

PRICELESS



THE VILLAGE JOURNAL

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Serving communities in Bundjalung Country, Northern Rivers... Rosebank, Dunoon, Clunes, Bexhill, Mullumbimby, The Channon, Federal, Eltham, Whian Whian, Eureka, Dorroughby, Corndale, Goonengerry, Upper Coopers Creek, Numulgi, Bangalow, Possum Creek, Nimbin, Li Ilian Rock, Lismore, Booyong, Coffee Camp, Goolmangar, Bishops creek, Jiggi



What's inside the February VJ?

Editorial

Local Issues & Stories

Metaphysics and Natural Law

Eat, Drink & Be Healthy

Animal Matters

Classifieds/Directory

VJ Editorial

Death by Committee

Welcome to my last Editorial for the Village Journal. It is with great regret that I inform you that the RCI (the owner of the VJ) in all their wisdom, at the meeting of 11th February, decided to discontinue the Village Journal operations until further notice. The VJ team attended the RCI meeting with the hope of a more positive outcome, but unfortunately things did not turn out as we would have liked.

For the past year, it has been an absolute delight to have worked with a remarkable team to produce this journal on behalf of the community. Your letters, articles and various contributions, has made me feel very much a part of this community, gaining a greater understanding of life in these hills. I have had great pleasure reading and publishing your stories. This gave me an insight into your passion and is what has made this journey all worthwhile. The VJ would not have had such success in the last few years without your commitment. Thank you!

A big thank you must go to my Production Team who gave so much of their heart and soul without asking for anything in

return, putting in the hours and dealing with the stress that each deadline brought along. Thank you also to their partners who put up with the hours of neglect for the greater good of our wonderful Community.

Last but not least, a big thanks must go to you, our readers and advertisers. Without your support along this year, none of this would have been possible, the late nights and extra hours were all worth it when all the feedback came to us. It's been a great adventure, my only regret would be that I wasn't given the chance to see through the vision I had for the VJ. There were a few wonderful projects we were lining up for you. I'll save them for other Community work I do, so all is not lost.

I do hope that 2014 will be a better vintage for everyone, and wish you all the best in your ventures and endeavours.

Don't forget the important things in life: your family and friends, they will always be there, providing love and understanding to help you through the hard times.

Enjoy this issue! See you on the roads, stay safe!

Didier Marceau

**STOP PRESS!! THERE'LL
BE NO MARCH VILLAGE
JOURNAL!!!**

Help Save the VJ!

Over the last year, through low advertising and other hiccups, the VJ coffers have been depleted and now they're at life threatening levels.

We desperately need your input to find ways

to keep the Good Ship VJ afloat! On SUNDAY 2ND MARCH come to our Barbie and Brainstorming at Rosebank Hall - at 12 noon a sausage sizzle - even for vegos - (RSVP Joan on 66882104, atdavies@bigpond.com <<mailto:atdavies@bigpond.com>>) and at 1pm workshopping ideas to stop the VJ from sinking forever.

Your input is needed if the VJ is to survive and prosper!



Rosebank was treated to Christmas a little early as the annual RCI Community Christmas BBQ took place. The Rosebank Hall was unrecognisable, lined with fairy lights and decorations of all sorts bringing great joy to the occasion. Children (and adults) never had a dull moment with Rosebank's famous Mad Hatter, Rohan Stewart, providing entertainment for all sorts, including a large jumping ball which was nothing less than loved.

The Annual Vince Lovegrove Memorial Drawing Competition uncovered the great artistic talent from our local schools. Art critic and fire captain, Eric Kinchin, judged the many entrants and found the finalists, such as 10-year-old Gabe Halligan's fantastic drawing of a turtle, which earned some great prizes. Scrumptious dinner and desserts, including a gleeful BBQ and

Christmas-themed rocky road, were on offer. Raffles with over \$200 worth of prizes were drawn with some walking home lucky that night.

A spectacular performance by music group, Bassix, featuring Miss Jodie, where some great music was showcased, drew the evening to a close. All in all the evening was a great hit with the money raised going to the community. For such an event to occur, it cannot go unnoticed that hours of work are put in by the many volunteers. A special thanks to all who helped, and in particular Alex Wilson for organising the very festive event.

Remember that events such as this depend on the continual support of the community.

Thomas Shannon

Village Jam wrap up

The Village Journal organised its inaugural jam night on the 25th January at Repentance Creek Hall. Although the attendance was not what we hoped for as it was Australia Day long weekend. Even though this evening was planned well ahead, a lot of musicians who intended to come had found paid gigs for the night, which meant that we had a restricted number of musicians.

Regardless of the small crowd, everyone who came said that they had a really good time. A little bit of music was played and a lot of dancing was had as well as a lot of catching up with old friends.

I would like to give a big thank you to the following people who stepped up to the plate to ensure that the night ran smoothly. Joan and Alan Davies from RCI provided the crowd with tea and coffee. Scott from Bexhill Butcher donated sausages, which everyone enjoyed. Nightcrawlers provided the P.A. on very short notice, as did Sam from Meridian Receiver who lent us microphone stands. Thanks also to Gary O'Connell for the use of his drum kit, also made available at the last minute.

A big thank you to the VJ team for all their efforts in making sure that no one went hungry on the night with the provision of cakes. Those who missed out on the night and managed to

have a chat with me, said that if this was a regular occurrence they would attend. We might give it another go in April, so stay tuned in the next issue, we might decide to have another go at it.

