

2020 Vision reveals Green future



Giovanni Ebono at the Greens campaign launch

by Giovanni Ebono

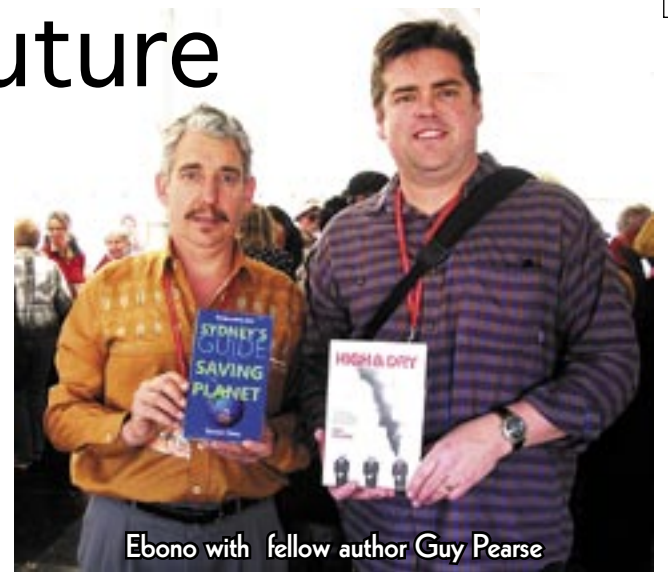
The Greens candidate for Richmond, Giovanni Ebono, launched a vision for the Northern Rivers of NSW at Tumbulgum on the Tweed River on Saturday, 28th July.

Our food and water are threatened by global warming. The Greens have detailed, publicly available policies that protect the family farm, local business, renewable energy and regional services.

"These are the common sense practical ways to reverse global warming and save our precious food and water resources," Ebono said at the launch of his campaign.

He believes the region is a world-leading showcase for a sustainable future, because of its biodiversity, innovative businesses and unique mix of farming and village settlements. "The village has survived tens of millenia on all continents under all cultures," he said. "In two hundred years industrialisation and global trade have destroyed it, creating global warming and its related food and water shortages."

The great grandson of pioneers from the Channel Islands, Ebono sees traditional farming communities and those migrating to the area because of its natural beauty as



Ebono with fellow author Guy Pearse

natural allies in building a viable, robust economy. According to Ebono this is exactly the mix required to reverse global warming and secure the future.

"We will not sacrifice our

resources for the global economy, we will conserve them for our families and community," he said.

Detailed, written policies are available from <www.greens.org.au>

High-risk writers applauded at Byron Festival

by Bob Dooley

Writing isn't generally regarded as a dangerous activity. Rather it is seen as rather a genteel occupation, conducted while sitting quietly at a desk.

The impressive assortment of investigative journalists, lid-lifters and whistle-blowers assembled for the Friday sessions of this year's Byron Writers Festival told an altogether different story.

As Russell Eldridge remarked in his introduction to ex-Victorian policeman Simon Illingworth, "By rights he shouldn't be here, he's received so many death-threats."

Illingworth's book "Filthy Rat," and the Australian Story TV program about him, both document his courage in exposing police corruption. Despite the devastating effects on his career, his family and his psychology he said, "Rottenness only exists in darkness. Our job is to bring it into the full sun."

This unswerving attitude was common to other speakers, notably Chris Masters, the longest-serving investigative reporter on ABC TV's Four Corners, who has taken on the might of police forces, governments and in his latest book



Chris Masters with Fran Kelly

"Jonestown," even the powerful Alan Jones dynasty. Such is Jones' influence that his original publisher pulled out.

Robert Larkins, a practising barrister for 20 years, encountered considerable opposition when he exposed collusion and inflated prices in the increasingly corporatised funeral industry. In his book "Funeral Rights," he recommends the Natural Death Centre of Byron Bay for countering the misinformation of funeral directors regarding the availability of cardboard coffins and the legality of burial on private land.



