



## Nimbin Hall packed for a big community Christmas

Story and photos by Pampussycat Bourne

The Nimbin Community Christmas lunch was well attended on Friday 23rd December. Helpers had set up the hall on the 22nd, so that on Friday a wonderful meal could be shared, and an opportunity for Nimbinites to come together and celebrate the festive season.

There were well over 200 meals served, and more kids than I have ever seen at a community Christmas lunch. The meal was fit for royalty, with guests eating a wonderful lunch of various homemade salads, chicken pieces, ham, pizza, quiche, with vegan options, followed by pudding or cake with ice cream and custard.

I had the fun part of playing an elf assisting Santa to hand out toys to the kids. Somehow the resources stretched, and raffles for 4 big gift baskets helped cover the costs. Everything in the baskets was donated by people in the village. The toys for Santa to give out are all donated. The helpers are all volunteers, and some food is cooked by locals. But of course a lot of salad, fruit, puddings, custard, etc has to be bought.

The fire brigade somehow mucked up the timing, so instead of arriving on the back of a fire truck, Santa and his elf help walked to the hall with sacks of presents and gave out lollies along the way. Its funny that the lollies ran out



as Santa reached the hall. There were happy faces as lots of children received gifts from Santa, who wore shorts this year: more fitting for an Aussie Santa.

Thank you to the many volunteers and all the wonderful people who attended, and to the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre for keeping this tradition alive. This was indeed a great shared meal,

After that I joined the carol singers who went to the Nimbin hospital and sang songs to the elderly for about an hour. Thanks Megan James for organising this.

## Fairy Godmother magic

Story and photos by Gail Warid

Silver sprinkles, tinkling bells and pretty bubbles – a perfect magical experience given for children at the Nimbin Family Centre.

The children were awed in the arrival of Fairy Godmother Katie from Nimbin Aquarius Foundation.

Katie's delightful dress-up of wings, halo and wand dazzled the little ones in surprise and wonder. There was much anticipation and excitement in the opening of small wrapped gifts given out to each child.

Thanks goes to Katie and her daughter Renee for their enthusiasm and help. Also to Ziggy for the wonderful face painting.

Nimbin Family Centre will open after holidays on Tuesday the 17th January, offering playgroup, drop-in and information for parents and families of children 0-5yrs

Please contact Gail on 6689-0423 or Helen on 6621-2489 for further information.



## Nimbin seniors celebrate

Story and photos by Pampussycat Bourne

Christmas is a time to share, and the Nimbin Seniors this year enjoyed a lunch at the Dunoon Sports and Recreation Club, combined with seniors from the Dunoon and Channon groups.

There was dancing, feasting, raffles, wonderful ukelele music, and the showing of a short film featuring members of the Nimbin Seniors group, produced by Lynne Oldfield.

The Christmas gathering brings together many wonderful people and gives a fun atmosphere and a chance to catch up with friends.



Desmond, Tomaso and Vale

Nimbin Aged and Disability is run by Cedar Crompton and Rose Cubis, with many wonderful helpers including Colleen, Martel, Joseph, Gail, and many others. To find out how you can be involved or to join the wonderful group of Nimbin Seniors, phone 6689-1709.



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# Sniffer dog raid 'stirs the pot'

Nimbin received a visit from the police sniffer dogs on Thursday 29th December. The dogs later also paid a visit to the Tropical Fruits New Years Eve party in Lismore.

Some controversy has arisen over the police receiving assistance from a person with a known mental illness, who allegedly named dealers and disclosed hiding places to police.

"It's the second time this year police have used the help of mentally disturbed locals in their raids for cannabis in the village. Nimbin is a unique community well known for our tolerance and many people find refuge here. That the police use these people's innocence for information gathering is certainly putting them (the informers) at risk," Michael Balderstone, president of Nimbin's HEMP Embassy, said.

"This latest incident, where a well known local with a history of serious mental health problems walked around showing police hiding places and naming people involved in the cannabis trade, means he has put himself at serious risk if he wants to continue to live here.



