

Dream Of Aquarius

by Wendy Kay

One Saturday night recently, I went up to buy a plate of Curious Curry from a stall in front of the Nimbin Town Hall. There was Mark Rodriguez, doing a great trade, selling his tasty vegetarian food and delectable bread rolls, cakes and slices.



As I drove up in my 'chariot', I found myself in the midst of an Aquarian celebration. The music, the chanting and the melodious rhythmic beating of a small hand held drum, was lively and noisy. Soon a procession of children, each holding a lighted candle in a homemade candleholder, wended their way into the Town Hall; the adults followed.

In the hall, all these alternative people carried on their celebration; many singing Krishna or Hare Krishna and the music and movement accelerated and Benny Zable moved around with his beautiful hand painted Nimbin flag, which was literally floating above bobbing heads – a result of Benny's skill and swiftness and of a lovely spirit pervading this joyous occasion.

The crowd drifted into the annex for the opening of the "Some Children of the Dream" photo exhibition. Diana Roberts made a speech and said amongst other things "sometimes I feel I would like to put a wall around Nimbin (presumably to protect us from undesirable outside influences) and I think Nimbin has changed more in the last couple of years than in the first 17 years following the Aquarius Festival."

Diana referred to the "Children of the Dream" and suggested "perhaps Nimbin can show the rest of the world, the way".

These inspiring words were applauded by the people who were packed into the annex. A glass of wine and savoury snacks were offered for \$1 a serve and then the bubble broke, with a burst of spontaneous singing; everyone broke into song, obviously a well loved and old familiar tune that I had not heard before. It was sung over and over again with great sincerity and warmth. These are the moving words:

*May the long time sun shine upon you,
All love surround you,
And the pure light within you
Guide your way on.*

The singing of this lovely song, spontaneous and joyful, yet gentle and sweet, seemed to me to be, in effect, 'un grand finale' as these happy people, the alternative people of Nimbin, tried to show, by their luminosity of spirit, that the Spirit of Aquarius is still alive. Actually, many were not trying Their ways are of gentleness and peace.

So when you see someone who might appear a bit scruffy - perhaps with dreadlocks and garb of hippie garments, let us remember (we so called 'straights') that there is real beauty, often,

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in being bent! I am serious, because I know there are divisions in Nimbin and I know also of many positive and good things happening here.

If we take our blinkers off and open our hearts, *appreciation* of Alternative can dawn. This is a reminder for me too. However, there is another side to Nimbin.... Graeme Dunstan called it the *shadow*, when he came to speak to the Nimbin Older Women's Forum. In 1973, Graeme told us, the Australian Union of Students was given an open-ended budget – with \$20,000 they opened the Rainbow Cafe.

"When we opened the Rainbow, it was the most joyous place", Graeme said. "There was talent and luminosity of Spirit; Troubadours and people came, the flotsam and jetsam of culture. The 1973 Aquarius Festival attracted visionaries and prophets, and then on the other hand, came criminals and emotional cripples. Nimbin opened doors to lots of good; and then there, was the *shadow*."

There is still talent and luminosity of spirit in Nimbin. For instance, Nimbin has more visual artists than anywhere else in Australia.

The '73 Festival established a different way to look at Green issues. In '73, values were shared as practical experience; "People came to live these values, in sufficient numbers, to make it viable, for instance, Green politics", Graeme said. "And the homebirthing movement started in Nimbin and also Multiple Occupancy." He reflected, "a result of this, is that people on MOs are now very good at finding resolutions to property disputes."

Graeme Dunstan told our meeting that the *shadow is a reflection* of wrong in other parts of the world. "The fact that people, especially the young, are turning to drugs, is a social phenomenon facing the whole world. The fault for this must be found within our society," he said.

Everyone who has had a close encounter (of a colourful kind!) with Nimbin since the '73 Festival, has been touched by the place in one way or another.

Sometimes the street scene will stir one's soul with compassion; emotions often run high in Nimbin; anger and disgust run rife at times; generally though, it's a town of great tolerance and the acceptance 'of difference' makes our town a special place.

Along with the breathtaking beauty of the scenery, we have the scenario of a fascinating and extremely diverse bunch of struggling individuals living their lives for real. These are not plastic people, often faltering along life's way, sometimes hanging it all out for all to see. The ageless words 'fellow feeling make us wondrous kind' cameos, the essence of Nimbin.

It's the people of Nimbin from all walks of life, from the different spheres of society that make the place the wonderful place that it is.

Garry goes to greener pastures

Nimbin's police sergeant Garry Acton is moving on after four years in the job. He is transferring to Murwillumbah, where he will be closer to his family.

"I've always been Garry," he said, typifying his personable approach to policing duties. When he first took the position at Nimbin, it had been vacant for 13 months.

Reflecting on his time in the job, he said he saw a marked change in attitude, both on the street and amongst police. "Lismore police were initially reluctant to take shifts in Nimbin, but now are volunteering," he said.



"The role of the cameras is noticeable," he maintained. "They make people think twice before doing an anti-social act."

Greg Pike has been

appointed as the new sergeant. He had worked previously at Lismore station. "I think he'll be alright," said Garry

Skate Park progress slow, unsteady



The future of Nimbin's \$120,000 steel skate park facility remains unclear, following the postponement of a Council workshop to report on progress.

The workshop was to have been held in Lismore to inform Councillors and the public on the current situation, the noise studies and the options to deal with the issues surrounding this long-planned facility.

Work halted on the construction on the multi-challenge SK8 Park in an advanced stage following complaints to Council from nearby residents last year. A consultative committee was formed, representing the interest groups in the park's development.

It is understood that this

small group has been at loggerheads for some time, though the official reason for the delay is clerical. No date has yet been fixed for the postponed workshop.

The rusting half-pipes have been the target of heart-felt graffiti in recent weeks, mostly unflattering to Council's resolution process. In a Youth Club

On the job. Tursa workers at the skate park this month, where Commander Bruce Lyons showed his support for physical activities for youth in the village.

documentary, it was described as "Nimbin's white elephant," and was screened to mayor Merv King at the 39 Hours film-making premiere.



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Since when are we out of control?

An unfortunate incident at the cemetery turn-off, involving a motor accident and an alleged assault on a woman police officer, has become a public relations disaster for tourism-dependent Nimbin.

It is predictable that Thomas George would inflate the incident to further his long-standing case for additional police resources, particularly as, facing pre-selection for his now-difficult re-distributed seat, a law-and-order campaign would be handy. But he went too far by extrapolating to the non-sensical comment, "Nimbin (is) a Cronulla-style riot waiting to happen." It does no justice to his case, or his credibility.

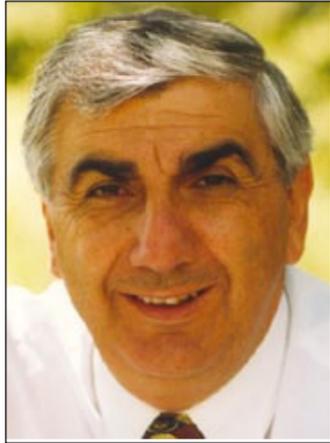
He was at it in the *Daily Telegraph* as well on Friday, in 'A bad trip for Nimbin,' suggesting we would "become the next Macquarie Fields or Cronulla," and in Monday's *Tele* the alleged assault near Nimbin was listed with others

in a side bar to illustrate the growing levels of violent attacks on police officers throughout the state. Even if Thomas George gets his extra 10 police, and there are many who think additional resources could be more effectively applied in Nimbin, the collateral damage to the reputation of the village is inestimable.

Mr George described policing difficulties to the *Telegraph*: "When someone is arrested,

locals gather in a mob and try and intimidate the officer," apparently in reference to an isolated incident last year involving a plain-clothed detective, which is currently before the courts with the facts of the matter untested.

Police commander Bruce Lyons was able to provide good back-up to George for the *Star*: "Nimbin is an extremely difficult area to police and it is dangerous. Many times our police have been injured and police do get intimidated." These comments stand markedly at odds with the everyday pleasant experience of a peaceful co-operative village, noted by millions throughout the world, but if it helps get more resources....



Thomas George. Agenda driven by political expediency?

As for Lyons' unfortunate comment at his press conference, filmed by Prime, "This is a typical example of the type of people that live in Nimbin," it was the tenor of his text,

but he too had gone too far, and had to wear it all day, sending a much more carefully-worded clarification for publication the following morning. It was now "...typical of some offenders, and their disregard for the police," and he had "every faith" in the "great majority of the Nimbin community...working together."

Running the comment as it stood in the

first place was pretty lazy journalism. Surely no investigative journalist, and there were several there, would let such an arrant generalisation stand without a follow-up question.

Or was Jane Gardner's original piece edited beyond recognition by a lazy sub, looking to play it up to reflect house style with sensationalist gusto? The *Weekend Star's* editorial was a well-deserved apology for the *Star's* reports on Nimbin, which rarely cast the village in a positive light and are often prone, as in this case, to draw sweeping conclusions from an isolated incident. "Nimbin out of control, say police" had been the best possible headline Thomas George could have, "to present his case to parliament next week," and shore up his conservative support for bringing order to what the editorial now called "these louts who cause trouble, an element."

An assertion that has gone unchallenged is



The Star's offensive slur gratuitously repeated in on response to Tarang Bates' well-meaning letter.

Lyons' absurd comment that "business people have stretchers in their shops as part of the furniture." One phone call would have confirmed that the Hemp Embassy, Museum and Neighbourhood Centre have stretchers, along with other first aid equipment, as part of a long-standing strategy to prevent overdose deaths. And they are kept discretely out of view.

But he might be right about one thing. This just might be the only town "in Australia, in the world" to have devised its own successful community health practices to meet changing needs. Without any help from Thomas George.

Welcome to Nimbin, it's a riot.

By Gerald Taylor

Late February and on the village street, like piles of burning autumn leaves, you can smell the bullshit steaming, must be slugging season on Nimbin once again.

Thomas George, our representative in Sydney, certainly seems to think so. No big surprise there as every year about this time Nimbin cops a flogging. Last year it was about broken windows along the village street, the year before it was the Rainbow getting trashed. Possibly it's an annual lack of news around this time or more likely it's just a way for the cops, media and pollies to kick a few heads and score goals with the electorate. Whatever the reason it's predictable and boring and Thomas George, our representative tool, should know better. And I don't use the term 'tool' lightly.

Tommy is off to Sydney to

demand that Nimbin gets ten cops on permanent patrol in the village. According to him we need all the cops we can get because the village is at risk of falling into a state of total anarchy; the old hippies are at war with the young drug lords and the whole place is balanced on the brink of riot. Tom thinks this because a young drunk thug assaulted a female cop while she was arresting him, as if this never happens anywhere else in his right wing electorate.

But Tom doesn't really believe this crap, it's just that he hates Nimbin and would like nothing better than to nuke the joint as a warning to any other dissidents in his manor. Also by defaming the community Tom gets boocoo brownie points from the redneck flowers that spring eternal in his National back paddock.

But why pick on that blunt tool Tom when so many others are lining up to take a crack at our

village. Take the *Northern Star*, our mercenary local rag, for instance. 'Nimbin Freaking Out', the banner headlines read and goes on to explain that the village is spiralling out of control and that pot is openly sold everywhere on the street.

Pot openly sold on the village street! When did the *Star* learn of this abomination? Could it have been thirty years ago when the *Star* originally let the cat out of the bag and reported on the illegal trade that thrived in the feral town? Wake up to yourself editor Eldridge.

Does this drivel improve your circulation or do you have ulterior motives for this type of moronic sensationalism? Maybe the street dealers are bribing you to advertise their product. If this is the case, please stop it, we just can't handle any more pot tourists, we get six busloads from Byron every day as it is.

And then there's our new North

Coast head cop, Bluey Line. Bluey had a gob full of venom to smear the town with and I, as a long term resident, take exception to his narrow and incorrect nastiness. In an interview with the *Northern Star* Bluey stated that one of his female officers had been assaulted while arresting a young drunk and that this behaviour was typical of Nimbin residents. Well, check out my record Bluey. The only time I ever struck a cop was while we were role-playing in her bedroom behind the police station and she told me to spank her.

Fair dinkum! And that was only after she'd told me to cuff her to the bed-head. Personally I love a girl in uniform, or sometimes even not in uniform. And, for the record, I always come quietly.

But enough gratuitous gossip and back to the fun bit; slugging Thomas George, our special tool in Sydney and the main offender in defaming Nimbin. Tom if you're going to pretend to represent us at least come out and talk to us, your constituents.

We won't hurt you. We might smear you with the sort of excrement you continually smear us with but so what, there's so much shit on your hands no one will notice and anyway you can always tell your drunken buddies that you only ventured out to Nimbin to put us in our place and not to score a bag of grass, as everyone will assume.

Lastly, another bit of bad news for the village; the parting of Garry (action without the 'i') Acton. So long Garry and good luck in your next posting, you're a great Sergeant, a genuinely decent human being with a good understanding of the community you patrolled.

Let me finish this whinge piece with Garry's words as reported in an interview with the *Daily Telegraph* regarding the recent Nimbin near riot; 'This (Nimbin) is a town that stands alone on what its opinion is of the drug laws'.

Ain't that the truth? So if you bastards can't say anything honest about us then do us all a favour and don't say anything at all.

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Training for disasters

Nimbin would face a shortage of trained people to deal with victims of a disaster, should one strike the area. "The urgent need for appropriately trained Emergency Services personnel has been highlighted by the bushfires and floods in NSW" according to Regional Manager of Red Cross Northern NSW, Vahideh Hosseini.

"Fortunately, we haven't had a lot of natural or man made disasters in Nimbin, but if disaster does strike in the area, there is a shortage of trained people to care for those affected. Hence it is extremely important to increase the number of trained volunteers in this region so that they can work in shifts if necessary, and the one day course is essential. Often people are moved to offer their services when a disaster arises, but without proper training their good intentions are of little help. Employers are sometimes willing for their workers to become involved, but unless people are trained beforehand they cannot be effective in times of disaster."

Red Cross is a participating organisation

in the NSW Disaster Plan, recruiting members of the local community to provide Personal Support to disaster victims, usually in their own or a neighbouring area. Red Cross provides personnel to care for those impacted by a disaster, meeting and registering people at evacuation centres, taking time to listen and care, providing information on other participating organisations, and a variety

sense and a listening ear", Vahideh Hosseini said. If called on, volunteers need to be able to work for a shift, and the one day training course is essential.

