

ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE IN NIMBIN



Nimbin's commemoration of ANZAC Day attracted a large crowd, both as marchers and respectful onlookers.

Led by local pipers and flag-bearers from the Nimbin RFS fire brigade, the march wended its way along Cullen Street to the recently restored cenotaph in Allsopp Park.

Marchers included a group of students and teachers from Nimbin Central School carrying wreaths to place on the monument, in memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Master of Ceremonies Anton Eldridge (*pictured*), who delivered a moving address, was assisted by a cenotaph detail of active servicemen, who impressively presented arms during the sounding of the Last Post.

Organisers were surprised that there had been no police escort for the march, nor to redirect traffic during the observance.

After the ceremony, a religious Service was conducted at the Bowling Club (*below right*), followed by the usual 'cup of tea' and



sandwiches, with music by The Irish Trio.

Later in the afternoon, two-up games were conducted at both the club and the hotel, with some sizable sums reportedly changing hands.

The continuity of use of the Nimbin cenotaph was cited in support of funding for its restoration, and it is hoped that this year's strong attendance will add further weight to calls for the relocation of the flag pole.

President of the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre Paul LeBars said, "It's actually sacrilegious to have it bolted onto the war memorial."

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Skatepark ordered to close

Lismore Council has served notice on the developers of Nimbin skatepark, Nimbin Community Centre Inc (NCCI) to close the skatepark or face legal action.

The move appears to have been prompted by a spate of noise complaints about skaters using the park before sound amelioration work has been completed.

Sections of the construction fencing were removed by skaters last year, in a well-publicised protest by local skaters frustrated by the lengthy delays in finishing the facility.

Police have been loath to take action to remove the dozens of skaters who use the park regularly, with Crime Prevention Officer Snr Const Michael Hogan arguing that the park is a crime prevention tool, especially for 14 to 24-year olds.

"There are so many life pointers there, it's not funny,"



he told reporters.

Construction of the park began, with development consent, in 2002, but Council has since withdrawn its financial support for the project. General manager Paul O'Sullivan told a community meeting last November, "It would be throwing good money after bad."

That has left the NCCI to find the estimated \$50,000 to complete the noise mitigation work, which is currently being undertaken by volunteers at weekend working bees.

The Friends of Nimbin Skatepark group has been offered corporate funding to complete the park, but it is conditional on them receiving matching funds, which have so far not been forthcoming.

Despite support from several Councillors, including mayor Jenny Dowell, last December Lismore Council gave the NCCI 12 months to either open the park or demolish it.

If nothing else, the latest Council order will remind the Nimbin skating community that the clock is ticking.

Old bank building gets new lease on life

Demand for accounting services in Nimbin is growing, with the result that Nimbin Tax and Accounting has moved to larger premises in the old bank building, next to the Post Office.

Principal Peter Hughes, who has a degree in business studies, started the business on a part-time basis four years ago, in rooms at the rear of the Lifestyle real estate office.

"I've gone from having one client to now over 300," he said. "There's a lot of demand for setting up micro businesses, and a growing need for book-keeping services in the village."

To meet the need, Peter has employed Jayne Woolf, a qualified book-keeper with two accounting diplomas, and has extended his trading hours to six days a week.

Jayne actually started working with Peter part-time in July last year as a three-year internship to further her qualifications.

"I love the work," she said.

Peter worked for the Australian Taxation Office for 12 years at the start of his career, and has since spent 20 years in management accounting roles for the non-profit sector, including such organisations as the Lismore Conservatorium, Big Scrub Landcare, and North Coast Community Housing.

He will wind up his job as Finance and



Peter and Jayne share a lighter moment on the steps of their new office.

Administration Manager for EnviTE mid-year, due to new job network contracts.

"I'm going full time in my own business," he said, describing it as "part community service, part looking to the future."

The new rooms are spacious and airy, with a pleasant, leafy outlook, and are sure to impress even the most fastidious clients.

