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## Reformed Stompers play Wadeville

Known for their ability to pull a crowd onto their feet and keep them jumping, the Johnson Stompers burst out of Queensland in the early 1990s, and quickly attracted a following on the Australian circuit for the foot-stomping, rhythm-driven style that made their first album, *Bush Telegraph*, a rare collectors' item after they took an extended break in 1998.

Now they have reformed with the original line-up – Nigel Oliver (guitars, vocals), Michael Tully (double bass, vocals), Matt Moline (harmonica, mandolin, vocals), Uthal Plantener (washboard, drums) – and the same livewire approach, honed by the subsequent years of extensive playing and performing with various individual projects.

The Johnson Stompers will play their first gig back in the Northern Rivers at Wadeville Woolies on Friday 19th February at 7pm.

Expect to hear some of the best high-energy blues this side of the Mississippi mudflats.

## BOB MARLEY CELEBRATION

Nimbin Hotel

Saturday 6th February.

Born in Fiji with reggae in his blood, Shem (aka Yohann Narain, aka Bingi Selassie) has been performing live to audiences internationally for 20 years. His mesmerising live shows and vibrant performances have left crowds in want of more. The sound is groovy, authentic reggae, with a commercial edge and the songs are a combination of Bob Marley tracks and catchy originals. Shem's passion during live performances is evident even in photos and this combined with his awesome stage presence and showmanship makes for a great show everytime.

Shem's musical journey has lead to his greatest achievement when he was invited to spend time in Kingston, Jamaica with members of the original Wailers band of the great Bob Marley – a feat achieved by no other Australian artist to date. The Australian tour which followed the Jamaican recording session, consisted of sold out shows resulting in Shem gaining the status of Australia's leading reggae artist at the time.

The Wailers sound, understandably hard to replace, means that live shows these days are normally performed solo, with the inclusion of sampled drums, bass and additional instruments making the sound heavy – and the vibes created can be likened to that of a band. The harmonies are smooth and the awesome vocals cap off a fantastic live experience not to be missed.



## Balancing light & shade on the big screen

Preview by Toni B

Friday 12th February  
**The Grand Budapest Hotel**  
 (2014; dir. Wes Anderson 'M')

Friday 26th February  
**Utopia** (2013; Dir. John Pilger 'M')

Black vs white, heavy vs light; now vs then, beautiful vs ugly, us vs them, fantasy vs reality... Life's full of these paradoxes and we mere humans strive to balance its many complexities. The films showing at the Nimbin Bush Theatre this month are a reflection of such polarities, with two very different Friday movie nights on offer.

First up, on Friday 12th February, its screen will play host to a star-studded comical romp through a fictional Central European country called Zubrowka, with the 2014 British-German-US production of Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Café* [rated 'M']. Anderson is known for his focus on style and aesthetics, and this classy and fantastical



A scene from Utopia

tale-within-a-tale-within-a-tale doesn't fail to titillate the senses. The film won many awards, including Oscars for Best Costume Design, Best Production Design, and Best Original Score for its folk-inspired soundtrack.

The plot of this monumental movie primarily centres around the machinations of a stunning hotel located within Zubrowka's remote mountainsides, which people can only access via a funicular railway (google it!). An author (played by Jude Law) narrates a complex story that spans from 1932 through to 1985, but not necessarily in that order!

The overarching story's main character set is a quirky duo of hotel concierge Monsieur Gustave H. (played by Ralph Fiennes), and his fledgling lobby-boy, Zero Moustafa (played by Tony Revolori), joined by a myriad of cameo appearances that comprise a veritable who's-who of Hollywood – e.g. Harvey Keitel, William Dafoe, Tilda Swinton, Adrien Brody, Bill Murray, and many many more.

Even if it were possible to explain the story with a few sentences, the best way to comprehend this film is to sit back and enjoy the surprising

rollercoaster ride of the plot unfurling before your eyes – this film is a visual banquet.

Then, after the pomp and joy of *Grand Budapest*, the mood will shift significantly on Friday 26th February with a screening of John Pilger's 2013 raw and powerful documentary, *Utopia* (also rated 'M'). A serious film (co-directed by Alan Lowery) which sets out to examine the experiences of Aboriginal people within modern Australia, this cinematic exposé is widely considered to be a 'must-see' for both non-indigenous Australians and for people from abroad who find themselves travelling through this nation seeking to somehow understand the land, its first peoples, and the uneasy history which underlies the entirety of modern Australian culture.

The film's ironic title derives from the name of an Aboriginal homeland community located within the Northern Territory, whose poverty and desolation Pilger featured in his 1985 film, *A Secret Country*. In *Utopia*, he returns to see how things have changed there before casting his unflinching eye more widely upon the breadth of Australian politics, indigenous health, mining, and tourism icons such as

Rottneest Island.

A familiar face to Australian audiences, Pilger is an acclaimed journalist (ex-war correspondent) and filmmaker who has won many awards for his work, including Australia's award for international human rights, the 'Sydney Peace Prize'. This film is sure to elicit strong emotions and generate deep discussion during intermission and long after the credits have rolled. Indeed, this is clearly the driving motivation behind this work: He has stated that he created the film with both Australian and international audiences in mind, commenting upon the ignorance that he believes still exists regarding Aboriginal history and culture:

"That Australian governments believe they can manipulate and discriminate against Aboriginal communities in a manner that has been described in the UN as 'permissively racist' is astonishing in the 21st century. How ironic that as Nelson Mandela was buried and venerated, another form of the system he fought against was alive and well in Australia."

So, truly a mixture of tears and laughter to be had at the Bush Theatre this month and, as always, deep thought and community discourse. Tickets to each film are \$10 (available online: [www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events](http://www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events) or at the café/shop).

Phoenix Rising Café (next door) will be open from 5.30pm for dinner and drinks before the film starts at 7.30pm, with desserts and hot beverages still available during intermission.

For further info, phone 6689-0095



# Rob Csokas plays Sphinx Rock Cafe



Rob Csokas (pronounced Cho-Kash) was born in Pukekohe, Aotearoa, New Zealand. He now calls the beautiful Northern Rivers home with his wife Kathy and daughters Ellie, Anna and Jasmine.

