

Moving toward energy and financial sustainability and security

by D. Gosper, Rainbow Power Co.

Are you one of the millions of people wanting to not only save the planet, but also significantly reduce your power bills?

You can start the process straight away by installing solar panels on your rooftop, a nearby shed, outhouse or on specially designed ground mounted frames (or on your mobile home or RV).

The structure (roof) that you are putting your panels on needs to be able to hold the weight, and after calculating how many kilowatt hours of power you will need and finding the correct system size, you will know how many solar panels are needed to power your house.

Panels are getting cheaper and more efficient, and now the average house will only need 12-20 high quality panels to power their lifestyle- the majority of Australian roofs do have enough space and load bearing capacity.

The very first solar cells, created

in the 1800s, were less than 1% efficient, nowhere near enough to make them an affordable power source. It wasn't until 1954 that the first useful silicon solar panel, which was about 6% efficient, was introduced.

Since then, solar photo voltaic (PV) technology has evolved at a steady pace, with scientists achieving 46% efficiency. Since 2010, the price of installing solar PV systems has really dropped, in large part thanks to a significant reduction in solar panel costs, also the government rebates and incentives.

The increased affordability of solar panels has seen Australia achieve the highest rate of household solar panel installations in the world (perhaps our plentiful sunshine has something to do with those figures!).

In October 2016, prices bottomed out at around 40 cents per Watt and are not expected to drop any further. There is no foreseen benefit in waiting any longer to get your solar power system installed.



Panels, mounting systems, batteries and inverter/chargers and other solar components are all built to withstand years of use and, in the case of panels and framing, high winds, hail and other environmental stresses.

Although the initial cost of installing solar is quite high, Australian electricity prices are on the rise, going up to as much as \$500 p/quarter EXTRA in the last few years.

This might not sound like a lot,

but it adds up; if you were to put that into a solar array, you could pay off your system within two to four years, and as a bonus you can safeguard yourself against blackouts and power interruptions, which are becoming more common, especially during our harsh summers when you need your house to remain cool in 40+ degree heat. There are also government incentives still available as well as green 'eco' loans.

When looking at your Return on Investment (ROI) you can expect

to pay off a system in between 2.5-4 years (something like a grid-connect 5kW system with 20 panels) and 8-12 years (off grid), so I wouldn't expect your power bill to vanish overnight, but considering the benefits for the environment, and your overall bank balance, it is something you should consider before too many moons pass.

If you are paying anywhere upwards of \$250 per quarter for your electricity, installing solar would be a wise choice.

Generally, the less you are paying for power, the longer it takes for the solar system to pay itself off. On the flip side, installing solar power, whether or not it is used by you or exported to the grid, always helps reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases.

Rainbow Power Company has been in the game for over 32 years and is your local renewable energy specialist. Contact RPC to get an obligation-free quote today. (02) 6689-1430 or: www.rpc.com.au

Global water emergency

by Bernardine Schwartz

I think everyone has experienced that feeling when you wake up from a bad dream and the relief of knowing it wasn't real? Well, what am I supposed to do and countless others when the nightmare has become my waking life?

It's a torturous ordeal when you have to submit yourself to another day of the planet suffering, where as long as the Earth keeps spinning around and the sky doesn't fall in, there is no need to worry.

Our Mother Earth has withstood mankind's greed for centuries but the tables have really turned this time, leaving us completely at her mercy.

Water and life go hand in hand, you can't have one without the other and Earth has had an abundance of this life giving resource for two billion years and is perpetually recycling it, with the amount never changing. So it's downright frightening when countries and major cities are facing a severe shortage of water, with some having none.

We have made countless mistakes throughout our short history but this is going to be our most costly and sitting at the big round table won't rectify the problem, as we edge a little closer to the final chapter of the human race.

We have now succeeded in dismantling the planet's entire water cycle, the natural storage and movement of water between the land, sea and air, the very thing that keeps us and every life form alive and there's no avoiding the profound consequences, not just for the future but the here and now.

As civilisation expanded, our dependence on water grew, resulting in dams that grew in size and number with 58,000 today and this has severely disrupted the natural flow of our planet's rivers and we're not talking about a river here or there.

Almost every major river on the planet today either runs to a trickle or is completely dry for long periods of time and this includes the Colorado, the Rio Grande, the Nile, the Ganges, the Indus, the Yellow,



Drought in rural Queensland
Courtesy Wikipedia

and the Murray river and our major lakes are faring no better, with Africa alone losing 800 in a single decade.

Water is becoming scarce in too many locations around the world, from small villages like El Rosario in Honduras that have existed for centuries, to Chennai, the sixth largest city in India (pictured, right) that has a population of ten million and has been forced to close schools, hotels and the commercial sector, including hospitals that are barely functioning.

India has a large population and will be confronted with no groundwater in many regions across the country by 2020 and this is not only India's problem but the world's too. Syria is a prime example of what can eventuate from a prolonged drought when people are forced to leave their homes in search of water.

You certainly haven't got time to wait for rain that may never come, when a healthy adult can only survive three days without water and according to researchers, internal migration contributed greatly to the instability that already existed in Syria and tragically ended in civil war.

