



Steve (left) and Marc at the opening of Jaz's Joint.

Nimbin Men's Shed: Are you interested?

Nimbin Community Centre is thinking about applying for funding to build a Men's Shed on its grounds. The Management Committee want to gauge the interest from men in our community before they start the ball rolling. Problems with men's health, isolation, loneliness and depression are looming as major health issues for men. Men's sheds can play a significant and practical role in addressing these and other men's issues. Men's sheds can help connect men with their communities and mainstream society and at the same time act as a catalyst in stimulating their community's economic activities. Do you want a men's space where you can meet, build, create, connect and learn new handy skills? What would be your ideal space? Let them know what you think, email ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Nimbin Optical relocating soon



Nimbin Optical has been operating from a train carriage on Tina and Dave's High Street property for about 18 months. The acreage is now for sale, but Tina is determined to continue being Nimbin's optometrist, from a new location. "Many people have asked us recently if we are moving out of the area, so I want to reassure everyone that we are here to stay," said Tina. "In fact, I will soon be relocating

the optometry practice to the Nimbin Community Centre, which will mean easier access for more people." "The service has been well supported by the locals, for which I am very grateful. I can now feel confident about moving it into the village." It's business as usual for now and appointments can be made by phoning 6689-0081. The *Nimbin GoodTimes* will keep you posted as to the timing of the move to the NCC.

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Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup 2010

by Gail M. Clarke

Yes Nimbin, it's time again for the village to be swamped by poets. The organisers of this annual community sponsored event will once again be asking for your support. A major fundraiser each year is the raffle and this year's prizes are 2 x\$100 Caltex credit cards or \$200 Hamper of the North Coast Finest, or runners up \$100 gift/book voucher from Perceptio's, prizes well worth the \$5 ticket price. Poetry is so often unsupported, I feel though that its such a valuable outlet for a variety of points of view, enabling those who listen, perhaps to gain a new or different outlook. Last year's People's Choice award winner Ruthie Shinn, with her candour, moved many a listener to seeing through different eyes.

The outright winner Benna Zenabomb's highly charged political look at identity showcased the diversity that is the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup. Last year 42 performers took to the stage on the Saturday during the heats and the ever growing audience were kept well entertained. This year, performances will all be held at the Nimbin School of Arts as we have drawn more and more people into the magical web that is Poetry and as they rediscover the wonder of language and witness the underlying passion of the performers presentations they invite others, and so it grows. We will transform the Town Hall into



Finalists and Judges in last year's Cup.

a cosy performance space and the cafe will be open all weekend. So, if you have never been to a Poetry event, here is your opportunity to see Performance Poetry at its finest. Heats will be held on Saturday 31st July, and depending on numbers that sign up we go into the early evening with each performer having 8 minutes to impress the judges and hopefully secure a place in the semi-finals. The People's Choice Award votes are taken after each heat and tallied that evening. This hotly contested award of \$500 and trophy is sponsored by the Nimbin School of Arts, a continued supporter of the Arts in this village.

Sunday 1st August will see the semi-finals starting around 11am, and performers who make it through to the finals have one last chance to take The Cup and \$2000 that evening from 7.30pm. Always an enthralling evening, check out all the finalists at www.nimbinpoetry.com to see what I mean. Any poets out there wishing to enter, you have until 26th July to register. All information is on website, email poetryworldcup@gmail.com or call Gail on 02 6689-7424. I'd like to thank you now for your support, tickets for the raffle will be available throughout town or catch me on the street Saturday mornings.

Successful Lantern Parade plants the Seeds of Tomorrow



With 25,000 people in attendance on a rare rainless night, this year's Lanten Parade has been hailed as the best yet. Artistic Director Jyllie Jackson thanked all the sponsors, volunteers, artists and visitors who helped make the event a success. Next year's event is already being planned.

• More pictures on page 12.



Paint the Village Canvas

by Kathy Stavrou

No one could deny that Nimbin has a distinct image and a strong sense of community identity.

And if we were to follow the lead of that tiny country, Bhutan, and had an annual Happiness Index, there is no doubt it would show there is plenty of evidence that Nimbin is a happier, kinder, more tolerant and more fulfilled community than most others.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce now intends, with its Mural Restoration Project, to help to preserve and renovate one of the key creators and indicators of our happiness and self-image – the Murals of Nimbin. This is the visual image that defines Nimbin for we locals, and for visitors from across the world.

