



PRICELESS



THE VILLAGE JOURNAL

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Serving communities in Bundjalung Country, Northern Rivers... Rosebank, Dunoon, Clunes, Bexhill, Mullumbimby, Federal, Eltham, Whian Whian, Eureka, Dorrroughby, Corndale, Goonengerry, Upper Coopers Creek, Numulgi

**VJ
Alert!**



*What's
inside the
April VJ?*

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NBN Towers

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Day**

**Friends of the
Koalas**

School News

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Track Mystery**

**Farmers
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Contaminants**

Gardening Tips

... and much more!

The Whipbird
by Alex Wilson

VJ Editorial

Dear VJ Readers,

This April edition of the VJ is an 'Emergency Issue' that has been created by a team of volunteers with the aim of alerting our readers to the fact that if the Village Journal is to continue operating and thriving we will need to find some locals who are happy to take on the roles of editor, bookkeeper, advertising and website co-ordinators.

Unfortunately over the past year the financial state of the VJ has taken a turn for the worse and the previous team found themselves unable to catch up as, month after month, they could not gain enough advertising revenue to pay for the costs of each successive issue.

Eventually it came to the notice of the VJ's 'parent body', Rosebank Community Inc (RCI), that so much was owing that the shortfall was less likely to be found as the months rolled on.

As the responsibility for any deficiency in the finances of the VJ ultimately fall back on the RCI committee members, they were very concerned that, without any real plan to halt the downward slide, they would be left 'holding the bag' when the annual statement of accounts to ASIC was due after June.

The VJ team had every good intention of 'catching up' but, as our readers know, it gets harder to do so once you've fallen way behind financially. They decided to forgo their payments each month, always planning to recoup funds lost with fundraisers and the sale of the VJ Calendar, which had been a success the year before. However, the fundraisers didn't raise much and the VJ Calendar deadline came and went, as personal dramas took away a key team member who had greatly helped the sale and production of the previous year's popular mini-calendar.

RCI acknowledges that Didier, Celine and Sue, who ably pulled together the monthly production of the VJ throughout 2013 till February this year, did a good job and kept the VJ going for another year, for which we are very grateful.

In its 27 years since Ian Horsfield, our local Rosebank printer who started our 'local rag', there have been many twists and turns, and the VJ has been at a crossroad a few times, waiting to see who would take the reins next, and 'have a go'. Now we need another new beginning, for the sake of our beloved not-for-profit, community owned, inter community journal.

The fact that the VJ services many villages and local communities is almost unique in our area. Of course there are the larger 'papers, both free and otherwise, which cover our region to varying degrees, but no other local, small, free publication has been delivered directly into letterboxes and covers each little part of our part of the world. Other publications

focus on their own village or community, which is extremely valuable, and we applaud the excellent newsletters that abound in our area – they are all worth reading for their local insight.

But the VJ has over the years found a place in the hearts of very many people, which was beautifully shown when we held a 'crisis meeting' last month to consider the future of the VJ (if it had one). Thirty people came to Rosebank Hall and the obvious love of, and concern over, the fate of the VJ was clear. Out of that brainstorming of options a small interim team has emerged to create this 'Emergency Issue', in order to ask for others who care about the VJ and community to take over the reins.

Help

I hear you say, "What can I do to help the VJ?" Well, thanks for asking! Make sure you read the articles and ads each month, and contribute letters, articles, poetry, line art drawings, photos of local scenes, happenings and wildlife, give us suggestions on what you'd like to see in these pages and, of course, support our advertisers by buying from them, utilising their services and ALWAYS TELL THEM YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE VJ!

As the song by Jamiroquai says, 'I know this corner of the world, it smiles at me' - on behalf of our beloved VJ, let's all help the good ship 'The Village Journal' sail on for many years to come!

Lydia Kindred, acting editor for the April issue (number 295)

□ Many, many thanks must go to the volunteer VJ team for this April issue –

Mez Fisher, layout; Caroline Russell, advertising; Sue Ulyatt, website manager; Lydia Kindred, editing and advertising; Ross Wilson, bookkeeping.



Will That NBN Tower Give You Better Broadband Coverage?

This week we received details of the latest NBN proposed tower location in Rosebank, to hopefully provide faster internet. Unfortunately NBN Co didn't release coverage maps for this proposal so you don't know if this tower is any use to you.

Here's an easy desktop method to evaluate your chances of having the necessary line of sight to the tower :

- locate the proposed tower on Google earth. The coordinates are shown on NBN Co drawings (for Rosebank: put - 28.64651, 153.39070 in the search box)
 - from Google's top menu "Add" a "path" to your place (click on this tower position then your place)
 - from Google's top menu "Edit" and "show elevation profile". You should then see a profile of the terrain of your path to the tower.
- Running the cursor along the profile also shows map position

to help identify obstructions.

- Envisage the antennae by adding 30 metres above ground at the tower end and your roof height at the other end. Good news if you have a clear line of sight between the two antennae.

Don't forget to add any trees onto intermediate hilltops. If the tower is obstructed or more than 12km away, wireless broadband from that tower might not be an option.

– **Andrew Shannon**

➤ **More info: villagejournal.org.au (by the way, that's just changed from villagejournal.org)**



Grant to Federal Church put to good use!

The wonderful story of the community of Federal raising over \$200,000 to buy their local church, entirely from fundraisers and donations, has moved to the next phase with a \$25,000 grant from the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Program. The money has allowed the Old Church Building in Federal to be repainted and have a major wiring upgrade.

President of the Federal Hall management committee David Hancock said "The grant allowed us to undertake overdue maintenance and ensure that the Old Church Building is able to be used by as broad a cross section of the local community as possible. The wiring upgrade brings the electrics in the 100 year old building into line with current standards and the painting has complemented recent weatherproofing work to ensure the facility does not deteriorate any further."

"Local Member for the State seat of Lismore, Mr Thomas George, was very supportive of the Federal Community in its attempt to buy the Old Church Building from the Anglican Church and, subsequently, to raise funds for the much needed repairs.