Thanks again to all the helpers and those that attended, it was great to see everyone enjoying the night and made all our efforts worthwhile.

Keep on rocking!

Didier Marceau



Position vacant

Advertising & Accounts Manager needed

The Village Journal is in need of an accounts manager for its publication. This position has newly been created and encompasses both bookkeeping and advertising.

The successful applicant will need good computer skills (Word, Excel and MYOB) and training can be provided.

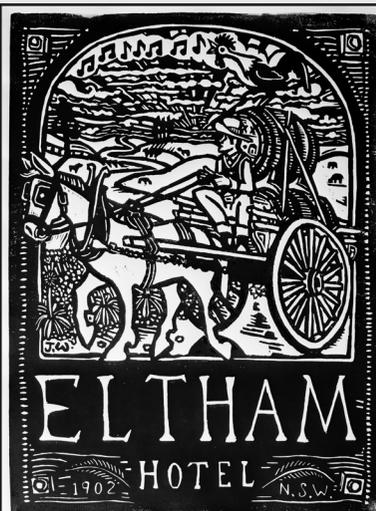
The job entails:

- General bookkeeping (MYOB)
- Financial reporting
- Invoicing
- Chasing overdue accounts
- Managing existent accounts
- Creating new accounts
- Great inter-personal skills

You will work closely with the Editor and layout person and report to both

the editor and the RCI. The job will require one or two days per week.

If you want to work in a challenging environment within a fun team, contact us via phone on 0266895716 or email at editor@villagejournal.org. We look forward to hear from you.



What's on for February...

05/02/2014	6:30pm	"NOT QUITE FOLK" - jam night
06/02/2014	6:30pm	BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA & PIZZA NIGHT
07/02/2014	7:00pm	Nicole Brophy
09/02/2014	2:00pm	Slim Pickens
13/02/2014	6:30pm	BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA & PIZZA NIGHT
14/02/2014	7:00pm	Yolan
16/02/2014	2:00pm	Johnnie & Horrie
20/02/2014	6:30pm	BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA & PIZZA NIGHT
21/02/2014	7:00pm	Phil Levy Duo
23/02/2014	2:00pm	Bill Jacobi
27/02/2014	6:30pm	BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA & PIZZA NIGHT
28/02/2014	7:00pm	Glen Massey

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WIRES

Northern Rivers

Tom a local resident from Federal called WIRES when he and his family came across this little juvenile Platypus. He was taken straight to Lismore Vet clinic by WIRES where he was x-rayed. No broken bones were found, but he was extremely dehydrated and under nourished, his body temperature was also very low.

Unfortunately due to his very poor condition he did not survive even though everything was done to save his life.

He was found by Tom and Toms family whilst swimming at Rosebank local swimming hole. The tiny Platypus was lying on the bank wet and unresponsive.

Platypus do not come into care often, when they do it is usually due to floods or at dispersing time when male Platypus leave the water course in search of new territory. This little male was only 250 gram and a long way from having to leave his mothers territory. In fact he should most likely still have been in the burrow dependant on her milk.

How he may have lost mum is a mystery, his body condition however showed that mum may have been gone for some time. A very sad end for such a beautiful little fellow.



Photo by Sharon Mc Grigor

Please be aware that Platypus juveniles may now be leaving their burrows, please look out for any that may be in trouble and ensure when swimming or visiting local water ways that dogs are under observation as these little animals may be sharing the water with you and your pets.



The Red-Necked pademelon

Photo Alicia Carter

This little fellow was lucky that an alert passer-by stopped when she saw his mum lying dead on the road as he was still very much alive in her pouch. The rescuer called WIRES straight away after wrapping him snugly in her jumper. Unfortunately it is not unusual to see them as road kill where he was found on Lyons Road at Cougal.

The Red-Necked pademelon is now on the road to recovery and will shortly be introduced to other joeys in care for rehabilitation before being released.

Marsupial joeys can survive for many days after mum has

passed away so please stop if you see a dead marsupial on the road and check. If you find a joey please wrap it snugly and call WIRES straight away. Do not try to feed the joey as they need special formula; most are also in need of intensive care. WIRES volunteers are trained in how to treat orphaned and injured wildlife and you can be, too, if you wish to join us. Our next training weekend will be 15-16 February at SCU in Lismore.

An all-volunteer organisation, WIRES relies heavily on the generosity of caring people for support as we are a charity, not a government service. If you are interested, call the 24-hour hotline on 6628 1898 or go to <http://wiresnr.org/Helping.html> to find out how you can help. All donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.



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Get involved ... join WIRES

For more information call our 24 hour emergency help line on
6628 1898
or visit our website
www.wiresnr.org



NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service

Desley and Dixie

Desley and backyoung Dixie were brought into care on Saturday 4 January 2014. It had been a very hot day, the temperature reaching 37 degrees.

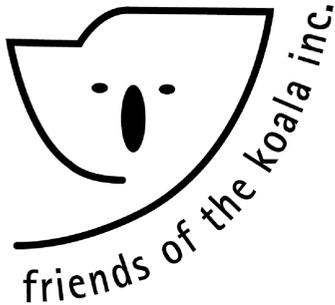
A Ruthven caller had observed the koalas clinging to a patio post. When they didn't move on, a volunteer investigated. Desley was not responsive and took 4ml of water from a syringe. She was visibly distressed from the heat but there was more. Later veterinarian examination confirmed borderline anaemia.

On arrival at the Koala Care Centre Desley initially rejected Dixie however, after being given fluids and a cool room to rest in, she was cuddling her baby again in no time.

