

For those who came in late
Jungle Patrollers,

Thank you for all your hard work. We were a small but very dedicated crew. It was a pleasure to be part of such a good team of hard-core volunteers. Special thanks to our traffic controllers.

A big thank you also to all our businesses from all of us at Jungle Patrol. Without your continuous support over the years, we would not be able to function. Thank you for keeping us fed and watered from the bottom of our tummies.



– Heidi Glover



Thanks

This pictorial liftout was made possible by these photographers: Marie Cameron, Chris Harris, Thorsten Jones, Moira Kenny, Pat MacDonald, Garry Mimlich, Lynne Oldfield, Greg Soward, Andrew Speers, and Sue Stock.

Their effort, skill and generosity is greatly appreciated. Also thanks to the MardiGrass Organising Body for a job well done – Eds.

Next MardiGrass:
Sat-Sun 1st & 2nd May, 2010



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May Day in San Salvador



by Warwick Fry

The first of May means different things to different people. To some it means dancing around a 'Maypole' in a half remembered semi-pagan fertility ritual to ensure, or welcome, the arrival of Spring in the European region of the Northern Hemisphere. To others – mainly in northern New South Wales, it means carrying a five meter long cigar-shaped object down the main street of a small country town in the belief that it will magically bring about drug law reform and ensure the integrity of a locally grown crop.

But for hundreds of millions of workers around the world, May Day marks the event that brought about international demands for the eight hour day – a strike and lockout in Chicago in 1886 – that ended with police repression, violence, deaths, and further repression of workers. The eight-hour day enforced recognition that labor was part of the fabric of society.

In El Salvador, May Day is a big event. The difference between those who believe that workers are there for jobs, and an intelligent, hard working population that knows jobs should be there for workers is the reason. Polarisation. In the 1980s I saw May Day marches that were buzzed by helicopters, and the marchers burned buses in retaliation for paramilitary bombings of Union offices. It was an expression of discursive violence.

This year was different (the former guerilla movement had won the Presidency and marchers were not confronting a hostile police and military). The President elect, Mauricio Funes came down and addressed the marchers in a rally in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral. Some things were the same. Twenty years of neo-liberal government by the crypto-fascist ARENA party means that people still have to be careful of their jobs. While in the eighties people wore masks or disguised their faces so that they couldn't be identified by Death Squads. Nowadays, a young student told me, they wore masks so that it wouldn't prejudice future job prospects or current employment. Many bosses will sack an employee they

believe has 'left wing' tendencies.

There was always an element of theatre to temper the banners and flags in Salvadoran May Day marches, but this year (with the relief of an FMLN President) was more than an element. Jugglers, Clowns, guys with outrageous dreads, and drummers, satirical floats, and a festivity that was reminiscent of a Nimbin MardiGrass.

And tactics, the street tactics ... changing with time! I was (as I often am) timewarped in El Salvador, observing the same things I observed the first time I arrived here in 1979 – street marches, banners, slogans, chants, masks, and graffiti. On that first visit to San Salvador, I was struck by the palimpsest of graffiti on every wall, telephone pole, bus, or billboard (particularly those advertising US multinationals, or their products). They were often cryptic to the outsider ... the acronyms of popular organisations, movements and parties. But they were everywhere, layer upon layer.

So no street march in San Salvador is complete without the graffiti. This year the 'graffiti brigade' were, I kid you not, an organised group of anarchist punks. Tattoos, studs, belts, chains, braces, shaved heads or mohawks, Ramones and Sex Pistol T-shirts ... the lot!. I assumed that they were the radical wing of the student union. No buses were burned this year but the huge police presence (far higher than in the days of the civil war, when they tended to make themselves scarce during large scale popular marches) seemed to be aimed at confiscating spray cans and busting graffiti sloganeers.

Another sign of the times, and adaptation to new technologies. Some of the graffiti 'vandals' toted skateboards and roller blades to enable quick getaways from attempted police busts.

