



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Summery and FREE

Eucalypt Edition

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Once more around the sun we go!



Benny Zable performing a flag dance at HippyFest on NYE.



Dressed to thrill as midnight approaches.

There were plenty of reasons to celebrate, even more than usual perhaps, over the 2008-9 festive season. Despite the doom-and-gloom financial forecast, the shops were full, and while it did feel rather good not to have taken up a career in merchant banking, cheerful greetings and bonhomie abounded, and the ritual of family reunions and gift-giving moved into high gear.

We'd survived the big storms and had reason enough to be cheerful, plus Kevin Rudd's trickle-up stimulus package was very well-received by the less well-off.

Notwithstanding the alarming instances of shopping-mall road-rage, and indeed shopping-mall rages, amongst the crush of last-minute Christmas shoppers, the spirit of goodwill to all got a pretty good go.

Many Nimbinites were away for New Year's Eve, with one estimate of 75 per cent of the town being at the Woodford Festival or on the coast, and others preferring a quiet night at home, watching the fireworks on TV.

But for those wanting to party, there was a HippyFest in Mingle Park, karaoke and night bowls at the Bowling Club, a band and karaoke at the youth hostel, as well as several private pool parties to choose from.

As it turned out, all the choices were good. The weather was unexpectedly kind, and the party mode was on, not crazily, but meaningfully, with friends.

The stroke of midnight, its impact lessened by the confusion of summer time zones, saw some people pop corks, hug and cheer, while others had a group meditation. *Viva la difference!*

New Year ushers in new business confidence

Business confidence in Nimbin is on a high, following good trade figures over the peak holiday trading period.

This optimism is seen in the refitting of premises, such as the E-bar (pictured right) and the Oasis Cafe; and the expansion of the NRMA garage, which is operating a second workshop at the service station.

Mark Watterson (far right) said, "We'll be at the two garages until mid-year. There's enough work to keep us going."

Main street commercial premises have also changed hands, with a number

of retail development applications before Council.

The building housing the Visitor Information Centre, The Spangled Drongo and the Oasis Cafe has been sold to a Sydney investor, and there is an expression of interest in the old bank building, with plans to develop it as two premises.

Meanwhile, the old NRMA garage is slated for development as three shops, together these refurbishments will extend the town's shopping precinct.

Shopkeepers revelled in the high numbers of visitors to the village over the Christmas holiday period,



which saw queues at the ATM and brisk trade every day, despite widespread publicity of an alleged serious assault in the town

on Boxing Day.

With turnover figures looking healthy, and real estate prices remaining buoyant, it seems likely



that Nimbin will remain a popular choice for investment and lifestyle relocation.

Peter Robinson, of Nimbin

Lifestyle Real Estate said, "Prior to Christmas, property sales were strong, both in town and rural. Locally, we're still kicking goals."



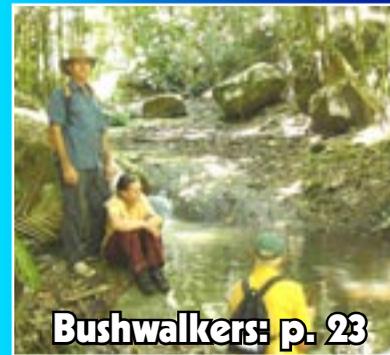
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