

E-Bar morphs into Jaz's Joint



Jaz (right) and Judy Who

Local fashion designers have been hard at work transforming Nimbin's E-Bar, with the café now singing a different tune.

Judy Who, daughter Jaz and son bez have used their creative energy to tip Mootie's café upside down, completely changing the vibe – and the name.

Jaz's Joint is now exciting and colourful, with fun food and a light vibrant atmosphere, and there are big plans underway.

Judy has extensive experience in interior design and renovating, and the café is her new work in progress. "I want it to be colourful, funky and cosy," she said.

With Jaz and bez having had seven years experience in the hospitality industry, the café runs smoothly serving a wide choice of "food fabulosity", and with bez's circus skills, it's always a fun environment to be around.

Jaz's Joint will soon be opening regularly on Friday and Saturday nights, for dinner and live music.

Currently the space is being made "warm and cosy" and yum yum", for the opening on Saturday 19th June. Everyone is invited.

"We would really appreciate your feedback, because we get excited when you get excited," Jaz said.

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Artists' bold plan for extensions to Nimbin Hall

Nimbin Artists Gallery has launched an ambitious proposal to develop a new gallery space and expand the facilities of the Nimbin School of Arts Hall.

Architectural plans (pictured) were exhibited for comment at this year's Autumn Arts Extravaganza, comprising two floor plans for a ground level and lower level of the proposed development.

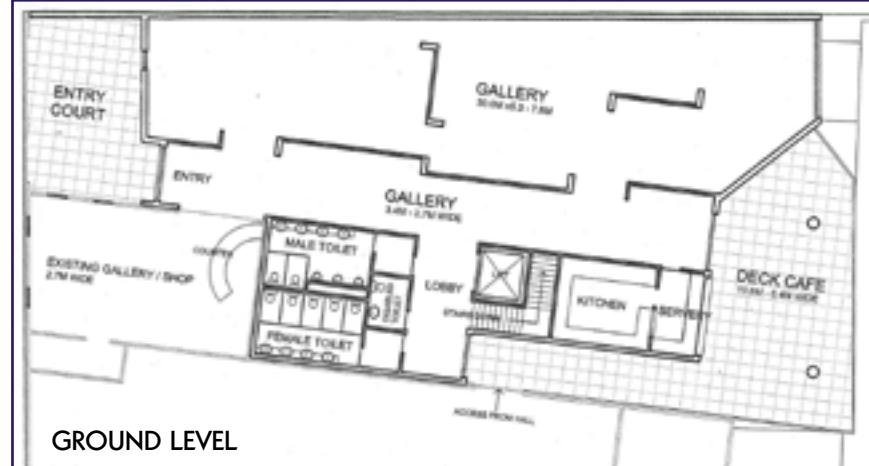
The plans provide for a new gallery space, as well as storage for an archive and permanent collection, together with work spaces and an office area.

The hope is to bring Nimbin archival material back to the village so that it is available for rotating exhibition and study, to provide exhibition space for exhibitions through the year, including travelling exhibitions and make available display space for Bundjalung and other Aboriginal artists' work.

Also in the plan is a new kitchen and servery opening onto an extended deck, and new toilet facilities to replace the present ones, which are badly situated and nearly at the end of their useful life.

Gallery co-ordinator Margaret McLaren said, "This is a concept plan rather than a fixed proposal, and so far reaction has been extremely positive, but we will need to find the funds and continue detailed planning."

If you would like to join in this process or just be kept in touch by email please contact Nimbin Artists Gallery on 02 6689-1444 or nimbinartists@gmail.com



Thinking outside the square. These concept plans, drawn up by Gold Coast architect Malcolm Cummings, provide solutions to many of the problems inherent in the century-old building, including provision a disabled lift for access to the carpark on the lower level, and a doubling of the number of carpark spaces.

Skate Park in the proposed new Village Park?

by Monika Boenigk

Friends of Nimbin Village Park met again in May and to our delight, another enthusiastic resident joined our ranks. Now we are four strong to continue the push for a large village park to enhance Nimbin Village.

At the meeting, we discussed the possibility of housing the new Skate Park within the village park, similar to Knox Park in Murwillumbah, where this concept works extremely well.

Not only is the impact of a huge amount of concrete softened by pleasant treed surroundings and walkways, but the issue of criminal activities is counteracted by a constant stream of varying kinds of park-users filing past the site.

