



# THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Thought-provoking and FREE

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## Nimbin's newest tourist attraction

...for all the wrong reasons



Artwork: Alan Salt

The new police radio communications tower has become the most photographed feature of Nimbin village, and a talking point for locals and visitors alike, since its unannounced construction by contractors in the last week of July.

Not that the talk has been complimentary. Far from it, as the vox pops on TV news and radio talk-back programs attest. In fact, it's a toss-up which is considered worse, the blight on the visual amenity of the village's heritage conservation zone, or the risks of radiation-related illnesses from the transmission tower, sited opposite the hospital.

Lismore Council was taken as much by surprise as Nimbinites were. Mayor Jenny Dowell confirmed that when the proposal was referred to Council by phone in February, police were informed that they should lodge plans with Council 21 days before building commenced, even though state government bureaucracies do not need a development application. "We only received the plans after we phoned the day after it was erected," Ms Dowell said.

The matter appears destined to end up in court, with the Environment Defenders Office considering taking out an injunction on the installation, and several landholders are preparing to seek substantial compensation (see Letters, Page 8).



Finalists, judges and organisers.

## Plethora of poetry pleases

by Warwick Fry

Poetry Cup veteran Robin Archbold was there, snapping at the butterflies and doing the lust-laden heavy breathing, along with David Hallett, grandperson of the performance poetry scene, trying out the latest knee-jerk in trendy protest; also seasoned performers Gina LaCosta and Vasuda were there, along with Catherine Stewart questioning romantic love and Zelly Duffa challenging gender stereotypes...

Altogether 33 poets, old and new, competed for the \$6,000 prizemoney in the eighth annual Nimbin Performance Poetry Cup, held over the horses' birthday weekend with a gala final at the Town Hall.

These were poets with heart, poets who just 'dropped in', poets who are discovering new aural pathways through our evolving culture(s), poets who find themselves in Nimbin, and in Nimbin a way of finding their own poetry.

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## Council announces its intention to demolish skatepark

After years of deliberations about how to address noise emissions from the Nimbin Skate Park, Council has finally determined that the development cannot meet legislative and community expectations.

At a recent meeting, the Nimbin Community Centre Incorporated (NCCI) was informed by Lismore City Council that results from the most recent technical assessment showed that the steel facility on the site will generate noise levels that are considered offensive to residential properties within the local area, even with the construction of significant noise attenuation

barriers.

From the outset, the skate park was required to comply with reasonable noise limits but an acoustic report confirms that the current structure will not meet those development approval conditions. Therefore it has been determined that there is no satisfactory sustainable solution for the existing steel skate ramp.

Lismore City Council Mayor Jenny Dowell expressed her disappointment with this outcome but said she was hopeful that an alternative solution might be found for the Nimbin community.

She said, "The young people of Nimbin and their families and supporters will be unhappy with this latest setback."

"However, I really want to find a way to work with the Nimbin community to provide a functional skate park in Nimbin," Mayor Dowell said.

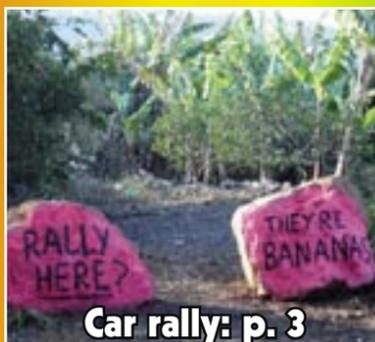
Brent McAlister, Lismore City Council's Executive Director for Development and Governance said, "Council staff, in consultation with the NCCI, have now begun investigations exploring a range of potential design solutions for a new concrete skate park on a suitable site, preferably within Peace

Park or elsewhere, if the opportunity arises."

He said that in the meantime, Council will ensure that the current site is controlled to restrict unauthorised skating activity.

Mayor Dowell has also encouraged NCCI to work with Council to identify funding opportunities for a new facility.

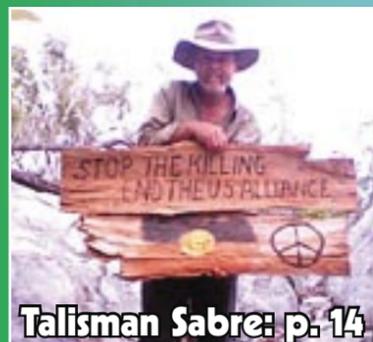
"By working together, I trust we can come up with a proposal that meets noise and amenity requirements and which has good community support. A joint effort will facilitate access to funding opportunities as soon as they are identified," Mayor Dowell said.



Car rally: p. 3



Show preview: p. 6



Talisman Sabre: p. 14



Demons: p. 22