Red Cross are looking for people with the following qualities:

- 18 years or older and able to work an occasional shift of six to ten hours.
- A good listener, people from different backgrounds and cultures; literate in English.
- Willing to be trained and work with others in a team led by Red Cross.
- Practical, with commonsense, calm in emergencies.

Red Cross will be

conducting a FREE Personal Support training course in Nimbin, with morning tea and lunch also provided.

The course will be held from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm on Thursday, 23rd March 2006 at

the Nimbin School of Arts, 47 Cullen Street, Nimbin, NSW. To find out more about the course, or if you are wanting to register please call Lyndall on 6622-3244..

of other practical tasks to assist those in need at such a time.

"Personal Support volunteers need to be team players, caring and practical, with a good deal of common



Volunteers needed

Red Cross is looking for caring people to join local Personal Support Teams, assisting

people evacuated during disasters.

FREE TRAINING & LUNCH PROVIDED

**in Nimbin, on Thursday, 23rd March 2006, 9.30am to 3.30pm at Nimbin School of Arts, 47 Cullen Street
RSVP to Lyndall on 6622-3244 by Monday 20th March**

Nimbin Safe Community Project

By Lizette Twisleton



The Nimbin Aunties Program is progressing slowly. I have met with the founder of Byron Aunties and the Coordinator of the Lismore/Ballina branch. I would like to host an afternoon tea for all interested aunties next month. Anyone interested in becoming an auntie or finding out more about this great mentoring opportunity please ring me.

I also want to hear from girls or parents of girls who think that an auntie in their life would be a positive experience. I can be contacted by email safenimbin@hotmail.com or phone 6689 1692.

On a much more sobering note it is very alarming to hear of sexual assaults happening in Nimbin. It is very important that we are vigilant regarding our own safety and that of others. Watch out for each other, and I encourage locals and visitors to not walk around the village at night alone.

Sexual assault and rape impact the victim/survivor for life.

Support

If you have been sexually assaulted and are in need of support the following services are available.

Rape Crisis Line

1800 424 017 (24 hr service)

Lismore Sexual Assault Service

6620 2970

Nimbin Police 6689 1244

Nimbin Hospital 6689 1400

Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre

6689 1692 (open 10am-4pm weekdays)

What is sexual assault?

Sexual Assault is any behaviour of a sexual nature that makes someone feel uncomfortable, frightened, intimidated or threatened. It is sexual behaviour that someone has not agreed to, where another person uses physical or emotional force against them. It can include anything from sexual harassment through to life threatening rape.

Some of these acts are serious indictable crimes. Sexual assault is an abuse of power. Sexual Assault is never the fault or responsibility of the victim /survivor.

Sexual Assaults – Myths

Myths perpetuate messages that:

- blame victims for the offences committed against them
- protect offenders from the consequences of their actions
- reinforce the vulnerability of women and children.

Common Myths About Sexual Assault

Myth: Sexual assault, especially rape, is an unusual occurrence – it can't happen to me

Reality: One in three women will be sexually assaulted at some time in their lives (Fergusson & Mullen, 1999).

Myth: Men only sexually assault young, sexually 'attractive' women.

Reality: Sexual assault is not about sex. It is a crime about power and domination.

Myth: Women 'cry rape'.

Reality: Police statistics reveal that 'false' reporting of sexual assault is minimal, representing 2% to 7% of all reported assaults. These statistics also include statements withdrawn by victim/survivors due to fear of revenge and the impact of the legal system.

Myth: Women enjoy being raped.

Reality: This myth reduces rape to an experience, which is trivial and inconsequential. Sexual assault is an experience of violation, and terror, that has both short and long term consequences for victim/survivors.

Myth: Women who are raped want, and ask to be raped.

Reality: No woman asks to be raped. This myth wrongly locates responsibility with the victim/survivor and away from the rapist.

Myth: Women can avoid being raped by dressing sensibly and not going out alone at night.

Reality: Over 50% of rapes occur either in the offender's home or in the victim's home. There is no causal link between women's clothing and social behaviour and crimes of violence.

Myth: Most rapists are strangers.

Reality: 80% of rapists are known to the victim.

Myth: Rape is a sexual act.

Reality: Rape is an act of power, hostility and aggression resulting in severe humiliation and control of the victim.

Myth: Sexual assault, especially rape, is perpetrated by psychologically disturbed, sex-crazed 'madmen'.

Reality: Rapists are men from all socio-economic classes, professions and nationalities

Myth: Men rape because they cannot control their sexual urges.

Reality: There is no medical evidence to substantiate that men biologically have uncontrollable sexual urges

Each of these myths enforces the silence which surrounds sexual assault and, in so doing impacts on victim/survivors.

More information can be found on the CASA Centre Against Sexual Assault website, www.rwh.org.au/casa/CASA_House challenges these myths through information, counselling and advocating for legislative and policy reform to uphold women's rights and entitlements.

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Women's Call for Peace: An Urgent Appeal



We, the women of the United States, Iraq and women worldwide, have had enough of the senseless war in Iraq and the cruel attacks on civilians around the world. We've buried too many of our loved ones. We've seen too many lives crippled forever by physical and mental wounds. We've watched in horror as our precious resources are poured into war while our families' basic needs of food, shelter, education and healthcare go unmet. We've had enough of living in constant fear of violence and seeing the growing cancer of hatred and intolerance seep into our homes and communities.

This is not the world we want for ourselves or our children. With fire in our bellies and love in our hearts, we women are rising up - across borders to unite and demand an end to the bloodshed and the destruction.

We have seen how the foreign occupation of Iraq has fueled an armed movement against it, perpetuating an endless cycle of violence. We are

convinced that it is time to shift from a military model to a conflict-resolution model that includes the following elements:

- The withdrawal of all foreign troops and foreign fighters from Iraq;
- Negotiations to reincorporate disenfranchised Iraqis into all aspects of Iraqi society;
- The full representation of women in the peacemaking process and a commitment to women's full equality in the post-war Iraq;
- A commitment to discard plans for any foreign bases in Iraq;
- Iraqi control of its oil and other resources;
- The nullification of privatization and deregulation laws imposed under occupation, allowing Iraqis to shape the trajectory of the post-war economy;
- A massive reconstruction effort that prioritizes Iraqi contractors, and draws upon financial resources of the countries responsible for the invasion and occupation of Iraq;
- Consideration of a temporary

international peacekeeping force that is truly multilateral and is not composed of any troops from countries that participated in the occupation.

To move this peace process forward, we are creating a massive movement of women - crossing generations, races, ethnicities, religions, borders and political persuasions. Together, we will pressure our governments, the United Nations, the Arab League, Nobel Peace Prize winners, religious leaders and others in the international community to step forward to help negotiate a political settlement.

And in this era of divisive fundamentalisms, we call upon world leaders to join us in spreading the fundamental values of love for the human family and for our precious planet.

For information on how to sign the women's call for peace, contact Rainforest Information Centre on 6689 7519 or www.rainforestinfo.org.au

Come Together and Celebrate Being a Woman

Nimbin from 10am - Community Centre

Begins at 10am with dancing in the street followed by a Women's Circle at about 11am. Women Speakers and Open Forum. Women entertainers all day until about 6pm. Children's space and participation.

Picnic under the tree in front of the market stage, bring instruments, stuff to swap and crafts to share.

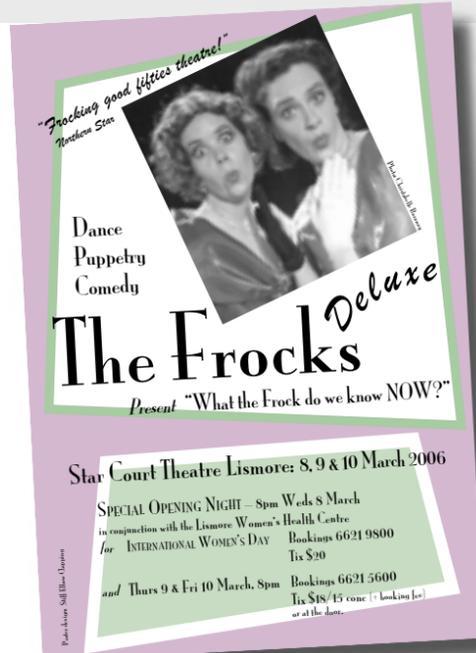
Women Say No To War Action

Lismore from 4pm - Spinks Park

This year on International Women's Day, women are mobilizing around the globe to call for an end to the occupation and the violence in Iraq. With the launch of the Women Say No To War Campaign, women around the world are signing on to the Women's Call for Peace (above).

The aim is to obtain 100,000 signatures by International Women's Day when US and Iraqi women will deliver these signatures to leaders in Washington DC, and women around the world will deliver them to US embassies.

Here in Lismore, we will walk for peace, and deliver a Women's Call for Peace to Ian Causley (Page MP) asking



Bring yourself.

The theme for the march is one of diversity...we are Women from all sectors coming together...we are all types of Women who oppose Australia's involvement in militaristic action... today we walk for peace...we remember our sisters and brothers living in war torn regions.

Afterwards, Join Us for Dinner at Caddies...

What the Frock do we know NOW?

The Frocks perform Star Court Theatre March 8th.

for an end to Australian involvement in the Iraq war.

The action begins at Spinks Park (next to Left Bank restaurant), Molesworth Street, Lismore on 8th March at 3:45 for a 4pm for a candle lighting and peace prayer followed by 4:20pm by a festive walk around the CBD.

Come as you are or dress festive - wear pink if you wish. We are all sorts of women, artists, mothers, business people, students...Bring banners and percussion instruments, flutes, fun!

International Women's Day - Wednesday 8th March

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Glimmer of hope for pre-school funding

Nimbin Community Pre-school has grand plans, but no money.

The community run and operated pre-school catering for 3-5 year-olds has operated out of the Showgrounds building for 25 years. Co-ordinator Dianne Gregory said the DA for their new building on land at Nimbin Central School was submitted to Council before Christmas, and they have received a reply which contained "a lot of new things to be done," which they are pressing ahead with.

While the cost of the building work will be covered by a special grant, when it finally gets underway, Dianne said covering the cost of the day-to-day operations while keeping fees affordable is becoming increasingly difficult.

Funding of preschools has been frozen since 1986, with only CPI increases since then.

Ms Gregory said the pre-school operates 5 days a week and charges fees ranging from \$8 to \$16, depending on parent income. "We presently have lots of vacancies, Mondays to Wednesdays," she said.

During February the Director of Kurri Preschool in the Hunter Valley met with DoCS Minister Reba Meagher in Maitland, while the NSW Cabinet was in town.

Reba acknowledged that viability of community-based preschools is the major issue in the immediate short term - she suggested 30 would fail in the next six months if nothing were done. She also acknowledged the inequity between

the DET and DoCS systems and the need to increase the number of places, and was obviously still wedded to the idea of getting preschools to extend their hours, and access Federal funding, as part of the answer to the problem.

The Minister said she is working with DET, Treasury and Cabinet with a view to making an announcement about preschool funding by the end of March, and suggested we would be 'much happier by the end of March.' However, because it's still under discussion, she couldn't give any details as to what her vision was, or how and when it was going



Child's play. The class of 2006 at Nimbin Community Pre-school, still in Cecil Street.

to be achieved.

Statewide action to increase funding for preschools is planned for 8th April, and will include a "Play Day" rally in Heritage Park, Lismore, with everyone wearing red. Gabe Connell of Children's

Choice, a coalition of community-based pre-schools in NSW said, "If it is well-attended, it will look fantastic on the news, and will let everyone know how serious we are about fighting for all children and parents in NSW."

New teachers for Tuntable Falls Primary



The winds of change are blowing through Tuntable Falls Primary School, with two new teachers starting at the beginning of the current school term.

One of a handful of independent schools in the Northern rivers area, Tuntable Falls Primary School is run by a parent body whose role includes selection of teachers for the school.

"We take the selection of teachers very seriously," said David Hyett, spokesperson

for the school. "As an independent school the parents make many decisions that directly impact on the effectiveness of our teaching programs, and selecting the right staff is at the top of the list," he said.

Tuntable Falls Primary School has 23 students split into two classrooms. The small number of children in each class allows for very personalised teaching and full development of the children's creative interests.

Paul Solk, the new teacher for grades 3 to 6 believes in independent learning where the students are constantly challenged and learn to take responsibility for their own learning.

Paul believes he can teach the students the tools to effective learning and says it is ultimately up to the children to implement them.

Early indications are that the students are fully embracing their new male mentor and role model, with many parents delighted

at the heightened level of interest their children are showing in learning.

Thomas Rose, the new grade 1 to 3 teacher, has a long history of involvement in alternative education, including Steiner. He believes in steering the younger children's learning through play focusing on the basic skills of reading writing and arithmetic.

Future activities planned by this very progressive Independent school include a Karaoke evening at the Tuntable Community hall on the 1st of April at 6.30 pm. Two school camps, 5 days to Minnie waters in April and a week on Stradbroke Island in November. The camps involve the whole school community, parents, children, teachers and their families.

Then it's the Nimbin fashion shows, where the students work together to create a range of clothing made by children for children.

So if you see school children running jumping skipping and singing in your street, they are most likely Tuntable Falls primary kids.

Rainbow Ridge Steiner School

The official opening of this beautiful new building will be held Friday 10th March from 11am. All welcome.

Butcher Boys

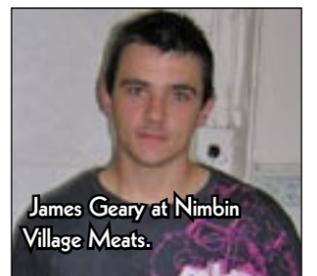
Nimbin Meats has had a change of ownership, though you can scarcely tell the difference.

Young partners James Geary, who served his apprenticeship at the shop, and Kirra Oliver, who is currently an apprentice, have teamed up to invest in their future in butchery.

"It's a good shop, and a good trade," said James. "Rod has been talking to me about taking over for a while, showing me what's involved."

Rod's influence still permeates the shop, especially in the kind and helpful approach to customer service.

We're not changing anything," said James. Ginny is still doing



James Geary at Nimbin Village Meats.

the pate and pork pies, the salamis and smoked meats are still made on the premises, and everything is still free-range and organic, including the turkeys and venison.

But they do have plans afoot - to refrigerate their other display window, and to supply packaged meat.

Any reaction from customers? "It's been all good," said James. "We've been flat out, which is good."

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Nimbin Central School News

by Athena Zelandonii

As I write this, it's Week 5 of Term 1 in this year of the dog, and everybody is well and truly settled back into the school routine for what promises to be an exciting and productive year. Everything is as it should be down here at Nimbin Central School, and it's getting even better...

