

Jungle Patrol Replies

I was not going to dignify a response to Mr Dunstan's asinine, malicious, and narcissistic article aimed at the Jungle Patrol in the last issue of the NGT.

However, I feel that as one of the many VOLUNTEERS who put their time in, year after year, at Mardi Grass, I should provide an explanation of the Jungle Patrol's (JP) function in the weekend's events, and a response to the vacuous insinuations put forward by Mr Dunstan in that article.

Firstly, the comment that we (the JP) are rude, obstructive, violent, and/or threatening, and equal to the Melbourne S11 protests are ridiculous and unfounded. It is based on an incident created by Mr Dunstan's inability to communicate with one of the JP co-ordinators and converse with the Police.

Subsequently a violent action was delivered to this co-ordinator by Mr Dunstan while trying to relay a message to him from the Police (Regional Commander). The reason that we had to deliver this message is because Mr Dunstan had made himself conveniently unavailable to liaise with the Police as "Mardi Grass Parade Master" prior to the march.

Out of this incident, Mr Dunstan has it in his mind

to denigrate all the good work and efforts put in by local, regional, national and international volunteers over the years. Any insinuation that we put ourselves above others, and have the special powers of the emergency services is fanciful and out of some conspiracy-fiction novel he read, no doubt, when he was in the 60's.

Secondly, our purpose (the JP) at the Mardi Grass is to reduce the impact of the event on the local community by, providing a central communication cover for the event (MG Admin, Peace Park, Traffic Control, Chill-out space, Show Grounds Admin, Parking, the Polite Force (who did the most magic job-you guys rock) etc.) First Aid, MG information, badly parked cars, lost children, lost parents, abandoned tourists, finding organisers, crowd control, ensuring local access to hospital, ensuring access for Fire and Ambulance Services when called upon as well as a myriad of other situations that emerge over a Mardi Grass weekend.

It is our (JP) responsibility to respond to any emergency (on Mardi Grass weekends) by the mere fact that, the JP operates, primarily, the full CB & Mobile communications for the MG event, and, as such we have an obligation, and duty of care to respond to any

incidents that presented themselves over the duration of the MG weekend (and in my recollection over the years, we've done a pretty good job so far).

And we didn't have the usual Security backup this year as we usually do for all the unfortunate events that DO happen over MG. Funds are usually allocated and funded by the LCC for the event. But not this year, and, for some reason, no allocation in the Mardi Grass budget for security for the weekend (10-15,000+ people). More pressure, but, a credit to ALL MG 09 volunteers on the weekend who took it on (after hours and the rest).

Thirdly, your insidious comment that the JP is aligned with the Police and Political jam, is just another slap in the face of all those JP volunteers who participated. For your information the JP are not the mouthpiece or enforcers for you, the NSW Police, Lismore City Council, or anyone else's bloody political leanings. We are non aligned and apolitical. It is not our place to jump in and deliver your kind of confrontation or rhetoric. We (the JP) are there to provide a safe environment for our community (who endure a lot over the MG every year) and visitors alike.

By the way, who voted you in as our "Nimbin Peace Representative". Why do you continue to bring weight upon our community when you don't really see anything but the periphery of the repercussions of the dialogue you emanate. How could you when you're out there

pontificating to the masses?

OK, going back to the first issue with Mr Dunstan. At first our co-ordinator (a female) tried to pass on very relevant information to himself and the MG committee to consider, because it concerned the MG March and start time. The co-ordinator was presented with a very aggressive hand in the face and told to f**k off. Talk about shooting the messenger.

Then just prior to the march, an incident occurred and witnessed, that the same co-ordinator was manhandled then pushed into the bonnet of a car by Mr Dunstan because he would not allow her to get a car through the gathering of marchers into Cecil St. He asked that the car reverse against all traffic on the road (back down Cecil St). Not practical, given there was traffic backed up 1/2 Km.

