

Willing worker

Jimmy Willing puts some finishing touches on his work on the murals at the Nimbin Hotel, which will be officially unveiled by mayor Jenny Dowell of Saturday 21st April at high noon.

CSG Casino street stall success

by Jill Lyons

On Saturday 24th March the Richmond Valley/Casino Group Against Gas held a BBQ info stall out the front of Woolworths in Casino.

The public were more than happy to chat whilst eating a cooked sausage sanger and able to talk to the group about their concerns and how they would potentially be affected by coal seam gas activities.

A few local people told of how their lives were already being adversely affected by the CSG and this is only at the exploratory stage.

Others spoke of their fears of how they could be affected by living close to the wells and if they would even be able to sell their land and go somewhere safe, free from



the threat of CSG.

Even if people didn't stop, their cheery positive cries of "thanks," "good on ya," "Don't let them win," as they passed, were inspiring and only added more evidence that this area does not want coal seam gas mining activities.

These words of encouragement were appreciated by the anti-CSG groups and indicated that there is a growing number of people who are questioning the words and actions of the gas companies and their vested interests.

Nationals abandon rural communities on moratorium

Local residents concerned about the impacts of coal seam gas mining on the Northern Rivers gathered outside local MP Thomas George's office on Friday to ask him to state his position on the expansion of the industry in the region. According to local community group Kyogle Group Against Gas (GAG), the failure by National Party MP's to vote in favour of a moratorium on CSG shows that they are ignoring the concerns of farmers and other residents of rural NSW.

"We organised this event because members of our group have repeatedly written to and phoned Mr George on this issue and they feel that he is ignoring them," said Leah Hobbs, president of Kyogle GAG.

"They wanted to come here in person and let him know of their concerns about the impacts this industry could have on our land and water."

"In the past week we have seen further evidence of the National Party's failure



demands – they just want assurances that this industry will not destroy their livelihoods and leave their land in a state of ruin for their children and grandchildren," Mrs Hobbs said.

"We don't have the evidence yet to assure us of this, so that is why we have called for a moratorium."

"As the government has refused to listen to our concerns we are being forced to impose a moratorium ourselves – that is the message we are taking to Mr George today."

to stand up for rural communities with the release of regional land use policies that fail to protect any part of the state, and just yesterday their

refusal to vote for a moratorium on the coal seam gas industry."

"Local farmers are not making any unreasonable



Over 100 people turned up outside Metgasco offices in Casino to voice their concerns about their coal seam gas activities in our region. Every second or third car was tooting their horns in support. School buses with children waving out the windows, while their bus driver tooted support, plumbers, business owners, you name it, they tooted, and Metgasco would have heard every single toot of support. Lots of new protestors who had never been to a rally before, some as old as 86, and had an absolute ball. All the support was very invigorating.

Cut fossil fuel subsidies

Cutting the \$2 billion rebate mining companies get on diesel fuel excise is an excellent step to a safer climate and a fairer, cleaner and more balanced budget, and one that the Australian Greens have brought to the attention of the current and previous governments many times.

"We've said to the government many times that cutting subsidies which encourage use of polluting fossil fuels, like the diesel fuel rebate for mining companies, is not only sensible climate policy but also sensible economic policy," Australian Greens Senator Christine Milne, said.

"People all across the Australian community who pay tax on the fuel they buy would be very unimpressed if they realised that the mining companies making multi-billion dollar profits pay not a cent in tax on the diesel that runs their trucks and their generators.

"Getting rid of, or at least

slashing, that rebate would make the tax system fairer by redressing the balance back towards citizens instead of corporations.

"Australia promised to abolish fossil fuel subsidies as part of its G20 obligations but since then refused to acknowledge that we have any.

"As President Obama has been saying again recently, it makes no sense to be giving incentives to clean energy while also handing out subsidies to the use of dirty fuels.

"Getting rid of the diesel fuel rebate for mining companies would help to make renewable energy in remote areas, which is often ideally suited to these offgrid applications, more competitive.

"If the government is looking for ways to save money and balance the May budget, the \$2 billion diesel fuel rebate is an excellent place to start and the Greens will continue to back such a move."

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Calls for Saffin to support big solar

"We are asking our local MP, Janelle Saffin, why are people in Lismore and surrounds paying more and more for polluting fossil fuels when we could power ourselves with the sun, which is a free source of fuel that will never run out," said Tom Driftwood, spokesperson for the Lismore Climate Action Group.

They are calling on Ms Saffin to get behind a new \$10 billion dollar fund for renewable energy – the Clean Energy Finance Corporation – and ensure that it is an effective vehicle to build 2000MW of big solar, to be announced this year and completed by 2015.

"Australia is the sunniest country on Earth, so it just makes sense that we start using this vast resource to provide us with large amounts of safe, clean electricity," Tomsaid.