Mr Hancock added "The Federal Community is very grateful



for the financial support the NSW Government grant has provided and there are further plans to continue the upgrade. "The Jasper Corner facility (Federal Hall and the Old Church Building) is proving to be a huge benefit for our community." There have already been some weddings held there and it looks pretty as a picture, with its new paint job.



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Letters to the Editor

Dear VJ,

I sincerely hope this is not the end for you and that you can find a new home and receive some good care, and once again be shared with the communities you have long served so well.

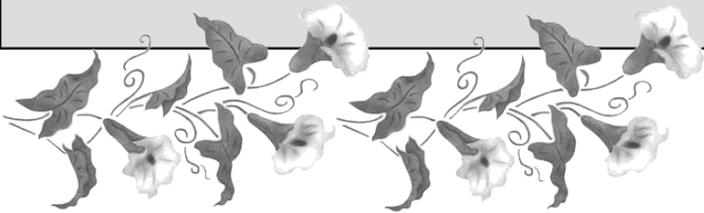
We may have entered the third millennium and embraced the internet big time but a good old style paper copy is still precious in my book, at least when the content is good.

The VJ has always informed us of what's going on in the 'hood and what the school kids are doing.

Twenty seven years is too young to die. You've still got plenty of potential. There are people keen to contribute and new advertisers ready to advertise. The VJ must live on!

So please, please, people out there, consider being the new editor and save the VJ from imminent doom. We need the VJ, now more than ever.

Garth Kindred, Rosebank.



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Psychologically Speaking in Rosebank...

The Good Life in Rosebank

Some of you baby boomers out there may remember a TV show called 'The Good Life' with Richard Briers and Felicity Kendal, and newcomers Penelope Keith and Paul Eddington. I think that originally it was in black and white but my memory is not that reliable these days, as per the rest of this aging body. In any case, it involves a couple who decide to turn their suburban property into a small farm, give up work and subsist. It wasn't quite permaculture as Bill Mollison defines it but a hilarious program.

The show was also an archetype for what has become a more common phenomenon, the desire for the simple life, back to basics, being in touch with nature, away from the madding crowd. The now vast plethora of gardening programs attests to the interest in getting back to nature. I'm waiting for the reality TV gardening show called, War of the Vegies or something similar where couples outdo each other in the vegie patch stakes (pun intended). Aye, my carrot is bigger than your carrot sort of thing!

Then of course we have had, over the years, the city slickers investing in small acreages in the country, hobby farms. The opportunity to buy a tax deductible Land Rover, and to slosh around in wellies for the weekend. If it were the UK, there'd be the baying of hounds and the shouts of 'Tally-ho'. And, of course, some have escaped the city completely and given up the corporate life for subsistence on the farm - in search of clear air and a still heart.

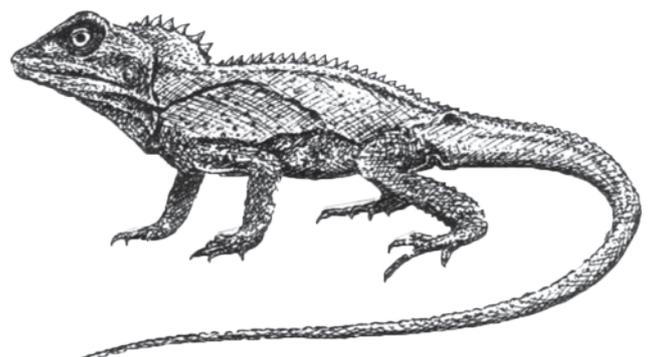
Which brings me to Rosebank. There you are. No need to fantasise about what could be, you have it all. The clucking of chooks, the singing birds, the gentle sound of the wind in the willows (well, gums anyway), frolicking foals, and the quiet rustle of well fertilised vegies reaching for the sky.

What's more, you have the Village Journal to help you all keep it together. To maintain the village values that made you move here in the first place. It is your community glue, part of the good life.

Support your Village Journal. Contact the team and offer to help in some small way. It's what we do when we live in a village and why we don't live in a city.

Stewart Hase

(A friend of Rosebank, twinned with Iluka)



Save the VJ Crisis Meeting

UP TO 30 people came together on a pleasant March afternoon to see what they could do to save the VJ from extinction. They came mostly from Rosebank and Dorroughby but also from Dunoon, Clunes and Federal, and other localities. Rosebank Community Inc (RCI) hosted the day at Rosebank Hall, starting off with a free BBQ and a spot of light social before getting down to hard business.

RCI President, Joan Davies introduced the proceedings and provided an overview of what has been happening with the VJ. She introduced Dr Stewart Hayes who volunteered his professional services for the day and had come all the way from Iluka.

I delivered a potted history of the VJ: 1987 to the present. 27 years of VJ developments in under 10 minutes was certainly a challenge. But time was tight - there was a lot of brainstorming to do.

Stewart explained that the focus for the VJ was forward: now into the future. We were not there to analyse what went wrong, but to work out what we can do to create a more sustainable VJ. Otherwise decide to lay it to rest.

Questions

In workshop mode we split into different groups and responded to the questions posed. It was a busy 4 hours - the hall was buzzing with the verballing of ideas. Much butcher's paper and sticky notes were used up.

The consensus was that the VJ should continue, preferably in hard copy and if not it at least be regularly produced and made available online.

These were some of the actions the groups pointed to in the last session: -

establish a steering committee; produce an 'emergency' special edition; start a 'Save the VJ' Campaign; undertake a survey of readership to find out what they want in the VJ; find easier cost effective ways of distributing/printing the VJ; restructure to make it more sustainable; improve VJ - RCI communications.

Many thought when it came to what was important about the VJ: that it was a trusted brand; it had a good name and reputation; that it was an important time



to have a local publication, given threats to the local area; that it created a community connection; it extends our networking; it was a way to source local tradies, professionals, goods etc; it is valued by the community; has lots of potential; provides a different voice in the media; has had a positive history.

