

Jazz Club Notes

The Lismore Jazz Club is having a performance by Casino Street as its first gig of 2011. They will be performing at the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday 20th February, 2-5pm.

Admission is members and students \$10 and non-members \$15.

The line-up for Casino Street is Sally Gwynne on vocals, Frank Williams on sax, Don Peterson on bass, John Dirkley on keyboard, Peter Salked on guitar, Steve Jackson on trombone and Gene Sayer on drums.

Sally Gwynne has had a long association with the jazz scene, first in Sydney where she has worked with some of the greats of Australian jazz, most prominently jazz legends Julian Lee and Craig Scott who she regularly performed with in trio and quartet lineups. She has performed at most of the well known jazz venues in Sydney including The Basement, The Soup Plus, The Strawberry Hills Hotel, as well as doing many performances at Jazz festivals such as the Manly Jazz Festival, Thredbo Jazz Festival and Parramatta Jazz



Sally Gwynne with 'Casino Street' members Don Peterson and Frank Williams.

Festival, to mention a few.

Since relocating to the North Coast several years ago, Sally has sought out well-known local musicians and has been doing gigs around the local circuit as well as working on recording an album with her current lineup, Casino Street. This gig will feature a selection of some of the great standards of the past, as well as some iconic songs from more recent times which are given a distinctly jazz flavouring.

Come and listen to the warm and luscious vocals of this beautiful songstress on Sunday, 20th February – unforgettable!

More music at Kaivalya Meru

Local community Kaivalya Meru is hosting its second evening of sublime sounds featuring beautiful local musicians Shai Shriki and Tiff Norchick, on Saturday 26th February.

From soft heart space and prayers of pure devotion, to Gypsy, Bedouin and Latin melodies, Shai Shriki (pictured) takes you on a journey around the globe. Born in Israel to a Moroccan family, Shai plays unique instruments from the Middle East and India. His truly authentic sound and voice invoke desert landscapes and cultures. He performs traditional prayers from the ancient Hebrew script as well as original songs, in a fusion of contemporary and traditional sounds. You will be touched by this intimate world journey through sound.

Accompanying herself on harp, acoustic guitar and

piano, Tiff Norchick plays music of exquisite fragility. Her deep contralto voice sometimes breaks into a whisper, soothing and drawing the listener into her original songs about mountains, forests, butterflies and phone bills.

Join us for an evening of beautiful heart-felt music and sounds with friends and family in the lush, natural setting at the community retreat hall. Kaivalya Meru is a drug, alcohol and smoke free space located at 3981 Kyogle Road, Lillian Rock – 10 minutes from Sphinx Cafe.

Delicious food and drink is available via the community kitchen from 6pm (please call to book if you are planning



Shai Shriki

on dinner), with the musical atmospheres floating free from the speakers after 7.30pm. Please car-pool if possible, as parking on property is limited.

Entry is \$15. For more information please call Dana on 6689-7533 or email: visionsinharmony@yahoo.com.au

Pub Sessions

An Irish and traditional Australian music session will be held at Nimbin Hotel on Saturday afternoons during February. Could become a permanent fixture.

Trivia nights to start at the Bowlo

The Nimbin Bowling Club will be introducing regular trivia competitions on Saturday nights, starting 5th March at 7pm.

There will be six rounds of 15 questions per round. At the end of the night, the winning team will get one chance of answering the jackpot question, and if they get it right they win the money. If they don't get it right, it jackpots to the next week.

The Bowlo Quizmaster will be asking questions from a wide range of subjects across a broad span of time, including music, movies, literature, geography, local stuff and more.

He reckons that it won't be a dry question-and-answer thing, but a thoroughly entertaining night.

Entry is free, so get your team of up to eight people together and start studying. The organisers can help anyone looking to join a team.

You've gotta be in it to win it, there's money on the table – and the more the merrier.

Another winning ticket for NRG

Anti-rally protest groups standing up for the environment and lifestyle of the Tweed Valley have yet to reach their target for the No Rally Group Legal Fund.

The fund is required mostly to pay costs ordered against Tweed Shire resident Katie Milne, who took organisers of the 2009 Repco Rally to court seeking a last-minute injunction.

Woodworker Paul Roguszka, from Lillian Rock, donated *Waterfall*, a cabinet made from black wattle, as a raffle prize.

The prize-winning ticket was originally drawn at Hanging Rock Hall last September but Katie Milne – whose ticket was drawn – gave it back so the No Rally Group could sell more tickets.

The prize was drawn on Australia Day in the presence



of Katie Milne and NRG fund-raising committee members, Daniele Voinot, Rainer Glasker and Scott Sledge. The winning ticket belonged to Gaye Turner, of Carol.

The raffle netted more than \$1,500 for the cause.

NRG president Scott Sledge

Katie Milne and NRG members Rainer, Daniele and Sledge watch cabinetmaker Paul Roguszka draw the winning ticket.

said the group would continue raising funds for other issues confronting the region as the Northern Rivers Guardians.

Musical MardiGrass billets wanted

There is great interest from amazing musicians and bands (local and from afar) who are looking forward to sharing their music and message on the MardiGrass weekend, 1st & 2nd May.

But where are they going to stay? The MardiGrass Organising Body is seeking some lovely locals to put their hands up for a sleep-over with the bands. In other words, billeting...