Here in Australia, the land has absorbed numerous droughts over the centuries but now the pressures of global warming are disrupting a traditionally resilient environment and according to the IPCC we will be acutely affected and it's beginning to show. Australia's uncertain climate is gradually making the southern regions drier and this is where most of our population lives, including Melbourne where it's predicted to have a severe shortage

of water by 2028.

It's common knowledge that we live on the driest continent and despite all this we are still using more water than any other nation and it's irresponsible, unwarranted and utter madness.

The time is well overdue to start questioning why farmers and irrigators have lost 80% of their water entitlements in the last decade and are being priced out of the market for water by mining companies, who primarily use the water to stop dust on haul roads, wash coal and account for losses from groundwater, with most of these losses occurring in perpetuity.

Are we prepared to waste our precious water for a filthy resource that is killing the planet, when the majority of the world's food producing regions are facing a chronic shortage of water?

In the meantime, our governments allow more massive holes in the ground and Adani is a perfect example of the lengths our governments will go to in satisfying the needs of mining magnates, even if it means the eventual starvation of an entire nation.

From 2002 through to 2017 an Earth observing mission named Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE), made it possible to weigh changes in the planet's water mass from large river basins to ground water aquifers and the results speak for themselves.

Over half of the world's major aquifers have passed their sustainability tipping point on every continent except Antarctica, with demand being far greater than they



Water scarcity in Chennai, India 2019
Courtesy: circleofblue.org

can be replenished, including North Western Australia's Pilbara Basin.

What is deeply troubling is the world's ice sheets and glaciers in Greenland, the Antarctic, Alaska, Patagonia and other mountains and glacier systems, are disintegrating at an alarming rate and in the process we are losing billions of tons of freshwater every year, as it pours into our oceans.

There's not enough time to wait for society to wake up and for those who know this to be true, desperate times lead to desperate measures. This is why we are seeing courageous individuals taking radical action, in the hope that someone will take notice and maybe even join the cause.

We relinquished our power years ago when we stopped holding governments accountable and there are millions of us that want climate action and we need to reclaim our power and be seen and heard. I'm not trying to incite a riot but the political process has become a joke, so let's get real, a petition or a submission very rarely makes a difference these days.

Erica Chenoweth is a political scientist at Harvard University who extensively researched protests during the last century to determine why some succeeded in bringing about political change and why others failed. Her conclusion for those of us who feel helpless, was encouraging.

Those engaging a threshold of 3.5% of the population have never failed to bring about change and non-violent action always had twice the impact. Her study confirms that civil disobedience is not only a moral

choice but the most powerful way of shaping world politics by a mile, with hundreds of campaigns over the 20th Century bringing much needed changes.

According to her study, resistance and social movements are successful if they fully achieve their goal within a year of their peak activities and Extinction Rebellion is one movement that is slowly but surely gaining momentum around the globe and whose founders were inspired by Erica's study.

Water is needed for just about everything we do from manufacturing to food production and health care and without it society can't possibly function and it doesn't take a wild imagination to think about what the implications would be for all of us. Is everyone just going to wait till there is no water, because that's just suicidal?

If we are going to protect our groundwater in this area, we have to stop water mining and signs alone don't achieve much but will have far more impact when someone is actually standing behind them. Our groundwater could mean the difference between life and death in the future, especially if we're faced with a chronic drought over a prolonged period, which is not an impossibility.

If we persist in doing nothing our downfall and the death of all things can be blamed on an apathetic society that twiddled its thumbs for well over 30 years.

Not to worry though, when we're all dying of thirst we can just pop down to the local shop and buy a bottle of water, but at what price?

Ecological revolutionaries of Latin America

by Warwick Fry

The stereotype of the Latin American revolutions and liberation struggles is the armed guerilla, modelled on Che Guevara living in the mountains and occasionally succeeding in the overthrow of corrupt, oppressive regimes and dictatorships existing with the support of the US.

The Cuban revolution, the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, the FMLN in El Salvador, and the former President of Uruguay, ex-guerilla of the Tupamaro 'terrorists' (and one of the first governments to legalise marijuana) are all examples of former guerilla movements sticking by their principles and trying to implement them without recourse to armed struggle.

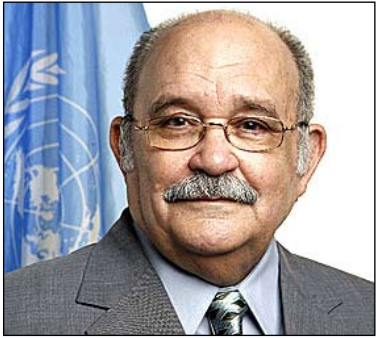
It remains to be seen if the FARC of Columbia will be allowed to take this path, with some hundreds of their leaders assassinated since they laid down their arms last year.

It is not a false stereotype, but it short-changes the values carried by the activists of the Latin American liberation movements. At the moment El Salvador is in turmoil because the government of Nayib Bukele wants to privatise El Salvador's scarce water resources; an action that has been resolutely resisted by all levels of the FMLN (the former guerilla movement turned political party after the peace accords of 1992).

A powerful grassroots movement against the privatisation of water in El Salvador could yet threaten the stability of the Bukele government.

It won't be the first time a movement for water rights has toppled a government. In Bolivia, a movement supported by the current President, Evo Morales brought him to the Presidency in 2005. Evo was a unionist, and head of the coca growers' union, among others.