Many thanks to Stewart for facilitating the event and to all those who came to help save the VJ.

An RCI Executive Meeting was held a few days later where the ideas put forward were considered and a plan of action adopted. It was decided to support production of an 'emergency' issue of the VJ to put out for a new editor and team for the VJ. Lydia Kindred was nominated to head a steering committee to oversee production

of this. Mez Fisher had volunteered to do the layout. Others have since volunteered their services to collect ads or help distribute. Sue Ulyatt has agreed to continue to put the VJ online one more time.

RCI has agreed to loan the VJ the printing costs for this emergency issue on the proviso that no costs are incurred beyond printing.

*Garth Kindred,
Acting RCI Secretary.*



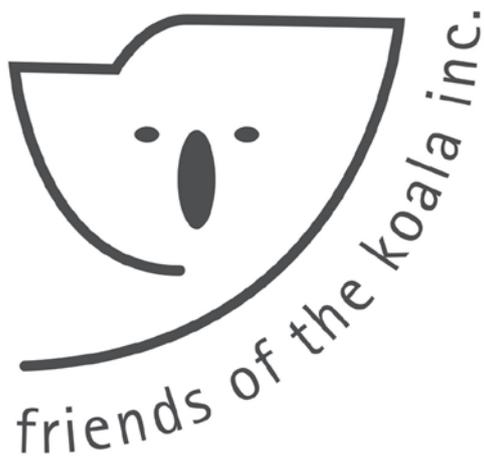
VJ Alert!

The Village Journal needs:

A new Editor, a Bookkeeper, an Advertising Co-ordinator and a Website Manager

If you are interested, please contact

**Joan Davies on 6688 2104 or
atdavies@bigpond.com**



Keeping food in their mouths

FRIENDS of the Koala brings into care around 300 koalas each year. Most spend at least some time at the Koala Care Centre in East Lismore, even if it's just to enable an immediate assessment and to settle the animal before taking it to the vet. Some koalas, particularly those being treated for Chlamydia, might stay a couple of months, and there are four koalas in permanent care. It's hard to put a figure on the average length of time spent by koalas at the Care Centre.

What we do know is that they consume a lot of leaf (approximately 10% of their body weight daily) and that collecting it is a task involving specialist knowledge, experience and physical stamina. Leaf harvesting takes quite a lot of time and for some parts of the year, when leaf is scarce or dry, a very long time.

For many years Friends of the Koala volunteers scouted along road reserves (some planted by Friends of the Koala in the very early days), harvested leaf from members' and friends' properties and utilised the

Koala Food Tree Plantation that had been established in partnership with Lismore City Council adjacent to the Lismore Waste Facility in 1994. Some volunteers had their "special spot/s" about which they were quite secretive.

Five or six years ago the Management Committee realised we needed to be a bit more strategic about establishing and maintaining a reliable leaf supply for the koalas being admitted to the Koala Care Centre.

Our first thought was to put a proposal to Lismore City Council to develop a Koala Food Tree Plantation adjacent to the Lismore Lake at the City's western entrance. While it seemed a no-brainer to us, Council staff found several reasons for not supporting the proposition.

Just this month however we have signed licence agreements with the Council to enable us to develop small plantations on two suburban sites.

We've also established harvestable food tree plantations on three private properties: Rous Water property, Southern Cross University and at Wyrallah Road Public School. In all we're harvesting from over a thousand planted trees with nearly another thousand coming on-line.

To get this far has been an enormous, time-consuming and sometimes frustrating undertaking and there's still more to be done. Volunteers continue to supplement their harvesting from roadside verges and all those other places at certain times during the year.

Right now though, Autumn is upon us and koala activity has slowed considerably, taking pressure off leaf collectors, rescuers and the Care Centre generally. Koala conservation on the other hand, never lets up.

Over the past couple of months Friends of the Koala, the Ballina Environment Society and Ballina Councillor Jeff Johnson have joined forces to develop the Save Ballina's Koalas Campaign. Our aim is to persuade the NSW and Federal Governments (the Upgrade is 80% federally funded) to move the route chosen for the section of the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade between the Richmond River and Wardell, away from the koala population.

It's a tragedy that much of the Pacific Highway's route traverses koala habitat. Over the years there have been a number of bitter battles waged to protect local koala populations as well as other threatened species by arguing for route options which avoid environmental hotspots.

The route selection and development processes are supposed to balance environmental, social and economic impacts and benefits - however the environment, including the koalas, invariably lose.

The Lower Richmond koalas were known about when the route was selected back in 2005 but the scientific assessment of their national importance had not been established. It's another tragedy that the scientific evidence has come so late in the process. The NSW State Minister for Planning and the Federal Minister for the Environment will be making their determinations on whether or not to approve the contentious route very soon; perhaps within weeks. They will both be required to take into consideration the recent evidence presented in the Koala Habitat & Population Assessment: Ballina Shire Council LGA. The question is to what extent, given the considerable investment that has already been made in developing the preferred route?

Friends of the Koala operates a 24/7 Rescue Hotline: (02)6622 1233. For information about koalas, their food trees, and other ways in which you can assist the koala conservation effort on the Northern Rivers, visit: www.friendsofthekoala.org or email info@friendsofthekoala.org

The Save Ballina's Koalas campaign is also on Facebook. You can also sign a petition online at 'Save Ballina's Koalas'.

Until next time, happy koala spotting.

*Lorraine Vass,
President
Friends of the Koala, Inc.*



'Gardening on the North Coast' – April



This month can make or break your Spring garden. The earth remains warm enough to germinate seed and for seedlings to establish a healthy root system. However, many of the weeds are seeding and must be removed before they have dropped their little bundles of havoc.

Old vegetables and flowers should be either dug in or composted. Any diseased plants should be buried – anywhere but in the garden. They can also be burned and the ashes returned to the garden.

If you don't intend using a bed until Spring, do it a favour by applying a coat of lime or dolomite and an overcoat of mulch. It will restrict the weeds, encourage worms and condition the soil.

