

A local voice in government

There is not a public school in the state seat of Lismore that did not receive thousands of dollars this year. Nor a hospital nor a court house, library, police station, fire station, local council or pre school. A myriad of state responsible programs, institutions, departments, services and structures received state funding, both recurrent and capital, during the past twelve months.

In fact for many years Labor has poured money into all parts of NSW and it happens so regularly and constantly that most of us are unaware of the process. That's what state governments do.

Morris Emma now offers a fifteen month old, fresh approach, a new team with new ideas. Morris is open to suggestions on how best to improve the lives of the people of Lismore. Though there's work to do, he's getting on with the job.

Lismore needs to have its local member in government, with direct, person to person, access to the Ministers of Health, Transport, DOCS and Education. We need someone with direct access to the decision makers. After a half century of National Party talk, perhaps it's time for some action, some concrete results.

Needed is a determined, hard working local voice to demand of Ministers, face to face, that they supply sufficient funding for the special needs of the people of Lismore.

WorkChoices is a state issue. Work even part time and you make the unemployment lists look good. Local Lismore is recoiling with underemployment even as the resources boom continues in the west. The state coalition's Peter Debnam, member for the wealthiest suburb in Sydney has always said he will sign NSW

over to John Howard's extreme Workchoices and immediately cut 29,000 NSW public sector jobs.

Now he's saying it will only be 20,000, next week it could be 40,000. Which Lismore school's secretary, or hospital admin worker or police or library assistant will go? Are our front line workers not stretched enough?

My sympathies Ian Causley: children overboard, WorkChoices, Iraq, weapons of mass destruction, Australian citizens in detention, Telstra, Medibank, Guantanamo Bay, climate change, 55 consecutive monthly trade deficits, Australian Wheat Board, AWA's, nuclear reactors, interest rates... it's enough to make you want to retire.

**Peter Lanyon
Country Labor candidate,
State seat of Lismore**

**January 26: Come on
cobber, clobber climate
change.**

On Australia Day/Invasion Day, "Shame on Howard Day", a number of actions are being planned.

Enclosed is a poster



for an action which I am participating in at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, with a planned march and protest at the celebrations in front of Parliament House when John Howard is giving out Australian of the Year awards.

I want to remind you that the Aboriginal people are again being abused and disempowered on THEIR land with an increase of mining uranium and the burial of radioactive waste on THEIR land. Let us walk with them empower them on this day, celebrating the Invasion which is the Invasion and abuse of THIER culture

and lands which has brought us to this situation today.

There are also planned international actions taking place at embassies around the world, pointing out that it is time to get the Australian Government to take its international obligations seriously, because under the Howard Government Australia has:

- the highest emissions per capita of any country in the world.

- refused to sign up to Kyoto and therefore locked itself out of the discussions about the Second Kyoto Commitment Period (2012 - 2016)

- pushed AP6, the alternative group to Kyoto which Australia is chairing, that wants to "use technology" to solve the problem, but refuses to set binding emission reduction targets
- pushed the nuclear solution with 3 new bills in the national Parliament to facilitate nuclear waste dumps .

So let's get out there and let John Howard, the governments and the world know in this election year the GREEN agenda for a healed planet.

Benny Zable

On fridges and carbon I think any filament torch, rechargeable or not, is very suspect, all vehicle parkers and interiors ought to be retro fit LED, vehicle roof insulation ought to be R2 or above.

About us

Editor: Bob Dooley
Assistant: Sue Stock
Layout: Andy Gough
Photographers: Sue Stock, Garry Mimlich, Cath Marshall
Distribution: Ben Snoeks, Sue Stock
Bookkeeper: Lisa Yeates
Website: David McMinn
We are online at www.nimbingoodtimes.com
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Next deadline:
Wednesday 31st January
Email: goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com (no space), or put stuff in the ComSchool's pigeonhole in the Nimbin Community Centre.
Responsibility for election comment in this issue is taken by Bob Dooley, Cullen Street, Nimbin NSW.

For way too long, the star rating sticker is just comparative - not absolute. It will rate four dinosaurs and say one is more efficient than another, not that it IS efficient. Fridges in particular are appalling.

But we still rate no carbon cost in to product manufacture and disposal, or food transport - it's no longer just "the running out issue" it's the "overuse issue" of energy-hungry metals and transport on fossil fuel oxidation generally.

William Goode

Inside the NCDA

Please excuse the sudden development of a lithp, but Thlippery Thledge's letter was all pith and wind.

Not once did he touch on the subject under discussion: Why does the NCDA, supposedly a community organisation, exclude community input and ideas from its decision-making processes? Their lack of genuine community consultation and how it undermines local democracy was not mentioned.

What we got instead was a lovely story about a communal cult of down-in-the-mouth, modern day volunteer slaves who have a masochistic relationship with hallowed ground somewhere in the centre of Nimbin.

In your last issue, my letter contained either a freudian slip or a typing error in the following sentence: "...there should be NCDA committee

meeting minutes recording the decision to vary the Council approved concrete skate park to a steel construction four times the approved size, without Council knowledge." The last two words should read "community consultation."

This leads to the questions: Did the NCDA purposefully avoid consulting the skate park neighbours and those wthin hearing, in order to gain Council approval? Was Council led to believe the NCDA committee had carried out its consultative duties? Was this \$150,000 deception carried out by a naughty sub-committee called the Peace Park committee, without informing its parent committee? Do these two committees have members in common?

Everybody in the district knows Nimbin needs a skate park. What it doesn't need is a big untuned steel drum in the middle of a residential area. It is difficult to believe that any resident would willingly tolerate a steel structure within 2-300 metres, therefore it would be very difficult to relocate inside the village zone. If the structure were to be of concrete, it would be a very different matter.

There are mny pithed-off ex-slaves still living around the village who know that most of the important decisions are made in the back room. Volunteers have very little influence.

M. A. Rothwell

**INVASION DAY
ACTION
FOR
ABORIGINAL SOVEREIGNTY**

**TENT
EMBASSY
CANNBERRA
JANUARY 26TH
2007**

- NO MORE URANIUM MINING
- NO NUCLEAR POWER
- NO NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPS
& RELATED CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

CONTACT NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE OR
nimenvirocentre@bigpond.com.au
www.rainbowchaitent.com

The Greens will work to

- Stop climate chaos - go renewable, not nuclear or coal
- Restore rail services and improve public transport
- Defend worker's rights - reject 'WorkChoices'
- Fund public hospitals and schools
- Ban developer donations • Reject fluoridation
- Sensible drug laws - decriminalise marijuana

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Authorised by Andy Gough 265 Martin Rd, Larnook NSW

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