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Heath (Editorial)
Environ Heath

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 Serving... Rosebank, Federal, Eureka, Dunoon, Dorroughby, Corndale, Goonengerry, Upper Coopers Creek, Repentance Creek, Bexhill, Clunēs, Eltham



The view downstream from the Whian Road causeway on Coopers Cræk, Eureka *photo G Kindred*

In this issue... • LITTLE SCRUB DAY • BIODEISEL • NEWS
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 • LANDCARE NEWS • POLITICS • SCHOOL NEWS • KOALAS
 • RAINFALL • TAROT • STARS • DIRECTORY ...and much more!

phone 66882220 journal@nrg.com.au PO Box 45, Rosebank, 2480

Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

The Ringtail possum is yet another little critter which shares our environment, but many would never have seen it in the wild. Often when we go on a rescue, people will tell us they were not aware that they had these marsupials on their property. The reason for this is most likely that the ringtail is very shy and rarely comes out before it is totally dark, and is back in its drey before most of us are out of bed in the morning.

Ringtail adults are 30-35cm long with a tail the same length again. Weight is about 700-1100 grams. It is found all along the east coast of Australia from Cape York to Tasmania, species being slightly different from area to area. Abundance varies geographically—the Western Australian and Cape York populations are now rare; the main reasons for this have been put down to habitat destruction and predation by feral cats.

In the cities, ringtails seem to have adapted exceptionally well to suburban life, and are often seen on verandas, or close to human habitation; it is in fact a common visitor in many suburban gardens.

This is a beautiful little possum, reddish brown above and cream underbelly, large bulging eyes and small rounded ears. The lightly furred prehensile tail has a long friction pad, which is used as a fifth limb. When the ringtail is climbing amongst small branches it can hold on with the tail curled around the branch; it is also used for carrying nesting material. When the tail is not used it is carried in a tight coil like that of a watch spring.

Most ringtails usually have a white tip on the tail but we do also get them in with no white tip, so this is not always a certain way of identifying what sort of possum you may have on your property. Same as the koala and the cuscus the forefoot of the ringtail is interesting as the first two digits oppose the remaining three in a pincer like grip, rather important when you rely on climbing and jumping from tree to tree.

The home of the Ringtail is called a drey. The ringtail builds this out of stringy bark and small sticks, and it is a spherical nest, lined with shredded bark, leaves and grass. It can be built in the hollow limb of a tree, or in a bunch of mistletoe, (mistletoe is the funny looking bunches of vegetation often seen on tree branches) or amongst dense undergrowth. Breeding takes place from March–November, usually two young are born and they stay in the pouch till they are about four months old. They then travel on mum's back or can be left in the drey whilst mum forages for food, and are weaned at six months.

Ringtails live in sclerophyll forests with thick understorey and feed mainly on leaves of

eucalypt, tea tree, bottle brush, wattle, grevillea and sheoaks—they prefer the new tips. They also eat native fruits and flowers.

There are many reasons possums like this come in to care, some of which I would like to mention here. Cocos palms are common in our modern landscape and are also a favourite nesting site for our possums, ringtails in particular. In the crown of the palm is a lovely secretive dark and secure spot for the possum to build its drey. Most of us would have no idea that this is taking place, so when the palm is cut down, the drey comes down with it. This is where WIRES is often called by distressed members of the public as the possums in residence are generally injured. As you can imagine the fall from such a height would have to cause injury, the juveniles are often orphaned, as we are not always able to locate the mother after the incident.

One would think that the possums would flee when a chain saw is started. This is not the case, they freeze with fear remaining totally motionless, hoping it will go away. If at all possible, before starting the chainsaw, have a really good look up high where the fronds start on the trunk of the palm. I know this can be difficult, but by checking first, you may save yourself the heartache of watching a little family of possums being parted, injured, or in many instances killed.

If cutting old timber, tap the log or limb with the back of an axe, to make sure it is not hollow, as possums and other marsupials may call this home. One call we received was from an extremely distressed caller—he had cut through an old tree not realising it was hollow, and I will not go in to detail as to what happened in that particular instance. I am sure you can imagine the horror, not only for the possums, but also the gentleman involved.

Predators are many, amongst them feral and



domestic cats, so please make sure your cat is inside at night, and have lots of bells on its collar. Cats are very clever, and soon learn to move silently with only one or even two bells. Put three to five on and they can no longer move silently through the bush.

If you would like to join WIRES (Wildlife Information and Rescue Service), please contact us for information about our next Basic Training course, which will take place April 2 and 3, 2005.

Becoming a member of WIRES will initially license you to rescue Australian native animals, but further training is required before you will be able to foster care for these animals prior to release. Not all WIRES members participate in rescue or foster care; many fulfil other duties necessary for the smooth running of the organisation, such as: fundraising, transportation of wildlife, community education etc. All roles within WIRES are vital to ensure the best outcomes for the injured and orphaned wildlife that come into our care.

For information, assistance or to become a member, you can contact our 24 hour rescue hotline on 66281898, or email us at wiresnr@wiresnr.org. Please feel free to visit our website at wiresnr.org.

Susanne Ulyatt

Reference The Australian Museum
Complete Book of Australian Mammals.



'Just Resting'. photo Niall Stanton

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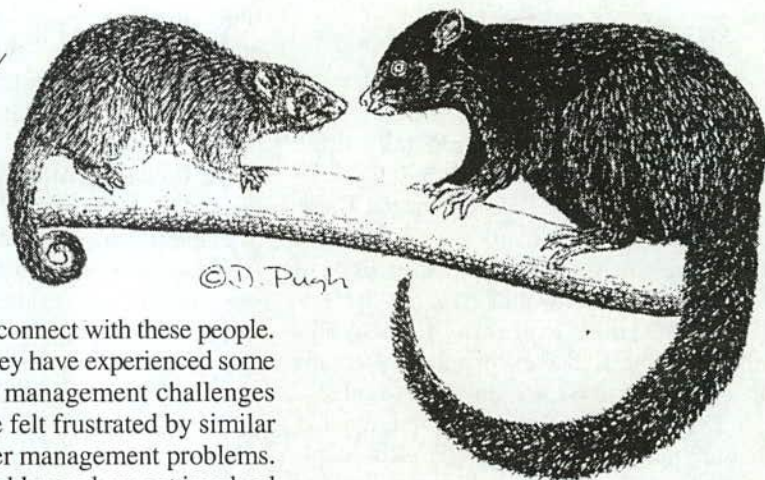
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Forum Letters

Come on Possums... let's have your thoughts on things that matter to you

Write to the VJ: PO Box 45, Rosebank or journal@nrg.com.au
please try to keep letters under 300 words



Farewell to Fellow LandCarers...

Dear Readers,

It is with an inspired feeling that I hang up my LandCare hat, after 12 months working with Richmond LandCare Inc providing support to LandCare in our region.

Inspired...because of the amazing projects and people that are involved with LandCare in the region.

In my six and a half years in working with LandCare groups, networks and regional organisations, in a number of regions over 11 years, I continue to be impressed by the resilience of the LandCare movement.

The innovation and dedication of people on the ground in identifying what problems they have and seeking solutions to their problems, is a big part of solving the problems. Developing strategies for turning around problems such as weeds, erosion, declining habitat or loss of wildlife requires much input. However, tying together the necessary input to help create important landscape opportunities is an important function of the staff at Richmond LandCare.

I truly believe that LandCare's greatest strength is its grassroots approach, and versatility in providing the opportunity for gaining new skills and knowledge—not to mention the local dialogue, social networks and changes that it helps empower people to undertake. If you are a member of a LandCare group, take the opportunity to look at what's happening in your neighbour-

ing groups and to connect with these people.

Chances are, they have experienced some of the same land management challenges you have, or have felt frustrated by similar local land or water management problems. If you are a landholder, and are not involved in a LandCare group, it makes a lot of sense—economic sense and community sense—to stay in touch with what LandCare groups are doing. I have seen some amazing outcomes by such seemingly small actions—leading people to feel less alone in or less overwhelmed by the land management or farming issue they are experiencing, giving people a shared focus.

In this region there is a great wealth of knowledge in the areas of sustainable farming; bush regeneration; weed control; coastal and threatened community management; rainforest regeneration and water quality improvement. It's really worth a look in!

To all those I have worked with, thank you for giving me the opportunity to work together. I have enjoyed my involvement with LandCare again, and wish you all the best for the future. I'll be staying in the region so I look forward to keeping an eye on all your fantastic work.

Sincerely,
Tina Clemens

Cricket Memories...

Dear Editor,

I noticed a game of cricket being played in a front yard in Rosebank. This took me back to when I was growing up in a country

town in the north west of this state.

As the unformed footpath was 66 feet long, just the length required, many afternoons were spent with other boys playing cricket.

Being left handed I had a disadvantage as over the fence was out for four while over the street (gravel) was also out for four. We used fruit boxes for wickets while bats were made out of a piece of willow, which eventually meant the handle broke.

We also played indoor cricket in the church hall with a ball made out of socks. Hitting the wall below the window was two runs, above the window four runs, while the ceiling was six runs and a broker. light was ten shillings and sixpence.

When there were only two of us we sometimes played French cricket, which was a case of defending your legs with the bat while the bowler pitched the ball from where it stopped. The easiest way to get the batter out was to make him defend his back as one could not turn round to bat.

Yours,
Stan Heywood
Rosebank

PS The issues of access at Rosebank Hall and Rosebank Store raised at the Community Forum (November, 2004) were passed so will see what develops.

ADSL Blues...

Dear Editor,

ADSL may or may not be an issue of broad enough interest for the Village Journal to canvas.

Some background—ever since Telstra offered broadband to rural exchanges some 12 to 18 months ago, I have been keen to access it.

I registered my interest on the Telstra web page and found you had to get 30 expressions of interest from users within 3km of the exchange before they would look into the feasibility and give the minimum number of connections required for them to introduce the necessary new equipment into the exchange.

continued over...

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Wed 5pm-8pm...takeaway only

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Forum Letters

continues from page 3...

The feasibility study would take three months.

Last October/November the magic 30 was achieved and late January they announced that Rosebank required 240 expressions of interest before they would make the changes.

I emailed them to see why so many (the highest of the 10,000 exchanges in Australia that I could find—some only had to achieve 30). They gave me a list of the criteria applied, but not the weighting applied to Rosebank.

So I emailed Telstra asking the basis of their decision.

