



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Thought-provoking and FREE

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Poetry casts its spell on Nimbin



Wordsmiths. Performance Poetry finalists take a bow at the Nimbin School of Arts Hall (top); winner Dr. Len Martin is congratulated by event organiser Gail M. Clarke (left) and his wife Kaye (above); People's Choice Award winner Gary Clayton Utz mid-flight (left).

It started with 36 competitors, from all over Australia, but despite their strange, beautiful, impassioned offerings, by the end of the semi-finals there could be only twelve left standing. This year's Performance Poetry World Cup continued its four-year tradition of eliciting eight-minute gems from a wide variety of poets, professional and not at all, and this year's winner was certainly the oldest.

Len Martin's \$2000-winning work was based on a dream he had after last year's Cup, and traversed almost every nuance of emotional colour and subject matter. A further \$3000 was awarded to other competitors. As organiser Gail Clarke said, "The emphasis is on participation: people getting up and sharing with us." And share they do. Don't miss it next year.

Riders on the road - beware

by Catherine Macleod

Near misses on the roads between riders and cars are causing concern to the Nimbin Pony Club. Their members are active in competing in the NSW Zone gymkhana circuit and to qualify for these events necessitates young riders without floats travelling on horseback to rally days.

Most people are probably aware that horses are flight animals and will instinctively run from what they perceive as danger. What most people don't know is that horses can also shy violently into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Many horses have ended up going through the windscreen of a car or truck.

While you might feel so safe and secure ensconced in your metal hyperspace bubble, whizzing down the road at 80kph, you may not feel quite so snug when an iron shod 500kg animal comes thrashing onto your lap via the windscreen.

Please remember:

- Horses have equal rights as motor vehicles on roads.
- Slow down when passing a horse - 20kph is probably ideal (conditions permitting)
- Allow as much room as safety permits between you and the horse.
- Be aware that noisy vehicles - rattly trailers, loud motorbikes - may scare a horse.



Danger. Young Pony Club members negotiate the traffic near Nimbin Showground.

• Do not proceed onto a bridge when a horse is crossing (even if you're on a pushbike), and finally, • If a stranger on horseback is waving at you - don't wave back - slow down. When oil eventually hits \$200 a barrel we may see a lot more horses on the road. An increase in horse traffic must be accompanied by a corresponding increase

in respect for the horse and its space, and this can only be achieved by driver education. It was only 100 years ago that horseriders decried the advent of the motor car 'because it would scare the horses'. Well, ironically it still holds true today. The road to the future could well lead back towards the past.

Get ready for the future - Go Green

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Vote 1 The Greens ticket for Lismore City Council
Local government elections September 13

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