To enjoy daffodils and other beautiful flowers in Spring plant the bulbs in April and May.

In this climate, some gardeners hardly bother with a Summer garden, preferring the more manageable colder months – as with potatoes, when the best times to plant are considered April, May and June.

Add good compost and either ashes, lime, dolomite or rock phosphate for great spuds in early spring. Keep hilled and mulched.

Plantings now include: Broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery (seedlings), leek, lettuce, onion, peas, parsnip, potato, radish, silverbeet, spinach, turnip (white and swede).

Flowers – plantings include: bedding begonias, bulbs, calendula, carnation, cornflower, lobelia, lupin, marigold (French), pansy, poppy, primula, snapdragon, sweet pea, viola.

Thanks to Stephen Brouwer for excerpts from his booklet, 'Gardening on the North Coast'.



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A Lucky Kookaburra Tale

RECENTLY a motorist was travelling from Woodenbong to Ballina and thought she'd narrowly missed hitting a Kookaburra at Old Grevillia. When she arrived at her destination, 1.5 hours and 100km later, the driver was horrified to find the bird spread across the grille of her truck.

The Kookaburra had survived the journey and was rushed to Ballina Veterinary Hospital. Amazingly, it was given the all-clear by the vet. After a few days spent recovering in the care of WIRES Northern Rivers, the Kookaburra successfully passed its test flights. It was returned to its home territory in Old Grevillia where it flew away strongly from its carry cage.

Laughing Kookaburras mate for life. They may stay in family groups with older offspring as well as both parents sharing in the care of the young. This lucky bird has probably rejoined its family.

Drivers who think they may have hit something should check the front of the vehicle as well as the ground! You never know what may be travelling with you.

WIRES needs more bird carers. Our next training weekend will be 15-16 June. 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.





federal films

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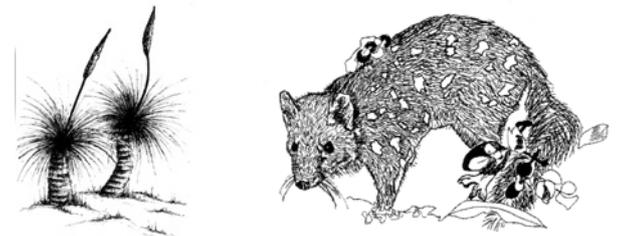
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Farmers to foot the bill for mining contaminants?

THE Lock the Gate Alliance is calling for an inquiry to determine whether farmers are liable if their cattle are affected by water or food contaminated by coal seam gas.

Lock the Gate's National Coordinator, Phil Laird said a media report today raised serious questions about whether farmers would have to pay the price for contamination caused by mining companies.

An extensive report was completed last year but its contents remain "secret". See story here: <http://bit.ly/1f9c6f7>

The Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) funded the report for the Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) and the Australian Lot Feeders Association (ALFA).

The legal firm engaged to provide advice said the information was legally sensitive and 'due to the fact that it advises liability, the firm advised that the report itself shouldn't be released'.

Mr Laird, a New South Wales beef farmer, said the government and the mining industry should clarify who was legally liable.

He cited the example in the Pillaga state forest in NSW where water was contaminated at an aquifer because of a poorly constructed holding pond about four kilometres from where a stock and domestic bore was connected to the same source. The EPA fined Santos \$1500 for the contamination.

Concerned

"Livestock producers are concerned that they may be liable if standard residue tests find their animals are affected by contaminants from CSG," he said.

"The beef and dairy industry in Queensland and northern New South Wales relies on its clean and green image. After the double whammy of drought and live exports, Australia's cattle industry cannot afford any impact whatsoever to domestic or export markets due to CSG.

"We're talking billions of dollars and thousands of livelihoods at stake here and the Federal Government and the miners must give us straight answers."

Lee McNicholl, a beef farmer and veterinarian on Queensland's Darling Downs also has concerns.

"Farmers living in or near a gasfield often have little knowledge of, or control over contaminants so we face great financial uncertainty if we're held liable," he said.

Contacts:

Phil Laird, Lock the Gate National Coordinator Ph: 0428 712 622

Drew Hutton, Lock the Gate National President Ph: 0428 487 110

Lee McNicholl, veterinarian & farmer Ph: (07) 4627 6364

The Lock The Gate Alliance (LTG) is a national grassroots organisation made up of over 170 local groups and more than 10,000 supporters. LTG is a unique coalition of farmers, conservationists and Traditional Owners opposed to inappropriate coal and gas mining. The group transcends political divides and is unprecedented in the history of Australian social movements.

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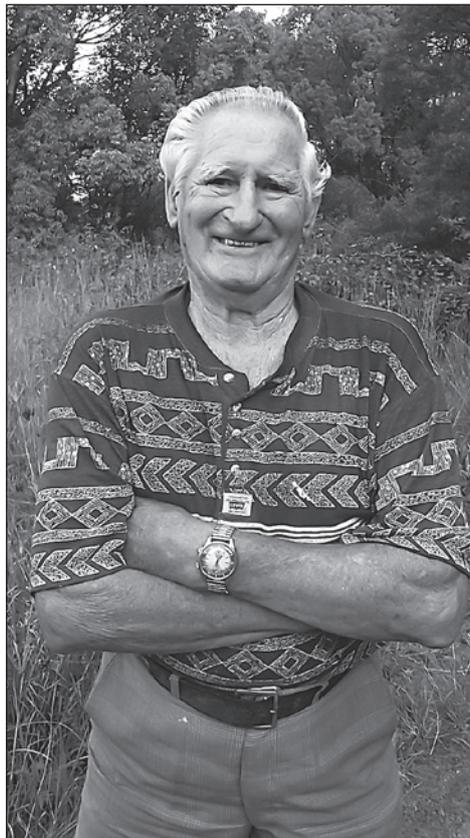
Retired Chief Track Inspector Tom McInerney and The Case of the Disappearing Tracks at Bexhill

A RAIL Strategy Group was recently formed in Lismore. Members of the Northern Rivers Greens (NRG), Trains on our Tracks (TOOT), and other people interested in seeing the return of train services, in particular a Lismore to Brisbane via Casino/Kyogle service. The group have been sharing ideas and developing a petition to demonstrate support and put pressure on the polities to heed our call.