The outrage of the privatisation



Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, UN President 2008-9, promoted the concept of 'Universal Rights for the Earth'. UN Photo: Mark Garten

of Cochabamba's water resources to a California company (Bechtel) led to demonstrations, confrontations with government troops and eventually, Evo Morales' election to the presidency, which he still holds to this day.

So, Cochabamba in Bolivia. April 22, 2010. An appropriate site for

the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth.

The conference, and its resolutions, was the result of the efforts of Padre Miguel D'Escoto. He was elected President of the UN General Assembly in 2008. D'Escoto was a Maryknoll priest who served as the Foreign Minister for the Sandinista government of Nicaragua until 1990.

After serving out his year (under threat of being defrocked by the Pope of those times) he declared that "the UN can't be reformed, it has to be reinvented". But during his term he promoted the concept of "Universal Rights for the Earth" designed to parallel the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Rights which were adopted by the Morales government and other Latin American countries.

Ecuador, for example, resisted pressures to make a successful billion-dollar claim against Caltex

over-exploitation of Ecuador's share of the Amazon Basin. Nicaragua has replaced Costa Rica as a mecca for ecotourism. The Zapatista movement in the Chiapas province of southern Mexico is safeguarding sustainable peasant farming in autonomous communities. Venezuela has set up seven universities with a focus on environmental and ecological studies.

In the hard-working peasant communities of Latin America; of Bolivia, of El Salvador, of Nicaragua, of Colombia, Venezuela, Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala – there is a strong, powerful and political awareness of the Earth and its value.

Lessons here for Australia, with the Murray-Darling scam coming to light. During the FMLN administration, a ban was placed on extractive mining. Again, this was a reaction to the dirty tricks used by an Australian mining company to mine gold over one of El Salvador's few remaining water tables. Go figure.

Serendipity in the criminal trial

by John Adams, solicitor

I was as a lowly clerk when I first appeared at the bar table, instructing Senior Counsel (SC) in a conspiracy trial in the Supreme Court.

Estimated to run for eight weeks, it was costing them a fortune. The SC charged \$2,500 a day, me \$100. It ran 10 weeks. The last two were, unwillingly on my part, pro-bono. But that's criminal law.

Seated at a desk behind Counsel, I was to "take a note"; writing furiously as much of what was said as possible. And to know every document in the seven full lever-arch files, as well as look after the clients, making sure they didn't abort the trial by doing something stupid, like wink at a cute jury member outside court.

We had three of the six out on bail, charged with conspiracy to import some tons of cannabis. The other three had a different solicitor and barrister. They all lived on the Gold Coast where the Federal Police had been watching them for months, with a camera set up in a flat opposite Joe's, telephones intercepted and a listening device under the kitchen table.

Much of the transcript evidence was Joe's stoned raves. He'd escaped legal custody 30 years before and was still on the run. He'd take his Shark-cat, a classy speedboat, from Nerang to meet a ship out at sea. The Shark-cat winched aboard, he'd visit the resorts he part-owned in Asia. He part-owned the ships as well, and having already pleaded guilty to money-laundering, was now in maximum security. Our clients were his off-siders.

Our defence was that the stripped-out caravan and Ford LTD, the Shark-cat and cray-boat, were for poaching abalone off the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia. The Federal Police didn't believe this, alleging that a ship, coming into Port Adelaide, would drop sealed bundles, like cray-pots,

into the ocean where our clients would retrieve them; but a tracking device was found under the LTD, the job was called off and the AFP, deprived of their fun on the cliffs, moved in to make the arrests.

One of the tasks in a trial is to exclude evidence. We'd managed, for the whole trial, to keep the ship at Dubai. No evidence had been admitted that it had come anywhere near Australia.

The trial was going well. An article appeared, synchronistically, in a local newspaper (which the jury weren't supposed to read) on how the Gold Coast was the centre of the illegal Chinese abalone export industry.

One of the Crown's best bits of intercept: "Those sticks and seeds what you don't need," was only Rodger singing a Cheech & Chong song. Rodger owned the LTD.

We came at last to closing submissions. My barrister went first. Starting off quietly, he built to his first point, then, having made the point, stopped, took off his glasses, and spun them at the jury; then started quietly again, building to the next point and spinning his glasses at them again. This continued until his final point.

Now I understood why the first reading in advanced advocacy at law school was on techniques of hypnotism. And I'd always thought it was about the search for truth and justice.

Then the other barrister began his closing submissions. It was afternoon. I think he'd had a couple of schooners for lunch. Or maybe it was just a senior moment. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury," he began, "imagine to yourselves the ship, coming in past Kangaroo Island at dead of night..."

They got between three and five years. I got the LTD.

John works in family law, criminal law and wills and estates. Contact him on 04335-651-581 or email: john@johnadams.com.au

Vote for My Community Projects

You can have your say on projects in your area that will be funded through the My Community Project.

My Community Project funds projects in each NSW electorate to help improve the wellbeing of people and communities.

Successful projects will be determined through a public vote and the projects that receive the most support will receive funding.

Up to \$260,000 is available for each electorate, made possible by the NSW Generations Fund.

Here are five worthwhile projects in the Lismore electorate, each worthy of consideration for your vote.

