

A focus on 3D art

by Linda Frylink Anderson

Nimbin Artists Gallery continues to celebrate the extraordinary creativity of local makers and visual artists, offering visitors an inspiring showcase of handcrafted works rich in individuality and imagination.

The gallery proudly features an impressive collection created by talented local 3D artists, including ceramicists whose distinctive styles range from beautifully functional pieces to expressive sculptural forms.

Outstanding woodwork also forms a striking part of the exhibition, with finely crafted mirrors and sculptures featured in both hanging and freestanding designs.

The craftsmanship on display highlights the

natural beauty of timber while demonstrating the remarkable skill of local artisans. Adding texture and colour to the gallery are stunning examples of wearable art, with felt and silk creations offering tactile beauty in every shade of the rainbow.

These handcrafted works combine artistry with fashion, inviting visitors to experience art in a truly personal and sensory way.

Jewellery makers further enrich the exhibition with an eclectic array of pieces displayed throughout the gallery's glass cabinets.

Many artists incorporate sustainably sourced materials such as bone, leather and natural gemstones, reflecting a strong connection to ethical

craftsmanship and the environment.

The gallery's diverse collection is completed by imaginative mixed-media assemblages, intricate mosaics and an abundance of visual artworks, making the space a vibrant celebration of artistic expression in all its forms.

Feature artist

Our feature artist for June is acclaimed local painter Brenda Bryant, whose evocative oil paintings have become widely recognised

throughout the Northern Rivers region. She is presenting a captivating body of work inspired by the lush rainforests and bushland landscapes that define the area.

Her paintings are both mesmerising and calming, capturing the serenity and natural beauty of the local environment with remarkable depth and sensitivity.

Resonating strongly with those who cherish the region, Bryant's work

offers viewers a moment of reflection and connection to the landscapes that make the Northern Rivers so unique.

Through its on-going support of local artists and makers, the Nimbin Artists Gallery remains an important cultural hub, championing creativity, sustainability and community spirit in the heart of Nimbin.

We are open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm at 49 Cullen Street, phone 02 6689-1444.



Above: 'West of Wollumbin' by Brenda Bryant

Left: Green raku leaf vase and black and brown jug, mixed clays by Genevieve Davies

Right: 'Shards of Silence' Pique Assiette mosaic mirror by Linda Frylink Anderson



Where the hell is Batman when you need him?



'Here Come The Bats'

by Jimmy Willing

"The city was always Gothic, that's how it got its name, and as the city grew, its spires stretched towards heaven in an attempt to touch God himself.

Those stone spires gleamed up there in the sunlight and were adorned with gargoyles that looked down on the magnificent splendour of the city below.

"But then came a time when the city fell into decline and the spires started to crumble as the city began to decay, and on those streets below gathered the most colourful array of criminals that the world had ever seen.

"They were dealing the Whack and the Crack and the Jack and the gargoyles looked down from above and even they were frightened.

"Then one night, one dark dramatic night, out of the steaming hiss of the city there arose a masked avenger who took the law into his own hands."

If you haven't already worked it out, the city is Gotham, the masked avenger is Batman and this is my prologue.

I have been singing 'Batman' since I was 16 years old, it was my first gig in Rock & Roll on a milk-crate stage in a dock-front pub.

Fast-forward 45 years and I'm still singing 'Batman' but now my troupe of dancers, the Buffalo Gals, are dressed up to the nines as the characters, and I've written that fantastical spooky prologue.

Crime wave

However, never in my wildest imagination did I ever envision that prologue as a reality. That was up until a few weeks ago when the biggest crime



The most colourful array of criminals the world had ever seen. Photo: Natsky

wave I have ever witnessed swept over North Lismore. It's left me reeling and wondering, "Just where the hell is Batman when you need him?"

Last week on my street alone the drama started with ambulances, graduated to police paddy wagons and ended with fire engines, so what's next, the army?

