

Dreaming of an ecovillage

by Wal Davies

Having a dream in common with others is a concept familiar to members of dream sharing groups. One story that I heard during my own participation in a dream group concerned a small community of "alternates" at a coastal settlement in the United States. The love and peace had become bitter division and the living with nature had become car bodies and weeds.

A woman in the community had a dream that was so striking she sent an account of it to the local community paper. Her letter recounted her dream which was a personal vision of her community as she would wish it to be. The dream seemed to resonate within the community. Even the most tired and cynical could recall a positive vision they had once had.

The dream oracle is available equally to all and others sent in dreams of the same kind. The editor published them as a regular segment in subsequent issues.

A sense of community began to manifest itself in the physical and

psychological transformation of the community. It led to cooperative action to bring to reality the vision shared in common. A true faerie story.

Wadsie's article in last month's issue, "Nimbin as an Ecovillage", could start a similar process in Nimbin, a communal process of the Nimbin kind.

Visions of Nimbin

Thirty years ago people such as myself saw the potential of Nimbin to become a beacon of ecological sanity in a world headed for social and environmental disaster.

"Visions of Nimbin" became the theme for a biennial festival held twice in the village and over the past twenty years and several surveys of community opinion on future directions for Nimbin have shown the vision remains.

Nimbin Ecovillage Project is the name adopted by Southern Cross University's Gateways Program for a list of possible student projects that would contribute to the Nimbin's development goals of ecological sustainability and community building. This was an initiative of Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group and the local Wiyabal

Aboriginal community through Cecil Roberts, and Auntie Agnes Roberts.

Check out Nimbin Ecovillage Project at gateway.scu.au/noticeboard/index.php-9k-24Sept2005

Nimbin Community Gardens and the Wiyabal Walking Track project contribute to the Nimbin Eco-village Project. All in the community are invited to participate.

Nimbin Community Gardens have meetings at 11.00 am in the gardens on the Third Friday of each month, a stall at the Nimbin Markets and Friday working bees. Call in to the gardens any time. You will often find someone able to help you join in. Where else could you get vegetables picked the same day with the morning dew still on them? Grown organically in a friendly environment!

Wiyabal Walking Trail. Planting days on Aboriginal land at the Rocks are at present each Tuesday. Meet at 9.30 each Tuesday at the Community Gardens. Enjoy a morning helping the local Bundjalung community's Envirofund project, planting a bushfood forest on a former pasture paddock.

Music in the Town Hall: EnviroCentre Fundraiser

On Saturday 22nd October, the Nimbin Environment Centre is taking over the Town Hall from 12 noon to 12 midnight to raise money for its work.

A packed program will include non-stop music from the bands Bliss Mongers, Bo Kaan, Desert Wind Drummers, Groove Foundation, IBM, Lisa Yeates, Martin Preedy, Mona Lizard (pictured), Nomad Dancers, One 4 One, Pagan Love Cult, Paul Joseph, Radic AI, and Zahloo.

Speakers will include Ian Cohen and Lee Rhiannon from the Greens; Dave Smith, President of the Nimbin Environment Centre; and Paul Joseph of the Peace Bus.

A number of installations will also be in the Town Hall. These will include Graeme Batterbury with slides of Tasmanian old growth forests; Omega with a documentary film about Australian rainforests; and Benny Zable with peace flags.

Naturally, there will be plenty of food available, with chai stalls, cake stalls, and stalls selling vegetarian meals. The NEC raffle will also be drawn, giving away the first prize of a 1,000 hour pyramid candle, as well as a second and a third prize.

The program for the fundraiser is still evolving, so look for even more on the day.

Admission to the whole event is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Funds raised will go primarily to the NEC shop in Cullen Street. With no government funding, the Nimbin Environment Centre relies on membership fees, donations and,



Mona Lizard is now a funky danceable seven-piece outfit. Catch them also at the Nimbin Hotel on Friday 14th at 8pm, and at the Winsome Hotel, Sunday the 23rd at 2pm.

most importantly, revenue from the shop to keep going.

