

A TASTE OF ART



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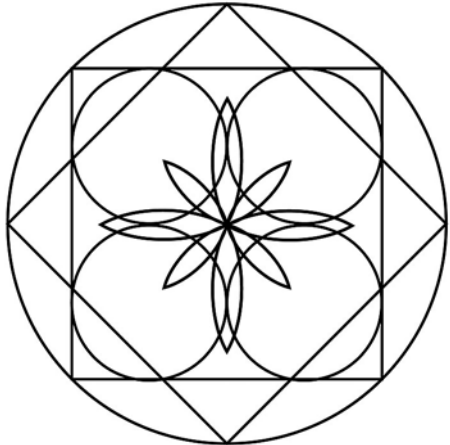
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Pauline's fabulous fabric art

by Anne Cook

The use of textiles for beautifying purposes has been a basic part of people's lives since the earliest civilisations.

People have been using fabric and fibre to decorate themselves, their houses, public places and places of worship for as long as we can remember.

When we think of textile art, we tend to think of grand medieval pieces such as the elaborately embroidered work known as The Bayeux Tapestry or the famous Unicorn Tapestries, with these works being destined only for the eyes of the affluent and the elite.

However, textile art is a most egalitarian type of artform with practically every household having on display either a macrame wall-hanging, a bedspread collected on a recent trip to India, or a quilted throw draped elegantly over the sofa. Me, I am into tea cosies!

At the Nimbin Artists Gallery we exhibit a range of textile artists' works and from mid-December



Images in rust by Pauline Ahern

onwards we are planning to have on display a selection of items from our own fabulous fabric artist Pauline Ahern.

Trying to shoehorn Pauline's work into a particular design style is an impossible thing as when it comes to making textile art, Pauline explores a broad range of artistic practices.

Pauline puts together beautifully textured "paintings" using found items such as antique lace, fur and reclaimed mixed fabrics. Additionally, Pauline will

dye silk using the traditional Japanese Shibori method and add interest through the use of freehand embroidery.

Pauline's newest venture in the area of textile art has involved experiments with rust. Starting with a natural fibre such as linen, cotton or silk, a rusted metal item is placed in contact with the fabric in addition to various substances, and over time the "picture" of the object is transferred to create dynamic and interesting images.

This transfer method works on a variety of objects and surfaces and gives you a wonderful decorative piece of art that you can either wear, hang on the wall or use in soft furnishings.

If you would like to come and see our post-Covid range of artworks, we will be doing a new hanging in the middle of December with a view to opening up around that time. We will be open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm.

Please come by and support your local artists.

Photographic portraits and workshops



Portrait of Lynn Ruby Morris

Lismore has a new photographic studio that opened its doors in late November.

Studio NOW is operated by Lismore-based artist and photographer Raimond de Weerd, and located at the Inner Sanctum at 68 Magellan Street.

Raimond has been taking portraits for many years and is a founding member of one of Australia's longest running photographic portrait projects, Facing Australia.

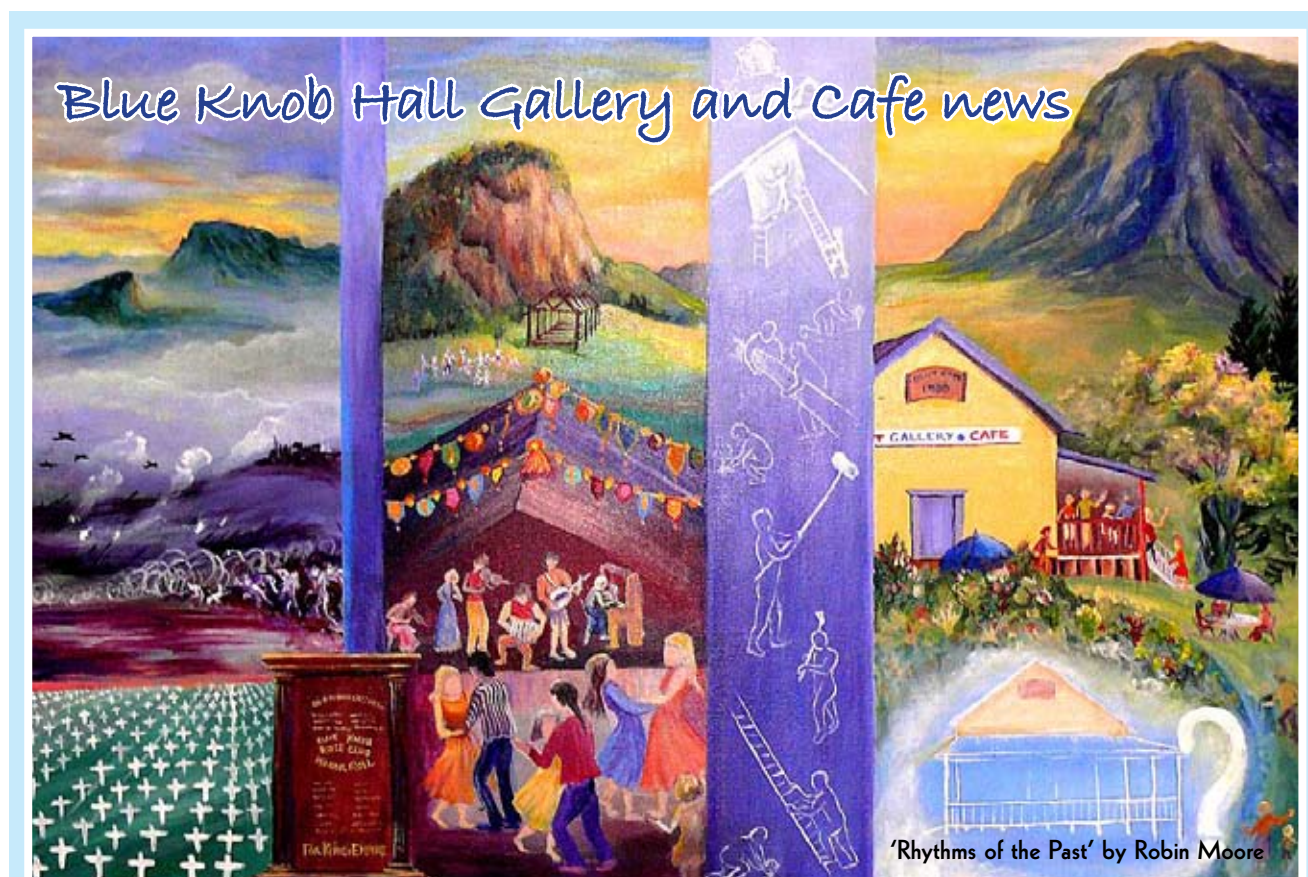
Studio NOW specialises in professional portraits not only for actors, artists and models but also

