



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, Dorroughby, Corndale, Goonengerry, Upper Coopers Creek, Numulgi*

*To be...*



*or not  
to be!?*



**That is the question! And the question is....will the VJ survive?**

*Photo: An Australian Bluestriped Native Bee finding some nectar, by Alex Wilson*

## *What's inside the May VJ?*

Editorial

Friends of the Koalas

Earth Charter

The Bentley Blockade  
Makes History

School News

Repentance Crk Pizzas

Landcare Project

A Line to Nowhere

Yummy Scone recipes

Gardening Tips

*... and much more!*

# VJ Editorial

## Dear Readers,

Yes, I'm doing just one more issue as Acting Editor of our beloved VJ, but I'm unable to keep doing it, as my life, and my dear husband's (still vulnerable after a long bout with leukaemia), would suffer if I were to continue on.

So, we are redoubling our efforts in this issue to find the best person to take up the gauntlet of co-ordinating this wonderful community asset and hinterland 'institution', The Village Journal.

Would you fit the bill, or do you know anyone who you think may be great for the job? We have had an offer from someone suited to the position, however they live in Yamba. It would, of course, be preferable to have a VJ team, especially the Editor, living in the VJ readership area, which spans the hinterland communities of Numulgi, Dunoon, Dorrroughby, Whian Whian, Corndale, Bexhill, Clunes, Rosebank, Upper Coopers Creek, Eureka, Federal, Goonengerry, and spreads out to Eltham, Mullumbimby and Lismore.

Surely, in this large area, we can find someone, or perhaps a couple, willing to 'give it a go!' They would need to display

certain qualities, amongst them being reasonable intelligence and creativity, good organisational skills, confidence with word processing, an ability to not crumble under a bit of moderate pressure, a sense of humour and goodwill and a love of our local region and the communities that inhabit it.

To do a good job it helps to cultivate a 'finger on the pulse' of local events and be able to respond to or ask others to cover interesting stories or supply relevant photos. As editor of such a 'prestigious' publication you could hone your journalistic skills and raise your profile, giving you a professional advantage in future careers.

If you have some time and energy and would like to try your hand at this interesting and rewarding job, then please contact us ASAP at: [editor@villagejournal.org.au](mailto:editor@villagejournal.org.au) – we would love to hear from you.

**Unfortunately, if we can't find anyone to be the new editor we won't be able to publish a June Edition!**

*– All the best, Lydia Kindred, acting VJ Editor*

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# The Bentley Blockade – History in the Making

**‘A community action to oppose Metgasco’s plans to explore for tight sands gas, 16kms west of Lismore’ continues to stop the company getting its machinery onto the land.**

Organisers are preparing for a moment when those who are against the installation of gas fields in our region will come face to face with the police who are mooted to be coming in large numbers, possibly on 18th – 19th May.

A request is going out to everyone to prepare to join those who are already there, to support the cause that so many in our region have joined at various times over recent months. In April 3,000 people congregated, the week after 2,000 had come together.

In the coming days, when the police are expected to be bussed in from far away (some local police have personally voted against CSG), the potential of vastly outnumbering them with perhaps 5,000 ‘protectors’ is a positive prospect.

If you would like to join those at the Bentley camp you can set up a tent or just visit. To quote Jennie Dell, a camp organiser: “There are good camp sites, a

lovely friendly atmosphere and everyone supports each other.”

You can attend a workshop on non-violent protesting. After all, the police are not the enemy, and the relationship to date has been respectful and humorous with a lot of information sharing.

Jennie says that we have no way of knowing when the numbers will be needed and to have a pack on the verandah with a swag, water, snacks, sunscreen, sensible shoes, a hat, torch and camera or phone with camera, as photographing what goes on in any confrontation will be very important. Little children and dogs should be left with family or friends as they should not risk being caught up the fray.

Those involved in being ‘protectors’ come from every possible lifestyle. A mix of professional people, uni students, farmers, parents, elders and those from many different backgrounds make up this eclectic gathering of concerned citizens wanting to save our land, water and air from being polluted.

To be alerted in advance you can give your contact on the Gasfield Free Northern Rivers website or phone



**One of the sentinels, keeping watch, for the protectors.**

*Photo by Lydia Kindred.*

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE →**



**Dawn singalong at the Bentley campsite. Photo by Garth Kindred.**



Mist hangs over the village of tents in the early morning. *Photo by Garth Kindred*

# At the Bentley Blockade

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

0478660201. So, being ready for the call, encouraging maybe 5 friends to come along as well – the critical time to be there is early in the morning, at sunrise, so camping over is a good idea.

In readiness for the Big Day, if a diversity of people can swell the numbers (to 5,000?), there will be no doubt that the

majority of locals are against the onslaught of mining in our beautiful countryside, and wanting to protect the water that we rely upon for the future health and sustainability of the Northern Rivers.

Perhaps our presence can stop the incursion by the very force of our numbers. See you there.

