

1080 Baiting Response

I would like to respond to the letter that Linda de Milford wrote (NGT May 2010) about 1080.

First of all, you say you lost a young dog to 1080 baiting. Why is this?

Neighbours around the baiting area were informed that the baiting was going ahead and had been told to keep their pets on their own property. So lack of communication between neighbours was not the issue.

Why is it your dog wandered in from your property to a property that had baits on it? That dog should never have been there in the first place.

You also forgot to say that the wild dogs that were the target of the baiting had attacked and killed domesticated pets and livestock around your area. Baiting was not just done for the hell of it, it had a reason behind it.

Interestingly, more dangerous and inhumane poisons for wildlife are bought every day at the supermarket and thrown in with the family's groceries, such as snail bait, rat sack, a multitude of insecticides and fly sprays.

1080 is a water-soluble, naturally occurring poison in native Australian plants. It is non-accumulative, easily leached and broken down by bacterial action within some 5 days once it's free in the environment. Dogs and foxes are highly susceptible to low body weight dose rates, and together with a strategic placement of meat baiting, makes 1080 very target specific for wild dogs and foxes.

The science is not only out there, and in, but all the credible, unbiased inquiries held in respect to this

poison find it as an effective, biodegradable humane and target-specific way of pest animal control, especially in respect to wild dogs, dingoes and foxes.

The real pain only comes in the form of emotional pain to negligent, or unlucky domestic dog owners when their uncontrolled wandering dogs come home fitting, salivating and dying in their arms from loss of breath, with such poisonings making up the majority of so called "non-target species" talked about.

Compared to the cruel mutilations by the wild dogs and foxes meted out on a daily basis to both native and domestic animals, a 1080 induced death by lethal appetite of baits is about as humane man can get in ridding this country of such feral predators.

Wildlife is far better off where a dog and fox control program is in place, and this is a scientifically proven and publicly recorded fact, a fact I might add, that the rural sector needed no science to prove.

Darryl McGrath
Koonorigan

Three-legged horse

Ian MacDonald, the senior state minister who forced through the special legislation that over-rode many state environment laws to make sure the Repco Rally was held in Northern New South Wales in 2009, is now in trouble with his handling of the V8 Supercars event at Homebush.

Apart from the cost blow-out of at least \$10 million over the next five years above the \$35 million cap set by cabinet, the most damning finding of the NSW Auditor-General's investigation concerned the handling of the minister's potential conflicts of interest.

A key player behind the scenes of the V8 Supercars event was Greg Jones, Mr MacDonald's close friend and former political colleague.

It is already apparent that the process to bring the ill-gotten Repco Rally to Tweed and Kyogle shires involved lies, deception, spin-doctoring, secrecy, and conflict of interest, but now we can add outright corruption at ministerial level.

First we had the behind closed door, underhand deals taking place between Repco rally organisers and Events New South Wales, in which millions of undisclosed tax payers dollars were given to fund Repco Rally, a corporate entity.

Now the revelation that Senator Ian MacDonald, the minister who was also behind the Wine Association scandal, has now been exposed by auditors as being unethical and corrupt in the funding of the V8 Supercars event, has to put his handling of the Repco Rally in question.

Maybe those who bet taxpayers' money on the Repco Rally three-legged horse might rethink their position, unless of course they consider MacDonald's corrupt activities to be acceptable ministerial practice.

Chris Degenhardt
Nobbys Creek

Polite everywhere

On a recent trip to Adelaide I was happy to see that the Polite Force is active there too!

Jessica Lowe
Whian Whian



In Memorium

Michael O'Keeffe and
Joseph Hainaut

Formerly of Billen Cliffs.
Died 7/5/10. Sadly missed.



Allan Grigg
2 /3/60 – 7/5/10

Sexton at Nimbin's Anglican church. His involvement with the Nimbin community garden for several years was greatly appreciated.



Kim Wheaton
29/12/52 – 9/5/10

Fondly remembered by her family, friends, pupils and colleagues at Nimbin Central School.

Sibylla Hess-Bushman
14/5/48 – 25/5/10

Active in promoting bush foods for many years. Died suddenly after a long battle with cancer. Sadly missed.

Notices

Wanted to rent

Multiple Sclerosis patient with carer, 2 Jack Russells, 1 old cat, need minimum two-bedroom home in Nimbin surroundings. Willing to pay \$300.00 per week, have excellent references. Please contact Jodi or Lloyd on 0457-732-077.

For Sale

Lite Ace Motor, Radiator, other bits, all in good working order, removed for conversion to Electric Lite Ace. Phone Rainer 6689-7491, or Flowtrack 6689-0408.

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Consul Gas Refrigerator 215 Litre (184L fridge, 31L top freezer) in good condition and good working order, with instruction manual. Can deliver locally. \$800 ONO. Phone 6689-0254.

Wanted

Tractors, going or not, also 3PL implements, phone Rob 0427-285-810.