It was only just last year that North Lismore had a crew of student and backpacker squatters.

These lovely kids fixed up the abandoned houses and took jobs in the cafes in town; they planted gardens and grew food and they even installed a piano, created a music room and erected a stage!

They were good kids, but they were targeted with a hate campaign and vigilante violence culminating in a young woman being hit by a star picker hurled from a moving car!

Things reached fever pitch and it ended up all over TV, so the council came in and cut off the water and the State evicted them all.

Almost instantly the lovely young squatters were replaced by an army of some of the most knuckle-headed criminals I have ever had the misfortune to witness.

There is an old adage that certain thieves will steal anything that is not nailed down, however these guys are another cut below as they unbolt the security cameras and strip businesses and buildings down to bare bones, ripping out of the copper conduit and piping.

Working night and day, their work ethic is incredible, however it does beg the question why don't they just get a legal job?

So now my neighbourhood is

frightened as with so many houses missing, gone are the days when you could call on your neighbours for help across the fence.

Everyone is battenning down the hatches, the young lassies are frightened, the old Nanas are too, and I'm angry for how dare you come into my neighbourhood and terrorise us?

I've lived here for three decades and for the most part it's been a peaceful place.

So I go for a walk and visit my mates who work up on Bridge Street and tell them to lock their workshops up tight. My mate the mason who makes tombstones tells me, "We know," and proceeds to tell me his story.

They have had a brick thrown through the front window, a fire lit inside an abandoned buyback house across the road, death threats and the most knuckle-headed crime of all: the attempted theft of a tombstone!

Who the hell steals someone else's tombstone! It's funny as hell and we all have a laugh, but we stop giggling when the conversation turns to the lost soul found dead out the back in the river!

I don't blame the police for being powerless to stop the rampage; obviously they are under-resourced and overwhelmed, but it does beg the question:

Why are our leaders using the police on mass to crack heads at political protests and to harass peaceful events like the Nimbin MardiGrass when they are obviously needed on the streets to deal with this huge crime wave?

And don't get me started on the ever-increasing trail of dead women due to domestic violence.

Just where the hell is Batman when you need him?

New exhibitions at Blue Knob Gallery

The Gallery's current exhibitions are 'Ode to an Artwork' and 'Entwined', featured in the Solo Space.

For 'Ode to an Artwork', artists were invited to create work inspired by a poetic theme exploring the lyrical connection between visual art and the written word.

The exhibition celebrates the way one creative medium can inspire and give new life to another.

With the theme intentionally left open, artists were free to draw inspiration from a favourite lyric, poem, or piece of writing, or to create written work in response to an existing artwork.

The result is a rich and engaging "conversation" between art and words.

Entwined by Fiona and Cherie Shadwell, also known as The Weaver Birds, is a mother-and-daughter collaboration from Kyogle.

Renowned for their basketwork, and in Fiona's case, her marbling and dyeing techniques on fabric, paper and even pianola rolls, the exhibition reflects not only their shared craftsmanship, but also the weaving together of family, creativity and connection.

Both exhibitions run until Saturday 11th July.



'Another Starry Starry Night' by Lynne Pettall



'The Choice between Life and Death' (detail) by Lisa Van Heijningen



'Emerald Sparks' by Fiona Shadwell

- **Blue Knob Writers Group** – Meet weekly at Kin Cafe on Sundays. For more info contact Alex 6689-7268 or Helen 0487-385-134.
- **Blue Knob Singers** – Meet on Thursdays from 4pm. Everyone is welcome. For more info call Peter 0458-487-865.
- **Dinner and jam night** held after the singing group from 6pm.
- **Poetry and Open Mic** at Kin Cafe on Sunday 14th June, 1-4pm.
- **Sound Journey with Amma** – Gentle

- Breathwork Flow & Sound Journey Meditation will be on Wednesday 3rd June at 6pm. Cost is \$20. Bring yoga mat and cushion.
- **Life drawing** – held every 3rd Wednesday in the gallery from 5-7pm. All welcome. Cost is \$25. Blue Knob Hall, Gallery & Café is at 719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock, and is open

Thursday-Sunday 10am-3pm, Sat 8.30am-3pm. Ceramic Studio open Thursday-Saturday. Phone 6689-7449 email: bbkgallery@iinet.net.au Web: www.blueknobgallery.com

Natural connections

by Miriam O'Grady

Featured artworks by Kathleen Harding beautifully interpret the theme.