The road closure DA does not close the road until 2.30pm and this incident was about 2.15pm. He (Mr Dunstan) wanted it (the car) to reverse back (with many cars behind! I mean hello!), through the marchers thus causing a possible dangerous situation. This was most inappropriate to say the least.

Immediately after the incident, traffic was resumed to relieve any backup of traffic, which was quite substantial at the time. This direction was controlled by the JP's, RFS Traffic Controllers (yes! volunteers) who come in every year to do traffic control for the event (as Traffic Controllers, responsible for the MG March site).

By the way, the Mardi Grass March was delayed due to someone having an asthma attack at the Police Station with an ambulance in attendance. Sorry, not the Jungle Patrol's fault.

The patient got to go where they needed with the right care, assisted by our traffic controllers.

Thankfully, it was a great March.

Finally now that I have vented my spleen, I would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time for the running of the event.

The MG Committee, event volunteers, Chill out zone carers (unreal), the Polite Force who were awesome, Nimbin RFS, Nimbin Hospital staff, A&I Society and Neville Plush, the small businesses and stalls that kept us fed for the weekend and anyone I haven't included who gave their time and had a great time. And on behalf of the regular core JP crew, thanks to all.

Love ya all and look forward, to next year's Mardi Grass.

Paul LeBars

Notices

Room to Let at Nimbin Community Centre

Non-residential, 52sqm, freshly painted studio, easy access overlooking Sibley Street. Approx. \$95 pw plus bond and bills. This room is large enough to be partitioned to share as an office or meeting space with others looking for office space in the village. Please contact Marcus at the NCC Office on 6689-0000 or email ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Room in House to Let

Nice room for rent in quiet home, lovely views, close to Nimbin town. \$100 pw + bond nsdf phone 0419-806-375

Assistant Wanted

Part time casual assistant to work with designer. MUST have strong computer skills esp photoshop, be organized and enthusiastic. Email to: wwildwomen@hotmail.com

Community BBQ

Nimbin Police will be hosting a community BBQ on Monday 13th July, from 11.30am to 1pm, in front of the Police Station. All welcome. Any offers of assistance with catering appreciated, please phone Sgt Greg Huxtable at Nimbin Police, 6689-1244.

Greens Forum

The Northern Rivers Greens are holding a planning forum on Monday 13th July with NSW Greens MLC Sylvia Hale. She will discuss changes in planning legislation at 6pm at Lismore Workers Club.

JP AGM

Jungle Patrol Community Safety AGM 27th July, 9am at Jungle Patrol Office, 81 Cullen street Nimbin NSW 2480.

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www.nimbingoodtimes.com

NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.

Next deadline:
Wednesday 29th July

Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in the pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less, and include a photo if possible.



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Simon says...



by Lismore City Councillor
Simon Clough

This weather has me (and I suspect many others) oscillating between "cabin fever", that powerful desire to get out of the confines of home where you have been trapped, and "Seasonally Affected Disorder" which leaves you so depressed you just need the doona and a hottie and to be left to your misery.

However you can all take solace in a fact I recently discovered at the Floodplain Management Committee. Lismore has not had a really big flood in European times. Both the legendary 54 and 74 floods were only one-in-70 year events, nothing like the one-in-500 year event experienced at Coffs Harbour in the recent past. For those of you with a taste for extremes think about the "Probable Maximum Flood" (PMF). That one is over 16 metres, or nearly 6 metres over the levee.

June has proved a demanding month on Council particularly because it is the month where we finalise the budget for the next financial year. The Councillors managed to turn the staff recommendation of a small deficit into a nearly \$15,000 surplus. Quite a feat, as Councillors are usually good at spending rather than saving money.