Yoga at Lillifield

Yoga classes at Lillifield Community Hall (next to Bakersvale school), every Thursday 9.30-11am. New class starting on Tuesdays 9-10.30am from 8th June. Both classes are suitable for all levels of experience. Beginners welcome! Contact April, 6689-7539

Yoga in Nimbin village

Yoga classes with Jo at Birth and Beyond Nimbin on Mondays 9-10.30am, 5.30-7pm; Fridays 5.30-7pm; Saturdays 9-10.30am. All Welcome, \$10/class

Poetry at the O

Nimbin Poetry at the Oasis Café, 7.30pm on Thursday 10th June. New readers always welcome. Free.

Monthly Meeting

Nimbin Branch of Country Labor monthly meeting Monday 7th June, 4pm at Nimbin Bowling Club.

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club Ltd AGM will be held at the Club on Sunday 18th July at 10am. All financial members welcome.

Agenda: Apologies, Minutes of last AGM; President's Report and Annual Report of Directors; Annual financial reports and Auditor's Report; Notices of Motion; Election of Returning Officer; Election of Directors; General Business.

Free Listings

If you've got a brief announcement and we think it would be of interest to our readers, we'll run it for free for you.



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NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.
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Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

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Challenging Community Consultation

by Diana Roberts

Lismore Council recently decided to seek a special rate increase to deliver additional services in the key areas of roads and the environment.

They chose a 3.07% increase and took this to the community to gauge the level of support. Their extensive community consultation process was interesting and worth sharing with others looking for community consultation tools beyond public meetings and mail-outs. A note of caution, what follows is an example of the challenges consultation can present.

Lismore Council's consultation process cost in excess of \$50,000. Expenditure of this nature by local government indicates a high level of commitment to genuinely seeking community opinion. Council allowed over two months to undertake their consultation, dedicated staff to support the process and engaged a consultant to assist.

The Council wrote a personal letter to every ratepayer identifying what the proposed change would cost them. They advertised their plans throughout local media. They held public meetings in nine locations throughout the Council area. They organised an on-line forum called 'have your say' and dedicated a section of their website to keep the community informed. Finally they held two deliberative forums, one for the business community and one for residents and ratepayers. I participated in the latter.

The deliberative forum I attended was

held over two evenings, one week apart and involved 60 people. 20 members were randomly selected, 20 self-nominated and 20 were selected from various community organisations. Interestingly, at 56 I felt like one of the younger people in the room and there were more men than women.

Four hours was spent each evening hearing different opinions and discussing structured questions amongst the small group you were seated with. Holding the forums one week apart enabled participants to go away, think about what they'd heard, talk to others and bring back their thoughts the following week. So how did the process go?

There was no doubt that people were appreciative of the opportunity to have their say. This was expressed in the deliberative forum, on Council's website, in public meetings and no doubt in personal responses to Council. However, what set out to be a productive exercise to see how the community felt, quickly turned into an overwhelmingly cynical, at times ugly, staff-bashing exercise. The 'have your say' on-line forum was set up as a blog, an ongoing commentary, and became a vehicle for years of pent up frustration, dissatisfaction and anger. Public meetings were dominated by the loudest and most strident, and focussed on blame and shame.

On reflection, I believe that despite the best of intentions, the consultation process was flawed. Prior to consultation, Council had decided the best way forward and there were no alternatives put to the

community beyond agree or disagree. As the level of opposition and negativity became apparent, Council was forced into a defensive position and dedicated considerable staff resources to explaining Council practices. Even the deliberative forum did not overcome this shortcoming. The forum could have been used as a vehicle to reach consensus, but Council only realised the value of this approach during the closing minutes of the second evening.

While community concerns were voiced loudly, community aspirations were not productively understood, considered, or reflected in the development of alternatives. There were many good suggestions put forward by the community, but the process did not allow them to be taken up. It is my opinion Council would have done the community and local government a disservice if it had proceeded with a special rate increase, despite an obvious need if service levels are to be maintained. Council now needs to deliberate on the feedback they received and proactively engage the community to move forward.

For those of us who work in community consultation, there are many salutary lessons to be learnt from this experience. My fear is that the process was so distressing, onerous and counter-productive for Council staff and elected representatives, they will be very wary about embarking on meaningful consultation into the future. Given the resources dedicated to the process, the outcomes could have been so different.

Genesis of Nimbin's public land

by Harry Anning

With the possible sale of the Nimbin Caravan Park, a bit of acknowledgement of the acquisition of this piece of land and where it came from is due.

In April 1973, not many people thought the newly painted murals would have any long term effect on Nimbin, but it was felt that a caravan park and swimming pool would serve as a long term income earner and useful facility for the population.

In the planning for the Aquarius festival, officials pointed out that there was very little land held in the name of the shire. Bert Faulks, the east-side owner, loaned the west and southmost parts of his farm for festival use. The Galls to the north and Mr McClelland to the west, dipped out or claimed they had never been in it.

The festival brought a lot of cash to the burger shop and pub on the bitumen main street, as opposed to a green site out of town. The existing main street establishments levied themselves, titling it the Swimming Pool Fund.

Bert and family set up the Faulks Estate to cut off bits

of their now redundant dairy farm. The legendary festival campground over towards Cecil Street was surveyed off and, as is well-known, paid for by the Headers Football Club.

