

What's gone wrong in Timor Leste?

by Warwick Fry

Last month there were student demonstrations on the streets of Dili strongly repressed by Timorese and UN police. Tear gas was used against the peaceful demonstrators who mounted the demonstration on the veranda of one of the University buildings that is just across the road from the Parliament. The police intervened on the technicality that the right of free assembly could be waived, if the 'assembly' is within 100 metres of a government building. The students sought prior permission from the police before the demonstration.

It was alleged that the order for the police intervention came directly from the Prime Minister (Xanana Gusmao).

Peter Murphy, from the SEARCH foundation (a human rights NGO) gave Community Radio 2Nim-FM an exclusive interview in which he explained that the student demonstration was just one manifestation of growing discontent with some of the policies of the AMP coalition government.

"... So, it's to do with poverty and the right priorities of the government, really, that the students were protesting; and then they put into it demands for more scholarships for students. But they also protested about the attempt of the government to licensing civilians to carry firearms, and the allocation of large tracts of farming land to foreign companies for biofuel and other projects. And there's one more – a very important but more general one – which is that the government just recently virtually doubled the budget for the year 2008, by taking nearly \$300m more out of the Petroleum Fund, and yet they'd only been able to manage to spend \$32m in the period from January to March 2008. The students are saying: "You're destroying the Petroleum Fund; you've got no way to spend this money; it's complete mismanagement."

The demands of the students, were, according to Peter were "mostly to do with good governance" A major area of concern is the lack of transparency in a deal with an Indonesian company for a 'biofuel' project.

"...in Timor-Leste it's clear there's a big problem with this deal because there's about 400,000 hectares of arable land in Timor-Leste at the moment. This deal allocated 100,000 hectares to a biofuel sugar cane project. So everyone's asking, "Where's the land?" It surely can't be the land that's being used for growing food right now, because there's not enough food now. And the government can't really answer the question. They're saying: "It's some other land." But the company they've sold it to – an Indonesian company – the company they've allocated it to – is certainly going to be demanding land. Someone's got to know which land it is, I think. That's why it's right to say the whole thing is not transparent. This deal was signed without any scrutiny in the parliament at all; the documents were leaked."

Peter drew our attention to another bizarre decision of the Xanana led AMP coalition government, regarding the investment into a primitive crude oil driven generator to drive Timor Leste's electricity grid:

"...the government's going to purchase 4 of these diesel generators, no not diesel, crude oil generators as you've described,



again without any public debate at all. So it's really bizarre, and – as you say – it's a polluting thing... although four relatively small generators in Timor Leste is not really a factor that anyone's going to worry about in terms of global warming. But in terms of the cost, and the future maintenance of these generators, it'll be a big issue."

Peter referred to a Norwegian hydro-electric project that is nearing completion: "... I just can't understand why you would shut down a sustainable clean power supply forever, a project that would do that, and replace it with this type of high cost import project which you may not be able to manage. So, you know it's just another one of these cases, just like the land for the biofuels; it's a decision that no-one can really understand because no-one was consulted about it."

Asked whether he thought the growing political tensions would lead to an early election in Timor Leste, Peter acknowledged that the AMP coalition was becoming unstable, and had this to say about the role of the opposition Fretilin party:

"Fretilin is in a strong position but doesn't want it to be chaotic. The view I'm picking up from there is that they'd rather that the President made a formal statement recognising the collapse of the AMP coalition, and calling for a conference of parties to decide how to create a government that was more stable. That itself would be a fairly big crisis but it would at least be one that's done through the constitutional offices, you know, the president has a role. The alternative would be that one day there'd be a vote of no confidence in the government, and no apparent step forward from there – like a real crisis and maybe the need for an election even. But there should be a situation where the various parties in the Parliament do discuss how to form another government, and then make a proposal to the president. This of course, I think a fairly serious conflict so FRETILIN people are anxious to minimise the chaos and maximise the sort of dialogues and processes which are to do with politics and not with violence and threats."