Rob's formal music training began at Eora College in Redfern, where he completed

Certificate III Music in 2010. His first performances were honed in a classroom as a primary school teacher where he played to adoring audiences in classrooms from Tasmania to remote Northern Territory.

These days Rob is a familiar face, performing at local markets, cafes and restaurants. Rob's casual, warm style comprising rich vocals and acoustic finger-style guitar evokes a sense of self-taught folk, and is a joy to listen to.

He has an enormous repertoire of upbeat melodies and warm heartfelt ballads, performing both original songs as well as unique covers of songs that many will recognise.

Catch him at Sphinx Rock Cafe at 1pm on Sunday 21st February; or on Friday 25th, 5.30pm at the Wharf Bar, Ballina.



The Lismore Jazz Club has its first gig for the year on Sunday, February 7, 3-6pm at the Lismore City Bowlo, where Col Jones will be backed by Pietro Fine's piano jazz trio.

Long time collaborators with Pietro, bassist George Urbaszek and drummer Michael Bullen, are the other members of the Fine Jazz Organisers.

Col is an exceptional trumpeter as well as a vocalist, and is well-known partly for his humorous rapport with audiences.

He ran the Swinging Vine jazz bar at Surfers Paradise for many years, and is a very active member of the Gold Coast Jazz Club committee. Col is an old friend of the LJC through his association with the late trombonist, Davey Rankin.

Get to the City Bowlo for a very entertaining afternoon.

## Travelling Medicine Show hits the road again

*Travelling Medicine Show...* Gypsy Rollers is the title of a new CD released by Dave and Genevieve Davies – a collection of songs written and performed by them.

As the Gypsy Rollers Puppet Theatre, they performed at many festivals, including Woodford, Port Fairy, National Folk Festival, East Coast Blues and Roots, Nimbin Mardi Grass, Visions of Nimbin, Wintermoon, Australian Celtic Festival, Ananda Mela and many others.

Agricultural shows, town festivals, schools, markets, and busking events have been entertained by their music and marionettes.

Working with environmental education in inner western Sydney schools and communities, produced many plays and songs with a strong (but always humorous) message.

The Travelling Medicine Show evolved as a show in itself, blending blues, rock, folk and comedy. It was performed for five years running at the East Coast Blues and Roots Festival.

The Travelling Medicine Show CD is a compilation of original songs from different genres, but all tell a story.



The Gypsy Rollers will be performing at the Phoenix Rising Cafe on Saturday 27th February from 1pm. There will be music, marionettes and fun.

## Benefit performance for V-Day Lismore

A special benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues* is being presented in Lismore this month as part of V-Day's campaign One Billion Rising For Justice.

The campaign is a global call for women survivors of violence and those who love them to gather safely in places where they are entitled to justice and release their stories through art, dance, marches, ritual, song, spoken word, sit-ins, and testimonies.

This wonderful play with a group of local actors is made up of about 13 monologues, each dealing with an aspect of the feminine experience, touching on matters such as sex, love, rape, menstruation, female genital mutilation, masturbation, birth, orgasm, the various common names for the vagina, or simply as a physical aspect of the body.

A recurring theme throughout the piece is the vagina as a tool of female empowerment, and the ultimate embodiment of individuality. There are three new pieces and new performers this year, including a transgender piece.

All profits from the show will go to Heartfelt House, supporting adults sexually abused as children.

*The Vagina Monologues* will be



performed at The Italo Club, 36 Barrow Lane, North Lismore, on 11th, 12th and 13th February.

It will be performed by Sharon Brodie, Kylie Fuad, Elyse Knowles, Sarah-Jane Loxton, Crystal Amber, Lisa Walmsley, Beth Hobbs, Rhiannon Montague-Elliott, Amara Bartlett, Marnie Johnston and Jacquie McLeod.

Doors open for dinner at 6.30pm and performance begins at 8pm. Tickets

\$40, including bistro meal on arrival, can be purchased at: [www.trybooking.com/174842](http://www.trybooking.com/174842) or by phoning Heartfelt House on 6628-8940.

V-Day is a global activist movement begun in 1998 to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* and other artistic works.

Last year over 5,800 V-Day benefits were held around the world, raising over \$5 million through performances, readings and screenings, and increasing awareness towards ending violence against women.

The V-Day movement has raised over \$100 million; educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it; crafted international educational, media and PSA campaigns; reopened shelters; and funded over 13,000 community-based anti-violence programs and safe houses in Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt and Iraq.

To find out about V-Day Lismore, call 0423-308-063 or email: [shaza068@hotmail.com](mailto:shaza068@hotmail.com) To learn more about V-Day and its campaigns, visit: [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org) or [www.onebillionrising.org](http://www.onebillionrising.org)

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SAT 13 <sup>th</sup> FEB	Freewin Harper	1-4pm
SUN 14 <sup>th</sup> FEB	The Cruise Brothers (Jazz)	1-4pm
SAT 20 <sup>th</sup> FEB	BarkersVale Brothers	1-4pm
SUN 21 <sup>st</sup> FEB	Minus One	1-4pm
FRI 26 <sup>th</sup> FEB	OPEN for Movie Night	from 5.30pm
SAT 27 <sup>th</sup> FEB	Dave Davies (+ PUPPETS)	1-4pm
SUN 28 <sup>th</sup> FEB	Monkey & the Fish	1-4pm
SAT 5 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	Mystery Musician	1-4pm
+ OPEN for BUSH THEATRE's 'Wild Marmalade' gig		from 6pm
SUN 6 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	Beetle Juice	1-4pm
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#### Sunday Gig Guide

**February 1pm start**

**7th Andrea Kirwin**  
Hip Hop, Funk and Soul with an Island Style Roll.

**14th Romaniacs**  
Original music inspired by Gypsy, Folk, Latin, Celtic, Spanish & Eastern roots grooves. Their songs have been described as energetic, rootsy feelgood music for the Heart and Soul.

**21st Rob Csokas**  
Rob's casual, warm style comprising of rich vocals and acoustic finger style guitar evokes a sense of self-taught folk & is a joy to listen to.

**28th Jasmine Beth**  
Folky but with a jazz-blues kind of feel to it...

**Mar 6th Andy Jans Brown**  
Uplifting music in the vein of those classic bands who wrote songs you remember and want to sing along to.

