

## Barkers Vale Public School

One of the many wonderful things about living in this region is that we have choices about the Primary school we send our children to. Having chosen Barkers Vale Public School for my sons, I am constantly amazed, gratified and delighted by the quality of the experience for our whole family.

The school has a strong community spirit and a long history of parental involvement. Wonderful developments are occurring there including the following:

- Kindy and Year 1 learn literacy through Jolly Phonics - a thorough foundation for reading and writing that teaches the letter sounds in an enjoyable, multisensory way that my boys have benefited from hugely while experiencing learning as fun;
- Rock and water, a program that provides young boys with skills for self awareness, increased self-confidence and social functioning is facilitated by the Principal. Having delivered this program myself years ago in juvenile detention centres with great results for the young men, it is extraordinary to have it offered to my boys aged 5 and 7 and see them develop skills that will help them be fine young men;

- A talented parent has volunteered to form a school band with instruments made out of recycled materials. If you have any to donate (fishing line, thin wire, broken air compressors, pickle barrels, spring water containers, broom/rake handles, dowel, polypipe, PVC pipe, old pots & pans, nuts/bolts etc)

- Another parent is developing a School

Environmental Management Plan in consultation with students, staff and the wider community. Once the plan is finalised, we will be applying for grants for environmental projects including seeking partnerships with local Aboriginal people;

- A kind and generous man from Kyogle, Syd Hume, volunteered his time to help students and teachers build marimbas for the school. The kids love learning to play these great instruments

- The after school activities include Flamenco Dancing, music and gymnastics.

All this at a little public primary school! How blessed we are!

Jennifer Parke  
Blue Knob

## 1080 baiting

After having lost a young dog to 1080 poisoned baits laid on a neighbouring property over Easter, I would like to have this issue raised (again) publicly.

Newer people moving into the area may not be aware of the wider consequences of this dangerous poison and may not realise there are other options to deal with 'wild' dogs. 1080 is ultimately an archaic, hit and miss approach and is a toxic poison which is banned in every country in the world except for Australia and New Zealand. It is an extremely traumatic way for an animal to die, the poison causing extreme hallucinations, diarrhoea, convulsions and ultimately death. There is no antidote, vets can only sedate the animal in the hope they will be able to pass the poison through their bodies.

I was surprised to learn that the North Coast Livestock Health and Pest Authority classifies pure and half-bred dingoes as wild dogs and

therefore considers them automatically a pest animal. After speaking at length with the local Ranger who laid the baits, I discovered there are other options to 1080 such as trapping and shooting. Trapping does not kill the dog, but holds them in the soft jaw trap until the dog can be identified and dealt with appropriately. If dealing with a pack of dogs, trapping can be time consuming, however infra-red camera systems can now be set up to identify the type and number of dogs present in an area. This assists the Ranger to trap most effectively. The Ranger also explained that 1080 baiting is never effective in removing an entire pack of dogs anyway, as the dominant dogs in a pack will not usually take the baits.

This is why baits are often left untrapped even after a week or more. The dogs can never be fully eradicated with the use of this poison.

Also, I urge people to consider the bigger picture and the impact of the poison getting into the environment. A review of the use of 1080 by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority released in 2005 showed that the dispersal of 1080 in bait form presents a danger to non-target animals, and that the chemical is 'easily leached from some materials by rain or even dew fall.'

Non-target animals (each species has varying sensitivity) are as equally attracted to 1080 baits as are the targeted animals. Further, scavenging animals such as magpies, kookaburras, currawongs and carnivorous species such as quolls can be killed through secondary poisoning when they feed upon unrecovered carcasses. I urge others who

may be considering using these baits to think of the potential impact on other innocent animals and to consider trapping or shooting instead, at least you know you are getting the intended animal.

I have lodged a formal complaint to the NCLHPA about this recent use of 1080 and have been assured by the local Ranger that such baiting will not take place in my local area again. I encourage others with similar concerns to advise the Board that you do not agree with the use of 1080 in your area. Hopefully in time, safer and more effective solutions will be in place for people who feel the need to be rid of wild dogs, rather than the dangerous use of the 1080 poison.