anyone wanting to have a professional studio portrait of themselves for their professional or social media profile.

"To reflect our diverse community, I want to produce portraits that are dignified, strong and beautiful," Raimond says.

In addition to providing a photographic service, Studio NOW will also deliver photography workshops starting in December.

For more information, phone Raimond on 0400-141-713 or email: rai@bigpond.net.au



'Rhythms of the Past' by Robin Moore

We will be re-opening on Thursday 6th January with 'The Wild Side' exhibition and 'Everything Blue' by Lorraine Lintern and Elsbeth Gartly-Strassmann in the Solo Space.

An opening night is planned for Friday 14th January, with dinner available.

We would like to thank all our members and patrons for their support

over the last year and we look forward to a fresh start in 2022.

For any enquiries, please phone 02 6689-7449 or go to the blueknobgallery.com website.

Indigenous Art Awards finalists on show

An exhibition of the 49 finalist works in the first *Koori Mail Indigenous Art Award*, together with the winners of the *Bundjalung Art Award*, the *Innovation Art Award* and the *Youth Art Award*, is being hosted by Lismore Regional Gallery.

Work by established and emerging Indigenous artists from every state and territory, working across a wide variety of mediums is on show, and includes strong representation from Bundjalung artists and Aboriginal artists practising in the Northern Rivers.

The ages of the youngest and oldest artists are separated by 58 years.

One of the finalists is Kylie



Caldwell, a Bundjalung artist based in Wollongbar, whose digital print 'Mrs and Mr Watcher' (pictured) presents a picture of ancestors watching

media-obsessed people of today. The exhibition is on show at Lismore Regional Gallery until 30th January. Entry is by gold coin donation.



Gallery moves to new home

by Corinne Batt-Rawden

Due to the recent sale of our humble abode and birthing place, Serpentine Gallery have been required to find a new location.

Our North Lismore address closed on 24th November, and we will be renovating, moving and setting up over the next five weeks in Conway Street, Lismore.

We've loved our little space in North Lismore and have showcased hundreds of exhibitions and events in the 15 years we have been there.

The top image is our new



blank canvas that we are moving into. The bottom image is what we are leaving behind.

Our next event is a New

Years Eve Masque Ball to welcome everyone to the new bigger and more modern Serpentine Gallery. Watch for more details.

Summer art exhibition in Nimbin

by David Hallett

Nimbin School of Arts has had an on/off year with exhibitions.

However, two major art shows were held between lockdowns in Summer and Winter.

The School of Arts is planning another show in the new year with a second Summer Art Exhibition opening on Sunday 2nd January.

Registration forms for entry to the exhibition are now available at Perceptio Bookshop, and works will be received for the show on Wednesday 29th December.

For any further information, phone 6689-1577.



Pegasus Mandala by Sandra Joran

Diverse art at Roxy Gallery

As the year moves to a close, the Roxy Gallery has herded up creative people to take part in the annual end of year / beginning of new year exhibition, 'Fast Calves'.

What do calves that move with great speed have to do with art?

Fast Calves is the acronym that reflects the key principles to art: F-orm, A-rt, S-hape, T-exture, C-olor, A-rt, L-ine, V-alue, E-lements, S-pace.

A lot of people have taken to practising these principles throughout the days of being restricted, and using the opportunities to pursue and find new interests in creating things.

