



An inspirational short film about life, hope and community.

Don Sharpe (at right) has something to smile about. He has released his winning entry in the 39 Hours Short Film Competition, "Cullen Street Rainbow" for sale on DVD.



In his acceptance speech for the major award of Best Film, which carried a \$1,000 prize, Don said, "It's all about faith – faith in Nimbin and its underlying strength."

The flick is sure to find a place in the cultural history of Nimbin - sort of a snapshot of the best aspects of the town early one March morning in 2007.

The original soundtrack to the dialogue-free film features the work of local composers Doug Johnson and Robert Bruce.

Celebrating the release of the DVD, Don said, "I am

very pleased to have produced something from the heart that resonates in the hearts of others. Mind you, I was supported by a great team – Gummy, Neil Pike and the musicians."

The DVD is now available for \$15 around Nimbin town, including at the Hemp Embassy and Visitor Information Centre.



They're a sociable lot

Getting out and about in Nimbin last month, Sue Boardman (top) completed her world premiere performance of *Mars Bar* without a slip; Pam Bensemann (top right) danced at her 70th birthday party; the Antibodies (centre) brought out loads of fans to their Bowlo gig; the augmented band of Doug & Biskit (above) played at Sue Stock's 60th birthday party (also Bob's 55th); Barry Odewahn (above right) changed the keg, twice, at Jonesey's 40th birthday party; Anton Eldridge (right) was happy to have a drink after completing his duties at the Anzac day observance; and the bushwalking club (below right) posed for happy snaps along the Nightcap Track.



"Untitled" by Elspeth Jones, on display in the exhibition "Elspeth, Helen & Friends" at the Rainbow Gallery at Nimbin Community Centre.

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Autumn artworks bring crowds to Nimbin Extravaganza



by Margaret McLaren

The Second Autumn Arts Extravaganza run by Nimbin Artists Gallery has been a raging success. It was extended for a third week by popular demand and could have run and run, but had to move over for Mardi Grass to use the School of Arts Hall.

About eighty people from the Nimbin Community participated as artists, wall-assemblers, sewers, lighting technicians, curators etc.

Despite limited publicity, almost 15,000 people viewed the exhibition, and their reception of the local art

was very enthusiastic. Combined sales for both the exhibition and adjoining gallery were excellent.

The huge diversity of works was reflected in the pieces sold: paintings, glassware, ceramics, basketry, felt scarves and woollen socks, wall hangings, mounted photographs including ciclé prints, and sculptures of all kinds, including abstract in glass, wood, papier maché, hebel and cast concrete.

During the afternoons, visitors were treated to musical performances and enjoyed the sounds of, on various days throughout the season, the piano,

singing, flute, harp, guitar, clavicord and cello.

The Nimbin Artists Gallery Group has worked very hard but receiving so many compliments and delighted visitors, and good sales, made it very worthwhile. I am sure we will all miss having such a large gallery for a while!

Expressions of interest from artists are open for the 2008 Extravaganza. Contact me at the Artists Gallery on 6689-1444.

Below: "Verandah table" by Russell Scott and "Nelson's Travels" by Christine Robinson



Intoxicating art at The Channon



The Channon Tavern's Autumn Local Artist Exhibition opened on Sunday 29th April, featuring wine tasting, pizza and musical treasures performed by local musicians.

The exhibition, titled "Fool Play: Come Again Another Day," has oils, ceramics, woven textiles, photography and mixed media adorning the walls of both the Tavern and the adjacent Community Trading Centre.

Curator Rena Woolbank said, "It just gets bigger and bigger. There's lots of interest in our seasonal exhibitions, and more artists every time."

A host of local artists have their work on show, including Alison Baily, Martha Beasley, Cathy Devine, Colin Eley, Abby Green, Annie Heitmann,

Jakobena Jolley, Ashley Jones, Bruce Lueton, Mick Moynihan, Kristin Vlasto, Sho Wakejima as well as Rena herself.

"It was a challenge to hang the exhibition, with the high walls of the Tavern," Rena said, "but I had great support. In fact, there's been good community support altogether."

At the opening, a crowd of 80 people heard music by local musicians such as Joe & Friends, Melissa & Julie, Terri Nicholson, members of the Channon Jazz Collective, Tuntable Creek Voices, and Wompy.

Be warned though, this is an exhibition that could get you tipsy. It will be on show at both the pub and the Trading Centre until the end of winter.



Discovery at Blue Knob Hall

It was a packed house at Blue Knob Hall for the opening of their current exhibition, "Voyages of Discovery" (left). Jenny Kendall did the honours with a warm speech before art lovers tucked into tasty plates of Mediterranean finger food. The show runs until the end of May, open Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Bentley Art Prize

Two new classes have been added to the Bentley Art Prize, with a \$1,000 Casino RSM Club Acquisition Prize and a class for Golden Oldies, especially for residents in nursing, retirement, aged and day care, either in oil or watercolour. Entry forms are available now from Visitors Centres, Libraries, Art Galleries and Picture Framing Shops. The showing is on 3rd 4th and 5th August.





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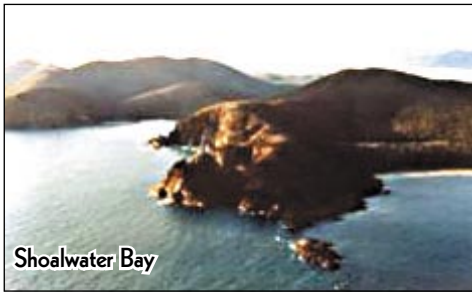
by Nell Berry

Pine Gap

On May 29th the Pine Gap four will face trial by jury in the Northern Territory Supreme Court in Alice Springs. For those of you who haven't heard the trial relates to a 'citizens inspection' of the US base by four peace activists in December 2005, which shut down the facility for five hours. If found guilty the four face up to seven years imprisonment.

