



## Child Protection

We wish to respond to some of the points raised in the recent NGT story, "DoCS baby-snatch."

The North Coast Area Health Service (NCAHS) staff member was acting in line with the NSW Interagency Guidelines for Child Protection. These contain mandatory reporting requirements that apply to both NCAHS and the Nimbin Family Centre and all other government and non-government agencies working with children and families.

Key government agencies, such as the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services, and the Nimbin Family Centre, work within a prevention framework, which has the

well-being of children as a core aim.

Whilst not at liberty to comment in detail about the story, it may be noted that the particular child was admitted to Lismore Base Hospital for four days, under the supervision of a senior paediatrician.

This would clearly indicate that health/medical issues were associated with this case.

Ongoing discussions between NCAHS and the Nimbin Family Centre are aimed at further developing services for families in the Nimbin area. Child and Family Health Nursing Clinics will be run on a weekly basis out of Nimbin Hospital until further notice.

These services are for the benefit of young children and

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their families, and we urge community members not to be influenced by unfounded accusations about the clinical staff who deliver them.

To make an appointment for the Child and Family Health clinic at Nimbin, please call 6620-7687.

Lisa Beasley, Integrated Care Co-ordinator, North Coast Area Health Service, Lismore

## Physical Activity Centre

Re: your article "Can we find a permanent home for Nimbin's Physical Activity Centre?" NGT Dec 07, I have been attending the "fit ball" and Kung fu classes on a weekly basis at the centre since inception.

It has been of enormous help to me, not only physically (I prolapsed two discs in

my twenties and suffer from sciatic pain), but mentally as well (it makes me really happy).

The centre offers a wide range of classes, catering for the young, old and in between. Our youth need somewhere where they can express themselves physically, preventing the much publicised 'childhood obesity' and maintaining mental alertness and happiness, as well as having a social outlet.

The aged of our community, who are living longer and therefore need to stay strong and healthy, can partake in gentle exercise classes. There is something for everyone.

Sue, Daniel and Rocky are doing a fantastic job and they are soon to be joined by other members of our community

who have trained as physical educators. We cannot allow this great facility to be lost to our community, we need to find a solution.

Debbie Guest  
Tunttable Falls

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### Free listings

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## webuy4au.com - Trailblazing in Cyberspace Sales

*A learning curve for owners Peter and Pixie Barrett of Stony Chute*

"I have been working at building a website dedicated to bringing the huge savings available online to the average people who need to save money the most," said Peter Barrett.

"It seems such an imbalance, where markups can be up to a thousand percent and Electronics, Computer and Household items purchased by us, the ordinary people, could in fact be purchased for so much less, and still provide a fair profit for the seller. It's just plain greedy."

Peter, who suffered multiple spinal fractures in a home

invasion in Queensland five years ago and consequently returned to the Northern Rivers, had spent seven years in Lismore as manager for Pilkington Glass and peaked in his career as National Sales Manager for a Queensland based Glass and Windscreen company, one of the top 10 performers in Australia in 1997. Peter provided Sales and Marketing Training support and resources for his 250 Branches, Franchisees and Agents Australia-wide before retiring to work from home. The home invasion saw an end of their working retirement as owner-operators of Blackbutt Glass and Windscreens.

Pixie, on the flip side, was born a hippy and was here helping and painting the old buttery for the very first Aquarius Festival in 1973. She since got busy working for CSIRO in Canberra for quite a few years, after a stint in the Commonwealth Public Service. She spent thirteen years playing high level competitive bridge; representing the ACT on numerous occasions. An accomplished touch-typist, proof-reader and researcher, Pixie has now added HTML web-site building to her list of skills. "I do all the mundane jobs," she said with a smirk.

We have now chosen to work online and in our home-office, printing," Peter said. "Life is full of setbacks but also gifts, and we need to accept life's gifts and setbacks and remain positive and persistent and we will prevail." This was recently evidenced when their new website [www.webuy4au.com](http://www.webuy4au.com) signed up for an online promotion with a site called [www.freestuffday.com](http://www.freestuffday.com) where people truly get Stuff for Free including a new car.

