

## Tweed goes to the dogs for the RSPCA



Kate McIntosh

Tweed residents and their four-legged friends will be pounding the pavement this Sunday, May 15, to help raise funds for the RSPCA.

Now in its 18th year, the Million Paws Walk is the RSPCA's major annual fundraiser and will be held across Australia at different locations. Tens of thousands of people and pets take part in the event to help provide support for animals in the RSPCA's care.

Local organisers are expecting a turnout of more than 350 people and

Bonnie and Sandy Oswald, Benny and Jeanette Whiteley and Fudge, Tori and Harvey Bishop are all looking forward to this Sunday's Million Paws Walk for the RSPCA. Photo Jeff 'Houndog' Dawson

their pets, with ex-RSPCA dogs and their owners to lead this year's walk.

There will be a wide range of activities on the day including dog washing, bone toss competition and live music, as well as demonstrations by police bomb-detection dogs.

Vet services including desexing and pet products will also be auctioned on the day.

This year's Million Paws Walk will

take place at Jack Bayliss Park, Marine Parade, Kingscliff Beach. Registration opens at 9am, with the walk to get underway at 10.30am.

All funds raised will go towards improvements at the RSPCA's Tweed Heads adoption centre.

Nationally, the RSPCA cares for more than 2500 animals each week and each year investigates thousands of claims of animal neglect.

## Commission of inquiry on Cobaki called for

A leading Tweed environmentalist has called for a commission of inquiry into the approval of the Cobaki estate subdivision west of Tweed Heads as well as other major developments in the pipeline.

Last night (Wednesday) the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP), was set to hear community concerns about the major project for around

5,000 homes, proposed by Gold Coast-based Leda Group, headed by billionaire developer Bob Ell.

The concept plan for Cobaki and Leda's other major subdivision at Kings Forest, west of Bogangar, were approved by former state planning minister Tony Kelly last year.

Leda recently lodged development applications for the first 932 lots to

be built in the first stage of the estate.

Caldera Environment Centre's coordinator Paul Hopkins said before the meeting yesterday that he would call for a commission of inquiry into major Tweed projects approved in the past year.

'There are a range of issues of concern not just for Cobaki but Kings

continued on page 2

## P'ville shopping centre plan goes off the boil

Luis Feliu

A shopping complex which residents from Pottsville and its booming Seabreeze housing estate had expected to be built appears to be off the drawing board altogether.

Developer of Seabreeze, Metricon, recently backed off plans for even a small-scale supermarket on land it owns despite a lengthy and expensive battle to have a larger, full-line one approved there.

The Queensland-based developer, which has several major housing developments underway around Tweed Shire, now wants to use the land for more housing. That has annoyed some locals who had bought into the estate expecting a shopping centre and high school would be built eventually to service the fast-growing coastal township.

Two years ago, the developer took on Tweed Shire Council in the Land and Environment Court after council knocked back its plan for a full-line supermarket for the land because it didn't fit in with the shire's retail strategy. The court rejected the bid, but it cost ratepayers around \$600,000 to defend.

Last year, the developer revived the plan for a supermarket, with then mayor Warren Polglase backing Metricon's bid, saying it had to make a commercial decision on whether to develop the still vacant 'Stage 8' land for housing or to keep on pursuing a shopping centre.

But without support from a majority of councillors, it decided to quietly drop the plans for any supermarket

on the site and use the land for more housing.

Pottsville Residents Association president Chris Cherry this week told *The Echo* that 'the small-scale supermarket proposal is no more.'

'As Metricon could not get their full-line centre approved, they have now gone ahead with a residential rezoning of this area and the blocks are on sale or already sold,' Ms Cherry said.

### 'A major flaw'

'As far as I am concerned this withdrawal of promised local services to residents who have bought in according to the masterplan is a major flaw in developmental legislation.'

'Surely there should be some accountability to build what you promise you will.'

'It has also happened with the land initially set aside for a school there. It has now been rezoned residential and so lost as a potential site (or at least been made cost prohibitive).'

The state education department, which decides where to build new public high school, does not have any plans for a high school for the Pottsville area in the near future.

Parents of school-aged children say there is a need now on the southern Tweed Coast catchment for a high school and were disappointed to see land they thought had been earmarked for a high school was set to be used for more housing.

Requests by *The Echo* this week for Metricon's NSW development manager Dale Scotcher to comment were repeatedly ignored.



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## Billy cart racing rolls into Tweed

Kate McIntosh

The upcoming Tweed Billy Cart Grand Prix promises to be the most fun you can have while on wheels.

Event organiser Colin Louwen said the event is open to all sections of the community from grandfathers, families and pre-schoolers.

'The idea of the event is for families and friends to join forces and work together on a project - the design, the scrounging of parts, the manufacture and then finally a chance to test it out on the track is what makes this day so special,' he said.

Mr Louwen encouraged people to be as creative as they wanted, with previous designs including a coffin on wheels, mini bathtub, SES mini rescue car, as well as a mini fire engine and more traditional racer-style carts.

There will be three main racing events held on the 370-metre track, with a wide range of prizes to be won including the



Billy cart racers in action during last year's event. Photo supplied

best dressed team. A billy cart box derby for pre-school students is also planned.

The Billy Cart GP started in 2008 as a community project to raise funds for local charities and last year attracted more than 180 participants.

All profits from this year's event will be donated to the Tweed Life Education van and the Volunteer Rescue Association.

The event will be held next Sunday, May 22, at the grounds of the Tweed Valley Adventist

College, Hall Drive, Murwillumbah, from 10.15am. Cash prizes range from \$75 to more than \$500.

More information is available at [www.tweedbillycartgp.com.au](http://www.tweedbillycartgp.com.au) or by calling 02 6672 2922.

Right: Tweed mayor Kevin Skinner, general store proprietor Nola Crockett and Stokers Siding and District Community Association's Peter Holmes celebrate the village's plastic bag free status with Stokers Siding Public School students. Photo supplied



## Tweed villages ban the plastic bag

Kate McIntosh

Tweed villages Stokers Siding and Crabbes Creek have become the fourth and fifth communities in NSW to officially go plastic bag free.

Tweed now boasts four plastic-bag-free villages, with four more to follow.

Stokers Siding general store proprietor Nola Crockett said the initiative would be great for the village.

'I haven't bought plastic bags since I came here six years ago. Anyway, people already reused their plastic bags and recycled,' Ms Crockett said.

The village-by-village approach to plastic bag reduction was developed in response to a Tweed Shire Council decision in October 2009 to investigate options for minimising plastic bag usage in the Tweed.

To help village retailers go plastic bag free, council provides a one-off supply of reusable shopping bags that are

sold in store to cover the cost of the next order of bags.

Tweed mayor Kevin Skinner said this helped minimise the costs to retailers - a major hurdle in going plastic bag free.

Cr Skinner said the initiative by Stokers Siding and Crabbes Creek retailers would mean a reduction of about 5,000 check-out bags annually.

The Stokers Siding bag design features the new village slogan 'Celebrating Nature.

Cultivating Community', which was developed out of the Stokers Siding and District Community Project.

Both Chillingham and Tumulgum have already gone plastic bag free, with Burringbar, Uki, Mooball and Tyalgum to follow later this year.

Council said the only other village to go plastic free outside the Tweed that was aware of was the Kangaroo Valley, southwest of Sydney.

## Cobaki inquiry sought (from page 1)

Forest and other big developments at Terranora and the planning involved really needs to be looked at by an independent inquiry,' he told *The Echo*.

Environmentalists say Tweed's sustainable future is at stake with all these major developments, as well as wildlife corridors, koalas, water quality and conservation. The need for a new dam at Byrrill Creek has also been questioned, de-

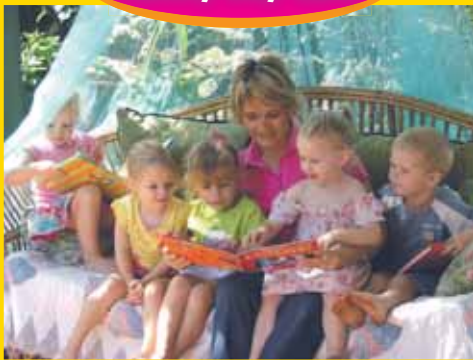
spite pro-development councillors pushing for it on the basis that it is needed to service future population growth.

The public meeting at the Tweed Heads Civic Centre last night was to be addressed by developer, environmental and council representatives.

The decision to hold the meeting was made by the panel following a site inspection and briefing by council planners.

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# Cr Milne threatened over 'stooges' jibe

Luis Feliu

Several Tweed Shire councillors have threatened to use the council's notorious code of conduct against Greens Cr Katie Milne for calling them 'stooges' in a letter to newspapers.

Ironically, one of those councillors, Cr Phil Youngblutt, who famously labelled ratepayers as 'morons', says Cr Milne (pictured, right, in the council chamber) should be forced to step down temporarily for her 'unacceptable' name calling.

The code has been used several times in the life of the current council and has come under attack for being used as a political weapon. Cr Milne has previously been cited under the code for releasing information which other councillors felt should stay secret.

## Code breached

More recently Cr Warren Polglase was found to have breached the code for telling a member of the public attending council meetings to 'get a job'.

In her letter to *The Echo*, Cr Milne said a move by Cr Polglase on a planning matter had been backed by the 'three stooges', referring to Crs Youngblutt, Skinner and Dot Holdom, who usually vote in a bloc against Cr Milne.

She also wrote that Cr Polglase 'calling me ignorant and making sexist remarks apparently is also not an issue, but



my comment that Cr Polglase seemed to be running this council agenda unleashed a tirade from the mayor.'

Cr Youngblutt told media a code of conduct complaint should be lodged and that in his opinion she should be stood down as a councillor for some time.

The National Party supporter said he planned to ask Lismore MP Thomas George, a fellow member of the party, to 'have a word to [Ballina MP] Don Page, who is Minister for Local Government'.

Cr Skinner told media he found the remark offensive and said he would now drop Cr Milne from a visit to Sydney to meet the new state environment minister. Cr Polglase also warned further action could be taken against Cr Milne.

Crs Polglase, Skinner and Youngblutt vote in a bloc more than other councillors and have been described by council observers as the 'pro-development faction'.

The council of which Cr Polglase was mayor of in 2004 was sacked by the state government in 2005 after an inquiry found the majority on council at the time were 'puppets' of developers.

Cr Milne, a passionate defender of the local environment and outspoken on planning and conservation issues, complained about the reports on her comments to the local daily newspaper, which she says often shows a bias against her.

## Newspaper bias

'In your articles, you did not cite the the sexist comment, the petulant child comment, or the repeated references as "ignorant" directed at me, in the council meeting.

Instead you only cited my three stooges comment that I made after all these above comments were made to me,' she wrote to the editor.

'You made two stories the focus of how offensive mayor Skinner had found my com-

ment, without one reference to his repeated overruling of my numerous points of order, allowing numerous highly offensive comments to me in the council meeting, that I highlighted in my letter.'

In a letter to the paper yesterday, Cr Milne apologised for her 'three stooges' comment, asking why mayor Skinner could not 'see his outrageous double standards'.

The secretive conduct review committee which hears complaints under the code has also had its fair share of controversy in its short life with one of its original members, a former local police commander, quitting before its first hearing.

When established during the early life of the current council, the code came under fire because of concerns the process could be hijacked for political purposes.

Both Cr Milne and former mayor Joan van Lieshout have been subject to a string of complaints from colleagues since the present council was elected almost three years ago.

Cr Milne, who was elected with the highest primary vote, and Cr van Lieshout, who was a surprise choice as mayor, found themselves in hot water in those early days after making statements to the media, some critical of council.

# Household cleanup blamed for tip fire

Residents have been warned not to dump chemicals or hazardous waste for collection as part of council's household cleanup after a fire broke out at the Stotts Creek waste depot at the weekend.