A fortnight on mother and back-young are both doing very well.

Susannah, with Desley and Dixie will be available for media at the Koala Care Centre, East Lismore, Monday 20 January after 11am.

Please contact Susannah on 0431 707 883 for an appointment.



Watch out for Heat Stressed Koalas

While the Northern Rivers has escaped the scorching heat of other parts of the continent, summer temperatures together with the present dry spell is taking its toll on

koalas around the region. Lack of rain and drying winds have desiccated leaf and thinned canopies. Thirsty koalas are looking for water. Normally almost all a koala's water intake comes from the leaves it eats. Eucalyptus leaves are efficient living storage systems for water and lingering morning dew adds to leaf freshness.

Friends of the Koala Care Co-ordinator, Pat Barnidge advises people who live with koalas to take a few simple precautions which will help thirsty animals get through long dry-spells. "Leaving bowls of water at the base of trees known to be used by koalas is a good start," she said. "Dusk to dawn is acknowledged as their prime active time but koalas move around during the day as well. If they are thirsty their keen sense of smell will lead them to garden ponds and even swimming pools. Standard pool fencing isn't always an effective deterrent

for koalas. While they can swim, getting out of a smooth-sided pool unaided is usually beyond them because their claws have no purchase. Providing a rope or some other means of escape could prevent unforeseen calamity," Pat said.

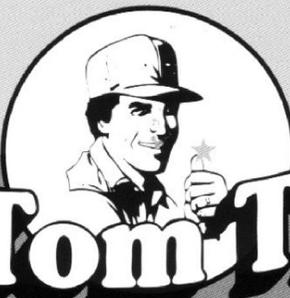
Leaf provided for the koalas at the Koala Care Centre in East Lismore is being sprayed with water a couple of times a day. Carer, Susannah Keogh said, "The leaf is so dry on these hot days that the koalas in care have been drinking around 50ml to 100ml water daily. Many reports we're receiving have been of chronically ill koalas that are not coping at all well with the heat. Even healthy koalas can become rapidly dehydrated if they are not able to find the fluids they need."

See Desley and Dixie case study above.

"With high temperatures forecast for the rest of the week, it is distressing to think how many more koalas are out there suffering. They get quickly dehydrated which can lead to illness and even death. Leaving out containers of water for your local koalas and other wildlife can literally save their lives," said Susannah.

To report a koala in trouble, or a sighting, phone Friends of the Koala's 24/7 Rescue Hotline: (02) 6622 1233. This number can be used for information about koalas, their food trees, and other ways in which the koala conservation effort on the Northern Rivers can be assisted.

Also visit: www.friendsofthekoala.org or email info@friendsofthekoala.org



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Local Sports

The story of dragon boating & paddling rainbows.

Dragon boat racing originated from ancient village rivalries in Southern China. Fast forward 2000 years, and dragon boating today is seen by paddlers, including breast cancer survivors, as a team sport that significantly improves health and wellbeing as well as everybody being "all in the same boat."

In the past 5-10 years, dragon boating has become the fastest growing water sport in Australia. Yet there is still the mistaken belief that it is only a women's sport. This is far from the truth. Even the Australian Defence Forces have identified that dragon boating builds strength, endurance and camaraderie; and they have teams of men and women, starting from any age and fitness level.

The Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club reflects this modern sports trend. Its origin came out of the community support for breast cancer survivors, their family and carers. Four years ago, the club opened its membership to the wider community. The club is based at the beautiful Lake Ainsworth at Lennox Head and its members come from all over the rainbow region including, Ocean Shores, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle and villages in between.

Our club is a vibrant community sports club with a big emphasis on both the competitive and social aspects of sport. Our members say they do it because of: "fun," "friendship," "affordable," "great team sport," "regattas," "challenging," "competitive," "anyone can do it," and "a good workout" to name a few reasons.

The boat holds 20 paddlers, plus a sweep (steers) and a coach, and it is said that "the dragon is no greater than the sum of its parts." Therefore, there is no room for "show ponies" in these boats, because the sport rewards team effort, whilst being personally challenging for any level of ability.

One club member, Nick Stevens, confessed his first session in a boat - "I thought it would be pretty easy because I had been a competitive long distance runner. By the end of the session, I was exhausted while everybody else was



relaxed and laughing!" Nick's pride drove him on to improve and then he realised he was addicted to the team ethos.

Club coaches are committed to maintaining high training standards. Our sister club is the internationally successful Sydney Sloths who share their most current training techniques with us. This relationship is reflected in our reduced injury risk, excellent fitness levels and improved regatta performances.

The club always welcomes new members. It's common that life draws members away from the lake for a variety of reasons, but they still miss their paddling; therefore, old club members are welcomed back too.

Look up our website www.rainbowdragons.com.au for contact details and training sessions (Sunday & Tuesday are best for beginners & returning paddlers) whilst our Facebook page (Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club) provides a fun insight into club culture.

So, take up the three free sessions offer, and become part of a great group of people who thrive on a seriously good work out, in a beautiful location.

Monica Wilcox

Shine On with Eureka FC in 2014

After an all-too-long hiatus, football fever returns to the Hinterland with Registration Days at Eureka Public School on Saturdays 1 February and 8 March from 10am to 12noon.

This year the club is launching 3 senior teams (Fourths, Fifths and Sixths), with juniors from Under 6 to 16, and our first women's team. Excited?! Yew betcha. We look forward to welcoming all our players back and growing the Eureka family.