Fast Calves is a non-thematic exhibition incorporating a variety of people from throughout the community who have been creating art pieces throughout the year and are keen to offer their talents up for the public to enjoy, and possibly purchase for a gift.

This exhibition has a diverse array of art styles, techniques and forms that highlight people's engagement in art making.

Fast Calves will open on 9th December and run through until 30th January.

The Roxy Gallery will be closed for the first week of December to get ready for the Fast Calves opening, and the gallery will not be open on Public Holidays throughout the festive season.

Kyogle preschoolers grow in art

In the foyer of the Roxy Gallery entrance, the Steppin' up Gallery will have a fantastic display of works by young preschool-aged people.

Kyogle early learning preschoolers have had an ongoing project this year centred around the book called *Recipe for a Perfect Planet Pie* by Kim Michelle Toft, a talented local artist and writer.

The book explores concepts of sustainability, environmental awareness and caring for our land. The children's artworks are centred around the book.

Multifaceted learning has taken place during



'Wild' by Wendy McGain



'Only Weeds Survived' by Michelle Jeffery



Untitled by Pat Oxtoby

this project, with children witnessing animal life cycles, established and embedded gardening and plant care, bringing into our curriculum a beautiful vertical garden, vegetable garden and a flower patch.

The children have enjoyed cooking with the fresh herbs and vegetables and enjoyed using all this new-found knowledge to help them form

artistic inspiration during this project.

Thirty children took part in this project over several months, adding more to their artworks as the weeks passed. They have been counting down the weeks until the gallery opening, and are so proud to present it to their community.

This exhibition will be on show until the end of January.



Teacher Sarah Bordin reading the book to the preschool group



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OzKat
Clothing is still available in Nimbin!
at T.H.C - The Heart Connexion - (opp The Green Bank).
Ask Xenia ...she will get it in for you!

What butterflies?

by Scott O’Keeffe

Lepidoptera is the insect order that contains butterflies and moths. There are 20-30 thousand species of moths in Australia. These make up over 95% of the Australian lepidoptera. The 405 butterfly species are only a very small portion of our lepidoptera.

Since butterflies generally require humid environments and cannot tolerate high temperatures, Australian species are mostly creatures of coastal wooded ecosystems. There are relatively few butterfly species in the dry interior. Moths however, inhabit all parts of Australia, including arid and semi-arid areas.

Moths are very good at losing excess body heat – a big advantage in hot environments. Small size is also an advantage in the hot, dry interior. Small moths are able to take advantage of minute pockets of favourable habitat. Being mobile, moths can readily move between these small pockets when conditions become unfavourable. So moths are widespread in the harsh Australian interior with its widely scattered oases.

This short article cannot review all facets of the moth life cycle, diet, physiology or ecology. But you need to know the four stages in the lepidoptera life cycle: egg, larvae, pupae and adult. The adult stage is usually the shortest part of a moth’s life. In most moth species the larval stage (the caterpillar) is what we

know least about. Moth larvae and adults are so dissimilar, they could almost be entirely different animals. The larval stage of a moth’s development varies between species, but typically lasts from a few weeks to a few months. Australian wood moths (Cossidae) are exceptional. Their wood-boring larvae take two to three years to develop into adults. The larvae have a major role in the function of Australian forest ecosystems.

Adult moths generally have short lives of between one and three weeks. Bogong moth (*Agrostis infusa*) adults are an exception. The migratory adults live for eight or nine months.

Since moths are soft-bodied invertebrates, with no internal or external skeletons, they can grow and reach maturity very rapidly. Rapid growth is yet another advantage in environments where conditions change rapidly.

The soft bodies of larvae and adults make good food for predators, but moths have some impressive ways to deter them. Some caterpillars absorb toxic or noxious chemicals from their food plants, or manufacture others in their bodies. Predators that try to eat these learn to recognise the caterpillars or adults that taste foul, and avoid them.

Burnet moths (*Zygaenidae*) for example, exude the toxic compound hydrogen cyanide as a deterrent to predators. There are 43 species of Burnet moths in Australia, and some of these are day-flying species.



These wasp moths (*Amata* sp.) mimic their moniker. They are common around the Northern Rivers.



Looper caterpillar. Many moths have caterpillars that ‘inch’ rather than crawling. This one could be the larvae of a geometrid moth.



This geometrid moth should probably be resting on a background of lichens.

Lepidoptera that are toxic or taste foul are often brightly coloured or strikingly patterned to make it easy for predators to learn which species to avoid.

Some lepidoptera larvae have bristles or hairs that sting or exude irritant substances to deter predators. Bag shelter moths (*Ochrogaster lunifer*) are widespread in Australia. The larvae feed on acacias. The caterpillars are covered in extremely irritating hairs that can inflame eyes, skin and respiratory tracts of potential predators or the curious.

The caterpillars feed together in large groups, “nesting” in “silk bags” built in trees. These bags are covered with their broken hairs and shed skins – a formidable deterrent.