Serpentine Community Gallery has a great month in store. Our upcoming exhibition will have something to entice everyone.

'Hello My Love – A Love Letter to the Environment' (Members show) will be running alongside Zaide Harker (Featured Artist show).

Opening Night is Friday 5th June, 5.30-8.30pm. Both exhibitions will run until Saturday 27th June.

Hello My Love

This is our Members Group Show, in line with World Environment Day.

We have already received some truly beautiful pieces that feature waterways, landforms, fauna, flora, all captured through the eyes of artists who connect in some special way to our natural environment.

Featured Artist

Zaide Harker is an accomplished artist, who has undertaken a residency in Mexico City and exhibited with Michael Reid Gallery in the Southern Highlands.

Large swathes of oil paint and gestural palette knife application characterise Zaide's visceral painting style. As the viewer moves around each work, thick, textural strokes weave together, imbuing the subject with a palpable sense of life.

These swirling compositions invite the viewer into the solitary, immersive state in which the paintings were created.

Zaide's practice primarily explores contemporary Australian identity



'Waterlily Dreaming' (detail) by Kathleen Harding

through depictions of native flowers, landscapes and portraits of significant figures in the artist's life.

A diagnosis of Huntington's Disease, alongside experience working in disability support,



'Protea daze' by Zaide Harker

informs recurring themes of identity, imperfection, vulnerability and decay throughout the work.

Monthly Sketch Club

This is a fun safe space for people to come along and develop their sketching techniques; an informal get together for artists of all levels



'Heliconia Amore' (detail) by Kathleen Harding

to meet, draw, socialise and learn from each other.

First Saturday of each month, 2-4pm, tea and coffee available. Find out more at: www.serpentinearts.org

Winter at the Tweed Regional Gallery

The Tweed Regional Gallery's exhibition program for local artists, PLATFORM, has launched two new exhibitions which will run until 23rd August.

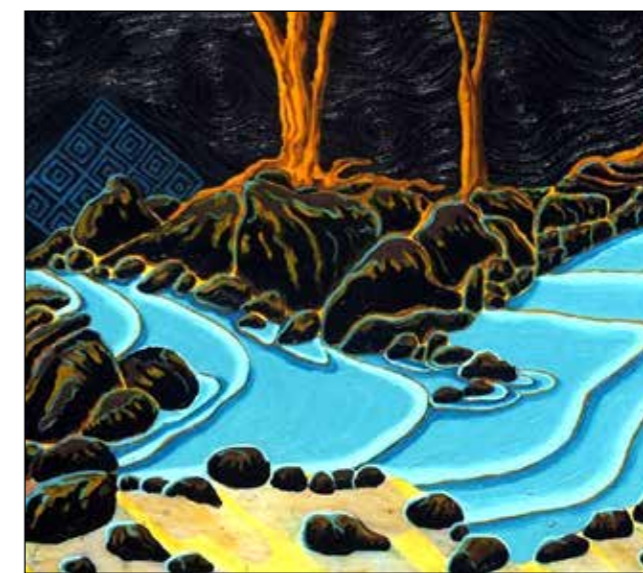
'The Caldera', featuring paintings by Githabal/Widjabul Wiabal artist Luke Close, honours his connection to Country and culture.

His paintings draw inspiration from the landscapes around the Tweed caldera, using abstracted elements to capture his impressions and cultural connection to the region.

