

## Not going swimmingly



Friends of the Nimbin Pool were disappointed with the setbacks to the swimming season in Nimbin this year.

The pool opened at the end of the school holidays, two weeks later than usual. After a couple of weeks it was closed again, for resurfacing.

The Friends noted how the pool stood empty and idle for five months and wondered why repairs weren't started earlier.

It wasn't all depressing news. Dave, the new manager, spruced up the palms and surrounds, the huge holes in the entrance road have been filled and there are two bench seats – and all ready for the reopening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Friends of the Nimbin Pool are planning a gala aquatic event as a fundraiser for more seats (unless the Lismore City Council can provide them).

## Bridge provides perfect platypus platform



by Coralie Summerton

The old wooden bridge over Mulgum Creek provides a place for educating and raising awareness of the environment outside of the concrete and chlorine which dominates the human habitat in towns and cities.

The visually pleasing bridge is a public space which allows people the choice to sit, relax and contemplate nature, and to enjoy and study in the wild one of the most amazing creatures of this planet, the platypus. All along our coastlines, Councils have built whale watching platforms for people to enjoy the whales in the same way as here they would flock to enjoy the platypus.

The bridge forms a platypus-watching platform that is already in place, but Lismore City Council wants to demolish it. This will have an adverse impact on not only the breeding platypus habitat, (the bridge provides shelter and shade against the harsh western sun) but also the business spin-off that sitting on the deck in comfort offers.

Its location means that visitors can easily purchase refreshments from the locals such as the Bush Theatre and perhaps book in at any of the backpackers nearby and stay overnight to catch the early morning play of the platypus. This space creates the



Platypus with offspring in Mulgum Creek  
Photo: Belinda Marsh

“back to nature” experience that people from all over Australia and the world crave.

Visitors to the Nimbin Environment Centre ask where to go to see Nature. The bus drivers and Tourist Information Centre in Nimbin all send their visitors to the centre. But it's only with a car that you can get to Mt Nardi, Protestors' Falls or Minyon Falls – which then leads people straight to Byron Bay.

A platypus viewing platform from a Heritage bridge suits the logo that Lismore invented for Nimbin, “More than you can imagine...” – because Nature never ceases to amaze us.

There are four platypus, including two juveniles, a cute little duck family and turtles sharing the pool.

The upkeep of the Bridge would be worth it to the village, as part of a future ‘nature trail’, as well as to the platypus.

## Nimbin students help out



Volunteering activities provide students with the opportunity to make a difference.

By participating in community volunteering young people demonstrate care, respect and responsibility.

Service learning activities link this experience to curriculum to enhance and deepen student understanding and skills.

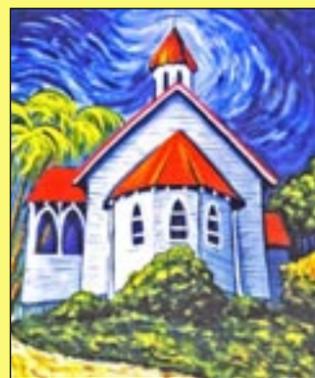
Through participating and interacting in our community in a positive and meaningful way, students develop skills and confidence in communication and teamwork.

The Awards Assembly, officiated by Lismore Mayor



Jenny Dowell, recognised the contributions these students have made through diverse activities such as local fundraising ventures, Darcy's soup kitchen, aged care visits, St Vincent de Paul, The Lismore Show, local radio, soccer and the school canteen.

Special commendation to Katie Cook, Blaze Todd, Cedar Little and Misty Smith who gave over 80 volunteer hours to diverse projects.



## Christmas Carols

Come and celebrate Jesus' birth with songs and praise at St Marks Anglican Church, Cullen Street Nimbin, at 7pm, Saturday 24th December. Stay after the service for Supper.

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## War Memorial upgrade



Students and teachers with Paul LeBars (far left)

by Paul Le Bars

Thanks to everyone who has sent letters of support for the re-landscaping of the Nimbin War Memorial.

The first of three grant applications has been submitted for the project and it is expected that work will start mid-December to mid-January.