David Marr with David Leser

Guy Pearse, who spent 18 years studying environment policy and working as a political advisor, was sufficiently alarmed by the enduring consequences of global warming and John Howard's "quarry view of the economy" that he exposed the spin-doctor strategies of the people he had once worked closely with. "You're accused of being a traitor, but I suppose that's to be expected."

Countering spin is an ongoing quest for economics editor Ross Gittens, who railed against the frequently misleading use of economic modelling data by politicians. "All these models are made by econometricians and are based on assumptions, which are often hidden away on page 300. If the limitations of the model aren't pointed out, faulty inferences become the accepted wisdom."

ABC journalist Lee Sales said she welcomed the opportunity to bring the individual stories she reported on together, to provide an overall picture. In researching her book on David Hicks, "Prisoner 002," she encountered stone-walling by Australian officials, noting that their US counterparts were much more forthcoming with information.

When countering cover-ups and obfuscation, praise is scarce. Conservative columnist Richard Akland referred to Sales as "annoyingly fair" in her treatment of the Hicks case.

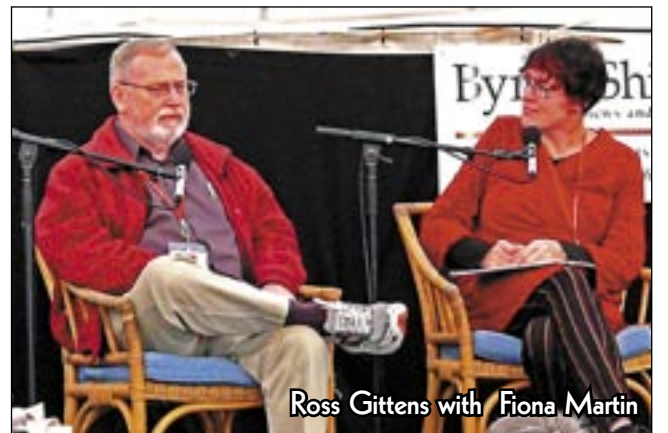
Ray Moynihan insisted that fairness was more important than objectivity. His critique of Big Pharma's marketing strategies has pitted him against some of the most powerful companies in the world. His 2005 book "Selling Sickness," co-authored by Alan Cassels and boldly sub-titled "How drug companies are turning us all into patients," documents the way drug companies invent ailments to boost demand

for their pharmaceuticals. "Watch out for Female Sexual Dysfunction," he said, "that's the latest one."

Paul Sheehan, a Herald columnist, made no friends amongst his colleagues when he turned the spotlight on shonky media practices in his book "The Electronic Whorehouse," a title that he said summed up his attitude to the media. His advice to dealing with reporters was simple: "You either know them or they're dangerous. In other words, establish a personal relationship or you'll be done over."

He blamed the speed of production for unchecked stories, opinion presented as fact, and the "intellectual tourism" that newspaper stories often exhibit. "You get one story done and you're onto the next one," he said. Consequently, "too much of journalism is focused on the negative, and fixated on the new."

Law-trained ex-Herald editor and Mediawatch anchor David Marr disagreed with Sheehan's analysis. "From the start of time there has been shit journalism, and there always will be," he told the Festival crowd. He said one of the things that attracted him to journalism was that you can flick quickly from one story to another.



Ross Gittens with Fiona Martin

"I have an explaining imagination," he said, "and an interest in things that need explaining." He said he was pessimistic about the future of quality journalism, but not gloomy. "In the future stories will be 80% wire (supplied copy) and 20% whizz-bang. I see myself as being in the whizz-bang category."

And we need these determined, risk-taking whizz-bangers, especially today when as Marr put it, "We live in cautious times. For example the word "progressive" has become a pejorative."

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For the love of poetry ... and the Cup!



Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, to be held on the weekend of 4th and 5th August, is a community sponsored event.

This year's Cup has over 30 entrants from all over Australia vying for one of the many prizes on offer, and especially the coveted 'big shiny Cup' and \$2,000 first prize.

