

Local News

A new direction for John Dahlsen

Story & photo Lou Beaumont

Byron Bay artist John Dahlsen is painting in a new direction, while still running with his signature environmental themes. Following on from his recent Plastic Purge series, inspired by the byproducts of the unnatural world of the plastics industry, he has retained the style of painting but this time Dahlsen has drawn inspiration from the natural world.

Moved by scenes that he sees on his daily lighthouse walk, John is painting seascapes that somewhat resemble wood block prints. Large blocks of colour make up vistas that are unmistakable to those familiar with Byron Bay.

Dahlsen says of this series, 'I am painting parts of Byron Bay that I feel I need to record at this time. I imagine it will be an ongoing focus of my work for some time.'

'My strong concerns for the state of the environment are hidden in each seascape. Each one is imbued with a



John Dahlsen visits 'The Pass 2007' – a work from his latest series of paintings.

certain moodiness. I feel these works belie simple renditions of the land, and I hope the fact that I have something to say is conveyed in creating this body of work.'

Dr Jacqueline Millner of the University of Western Sydney said of Dahlsen's lat-

est works, 'This play between abstraction and figuration, between synthetic/organic matter and immateriality in the [recent plastic] purge paintings, has been applied in Dahlsen's most recent works to landscapes — dark works whose subtle refer-

ences to environmental degradation all but disappear before forcefully catching you unawares.'

John Dahlsen's sea and landscapes, and his plastic purges, can be seen at his studio in Skinner's Shoot. Phone 6685 5965 or 0411 705 313 for private view-

Integrative medicine conference for Byron Bay

With Baby Boomers reaching retirement age, Australia's health care system is becoming increasingly strained. And while spending on treatments for chronic illness treatments such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases continues to grow, clients are recognising that combinations of complementary and orthodox medicines and practices offer more solutions than singular medical approaches. More importantly, addressing health problems before they manifest, by providing preventative health strategies, is far cheaper than caring for and treating people who have developed disease.

It's with these issues in mind that local health practitioners Dr Anthony Solomon and Naturopath Sally Mathrick decided to provide a forum for health care pro-

fessionals, called the Byron Integrative Medical Conference, to be held next week. 'We want to create sturdy bridges between the different healing professions,' Ms Mathrick told *The Echo*. 'We want to encourage understanding and discourse about various approaches to health practice, to educate health practitioners and support them in working together. This in turn provides better choice for the client and more effective coordinated treatment.'

The focus of the conference is on Pain Management, and will explore current treatments, possible interactions (favourable and not) and possible alternatives to treating people with chronic pain. The speakers and panel include some of the nation's leaders in pain management and complementa-

ry medicine education.

'Integrative medicine is relatively young and still forming. The common ground between all healing paradigms is preventative medicine,' said Dr Solomon. 'We want to explore this common ground and to see what each camp can offer in relation to effective treatment.'

This event will be the first of three in 2007, according to Ms Mathrick. The second

forum in July will focus on treating depression in an integrative manner, while the third dealing with addiction is earmarked for September.

The Byron Integrative Medical Conference will be held Friday March 30 at the Byron Bay Beach Resort. Cost is \$25 at the door and all health practitioners are welcome. For more visit www.byroninhealth.com or email conference@byroninhealth.com.

New face at Beach Resort

Justin Leith is taking over as manager of the Byron Bay Beach resort. Justin is already well known to many in Byron Bay, having managed fine dining venues such as Boomerang and Dish since 1999.

The resort's development manager Simon Stockfeld

said, 'Our thanks to previous resort manager Ms Sonja Hans for her stewardship during some testing times. Sonja Hans did a superb job during the Club Med ownership and also during the Becton ownership when the resort was in a planning dispute.'