

A Dream of a Festival

by Margeaux Marshall

Australia's International Indigenous Festival 'The Dreaming' held at the Woodford Folk Festival site over the June long weekend was a showcase of high quality presentations in all areas of the programme. It had much more to offer than the popular bands so often used to promote festivals these days, yet some non-attendees tend to think this is all that happens.

The Dreaming indeed offered a wide range of excellent experiences over and above the collective musical talent. The one difficulty the festival-goer contends with is that the programme offers more than one can ever hope to cover and so selections are made but at such a gig as this, with so much good stuff on simultaneously, it is sweet sorrow.

The night opening and closing ceremonies by **Gina Rings** brought everyone together around the lake where the colourful reflections in the water added to the visual beauty of history in the making as the many tribal groups represented from around the world shared dance and song. **Dancestry** outdoor space showcased twelve dance groups from Australia, Pacific Islands, Torres Strait and America.

The **Chooky Dancers** were popular for their refreshing unconventional style. A group of young guys on the dole from NT dressed in grass skirts did their version of Zorba the Greek, a bit of Michael Jackson moonwalk and shimmy shake bellydance with a relaxed by-your-leave laidback confidence. (The NSW National Gallery had them on its performance programme a day or so following the festival, so it looks like word of their innovation precedes them.)

Nine theatre performances of the calibre one sees at the Opera House in Sydney drew positive comments and some surprise that this was so in a festival tent with a dirt floor. Punters were well and truly treated. Forty eight musical acts from **No Fixed Address** the first indigenous rock band formed in the seventies to tour internationally to **Casey Donovan**, an Australian Idol winner with a voice like an angel and to hip hop from Adelaide, **The Ancient Ones** aged 16 and 17.

Poet's breakfast to the velvety voice of **Bobby McLeod** poet balladeer who has been arrested fifty plus times during early years of human rights activism. And it was not as cold as last year to be up this early. Some arose even



earlier to attend yoga to the sound of a didj. Thirty six speakers. Twenty five forum discussions. Thirty four films that perhaps one may see only at a festival like this, hopefully not, because the production was excellent and the stories need to be heard. Eight art galleries. Truly beautiful aesthetics. Exquisite, sophisticated, saturated with meaning. Fifteen workshops from learning to make a floral head dress to carving to weaving to dancing the hula to online support tools for music production. In cool weather food is comfort and the choice available was a foodie's delight in itself. The most varied breakfast menus one could ever see at any festival large or small like this one.

The large attendance by young couples with small children contending with camping and mud, pushing prams was encouraging. The issue based themes of The Dreaming - mourning loss, expressing pain and anger but celebrating and proudly affirming a resilience of spirit and confidence in the future. Go to www.thedreamingfestival.com site to see what you missed and put your name down as a volunteer for next year.



Vigorously visual

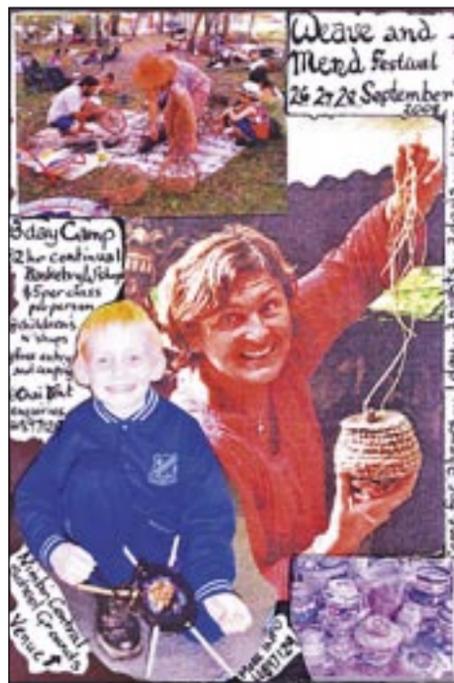
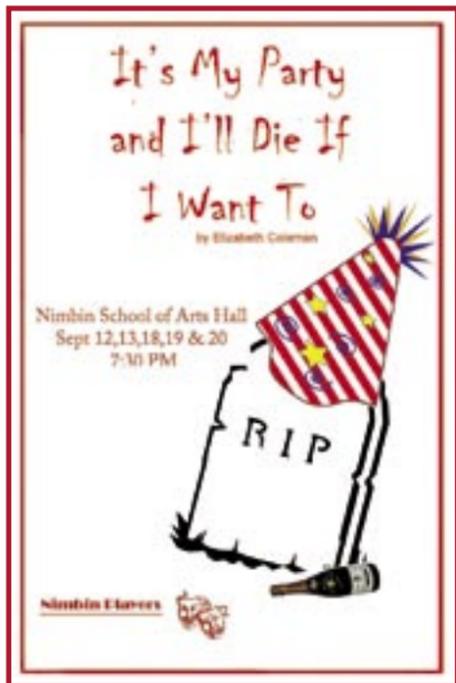
Nimbin Central School students continue to enter an array of Visual Arts and Photography competitions.

Mali Monahan, Year 11, has entered the Elevation Art Award at Lennox Head with her painting "Personal Reflections" (pictured).

Taylor McDonald, Year 9, has just been announced as one of three finalists, Australia wide, in the prestigious Savewater

Photographic Prize for his image "Every Drop". He has been invited to Melbourne to attend the awards ceremony in August. Jevaan Waldron, Year 9, was also announced as among the top 20 nationwide.

Visual Arts teacher Marg Canning said, "Congratulations and the best of luck to these students and all our entrants in competitions."