The shop is now in need of maintenance work and also needs to be re-stocked with environmentally sensitive products. A new counter is also needed to accommodate the new computer which members will be able to use in the future to keep up-to-date with environmental issues on-line.

Membership

Over the last few months, the NEC has welcomed many new and interesting members to its ranks and has welcomed back many old members. The \$10 admission to the fundraiser for non-members will include automatic membership of the NEC.

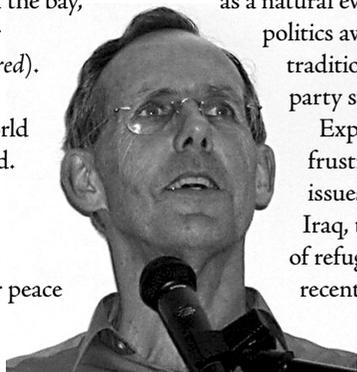
To pick up a copy of the NEC's September newsletter, which features an article on Lake Cowal, drop into the shop. October's newsletter will be available at the fundraiser.

Byron turns Brown



Greens Senator Bob Brown gave a rousing speech in Byron Bay last Thursday at the launch of his newly published book *Tasmania's Recherche Bay*, which tells of the historical and cultural significance of the bay, now slated for logging (pictured).

"The area should be World Heritage listed. We revere our historical battlegrounds - why not our peace grounds?"



Brown said. He was unable to restrain his comments to his latest publication, and also espoused his commitment to environmental and social justice causes, and the notion of the Greens party as a natural evolution in politics away from the traditional two-party system.

Expressing his frustration over issues such as Iraq, treatment of refugees and the recent deportation of US peace activist

Scott Parkin, Senator Brown said "The gutless government didn't stand up for values we believe in".

While Senator Brown represents Tasmania, he was born and raised in this region, and shares a great affinity with our local issues.

Byron Bay is now a Green stronghold, with mayor Jan Barham and MLC Ian Cohen to call upon as local representatives of the Greens political phenomenon.

Bob and NSW Greens Senator Kerry Nettle were joined by two more Greens in the Senate at the last election - Christine Milne from Tasmania and Rachael Siewart from WA, doubling their number to four seats.

That's one positive outcome.

• **A Nov 5 protest is planned to protect Recherche Bay - a Byron action will happen in conjunction.** For details visit www.greens.org.au.

Wollumbin Festival grows on you

1,000 trees being planted during Wollumbin Festival 14th - 16th October

Wollumbin Festival 2006 is 'walking the talk' from the very successful water forum featured at last year's event. The forum acknowledged the urgent need to repair the Tweed River water catchment and during the discussion participants repeatedly expressed the wish to actively "do something" rather than just talk about it.

A plan evolved to plant 1,000 trees during this year's Wollumbin Festival to re-vegetate the banks of the creek opposite the festival site.

In preparation, Tweed Council has fenced and dug the holes for planting at the site above the Tyalgum weir and will supply the trees, while the Landcare groups add expertise and the Tyalgum Park Trust will be following up with ongoing maintenance and care



for the trees planted.

So why not make the time to come along to the festival - bring the family and join the others planting trees each morning from 8.30 to 10am, and then roll on through each day of the festival?

The Wollumbin Festival is a community based, family orientated and multi-cultural event taking place over three days at the Tyalgum village showground in the Tweed hinterland, in the shadow of

Wollumbin/Mt Warning. It runs from noon Friday 14th to sunset Sunday 16th October.

You can come for the day or stay over for the weekend. It is a drug, alcohol and pet free event with beautiful on-site camping. As well as the opportunity to listen to Bundjalung Elders talking about values and culture and watching traditional corroboree dance there are also kids activities, stalls, environmental exhibitions, free workshops plus a vibrant music programme featuring The Bliss Mongers Collective, Bertha Control, African drummer Elliott Orr's 'Spankinhide', Gossamergaia, Montage and The Tribe which blends the dynamic music from 'Murri' man Troy and Trevelyn from the African nation of Zimbabwe.

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