



Having performed at this year's inaugural Byron Falls Festival and at the recent Mullum Music Festival, Bill Jacobi will be bringing his one-man band to The Channon Tavern on Friday 4th April at 7.30pm and to The Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 27th April.

As a solo artist, Bill uses foot percussion, open tuned guitars, lap slide and banjo with a combination of finger picking and bassline-driven rhythm that snakes and rattles around songs both evocative and passionate. The result is a repertoire of engaging material that runs the gamut from folk to funk to hillbilly stomp and beyond.

As a writer, Bill's songs emanate a strong sense of the groove and are laden with a down to earth honesty. Stories that bristle with humour and sensitivity; songs that are an eclectic amalgamation of swamp/roots, alternative country and hillbilly funk; that manage to look back at a wealth of musical tradition, have a good poke around and then turn and run the other way.

The Channon Folk Club



March opening act 'Peter, Paul and Mandy' had the crowd singing along

by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

Our last Open Mic was held on 23rd March at The Channon Butter Factory Tavern.

Both audience and the weather were perfect - the predicted afternoon showers and thunderstorms didn't eventuate. Opening act 'Peter, Paul and Mandy' impressed us with their dulcet harmonies.

The April Open Mic will be on Sunday 27th, the Anzac Day long weekend. We are back to a 2pm start

time with the end of daylight saving on 6th April. Locals Norm and Cathy will play a set to open the session.

Gumnuts and Blossoms Ball

Another coming event supported by The Channon Folk Club is the 'Gumnuts and Blossoms Ball'. This will be held at The Channon Hall on Saturday 5th April with a suggested entry donation of \$5. Music for 'bush dancing' will be provided by 'The Ragged Blossoms'.

Resonant regards!

Quinton and Kite



T.J. Quinton and Ahliya Kite will be performing at the Sphinx Rock Cafe together on Sunday afternoon the 20th April.

In 2013 T.J. Quinton and Ahliya Kite collaborated on a 15-date East Coast tour promoting T.J. Quinton's concept album "Sorry Business". Now they are working together in song creation and performance as a striking duo in which both parties sing and play guitar whilst also complementing one another with soaring vocal play and noteworthy twelve string guitar work.

T.J. Quinton and Ahliya Kite feature a host of exciting musical elements as the duo interweave song and story amongst a mesmerising backdrop of vocal harmony, double guitar work and rhythm. Ahliya Kite's debut EP 'Coal Train' is a representation of her years spent performing live and working alongside some of Brisbane's finest musicians. 'Coal Train' is defined by Ahliya Kite's powerful vocal and delicate songwriting that has captured the hearts of all her fans.

"The thing that strikes you about TJ Quinton is his ability to tell a story. He is also the most amazing and virtuosic live guitarist I think I've ever seen." – THE AU REVIEW 2013
"The tone to Ahliya's voice is just irresistible" – Dave Ruby Howe, Triple J Unearthed



Members of the Mona Lizard band had an unplugged session at Nim-FM's equinox pizza party in March, and were joined by popular radio host Brommers (left), who presents his Home Brew radio program 8-9pm on Sundays.

Brommers is looking forward to hosting a stage at MardiGrass, and Mona Lizard are also booked for a couple of performances over the weekend.



The Murwillumbahbarians



The Murwillumbahbarians will be playing for the Lismore Jazz Club on Sunday 27th April at the Lismore City Bowling Club from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non-members.

The Murwillumbahbarians have been playing for over 10 years both locally and at Festivals and Jazz Conventions across Australia. The line-up, which changes from time to time, is impressive for its Lismore gig.

Bob Fawaz is band leader and plays trumpet, trombone and does vocals as well. He started playing trumpet after he retired and is self-taught. He has been playing at the Greenmount Surf Club for the last 7 years. He loves his "Louis" and establishes a great rapport with the audience.

Ian McKay on drums and vocals came to Australia in 1960 with the Maori Premiers performing with them daily for 7 years.

He has accompanied such notables as Shirley Bassey, Carmen Cavallero, Liza Minelli and Graham Bell.

Peter Hutchison plays clarinet, saxophone, flute, trombone and trumpet and for a breather does vocals as well. He started as a professional musician in 1956 and subsequently led the band at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club for 30 years. He has played with Bob Barnard, Willy Qua and many other leading jazz musicians.

Mike Murray on vocals, saxophone, guitar, keys and



bass has recently moved to the Gold Coast and revels in playing Latin American. He was persuaded to turn to jazz and has taken to it like a duck to water.

Col Hobson plays banjo and guitar and took to paying jazz in 1987 working with Jim Miler, Rob Philp and Lesley Rose. He took up the banjo at the behest of Dave Rankin and has since played numerous jazz festivals.

Tab Paenga is on saxophone, drums, trombone and bass and came to Australia with the Moari Hifives in 1960 and subsequently toured the Far East, England and Europe. He has backed such big names as Vera Lynn, Rolf Harris and Harry Secombe.

Harley Axford plays trombone and does vocals and had a regular gig at the Brisbane Jazz Club which lasted for 14 years. At Q.U.T. he formed and led the internationally acclaimed vocal group "Scat". In retirement he has assembled and conducted choirs as well as playing jazz whenever the opportunity arises.

This band plays trad jazz with passion and enthusiasm. They are always entertaining, good fun and guaranteed to keep your toes tapping and a smile on your face.



Tedeschi plays Gershwin

by David Ashton

Brilliant Australian and international pianist Simon Tedeschi plays Gershwin on the Steinway grand piano at the Byron Community Centre on Sunday 6th April at 2pm. (Don't forget Daylight Saving ends that day.) Tickets \$30, members \$25, Children \$10.

In the film "Shine", Simon's hands played the piano for

Geoffrey Rush who played the role of David Helfgott. His career at the piano was greatly influenced by his grandmother, Lucy Gershwin, and he played at the Sydney Opera House when he was nine years old. Simon has appeared on TV in 'Australian Story' and 'Spicks and Specks'.

This performance will put a smile on your face and a swing in your step!

Nimbin students entertain seniors

by Dian Plesko

Nimbin Central School's Primary and Infants choir and Minor Birds travelled to the Community Centre to entertain the Nimbin Seniors for Seniors Week.

The students, teachers and audience absolutely enjoyed the performance. It was a great way to bridge the generation gap and create some happy moments for both young and old.

The students performed a variety of songs including Alphabet Song, Mr Clickity Cane, all mostly to a standing ovation. Year 6 student Piper David finished off the performance with a dazzling hula hoop display.

These performances mean a lot to everybody.



Drill Hall Theatre kicks off 2014 Season

The next production at Mullumbimby's Drill Hall Theatre will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to celebrate Shakespeare's 450th Birthday, which opens 25th April and runs for three weeks.

Brimming with a cast of 25, and supported by a creative team of more than a dozen, the production is currently deep in rehearsal as they prepare to honour the Great Bard in lavish style on his birthday, 26th April.

The Dream is a deliciously delightful romantic comedy that navigates the high and lows of passionate young love, traverses spiritual and earthly realms with spiralling misunderstandings and deeply satisfying resolutions.

The DHTC's production is set locally in Mullumbimby in the late 1960's with the music and social movement from that revolutionary time forming the backdrop to Shakespeare's homage to earthly love, which, together with the infamously mischievous characters Puck and Bottom, make for a raucously entertaining theatrical event.

Tickets are now on sale through The Bookshop, Mullumbimby or visit: www.drillhalltheatre.org.au and follow the ticket sales links.

Ben Morrissey and Danni Duncanson model garments created for the King and Queen of the Fairies, Oberon and Titania, as created by costume designer Svea Bjornsson. Photo: Ken Ford





100% ORGANIC CAFE

- A La Carte Menu with many Vegan and Gluten Free options
- Local Certified Organic Coffee made with Cert. Organic Milk
- Eat inside or Alfresco • Groups catered for

The Grapevine Organic Vegetarian Cafe

50 Cullen Street Nimbin – phone 6689-1445

The 10th annual Gum Ball

The 10th annual Gum Ball will hit the exquisite bush of Belford in the Hunter Valley on 11th and 12th April.

The festival has made three exciting new additions to its impressively diverse program: Australian grunge rock icon Adalita, famed surf film producer Andrew Kidman and his ethereal band The Windy Hills, as well as spectacular local troubadours The Lairs.

The three acts will join bands such as King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, Jinja Safari and Adrian Edmondson on the Friday evening, whilst the Saturday program will see a packed day of genre-hopping with the Hoodoo Gurus



performing around 10pm, before an all-star band led by Nicky Bomba enters stage left to close out the festival in a massive 10 year celebration.