The official opening will be on Saturday 4th at 11am, and heats will begin soon after at the Nimbin Oasis Café. The Veranda Cafe (Town Hall) heat will start at 1pm, then back to the Oasis for 2pm heat and last heat for the day at 3pm Veranda Cafe.

Robin Archbold (Archie) will have a book launch at

5pm at the Oasis, home to the Nimbin Poets and the place of his evolution as a poet.

The night will echo with the sounds of words and music as the diehards continue to party on into the night.

Sunday sees the semi-finals at the Nimbin Oasis Cafe starting at 12noon and 2.30pm. Poets who make it thus far will then perform at the Nimbin Town Hall starting at 7.30pm.

The Veranda Cafe will be open for dinner, snacks, tea and coffee from 6pm and again is a fundraiser for the Tuntable Falls Preschool group.

Last year's finalists (top), with overall winner holding the Cup. At right, a finalist in action.



Skate Park stagnation: Have you read the report?

A Noise Assessment report on Nimbin Community Skate Park, was prepared by Air Noise Environment P/L in May 2007. It is available on the web, at <http://www.sk8park.nimbincommunity.org.au/> and the NCDA believes everyone in Nimbin should read it.

The monitoring, or logging as it is called, was conducted by Beau Weyers, an environmental engineer. He took sound measurements to assess the current noise levels associated with operation of the skate park in comparison to those existing in the area without the skate park operations.

Computer modelling was then undertaken to assess the noise levels to surrounding receptors for a variety of sound mitigation measures, including relocation of the neighbouring house and fully enclosing the skate park.

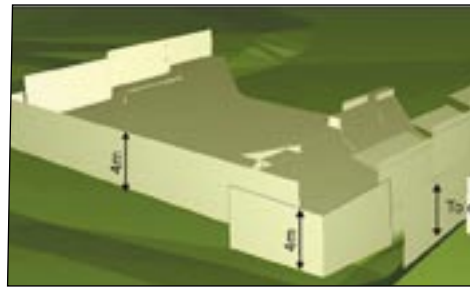
Though the recommendations of the report are not conclusive as to any one option,



the modelling shows that significant noise deadening can be achieved by completing the cladding of the ramp and building acoustic barriers. The website says, "NCDA believe this assessment adequately details design methods and materials that can be employed to address sound attenuation and meet crime prevention guidelines, and is preparing costings to their preferred option, based on the outcomes of this report.

However, no work will be started before wide consultation is undertaken with Council and with the community. Discussions with Council have become bogged down over aspects of the report that they part-funded.

It is important that people who have a position on the sk8 park become familiar with the report, which considers various options, in order to take an informed role in determining what happens next.



Demonising Nimbin

Hasn't Nimbin been copping a lot of bad press recently?

Asia Hatton didn't like it, and she has eloquently voiced her reply (story page 1). But just what have they been saying about us?

The source of the flurry of negative stories appears to be a press release from Area Commander Bruce Lyons, announcing the appointment of nine police positions for Nimbin. He announced that a zero tolerance approach would be adopted, with a particular emphasis on the growing white powder culture.

Journalist Samantha Williams led the charge for News Ltd, dismissing the village as "Australia's drug capital...pockmarked by mental illness, drugs abuse and homelessness... In seven minutes I was offered drugs seven times by people who looked hard up in life, some as young as fifteen... everything from pure hash cookies (sic) to ice."

A begrudging reference is made to the press release: "Increased police resources will help solve the problem," but she said it didn't go far enough.

Murdoch stablemate The Gold Coast Bulletin picked up on Samantha's experience in their editorial two days later, adding

authoritatively that "it is impossible to walk down the main street without being accosted by dealers who use the public toilets as salesrooms and shooting galleries."

An unattributed report in the Gold Coast Bulletin the same day painted a similar dismal picture: "With high rates of homelessness and mental illness, police say the community needs to be rehabilitated, and fast."