Then FSD managed to achieve an interview with Today Tonight on National Television and the website went through the roof. "We got over 16,000 new members and over 40,000 visits for December," said Pixie, "and that is expected to double each month for the foreseeable future." This equates to hundreds of referrals and commission-paying clicks if your sites are linked and have banners to commission sites and affiliates.

"I have won three free web-hosting packages," Peter said, "one each month. I have won every month so far." So that meant more work for Pixie to set up websites [www.webuyclassifieds.com.au](http://www.webuyclassifieds.com.au) and [www.webuywholesale.com.au](http://www.webuywholesale.com.au) and also [www.webuyaustralia.com.au](http://www.webuyaustralia.com.au) as well as their



Peter and Pixie Barrett

involvement in the New Zealand auction site [www.webuy.co.nz](http://www.webuy.co.nz).

Peter and Pixie do publishing work on a small scale, drafting advertisements, business cards, postcards, photos, flyers, calendars and a host of other documents and photocopy work. Plus they utilise the services of an on-line printer for any work they cannot do at home.

"Nimbin has an awful lot of small and large scale events and committees with a lot on their plates which require all sorts of advertising and promotional material and we are able to manage most of that while keeping it local. "This saves people the hassle of driving to Lismore only to pay more for small runs in the end and waiting a silly length of time," claimed Peter, who is also offering a free business card deal.

"It is nice to be busy again after the Qld incident, Very healthy for the mind if you are unable to work physically for any reason."

Pete and Pixie can be contacted online at <[www.webuy4au.com](http://www.webuy4au.com)> email at <[enquiry@webuy4au.com](mailto:enquiry@webuy4au.com)> or by phone on Nimbin 6689-7257 and mobile 0429-668-468.

Yes, you can take your proofs out to them at Stony Chute, just ring first.

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# An Australian Bill of Rights?

by Heidi Zekiel

We have no human rights in Australia. We have consumer rights.

1. You can consume as much oil as you like so long as it is not hemp oil.

2. You can burn as much oxygen as you like as long as you don't burn any hemp with it.

3. You can smoke as much tobacco as you like but don't put any hemp with it.

4. You can drink as much alcohol as you like as long as the government gets its cut.

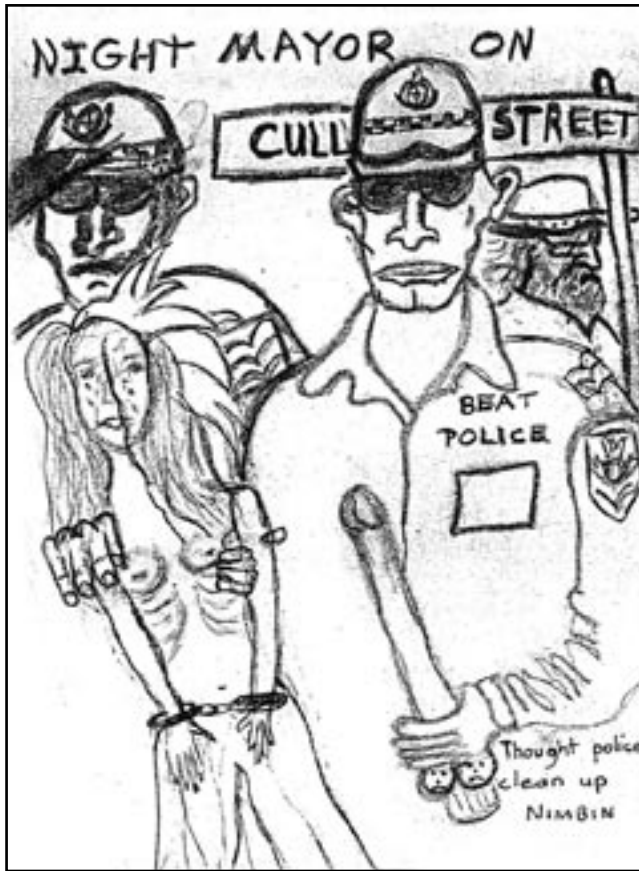
5. You can gamble your family's money, all of it, as long as the government gets its cut.

