

# Inspiring Winter Fashion

By Mel MacMillan

On Saturday 4th June over two hundred fashionistas crowded into The Nimbin Bowling Club for both the matinee and evening sessions of The Nimbin Fashion Show Winter Collection. Featuring the couture of eight Nimbin designers, thirty local models shimmied their stuff down the catwalk, in a spectacular of textiles, design, lights, movement and music.

The children's collection by Tina was a colourful feast of funky cuts in faux furs, quilted fabrics and velvets. Her young models took to the floor with gusto and confidence.

Tara Austin was the youngest designer, showing her winter evening wear collection. Working with sheer fabrics, PVC and faux fur, Tara says her designs are inspired by Alice in Wonderland, Drag Queens and the Barbie Doll "Winter Wonderland Collection." The ice-queen baby blue bridal dress was her standout garment.

Gayle Thomas' "cyber-Tribal" collection contrasted



velvets and faux furs with earthy colours and natural fibres. Her hemp panelled drawstring skirts are sure to be very popular on the North Coast this season. This diverse collection is the dream wardrobe of any dedicated doofer.

Established designer Bobbin put together a collection that draws on ethnic costume for its inspiration. Combining influences from North Africa, China and Spain, Bobbin says she endeavours to create clothes that "dance," which her soft flamenco skirts most certainly do.

A huge collection of crocheted garments were



paraded by Claire Coulter's models. Earthy colours featured in many of her shawls, ponchos, skirts and hats. The highlight of her handwork were her peasant inspired skirts and open-weave shawls. Claire says there is more to crochet than a Country Womens Association stall, and her collection proves it.

The most eclectic mix of the night came from designer Jenny Love, whose tribal creations make you wanna dance (or was it just her enthusiastic models?). Her huge American Indian inspired cloaks with crochet mandala applique and fur trim were spectacular.



Barbara Mills showcased a range of beautifully crafted felted garments. Shawls wraps and scarves in dramatic loose cuts and rich colours that were both elegant and original.

Fashion Industry veteran Pol dazzled us all again with a collection that would not have been out of place on any international catwalk. Working with denims, recycled manchester and slinky glam synthetics, this season's designs were both minimalist and provocative. Straight lines and his signature exaggerated wide leg pants featured in this standout collection.

All in all, a very impressive group show, which confirmed the wealth of talent in our local "rag trade."



Photos: Chibo Mertineit

## We got the power

from Dave Lambert

Hugh Murtagh, Installation Co-ordinator for Rainbow Power Company has just returned from the tropical beaches of Port Vila in Vanuatu.

Hugh was kept busy installing a solar system to run a fridge and a few lights for a local resident. He also met with a number of prospective customers and officials from the Department of Energy to discuss some hydro projects.

Installation staff from the department were keen to broaden their knowledge and skills and to learn from an experienced Aussie installer.

In his spare time Hugh checked out the local beaches and sampled the local Kava brew.

Hugh commented, "It was amazing to see the huge selection of cheap fruit and veggies in the local market - I hope to sample more of them soon."

Hugh works full time at the

Rainbow Power Company and is available for callouts, system safety checks and upgrades of your system.

### CD-ROM launch

Rainbow Power Company is pleased to announce that a CD-ROM of its informative website is now available as a complement to the *Energy from Nature* book.

The CD-ROM has over 3000 pages of product information, manuals and photos. It includes articles about renewable energy, energy efficiency, electrical theory, overseas village development etc.

Rainbow Power have been upgrading their website for the past year with lots of useful information. The CD will be particularly useful for those people with slow or expensive internet connections."

## New Life Form from Nimbin?



Photo: Sue Stock

### Stephen Holt

A unique life form is emerging from Nimbin's Primal Talent pool.

Researchers in local Gaian bioculture are ecstatic over the success of an Alchemical experiment in recombinant cultural genetics. The phenotype of the "The Nomads" belly dance troupe has been recombined with

the genotype of the Middle Eastern Music band "Al-khimiya."

"Seeing them together will be a life-changing experience!" one self-professed biologist was heard to exclaim on the back deck of "The Office".

The recombinant life form is currently rehearsing the stem cell shivering harmonic resonances that will go down

in history as "El Leila Helwa" which translates as "the beautiful night." It will be presented to the public next full moon, at a venue yet to be confirmed.

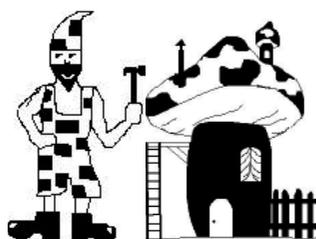
The Alchemical venue will be transformed for that night into an emulation of the Sultan's palace. Biologists suggest dressing appropriately, "to be part of this momentous event."



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