

Dailan Pugh: It wasn't mine to own, it was nature's to own

Story and photo by Greg Bork

Dailan Pugh restored rainforest between Nightcap and Goonengerry National Parks before selling it to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2014.

"Just removing lantana enabled the bush to bounce back, and it's bounced back so well that lantana won't get in here again, so it's self-perpetuating now.

"Once it gets just that little bit of help, it can look after itself.

"With the impacts of climate change growing, restoring the health of our bush and our environment is the only way it's going to have a bit of a chance."

"Because it's such an incredible property, I think it should be in public ownership. I just hope that we maintain our National Park system into the future. I get worried because there's all these attempts now to undermine it.

"One of the issues I had when I owned this property was that I

didn't really own it; it wasn't mine to own, it was Nature's to own. It belongs to the nature that lives here and has been here for millions of years.

I don't think any people own the land, it's just nature in all its wonder. It's somewhere that needs to be protected for its intrinsic values, not because of the value that a person puts upon it."

Dailan grew up just outside Melbourne where it was regrowth woodland. "I came up here for the Aquarius Festival in 1973 and I fell in love with the rainforest.

"It was quite a shock to see the lushness of the vegetation, and particularly the complexity and beauty of the rainforest.

"When I moved to the North Coast in 1977, rainforest conservation became an obsession. Initially Terania Creek is what set me off." Dailan went on to establish the North East Forest Alliance in 1989.

"We got over a million hectares of



forest protected as part of NEFA during my time with them. I see that as being my life's achievement. Everything pales into insignificance in comparison.

"Over a decade we were protecting 240 hectares per day, seven days a week, that's what it equated to over that period of time. Some days we

might have had hundreds of people working on it, some days two or three.

"Same with Terania Creek; it proves you can make a difference if you put the effort in. A few people can have a major effect on public perception and on political outcomes."

Dailan has a formidable grasp of complex environmental policy. "It's a way of disenfranchising community, because most people don't understand it all. It's a real shame they don't, because it's so fundamental to shaping what this area is and what it will become in the future.

"I only understand it because of my years of involvement, and I put the effort in. I research it in detail and try to work out what's going on.

"That's one advantage about being a long-term conservationist: you do eventually get to understand this stuff.

"The other part of the problem is that a lot of people don't want other

people to say what they can do on their land. It's this dichotomy in people's thinking, that we want to protect the environment but don't want anyone telling us what to do.

"I find that hard to quite come to grips with, but the real problem is the cowboys out there, and it's by no means the majority, who just see land as theirs to use and abuse as they want. They are more than happy to go clearing a patch of rainforest because they could keep a couple of cows on there. They're the overarching problem, and we need all these rules and regulations to constrain them more than anyone else."

Listen to the full two-hour interview with Dailan in Wompo Gorge at: reciprocalrestoration.org You can view Dailan's art and read a history of his activism at: dailanpugh.com

"I keep on trying to give up conservation and focus on artwork, but I feel I am most effective as an activist."

Life, the universe and everything

by Robin Harrison

An interstellar object has just been sighted, a comet from beyond our solar system. It's only the second we've observed, the first just two years ago.

We're seeing them now due to our rapidly developing observation technologies which, in turn, is rapidly increasing our knowledge of the cosmos, what the universe is and how it works.

You can only know how it works when you know what it is and throughout history we've decided how the universe works based on the current knowledge of the day. Creating, as we progressed, a series of temporarily nailed on theories, the latest being Big Bang.

One of the things we've discovered recently is dark matter/energy. Dark is scientese for "We have no

idea what it is, we just know it must be there" because it's persuasively inferred from other stuff we know.

Apparently dark matter/energy comprises around 90% of the universe, which means any assumptions we might currently have of what the universe is and how it works have been made on the basis of observing around 10% of it.

That's like trying to extrapolate an elephant by

observing an elephant toenail, from the inside, with no previous concept of elephant. There's nowhere near enough information to do that.

So Big Bang probably isn't it, which puts the consequent entropic universe equally in doubt.

An entropic universe, an enclosed space with limited resources, makes the assumption the universe is non-biological, not a living entity, but there's beginning to be some evidence to suggest otherwise.

For instance the universe may be growing rather than just expanding. Brian Cox showed some evidence of this in his documentary 'The Living Universe'. If it's growing it's not an enclosed space, no limit to resources.

The assertion of an entropic universe is an unexamined assumption. If the universe is in some way biological, our understanding of physics is about to radically change.

For us, it's worth noting a biological entity would probably have a really

effective immune system and unsustainable is terminal.

Every gardener knows, if you want the living things in your garden to thrive and prosper it's easy, nurture them.

Society and our environment are living things. Nurturing them would not only be our hope of a future, it would also mean economic abundance as they thrive and prosper. The rewards of being beneficial biota.

If the universe is alive, then life and the universe are one; everything.

Timor, the Gap, and the law

by Warwick Fry

The poet Robert Frost wrote the line, "Good fences make good neighbours." Recognition of the fact that neighbours have rights and sensibilities that might overlap with our own is a critical test of the integrity of the individual.