To the delight of festival-goers, the popular Silent Disco will be back to keep

people busting moves on the dance floor until 2am each night.

With a full-to-the-brim program including a weekend-long kids' workshop and activities program, pro skateboarding

demonstrations, loads of delicious food and trinket stalls, boutique cocktail bar and massage parlour, the Gum Ball really is becoming more than your average festival.

"The festival has worked incredibly hard over the years to set a foothold, and to have the calibre of artists like Adalita, as surprise additions, is a massive pat on the back," said organiser Matt Johnston. "Thing is, the music is just one element of the Gum Ball, there's so much extra fun to be had for everyone, I can't wait."

Tickets are still available, as is the full program, via the website: www.thegumball.com.au



How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?

The extraordinary art of Ross Trebilcock will be showcased at a unique exhibition at Byron Bay's Lone Goat Gallery from 4th to 16th April.

This exhibition, *En-Light-En-Ment: Luminous Mind*, is a rare opportunity to view a collection of his artworks, as he seldom exhibits, though his art is held in private collections around the world.

Ross is a neo-symbolist and visionary artist, portraying connections between the physical world and the mythological. Through his art, he explores the realms of the imagination, the myths and the archetypes of modern psychology.

Ross said, "Myth and legend exist in the subconscious. Creative visualisation

is the bridge that enables us to explore these realms that cannot be expressed in any way other than through symbolism and symbolic mediums."

Ross's rare blend of craftsmanship and creative intuition, along with his exquisite use of colour, empower his symbolic expression of mythological archetypes.

He completed a Diploma of Fine Arts and Design in Bendigo during the late 1960s. Ross spends his time between the Byron Shire and his property in the Otway foothills of Victoria, where he has lived for 25 years, concentrating his artistic expression through painting, drawing and printmaking whilst building the Arts community,

Wolfgang's Palace.

Ross Trebilcock's exhibition consists of oil and acrylic paintings, lino cuts and etchings. Most of his paintings are reproduced as archival quality Giclee prints. Come and immerse yourself in this extraordinary exhibition. It's an event not to be missed.

The Lone Goat Gallery is in the Byron Bay Library, corner of Lawson and Middleton Streets, Byron Bay. Gallery hours are 11am-7pm (unless Ross changes his mind and wants to go to the beach, in which case, you can phone him for an appointment on 0488-505-012).

To view some of Ross's art, visit his website at: www.rosstrebilcock.com



sphinx rock café

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

Sunday Gig Guide

April 1pm start

13th Sarah and Jock
Mixing it up on Easter Sunday with pop, rock, blues and soul.

20th T.J.Quinton and Ahliya Kite
Two artists, unique song-writing styles, T.J. and Ahliya will fill the space with musical majesty.

27th Bill Jacobi
Uki's own, weaving his soulful and powerful sounds on a lush autumn afternoon.

May 4th Nicole Brophy
Nicole has a voice possessing everything that is good about country singing, with the grunt and raunch of the great female rock tradition thrown in for good measure



Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246



April Gigs

Friday 4th	7.30pm	Broadfoot
Saturday 5th	6pm	Soren Carlberg
Sunday 6th	5pm	Cupcake Conspiracy/Bad Valley
Thursday 10th	6pm	Adam Brown
Friday 11th	7.30pm	Becs Bruce & The Free Radicals
Sat 12th	6pm	Tara Carragher
Sun 13th	5pm	Ben Purnell
Thursday 17th	6pm	Bo Jenkins
Friday 18th	7.30pm	Romaniacs (Good Friday)
Saturday 19th	6.30pm	AZUR
Sunday 20th	5pm	We All Want To
Thursday 24th	6.30pm	Outside The Square
Friday 25th	7.30pm	Caboose
Saturday 26th	6.30pm	TBA
Sunday 27th	5pm	Kellie Knight Duo

All Gigs are Free of Charge

JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING

Hummingbird Bistro

Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta;
Thurs \$10 steak 250g

FELTING WORKSHOPS

at 'Black Sheep Farm' Nimbin

in the Creative Learning Centre

Sunday 13th April – 9am to 4pm
Cost: \$80 incl. all materials and morning tea

Saturday 10th May – 9am to 4pm
Cost: \$80 incl. all materials and morning tea

For more info and bookings:
www.blacksheepfarm.com.au
or call Suzanne on 6689-1095



Fresh local produce for a sustainable future

- Self-sufficiency workshops
- Community Grain Mill
- Local & visiting musicians

Corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Roads
Only 8km North of Nimbin

Saturday 9am-1pm
Blue Knob Hall

Enquiries contact Peter
0403-408-087 or email:
blueknobfarmersmarket@gmail.com

80 Cullen Street 6689-0199

NIMBIN CAFE

.. the OASIS of ..

COFFEE SHOP

A TASTE OF ART

www.blueknobgallery.com



blueknob hall gallery

Open Thursday to Sunday 10am - 4pm
719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock Ph: 6689 7449
GALLERY • CAFE



NextMarket

13th April

8.30am – 4pm

Band of the Day:
Doot

Busker Stage: Siobhan Coccooran

Charity of the Day:
The Channon Hall / Landcare

Enquiries: 6688-6433

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"



THE NAME SAYS IT ALL

"If you don't eat here, you'll miss the best food in Nimbin"

Shop 2, 54 Cullen Street

Blue Knob, The Tree of Life

‘The Tree of Life’ is the universal symbol of creation, and is the theme for the next exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery.

The Encyclopaedia of Signs and Symbols says of The Tree of Life: “With its roots in the waters of the Underworld, Its trunk in the Earthly world Its branches in Heaven It is seen as accessing other worlds.”

The opening of this exhibition is on Friday 11th April at 6.30pm. Dinner will be available for \$15 for a set vegetarian main course, with a choice of desserts for \$4.

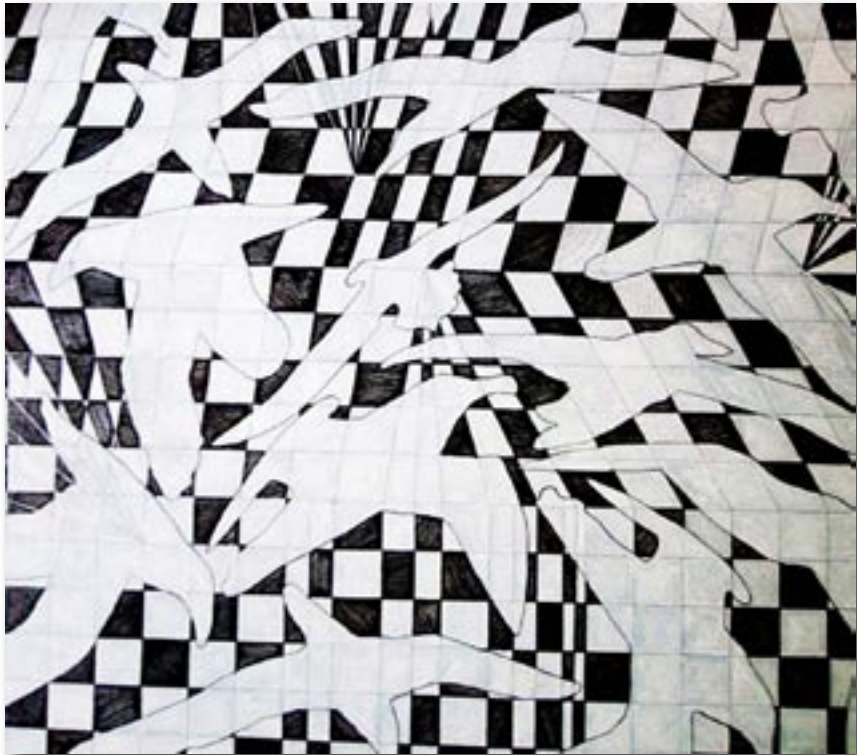
Artists and Friends Lunch

The Artists and Friends Lunches are held on the last Thursday of each month. The next one is on Thursday 24th April. Cost is \$15 per person, which includes a set vegetarian main course and a selection of desserts. Phone the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you're planning on coming.

Gallery News

The Gallery will be closed on the Anzac Day public holiday on Friday 25th April.

The extension to the Gallery Cafe veranda has now been completed and



‘The Birds’ (detail) by Sue Boardman

what a great addition it is! It really integrates the Cafe with the Farmers

Market on Saturdays, and provides a welcome space for people to relax.

I've been framed!



by Ruth Tsimbinis, Roxy Gallery Director

A group of Casino artists is coming to the Kyogle Roxy Gallery in April to exhibit in a show titled 'I've Been Framed'. Now, this is not a sign of amalgamation, but an insight into the real art world of our region.