"Too hot, can't learn..."

Air conditioning is being installed into multiple 'hot spot' rooms on the second floor, much to the relief of both students and teachers. The library too is getting the refrigerator treatment; all the better to study or read in.

On that subject also, a huge welcome mention to our new and truly awesome librarian Mel Taylor we do hope you find your newly air-conditioned abode to your liking.

"Run, it's a hierarchy!"

This year heralds the introduction of a senior group of students elected to represent the school and to help organise activities and uphold values within it. A group of 7 year 11 and 12 students were elected at the end of last year as school prefects and captains, and I wish them all the best.

"But what are all these metre high white poles sticking out of the ground for?"

To benefit blind student Chris Dockrill in his new and improved wheelchair, removable bollards have been put up near all the stairs. Those are bollards, not white poles. Go to school and learn something...

"You scream, I scream..."

It's in the works, and you certainly didn't hear it from me, but the SRC (student representative council) may be having a fundraising ice-cream day. Cross your fingers and hope for a sunny day...



Just do it! A moment of truth for art teacher Cath Marshall after the school's secondary swimming carnival at Murwilumbah pool, with technics teacher Stan Kovac being helpful as always. Picture: Marc LeBars

"I have a dream!"

Also this year, permanent members fill all Executive positions. What this means for Nimbin Central is that a long term vision for the school can be seen and acted upon by all members, as they are there for the long haul. And as new Primary Assistant Principal Marc Everingham hasn't gone running screaming into the hills by now, the year seems set to be an excellent and successful one.

Casual Work Available

Employment guaranteed at the school canteen. 9.30am to 2pm, weekly, fortnightly, monthly.

Experience: Not necessary, everything you need to know can be learnt within a short time.

Salary: A la carte lunch (healthy sandwich), plenty of tea, coffee and best of all friendship. **Applications close:** Never.

Teatro di Bush, Amigo

Things are moving at the Bush

Theatre, with a Mexican cantina already in operation as part of a major revival of this much-loved community asset.

A partnership of six has taken over the management of the cinema complex, and is in the process of buying out the company that holds the lease, which has 18 months to run, with a 5-year option.

At the packed-out café re-opening party one of the partners, Adrian Ryan said, "We had a lot of community help to get this together, including a month's free rent, and volunteers painting."

Manager Matthew also works as head chef at the restaurant.

He was previously executive sous chef at Hogan's in Melbourne, though he was born in Grafton and has lived at Iluka, Nimbin and Kyogle. He said that the opening party had been "hectic, a major test for the systems," and that "streamlining began immediately," to sustain the operation "seven days, eight till late, café by day, restaurant by night."



Ole! Wendy and Adrian Ryan at the café opening (above), Matthew the chef and manager (below).



"The menu worked beautifully," Matt said, pointing out that the Mexican style encompasses a wide choice of vegetarian and vegan dishes, enabled by the new kitchen layout where there are two sinks and two fryers, for meat and non-meat dishes.

"I want to give Nimbin a bit more of a culinary

experience," said Matthew. "While most Mexican food available is 'gringo food,' a Tex-Mex American version of the cuisine, we are offering more traditional styles, with authentic Spanish and Chilean influences." More dishes are to be added to the menu, which contains plenty of familiar favourites, and a blackboard menu will list seasonal dishes, with a take-away service starting in March.

Matthew is committed to keeping prices realistic for families. "If Richard Branson can do it, I can do it too," he said.

Plans for the theatre include "comedy, theatre, music, movies, anything you can think of." Adrian explained that with tables inside, the theatre can accommodate cabaret and theatre restaurant nights, and can also be used as a daytime venue for children's activities or cultural tourism,

with full café facilities. Full theatrical and concert production facilities will become available with the installation of three-phase power.

Adrian said, "We're available for bookings for functions, receptions, parties, anything, with a lower rate for the local community."

Community Bus needs drivers

Northern Rivers Community Transport is looking for any bus drivers with a NSW LR license or better, to help out driving folks around the Nimbin area in Nimbin's Community Bus.

The Mercedes Sprinter bus is able to seat 11 people plus the driver, and has space for two wheelchairs with lift access.

The bus is used for many different trips, helping bring people together

for social events, dances, birthdays, a day at the beach, special events, political and environmental events and rallies, and more. The Mums and Bubs group and Youth groups use the Community Bus regularly.

To hire the bus, the cost is set at 70c per kilometre, which includes the cost of petrol. There are no other charges, and the set fee is negotiable for some community groups.

The bus can only be hired out if the driver has an LR license, and at the moment there is a pressing need for more volunteer drivers to help with this community service.

To encourage new drivers for this community project, the bus is being made available for anyone interested in training for their LR license. This training is offered for free, in exchange for volunteer driving.

So if you are over 30 and interested in learning to drive a bus, please contact Julia at the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, 71 Cullen Street, Nimbin, phone 6689-1965. Julia is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm, and can also be contacted on her mobile 0417-319-905. Talk to Julia if you are interested in hiring the bus, too.

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The Big Three Issues

I write in regards to Health, Education and Welfare in New South Wales.

The psychiatric hospitals were closed down nearly two decades ago as the patients were miraculously stabilized with medication, put on a proper diet and released into the community to live. Now the NSW government wants to blame hydroponic marijuana as the evil trigger of a whole group of psychiatric illnesses in the community. What about hydroponic tomatoes, cucumber and lettuce? I don't believe these are doing it either!

The school and public libraries close about an hour after the children leave to go home. How are the children supposed to do research and develop the skills of researching? The internet is one way, albeit a very slow way if the only service is dial-up. I'm still waiting for ISDN, much less broadband, so my son can do research on the net on as rapid a pace as his town counterparts! I guess I could buy all the books necessary to have a reasonable home library, but the books cost twice as much as they do in Europe, even with the rate of exchange. I might consider this economic censorship, what about you?

Last but certainly not least, is Welfare. The premier has said in the last few days that there will be new laws that will make contracts necessary if parents cannot control their children. Now I can only suppose that DoCs will be in charge of administering these contracts and they are stressed, overworked and underpaid as you read this. DoCs can't help anyone over the age of 12 months they are so snowed under. Wait until so many contracts come through and then check out the stress levels.

Every time I read the news, I read about the "acting" police position whatever, I'm lead to believe the senior police are very stressed and take stress leave on a regular basis. How are the police going to police more laws when they have to selectively police the laws that exist. It seems that a far-sighted look at laws that exist should be pursued rather than heaping on more as a knee-jerk reaction to current events.

Michael Wright
Mt. Nardi

Militaristic poster

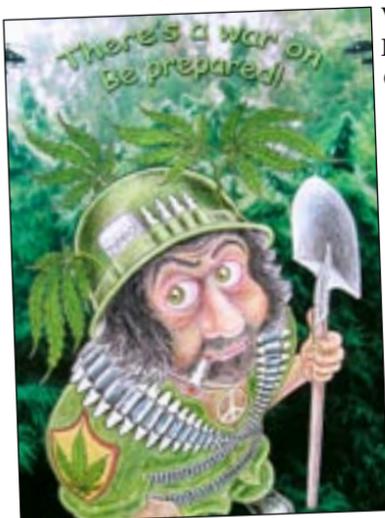
I nearly wrote a letter after the January Edition of the Good Times and Gerald Taylor's masquerading as the Goddess on the front page, but when I walked down town today and saw the current Nimbin Mardi-Grass poster, I felt sick. I'm not the only one.

Do we want Nimbin to be a war zone? Nimbin was originally about peace and love and a new future. It wasn't even about marijuana. That was incidental.

It was innovation, experimentation, creating a good future for our children, anti-violence and anti-authoritarian.

Marijuana hasn't even been all good for Nimbin. It has attracted a lot of single issue people who are otherwise conservative in every way so I think it is terrible that we now have posters up all over town evoking a war platform for the issue of drugs. It gives an excuse for violence. That has already been the case for too long. We don't need to exaggerate the problems we have in this town with physical, verbal, emotional or intellectual violence.

It is not a time to be provocative in a heavy-handed manner.



When I read Gerald's

by allowing ourselves to become part of someone else's violent reaction to reality.

If we work on that we work on everything including the illegality of drugs. If we work on the issue of drugs with violent intent or emotions we get nowhere. Those in authority always have endless resources for war. War is the partner of the authoritarian.

I do object to Gerald writing articles in the name of the goddess. They are often quite cynical, derogatory and aggressive. It is just not fair to all the women in the area to have such a writer sheltering under their skirts. What on earth is some out-of-towner or tourist to think of Nimbin women or for that matter our town.

Let's keep the Mardi-Grass as a celebration of the Goddess and all things gentle and know that is the cure for everything.

Lynne Oldfield
Nimbin

Poster is pro-peace

As the illustrator of the Mardi Grass poster which has offended Lynne Oldfield, I would like to explain myself and answer a few of her questions.

Firstly, the poster has nothing to do with what Nimbin is or was supposed

Unfortunately, Council can never fund all the worthwhile projects that are proposed. If last year is any guide, only about half of them will receive the necessary funds so groups lodging submissions need to be prepared for this reality.

Council Pools

The week before the regular monthly meeting, Council will hold a workshop at the Oliver Avenue Council Chambers. On Tuesday 7th March at 6 pm, there will be a staff presentation and discussion on the Memorial Baths and the current condition and future of Lismore Lake Pool.

North Lismore resident Vicky Findlay has done a wonderful job in harnessing community passion to keep the Lake Pool open, and those Councillors who see the 'round pool' as a family-friendly affordable (free) option will be resisting any plans to close it, either now or in the future. As with most Council workshops, the public is invited to attend.

While on Nimbin and pools, it is expected that Nimbin pool will gain some much needed seating in the near future following a request from residents through me to staff. Once provided, parents and grandparents won't need to BYO chair while supervising young swimmers. If I can assist any residents with other issues, please contact me.

Jenny Dowell (Phone 6625 2206 or Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

Of karma and dogma

Having watched the rebirth and growth of Nimbin these many years, it struck me that the whole process is a lot like establishing a bush garden.

You generally start in a hostile environment, develop soil fertility, plant your seeds, watch out for predators and work hard. Just when the garden becomes productive, all manner of slimy creatures crawl out from under rocks to suck the life from the fruits of your patient labour.

Geoff Shearman, the new co-owner of Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate said in your last edition that his interests were family and community, and that Nimbin (surprisingly) was now somewhere to be proud of.

Many of us, not the least myself, have been proud of Nimbin for a very long time. After all, we succeeded against mighty opposition. As for family and community, I wonder how proud Mr Shearman is these days of his alleged role in the violent eviction of families from their community, Tymokari, some year ago?

Perhaps the whole thing has slipped his mind, what with his busy life of cow homeopathy and plant nurseries. Not to worry, many of us still recall every nasty detail. Still, whatever else you might say about Mr Shearman, he certainly got he job done and achieved vacant possession of the

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former government-owned land, evicting the squatters.

Maybe he is just the man for the job if push comes to shove at Mulgum House.

Sometimes, people's karma runs right over their dogma.

Harry Neville
Nimbin

Gold standard

The current standard for measuring worth of work is against gold and the US dollar.

I see these currency standards the base line problem affecting lifestyle and life on Earth. It rewards greed and power that sacrifices the well being of our environment.

There is a need for a standard that encourages people who live lightly on the Earth,

A measure that penalizes human impact against the nurturing well being of life on Earth. Rewards are for those who contribute to the well being of life. Penalties for mining and weapon producing industries which does not reward polluters.

As long as our measure is driven for profit, life on Earth and our species are doomed.

Mining Uranium because it's profitable is a problem because of this current standard. The history of the gold standard is one based on the destruction of environments and earth based cultures throughout the world.

Please let us discuss this issue.

Benny Zable

Shark nets kill whales

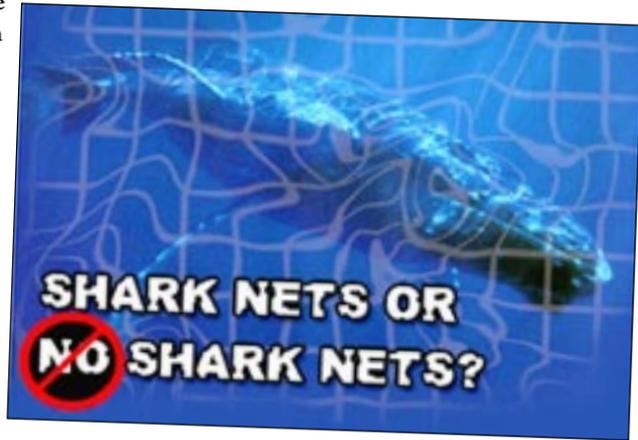
Gee, we are getting eaten by sharks when we are in their habitat, so what's new?

Do you realise it's not the shark's fault, we are in their habitat and they are naturally hunters and anything in their habitat is food (but you know what, they don't like the taste of humans).

On the Gold Coast (love that name) the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) protect swimmers with the placement of shark nets at certain beaches. During the

winter months the Humpback whales migrate north from Antarctica along the east and west coasts of Australia.

Mother whales give birth along the coast and rest at Hervey Bay until the calves



are strong enough to migrate south to Antarctica.

On their migration path, the Humpbacks have to pass by the Gold Coast (love'n it more) where these shark nets are situated.

For a long time, these nets have been responsible for the deaths of adult and baby whales amongst other marine life, but the DPI will not stop the practice of shark netting, why not?

The DPI have been sitting on information presented to them of an electronic device by an inventor on the Coast for the last two years, why?

Why can't at least the DPI remove the nets during the whales' migration, May to August, so the whales can travel in peace without harm?

How many more whales and marine life have to be sacrificed not only in the Southern Ocean but along our coastline?

We are not the only species on this planet with intelligence, or think we are.

FOR THE WHALES

Paul Brecht
Mullumbimby

Cheese-making Workshop

Dharmananda community at Terania Creek have been making cheddar cheese, fetta cheese, yoghurt, ricotta and butter for more than twenty five years for the consumption of the community members.

We learned how to make cheese from the Ivan family who lived across the valley,

in the late 1970's. Since then many changes and improvements have been made to the recipe. Visits from other cheese makers from Australia and overseas have also helped us refine our method.

As a fund raiser for The Channon Community Inc., we are offering a cheese making workshop at The Channon Cafe on Saturday, April 8th, 9.00 am - 12.00 pm when we will make a cheddar cheese

and ricotta (whey cheese).