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Lisa belts it out on-stage, backed by Shane Howard and his band.

Local singer Lisa Yeates was flown down to Hobart, by Green's Senator Bob Brown, to sing "The Franklin River Song" at the 25th Anniversary of the High Court decision on 1st July, which stopped the damming of the Franklin River in 1983. On her return Lisa told us, "It was an awesome night with 1,000 people in the ballroom of the "Grand Chancellor" in Hobart. The whole event was filmed and projected onto the huge screens on the four walls. The list of luminaries there for that night was incredible. But for me the biggest buzz was catching up with all the other rat bags who I had met during my time being involved in the "Up River" Blockade."

Bob Brown hosted the night with his irrepressible humour and insight. Before each speaker, there was introductory footage from that historic time. We heard from the likes of Bob Hawke, Jill Wran, Aboriginal Leader Michael Mansell, and David Bellamy, who all used their precious time to urge the new Tasmanian Premier to stop the Gunns' Pulp Mill being built, which was loudly applauded by the audience. Bob had arranged for Shane Howard from 'Goanna' and his band (who were also performing one song) to back Lisa, so using the magic of emails and a CD they learnt the song. Mind you the only practice they had together was one run-through at the sound check just before the

night started. When it was Lisa's turn to do her number, Bob's introduction was, "Among the many Nightcap Action Group who brought their experience and inspiration from their successful protest in Northern NSW, was the voice of Lisa Yeates." Lisa said, "All went wonderfully, the audience sang along and cheered and clapped at the end. Surely one of the best moments of my life. And what an amazing honour to be included in such an event." Lisa and her dance band Skylarks will perform at the launch of the Greens Council elections, at the McLeans Ridges Hall on Saturday 9th August.

Ghostrum to play Nimbin

Ghostrum, Dave Kelly and the Kaants from Rockhampton QLD will be performing Saturday 23rd August at the Nimbin School of Arts, with special local guest Bo Kaan. Show starts 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. \$15 door entry, all ages are welcome. Nimbin is part of a regional tour throughout Australia for the Rockhampton bands, playing punk hardcore rock. Ghostrum singer-guitarist Kirsten Jackson said, "We are all looking forward to the Northern NSW leg of tour and can't wait to get back on the road playing our original material and having a great time meeting new people and artists."



Warming up the Dragon

Rugged up like they'd been dressed by a neurotic mother, Three Quarters Hazel have just finished spreading their love in Jindabyne, supporting Dragon on their national tour. Now on their way up north, they unleash their own heat at the Bangalow Hotel on Friday 1st August and The Rails on Saturday 2nd August. Come down for a boogie, be prepared to smile and feel just downright happy.

Underground moves

In an effort to create a more intimate space for the regular gigs sponsored by Nimbin Underground, the co-operative have decided to use the Birth and Beyond rooms in Cullen Street for their next performance which will feature three bands, Manifest, Slug and Bill Lane. The latter is a recently formed three-piece whose members are well known in the area – Dave Highet on bass, Shane Jackson drums

and singer-songwriter Bill Lane vocals and guitar. The next gig is on the Friday night, 15th August at 7.30pm. Spokesperson for Nimbin Underground and band member of Manifest, David Hyett said, "The rooms are perfect, the evening is child-friendly and there are three distinctly different Nimbin bands performing." For any further information or if you have a band or wish to perform in future

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MANIFEST
BILL LANE

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BIRTH & BEYOND
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events, contact David phone 02 6689-0095 or email dave@bringabong.com



His name is Mick McHugh, he's been called the 'Irish Cat Stevens', and he's playing the Nimbin Bowlo on Sunday 10th August, from 2pm. Get there early for members happy hour.

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August Gig Guide

Friday 8th **Buddah Hillz + Special Guests**
Friday 15th **Mona Lizard**
Sunday 17th **The Hoochers** 1.30pm
Friday 22nd **The Groove Foundation**
Friday 29th **Benjalu** (from Sydney)

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Nimbin Bowlo

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What's On in August?

Sunday 10th - Annual General Meeting 9am
- Mick McHugh 2-5pm
Sunday 31st - Slim Pickens & Dr Baz 2-5pm
• Social Bowls Wednesdays from 1pm, Sundays 10am
• Members Happy Hours – Tues-Wed-Thurs 5-6pm, Sun 1-3pm. Social Membership \$5.



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Bridle Paths

It is apparent to any person trying to walk or ride along our once rural roadways that the speed, variety and number of motor vehicles means it is no longer safe for pedestrians, horse riders or cyclists to use the same route.

There is growing awareness within the community that the creation of an alternate network of tracks, available to those using unmotorized forms of transport, would not only provide a practical means of travelling the land, but have many other far reaching benefits.

In response to this, our community group has formed the National Bridlepath and Wildlife Corridors Association (NBWCA), committed to the establishment in perpetuity of a network of bridlepaths and wildlife corridors for the benefit of native fauna and flora, horse riders, walkers and non-motorized cyclists.

Community groups are not currently aware of their right under Lands Department legislation to tender for crown road reserves to remain in public ownership as walking and riding tracks.

Similarly, land owners are unaware of legislation which provides for inconvenient crown reserve roads to be relocated around a boundary fence or unobtrusive area of the property.

We are therefore urging the State Government to postpone the sale of crown road reserves until local councils have had time to liaise with landholders, community, business and tourist groups to assess which thoroughfares in their area should be retained as bridlepaths and wildlife corridors and to fulfil the necessary Lands Department criteria.