If you want to play football with style and great people, sign on and shine on with Eureka for 2014.

Our first pre-season Six a Side comp kicks off on 11 February. Stay tuned for details. Our monster fundraisers will also be backing-up for 2014 starring

the Yeeros Extravaganza in Federal Park in May and our Second Monster Gala later in the season.

Huge thanks to our sponsors: Mullumbimby Veterinary Clinic, North Coast

Medical Centre, Armsign, 100 Hands Pty Ltd, Vitamin Records and Bluesfest.

If you would like to sponsor Eureka FC in 2014, please let us know, and go large!

For further Registration info visit: eureka.fc.com/registration. Player Registration Fees can be paid to FFA online (3% fee) or by direct transfer to Eureka FC or in cash on Registration Day. For enquiries please call James Mayson on 6688 4079.

Forza Eureka!

The Rail Trail – One Step Closer to Reality

Our beautiful Northern Rivers region has a unique sub-tropical climate, rich volcanic soils which erupt in lush rainforest, pastures and gardens, rolling hills and valleys, rivers and streams leading to an unspoilt coastline of pristine beaches. It is little wonder why this region is the second most visited by international tourists in NSW. A rail trail will make this area even better!

Aboriginal people know the jewel in the region's crown, Byron Bay as Cavvanbah – "meeting place" - a name which still best describes the location today, as visitors from diverse backgrounds flock to Byron to discover natural beauty and a friendly community of locals, travellers and new residents seeking a sea or tree change. Beyond Byron Bay lies a collection of villages and towns which are often overlooked by visitors to the region, but hold rich cultural and natural treasures. These towns are linked by a disused railway line, presenting a unique opportunity for the Northern Rivers region.

The single track, standard gauge Casino - Murwillumbah railway line was initially constructed to transport cedar which was logged from the 'Big Scrub' area surrounding Byron Bay. When the first section of the railway line opened just outside of Lismore in 1894, a 9000-strong crowd of locals gathered to celebrate the line which would link the Richmond and Tweed Rivers to the coastal port of Byron Bay, from which goods and passengers were transported to Sydney.

By 1903, the line extended 132 kilometres to freight industrial material and passengers from Casino to Murwillumbah. From 1932, the railway linked to Sydney and the line was primarily used to transport passengers. Since the decline of the traditional timber and dairy industries of our region and with the rise of motor vehicle ownership plus better road and highway quality in the region during recent decades, demand for passenger and freight train services fell. In 2004 the line was deemed too expensive to maintain, and the remaining daily service to and from Sydney was suspended indefinitely.

This year, the NSW Government funded a Transport Study which investigated the feasibility, benefits and costs of reinstating passenger services on the Casino to Murwillumbah Rail Line.

The study found that since rail services were suspended in 2004, the condition of the line has deteriorated and the \$900 million cost of repairing the line which includes a number of bridges, tunnels and station buildings to an operating standard was deemed too high to justify rail as a viable mode of transport in the region.

In May 2013, a collection of local philanthropists known as the Sourdough Group, along with community volunteers, local government councillors and staff and leaders of the tourist industry formed the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Association Inc (NRRT Inc) with a vision to preserve and revitalise the rail corridor. Our non-profit organisation is working towards converting the disused rail line into a modern cycle and walking trail, which will spread economic growth in the region, beyond the tourist hotspot of Byron Bay.

If you live in the Northern Rivers region, you will know the wonder of our vivid natural landscape and the unique culture of new-age meets old-school charm. Our towns have well-preserved federation era halls, schools and churches which are now used for all kinds of activities - ranging from music concerts, local markets to yoga classes. Imagine exploring this region by foot, bike, horseback or mobility scooter - working up an appetite between towns to savour and sample our world class culinary delights. If our vision becomes a reality, visitors will enjoy all of the natural, cultural wonders of the Northern Rivers from a healthy, sustainable perspective.

Tourism underpins the local economy today as timber and dairy

did in the past. As the railway corridor supported the former industries with rail freight services, it can again contribute to strengthening the economy of our region. Like many regional communities in Australia, the Northern Rivers is losing its youngest and brightest to bigger cities due to diminished employment opportunities. We envision that encouraging tourists to explore the smaller inland towns via rail trail will provide business and employment opportunities for the whole region.

Of course, the Northern Rivers Rail Trail will be different things to different people. Locals are currently faced with a lack of safe places to ride bikes or go for a walk - particularly in the inland towns which don't have the luxury of a beach or walking tracks nearby. Our inland roads are notoriously unsafe. A rail trail will encourage locals to engage in active transport in a safe environment. Local children and workers could walk or ride to school or work. Making active transport easier and safer will also cut down traffic congestion on our roads. The environmental and health benefits to our community are endless!

Our dream moved a step closer to becoming a reality in August, with the announcement of the Casino to Murwillumbah Rail Trail Scoping Study which will investigate the feasibility of creating and maintaining a rail trail. We are currently working on building connections with other rail trailers around the world, who have seen rail trails benefit their communities, to provide evidence to the feasibility study. We are also considering alternative uses for the railway line, such as a light rail service and finding ways to share the corridor if this service is deemed viable.

At this stage, building community awareness and support for a rail trail is paramount to our success. With 4000 people signed up to support a rail trail in the Northern Rivers, strong political backing from all parties and the majority of local Councils on board, we are confident that we are onto a good idea but we realise there is a lot of work ahead of us to make a rail trail happen. We will keep building support for a rail trail, so that if the feasibility study proves the project to be viable, our rail corridor will revitalise and connect our community once more.