Some of the bands will be travelling a long way, and will need a bed from as early as Thursday, 28th April.

If you are interested please let us know as soon as you can by dropping into the Hemp Embassy or contacting Essie Thomas by email: essie-thomas@hotmail.com

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

February Gigs

Thursday 3rd
Friday 4th
Saturday 5th
Sunday 6th

Micha from Pacha Mamma
Broadfoot
Jimmy Watts
Blue Skillet Rovers

Thursday 10th
Friday 11th
Saturday 12th
Sunday 13th

Bo Jenkins
Bowen and the Lucky Dutchmen
Enola Fall
Diana Anaid

Thursday 17th
Friday 18th
Saturday 19th
Sunday 20th

2 Some
Chocolate Strings
Khan and Friends
Lou Bradley

Thursday 24th
Friday 25th
Saturday 26th
Sunday 27th

Jay Jaxson
Age 6
Farrago
Bill Jacobi

Gigs start: Thurs 6pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 6.30pm, Sun 2pm

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Lunch 12-3pm Dinner 6-8pm, Friday 6-8.30pm

NIMBIN BOWLO



25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in February?

- Sunday 6th – Iluka Club visit – social bowls
- Saturday 12th – Karaoke with Tina
- Sunday 13th – Ballina Club visit – social bowls
- Sunday 27th – Live Music – didge & synth duo

• Membership – Still only \$5 – Update now

• Free Internet – Over 50s

• Members Library



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February Sunday Gig Guide 2pm

6th Mick McHugh

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13th Andy Copeman

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20th Sai Masil

Reggae sounds

27th Ivy Lucille & Trysette

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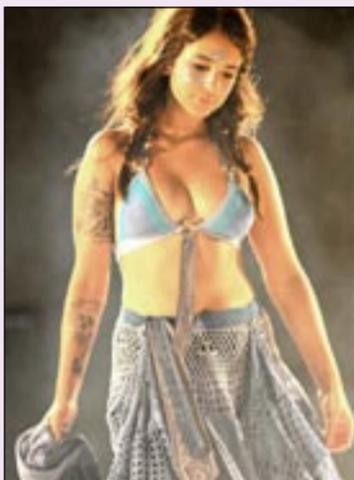
Mim Handley at *Goat-thing* studio is inviting all interested crafty types to come along to the Nimbin Community School on 9th or 10th February and sign up for an 8-week course in Crochet Design.

'String Theory with Mim' will start with the basics, journey through pattern stitches and edgings, design and complete a small personal project and finish with a collective project. Times are yet to be announced, so phone the Community School on 6689-1477 (leave message) for more info.

Also during the first school term this year, Mim will be opening up the *Goat-thing* studio from 4pm 'til 5:30pm every Monday as of 7th Feb, for 'CRAFTINOON'. This is a weekly themed craft session for school-age kids 8 and up, to learn to use old-school handcrafts in new ways, costing \$5 per session plus a one-off \$10 materials cost.

Please email goat.thing@gmail.com if you're interested or just come along on the 7th February.

Goat-thing Craft Studio, located



at the end of the hall in the Acacia Building at the Nimbin Community Centre, is open from 10am 'til 3pm Monday/Tuesday and 10am 'til noon Wednesday during school term, and offers a range of craft services including 're-psyched' stencil printing, mending and crochet design.

You can also catch Mim doing Rancid Candy Radio on 102.3 NimFM every Thursday morning from 9am 'til 12noon, so tune in for stories, musical adventures and bad disco moments.

Nimbin Open Learning Centre

Classes for Term 1 will begin on 16th February, with enrolments on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th February, at the Community School room in the Nimbin Community Centre's Acacia building.

Offerings include art, astrology, creative writing, massage, dance, Qi Gong, beading, myths & legends.

Look for the programme in letterboxes or phone 6689-1447 and leave a message for more info.



A project of the Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd

Youth Theatre

Tamlin Mackenzie (pictured) runs fun acting classes for kids in The Channon.

"We learn about voice, public speaking, stagecraft, movement, improvisation, character and group work. We play fun drama games and write and perform plays."

Classes are available for all ages:

0-5 yrs Mondays 9.30am (with Tamlin and Julie Wattus, music teacher)

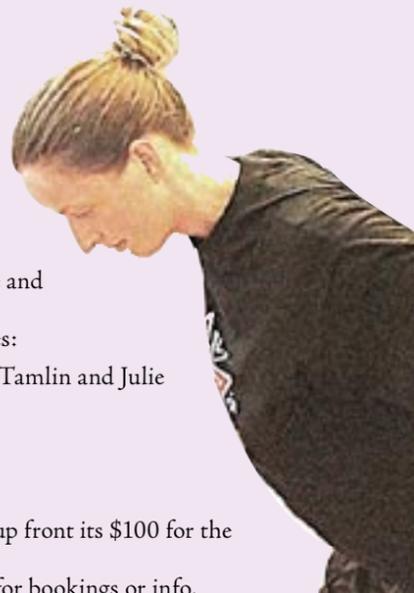
5-8 yrs Wednesdays 3.30pm

8-12 yrs Tuesdays 3.30pm

12-16 yrs Wednesdays 4.30pm

Classes are \$12, or if you pay up front its \$100 for the 10-week term.