The first part of the upgrade will be the construction of steps on the southern side of the bus shelter, remodelling of the pavement on the corner

of Sibley Street and Cullen Street to allow for wheelchair access, and replacing the old park bench.

Re-landscaping is anticipated to begin early next year.

Thanks to the pupils and teachers from the Nimbin Central School and the 30 or so people who took time to attend the minute's silence and the small ceremony at the Nimbin cenotaph on Remembrance Day this year.

It was a deeply moving experience.

“Lest We Forget”.

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## Laurie Turner

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# Footpath protest scores

A media event held last month to draw attention to the need for a footpath on Nimbin Road appears to have been successful, with Lismore Council scheduling the work to commence in October next year.

The section of roadway between High Street and Cecil Street is narrow and in very poor condition, with no footpath for pedestrians despite it leading to two tourist accommodation venues.

Operator of the Teretre Cabins, Terry Bressington said: "There have been that many close calls there. You get a truck, a car and a person on that road and it's very dangerous."

"We just need a basic metre-wide footpath on top of a box drain. That shouldn't break the bank. There's only about 70 metres to do."

When a blind visitor staying at the cabins walked into town daily, locals were spurred into



action. NBN was contacted, and concerned residents used blindfolds and walking frames to demonstrate the difficulties facing people with disabilities using the road.

Brad Soward and Terry Monk appeared in the segment on the NBN news that night, making the point that "It's just a matter of time until someone is hurt," which was followed by a non-committal response from a council spokesman.

A petition was also started at the Nimbin Environment Centre, and it carried over

850 signatures when it was presented at the Rural Forum on 21st November.

At that meeting, council officers announced upgrade works for that section of road had been given priority under the Regional Roads Repair Program – a program jointly funded by the RTA and Council – and would be undertaken in 2012.

Asked whether the work would include a new footpath, the director of infrastructure services, Garry Hemsworth, replied "Yes" – and a cheer erupted in the hall.



Screen grabs by Eugenie Stephans

# Creature feature at sk8 park

Last week word spread fast that the American professionals of Creature Skate Team were heading to the Nimbin Skate Park as part of their Australian East Coast tour.

Rob Lewers, of Concrete Skate Park, who designed and built the park flew up from Melbourne to meet and skate with the guys.

On the day they hit town it was a total wash out, but the skaters were so keen to try the park they rescheduled their day off and returned from the Gold Coast on Saturday to spend the day ripping up our park.

Once again word quickly spread and by the time the crew arrived many locals were hanging out to see them do their stuff, and no one was disappointed.

The crew of about 14, including America's top pro skater, David Gravette, showed the keen fans how it's done. Freebies of stickers, boards, posters and even old shoes and sweaty t-shirts were in hot demand.

The team mingled with everyone and were happy to sign autographs on boards, helmets, posters and even faces. By the afternoon most of the crew were relaxing on the grassy hill with everyone watching fellow skaters and locals in the park.

"We very rarely get to skate in such a relaxed and friendly environment," said one of the team members.

They left with smiles on their faces, very impressed with Nimbin and the design of the



Connor Anderson, David Gravette and Ry Bruer



American Pro Creature Skater David Gravette in the big bowl

park, and promised they would return.

There are plans with Rob of Concrete Skate Parks to hold a skate festival next year in Nimbin – when some of these guys will be back in Australia for a big skate comp being held in Bondi. Let's hope that comes to life!

# Taking pot wisdom to pollies

HEMP Party delegates recently visited the ACT and Victoria on a protest and fact-finding mission.

This trip was mostly about meeting Party Members, listening to their concerns, and discussing with them the possibility of setting up local branches.

The convoy protested with friends at Parliament House to welcome one-time choofer Barack Obama and attempt to get cannabis law reform on the agenda.

During the two days, the big Obama "Yes We Can-nabis" banner and Big Joint were set up in prominent locations, with plenty of support from the Federal Police and other Parliamentary watchdogs, who were out in force for the Presidents visit.

There was support for the call for medical cannabis, which got backing from all quarters. There was plenty of positive publicity, with a photo even making it onto the front page of the English version of the People's Daily in China.