They replied... 'Hi Alan, the number will vary from exchange to exchange. The required interest level is the number required to begin planning to enable a particular exchange with ADSL. In determining this required interest level, a number of factors are taken into account including:

- * Population and economic growth rates
- * Cost of transmission bandwidth from exchange to the Internet
- * Cost of exchange building and power requirements

* Cost of ADSL exchange equipment required

- * Availability of existing infrastructure
- * Access network capability (ADSL line exclusions)

* Service costs

Regards, Telstra ADSL Demand Register Team'

I emailed Ian Causley: 'Could you please use your weight to find out which of these criteria apply to Rosebank? Also I ask that you oppose the further privatisation of Telstra until we gain a satisfactory outcome to the matter of accessing Broadband at a reasonable rate. I would not have regarded Rosebank as overly remote. I can understand why we don't receive mobile given the hilly terrain, but when the main Brisbane-Sydney

fibreoptic cable passes down our road and presumably through our exchange on the same road one kilometre away, I need a better explanation than I have received so far'.

Mr Causley's office approached Telstra and as a consequence the number required to enable the Rosebank exchange to be ADSL friendly came down from 240 to 60. Which seems to me achievable. I understand the same has happened for the Federal and Clunes exchanges.

Is the Village Journal interested in inviting people's interest in ADSL? The Telstra web site spells out its costs and advantages. Basically you get much greater speed for the same cost as dial up 'Bigpond'. You can also run email and a phone line off the one connection.

Regards,
Alan Davies
Rosebank

X-box Warning...

Dear Editor,

In the *Sydney Morning Herald* there was an article about product recall for X-Box. The power cord on X-boxes manufactured before October 2003 has caused numerous fires and burns around the world. The company is replacing the power cord free of charge. The information needed is on the barcode on the base of the unit. Manufacture date, serial number and product identification number. Phone 1800073897 or go to xbox.com.

Narelle Jarvis

Where's Gus?

If anyone has seen or heard from Gus Fagioli in recent times please let the VJ know.

His good friend Markus Taibon in Germany has been trying to track him down for the past year and a half with no success and is quite concerned. ...Editor

Household Chemical Collections

Residents in Lismore and Byron Shires are invited to dispose of, free of charge, any unwanted household chemicals such as paint and paint-related products, pesticides, herbicides and poisons, solvents and household cleaners, pool chemicals, acids and alkalis and hobby chemicals.

Only household quantities (up to 20 litres) will be accepted.

- For Byron Shire, take the chemicals to the Myocum landfill on March 12 or 13, 8am-3pm.
- In Lismore Shire take them to the Wyrallah Road Waste Management Facility on Saturday April 2. 9am-4pm.

* A reminder: travel safely with the chemicals, and protect your health.

* Don't mix different chemicals together.

Information: 1800024259.



VJ Photo Competition



Send the VJ a photo of something in your area, together with 50 words describing why you like where you live.

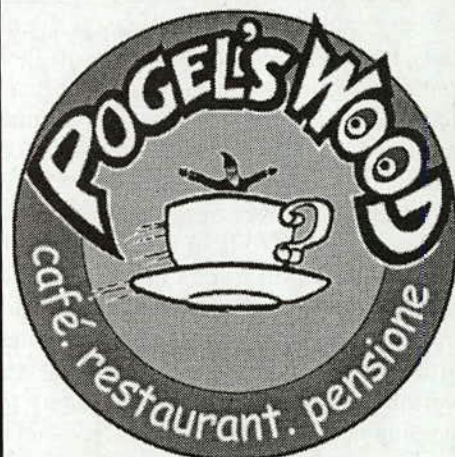
Open to all ages

...one entry per person

Best entries will be published each month.

Great prizes to be announced

Competition closes June 25
Winners announced in July VJ



Wednesday to Sunday
Breakfast & Lunch

Thursday/Friday/Saturday
Dinner

• Wednesday...\$12 Lunch

• Thursday...Local's Night

\$24.50 (2 course)

\$29.50 (3 course)

includes glass of house wine

Bookings essential

Federal
66884121

• Accommodation available

• Gallery exhibiting local artists

A Celebration of Rosebank Rainforest LandCare

**Saturday March 12, from 8am
on Armstrong Road Reserve,
Rosebank (opposite school)**



The 'creek that time forgot'—Yankey Creek, Rosebank—will have five acres (two hectares) of rainforest replanted this year thanks to Rosebank LandCare and an Envirofund grant from the Natural Heritage Trust.

The areas to be planted include an acre of public reserve, donated to the community 15 years ago and neglected ever since. The Armstrong Road Reserve currently contains half an acre of camphor forest (with some brave rainforest species struggling underneath) and half an acre of open grassland, with a nice little stretch of Yankey Creek running

through the middle.

By the end of 2005 rainforest regeneration and revegetation will help restore platypus habitat and some of the original biodiversity of the creek.

Following the success of the Big Scrub Day at Rocky Creek Dam, Rosebank LandCare will be holding a Little Scrub Day on Saturday, March 12.

At 9 and 11am, Jen (Regen) Ford will be giving practical advice and demonstrations on *Rainforest Regeneration—Where do I start? And which ones are the weeds?* while at 10am Mark Dunphy will be giving a practical talk and demonstration on *Successful Planting—What Grows Where*.

There will be kid's activities all morning, plus conservation displays including Friends of the Koala, Rainforest Rescue, Richmond LandCare, WIRES (Wildlife Information and Rescue Service), and if we're lucky, a fire truck!

Other stalls will provide coffee & cake (a fundraiser for Rosebank School), local bush foods and plants for sale.

From 8am onwards we will be planting 700 local rainforest plants on the reserve. Members of the public are most welcome to come along and plant a tree—a most satisfying activity!

Enquiries 66882038.

To protect our creek and endangered wildlife—**please don't bring your dog.**

Rosebank Store and Post Office

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- **Sydney Morning Herald and The Australian now available Monday to Friday** (contact us to reserve your copy)
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Pay your bill at Rosebank Post Office during March & go in the draw to win Lunch for 2 at the Green Frog Café.

Hours ... 7:30am - 7pm ... 7 days

Ph 66882168 Fax (02) 66882190

*** Easter Trading: Good Friday 9-5, Saturday & Monday 8.30-6**



Freedom Song...

(above) *The Reconciliation Choir* singing for freedom and justice at the **Freedom Ride 2005** gathering at Heritage Park on February 21.

Many people attended to spur-on the young people who took the ride, forty years after the first bus travelled through New South Wales, drawing attention to discrimination against indigenous people.

Lismore City Council provided free barbeque food for all.

All Welcome at Vacation Care

The Clunes Uniting Care Out of School Service (COOSH) Vacation Care will be operating during the next school holidays (April 11–22).

Once again, the service will provide high quality care and fun activities, and will be located at the Clunes Coronation Hall. Vacation care is open to all families—children do not have to attend Clunes Public School in order to use the service. Children from all schools are welcome to come and join in the fun of the popular theme days, including water fights and barbecue day, bike and blade day and pyjama day.

There are places available at Vacation Care for up to 20 school-aged children, and the service is approved to offer Child Care Benefit (CCB) to eligible families. Bookings are required, and can be made by calling 66291750.

Deirdre Hogarth



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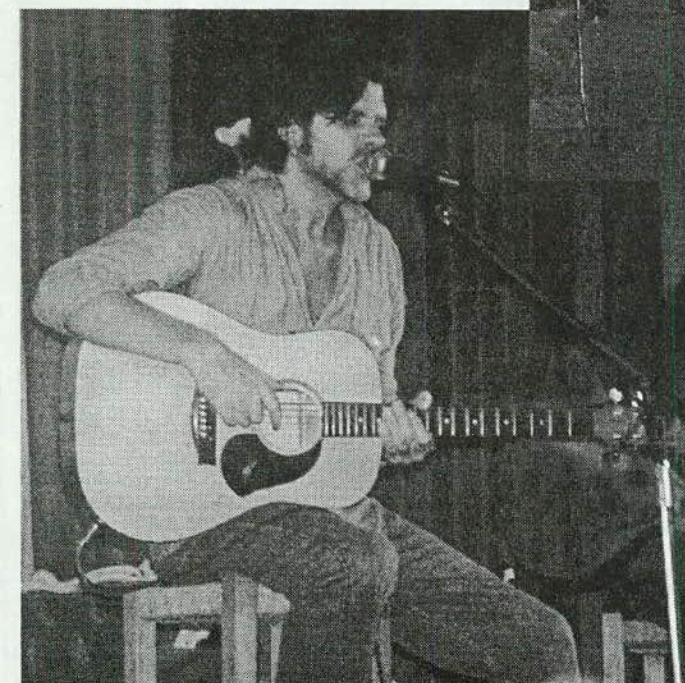
Live in Your Lounge Room

Repentance Creek Hall was the first of many venues to be chosen for the 'Live in Your Lounge Room' concert series hosted by the ABC on Sunday February 27. It has been described as an attempt to 'reclaim the halls' but some locals were left asking 'for whom?'.

The concert was very well attended, packed out in fact, with estimates of around 400 people.

The performances by Sara Tindley, Tex Perkins and Kev Carmody were superb, according to many in attendance.

But it was a case of spot the local on the night and the feedback we've received is



that many locals couldn't come at the \$20 individual or \$50 family entry fee. One local who did pay to enter described it as 'overpriced, oversold, and under-catered for'.

There were more tickets sold than could possibly fit in the hall and the food did run out quickly, leaving a few hungry patrons. To its credit the food, supplied by volunteers of the Uncle Project, was very tasty and reasonably priced, just not enough to go 'round. So there are a few lessons there for Aunty (and Uncle) if they are to put on more gigs.

The concert was very well appreciated—the style and atmosphere was very laid back. The ABC did a great job of creating that lounge-room effect and the performers' songs were very apt for a family show. Kev got a very big response and seemed to enjoy it as much as the audience enjoyed him. He was accompanied at times by Claese Pearce on violin.

His encore finale was *From Little Things Big Things Grow* and he invited all the children up on stage to join him. It was one of those magic moments and there were a few proud and teary-eyed parents watching on. Kev made the suggestion that the organisers might like to think about ways to entertain the children at future events.

All in all, it was a good attempt but needs the 'bugs' ironed out for the next country hall gig to be a real winner.

Garth Kindred



top: Sara Tindley

centre: Tex Perkins

left: Kev Carmody invites all the kids up to sing From Little Things Big Things Grow.

photos: Garth Kindred

Locals support Sri Lankan Village

Rosebank residents Ray Dingle and Gai Harris have started a relief fund specifically for the people of the Marwella village in southern Sri Lanka. They have a personal connection with the area, having bought land there several years ago—their next door neighbours are the villagers of Marwella.