Another fantastic Lantern Parade! What a great beacon of 'optimism' and how lucky we are to have this extraordinary event in our area. A huge thank you is due to Jyllie Jackson (ex Nimbinite) and her team. I was 'bucketeering' on the night and it was so uplifting to get so many positive comments from the crowd as they happily donated cash to

support the costs of putting on the event. Unlike last year there was no bucket failure which saw me and half a dozen kids scrambling for the cash. At a Council meeting there were 2 Councillors who wanted to halve the Council's financial contribution to the festival, but fortunately that crazy motion was squashed. It was suggested instead that those Councillors could perhaps attend the Parade and see how fantastic it is.

Funny how things seem to clump together in life. Currently Lismore Council is dealing with 2 Development Applications involving chicken manure or 'chook poo' to use the more technical term. One application is to dump 16,000 cubic metres of poo on the floodplain at Tatham. I'm yet to see the environmental impact statement but I've been assured it contains a consultant's report claiming there will be no odour!

The other DA concerns the development of an organic egg producer and you guessed it some of the main concerns of local residents are chook poo run off and smell. You can't say life of a councillor isn't varied and different.

Swimming pools have also been very much on the Council agenda with staff recommending the permanent closure of the Lismore Lake pool and closure of the Memorial Baths for 2 months over winter. While having significant concerns over the safety of the Lake pool I voted to keep it open for the 2 hottest months of summer while Council examines possible solutions to the problems.

I unfortunately didn't get my way with the opening of the Baths. For the life of me I can't see why Council should be inefficiently and expensively heating an outdoor facility that will be subsidised at \$16-40 per visit. A person visiting daily for the whole period will be subsidised to the tune of \$738.

All this as we enter a time of catastrophic climate change and the worst global economic situation in 75 years!



by Jenny Dowell
Mayor of Lismore

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Budget

Council met in an Extraordinary meeting on June 18 to approve the budget for 2009/10. As readers might imagine, reaching consensus is difficult with so many good projects missing out because there is simply not enough money to fund them.

Among the most challenging of decisions, were those relating to the closure of the Lismore Lake Pool and the proposed two-month closure of the Memorial Baths. After much debate we decided to keep the Lake Pool open for December and January of this season at a cost of \$33,000 and to consider options for the redevelopment of the site as a water park in next year's budget. The Memorial Baths 25m pool will remain open this winter at a cost of \$33,000 to provide lap swimming for patrons in two time slots only- 6-9 am and 12-2pm.

Other items included are a contribution of \$15,000 to the Sustainable Living Expo at the Lismore Show and \$6000 for a car pooling project. In including these four extra items, cuts were necessary so we have deleted some things from the advertised plan. Council will not proceed with the development of a recreation plan (\$50,000), a contribution to the management of the proposed homeless shelter (\$20,000 although there still remains \$100,000 for its construction), the daytime Lismore Street Beat patrol (\$30,000) or \$10,000 of activities in our Economic Development Unit. The result, after many hours

From the Mayor's desk

of deliberation, is a \$14,700 surplus.

I can assure all readers that Councillors were diligent in their efforts to bring down a responsible budget that demonstrates an awareness of community wishes whilst recognising the tight financial situation in which we find ourselves. I am satisfied that we have done our best.

Goonellabah Youth Plaza

At the June 9 ordinary meeting, Council approved the design of the GYP with its half-basketball court, skate ramps, performance space and art walls. The GYP has been funded by the Federal Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program. Council staff will negotiate with a preferred tenderer for construction of the facility to be completed by the end of September in accordance with funding requirements.

Flood Recovery

Lismore continues to recover from last month's major flood. The financial impact is yet to be fully determined but we know that some sections of the community have been hit hard. Macadamia growers have lost up to 80% of their crops, tourism operators are facing a significant downturn and many property owners have washouts on private roads and bridges for which there is no financial assistance. Council's early estimate of damage to our roads and bridges is around \$5 million.

As Chair of the Flood Recovery Committee, I have learned a great deal from the various Government departments, business groups and others around the table and am greatly impressed by their tireless work to help people get the information and assistance that they need to get back on their feet. It has not all been smooth sailing with several anomalies in assistance provisions but we will use this experience to affect change where we can.

