



PRICELESS



THE VILLAGE JOURNAL

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VJ Editorial

Hi there VJ readers. Here we are for another edition of The Village Journal.

It's good to see in the Rainbow region that we all survived another "un petit flood", relatively unscathed. This time the threat was from Ex Tropical Cyclone Marcia but by the time she touched down, the category level was downgraded from level 5 to level 1 and subsequently we got through without too much fuss or hullabaloo. Just imagine what could happen to the environment if some of those CSG open cover storage waste water wells if 'the big one' did occur and the area were to REALLY flood? Something to think about hey?

In this month's edition we focus on life and the things that challenge us, here in the Northern Rivers. Life on Planet Earth with all its climate change, plastic bags and fluoride.

Talking about climate change. I hear New South Wales are finally talking about banning the plastic shopping bags. Coming from South Australia where recycling is light years ahead of NSW, I never understood why such a great environmental initiative only occurred in two states. In SA you can buy biodegradable bags for 10-15 cents per bag (polluter pays) or you can just BYO. It's amazing how quickly you start to remember to grab a bag from home.

Finally I'd like to offer a big warm thanks to all those lovely people out there who contributed to last month's February Edition of The Village Journal and its tribute honouring the life of Garth Kindred. I know Lydia was touched by the kind outpouring of words, stories and love.

Thank you all again from the bottom of our collective VJ heart.

- *Freedom*

Readers Forum...

Dear editor,

Lismore Ikebana International is celebrating its 55th year as a Chapter, one of the longest operating chapters in Australia.

To celebrate we are holding an Exhibition and Demonstration and Luncheon at the **Ballina RSL Club on the 24th March 2015.**

We would be delighted if anyone interested in learning more about this fascinating Art can attend this Exhibition & Luncheon.

Ikebana is the art of Japanese flower arrangement and for several centuries provided an artistic outlet for people sensitive to the beauty of nature.

In post war Japan in 1956, the wife of an American general, founded Ikebana International in Tokyo.

Our motto "Friendship through flowers" expresses our aim of fostering international relations.

There are now Chapters and study groups throughout the world, which hold meetings and workshops, gives demonstrations and organises exhibitions

which is what Lismore Chapter is doing on Tuesday 24th March at the RSL in Ballina.

Anyone interested in attending please contact Glenda Schofield on 66895284 for further information.

I hope you can publish this function in your journal.

Regards,

Glenda Schofield

Garth and Me

I didn't get a chance to speak about Garth at the Celebration of his life at Repentance Creek Hall 18th Jan 2015.

Our relationship goes back to when The Byron Environment Centre was first situated at Cavanbah Arcade back in the early 90s in Byron Bay.

Our friendship got bigger further down the wallaby track when Northern Rivers Trains for the Future (now TOOT) was formed in 2003-04.

It's been ten years hard slog to first try and save the train and then after we lost it, to reinstate a light rail service and save our rails has done a lot of work to bring that to fruition as well.

When I saw Lydia I gave her a hug and said 'He's at Peace now' and Lydia knew what I meant.

It was a lovely celebration with 300 friends and family at Garth's send off and it was an honour to be one of you.

R.I.P Garth for our Communities,

Paul Brecht, Mullumbimby.

WE WANT YOU! Rosebank Community Inc.

Would you like to be more involved in your community? Well this is your opportunity! RCI is looking for people to join a sub-committee to come up with ideas for social get togethers to support our Community.

If you are interested why not come along to the next RCI meeting or ring the committee to find out more information?

Our next meeting is on the 18th March- we would love to see you then.



Readers Forum...

Hi there, this is for the editor. I had an intuition about 3 months ago, though I didn't act on it. So today I am. Here's a little story.....

Between 76 and 79 I lived in a place called Oyster Bay, just inside Rattlesnake Point and the mouth of the Bloomfield River, a good walk over the saddle from Minus Tirith, a farm house just over the hill. Well, one day a girl named

Freedom and her guy, I forgot his name, he had black curly hair and played good guitar; he sang a song about "pissing into the wind" and how useless it was. He also read tarot and gave me a pack of tarot cards wrapped in black silk or cloth. They stayed a few days at my place and we had a fine time. It was a magic era back then and a lot of special things were happening for everyone. Then they walked over to Cedar Bay, stayed there for a few weeks I think or months, I'm not sure now years later, then on their way out they stayed a few more days at Oyster Bay. Before they left they asked me to drop in on them at their place at Tuntable if I was ever down that way. So a while later I went to see them at Tuntable, finally tracked them down to their place. It was beautiful. I had to walk up the creek to the falls and about half way up they had a little place on stilts above the forest floor wrapped in clear plastic. I had another friend there that I was staying with and I visited them a few times while I was there. I also gave them back the tarot cards, saying I realised I didn't need them, coz I formed my own destiny from my own free will. So there's my little story, I just thought I'd share it with you.... Just wondering if you might be that girl? I think I sang you that song about freedom, you know the one - 'Freedom never stay long, freedom moving along, woooo hooo'. If you aren't, well it's OK, just a little story. Also, I think I might have seen you in Lismore, near the main bank street and I smiled and waved, it was after your article in the VJ when the god botherers and the political botherers were on your back and waffling away about big ears and J.C. You probably thought I was some weird guy. Anyway, not sure if this means anything to you though I had to get it out of my system, me thinking I'm a writer and all...

Either way, hope you have a lovely day and keep writing those articles, we'll eventually educate the conservatives into seeing that it's the only planet we got and we have to look after it and each other in a more caring way,



For all those odd jobs you've been promising yourself - or someone else - you will do ... one day, when you get around to it.

Roundtuit
* Wunday *
Oddjobben

- house, garden, property maintenance and repairs
- bush regen
- handy-person jobs

Les **6689 5727**

Kind regards, George or George from Oyster Bay or Oyster Bay George...

That's what they used to call me. :). Just plain old George @ Rosebank now.

Ps. I'm the guy in the white Toyota Hiace van who smiles and waves at everybody, even if I don't know them.

Have a nice day :)

Dear George @ Rosebank

Thank you for your letter. To be honest; I have known a few boys with dark hair who have played the guitar in my time and subsequently I have heard every 'Freedom' song known to man but alas I am not the Freedom you refer to. Plus in the 1970s I was but a babe - literally.