The fire is believed to have ignited from combustible materials collected during a recent household cleanup. It broke out at the privately-run but council-owned facility in the early hours of last Saturday.

Rural Fire Service brigades and Tweed Shire Council con-

tractors attended the fire and brought it under control, but it continued to smoulder over the weekend.

The resulting fumes and smoke annoyed nearby residents who complained to council.

## Not deliberate

Some thought waste was being burned off deliberately, as in the past when the practice was legal. Current pollution laws now prohibit it.

The fire was thought to have

ignited from a chemical reaction in the waste.

A council spokesperson said that while contractors were advised not to collect any hazardous waste, 'sometimes items can be collected unknowingly'.

Council will host a chemical drop-off day in July where hazardous household waste can be delivered to the Stotts Creek facility.

It will then be transported to off-site facilities licensed to accept hazardous material.

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# Artist explores climate change impacts

Tweed River Art Gallery is currently showing an exhibition that addresses the community's growing concern about the impact of climate change, in the leadup to World Environment Day on June 5.

'Vorsorgeprinzip? From Bali to Copenhagen' is an exhibition of drawings by Southport artist Roslyn Taplin that explores the drivers and impacts of climate change. It continues till May 29. Gallery director Susi Muddiman said that in her exhibition, Taplin aimed to raise questions of ethical responsibility.

'The work is a reaction to the inertia in political decision-making on climate change and addresses the challenges of implementation of the Vorsorgeprinzip, or "Precautionary Principle", which remains the foundation of environmental policy and law,' Ms Muddiman said.

'The United National Environment Program states "Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

'The focus on words and language in Ros Taplin's work is a response to political rhetoric on climate change. Taplin



Barry Mossop, a member of the gallery's installations team, with one of Roslyn Taplin's drawings in her exhibition entitled 'Vorsorgeprinzip? From Bali to Copenhagen' which is on display till May 29. Photo Jeff Dawson

uses hand-printed and written text as an image-making device and appropriates text from speeches on climate change and from other sources that discuss water needs,

food and biodiversity loss.'

Taplin's drawings of rural petrol bowsers in coastal and outback landscapes in NSW are inscribed with messages from the 2007 Bali UN Climate

Conference. Other drawings focus on the 2009 Copenhagen Conference, the speeches delivered and issues raised there, and the conference's outcome, the Copenhagen Accord.

## Paintings inspired by beachcombing



This painting called 'Resorption' by well-known Tweed artist Hobie Porter, who grew up in the shadow of Mt Warning, is featured in a display of some of his works inspired by the local environment at the Tweed River Art Gallery till July 31. The display, to coincide with World Environment Day on June 5, includes seven of Hobie's seascapes featuring local beaches from Kingscliff to Byron Bay. 'This is a rare opportunity to showcase part of the collection locally before it disappears into private ownership,' said Hobie. Photo supplied

## Small mammals thriving in Border Ranges

A regular annual survey by wildlife officers at the Border Ranges National Park last week has identified nine species of small mammals.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) ranger, Stephen King, said that the week-long survey, which aims to monitor key species in the World Heritage reserve, 'continues to show an exceptionally high diversity of species.'

'The Border Ranges National Park is recognised as one of the most biologically diverse areas of Australia. Our survey over the past eleven years has confirmed this exceptional diver-

sity, including the presence of a number of endangered species,' Mr King said.

The survey was first held in 2000, following the discovery of the Hastings River Mouse near the park.

### Thought extinct

'The Hastings River Mouse species was formerly thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1969 at Warwick in Queensland.

'Since then it has been found in a few other isolated populations. It is one of the rarest small mammals in Australia and we need to ensure that

the national park continues to support the drier type of forest which is its habitat,' he said.

'We have also found two other threatened species during the surveys, the Common Dunnart and the Eastern Chestnut Mouse. Common species found include the Bush Rat, Swamp Rat and Antechinus.

'This year's survey found Hastings River Mice in an area that was recently burnt to control weeds and reduce the risk of wildfires. The survey allows us to investigate the response of small mammals to fire and habitat change.'

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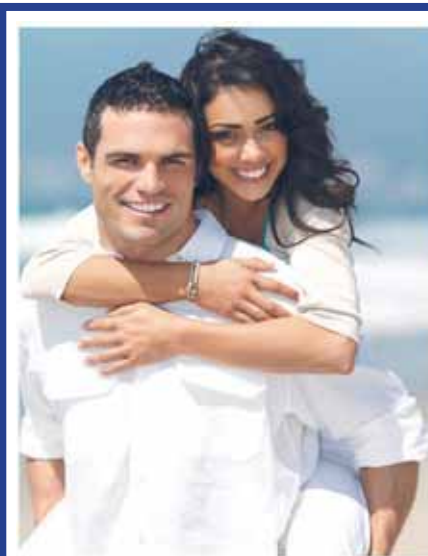
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# Grace set for colourful business future

Kate McIntosh

Grace Stewart (pictured) might still be at high school, but that hasn't stopped her getting a head start on running her own business.

The Tyalgum teenager began experimenting with different tie dye techniques last year as a hobby and has since set up her own online business – Grace's Tie Dyes.

'Mum bought me some dye for my birthday, so I started doing little sales bit by bit and it just grew from there,' she said.

The 17-year-old Mount St Patrick College student now dyes a range of items on demand, including shoes, t-shirts, dresses, undies and even a formal suit.

The business has taken off, largely through word of mouth and Grace is hoping to develop it further once she finishes school.

In the meantime, she continues to experiment with a number of different techniques and materials, including hemp, rayon, wool, silk and cotton.

Although tie dye has long been associated with the hippie styles of the 1960s and 70s,



Grace says the concept has actually been around since ancient times and was utilised by a variety of cultures all over the world.

One of the unique things about tie dye, she says, is that no one pattern can be exactly reproduced.

The daughter of artists, Grace is also an aspiring photographer and circus performer.

She has been learning trapeze and acrobatics since she

was three years old and is hoping to be accepted in to the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) in Melbourne after graduating.

Grace has also been named as a finalist in this year's prestigious Olive Cotton award for excellence in photographic portraiture.

Grace describes the photo, which captures her niece and two nephews in a spontaneous moment, as a 'happy snap'.

She says she was inspired to

take up photography by her parents, who are both talented photographers.

'The house is full of photography books and we have literally a hundred photo albums in our house,' she said.

'My brother and sister are also keen photographers too. So I've been brought up in a house full of photos.'

Grace's designs can be seen at [www.gracestiedyes.com](http://www.gracestiedyes.com).

Photo Jeff 'Rainbow' Dawson

# M'bah business chamber head told to 'get a life'

Luis Felio

A community lobby group has questioned the leadership of Murwillumbah's business chamber after its president attacked people who were opposed to the world rally motor race run through the Tweed almost two years ago by trying to link them with a drug law-reform rally.

Murwillumbah and District Business Chamber president Toni Zuschke was quoted in the local daily last week saying the 18th annual Nimbin Mardi-Grass cannabis law reform rally and festival held last weekend had created a stream of traffic through Murwillumbah, but to no benefit.

According to the paper, Ms Zuschke suggested the hemp festival, which drew thousands of people to the area, might

even have hurt wildlife and that many Tweed people who attended the hemp festival were the same people who protested against the rally in 2009.

Ms Zuschke said she doubted any eateries in Murwillumbah benefited because the Mardi-Grass attracted 'an undesirable type of people'.

The comments sparked a backlash in this week's letters (see page 10).

The Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG), a new environmental watchdog organisation formed after the No Rally Group disbanded, said Ms Zuschke should 'let go and get a life'.

'Ms Zuschke does herself and the Murwillumbah Business Chamber no favours by gratuitously insulting the many community members who opposed the rally,' spokesman Michael McNamara said.

'While Toni yearns wistfully for the smoke and noise of the rally, others in the community have moved on. She would do better to address the serious issues that confront our community now.'

## Threat from mining

'NRG does not participate in Nimbin's MardiGrass festival. We are working constructively with groups and individuals from right across the community, including the Caldera Environment Centre, the Combined Tweed Rural Industries Association, the NSW Cane-growers Association, the NSW Farmers Association and many other community groups, to combat the real and growing threat to the Tweed Valley from coal-seam gas mining.'

'Many local government, industry and other organisations,

including Tweed, Lismore and Kyogle Councils, Rous Water, Destination Tweed and the NSW Farmers Association have joined the call for a moratorium on coal-seam gas mining.'

'Yet Toni seems hung up on the rally. This is really sad for the business community of the Tweed – where is the leadership they deserve?'

Mr McNamara invited Ms Zuschke and the business chamber to 'get behind' the broadly based community campaign opposed to coal-seam gas mining and participate in the rally on the issue to be held this Saturday, May 14, at 11am in Murwillumbah.

'I would love to walk through the streets of Murwillumbah with Toni expressing our shared concern about the potential destructive impact of coal seam mining,' he said.

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## Poppi prepares to take control of the House

Kate McIntosh

Terranora teenager Poppi Meeves is getting an early induction into the inner workings of politics.

The 16-year-old Lindisfarne student (pictured, right) has been selected to represent the Tweed at the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament in Sydney in July.

Participants will be asked to table a mock bill in parliament and will also be given the opportunity to participate in adjournment debates, private member statements and Question Time.

The youth sitting will be televised within parliament and sitting MPs are also expected to attend.

'The whole thing is very authentic. It's the same structure in parliament as when they're actually passing a real bill,' she said.

In preparation, Poppi last month attended a training camp in Sydney, where participants learnt about parliamentary etiquette, political jargon and legislative processes before being divided into teams to develop bills for their respective portfolios.

Poppi will act as Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and will table a bill with the aim of improving Aboriginal representation in parliament.

Under the bill, two seats in the NSW Parliament would be reserved for Indigenous MPs, with only Indigenous constituents able to vote on their preferred representatives.

Poppi said the bill would help ensure Indigenous people have a voice on important political issues affecting them.

A keen public speaker, Poppi says she is enjoying the opportunity to gain insight into political processes, as well as debate on a wide range of important, topical issues.



'Being involved in debating controversial issues reignited an underlying passion for these sorts of major issues,' she said.

A keen writer, she is currently working on her first novel and learning to speak Italian.

Poppi says the book is partly inspired by her family's exten-

sive travels in Oceania, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

She has previously considered a career as a filmmaker, photographer and ambassador.

However, the high-achieving teen remains uncertain about whether she will pursue a career in politics in future.



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## Skate competition reaches out to youth

Kate McIntosh

An upcoming skate competition is helping reach out to youth in the area.

The Beachside Skate Comp will be held this Saturday (May 14) at Cabarita skate park.

Organised by Pottsville's Beachside Church, the event is now into its sixth year and aims to provide a supportive, drug and alcohol free environment for youth.

As part of its outreach work,

the church also puts on a sausage sizzle at the skate park every Wednesday at 4.30pm.

Organiser Pedro de Jesus said young people area had actively campaigned to have a skate park built in the area and the competition was a way to keep youth engaged.

'There's so many bad influences in society, so this is a good way to reach out to them,' he said.

As part of the event, local skate shops have entered teams in a super jam competition, showcasing some of the area's most promising young skaters.

Sydney-based professional skater Sid Tapia will also be MCing on the day.

Pedro said the event had been well supported in the past and organisers are hoping to attract a strong turnout again this year.

'It's all about the kids having fun,' he said. 'It wasn't ever intended to be a big competition, it's just about the kids enjoying skating.'



Gold Coast skater Aimee Massie, 18, is an inspiration to other young female skateboarders. Aimee will be at this Saturday's skate comp at Cabarita Beach. Photo Jye Barkley

There are various divisions for under 18s as well as an open competition. Sign-on starts at 9am, with the first heat getting underway at 11am.

Entry is \$10 and all competitors receive a free goodie bag. Prizes up for grabs include skate decks, accessories, clothing and an electric skateboard worth more than \$250. All profits from the event help support the church's outreach work.

