



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Rural-chic and **FREE**

Flame Tree
Edition
November
2009

81 Cullen Street
Nimbin 2480
phone: 6689-1148
email: nimbin.
goodtimes@gmail.com

The Dreaming comes back to Nimbin

Nimbin Showground has had its first corroboree in over 70 years.

The weekend-long Nimbin Dreaming Festival brought together Bundjalung and non-indigenous people from around the region for a programme of workshops and cultural sharing in the show ring, which had been a traditional place for dance and song.

Lewis Walker said, "This was the gathering place, people came here from all over and then went to do business at Nimbin Rocks, or Lilian Rock, or wherever and came back here."

Lewis said he understood the Showground had last been used by Aborigines in 1938, when the committee asked them to stop, and were presented with a kangaroo skin as a parting gift.

The Nimbin Dreaming Festival had no such difficulties with the present committee, and organised an interesting range of practical



workshops in Dance, Music, Arts and Craft, with food and craft stalls, information and entertainment.

Among the small groups of people moving between the colourful workshop tents and the chai tent was Mayor Jenny Dowell who said, "I like the way it is catering for all, especially the elders and the

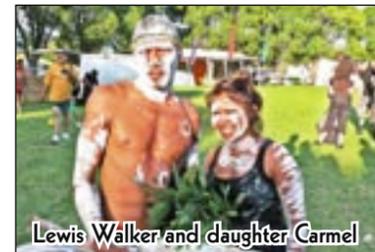
jarjums."

Evenings featured a traditional meal and musical entertainment including Monkey and the Fish and Coloured Stone's Bunnah Laurie, and the festival ended with an elegant corroboree.

In a speech at the closing ceremony, Karyn Roberts



Auntie Viv and Anthony Gordon



Lewis Walker and daughter Carmel



Jarjums



Mayor Dowell, Gilbert and Karyn

thanked the workshop leaders and performers, and the many organisations, community groups and local businesses that had supported the festival.

Lismore Council's Crime Prevention Unit contributed \$500 towards the costs of the event, and a further \$100 was provided for food

from the mayoral allowance.

Jenny Dowell was pleased with the festival, despite its relatively small numbers. She said, "This is a fantastic beginning. It's a wonderful effort. To pull together a festival with 7 or 8 people is a great achievement. This is the first seed."

See also Letter, Page 8.



Lisa, Julie, Gilly, Emily and Tara

Melbourne Cup gamble pays off

It was all frills, flounces, fascinators and folderols as Nimbin's high society stepped out for a Melbourne Cup High Tea at the Town Hall, itself decked out for the occasion with streamers, flowers, balloons and a busy bar.

Youthful black-clad waiters Mahalia, Opal and Luke moved through the milling crowd with a wide selection of exquisite canapés as the punters bought their tickets in the various sweeps and raffles at the betting table.

As the big race neared, Mistresses of Ceremonies Christine Strelan and Kat Anderson marshalled entrants down the catwalk to generous applause, for the judging of the many categories in the fashion stakes.

Best Dressed in a tight finish was Vanessa in an elegant charcoal off-the-shoulder, tucked-hem gown from a former life, and winner of Best Hat, Nicole confided that her tulle creation had been fashioned from her small daughter's wrecked tutu.

All the while, television pictures from Flemington filled the theatre screen overhead, and as start time approached, the hall lights dimmed, people retired to lounge chairs, and the theatre sound came up: "They're racing!"

A classic Melbourne Cup, all 3200 metres of it riveting to watch, the early leader Warringah ending with the wooden spoon, and the placings decided in the last 100 metres with decidedly more than fifteen crops applied – a great victory for Shocking nonetheless, coming from behind to narrowly top fancied Irish stayer, Crime Scene.

And the winner is... the Nimbin Community Preschool committee really, who took a big punt on running the 100-ticket-only, \$25 knees-up, on a Tuesday at that, to raise much-needed funds to get their new building started, and did such a great job of it.

By association, that makes everyone who turned up to support them a winner, too.



Sherakea Nicole and Helen



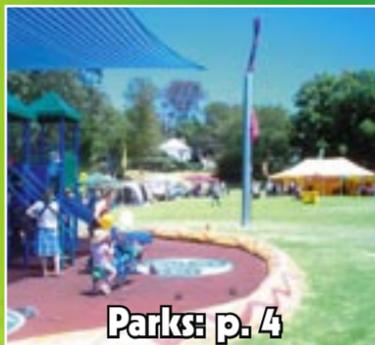
Penny and Gay



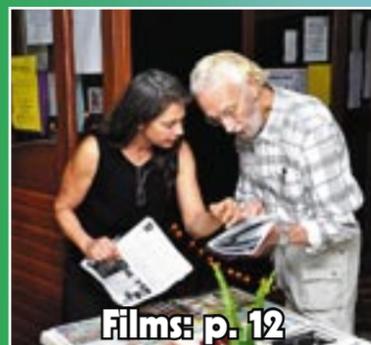
Peter and Inez



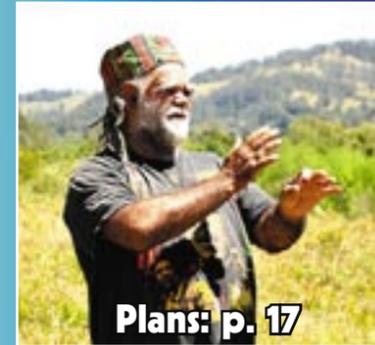
Skaters: p. 3



Parks: p. 4



Films: p. 12



Plans: p. 17