You can support our campaign in several ways.

Sign our online petition. <http://www.communityrun.org/petitions/support-the-northern-rivers-rail-trail-campaign-from-casino-to-murwillumbah>

Kate Brinsmead





People- the protectors of paradise! History repeats at Terania Creek?

From 'Paradise Australia' @ Ian Browne Independent Academia.com

Terania Creek is an absolute subtropical rainforest paradise in northern NSW. I was bewildered when I moved down from Darwin to see that the energy sector wished to intrude on such ecological majesty. I couldn't believe the government would allow for such a strange debacle, especially in such a profoundly left wing eco-proud region. In 1979, a group of environmental lovers protested the deforestation of the region for timber. Public outrage added to the fervor, and even though the loggers had their day in court, and won, the government shuddered under the weight of public condemnation and the lush jungle remains. I often visit this forest valley and I never waver in my respect for those protestors of the heady Aquarian70's, whilst I sit within natural trance at the cool misty foot of my beloved Protestor Falls in Terania Creek.

As for northern NSW, government has stalled moving ahead with CSG, and it is hoped that the plans to encroach on both private land, and within natural ecosystems, will also be shelved. The people who saved our natural assets, and there are many, from all walks of life, they have become a valuable natural resource themselves, resources with a soul and a voice that demand environmental safeguards and the principles of sustainable development be adhered to. '

What is our most precious resource do you think? 'Water!' And our most available? 'The sun!' And the poor old 'love' has been turned in part to 'greed and competition.'

People Power' is definitely Australia's most profound and powerful natural resource. With all my travelling, and living within Australia's most cosmopolitan social settings, I felt it important to convey to anyone interested, about how you, and society, are as much of a resource as our most lavished commodities. You have the power to look after the landscape and the living organisms within. You are seriously important! You are 'Gaia's caretaker' if you please.

The mountain jungle borders of northern NSW and southern Queensland maintain Australia's largest diversity in avian species. Though capital wealth does not drive me personally, but birds may well bring millions of Chinese tourists to our shores in the near future. So let's ensure that along with the kookaburra, the bushman's alarm clock, that we too are laughing all the way to the bank with the sustenance that healthy, respectful ecotourism can deliver.

Ian Browne

Ian has kindly made available to all our readers a paper titled "Resources in an arid country", a very educational and interesting read. Log on to our website to read it!



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Locabiber

So much to tell you—as the title of an OZ YA novel once went—from drinking over the summer Christmas/New Year period, that I won't be able to fit it all into this column.

As with all his handmade wines so far, each bottle of Jared Dixon's 2013 Jilly FIFO Margaret River Chardonnay is numbered in a series—in this instance, 780 bottles. Again with a cloth label as with the reds, but this time marbled to be denim/jeans/flying-clouds-like, originally designed by the local, Kylie Bridges. The Margaret Grapes grapes are grown on gravel lime in Upper Wilyabrup. Unfined/unfiltered in French bottles, the first FIFO Chardonnay is available at the Clunes Wine Store—or when dining at Harvest café, Newyrbur. Its aroma is possibly persimmon, fairy floss or bubble gum, because it has some sweetness, but coupled with some wood and pear. It opens up later with malt and honey, so I wouldn't serve this wine too chilled. On the palate it's all citrus, with something sweet underneath again, like vanilla, or a touch of malt here too. It's therefore layered, textured, complex. Dry, minerally. From the bottle now, it's not flirtatious or lulling. You have to be alert. It's alert. It would be good with food rather than a standalone drink, possibly with pmaybe a light meat such as pork in a sweet and sour, with blood orange in a savoury or dessert, something

Let's stick with smoothness for the following Cab Sav, Merlot and Pinot Noir.

The 2010 Glenwillow Yandoit Creek, Bendigo, Cabernet Sauvignon, that Jared also has at the Clunes Wine Store/

Cellars, is a deep black ruby red, and has a kind of white chalk aroma, with sweet green pea. It's smooth and soft on the palate, and could almost be sweet at the end. Again, a wine with an uninspiring label that lets down the contents of the bottle.

The Station Hotel, South Lismore, has a very smooth 2012 Upside Down Marlborough Merlot, the best one I've drunk for a while, especially because it lacks a 'dusty' palate, and only \$11.99! James Halliday always mentions Elizabeth Hunter Valley Semillon in his annual best 100 whites under \$20. The 2006 was available at the Station Hotel. Bright ripe-lemon gold in colour, on the palate, as usual for Semillon it is stern if not severe: it has gravitas. You really wouldn't, if you were bright, select it to drink alone on a summer's day at a pub or wine bar. It's probably best with food, but what? A rich, buttery roasted chicken? A Middle-Eastern dish with preserved lemon. A dessert of some kind: partially sweet, something with butter again. As I have said before, it's a drink for adults; it's not a YA grape. But while I understand the 2006's gravitas, I can't see myself buying it again—unless I know I'm having that chicken.

Finally, the 2010 K1 Geoff Hardy Adelaide Hills, Kuitto, Pinot Noir, which I purchased online, is brown-ruby in colour with a definite deeply ripe plum perfume and spicy, such as cinnamon and nutmeg, edges. Very drinkable Pinot, slipping down easily. It could be a summer drink, especially if cooled. Light weight, but satisfying length on palate, shiraz-like with some pepper, and currents and sultanas.

Moya Costello



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One to look out for!

Well Bonjour!

