



Anzac Day 2012



by Paul LeBars, photos by Farren Hogan and Sue Stock

What a wonderful attendance at this year's Nimbin ANZAC Day parade and commemoration service.

It was a heartfelt sight with a deep sense of pride to see both Nimbin Central School and Coffee Camp Public School swell the march to the largest seen in years.

Though there was a low attendance by ex-service men and women, the spirit of the commemoration grew further with the crowd that gathered for the service, delivered by Jim Gallagher.

Flowers and wreaths were then laid by many from the community and school children. It was moving experience.

Thanks must also go to the flag bearers from the Nimbin RFS, piper James Alexander, Bob Dooley for the sound system and Nimbin Police for traffic control.

The late Rex Walker was missed and remembered.

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My dream of hillbilly Nimbin



by Jimmy Willing

The Nimbin Hotel murals are a panoramic landscape that stretches from Lillian Rock to the Nimbin Rocks. I have tried my best to convey the rolling feeling of the hills.

The murals are a period piece set in 1948, giving me carte blanche to paint an old time 1937 Federal truck, a 1936 Massey Harris Pacemaker Tractor, a couple of gypsy Vardo's and a truckload of heirloom farm animals, including the now endangered Wessex Saddleback pig.

They are set on a sunny day and are optimistic and happy. They are without a doubt unabashedly pop, but not without thought. I wish, like Henry Lawson before me, to portray what is good about our character as a people.

I took the title for the murals from a song by Johnny Cash called 'Before My Time', a song in which Johnny waxes lyrical that there is nothing new in this world.

Other inspirations are varied and come from many different sources, including Lismore artist Kim Mclean and the old time obsessions of his band Black Train; the watercolours of early Australian naturalist Neville Cayley; the musical notes emblazoned on Hank Williams's Nudie suit; and of course my biggest influence would have to be the landscape itself.

The old timers will no doubt point out that my Nimbin

never was, and that I have a vivid imagination, and they may well be right, but this is magical realism and I have allowed my imagination to wander over yonder!

Nimbin town was founded around the School of Arts in one of the North Coast's most picturesque valleys at the beginning of the twentieth century. She was an artistic and musical town from her very beginning. She has garnered many layers of paint over the years and over time she has become a Painted Lady. It has been a great pleasure to give her a makeover!

I owe a big thank you to both Paul Paitson and Elspeth Jones (long time mural painters) for giving me sound technical advice. Conversations with Burri Jerome and Benny Zable were also helpful, fun and engaging.

I have filled the murals with life and colour, and I hope that they will be enjoyed by people both near and far as I have laboured hard and given them my best shot.

Keep a look out for the Friesian Bull who was born in that time with musical notes patterned into his hide. People came from as far away as Casino to see him and the Nimbin dairy farmer had high hopes of breeding a whole herd like this but misfortune was his when the young bull, bellowing upon a hill in the middle of a storm, was struck by lightning and killed.



Photos: Greg Soward

Pilliga eco-cide

Continued from Page 1

What I saw out there was first hand evidence of a massive spill, on the ground next to a major produced water holding pond. This pond is built raised, using the sandy soil out there – so sandy it runs through your fingers. These ponds are lined with a plastic-looking cloth. All except one.

Apparently the government denies it exists. Apparently I and the other twenty or so people out at The Pilliga that day are the only people talking about this filthy, chemical-leaching coal seam gas produced-water holding pond. The pond is lined with a white, crusty, salty looking residue around the water's edge.

Back to the evidence of the spill. Our excellent guide, Tony Pickard aka the Pilliga Farmer, told us to look at the ground where there were these hideous cracked puddle-like patches of earth. The earth was coated in a black tarrish-looking substance. It was also very hard in some sections – hard as concrete. The grasses, trees and bushes were dead and dying over about a 1/4 acre. The trees on one side were green and growing, the grasses lush. On the other side they were dead or sickly, grasses grey, bent or dead.