Tariq Ali once said, "Civilisation is the ability to see ourselves as others might see us." Understanding the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of our neighbours should never ever be an excuse for bullying and dominating behaviour. And using the legal system to do that is inexcusable.

Nations, like persons are hurt, harmed, and traumatised through legalistic bullying. It is equally damaging to the perpetrator; to its institutions, to its people, to the self-respect of its citizens. As it is now for how Australians view themselves, when we take a close look at how the trial of Bernard Collaery and 'witness K' was instigated and is proceeding.

Journalists, legal experts, are stating openly that our international standing, and 'ordinary' Australians, are harmed by this travesty of a trial. A trial designed to silence the harm Australian foreign policy has inflicted on innocent people.

Bernard Collaery is a former attorney general of the ACT. An ASIS agent was given responsibility for the bugging of the Timorese President's office, under the guise of an 'Australian aid project'. When he questioned the ethics of this, whether negotiations over oil and gas rights on an internationally defined sea boundary came within the bounds of 'National Security', he was advised to take it up with Bernard Collaery. He did so.

The ASIS agent (for security reasons now known as Agent K) was suspended. His passport was withdrawn and he has been under virtual house arrest, supposedly for 'national security' reasons, but really so that he could not appear as a witness in the UN Court of Justice with proof that Australia was violating international law over the contested negotiations.

Former Attorney General Collaery had his office raided, his documents and computers seized, and his secretary forced to lie on the floor in a SWAT style raid. He is facing criminal charges which, with the trial of 'Witness K' have been ongoing for the last six years.

How are we Australians being harmed? The harm is that our legal system is being rorted to protect the reputations of creatures who, from assumed privilege, made and continue to make inhuman decisions that cause harm to others and do not grasp the concept of accountability.

Using 'the Law' selectively is not justice. In the case of Timor Leste it has become an abuse of power.

Respected intelligence analysts (like Clinton Fernandez), and political analysts and journalists, have been and are, more frequently expressing concerns that our legal system and our security services are being penetrated by anti-democratic elements that will take us to a cryptofascist political environment.

The 'Whistle-blower' laws and increased penalties against journalists to protect their sources, the ability of public servants, however courageous they may or may not be, to give informed and independent opinion to a government, whatever colour it may be, is under threat.



So let's look at the harm to Timor Leste. The history of Australia's 'good neighbour' policy with Indonesia ignores the faults in Indonesia. Australia had a seabed agreement with Indonesia that actually granted more to Indonesia than was later claimed by East Timor!

When Timor Leste finally achieved independence in 1999 after a genocidal and racist occupation (30% of the population massacred – a higher percentage than the Jewish holocaust) it was only because Australian personnel in the UN compound (including the AFP) refused to leave and defied the orders of the Australian government representative to evacuate because they were witness to the scorched earth massacre that the Indonesians were committing, and realised that if the UN compound were to be abandoned there would be no recognition of the Indonesian atrocities.

Then curiously, the Australian government

claim that the treaties with Indonesia supervened the renegotiation of the seabed boundaries with an independent East Timor – or Timor Leste as it is now known.

This claim failed in the UN, and the Australian government ironically decided unilaterally that they would not recognise that decision.

Australian abuse of the Timorese rights to the Timor Gap goes back to support of the original invasion of that country by the Indonesians in 1975, who apart from killing five Australian journalists (in which the Australian Government collaborated in a cover-up), stripped it like a herd of marauding goats.

It goes right up to Australia's refusal to recognise Timorese rights under International Law. It has been a total travesty of the norms of civilised behaviour.

Quite simply, the behaviour of a bully, or better said, fascistic.

Sacred cows and the elephant in the room

by Hayo van der Woude

To accelerate humanity's rapid evolution, we must look beyond abundant false impressions and propaganda found in commercial media.

Their existence is tied intimately to benefiting establishment businesses and political parties. Controlling how we think is power over us. Changing how we think returns the power to us.

The latest sign of a planet evolving exponentially, is the children's participation in climate change. By self-education some have escaped establishment conditioning before their compassion for all of humanity is lost.

That means we can look forward to new leaders who can conceive of a paradigm that embraces all humans.

There have been ample optimistic signs. A fundamental one was the creation of the EU. Despite all its faults, it stopped wars between its members.

The consciousness of the enforcers lifted enough to allow the Berlin wall and the USSR to collapse. We see more evidence in growing numbers of whistle blowers and decreasing support for major parties, the tools of business establishments.

For 3000 years we have assigned human traits of masculinity to the divine. The error was reflected back on ourselves with faith in the patriarchy.

We have seen the results of believing 'father knows best' through to colonialism and modern Capitalism. Corrupt elites were always in control. Recent exposure of corruption throughout human institutions is a positive development.

The biggest challenge for humanity right now is the elephant in the room, the sacred cow of Capitalism, which the media dare not question.

Aren't the doctrines of fair competition and survival of the fittest, polar opposites? It means you do whatever it takes to kill the opposing corporation or industry. Trade wars and hot wars, it matters not.

You buy, corrupt, or influence political parties, governments in any way possible.

The sudden death of corporations and industries has drastic consequences for people.

The USA, since it decided to dominate the world from 1945, has been an excellent example of how governments are opaquely ruled by the most powerful establishment industries, like mining and hydrocarbons, weapons production and sales, Big Pharma, primary and chemical.