A line north of Bert's gate was surveyed southward, enabling the area where circle dancing and the festival stage had happened to become available for uses other than farming. This became the swimming pool/caravan park.

Remember the seventies? Remember inflation? Even with good sales of the volunteer-produced Centenary Book, cost estimates marched off like the carrot in front of the donkey.

The in-principle support of Terrania Shire was converted into reality by the newly-created, and comparatively affluent Lismore City Council. What I want to know is, did the Faulks and Larson families donate the land to Council?

The untrustworthy acts of unfettered New York money market people are causing the people's government, local councils, to forego the time-honoured practice of being the paper owners of 'unprofitable' public lands.

Drone Journalism in Dateline's Venezuela story

by Warwick Fry

Remember when SBS kicked off, and Dateline was the greatest gift to TV journalism since Four Corners?

Well, delete that memory and install instead the search and sort algorithm, with sufficient processing time to identify the precise moment when Drone Journalism became the norm.

Could it be dated from the late 1980s (that was when I phoned in to remind a junior journalist that East Timor was, according to the United Nations, not a Province of Indonesia, despite Bob Hawke and Gareth Evans' wishes to the contrary)? Or the funding cuts to research in the 1990s, or perhaps to the basic education of trainee journalists? But then surely self-funding SBS through slick advertisements for Porsches, BMWs and 4WDs hooning through Kakadu and the Kimberley Ranges should have fixed all that?

In any case Dateline took the 'Wankley' prize for Godawful-Goebbelianism – sorry, 'journalism'

– with its drop-in fly-out piece on Venezuela and the Chavez government. President Hugo Chavez, you may remember, has steadily increased the popular vote in favour of himself and his United Venezuelan Socialist Party over 6 elections and referenda since he survived a US supported coup against him in 2002.

He was returned to power (offering his retirement as the subject of a plebiscite, as allowed in the Venezuelan constitution) with a 70% plus vote against his resignation. A few years later he won an election with over 60% of the popular vote in what was hailed as one of the cleanest elections in the history of Latin America.

Meanwhile his policy of ploughing Venezuela's oil money back into social projects and the development of sustainable energy has put Venezuela in the top ten of the IMF's list of countries with the most positive rates of economic growth, when the rest of the world's economies were, and still are in

recession.

So Australia (or at least SBS Dateline) sends a journalist (apparently a Walkley winner, after having been planted in various 'hot spots' in the Pacific over the years), David O'Shea, who appeared to be blissfully unaware of any of the historical background of Venezuela (the party represented by his interviewees had brought Venezuela to a crisis point in the 1990s when there was rioting and looting of the supermarkets). He didn't even seem to be aware that there were several Australian solidarity brigades in the country at the time. (For any foreign correspondent it is de rigeur to ferret out a 'local angle' when you are in a foreign country. There were several hundred Australians in Venezuela at the time). Filming a lot of footage on a national day was a blatant attempt to portray Venezuela as a nation that under Chavez' Presidency was developing 'militaristic' tendencies. A bit like filming Australia on Anzac day?

The subjects for interview were

hand picked members of a fanatical opposition who, whether O'Shea knew it or not, made a now widely discredited propaganda video of Chavez' comeback after the attempted coup of 2002, that was disseminated by Fox, CNN etc. until it fell apart under its own fictional weight. Even the quaintest hack should have had more background on his prearranged 'subjects'.

As one respondent to the Dateline Forum web page wrote: "Aixa Lopez is presented as an ordinary citizen/mother of an asthmatic daughter/lawyer turned activist who set up the 'Association of Victims of the Blackouts' out of fear for her child's safety. What O'Shea fails to mention is that Lopez is also a long-term, committed activist for the political right, including holding the position of Women's Secretary in the conservative Accion Democratica (Democratic Action – AD) party."

As a matter of fact, there have been power outages in Venezuela, and Venezuela is not a land of Socialist Milk and Honey. But, there has been

a drought, and believe it or not, most of Venezuela's power grid derives from hydro-electricity (that's 'clean power'). The Chavez government is investing heavily in wind power and solar energy projects. It is also arming peasants near the Colombian border to protect their land from rapacious landowners who employ Colombian paramilitary mercenaries to 'eliminate' them and take over their lands. The Venezuelan media is 95% privately owned, and the Venezuelan government does nationalise companies that speculate in foreign currencies, hoard, and create artificial shortages to inflate prices.

This is why Chavez wins election, after plebiscite, after referendum with 60% plus majorities.

It all makes SBS Dateline program look pretty pathetic, even shameful, if we want Australian journalism to be taken seriously.

Australian journalists, of all people, should be the last to be undermining the efforts of those willing and able to make a difference.

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Janelle's Page

by Janelle Saffin, MP

There has been a concerted campaign by the Federal Opposition and some mining company chiefs to spread rumours and misleading statements about the Government's proposed Resources Super Profits Tax (RSPT).

The Government expected a massive scare campaign from the Liberals and the resource companies – they don't want to see Australians getting a fairer share of their super profits.

The key aim of the policy is to make sure all Australians share in the proceeds of the resources boom, remembering that Australian people own 100 per cent of Australia's natural resources.