Pine Gap is a secret US military spy base located 20 km outside Alice Springs. It gathers military intelligence and is instrumental in the bombing raids on Iraq and Afghanistan (using satellite tracking systems). It is also the command centre for the 'Missile Defense System', an integral part of the US 'Star Wars' mission to dominate and control space.

The Four are being charged under the Defense (Special Undertakings) Act 1952.



Shoalwater Bay



One of the activists, Donna Mulhearn said, "It is the right of the community to place Pine Gap and its activities under scrutiny. This cold-war era act is specifically designed to deter any criticism or public examination of Pine Gap and other US defense installations.

"It was a decision of the current Government to use this act in order to protect itself from accountability.

"All Australians should be concerned that our right to know what goes on for the 'defense' of Australia is being withheld.."

During the trial (Tuesday May 29th to Friday June 8th) you can join the 'peace community', which will be holding non-violent actions in Alice Springs, including procession to the court house each day and some creative civil disobedience in support of peace!

If you can't make it out there visit the website <www.pinegap.org> for heaps of ways to help out, like buying the inspirational peace and anti-war compilation CD, Rise Up and Speak the Truth, with music from various



artists including: Shane Howard (ex-Goanna lead singer), Seize The Day (U.K.), Penelope Swales (Melbourne), Solidarity Choir (Sydney) and Dana Lyons (U.S). The website also has some great photos of the 'civilian inspection' .. check it out!

Peace convergence

While we're on the subject of Australia's obsequious servility to the US you may want to check out the Peace Convergence website at <www.peaceconvergence.com> It's a non-violent peace gathering that's happening at Shoalwater Bay, north of Rockhampton from the 18th to the 24th June 2007 to protest the latest round of 'US war games' on Australian soils.

From the the end of May to 2 July 2007,

Australia will play host to the largest military exercise in Australian history – Operation Talisman Sabre 2007. It will involve nearly 14,000 US troops and over 12,000 Australian personnel. Exercise activity will take place at Australian military locations including the Australian-US "training facilities": Shoalwater Bay in Queensland and Bradshaw and Delamere Range in the Northern Territory. Support sites including civilian facilities in Australia, offshore and overseas will also be utilised. Depleted Uranium bombs may be used but details have been kept secret.

Shoalwater Bay a place of outstanding natural beauty whose waters host the Great Barrier Reef. Stand up to protect precious habitat! Power to the peaceful!

War Cycles and the Fall of the American Empire

by David McMinn

Few people appreciate the cycles of wars over the past 600 years. Major wars occurred roughly every 50 years with a global war every 100 years. This has had a profound impact upon the rise and fall of world powers and still has relevance in world power plays today. Such cycles of war and world leadership are best viewed as a general trend, rather than having precise timing. The actual time frames are debatable.

In 1988, Modelski & Thompson proposed a model of global leadership cycles of around 100 years. These cycles arise with a struggle for supremacy between an economically advanced sea power and a strong land power. The sea power ultimately wins and establishes dominance over the post war world economy. The researchers considered that there were four stages in this cycle:

Global War. During this war phase, power shifts occur with the emergence of new world leader from the winning coalition and the defeat of the dominant land based power. The global war usually involves the biggest war of a particular cycle.

World Power. The supremacy of the winning sea power reaches a peak, resulting in a period of world peace.

Agenda Setting. The army strength of the regional powers rises and disputes escalate. The world power goes into decline

Coalition Building. The power of the old leading power reaches a low. This sets the stage for the next global war, as the dominant powers again vie for supremacy. After world wars, the leading country on the winning side, which survives with its economy in tact, reorganises the world system around itself. This may be achieved as the war economically bleeds both sides of the conflict.

Global War	Defeated Land Power	Post War World Power	Displaced World Power
1494-1514	France	Portugal	Venice
1585-1600	Spain	Dutch Republic	Portugal
1691-1714	France	Britain	Dutch Republic
1793-1814	France	Britain	-
1914-1945	Germany	USA	Britain

Adding 50 years to 1918-1945 should have given a major war around 1968-1995, which failed to occur. However, the Cold War could be considered to be the intermediate war in the current cycle, which resulted in the collapse of the dominant land power (USSR) in 1989. Modern weapons are now so destructive that no sane great power would use them - hence the long stand off between NATO and the USSR. With the collapse of USSR, the USA emerged as the world's super power.

Where are we now?

The world dominance of the USA only lasted 13 years from the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 to the beginning of the second Iraqi War in 2003. This phase could have lasted longer, but it was shortened due to the incompetence of President Bush et al. The USA is bankrupt as it sinks into the mire of the greatest debt bubble in history. The US government over

spends and pays with US\$ debt. The US imports Asian goods and exports US\$ debt. The only factor keeping the whole house of cards standing is the willingness of Asian countries to accept US dollars. This is waning as central bankers are moving away from depreciating US\$ as part of their reserve holdings. The USA is incapable of repaying its debts and has two stark options - hyperinflation to reduce the debt burden in real terms or a long period of low growth, budget cuts, high taxes and high interest rates. The inflation route will seem the less painful option for any US government - simply delete four zeros on its debt by issuing a new currency - US\$10,000 equals one new Bush peso. The trillions become billions and the problem becomes more manageable. This parlous situation was entirely self-inflicted by the Federal Reserve and the US government via incompetent monetary policies.

The US is in decline and we are now entering the much more dangerous periods of agenda setting and coalition building. The 'War on Terror' is a permanent feature of our lives, with no relief on the horizon. Regional wars between smaller states will become more likely, as there will be no Pax Americana to thwart the aspirations of regional powers. The US simply cannot afford to go into another war like Iraq or Afghanistan.

The nightmare scenario arises if terrorists explode an atomic bomb in a major city. (Aren't you glad Osama would never bother bombing a few thousand ageing hippies in Nimbin.) Will there be another global war in coming decades as to be expected from the war cycle???? This remains to be seen. One would hope that humanity has learnt from past mistakes, but this rarely occurs.

Around the world, the USA is hated because of its bullying and hubris. However, the USA has given the world relative peace since the end of WW II. This will seem like a golden era, when the Chinese gain world dominance.