"Large scale solar energy will bring lots of new jobs and investment to Australia – particularly concentrating solar thermal which is cheaper to manufacture here than to import. This will give new life to our declining manufacturing sector."

"And with the cost of coal



Members of the Lismore Climate Action Group and supportive locals gathered at Heritage Park in Lismore on Monday 12th March with overalls, hardhats, tools and a big sign to support the development of large scale solar power in Australia.

and gas going up each year – and renewable energy just getting cheaper – investing in solar will help manage rising energy prices".

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation, which has been allocated \$10 billion to fund clean energy, could build big solar projects across Australia. It was established by the Australian Government and the Greens in 2011. However Tony Abbott and the Coalition have said they will not support it. Let them know how unacceptable this

is, and that they must listen to the 89% of Australians who support renewable energy and change their opposition of renewable energy to support.

"We take the position that any effort to portray gas or any form of fossil fuels as clean energy is both misleading and totally unacceptable. We call upon the Federal Government including the Energy Minister Martin Ferguson to exclude all forms of fossil fuel from receiving any funding from the Clean Energy

Finance Corporation. Fossil fuel, particularly CSG, is not a form of clean energy. Renewable energy is clean energy," Tom Driftwood said.

Last year the Lismore Climate Action Group asked over 750 local people to answer the survey on renewable energy in Australia. Their response was overwhelmingly positive and was essential in demonstrating the very high levels of public support and expectation around renewable energy to our local politicians. In response, Janelle Saffin came out in public support of 20% of the carbon price revenue going to renewable energy – one of only three sitting members to do so.

Over the next few months the CAG will be holding stalls at our local markets to conduct our big solar poll, which is an opportunity to tell Janelle Saffin your thoughts on big solar in Australia. If you are interested in helping out or want any further information please contact Tom Driftwood on 6689 5693, mobile 0448 694 114 or email tomdrift1@yahoo.com.au



April Fools bust re-enactment

On the annual April Fools Day re-enactment of the infamous police raids on the HEMP Bar, HEMP Embassy and Nimbin Museum, the polite service raided Mullaways Medical Cannabis bus and presented Tony with a bag full of green vegetable matter in a symbolic gesture in support of his medical cannabis tincture. Polite sniffer dog 'Jingo' found nothing but a sausage.

Not only was Tony busted with a real sniffer dog on his way to the weekly Friday MardiGrass meeting, but the Plantation Squad recently confiscated his entire crop, every plant labeled and destined for individual patients, many of them with cancer.

Polite was created in response to the Police Riot Squad raids on April Fools Day 2008. Each year there is a re-enactment on the main street of Nimbin.

If you want to join the polite service enquire at the bureau, otherwise known as the Hemp Bar.



"Dugong Dread Dredges" placard catches UNESCO eye

by Alan Roberts

"Thanks for coming" said Tim Badman wholeheartedly to Corrie Summerton. Tim is one of the two Unesco representatives investigating the impacts of the industrialisation and shipping on the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef and Corrie is one of the group who travelled on the Nimbin Environment Centre bus to Gladstone to support the UN call to get oil and gas development, in particular the LNG refrigerators out of the World Heritage Area.

Corrie's "Dugong Dread Dredges" sign caught Tim's eye as he and Fanny Douvere (the wonderful other WHC investigator) left their meeting with fishermen and Environmental NGO's. "I expressed our fears for the reef and apologised for Australia

putting Unesco in the difficult position of having to make an awkward decision," said Corrie. "No, it's easy" said Tim – a very reassuring portent.

It was not difficult to see why. The fishers had the first hour's meeting, so came out first. Their information was comprehensive, graphic, well presented and damning. Some of them described how their legs and arms were covered in boils so badly that they could not walk or handle objects. Others gave first hand descriptions of silt 50mm thick on the coral outside Gladstone harbour, the degradation of the scallop spawning grounds some 10km outside the harbour and heaps more.

The next hour Fanny and Tim met with seven environmental NGO's who were allowed one person each. Micromanaged by Tony Burke's SEWerPAC



June Norman and 'Potts'

department each of the 7 environmental groups had 5 minutes to present their information, then 20 minutes altogether for questions. Again the information presented was overwhelming. Environmentalists and fishers were impressed with the careful listening and intelligent questioning.

Greg Terrell, one of Tony Burke's staffers came out to talk with us. Very unfortunately, most of the conversation consisted of



pathetic pleas to "please don't ask me that" for any topic that wasn't inane.

We engaged with the environmental groups well into the night and again later the next day. It seemed to them like a dream that people were keen to hear what they were saying.

