



Karuna Bajracharya

TUNES N TOONS

BRAIDWOOD HAS A RICH HISTORY in the music scene. My generation of musicians is mostly influenced by the Nielsen Brothers. Anders still gives drumming lessons and there is an army of drummers around town. When we were kids, my brother Surya, Jarrah Kidd, Chris and Pia Colonna, Willie Bernardoff and Kahl Hopper used to watch Anders's band 'Smartarse' through the pub window. That inspired us to create music and we formed 'Bumblebeez' which was 'unearthed' by Triple J in 2002. We were an international act for a while doing massive shows and tours. We did festivals like Livid, Homebake and Splendour in the Grass. We opened for RadioHead in Sydney and Melbourne. Our music was described as a, "cut'n'paste collision of noisy hip-hop and rock."

My new studio was an old shed we have renovated, made soundproof with plywood, rockwool insulation, and villa board. It is a nice small space to accommodate four or five musicians. We have created a good sounding live room.

I am hoping that this space can be a place where artists from all around can come to record — and especially for our local community and kids to get involved with music. I want to run workshops here. I am a young father

now and it is great to have this space away from the house so I can continue my music. I am looking at it as a long term project.

My aim is to make this a hub for music in general. For instance, local musician, Richard Steele has done some recordings. This morning I had an MC from Canberra doing some rap. The award winning artist, Johnny Huckle has just recorded an album of childrens songs — so there is a variety of things happening.

I would like to set up regular jam sessions here — maybe once a month. Jamming is how we learnt about music and how to work together as musicians through sharing. That ethos has sort of disappeared in Braidwood. Some of the good players in town could come along and invite the youngsters to participate.

The way the studio is set up I can record up to 16 channels at a time and by incorporating a web cam we can edit clips and put them up as a blog on the website — to share the sound of braidwood — not necessarily to make money but to promote the studio and Braidwood itself.

I like free form experimental jamming — crossing elements of jazz, funk, and rock with bass, guitar, drums, turntables, some MC's, singers — sometimes

my mum goes wild on the microphone.

There are a bunch of talented young musicians emerging in the town, like Pat Martin, who we want to encourage and develop — but we generally lose them for a time when they go off to study and travel.

I am writing and recording my music all the time hoping one day to get a hit song on the radio. In the last year I put out an EP and an album independently. I am also a big fan of the vinyl but of course, keep everything backed up digitally..

Braidwood now has a professional industry-standard recording studio which will bring creativity and enhance our music scene. I feel that there is an interesting period coming up with young people devoted to Braidwood committing to settling here and making worthwhile contributions to the town with new and fresh ideas. For example Charlot and Clare Bernardoff — Clare is a film maker with views of establishing a production studio and Charlie wants to start a brewery.

I am sort of disappointed not to be here for the summer but I am excited to get going full steam ahead on my return. We are going to India for six months and when we return, the idea is to hit the ground running.

PEOPLE YOU MIGHT BUMP INTO ON THE STREETS OF BRAIDWOOD

Thomas Bonin

ICAME TO BRAIDWOOD when I was four. My family moved from Young and they decided they wanted to remain in the country, on a school bus route, near to Canberra, Sydney and the coast — and of course Braidwood was just the right place.

I was at Braidwood Central School all the way from kindergarten to year 12. In 2006 I entered the '24 Hour Comic Challenge' where contestants had to draw twenty-four pages in twenty-four hours, upload them to the contest forum site where they were voted on. To make sure the comics were new material and to provide a common benchmark for judging there were several words, a proper noun, a noun and a verb, that had to be used in the



story. They were 'Scotsman', 'magma' and 'wield'.

I had already been exploring the theme of scarecrows, perhaps influenced a bit by coming from a farming background and it made it a bit easier having an idea of a story beforehand, rather than making it up completely on the spot. But normally I don't really draw on my life experiences for inspiration.

I draw a lot of mythologically inspired

drawings, monsters, heroes, gods — or knights, samurais and castles — all that sort of stuff. In terms of developing a story, generally it comes from general research, reading, the internet or hearing a story. Then the story just continues in my head.

I have an interesting commission I'm working on to produce a cover for an anthology of 'Air Hawk' strips. The author John Dixon, who's in his nineties and now lives in the US, has given his permission for his strips,

never before compiled, to be published in a series of books. I'm drawing the cover for issue number four or five. My parents didn't buy the newspaper but we got great stacks of Sydney Morning Heralds from my grandmother.

Actually I got the gig because I had been asking around about where to get the 'Air Hawk' compendiums and one day I got an email asking if I was interested in doing a cover.

You never know, I might even draw a strip for *BWD* in forthcoming issues.