Treasurer Wayne Swan said "We will do this by replacing royalties with the Resource Super Profit Tax and directing the proceeds into higher retirement savings, a new national infrastructure fund for more roads, rail and ports and less business tax and red tape, especially for small business".

I'm sure local people have plenty of ideas about how some of the infrastructure spending could be used in this region, with \$700 million to be invested in infrastructure in 2012-13.

These reforms will broaden and strengthen the economy and finally grapple with policy failures where the Australian people missed out on a fair share of the benefits of past mining booms. While mining profits were more than \$80 billion higher in 2008-09 than there were in 1999-2000, governments only collected an extra \$9 billion



At the launch of the indigenous employment program at Chemist World, Goonellabah, from left: Janelle Saffin MP, pharmacist Kate Daniel and student Cherece Close.

in revenue.

The Coalition has also been spreading fear about mining companies withdrawing from Australia.

Interesting then that former head of the Mining Council, David Buckingham, said on ABC Radio that the model being proposed could actually underpin a growth in investment, jobs and exploration. He pointed out that in the past when there were threats of companies withdrawing over the petroleum tax, the opposite happened.

The Resource Super Profits Tax is a simple formula: if mining profits go up, Australians get a bigger slice. If profits go down then the mining companies pay less. What could be fairer?

Let's protect local services

I was very disappointed to hear from local Red Cross volunteers that the Red Cross has decided it no longer needs its Lismore office.

This is an organisation with an incredibly rich history in our region, built on years of dedicated service from countless volunteers.

I have written to the Red Cross NSW executive director, Lewis Kaplan, expressing my disappointment at the decision and will continue to pursue this matter when he comes to Lismore in June.

I've also written to the ABC Managing Director Mark Scott asking him to put paid to the rumour that the ABC rural reporter position in Lismore is to be cut. I spelt out just how important our local ABC radio services are to our unique and diverse rural community. I will be following this issue closely too.

Indigenous Apprentices

And on a brighter note, in May I launched a local employment project for 15 Aboriginal high school students from 13 local high schools to study and train for careers in the pharmacy industry.

The Government is providing more than \$112,000 to fund the project that was initiated by the Northern Rivers University Department of Rural Health, NSW Education Department, the North Coast Institute of Tafe and CONNECT.

This is an excellent example of how the Government's Indigenous Employment Program is working in practical partnerships to overcome Indigenous disadvantage.

Janelle.

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

Shout Out for Climate Change competition

by Justine Elliot, MP

Young Australians understand the risks posed by climate change and understand that it will be their generation that will feel the effects of climate change the most strongly.

The 2010 *Shout Out for Climate Change* competition has been designed to capture the passion and action of young Australians and invite them to share their views on how best to tackle climate change.

The competition is open to young Australian students from primary and secondary schools and universities.

Primary students in grades 3-4 and 5-6 can submit an original piece of artwork, song, poem or photograph, whilst secondary and tertiary students are required to produce an advertisement that is up to 60 seconds in length.

The 2010 competition has been inspired by the success of the 2009 *Think Climate, Think Change* competition which attracted more than 7500 entries.

Students have until Friday 10th September to submit their entries. More information is available at www.climatechange.gov.au/shoutoutforclimatechange

Access to Justice Website

The Government has launched a new national Access to Justice website to help Australians find legal information and services in their local area.

The website is available at www.accessjustice.gov.au

A key design feature of the website is that it is easy to use and find information about our laws and justice system and to locate services in your local area.

It is as simple as typing in your postcode or location and you will get comprehensive information and contact details of local legal services such as Legal Aid, Community Legal Centres, Family Relationship Centres and Dispute Resolution Services.



Justine with her family and dog Simba.

Entering '2480' into the postcode search, for example, returns contact information for local centres and services in the Northern Rivers region, along with contact information for state and national services.

The website also provides a link to lawyers who operate in each State and Territory as well as relevant laws to enable people to understand their options early, in order to prevent or resolve their disputes before they escalate or become entrenched.

The website forms a key part of the Government's *Strategic Framework for Access to Justice*, which includes a number of other important measures, including the largest injection of funding into legal assistance services for well over a decade, bringing the total Commonwealth contribution to over \$1.2 billion.

Register for the Free Small Business Superannuation Clearing House

Registrations are now open for the Australian Government's new free Small Business Superannuation Clearing House, which will commence from July 1 this year.

The service is provided free of charge by the Government to help small businesses save on time and paperwork.

The clearing house will

enable small businesses to pay their employees' superannuation to a single location in one simple electronic transaction.

The clearing house will send the contributions to the appropriate superannuation fund and employers will be able to access a record of their contribution history whenever it is needed.

I encourage small businesses on the North Coast with fewer than 20 staff to register for this free online service.

To register, simply visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/super

Always Available to Help

As your local MP, I can help you and your family with any Federal matters. My office can help with any enquiries or issues with Commonwealth Government departments, including the Family Assistance Office, Aged Care, Medicare, Superannuation, Taxation, Centrelink, Passports, Immigration, Sport and the Arts, Veterans' Affairs, Workplace Relations and Defence.