Linda de Milford  
Nimbin

## 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 per week, have excellent references. Please contact Jodi or Lloyd on 0457-732-077.

### Bike missing

An old rusty, rustic ladies bike with a traditional Dutch ladies' saddle, disappeared a few weeks ago from a front yard of one of the Sibley Street houses. Any sighting of it, please phone Cobra on 0427-756-414.

### Nimbin Community School Co-op

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 19th May, 6pm at the Comskool Room,

## About us

**Editor:** Bob Dooley

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

**Next deadline:**  
Wednesday 26th May

**Email:** [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

## Bereavements

### Farewell Mike Shegog



My personal sympathies go to Mike's daughters, his extended family and all his Nimbin friends. I did not know Mike well before he moved to Canberra but of course his name was familiar in Labor circles. On Mike's return to Nimbin, a friend read the *GoodTimes* to Mike in hospital and he expressed an interest in talking to me. Aine passed on that message, so I called in to see Mike and we talked about politics and life in general. He was clearly very sick but so happy to be back in Nimbin.

Then when Council held its community consultation in Nimbin last month, it was lovely to see Mike there with Khy. It was also good to see colour in his cheeks and to feel the strength of his grip as we hugged. Mike retained a keen interest in all things community and political, right to the end.

Farewell Mike. You were a joy to know even briefly, and you will be missed.

Cr Jenny Dowell

### Vale Adeline Windhawk

Grandmother Adeline Windhawk, a respected Elder of the Yakama Nation of Turtle Island (North America) passed away peacefully at Nimbin hospital at 9.15am on Tuesday 20th April, after a short illness.

Grandmother Windhawk will be remembered for her teaching and healing work utilizing the traditional knowledge of her Native American heritage.

Grandmother Windhawk conducted women's circles and bush camps in Australia for over twenty years under the banner of Earth Wisdom. The camps taught self respect and respect for the Earth as the Mother of us all.

Her wisdom will be sorely missed.

John Morrison

### Vale Paul Mazur

Billen Cliffs residents were saddened to receive news that on Monday 19 April Paul Mazur was involved in a motorcycle accident near Tweed Heads. He passed away on Tuesday 20th April at the Tweed Heads Hospital. The Billen Cliffs community deeply regret his sudden passing and offer their condolences to his family and friends.

## Corrections

Unfortunately, factual errors crept into several stories in the April edition.

The article 'Bush Factory Theatre story continues' (page 2) suggested the theatre had once been leased by a member of the Lone Wolf motorcycle club, but NGT has been informed that no member of the Lone Wolf club has ever leased the property.

The article 'Nude Bike

Riders Thank Everyone' (page 3) credited its author, Mrs Coba Quivooy, as being one of the co-ordinators of the event, though she played no part in organising it.

The article 'Local portrait Prize Entry' erroneously suggested that Maxx Maxted's work was hung in the Australian National Gallery. However, it does hang in the National Gallery of Trinidad.

Apologies to all concerned.

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## Are we an Intentional Community?

Lynne Oldfield

While studying at Djanbung gardens many fellow students have wondered at the lack of examples of intentional communities that they expect to see around here.

In the beginning Nimbin was based on intentional community. It seems to have become swallowed up over the years but it still manages to underlay the social and political fabric of Nimbin and surrounds, and has worked socially. But in the aspects of co-operative food growing and social structures on communities, it has failed to materialise as successfully as originally hoped.

When hippies and their home building coincided with rainforest demonstrations and marijuana use, local government became involved wanting to demolish houses which created the need for terms and organisations so "low cost housing" became a synonym for what was going on, and as names do they alter original concepts.

"Low cost housing" has now become something of a misnomer now that house prices on communities set up with a format that has proved to be most amenable to a de-facto housing subdivision

are equivalent to such, and the idea of intentional communities has become even further swallowed up. Some communities have done better than others with strategies to thwart the real estate nightmare that many later communities succumbed to.

Very few long-running attempts of community self-sufficiency exist, except for Dharmananda where they have a community dairy and garden that produces an amount of food for its people and shared meals many times a week. The whole food production trip hasn't been as easy as people dreamed.