**Applications for 2012 close Tuesday 7 June 2011**  
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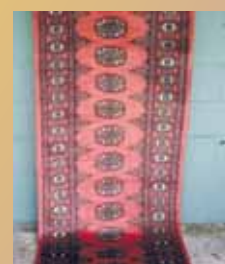
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Volume 3 #35

May 12, 2011

## Taking out the bin

Something felt wrong last week.

The US acted out a schoolyard tit-for-tat imperialistic whoop-ass on bin Laden and we are supposed to feel grateful.

Celebrating public assassinations is a dangerous direction for any society, but that didn't stop world leaders and the media from applauding the act.

Activist Noam Chomsky summed it up well, and was one of a few who questioned the ethical implications of the operation:

'We might ask ourselves how we would be reacting if Iraqi commandos landed at George W Bush's compound, assassinated him, and dumped his body in the Atlantic. Uncontroversially, his crimes vastly exceed bin Laden's, and he is not a "suspect" but uncontroversially the "decider"...

Even Jon Stewart from *The Daily Show*, a notable Liberal intellectual, treated bin Laden's demise as a football touchdown.

In interview with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, both left-leaning pundits dismissed whether it was a staged event – due to the lack of evidence – with, 'That's not the America I know.'

It appears even the most progressive minds in the US feel a sense of vindication for 9/11, and simplistic patriotic sentiment still reigns over asking why he existed in the first place.

Chomsky says that in societies that profess some respect for law, suspects are apprehended and brought to fair trial. 'There is much talk of bin Laden's "confession," but that is rather like my confession that I won the Boston Marathon. He boasted of what he regarded as a great achievement.

'There is also much media discussion of Washington's anger that Pakistan didn't turn over bin Laden, though surely elements of the military and security forces were aware of his presence in Abbottabad.

'Less is said about Pakistani anger that the US invaded their territory to carry out a political assassination.

'Anti-American fervour is already very high in Pakistan, and these events are likely to exacerbate it. The decision to dump the body at sea is already, predictably, provoking both anger and scepticism in much of the Muslim world.'

We remain unsatisfied – not because we are told to be happy that he's dead – but because the reasoning behind the West's 'enemies' is never examined with much depth by the mainstream media or politicians.

It takes research, time and investigation to learn about politics, imperialism, economics, religion and military strategy.

The next disenfranchised group to emerge will no doubt share the same anti-US sentiment, born from predator drone strikes and the commodification of their culture.

The prerequisite, as always, is having no economic/military power and an attractive natural resource portfolio.

A reasonable test of our self-proclaimed righteousness would be explaining the US assassination of bin Laden to an eight-year-old child.

## SPIN CYCLE 1: The only good journalist is a read one

Michael McDonald

As Mango McColummeister pointed out last week, senior Labor figure Lindsay Tanner takes aim at spin in his new book *Sideshow*.

'The creation of appearances is now far more important for leading politicians than is the generation of outcomes,' wrote Tanner in *The Australian* (theaustralian.com.au) last week. 'Winning today's micro-argument is all important, and tomorrow can look after itself... The symptoms of this shift are on full display.

'A dramatic growth in pork-barrelling, driven by back-benchers hungry for positive local media coverage. Growing misuse of parliament for juvenile stunts that are designed to win momentary television coverage.'

It has perhaps its apotheosis in continual images of Tony Abbott running, cycling, swimming and looking manly among blokes in hardhats. If he stopped, would his spring wind down?

Also in *The Australian*, Paul Sheehan had the NSW Liberals in his sights: 'Among the swollen ranks in the government benches, none will be more polished, or have a more secure seat, than Gabrielle Upton, an eastern suburbs corporate lawyer.

'After her victory in Vaucluse, Upton told the local newspaper the huge swing against the Labor government had been a message: "It's about the fact the voting public want honest, transparent government."

Sheehan goes on to analyse the branch-stacking for preselection in Upton's own seat.

It's a story of factional triumph which almost lives up to the machinations within La-



bor. Upton garnered the support of Liberal heavyweight Michael Photios, also lobbyist for the Australian Hotels Association, the largest donor to the Liberal Party last year. Change the party brand but you still get business as usual...

Economists are often overlooked as part of the commentariat but they often have provocative opinions on matters which affect us all. Take the witty Alan Kohler, for example, who livens up my viewing of ABC TV news with oddball graphs. 'Treasurer Wayne Swan needs to dump the surplus promise as soon as possible,' thunders Kohler online, 'the alternative is either a nonsensical budget strategy or a damaging one, as spending is cut and taxes raised to meet a fabricated political target.'

Kohler runs Eureka Report (www.eureka-report.com.au) which tells you more about the investment industry than any sane person really needs to know. But it does tackle spin, which after all gave us 'sub-prime mortgages' and 'collateralised debt obligations'.

See also Ross Gittins, who

writes for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and has appeared at the Byron Bay Writers Festival. There is even an entire website devoted to 'correcting' every opinion of Gittins: <http://rossgittins.info>.

The late, great American economist J K Galbraith tells us much about the ready acceptance of spin in one sentence: 'The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking.'

For the young and the young at heart, the observation of spin runs hot at *Hungry Beast* (<http://hungrybeast.abc.net.au>). The segment 'Things We Think Might Be Bullshit' neatly sums up the nature of spin. You can also learn more about the cockroach than is strictly necessary. Any Gen Xs, Ys or Zs who can think of other media spin exposé websites suitable for those under 40, email the URLs to [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au).

If God were a socialist, he would have commanded the Bible to be written by Bob Ellis. Eloquent, lofty, sweeping in style, unaffected by reality. Bob is still at it, banging away on

the ABC's *The Drum* (www.abc.net.au/thedrum) about the imminent death of capitalism.

'Wild weather in the last four months has already killed the insurance industry, and capitalism itself may not long survive it,' declaims Ellis. 'Socialism is back and sorting things out worldwide: money that should have come from insurance is coming, in trillions, from government to reconstruct and re-finance the devastated regions, and rightly so.

'For this is what government is for: to save lives, ease pain, lessen sorrow, cure sickness, feed, rebuild and solace those whom the Shafts of Fate have rendered helpless and, in Chifley's grave words, without hope.'

Despite Bob's rolling phrases, capitalism lingers on, and manages to shaft folks with Fate – what I like to call 'free enterprise' – at every available opportunity.

And the last word on spin this week must go to that wonderful golfer Jack Nicklaus: 'When I want a long ball, I spin my hips faster.' It's the only way to keep up.

■ Mungo is on holiday.

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'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' – Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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**Letters to the Editor**

Email: editor@tweedecho.com.au  
 Deadline: Noon, Tuesday  
 Letters longer than 200 words may be cut and pseudonyms are not acceptable.  
 Please include your full name, address and phone number.

**Judicial murder**

Is it just me – or does anyone else feel a little bit of unease about the issues surrounding Osama Bin Laden's death? That the well established 'law and order' method of justice was subverted by the revenge driven 'terminate with extreme prejudice'? That the majority of our own Westminster brand of governance was in whole-hearted agreement?

We have been treated to the spectacle of the president of the United States, his secretary of state and his military and civilian security advisors sitting down and watching, what was in essence, a 'snuff' video beamed live. The exalted ranks of those present became twenty-first century technovoyeurs.

Such is the value of the currency of truth in the US political and military bureaucracy that when the president of the most powerful country in the world says that Bin Laden is dead, immediately people everywhere say 'I wonder what the truth is?'

My personal take on this is, Bin Laden is dead. Maybe. If he isn't, he soon will be.

No, I am not cheering at his murder. My own preference would be for him to have been brought to trial and judged by his peers.

But somewhere, someone in the US decided that such an action was not in the US's global interest. Bin Laden was not going to be dragged into the light of democracy and judicial fairness. 'We', the world, were not going to have the opportunity to test his guilt or innocence. Instead the issue was brought to its conclusion in darkness and obfuscation and secrecy.

And the wars go on and on and on.

**William K Collins**  
 Murwillumbah

**The use of fear**

I have been contemplating the use of fear a lot lately.

Fear seems a powerful tool as it can get you what you want by forcing others to do what you want. This seems good. While the use of love will allow another to make their own choice and it may not mean you get exactly what you want.

But if you yourself were forced to do something that you didn't like, you wouldn't like it, in fact you would feel quite angry that your free will and humanitarian rights were being violated.

That's why it is important to re-educate ourselves that what

**continued overleaf**

**Read these letters, grandchildren**

■ Your local news report: 'GM denies "sceptic" tag' (May 5) got me thinking about sceptics, believers and defenders of the faith.

Sceptics admit that climate change is real, but reject the decree of the 1992 Rio Earth Synod that the term 'climate change' refers only to man-made change. Most sceptics admit a human influence on climate, but foolishly imagine that the sun and other natural forces are greater than man. As in the days of Copernicus and Galileo, these heliocentric heretics must be identified and vilified.

The self-appointed chief inquisitor for the Tweed neo-orthodoxy is Paul Hopkins, coordinator of the Caldera Environment Centre. He identified Mike Rayner as an 'avowed sceptic' and, based on 'council's recent history on green initiatives' as judged by his Caldera Church standards, rejected Mr Rayner's denial of scepticism. Cardinal Hopkins further determined that the GM was therefore 'not equal to the task of proper administration.'

The GM's unpardonable sin was refusing Councilor Milne's demands for the 'Tweed Link' to explain the science of climate change to the community. It took Tim Flannery over 300 pages to do that

in *The Weather Makers*; and my comprehensive critique of his book is even longer. I discovered 23 misinterpretations, 28 contradictory statements, 31 untraceable or suspect sources, 45 failures to reflect uncertainty, 66 over-simplifications or factual errors, 78 exaggerations and over a hundred unsupported dogmatic statements, many of them quite outlandish. I wonder how well Katie Milne understands the science.

Paul Hopkins claims there are 'just four in every 100 Australians who deny that climate change is manmade'. If so, why waste ratepayer's funds trying to enlighten so few? Cr Milne wants council and *Tweed Link* to help stamp out all heresy and opposition to the Green indulgences (carbon tax) being peddled to prevent the prophesied apocalypse.

**Wes Allen**  
 Cudgen

■ Both Abbott and Gillard have *exactly* the same climate change policy. They *both* believe in climate change and that pollution is caused by mankind, and they *both* have a policy to reduce carbon pollution five per cent by 2020 – but you wouldn't know it!

Why do we never hear of Abbott's carbon pollution plan which is much more expensive

than Labor's, to the tune of \$30 billion and is funded by the taxpayers and not the polluters? Abbott keeps talking about Direct Action but nobody knows what it means or what services will be cut to fund it. Abbott has also not outlined how the lost billions from the mining tax which he refuses to collect will be replaced or again, what services will be cut.

The Liberals took a carbon tax to the 2007 election and had one up until 15 months ago when Abbott knifed Turnbull. Their hypocrisy on this is unbelievable!

**Ray Armstrong**  
 Tweed Heads South

■ Believe it or not, energy conversion generators like solar, nuclear, geothermal, wave or wind power can never digest and cleanse CO2 air back into life sustaining oxygen, as did the once great global forests.

The more the great forest trees are cleared away the less oxygen will there be.

That's the bottom line reality all generations must face eventually in the coming future.

**Alan Boucher**  
 Banora Point

■ 'Climate change' and 'global warming' have been debated ad nauseam – untold hours for decades. Because these ideas

are based on predictions, postulations, modelling and extrapolations they lend themselves to be questioned and quibbled over endlessly until eyes glaze over, minds tune out and years tick by without results.

Whether or not we have anthropogenic climate change does not really matter. What matters is that we do have an undeniably man-made mess: pollution, contamination, acidification, salinity, toxicity, degradation, erosion, irradiation – all documented and quantified, all highly visible. We are all standing in it!

Don't waste time debating 'climate change'. We have messed up – so we must clean up! And we must stop messing up. Now!