The Roxy Gallery has happily supported artists from throughout the Northern Rivers Region and the artists of this region have reciprocated in their support for the gallery. A number of

the gallery volunteers come to Kyogle on a monthly basis from areas such as Casino and Lismore and through their interest in the arts, the Roxy Gallery's reputation as a great exhibition space has grown.

The Casino Art Group was formed almost three years ago to fill a need for artists to meet regularly in a collaborative and inspiring community. They started with an initial group of four but within two weeks had grown to more than twenty, fourteen of whom will be

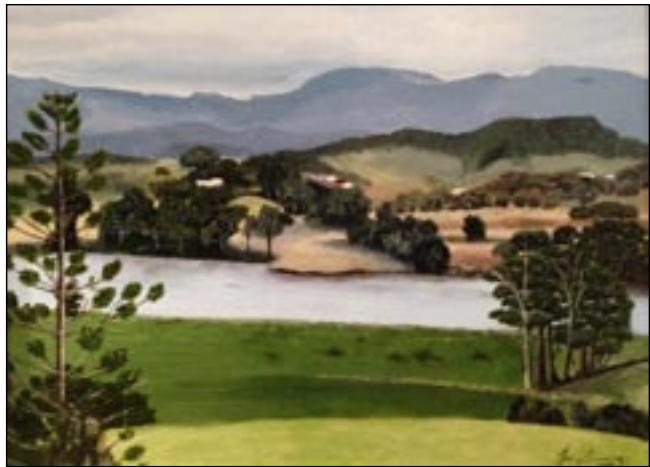
exhibiting in this group exhibition. The Group has diverse interests, styles and mediums, but remains enthusiastic and welcoming to artists of all genres.

'I've been Framed' is an exhibition that demonstrates the diversity of the group. It is not set to a theme, but is representative of the broad range of work from this talented group of individuals.

Work is presented in oils, pastels, acrylics and pen and ink. Artworks vary from realistic and representational to much more modern work, but all the work has been produced especially for this exhibition. Nothing on show has been exhibited before.

The artists are excited to exhibit in the Roxy Gallery and look forward to the opportunity to place the works in front of a respected art community.

'I've Been Framed' will run from 1st April through to 3rd May, with the Official Opening Night being on Friday 4th April from 6 to 8pm. The opening will be a great opportunity to rub shoulders with artists visiting from Casino, and to find out more about the Casino Artists Group.



‘Bedroom in old shack’ by Ralph Smith (top left)

‘From the Gallery – Looking Back to Murwillumbah’ by Tony Hennessy (above)



‘Frangipani’ (above) by June King



‘The Oil Spill’ (left) by Tony Hennessy

Autumn Arts Extravaganza



by Peter P.

Have you been to Nimbin's Hall in the last few days? If not you should get there. By the time you read this the Autumn Arts Extravaganza will already be a week or so old.

As I write this piece, we are about to start setting up and the submissions we have received to date tell us it will be another amazing show of diverse and inspiring works in a



Top: 'To The Lonely Sea And The Sky' by Janet Hassall
Above: 'Flight' by Maureen Whitaker
Right: 'Menacing' by Rikki Fisher

variety of media. The show is open every day from 10am to 5pm and runs until Sunday 27th April. Entry is free!

In addition to the Extravaganza, the Gallery's last hanging attracted many outstanding pieces from Nimbin's talented local artists. International award winning Rikki Fisher has some original scratchboard works, and Janet Hassall's landscapes and Maureen Whitaker's oil paintings will also catch your eye.

And these are just the beginning. Hope to see you soon.



Looking for a beautiful new craft to try your hand at? Felting is a wonderful way to turn wool into luxurious textural works of art.

Suzanne McGauley, felt artist in the hills of Nimbin, has led successful felting workshops in the Creative Learning Centre at 'Black Sheep Farm' over the last years.

You can learn the magical technique of felting. A one day workshop is a brief introduction to the various techniques used in making wool felt.

The wet felting technique is a basic skill to create a beautiful piece of felt art. Students can choose to produce a nuno felted scarf – using soft merino wool fibres and incorporating silk fibres to lift it – or a felted picture to be used as a wall hanging or cushion cover, or just a solid piece of felted fabric.

You may take the opportunity to create a solid felted fabric which can be cut without ravelling, developed into seamless 3-D objects like a tea cosy, laptop cover etc. There are endless opportunities!

You will go home with the achievement of having finished a beautiful item for yourself or as a gift for a friend.

This popular full day felt course costs \$80 and is for a maximum of 10 people. All materials and morning tea are included in the price. We share lunch.

Classes are for all levels and group bookings are also available. The next felting classes are on Sunday 13th April from 9am to 4pm and Saturday 10th May from 9am to 4pm.

If you would like to book for a felting workshop, please ring Suzanne on 6689-1095 or book online www.blacksheepfarm.com.au

Local artist on show

Local artist, Julie Crisp (pictured far right), is exhibiting a collection of her works in Nimbin for the first time. All the paintings feature local people, with a focus on their connection to the landscape.

Her artist statement explains: "I enjoy exploring the relationship between a person and his or her surrounds; the spiritual connection to place, the land we call home."

"There are some in our community who may take a role as protector; others embody the hope in our youth to conserve our environment."

"Here in Nimbin we have a deep connection to the land which hosts us, yet often we still tend to see ourselves as separate."

"In some of my paintings I look for the overlap of person and environment, while in others I just try to see the quiet landscape behind the eyes."

We are all one."

"I am extremely grateful to Anna, David and Andrea at the Grapevine Café for giving me the opportunity to show my work to the Nimbin people; and their response has been fantastic! I feel very encouraged, with a couple of enquiries and a commission so far."

"I would love for more people to drop in, take a look and buy a coffee to support them in their endeavours to support local artists!"

Julie completed a Diploma of Fine Arts at Lismore TAFE in 2011 and has exhibited work in the inaugural Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, the Nimbin Autumn Arts and Blue Knob Hall Gallery, but this is her first solo show.

She can be contacted via email at: crispyjewels@hotmail.com or via her Facebook page, Julie Crisp Art, to see more of her work and for enquiries.

A website is also in progress.



Nosin' Around with PAC

This beast was sunning itself in the afternoon sun on one of the lower branches of a big fig tree, at the top of a big hill at the south end of Tuntabul. I did not for once have my camera with me, and I asked the goanna very politely if it would not move for a little while. So I rushed home and got back within about 15 minutes and as you can see, it obliged. It was well over 5 feet in length.



by Philippe Dupuy,
President

The police will be out in force at some stage to assist Metgasco. So right now NEC and CEC resources are focused on what is known as the Battle of

Bentley. This is an open letter addressed to all members of the NSW police service to try and make them understand our predicament:

We, the community of the Northern Rivers, are writing to explain our situation in relation to the exploration and extraction of unconventional gas, including Coal Seam Gas and Tight Sand Gas in our region. Exploration licences were granted by the government of the day to two companies, Arrow Energy and Metgasco in 2004.

The community were generally pleased when Metgasco announced it had found commercially viable quantities of gas which it intended to exploit, building a 30 MW power plant in the process. Since then the community has found out little by little that the extraction of the gas would entail thousands of wells across the whole region and a pipeline which will be constructed across the World Heritage Border Ranges to Ipswich.

The community has also found out through dedicated research that the extraction of gas will contaminate aquifers, surface water, soil and air with significant quantities of heavy metals and other carcinogenic material. This will put our health and the health of our children at risk, as has happened in western Queensland and overseas.

In addition, thousands of kilometres of pipes will be laid in a grid-like fashion, bulldozing trees, habitat for rare species, farmlands and creeks. The increase in traffic will hugely impact on the narrow country roads causing delays, endangering lives and costing ratepayers millions of dollars into the future. CSG mining will make the Northern Rivers unlivable.

It seems unbelievable that our elected representatives would do this to their own people. The current government strongly opposed CSG mining when in opposition, but are now sanctioning it, casting aside our objections and their own previous concerns. We have made submissions to parliamentary enquiries and public meetings run by members of parliament and relevant ministers. We have presented thousands of signatures on petitions, letters and emails. A recent plebiscite in the Lismore local government area showed that 87% of respondents have said a categoric no to CSG. We have also made valid data from independent sources supporting our objections, available to all levels of government.