One "resident who did not wish to be named" is quoted saying, "... slowly but surely the pot-smokers are crossing the road... there's a nasty side to the alternative lifestyle... there's big, bad deals going down every day."

The report stylised the police announcement almost out of recognition: "... Supt Lyons was adamant a New York-style "broken windows" approach was the only way to smash a culture he said is destroying social order in Nimbin."

Prime TV's Sunrise program that day warmed to the topic, airing a 20-minute piece comprising an unflattering report shot in Nimbin, followed by a panel discussion with News Ltd journalists.

Among the new allegations made were that Nimbin people sell pot to feed their heroin addictions,

and that there has been a rise in "medieval diseases," quoting an unnamed (yet again) Nimbin health worker for this extraordinary claim.

The GCB editorial introduced another dimension to the town's evilness, contending that "Today, the free-spirited hippy of the Nimbin fairytale is more likely to be a bikie whose clandestine laboratory pumps out hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of speed every year...."

"Organised crime gangs have set up shop in the hinterland from where they peddle ice, heroin and ecstasy to users at Byron Bay, the Gold Coast and further afield... Nimbin is treated as a drive-through drug shop."

By the following Monday, The Northern Star had found a police source to flesh out this idea: "... The source, who cannot be named, was careful to say that while the area was not as bad as some of the more international hotspots (does he mean the Gold Coast?), outlaw motorcycle gangs, at least one international mafia family, and other criminal syndicates have set up home in the Northern Rivers."

In case you're wondering why you haven't seen them around, "They... generally keep a low profile, the

Bibliography of balderdash

- 7th July Daily Telegraph "Melting pot of disaster" by Samantha Williams
- 9th July Gold Coast Bulletin, "Nimbin drug blitz to clean up town"
- 9th July Gold Coast Bulletin "Smoke out gun scourge" editorial
- 9th July Prime TV Sunrise program, "The saddest town in Australia"
- 11th July Gold Coast Bulletin "Let's keep off the grass" by Robyn Wurth
- 16th July Northern Star, "Drug hub dubbed Green North"
- 16th July ABC News, "Police to get tougher on Nimbin drug dealers"

source said."

By mid-morning that day, Commander Lyons was distancing himself from the slew of anti-Nimbin hysteria, telling ABC local radio that the appointment of five new officers "is not a negative statement about Nimbin itself" and he "understands the town's quirky charms."

The much-touted zero tolerance approach was now "a sustained crackdown on the drug dealing, but just as importantly it will allow the police officers to become part of the community at Nimbin and be involved in the many positive things that happen in Nimbin, he said."

By contrast, he described the Lone Wolf motorcycle club as running a major drug distribution network on the North Coast, and by the Thursday morning the media had been tipped off to be present at the expensive and relatively fruitless storming and ransacking of the Lone Wolf clubhouse, another

private residence in South Lismore where a gate was ripped off for the cameras, and a farm at Myocum. The media obligingly ran their tough-on-drugs bikie scare stories.

The following Thursday, radio news reported the arrest of Lone Wolf member Brendan George on serious "white powder culture" drugs charges (see Letters p. 6).

Perhaps because of his family connections, press comment has curiously been extremely sympathetic. It has included a fatuous editorial in Friday's Northern Star, and a reported assertion by the Commander that, unlike the other Lone Wolves, Mr George was "innocent until proven guilty."

During that week, crews from the evening TV programs Stateline and Today Tonight had been busily shooting segments in Nimbin, assuring locals that they were making "positive stories." Pardon our scepticism - here's hoping,

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Fun fete for kids at...



Fun for the children is the emphasis at this year's Tuntable Falls community school fete to be held on Sunday 26th August.

The parents are going all out to show that they know how to entertain the children with a packed programme of games and fun activities.

The main event will be the official opening of the school's playground that was built by parents, staff and friends at a cost of \$45,000.

The playground, which features a massive climbing net a huge fort, cubby, slides, two bridges, one rope and one wooden, sling poles and an amazing climbing wall, is already a huge hit with the children at the school and will no doubt be well remembered by all children who visit.