The complete Murphy interview can be heard at <http://vensol.blogspot.com/2008/07/timorese-politics-and-student.html>

Cultivating prosperity for Indian women

by Graeme Batterbury

There are now over 2000 women involved with the Academy of Root Development (ARD) in over 150 Self Help Groups throughout India. The project is growing, and awareness of its value and the good work it is doing is traveling to new villages, catching the attention of women and Government officials as well.



Action: (above) Women gathered to receive fruit and medicinal trees at the field day; (left) A Self Help Group meeting; (right) Fruit and medicinal tree seedlings for distribution to women of the Self Help Groups; (below) Graeme and Wendy promoting the work of ARD in Australia.



A Field Day on "upgrading of the environment through awareness and plantation" was organized by ARD on International Environment Day 5th June 2008 at Mathurapur village of Guraru Block. There were about 950 women and 350 men participating in the program.

Representatives from Village Council, high school teachers and staff from other NGOs who were invited as guests, talked in detail about the improvement of the environment through planting, conservation of soil and retention of old forests.

All speakers stressed the importance of:

- Environmental upgrading through plantation
- Preservation of forest
- Bio-fertilizer
- Use of green manure
- Water conservation
- Traditional medicine and health care

One thousand and fifty fruit and medicinal plants, which had been purchased by ARD and kept in nursery beds were distributed by the Divisional Forest Officer. Members of the SHGs queued up to take the trees to plant outside their homes. A tree planting demonstration was also held.

Australian News

We have had the first AGM of ARD (Aust) Inc. It now has office bearers and holds meetings of the committee and membership. Membership Application Forms (\$10 p.a.) can be downloaded from www.ard-guraru.org

ARD(Aust) Inc was 'Charity of the Day' at Lismore car boot market, and many people stood around in the cold

collecting donations. All those 1 and 2 dollar coins netted us \$500 and another \$500 came from a second hand goods stall. If you have anything to donate and are local, the next stall is planned for Sunday 21st September.

We have recently given a number of presentations in Melbourne and Adelaide, where we showed a video and photographs of the project and narrated the story of our



connection and visits to the project.

Recently 'Om Shanti Om', a well-known and crazy Bollywood movie was shown in a Lismore as a fundraiser for a couple of Indian social programmes, one of which was ARD. It was a fun night of film and costumes and we ran a raffle. Thanks to Carsten, and Carlos, the woofer for their help.



US Presidential candidate has a bleak background

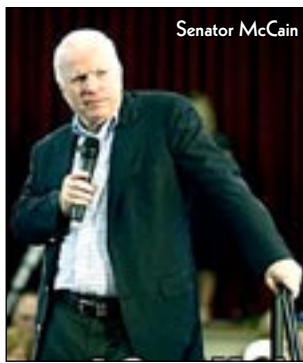
by Peter Olsen

KPI correspondent in Vietnam 1964-65

What makes John McCain a hero? He dropped bombs on North Vietnam on the strength of the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which was proven to be a lie.

I was in Saigon when a friend, an intelligence officer in Building J-1, questioned the sailors who were supposedly on the NV craft that attacked a US warship. He told me that the 'sailors' knew nothing about their boat, or even how to sail.

The Gulf of Tonkin



incident was proven to be entirely false, but that scenario was created as an excuse to bomb North Vietnam. Years later the same scenario was created in Iraq with the weapons

of mass destruction, giving once again the same excuse to bomb Iraq. Thousands of Iraqis and Americans dead, wounded and displaced, all for oil – and to bring democracy to the country.

This is unabashedly hypocritical. If Bush and Cheney were really serious about bringing democracy to the Middle East, then they should invade Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and bring democracy to these kingdoms, but that's not going to happen.

So tell me, is John Cain a hero participating in two illegal wars?

