

Poetic hi-jinks

Friday evening came, the full moon lit up the town and the Nimbin Town Hall came alive with the sound of music, and mad, wild laughter as the entertainment of The Karaoke Madness fundraiser continued late into the night.

Highlights of the evening? Too many to name. The fabulous costumes, the wonderful, woeful, wishful, whimsical, wondrous, voices, singing, murdering, or laughing their way through the song of choice.

The short play - "Shoppers" by the Nimbin Players was another fabulous, funny, frivolous part of the evening.



Gail Clarke (pictured), co-ordinator of the poetry weekend and the crew from Nim-FM want to take this opportunity to thank all the folk who braved the cold evening and came out to support us. We hope you had as much fun as we did, and yes, there will be another Karaoke Madness night in the future.

Poetry Cup update

Enquiries and entries are coming in thick and fast for the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup.

If you are interested in having a chance at winning some of the prize monies, now boosted with funds from the Karaoke Madness fun-raiser, then you still have time.

Get an entry form from NimFM, The Nimbin Oasis Cafe, Perceptio's, or in Lismore at Caddies Cafe or email; poetryworldcup@yahoo.com.au - web site; nimbinpoetry.com.au.

Big cultural year

CEDO Report from David Hallett

The visual and performance artists of Nimbin are in the midst of a series of major cultural events. Even into the thick of winter when many activities generally hibernate until spring, this year has seen ongoing programs and good attendance at a variety of events.

The Indigenous Art & Culture Exhibition, which incorporated the Annual Aboriginal Award of the National Parks & Wildlife Service, was a huge success with over 4,500 visitors attending. Nimbin artists Burri Jerome and Gilbert Laurie were popular winners of 2 of the major NPWS awards.

Coinciding with the School of Arts show the Blue Knob Hall Artspace also featured indigenous works in the 'People of the Reeds' exhibition. The next major exhibition will be the annual Spring Arts Exhibition during the busy Sept/Oct holiday period.

The Nimbin Fashion Show has been a feature of the cultural calendar for some years now, but with the population of new designers growing each year and with the diverse output of so many designers in the Nimbin valley, this year saw the first Winter Collection Show at the Bowlo in June,



with the Spring Collection due on the catwalk at School of Arts in November.

Already this year Nimbin has experienced the first Blue Moon Cabaret, the Nimbin Open Gardens, the Autumn Arts Exhibition and, of course, the annual Mardi Grass, which is always a cultural bonanza of music, street theatre, comedy, costuming, carnival, poetry and general performance mayhem.

Nimbin's longest running major event is the annual Nimbin Country Show which will be held on Sat 24/Sun 25 Sept, which also celebrates the Spring Arts Exhibition opening. The Nimbin Show is the first big A. & I. show of the Northern Rivers spring circuit, and it is also a weekend that brings back many 'old timers' of pioneer Nimbin families.

Upcoming Spring events include the Blue Moon Ball on Sat 10 Sept (tickets now

on sale) and later the Blue Moon Cabaret (Sat 12 Nov).

But the next BIG event on the cultural calendar is the 3rd annual Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup on the weekend of Sat 6/Sun 7 Aug. This is really THE fringe festival to the Byron Bay Writers Festival, but with much more pizzazz and performance oomph than the sedate old event over at the coast. Prize money this year is \$2005, and once again this is going to be a great contest with lots of audience value over the whole weekend, culminating in the finalists contesting the big prize on Sun 7th Aug. at the School of Arts.

So...it's been a big year already with lots more yet to come...other regular events also include the Nimbin Markets held on the 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month, and the Poetry at the Oasis Cafe held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. See you all there.

Weave and Mend Festival

September 23, 24 and 25 at Nimbin Central School grounds

What in the world is Warp and Woof?

"(When the Moirai weave fate) the length of a man's life ... is represented by .. the vertical, ie the warp threads. (But) what of the woof, those threads which are ... knotted round the individual warp threads? In these it would be natural to see the various phases of fortune which are his lot while he lives, and of which the last is death.