In addition to the new playground a bouncing castle, or massive airfilled slippery slide, will be booked for the day, and clowns, lucky dips, treasure hunts, sack races, the limbo, face painting, acrobatics and juggling will keep the children amused and

entertained all day.

The parents will also be well catered for in the famous pamper parlour where participants are treated like royalty with Tarot card readings, body and facial massage whilst eating strawberries dipped in chocolate and sipping nectar of the gods if they desire.

Anyone who has not been to the Tuntable Falls Community School for a while will notice the many changes that have occurred, thanks to a dedicated team of parents and teachers of the primary and preschool who have obviously all poured a lot of loving energy into the school to great effect.

The fete will start at 9am and go through to 3pm on 26th August at the school at Tuntable Falls Community, Tuntable Falls Road, just 10 minutes from Nimbin.

If anyone has goods to donate to the Monster Raffle or Quirky Auction please contact the school to arrange delivery or pick up. Phone 6689-1423 or email <tunfalls@australis.net>



North Coast Institute

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Nimbin's own Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Program at Nimbin Central School has gone up-market, thanks to the generosity of Blue Knob man, Jamie Boyd.

In little over a term, he has transformed the program from a basic toast and juice snack to a varied and balanced morning meal.

Breakfast is now a choice of three cereals, toast, fresh fruit, milo, smoothies and muesli bars. Also it's served indoors, not at a window, something much appreciated these recent cold mornings.

Apart from the bread, generously donated by the Aquarius Bakery, Jamie is wholly funding the program himself. "I'd been looking for a charity for a while, and this one is perfect, because the kids benefit directly," he said.

Teachers report that students have higher energy levels and better



Nourishment. Jamie Boyd and teacher Kim Wheaton having breakfast with students at Nimbin Central.

concentration after a good breakfast, and as Jamie said, "It gives all kids a good start."

Every three or four

weeks there is a special breakfast day, where the students get to choose a treat, for example, toasted sandwiches, or even (once in

a blue moon) Coco Pops.

"The kids are really enjoying it," said Jamie.

"Everyone's got to look after the kids."

Nimbin Central School SRC's Masquerade Ball

It seems a long time ago now, but as the NGT July edition was being put to bed, schoolies were celebrating the end of second term, and Nimbin Central School hosted a secondary school social in their MPU.

Organised by the Students Representative Council, the night featured "compulsory fun" games as well as disco dancing, and with each student able to bring two school-aged friends, it was very well-attended.

Extravagant costumes and a variety of masks were sported, with facepainting available for the bare-faced.

School captain Athena Zalandonii acted as MC for the night, with fellow captain Tristan Glover working as DJ. A feature of the night was the professional lighting and smoke effects, installed and operated by the student tech crew of Jesse Schoer and Jake Lapham.

The canteen's range of hot food and drink proved popular on what was a chilly night.

Tristan Glover said, "It went well. It's the first school social we've had in years, and the emphasis was on participation. We were pretty pleased with how it went, so now we're planning more social events, like a games night, trivia and so on."

Go the SRC!



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Nimbin 2007 Universal Children's Day

Thursday 25th October is the 2007 Universal Children's Day.

Last year the Nimbin Family Centre, made up of parents with children under the age of five, celebrated Universal Children's Day by putting on a colourful children's parade down the main street of Nimbin, culminating in a family fair at Peace Park.

A variety of children's entertainment was provided, including a puppet show and jumping castle as well as information stalls. These ranged from the men's shed and local preschools, to the Breastfeeding Association, who all used the day to showcase their services.

The focus of the day was on early childhood issues and encouraging healthy families.

Last year's celebration was an overwhelming success with over 300 children participating in the parade. Fair attendees provided positive feedback, as with the stallholders. This year we envisage another children's parade and family fair.

With a lot of young families moving to the area for a tree-change, life can prove very



Last year's parade through Nimbin was a festive event enjoyed by all.

hard and isolating without family and friends for support.