The Chamber, with its interest in the financial and social well being of Nimbin, endorses the words of one tourist operator who says that “there is no other main street like this in the world and everybody wants to carry it away in their cameras, like a postcard.”

The Nimbin shop facade murals, so integral to the image of Nimbin, have a multiplicity of functions for our community – they are like a welcome sign that tells locals and visitors about the particular world view held by our counter-cultural society; giving messages about political and environmental activism (“think globally, act locally”), optimism for the future and a feeling of well-being, a celebration of diversity, love for our beautiful environment, spirituality, culture and symbolism - both Indigenous and otherwise, expectations about street behaviour, and the place of Nimbin in the universe. Their existence is a celebration of art, artists and creativity.

In most towns, local, State and Federal governments pay artists to create these important “postcards to the future”. In Nimbin, until now, the artists themselves,



sometimes with donations from others, have been the ones who paid for the work.

This can't go on. The Chamber of Commerce now has a Mural Restoration Project sub-committee set up to explore potential funding avenues. The Chamber is now actively working to engage the local businesses, and the broader community, as well as corporate sponsors, local, State and Federal governments, in subsidizing the renewal and renovation of the Nimbin village murals.

Its first salvo involves the distribution of Mural Restoration Fund collection tins to participating businesses.

People wanting to donate directly to the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce- Mural Restoration Fund may also make a direct deposit at the “Mural Fund Account” at Summerland Credit Union- BSB 802222 Account No 22279160. (For SCU transfers Surname “Nim”).

Give a helping hand; please donate to the Nimbin Murals Restoration Fund, and help to “Paint the Village Canvas”.

Cub scout attains Grey Wolf award

Nimbin local Wade Whitney, of 1st Lismore Scouts, was presented with his Grey Wolf award recently, by Regional Commissioner of Scouting, Ken McAndrew (pictured).

The Grey Wolf award is the highest possible award you can achieve, equivalent to the highly regarded Queen's Scout award.

Wade is only the second Cub Scout to obtain this award in the 93-year history of 1st Lismore, the last being in the 1940's.

To achieve the award, Wade had to have been awarded the Gold Boomerang, earn numerous badges, attend camps, organise and conduct a hike and produce a resource which can remain with his cub pack.

Cub Scouts (open to boys and girls aged 8-11) are held at 1st Lismore Scout Hall, Magellan Street on Tuesdays from 6.30 to 8pm. For further information, phone team leader Paul O'Donnell on 6622-7728 or visit www.nsw.scouts.com.au



Deja Vu. Wade's mum Denise was so chuffed that she sent the same story and photo to all the local newspapers!

Kids in Community award-winner

Connor Anderson from Richmond River High School was one of the 12 nominees for the annual Kids In The Community Awards held in Lismore at the end of June, in the category 'Youth in the Community'.

Kids in Community is a non-profit organisation established in the Northern Rivers in 2000, which raises awareness of the positive roles young people play in the local communities.

The Awards highlight the diversity of social and cultural backgrounds of our youth and the acceptance and respect they have for their differing traditions, interests and values. By acknowledging all these contributions, the KIC Awards encourage young people to reach out to others, both to give and receive support.

Connor won the award in the Community category for his continued support and active participation in the successful campaign to get a concrete skate park for the Nimbin youth.

Last October it was Connor's speech to the Lismore City Councillors and Mayor Jenny Dowell that won a unanimous vote for the Nimbin community to receive the funding to build a concrete skate park in Nimbin.

As well as attending and addressing other council meetings, writing to and appearing in the press, he is very passionate about the new skate park and is consulting with Concrete Skate Parks and LCC every step of the way, including the location and design of the park.

Connor, along with the



skaters of Nimbin, will be in consultation with Concrete Skate Parks Pty Ltd until the skate park is completed, so the youth will get a skate park that they love to skate and the design will be unique and unlike any other skate park in the Northern Rivers.

We have been promised that the skate park will be completed by December this year.

Hands Across the Bay in global action

Nimbin environmental artist and activist Benny Zable and his rainbow flags were a feature at the Hands Across the Bay solidarity action against off-shore drilling at Main Beach, Byron Bay on 26th June.