M.J. Williamson
Nimbin

Logging on Private Land

I have heard from Ian Cohen (Greens, NSW parliament) who is very concerned about permits being given to log out Jiggi way and around Nimbin (amounting to 522Ha), on land that has old growth and rainforest patches.

This is in contravention of the act and is being

perpetrated by operators finding the inevitable loopholes in the very weakened Native Vegetation Code.

Carmel Flint of North East Forest Alliance writes, "Unfortunately, the Code is terrible with regard to threatened species.

Prescriptions are usually only triggered if there are 'known records' on the block or within 300m (mostly) of the block. But there is no requirement to do any surveys before logging – so, basically, there aren't any records and the prescriptions never get applied.

There are no useful records on or immediately adjacent to these blocks in the data that I have. However, there would be heaps of threatened species on them, as you are no doubt aware. Species include Koalas, the Black Bittern, Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Wompoo Fruit Dove and Squirrel Glider have been recorded in a 5km radius of these blocks.

There would be heaps of others, no doubt, including some of the forest owls, the Marbled Frogmouth and Alberts Lyrebird presumably. And probably lots of threatened plants as well.

This rapidly growing practice needs to be challenged **urgently**. People are desperately needed to campaign against it. Please get involved through the Nimbin Environment Centre.

Lisa Yeates
Nimbin

Electricity Sell-off

It's time for NSW Premier Morris Iemma to admit that the Rudd government's emissions trading scheme combined with widespread community opposition has fatally damaged his plans to privatise the state's electricity industry.

Any genuine emissions trading scheme will see a transition out of coal-fired electricity and into clean, renewable energy. For more than 20 years the polluting generators have known that climate change is real and the burning of fossil fuels is the problem.

Coal-fired power stations will have to find ways to dramatically reduce their emissions, just like every



In Memorium Lorraine Dawn Nugent

2nd April 1957 – 17th July 2008

Lorraine's family thank you for your prayers, support and kindness.

Lorraine will live in our hearts forever.

other industry, or they will have to pay for the cost of their emissions

Given the recent report that 25 percent of the nation's coal-fired power generators will be forced out of business by the Commonwealth government's emissions trading scheme by 2020, NSW Coalition leader Barry O'Farrell will have little choice but to oppose the sell-off legislation when it comes to parliament in late September.

The news will have caused the sale value of NSW's three generator companies to plummet. Neither government nor opposition can pretend that there is any financial benefit in the privatisation. Meanwhile, voters are increasingly focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and controlling rising household electricity bills.

NSW Treasurer Michael Costa has led the charge to force the Rudd government to prop up these highly polluting plants with so-called compensation for the costs of the emissions trading scheme. As Professor Ross Garnaut pointed out, the tobacco and asbestos industries were not given compensation for public health policies that reduced their profits.

The Premier should listen to his backbenchers, put his Treasurer Michael Costa on a tighter leash and abandon the power sell-off.

Andy Gough
Larnook

Nimbin Art

I have just seen a wonderful display of paintings, pastels and drawings at the Nimbin Aboriginal Arts and Culture Centre in Sibley Street. I was told that most of these works were created by a group of

amateur artists who had just completed an ACE course. What a superb effort by the artists and by their tutors also. If you do not visit this gallery, you will have missed something truly special.

However, I personally found the display completely by accident. While I was there, I overheard another visitor also complaining that he too had just found the gallery. He only had five minutes to spare before his bus (Jim's Alternative Tours) was due to depart Nimbin and he was thoroughly frustrated by the lack of advertising.

And why, oh why, were there no name tags to identify the artists? The anonymity must be as disappointing to the creators of these wonderful images as it is to their viewers. Names please next time, and I sincerely hope there is going to be a next time. Meanwhile, congratulations to each and every one of the artists for a job well done.

Os Osborne
Nimbin

See our coverage of the exhibition on Page 12 – Ed.

Use It or Lose It

Thirty-five years on, and the hard-won achievements due to community people-power are celebrated with the Aquarius festival. This energy and commitment made to our environment and lifestyle has been an integral part of our defining community identity.

That is why I now call upon this same local community to value our central school. All schools are vital in every community, and our local Nimbin Central School is at the heart of our community. Not only is it a large employer of locals, but it also offers facilities that are well utilised by the community

at large. If this facility is not wholeheartedly supported by the community in the form of enrolments, then it closes. To quote from Paul Robeney, "The Department of Education doesn't close schools, communities do."

Currently hundreds of children leave Nimbin daily to attend schools in other communities. Nimbin Central School teachers supervise the safety of these students boarding buses for schools away from Nimbin. This issue is not confined to Nimbin. It is a statewide issue.

The NSW Department of Education spends \$460 million per annum on transporting students to school. \$300 million of that is spent moving students past their local school! Think of the education opportunities if this extra \$300 million were re-invested into our local schools rather than on transportation. If that isn't an environmental issue - what is!

Nimbin has a central school that provides education from kindergarten to HSC. In general, central schools service isolated and even insular communities with relatively small populations. They provide a focus for community activities and through the staff, the buildings and other physical resources, contribute greatly to the social, cultural and sporting life of the community.

If we, as a community, collaboratively support our central school, it will grow to reinforce community bonds and relations, and inspire that dynamic character of our local people power history. "From little things... big things grow..."

M. Kenny
Teacher NCS

Onya's

I would like to congratulate all the folks putting in at the Nimbin Environment Centre (NEC).