Ceramicist Antoinette O'Brien is also exhibiting as part of the program, with 'After Fugue', a collection of her work which combines figurative and landscape elements as well as more commonplace items transformed by the structure of her materials.

Outside of the PLATFORM program, 'Baaninje's Backyard' features the work of two Bundjalung women, mother and daughter, Bronwyn and Ella Noah Bancroft, which forms an illustrated children's book about a grandmother's love for her garden, her Country and her family.

The exhibition runs from 12th June to 25th October. For more information, go to: <https://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au>



'Cedar Creek III' (detail) by Luke Close

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Nimbin Time



by Marty de Weerd

There's something they don't tell you when you move to Nimbin: time operates differently in this village. Those familiar with the concept of "island time" may note some similarities, but there's quirks to Nimbin that make it an entirely unique phenomenon where time becomes as malleable as clay.

When I first arrived in early 2023, I was still carrying the habits forged in 20 years of working in corporate and government environments with tight schedules, deadlines and meetings on the hour.

I wouldn't have considered myself a model of punctuality, but I was generally on time or early, or extremely apologetic for being any more than a couple of minutes late.

It wasn't long into my time in Nimbin that I realised those old habits had to die for me to maintain any semblance of sanity. The famous sign at Daizy's (pictured) alluding to their very vague hours of operation should have been the first clue that my approach to time needed to be amended, but I wrote that off as one business's fun way to dismiss their unreliability.

The first few times I arranged to meet someone in town, I found myself on my second cup of coffee before they arrived. I will admit I was a little put off by this. Were they avoiding me? Didn't they value my time?

Of course, that was not the case at all. Once they explained how it worked in Nimbin, things started to click into place and I

immediately knew that I needed to loosen up my approach. This is how I have come to understand how it works.

Firstly, there's the roads. Just getting to the village can have many unexpected obstacles and challenges. Closures and detours, roadworks, cows on the road, trees on the road, random objects that have fallen off the back of a truck on the road, or an overly cautious driver are all common enough to cause a delay.

Then there's the conversations. When you're new to town and somewhat anonymous, aside from a few street dealers asking for your business, walking from the Bush Theatre to the Funky Corner is fairly uneventful, but once you start making connections, just getting from Feast to the post office could take half an hour or more.

People in Nimbin value their connections in the community and take the time to build and maintain them. This often means stopping for a chat, even when you have somewhere else you need to be.

These conversations also happen in line at shops, filling up at the servo and numerous other locations across town.

Of course, there's a myriad of other factors that come into play. Ultimately, the result is the same – a set time generally means a 30-minute window that starts at that time.

This can blow out to an hour but things will mostly happen in that time; it's just a matter of being patient. There's rarely a rush and everything happens at the time it's meant to.

Most importantly, 4.20pm is sacred.



The stories we carry

by Andrea Soler
Modern Wisdom Hypnotherapy

For over 20 years I sang on stages, wrote songs and watched music move people in ways that words alone never could. I didn't know it then, but everything I learned about the human heart was quietly preparing me for something else entirely.

The birth of my first daughter had been a steep learning curve. During my second trimester with my second baby, I knew I wanted to do things differently. Some beautiful friends gifted my partner and me a Calm Birth retreat run by the wonderful Bec Fagan of Empowering Birth Journeys in Lismore.

That weekend retreat cracked something open in me, like a part long forgotten. The wise part. The knowing part.

Through breathwork, guided relaxation and hypnotherapy techniques, I began to truly feel, for what felt like the first time, how profoundly connected our minds and bodies are. How we think directly shapes how we feel. And how we feel shapes everything.

I left that retreat not just with a different understanding of birth, but with a different understanding of myself.

My second birth was intervention-free. I was calm, present and connected to my own wisdom.

The journey inward

After the birth of our second daughter, curiosity took over. I began studying self-hypnosis, exploring the mind-body connection and quietly working on something I had carried for years: anxiety. The kind that wakes you at 2am with a heavy sense of dread. The kind that whispers you are not good enough before you have even gotten out of bed.