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Nimbin Bushwalkers Hit the High-spots

by Len Martin

We were joined on our April Green Pigeon walk by Green Pigeon artist Andrea Gustavsson, who enjoyed our company so much that she invited us to the opening of her exhibition at the Roxy Gallery, Kyogle on August 10th: "you may enjoy walking near Kyogle then... the exhibition for some light refreshment... a glass of wine or soft drink!". How could we refuse? Thus it was organised that the intrepid Don Durrant would lead us to the summit of Kyogle's Fairy Mount and thence to Andrea's exhibition The Spirit of Things. A beautiful clear day and a relatively gentle climb up Fairy Mount on a well-used, broad track. Wonderful views over Kyogle to Mounts Lindsay and Barney and the Main Range to the west as we walked to the trig-point past spectacular displays of Grass Trees. We could even see Don's place at Afterlee, with the fire still burning.

Then to the flesh-pots of the exhibition - fabulous food and wine. My first visit to the Roxy, so assuaging my guilty conscience, for Roxy members have long graced Blue Knob Hall Gallery events. The Roxy is a lovely little gallery, well worth a visit and I regret that Andrea's impressive exhibition will end before this article comes out. Her work featured in The Echo a couple of weeks back, but reproductions really can't do justice to the colours, brightness and intense physicality of her paintings. A variety of work in different media, including some beautiful portraits. The exhibition radiates the artist's humour, concern and compassion for the human condition and love of nature. Thank you Andrea for the opportunity to



enjoy it. Intriguingly, Andrea's largest and perhaps most political work, her unfinished Sixth Law (Dancing Ladies) was painted in oil and acrylic on unstretched Sydney Morning Herald and Nimbin GoodTimes! This was done "in the hope that on completion it would be sent to the women weavers of the International Himalayan Festival McLeod Gang, made into carpet design and auctioned in the west. Funds from the work... to assist creation of more employment opportunities for... Tibetan communities in Exile". Anyone think of a more fitting end for our great local rag? After the exhibition, Don took some of us to the Kyogle Botanic Gardens to inspect the work that he is doing to rehabilitate them.

As an overcast day for a spectacular local walk on 13th August - billed

as Stoney Chute Hill but perhaps better called Stoney Chute Trig. The grading was certainly accurate - "Grade 1 for first half" - this along a broad well-beaten track with wonderful views of the Nimbin valley. Then "up to Grade 4 over second half". Yes, the second half included a short but very steep, trackless scramble up over volcanic scree. But oh what a result - the trig on a cliff-bounded grassy plateau with Kangaroo Grass and lemon coloured Donkey Orchids and panoramic views - Mount Warning, Brummies Lookout, Border Ranges and ranges far off to the west. We noted unusual rock in the path below the scree; opinion on its nature varied from "lava flows" to "fossilised cow-pats". Afterwards we enjoyed a cuppa plus scrumptious cakes with our intrepid leaders at No. 1 Stangers Road - with more great views. Thank you Caroline and Ian, the upside down lemon cake was particularly good. Thanks also to the landowner for permission for the walk.

Finally, on Tuesday August 19th, we made it to the summit of Brummies Lookout, having cancelled twice previously because of rain and low cloud. Travelling there on a most beautiful clear blue sky morning, we felt fully justified in our cancellations. We had emphasised "4WD or good clearance adventurous vehicles needed for final section to Brummies", and it was clear that, in the wet, this section of "road" would be particularly difficult to negotiate. The short, easily managed walk follows a well defined track up a moderately steep, narrow rocky ridge, first under rain-forest canopy then out onto bare rock with photogenic grass-trees, spectacular views of Mt Warning only 4km away to one's left, of the Pinnacle and Border Ranges on one's right and looking back, to Springbrook, The Cougals and beyond. Finally, on the "summit", one stands in woodland with Kangaroo Grass and again, lemon coloured Donkey Orchids, at the edge of a steep cliff with the great hulk of Mount Warning immediately before one, and to one's right, views across the western caldera peaks to Mount Jerusalem; an unforgettable place. On the way back, Ron Ronan and Gerard led some of us for a pleasant rainforest walk along Plantation Road in Mebbin NP.