We had been told that no one knows more about the Casino-Murwillumbah line than Tom McInerney of Bexhill (pictured). In the interests of learning more about it we paid him a visit. Tom spent his entire working life on the railway, starting with a pick and shovel and retiring as Chief Track Inspector and having every job in between.

Tom knows the tracks and was happy to share his knowledge, telling us about sleeper types, signalling systems, and the fact that State Rail had bought up the land for a rail corridor to QLD some years ago to continue the Murwillumbah line. This was the plan as Tom understood it and he wondered what became of it, of whether that land was ever sold.

Referring to the recent costing report commissioned by the State government Tom said "that's all bloody bullsh*t" He believes that the cost of replacing the sleepers and small bridges on the Casino-Lismore section of the track would



be a fraction of the \$180 million quoted in the costing report - more likely less than \$30 million.

We had some discussion on the sad state of these sleepers and small bridges that make up the branch line. They have deteriorated considerably in the last few years. One interesting point was that wooden sleepers last better when trains run over them regularly. White ants did

not go there and those that did were taken out, in Tom's opinion, by the poisons which had been regularly used to kill the weeds along the tracks.

We thought it a good idea to have a look at the tracks running through Bexhill village and maybe get a picture of us all. Once we found the site up near the old brickworks we had trouble finding the line. No, it wasn't that the weeds had grown too tall - the tracks were not there at all. Not a trace of rails or sleepers and it looked like it had been this way for some years.

It is not known at this stage how much of the track has been taken, possibly 100m or more. While you can see the track from the bridge it disappears once it goes into the shrub. One wonders whether there are other sections of the track gone missing. Tom remarked that the steel rails made very good cattle grids though there were hefty fines if you are caught stealing railway property. One also wonders why there was no mention of missing tracks in the State funded condition report.

Tom could talk trains and tracks all day and keep your interest all the while.

Garth Kindred

PS If people are interested to know more about the Rail Strategy Group, please contact kindred@nrg.com.au or ring 6688 2220.

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Eureka Public School

IT HAS been a very exciting first term at Eureka Public School as we welcomed our 6 beautiful Kindergarten students and their families to our beautiful school, with a social evening at Eltham Pub for all families. We would also like to congratulate Ben Braggins and Ruby Barker who are our School leaders this year.

We love having parents and community members visit our school to support classroom learning programs. All lessons are in full swing, with both the Junior Class and Senior Class enjoying weekly specialist lessons in visual art with local art teacher Jan, ukulele lessons with Mrs Oliver and guitar lessons with Ben. We have also had a big focus this year on using our vegetable garden produce in the canteen and teaching the students how to prepare their own food. So far they have all learnt to make pesto using their very own basil and then making pesto pasta for sale as our canteen special. They have also made their own pizzas from scratch and this week they are learning how to make their own pasta.

Outside of the classroom the students



have also participated in Stream Watch, Art Smart, Interrelate, Higher Order Thinking Day, Swimming Carnival, Impact Swimming Scheme and Cross Country. Our Senior Class is also heading to GOMA this week to see the amazing exhibition 'Falling Back To Earth' and to learn all about public transport and see Brisbane via its beautiful river. We will finish the term with our Easter Hat Pa-

rade and Student Representative Council Fundraiser.

Finally, a big thank you to the VJ Team for all their efforts and their continued support of all the amazing small public schools in our area. We really appreciate it.

Till next month!

Michael Coleman
Principal



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CORNDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

A VERY big welcome back to all the students and families of Corndale School. It was fantastic to see all of the returning students and a very big welcome to our 3 new kindergarten students Maeve, Georgie and Mack. All three had a wonderful first day and were certainly prepared for school as they all arrived for their first day on the bus.



The Dunoon District Swimming Carnival was held at Alstonville. Congratulations to all the students at Corndale from Kindergarten to Year 6 for their participation and school spirit and outstanding sportsmanship on the day. Andrew Egglar was awarded 11yrs Boys Champion. Our relays were a highlight of the day. Well done to everyone in the Junior Boys (Rohan, Aiden, Toby and Will), P6 Relay (Matty, Brendon, Rohan and Andrew), and Sam and Nikki in the parents/staff relay.

The students of Corndale School are participating in the Conservatorium of Music Program, all students involved are learning to play an instrument and are having a fantastic time with the Program. Thanks to Sana Henderson for working with the Conservatorium to get this program up and running.



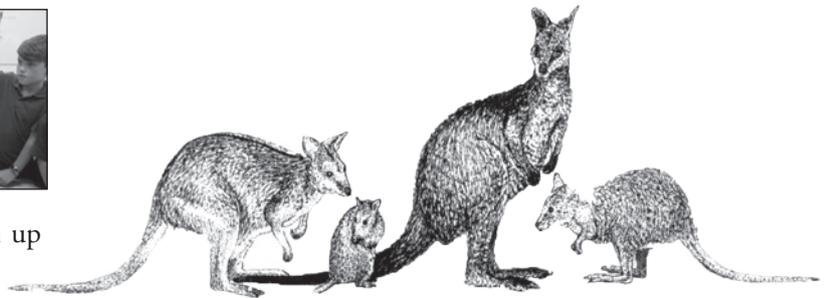
The Corndale P&C have held the first meeting of the year and have set the date on the 11th March for the AGM. We will be having a Meet and Greet BBQ for all families and citizens from 4pm followed by the meeting. Everyone is welcome. The P&C have a very busy fundraising year with the Cross Country, Zone Cross Country, Bunnings Day and our Trivia Night coming up.

In week 2 of this term we were visited by the Store Manager, Ben Gordon, of Woolworths Goonellabah to personally deliver our "Earn & Learn", rewards along with some healthy fruit.



Once again Corndale School and the P&C are having a busy Term 1 and year ahead of us.