Slowly, with practice and patience, those whispers grew quieter. The anxiety lifted. I felt lighter, clearer and more myself than I had in years.

The results were undeniable, and I knew I had to share this with others.

In 2025 I completed my Diploma in Clinical Hypnotherapy and NLP, and Modern Wisdom Hypnotherapy was born.

What music taught me

The deeper I went into my hypnotherapy studies, the more I recognised something unexpected: music and hypnotherapy have something profound in common.

Think about why we love music so deeply. Why we lose ourselves in a song, a film, a book is because of the story. Stories speak directly to something beneath our rational mind. They bypass our defences and land somewhere deeper, somewhere more real.

Hypnotherapy works in exactly the same way.

We are all storytellers. From the moment we are born we begin collecting stories about who we are, what we deserve and how the world works.

Some of those stories lift us. Some were handed to us by others, perhaps in childhood, perhaps in pain, and they were never really ours to carry. And some we have simply told ourselves so many times that we have forgotten they are just stories.

Hypnotherapy works with all of these. The harmful stories we inherited. The limiting stories we repeat. And most powerfully, the new stories we are ready to tell. Stories of freedom, calm, self-belief and becoming who we always had the potential to be.

This is the thread that runs through everything I do.

Ancient wisdom meets modern science

Long before hypnotherapy became clinically recognised, cultures around the world understood the healing power of trance, storytelling, ritual and the subconscious mind.

Today, modern research is increasingly validating what traditions have intuitively known for thousands of years: our minds and bodies are deeply connected.

Studies show hypnotherapy can support people experiencing anxiety, chronic pain, performance challenges and sleep disorders.

It works not by changing who you are, but by communicating directly with the subconscious mind, where many of our patterns, beliefs and habits live.

What I witness every day

Since opening my practice, I have had the privilege of working with clients across a wide range of issues.

What moves me most is the moment a client tells me that something which held them back for years is simply no longer there. The freedom in their voice. The deeper connection they feel to themselves.

That is why I do this work.

I believe healing ourselves also changes the way we show up for our families, communities and the world around us.

Come and find me

I offer face-to-face sessions from my peaceful practice in Wadeville, in the beautiful Border Ranges, and online via Zoom for clients across Australia and worldwide.

If something in this story speaks to you, I'd love to hear from you. Your first step is a free 15-minute discovery call.

Andrea Soler is a clinical hypnotherapist and NLP practitioner based in Wadeville.
Phone 0466-651-471, web: modernwisdomhypnotherapy.com
@modernwisdomhypnotherapy

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Friends of the Koala update

by Kyi Van Hooff,
Volunteer Manager

It's that time of year again when things start to feel a little quieter around the Care Centre. Many of our koalas have now been released back home to the wild, the Koala Kindy is feeling much calmer than it did over summer!

Cassy and Cob

With most of this season's joeys now grown and released, Cassy and Cob are the last two little residents still in Koala Kindy and they are both continuing to thrive.

Watching these two confidently explore the outdoor enclosures, test their climbing skills and practice increasingly ambitious leaps between branches is incredibly rewarding, especially considering how fragile they both were when they first arrived in care.

Cob has now been with us since September after losing his mum Maze, who sadly deteriorated from



severe neurological disease shortly after rescue. Tiny Cob weighed just 305 grams on admission and needed intensive support as he adjusted to life in care.

Over the past eight months, he has gradually grown into a bright, active young koala thanks to his own resilience and the extraordinary dedication of his carers.

Cassy's journey has also been a remarkable one. When she arrived earlier this year after being

found alone in a car park, she was critically compromised, emaciated, dehydrated and requiring intensive supportive care to stabilise her.

To now see her healthy, active and confidently keeping up with Cob in Kindy feels incredibly special.