6. When you are 18 years old, you can buy a car that does 300 kph and burns fossil fuel at ten times the rate of a sensible vehicle. You can smoke cancer-causing tobacco products til it comes out of your ears. You can get pissed every night of the week and gamble all your pay away every week.

The government of Australia supports this insanity and allows the continuance, The same ones who will throw you in jail and strip you of all your rights if you are caught with God's hemp.

By law exists a cruelty against animals act. But no law exists where cruelty is perpetrated by the law on human beings. Cruelty against animals is a jailable offence, a violation against the Act.

We have animal rights but no human rights in this country. When the cows in the paddock are walking free and I am witnessing my brothers and sisters herded like cattle with no rest, no



medical attention and all their rotten teeth sprayed with herbicides and pesticides and God knows what else.

When an officer of the "Law of the Lawless" takes it upon themselves to steal children from caring parents or to beat the shit out of another human being and think they are doing the community a service, then you'd better think again officers.

Your behaviour is totally unacceptable. You are derelict in your responsibility of duty of care obligation. Church and state have a lot to answer for.

You are in breach of Nuremberg Principles. Article IV. Check it out.

I have trouble sleeping after

witnessing your attack on that poor boy and your behaviour and treatment of other members of the community.

Your spraying of pepper spray is totally outrageous. These past days have seen a change in government and with that will come a change in your policing methods. No longer will the Patriot Act be enforced on our peoples. Your violent policing actions will henceforth cease immediately.

I am a grandmother. I am an elder in the community of Nimbin, so when push comes to shove in front of your own eyes and you choose to turn a blind eye. It's time to call it a day, boys. The Mayoress is on her way.

# Tazered to death

by a contributor to truth.news.us

Anyone who still doubts that every single freedom we have as human beings is at risk — not least to communicate in forums like this — is in complete and total denial. Period.

And while the "denialers" are still many in number, each time the government is forced to raise the bar on their heavy-handedness, more and more people are recognising what is going on and responding accordingly.

I just heard an interview with Corporal Dale Carr, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman for the homicide unit investigating the tazer death of a Polish man in the Vancouver airport in October.

A video of the event, which had been confiscated from the individual who took it and only returned to him after he retained a lawyer, was broadcast throughout Canada and all over the internet in November.

The RCMP spokesman provided no facts to dispute what the video apparently shows was rapid use of the tazer by a group of officers, stating repeatedly that the video was only one perspective.

I have not watched the video. Likely will not. I heard that the man screamed in absolute agony as he was being stunned by the 50,000 volts. A short time later he was dead.

The spokesperson didn't know what the protocol was for using a tazer, nor could he explain how the man's actions warranted him being tazered. He basically tried to whitewash the whole incident.

It is imperative to remain nonviolent in the face of such tyranny. Indeed, nonviolence is the most powerful way to completely topple such systems. Ghandi demonstrated that nonviolence could topple the greatest empire the world had ever known.

# Lismore Council Jottings

by Cr. Jenny Dowell  
6625-2206 email Jenny.  
Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

## Great 08

Happy New Year NGT readers! I hope you all have a 'Great 08'.

This year will be a big one for Lismore Council with elections due on September 27. I take this opportunity to urge Nimbin residents to consider how you want to be represented at Council for the next four years. If you believe Nimbin needs its own voice in Chambers, now is the time to start planning to make it happen.

Interested candidates have two choices- either start a new team or join an existing one. You need to be first or second on a ticket of six candidates to have a chance of being elected. The best way to decide if you want to be Councillor is to start attending Council meetings.

The first meeting of 2008 is on February 12, 6 pm at Chambers in Oliver Ave, Goonellabah. If any readers are interested in more information, please contact me.

## Housing

The last meeting of the Council year is usually a long one as we try to complete tasks before the Christmas break. The December meeting was especially interesting for me because we were deciding several momentous issues that are dear to my own commitment to social issues in our community.