Our proposed village park block has already easements in place for such walkways, linking Cullen Street with the new Aquarius Village and Sibley Street, along the back of the Caravan Park.



Friends of Nimbin Village Park Lisa Lucken, who painted and hung the banner at MardiGrass.

In 1996, efforts had already been made by Nimbin Youth Centre Inc. to establish a BMX track on this land with contouring and earthworks already in place. (see DA 96/326), but due to Council conditions at the time, the project faltered. The previously prepared site may well be an existing base for building a Skate Park.

The "noise factor" which is a concern to neighbours in Sibley Street if the Skate

rink were built into Peace Park could be ameliorated without facilitating the risk of adverse activities such as may be the case if the Skate Park were to be located at the Showground.

On that note, our group submitted a proposal to Council, encouraging the decision-makers to think through the long-term needs of passive recreation for Nimbin, and not to make short-sighted decisions for

one single interest group because of tight funding deadlines. The federal government has done much of this in the recent past (throwing money at half-cooked projects) and failed, and we would not like to see this being repeated by the local Council on the future of Nimbin Valley residents!

We are talking about a huge amount of money for a tiny hinterland village, so we are anxious to see that it is well-considered and well-spent. Jenny Dowell has advised us that our proposal will be duly considered.

In case Peace Park will still be chosen as Skate Park location, we thought it prudent to alert Mardi Grass festival goers that it might be time to look for a new venue — might it be the new park?

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th June, 6pm at Birth & Beyond. Contact Monika Boenigk on 6689-7490 with any suggestions or support.

We'd love to see you at the meeting!

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Benny Zable's day in court



Benny Zable with supporters outside Lismore courthouse

In a dramatic 11th-hour turnaround, police have dropped charges against Benny Zable, in what has been widely seen as a vindication of the democratic right to peaceful protest.

The Nimbin-based national and international protesting icon had turned up at the City of Lismore Australia Day celebration at Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre on 26th January, wearing his slogan suit and gas mask to object to the carnivore flavour of the official, national Australia Day poster which advocated, "BBQ as you never BBQ'd before."

Police were called and he was subsequently arrested for trespass.

"It was not just that I objected to Australian national identity being promoted as meat eaters with strong jaws and Aryan faces, but also because meat production, and in particular beef production, is a major contributor to climate change and loss of

native forest and habitat," Benny Zable said.

Undeterred by his experience, Benny used the charge and the court hearing to further his Beyond Beef cause. Meat means murder to Benny.

At the hearing in the Lismore Court on 26th May, some 20 friends gathered by the Nimbin Environment Centre, including Graeme Dunstan with Peacebus.com, were there to support him with a Speak Out outside the court, which featured speeches about civil liberties and protest songs by local musicians.

The police waited until the court case began before they withdrew the trespass charge, following which the magistrate awarded compensation of \$1000 for wrongful arrest, which was used to defray legal expenses.

Graeme Dunstan summed up the feelings of Benny's supporters when he said, "Victory to the people. We love you Benny."

Friends of Nimbin Pool make a wish list

A swimming pool is a wonderful thing.

A pool that is free and in the village is an asset worth nurturing. The Nimbin pool provides for the needs of toddlers, learners, those in serious training and those who just want to cool off. Not only that; it is round, which means those who tend to go in circles can swim in a similar manner!

For all these reasons and probably more, the pool now has a support group of local citizens who have been eating sausages cooked on the convenient pool-side barbecues and talking about what can be done to secure and improve this excellent facility.

The group goes under the name *Friends of Nimbin Pool* and now has 35 members. Here's the list of things the Friends would like to see happen:

1. A ramp parallel to the steps to enable wheeled access. A plastic wheelchair to be kept on site.
2. A shed to keep wheelchair and leaf scoopers.
3. More rubbish bins
4. Four seats around pool



Sue Boardman, one of the many people who exercise regularly at the pool.

5. Notice board with season dates and daily opening and closing times.
6. Donation boxes bolted to poles for funds to enable the purchase of seats, leaf catchers, etc
7. Removal of cocos palms from perimeter, as their nuts contaminate the pool

The Friends have an email address: friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com so please make contact if you are interested.

Peace Park preferred for skate park

Following a community consultation process, site inspections, and input from NSW Police, Council officers have recommended Peace Park as the preferred location for Nimbin's new skate park.