Integrated playscape

Tunable Falls Community School has been shortlisted for a \$75,000 project to build a nature playground from largely sustainable materials that stimulates a child's imagination, creativity, social skills and healthy mind and improve skills such as language and team work.

Aged Care car platform

Nimbin Community Centre is seeking \$70,000 to provide a level vehicle load/unload platform, allowing easier access for people being dropped off at Aged Care and a safe place to load and unload wheelchairs. The



platform would be open, accessible and available to the wider community.

Building wellbeing

Nimbin Central School has applied for \$67,650 to install fitness equipment in the grounds suitable for secondary students, as well as guidance that will create opportunities for exercise and build fitness in young people.

Waterless compost toilet

Rainbow Region Community Farms Inc. has submitted a grant application for \$68,733 to help build an accessible waterless compost toilet and change facilities for babies at Lismore Community Garden, for the use of volunteers, event participants and visitors.

Jarjums outside

Gingerbread OCC in Uralba Street, Lismore has applied for \$33,649 to update and refurbish their outdoor

environments, creating warm, engaging, natural materials-focused play environments for the children of families experiencing crises or trauma.

Steps for voting

Anyone who lives in the Lismore electorate and is 16 or over is eligible to vote. Voting is on-line until 15th August 2019.

1. Log in to your MyServiceNSW account (if you do not have an account, sign up for an account at Service NSW website: www.service.nsw.gov.au)
2. Go to My Community Project website: nsw.gov.au/mycommunityproject Click on "Vote Now". Look for the Lismore electorate where you will see the project applications.
3. To vote, you will need to provide your Medicare card details and residential address.
4. You must vote for at least three projects, and up to five projects. There are 10 points for your first choice (5 second, 3 third, 2 fourth and 1 fifth).

More information about the voting process can be found on My Community Project website, where you can also download a voter fact sheet.

For people unable to access the internet, voting is also available at the Lismore Service NSW Centre, Ballina Road.



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O'Heart Festival

This year's O'Heart Festival at Tyalgum village coincides with the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock!

On the weekend of 16-18th August there is a wonderful programme of events lined up, including:

A Wellness Festival at the Tyalgum Hall.

A Sustainability Festival on the parklands across from the General Store.

An Environmental Art lounge at the Butter Factory.

Great music and market stalls throughout the village all weekend.

Most of the Festival is free to the public; with only a few ticketed events. There are plenty of fun activities for kids to enjoy, and lots of family-friendly areas to chill out between workshops, presentations and gigs.

This not-for-profit festival will remain a single use plastic-free event with solar powered stages and a zero waste aim, all the while giving people education and encouragement to change little actions that have a big environmental impact.

For more details, go to: <http://oheartfest.com> or email: info@oheartfest.com



Byron Markets relocate



Byron Markets team and Stall Holder Committee representatives.

Back row: David Stewart, Ananda McOscar, Carl Taylor, Georgie Milln, Tao van Wieringen, Graham Double, Kate Hardman, Garry Rodgers. Front row: Mignon Francis, Suzie Mylecharane, Bonny Martin, Victoria Spring.

Born in the 1970s, the Byron Markets are the beating heart of the Byron Bay community and have been an iconic local and tourist attraction ever since.

Due to the construction of the Byron Bypass along Butler Street, the monthly Community Market will be relocating for six months to the beach foreshore, between the Surf Club and Clarkes Beach.

Byron Markets Manager, Kate Hardman said, "These days there is a market on every week somewhere in the region, but the Byron Markets are the most iconic of them all."

"The temporary relocation to the beach foreshore has been a mammoth amount of work for the markets team, but we are all positive that it will bring a much needed revitalisation and refresh to the Community Market."

With over 300 stalls offering unique experiences throughout each market, attendees are sure to find themselves surrounded by diversity, authenticity and wonder.

Music, food, shopping and health care are among the

many things to explore at the market as it meanders along the foreshore of the beautiful Byron Beach.

The first market in the new location will be on Sunday 4th August, followed by the first Sunday of every month.

The Byron Markets are managed by the Byron Bay Community Association (BBCA) which is a not-for-profit social enterprise that is entirely self-funded through income and project grants.

All stall fees go to the Association, the Markets are a major income stream for the Community Centre and help fund projects and outreach programs.

When asked if she is worried the move will affect business, Kate Hardman said, "We are encouraging locals and visitors to shop locally and support the community by coming to the markets and enjoying what we have to offer."

"We are still in a great location and our markets showcase the very best of the Northern Rivers, so I only see this enhancing business."

For further information go to: byroncentre.com.au



Sweet Renaissance concert

Sweet Renaissance is a small a cappella choir specialising in European polyphonic vocal music from the Renaissance period.

Its singers come from the Lismore and Nimbin areas, and they usually spend their Saturday afternoons exploring this music for mutual enjoyment.

The choir is now in its third year. It was well received when it performed two madrigals at a recent Blue Moon Cabaret.

They will be presenting a concert at Nimbin School of Arts Hall on Sunday 1st September at 2pm, admission \$10.

The programme will include the 'Mass

for Four Voices' by William Byrd, some playful and sweet madrigals and chansons by Wilbye, Weelkes, Arcadelt and Orlando di Lasso, and sublime motets to stir the soul by Josquin des Prez, Victoria, Palestrina and Byrd.