I left Nimbin 7½ years ago and moved back to Byron Shire (bad move). Before that I lived on Tuntable Creek for seven years, and for five of those years I was a member of NEC, right at the time of the Timbarra gold mine campaign. Yes, the mine is closed, but there's a legacy left still.

NEC went from a place to rip off \$\$ for a hit, to what it is today. I was back for a visit a few weeks ago and was very impressed with the look of the shop and the great volunteers who are keeping the place going.

Again, congratulations folks, great articles Binnah, keep up the good work.

Paul Brecht
Mullumbimby

Thanks

Allow me through your esteemed, informative and highly entertaining monthly GoodTimes, to thank this absolutely fabulous community for their continuing support of not only the Performance Poetry World Cup but for the many other community groups that are supported by so many in this great town.

Thank you, thank you, and if you are reading this please consider giving a little of your time to one of the many groups or organisations that rely on volunteers within this village.

May the long time sun shine upon you and yours.

Gail M. Clarke
Nimbin

Letters continue on
Page 10.

About us

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Layout: Bob Dooley

Photographers: Sue Stock, Pam Pussycat, Len Martin, Garry Mimlich

Distribution: Angus, Alex, Geoff & Terry, Tonia

Bookkeeper: Deb Cattell

Website: David McMinn
www.nimbingoodtimes.com

NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd. and completely produced by volunteers.

Responsibility for election comment is taken by R. Dooley, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

Next deadline:
Wednesday 27th August
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NCC Space to Let

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Office Furniture

Lismore TAFE Campus has office desks and probably office chairs that are surplus and free to non-profit organisations. If you want to have a look at what is available contact the Campus Manager, Gary Smith, on 6623-0210.

Rare Aquarius Document Missing

In the last week of June, one of the rarest documents produced at the 1973 Aquarius Festival disappeared from Nimbin's Community Technology Centre, (CTC). The complete set of "Grass Leaves", the newsletter published on each day of the Festival, was recently donated to the Aquarius Archive, and it is believed to be the only surviving complete set in existence. One of the newsletters was taken from a blue manilla folder in the CTC room. If you can help recover this priceless piece of Nimbin's history, please see Roy at the CTC or ring Graham Irvine on 6689-1666.

Visitors Wanted

Person who is new in town and will be confined to home for six weeks by a knee operation would welcome visitors. Phone 6689-0517.

Sexual Health Clinic

Nimbin Outreach Sexual Health Clinic for Youth and Aboriginal Community members, is held each Thursday 1pm - 4.30pm at the Nimbin Medical Centre - Cullen Street Nimbin, side entrance. For bookings phone 6620-2980 or drop in. Free and confidential. No Medicare card required.

Meetings

Hospital Auxiliary

Nimbin Hospital Auxillary AGM is on Friday 22nd August at 11am, in the Presbyterian Church meeting room. New Members needed. All welcome, men included.

Nimbin Bowlo

The Annual General Meeting of the Nimbin Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club Ltd will be held in the club at 9am, Sunday 10th August. All members welcome.

Nimbin Magazine

Mousetrap Media Inc wishes to give notice of a Special General Meeting to be held Saturday, 30th August, 2pm at the Rainbow Power Company.

Community Gardens

Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group Inc. including Nimbin Community Gardens Annual General Meeting Friday 22nd August 2008, 1pm at Nimbin Community Gardens, next door to Anglican Church. All welcome to join.

Lismore Council Jottings

by Councillor Jenny Dowell

phone: 6625-2206
email: Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

McLeans Ridges

By now most NGT readers will be aware of the debacle over the rezoning of land in Cameron Rd McLeans Ridges. In July, Council voted narrowly to approve the most controversial rezoning in the history of the current Council. Despite 201 of the 205 submissions received being opposed to the development and despite the concerns of some government agencies, the dominant faction of the Council pushed it through with little explanation of their reasons.

Following the meeting, I was one of three Councillors who lodged a rescission motion to halt any advancement of the proposal pending another debate at the next ordinary Council meeting scheduled for August 12. Despite this being normal practice, Councillors Chant and Graham requested that the Mayor call an Extraordinary Meeting just to consider the rescission motion. With no justification for the haste and clearly no urgency, the Mayor and the other members of the current six-pack met but, in the absence of five other Councillors, they have lacked the required quorum of seven and the meeting was adjourned on two occasions.

It should be noted that Cr Meineke had declared a perceived conflict of interest and had not been present at any Council meeting, community presentation, question time or workshop on this rezoning.

While I had a family engagement on the Gold Coast for the first Extraordinary Meeting, I made a deliberate decision not to attend the second or third attempts to convene the meeting and informed the Mayor of my decision.

I was not going to be party to the bulldozer techniques of Councillors who were hell-bent on pushing through this controversial rezoning especially as we are so close to the end of this Council term.

I informed the Mayor that I would be at the August 12 meeting when I expected the motion to be debated as is Council's usual practice.

Despite all the controversy, the third attempt to convene an Extraordinary Meeting was successful on July 29 because Cr Meineke attended the meeting. Apparently Cr Meineke decided he no longer had a perceived conflict of interest. He stayed in the Chamber to maintain the numbers for a quorum and while he did not vote, there is no



mechanism for abstaining so he is considered to have voted against the motion.

Such a change of position on this conflict of opinion is astounding and simply inconsistent. One can only assume it to be a deliberate decision to maintain a quorum and thereby ensure this terrible rezoning goes ahead.

At least six of the current Councillors are not seeking re-election so a whole new Council are now left with this awful legacy and little opportunity to make it workable.