Many adult moths in the *geometridae* family have complex patterns and colours that allow them to ‘merge’ into backgrounds of foliage, bark or lichen. The moths avoid predation with these cryptic patterns, provided they alight on the right background.

An unusual method of avoiding predation is employed by some nocturnal species of tiger moths (*Arctiidae*). Microbats that navigate with ultrasound are predators of adult nocturnal tiger moths. Some of these moths use noxious chemicals to deter micro bats.

Some tiger moths combine a foul taste with ultrasonic sounds, produced with a special organ. The sounds emitted can be heard by the bats and proclaim the moth’s inedibility. The moth ultrasounds may also ‘jam’ microbat sonar, making it difficult for the bats to locate their prey.

The features that have most often been used to separate moths from butterflies are activity pattern and antennae shape. Night fliers are classed as moths, and day fliers as butterflies. Lepidoptera with club-shaped antennae are butterflies, and those with no knobs or having divided antennae are said to be moths.

There are so many exceptions to these rules that they don’t really

tell us much about the ecology or evolution of either group. The division seems very arbitrary. A better way to understand lepidoptera is to view all of them as moths, with the many families and species, including butterflies, having specialised to suit particular ecosystems.

So goodbye butterflies! We can now zoom out from one corner of a painting to view a huge canvas with 30,000 panels.

You can experience the wow factor of this diversity for yourself with a simple experiment. After dusk, erect a piece of white fabric outside. Illuminate it with a UV light (blacklight) or a fluorescent light. I think you will be amazed at the variety of moths that appear out of nowhere. See how many species you can identify.

Take some photos and put them up on the net. There are enough naturalists and scientists out there that someone might be able to name some of your finds. You might even discover something new.

Help make a brighter future in Kenya

by Rob and Rikki Fisher

The work of Kenya Kids International continues to expand, despite the restrictions and difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

KKI is a registered charity established in 2017 when we spent three months backpacking around East Africa. We established KKI to assist a very poor community in remote Kenya.

KKI’s primary goal is giving young Kenyans a brighter future by providing educational opportunities to orphans and vulnerable children.

Student sponsorship program

Each year KKI aims to sponsor six new students to attend secondary school. In September 2020 we wrote to our Kenyan partners warning we may not be able to sponsor any new students in 2021.

However, in the last three months of the year we had a wonderful response as new and old sponsors came on board. At the beginning of this year we were able to sponsor 10 new students. What a tremendous result!

This year our students came from the wider geographical area of Karungu rather than just the Agolomuok area. We sought applicants who had achieved a higher academic standard in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education. This meant we needed to cast our net wider in order to reach students who were more likely to succeed at their studies.

Currently 38 students are being sponsored: 35 students are at secondary school and three are at University. Sara is midway through a four-year Bachelor of Education (science, with IT) and Sharon has just completed a two-year Diploma in Business Management, and will now begin a three-year Accountancy course. Our newest university student Vincent has just commenced a four-year Bachelor of Education (Arts) degree.



Vincent showcasing some of the items his sponsor supplied to start his four years at University.

Long distance challenges

There are so many aspects to managing the sponsorship program. After the ASSG (our Kenyan partners) has received applications from students, collected school reports and references, conducted interviews and made their final recommendations, KKI examines each application before giving approval for sponsorship.

In the past, we visited Kenya before the school year begins, to meet the successful students and their families.

We interviewed each family to glean more



New students receiving their text books.

information on family size and members, living arrangements, health and wellbeing, how the parents or guardians support the family and any other relevant aspects. This has been essential to our understanding of the students’ home life and any particular needs or challenges faced by the family.

Not being able to visit Kenya since January 2020 has presented real challenges in gathering information and monitoring KKI projects. Only a few members of the ASSG are computer-literate and have access to the computers provided by KKI.

KKI requires the ASSG to monitor each of our 38 students and arrange payment of school fees, purchase of textbooks, writing of letters to sponsors, dealing with health issues, etc.

The bulk of the work falls to the Executive who are already very busy taking care of their families. The treasurer is supporting 25 orphans, all nieces and nephews of his dead siblings.

Student case worker

Since we cannot visit Kenya, we have been frustrated in not getting timely information about our students and their needs. It is clear that we need to employ someone to manage these tasks for us.

We need a student case worker, a suitable

person to work two or three days per week depending on the time of the year. More time is needed at the commencement of the school year and less during term.

The person will be computer literate and able to visit schools and students. KKI will supply a computer, mobile phone and travel expenses. The salary cost will vary between \$210 - \$315 per month.

Employing a student case worker will make a very positive contribution to the student sponsorship program and directly benefit the students involved, whether it’s the purchase of books, getting medical help when needed, or managing a personal problem.

Our hope is that sufficient sponsors will come forward to fund the student case worker. We need six to eight people prepared to give \$40 per month. Is this something you can help with?

Please send your gift to our KKI account at Summerland Credit Union: BSB 728-728, Account #22314767 Details: Worker.

KKI also funds a worker at a Kenyan babies home, and offers interest-free loans to market traders, and female goats to prospective goat breeders, in their First Fruits project.