Even in the early days, people didn't all come here with the idea of "intentional community living". Nimbin had its fair share of evangelists spreading the word, making sure that Nimbin had many visitors. Calls went out for saviours of the forest who stayed on. Then came the marijuana fame and the more it has been publicised, the more that has been believed to be the ethos of Nimbin.

The new evangelists are the real estate agents and the clever spiels on the back of our hippy papers to draw customers in. Customers, who these days have a potential to subvert the town or the communities they move on to into their paradigm as their numbers become

overwhelming.

Over the years we have had meetings and consultations with council to plan the town as a hippy or environmentalist would see it. All have been subverted and ignored as they treat us as truculent children who will grow up one day and follow their path. Blinded by prejudices, those in authority take a long time to hand over the respect and acknowledgement of our prescient study and intuition of a possible alternate path for the world as we have tried to create it in Nimbin.

With the well-planned eco-community resulting in just another housing subdivision on the old Aquarius site, due to the difficulties thrown up against the original plan by council and the attendant developer reaction, it is time we demanded respect for the intelligence in trying to live within the ecology of the area.

We are a large intentional social community with many things in common. We should have a say on things like our streetscapes and the creation of an organic zone.

In an era where transition towns are becoming news, it's time for changes in attitudes about development and paternalistic straightening out of people who have been transitioning for years.

## NAPLAN + League Tables = NIL

by Sally Baxter

In January this year, Labor launched its *My School* website which ranks schools nationally, based on their performance in standardised literacy and numeracy tests (known as NAPLAN). The purpose of *My School* is not to provide "transparency and information for mums and dads", as the government claims. Its real aim is to unleash a divisive struggle between schools.

School performance data has always been available to members of the public, however this data was protected from public media manipulation generally through the law. Now market forces such as real estate promote 'desirable areas' based on school performance data.

If only the data were correct – for instance, schools that selectively choose students, or do not have special education facilities catering for students with specific needs or learning difficulties, and have increased resources due to their funding levels or socioeconomic levels etc. are compared to other schools without this data being provided.

Basically the league tables categorise schools from the top number to the bottom number based on a test mark on a given day and saying this

shows whether the school is good or not! Where does the brilliance of the creative arts, music, athletics, social skills, technology, industrial arts etc feature? Nil! The score doesn't even show growth in students level from last time they were tested to now. Essentially that's what the beef is – this score shows nothing – it's just a number that the federal government has allowed the media to "name, blame and shame" children, teachers, principals and communities.

Rudd has declared that Labor's "education revolution" will create an "education market place". Like any market place, there will be winners and losers. In Britain and the United States similar reforms have produced a disaster. They have been used to victimise and sack teachers, subordinate curricula to the productivity requirements of business and close hundreds of public schools.

Labor's education revolution is part of a wider agenda to slash all aspects of social spending. While billions—and trillions—of dollars are made available by governments to bail out the banks and financial institutions, money for schools, hospitals, welfare and public infrastructure is to be gutted. In April, Julia Gillard announced plans for a *My University* and *My Hospital* that will publicly

rank health and tertiary education on the basis of "efficient service delivery."

No area of social spending will be exempt from the full blast of the market and the Rudd government's "higher productivity" restructuring program. Teachers, parents and students who oppose the deepening assault on public education need to strike out on a new political road.

League tables, NAPLAN tests and pay for performance, cannot be fought in a piecemeal fashion but must be rejected in total. The defence of education requires not only a political struggle against the government, but an insistence on make spending on education, health and other vital areas of social life the first—not the last—priority.

NAPLAN testing is due in the second week of May. The federation of public school teachers has declared a boycott on the test so that the government cannot give the media fuel for the fire. The divisions between schools and staff will manifest as the powers that be declare NAPLAN has to go ahead with many who view this issue as but a small part of the bigger picture with action needed now.

How it pans out in our school zone will be continued... in the next issue of the *Good Times*.

## Whale watching

by Coralie Summerton

A recent episode of the ABC program *Hungry Beast* featured Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. It was so derogatory that I can only conclude this program cares not about the plight of whales but only ratings.