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#### February Gigs

Friday 5th	7pm	Elwood Myre
Saturday 6th	8pm	Shem (Bob Marley's birthday)
Sunday 7th	5pm	Slim Pickens
Thursday 11th	7pm	Stu Hardcourt
Friday 12th	7pm	Sugar Cane Collins
Saturday 13th	8pm	Mabel
Sunday 14th	7pm	Neil Anderson (Valentine's Day)
Thursday 18th	7pm	Kurt Gentle
Friday 19th	7pm	Koby
Saturday 20th	8pm	Desert Blues Cartel
Sunday 21st	5pm	Christine Olive
Thursday 25th	7pm	Adam Brown
Friday 26th	7pm	Wendy Ford
Saturday 27th	8pm	Eastwood
Sunday 28th	5pm	Luke Bellows

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# Who's got the Biggest?

by Wayne Wadsworth

The Save Your World Team is putting out a challenge to all the growers in Nimbin and nearby areas to show us what you've got!

We claim to have the biggest! And we've got the photo to prove it (at right).

If you can beat us, send a photo, anonymously if you want, to *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

Of course, small is beautiful as well, but the bigger the plant the more we like it.

No need to mention the name of this beautiful amazing plant – suffice to say it can bring us most of the consumer goods we use, pleasure, fun, medicine and lots of other goodies.

If we had governments with courage they would be paying farmers to grow it, en masse to reverse greenhouse and quickly reduce the excess CO<sup>2</sup> in the atmosphere.

Unfortunately our dear leaders don't have that amount of intelligence. Better to spend billions on locking up refugees after destroying their country and economy.

So it looks like you'll just have to save yourself!

Overgrow the system and grow the big ones.



Chris Mayne and Kathleen Longmuir with Wadzy

## Undacuva visits the White House

Malcolm has been pushing the weed envelope way too hard in Canberra. His mission to convince his Liberal team to support medical pot before the first session this month ruffled feathers. He clearly thinks several of his fellow MP's are idiots, rednecks and almost unbearable but his idea of giving them all little hashpicks for Christmas was definitely a step too far.

The GIT, Government Internet Trolls went into reverse overdrive panic when Mal changed the story. They've spent so long combating the positive weed stories and terrifying their own bosses about the dreaded weed it's a huge step now for any of them to try it. And we all know what getting stoned on paranoia can do. The simple recipes he put in the hashpicks did the trick for a few who had their best sleep in years and woke without a hangover. Some however, freaked at losing control of their imagination and two had to be actually sedated. All very hush hush of course.

So the escape to Washington was perfect timing and he welcomed me along for the ride like we were old mates, much to the consternation of his staff. Customs was a breeze for the "special friends from down unda who've got our back in Syria more than anyone else." I felt Mal wince but the smile never wavered. Just like Howard I thought. Bethany's passport hardly got a glance which was just as well.

It was a very long first day at the Whitehouse and there was no smoking until after dinner when finally we got away on our own with Brak, as I swear Malcolm was calling the Prez. He embarrassed me by telling Brak who I really was which got a huge toothy

## STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert



Courtesy High Times

guffawing laugh. He was impressed mind you and would never have guessed he said.

They lampooned each other endlessly about Abbott and Trump as apparently the boxer has offered to help the Republican campaign. It was soon forgotten in the haze of Colorado's finest which arrived pre-rolled on a silver tray.

Both old stoners, the PM and the Prez hit it off well and the truth soon started revealing itself as it does with the holy weed. They both found war distasteful, yet both men are in it up to their necks. A basketball appeared from somewhere like magic and never left Obamas hand the whole time, even when the joint was going round.

Two visionary men both having trouble talking their troops into the changes

they want. Guns and pot dominated the talk, along with the growing nightmare of spiraling health costs. Figures are emerging of a huge percentage, up to three quarters of medical cannabis users in America turning totally away from pharmaceuticals which has created frenetic lobbying and panic among some of America's richest old families. The pair of stoners obviously enjoyed stirring that pot. Obama told Malcolm time would show freeing the weed was his finest achievement as Prez.

The Reid method of interrogation was the other big subject that evening with both boys knowing how it's used by racists to get admissions that are dubious. Obama kept returning to Australia's black deaths in custody and how half our youth locked up are black. "And only two percent of the population," he said twice I remember. Malcolm literally squirmed in the big couch and I realised there and then our PM hasn't hung out with blackfellas much.

The big surprise of the trip was the security which for all the noise and guns was easy. A funny little fellow called Mouse who delivered the joints on the tray called ahead and had another strange dude called Sook meet us in Hawaii on the way home with some Maui Wowi. Even Mal wasn't used to such royal treatment. On the flight home he agreed there was still huge obstacles to overcome before convincing the rednecks within his own party to accept how wrong we've been on weed, or at least begin the process. More hashpicks different packaging was his conclusion.



# Respect existence or expect resistance!

by Michael Balderstone,  
MOB President (MardiGrass  
Organising Body)

A young fellow from the Central Coast announced a cannabis law reform gathering in Sydney's Victoria Park and we thought we'd better go and support him. It was a sweet drive down to the big smoke and Saturday morning we took the Big Joint for a swim and stroll along Bondi Beach to nothing but well wishers and hundreds of photos. Not quite true, a couple of joggers called Chibo a junkie as they ran past!

On the way then to the park gathering, we got a warning that lots of aggressive cops were there and had surrounded the small band gathered who were backs to the wall around a big old fig and surrounded by the boys in blue. We arrived soon after, left the stash in the car, and sure enough were surrounded by cops all afternoon, in black gloves and black glasses and not talking, acting deaf, you know what I mean.

## MEDICAN

The next Medical Cannabis Workshop will be held at Nimbin Town Hall, Saturday 12th March from 11am.

It was serious policing with groups of four or five in clusters around us all day. Any sign of a joint or a pipe and they moved in like lions after deer on the prairie. Paul Lawrence who has several vertebrae replaced with titanium and was featured on the 7.30 Report as he uses nothing but cannabis for pain relief, was carted off and charged for less than a gram in a cone he didn't even get to smoke, they moved so fast. Everyone who got arrested and charged was for less than one gram.