The old Norse goddesses, the Norns, spun the fates of men at birth .. The Slavs also had (such) goddesses.. so too apparently the ancient Hindus and the gypsies .. Not only do the Norns spin and bind, they also weave. Their web 'hangs over every man.'" (RB Onians, The Origins of European Thought) "... Buddhist practice is called Tantra. Tantra is the Sanskrit word meaning 'to weave.'" (G Zukav, The Dancing Wu Li Masters)

".. Murgah Muggai (the spider) .. spins her web of deception disguised as a beautiful young woman, her captive male oblivious to her true form. In many mythologies, Fate is represented by the triple goddesses, who were weavers. The archaic worship of Aphrodite saw her as three .. fates - the Spinner, the Measurer, and the Cutter of Life's threads. In Hindu myth, Maya was represented by the spider. She was the spinner of magic, fate and earthly appearances. In other cultures the spider was seen as the goddess who sat at the centre of her web or wheel of fate... A spider always builds her web on an inclined angle similar to the inclination of the earth's axis that creates the endless phenomena of the seasons of life .. we can envision - in her weaving, entrapping, and killing - the constant alternation of the cycles of life both for creatures and for the cosmos." (K L Parker, Wise Women of the Dreamtime)

The up and coming Weave and Mend Festival is "looming" on the horizon! Local weavers are gathering the threads together to create an enjoyable three days of weaving ... without a loom. . for all local, regional and perhaps "national" weavers of baskets, hats, mats, etc. It is however intended that it is a local event ... beginning small "small in beautiful - from little things big things grow" - and growing organically.

The focus of this Festival is on our children - our jarjum - our future through the ancient medium or practice of weaving. As we weave in the physical world we can weave and mend the fabric of our community. Everyone is welcome to come and spend an hour or a whole three days. Applications for weavers to book their space at the Festival can be obtained at the Arts Gallery (next to Hall) or by downloading this information from our website: www.nimbin-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/Weave&Mend.html

Anyone interested in the following:

- collecting local fibres and old sheets,
- poster painting,
- sponsorship (in cash or kind),
- preparing food over festival days,
- assisting on festival days,
- participating in the spiral/basket dance (to be performed during Festival),

please phone coordinator on 66 891129.

Saturday night (August 24) will be performance time with a weaving and mending theme. Singers, dancers, musicians, poets, storytellers are invited to put their name on the program. Buskers are welcome throughout the festival, again staying with the theme.

We're also looking for people to interpret the festival song 'Weave and Mend'. A recording will be made and played on Nim-FM Community radio as part of the promotion for the festival. For more information on the musical side please call 6689-1129 or 0427-336-910.

Nimbin Players presents **** The Removalists by David Williamson

David Williamson's The Removalists is about power: people who gain power, people who lose power and those who misuse and abuse power. Power is perhaps more than ever the ultimate source of status!

The Removalists, although written 34 years ago, retains its edge, its ability to shock and, most importantly, its delicious sense of humour.

Apparently based on a story told to Williamson in a pub by a removalist, the play coincides with the birth

of the feminist movement. The development of the contraceptive pill around the same time also empowered women, and the women in The Removalists react to the power of choice in very different ways. The men in the play explore their own sources of power through sexual intimidation and physical violence.

The tensions between the characters in The Removalists and their various manifestations of power along with a

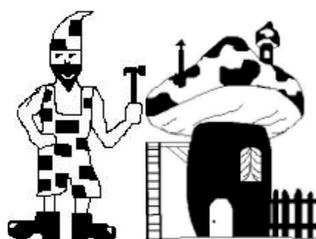
strong sense of realism create an extraordinarily confronting piece of theatre. Williamson's genius is also to make The Removalists a very funny play, remarkable in its ability to have the comedy and drama sit comfortably together. Directed by Cassandra Jefferys.

Nimbin Town Hall, Wednesday, August 10 - Sunday, August 14. 7.30 pm, \$10 admission. Not suitable for children.

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