The tsunami devastated this once idyllic fishing village. Five metre waves hit the village from the south-east, facing Sumatra 2000km away. More than 100 villagers died, 30 praying at a local Buddhist temple. Many houses have been completely demolished or substantially damaged and the fishing fleet destroyed. Over 6,000 people perished in this area of southern Sri Lanka—many of them fishermen, leaving families without a breadwinner.

The big NGOs and government agencies have been slow to help in this part of Sri Lanka, but the smaller, targeted funds are able to act quickly and deliver more immediate help. Ray Dingle (pictured below) and his small team in Marwella, have been able to provide gas cooking units; deliver purified water to the camps and arrange with local



authorities for electricity connection.

More recently, they have been co-ordinating the repair of 150 outboard motors in conjunction with the Sri Lankan Navy.

While the Navy has provided the personnel, it has been necessary for the Fund to provide tools, spare parts and when necessary, new motors. Ray believes it is very important to get the fishermen back to work—not only to provide food and income, but very importantly, it's the first step in returning to some form of 'normal' life.

Ray has recently returned to the village with cricket equipment kindly donated by Kingsgrove Sports in Sydney. He is looking forward to seeing the young people use something better than a stick and a stone when they play cricket!

The longer-term aim of the Marwella Village Relief Fund is to improve the quality of life of the villagers. The Fund is currently considering providing low-cost, sustainable housing for the villagers together with a community centre with a library medical clinic and computer centre.

Ray, an MG classic car collector, donated his 1947 MGTC to be raffled at a recent fundraising event in Sydney to raise money for the Fund.

For more information, the Fund's website is marwellavillagerelieffund.com.

Gai Harris



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Land Clearing Forum

The issue of land clearing has become very topical in recent times with new government legislation set to take effect. Last month the VJ received several reports from concerned residents that land clearing operations had destroyed a well established stand of native trees, including some rainforest species. We were supplied with photographs which, due to legal considerations, we were unable to publish.

Lismore City Council (LCC) was contacted, as was the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR). From phone conversations a good deal of information was gained and what became very evident is that when it comes to environmental legislation it is very hard for the average person to come to terms with what is and is not OK, when even many government officials aren't clear on the subject.

In seeking greater clarity, Rosebank Community Inc (RCI) will be hosting a public forum at Rosebank Hall on Wednesday, April 27 starting at 7.30pm. We welcome residents from all the local communities, landholders, conservationists, developers and machine operators. Our guest speakers will include Michael Hallinan, the newly appointed Bushland Management Officer on LCC, a representative from DIPNR (Alstonville Office), The North Coast Environment Council and the Catchment Management Authority have also been approached.

This forum is an information sharing session with plenty of opportunity for questions and answers. It is not intended to stir up divisions in the community but to sort out issues relating to environmental protection. We ask everyone to come, listen, learn and share in debate, but to remain calm and respectful of others, despite whatever differences of opinion may be expressed.

If you would like to ask questions in advance to our forum guests so that they can come on the night with well-researched answers then please forward these to RCI via the VJ contacts—phone, email or post.

Garth Kindred, RCI Secretary

Thanks to Organoil

Repentance Creek Hall's kitchen area is looking a lot better these days thanks to a donation of oil from Andrew Vickery, founder of Organoil, who kindly donated 4 litres recently to protect and enhance the old hall's walls.

Thank you also to Lydia Kindred and Rohan Stewart for doing a fine job painting it on.

Hall Committee

Keeping Women Healthy

Jane Reffell is a local doctor with 25 years experience in women's health, general practice and counselling. After practicing on the far north coast for ten years, Jane established women's health and wellbeing at Clunes two and a half years ago.

The practice offers women a pleasant and safe environment to address their unique medical needs, whether physical or emotional. It is also a place where you can discuss alternative, as well as mainstream medical treatments and gather information to make healthy choices that are best for you.

Dr Jane Reffell women's health and wellbeing

- well woman checks
- all women's health issues including menopause and depression

40 Main St, Clunes. appointments: **66291104** (medicare rebates apply)

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(February winner was Lydia Kindred)

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bookings...

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'This Here is Our Women's Stories'

Women, Earth and Change
Conference, April 7-10, 2005

Widjabul Country, Bundjalung
Nation, Dorrroughby Environmental
Education Centre

Women, Earth and Change is an annual gathering of women who care about the environment, peace and justice in Australia and overseas.

The conference addresses a wide spectrum of issues including indigenous, environmental, social justice and health issues, and is a gathering for women who are active for change in our communities. It is also a time to rejuvenate together and share in a feast of art, music, bushwalks, swims and fun—set beside a lush big scrub rainforest in NE NSW.

Program events include:

- Forums on nuclear, peace, forest, lesbian, eco-feminist, non-violence, disability, animal rights, spirituality, midwifery and parenting, and youth issues (and more)
- Open space to allow spontaneous workshops and issues to evolve
- An indigenous program presented by Widjabul and other Bundjalung women elders including welcome, traditional land management, food collection and preparation, and 'working with and for change'
- Local bushwalks through Widjabul and

Arakwal country, tours of nearby communities, Permaculture demo's, surfing, meditation, yoga and stillness space

• A night program, including a full moon ritual and celebration, Shiela-na-gig women's performance night, music concert and film screenings

• Deep Ecology workshop with Ruth Rosenhek (fundraiser for indigenous speakers)

All women welcome. Cost \$150-300. Entry is free for aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

To register or find out more info visit: womenandearth.org; write to 239 Dorrroughby Road, Dorrroughby 2480; phone Valerie 66895344; or email: lismorewec@womenandearth.org.

* * * * *

Cane Toads Must Die! (humanely)

Have you been seeing and hearing the cane toads lately? If you love your local aquatic life then take a stand in its protection from these little marauders.

They make good targets on the road (when ever it's safe to swerve over them) and while some are skilled with a swift blow from the back of a spade, a popular humane way is to catch them by putting a shopping bag over your hand and using it like a glove, catch them, reverse the bag over them, tie it up and place it in the freezer overnight (some say put them in the fridge a few hours first so it's not too sudden a chill).

Apparently (according to non-toad spokespersons) they just go off to sleep and toad heaven. Remember to remove them from freezer before kids mistakenly think they've found a treat, and be sure to bury them properly so that birds and animals don't scavenge their poisonous bods.

Garth Kindred

* * * * *

TOOT Campaign

TOOT (Trains On Our Tracks) is the campaign of Northern Rivers Trains for the Future Inc.

Next campaign meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 7-9pm at the Bangalow Bowling Club.

The new NRTF website is now up and running. Visit toot.org.au for all the latest news and info including meeting agendas and minutes. The site is still under development, so please be patient as the NRTF web team continue their work on getting the site fully operational.

Enquiries phone 66808516.

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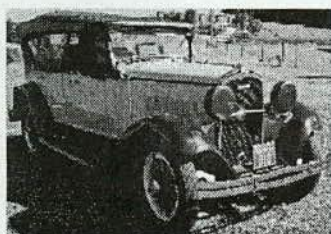
Stop the Canadian Seal Slaughter

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Friends of the Koala Rosebank Wild Koala Colonies

The main movement we are seeing is still from our males, with the major problem being the tiffs between them.

Movement by the adolescent two-year-olds, to find a suitable 'home range', always makes them vulnerable. So keep an eye out for trouble, as early calls can save a life.

Thanks to Gary and Leisa, as their early detection saved one such young male. A quick trip to Steve Irwin's new koala hospital provided the excellent facilities needed for the operation. 'Talls' (named after the Tallowwoods he lives in) will be released back into the wild as soon as he has the all clear.

As things on the koala front have been a little slow, Eric and I have been checking out the number of new Tallowwoods that are slowly re-emerging in the Whian Whian. After the logging ceased up there, smaller contractors were given the go ahead to log out the remaining Tallowwoods. This left our koalas without their prime feed trees within their home ranges. The koalas then had to seek out another source and about twenty years ago, roughly, the koalas started to move out of the forest and into the foothills and orchards. They still remain here today and happily live amongst the windbreaks and our fragmented patches of gums. This provides little protection from landholders who wish to clear or who are just ignorant

of the fact that these trees are habitat for our local koala populations. So we went in search of Tallowwoods.

Happily we did find some very scattered young trees but we did not find many larger seed trees. So the good news is that the Tallowwoods are coming back, but it will be approximately another twenty years before the Whian Whian can again support a healthy population of koalas. This means that until then, we must protect our foothill gums as best we can. I would like to have them protected by the extension of our regional corridors. However this would require the support of the Lismore Council, DEC (NPWS) and our landholders. A long and lengthy process that I will pursue. In the meantime I would like to suggest that we plant more trees on our foothills and our farms and cherish the remaining ones.

We can also make our own private corridors. For this to take effect, firstly we must map where our existing trees are located and then we can see where the gaps are. So if you would like to participate in this project, please give us a ring. We have a new answering machine and are back on line at sharonmcgrigor333@hotmail.com. We would also like to continue recording your koala sightings, so keep those sightings coming in. If you would like a koala sighting form, please let us know.

Here are a few Koala Snippets:

Did you know that the Whian Whian koalas...

- Have much lighter cubs than our foothill koalas.
- Do not eat Blackbutts, which are the main tree type left in the forest.
- Are returning to areas that have an understorey of Casuarinas.
- The Casuarina is their favourite play and training tree.
- Have not yet returned to the ridges between Minyon Grass and Minyon Falls.
- Have returned to areas near Rummery Park and Telephone Road.
- Their primary food trees in the Whian Whian are Tallowwoods and Flooded Gums.
- Only females and cubs have been sighted up there so far.

That's it for now. Please remember to ring if you see a koala in distress, on the ground or low in the same tree for a few days.

If you would like to train as a koala carer, FOK will be holding a basic training day shortly and if you would like to plant some free trees, now is the time.

Shaz and Eric,

Rosebank Koala Rescue ph 66882217.

Ashlea and Jed, ph 66882326.

FOK rescue, ph 66221233.

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Rosebank School News

Japanese Students visit Rosebank School

Rosebank School regularly hosts students from Japan or Korea who are learning English at TAFE.

On Friday morning, February 26 a group of 16 Japanese students along with their TAFE supervisors visited the school and shared songs and traditional skills like origami with the children. It's always a wonderful experience for both the children and the visitors, exchanging words and customs from each other's language. After just a few hours visit our Asian guests have made many new friends and are often teary eyed on leaving.



PSSA Cricket

Rosebank/Eureka V Clunes/Bexhill

On Thursday, February 24 Rosebank/Eureka Public Schools combined cricket team played against the Clunes/Bexhill team at Eureka Sports ground.