This trail of destruction lead back toward the Santos wire mesh fence, in the direction of the holding pond.

Tony Pickard is now battling with a contaminated bore. He has written a letter outlining the contamination and how he thinks it is CSG related, but you know how these things usually turn out, it's probably a natural occurrence. Coal seam gas mining and contamination is naturally occurring.

Get on your bikes, get out to The Pilliga and check it out for yourself. If you would like to convoy out in June, please phone 0427-302-725 or email juanita.balden@hotmail.com



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Call for George to resign over CSG

Tweed Valley based Coal Seam Gas campaigner Michael McNamara has called on Thomas George, state MP for Lismore, to resign following reports that he supports Coal Seam Gas (CSG).

“Mr George was elected to represent the communities of the Northern Rivers and if he finds himself unable to do that he should resign” Mr McNamara said.

He said communities in Mr George’s electorate had overwhelmingly come out against CSG

“Last month at The Channon we saw the launch of the CSG-free Communities strategy for the Northern Rivers following an overwhelming 99 percent support among residents.”



“More community meetings have taken place in Mr George’s electorate this weekend with similar results and the momentum is continuing to grow.”

Mr McNamara said that support for the CSG industry by Mr George and the NSW government flew in the face of pre-election commitments given by the

Coalition. He said claims that the government needed the royalties to pay for hospitals and schools were outrageous.

“The companies have a royalty-free period of five years from the beginning of a production well and the royalty payments then increase on a sliding scale,” he said.

“That means that for the

first five years of production the companies pay absolutely no royalties and for the next four years they will not pay the full royalties due.”

“This is not a bad deal for the companies when the average life expectancy of a production well is between five and six years – but it’s an awful deal for taxpayers and local communities.”

“I don’t know where Mr George and his government colleagues think the money is coming from but it certainly is not from CSG royalties.”

Mr McNamara encouraged Northern Rivers residents to attend the rally at Lismore on 12th May to protest against CSG and its impact on local communities, water, farming and environmentally sensitive areas.

CSG RALLY AND CONCERT MAY 12, 10AM AT RIVERSIDE PARK

March through the Lismore CBD and returning to Riverside Park for ‘Rock the Gate’ concert featuring OKA, dubmarine and the round mountain girls, Renee Simone feat. Raz Bin Sam, Mick McHugh, Mandy Nolan, Bill Jacobi, Jimmy Willing & Davey Bob Ramsey, Steady Eddy, Monkey & The Fish, Luke Vassella, Peter Lehner & the Winsome Gospel Choir, Andrea Soler, Nathan Peachy, Rhett Brambleby, Inside Outlaw, Back Deck Music, Barkersvale Bros, Strangers Inc and Rebecca Rushbrook. There will also be a number of speakers to inform and inspire.

This rally will show the unarguable strength of community opposition to CSG in the Northern Rivers. Please add your energy to spreading the word and encourage everyone you know to attend.



The Channon goes global on gas

A Youtube clip depicting CSG-Free declarations by a Northern NSW community is providing inspiration for similar actions nationally and internationally.

The clip was shot at The Channon Oval on 14th April as part of a declaration by over 99 percent of the local community that they wanted their properties and roads CSG free.

The clip attracted almost 6,000 hits within six days of its release and this figure had increased dramatically in the following weeks, according to John McPherson from the Lismore Group Against Gas.

“Responses to the five-minute clip have come from countries as disparate as Ireland, the United States, Bulgaria and New Zealand,” Mr McPherson said.

“They have shown us that the local community’s reaction to unconventional gas drilling is shared by people across the world.”

Mr McPherson said the model for the project had been placed online at www.csqfreenorthernrivers.org to assist other communities in declaring themselves CSG-free.

“Already other communities in the region, including Dunoon, Whian Whian, Rock Valley, Nimbin, Ewingar and Kyogle that



are starting to survey their local residents door-to-door, after public meetings have overwhelmingly rejected CSG mining.”

