



## What's the NCDA been up to?

By Caroline Cowley

### Hip Hop Hub

We had a great night at the Bush Theatre on Thursday 14th July, for the launch of the HIP HOP HUB an all ages Hip Hop gig, to be held once a month (thanks to the Lismore Council Youth Activities Fund). Big thanks especially go to all those who helped out on the night especially to Rom Pike and Li Moore for all your technical expertise. Thanks also to Zac and Max who Dj'd, and to Liam Marien-Jenkins who led the break-dancing workshop. Look out for more gigs in the future (and see further info in the Youth Club Report, in this paper).

### CDAT

The NCDA has taken on the role of Community Drug Action Team in Nimbin, which will play a really important role in our community development work in the future. The CDAT will look at ways to positively address drug issues, as decided by the community. For example, in the near future, this program will offer Events Management Training for young people, with the view to increase skills, raise drug awareness and encourage more youth events.

### Vandalism

Unfortunately, about 3 weeks ago, the community centre was badly graffitied over night. We suspect it was kids from out of town, as much of the damage badly defaces the graf work done by local artists. The worst damage was done to the Parenting Centre, the Youth Club, and the back of the Main Building. It is upsetting to see our much cherished community space vandalized in this way, but rest assured - as long as it appears, we will only continue to paint over it!

### PCCC

There is to be another meeting of the Police Community Consultative Committee on Tuesday 2nd August, at 1.30pm at the Police Station. All members of the community are welcome to attend.

### The Space formerly known as The Hub

We are looking forward to welcoming Johnny Bayles and others to their new space in the Community Centre in the very near future. Johnny has been developing plans for an Aboriginal Cultural Space for many years now, an idea that incorporates a permanent art exhibition, corroboree and live music, and a kitchen for the preparation of bush foods. Johnny has embarked on a fundraising campaign to raise money for the project, in order to be in a position to sign the lease in the middle of August. It will be such an asset for our community - so please give generously when JB catches up with you.

### The Village Voice

There is a new program on NIM-FM (102.3) on Tuesday morning, 10-12, dedicated to community news, reviews and interviews! Hosted by Caroline Cowley, the program will be looking at art and culture, youth affairs, indigenous affairs, tourism, policing, drug reform issues that affect us all. There will also be a regular health segment, called "Health is Wealth" with Dr Oscar at around 10.15. Hopefully, it will help us all to keep up with what's going on around town.

### New Co-ordinator

It was with sadness that I resigned from my position as Coordinator of the Community Centre, in order to start new projects of a family nature! However, I look forward to keeping up my involvement in lots of things. We will be welcoming the new coordinator to the role in coming few weeks.

# NAIDOC Week celebrations



From Alice Springs to Adelaide, Canberra to Cairns or from Brisbane to Broome, communities from throughout the country come together to celebrate the survival of Aboriginal peoples, the continuation of Aboriginal culture and to also demonstrate the contribution the indigenous Australians have made to our country.

Nimbin was no exception, with a gutsy vocal and colourful march down the main street.

The genesis of NAIDOC week was in 1924, but was abandoned in 1927 due to constant police harassment. A petition was drafted in 1935 to King George V protesting Aboriginal living conditions. Nothing happened for three years so on November 13th 1935, a national day of mourning was called.

The following Australia Day, January 26th, the Australian Aboriginal League and the Aboriginal Progress Association combined to

have a day of mourning on the 150th anniversary of the landing of the first fleet.

In 1955 Aborigines' Day was changed to the first Sunday in July. In 1957 the National Aborigines' Observance Day Committee (NADOC) was formed, which later included Torres Strait Islanders to form NAIDOC, which then became a week of celebration.

There is a lot to celebrate in a week of cultural recognition that will go on forever. Good on you Nimbin.

### Nimbin Greens

The next meeting of the Nimbin Greens will be at 6pm, Wednesday August 10th, at Djanbung Gardens. The meeting will include a discussion of the government's new industrial relations laws with Tony Burton, as well as feedback from the regional Greens meeting at Woody Head, which a number of us are attending.

The Nimbin Greens will also be holding film evenings at the Bush Theatre in September.

The films to be shown will be **The End of Suburbia** (about the end of oil supplies) and David Bradbury's latest documentary about depleted uranium called **Blowing in the Wind**. The first screening will be on Thursday 13th September. Check the September issue of The Nimbin GoodTimes for more details.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Stock  
Ph: 6689 1148

## Aunty Viv encounters the hippies

by Mel McMillan

I met with Aunty Viv one cold June morning out at her place under the Nimbin Rocks. A Bundjalung elder from the Wiyebal clan, she seems small against the huge rocks that loom behind her. The sixty one year-old has dark skin and intelligent eyes. She stokes the campfire and invites me to sit.

I pull out my notepad with the few questions I have prepared, mostly about her recollections of Nimbin. I need not have, Aunty Viv is a practised story-teller. I turn on my tape recorder and she begins talking.

"There was nine of us women who came over here (Nimbin) when we heard these alternative people had come. We wondered, who are these people called hippies? We come with my uncle, we called him Uncle Wopi. We pulled up in town and asked, 'Where's everybody?' They said, 'Go up to Tuntable.'

"So we did, and we saw these two people come out of the rainforest with long hair and bullock naked. We thought - what's going on here? And then there were hundreds and hundreds of 'em coming out of the rainforest bullock naked. We was a bit frightened.

"After a while we sat down with them and had a circle, and that was the first circle formed at Tuntable. We started telling stories and communicating.

"They set up camp for the Aquarius festival in town in Nimbin by the creek there, it was a river then. There were tents right along there, teepees all the way to the show ground. They set up a tent there for us too. Right in the middle was a big stage with all these dancers, and all the music. That was when Nimbin first started. It was such a time, 'cause they bought a lot of culture and wisdom.

"In them early days



everyone was struggling to survive. They done it hard the hippies, they had to do it on their own. They fought the weather, the bush, the environment. In those days the weather was different to what it is now. It's warming up a lot. The fog was so thick back then and it rained and flooded too. There was a rainbow every night.

"A lot of changes were made by them hippies. A lot of awareness of people's different cultures.

"It all changed again in the 80's when the white lady came to town, that's we what called it, heroin, the white lady. People have forgotten what Nimbin was for. The greed has come in now. There's no rainbows anymore.

"All these new developments, what do they want to come here for? Nimbin wasn't set up for them. We are one mob here, it doesn't matter what colour you are. Nimbin's not about making money.

"Nimbin is going ahead in a lot of ways. Four big developments. Nimbin will be a town, not a village. Are they going to keep building and change the way Nimbin is? There's too many people on the bandwagon, too many with money. Nimbin was set up so people could be free. They bought a lot of teaching here. That's what Nimbin is, a learning place. That's what Nimbin's always been about, learning."

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