Cannabis law reform matters were raised in the press and the HEMP faithful returned optimistic that State and Federal parliaments will



address the issue of medical cannabis early next year.

In Melbourne the group stayed with Matt Riley for a gathering of cannabis law reform activists in Flagstaff Gardens. This rally went off like a firecracker. Speakers included John McGeary of LEAP in Melbourne, Sue Bolton from the Socialist Alliance and Fiona Patton of the Sex Party.

There were rappers and musicians, the Big Joint was bounced by the crowd, and the issue of re-legalising cannabis was thoroughly aired in a very public setting.

There is movement at last in the cannabis law reform

campaigns around Australia and confidence that the issue will make it onto the table soon.

California is voting next year on treating the cannabis industry the same as the wine industry, with similar regulations and taxes.

The HEMP Party would like to warmly thank everyone who assisted in making the trip such a success and please be encouraged and continue to support its efforts to reign in the craziness of the War on Drugs.

For more details on the HEMP Party, visit [www.australianhempparty.com](http://www.australianhempparty.com) For more about the trip, check out: [www.bigjoint.org](http://www.bigjoint.org)



## Bahzooley a winner

Another highly successful Bahzooley concert night was held at Nimbin Central School in November.

The wide variety of acts from across the school included choirs, bands, solos, dance and circus acts.

# Zorb opponent hits out

The main opponent of Nimbin's Zorbing venture, Peter Brooker, has lashed out at the Lismore City Council's decision to approve the development.

He says he fails to see how \$30 one-minute downhill rides at the Zorb facility would cause visitors to extend their average 2.5 hour stay in Nimbin to one of overnight or longer.

Mr Brooker says the result was a foregone conclusion. "Council knew, after spending more than one and a half hours with the proponent, and 15 to 20 minutes with some Blade Road residents who opposed the DA (development application) that (it) would be passed," he said.

He says submissions on the DA were against it 22 to

four, and criticised the attempt to make the decision appear democratic. He also claims the noise, road and ecology reports are flawed.

"The result of this decision made by nine ordinary people is that one person may make money, but the enormous cost will be borne by those who wanted

only peace and quiet," Mr Brooker said.



Trees marked for destruction along Blade Road

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# A great year for the Blue Knob Farmers Market

by Jim Arachne

**W**ow! The end of the year already, the wet season with its hot, cloudy, humid days and occasional or month long torrential downpours is almost on us: A challenging time for the garden.

Some people shut down their plots, mulch and wait for Autumn. Others have planted ahead and are already seeing their sub-tropical plants bearing fruit (watch out for talks and workshops on growing sub-tropical vegetables at the Blue Knob Farmers Market).

A new project started back in January – regular talks and workshops every Saturday. Then began a trial of the Backyarders' Table, a place where people with some surplus produce could try selling it and check out how it feels to be a stallholder.



Marie Cameron took on this project and under her supervision the Table has become a burgeoning success, with often too much produce to be accommodated on one stall table.

Another experiment was being part of the Nimbin Show. Sales were generally slow on the day and most stall holders sold less than normal, but show attendance was up 25% on the Saturday, so the "away" event will take place again next year.

The sustainability talks, arranged by Mel McMillan

from the Show Society and featuring mostly market stallholders, were great and attended by over 180 people.

An additional project finally took wing – organised farm tours of stall holders' farms and food producing areas. The inaugural tour was almost too popular, with seats on the bus being snapped up within days.

The tour was an in-depth, "slow-food" experience of a sourdough bakery, bushfoods and a mixed small farm featuring fruit trees. Eight out of ten participants gave the



tour top marks with lots of requests for future trips.

A final innovation for the year has been the start of film screenings on the broad topic of food security. The first film focused on the mounting threats to honey-bee survival, Queen of the Sun, screened at Nimbin Bush Theatre. Workshops in bee-keeping are planned for early next year.

More screenings are planned; not just for entertainment, but to add to broader food security aims.

There won't be any talks during December, but a Special Xmas Market will be held on Christmas Eve. Markets close on New Year's Day and open again on Saturday 7th January.