Rockin' Rod's gone AWOL this month so I'm taking the opportunity to introduce you to a French artist I met recently in Paris! Now, before you switch page, let me just say that this artist sings in English. His name is Tiwayo (pronounced T.Y.O) and his raspy voice is captivating.

At 27 years of age, this young artist is self-taught, coming into music late (15), he played guitar for a few bands, made a few trips to the US to experience the Blues and decided that he wanted to play his own music. Honing his skills busking covers and originals in the Paris metro he set out to laying it all down in his small home studio.

His first E.P titled "Wild Songs", launched in late 2011, contains a blend of Blues, Soul and Reggae, which make it an easy listening record. For an independent release, the quality shines through, brought along by the choice of musicians, the production work and his overall ethic and approach to music, I've got the feeling this could be the start of a great career.

Tiwayo has a new E.P coming out this month, having had the chance to have a sneak peek, I can tell you that it is very easy listening, There seems to be more of a Blues and Rock note to it, with some very catchy tunes. Can't wait to hear the finish product. He is planning on launching his first album later this year.

Having toured extensively, there are quite a few videos of some of his concerts on you tube, check them out when you have the chance, the unit's performance is worth a look. If you're looking for something refreshing, this is definitely the ticket. Enjoy!

There is a small Australian tour on the cards for 2015, any interest can be forwarded to the Didier at frozzie@frozzie.com

Didier Marceau



Metaphysics & Natural Law

Natural Law with Helene Collard

I am a self-sovereign being.

I honour my ancestors past and present.

You are all my relations. All is One.

Hello and how is your focus

To reap the full benefits of the current energies, please create space and then invite periods of STILLNESS and SILENCE into your mind, heart and body. Ten minutes each day is ample. Will you make time? Close your eyes and stop.

This inner practice will bring about the changes you wish for in your outer world. Be STILL in your mind, be STILL in your heart, be STILL in your body and BREATHE...become empty. After the first week of February, expect the dots to begin aligning and connecting in a big way. This "gathering" will reach a powerful place around mid-month.

I feel a sense of strong support and collaboration, so reach out to those reaching out to you and create something exciting together.

The energies around mid-February will be intense, there's no doubt about that. It's how we 'play' in these energies that will decide our experience of them. That's where the STILLNESS and SILENCE come in. Ten minutes a day is fantastic. Take your phone off the hook, or place it on 'silent'. Sit comfortably with your back straight. Close your eyes and breathe.

Focus on your breath for ten minutes. If you start thinking, gently go back to your breath. Alternatively, you can pray, meditate or sit quietly, alone in nature - whatever works best for you. The key is to be STILL and SILENT.

Be aware that you may receive support in various ways, some more obvious than others. For instance, some forces may work silently or in the background, whilst other assistance will be more vocal and direct. It is important to know that BOTH indirect and direct assistance is required to shift things forward. Keep this in mind as you consider not only how you are being supported, but also, how you may assist others...

Which brings me to RECIPROCITY – the foundational law of Being in a functional, cohesive and progressive society. RECIPROCITY is 'the proper way' to interact with all material and non-material life forces. Are you comfortable giving? Are you comfortable receiving? Ensure your part of the web is a healthy balance of offering and accepting. By creating and maintaining the balance of RECIPROCITY, we open a pathway to work together on projects that will bring about revolutionary change.

Extend forward your hands and open your heart.

Love Helene

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Deep Southern Skies in November

Welcome to another monthly roundup of the night sky for February.

Over December and January I was privileged to be on a bicycling tour in Cambodia and Laos with my son and two other companions. On a particularly long and arduous day I got separated from the others and was still on my bike late into the night on a lonely stretch of new but unsealed road cut through the dwindling virgin forests of wild north western Cambodia. With my bike light having failed, no water or food, and my energy sapped, I was thrust into the inky blackness of night with only the stars to light my way. As lonely and isolated as I felt, I could count the stars as my friends and took solace in being able to name some of the stars and constellations I saw. There was Sirius, the Dog Star, brightest of all the stars rising magnificently in the eastern sky and shining brightly as the alpha star in the constellation Canis Major, the Hunting Dog. Above him was one of my favourite constellations, Orion, the Hunter, with its dominant red giant star Betelgeuse. To the north was the beautiful constellation, Cassiopeia, which is not visible in our southern skies, as well as Ursa Major, the Great Bear. And there, of course, was Jupiter, king of the gas giants, rising between Castor and Pollux, the Gemini Twins. Although I never did meet up with my companions that night, I felt a connection in recognizing these stars and they kept me on the right path.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mercury and the slender crescent Moon are close together.

Venus at its greatest brilliancy.

Moon close to Mars and Spica.

Meteor shower, the alpha-Centaurids, peaks on February 8. Expect sparse but bright, colourful fireballs lasting seconds to even minutes.

CONSTELLATIONS

Asterisms (star patterns) are great markers for finding your way around the sky. February evenings offer some good examples including possibly the largest asterism in the sky, the Winter Hexagon, so named because of its northern origin, sitting on the northern horizon. Facing north, the upper left corner is Rigel (Alpha Orionis); then continue down to Aldebaran (Alpha Tauri in the Hyades Cluster). The hexagon's lowest component, only a few degrees above the horizon is Capella – the brightest star in Auriga. Moving eastward we come to the Gemini Twins, Castor and Pollux, then shoot up through Procyon, finishing on its highest and brightest member, Sirius (Alpha Canis Majoris).