With messages stencilled on his costume reading “Fossil Fools; There are no jobs on a dead planet”, Benny and over fifty concerned souls, including Peter Wise, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, and members of Byron's Green and Clean Awareness Team, linked hands at 12 noon in global solidarity with communities across the US suffering from the effects of the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

Harsha Prabhu, facilitator of the Byron action said, “We feel for our sisters and brothers in the US and for all the creatures of the ocean who are caught in the net of this disaster. This is a ginormous wake-up call for us all. Can we heed it by turning away from fossil fuels and towards green and clean energy?”

This action is in solidarity with Hands Across the Sand, an inclusive world-wide people's movement calling for an end to off-shore drilling and redirecting global efforts



to explore environmentally friendly energy sources.

Over 700 such actions were scheduled to roll across the globe on 26th June in a wave stretching from New Zealand to Hawaii.

Hands Across the Sand is supported by environmental groups worldwide, including 350.org.

For more info and pics of the action visit www.handsacrossthesand.com

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Nimbin Central School

Regional Secondary SRC Conference



Nimbin Central School's Student Representative Council were recently hosts to the Regional Conference, which is held once a term at various sites throughout the North Coast Region. This is an important opportunity for the SRC members from a wide range of schools to get together, share ideas, discuss issues, meet each other and have fun.

The meeting, held on Tuesday 1st June, was a particularly important one as the students nominated and elected their regional representatives to attend the State conference in Sydney in Term 3.

The Nimbin Central SRC organised and ran the entire event, which received highly positive feedback from all 70 student

participants. The day was chaired by Kimberley and Charlotte, with Luke and Mahalia leading some (hilarious) ice breaker games. Mahalia gave the school report and Sapote the State report. All members of the SRC were involved in welcoming and ensuring all their visitors were involved and enjoying themselves.

Well done to all the Nimbin Central SRC members on representing and presenting the school and community in such a mature and professional manner. Particular congratulations to Luke, Mahalia and Jocinta who presented excellent nomination speeches and to Opal Wone who was selected to attend the State Conference as a Regional Representative.

Ra Ra Na Na

Youth Theatre Classes

Radically Amateur, Really Adventurous Youth Theatre Ra Ra is on again in Term 3, featuring playmaking, improvisation games and performance.

Practise public speaking, voice and movement skills. Be creative, kind and have fun!

All Term 3 classes will be held at The Channon Hall on

Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm 8-12 yrs, Wednesdays 4.45-6pm 12-15yrs. (Join the Waiting list for 5-8yrs on Mondays.) Cost: \$120 for the term or \$100 if you pay in week one.

High school students can catch The Channon bus after school from Lismore.

For bookings phone Tamlin on 0405-350-211.

Nimbin Vacation Care Winter Program

A program of the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre

This season we will be operating from the Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio on the 5th, 12th and 14th July, as the School MPU is being refurbished. However, on excursion days, please meet us in the school car park as usual at 9am.

The program runs for children aged 5-12 years. Please read the dates and venues below carefully and book to avoid disappointment.

To book phone NNIC on 6689-1692 (between 10am and 4pm).

Please note that the fee is \$10 for Vacation Care. Please pick up your child no later than 3pm. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

This program is funded by DoCS.

Date	Program	Cost
Monday 5 th July	Today we will be based at Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio, making & decorating kites! We will fly them at Peace Park where a sausage sizzle will be provided. April & Scott	\$13.50
Tuesday 6 th July	Excursion to Murwillumbah Cinema to see "Toy Story 3" PG, followed by lunch at Sphinx Rock Café. Signing in and out at the Nimbin Central School Car Park April & Ajita	\$18.50
Monday 12 th July	Today we will be based at Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio and will be making paper mache. We will also take a walk to Nimbin Candles for a demonstration and may eat lunch at Mulgum Creek. April & Kim	\$10
Tuesday 13 th July	Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink followed by lunch at Heritage Park. It is an extra \$2 for a ride on the miniature train and if children bring skateboards and helmets it may be possible for them to have time at the Skate Park. Signing in and out at the Nimbin Central School Car Park April & Scott	\$16.50
Wednesday 14 th July	Today we will be based at Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio, to make clay sculptures and do some painting. At 12:30 we will take a walk down to the Bowling Club for an informal game of bowls. Please try to wear smooth soled shoes. April & Debbie	\$10

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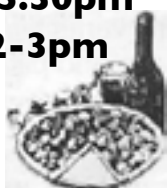
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Great Leaders, Great Teams, Great Results

by Mary-Jane Pell, Principal, Nimbin Central School

At the end of June, the Executive team from Nimbin Central School all attended a wonderful professional learning opportunity together.

