

Big line-up for MardiGrass

- 5th and 6th May 2007 -

by Michael Balderstone

The MardiGrass Organising Body (MOB) meets every Friday at 5pm down in the HEMP Embassy bunker. Meetings are an initiation in their own right and everyone is welcome.

It's a similar program to recent years but much phatter in Peace Park especially with a huge music line up and early morning poetry and performance and continuing later into the night.

We still need help in quite a few areas like Jungle Patrol volunteer registrations. First Aid refresher courses are happening at the Bowlo the Thursday before MardiGrass.

The word is out the Lemmabago and its saliva testing troops are coming to the North Coast for the BluesFest at Byron over Easter, then staying up here for MardiGrass.

We need licensed non-stoners to drive the MUNCH fleet, which can be as big as how many vehicles we can find who want to join in monitoring the Winnebago's whereabouts. Remember last year the police were stopping vehicles at roadblocks and telling people that Nimbin is full or MardiGrass is cancelled, creating confusion all over the place. We plan on having our MUNCH fleet ensuring fair play this year.

Whats new?

• Creative composting toilets by "naturalevent" from Victoria which promise to be a highlight. A special Concert for Cannabis Law Reform in Peace Park



Saturday Night.

- The return of the Hemp Rope tug-o-war.
- A bigger Hemp Expo with a display of new hemp plastic products from the newly opened Zelfo factory in Mullumbimby (Anyone with Hemp products should contact us for a free stall).
- A Breakfast of Champions -early morning show in Peace Park from 10am.
- Hemp Bling awards for the best MardiGrass music.
- DOTYAS (dealer of the year awards!)
- A bigger and better PotArt Tattoo in the Town Hall Saturday 3pm with Space.

The latest MardiGrass Program is on <www.nimbinmardigrass.com> and we will keep updating until we print the program just before the big weekend. It will keep changing after that as well, no doubt! We have had more enquiries than ever so expect a big crowd.

This year we are encouraging a special effort for the 15th Annual Cannabis Law Reform Rally at 2.30pm on Sunday with special prizes for best imagination, message, attitude and outfit. Prizes include home grown bush

Hemp Bling.

Special guests include Professor Puff from Vancouver and it looks like the legendary licensed Medical Cannabis smoker Remo is coming as well.

Entertainers

Some of the other talent confirmed coming for nine different venues include: Wild Marmalade, Utopians, Charlie McMahon, Legless from Adelaide, Invisible Friend, Nunukul Kunjeil, Bart Willoughby, Antibodies, Shivara, Ganja Faeries, Dr. Keith 'hempsed' Bolton, David Hallett, Kog, Andrew Katelaris, Martin Preedy, Asia, Bikko & Doug, Kaptain Reefer & the Konescrapers also from Adelaide, Lovebus, Archie, Sorrensen & Glover, George Scott, Robert Bruce, Bo Kaan, Maxx Mango & the Seedless Variety, Professor Michael 'saliva' Dawson, The Medieval Knights of the Black Grail, Steve Bolt and legal advice, Bob the joint builder, John Jiggins, Dr Bud, new special event wheelie bins from Lismore City Council!, Carol de Launey PhD HEMP, Mullaways, Big Bong's Max stone and the new big joint... and the list is growing daily it seems!

Then of course there's the backbone events, the Pickers Ball on Friday night, put on this year by Nimbin Headers Sports Club in the Town Hall, Hemp Olympix (joint rolling, bong throw and yell, growers iron person event), Ganja Faeries, Pot Poetry, Pot Art, Kombi Konvoy, Million Man Marijuana March, Hemp Forums on legal advice, industrial, medicinal and political pot issues. Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), Seed Swap, Cannabis Cup, Comedy at the Oasis, movies, and plenty of street theatre as always.

Please contact Nimbin Hemp Embassy on 02 6689 1842 or email <hemp@nrg.com.au> or drop in and see us. Or come to a Friday meeting!

Rainbow Archive posters on show

A collection of historic local poster art has been on display to the public at Southern Cross University's Library Exhibition Space.

The show was put together by Graham Irvine from the SCU Law School, and Libby Pownall and Rhonda Ellis from the SCU Library. In selecting works for the exhibition they have favoured posters relating to historically significant local events. Each poster is accompanied by a story, and together the works document the visual and cultural history of the 'new settlers' in the Rainbow Region.

