

# Nimbin celebrates Aussie Day, its way



Nimbinites observed the national holiday this year in ways as diverse and colourful as the community itself.

For some, like Adam Bell and friend Fiona Couch (left), it was a patriotic affair at the Nimbin Bowlo barbie. For others like Andy and Lorraine Keen (in lead kombi, above), it meant hosting a bash for the Kombi Club of Australia on their property (more, page 3).

While the mob in Mingle Park made light work of the BBQ put on by Nimbin Museum, the Hip-Hop crews battled it out at the Lismore PCYC (see page 6), and the four-day Bundjalung People's Gathering on the Washpool River was winding up.

Of course, there was music a-plenty in Nimbin throughout the long weekend: twin-drummer Melbourne band *A Planet in Space* at the pub; a huge Saturday rock gig at Tunttable Hall (see page 7); and acoustic Celtic folk at the Bowlo on the Monday. Diverse.

Other Nimbinites were at the Tent Embassy in Canberra for Sovereignty Day (see page 6), where Graeme Dunstan was struck by the many young people and young families dressed in Aussie flags, as capes, or as prints on shorts, halter tops and T-shirts, or stickers on cheeks.

"The Union Jack to me is the international symbol of white supremacy," he said. "It gave me the neo-fascist willies." Yep, diverse.

## Meanwhile, back at the war on drugs...

The start of February has heralded a new operation of the cannabis eradication program around Nimbin.

In the first two days, helicopter raids were made on the communities of Moondani, Nmbng, Lilyfield and Billen Cliffs as well as locations in the Border Ranges.

The below-the-treeline search of the Nmbng community lasted two hours, and the helicopter was seen flying past with a bundle being

carried underneath. On Billen Cliffs, three police 4WDs accompanied the chopper, one of which resisted attempts to winch it out of a gully after the driver apparently lost control.

HEMP Embassy spokesperson Michael Balderstone said, "What do these raids achieve?"

"Once again the chopper raids are targeting the hippie communities, and the locals are furious about it.

"It is not possible to grow big,

commercial crops on communities, and the police know this. Hippies are nearly always growing for personal use.

"Just what damage do the hippies growing pot do?"

"This so-called war on drugs is responsible for more of our youth smoking indoor, hydroponically-grown pot, full of chemicals, in a state of fear – the very opposite of how cannabis should be viewed and used."