Firstly we approved an innovative Affordable Housing plan where Council is the guarantor for the deposit on home loans for up to 50 eligible purchasers of houses up to \$250,000. As far as we know, this scheme has not been tried elsewhere. It is of minimal risk and, along with our plan to look at other ways of encouraging more affordable housing, should help some workers get into their own homes and thereby free up rental accommodation for others.

Council's second initiative of the December meeting was to commit \$100,000 to building a homeless shelter on land adjacent to the soup kitchen in South Lismore and \$20,000 pa to its operation. Council has a working group made up of various church and welfare representatives and hopes, with the use of



\$200,000 promised by the new Rudd government, to provide a shelter by winter.

## Resource Sharing with Rous

For some time now, Lismore has had difficulty attracting and retaining engineers in our water department. The situation has led to the recommendation to consider a resource-sharing model with Rous Water. While there are some concerns about how each party will benefit from the proposal, Council gave in principal support to continued discussions and a commitment to negotiate clear outcomes for the 25 Lismore Council staff who would be affected by any change.

## Stony Chute

After the re-exhibition of a draft amendment to our Local Environmental Plan, Council agreed to the permit 26 rural residential lots and a neighbourhood lot at 296 Stony Chute Rd. The concerns of neighbours related to various issues including clearing of vegetation and the alignment of Green Bridge. The bridge will be realigned and road works will be discussed with neighbours to determine which of the roadside eucalypts can be saved from removal.

## GRC

Following the turning of the first sod at the site for the Goonellabah Recreation Centre earlier in the month, the December meeting approved the building DA and works commenced for the \$13 million facility due for completion by next Christmas. The good news is that a decision was made to include underground water tanks for the storage of rainwater to be used for toilets, backwashing and irrigation rather than leaving the tanks until a later date.

Council also agreed to place a Development Control Plan (DCP) on exhibition that would allow Council to gather contributions for Public Art from commercial, retail or tourist developments over \$2m. Like all items on exhibition for 28 days, readers are invited to submit comments on the proposal.

## Animal circuses

Unfortunately a move by Cr Ros Irwin to request a report on measures Council could take to ban circuses that use wild animals was lost when the Mayor used his casting vote to split the 6/6 deadlock. Although Cr Irwin spoke compellingly for her motion, no one spoke against it so the reasons for six Councillors opposing it remain a mystery. While there is an opportunity to revisit this issue again in the New Year, I doubt whether the result will differ until we get a new Council.

## McLeans Ridges

Despite the obvious anger of a couple of the proponents, the exhibition of the Cameron Rd development proposal for 63 rural residential lots in McLeans Ridges was deferred until the February meeting. The plans were to be placed on exhibition in late January along with an unseen updated Social Impact Study and new traffic counts but Councillors successfully argued that we needed to see the SIA and the traffic report before we put the entire proposal on exhibition. The process has taken 5 years to reach this point so a delay of a couple of weeks is not going to make a significant difference.

## Website

As usual, this report represents only a fraction of the business conducted at the monthly meeting. If readers want more information, I urge you to make use of the internet at the Nimbin VIC to access Lismore Council's website [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) to read more.

It is also where you can see the items on public exhibition including the Social Impact Assessment Guidelines and the proposed plan for Nesbitt Park in Sth Lismore.

*Finally, the views expressed are mine and are not intended to be a reflection of the Council as a whole or of other individual Councillors.*

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# Nimbin farewells the Plantem

Chicken George the people of Nimbin know him as, rarely John Taylor his birth name, yet the world of pot-smokers across the globe know him as the legendary Plantem from the Nimbin HEMP Embassy.

He's been photographed a million times in his green hemp suit as an icon of the cannabis law reform movement and worked tirelessly from the Hemp Embassy for more than a decade with his message of "just say know".

He entertained, influenced and educated literally thousands of people through his work at the Embassy. He was a great story-teller and extremely funny. He lived an extraordinary life with a tough childhood, quite a time in jail, a variety of careers and fortunately for us he eventually found sanctuary in Nimbin.