Orangutan Fundraiser

Bush Dance with *Bangalow Moon* on Saturday, May 16th, 7pm at Tullera Hall, Dunoon Road (7 mins from Lismore, 3 mins after Tullera). Bring a Plate. Raffles.
Single: \$15/\$12; Family (2+2): \$35/\$30;



Students/Children \$5; Kids under 5 free. Donations and profit go to the Australian Orangutan Project. From the last bush dance we were able to adopt Marsha (*pictured*) and pay for patrols to protect 40 hectares of rainforest for a year. Find out more at www.orangutan.org.au

Swine Flu: investigate and regulate

No-one yet knows whether swine flu will become a global pandemic, but it is becoming clear where it came from – most likely a giant pig factory farm run by an American multinational corporation in Veracruz, Mexico.

Brett Solomon, Avaaz Campaign Director (Australia), said, “These factory farms are disgusting and dangerous, and they’re rapidly multiplying. Thousands of pigs are brutally crammed into dirty warehouses and sprayed with a cocktail of drugs -- posing a health risk to more than just our food -- they are the perfect conditions to breed dangerous new viruses like swine flu.”

Smithfield Corporation, the largest pig producer in the world whose farm is being fingered as the source of the H1N1 outbreak, denies any connection between their pigs and the flu and agribusiness worldwide, and pays huge sums for research to argue that biosafety is ensured in industrial hog production. But the UN World Health Organisation has been saying for years that ‘a new pandemic is inevitable’, and experts from the European Commission



and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation have warned that the rapid move from small holdings to industrial pig production is in fact increasing the risk of development and transmission of disease epidemics. Studies abound of the horrific conditions endured by pigs in concentrated large-scale operations, and the devastating economic impact on small farmer communities of bloated large-scale operations. Smithfield itself has already been fined \$12.6m and is currently under another federal investigation in the US for toxic environmental damage from pig excrement lakes. But even with all of this damaging evidence, a combination of increased

global meat consumption and a powerful industry motivated by profit at the cost of human health, means that instead of being shut down, these factory farm operations are propagating around the world and we are subsidising them. Big agribusiness will try to obstruct and scuttle any attempts at reform, so a massive outcry is needed, that health authorities can’t ignore. Sign the petition at http://www.avaaz.org/en/swine_flu_pandemic for investigation and regulation of factory farms and if Avaaz reach 100,000 signatures, they will deliver it to the WHO in Geneva with a herd of cardboard pigs. For every 100 petition signatures a pig will be added to the herd, so tell your friends and family.

Anti-biker laws undemocratic, say civil liberties lawyers

Australian Council for Civil Liberties (ACCL) president Terry O’Gorman says governments are acting with undue speed to adopt a uniform anti-biker law in response to an incident last month at Sydney Airport in which a man was killed. “There’s no reason to hurry these laws through. There hasn’t been a threat for bikies to take over all of society,” he told the ABC. Recent figures issued by the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) reveal that gang-related violence in Australia, including violence generated by street, ethnic and biker groups, represents just 0.6 per cent of all crime, with biker gang-related violence only amounting to 0.3 per cent of crime in total. Bond University’s Professor of Criminology, Paul Wilson said, “There is no evidence that supports the effectiveness of tougher laws targeting groups rather than individual criminals. “International evidence indicates that laws which criminalise groups as a whole, such as bikies, increase the probability of more public violence from these groups,” he said.

The New South Wales parliament pushed state anti-biker laws through parliament at the beginning of April. Mirroring new South Australian laws, the legislation involves serious interference with fundamental civil liberties such as freedom of association. Nowhere in the new laws are motorcycle clubs specifically mentioned, raising fears that police could apply to the Supreme Court to have any group declared illegal and subjected to police suppression. Mr O’Gorman said the independent Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) should drive the legislative process, conducting thorough research before increasing police powers across Australia. Rival bike gangs have united to form the New South Wales Biker’s Council in response to concerns about the anti-biker legislation passed by the NSW Government, and are considering a legal challenge to it. In the meantime, it seems that conservative lobbyists and politicians now have a new weapon to oppress anyone who doesn’t fit into narrow societal norms.