"Prior to these meetings we joined June Norman and 'Potts' on the last leg of their 500km 'no gas pipeline' walk into Gladstone, then lined the road from the airport with

our Nimbin flags, banners and Lismore Lantern parade reef fish as Fanny and Tim were chauffeured by. They wanted to stop and talk to us but could not organise it with their minders" said Lisa Costello NEC treasurer.

There were lots of actions. Our turbidity measurements (using a Secchi disk) this time were 50% higher than the Gladstone Ports instruments. The turbidity was worse than in early February (when our turbidity readings were double

theirs) even though the main cutter suction dredge had been out for maintenance for 2 weeks and all except one very cautious shovel was loading a sludge barge at a rate that would take 3 weeks to fill it. There were 3 idle sludge barges sitting high in the water that would normally have been on a 24/7 relay to the spoil grounds 400m from the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. What's now maintaining the turbidity is the constant shipping traffic speeding through the harbour resuspending the layer of dredged silt with propellers that are often only 500mm from the harbour floor.

All signs show the GBR to be dying. Any chance of recovery will need every Australian dragging Tony Burke's SEWerPAC, kicking and screaming to actually be an environment department.

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Website: www.nmic.org.au



Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to community members.

For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our CWWs for referrals.

Post harvest processing equipment library

We have finally taken delivery of the last equipment and the shed construction at Blue Knob Hall is underway. We are now ready to start taking memberships for the new equipment library.

Membership to the library is open to all NNIC members. To join, you need to join NNIC (if not already a member) plus pay a one off Library Joining Fee (\$55 inc GST) plus an annual Library membership fee of \$21.50 (inc GST). Membership will entitle you to unlimited use of the equipment (subject to bookings) with no hire fees or deposits.

To join the library you need to complete the Application Form and the Terms of Agreement form. Bookings will be via our front desk. Ask at our front desk for the forms or else email us and we will send them to you.

Funds taken in the form of Library membership fees will be used to maintain the equipment and insurances, as well as to keep purchasing



new equipment to add to the library over time.

The Library equipment currently consists of: 4 x large dehydrators, 4 x medium dehydrators (one designated for meat products), 1 x Vitamix food processor (with seed milling capacity), a bunch of beekeeping gear, a top of the range Breville food processor, a very good mix master, and a use-by date label maker.

The total value of the gear is around \$6,000.00

Nimbin mural project

In December 2011, NNIC submitted a proposal to Lismore Council regarding this project and budget allocations for the coming financial year. We are still waiting to hear about the outcome of this but we are hopeful that funds will be allocated to the project. As soon as we hear anything we will let you know.

Food security meetings

Next meetings are on: Thursday 17th May, Thursday 21st June and Thursday 19th July. No meeting in April. All meetings held at 6pm at NNIC's Elmo room. Come around the back steps and food is always welcome! We have a lot of work to go ahead with so new members always welcome.

OOSH service after school care

The new National Framework of regulations for Education and Care Services comes into full effect on 1 July 2012. These new regulations will make it almost impossible for us to establish an after school care program and we are therefore unlikely to be able to progress this initiative. Many apologies to all the hopeful parents out there.

Council Planning: Do smooth roads really make us happy?

Local Councils are required by law to have ten year community plans in place. LCC has commenced processes for consulting with communities with a view to creating a new ten year community plan for the whole of the LGA. Part of that process involves Council finding out what are the primary wellbeing indicators – i.e. makes people happy. NNIC has received some feedback that interviewees to date from Nimbin have primarily identified Blue Knob Road as the main issue for Council. Which makes us ask... are smooth roads really what make us happy? If all the roads in the LGA were nice and smooth would we then be happy? Is it even possible to achieve smooth roads in a flood prone area even if Council spent every single cent on the roads?

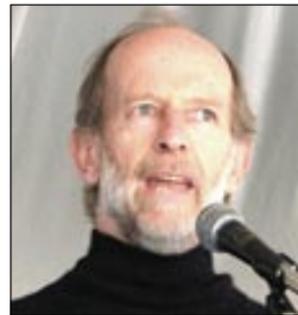
If we direct Council that roads are what makes us the happiest, the risk is that all ratepayers' funds will be directed to roads and nothing else? This is our community's opportunity to feed some real vision into the LGA's 10-year Community Plan, and we hope we can link the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan goals into the LGA's Community Plan.

Nimbin School of Arts Inc. President's Report

by David Hallett March 2012

The past twelve months have been most productive for the 113 year old School of Arts. A considerable number of repairs and improvements have been achieved without any major external grants or funding apart from Lismore City Council's annual contribution.

The NSA continues to provide the major community venue for annual events: the Autumn and Spring exhibitions, Blue Moon Cabarets, Nimbin's World Poetry Cup, Nimbin Youth Film Festival, MardiGrass and Nimbin Women's Dinner. The hall also serves as a venue for Lismore City Council meetings, community forums, Lifeline sales, various community events, fundraisers and celebrations, together with concerts and dances by local and touring groups. The main hall and studios also continue to provide hire facilities for various music and other tuition classes, yoga and dance groups.