Therese McDermott Corndale P&C



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ROSEBANK PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

A Great Start to 2014

The staff and students have had a fabulous start to 2014. Our new kindergarten students are enjoying their first term at 'big school' and Mrs Hughes is delighted with their progress. We have welcomed Mrs K back from maternity leave and she is enjoying working with the 2/3 students. Congratulations should also be extended to our Year Six students Felix, Jamilla and Freya, who were elected School Captain and Peer Support Leaders for 2014.

A New and Improved Bird Bath



We would like to say a huge thank you to Patrick (Felix's dad) for coming in and

completing the bird bath refurbishment in our Sorry Garden. We now have a fantastic looking Rosebank Public School design (created by Taidgh in Year 6) for all to enjoy.

Swimming Relay Team Off To The State Championships

The staff and students are very proud of Ashley, Freya, Jamilla and Taidgh who have qualified to swim at the NSW PSSA State Championships at Homebush in Sydney on 10th April in the Small Schools' Relay, after having made it through the District, Zone and Regional carnivals this term. We are very proud of their efforts.



like to thank all those in the community who support the school by purchasing tickets in the raffle, which will be drawn on Wednesday 9th April at 11.30am, combining with our family "Bunny Brunch" morning tea.

Nickie Bartlett, Principal

Easter Raffle and Bunny Brunch

The Student Leadership Group are running their annual Easter Raffle this term. Tickets are being sold through the school office and are \$1 each or 3 for \$2. Prizes include varying sizes of Easter bags and baskets full of chocolate treats. We would



UPPER COOPERS CREEK SCHOOL

OUR first term back for 2014 and it has been a great start to the year. Welcome to all our new kindergarten children and their families. It is an exciting time for our new students starting their school life and they have all settled in very well.

The district swimming carnival held at Alstonville at the beginning of February was a great success. Congratulations to our Upper Coopers Creek students for their huge effort in the PP6 relay event at the Zone Swimming Carnival held at Lismore Memorial Pool.

In the classroom we are working on our persuasive writing and narrative writing techniques. In HSIE we are completing a unit of work on Australia -The Journey, and in Science we are studying a unit on Spinning in Space. Our students are also participating in weekly Indonesian language lessons.

Our talented Year 5 students attended the Artsmart programme in early March. They produced some detailed still life paintings and enjoyed making extra artworks from choices including opera masks, myth and fantasy, dragons, castles and free choice.

Last week we celebrated Harmony Day with our friends at Goonengerry Public School. Students completed creative activities such as African masks, handprint paintings, paper mosaics and creating Indian Kolans. We all enjoyed a delicious multi-



cultural lunch and put on a lively performance for parents and visitors.

If you would like to find out more about our school or would like to visit please call our office on 66882128.

*Sharon Turner,
Principal.*

HARMONY DAY AT GOONENGERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL

THE message of Harmony Day is: "Everyone belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world." (Harmony Day Website)

Celebrating diversity comes naturally for us at Goonengerry. It is part of our core school culture and is practised daily. However, each year, we hold a special day where we stop and acknowledge this formally. We have been celebrating Harmony Day since it was first introduced in 1999 to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. And this year was no exception.

On Thursday 20th March, the Goonengerry Public School led the way in harmony once again. Joined by our wonderful friends from Upper Coopers Creek School, we celebrated with art, dance, music and a delicious multicultural feast prepared by our wonderful families! The community joined with staff and students for a truly harmonious day.

When planning Harmony Day, as the school's Creative Arts Teacher, I always be-



gin with our incredible and diverse community. I approach local musicians with an aim of celebrating harmony through music and had already enlisted one of our dads, popular Irish musician Mick McHugh to help us celebrate.

This year, at the last minute, another dad, Avishai (a reputable musician himself), got in touch with news that he was meeting with a band from Israel called Sum Sum. They're an international touring act who integrate Gypsy, Eastern Mediterranean and folk music through a combination of diverse instruments and song. Thanks to Avishai, they agreed to perform at Harmony Day and were a real treat. This shows, once again, how the Goonengerry School Community comes to the fore.

From the moment Sum Sum started, the children and community were spellbound. They beautifully and thoughtfully introduced each of their instruments and then performed a variety of tunes, which left us stunned. We say a big thank you to Sum Sum for being part of our special day.

In return, the children shared their incredible talent through their own songs and music. Our school's extensive music program has always celebrated diversity through wide exposure to a range of multicultural songs and instruments, including our renowned guitar program, which is part of our curriculum. We were able to showcase this at Harmony Day and the children did a fantastic job.

Over the years we have entertained and been entertained by guest speakers from a wide and varied background and this year was especially wonderful. As always, our celebrations centred around music as I strongly believe, as do many, that "music is the language of us all". It brings us together and keeps us all in harmony.

Happy Harmony Day to you all and we hope you can join us for another Harmony Day in 2015.

Angela Maxwell

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GOONENGERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL

OUR first term of 2014 included an incredible range of activities and action-packed fun.

We welcomed new Kindergarten students, Neisha, Sam, Marley, Orin and Esiaha, and were impressed how beautifully they all took to school life. It was like they had been here all along.

Our Year 6 student leaders, Georgia, Venus and Maayan, attended Young Leaders Day in Brisbane along with 2500 other students and were inspired to be great leaders in our school and our community.

Goonengerry students, staff and parents were involved with the annual Clean Up Day and spent the morning cleaning up Federal Park. It was a rewarding and thought provoking activity for us all.

Sport has been action packed with students competing in swimming carnivals through Small Schools, District, Zone and Regionals, with our PP5 relay team placing 4th. We have also sent representatives through to Zone level: Peter to AFL; and Nicky, Maayan and Georgia to Soccer.

Being an active member of the Valley of Small Schools has also provided opportunities for students to get together and develop friendships with other schools leading up to high school years. Our Stage 3 students have enjoyed the day at Spaghetti Circus, Stage 2 and 3 will enjoy an AFL Gala Day at the Byron Sports and Cultural Complex, and nominated Stage 2 students will participate in a 2-day Art Enrichment program, as well as



Kinders enjoy the sandpit.