– *Lydia Kindred*



A sunrise gathering at Camp A. *Photo by Garth Kindred*



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*Entry by donation*

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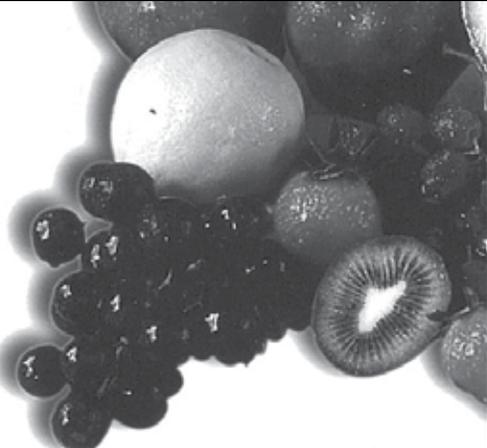
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# TRADITIONAL MEDICINALS OFFERS WINTER HEALTH CARE



YES FOLKS! It is that time again when winter's frosty breathe can make us vulnerable to colds, flus and other associated malaise, and this winter is predicted to be drier and very cold.

We can look after ourselves though by taking preventative action simply by eating good wholesome foods such as soups made with loads of vegetables, lentils and beans; casseroles are great too, plus drinking plenty of water and stimulating the lymphatic system with daily exercise.

To support our healthy lifestyle a supplement of zinc, vitamin C and D adds a great boost to the immune system along with herbs to support us during cold snaps.

If you do succumb to a virus this winter then the qualified staff at Traditional Medicinals can advise the best treatment for you with a 10-minute consultation for acute illness or a long consultation for chronic conditions plus there is a great variety of dried herbs to make teas with, essential oils to use for inhalations plus other products to use safely at home.

*Written by Komal Rowe, who practices as a naturopath at Traditional Medicinals.*

# In the between time

**W**E ARE in the transition time, when we head toward the darkest night of the year. The days are still warm and the nights are beginning to have welcome crispness. In the mornings I sit on my verandah and watch the mist over Lismore. It's cool, the air is sweet and the day is only just beginning.

This is my meditation, sitting there, watching the pale sky and distant hills. I find it very soothing. I am too restless for all structured meditative activities.

My legs twitch, I fiddle and fidget and long to be able to move. I am better off watching the clouds, sipping tea and emptying my head out into the sky. The best nights are ones when it rains softly all night long and I wake from my sleep and hear that sweet rain-on-roof sound.

My recent travels overseas have made me sharply aware of how lucky we are to live here. I have been in desperately crowded Asian cities and sat in overheated train stations in the north of England where everyone seems grey and glum. No wonder, I thought to myself, people want to live here and no wonder there is such a strong desire to protect it.

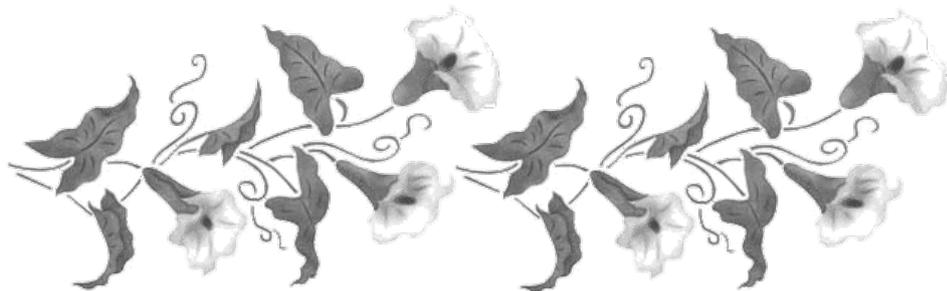
The anti CSG mining Bentley Blockade is a great example of activism, Northern Rivers style. The camp is peaceful and organised. There are herbs growing in boxes, a healthy kitchen roster, portaloos, music and signs saying no drugs or alcohol. The Knitting Nanas, the Radical Faeries, farmers, university academics, families and friends from near and far are all standing firm in support of our precious environment.

There is so much suspicion about the impact of CSG, so many worrying stories from others who have been affected badly and lastingly by it –this is an important debate. The impressive thing is the commitment across so many elements of the community. We don't know how this will unfold, but we know it matters. In the meantime the days roll by, the season changes and we head toward the winter solstice. T

his time of year makes me even more thoughtful than ever, my mind turning in dreams to strange towns and half formed, unresolved adventures. JRR Tolkien wrote in *The Fellowship of the Ring*: "He found himself wondering at times, especially in the autumn, about the wild lands, and strange visions of mountains that he had never seen come into his dreams."

I will continue to sit on the verandah, to go to the blockade, and ponder the mysteries and the complex gifts of this precious life.

– Airdre Grant





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# PHOTO GALLERY



Prized chooks: Cockerel (far left) and Madonna hatched – photos by Rachel Johns.



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# The Line from Nowhere to Nowhere

**THIS May will mark 120 years since the Lismore-Tweed Railway was opened and 10 years since it was closed.**

It was known as “the line from nowhere to nowhere” as it started in Lismore and ran to Mullumbimby via Byron Bay, then on to Murwillumbah, but it was never taken north to the border and it was some years till the line was connected to Casino (1903) then Grafton (1905). It wasn't until the opening of the Grafton Bridge in 1932 that the coastal route allowed rail transport all the way to Sydney. It had taken nearly 40 years to connect the North Coast link.

Plans for Railways had been discussed as early as the 1880s. They focussed on connecting with the Great Northern Railway which was progressing towards Tenterfield, on the other side of the Great Dividing Range. By doing this it was hoped to stop trade in the Northern Rivers going north towards Queensland. There was a considerable rivalry between the states around the time of Federation.

In 1890 NSW parliament authorised the building of an isolated section of railway line between Lismore and Murwillumbah. This line would facilitate the movement of produce to the coast for shipment to Sydney. The first sod was turned in Lismore in April 1891 and after 3 years of construction the line was completed.