Inspiration. Nimbin Garden Club invade Tony and Lesley Trott's home and garden last month.

by Gil Schilling

Photos: Ossie Osbourne

First up, congratulations to multi-talented club member Len Martin for his victory in last month's Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup. Len is living proof that active gardening contributes to both one's physical well-being and creative energy. Well done, mate.

August also saw the club hold an extremely well attended and very successful meeting at Tony and Leslie Trott's. Many friends and visitors joined garden club members to explore and wonder at Tony and Leslie's owner-built straw bale home and their ever-expanding number of gardening activities. New and unique features included the hillside plantings of about 40 olive trees and a similar number of fruit trees, a vegetable garden based on a permaculture design, utilizing seven raised beds and incorporating a portable lightweight chicken dome. Also of much interest was Tony's ceiling insulation project using thatched native lomandra harvested from garden plantings.

Next Meeting

There will be no garden club meeting in September owing to the Nimbin Country Show being held on the normal meeting date. The next monthly meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday 18th October. The venue will be Vickie and Mark Williams garden, 47 Basil Road. Vickie and Mark's garden (a work in progress) contains a wide variety of fruit trees, sub-tropical natives and exotic ornamental trees and shrubs, as well as a lovely water feature with water lettuce.

If you think you would like to join us or find out more, why not contact either Gil (6689-0581) or Jan (6689-0393).



Walks Program for September - October

Sunday 7th September

(1) **Goanna Headland, Evans Head** Grade 2 1.5 hr, coastal walk with sea-caves and legends.

(2) **Gummi Garra, Evans Head** Grade 1 1.5 hr, wildflowers, rainforest, heathland, birds, wildlife, river views, aboriginal midden and campsite. Leader Michael Smith, 6689 9291 Meet 8.30am Nimbin car-park; 8.50am Goolmangar store for leader; 10am Coastguard Base, Ocean Drive, Evans Head. Bring swimmers, food for beach picnic and water.

Wednesday 17th September

Midginbil Hill Farm (Members only) Grade 3 1.5 hr easy paced walk with gentle grades and good views Leaders Kay & Len Martin 6689-0254 Meet 10am Nimbin carpark, 10.30am Midginbil Farm Bring lunch for after-walk picnic.

Saturday 27th September

Nightcap Range south of Mt Neville Grade 4 (5 for waterfall), 8h, 18km mostly on old forestry roads Leaders Judy Hales, Neil Biggar, Lydia & Peter LePatourel (66890422)

Features Pholis Gap lookout, 3 historic forestry bridges, rainforest, cliff top, waterfall & view. Long walk, needs early start so we have easy pace to enjoy rainforest. Not very steep, just long steady climbs and descents (except for waterfall option) Fairly easy gradients, not difficult just a long way. Meet 8am Nimbin car park, 8.20am Mt Nardi. Bring food and water. This walk will go ahead in the wet.

Sat/Sun 11-12th October

Rockhill Falls (Tooloom National Park) Grade 4, 6 hr Leader Don Durrant (66333138 at night). Camp at Tooloom Falls Saturday night, then drive 15 min to walk Sunday morning. Walk through beautiful rainforest to 45.2m high falls with amazing lava flow designs on cliff face. Good swimming, no lawyer vine. Interesting Grade 1 walk(s) on Saturday; Meet - Saturday 9am Nimbin Car-park or 10.30am Tooloom picnic area; Sunday 7.30am Nimbin car-park or 9am Tooloom picnic area. A long drive: Kyogle, Woodenbong, Urbenville, hence camping option. Bring camping gear/ supplies (Saturday) picnic food (Sunday).

Crossword Solution

See page 21.