One of the most glaring to local government is the

inability for Councils to get reimbursement for clean up and repair work undertaken by our own staff in work hours. Councils therefore wait until after work hours to start tasks or employ contactors to do the job. I am taking every opportunity to point out that this is more expensive and slower than just letting staff get on with the job that they can do so well. Contractors are engaged too because the scale of the cleanup and the need for a quick response particularly to clear blocked roads, is vital to assist isolated residents and communities.

Governor-General's visit

Lismore turned on a glorious winter's day for the June 13 visit by Ms Quentin Bryce our Governor-General. It was great honour for me to welcome Her Excellency to our City and to present so many people to her and her husband Mr Michael Bryce. We visited the staff at the Flood Recovery Centre and the SES where the Governor-General thanked everyone for their efforts in helping so many in our community in their time of need. We also had a community barbecue in Spinks Park where Their Excellencies wandered through the crowd of about 200 people and chatted with many about their flood experiences. To end the four hour visit, we went to a beef cattle property to see the impact of the flood on the rural sector. Having grown up on a rural property, the Governor-General was very much at home with the chooks, cattle and newborn pups. For everyone involved,

it was a memorable day.

Canberra

In the latter part of June, I travelled to Canberra to participate in the National General Assembly, a gathering of Local Government representatives from all around Australia. The three day NGA was then followed by second Council of Local Government, an opportunity for the 560 Mayors of our Nation to meet with the Prime Minister and Ministers.

At the gathering, I had the opportunity to talk about the recent floods and the new Flood Recovery Committees. As I write this column, the outcomes of the conference and meeting are unknown but I will be sure to report on them for the August edition of NGT.

Mulgum House

Being at Mulgum House for its official reopening was a joyous experience. The fabulous celebration on a glorious sunny day reminded everyone of the importance of community and the passion and perseverance of residents such as Fay and others who strove to establish the facility in the first place and Sonya and Len who were determined not to let their home be sold.

Now with the help of Multitask, Mulgum House is once more filled with new and old residents who all love the place and call it home. It reminds us all how important it is to fight for what we believe and that together, good things can and do happen.

Well done all.

KIMI HANDYMAN

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Nash tries her hand at deception

by Janelle Saffin, MP

National Party Senator Fiona Nash has caused needless distress for thousands of pensioners in Page by distributing a newsletter in which she says the utilities allowance has been scrapped.

In a week that has been marked by a grubby smear campaign by the Opposition, the newsletter by Senator Nash is yet another example of the fear and smear tactics and why you can't believe a word they say.

Senator Nash like her Coalition Leader Malcolm Turnbull is now ducking and weaving and blustering on this, knowing that the community realise she has told them a porky.

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin has told Parliament that after ignoring the needs of pensioners for 12 long years, the coalition is now engaged in a campaign of deception to

Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street
Lismore
Phone 1300-301-735

frighten pensioners.

The Minister raised Senator Nash's newsletter in the House as an example of this campaign of deception.

Senator Nash says in the newsletter that the pensioners' utilities allowance has been scrapped, but the Minister told Parliament that Senator Nash knows this is completely false.

Minister Macklin said Senator Nash knows that the full amount of the utilities allowance is being included in the new pension supplement and increased, come 20th September.

Senator Nash clearly doesn't care about the people of Page. She has put out a newsletter with no policy and no content, but with cruel misinformation that has needlessly scared some pensioners.

Senator Nash needs to know that this campaign of fear and smear won't work, and it must stop.

Support for sex trafficking victims

The Australian Government has announced changes to Australia's anti-people trafficking strategy that recognise the particular vulnerabilities of victims of trafficking and make it easier for them to access support and apply for visas.

The Government is committed to combating all forms of people trafficking, and most victims of trafficking identified in Australia have been women working in the sex industry.

One of the important changes is that support will be available to victims of sex trafficking, even if they are not willing or able to assist police.