"Cannabis had been a great friend to George throughout his adult life and like the millions of others who receive genuine benefit from this herb, he was incensed at the injustice of being criminalised for using it." said Hemp Embassy President Michael Balderstone.

"He told me riding the Big Joint with an escort of 20 mounted police down George Street to the Sydney Town Hall just prior to the 2000 Olympics was the highlight of our many adventures."

Chicken George's funeral was as colourful as the man himself. His coffin, painted by local artists Gilbert Laurie, Helen Rodriguez and Elspeth Jones, was carried through Nimbin, followed by a service at the Nimbin Cemetery and a wake at the Nimbin Town Hall.



To acknowledge how much the Plantem was adored by the thousands at Nimbin's MardiGrass every year, the 2008 MardiGrass poster has been made in his honour.

RIP Chicken George  
18 July 1941~20 Dec 2007



## Announcing: Birth of the 'New Being' The Neo-Hippy

*The hippies were right! Bathe in the light, brothers and sisters! After all those years of bad press... finally vindicated for being visionaries.*

by souljuice

Stretch your arm around and give yourselves a hearty pat on the proverbial back as each day as we witness our 'alternative' lifestyle rapidly turn mainstream.

Hey! Guess what?! We have been visionary after all - and all that bad-press hippy-bashing we got all those years doesn't matter a fluff...

Our chosen lifestyle here around Nimbin and in the Rainbow Region is being vindicated out in mainstream society every day - as global warming and all the other life-threatening dilemmas associated with not-paying-attention or having-any-vision now catches up with us all.

Talk about leaving a small footprint...

We here in the hills are often living very close to nature (sometimes in the bed...)and with all the 'amenities' that are essentially necessary for comfortable living (off the ground and dry and flat).

Here we are! ...Already living and doing what they are now finally banging on about in the mainstream through all the media regarding what we need to do immediately to 'survive'!

Visit many of the lovingly handmade abodes in this area and I'll show you simple and comfortable living that the Earth can handle.

A couple of solar panels, a water tank and the basic amenities... with grey water system for the bountiful vegie garden out by the side of the house.

Pit toilets are dug not too far away and down wind of the house and away from waterways where later, paw-paw or other fruit will grow hungrily...

Water usage is minimal. Twenty litres per person from the tank is being reckless. Our houses are hardly noticeable from a distance because of all the garden around.

Nowadays, in updated statistics and at a guesstimate stab - taking India and China's recent middle-class bulge of the last few years into account - we in this area are still living like at least 60 -70% of the rest of the world.

Our way is a simplistic/ minimalist and contained luxury - which could be called 'third world' or even apparent poverty in some people's eyes - except that I, for one, sit here with a laptop computer and other electrical goods, phone etcetera. This actually rockets us way out of Third World status. We must be Minimalist Capitalist, if any label fits...

This is the way the world can live - without costing the world!

We now have the experience and the mindset to positively and effectively help mould a more cohesive and proactive and lasting community. We all moved here within the last three decades looking for a better way than what we were leaving behind.

Thirty years of trial and error does give us some skills under our belts that are, all of a sudden, very sought after...

As time goes on we may find ourselves in demand to show how it's done. We just have to fully step out of our individual shadows into the light and into our power selves, band together and lead the way.

That's what we came here for...isn't it?

Sic em!  
See 'Magnificent 07' p.13, also 'Aquarian Awards' p.14.

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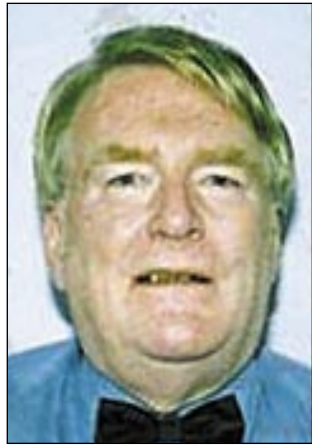
# Pro-active Nimbin lawyer leaving for NZ

Michael Kidd is leaving town in mid February and returning with his family to New Zealand.

He said it has been a very hard decision to leave a family and criminal law practice, which in many ways is flourishing, but personal reasons to do with his aged father necessitate the move.