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Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
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8:10	2:45	4:00	Goolmangar	8:10	2:45
8:20	3:00	4:15	Coffee Camp	8:20	2:55
8:45	3:20	4:30	Nimbin Ave	8:35	3:10
9:30	3:30		Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
9:40	3:40		Blue Knob	9:10	3:40
9:50	3:55		Twin Bridges	9:15	3:45
9:53	4:00		Mt Burrell	9:20	3:50
10:10	4:20		Uki	9:40	4:10
10:15	4:25		Mt Warning turn	9:45	4:15
10:30	4:40		Murwillumbah	10:00	4:25
Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore					
Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
7:10	1:50		Murwillumbah	7:30	2:15
7:20	2:03		Mt Warning turn	7:42	2:28
7:30	2:08		Uki	7:55	2:33
7:55	2:30		Mt Burrell	8:10	2:55
8:00	2:35		Twin Bridges	8:20	3:00
8:32	2:40		Blue Knob	8:30	3:05
8:45	2:50		Nimbin arrive	8:40	3:15
7:50	9:00	3:30	Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
8:05	9:10	3:45	Coffee Camp	9:10	3:40
8:15	9:20	3:55	Goolmangar	9:20	3:50
8:50	9:35	4:10	Lismore Transit	9:35	4:00
8:55	9:40	4:15	Lismore Depot		
This service runs Monday - Friday excluding public holidays Enquiries phone 6622 6266 Mobile 0428-255-284					

Bowlo breaks with tradition

For the first time in its 82-year history, Nimbin Bowling Club Championship Pairs has a female winner. In a sport regarded by some as hide-bound for its rules and regulations, Nimbin has this year set a precedent in opening up its Club Championships for women to compete on an equal footing with men.

The final of the Pairs was played between two mixed teams, and after 'a great match', Viola Asi and Dereck Cooper narrowly defeated Sharon Eldridge and Darren Marchant 22-18, after taking five shots in the final end.

For ex-Kiwi Dereck Cooper, the victory was especially sweet – he was also a member of the winning team in the Triples, with Ray Nugent and Anton Eldridge, the week before.

And another Club tradition has bitten the dust at Nimbin Bowlo. Hats may now be worn indoors during daylight hours.



Dereck and Viola

Olympic Silver rubs off on Nimbin

by Coralie Summerton, proud aunt

When Opals basketballer Laura Summerton stepped off the VIP jet to a heroes' welcome for the Olympic team at Sydney airport, she was welcomed home by her cousin, Megan Summerton from Tuntable Falls.

The Opals were disappointed at not getting the gold against the Americans, as expectations were high, having won the World Championships two years earlier, but still they are more than happy with their silver.

Megan, who now lives and works in Sydney, says that the silver medal is "chunk",



Megan (left) with Laura

about 2mm thick and as large or larger than the palm of her hand, and heavy, but not real silver.

Laura had rung Megan from Beijing to ask her to meet her in Sydney so she wouldn't feel lonely at the reception.

Laura has been to Nimbin and Tuntable Falls once, as a young child with her

grandparents and two sisters, travelling from Adelaide on a bus that took three days and two nights, while her parents drove up in their car with a caravan on the back.

They were all totally exhausted when they got here, but once she had settled in, Laura was borrowing the kids' BMX bikes and flying around the hills, always on the go, full of energy and athleticism.

Laura was so happy to see Megan, to have someone to meet her when she got off the Qantas jet full of Olympic medallists, and to be back in Australia. She flew home to Adelaide two hours later to see the rest of her family, but in the meantime Megan and Laura had a great time catching up at the airport.

Headers hustle into finals

Nimbin Headers V Lismore Thistles. Match Report by Alex Charles

Follow the bouncing ball for the first ten minutes. Free kick to Thistles, 30 metres out, just over the bar. Up to Tom World, to Beau... he's through... Ref calls a free kick to Thistles. The ref's not happy and pushes the free up to outside the Headers box.