During May, some 600 surveys were mailed to residents, seeking site preferences for Peace Park, the Showground and any other location. Of the 153 surveys returned, 58% preferred Peace Park, 38% supported the Showgrounds and 7% suggested other sites.

Council Assets Manager Scott Turner said he was very pleased with the level of response to the survey, and participation in the series of

meetings with stakeholders.

"People are legitimately concerned about noise," he said, adding that access and crime prevention issues were also raised.

The timing is crucial to the development, which has a project budget of \$494,000, including a grant of \$445,000 from the Australian Government's Regional and Local Infrastructure Program. The grant condition requires construction to commence within three months.

Council has awarded the construction contract to Concrete Skate Parks Pty Ltd, and engaged a consultant planner, Malcolm Scott, to

undertake the consultation and design process, once the site decision has been finalised.

"We're trying to address noise issues from the ground up," said Scott Turner. "A noise consultant will be working with the designer from the outset."

The final decision on where to build the new skate park will be made at the June 8 Council meeting.

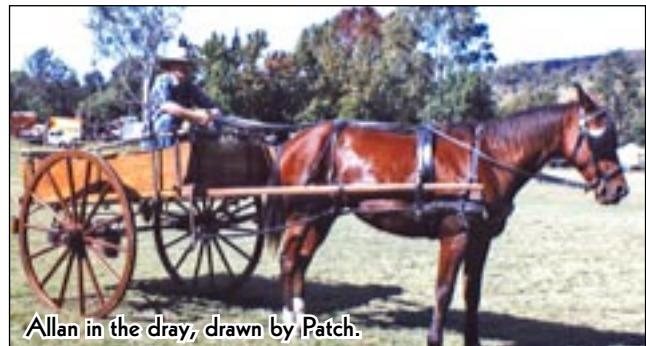
The full report of the outcome of the community consultation process and Council officers' recommendations can be read at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/content/uploads/Bpaper080610.pdf

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New family business in Nimbin



Allan in the dray, drawn by Patch.

Happy Horse and Cart Hire has taken three years to establish itself, and is now ready for business, catering for special events, formal functions and guided tours.

Silky Oak Drive resident Allan Davey and his family have a total of seven horses and ponies available to pull their collection of carts: two drays, one black for formal occasions; a day sulky and two street joggers, one a small size for kids, drawn by a miniature horse.

Happy Horse and Cart Hire also offers pony rides for parties, hay and sulky rides for any occasion and trick ponies just for fun.

Already they have appeared at The Channon Craft Market and Casino's Beef Week, and have been booked for Lismore's Lantern Festival.

Allan hopes the horses and carts will be a regular attraction at The Channon markets, and will be taking guided tours through Nimbin in the not-too-distant future.

For more information and bookings, phone Allan Davey on 0438-356-646.

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Nimbin students taste success at Cross Country Carnival

In events ranging from 500m to 3km, Nimbin Central Primary students recently demonstrated their skills in the annual Terania District Small Schools Cross Country Carnival.

Hosted by Caniaba Public School, Nimbin competed against Blakebrook, Caniaba, Goolmangar, Coffee Camp and Jiggi Primary Schools in a day of fitness and fun.

The successful runners represented Terania District at the Zone Carnival in Yamba on Friday 28th May, along with students from the other Terania schools.

The King twins, Matisse and Nahani took out first



and second in the 12yr Girls 3km, Finn Hill placed first in the 11yr Boys 3km, Abbie Barnes-Whitaker came in second in the 10yr Girls 2km and Beau Dahl raced a good third in the 9yr Boys 2km.

The Cross Country Carnival is one of three annual sports carnivals where the schools compete against each other, and Zone teams are made up of students from each school.

Prestigious awards for school staff

At a special morning tea held on Thursday 27th May, the Nimbin Central School cleaners, John McDonald and Marc Le Bars, were awarded the prestigious ISS Commitment and Service award for their excellent work at Nimbin Central School.

The entire school community was very happy to recognise the hard work and service beyond the call of duty by these two dedicated individuals.

John has been working at the school for 22 years – a time he remembered as when he had black hair and much more of it – and Marc for 19 years – when he had long hair right down his back.

At the same time Jack Doyle was awarded a Certificate from the Department of



Award winners (left to right): Jack, Marc, John, Amanda and Jo.