Such a talented bunch of musicians... they took our breath away!

We are all now looking forward to the school holidays, for a well-earned rest! School breaks up Friday, 11 April and students return Wednesday, 30 April. Have a safe and restful break!

Tracey Barnes, Principal



Yr 6 Leaders – picture courtesy Veda Dante

our annual Small Schools Cross Country on 4 April at Newrybar School.

We also hosted Harmony Day with our community and friends from Upper Coopers Creek School. It was a day filled with incredible learning, awesome music and delicious food, what an inspiring community we live in. We were entertained by delightful student performances, our resident Irish performer Mick McHugh, who always puts a smile on our face, and the amazing Sumsum, a gypsy, Eastern Mediterranean, folk band.



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What's been happening at Eureka Playgroup...

WE HAVE been having lots of fun at the Eureka playgroup lately. Each week we have a theme which runs through our songs



Last week at Eureka playgroup we built houses and made our own village.

and craft and lately we have been exploring the themes 'Building a house', 'Things with Wheels', 'Cooking gingerbread', 'Dinosaurs', 'Musical instruments' and 'Underwater Creatures', and the littlies have been creating some amazing craft work.

Eureka Playgroup is all about creating a stimulating and fun place for children aged 0-5 to play

and learn, while the parents get to enjoy the company of other parents while interacting in a fun way with their child. If you are interested in coming along we meet each Wednesday of school term, rain, hail or shine from 9.30-11.30am. It's free and we meet in the beautiful grounds of Eureka Public School.

Don't forget our teddy bears picnic and Easter egg hunt on the last Wednesday of term.

Check out our facebook page for up-to-date info on our theme for the week.



Some of the Eureka playgroup littlies in action.

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The afternoons consist of sharing news, playing games, engaging in an art and craft, sport, drama or other planned activity. Students also enjoy free time on the fantastic playground at the school site, or using the range of sporting equipment and creative play resources available. Afternoon tea varies but is always delicious and healthy.

This term has been extra special as a number of 'local experts' have come and shared their passion or occupation. It has been a diverse bunch - a police visit, a circus performer, a WIRES representative, a mechanic and his go kart, a netball coach and a number of renowned visual artists. Many of these talks took the form of workshops where the children could be hands-on. We feel so fortunate to be supported by local community in this way.

And the fun will continue into the school holidays. Students from all over the Northern Rivers attend our service in the school break making new friends and just generally having a blast!

The April vacation care program will be released shortly so that families can peruse the scheduled activities in advance. Days will include 'Sensational Senses', 'Eggcellent Eggs' and an 'Easter Extravaganza'. The themed days involve various creative and sporting activities' cooking and dance; bikes, scooters and skateboards. It runs every week day in the school holidays (excluding public holidays) from 8am -5:30pm. Child care rebates are available making vacation care affordable for all. If you have any questions or wish to make a booking please call us on 02 6629 1750.



The recent Pizza Night at Repentance Creek Hall.
Photo by Thomas Shannon

Brits Choose Happiness Over Wealth

PEOPLE in the United Kingdom believe national happiness is more important than national wealth, according to a new survey.

A YouGov poll commissioned by Action for Happiness revealed that the majority of British people (87%) would choose happiness for their society rather than money (chosen by only 8%). These findings were largely consistent across all UK regions, classes and age groups.

When asked to choose the three most important factors for personal happiness, 'relationships with my partner/family' came out on top (80%) with 'my health' in second place (71%) and 'money' third (42%). 'My appearance' and 'my possessions' were the least selected factors (both 4%).

Action for Happiness director Dr Mark Williamson said the results indicate the need for a step change in attitude. "The economy dominates our political and social discussions, but this survey shows that happiness is more important to people," he said.

"The vast majority of people would prefer Britain to be happier rather than richer. So we need to spend less time focusing on the size of the economy and more time focusing on how to help people live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives."

The survey also revealed the three factors respondents felt were most likely to improve overall happiness in the UK. 'More equality between rich and poor' was the most selected answer

(45%), 'improved health services' the second (39%) and 'less crime' the third (37%). 'Improved school standards' and 'improved transport and infrastructure' were the least selected options (both 16%).

Action for Happiness co-founder Lord Richard Layard said more attention must be paid to what it is that UK residents really want: "Our national priorities are clearly out of touch with what really matters to people. Our top priority should be people's overall happiness and wellbeing. Above all, we should be giving much more attention to mental health, supporting positive family and community relationships and creating a more trusting society."

The survey was commissioned to coincide with the United Nations' second International Day of Happiness, which took place on 20 March and is intended to redefine our ideals of social happiness. At the initiative's launch in 2012, United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-moon said: "We need a new economic paradigm that recognises the parity between the three pillars of sustainable development. Social, economic and environmental wellbeing are indivisible. Together they define gross global happiness."

More Information: actionforhappiness.org
dayofhappiness.net

*Author: Rachel England, from the Positive News
– www.positivenews.org.uk*

What to do about ants?!!

IF YOU'VE been overtaken by lots of ants recently here are some suggestions from Shannon Lush and Jennifer Fleming in their book, 'Speed Cleaning':

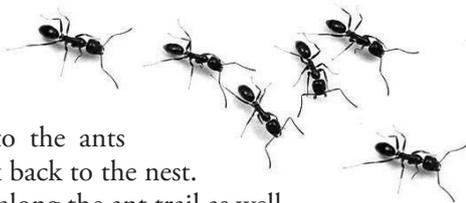
There are two types of ant that come into homes. One type is attracted to proteins and fats. To deal with them, mix powdered borax with finely grated parmesan cheese and scatter it on one point along the ant trail. The ants carry the borax back to the nest and die.

The other type of ant is attracted to sugars. Deter them by mixing ¼ teaspoon of cornflour, ¼ teaspoon of icing sugar and ¼ teaspoon of borax.