## May 15th 1894 –

The line was opened by the Minister of Works, the Hon. W.J. Lyne and the Mayor of Lismore, Dr Burnstein on May 15th 1894. It was a big moment in the history of the Northern Rivers. A large procession had marched around the town led by 100 members of the Lismore Cavalry and a crowd of some 8000-9000 attended



**Casino Station, 1903**

the opening ceremony at the station, including 1000 schoolchildren. There was a huge assemblage of members of parliament with 14 members of the Legislative Assembly and Mr Charles MLC.

Lismore Mayor, Dr Burnstein spoke first in welcoming Mr Lyne. He spoke of all the difficulties that had to be overcome in building this railway and noted that the spot where the station now stands was dense scrub just three years before. When the Mayor spoke of a “prosperous future” for the district the large crowd cheered.

Mr Lyne said “It seemed a gigantic task to build a railway, but it was a gigantic task to get parliament to order a railway to be built and members of Parliament, as well as those engaged in the task of construction, had to do a lot of engineering work”. He went on to say “he had been impressed with the necessity for a railway line here, although it was dissevered from communication with the general system” and that: **“There was not a district in the colony where such railways were more justified than in a district like this... The great thing they wanted here was an energetic and contented community.”**

At a Banquet later that evening My Lyne predicted “this district should be the centre of a large export butter trade. No doubt railways developed a colony. They were often cheaper than macadamised roads [compressed gravel]. Such roads required to be kept in repair, but once a railway was built it was built practically for ever.”

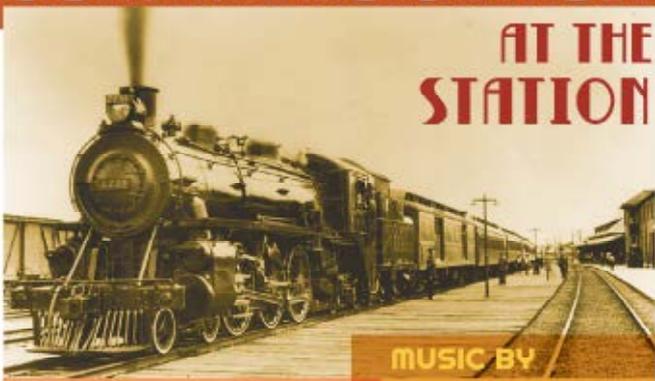
The railway had cost a huge one and a half million pounds and much of the money for bridge and tunnel contracts had been borrowed. My Lyne defended the debt incurred by saying: “When we built works they would last 100 years. It was only fair that our children and our grandchildren should pay a portion of the money”.

May 15th saw the first train leave Lismore station loaded with passengers and arriving at Byron Bay one hour and twenty minutes later, then on to Mullumbimby and, after formalities, the train returned to Lismore at 5.45pm. The final section from Mullumbimby to Murwillumbah was opened on Christmas Eve of 1894.

*Garth Kindred, Northern Rivers Railway Action Group  
Sources – Sydney Morning Herald, May 16th 1894.*

**Don't Forget! May 15th from 6-9pm –  
Commemoration at Lismore Station**

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Karin Kolbe, TOOT President  
Jenny Dowell, Mayor of Lismore

120 years to the day since  
the opening of the  
Lismore - Mullumbimby line  
10 years since its closure  
(May 16th 2004)

# WIRES

THIS little ball of feathers is a White-Headed Pigeon chick currently in care after mum pigeon was killed by a cat. The member of the public that saw this happen knew there was a nest which the pigeon had been attending for some time so climbed up a ladder and rescued the little chick, then called WIRES.

Calls for pigeon chicks in trouble are coming in regularly at the moment - yet another chick has come into care today and will join the first one in a few days.

Ranging from Cooktown in far north Qld to the Illawarra district in NSW, the White-headed Pigeon live mainly along our eastern coastal strip only occasionally venturing inland. They are most common in lowland rainforests in the south but further north are more abundant in higher rainforests and also survive well in open woody urban situations. They are among



Image by Jane Donovan

the most secretive of our native pigeons and with any hint of movement or danger will either sit silently in the dense foliage of a tree or on the forest floor, remaining motionless until exiting with loud claps of wings to escape any apparent threat.

Living in local nomadic pairs or groups of 15 or more, they feed by foraging not only on the ground for seed, grasses and grains but also find food in the lower storeys of the trees and forest, wandering from place to place according to the ripening of fruits. In the open country they fly, not at a high altitude but at high speed, in a straight path but swerve upwards and away at the sight of an unusual object.

**Would you like to join WIRES?** 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 66281898 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 fun

FEDERAL FILMS shows monthly films @ Jasper Corner, Federal Hall. It's a great night out with dinner provided, followed by tea and coffee with a selection of delicious cakes.

Next month's film is Robert Altman's funny and moving 'Short Cuts', showing on June 14. Doors open at 6.30pm for dinner, film starts 8pm.

Casual and long membership is available at the door.

Phone 66849313 or email [federalfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:federalfilmsociety@gmail.com) for further details. See our website or Facebook for upcoming films: [www.federalfilmsociety.com](http://www.federalfilmsociety.com) • [www.facebook.com/federalfilmsociety](http://www.facebook.com/federalfilmsociety)

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~Rebecca Murray, About.com

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Directed by Robert Altman

RATED MA 1993



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# 'Gardening on the North Coast' – May

**A** RELATIVELY calm month, it's not too late for plantings that should have been made during the previous 2 months.

There is a little fertilising, pruning, potting and planting out to be done this month and it's also an ideal time for the leisurely planting of native species such as acacia, banksia, grevilleia and melaleuca. Apart from the joy of revegetating and the visual rewards, you will be blessed with native birds in years to come.