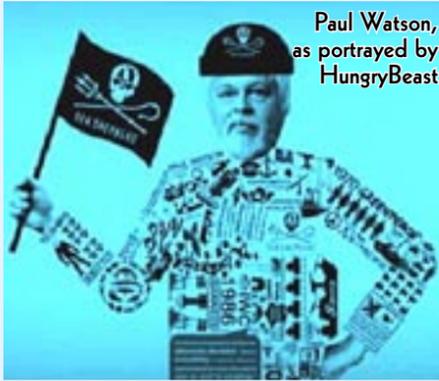
Recently I went to hear Senator Bob Brown speaking at Byron Bay. Also present at the evening were a couple of men wearing Sea Shepherd t-shirts and caps. I spoke to one of them during intermission. He was about to join the *Steve Irwin* berthed in Perth, ready to sail back down to the Antarctic to face Japanese men with harpoons, intent on killing whales.

He is a sailor from New Zealand (not the one arrested by the Japanese). His last words to me were "I am prepared to die for the whales."

This really shook me because the guys are heroes, not the villains that *Hungry Beast* tried to portray.

Last whale watching season, I was visiting my son, who was then living around the headland north of Burleigh Heads. We were sitting on the deck of Nobby's Beach Surf Life Saving Club, where the whales just keep on passing by before your eyes, huge fountains of water spouting along the horizon.

One day when we looked out on to the ocean, about twelve or more whales filled the view as far as you



Paul Watson, as portrayed by *Hungry Beast*

could see. It was the stragglers, the last of the migration going South on their way to the Antarctic Ocean. They were the mothers and calves travelling slowly, but surely, having a whale of a time, bursting out of the water, doing flips, enjoying their journey in anticipation of the feed ahead in those cold waters.

Little did they know the Japanese ships would be in wait for them, BUT

little did they know that there were also people who really care, waiting for them, to be their protectors and shepherds, putting their own lives at risk, putting themselves between a harpoon and a whale.

I felt so encouraged, knowing that Captain Paul Watson and the Sea Shepherds were there for them. As a result of their work, these humpbacks were saved from cruel slaughter for at least three years and once again we can all joyfully watch them navigate their way down our coastline, knowing they are safe for now.

Two letters, explaining their work, and written from the deck of the *Steve Irwin*, by Captain Paul Watson while 'amongst the icebergs' have been sent by the Foundation to the Nimbin Environment Centre, if anyone would like to read them.

He writes, "This is not just a simple matter of saving whales, it is a question of survival. When

we diminish the seas, we diminish ourselves and should we kill the seas, we will be killing every living thing on Earth. If the oceans die, we all die."

The oceans cover most of our planet. His work extends to all endangered sea species including work with the Galapagos Park Marine Reserve rangers "to apprehend and punish shark poachers" and training dogs to sniff out shark fins at seaports and airports.

Sea Shepherd did not deserve this treatment by *Hungry Beast*. The more people support them, the more chance we have of saving the whales. Bio-diversity on land and sea is what makes our planet live-able. Governments world-wide need to realise this, especially in Australia.

This land and sea is one of the most bio-diverse in the world but going down hill very fast as more and more humans want a piece of it, destroying biodiversity in its wake.

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# Janelle's Page

by Janelle Saffin, MP

I am pleased to report that I was successful on behalf of our area in securing the funds, \$9.1 million in total that we had sought for enhanced cancer services in our region.

The announcement means the Rudd Government will provide \$6.5 million for a second linear accelerator at Lismore Base Hospital's new Integrated Cancer Care Centre as well as a PET/CT scanner.

Added to this was the real sweet announcement that we would get the \$2.6 million for a 20-bed cancer patient and carer accommodation facility to be built opposite to the new cancer centre.

This means people across the North Coast won't have to travel to Brisbane or Sydney for treatment.

I lobbied hard for us in Canberra to see these facilities become a reality on the North Coast, and I am delighted that the cancer care services we asked for will be delivered.

I encouraged our local doctors and community leaders to put forward their own submissions, so that I could lobby directly in Canberra. I commend Dr. Chris Ingall and Dr. Adam Boyce who did so much work in both areas, and community leader Marshall Fittler for starting the PET/CT scanner campaign, which all local MPs and community got on board with.