Education and Training recognising an amazing 30 years service.

Teachers Amanda Spain, Moira Kenny and Jo Mackney, were also awarded their Teaching Certificates, recognising full induction into the service.

Congratulations to all these



members of the school.

Nimbin Central is lucky to have such wonderful people working throughout the school community

Visit from North Coast Regional Director of Education

by Mary-Jane Pell, Principal

One Tuesday late last term, we had a flying visit from the North Coast Regional Director of Education Mr Peter Haigh (pictured on the left) and The Wilson School Education Director, Mr John Lynch (pictured on the right).

Mr Haigh was greeted by School Captains Kathryn Hawken, Nikita Rogers and Angus Solomon. We met briefly in my office, then visited Primary classrooms



before enjoying morning tea with the Executive Staff.

Mr Haigh was appointed as Regional Director in 2008 but has worked as a teacher, a head teacher, a deputy, and a principal across the state before moving to a senior position.

In the short time we spent with him it became clear we were speaking with not only a person with an extraordinary depth of knowledge around NSW Public Schools, but also a person whose passion

lies clearly and firmly in that arena.

It was a wonderful opportunity to have a fresh set of critical, and very knowledgeable eyes pass over our school during this rebuilding phase. Mr Haigh was visibly impressed with the ease with which our students interacted with him on such a mature and respectful level, and their knowledge of their current subject areas.

He also specifically commented on the lovely 'feel' around the school and the supportive and respectful way students interacted with each other and with their teachers. He also commented on the optimistic enthusiasm of every teacher and student he spoke to.

Mr Haigh visited the Primary classrooms but it would be lovely if he could meet with all of our young

people.

The Executive and I would love to have Mr Haigh visit Nimbin Central School again, perhaps for the day, as we thoroughly enjoyed the professional dialogue, even though very brief. Mr Lynch of course is a regular visitor to our school. He visits at least once a term to conduct my Principal Assessment and Review meeting, yes... even the Principal has someone looking over her shoulder.

It was a wonderful experience and I was thrilled at the opportunity to show one of the powers-that-be just what a truly unique and wonderful little school Nimbin Central School is.

I also have to tell you that in that moment I realised what an honour it is to hold the position of Principal here at Nimbin Central School, and I also realised how much I truly love my job!

World Environment Day Activities

United Nations World Environment Day is Saturday 5th June.

This year the focus is on biodiversity as 2010 is the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity.

The event will aim to promote and raise awareness of biodiversity. 2010 also marks the 10th Anniversary of World Environment Day and the slogan for this year's event is *Many Species, One Planet, One Future*.



In Lismore, World Environment Day is being hosted by Lismore City Council on 4th June in Heritage Park, with help from Rous Water, Environmental Training and Employment (EnviTE) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service Discovery Rangers.

The event is a fun day out for students from Lismore's primary schools, and aims to give them practical knowledge about reducing impacts on natural resources and caring for our environment and wildlife.

The day starts at 9.30am when Mayor, Jenny Dowell, will get the day off and racing with different activities, including a fun water conservation relay. Also there will be a Cool it Kids climate change activity, a worm farming and composting workshop and tree planting on the riverbank. Volunteer

groups including Friends of the Koala and WIRES Northern Rivers will run activities to teach students how to live with awareness of some of our vulnerable species.

The grand finale will be a performance by Krinki Theatre of their latest recycled waste puppet show, called *The Grass is Greener*, and the presentation of a worm farm to the school that produces the least waste from recess and lunch on the day.

Nature Festival

In the Byron Shire, the celebration is centred on the Brunswick Valley Nature Festival, which will be held in Mullumbimby Civic Centre from 4th to 6th June.

The Festival will include informative field walks and talks and a variety of displays and children's activities.

Saturday 5th June 7am-3pm: Field trips in and around Mullumbimby, starting at the Civic Centre, focussing on ecological restoration works, plant identification, river restoration and bird walks.

Sunday 6th June 9.30am-4pm: Seven guest speakers will give presentations on local fauna, plants and soils.

So if you can't go to any of these celebrations for our planet, do something positive for her like planting some trees with friends to foster the biodiversity of your local area.

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Nimbin benefits from Safety Camera Program

A recent statistical report has revealed that safety cameras installed in the main street have contributed to a reduction in criminal activity in Nimbin.