Police in Nimbin manhandle a South Australian visitor on Thursday 29th December

"There's something definitely very sick about this whole sorry business, especially when, across the developed world, there is a growing recognition of cannabis as a genuine medicine," Mr Balderstone said.

Jim Moylan, organiser of the Civil Liberties Observer Group at the last two MardiGrass protest gatherings, was also outraged by the situation.

"That the police used this person for their own ends, oblivious of the certain social disdain this would bring upon them, is simply repugnant. The next day the poor individual was egged and was driven from the town," he said.

"This whole episode is wrong on so many levels, I despair. To what ends are these thousands of dollars being spent?" Jim asked.

## Where can police use sniffer dogs?

Police are only authorised to use drug sniffer dogs to search people randomly in three situations:

- in pubs, clubs and other places where alcohol is served;
- at entertainment events, including sporting events, concerts, dance parties and street parades; or
- on public transport and stations.

Any drug search of a person outside these situations is illegal unless the police have a reasonable suspicion or a warrant.

If you have been approached by a police sniffer dog team, or know of police using dogs outside these areas, you should complain or report it.

### What should I do if I am approached by a sniffer dog?

If a dog sits down next you, then police can search you. It pays to know your rights so check out the following pointers.

Stay calm and be polite. You could be fined or arrested if you swear at the police, so don't give them an excuse.

Be cooperative and let the police search you. But ask them why they are searching you. And ask them for their name, rank and station.

Try to remember where (location) and when (time of day) police search you. This info might be important if you decide to make a complaint.

If you have drugs on you.... The law says you must give your name and



A sniffer dog in use at a festival. File photo: Dean Sewell, SMH

address to police, if the police discover drugs on you. But you don't have to say anything more, if you don't want to. This is your right to silence.

If you don't have drugs on you...If police ask for your name and address, ask them whether you have to. If police say you don't, then don't...because they will put that info on their database and

might use it against you later. If police say you have to give your name and address, then it is better to cooperate and make a complaint later.

You can complain to the police, the Ombudsman, NSWCCCL or a lawyer if the dog touches you or if the police are aggressive, rude or rough you up.

[www.nswcccl.org.au/issues/sniffer\\_dogs.php](http://www.nswcccl.org.au/issues/sniffer_dogs.php)

## Greens challenge value of 80% sniff failure rate



Greens NSW MLC David Shoebridge

Figures released in December showed 80 per cent of sniffer dog searches for drugs in NSW resulted in "false positives" last year. The figures show 14,102 searches were conducted after a dog sat next to a person, indicating they might be carrying drugs. But, in 11,248 cases, no drugs were found. Only 2854 searches – 20 per cent – in the first nine months of this year resulted in drugs being found.

NSW Greens MP David Shoebridge said the figures showed thousands of innocent people were being "ritually humiliated" publicly and asked the government to review the entire public sniffer dog program.

"In the nine short months to the end of September this year more than 11,000 people have been pulled aside and given an intrusive public search here in New South Wales on the basis of a false positive. Now a good number of those are also then taken aside, put in a private room and given a strip search including having police peer into their body cavities.

Now when we know that the information is 80 per cent wrong to start that process, it is really time to review it."

"Now that we know the error rate is so high, the program needs to be halted. Because of where they operate, police sniffer dogs tend to target young people and Aborigines. If this was

happening in the car parks of merchant banks, there would be outrage."

The president of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties, Stephen Blanks says the writing should be on the wall for the sniffer dog program. He argued the use of sniffer dogs infringed people's freedoms and could only be justified if it resulted in a high rate of detections. "We get some extraordinary complaints about the intrusiveness of the searches the police are doing. Police shouldn't be targeting people who are using drugs for personal use. The sniffer dog program was introduced with the Government promising that it will be used to attack the drug supply chain. It is completely useless in achieving that purpose. What this program is doing is demonstrating to people who have no cause for interaction with the police that the police methods are unjustifiable, unreasonable and very intrusive," Mr Blanks said.