Both joeys continue to make excellent progress as they build their strength, confidence and independence, and it hopefully won't be too long before Cassy and Cob are also preparing to head back home to the wild.



Rosie

We are very happy to share that Rosie continues to do well in care and has now returned another negative result for cryptosporidiosis – a fantastic outcome for this lovely girl and her dedicated care team.

As cryptosporidiosis can be a very difficult disease to treat and monitor, Rosie will need to remain in care a little longer while we cautiously monitor her progress.

She will require one more negative result before she is able to safely return home to the wild.

Rosie has come such a long way since being admitted last year, and we are incredibly hopeful she is now nearing the final stages of her rehabilitation journey.



Napier

Five-year-old Napier completed his course of treatment and returned a negative chlamydia result before heading to plantation to rebuild his strength.

After spending time there rebuilding condition and recovering his strength, we're very pleased to report that he is now preparing for release, and should be heading back home to the wild very soon.

Good luck Napier!

Report every koala you see close to, or on a road immediately. For koala rescue across the Northern Rivers, call Friends of the Koala's 24/7 koala rescue hotline: 02 6622-1233.

Northern Rivers Traveller guide celebrates the spirit of the region

A new visitor publication designed to inspire travellers to experience the Northern Rivers has officially launched, with councils across the region joining forces with Adhere Marketing to produce the inaugural Northern Rivers Traveller guide.

Celebrating the people, places and unique character of the Northern Rivers, the guide captures what makes the region so special, from spectacular coastlines and world-famous beaches to ancient rainforests, vibrant towns, local food and drink, arts and culture, events and immersive nature-based experiences.

Produced in partnership with tourism representatives from Ballina, Byron Bay, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed Councils, the guide encourages visitors to slow down, stay longer and discover the experiences that can be enjoyed across the region.

Located within easy reach of South-east Queensland and serviced by two airports, the Northern Rivers continues to attract visitors seeking connection, authenticity and memorable regional experiences.

The first edition of the 28-page Northern Rivers Traveller booklet will see 50,000 copies distributed, with 25,000 copies inserted into national travel publication Australian Traveller's '100 Best Aussie Towns' edition from 10th May, reaching travel audiences across Australia.

A further 25,000 copies will be distributed through Visitor Information Centres, accommodation providers, key attractions and Ballina Byron Gateway Airport.

Karen Hirst, destination lead at Lismore City Council, said the guide reflects the pride shared across the region. "The Northern Rivers is an incredibly special part of Australia, known for its natural beauty, its people, creativity and welcoming spirit."

"This guide invites visitors to experience the region more deeply to venture beyond the familiar, connect with local communities and discover the many stories and experiences that make



Launching the booklet: Jane Laverty, Business NSW; Karen Hirst, Visit Lismore; Alanah Ward, Discover Ballina; Katee Blizzard, My Clarence Valley; Greer Zunker, The Tweed; Nicole Siburn, Byron Shire Council and Suzie Bradley, Adhere Marketing.



the Northern Rivers so unique," Ms Hirst said.

"We were thrilled to partner with councils to bring this guide to life," said Suzie Bradley, editor of Northern Rivers Traveller at Adhere Marketing. "Having spent nearly two decades publishing across the Northern Rivers, we've seen first-hand the growing appetite for authentic regional experiences."

"There's something truly special about the Northern Rivers, the landscape, the lifestyle, the creativity and the sense of connection people feel when they visit. This guide is about sharing that spirit with a wider audience and inspiring people to come and experience it for themselves."

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and turn plastic waste into useful stuff at our workshop space at the showground horse shed (1st Tues)
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Gibralter Ranges trio

Local walks on the horizon

by Peter Moyle, Nimbin Bushwalkers Club

Not unprecedented for this time of year, a very wet month. This has not affected us too much as we try to schedule walks where most tracks do not get too boggy. We have a couple of walks coming that should be OK unless we get flooding rains.