But thank you for your story, your words of support and encouragement,

Freedom x

P.S If you enjoy writing please do send us in something - it's everyone's Village Journal.

Rainfall at 4 Wean Way,
Federal from Jan. 23 to Feb.
22 was 466.7mm.

Kind Regards,
David

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Lost Dog

Our much loved family dog went missing from Hull Rd, Rosebank on 25.01.15. Kuma (pronounced Koomah) is a red/brown and white female Siberian Husky. She is 13 years old, desexed, microchipped and friendly. If you have seen her, please call Amelia on

0414 999 060.

Many thanks

Amelia Lee



Got something to say?

The Village Journal seeks contributors! Ever dreamt of being a published writer? Or perhaps you just like to hear the sound of your own voice? If you fancy yourself as a bit of an expert on anything we really do want to hear from you.

Don't worry about the technical details - we will take care of that.

Contact Freedom

editor@villagejournal.org.au



L.E.A.P boss speaks out in opposition to The Northern Star Newspaper appalling use of denigrating language.

Recently The Northern Star ran a piece calling people who use drugs 'Junkie Scum'. The response was swift and came from all corners of the Globe including from LEAP President Jack Cole from the U.S. Below is his statement.

"My name is Jack Cole. I am the co-founder and Board chair of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP). I am also a retired detective lieutenant—26 years with the New Jersey State Police and 14 in their Narcotic Bureau, mostly undercover. I bear witness to the abject failure of the U.S. war on drugs and to the horrors produced by this self-perpetuating, constantly expanding policy disaster.

"During those 26 years that I fought the drug war, nothing I did reduced drug abuse in America by even one person. It only made everything far worse.

"The Drug Enforcement Administration estimated that before we started the drug war in 1970 there were about 4 million people, above the age of 12 in the United States who had used an illegal drug. That was 2% of that population. Today DEA tells us, there are 121 million people, above the age of 12, who have used an illegal drug. That is 46% of this population. That is a lot of people to label as 'junkie scum.'

"These are our children, our parents, our neighbors. They deserve our help, not our derision and denigration. Drug abuse should be a health problem not a crime problem and dehumanizing people with these ugly terms only exacerbates the problem.

"Through legalization and regulation, we can finally control these illicit drugs. Then and only then, will you see a reduction in the rates of death, disease, crime, and addiction."

Jack Cole

For more advice visit www.leap.org



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2. Shampoo:

Instead of shampoo, try using 1-2tbs of Bicarb Soda in 1 cup of water, then rinsing with 1-2 tbs of apple cider vinegar in warm water. Your hair will be clean and shiny with more volume

3. Remove oil and Grease stains:

Sprinkle some Bicarb Soda on clothes or other items with oil or grease stains and scrub with a wet brush.

4. Keep Ants Out:

Not a fan of pesticides? We're not either! Try mixing equal parts of Bicarb Soda and Salt, and sprinkle where the trail of ants begins.

5. Deodorise teatowels:

Soak your teatowels in 1 tbs of Bicarb Soda for every cup of water needed. This will make them smell nice and fresh

6. In the Garden:

By sprinkling Bicarb Soda at the

base of your tomato plants, they will become sweeter

7. Save your pots and pans:

Extend the life of your pots and pans! Remove burned-on food from a pan by soaking it in a baking soda solution for 10 minutes before washing.

8. Save your old containers:

Remove stale smells from food containers by rinsing out with hot water and baking soda. For stubborn stains, let the container soak overnight in the baking soda and water mixture.

9. Extend the life of your camping gear:

Sprinkle your camping gear with some Bicarb Soda before packing it away to keep fresh

10. Clean And Sanitise Reusable Water Bottles

To dislodge mineral build up or mildew, soak your bottle overnight with warm water, one tbs of Bicarb Soda and a squeeze of lemon juice.

Compiled by Flick Durham from an article by Holly Royce on 1millionwomen.com.au

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Make this the Koala Election

populations and approximately 2,550 ha on the Tweed Coastal Range where the NSW Scientific Committee has determined that the remaining koalas are an endangered population.

While the announcement triggered responses from Timber NSW which were repeated by Premier Mike Baird bewailing unacceptable job losses in areas like Grafton, Casino and Kyogle, already plagued by high unemployment, it was warmly welcomed by The Greens.

The impacts on koalas of Stage 10 of the

Assembly calling for a route which avoided the Blackwall Range and its nationally significant koala population. He also made the very strong statement that allowing the route would be "irresponsible" because of its impact on koalas; that NSW Labor wanted to see the road re-routed. Luke Foley says the preferred route is "mired in controversy" and Labor will "consider an alternative route".

Ballina candidate, Paul Spooner supports this position but Lismore's candidate, Isaac Smith is less committed, if his voting against a motion calling for Lismore Council to express concerns about the route by writing to the NSW Government, is any indication.

Predictably, the Greens candidate for Ballina is unreservedly supportive of re-routing. We have yet to hear statements from Janet Cavanaugh (Clarence), Adam Guise (Lismore) or Andrea Vickers (Tweed) but we will when Friends of the Koala surveys all candidates over the next few weeks.

In a perfect world koala conservation would be above the pettiness of party politics. As things stand we all need to make sure that our vote in the NSW elections really counts for koala survival in the Northern Rivers.

To report a koala in trouble, or a sighting (live or dead), please ring Friends of the Koala's 24/7 Rescue Hotline: (02)6622 1233. For information about koalas, their food trees and how you can assist koala conservation, visit: www.friendsofthekoala.org or email info@friendsofthekoala.org or phone 6622 1233.

Lorraine Vass

President

Friends of the Koala, Inc.

The elections are less than a month away. Friends of the Koala's licensed area of operation spans the seats of Tweed, Lismore, Ballina and Clarence. You only have to open a newspaper, click on FB or watch the local TV news to realise that koala issues are on the agenda in all of them.

Saving koalas from extinction in our part of the world appears to be the cornerstone of Labor's environmental policies. That Shadow Minister Luke Foley chose the Friends of the Koala Care Centre in East Lismore to gather Labor candidates Ron Goodman (Tweed), Paul Spooner (Ballina), Isaac Smith (Lismore) and Trent Gilbert (Clarence) for announcing his plan to establish a koala national park on the north coast, was a very welcome surprise.