Cath Marshall, Marc Everingham, Robyn Skilleter, Di Whitney, Jack Doyle and myself (all pictured) attended the three day "Great Leaders, Great Teams, Great Results" workshop in Ballina.

The workshop contained some great content around what it means to be an educational leader, and how best to lead teams of teachers and teams of students so that each performs to the best of their ability.

As with all new learning, some of the course was fascinating, some was immensely useful and instantly applicable, and some was a little confronting. We all came away with a powerful framework for solving chronic leadership problems and an array of practical leadership skills and tools to implement in our everyday practice here at Nimbin Central School.



We also came away with a strengthened sense of our compatibility as a team, and the ways in which we rather uniquely complement each other.

The executive team are currently working on a coaching program with our recently retired School Education Director, Mrs Toni Hughes. We are extraordinarily lucky to have this opportunity as Toni has a lifelong passion for supporting strong leadership and has very generously agreed to work with our team.

Already, in the very early stages of this program, each of the Executive Team has noticed profound changes

in the fresh way we are considering our leadership roles. All this bodes well for the continued strong growth and development of both our lovely little school and all the young people in it.

I would particularly like to thank our English teacher Gaill Hart who agreed to be Relieving Principal for the time the team were away from school, a considerable challenge with the whole Executive Team out! Without this kind of support from staff we would never have been able to complete the course.

I know that Gaill did an excellent job and I believe she particularly enjoyed my swivel chair!

Wonderful staff at Nimbin Child Care Centre

Our children are nurtured by our caring and dedicated staff, Luh and Ellissa.

Luh shares her Balinese culture through song and craft. She is enthusiastic in being playful and happy with the children. Ellissa shares her knowledge of preschool curriculum and working specifically with children of additional needs.

Together with the staff, our children have been exploring the winter season with feeling the cold air against their faces and huffing and puffing dragon breath. They have made lanterns to light their way on the day with the longest night.

Tales of winter whales have made their way through our rich story times accompanied with songs from Vanuatu about the whale and dolphin.

If you would like to share a story or craft or simply spend some time with us during the morning, please let us know.

By working together, parents and



staff can enhance a child's learning and wellbeing. Parents can make a difference by talking regularly with your child's early childhood educator and asking about their learning. Information you provide allows us to link your child's experiences at home with the time they spend with us.

We are welcoming enrolments, so join us at Play Group every Tuesday morning from 9:30am - 11:30am. Bring a sun hat and fruit to share for morning tea.

Blessings to the shining stars, our children.



Kyogle Library News

• **School Holidays Activities** For Children 5 -12 years at the Kyogle library childrens' area on Wednesday 14th July from 10.30am - 11.30am. It's free, but bookings are essential (strictly limited numbers) Contact: Kyogle library staff, phone 6632-1134 or call into Stratheden Street

• **Warm up this winter!** Why not drop into your friendly, warm air-conditioned library this winter and borrow from our winter cookery display. Help beat the chill with some home made comfort food - soups, stews, casseroles, curries, stir-fries, pasta, cakes, puddings, or whatever takes your fancy. We have a large range of cook books to choose from to give you inspiration.

• **Opening hours** Monday 2pm -5.30pm, Tuesday - Friday 10am-5.30pm, Saturday 9am-noon. Please note that we do not close for lunch! On-line at www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/library

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Nimbin Open Learning Centre to take a break

by Sue Edmonds,
Co-ordinator

After seven years of classes, the Open Learning Centre is going to take a break for the winter term.

Over the years, hundreds of people have enjoyed a class or two, some even did three in a term. The Learning Centre has offered a diverse range of topics from Philosophy and Aboriginal studies, to sculpture, writing, drawing, yoga, tai chi to name a few.

This range has been due to our fabulous tutors who



willingly share their passions for pin money.

The Open Learning Centre is auspiced by the Nimbin

Community School and it is with their support that the cost of an 8-week class has remained only \$50.

The classes will resume in Spring – October – and already there are some new ideas, such as a Book Club, with books collected from the LCC mobile library on Thursday and discussed the following Wednesday, which is one idea being developed.

If you have any ideas to new classes as a tutor or participant, give us a ring at the Nimbin Community School, 6689-1477.

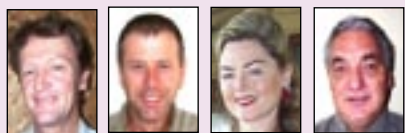
Chamber Chat...