The most powerful conservative industries have the strongest hold over conservative politicians on both sides, holding back the evolution of humanity.

The largest casualties have often been covertly overthrown democratic nations. Dictators are more easily manipulated to favour US based corporations.

Corporations could be viewed as forms of artificial intelligence focussed solely on maximum profit, sacrificing employees as required.

Many have escaped national tax borders, and are more powerful than nations. Only we the voters have the power to change that.

It won't require very much to disempower parties, the tools of establishment power, and then clip the wings of corporate power, so they can be of service to all humanity.

We have never seen a party capable of creating such a vision without being corrupted and opaque.

We get closer to true democracy by lifting our compassion and our voting just a little, to elect a few genuine independents. We have seen recent examples who reported only to their electorates.

The world appears to be evolving towards five Continental Unions (5CU's). The defects in the EU can be remedied with transparency, and by curbing corporate powers which disadvantage some nations, and allow two to dominate.

A 5CU's planet offers a rightful place to all nations, bringing dividends of peace, prosperity, equality and happiness for all minorities.

It can protect nations from temporarily rogue states and unfettered capitalism, as a new paradigm evolves.

Matters of Fermentation: Keeping the ferments under management



Sauerkraut, Kimchi (2nd at Nimbin show), Beetroot ferment (1st at Nimbin show), El Salvadoran Curtido and Light-Rye bread Kvass in gas-locked vessels.

by Thom Culpeper

With warming weather, ferments are set on freeing themselves to manifest their biological destiny, and populate in any manner offering.

They are very vigorous agents at this caper. While not a threat to the Nuc/war obsessed world, these lively beasts can perform some messy acts.

Confined to engineered pressure vessels, their emissions, in the main CO₂, are quite easily managed. One-way airlocks are the appropriate tools for this matter.

Some designs for this process have evolved: in the main they are water-stopped, S-form and gas valves.

A recent investigation has found that these items are getting rarer, just as the recent interest in fermentation is taking the people's consciousness.

I have found several large retailers that have

discontinued stocking these items. Though some are available in smaller retailers, a Nimbin stockist had not had material recently.

As a very involved fermentor, I have taken this problem to task, and installed a glass drilling system so as to allow gas-locks to be installed. I have also sourced a range of glass vessels to fill the needs of most household requirements.

Keeping yeasts, lactic acid and bacteriocins under CO₂ and free of oxygen, suppressing food toxins and effective food preservation is what culinary fermentation is all about.

I am preparing a teaching note to be published in December. This will cover

most of the common fermentation techniques applicable locally and sources of materials and equipment.

I offer a glass drilling service (for your vessels) and fitted gas-locked glass vessels

of our construction.

Below is what is currently on offer:

- 1litre Kvass and Kombucha glass bottle with gasketed ceramic stoppers. \$10.
- Wide-mouthed silicone gasketed all glass vessels: 2.2 litre \$16; 3.0 litre \$18; 3.8 litre \$20; 5.6 litre \$30.

All are grommeted and fitted with S-bend air-locks.

Contact: thewholeearthveg@gardener.com

A note on fermenting Beetroot: it is very, very live! A mass of natural sugars kicks it along.

Always place the beet-leaf and root ferment in a deep dish, otherwise you will have a load of work cleaning up a mass of messy scarlet exudant, and attracting a load of fermentation flies.

Another note, use fly papers (Bunnings) in your fermentation area. Not pretty, but they do work all the time and you won't have to do any spraying.

Not that most of you would, or should.

Cows versus cars

It's dry and dusty, fuel prices are rising and globalisation is experiencing the inevitable regression that is its due.

Geopolitical tension is tighter and we are entering an age of uncertainty on many fronts. Our PM didn't turn up to the New York Climate Change conference... apparently he doesn't have a plan.

I have never been one to believe that "the government" should fix everything broken in our society, so I have to thank him for steeling my nerve and inspiring me to action. What I do want to see is governments get out of the way so we can do what's needed. Here is a story of one way they can.

Years ago Mick Daly and The Remains were involved in a horrific accident involving a van and a cow north of Alice Springs. I was inspired to research, and found that the North Coast is a hot spot

for Cow Vs Car collisions. This is apparently due to the high number of agistment properties around.

The reality of land management without cows is too much for the average tree changer, and agistment offers a solution, as long as someone fixes the fences. Locals who have had close encounters with cows will concur, that doesn't always happen.

I began to understand the source of the problem was simply that 40 Ha (100 Acre) properties cannot be subdivided under law and must be purchased if people want the rural lifestyle. There are many of these properties on the North Coast that cannot sustain a purely livestock-based business, due to their limited stock-carrying capacity.

The 100-acre sub-division limitations are out of date, and don't reflect re-purposing of the land for horticulture and rainforest restoration.

My proposal is to allow

landowners with between 35 Ha – 45 Ha to subdivide once, but only after consent conditions to revegetate creeks and gullies have been met with plantings established over three years.

The resultant lot created would initially have no housing entitlement, and be sold as agricultural land for horticultural development. The potential sale of the land could be used to borrow against for the cost of the regeneration works.