If you ever need assistance with any Federal Government matters please call my office on 1300-720-675.

Justine.

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Simon says...

by Simon Clough Lismore City Councillor

Hope all you lucky people with wood fired heaters have got your wood chopped and stored.

Now that Trish and I are "townies" and winter is coming, I really miss our wood stove on the farm. However we now have a foster cat (our daughter's) which tries very hard to keep us warm at night by lying all over us while purring loudly.

Funding the 'Molley'

The Margaret Olley Gallery won't be happening any time soon as it seems we've missed out on federal funding. Mind you, Council has received some very generous support from the feds. I think now is the time for our creative community to get into gear and look at some alternatives.

Council's City Centre manager Stephen Nelson organised a very successful afternoon with Marcus Westbury, co-ordinator of the "Renew Newcastle" program. This initiative, which arranges for local artists to put their works into vacant shops in the CBD, has had stunning results. Recently Stephen Nelson said that Lismore and one other city had been asked to apply for funding for a similar program. Stephen has been developing Lismore's program called "Art in the Heart". So there is hope that we will develop some exciting opportunities to enhance our existing gallery in the meantime.

Perhaps it would be worthwhile for the local creative community to look at fund raising activities that contribute to what I call the Molley. Whatever happens I know that the local arts community will not stop until we get a decent facility to cater for this critically important part of economy and wider society.

Lantern Parade

With winter nearly upon us, it's time to think about the Lantern Parade. This year's parade is on Saturday 26th June.

The Parade is Lismore's signature event, and not surprising when you experience the thousands of people and the fabulous lanterns meandering through the city streets to the fiery finale. The theme for this year is "Seeds". It's about children and potential.

This is the amazing Jyllie Jackson's 16th year at the helm of the lantern parade. Jyllie always needs volunteers of



all shapes and sizes and abilities from now until after the 26th June. You can volunteer by calling 6622-6333. Have a look at the Lantern Parade website at <http://www.lanternparade.com/> and be inspired.

Police Tower

The police tower is raising itself as an issue again! This time at Rose Road at Tuntable Creek where someone from a desk in Sydney decided that the western end of Rose Road would be great location.

Needless to say it would ruin one of the most spectacular views in the region. The site has fabulous views of the Nimbin Rocks and the Nimbin Valley. The Police were also surprised to discover it was only 20 metres from a residence (Google maps again).

The Mayor was quickly on the job and was reassured by a senior Police officer that a new and less controversial site would soon be advised to Council and residents. That was nearly a month ago and I am sorry to report Council has heard nothing!

Food Links

On a positive note, The Northern Rivers Food Links Project is a Council co-operation initiative of the seven Northern Rivers Councils and Rous Water. As a collaborative partnership, we aim to work together to secure a sustainable food future for the region.

The Project has a budget of \$1,899,080 to implement a range of initiatives identified within the Northern Rivers Food Links Business Plan during 2010 and 2011. For more detailed information, have a look at the excellent website at <http://www.northernriversfoodlinks.com.au/>

This year, Food Links is distributing up to \$50,000 for one project per local government area in its "Village Showcase" grants. These grants are for grassroots organisations involved in any aspects of "food security". Expressions of interest for this grant are still open (see website). Altogether Food Links is an excellent example of what can be achieved when local Councils work together.

You can contact me anytime on 6624-2894 or 0428-886-217 or email simonclough@internode.on.net

From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell
Mayor of Lismore

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Local Environmental Plan

A Local Environmental Plan (LEP) is the most important planning document that regulates land use and development controls in a local government area. Councils throughout NSW now use a standard LEP template that uses common zones, definitions, developmental controls and mapping.

Lismore's draft LEP is now on public exhibition until July 29.

A series of LEP fact sheets providing a brief summary of the draft LEP, including an overview of the zones, maps, definitions and development controls are also available.

Readers can go online to see the LEP and its maps and fact sheets or view a 'hard' copy of the whole document at Council offices, Nimbin Visitor Information Centre and at the Lismore library. CDs of the LEP are also available for \$10 from Council.

I encourage readers to check it out and let us know your views.

May Council Meeting Communication with Nimbin

Councillors voted 9/1 (Cr Meineke against, Cr Smith absent) in favour of Cr Clough's motion on ways to improve communication and consultation with Nimbin.

I congratulate Simon for proposing it, and will let him explain the decision and his arguments. As Lismore's pre-eminent village and a major tourist destination, Nimbin is a valued place in our LGA and warrants our attention and commitment to relationship-building.

Council properties

Council also debated reports on two Council properties- the sale of Koala Child Care Centre in Goonellabah and the closure of Lismore Tourist Caravan Park in Dawson Street. Koala was established in 1986 well before there were any for-profit child

care centres.

Councillors were torn between maintaining a well-run and respected service and the argument that long day care is no longer a core service that should be provided by Council.

Ultimately Council decided to seek tenders for the sale of the property and business with settlement in January 2011 to avoid unnecessary upheaval to families, children and staff. There is no thought of selling the Council-owned Gingerbread House, Lismore's only occasional care service.