This will provide all victims with an opportunity to recover and seek advice about their future options.

More than \$63.7 million for 53 local primary schools to support local jobs

from Justine Elliott, MP

More than \$63.7 million for 53 local primary schools to support local jobs

53 primary schools in the electorate of Richmond will receive \$63,739,159 for major new infrastructure projects under Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21) Round Two. This will bring the total amount of funding for local primary schools in Richmond under P21 to \$80,989,159 (Round One and Round Two). The Rudd Government is undertaking the largest school modernization program in Australia's history to support local jobs. This investment in our local primary schools is long overdue and will go a long way to supporting local jobs during the global recession. Teachers and students in our local schools should be teaching and learning in 21st Century facilities.

Round Two projects will begin as soon as possible at schools including:

- + Blakebrook Public School - \$850,000
- + Coffee Camp Public School - \$850,000
- + Jiggi Public School - \$250,000
- + Larnook Public School - \$250,000
- + Manifold Public School - \$250,000
- + Modanville Public School - \$850,000
- + The Channon Public School - \$250,000
- + Tuntable Creek Public School - \$250,000
- + Tuntable Falls Community Primary School - \$250,000
- + Whian Whian Public School - \$250,000

I encourage those schools that have not already done so, to get their applications in for Round Three, which closes on 10th July 2009 and will see all remaining eligible primary schools receive funding.

The Government's \$1.3 billion National School Pride program has also delivered \$9,475,000 worth of minor infrastructure and maintenance projects, in 89 primary and secondary schools in Richmond. Building the Education Revolution is a key element of the Rudd Government's \$42 billion Nation Building - Economic Stimulus Plan to support jobs, stimulate local economies and invest in important infrastructure for the long-term. A full list of successful schools and their planned projects are available at: www.bildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au or at: www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au

Safety upgrade completed

Work has been completed on a safety upgrade to Nimbin Road between Jiggi Road and Boyles Road, 11km north of Lismore. The work has improved safety on Nimbin Road by straightening the corner, widening the road, and making the road markings and signs easier to see and follow. In the past five years there have been five crashes on this section of the Nimbin Road. The work was funded by the Federal Government under the Nation Building Black Spot Program after the section of road was nominated by the Lismore City Council. The project cost \$190,000 and was carried out by the Council on behalf



The Honorable Justine Elliott

Member for Richmond
107 Minjungbal Drive
Tweed Heads South
Phone 1300-720-675

of the RTA. These improvements are part of the Rudd Government's commitment to improving road safety.

Budget report: Record funding for aged care

As the Minister for Ageing, I was proud to recently announce record funding for aged care.

No Australian Government has provided more financial support to aged and community care than the Rudd Labor Government. We have a strong and viable aged and community care sector which helps older Australians remain independent in their homes as long as they want and then enter an aged care facility when they need it. Increased funding from the Rudd Government will bring direct financial support for aged and community care providers who care for older Australians to a record level of \$44 billion over the next four years. That is \$2.5 billion extra over the next four years for aged and community care.

Australians now have the longest life expectancy in the English speaking world and this is about responding to the challenges of our nation's ageing population.

Celebrating a milestone?

If you or a family member are celebrating a milestone 90th or 100th birthday, or a 50th or 60th wedding anniversary I am able to arrange congratulatory messages from the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and in some cases the Governor General and the Queen.

Contact my office on 1300 720 675 for further details.

Justine.

Marking the 64th birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi

by Janelle Saffin, MP

June 19 marked the 64th birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi, the jailed leader of Burma's NLD party and Nobel Peace prize laureate, and I invited all Parliamentarians to sign a card to mark the occasion.

I also introduced a Private Members Motion into the House giving MPs the opportunity to debate the ongoing human rights and political crisis in Burma.

The motion noted the 19th anniversary of the NLD's overwhelming election



victory and condemned the military regime led by

General Than Shwe for not honouring the 1990 election and for the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

Aung San Suu Kyi has said, "Please use your liberty to help us promote ours."