Phone Tamlin on 6688-6551 for bookings or info.



Yoga

Yoga Classes with April Dawes have started again at Lillifield Community Hall,

They are on Tuesdays 9-10.30am, Wednesdays 8-9.30am (a little softer), and Thursdays 9.30-11am.

Classes are suitable for all levels of experience. Contact April on 6689-7539.



Nimbin's music teachers hit the right notes

Julie Metcalfe

Over the years, Nimbin has been blessed with many high class musicians, across a wide variety of genres. It can also boast some first rate music teachers.

Long time local resident, Julie Metcalfe (pictured), epitomises both of these facets of music.

As a violinist she has graced local and national venues for over forty years, performing across diverse genres: classical, theatre, Jazz, Rock, Jazz-Rock fusion, folk, Country and World music.

Since moving to the North Coast she has performed in countless informal groups as well as with bands such as the Hottentots, Heartland, the Romaniacs and the Horton River Band.

Her extensive teaching experience includes: on the staff of the Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour and Lismore Conservatoriums; violin tutor and performer with the Music Branch of the South Australian Education Department; directing her own school of music in regional Western Australia.

Daughter of the well-known Sydney musician, Ron Metcalfe, Julie attended the Sydney Conservatorium High School before embarking on a musical career as a freelance violinist. Some highlights of her performing career include stints as resident violinist with the West Australian Opera Orchestra, the South Australian Festival Theatre, J.C. Williamson Productions, and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.



Julie offers music tuition in violin, viola, piano and musicianship at a level comparable to the best you'll find anywhere.

She offers tuition across a diverse range of musical styles, prepares students for examinations, tutors H.S.C. students and also offers short intensive courses for adults.

Julie holds an Associate of Trinity College London (ACTL) diploma, and a current Certificate in Child Related Employment.

She is currently taking students for 2011, and invites interested parties to contact her: 02 6689-7438 / 0428-897-438.

Lisa Keszler

For cello teacher Lisa Keszler (pictured), music was a part of daily life from a young age.

Her parents recognised her aptitude for music, and found a piano teacher for her, to give her a solid grounding in music and theory, and when Strings became a part of school curriculum – she had the good fortune musically to grow up in SA – she began learning the cello at age 8. She studied with well-known Sydney Conservatorium-trained musician Paula Scott through both Primary and High School and performed with various orchestras while living in South Australia.

Looking back she realises what a gift of opportunity it was to develop these skills through childhood and adolescence; it is often harder to find time for regular practice in adult life.

"I never really appreciated music consciously as a child, it was just something I did. After school was music practice time, that usually came before homework and I can see now that it balanced the work of the intellect and kept me connected with my soul. Today I recognise the subtle ways in which music shaped who I am.

"There is such power in the resonance of the instrument as the music I play moves through me. I realise the unspoken expression of myself, my interpretation of the works of others, the depth of each note. The tone of the cello is rich and deep; it resonates to my core. There are times when I have a break from playing and each time I come back to it, it is a new discovery, it moves me in a new way."

Since moving to the Northern Rivers in 2004



and becoming part of such a musical community, Lisa's love of music has provided a valuable balance in her life as a mother of three. Last year she began to study Contemporary Music at SCU, which has furthered deepened her commitment to music and her enthusiasm as a teacher.

"I love teaching and I love to share my passions with others. It is a beautiful thing to watch someone develop a relationship with music, with an instrument; to watch them progress."

If you are interested in learning to play the cello, please contact Lisa on 6689-9249. Limited places are available.

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Balderstone critic

Society has accepted many of the hippy/alternative practices and ideologies of the 60's and 70's, however, after decades of debate, marijuana law reform remains stubbornly unchanged.

Probably as a result of its hippy heritage, Nimbin was taken into this debate. First we had Bob Hopkins and for the last 15 years or so Michael Balderstone has been the face of this campaign. He appears to have appointed himself spokesperson and sets the agenda. Michael's input into the Musuem, MardiGrass and the Hemp Embassy are there for all to see.

Unfortunately after so many years and no significant change to the status quo, this approach and strategy must be considered a failure, and Michael should accept some responsibility for the lack of outcomes. In my view (and I may well be alone!) Michael does the cause no good at all by continually making... well, basically stupid statements. Here are a few examples of recent silliness. After this year's helicopter raids he was in the media saying there were no commercial crops grown in Nimbin... and if there were, being old hippies, we would have smoked it all! How absurd, particularly when the amounts seized became known. Michael seems to have hippydom confused with a Cheech and Chong movie. They are very different.

Readers of the NGT would recall Mandie Hale's excellent letter ridiculing the 'peaceful trading of drugs in Nimbin' manifesto that was published in this paper. Michael distanced himself from this document but his letter in response was still childish and failed to address the issues Mandie raised. Instead this is what we got, "We smoked a lot of joints in front of the cop shop. It was a lot of fun." Wow! I bet that had them thinking in Canberra. Or from the same letter, "Yuppies hate druggies." Do they? Remember, if you are trying to change a law or paradigm (sorry!) you must convince those opposing, and using words like hate is probably not a good start.

