

Open Gardens of Nimbin prove delightful

by Gil Schilling,
President Nimbin Garden Club

The Nimbin Garden Club recently held its 5th Biennial Open Gardens weekend. Eight private gardens and one commercial garden were opened to the public over the 14th and 15th of April. Four of the gardens were located close to Nimbin with another four near the village of Coffee Camp, while one garden was located at Barkersvale.

Despite the recent dry conditions, all garden



owners had gone to much trouble preparing their properties for display, with many visitors expressing surprise that such beautiful and tranquil environments were to be found hidden away in the Nimbin hills. Other visitors were

impressed because the gardens were accessible and 'real', having been created and maintained by enthusiastic gardeners like themselves.

The event was an outstanding success, with all available garden club members, assisted by members of the Coffee Camp community, manning gates and assisting visitors to the gardens. Attendance and gate receipts were at record levels with visitors to the gardens traveling from as far away as the Gold Coast, Lennox Head and Grafton.

Many local residents also took the opportunity to check out what their neighbors get up to, and to take away ideas for their own gardens. Plant sale vendors and caterers in attendance at many of the gardens also reported brisk sales.

As President of the Nimbin Garden Club, as far as I am aware, no other garden club in Australia of a similar size regularly put together such a major open gardens event.

Gil praised club members for volunteering their



gardens for display and thanked all club members and others who had contributed to the success of the weekend. The Club is now considering a number of community-based greening projects as recipients for donations from moneys raised by the event.

Raffle Winners

The Garden Club raffle conducted around the town during the lead-up to the event also proved popular. On the Monday following the Open Garden weekend, the raffle was publicly drawn by Margaret McLaren at the Autumn Arts Extravaganza.

The winners were: Erica & Barry Chapman from Goonelabah (first prize),

Next Garden Club Meeting

The Nimbin Garden Club meets on the third Saturday of each month at 2pm. The next meeting is planned for Saturday 19th May at Tony Trott's garden.

Tony's place is close to Len and Kay Martin's, and is entered through a gate at 2345 Nimbin Road, opposite the Shipway Road turn-off. Visitors and prospective members are welcome.

Further details about the club can be obtained by calling Gil on 6689-0581, or Caroline on 6689-1945.

Merekai from the Nimbin Emporium (second prize), and Os Osbourne of Nimbin (3rd prize).

Behind the fences. Os Osbourne's feng shui gateway (top), veggies and chooks in Steve Mills and Chris Paulings' garden (left), and Ros Fleetwood in her regenerated forest garden (below).



Rising food prices: a long term trend

by David McMinn

There are economic and environmental trends in place that will make food a lot more expensive in coming decades. People should be aware and start looking at supplying at least part of their food supplies from their own land. Lets face it, most of us have been lazy in this regard, as it is much easier going to the local store to buy our fruit and vegetables. This will become a pricey option in the future.

Gloomy Outlook For Food Supplies

Food production systems will be placed under severe stress by global warming. Areas that were formerly productive may become arid, with no food potential. This may already be happening in the Murray - Darling region, due to the

extended drought. Only time will tell if this is a permanent or a short term phenomenon.

Water resources world wide are being depleted. Once mighty rivers are being drained for human use in industry, agriculture and households. Similarly ground water is being depleted faster than it is being replenished. Less water means less food production around the globe.

Peak oil will boost fuel and fertilizer prices and thus dramatically increase the cost of rural production and thus boost consumer prices.

The world's fisheries are on the verge of collapse for many species. Again this will result in higher food prices.

Bees in the USA and Europe are experiencing a severe population decline. No bees for pollination means reduced food production.

As China and India become more affluent, their populations are going to demand more and better quality food. Higher demand will give higher prices.

The moves to biofuels will increase the cost of food for human and animal consumption. In the past year, corn prices in the USA have doubled, as it is being increasingly used to produce ethanol for transport. This will boost the cost of feeding chickens and beef, while poor people who rely on corn as a staple will be hit with much higher prices. The situation is quite ridiculous, as ethanol can be more efficiently and cheaply produced from sugar beet. The energy required to produce and transport corn-derived ethanol is greater than the energy it makes available for car transport.

The problem of food supplies is sinking into the consciousness of the average suburban Australian. My

sister commented that Bunnings in Mornington (a seaside Melbourne suburb) was offering vegetable and flower seedlings for sale in about equal proportion this year. It was the first time she had seen this. Usually flower seedlings were far more popular. Even my sister was talking about getting fruit trees for her small backyard. This was radical for her as she is a devoted John Howard voter.