The School of Arts sponsors cultural programmes such as the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup and the Weave and Mend Festival, and continues to provide discounted hire arrangements to a number of local cultural and community organisations, as well as giving free access to the hall foyer for information displays for various community, preschool and sports groups.

In the past year, the main walls of the auditorium and the exterior walls of the deck and the gallery have been repainted. The previously exposed ramp has been roofed, and repairs have been made to the ramp flooring.

The kitchen hot water system has been replaced, and an additional hot water system has been installed; and cisterns have been replaced in the toilet block.

The completion of the Solar Farm installation has been a major investment for the School of Arts, and it is a significant co-operative environmental action for the village of Nimbin, with many thanks to the efforts of Natalie Meyers.

The NSA's annual programme of three Blue Moon Cabarets and the Spring Arts Exhibition have once again been of a very high standard with excellent attendance and substantial returns to the ongoing maintenance and improvements to the facility.

As always the School of Arts only endures thanks to the ongoing work of a small dedicated committee and a handful of volunteers. Many thanks to Tony Gibson, Kylie Kingston, Sue Edmonds, Joan Gibson, Len Martin, Carole Barrett, Margaret McLaren and Robert 'Angus' Edwards.

Nimbin Holiday Club – Easter Program

The Nimbin Holiday Club will be operating from the Youth Connections Building during the school holidays. However, on excursion days please meet us in the Nimbin Central School car park at 9am. The Nimbin Rocks excursion leaves from the Youth Club.

The program runs for children aged 5 to 12. Please read the dates and venues below carefully and book to avoid disappointment. To book and find out which excursion is running Wednesday 11th April, phone NNIC on 6689-1692 (between 10am and 4pm). Please note that the basic fee is \$10 per

day. The day runs between 9am and 3pm.

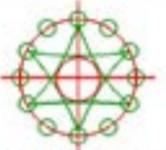
Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

The Nimbin Holiday Club Mobile number is 0447-297-935, and will be answered between 8am and 4pm on the days advertised below. Don't forget to look for our Out of School Hours care survey.

This program is brought to you by Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre. It is funded by DoCS and is an OOSH service.

Date	Program	Cost
Wed 11 th April	Excursion to Nimbin Rocks Meet the rangers and learn about rich cultural connections between the Rocks and the Bundjalung Nation. Signing in and out at the YOUTH CLUB. A special bus will be provided to take us out there and home again.	\$12.50
	OR Ten Pin Bowling and a swim at Lismore Memorial Baths (Cost discounted for families of 3 or more) Signing in and out at Nimbin Central School, as normal. <i>Kim and co-worker</i>	or \$21
Thursday 12 th April	Excursion to Anmies Garden Café. There will be friendly miniature farm animals for feeding and petting, 5 acres of garden paths to explore and monkey vines to climb. A quality lunch is included , consisting of a cooked meal, a drink and an ice-cream. Bring a change of clothes if it's been raining. (Cost discounted for families of 3 or more). <i>Kim and co-worker</i>	\$22
Friday 13 th April	Nimbin Youth Club Some Activities relevant to the auspicious date. We will take a walk to Mulgum Creek for a paddle in the shade, so bring swimmers and a towel. Please also bring protection and gear for the Skate Park. Doumba Doumba drumming workshop with Xavier of at 11am. <i>Kim and Angel</i>	\$15
Monday 16 th April	Excursion to Ballina Waters Slide (Cost discounted for families of 3 or more) <i>April and Kim</i>	\$22
Tuesday 17 th April	Excursion to Lismore Cinema to see "The Pirates – Band of Misfits" 3D (Cost discounted for families of 3 or more) <i>April and Kim</i>	\$22

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Lishia, Kylie and Rebecca

Welcome to The Green Bank

Welcome to The Green Bank, a totally new shopping experience for Nimbin.

This new retail space is the brainchild of three local mothers, looking to fill a gap in the market for extensively researched, ethical and sustainable health and lifestyle products.

Disenchanted by the trend towards mass consumerism, thoughtless internet shopping and cheap imports of disposable products, Kylie, Lishia and Rebecca have put their heads together and come up with an exciting new venture – The Green Bank – opening in the first week of April at the old Bank building on Cullen Street, opposite the Nimbin Visitors Centre.

The Green Bank aims to supply locals, and tourists, with unique health and lifestyle products, sourced locally where possible, such as Tea Medica Australian grown organic medicinal teas; Naturally Nourished Nimbin-made organic skin care; up-cycled retro shopping bags; the Australian Bush Flower Essence range; an exciting range of stainless

steel cups, bottles and lunchboxes; handmade toys, bags, baskets and whatever else comes their way.