Local governments, with the exception of Richmond Valley Council, have responded positively to the data and public concern, showing foresight and placing moratoriums and other bans on the industry. But both State and Federal governments have completely rejected our concerns, without providing a single justifiable argument. The State



government has renewed every permit across the state and granted Metgasco a production licence. Given the extent of opposition to CSG extraction it is clear that the state government does not have a mandate to do so. This leaves us with no

other recourse but to lock our gates and roads to halt further incursion by these companies. We have declared ourselves unconventional gas free and have pledged to resist attempts by these companies using non-violent means. We are however, determined to do what we must to stop further exploration and production of CSG in our region.

The government will most likely order the police service to protect the activities of these companies claiming contractual obligations. This has no basis in truth as the Petroleum (on shore) Act 1911 provides safeguards for the government. To force the issue would amount to an unconscionable act. As police officers you are sworn to uphold the law and public order and to protect and respect the citizens of this state. However it is clear that the law in question has been enacted purposely to facilitate and manipulate the situation in order to benefit these companies. It would be disastrous were the police service to obey unquestionably and enforce government instructions.

As citizens of this country, we have a right and a duty to question the legitimacy of unethical laws. We are not rioters or enemies of the state but lawful citizens who believe in democracy and human rights. We are acting in self defence protecting ourselves and our children from harm. Section 418 of the NSW Crimes Act is the law of self defence, where it is lawful to protect yourself when your life becomes threatened by the actions of others.

There is no doubt that the community of the Northern Rivers is under siege by an unethical and unscrupulous industry that is well aware of its disastrous ramifications.

As police officers you are required to obey orders but these orders must be reasonable. Orders from a superior that overtly infringe on the basic human rights of citizens are unlawful. The judges at the Nuremberg trial after the Second World War codified this in a set of principles for the duties of officers of the law. Principle IV states: *The fact that a person acted pursuant to an order of his government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under International Law, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.*

This principle could be paraphrased as follows; 'It is not an acceptable excuse to say, 'I was just following my superior's orders'.

This Community respectfully request the Police Service to carry out their duties in a dignified and detached manner that shows no favouritism. We ask them to remain aware that their obligation is to serve and protect the citizens of the state by preventing crime and not to act as a private security force for a private company with no social licence.

Koala Kolumn

by Lorraine Vass



Koala conservation has taken me on many interesting journeys over the years; my personal U3A. Fire management is a case in point. Inappropriate fire is one of the greatest threats to the future survival of some of the Northern Rivers' koala populations; the Tweed coast population in particular.

The threat presented by fire to koalas has become apparent in various habitat studies undertaken, preparatory to developing comprehensive koala plans of management. In a broader context, inappropriate fire regimes were identified as a major threat activity impacting on Northern Rivers' biodiversity. An action coming out of the Northern Rivers Biodiversity Management Plan (2010) was promotion of a co-ordinated approach to ecological fire management and implementation of appropriate fire regimes to improve habitat diversity and management. The vehicle suggested for achieving this was formation of a Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium. The Consortium was formally established in August 2011 and Friends of the Koala's participation commenced a few months later.

Now in its third year, the Consortium has attracted a wide range of partners and stakeholders, ranging from government agencies (e.g. Office of Environment & Heritage, Rural Fire Service, Local Land Services, Forests NSW), local government, research bodies, farmer representatives, indigenous representatives, land management support organisations and conservation groups. Tara Patel was appointed part-time Co-ordinator in 2013.

Currently four working groups (Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD), Koala, Eastern Bristlebird and Constraints to Approval of Ecological Burns) are developing or implementing projects with on-ground and policy outcomes.

Needless to say, the Koala project is my main interest. The project driver is the urgent need to develop a strategic cross-tenure co-ordinated fire management response to protect koalas at risk from fire. A case study in the Tweed coastal area incorporating both public and private land is the focus. A key component is inculcating a cooperative approach to community engagement, thus supporting the Koala Connections' initiative being implemented by the Tweed and Byron Councils. It is anticipated that working with the community to understand fire management outcomes so they sustain healthy koala populations will also encourage collective participation in fire management for broader biodiversity conservation.

The Consortium's website is still in development. However the inaugural Co-ordinator, Greg Banks' presentation to the Nature Conservation Council of NSW's



Although koalas are still seen around the Koala Care Centre in East Lismore, the colony occupying the SCU Campus has more than halved in three years

Biennial Bushfire Conference (4-5 June 2013) is well worth watching: <http://vimeo.com/74165090>

On a less than positive note, the NSW Government appears to be hell-bent on winding back a whole raft of forest protection measures in the name of efficiency. Not only has it made a regulation allowing native forest to be burned in power stations, opening the way for it to be classed as a 'renewable energy source', it's remaking the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs). The IFOAs incorporate licence conditions applying the regulatory regimes for environmental planning and assessment, environmental protection and threatened species conservation. The Government wants to move the four existing Approvals into a single one, covering all coastal Forest Agreement regions to reduce implementation and compliance costs, "with no net change to wood supply and maintenance of environmental values". In part it's looking to "better protect threatened species and their habitat through a greater emphasis on landscape-based measures", whatever that means. The discussion paper and other information is available at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/forestagreements/coastIFOAs.htm Submissions will be received until midnight on 6th April.

Following the approval of Lismore Council's Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management for South-East Lismore (CKPoM) in the early part of 2013, Council took some time to actually establish the group that will oversee the implementation of the CKPoM's management activities.

Happily, the Koala Implementation Group (KIG) is now up and running, its major task being to produce a regular monitoring report on the CKPoM's effectiveness for Council. The report is to include details of progress, any additional activities that may be required and the amount of food trees and koala habitat retained, removed, restored and/or replaced. Other projects over the next three years are to develop and implement programs for communication and education, dog management and traffic management, as well as funding and implementing a habitat restoration program.

KIG members are drawn from across the community. All are involved in conserving the region's koalas in various ways. They are Chris Moran, Jim Kinkad, Lucy Kinsley, Ros Irwin, Ross Goldingay, Tara Patel and Vanessa Pelly. The CKPoM's official launch is scheduled for early May.

To report a koala in trouble, or a sighting (live or dead), please ring Friends of the Koala's 24/7 Rescue Hotline: (02) 6622-1233. For information about koalas, their food trees, how you can assist koala conservation, Friends of the Koala's Support-a-Koala program and other gift ideas visit: www.friendsofthekoala.org or email: info@friendsofthekoala.org or phone 6622-1233. Follow us on Facebook.

To report environmental incidents, including removal of koala habitat ring the 24/7 Office of Environment & Heritage Enviro Line: 13-15-55.

Plant of the month

Swamp Box *Lophostemon suaveolens*

by Richard Burer

A tree to around 25m, Swamp Box, as the name suggests, inhabits the wetter areas in the catchment and can often be found around watercourses and wetlands.

Swamp Box, like all native vegetation, has a very strong cultural connection to Aboriginal people, as the bark and sap wood of the tree was highly prized, its uses ranging from bark canoes, ceremonial items,

shields and scars/ markers to indicate such things as pathways, water and other information.

Very common in the area, most of the valleys of Nimbin and the north coast have these lovely remnant trees. If one is to look closely, the tree will often show signs of Aboriginal cultural connection. One such tree can be viewed across the road from the Nimbin tip opposite Blade Road, a close look revealing a time past.





by Triny Roe

“Harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant”, thus Google defines ‘noxious’. When a plant is declared Noxious, under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, you can be assured there is good reason.

Following detailed observation of the species, its reproductive capability and overgrowing tendencies, its history here and overseas, risk assessments are prepared and submissions made. Finally the plant makes it onto the list.

This list of 5 classes of noxious weeds assists land managers to identify which weeds are the most serious and prioritise control measures. These declared weeds must be controlled or eradicated to prevent further harm or reduce impact on the environment, agriculture, the community and our lifestyles.

Periodically the list is reviewed. A new list of Noxious Weeds was published in the NSW

Government Gazette in February this year. Some species such as Crofton Weed and Mist Flower have been removed from the list, though these naturalised species are still considered environmental weeds.

Class 1 weeds are prohibited State wide and require notification to your local weed control body. These weeds are either not yet present in the State or only in some areas. Tropical Soda Apple is a Class 1 Noxious Weed. This prickly aggressive plant competes with native species and readily invades pastures. The dense stands inhibit movement of native species as well as stock. Its spread has been associated with cattle movement.

Class 2 weeds must be eradicated. They may be already present in some areas of the state and the aim is to prevent further introductions and establishment. Cecropia, Paper Mulberry (*pictured*), Broussonetia papyrifera, and

three species of Asparagus fern, Asparagus virgatus, A. africanus and A. macowanii are now Class 2 weeds.