The zoning of the new lot would allow the construction of worker's cottages or tiny homes and eventually, once orchards / crops are established and producing, a full housing entitlement offered.

It is a way for councils to make cheaper land available (no building entitlement) for horticulture, to get trees planted to soak up carbon and protect our threatened bio-diversity, create jobs, fund councils and most



View from the loo
by Stuart McConville

importantly get people back to the land using it for food production with less climate change emissions than cattle.

One certainty is that runaway climate change is now more of a reality than ever. Councils must honour their declarations of climate emergencies and reset policy to suit the new dominant paradigm, Change or Go Extinct.

Stuart McConville is a waste water consultant and compost toilet re-seller/manufacturer. See: www.poohsolutions.com



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Performance poetry – what makes it work so well?

by Warwick Fry

There's poetry, there's performance, and then there is the Grail – the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup.

It is almost as difficult to write about the Cup result as it must have been for the judges to call it. The difficulty is calling poetry and performance.

Nimbin being Nimbin, and poetry being poetry, we have always heard the voice of protest and the performance of resistance.

But the years and generations bring changes. Changes in style, changes in themes, changes in emphases in the unchanging nature of poetry.

The bush poet, the narrative poet, the lament, the protest, the whips and chains of outrage and anger (yes, one year there was a Madam Lash act), outrageous fortune, love, requited and unrequited, romantic and bittersweet, youthful angst and yearnings, rage against the machine, feminist anger, and satire and lampoons, bitterness and sarcasm, paeans to beauty, all of it rich, original.

Over the years we have heard this and more... (I remember long ago when I entered my computer for a spontaneous computer-generated poem from an AI program...)

How much of poetry is performance? Homer was a bard before the written word became a medium for poetry.



The 2019 Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup finalists, winners, organisers and judges.

Folk songs were another vehicle. The words and voice-play of Dylan Thomas was a beautiful dance to a voice attuned to his personal and controlled passions, and yet preserved that resonance in written text.

The performances of Tom Waits, working off the heritage of the Beat Poets and Scott Heron and the crossovers there with Jazz, is another facet of the diamond, and a musician, Bob Dylan receiving a Nobel Prize in Literature is something else to keep us thinking.

So how hard is it to decide between the powerful emotional content of one poet, the dramatic force and relevance of the 'message' of

another, the wit and word-play, the dramatic pauses and timing, and sound effects reflexively reinforcing a simple but powerful message? Where do you decide the balance lies and why, even if the passion of the poet or poetess might grab you personally?

Personally, I think all the finalists were winning poets. I thought the 'People's Choice' winner, Vince Stead was a deserving winner, because he was such a master of rhyme and rhythm and able to gently, in a spirit of self mockery, parody the various styles of performance poetry with his 'Poet in a Box'.

The finalists? Well, one of the young ladies made me

want to cry, others made me want to cheer. But the I thought the winner, Loki Liddle deserved the prize for discovering that delicate balance between word-play, wit, and performance that was, OK – a bit dramatic (parodying an evangelistic God Botherer calls for that), but appropriate for the act.

It had for me all the elements in what I see as the evolving, or developing performance poetry in the Nimbin Poetry Cup over the years. I thought veteran poet David Hallett also demonstrated this development in what was to me one of his most impressive poems, a departure from his usual 'racy' style and new depth in his entry



Grand Final winner, Loki Liddle. Photos: Garry Mimlich

into explorations of personal emotions.

To me, poetry is partly word-play (my personal bias), partly passion, and partly theatre. Theatre requires acting. The beauty of our Nimbin Poetry Cup is that the theatre of poetic production is not conflated with acting and dramatic stage performance.

The winner achieved this beautiful equilibrium. Satire, theatre, word-play, wit and protest.

So I guess this review, difficult as it has been, is as much about the judges and the audience, as it is about the poets, who deserve all the applause they can get in this day and age.



Finalist Anisa Nanduala.



by Duuvy Jester

As some of you may be aware, it can be extremely difficult getting freight delivered to Nimbin in a timely and affordable manner.

This is due to a number of contributing factors, the main one being that your freight is passed between multiple freight companies before it reaches you.

It can cause mix-ups, lost or damaged freight, extended delays among other inconveniences. It doesn't need to be this way.

Dr Tray Trucking is a local transport service. Its fleet consists of a flatbed crane truck, ute and trailer. Dr Tray covers everything from delivering general freight, building materials, house moves, tip runs and more.

Dr Tray is organising weekly runs to Brisbane via the Gold Coast. To make this run affordable for all, delivery costs will be split between everyone who books within a run.

This way one person isn't stuck with paying exorbitant prices for an entire trip while other people with backload orders benefit with cheap delivery.

Everyone can enjoy reasonably priced, reliable delivery. We will be able to achieve this is by booking all of your deliveries until there is enough freight to fill the 14 pallet truck.

We are committed to putting the work in to make this service as regular and as affordable as possible.

If you are interested in this service or about any of our other services, call 1300 DR TRAY (1300-37-8729) or email us at: info@drtray.com.au

Let's get all of the things we need here safely and quickly so we can move forward towards the excitement that awaits us all.