Tweed Nationals MP and NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Police Geoff Provest said the number of people wrongly identified as having drugs was justified when compared to the drugs taken off the streets. "Sniffer dogs are a good deterrent. Sure there is an element of error but it also creates an element of fear in people with drugs," he said.

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# Blue Knob Farmers Market talks focus on health in 2012

by Jim Arachne

We're planning a different start for the regular Saturday talks this year. We'll switch from a focus on food security and sustainability to looking briefly at issues around "health care security".

What happens to health care if medical drugs become scarce and doctors rare? A real life example is seen in the economic collapse of Cuba after withdrawal of aid by Russia and blockades by the USA. Medical drugs, equipment and doctors became unaffordable or virtually non-existent. Part of the Cuban response was to turn to low-tech, cheap but effective therapies. Homeopathy and acupuncture became mainstays in hospitals. Children began studying medicinal plants in primary school. Radio and TV programs instructed people on the use of acupressure to relieve common ailments.

The first three market seminars in January will focus on proven therapies that can either be used at a basic level or are relatively straightforward to learn.



Photo by Paul Tait

## Saturday 14th Jan 10am Bowen therapy

Bowen therapy is a home-grown, Australian physical modality developed in the 1950's by Tom Bowen from Geelong in Victoria. Bowen is unique and nothing like massage or chiropractic but gentle and deceptively simple.

Bowen is especially suited for treating a huge array of physical sprains, strains and related injuries. Conditions like;

bursitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, coordination and balance difficulties, fibromyalgia, foot ankle and knee problems, frozen shoulder, lower back pain and sports injuries can all be expected to improve with Bowen, often after only a few treatments.

Tonia Haynes will demonstrate how simple Bowen therapy can be and give some lucky volunteers a short treatment. Tonia has been a qualified Bowen practitioner for

seventeen years and has been trained at three different Bowen schools in Australia.

## Saturday 21st Jan 10am Homeopathic first aid

Homeopathy was first developed in the early 1800's by the German doctor Samuel Hahnemann. It achieved rapid growth due to the effectiveness of homeopathic medicines in treating epidemic illness such as cholera, typhus, diphtheria and yellow fever.

A famous study from the 1918-20 world-wide "Spanish flu" pandemic reported a death rate of 28% among 24,000 cases of this flu treated with conventional medicine whereas the death rate among 26,000 patients receiving homeopathic treatment was slightly more than 1%. Homeopathy takes many years to master as a practitioner but some simple remedies can be used to treat many minor illnesses.

Experienced local homeopath Tarang Bates will present the use of homeopathy as "first aid" for a range of common conditions and symptoms.

## Saturday 28th Jan 10am Acupressure

One of the oldest modalities, acupressure was being developed in Asia more than 4,000 years ago. Sometimes described as "acupuncture without needles" acupressure can be administered anywhere with no medicines, equipment or needles needed.

Effective treatment of conditions as diverse as morning sickness, lower back pain and anxiety have been reported in scientific trials. Acupressure needs years of study to become truly proficient but knowledge of some basic techniques can be easily learnt.

This session will cover some of these as well as treatment approaches for some common conditions.

If you'd like to hear about seminars and events at the Blue Knob Farmers Market send your name and email to Jim at [uloborid8@gmail.com](mailto:uloborid8@gmail.com)

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

## In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Website: [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)



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

NNIC will reopen after the Xmas break on Monday 9th January.

### Nimbin Holiday Club

Formerly known as Nimbin Vacation Care, this series of activities for 5-12 year olds will be running between the 27th December 2011 and the 20th January 2012. The program and excursion permission forms are available on our website.