Nimbin has been a rich community for all the Kidd family, including: "little" Malachi who is much loved and will be missed by all; Savaira, mainstay of St Vincent's de Paul; Talei, attendee at NCS for two terms, netballer, commuter to Summerland Christian College; and Barb, a sturdy attendee at Nimbin daycare.

Barb is famous for staring down a brown snake, getting bitten and not needing anti-



venom, shortly after arriving at the end of 05.

Much has been achieved by Michael Kidd during his time in Nimbin, with two books written and self-published under the Ohlah Publishing label, "The Sacred Wound of Australia", nominated for a Tasmanian literary award, of

which 140 copies were sold, and "Beyond the Breakwater", financed by Nimbin Law and John from NBC, a semi autobiographical critique of globalisation, which has started to sell to libraries in Australia, NZ and Fiji.

Some highlights of Michael's recent career:

\* In May, he represented the Fiji Law Society in a rather bizarre case: the Fiji Human Rights Commission, rather than critiquing the Military Government for human rights abuses such as several deaths in custody, chose to prosecute the Law Society for breaching "human rights" for its suspension of the practicing certificates of a number of Fiji Military Lawyers, including Muslim, Mohamed Aziz, who removed the Fiji Chief Justice

at gunpoint.

\* Effective legal representation: getting compo for a local US Vietnam Vet for the death of a step daughter; seeing some address drug and life style additions; running a criminal test case on the Nimbin CCTV.

In addition, he was a member of Nimbin's police community consultative committee, and also took part in successful family law mediations for clients.

On a professional level, Michael was appointed a mediator by Australian Mutual Mediations of Brisbane and recently was appointed to the NSW Family Law Legal Aid panel.

Michael expects to be back, once his Dad's issues are sorted out.

## The Nimbin Financial Times

### 2008: The Us Stock Market Outlook

by David McMinn

I have commented before upon the famous decennial cycle in US stock market cycles, as it is probably the most influential stock market cycle during the 20th century. Under this scenario, the US market bottoms in a year ended in '2' and then progressively rises to a peak in a year ended in a '6' or '7' and experiences a crisis and slump. The market rises to another peak in a 9 or 0 ended year, followed by another market collapse. During the 2000's, the US market has been following the decennial cycle according to plan. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) peaked in January 2000 and hit a bear market low in October 2002, then rose progressively to a peak in October 2007. As to be expected from the decennial cycle, serious financial distress was experienced in latter 2007. How long the current down trend persists remains to be seen. Even so, based on historical precedent, it could extend into the early months of the new year, with a recovery into the latter part of 2008.

Since the 1870's, 8 ended years nearly always experienced boom conditions with only two exceptions. The first anomaly happened in 1948, which occurred during the long market decline from May 1946 to June 1949. The second anomaly happened in 1998 in which the market peaked in July and bottomed in August. This 46 day blip took place within the late 1990's US tech mania.

The peaks occurred either in November - December of 8 ended years (1938 & 1968) or

Year	DJIA Low	DJIA High
1879	1877(a)	1881(a)
1888	1884(a)	1889(b)
1898	Jun 1896	Nov 1896
1908	Nov 1907	Nov 1908
1918	Dec 1917	Nov 1918
1928	Aug 1921	Sep 1928
1938	Mar 1938	Nov 1938
1948	(b)	(b)
1958	Oct 1957	Dec 1961
1968	Oct 1966	Dec 1968
1978	Feb 1978	Jun 1981
1998(c)	Aug 1998	Jan 2000
2008	?????	?????

(a) Based on monthly data.  
(b) Based on the 12 Stock Average index.  
(c) There was a long term bear market between the high of May 1946 and low of June 1949.  
(c) A bear market occurred between July and August 1998, but this was within the October 1990 - January 2000 super bull market.

in the 5 months commencing September 1 of 9 ended years (1899, 1909, 1919, 1929, 2000). There were three exceptions during the 20th century in 1949, 1961 & 1981. However, highs were recorded in January 1960 and February 1980, which were followed by major corrections in the DJIA. Thus, 1949 was the most notable anomaly as a bear market low was recorded in June 1949.