They'd hunker down, have a toke (it smelt like good gear) and then do a run chanting, to distract attention from the graffiti artists. Cool dudes. Can't help wondering though, how they picked up on all that early eighties subcultural stuff. Weird, But that's El Salvador. You often feel as if you are immersed in layered histories that hold you within a surreal moment.

Easter @ Lake Cowal: RESURRECTION OF RESISTANCE



by Graeme Dunstan
Peacebus.com

When the cops came, I was upside down in my undies, yoga-ing in the morning sun and the Dalai Lama was chanting on the CD player. A car drew up behind while I was in a shoulder stand and the sound of its perfectly tuned engine told me it was not a protest vehicle.

"Good morning, Graeme," said a gentle and familiar voice and, when I rolled down, there was Sgt. Ken Dale, Team Leader of West Wyalong Police, a big man with an oddly impish face.

At ease, I sat on my mat. "Have you come to serve a warrant?" I asked lightly, thinking this would have to be the perfect state of body and mind to be receiving notice of state initiated hostilities.

"Not a warrant," he said making himself at ease on a nearby log. "I wouldn't do that to you." It was mischievous irony - he had done just that a year before.

We both knew he had come about the events of the previous day, Easter Sunday, when my fellow defenders of Lake Cowal and I shut down the Barrick Gold mine there for a couple of hours.

In particular he had come about the Cyanide Watch, 6am shift-change blockade

of the Mine gate. In his hand he held the charge papers. Beware of cops bearing papers.

The Facts of the Charge as he, Sgt. Dale, had recorded them, and as I was later to read, said that by parking across the entrance gate I had for the 50 minutes it took for the cops to arrive, obstructed 17 vehicles including a bus and 60 workers all up trying to get in, and 6 vehicles and 25 workers trying to get out.

But I wanted to stay off topic. "Twenty eight arrests and just five officers. I'm impressed."

"Win-win," said he. "You did what you had to do. We did what we had to do. Nobody hurt, no aggro."

The arrests referred to occurred after some 50 young protesters assembled around Wiradjuri elder, Uncle Chappy Williams and his Wiradjuri comrades, Les and Carole Glass-Pattison, outside the rear gate of the mine. There they conducted a smoking ceremony and, followed by 28 protesters, they climbed over the gate, brushed past the Mine security and their rolling cameras and walked upon the vast, bruised and desolate landscape of the mine site.

A lockdown for Barrick Gold!

Most of those who walked on with Chappy had stayed together and, when

challenged by the cops had surrendered at once and as a group, been loaded onto a bus, charged and processed on site and returned to the protest camp by that same bus. Action over and done by 9am.

They had entered the site at the invitation of Chappie Williams, Wiradjuri elder, native title claimant to the never ceded land on which the Toronto based Barrick Gold corporation, biggest gold producer in the world, digs and poisons water. For Chappie it was an assertion of the constitutionally right of all Australians to practise their religion.

The authority of the Wiradjuri leadership was challenged neither by the Barrick management nor the cops. Uncontested Chappie, Les and Caroline walked on and off the site bearing their coolum of fire. Those that had waited there welcomed them eager for stories.

But all the rest of the walk-on-ers were arrested for being on enclosed lands without authority of the owner, Barrick Gold. An interesting challenge for the courts and, given past precedents, it is unlikely that the Miner's authority will be upheld.

Chappie commented on the respectful and measured police response and said: "I reckon were are winning."

"Will you be promoted for your good work?" I asked Sgt. Dale..

"I don't want promotion, Graeme," he replied. "I am happy serving where I am. I want to be out on the road."

By which I understood him to mean, out on the road like me, engaged in community interaction like me and, I guessed, meeting people like my comrades and me, being challenged and responding to challenges in a win-win, uplifting way.

We are all walking, talking skin bags of water, I reckon, and the cyanide crimes of the gold mining industry are as much a fundamental offense to cops and their families as they are to you and me and future generations too.