### Outside School Hours Care Service in Nimbin

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

### Send us your weblinks

The links on our website are getting quite a few hits. Send us your website links and we will add them to our website. We are especially after links from Nimbin organisations, and links related to sustainability issues. Email them to us on [nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au)

### Nimbin Women's Dinner

Thanks to all the fabulous women who helped make for another fabulous Women's Dinner on 30th November.

### Legal Aid is coming to Nimbin

They will be coming on a fortnightly basis to deliver an outreach legal advice service from NNIC in 2012 - More details will be posted on our website and in the NGT when we have them.

### Towards a Sustainable Nimbin

The Food Links funded project is now completed but the project itself will go on. The final project report will be made available on our website during January.

The final Nimbin Economic Transition Plan, based on our Community Sustainability Plan, is being finalised. Once finalised we will put this document up onto our website. Council will use the document (as well as plans done by other villages in the LGA) to inform planning for the Lismore LGA.

**Survey Results:** We did quite a few surveys during 2011. The results of these surveys will be made available to all of you on our website during January.

**Post Harvest Processing Equipment Library:** the last of our Food Links funds were used to purchase equipment for a Post

Harvest Processing Equipment library. Nimbin community members will be able to join the library and borrow the equipment to facilitate small scale forays into post harvest food production.

The equipment includes food dehydrators, a Vitamix blender which can process and mill oily seeds, a large all purpose food processor, a large mix master, honey harvesting equipment. The equipment library will be rolled out in early 2012. Details will be posted on our website and in NGT.

**Food Security meetings:** the next meeting will be on Thursday 26th January at 6pm at NNIC's Elmo room. Come around the back steps and food is always welcome!. We will be finalising the details of the Equipment Library so interested people are welcome to come along and have some input into this.

**Blue Knob Farmers Market:** will be back to business as usual on Saturday 7th January.

### Join NNIC

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

### Wills and Bequests

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

## Local woman wins \$1,000 prize from Nimbin NRMA



If you've been into the NRMA office in Sibley Street over the last couple of months you will have seen posters about the "Win in this Office" promotion - where anyone who took out or renewed an insurance policy between 10th October and 19th November, were automatically entered into a draw to win a prize of a home portable item.

Prizes included computers, cameras, music systems, jewellery, camping equipment, bikes.

Nimbin's NRMA office was allocated one of the 22 prizes offered in the promotion and the prizewinners were drawn

on 30th November in Sydney.

Our local Nimbin NRMA office was allocated a JB Hi-Fi gift card worth \$1,000 - and that prize was won by Carlene Marthick (pictured) for renewing her CTP Insurance in the Nimbin NRMA office.

NRMA Insurance facilitates regional offices, like the Nimbin NRMA, to provide face to face, real time help and assistance for their customers and potential customers.

The "Win in this Office" promotion was designed to reward NRMA's Country Service Centre customers and demonstrate that we care about the regions as well as the city.

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Tina Fuller (B. AppSc - Optometry) Now at Nimbin Community Centre

# Community effort supporting Nimbin Pool

by the team at the Park – Pete, Christine and Damien

There is a lot of support for the idea of a Carnival in the Water, an aquatic event hosted by 'Friends of the Pool' to raise some money for some more seating.

The caravan park management team supplied and fitted two bench seats and have now committed to match any funds raised. This pledge is matched by Damien from Nimbin Trailer Hire who's offered to pick up materials as required and Matthew from Cart-N-Couriers who has offered to build the seats.

Since the pool opened this year, there have been some surface issues which will need to be addressed in the longer term. Thanks to the vigilant pool users who've been warning off those who climb the poles and dive from the shade mesh. These



covers are aged and have never been strong enough to hold a bouncing lout. The last thing anyone needs is a serious incident or a torn useless mesh offering no protection for pool users.

One last comment, someone in our small community constantly tries to undermine the work of the current pool service operations with uninformed comments on water safety and quality to both community members

and Lismore City Council.

Water testing is carried out onsite and checked and analysed in Lismore. Should anyone using the pool have a query, don't hesitate to pop over and see the folks at the caravan park as they are qualified and will always take the time to talk with you.