The Great Koala National Park proposal, to be centred on the Coffs Harbour-Guy Fawkes and the Bellinger-Nambucca-Macleay koala meta-populations, will be supplemented by a patchwork of reserves from the Queensland Border to the Hunter Valley. These will include two state forests near Casino (Royal Camp and Carwong) known to support important koala

Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade is also squarely on the table - the biggy for Ballina and perhaps Lismore as well.

Labor's interest in the Save Ballina's Campaign was flagged when those frequent visitors to the region, Shadow Minister for the North Coast, Walt Secord MLC and then Shadow Minister for the Environment, Luke Foley requested inspections and briefings on the route preferred by Roads and Maritime Services, leading up to the approval announcements.

While he was still Labor Leader, John Robertson tabled a petition in the NSW Legislative



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Richmond Landcare

We are pleased to announce the first of the 2015 Richmond Landcare Small Environment Grants (RLI SEGS) program.

We trialled a new system in our 2014 round of grants. Our new simplified application was a big success. We understand that our members are often time poor and we want to help you to get your projects up and going rather than spending time filling in complicated grant forms.

As in 2014, instead of a formal application form, we are asking for an emailed expression of interest (EOI), maximum of 500 words, outlining the basics of your proposed NRM related project (not necessarily on ground, could be for example workshops, tools, signs, plants etc. etc.).

The EOI should include the following:

- Name of your group
- Contact name, phone and email
- Brief description/location of project
- In kind and/or cash contribution from your group
- In kind and/or cash contribution from outside of your group
- Anticipated completion date of your proposed project
- In kind volunteer hours can be costed at \$35 per person hour

Maximum grant amount is \$500 (plus GST if applicable) which will be paid by RLI direct to your supplier of goods/services and cannot be paid to your group nor a member of your group.

Email your expression of interest to:

grants2015@richmondlandcare.org

To be received by COB **Friday 20th March 2015**.

In the event that this series is over subscribed, preference may be given to groups that did not apply for one of the RLI SEGS 2014

You will receive acknowledgement of your EOI by email on or before Saturday 21st March advising a date when EOIs will be assessed.

If you have any questions please call our messagebank 02 66191582, leave a message including name and phone contact. One of the management committee will return your call. Alternatively click here to email your enquiry. We look forward to receiving you EOI.

Your Management Committee

Animal Welfare in Australia.

The recent 4 Corners " Making a Killing" program exposed the full horrors of illegal live baiting that is a significant problem within the greyhound racing industry, Undercover footage obtained by Animals Australia and Qld Animal Liberation showed piglets, rabbits and possums strapped to automated lures and savaged to death for the purposes of arousing aggression in racing dogs. The undercover investigation took several months to complete and evidence was eventually handed to the RSPCA and police. It appears that many well-known racing identities from Qld, NSW and Victoria are now being questioned by police. How did these long-rumoured activities fail to be uncovered by racing officials, police or the RSPCA?

In recent years we have seen numerous examples of activists uncovering animal cruelty in places such as battery farms, abattoirs and piggeries. These abuses had gone unnoticed by authorities. Yet the government response has been to attempt to shut down these whistle-blowers. In both Federal and NSW Parliaments there are bills aimed at making it even more difficult for animal abuse to be exposed. These so-called "Ag-Gag" laws provide for severe penalties for activists who take undercover footage of animal cruelty within animal industries. Given that there are already civil remedies and criminal penalties for trespass, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that governments wish to stifle the increased attention that the public is paying to the systemic failures in our animal protection regime. Do we really want to live in a society where people are jailed for exposing horrific animal cruelty leaving the perpetrators to continue to profit from the pain of animals?

To find out more about these and other animal welfare issues: AnimalsAustralia.org

Angela Pollard

Coordinator, Animal Law & Education Project
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre



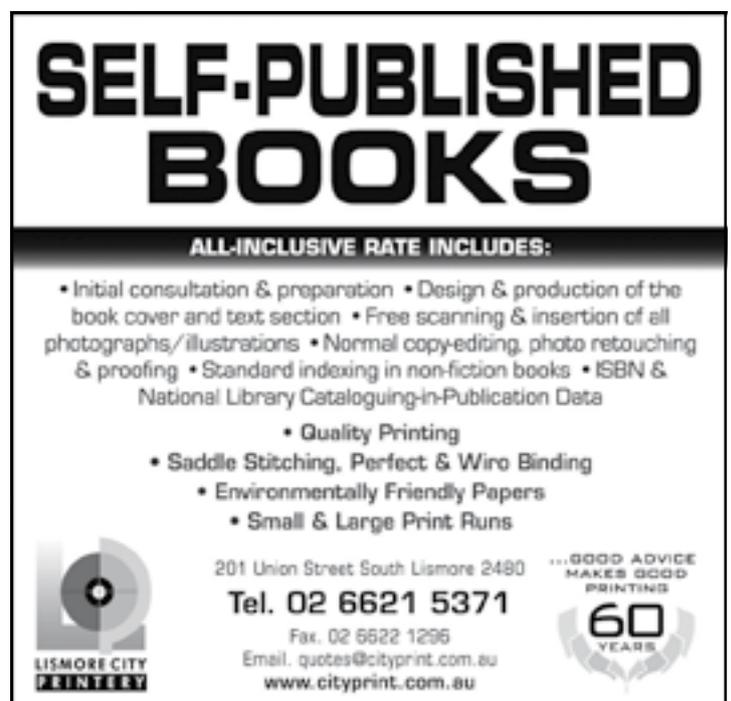
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How to survive Northern Rivers floods in 'Beasts of the Southern Wild' style.

This tip was inspired by the amazing film 'The Beasts of the Southern Wild'.

Day One. Reports of cyclone Marcia hitting the QLD coast filtered through the media and the schools have been closed on Friday. We begin to watch the river for signs. My household is precariously perched on the edge of the Wilsons River bank, it's a mere hundred metres away and therefor we watch events such as these with interest. This is the second time in as many years that we have bunkered down and prepared for the allusive 'Big One' and we know how high it needs to get before we need to turn tail and run.