“It is expected that many of the newly declared roads will be presenting their declarations to the local mayor at the upcoming rally for a CSG-free Northern Rivers on May 12th in Lismore,” Mr McPherson.

“This rally will see communities from across the Northern Rivers gathering in Lismore to send a strong message to government and gas companies that we are not prepared to let this iconic region be turned into an



industrial zone.” The Channon CSG Free Celebration Youtube clip is at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7C4ousqB4E or Google ‘Channon CSG’.

clip is at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7C4ousqB4E or Google ‘Channon CSG’.

No CSG for Billen Cliffs Village say OC



At the last AGM of the Billen Cliffs Village Owners Corporation, a special resolution motion was put that a new by-law be added, to read: ‘No coal seam gas production activities, including the exploration, drilling, mining and other activities associated with coal seam gas production are to be permitted on any unit or the common property of Billen Cliffs Village.’

The vote was unanimous with none against, and now that motion has been enacted as by-law 29 of the 800-acre rural horizontal strata plan.

Billen secretary Andy Gough said, “We have asked advice from the Environmental Defenders Office as to whether or not the by-law will hold up against state or federal legislation in the scheme of things, they have promised to look into it. At the moment, we don’t know.”

“What I do know is that the people here have spoken with one voice about opposing coal seam gas activities in our bioregion, and we have enshrined that in our rules at a grass roots level,” Andy said.

Alfredo Bonanno, assistant secretary, said, “If CSG companies were to somehow get in here, we’ll be able to fine them for breaching our by-law 29 at \$550 each time until the breach of by-laws is removed. Whoopee. Maybe we can send them broke.”

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A big bright solar future

by Yasir Assam

Around 40 people attended the third Big Solar launch at the Cudgen Leagues Club in Kingscliff on 26th April.

Local community organiser Eddie Roberts introduced the Big Solar campaign and the speakers, Dr Fiona McCormick (local GP and AI Gore-trained presenter) and Dr Paul Taylor (physicist and author of The Biochar Revolution).

Dr McCormick told the meeting that investing in renewable energy was the solution to the climate crisis but what had been lacking was the political will to encourage and support this investment.

"We should remind our politicians that political will is also a renewable resource," she said.

Dr Taylor continued the theme, pointing out that as well as being concerned about local change and resilience, we need to urgently support the strong Big Solar initiative calling for replacing all retiring coal-fired plant with base-load solar power.

"Everywhere we turn we use electricity, mostly made from coal," Dr Taylor said. "To preserve our future we need to build renewable electricity into the national grid now."

In closing, Mr Roberts told the meeting that what they had heard on the night was science but what they heard from sections of the media and business was spin.

"We need to separate the science from the spin" Mr Roberts said.

"Only people power can offset the dominating influence that powerful vested interests have over our politicians."

The Big Solar campaign is a national grassroots initiative. Local groups around Australia are conducting polls within their communities to gauge and build support for Big Solar in order to ensure that the Clean Energy Finance Corporation funds 2000MW of renewable energy projects such as solar thermal power plants.



Students and teachers at Nimbin Rocks, (l-r standing) Bawoo Cockatoo, teachers Athol Compton, Allyson Taylor and Greg Nye, Allan Hunt, (front) Gilbert Laurie, Bindhi Gaze, Angela Collyer and Mirra-Winni Gaze.

Students studying Certificate III in Tour Guiding presented their Nimbin Rocks Cultural Tourism project to Aboriginal Elders, tourism industry representatives and invited guests at Nimbin Rocks on 4th April.

The presentations included indigenous cultural storytelling, flora and fauna; demonstrations of indigenous artefacts, spears and boomerangs, bush tucker and crafts, with lunch featuring traditional foods such as kangaroo, emu and barramundi prepared by students.

Aunty Vivien Laurie said, "This is a very important project for the young people to learn about the area, our culture, the people and especially the Rocks."

"They need to take the reins and keep the stories to tell others and show the world."

