

88th Nimbin Country Show

by Gay Bransgrove Secretary, Nimbin A & I Society

The weather was perfect, the horses and dogs were back – all good signs for a successful show.

Ray Newton, a well known local and poultry judge (pictured top right), opened the show with a poem written by the late Jack Moses (1861-1945), published in 1923. Jack travelled around the local shows as a wine and spirit merchant, writing poems about the areas he visited, and was a popular reciter and teller of yarns, everywhere he went. Read the poem, bottom right.

The President and the Committee of the Nimbin A & I Society would like to say a big thanks to all the volunteers and supporters. Although attendance numbers were down, this is not exclusive to Nimbin - other shows in the region are suffering a similar fate – without the great support we've had this year, Nimbin show could well suffer the fate of Mullumbimby – the cancellation of their show.

The Pavilion exhibits were wonderful, with many school-kids getting involved in the show – lots of talented artists in the making. Yummy cakes and preserves (pity we can't taste them) and of course, healthy organic fruit and veggies. Flowers, plants, fabulous quilts, paintings and photos – all from a small community (I think Nimbin must have more artists per population than anywhere else in Australia).

So to continue and revitalise, we need YOU! The Nimbin community is so diverse – from traditional indigenous people to farming families, the talented artists and alternative lifestyle devotees are so much a part of this town. But we all need to support each other.

I moved to Nimbin from Sydney just over a year ago - and I like the diversity and I do know what it's like to be so busy – it's hard to know which end is up - but if you want to see all parts of the Nimbin community survive, please think about becoming a volunteer. It doesn't have to be in a formal sense and I would welcome any ideas on making us bigger and better in 2009.

Images of the Show include: Poultry Society men Stan Sillitoe and Douglas Grove; Brewing judge Terry Beltrame; and Squid (below left), the incredible dog high-jumper who broke the record again this year.



Here is Jack Moses' poem about Nimbin, written in the 1920s.

I can't forget you Nimbin,
you charm me like a book:
the cattle in your valley,
the mountain and the brook.

The whip-bird in the ranges,
awakening his mate:
the basalt columns standing,
like pickets at your gate.

You've bowry and you've beauty,
you've wealth, as yet untold,
in the orchard and the timber,
and the streams that carry gold.

You've an asset in the babies,
of soldiers who've come back,
the children of the pioneers
who blazed the Nimbin tracks.

You were nothing but a wilderness,
just a little while ago:
you've grown a town of some
importance now,
it's grand to see you grow.

Well I'd like to toast you Nimbin,
now I'm on the job:
God keep your waters going,
that are flowing from The Knob.



A TASTE OF ART

blue knob hall gallery

Open Thursday to Sunday 10am - 4pm
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Spring Arts Exhibition

Spring Arts Exhibition

Nimbin School of Arts Hall
27th September to Sunday 12th October, open daily 10am - 4pm.

Review by Lisa Billings

On a plum dark spring night the Nimbin School of Arts welcomed patrons to blossoming and distinguished talent showcased in the Spring Arts Festival held until 12th October.

The exhibition hall was filled with bubbling and enthusiastic chatter, a few glasses of wine while viewing outstanding artwork at one's leisure. Local artist Dionne May exclaimed 'I'm more than just a shop assistant in Cullen Street'. Her paintings show brooding reflections in shadow and colour.

Ian Pearson's beach series depicts social life on Australian beaches, the harsh glare from white sand emitting from each canvas and Denis Meagher's landscapes are gorgeous to behold.

Eye-catching installations reconstructed from recycled materials by Franco Girardi do challenge the imagination - Truck Stop is particularly original, while Rodney Sharpe's Runny Pedastool commands subtle attention featured on the stage wall.

Margie Rojo's paintings give an impression about journeys, personal and private being ambiguous and subjective to the viewer and Bundjalung Indigenous artist Gilbert Laurie has three exuberant works done in dot style.

My favourite is Checking the Tide by Robert Jackson reminiscent of boyhood, animals and nature. As Margie Rojo states in her exhibition space - it's all about landscape.

When passing through town a visit to the Nimbin School of Arts can prove to be delightful.



Blue Knob Artists Exhibition

'Changing Seasons - Changing Times'

Blue Knob Hall Gallery
9th October - 7th December, Thursday-Sunday 10am - 4pm.

Come along and help Blue Knob Artists welcome in the Spring Season with their new exhibition, which will feature new works by many well known local artists including Robin Moore, Stuart Cussons, Christine O'Brien, Shirley Miller, Margie Rojo, Donna Sharam, Rene Bolton, Francisco Janssen, Christine Robinson, Lindsay Hunt, Pauline Ahern and Franco Girardi.

The exhibition will be opened by Dr. Len Martin on Friday 17th October at 6.30pm. Enjoy wine and light refreshments, and if you choose, stay on for a tasty vegetarian dinner at \$15 per person, with entertainment by local performers - bookings essential, on 6689-7449.

Artists and Friends Lunch

At the Artists and Friends Lunch on Thursday 30th October at 12.30 pm, (a set two course vegetarian meal for \$15 per person, bookings essential) Brigitte Kupfer will talk about 'Conversation Cafés', a global movement which promotes community, democracy and wisdom world-wide through generating millions of open, respectful public conversations.

Why not bring a friend and enjoy good food and inspiring conversation?

Check out the gallery on-line at www.blueknobgallery.com



Mixing it up. Mixed media artworks on show at the Blue Knob Hall Gallery (clockwise from top left): Experience @ Brindle Creek 1 by Donna Sharam; Tin Vines by Margie Rojo; The Day of The Maya' by Christine Robinson; and Such a Journey, by Pauline Ahern. Thanks to all artists for sharing reproductions of their works with Nimbin GoodTimes readers.

Bookings 6689 7449 Thurs - Sun 10am - 4pm

Sunday 5th October @ 7.30pm

Back to Blue Knob Women's Song Concert

The Blue Knob Hall Gallery is excited to announce that the Honey Hicks Lisa Yeaman and our Director Julie Marshall will be giving a 'Women's Song' concert evening at the Gallery

Entry & Supper \$15
Tickets under \$100
Bookings Available