Sgt Peter Bryant of Nimbin Police said the analysis was carried out using data for the Nimbin Sector from the 5 years pre- and 5 years post-camera installation, which occurred in 2005.

Sgt Bryant said, "The cameras alone could not be credited with being the sole reason for the decline, however there was clear evidence that they both assisted police in their investigations and acted as a significant deterrent for criminal activity within the Nimbin CBD."

"The cameras assisted in both reactive and proactive police work," he said.

Some examples of statistical trends were:

- assaults – down 22%,
- break and enter – non dwelling – down 33%,
- drug detection – possess – up 45%,
- drug detection – supply – down 47%,
- malicious damage – down 19%,
- steal from motor vehicle – down 41%,
- stealing – down 41% and
- stolen vehicle – down 44%.

Sgt Bryant that the cameras were making a real difference.

"Since the cameras have been installed there have been 242 requests from police for footage to assist in their investigations. Of this number, camera footage had been supplied to Police on 121 occasions," he said.

Mr MacDonald said that regular meetings were held at the Nimbin Community Centre to raise relevant issues and gain feedback on current crime trends.

"With Police, members of Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, representatives from Nimbin community, Lismore City Council and other relevant Departments in attendance, the meetings provide a great opportunity for us all to come together and share information and work together to make Nimbin a safe place," Bill said.

Broadband for Seniors Kiosk to start at Nimbin Bowlo

Following a comprehensive assessment, the Nimbin Bowling, Sport, and Recreation Club has been selected as a host venue for a free Broadband for Seniors Kiosk to service the local seniors community.

Broadband for Seniors is part of a \$15m Australian Government initiative to increase the skills of older Australians using computers and the internet.

The Government is employing the skills of NEC Australia to manage and deliver the project, along with its consortium partners: Adult Learning Australia, Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association and U3A Online.

The aim is to get seniors in our community better connected, enabling them to discover a whole new social experience on the web and to help them to stay in touch online with friends and family, along with offering access to the wealth of information available online. According to David Cooke,



Group Manager, NEC Australia: "The Broadband for Seniors initiative not only provides free access to computers and broadband, but offers training in order to increase the confidence and skills of older Australians in using computers and the internet. This can help to build their community participation and levels of social inclusion and will address the issue of older Australians feeling isolated and 'left behind' in a technological age."

"Along with our learning partners, we hope to establish a widely recognised education initiative to really improve the way seniors obtain information," he said/

The Nimbin Bowling,

Sport, and Recreation Club 'Broadband for Seniors Kiosk' comprises two computers with broadband access for use by older members of our local community, and will offer training and support to those who are new to computers and the internet.

Project co-ordinator Paul Le Bars said the new Seniors Kiosk would be beneficial to all senior members of Nimbin, offering them free access to the internet and also free tutoring for those who require assistance in learning the basic computer skills, internet, and email.

The kiosk will be officially opened on Thursday 8th July by the Member for Richmond and Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliot.

Kiosk opening hours are 11am to 9pm, 7 days a week. Information on training and session bookings can be obtained by phoning 6689-1250.

For further details please contact Paul Le Bars, phone 6689-0396 or email paullebars@gmail.com

Committee representative Cristina Rubsamen said there is much local support

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Billen Hall opening



With a large crowd of residents and well-wishers in attendance, Mayor Jenny Dowell unveiled the plaque to officially open the new hall at Billen Cliffs community on 15th May. An extensive sustainability forum took place at the hall in the afternoon.



New Steiner high school seeks gifted land

by Leanne Logan

A new high school for Steiner Education is being established by local parents and teachers. The initiative is aimed at offering young people in our area a Steiner-based high school option.

The set-up committee is currently seeking land on which to found the school. Any offers within the local areas - Nimbin, Lillian Rock, Mt Burrell or Barkers Vale - will be gratefully considered.

Land may be gifted outright or either loaned or leased, with the possibility of the school eventually purchasing the loaned/leased land as funds become available.

The school is evolving from a forum held at Mt Burrell earlier this year to gauge the level of community interest for a Steiner-based high school in this region. The high degree of support at the forum resulted in the establishment of a steering committee which has applied to the Board of Studies (BOS) for high school registration by next year. A BOS representative will meet with committee members in mid-June.

Committee representative Cristina Rubsamen said there is much local support

for the type of curriculum that this high school would offer. "The school's aim is to provide an education that equips young people with skills and faculties to enter the contemporary world and be able to contribute and take part with strength and confidence," she said.