In his last letter he suggests the silent majority in Nimbin consists of three people. Fancy, the nerve of three people to oppose Michael's philosophy! In the same letter Michael suggests that Nimbin would be an ideal place to trial some new way of supplying marijuana. Tell us why... I can think of quite a few reasons why it is not. I could go on with quotes from the world according to Michael, but the point I'm trying to make is that after many years, he is not winning the support he needs for drug law reform.

Perhaps a new strategy is called for. You are always banging on about Nimbin being on the front line in the 'war on drugs'. Maybe it could be time to break the association of drug law reform with Nimbin. A political ideology is abstract and should not be affixed to a geographical place. Drop the bunch of old hippies, we're really stoned routine. You could copy what the Greens did in the eighties... buy a



suit and take your soapbox off to Canberra! Start making more considered and inclusive statements about what is a serious subject.

I would like to see the decriminalisation of drugs, and it is obvious Michael is genuine and committed to the cause. However, judged on outcomes, a new direction is required.

Adrian Williamson,
Nimbin

Yuppie Backlash

I doubt if I have encountered anyone so full of himself as this Michael Balderstone (NGT Letters, Jan 2011). He is so presumptive and judgemental.

By outward appearances I could be considered yuppyish, but in no way hate druggies, as he implies in one of his diatribes.

My husband and I have made many friends in this beautiful area, and none of them are happy with Mr Balderstone's vision of Nimbin as some sort of druggie utopia.

Name and address withheld by request.

Birth & Beyond Businesses

Re your story "Birth & Beyond faces costly court case" (NGT January 2011), it's news to me that Fashionating and the

Apothecary weren't or aren't businesses!

Where's the rent? AND for that matter, where do the profits go? Into the community? Rates and insurance have been paid and shareholders haven't received a cent from the aforementioned 'businesses'!!

Shareholders have been extremely benevolent and kind members of the Nimbin community! Their treatment in this matter is *appalling*, and those responsible (and completely devoid of *any* former involvement in this matter... that is, until the chance to appear important arose) should feel so-o-o ashamed!

Lulu Chapman,
Lismore

Jonathon's RLCs - Then and Now

Back in 1994, an 'alternative' developer then simply called "Jonathon", bought two former dairy properties in Larnook and Jiggi which he planned to develop as RLCs, (Rural Landsharing Communities), then known as Multiple Occupancies (MOs).

He did nicely by selling shares in the properties, but the two developer-generated communities soon ran into trouble, largely because they did not understand the difference between freehold

land and a share in an MO.

For years Jonathon's name was mud to these unfortunate residents, for they alleged many instances of his deceit and duplicity and the MO peak group, the Pan Community Council, was highly critical of his activities as they believed that he had breached several provisions of the planning laws for MO's.

Lismore City Council took him to court for planning breaches and several of his clients also pursued him through the courts and still have issues with him today. Now, seventeen years later, he has popped up again in the Nimbin GoodTimes January 2011 edition on page 3, planning to do it all again.

Let us hope that this time he gets it right.

Graham Irvine,
Nimbin

WikiLeaks

It was good to see Julian Assange out of prison. He is a great Australian.

It was even better to see Julian take possession, on camera, of a set of files that will dish the dirt on a swathe of powerful Swiss banks and their arrogant, corrupt, venal clients.

Wikileaks, somewhat like Nimbin, is a "free space", a gap in the otherwise neatly ordered and controlled social fabric. As long as such free spaces exist, whether in the rolling hills, or in the underbelly of cyberspace, those who want to speak out against abuses and injustices will seek out the free spaces and use the freedom they provide to speak truth to power.

In these spaces, people are able to speak out (though still not without fear of redress, as Bradley Manning will attest) in ways that are often impractical for those enmeshed in the corporate, financial and legal pressures that make up the big-city world of stress, debt, long hours and media paranoia.

We must celebrate the free spaces that remain, and defend them.

Jay Stephens,
Nimbin

WikiFraud plagiarism

I refer to the 'Wikifraud' letter (NGT January 2011) and would like to remind author Chris Degenhardt

about the concept of plagiarism.

While I respect your right to add to this important debate, I do not respect the use of other people's words in your letter that you do not cite.

After reading your letter, I googled 'assange' + 'the economist' and quickly found an article "Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has close links to the Economist, controlled by the Rothschild banking family" at <http://birdflu666.wordpress.com> where I immediately recognised large parts of your letter.

Talk about BS!

Annabel Farrell
Mullumbimby

Hemp Party replies

In reply to David Mc Innes-King's speculations on the HEMP Party (NGT Dec 10), I offer the following:

No, a membership ballot could not take place to decide our Senate preferences because you get only 24 hrs after the close of nominations to submit your allocations.

Do the Greens have a ballot on their usual deal with the ALP? - swapping Senate for lower house preferences in selected marginal seats leaving the Greens with their fig-leaf of local decisions in other seats which don't matter.

Which parties will HEMP preference in the next election? I don't know. In the last election we would have put the Sex Party, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Secular Party 1, 2 and 3 as they are the only parties which clearly support legalisation. Various right wing nutters would have been competing for the last spots. In the middle we intended to split our vote three ways between the Greens, the ALP and the Coalition thereby functionally exhausting our vote (a tactic much liked by many Green voters), unless either the Greens or the ALP promised us to alter their cowardly support for the status quo.