There is a website, at www.64forsuu where people can add 64 words of inspiration and support for Aung San Suu Kyi on the occasion of her 64th birthday.

Janelle.

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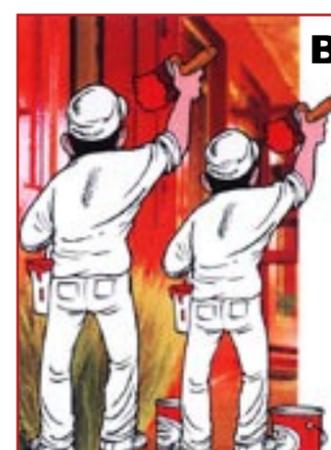
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Community Safety Audit seeks to identify risk

by Eugenie Stephans

The first ever Nimbin Community Safety Audit was held on Thursday 25th June.

It was co-ordinated by police from the Richmond Local Area Command, Tweed/Byron Local Area Command, and included representatives of Lismore City Council, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and a few community members.

The Community Safety Audit was conducted in the Central Business District to assess the current at risk status perceived by members.

It will help identify areas likely to stimulate fear and criminal opportunity, as well as provide suggested treatments to reduce opportunities for anti-social and criminal behaviour.

Areas of focus included identifying the general impressions of safety in



the area, lighting, traffic and transport services, general maintenance and the provision of services in the area.

There was a daylight session of approximately one hour, followed by a night walk of approximately one hour. Thank you to all that participated.

The objectives of the Community Safety Audit are to:

- Discourage opportunities for physical violence;
- Reduce opportunities for crime against property;
- Provide feedback to key stakeholders;
- Reduce urban decay; and
- Rejuvenate community pride and cohesion.

The findings will be released upon completion.

NIMBIN STREET SHUFFLE

by Unda Cuvva

ENTRAPMENT HAS NO BOUNDARIES IN OZ

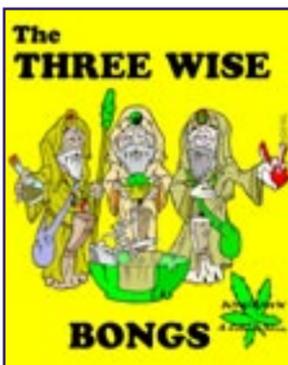
"Undacuvva deeper" is what the Boss said. "Deep insertion girl," his exact words. It's one thing in theory but quite another when you are lying beneath a heaving, pumping, adrenalin-filled young man while trying not to think about what the priest said at last week's confession. And we should get paid more; special rates like the tactical response dudes get. No wonder so many young Unda's end up as hookers getting real money for the job. It's the sex that's keeping me at work, I realised when I tried to quit last month. The testicle response unit they should call us. What else would keep me here? The adrenaline is endless. I could do without the weed, that's no big deal, I could always chop with the best of them, and pull more cones than most. One of the reasons I got the Nimbin job. I had to prove it to the Boss at the interview too, right there and then he pulled a bong out from unda his desk insisting on seeing me chop up. We pulled a couple of cones together on the spot, we're allowed to of course. "Ya gotta fit in like a koala up a gumtree in that feral hole Nimbin, op shop clothing only, no more than one shower a month, and throw away the hairbrush," he said. I'll never forget those words. "And free love girl, that's what the hippies expect." I always cheat on the showers, everyone does.

EXCALIBUR MOON DANCE

A certain WKTA (Well Known Tourist Attraction) has been well and truly conned and I don't feel good about the waste of resources. No one else in the department gave a shit though, so their beautiful, rugged and indestructible, recycled tin fence has gone, if you hadn't noticed. It didn't help the cause whoever sent



emails to Ruddock with pictures of the "REFUGEES WELCOME" fence, either. He insisted it be replaced by a modern metal jailbars fence. (So we can see you, dummies!) However, no-one anticipated the new posts being pulled up out of the cement like Excalibur. I had to explain that a lot of the young fellows have given up the weed (such an easy bust) and they're into the 'roids in a big way now. I been telling the Bosses for ages, the harder you push the harder they get. Apparently it was a midnight session and the ensuing sword fight with the posts was a sight to behold, beneath the full moon in the middle of the rear carpark. It's on YouTube somewhere but I can't find it.