Rosebank/Eureka won the toss and decided to field first. Zach G and Max H both got a wicket in the opening half with some good bowling. Bobby fielded beautifully and got a run out.

Despite this Clunes/Bexhill batted well, notably Dain M. and established a high

total for Rosebank/Eureka to aim for. Unfortunately, the batting proved to be too tough and in the end some good bowling and fielding from Clunes/Bexhill lead them to victory.

In the end it was a fun day of cricket and the boys enjoyed the competition.



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Upper Coopers Creek School Happenings



Creativity Blossoms at UCC!

The students of Upper Coopers Creek Public School have been busily engaged in a number of artistic endeavours this term.

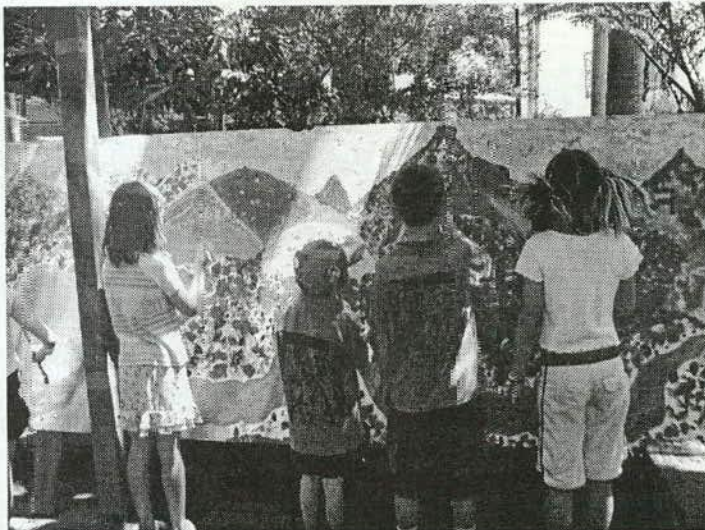
The school community is currently creating a mural that symbolises the Upper Coopers Creek environment and its community.

All members of the school community are contributing sections to the background that represents our environment. When the background is complete everyone will be invited to add themselves on the mural in any form they wish. We hope to have the mural completed by the end of term one.

The students are also participating in music lessons provided by Kate Gittens. Kate tutors students in playing a number of instruments; keyboards, saxophone, clarinet, recorders and by far the most popular percussion and drumming. Kate is also providing us with designs for a music wall made from recycled materials. This will ensure students have many opportunities to express themselves musically throughout the day.

Virginia Reid is working with the students on a five week visual arts program incorporating the use of a number of mediums such as wax, clay and paint based on the theme of 'Trees within the Rainforest.' This theme is linked to our up and coming Harmony Day celebrations focusing on 'biodiversity' and accepting differences.

We will be holding an art show later in the term displaying students' artwork.



Fundraiser for Upper Coopers Creek Primary School

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Goonengerry School News

Welcome back to all students and teachers for 2005 and welcome to all our new students and their parents.

The school year has started well, with the running of the small schools' swimming carnival in the second week. Goonengerry fared well overall and several swimmers put in very good individual performances, including Akasha, who was awarded the junior girl's champion.

Our girl's senior relay team came in second place, the senior boys placed third and the school relay team also came second. The school team won their race at the district carnival, qualifying for the zone carnival, which was held at Banora Point on February 23, where they came a credible fifth place. Congratulations to all

children who participated.

Tsunami Appeal Garage Sale

The children expressed a wish to help raise some money to donate to the tsunami appeal. As part of our contribution to Clean Up Australia Day, we are having a clean-up school day on Friday, March 4.

Following this, we will be holding a garage sale in the school grounds on Saturday March 19, from 9am until about midday, with all proceeds to be donated to the appeal. If anyone has any saleable goods they could donate for this cause, they would be gratefully accepted.

The children will also be providing some entertainment on the day. Please come along on the morning and help support this effort.

Children's Contributions...

Today Star-Raye brought in a python. It is a diamond python. It felt smooth and slimy. I didn't feel the scales. The tail fell off, it

looked like it was cut off. The tail was flat, it might have been bumpy. It was curled up. It was very long. It was about two tables joined together. I liked it.

Kachina, Year 2

I am going to Huw's house. It is going to be fun. At Huw's house we might watch a movie. We might play in the cubby. I really like Huw, he is my best friend.

Mason, Year 2

Snake. Green black with a yellow stripe. Slithering in the green grass trying to hide. I felt its cold scaly skin. I felt ice like the snake, cold and lonely. I felt like just running away from the world. Alone.

Cyane, Year 4

Python. Strong, brown, cold, slow, side to side. I'm hungry. Snake.

Jamee, Year 3

'Digging a well before you become thirsty' ...resetting your immune system

A free health seminar will be held at Rosebank Hall on Thursday, March 31 from 8-10pm, about recurring/chronic infections of the respiratory tract (sinusitis, bronchitis, asthma), what happens if you do not approach these warning signals of your body adequately and how to treat them in a way that not only the long standing chronic problems are resolved, but the entire organism is boosted and there are no side effects.

Why the inflammation is more important than the viral/bacterial infection and about the myth and tales of western science. A group of twenty medical doctors in Germany adapted traditional Chinese medicine to the western lifestyle and integrated modern science into this system: a unique approach—made in Germany.

Should you have any questions or if you need other details please feel free to call me on 66288699 or 0419120104.

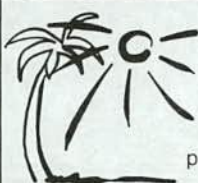
Wolfgang Margraf



Animal Rights and Rescue has moved to Keen Street, Lismore between Red Rooster and DJ's Pets

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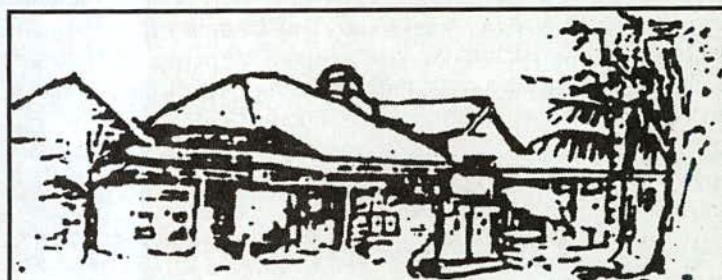
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Rosebank playgroup, doors wide open!

For those who are wondering if their local playgroup has resumed after the holidays, it has!

We have been opening the doors since early January, although there were two Fridays when I forgot to go and open up at all (which I will put down to suffering from 'pregnancy brain'!). My apologies if you did turn up. As a rule, there are a mob of children and parents at the hall from 10.30 every Friday.

Great facilities

If you haven't been before, Rosebank playgroup is worth checking out. Children range in age from young baby, to five years old. Mums and dads are both welcome. It is a friendly, relaxed, and welcoming playgroup, with great facilities shared by the pre-school. We have the use of all the indoor toys, books, dress-ups (I look stunning in the purple chiffon!), and musical instruments; as well as a giant



shady sandpit, masses of sand and water toys, and a great landscaped play area with lush grass, surrounded by trees. All this (and more) for only \$2 per session!

Relaxed al fresco dining!

What is more, we have the added luxury of a three-course banquet most weeks. Each person brings a lunch dish to share, be it

savoury, a fruit, or a sweet snack. Everyone enjoys this opportunity to sit down and share a healthy delicious lunch, and the relaxed conversation that it inspires.

Rosebank Playgroup

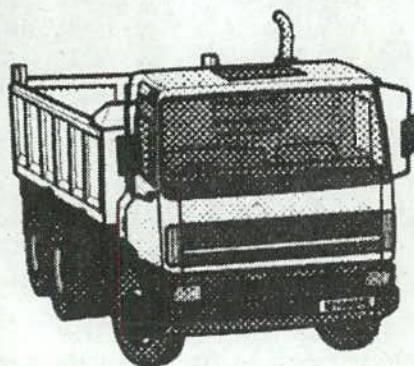
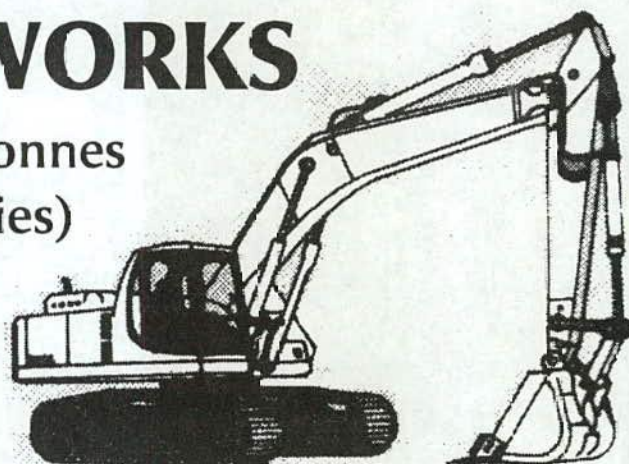
10.30-1.30 Friday at Rosebank Hall (Pre-school)

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Rosebank LandCare Update

It's a big year for Rosebank LandCare and we welcome many new members to our ranks. While our present focus is on the regeneration works along Yankey Creek, including work on Armstrong Road Reserve, we will resume our normal round of monthly working bees from May.

Our last gathering on the reserve drew some twenty people. Jenny Ford ('Regen Jen') provided us with a lot of good techniques in removing weeds etc, and a good many plants were planted. The first tree was planted by the children, Lulani, Oriana and Arlo (see photo below).

We also thank Sharyn and Tim Proctor for their generous donations of flowering native shrubs—these have been distributed far and wide and local residents will hopefully see them growing along Rosebank Road, around the school and local halls.

Junior LandCare

We are looking to form a junior division of Rosebank LandCare as there have been several requests by young locals to become involved. If your son or daughter is interested come along to the Little Scrub Day,



March 12, and we'll look at giving them some special projects.

Being involved in LandCare is a wonderful experience, the satisfaction of doing something good for the environment, sharing knowledge and strengthening social connections make it something not to be missed.

It's never too late to get on board so please consider coming along and joining in on our events.

Gartn Kindred, Co-ordinator

(above) Jenny Ford offers a few regeneration tips, and (below) demonstrates application methods



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How not to blow up your shed making Biodiesel

by Benny and Rohan

So, after reading last month's article you're inspired to run your car on Vegie Oil; well don't go and do what my mate did and bought the first old Landcruiser he saw on the main street into Byron, only to realise after handing over the cash that it had a petrol engine! Whoops! Petrol engines won't run on vegie oil! Make sure it is a diesel! There are two ways to run your diesel on vegetable oil: either on Straight Vegetable Oil (SVO) or Biodiesel. Or you can do both.

