



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Frivolous and **FREE**

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

Optimistic MardiGrass, and so polite!



by Bob Dooley

It may not have been the biggest MardiGrass in the event's 18-year history, but it was definitely one of the most cruisey.

Optimism for cannabis law reform abounded in the forums, displays and speeches, and throughout the youthful crowd, all wearing their pro-cannabis colours on their sleeves, their

heads, and everywhere else.

They good humouredly followed the Polite Squad's example by being polite and friendly, and were generous in their applause for the dozens of bands and buskers.

Police Inspector Nicole Bruce congratulated the crowd on their good behaviour – the tally, after drug-testing buses, sniffer dogs and bag searches: 6 drug-related charges,

16 cannabis cautions, other minor matters.

Throughout the weekend, scores of stallholders enjoyed continuous trade in the Indian Summer conditions, with most local food shops staying open for extended hours on Saturday night – the bakery, all night long.

Darcy Goodwin's Five Loaves food stall was threatened with closure for not having a permit, but this was

soon overcome, as were other glitches.

On Sunday morning the numerous campsites around the village awoke to the sad news of a road death and other injuries sustained by festival goers overnight, but the sombre mood was lifted by the musical acts, the hilarious finals of the Hemp Olympix, the colour of the Grand Parade, and the over-riding optimism.

• See Organisers' Report in Lift-Out.

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SOUVENIR LIFTOUT

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