Day 2 So as the rain poured down for the second day and as the river started to rise we did what we could to flood proof the house and property and then after that it was just a waiting game. Without a steady source of electricity, waiting for a flood is a bit like waiting for the grass to grow but with slightly more suspense, intrigue and observation. Miss 6 had hours of fun playing in the puddles and mud, just as much fun as I had cleaning up the trails of mud that she and the dog traipsed through the house. But after a while cabin fever inevitably sets in with two kids in a small space and no television. Everyone starts to get a bit niggly and so it seems like one last trip into town is necessary. By now I'm thinking that this river watching ritual will be much more fun with black label Johnnie Walker.

Day 3 Sitting outside under an umbrella in a humid orchard in the pouring rain, drinking Jonnie Walker with ice and watching the river rise is so much more relaxing.

Disclaimer – Please be aware that alcohol and swimming are a dangerous combination and that alcohol should be consumed in moderation. If you haven't seen 'Beasts of the Southern Wild' do yourself a favour.

DO WE NEED A TELEPHONE TREE IN ROSEBANK?

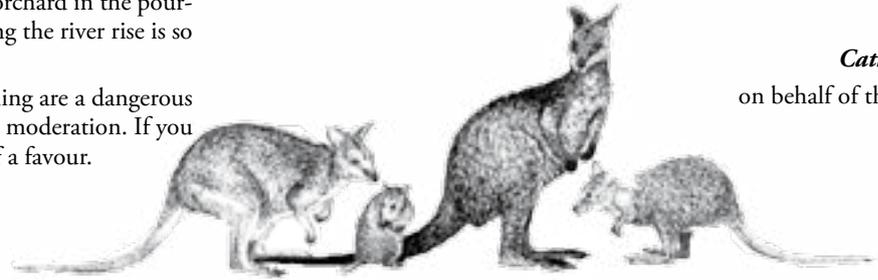
Well, the RCI think we do. So, what is it? Probably the easiest way to visualize a phone tree is as a phone pyramid. One person at the top calls two people (usually neighbours), and so on, until every person in the phone tree has been called. This allows people to distribute information quickly, without placing the burden of work on one person.

Once collected the tree is allocated branches that represent your road. So, for example Rosebank, Dunoon road etc would be able to contact everyone on their street quickly in the event of such things as fires; flooded roads; accidents; cancelled events.

To give you an example of how useful it is-recently I had a fire on the boundary to our farm. I was not aware that there was even a fire, but thankfully Inga up the road could see that boundary, she rang Dave and Dave rang me. Our wonderful Rosebank Fire Brigade were already on the boundary before I got there!

The decisions to activate the tree are not taken lightly as your privacy is paramount and will only be activated through necessity. If the information you wish to circulate is not time nsitive then it may be better to email or make casual phone calls.

If you would like to be involved in the telephone tree or have a couple of questions--you can email Jane Smith on jane@filmsmiths.com or myself ford.catherine@live.com



Cath Ford
on behalf of the RCI



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Our premium garden mix will have you harvesting before you know it. Its useful to use a soft mulch such as sugar cane to retain soil moisture and keep leaves clean.

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Download our free MyRoadInfo app

Lismore City Council has released its free MyRoadInfo app for iPhones and Android devices.

The MyRoadInfo website was developed by NOROC (Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils) in 2010 as an online information hub listing road closures and delays due to accidents, storms or rising floodwaters.

MyRoadInfo includes the latest updates from councils and the RMS so residents have localised knowledge at their fingertips to make sensible decisions on the road.

The app's most exciting feature, which is not available on the website, is an automatic notification system. Using the 'favourites' function, residents are able to nominate 10 favourite roads and then receive automatic notifications should accidents, storms or flooding occur.

"Our number one aim is to get people safely from A to B," NOROC President Jenny Dowell said.

"The website has been very successful but we realised the next logical step was to create a simple, free app that people could download and have with them at all times.

"The favourite roads function is yet another step forward, as most of us drive to work and back on the same roads day in and day out. If we can notify people about delays, accidents or even flash flooding on these roads as they happen, people can make alternative arrangements and avoid these areas."

MyRoadInfo was developed following a particularly severe flood in 2009 that inundated the Northern Rivers and highlighted the need for a service that bridged council boundaries.

"The development of MyRoadInfo showed an unprecedented level of council cooperation and it has gone on to win awards as a result," Mayor Dowell said.

"The app only takes a few minutes to download, but it could save you much more than that down the track."

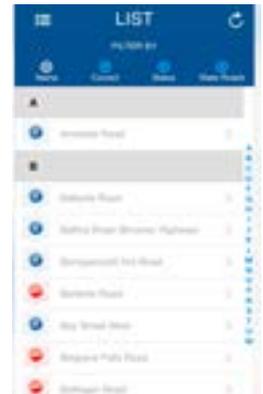
MyRoadInfo won an R.H. Dougherty Award in 2013 and in February 2014 was awarded the Government Communications Australia national award for 'best crisis communications'.

You can download the MyRoadInfo app via the App Store for iPhones or the Google Play Store for Android devices. If you wish to download the app on an iPad search for iPhone apps in the App Store.

If people or property are at risk, phone the SES immediately on 132 500. If you are in an emergency situation, always phone 000.

Terra Sword | Media Coordinator | Lismore City Council 02 6625 0529 | M 0437 697 723 | www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Lismore City Council acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung Nation, traditional custodians of the land on which we work.



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A few of Garth Kindred's family pics

Garth loved life and loved his immediate and extended family and always made the most of the times he shared with them, bringing a humorous story to any occasion or just his warm caring presence.

Here are a few more photos that we missed out on in last month's tribute to Garth Kindred.

PS. Thank you so much to the helpers who came along to the Working Bee at Garth and Lydia's place recently to clear the way for Lydia to return home.