Our membership comes from all over the Northern Rivers and twice a month we get out, mainly in our National Parks, but at times we venture onto some nice walks on private lands.

A few times a year we venture away for a few days for camping, sometimes coastal with others on the tableland.

Walks Programme

Sunday 21st June Goonengerry National Park

Leader: Peter Moyle 0412-656-498. Please register with Peter to help with planning and car-pooling.

Grade 4: 10km approximately 4 hours. There are some off track sections that may be slippery. Good walking shoes/boots needed. We will be walking into an area with some nice waterfalls; I can guarantee a bit of water. This is a great walk even in the wet as it is on top of the ridge so not boggy. Meet: 9:00 am at the Goonengerry NP at the end of Mill Road.

Bring: The usual including hat, water, and lunch.

Sunday 5th July Christies Creek between Burringbar and Murwillumbah

Leader: Mark Osburg 0408-113-125. Mark knows this area well.

Grade 4: 10km walking up fire trails before some off-track and along creek beds. The creek walk is special and a highlight. It will be at its best after the wet season.

Meet: 9am Burringbar Train Station Park where we will carpool to the start. Ring Mark for more details and to register.

Bring: Good walking shoes/boots needed as well as the usual, lunch, water, hat.

Sunday 19th July Terania Creek Basin, Nightcap National Park

Leader: Peter Moyle 0412-656-498. Contact for more information and to register.

Grade 4: Mostly off-track, there will be some slippery rocks and rough walking particularly after rain. We will walk through wild, rugged rainforest, the site of the historic battle to save this precious patch of pristine forest. Plenty of lush rainforest and plenty of water over the falls. This is one of the gems of this World Heritage-listed area.

Meet: 9am at the Channon Tavern for car-pooling or 9:30am at the picnic area at the end of Terania Creek Road, 15km from The Channon.

Bring: The usual, hat, drinking water, lunch, and good bushwalking boots/shoes.



A beautiful guild

by Scott O'Keeffe

Last month I described the role of the titans of the forest, topknot pigeons in dispersing tree seeds. Most of us have seen or heard them as they fly over in the autumn and winter.

I'll wager though, that most people have not noticed the tiniest of our seed-dispersing birds.

Silvereyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) are green and weigh only about 13 grams. They move quickly through dense foliage and roost high in the canopies of large trees. They are inconspicuous, but they are ecological movers and shakers despite being Australia's smallest birds.

Silvereyes have a varied diet that includes insects, fruit, nectar and flower parts. The proportions of insect and plant material they consume varies markedly with season. In the breeding season from September to December, insects make up the largest proportion of their diet.

The proteins and fat in the insects are essential to the developing nestlings. At other times a larger proportion of their diet is fruit. Silvereyes consume small and medium-sized fruits of native and exotic plants.

Silvereyes are very effective seed dispersers. This is especially so in late summer and winter when they flock and move long distances along Australia's east coast and the Dividing Range. By day the silvereyes forage actively, moving quickly through shrubs and thickets, consuming fruits of all but the largest size. This high energy food fuels their long-distance migrations which they make at night.

Silvereyes share the characteristics of other efficient seed dispersing birds. The fruits they eat pass quickly through the gut and seeds are voided in about 20 minutes. By that time the flock will have moved, and the still viable seeds are deposited well away from the source plants.

After feeding, silvereyes often roost in the canopies of large trees. The seeds that rain down from these roosts land under a leafy canopy in a microclimate that favours germination.

These are the characteristics that make silvereyes important vectors for seed dispersal across our region. Native vegetation communities benefit as so many of their component species depend upon frugivores for their survival.

But there is a downside: like topknot pigeons, silvereyes are also implicated in spreading invasive plants. They have been documented as feeding on Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and invasive asparagus species. I've seen them feeding on lantana fruits.

Given their broad diet, there are many other invasive plants in our region whose seeds might be attractive to silvereyes. Weedy solanums and Chinese elms, for example.