New settler artists brought skills in graphic design and local posters morphed art deco and psychedelic styles with bush themes and self-parodying humour. Posters were hand-drawn, silk-screened, roneoed and offset printed before photocopiers were common.

The exhibition was opened by Paul Thom, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts



at SCU. He said, "These materials speak in a genuinely local voice and exhibit a remarkable confidence and energy."

"They remind me of the best pieces of nineteenth-century nationalistic music - pieces like Smetana's Moldau - in the way they capture the spirit of a particular time and place, and proclaim it as theirs. What is in play here is not a mere representation of a time and place through its outer manifestations but an authentic expression of its inner spirit," he said.

The works are now collectable items and many who visit the exhibition will remember seeing them pasted and pinned to fences and trees, to telegraph poles and noticeboards, in shop windows, cafes and walls around Lismore, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay and many hinterland villages.

Paul Thom said, "I hope that even though this is a retrospective, reflecting times and

deeds past, it will also be future-directed and that this will be the first of a number of showings - and hopefully the first of a number of other events and happenings that not only commemorate the spirit of the Rainbow Region but also keep it alive.

'Rainbow Posters 1973-1994' is a joint project of the Aquarian Archive Inc., Southern Cross University Library and SCU's Office of Regional Engagement. Plans are underway to tour the exhibition through local libraries.

The Naked Village

by Sophia Hoeben

Many people think the on-going hacking of shade trees in Cullen Street is carried out by Council and maybe related to power lines. However, recent enquiries to the Council revealed they have nothing to do with this constant vandalism of trees in town. It seems, the Police District Commander directs the tree loppers with no reference to the Council, so that the cameras can maintain an uninterrupted view of the Cafe side of the street.

A straw survey of shopkeepers in Nimbin showed the cameras have done nothing to either stop vandalism or apprehend culprits since their installation. It even appears that some shopkeepers having identified culprits of broken windows and other acts of mindlessness, asked police if they could view the video records for the nights these incidents occurred and were flatly refused.

Recent history brought a touch of irony, when the largest robbery ever staged in town occurred on the other side of the street, where the cameras offered no help at all in subsequent investigations. What is the use of spending tens of thousands of rate-payers' dollars on a useless 'security' system when the money would be better utilised employing full-time night security personnel (to do the job of the police!)

As a volunteer in the Environment Centre,

I've been told many times by tourists that the Nimbin street-scape is unique in the world and its that difference which brings them. In fact, Nimbin is only second to Byron Bay when it comes to visitor numbers. Should Cullen Street end up like Carrington Street in Lismore or some other sanitised salmon pink paved version, the goose that lays the golden tourist dollar egg will be well and truly killed.

The tourist dollar is really a secondary issue compared to the terrible loss of shady greenery in an age of such extreme UV levels and high melanoma rates. Shade sails are nowhere near as effective in preventing UV damage and fail to provide the microclimates naturally created by clumps of trees. The stumps they leave, like the one outside Choices, once a beautiful shade tree, and the tortured hacked trees outside the e-bar, stand as a legacy of the old mentality. The smoking of marijuana is more important to stamp out than providing shade, seats and other normal amenities required by the public.

Another ironic twist. The Nimbin Alternative Community planted out the street many years ago to provide shade for what we already knew would be the furnace awaiting us in the future in our old age. Now, I see the old people amongst the young all sitting in the blazing sun and wonder how, with all the communicative, political and environmental skills between us, have we allowed this to happen?

FOR SALE: A HOUSE AT JARLANBAH \$240,000

10 year old timber home. Large lounge/kitchen, one bedroom, attached undercover caravan. Solar Hot Water. 25 fruit trees. There are breathtaking views from the north-facing verandah of the Border Ranges, Blue Knob and Mt. Nardi.

Jarlanbah Community is 1.5km from Nimbin. On the 54 acres there are 43 1.5-acre strata title lots, the remaining community land comprises 5 dams, woodlots, orchards, agricultural lots, walking tracks, sealed roads and a Community Centre with its own pizza oven.

The owner enjoys living at Jarlanbah and has chosen to re-locate there to suit new circumstances.

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