The students have worked in conjunction with the Ngulingah Aboriginal Land Council. The land council started the project to ensure preservation of the site and bring the community together, but now the next aim is to develop an eco-tourism venture.

Student Mirra-Winni Gaze said she had loved doing the course and the teachers have been great mentors.

"My favourite part has been sharing our stories, travelling together on excursions and taking this journey together to explore our culture," Mirra-Winni said.

Tourism teacher Allyson Taylor said the event was the final assessment for the Cert III students and that funding had now been secured for them to progress to Certificate IV level.

"As part of the Cert IV Tour Guiding course, they will have the opportunity to be selected to undertake a study tour of Kathmandu, Nepal," Allyson said.

The study tour is funded by the Federal Government's Outbound Mobility Program for 10 students currently enrolled and studying the Certificate IV Tour Guiding program. It is anticipated the trip will be held in September. It is open to all interested tour guiding students across North Coast TAFE.

For more information contact Allyson Taylor on 6620-4888.

Medicinal Cannabis: its time has come

Dr John Kaye, Greens NSW MP, will be speaking at Mardi Grass at 1pm this Saturday in the Town Hall as part of a panel discussion called "Green Bounty: Advances in Cannabis as Medicine"

The Greens NSW are moving to have the NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner establish a carefully controlled and monitored one year trial of medicinal cannabis.

Greens NSW MP and Health Services spokesperson John Kaye told the GoodTimes, "The war on cannabis has had many casualties. These include thousands of people denied relief from pain and suffering because of a profoundly irrational prejudice against the plant."

"For thirteen years since the Carr government's Drug Summit unequivocally recommended a trial, cannabis' unwarranted stigma has held back any progress towards a trial."

"The war on drugs is blocking the development of safe and effective treatments for people suffering from nausea and vomiting following chemotherapy, AIDS-related severe wasting, glaucoma, muscle spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and



spinal cord injuries and many other illnesses.

"Thousands of self-medicating cannabis users should not face criminal punishment because they are seeking relief from pain and suffering."

"The laws against medicinal cannabis are irrational, inhumane and unfair. If they were applied consistently codeine and morphine would be banned because they too are derived from a plant that is illegal."

"Cannabis has been stigmatised completely out of proportion to its negative impacts. The medicinal uses of cannabis are collateral damage to the hysteria that continues to cloud the drug debate in Australia."

"The war on drugs continues to drive bad policy, damaging people's lives and corrupting the economy and health care," Dr Kaye said.

Whole communities oppose coal seam gas, not just minorities

by Len Martin

It was standing room only at Goolmangar Hall on Saturday 21st April, when some 130 members of the Goolmangar Community voted unanimously against coal seam gas mining. Similarly on Sunday 22nd April, when over 200 members of the Nimbin Community packed the Nimbin Bowling Club to express their unanimity against coal seam gas.

At both meetings, working groups were set up to survey all community members along local roads for their opinions. These surveys will be taking place over the next two or three weeks. This process has already been completed around The Channon, Dunoon and Modanville, with surveys showing

99-100% opposition to CSG, and communities deciding to close their roads to CSG as well as locking their gates. Other community groups are following suit with meetings planned for Jiggi and North Lismore in April and areas north of Nimbin following on.

These community responses give a good indication of the forces that will be marshalled, both electorally and practically, to combat the threat of coal seam gas mining in the Northern Rivers. The CSG industry cannot maintain that it is only minority groups and activists that oppose CSG – tell that to the farmers of Goolmangar.

The roads being surveyed around Goolmangar are: Nimbin, Rosehill, Mackney, Boyle, Parmenter, Boggumbil, Hayden, Gordon



South, Bertoli and Bishops Creek. The roads being surveyed around Nimbin are: Nimbin, Bishops Creek, Shipway, Stoney Chute, Morton, Mountain Top, Lodge, Whitney, Zouch, Stanger, High Street/Falls, Cullen, Cecil/Jarlanbah, Thorburn/Silky Oak,

Sibley/Tunttable Falls/ Kirkland, Gungas/ Andersons/ Basil, Blue Knob, Crofton/Hensen, Blade, Milgate, Symonds, Suffolk, Salked, Lillian Rock.