With some knowledge and co-operative weather, broad beans can be grown. They must not have too much rain and they must flower in the cooler months, so sow now and next month. Make sure the soil is fertile from the addition of well-rotted organic matter – a little richer than for other varieties of beans. However, don't overdo as leaf growth will outstrip the flowers.

Broad beans also like an overdose of lime, so apart from digging some into the soil, rake a little extra into the top surface and then sprinkle some more between the rows. This also deters snails and slugs from attacking the young shoots.

Plantings include: Beetroot, Broad beans, Broccoli (seedlings), Carrot, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Lettuce (Winter varieties), Onion, Peas, Potato, Radish, Shallot, Silverbeet.

In the early part of the month, many flowers can still be planted, but be quick: Bulbs, Calendula, Cornflower, Lobelia, Lupin, Marigold, Pansy, Poppy, Primula, Snapdragon, Sweet pea, Viola.

Roses – there are many varieties that will thrive in our area, given the right treatment. They are less expensive when sold bare-rooted in late Autumn and Winter.

*'The trick with roses, experts say,  
Is that you start to plant in May,  
The reason is not so deep,  
It is because they've gone to sleep.'*



Roses like a deep, rich and well-drained soil. If your soil is acid, add lime well before planting. If the soil is clay, dig deep, wide and add plenty of organic matter. They love blood and bone and well-rotted manure. Incorporate liquid fertilising, top dressing and mulching of the roses into your maintenance calendar.

In this area, rose pruning can now begin and continue till the end of July.

To prune: remove dead wood, old wood, weak wood, branches crowding each other and shorten the remainder by one-third. Make clean, slanting cuts. New plants shouldn't need pruning. Leave the older bushes until July. Nematodes are the roses' greatest worry here, so be sure to plant nasturtiums under the bushes.

It is our responsibility to grow our area's native vegetation where possible. If you don't have the space for a stand of cedar trees there is a wide variety of vines and shrubs which inhabited these parts and their beauty – sometimes subtle, sometimes bold – is unique.

Most Australian natives will not handle much fertiliser or cultivation and our coastal varieties prefer a light soil and good mulch. Water well, when transplanting, with a weak liquid, organic fertiliser. Plantings of container-grown natives can be done all year, but the next three months are considered ideal.

Plantings include: Banksia, Boronia, Brachychiton (Illawarra flame tree), Callistemon (bottlebrush), Eugenia (Lilly pilly), Grevillea, Hakea, Hoya, Leptospermum (tea tree), Melaleuca (paper bark), Stenocarpus (Queensland fire wheel), Westringia (coastal rosemary), Wisteria (native: Milletia Megasperma).

Sadly, the author of the booklet, 'Gardening on the North Coast', Stephen Brouwer, passed away last month. He will be remembered for his contributions to the knowledge of what best to grow, and how best to grow it, locally.

**✿ Please contact the VJ if you'd like to contribute gardening tips and advice.**



**Tom Thumb**  
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# Coopers Creek Catchment Landcare Group

## Citizen Scientist & Environmental Assessment Project

**THE COOPERS Creek Catchment Landcare Group Would like to Introduce You all to Our Citizen Scientist & Environmental Assessment Project.**

### The Aim of 'The Project'

Is to inspire and encourage members of the Community and our Children to get involved in our Landcare Group. The project is starting through the Schools based on the New National Curriculum with endorsement and support from the Dorroughby Field Centre. We need the community to gather data about our native inhabitants – learn to identify who and what they are, where they are, how many times you see them, what they do and where they go? You may enjoy photography or are into video and could help build our knowledge and share your experiences. Would you like to find out about the health of our local creeks & observe the inhabitants that live in our waterways and get back to us about what you have seen?

### To All Land Owners and Residents

We are Simply asking you to take note of - What Wildlife lives at your Place?

Recently the Friends of the Koala did a similar thing about counting Koalas in our Region.

For Primary Schools - The Data Collection Project has been devised as an Educational Project based on the basic Geography / Science Curriculum, using a modified simple ecological fauna and flora survey structure – For Older

Students and Adults it will be like a basic observational Environmental Project. Anyone, everyone can join in on this, it's all about monitoring what's there.

### Why is this Data Collection Needed?

It is important to collect this data for our Rural Area, as it does not really exist in a formal way. National Parks do wildlife surveys and mapping and study natural habitats and identify endangered species in the National Parks. But we live in the 'Very Special and Important Buffer Zones' to these Parks and Reserves and we can all help preserve the corridors for our wildlife to live in, travel through and get about their lives. It is also very important to care about the Health and Water Quality of our Creeks and Catchment Areas - we share these too with other Families, Farms - Animals and Wildlife.

Have you been to check out the local Creeks lately? They did get a recent flush which was great as they have been running low and slow...and hopefully with more rain, our Creeks will be refreshed and running well again soon. What does this situation and changing season mean for the Farmers, Water use for Families, Orchards, our Native Creatures, Platypus, Tortoise, Yabby & Fish? What do we know about the health of and life that live in our Creeks?

It is important that We can all Proudly and Loudly Declare that Our Farms and Rural Properties are Very Important Places and that We all can Live as a Caring Community and Observe and Protect our Wildlife Neighbours.