Yes that's right, the Greens are not for legalisation! The first line of their drugs policy states: 'The Australian Greens do not support the legalisation of currently illegal drugs.' In other words the Greens are happy that teenagers busted by sniffer dogs at the Big Day Out get a criminal record for life.

Notices

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

Next deadline:
Wednesday 23rd February

Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

Channon Craft Market
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From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Australia Day

January 26 in Lismore and in many other communities is a day for celebration and reflection on who we are, where we have come from and where we are heading as a nation.

In Lismore, our Ambassador was Dr Ross Walker, cardiologist, author and radio and TV presenter. Dr Walker has a long connection with the North Coast and entertained the 600 strong crowd at Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre.

Eight people became Australian Citizens and of course we recognized many of the wonderful people and organizations that add so much to the life of our community.

Awards – Nimbin Nominees

Nimbin was very well-represented in the nominations for Lismore's Australia Day Awards.

St Vincent De Paul was nominated in the Community Services group category and Pam Bourne, Gail Clark, Genevieve Begg, Peter Wise, Eugenie Stephens and the Nimbin Police were all nominated for their Service to the Community. Cassandra Jefferys was nominated for Services to the Community and in the category of Citizen of the Year. Well done Nimbin!

The winners were:

Citizen- Ken Jolley, Community Services- Peter Lehner, Community Services Group- U3A Northern Rivers, Young Citizen- Alex Jones, Sustainable Environment- Dorrobbec Grass Trust, Art/Cultural- John Ryan, Senior Sportsperson- Vicki Budgen, Junior Sportsperson- Danielle Smith, Sports Team- Lily Follp and Sarah Mitchell

Floods

Our Local Government Area has been very fortunate to avoid the devastating floods that have hit our northern, western and southern neighbours.

In the height of the threat, it did seem that the Wilsons River catchment could expect up to 200ml of rain overnight but thankfully it did not eventuate. Even with only a moderate flood of December 28, our damage bill is over \$3.4 million and climbing. Repairing the roadslip on Wallace Rd and the damage to the walkway at The Channon are yet to be costed.

The Bureau of Meteorology is indicating that the La Nina conditions will continue for several months so we all need to be prepared for a major flood event. Having seen the devastation in the Lockyer Valley and Brisbane, I am pleased to hear that businesses and homes in flood-prone

areas are preparing and reviewing their flood plans and cleaning up around their properties.

Simon Crean visited the Clarence Valley on January 17 and met with ten Mayors from Tweed to Coffs Harbour. Our message to him was that Councils need significant funding not just to repair flood damage but to improve our roads and infrastructure to better withstand future floods.

Queensland

We all watched in horror as the disaster in Toowoomba and towns in the Lockyer Valley was screened on TV.

New media such as Twitter and Facebook and the use of mobile phone footage came into their own as we became almost real-time witnesses to the pain of our northern neighbours.

There is a natural desire to help in these situations and the Premier's Flood Appeal has received generous donations but the massive roll-up of shovel-and-broom-bearing volunteers have shown that those who have lost everything are not alone.

Many people have contacted me about collecting goods for flood victims. At the risk of offending people,

I'd urge you to desist. The website www.givit.org.au is useful in registering what you can offer and then seek someone who needs those goods but especially in small towns, the local businesses need to survive too. Their communities need to buy the things they need from those businesses.

The added benefit is that the flood victim can purchase what they need and maintain some dignity. So instead of collecting goods to send, why not have a fundraiser and donate to www.qld.gov.au/floods

GM Recruitment

Early in February, Councillors will meet with Stephen Blackadder to finalise the Information Package that will be used to attract candidates for our new General Manager.

Stay tuned.

Rural Forum Jiggi

The first Rural Forum for 2011 will be held on Monday February 21 at the Jiggi Hall. This is your opportunity to meet with Councillors and Senior Staff and for us to listen to your concerns.

The evening starts at 7pm with a presentation on roadworks and



associated discussion. We then move to other Council related issues with a close by 9pm.

What's in a Name?

I am well aware that residents of our villages and rural areas do not relate to being called residents of Lismore.

Being a City Council we are not a Shire so to describe the whole of Lismore Council's geographic spread, we use the cumbersome term Lismore Local Government Area. I'd love to find a user-friendly term to encompass all of Lismore, Goonellabah, Nimbin, other villages and rural areas but I can't think of an alternative to Lismore LGA. Any ideas?

As for splitting the 'progressive vote' that's exactly what the local Greens, as ordered by head office (what no ballot?), did in the last Lismore Mayoral Election.

Fortunately the Nats managed to split their own vote even more effectively.

"Grass roots party"? you can't get grassier than the HEMP Party!

As for me "playing politics" – isn't that what you join a political party for?

Graham Askey
Registered Officer
HEMP Party

In Defence of Whales

Right now the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) are in the Southern Ocean chasing the Japanese whaling fleet and protecting the poor whales from the harpoons.

SSCS is the only conservation group doing what the Australian government said they would do, protect whales in the Southern Ocean exclusion zones.

Sea Shepherd has three ships down there this year, and hope to bring an end to the Japanese government-subsidised whaling forever.