The two different paths have benefits and drawbacks.

Most diesels will run fine on Biodiesel, a lot less will run on SVO. The older more simple engines tend to be suitable for SVO. There are lists on the internet and in the book 'From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank' on what vehicles will run on SVO and Biodiesel.

In general newer diesel engines are highly tuned and more sophisticated, to improve fuel combustion resulting in more power and fuel efficiency. This means they may only run on mineral diesel. As always be careful, research and seek advice before pouring foreign substances into your fuel tank!

Running your diesel on SVO...

The SVO conversion does require modifications to the vehicle but once they are done there is little more effort and of course it is a lot cheaper, you use the straight vegetable oil which is a free waste product from your local takeaway. No making biodiesel, no extra equipment, and no hazardous and costly chemicals. Maybe best of all, as we go to press, there are no legal restrictions and fuel excise on SVO (unlike home-made Biodiesel—see below).

The basic principal to running a diesel on SVO is to heat the oil so that it becomes less viscous (runnier) so that it will pass through the injector pump and engine.

A diesel won't start on SVO because the cold oil is too thick to pass through the engine. This means two things:

1. You need a separate fuel system so you can start the engine on either Biodiesel or normal diesel and then switch over to SVO.
2. You need a means of heating the oil.

Our SVO systems consist of: a fuel tank, fuel lines, a 12 volt fuel pump, a switch to switch between tanks and a 12 volt heater that the vegetable oil runs through to heat the oil. Now this doesn't need to be rocket science, and you don't need the budget of NASA! We have used two \$14 twenty litre water tanks that sit behind the front seats and a fuel pump from the wreckers that cost \$25. Plus a bit of copper pipe for the oil.



The 12 volt heater was the most expensive part of the set-up and can be ordered through a supplier. This is all wired up to a switch on the dash, which enables you to switch between tanks.

So it works like this: you start the engine with biodiesel (or normal diesel) and then switch over to the SVO system once the engine is warm. You drive around on SVO and before you have finished your car usage, you purge the system of vegie oil (as we said above, the car won't start if it has cold vegetable oil in the fuel lines) so you flick the switch back over to biodiesel, ready to start the next day.

How to make Biodiesel in a Blender...

The benefit of Biodiesel is its versatility. It can be poured straight into your normal tank and it will even mix quite happily in any proportion with mineral diesel. There are no engine modifications so if you start using Biodiesel and for some reason decide to stop using it, your vehicle will still run on mineral diesel just fine! The major drawback is that there are now quite heavy restrictions on making your own Biodiesel.

The Federal Government has cottoned on to the blooming home-brewed Biodiesel industry and in its wisdom (protecting the fuel industry and its interest in the millions of dollars they get from fuel excise), as of September 2003, introduced a whole raft of legislation virtually making it impossible and illegal to viably make it at home. You need to apply for a licence to make Biodiesel, you need permission to store and transport Biodiesel. You need to keep detailed records for a minimum of 5 years, and of course you need to pay fuel excise of 38.143 cents for every litre you make.

Proceed with caution!

Disclaimer: The following recipe is only a guide and is not suitable for making Biodiesel. We do not recommend VJ readers attempt this recipe without further research and proper safety equipment, and of course government approval! These chemicals are highly explosive, poisonous and corrosive.

Now we have got the warnings and legalities out of the way, let's show you the recipe! With a bit of nowse, safety and care it isn't that hard to make.

The basic recipe as we mentioned in the last article is 80 percent vegetable oil, 20 percent methanol and a small amount of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) that acts as a catalyst. These chemicals are readily available in small amounts at the supermarket.

On the stove, heat up the vegie oil to about 45-50 Celsius. Once the oil is at the right temperature, pour it into the blender. In a separate container, measure out the correct amount of NaOH and stir in the methanol. This is now methoxide. This stuff is highly explosive and poisonous to breathe so BEWARE! Now pour the methoxide into the blender with the vegetable oil and blend for a couple of minutes. Take care not to overfill the blender and make sure all seals are good so that it doesn't end up all over the place.

The chemical reaction occurring involves the glycerine molecules of the vegetable oil (which makes the oil thick and sticky) being isolated and dropping to the bottom of the blender. This is seen as a dark thick sludge gathering at the bottom of the blender. 75 percent of the reaction is complete after the first hour.

Let it sit overnight and then siphon off the top layer of biodiesel the next morning. There you have it—home-made fuel!

The glycerin by-product can be used to make soap or can be used as is as a degreaser!

Next VJ we will explore the substantial benefits of Biodiesel and SVO in regards to the environment (exhaust emissions/pollution). We will also investigate various oil-producing plants and let you know about commercially available biodiesel becoming available locally.

So if you don't like the idea of getting oily and mixing toxic chemicals, or have the spare time, you can buy it.

Honk for hot chips!

Source: 'From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank' by Joshua Tickell

Koala Survey Report

The third and final part of a report on the outcomes of the Koala Survey distributed in the August VJ...

Of concern is the current absence of broad scale planning for koala habitat retention and development within the Lismore shire (outside of the critical management precinct).

Until such time that the local government authorities do implement a shire-wide koala management strategy the management of koalas and koala habitat lies with the individual landowner and the community. In order to assist the community in voluntary conservation action some recommendations are made below:

Lismore City Council

- I. It is suggested that Lismore City Council conduct a formal investigation of the koala population within the area. The proper identification of 'core' and 'potential' habitat areas will assist council with the efficiency of future development application assessments as highlighted by SEPP 44.
- II. It is suggested that Lismore City Council consider introducing a Tree Protection Order (TPO) to protect primary food trees, in particular Tallowood (*Eucalyptus Microcorys*). Such an order would require trees to be assessed for significance prior to proposed removal.
- III. It is proposed that Lismore City Council

provide adequate signage, to alert drivers of koalas (and other wildlife) particularly in areas of high population density.

Dogs and Feral Pests

- I. A public education program is highly recommended. It is imperative that dog and cat owners are informed of the exact nature of the injury and subsequent mortality caused by these roaming animals. An agreement may be met with local council and or NPWS to develop educational material to impress the impact that domestic and feral animals have on native wildlife.
- II. By law the local councils are required to identify problems and implement management strategies under the Companion Animals Act. It is recommended that Lismore City Council Ordinance Officers increase patrols of the area.

Voluntary Conservation Incentives and Management Opportunities

- I. It is recommended that existing voluntary conservation groups amalgamate to set out community-based koala management objectives.
- II. Development of a strategy that links existing habitat restoration projects is recommended. There are existing funding programs with The Department of Infrastructure and Natural Resources and the Department of Environment and heritage that provide assistance with mapping.
- III. There is an identified need to link and organise volunteers. It is recommended that the volunteers are linked with existing voluntary conservation groups, for example:

Friends of the Koala Inc. (Lismore), Local Landcare and Bushcare groups or Rosebank Community Inc.

- IV. There were several respondents that volunteered to assist with administration and grant applications. It is recommended that volunteers are charged with the assignment of linking conservation incentives with landholders and conservation groups. This may be addressed by formulating a registry of group or individual land management objectives and existing land attributes.

Monitoring and Research of the Koala Population

- I. It is recommended that repeated community-based surveys be carried out every five years to provide ongoing documentation of the population distribution and abundance.
- II. It is recommended that a tree preference study be conducted to identify other preferred and secondary food tree species for the koala within the study area.
- III. A detailed vegetation mapping study is required to assess more accurately the potential habitat and highlight areas most suitable for corridors.
- IV. Further population density studies are needed. Further replication of the documented spotlighting survey conducted here with more defined vegetation assessment would improve the reliability of the koala density estimate.
- V. Further study of the ecology and behaviour of the koala may assist with developing and improving management strategies

Virginia Seymour



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Make Peace not War

A few weeks of world military expenditure would feed all the world's poor. Water for all could be provided for a fortnight's expenditure, and much ecological damage repaired.

All over the world people of good heart are asking 'why are we wasting the world's resources on destruction?' The best road to prosperity and security is peace. The European Social Forum has declared March 20 as a day of global action, because two years ago Iraq was invaded by the US.

Since March 20, 2003 over 125,000 Iraqis have been killed. Millions more live in misery.

If you are concerned, join us Sunday, March 20. All over the world people will gather for Invasion Anniversary. This day is also Palm Sunday, Day of Peace. Community groups, church groups and individuals need to get together to protest, to learn and to share the positive work by many to create a culture of peace. The tsunami response shows people do want to help create a better future for all children, everywhere.

What we are doing in Byron Shire...

From 10am we will gather at Byron Surf Club for an indigenous welcome, prayer, song and gentle music. We will then have a Peace Walk around town, our gorgeous peace flags flying. The mood of the walk will be reverence for the many souls damaged by war.

On returning to the Surf Club lawn at midday, international activists such as Helena Norberg-Hodge and local activists will give short speeches, interspersed by some great ethnic dance performances. Inside the Club a Peace Expo of stalls will be well worth a visit! Stalls of groups such as RAWA, supporting Afghani women, Seedsavers and Drop the Debt are all doing fascinating work and welcome new members. People interested in the speeches can attend more in depth workshops with the speakers on the lovely surfside veranda. Overhead cover ensures weather protection.

As the afternoon progresses, more and more dancers, singers and later, bands will entertain us. In the early evening we will have danceable



above: Peace Festival March through Byron Bay September 2004

bands and movies.

The cost will be \$5 but more is hoped for to support ongoing peace events.

What you can do...

Come wearing white, carrying a placard, a flag or a palm leaf. Organise a rally in your area! Tell your friends, write to members of parliament. Most Australians don't want to be part of wars that create misery and hatred for the sake of giant oil and arms corporations. Boycott US products! There is some evidence this is already happening, a 20 percent drop in worldwide US sales.

Practice peace and compassion in your home. Listen to the intent of our children, not just their words. Stick up a 'Make Peace not War' poster in your workplace, school or local shop. Print off poster from byronpeacecarnival.com. Bring your community group along, preferably with a group banner! Bring guitars and other instruments.

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Large-eared Pied Bat *Chalinolobus dwyeri*

The large-eared Pied Bat is also known as a **microbat**.

They are only very small compared to the larger **Grey-headed Flying Fox** and the **Black Flying Fox**.

I think they are very cute with their big ears and funny face. Their fur is soft and velvety to touch.

In the wild this little bat makes his or her home in caves, crevices in cliffs and tree hollows.