The survey process is quite demanding so any help is welcome. Also, our Nimbin group does

not have co-ordinators for Lodge, Whitney, Zouch, Sibley-Tunttable Falls, Kirkland, Milgate, Symonds, or Salked, or for any MOs apart from mine. So anyone wishing to help or wanting more information, please contact Len Martin ASAP (6689-0254; pteropus42@smartchat.net.au). We'd like to get our survey results done and dusted in time for the big Lismore anti-CSG rally on 12th May.

This particular project started off simply to declare Nimbin Road CSG-free, but local communities wanted more than that. They wanted all their roads to be CSG-free. They want their communities to be CSG-free. Indeed they want the whole of the Northern Rivers to be CSG-free.

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Australia 21 comments

Quotes from ‘The prohibition of illicit drugs is killing and criminalizing our children and we are all letting it happen.’ A report by the Australia21 Group. www.australia21.org.au

Professor Peter Baume AC; former Chancellor of the ANU and minister for health in the Fraser government. “Many people who think of themselves as the beneficiaries of prohibition are really net losers. Parents are much more at risk of losing their children under prohibition than they would be if there was some kind of system where we had some measure of control over illicit drugs.”

Professor Geoff Gallop AC; former premier Western Australia. “I think the idea that prohibition kills is an important one. So my plea is how can we get governments to buy into this issue? I think they need to see that what they are doing and not doing, is causing a lot of the harms. At some stage they have to be held accountable for allowing this to happen.”

Kate Carnell AO; former chief minister in the ACT: “There seems to be a pretty good consensus among us about medical cannabis. I have heard no one to talk against it. I think I also heard a fair bit of support for medical heroin. So at the very least, the reinstatement of substances in the pharmacopeia that were useful and continue to be useful drugs that were removed for non-medical reasons needs to be rectified.”

Dr Alex Wodak AM; president, Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation and former president International Harm Reduction Association: “The best evidence that the management of heroin dependence with controlled and prescribed heroin availability made a difference, is a study published in the Lancet in 2006. This study was based on the city of Zurich. This showed that between 1992 and 2002 the number of new heroin users in Zurich was reduced from 850 in 1990 to 150 in 2002. Corresponding with that was a decrease in drug overdose deaths, a decrease in HIV infections among injecting drug users, a decrease in crime and a decrease in the quantities of heroin seized. Clearly, what was happening was that people were moving from black market heroin to white market methadone and white market heroin. This showed that treatment does work at a population level.”

Nicholas Cowdery AM QC; Director of Public Prosecutions for NSW from 1994 to 2011: “I am strongly in favour of legalising, regulating, controlling and taxing all drugs. A first step towards such a regime could be decriminalisation, similar to the approach adopted 10 years ago in Portugal or an adaptation of that approach. I do not say that such a change could occur quickly, efficiently or even at the same time or in the same way for all drugs. Nor do I advocate that any or all drugs should be generally available to anybody wanting them.”

Hon Michael Moore; CEO Public Health Association of Australia and former health minister for the ACT: “What we want governments to do is feel quite uncomfortable about the predicament they have put us in. They are running a system that is causing a whole lot of harm. Until they begin to start looking for the solutions we are not going to make progress. When they begin looking for the solutions we are in the position to suggest ideas. It is the government that has the problem. Our task is to place it on their agenda.”

Mr Mick Palmer AO APM; former Commissioner, Australian Federal Police: “It is easy to roll out arguments about the harm created by our current arrangements. Young people who are convicted for being in possession of small amounts of cannabis automatically lose rights to be employed in the public service and in the defence forces and in the police services. They can’t travel, they can’t get visas to visit the United States. These are things that make sense to parents.”