Please support the planned Carnival with a couple of dollars or with able hands to assist in the building of this seating.

## Nimbin Holiday Club Summer Program

Dear parents/caregivers and kids,

The Holiday Club program is for children aged 5 – 12. The day runs between 9am and 3pm and the basic fee is \$10 per day.

We are operating from the Youth Connections Building. However, on excursion days please meet us in the Nimbin Central School car park at 9am.

Please read the dates and venues below carefully and book to avoid disappointment. To book phone NNIC on 6689-1692 (between 10 am and 4 pm).

The Nimbin Vacation Care mobile number is 0447-297-935 and will be answered between 8am and 4pm on the days advertised below.

Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings



a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

This program is brought to you by Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, is funded by DoCS and is an OOSH service. Don't forget to look for our Out of School Hours care survey.

Date	Program	Cost
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Excursion to Lismore Tenpin Bowling and a swim at Lismore Memorial Baths. (Cost discounted for families of 3 or more) <i>Kim &amp; Joelle</i>	\$21
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Nimbin Youth Club for crafts and games. Please also bring protection and gear for a swim at Nimbin Pool and a play at the Skate Park. <i>Kim &amp; Joelle</i>	\$10
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Nimbin Youth Club for crafts and games. We will take a walk to Mulgum Creek for a paddle in the shade. Please also bring protection and gear for the Skate Park. <i>Kim &amp; Michelle</i>	\$10
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Nimbin Youth Club for crafts and games. Please bring protection and gear for a swim at Nimbin Pool and a play at the Skate Park. Possibly a Drumming workshop. <i>Kim &amp; Angel</i>	\$12
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Nimbin Youth Club for crafts and games. Please bring protection and gear for a swim at Nimbin Pool and a play at the Skate Park. <i>Kim &amp; Gaz</i>	\$10
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Excursion to Annie's 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 cooked lunch is included, with a drink and an icecream. (Cost discounted for families of 3 or more). Bring a change of clothes. <i>Kim &amp; April</i>	\$22

# Tunable Falls preschoolers graduate

We have just said goodbye to eight children who have left preschool to move on to primary school in 2012. A bittersweet moment where we are fully aware that it is time for them to move on, but are sad to see them go. We wish Xavia, Istvan, Mika, Hunter, Jasper, Tao, Orlando and Scarlett all the very best for their transition to primary school.

Our end of year performance and party was fantastic once again. This year the children performed a short compilation of many things that they are involved in here at preschool.

We started with a drumming session led by our drumming teacher Xavier, each child played their own hand carved drum and showed us their impressive rhythm skills. It was great to see how their drumming skills have developed.

Scarlett then performed a solo Violin piece.

We then moved on to show families our Spanish language skills that they have learnt from Lisa and Sylvia our two Spanish speaking staff members. The children first sang a song and then showed us their Spanish counting skills.

The children then did a fantastic singing and movement session with Kael our music teacher. Our final performance was showing



families our impressive circus skills that they learn with Hartje (pictured). They showed off their skipping and hoola hooping skills and ended with a trapeze show.

The children surprised us with how keen they were to perform.

We wish all our children and families a lovely restful summer break and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

We are looking forward to implementing the new

National Curriculum Framework in 2012 and are excited about how the process will benefit our children and preschool.

We currently have vacancies for children aged two and a half to school age (Tues-Wed-Thurs) and invite interested families to come in for a visit.

We have a playgroup day (Tuesday 10-12am) or ring Maree or Richard on 6689-1179 if you would like any further information about our beautiful preschool.

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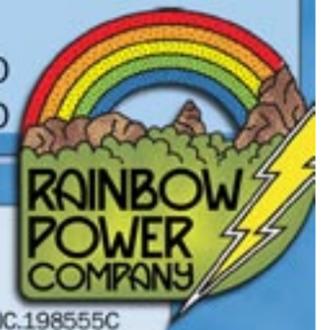
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