Go the goats

Weed Words
by Triny Roe

BOM reports that La Niña is bringing more rain than average this summer, and we've had a wet Spring.

So much better than bushfires, but the weeds love it. They're taking off, growing speedily with plenty of available soil moisture, so get onto them early to reduce your workload.

New plants will always come. It's how long we wait before we deal with them that is the critical factor as to whether they will become a big problem.

With land management comes biosecurity responsibilities, which means weed control. Nature these days isn't very natural, as over 2,500 exotic species have become too happy in their new homes.

Many species are considered naturalised and are ubiquitous. Some are rampant colonisers, displacing the plants that were there before and transforming landscapes. Others pop up anywhere they please.

After identification, determine an appropriate method of control. Weed control can be carried out in a variety of ways. Every situation is different and may require a tailor-made approach.

Some reach first for herbicides, and some situations may require

judicious use, but there are alternative methods to adding more chemicals to our already polluted world.

An overgrown paddock choked with woody weeds like lantana and bana grass could be cleared by a herd of hungry goats.

These animals eat just about everything and love roughage. They are an efficient environmentally friendly alternative with a potential by-product of milk, meat and leather.

Because goats are fond of woody material, they are likely to ringbark trees on the site so these must be protected if they are desired species. Goats may need protection themselves from wild dogs or pet dogs gone roaming. Ensure toxic species are also not present or fenced off.

Fireweed *Senecio madagascariensis* is one of the 32 weeds of national significance. While this species is toxic to most grazing animals, goats and sheep can eat it, though not long-term.

Also known as Madagascar ragwort as it hails from southern Africa, this plant with its pretty yellow daisy flowers affects horses, donkeys and cattle, causing irreversible liver and brain damage. Horses become unfocused and unco-ordinated.

Living only one or two years, fireweed can quickly take over a paddock, as stock will mostly avoid it.

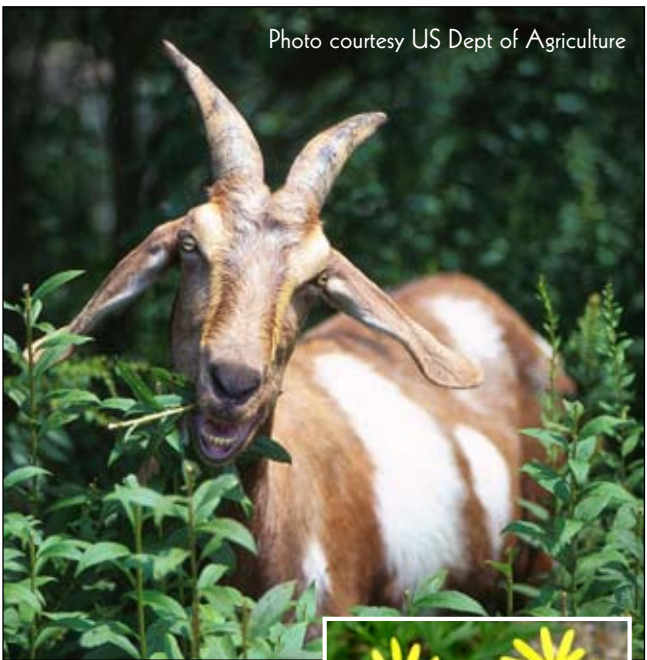


Photo courtesy US Dept of Agriculture



Each plant produces tens of thousands of light hairy seeds. It finds a niche and establishes among the pasture grasses and legumes, especially when grazing pressure is high.

When animals mistakenly or accidentally eat fireweed they can die. New seedlings emerge in Autumn and they flower in Spring. Strategically graze with goats or sheep before flowering. Tillage can also be incorporated into a chem-free management regime.

Spreading far and wide, fireweed seeds can blow in the wind or be carried to new locations on clothing, vehicles, machinery, animals and birds. Fireweed can also contaminate hay or other stock feed. Keep a close eye out for new occurrences.

Hand weed isolated specimens. Wearing gloves is recommended. Bag and bin or burn the plants, as flowers can contain viable seed.

Fireweed

The native fireweed *Senecio linearifolius* has only eight petals while the weed has 13.

New weeds arrive via many routes. Apart from transport by wind, water and animals, seed can be introduced when bringing in topsoil, mulch, stock feed, pot plants and seed packets. These can all contain exotic species which could grow out of control.

Bulldozers, graders and earth-moving equipment are notorious for having clods of mud and even living plants growing on them. Check that contractors clean their machines.

Join a local Landcare group to learn more about weeds and native species in your area. Happy weeding.

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Test drive the Red Lizzy EV

Red Lizzy, a Nissan Leaf electric vehicle, will be stationed at the Lismore Farmers Market on 22nd December from 4 to 8pm, and available for test drives.

This project is part of electricity provider Enova Community Energy's used EV bulk buy, in partnership with the Good Car Company, a Tasmanian social enterprise focussed on decarbonising transport and making EVs more affordable.