I was happily ensconced up in the mountains in Pipe's community stuffing myself with the bright red native raspberries dotting the hillsides when Scomo texts me in a pretend panic about Canberra "legalising drugs".

He insisted I come down to reassure the Libs hammering on his door the sky won't fall in.

He's almost onside is Scomo, and you all need to thank me for it big time. Not only is a close friend of his doing awesomely well on the medicine, he's been talking to Trumpy about it, and wouldn't you know it, the President is on the hippies' side.

He told Scomo, apparently, "I'm keeping it illegal federally so Big Pharma doesn't get their claws all over it like you can see they have in Canada. You can do the same Scawtt, let the states develop some jobs from it. Let those hippies pay some tax for a change."

Scawtt has got a serious crush on Trumpy, and Melania of course. The power, the gold, the adulation, it all made a big mark, and coming home has clearly been a bit deflating.

He was swept along on the Trump wave so far. It's even been hard going back to church he confided, sort of, in a roundabout shy way.

Weird how some people just get along, you wouldn't think Melania and Jenny would have much in common but they got on like a house on fire.

Don't be surprised if they come and visit down unda. The Trumps couldn't get over that the Morrissions were childhood sweethearts who met at age

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert, Undacuvva

12. And weed was a subject that kept coming up wherever Scomo went in the States. Ex-pat Aussies accosted him on it in the strangest of places.

"I'm not coming home until you legalise weed," was said to him half a dozen times while he was in the States. So he was totally ready for predictable trendy comments from the ex-Qld cop whose office is next door.

Fact is, he really called me down to the big smoke to tell me I'm out of a job. It's unofficially official at last, though of course I'm not allowed to say anything.

The enquires into ice and deaths at music parties has made pot shine as so different and so harmless they can't deny it any more.

Inside the Force there's a massive battle still going on between the 'weed is different to the rest' and 'all drugs are bad' schools.

But the old school is fast drowning in damming reports while weed problems are minimal and in fact ye olde pot medicine is proving super popular in the land of PTSD, which could easily stand for Police Trying to Score Daily, they're enjoying the stress release from the ancient herb so much these days.

The first guaranteed sign the times are changing came when we realised at the Undacuvva Ball we were all being moved to chemdrug watches rather

than weed.

In fact, weed's almost off the agenda for us in the panic of not knowing what to do about ice. No-one likes the ice, but... there is so much money in it!

I've been on long service leave... to Bhutan meditating, can you believe it? They didn't at work, thought I was ribbing until I showed them the passport stamps and I'm not kidding, they all look at me sideways now. I think they thought I was always joking about having a soft spot for the hippies, but now it's like maybe I wasn't.

I don't have a lot of friends in the Force as you can imagine. These fellows protecting and serving you don't really like stoned hippies lounging around on the dole. Can't imagine why.

I argued it was different for me, I was working, but no one even listened. They just went on like I hadn't even spoken. Do you experience that sometimes? Incredible.

They told me I had to use my accrued sick and long service leave, which now totals over three years, so after Bhutan I couldn't think of anywhere else I wanted to be except in the hills eating out of Pipe's orchard. The berries are starting to ripen and the sun is shining.

Why on earth would I go back to work chasing endless ice dealers? I don't mind working in weed world, then again I might just quit the work bit.

Medical cannabis workshops galore

by Michael Balderstone,
President, Australian HEMP Party and
Nimbin HEMP Embassy

There's a full program with a few twists lined up for the next Medical Cannabis weekend workshop in Nimbin's Bush Theatre over the weekend of 26th and 27th October.

Dr Pot and Dr Deb are coming as usual, along with Plantmed director Dr John Teh, whose clinic in Brisbane is busy with those who want and can afford legal mediweed.

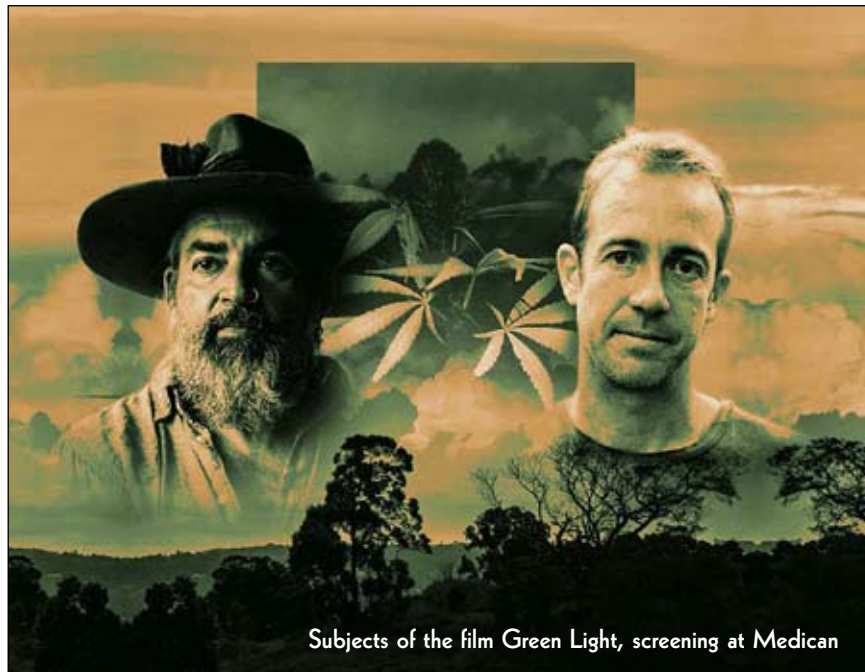
Lawyer Sally McPherson is coming again with legal advice, as well as some first-hand stories from the corridors of power in Canberra. Sally and army veteran Lee James Donnollan recently accompanied Lucy Haslam to a meeting with members of parliament asking them to waive his charges after Queensland police caught him growing cannabis.