Our Options

Even with the drying impact of global warming, Nimbin should always get some rains, as it is close to the coast and located near mountains. Over the past decade the weather in our area has actually improved. We do not get those long extended 'big wets' that persist for months and months. Newcomers to Nimbin have no idea what these events were like. During the 1988-89 big wet, there were five major floods in one year and the rainfall was double the average annual figure. Land slips occurred all around the area, with several people losing their houses. We would have to wear gum boots and wet weather gear for any outside activities - shopping, tree planting, gardening, etc. It was not a pleasant experience.

Fortunately most locals have some land and can produce much of their own food if necessary. There are lots of easy to grow vegetables and edible weeds, so it is not really a problem. Permaculture systems are viable option, but avoid the weed species that are often recommended. Then there are bush foods as promoted by the local expert Peter Hardwick. I am looking at productive rainforests as another possibility for our farm. So we have numerous alternatives to buying high priced food. Most people around the world will either have to pay up or go hungry. For poor people in developing countries, there could be mass starvation. The emerging environmental crisis is grim, so be very thankful you live in this part of the world.

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Fewer Bushwalkers in April

by Len Martin

Was it because of the Easter holidays? Because of global warming? Because it was so bl**dy dry? Because they are getting old? Because they'd done these sorts of walks before? Because they forgot? (well, one actually did!) Because they were crook? (well, one actually was!) - but our first two April walks attracted only small numbers of Club members.

Whatever the reasons, for those that didn't make it to the scrub - it was their loss. The small but very select bands that did turn up, (including two new members and one visitor) enjoyed a couple of great walks. Well, I thought so.

April 3rd saw eight intrepids head south from the Martin place on Nimbin Rocks Co-op, diagonally up the slopes on a track that Kay had developed over weeks of exercise walks. Thirty years ago these slopes were as bare as a baby's bottom, but since the co-op bought the place in about 1980 there has been massive regeneration - as can be seen from the Nimbin-Lismore road - all those densely treed slopes south of the rocks. Not only native vegetation but also bl**dy lantana, so this poor old bloke has been pulling out the stuff along Kay's tracks.

This particular one winds up through beautiful open forested slopes rich in Kangaroo grass, past big rock outcrops covered with epiphytes - (Elks, Stags, Crowsnests, orchids etc) and onto the top of "The Big Ridge".

Then it was down into our rainforest valley via a track cut by another co-op member, Tony Trott - complete canopy, huge figs, giant lianas, lots and lots of lawyer vine for Judy Hales to collect, lots of rock hopping down steep slopes to the gullies where once there were waterfalls - now, alas, usually little more than seepages.

A scramble back up to the big ridge, a little way north along a Trott track just below the western cliffs with lots of big gum trees and back down a fairly steep Kay track to lunch, tea, coffee and

discussion of future walks etc.

April 21st, forecast of "possible afternoon rains and thunderstorms", but ten braves, led by Kay, undeterred, walk out onto the Nightcap Track from Mount Nardi on a glorious morning. Last year, the club had done the eastern end of the track - out and back to Dirangah Rocks. So these were our target this time.

Because the walk is fairly demanding we decided to list it as "five to six hours return", rather than putting the rocks as a destination and weaker walkers (like me) under too much pressure. Down the Pholis Gap path the track branches east around Mount Matheson, along the edge of the escarpment - to the left schlerophyll forest with giant gums and brief glimpses of the Tweed valley, to the right a highly diverse rainforest with complete canopy but signs of the logging of past giants.

Here, in parts, the track becomes quite faint and the inexperienced bushwalker could get lost (any rumours that the leader briefly lost the track must be discounted!). It then turns south and downhill along an old forestry road meeting a track coming from Wallace Road (and which connects to one to the top of Tuntable Falls).

At this junction the Nightcap Track swings north, still on an increasingly eroded logging road, downhill along the northwest edge of the Terania Creek Valley (now that would be a beaut walk), then swings eastwards and gently uphill to the edge of the escarpment and a good lunch spot with views of Mount Warning plus some jumping ants.

Only a few hundred metres to the first of the spectacular Dirangah Rocks before our return to the Mount Nardi car-park - achieved in five and three quarter hours - and it never did rain!

Walks Program for May

Saturday 12th May Broken Head to Whites Beach

Leader Michael Smith 6689 9291
Time: 3 hours 30 minutes.
Grade 4, Difficult walking and rock-hopping, on

and off track, 3-6 km (depending if we drive or walk back). Fit walkers only. Rugged, spectacular coastal views. Subtropical littoral rainforest, beaches and seabirds.

Meet 9.30am at Nimbin car park, then drive in convoy to start of walk (about 1.5 hours); or 11am at the start of the walk at the car park next to the Broken Head Caravan Park, Beach Road, off Byron Bay Road, south of Suffolk Park.

Bring food for picnic & water.

Tuesday May 22nd The Southern Reserves - Tucki Tucki Bora Ring, Tucki Tucki Reserve and Victoria Park.