Cecropia, though not widespread at present in this region, occurs in a few pockets. It is a serious environmental weed in Hawaii and Tahiti where it excludes all other species. The potential for it to become a serious problem in the Northern Rivers is extremely high.

Common around Nimbin, Paper Mulberry, a species with separate male and female plants, was introduced here in the 1980’s. It can be used to make paper. In the Pacific Islands, where it is traditionally used for tapa cloth, only male plants are grown and they are propagated via cuttings. Paper mulberry grows quickly, suckers readily and forms dense stands, preventing the growth of other species. Its pollen can cause allergies.

Local weed control authority, Far North Coast Weeds can assist with control of Class 1 and 2 weeds. Initial strategies include mapping the full extent of cecropia and paper mulberry. Please contact FNCW on (02) 6623-3833 if you think you have these, or any other

weeds in these classes.

Class 3 weeds can spread readily and are already present in the region. The aim here is to reduce numbers and negative impact. Already on the hit list in SE Qld., Giant Devils Fig is now Declared Class 3 in NSW. Common around Nimbin, it also occurs widely in South-East Queensland and has popped up near Coffs Harbour. This rampant species will require a concerted and consistent effort to bring it under control. Landholders who don’t already have GDF should act swiftly if they see one emerge and prevent it setting fruit.

The full list of noxious weeds can be accessed on the internet at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/noxweed

Weeds are a serious threat to biodiversity. The Natural Resources Commission has collected submissions from over 200 individuals, consulted and considered research to create a draft weed management report, which is open for comment until 6th April. www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/Workwedo/ReviewOfWeedManagementInNSW.aspx

Happy weeding and don’t forget there are some you can eat.

15 years professional experience
Home networking, including wireless
Software upgrade and install
Virus and Malware removal
Internet troubleshooting
“No fix no fee” policy

Ph: 66897079 Email: blueknobIT@gmail.com

DIANE ARTHUR
PSYCHOLOGIST

OFFERING COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT FOR:

ANXIETY
DEPRESSION
COPING DIFFICULTIES
GRIEF AND LOSS
PREGNANT NATAL SUPPORT
LIFE TRANSITIONS

NIMBIN CLINIC EVERY MONDAY
FREE THROUGH GP REFERRAL

FOR APPOINTMENTS:

CALL OR TEXT: 0400 670 901 EMAIL: dianealeayarthur@gmail.com

Traditional Chinese Medicine

Acupuncture & Chinese Herbs

Michele Alberth Dip.A.AACMA

Ancient Wisdom for Today’s Health

Kyogle 189 Runnymede Rd 6632 1214

Health Fund / Workcover Accredited

TREEFELLAS

Timber Felling
Tree Climbing
BLUE KNOB

Mob. 0429 897 234

NIMBIN BUILDING MATERIALS
AT THE MILL FARM

For a broad range of new and new seconds at very competitive prices

- Hardwoods, flooring, decking, pine framing, weatherboards, lining boards, architraves & skirting boards
- Steel posts, roofing & guttering, doors, windows; cement, sand & gravel
- Animal feeds, hay, garden supplies & plants

“If it’s not in stock, we’ll get it in for you”

Phone Andy 6689-1206, 0429-891-644

50 Gungas Road, Nimbin

Open Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 8am-noon

Mr BOBCAT

6689 0044
0427 946 823

• 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • 4 tonne tipper

• NOW WITH EXCAVATOR •

Re-establishing

by Geoff Dawe

Re-establishing priorities, we can benefit from Morning Glory, Jasmine, Desmodium and Lantana.

Jasmine has accompanied humanity and lifted its mood for centuries. If you were engaged in attempting to make it extinct, you would therefore think about that again. The same sort of reconsideration is due to damaging earthworms while gardening, or putting babies on formula rather than breastfeeding. The reconsideration might move in the direction of how Jasmine might be enjoyed without it rampaging into the house, how humans might garden without constantly tilling the soil, and how human babies can be adequately fed and nurtured again.

No-one who frowns at the life-loving glory of Morning Glory demonstrating as rampancy, is so de-humanised that they cannot also notice its beauty. Aldo Leopold wrote in 1948 in his book *A Sand County Almanac*, “If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.” One of the cogs, Morning Glory, is similar to Jasmine in that it is a nectar producer, so aids in the life cycles of predators of garden and orchard “pests”. Both species also, with their constant rooting in soil, stitch soil together.

Polycultural orchards or food forests attempt to have, in these early days of post-industrialism, let’s say, four fruit trees bearing near a household at any one time. (The produce of nut trees can be stored.)

Because these orchards are potentially the major human food supply, Morning Glory, Jasmine, Silver-leaved Desmodium and Lantana (the four amigos), as orchard companions, are

kept in balance because of constant human movement through the food forests. Desmodium is a persisting legume (unlike Lab Lab or Cow Peas), but its seeds need to be inoculated for rhizobium nitrogen fixation. The fact that it persists, means seeds do not have to be repurchased or re-sown.

In the human camps that are central to the orchards, housing is presently made up of industrially dependent houses that are all mansions. That is, they are mansions compared to say, what used to be the leaf-thatched domes of the pygmies of equatorial Africa. Eric Rolls writes in his essay *The Nature of Australia* that tropical Australian Aborigines lived in 3.6 diameter, 2.4 high, lattice framed domes “covered with thatched layers of grass and lined with paper-bark.” On the wind-swept south-west of Tasmania, Aborigines also lined their domes with paper-bark. They additionally decorated the domes with parrot feathers, which may be an indicator there was no loss of morale in living in them.

In the camps near the food forests, morning shitting is associated with a unit of work. From the finished compost heaps that abound in these camps, two half-filled buckets of compost, along with a machete or secateurs, are carried out to a ripened fruit tree. Shitting takes place on the edge of the dripline of the tree, the buckets of compost are emptied over the turd, and overhanging foliage which may include the four amigos are cut back from food plants. This material is thick-layered over the compost material.

The two buckets are filled with fruit (or nuts) for return to the camp. The equivalent of approximately half a day’s work has been done in just taking a

crap. It needs to be noted it is necessary to examine turds buried this way for large animal interest. No doubt the inventiveness of the human pre-frontal cortex can work out ways to make turds under compost material no-go areas for animals, without human resort to

industrialising.

It is known for example, that Lantana pieces broken into lengths of approximately one metre and placed thickly over compost around fruit trees, discourage the scratching of chooks.

A major benefit of turd burying under composted material, is that seeds passing through the human body such as tomatoes and passionfruit have a chance of growing from these points thus establishing other foods on the drip-lines of fruit and nut trees, and perhaps orchard accompaniments such as nitrogen-fixing Pigeon Peas, Crotalaria, Cassia species and pruned Lantana.

The issue of the danger to humans of humanure is a real one, but our history shows we created danger by concentrating population in cities and tying it to use of water closets from at least the time of the Romans. This idea that human “wastes” were to be wasted, climaxed with the Black Death in the 14th century, and the sterilization of humanure with its divorce from the wider process of life, in toilets. It was reactionary thinking that humanure was bad rather than that it needed to be in balance with the rest of the environment.

Humans forgot, or did not know, that soil organic matter levels of up to 10% potentially carry greater resistance to pest and disease problems for human bodies and other species. Instead Western farms of the present age, on average demonstrate 2% - 3% organic matter... and falling. The inherent danger of humanure can be seen to have been potentially increased, by human immunity being compromised in eating produce from soils with relatively low organic matter.

The issue then of the weediness of plants such as Jasmine, Morning Glory, Desmodium and Lantana can be seen not as plants out of place, but of human perception of sustainable settlement being out of place, especially at a time of urgent need to sequester soil carbon.

Dowsing for water in times of drought



by James Creagh, Tutti Fruitti Farm, Lillian Rock

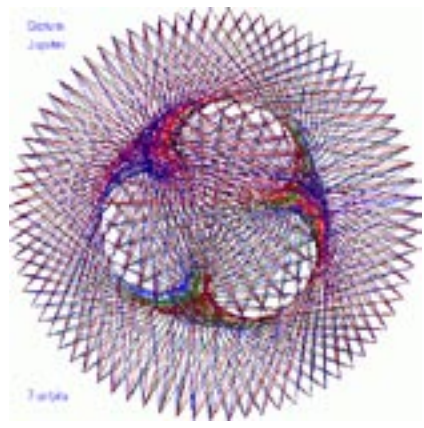
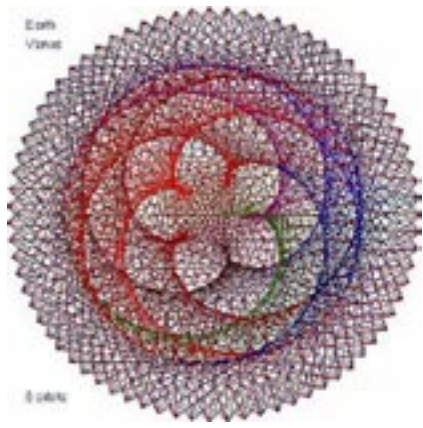
This past summer, we have experienced some of the lowest rainfalls on record. Nimbin recorded 21mm in February with an average rainfall for February of 218mm. Many dams and springs are drying up.