Garth in earlier times with goddaughter Lulani and granddaughter Viviani

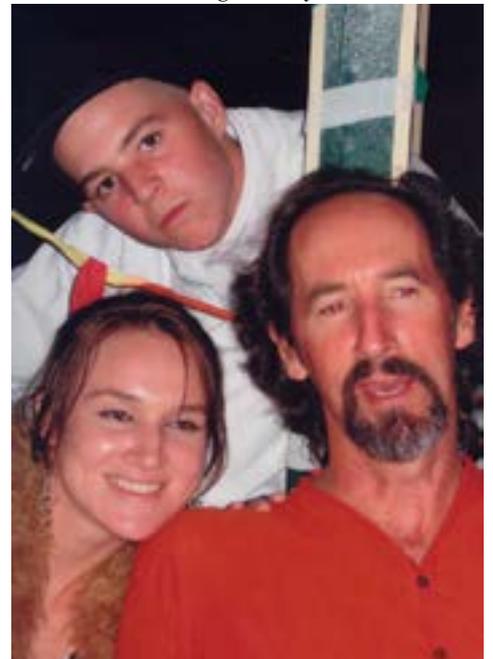


Above: Garth with sister Diana and mum Iris



Garth fooling around with some seaweed at Black Rocks with Viviani and Lulani

Below: With daughter Maya and son Jai



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Itself to you

Anon

A more recent family pic at Koonoorigan



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Authorised by Graeme Williams for The Greens NSW, Level 1/275 Broadway, Glebe, NSW 2037

Pussy Riot raises police brutality profile.

Punk provocateurs - Pussy Riot have released their first English language song aimed at raising awareness around police brutality. The song is titled 'I can't breathe' – a direct reference to Eric Gardner, an American black man who died after being placed in an illegal 'chokehold' by a police officers as he stood on the side walk allegedly selling loose cigarettes. Throughout the last few minutes of his life Eric Garner told police 'I can't breathe' eleven times. The Garner case has sparked international outrage and criticism over the Grand Jury's decision not to indict the officer responsible for Garner's death

"'I can't breathe' – these are the last words of Eric Garner," the band said in a statement. "Those words are his, but we hope they can also stand for us and for many around the world, for all who can't breathe because authorities act with impunity and feel invincible and above the law in using power to humiliate, intimidate, hurt, kill and oppress. We've known, on our own skin, what police brutality feels like and we can't be silent on this issue."

The video for "I Can't Breathe" features Pussy Riot members Maria Alyokhina and Nadya Tolokonnikova wearing Russian prison uniforms and getting buried alive.

The members of Pussy Riot spent up to 18 months in prison in Russia for protesting against Putin and the church. Since their release in Dec 2013 the three women have been embraced as ambassadors for the revolution.

Politicians continue to ignore THE major vote winner identified by Vote Compass

Amid the excitement prompted by a massive 12% swing to the ALP in Queensland that may lead to a democratic change of government, we should remember a much more impressive figure that has not received its democratic due.

Vote Compass reported that 76% of Queenslanders want law reform to give a terminally ill person, who is mentally competent, the right to legally end their life with medical assistance.

Sadly, politicians from the major parties have refused to carry out the wishes of the overwhelming majority of electors. The formation of the Voluntary Euthanasia Party (VEP) in 2013 was a response to this failure and on 28th March, the VEP will contest upper house seats in the NSW Election.

The lead candidate for the Voluntary Euthanasia Party (NSW), Shayne Higson, expects Vote Compass to report a level of support in NSW that is similar to Queensland, if not greater.

"The Vote Compass figures from the federal election in 2013, the Victorian election in 2014 and now from Queensland, show that regardless of voting intention, religion, where you live, age or gender, the majority of Australians believe in legalising voluntary euthanasia," said Ms Higson.

When the first Vote Compass data was released in mid 2013, social researcher, Bernard Salt, said that voluntary euthanasia was an issue that baby boomers will champion in the 2020's or 2030's. However, according to Ms Higson, the baby boomers should wait no longer.

"The right to a dignified death without pain and suffering should be a basic human right and I won't accept that I have to tell people who are suffering right now, that they just have to wait another ten years," said Ms Higson.

"The major parties need to understand, they can no longer ignore this sensitive issue."



Oh...

For Abbott, his days were ruined - by his knights;
And anachronistic notions - of noble men in tights.
Crickey - what a right royal stuff-up this has been,
Anglophile Abbott - has lost any remaining sheen.

Oh...

Well might he say - "I did but see her passing by",
it left the LNP – with an overwhelming urge to cry.
This is yet another time – of his foot in his mouth,
And his political fortunes - continue to trek ever south.

Howe Synnott



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Local Aerial Innovator uses drone to create 3D map from inside Vanuatu's Ambrym Volcano.

Australia's leading aerial photographer, Bangalow resident and quadcopter pilot extraordinaire Simon Jardine has successfully captured never seen before footage from a lava lake inside the magnificent Ambrym Volcano in Vanuatu through the use of a quadcopter (drone).

Jardine and his company Aerobot are industry leaders in aerial photography and his footage has previously been featured on the BBC in a program presented by Kate Humble titled; 'Into the Volcano'.

In December 2014 Jardine and his company Aerobot accompanied adventurer Sam Cossman and his crew to the depths of Vanuatu's Ambrym Volcano to film the newly formed Marum Lava Lake. The mission objective was to explore volcano and to create a 3D map of the lava lake.

The use of quadcopters or drones to film live images from Volcanos and other environments is highly dangerous work and can be very costly if mistakes are made. Until now this particular task has never successfully been completed due to the extreme



temperatures of the volcano and most pilots are unaware of ways to obtain footage in such circumstances. A successful outcome relies heavily on the skills and experience of the quadcopter's pilot and Simon Jardine is well known throughout the industry as an aerial innovator, pioneering new technology to advance drone capability and his skills as a pilot are second to none.

"Without the mad-skills of drone pioneer Simon Jardine from Aerobot, our expedition would have turned out very differently. This guy's been tinkering with "copters" since he was in diapers..... Unbelievably honoured to work along side a true master of his craft"

– Sam Cossman

Check out the video on Aerobot's webpage: aerobot.com.au

For further information or images please contact

Flick Durham - Media Coordinator @ Aerobot

Email: admin@aerobot.com.au

Ph: 0490 520 091



Below: 3D Image of Marum Lava Lake in Ambrym Volcano, Vanuatu



Metgasco wastewater holding ponds at risk of overflow

The Greens' candidate for Lismore, Adam Guise, has called on Metgasco and the NSW government to verify the integrity of Metgasco's coal seam gas wastewater holding ponds in light of the extreme rainfall.