You can help keep the ships there by making a donation to Sea Shepherd Australia Ltd, Westpac Bank – BSB: 033-178 A/C: 321603. Donating through your bank or credit union is cheaper than a money order.

Thank you, and the whales do too.

Paul Brecht
Mullumbimby

Rail freight

Why are large fuel tankers and B Doubles allowed to travel along our main roads and highways, endangering other road users, posing a risk to the environment, and in Ballina's case, contaminating our water supply, when much of this transport could and should be carried by a properly run rail freight system?

Rail, if Governments invested in the infrastructure, would generally be a cheaper, safer and cleaner way to transport freight. With our growing population and the projected doubling of freight over the next 10 years, surely it's time to prepare for a rapidly approaching future.

Cr Jeff Johnson
Lennox Head

Simon says...



by Simon Clough
Deputy Mayor of Lismore

A rather lazy January has slipped away and the year, at least in Council terms, started in earnest on 1st February. For me, the immediate priority is the selection of Council's new General Manager. This is a huge decision that will affect Lismore and its citizens for years to come.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being Deputy Mayor is having the opportunity to meet some amazing people.

This was certainly the case when I represented Council at the Lismore Fire Station last week. The occasion was the presentation of bravery awards to three remarkable people, John McAlister, Shirley Brown and Monique Rhodes. John, having received burns to 60% of his body in a gas explosion at St Vincent's Hospital, fought valiantly to turn the gas off with the assistance of Shirley and Monique. Monique and Shirley also did emergency work on John's burns. The humility and graciousness of the three was extremely impressive.

Thanks to the work of the Fire Brigade, the fire was discovered in the roof cavity and was extinguished before it could destroy the hospital with significant threat to life. This situation and the floods and loss of life in many parts of Australia led me to reflect on our emergency services and how important their contribution is to maintaining the health and

safety of our communities often at great personal cost. With scientific predictions of more frequent extreme weather events because of the impacts of climate change, it seems inevitable that we will become even more reliant on these people who dedicate themselves to our safety.

Once again the Australia Day celebrations at the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre were uplifting. One of the main events was the granting of citizenship to eight people from five different countries. As someone who has personally experienced becoming an Australian citizen (I was born in Fiji), I am always moved by this ceremony.

Nimbin featured in the Australia Day Awards with Eugenie Stephens, Pam Bourne, Gail Clark, Genevieve Begg and Peter Wise receiving individual awards for services in the community. Nimbin Police (Snr Constables Kim Ford, Mitch Eline Junir and Shane Hermann), Nimbin St Vinnies and the Nimbin Rural Fire Brigade were all worthy recipients of

awards for services in the community. Ken Jolley was awarded Lismore's Citizen of the Year for over 28 years volunteering for the Rescue Helicopter (you may have noticed Ken selling raffle tickets in town).

The Nimbin skate park is progressing as well as can be expected given the extraordinary amount of rain we've had. Concrete has started to be poured! Many of the ancillary jobs such as footings for the shade structure, electrical installation and extra drainage (guess why) have been completed. If the weather is reasonable its anticipated the park will be opening in April. Hope to see you there with your skates on.

I know Blue Knob Road has been a horror stretch for many people. I understand there has been some maintenance, and I am pleased to say, major work should be starting in July.

May you all have a happy and prosperous Year of the Rabbit.

Contact Simon at simonclough@internode.on.net or by phoning 6624 2894 or 0428 886217.

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Vale Elsa Garbutt

Elsa Garbutt was born in India 80 years ago, she married John and they had three children – Sharon, Jason and Zoe.

Together they worked the land in Gladstone, Queensland and were pioneer settlers at Billen Cliffs Village in the early eighties. Elsa and John were for many years at the very heart of community life. Her life was a celebration of family and she was a cherished great-grandmother.

Elsa passed away on January 29, reuniting her with beloved husband John, who died in 1997.

Relatives and friends are invited to a celebration of Elsa's life on Sunday, February 6 from 10.30am at Billen Cliffs Community Hall, Martin Rd, Larnook.



Rest in Peace

Welcome to new Australian citizens

Local MP Justine Elliot welcomed our new Australian citizens, who took part in special citizenship ceremonies across the North Coast.

"Our new Australian citizens are among some 13,000 people who took the citizenship pledge at more than 320 citizenship ceremonies across the country," Justine said.

"Australia Day is a special day for all Australians, and especially for those becoming Australian citizens. It's a day full of celebration of all that is good about Australia and being Australian. Regardless of our differences all Australians share common principals that underpin our national identity.

We are a people committed to the principles of a fair go and mateship. We welcome you and the talents, diversity and vitality that you bring to Australia and our region. We thank you for the richness you bring to our lives and our community."

"Today they made a formal commitment to this country and together we can all celebrate what it means to be an Australian."

Justine said over four million people from more than 200 countries had chosen to become Australian citizens since 1949, enriching our nation's culture and traditions.

"Citizenship ceremonies are wonderful for those involved and I offer my sincere congratulations to all those becoming citizens today.



Citizenship ceremony Justine attended on Australia Day (from left): Nigel Dobson, Justine Elliot, Hopal Grant-McClintock, Ruth Southon, Neville Southon.

Member for Richmond
107 Minjungbal Drive
Tweed Heads South
Phone 1300-720-675

"I know all locals will join me in welcoming our newest citizens," Justine said.

