

EAST GIPPSLAND NEWS



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Welcome rains

The sound and sight of rain brought smiles to the faces of most East Gippslanders from Friday through to Monday, with excellent falls recorded across the region.

With the effects of a hot summer certainly taking hold, the rain comes as a welcome relief for farmers, including the Mitchell River irrigators who have been forced to operate under very tight restrictions.

The Bairnsdale district recorded between 70 and 80mm, Orbost tipped out just on four inches in the old scale, while Combenbar had the highest local recording – 159mm.

Bruthen blues this weekend

It's the third weekend in February and that can only mean one thing – it's time for the annual Bruthen Blues and Arts Festival.

Organisers have arranged a great market to coincide with the excellent line-up of blues performances, with a vast range of items available for festival-goers to peruse, including a wonderful array of delicious foods and local wines.

Craft enthusiasts will enjoy seeing jewellery, patchwork, woodwork, clothing, hand dyed yarns, and sheepskin products. The musically inclined will enjoy stalls with CDs and wooden

handmade musical instruments, while others will enjoy the vintage items, novelty T-shirts, natural skincare, soy candles, plants, and handmade soap. Of course there will be fresh and tasty fruit and vegies, home baked goods and jams to take home as well.

Market lovers will also have the benefits of being able to listen to free music from the street stage, which will have great musicians playing on both Saturday and Sunday, and will enjoy roving circus performances throughout the day by local primary school children.



Local photographer, Norm Neilson, hosted an exhibition and auction of his photographic work of Bastion Point, Mallacoota, last Saturday evening to help raise money for the ongoing fight for the Save Bastion Point group. About 90 people attended the event at 'The Stables', with close to \$10,000 raised. More details in *Going Places*. Taking part in the night were Susan Lockwood, Annie and Bruce Downing and Renate Hadaway. K114-083

Norm's photos raise \$10,000

Saturday night's Save Bastion Point fundraising exhibition and auction of works by photographer Norm Neilson of Bastion Point at Mallacoota, was attended by about 90 people at nu art @ the stables, Bairnsdale.

Exhibiting photographer, Norm Neilson spoke passionately about his personnel quest to help save Bastion Point, by helping to draw people's attention to what he described as a most destructive selfish proposal.

Norm particularly emphasised the point that in his opinion "this was the greatest act of ecological vandalism ever committed to the East Gippsland coast, in modern East Gippsland's history".

Norm, in a later statement to the *News*, went on to say that some people don't seem to understand what is being fragmented and destroyed at the Point, once council's proposal is implemented and the area destroyed, it is lost forever.



Kae Roulston, of Swan Reach, and Jill Zelman, of Paynesville, at Norm Neilson's photographic exhibition and auction at nu art @ the stables last Saturday night. K114-79

Norm went on to say that visitors to the area and to his previous exhibition at the Mallacoota Mud Brick Pavilion were unanimous in their comments, that all they need is for the existing boat ramp to be upgraded, and what in fact they come to Mallacoota for, year after year, is the beauty of the place, they felt that this particular area is going to be destroyed by this current proposal.

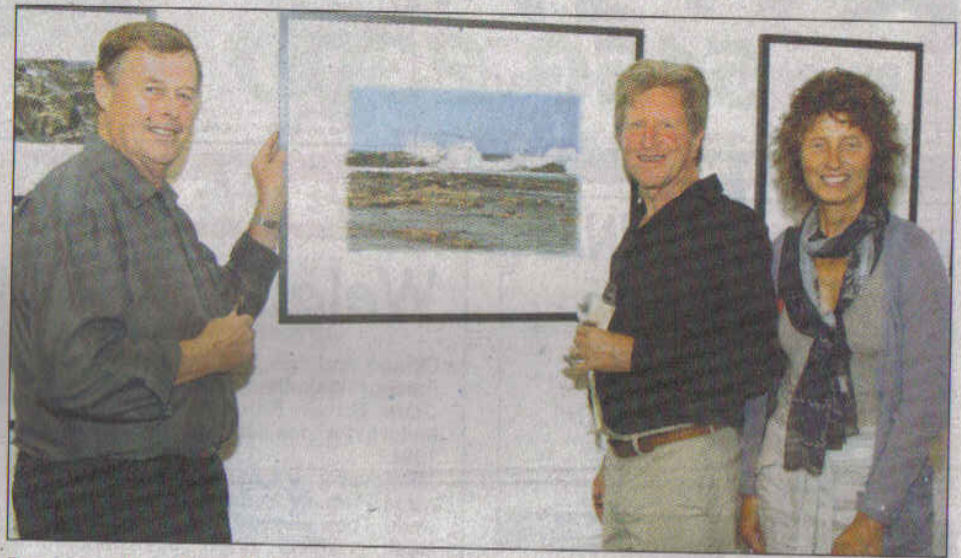
Norm said that one lady expressed her fears more passionately. Almost in tears, she said 'Our family has been coming here for 40 years, if this proposal goes ahead I don't think we could come back'.

The framed images were very well received by the crowd, with all but six of the 52 works sold; the highest price paid on the evening being well over \$600. One enthusiastic couple

purchased 10 works.

David Neale did a splendid job as auctioneer with total takings for the evening being almost \$10,000. All profits will go towards the Save Bastion Point Fighting Fund.

The wine for the evening was donated and served by Ken and Juliet Ekersely, of Nicholson River Winery. Ken and Juliet's contribution was gratefully acknowledged by Norm.



Photographer, Norm Neilson, with Cr Bill Gamble and wife Claire-Lise at Norm's exhibition depicting images of Bastion Point, Mallacoota. K114-081

PAYNESVILLE MUSIC FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 26 - SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2010

Sale College Swing Band | Soultanas | Orbost SC Swing Band
 Cookies & Cream | The Dirty Nails | Lakes Entrance SC Jazz Combo
 Don Burrows & Kevin Hunt | Lindsay & Gail Hammond | The Uncles
 Wally & The Cats | Rockin' Chair | Silver Hair | 4 Heaped Teaspoons
 This Time Round | Silk | Nagle Tunes Band | The Mango Skins
 Bairnsdale SC Swing Band | Jamie-Lee & Geoff Stagg | Jeff Parkes
 Sarah & Will | David Williams & Kizzy Davies | Duck Soup | Bad Bait

Music will be held on the foreshore, McMillan Straits and in the restaurants over the weekend. Come along and support our local musicians and this wonderful community event. Timetables for the weekend can be collected from the following businesses in Paynesville: Gippsland Lakes Escapes, Paynesville Seafoods, Fisherman's Wharf Cafe, The Old Pub, Newsagent & Fickle Fig. For further information contact Geny Clavarella on 0409 142 240

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