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To the dust!

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The problem with climate change deniers

by Giovanni Ebono

Discredited Geologist, Ian Plimer, has received undue publicity for his latest regurgitation of the fossil fuel industry's favourite arguments denying global warming. Despite the lack of any new evidence, the paid up lobbyist has received support from a range of vested interests including the current executive of the National Farmers Federation (NFF). That organisation is engaged in a high risk bid to sell membership to agribusiness companies, despite widespread opposition from small farmers. Backing Plimer would appear to be a way to indicate support for the multinational corporations and polarise the membership before the crucial vote at the national conference in Brisbane. It is a ploy that could backfire.

Despite having been discredited a number of times, geologist Ian Plimer is making media waves and lots of money from his dogged opposition of the basic facts on climate change. With no qualifications in meteorology, climatology or hydrology, Plimer trots out the regular arguments used by the fossil fuel lobby. They are that most carbon dioxide in the atmosphere comes from geological events, that on a geological time frame we are due for a period of cooling rather than warming, and that on short-term time frame trends in the last decade do not show consistent warming. In fact, until last year they showed distinct cooling, but the hottest summer on record in 2009 has blown that furphy and reduced its prominence in the denier's standard spiel.

All these facts are true, but they have absolutely nothing to do with the evidence on global warming. The impact of human output of carbon dioxide is not significant compared to the swings in atmospheric concentrations of the gas over geological epochs, but it is remarkably significant over a time frame measured in centuries. Similarly, the galactic cycles that affect solar influence on the earth's climate and the geological cycles that are measured in hundreds of thousands of years, may far outweigh the puny influence that living organisms have on the earth, but our life span and our influence is limited to the scale of individual centuries not thousands of them.

To jump from a scale of hundreds of thousands of years to a scale of individual years and then say, the long term picture and the short term picture, both show that climate science is wrong, is not only bad statistics, it is invalid science. The weather in individual years is almost useless in predicting trends and merely highlight the difference between the weather and the climate. Plimer has simply hunted for any evidence that runs counter to the overwhelming weight of evidence showing that human greenhouse emissions are damaging the earth.

It is always difficult, and dangerous, to attribute motives, but Plimer is not only receiving money and publicity directly from his denial of climate change, he is allied with the Canadian group, the Natural Resources Stewardship Project which refuses to confirm or deny whether its funding comes substantially from energy companies, but which has three directors who are executives of the High Park Advocacy Group, a lobby group working on behalf of energy companies. He is also an Associate of the Institute of Public Affairs, a right wing policy group with connections to the extreme dries in the Liberal Party that has published policy positions advocating privatisation, deregulation, reduction in the power of unions and denial of most significant environmental problems, including climate change.

The entire notion of balance in reporting has been abused by lobby groups from tobacco in the sixties, through star wars in the eighties to climate deniers now. If every extremist was given equal time to put their opinion on every item in the news, news bulletins would take hours and would be dominated by the rantings of extremists all demanding equal time. It is up to editors to decide what is fair on the basis of the evidence and community values, rather than let well backed publicists promote extreme views simply by demanding balance.

For the National Farmers Federation to promote Plimer's contribution to the debate as a blow for balance is disingenuous at best and will be judged by most as deliberately misleading. Either way, it paints the organisation into a corner, which is not in the best interests of its broadest membership base, farmers, from which it will be almost impossible to escape. Accepting the facts on global warming and working on new pasture and land management techniques to reduce methane production and biosequester carbon are what the world and the traditional membership of the NFF needs. To come out backing a lobbyist for the fossil fuel sector indicates the extreme positions that the current NFF leadership is prepared to adopt to court the agribusiness companies from which it hopes to get most of its money in the future. The fact that two state organisations have already deserted the once powerful lobby group on the basis of its support for agribusiness at the expense of the farmer on the land, indicates how thoroughly it has lost its way.