The Prime Minister announced the \$9.1 million funding when he was here recently to visit the cancer care centre.



Janelle and the Prime Minister talk about the new cancer care services with Lismore cancer patient Joyce Mulle.

## Human Rights Framework

On 21st April, the Attorney-General launched Australia's Human Rights Framework which outlines a range of key measures to further protect and promote human rights in Australia.

The Framework acts on the key recommendations of the National Human Rights Consultation Committee and complements a number of actions the Government is already taking to encourage greater inclusion and participation in our community.

The Framework is based on five key principles and focuses on:

- reaffirming a commitment to our human rights obligations;
- the importance of human rights education;
- enhancing our domestic and international engagement on human rights issues;
- improving human rights protections including greater parliamentary scrutiny; and
- achieving greater respect for human rights principles within the community.

The Framework demonstrates the Government's commitment

to positive action in relation to human rights through a number of key commitments, including:

- investing over \$12 million in a comprehensive suite of education initiatives to promote a greater understanding of human rights across the community;
- establishing a new Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights to provide greater scrutiny of legislation for compliance with our international human rights obligations;
- requiring that each new Bill introduced into Parliament is accompanied by a statement of compatibility with our international human rights obligations;
- combining federal anti-discrimination laws into a single Act to remove unnecessary regulatory overlap and make the system more user-friendly; and
- creating an annual NGO Human Rights Forum to enable comprehensive engagement with non-government organisations on human rights matters.

The Government firmly believes that a nation that respects fundamental human rights is a nation that is safer, more resilient, productive and stable.

The framework is available online at [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au) or you can ring the Human Rights Branch on 02 6141-3415 to request a hard copy.

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

# Youth Allowance changes will effect North Coast students

by Justine Elliot, MP

A big issue for parents in our area is the cost of supporting students who have to move away from home to study.

April 1 marked the introduction of the Rudd Government's student income support reforms.

Many North Coast students stand to benefit from these important reforms.

New scholarships have been introduced for higher education students receiving Youth allowance, ABSTUDY or Austudy, and the Age of Independence has been lowered from 25 to 24 years.

The Government has also introduced new parental income test arrangements to raise the threshold for working families from July 1. The new parental income test will allow parents with two students studying away from home to earn more than \$140,000 before their allowance is cut.

Under the reforms, students who live in outer regional, remote or very remote areas, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, who have to move away from home to study and whose parents earn less than \$150,000 a year will be able to apply for independence under the old work tests.

Some students who need to relocate to study will also be eligible for a Relocation Scholarship, valued at \$4000 in the first year and \$1000 in subsequent years.

This new system is fairer for working families, for taxpayers and for our students.

## Aged Care Boost

As part of the Rudd Government's health reform we will invest a further \$739 million in aged care to better support older Australians.

This investment will support around 5,000 aged care places or beds and help to end the blame game that hurts hospitals and aged care services.

Through this national aged care package the Australian



Justine examines school building plans with Julia Gillard.

Government will:

- For the first time take full responsibility for aged care, including home and community care provided to older Australians;
- Support the development of 2,500 new aged care places through Zero Real Interest Rate Loans;
- Provide an estimated \$280 million to the states and territories to fund older Australians who are in hospital waiting for an aged care place;
- Increase incentives to GPs to provide more services in aged care homes; and
- Expand the capacity of Multi-Purpose Services – which provide aged care and step-down services in small rural communities – by 286 sub-acute beds or bed-equivalents.

These measures build on the Government's existing investments in aged care which have resulted in a nearly 20 per cent increase in funding and the addition of more than 10,000 aged care places.

In building the National Health and Hospitals Network, the Government is determined to get the hospital and aged care systems

working together to ensure better health and better care for older Australians.

## 2010 Anzac Day Schools Award

Anzac Day is a central part of our history. This year marked the 95th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign.

It is important that young Australians learn about the significance of the day.

I encourage local schools to showcase their Anzac spirit by taking part in the 2010 Anzac Day School's Awards.

These awards encourage school students to learn about the Anzac tradition and what Anzac Day means to Australia.