The cost is \$30 and \$25 concession. Bookings are essential, please call Carol on 6688-6269

Sloppy work

I've always admired the layouts and news coverage in your bright little monthly, but as an old journo and sub, I must point out that in the Charlie-Jane wedding coverage (p.3, NGT Feb '06), the pictures were a bit astray: there were no flower girls.

In the main picture plus the bride and groom were Jane's daughter, Sarah Mari who was one of the bridesmaids and her son Michael Mari, who had escorted Jane to the ceremony.

And "backyard"? In less than ten years, Jane has created a virtual Garden of Eden out of a bare 3.3 acre block!

Sorry, cannot help old habits!

Gwen Cunningham
Mother of the bride

(Sorry that our coverage of Jane and Charlie's nuptials was rather mangled - unlike the wonderful celebrations. We don't get many weddings. Ed.)

Greens outrage nutter

Bob Brown, who suffered mercilessly at the tongue of Laurie Oakes when he was caught out not even knowing The Greens drug policy, has his hands written all over the new Green policy on drugs.

It is nothing more or less than the complete gutting of

what The Greens are meant to be about. In this case they have dropped their plank of social equality and justice.

They willingly admit having sold their soul for illusory votes. They have this delusion someday they will be a major player. Nutters.

Paul Recher

Notices

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6-8pm at the Bowling Club.

Next meeting on 21st March will consider fire safety of village and related issues. All members and prospective members welcome.

Pre-Loved Clothing Sale

Life-Line Northern Rivers Nimbin Hall
Friday 17th March, 9am to 1pm
Huge range - Great prices (Uki Hall Thursday 16th March)

A calling from our gardeners



"Gardening for and with the community is that much closer to the heart than gardening alone. The more gardeners there are, the more there will be, in season all year round."

Tanya Hall

I am also pleased to invite people to Nimbin Community garden on Fridays, the main work day. We have profited from our experiences in the garden both physically and spiritually.

Thank you to all who have worked on the garden. Blessings and see you there.

Gregory Marshall (pictured)



That 'other' 10th anniversary

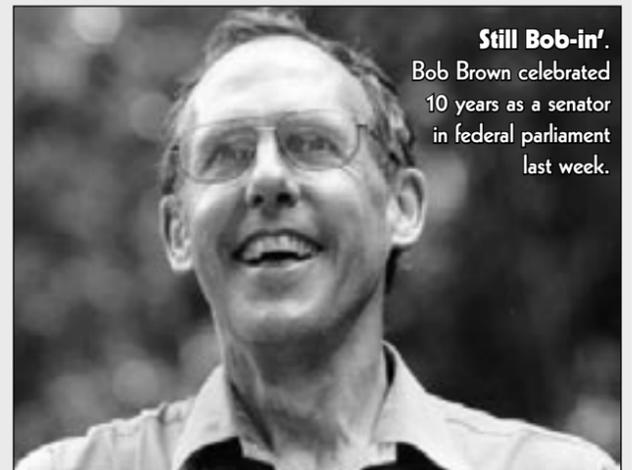
The recent pomp and fanfare over Howards 10th year as prime minister made us all totally depressed but Thursday 2nd March was reason to celebrate - the 10th anniversary of Greens Leader Bob Brown's election to the Australian parliament.

Senator Brown has outlasted 10 other party leaders - Meg Lees, Cheryl Kernot, Natasha Stott-Despoja, Andrew Grieg, Andrew Bartlett, Pauline Hanson, Len Harris (One Nation), Kim Beazley (first time round), Simon Crean and Mark Latham have all been and gone during that time.

It's just John Howard and Bob Brown left standing. "And there's no speculation about me standing at next year's election. I can't wait," Senator Brown said today.

Still Bob-in'.

Bob Brown celebrated 10 years as a senator in federal parliament last week.



"Our election aim will be to rescue the Senate from the Howard government, and doubling our team is not beyond reality."

The Greens started with one senator after the 1996 election, doubled to two senators in 2001, and again to four senators in 2004.

The four Greens senators

and their staff celebrated with a chocolate cake - and 10 green candles - on Thursday.

Bob is also still celebrating the recent win in Tassies Recherche Bay being spared from the loggers axe thanks to Dick Smith loaning the money to buy it. Apparently 'Team Billen' also had something to do with it...

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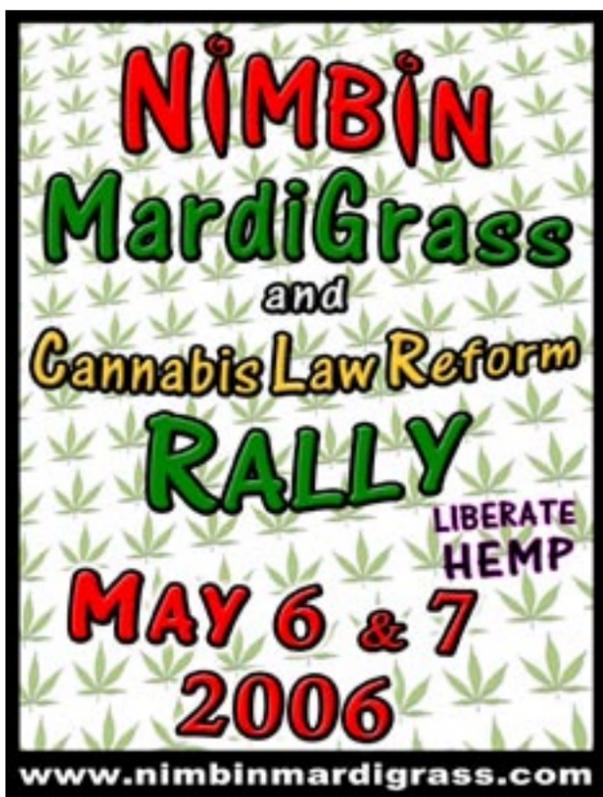
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Truth the first casualty in drug war

by Salty

A politician who needs to attack minorities to improve his popularity is bereft of vision and integrity. Witch-hunts lead to adrenaline, anger, guilt and shame. Avoid the rush!

It appears that cannabis use in Australia will continue to be equated with the narcotic drugs: heroin, cocaine, and amphetamines. It is to be the first stop after the social divide between acceptable and unacceptable. Just over there is available alcohol and freely prescribed anti-depressants on the acceptable side of the drug war wall, and just over here is cannabis, condemned by political frauds without truthful evidence or fair trial.

The HEMP Embassy is an alternative voice to proposed hard line government policies. There are other, far more effective policy options to those being pushed through.

Many cannabis users will lose their drivers' licenses and jobs in the future, under testing regimes now being introduced. That is a serious sanction for society to exert, particularly for a drug with no narcotic effect. This fact is held up as a justification for refusing medical marijuana, but ignored with respect to legality. I think the authorities are having



as weak options. They are not. They are the strong options. Jails are very expensive solutions, and should be reserved for truly deserving cases.

If you want dog eat dog for the jobs available, and bugger the rest; you can vote for it, but I far prefer a government that can offer a unifying vision of what we can achieve, rather than division of the people under the parliament of the

latest elite.

When we jump through Saddam's hoops to sell wheat to Iraq, it looks like the government will ignore its own policies for a conveniently profitable deal. Are we so desperate?

This country, this world, needs some kind of unifying vision, lest it fall back into the mire of fear and mutual destruction. War benefits neither side of a conflict; only armament suppliers prosper. The cost is enormous, in money and lives.

Wars are certainly not for the benefit of ordinary people. Wars on scapegoats are unproductive folly, a squandering of resources when we can probably least afford it, and truth is always the first casualty of any war, closely followed by reason.

Let the unemployed work for \$6.50 an hour. They may work for that, but certainly can't live on it. Howard has not "defied the elites", he has created a new elite; a cruel dry monetarist one chanting "outsourcing" and "privatise" to all who will listen, and at the same time provided the faithful with an entertainment of a fearful compliant hoop jumping unemployed class, desperate to find jobs to escape the new semi-privatised lunacy.

Governments face greater expense in enforcing intolerance than they do in exercising tolerance and compassion. Tolerance and compassion are lambasted

Calm heads are better than fearful ones. Fear is a destroyer. May the calm head be with you.

Backflip by Greens on marijuana

Mercury, The (Australia) Pubdate: Tue, 8 Feb 2005

The Tasmanian Greens party has axed its long-held policy calling for the legalisation of marijuana in a major policy backflip designed to win mainstream votes.

Instead, Greens justice spokesman Nick McKim has called for tough new criminal sanctions to be introduced for the trafficking of illegal drugs.

Mr McKim acknowledged that the policy somersault meant there was now little difference between the Greens' drugs policy and that of the Labor Government.

He also made no apology for the drugs policy change, admitting it was a vote-catching exercise to win seats at the state election.

Mr McKim also said a new policy that was hard on drug traffickers while aimed at minimising harm for drug users eliminated the chance opposing political

parties would use the Greens' traditionally soft drugs stance to smear the party and its candidates.

At the last federal election, false political propaganda was spread about the Greens party's lax attitude to marijuana, which is believed to have severely hampered its election efforts.

"We're here to get as many votes as we can, so we can put in place our public policies on a number of issues," Mr McKim said.

"We want a mature debate about the issue of drug use.

The major planks of the new drugs policy are:

- * Criminal sanctions including imprisonment for drug traffickers.
- * The personal use of drugs be treated as a health issue.
- * Recognition that there are serious health risks in all drug use, including alcohol and tobacco.
- * A compassionate approach be taken to people with health problems as a result of personal drug use.

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Quarter Chicken & Potato Wedges \$5; Fish & Potato Wedges \$5; Chicko & Spring Rolls \$2.50; Corn Jacks \$2.50; Dim Sims \$1.50; Chicken Wing Dings \$2; Potato Wedges - Cup \$3, Box \$4.50

Join the MOB behind MardiGrass

14th Annual Nimbin MardiGrass & Cannabis Law Reform Rally, 6th & 7th May 2006

Sensational meetings to organize MG06 are happening on Mondays from 5pm, enter down the path beside the Embassy. If you can't make it, there is a message book held behind the Hemp Embassy counter.

These exciting mind-expanding meetings are too good to miss, and if you've never been part of the MOB (MardiGrass Organizing Body) now's your big chance to get involved. There are still plenty of vacancies!

Events this year include tattoo pot art, hemp jelly wrestling, a hydro vs bush debate, medical, legal, political and industrial



Rear deck action. A typical meeting of the MOB.

forums and the usual hilarious Hemp Olympix, comedy, Pickers Ball, Ganja Faeries, rally and parade and anything else you can come up with.

We do need someone

to organise prizes for Pot Poetry, Pot Art, Best Hemp Stall, the Saliva Swab Resistance Unit, etc. Jungle Patrol also needs resurrecting.

This is the final year

of our 5-year DA for MardiGrass with Lismore Council, and the way politicians are blaming cannabis for all sorts of woes, next year might be quite different...!

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Hemp history

by Kathy Stavrou

Two centuries ago, the case for growing hemp was being eloquently put to the new colony. This document is from the Sydney Gazette (set up in 1803 and published by the Authority of Governor King). It was published on 28th April 1805. It tells of the incomparable values of Hemp as a crop. Read on.

"Culture of Hemp

(From an American Paper)
Sydney Gazette 28th April, 1805

"It does not appear that the ancients were acquainted with the use of hemp, in respect of the thread it affords. Pliny who speaks of it in his Natural history, says not a word of this, contenting himself with extolling the virtue of its stem, leaves and root.

"To the moderns, the use of hemp has become very extensive and important. It enters largely into the dress of men, but vastly more for the dress of ships. The sails and cordage of a first rate man of war require 180,000 lb of rough hemp for their construction. It is now much cultivated in England, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and above all in Russia. From the latter



kingdom were imported into the British dominions in the year 1788, 54,464 tons, which at 20 pounds per ton, amounted to 1,269,289 pounds sterling. The hemp however which is raised in England, tho' to a great amount, is none of it used for sails or cordage. Being finer as well as stronger than that from Russia, it is wholly applied to finer fabrics, and makes a large portion of the cheapest, and most durable cloathing that is worn in Great Britain. Cloths made of hemp are as susceptible to bleaching, in any mode hitherto practiced, as those made from flax: while that of linen decays. It would be humiliating and probably exceed belief, to state the quantity of hemp imported into the

United States, even to supply their own manufactories, in addition to what comes in sailcloth and cordage, when it known that they might with profit, raise enough not only to supply themselves, but for all Europe.

"Hemp delights in rich strong loams but may however be cultivated upon ground of every kind, the poorer land producing that which is finer in quality, tho' in smaller quantity; whereas strong and rich lands produce a great quantity but coarser. It does not exhaust the land on which it grows like flax, and may, with the aid of manure, be continued without diminution, twenty or thirty years on the same ground. An acre requires two bushels of seed, and produces from four to six hundredweight. The seed will not grow well after it is more than one year old, and as there are two kinds of hemp, the male and the female, the latter only of which produces seed, some regard must be had for this circumstance.

"Where labour is cheap the kind are often pulled separately; in which case little paths are made lengthwise through the field about seven feet distant from each other, to allow a passage for the person who pulls up the male hemp from among the other – the latter requiring to stand longer to ripen the seed. But where labour is dear, the best way is to let a patch stand for seed, male and female together: the latter is much



less in quantity than the former, and the skin of both is of use after the seed is ripened, though of less value than at an earlier period.

1805 – Governor King tries to give hemp pants to the local Aborigines.
Cartoon by Kathy Stavrou.

Hemp Seed: Humanity's best single food source

Compiled by Jamie Lovechild

Ralph Loziers, general counsel of the United Institute of Oilseed Products, told the congressional committee studying marijuana prohibition in 1937, "Hemp seed...is used all over the Oriental nations and also in parts of Russia as food. It is grown in their fields and it is used as oatmeal. Millions of people every day are using hemp seed in the Orient as food. They have been doing this for many generations, especially in periods of famine."

No other single plant source can compare with the nutritional value of hemp seeds. Both the complete protein and the essential oil contained are in ideal ratios

for human nutrition.

Only soybeans contain a higher percentage of protein, however the composition of the protein in hemp seed is unique in the vegetable kingdom. 65% of the protein content in hemp seed is in the form of globulin edestin. (The word edestin comes from the Greek "edestos," meaning edible.)

The exceptionally high edestin content of hemp seed combined with albumin, another globular protein contained in all seeds, means the readily available protein in hemp seed contains all the essential amino acids in ideal proportions to assure your body has the necessary building blocks to create proteins like disease fighting immunoglobulins, antibodies whose job it is to



ward off infections before the symptoms of sickness set in.