To keep up to date on developments, send your name and email to Jim at uloborid8@gmail.com

## Fun for kids, mums



Thanks to the Nimbin Childcare Centre, Nimbin Family Centre and Lismore Family Health, children and parents enjoyed a fun morning of celebration in the grounds of the Childcare Centre (pictured).

Children hung onto hot air balloons whilst the piñata swung high and copped a beating, exploding with great treats for everyone.

There were many excited mums who won great pampering prizes. Thank you to local businesses, including Gary from the Coffee House, Nimbin Candles, Southside Pharmacy in Lismore and Nimbin Newsagency.

## In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News



### Nimbin Community Xmas Lunch

Friday 23rd December 2011 at the Town Hall. Doors open 11.30. Traditional Xmas Dinner starts 12pm. Santa with gifts for kids aged under 10 at 1.30. All welcome!

The Nimbin Soup Kitchen would like to acknowledge and thank our major sponsors, The Nimbin Emporium, Charters Hardware and The Nimbin Bakery for their continued support throughout the year. To all our supporters and soup partakers thanks for your donations and participation on Friday Soup Day.

### Nimbin Holiday Club

This program, formerly known as Nimbin Vacation Care, will be running between the 27th December and the 20th January. The program will be up on our website by mid-December and will also be available from NNIC.

### Outside School Hours Care Service in Nimbin

There has been some interest from working parents seeking a before or after school care service. We have been conducting a survey of local parents who are interested in this. If you are an interested parent and you have not completed that survey as yet please drop into NNIC and grab one or else you can download it from our website and send it in to us.

### NEW! Legal Aid is coming to Nimbin

They will be coming on a fortnightly basis to deliver an outreach legal advice service from NNIC in 2012 – starting from the 16th December (the first and only for 2011). More details will

be posted on our website and in the January edition of NGT.

### Towards a Sustainable Nimbin

The Food Links funded project is now completed but the project itself will go on. The final project report will be made available on line once completed.

• **Post Harvest Processing Equipment Library:** the last of our Food Links funds were used to purchase equipment for a Post Harvest Processing Equipment library. Nimbin community members will be able to join the library and borrow the equipment to facilitate small scale forays into post harvest food production. The equipment includes food dehydrators, a Vitamix blender which can process and mill oily seeds, a large all purpose food processor, a large mix master, honey harvesting equipment. The equipment library will be rolled out in early 2012. Details will be posted on our website and in NGT.

• **Community Sustainability Survey:** we got 155 responses so well done Nimbinites! We did a lot of surveys in Nimbin over the past 12 months as part of the Food Security project and the results of all these surveys will be posted up on our website in the new year.

• **Food Security meetings:** the next meeting will be in late January or early February 2012. There will be no meeting in December. The Food Security Working Group wishes you all a festive season filled with yummy local food!

### FREE Home Power Savings Program

The Home Power Savings Program gives people who really need them the

tools and insights to take control of their power consumption. LCSA (the Peak body for neighbourhood and community centres in NSW) is pleased to partner with Home Power Savings Program because we believe that those who most need to know how to save on power bills are often the last to be informed.

Home Power Savings is working hard to correct this inequity and enable people who really struggle with their power bills to regain control of this vital expense. Follow the link on our website to find out if you are eligible and what the program may be able to offer you. Or else come in and see our welfare workers.

### Christmas Closing Times

NNIC will be closed over the Xmas period as from Monday 26th December until Friday 6th January. The Centrelink Agency will **also be closed** from Monday 26th December until Friday 30th December. Centrelink forms can be lodged on-line or else faxed from Nimbin Post Office during the period the Agency is closed.

The Centrelink Agency **only** will be open as usual from Tuesday 3rd January between 10am and 2.30pm.

### Join NNIC

Your memberships help support our work in the community. Membership is \$5.50 per year. Membership forms available on our website or at our front desk (posted on request). Support us to support you!

### Wills and Bequests

Are you updating your Will? NNIC is a gift deductible recipient which means you can make tax deductible donations to NNIC in your Will, which will go towards our activities and services to benefit the Nimbin community.



