



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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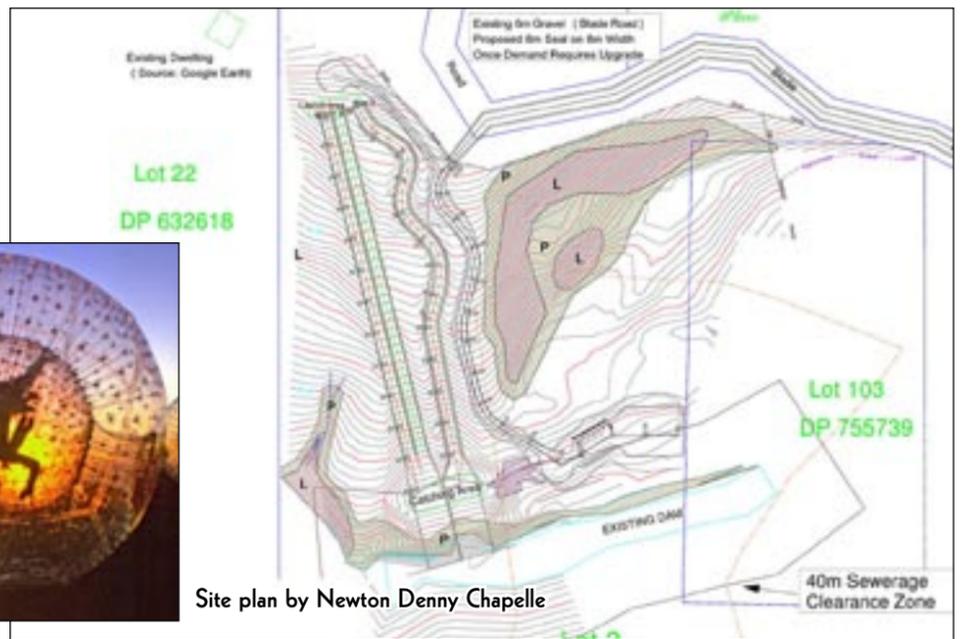
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Zorbing – rolling with it



Similar development at the Astrodome, Rotorua



Site plan by Newton Denny Chapelle

by Liam Brehme, Nimbin Rox YHA

Zorb globe riding (generically known as globe riding or Zorbing) is the experience of rolling down a hill in a large inflatable globe. Zorb is the name of the company, which started in 1995 and first took the idea of globe riding international.

Participants are placed inside one of the globes and rolled down a hill, wet or dry. Two types of globes are available – the harness, or Zorbit (dry) variety, and the non-harness, or Zydro (wet) variety. Track variations allow participants to tailor their experience to their desire.

The idea behind bringing Zorbing to Nimbin is to try to stimulate the local economy during quiet period of winter. The developers hope to increase the time visitors spend here – an average of four hours – and create more overnight stays, and bump up spending in the town.

There are no other official Zorb companies in Australia, and the development would be in partnership with Nimbin Rox YHA.

I want to make the operation, and the Nimbin Rox YHA, completely self-sufficient. Composting toilets will be built and within the first year a 60kW solar power system will be built to power the Zorb site.

Money generated from the operation will go to a reforestation project comprising more than 500,000 trees over 150 acres.

The planning stages for Zorb started in August 2010, when I took a trip to New Zealand. Since then it's been a nine-month planning process and now we are waiting on council approval.

If all goes to plan then the facility could possibly be built by the start of the next busy period.

The case against: Wildlife concerns

by Tim Dowsett, neighbour

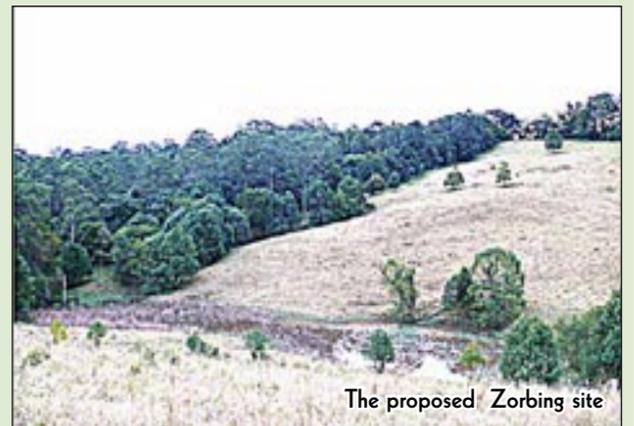
In the spring and summer the dam where the proposed Zorbing recreational facility is planned is surrounded with bullrushes and covered in water lilies with many ducks, water hens and other species of water birds.

In winter the ducks are still there. They make use of a large patch of bullrushes at the very western end of the dam for nesting and raising their young in spring. The dam is quite long – about 100 metres or so. I have filmed black swans on this long stretch of water that is referred to as a dam, but which has become a sanctuary for wildlife. The whole area is on the land up behind the Nimbin Tip to the left of Blade Rd as you drive up the hill.

This is a commercial venture being proposed for a rural/residential area, and as well as ruining this dam as a sanctuary and a place of absolute peace, it would dramatically compromise the peace and tranquility that the residents of Blade Road have come to highly value and deeply appreciate.

The property I'm on borders the land proposed for this development. The zorbing runs would start on the top of the hill to the right of the bush line and come all the way down to the dam. Houses are very close to this proposed development. Local residents feel the plan is a totally inappropriate for this area.

We will be opposing it.



The proposed Zorbing site



Eo-system in the dam



Bringabong State Shop

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