Cannabis seed protein even allows a body with nutrition-blocking tuberculosis, or almost any other nutrition-blocking ailment, to get maximum nourishment. (Czech. Tubercular Nutritional Study, 1955)

Even more important to building a strong immune system, hemp seeds are the highest source in the plant

kingdom of essential fatty acids. These essential oils, linoleic and linolenic acids, are responsible for the lustre in your skin, hair, eyes, and even your thought processes. They lubricate (clear) the arteries and are vital to the immune system.

These essential fatty acids were used by Dr. Joanna Budwig (nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize every year since 1979) to successfully treat "terminal" cancer patients, as well as those suffering from cardiovascular disease, glandular atrophy, gall stones, kidney degeneration, acne, dry skin, menstrual problems and immune deficiency.

This, as well as other research, prompted UCLA biochemists William Eidelman MD and R. Lee

Hamilton Ed.D, Ph.D to speak out in 1991 on behalf of "the life-giving values" of cannabis hemp. They stated: "These essential oils support the immune system and guard against viral and other assaults to the immune system. Studies are in progress using the essential oils to support the immune systems of persons with the

HIV virus. So far they have been extremely promising."

The richest source of these essential oils is the seeds of the cannabis plant. The insane prohibitions against the most valuable plant on the planet, cannabis hemp, must yield to public demand, for it holds the promise of super health and the possibility of feeding the world.

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Remember the koalas



Picture by US visitor James Scott

By David McMinn

We have had huge rains, the high heat of summer is over and now is an excellent season to plant trees. Amongst your plantings remember to include numerous eucalyptus trees for the Koalas in our area. These delightful animals are found at Blue Knob and Tuntable Creek, but their populations appear to be quite limited. My neighbours at Blue Knob have occasionally seen them on their properties, but we have never had the thrill. In NSW, the species has been classified as vulnerable and the state's population is in decline. The greatest threat to the continuing survival of the species is the loss of habitat, but you can do your bit by planting suitable trees for Koala forage.

Eucalyptus Species

Koalas eat about half a kilogram of gum leaves every day. However, these may contain toxic compounds, are hard to digest and have limited nutritional value. This poor diet means that the animal must conserve energy, so it sleeps for most of the day and looks for food in the evening. Koalas are fussy eaters and,

in our region, they obtain the bulk of their food from only five Eucalyptus species.

Flooded Gum (*E grandis*) 30-40m. Very fast growth in moist soils - you will have a forest in several years - and the whitish columnar trunks are very attractive. The timber is now sold under the more saleable name of Rose Gum.

Tallow Wood (*E microcorys*) 20-40m. Growth is fast in drier soils. Frost tolerant. The timber can be used as fence posts, for flooring, in building construction and so forth.

Grey Gum (*E propinqua*) 20-30m. Moderate growth with a preference for drier soils. We planted 100 trees of this species



on our farm, but only a few survived. Unless you get positive feedback from other growers, avoid planting Grey Gum in our area. Drier locations may be more suitable.

Swamp Mahogany (*E robusta*). 20-30m. Fast growth. It is best sited in well drained soils near waterlogged areas. Do not plant in swamps as the trees will die, despite what its common name would suggest. Frost resistant.

Forest Red Gum (*E tereticornis*) 10-30m. It has slow to moderate growth, but this may be speeded up with a little slow release fertiliser. Light to heavy good soils. It likes to be planted near waterlogged areas. Seedlings do not cope well with frost.

These Eucalyptus species are also excellent for other wildlife, as the flowers provide nectar and pollen for birds, bees and fruit bats.

The trees will ultimately grow very large and must be sited sensibly. They should be planted well away from power lines and buildings. Do not locate them in areas where they can block out your views or create a fire hazard for you or your neighbours. We have planted hundreds of Koala food trees around the farm, mainly on the ridges and as wind breaks well away from the house. Many of the trees are now quite large, but we have yet to see a single Koala.

We also have never heard them during the mating season (September to January), when the males emit pig-like grunts and growls and the females high pitched trembling sounds. Perhaps one day.....There are also several secondary food trees, such as Sydney Blue Gum, Blackbutt, Brush Box, Broad Leaf Paperbark and Grey Ironbark.

Other things you can do

To prevent dogs mauling koalas, do not allow your dog to roam at any time and especially keep it confined at night when

Koalas are most active. Restraining your dog is essential if you have Koalas in your area.

Become involved in environmental organisations that work to restore native habitat.

Slow down and take extra care when driving through well-vegetated areas, especially those areas sign-posted for native animals.

If you do hit a koala when driving or find a sick, injured or dead animal, please stop and help. Friends of the Koala may be contacted on 66221233.

All the best with your Koala tree plantings.

Savour the Planet

by Dave Christmas

Rainbow Power Company has just taken delivery of 120 solar cookers from India. They have three different models. One is a one metre dish cooker, the other two are box cookers of different sizes. The previous small shipment had been a test, and sold out fast. The first 16 of this new shipment has already left for Papua New Guinea.

Though there are millions of these cookers in use in India and all over the third world, it is believed RPC is the only distributor of this technology in Australia. Their efficiency has been tested and proven, over many years, indeed one ashram in India feeds all their 15,000 devotees entirely on solar. that's 45,000 meals per day. In this instance they use solar to make steam.

And what about the food?

The nutritional advantages of slow cooking have long been recognised, with all the flavours, vitamins and minerals kept in. As the food can't over-cook there is no need to stir or watch it.

Saving time, energy and pollution. Simply put the food in the pots, point the



How easy is this?

Analisa assembling a solar cooker (left) and a suitcase-style hot-box (above).

age-old design is very simple to assemble. The

cooker at the sun and come back in two to three hours for a delicious and healthy meal.

The concept of the parabolic reflector to concentrate the sun's rays was developed aeons ago, and the

box cookers are ready to use straight from the box and come complete with stainless steel cooking pots.

Remember, there's only 120 of them in this shipment. Bon appetit.

Local Sea Shepherds formed

by Paul Brecht

The international director of Sea Shepherd's Conservation Society (SSCS), Tim Midgely was in Australia in mid February to open the newly donated office and Australian headquarters in Fitzroy, Melbourne. His visit also included visits to Brisbane, Gold Coast and Byron Bay.

Tim held talks and screened films of the anti-whaling campaign in the Southern Ocean, Antarctica against the Japanese whaling fleet, who are hell-bent on slaughtering Minke (over 900) Humpback (50) Fin (50) whales. The Japanese fishing industry are also slaughtering dolphins at Taiji Bay Japan for mat consumption as well. Other countries who want to slaughter whales are Norway and Iceland.

The other reason for Tim's visit was to see if there is interest in forming branches in those areas mentioned above of SSCS Australia.



There was a public meeting on 14th February at Byron Community Centre to ask those in attendance whether they would help form a branch in Byron Shire.

A coalition of SSCS Byron Bay Action Group held a positive protest at the Japanese consulate in Brisbane on February 15th and also Japanese Airlines (JAL). The action was to call on all Australians to boycott Japanese, Norwegian and Iceland also Canadian and Sealord (half Japanese/New Zealand owned) seafoods, who are all involved in the slaughter of whales, seal pups and dolphins.

SSCS Australia will help Paul Watson and his crew to raise funds to purchase a sister ship for future anti-whaling campaigns.

This year Paul and crew of the "Farley Mowat" were successful in chasing the Japanese whaling fleet over 4000 kilometres, shutting down their whaling operation for fifteen days and bringing unprecedented media attention to these gentle giants.

For more information, the SSCS website is at www.seashepherd.org Also email info@seashepherd.org

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Animal Shelter needs help to get started

The Animal Rights and Rescue Group is a local, non-profit volunteer organisation, run without government funding. They rescue homeless or unwanted animals, provide them with care and shelter and find them suitable homes.

It is the only such group covering the whole of the Far North Coast. As there is no RSPCA shelter or branch between Coffs Harbour and Tweed Heads, ARRГ covers the entire area, as well as west to Tenterfield (The Far North Coast Region).

The group have been operating since 1995 as a No-Kill group—this means no ARRГ animal has been euthanased, unless due to illness or injury where the animal could not be saved. ARRГ does not euthanase any animal unless it is too ill to respond to veterinarian treatment.

ARRГ have saved many dogs and cats and have treated the ill, injured and severely abused, some who need long term care. The group also takes unclaimed dogs that

would otherwise be killed, from local pounds, and provide them with care and vet treatment until suitable homes can be found for them.

They give a deserved second chance to these animals, believing that no animal should have to endure neglect or abuse.

The Animal Rights and Rescue Group urgently need to build a shelter, and are currently in negotiations with Lismore Council. Cost of reports for preparation of Lismore Council land for the Centre/Sanctuary have so far totalled \$2,500.

A shelter would give the animals a greater chance of finding a permanent family in a shorter timeframe, and also take some of the burden off the 'foster carers'. These 'foster carers' and volunteers are all unpaid, and monies donated in on-going fund-raising drives are used directly to help the animals.

Contact the Animal Rights & Rescue Group Inc. PO Box 16 Wollongbar NSW 2477

Phone/Fax: 6622 1881. Email nonkill@animalrights.org.au or on the web www.animalrights.org.au.

ARRГ Desexing Program

The Animal Rights and Rescue Group are still operating our assisted desex programs for both cats and dogs and are pleased to report that the program is well used by the public.

Also still running is our special for 100 female cats, desex and chipping only \$55.00, and to date over 30 female cats done. We still have places for 70 female cats so urge female cat owners who need help to call us.

We can only imagine the number of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens if our desexing program was not available. We are shocked at the number of calls for unwanted kittens and the number of tiny kittens dumped, and we have many beautiful kittens in foster care needing homes.

It's sad but true, the uneducated and irresponsible public see cats



Bubble and Squeak at 10 weeks, in their foster home.

and kittens as free and disposal items and toys of no value. This heartless attitude plus the anti-cat/haters are the result of so much negative media reporting against the cat.

Inaccurate and extreme sensationalism leaves the cat

condemned, exposed and without rights or value. Speak up for the cat!

For enquiries contact the Animal Rights & Rescue Group Inc. on 02-6622-1881 or email: nonkill@animalrights.org.au AARG is a non-profit volunteer organisation.

Our Cat Lady

by Krista

It's really important to raise awareness in the community about our responsibility to our pet's quality of life, and respect for the environment.

I have been involved with the rescue of animals locally for over 15 years. Being involved with Rescue groups has been important. They work very hard, and there has been next to no help from the Government. It is all run by volunteers, and local vets who are willing to desex the cats and dogs at an affordable price.

Desexing our pets is the responsible owner's duty, and helps stop the misery that so many of our homeless pets are put through, as in females constantly pregnant then the problem of what to do with the litters of puppies and kittens, Yeah, some do go to a happy home, but more than not as soon as the novelty wears off and the commitment is not honoured that's when the hell begins. They are



dumped, drowned or shot. Some go feral and this is where it becomes devastating to the environment.

This is disgusting and is where we come in, to rescue, rehabilitate, desex & re-home these little treasures, This for me is the reward I get from doing this sometimes heartbreaking job. To see them begin to trust and enjoy life as they deserve is truly wonderful.

Growing up on a property with many animals near Byron, I came to Nimbin some 10 yrs ago with 14 of my Rescue Cats. Since then the number in my care has grown somewhat to 44, All these cats have come from around Nimbin. The cats are

all protected, as are the bush critters, and live in a huge cattery with all their needs catered for.

I no longer take cats in as I have more than enough to care for. Many dogs as well have been re-homed, with five with us now.

The reason I tell my story, as I said is to raise awareness. It is a privilege to care for animals, and unless you are willing to commit to at least 15 yrs, please think twice, the relationship between you and your furry friend is to be treasured & respected!

Local Animal Shelters may be able to help with Discount Desexing Vouchers. Please do the right thing.

Wild Dogs

by Pamela Baxter

Over the last two years, two very much loved small dogs have been killed on my property by wild dogs. Earlier this month three of my dogs were seriously injured in the most terrifyingly ferocious attack I've ever seen.

I have a motley bunch of rescue dogs - the three injured ranged from a 24kg cattle dog to a 7kg poodle. All will live, due to lifesaving surgery, but it seems that over half my property is to be considered a no-go area for me if I'm with my dogs.

My dogs spend most their time indoors or in the fenced area around my house. I like to take them for a couple of long runs a day, which ideally includes going up the hill into the bush. However, a well-worn long term wild dog track crosses through the bush, half way through my place. And wild dogs are very territorial.

We are not talking dingoes here. The dogs I've seen are solid, broad chested animals with huge paws. No, I'm not pointing the finger at any specific breed, as I've known wonderful pit bulls, mastiffs, ridgebacks and shepherds.

I am pointing the finger at people who dump unwanted animals. Or who don't sterilize their dogs and let them roam to produce litter after litter of unwanted pups who form the packs that roam this area. Animal rescue groups and the local pounds are drowning under the number of abused, neglected and abandoned dogs and cats.

Untold numbers of potentially loving animals suffer terribly. Literally thousands are killed every year as there are not enough homes for all the puppies and kittens endlessly produced. Is this a healthy way for a society to behave? Please have your pets sterilised and if you no

longer want them please, please find an alternative to dumping them in the bush where they'll starve to death unless they kill native animals. Assistance for people on low incomes to sterilize their dogs and cats can be found through the Animal Rights and Rescue Group North Coast (6622-1881) They achieve wonders considering that they are an entirely voluntary organisation totally dependent on donations from the public. Donations and help desperately needed.

Perhaps we should also be asking what contribution Lismore Council should be making towards the reduction in breeding animals.

1080 baiting and shooting is the inevitable immediate solution to a very serious problem. Surely it would be better to prevent the problem in the first place.

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ASTROLOGICAL TRENDS FOR MARCH 2006



by Bev Murray - Insight Astrology

BIRTHDAY – Pisces

These sensitive, imaginative folk have an unworldly energy about them! Their main danger is a tendency to escape reality and an inability to see things as they really are. Their strongest attribute is their ability to care and be aware of the suffering of others. They are often spiritual and can be full of inner wisdom.

Give them: Pale green plants or flowers, Moonstone jewelry, your love and understanding.

What March holds...

Aries: Not a strong month for you guys because the retrograde mercury from the 3rd-25th can slow things down and require inordinate amounts of patience! You could learn something about yourself if you stop fretting about the pace of things and sit down for a moment. You feel rebellious on the 11th and 12th.