There are alternative sources of energy, all proven and at our fingertips; all have been used in other countries for years.

Let us shout it from the rooftops: there is no need for fossil fuels! We have alternatives, along with new jobs, lucrative new technologies, clean air and independence from the Middle East – and an improved climate to boot!

All we need is the political will – and willing polities.

**Helga Boehme**  
 Kingscliff

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continued from page 9

you cause another to experience, you yourself will at some time have to experience. This one change to all of our interactions would and can change humanity for the better quicker than any other action.

Loving energy out, loving energy back in – the circle is complete.

**Dave Burdon**  
Tweed Heads

**Worse than coal**

New research has found that shale gas production is worse than coal in regard to greenhouse gas emissions. This new study is the first peer-reviewed paper on methane emissions from shale gas, and one of the few exploring the greenhouse gas footprints of conventional gas drilling.

This research from Cornell University, New York, estimates that as much as eight per cent of the methane in shale gas production leaks into the air during the lifetime of a hydraulic shale gas well – up to twice what escapes from conventional gas production.

These leaks are called fugitive emissions and are released into the air from flow-back during well completion, leaks in equipment, processing, storage transport and distribution losses, and from routine venting and flaring.

A 2009 study by climate scientists at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies estimates that over a 20 year period methane has a global warming potential that is 105 times greater than carbon dioxide on a weight for weight basis. Over a 100 year period it is estimated to be 33 times

# Calling names in council

■ It's a bit rich for council's Three Stooges to threaten Cr Milne with a Code of Conduct citing for calling them the Three Stooges when the rest of us know she was merely attempting to appear complimentary.

**Jeremy Cornford**  
Kingscliff

■ 'Ignore petty issues, says Cr Skinner' was the line in the local daily.

After listening to mayor Skinner's dismissal of Dr

Kerry Foxwell-Norton's independent study of coastal use in Bogangar/Cabarita Beach on ABC radio on April 21, it is easy to see he will ignore that research as petty (he referred to the Griffith University doctor of research as 'that lady'... petty?).

He implied he will ignore the 350 opposing submissions, out of the 377 submissions received by LPMA... petty?

He misled us when stating that the land at South Cabarita Beach had been zoned for a

'caravan park' for years, when it is actually zoned 'Open Space' (or is he just ignorant of his council's own land zonings?)... petty?

Yes, Kevin, it is easy to ignore when one is ignorant... hey look at that – they are almost the same word. Fancy that, Kevin. Or ignore it as petty.

How reassuring to know we are being governed by the ignorant.

**Tim Smerd**  
Bogangar

greater. However, governments currently use a figure of only 21 times in their climate change estimates.

While coal seam gas production is not identical to shale gas production it is similar technology, drilling for the same natural gas, which is mainly methane, and with fugitive emissions and hydraulic fracking in common.

A recent study by Britain's respected Tyndall Centre for Climate Change concluded that while shale gas, like coal-seam gas in Australia, was being promoted in the US as 'a transition route to a low carbon future', none of the available evidence indicates that this is likely to be the case.

We can expect massive increases in methane emissions from coal-seam mining over the coming years unless our governments have the wisdom and foresight to issue a moratorium and refocus on safe renewable energy options.

**Bruce Collins**  
Tweed Heads

is one demographic that are avid users of our 'threatened' public toilets (see *The Echo*, May 5).

At the other end of the spectrum are seniors with urinary and mobility problems. In between are the 'ordinary' folk (residents, ratepayers and visitors) who are grateful users of the Tweed public toilets.

Many of the older buildings have architectural and heritage merit, being built from pressed clay bricks and concrete roofs. The plumbing infrastructure represents a significant investment by previous councils. If funds are so scarce then savings should be made in other less essential services. Road and riverside mowing, flailing and poisoning could be curtailed, petunias and other exotic flower beds could be weeded out, and multi-million dollar water and sewerage extravaganzas could be scaled down in favour of onsite self-sufficiency and wiser water use.

Would tourism benefit more from convenient and time-tested toilets than the unproven million dollar annual funding of 'Destination Tweed'?

If wheelchair accessibility is the problem, a simple add-on/clip-on complying unisex cubicle could be constructed adjacent, or in close proximity, to existing toilets. Why threw the baby out with the bath water? Closer but cruder analogies come to mind, but you get the drift, or flow.

**Hop E Hopkins**

Caldera Environment Centre

**MardiGrass vs rally**

Isn't it time Madam Zuschke got over the loss of the rally and instead learned from the experiences around her?

She complains Murwillumbah didn't make money from the MardiGrass festival recently held in Nimbin. Perhaps it wasn't meant to, but I am sure the business houses in Nimbin are laughing all the way to the bank, and so would the Kyogle Shire.

She complains that this festival celebrates drug use, etc but fails to mention the enormous amounts of alcohol consumed over the weekend of the rally. The local hotels

were one of the very few businesses which reported profits over the rally weekend.

All the reasons Toni Zuschke complains about lend weight to the argument that small grassroot festivals celebrating the local community work. The MardiGrass brings in thousands of tourists, something the rally failed to do.

Isn't it wonderful that all the roads to Nimbin were jammed with traffic for this fun-filled community festival? As for the wildlife, Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers and Northern River Wires would have rescued any injured wildlife over this weekend, but sadly for you, Toni, none were reported, unlike the animals that were killed because of the rally.

Sad for our community that all of your observations were based only on assumption. It might have paid you to put your bias aside for a day or two and got your bod out there to see how this community got it so right, while you got it so wrong.

The only jobs produced by the rally were voluntary. How stupid to think an event that comes only every second year for five days could produce real jobs. Tourism in the Tweed following the rally is down. What happened to all those thousands of overseas visitors that were supposed to arrive for the event, and the even more that were supposed to follow?

Why, even after producing photographic evidence for the police of rally drivers, support teams and their fans illegally overtaking on double lines on blind corners, were the drivers never charged? Why when rally fans were clearly visible to police drink driving, throwing bottles of water and eggs at locals legally protesting did they not do anything?

Are you really so naive to believe that only people from Nimbin use drugs? You better be careful before you start talking of double standards, Toni! Seems to me, every time you open your mouth you put your foot in it. Get over the rally, and start doing something constructive.

**P May**  
Tweed Heads

**Help the dying**

If Corinne Pennay really wants to help the dying who are in deeply terminal suffering then she should have her own Christian party convince our government to change the laws that would put an end to their suffering without the fear of pain.

Corinne would find millions of people in Australia and many of them would be Christians hoping you and your new party succeed, and of course that's only if Corinne wants to help those who are suffering badly when dying.

**J B Gray**  
Pottsville

**Toilet blues**

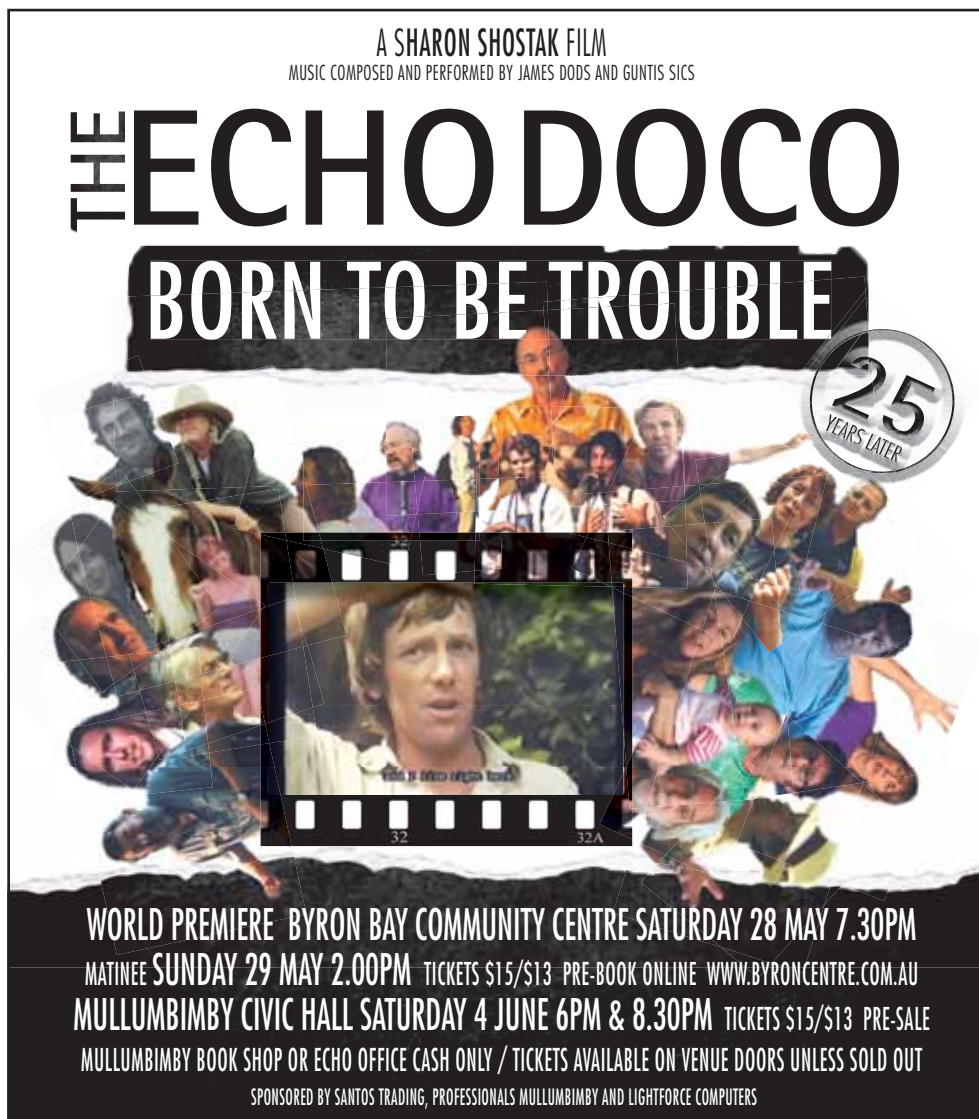
Many economists believe that a larger population generates more wealth. Certainly a larger population requires more services, but in Tweed Shire it is proposed to halve the number of our public toilets as a response to a rapidly increasing number of residents and hoped-for tourists. The achievement of former councils evidently cannot be sustained by the current administration.

Parents with young children

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# Does the environment have rights?

Mark Byrne

Bolivia may be known around the world for the beauty of Lake Titicaca, but it has been ravaged by mining companies and is now, with the warming of the atmosphere, suffering a loss of snow and ice on the Andes which farmers and villagers rely on for fresh water.

The tiny, poor, landlocked South American nation was in the spotlight this month when it was announced that it would enact laws granting nature equal rights to humans. According to *The Guardian*, which first ran the story, the new laws 'will establish 11 new rights for nature. They include: the right to life and to exist; the right to continue vital cycles and processes free from human alteration; the right to pure water and clean air; the right to balance; the right not to be polluted; and the right to not have cellular structure modified or genetically altered.'

This is not quite a first. In 2008 the neighbouring South American nation of Ecuador included similar rights in its constitution. Both nations are responding to a resurgent indigenous American spirituality focused on Pachamama, the Andean 'mother of all'.

## Evolution of rights

Recognising rights of nature represents a significant milestone in the evolution of rights. They were first applied to basic political and civil rights for humans, such as the right to life, free speech and habeas corpus (the right not to be held illegally).

Next came economic, social and cultural rights such as the rights to health, work, education, and to raise a family. Both of these classes of rights are protected by United Nations conventions and supposedly by laws in every nation that ratified these conventions, which is about 90 per cent of them.

Animal rights have also been part of the 'rights discourse' at least since the publication in 1975 of Peter Singer's *Animal*

## Rally against coal-seam gas mining

A public rally against coal-seam gas mining at Murwillumbah this Saturday, May 14, will be addressed by the head of the Australia-wide Lock the Gate Alliance which has been fighting for a ban on the controversial method of gas extraction which threatens underground water supplies.

