



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Heartfelt and FREE

Cannabis Sativa
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MardiGrass begins with May Day

This May-Day in Lismore the HEMP Party of Australia led a march of concerned cannabis users and their friends from the courthouse in Lismore to the police station – and then on to the offices of Janelle Saffin MP and Thomas George MLA.

The recent Australia21 Report has called for a re-examination of our attitudes and laws regarding drug use. This significant report, by a panel of esteemed professionals, was unequivocal in its verdict: in the war on drugs – everyone loses. It calls for widespread consultation towards fashioning a rational response to drug taking in our community. However our politicians are refusing to listen to the voice of the majority of Australians. This protest march has been fashioned to highlight this refusal by our politicians to engage in the drug law reform debate.

In a recent poll more than 70% of Australians agreed that our drug laws must change – yet our politicians remain silent. We must wake them up!

Some of the most respected voices in this debate have proposed that we must reformulate our drug policies, or young and vulnerable Australians will continue to suffer and die -yet our Prime Minister simply refuses to even talk about the issue? This is unacceptable.

This protest will be asking our representatives to engage with the recommendations of the Australia21 Report. The local Lismore politicians will be asked to participate in a night of dialogue with their constituents in the Lismore Town Hall at the earliest opportunity. They represent a lot of illicit drug users between them and both of their families have been personally touched by the drug war and should understand the importance of changing from a war on drugs to a plan on drugs.

It's time our elected representatives faithfully represented the views of their constituents and stopped pandering to the drug lobby and other vested interests.

Other western world countries have tackled this issue. More than 70%



Photos: Thorsten Jones

of Americans currently have access to legally available medical cannabis and many countries around the world are abandoning prohibition. It's time that Australia caught up with the rest of the world.

The HEMP Party President, Michael Balderstone, was enthusiastic about getting these politicians to engage in a public debate. "The Australia21 report really is a game-changer. Politicians simply have to sit up and take notice."

May 1st will kick off the annual MardiGrass 'protestival' weekend, May 5th and 6th, where we will be hosting a round table discussion ourselves which includes Dr Alex Wodak, one of the directors of the commissioned Report our PM dismissed before lunch on the day it was released.

The 20th MardiGrass cannabis law reform annual gathering the following weekend finally got consent yesterday for its development application. "Its all go from here on in," said a MardiGrass Organising Body (MOB)spokesperson. "The Australia21 Report has given a new optimism to the annual protest weekend."



"We managed to get our permits after changing the program. The threat of an injunction in the Land and Environment Court followed up with litigation for the costs in making sure nothing went ahead made us rethink and we are now having a wreath laying memorial service for the victims of prohibition instead of a mass surrender!"

"It's no big deal and we are now looking forward to a big weekend no matter the weather."

There are two new Hemp Olympix events for this year. The Rubbish Bong Race where contestants have to improvise and make a bong from whatever they can find and prove it works. And the "Inaugural Special Distance and Accuracy Alan Jones About Face Bong Throw." Nimbin is looking more chaotic than ever with practise sessions littering the street daily now.

The full MardiGrass program and tickets are available online at www.nimbinmardigrass.com



Dead vegetation near the Santos gas well

Eco-cide of Pilliga 'probably naturally occurring'

by Wanda Halden

In April, a group including members of the Nimbin Environment Centre took up the offer from the Armidale Action on CSG Mining to meet at The Pilliga to see evidence of contamination caused by CSG mining.

The Pilliga is an aquifer recharge region that supports the Great Artesian Basin. It falls within the Coonamble Embayment, within which falls the main aquifer, the Jurassic Pilliga sandstone, and within this sits one of Australia's filthiest activities, endorsed by the NSW Government and supported with a five-year royalty-free period.

In December 2011, high levels of ammonia, methane, carbon dioxide, lithium, cyanide, bromide and boron were found around a water discharge point near a Santos CSG operation in the Pilliga forest, near Narrabri. Water samples gathered by Friends of the Earth and The Wilderness Society were tested by East West EnviroAg, an independent laboratory in Tamworth. It found samples from Bohena Creek, near a CSG well discharge pipe, contained ammonia at three times the safe level recommended by drinking water guidelines. Upstream samples were uncontaminated.

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INSIDE!
MARDIGRASS PROGRAM
4-PAGE SUPPLEMENT



Lismore's 22nd Annual

Gemfest

2 Full Days: Saturday 19th May, 9-5pm
Sunday 20th May, 9-3pm

Venue: Lismore Showground

Entry: \$5 per adult, \$1 per Child (under 5 yrs free)

Featuring: Gold, Jewellery, Gemstones, Opals, Rare Fossils, Metaphysical & Healing Crystals, Meteorites,

Children's Activities, Food Stalls, Lucky Gate Prize, Raffles