From history, it would be reasonable to assume that the DJIA will recover from its lows in early 2008, to be followed by a rising market culminating in a peak in late 2009 or late 2010. Central bankers around the world have flooded the system with money. This was to counter the severe credit crunch gripping the world economy in late 2007. However, this injection of money is sowing the seeds of future inflation, thereby creating yet another financial crisis further down the track. As always only time will tell.

Year	DJIA High	DJIA Low	% Fall
1960	Jan 1960	Oct 1960	-17.4
1980	Feb 1980	Apr 1980	-19.1

## Summer Reading Club @ Kyogle Library

Calling all Superheroes aged 3 - 18! The Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library Summer Reading Club has started and runs until Friday 18th January 2008. Why not join in the fun of the "Summer Reading Superheroes." As you read and complete each stage, you collect the superhero rewards - stickers, bookmarks, & cool wristbands.

The Reading Club program is free. All you need is a library card, a general interest in



reading, and a sense of fun. So call into Kyogle Library and collect your Summer Reading Club kit, including a reading record, colour-ins, and craft activities, and get started reading!

For more information on The Summer Reading Club program, you can visit the "Summer Reading Superheroes" website at <www.summerreadingclub.org.au> or call into Kyogle Library in Stratheden Street, telephone 6632-1134.

## Commonsense Human Values

Ninth in a series by Laurie Stubbs

Last article I said we'd look this time at our basic human nature and how we overlay it with denial and social conditioning.



In "The Art of Possibility" the Zander's, B and R, say:

"As a species we are exquisitely suited to thrive in an environment of threat where resources are scarce, but not always ready to reap the benefits of harmony, peace, and plenty. Our perceptual apparatus is structured to alert us to real and imagined dangers" (my emphasis).

We humans are basically joyful despite what the Zanders say. The way to prove this is to ask yourself "What would maintain any live thing in its life?" "What source of power, after mere existence had been secured, would sustain it's will to live?"

I suggest that power is joyfulness and is found in all life forms. It's tough to see joy in algae -- but up the

evolutionary spiral, it's easier. Look at how goldfish react when they are put into a bigger pond. You watch them rush around --- as if excited, happier to be in a new place.

Watch a dog running on the beach, watch a horse galloping riderless along a fence, listen to birdsong, watch kittens at play, see babies smiling at their mothers, think how good you feel after a belly laugh; see a dolphin leaping in the surf, all these are straws in the wind to say joy is a basic quality existing across many life forms.

Look at the opposite:- assume the living thing hated its life, what would happen? In the beginning when life began if ( repeat IF) it had a sense of purpose from that would be enough to cause it to exist. But -- how to keep it alive? Joy fits that need. Watching other life forms leads to realising the principle of joy underlies all lives and makes life worth living. Certainly Homo Sapiens has this basic attribute.

Children are naturally joyful though their moods change. Joyfulness is a natural state, it rises and falls in degree. Adults are trained to put joyfulness aside. We learn not to be joyful, at much the same time as we learn to control or cover up sadness.

As the Zanders say:-

" -- virtually everybody, whether living in the lap of luxury or in diminished circumstances, wakes up in the morning with the unseen assumption that life is about the struggle so survive and get ahead in a world of limited resources."

Most of us would agree. But the idea is a social one, reflecting today's concerns with getting enough resources to stay in the rat-race, or with owning things, status and the like. I think of all this as gloom - the opposite of joy. It is a human social construct that's been around a long time in civilisations.

Buddhism recognises what I call gloom as 'suffering', In Walpola Rahula's "What the Buddha Taught", Gautama held that:

"Joy is one of the seven factors of enlightenment, one of the essential qualities to be cultivated for the realisation of Nirvana". and that " -- it is wrong to be impatient at suffering. --- What is necessary is -- the understanding of -- suffering, how it comes about, how to get rid of it, and then to work accordingly with patience, intelligence and energy."

So here is an ancient and very respectable source for the idea that joy is a fundamental part of life.

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