The rally, organised by the Northern Rivers Guardians and Caldera Environment Centre, begins at 11am at Knox Park with a march through the CBD, returning to Knox Park for speakers at noon.

Drew Hutton, the president of Lock the Gate Alliance, and newly elected Greens MLC, Jeremy Buckingham, are the keynote speakers, while environmental activist and singer-songwriter Paul Joseph will perform his anti-fracking song.

An organiser said the event 'provides an opportunity for ordinary community members to make their voices heard alongside those of Tweed, Lismore and Kyogle councils, Rous Water, Destination Tweed and other organisations that have called for a moratorium on coal seam gas mining'.

For more information call 02 6674 5213 or 02 6689 7466.

*Liberation*, although Australian law does not yet grant or recognise rights as such to animals. There are, though, legal protections for farm and domestic animals, such as the prevention of cruel treatment, including the need to provide adequate food, shelter and veterinary treatment.

Wild animals are theoretically protected by laws which conserve their habitats, ban their killing or live export, and so on. But accelerating extinction rates bring the effectiveness of animal protection laws into question.

Some commentators find the whole rights discourse problematic. After all, if we humans are granting rights to animals and nature in general, doesn't this just reinforce the fact that we have more rights than they do? Another problem with rights for nature is where they stop. Could Bolivians soon be jailed for killing malarial mosquitoes that alight on their skin? Highly unlikely, but the law struggles with such notions.

Leaving aside such philosophical issues, two questions arise. One, can it work in Bolivia? It's hard to say without knowing how the new laws will relate to existing developments and other laws, especially with mining accounting for one-third of the country's foreign earnings.

Two, could it work here? The Commonwealth can only make laws for the matters specified in the Constitution, and the natural environment isn't one of them. Our national environmental laws are valid because the Constitution gives the Commonwealth the power to enter into treaties, so if we sign up to a treaty on, say, migratory birds or the export of hazardous wastes, the government can (indeed, must) enact national laws to put these treaties into effect.

## Efforts stalled

So the Australian government could only make a law giving rights to nature if we had signed a treaty also doing that. There is no such treaty on the books at present. Efforts to table even a much more limited but still comprehensive International Covenant on Environment and Development in the UN have stalled in the last decade, and more ambitious 'soft law' initiatives like the 2000 Earth Charter currently stand little chance of being turned into binding treaties.

The states and territories aren't hamstrung in this way by their constitutions, so it could happen more easily in NSW.

How could it work? Perhaps like the human rights laws which the former Rudd government had a committee headed by Father Frank Brennan ex-

plore a couple of years ago for their potential to introduce nationally. Basically, it would have required new legislation to pass through a filter to check that it protects particular rights, and any Bill or government decision that didn't comply would've been sent back for review.

A Charter of Rights would also have meant that if a person believed that their rights had been violated by the government or a public official, they could have brought the matter to the attention of the court. If a similar system operated for the rights of nature, kangaroos and bats would have needed others to bring infringements of their rights to the court on their behalf, of course.

Even that relatively modest proposal was too much for Australia, the only Western democracy without a Bill or Charter of Rights. But the bottom line is that the Bolivian and Ecuadorian laws are about recognising that nature is a living being, akin to James Lovelock's Gaia. Whether or not we can legislate for that in Australia, it's a timely reminder.

■ Mark Byrne is education officer at the EDO Northern Rivers. For more information or help about this or any other environmental law issue, please call 1300 369 791 or email edonr@edo.org.au.

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# Seven



MAY 12-18, 2011

ALL YOUR LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

**FREE  
TIX**  
 the  
 yearlings

The Yearlings will be playing the north coast next week as part of their Far East tour. *The Echo* has a double pass to give away for each of their local gigs. The Yearlings will be playing at the Basement at the Gold Coast Arts Centre on Thursday May 19. To win a double pass email: [gigs@tweedecho.com.au](mailto:gigs@tweedecho.com.au) with the subject heading, 'Far Out! It's the Far East Tour'.



NITESTAR AT CABARITA BEACH BAR FRIDAY

## Yearning for The Yearlings

AFTER KICKING UP THEIR HEELS AT MULLUM MUSIC FESTIVAL LAST YEAR, THE YEARLINGS ARE COMING BACK TO PLAY TWO LOCAL GIGS, AT THE DRILL HALL AND MT BURRELL'S SPHINX ROCK CAFE.

**What is it about a Yearlings' live show that keeps people coming back?** Oh I'm not sure too many folk do come back. But the ones that do really enjoy the simplicity of the sound, the warmth of the sound, the intensity of the sound, and the sensitivity and chemistry of our playing together. And of course, the witty banter and bad jokes.

**What's your songwriting process? How do you shape your songs before they reach the stage or a recording?** Writing songs is a solitary thing. We join forces if we get stuck or need an opinion or we need to edit. When we first start playing a new song together it's kind of a magical time: it's all so new and you have to have the tape rolling to get those uninhibited ideas down or they can be lost.

Before you 'know' the song too well is when you can come up with really good ideas for parts. Then when you're playing live you have to know the song so well that so you can play without thinking about the arrangements and bring something new to it each time.

**What music or musicians do you find the most inspiring or influential?** I love organic music, songs and a sound that just seems to spring from the well, without too much thought or planning, when musicians are good enough the sound is formed naturally. I love the blues and music inspired by the blues.

**In your nine years together how have things changed for you in The Yearlings to those first years? How do you maintain healthy band relationships?** When our first record came out in 2002 we were very much an acoustic folk / country style of band and we travelled as a duo for many years.

Since then we have naturally formed a sound that works for us and it has evolved over all those years; it's become freer and looser in approach, funkier I guess. Playing now more and more as a three-piece with BJ Barker on drums really has opened the sound up and the instruments seem to have their place in the mix.

We maintain our healthy band relationship by paying our drummer first.

**Like in a love relationship, great bands are all about chemistry and a certain synchronicity (like you all need to be available at the same time). How do you know when you've found the 'one' or 'ones'?** Well you know Rob and I are pretty synchronised naturally, and she's such a great songwriter I would have been crazy to miss playing guitar and singing with her. We play all the time together at home so we are usually in sync.

As for BJ, our drummer, he came up to us after a gig in Adelaide once and said 'You need me to drum for you guys', so that was that. I guess the only real way of knowing that stuff, really, when it comes down to it is whether you like playing



with someone or not; that'll tell you.

**Do you do all your recording in your home studio?** Well, we did Sweet Runaway there and recorded a Big Joe Williams's song, called Juanita, that came out on a tribute album. That's it so far for Yearlings' material that has been released, but we will certainly record our next album there and bring it out on vinyl as well.

**What do you think your studio brings to your sound as compared with big commercial setups?** I guess it's like playing your instrument really: the more you use it or practise, you get better and it's the same with the studio, so we are developing 'our' sound which is individual to us. The studio My Sweet Mule also has limitations (Emmylou Harris once said that your style or sound is formed by your own limitations, and she's right) - it's an eight-track one-inch tape machine, so there is no room for layers and layers of stuff, so your own performance becomes very focused.

**You've just recorded Sara Tindley at your studio. How did that end up going?** It was great, a very organic approach again. Sara's such a great singer and the songs came out beautifully, it was so cool to get her to record there with us. We put a band around her, which was basically The Yearlings with double bass and piano accordion.

We didn't rehearse too much before recording; in fact it's good the players don't know what's going on too much, so we just sit around the kitchen table and work through the arrangement, then straight in and record, done.

**The Yearlings and Laneway are appearing this Friday at Sphinx Rock Cafe, Mt Burrell, 7pm. Tix \$10 Bookings 02 6679 7118 [www.sphinxrockcafe.com](http://www.sphinxrockcafe.com) and at Unplugged in the Basement, Gold Coast Arts Centre on Thursday May 19.**

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# Soap Box

OPENING A CAN OF WORMS

Mandy Nolan



I REMEMBER going to a friend's house when I was a kid and spying an electric can-opener. I was gobsmacked. I'd never seen anything so remarkable. This gleaming countertop white good was the most state-of-the-art appliance I had ever seen.

My mum still made her cakes with a whisk and refused to succumb to the seduction of the crockpot. She thought the electric frypan was too fancy and was the only woman at the Tupperware party to leave without a Lettuce Spinner. She was anti-gadget.

But how could she resist the electric can-opener? It was cutting edge. Space age! It blew my tiny mind. Wow, if the tops of cans could be removed by an electric device without the hardship of manual labour, then the future that I was going to occupy was going to be amazing! How lucky was I to be born into an era where all difficult tasks, like the opening of a can, had become mechanised!

I went home to my mother and declared 'Julie Wesling's family is rich'. My mother looked unimpressed. 'Can we get an electric can-opener?' She looked at me sadly and shook her head. 'I'm sorry, darling, but we just can't afford it.' And so our family was relegated to the manual opening class.

All through my childhood I envied little girls whose parents had electric openers. I imagined them enjoying the whizzing purr of their slick machines as I suffered the nightly chore of opening cat food tins with the butterfly opener. My mother assured me that it was in fact state-of-the-art compared to the church-key hand-operated device she used to

use to pry open cans. 'Really? You didn't use a sharp rock like the other cavegirls?'

In retrospect I see my mother was right. Electric can-openers are a classic example of over-design. Opening a can with a regular opener was always far more efficient than fussing with a clumsy benchtop device. And really, unless both your hands are crippled by arthritis, using it is the equivalent level of consumer overkill as a walking person using a wheelchair.

I don't think I've even seen another electric can-opener since the early eighties. They're buried deep in a time capsule marked 'Embarrassments in Design' along with electric plate-warmers, Betamax videos and a crate of polaroid Le Specs.

These days I can't seem to find a can-opener that actually works. It would appear that we can send a space shuttle into orbit, we can map the human genome, but we can't manage to create a simple handheld device that will remove the lid from a can. It's amazing.

Design itself has almost made the need for any sort of opener obsolete. The ringpull can is the lazy person's friend. I'll pay \$2 more for a product just because it's got a ringpull. I dream of finding an opener that can give me that smooth opening action that I used to get in the seventies. It's a sad fantasy, but at night when confronted with an unyielding can of coconut cream, if a magic genie were to appear and grant me three wishes, one of them would be for a fricking can-opener! I might sound old when I say this, but they just don't make can-openers like they used to.



legend Booker White. Booker's Guitar has gone on to recently win the 2010 Down-Beat Critics Poll for best Blues Album! While an artist that has been inspired by pre-war Delta blues music, Eric Bibb has brought the acoustic country-blues sound into the new century with *Booker's Guitar*. *The New York Post*

## Godfathers salute with fingers

**Suicidal Tendencies** were never afraid of a little controversy. The godfathers of crossover thrash and creators of skate punk have dedicated their careers to delivering the middle finger salute to anyone who opposed their views – which included LA authorities who banned them for playing in the city for six years. Unbelievably influential, without *Suicidal Tendencies* you would not have the myriad of thrash metal and vicious hard-core bands that permeate the modern musical landscape. Delivering the fast-paced, aggressive and raw sound they pioneered, *Suicidal Tendencies* will be getting psycho on their Australian tour which makes its next call at the **Coolangatta Hotel Thursday**.

## Master of songcraft

**Eric Bibb**, international folk-blues master of songcraft, is returning to his Australian fans – new and longer term alike – to perform a series of inspirational concerts. In duo mode for this Australian tour, Eric will be accompanied by beautiful Swedish guitarist Staffan Astner, (Celine Dion) who is also featured on a new live CD (called *Troubadour Live!*) Eric will showcase material from his latest full length studio release – *Booker's Guitar* – an incredible album inspired by the opportunity Eric had to play a 1930s guitar owned by blues

explains the genesis of the new album, 'After a London gig, a fan approached Eric to see if he wanted to play blues legend Booker (Bukka) White's vintage guitar, which he had acquired. White was B.B. King's older cousin, and a master of slide acoustic guitar Delta blues. The experience playing that blues relic fired up Bibb.' See Eric at **Currumbin Soundlounge Friday**.