Gillard Government helping families with Back-to-School Expenses

Justine said, "The Gillard Government is helping families with education costs as children prepare for the start of another school year."

Under the Education Tax Refund families can claim up to 50 per cent back on a range of education expenses – up to \$397 for each primary school child and \$794 for each secondary school child.

This is important help for families on the North Coast at a time when household

budgets are stretched.

Eligible families can claim for items such as textbooks, computers, stationery, and monthly Internet connections under the initiative.

Parents or guardians who receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for children in primary or secondary school are eligible for the refund as well as those on other allowances such as the Disability Support Pension.

The Education Tax Refund, along with the Child Care Rebate and Paid Parental Leave scheme, reinforces the Government's commitment to reducing cost of living pressures on working families.

The Gillard Government is committed to taking practical steps that help parents give their kids the best education they can.

For more information visit www.australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund



Janelle's Page

Janelle and the PM inspect flood damage in Page. Photo courtesy The Daily Examiner.

Flood Relief raises issues for farmers

by Janelle Saffin, MP

While clearly the nation has been focused on the devastating floods in Queensland, made more tragic by the loss of life, here in Page there were many communities in the Clarence Valley and Richmond Valley experiencing the full brunt of the floodwaters, with major roads cut, communities isolated and farms and small businesses affected.

This was made worse by the sustained wet period we have experienced.

Our region was not ignored and I appreciated the early calls from Prime Minister Julia Gillard to see how our things were going for us, and on 15th January the PM visited some flooded parts of Page and heard first-hand about local issues.

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese and the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, Simon Crean both visited to review flood damage and discuss rebuilding. Minister Crean met with representatives of ten local northern NSW councils during his visit.

The Attorney General Robert McClelland, (the minister responsible for Commonwealth emergency management) came to Casino to meet with flood affected farmers from the Richmond Valley including cane and soybean farmers who were particularly hard hit.

The farmers' main concerns were with the state administration of National Disaster Relief Schemes. Issues included:

- The need for a review of the 51% rule that stipulates that natural disaster relief is for farmers who can show that they get over 50% of their income from their farm — not always a fair measure.
- Whether Exceptional Circumstances interest subsidy rate could be applied to floods, along with concessional loans as an either-or,
- Lack of representation from their industry organisations.

The flood crisis has highlighted the ongoing concern for local farmers – that their interests are being ignored by the big national producer organisations such as the MLA, which levies beef producers and is run as a corporation. I have seen that often these big organisations don't represent the needs of our local farmers enough. Our farmers need to lobby their organisations harder.

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

I want to express my appreciation to everyone involved in the flood relief and recovery effort, particularly our hard-working volunteers.

When we face natural disasters on such a scale, our state borders become irrelevant and we realise we are all Australians, and we respond as Australians.

Grants for improved disability access

Grants of up to \$100,000 are now open to local councils under the Accessible Communities program, a \$5 million Gillard Government election commitment.

The Accessible Communities grants support local councils to make improvements to buildings and public spaces to make it easier for local people with disabilities, their families and carers to play an active role in their community.

This includes improvements such as ramps, lifts, hoists and accessible public toilets to community facilities including playgrounds, swimming pools, libraries and town halls.

Further information is available at www.fahcsia.gov.au Applications close 25th February, 2011.

Local input sought for aged care review

Local organisations and individuals are urged to have input into the review of Australia's aged care services by the Productivity Commission, whose draft report identifies weaknesses in the current aged care system, and calls for a major overhaul of services, with broader options.

In Page, more than 18 per cent of the population is aged 65 or over, and it is important that any national review of aged care has input from our region.

Aged care providers and institutions engaged in health care education and research are also encouraged to have input into this review.

The Productivity Commission report is available online at www.pc.gov.au.

Written submissions must be received by the Productivity Commission by Monday, 21st March, 2011.



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MardiGrass crew breathless with anticipation

(but remembering to inhale)

The MardiGrass Organising Body (MOB) has met with Lismore City Council and everything is on track for the 2011 weekend of cannabis law reform activities on April 30 and May 1.

The MOB meets every Friday from 5pm at the Embassy (enter thru the HEMP Bar) and everyone is welcome. Organisers are calling for new ideas, input and (especially) local volunteers.

Better organisation of volunteers is a MOB aim for this year. Local knowledge is crucial, with many backpackers from non-English-speaking backgrounds keen to help out. Locals wanting to be part of the event as volunteers or Jungle Patrollers are asked to register early at the Embassy.

Recycling is another aim for this year and organisers are looking for a club or non-profit local group to take this on (and get the profits).

MOB also wants to hear from creative souls who want to do street theatre over the weekend – and remember the Happy High Herbs Float Awards are on again.

A Mardigrass Comedy Cabaret is planned for the Saturday night at the Town Hall. (MOB is hopeful that Bob Dylan will judge the Buskers' Competition, but he has not yet confirmed...) With the Byron Bluesfest and Easter on the weekend before Mardigrass, good crowds are expected.

Pot Art entries can be taken to the HEMP Bar (if they fit!) and will be displayed in cafes around the village.