Plans are afoot to meet demand for Waldorf art supplies, women's products, organic cotton and bamboo clothing and bedding... the sky's the limit, really! If its credentials are right, and you want to see it there, The Green Bank will endeavour to source it for you.

Additionally, The Green Bank will provide a new venue for practitioners of the healing arts in Nimbin. With an interest in 'soul' medicine, consultations are available six days a week, with a number of popular body/mind therapists signed on. Keep your eyes out for our regular *GoodTimes* contribution, with articles about our team of therapists, and their workdays. Bookings can be made at The Green Bank during business hours.

Trading begins just before Easter, with official opening happening on Sunday 13th May from 3pm – tea, champagne and nibbles available. In the meantime, why don't you drop by for a cup of tea?

Running a class or having a meeting?

Nimbin's Dance Studio has been part of Nimbin's history and culture for a long time now, and many different community and creative groups have used this space at the Nimbin Community Centre to teach, to learn, and

to discover new skills.

If you are thinking of running a class, or you have a group that needs a place to meet or rehearse, think of the Dance Studio. This room can accommodate many different kinds of usage,

from dance classes to a one-off professional meeting or a weekly discussion group.

The Dance Studio has weekly Tai Chi, yoga, drumming and circus classes running. Various private groups also use this room for rehearsals and meetings. Lately however, the Dance Studio is being under utilised and is looking for more bookings. With so many time slots available, they will surely be able to find a time that suits you and the hourly rental rate is very affordable and the rental process is simple and easy.

The Community Centre has recently been upgrading the facilities in the Dance Studio and is always willing to work toward meeting the needs of tenants. There is

now a curtain that can be used to cover the mirror-wall, for those who would rather not see themselves up close and personal during their sessions.

The studio comes equipped with TV/DVD/CD facilities, a whiteboard, fold-out tables and chairs, all of which can be used by tenants, or can be left packed away for those requiring a large, clean and airy room.

The complete Dance Studio timetable and times that are currently available via www.nimbincommunity.org.au and click on 'Hire Rooms' and then 'What's On'. You can send an inquiry through the website, or you can email admin@nimbincommunity.org.au Otherwise, you can call 6689-0000 or visit the Community Centre office at 81 Cullen Street on a Monday or Tuesday from 9 to 5pm.



Performance Poets hit the streets



Janie Treasure and Gail receiving donations for this year's Cup

by Gail M. Clarke

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of this absolutely fabulous community-sponsored event, and is already attracting a lot of attention.

This event has become a major fixture on the yearly calendar, drawing contestants and audience from all over Australia, and organisers are anticipating this will be the biggest "Cup" yet.

Performers have eight minutes to impress the judges and audience with one or more original poems.

Heats will be held all day Saturday 4th August, with semi-finals from noon on Sunday 5th – all events to be held at the Nimbin School of Arts.

The Grand Final on the Sunday evening will see eight finalists vying for the

Big Shiny Cup and \$2000 first prize. A total of \$5000 in prizemoney up for grabs, one of the highest purses for performance poetry in NSW.

Fun and Games

The major fundraiser for the World Cup this year will be held on Friday 18th May – a big "Fun and Games" night, with surprise entertainment, on the spot auctions, and a great crew in the kitchen providing delicious tucker.

Organisers hope folk will get into the spirit of the night and dress up for a Big Night Out, and support one on the best little events held in this village.

Any enquiries phone 0447-044-603 or email: poetryworldcup@gmail.com

Check out past Cup finalists at www.nimbinpoetry.com

Eye care

by Tina Fuller

Eyesight vs Vision, development and learning

To most people eyesight and vision are one and the same, but there is actually a big difference between

the two, which is especially important when it comes to children. Most children have naturally good eyesight, which means they can see well at far distances. Vision, on the other hand, does not come naturally, but is developed through our childhood experiences.

Visual development is an often neglected area of Optometry, despite the fact that it plays a huge role in our ability to learn. I don't mean just school work, but also sport, general coordination, crafts, hobbies, and even just learning to listen. As an example, some children can't keep their eyes focused in one place any longer than a second or two, and if their eyes are darting around, then so is their mind, making it difficult for them to pay attention to what is being said.

The most common visual issues I come across in children (and some adults) are:

1 Difficulty controlling the eye muscles, which means they can't move their eyes accurately from one place to another (eg to the next word or line when reading), or follow a moving object (eg a ball, a hammer or a teacher's face).

2. Trouble with sustaining focus in one place, which makes it difficult to concentrate on anything for any length of time.

3 Poor coordination between the two eyes, which usually goes with poor co-ordination between the two sides of the body, difficulty judging distances and general "clumsiness".

4. Visual processing problems, which is a more complex skill involved in our ability to understand and remember what we see.