Leader Len Martin 66890254
Grade 1. About 1km of walking in a variety of vegetation types, Tucki for the koalas and Victoria Park for the rainforest (there is a park entrance fee).

Meet Nimbin car park 10am, Goolmangar Store 10.15am, or 11am at start of walk Tucki Tucki Bora Ring Wyrallah Road 5.5km south of Wyrallah Village.

Bring picnic food & water.

Weekend Saturday-Sunday 26-27th May Optional Camp at Rummery Park Camp Leader Len Martin 66890254

Campers to make their own way there - could go on Friday 25th or even earlier.

Day Walks 26-27th May (NB Leaders will not be at Nimbin carpark, not sure who will be there).

Saturday 26th May Minyon Falls Loop Walk Leader Judy Hales 6689 1477

Grade 3, 7.5 km return, 4.5 hours, visits the top and bottom of Minyon Falls, some steep grades.

Meet 9am Nimbin carpark or 10.30am Rummery Park campground.

Bring food for picnic, water, swimmers for plunge pool.

Sunday 27th May Peates Mountain Lookout Leader Judy Hales, 6689 1477 Grade 3, 6 km return, 2.5 hours.

Meet 9am Nimbin carpark or 10.30am Rummery Park campground.

Bring picnic food & water.

Let's get physical

by Sue Boardman
Co-ordinator, Nimbin Building Active Communities Project

Contact: 6688-1454
Monday & Tuesday or
sueb@nrahs.nsw.gov.au

Headers Netball Team

The team has started their first winter season in Division 5. They won their first game 29 -22. Congratulations!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Veronica Doyle who has taken on the role of team secretary. Veronica is one of our best assets, not only for her netball skill and team spirit but also for her common sense, wonderful sense of humour and great smile.

Remember if you want a game socially then join the gang at the Nimbin Central School MPU from Wednesday 2nd May, 5pm - 6.30pm. It is too dark to play outside at this time of year. All ages are welcome. A registration form must be completed by all players and if you are under 16 years of age it must be signed by a parent or guardian. Proper sports shoes must be worn. Bring water with you. There will be a small fee to cover the rent on the MPU, dependent on the numbers who play each week.



Nimbin Headers Sports Club Facility Development

As everyone in the Nimbin community knows Nimbin Building Active Communities Project bought some gym equipment which is presently located at Nimbin A&I Hall. This is only a temporary arrangement.

To ensure the future of the Physical Activity Centre, Nimbin Headers Sports Club is in the process of preparing a funding application to develop their facility to include room for a physical activity centre/gymnasium. This would fulfil a need in Nimbin that was first identified through a series of community consultations in 2004/5.

Shortly, Nimbin Headers Sports Club and Nimbin Building Active Communities Project will

be calling for letters of support from businesses, organizations and individuals for this facility development application. We need the Nimbin community to show support for this funding application if it is to have any chance of success.

For further information please contact Sue Boardman (see above).

Fitness Trainee Instructors

Our four trainees are working hard on their assessment tasks. They have two full books of tasks to complete. The knowledge that they are acquiring will benefit the whole community but requires a lot of work. Please be patient.

Tennis, Morning Tea and a Chat

I was hoping to announce the start of our tennis mornings this month for parents and guardians of young children. Unfortunately the toilet at the Nimbin tennis courts has been vandalised and we are waiting for it to be repaired before we start.

Pictures from the recent Family Fun Day at the Headers Field.

Photos: Sue Boardman



Crossword Solution

See page 17.



WALLERS BUS COMPANY



Leaving Lismore through to Murwillumbah

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

Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore

Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
7:10	1:50		Murwillumbah	7:30	2:15
7:20	2:03		Mt Warning turn	7:42	2:28
7:30	2:08		Uki	7:55	2:33
7:55	2:30		Mt Burrell	8:10	2:55
8:00	2:35		Twin Bridges	8:20	3:00
8:32	2:40		Blue Knob	8:30	3:05
8:45	2:50		Nimbin arrive	8:40	3:15
9:00	3:00		Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
8:05	9:10	3:45	Coffee Camp	9:10	3:40
8:15	9:20	3:55	Goolmangar	9:20	3:50
8:50	9:35	4:10	Lismore Transit	9:35	4:00
8:55	9:40	4:15	Lismore Depot		

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Fishing Lord Howe Island

by Pixie, Fishing reporter

When *Hurford's Building Supplies'* rep and good friend, John Mazzer informed me he had a four day business trip coming up on Lord Howe Island, I was quick to tag along, with nothing but fishing on my mind.

Leaving Lismore on the Tuesday morning in a six seater Cessna, we met pilot John Green and helped load the plane with boxes of groceries and fruit and vegs. With three seats taken out, we headed off in the three seater for the two hour trip with boxes of fruit and veg stacked around us and our fishing gear on top of that.