The argument for closing Lismore Tourist Caravan Park is based on the vulnerability of more than 80 semi-permanent residents living in the lowest section of the Lismore basin who are at risk in times of flood. The facility has a license allowing residents to stay for a maximum of 28 days but all readers will know that there is a dire shortage of housing in Lismore and our region and many people stay longer. Readers might remember that the Park was not evacuated early enough in last year's May flood. Rescuing people from their beds puts their lives and the lives of their rescuers in jeopardy.

Closing the park would potentially cast many people into homelessness. Council was not prepared to close the facility, instead we voted unanimously to evaluate protection measures and evacuation plans and to work with housing and other agencies to relocate residents to more appropriate accommodation.

SkatePark

About 700 flyers were distributed throughout Nimbin and its surrounds as Council consulted the community on the plans for Nimbin's skatepark. At the May meeting, we decided to negotiate with Concrete Skate Parks Pty Ltd for the design and construction of the facility. A kiosk will be established in the community to refine the design.

At the June meeting, Council will receive a report on progress and the preferred site.

Rural Forum

Throughout the year, half of



the Councillors, the General Manager and Manager of Roads attend rural or urban forums to meet residents, hear concerns and to answer questions.

On May 17, seven local residents attended the Rural Forum at the Coffee Camp Hall. After a presentation on planned road and bridgeworks, we discussed topics ranging from hall insurance, weed control, the leaning pine tree in Woodlark Street, to student safety on the roads around Richmond River High School.

The Forums are advertised in City News in the NR Echo but readers are encouraged to contact Council at any time if you have a query or concern.

Police Tower

There seems to be a real communication problem with the Police communications tower that is proposed for Rose Road.

On April 30, Assistant Commissioner Bob Waites assured me that a new application for a revised location in Rose Rd would be with Council early the following week. At the time of writing this column, Council had still not received the revised application.

Despite assurances, residents and Council are concerned that the same lack of process that dogged the erection of the tower in the Nimbin village is evident in this new proposal. As a statutory authority, the NSW Police Force has the power to override Council and community objections, as long as they have followed the due process.

Few would argue against the need for phone and radio links for our Police, but this lack of timely communication with residents and Council remains a matter of concern.

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Obituary: Jack Herer (1939-2010)

Tireless Advocate for Cannabis

by Dr John Jiggins

Jack Herer, author of *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, a cannabis activist nicknamed the Hemperor of HEMP, died in Oregon on 15th April, 2010, aged 70.

Herer visited Nimbin in 1995 for MardiGrass as part of an Australian tour to promote the Australian version of *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*. He was a great friend of the genus cannabis and *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* was subtitled: "The Authoritative Historical Record of the Cannabis Plant, Marijuana Prohibition and how Hemp can still save the World".

Born in 1939, Herer was a self-described "upright prude" in the 1960s, who criticised his first wife when she smoked marijuana openly in front of their children. Not surprisingly, they got divorced. Herer was turned on by a girlfriend in 1969. They listened to music, made love, and afterwards Jack got his first attack of the munchies. He asked in amazement: "Why is this illegal?" "I don't know," his girlfriend replied. For the next four decades, Jack Herer kept asking that question.

Herer wrote his first book *Grass* in the early 1970s after a dispute with a friend over the quality of pot he was buying. Their disagreement became the basis for a humorous book on becoming a marijuana user, with subjects like how to judge pot, how many hits in a mild stone, a heavy stone, a stoned stone, etc. It was sold in book shops and head stores and Jack Herer became a best-selling author.

In 1973, his great friend Captain Ed Adair, who ran a head shop in Van Nuys, California, invited Jack to a meeting to legalise cannabis. There he met Michael Aldrich who told him that marijuana was also this plant called hemp, which had been used for clothes, rope, sails and paper. Jack had never realised

that cannabis had been such a significant plant.

With Captain Ed, Jack Herer began researching cannabis extensively. One night in 1974, after eighteen months researching the topic (and loaded on a variety of drugs), the two friends came to the realisation that hemp could save the world! They could make all the paper without having to cut down another tree, they could make all the clothing and fuel, and they extrapolated it to the nth degree, and everything came back to the idea that marijuana was the most important plant on the planet. They thought that when they came down, they would realise how silly the idea was, the way most of your ideas are when you are really high. But next day, it still made sense. Hemp could save the world!

For the next six years, they preached this message and were treated as pariahs, even in the cannabis legalisation movement. NORML were embarrassed by them, and *High Times* refused to publish the information they wrote.

In 1980, they opened a hemp stall on Venice Beach, the busiest beach in the world and, in 1981, the LA Times sent a reporter down to write a story about these crazy guys on Venice Beach who said that hemp was going to save the world. By the time Jack finished explaining it all, he'd convinced the reporter, who encouraged him to write a book. When the LA Times article came out, they suddenly had thousands of people who believed in cannabis and hemp as one of the greatest ecological tools.

The book that Herer wrote, *The Emperor Wears no Clothes*, was published first in 1986, and has been reprinted many times since. The book has been endlessly recycled in newspaper articles and other books, and most of the things you know about hemp derive from *The Emperor*. In the following twenty-four years, Herer toured the world, visiting thousands of cities,



university campuses and festivals, expounding on the importance of cannabis.