It is never clear whether it's global warming or just a one-off extreme weather event. Regardless, how can we prepare for these conditions, as water is an essential resource for being sustainable to grow food and keep animals? Setting up more water storage with tanks and dams may be the way to go, but tapping into underground water through dowsing may be worth exploring.

Alanna More has been dowsing for over 30 years and will be visiting the Northern Rives in April and presenting a free talk at the Blue Knob Farmers Market on Saturday 12th April.

NBN's plan to build towers as well as additional Telstra towers has brought much discussion within our community.

"The most disturbing trend currently is that Earthly harmony is being so degraded by artificial radiation, such as from cordless and mobile phones and wi-fi devices. The proliferation of radio frequency waves, in particular, is a real worry. There is the illusion that our government is protecting us from harmful effects of pulsed microwaves and the like. It is not," says Alanna, who runs a group in Victoria that raises awareness of electro-smog issues and advocates for an energetically safe environment.



We are pattern makers

Think of a fern, its whorls of curls unfurling. Or a tree, how it branches, first into two, and then again and again in repetitive perfection. The pattern of branches is mirrored by its roots, creating a symmetry not unlike two veined lung sacs. Apt, considering it is plants constantly creating and cycling the air we breathe. Rivers from the air, too, mimic the human body in their branching flows. The planets circling the sun in concentric rings reflect the growth rings of trees. A closer analysis of the respective tangents between each planet over their full orbits reveal more complex and wonderful patterns. Venus and Earth's respective plotted locations over an 8 (Earth) year period reveals a beautiful mandala of sheer perfection, as do Saturn and Jupiter, as shown below.

In permaculture, pattern understanding is both the observation of patterns as they exist in nature, as well as the purposeful application of patterning for productive purposes. Bill Mollison spent over ten years in the Tasmanian forests, observing natural systems, on his way to co-formulating the permaculture concept. For the student of permaculture, nature can be the greatest teacher. Through observation over time, we are able to detect patterns of weather and climate, sun and shade, pestilence and resilience, and thus seek to apply mitigating or consolidating design measures.

Not so many generations ago, and

in many societies today – although sadly decreasingly - humans used pattern understanding in almost every aspect of daily life, to obtain food, to navigate, predict weather, avoid calamity, commune with spirit, organise themselves socially, and in song, dance, ritual and artmaking. Polynesian seafarers are famous for their ability to navigate by the stars in simple canoes over thousands of kilometres of open ocean. In 1975, the Hokule'a, a 62 foot long catamaran without a single modern navigational instrument on board, set out to recreate the great Polynesian sea journeys by utilising pattern understanding of stars, clouds, wind, currents and birds. It sailed from Hawaii to Tahiti, visiting every major island group in between, including New Zealand, as well as visiting Japan and Alaska, all on the breath of the world's wind and using the ancient knowledge of patterning.

A purposeful application of patterning might be used to increase efficiency or energy in your permaculture gardens. Circular garden beds with paths cut in halfway (keyhole beds) provide the most productive area-to-pathway ratio, and their shape allows a human to remain in a fixed point but access the bed in a swooping arc. Repetitions of these beds start to resemble a mandala not unlike those created by movements of planetary bodies. Flow-forms oxygenate water by creating vortex, or spirals, their shape resembling those of the yin-yang

Permaculture Principles with Anastasia Guise

symbol, or the sign for infinity (∞). A net-and-pan system on a hillside directs water into depressions for utilisation, both directing and concentrating energy. We use our understanding of patterning when we cut nitrogen-fixing trees, knowing that a removal of branches above ground will lead to a corresponding section of roots shedding underground and releasing their nitrogen into the soil.

Conversely, bad patterning can be lethal. A line of pine trees on an ascending driveway becomes a conductor for bushfire with potentially disastrous consequences. A suburb of disconnected homes with tiny fenced yards is highly inefficient, with toxic social consequences.

Pattern understanding lies at the core of design; when you cut a fruit and revel in its perfect symmetry, stand under the sun, contemplate a landscape or sleep under the stars, consider the spiralling helix of your own DNA, but a reflection of the world's web of patterning.

Community Permaculture will hold a residential PDC in 'Sustainability and Resilience', 7-19th April at Billen Cliffs.

Full details at: www.communitypermaculture.com.au
Earlybird price \$1200.
Phone 0413-907-014 or 0428-274-385.

Blue Knob Farmers Market workshops

by Jim Arachne

Saturday 5th April 10am, Your Development Application and local council – Steve McElroy

You're building a new shed and putting in a shower and some sleeping space for overnight visitors to stay – does this count as a "dwelling"? Does it need a building permit? How many "dwellings" does local council allow you to build on your land?

A chance to put lots of questions to a registered Civil and Structural Engineer who has worked in local government for 18 years, being last employed by Kyogle Council in 1998. Since then, Steve has been a private engineering consultant and has been engaged by many Northern Rivers councils over the last 16 years.

Steve will talk about the Development Application process, why this is a good idea to complete, what can happen if you don't and many other issues around buildings and the approval process.

Saturday 12th April 10am, Subtle energies, dowsing and electro-smog – Alanna Moore (pictured).

With the increasing concern about numbers of phone towers in the area, this is a very timely presentation. Alanna was a founder of the NSW Dowzers Society (30 years ago). She applies her dowsing expertise to enhancing productivity on farms and

gardens, and helping people avoid geopathic and electro-stress in their homes. She is very concerned about the proliferation of electromagnetic fields in the environment, is the author of seven books on related subjects and is known internationally for her work. Alanna is also a permaculture farmer and teacher.

Read more about Alanna at her website: www.geomantica.com

Sunday 13th April, 10am to 4pm, Dowsing for environmental energies & Earth harmony – Alanna Moore, (registration required).

Following Alanna's talk at the market she'll be running a whole day workshop on a private farm in the Lillian Rock area.

Cost \$90. For more information and to register, phone James on 6689-7575 or email: jamescreagh@hotmail.com

Saturday 12th April, 2pm - 5pm, Growing gourmet oyster mushrooms at home – Allison Wiseman, (registration required). NOTE: This is not at the Blue Knob Market!

This is an identical workshop to the one on Saturday 19th April at Blue Knob Market – see following workshop details. However, this presentation is at 'Wadeville Woollies', a country store, a few hundred metres along Link Road, off Kyogle Road in Wadeville.

Cost \$55 – there is a limit of 10 people per course. For more information and to register please contact Allison at: info@oysterpatch.com

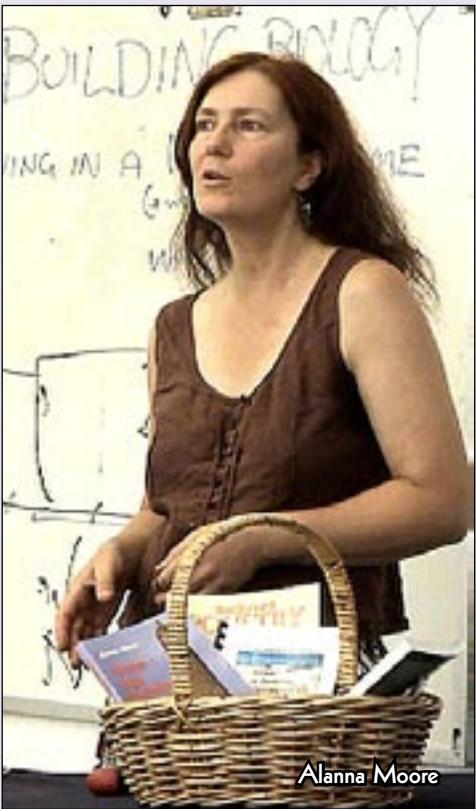


Saturday 19th April, 10am to ~1pm, Growing gourmet oyster mushrooms at home – Allison Wiseman, (Registration needed).

It only takes a few hours to learn the basics of growing oyster mushrooms at home. Without using high tech and expensive equipment or complex processes you can incorporate oyster mushroom harvests into your gardening schedule. Oyster mushrooms are simple to grow, fast to produce, nutritious, and an impressive addition to your fresh harvest.