England to the rescue!

Nimbin Rox deal signed, sealed and delivered

After being on the market for nine months, the Nimbin Rox Youth Hostel has a new owner. He is 21-year old Liam Brehme, who came to Australia from Dorset, England in 2007, and saw the business advertised when he was visiting Byron Bay in February this year. “This is an amazing place,” he said. “Everything about it seems top-notch.” So impressed was Liam when he drove out to inspect the property, that he encouraged his mother, a businesswoman with a background in introducing Fair Trade into the UK tea and coffee industry, to fly out from England to see it. She liked it too, so much so that she agreed to be Liam’s business partner in the venture, purchasing not only the backpackers, but also the two adjoining properties, reuniting the original 100-acre farm. Liam and his new manager Tess, have plans to implement a “young influence” on the hostel. Former owners Chris and Loey Clarke, who started the



Done deal. Loey and Chris Clarke, with their children, congratulate Liam Brehme (right) on his new venture.

business in 2001, have bought a house in Nimbin and are “We’ll be around Nimbin all our lives,” Loey said. “Our grandchildren will be here.” definitely planning on staying.

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Viral vaccinations

by Gloria Constine

I don’t want to be alarmist but before you get your flu shot, please read this. On Thursday 5th March this year there was a posting by Paul Joseph Watson, *Prison Planet.com* about the concern Czech newspapers had about vaccines contaminated with the live, deadly, human form of avian flu H5N1, which were sent to eighteen countries by American company Baxter. This virus has a kill rate of 60%, and when combined with seasonal flu viruses the effect is a potent, super airborne, super deadly, biological weapon. The writer maintains that it is virtually impossible for the virus contamination to be by accident with BSL 3 safety guidelines in place: “All procedures involving the manipulation of infectious materials are conducted within biological safety cabinets or other physical containment devices, or by personnel wearing appropriate personal protective clothing

and equipment. The laboratory has special engineering and design features.” This is not an isolated occurrence. On 23rd April 2005 in *New Scientist Magazine* we are told that samples of the H2N2 flu virus, which killed millions during the Asian flu pandemic, had been sent to at least 4000 labs in eighteen countries, as part of a kit designed to test the labs ability to identify viruses. The kits were made by Meridian Biosciences of Cincinnati, Ohio. There are other instances. In 1977 an H1 strain reappeared in China, possible after being released by accident in Russia. In 2006 Bayer Corporation discovered that their injection drug, which was used by hemophiliacs, was contaminated with the HIV virus. So here we are in 2009, faced with the threat of swine flu. Please encourage/ demand the testing of the flu vaccine before having it, as you never know, this may well be the pandemic we had to have! Good luck.

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Djanbung Dreaming



Nimbin painter Gilbert Laurie has completed his mural at Djanbung Gardens.

Started in 2006 as a WFTD project, the dot-painted mural depicts two djanbungs (platypus) with their freshwater friends, topped by land animals the snake and the goanna (the Bunjalung totem).

Gilbert said, "Every dot represents every time our grandfathers took a step."

"I did it for Uncle Eric (Walker) and my sister Robyn (Francis)."

Eric Walker named the Permaculture education facility in 1993.

Autumn Arts Extravaganza



Franco Girardi figure

'Online Interruptions'

Rodney Sharpe

Janet Hassall vase

by Stephen Wright

The problem – if there is one, and there is – with contemporary art, is that we always know what someone else is talking about, and because a lot of what is talked and written about contemporary art is often inane and elitist, it gives us a kind of suspicion about art itself too. A suspicion that we are being swindled, or patronised or lectured to.

Going to an exhibition at a major art gallery can leave you feeling as though you have been repeatedly hit around the head with a pillow full of pot-pourri containing a large brick with the word 'culture' stamped on it.

