

Huge swing to the left

by Giovanni Ebono

Business groups up and down the Northern NSW Coast have been waiting into their beer this week after unprecedented votes for The Greens in Ballina, Byron Bay and Tweed Heads.

Jeff Johnson is the first Greens candidate in Ballina and he led the pack in the B Ward with a clear 25% of the election night votes, finally closing 190 votes behind mayoral contender Sharon 'Open the Committees' Cadwallader.

The Byron Bay council will have a Greens mayor, three other Greens councillors and two green independents facing three conservatives who ran with Ross 'Climate Change is not real' Tucker. This total annihilation of the pro-development forces has shocked many entrenched interests.

Members of the Mullumbimby Rotary Club speculated at the first meeting after the election that businesses would be better to shut up shop and move across the border where men were still head of the household and forests treated with the contempt that all wild things deserve.

The Board of Byron Bay's misnamed chamber of commerce (Byron United) resorted to a kit bag of proxy votes to suppress a mutiny at their Annual General Meeting. Members angry at an expensive campaign that backfired in the final week and saw an extra five percent of undecided voters turn firmly Green shied away from sacking the board but insisted that no political campaigns would be run without the specific approval of a special general meeting.

The board refused to release figures showing how much was spent in Byron United's name during the council elections, at first on the grounds that they did not know, then on the grounds that it was not member's money (though they were not

at liberty to say just whose money it was), then finally on the grounds that it would appear in next financial year's accounts.

A significant chunk of the membership will not be renewing their membership, leaving Ed Ahern and a small rump of the burghers of Byron pondering names for next year's model. Ed's Elves would work well for headlines involving the mutant Christmas tree they will erect next month. Burgher's Rump is evocative but a number of members at the AGM complained that they did not know what a Burgher is.

Property developers on the Tweed considered taking up the weed when anti-Marina campaigner Katie Milne scooped the pool with nineteen percent of the vote. Eventually, the pre-eminence of the white shoe brigade was assured when the Electoral Commission announced that four out of seven councillors would be conservative, despite a primary vote of 49 percent plays 46 percent with five percent informal. The drift in preferences was enough for the progressive candidates to call for a recount, but at the time of writing Tweed will have one Greens candidate, Katie Milne, long term activist Barry Longman and previous councillor Dot Holdom on the progressive side facing four pro-development councillors of various political flavours.

There are two delicious ironies in all of this. One is that the apparatchiks of the Labor and Liberal Parties criticised the Greens throughout the campaign for running as a party, making claims that local government is no place for party politics. The claim was followed through inconsistently with the Liberals standing in Tweed and getting elected and Labor standing in Byron and getting annihilated. They preferred the conservatives there, hoping to pick up an extra seat on each other's

preferences but simply lost nearly all the traditional ALP vote, ending up with a measly four percent. As we have seen in Tasmanian state politics and the Federal seat of Melbourne, these twentieth century dinosaurs will do anything, including coalesce, rather than accept the Greens as the party of the future.

This is a particularly dangerous game for the ALP. Ear-wax Kev is only in the Lodge courtesy of Greens preferences and will be a one term wonder should the Greens get sick of being beaten around the head every time they put their shoulder to the ALP cause.

With the Labor Party in NSW and the conservatives nationally in pieces, anything could happen in the way of alliances by the next election cycle. We saw independent MP Tony Windsor with Greens and Nationals politicians standing side by side in Gunnedah last month calling for an end to the expansion of coal mining. That could well be a sign of the shape of things to come.

The other irony is the assumption by the political conservatives that farmers are on their side. Socially conservative though they may be, farmers are no longer happy to be taken for granted. While some farmers still worry about the Greens attitude to guns, poisons and animal welfare they are increasingly afraid of central governments selling off the farm, literally, to keep their big city bank accounts looking flush.

Most farmers do not think that globalisation, free trade and foreign agribusiness is in their best interests. As a result, there is a lot more in common between the average farmer and the average Green than either of them have in common with the mates of international capital. As long as the Labor and Liberal parties keep presenting their pockets for the banks to piss in, more people will reject them.

The recent council election is simply the opening round in a bout between green versus greed that will shape politics for the coming century. The people of the Northern Rivers are following the lead of the people of Nimbin. There is no doubt which corner we stand in.

