

NIMBIN FASHION SHOWS 2007

Opening night of the 2007 annual Nimbin Fashion Shows, and by 8pm Nimbin Town Hall was standing room only.

The ever-exuberant Nimbin audience, appreciative of the effort and commitment of the designers, models and crew, gave a rousing welcome to the show, as 13-year old Jericho Waters, the youngest designer in the shows, brought her collection down the new, wider catwalk.

Like no other show in the world, the collective creative skills that exist in the Nimbin community were combined to present a visual extravaganza of dance, fashion and performance, which attracted 13 of the best local designers from the Nimbin and North Coast region.

The shows' director David Hyett said, "The shows are beneficial to the community in so many ways. It is particularly satisfying to see the progress of our younger designers who have the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with designers with international experience such as Pol, Christina Chester and Judy Who."

Already a fashion award winner in Queensland, Nimbin's 18-year-old Daisy Love presented a stunning range of swimwear, stylishly presented by local models.

As would be expected from Nimbin, controversy reigned supreme with the inclusion of Mim Handey's range of middle eastern Burkahs that featured the Disco burkah, a mini burkah, and the most lively discussed, an almost see-through 'berserker burkah'.

Nimbin's most renowned film-maker Paul Tait has just finished editing this year's DVD and the world premiere screening will be held at the Town Hall at 7pm on Friday 14th December. The DVD will be available from the organisers and from shops in Nimbin.

Interstate patrons and locals alike agreed this was the best Nimbin Fashion Show to date. The event has now cemented itself on the national fashion calendar.



The Story of Birrigan

as told by Burri Gerome

This is the story of the mural that Burri is creating on the rear verandah of the Rainbow Cafe, Nimbin.

Opening: Minda dies, report to Elders by young Dainghutti, Birrigan challenged to fight at Arakoon (Marrgaarn).

1: Birrigan with Mother Gaungan at Valla. Birrigan ties His bag of red, black and white clay to ridge-pole. He is summoned south, tells Mother Gaungan if pigments fall His enemies will have speared Him.

2: Birrigan's enemies plan to destroy Him by furious means.



Birrigan goes to make boomerangs and along come snakes. He brushes them away with His hand. They turn to ants, and again He brushes them away with His left hand. They turn into various animals, but every time fail. Birrigan was too clever so they left, they could not catch Him.

The enemies have a meeting, and six Clevermen plot to kill Birrigan in the boomerang tree. Birrigan was cutting boomerangs when a Cleverfellow spears Him through the top of the shoulder. He pulls out the spear, picks some leaves and put them on the wound, then crosses the river to His own place. How did He get out of that?

These enemies decide to send their cleverest man to the top of the mountain to get special powers against Birrigan. He slept there, got power then returned and set off for Marrgaarn to face Birrigan.

3: Birrigan went back home to His camp, carrying a boomerang. He used red ochre to paint His boomerang. Birrigan and His Mother Gaungan were living at Valla, and Gaungan could see that Birrigan was going to war. He said, "Mother, I'm going now, look mother, watch this red clay, if it falls from the ridge-pole there, they will have struck me with a spear." Then he hurried to battle.

He got to Wirrimbi (Salt Water Oak or long hair), on the north side of Nambucca, where He made a canoe and went from there to Watt's Creek (Birrigan's Crossing). He sped to Gunma (Gomany, East Macksville, means red clay or speck in the eye) across to the other side of Nambucca, where He left His canoe.

4: Birrigan crossed Warrell Creek from one hill to the hill one down from Jerseyville. He crossed the Mcleay and ran a little along the Smokey Cape Range to the south of Arakoon, then followed the mountain down right onto the fighting ground at Arakoon.

There the evil enemy spirits called to Him, "Ah Birrigan, now quickly look at all of us." Birrigan saw them as they fought each other.

Birrigan pulled out His boomerang and threw it right through the enemy from one end to another, then He pulled out a spear and again pierced it right through His enemies from one end to the other. Then the one who had been on the mountain to receive special powers spoke: "Ah, that Birrigan could wipe us all out now. He means to destroy us all. What will He do to us all? We'll all disappear. He'll wipe out all our men."