Mr Guise said: "Metgasco has coal seam gas wastewater storage ponds dotted over our region, particularly around Casino.

"Back in 2012, Metgasco allowed its Shannon Brook wastewater ponds to reach excessively high levels, which may have overflowed during heavy rainfall and wind.[2] Metgasco was subsequently fined by the EPA for providing 'inadequate freeboard'.[3]

"The Shannon Brook wastewater ponds sit on farmland which drains into the Bungawalbin wetlands, a sensitive ecosystem that could be damaged by coal seam gas wastewater.

"In light of BTEX chemicals being found in the wastewater of AGL's fracking operations in Gloucester, allowing exposed open-topped holding ponds pose a real threat to our water and farmland.

"Metgasco has no safe way of disposing of the coal seam gas wastewater. The fact that AGL has just recently been refused disposal of its fracking wastewater in Gloucester, shows that this industry has no viable wastewater disposal methods.

"This ongoing saga of Metgasco shows that coal seam gas operations are incompatible with the Northern Rivers climate, where extreme rainfall events often occur.

"It is absolutely ludicrous that the Liberal-National party government has allowed open-topped wastewater ponds in our region. To ensure the protection of our farmland and water, this industry needs to be shut down and licences across the Northern Rivers cancelled," Mr Guise concluded.



COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR COMMUNITY POLL ON FLUORIDE

Ballina Council recently initiated the process to add fluoride to the drinking water supply for Ballina Shire residents and ratepayers who are connected to mains water. This decision was made without any public consultation process or poll.

Ballina Shire Councillor and Independent Candidate for the seat of Ballina, Mr Jeff Johnson is calling for a community poll to be held at the next Local Government Election in September next year. Ballina Council will debate the motion at next week's Council meeting.

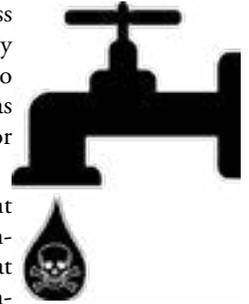
"A poll of local residents should have been conducted before any decision to change the status quo was made", said Cr Johnson. "I feel that for important local issues such as this, the residents should have an opportunity to decide for themselves whether they want fluoride to be added to their drinking water".

If the outcome of the poll is that the majority of residents don't want their water fluoridated, then the next Council should take all necessary actions to remove it from the water supply.

While current State Government policy makes it difficult to reverse this decision, a future State Government or policy shouldn't be ruled out. If there is a clear majority of residents who don't want fluoride, then the Council and State Government should respect that position, explained Mr. Johnson

Fluoridation of the water supply in Ballina will cost the ratepayers \$100,000 per year. In my opinion, this money would be much better spent on an educational program in conjunction with local schools and/or the provision of fluoride tablets.

Lismore Council recently conducted a poll on CSG at the last election, which cost approximately \$14000.



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Green Day of Action with Senator Scott Ludlum

On Saturday March 7, Greens Senator Scott Ludlum will be in Lismore for a Day of Action supporting Adam Guise's campaign to win the seat of Lismore in the March 28 election.

And you can help.

The State Election will be a referendum on Coal Seam Gas, and with grassroots support, Adam has a real chance of taking the seat from the Nationals.

Adam is familiar to many in our region for his work to keep our region gas field free as a coordinator with Lock the Gate.

The Greens don't receive campaign funding from mining companies and big corporations, so instead they rely on people power to get their message out.

And doorknocking is the most effective way of influencing how people vote,

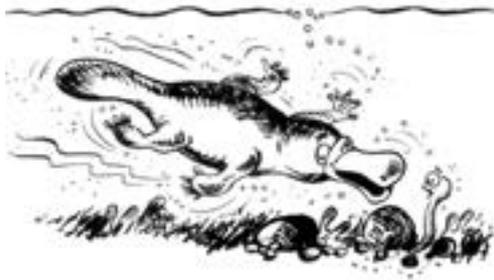
You are invited to join Scott Ludlum and the Greens in Lismore for a doorknocking Day of Action on Saturday 7 March..

If you can give some time please drop into the Greens shop, (155 Keen St) or call the shop on 66215593. Or you can register to volunteer at <http://www.adamguise.com>

In the crucial weeks leading up to the election your help can really make a difference.

Can you imagine the attention to the seat of Lismore if we elected a Green to the State Government?

Many of us turned up at Bentley to stand up against what we didn't want for our region, now is our chance to help in the movement towards what we do want.



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Authorised by Andrew Papp, 271 Kent St | Lismore NSW 2480

The Politics of dancing Down Under The good, the bad and the ugly.



The good stuff.

Fiona Patten – The Australian Sex Party President and the first former sex worker to be elected to the Victorian Parliament.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Ms Patten a while ago and I found her to be genuine and passionate about social inclusion and political change. The Australian Sex Party is my kind of party, and far from being a 'single issue party' they have very solid pro-choice policy positions on a wide range of issues from abortion to euthanasia and everything in between but they are also straight shooting. Fiona Patten's inaugural speech was, as one would expect both smart and sassy.

"I may be the first former sex worker to be elected into Parliament anywhere in this country, although no doubt the clients of sex workers have been elected in much greater numbers before me"

Fiona Patten.

The beginning of the end for our PM?

With the Queensland election lost to Labour so shortly after the Victorian election outcome surely now the PM can see the writing on the wall?

In the recent leadership spill - 39% of the Liberal Party, his own party declared that they did not want him as leader and would prefer 'anyone who's not Tony' to take the reins – speaks volumes doesn't it?

For those of you who think I'm just a biased

leftie, I'll remind you that this is coming from his own side of politics and his own party. Here's a direct quote from another former Liberal Prime Minister.

'You know, The Prime Minister has got his back to the wall. He's just survived a near rebellion from his own backbench and he has demonstrated, since then that he has not changes: he has not learnt: he has behaved in the same bully-boy fashion, which is a reputation that has haunted him since long before he was Prime Minister' – Malcolm Fraser (14/2/15)

Meta Data Retention. Big Brother will REALLY be watching you.

Australians be warned. If you haven't heard about Meta data retention in Australia, trust me, research it because you need to know. This really is not the time to tune out because; "it's all so boring".