The Annual General Meeting of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce was held on Monday 21st November at Nimbin Bowling Club.

President, Peter Wise giving an overview of the past years' successes and achievements, which centred on building a stronger relationship and seeking improved services from Council. He also thanked the Chamber Executive for a job well done throughout the year and those who worked on projects and contributed, especially members taking time out from their businesses and volunteering their time to support the Nimbin businesses with good consequences for the community as well.

In particular, the development of the Nimbin Murals Restoration Project draft strategic plan, with further assistance from the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, has led to Council advising their intention to make the murals their primary heritage project for 2012. Also during the year, the provision of the first working bus departing Lismore at 5.30pm, enhancing transport for the Nimbin community.

The Chamber also offered congratulations to Lismore and

Nimbin Tourism who were recently awarded a Silver award, which is No. 2 in the State tourism awards. Andrew and staff at the Nimbin Visitor Centre were also thanked for their contribution during the year.

The new Committee promised to continue to undertake the work of the Chamber with commitment and enthusiasm and promised to continue to address many outstanding issues, particularly with Lismore City Council.

The Chamber Executive received a round of applause and a sense of gratitude that those that had worked so hard during the past year had built a firm foundation for the Chamber's work including good relations with Lismore City Council's executive, including Mayor, Jenny Dowell and her team of Councillors.

Everyone then attended the Community Rural Contact Forum. Eugenie Stephan's presented Mayor, Jenny Dowell with a petition of about 850 signatures from community members who support the building of a footpath from Teretre Cabins and Grey Gum Lodge to town. The petition was organised by Terry Monk and supporters.

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# Darcy's Five Loaves project birthday

by Warwick Fry

Darcy Goodwin seems to shrug off thanks and praise but you could see that he was 'chuffed' at the dinner set up in the Nimbin Community Hall in recognition of twenty years of the tireless effort he has made for the homeless and hungry in the Northern Rivers region.

Based on his simple philosophy that 'caring is sharing' his 'Five Loaves' project has grown in those years from a simple mobile soup kitchen for street people, into three vans providing meals and groceries weekly to four major municipalities in the region.



Darcy has also moved into the service area of providing discarded furniture to impoverished families and individuals forced to relocate. All is done on a volunteer basis of funding, labour and donations.

Darcy (pictured with Honey) shared some anecdotes about the difficulties he had in the early days of setting up his project. "The boys with guns

on their hips (his term for the police) seemed to think, fifteen years ago, that I must have been involved in some drug running operation. They stopped me whenever they could. I remember once they had me and one of my drivers on five infractions between the late evening and the next morning. The magistrate threw them out of court and told them to stop harassing me."

Since then, Darcy tells us, the police have become much more respectful.

Darcy's work has been recognised, not just nationally. He has received a Centenary medal for his contribution to local communities, and international awards as well.

## Nimbin Community Centre Inc. Annual Report 2010-2011

The Nimbin Community Centre has had a very active year managing the Centre and Markets. The most important achievements this year have been:

- Auspicing the Nimbin Aboriginal Arts & Cultural Centre, securing significant grants to improve the training facilities and initiate a Youth Back to Country cultural project
- The development of a Nimbin community website, which can be found at: [www.nimbin.nsw.au](http://www.nimbin.nsw.au)
- The completion of significant landscaping and improvement works including:
  - \* landscaping of the blister area with large sandstone blocks and bark chip
  - \* laying of turf in areas of grounds
  - \* repainting of the Dance Studio and Our Space, and
  - \* construction of two disabled access

pathways to the Aged Care facility.

- New tenants include: Our Space business hub with Tea Medica, Naturally Nourished and Nicola's tutoring service.

Another highlight for the year was the deconstruction of the steel SK8 park and the LCC opening of the new concrete bowl skate facility. I'm sure that we are all pleased to see it completed and the skaters (and their families) with smiles on their faces. Well done.

Credit for many of these projects goes to Nicola Garnsey, our Coordinator, who also manages to maintain close to 100% occupancy in the Centre's rental spaces. Thanks Nicola.