Wyrallah Rezoning

In contrast to the Cameron Rd development, another rezoning at Wyrallah was approved with little concern. Residents and Councillors alike were happy with a development that is in keeping with the village amenity in size of lots, access and the enhancement of the environment. What a difference a good plan can make.

NNCI

After much negotiation between Council staff and the Nimbin Community Centre Inc, a settlement was reached on the future ownership of the Community Centre and the lease of Peace Park. At a previous meeting, Council had refused to separate the two leases, and congratulations are due to all concerned for finding a workable compromise. When the new agreement is finalised, NCCI will own the Community Centre and will have 12 months to complete or dismantle the Sk8Park. My strong hope is that sound treatment is successful and that the Sk8Park can operate within the accepted noise levels and with the support of all the community. The commitment from the community is unquestioned so I hope that everyone can work together to make it happen.

Other Council decisions

Each Council meeting considers about 15-20 Reports with resolutions on all of them, so if readers would like more detail than I am able to provide here, I'd encourage you to go to www.lismore.nsw.gov.au. There you can access Agendas and Minutes on the Business Papers link and you can also see the things on exhibition and put in your comments. Also on the Council website are the latest photos from the Goonellabah Sports and Recreation Centre and many other things of general interest.

Physical Activity Centre

Congratulations to everyone involved in the newly opened Physical Activity Centre at the Showgrounds. The Nimbin Health and Welfare committee has worked with Lismore Council, the Area Health Service and the Neighbourhood Centre to gain a grant from NSW Sport and Recreation for this great facility that is already proving to be popular with Nimbin residents of all ages. Well done everyone!

Local Government Week

The theme for this year's LG Week was 'Over the Fence: Cultivating Our Own Backyard' and provided the Council with an opportunity to distribute its annual community cash grants and excess computers. The demand for both is very high and inevitably some groups miss out but Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, Nimbin Central School P&C, Nimbin CTC and the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre were successful in gaining computers from the annual distribution of Council's excess PCs and laptops.

The Blue Knob Hall and Nimbin School of Arts were two of the 28 community halls to receive the annual allocation of \$1000 to assist with insurance and maintenance costs. The Rural Fire Brigades from Blue Knob and Nimbin, together with 17 others shared in the \$5000 allocation for their great work.

The presentations of all the grants together with the distribution of \$54,000 of grants through the Workers Club's Community Development Special Expenditure fund were made at a special presentation and morning tea at Council on July 29. Vanessa from Tuntale Falls Early Childhood Centre thanked the Workers Club for their grant and outlined the equipment it will provide for the Centre.

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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More Letters

20th Century Conditioning

Attention Laura Myers, who uses contentious generalisations and the topic of domestic violence to promote her business. I would like to know what credentials Madame Myers has, other than listening to sob stories from men whom she gets paid to be nice to? I'm not buying it, even if I could afford it. Good on you for convincing yourself (and quite a few men I'm sure) that you are servicing humanity and not just doing it for the money. The last thing a brutalised woman needs is to have sex with anyone.

All violence (sexual, physical, emotional) develops from deep insecurity, lack of self-respect and the desire to dominate and control. Men and women who abuse (or are abused) live in complicit denial, are frightened and communicate poorly. Sexual dysfunction is part of this problem. Having a threesome with your abuser isn't going to benefit anyone but L. Myers.

Violators are compelled to own and control others and will go to great extremes to do so. The powerful emotional states that accompany these behaviours (guilt, denial, jealousy and shame) need addressing before any healing can take place.

Discussion of the "why's and wherefores" of any violation of women, children or men is a terrible waste of energy and highly offensive once you have a good look at the statistics. Own up and ask for help. There is no excuse.

It is naïve and misinforming to suggest that merely leaving is the answer. Often this is when the abuse becomes critical and can continue for decades, particularly when children are involved. We are dealing with families in crisis. The men need help also.

Women and men who leave violent relationships require specialised help from professionals, who are highly trained and experienced in supporting families on a long-term basis. They will work with you on your self-value and help you protect yourself and your children.

Women have not had to rely on men to provide food and shelter in Australia since the Women's Electoral Lobby effectively lobbied within the Labor Government for social welfare support in the 1960-70's. This allowed women and children to leave violent relationships.

I also don't know a single mother who didn't work and/or study to provide for her children. Women who do stay are caught in the "cycle of abuse" where men create the neediness in "their" woman by withholding physical, financial and emotional support.

Violent behaviour is not class or gender specific, necessarily related to co-dependent behaviour, nor a history of violence. Men often become violent towards strong, independent women.

Fear of intimacy and our conditioning to conceal deep emotions could have something to do with it. There is no intimacy in relationship unless a couple allow each other to display their vulnerability. This comes with trust.

To say women make commitments out of neediness is highly erroneous and offensive. Most women are simply trying to keep their families together. When they are ready, able or forced to leave, there are well-established support networks to help them survive, heal and make safer choices in the future. The law insists on this for the protection of any children involved.

A few sessions with a "sex surrogate" is not a viable solution to this epidemic of abuse. Quick-fix solutions (abortions) won't make the problem go away either. We could start by learning self-respect, how and when to say "NO" and continuing to provide safe-houses, food and shelter to those at risk when a man chooses to violate.

Erica Parsons (sex worker)
Murwillumbah

Not happy with hype on herbs

In response to the article by Laura Myer 'Sex and Surrogacy Issues', we at Happy High Herbs would like to state that we do not offer services to help end unwanted pregnancies using herbs.