The new high school will initially offer Years 8, 9 and 10; Years 11 and 12 can be added in the future. To begin with, class sizes at the school will be small, offering students individual attention from teachers. In this way young people will have the chance to fully develop their potential and excel in their individual areas of passion.

At present, two local Steiner primary schools - Rainbow Ridge at Lillian Rock and Aetaomah at

education. Most young people from these schools then go on to high school in Nimbin, Murwillumbah or Lismore. Parents at the forum earlier this year spoke of wanting quality education for their children without long bus rides to and from school each day.

Ms Rubsamen said the school's curriculum has a strong focus on developing practical and physical skills, and that needs a specific environment. "Hence our current search for land," she said.

Anyone interested in offering land to the school, or those simply wanting more information about the high school initiative, may contact Cristina Rubsamen (6689-7033) or Helen Lynne (6689-0056).

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The Lismore Jazz Club is delighted to present something a little different for its next gig on Sunday 20th June.

Our main act is Sharny, who will be accompanied by Steve Russell on bass. Sharny will be on stage from about 2pm to 5pm. Preceding Sharny will be the Clarence Valley Conservatorium (CVCon) Big Band who will be entertaining us from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

Sharny is known and respected as one of Australia's best jazz singers and musicians, and brings a wealth of experience to her performances. Having performed at The Basement in Sydney with her own band, which included James Morrison, she has been a regular feature act at many jazz festivals around the country.

Being a pianist, composer and arranger, Sharny has played and sung with many of the top names in jazz. She has supported British guitarist Martin Taylor, Australian favourite Vince Jones, toured with Grace Knight, sung for Georgie Fame, played requests for legendary U.S. bassist Ray Brown.

She recorded her original CD "A Good Thing on Hold" on the ABC Jazz label, and in 2004 won the APRA Jazz

Award.

She is shortly releasing her second album with internationally known jazz guitarist George Golla, and has also released a 16 track Gospel CD, "Not My Own".

"In a world of over-rated and over-stated singers, Sharny is a gem. Listening to her is an exquisite experience." – that's how Eric Myers, editor of *National Jazzchord Magazine*, views Sharny, after seeing her perform at the piano with her trio at the Bellingen Jazz Festival.

The Clarence Valley Conservatorium Big Band has been around for many years, but has only been under the direction of their current conductor Daniel Phelps for a little over two of those.

Their repertoire includes jazz standards, as well as more recent songs, such as 'I Heard It Through The Grapevine' and Ray Charles' 'Hallelujah, I Love Her So'.

Instrumentation includes 4 alto saxophones, 2 tenor saxophones, a baritone saxophone, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, piano, electric bass, and drums. The band, although originally starting off with younger teens, has gradually matured into an older band, with the youngest member in Year 9, and the oldest a "mature age" member.

They've played as far north as Toowoomba, performing at several schools on the way, and hope to play at Bellingen's Jazz Festival later this year.

This great double will be held at the Lismore City Bowling Club and admission is only \$7 for members and \$10 for non members. There will also be a sausage sizzle commencing from about noon.

Come along for a great afternoon of sizzling jazz!

Mazzstock 2010 rips Lismore's eardrums

Story and Photos by Pampussycat

Mazzstock 2010 rocked the Italo Australian Club in Lismore on 22nd May, with a line up of 15 original bands. The cream of new wave rock came to the North Coast, courtesy of Sideshow Presents and Mazz.

Top line acts included the Celibate Rifles, aptly named in honour of the Sex Pistols, and the New Christs. The New Christs' history flows back to the brain blowing roots of Radio Birdman. Rob Younger from the New Christs spoke with poet Vicki M Harvey and myself after the show. When asked why the band returned to Lismore after only a year, he said "We had a good time last year, but that other pub closed. Pity about that, 'cos it was a nice place and nice people. But here we are back again, and driving our guitarist to the airport in the morning."

"The first time that I ever played with Iggy Pop was in the New Christs in 1984. I was asked to form a band 'cos they wanted a support. The promoters weren't sure how to gauge his (Iggy's) popularity, so they thought they'll get a band where the crowd overlaps, 'cos we paid so much lip service to all the same people, much to our detriment in some ways. So we got the gig. I had five days to pull a band together, four rehearsals, then we had to debut in front of thousands of people. And we pulled it off, it was great. It shocked me totally, 'cos I had not played in a few years."