To back a discredited gun for hire, who has been publicly shamed so many times indicates that it has lost its media savvy as well. The NFF could well lose the vote at next month's national conference to allow agribusiness companies in as paid up members. If it does, the current leadership will also be on the line. Backing Plimer is a high-risk bid to polarise the membership. It might well backfire.

Reflections on Gratitude: Dr Denise Perroux

by Mogens Holt

According to Chambers Dictionary, gratitude is a warm and friendly feeling towards a benefactor, and a benefactor: someone who does good things to others. Now, the question is: How often do we express our gratitude towards the people who make our lives easy and sustainable? In the case of service providers, perhaps we reckon that payment for their services is enough.

One thing is certain – far too often our gratitude is expressed too late. So let us, the good folk of Nimbin and its surrounds, who have more than our fair share of benefactors, express our gratitude to some of these people, while they are still around.

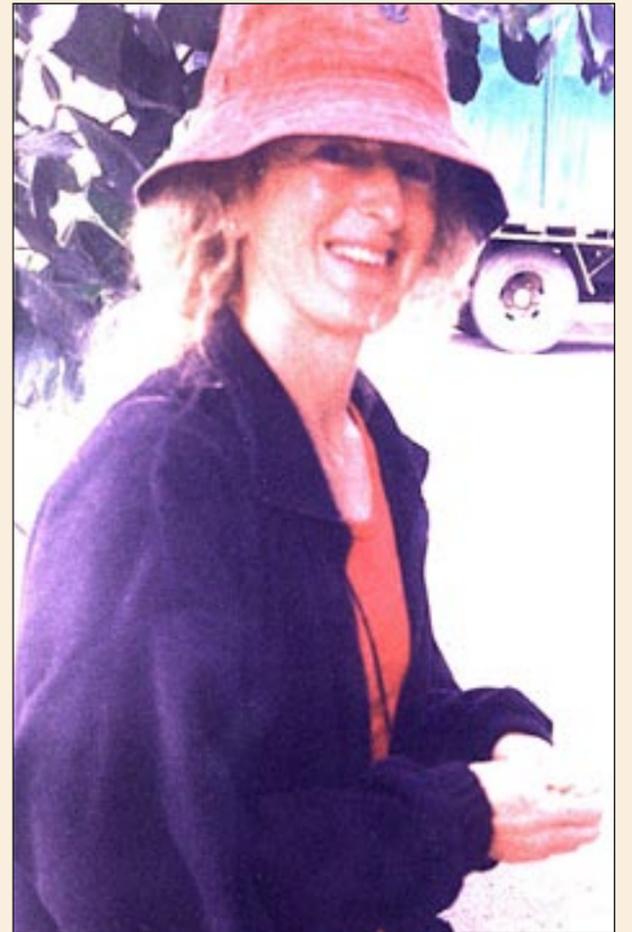
In this issue, let us concentrate on that general all-round medical ray of sunshine, Dr Denise Perroux, and learn of her life journey, in her own words.

Born on 4th July, I grew up in the rural southern tablelands and truly felt at home in the vast spaces under the sky, and with nature, where I had much opportunity to imbibe her wisdom.

“Being born on American Independence day made me value independence, a feeling that was further nurtured by my grandmother, who lived six months of the year in Queensland and the rest of the year down south, with no man to tell her what, or what not to do.

“I observed the adults around me working five days a week, often in jobs they did not enjoy, and decided there and then, “I’ll work only 2-3 days per week, and be free to enjoy the splendour and beauty of creation for the rest of the time.

“My family was based in



Canberra, but also resided in Thailand, where I enjoyed camping holidays, when the usual injunctions of domesticity were suspended, adding to my decision to pursue a simple and free style of living.

“I studied medicine in Sydney while being highly influenced by Asian modes of healing. Learnt acupuncture and yoga – my first husband was an acupuncturist – and visited India, the Middle east and Indonesia – second husband was from Bali. Learnt much about the art of healing and spirituality from the Balinese, which helped me greatly after the death of my only son, enabling me to turn Tragic into magic via yoga.

