



## Open Gardens of Nimbin - 14/15th April - Prepare to be surprised!!!

Following an interesting and thought provoking visit to Nimbin's own Rivendell Organics experimental eco-farm in March, the Nimbin Garden Club is looking forward to holding its major biennial event - the Open Gardens of Nimbin. Over the weekend of 14/15th April, nine Nimbin and Coffee Camp gardens will be opened to the public.

Pamphlets with a map showing the locations of the gardens and giving brief descriptions of each, are available from the Nimbin Post Office and Lismore Heritage Information Centre, and will also be available at the Garden Club Stall in Cullen Street, Nimbin from 10-15 April.

The charge for single adult admission to each garden will be \$3, however a \$15 ticket will entitle entry to all 9 gardens over the weekend. Children in the care of an adult will be admitted free. Plant sales will also be

available at most gardens.

Tickets may be pre-purchased at Caddies in Lismore and Perceptio Books in Nimbin. Individual tickets will also be available at the gardens themselves.

As in past years, funds raised from the event will be donated to worthy community greening projects. Following the 2005 Open Gardens, substantial donations were provided to the Headers Football Club, the Nimbin Community Garden and the Nimbin Central School.

So, if you have ever been curious about what some of our local gardeners get up to in their bushland hideaways, come along and prepare to be surprised.

Enquiries: Lindy 6689-0071, Mac 6689-0043 or Gil 6689-0581.

*Below: The Nimbin Garden Club explores Rivendell Organics.*



Photo collage: Os Osbourne

## Nimbin Bushwalkers March On - despite the weather



Western view from Box Mountain

by Len Martin

Saturday 3rd March – a beautiful day and, just at the top of the road up into the Border Ranges, thirteen intrepid walkers set off into really trackless rainforest (not even ribbons on the trees), towards Horseshoe Falls, led by the even more intrepid Don Durrant, who seemed to know where he was going.

And he did, taking us easily to the top of the falls, and back, over a couple of hours, losing no-one on the way. One of our more intimate contacts with World Heritage rainforest. Then onto the Bar Mountain picnic area for lunch before doing a much more civilised Bar Mountain Circuit – something I had not done before.

At the risk of cliché - absolutely fabulous - but make sure you do it anti-clockwise. A good track descends through spectacular rainforest alongside great cliffs festooned with *Helmholtzia* lilies. Then amid giant gums to a lookout with wonderful views to the west – Mount Lindsay yet again – and a relatively gentle ascent with far fewer steps than the descent – hence the hint to do it anti-clockwise.

Off to the coast for our midweek, Wednesday 14th March. A small select group of us were led all around Cape Byron by Peter Le Patourel. We started from the Clark's Beach parking lot – along Clark's Beach then, after a brief diversion into the wonderful Cabbage Tree Palm grove, overland above Wategos beach via paved walkway through remnant coastal rain-forest - alas with too much Bitou. Onto the look-out above Australia's most eastern point, then steeply up to the Lighthouse for views, breeze, lunch and scrumptious ice-creams.

The return down the southern flank of the cape took us past the hang-gliders' launch site - where some of us were tempted to spread our

wings - through high-quality Coastal Rainforest with superb cycads and a massive feral European bee swarm in a tree, complete with huge naked honey-combs and - lots and lots of bees (guess who's allergic to the little beauties?). After that dangerous excitement, an easy return to Clark's Beach and a wonderful, wonderful, cool, cool dip in the surf.

But sometimes one can have too much water, as happened on Sunday 25th March with our Murray Scrub Walk in Toonumbar National Park. Saturday had been fine and warm – (perhaps a bit too warm for those of us on the Greens election booth at Goolmangar) – but, being election day, our planned camp at Iron Pot Creek on the Saturday night attracted only three members.

As we left Nimbin on the Sunday morning it looked gloomy and was just starting to rain. Alas, by the time we reached the Murray Scrub it was pouring, and it continued that way throughout the walk. Despite this, we all enjoyed the walk, led by Don Durrant, who took us past giant Figs, giant Stinging Trees and massive Red Cedars. The Stinging Trees were prolific and there were lots of youngsters along the track, but those of us with bare knees, or bare feet (not me) avoided major pain – and the leeches weren't too bad.

A damp group lunched before a roaring fire at the Iron Pot Creek shelter shed to the incessant sound of Bell Birds, and the two visitors who came with us on the walk decided to join the club!

The club has yet to organise its program for May, June and July so we are in urgent need of suggestions and leaders for walks. I know I want to do another Real Mulgum Falls. Sometime at the end of August there will be the opportunity for a full week's camping and walking on Moreton Island. I hope to have firm dates and costings for that in the near future.

In October, Don Durrant plans to take us from the edge of the Border Ranges to the Stinson Wreck – a demanding overnighter.

### Walks Program for April

#### Tuesday 3rd April Nimbin Rocks Co-operative

(Club members only)

Leaders Kay and Len Martin 6689-0254

Grade 3, 2-3 hours, "No tracks" walk starting at the Martin place, south across the slopes then descending into rainforest with rock-hopping and lawyer vine

Meet 10am Nimbin car park, 10.15am at the Martin place. Bring food for picnic and lots of water.

#### Saturday 21st April Day walk The Nightcap Track from Mt Nardi

Leaders Kay and Len Martin 6689-0254

Grade 3, 4-5 hours return, marked track, then fairly clear track along old logging road, hopefully to meet the returning intrepid Sphinx Rock overnights.

Meet 9.00am Nimbin car park or 9.20am Mt Nardi carpark. Bring food for picnic and water.

#### Sunday 29th April Salty Lagoon and Snapper Point

Leader Michael Smith 6689-9291.

Grade 2 easy. Salty Lagoon 3km return, 1.5 hours overgrown level walking track, heathlands, wildflowers and birds. Grade 3 medium. Chinamans Beach to Snapper Point 3km return 2 hours.

Starts at parking area at the end of Chinaman's Beach Road. Beach walking, some rock hopping. Superb coastal landscapes and swimming.

Meet 9.00am Nimbin car park, or meet leader 9.15am Goolmangar store, or 10.30am start of first walk - Evans Head, 2.5 km along Evans Head - Broadwater Rd towards Broadwater, one km past the Garbage Tip, next to a locked gate, NOT Death Adder Fire Trail.

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