The important message I hope to get across is that visual skills are learnt, not genetic, and can therefore be developed with very simple exercises. Too many children (and adults) accept that 'they're no good' at some things, when often they just skipped a basic developmental step and therefore aren't able to get the hang of the more complex skills.

When I began practicing Developmental (or Behavioural) Optometry over 15 years ago, we were considered the "Witch Doctors" of the profession.

Fortunately, there is now more acceptance of the link between vision, physical development, behavior and ability to learn. You can experience this connection by trying any of these:

- Balance on one foot with your eyes closed
- Catch a ball with one eye closed or while going cross-eyed
- Concentrate on a conversation while you move your eyes around randomly
- Read while moving your whole head (not just your eyes) from word to word.

Ideally, every child would have a developmental eye check before they start school and every year after that. However, it's never too late, as vision training works at any age. It only takes about 15 minutes per day, and can make an enormous difference to a person's confidence and well-being.

Appointments can be made by phoning 6689-0081. My practice in the Nimbin Community Centre is open Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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- Visioncare and Veterans' Affairs benefits

Tina Fuller (B. AppSc - Optometry)

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Nimbin Servo

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NSW police seize medical cannabis

Continued from p.1

"I am not walking away from this, or from the hundreds of patients who use Mullaways Medical Cannabis Tincture," Mr Bower said. "If they want a fight, then here I am, leave the sick alone."

Mr Bower thanked those people who have kindly donated plants and supplies to help the medicine to continue. He said, "People need the medicine. I don't want anyone to be worried or stressed. The medicine will continue to be there for them."

Many Medical Cannabis supporters through Mullaway's Nimbin dispensary network are currently rallying to convoy to Kempsey Courthouse for 16th April in protest and



support for Mr Bower's court appearance. The Convoy will depart from Nimbin's HEMP Embassy at 10am the day before, Sunday 15th, and will camp at Tony's overnight to meet other supporters in the morning, at 9am at the Courthouse.

Mr Bowers insisted that Mullaways Medical Cannabis will continue to grow and operate for the people who need this medicine and would be conducting its first medical cannabis evaluation trials at Nimbin's MardiGrass Festival in May.

Communities hit the roads to fight CSG

Continued from p.1

The CSG-free Community Strategy will be launched at The Channon Oval 2.30pm Sat 14th April. We will make a YouTube video to show other communities the way. Mayor Jenny Dowell will receive Declarations from each of the roads round The Channon. This is not a rally or protest – it's a celebration of community action focussed on local people. There will be live music, including the premiere of Mish and Gina's great new song *Lock the Gate*. Residents of The Channon CSG-free roads are asked to be at the oval before 1.30pm for rehearsal and filming. Supporters, please arrive before 2pm, share car transport to avoid congestion, BYO folding chairs, drinks and Akubras if you have them. Offers of help to Annie on 6688-6260.

Any help for the Nimbin and Goolmangar meetings – cakes



for "slice and price" etc., please contact Len Martin on 6689-0254 or pteropus42@smartchat.net.au

From Annie's experience at The Channon, people are likely to want to declare roads radiating from Nimbin and Goolmangar (eg, Crofton, Stoney Chute, Gungas, Blue Knob, Jiggi, Boyles etc.). Please let me know your ideas so we can prepare to help you complete the appropriate surveys.

Open Learning Centre Term two courses



Term Two begins on Wednesday 2nd May, running for eight weeks, and this Term there are several new courses on offer: Bookmaking and Binding with Claire L'Arrivee; Human Design with Kim Gould; and Creating Free Websites, also with Kim Gould.

The school's established classes in Writing, Art and Yoga will continue, along with Cat's Sewing Club and Xavier's Introduction to African Drumming.

Enrolments are open on 25th and 26th April at the Community Centre. If you can't make it on the day, you can sign up by phone.

Watch out for course brochures, or phone 6689-1477 for more information.



Our Village Rocks at connecting youth

Youth Connections North Coast Inc. have recently employed Daniel Moses and Lisa Doherty to facilitate an exciting new program called "Our Village Rocks" for young people aged 10-18 in Nimbin, Tunttable Falls and Billen Cliffs and surrounding communities.

The project aims to build and celebrate a positive community identity and pride in our young people through the development of leadership skills, positive relationships and a sense of belonging in our community.

We will be holding BBQs on some Saturday mornings from 9am at the Nimbin Skate Park as an opportunity to meet local young people and families. Come along and say hello and help us plan fun stuff to do!

On Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday in Nimbin there will be a range of free after-school activities from 3.30-6pm including hip-hop workshops, music recording, mural painting and gardening. Light refreshments will be provided. These will be held in the newly refurbished Youth Centre opposite the skate Park.

A school holiday program will run next holidays and will include beach visits, bush walking, workshops and cultural activities. Keep a lookout for our flyer.