This collective sentiment helps Preserve

our Rural Livelihoods & our Wildlife.

We all live in this amazing landscape together. It is richly diverse in vegetation and activity. We live near or on farms, with creeks, dams, paddocks, orchards, vegetable gardens, with timbered and forested areas that are providing habitats for many wild creatures to live in. We share our rural homes with a variety of marsupials, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, fish and fresh water crustaceans and invertebrates - if you live near a creek.

### Landcare Responsibility Belongs to All of Us – So Let's Get Together & Talk about it

**Contact: Carolyn Russell 66895017 OR 0478067606 if you want to get involved and we will get you the sheets to fill in about 'Your Place'.**

The Schools are all invited to come on board with this project and It is something all the Family can do together. Anyone can be a Citizen Scientist. The Young, our Youth, Mid years or Old.

Proposals have already been sent out to some local schools already. With the help with the Dorroughby Field Centre we can collate the data to a wider Regional Treasured Sense of Place and all help look after our Environment and Protect our Rural Life and our Farmlands for All.



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# ROSEBANK PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Sporting Success

At the end of last term Rosebank Public School participated in two sporting events where our students excelled. The First North Cross Country was held on Thursday 3rd April. The following students gained ribbons in their respective events.

Kate (1st, 5/6/7 Years Girls), Shaylah (1st 8/9 Years Girls), Bridie (2nd 10 Years Girls), Sai (2nd 10 Years Boys), Charlie (4th 10 Years Boys), Jamilla (1st 11 Years Girls), Taidgh (1st 11 Years Boys), Baxter (3rd 11 Years Boys). Shaylah, Bridie, Sai, Charlie, Jamilla, Taidgh and Baxter have qualified to compete at the Zone Cross Country at Corndale PS on Friday 23rd May.

We would also like to congratulate Ashley, Freya, Jamilla and Taidgh who swam as a Small Schools Relay Team at the NSW State Championships at Homebush Aquatic Centre in Sydney on the last Thursday of Term 1. The team finished 17th out of 25 schools, which is a huge achievement for our small school.



**Rosebank Public School Swimming Relay Team**

## Family Reading Month

May is "Family Reading Month" and we are celebrating at school with a Book Fair on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd May and a Book Character Parade and BBQ lunch on Thursday 22nd May. Parents are most welcome to attend our parade, the BBQ lunch and stay on to browse through the Book Fair in the library. Families will also be asked to keep a Reading Log during

May and record the number of minutes the whole family spends reading each day.

## Premier's Sporting Challenge

The students are also preparing to participate in the Premier's Sporting Challenge again this year. The children, Kindergarten to Year 6, are encouraged to record the amount of physical activity they take part in each day over a 10 week period.

## School Water Challenge

Our 4/5/6 class is participating in the Rous Water Schools Water Challenge this year. The students have already completed a water audit of the school and identified areas where we could be saving water. The next step is to produce a short video explaining how to be water wise and enter it into the competition with other schools in the area. The culmination of the project is a celebration for World Environment Day on the 4th June.

For more information please contact the school:  
Phone: 6688 2126 Email: [rosebank-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rosebank-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Website: [www.rosebank-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rosebank-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

– *Nickie Bartlett, Principal*

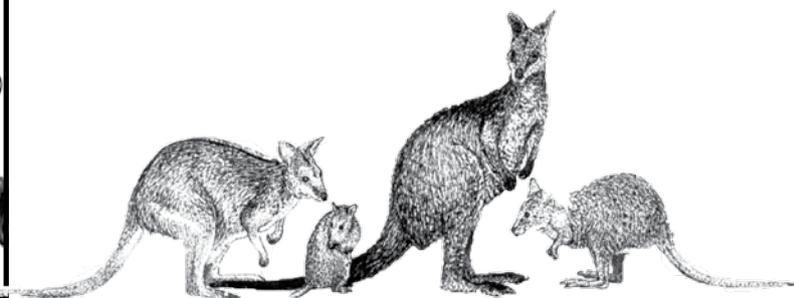
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# EUREKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

I TRUST everyone has had a wonderful autumn holiday and spent some quality time with family, friends and of course... chocolate!

After a long and very successful career in education, our K-2 teacher, Zona Biddle has decided to retire. Ms Biddle has taught in many of the small schools in the Northern Rivers, including Rosebank and Eureka PS. Our school community held a lovely farewell lunch for Ms B on the last day of Term 1 with many of the students writing beautiful speeches, detailing what a great teacher she had been to them all. There were many tissues being passed around and very few dry eyes! We trust Ms Biddle will enjoy her retirement and thank her for many wonderful years of teaching at Eureka PS. Miss Lisa Henderson-Smith will be the K-2 Class teacher for the remainder of the year.

We are very excited that all our students will commence learning to speak Indonesian in weekly lessons with our new teacher, Sue Sommerville. With Indonesia being one of our closest neighbours and such an exciting and accessible culture, I know the students are going to



love this new addition to our timetable. Sue will also be teaching music.

There is so much happening this Term at our great small school, including NAPLAN, Jump Rope for Heart, Athletics training, Responsible Pet Ownership Talk, Lismore Lantern Parade, Stream Watch and an excursion to Ballina Sea Bird Rescue as part of our Personal Development & Health Global Pollution unit. Our extremely active P&C are holding a

working bee, catering for the Federal Film Night on June 14 and holding a Sausage Sizzle at Byron Bay Woolworths to raise funds so our students can participate in the Video Literacy Project.

