



THE NIMBIN GOLDMIES

Grevillea Edition

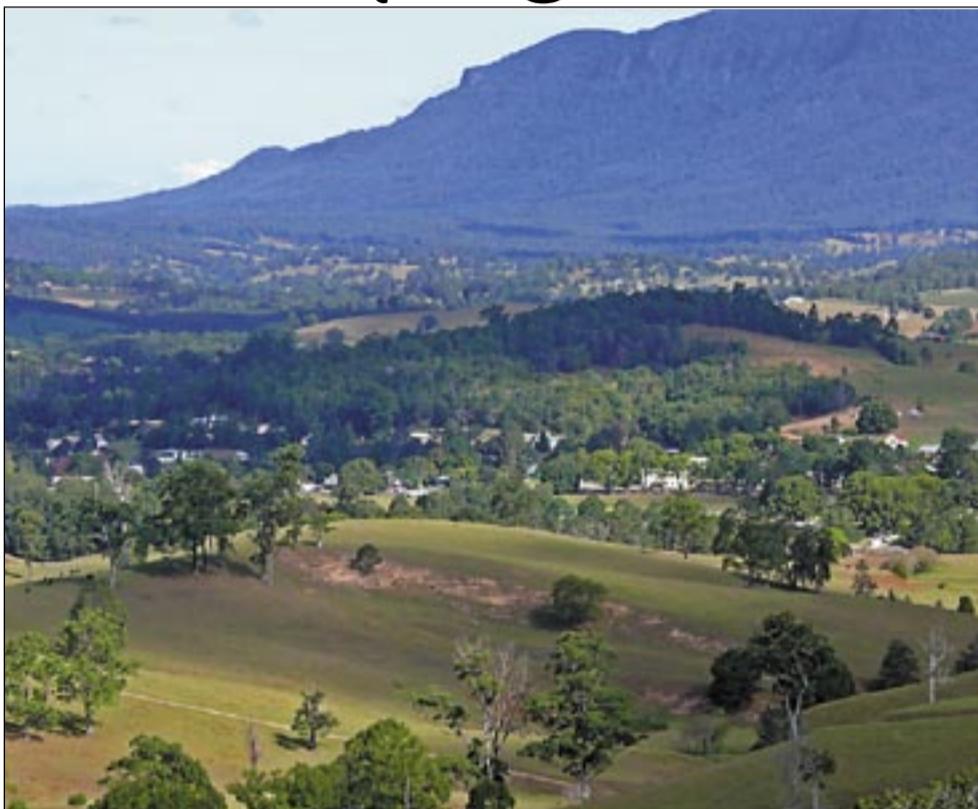
June 2007

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FREE!

Visit Tyalgum, while it's still there...



Slated for flooding. The 100-year old village of Tyalgum, and thousands of acres of prime farmland in the valley around it, will be inundated by the proposed dam on the Oxley River, now the preferred option for supplying water to south-east Queensland.

Federal Water Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced on 12th April that consideration should be given to damming three Tweed rivers. Mr Turnbull's proposal is to pipe water from the Tweed River areas to Queensland.

The proposal to build a dam at Rocky Cutting on the Oxley River would result in the flooding and ultimate demise of the historic village of Tyalgum and the surrounding Mt Warning environs. Residents say they are not prepared to sit back and watch this happen, just because a hastily drawn up National Water Commission (NWC) plan identifies some northern NSW sites as a 'quick fix' solution to SEQ's water problems.

Residents of the beautiful area surrounding the proposed dam sites at Rocky Cutting, Byrill Creek and the Rous River have banded together to protest against

any dams being placed in this pristine and ecologically important part of Australia. Chairman of the Save the Caldera Rivers Campaign Committee, Mr Peter Bennett vowed to take all necessary action to stop the dam proposal.

"Only Canberra politicians would think that damming rivers which in effect haven't flowed for 10 years would be a way to save water. There is no flow. No water in - no water out. Any dam would take many years to fill and no one could get water out of it until then. Don't they realise that water tanks are an immediate and effective solution to a regional problem?"

Mr Bennett said, "We are not objecting out of selfish reasons. We are arguing on logical, ecological and common sense grounds. It is folly for the Federal Government's NWC proposals to place dams in

this area.

Not only is the proposal illogical, the proposal will wreck the national asset of the Tweed Valley Caldera and Mt Warning parks and environs, as well as thousands of hectares of productive farmland

The Campaign Committee called on the Tweed Shire Council and the local State and Federal members to clearly spell out where they and their parties stood on this important matter.

"The Save the Caldera Rivers Campaign Committee realise that SEQ faces huge water issues but damming rivers in Northern NSW will not help them in their present crisis," said Mr Bennett.

"You can't just wiggle your nose and a dam appears. And you must have water to fill a dam. Dams are not the answer, but an acknowledgement of poor planning, policy paucity and a poverty of imagination."

People protest petty pot prosecutions

Hemp activists from Nimbin HEMP Embassy supported those appearing in the Lismore court on Monday 4th June in regard to cannabis charges arising from the Nimbin Mardi Grass last 5th - 7th May.

"There were some 110 arrests, of which some 60 were made cautions," said Mr Michael Balderstone, spokesperson for the Nimbin HEMP Embassy and the Mardi Grass.

"The local area police Commander Superintendent Lyons is a Drug War advocate and he is at war with local cannabis users," he said. "Pot smokers make up a lot of people in the hills, and they will be

around a lot longer than the passing careers of police commanders and passing fashions in policing."

Peacebus.com took part, in the form of a flag bedecked, open mike Speak Out, outside the Court in Zadoc Street Lismore. Several speakers pointed out the absurdity of prosecuting minor cannabis offences.

Michael Balderstone asked the question, "What has been achieved by these arrests? What has changed? Nothing but a waste of time and taxes.

"Why don't we treat it as a health issue?" he said.

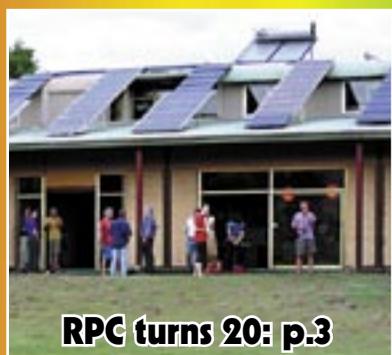
Inside the court, SM Rimer presided over a busy, and noisy courtroom. A

procession of duty solicitors, court attendants, defendants and supporters came and went through the banging court doors as documents were presented and read.

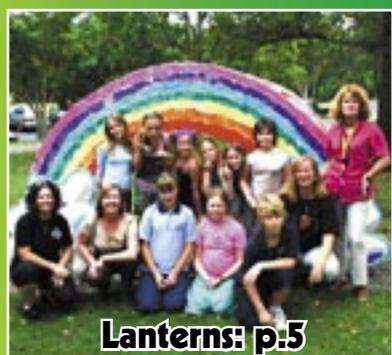
The court heard that there could be several months delay in receiving laboratory analysis of confiscated goods.

As one petty case after another paraded before court and was formally adjourned, you could sense the magistrate's patience running dry.

Finally, he acknowledged the ludicrousness of the situation. "Enough," he said. "It's time for a break before we hear any more cases from the Marrakech marketplace."



RPC turns 20: p.3



Lanterns: p.5



Diva Diana: p.13



Mardi Grass liftout