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End this treatment of pigs

Call for Action over lack of substance in new Code of Practice

The Queensland government is currently considering whether to accept or reject the new draft Pig Code of Practice.

Both the current and this new draft code denies pigs' behavioural and physical needs as evidenced by the breeding sows' prolonged confinement in tiny stalls and farrowing crates. Again the current code and the new draft code continue to allow the mutilation of pigs through tail docking and teeth clipping. This is completely unacceptable on animal cruelty grounds.

The state Primary Industries Ministers and the Federal Agriculture Minister are most likely going to accept this new Code of Practice unless we can show them we are totally opposed to this new draft Pig Code of Practice.



Campaign

The pigs need your help and support on this issue.

Animal Liberation Queensland is urging people to write letters/emails to the Qld Minister for Primary Industries Mr Tim Mulherin and to the Federal Agriculture Minister Mr Peter McGauran.

The pigs need as many friends as possible to try to make a change for the better. Countries around the world including America are phasing out or have phased out sow stalls, yet Australia continues to use them.

If you only write one letter this year, make it this one! A sample letter is printed below, but please try and personalise it, making sure your letter

contains your passion and your desire to see our pigs have a better life.

Dear Minister,
I know that the draft 'Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - The Pig' is being reviewed, and that as a member of the 'Primary Industries Ministerial Council' you will decide on the housing and husbandry conditions that will affect the lives of millions of pigs. Unfortunately the draft revised Code does not provide any significant improvements.

Both the current and proposed Code of Practice

denies pigs' behavioural and physical needs due to the prolonged confinement for particularly the breeding sows kept in tiny stalls and farrowing crates. That extreme confinement, and the painful mutilations inflicted upon piglets - such as tail docking and teeth clipping, are unacceptable to me.

As a consumer I will choose not to purchase products from factory-farmed pigs, and I know that other Australians will take the same action as they learn of the conditions pigs' are subjected to. Please reject the draft pig Code and instead introduce enforceable standards that will provide pigs with the opportunity to express their natural behaviours. These sensitive and curious animals must not be permitted to continue to be kept in such severe and unrelenting confinement.

Yours sincerely...



The Annual Pet Adoptathon 2007

5th and 6th May

Animal Rights and Rescue Group Far North Coast wants to find homes for as many homeless pets as possible.

That's why they'll be conducting Pet Adoptathon 2007 at 181a Keen Street Lismore (next to Red Rooster), from 9am to 2pm on 5th and 6th May.

Pet Adoptathon 2007 is the weekend when animal welfare organisations worldwide join together to

find a home for each and every unwanted pet and ARRГ joins many thousand of like minded groups in over 40 countries this weekend and thanks the North Shore Animal League America the founder in 1995 and organisers of The Pet Adoptathon project.

The Aim is to open the doors for 48 hours in a bid to rehome as many homeless pets as possible into suitable homes in one weekend.



ARRG has many lovely pets in care for you to meet, that have been rescued from this region. Cats all colours, dogs small and larger, puppies and kittens. ARRГ aims to add yet again to the worldwide grand total of pets finding a new home on this weekend. Since 2002 ARRГ has rehomed over 300 pets at our Pet Adoptathon weekends.

During Pet Adoptathon 2006 weekend a total of 20,000 pets found homes worldwide, making the grand total of 250,000 pets rehomed since 1995.

Come along to Lismore on May 5 and 6 and adopt a

loving pet, get lots of free pet care information or just come to support your local Animal rescue group.

ARRГ has no shelter, so this is a chance for us and our pets to meet the public in a central location.

For more information about the Pet Adoptathon 2007 call ARRГ 6622-1881 or go to <www.animalrights.org.au> and view many pets waiting adoption.



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For further information and faq's on this astounding supplement, please contact Mark on (02) 6633-7339 or log onto www.mywaiora.com/944566

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Koala Kolumn



Violeta with Brendan
Picture: Kay Sherring

by Jennifer Creed

Friends of the Koala were pleased to be involved with the Nimbin Garden Festival again. This was the third time we had been invited to participate in the event by selling native plants at one of the gardens.

This year we were present at 'Wallaby Park', a beautiful 3 acre garden in Basil Road Nimbin, owned and lovingly created by Sue Boardman and Michael Hannan. The garden was open for the weekend of 14th & 15th April and approximately 180 people toured the garden over that period. Many people purchased plants from our stall and were also pleased to take away information about our plant nursery and how to plant habitat trees for koalas.

In past issues we have mentioned that we supply Koala food trees to landowners but many readers are not aware of the diverse range of native plants other than eucalypts, that we have available. All funds raised from our nursery are used to help with the purchase of medication and ongoing daily care of the injured and sick koalas.

Koalas in Care

Currently we have 7 Koalas in care at our centre in East Lismore with another 15 in home care. Many of the Koalas that come in to care have conjunctivitis or cystitis and are prescribed a course of antibiotics lasting 45 days and also placed on a food supplement.

Brendan is our permanent care koala and loves his daily supplement. After a car accident in 2004 he lost one eye and his remaining eye is badly damaged leaving him blind and unable to be released. He compensates for his loss of sight by a heightened sense of smell and (as pictured) is ready

with his tongue out for feeding by volunteer Violeta. Friends of the Koala have obtained a special licence from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW) to keep Brendan in permanent care for educational purposes.

Koalas and Schools

Last year Friends of the Koala and the Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre worked together and devised the Northern Rivers Koala Friendly School Project.

The aims of this project are to augment the K-6 curriculum with real-life relevant study and to provide students with opportunities for hands-on environmental involvement by raising awareness in the community of the plight of local koalas.

We are hoping that local schools will incorporate Koala education into their programmes and we are happy to consult regarding strategies your school could implement. This may involve establishing habitat, planting food trees for leaf harvesting and growing seedlings for sale. Students could organise special fund-raising events to sponsor individual koalas.