The last MardiGrass?

by Jim Moylan

Apart from the nightmare of getting official approvals for our annual ‘Protestival’, this should be the last MardiGrass, says the MOB (MardiGrass Organising Body). The experts from the Australia21 Futures committee have come out with a report saying drug use must be treated as a health issue rather than a criminal one. If only they would follow their experts advice!

The Report highlighted the need for us to keep the issue in the limelight. They are committed to that like we are. The truth will set us free, and if the subject of the war on drugs is taboo for politicians, that is why.

Increasingly as Bob Brown said on leaving Parliament, “Politics is being totally eclipsed by the power of the corporations.” These giants driven by profit alone need a conscience and that’s us! The people of the north coast are pioneers and this is an issue that needs us. This is an issue that has a huge ripple effect and the sooner we can drop the stone of drug law reform in the pond the sooner we’ll see them.

Respect will start dribbling back in for other laws and authority. Who’s going to respect a law that makes no sense, a law that brands you a criminal for using something from nature, a herb. Treat people like idiots and get it back in spades is what’s happening and the

stubbornness of the politicians and the police in maintaining their dumb as dumb law and order nonsense makes us wonder who is really running the agenda. The pharmaceutical giants who have cornered the market on pain management? The last thing they want is natures best pain killers growing free in anyones backyard. The alcohol industry frantically defending itself from the truth as it emerges statistically what a real demon it can be?

Already we hear in America where medical cannabis is freely available, car accidents and alcohol consumption are ‘significantly down’.

Our drug policies are having the opposite effect to what they set out to do. Drug policy is at a turning point and the challenge now, says the Report, is keeping the discussion happening which is what MardiGrass is all about

How can we be criminals for enjoying a plant?

A plant that happened to be the most grown plant on the planet two centuries ago because of its extraordinary qualities for making cloth and paper from the stalk, oil and food from the seed and medicine from the bit we all love, the flower. A plant which threatens the easy quick fast buck profits from carcinogenic petrochemicals products. As Henry Ford said, “Anything that can be made from hydrocarbons can be made from carbohydrates.”



Skate clinic goes ahead despite rain



by Laurelli Anderson

Skate Boarding Australia held their second skate clinic at the Nimbin Skate Park in April and once again it was a huge success, despite the rain. With many skaters of all ages giving it a go in between the showers, the rain was quickly swept off the park so everyone could continue on.

The LCC provided free refreshments and BBQ which was gratefully received by one and all. Pat and his team always go out of their way to make the day run smoothly and make sure everyone gets to have one on one time with the coaches, to learn new skills or brush up on old ones. Free merchandising bags were also a highlight of the day, as well as the use of SBA skateboards and protective clothing. Make sure you put the next clinic date on your calendar so you don’t miss out.

FONSK8 will be running a fund raising BBQ at the skate park over the Mardigrass weekend, come along and say hi and support your park.

There will be Nimbin Skate Park t-shirts/stickers for sale at the stall and if you are willing to help out over that Saturday and Sunday could you please call Laurelli on 0447-891-119 or email laurellilanderson2480@hotmail.com when you may be available.

The funds we raise from the BBQ will be going towards building another half pipe, palm trees for shade, more seating under the shelters and possibly a shed for storage and other on going improvements to the skate park in general. Hope to see you there.

Cannabis is NOT ILLEGAL in most of America

In Los Angeles right now there are three times as many medical cannabis dispensaries as there are McDonalds outlets. All day, every day, almost a thousand dispensaries make available carefully weighed and labeled bags of primo bud to hundreds of thousands of patients.

All across the US and Canada, new dispensaries are popping up. Every day hundreds of US citizens seek out a medical practitioner and avail themselves of their right to become officially afflicted with a treatable ailment. Then armed with a treatment card, a constitutional right, and folding money, they are at once ready to be healed. Hallelujah!

Live in California? Need weed? Simply log on to www.dispensaryguide.com (or any other specialised guide) to track down your bud for the day. How about a bit of ‘Hawaiian Echo’ for arthritis? Delivered to your door? All part of the friendly service. Have a nice day.