Another prominent constellation in the northwest is Orion, with its easily recognizable three belt stars. Look above the Hunter to find the kite shape of Canis Major, with its brilliant alpha star, Sirius. Towards the northeast horizon you will find the 'sickle' of Leo, including Regulus, its 'handle' star. There is also the Southern Cross, Crux, on its side and rising from the southeast.

High in the south is the False Cross, located between Crux and the star Canopus. This asterism was part of the ancient and now extinct constellation of Argo Navis, the ship of Jason and the Argonauts. At the time this mythical ship was named from Middle Eastern latitudes, it appeared to sail along the southern horizon.

THE MOON

Due to the shortness of February, this is the only month that can have just three lunar phases and there is no New Moon – this is the first of five missing New Moons in February this century.

7th First Quarter.

12th Moon at apogee (furthest from Earth at 406,231 km).

15th Full Moon.

22nd (9 am) Occultation of Saturn by the Moon, daytime event from most of Australia.

23rd Last Quarter.

28th Moon at perigee (closest to Earth at 360,440 km).

THE PLANETS

Mercury leaves the evening dusk as it moves toward the Sun and inferior conjunction (between the Earth and the Sun) mid-month. Its late month return to the eastern dawn sky heralds the best conditions for observing this innermost world in the morning for 2014. On the 28th, low in the dawn, the planet appears around 3° above and south of the fingernail sliver of the Moon. With New Moon 38 hours away, the illuminated portion of its disc is just 3% lit – binoculars will greatly assist in finding the pair in the brightening sky.

Venus, in Sagittarius, reaches its greatest brilliancy on the 15th in the morning sky. At this time the planet displays a crescent that's about 25% illuminated, peaking at -4.9 magnitude (as bright as it can get). Venus is the 3rd brightest object in the sky beside the Sun and Moon and can cast shadows on moonless nights away from city lights. On the 26th, the 25-day old waning crescent Moon appears around 5° above the planet.

Mars rises in the late eastern evening sky in Virgo, not straying more than 6° from the 1st magnitude star Spica during the month. With the forthcoming opposition in April, visual observers will notice a brightening of the planet as it reaches negative magnitudes by month end.

Jupiter, now past opposition, can be seen rising in the northeast as evening twilight ends. The planet is brilliant at -2.5 magnitude, moving sluggishly between the Gemini Twins as it nears the end of its retrograde loop. After opposition the planet's large angular size (44 arc seconds mid-month) ensures even small telescopes can glimpse the polar flattening (due to its nature as a giant spinning ball of gas) and detail in the cloud bands, plus constant shuttling back and forth of the Galilean moons as they undergo satellite transits, shadow transits, occultations and eclipses. On the 11th, the 12-day old waxing gibbous Moon appears near the gas giant.

Saturn rises in the late eastern sky in Libra. On the evening of the 21st, the 21-day old gibbous Moon will be near the planet – the next morning there will be a daylight occultation of the Moon and Saturn across most of Australia. On the 12th, Saturn is at its western quadrature where the Sun-Earth-Saturn angle is 90°. At this time, the planet has a prominent ring shadow across its surface.

Uranus, in Pisces, is low in the early western sky for the first half of February; it then becomes lost in the twilight as its angular distance from the Sun decreases.

Neptune is in conjunction with the Sun on the 24th and will not be observable until it reappears in mid-March in the morning sky.

Dwarf Planet Pluto, in Sagittarius, rises in the early morning eastern sky.

METEOR SHOWERS

The alpha-Centaurids, one of the main southern summer showers, are active from 28 January to 21 February, with a maximum on the 8th. In recent years activity has been low with an average hourly rate of just six per hour. However, some years have yielded bursts of 20-30 over a few hours. The shower is noted for its brightly coloured fireballs and are predominantly yellow and blue and long lasting trains that may vary from a few seconds to several minutes. This year, the morning around maximum will be Moon free, and therefore dark.

Acknowledgements

Astronomy 2014 Australia. Quasar Publishing 2013.

The Great Atlas of the Stars by Serge Brunier. Firefly Books 2003.

Alan Brockman

www.deepsouthernskies.org

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to the article in the December issue of the Village Journal (number 293) titled "Gladstone, The Gas Economy and The Great Barrier Reef".

I was horrified to read Simone Gould's comments regarding the labourers and tradesmen in this article. To describe them as "...men in safety shirts, grubby faces and work boots..." is insulting the men and women working in these industries.

Who do you think repairs your plumbing or provides the maintenance in your shire?

Dear Editor,

Tuesday was one of the bad days of my life - and one of the nicest. I came home from work to find my companion, my little dog, dead at the end of her chain. Snake? Probably. She loved to do battle with them. She was a Jack Russell. I dug her grave beside my dear husband's, and cried. As I was digging, I heard sirens and I thought: "someone needs help".

I walked up the hill to the kennel to fetch my mate for burial and saw a fire truck inside my property, turning around and heading out again. I surmised from the smoke that the fire was next door and went back to my sad chore.

Once finished saying my goodbyes I walked back towards the house and noticed the fire-truck parked back on my property. There was lots more smoke.

I drove out to see what was happening and the driver of the truck asked me if there was a gate from my place into the next door neighbour's. When I said no he asked if he could cut the fence to get through. Of course!

The article was more about degrading the hard working manual labourers of this country than about the environmental or social affects of gas mining.

These men and women contribute to the local economy as much as, or if not more, than the average tourist.

Maybe Simone could undertake some manual labour in the middle of summer for a week and see how she copes with it!