Nimbin
Chamber of Commerce

From April this year, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has held meetings at the Bush Theatre, Rainbow Power Company and Nimbin Tax and Accounting.

This is a great opportunity for those businesses to provide an overview of their business and update services on offer. This initiative enhances networking, strengthens business collaboration and has also enlivened the meetings and attendance. Local businesses who may wish to participate, please contact the Chamber President.

The Chamber has some recent achievements as a result of submissions to the Lismore City Council's 2010/11 Operational Plan. Council will implement the recommendations from the Nimbin Safety Audit which covers upgrades to Village lighting and other much needed maintenance programs; Allocation of



\$18,300 towards the maintenance and upgrade of the footpath network; Council has committed to works on Stage 2, Western Carpark Lighting in the 2012/13 financial year.

Council did not support funding to be allocated towards the restoration of the Nimbin Murals. A subcommittee – Benny Zable, Peter Wise, Peter Hughes, Kathy Stavrou and Eugenie Stephans – have instigated a fundraising campaign, with the launch of the "Nimbin Murals Restoration Fund".

We welcome everyone's support in rejuvenating these wonderful murals, which make our village stand out from the rest.

Volunteers – the backbone of NNIC

"Volunteers are the backbone of the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre," said Natalie Meyer, Team Leader at the Centre. "Without their commitment and hard work we couldn't do much of what we are able for the Nimbin community."

The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to promote, develop and support community services for Nimbin and the surrounding area.

As well as being a member of the Centre's Management Committee, Reg Saunders is a long standing and experienced volunteer. "The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a great place to volunteer," said Reg. "There are many and varied



activities to participate in, and it is gratifying to know I am contributing to a worthwhile local service. I have been volunteering for a long time. It gives me a life."

"It would be great if we were able to attract some younger and some older volunteers," said Natalie. "If you're

younger, volunteering is a great way to gain work experience."

Volunteers at the Centre undertake a range of tasks, and can gain experience using a computer, the photocopier and fax and other office equipment, but also in communicating with people

"If you are over 55, and receive a Newstart Allowance, you may be able to meet your obligations to Centrelink by volunteering your time at the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre," said Natalie.

"We have a great team, but we are always in need of more volunteers," said Natalie. "If you can help out please drop into the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre and have a chat with our Volunteer Coordinator."

Full steam ahead for local Steiner high school

The new Steiner high school being set up in our area, *The College for Steiner Education – Mt Warning*, received support by Board of Studies inspectors during their visit to the area in mid-June.

Inspectors Margaret Silink and Kerry Sheahan flew up from Sydney to meet with several representatives from the school's set-up committee on 18th June. Committee spokesperson, Helen Lynne, said the inspectors were pleased with the progress to date.

"They were warm, wonderful people who were ready to listen, advise and support our mission," Ms Lynne said. "They asked plenty of hard questions but they were also very helpful. By the end of the day they advised that they would support our application for registration."

Ms Lynne said a registration panel would

consider the high school's application on 4 August. All going well, the school would begin operating next year.

The set-up committee is 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.

Expressions of interest from Steiner-trained high school teachers keen to teach at the school are also sought.

"We encourage enthusiastic, suitably-qualified teachers to inquire about becoming involved," Ms Lynne said.

For more information please contact Ms Helen Lynne on 6689-0056 or email SteinerCollege@uns.com.au

Ms Voisey loves her new school



Lantern-making workshop

For the last term and a bit, Tuntable Creek Public School has had a Relieving Principal while Mr Michael Coleman has been on leave.

Ms Jude Voisey has been leading the school and is thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Ms Voisey usually works at Bonalbo Central School and has been relishing the opportunity to work in one of her local schools. She lives at Rock Valley and was born and bred here on the Far North Coast.

Ms Voisey says the biggest challenge and the biggest joy has been working with all students in the one class.

The eleven students enrolled are all unique and have very individual strengths; Ms Voisey says that it is an absolute pleasure to work with such a diverse group of young people.

Mr Coleman has recently been appointed to another school in the area, so Ms Voisey is staying at Tuntable

Creek for the foreseeable future.

Managing the Federal government's *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) project has given Ms Voisey another interesting challenge.

Tuntable Creek Public School has a brand new Creative Arts space, with ample floor space, a wonderful display wall, air conditioning and plenty of storage room for costumes, musical instruments, art supplies and all the other accoutrements of

the creative education process.

