



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Freaky and FREE

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TOWN UNDER SIEGE Police blockade Nimbin

Tourist targets: Police with sniffer dogs search tourists aboard the Grasshopper tour bus



Polite force?

Driving home, I left all my problems behind, ready to start my day,
My mind did not wonder to think there would be boundaries and blockades ahead,
But as the men in blue wave their hands and expect all to uphold,
I slow down and follow their directions, willingly and quietly,
But apparently rowdily and unco-operatively.
As Rebecca struggles to open the door they say to me, "A lack of chivalry in the world,"
Shortly followed by a show of interrogation and intimidation on the very same girl,
Performed by a short man with no power without his "POLICE" badge.
At least he wished me a nice day.

~ Lucas Floate



Fifty police swooped on Nimbin at the end of February in an operation targeting cannabis.

The three road entrances to the town were blocked by checkpoints and police were in Nimbin on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th February as part of a joint operation with the RTA and the Immigration Department.

The police were focused on drug checks and employed two sniffer dogs.

"For a town of 300 people, it's quite ridiculous to have them all up here.

There are usually just eight or nine police stationed in Nimbin," said Cannabis Coalition spokesperson Macciza Macpherson.

The president of the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Michael Balderstone, said: "Is this (Nationals MP) Thomas George's re-election strategy? Does he really believe more and more police will stop people being offered marijuana in the Nimbin street, which seems to be the impossible goal each new police Area Commander sets himself?"

"If Thomas was a half-decent and honourable politician he would be supporting our community in looking for a new way. He's stuck on National Party policy and needs to find the courage to break ranks a little."

The Greens candidate for Lismore, Sue Stock, described the operation as "outrageous" and "a waste of resources".

Mr Macpherson said the blockades were part of a cannabis eradication campaign by the police, which has moved up the coast in recent weeks.



Dogs influenced by handlers

United States researchers have found that the accuracy of drug and explosives-sniffing dogs is affected by their human handlers' beliefs in response to subtle, perhaps unintentional cues.

The study found that detection-dog teams erroneously 'alerted' – identified a scent – when there was no scent present, but when the handler believed that there was.

"It isn't just about how sensitive a dog's nose is or how well-trained a dog is," says Lisa Lit, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Neurology and the study's lead author. "There are cognitive factors affecting the interaction between a dog and a handler that can impact the dog's performance."

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SUSAN STOCK
CANDIDATE FOR LISMORE



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