Several times an innocent cigarette was arrested by mistake and they were so ruthless and unfriendly we decided to roll legal herbal joints for the 4.20. Even though they knew that, the dark expressionless glasses and gloves moved amongst



The third saliva drug testing protest in Lismore outside Thomas George's office.

us smelling and even opening some of the 'joints' when we lit up. Apparently the organiser had put on facebook in the morning that 2500 people were coming to the protest and a friend of a local cop told us they had 800

police on standby in case there was trouble. There were about a hundred people at the protest and it was a long hot day.

And not much fun compared to the third saliva drug testing protest we had in Lismore on Monday 25th January. Outside Thomas George's office and a good crowd again with excellent speakers, some of whom had lost their licences even though they had not smoked for a long time before being tested and were not impaired. Three days after smoking in one case, which cost a six month suspension. No wonder people are angry.

A facebook site, 'Nth Coast RDT locations' was set up which now has over 3000 members. Respect existence or expect resistance! It's all just a big excuse to pick on the cannabis users, while they can, because here comes medicinal cannabis and driving needs to be sorted. Remember no other country has an issue with this, or eating hempseed which is banned in Oz because of the saliva testing.

Sheer frustration that we



can't get a decent hearing or respect from senior police on the issue, meant a Scipione lookalike made an appearance for the Christian Suits versus the Jesus Freaks debate. After evangelising the crowd, the Hillsong Church's biggest donor appeared to have an epiphany stripping off his uniform to reveal an inner hippy. And when a guitar appeared he did an excellent job of Bob Dylan's 'Everybody Must Get Stoned.' You can watch it on the Hemposium YouTube channel. Much more fun than Sydney.

Thomas George meanwhile had locked doors, but a few days later we delivered the package for his National Party leader and Deputy

Premier, Troy Grant. Minister for Police and Justice, Art and Culture in NSW. He loves the saliva testing and the ex-cop from Dubbo is determined to make our lives safer. "If you're going to put some substance into your mouth, you're playing Russian roulette."

One politician who has worked hard on the issue is Greens MP David Shoebridge who has a petition on [Change.org](http://Change.org) which has more than ten thousand signatures asking for the RDT laws to be scrapped. And he is coming to Nimbin Town Hall from 11am on Wednesday 10th Feb to hear people's saliva testing stories and discuss the issue. Please come along.



The Big Joint goes to Sydney

by Chantico Love

On Saturday 9th January the Ganja Faeries and Hemp Embassy crew went to Sydney for their first 4.20 event to protest against cannabis laws.

First we were to meet at Bondi Beach to hand out flyers for the event, and they decided to give the big joint a wash in the ocean, at which time the crew from *Bondi Rescue* TV show appeared, wanting to interview us about why we were dressed up and had the biggest joint they'd ever seen at Bondi. Apparently they don't usually see them, but can smell it occasionally in the air.

Zee and I were lucky enough to be taken up into the tower to chat with the lifeguards about cannabis and hemp and get their views on it all. They were very supportive of what we were doing to bring awareness about the ridiculous laws, especially regarding medical cannabis, and we are hoping it will make the show.

Then it was off to Victoria Park for the main event. Unfortunately the organiser, in his eagerness, told the police there would be approximately 2000 people attending, so the whole event was inundated with cops all around and in the park and more on standby. So, many people did not attend, but those who did were very gutsy, as even



Arriving at Bondi Beach (top); Police overkill at Victoria Park (above)

me and a few others were very nervous about how things would go.

A couple of times people tried to whip up the crowd into a frenzy, but due to the Nimbin crew and others being used to police presence, we stayed calm and kept things from getting out of control. After a few hours the police did relax slightly, once they realised there would be no trouble, except once 4.20 arrived many had rolled cigarettes and damiana looking like joints, and the police looked a bit silly as they pulled people aside and then ripped their smokes apart.

There will be more events like this for Sydney as more and more people need to access medical cannabis, or just want the laws to change for recreational use.

## Help us plan MardiGrass

2016 MardiGrass meetings have started up and will be held every Friday from now on, starting at 4.20 in the HEMP Bar but you can come anytime up to 6pm or even later. All ideas and people are welcome in person or write to me: [head@hempembassy.net](mailto:head@hempembassy.net) or phone the Embassy 6689-1842 / 6689-0326.

Volunteers make MardiGrass, and this year will be no different. Write your name, contact and skills etc in the MardiGrass book in the Embassy any day if you can't make a meeting.

Heidi is looking after Jungle Patrol again and needs good locals always. Phone 6689-7589.

Then we need artists and builders, electricians and traffic controllers, cooks and someone to manage movies in Birth and Beyond over the weekend. We need legal observers and camp cleaners and Ganja Faeries of course and in very high demand,

we need drivers who won't get busted by the spit cops to collect overseas visitors from the airport and so on. Whatever your skill, if you want to help make MardiGrass a good one, please get in touch.

The MardiGrass Hemposium talks will begin at midday on Friday 29th April and continue through the weekend. Confirmed speakers include... from over the seas, Ajia Mae Moon and Dana Larson from Canada, Abe Acton back again from Colorado, movie maker Zac Klein from Israel, Howard's daughter Amber Marks from the UK.

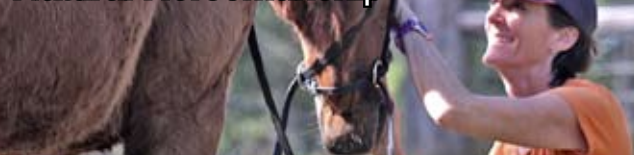
And from Oz, politicians Fiona Patten and David Shoebridge, Dr's Alex Wodak and Andrew Katelaris, Glen Druery, John Jiggins and the one and only Derryn Hinch.

There's a huge music line up, several big movies and all the other usual events like the Hemp Olympix that people are already training for. Think about how you'd like to be involved.



## Happy Horses Bitless

Natural Horsemanship



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## Explosive colours

by Carina and the team at  
Nimbin Childcare Centre

We have returned after the Christmas holidays and have been experimenting a lot using vinegar and bi-carb soda, making walking waters, explosive colours, blowing up balloons.

We also enjoy doing a lot of cooking, and so far this month we have made pancakes and bubble slice, which were both very yummy.

Have you ever thought about your child coming to centre-based childcare and education? Well, drop in and see us at Nimbin Early Learning Centre in the Community Centre complex to get to know us and the group.