Tuntable Creek Public School has an active, supportive Parents and Citizens Association who have taken charge of regenerating the gardens surrounding the new building.

These are certainly exciting times for a truly lovely little school.

Enquiries for enrolling in Kindergarten 2011, or for that matter any other year, should be directed to Ms Voisey at the school on 6688-6212.

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Liora + Two

On Sunday 18th July, the Lismore Jazz Club is presenting *Liora + Two* at the Lismore Bowling Club from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$7 for members and \$10 for non members.

Take the smooth, sensitive keyboards of Steve Russell, the dynamic, innovative bass of Thierry Fossemalle and the vibrant and moving vocals of Liora Claff, and you have a magical afternoon of musical collaboration.

From wild Latin rhythms to soft, passionate and moving ballads to sultry, edge-of-your-seat swing, step through the doors of the Lismore Bowling Club onto the world stage.

Liora Claff is a well known figure in the Australian folk scene and in much demand as a solo performer, fiddler and a member of the popular folk band The Larrikins.

Returning to the stage in 1994 after raising a family, she moved to Lismore and teamed up with Gypsy-Jazz group KaOZ Klezmer, and produced the CD "Oy KaOZ Klezmer Live" – a concert recorded live at the Star Court Theatre – which won her the accolade of being one of Australia's top Klezmer singers.

Steve Russell has been playing piano since he was four and is an extraordinary

pianist, a sensitive and empathetic accompanist and a talented composer. In his review of Steve's "...beautiful and inspired..." 2004 debut album 'When The Light Comes', James O'Brien of the Brisbane Courier Mail wrote: "Steve Russell represents Australian jazz at its best".

In addition to leading his own quintet, Steve is presently a member of the Jack Thorncraft Trio, Jim Kelly's Thrillseekers, Sambamenco, and the Sharny Russell Band, and is accompanist of choice for several noted vocalists, including Grace Knight, Leigh Carriage and Elizabeth Lord.

Thierry Fossemalle is an outstanding electric and double bassist, composer, performer and teacher who started his professional career in Melbourne in the 1980's.

Thierry has toured the world with some of Australia's best bands and is currently working with Grace Knight, Matt Hanley, Guy Kachel, Waz Porter, Nat Carey, Tim Sladden, Leigh Carriage, Stacey Broughton, Ross Nobel, James Cruikshank, Gyan, Sharney Russell, Dave Ades and Jim Kelly to name a few.

Together they form a dynamic trio – don't miss them on the 18th!

Snowdroppers drop into Nimbin

by Pampussycat

I caught up with Pauly K, guitarist with the Sydney band *Snowdroppers*, when they descended upon the Nimbin Hotel on their East Coast Tour in June.

Snowdroppers played at the *East Coast Bluesfest* earlier in the year, so I asked what kept drawing the band back to Northern NSW.

"We're promoting our album that came out about six months ago, but this is our first chance to really do many venues. Although we played at Bluesfest earlier in the year, we didn't have a chance to do any side shows," he said.

"Three of the four members originally met at Sydney Uni, and we met Cougar Jones, our drummer doing burlesque shows as a swing dancer. He is a pretty well co-ordinated guy."

"The name of the band, the *Snowdroppers* originally came from a book which was written about Sydney in the 1920's, and a snowdrifter was a cocaine addict. But the much more well-known



Pam with Snowdroppers bass player, London at the Nimbin gig.

definition, which we found out later, is somebody that steals clothing, often underwear, off a clothesline."

"The single 'Do The Stomp' is getting some airplay. We're very happy with the album, and writing the next one as we speak. My favorite tracks? Ha ha, of course all the ones that I wrote! Actually I like 'Rosemary, Swear it on the

Bible' and the last track 'Great Western Highway', one of the quieter, more acoustic tracks.

Pam: "So how is the tour going?"

Pauly: "We played in the loading dock of a burger shop in Toowoomba."

Pam: "Did they sauce you? Did the crowd throw pickles at you?"

Pauly, laughing: "No, they gave us a free burger, they are great burgers. We played at the *Come Together* festival in Sydney, then we were at Newcastle, then Mildura, Adelaide, and out west a bit – a lot of driving, which is one of the less fun aspects of it. We do have some road games, some not mentionable..."

"City or country, we always seem to get a pretty diverse crowd, ages, genders, all the things that usually separate people."