Regards

Anna Johnson Eureka

I apologised for not being able to help because I had just buried my dog. I'm sure my face showed my grief and tears.

He said he was sorry and we both went back to doing what we were doing. Later the fire truck pulled up in front of my house and the driver said he had just come to see that I was OK, and that the fire was out. I thought that was lovely. The men had been fighting a fire to protect other people's property and yet

they still had the compassion to come in and ask if I was alright. I thanked the driver for what had been done and we all continued with our evenings - theirs far more arduous than mine, I'm sure. It was only the next afternoon when I arrived home from work that I realised that the fire had actually made it into my property, burnt some fence posts and up the trunks of some big trees. I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the volunteer bushfire brigade and hope that all in the community appreciate the great work that they do.

Thank you volunteers.

Jan Betteridge

National Broadband Network Fixed Wireless Update

Over the last six months NBN Co has been in consultation with the Rosebank community regarding plans to provide residents with access to a fixed wireless highspeed broadband service. With the recent change of Federal Government there has been a change of policy for the NBN, however, NBN Co will proceed with its existing fixed wireless network serving regional premises subject to a review of the rollout in line with new Government policy. During a Rosebank Community Information Session held last August, the community expressed concern about the location of the proposed network facility at 11 Repentance Creek Rd and requested NBN Co investigate alternative sites. NBN Co has been examining different locations and network design solutions that would still provide good service to Rosebank whilst reducing the visual impact of the infrastructure. NBN Co is working to find a solution at Rosebank that reflects the community's values.

Alternative Site – NBN Information Session

NBN Co is pleased to present the results of the site investigation at a Community Information Session.
NBN Information Session

Rosebank Public Hall
Thursday 27 February
3pm – 6pm



Interested residents are encouraged to attend and discuss the proposed alternative site. The alternative site has not been finalised as a formal proposal submitted to Council – it is a preliminary proposal for community consideration. Please attend at any time during the session that suits you to review the information on display and to ask questions of the project team. In keeping with our commitment last year, NBN Co will be hand-delivering invitations to all premises within a 2km radius of the centre of the village, as well as advertising in the Village Journal.

Tony Gibbs

Call 1800 687 626 or visit nbnco.com.au or email info@nbnco.com.au.

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Rainfall Report

December 26 - January 25

Sheath's Rd. Goonengerry..... 65 mm

Wean Way Federal..... .85 mm

Byrne Rd Rosebank75.3mm

Thanks to Jean McCall, David Dynes & Heron Lee, Ross Wilson

Totals are calculated from 25th of previous month to 25th of current issue month.

Source: <http://rainfall.willyweather.com.au/nsw/far-north-coast>

For calendar monthly totals please go to VJ website.



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Coming Events . . .

Starting in Feb on the 2nd and 4th. Wednesday at approx 6:30 pm.

First night 12th. February

We will be running Aussie Trivia a Queensland based company that supplies the questions and music, plus picture rounds, and bonus prizes.

Trivia Afternoon - 3rd Saturday Each
Month at 3:00 pm
Saturday 20th July
Hosted by Annabelle

all shows @ 8.30PM

Dunoon Sports Club Restaurant

Mayfields

2014 trading hours:

Wednesday to Saturday from 6pm

Open for Sunday lunch for bookings of 20+ only

Trivia Quiz

3pm third Saturday of each month

Dunoon Sports Club



2014 **club opening hours**

Mon, Tue, Sun: 3pm – 8pm
Wed: 3pm – 9pm
Thurs: 3pm – 10pm
Fri: 1pm – midnight
Sat: 1pm – 10pm

6689 5444 phone
web dunoonclub.org.au



Pluckers & Poets

Open mic! All welcome!

come along and join in with a tune, a rhyme ... or just kick back with a cool drink and enjoy!

2nd Sunday each month

from 3.30pm



Ginger Photo Celine Debellis

FEBRUARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Clunes Playgroup 10am @ Clunes PreSchool	Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	Whian Whian Playgroup WW School @ 9.00am	Byron Farmers Market Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	 Mullum Farmers Market	1 Alstonville Farmers Market Lismore Farmers Market	2 Byron Bay Market Lismore Car Boot Market
3 Rosebank Fire Service Meeting Clunes Playgroup 10am @ Clunes PreSchool	4 Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30- 11AM	5 Whian Whian Playgroup WW School @ 9.00am	6 Byron Farmers Market Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	 7 Mullum Farmers Market	8 Alstonville Farmers Market Lismore Farmers Market	9 The Channon Market
10 Clunes Playgroup 10am @ Clunes PreSchool	11 Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30- 11AM	12 Whian Whian Playgroup WW School @ 9.00am	13 Byron Farmers Market Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM Goonengerry Playgroup	14 Mullum Farmers Market	 15 Rosebank Reserve working bee Alstonville Market Mullum Museum Market Lismore Market	16 Lismore Car Boot Market
17 Clunes Playgroup 10am @ Clunes PreSchool	18 Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30- 11AM	19 Whian Whian Playgroup WW School @ 9.00am	 20 Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM Byron Farmers Market Goonengerry Playgroup	21 Mullum Farmers Market	22 Alstonville Farmers Market Lismore Farmers Market	 23 Bangalow Village Market Nimbin Acquarius Fair Market
24 Clunes Playgroup 10am @ Clunes PreSchool	25 VJ Deadline Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	26 Whian Whian Playgroup WW School @ 9.00am	27 Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM Byron Farmers Market Goonengerry Playgroup	28 Mullum Farmers Market	 Alstonville Farmers Market Lismore Farmers Market	