A recent review in *The Guardian* newspaper by the prominent UK art critic Jonathan Jones, (www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/jonathanjonesblog) in relation to his disapproval of the street artist Banksy (www.banksy.com), is a brilliant example of critical writing which is completely unaware of its own snobbishness and inanity. Consequently, it's very funny. I would love to read Jones' response to the British artists Jake and Dinos Chapman's recent work *If Hitler was a Hippy How Happy We Would Be*

that takes original work by Adolf Hitler and paints those originals in lurid new-age watercolours.

Which brings us to the Nimbin Art Gallery's recent Autumn Arts Extravaganza (AAE), what it means for Nimbin and why it was such a breath of fresh air. The AAE was given added impetus this year by the awarding of the inaugural EnviTE prize. If we think of 'prize-winning' in this instance as drawing attention to something fresh, rather than awarding some kind of institutional imprimatur, it seems gradually agreed that giving the award to Rodney Sharpe (pictured) was a very good thing. There are two works of Rodney's at AAE – his winning *Online Interruptions* and the wonderful *Locating the True Horse*, but Rodney's really amazing stuff has been at his solo exhibition down at the Nimbin Regional Gallery at the Community Centre.

The diversity of the work at the AAE, from Russell Scott's humble landscapes, Francisco's sharp throwaway comment *Art as Revelation*, Michael White's huge liquid black-and-white photographs, Helena Herendi's textiles, Maxx Maxted's *Firestorm*, and many others, gives us the opportunity to bring

a different way of thinking to daily street life in Nimbin. The AAE gave us a new kind of social capital, a way of re-establishing a kind of value in the community that can be too easily eroded under the neo-conservative moral social agendas we have become all too familiar with. The 'art-as-investment' discourse for example, with all-powerful curators, seems to have almost taken over some kinds of artistic dialogue.

The AAE would still be a good thing in these terms, even if everything in it were crap. But a lot of it was really good and quite a bit exceptional. In any event, the point of having the AAE is that it gives a chance for authenticity to surface, for us the viewers as much as the artists. You might stand in front of the work at the AAE and rightly tell some of it to get stuffed, but other works might just let you into some kind of quality of spontaneity and authenticity.

In other words, we might regain something of the capacity to daydream a little, and as having the capacity to daydream (as opposed to fantasising) is very good for your sanity, the AAE has given us a unique opportunity.

Post Script: Congratulations to raffle winners, Cath Smith and Janice Potter.

Carnival!



Jeanette Krohm and her ceramic work, Dancing Dress.

Local artists are showing their invention and ingenuity in the current exhibition at Blue Knob Hall and Gallery.

Towered over by a large paper lantern by Jyllie Jackson, *Carnival Carnival* broadly interprets its theme in a range of media, with oils by Robert Jackson and Christine Robinson; metal sculpture by Francisco Janssen and Jeanette Krohm, who also has several ceramic figures on show; and a range of idiosyncratic photographs

by Rikki Fisher, Len Martin, Sue Stock and Graeme Batterbury.

The exhibition was opened by Lismore councillor Isaac Smith, who has a long-standing interest in the future of rural halls and said, "It is gratifying to see the Blue Knob Hall being used so impressively."

Carnival Carnival is open Thursday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm at the Blue Knob Hall and Gallery, until 31st May.



Jeni Kendall introduces Isaac Smith at the opening.



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Volunteers Wanted

Retired? Bored? Lonely? Feel like you have plenty of skills which are being wasted? Need to meet your Centrelink obligations?

At Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC), we have lots of interesting jobs for volunteers including: front desk/ reception; gardening and lots of odd jobs; supporting the Sustainability Working Parties; painting and building work; helping with our new Website and lots more.

We also have numerous placements available at a variety of other organisations in Nimbin.

Linking people up to their local communities through volunteering is a way people can give back to the communities that sustain them. Volunteering gives you the chance to make a difference in your community and network among the organisations and people that contribute to making it work. It enables you to share your skills and knowledge with others and also develop new skills whilst providing opportunities to socialise and keep active.