## Saying it with Flower

**Dave Flower's** song writing presents an individual style, topical and emotive, a touch feisty with social commentary but undeniably groovy with lots of rhythm and energy. A faithful acoustic guitarist throughout his musical journey, David's sound is warm and earthy flowing through various styles, while engaging audiences with his lyrical delivery and catchy harmonica melodies. The soundscape is complete with a dynamic rhythm section of bass, drums, percussion and vocal harmonies inspiring and entertaining both the listener and the dancer with the bands trademark free spirited show. Established as an Aussie festival favourite and always on the move David Flower has released two albums with a third to be released later this year. See David at the **Patch Lounge Friday**.

## Sultry and soulful

**Kaffene** are a sultry, soulful and dynamic classic rock, rhythm and blues, funk and pop duo. This effervescent act is the product of generations of music. The years of experience in the music industry is apparent in their performances. The spontaneous chemistry on stage captures and holds audiences all night long. Kaffene has an energy that is fun, fresh and contagious. This duo are professional musicians and have credentials and experience a mile long and are well versed in all the modern nuances of music production and entertainment.

The huge sound of Kaffene is driven by soaring lead vocals and harmonies, brilliant guitar work and the latest in digital-audio technology and they perform songs from the 60s through to current and cover all styles including the best in R&B, funk, and 70s disco, retro, right through to the most current top 40 hits. **Currumbin RSL Friday**

## A bit dirty and a bit nah-stay

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay area, **Dirt Nasty** started rappin' on karaoke machines at the age of 14. He grew up listening to Too Short, Geto Boys, Black Sabbath, Metallica, Terence Trent D'Arby, and Sade. Never having a father figure to look up to, he learned about the game, the streets, and the ladies from his record collection. In time he moved to Hollywood and established himself as an actor, appearing in television shows such as *Baywatch* and

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## program guide



### WINTER MAY 1 - OCTOBER 31

#### MONDAY

6am **Morning Mix** Kabes  
9am **The Lighthouse Lounge** Andy Travis  
11am **Belly** Belly Sisters  
12pm **Pregnancy Birth & Beyond** Nicole Foder  
1pm **Theme Park** Lyn McCarthy  
2pm **O's Jazz and Blues** Quentin Watts  
4pm **Cruzy Beats** DJ Cruzy  
6pm **Grailey Whole Celtic Show** Margaret Wyatt  
8pm **Sounds of Africa** Brian Reichmann  
10pm **Freedom Run** Jimmy & Callum

#### TUESDAY

6am **Clockwise** Gary Street  
9am **Under Construction** Sarah & Gina  
11am **Byron Business** Phil Daly  
12pm **Soul Faya** Switch  
2pm **The Music Garden** Michael Brereton  
4pm **The Sandpit** Danny Salfield  
6pm **Post Modern Backlash** Hudson  
8pm **Radio Mundial** Steve Snelgrove  
10pm **Shel's Place** Shel Kronich

#### WEDNESDAY

6am **Catch and Grab** DJ Holly Holster  
9am **2481 Undone** Nicqui Yazdi  
11am **Go Earthcare** Ros Elliott  
12pm **Suara Indonesia** Francesca & Kirana  
1pm **Afternoon Tea Party** Adelaide French  
2pm **The Junkyard** Stuey  
4pm **Cowgirl In The Sand** Mel  
6pm **Bongo Gum** Brett Diemar  
8pm **B-boymixers** Elixir  
10pm **All Funked Up** Rich Mann

#### THURSDAY

6am **Planet Luv** Glitter  
9am **Arts Canvass** Karena  
11am **The Bohemian Beat** Riddhi  
12pm **Juke Joint** Tony Parker  
2pm **Audio Chocolate** Rich  
4pm **Future Classics** Matt Meir  
6pm **Crossroads** Paul Martin  
8pm **Cruisin For A Bluesin** The Honeyripper  
10pm **The Booty Call** Lainie

#### FRIDAY

6am **That Friday Feeling** Nicky  
9am **The Spin Cycle** Karin Kolbe  
11am **Page Turners** Pip Morrissey  
12pm **Whirled Music** Phil Hurst  
1pm **Mystery Train** Mary Cannon  
2pm **Grooveyard** Teesha & Nilesh  
4pm **Strictly Vinyl (Happy Days)** Inchie  
6pm **Chop-Suey** Rachi  
8pm **Submerged/Rotation/Down & Out** Si Clone/ POB/Slinky  
10pm **Blazing Tunes** DJ Blaze

#### SATURDAY

6am **Bay Rock** Tark  
8am **Musical Kaleidoscope** Jill  
10am **Cowboy's Sweetheart** Carrie D  
12pm **Blues From The Bay** Anthony & Ken  
2pm **Paris Cat Alley** Lou  
4pm **Intersecting Cultures** Angela  
5pm **Justice & Miss Chi** Justine & Ancika  
6pm **Random Rhythms** Ashgiri  
8pm **Diggin In The Archives** Undertaker & Joan of Ark  
10pm **In the Vaults** Matt Wardle

#### SUNDAY

7am **Astro Alchemy** Iris & Michael  
8am **Colours of Byron** Des  
10am **Jazz Moods** Jean Brown  
12pm **Omnibus** RG Pedicini & Les Schmidt  
2pm **Radio Latina** Yolanda, Salvador & David  
4pm **The Bay Lounge** aqua  
6pm **Roots & Culture** DJ Selector  
8pm **Ice Cream Truck** Fulton Hobbs  
10pm **The Space Between** Max Zoesar

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DAVID FLOWER PATCH LOUNGE FRIDAY

Felicity as well as films such as *Scary Movie 3* (2003) and *National Lampoon's Pledge This!* (2006). He also served as an MTV VJ for a brief period. Now Hollywood is his home, where he found and started the three-man group Dyslexic Speedreaders (which included Mickey Avalon and Andre Legacy). Dirt Nasty produced their cult hit *My Dick* and has produced tracks for well-known artists such as The Living Legends, Mickey Avalon, Lil' B, Andy Milonakis, and Andre Legacy (just to name a few). Yup... he's a producer too. Dirt just wrapped up touring alongside his pal Charlie Sheen where he both performed as Dirt Nasty and hosted/interviewed Charlie during the show. Get Dirty on **Saturday** at the **Coolangatta Hotel**.

## Keep it to a whisper

One of Australia's finest tributes to **John Farnham**, featuring *Australia's Got Talent* performer Mike Vee and a five-piece band complete with female vocalist and use of all the modern technology available to reproduce the full Farnham sound that fans have come to expect. Songs you will hear in the show include, *The Voice, Reasons, Help, Age of Reason, Chain Reaction, Touch of Paradise, That's Freedom* and yes they'll perform *Sadie* if you ask for it. Mike Vee, 'The Voice' of John Farnham, has been performing for over two decades and in that time he has built up a reputation as a truly dedicated entertainer with an amazing voice. As a solo performer he has opened shows for international artists such as Foster and Allen and Keith Urban. He has sung the National Anthem for the NRL in front of 25,000 people on 10 occasions! **The Whispering Jack Show** at **Currumbin RSL Saturday**.

## Getting into the rock'n'roll zone

Well, for any of you rock'n'roll buffs who have been missing the rock scene... miss no more - it's back! Every Sunday in May and June, **Currumbin RSL** will rock the house. Well, Currumbin RSL won't, the bands they've booked will. This Sunday **Atmosphere**

THE WHISPERING JACK SHOW  
CURRUMBIN RSL  
7PM SATURDAY



ERIC BIBB CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE FRIDAY

### THURSDAY 12 TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 6PM **LONE WOLF**
- CUDGEN LEAGUES 6PM **GLENN BRACE**
- IVORY TAVERN, TWEED HEADS 7PM **FRETFEST**
- NIMBIN HOTEL 6.30PM **BILL JACOBI**
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6PM VEENIE'S - **SMOOTH & GROOVE**

### GOLD COAST

- BILAMBIL SPORTS CLUB **OPEN MIC AND JAM NIGHT**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **SUICIDAL TENDENCIES**
- THE PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA 8M **LINCOLN HILLARD**
- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 8PM **PHIL EIZENBERG'S OPEN MIKE NITE**

### FRIDAY 13 TWEED

- AUSTRALIA TAVERN 9PM **CABOOSE - ANGELS & DEMONS**
- BILAMBIL SPORTS CLUB 8PM **KING LOUIE**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 8PM **BLUESVILLE STATION**
- CABARITA BEACH BAR 9PM **NITESTAR**
- CLUB BANORA 7PM **MIKE WINKWORTH**
- CUDGEN LEAGUES 7PM **PAUL MULQUEEN**
- LUFFLEY CAFE 6PM **RIGHT LEFT OF CENTRE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM **HIGH NOON**
- MARTY'S AT CABA, CABARITA BEACH 7PM **SURF REPORT**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **DARREN RAY**

- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 7PM **PHIL GUEST**
- SALT BAR KINGSCLIFF **FOSSIL ROCK**
- SPHINX ROCK CAFE 7PM **YEARLINGS WITH LANEWAY**
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB NOON **MARCO 7.30PM WACKED OUT TRIO**
- UKI HALL 8PM **GLO DANCE WITH ALI BABA & DJ PULSE**

### GOLD COAST

- CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE **ERIC BIBB**
- CURRUMBIN RSL 7PM **KAFFENE**
- PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA 8PM **DAVE FLOWER**

### SATURDAY 14 TWEED

- AUSTRALIAN TAVERN 4PM **JACK HALLIGAN - EX 8 BALL WORLD CHAMPION**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 8PM **BAGMAN**
- CHINDERA TAVERN 3PM **MOHINI COX**
- CLUB BANORA 7PM **THE DARREN J RAY QUARTET**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM **HIGH NOON**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MARTIN WAY**
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 6PM **PAUL MULQUEEN**
- SHEOAK SHACK 7PM **PHIL EIZENBERG & FRIENDS**
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM **TONY PANTANO WITH THE PETER BLOWES BAND**

### GOLD COAST

- COOLANGATTA HOTEL **DIRTY NASTY WITH KID MAC & DJ KILLER CAMERON & MASTA CRAFT**
- CURRUMBIN RSL 7PM **THE WHISPERING JACK SHOW**

- PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA 8PM **I LOVE THE 80S WITH DJ ALFIE ROMEO**
- TWIN TOWNS 8.30PM **BRIAN CADD AND RUSSELL MORRIS**

### SUNDAY 15 TWEED

- BABALOU, KINGSCLIFF HOTEL, 3PM **ANDY MARSHALL**
- CLUB BANORA 11.30AM **LISA SHAH 12.30PM GLENN BRACE**
- MARTY'S AT CABA CABARITA BEACH 2PM **MARK FERRIS**
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 4PM **BILL JACOBI**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL MURWILLUMBAH 2PM **BROADFOOT**
- SPHINX ROCK CAFE 1PM **LOREN**
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 5PM **CRAIG SHAW**

### GOLD COAST

- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **GYPSY & THE CAT**
- CURRUMBIN RSL 1.30PM **ATMOSPHERE**
- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA **EASY SUNDAYS**
- PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA 3PM **NICK MUIR**
- SURFERS BEER GARDEN **SUNDAY SESSIONS**

### MONDAY 16 TWEED

- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 12 NOON **ROBBIE ROSENLUND**
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM **ROBBIE ROSENLUND**

### TUESDAY 17 TWEED

- MARTY'S AT CABA CABARITA

### BEACH 7PM JAM NIGHT WITH ANNETTE

- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM **NOEL PARLANE**

### GOLD COAST

- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **A DAY TO REMEMBER & UNDEROATH (PICTURED)**



### WEDNESDAY 18 TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 6PM **JAYNE HENRY**
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 11AM **CRAIG MARTIN AND THE SWING BAND**

### THURSDAY 19 TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 6PM **LONE WOLF**
- CUDGEN LEAGUES CLUB 6PM **DAVE CAVANAGH**
- IVORY TAVERN, TWEED HEADS 7PM **FRETFEST**
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6PM VEENIE'S - **HOT FUDGE**

### GOLD COAST

- BILAMBIL SPORTS CLUB **OPEN MIC AND JAM NIGHT**
- CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE **CORNERSTONE ROOTS**
- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 8PM **PHIL EIZENBERG'S OPEN MIKE NITE**

The Tweed Echo has the most comprehensive entertainment gig guide in the area. For your free listing, email [gigs@tweedecho.com.au](mailto:gigs@tweedecho.com.au) or phone us on (02) 6672 2280. Deadline is noon Tuesday prior to Thursday's publication.