Phone the Centre on 6689-0142 to book in for our Wednesday Mornings Orientation, which is between 10.30 and 11.30am.

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

Fees are: permanent, short day (9am-4pm): \$15; long day (8.30am-5pm) \$20. Casual, short day \$20; long day \$25.



## MARLEY THE WOMBAT

A year in the making, with much learning and laughter along the way, and here she is ... drum roll ... Marley the Wombat!

Of course it was all hands on deck as the children proudly paraded Marley – the star of our annual Twilight Picnic – around the beautiful shady grounds of our preschool. Our end-of-year gathering was once again well received, with nearly all our families coming together for the event.

This year Cawongla Playhouse (phone 6633-7167) is operating a new three-day week: Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm. So if you are interested in nature education, emotional intelligence, place-based learning and deep connections, come to our community preschool and have a look around. We welcome you.



## Steiner Education

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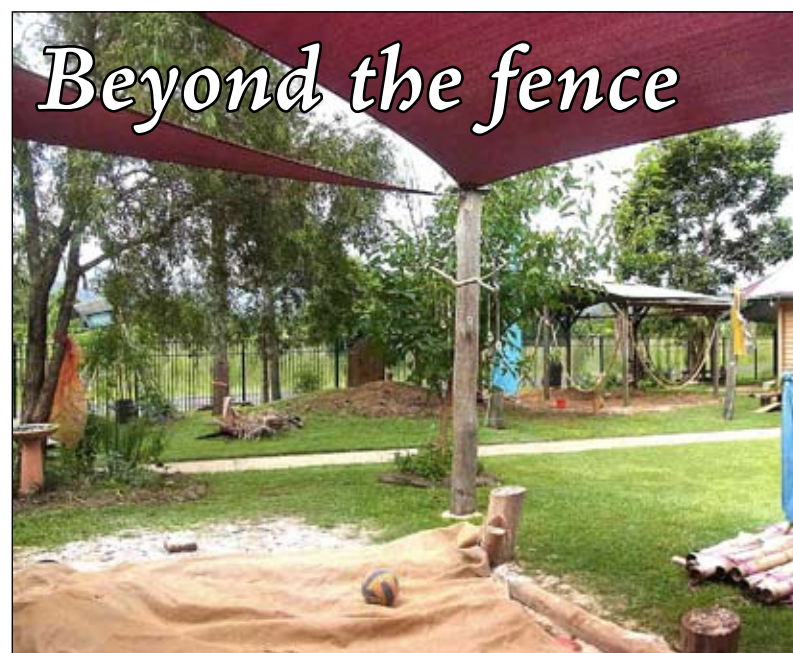
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Email: [nimbinpreschool@bigpond.com](mailto:nimbinpreschool@bigpond.com)



Frankie and the huge basil!

## First day back

by Lisa Torpey

It was the children's first day back for 2016 at Tuntable Preschool today.

Frankie noticed how enormous the perennial basil bush in preschool's food garden had got over the holiday. "It's like a forest," she said. Alila was standing nearby and exclaimed, "But look Frankie, the corn is even taller."

We thought about what we could make with all this basil, as well as the punnets of tomatoes and other veges that have flourished recently. "Pesto is my favourite pasta, Lisa" said Frankie. "Would you like to make pesto next week?" I asked.

So we wrote the ingredients list with the children, in preparation for making it the following week. I told the children that we could use the garlic for the pesto from the Primary School garden.

We are lucky to be part of this beautiful outdoor classroom and garden. Preschool has our own bed to tend and enjoy. Today we met the new environment and sustainability teacher Nicola, and look forward to working with her on our garden and drawing upon her knowledge of bush regeneration for our landcare projects.

## Tuntable Falls School splashes into the new year

by Mandi, parent and management committee member

We had a great start to our year with many families attending clean up day – the school is looking sparkling.

It is wonderful to welcome new and returning students back after a good rest – all are keen and excited to start another year of learning and fun. I particularly love seeing the wide-eyed kindies as they settle in to the rhythm of their days – planting and tending our beautiful veggie garden, getting to know each other and their new friends.

Our teachers and aides have also returned recharged and ready to guide our students through another year of achievements and challenges. A big thankyou to Jason and his amazing team (Jazz Constructions) who have worked really hard to get the new classroom ready. The upper class students love the new big, fresh and light space.

We particularly welcome our new Sustainable



Maddy and Ella

Environmental Education teacher, Nicola Apps.

We have an exciting array of activities planned for this term including the Rainbow Corroboree camp, art exhibitions, working on our Ethno-Botanic walk and Harmony Day.

Once again the school will be holding a stall at the Wednesday Nimbin Farmers Market. Our turmeric and ginger are looking great and we are looking forward to harvesting them soon.

## Tuntable Falls Community School

[www.tuntablefallsschool.nsw.edu.au](http://www.tuntablefallsschool.nsw.edu.au)



Unique place  
Unique education

6689 1423 [tuntableschool@gmail.com](mailto:tuntableschool@gmail.com)

**Limited spaces available**





# Naked Bike Ride message – ‘share the road’

As the annual World Naked Bike Ride is just around the corner (12th/13th March), it is timely if we road users – pedestrians, vehicle drivers and cyclists alike, take a moment to look at upcoming changes to the NSW road rules.

Did you know, for example that from 1st March 2016, when a motorist passes a cyclist, they will be required to leave one metre between their vehicle and the bicycle when travelling at 60km/h or below, or 1.5m above that speed? Prior to this it seems there was no prescribed safe passing distance.

For cyclists some of the big changes are that cycling infringements are going to cost a lot more from now on. For

example, for a cyclist running a red light, the fine will increase from \$71 to \$425, as will the fines for not stopping at a pedestrian crossing and riding dangerously. The fine for not wearing a helmet is increasing from \$71 to \$319.

For a full list of the changes, go to: <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/go-together>

In terms of cycling safely, one of the best things you can do is to make sure you are visible.

Personally, I find stripping naked, painting myself in fluoro slogans and trailing a flag behind my bike generally gets the motorised road users to notice I'm sharing the road with them. If you

want to practise this tactic, come and join us for Nimbin's World Naked Bike Ride on Saturday 12th March. We meet at the Bush Theatre at 10am.