Appropriate days for such events are World Environment Day on June 5th and Schools Tree Day on July 22nd. In addition, the Koala Care Centre is available for excursions so students can experience first hand the work being done there and meet the patients.

If you would like further information on our plant nursery, public tours or the Northern Rivers Koala Friendly Schools Project please phone us on 6622 1233 or email info@friendsofthekoala.org. Check out our website www.friendsofthekoala.org for the latest Koala stories and to report your sightings online.

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ASTROLOGICAL TRENDS FOR MAY 2007

BIRTHDAY – Taurus:



by Bev Murray

These loveable souls are the materialists of the Zodiac. They appreciate the beauty of this planet and they appreciate anything beautiful that they can own! A sense of their own worth is uppermost. The males of the species demonstrate this by a need to be 'right' most of the time and the females demonstrate this by a love of luxury and the good things in life! They are loyal friends and possess a natural charisma.
Give them: Beautiful things of any kind, a fine dining experience, a massage and the works!

Taurus:

A fairly tranquil month on the home front with a nice touch of romance thrown in! Doing something daring and unusual with a love done will be very pleasing! Work and any large group or associations might prove troublesome or at the least confusing. Don't jump to conclusions just sit back and review. Venus trines Neptune on the 1st of the month suggesting caution in all personal dealings.

Gemini:

Your intuition is running strong this month but be careful of making hasty decisions until after the 12th. Travel and education are highlighted all month. Much can be gained from either. From the 16th onwards your social life picks up considerably. The sun moves into your sign on the 21st at 8.11pm heralding an easier communication between the generations. If there are older folk you need to talk to do it now.

Cancer:

A pretty good month overall. You guys can look forward to a relaxing time coupled with some nice contact with friends. Large groups and committees will be cooperative and any dealings in the administration arena are likely to be positive. The 16th is particularly creative and much can be achieved on this day so get up early and focused! Speculation is not favoured however.

Leo:

You are on very steady ground throughout May. Others will value your opinions because they will be very intuitive and practical! Your judgement will be second to none!! Concentrating on all the important

areas of your life now will reap excellent rewards! Speculation is the only thing that is not recommended because it is not about luck just now, rather about intelligence!

Virgo:

Learning is highlighted this month. Travel and new experiences are excellent opportunities for you, especially in the first week or two of the month. Financially things are pretty stable. Mercury sextiles Mars on the 9th and 10th so all business ventures are favoured then. Well-calculated risks can be taken successfully. Wild speculation however is not favoured.

Libra:

A socially promising month with much to smile about! The only issue is how to get things done amidst all this gadding about! Communication and creativity are the favoured areas, but be wary of all you hear and don't just believe without a little double check first! Venus trine Uranus on the afternoon of the 25th can make for some unstable emotions, used well it can be a creative influence but you need to get organised!

Scorpio:

It could be hard to hang on to your money this month. Think first act second! Domestic affairs will need some attention and it is wise to put some energy there as soon as possible. Be careful that you are not too ready to compromise in a relationship situation, it could mean you lose all control. Mars square Pluto on the 14th sends out a message to watch out for remaking of old mistakes!

Sagittarius:

Overconfidence could get you into trouble. Pay attention

and take care. Get all the facts before you begin anything! Speculation is especially difficult for you guys this month. Keep to the tried and true for best results. Watch out for unnecessary exaggeration on the 11th and 12th. The 18th is excellent for all kinds of communication and clear thinking! Being patient will win favours!

Capricorn:

Just relax and go with the flow this month because anything else will be wasted energy! There is a lot of frustrating energy about, but it is not harmful! Be especially careful to stick to the facts on the 6th of May. Any attempt to pull the wool over another's eyes will backfire! The last week of the month is when you can get back on track and complete jobs!

Aquarius:

Emotion is not your forte and yet you are experiencing a lot of it this month! Try to step back and see things more objectively. Family and groups of any sort will be difficult to say the least but don't despair, just don't go there! Financially things seem pretty good with all forms of creativity highlighted and commercial ventures favoured. Deciding which way to go could be a problem.

Pisces:

Watch your hunches this month, as they are not as spot on as usual. Check things over before acting. Romance seems to take a back seat at the moment. The last week picks up here though so make good use of it. The 13th has a Sun square to Neptune aspect which can make you stubborn and unbending. Emotion can run high too. Compromise is best if you can manage it!

Email Bev: Insightbevmurray@yahoo.com

Lantern-making workshops

Lismore Lantern Parade – 23rd June

Re-Enchanting the Dream is the theme for this year's Lismore Lantern Parade.

Once again the annual Lismore Lantern Parade has returned to the North Coast, and this year in lead up to the prized event there are lantern-making workshops now on and available to all in the community.

The workshops will take place at 81 Orion Street, Lismore starting as of now, so if it is, or ever has been your desire to learn to create your own lantern and have your artful piece displayed in front of thousands of ecstatic eyes, then come on down to one of the many crafty workshops.

The Lantern Parade has grown significantly since its inception and just last year more than 25 000 people witnessed the spectacular lighting of Lismore's streets. An even greater audience was reached from further exposure from television networks Channel 7 (Prime), 9 (Win) and the ABC.

By participating in the workshops there is every chance your very own masterful creation could be taking part in this year's delightful display of creative expression.

For information on workshop times or any enquiries call (02) 6622-6333, or simply get your artistic juices flowing and journey on down to 81 Orion Street Lismore to learn the latest and greatest in lantern creation.



Total Honesty

One day Encounter
Saturday, 19th May
2007, 8am - 6pm
'Funkey Forest'
Mountain Retreat
1321 Main Arm Rd.
Upper Main Arm
via Mullumbimby.

Cost \$20 non-refundable fee for use of the facilities and basic expenses. Facilitator does not receive any payment and relies on dana or donations. You will need to bring some vegetarian food to share. Booking is essential, as the one day encounter is limited to 20 participants.



Why is it so hard?

Total honesty can take one to the unacceptable, to rejection and loss. Most of us will turn back. If however we pass through there will be nothing to hold onto, nothing to keep, nothing to gain; and therefore nothing to fear. And as we know, without fear there is peace.