Workshop participants will leave with a bag of colonised Blue Oyster Mushroom spawn (*Pleurotus ostreatus* var. *colymbinus*), which can provide a lovely addition to a simple meal, and can be re-used to start several larger colonies of Blue Oyster mushrooms at home

Allison has many years experience in sterile mycocoltivation and has been greatly impressed with the new low-tech methods for producing gourmet mushrooms.



Cost \$55 – there is a limit of 10 people per course. For more information and to register, please contact Allison at: info@oysterpatch.com

Blue Knob Farmers Market runs every Saturday, rain, hail or shine, 8.30am to noon, on Blue Knob Road near the corner of Lillian Rock Road, 8km from Nimbin in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.

'Animals Rock': Harmony Day concert

by Christina Schaumann

What a great celebration we had for Harmony Day on 21st March!

Mel from the Nimbin Family Centre did some awesome face paintings for the children on the day and some of the children even came dressed up for our "Animals Rock" Concert.

Little and not so little children rocked out and sang to Beau Young's songs about all different animals, and the children enjoyed a 45-minute performance full of crocodile snapping and lion roaring.

Everyone went home with a big smile and a helium



balloon donated by the Northern Rivers Childcare Services in Lismore.

If you would like to join us, please phone the Nimbin Early Learning Centre on 6689-0142 or come to our Activity Mornings on Wednesdays. These are free



sessions where you and your child can explore the range of our craft, games, indoor and outdoor play, meet the educators and other children

and have lots of fun!

We're located at the Gumnut House building behind the Nimbin Community Centre.

Dowsing, Subtle Energies & EMFs

Workshop with Alanna Moore



Sunday 13th April
at Lillian Rock



Cost: \$90 (couples discounted)

See: www.geomantica.com

or phone 6689-7575

Nimbin Preschool and Child Care Association Inc.



Listening to people.
Listening to spaces.
Listening to places.

Enrolments available now

Preschool: Nimbin A&I Showgrounds, Cecil St.

Phone/Fax: (02) 6689 1203

Email: nimbinpreschool@bigpond.com

CAREFREE CEREMONIES

Unique & Personal Celebrations

by Gwen Trimble

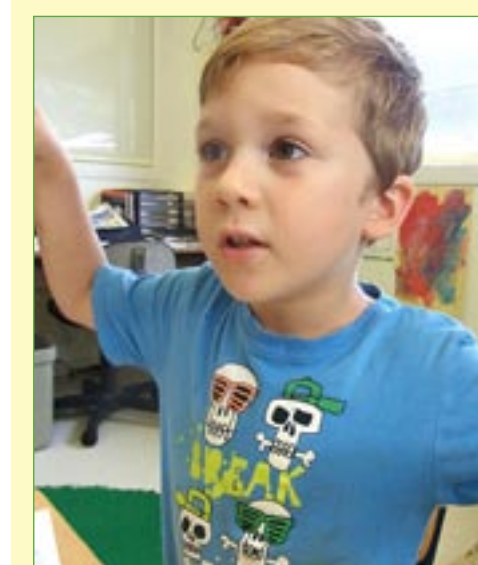
- Weddings
- Commitments
- Vow Renewals

0427-486-346

A/H: 6689-1490

www.carefreeceremonies.com

gwentrimble@dodo.com.au



Riley suggesting rules at morning meeting

The only rules that matter

Morning Meetings at Nimbin Preschool are an essential time for children to voice their theories, opinions and questions about all matter of ideas.

When Diane posed the question "What rules matter?" at a morning meeting, the children decided that their rules would be best suited for the preschool. Here are the rules that matter:

Leave your doors open.

If it's raining, come inside.

If it's sunny, wear your shady suit.

If you get scared in a forest, call for help.

If you can't hear, get close.

If the wind is very hard, watch out

for your washing.

Make sure you play around.

If you're tired, yawn and then sleep.

If you're hungry, eat something.

Watch out for birds that poo on your arm.

If it's someone's birthday, get a cake.

Draw on paper.

Always look after baby birds.

Always share your chocolate.

Always build your blocks high.

Don't kill mice. Just push them out the door.

Cover up your tattoos when it is windy.

Always jump in puddles.

And most importantly, when it is windy, hug your sunflowers.

Summer's End in Tuntable Falls school garden

by Deborah Williams

We would love this headline to read: "The beginning of autumn in our school garden", but with temperatures still in the early 30s, humid mornings and afternoon storms, it is a bit difficult thinking that autumn has begun.

After a long, hot and mostly dry summer we have still managed to be out there growing! The Upper Primary have kept up a steady crop of lettuce, the Lower Primary have planted carrots, beetroot and radish, and the Kindy children have ensured the sweet perfumes and colours of assorted flowers invite everyone into



the garden.

The Upper Primary have also been very busy propagating, making cuttings and potting-up a variety of plants for their plant stall at the Tuntable School Spring Fete.

The last of the pumpkins and tomatoes are now being harvested. Cooking lessons

are becoming more and more creative as we find, or create, yet another recipe for pumpkin and tomato. Today the Kindy class made herb and rice-stuffed tomatoes baked on flat-bread dough.

The school had a happy, sad event in the garden a few weeks ago when we wished Thomas farewell.

We all knew that this beautiful space was created largely by his enthusiasm, determination and gardening passion. Thank you Thomas!

Although autumn seems a way off, we are beginning to prepare the garden for autumn planting. The pumpkin patch is being prepared for garlic. We will be using our last year's crop for this year's garlic seed.

What to plant in April

Vegetables: lettuce, broccoli, peas, carrots, silver beet, beetroot, leek.

Flowers: carnation, cornflower, Icelandic poppy, snapdragon, sweet peas, lobelia and more bulbs.

Happy Gardening!

Seeing is believing at Cawongla

by Playhouse Educators

Seeing sound may seem an abstract concept, but it's one that the children at Cawongla Playhouse engage in with gusto.

It all began when we decided to explore sound through our senses. Our initial sound treasure hunt around the leafy grounds of preschool led to "viewing" sound - via a loudspeaker, synthesizer and amp.

"It's so weird," said Francis as he helped mix cornflour and water into a gloop ready to pour onto the speaker. "It looks so hard and it doesn't move, but then when it's dripping it's moving."

Well move that gloop did! It created a

sensation of wonder, intrigue and much laughter as the gloop changed shape to the increase and decrease in volume and frequency. "A monster!" said Eddie, as he watched with intense fascination.

Next up came dried lentils. Isabella likened the movement of the lentils on the speaker to "popcorn" and was delighted to watch how they danced. Trying to catch them was fun too. The children touched the speaker and observed their own fingers vibrating to the sound.

The bigger picture of this experiment was to demonstrate how sound can manipulate particles, exploring frequencies and experimenting with



Samson, Jamie, Isabella and Lilly watch for sound

which frequencies move the particles. On an individual level, the intention was to assist each child form an awareness of what sound is and how it is made. We discovered you can indeed see sound.

JUMP SHAKE DANCE

Dance tuition for Tap, Modern and World Dance Fitness

Classes held at Nimbin School of Arts Hall
47 Cullen St, Nimbin 2480

Contact Roisin Francis via e: jumpshakedance@outlook.com or ph: 0457370396

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in April?

- **Saturday 12th** - Trivia Night returns! 6.30pm
- **Friday 18th** - Good Friday Bowls Comp
- **Friday 25th** - ANZAC Day - Aussie songs 12pm
- **Sunday 27th** - Club visit: Tweed heads Trippers
- **Fridays** - Raffles, Buffet, Music with Jazz Duo
- **Open Mike** - Wed 16th & 30th
- **Courtesy Bus** - Book at the Bar
- **Membership** - Social: still \$5

CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner Tues - Sun
- Friday Banquets
- Take-Aways

Phone 6689-1473

Home of the Big Bowler

THE ASTROLOGY OF HEALTH

by Zuela Christie

Three phases of energy – neutral, positive and negative – are needed for the expression of Life. All matter is energy, and matter is simply energy vibrating at a relatively slow rate that can be seen with the human eye. Energy always follows the same basic principles throughout Nature. In the Chinese tradition, the neutral, governing force is the Tao or Source, giving rise to the polarities of the positive, outward, expansive Yang force; and the negative, inward, contracting Yin expression, which reconnects the energy with its source of supply and intelligence. The tension created between them pulsates life everywhere. The universe itself is one almighty breath of expansion and contraction.