Not only is it illegal for us to give this sort of advice, (even if we were qualified health care practitioners), it is also not what we are about. Our mission statement above the door reads quite clearly: 'Promoting the appreciation, education, benefits, culture and freedom for all natural plants and herbs'. We're about getting 'Happy' 'Healthy' and 'High' with herbs. We are not a medical centre.

I would personally never recommend that anyone use abortative herbs, not only due to the risk of one's own health, but also because of the risk to the child if the pregnancy were to continue to full term. And anyway, if mother and foetus are both strong and healthy, such herbs are rarely sufficient to cause miscarriage.

Always seek the help and advice of a qualified health professional, like a GP or community nurse if you find yourself in this difficult situation.

And anyway, in her final paragraph Ms Myers tries to engage the reader in an offer of work as a 'sexual surrogate anywhere in Australia'. How does this relate to the empowerment of women who find themselves in an abusive relationship? Sounds very worrying.

These sorts of 'good business transactions' and 'work skills' may suit her, but don't sound to me like a recipe for freedom and security for vulnerable women. Isn't linking domestic violence with an offer of employment an attempt at preying on women already susceptible to abuse?

Surely there are far better ways for women in our community to empower themselves. Get into nature, educate yourself, connect with your sisters. Self-empowerment through the sex industry? I don't think so.

Nell Berry
Nimbin Happy High Herbs

Career path

I have been concerned with the last two issues of the Nimbin GoodTimes with the articles written by Laura Myer with regards to the job opportunities within the sex-trade industry for our young girls. Raising my concerns with friends and work colleagues has made for interesting discussion and lots of differing perspectives.

If the Nimbin GoodTimes is to be doing articles recommending careers for young people starting with prostitution, may I suggest another career path that may be more socially acceptable?

I have been involved in the hospitality business for about 25 years, starting off as a fresh-faced 15-year old working in New Zealand in beautiful restaurants I had never known existed, always eating new and exciting food.

Over the years with experience I learnt silver service and bar-work. This enabled me to travel wherever and whenever I wanted. I would pack up and get on a bus, train or plane and have a job within hours of landing in the next place.

I worked in the best hotels and some of the worst. I always have enjoyed my work and I have always enjoyed the friends I have made along the way. I have always felt secure with the knowledge that I could look after myself as there is always work available within the industry.

If you are a young person reading this wondering what career choices are out there besides prostitution, maybe you would like to consider hospitality.

Hospitality is a life-style choice. If you have a passion for snow-boarding, bar tending at Perisher may suit you, if you enjoy the surf there are jobs going waiting tables on the Gold Coast. Flexible hours within the industry mean you can make the most of your time off. I have worked with a number of friends who have put themselves through university and are now doctor, lawyers, etc.

When I was younger I preferred to work in resorts where my board and food was included so that I was able to save more. I have had jobs where-by the tips were so good I was able to live on them and bank my pay.

I am happy to assist any young people who may be looking for work experience so that they may get a job within the hospitality industry.

Jodee Tichborne
Rainbow Cafe, Nimbin

We CAN have a better Council!

Community Action Network (CAN) was formed in Byron Shire in the early 1990's to help elect councillors who would support sustainable and low-key development rather than the Gold Coast style that was being promoted by the council back then.

Over the past three local government elections, more of a balance has been achieved and CAN has now formed in Lismore LGA and Ballina Shire, with Tweed and Kyogle also incorporating CAN strategies.

As the elections come closer, CAN will identify and endorse those candidates that represent community interests, support appropriate and

sustainable development, working with local communities for outcomes that are good for all, protecting our natural assets and promoting social cohesion and honest and open government.

CAN does not support any particular political party and will assess candidates on their merits.

Look out for the CAN voting guides in the weeks leading up to the election on 13th September. If you agree with our principles you'll find out who you can vote for that will best create a positive, more responsible and inclusive future for your local area.

For more info on CAN and meeting times contact Lydia on 6688-2220.

Environment Dept on Notice over Logging FOI refusal

The North Coast Environment Council has put the Department of Environment and Climate Change on notice that its refusal to deliver on a number of Freedom of Information requests is unacceptable.

"The NCEC has lodged an appeal with the Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) and formal notice in the form of the relevant papers have been served on the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

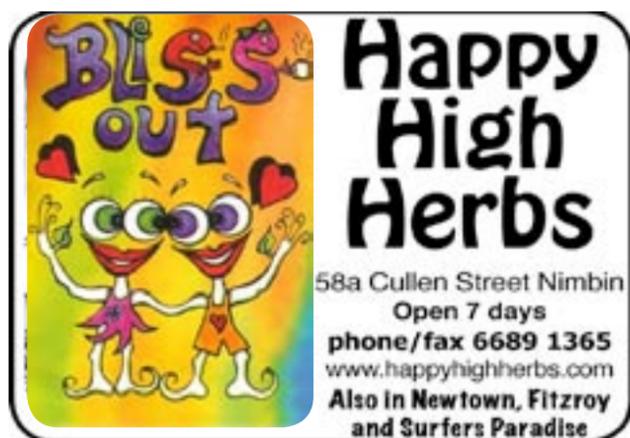
"It is unfortunate that community groups with scant resources are the ones to take action to defend the public's right to know about activities that affect the national heritage, including rainforests, oldgrowth forests and threatened species. However NCEC has a long tradition in pursuing actions in the public interest. We were formed in 1976 and while legal action is a last resort we have been prepared to take such action when necessary," said NCEC spokesperson Susie Russell.