This is ersatz legalization; it is occurring all around the globe, right now. In Europe, Canada, Mexico. In 16 states of the United States. A cannabis dispensary is coming to a corner near you. How soon? That’s up to you!



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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals for over 30 years.

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.

Snap Shot May

May is the state-wide reporting month for our FaCS funding which requires us to survey as many of you who come into NNIC as possible. These surveys, along with our daily statistics assist us to prove our outcomes and justify our funding. So bear with us folks...

7 Sibley Street Update

Thanks to everyone who pledged donations – an impressive effort folks! At the time of writing this we are still working on it and hopefully will have an outcome one way or the other by the June edition of NGT. So watch this space!

Nimbin Mural Project

All cred to Deb and the crew at the Nimbin Pub for forging ahead with the renovations of the Pub awning murals. These had been identified as high priority murals in need of urgent repair or replacement, and the new art by Jimmy Willing is a fabulous contribution to our village mural collection.

Nimbin Sk8 Park gets a mower

Thanks to funds from NSW Health, a mower has been purchased to help the volunteers (thanks especially to Neil and Bill) with their great work maintaining the Sk8 park and surrounds.

Nimbin Bus Extension

Only three months left for the pilot and we can't say it enough... Use it or Lose it! Fuel is now over \$1.50/ litre – can we afford not to have these valuable bus runs? See

our website www.nmic.org.au - Transport, or Wallers' website, or else drop into NNIC for a copy of the timetable.

Food Security

Next meetings are on: Thursday 17th May, Thursday 21st June and Thursday 19th July. 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.

This year we are looking into food production as a priority over distribution and consumption, and exploring CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) initiatives. Work continues in relation to the shed at Blue Knob, the Food Equipment Library and of course the Grain Mill is operating at Zone One Mondays -Thursdays, and the Blue Knob Farmers Markets on Saturdays.

We are also looking to progress the jar recycling initiative. If you use jars regularly and are interested in this, please email Guy on food@nmic.org.au

Help the Bees

Get your Winter Flowering plants in! Bee populations are assisted where they have year-round access to pollen.

As bees continue to crash around the world, something we can all do to help our local bees is plant winter flowering (preferably native) plants.

The upcoming Winter is an opportune time to look out for plants in flower so you can spread more around.

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.



Nimbin Youth Club rocks with beats

Participants in the Hip Hop Dance workshop presented by Our Village Rocks took their beats and moves to the street, transporting tutor Issara Kerkul's (second from left) homemade 12V ghetto blaster on a skateboard. The young people's public performance was well received in the village, entertaining locals and tourists alike.

If you are a young person interested in Hip Hop music, song-writing and performing come along to the Nimbin Youth Club after school on Thursdays and join in the free workshops with Mark Robertson from One Vision Productions.

Starting on Thursday, 3rd May, Mark will take you through the process of creating your own songs and film clip. Mark began these projects six years ago and has taught in 40 communities in Australia and in the UK and Ireland.

On Tuesday, 8th May, Our Village Rocks will have the one and only Jesse Macintosh with his badge-making and screen-printing workshops at Nimbin Youth Club after school.

For more info call in and see Daniel or Lisa. We are open 3.30pm-6.30pm Tuesday to Friday.



Nimbin Aquarius – towards 2013

A community meeting to discuss plans for the 40th anniversary of the Aquarius Festival will be held at the Nimbin Town Hall on Wednesday, May 23 at 6pm.

The idea is for the community to host a series of events in Nimbin and the Rainbow Region throughout 2013.

We aim to focus on the positive achievements of the community since the arrival of new settlers after the 1973 Aquarius Festival.

A framework for a calendar of events is now being prepared and we invite your participation, ideas and contributions at the meeting. Email: aquariusnetworking@gmail.com

Connect to www.nimfm.org/index.php?page=wednesday

A radio program, The Aquarius Hour, on Nim-FM, presented by Helmut Katterl on Wednesdays from 1pm, has news and views, music and interviews, leading up to the celebrations in 2013.

