

Let's end police siege

BLOCKBUSTERS is a Nimbin-based local group set up to rid Nimbin of the scourge of police harassment.

The group believes that the recent police roadblocks of the village were illegal.

If you witnessed the roadblocks, you can help by writing a letter about your experiences with police and other agencies – Centrelink, Immigration, Road Traffic Authority – during the blockades on 25th and 26th February.

Residents are also asked to respond to this questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. The police searched /strip-searched me/other family member/child/friends/searched the car in which I was travelling.
2. What did the police say, ask or tell you? (Try to quote their exact words.)
3. Did the sniffer dog/s sniff you? Where were you at that moment?
4. Did the police or any of the agency staff with them issue you with any fine or notice? If yes, what was the penalty and what was the final outcome?
5. How would you rate the police officer/s and/or agency staff who spoke to you: Very Polite / Polite /OK /Rude / Abusive/Threatening?
6. Are you willing and able to give this information as a witness in court if necessary?

If yes, then please provide your name, address and contact details (phone/mobile/email).

Please take or post your questionnaire to Nimbin Hemp Embassy, 51 Cullen Street, Nimbin, or email it to head@hempembassy.net

Cronulla-clad copper causes chaos

by Bob Dooley

A plainclothed police officer wearing a Cronulla rugby league jersey was ridiculed in the Nimbin pub at the start of the footy season for issuing Move On orders to two respected members of the community.

Apparently, the officer wasn't a Sharks supporter. He just wanted to see how the costume would go down up here. Mechanic Adam Bell (pictured), a long-standing and highly-regarded member of the community, was asked to provide identification after making light-hearted comments about Cronulla's chances this season.

The other "miscreant", the highly skilled Kiwi snake-handler and father of five, Te-Anu, was given his Move On order for engaging in a friendly shoulder charge and saying, "We're going to whip your arse on the weekend."

Still, the law's the law. Or is it?

Karen Ness, of the Lismore Community Legal Service, said that abuse of new police powers such as Move on



Order is widespread.

"There are a number of highly specific reasons for issuing such a Move On order, such as blocking a public thoroughfare, or exhibiting threatening behaviour," she said.

The Crown decided not to proceed with a Move On order issued to Benny Zable on Australia Day last year, which cost him eight hours at a police station, for his silent protest over a government promotion encouraging barbecuing beef to celebrate nationhood.

This could indicate that prosecutors know police officers routinely misuse

their powers to "put out fires" – and are increasingly being called on to do so by their commanders, with little legal backing.

A police officer interviewed by NGT about Move On orders said: "As long as we get a good outcome at the time, and diffuse a potentially difficult situation, it's in no-one's interest to create a paper chain." Meaning that no written confirmation of the order is issued, in the knowledge that a procedural complaint by the recipient is unlikely.

This, of course, does nothing to increase the standing of the police in what they

increasingly seem to consider a lawless community (Thomas George has long been saying so). It's nothing like lawless, unless a Northern Territory police bucks' party tries it on. Sending in shock troops, footy-jerseyed officers and issuing parking fines is only going to further undermine the shred of goodwill left from when Police officers used to play soccer for the Nimbin Headers.

The Cronulla-clad officer in the pub incident also talked a mentally handicapped man into telling him where he could score, and was taken to a premises in the Nimbin village where he confiscated a quantity of plant material believed to be cannabis.

A court attendance notice was issued. The unfortunate informer alleges he was given "a handful of buds" for his trouble.

So the day's work will end up in the police records as a success. The bully got a result with his Sharks jersey. Actually, he got quite a few results, and Nimbin people, contrary to popular belief, have long memories.

Housing choices under spotlight

Lismore City Council has started work on the Lismore Housing Strategy, which aims to identify how the council can work with the community to ensure a diverse range of housing choices.

The strategy will look at housing needs in Lismore's suburbs, villages and rural areas and consider how affordable housing is, and where future housing should be built.

Providing housing choice in appropriate locations will improve opportunities for residents to gain access to jobs, health care, schools, shops, entertainment, recreation and transport services.

The strategy will take about 15 months to complete. There will be opportunities for residents, organisations and businesses to participate in identifying issues and assisting in developing the strategy. During May and June residents will be able to complete a housing survey, and a series of meetings will also be held in Lismore, Bexhill, Nimbin, Clunes, Dunoon, Caniaba and Wyrallah.

Joint delivery for Sydney pollies

by Sandra Nilsen

Well, the Big Joint embarked on a journey to infiltrate the political realm and its puppets (politicians) in the big smoke of Sydney town.

On board were Big Bong maestro Gary, hemp bar extraordinaires Simonetta and J, Nim-FM news reporter Ian Wickham, Indigenous elder Roy and, thankfully, reggae-rastamusic man Johnny Gunga. Oh, and Izzy. And me. The 420 kombi left the hometown Nimbin at 4.20pm, a little later than the programmed 3 o'clock but hey, when God works on numbers, time just slips in correctly.

So we had a non-breakdown drive to the city after a little coffee, smoko and kip on the Central Coast to collect Mr Groover Stilwell, and made it to the Rocks on time to hear the rehearsal of the Foo Fighters' private gig, and then their private video screening. Wow, wild music when you're exhausted makes your dreams go astray. I like it like that.

Gary organised with film maker Richard Prior for a publicity shoot – all



of us trying to hold the big joint in wild Sydney Harbour wind, could've gone up in a puff of smoke. Or did we?

Trying to make contact with the pollies on where we should be was the fun, driving to Blacktown, driving to Penrith, driving to Parliament House, everywhere where the politicians weren't. Oh dear. It was a good outcome anyway: we got a chance at it and a group of people got together.

We did an impromptu stop at

Newcastle and raised the Obama-smoking-ganja flag. We got to meet a gentleman, also from normal Australia, who had a kombi yard and gave the 420 new vintage hub caps and a fuel cap. Yeah, the kombi lives forever, anywhere.

What can I say? We can all do it. Every bit of disgruntled-ness must be answered to. We are the people, we are the country, they are the government and their job is to look after us. It's time to listen to us.

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Activist charged after gas blockade arrest

by Sue Stock

In the past month, members of Nimbin Environment Centre have been protesting about coal seam gas activities in Tara, near Chinchilla in South-east Queensland.

At Tara on March 29th, Queensland Greens co-founder Drew Hutton was arrested and charged with impeding the construction of a QGC (British Gas) coal seam gas pipeline. Drew was arrested by police for trespassing on property he had been invited by the landowner to be on.

This protest shows us what we might expect in the Northern Rivers. Drew Hutton described on the *Lock the Gate* website how the blockaders at the Tara residential estate felt they could claim victory on April 3rd in their campaign to stop QGC (British Gas) from building a pipeline on to their estate.

"The police have packed up their gear and moved out and British Gas (QGC) have all but stopped work. What finally pulled them up was that our lawyers presented QGC with a letter on behalf of the landowner complaining



Drew Hutton

that they were breaching their contract with him by having road and pipeline corridors that were much wider than he had agreed to."

"They suddenly realised that, if they have breached their EA (environmental authority) on this pipeline, then they might be similarly in breach in many other areas," Mr Hutton said.

When Mr Hutton appears in court on April 13 charged with obstructing QGC, he will argue he was there at the invitation of the landowner with a 'reasonable excuse' for the obstruction.

"Any landowner will be able to obstruct a gas company on the basis that their 'unreasonable interference' gives them a 'reasonable excuse' to act in this manner. The pipeline made it onto the Tara estate but is blocked at Bryce's place, well before they

have made it to any wells. They can't move," Drew said.

This provides important lessons for we in the Northern Rivers. There are very few laws that have any effect on the CSG industry in NSW. The principle legislation is the *NSW Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*, which does not even mention coal seam gas. Environmental regulation is minimal and government generally relies on information supplied by the industry.

There is no independent review of the potential impacts of developing a CSG mine on community, health and environment. Local council has no power in the process. Communities are kept in the dark and complaints are swept aside; there is no independent mechanism for dealing with community concerns. If you allow a mining company access to your property then you are opening your door to a sequence of events that you could regret for the rest of your life. Make sure you and your neighbours act with one voice.

Remember, tell them to go away and they must go. The situation changes once they are in production because

they then have a legal right to enter your property with or without your permission, but they must first go through the exploration phase and that is when you still retain a right to say NO. Gas mines make lots of noise, involve lots of infrastructure, are a serious health and safety hazard and will seriously devalue your property.

Meanwhile, the granting of exploration licences for CSG mining has progressed in the Tweed. Licenses have now been granted to PNG Gas and Macquarie Energy for the Tweed Valley west of Murwillumbah, from Limpinwood to Crystal Creek, from Wadeville to Doon Doon and Rowlands Creek. No areas are exempt, not even the farms bordering National Parks or rivers. Further areas including Stokers Siding and Burringbar are now under application.

If any of you have seen the *Four Corners* documentary you will know what a disaster this could be for the Tweed Valley. If you haven't seen it, check it out at http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/special_ed/20110221/gas/default.htm

Local voters show faith in Greens



by Sue Stock

Thanks everyone for your help and support for the Greens in the NSW State election campaign in the seat of Lismore. Congratulations Thomas George.

We Greens gained 20.5% (9141 votes – awesome). We out-pollled Labor by 7% and achieved over 30% of the two-party preferred vote, and won eight booths: Cawongla, Federal, Kunghur, Nimbin, Rosebank, The Channon, Uki and Wilsons Creek. Wilsons Creek was again the top-polling booth for the Greens, gaining 72% of the vote there. In Nimbin, 64% of voters supported The Greens. Thank you.

Great news also that the Greens have won our first lower house seat in Balmain, congratulations Jamie Parker.

Lismore, I am pleased to say, is one of only twelve seats in NSW to come in second. Most were in Sydney, apart from Lismore and Ballina. This is good for future campaigns here and greater awareness of our rural issues.

We had a great campaign team and I would like to publicly thank Jeff, our campaign director, Wadzy, Ellen, Simon, Nick, Beth, Owen, Daniel, Andy and Shae for all their extremely hard work as well as everyone who did a stint on a polling booth or letter-boxed. Many thanks also are due to Bob and Joanna who coordinated polling booths in Kyogle and Murwillumbah. It was terrific to work well swapping ideas with fellow candidates, Andrea Vickers in Tweed,

Janet Cavenaugh in Clarence, Simon Richardson in Ballina and of course, our successful Upper House candidate Jan Barham, who came and officially opened our shop in Magellan Street, Lismore.

Lismore electorate is huge, covering the area from Drake to Chillingham and beyond to Murwillumbah, Lismore and Kyogle. I had to front-up to and speak at at least six Greens-organised events and many more candidates forums, some of which – like the Farmers' Federation members at Casino – were distinctly hostile. Others, such as the Independent Retirees in Ballina, were most pleasant.

I had to deal with at least three media releases a week, and my comments were sought on events including the Catholic Church's warnings about the "dark side of the Greens". (I could say a lot more about that!) I attended markets every weekend, and travelled to meet voters from Woodenbong, Bonalbo, Tabulam, Kyogle, Murwillumbah and Lismore.

The main issues – coal seam gas, Byrill Creek dam, Casino-Murwillumbah rail, support for renewables and action on climate change – don't go away, and we, the Greens will continue to pursue them.

Northern Rivers Greens next meet on April 11th, the second Monday of the month at Lismore Workers Club at 6pm. We shall also hold some meetings this year in Nimbin and Kyogle. Our May meeting will be in Kyogle. See you there!

World Naked Bike Ride, 2011



Forty-odd people bedecked in body paint rode unhindered around Nimbin for some 45 minutes on 5th March, doing three laps of the main street, climaxing with a Tour-de-France-style pile-up in front of the pub, to make a point about conservation and human vulnerability.



Helpers wanted for ANZAC march

Nimbin's ANZAC observance will be held in Allsopp Park on Easter Monday, 25th April. Assemble at the Nimbin Hospital at 10.45am to start the march at 10.55am. The observance ceremony at the Nimbin District War Memorial begins at 11am.

Everyone is invited to participate in the march or as a spectator. A service will be held at the Nimbin Bowling Club at 12pm, with refreshments available. At the hotel there will be entertainment from 12pm, with ANZAC songs with Tubs, and two-up games.

Any assistance from ex-service members and the community to organise the day would be greatly appreciated. Call Paul 6689-0396.

The Nimbin District War Memorial was commissioned in 1924 and dedicated in 1925 by the-then NSW Governor General, Sir Dudley De Chair. It is dedicated to those who fought and died, the wounded, and those who never returned in the first World War.

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Tunable fun at Minyon Falls

by Simone Rutley

Camping has a long and treasured place in the curriculum at Tuntable Falls Community Primary School.

Each year, towards the end of first term, the junior class of kindergarten goes for two nights at Minyon Falls' Rummary Park. It is a beautiful campsite, with goannas providing much interest. The Kindy class is big this year, and children and their little legs worked very determinedly on two bush walks.

On day one, they explored the creek above the falls, swimming in the waterholes and listening out for birds. On day two they did a seven-kilometre walk down to the falls and back up the other side.

"Check out the guard trees – pass it down the line," would come the call from the front of the line of walkers, and: "Interesting rocks – pass it on." Climbing the amazing strangler fig, swimming



under the waterfall, and the achievement felt by all having reached the top car park were highlights.

The blossoming of the children's confidence was almost tangible and their sense of connection with each other evidence of the value of the camps.

The senior class went to Koinonia, an organised school camp at Evans Head. The children learnt surfing, enjoyed a river cruise, were challenged by rock climbing and thrilled at the exhilaration of swinging on ropes in "the chapel".



Interactive Play

Jan from Summerland Early Intervention (left) and Gai, the Child and Family Worker at Nimbin Parenting Centre.

Nimbin Parenting Centre and Summerland Early Intervention have joined forces to offer interactive play sessions for children and parents.

The sessions will consist of fun play activities to encourage child development and assist children's transition to school, pre school and day care.

The sessions will be held on the first two Wednesdays of the month at Nimbin Parenting Centre from 10am to midday.

For further information contact Gail at Nimbin Parenting Centre on 6689-0423 or Jan at Summerland Early Intervention on 6621-6421.

'Hair'-brained scheme for charity



Nimbin Central School's Student Representative Council recently held a Crazy Hair Day to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation as part of the World's Greatest Shave.

This successful event let the students getting their hair colour-sprayed for a gold coin donation. John McDonald (pictured, top), of Johnny Mac Recycling, donated \$150 to give all students at least one colour.

Marc LeBars raised extra donations by taking the hairspray to town on Saturday.

A total of \$780 was raised – a mighty effort from a small and colourful school.

Nimbin Hospital Info

- **Garage Sale** beside the surgery at Nimbin Hospital on Saturday 9th April, 8am – 2.30pm. Clothes, bric-a-brac, toys, kitchen stuff, furniture, electrical bits and pieces, scones – plain, date and pumpkin – sausage sizzle, cold drinks and lots more. Donations welcome.

- **Nimbin Immunisation Clinic** at Nimbin Hospital, 2nd Tuesday of the month. Birth to 5 years, by appointment only, through Lismore Community Health, phone 6620-7687. Next Clinic Tuesday 12th April.

- **Nimbin Womens Health Nursing Service** every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Free and confidential. Next clinic 19th April. For appointments phone 6688-1401.

- **Physiotherapy** at Nimbin Hospital, Tuesdays and Fridays. For appointments phone 6688-1401.

- **Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services** meetings are held 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm at the Bottlebrush Studio in the Community Centre. Next is 12th April.

Rock, water and Nimbin Central

Two more Nimbin Central School teachers have been trained as Rock and Water instructors: Brad Clarke, the new PDHPE teacher, and Cath Marshall, Head Teacher Secondary Studies.

Rock and Water is a course that is delivered by a series of exercises and games, based on martial arts, to develop confidence and self-reflection. The students learn to block, hit strike shields, stand strong, negotiate using "rock" or "water" verbal approaches, walk away from a fight and consider alternatives to aggression.

It will be taught to Year 7 students over the first semester this year; they may become peer mentors in the program to extend it to Years 5 and 6 in semester 2.

Both Brad and Cath are keen to start the program as soon as possible – and maybe show off some of the skills they learned, including breaking a piece of wood with their fist...

Nimbin Central School's Student



Representative Council members for 2011 were officially inducted at a recent assembly.

With their parents/caregivers and fellow students in attendance, the SRC members received their badges and certificates from the SRC Teacher Co-ordinators, Jo Mackney and Cath Marshall.

The School Captains, Luke Asi and Sapote Hudd, read the SRC Oath before taking part in a special morning tea with a celebration cake.

The SRC already has many plans for this year, including a social towards the end of Term 1 and a Crazy Hair Day to raise funds for the Leukemia Foundation.

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Paying the rent

Nimbin Community Centre has agreed to provide on-going support for the Nimbin Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Centre.

Their support will include pledge seeking, grant writing, fostering key partnerships, advice, website and promotion. There are solid commitments from partners including ACE, Ngulingah LALC, and Nimbin Rocks Project to provide training and industry support.

It is hoped that the Cultural Centre, which is now representative of all the key Aboriginal families living in Nimbin, will become a hub of arts, industry and cultural exchange with an on-going legacy for their children. The centre lost its support from Aboriginal Broadcasting about eight months ago and has been struggling to meet financial commitments.

Community organisations and individuals are asked to contribute a monthly payment for a minimum of a year to make the

Cultural Centre a rent-free space to assist Aboriginal culture in the community. Several organisations have been on board for some time, including the Nimbin Museum, Bringabong, the Hemp Embassy and Herbal Highs.

The Community Centre will collect and manage funds and donations in a separate account held at Nimbin branch of the Summerland Credit Union, which has all the info you need. The details will be made publically available.

Any excess monies collected by the Community Centre on behalf of the Cultural Centre will be used to improve the infrastructure and facilities of the kitchen, gallery and art studio workshop.

Nicola from the Community Centre (6689-0000) or Burri from the Culture Centre (6689-0088) are happy to discuss this further, and are usually available on Fridays.

Nimbin Rocks Project rolling along

by Bob Dooley

Two years into its five-year plan, the environmental restoration project at Nimbin Rocks has made a significant impact on the site and is well along the track to becoming self-sustaining after the funding period ends.

Eight rangers employed by Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council, with supervision, training and mentoring by EnviTE, have been undertaking major weed control, plant propagation and re-vegetation works, including the establishment of a nursery and demonstration garden.

The 'Restoring Biodiversity around the Nimbin Rocks' project is funded through 'Working on Country' under the 'Caring for Country' initiative of the federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Berenice Hetherington, assistant director of 'Working on Country', was at the Rocks on Wednesday to present certificates to eight Indigenous rangers who have completed their Certificate II qualification in Conservation and Land Management.

"It's always exciting to see the progress here, and to see the nursery thriving," Ms Hetherington said. She said the rangers' identification of



Cert 2 class (left to right): Tim King, Richard Burer (trainer), Monica Laurie, Dean Williams, Jake Toby, Keshia Gordon, Lee King, Noel King and Linda Phillips. PHOTO: Sue Stock

94 species on the property, and of habitat for the birdwing butterfly, added to the value of the project.

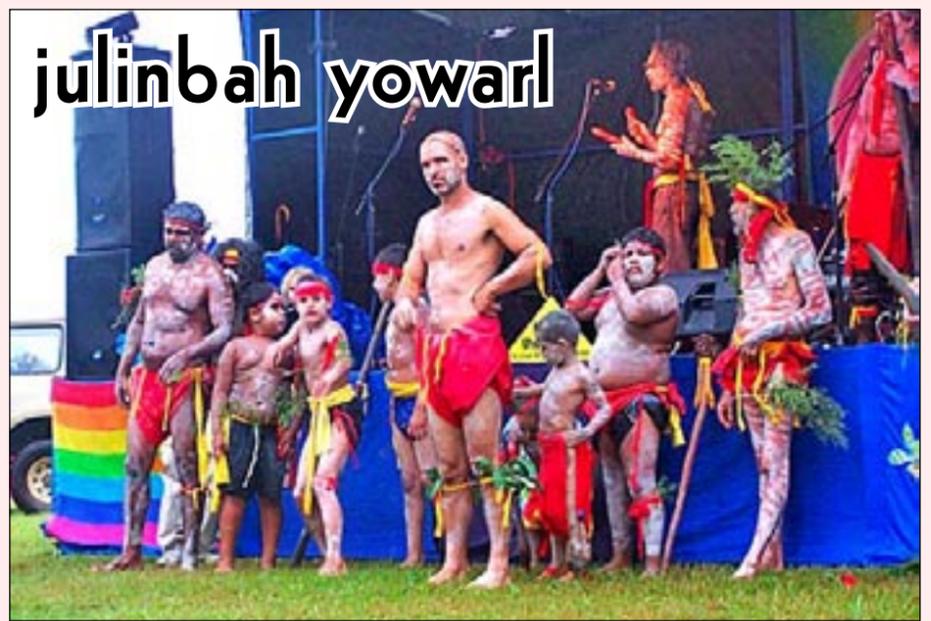
Trainer and mentor Richard Burer, representing EnviTE, noted the personal commitment made by the rangers. "This whole project is a great example of 'From little things big things grow'," he said.

Tracey King, of the Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council, said the rangers' training had opened wider employment options. "Not that we want to lose you," she quipped.

The eight rangers have already started training

for Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management, and planning is under way with ACE to provide business management training.

Ms King said the challenge was to provide sustainable employment beyond 2013, and to that end the Land Council is starting to develop infrastructure for a commercial native plant nursery and an eco-tourism venture. Rangers in this venture will be involved in an educational program addressing the cultural and environmental values of the unique landscape of the Nimbin Rocks.



The Rainbow Corroboree was held over three days over the equinox in March at the Rocky River area, sponsored by the Tabulam Indigenous community, and attended by many families from the Northern Rivers and Byron region. Performances by Lewis Walker's Tabulam

Dancers (pictured), along with a number of local bands and story-tellers throughout the weekend, celebrated a "coming together of culture, community and creativity."

Thousands of trees were also planted by those attending, which will leave a lasting legacy of the festival.

Nimbin Vacation Care Easter Holiday Program

This season Nimbin Vacation Care will be running an Easter holiday program operating from the Youth Connections Building. On excursion days, please meet in the Nimbin Central School car park as usual at 9am.

The program runs for children aged 5 - 12. Please read the dates and venues below carefully and book to avoid disappointment. To book phone NNIC on 66891692 (between 10 am and 4 pm). Please note that the fee is \$10 for Vacation Care. Please pick up your child no later than 3.00 pm. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

Nimbin Vacation Care is a program of the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre and is funded by DoCS.

Wednesday April 13th - Excursion to Lismore Roller Skating Rink and Heritage Park. Please bring socks. A ride on the mini train will cost \$2. Signing in and out at the Nimbin Central School Car Park. April & Lisa \$16.50

Thursday April 14th -

Based at Nimbin Youth Connections Building, we will have a swim at Nimbin Pool and a sausage sizzle will be provided. We will be building with clay slabs and perhaps watch a video at the end of the day. April & Gary \$10

Friday April 15th

- Excursion to Murwillumbah Cinema to see "Rango" (PG), followed by lunch at Sphinx Rock Café. A large plate of hot chips can be purchased for \$4. Signing in and out at the Nimbin Central School Car Park. April & Kim \$18.50

Wednesday April

20th - Excursion to Murwillumbah Pool and



Hill Slide. Children will need a packed lunch, a hat and towel. Signing in and out at the Nimbin Central School Car Park. April & Lisa \$12.50

Thursday April 21st -

Based at Nimbin Youth Connections Building making & decorating kites, Easter cards and eggs! We will fly the kites at Peace Park and swim at Nimbin Pool. April & Kim \$10

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NSA spruces up and forges ahead



President's report
by David Hallett

The past year has seen some significant developments and improvements to the Nimbin School of Arts.

The recent repainting of the main auditorium is another positive outcome from the ongoing fund-raising from the annual cabarets, exhibitions and hall hire income. Together with other improvements in recent years it also illustrates to the community just how effective contributions to the School of Arts can be.

The major achievement this year has been the involvement of the NSA in the establishment of Nimbin's Solar Farm. This long and sometimes tedious process to satisfy local, state and federal government funding requirements has been a testament to both the patience and endurance of the local organizations involved, and to the dogged persistence of Natalie Meyer from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre.

This project shows how well Nimbin organisations can co-operate to achieve a world-first positive environmental outcome.

The School of Arts has continued to support other cultural programs by sponsoring the Nimbin Performance Poetry World

Cup and the Weave and Mend Festival, and by assisting the Nimbin Fashion Show, Nimbin Film Festival, Autumn Arts Extravaganza and Nimbin Folk Club.

Special rental agreements have also assisted several community groups in the hire of hall facilities, while the hall foyer has been provided free to various groups for information displays.

The major arts programs of the NSA have all had another successful year. The two Blue Moon Cabarets and the annual Blue Moon Ball have maintained a very high standard and continue to be popular sell-out shows, as well as raising significant funds for hall improvements.

While the annual Spring Arts Exhibition requires a considerable effort in management and does not achieve a notable profit, it is an important event for Nimbin's arts community and it also provides a most diverse and artistic view of Nimbin to thousands of visitors during the Spring holidays.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the dedicated committee which continues to manage, maintain and improve the 107-year-old School of Arts and continues to foster the arts of Nimbin.

Particular thanks to Tony Gibson, for his efforts in administration and maintenance, to Len Martin for his work with the Solar Farm project, to Kylie Kingston for her assistance with finance and accounts, and to the other committee members, Carole Barrett, Sue Edmonds, Joan Gibson and Margaret McLaren.

In your neighbourhood...

News from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre

Phone 6689 1692
www.nnic.org.au
nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au



Colour photocopier

We are still learning how to use it and we are currently running two copiers. Colour copies cost \$1.50 per A4 page, \$3 per A3 page with no copy limits. For large or complex jobs you may need to book in when someone at NNIC can assist. Thanks very much (and farewell) to the CTC for donating the copier to NNIC so it can still be available for community access.

Youth page on website

We are looking for contributions from local Nimbin young people and any ideas about what you think. Send us your youth related web links. www.nnic.org.au

Nimbin Vacation Care

Fun activities and excursions for kids aged 5-12 during school holidays. Next round commences 13th April. Ask at NNIC for a program or see article on page 5. Bookings at NNIC between 10am and 4pm weekdays 6689-1692.

Food Security Project

Meetings are held every last Thursday of the month - the next meeting of the Working Group is on Thursday 28th April 2011 at 6pm in the Elmo Room at NNIC, 71 Cullen Street. Come around the back steps. Food always welcome.

Nimbin Local Food Day

We will be holding a day of feasting and celebration of locally produced food later in 2011. Anyone who has ideas about workshops, events, farm gate tours, cook offs, as well as anyone (food producers in particular) who would like to be involved in any way contact Guy on food@nnic.org.au

Community Commercial Kitchen

A meeting to discuss what we now know (which is a lot more than before) plus possible ways to proceed/progress this concept and support local producers will be held at the Blue Knob Hall after the farmers market, 1pm Saturday 9th April.

Grain mill

Nimbin's Mobile Community Grain Mill has been delayed, again! We are now promised delivery by mid-April. Once we have it all sorted, it will then roll out as a mobile community access mill available to Nimbinites.

Why The Grain Mill? Grain is our bio-region's highest food security weakness. We have identified the need to experiment further with growing grains locally to see if bio-regionally adapted plants can be developed, as well as the need to improve our capacity to store whole grains.

The availability of the Mill to the community will facilitate access to nutritionally high-value milled grain products, will help to raise awareness of our food security issues and particularly our most significant vulnerability, will provide an incentive for locals to experiment with growing different types of grains, and will enable storage of grains across the community, increasing our grain and food security.

Whole grains, preferably organic and locally produced (most likely from our neighbouring bio-region) will be available for purchase and



It's the largest capacity mill we could get without going to three phase, grinds around 600grams per minute, can grind a variety of grains and legumes. It will be built into a mobile unit of some kind.

then can be milled at a cost of 50 cents a kilo. Milled grain has a very short shelf life, so this will enable local access to significantly more nutritious milled products.

Nimbin Women's Dinner Committee

Meeting on Monday 11th April at 12 midday at NNIC in the Elmo Room. We need interested women to come on board if we are to keep this event going. For more info please contact Teena Kavasilas at NNIC: teenaka@hotmail.com

Got unpaid fines?

You may be eligible to work off your fines at NNIC via a Work Development Order. Make an appointment with one of our Community Welfare Workers for an eligibility assessment. This scheme is due to end in June so get in while you still can.

Join NNIC

The best thing community members can do to support us and our activities to join NNIC as a member. Membership entitles you to access our member's only web features such as the Car Pool and the Community Calendar (ie to put your own events up) and of course to vote at our AGM. See our website for on-line membership forms or else drop into NNIC. Membership is \$5.50 year and expires at the end of June each year.

Did you know?

NNIC is a registered charity and has Gift Deductible Status. Donations of \$2 or more, as well as gifts or bequests in your will are **tax deductible**. Your donations help keep NNIC's services to the disadvantaged operating. Contact us via email: nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au for more info, or else drop in.

Nimbin Tax and Accounting

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Income Tax Returns – Individuals, Partnerships, Companies, Trusts and Primary Producers
BAS & Bookkeeping Services
Business Software, Business Advice, Grant Acquittals

Weekdays 9am - 5pm, except Wednesdays 9am - 1pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm. Discount for Centrelink recipients.

Tel/Fax 6689-0470 Mobile 0427-855-077

Old Bank Building, 39 Cullen Street, Nimbin
(Next to Post Office – parking available)
PO Box 645 Nimbin 2480 Email pjh@lis.net.au

Chamber Chat...

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce

Nimbin a treasure for Byron region



The Byron to Nimbin Treasure Map is a plan to guide visitors from Byron Bay and other coastal areas to Nimbin.

A presentation was given to the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce by Andrew Walker, from the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre. He explained that the map will bring visitors here via hinterland villages and Lismore, returning to the coast via Nightcap National Park.

The Treasure Map will combine a practical regional map with touring directions, interpretive information and quirky asides.

Nimbin's profile will include a brief history and information about Nimbin Rocks and the 1973 Aquarius Festival. The Terania Creek protest will be highlighted along with Protester Falls in Nightcap National Park.

Contact details for regional Visitor

Information Centres, WIRES, and the Koala CareCentre will be included. Visitors will be inspired to tread lightly.

The Byron to Nimbin Treasure Map will be available at regional Visitor Information Centres, primarily Byron Bay, but also Tweed, Brunswick Heads and Ballina. It will also be downloadable from visitnimbin.com.au and visitlismore.com.au websites.

Advertisers need to contact Andrew at the Nimbin Visitor Centre – call 6689 1388 or call into the centre 10am to 4pm on weekdays.

Chamber president Peter Wise said the map was a great initiative for Lismore and Nimbin tourism.

A total of 20,000 full-colour maps will be printed in a folding format, a double-size A2 sheet which folds into a handy DL size.

FOR APPOINTMENTS
Tel 6689 1000



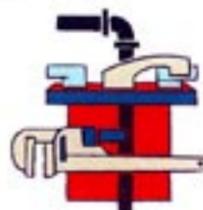
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Group keeps council in touch

The Nimbin Community Reference Group (NCRG) has finally held its first meeting, and as the process has taken two years to bear fruit, the first agenda was jam-packed.

The group was established by Lismore Council late last year following a Nimbin Community Forum in March 2009.

The all-woman group sees itself as a reference point, not as representative of the community. Its role is to advise the council on community consultation.

The first meeting discussed the consultation strategy proposed for preparing a new Council Sport and Recreation Plan for Lismore and villages. The council's senior management has agreed to an extension of the consultation timeframes to allow more comprehensive engagement to occur in Nimbin. A very positive outcome, as it indicates the council is listening.

Another role of the NCRG is to provide input into the council's delivery plan and budget. This will be a focus of the next meeting, identifying processes that will give the community a voice in setting budget priorities for Nimbin.

Other aims include identifying potential funding and partnership possibilities for local projects. Funding for a walking track around Nimbin village, in partnership with the council, the community and the NSW Department of Industry and Investment, was discussed, along with the advancement of Nimbin's sustainable economic development strategy with Mark Batten, the council's business facilitator.

This could potentially benefit work being undertaken by the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre

Other projects discussed at the first meeting included enhancement of the swimming pool, the proposed community park, mural restoration, retention of the old bridge at the Bush Factory, the new skate park, and the restoration of the former skate park and drainage outside The Emporium. The NCRG members don't have to agree on any one issue, as multiple opinions can be fed into the council's decision-making process.



Members of the Nimbin Community Reference Group (left to right): Sue Edmonds, Louis Kelly, Natalie Meyer, Sue Stock, Rebecca Ryall, Diana Roberts, Venessa Johnstone-Kappel (absent: Gillian Jones and Jennifer Parke).

The group aims to identify emerging community issues and establish a community on-line forum. It shares the Neighbourhood Centre's website; to leave us feedback or suggestions visit www.nmic.org.au and follow the "Forums" quick link to "Issues and Feedback to Council".

Publicity will include newspaper articles, a large noticeboard set up in the village (probably on the side wall of the Town Hall) and (possibly) suggestion boxes around the village.

What would you like to see from this group? What do you think we should be discussing? The NCRG is comprised of very approachable people, all involved in community affairs in various ways.

The group is going to meet every three months and meetings will be publicised and open to the community. A community observer said after the meeting, "I was really impressed how the meeting went, being the very first one. I thought it went really well – fairly swiftly through a packed agenda, not too many distractions...and I think the group will quickly find its feet and its invaluable place in the machinations between the council and the community."

The next meeting will be on Thursday 26th May 2011, 6pm – 8.30pm at Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre.

Markets pull crowds, grow community

by Taunia Brayshaw

Nimbin is introducing a new facet to its relaxed and vibrant market days: activities designed to engage children, and for everyone to enjoy.

In February, Hartje shared some hula-hooping, with plenty of hoops for everyone to join in with. Mizuna seed-sowing planned for March market was postponed due to the weather until April. The seeds have been donated by Robyn Francis from the Djanbung Gardens seed bank, and pots and potting mix have been donated by the Seedling House in North Lismore.

All activities are free – and people might even learn a new skill that they can bring to the market for sale or swap!

The focus of the market is to engage people into a web of networking and sharing talents and skills with the rest of the community.

Community is very important in the village of Nimbin as we transition to a lower energy consumption society. The Nimbin market plays a vital role in that transition and our ability to not only survive, but thrive – locally and sustainably.

All new stallholders, especially those who trade from home, have a place to meet with the community – and all Nimbin folk are welcomed as visitors.

The Nimbin market also boasts a mix of performers – musicians, dancers, acrobats and poets – a relaxed family-friendly atmosphere, and the opportunity to engage more with our vibrant community.

The April market is going to be buzzing with energy in the lead up to MardiGrass and the full moon. Join in the drumming circle in the afternoon and celebrate the re-awakening of the Nimbin Community Market.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN CONSULTATIONS

Council is currently conducting community consultations to develop its new Sport and Recreation Plan. This plan will remain current for the ten year period from 2011 – 2021. Council is mindful of the changing and ageing demographic within Lismore and its surrounding area and for this reason the scope of this new plan includes a focus upon 'physically active' recreation opportunities. These are loosely defined as the sorts of activities that people engage in for relaxation and enjoyment but are also those which have a requirement for physical exertion eg. walking, cycling, yoga etc.

Community forums have been conducted in many villages, throughout Goonellabah and in the CBD. Community surveys were forwarded to 1,500 randomly selected residents of the Lismore Local Government Area and an online survey has been on Council's website for the past 6 weeks. Specific sporting and community groups have participated, the Indigenous community has had input and young people have been involved through school forums. This consultation process is now coming to Nimbin and Council is keen to have input from community members. An online survey is currently available to residents on the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre website www.nimbinneighbourhood.com.au

A community forum will be held at the Nimbin Bowling Club on Monday 11 April 2011 from 4 – 6.00pm and all community members and representatives are encouraged to attend. Council's Sport and Recreation Planner, James Voght will be present along with members of the Community Services Team.

NIMBIN COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Council's Nimbin Community Reference Group held its first meeting at Birth and Beyond on Thursday 10 March 2011. Council's Community Services Coordinator, Annie Mc William, convened the meeting and reported that it was an extremely successful process. Seven of the nine elected members were present and three community members observed the process. The deliberations were conducted in good spirits with an extensive agenda. Only one item had to be held over to be considered at the next meeting. The agenda of the meeting focussed upon confirming the logistics of future meetings, confirming the scope of the group's future deliberations and reaching agreement on mechanisms for the group members to receive feedback from Nimbin community. Council provided a report from its Infrastructure Department which updated the status of numerous Nimbin projects and also sought advice from the group on a range of matters related to Council's work in Nimbin. Council's Business Facilitator, Mark Batten, delivered a presentation to the group on the Sustainable Economic Strategy which placed a Nimbin focus upon the Nimbin Transitioning Strategy.

The next meeting of this group will be 26 May 2011, 6 – 8.30pm at the Elmo Room in the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre. Community observers are welcome to attend.

MARDI GRASS

This is the time of the year when Council's Planners are working with the Mardi Grass Organising Body to progress a Development Application for the event. This work focuses upon ensuring that the best possible strategies are put in place to enable community safety and public health concerns to be effectively addressed while also allowing the festival program to go ahead in a climate of safety and respect for all. Council's goal is to support the delivery of a safe and happy event for both the Nimbin community and visitors to the event.

To this end, the following development consent will encompass the following:

- Camping at the Nimbin A & I Society ground from 27 April to 3 May.
- Car Parking in Sibley Street, Alternative Way and Cecil Street.
- Programmed activities in Peace Park on Friday 29 April 6pm-10pm, Saturday 30 April 10am-11pm, Sunday 1 May 10am-9pm.
- Street closure in Sibley Street from corner Cullen to corner Thorburn Street from 12 noon Friday 29 April until 7pm Sunday 1 May.
- Temporary road closure of Cullen Street from Cecil Street to Sibley Street junction for the Cannabis Law Reform Rally from 3pm to 3.30pm. Sunday 1 May.
- First Aid/Safety Zone on Cullen Street beside the blister within the restricted parking area and next to the Chai Tent at Peace Park
- Communications throughout the event will be managed from the Town Hall Information Centre
- Food vendors in Peace Park and closed sections of Sibley Street
- Programmed events in the Town Hall during the hours of 9am – 9pm
- Nimbin Markets
- The walkway from Cecil Street at the rear of the Hospital will exit adjacent to the Post Office this year.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Oakey Creek Road, Georgica

Lismore City Council wishes to advise motorists that Oakey Creek Road will be closed to all traffic between McLennan Road and Billen Road due to essential landslip repair works.

This section of Oakey Creek Road will be closed from 18 April 2011 until the end of May 2011, weather permitting. Motorists will be required to detour using Gwynne Road for the duration of the works.

Lismore City Council wishes to thank the community for its patience during these essential roadworks.

Corporate Centre 43 Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH 2480
CBD City Office 55 Magellan Street, LISMORE 2480
Phone 1300 87 83 87
Fax (02) 6625 0400
Website www.lismore.nsw.gov.au
Email council@lismore.nsw.gov.au

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