"We thought it would be a straightforward matter to get access to some pretty basic information about what is happening in our

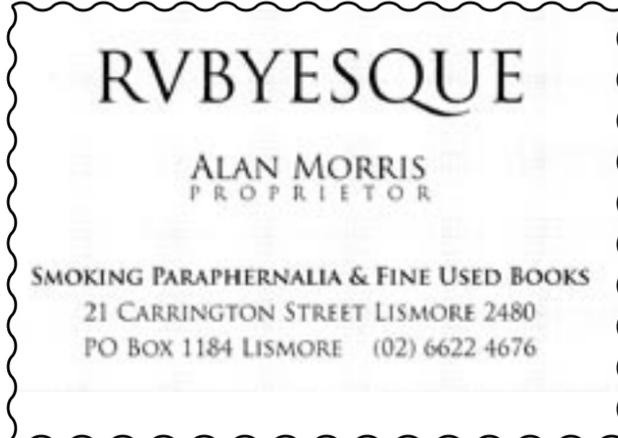
coastal water catchments. Already it is clear from answers given to questions asked by Greens MLC Ian Cohen in Parliament that large areas of forest mapped as oldgrowth and rainforest are being approved for logging on private land.

"There is no oversight process for these approvals and indeed, without access to the actual approvals it is not possible to see if the Department decisions are reasonable. Decades of experience tell us however, that in many instances, the Government Department gets it wrong and it is community groups like the NCEC, with no vested interests in the outcome, that take action to bring examples of poor decision-making to light.

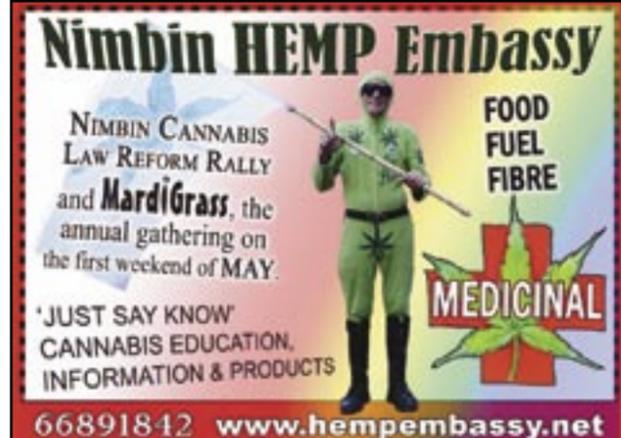
"The NCEC sought access under FoI to 17 Private Native Forestry approvals in areas where we know there to be important environmental values such as oldgrowth forest. In refusing our application the Department has put itself above public scrutiny. Given that in the last year they have approved more than 110,000 ha of NSW forests for logging this is just not good enough from a public service," Ms Russell said.



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Counselling Clinics offer vital support to cannabis users

Recently established Cannabis Clinics on the North Coast are providing a range of support to the increasing number of local people who are experiencing health and lifestyle problems as a result of their use of the drug.



The clinics are being operated by NCAHS counselling staff in Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby, Nimbin, Ballina, Lismore, Casino, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Macksville, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, and at other locations by arrangement with clients.

"Cannabis (marijuana) is the most commonly used illicit drug in Australia, with approximately 33 per cent of Australians having used it at least once in their lifetime," explained Area Director of Drug and Alcohol Services, Mr John Leary.

"While recent population

surveys indicate that regular use of cannabis is now decreasing, research has proved that there is a risk of developing a dependence on cannabis with regular use."

The NSW Government funded four trial cannabis clinics in Sydney and the central west in 2006. The evaluation of these clinics has found them to be a successful model of treatment, and more clinics are now being funded around the State.

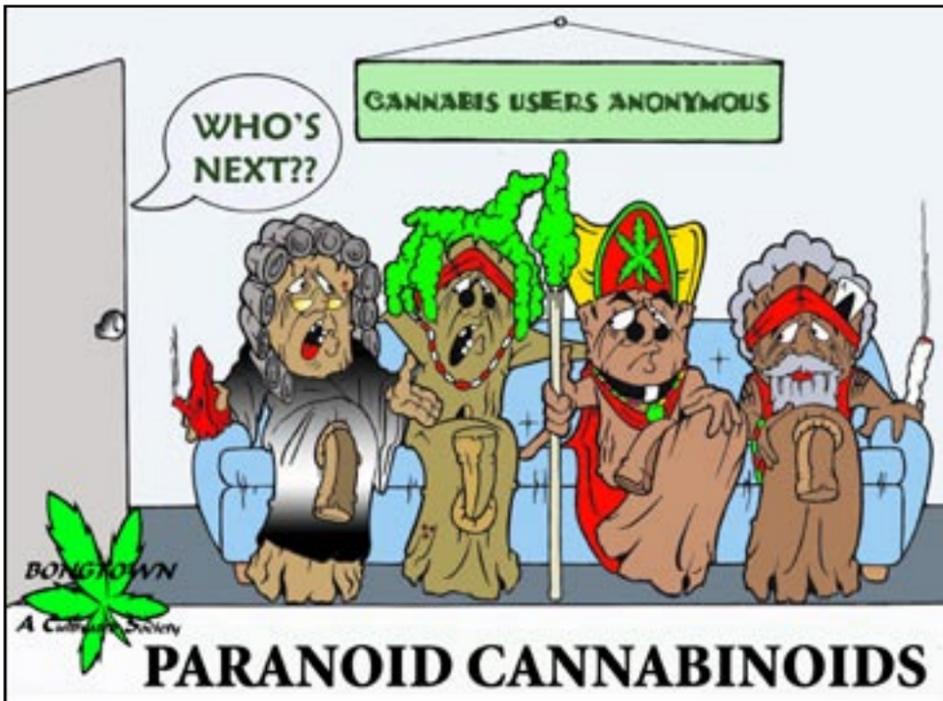
The North Coast clinics are mostly being provided in Community Health Centres in an effort to attract people into treatment who may not wish to attend drug and

alcohol facilities.

"The Clinics will offer individually tailored treatment to people who identify cannabis as their primary drug of concern. This support will be based on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)," Mr Leary said.

"The Clinics will also aim to identify any cannabis users with a mental health disorder and provide special assistance. Clinic staff members will also be available to offer brief advice and support to parents or carers of problematic cannabis users, as well as other service providers."

Access to the Cannabis Clinics will be through a dedicated 1300 line (1300 664 098). A trained health professional will ask the caller a few questions over the phone and provide them with an appointment time at the nearest health centre where clinics are held. All contact will be on a confidential basis.



Industrial Hemp Update

from Klara Marosszky

The NSW hemp industry is gathering momentum. Next week Northern Rivers Hemp Inc will be meeting up here with Chris Cole, the newly appointed Project Officer with DPI whose role is to oversee the expansion of the new industry.

In the meantime, seed for the first season's planting is being sourced. The

Association has a small amount of independent seed that will form the basis of our Northern Rivers seed source for the future, and the success of a harvest in Griffith has assured farmers that there will be seed to plant this spring.

NSW DPI is currently accepting expressions of interest from farmers, and to date there have been over 100 applications.



Klara

Nim-FM's Great Leap Forward

by Warwick Fry

No peasants were exploited and there was no forced Long March in the implementation of Community Radio Station 2Nim-FM's Great Leap Forward. Our technician Mario did break out in a light sweat once or twice, but was quickly dissuaded from removing his blue-collared shirt by anxious staffers as he worked tirelessly at maintaining our equipment and installing upgrades.

2Nim-FM has made great strides since it kicked off nearly eight years ago. It still maintains its folksy, eccentric, eclectic, sometimes controversial or challenging, and always whimsical style and character. But it is now reaching broader audiences beyond the valley, and even beyond the continent, thanks to the efforts of our technicians and fundraisers.

For the music buffs, our community radio station has just installed a new transmitter that is potentially four times more powerful than the old one (we're not game to floor it to full revs yet, until we know whether it is legal within the city limits!). This means we are now broadcasting in full, FM stereophonic sound. The signal could reach as far as Kyogle and the outskirts of Lismore. Watch out!

For those who like their hard boiled documentary (and satire on the side) with their morning tea and toast, 2Nim-FM's podcasting program is now well established, with



well over three hundred thousand downloads since we began three years ago, and expecting to reach the half a million mark by the end of this year. (Podcasts are 'stored' sound files that can be played, copied, or downloaded at any time convenient to the listener, from an Internet connection).

The podcasts are syndicated and re-broadcast by community radio stations as far away as Texas, Canada, Latin America and Europe. Anyone can access our podcasts at <http://nimbinradiomedia.libsyn.com> or find a link to it on the 2Nim-FM web site: <http://nimfm.org.au>

Nimbin broke new ground for community radio with podcasting, launching the 2Nim-FM podcasting project two weeks before ABC Radio National launched theirs. The idea has since been taken up by the CBAA (Community Broadcasting Association of Australia), which recently launched a podcast 'pool' of Community radio shared material. To which of course, 2Nim-FM is a major contributor.

This is integrated with the COMSAT (Community Radio Satellite link) project,

to which 2NimFM is also partner. 2Nim-FM is about to acquire the equipment to pick up radio broadcasts (including our own) that are 'beamed up' to the satellite by community radio stations around Australia, as well as public broadcasters like the ABC. Effectively it means we now have access and broadcasting rights to programs like the ABC news, and that they of course, have access to ours.

But wait - there's more! 2Nim-FM now has round the clock streaming audio! This means that with your internet connection and any computer made in the last ten years listeners anywhere in the world can listen to 2Nim-FM broadcasting live at any time. The internet 'address' or URL is: <http://87.230.12.189:8206/>

(Note: This will not always work in your web browser. It is best to copy it into whatever application you usually use to play your music, like the Windows Media Player, or Winamp. Simply open the file menu on your player, click on 'play url' and copy the above address into the space provided.)

Popular shows like the 'Hemp Hour' and the new programming for the all-women's shows on Monday can be 'streamed' to any venue around the world - like the Hemp Bar - tell your overseas pen-pals.

To ensure further growth please pay your membership now. Membership was due on the first of July. It's still only \$30 (\$20 concession).

Small grants for small rural communities

A small grants program for small rural Australian communities will offer about \$850,000 a year in grants to benefit people in rural and remote communities.

The programme is administered by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, and supported by grants from a range of charitable institutions.

Not-for-profit Organisations can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Grants will be made in amounts up to \$5,000. Applications from communities with a population of 10,000 or less will

receive priority. The majority of funds are unrestricted.

Organisations demonstrating Community Partnerships will be preferred to multiple applications from one community. Organisations should also have an ABN.

Currently, preference will be given to projects that support: community hardship in drought affected areas; community infrastructure; resettlement of immigrants in rural Australia; and community development involving disadvantaged children or young people

Application can be made to FRRR by post only. There will normally be two grant rounds annually with closing dates of March 31st and September 30th in 2008. Grant seeker enquiries can be made on freecall 1800-170-020 or e-mail: info@frrr.org.au





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