Strip off, paint up, fly a flag on your bike and come riding down the main street to the cheers and adulation of hundreds. As this is a bare-as-you-dare ride, you can wear clothes if you like.

And if you have so much fun doing that, come and do it again the next day in Byron Bay. For more details see Facebook: World Naked Bike Ride – Nimbin.

The naked bike ride is such fun, the memory of it will bring a smile to your face and joy to your heart for years to come.

## Original relationships

by Daniel John Peterson

Indigenous peoples in every country on Earth have relationships with colonial lineages, forced upon them, in various but consistent ways. Here, as another January 26 passes by again, Australia's cross-cultural relationships are worth accounting for.

No less than 500 nation-to-nation relationships exist between 'Australia' and original cultures. Of these opportunities, not one, nation-to-nation treaty has been formalized, and no compensation for damages has been paid. As such, Australia remains a place of unceded sovereignty, and therefore over-ruled by the law of discontent. The non-original doctrine of 'might is right' being enforced upon us, gives us our day-to-day experience of violence in all its forms. As a young Australian, I feel the psychological violence of not knowing if my country in a British parliamentary Act, an American corporation, or something else – what else?

Australia's frontier-violence was genocidal in nature, and I do not know if this happened because of such a vast lack of recognition between two extremely different peoples;

or if perhaps today's lacking recognition happens because our experience of frontier violence is so unbearable for our nation's fragile identity. Either way, by ignoring our cross-cultural relationships, we are perpetuating frontier violence.

This January my jaw dropped, in sync with so many others, as we clambered to sign an online petition to stop the company "NIL Entertainment" selling their computer game – which normalizes genocide in the minds of young players (see image 2). In this case, as virtual as it may seem, common citizens banded together and brought a commercial mistake in-line with our collective expectations as consumers and educated humans. But where was our political leadership on this shameful event?

May I congratulate the few politicians who were savvy, resourced, and cared enough to make public statements against this latest shameful episode. Most notable was the only formal media release I found; coming from Joanna Lindgren MP of the Queensland Liberal National Party. In this sense I would like to encourage all offices and local branches of

other parties, especially The Greens, to prepare themselves for what I'm saddened to say is inevitable – the moment when Australia's shameful relationship with original cultures is brought into the spotlight of topical conversation, yet again.

Though even as the violence continues, at the same time the original cultures still reach out to us. Alongside Bluesfest – one of the most popular festivals in Australia – is the Boomerang Festival. "Never has an Indigenous festival of this holistic calibre been so accessible" say the organizers. In my mind, this stark contrast sets the scene: On one hand we the people, contend with political silence as we try in vain to guide future generations away from the frontier violence embedded deep within our cognitive and cell memory; on the other hand, we're offering the world and each other a cultural paradigm, proven sustainable since time immemorial, that is, since forever. And with that contrast, a dramatic context is set, within which I softly whisper the word 'relationship' into the deafening winds of our time.

Quality relationships pivot on mutual change. The great



164 years separate these two illustrations, yet today we still glorify a genocidal mind-set and normalise frontier violence as a necessary pillar on which to rest our ideas of ourselves and our entitlement. Is it good enough for our children to inherit normalised violence, or can we offer a better version of normal?

Image 1: "Mounted Police and Blacks" 1852, Godfrey Charles Mundy, Australian War Memorial.

Image 2: "Survivor Island 3" 2016, Kristina Fedenkova at NIL Entertainment, screenshot.

work of Lee Rhiannon and Jan Barham among others is fantastic and I thank them, but The Greens party will look no different to other political parties if we do not back up this brave individual work, with institutional and procedural change at all levels of the organisation. Much of The Greens' values represent a significant change from other political parties already. But perhaps more importantly, are the ways our local branches are changing the way local politics is done. Grass roots change. Recently, one local Greens branch in regional NSW decided to invite their Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to their general monthly meeting. The LALC CEO rang back and asked:

"What's The Greens? ... Oh, I thought it was a lawn bowls club!" This example, illustrates the huge and enduring divide, but also hints at simple things that can be done at local branch level to improve relationships with original cultures.

I'd like to know, so I can share with other groups your successes: How has your group learned from original cultures, and put those lessons into action? Please email me your examples.

Where our politics fail us, we must represent ourselves. Where our politicians ignore our cross-cultural relationships, it's then left to us, to take those relationships to the politicians. Where representative bodies are

formed, it's for us, to question what funding cultivates those bodies. Wherever decisions are made, look for the Indigenous voices, values and ideas. Where education can be achieved, put your new knowledge into practice. If you can recognise the value of an original culture, then you can name those values, so others too, may know what to look for.

Politics will take care of itself, if only we can talk effectively about policies. But the trick is we cannot talk effectively about policies, until we can rely on the quality of our relationships.

Daniel John Peterson is volunteer Koori Relationships Advocate at the Northern Rivers Greens, in Lismore.



## Nepal Relief needs your support

Join Helen Simpson for her presentation about ongoing Nepal Relief projects with her photo-journal of her Nepal Relief trip last year. You can find out about opportunities to volunteer with Helen, and enjoy Yvan Calvignac's photos and book of Nepal on sale to raise funds.

It is nearly a year since a massive earthquake devastated Nepal. The Nimbin community rallied and Helen, along with volunteers Liz and Ange, took \$12,000 of donated money which was spent on urgent medical equipment, hygiene packs, food and clothes in outreach centres near the epicentre. They visited and helped out in Manekharka and Dolekha, outreached by Dulekh hospital, Kathmandu.

Helen is still fundraising, and plans to take volunteers to Nepal in September to help with the rebuilding of a whole village

of Baruwa near Manekharka (where many people perished and all houses were razed) in north-western Nepal, and for the Mountain People project in Kathmandu.

One particular offshoot of Mountain People projects is run by Beni, a Nepali midwife. She co-ordinates a women's collective who collect rubbish and waste in Kathmandu and transform it into usable products which they sell for money to assist isolated villages. Their shop and factory was destroyed in the earthquake, so Beni wants to rebuild this and have it attached to a women's refuge and health centre.

Unfortunately, there has been a fuel, gas and food blockade at the Indian border as a protest to the recent constitution (for the last five months) which has been prohibitive to the rebuilding process and hence delay in getting any projects off

the ground. So it has been a long cold winter for the Nepalese, but thankfully this crisis is now slowly abating.