Greens leader Richard Di Natale asked for an amnesty for those charged with accessing medical pot. At least Jacqui Lambie was listening, said Sally.

Grower and breeder Malcolm Lee plans on holding a special breeding workshop on the Sunday, teaching people how to create feminised seeds.

Deb Lynch is speaking at the Medican also, As co-president of MUA in Oz, Medical Cannabis Users Association here has around seven thousand members, and Deb has been a tireless worker for cannabis for decades.

The MUA of Australia Inc is a not-for-profit, patient-oriented organisation that has been working since 2014 to raise awareness about the health



Subjects of the film Green Light, screening at Medican

benefits of cannabis; to expose the high patient demand that already exists within our society and to lobby our politicians about the need for law reform in this area.

Andrew Kavasilas, technical director for Cann Global (CGB:ASX) will fill us in on the latest from the government's endless discussions on how to regulate us out of existence.

The Hemp Club will be displaying hand-woven hemp clothes and the latest hemp building bricks they are experimenting with, as well as demonstrating hemp seed oil extraction.

The Australian Cannabis University will have a stall and Radic AI will be demonstrating various plant extraction methods all weekend.

The talks start on both days at 11am for anyone interested in medical cannabis, with a rare chance to speak one-on-one to people with experience.

The Bush Theatre cafe will be serving food and drinks on site, and on Saturday evening we will be showing the movie *Green Light*, a new feature-length Australian documentary, directed by Ned Donohoe, about medicinal cannabis and a couple of top blokes giving access to it around Australia.

Email: head@hempembassy.net for more info, or if you would like to talk and share your story.

Green Light is also screening at the Palace Cinema, Byron Bay on Friday 11th October at 7pm.

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Cannabis law reform: finally a crack in the wall

by Michael Balderstone

Next year we will be able to legally smoke weed in Canberra, from the fifty grams we can carry and the two plants we can grow.

It feels like a real start to the change we have all been waiting for forever.

ACT Labor MLA Michael Pettersson, 28 years old, is the man who got it moving, and we reckon you better create a special MardiGrass event in his honour.

He introduced a private members bill into their parliament in November last year and after much debate it was accepted last week.

Adults can grow two plants with a maximum of four per household, but only outside; it sounds like, no hydro.

Importantly, anyone over 18 can carry up to fifty grams of weed and use it, though not in public or exposing children to the smoke.

The bill also allows possession of 150 grams of fresh weed, so you can harvest the plants I guess.

Immediately, surprise surprise, Messrs Dutton and Hunt were squealing that it was still illegal under Commonwealth law, but no-one seems to be too worried by that, and from my experience whenever we go to Canberra protesting outside the Big House, the



Photo courtesy
Eric Limon/123rf.com

Feds don't mind us having a toke at all. "Just so long as you respect the non-smoking areas".

However, you're not allowed to share your weed or even pass a joint, which is a bit tragic.

And there is no move on supply or even being able to buy a seed, but it's a start, and every pot smoker in Oz I know is heartened by the news.

There's about 300,000 adults in Canberra living in 150,000 houses which could translate to fifteen million one gram joints and half a million plants!

Several people have suggested we should now open a HEMP Embassy in Canberra, and if anyone thinks that's their calling do come see us.

Meanwhile, next MardiGrass in the Hemp Olympix we might call it the Michael Pettersson Growers Iron Person Event.

Read the full provisions of the Act here: www.legislation.act.gov.au/View/b/db_59295/current/PDF/db_59295.PDF

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Nimbin Roots Festival



Sky Eater

Story and photos by Mel Williamson

The fourth annual Nimbin Roots Festival, held over the middle weekend of September, was another fantastic three days of roots-flavoured music – from banjo pickin' and fiddles to funk infusions, world and dub stylings – held in different venues around the village.

A favourite for many punters and musos was the Nimbin Bowlo – due to both an excellent sound person (who the bands loved), and the volunteer Bowlo staff who created such a warm and welcoming vibe.

Some personal faves from the varied and high-calibre acts that played include: Hat Fitz and Cara (always gems); Kurilpa Reach; Stapylton Street; Sky

Eater; Miguel Ros; Wild Marmalade (with the absolutely awesome Matt Ledger in tow); Glenn Cardier (a very cool gentleman); Huckleberry; Clint Wilson; Neil Murray (class act); and the very fun Moon Hounds.

The 'All You Need Is Love' street parade was full of colour and smiles, and the workshops in music and permaculture were well attended. The Pitts Family Circus entranced young and old.

And the other highlight, as every year, was the fabulous crowd attending. From families to 20-somethings, to definitely not 20-somethings – all were there for the music, happy and very chilled.