Volunteering can provide you with opportunity to work for a cause you really believe in and challenge yourself, as well as providing experience, contacts and references that may help you gain paid work. Many of NNIC's volunteers go on to paid work...which is why we regularly call for more!

If you are interested but are unsure of what you could do or how to contribute contact NNIC to discuss placement options on 6689-1692 or email us on nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au.

If you need to satisfy Centrelink obligations then talk to us about that too!

Volunteer Expo

This year's Volunteer Expo is shaping up to be the best ever. This is your opportunity to put any question you've ever had about volunteering to the 45 stallholders represented there...including this year for the first time the Rural Fire Service.

"We're very excited about this Expo," said Jeanette Tyler, Coordinator of Volunteering Northern Rivers. "It really is a great day for everyone, with a wonderful atmosphere of community co-operation."

"Volunteers are essential to our community, and many charities would struggle to survive without their support. We need local volunteers in so many areas, including community health care, heritage and arts, environment conservation, emergency services, education, social justice and sports... I think they're just about all represented at the Expo."

"Finding the organisation that best suits your talents is the key to successful volunteering, and that's what this Expo is all about," Jeanette said.

The Expo, to be held at Lismore City Hall from 10am to 5pm on Thursday 14th May, is the local highlight of National Volunteer Week (NVW), which runs from 11th-17th May.

NVW is the largest celebration of volunteering in Australia, and provides an opportunity to turn a spotlight on the vital role of volunteers in our communities and to say a big 'thank you.'

Free petrol for volunteers

Vouchers to cover some of the petrol costs incurred by volunteers are available under a new BP Australia scheme.

The *Vouchers for Volunteers* program will provide \$250,000 in fuel vouchers to volunteers assisting not-for-profit organisations, but you need to get in quickly. Applications close at 5pm on Monday, 11th May.

For eligibility requirements and to make an application, go to www.talkstoppedlongago.com.au.

Community Consultation Outcomes

Report from Community Forum held Wednesday 25th March 2009 at Nimbin Town Hall

Background

Discussions between Lismore City Council, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce (NCC) and Nimbin Community Centre (NCCI) concerning appropriate community consultation led to the convening of a community forum with a view to facilitating wider community input into the discussion.

The aim of the forum was to explore strategies to facilitate more effective Council engagement with the diverse community of Nimbin. The Forum also coincided with Lismore Council's review of its community consultation policy.

Overview of the Forum

The Forum was conducted as a World Café. Over a two-hour period, attendees answered a series of eight questions designed to stimulate thought and discussion around a variety of issues ranging from the benefits of consultation through to specific strategies to assist the engagement process. The forum was attended by 49 people including seven representatives from Lismore Council. Regrettably only one identified Aboriginal person attended and local youth did not have a presence.

Community conversation was wide-ranging with a strong desire expressed for the community to be engaged more collaboratively in Council decision-making. There was also a keen interest in the community becoming better informed about council processes and activities. There was a clear desire to be consulted on all issues that impact on Nimbin and surrounds but lesser interest shown in being engaged on broader Council issues or issues specific to other localities. Forum attendees made many suggestions worthy of further deliberation, detailed in notes taken by table hosts at the seven different conversation groupings. (Full report available from NCCI)



Recommendations:

Following consideration and analysis of the conversations from the Forum the following actions are recommended by Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and Nimbin Community Centre:

- Lismore Council consider appointing one staff person as a conduit on all matters specific to Nimbin and surrounds.
- Council consider publishing a monthly newsletter in the Nimbin Good Times, similar in format to the weekly newsletter but containing Nimbin specific information.
- NCC and NCCI work with Lismore Council and the Nimbin community with a view to establishing a community/Council reference and consultation structure. Models to be considered should include, but not be restricted to, a community reference panel of elected, appointed or randomly selected members. This group could be called a citizens' reference panel, residents' action group, precinct committee etc.
- Council continue its current consultation initiatives, including the annual Nimbin rural contact forum, site specific meetings, council

newsletters, Council contributions to the Nimbin Good Times and other local media, Council support of community initiated consultation.