Helen plans to go with volunteers in September to assist with the rebuilding of Baruwa. In April she will visit the village to organise receipt of any funds we have, the purchase of building materials, talking to the women in the village and to look at plans for rebuilding and designs and setting up volunteer facilities. Helen has the government rebuilding module and her trips are totally self-funded.

Come along to Helen's talk to find out more, 3.30pm Monday 8th February at Birth & Beyond, Nimbin.

If you would like to make a donation to the Nepal Relief Fund (supported by Nimbin Health & Welfare Assoc Inc): Summerland Credit Union A/c No: 22305642, BSB: 728728.





## Roxy Gallery

143 Summerland Way Kyogle  
Phone 6632-3518

### Opening Hours

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

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

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## NextMarket

14th February

8.30am - 4pm

Band of the Day:

Monkey & The Fish

Charity of the Day:

The Channon RFS Brigade

Enquiries: 6688-6433

# 'Earth, air, fire and water'

Blue Knob Hall Gallery is starting 2016 with a celebration of all the elements that go into the making of a piece of pottery, with the first exhibition for 2016 titled 'Earth, Air, Fire & Water'.

The crucible of the kiln can bring forth the unknown, when we place a precious form into the kiln the anticipation, the wait then the unveiling of the end result can be exactly what you want or an unexpected surprise!

The start of a new adventure at Blue Knob Hall Gallery with the opening of our ceramic studio is being honoured by the artists and members who exhibit



'Feu' (detail) by Eric Smith

and support this ongoing community endeavour, and as always the work that

comes in has gone through its own process of discovery. The Opening Night for

'Earth, Air, Fire & Water' exhibition and the new Blue Knob Ceramic Studio will be held on Friday 19th February from 5.30pm.

Dinner will be available after the opening. Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you are planning to attend, for catering purposes.

### Artists & Friends Lunch

The next Artists & Friends lunch will be held on Thursday 25th February at 12:30pm with a main meal which includes dessert for \$18 (vegetarian) or \$23 (non-vegetarian meat dish).

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

## Blue Knob ceramic studio set to start operating

by Heather Kimber

This incredible project has taken four years to complete, with the help of many volunteers, fund-raising and a generous donation by a local community group.

For me, it has been a gathering of community spirit, where the whole process of this build has been a very humbling experience. The generosity and support from everyone has been inspiring and heartfelt.

The studio has been purpose built to accommodate a range of activities which will include beginners, intermediate and master classes, raku evenings, and school holiday programs. There is also an art library and extra workshop space attached to the studio,



which can be used for a variety of projects.

There has been an overwhelming interest from the community to contribute and use this space. A nominal annual membership fee will help cover insurance expenses.

We want to make this space

accessible to everyone, and so participation costs will be kept to a minimum.

We are now inviting expressions of interest from anyone who would like to participate in these classes. If you are interested please contact Heather at the Gallery on 6689-7449.



**Official Opening: 5.30pm  
Friday 19th February**

## Dollies at the Roxy

The first exhibition for 2016 at the Roxy Gallery is a collective exhibition examining dolls and their ever changing uses and representations in our culture.

Dolls have been featured since the beginning of civilisations, possessing a timeless quality to sooth and entertain us, whilst reflecting our values and traditions.

From Babushkas to Barbies and beyond, dolls are seen as treasures, gifts, fertility objects, protectors, magical devices and tools for education and play. Dolls are loved and cherished, passed between generations, and sometimes abandoned once their novelty has worn off.

'Dolly' is an exhibition by seven local women who have been making dolls in a variety of styles and media. From 3rd February until

6th March, the Roxy Gallery will be animated with the lives of dolls in many shapes and sizes, both two-dimensional and three-dimensional.

This exhibition comprises hand-made dolls and painted images of the Doll, featuring works by Anthea Moffatt, Jill Runciman, Julia Curtis, Francine Witton, Bianca Radin, Elspeth Lake and Jhabel.

Dolls by Francine Witton



Doll by Anthea Moffatt



## Life drawing



The Nimbin Bush Theatre is pleased to host the town's first ever Life Drawing monthly residency.

The whole community is invited, even those who have never drawn before, as previous drawing experience is not necessary.

Expect to be remarkably inspired by unique life models posing to world class tunes as well as live instruments.

Please bring your sketching gear (no oil or acrylic, messy paints), a small easel or drawing board, a cushion if you would like to sit on the ground, otherwise chairs provided, and instruments, as we are open for ambient music and a spontaneous jam by the end of the session and

whatever else you need to get comfortable and settle in for a sizzling time.

The first session will be held on Saturday 20th February, from 4pm to 6pm. Entry fee is \$10. Models will be posing for a few timed intervals which will consist of short and long poses.

People interested in applying to life model are welcome to get in touch through the Nimbin Life Drawing Jam Sessions Facebook page.

Life drawing has been carried out for centuries, so let's honour this ancient artform and get together for some genuine fun! May the mad artist within awake and your flair for drawing flourish like never before!



# June King: colour and feeling

by Peter Warne

This month our feature artist is June King, a painter who hails originally from New Zealand, but has been living in our region for several years and has been exhibiting works at Nimbin Artists Gallery for one year now.

June's artistic tendencies manifested themselves when as a child she would do drawings of family and friends faces. The encouragement she got from her family stimulated her early interest in art, and this was further developed by an artist friend and mentor.

June works mainly in water colours and oils, and sometimes in acrylics or mixed media, as well as some experiments with collage and other new media. She works with a broad range of subjects – figure paintings, landscapes, and especially

still life studies of flowers. She is always open to what is new, whether in subject matter or media, and this openness imparts a vitality to her work. In her watercolours the merging of light effects with her sensitivity to colour conveys a transparent freshness.

Her landscapes show how she uses lightly washed areas which make the paper seem to glow with light through the paint. At other times, such as the bushfire series, she creates a dramatic effect through the use of intense, vigorous reds and yellows, set against the dark, hot shadows of the night.

She states her aims to be to draw the viewer into the picture with the colour and feeling and to create a sense of mystery which will entice the viewer to linger on the painting and come back to examine it again.



## Extravaganza deadline

All artists, get yourselves ready.