So what does he see as major changes in the music industry? "The reason you



play and how you can make a living making music. You write songs now to sell t-shirts predominantly. So many people have access to the whole world now that there is a larger number of bands competing in a larger melee. You just can't get a look in. There are thousands of good bands around these days, some get noticed, some don't. Everybody wants to stake their claim so they can tour, and have a few laughs out of music, y'know. I still want to do that.

"I love going to Europe. We play more in Europe than we do in Australia. I know lots of people in bands that I consider better, and they haven't done terribly well at all, considering some of them should have been quite predominant worldwide. I

was thinking of the Died Pretty, 'cos I reckon they are the best Australian band ever."

Other bands at the immense two stage event included: Pineapples From The Dawn Of Time, Booze Hag, Birdbrain (if you have not seen these guys, you have really missed out!), The Tendons (who launched their debut CD on Invasion Day in Nimbin), The Antibodies (from Nimbin), Black Ghost Party, Biocide, Beer Junkies, Brown Esky, Arcane New Year, Slug, Skeletons of The Devil, The Shake Up, The Claymores and Blurter.

Lismore is a town renowned for presenting new talent in all art forms. The Italo Australia Club of Lismore was host to international and

Clockwise from top left: Maz, who turned 50 on the day; The AntiBodies; New Christs' Rob Younger; Celibate Rifles' Damien Lovelock

touring bands in the 1980's and 1990's, including The Psychedelic Furs. This was a time when Lismore had three clubs servicing the town: The RSL (now gone), Workers Club and the Italo Club.

It was amazing to see the club come to life again, brimming with a crowd of close to 500. Let's hope we see this historic club open its doors again for more musical events.

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin
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June Gigs

Thursday 3rd Melanie Jack + Support
Friday 4th AntiBodies + Black Ghost Train
Saturday 5th Wandering Eyes
Thursday 10th Bill Jacobi
Friday 11th Bellehendrix
Thursday 17th Bluesvein
Friday 18th The Snow Droppers + P.O.V.
Thursday 24th Khan And Tim
Friday 25th Thora Zoo

Gigs start: Thurs 6pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 6.30pm, Sun 1.30pm

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CD fundraiser for Fiji

by Megan James

On 14-15th March this year, all of the eastern islands of Fiji and the east coast of Vanua Levu endured 48 hours of hurricane force winds of up to 270 kph.

The damage caused by Cyclone Tomas to people's homes and livelihoods has been catastrophic and financial support is urgently needed.

People here live simply, relying on fishing and subsistence gardens for most of their food needs and supplementing this with cash crops to help pay for school fees and materials.

Due to the relatively high cost of school fees, many children do not make it through secondary school and as adults are only able to earn the minimum wage of \$2 AUD an hour. The loss of income due to the cyclone will thus affect these children's educational opportunities.

Major staple food crops of taro and cassava will take 3-6 months to produce again, while bananas, papaya and other fruits will not be available for 1-2 years. Coconuts, on which a great many families rely for income from copra production, are all dropping from wind-stressed trees and will not be harvested again for 2 years. Kava, also an important cash crop, will not recover for 3 years.

Although Tomas was the most severe cyclone for 40 years and the resultant



famine quite extreme, people here

are used to living close to nature, and the smiling Fiji "bula" spirit is alive and well. The lilting male harmonies unique to the folk music of these remote tropical islands continue to be sung nightly around the kava bowl.

We have just spent several months recording music from remote villages on islands badly affected by Cyclone Tomas and we have produced a compilation of songs, to be sold to raise money to help villagers survive this difficult time.

The CD is called Fiji Aid and Paul Joseph has generously offered his time to set up and host a website. www.fiji-aid.net is still under construction, but is offering mp3 downloads of Fiji music as well as CD sales. Go and have a look soon and listen to the songs - they are lovely lilting tunes perfectly in harmony with the notion of a South Pacific paradise!

All monies raised by the Fiji Aid CD will be distributed by the Taveuni

Rotary Club which has been helping people in the north-east of Fiji for many years and is well-qualified to ensure that funds are spent where they are most needed.

By purchasing either individual downloaded songs or a full CD compilation of selections from 10 different groups, you can enjoy this rare and delightful music and also know that you are contributing to the recovery of the communities where it was recorded by Island Heart Media.