Many of their homes have been destroyed from farming practices and people cutting down trees to build their houses.

But, being small, these bats have taken the opportunity of sneaking into the roofs of houses and sheds to set up new homes.

We can also help them find new homes by building bat boxes and placing them in trees.

Microbats like to feed on insects. They have very good sight and are able to use their radar sensors to find insects.

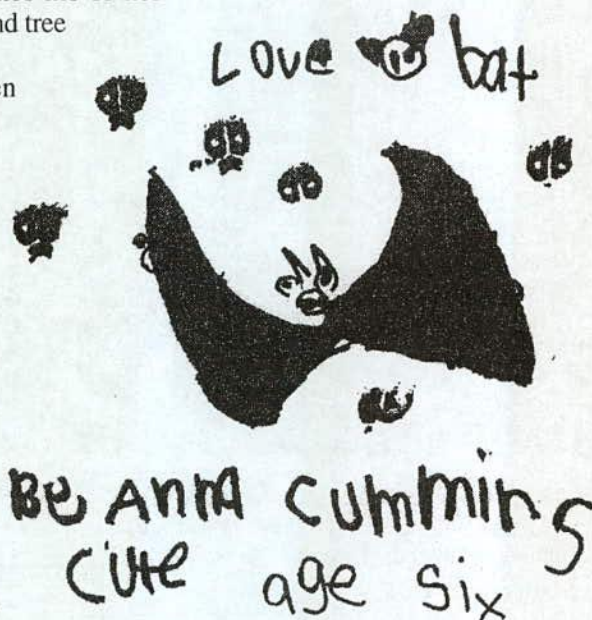
They sleep during the day and come out at night time. The mummy bats have one or two babies in late November or December. Baby bats feed from their mummy's teats in their armpits.

There are no longer as many microbats as there used to be.

They are a vulnerable species. This means that if we don't take better care of our environment there will be no more microbats left for us to see when we get older.

Let's all help these little bats.

by Anna Cummins, age 6
(assisted by Sandra Heuston)



Terror Vision (turn it off or at least change channels)

Many of us spend a good portion of our lives watching television, and it is certainly a wonderful medium for conveying information to the global population. But when television turns to terror vision then it may be time to turn off or at least change channels, and time for the passive viewer to take a stand by complaining to the TV networks in question, or writing to the papers alerting others who may be still stuck in a passive state of receptivity.

There seems to be a subtle brainwashing process occurring, generated largely by commercial stations airing fictional scenarios that generate a climate of fear and uncertainty. Whether intentional or not, part of some diabolical conspiracy or not, the reality is that people's minds are being messed with. For examples of negative cultural programming just look at how American work colleagues relate to each other in these present day serials—it's dog eat dog, with little or no respect or trust displayed. Future world scenarios have us all encased in metal boxes in space (we've stuffed the earth) in tight

military style *Lycra* suits. Where's the heart and where's the vision here?

It's no secret that the USA has certainly cornered the market on both weapons of mass destruction and mass distraction—while it busily bullies other nations into laying down their arms it produces all the more of its own, and ever more terrible. But apart from this blatant show of violent intention on the world there is a much more insidious and prevalent influence in our lives that breeds fear and terror into our daily lives—through this terror vision. It's no wonder there are so many people, particularly youth, depressed and performing acts of self-harm.

The networks will only review their programming when viewers become activated and vocal in boycotting them. Only then will the Hollywood producers see less \$s in their fear TV productions and switch to more life affirming themes.

Garth Kindred

PS. My partner and I freely confess to being lifelong TV addicts and a while back we agreed to go cold turkey for a week, effectively implementing a 'teleban'. It was amazing how creative and socially activated we became in that week and I would recommend it for all TV addicts to try. Now we're back to 'selective viewing' trying our best to avoid the endless array of law and order shows (The Bill excepted).



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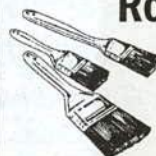
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Federal Hall, Saturday March 12

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*Everyone welcome—memberships available at the door, plus a range of wonderful food, cakes and beverages as usual.
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Doors open 7pm. No entry after movie starts at 8pm.

Enquiries—phone 66849313, email us at: reelfilmsoc@yahoo.com

Federal Film Society acknowledges the assistance of Australian Centre for the Moving Image in obtaining this film. Federal Film Society, operating as Reel Films, is a not-for-profit organisation and all activities are publicised for members only.

Rain Report

February totals...

Fox Rd, Rosebank	82
Emerson Rd, Rosebank	47
Sheaffes Rd Goonengerry	91.5
Rocky Creek Dam, Dorroughby	43.7
Englishs Rd, Upper Coopers Ck	62
Turkey Creek, Rosebank	84.5

Report totals on 66882220
or journal@nrg.com.au

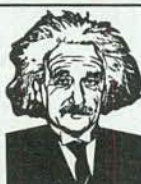
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March 18

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Friday	12-12pm
Saturday	12-10pm
Sunday	3-8pm

Profit is a Dirty Word

One of today's 'self made billionaires' is quoted as saying 'Profit is the reward for taking risks.' Few then, are reaping the reward, it seems. Perhaps risk taking in business is like a casino. Most of the players get done, while a few come up with a temporary gain.

Our news media clearly spread a skewed story. 'Successful' business people like Packers, Murdochs and others get praise and adulation. Yet look carefully at the tales of a few years ago and we find household names like Williams and Adler (HIH Insurance) now being seen as criminals. Turn the clock a little further back and there's Skase, Bond and more. Why do we think profit makers are 'good people'?

But first, what does profit mean? If one guy says it's 'reward for risk', the accountants say it's the 'bottom line', what's the concept behind it? Well, it's always been about how much you can get more than it cost you. If you get ten percent, 100 percent or even 1000 percent more—that's profit. And today more is better, and more again is better again. In fact even if the profit is obscenely big, it's still 'better'.

Excessive profits used to be seen as immoral. 'Excessive' depended on the cases, but say, when staple foods were short, 'profiteers' were taking profits of around 100 percent. They got lots of dirty looks—and rude comments. 'Scalpers' take more than that on tickets for the footy finals, and people generally feel they've been done.

Now we listen to media reports that Little Johnny's Canberra mob are budgeting for a surplus of several billion dollars or that Telstra has made several billion dollars, and that BHP Billeton has made \$300 billion. We're supposed to think that's a 'good thing'?

We are being conned. You can't judge

'good' or 'bad' without a context. Stating a profit figure means nothing without an idea of what it came from. Yet nobody bothers to show us the background. Was it a 'scalpers' job, or was it a 'moral ten percent'?

Between the media and the moguls—not to mention Packers and Murdochs who are both—we are being conned. The moguls are making heaps, and laughing all the way to the bank.

We are being told it is good to make the rich richer! Like a profit is good, and a big one is a better one. No matter whose pockets were emptied to get the profit let us be grateful to the moguls that they allowed us to put our little bit into their pockets.

Crazy set of values wouldn't you say?

We have been conned into believing the economic non-sense both industry and government have been handing us for the last 20 years. It's clear that very few are making it from 'poor' to 'rich'. The gap between the 'rich' and the 'poor' is huge and growing, and the number of billionaires in the top five percent of the world's incomes is shrinking. So the money is getting more concentrated at the top, and the middle is being squeezed—hard. Are these the goals we want as Australians?

In this series of articles we'll take a look at other goals we might want.

Do we really want to be shackled to the turning wheel delivering money and power to the rich?



State of the VJ

The VJ moves from strength to strength in terms of article and advertising content.

This month we've received more copy than ever before, coming in before the deadline date and mostly by email. The increasing contributions is making the VJ production team work a little harder to accommodate it all.

The feedback from last issue was very positive. There were a few problems but they were largely no fault of our own. The Federal Reel Films promo was left out due to an incorrect date being supplied (of the event occurring prior to our publication).

That fantastic pregnant belly shot with baby foot pushing through, turned out to be a hoax. Sorry about that folks and thanks to Declan Hart of Dunoon for pointing this out. To see it in glorious colour check out museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/weblog/comments/1382.

It's left the editors a little less gullible...hopefully.

Apart from all that we were disappointed with the cover photos considering the quality of the originals—this was a result of limitations in the printing process with two very contrasting photos. We live and we learn and it's all good, ultimately.

We have not received any entries for our VJ Photo Competition as yet so come on camera clickers, get clicking and send 'em in for a chance of a great prize. See ad this issue for more details. While on the subject of competitions our young winner from last year's poetry comp has still not come forward to collect her \$20 cash prize. So Rebecca Morrow, author of 'Rainforests', please give us a call.

VJ Production Meetings are held usually on the last Wednesday of the month at cafés in the VJ area but this month it falls on the 30th – too late for our purposes. So it will be held on the second last Wednesday, March 23 at The Kettle and Keyboard in Dunoon, starting 1pm.

If you've got some copy or comment for the VJ then please join us for a free tea or coffee.

Hoping you enjoy the March VJ,
Garth Kindred



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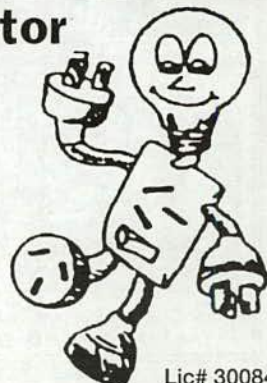
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Death

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Transformation, Surrender, Revolution;
'It's Too Late' (Carol King), 'Butterfly Child'
(Sasha Butterfly), 'Turn! Turn! Turn! To every-
thing there is a season' (The Byrds);
Rosemary, Lavender; Jasmine (oil or flower);
Rose Quartz, Aquamarine, Smokey Quartz;
The Ocean.

GREETINGS ALL!

Death is a very challenging card. When it comes into a reading, it usually incites panic; the first thought of course is 'oh my God am I going to die?' usually followed by 'oh my God is someone I know going to die?'

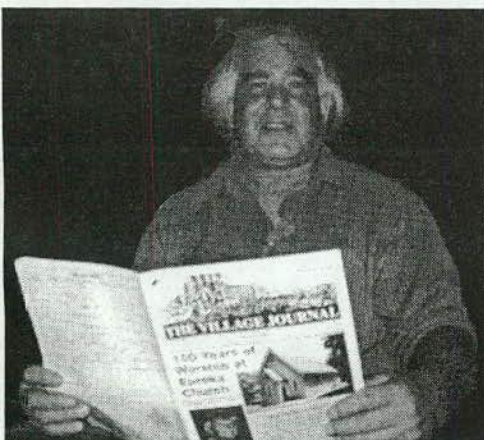
Now the Death card can indicate this, but more often than not it is in relation to the need for the death of something in someone's life; the death of an old way of thinking, an old way of being.