Our aim for the day was not only to have a lot of fun, but also to provide information on services available for families with young children in the area, and to provide an opportunity for parents to network with other parents, and to facilitate the building of new support networks.

Nimbin Family Centre, being a not-for-profit organisation, has a limited budget. Council funding acquired for last year's event was a one-off grant. This year we are asking for donations from services that have an interest in promoting and encouraging healthy children and healthy families.

This can be done in two different ways:

1. Donate an item for the raffle, or
2. Donate money for staging the event.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Make donations payable to Family Support Network c/- Nimbin Family Centre, 81E Cullen Street, Nimbin 2480

For any enquiries or questions, contact Marie Hainaut on 6689-0423.

Weaving the culture

The third Weave and Mend Festival will be held on the 28th, 29th and 30th September in the grounds of Nimbin Central School.

This is a local hands-on Festival of basket and other weavings. It is for children, for beginners, for the semi-advanced and for fun.

The idea is that if you are interested in learning about weaving, you can come and camp on the school grounds and stay for three days, or less. Costs are kept to a minimum, with Friday and Saturday night camping available by donation.

Weavers will be running daily continual workshops throughout the Festival, teaching several different techniques. Costs are \$5 per workshop and fibres/materials are provided. Donations of more materials



also accepted.

On the other hand, you may just want to sit back and watch for a few hours, and enjoy the very pleasant, laid-back, stress-free atmosphere of the Festival. There will be a local chai tent and foodstall, and entry will be by donation.

Enquiries phone 6689-7129 or write c/o PO Box 530 Nimbin, 2480.

Early Childhood Music In Nimbin

by Tracey Allen

Music is a universal language. Children naturally respond to the movement of music as it is based on their natural development and their senses of hearing, seeing and touching... To the child, music is an extension of play. Musical activities stimulate the development of every area in the child's brain. i.e.

- Physical Development - Dancing develops gross motor skills of balance. Encouraging large muscles to move and be flexible, an outlet for the natural high spirits and energy of children.

- Emotional Development - we are emotional beings who learn through sensory experiences and express this before we talk

- Cognitive Development - wiring the brain's neural bridges - Imagine a 3D dot to dot that represents neural brain cells waiting to be connected. Via pathways of information i.e. neural bridges Every time a child is stimulated to think, neural bridges form and strengthen, developing the child's intellect and individuality.

- Social Development - Singing with others helps children to relate to others and have an opportunity to share, express them and co-operate.

- Language Development - The voice is the first and most important



instrument. Vocal activities in a musical environment enrich and support language development. Children learn to speak by imitation of sound.

- Aesthetic Development - sense of self, creativity and cultural awareness.

Musical activities also develop pre-maths, pre-reading and science skills. Through music, children integrate body, mind and spirit.

Information about me and the classes

Tracey Allen - I am a local woman born in Lismore. I studied for my Teaching Degree at Southern Cross

University and taught in the local area casually for 14 years. From this experience I recognised the importance of musical experiences to develop the following values in children: Individuality, Self Expression, Creativity, Imagination, Communication, Co-operation, Personal Value, Intelligence and Listening.

I have been working for the last three years teaching and developing an Early Childhood Music Program that helps children achieve these values to carry through life. Musically I play the Piano and sing Jazz and Blues.

Classes will be held at the Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio. Friday mornings for 6 weeks starting the 27/07/2007. There are two classes 2 yr olds at 9:30am and 3-5 yr olds at 10:30am. Classes will be 30 - 40 mins.

The emphasis of the classes is to have fun and bond with your child as you interact with your child's learning in the class.

Every musical activity develops the listening ear and sense of beat in the child, which are essential in musical learning. Enrolment is 4 weeks payment at \$ 6 a lesson.

To book ring Tracey on 0427-220408 Parents will be supplied with an information kit outlining the benefits of the music classes.

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Fees are \$25 adults, \$20 concession, \$10 children 16 and under. Music Book "Latin Grooves Vol 1" by Philomena is

available for \$20.

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