Put the date in your diary for this afternoon of sweet vocal delights.

FORGOTTEN ARTS AT DJANBUNG

The Forgotten Arts Fair celebrates the creativity and skills of a world made by hand, of artisans, crafters and practitioners of forgotten arts and traditional crafts. This is the first such event in the Northern Rivers.

The day will feature demonstrations of artisans at their craft, plus workshops, displays and stalls in the tranquil permaculture landscape of Djanbung Gardens, Nimbin, on Saturday 10th August from 10am to 5pm.

The Market-on-the-Meadow will highlight craft stalls with artisans at work including floral crafts, leatherwork, bone and wood carving, natural building, basketry, macramé, natural tanning and bamboo crafting.

The Fibre-to-Fabric area will offer demonstrations, displays and hands-on activities in diverse textile and fibre crafts like spinning, weaving and lacemaking. At the LandsEnd Forge you will see blacksmiths at work and examples of products from the Northern Rivers Knife-makers and Blacksmiths Group.

There will be hands-on activities for all ages to make and create a flower crown, mask-making, simple weaving projects, macramé, bamboo whittling or have a go at using a treadle machine or manual potter's wheel. Get inspired and informed with the workshop program of diverse topics such as practical rope knotting and lashing, home crafting skills, food preservation, natural building, smithing and cultural themes.

Stroll through the Rune-inscribed standing stones to a Viking encampment in the Celtic Grove and explore traditional period skills, crafts and life of a bygone era.

The entertainment and food area



A Viking encampment. Flower crowns (inset)

will feature live Irish folk and Eastern music, and the café will be serving delicious local food and refreshments.

Robyn Francis, world-renowned permaculture educator and proprietor of Djanbung Gardens, is excited to be offering this opportunity to the community. "In a society dominated by mass production, overconsumption and waste, we need to reconnect with the simple pleasures and deep satisfaction of traditional crafts and survival skills to restore balance and draw from this rich heritage as we transition to a more sustainable way of life."

The following day, Sunday 11th, will feature a program of specialist half-day Masterclass Workshops in blacksmithing, coiled basketry, herbal first aid and Celtic wisdoms. These workshops require pre-registration.

The event is hosted by Permaculture College Australia, a non-profit organisation providing education in sustainable living and design.

Djanbung Gardens, at 74 Cecil Street Nimbin, provides an idyllic venue for the event in a rural permaculture environment, conveniently located on the edge of the village, just past the Nimbin Showground.

Entry to the Forgotten Arts Fair is by donation: minimum gold coin (\$5 recommended). Kids free. For more information, visit: <https://permaculture.com.au/forgotten-arts-fair-aug-2019>

Chamber music at Bangalow Festival

The Bangalow Music Festival, now in its 18th year, maintains a strong tradition of presenting world-class chamber music performances.

The theme of 2019 is 'Conversations through Chamber Music'. Music magically tells a story and begins a conversation between the performers and the listeners and connects us to something larger than ourselves.

With nine concert programs carefully crafted by Artistic Director Tania Frazer, as well as community and education events, the Bangalow Music Festival has something to suit all tastes.

Soloists include guitarist Karin Schaupp, NZ violinist Amalia Hall, the Orava Quartet's viola player Thomas Chawner, and cellists Blair Harris and James Tennant.

The concert series runs from Friday 9th August to Sunday 11th. See the full program at: https://issuu.com/southerncrosssoloists/docs/bangalow_music_festival_2019

Nine-concert subscriptions (\$399) and single tickets (\$62) can be purchased at: www.southernxsoloists.com/cms/buy-tickets/Bangalow-Music-Festival-c1831547 All tickets will be allocated seating.



Come one, come all, to the inaugural Uki Steam Funk Ball – an initiative of the Uki Imaginarium Steam Funk Art Emporium.

As we leave the deep cool of the Winter and begin to enter the budding freshness of Spring we will merge the past with the present and the old with the new with a sense of celebration and timeless creativity.

This will be a fabulous feast for every sense, where our audience, also dressed in their best steam funk costumes become a part of the spectacle. A magical art event of the wildest imaginings with a collective approach.

Steam funk is a subgenre of science fiction or science fantasy that incorporates technology and aesthetic designs inspired by 19th-century industrial steam-powered machinery. It is where the past and the future meet in a no rules explosion of creative sartorial expression.

This is strictly a costumed event. Ticket holders must dress up in their best steam punk and funk finery to enter this world of

imagination and delight. Entry will not be permitted without costumed attire.

The inaugural Uki Steam Funk Ball will be held at Uki Town Hall on Saturday 24th August from 6pm, tickets \$30.

The Uki Town Hall will be transformed into a Steam Funk Ballroom, with live music, delectable food and beverages, multi screen VJ projections and music spun by DJ's Countess Orthentix, Professor Oomphalux, Dr Photon and Captain Red Star.

The Ball will also feature live music by Gypsy Jazz Funk Band LunaSea and other fantastical performances TBA. Get ready to dance.

The Amazing and Yummy Piston BBQ (meat included in ticket price), Pure Love Catering, Loki Chai, Herbal Exilers and Emily Devine's Vegan Delights will also be on offer.