Just why this Orwellian nightmare is on the table in the first place you may be asking and that is a really good question. Well; they say 'it's about terrorism and crime' so we all start nodding our heads in agreement but wait a minute. Not only has meta data retention been proved to be ineffective in preventing crime but it is highly invasive for ALL of us and obscenely expensive to boot, costing Australian Tax Payers \$400 Million to enforce.

I was surprised Team Austraya even has a spare \$400 Million; I thought we were broke?

Anyhow, back to the dastardly plan of continual government surveillance on all citizens. Your mobile phone or computer or car will be used to monitor and record your whereabouts every 45 seconds 24/7 and this info will 'retained' and be available without a warrant to law enforcement for up to 2 years. I don't know how you all float an idea to check for validity but one of the ways I 'test' a policy or concept is I imagine it in the worst case scenario.

So what if...

- we were ever invaded by another country
- or our Government was taken over by a psychopathic Right Wing Religious nutjob.

What then? With the advent of apps, cyber hacking and low level programming skills one can only imagine where this might end up. Imagine if that information really fell into the wrong hands.....stranger things have happened.

Clunes Tennis Club News

Are you a budding Roger or Rafa? Or do you have the style and grace of a Sharapova (minus the squeals please)? Or are you looking for some winter exercise with a bit of fun?

Clunes Tennis Club is looking for players for our Winter Competition which will start on 18th April 2015.

We are a local club with an emphasis on fun as well as enjoying the competitive side of the game. Our winter competition is played on Saturday afternoons from 12.30 onwards at Clunes and at Booyong and/or Eltham courts.

Teams consist of 4 players, graded 1-4; all games are doubles; and each player plays four sets. Games finish by around 4.30 -5.00pm after which players are invited to stay for refreshments and a light supper.

If you are interested in playing in the competition or even just joining our club, please contact Andrew Mitchell (Membership Registrar) on 0431 602 640 or at andrew@onlinecoins.com.au or Berni Cooper (Secretary) on 0401755797 or at berni_cooper@hotmail.com



Our AGM is on Tuesday 10th March at 7pm at the clubhouse.



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- > We have implemented stage 3a of the **Lismore hospital upgrade**, and I am pushing for full completion of the hospital.
- > Put \$50 million on the table for the **North Coast Rail Trail**, to boost our tourism potential.
- > Committed to introducing a **container deposit scheme** if re-elected on March 28, to help keep country towns and cities clean and increase recycling rates.

This is about getting the hospital facilities our communities deserve, attracting tourists who support jobs growth, and protecting our environment.

If you value these things, **I need your support on March 28, so we can work together to keep delivering for another four years.**



Thomas George – Lismore Electorate

Authorised by A Gordon
40 Eden St, Lismore 2480

We are lucky to have a winemaker running an independent, local bottle shop. Jared Dixon stocks the Clunes Cellars as if it was his private cellar. Currently he has the gifted Mike Hayes' wines from the Queensland Granite Belt's Symphony Hill, a distinctive label featuring a cello, almost coloured-block-coded for different grape varieties. To drink the Granite Belt is to drink something different than expected of South Australia, or even the NSW Hunter Valley. To drink the Granite Belt's Verdelho and Pinot Gris is to drink something much lighter than expected. The 2014 Pinot Gris is the palest of pale lemon silk in colour with just the slightest tinge of pink, so light it could be hallucinatory. It smells of the lemon combined with pineapple. On the palate it's astringent with unripe pine coming through.

Dixon has worked at WA's Fraibrossen Estate, and he has currently stocked a sparkling that you should drink, without any celebratory reason, just because it could still be considered summery weather. Their Little Charleton (no year) is made from Cab Sav and in its salmon pinkness and lightness on the palate is most suitable for very late summer evenings or mid-day luncheons. A very pretty-in-pink block and airy-tree-branch coloured against a white label.

Dixon is a stocker of great Rosés. The Clunes Cellar currently has two irresistibles: a 2014 Vinaceous Salome WA Tempranillo Rosé made by Nick Stacey, and an equally terrific Spanish one, a 2013 Estio La Purisima Rosado made from Monastrell, Syrah and Merlot. Both of them very, very moreish. While the Vinaceous has a baroque label that includes a cabaret-side-show alley-look and a belly dancer, the Estio features gold stripes on its top, bottle neck and a spiral mosque dome on the label.

Recently I have also drunk a couple of NZ wines by NZ female wine-makers. One is 1 2013 Jules Taylor Marlborough Sav Blanc which is really the best of NS Sav Blancs. Elegant, not overdone, restrained. And the second is a 2013 Hunter's (Jane Hunter) Marlborough Chardonnay, with all the characteristics of a traditional Chardonnay that you'd want. Both, surprisingly, have very similar labels of ecu background and black print. Also available locally.



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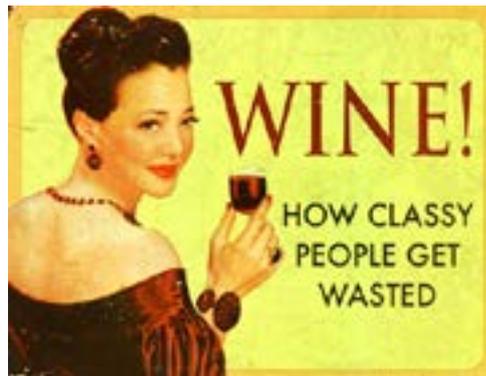
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Eureka Public School

Eureka PS is excited to be welcoming many new students and some new teachers this year. A big welcome to our new students, Hunter, Hudson, Harper, Arlo, Ahlia, Zoe, Billie and Reef and all their families and also to Miss Bianca Urbina who will be teaching Science and PD/Health this year. I'd like to also welcome back Miss Sue Sommerville, our Music and Indonesian teacher; Miss Kate, our specialist music tutor; Mrs Oliver, our Ukulele teacher; Mrs Jan Gasteen, our Visual Arts teacher and to all our other staff.

Eureka PS has two permanent classes – a Junior Class with students from K-2, taught by Miss Lisa and the Senior Class with students from Years 3-6, taught by Mr Coleman. All students also partake in specialist lessons in Indonesian, Visual Arts, Music and Science.

