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Catching on. Commander Bruce Lyons and artist Elspeth Jones.

Politely does it

The Polite Force is fast becoming one of the most successful propaganda weapons that Nimbin cannabis activists have ever dreamed up. How successful? Highly!

No matter where you went during MardiGrass 09, any time day or night, everywhere you cared to look you could see a Polite hat, or a member of the Polite Force staging a succession of what were in essence, and by design, avant-garde tableaux vivants.

With each tableau capturing the Police-Polite message, thousands of

photographs of the Polite Force are now in the public domain on facebook and youtube, and becoming a global phenomenon, with Polite Force members springing up in many other places around the world.

To deal with the record number of enquiries, the Polite Cannabis Activists have opened a Polite Bureau in Nimbin, giving the Hemp Bar a new lease of life with an artistic paint job, a coffee machine and barista, and a growing membership.

Polite Bureau Chief Max Stone (pictured above) said, "The Polites are dedicated



to reminding the universe of how it all could be. Much friendlier than it is."

At a recent outing to meet the Governor General in Lismore, Nimbin's Polite members were handing out

lamingtons and hempseed "dog biscuits" when the Local Area Commander Bruce Lyons suggested a photograph (at left) with the friendly female Polite next to him, none other than the new Nimbin Museum leaseholder, Elspeth Jones.

Apparently, neither knew who the other was.

To bridge that gap, the Nimbin station of the NSW Police Force will be hosting a community BBQ on Monday 13th July, from 11.30am to 1pm, in front of the Police Station.

All are welcome, including kids; politeness expected.

Revamped Mulgum House is multi-tasked

With glowing tributes for the Nimbin people who fought for Mulgum House to stay open, Mayor Jenny Dowell and MultiTask CEO Graham Mapstone officially opened the refitted Mulgum House on Friday 12th June.

Cr Dowell recalled the time when the independent accommodation facility was "in threat of closing down", and Faye Scherf, a member of the original committee to establish Mulgum House said, "Thanks to Len and Sonia for not bowing to the eviction order (from the Dept. Community Housing's then-manager, AngliCare)."

"They stayed put - otherwise it would have been sold," she said.

Mulgum House is now funded by the NSW Dept of Disability and Aged Care, and managed by the Lismore-based MultiTask Human Resource Foundation Ltd, which provides training and support



services for people with disabilities on the NSW North Coast.

MultiTask team leader Rod Conroy has driven the implementation which, after several years of negotiations, saw a move-in notification in August last year,

with the first new residents arriving in October.

The facility now has a unique structure, housing three aged tenants and seven MultiTask clients, with staff working in shifts on a fortnightly roster, one always

staying overnight.

Mr Conroy said, "There's a synergy between aged people and people with intellectual disabilities."

"Len has his evening meal in the dining room, and reads to people there," he said. "The proximity to town is also a real bonus."

MultiTask client Tom James, who was among those who cut ribbons to their units said, "They're nice people, nice staff, I like living here."

Cr Dowell responded to her warm welcome, "Thank you for inviting me to your palace," which aptly summed up the impressions of all in attendance.

Main picture: The seven new residents (at front) with relatives, staff and friends.

At right (top to bottom): Faye Scherf and Rod Conroy; Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell; after the morning tea and speeches, Les cuts the ribbon to his much-admired residence.



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