In conjunction with our weekly activities we will be holding three events with the first one being a Skate Clinic, Mini-Skate Comp and a showcase of skills. This will be held on 15th April in Youth Week.

Weekend activities and workshops will also be held at Tunttable Falls and Billen Cliff's communities with the aim of performance nights showcasing local youth talent. Please get in contact if you live in or near these communities to find out more details about the program.

For this program to run successfully, we need volunteers, and are calling on youth leaders and adults in the community who are interested in being a part of this great program. All volunteers will be required to go through a working with children and federal police check.

If you need more info please call Daniel on 0431-242-232 or pop into the Youth Centre after 3.30pm.

Making learning visible



Nimbin Preschool News

by Diane Wilder

As part of our ongoing collaboration together as educators with the children in our preschool, we strive to make learning visible. Each child has their own journal in which to document ideas, construct theories and make meaning: the choice and direction being theirs.

As Educators within this framework, we further construct meaning using small meeting groups to

engage in problem solving, creating hypotheses and new ideas, and in enhancing collaboration between children and their peers.

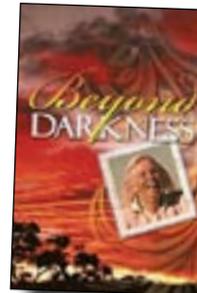
Through these meetings and the subsequent documentation of the children's meaning, we support children to consolidate an understanding of each other as well as an understanding of their own thoughts. Hence our group and individual learning is interdependent and tightly correlated.



Tamaso's latest out

Acclaimed local author Tamaso Lonsdale has released her latest book.

Set in the 1980s, *Beyond Darkness* is the story of a mature woman who has just left her husband after thirty years of marriage. She becomes a member of a Rajneesh commune in Sydney and later travels to their commune in the United States to accept her sexuality as natural instead of her previous



feelings of shame and guilt.

The book also follows the lives of her extended family and their attitudes towards her new outlook on life.

Beyond Darkness is available now from Perceptio's Bookshop in Nimbin, and all good bookshops in the Rainbow Region.

FOR APPOINTMENTS
Tel 6689 1000



Local Wildlife Need Your Help



Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers is in need of volunteers to rescue and rehabilitate native animals. An introductory workshop, for people 18 years of age and over, into the rescue and first 24 hours of care of our wildlife is being held in the Lismore area on Sunday, 29th April from 9am, and costs \$35, which includes NRWC membership until July 2013. Phone Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers' 24 hour hotline 6628-1866 for more details or email: training@wildlifecarers.com Please report injured and orphaned native animals by calling the NRWC 24 hour hotline 6628-1866.



Where's the beef? Blue Knob.



by Jim Arachne

When we asked market customers late last year what other produce they'd like, the most common response (one in five people) was "meat", so we've been looking for local sources. Blue Knob Farmers Market is happy to announce that local beef will be available from Saturday 30th March.

Peter and Lee Smith grow their own beef on their family farm at Kunghur. The family have been beef farmers in the North Coast since 1945 and both Peter and Lee are trade-qualified butchers. All their beef is free-range and free of hormones and antibiotics. At the market they'll have various beef steaks and preservative-free sausages. The beef will be sold chilled and the sausages, being preservative free, are sold frozen, so depending on how close you live, best taken home in an insulated container. Peter and Lee also run Loades Butchers in Murwillumbah.

April's Market Talks

• Saturday 7th April, 10am

– Making tofu in your kitchen, Chris and Richard.

Have you ever wanted to make your own tofu but didn't know how? Chris and Richard of Nimbin's Choice Tofu have been making organic tofu by hand and supplying Nimbin for the last 8 years. They'll demonstrate how to make fresh tofu using kitchen utensils plus a few easily obtained extras. A six-step instruction sheet will be provided with time for questions and answers.

• Saturday 14th April, 10am

– Introduction to "LETS", Dolph Cooke.

LETS usually stands for "Local Exchange Trading

The wave of the future? Teenagers from the Permaculture Challenge totally engaged in their 4-week sustainability-based permaculture and leadership training intensive.



Students of the Permaculture Challenge conducting a "Permablitz"

Systems" and was created as an alternative to the national currency (or "money" as it's usually called). LETS is a cashless system that allows communities to exchange goods and services. Most of us are used to the idea of directly swapping items or labour. However, LETS extends this idea much further. For example, a mechanic fixes a car and earns an agreed amount of credit. She can then spend that credit on childcare, food or anything else that's on offer from people within the local LETS community.

Its exciting, a fair bit of work to set up and maintain but has huge potential. Come and hear Dolph and others explain how LETS works and about the most recent initiative to set-up LETS in the local area.

• Saturday 28th April, 10am – Engaging Young People in Sustainable Futures, Sarah-Jane Potts.