Herer answered his own question: "Why is this illegal?" by arguing that marijuana was banned because of a conspiracy by companies like Du Pont and the Hearst corporation, who held patents for synthetic fibres like nylon and for woodchip-derived newspaper, which were threatened by a revival of the hemp industry. Marijuana was banned because it was hemp, argued Herer, and it was renamed as marijuana so that no-one would know that it was this well-known and familiar plant that governments were outlawing.

The Emperor is such an important book because it shifted the paradigm. While the drug War warriors poured millions of dollars into "Reefer madness" propaganda that continually painted cannabis as a drug that maddens victims, Herer reminded people that it was fibre, food, fuel and medicine.

Fifteen years ago, when he visited Australia, hemp seed was banned in most Western countries, even though it had negligible THC content. Today, hemp seed is a legal food in every Western country, except Australia. In November 2010, California will vote on a proposition to regulate and tax cannabis. Three decades ago Jack Herer and Captain Ed Adair pledged each other that they would teach the world the true story about cannabis, and they would not stop until cannabis was legalised, or they died, or they turned 84.

Jack Herer never forgot that pledge.

Dr John Jiggins is a writer and journalist who has published several books including Marijuana Australiana, The Killer Cop and, with Jack Herer, the Australian version of The Emperor Wears No Clothes.

Just what the doctor ordered



The 2010 Nimbin Cannabis Cup has been won convincingly by Mullaway's Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd, the North Coast company that is in the process of gaining registration to produce a medicinal cannabis tincture.

Principal of the company, Tony Bower said, "I would also like to thank everyone for their support in what I am trying to achieve, which is a foot in the door for a medicine that people should be allowed to have."

His strain, 'Cleverman' won both Outdoor and Indoor categories in the 18th annual double-blind judging event, which attracted 16 entries for buds and three entries in the hashish category.

This year, judges were given the option of using vaporisers, a carbon-free means of ingesting the active ingredients, as well as the more conventional bongs and joints, to assess the entries.

Addressing the crowd of over 50 judges, observers and media, Chief scorer Dionne May paid tribute to all the competitors: "You put in the hard yards to get the crop in, nurture it and protect it, harvest it, cure it and groom it, and we're here to say, 'Good on you!'"

Accepting the winner's trophy, not actually a cup but instead a hand-made glass platter, Mr Bower said, "Mullaways



Top: Tony Bowers is presented with his award by Chief Score-keeper Dionne May. Above: Gunja Faerie hostess Chantico contemplates the table of Outdoor entries. Below: Experienced judge Dave Cannabis sniffs out a winner.

Medical Cannabis have been fortunate to win 13 trophies over the last 10 years and I hope that we have inspired some of the younger generation and that this record will be broken in the next 10 years."

This may be the last year that the company enters the competition, due to the amount of work involved in securing a medical manufacturing license, but Tony will continue to be involved in the Cup.

"I did notice this year that there were some young fellows with some good breeds and the willingness to learn, so I look forward to being a judge in the future," he said.

Growers interested in competing in next year's Cannabis Cup should contact the HEMP Embassy for entry details.



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Big Joint travels to Canberra this month

by Max Stone

A Cannabis Law Reform Demonstration in Canberra in the middle of winter? Are we kidding? We all wish we was - but we ain't.

In a perfect world President Obama would be visiting Australia in the middle of spring on a warm sunny day and thousands upon thousands of people would spontaneously and magically gather outside Parliament House and the law would be changed for the better with almost no effort, sacrifice or hardship on our part.

But we don't live in that kind of perfect world (yet), we are going to have to make an effort, we are going to have to sacrifice our time and as far as hardship is concerned, it's not like we're going on dog sleds to the South Pole.

Do keep in mind that this is the first time President Obama has visited Australia, and since Presidential visits are actually quite rare, the

first visit by a President was that of Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966, since then there have been 5 other visits by 3 other Presidents, both Bushes and Clinton, that's a total of six Presidential visits in 44 years (one every 7.3 years) so we have no option but to seize this opportunity and make

the attempt to include our issue into the plethora of other issues demanding the Presidents' attention.

From where I sit, every Big Joint mission to date has been building up a level of professionalism and respect, and this mission, done right, means we just could

get multinational cannabis law reforms happening as a result of our actions.

Bottom Line? What President Obama says in Australia, resonates in America and around the rest of the world and the whole point of our 'Joint Session' is to get everyone talking about the perfect world that awaits all of us when cannabis prohibition is finally ended.

Convinced? Thinking you might be able to join us there? I hope so, I hope you can help us magic happen and can make it all the way to the Big House to be there in the Authorized Assembly Area to meet with the Big Joint, Obama and Rudd at 4.20pm on 18th June.

I will be in the HEMP Bar Polite Force HQ most days until we leave for Canberra, so if you can help with bodies, transport, dollars or warm shelter in the Capital, do call in and see me.

For more info, phone Nimbin HEMP Embassy on 02 6689-1842/6689-0326.



NIMBIN STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuvva

I've been so far Unda I lost time, a whole month just disappeared.