After just over two hours, we dropped down below the clouds and there it was, a fisherman's dream, a small island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, surrounded by reefs.

The first afternoon, John went straight to work, while I went exploring the island for land base fishing spots. I think I'm in heaven.

Day two, John's off to work again, lucky man, while I'm off to sea on the 40 ft timber hull "B-Centauri" with Keith the skipper and over five fishermen including myself on board. I am in heaven.

We headed out past the Gulch, a good land base spot for catching kingies, out about five kilometres, pulled up in about 100 ft of water, started to drift and bang, kingfish and trevally all around the six to ten kilo mark. Apart from losing a few fish to sharks, we hooked up and landed good fish non-



In heaven. John and Pixie with two 12.5 kg kingfish.

stop for about four hours, until the skipper said last drop guys and headed back to the island.

Day three, my mate John had the morning off and joined me on the B-Centauri for a bit of fishing madness and again we headed around the same reef, hooking into kingies and trevallys but not as big as the day before and a lot more sharks were on the spot.

I had great fun with two bronze whalers around the 1.5 to 2 metre mark. Releasing them beside the boat, before I hooked a third which took me around the boat and back again. A couple of times before thought I had him sitting quiet beside the boat, when he took off again. I slipped, the guys behind me said all they could see were my runners higher in the air than my bum. Then, bang down the side gunwhale and being pulled toward the back of the boat until one of the

blokes grabbed me by the seat of my pants, and still hooked up, what fun!

The skipper says no more sharks and moved out wider to about 200 ft deep and started to drift. A great call skipper. The fish were now bigger. The kingies were now between 9 to 15 kg with the trevs being between 5 to 9 kg. The arms were aching but let's keep doing it.

A couple more drifts and we're going in said the skipper. John and me were now fishing next to each other and we would both hook up at the same time. We looked at each other straining with the bent rods and a big grin on our dial. This is good fishing, this is heaven.

From one heaven to another, the Nimbin Heads Fishing Team has a nine-man team heading to Fraser Island for our annual trip and at the time of writing this, there are only twelve more sleeps to go.

Tight lines guys.

Go Headers Girls!

The Nimbin Headers Womens 3rd Grade Team has been described as one of the surprise packages of the competition, defending well to narrowly go down to Tumbulgum 0-1 in their home game on 29th April.

Pictured l-r are (rear) Lucinda, Gillian, Jedda, Mimi, Chelsea, Louise, Chicken, Hayley, (front) Megan, Sarah, Chanal, Lucy, Amy, Jasmine, Sophie (reclining) and coach Robbie. Plus bub.



Nimbin Demons - two games into the season

by James Alexander

The 2007 season has commenced for the new Nimbin Demons, and the mere fact that we are in the competition is a reason for celebration.

The team has gone down convincingly on both occasions, but there are plenty of reasons to be positive about the performances so far, and about our prospects over the course of the season. Firstly, we have managed to field full teams as well as a full interchange bench for both games, almost unknown for 'away' games.

It reflects the degree of enthusiasm, and means that if you want to play, you've gotta train. We have been let down primarily by a lack of fitness which reflects only a handful of committed players who regularly attended the pre-season training.

On a skill level, the team is going really well. Our Koori contingent (Rod, Billy, Andy and Doug) have all put in great efforts, and new comers such as Josh, Del, Matt, Aaron are proving very valuable. We seem to have a better mixture of very capable young people such as

Will, Josh, Matt, Andy, as well as the return of seasoned veterans led by Frank Reid joined by Chris, Perry, James, Shaun, Zen, Frank S, Jimmy, Ralph, Doug, Grant, Rohan, Julian, Kenny, etc. Even newcomers to the game such as Dave, Christian and Gerrard are going in hard. Paul Peterson is now coach and brings a wealth of experience with him.

The skill level of this team is impressive- we now just need to build cohesion and fitness, both of which will develop as the season progresses. All involved are expecting Nimbin to be very competitive mid-way into the season- we will become the dragon slayers of the league again.

The other cause for celebration was the exemplary attitude which Nimbin players and supporters showed towards the umpires and opponents at last week's game against Lismore. There was no abuse, no send offs, no punch-ups- just hard, fair footy and respect shown all round. It is up to all of us to keep positive, and we showed that this is a realistic expectation to have of our players and supporters.

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May Gig Guide

Friday 4th	Lordz Of The Fly
Saturday 5th	The Hoochers 1.30 - 5pm Baron Samadhi 7.30-11pm
Sunday 6th	Azzadoota 1.30 - 5pm Spoonbill 7.30 - 11pm
Friday 11th	The View
Friday 18th	Fiddle Dance
Sunday 20th	Monkey And The Fish Market Sunday 1.30 - 5pm
Friday 25th	CBD Dub Project

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