POLITE BUREAU OPENING

I've had to join the Polite Service, as I prefer to call it, and the HEMP Party, just so I can hang around my old friend the HempBar. Bloody hippies, they never give up do they? I've tried day after day to buy a deal in the old HempBar, or just get an assist like in the AFL, but they remain rock solid. "No worries, paper wraps rock," says the Boss, "we'll get 'em in time." Same at all the other WKTA's, every day we have



to record what's happening, who's consorting, who's toking. I told him water wears away rock, but it takes thousands of years. He didn't get it, muttering something about scissors being the biggest selling item in the Nimbin supermarket. Do you believe that?

JAPANESE HORSE POLICE SCAMMED

Few people know that the Boss was so worried about the huge Japanese presence at MardiGrass that he called for help from the Tokyo cops, something about an old favour they owed him. These cops are used to "one joint = one year's jail and no food for the first seven days." They were asked to bring their own horses, but apparently several of the very rare Japanese horses, bred from ancient samurai bloodlines, escaped from the Brisbane airport quarantine paddock and 'disappeared' much to the dismay of their owners. What infuriated them was that the case was not being treated as suspicious, despite the horses being, "totally

collectable and worth a small fortune." They refused to come to MardiGrass after that.

REDNECK RALLY RUSTED

Unda's assigned to watch the problematic Rally course were the highlight of the monthly Unda meeting. They reported major feral parties in the middle of the road after midnight. "Lit up like an airport, loud music and all," one report said. They apparently dug through the night, burying, you wont believe it, Kombies! Three of them buried under Williams Road, I heard talk on the street confirming it. The plan was to lock-on, arms deep in the middle of the road, handcuffed to the buried Kombies. We told the petrol heads and they altered the course of the rally, which secretly pissed off a lot of the meat-eating hippies out that way who were looking forward to it I believe. It's a nightmare job, minding hundreds of kilometres of road, I'd rather do Cullen Street anyway.

Hemp Party needs new and reliable members

"No other political party in Australia has signed up 200 new members in the last year, I bet," says Graham Askey, Hemp Party Secretary.

Party members are getting ready to mail out to our revamped membership list, of over one thousand people, to sort out our best 500 members to submit. They need to be unafraid to confirm their membership if the Australian Electoral commission asks them.

Howard's government made new rules de-registering all political parties who didn't have a member of parliament.

The Hemp Party failed when it reapplied, when the AEC randomly selected twenty of the members and tried to contact them to confirm their membership. Some of the members denied membership! Others couldn't be found.

It doesn't help that many Hemp Party members are poor renters who move



regularly without notifying the AEC, or they are just plain paranoid when the government phones asking, "Would you please confirm you are a member of the Hemp Party." Understandable!

The Hemp Party still needs supporters to sign up - forms are in the Hemp Embassy and online at www.australianhempparty.com/

All that's needed is that you are enrolled to vote in Australia and be honest with the AEC if they ask you.

They randomly select 20 names out of the 500 submitted and expect 100% affirmative replies. "Wish us luck!" said Graham.

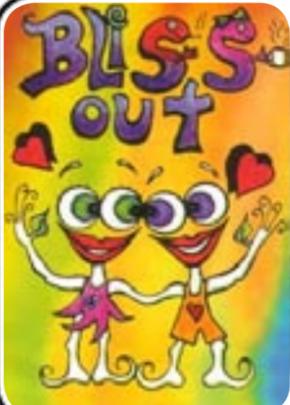


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