The cornflour makes the icing sugar stick to the ants and they take the borax back to the nest. Scatter it on one point along the ant trail as well.

Be very careful using borax if you have children and animals. If you can only see part of the ant trail and need to find the rest of it so you can locate the nest, put some talcum powder on the trail and the ants will carry it and mark the rest of the trail. If you can't use borax, find the ant nest and pour boiling water into it.

(Sorry if this offends you but the ants at our place are reaching 'plague proportions', invading every box and most cupboards in search of a quiet place to lay their eggs. Drastic action is being called for!)



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Rainfall Report

February 26 - March 25

4 Wean Way, Federal136.0mm

Sheaffe's Road, Goonengerry...131.5mm
(51mm & 80.5mm)

Byrne Road, Rosebank...127.8mm
(50.3mm in Feb & 77.5mm in Mar)

Totals are calculated from 26th of previous month to 25th of current issue month.

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

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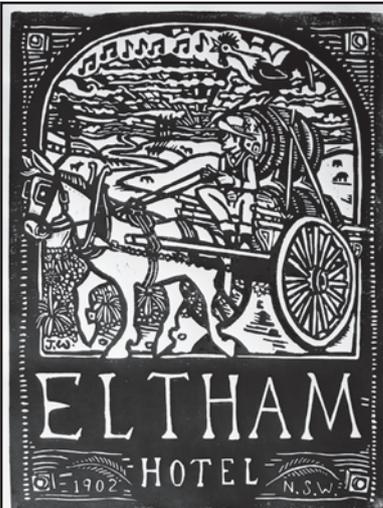
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Fri 4th @ 7pm Glen Massey
Sun 6th @ 2pm Mark Ridout
Thu 10th @ 6:30pm Brainteasers Trivia
Fri 11th @ 7pm Stephen Lovelight
Sun 13th @ 2pm Johnnie & Horrie Duo
Thu 17th @ 7pm Conspiracy of One
Easter Long Weekend
Fri 18th PUB CLOSED - Good Friday
Sat 19th @ 1pm Josh Boots -
Easter Long Weekend
Sun 20th @ 2pm Slim Pickens -
Easter Long Weekend
Mon 21st @ 1pm Bill Jacobi -
Easter Long Weekend
Thu 24th @ 6:30pm Brainteasers Trivia
Fri 25th @ 7pm Nicole Brophy
Sun 27th @ 2pm Yolan

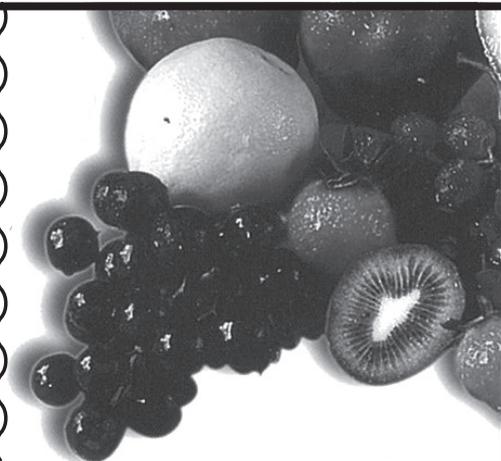
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Community Services

Hall Bookings	Whian Whian	6689 5672	Dunoon	6689 5577
	Corndale	66284178	Rosebank	6688 2116
	Dorroughby	6689 5013	Federal	0497 074 709
	Repentance Ck	6688 2191	Eureka	6688 4217

After School Care Clunes Out of School Care 6629 1750

Lifeline		131114	6622 4133
Bangalow gardening club		Margaret Byrne	6688 2222
Landcare		Fox Road	6688 2217
		Phoenix	6629 1162
	Rosebank	6688 2220	Whian Whian
Wildlife Carers		Rosebank Koala Rescue	6688 2217
		Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	6628 1866
		WIRES Northern Rivers Rescue Hotline	6628 1898
		Friends of the Koala Hotline number	6622 1233

Emergency Services

FIRE / AMBULANCE / POLICE			Dial 000
Hospitals	Lismore	6621 8000	Byron Bay
Fire Permits			6685 6200
Rosebank	De Condos	6688 2263	Eric Kinchin
	Didier Marceau	6689 5716	6688 2217
Federal	John Nardi	6688 4151	Hugh Campbell
Goonengerry	Hodgson	6684 9153	Martin
Boat Harbour	Waddell	6628 4382	Butler
Clunes	Johnston	6629 1270	Battistuzzi
Dunoon	Febrey	6689 5438	Watts
	McDougall	0409 425 551	6689 5359

April 2014



How precious these old sheds are! Catch them while they're still standing. This one is just this side of Grafton. *Photo by Lydia Kindred*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Whian Whian Playgroup WW School @ 9.00am	Byron Farmers Market Trivia 6.30PM @ Eltham Hotel Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	Mullum Farmers Market	Alstonville Farmers Market Lismore Farmers Market	Lismore Car Boot
 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Clunes Playgroup 10am @ Clunes PreSchool	Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	Whian Whian Playgroup WW School @ 9.00am	Byron Farmers Market Trivia 6.30PM @ Eltham Hotel Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	Mullum Farmers Market	Alstonville Farmers Market Lis. Farmers Market Federal Films – 6.30 meals, 8pm film	The Channon Market
14	 15	16	17	18	19	20
RCI Meeting 7pm @ Rosebank Hall	Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM		Byron Farmers Market Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	Mullum Farmers Market Good Friday	Alstonville Farmers Market Lis. Farmers Market Easter Saturday	Easter Sunday
21	 22	23	24	25	26	27
Easter Monday	Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	Aussie Trivia Night Dunoon Club	Byron Farmers Market Trivia 6.30PM @ Eltham Hotel Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	Anzac Day - Dunoon Club Tightrope Alley 3.30 – 6.30 VJ Deadline	Alstonville Farmers Market Lis. Farmers Market Rosebank Rec Res (Armstrong Rd) from 8.30 - 11am	Bangalow Village Market Fine Jazz Dunoon Club 1 – 4pm
28	 29	30				
	Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM					