

# Justine Elliot MP

## Marriage Increases Life Expectancy

Marriage is helping Australians live longer! New data analysis released showed married male and female Australians live longer than life-long single people.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data on age-specific death rates in Australia per thousand per age group clearly shows that married people have lower death rates than non-married people in almost all age groups, for both men and women. (The data compares the rate of death per 1,000 for single people versus married ones.)

Data analysed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing shows the difference between single and married starts in the 40s and grows sharply in the 60s.

The real spike appears in the 70-84 group with the death rate for single people almost double than married men and women.

For men, the difference evens out after age 85 while married women over the age of 80 continue to have a greater survival rate than single women in the same group.

However, widowed males over 85 have the highest rate of death per 1,000, showing that once their life-partner dies, they often follow. It is 191.6 per thousand compared to 140.3 per thousand for married men in the same age group.

Whenever I travel around Australia, I am continually surprised to meet couples who have been married for more than 70 years – it is simply marvellous and re-assuring.

Our ageing population is to be celebrated and is re-shaping our society; Australians now have the second longest life expectancy in the world.

Overseas studies have provided similar results on marriage and ageing and the link with longevity has been debated for more than 100 years."

Historically, one main explanation has been put forward. It is:

Marriage reduces the risk of an earlier death as a person is less likely to participate in risky behaviour and more likely to nurture or "guardian" each other's health through promoting good diet and physical care.



**Milestone.** Justine with Mr Herb Olm on the occasion of his 100th Birthday.

## Federal Financial Assistance Grants to Local Councils

Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure and Local Government, and I recently announced that local councils in Richmond are set to share over \$19.7 million (\$19,708,141) in financial assistance grants from the Rudd Labor Government.

In addition, the Tweed Shire Council will receive the fourteenth highest total grant funding and general purpose grant funding in New South Wales. Lismore City Council is in the top 20 councils in the state in terms of the largest increases in local road grants, coming in at 8th.

All councils in Richmond will receive funds from the Government. Their allocations are:

Ballina \$ 3,122,954  
Byron \$ 2,352,083  
Lismore \$ 6,013,774  
Tweed \$ 8,219,330

Across New South Wales, the Rudd Labor Government is delivering \$597 million, an increase of 7.23 per cent since last year (2007-08).

This is the highest level of funding ever provided to local governments in New South Wales, which is great news for local councils who will be able to deliver roads and services for our local communities. Residents in Richmond expect good local roads, decent libraries, well-maintained parks and pools, regular garbage pick-ups and other services.

That's why the Rudd Government's grants are untied so that councils can spend the funds on local priorities. And it's important to remember that the \$19,708,141 is on top of the money available to councils

this year from our Roads to Recovery program.

The Rudd Government understands how important these grants are for rural and regional shires, where they can make up more than half of council revenue.

About 72 per cent – or \$430 million – of the grants are for rural and regional councils, which deliver jobs and services in local communities.

Local councils received the first quarterly payment around 20 August 2008. Council grants were recommended by the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission, a body established under New South Wales legislation.

## \$38,585 for Channon Hall

Welcome news that Federal funding of \$36,585 to finish the renovations and landscaping of The Channon Public Hall has been approved. The Hall's Trust Board has already completed Stage 1 of the project to stabilise the building.

## Celebrating a milestone?

If you or a family member are celebrating a milestone 90th or 100th birthday, or a 50th or 60th wedding anniversary I am able to arrange congratulatory messages from the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and in some cases the Governor General and the Queen. Contact my office on 1300 720 675 for further details.

**"Til next time.**

Federal Member for  
Richmond  
107 Minjungbal Drive  
Tweed Heads South  
Phone 1300-720-675



## Janelle's Page

### Farmers prepare for climate change

About 50 farmers, Landcare members, academics, carbon trading consultants and students attended my 'Farming For Carbon' Roundtable at Invercauld House, Goonellabah in early August.

The event was co-hosted by Federal Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor to help the agricultural sector better prepare for the challenges of climate change.

Southern Cross University academics, Professor Leigh Sullivan and Dr Jeff Parr, showcased their groundbreaking Plantstones technology, a new carbon sequestration process suited for grass-based agricultural industries and for carbon trading.

Other expert speakers were SCU's Head of Environmental Science and Management, Professor Jerry Vanclay, who critiqued the Federal Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper, and Director of The Carbon Store, Mark Jackson, who has pioneered avoided-deforestation projects globally and in the domestic forestry sector.

### FuelWatch

At a time when we're all concerned about rising petrol prices, it's disappointing to see the lack of support from the coalition for the Government's FuelWatch scheme.

The scheme is due to come in at the end of the year, and would be a system of monitoring prices charged by petrol retailers and letting drivers know the petrol price that day at any given site. It's about giving consumers information and requiring transparency from the oil industry.

In the last decade fuel prices increased more rapidly and steeply than ever before and the previous Government just sat back and watched it rise.

The Rudd Government is taking a more active approach; appointing a Petrol Commissioner and increasing the powers to investigate oil industry practice, and introducing FuelWatch which has been successful in Western Australia in putting downward pressure on petrol prices.

FuelWatch, which was introduced in Western Australia in 2001 by the Liberal Government, has been embraced by consumers and continues to have bipartisan support

**Expert opinion.** At the 'Farming for Carbon' event: Pictured, from left, are Janelle Saffin MP, Dr Jeff Parr, Professor Jerry Vanclay, Tony Windsor MP and Professor Leigh Sullivan.

### The Ekka

I took the opportunity to visit the Ekka (the Brisbane Agricultural Show) in August, because I'd heard the Northern NSW District Exhibit was something I had to see. I wasn't disappointed. The display is an intricate artistic creation showcasing the produce from our part of the world, complete with moving models of native animals. I was glad to be able to congratulate the crew who put it together. It's easy to see why the Northern NSW District Exhibit has been awarded Best Exhibit at the Ekka and Sydney's Royal Easter Show for many years running.

### From the Garden to the Kitchen

Children in Years 3-6 in government primary schools in Page are being invited to grow, harvest, cook and share fresh food under a new Australian Government initiative to improve nutrition and healthy eating.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program is inspired by the top Australian chef, and is part of the Government's plans for tackling obesity.

The Rudd Government has committed \$12.8 million over four years for up to 190 primary schools nationally to participate in the program and local primary schools are encouraged to submit expressions of interest to be part of it.

Each participating school would receive one-off funding of up to \$60,000 to cover infrastructure costs associated with building kitchens and gardens.

Expressions of interest are to be submitted online by 5th September, so the Government can gauge the level of interest. Applications will then be open in October.

Information is available at the Department of Health and Ageing website ([www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)) and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation website ([www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au](http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au)).

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# Police Beat – August 2008

## Causing Concern

### Dogs in Nimbin

On 18th August, a Ranger from the Lismore City Council visited the Nimbin Township following an increase in the number of stray dogs roaming around town causing fear to our visitors. The ranger attended to increase awareness amongst the community of the requirements of dog owners to restrain their dogs. A number of people were warned for not complying with this legislation. If enforced the penalty for not complying is \$220. Police will be following up on dog complaints, especially when they aren't under proper control.

### Cows and Fences

Roaming cattle is on the increase, causing grave concerns for road users coming and going to Lismore. On the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of August, Police spent a great deal of time attempting to move cattle off the Nimbin Road particularly near Coffee Camp and Goolmangar. Police made attempts to contact owners and utilised the help of Lismore Rangers to check the security of fences. Police are regularly herding cattle off roadways around Nimbin in order to prevent collisions. If you own cattle, please check your fence lines regularly to safe-guard the animals and avoid serious accidents.

### Bicycle Helmets

The current legislation requires everyone who rides a bicycle to wear a helmet. This is a safety requirement which significantly reduces the risk of a rider sustaining serious head injuries from a fall or being hit by a vehicle. A lot of warnings have been issued recently by police to people not wearing approved helmets. The next step will be to start issuing on the spot fines.

## Local Crime Report

### Woman Assaulted

A man has been charged with an assault on a female earlier in the week. It is alleged the female was kicked and pushed receiving minor injuries. The male will appear before the Lismore Local Court on 11th September.

### Abandoned Vehicle

On 13th August, Police were alerted to a vehicle with its front end into Calico Creek off Millgate Road. Police found the vehicle had been totally destroyed before it had been pushed into the creek. Due to the possible environmental risks police paid for the vehicle's removal to the Lismore City Council impounding yard. Luckily no long term environmental damage appeared to have been done.

### Returned Wallet and Cash

An honest citizen handed in a wallet on Thursday 7th which had a small amount of cash inside. Police were able to locate the owner, who attended the station and retrieved the property almost



### High Range PCA

A 53 year old woman was stopped at Barkersvale for a random Breath Test on a Sunday evening. After giving a positive breath test she was arrested and returned to Nimbin Police Station where she underwent a breath analysis which was more than 3½ times the legal limit. Her licence was suspended and she was charged to appear at Lismore local Court.

### MDMA Supplier Arrested

On 21st August, Nimbin and Richmond Target Action Group Police arrested a 22 year old male who had supplied what police will allege at Lismore Local Court on the 2nd of September, as being MDMA in pill form. The male was arrested at a location in Byron Bay after supplying the drugs in a local Nimbin tourist attraction in Cullen Street on several occasions.

### Drug Possession

On Friday the 8th, a male was searched after he raised suspicions he was carrying an illegal drug from a local tourist attraction in Cullen Street. The male was found to have 59 grams of cannabis leaf and hashish. He was issued with a field court attendance notice to appear at Lismore Local Court on the 8th September.

### Knife Found

Police conducted a search of a person in Cullen Street on Thursday the 28th. Police seized a knife from this person as they were unable to supply a lawful reason for possessing the item in a public place. The person was issued with a warning for the offence and the knife is to be destroyed.

### 39-Year Old Female Wanted

During a foot patrol police detected a drug deal taking place inside a Nimbin tourist attraction. Police seized an amount of cash and drugs in different forms. The female dealer ran away and remains wanted by police.

### 170 Cannabis Cookies Seized

On Sunday 17th August, Police were conducting foot patrols near some businesses in the main street. Police checked a location where drugs had been secreted in the past, and found 170 green coloured cookies in resealable plastic bags. Police believe these were to be sold as they were bagged 2 to 3 per bag. No offender has been identified at this stage. Fingerprint results are pending.

### 42-Year Old Female Arrested

On the same day but during the afternoon a female who was on bail conditions for previously supplying drugs in a Nimbin tourist attraction was detected breaching her conditions, that is being inside the same tourist attraction. In addition to this Police will allege in Lismore Local Court on the 26th September that the female was observed asking passers by if they wanted to buy drugs and then selling drugs to a tourist. Both the tourist and the female were arrested and charged.

### 116 Cannabis Plants in the Back Yard

Police attended an address in Thorburn Street in relation to a separate investigation. In addition to following up a lead for that matter, police saw a quantity of cannabis, waterpipes and other implements inside the premises. The occupant then showed police to 116 cannabis plants growing nearby. These plants, and the other items were seized and enquiries are continuing.

### Malicious Damage

The Klassic Lodge has received new managers. Their short time in this area has been slightly blighted by what appears to have been malicious damage done to a glass top table, worth about \$500 by unknown person(s). Police are seeking community assistance in identifying the offender in this matter.

### Fail To Quit

On the evening of 29th August, a female had become too intoxicated at the Nimbin Hotel. She was told to leave, which she refused to do. Police attended and found her still on the premises. She was detained as an intoxicated person and issued with an on the spot fine for failing to leave the licensed premises.

### Fail To Stop

On 30th August, Police were called to the Stony Chute area as a collision between two cars had occurred. Luckily no person was hurt but one of the drivers decided not to stop and see if the other vehicle's occupants were OK. For this driver's lack of consideration he received a visit from the police and was issued with fines for failing to supply particulars and leaving the scene of a collision.

Don't forget, you can contact Nimbin police station on 02 6689-1244, or the Police Assistance Line (PAL) on 13-14-44, or Crime Stoppers line on 1800-333-000.

Authorised for release in *The Nimbin GoodTimes* newspaper by Sgt Johnson, Nimbin Police. 30/8/08.

## Nimbin Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who filled out the questionnaires published in *The Nimbin GoodTimes* and also distributed through offices and cafes, during the month of July 2008.

Nine questions were asked, each seeking a Yes/No response. Additional written comments were also welcomed.

A total of 95 completed questionnaires were received at Nimbin Post Office by the end of the first week of August. 16 respondents also made written comments.

### Part 1 Respondents' Profiles

#### a. Geo-Social

• Are you a resident of Nimbin?  
YES 76 (80%) NO 19

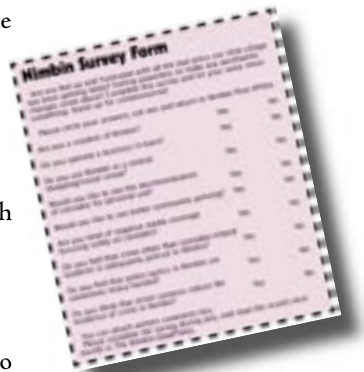
• Do you use Nimbin as a central shopping/social venue?  
YES 83 (87%) NO 12

• Do you operate a business in town?  
YES 24 (25%) NO 71

#### b. Attitudinal

• Would you like to see the decriminalisation of cannabis for personal use?  
YES 70 (74%) NO 22 NR 3

• Are you tired of negative media coverage focusing solely on cannabis?  
YES 84 (89%) NO 9 NR 2



### Part 2 Policing of Nimbin

• Would you like to see better community policing?  
YES 81 (86%) NO 7 NR 7

• Do you think that police tactics in Nimbin are sometimes heavy handed?  
YES 69 (73%) NO 24 NR 2

• Do you feel that crime other than cannabis-related incidents is adequately policed in Nimbin?  
NO 75 (79%) YES 16 NR 4

### Part 3 Street Cameras

• Do you think that street cameras reduce the incidence of crime in Nimbin?  
NO 65 (68%) YES 24 NR 6

### Summary

The survey, completed mainly by locals and supporters of cannabis decriminalisation, shows concern about village policing policies and procedures, and a lack of confidence in the effectiveness of the street safety cameras.

## Momentum builds for Community Policing Forum



Concerned by the effect of policing strategies on tourism and local businesses, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce members (above) have begun planning a Community Forum.

The proposal, which also has the support of the local Police Community Consultative Committee, would seek responses from locals, to provide input into policing in the village.

A SpeakUp Day is proposed, to be conducted at the Town Hall on the market Sunday, 21st September from 12-4pm, where people can make comments on various issues at separate stalls, to be collated and presented afterwards.

A colourful, festive environment is planned, with food stalls, music and kids activities, a model outlined by Dr Wendy Sarkissian in her presentation to the Chamber in August.

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