The One Day Encounter is an invitation to allow the natural yet censored processes of the self, confronting its conditioned tendencies, obstructions, distractions and contradictions in the light of its inherent desire for transformation. Do I want to look? Do I dare to look? Do I dare to be vulnerable?

During the day you are invited to interact in pairs and in a circle; and come face to face with aspects of yourself. Nothing is promised to you, nothing is asked of you and nothing is expected of you. Yet in the haze there is an offer on the table.

"I seemed to comprehend the nature of things. Neither time nor space existed on this plane."
(Claire Myers Owen)

Spinning Straw Into Gold



Storytelling
Retreat with
Donna Jacobs Sife
Friday 11th May
6pm – Sunday
13th May 4pm,
Samaya Retreat
Centre
Workshop fees
\$250, usual
workshop size 24.
Knowing our
Story increases

the capacity to listen and deeply connect, and cultivates more meaningful relationship and communication – both at work and at home. Alternating between traditional and personal stories, drama, creative writing, dream work and poetry we will draw on the wisdom within, to spin our straw into gold.

The common thread in the series of workshops is story and storytelling- whether you are learning to write your life story, enliven your corporate or community presentation with stories, deepen your spiritual quest or simply gain confidence to tell stories to your grandchildren.

Donna is a writer and an award-winning storyteller. Her considerable international reputation is built on her capacity to bridge difference – be it within our societies, our communities or ourselves.

People from all walks of life and levels of experience are more than welcome to participate. You don't need any experience in storytelling to come along. In fact, you don't even need to know what storytelling is! Just bring your curiosity! In the workshops participants work at their own level and won't have to get up and perform in front of others – unless they want to!

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A Permaculturist's Peace

by Tom Campbell

Djanbung Gardens

With our first term over and Permaculture Design Courses complete, students left for holidays bursting with new ideas to pass onto family, friends and just about anyone who would put up with a good old fashioned rave. Despite our eagerness to spread our new found knowledge as far a field as possible it wasn't long before we were all drawn back to this magical and mystical place that is Djanbung Gardens. With stories to tell of adventures we'd had, students shared their experiences. It was then that we realised that one common thread binded us, the desire for more knowledge and the sense of peace that Djanbung Gardens installed us with.

Of course term two wasn't going to disappoint as we begun our one week intensive bush food course. I have to say I was like a kid in a candy store. Excited, enthused and just wanting more and more. Perhaps it's my child hood fantasy of being able to survive in the bush or my love of Australia's wonderful vegetation, or my passion for indigenous culture (quite possibly the combination of all three) but what ever it was I just couldn't get enough.

Fortunately we had the privilege of learning from an experienced hand in Peter Hardwick who has been involved in the bush food industry for decades. The course was incredibly comprehensive and ranged from plant identification to uses as food, oils, craft materials, medicinal and the list just goes on and on.

By the end of the week everyone was brimming with enthusiasm and had heaps of new ideas. I know my brain was playing ping-pong with about a thousand different possibilities for the use of our great native plant species.

The week culminated with a walk through Mount Nardi, which was both informative and invigorating. There's nothing like feeling grounded in a beautiful rainforest. Coupled with this a divine cuisine using a variety of native fruits, vegetables and spices was indulged in on Friday night. Robyn and Peter whipped up a feast to die for and if I had of died that night I'm sure it would



Robyn Francis speaking at the Passion Cafe in April

have been with a smile on my face as I savoured a pickled Davidson plum or licked some Riberry sauce. What a fantastic week of learning and celebrating life.

Nimbin Climate Change Action Group

Imagine tasty treats. Imagine a gathering of intelligent, caring, beautiful and environmentally conscious people. Now imagine these people imagining the possibilities for dealing with climate change.

If you're brain hasn't imploded due to confusion you now have the second night of the Passion Café – Imagineering workshop. Facilitated and catered for by Djanbung Gardens own wonderfully talented Robyn Francis, Imagineering was the bringing together of a community and the sharing of ideas.

After indulging on a cuisine of Moroccan style vegies, pumpkin and lentil soup, Balinese black rice pudding and almond slice people got down to the business end of the evening, that was if they could still move. This began with everybody identifying his or her hopes and fears regarding climate change. This was an interesting process, which provided the platform to launch into the next activity. Imagining the possibilities and changes we would like to see for Nimbin and the wider bioregion in dealing with climate change.

Many varied and wonderful ideas were born, from solar powering Nimbin to supporting local enterprises and food production. Excess food drop off points were discussed along with the learning of skills and trades

such as blacksmiths and naturopaths etc. The list was immensely varied and in depth and didn't only cover the physical and tangible solutions but also the mental and spiritual shifts that people would have to undergo.

For me it seemed that all these wonderful ideas came back to the basic principles of looking after the environment and each other. Which unfortunately have become foreign concepts in our modern day society.

With all ideas collected, it was time to identify specific groups of action to implement the change we want to see in our community, country and world. These groups included – Skills and Trades; Food production, seed saving and Environmental regeneration; Appropriate Technologies; Creative experience; Education and thought consciousness; Strategy and community organization; Local economics.

The focus of our next Passion Café will be food production, seed saving and environmental regeneration. This will be held in May at Djanbung Gardens and all of the community are welcome to attend. We would love to see you there.

Tom's Rave

Well that's the wrap, the low down on how in this little town people can work together for the better of the environment and each other. Let's all look to the future, because together we can make it beaut hey?

If you have any questions or comments don't hesitate to drop me a line. Via email - tommyturtle_7@yahoo.com.au or by post – PO Box 379 Nimbin, NSW 2480

The Good Oils for the Skin

by Cheryl Beasley

Carrier and base oils, such as almond, apricot, canola and soybean just to name a few, are regularly used in skin care products and cosmetics.

These oils can be applied directly to the skin or can be used to carry other ingredients into the deeper layers of the skin quickly and easily.