Finally, welcome to our new Kindergarten student, Tyler and his family who have relocated to the area from Cairns.

Till next month!

– *Michael Coleman, Principal*

## EUREKA PLAYGROUP

IT HAS been an action packed month at Eureka Playgroup this month: we have stomped through lands full of dinosaurs, stopping to dig for fossils; played «Emergencies» and made our own police cars and rescue helicopters; and rounded out the term with a teddy bears picnic and Easter egg hunt, under the beautiful shade trees in the grounds of Eureka Public School.

The children proved to be amazingly talented hunters and it didn't take long before all the eggs were found, shared and demolished!

Eureka playgroup is open to all parents with children aged 0-5yrs. We meet in the covered learning area at Eureka Public School from 9.30-11.30am every Wednesday during school term (rain, hail or shine), and we have an enormous well stocked



**Digging for fossils.**

toy room with toys for all ages and interests, so there is sure to be something to get your little one's attention.

Our aim is to make playgroup a stimulating and fun time for the littlies where the parents can join



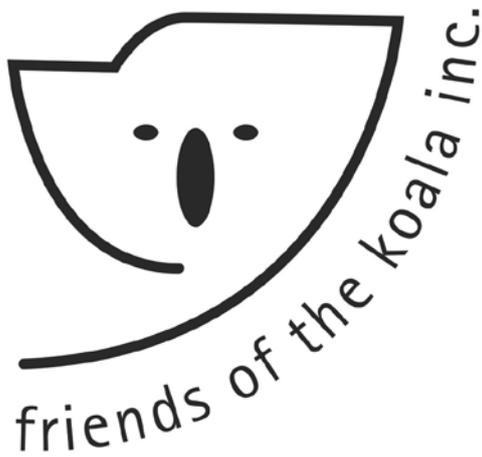
**Some of our wonderful Mums and littlies enjoying the Teddy Bears picnic**

in, relax and chat with other parents....all for free! So come along and join in....

For information about Eureka Playgroup please contact Eureka Public School on 66884 272, or send Megan an email on [zzzzz-away@hotmail.com](mailto:zzzzz-away@hotmail.com)

Don't forget to check out our facebook page where we post notices and the theme for each week.

*Until next month... cheers, Megan.*



# Living with Koalas

**Friends of the Koala has a long-standing interest in the habitat for koalas that is provided by the planted windbreak trees that protect macadamia orchards. The Northern Rivers is renowned for these orchards. The Lismore local government area alone boasts around 4,000 ha under macadamia cultivation. Large parts of Ballina and Byron shires are also dominated by macadamia orchards - around 10,000 ha all up.**

The windbreaks which were planted to protect the young macadamia trees back in the 1960s and 1970s included species such as Tallowwoods (*Eucalyptus microcorys*), Forest Red Gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) and Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*). These are some of the species preferred by the region's koalas.

Thus many of the windbreaks which characteristically enclose macadamia orchards have become the home-ranges of small permanent koala colonies as well as providing the means for transient animals to traverse large areas of monoculture. The macadamia trees so close to their food source have also become an important factor in local koala ecology. Their low forks and heavy foliage provide safety and shade in windy conditions and during hot spells; just the place for mother to rest up while her youngster works on its climbing skills.

A study undertaken for Lismore Council in 2011 demonstrated that the most dramatic change in Lismore's koala populations over the 1993-2010 period occurred in the northeast. The increased number of records merely reflected the Koala's colonisation over time of the windbreak trees planted by macadamia orchardists.

The significant role that windbreaks



**Koala joey Dixie at the Koala Care Centre in East Lismore**

are playing in koala conservation is not without tension. Since the early 2000s Friends of the Koala has worked at establishing respectful relations with orchardists to encourage them to manage their windbreaks in a koala-friendly way. The Australian Macadamia Society has worked with us, developing practical advice and guidelines.

We have to concede that success has been variable. Each year windbreaks continue to be pulled out, the most conspicuous removals inducing criticism from many quarters although the activity is within the law.

Policy reform on matters relating to koala conservation is an important part of Friends of the Koala's brief. Since the protection of Federal law has been won for the Koala we have been pushing for recognition of colonised windbreaks as protected habitat. We are also pursuing funding for a study to improve our understanding of koalas' use of macadamia orchards.

The *Save Ballina's Koalas* campaign to change the preferred route for Section 10 (from the Richmond River to Wardell) of the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade project is now entering its fourth month.

There's no doubt that it's making an impact but whether it will be sufficient to achieve a change to the route of the upgrade at this very late stage is problematic. The formal process for community "consultation" finished with the exhibition of the Preferred Infrastructure Report in November 2013. The responses

to the Report are presently being collated by Planning NSW for preparation of the Assessment Report which will provide the basis for the NSW Planning Minister's and the Federal Environment Minister's determinations. At the same time NSW Roads, which is responsible for route selection, is undertaking further detailed surveys of the Ballina koala population.

We're very heartened that a couple of ministers in their correspondence are now making reference to 'the concerns being expressed by the community'. The Environment Protection Authority, which has an advisory role in the project's assessment and approval, acknowledges that Ballina's *Koala Habitat & Population Assessment* study has contributed to a better understanding of the koala population. It's liaising with NSW Roads to develop enhanced connectivity options.