- Council consider the provision of a centrally based Community Information Centre in Nimbin, possibly at the Visitor Information Centre, for erection of a noticeboard and distribution of Council specific information.
- Council consider improving its web presence to facilitate wider and more effective community input into Council policy, planning and decision-making.
- Council work with NCC, NCCI and other local organisational structures to develop strategies for consulting with local ATSI residents and Nimbin's youth.
- Council consider developing a welcome and information package for new residents
- NCC and NCCI hold a workshop within the next two years for community people interested in running for local government.
- This report be circulated to all who attended, all councillors and Council's General Manager and the recommendations implemented by the appropriate organisations.
- The outcomes from the Forum be distributed amongst the wider community including local media.

Where to from here?

Forum host Diana Roberts said, "Our hope is that the recommendations relevant to Council (and the suggestions specific to Council throughout the document) will be considered in the context of the review of Council's Community Engagement Policy."



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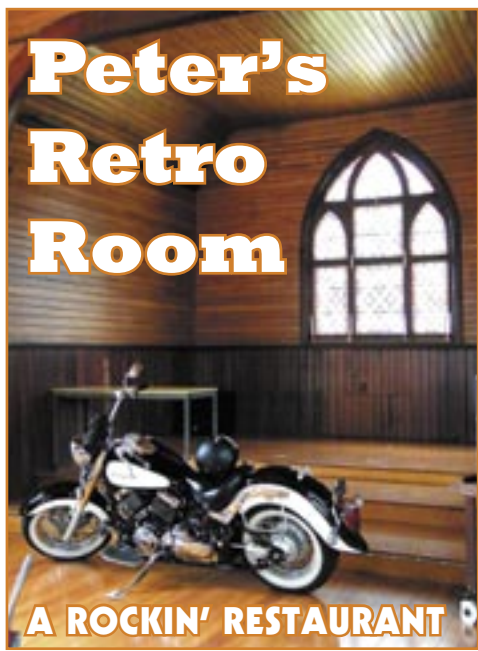
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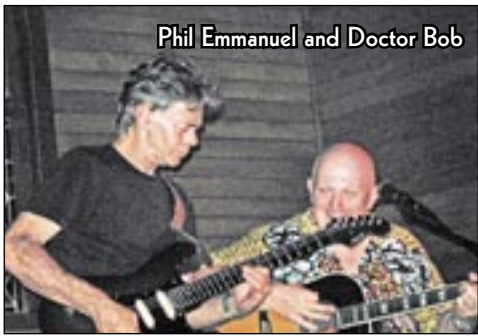
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by Pampussycat

Tired of the pub scene, but love live music? Peter's Retro Room is a venue with a difference. For the price of a ticket, you get to enjoy a meal while being entertained by top class musicians. Formerly known as Christmas All Year Round, this venue is historic and romantic, great for an intimate evening. There is parking, and seating for about 80 people. The 105-year old church building has room to dance, or just stay seated in the lovely restaurant while enjoying the excellent show. Owner Peter Vincin says the shows so far have been well attended, and included Phil Emmanuel and daughter Jessie; An Evening of Sophistication with Dean Doyle and his

band Sophistication; and Doctor Bob. The grand opening on 1st May featured Phil Emmanuel, The Bostocks, and Floorboards. Upcoming shows include: ♦ 10th May – Mothers Day special lunch with Dr Bob. ♦ 24th May – Smokin Joe Robinson, amazing self taught guitarist who is winner of 2008 Australia's Got Talent. ♦ 11th June – Mal Eastick and his band, and Phil Emmanuel. Future shows will include Kevin Borich and Stevie Wright. KOG are also coming up on the menu. Be quick to book, and don't miss out. They're open Tuesday to Sunday for breakfast and lunch, as well as the dinner and show events. Choose from a menu with a tasty selection for brecky, lunch or dinner, with Byron BOP Arabica coffee or a pot of tea. Easy to find and just a few minutes drive out of Lismore at the Alphadale Crossroads on the corner of Bruxner Highway and Alphadale Road. Phone Peter to book the venue for your special occasion or club get together, on 6624-3440.



Tunable Family Cafe

Last month we had a nice turnout of 84 people for our Greek night, and some nice music as well. Pete Pixie was quite magical on the violin. The next Tuntable family dinner cafe night will be on 24th May, the fourth Sunday of the month, starting at 5pm at the Tuntable community centre, next to the hall. As always, it will be low cost vegetarian cuisine, with musicians encouraged to come play as well. – George Douvris



Cover art by Jules

Iconoclasts on disc

by Bob Dooley

The AntiBodies CD is out, and their growing legion of fans is sure to be delighted. Two years in its incubation, this debut album was impeccably recorded and mixed by Dave Highet at Bush Traks studio. It captures the raw live sound of these Nimbin punk rockers, driven by Farren's frenetic guitar playing and given a solid thump by Les and Wompi's rhythm section to form an amped-up platform for Richie's howling lyrics. The nine original songs on the album are a well-

sequenced selection of the band's live sets, foregrounding their grunge, surf and ska influences, with a strong personal voice – most songs are written in first person – about country life, romantic love and psychotropic drugs. The repetitive lyrics convey a childlike sense of wonder, such as in Mushroom: "I'm off the planet, I'm in the paddock, I'm on the mushrooms and I'm all fucked up", or Lantana Farma: "I grow my ganga and I bring it in, and I feed my family of nine." There's a wacky simplicity

to the love songs too, particularly in Wave: "Summer boy meets summer girl, we're stepping on a wave of our love", and in the curious invitation of Sex and Coffee: "There's coffee at my place, and sex on the telephone." But this CD is a total package, and the quirky lyrics and whimsical retro sci-fi cover art, add fascinating textures to support the AntiBodies' main game – cooking up energetic and irresistible dance music. It's good. Buy it.

WIN AN ANTIBODIES CD!

The Nimbin GoodTimes has five copies of the AntiBodies debut album to give away. Simply complete the sentence below in **15 words or less**, and send it to NGT before 20th May 2009 for judging by the band, whose decision is, of course, final. Winners will be announced in the June edition of NGT.

"The AntiBodies are....."

Name:Address:

Return to the Nimbin GoodTimes pigeonhole in the Nimbin Community Centre, or post to: Anti-bodies CD Competition, Nimbin GoodTimes, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.



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May Gig Guide

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Friday 8th | Groove Foundation |
| Friday 15th | The Hoochers |
| Friday 22nd | Zed Leppin |
| Friday 29th | The Pat Cappoci Band + Ezra Lee |

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What's On in May?

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Sunday 10th May – Bring Mum for Lunch
- **Friday night raffles**
- **Sunday Social Bowls** from 9.30am
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- 31st – Shoebox

June 7th – Peacebrother

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Album launch in Mullumbimby



Roots Dub Reggaenades Imandan will launch their debut album *One Drop* on Friday 15th May @ the Mullumbimby Civic Centre.

They will be performing with local doyens of the festival circuit, Mystic Beats.

Doors open @ 8pm and the first 5 people through the door score a free copy of *One Drop*.

Entry is \$15 and of course, Cafe Reggae is in the house so the joint will be jumpin'.

See ya there.



Imandan (left to right): Dan (gtr, vcls), Sue (perc vcls), Camilla (keyboards), Dave (bass), Simon (mix FX), Jessie (guitar) and Jake (drums and album producer).

IN THE FRAME

"An extraordinary book found its way to my desk late last year," said Byron Bay Writers Festival director Jeni Caffin. "It was so well written and beautifully produced that I had to seek out the creator and invite him to the Festival."

The book is *Modern Odysseus* and the author award winning film-maker Julian Shaw (pictured).

Jeni said, "One could describe it as a graphic novel, but the result is much more than this. Quite simply, it is a film in a book and the lead role is "played" in the book by the brilliant Australian actor, Colin Friels.

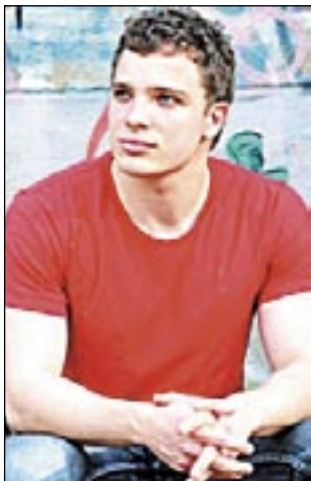
"It is with great pleasure

that I can reveal that both Colin and Julian will participate in the Marquee program."

Told in blinding poetic prose, *Modern Odysseus* creates a world of distrust and soul-death, satirising the slick excesses of the 21st century. Accompanying the text is still photography and graphic design, punctuating and extending the story.

Julian Shaw recently won a British Film Institute Award for his documentary *Darling* and is currently writing and directing a feature documentary about the All Blacks.

Jeni Caffin said, "It excites me to find writers



crossing genres and pushing boundaries."

Festival dates are 7-9th August and discounted Early Bird 3-day passes are now on sale at www.byronbaywritersfestival.com or Jetset Byron Bay on 02 6685-6262.

Fashion Focus

by Christina Chester
Christina@ccdesign.biz

There is a lot of creative talent in and around Nimbin. So in the next few articles I would like to give you a profile on some of the finest fashion designers and their work, starting with Barbara Mills (pictured below) and her beautiful crafted felt garments.

Barbara is following the traditions of local felt makers who are at the forefront of the new wave of contemporary felters, such as Polly Stirling and Sachiko Kotaka, who developed Nuno Felt. This is the art of creating felt on sheer lightweight materials such as cotton voile and tissue silk.

Felt is made from wool and is created by wetting the fibres and rolling and agitating until the wool condenses and shrinks to form a permanent bonded fabric that does not fray when it is cut. Barbara has developed her skill into a very professional art, and presented her colourful creations in many Nimbin Fashion Shows. This is her story:

"I first started to explore feltmaking in 1997 after seeing Polly Stirling's amazing creations. I signed up to do a workshop with Silvia Watt and I haven't stopped felting since.

"I started making felt hats with Joan Guttormsen in 1998 and encouraged by our success I progressed to making longer lengths of felt which became scarves. I now make Nuno felt jackets, Wraps, silk felt skirts, and Shibori dyed skirts and tops. Shibori dyeing is a Japanese style of tying and folding fabric before it is dyed.

"Most of my garments feature hand-dyed lightweight fabrics such as silk georgette and tissue silk. The felt is embellished with Tussah silk, Mohair and incorporates other fibres and threads which are felted in without stitching. A new development in my work is hand printing onto silk and cotton base fabrics for felting. This offers exciting possibilities for future projects.

"I have continued gaining knowledge of feltmaking by attending workshops run by Polly and Myfanwy Stirling and through lots of experimentation as well as teaching



feltmaking. The questions from students new to feltmaking has prompted me to learn more about

the ways in which wool can be manipulated or coaxed into various forms and garments.

"I started showing my felt creations in the 2003 Nimbin Fashion Show. This has given me a great opportunity to present my felted garments, and has gently pushed me into finding new ways of utilising my handmade fabric. The support and encouragement I have received through participating in the Fashion Show has given my feltmaking a positive direction.

"Like many of the designers, I work at home with only my own thoughts about how my garments will be presented. So it is always an amazing experience to see the show come together. All the hard work has been done, and after a few final touches before the show I can sit back and watch the wonderful models do their thing. It has been a steep learning curve into the fashion world and one which I will continue to explore."

If you want to learn more about the inspiring ways and techniques of feltmaking, there is a workshop coming up on Saturday 23rd May at Blacksheep Farm, 9.30am to 4pm. Phone Barbara on 6689-1763 for more information.



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