Visions spring equinox event

Organised at short notice, the Spring Equinox Event on Tuesday 23rd September at the Rainbow Lane blister turned out to be a great success.

Music was kicked off with some powerful ballads by Essie Thomas, followed by some enlightened rap with Li Moore and friend, then more music with Jimmy and others.

As dusk fell sweet guitar melodies and drum rhythms drifted across the peaceful street scene. Raine and Ave initiated a circle to sing up the Earth and love was sent to a local family who's infant is critically ill in a Brisbane hospital. As the evening rolled along the scene was a utopian vision of children playing and people sharing food and music.

The event was organised by the Nimbin Visions Collective. "We chose the Spring equinox because it signifies the coming of the



light," said co-ordinator Nell Berry.

'Our aim is to bring together individuals and groups in the community. There's a lot of people with exciting ideas and lots of community groups doing great work. Now we need to bring everything together' said Nell.

The next event is planned for Friday 10th October at the Rainbow Lane Blister with music starting at 3pm. The theme will be 'Children at Centre'. A kids' nature walk is planned for 4pm and then Rainbow Eagle will take us all on a journey to Sparkleland.



Li Moore

More NVC Events on the Nimbin Rainbow Lane Blister in October:

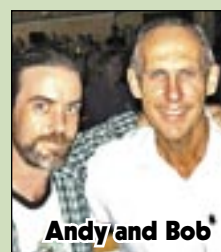
- Full Moon Event Wednesday 15th October
- Film Festival Event Friday 24th October
- Beltane Event Friday 31st October with Special Guest Robyn Francis

All events start @ 3pm
Nimbin Visions
Collective contact details:
Nimbin PO Box 166
nimbinspeakup@feelings.com
or phone 6689-7001

Dinner with Bob

Senator Bob Brown is paying a visit to our region to present the Earl Page lecture in Armidale on 30th October.

Bob will be celebrating with local Greens members, the green swing on the North Coast in the recent local government elections, welcoming four Green councillors from Byron Shire including returned mayor Jan Barham; Jeff Johnson as the first Green elected to Ballina Council;



Andy and Bob

Vanessa Ekins returned to Lismore Council and Katie Milne, new Greens councillor from Tweed Shire.

The Northern Rivers Greens are holding a dinner for Senator Brown in Lismore on Saturday 1st November at a venue and cost yet to be confirmed.

To express interest in the dinner, email northernrivers.greens@gmail.com or phone Gordon Fraser-Quick. Phone 02 6622-4221 or mobile: 0414-644-893.

Caution: dancers ahead

The 16th annual Concert of Dance will be held on Saturday 25th October at the Nimbin School of Arts.

Mark it in your calendar now. This will be an evening of scintillating entertainment featuring an array of dancers aged from seven to seventy.

All your favourite acts will be performing, including the Nomads, Tap Bitches, Thai dancer Ib, the Filipina dancers, Daniel Keszler's tai chi, flamenco, cancan girls, hip-hop, circus, contemporary, solo belly dancers and some special guests.

Any other dancers wishing to perform are welcome, but need to contact Biskit on 6689-1461 by the end of the first week in October to be included in the programme.

Entry will be \$12 or \$10 concession, family rate \$25.



Be very afraid. The Tap Bitches (above) are but one of the acts that delighted dance fans last year – and doesn't everyone love dance performances?

Photo: Elma Hancock

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Nimbin farewells its biggest-ever Year 12 class



There was plenty of applause for the graduating class at Nimbin Central School's farewell assembly.

Michael Parr (*at front, right*) delivered the keynote parent address, in a programme of speeches, presentations and musical items.

Among the 21 students who received portfolios, awards and school medallions was Jedda Bayles, the first aboriginal student to start in kindergarten and go on to complete her HSC at the school.

Year 12 Advisor Margaret Canning (*standing, second from right*) told the gathering she was proud to have worked with such a fine group of young people.

A power outage during the assembly failed to disrupt the ceremony, with the

programme continuing unplugged, including a country music parody song by Oliver Landreth, which brought the house down.

Relieving Principal Christine Grieves (*seated, right end*) spoke of the rite of passage being observed, and wished them well as they continued on their life's journey.

For most, including special abilities student Chris Dockrill (*seated, left end*), that journey will involve work. Chris has a job lined up already with Access Industries.