If space was not defined, energies would be ever expanding and nothing would ever manifest. All living things have a definition, a boundary, a surface, a skin. This forms the basic spiral-like pattern of all energy. It is self-perpetuating and imbued with the consciousness that gave rise to it in the first place. This expression of movement is able to establish basic patterns of activity, which are called 'The Five Elements'. This is the next phase in the step-down process, as energy transforms. The elements in order of increasing density, that is, a lowering vibratory rate, are ether, air, fire, water and earth. The elements interact to give rise to manifested shapes and forms, the 'ten thousand things' of the Chinese model.

These five elements represent particular states of consciousness and are the original archetypes (types of arcs). With the conception of the human body, the triune

nature of energy is present in its positive aspect as the sperm, in its negative aspect as the ovum, and in its neutral aspect as the incarnating soul. This triggers the subtle energy patterns that create the foetus, which is supported and sustained by a mini zodiac, surrounding it in utero. Primal, intermeshing triad relationships provide this energy grid as the four moving elements of air, fire, water and earth, each in their three phases of positive, neutral and negative (4x3=12) weave back and forth in triangular fashion. The fifth element of ether provides the space through which the four moving elements spin their web.

The foetal zodiac corresponds and resonates with the universal zodiac. When they are in balance with each other, one supports the other. The specific elemental influences on the physical body are:

The Air element is governed by the heart chakra. It gives rise to all movement in the body. Its ruling planet is Venus. Its astrological triad is Gemini :positive - the shoulders. Libra :neutral - the kidneys. Aquarius : negative - the ankles.

The Fire element is governed by the solar plexus chakra. It brings the magic of transformation. Its ruling planets are the Sun and Mars. Its astrological triad is Aries : positive – the eyes. Leo : neutral – solar plexus. Sagittarius : negative – the thighs.

The Water element is governed by the sacral chakra. It gives rise to the attraction of opposites. Its ruling planet is the Moon. Its astrological triad is Cancer : positive – the breasts. Scorpio : neutral – the genitals. Pisces : negative – the feet.



The Earth element is governed by the base chakra. It is the plane on which energies condense and crystallize. Its ruling planets are Saturn and Earth. Its astrological triad is Taurus : positive – the neck. Virgo : neutral – the bowels. Capricorn : negative – the knees.

The Ether element is governed by the throat chakra, which governs space, bringing the quality of stillness. Its ruling planet is Mercury. It has no individual astrological relationships as it is the zodiac field.

Be amazed by the miracle of creation! Next month will be a detailed exploration of the mental, emotional and physical health effects relating to each of these chakras and their elements.

Zuela can be contacted on 0429-501-387.

ASTRO FORECASTS by Tina Mews WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS?

April

The Sun entered the sign Aries at the last Equinox (March 21) marking a change in season with shorter days and nights that are slowly getting longer until the midwinter solstice in June. Aries energy is standing for emergence and new beginnings. It drives on the will to separate from the past in search for a new identity, new adventures or a new form of self-expression. Individuals with a major Aries signature in their chart are said to be headstrong and quick acting; they need to feel in control of their lives. They love challenges and feel alive when on a mission. They might lack the persistence, skills or patience to complete everything they have started by themselves and at times have to rely on other people's cooperation. Not every idea turns out as initially intended, but this might not be the deeper purpose behind the deed. Very often Aries paves the way and sows the seeds that other people then successfully cultivate. This particular month of April might provide a fertile sowing ground for new seeds and impulses. The highly charged planetary energies might reach their climax during this month signified by a powerful 'Grand Cross' formation. A Grand Cross consists of four planets that are in a very tense configuration either squaring or opposing one another. Rebel planet Uranus in fiery Aries (2011 -2018) is keen to follow its own rules while Mars in airy, indecisive Libra (Dec 2013- July 2014) has the difficult choice to either cooperate with others or secure its own interests. Uranus and Mars in opposition can signify impulsiveness and reckless action. Pluto in earthy and ambitious Capricorn (2009-2014) sweeps through our structures and systems with the motivation to destroy and rebuild, while Jupiter in security orientated Cancer (June 2013 – July 2014) wants to protect home, land and family. The Grand Cross peaks around 22-23 April potentially bringing to head developments that already started in 2011. Globally we could experience a sudden escalation



of revolutionary movements, ideological wars and/or unusual weather patterns. The culmination point of these opposing and explosive forces interlink with a lunar eclipse on April 15 followed by a solar eclipse on April 29. Eclipses are powerful Full Moons (Lunar eclipse) or New Moons (Solar eclipse) that take place near the nodal axis. The Lunar eclipse on the Aries/Libra axis warns us against initiating a fight or legal battle as it will drain our energy and resources. At April 22/23 we will experience the 5th out of 7 exact ground-breaking Uranus/ Pluto squares, only this time it involves two more players: Mars and Jupiter (see above). In this stressful alignment, Jupiter can over-reach and, while in a square to Mars, might lose in clarity of vision. If triggered, emotional responses can go out of hand and there is an increased risk for accidents to occur based on miscalculations and driven by the urge of wanting too much too fast. So the best advice is to lay low and channel these difficult energies into activities that are non-offensive. Simultaneously new impulses can be set for the purpose of creative innovation and problem solving. It is essential to remain focused and centred especially during the second half of April while maintaining a supportive and tolerant approach in our dealings with others and the world at large. The Solar eclipse on April 29 could bring a breakthrough and a new beginning, especially if we are prepared to release limiting beliefs and behaviours or fearful attachments to past experiences. It is essential to move out of stagnation and consciously allow ourselves to be transformed by a new wave of energy. Use the eclipse for clearing and cleansing old stuff. After all, this chaotic and complex time could offer extraordinary opportunities for processing a great amount of personal and collective 'karma'.
For Personal Astrology Consultation contact Tina on 66897413 or 0457903957, e-mail star-loom@hotmail.com or visit my webpage: <http://nimbin-starloom.com.au>

Aries

The potent energy during this month might trigger the emergence of your "inner warrior". Reflect upon the purpose of your special quest and understand its deeper motivation before pushing ahead. In difficult situations choose whatever brings the greatest peace to your body and mind.

Taurus

This is a very moment in time where your focus is on personal development. Self-recognition is essential to self-esteem and growth. Especially Taureans who are born during the end of April through beginning of May might find that important areas in their life are shifting. Tune into the new frequency and do not resist changes.

Gemini

Your focus is on psychological development and spiritual growth right now and you can increase your awareness of the energetic relationship that exist between the different levels of existence. However, it is essential to work through fears and anxieties as they can obscure your perception of what is fact or fiction.

Cancer

You might experience a renewed sense of purpose within your domestic life. Nevertheless, the emphasis is on family and career priorities and how to balance both sides of the scale. Endings and new beginnings in regards to community involvement, friends or humanitarian projects are meant to further your personal evolutionary journey.

Leo

Right now it is essential that you listen to your intuition for guidance because important endings and new beginnings might pressure you to change your life direction. Reflect upon your personal philosophy and how it fits within the greater cultural framework. Let go of dogmatism but do not compromise your core values.

Virgo

This could be an important period for matters involving material goods. Find the right balance between trusting yourself and putting your trust in others. No matter what new opportunity is presenting itself, sit with it for a while before making any significant decisions. This is not a good time for taking out a loan or going into debt.

Libra

The Lunar eclipse in your sun sign on April 15 could easily stir up your emotions making it difficult to maintain a sense of balance. You better refrain from trying to sort out relationship issues while the eclipse is active; you might be projecting your "stuff" onto others. Remind yourself that successful relationships allow space for individual growth.

Scorpio

Right now you might be energetically sensitive picking up all the different vibes around you. Therefore, allow for extra space to process your feelings and thoughts. The Solar Eclipse at the end of the month might strengthen relationships that are solid and satisfying while relationships that are unbalanced or unrewarding could end.

Sagittarius

You might feel the urge to connect with friends and work on communal projects which satisfies your need for belonging. You also could be called upon to take on a leadership role. However, it is equally important to focus on your personal health and nutritional practices establishing the right body/mind equilibrium.

Capricorn

Family commitments might take high priority right now demanding more time and effort. You might even adjust your career path while setting new priorities. At the moment you grow most through your personal relationships, and by focusing on your creative and affectionate nature instead of following your ambition.

Aquarius

Your hunger for adventure or learning may be stimulated right now and you might be waiting for a cosmic push that will move you forward. However, by the end of the month, you might start new home-related projects instead as a way to utilize the extra energy in a constructive manner.

Pisces

Right now it is essential that you strike the right balance between what makes you feel comfortable and secure with giving attention to other people's needs and comfort levels. You might find that networking opportunities might suddenly change the pace of your life and you could be making new personal connections.