Oils can penetrate through cell walls and take active ingredients and their vitamins, minerals and other nutrients through to where they are needed most. Once the ingredients are delivered to these deeper layers in the skin they can then nourish and 'feed' the cells encouraging healthy skin growth.

Understanding these oils and their properties can greatly help in an individual's choice of natural skin care products. Below are some of the most popular oils and their benefits.

Almond Oil: Almond oil is obtained from the dried kernels of the almond tree. It is excellent for softening and soothing the skin and also helps to balance the skins moisture.

Good for all skin types but especially good for dry and irritated skin it helps relieve irritation, inflammation and itching. Almond oil contains vitamins A, B1, B2, B6 and D and a small amount of vitamin E, it also has a rich concentration of oleic and linoleic essential fatty acids.

If you have sensitive skin, almond oil could be the solution to your skin problems.

**Do not use if allergic to nuts.*

Apricot Kernel Oil: This medium to light oil is beneficial for all skin types, especially dry and inflamed skin. High in vitamin A and minerals it nourishes the skin developing strong, healthy skin cells.

**Do not use if allergic to nuts.*

Avocado Oil: Avocado oil contains vitamins A, B, D, E and is rich in Lecithin and Potassium. This thick oil penetrates deeply into the base of the skin and is well suited for dry skin conditions. A good oil for wrinkles and sun damaged skin. The sterolins in avocado oil have been found to diminish age spots. It also contains antioxidants and is good for sensitive skin. Avocado oil can be used as an overnight facial treatment.

Canola Oil: This oil is usually found in combination with other carrier oils. It is high in Vitamin E. It is often used in lotions, creams, and massage oils.

Soybean Oil: This is light oil, contains linoleic acid, good for all skin types and is easily absorbed. We use soybean oil in our natural skin care formulations with great success. Also, soybean oil is clinically proven to minimize the appearance of hair. It has a very high-unsaturated fatty acid compound, 2% sterolins and contains vitamin E.

Wheat Germ Oil: Wheat Germ Oil is rich in vitamin E and is useful for dry and mature skin. It is well known for its ability



to heal scar tissues, smooth stretch marks, and soothe burns. Wheat Germ Oil is also great to use in an overnight facial treatment.

Rose Hip Oil: This oil is used to regenerate the skin and reduce the signs of premature aging. Rose hip oil is rich in omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, is high in gamma linoleic acid (GLA) and vitamin C. Rose hip oil is often used in products made for stretch marks, burns, scars and mature dry skin.

Vitamin E: Vitamin E is well known for its antioxidant capabilities. (Antioxidants protect vital cell structures by neutralizing molecules called "free radicals". Free radicals are unstable molecules produced from sources like air pollution, radiation, and peroxides.)


Jojoba Oil: Jojoba oil is waxy plant extract and not in fact oil. It is light, non-greasy and absorbs fast into skin leaving no greasy feeling. Jojoba oil has good moisturising and nourishing properties as it is rich in vitamin E. Good for all skin types it also relieves sunburn, skin irritations and can soften fine lines and wrinkles. Jojoba oil is a great preservative and anti-oxidant.

Many of these oils contain antioxidants like Vitamin E, they help neutralize free radicals and stabilize cell membranes. This is why the incorporation of antioxidants like Vitamin E into skin care products is so important. Using these oils to benefit your skins nutritional and moisture balance is a great way to get your skin in healthy condition and also give it the softness and radiance it can achieve.

Please visit us at www.lanab.com.au for a range of skin care products containing wonderfully beneficial oils. Every order receives a free 100g Salt Based Body Buff that contains mineral salts, glycerine and Aloe Vera to smooth and soothe your skin.



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CAPE YORK PENINSULA -
NEVER KNOWN, NEVER FORGOTTEN

by Ian Browne,
Shamrock News Darwin

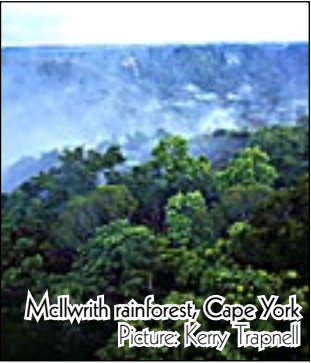
From Darwin I look to the east and my vision is clear, as much of the musky monsoon has moved northwest through S.E.Asia. I journey my third eye through tropical savannas, wetlands, jungles and the escarpment country of Kakadu and Arnhem Land, across the 'Gulf' to an enchanted world not too dissimilar in many ways to the N.T. Top End.

This land, covering 14 million hectares, is our very own Cape York Peninsula, Far Northern Queensland. A hot, tropical land where I see leaves beginning to return to the soil in the dry monsoon vine thickets, compensation for the loss of available moisture in the landscape as the dry season enters front stage. Savanna eucalypts sprout rejoicing flowers to feed the boisterous honeater bird, bat and insect species.

New season grasslands are tall and tawny, calling out for fire to rejuvenate annual sorghum seed wildernesses promised when the rains return later in the year. Pure white, glimmering snow like sand dunes feather the whispering coast and tropical rainforests smile upon evergreen moist enclaves and humid ravine frontiers.

Wetlands too; festivals of life, year long fauna lodgers; some digging down into wetter layers, others traveling to places like Papua New Guinea to search for higher water levels. A Cape York winter means dry weather here, not cold weather.

So what is wrong with this shy, forgotten wilderness? Well, a year ago I made a wee radio doco produced by Warwick Fry, podcast at <<http://nimbinradiomedia.libsyn.com>> about the negative implications on this



vast region of neglecting Indigenous land rights and allowing mining disturbance of ecologically unique areas.

But guess what, there has been great news since then. The Queensland Premier is about to receive the landmark report by independent scientists, outlining a path to World Heritage listing for Cape York Peninsula.

Over the past decade, The Wilderness Society has successfully led a series of campaigns to protect large areas of Cape York from unsustainable development.