One of the 13 students from Years 5 to 11 who gave valedictory addresses, Lucia Schultz, observed that she had changed from being scared of the older students to now being "only slightly intimidated."

It will be her turn to suffer next year.

Singers shine at Eisteddfod

Time to acknowledge the wonderful vocal talent that Nimbin has to offer. Proof positive acknowledged at the recent Lismore Musical Eisteddfod Adult Competition day.

Cassandra Jeffreys took two 1sts and a 3rd and a 'Highly Commended' in her 3rd Eisteddfod. Jaimee Hunt and Viakalafi Tuionu sang superb harmonies and won the duet section. The Choral section was solely represented by Val Mace's choir 'Vocal Minority', pupils of Nimbin teacher, Val Mace.

David Hyett and Eugenie Stephans, both first-timers, took on the challenge of 'nerves' and sang excellently. David is in his 2nd year of study was 'Highly Commended.' Eugenie, just into her third year, claimed two 2nds and a 3rd.

At last Nimbin diva, Williamina Bowers, has been able to show off her considerable operatic talents by winning the Hannah Chance Memorial Shield for sopranos! She also collected a 1st, a 2nd and a 3rd and two highly commended. Of these, two were operatic arias! Williamina has been studying seven years – not bad for a girl who began as a folk/pop singer! All pupils of Virginia Mason, Uki.

Long time participant of the Lismore Musica Festival is Nimbin resident baritone, Greg Crane, who collected two Seconds and two



Well-taught. Above: Williamina and Gerard. Below: teacher Virginia Mason (left), with Eugenie Stephans.



'Highly Commended'. Paul is a pupil of Pauline Walsh of Lismore.

This Adult Day would not be possible without the long hours of rehearsals and study with Nimbin musician and piano accompanist, Gerard Lynam. He is completely dedicated to ensuring vocalists are well supported musically, ensuring they sound their very best. Yes – Nimbin has it all!

Film festival at Bush Theatre

by Lisa Billings

Films are a collection of images that tell a story. Stories about love, death, history, honour, sex, relationships; they are about people who live on the edge, as well as the extraordinary and mundane.

Everyone can recall a film that captured the imagination or brought forth the remark over wine and cheese to their lover: "That was such a moving film."

On the weekend 24-26th October, Nimbin Films presents the Nimbin Film Festival at the Bush Factory situated at the north end of town, a renovated butter factory with baroque interior design.

Come and enjoy, in the pleasant environs around Mulgum Creek, a three-day weekend screening of films.

The Film Festival program runs across the weekend on three evening sessions including a Sunday matinee:

- Friday October 24: evening 7 p.m.;
- Saturday October 25: evening 7 p.m.;
- Sunday October 26: matinee 2 p.m.; evening 7 p.m.

Season tickets are available through CTC at \$25.00. Tickets are also available at the



door. Each session: waged \$8, unwaged \$5. School students and children by donation.

Film festivals are an alternative medium to showcase diverse perspectives about our world. This is the third year for the Nimbin Film Festival, which has always been enjoyed by community members, visitors and filmmakers.

This is an event that enhances the cultural, artistic and social life of our community and nearby places.

Nimbin Films encourages people to become involved with film production in co-operation with the Nimbin CTC, to continue the tradition of this event.

Be sure to see you there, at the Nimbin Film Festival, 24-26th October.

For all enquiries, contact Roy 6689-1183 or Graham 0428-322-577 or visit www.nimbinfilms.co.cc

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SNIPPING HEADS

Another Blue Moon is coming

Once again, the Nimbin School of Arts Committee turned it on for the Blue Moon Ball on a wintry Saturday night last month.

A packed house enjoyed a fun program of performers, including the Tuntable Circus (pictured at right) and Sassy Salsa (page 1), and these two strange blokes (below) before dancing the night away to the Big Con Band.

Full credit must go to the hard-working committee members, especially compere David Hallett, for organising a great night out.

Tickets for the final Blue Moon Cabaret of the year, on Saturday 8th November with a very big program, are now available from Perceptio Bookshop, phone 6689-1766.

Tickets are only \$20, but hurry, they do tend to sell out rather quickly.



How deep is a hole in the ground?

Very, very deep and ridiculously funny, if that hole is the star of Dicey Company's play "A Hot Wind" by Charles Dyer.

Littered with linguistic hilarity and crazy characters, this Dicey Company production treads from the ethereal to the flatulent through the zany philosophies of a group of construction workers – and of course a hole!