Committee members have started gearing up for this year's Autumn Arts Extravaganza, our annual exhibition in the Nimbin Town Hall, starting 24th March and running for three weeks.



'Towards the mountain'

All artists, local or not, are invited to submit their recent works for selection and hanging in the Extravaganza. We usually have over 9000 visitors, so there is a good chance of sales.

The guidelines for submitting work can be picked up at the Gallery,

found on the NAG website: [nimbinartistsgallery.org](http://nimbinartistsgallery.org) or requested by email from: [nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com)

The most important point to note now is the deadline for submission of works: the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd March.

Be there or be square.



## DIRT's back in 2016

The Village Hall Players is now accepting new enrolments in its youth theatre program, DIRT, which is sponsored in part by the Casino RSM Club.

DIRT provides an opportunity for 8 to 17-year olds to participate in a collaborative process while having fun and improving communication and team building skills. The number of participants is limited to 15 and places, offered on a first-in basis.

The program provides training in acting, movement, voice, improvisation, and directing for interested students.

Commencing in July 2015 in Casino,

the class gained eleven students who enthusiastically joined in the theatre sports and games, improvs and comedy plays, including a little humour from Shakespeare.

The first two terms in 2016 will continue using the themes of comedy and characterisation as the students work towards their first production in June, to be performed for the public.

Classes are held from 3.30 to 5.30pm at the RSM Club, Canterbury Street, Casino during school terms and commence on Tuesday 9th February. The class fee is \$10 per student or \$75



for the term if paid by 16th February.

In Kyogle, classes are held from 4 to 6pm at the KMI Hall, Stratheden Street and commence on Wednesday 10th February.

To book a place in the program, or for further information, contact the artistic director, Lynette Zito on 0429-922-169, or email: [villagehallplayers@gmail.com](mailto:villagehallplayers@gmail.com)

## Nimbin's own Anthem

In Nimbin let us all rejoice,  
For we are young and free,  
We care and love this sacred land,  
All creatures and all trees.

Our lands abound in nature's gifts,  
Of beauty rich and rare,  
And we are here to protect it all,  
From the bastards that don't care.

And we are here to protect it all,  
Advance Aquarius Fair.

Govinda

## Mount Lindsay

Scribbled landscape of fields,  
satellite dish roof and tower  
in green cornfields,  
haze of blue range in heat  
disintegration.....  
locust wine of engine.....  
dioxin scull on cropduster  
wing;  
mono-culture  
and obliteration,  
gm soy and canola;  
chemical cows  
on doomed  
hot plate paddocks,  
cook 'n serve,  
shopping trolley culture

picturesque towns  
in the chill machinery  
silence  
of bible-belt isolation,  
the mantelpiece minds of  
porcelain conservatism,  
hand-painted  
cupie-doll culture,  
the poodle and pink bow  
of rotary and the c.w.a.,  
and the squeaky clean skin  
of franchise,  
sexless and sterile  
as muzak or floor cleaner...  
shopping window full of flags,  
trash stickers and trophies;  
avoidance  
apathy and denial,  
the polite and damning silence,  
the closed circuit tv of spray on  
prejudice,  
the fake suntan of unquestioning  
allegiance.

tornadoes in missouri,  
super floods in the uk,  
bangladesh and syria,  
climate change refugees;  
and closer to home,  
in our back yard,  
gas fires on the condamine,  
ecocide in the pillage....  
tara, dalby and chinchilla....  
mining juggernauts and csg,  
tribal laws trashed,  
land desecrated,  
'n company thugs at the gate  
mt lindsay looms witness,  
dark and omnipresent  
in the mist,  
divine retribution.....  
waits.

Ron Curran

## Italian style

'Beyond Venice' supper dance is a community event in celebration of Italian origins on the Northern Rivers.

Join an evening of music, mayhem and mystery at the masquerade fundraiser Beyond Venice for grown-ups at the Italo-Australian Club, North Lismore to celebrate the launch of Lismore's inaugural Friendship Festival on 26th June at Spinks Park and collaboration with Lismore Lantern Parade on 25th June.

Dress up, cover-up, disguise yourself, wear masks, enjoy a night of dancing and food in the Italian style. Share a prosecco with friends to collect some fabulous memories. Tell your friends, organise a table.

The Beyond Venice masquerade supper dance will be held on Saturday 20th February, 7pm to midnight at the Italo-Australia Club, Barrow Lane, Lismore. Cost: \$30 presold, with tickets on the door subject to availability.

For more info, contact Nancy Casson on 0406-785-472 or see: [www.facebook.com/events/1494324757543111/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1494324757543111/)



## Nimbin "for auction"



by Daniel Soler

Despite the humidity, temperature, and the looming thunderstorm, many punters and bargain-hunters turned up for the auction at the Nimbin Town Hall on Sunday, 31st January.

Master of ceremony and auctioneer extraordinaire Steve Archer kept the audience busy and attentive. Steve is an old-hand at auctioneering, and the buyers who were enticed by the Yorkshireman's vaudeville patter had to remain alert.

Roughly 80 people turned up and a great number of them battled for bargains that included paintings by Charles Blackman, the Boyds, Donald Friend, James Gleeson, Wendy Sharpe, and others; plus bronzes, jewellery, Persian carpets, furniture, and many more interesting curios.

The atmosphere was jovial yet competitive.

Some locals were seen spending up big. A busload of hopeful bidders arrived from Ballina, as well as people from as far away as Casino, Byron Bay, and the Tweed.

The overall success of the sale may prompt Steve to make this a yearly event, which would be very good for our township, generating interest from far afield.

The day was capped with the whole team and friends having a wonderful dinner at the Terra Restaurant at the Nimbin Bowling Club where the next event was proposed for 2017.

Notwithstanding the preceding reputation of Nimbin, the team was thoroughly charmed by everyone and enjoyed their weekend.

On top of the hall fees, a donation to the hall was made from the proceeds of the bidder registration fee. There was also a donation made to Nim-FM for helping promote the event.

Kyogle Group Against Gas presents...

**BUSH DANCE**  
**THE RAGGED BLOSSOM**  
**BUSH BAND**  
**SAT 5TH MARCH**  
**KYOGLE MEMORIAL HALL**

Funds raised will be used in the on-going fight against CSG in the Pilliga forest