<p><b>AMC Tweed 6 Cinemas</b> Tweed City Shopping Centre, 54 Minjungbal Drive, South Tweed Heads 07 5523 3321 <a href="http://www.amcmovies.com.au">www.amcmovies.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>Murwillumbah Regent Cinema</b> 5 Brisbane St, Murwillumbah 02 6672 8265 <a href="http://www.cinemaregent.com">www.cinemaregent.com</a></p>	<p><b>BCC, Coolangatta</b> Coolangatta Shopping Resort Griffith St (Cnr Warner St) Coolangatta 07 5536 9300</p>	<p><b>Cinemax Cinema</b> 60 Marine Parade Kingscliff 02 6674 4422</p>
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Wed 11 May 10.30am Free floortalk: Natalie Wilson Assistant Curator, Art Gallery NSW

**On display until 16 October**  
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BYRON BAY	<p><b>Santos Trading Warehouse</b> Mon-Thurs 9 to 5 Fridays 9 to 4 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 3/7 Brigantine Street, Byron Arts &amp; Industry Park (02) 6685 5685</p>	<p>Small enough for personal care, large enough to offer competitive prices. Santos has been supplying high quality biodynamic, organic, natural foods, and healthy products since 1975. We continue our commitment to sourcing as locally as possible. Santos is the home of Rainfed Rice—zero irrigation, certified biodynamic, as local as you can get, and the most delicious rice you're likely to find. Visit <a href="http://rainfedrice.com.au">rainfedrice.com.au</a> for more info, or visit our online store at <a href="http://santostrading.com.au">santostrading.com.au</a>. Eat well.</p>	<p><b>Sheoak Shack</b> 64 Fingal Rd, Fingal Head Ph 07 5523 1130 Wed &amp; Thurs 11am-5pm, Fri &amp; Sat 11am-10pm &amp; Sun 9.30am-5pm <a href="http://www.sheoakshack.com">www.sheoakshack.com</a></p>	<p>If you are looking for delicious food, coffee or romantic sunset cocktail on the riverbank, the Sheoak Shack is the beach shack for you with a funky laid back daytime vibe or a party atmosphere with live music on Saturday nights. This gallery/cafe showcases the work of high quality local artists and is available for private functions... more Byron than Byron, in sleepy Fingal Head.</p>	FINGAL HEAD
	<p><b>Chinderah Tavern</b> 66 Chinderah Bay Drive, Chinderah Ph 02 6674 1137 <a href="http://www.taphouse.com.au">www.taphouse.com.au</a> Open 7 days Lunch 12pm-2.30pm Dinner 5.30pm-8.30pm</p>	<p>The 'Chindy' is an ideal place to bring family and friends of all ages for a real country pub experience. Kick back and watch the kids play on our brand new playground while you enjoy an ice cold beer and a dozen of our famous \$12 oysters on the deck overlooking the Tweed river. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner, with afternoon entertainment on the weekends. Come and see why everyone is talking about the new Chinderah Tavern.</p>	<p><b>FINS</b> Salt Village, Kingscliff <b>6674 4833</b> <a href="mailto:dining@fins.com.au">dining@fins.com.au</a> Dinner 7 days Lunch Fri, Sat &amp; Sun</p> <p><b>GOOD FOOD GUIDE</b> CHEFS HAT EVERY YEAR SINCE 1998</p>	<p><b>COOKING CLASSES WITH STEVEN SNOW</b> Wednesday 1st June 'Secrets of Saffron and other Spices'. \$109 per person including food and wine.</p>	
<p><b>O-Sushi</b> Coolangatta Showcase on the Beach <b>07 5536 5455</b> Byron Bay Woolies Plaza, Jonson St <b>02 6685 7103</b> Broadbeach The Oracle, 12 Charles Ave <b>07 5570 2166</b></p>	<p><b>Winner of the 'Favourite Japanese Restaurant all over Qld' in the I Love Food competition 2010</b> Eat in or takeaway. Licensed. Open 7 days 11am till late. O-Sushi is a modern Japanese restaurant guided by a philosophy that incorporates traditional values of providing the best possible service combined with fresh wholesome food. <a href="http://www.osushi.com.au">www.osushi.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>Saltbar Beach Bar &amp; Bistro</b> Bells Boulevard, Salt Village, South Kingscliff Open 7 days 1300 725 822 <a href="http://www.saltbar.com.au">www.saltbar.com.au</a></p>	<p>Saltbar has something for everyone, a large deck, newly refurbished Sports Bar, family friendly Bistro and Kids Korner. As well as ocean views, there's always a great atmosphere, daily food specials, a well-equipped children's area, live music and more. Kids eat free* Mon-Thurs 5.30-7pm + free kids' movie 7pm, T-Bone Tues &amp; free trivia, Half Price Wednesday + free Karaoke 7pm. Saltbar is on the absolute beachfront, Salt Village, 15 mins south of Coolangatta Airport. *conditions apply</p>	COOLANGATTA	
<p><b>Alleys</b> Currumbin RSL Club Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Open 7 days lunch and dinner 07 5534 7999 <a href="http://www.currumbin.com.au">www.currumbin.com.au</a></p>	<p>Join us for <b>Sunday breakfast</b> From 8.30am every Sunday in May. Hot and cold buffet \$14.95 adults/7.95 kids Bookings highly recommended <b>Winner - Best Club Restaurant 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Clubs QLD Awards)</b></p>	<p><b>The Beach Shack</b> Shop 5, 60 Marine Parade, Kingscliff (next to Subway) 6674 5822 Open 7 days 9am-5pm</p>	<p><b>NOW SERVING</b> Heartwarming homemade soups and tasty toasted sandwiches from \$5.50. <b>MAY SPECIAL</b> Buy one coffee, get one free. Present this ad. <b>FEELING FLAT?</b> Let Josie make you one of her magic fresh juices. All made with love.</p>		CURRUMBIN
		<p><b>Mt Warning Hotel</b> Open 7 days 10am till late Bistro open daily 1497 Kyogle Rd, Uki 02 6679 5111</p>	<p>One of the region's great old country pubs. Delicious food, bistro open for lunch everyday from 12-2pm, dinner Thursday to Sunday from 6-8pm. Children's playground, relaxing beer garden. Curry night on Thursday, raffles and member's draw on Friday, punter's draw on Saturday and on Sunday there is a delicious roast.</p>	UKI	

will have you rockin' in ya boots. They have performed around Australia at some of Australia's most popular venues and have supported acts such as The Drifters, John English, John McSweeney, Chad Morgan, and The Mentals. Formed over 13 years ago today Atmosphere are one of Australia's most popular four-piece blues and rock cover bands. These guys have a lifetime love of music with a large repertoire of crowd toe tapping, get down and boogie favourites. **Currumbin RSL Sunday.**

**The wanderer and the feline**

As 2010 closed **Gypsy and the Cat** released their debut album *Gilgamesh*, which in a short period became one of the most regarded and talked about albums of the year. It has been followed by a summer of hugely attended festival appearances including national berths on both the Big Day Out and Future Music Festival where the band was a standout for many. Three songs from the album made the Triple J's Hottest 100 chart, the equal most for any artist this year. Add to that a tip from the fabled NME end-of-year poll that rated Gypsy and the Cat in the world's Top 20 most likely new artist to break in 2011. The May tour will follow the band's slot on the prestigious Coachella Festival in the US and a short UK tour. And all of this comes on the eve of their national run as main support to the iconic Kylie Minogue in June. See them at the **Coolangatta Hotel Sunday.**



**GYPSY & THE CAT COOLANGATTA HOTEL SUNDAY**

**Remember, you're under oath**

The ability to evolve and push boundaries has never been more important than it is now. While the mainstream becomes safer, the dynamic, genre-bending acts are driven underground, to be discovered by a whole new generation of music fans not content with the identikit bands pushed at them through the major media. It is this hallowed place that **A Day to Remember** has not-so-subtly taken over, from stereos to mosh pits across the world. With their latest album *What Separates Me From You*, they have maintained their locomotive-like momentum, pushing their love of extremes to new heights. The hooks are their most melodic yet, in contrast to their breakdowns that are more crushing and medieval than ever before. For the six men in **Underoath**, whose members have evolved and thrived during a decade-long progression that has elevated them into one of heavy music's biggest successes, change has been ubiquitous. Overcoming what many consider their most significant line-up alteration yet, Underoath have experienced an artistic rebirth in the form of *Disambiguation*. See them both at the **Coolangatta Hotel Tuesday.**



**SUICIDAL TENDENCIES COOLANGATTA HOTEL THURSDAY**

**Crossing the Tasman for you**

With a strong lyrical approach to their music, **Cornerstone Roots** comment on vital global issues and the development of personal self-awareness. Their approach to music is about being of value and connecting with people from all walks of life. With their fusion of Jamaican, New Zealand/Pacific Island and soul-inspired musical influences, the band has produced an original sound that is uniquely Cornerstone Roots. The line-up has evolved many times since its humble beginnings, and now features six members including founders Naomi Tuao and Brian Ruawai, along with their 11-year-old son Reiki. Being no strangers to Australia, Cornerstone Roots have crossed the Tasman more than 24 times over the last seven years playing countless club and festival dates. Their music has also reached Japan and Brazil, Europe and the United States as well as their home country. The band returned from an eight-week European tour in 2010 with an astonishing response from central European countries. They have supported many a heavyweight reggae act including Burning Spear, Toots and the Maytals, Sly and Robbie, along with Michael Rose, Jimmy Cliff, Lee 'Scratch' Perry and Mad Professor. See Cornerstone along with NZ's **Tui Sound System** and some special guests at the **SoundLounge Thursday May 19.**

Wine, Dine, Relax & Play

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<p><b>Blue Pacific Bistro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Bistro Menu now available</li> <li>- Open everyday for Lunch and Dinner</li> <li>- Saturday &amp; Sunday Morning Breakfast</li> </ul>	<p><b>Little Nippers Kids Room</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are a family friendly Club</li> </ul>
<p><b>Oceans Café</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great selection of Light Meals &amp; Beverages</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Shack Bottleshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sure you check out our great weekly specials</li> </ul>
<p><b>Daily Promotions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our daily promotions include Bingo, Raffles, Trivia, plus plenty more.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Free Live Entertainment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enjoy the best weekly Free Live Entertainment on the Coast</li> </ul>

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1. Ricky Gervais sees dead people to comic effect in Ghost Town (Prime, Friday, 8.30pm). Nothing like being hassled by folk on the other side. 2. Baby boomer boy wet dream Sophia Loren stars alongside Anthony Quinn in the 1958 comedy/drama The Black Orchid (ABC2, Saturday, 10.10pm), preceded by the film of Kurt Vonnegut's play Happy Birthday, Wanda June. 3. Jim Carrey gives multiple personality disorder a bad name in Me, Myself & Irene (Eleven, Sunday, 8.30pm). Here he sleeps with a mug shot of Renee Zellweger, as you would.



