

Backlash



Great pot specials in June

2004 Australian Garden Industry Awards

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Some questionable road widening and gutter work carried out a couple of years ago on a highly visible section of Wilsons Creek Road was just recently crowned with two equally visible federal government Roads To Recovery signs. Begs the question, why did the signs which serve no purpose other than to inform drivers who paid for the road go up years after the works were finished? Smells suspiciously like a federal election vote-gathering stunt.

Sitting in the lobby of a Byron Bay osteopathic clinic an *Echo* staffer overheard the receptionist take a phone call. The caller wanted to know what star sign the osteopath was before booking an appointment and when she heard she was a Libran, promptly hung up. This could only happen in Byron, although it makes one wonder, what's wrong with being a Libran osteopath anyway?

It's amazing where *The Echo* ends up: a group in NE Tasmania notified Rural Australians for Refugees they had planted 52 'trees for refugees'. Mullumbimby Primary School has planted a heroic 96. Seventeen trees have popped up in Mullumbimby, 12 in Byron, three in Nashua and two in Lennox Head. Along with last week's 18 trees that's 200 refugees so far Australians have invited to 'put down roots'. Plant your trees before World Refugee Day on June 20 and register them on 0421 432 341.



Dancer Jangala at Island Quarry last Saturday helps celebrate the Transit of Venus. Photo Lisa Engemann

Larry Anthony was shocked and horrified last week that on *Play School* actors played a same sex couple taking their daughter to the fair (how does he cope with the Bananas in Pyjamas?). He feared the ABC was becoming too politically correct and worried how he would explain it to his children. It's simple, Larry, it's no different to explaining opposite sex couples: people decide to live together because they love each other. The political correctness lies in Larry's fawning devotion to the Coalition party line.

Susanna Flower, Greens candidate for Richmond, would be well known to locals in her earlier incarnations. Also known as Susan Hedditch, she has starred in many local theatricals, including the *Farty Flowers* cabarets with her husband Chris, who was also a Greens candidate for Richmond several years ago. An earlier claim to fame is Susanna's ownership of Cinema Suzanne, one of the Shire's first video stores, on the site of the current Video Ezy in Mullumbimby.

Local music entrepreneurs fracas now have a new web-site. You can visit it at www.fracasmusic.com and participate in the online forum.

Not only does the 2001 Census show that the number of one person households is growing but, according to the Petcare Information and Advisory Service, the popularity of dog breeds is changing to meet the requirements of empty-nesters and home-aloners. Low maintenance is the go, and among the favourites are whippets and Labrador retrievers. It would be also interesting to know the number of rural residents who have forgone the company of dogs and cats in order to better enjoy neighbourhood koalas and wallabies.



Karl Allen of Mullumbimby sent us this photo of the rail line at Bourke and asks, is this the future of the local line? We hope not, while noting that the parliamentary inquiry on the issue will now be held in the Byron Bay community centre on Thursday June 10, 9.30am-11.30am. Not much time to take submissions, but get along and give the polities a piece of your mind on the topic.



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THE LONG WEEKEND

Anarchists all, the *Echo* drudges will not be observing Her Majesty's Party Hard Monday next week. Classifieds may be submitted by the usual Monday deadline. Long may we cry Liberty, Equality and The Other Thing.

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