If you are interested in the work of Island Heart or wish to purchase CDs of the groups featured on this Fiji Aid CD, please email info@islandheart.net. Island Heart Media is also about to vamp up its new website: www.islandheart.net. There'll be new and old favourites, ranging from the Bahloo days to current Fijian songs - downloadable mp3's and more. The site is still under construction, but bookmark it now for some fun times ahead!

Bula vinaka - a big smiling thank you from the people of north-eastern Fiji - and from Mookx and Meg!

bluesvein return to Nimbin

Blues duo Marcus Makin and Ian Rowe return to the Nimbin Hotel for a night of blues-infused music on Thursday 17th June.

Both players have some decades of performance behind them, but they first played together a few years back with popular local jazz band *The Skylarks* before leaving to pursue other projects.

Guitarist Ian Rowe is currently working with *Preston Train*, a 5 piece rock/funk/blues outfit and also with Caboose a rock/blues guitar duo, both acts gigging between Yamba and the Gold Coast.

Marcus Makin has most recently been working solo doing piano bar stuff. He has classical and jazz chops blended with a love



for the blues and a deep, gravelly voice.

In *bluesvein* they blend keyboard, vocals and guitar, playing a repertoire that spans almost a century, from the delta slide guitar blues of Robert Johnson to more recent offerings from the likes of Robben

Ford, George Thoroughgood, Donovan Frankenreiter and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

This is not all straight ahead 12 bar blues, but a mix of different feels and grooves with some original tunes to complete the mix.

bluesvein is a labour of love for these two musicians. If you can't catch them in Nimbin they are also doing Bangalow Pub on Saturday 12th June and will be at Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 18th July.

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Folk Revival series continues

The second Folk Revival was held at the Bush Theatre on Saturday 15th May.

Four of the advertised acts were unable to perform due to illness, injury and other mishaps, however the performers who did make it certainly entertained.

Young relative newcomers to the game - Lizzy V sang and played piano and guitar and Zeb sang and accompanied herself on guitar. Renee English sang solo and together with Val Hopkins, and Ewan James and Paul Joseph delivered very polished sets.

Mim Hanley made everyone laugh out loud with her parody songs, one of which was a re-working of Helen Reddy's 'I Am Woman'.

Organiser Ewan James said, "For all the up-hill hassles I've had managing venues and dealing with dodgy wiring, the first two Folk Revivals have been a success. We have



had a lot of positive feedback from both performers and audience."

The third Folk Revival, re-named Nimbin Re-Visions to avoid the confusing term 'Folk', will be held on Saturday 19th June at Nimbin Town Hall.

Confirmed so far are: Mim Hanley, Deborah Wild, Andy Putnam, Mick Daley, Rebecca Ireland, Michael Fairley, Martin Preedy and Ewan James. Well worth a look.



Way Out West comes North

Acclaimed cross-cultural sextet Way Out West embarks on a tour to celebrate the release of their new album 'The Effects of Weather' - a unique and alluring sound combining Vietnamese, African and jazz influences.

The eclectic trumpeter/composer Peter Knight, and Vietnamese traditional music virtuoso Dung Nguyen (dan bau, dan tranh, modified electric guitar) are at the heart of this remarkable collaboration. Along with world-renowned West African percussion master Ray Pereira, explosive saxophonist Paul Williamson, acoustic bassist Howard Cairns, and young firebrand drummer Rajiv Jayaweera,

Way Out West creates something



miraculous: a truly new sound inspired by the cultural vitality and diversity of Melbourne.

Their only gig on the North Coast will be at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore on Friday 11th June at 8pm. Tickets are \$22/\$18

Three remarkable singers touring together

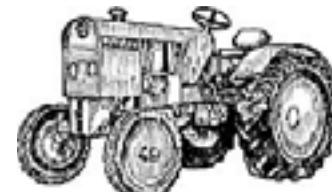


Melbourne based singer/songwriters Emma Wall and Sally Dastey (ex-Tiddas) are heading North for a series of gigs with Brisbane folk-rock chic, Kristy Apps.

Apps, Wall and Dastey will be playing at the Sphinx Rock Café in Mt Burrell on Friday 11th June at 7pm to kick off the tour, and will play the Nimbin Hotel on Sunday 20th June at 2pm. Both gigs are free.

For more information go to www.emmawall.com

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