Ballina Council's decision to up the ante and call for a reconsideration of routes at the April meeting was a real breakthrough. We're also encouraged by the interest being taken by members of the NSW Legislative Council from across the political spectrum. Mehreen Faruqi, Catherine Cusack, Walt Secord, Luke Foley and Jan Barham are all actively supporting a change to the route. They've acquainted themselves with the facts and the concerns and they've all visited the locality of the proposed route.

The Upgrade isn't the only challenge facing the region's koalas right now. The West Byron Urban Release Area proposal, should it be approved, will undoubtedly displace the koalas which presently use the site for occupation and dispersal, more than likely leading to the demise of Byron's koalas to the south of Ewingsdale Road.

Friends of the Koala operates a 24/7 Rescue Hotline: 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](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org) or email [info@friendsofthekoala.org](mailto:info@friendsofthekoala.org)

**Friends of the Koala** and the **Save Ballina's Koalas** campaign can both be followed on Facebook.

Until next time, happy koala spotting.

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



Wonga Pigeon  
by Alex Wilson

## New Editor required for The Village Journal

25<sup>th</sup> May deadline for applications

To: Joan Davies – atdavies@bigpond.com

Ph: 6688 2104

Remuneration available

*(See Editorial on page 2 for essential and desirable qualities)*

Please note: If no-one suitable is found there will be  
no June issue of the VJ



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Full details of our publishing guidelines are to be found on the VJ Website.



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# The Earth Charter



## PREAMBLE

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

## Principles

The four pillars and sixteen principles of the Earth Charter are:

### I. Respect and Care for the Community of Life

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful.

4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

### II. Ecological Integrity

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.

6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.

7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights and community well-being.

8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.

### III. Social and Economic Justice

9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social and environmental imperative.

10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all

levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.

11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care and economic opportunity.

12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

### IV. Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision-making, and access to justice.

14. Integrate into formal education and lifelong learning the knowledge, values and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.

15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.

16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace.

## History

The idea of the Earth Charter originated in 1968, by Maurice Strong and Mikhail Gorbachev as members of The Club of Rome, when the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development called for a new charter to guide the transition to sustainable development.

In 1992, the need for a charter was urged by then-Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, but the time for such a declaration was not believed to be right. The Rio Declaration became the statement of the achievable consensus at that time.

In 1994, Maurice Strong (Chairman of the Earth Summit) and Mikhail Gorbachev, working through organizations they each founded (the Earth Council and Green Cross International respectively), restarted the Earth Charter as a civil society initiative, with the help of the government of the Netherlands.

The final text of the Earth Charter was approved at a meeting of the Earth Charter Commission at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in March 2000. The official launch was on 29 June 2000 in a ceremony at The Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands attended the ceremony.

You can find out more about the Earth Charter online and become an Earth Charter endorser!

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# Repentance Creek Hall Pizza Success Story

Since Benny Glasman built our wonderful wood fired pizza oven at Repentance Creek Hall, while teaching others how to get the adobe right, it's starting to 'pay off' for the hall. The most recent pizza night reaped \$800 for much needed hall maintenance.

Thanks must go to the pizza team (pictured 1-r Ross, Benny, Michael, Zane and Mick) – you guys are awesome!



## ✧ Kitchen Corner ✧

### Cheese Scones

Combine all dry ingredients below:

2 cups plain flour  
6tsp baking powder  
2 pinches salt  
Good pinch mustard  
2½ cups grated cheese  
Sprinkle cayenne pepper

Add the following to the dry ingredients:

1½ cups milk  
¼ cup oil  
1 egg  
Cook at 200 degrees C for 12 minutes

### Pumpkin Scones

1 Tbs butter, softened @ room temperature  
½ cup sugar  
¼ tsp salt  
1 egg, beaten  
1 cup cooked, mashed pumpkin (not too wet)  
2 cups SR flour  
¼ tsp nutmeg  
¼ tsp mixed spice  
Preheat oven to 180 degrees.

Beat sugar and butter, then add everything else – give a good stir. Knead for a while to make a consistent dough

Roll dough out onto floured surface, then cut into rounds

Arrange scones together, on a lightly greased baking tray. Bake for 20 mins or until golden.

✦ *Please send in your favourite recipes for the Kitchen Corner to editor@villagejournal.org.au*



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## Rainfalls for April (March 26 – April 25)

Wean Way, Federal...258.9mm

Sheaffe's Road, Goonengerry..294.5mm

Byrne Road, Rosebank....287.8mm

*Note: Most of this rain fell in the last days of March*

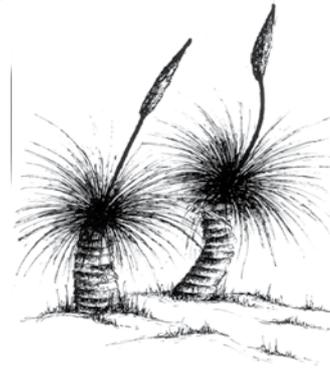
Totals are calculated from 26th of previous month to 25th of current issue month.

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

For calendar monthly totals please go to VJ website.



**Rose-crowned  
Fruit Dove**  
by Alex Wilson



## The Village Journal

Editor: Lydia Kindred

Layout: Mez Fisher

Webmaster: Sue Ulyatt

Accounts: Ross Wilson

Advertising: Caroline Russell, Lydia Kindred

Printed by: Lismore City Printery

We thank the following contributors to this issue:

The schools, the rainfall monitors, Lorraine Vass, Joan Davies, Alex Wilson, Rachel Johns, Caroline Russell, Garth Kindred, Komal Rowe and Airdre Grant.