It was so lovely to have so many people – artists and audience alike –



Stapylton Street

who travelled some very long distances from interstate, all joining together in Nimbin to share music.

The fifth Roots Fest will be in September 2020, so mark it in your diaries as a fun start to summer, or join the Facebook page to remind you – also recommended for artists who might like to apply for next year (so you'll know when applications open). Or go to nrfest.com for more information.

Full album of photos on Fb Nimbin Music



by Teresa Biscoe

This month's Flix film screening is the wonderful *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, to be held on Saturday 12th October at the Birth and Beyond meeting room, 54 Cullen Street. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

The actor Chiwetel Ejiofor's first film behind the camera is a stirring adaptation of a William Kamkwamba memoir, telling an astonishing story of triumph.

It's 2001 in Malawi, and the Kamkwamba family is struggling to make ends meet, but parents Trywell (Ejiofor) and Agnes (Aissa Maïga) remain focused on their children's education, despite the financial cost.

When their 13-year-old son William (Maxwell Simba) is forced to leave school after falling behind on payments, he becomes determined to help not only his family but a community facing famine.

It's a conventional film in many ways, but one that slowly and effectively builds to a remarkably rousing climax, displaying an act of overwhelming ingenuity that's hard to deny.

A great credit here should also be given to newcomer Simba, whose lead performance is really quite extraordinary. With his soulful eyes and infectious enthusiasm, he anchors the drama around him, easily steering himself through the story's emotional shifts as he matures from a playful child to a philanthropic saviour.

While Ejiofor does pitch the film at a broad audience, he makes a key decision not to force his characters to always speak English.

They oscillate between English and Chichewa, mostly using the latter, and at a time when too many film-makers are choosing to avoid subtitles, even when telling fact-based stories from foreign countries, it's hugely refreshing.

There's an interesting through-line, rarely seen on screen, of tradition v modernity in rural Africa, of parents deliberately eschewing what they perceive to be dated belief systems of the past to encourage progress. They don't want to rely on praying for rain to save their crops; they want pragmatism instead.

It's also reflected in a desire for education so that children can leave their village, determined that they won't be facing similar hardships as adults.

There's similar complexity in the characterisation, most notably in Ejiofor's conflicted, flawed father who craves education for his children yet must deal with the consequences of feeling less intelligent than them, and of the crippling financial impact.

Ejiofor has long been a charming presence on screen, but here he's stripped back his more obvious star presence and is no less impressive as a haunted, beleaguered and not always likable man.

There's unavoidable darkness in the story, and Ejiofor leans into the brutal reality of Malawi's early 2000s food crisis while balancing the more harrowing details with notes of resilience and hope.

When the climax arrives, it's with immense, earned satisfaction – a crowd-pleasing triumph.

Channon Open Mic tunes

by Ray (Rayzor) Flanagan

We're still going, in case you were wondering. It's been a few months since our last NGT appearance, for various reasons. I did have to cancel the August session due to double booking but otherwise we've been on deck.

The July Open Mic was possibly our most successful for many months. Due to the perfect winter weather? Who knows!

There were a number of first-time performers – Steve and Graham from Federal with a slick covers set; Asia with a delightful solo set and Tas who teamed up with Steve 2 and myself to belt out a few numbers.

The simultaneous pony rides were undoubtedly a further attraction for the day.

September was another gorgeous day though the temperature was already getting up there. The Tides opened the day with an eclectic collection of songs

followed by a solo set from the Tides guitarist, High Tide (alias Matt).

Jimmy likes to do a few folksy numbers from such greats as Kris Kristofferson and John Prine, and has just the voice and style to do them justice and with guitar skills to match.

Local resident of The Channon, Saadi strummed his uke and sang then borrowed a guitar for a final self-penned number.

Glen arrived with yet another self-crafted instrument which had its first public outing. Unlike his previous creations, this one has 16 strings.

He was joined by Ken on banjo before switching back to his six-string guitar as he struggled to keep the newbie in tune with the sun beating down on it.

I must give a shout-out to Ken for his work on the mixing desk over the year.

We'd love you to join us at the next Open Mic at The Channon Butterfactory Tavern on Sunday 27th October, now from 3pm, due to daylight saving.



Jimmy



Saadi

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What's On in October?

- Saturday 5th – Red Eye Darts Comp, 12-2pm
- Open Mic Nights – Weds 16th & 30th, 7pm
- CONTINENTAL CARNIVAL 2-3 Nov
- Social Bowls – Sundays, 9am
- Membership – \$5 Social
- Courtesy Bus – Enquire at Bar

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

- Friday 4th, 6pm Cass Eleven
- Friday 11th, 6pm Nightcap Jazz
- Friday 18th, 6pm Dave Barbara
- Friday 25th, 6pm Rob Cass
- Friday 1st Nov, Sarah Stando



First-timers and novice bowlers welcome



Lunch & Dinner Wed – Sat
Sunday lunch specials
Catering for functions of all budgets and tastes



Paul McDermott and Gatesy Go Solo

Paul McDermott (Doug Anthony All Stars) and Steven Gates (Tripod) have been friends for 18 years, and singing together in private for five years.

They made their official debut as a musical duo at a one-off event at the 2017 Ballarat Cabaret Festival, which spawned shows at this year's Adelaide Fringe Festival, and the Port Fairy and Woodford Folk Festivals.

Don't miss the chance to see these two extraordinary talents lock harmonies and minds, at Brunswick Picture House on Saturday 19th October at 7pm, and at Lismore City Hall on Sunday 20th at 8pm. Tickets: \$45 – \$55.

WITCHES ABROAD - A FAMILY AFFAIR

by Jenny Dowell, LTC publicity officer

It is often said that theatre is like a family and it's no surprise that members of the same family often participate in community theatre.

The latest production by Lismore Theatre Company takes that to a whole new level.

The cast and crew of *Witches Abroad* (adapted by Henri Rennie from the novel by Terry Pratchett) includes four family groupings – father and son, mother and sons, mother and daughter and husband and wife.

It might be a case of common interest or "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" but whatever the reason, theatre provides a wonderful opportunity to interact with a family member in a whole new way.

Sharon Brodie (co-producer with Desiderata Hollow) is delighted to be working alongside Dave Brodie (assistant director) and Morgan

Montague Elliott (Jason Ogg), especially as both sons are leaving home to follow their dreams in the new year.

Morgan says, "It's pretty simple working with mum and Dave 'cos I hang out with them almost 24/7 so I know how they operate," while Dave laughingly says the experience is well worth the stress as they try to leave family stuff at the stage door.

Gray Wilson (Captain de Vere) is an experienced LTC actor who is on stage with his son Danyon Saxe-Wilson for the first time.

Both of them say that while Gray has directed Danyon before, this opportunity to be on stage together is a long-held shared 'dream come true'

Shae Salmon (Granny Weatherwax) and her daughter Kashmir Miller (Magrat Garlick) (pictured) have previously appeared on the LTC stage together and are really enjoying spending

stage time together again.

Kashmir has been studying acting at Sydney Theatre School and admits that although she was stressed for her mum, she's impressed by Shae's performance. Shae says Kashmir has been a great help.

Henri Rennie, the director of *Witches Abroad*, is responsible for its adaptation from novel to stage, and appears on stage (Toymaker) alongside his wife Meredith Yardley (Co-Producer and Mrs Pleasant, the palace cook).

Meredith says that working together "offers an opportunity to see each other in a different light." Henri says they bring out the best in each other.

Witches Abroad has a large cast of more than 20 actors. It offers something for everyone, whether a Pratchett fan or not. Book now through: www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au for performances from 11th to 20th October.



Stoppard in Nimbin

by James Straiton, director

Nimbin Theatre Group presents an arts fundraising event, *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard.

We would love you all to come and watch some of your favourite locals put on a show for Nimbin and the surrounding region.

All proceeds will go towards more theatre and arts events, so it's a good time to have a great night out and show your support for our artistic community too.

The Real Inspector Hound is a murder mystery with a twist in a way only Tom Stoppard could

write. Try to piece together the clues and figure out the mystery at Muldoon Manor before the finale, with a few laughs along the way.

The play will be performed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 17th, 18th and 19th October, 7.30pm at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. Come early and have dinner at the Bush Theatre Café.

Tickets \$10 / \$8 concession. Bookings available through the Nimbin Bush Theatre online at: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com or by phone, 6689-1111 (extension 4). Remaining tickets will be available at the door.



A night of cabaret and burlesque at the Nimbin Bowling Club will be held on Saturday 9th November from 7.30pm.

Be dazzled and amazed by wanton women, voluptuous vamps, sexy sirens, scarlet harlots, maddening minxs, flirtatious felines, tempting trollops, and tantalising tramps performing in chair, pole, veil, hoop, belly dance, strip tease, music, comedy and more.

Book a ticket from the Bowlo bar and the Green-keepers Bistro. Dinner, drink and show special available.

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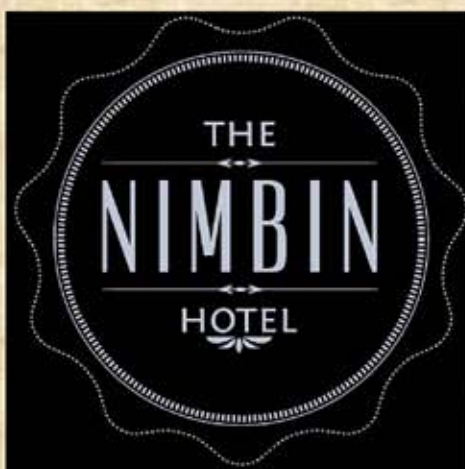
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7pm

Sunday 6th
NRL Grand Final
6pm

Thursday 10th
Cass Eleven
6.30pm

Friday 11th
Happy Rayz
7pm

Saturday 12th
Midnight Tea Party
7pm



Thursday 17th
Brommers
6.30pm

Friday 18th
Mistram
7pm

Thursday 24th
Open Mic Comedy Night
6.30pm

Friday 25th
Drift
7pm

Thursday 31st
Mr Alford
6.30pm

Friday 1st Nov
Slip & the FW
7pm

Poker Night Every Wednesday 6pm

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