Join the Dicey's at Tuntable Falls Community Hall, Upper Tuntable Falls Road, October 31st, November 1st and 2nd at 7.30pm, for a night of thought provoking comedy.

Light refreshments will be available. Tickets are only \$8 and will be available at the door.



How much is enough?

News Item, May 2008: "Retiring Bank President gets \$50million Bonus."

Is that enough to supply piped water to a thousand parched African villages? To provide free birth control to all of Asia and South America? Enough to buy and preserve half the Amazon jungle? Enough to plant a gazillion trees around the edges of the world's growing deserts? Can you do the numbers? How much is enough to build 5 thousand African schools or train 5 thousand teachers?

But is it enough for your retirement? Enough so that all of your children and grandchildren will never have to work? Enough so they can live comfortably, wear tailored suits, drive BMWs, fly first-class, own several homes?

Enough so they can donate to political parties and local councils, cultivate influence and shape policy to protect their interests and investments?

Maybe buy a chain of casinos, and collect trophy wives?

Is it enough to send them on holidays to the moon?

How much is enough? to ensure that each of your precious descendants will be secure when oil goes down and sea levels go up and the refugees arrive...

And the "haves" need protection from the "have-nots"?

Ed Kiefer

Student Representative Councillor



Luke Asi, a Year 9 student at Nimbin Central School, will have to get used to flying to Sydney and back. He has been chosen to represent the North Coast region on the NSW state

committee of the Students Representative Council.

Luke is pictured addressing the recent Year 12 farewell assembly. Could there be a career in politics awaiting him?

Tuntable Bush Dance

Put on your dancing shoes, the Blunnies, because it's time for another Bush Dance in the Nimbin valley.

It'll be on for young and old on Saturday October 11th at Tuntable Hall, with food from 6pm and dancing starting at 7pm; music by the Tuntable Folk Orchestra.

It's only \$5 entry, so bring your kids and your dance partners, and be ready to kick up a little dust!



Photo from Emma Doyle's HSC collection on "Challenging Perceptions", her project for Visual Arts at Nimbin Central School.

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- See our large computer room and school hall.
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For further details contact Principal Dafydd Thomas – phone 6689-7202

Check out our website: www.barkersval-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Nimbin Vacation Care – Spring programme

We warmly welcome everyone to the new Spring Holiday program.

Please read the dates carefully and book to avoid disappointment.

To book phone NNIC on 6689-1692, between 10am and 4pm. Please note that the fee is \$6 for Vacation Care.

Once again, we will be operating from Nimbin Central School.

Please meet us at the front

of the MPU at 9am on excursion days, and pick up your child no later than 3pm from the MPU at Nimbin School.

Please also ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat and sun block, and has adequate food and drinks.

Date	Program	Cost
Wednesday 1 st Oct	MPU - Spring Party - Bring a hat to decorate. Treasure hunt + other Spring games and crafts. April & Andrew	\$6
Thursday 2 nd Oct	Excursion to Ballina Pool and Water Slide. Children will need a hat & towel. April & Shawn	\$18.00
Wednesday 8 th Oct	Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink followed by a visit to Lismore Historical Museum. Please bring socks. April & Andrew	\$13.50
Thursday 9 th Oct	MPU - Drumming + Plant a flower (earth and seedling supplied - bring a pot). April & Shawn	\$6
Friday 10 th Oct	Excursion to Protector's Falls April & Shawn	\$6

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Weaving & Mending



The fourth annual Weave and Mend Festival went off without a hitch.

Even the weather was kind for the event, held in the grounds of Nimbin Central School, with overnight camping available.

There was a fairground atmosphere, with a tipi, the Chai tent and several kinds of shelters erected under the trees, and many different hand-woven products on display.

Acoustic music drifted across the scene, as people, mostly women, sat in groups chatting, snacking and weaving.

Organiser Moksha said that the highlights this year were the well-attended workshops, where experienced weavers shared their knowledge and skills with novices as well as with other weavers.

"It went really well, thanks to everybody who participated," Moksha said. "Especially, thanks to the school for letting us use the grounds. We hope we'll be able to do it again here next year."



Photos: Chibo Mertineit

Nimbin Solar Packaging Update

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is very pleased to announce that to date they have sent across 42 applications for their solar packaging scheme to the Rainbow Power Company (RPC).