FRIDAY 13. ABC 1, ABC NEWS 24, TEN, ONE HD, PRIME, 7TWO, 7MATE, GO!, GEM, NBN, SBS 1, SBS 2, ABC 2, ABC 3. Includes program listings for various channels and networks.

SATURDAY 14. ABC 1, ABC NEWS 24, TEN, ONE HD, PRIME, 7TWO, 7MATE, GO!, GEM, NBN, SBS 1, SBS 2, ABC 2, ABC 3. Includes program listings for various channels and networks.



stars WITH LILITH Yes, the shadow side of life is scheduled to show its shady face this Friday the 13th, but instead of getting all jittery, why not meet its mischief with your own sassy magic...

ARIES: As your ruling planet Mars moves to the sign of money honey, this week's focus is on asset management. A tough decision could miraculously materialise some funding, and a surprise windfall isn't out of the question either. Unexpected recognition also delivers a juicy boost. TAURUS: Your personal appeal and initiative are peaking right now, so focus on a new perspective - it's hard to be fresh with a load of old reactions operating. When Thursday's Mars joins the Sun in Taurus your year takes off and others want you on their team. GEMINI: This week says in personal concerns, stop keeping score. And attend to unfinished business: those loose, dangling threads that could trip you up down the track. Not as yawn-makingly boring as it sounds, because it frees up megawatts of energy for interesting new pursuits. CANCER: This week percolates with sensual possibilities, intimate adventures and lush indulgences, any or all of which could restore your spiritual bling. But Black Friday's vibes suggest spending it wherever you feel secure, with trusted others or on your own with a bunch of comfort accessories. LEO: If you're hot to help a worthy cause or crusade, don't hesitate to pull strings and call in support from connections in high or low places. Then having charmed donations from the disinterested, this week suggests indulging animal appetites, so go ahead and feast the beast. VIRGO: Friday excepted, this week's good for patching up misunderstandings in the heart department because, no doubt about it, it's your kind of seriously sexy week. Travel, either in the internal world of ideas or externally, is likely to provide answers to some pressing questions. LIBRA: Your ruling planet Venus and financial advisor Saturn both work this week's money matters to your advantage. If Friday's discordant vibes make decisions difficult with others not on the same page, website or planet, then just do what you do best and look for mutual benefits. SCORPIO: This week's dance-off is between support and opposition. Caution's advised, because acting impulsively could mean expensive damage control later on. The key to this

whole week is stringency. Not feeling it? Then focus on the galaxy of ways you could operate without maxing the plastic. SAGITTARIUS: During May, your month of Doing Too Much, it's vital not to neglect your health. For your charismatic enthusiasm to have maximum impact, don't overstretch your body elastic till it runs out of snap. Even more importantly, connect every day with the flirty, playful side of life. CAPRICORN: Necessities, obligations and responsibilities making you just want to couch potato? Too bad, because with this month's planets in your house of fun and favorite things, out of town guests or overseas visitors enrich your existence and do wonders for your exuberance, prestige and street cred. AQUARIUS: A gaggle of planets roosting in your fourth house of home base activate hibernation hormones to recharge flat batteries and depleted chi - so far, so fab. This week's only bugbear is stubbornness. Yours. Unthinkable! But is it? Not to those dealing with your unwavering determination. PISCES: All the constructive restructuring you've been doing lately should be showing results by now. Yes, exotic possibilities with splendid potential are available, but they require constant reality checks: like being thoroughly examined, modified if necessary, then either discarded or acted on before they go stale.







Follow the footy tipping fortunes of the Tweed's local business people each week with

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**ROUND 10**

**Bulldogs v Dragons**  
Friday 7:30pm ANZ Stadium

**Panthers v Broncos**  
Friday 7:30pm Centrebet Stadium

**Storm v Raiders**  
Saturday 5:30pm AAMI Park

**Rabbitohs v Tigers**  
Saturday 7:30pm ANZ Stadium

**Cowboys v Eels**  
Saturday 7:30pm Dairy Farmers

**Knights v Warriors**  
Sunday 2:00pm Ausgrid Stadium

**Sharks v Roosters**  
Sunday 3:00pm AAMI Park

**Titans v Sea Eagles**  
Monday 7:00pm Skilled Park

**POINTS TALLY**

Alison Harman	101
Rory Curtis	96
Winston Lamont	91
Mark Harriott	91
Chris Graham	88
Video Pete	86
Eve Jeffery	84
Ziggi Browning	82
Tristan Wetherelt	81
Mr Rental	80
Paul Taylor	74
Kel Tor	72
Peter Craddock	72
Carole Goodway	68
Chris Holt	66
Greg Swift	64
Phil Harris	62
Barry Schadel	62
Phillip Kelly	62

Pos	Team	P	Pts	W	D	L	B	F	A	PD
1	Dragons	9	16	8	0	1	0	197	86	111
2	Storm	9	14	7	0	2	0	242	130	112
3	Broncos	9	14	7	0	2	0	180	109	71
4	Sea Eagles	9	12	6	0	3	0	190	139	51
5	Cowboys	9	12	6	0	3	0	200	160	40
6	Bulldogs	8	12	5	0	3	1	180	166	14
7	Wests	8	10	4	0	4	1	185	153	32
8	Warriors	9	10	5	0	4	0	180	165	15
9	Knights	8	10	4	0	4	1	170	167	3
10	Rabbitohs	8	8	3	0	5	1	173	210	-37
11	Eels	8	8	3	0	5	1	106	210	-104
12	Roosters	8	6	2	0	6	1	141	182	-41
13	Sharks	8	6	2	0	6	1	147	192	-45
14	Titans	9	6	3	0	6	0	147	206	-59
15	Panthers	8	6	2	0	6	1	130	193	-63
16	Raiders	9	2	1	0	8	0	142	242	-100



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Roosters  
Titans



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## Renters forced to splash the cash to secure accommodation

Increased competition among Australian renters has led to extreme tactics being used to secure accommodation a real estate report has found.

The new Consumer Insights Report for Rent by realestate.com.au has unearthed some alarming findings among renters who are going to extreme lengths to secure rental accommodation, due to a shortage of quality rental accommodation.

Twenty-three per cent of property seekers looking to rent have admitted to offering between \$10 and \$20 more than the asking price per week – a four per cent upwards jump from the last report in 2007 – to secure a rental property.

A further 30 per cent of respondents had even offered real estate agents an upfront payment to secure the right rental property, with male



respondents, those living in metropolitan areas and those searching for higher-end properties (\$750 or more per week) more likely to offer an upfront payment.

Henry Ruiz, General Manager Consumer Experience and Product Marketing for realestate.com.au, indicated the increased competition can be

attributed to a number of market forces including a shortage of properties, seasonality and

lack of quality of stock. 'According to the report, there has been a significant

jump in the number of people attending open for inspections with more than five people inspecting properties in 59 per cent of cases, up 17 per cent from the last report,' he said.

'In fact, two out of three (65 per cent) Australians are searching for properties with weekly rents of \$300 or more – a 25 per cent jump since the last report. While rental rises have been consistent among most states, those living in New South Wales (40 per cent – a +18 per cent increase) and in Western Australia (41% – a +26 per cent increase) are now searching for properties cost-

ing \$400 or more a week.' While increased competition and increased rental rates may be daunting for some, Henry suggests there are a number of things renters can do to improve their chances of securing that rental property. 'Doing your research before you leave the house is paramount, having a good references and a good rapport with the real estate agent helps.'

Realestate.com.au has partnered with iForm to help rental seekers streamline the application process by allowing applicants to apply online for rental properties.

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Former Tweed model turned singer-songwriter Sarah Archer is launching her debut EP tomorrow, (May 13), at Tugun Progress Hall. The EP, titled *Waking Up Tomorrow*, will be available on iTunes in late June. A former Tweed River High School student, Sarah signed with EMI last year and has since worked with hit-song producers. Tickets are available on the door from 7pm.

Motorcycle clubs in Australia tend to get some bad press from time to time so it's good to record that last month members of the local chapter of the Finks Motorcycle Club made an impressive donation of \$1,500 to the children's ward of Murwillumbah District Hospital. The deputy director of nursing at the hospital, Mark Davies, said 'despite their sometimes colourful character and reputations, motorcycle clubs such as the Finks have traditionally supported hospitals, with children's wards a particular focus.' Mr Davies said it was the fifth donation by the club and thanked them on behalf of the hospital and community.

Speaking of the hospital, a longtime campaigner against its downgrading, Murwillumbah journalist Bob Dow, died there last Thursday night after a long illness. Bob, the 76-year-old former editor of the local daily, was passionate about the hospital and his hometown. In the mid-1990s, Bob helped organise the biggest public protest in the town's history to save the hospital when it was feared the government would close it down. He was board member of the hospital and chairman of the Murwillumbah Bowls Club for 18 years. His funeral was held on Wednesday at the All Saints Anglican Church in Murwillumbah. A big hats off to Bob, who as a retired former local journalist wished *The Echo* well when it launched almost three years ago.



Left: Lil Smart of Kirra, left, celebrated her 100th birthday on April 28 at Tweed Heads Bowls Club where she is a life member. Though Lil no longer plays, she is well known in Tweed bowling circles, often nicknamed Cannonball Lil, for 'always taking out the shot'. Lil held senior positions with the Gold Coast Tweed Ladies District Bowling Association, including president for many years, and played bowls into her 90s. Last weekend, the Tweed Bridge Club also held a special afternoon tea for their life member. Photo Jeff 'Whippersnapper' Dawson

In our article last week on coal-seam gas mining, it was wrongly stated that the data on exploration licences was 'amassed' by the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO), when in fact it is available on the Department of Primary Industries website. The EDO is based in Lismore, not Kyogle, and the EDO's Mark Byrne said the current regulatory structure associated with coal-seam gas exploration was 'ad hoc' rather than 'hopelessly inadequate' as quoted.

Now in its 11th year, the Tweed Seniors Expo will be held next Thursday, May 19, from 9am to 3pm at the Seventh Day Adventist Centre, Racecourse Road, Murwillumbah. The program includes stalls, information sessions, workshops and entertainment, with television medico Dr James Wright to give a presentation on health and ageing. Free shuttle buses will run from Murwillumbah town centre, Tweed Heads, West Tweed, Bilambil, Terranora and the Tweed Coast. For bookings call 02 6670 2492. For a full program see the latest *Tweed Link* newsletter at [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au) or call 02 6670 2527.

Community groups and organisations may have noticed our Noticeboard has been missing for the past two weeks due to lack of space. We promise our

many readers, volunteers and community groups that in future we will reserve space to ensure most notices are published.

...and while we're on the subject of readership, advertisers should take note that the *Tweed Echo* has just been audited by the Circulations Audit Bureau for the six months end-

ing March 31. The audit verifies our claims to advertisers about how many papers are individually home delivered, go to bulk drops, commercial distribution to business owners, etc. Therefore we're proud to say that, unlike some other weeklies circulating the shire, our figures (of 21,000 per week) are 'CAB audited'.

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**Talk to Council about the direction of the Tweed**

Last year, the Tweed community outlined its vision and objectives for the Tweed over the next 10 years, through feedback to the Community Strategic Plan.

Now it's time to comment on the services, projects and programs Council intends to deliver over the next four years based on that feedback.

The draft Delivery Program 2011/2015 and Operational Plan 2011/2012 are on exhibition for public comment until Friday 27 May.

**Come and talk to us:**  
 Kingscliff Markets  
 Saturday May 14 - 8am-noon  
 Uki Markets  
 Sunday May 15 - 8am-noon  
 Tweed City, Tweed Heads South Wednesday May 18 - 10am- 2pm

- Visit the 'On Exhibition' section of Council's website [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au)
- Go to the online forum [www.yoursaytweed.com.au/delivery](http://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/delivery) to make a comment.
- Visit the information stalls (see times below).
- Printed copies can be viewed at Council offices in Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads as well as Kingscliff, Murwillumbah and Tweed Libraries.



TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL | TOGETHER FORWARD

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