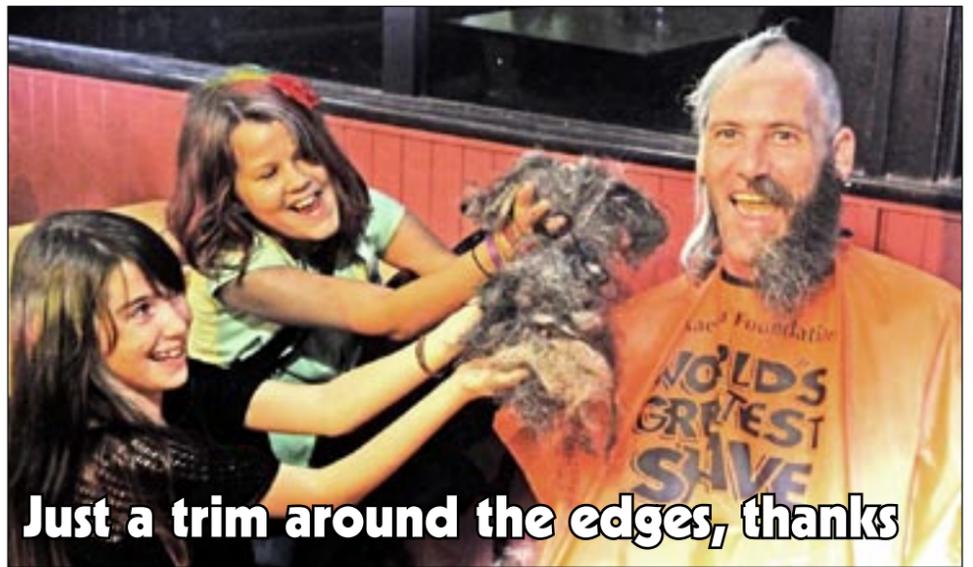
How do we ensure a sustainable future for our region? Educating and inspiring young people is a great start! The Permaculture Challenge did exactly that

– late last year fifty 14-17 year olds in the Mullumbimby and Byron region completed a challenging four-week sustainability-based permaculture certification program and leadership training wilderness adventure. The program culminated in a presentation by Challenge graduates to 250 Mullum community members where young people spoke on what they believed were the biggest challenges facing our world today. Practical ideas and strategies were also outlined on how our communities can create sustainable futures

Sarah-Jane, Challenge founder and co-ordinator, will describe the program and its outcomes and discuss ways to engage and inspire potential young environmentalists.

If you'd like to hear about seminars and events at the Blue Knob Farmers Market send an email to Jim at uloborid8@gmail.com

The market runs Saturdays, rain, hail or shine, 9am to 12.30pm, corner of Blue Knob and Lillian Rock Roads, 8km from Nimbin in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.



Just a trim around the edges, thanks

The Nimbin Bowlo hosted the World's Greatest Shave on Friday 16th March and local identities Martin Gill, Michael Winston and Nardi John Dore (among other more anonymous souls) all made the supreme sacrifice and had various collections of facial and cranial hair removed to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Local hairdresser Penny gave sterling service trimming and colouring all comers and seemed to enjoy doing something different with hair.

Entertainment for the night was down to local lad Manu with his singing guitar and Brisbane band Greenthief, who just kept on going with their blend of hard edged, psychedelic indie rock.

Mullum comic Obi regaled us with his tales of growing up in the hills with his science-fiction freak hippy parents (which explains why he is Obi and his brothers are Luke and Rider). Big thanks to Obi for extending his set to cover the lateness of the band who were suffering a lack of GPS credibility and doing a scenic tour of the Currumbin Valley.

On the night the lads were ably supported by Paul LeBars, Farren, Maria, Shaz and all the staff at the Bowlo.

Overall, the Nimbin Head Snippers have raised around \$5,000 and are still counting.

If you would like to donate go to www.worldsgreatestshave.com and search for the team.

When asked about reaction to his new shiny head, Martin said, "People have been great, telling me I look years younger and that it really suits me. They all want to know how long I'll be keeping the new look and my standard answer is, "Until I get fed up with it. After all it's only bloody hair." Nardi John seems to be growing his back as quickly as he can, but Martin says he's up against it as he is somewhat follicly challenged to begin with. Michael was unavailable for comment, and in fact, no one has seen hide nor hair (*boom-tish*) of him since the event.

President of the Bowlo, John Ryan said, "The club is only too happy to host this sort of event. We don't make any profit in money terms due to the extra wages and security costs but we feel that we are a major part of the Nimbin community and supporting worthwhile fundraising is one way that we can contribute."

Martin and Mike would like to thank all of their sponsors and of course the *Nimbin GoodTimes*' priceless support.

Martin said he will eventually start the cycle again and probably do it all again in a few years.

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