

Nimbin's youth say:
Why don't you listen to us, Sunrise?



Asia Hatton used to really like the Seven Network's Sunrise program. "It was my favourite show, I always put it on," she said.

So, she was incensed to see their July 9 program on Nimbin, "Australia's Saddest Town" which portrayed a pitiful, ugly caricature of the village, based on reports appearing in News Ltd newspapers. (See "Demonising Nimbin" p. 3)

"They made out that we were all heroin addicts and had medieval diseases," Asia said. "I was disgusted and appalled, and I wanted to tell them so."

The same morning, she emailed them back from the Neighbourhood Centre with her comments on the show, attaching the photo (left) that she organised on her way.

Asia can be seen in the photo, sitting on the wall at the far left.

"I told them I'm not diseased, I'm a 19-year old

girl born and raised here, and I can walk around Nimbin any time of the day or night and feel really safe. I wouldn't walk around Lismore.

"Nimbin's not full of homeless junkies, but families that help each other. It really hurts when bad things are said about people you love and people you grew up with.

"They weren't looking at any of the positives," she said. "I told them we're a community that is doing something about solar power, treating the land well, looking after water. And we have lots of art and music, too, it's a great place.

"With shows on like this, it makes it harder for us when we go to other towns and say we're from Nimbin."

Although the TV program includes a regular feedback segment, Asia's prompt response, and her great photo, have been totally ignored by the Seven Network.

It's not the story they want to tell.

PM-in-waiting Kevin Rudd says "No Dams" at Tyalgum



Opposition leader Kevin Rudd travelled to Tyalgum in late July and spoke with some 200 residents about Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull's proposal to dam the northern rivers.

He was accompanied by Member for Richmond Justine Elliott and Shadow Minister for Water, Anthony Albanese, who all stated their opposition to the dams.

Speaking outside the general store, Mr Rudd congratulated the northern rivers community for their concerted campaign to oppose the proposal, and in particular, Peter Bennett the members of the Save the Caldera Rivers Campaign committee.

Mr Rudd described the SMEC report into four new dams to pump

water to Queensland as being full of assumptions and generalisations. "There's no site visits, no costings, it looks to me as though it's been done on Mr Turnbull's kitchen table."

Mr Albanese said that various solutions to Queensland's water shortage were already underway, including the largest project for greywater recycling in the southern hemisphere, a desalination plant at Tugun, and better water efficiencies.

"We will not support a dam at Tyalgum, it's that simple," said Mr Rudd, which earned him rousing cheers.

After the speeches, the party adjourned for a cup of tea nearby, but the topic of conversation remained the same, as it will until the election.