Logging, reef trawling, agriculture and the expanding cattle industry, mining and the illegal trafficking of flora and fauna all have direct and indirect effects on the land and its complex ecosystems. Now there is a proposal by industry and government to further expand strip mining for bauxite.

World Heritage listing is the highest form of protection available. It is only granted to places that are of outstanding global significance. Two reports by expert scientists have confirmed that Cape York would qualify for World Heritage listing, but there are many steps to go through before Cape York could officially become a listed World Heritage site.

Further support is needed and you too can get involved, Find out how by visiting the Wild Country Project at <www.wilderness.org.au/>

Cape York land handed
back to owners

by Jessica Marszalek

After seven years of negotiations involving hundreds of people, Queensland Premier Peter Beattie announced on 11th April that 230,000ha of far north Queensland would be handed back to its traditional owners.

Mr Beattie made the announcement at a ceremony at Wujal Wujal, north of Cairns.

Under the agreement, 64,000ha of land between Mossman and Cooktown will be made Aboriginal freehold land, which the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people will protect under conservation agreements.

A portion of the land will be open to any use by the Yalanji people and will be able to be built on, grazed or mined.

Traditional owner and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal council mayor Desmond Tayley told the 300 people gathered for the ceremony the agreement ushered in a "new dawn of pride and sense of achievement".

Under the terms of the agreement, national park area on Cape York will nearly double to 162,000ha, which includes the Daintree, Cape Tribulation, Black Mountain

and Cedar Bay national parks.

Mr Beattie called the agreement, which was generated by a 1994 native title claim, a "significant milestone in Queensland's history".

"The Yalanji have long been the protectors of one of the most precious and beautiful regions of Queensland," he said. "The restoration of the traditional owners' right to own and be the custodians and managers of their traditional country will protect the significant cultural and environmental aspects of the area."

A number of Aboriginal elders cried as they recalled community members who had died over the period of the negotiations and divisions within families over elements of the agreement.

The agreement will now go to the National Native Title Tribunal before receiving final Federal Court approval in about three years.

Australian Conservation Foundation spokeswoman Karen Robinson said the agreement not only benefited indigenous people but was a "real gain for the conservation of significant environmental values within and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area".



We Are the
Altar
Nation

The
Greatest Show
On Earth

by David Peace=One Love

Cleaning my life, polishing the stone, seeing in is the way out, it's all about... healing my BodyVehicle by the security of conscious di-et, harmonising the lost chord in Divine resonation, accepting the abundant blessings, being on time for love. I know what I am looking at, I move toward these qualities embodying conscious love.

Imagine...

Imagine you travel around our Earth merging with a way your actions lovingly unify the expanding family you discover.

Imagine you find everyone has a key to love and somehow you are the door, and you must be opened.

For within you are keys to father halls leading to a deep dark inner sanctum which can only be accessed now, in the darkness.

You wonder, Is this the same canal I came from as you swim through these living waters...

You know why you are here,

you know you asked for it, you are ready to see.

Your eyes adjust in the light of your patience revealing a shimmering altar adorned with Heavenly gifts,

Imagine what appears, reminders of this place we share. Elementally you are filled by the grace of this presence, is there more than you can imagine?

Imagine your eyes dilate uncovering a greater picture within your view delivering the beautiful vista. It's changing!

Emanating everpresently above this altar is a hologram of the English word capitalised ... "GRATITUDE", and you hear her ringing in your ears, this feeling in your heart.

You absorb this offering from God the one creator beyond yet contained within every name, you know sacred is this silent witness. Thank You. I accept... my birth:

U R the door, U R the prophecy, U R the one I am God - RemembUR ME.

Olympians call to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health

ANTaR launched the next phase of its Indigenous Health Rights campaign yesterday in Sydney with Ian Thorpe and Cathy Freeman as spokespeople for the campaign.

Olympic greats Catherine Freeman and Ian Thorpe have thrown their weight behind a major campaign launched in Sydney today which aims to close the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The former Olympians launched an online version of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation's (ANTaR) Sea of Hands at Telstra Stadium this morning in a bid to get millions of Australians behind the Close the Gap campaign.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma, said the campaign urged



Australians to join more than 40 Indigenous and non-Indigenous national health peak body and human rights organisations which are pushing for government commitment by the end of the year to fixing the tragedy of Indigenous health.

"It is a national scandal that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live 17 years less than other Australians and that our babies die at almost three times the rate of non-Indigenous children," Commissioner Calma said.

"It is not acceptable for governments to continually state the situation is tragic and ought to be treated with urgency and then fail to put in place targets, funding and timeframes to address the issue. Federal, state and territory governments must adopt deadlines now for ending Indigenous health inequality," he said.

ANTaR's virtual Sea of Hands will allow people to upload a hand with their details on a website and at the same time send a personalised message to local politicians asking them to commit to Commissioner Calma's deadlines. Go to <http://www.antar.org.au/issues/healing_hands/>

As more people join the campaign, the Sea of Hands will increase in size and intensity with hundreds of thousands of people signing

up to the virtual Sea of Hands to urge governments to take action on Indigenous health.

Also joining Catherine and Ian in launching the campaign was Chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Henry Councillor.

"The Close the Gap campaign on the life expectancy of Aboriginal people is the single most urgent campaign ever conducted in Australia. It's about justice and decency and a fair go for all," Mr Councillor said.

"That Aboriginal health has languished so terribly and for so long is a cause of national shame, yet this campaign gives governments and millions of non-Aboriginal people the focus and the opportunity to help fix things up.



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Two gentlemen of Nimbin

by Martin Preedy

After inviting Archie to appear on the underwater radio show Tuesdays on Nim-FM to perform a couple of his poems, I asked if I could go along to his next out of Nimbin performance on Saturday March 31st.

Archie and I set off for Brisbane, where he was hoping to be one of the 15 names drawn to compete for the last of three heats of the Poetry unEARTHED project, sponsored by Brisbane City Council via the Queensland Poetry Festival. Heat winner to get \$150 and 15 minutes in the final event of the Festival in September.