Tickets are available online at: www.eventbrite.com.au or from the Uki Imaginarium and Steamfunk Herb Shop in Uki. Book now, tickets will sell fast.

Blue Moon rising again



The Nimbin School of Arts' second BIG major fundraising Blue Moon Cabaret for this year will be held on Saturday 17th August with doors opening at 6.30pm.

The show features a grand spread of performance artists, including singers Andrea Soler and Tim Tonkin, Pandora's Karavan from Brisbane, Laura Nobel band, Ash Bell, Jatika trio, plus David Heilpern, grand pianist Millie Simpson, stand-up comedians Lisa Sharpe and S Sorrensen, Sassy Salsa dancers, Tumble Falls Youth Circus, aerial acrobat Hartje (pictured), poet/host David Hallett and more.

The cabaret is fully catered by Barefoot Affair from the Eltham Pantry, and the Cabaret bar will be open (no BYO). Bookings are essential, as the show is nearly sold out.

Tickets and table reservations are available at Perceptio Bookshop, phone 6689-1766. Tickets \$35/ \$30 conc.

NORPA brings Twits to stage

NORPA presents the world premiere season of this new adaptation of *The Twits*. It is Roald Dahl in his purest form – unsentimental, grotesque and a lot of fun.

Mr and Mrs Twit are the most horrible people ever to live on earth. They spend their days playing dirty tricks on each other.

Mrs Twit puts worms in Mr Twit's spaghetti – yuck! Mr Twit convinces Mrs Twit she has the dreaded shrinks – how mean!

Insults are flying left, right and centre and a tag game of revenge and out-trickery is never-ending.

Don't miss this comedy of rebellion and justice in a super

Photo: Jessica Wyld.



high energy combination of storytelling, puppetry and physical theatre, performed by the internationally acclaimed Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.

Suitable for kids 5+.

Roald Dahl's *The Twits* by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre will be presented on Tuesday 20th August, 6pm at Lismore City Hall, admission \$15-\$38. Visit: www.norpa.org.au for more information.

Art vs science at the Quad

Kooky, wacky, weird and wonderful, Dark Science is a new freaky festival of fun that will occupy Lismore Quad after dark on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th August, 5-10pm. Free admission.

Set during Science Week, Dark Science is a celebration of the intersection between provocative art, performance and the sciences – for adults! It is a free showcase of creative works and experiences that sit outside the mainstream – performance, music, film, visual art as well as many things that defy neat categorisation

Dark Science features a new show by the Space Cowboy called Imagination Rules the World; Splendour in the Grass stalwart Andy Forbes with a macabre show set in a vintage caravan as Mr Filthy and Professor Pickles; Kelly O'Dempsey drawing with light with large-scale projections in new venue The Dub Dome, to a dark dub custom-built sound system with DJ Wonkytooth.

Also on the bill, Uniglo presents costumed anti-heroes Zeta von Tack and Percival Sealevel with their own blend of uniCore, a fusion of electronic styles, punk, industrial and metal; Public Act Theatre will perform The Conduits, a two-hour interactive performance art piece involving five performers and members of the audience combining physical theatre, movement,



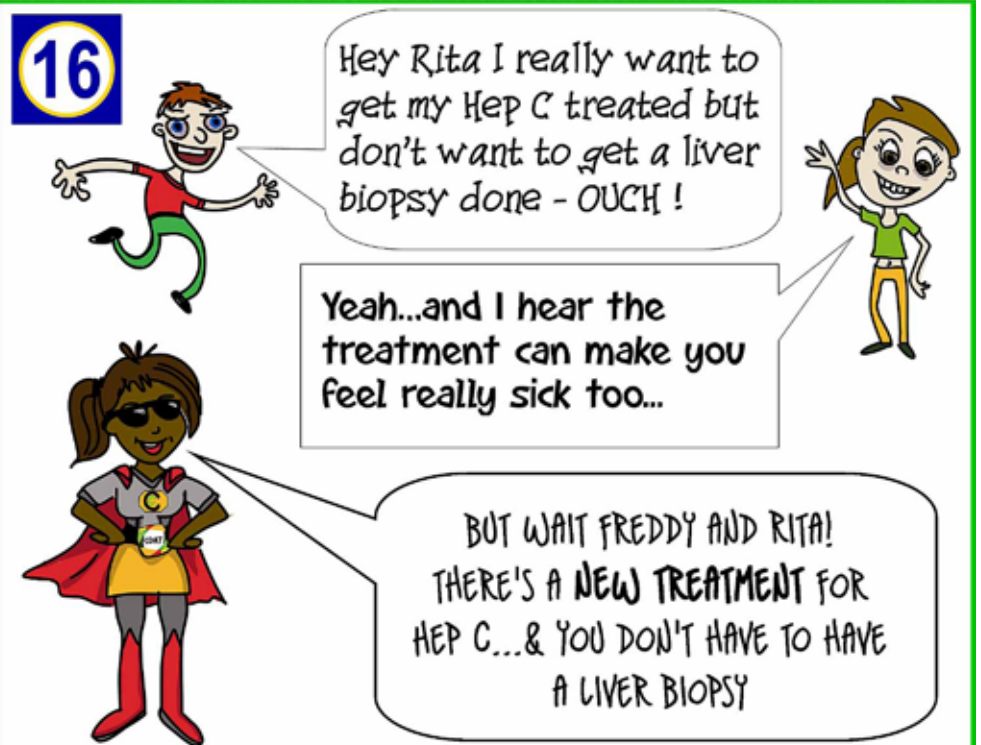
projection, sound and 'automatic painting'; a host of work and installations such as the Dark Museum of Intrigue by Cloudbear and AñA Wojak, the Alchemist's Den for Al Khem; and much more.

