called in Hindu mythology. One of the things that led Katie to this was the discovery of labiaplasty, the process of aesthetic surgery conducted to reduce the profile of a woman's labia minor. She was outraged by this discovery, which basically aims to reshape the vulva to the image of the vulva of a pre-pubic girl, debasing the nature of the feminine by reducing the essential female organ to an image befitting a female child.

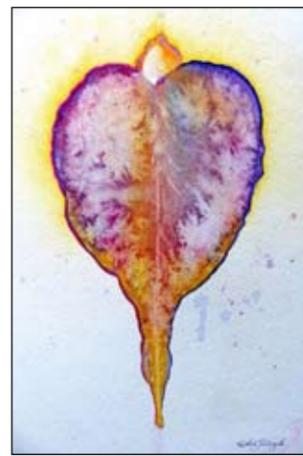
This becomes an issue of cultural politics, which Katie has taken up with passion and to which she is applying all her artistic skills. She is attempting to recapture the appreciation of the vulva as the home and essence of all that is feminine. As in Hindu art, especially tantric art, the vulva and the womb are conceived

of as the seat of female energy, creativity and pleasure, and the source of all human life.

Her yoni paintings cover a spectrum ranging from quite abstract to an almost photographic realism. At the abstract end of the scale, they could suggest colourful topographic maps, even Google Earth views of river deltas, while the more realistic ones are, to speak personally, quite confronting.

Of course being confronted by the direct image of a vulva speaks more about the mind of the viewer than the image or the artist, and that is exactly the effect Katie is aiming at: all of us, male or female, are deeply conditioned by religion and all the other cultural influences in our attitudes to sexuality.

Presenting these beautifully coloured and shaped images to the world has the effect of confronting and diluting our fears, and possibly showing



another way of viewing this mysterious channel through which we all arrive in the world.

Call in to Nimbin Artists Gallery during March to see a display of Katie's work. Also watch out for her life drawing classes held at the Bush Theatre – there's another one coming up in late March.

Last call to artists

The deadline for submitting proposals is 7th March, so if you've got work in the pipeline pick up the guidelines

and applications in person from the gallery, or from our website: nimbinartistsgallery.org or email us at: nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com to receive the package by email.

We already have some very interesting proposals in, and it looks as though this year's Extravaganza will be a good one, with thousands of visitors and lots of sales. So make sure your proposals are in by the 7th, and works submitted by 22nd March for the opening on 24th March.

Bohemia is alive and drawn



by Duuvy Jester

The first 'Nimbin life drawing jam session' at the Bush Theatre took off with a generous helping of style and grace.

The exquisite model Aminjina (pictured) lit the floor with her strength of presence and beauty. She was armed with props, fabrics and lighting which gave the punters many different perspectives to choose from. While this was going on, Jeremy blessed the air with the sounds of his shakuhachi flute and accordian. This helped in tying the experience together by adding that little bit of magic.

Between Aminjina's luminosity, Jeremy's flavoured wind, Katie's tenderness as host, the

comfort that only the Bush Theatre provides along with a wonderful bunch of people, it is safe to say that the afternoon was a raging success.

As a result, 'The Nimbin life drawing jam sessions' will be held every third Saturday of each month. It will run from 4pm to 7pm. Bring your art paraphernalia, instruments and your thirst for creativity.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open throughout the session and are available for chai, hot drinks and their stunning menu (depending on demand from the crowd). Entry is \$15 and that covers everything besides food and drink. For more info, email: katielloydfineartist@gmail.com

Become part of this emerging movement in the heart of our beautiful town.

Channon show + tell



Arts Northern Rivers and The Channon Hall committee are calling for anyone who has stories, photos or memorabilia of the hall to come along to a Show + Tell at the hall on Sunday 6th March, 11am – 2pm.

Show + Tell kicks off the creative development phase of Arts Northern Rivers' *If These Halls Could Talk* project; a multi-arts project celebrating halls and the role they play in our communities. Seven halls have been selected from across the Northern Rivers.

Community member Beth Wallach, who nominated The Channon Hall said, "We are so excited to be a part of this project. This will be a fabulous opportunity for the whole community, past and present, to tell our stories and share our memories."

Internationally renowned for his hybrid and site-specific projects, Australian visual artist Craig Walsh will be working within the community to create a work inspired by the stories and

people of The Channon Hall and its surrounds.

Walsh said, "It's a real privilege to be given access to a community and their stories. I look forward to learning much more and working closely with the community to develop a new story inspired by The Channon Hall."

The material gathered at the Show + Tell event will be accessed by Walsh during the creative development period to help shape his final work.

Catherine Marciniak from ABC North Coast and photographer Jules Ober will run three recording booths on the day; Stories of the Hall, Faces of the Hall and Memorabilia of the Hall.

Bring stories, news clippings, photographs, objects or anything that tells the rich history of The Channon Hall since it was built in 1907.

The *If These Halls Could Talk* project is funded by Arts NSW Regional Partnership funding and Regional Arts NSW Regional Arts Fund.



Artist Craig Walsh with Rena Woolbank and Beth Wallach

Photo: Jules Ober

Nimbin Advisory Group reports back

by Gwen Trimble

At Nimbin Advisory Group's first meeting of the year on 11th February, we welcomed two guests from Lismore Council staff, Rod Haig (LCC Water and Sewer Engineer) and Paula Newman (LCC Strategic Planning Co-ordinator).

Water supply

Rod Haig presented a briefing paper setting out the options currently being considered to achieve the upgrade of the Nimbin Water Supply, which has been investigated and planned since public consultation in 2012.

The initial preferred option, identified following that consultation, is costed at \$2 million and has the funds budgeted and available, so work could be finalised by late 2017.

Since that option was identified, further technical investigation has created a more ambitious, technically preferable design, which would in addition return savings to Council in operation costs and asset management costs into the future. This new option however is costed at \$4.1 million so not achievable within the current works

budget. If Council chose the technically better/more expensive option, it would either need to offset the extra cost by adjusting other capital work projects or increase water rates throughout the Lismore LGA by \$5-\$9 per year.

An alternative may be to build the upgrade as initially planned with some changes to facilitate a later upgrade to the technically better design. Rod Haig made clear both upgrade options would deliver a similar improvement in water quality.

Letters will be sent to inform consumers, and Council is likely to make a decision in June.

NAG members raised the question of the taste and chlorination of the Nimbin town water, and Rod agreed to discover whether the chlorine dosing could be better managed.

Development Control Plans

Paula Newman spoke briefly about how planning matters are considered with relation to the guidelines set out in the current Development Control Plans.

She explained that staffing levels currently did not allow for reviews to be undertaken, and then asked for feedback from the NAG members. Natalie

pointed out, should it become possible to review the DCP, the recently revised Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan may be a valuable resource.

During lively discussion, members cited the proposed supermarket development's impact on the village which is not addressed in the DCP, that the Cubes DA doesn't reflect the Heritage guidelines in the DCP, that as parking places came under extreme pressure during times of peak tourism, there was a need for car parking place audit.

NAG members felt that Council needed to apply the guidelines outlined in the Development Control Plans more rigorously to DAs under consideration and will send a letter to Council formally stating that wish.

Vacancies

Nimbin Advisory Group now has vacancies it is seeking to fill, details of how to apply can be found on Council's website, click on the "on public exhibition" link. Applications close on 8th April.

The NAG values your feedback and comments, and will meet again on 12th May.