Sometimes we find ourselves seemingly 'stuck' in our lives and the only thing to do is to let go of the situation that is causing this dilemma—to allow it to die, to end.

Relaxation... Tuesdays 6 till 7pm with Jenny

Yoga practice and years of healing and massage work have deepened my appreciation of the value of relaxation as an integral part of life's balance (what would spring be like without winter?).

Our many rewards in life have come so much to depend on the efficiency and timelessness of our doing, that what we often sacrifice in time and effort can be changed into something that ensures a precious opportunity to replenish and revitalise ourselves



Kev Carmody, catching up with local events before going on stage at the ABC's Live in Your Lounge concert (see page 7).

photo G Kinder

If we don't do this, then we find ourselves just going round and round and round, creating ruts, and we never grow. The results of this for our health can be quite significant of course—we can get sick on all levels and life just becomes stagnant.

So why is it so hard for us to allow Death? Death is a very natural part of life; birth, growth, death, birth; the never-ending cycle. We fear Death; we fear if we let go there'll be nothing else afterwards.

There are many theories about what Death is and what it involves, but one fairly widely held opinion is that Death is only the ending of something on one level; that nothing ever really ends.

One of the best examples illustrating our fears surrounding Death is the fear of letting go of a relationship even when it has long outgrown its use by date. If I let it go what will happen? I'll be in the dark, I'll be alone, so I'd better just hang on to this situation, 'cause it's better the devil you know.

Of course, if we don't allow the endings in life, we experience the same fate as that plant that you never prune, water, or nourish. Eventually, its leaves start to brown, it might develop some kind of disease, it starts to shrivel and it dies, way before its time. This is a good analogy for what happens to us humans when we stay in a situation, be it a relationship, a job or a

through a chosen form of relaxation. Whether we experience it as discipline or privilege, when our lives lack it we feel it—as disease, as restlessness, as inertia, as exhaustion, as a depressive state.

We will spend the hour exploring a range of gentle and simple relaxation techniques that can be practical in a simple space at home and that will help shed physical and mental tension build up so that you are freer and happier, you can better transcend life's unavoidable obstacles to an ease of being.

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lifestyle, that's not right for us anymore. We become like the living dead.

Death's inevitable—it's up to you how you spend your time—you can shrivel or shine. It is important to allow the old to be reborn, because this can only be better than what has been.

Death is transformation of an enormous kind and is a very personal time in your life, a time in which you will probably feel that not many people around you understand what you're going through; this is because Death is a truly individual experience.

So curl up on your favourite chair, wrap yourself up in your warmest, most comforting blanket and just allow your feelings to rise to the surface. Write them down, let them out, and allow the bitter sweetness that is Death. Surrender yourself to this life lesson and see where the newness takes you.

Until next time, take care everyone.

Kawu is am available for Tarot consultations through home visits or by appointment at Kowhai Wellbeing Centre, Rosebank: 66882402/0427058519

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Idol Win for Krystal

Krystal Suringa of Clunes was one of 13 lucky people nationally to live the life of a super star for a day as a winner of the 'Be an Idol for a Day' Competition.

Her Idol experience (including airfares and two nights' accommodation) began when she was introduced to the celebrities before accompanying them on the mini bus to a signing. Here, Krystal grasped the concept of stardom while sitting next to the Idols, looking on while they had their photos taken and signing memorabilia. After experiencing all of the yelling and chanting from the hundreds of fans who lined up to meet the Idols, Krystal was escorted back to the bus to head off to the concert.

With VIP tickets and the best seats in the house, the Idol experience continued for Krystal as she viewed the dynamic performance from right under the Idol's noses in the photo pit.

In Krystal's own words... 'The Idol trip was a great weekend. I won a trip for two down to Sydney and got to spend a day with five Australian Idols (Casey, Ricki-Lee, Courtney, Anthony and Daniel). We got to go to their concert as well. It was a really good weekend. The Idols were very nice and also very busy.'

pictured: Krystal (on right) with Amali, one of the 2004 Idol finalists.

Rosebank Community Inc Update

We had two well attended and productive meetings in February, and welcomed a new member, Zara Elwood.

Reports were given on the progress of Rosebank LandCare and the Wild Koala Enclosure projects, as well as on the State of the VJ and recent interactions with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). We agreed to write to NPWS giving feedback on issues relating to planting selections, offering volunteer assistance via our local LandCare groups and urged for preservation of the shack at Rummery Park.

Julie Woods reported on Rosebank LandCare and in particular the preparation for the Little Scrub Day on March 12. Green Corps have requested that Rosebank LandCare be 'project partners' and have offered assistance on local LandCare planting projects.

Alan Davies reported on his attempts to lobby Telstra on introducing Broadband to the Rosebank area. We agreed to write a letter in support of the petition posted at Rosebank Store, seeking an upgrade of the local Telstra exchange and cables, making broadband accessible asap.

We also decided to make the Lismore Soup Kitchen the recipient of our regular local charitable donation by the VJ this time 'round.

RCI is to host another public forum set down for Wednesday, April 27, at 7.30pm and we are inviting representatives from Lismore City Council, The Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources, the Catchment Management Authority and the North Coast Environment Council to address the gathering on issues relating to land clearing, particularly in relation to legislation as it stands and as it will soon be.

Next meeting at Rosebank Hall will be held on Monday, March 28, starting at 7.30pm. All are most welcome to attend and convey any issues of concern.

RCI Membership forms are available at Rosebank Store.

Please fill in, put in envelope with \$10 to PO Box 38.

Any enquiries are welcome via VJ phone and email addresses.

Garth Kindred, RCI Secretary

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Tom Thumb pulls the pin!

After 13 years running The Channon-based Tom Thumb Earthmoving, Tom Langfield has sold the business to Whian Whian man, Jeremy Stewart.

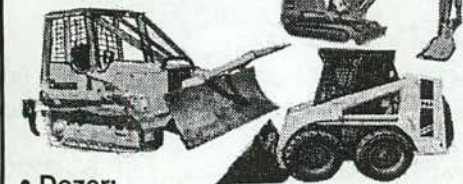
'I always wanted to keep the business local,' Tom said, 'as there is a growing need for earthmoving machinery in this developing area.'

He also wanted to thank all his past customers, many of whom have become friends, for their custom over the past years, and hope they will continue to patronise the business.

Jeremy takes over the running of Tom Thumb Earthmoving from the March 1, and can be contacted on 66895414.

Tom Thumb EARTHMOVING

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rock grab, 3 buckets.



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Jeremy Stewart Whian Whian
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SWAN opposes Water Fluoridation

SWAN stands for Safe Water Action Network, and was recently formed in Lismore and Byron Shires to prevent the fluoridation of our local water supplies.

Rous Water is once again reviewing their fluoridation policy.

Only just last week in Queensland, the State Government rejected a ruling to fluoridate the local water supplies for the whole of the state. SWAN members are delighted with the result in Queensland and are working towards having a similar result here locally, lobbying local councillors and the Rous County Council to totally reject fluoridation of the local Northern Rivers water supply.

Members of SWAN are actively working to inform concerned councillors to understand the very grave and real dangers of fluoride and fluoridation on the health of babies, children, adults and the elderly. Local areas affected would be the Lismore, Ballina, Richmond Valley and Byron Shires, if Rous County Council were to go ahead with fluoridation.

Tora Blackman, chairman of SWAN, a concerned ratepayer of Lismore founded SWAN recently with other concerned Lismore residents, some of whom defended the health of the Lismore residents and the adjoining shires years ago back in 1988.

Ex-Lismore and Rous Water councillor for 28 years, who helped to put in place the filtration of our present water supply, Habib Habib, is determined to keep our local water free from fluoride, along with ex-Lismore councillor John Crowther, and Colin Locke, Lismore naturopath and chiropractic, all of whom were members of the Freedom From Fluoride Group back in 1988, when fluoridation was being fought by the community here.

Environmental and fluoride researcher

Peter Olson says 'The intelligence of North Coast residents will be dramatically lowered, through significant brain damage caused by addition of fluoride to the local water supply. This forced drugging of North Coast residents will also cause increased mortality amongst the local people'.

Professor Gerard Judd PhD, states that the addition of fluoride to the local water supply by Rous Water will also cause the following medical problems: destruction of at least 63 enzymes in the body; forty-nine serious allergic conditions; genetic changes in bone cells and sperm cells; dental fluorosis; skeletal fluorosis; increased infant mortality and birth defects; Gilbert's Disease; impedance of collagen synthesis; immunosuppression; decreased human intelligence; brain damage and increased heart attacks.

Proponents of fluoridation say fluoridation is safe, yet there is no study in the world that has shown fluoridation to be safe. If there is such a study, please let the community know of this study. People who promote fluoride say that it is quite safe and harmless, even though it has the same toxicity as arsenic. So someone is lying.

The head promoter of fluoridation in Canada, Dr Limeback now says fluoride is very dangerous. The head promoter of fluoridation in New Zealand Dr Colquhoun, now says fluoridation is very dangerous.

Dr Limeback suggests dentists in Canadian towns that were fluoridated made more money after fluoridation when compared to non-fluoridated towns, and that this may be the real reason dentists support fluoridation.

For more information (meeting times etc.) please contact SWAN on 66295358 or swan@cyberexalt.com.