Freaky, fun and free, Lismore scores a new festival exploring all things experimental, borderline, out-there, dark, brave and mysterious. Dark Science is a carnival like no other!

More info at: www.lismorequad.org.au



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Afternoon piano recital in Kyogle

The Kyogle & District Arts Group is thrilled to present an afternoon piano recital, featuring local contemporary classical pianist and composer, Nuwanda Coleridge (pictured) who will delight patrons with a repertoire of his own work plus some familiar favourites by Pachelbel, Bach and Marcello at the Kyogle Memorial institute Hall on Sunday 11th August from 2pm.

Afternoon tea will be served at intermission, and the recital is anticipated to run through to 4pm.

Tickets at the door from 1pm, adults \$15, children \$5.



Homage to Peter

Nimbin musician Michael Hannan will be giving the second of his three 2019 solo piano concerts in the Nimbin School of Arts hall on Sunday 25th August at 2pm.

The theme of this concert is the music of Peter Sculthorpe (1929-2014) and the music of his composition assistants from the 1960s through to the first decade of the 21st century.

Michael Hannan was one of these assistants, working for Sculthorpe from 1969 to 1971 in this role and collaborating with him on various performance and creative projects over the following decade.

Peter Sculthorpe was the most celebrated of all Australian composers of new classical music in the second half of the 20th Century. His music focused on Australian historical, cultural and geographical themes and he was strongly influenced by East Asian music traditions and Australian Aboriginal music.

He was a mentor for many younger composers, including students he guided at the University of Sydney and the composers who worked closely with him as assistants or collaborators.

To work for Sculthorpe in this capacity was tantamount to having an apprenticeship.

When Hannan started, his main task was to create neat inked-in scores from Sculthorpe's pencilled scores. He did this at Sculthorpe's kitchen table while the composer was working at his piano within earshot.

Often Sculthorpe would invite Hannan to provide a critical opinion on the relative merits of various potential solutions for a compositional problem. The composer would amusingly ask his assistant for "a composition lesson".

As the musical relationship developed, Hannan was expected to arrange some of Sculthorpe's existing music for various new performance or publication projects and even to compose sections of music, after being given detailed instructions by the composer.

These experiences also informed Hannan's research on Sculthorpe's music, resulting, ultimately, in the publication of a book, *Peter Sculthorpe: His Music and Ideas 1929-1979* (1982).

Hannan's program for the Nimbin School of Arts concert includes a work dedicated to him by Sculthorpe, *Snow, Moon and Flowers* for piano (1970); and work composed for him to play, *Koto Music II* for piano and pre-recorded tape (1973).



Peter Sculthorpe (right) supervising Michael Hannan's preparation of a performance of 'Landscape for piano and pre-recorded tape' (1971) in 1982

Hannan's own creative contribution to the concert program includes *Mysterious Flowers* for piano (1990), one movement of which is dedicated to Sculthorpe, as well as the world premiere of *Homage to Peter* for piano (2016), written in memory of the composer.

Sculthorpe's assistants included some subsequently high profile Australian composers such as Ross Edwards and Anne Boyd. The program includes pieces by both these composers.

When Sculthorpe was living in England in the early 1970s, he employed the composer David Matthews as an assistant.

Matthews, who has since written nine symphonies, all commissioned and performed by major UK orchestras, visited Australia many times to work on

various Sculthorpe projects.

One of these was the film score for a feature film *Essington* (1974), produced by the ABC to be screened in the first week of colour television transmission. This score involved piano music compositions which were co-composed by Sculthorpe, Matthews and Hannan.

The Nimbin School of the Arts concert will include a selection of these piano music film cues which, although recorded for the film, have never before received a concert performance.

The program will also include piano pieces by Caroline Szeto, John Peterson, Daniel Rojas and Peggy Polias, all of whom received an invaluable composition apprenticeship by being Sculthorpe's assistant.

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1250

What's On in August?

- Sunday 18th – Annual General Meeting, 9.30am
- Sunday 25th – Visting Club: Kingscliff Butcherbirds
- Open Mic Nights – Wednesdays 7th and 21st August, 7pm
- Social Bowls – Sundays, 9am
- Social Membership – \$5

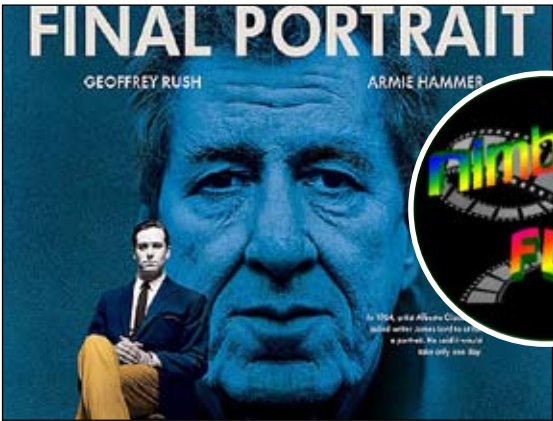
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- Friday 9th, 6pm Nightcap Jazz Band
- Friday 16th, 6pm Mish Songsmith
- Friday 23th, 6pm Brommers
- Friday 30th, 6pm Rob Cass

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This month's Flix film is *Final Portrait*, written and directed by Stanley Tucci, starring Geoffrey Rush and Armie Hammer.