Silvereyes are also attracted to a variety of cultivated fruits such as figs, feijoas, grapes and persimmons. They can cause some damage in commercial and home orchards, but this is perhaps balanced by their consumption of destructive insects such as scale and aphids.

We should use our knowledge of the ecological role that these birds play in



A silvereye, Australia's smallest bird and an effective seed disperser.



Velvet Leaf is often used in revegetation projects. It's a favourite of the Silvereye. Photos by the author

sustaining native vegetation to enhance our restoration practices. Bush regenerators go to some lengths to preserve and plant native trees with large fruits that feed large birds like topknot pigeons. How about planting thickets of native species that provide food and cover for tiny silvereyes?

Plants like velvet leaf (*Callicarpa pedunculata*), shown in the photo, will attract flocks of silvereyes moving through the area and they'll be depositing seed of

other species as they pass. Despite the enormous differences in physiology between giant topknot pigeons and tiny silvereyes, the two species have similar ecological roles. In fact, there is a whole suite of physiologically dissimilar species that have similar ecological functions. The technical term for this kind of group is an 'ecological guild.'

I'm exploring this topic more while the seasonal crops of camphor laurel and velvet leaf persist.



View from the loo by Stu McConville

greywater tank, and should definitely run a 12-volt fan to an exhaust flue.

Air should flow down through the pile via a gap under the toilet seat and exit via the flue.

When built correctly and used as a batch system with two or more interchangeable bins, these systems produce excellent quality compost in a relatively short period.

Stuart McConville runs Pooh Solutions Waste Water and Composting Toilets. Phone 0427-897-496, www.poohsolutions.com



Nimbin Garden Club notes

by Peter Brooker

It was most unfortunate that the May Garden Club meeting had to be cancelled due to persistently wet weather. We are hoping to reschedule our visit to Lureen's place to July and we'll keep you posted on that.

The June meeting is a working bee at the aged care facility at Nimbin Hospital. We met in February last year and did a massive clean-up and rubbish

removal, and we have decided to do this once a year to keep on top of it.

The clean-up allows the residents to get out and enjoy their garden in a way that they are otherwise unable to do, and we all have an enjoyable time doing it!

Last year, the wonderful people of CMC provided a truck and a couple of able-bodied lads to help us, and we're hoping that this will be provided again.

A fabulous afternoon tea will be

served on the verandah afterwards, with staff and residents hopefully joining us.

So, bring your gardening gloves, wellies and sécateurs and join us for a most worthwhile afternoon on Saturday 20th June, 2-4pm at Nimbin Aged Care, entrance via Cecil Street. Please also bring a plate to share.

Hope to see as many of you as possible.

Photos: 2025 clean-up at Aged Care



Sandhills Wetlands project wins prestigious award

Byron Shire Council's Sandhills Wetlands restoration project has won the Landscape section of the 2026 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards.

The Awards showcase outstanding heritage projects, people, innovations and achievements from across the state.

Phil Holloway, Director Infrastructure Services, said the award was recognition of what is one of Byron

Council's most important cultural, environmental and drainage projects.

The original wetlands, on a 1.8-hectare site in the heart of Byron Bay, were destroyed by sandmining in the 1960s, and for many years the site was overgrown, degraded and attracted anti-social behaviour.

"The project restored the ecological function of the wetlands, reinstated

the natural landscape and honoured cultural heritage," Mr Holloway said.

"The project was co-designed with Arakwal locals and supported by Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and Crown Lands.

"The wetlands are also designed to reduce the impact of flooding in the Byron Bay town centre.

"On behalf of Council I thank the National Trust

(NSW) for this prestigious award and for recognising the immense worth of the Sandhills Wetlands restoration project," Mr Holloway said.

The restoration of the Sandhills Wetlands was funded by the Australian Government through the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program, the NSW Government through the Public Spaces Legacy Program, and Council.

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