Taurus: Romance is looking good, but don't overstep the mark! A pretty pleasant month on most fronts but plans may need rescheduling especially towards the end of March. The full moon on the 15th is a fine time to do something special with a loved one. The solar eclipse on the 29th can bring the past back to you!

Gemini: Confusion, restlessness and major projects are all highlighted this month! Be careful how you put this together! The 29th and 30th give promise to new activities that will be very delightful in the future. Friends are an inspiration, spend time with them and listen to what they are saying.

Cancer: Some obstacles need to be overcome early in the month in order for you to really move on. There are solutions but you will have to wait for them. Around March 16th an old problem from the start of the year could resurface in some form, it is an ongoing issue so let it roll as it will, keep smiling!

Leo: The 16th-19th are the most difficult days this month. Some need to face your mortality and vulnerability could arise. Remember you are the Lion, strength is your greatest attribute. The New Moon on the 29th is full of promise and good things to come. You could reap some very nice Karma.

Virgo: The Full Moon on the 15th is in your sign and encourages inner growth and learning. You could be looking a little deeper than usual for your answers...but you will find them! Relationships might be a tad rocky at the moment and will need your patience and care.

Libra: Watch health matters this month and do not overdo things. The new moon on the 29th is wonderful for your relationships and partners should be very receptive to your attentions. Watch for a financial hiccup on the 25th. Best days are 26th and 27th, use these to maximum benefit.

Scorpio: Keep out of other people's troubles as much as possible this month. Irritations you have no power over can emerge with renewed strength mid-month so be prepared with a routine of relaxation and time out. After the 31st things get more focus and direction again.

Sagittarius: March 21st see a focus on your love and relationship house, putting the spring back into step. Much joy can be yours then. New creative projects are also favoured. You will need to clarify your priorities this month so get a list going and see what is of value in your life.

Capricorn: Work is a positive focus this month, but things will not move as quickly as you would like them...don't push, Mercury is the problem and no-one can do anything about it! The 19th can easily be a day of mistakes so take extra care and double check everything!

Aquarius: Money matters will need some attention and creating a new budget may be necessary. Be realistic and don't let unrealistic dreams cause to become disappointed! Your health could do with a re-boost as well, set up an exercise plan and stick to it, keep the diet healthy!

Pisces: Partnerships can experience a brief testing period this month. Don't over react and keep smiling! Strange little delays and a general feeling of muddle-headedness characterise March for you guys. Try to avoid any major decisions or projects if you can. The Full Moon is your best day!

Email Bev: insightbevmurray@yahoo.com

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Walking Softly on DVD

by the Ambulant Observer and Co.

Barkers Vale resident Koa is a gentle soul with a wealth of knowledge about treading lightly on the earth. A bush tucker David Attenborough, Koa has released a DVD, and more are to come.

The 50-minute documentary, "Walking Softly with Koa," contains vital information on how and what to eat to survive and thrive in the Australian bush. He describes in detail ten readily available plants, showing how to harvest and prepare edible portions, and demonstrating that it is possible to have a high quality of life while living entirely off the bush.

Among the plants chosen there are many natives, such as cordyline, bangalow palm, bullrush, lemandra and several ferns - all fiddleheads are edible but have a build-up of toxins.

Some confusion may arise with the use of common



Image by Mark Jago

names, in the case of blackwattle sap, which some may call sallywattle, and the ground cover dichondria looks like centella (native gotucola), but the vision makes the plants readily identifiable, by whatever name.

Imported weeds get a look-in too. Both farmers friend and wandering jew (commelina) have edible uses. In the scene amongst the blue-flowered commelina, there was also the horror green cestrum visible in the shot, which went unremarked.

While the camerawork

and editing throughout is unsophisticated but effective, the sound levels on the preview copy varied wildly from scene to scene, calling for adroit responses on the remote control. Otherwise the production by Mark Jago was well organised and actualised, and though a little long-winded, a very useful resource with a remote.

On the way from plant to plant, we get to know a bit about Koa and why he has been following the path of a simpler existence. "The industrial age is not sustainable," he says. It is well-meaning and heart-felt. He comes across endearingly, as a personable and wise gentleman, committed to the value of knowing through experience, and sharing his knowing.

Another four programs are in preparation, the first of which will feature weaving and rope-making from local sources. The DVD can be ordered from Mark Jago on 6633 7339.

Pirates vs climate change

If you fancy dressing up as a pirate to fight climate change, the thought of a beer volcano awaiting you in the afterlife or just want to use 'religious reasons' for failing to be able to work on Fridays then you might want to check out the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster at www.venganza.org.

Brainchild of US prankster Bobby Henderson's ilde mind, the argument goes that the Flying Spaghetti Monster is actually creator of the universe, and has equal validity to Intelligent Design theory and should be taught in schools too if ID is.

He also cites the inverse relationship between the levels of global warming and the number of pirates as evidence of his FSM theory.

Bobby's website has attracted an international following of people all embracing Pastafarianism into their lives - and dressing like pirates.



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Birth and Beyond is on again!

With the arrival in Stony Chute of experienced midwifery practitioner and relationship counsellor Monika Boenigk, Birth and Beyond would like to open its doors again to the many childbearing women and couples in the Nimbin Valley.

You are invited to a get-together to discuss your needs and interests and to find out what Monika has planned. Birth and Beyond is situated in the lovely group-room at the rear of the Apothecary in Cullen Street, Nimbin.

We will be there to meet you on Tuesday, March 21, from 10-12 am.

This is also going to be the new regular weekly ante/postnatal drop-in morning. Mark it in your diary, as lots of important topics and issues are going to be discussed.

You can phone Monika on 6689 7490 for further info.



Chronic pain relief at hand

By Tonia Theoharris

Tonia Theoharris has been working on people for the past seven years. She has helped numerous people from many varied ailments, ranging from chronic to acute, migraines, sports injuries, stress and tension. She has qualifications in Muscle Correction Therapy, Bowen Therapy,

Kinesiology, Iridology and Pranic Healing.

Tonia's treatments are more specific to back, neck, shoulder, hip and sciatic pain. Unlike some other techniques, there is no spinal manipulation (backcracking) involved. The first treatment involves: a preliminary analysis of the body followed by intensive and specific

bodywork, targeting the areas of concern. Depending on how long the problem has been with someone will indicate how many sessions will be needed.

Tonia is available on Fridays at the Nimbin Apothecary (Ph: 6689 1529) or call Tonia directly on her mobile 0411 811 140.

Access ancient remedies

Acupuncture and herbs can help with range of ailments treats including arthritis, infertility, insomnia, impotence, sinusitis, sciatica, menopause and anxiety.

A Chinese medicine practitioner may use different formulas to treat different body parts for the same disease. "This is the best part of Chinese medicine," says practitioner George Pan. "Through analysis of the symptoms, we can often find the real causes of the problems such as wind, heat in the lungs or gall bladder heat. Because the causes are different, different acupoints and herbal formulas are selected for the best results."

Mr Pan believes Chinese Medicine may help to

solve skin problems, and has developed the Chinese Medicine Skin Special (CMSS) program. "The program has summarised the experience of many famous Chinese skin specialists and family-owned prescriptions," he said.

"Many people have recovered or have improved greatly on this program, even those with difficult problems like psoriasis."

Mr Pan said research had found a Chinese herbal compound, known as PC-SPES, could help in the treatment of prostate cancer. The compound contains many common herbs used widely in the field: daqingye, gancao, sanqi, reishi, mushroom, baikai, skullcap, chrysanthemum, rabdosia

rubescens and saw palmetto. "How they together work such wonders is still a mystery for Western medicine for many years to come," said Mr Pan. "For the Chinese however, thousands of similar formulas have been widely used for centuries."

George Pan is a member of the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association. He will be available at 8 Cecil Street Nimbin (besides Nimbin Hospital) every second Sunday on 12th, 26th February, 12th March and 26th March 2006.

Treatments are covered by most private health insurance funds. For appointments contact 0413-424-148 (Mon-Sat), 0416-007-378(Sun).

Dangerous climate change

By Sue Stock

"Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change" was launched last month by Tony Blair. It is a report which concludes that there was strong evidence that climate change due to human emissions of greenhouse gases was already occurring and that future emissions of greenhouse gases were likely to raise global temperatures by between 1.4 and 5.80C during this century, with a wide range of impacts on the natural world and human society.

Most significantly, the report states that delaying action would require greater action later for the same temperature target and that even a delay of 5 years could be significant. If action to reduce emissions is delayed by 20 years, rates of emission reduction may need to be 3 to 7 times greater to meet the same temperature target!

Here are some of the main points in the report. Interested readers can find the full report at www.stabilisation2005.com.

Major consequences of rising temperatures

Thermal expansion of water is already believed to be raising sea levels by around 1.8cm per decade; but the extent of that rise would be considerably greater if the Earth's major ice sheets, in Greenland and Antarctica, were to melt.

As the Arctic is warming faster than the planetary average, a local warming of 2.7C may equate to a global warming of only about 1.5C, which some climate scientists believe is certainly going to happen whatever policies are now set in train. It has long been suspected that melting ice in the Arctic region could trigger collapse of the Gulf Stream, the ocean current which brings warm water from the Caribbean to European shores.

The majority of Antarctic ice is in the east of the



continent and appears secure; it may even thicken. The west Antarctic sheet, often described in previous assessments as a "slumbering giant", is another matter. Much of it rests on rock which is below sea level, and recent research suggests that a warming sea may be starting to melt the ice from below.

Impact on humans and nature

Impacts will change according to the extent of temperature rise. Researchers said "Above a one degree Celsius increase, risks increase significantly, often rapidly for vulnerable ecosystems and species,"

A rise of 2C, the report suggests, will be enough to cause:

- * decreasing crop yields in the developing and developed world
- * tripling of poor harvests in Europe and Russia
- * large-scale displacement of people in north Africa from desertification
- * up to 2.8 billion people at risk of water shortage
- * 97% loss of coral reefs
- * total loss of summer Arctic sea ice causing extinction of polar bear and walrus
- * spread of malaria in Africa and north America

Can it be done? And how much will it cost?

Technologies do exist, the final section of the report concludes, which can change this picture. Renewables, energy efficiency, "clean coal"

are all options which can maintain energy supplies and fuel economic growth while lowering emissions.

"The biggest problem does not seem to be the technologies or the costs, but overcoming the many political, social and behavioural barriers" conclude Bert Metz and

Detlef van Vuuren of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.

"There is a multitude of potential obstacles, ranging from lack of awareness, vested interests, prices not reflecting environmental impacts, and cultural and behavioural barriers."

So in Australia, what are our State and Federal governments respectively, doing about this? When will they act? They continue to build more freeways, close railways, reduce subsidies for solar and other renewables.. the list goes on.

While I don't have children myself, I feel that we owe the children and future generations the opportunity to enjoy the same richness and bounty of this Earth that we have inherited.

It is the responsibility of those of us who live today to do whatever we can to give future generations this opportunity.

To hear more, The Nimbin Greens and Nimbin Environment Centre are hosting a discussion "Averting a Global Catastrophe" with Dr John Kaye. It will be held at Djanbung Gardens on Thursday 16th March from 6pm to 9pm. He will be discussing positive solutions that can create a sustainable jobs-rich future and the politics of transforming Australia to a world leader in climate friendly technologies. There'll be delicious food provided by Robyn Francis and music by Sisters in Lore and Paul Joseph and others. Gold coin donation.

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Felicity's first love

This young woman's name is Felicity Burdett and her band is 'The Love Bus'. They won both 'Album of the Year' and 'New Recording Talent' awards at this year's Dolphins with their debut album, 'Going with the Flow,' and they're coming to Nimbin in March.

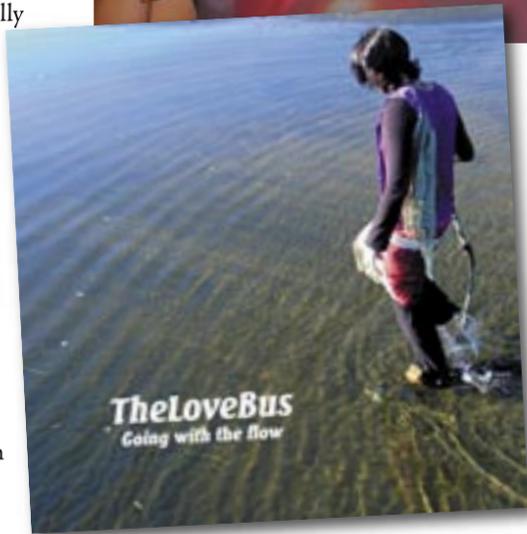
Singer-guitarist Felicity lives at Lennox Head and in between gigging and looking after her two daughters, Sky (4) and Kayla (2), she likes to go surfing at the point.

She said, "I like to write positive music and people seem to like it. Hopefully I can inspire people to appreciate life's simple gifts and appreciate nature's wonders. I have been doing a bit of motivational speaking on this subject at women's luncheons."

"Since winning the awards, people are taking more notice of us and we are gaining momentum as an emerging band. We have nationwide distribution through MGM and the album is selling well. We are gigging constantly around the North Coast and plan to tour the East Coast mid year and also hope to play a number of festivals. We are receiving airplay on Triple



Photo: Alicia Armstrong



the human time machine, Rohan Hems, the best female lead guitarist in the universe, Julz Parker, brother of Julz and fretless bass guru, Joe Parker, and on keys the multi-talented John L Fisher.

The Love

J, ABC Radio and Community Radio Australia wide," she said.

They have just been added to the East Coast Blues & Roots festival line-up.

As well as Felicity the band consists of: on drums,

Bus are playing at the Nimbin Pub on Sunday 19th March, supported by fellow local blues/roots artist 'Marshall'. It's a great opportunity to hear the new album in its live form.

Lismore Jazz – it's on again

It's the start of a fantastic year for the Lismore Jazz Club after the success of the recent Jazz Convention. Live jazz, cool drinks, party-time - gotta love this city.

Lismore Jazz Club is planning lots of jazz events and variety this year. Visiting bands, jazz cruises, a restaurant night or two. Good time jazz for good times. So see you at the City Bowlos, (next door to the memorial Pool) 3rd Sunday of the month, 2pm-



5pm. Members \$5, visitors \$8, lotsa good raffle prizes. Gotta be there.

For further information of events call Michael Bird 6622 5912 business hours.



Wayne of the One4one reggae band is involved in setting up the Dub Club.

The Nimbin Dub Club is starting up, next to the Oasis cafe. It's not fully worked out yet, but the idea is for a community-based space for musicians at the commercially-zoned property.