In the first moments of *Final Portrait*, the artist Alberto Giacometti announces that portraiture is both impossible and meaningless in the age of photography. He spends most of the next 90 minutes striving to prove himself wrong.

Final Portrait is a tasteful chamber piece in which Stanley Tucci, the American actor and sometime director (*Big Night*), and his production designer James Merifield lovingly recreate Giacometti's studio and postwar Paris in a muted palette of multiple greys.

Geoffrey Rush renders the loudly self-doubting modernist sculptor and painter while an impressively impassive Armie Hammer plays the sociable American writer James Lord, the subject of the portrait in question.

None of this, however, is what makes *Final Portrait* a notable film, for it is also the rare biopic of a visual artist that considers the dilemma of the art more seriously than it considers the drama of the life.

Tucci was inspired here by Lord's own memoirs of his friendship with Giacometti in the 1950s, especially the story told in *A Giacometti Portrait*, of how the American writer came to sit for the artist in the autumn of 1964.

The day before he is to catch a plane back to New York, Lord agrees to pose for a portrait sketch that Giacometti assures him will only be a matter of a few hours' work. Two weeks and many phone calls to the airline office later, Lord is still there as Giacometti

labours to render in paint what he sees in life.

It is that struggle – and the mysteriously existential nature of it – that provides Tucci with his real drama. Conversations with Giacometti's brother and assistant Diego (a quietly amused Tony Shalhoub) or walks in the local cemetery to discuss Picasso advance the theme; the loud disruptions of Giacometti's muse and mistress, the prostitute Caroline (a fabulously energetic Clémence Poésy) stress the claustrophobic atmosphere of the studio, but otherwise much of the outside action seems extraneous.

Even an enigmatic scene where Giacometti pays off Caroline's pimp or a yet briefer one where his wife Annette (Sylvie Testud) dallies with her own lover feel like distractions. The cosmic joke at the heart of the film is simply whether Giacometti will ever finish the portrait.

As the artist, Rush may not master the linguistic mash-up – Giacometti was an Italian-speaking Swiss living in France and his Anglo-Saxon curses sound improbable – but he ably provides the melodrama in the role of the tortured genius and injects just the right amount of humour into Giacometti's frustration and stasis.

It's a big performance that follows in that biographical tradition reaching all the way back to Kirk Douglas's raging Vincent van Gogh and including, more recently, Ed Harris's alcoholic Jackson Pollock.

It is up to Hammer, therefore, to explain the actual art-making. Coincidentally cast as another American gadfly in Europe on the heels of *Call Me By Your Name*, Hammer may be playing a discreetly gay character, but he is Rush's straight man here, indicating the sitter's bemusement, exhaustion or despair with the slightest shift of posture or the quietest expression.

Tucci's camera circles the sitter, contemplating Hammer's beauty, then considering the bold lines of Giacometti's painting, then returning to Hammer's still face. Now the film rises above its biographical limitations as though it is struggling right alongside the artist to understand the nature of portraiture itself.

The film will be screened on Saturday 10th August in the Birth & Beyond Meeting Room, 54 Cullen Street. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm screening.



Cuckoo's nest in Ballina

Characters Cheswick, Martini, Harding, Billy, Scanlon. Photo: Hillary Goodsell

Mike Sheehan and Peter Harding, directors of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* for Ballina Players, have assembled an extremely experienced cast.

Cheswick (Bill Graham), Martini (Mike Harris), Scanlon (Graeme Speed), Billy (Weylin Martens-Mullane) and Harding (Grey Wilson) have all appeared on North Coast stages with Lismore Theatre Company, Ballina Players and Bangalow Theatre Company, and have many years of stage work behind them. The exception is Weylin who appears in his first production outside of school.

These five men form the basis of the institutionalised inmates at the hospital where the action takes place, and all have their own particular reasons and behaviours for being there.

In a very early scene from the play, Martini's hallucinatory behaviour manifests itself in a card game where, to the frustration of his fellow patients, he keeps dealing to imaginary card players.

Billy is a stuttering self-harmer, Scanlon wants to blow up the world, while Harding has severe problems with his wife's appearance and the attention she gets from other men.

All these men are voluntary patients, which causes McMurphy (John Rado), who is the protagonist for all the plays' action, real problems when he arrives on the scene.

Cuckoo's Nest is a drama which takes audiences to places and experiences which are unsettling and confrontational but will have them laughing at the same time.

One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest opens at Ballina Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street Ballina, on 23rd August for seven performances, finishing on 1st September. All shows are at 8pm, except for Sundays which are at 2pm.

Tickets are \$25/adult, \$15/child (16 and under), and are available at Just Funkin Music shop at 124 River Street Ballina, 6686-2440 (a \$2 booking fee applies) or on-line at: www.ballinaplayers.com.au (no booking fee).

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