Entries can include artwork, a collection of wartime stories from local veterans or serving members, class research projects or even a play depicting the story of the Anzacs.

The awards are open to all Australian primary and secondary schools. Entries close Friday 21st May 2010.

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# Simon says...



**Simon Clough**  
Lismore City Councillor

Autumn must be my time of year. I love the clarity of the air with a touch of coolness. Almost without thinking I find myself in the garden putting in the winter veggies, fighting the never ending "nut grass wars". I've even bought my first new lawnmower, having finally given up on a long line of second hand duds.

It was great to see funding for the new Nimbin skate park come through as part of the federal stimulus package. It's a shame we lost three weeks on the project as Justine Elliott's office failed to notify Council. I can't wait to see the youth of Nimbin and the not so young getting into the new park. Every time I look at the skate park at Goonellabah it's packed with skateboarders, BMX riders and kids on scooters all enjoying themselves. I'm in awe at the way the users seem to organically be able to give each other enough space while careering around.

This must have been the month when we earn our pay as Councillors (less than the single pension), 12 meetings all over the local government area and some not very favourable feedback to Council. Mind you I think my opinion was coloured by the fact that I had a nasty virus (probably double swine flu!) which had me reeling. It's been hard to keep up my reputation as a MAMIL (middle aged man in lycra) when I only managed one ride on my bike in that whole period. I'm now back in the saddle and relishing the chilly mornings and mist with the sun breaking through here and there.

I was profoundly disappointed that the \$200,000 special rate variation for the environment didn't "get up" at the last Council meeting. For an average

of \$8 per year increase in rates we could have kicked some great goals for our fabulous, unique environment. Nonetheless, now that Council has more environmental staff there's a great opportunity to do a lot of research and planning and maybe we'll try for an environmental rate variation next year. Only the business levy was approved by Council, and it's quite possible that the minister won't accept that application as the amount is too small.

You may remember that Council requested an independent assessment of the TransGrid proposal for a \$285m transmission line to Lismore based on a 46% increase in population over the next 10 years. Council recently received a letter from Transgrid stating that the Minister had requested an independent assessment of the methodologies used to predict demand. This assessment will be made by Industry and Investment NSW. So watch this space...

Rudd's abject failure in the area of climate change and related issues makes it even more critical for Councils and local communities to take up the baton on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I recently read a report by the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology ([www.bom.gov.au/inside/eiab/State-of-climate-2010.pdf](http://www.bom.gov.au/inside/eiab/State-of-climate-2010.pdf)). Some of the key features of the report are that the number of days with record hot temperatures has increased each decade for the last 50 years. There have also been fewer cold days each decade during that period. Most significantly 2000 to 2009 was Australia's warmest decade.

## From the mayor's desk

### Rates

By now, readers of NGT will know that Council has decided not to proceed with an application to the Minister for Local Government for a Special Rates Variation (SRV) of 3.51% above the rate pegging limit of 2.6%. The lack of community support for the Roads and Environmental components led Councillors to abandon those parts of the application and to only proceed with the .44% increase to the rates paid by Lismore and Goonellabah urban businesses. This SRV will provide \$100,000 pa to be spent on promotion of our city and its businesses.

The decision not to proceed with the total package will mean that there will be no increase to the money spent on road construction and therefore less money available for roads maintenance.

While there is a proposed additional \$60,000 for biodiversity study in the forthcoming year's budget, there will be no additional funds for climate change adaptation.

### Budget

The delivery plan outlining Council's proposed focus for the next four years and the budget for 2010-11 is not on exhibition and will be the subject of an extraordinary meeting on June 9. Things may well change on that night, so it would be unwise to assume that this is the finished product.

Proposed new budget items specifically relating to Nimbin include:

- \$25,000 for staffing of the Visitor Information Centre;
- \$18,300 for footpath maintenance and upgrade;
- \$100,000 for completion of Western carpark lighting;
- \$25,000 for maintenance of Peace Park;

- \$5,800 for a new pump filter at Nimbin pool; and
  - \$8,000 for waste management and security at MardiGrass 2011.
- Submissions that were not included in the proposed budget are:
- \$3,000 for maintenance of murals;
  - \$40,000 to reconstruct the driveway at the caravan park;
  - \$35,000 to refurbish the male toilets at the caravan park.
- The latter two items are related to the current investigations into the possible sale or lease of the caravan park.

In the ordinary meeting that followed, we considered Council's submission to the Part 3A application, urging the Minister to refuse it with 10 grounds for that refusal and supplying a list of conditions should the Minister decide to approve it.

The submission also outlined the s94 contributions for roads and assessed the amount payable at .96c per tonne leaving the quarry. The applicant assesses the contribution as .11c per tonne. The difference would leave Council with a shortfall of \$5,170,475 + CPI for the life of the quarry.



**Jenny Dowell portrait**  
by Ildiko Hammond

4m high, 12.5m from the boundary and 52.5 m from the house. Council refused the application to approve the bund retrospectively and resolved to defend any appeal proceedings that may arise. An order will be issued to remove the unauthorised bund.

### Skatepark

The consultation process and formation of a reference group is progressing and the successful tenderer for design and construction of the skatepark is about to be announced. Stay tuned folks.

### Footpath Trading

Ros Diskin has asked me to thank everyone who contributed to the Business Community Survey for Footpath Trading in Nimbin. Ros received a large number of responses with lots of good feedback for consideration for the draft policy which will be prepared in the near future. Some replies were very detailed and Ros is appreciative of the effort put in by these business owners. There will be a further opportunity to comment when the draft is placed on public exhibition.



**Nimbin's 'Have Your Say' rate-rise consultation meeting**

### Champion's Quarry

Readers may recall that last year, an application was lodged to increase the extraction rate of Champion's Quarry to 200,000 tonnes pa (1 m<sup>3</sup> = 1.7 tonnes). Council refused this application following the receipt of over 1000 objections. Staff had recommended it be approved. The quarry's owner has appealed this refusal in the Land and Environment (L&E) Court. He has also lodged a Part 3A Major Project application with the Minister to further expand the quarry to 250,000 tonnes pa average for 25 years.

At our meetings on April 13, Council discussed three separate items relating to this quarry.

The first was the subject of a closed extraordinary meeting where LCC met with legal counsel to discuss the upcoming L&E Court appeal and the grounds on which it is to be defended.

The ordinary meeting also considered a Section 96 Application by Champion's Quarry to approve a large bund constructed in the wrong place. Council had issued the 2005 approval with one of the conditions requiring the construction of a vegetated earthen bund 2-3 m in height, 45 m from one neighbour's boundary and 85m from that neighbour's house to reduce visual impact. The bund that was constructed is



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# From strength to strength at Blue Knob

by arts correspondent  
Len Martin

A huge crowd packed the gallery for the official opening of our current exhibition Fibble Fable Fibre, with more than 60 booked for opening night dinner! Clearly the Gallery's scrumptious food, prepared by Heather and her helper fairies, is addictive. The large numbers were warranted. The gallery's Fibre exhibitions are always a highlight, but without taking away from previous ones, I have to say that this must be the best yet – fantastic in its variety, quality, beauty and originality, many new, talented exhibitors – and some fabulous fashion items available for sale. The exhibition continues into June and I urge you not to miss it. Congratulations to curators Polly, Myfanwy and Sachiko and the exhibitors.

We were privileged to have well known multimedia artist and teacher Sylvia Watt open the show. Sylvia gave an inspirational, moving address, with her stories as Artist in Residence at the Belmont Private Hospital in Brisbane. Her work with the mentally disadvantaged has been boldly innovative and the results of their creativity exhibited in Brisbane to much acclaim. Thank you so much Sylvia. The evening also included the showing, in the Moore workshop area, of Sachiko Kotaka's short film, *Memoirs of a Crane*, selected for screening at this year's 'Byron All Shorts' and the 'Heart of Gold' International Film Festival. Alas, I must confess



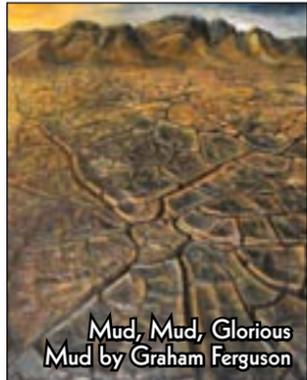
Nuno Felt 'Pink Butterfly' vest by Myfanwy Stirling



Jade Snow Feathers Hat by Megan Jack



Batik by Margy Karam



Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud by Graham Ferguson



Leafy Lineage Mens Waistcoat by Polly Stirling

that I missed it because I was so busy enjoying that scrumptious food, wine and conversation. Sorry Sachiko. On entering the Gallery for our monthly last-Thursday-of-the-month Artists and Friends Lunch (I told you the food is addictive) my attention was immediately

seized by Graham Ferguson's striking allegorical *Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud* – this month's "On the Easel" featured artwork.

As always, a highly enjoyable lunch in exquisite surroundings with much enjoyable conversation, and what better than a quote from our latest member, Michele Bevis, following the lunch.

"It was a great lunch time gathering today. Both Kath (Ackland) and I talked about how motivated we felt being around people who had similar enjoyment about creating and thinking about creating."

Michele works in glass and in particular, hand made glass beads – small works of art. Her jewellery and beads will soon be available at the gallery for collectors of wearable art. They can be seen on her webpage at [www.emubeads.com](http://www.emubeads.com)

### Workshop

Michele is planning a Revamp workshop: "We all are into recycling, so inject new life into your necklaces, pendants, earrings etc. Revamp your style and your loved collection of beads to something new. Are you interested in attending? Bring your ideas, jewellery/ beads – at Emubeads, tools, materials and assistance are available".

Phone Michele on 6679-4020 to register.

## Portrait prize perfection



Lismore Regional Gallery was beyond full at the opening of the inaugural Northern Rivers Portrait Prize on Friday, 23rd April. People queued down Molesworth Street to see the 53 portraits that had made the final cut from an over 130 entries.

The huge interest in this return of an annual Northern Rivers portrait prize certainly underlines the need for a bigger gallery in Lismore. (And makes one wonder why the old portrait prize was discontinued six or seven years ago.) But with the major prize being sponsored by the *Northern Rivers Echo* and Walters Solicitors, and with new director Brett Adlington at the helm the Prize was a huge success.

Judge Michael Zavros, a four-times Archibald finalist, was impressed by what he saw and awarded many commendations as the crowd packed the gallery awaiting his announcement of the winner. He finally



Jesse Mackintosh with his portraitist, Richard Taylor



Lorraine and Rick Vass

awarded first prize to Cassandra Rijs for her portrait of her partner Dean Greguric.

There's a People's Choice award where you can vote for your favourite portrait (and there are plenty of superb contributions). You can vote at the gallery until the exhibition ends on 29th May.

## Autumn Arts Extravaganza

by Margaret McLaren

This was the sixth Annual Autumn Arts Extravaganza presented by Nimbin Artists Gallery. It ran the first one a very good race!

It is wonderful for locals and regular visitors to watch the development and progress of regular contributors and to meet new artists as they become locals. New locals this year included Julie DiLorenzo with landscapes and roads and Byron Tik who moved here some six months or so ago and whose subjects are extraordinarily diverse.

A well-established local, Rudolf Rasmussen showed



fluoro lamps made from recycled perspex. Most of Rudi's past creations were precious jewellery, so this was a great change of scale.

These great lamps shared a space (the backstage studio) with Leigh Arnold (on a radically enlarged scale and using some fluoro paints) and John Ridley. It is probably fourteen years since John delighted me with his moving sculpture 'Springtime' and I for one hope that the gap is not so long to the next time.

Another most welcome return was the beautiful furniture of Andrew Kavasilas, incorporating unusual timbers in very interesting colours and grains. Russell Scott painted portraits in the foyer watched by many, in the company of a brilliantly organic Bunyip (Mac McMahon) and three sandstone sculptures by Donato Rosella. So far, most of the great works have not even been mentioned.

If you missed it, you missed a treat as many who visited multiple times can tell you. We had some excellent music in many styles and thanks to all the musicians, gallery volunteers, artists, Hall volunteers and everyone who works to make this an annual treat for Nimbin and its visitors.



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