### What's on in May:

Wed 7th 6:30pm "not quite folk" - JAM NIGHT + Wood Fired Pizza

Thurs 8th 6:30pm BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA + Wood Fired Pizza

Fri 9th 7:00pm Coop

Sun 11th 2:00pm Neil McCann

Wed 14th 6:00pm Wood Fired Pizza

Thurs 15th 6:30pm BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA + Wood Fired Pizza

Fri 16th 7:00pm Glen Massey

Sun 18th 2:00pm Snez

Wed 21st 6:00pm Wood Fired Pizza + STATE OF ORIGIN 1 (LIVE)

Thurs 22nd 6:30pm BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA + Wood Fired Pizza

Fri 23rd 7:00pm Inside Outlaw

Wed 28th 6:00pm Wood Fired Pizza

Thurs 29th 6:30pm BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA + Wood Fired Pizza

Fri 30th 7:00pm Stephen Lovelight

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<b>Bolts, screws etc</b>	Bolt Barn	<b>66219090</b>	<b>Fruit, vegies, groceries</b>	Pirlo's	66218868
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## Community Directory

Not-for-profit groups listed for free – ring 6688 2220 or contact advertise@villagejournal.org.au or PO Box 6360, South Lismore, 2480

### Schools and Associations

<b>Public Schools</b>	Bexhill	<b>6628 4233</b>	Clunes	<b>6629 1278</b>
	Corndale	<b>6628 4305</b>	Dunoon	<b>6689 5208</b>
	Eureka	<b>6688 4272</b>	Goonengerry	<b>6684 9134</b>
	Rosebank	<b>6688 2126</b>	Whian Whian	<b>6689 5240</b>
	Upper Coopers Creek	<b>6688 2128</b>	Eltham	<b>6629 1321</b>
<b>Preschools</b>	Clunes	<b>6629 1551</b>	Dunoon	<b>6689 5396</b>
	Federal	<b>6688 4371</b>	Rosebank	<b>6688 2096</b>
<b>Playgroups</b>	Clunes - Inga Schader	<b>6629 1674</b>	Whian Whian	<b>66895240</b>
	Daria Rogers	<b>6688 4263</b>	Eureka	<b>66884272</b>
<b>Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre</b>		<b>6689 5286</b>	Anita	<b>6684 9313</b>
<b>Federal Film Society</b>			Helen Hargreaves	<b>6689 5254</b>
<b>Girl Guides Australia</b>			Cubs: Lyn Black	<b>6628 8588</b>
<b>Dunoon Scouts</b>			Scouts: Graham Pringle	<b>6628 2820</b>

### Community Services

<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Whian Whian	<b>6689 5672</b>	Dunoon	<b>6689 5577</b>
	Corndale	<b>66284178</b>	Rosebank	<b>6688 2116</b>
	Dorroughby	<b>6689 5013</b>	Federal	<b>0497 074 709</b>
	Repentance Ck	<b>6688 2191</b>	Eureka	<b>6688 4217</b>
<b>After School Care</b>	Clunes Out of School Care	<b>6629 1750</b>		

<b>Lifeline</b>		<b>131114</b>	<b>6622 4133</b>
<b>Bangalow gardening club</b>		Margaret Byrne	<b>6688 2222</b>
<b>Landcare</b>		Fox Road	<b>6688 2217</b>
		Phoenix	<b>6629 1162</b>
	Rosebank	<b>6688 2220</b>	Whian Whian
			<b>6689 5696</b>

### Wildlife Carers

			Rosebank Koala Rescue	<b>6688 2217</b>
			Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	<b>6628 1866</b>
			WIRES Northern Rivers Rescue Hotline	<b>6628 1898</b>
			Friends of the Koala Hotline number	<b>6622 1233</b>

### Emergency Services

<b>FIRE / AMBULANCE / POLICE</b>				<b>Dial 000</b>
<b>Hospitals</b>	Lismore	<b>6621 8000</b>	Byron Bay	<b>6685 6200</b>
<b>Fire Permits</b>			Eric Kinchin	<b>6688 2217</b>
	De Condos	<b>6688 2263</b>		
	Didier Marceau	<b>6689 5716</b>		
	Federal John Nardi	<b>6688 4151</b>	Hugh Campbell	<b>0459 415 938</b>
	Goonengerry	<b>6684 9153</b>	Martin	<b>6684 9234</b>
	Boat Harbour	<b>6628 4382</b>	Butler	<b>6628 4118</b>
	Clunes	<b>6629 1270</b>	Battistuzzi	<b>0412 742 741</b>
	Dunoon	<b>6689 5438</b>	Watts	<b>6689 5359</b>
	McDougall	<b>0409 425 551</b>		

# May 2014



A local koala relaxes on a bough of the big fig tree next to Rosebank Hall / Preschool, on a very hot day. Photo by Lydia Kindred

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
		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
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	☾ <b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
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	Mother's Day The Channon Market
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	● <b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
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	8.30 – 11am Landcare, Rosebank Rec Reserve Alstonville Farmers Market Lis. Farmers Market	
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	☾ <b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
7pm – Fed Talks, Federal Hall Clunes Playgroup 10am @ Clunes PreSchool	Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	RCI Meeting, 7pm @ Rosebank Hall 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	Bangalow Village Market VJ Deadline
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	○ <b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
Clunes Playgroup 10am @ Clunes PreSchool	5.30pm – Coopers Crk Landcare, Rosebank Hall 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	4pm on - Pizza @ Rep Crk Hall	