Good Car Company co-founders Anton Vikstrom, Anthony Broese van Groenou and Sam Whitehead started running bulk buys of electric vehicles in 2019, and have so far brought more than 300 vehicles into the country.

"We exclusively sell and support electric vehicles because we want to do whatever we can to decarbonise transport," said Anthony. "We only deal in 100% electric cars and we're proud to partner with communities wanting to achieve zero emissions."

The Enova EV bulk buy is a collaborative effort to



Volunteer EV bulk buy ambassadors Eric van Beurden and Ashley Brunner with Red Lizzie

make EVs more affordable to more people, designed to enable participants to make an informed decision on purchasing.

On offer are the second-hand Nissan AZEO Leaf (24kWh and 30kWh), the Nissan Leaf ZE1 (40kWh and 62 kWh), and the Nissan eNV200 electric van (24kWh) in 2, 5 and 7 seater models. Prices range from \$17,000 to \$55,000.

A volunteer team of local Lismore EV enthusiasts who want to support the transition to electric vehicles will run the EV stall at the Lismore pre-Christmas market and co-ordinate the test drives, which can also be arranged by phoning 0427-631-457.

Locals who register at: www.enovaenergy.com.au/goodcarco will be able to participate in a four-week

EV educational program that includes the opportunity for test drives and a Bulk Buy Launch Event when people can order their EV.

The bulk-buy itself will open for the purchasing of quality-checked second-hand Nissan Leaf vehicles from February 2022. Northern Rivers locals can join the no obligation bulk-buy program by registering at: www.enovaenergy.com.au/goodcarco

Artistic Driveways
A photograph of a small, white, motorized machine used for laying asphalt, with a hopper for material and a spreading mechanism.
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Hussy Hicks & Ash Grunwald at Regent

Hussy Hicks feature Leesa Gentz on powerhouse vocals and Julz Parker's jaw dropping guitar skills. The connection between these two performers is alchemical and unmissable. They are performing at The Regent in Murwillumbah on Friday 17th December from 8.15pm supported by Chris E Thomas.

Hussy Hicks have won multiple awards across the nation and acclaim around the world. Guitarist Julz Parker is touted by Phil Emmanuel as being 'Australia's top female guitar player'.

Support act Chris E Thomas is another missable singer, like Patsy Cline with added grunt and a wild swing! She sings with Vanessa Amorosi, Brian Cadd, Tina Arena, Beccy Cole, Billy Thorpe, Rick Astley or Adam Brand and many more.

Brian Cadd rates her among the best he's ever encountered, saying, "Her power and passion are what music should be all about".



Tickets are \$25/20 and are available at: the-regent.com.au/live-events/

Ahead of the release of his eleventh studio album *Shout Into The Noise* due for release on 21st January, Ash Grunwald is appearing at The Regent at 3pm on Sunday 19th December.

Grunwald is one of Australia's most successful blues musicians ever, with six top 50 albums and two APRA Awards, five ARIA Awards and many



more accolades. Most recently Ash collaborated with Josh Teskey on the top 10 album, *Push The Blues Away*.

Shout Into The Noise is the start of a new chapter for Grunwald. Catch him for an electrifying live show, book now at: www.the-regent.com.au/live-events/

Come early for lunch, enjoy our SE Asian menu, pizza, slushys and a bar serving craft beers, organic wines and the infamous frozen margaritas.



Good turnout for bushwalkers AGM

by Peter Moyle

With the warmer/hotter weather over December and January, the Nimbin Bushwalkers take a break except for the occasional casual paddle on the local rivers.

Covid has affected us all and some considerably, we have been very fortunate with a year of organising, re-organising, cancelling and sometimes a quick reschedule, but in retrospect a very successful year out and about in the local area.

The Annual General Meeting was held recently with a very good turnout at Rocky Creek Dam for the meeting that followed a two-hour walk and then a very well-presented BBQ to finish off the day.

Plenty of enthusiasm has been seen within the club, and a record number of members see the club keen and eager for 2022, with plans already being well advanced on the walks schedule. *The Nimbin GoodTimes* will have our monthly activities for members, prospective members and visitors to peruse.

Note with our growing active membership, register early as we have had to restrict numbers on some walks.

My highlights of the year have been the camps/walks at Lake Arrogan and Girraween NP, and the day walks to Christies Creek and the ever-popular Terania Creek were standouts.

On a final note, Judy Hales who is our longest serving member, walks leader of note, and former club President, was acknowledged for her services to the club at the AGM with Life Membership, a well-deserved award.



Nimbin Garden



Photo: Olof Jonnerstig

by Peter Brooker

There are 693 days between the 25th January 2020 and the 18th December 2021. It was the 25th January 2020 that the latest incarnation of a 55 million year old virus came to visit.

Some say it first appeared on the planet as recently as 8000 BC and has been evolving with us ever since, but this time we were a little less prepared and it robbed us of many garden visits, social gatherings and general social interactions.

The 18th December 2021 however is when we forget all that. The 18th December is when we all come together again, when we cast off the dark cloak of despair and take note of what the Duke



of Venice said in Othello, "The robb'd that smiles, steals something from the thief," and so we shall.