“Later I became drawn to Nimbin, and bought land on a community, cultivating and harvesting organic, home-grown food. I also nurtured my fondness for reading and listening to music as well as playing piano, flute and recorder. I have learnt karate and teach yoga, as well as attending

to my practice as a G.P. in Nimbin.

“I have bought horses and have made many valued contacts with young people and their families through riding along beautiful trails across open paddocks; rainforest trails with stunning vistas and gorgeous swimming holes worthy of an Esther Williams movie. I also enjoy scuba-diving, surfing, snorkelling and seaside frolicking.

“Although happiness, health and friendships, and a general feeling of harmony with my surroundings are deeply felt priorities, I am also – strange as it may sound – prepared at any time to depart this physical world.”

Without fear of contradiction, it must be said that many of us who have enjoyed the healing ministrations of our dear benefactor, Dr Denise, fervently wish that her date of departure will be a long time off.

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by Lorraine Vass

Just before Christmas, University of Queensland paleontologist, Dr Gilbert Price announced to an unsuspecting world that the modern koala is not a dwarf version of the giant prehistoric koala, but a separate species.

Dr Price's analysis of the fossil record found between 300,000 and 500,000 years ago, both big (20-30kg) and small (10kg) koalas were co-existing, living in the same areas at the same time.

His findings have brought into question the well-established 'dwarfing hypothesis' which developed to explain the body-size relationship between extinct Pleistocene mammalian megafauna and smaller-sized, similar-looking, modern-day animals. They also suggest that the debate about why Australia's megafauna became extinct needs to be revisited.

For those with an interest in koala conservation, the issue of relevance is understanding why one koala species survived past 50,000 years ago and the other didn't.

"It's absolutely critical that we can find the answers to such questions, and that we find them soon as it'll go a long way in the planning of management strategies to

conserve the modern koala well into the future," Dr Gilbert said.

Modern koalas are clearly survivors. They must be to have hung on through wave after wave of climate and environmental change over half a million years.

So why is their future of such concern now? Well, it comes down to us. As a society we don't show very much if any respect for species other than our own.

Not so very long ago we tolerated the mass slaughter of koalas for their skins. More than 2 million pelts were estimated to have been exported in 1924 alone. Eventual public repugnance drove some legislative protection.

Conservation management has been made complex by our land-use needs. Whilst wildlife policies are the responsibility of the States, such was the concern for the koala's numbers, welfare and conservation that in 1996 a National Koala Conservation Strategy was drafted. It was signed in 1998 by the Commonwealth, States and Territories.

In 2006 the decision was made to review the Strategy and its implementation. The work resulted in the Review of progress in implementing the 1998 National Koala

Conservation Strategy published in September 2008 by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The report found that whilst the Strategy was and is a good framework for the conservation and management of koalas, it was not properly implemented, there being little evidence to demonstrate that it had driven any of the decade's advances. Put simply, the recognition, promotion, funding and leadership required to ensure the Strategy's success were lacking.

A new Strategy will soon be available for public comment. We can be sure that it will encompass the emerging issues of climate change, genetics, koala retrovirus as well as improved co-ordination and prioritising of research.

There must also be the political will to inject strong leadership so that the Strategy is widely understood and funded to ensure co-ordinated and effective conservation endeavour at the local level. Anything less will see it up that well-known gum-tree.

Koala conservation on the Northern Rivers will be the focus of the forthcoming Conference being presented by Friends of the Koala on Friday 22 May in the Whitebrook Theatre, on Southern Cross University's Lismore Campus (see below).

Information about koalas and Friends of the Koala (including the Koala Conference) is available at: www.friendsofthekoala.org or email info@friendsofthekoala.org or phone Friends of the Koala's (24/7) Rescue Hotline: 6622-1233.

Until next time, happy koala spotting!