Construction, repairs and maintenance of the Centre's buildings and grounds take a lot of hard work and thanks go out to Sam Herren, our Maintenance contractor.

Finally I want to thank everyone on the Management Committee for their donation of time and energy in order to maintain this very valuable community facility.

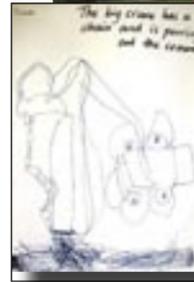
Richard Hopkins, President

# New Preschool building emerges

After many years of "being in the pipeline", Nimbin Community Preschool's new building is underway. Due to the persistent efforts of the Parent Committee, and in particular President Tara Hawkins, the preschool has engaged builder Graeme Essery to construct the new building on the current site. At present, the slab has been laid and work continues on the structure.

The children and staff have already shared many wonderful moments engaged in discussing what is happening and how we might all fit into the new building space. Some of the most exciting aspects have been the excavation work and the pouring of the concrete slab. This prompted some children to draw what they were observing, and to talk to the builders about what was happening.

Isabella's representation (pictured) of the cement truck pouring concrete is a good example of what some children drew, enabling them to further



understand the whole process of what has to be done to construct a building.

The committee would like to thank Neville for the donation of sand and the loan of the bobcat, and to Adrian for organising this delivery.

## Farewell Kathy

On a sadder note, our dear teacher Kathy Williamson has decided to call it a day and leave Nimbin Preschool at the end of this year.

Kathy started working at the preschool in 1994 as a Support Worker and progressed over the years to become Teacher and Director. We are all going to miss Kathy, but send her off

with our love and affection for new and exciting adventures.

To celebrate Kathy's time at Nimbin Preschool, the Parent Committee will be holding an evening get together in her honour. Past families of Nimbin Preschool and other community members who have been associated with Kathy over the years, are welcome to come along.

Kathy's Special Evening will be held on Friday 16th December from 7-9pm at the preschool. Bring a small finger food dessert to add to the table. The event is BYO. For enquiries call preschool Director Diane Wilder on 6689-1203.

Preschool is currently taking enrolments for 2012 for children aged 3-5 years. Please call 6689-1203 to book in.

## LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

### Council's engagement with the Nimbin Community

Nimbin's Annual Community Contact Forum was held at the School of Arts on Monday, November 21. Councillors, Council's Senior Executive, Council staff and approximately 75 community members attended. Council staff provided updates on a number of issues including: Nimbin's village and rural water supplies; the considerations affecting planning for the future of the old Cullen Bridge; current and planned road upgrades in the Nimbin area; Mardi Grass arrangements; and the operation of the Nimbin Advisory Group.

Also, in early December, Council's Community Services Coordinator, Annie McWilliam, facilitated the final Nimbin Advisory Group meeting for 2011. The group worked on clarifying the goals and purpose of the group and discussed effective community engagement strategies for Council and the Nimbin community. The group's first meeting for 2012 will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday, February 2 at the Neighbourhood Centre. Community members are very welcome to attend.

### Nimbin roads set for funding boost

Lismore City Council is pleased to advise that we have been successful in securing funding for upgrade and reconstruction works on a number of high priority roads in and around the Nimbin area. As a result of NSW State Government Grant Funding to the amount of \$1.04million announced in this year's State Budget the following upgrades have been scheduled to commence next year: in June 2012, works will commence on 0.7km of Blue Knob Road, commencing from Blade Road towards Cemetery Rd; and in May 2012, works will commence on 0.4km of Nimbin Road north of Bishops Creek Road.

Further upgrade works on the Regional Road Network in the Nimbin area have also been funded by the Regional Roads Repair Program – a program jointly funded by the State Government and Council. The works include three sections of Blue Knob Road including 0.6km north of Nardi Bridge (already in progress), 0.5km north of Ronan Bridge (already in progress) and 0.6km north of Blade Road (set to commence in November 2013). Additionally, upgrade works on 0.4km of Nimbin Road between High Street and Cecil Street will commence in October 2012.

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