Students have started the year with our Swimming Scheme at Byron Pool and our First North Swimming Carnival at Alstonville Pool. We are very proud of all the student's efforts and a number have made it through to the Zone Carnival at Lismore Pool this Thursday. Congratulations to Hunter Gallegos, Luka Gregory, Oisin Mules-Sherrin and Emmanuel Holmes-Douch who will be representing our school in the P5 Relay. A special congratulations to Isla Giacometti for her amazing effort in her first ever swimming race. She came first at the FN Carnival and is off to Zone for the 8 year girls, 50m Freestyle. GO TEAM EUREKA!

Our School Leaders for 2015 are Oisin Mules-Sherin, Luka Gregory and Emmanuel Holmes-Douch. We congratulate them on this wonderful achievement and know they will make excellent leaders.

Our Senior Classroom had an extreme makeover in the holidays and looks amazing. Both our classrooms have been refurbished now to ensure our learning spaces are modern, fresh and creative spaces for optimal learning.

Finally, our first big fundraiser for the year is on Friday March 6 at Eureka Hall. It is our inaugural Trivia Night with incredible prizes, games and a silent auction. Thank you to all the businesses and locals for their support of our great school. If you are interested in attending, please contact Megan McPhee on 66884385.



Clunes Public School

Welcome to the new school year (even if we are already five weeks into the term!)

We welcomed nine Kindergarten students to our school this year, and five weeks has seen them settled in and blossoming. They are all enjoying the many opportunities available to them and have even had their first excursion – a bus trip around Clunes village to learn about bus safety and bus etiquette.

Our older students have all settled back into school life. The Year 1 and 2 students have been investigating science and sprouting seedlings for the vegetable garden; the Year 3 and 4 students are studying Australian landmarks; and the Year 5 and 6 students have been creating animated stories for publishing.

Last week we welcomed our school families at a P & C barbeque and Parent Information Evening which was a lovely social evening as well as an informative one. This week sees our first assembly for the year with an induction ceremony for our School Captains, House Captains and Student Representative Council members, as well as an introduction of our Kindergarten students by their Year 6 buddies.

2015 sees a couple of new faces on our staff with Mrs Leone Cox joining us to look after our music and choir whilst Mrs McKay is on leave; and Mrs Linda Hutchinson taking on the Reading Recovery and Learning Support Teacher mantle.



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Clunes Public School ...cont

A word from the school captains - Maddie Mitchell and Connor Meldrum

We are very happy to be school captains for 2015 and to be the face of our school. We have some exciting and interesting ideas that we would love to bring into the school. We are excited to be doing a school excursion to Sydney and Canberra with all the learning opportunities that it will provide while we are still having fun.

Our senior classes are very happy to be involved with sporting teams for this year. Last year we were very successful in our soccer, netball and cricket teams. We hope to improve our school by our ideas and a very happy and successful year for the whole school.

Until next edition, cheers,

Berni Cooper



Eureka Playgroup

Q: What do you get when you mix a dozen kids, an overflowing toy room, a few trikes and a craft table?

A: Eureka Playgroup!

Each Wednesday the Eureka Playgroup meets at the beautiful Eureka Public School from 9.30 – 11.30 am. Thanks to the generous school folk, we are blessed to be able to use their large undercover area to play games, hide, ride, dress up, read books and generally have heaps of fun rain, hail or shine.

Our current crop of rugrats range in age from about 3 months to 4 years, so if you have a little one who isn't at big school yet, then chances are there'll be someone their age to play with.

Playgroup is on each Wednesday of school term and there's no cost. Just bring a child, some morning tea for them and enjoy some adult company while the kids play.

For more information please contact Eureka Public School on 6688 4272.



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- Wed March 4th @ 6:30pm NOT QUITE FOLK JAM NIGHT
- Thu March 5th @ 6:30pm BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA
- Fri March 6th @ 7pm JAEDEN OGSTON
- Sun March 8th @ 2pm TIMOTHY RUPERT
- Thu March 12th @ 6:30pm BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA
- Fri March 13th @ 7pm SHANE WALTERS
- Sun March 15th @ 2pm CHRIS ARONSTEN
- Thu March 19th @ 6:30pm BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA
- Fri March 20th @ 7pm CONSPIRACY OF ONE
- Sun March 22nd @ 2pm CASSIE ROSE DUO
- Thu March 26th @ 6:30pm BRAINTEASERS TRIVIA
- Fri March 27th @ 7pm NICOLE BROPHY
- Sun March 29th LEIGH JAMES

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Feel free to leave any comments on the stories, we always love to hear what you have to say!

OH! And don't forget to follow the VJ on FaceBook ;-)



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Byron Bay Market	2	3	4	5	6 Mullum Farmers Market	7 Alstonville Farmers Market Lismore Farmers Market
8 Channon Market	9	10 Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	11 Whian Whian Playgroup WW School 10-11.30am Eureka Playgroup 9.30 - 11.30am	12 Byron Farmers Market Trivia 6.30PM @ Eltham Hotel Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	13 Mullum Farmers Market	14 Eureka Pizza Night Alstonville Farmers Market Lis. Farmers Market Federal Films - 4pm Kids Movie 5.30 Early Dinner 6.30 Dinner 8pm Movie
15 Lismore Car Boot	16	17 Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	18 RCI Meeting Playgroup WW School 10-11.30am Eureka Playgroup 9.30 - 11.30am	19 Byron Farmers Market Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	20 Mullum Farmers Market	21 Rosebank Landcare @ Rosebank Reserve 8-11am Alstonville Farmers Market Lis. Farmers Market
22 Bangalow Village Market	23	24 Lismore Ikebana International 55th anniversary luncheon Ballina RSL Club Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	25 Whian Whian Playgroup WW School 10-11.30am Eureka Playgroup 9.30 - 11.30am	26 Byron Farmers Market Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	27 Mullum Farmers Market	28 State Election Day Alstonville Farmers Market Lis. Farmers Market
29	30	31 Rainbow Region Organic Market @ Showground 7.30-11AM	1 Whian Whian Playgroup WW School 10-11.30am Eureka Playgroup 9.30 - 11.30am	2 Byron Farmers Market Lismore Produce Market 3.30-6.30PM	3 Mullum Farmers Market	4 Alstonville Farmers Market Lis. Farmers Market