It's Official: Unsustainable logging subsidised by taxpayer

Logging of native forests in North-east NSW is both unsustainable and running at a loss according to a report by the NSW Audit Office released this week. (<http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au>)

Susie Russell, long time coordinator with the North East Forest Alliance said the report validates what the Alliance has been saying for many years.

"It cost the taxpayer \$14.4 million dollars last year for our forests to be over-logged. This is not including indirect subsidies or the cost to our long-term water supplies, catchment health, carbon banks and biodiversity.

"The Audit Office report verifies that logging is occurring at a greater pace than regeneration. Forests NSW are having trouble finding the wood for their contracts and are buying from private property. The logging industry in north-east NSW has no long-term future.

"Forests NSW has failed to check its estimated timber supplies against actual volumes obtained, or to update its estimates based on areas that have already been logged as required by various Forest Agreements. A criticism that has been leveled by environment groups for many years.

"The Audit report also sheds a little light on the secret wood supply deals that have been done and confirms that the only way supplies to logging companies can be reduced is by paying massive amounts of compensation," she said.



Brush Box
Lobostemon confertus

"It cites one example where FNSW paid more than half a million dollars to buy out 34,000 cubic metres of timber – a small fraction of the committed volumes. This indicates that the full cost of the contracts to the public – should supply fail – will be immense.

"Logging our native forests is actually an impost on the public purse. The taxpayer is effectively locked in to paying 'money for nothing' to big logging companies.

"It is now abundantly clear that our forests are not in the 'safe hands' we are told, nor are they managed for the long-term benefit of the people of NSW. They should be managed as carbon sinks, biodiversity stores and water reservoirs. Mining them for timber is no longer acceptable.

"There must now be a thorough, independent inquiry into the special deals for logging companies in north-eastern NSW. It is time for some light to penetrate the 20 year wood supply contracts – which still remain secret and kept from all public scrutiny.

"It is time for some genuine accountability. Our internationally significant forests must be given the protection they deserve," Ms Russell said.

OBSERVING NATURE



WITH MICHAEL SMITH

May happenings:

- Guavas are finished.
- Clothes Moths in the cupboard.
- Peak time for meteor showers.
- Navels and other citrus ripen.
- Many species of bird migrate north to avoid winter.
- Eels return to the sea to breed.
- Southern Cross is high in the evening sky.
- Dingos mate.
- Look for the smaller male spider at the edge of the web of the Golden Orb Spider.
- Scaly Breasted Lorikeets squabble over blooms, whilst Noisy Miners try to defend their territory.
- Sunshine Wattle in bloom.
- White lerp form on bushes.
- Tadpoles hatch in freshwater ponds.
- Leaf Skeletoniser Caterpillars nibble on gum leaves.
- Humpback Whales seen heading north from now until August.
- Antechinus babies disperse from their maternal home ranges.
- Brush-tail Possums are born.
- Baby Quolls are born, the first six to attach to a nipple will survive.

Michael Smith has been observing nature's cycles for over 25 years.

Northern Rivers conference to tackle koala recovery policy

The International Day for Biological Diversity, Friday 22nd May 2009, will see Friends of the Koala presenting a one-day conference on koala protection and conservation issues with a Northern Rivers focus.

A mix of papers and presentations by academics, a practising ecologist, an environmental lawyer, a wildlife

veterinarian and researcher, and wildlife rehabilitators will set the scene for the development of an action agenda to take to all three levels of government.

Friends of the Koala President, Lorraine Vass said, "The Federal government's *Review of Progress in Implementing the 1998 National Koala Conservation Strategy* and the

State government's *Recovery Plan for the Koala*, both released within the past six months, are significant for their promise of a re-think in koala conservation policy.

"The timing is right for them to hear what those who are working with wild koalas and dealing with habitat protection every day, have to say and what actions they think

governments need to take."

The Koala Conservation Conference will be held at the Whitebrook Theatre, Southern Cross University (Lismore Campus) on Friday 22nd May, starting at 9am. It will attract koala and other wildlife carers, environmental activists, veterinarians, elected representatives, government

agencies, academics and researchers, planners and other practitioners, and the interested general public.