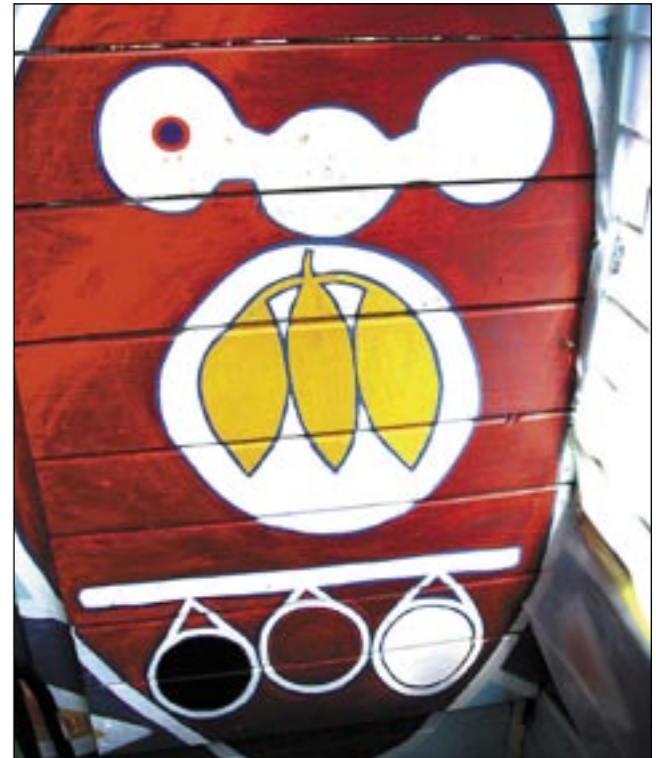
Saying this, the man put a spear in his woomera and threw it straight up into the air. It fell to earth and speared Birrigan through the shoulder into the chest, in the same place as the first spear, where he could be wounded. Birrigan fell.

5: The red clay fell from the ridge-pole of Mother Gaungan's hut. It warned Her Birrigan had been struck down. The falling clay can still be seen today on the flat at Valla. Gaungan took the red clay and painted Her legs with it. She took the red, black and white clay and painted Her body, then picked up her yamstick and ran south. She crossed many rivers on Her way, running quickly she crossed the Nambucca, then across Warrell Creek and kept running across the sand, then headed in a westerly direction, then turned east and here She saw Birrigan lying on the ground.

6: Meanwhile, when Birrigan fell, all the friendly Ngalooingirr had Him, all the Cleverfellows, they tried to bring Him back, and He was laughing, "Birrigan is coming back to life now!" But just as Birrigan was coming back to life, the Bugaajagi, the stinking Brown Hawk that brings evil forces, came flying towards them.

7: "Phew! Where does that rotten creature come from? Don't come here! Birrigan is coming back to life now," the Ngalooingirr said, but that was how He died. They made a grave for Him, buried Him and left Him.

8: The Gaungan arrived at Arakoon, bitter at Her son's death. She cursed His enemies: "Oh, let all of you turn into trees, paper-bark ti-trees!" and they all became ti-trees. Now they call this place Marrgaarn (Arakoon) where Birrigan was killed. Gaungan then turned into a brigol and danced around the grave of Birrigan, and that's where the story finishes.



NIMBIN CONCERT OF DANCE 2007



No-one was more pleased with the 15th annual Nimbin Concert of Dances than organiser Deb Turner, now in her sixth year of organising the event, which she says has "grown huge."

This year's concert of 17 acts gave the opportunity for dancers to showcase recent work, and gain valuable performing experience, yet there were many hurdles to overcome before it could be staged.

To begin with, due to a misunderstanding with the hall booking, the concert had to be re-scheduled, and as Deb said, "Late November is not a good time for our people."

Then publicity material sent to local media was not run, and without the funds for advertising, there was very little promotion of the event, but undaunted, Deb pressed on.

"Lots of people turned up anyway and made it a success," she said. "It carries itself because of what it is."

Of course Deb had helpers - a legion of brilliant volunteers who helped produce the concert. Among these were Williamina Bowers who compered, Jane Treasure (SM), Steve Colt who played beautiful interval music on the oud, Gail Clarke and Mim Batori who ran the kitchen, Shar Hill who filmed the show, and Vickimaree, Helen, Zoe, Troy, Nicky and Shannon who all assisted in important ways.

"I'd like to thank all these people, and all the dancers, and everyone else who helped put the night on," Deb said.

So what of the performances? Just brilliant, with so many styles of dance. If you missed it, make sure you watch for next year's Concert of Dances, when hopefully the organisation will proceed as smoothly as the production.

ARTUR
tel 6689 1128
PROFESSIONAL DESIGN FOR PRINT AND THE WEB
smartbizdesign.com.au



Nimbin Lifestyle
real estate
66 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Phone 6689-1305
www.nimbinrealestate.com.au
email: nire@nimbinrealestate.com.au
After Hours:
Geoff Shearman 6689-0030
Peter Robinson 0428-890-373
John Wilcox 6628-2182

JAMES GAS & WATER
Your plumber. On time Every time
6679 4210 or 0439 010386
gasandwater.com.au

SHIRLEY MILLER
artstudiomiller.com
Studio 7/78 Cecil St Nimbin
tel: 6689 1793

A TASTE OF ART
blue knob hall
gallery - cafe - restaurant
Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am - 4pm
Fine Dining Friday and Saturday from 6pm
719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock
BOOKINGS 02 6689 7449

alltribes

Debbie Guest
Civil Marriage Celebrant
Contact me to discuss your requirements
Email: debgceleb@yahoo.com.au
Phone: 02 6689-0089



Adam's Auto Repairs
Mobile Mechanic Lic. 43839
Servicing Nimbin & Surrounding Areas
0429 672 723
Best rates in town!

