



THE NIMBIN GOLD RAIN EDITION

absolutely FREE

Golden Rain Edition

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Cosmic. The comet going down over Mountaintop at twilight on 22nd January. Picture: Peter Pedals

Comet McNaught lights up

Viewing the inaugural appearance of a new comet may not be everyone's idea of a night out, but it certainly caused a lot of interest throughout the Rainbow Region - and not just from New Age types.

In Nimbin, elevated vantage points were parked out on every clear night, as families observed this cosmic event in the south-western

sky together.

The 10km wide comet was discovered by Australian astronomer Rob McNaught at Siding Spring Observatory, in New South Wales, in August 2006.

Perth Observatory director James Biggs said the McNaught Comet was 120 million kilometres away and travelling at about 100km a second. It is the brightest

comet in over 40 years, and was clearly visible to the naked eye in the southern hemisphere.

Once considered an ill omen, a portent of bad luck, the appearance of such extraterrestrial objects now serves a greater purpose.

If only briefly, it directed our attention towards the universe, and our place on a small planet within it.

Now we've done it

Humans "very likely" changing the climate, says long-awaited IPCC report

A few weeks of leaks stole some thunder, but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has released its long-awaited fourth report, and the news is - well, not news, thanks to those meddling leakers. But let's pretend.

The news is out! The world's scientists say there's a 90-plus percent chance that humans are causing global warming! They say by 2100, temperatures will likely rise 3.2 to 7.1 degrees Fahrenheit, and sea levels will rise 7 to 23 inches, plus another 4 to 8 inches if polar ice sheets keep melting.

This is the real deal - and it's a conservative

deal, since it required a 154-country consensus. "Anyone who would continue to risk inaction on the basis of the evidence presented here will one day in the history books be considered irresponsible," said Achim Steiner, who heads the U.N. Environment Program.

Even the U.S. group of admitted the report has legs, with a White House science and technology policy staffer saying it "will be valuable to policymakers."

As kindling, or what?

Courtesy: Grist Magazine www.grist.org

Bold plan to move MardiGrass

By Max Stone

A win-win deal to acquire the land to construct what will be called the Mardi Grass AMPLE-Theatre and Non-Permanent Outdoor Protest Arena has been struck between the delegated members of the M.O.B. (Mardigrass Organizing Bunch) and the owner of the property behind the Hemp Embassy, Mal Rothwell.

An "Offer to Purchase" the land after 6 yearly instalments of \$42,000 has been accepted by the owner with hardly any reservations. He is reported to have also developed a slightly better understanding of the power of 420 mathematics.

The Non-Permanent performance area is to be constructed "Live to the Internet" scheduled to start at 4.20pm on the 20th April 2007 until the second weekend in May.

This means that as long as at least \$42,000 worth of MardiGrass tickets are sold in the first year and each year for the next 5 years, the Nimbin Community ends up with a terraformed outdoor entertainment venue that will dovetail perfectly with the present infrastructure and the



Over the back fence. The sloping land behind Cullen Street makes a natural amphitheatre for performance events. Or is it just a pipe dream?

development currently underway at the back of the Town Hall and Tomato Sauce buildings.

Turf Tickets, as they might be called, will be available at a special website and at several venues in Nimbin and Lismore as soon as possible. Tickets for the 007 MardiGrass are to be sold for \$24 (Four and Twenty Dollars), \$42 and \$420. The commercial market stalls will go for \$4,200 for the prime locations, \$2400 for the almost as good locations.

There are still a few details for the Development Application which have to be sorted out as far as the official official permission to erect a non permanent stage is concerned, but so far,

everybody consulted on the project thus far has green-lighted it.

Keep your eyes on the websites www.hempembassy.net and www.nimbinaustralia.com for more details.

No shortage of volunteers

In response to the announcement of the cancellation of the 2007 Beef Week, organisers of the Nimbin MardiGrass have reported no problems in recruiting volunteers to run the annual "law reform rally and gathering."

Medicinal cannabis activist and member of the M.O.B., Andrew Kavasilas had sympathy for Casino's plight. "The volunteer base is quite shattered in this town as in every other town," he said, "but the Hemp Embassy has no trouble. It's the only solid base in town."

Many volunteers for the 2007 event have already registered, from around Australia and overseas.

"It's something they feel very strongly about," Mr Kavasilas said.



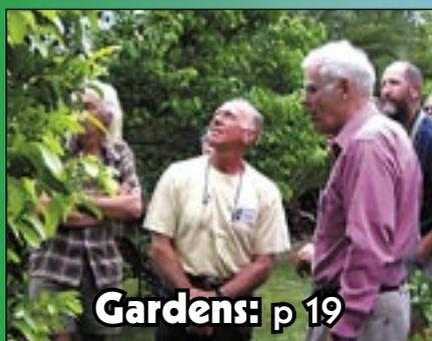
Volunteers. Members of the M.O.B. planning last year's MardiGrass



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