A shot and a rebound off Rueben and up and through and fast and up and down. A shot from Thistles after a few Headers mistakes. Pete indecisive but takes it like, I don't know, a goalie. Matty kicks a corner, it comes in, and hits the far post. Ry's tripped outside the box (there's a dog on the field). A free kick. A lofted ball. Up to Ry. He has a shot. It glances off a Thistles defender. The Goalie can't reach it, and it's in for a 1-0 lead to the Headers 28 minutes in.

Beau (of the red shoes) takes it up and runs through one, puts it through the feet of the next, into the near post, low and hard, and the keeper's flummoxed: 2-0 33 minutes in. Tom Campbell has an unconventional shot to the keeper. Jesse collects a volley from Tom Worlds' head, straight into the goal, who can't handle it: 3-0 37 minutes in. Half time. Mal Rothwell reckons Pete needs some rosin on his gloves. We have a debate about what



Man of the Match, Matty

rosin is?

2nd Half the Thistle's keeper calls for the ball, but one of the defenders flicks it away. A free kick to Jess. A crack at the bar. Beau off, James on. Mattie man of the match. Pete's injured when a Thistles attacker connects. The stretcher's called for our Goalie. His Fire Brigade Mum runs out onto the field. Pete refuses the assistance and returns to the goalmouth. Gordy carries the unfurled stretcher back to the sidelines.

Game On! Pete saves one gingerly, and then retires. James in goals.

Rueben goes in close, their keeper's down... just a headache. Thistles shoot hard and high to smack off the crossbar. Thistles send it in again high and loping. James brings it to the ground, but it's slotted away for 3:1 15 minutes into the second half.

Thistles go again. Thistles

tackle while on the ground. A free to us. Ry gets through, and is brought down. A yellow to Lismore. A free kick. Long, hard and bouncing, it goes wide, and hits the wheelbarrow. Dean, Tom World, Dean, Tom World, Dean... kicks, and it bounces off a defender to beat the goalie: 4-1.

It's up and in, and number 10 for Thistles, a good player, puts it beyond our keeper for 4-2. Dean goes again, flick, flick, and it's in: 5-2. Not long to go. Go Ted Cox. You know how to do it.

The road continues to the finals!

The players: Tom World, Tom Campbell, Rueben, Dean, Vaughan, Jesse, Max, Ry, Luis, Matty, Beau, James, Dan, Peter G.

Spirited: (below) action from the Junior team game vs Thistles.



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TANEKAHA \$595,000



A long leafy road leads up to a gentle hill where a turn-of-the-century Queenslander stands under magnificent giant hoop pines. There is an abundance of water from three creeks, the biggest with a deep swimming hole, surrounded by giant trees

covered in staghorns. The home is big, graceful and authentic in style and character, with pressed metal ceilings, VJ timbers, wide flooring and stained glass windows. To this, add stunning views and an array of outbuildings, you have the complete picture-perfect property.

CHALET DELIGHT \$260,000



Set in Nimbin's best street is this charming western red cedar home. Nestled in gorgeous landscaped gardens with a rural backdrop and featuring mountain and water views, this home has a welcoming ambience. The home has a list of quality inclusions like lovely tiling, a rustic kitchen and leadlight windows.

POTTERS PARADISE \$299,000



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If you are looking for a village home with an additional three bedroom timber home set on 3.5 acres central to Cawongla Village.

The home is currently being renovated and has lots of charm. There is an approved workshop for pottery which is large and workable. This property has all the convenience of village living but has a little bit of land for pony.

ABODE OF PEACE \$895,000



Set at the end of a long driveway and perched on a gentle hill is a large Queenslander with sweeping verandahs. With 32 hectares of soil running from creek flat to rainforest and hills, the property lends itself to many uses. Originally set up as a riding ranch and motel, it has the potential to develop into a property with lifestyle and income plus. A truly beautiful place with unsurpassed potential.