The Peace Park Main Stage will be repositioned closer to Sibley Street and the music line up includes OKA, Anarchist Duck, Nathan Kaye, elseWhere, 50 bags, Irie Knights, Pagan Love Cult, Zennith and Kaptan Reefer.

MardiGrass 2011 has been

inspired by Proposition 19 in California. Even though the vote was lost, cannabis law reform got a lot of attention and we will be doing our best this year to bring Australia up to date with what's happening in North America.

Dr Bob Melamede and a director of Cannabis Science Inc, Richard Cowan, will be at MardiGrass again, with new evidence on the beneficial effects of cannabis on some forms of cancer.

Activists Lisa "Mamakind" Kirkman, from Skunk Magazine, and Englishman Frank Kirk are booked in, as is Sandra Kanck, former leader of the Democrats in SA Parliament. Regular supporters doctors Alex Wodak, Paul Wilson and Andrew Katelaris are all coming and it's hoped there will be some local industrial hemp crops to play with and hear about, now that NSW farmers can plant hemp seed.

Alison's ally in MS battle

Canadian Alison Myrden (pictured) is coming to MardiGrass 2011 as a representative of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP).



She began her career as a corrections officer in 1988 and noticed that many young offenders were in trouble with the law for simple experimentation with illicit drugs. This seemed very wrong to her. She felt it would be better to educate these young people about drugs instead of punishing them.

Around the same time, Alison was diagnosed with chronic progressive Multiple Sclerosis. She began battling tic doloureux, an excruciating facial pain sometimes associated with MS.

Soon after retiring in 1992, she was introduced to medicinal cannabis and in

1995 she was prescribed medical cannabis – and found immediate relief. Within the year Alison had regained enough health to be back at work, sitting in courtrooms for three to five days each week.

In March 2000, Alison received one of the first Ministerial Exemptions under Canadian law to be able to smoke, possess and grow cannabis. Alison and her partner, Gary Lynch, maintain a website detailing her advocacy of medical cannabis at www.themarijuanamission.com.

www.themarijuanamission.com.

It is one of the most well publicised medicinal cannabis websites, with more than 30 million visits (and counting).

Tickets to this year's event are available on-line; \$100 includes three nights' camping and entry into all events (\$50 for events only, no campsite).

Flooded Deep Unda

by Undacuvva

HipiLeaks was the last straw for a couple of my superiors who've been troubled for a while by my strange ways. I had to go even deeper Unda. Complete new costume and direction. I'm not saying which sex I am, and I may never be able to surface again. It's not so unusual, we lose over 3% of Unda's to disappearance every year. Some may be dead but most just don't come back.

I have to admit, where I am is not too hard to take. Plush hippy house, deep in the jungle with a big patch of gorgeous skunk. Organic vegie garden we can't keep up with, views to kill for, and even a few kids to enjoy, seeing I can never spend time with my own. We are way out of town so my favourite Cullen Street beat has been off the agenda for a while. Anyway I heard they were looking for me and there are a couple of moles that are hard to hide.

Mushroom soups, and I don't mean the supermarket ones, are very popular in this

hippy forest camp, but I didn't expect what would come to the surface. Choppers! Someone started a lawnmower way down in the valley, but with goldtop hearing, the trippers (I should say we trippers!) started thinking it was the big birds hunting their crop.

There was no talking them out of it. In no time the whole camp was gripped by paranoia and people fled into the scrub. I felt sick. The poor kids were totally traumatised. I've had chopper training and know the drill, but to the uninitiated it could be terrifying. Turns out my new home is on the copper chopper map, and they live in dread of the next raid. I should be able to get them taken off the map with my connections. It's the least I can do.

And the HipiLeaks keep streaming in. Lucky my new friends have no idea about computers and leave me alone for hours at night.



Dec 2010: Social Order Unit to all Agencies. Fear is the key – without fear, control of popular opinion is very difficult to manage. The more we associate terrorists with beards, robes and drugs the harder it will be for hippies and their thinking to find acceptance. Their anti-capitalism philosophy must be made to look stupid and painful as a priority. Their drug use must be targeted but

never wiped out or the tidal wave of anger it keeps at bay could become an unmanageable flood.

Jan 2011: The words Lehman Bros must be deleted from all future Council correspondence. It will not be used as an excuse for poor roads or failed infrastructure. It will not be used again as an excuse for anything in fact. We understand losing so many millions is devastating, but the unfortunate losses must be deleted from memory and never mentioned again.

Jan 2011: Top priority. No looting of furniture or white goods is allowed from Brisbane flood stacks. Everything must be trashed for health reasons. No exceptions.

I did answer the call to Brisbane for the floods, remaining completely Unda the entire time. Everyone was instructed to stop any looting at all from the mountains of mud covered household furniture. It was rumoured Harvey Norman helped to hire hundreds of security to stop any looting. Apparently to stimulate the economy.

An Indian family was arrested for collecting bicycles. The mud washed off them easily and most were still perfect. They had hundreds washed down and stacked in the back of a truck when the authorities swooped. I managed to confiscate their truck and personally made sure those bikes got to India where a bicycle is a career.

I did get an amazing leather lounge and a carved giant electric shaking bed thrown from a West End brothel. Both were perfect after a hose down and they look amazing in the hippies' paranoid mountain retreat, even if the solar panels can't handle the bed...

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