"At Mildura, there was a small crowd but very enthusiastic. This one guy kept trying to offer me a \$100 note, I don't know what for, I guess just 'cos he liked us!"

"Nimbin hospitality is unequalled thus far on the tour. Special thanks to POV for supporting us and having us back at her amazing bush studio for a late night jam."

"After we finish this tour, we embark upon another tour with *Grinspoon*, heading your way I believe to Lismore. Going to a bunch of weird places all over the country."

"There is no end or relief in sight for us in the future!"

Latch Key Kid aims to keep venues "Packed to the Rafters"

Recording artist *Latch Key Kid*, whose music has been prominently featured in numerous 'Packed to the Rafters' promotional spots and episodes, as well as their soundtrack album, is trading the shores of southern California for those of the east coast for a month.

The avid and experienced surfer will be touring the coast from Brisbane to Sydney and back, surfing and performing solo acoustic shows at numerous venues, starting his tour at the Nimbin Hotel on **Thursday 15th July**, and also appearing on **Saturday 17th July** at Lennox Point Hotel and **Thursday 5th August** at The Rails, Byron Bay.

Latch Key Kid, otherwise known as Gavin Heaney of Los Angeles, is a gifted singer, multi-talented instrumentalist and prolific songwriter who has performed



throughout the United States and Canada, opening for such acts as Beautiful Girls, Donovan Frankenreiter, John Butler Trio, Jack Johnson, The Wailers, Sublime

and others.

He has also had phenomenal global licensing success, and his music has been heard in countless television shows, commercials and films. In addition to his music's frequent use by Seven Network's 'Packed to the Rafters', other recent placements include 'Scrubs', 'America's Funniest Home Videos', 'The Hills', 'Ghost Whisperer' and the trailer, opening credits and soundtrack album of the hit *DreamWorks* comedy 'I Love You, Man.'

A modern day musical Renaissance man, Heaney has written, performed every instrument, recorded and produced each of his three albums in his own studio.

Samples of his music can be heard at his website www.latchkeykid.org

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Phone 6689-1246

July Gigs

Thursday 8th	Matt Seaberg
Friday 9th	Charlotte Marshall & band
Saturday 10th	Younger Dryas
Sunday 11th	Ned & The Poets Bed
Thursday 15th	Latch Key Kid
Friday 16th	Invisible Friend
Sunday 18th	Wandering Eyes
Thursday 22nd	Greg Morrow
Friday 23rd	Ungus Ungus Ungus
Saturday 24th	Max Pike – Night Club Nite
Thursday 29th	Ewan James
Friday 30th	Chocolate Strings
Saturday 31st	Surf Report

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

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- Thursday 8th July at 10am** – Launch of Broadband for Seniors facility
- Sunday 11th July at 1pm** – Entertainment with local singer, Lizzy V.
- Sunday 18th July at 10am** – AGM
- Friday 23rd July** – Terrigal Club visit

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THE SOMNAMBULIST

Reviewed by Bob Dooley

This latest offering from accomplished Nimbin local Robert Bruce is another fine addition to his already impressive catalogue of folk/world songs, with all 11 tracks displaying a confidence and ease as they traverse his themes of transcendence, longing and change.

As with his last CD *Tanglefoot*, this work is largely a collaboration with guitarist Michael Fairley, whose intricate guitar figures provide a sometimes hypnotic platform for Bruce's thoughtful lyrics, full of striking allusions such as "Like a drum you carry me" ('Music'), or "I read the sky/like some read books" (I sing Myself), or the title of 'Murdering Creek Road'.

Here too, we find Bruce's signature preoccupations, with the sea ('Sailor's Lament'), mythology

('Old Man Featherfoot'), lost love ('Let Her'), and his use of the Spanish language ('Yage').

But there are some major developments in this album, not only in the increasingly controlled timbre of his voice, but also in his selection of the fine musicians who accompany him – not only the inventive Mr Fairley, but also a dream rhythm section, local jazzman Greg Lyons on fretless bass and percussion king Greg Sheehan on drums.

Giving appropriate melancholy touches where required is Cye Wood on violin and viola, who produces achingly sad lines ('Hard Road to Hoe'), but also has sweet interplay with the guitar ('Let Her'). Her string parts add another layer to the



restrained yearning of much of the album, as do the well-blended backing vocals of Kate Melzer and Jay Bishoff.