Open for members and guests only, the club can provide a jam space for friends, and a drumming circle after the Nimbin market. Committed to being family-friendly, a kids program is also envisioned.

Stay tuned for a forthcoming publicity blitz.

Who's on at the Blue Moon?

This next BIG Blue Moon Cabaret features singers Willy McElroy, Vasudha and Ariel & Darmin; poets Michael Johnson, Christine Strelan & David Hallett; dance with Byron Tango and Carla & Shanti; stand up comics Robert Grayson, Ellen Briggs, Kimberley Davenport and Jenny Wynter; grand pianist Harry Freeman; ukelele maestro Azo Bell; some comic-impro-mayhem from The

Hirsuites...and the dance band 'Roll Like That' featuring singer Carola Christian.... Dinner from Motdang Thai, and the show is licensed with some fine wines, bubble and the soft stuff...

It's on at the Nimbin School of Arts on Saturday 25th March and just about sold out (but it's always good to spread the news to whet peoples' taste for the next one).

Don't be so shy



Hannah Pearl continues to launch her debut CD with a live gig at the Nimbin Hotel on Thursday 9th March. Don't miss this opportunity to experience a live performance of her quirky direct compositions. This lady rocks.

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Get your barefoot toes tapping!

A Barefoot Fundraising Dance will be held at Blue Knob Hall Gallery on Saturday 11th March from 8pm-midnight, with music by Doug Kelly, Mandy Breeze and Black Train.

The Blue Knob Community Hall has, in the past, been the venue for many vibrant dances from the 1930s through to the 1980s, and this coming event provides a nostalgic occasion for local residents, art fans, and the general public alike, to dance here once again in the building's 're-incarnation' as Blue Knob Hall Gallery.

A night of fabulous handcrafted contemporary-traditional folk music is lined up for Saturday 11th March from 8pm. Mandy Breeze and Doug Kelly will be playing beautiful ballads, lively tunes and haunting medieval dirges, performed sensitively and passionately on instruments chosen from Irish Bouzouki, French pipes, banjo, guitar, mandolin, dulcimer, keyboard and bodhran. Add Mandy's clear, bell like vocals to the action and the enchantment soars.

Black Train will be playing 1920s and 1930s hillbilly music – such as that of Woody Guthrie, Stanley Brothers and Carter family. Plenty of good-time old-time dance music that will get your barefoot toes tapping!

Admission is \$10, under sixteens \$5. Supper available. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Nimbin Artists' Gallery and at the door on the night.

Dancing Moon festival cancelled

On this occasion Jon Squire's plans for a weekend festival at Sphinx Rock Café on 11th March didn't happen. "After the initial disappointment I have now accepted it and letting the dust settle until... next time," he said.

However the promotion of Live Local Acts continues to thrive on Sundays, with a line up not to be missed in honour of the planners/organisers of the fair, on Sunday 12th March.

Closed for Renovations

The Blue Knob Hall Gallery will be closed during the

month of March for some long-awaited renovations and improvements to the exhibition space and stage. We will install extra picture rails, paint the walls, sand and treat the stage floor, amongst other jobs. This will all be completed in time for the opening of the next exhibition 'Through the Glass Darkly' exploring the changing meaning of images, which will officially open on Friday 21st April.

These openings are fast becoming a must-come-to event, so that bookings are essential for catering purposes. They feature local musicians as well as a talk by a 'local treasure,' have proved to be a great way to entertain and inform the public about the talented and diverse range of arts culture in the region, as well as to raise funds for the ongoing projects, which are continuing to be developed for the Gallery and grounds.

Blue Knob Hall Gallery is at 719 Blue Knob Road, near the corner of Lillian Rock Road, Phone 6689-7449 for further enquiries.

Picture: barefoot_dance

Irish Coffee

This famous drink, suitable for St Paddy's Day, 17th March, was invented in 1953 at the bar at Shannon Airport in Western Ireland. Modern urban legend has it that a barman, coming to work on St Patrick's day after a few drinks, poured a nip of Irish whisky into his coffee to help his hangover. Liking the drop, he tried it out on his customers, with

success, and the success kept on succeeding. To make a good Irish coffee, pour a good nip of Irish whisky into a cup of quality percolated or drip-filtered coffee. Add a teaspoon of brown sugar to taste, and top with a frothy head of cream that has been whipped to a firm but not buttery consistency. Enjoy while you drown the shamrock!

Treading the boards



Nimbin Players are opening their dramatic account for 2006 with an ambitious rendering of Hannie Rayson's insightful portrait of the contemporary Australian family, "Hotel Sorrento."

Three very different sisters reflect on the choices they have made in life, their contrasting values at times ineptly exaggerated by their menfolk, and juxtaposed with those of the old timers of the sleepy hollow of their

birth, and of their progeny, the next generation.

This multi-stage production is well into rehearsals for its premiere on 31st March, with director Deborah Wild well in control of the demands of the script: "It needs the four acting areas as it has over 70 scenes, some of them only a minute long."

Ms Wild has a number of directorial credits for the Nimbin Players, her most recent being the one-act

"Morning Coffee" performed at the Bowling Club. For this wordy full-length play, Deborah is eliciting convincing, naturalistic performances from the cast of seven, with tight, film-cut scene transitions. "It's such a good play," she said.

"Hotel Sorrento" is also scheduled for a Norpa-directed season later in the year, so for acolytes and devotees of Hannie Rayson alike, there's a feast afoot.

Blue Knob

By Alan Lloyd

First performed Nimbin May 2004, revised February 2006.

They opened up an Art Space at Blue Knob, A café with pictures on the wall, And pots and sculptures on the ground, For folk to gather round, in the Blue Knob community hall.

They tidied up the place and straightened out the road, So's travellers wouldn't miss it as they pass. They planted shrubs and bushes and with lawns neatly mowed, The Blue Knob Art Space was ready at last.

They could have had a gallery with settees set in rows, But the doyens of the art world wanted more. They needed space to sculpt and paint, have their culture shows. A space where highborn art could really soar.

Art Space...yeah, it's got a certain style. Like Louvre and Musee Longerie in France. With names like that, you'd go the extra mile. But you wouldn't chuck Blue Knob Gal'ry a second glance.

You'd surely pass it by... well, it is miles out of town, On the scenic road to Murwoolumbaa, In the awesome shadow of the Blue Knob mound, The tallest hill around these parts by far.

The Art Space opening was an auspicious day. There were important people from all around the world. From Nimbin and Uki and even Byron Bay. All mingling knowingly and sipping shardennay.

Famous artists from far and wide strutted out their stuff, Commenting sagely on the wondrous display. There were portraits of women... stretched out in the buff, And feathers and twigs, arranged in an arty way.

There were carvings in wood and country scenes, With trees eighty feet tall. And pictures of derelict buildings. And views of nothing at all.

Now patrons sip their lattes and make knowing sounds, As they discuss the pictures on the wall, Images displayed in superior surrounds, In the Art Space at the Blue Knob Community Hall

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And you think plastic shopping bags are bad?

by David McMinn

Planned obsolescence is one of those euphemisms used in economics to mask nefarious practices. Wikipedia describes it as the 'conscious design to produce a consumer product that will become obsolete and/or non functional in a defined time frame'. Inferior products are manufactured that could have been made to last a lot longer for a little extra cost. Companies design their products to fail quickly, which generates more sales and boosts their profits. Consumers continuously pay out for products that they do not need, while scarce resources are depleted and the environment is afflicted with rising mountains of waste. Big business regards planned obsolescence as good marketing, but big business is not renowned for its ethical practices or environmental concern. I dread the one-year warranty, with the foreboding that my shiny, new consumer item will break down in one year and one day.

The door would not close properly on our 22-year old fridge, so we got in a repair man who fixed it with some cheap washers. He commented on the poor design of modern fridges - the door on one well-known, expensive brand would fail after only a few years and need to be replaced. He advised to us to keep our old fridge for as long as possible and to avoid 'the new crap'.

My friend's gas stove broke down and had to be replaced after only 12 years usage, which is considered to be the standard lifespan of a modern stove. Our older and better-made electric stove is still going well after 30 years.

My computer is almost antique but it does everything I want it to - email, internet and word processing. My only complaint is that it is a little slow, but I can

live with that. Every now and then I think of getting something new, but the longer I wait the cheaper and faster the new machines will be. E-waste generates huge quantities of heavy metals and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and is becoming a major environmental issue worldwide.

Have you noticed that farm and garden tools are often painted green or are a dull brown or black? They are much more likely to be lost in the garden or around the farm, forcing you to buy new equipment more regularly. We took to painting our tools a bright pink so they can be easily seen. My Braun electric toothbrush is designed so that you cannot replace the battery - trying to do so will destroy the appliance. Once the battery will no longer recharge, you have to get a new toothbrush.

We used to buy buckets made from flexible plastic that would last for a good year. Around 1988, the manufacturers changed to using brittle plastic. Now the buckets shatter very quickly and need to be replaced every few months. We looked at getting stainless steel buckets but they were prohibitively expensive. However, in the long run they may prove to be cheaper, rather than paying out all the time for new plastic buckets.

Planned obsolescence has been around since the 1920's and became widespread by the 1950's. Even so, governments worldwide have done little to solve the crisis. To my knowledge, no government has banned this practice or legislated to reduce the rapid turnover in consumer products. Planned obsolescence is one of the most consistent features of modern capitalism. However, unless there are profound changes in our economic structures, the environmental future of our planet is very

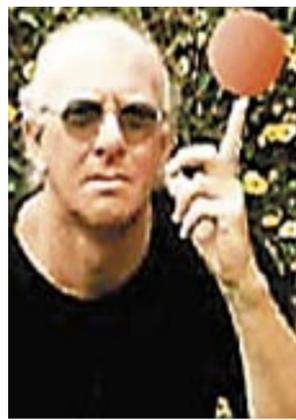
bleak.

The NSW Government is clamping down on the use of plastic shopping bags, yet the massive waste arising from planned obsolescence is just ignored. It is like something out of the BBC sitcom *Yes Minister*. Get the people feeling as though they are actually doing something for the environment by cutting down on using shopping bags. Meanwhile much bigger issues are avoided, because they are more difficult and may offend business leaders.

At the very least, governments should legally require that items be marked with its design life and warranties be extended for several years instead of the current one or two. Ideally every product should be made to last as long as practicable. Many people do not mind using old products provided they continue to function well. One friend's parents used the same toaster for 50 years - it was given to them as a wedding present. Some gay friends had a 1930's cylindrical fridge, which they proudly featured in their kitchen. A farmer next door to us at Blue Knob is still using a 1950's Ferguson tractor.

The current concern over plastic shopping bags is misplaced. Yes they are waste generators, but our whole economic system needs to be reformed to reduce waste dramatically. Planned obsolescence is an environmental obscenity and a consumer rip-off. Even so, it is the basis of business profitability - to maintain continuous expansion in sales of things that people do not really need. The issue is never discussed in the mass media, probably because the companies selling the dud products also pay for the advertising. Absurdly, we the Australian consumers are paying out huge subsidies to the profitability of manufacturers in China.

Technological Imperialism



TECHNOFREAK - SPEAK!
by Rob Harle

A few years ago I was having a discussion with a "learned" friend about what I regarded as the insidious imperialism of certain aspects of computer technology, especially the Internet. He dismissed my ideas as nonsense.

I recently came across an article that not only supported my argument but showed that the problem is far worse than I ever imagined.

Imperialism can be understood as one nation extending their belief systems, politics or technology over another nation either by force or coercion. Virtually every nation has committed this "crime" at one time or another throughout history - The British in Australia, the Spanish in South America, the Chinese in Tibet. The more overt styles of imperialism, like aggressive occupation or missionaries are obvious. Technology and language invasions are not nearly so clear.

Computer technology was invented and developed in English speaking Western countries, particularly the USA. This means the Internet and all its behind-the-scenes technology has English as its "mother tongue". Sure there are web sites in all sorts of languages but the basis of the net is English. This forces non-English speaking countries to be at least bi-lingual, with English as their second language. Many of these country's web sites

have automatic translation into English. How many sites from the USA have automatic translation into other languages? Very few!

The outcome of this is that the Western (English) "mindset", is subtly and insidiously injected into these other nations. Scientists and academics are literally forced to publish their work in English, as well as their own language, if they want it to be read by the majority of other scientists within their discipline. This was true in a limited extent prior to the birth of the Information Age but the Internet is now making English the global language and with that language comes a plethora

However, the two most important aspects of this English "imperialism" are firstly; many millions of Chinese are forgetting how to write their own (highly complex) language because of the ubiquity of the computer and secondly, much of the software used in China is Western designed software.

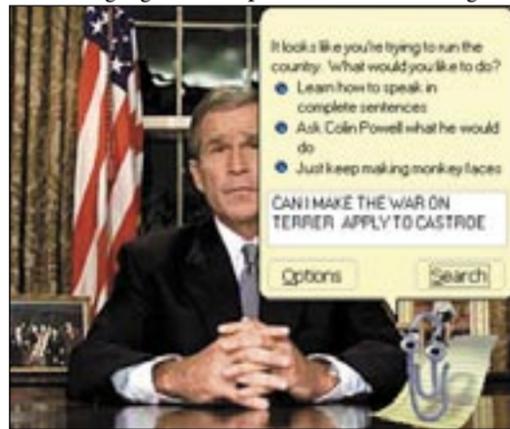
Tools and technology are not culturally neutral objects, they embed the cultural uniqueness of their designers. This Chinese dilemma was highlighted by Zimmermann in his wonderful article in *Leonardo Music Journal* (no. 15). He specifically discusses the audio editing software suite "Max/MSP" and shows how this English-designed program

affects the work of Chinese musicians. Modifying and at times seriously compromising what they would produce had their computers and software been designed from the bottom-up in Chinese.

Actually this is the only way this problem can be rectified - completely redesign computer systems from the "chip-up" in Chinese. This is not going to happen of course, so English language and technology is slowly and insidiously reducing cultural diversity, just like reducing the biological gene pool reduces biological diversity.

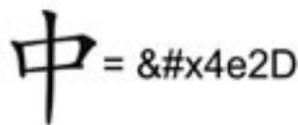
Whilst human beings are all similar regardless of race, gender, language and philosophy of life, it is the cultural uniqueness and ways of looking at life which make (made?) the world such an interesting and exciting place.

Language is one of the most important factors underpinning this diversity. If English continues its subtle spread, we will probably all end up an incestuous bunch of cretins, controlled by our English-Western designed robots, who will insist we eat only hamburgers.



of baggage which may not necessarily be desirable.