Registration forms are available on Friends of the Koala's website: www.friendsofthekoala.org or at the Koala Care Centre in Rifle Range Road, East Lismore. Enquiries can be directed to the President on 6629-8388.

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The relentless march of the cane toad takes its toll on wildlife



by Coralie Summerton

I live at the North end of Tuntabla Falls, adjacent to world heritage sub-tropical rainforest (Mt. Nardi). Early one morning, I walked outside my front door and saw to my horror, my resident goanna who I have known for many years, dead, with an enormous toad lying dead beside it and another one clamped in its mouth.

I was so upset because I never thought the cane toads would get here because of the rough terrain and lack of cleared lawn areas, and I

thought my goannas had a safe haven here at my house.

I rang Parks and Wildlife and they said the toads can be brought in by trucks and builders on building sites, and that goannas do roam a lot, so maybe my goanna had brought the toads in from another place further away. I mentioned Mt. Nardi and was told that there are a few toad traps laid there, and they only catch a few, but the other day a friend of mine from Mt Nardi said she saw an enormous toad sitting on the edge of the Pholis Gap walk next to the spinifex, and she believes they are coming

in from the Doon Doon side (cleared farmlands).

She took it home and put it in the freezer.

The last edition of NGT has a request in it from the Environment Centre for people to be part of a Cane Toad Busters group. It is not yet formed as a group, but many people I talk to say they have a problem with toads, from Coffee Camp to Nimbin and further.

National Parks and Wildlife offered me one trap for next summer for my place, but it all seems so futile when they are everywhere around the area.



The goannas do not have a chance any more, nor do the black snakes – they are also dying. They are being replaced by brown snakes, which are really dangerous.

Normally the black snakes keep the browns away, by eating their eggs and young

and being territorial. Brown snakes have been seen recently on the pathways of Pholis Walk at Mt Nardi, rearing up to confront any walker. It used to be a safe walk, now anything goes, thanks to the cane toad.

If anyone wants to find out more about starting the Cane Toad Busters group, see Venessa at the Nimbin Environment Centre. She is organising a freezer to be put there for humanely putting the toads to rest. If anyone has a plan for how to tackle this urgent problem, please leave it at the Nimbin Environment Centre.

Bustin' toads

by Jak Murphy

At the Nimbin Environment Centre, we are often asked for advice about cane toad removal, not an easy question to answer if we discount the baseball bat solution on humanitarian (toadarian) grounds.

The volunteers at the centre do not have the time to undertake toad busting on a full time basis and are therefore looking for an enthusiastic, mature, knowledgeable individual to manage and co-ordinate the programme. What we will do is to provide a freezer, nighttime access to the premises where the freezer

is stored and even some spectacular 'Toad Buster' t-shirts.

Our vision is that a coordinator will organise a group of volunteers to hunt down and slaughter the pesky blighters, no, no, sorry about the violent language. The toad bustin' group will make regular nightly forays into specific areas where they will gently gather all visible buffo's, these will be carefully placed in suitable containers and then transferred to the freezer where they will enter the pleasant state of pre-death hibernation and eventually die. There is already someone local who has offered to recycle



moribund toads through his compost.

If you want to be part of this worthwhile project please contact Venessa through the centre shop at 54 Cullen Street, phone 6689-1441. Obviously after all the fabulous rain we have been enjoying the toads are thriving, so the need is urgent.

More doings at the Nimbin Environment Centre

We recently repainted the shop and rearranged the interior so it now brighter and more welcoming to entice the expected influx of customers during Mardi-Grass.

Sophie has repainted one of the outside signs originally done by Benny Zable many years ago, the sign looks great and the other one will soon be redone. Sophie has also undertaken to paint a banner for the shop which will define our purpose as an Environment Centre, thank you Sophie for these wonderful donations.