Of these, 17 are now fully signed up with contracts. RPC has sent out the rebate paperwork to a further 36 applicants, and is waiting for those to be sent back to them.

If you are one of those 36 households, get your stuff back to RPC asap to take full advantage of the rebate scheme.

At this stage, none of the rebate applications sent off have been approved. It is looking as though there will be an approximate two months turnaround time.

RPC has advised to "keep 'em coming!" even if we exceed the 50 households. So, if you have not registered for the scheme and are interested in doing so, get your paperwork and photos and other attachments back to NNIC asap.

If you do not have the paperwork and are wondering what all this is about, contact NNIC, preferably via email at nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au, and they will send it all out to you. Or drop in to NNIC on 71 Cullen Street and grab the paperwork.

The RPC offer to Nimbin



Photo: Rainbow Power Co.

residents is to install a 1.08 kW grid feed solar array for an 'up-front' payment of \$2999, subject to a number of site and eligibility conditions.

Information is available at NNIC which explains the details of the scheme and how the deal with RPC was

arrived at, following a public meeting in the Town Hall on 14th August.

NNIC is planning to build on the momentum of this project to work with the community to look at other sustainable energy options for Nimbin.

Chamber Chat



The NCoC held its regular monthly meeting on the 16th September and although attendance was a little down, we managed to achieve some worthwhile outcomes.

The Chamber continues to follow the LCC on an array of issues and we look forward to working with new mayor Jenny Dowell, who has always shown a positive and proactive approach to Nimbin and its ongoing issues so we are hopeful of achieving some wide ranging improvements for both residents and business operators.

Much of the September meeting was taken up with discussing and planning the upcoming AGM. Some current Chamber office bearers have declared their intention not to stand for office again during the coming term, so the Chamber is definitely

looking for some new blood to come on board and continue the fight to improve facilities and amenities within the town.

So any business operators, including service providers and Village business property owners, who have been considering getting involved on some level, now is the time to move.

With the formation of the newly elected Lismore City Council, it provides an ideal opportunity for the Nimbin Community to come together, for the mutual benefit of all.

The Chamber, in association with www.nimbinweb.com.au, will be conducting a mail out and recruitment campaign over the next few weeks and we really do look forward to seeing some energetic new faces at the AGM, which will be held as usual at 6pm at the Rainbow Cafe in Cullen Street on the 21st October.

We hope to see you there.

Safe Community project winds up

by Maire Barron
Nimbin Safe Community Project - Project Worker;
Community Connections
Nimbin Youth Support Worker



Maire

Well it's winding up time for the Nimbin Safe Community Project, which has spanned over the last four years.

I have been in my role since late last year, working first with Sally from Lismore, then Amara, who took on parts of the project this year like running the not-so-young women's groups.

Some of the achievements I have been involved in are:

- Two banner-making workshops
- Organising 'reclaim the night'
- The creating and printing of 100 or so 'Womanly Wise' diaries - created by the young woman of Nimbin

for the young woman of Nimbin. The diary includes lots of information on healthy relationships, as well as some artwork from the young women.

• Help with the Love Bites program at Nimbin Central School.

• In conjunction with the Women's Health Centre, six workshops in Nimbin, Lismore and Byron Bay on healthy relationships, body

image and intimate partner violence.

The young women who attended the workshops created an amazing photo exhibition around the topic of empowerment which is currently on show at the Dragon Fly Cafe in Lismore and will feature in Nimbin at the women's dinner on 26th November.

The exhibition has already gone to the 'Splendour in the Grass' music festival in Byron, to help spread the good word (empowerment) with four of the young local girls, Lizette and me.

A special thanks to Rosy, our very own young Nimbin woman who taught the photography workshops and worked hard on this part of the project.

• Last but not least, the final achievement is the young men's booklet, which is going to print soon

and should be out on the streets by November. This booklet is aimed at young men in Nimbin with the intention of creating healthy relationships. In the booklet you will find some great quotes by rappers and young woman about respect etc along with heaps of great local art/graffiti pics.

I have had a great time on this project and I am continuing my work in Nimbin with youth, through Community Connections as a youth support worker.

The Nimbin Safe Community Project was funded under the National Community Crime Prevention Programme. The project was managed by the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre and strongly supported by the Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee.

Daisy

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