This was the gist of my original argument, what I didn't realise at the time was just how much English is embedded in computer technology at a fundamental level. To illustrate the point, when a Chinese speaking/writing person enters data via a keyboard, this must first be decoded into English alphabetical characters (because these are embedded in the hardware) then encoded to present a Chinese character. As an example the Chinese character for middle looks like the below diagram (a rectangle with a stroke through the middle) but the computer sees this as "中". There is no space here to go further into the technical details.



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Russell Crow

The young rooster at the Oasis café has a story. Of course.

He just appeared - he chose to come and live there - about three months ago. He mostly hangs around out the back, but likes being around men, and they talk to him. Some say he embodies the spirit of one of our departed.

Russell has been having something of an identity crisis since he lost his tail-feathers in a dog attack a month ago. It left him with a badly lacerated leg and soft tissue damage to his bum, as well as some psychological damage.

Winning competition entry: "Looks like



I'd fit in here" suggested by Dave Fawkner, who wins dinner for one at the Bowling Club (he didn't get round to writing it down).

Let's go fishing

by Pixie

After three cancellations from big seas and strong winds, six members and four guests of the Nimbin Heads Fishing Team finally had a trip out to sea on the last Sunday of February.

In the morning, it appeared the sea gods were in our favour with a 0.5 metre swell and a 5 knot breeze, so Mick, Mark, Pix, Che, Laurie and Shauny with guests John and Wayne from Lismore and Mick and Bevan from Casino were off to sea for 10 hours.

Once out to sea, we found that there was a strong undercurrent flowing south, and at most good fishing spots, even with a 1lb sinker, we could not reach the bottom with our baits.

We fished a shallow reef in close, where the current wasn't as strong, picking up some pearl perch and some snapper.

By now, Che had started burleying, which he kept up for the next four hours, and we were starting to get a lot of undersize fish. So, as we did all day, we moved from reef to reef, to find a place where the current wasn't too strong. We found a reef protected by an island and pulled in some nice golden fusiliers and silver trevally.

By the middle of the day the swell had picked up to about 1.5 metres and Che was still burleying. The captain decided to come back



Big Red. Only 10 weeks to go to the Nimbin Heads Fishing Team annual trek to Fraser Island Fishing Expo for some real quality fishing - so who's counting? Pictured is the remains of a quality snapper caught off Fraser Island during last year's Fishing Expo, also called Shark Bait.

in close on another inner reef to chase some more pearl perch and snapper, and to put some live baits on some floating balloons to see if we could pick up some Spanish mackerel.

On this reef, Wayne hooked on to a big fish that peeled off line, heading north. After about 45 minutes, with the fish still winning and about 300 metres of line gone from the spool, and Wayne knowing about arm and shoulder pain, it was decided that the fish wasn't coming back to the boat at all. Our day was nearly over, it was time to cut the line and talk about

what it might have been.

At the same time on the other side of the boat, Laurie was on to a big fish and pulled up a big fat 1 metre long wobbegong shark, which we also cut off and let swim back to the deep.

Heading back to land, as we got near the bar entry, the swell had picked up to about 3 metres. On low tide, with not much water under the boat, it was anything but nice. We all put on our life-vests and left the bar entry to our capable captain.

In the end, we had caught 39 fish for the table and everyone apart from Che had had a good day at sea.

Nimbin Bushwalkers Club

March Program

Saturday 11th March Goanna Headland Evans Head

Leader Michael Smith 6689 9291

2.5 hours Grade 4: no shade, coastal walk with sea-caves & legends. Meet at: 10 am Nimbin car park for car-pooling; 10.20 Goolmangar store for leader; 11.00 Coastguard Base, Ocean Drive, Evans Head. Bring swimmers, food for beach picnic & water.

Tuesday 14th March Pholi's Gap Mt Nardi

Leaders Len and Kay Martin, 6689 0254
1.5 hours Grade 2: shaded walk down well-defined track through rain- and wet sclerophyll- forest, returning up old forestry road. Meet at: 10 am Nimbin car park; or 10.15 Mt Nardi. Bring food and water

Sunday 26th March Brindle Creek Walk, Border Ranges National Park.

Leader Michael Smith 6689 9291
2 hours Grade 3: superb



downhill rainforest walk on good track; 2 waterfalls with swimming. Park entrance fee per vehicle, so worth vehicle pooling. Meet at: 10 am Nimbin car park; 11 am Antarctic Beech car park, Border Ranges National Park. NB. Because we are walking one-way, we will need to organise a car shuffle when we arrive. Bring food and water - and swimmers?

Terra Australia: Whither Goest Thou?

Ding, dong, dell,
Australia's in the well.
Who put her in?
Johnny-Come-Lately. With a grin.

There was a crooked man,
And he walked a crooked mile.
He headed a crooked party,
Which ruled with a crooked style.

He wore a crooked hat
- made nim look like a crooked dill -
While he crookedly bent his country
To his crooked iron will.

Johnny-Come-Lately could eat no fat,
His party could eat no lean,
And so between them both, you see,
They licked the platter clean.

Sing a song of deviance,
To the tune of "Do-As-We-Say"
With words of meek subservience
To the good ol' U. S. of A.

Hey diddle diddle
The treasurer can fiddle.
He fattens the greedy
And to hell with the needy.

Immigration minister, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With warning bells and explosive shells
And armed guards all in a row.

The banker's in the counting-house
Counting out our wealth.
He uses it to fund new wars
With rigour and with stealth.

Here's Johnny-Come-Lately
Sowing non-union corn
So the rich and the cocksure
Can crow in the morn
To wke up their workers
All shaven and shorn
With their wives and their children
All tattered and torn.

Leon G. Thoms 13-2-2006

PIXIE the BUILDER

Grant Holding Lic No. 30119

**NEW HOMES
RENOVATIONS
ALTERATIONS
DECKS**



Phone 6689 1728

NIMBIN MUSEUM



Follow the Rainbow Serpent
through 8 rooms representing the
Aboriginal, pioneer and hippie eras.

Need a challenge? Get involved in your local community! Rent free kiosk in the middle of town in exchange for helping to keep the museum a safe and friendly environment for both locals and visitors!!!!

Open every day. Phone 6689 1123.

Nimbin Bowling Sport and Recreation Club

Sibley St Nimbin,
Phone 6689-1250
Come and enjoy!

For information of members and guests.

Social bowlers welcome

Air-conditioned lounge, bar and dining room
Asian Star Restaurant
open 6 days

Lunch & Dinner

Let's Get Physical



Super 8s Cricket Gala Day & Headers Fundraiser

Everyone (aged from 7 to late 60s) enjoyed a great day's entertainment on Sunday 26th February. A few "superstars in the making" revealed themselves to an appreciative crowd. And a few superstars of the past revelled in the chance to relive their hey-day despite bad backs, stiff knees & failing eyesight.

"Sledging" made a big comeback, particularly from the crowd sitting under cover with drink in hand. Toby Fletcher, the Cricket NSW umpire from Casino, kept us all in check, and his friendly advice was welcome. Lyn Larson (former Australian Women's Cricket Captain) commented on the happy "vibe". Everyone wanted their photo taken with Lyn Larson.

And everyone was impressed with Elspeth's painted mascots for the four teams. They were a winner. Thanks Elspeth. The Lucky Draw winner was Kevin Atkinson from Tuntable Falls Co-op.

So now they want to do it all again! A re-match is being planned for sometime in April. Toby Fletcher was a big hit, and is keen to come



back and perhaps bring a team from Casino, and word of mouth is positive.

Keep your eyes on the *GoodTimes* and the Physical Activities Noticeboard for further news.

Thanks to Brett Rankin (Cricket NSW), Lyn Larson, umpire Toby Fletcher, Nimbin Emporium, Oasis Café, Nimbin Hairdressers, Nimbin Motors, Vegedibles, Motdang Thai, Nimbin Candles, Nimbin Newsagency, Nimbin Pizza & Trattoria, Elspeth Jones, Andy Kindermann and the Headers for the work they put into preparing the grounds.

Gymnastics

Primary School Gymnastics with Genevieve Davies starts at Nimbin Central School on Friday 17th March at 2pm. Cost is

\$2.50 per child. This is a great way to introduce your child to the sport. For more information contact the school.

First Aid

Congratulations to all those people who completed their Senior First Aid Certificate successfully on 25th February.

Basketball

Friday Night Basketball continues at Nimbin Central School MPU on 3rd, 17th and 31st March, 6-8pm. Cost \$2 per session. All welcome. If there is enough interest why don't we form a basketball club? It is a great space & should be used by the community more. Come down & give me some feedback on the idea.

Elastics

Thanks once again to our volunteers for the Nimbin Central School programme, Lindy Bentley, Susanne Marcot, Andrea Mutschall and Terry Williamson. It was a great feat to remember the sequence but we did it! Congratulations all.

Dance Week May 8- 14

This is a call for all those people preparing to perform at the Nimbin Concert of Dances on 19th and 20th May. Would you like to be part of an outdoor performance in Nimbin to promote Dance Week? There is also a possibility of taking these performances to Casino & Lismore during Dance Week. If you would like to be involved please meet at the Dance Studio, NCC, 10am Saturday 18th March.

Nimbin Garden Club

What a wonderful way to exercise and be creative at the same time! For all those keen gardeners, the Nimbin Garden Club meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at 2pm. Contact President Lindy Bentley on 66891217, Secretary Gil Schilling on 66890581 or look at the Physical Activities Noticeboard on the side of the Nimbin Butcher Shop wall for more details.

Sports Education Calendar

Introduction to Sports Massage 6-9pm 16th & 23rd March at SCU. Cost \$69.
Speed & Agility (Field Sports) 7-9pm March 21. Cost \$25.
Fatigue & Recovery 7-9pm 27th March. Cost \$25.
Level 1 Elasto Strap & Wrap Smart 6-9pm 29th March at SCU. Cost \$62.
Level 2 Elasto Strap & Wrap Smart 6-9pm 5th April at SCU. Cost \$62.
Advanced Sports Massage 6-9pm 30th March & 6th April at SCU. Cost \$69.
For more information call Department of Sport & Rec on 66877168.

Local practitioners

Creative Dance for Fun & Flexibility (Belly Dance & Tribal) Thursdays 9-10.30am through the Nimbin Open Learning Centre.
Children's Fridays 3.30-4.30pm in the Dance Studio, Nimbin Community Centre \$5. Contact Deb Turner: 66891097 or 0427184241.
Kung Fu Starts 12th March with Jish Dowsett. For more information ring 66891204.

Physical Activities Officer Sue Boardman can be contacted on 6688-1454 (Tues only), 6689-1731 at other times or sueb@nrhs.nsw.gov.au

A carnival of bowlers



In fine form. Di Mancell shows how it's done (left), a tense moment for Wazza Nugent and one of the Kevins (right).

The February Carnival is an annual event that has been an established Nimbin tradition for over 40 years. Time has wrought some changes, though. It started as a three-day carnival, and was held in June, until it interfered with pennants competitions.

There was a good roll-up for the weekend roll-up, with seven rinks full of men's triples on Saturday and again with mixed triples on the Sunday. There were excellent displays of bowling everywhere across the green.

The men's triples was a tight competition, with the NRDBA team – the three Kevins – coming out winners. Congratulations messrs Soward, Lock and Bulmer.

In the mixed triples, first place was taken out by the Casino team, Val Neve, Noeline Hawkes and Peter Neve, while second place went to Alstonville, Robyn Garret, Hodgy and Crusty Garret. Basically the Nimbin teams were all thrashed.

Quite apart from the on-green action, it was what director Kevin Soward described as "a great social day," and another triumph for the Bowlo.



WALLERS BUS COMPANY

Leaving Lismore through to Murwillumbah

Normal Depart Times		School Holiday Times	
8:00	2:35	3:20	Lismore Transit
8:10	2:45	4:00	Goolmangar
8:20	3:00	4:15	Coffee Camp
8:45	3:20	4:30	Nimbin Ave
9:30	3:30		Nimbin depart
9:40	3:40		Blue Knob
9:50	3:55		Twin Bridges
9:53	4:00		Mt Burrell
10:10	4:20		Uki
10:15	4:25		Mt Warning turn
10:30	4:40		Murwillumbah

Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore

Normal Depart Times		School Holiday Times	
7:10	1:50	7:30	Murwillumbah
7:20	2:03	7:42	Mt Warning turn
7:30	2:08	7:55	Uki
7:55	2:30	8:10	Mt Burrell
8:00	2:35	8:20	Twin Bridges
8:32	2:40	8:30	Blue Knob
8:45	2:50	8:40	Nimbin arrive
9:00	3:00	9:00	Nimbin depart
8:05	9:10	3:45	Coffee Camp
8:15	9:20	3:55	Goolmangar
8:50	9:35	4:10	Lismore Transit
8:55	9:40	4:15	Lismore Depot

This service runs Monday - Friday excluding public holidays
Enquiries phone 6687-8550 Mobile 0428-255-284

Every year 1,000's of puppies, kittens, dogs and cats are killed for the crime of being unwanted. Every year 100's are violently abused and neglected. Last year we found good homes for 1,400 dogs and cats. Last year we spent \$50,000 on vet bills to heal injured and neglected animals. All this is achieved with 100% volunteer work and 100% public donation. What we can do this year depends on you. Please help us to help those who are helpless.

I support ARRГ's fight to save unwanted and abused pets and for all animal rights.

Enclosed is my contribution of ___\$15 ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___\$100 ___Other___

I wish to charge this to my Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Card No. _____ Exp _____

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____ Tel: _____

ANIMAL RIGHTS AND RESCUE GROUP INC.
FAR NORTH COAST NSW.
PO BOX 16 Wollongbar NSW 2477 Ph: 0266221881
www.animalrights.org.au
Support ARRГ a local self-funded, foster care, No-Kill group. "We speak for those that can't"

Nimbin Hotel and Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Phone 6689 1246

March Gig Guide

<p>Thursday 9th Friday 10th Saturday 11th</p> <p>Thursday 16th Friday 17th Saturday 18th Sunday 19th</p> <p>Thursday 23rd Friday 24th</p> <p>Tuesday 28th Thursday 30th Friday 31st</p>	<p>Hannah Pearl Stipsky The Hoochers</p> <p>Neil Anderson James T & The Pinatas Invisible Friend The Love Bus + PWH</p> <p>The Aronsten Bros Minus Life + others</p> <p>Wine tasting, Women's night Dave Calandra The Hard World</p>
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