There are obvious influences to be heard, most notably in 'Indian Summer', a tribute to Paul Simon's Graceland period; in the use of spoken lyrics a la Leonard Cohen; and in the rootsy riff-based tunes like 'Stone', but mostly it sounds like... well, like Robert Bruce, doing it very nicely.

The Somnambulist is available at several shops in Nimbin and elsewhere.

The Little Stevies – Fun Folk

"The Little Stevies' music is enthusiastic, innocent, catchy, and refreshing. The Little Stevies are exactly what folk music needs: fun."
– FasterLouder

Sisters Sibylla and Bethany, and their childhood friend Robin grew up making music together, so by the time they started *The Little Stevies* with their friend Josh, they possessed a musical affinity well beyond their young age.

After the release of their debut album *Love Your Band* in early 2009, they rapidly built a reputation as canny songwriters and an exceptional live act, building a loyal following of Little Stevie-loving fans throughout Australia.

The Little Stevies have just returned from their first tour of the USA, originally planned as a low-key showcase trip. What transpired was beyond all expectations, with the band stealing the spotlight at the International Folk Alliance Conference in Memphis, playing packed-out public shows, signing with a leading booking agent and attracting a swag of



label, radio and publishing interest.

Why have *The Little Stevies* struck such a rich, penetrating and instant chord with audiences? It might be their honest lyrics, an oft-witty, oft-moving mixture of the personal and the profound. It might be their sound, an eclectic and energetic blend of acoustic pop, adorned with stunning three-part harmonies.

And it might be the cheeky, charming personalities of the band members themselves, who enjoy chatting with a crowd almost as much as playing for them.

Many music critics have tried to pinpoint *The Little Stevies* undeniable appeal, but the only way to really know is see them live for yourself...

The Little Stevies are playing Mullumbimby Bowling Club on **Friday 30th July**, Doors open 5.30pm/Show 8pm. Tickets: \$15 presale/\$20 at door, available from Mullum Books, Barebones Bangalow, All Music and Vision (Byron, Ballina, Lismore)

To listen to some of their music, go to: www.thelittlestevies.com

Gyan, superfragilistically

Gyan is an unusual girl.

Hidden away behind a dreamy national park on the NSW North Coast, Gyan, 90's pop star, global drifter, new millennium poet recluse, has been busy.

In 2008 she conjured up and toured the exquisite Billy the Rabbit with national treasure Michael Leunig (www.leunig.com.au). In 2009 she penned the gorgeously bent story behind artist M S Dawson's haunting drawings and paintings, for the shortlisted book *How WEIRD is That...*

Yet somehow, she has found time to haul into her studio, a list of musical pals that reads like the family that fled from the cloistered Conservatorium of Music, up into the light of the North.

Cellists, trombone virtuosos, musical saw and pedal steel players, and long time collaborators James Cruickshank (*The Cruel Sea*) and Tim Gaze (*Morning of the Earth*), all appeared from the undergrowth when they heard Gyan's call.

Gyan gazes out into the bush that butts up against her wooden verandah. A bush turkey peers back.

"It's like having our own Big Pink or Yellow House collective," Gyan smiles, as a



butcherbird now joins the menagerie on the verandah. "I feel fortunate to have

found a bunch of like-minded souls... the super sensitive ones."

Four years in the making, Superfragilistically is a labour of love. "We took the windy road through the back hills," Gyan says with a wry smile.

"We decided to paint around the original sketches ...a longer road but hopefully longer lasting," Gyan's partner, and the album's producer, Simon Greaves disappears through the bush beyond the verandah, his longboard under arm.

And the album's title? "I came to this record with the idea of capturing precious little moments of beauty and holding them up just long enough to take their picture before they run for cover, like most endangered species," says Gyan "Thus Super Fragile."

And the "istically" part of the title? Is that a little present for Julie Andrews? "Give me an umbrella and I can fly!" Gyan laughs.

Celebrated for her unguarded and charismatic stage presence, Gyan performs Superfragilistically at Byron Community Centre on **Saturday 17th July**, with James Cruickshank (*The Cruel Sea*), Tim Gaze (*Morning of the Earth*), Simon Greaves (*Museagency*) and a string quartet of players from *The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra*.

Bruce Elder, the Sydney *Morning Herald* music critic, wrote: "Gyan has certainly evolved over the last decade. She is now a hugely gifted composer and a very fine singer in the female sensitive mode... just the right level of melancholy... gorgeous fragility."

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