We will smile when we meet at Kerry and Dan's home at 336 Stony Chute Road and we will steal something from this thief, our community. And we will do this at 12 noon when we arrive each armed with a plate of something to add to that provided by the club and we will eat, drink a little, chat a little and be merry.

We will rejoice as Kerry calls us to order and we start our AGM, get excited when the committee positions are thrown open and we can vote for, or nominate, committee members, join in the fun as we try to be the first to pay \$15 and become the first paid-up club member for 2021/22.

Club notes



There will be the customary champagne after the AGM, red and white wine and of course soft drinks like sparkling apple juice and a raffle. We have catered for vegans, vegetarians, carnivores and coeliacs.

So, come along, celebrate life and, as Albert Einstein said, "We will learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow."

Be the Duke of Venice, steal something from this thief and do it now because in seven trillion years it will be too late, the last red dwarf will flutter and fade to black and the universe will really, and permanently, go dark.

This exciting event is open to all who want to attend, free for members and \$10 for guests. Don't forget to RSVP Kerry on 6689-0514.

Plant of the month



Flame Tree

Brachychiton acerifolius

by Richard Burer

Christmas comes early this month, with a display from this grand old tree, the flame tree. *Brachychiton acerifolius* is perhaps the most familiar rainforest tree of our region and maybe the east coast, its signature blossom warming every daylight moment.

This large tree is well known and common in and around our local valleys and a cultural asset of the first peoples of this land.

I enjoy spotting them out on the western side of Blue Knob, the red flowers guiding the viewer to the waterways and rainforest coming down the mountain gullies.

Personally its presence for me signifies the seasons, and

its degree of flush shows the types of season we are having.

Its flowering I must say is looking good – that is, dark red, dense blossom and a massive display – will give the interested human some relief with the knowledge that rain is not far away and the wet season potential.

That is not to say it won't flower in dry times, it's just the deeper feeling of this signature rainforest tree.

This species will always find its way into my plantings: it's reliable, hardy, and long living, deciduous and a big favourite of lorikeets which like the tree, the warmth, the heart, as they hang about drunk on the tree's nectar.

Growing to nearly 40 metres, I still have no qualms about planting it near the

house, and at my place it's an Indian wedding every day.

I've included a photo of this flower in our path for your viewing. I think this tree took well over 15 years to flower and well over a decade to start to grow canopy.

Planted trees can be touch and go, some growing well and flowering early, but most taking a teenage generation to reach medium potential.

Good soil and a well-mulched moist environment will give the best start. Only plant healthy tube stock.

Enjoy this classic real Christmas tree this December.

*Richard Burer is a Nimbin-based local natural area restoration contractor and consultant
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by Jazmin Theodore

My boyfriend and I left Australia just as my first Saturn return was at its peak. We arrived in Manila in the Philippines on 16th February 1969 and stayed two days. It was one of the most awful places I've ever been to. You couldn't feel safe walking on the street of a night.

We left Manila and arrived in Hong Kong on 18th February 1969, and what a wonderful place Hong Kong was in those days! Everyone referred to it as Honkers. I got a job in a drag show called Playgirls in the Miramar Hotel in Kowloon. We lived in a really sturdy typhoon-proof house in Tinmuntoy Do, which translates into Observatory Hill Road. When we moved in, we found it was where all the cast from *Playgirls* lived.

We had three amahs, one lived away and one stayed on site permanently. We were astounded that such a strong building didn't have any lifts. Then one night, one of the cast woke in the middle of the night and saw a Japanese soldier, and let out a scream. Everyone came rushing in to see what had happened, and she said, "I thought I saw a Japanese soldier standing by my bed."

Then the story came out about why there were no lifts. The building was used as a Japanese prison and just when the war finished the resistance fighters crept in and murdered all the soldiers, released

A DANCER'S LIFE

all the prisoners and then threw the bodies down the lift well. There was also a vacant allotment on Nathan Road that the Japanese used as an execution ground. So, as much as property was so valuable in Hong Kong, it was never bought by developers until a much later time.

In 1969 I started working as a stripper and belly dancer in the clubs and was very well received. Then I set off to work in Singapore in the Grand Hotel; and then to Malaysia and then to Thailand, and came back to Hong Kong for a short time and then travelled to England.

There I had my transgender operation and worked around the clubs in England. I was robbed in London – I went to pay 500 pounds for my operation and there were no taxis anywhere and I got robbed. By that time it was 1970, so I worked in a lot of places throughout the countryside of England, and of course I worked in a few strip clubs in London itself.

At the time I loved Hong Kong so much, after being ten months in England, I couldn't wait to get back, but when I arrived in London I miraculously tracked down a friend who had left Australia to go to England, Morag Campbell Craig, and I stayed with her a fair bit. It was a beautiful reunion.

Back in Hong Kong again I started to work in all the nightclubs and it was a wonderful way of living. Having worked in Malaysia in 1969, I had made lots of friends with locals but in 1971 I again grew tired of Hong Kong. I decided to go and live in Penang. I called some friends there and asked if they could look for a property to rent. They said, "No, Jazmin you will live in our house."