The ease with which we obtained a parking spot proved to be auspicious, as Archie's name was second out



of the hat from 29 entries. Sufficiently emboldened he then delivered the goods, causing one competitor to flee during the first poem.

The judges were also impressed, declaring him the winner, so Archie's off to the QPF for the final in September.

Then we got back in the car and caroused all the way home. Some days it's worth getting out of bed.

Birth of the Bush Haiku

Robin Archbold just may have invented a new genre of poetry, by taking the pith out of bush poetry and inserting it into haiku. Voila! Bush Haiku.

Haiku is a 3 line poem of 17 syllables, 5, 7 and 5 respectively, with some reference to seasons and an element of humour. The format and humour stay in, but the seasons dispensed with in favour of a rural theme or reference.

Must have a title of any length. Must have a rural theme. That's it. Archie has attached some samples titled *The Farm Haiku Series*.

Bovine Management Snafu Haiku

Bring 'em up Bluey
Bluey, come here ya mongrel
Where's that fuckin' dog

Balance of Nature Haiku

Spring bursts on the farm
He marvels at nature's force
Sharpens the chainsaw

Farm Lore Haiku 1

If I've told you once
I've told you a thousand times
Close the fuckin' gate

Farm Lore Haiku 2

Wild ducks on farm pond
Emerald crimson shining
A shotgun rings out

Confucius the Farmer

Rhyming Haiku
Pay attention son
Don't turn your back on a bull
Lesson number one

Dairy Dreaming Haiku

The radio blares
He shuns the milking machines
And dances badly

The Midwife Comes Haiku

Calf is stuck in cow
He backs up on the tractor
Gets the tow rope out

Potato Farmer Haiku

Red dirt in his blood
Potato farmer sells soul
Eight cents a kilo

Zen Lesson Haiku

Winter wind howls cold
Anguish wounds his
battered heart
The tractor won't start

Food Chain Haiku

Pet sheep is missing
Dad explains circle of life
Now eat your lamb chop

Firearm Etiquette Haiku

Dad teaches gun lore
Four sons listen intently
If it moves shoot it

Prosecution Rests Haiku

Kids' air gun banned
Evidence lies on the plate
Lead shot in boiled egg

Eye Of Beholder Haiku

The first calf of spring
Perfect as lotus blossom
He calls her T Bone

Male Bonding Haiku

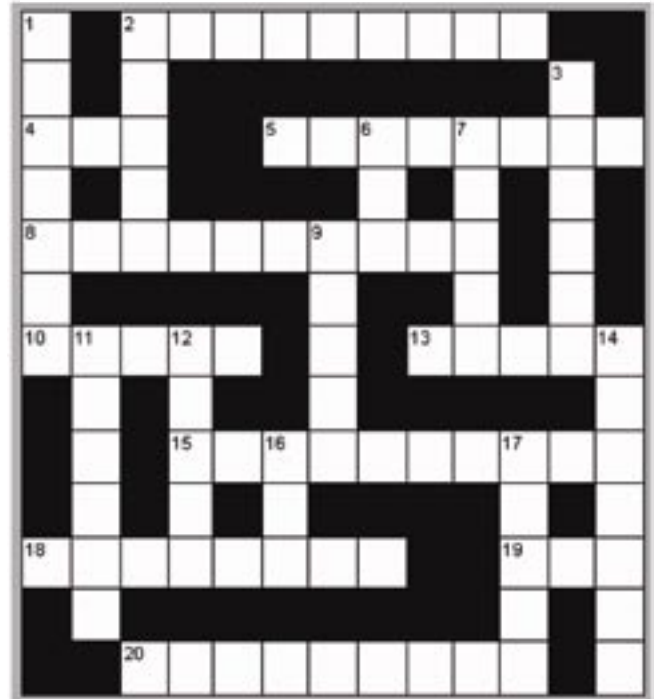
Afternoon at pub
Your mum doesn't need to know
Secret men's business



Market singer Marissa Diannake, recently arrived from Stanthorpe to further her musical training.

Nimbin Crossword

2007-03
by Synic



Across

2. (3,6) A delicious, refreshing soft drink? Slain by St. George
4. What they weren't allowed to do at Protesters' Falls
5. Bob Marley was, so was Marcus Garvey, and so is Grace Jones
8. What Europe is, from where we're standing: - "On the other side of the world"
10. Majestic bird of prey, sadly press-ganged as symbol of American might
13. Creator of Fritz the Cat? A small piece of bread that falls from the table
15. (5,5) Nimbin's own New Orleans pageant
18. In modern Wicca, the maximum number in a coven
19. Not in
20. (5,4) Where Oz's ancestral beings perform(ed) acts of creation

Down

1. A smaller and better place to live than a town
2. To your West when you face the South
3. Lao-tzu's philosophy of simplicity and non-interference with the course of natural events
6. Knighthood - member of the British empire (innit.)
7. Not outer
9. Hairstyle? Terror!
11. Native American nation of the Southwest USA
12. Long-tailed Madagascan mammal
14. (3,4) Get on the bus?
16. Grain used to make bread, and whiskey
17. Sun-dried bricks made of clay and straw, used to build Uluru cultural centre

Solution page 19

Nim-FM 102.3

I WANT YOU!

NIMBIN PLAYERS

ACTORS NEEDED NOW!!!

Uncle Bob is looking for a cast for his next...

PANTOMIME

The Claw is coming!

Attention all actors / dancers / crew!

The Nimbin Players will be having a play reading of Bob Tissott's new pantomime, *The Golden Claw*, at the Nimbin Community Centre in the Com. School room on Monday, 14th May at 11.00 am. It is hoped that the majority of roles will be filled on this day.

If you have an interest in acting or in helping out backstage with set, make-up etc., come along. The pantomime is the sequel to *The Troll Hunter*, Bob's previous piece of work and like its predecessor it comes with an environmental sting in the tail. Bob is looking for actors, dancers and people interested in backstage / production.

The *Golden Claw* is scheduled to be performed during the Spring Arts celebrations in September.

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