Tora Blackman
Chairman, SWAN

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	Kettle 'n' Keyboard, Dunoon	66895225
	Pogel's Wood, Federal	66884121
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Chemist	Dirk Jacobsen, Bangalow	66872766
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	Lloyd Marsh	66284266
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Electrical Contractor	Barry Connor	66882114
Emporium	Wax Jambu	66872788
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Gas Deliveries	Colin McMaster	66884000
General Store	Federal	66884240
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Japanese Clothing	Kimono-ya	66871415
Jewellery, Dichroic Glass	Anne Wheeler	66884206
Lawyers	Beesley & Hughes, Bangalow	66871717
Loan Broker	Tony Narvo	0428 442272
Medical Practice	Dr Jane Reffell, Clunes	66291104
	Dr Gillian Ette, Dunoon	66895811
Mobile Massage	Gary Haughton	66884044 or 0429884044
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Nursery	Firewheel, Rosebank	66895013
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	Rainforest, Dorroughby	66895141
	Seedling House, Lismore	66217305
	Weatherptop Natives, Corndale	66882272
Organic Food	Santos	66843773
Painting Contractor	Mick Cordin, Rosebank	66882169
Psychologist	Bangalow Psychology	66871164
Physiotherapy	Bangalow	66872330
Real Estate	Mark Castle, Bangalow	66871500
	Rick Knight, Bangalow	66871306
Solar Power	Northern Rivers Solar	66222818
Sports Club (licenced)	Dunoon	66895444
Timber/Hardware	AJ Magnay, Lismore	66215549
	Tradesman, Goonellabah	66248366
Tree Lopping	Eden	66884114
Tyres	Pirlo's, Sth Lismore	66213561
Used Cars	Clunes	66291270
Waste Disposal	Richmond Waste	66217431

Schools and Associations

Public Schools	Bexhill	66284223	Clunes	66281278
	Corndale	66284305	Dunoon	66895208
	Eureka	66884272	Goonengerry	66849134
	Numulgi	66282264	Rosebank	66882128
	Upper Coopers Creek	66882128	Whian Whian	66895240
Preschools	Clunes	66291551	Dunoon	66895396
			Rosebank	66882096
Federal Community Children's Centre				66884371
Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre				66895286
Federal Film Society			Anita	66849313
Guides Australia	7-10 years	Jacki Scutt		66895521
	10-15 years	Helen Hargreaves		66895254
Dunoon Scouts		Cubs: Lyn Black		66288588
		Scouts: Graham Pringle		66282820

Community Services

Hall Bookings	Whian Whian	66895288 or 66895488
	Corndale	66284260
	Dorroughby	66895247
	Dunoon	66895101
After School Care	Clunes Out of School Care	66291756
	Kidzone, Federal	66884371
JP	Dianne Horton	0422022308 or 66882481
Rosebank Community Inc.		Inquiries 66882221
Landcare	Fox Rd Landcare	66882211
	Ridgewood Rd Landcare	66291294
	Rosebank Landcare	66882031
	Whian Whian Landcare	66895691
	Friends of the Koala	66221231
Wildlife Carers	Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	0500 882620
	Rosebank Koala Rescue (all hours)	66882211
	WIRES Northern Rivers Rescue Hotline	66281891

Emergency Services

FIRE/AMBULANCE/POLICE		DIAL 00
Hospitals	Lismore	66218000
	Byron Bay	66856201
Fire Permits		
	Rosebank	Stewart 66882106
	Federal	John Nardi 66884151
	Jamieson	66882301
	Mark Hill	66849151



YOGA at Federal Hall
Thursdays 9.30-11am
call Liz 66847634

Community Notices

Federal Writers Group meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Pogels Wood Café, Federal, at 10am. Phone Susanna for info 66884357.

Federal Craft Group meet every Saturday at Federal Hall (1.30-4pm). Come along for an afternoon of craft, a chat and a cup of tea. No joining fees. For more info, phone 66849142 or 66884143.

Reel Films In Federal It is more than just a film night when you come to Reel Films. Call Anita on 66849313 to find out more. The Federal Film Society is open to new members. Film program available at Federal & Rosebank Stores.

Dunoon Quilt Group meet on the first Wednesday in the month in the morning, and the third Wednesday in the evening. Beginners and non-quilters are welcome. 66895322 or 66895135.

Mobile Library times for March



Friday March 11	Tuesday March 22
Federal 9-10am at store	Clunes 9-10.30am at school
Saturday March 19	Dunoon 11-11.45am at store
Bangalow 9.30-11.30am school	12-1pm at school

Disclaimer Views and opinions expressed in this journal are those of the individual writers, and not necessarily those of the VJ team. Neither RCI nor the VJ necessarily endorse products and services of advertisers or mentioned in articles.



There has been another huge wave of disturbance that many of you will have felt around the foothills of the Whian Whian, recently. This always indicates that a time of sorting is occurring. As a result some people will leave the area, unable to cope with the Whian Whian's energy. Others will respect this truly remarkable event and some will be drawn closer. Dreaming with us. Respect and caring is what it is all about.

ARIES I have some wonderful fun loving and loyal friends brothers and sisters who are very passionate and have learnt to channel their extreme energies into healing causes by helping Mother Nature. To those who are still growing and throwing 'hissy fits', suggest you stop dramatising and drawing attention to yourselves and go for a nice long walk. Listen to the sounds of the Whian Whian and bring love back to your heart. Solitude is a hard won ally. Learn to lighten up, stop blaming others and laugh. Look into that mirror, and you will see that laughter is far more attractive. Beware of those who give you 'Dutch courage' and prompt you to act maniacally.

AURUS Change does not come easily to you, but life is full of changes. So as the world turns, so must you. This does not need to be a frightening thing. Accept change as a step in a new direction.



The Village Journalists...

Editors Lydia and Garth Kindred

Production & Accounts Chris Smart

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It can be an exciting new adventure or even a challenge. I believe there is something that you have been putting off, because of the change it will bring into your life. Take the first step, right now. Follow this path and you will find life's treasures lay along it.

GEMINI It's dreamtime for many of you. If you can't work out these helpful hints (dreams) then just continue on and the answer will come out in a conversation you will have in the next few days. Following these premonitions is important. You are being given a helping hand. So it's best not to ignore them and lose the dream that can come true for you. I often find that dreamtime comes along when you are emerging from a successful and difficult quest.

CANCER The vibe is good for you. The energy you feel will be the Whian Whian's way of calling you to her attention. Your intuitive side will be extremely strong, so follow its lead. Speak your truth so that others may learn from your insights. Ask yourself, why you are being called, what is it that you are meant to be doing? There will be an immediate answer. Fools and idiots may cross your path on numerous occasions. This will only strengthen your leadership qualities and you will find ways of drawing their attention to respect.

LEO Peaceful pussycats will be content with their lairs and spend many hours enjoying the pleasures of their surroundings. It is just a very pleasant time for you to spend time doing the things you like doing. Of course there will be some work involved to create this peacefulness. You will attract other happy people and you will find yourself as the centre of attention, without trying, without using your arty talents and without hassle. Enjoy the warmth of the sun and the earth and 'feel' nature do its best.

VIRGO OK, to be truthful, I'm getting a bit bored with the 'all work and no play' attitude that some of you follow. Sparkle is needed urgently, if you don't want to become dull. Let the element of chaos now enter your life. Be brave, lustful and let your hair down. Scare yourself with yourself. Let the nature

baby inside of you escape for a while. Wear a sarong, wear nothing, wear whatever makes you feel good and you will find, all that is really needed, is to wear a beautiful smile. Smile on, my hard working, hard thinking champions.

LIBRA You infect all with your loving powers when they are 'on' and you are 'hot'. And what an effect you have! You can brighten the lives of many when you turn on your charming, caring, seductive and loving nature. You can also turn it off if you become troubled, so stay positive. Don't you just love it when you are being admired? A little gift has come your way. Enjoy and don't fall back into that deep dark hole that held you down for years.

SCORPIO The warriors in you have been awoken and you will find that your primal instincts for protecting, are surfacing. You are prepared and at the ready to fight the demons of the dark. I just love that about our Scorpion warriors. They are so fearless (although if the truth be known they are also the gentle ones). This is why you stand fast and fight for honesty, integrity and truth. Although you have no qualms at chopping off the heads of your dreamtime enemies, you prefer peace to reign. Prepare for some hot and steamy interactions. It could be a buzz.

SAGITTARIUS The warm vibe that you ooze is a careful selection of loyalty, strength, support, fun, sexy razzamataz and love. You have the ability to make all around you feel very secure and happy. Those who don't feel this are not fit to walk by your side. So do not worry over them as they still have much to learn. A wondrous joy has come into your life, a beautiful innocent for you to share your remarkable healing ways with. So what is going to happen next, I hear your active mind saying? Just chill for a while, let your body rest and the universe will guide you to the rest of your dreams.

CAPRICORN Is that healer inside you, ready? We have some patients that need your attention. The restless state that is upon us (see intro) has seen some of our people fall by the wayside. Some will move on, but for others, your care and words of wisdom will be all that is needed to help them back to their feet. This month you are the healer of the horoscope. TLC is required. Clear your minds, focus your healing abilities, receive and then carefully help and heal. Listen to your intuition and let it be your guide.

AQUARIUS Have you ever considered the possibility that all things were made equal? Of course you have, you have seen it in nature. Try applying the same theory to yourself and the humans that surround you. I know you are impatient of fools and idiots and warmongers and... But we are all equal and we all have to live in some sort of harmony together. Seek out your path and the path of others will not affect you as much. Plant some trees.

PISCES Are you following a fairytale dream? It is good to remember what real pain feels like, so that you can proceed with safety, on your journey. There is still plenty of room for you to expand that fun loving side of your nature without putting yourself in harm's way. Reflect on life's past lessons. The meaning of life is after all, to grow stronger and wiser, be more helpful and find love that is honest and caring (all this without hurting yourself or others). To find this you must first find this within yourself.

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March 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Lismore Organic Market at showground	2 Eureka Playgroup Dunoon Quilt Group morning	3	4 Rosebank Playgroup at Hall	5 Grower's Markets Lis. Showground Federal Craft Group 1:30-4:30pm
6 Byron Market Lismore Carboot Market	7	8 Lismore Organic Market at showground	9 Eureka Playgroup	10	11 Rosebank Playgroup at Hall	12 Little Scrub Day (see page 5) Grower's Markets Lis. Showground Federal Craft Group
13 The Channon Market	14	15 Lismore Organic Market at showground	16 Eureka Playgroup Dunoon Quilt Group evening Fed. Writers Group	17	18 Rosebank Playgroup at Hall	19 Grower's Markets Lis. Showground Federal Craft Group
20 Nimbin Market Lismore Carboot Market	21 Rosebank Hall Meeting 6.30pm	22 Lismore Organic Market at showground	23 VJ Production meeting 1pm at Kettle, Dunoon Eureka Playgroup	24 Rosebank RFS 7:30pm	25 Good Friday VJ Deadline	26 Grower's Markets Lis. Showground
27 Bangalow Market	28 RCI Meeting Rosebank Hall 7.30	29	30	31 Health Seminar Rosebank Hall 8pm		

Bilby *Macrotis lagotis*

These beautiful rabbit-sized creatures were sometimes kept by early settlers in Australia as household pets to control mice and insects. They once inhabited the whole southern half of the continent but the expansion of human settlement and the introduction of foxes has greatly reduced their numbers and forced them to retire to the arid inland and remote coastal regions. Bilbies, or rabbit bandicoots, are distinguished by their distinctive silky hair and long tails.

Formidable burrowers, Bilbies often cannot be dug out because they make faster progress than a pursuer with a spade. They live in pairs in the tunnels they've excavated. Bilbies don't drink but draw water from their food.

