

Welcome to 2006 from the Nimbin Family Centre

By Marie

I hope you've all recovered from the festive season and you are enjoying a safe and happy summer. Remember to stay in the shade and drink plenty of water.

Good news, the Family Centre re-opens for a year full of fun activities, on 16th January. I am looking forward to seeing you again and meet the new babs and parents. Remember at the Centre both fathers and mothers are equally welcome.

A quick reminder of opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9am to 3pm

Friday (apart for 3rd Friday of the month): 10am to 1pm

At the Centre you will find: Toddlers playgroup on Mondays, New Bubs

on Tuesdays, parenting information and support any time, counselling (by appointment), Toy Library, resources, weekly Baby Health Clinic and monthly Immunisation Clinic held by an Early Childhood Nurse from Child and Family Health.

Early in the year I would like to run a P5 program which, in a nutshell, is a Program about Promoting Pleasurable and Positive Parenting. It's the latest rage in Parenting Programs all along the coast and is making its way inland. Parents love it because it's hands on, practical, achievable, and guilt free. If you are interested in participating let me know. The program will run once we have a group.

The Volunteer Home

Visit Service is informing me that they are recruiting new volunteers for 2006 and training will happen in March 06. If there are enough local people interested, it will be possible to have the training in Nimbin.

VHVS aims to provide a practical, supportive and quality volunteer home visiting service to families with newborns and infants under three. Having a new baby is miraculously wonderful experience ... as well as - lets face it - a shock to the system; a little support can go a long way in keeping a family well balanced. Grown ups do need nurturing too, males and females.

For more information about the above, drop in at the Family Centre located on the left of the fire shed car park in Sibley St, near the Family Day Care and the Youth Centre, or ring on 6689-0423. When you ring, don't let the weird noises put you off, wait and a message will come on. Leave a short message yourself with your name and phone number so I can get back to you.

All my best wishes of health, happiness, harmony and loving kindness for all.



Buskers on Cullen Street.
What an array of instruments!

Senior Citizens Christmas party

The Nimbin Senior Citizens Xmas party was held at the Nimbin Bowling Club 10th December 2005.

Approximately seventy seniors were entertained by some of Nimbin's fine young and just a little bit older performers - Nimbin Central School's *Minor Bird Choir* and Val Hopkins' *Harmonic Convergence*, followed by *Tunable Jugglers* - Ryley, James and Jake, Tongan dance - Lorna Kerr, Doug and Biskit, Max and Len's *The Shoppers* and special guest Pritam.

There was also the launch of the DVD project that has been happening over the last few months, thanks to Simon Moore (volunteer project coordinator), Mitch, Amy-Kate, Ginger, Naomi (Nimbin Central School) and David Julian (Nimbin CTC). Simon and his students

have interviewed and filmed seven older members of the community and edited this to DVD with the expertise of David and use of the CTC equipment.

They should be proud of their outcome as it reflected some lovely stories and the interaction between the age groups. We hope the project will receive some funding this year so that this worthwhile project can continue to record our senior stories.

A special thanks goes to the Nimbin Bowling Club who have hosted the Senior Citizens Xmas party for many years. This is a wonderful venue that also supports the Senior Citizen group through the year.

Thanks also go to the business community who make this event possible with their generous donations of food and gifts for the Xmas raffle.

They are: Fun Fruits, Nimbin Butcher, Nimbin Chemist, Nimbin Craft Gallery, Nimbin Emporium, Nimbin Hairdressers, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Nimbin Hot Bread, Nimbin Hotel, Nimbin Newsagent, Nimbin Post Office, Nimbin Plumbers, Nimbin Trattoria.

St Vincent de Paul has been generous throughout the year with donations to Senior Citiz meetings.

As always the volunteers and families who come along and support their senior members are invaluable to the Nimbin community and our service.

The Nimbin Senior Citizens would like to thank the Nimbin community for their support during the year and in their generous donations to the Xmas party and raffle.

Happy New Year to all.
Cedar, Rose and the
Nimbin Senior Citizens.



New father Tom Stock with Lillian

A dead serious review

By Athena Zeladonii

"Where's My Tree?" is a dead serious comedy written and produced by local playwright Vale Mendelsohn.

Concerned for the environment, Vale wrote the script in an attempt to communicate her message through humour. Her message: what we have is not expendable, but vital and essential to our

existence.

Vale's short script follows a trio of young environmentalists, a metallic-looking being from the planet X-to-the-fourth-minus-one, and assortment of animals and insects, and a tree-feller, as they discover the effects of being without trees, and the consequences of selfish and unsustainable actions.

The project was Youth & Community Services funded,

and 18 people ranging in age from 5 to 70 were involved. With help from Alesia of the Nimbin Youth Centre, rehearsals were held once a week for three months to prepare for the performance.

Alesia also helped organise raps and dances for those who weren't so keen on the play, but wanted to perform on the day, and some kids even choreographed their own dances.



Environmental as anything. Large cast (above), large audience (at left), last minute assistance to the Tree-feller, aka Len Martin, from voice coach Kaye Martin (below).



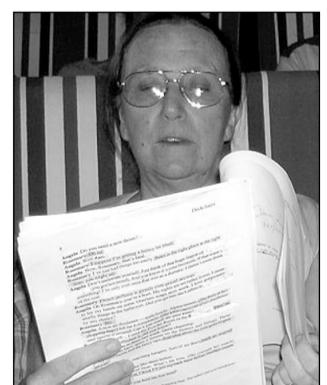
The play premiered on 10th December at the Bush Theatre, and it was a relaxed and receptive audience that watched Vale's well-cast characters come to life. The message of the script was easily accessible and tangible, and was mixed well with humour for both children and adults.

The acting saw a fantastic effort from both young and old (-er) leads, and from the "animals,"

whose beautiful face-masks were loaned for the cause by NORPA.

Overall "Where's My Tree?" was cute. Or it would have been cute, if cute were a word that did the play and its subject matter any justice. Fun, engaging, and with a heart of gold...

Hearty congratulations to Vale, Alesia and everyone involved in the performances for a job well done.



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