It was a house on stilts in a kampong. We were separate from the kampong, but it was where a lot of people had rooms to sleep, communal kitchens and television. It was a big gathering place, a beautiful idea. I lived next door to the reclining

female Buddha in a street called Burma Lane. Down the road a bit, there was a white elephant outside the temple. It was just a beautiful life. I've never known such an exquisite life. But a couple of years later when the Muslims took over, the whole lifestyle changed. So in 1973 I came back to Australia for ten months, then went back overseas again to work.

In Hong Kong again, I met this very rich young American man and I caught up with a few friends as I was a bit depressed. Anyway, we ended up at the Grand Hotel in Hong Kong. The young American wanted to marry me. At 2 o'clock in the morning he said to me, "Do you want a mink or a diamond?" I said, "It'll have to be a mink." About 20 minutes later a shop assistant came in with all their best minks.

Then he disappeared for a while, then I met a diamond merchant. I had an affair with him because he gave me a beautiful diamond watch. So here I am with this beautiful diamond watch and diamond ring, and later I tracked down that friend of mine from Australia, Morag.

The mink was valued at thousands, and someone offered me five hundred pounds. I had started thinking about how minks had such a tortured life to produce these luxury items. I realised how all my views on life were changing drastically. But all around me since the days of Kings Cross I've had people around me with this different way of thinking.

One thing that I really loved in Chinese cooking was pig's liver, until you realised all the mother pigs were put into a cage that they never got out of.

Then my brother Wayne came to Penang and I became a vegetarian. I realised how much we can change and how wonderful our minds are, to be in touch with everything. Breathing pure air... we have to get more pure air for people.

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Towards Nimbin Aquarius 50th, 2023



by Benny Zable, NAFL president

Following the Remembrance Day commemorations, a number of us gathered around the Imagine circle to do the 11-11-11 OM for world peace.

Joining us was Tedi (Tor) Davis, one of our long-standing members who just arrived back from India after being quarantined for one and a half years re Covid-19 pandemic.

We did a call and response with the Declaration of Interdependence composed by Rick Ulfik, the founder of WE; We the world network, who I learnt it from, during my times spent in New York City.

You can sign and share the Declaration of Interdependence from: <https://we.we.net/declaration>

Imaginations towards Nimbin Aquarius 2023 have included discussing memorialising at the Imagine site area, remembering the Frontier wars.

A significant historic moment at the Nimbin Aquarius Festival in May 1973 was the first Welcome to Country, performed by Lyle Roberts and Dicke Donnelly.

This came about through Gary Foley who asked the question to the organisers if they had asked permission from the elders. The rest is history.



OM for world peace on Remembrance Day this year

Reference to this story is on the net at: www.academia.edu/43844574/Black_Fellas_and_Rainbow_Fellas_Convergence_of_Cultures_at_the_Aquarius_Arts_and_Lifestyle_Festival_Nimbin_1973

It is believed a curse was issued on Nimbin before Aquarius, and that massacres took place here. There are shadows here that need spotlighting, towards healing and reconciliation. These stories need to be researched, discussed and memorialised.

Here is a line extracted from a document sent to me by a friend in Tasmania: "The difficulty in reconciling the fiction of Terra nullius with the reality faced by settlers on the ground became all too evident as Aboriginal resistance to dispossession gradually stiffened to the point of all-out war by 1826." Reference: *Aboriginal Society in North West Tasmania: Dispossession and Genocide* by Ian McFarlane BA (Hons).

This will help with a National campaign to officially memorialise the Frontier Wars at the National War

Memorial in Canberra which Graeme Dunstan has assisted for many years from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

Graeme Dunstan and Johnny Allan have touched base with us to help develop together with the broader community a Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary program.

The Nimbin Visitors Centre at the Nimbin Bush Theatre will be involved in promoting the Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary. Lismore Council has appointed Dr Wil Polson as Nimbin Tourist Destination Officer who will give support in developing and promoting planned events for the 50th Nimbin Aquarius Festival anniversary celebrations May 12-24th, 2023.

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation has been assisting the repainting of the Imagine circle. Towards the 50th anniversary, a Rainbow circle is planned to be added. Thanks to all who had contributed to this project.

May the longtime sun shine upon you...
Email: bennyzable@gmail.com or phone 0427-149-237.

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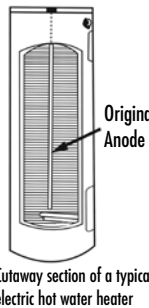
Manufacturers recommend that you maintain the anode in your system in order to prevent damage from rust + corrosion. After its 5th birthday – warranty expires.

THE ANODE IN YOUR SYSTEM SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO CORRODE AWAY, WHATEVER TYPE OR BRAND OF SYSTEM YOU HAVE – Solar, Electric, Gas or Heat Pumps.

FOR A LIMITED TIME we will check your anode in your area free of charge.

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Cutaway section of a typical electric hot water heater