It used to be that when I got busted, which happened regularly as part of the trade, I would be back at work within the day. Not any more, I spent three weeks in the lockup and absolutely no one would believe me. It's not so simple, obviously I can't just announce to everyone, "Hey guys, I'm Undacuva, see you later." As we all now know, corruption is as rife as lantana on the North Coast, so who do I tell? I had to get seriously sick before they would take me to hospital where there was no option but to kill me off.

It was a good excuse for a holiday because I really was very very sick. Someone suggested a quick rest on a beach at a Thai resort and I landed in Bangkok just as the rioting began. Thin and weak, no wonder I was mistaken for a junkie. Mugged and thrown out on the street penniless, I had to find every survival instinct I'd ever been taught, including putting myself into a state of emptiness for four days on end. I kept thinking of the Dalai Lama. Angels rescued me as they always do, and here

I am back in the land of plenty doing nothing worthwhile, or so it feels.

I've been pulled back in for the Obama visit as we did all the footwork for the last visit, which was delayed. Turns out the Pres and the Rudder did broach the subject with Obama shocked at our PM's almost total ignorance. Embarrassing too because the Abbott ego was there and carried on like he wrote the bong etiquette book himself, showing off in front of the yanks and his liberal mates as he chopped up. Turns out the boxer pulled more than a few cones at uni and used the weed to dull the pain in the ring. The only time he ever got knocked out was when he was too spaced out and momentarily forgot where he was.

Back in the home town it's all depressing news. The Big Bosses in Sydney cannot work out how nine permanent police with CCTV can't eliminate the pot dealing in a one-street, one-pub town. On paper and in the computer it's all so simple. So why not in real life? They were still trying to work it out when I left, my report unopened on the table.

They plough on. New tactics include every member of the community is now unda new surveillance, no one is free of

suspicion. "Unless there is evidence based truth a member of Nimbin's community is not dealing drugs, they are under suspicion." Those are the exact words.

Undas and overs, informers and uniformers, all to watch each other logging in every detail daily. I'm now spending most of the days on the computer, and deciphering and collating all the info means pulling a dozen more of us off street patrol. In fact, so long as the cameras are working I can just sit on the 'puter in the warm office and I'm scratching to get it all down in time as I watch the live action on Cullen Street play out on the screen before me.

And we've got a time limit. Twelve months. If we can't stop the drug dealing in the tiny weed capital in twelve months, we pull out. Or so the official word is. Apparently the cost of finding an ounce of weed in Nimbin has gone from two cops in the village a decade ago scoring at approx \$500 a deal, to well over \$4000 spent finding each ounce last financial year.

(And the plot for the hippies to steal the Lantern Parade's thunder on the solstice in Lismore with a giant bud lantern is now officially exposed.)

Civil Liberties Observer Group reports on MardiGrass

Extracts from the report to Council on the 2010 MardiGrass

Media reports indicate that the total number of arrests over the three days of MardiGrass 2010 numbered less than thirty. At last year's event, media reports indicate that there were well in excess of one hundred arrests. This represents a huge success for all involved.

Police Behaviour

The policing at this year's event was a marked departure to that employed last year. The various police officers on the street were (in the main) pleasant. The tenor of (most of) the comments received by CLOG regarding the police effort this year has been positive.

A number of reported incidents of inappropriate or rude behaviour by police were investigated, including:

- the opening of a private bag, removal of alcohol, and then pouring of this on the ground (usurping and squandering the common law property rights of an attendee)
- the utilisation of intemperate language,
- the utilisation of racially inflammatory terminology,
- heavy-handed conduct during arrest (one individual reported with apparent bruising).

Only one of these incidents was deemed to substantiate 'serious (reportable) misconduct'; however the individual disaffected was reluctant to make an official statement.

Reports of inappropriate remarks being made to motorists at checkpoints distant from the event were investigated and substantiated. This matter is deemed to warrant further consultation, and at next year's event dedicated CLOG teams will be tasked with monitoring all distant police

checkpoints for the whole of the period of the event.

CLOG suggests that the senior officers in charge of policing the 2010 MardiGrass should be publicly commended for the high level of professional competence that was displayed by the majority of the police during the course of the weekend.

Crowd Behaviour

As in previous years, the crowd that attends the MardiGrass is largely well behaved.

All reports of violent behaviour at the event where the individuals involved were identified, proved to involve locals.

Several incidents involving violence and alcohol relating to the Nimbin Hotel were reported and investigated on the Sunday morning. Several incidents relating to adverse drug reactions were also reported.

None of these incidents (when investigated and assessed) reflected unfavourably on the police in any way.

An initial site inspection of Nimbin and environs undertaken on the Friday was repeated early on the Sunday. Illegal camping does seem to be an issue. Tents were observed pitched on verges and outside of designated areas.

The interrelationship of attendees and some of the residents living adjacent to the designated camping areas has been reported as problematic.

CLOG recommends that further attention needs to be paid to:

- a) the policing of alcohol use within the event environs, and especially near the designated camping areas, and
- b) the provision of youth specific entertainment facilities in a safe and controlled manner on the Friday and Saturday nights.

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