Another interesting thing is that two of the members of our committee have undertaken to pay for office space to be the Environment Centre media office, NEMO (behind the 'Frog Door' on Cullen Street). This will be a place for Nina to do our computer work and eventually set up an online sales outlet for the shop.

Also we are having a garage sale at the squash centre on Shipway Road on the third weekend in May. If you have goods to donate for sale please come into the shop or call us for collection. The yard sale we had late last year was well supported by the community and raised enough funds to make the effort worthwhile. Thanks to the Nimbin community for your continuing support.

– Jak

Conservation Course to be run again in Nimbin

With the success of the current Certificate II in Conservation & Land Management course ACE – Lismore Community College will be commencing another course on 25th June.



The course, which is fully funded under the Productivity Places Program, will be conducted Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.30am to 3pm over 18 weeks, and is open to anyone who is currently seeking employment.

An Information Day will be held on Thursday 11th June at 10.30am, phone ACE Lismore on 6622-1903 for more info and enrolments.

9/56 Year Cycle: RECENT ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE

By David McMinn

Last month I covered the 9/56 year cycle found in patterns of Californian earthquakes. The recent event in Abruzzo, north-east of Rome occurred in a similar pattern of the 9/56 year cycle, an outcome that was of great interest.

What is the 9/56 year cycle you may well ask? It consists of a grid – 56 years down and 9 years across – in which various seismic and financial events can fall with statistical significance.

The 9/56 Year Seismic Cycle

The US Geological Survey listed 17 major Italian seismic events (mag => 5.9) since the mid 17th

century. Of this figure, 10 occurred in the 8.6 months ended April 6 of those years in Table 1, where as only 2.6 would have been expected by chance.

Table 1 (at right) comprised only 15% of the complete 9/56 grid, but contained 59% of all major Italian earthquakes.

Numerous record quakes in south western USA were experienced in the 56 year Sequences 34, 43 and 52 (NGT, April 09, p 21). Interestingly, the two biggest Italian quakes also happened in the same 9/56 pattern (September 8, 1905. mag 7.9 and January 13, 1915. mag 7.5), as did the record quake for Western Europe (the Great Lisbon quake. Nov 1, 1755. mag 9.0).

Sq	Sq	Sq	Sq											
45	34	43	52	05	14	23	32	41	50	03	12	21	30	39
				1653	1662	1671	1680	1689	1698	1707	1716			
1672	1682	1691	1700	1709	1718	1727	1736	1745	1754	1763	1772			
1748	1738	1747	1756	1765	1774	1783	1792	1801	1810	1819	1828			
1785	1794	1803	1812	1821	1830	1839	1848	1857	1866	1875	1884			
1841	1850	1859	1868	1877	1886	1895	1904	1913	1922	1931	1940			
1897	1906	1915	1924	1933	1942	1951	1960	1969	1978	1987	1996			
1953	1962	1971	1980	1989	1998									
2005														

The 56 year sequences in the table are separated by an interval of 9 years. Dates expressed as YYYYMMDD. Years in bold contained the biggest Italian earthquakes in the 8.6 months ended April 6 of the years in the table.

In Summary

How the Moon Sun tides impact upon the seismic cycles remains puzzling. Hopefully, seismologists can solve the problem at some stage

and publish their findings, but this is unlikely to happen anytime soon, unfortunately.

Moon Sun cycles will give windows when major earthquakes

were most likely to occur. This could be used in conjunction with other techniques to refine earthquake prediction more accurately.

Italian scientist, Gioacchio Guiliani, did foresee the recent Abruzzo event after he detected rising levels of radon gas, often a precursor to an earthquake. The authorities thought the guy was stirring trouble and made him take his warning off the internet. Thus the populace was not forewarned, and over 280 people were killed as a direct consequence.

PS. A recent paper was published on the 56 year Moon Sun cycle and earthquakes in Far Eastern Russia. If interested google: gusev and "56 year cycle".

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