If you would like to be interviewed by Helmut for the program, you can email him at hkatterl@gmail.com or phone 0458-048-565.

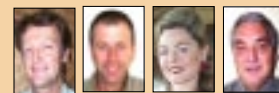
Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. has a page on Facebook called Nimbin Aquarius towards 2013: www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Aquarius-towards-2013/262083430519305

Please like our page and pass it on to your friends.



Allsopp Park during the 1973 Aquarius Festival. Photo: harrywas20

Chamber Chat...



by Eugenie Stephans, Secretary

The last Chamber meeting was held on the verandah at Nimbin Backpackers Hotel. Apart from enjoying complimentary snacks, the excitement of the pub fire-alarm going off and the Chamber members planning their escape from the rooftop, Nimbin Hotel put on a great night for all.

Numerous topics were discussed, one of them being the recent Legendary Pacific Coast workshop series to assist tourism businesses. As part of this series of workshops, Destination NSW, along with NSW Trade & Investment and Legendary Pacific Coast staff travelled the Legendary Pacific Coast and presented information to assist tourism businesses understand the

tourism research information available to them and to receive an update on the progress of the Legendary Pacific Coast project.

12 workshops were conducted in 12 different locations from the Tweed to Gosford, and 167 tourism businesses attended these workshops. Workshop presentations are available from the Chamber.

Chamber is also extremely pleased to see Nimbin Backpackers Hotel leading the way with their new murals by accomplished artist, Jimmy Willing. Chamber is looking at ways of raising more support and funds towards the murals project.

Chamber is also urging the community to continue promoting the 5.30pm Lismore to Nimbin bus service

as well as the morning, 7.30am Nimbin to Lismore bus service during the school holidays. The Sustainable Transport Reference Group and Lisa Marshall of LCC, with the assistance of Northern Rivers Social Development Council held a meeting earlier this week. They are currently planning the Public Transport Expo at Lismore Square on 2nd and 3rd May 2012, and will be promoting the Nimbin Bus Service.

Chamber welcomes suggestions on how to make the new Business after Hours meetings a success. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, and new members are always welcome. Thanks again Marcelo, and the Chamber looks forward to holding more networking meetings at Nimbin Hotel.

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An exciting term at Tuntable Falls Preschool

We have had an exciting Term One at Preschool. We enjoyed settling new children and families into our preschool program and resettled our existing children into their new social groups.

We have spent quality time with all of the children, getting to know them individually so that we can plan according to what captures their interest. Sometimes this will be spontaneous learning – to seize the moment, and sometimes it is planned to make sure children are challenged in all the learning areas.

An example of some spontaneous learning that took place recently was when a child came in with a live Giant Panda Snail that they had found in their garden. This child had already some knowledge of the snail as she had researched it with her mum. The other children were amazed and what took us by surprise was that many children and parents had not seen one before. Even some parents who had grown up in the area had not seen one before, or at least didn't know much about them.

A child suggested we Google them, so that we could find out more about the snails. Some of the information that we discovered was that they eat the fruiting bodies of the fungi from the rainforest floor, even their mouth remains in the shell whilst



they eat. They are mostly nocturnal, so not often sighted live and they don't climb higher than 50cm above the ground. Adult shell size is 90-100mm.

We made a poster with pictures, information and references that children and families can refer to. The

teachers brought in some shells that they had at home for the children to explore further.

Lots of discussion and new understandings took place and we will let the children direct us in regards to where that takes us in our program in Term two.

Sharks are king of the ocean

by Livio

Livio has been finding out about sharks all year, and would like to share his knowledge with the Nimbin Community. Livio asked Diane (the teacher) the questions and then gave her the answers.

Q. Do you know why it is called a whale shark?

A. It is a whale and a shark.

Q. Why is a swordfish called a swordfish?

A. A swordfish is a fish with a sword on its nose.

A killer whale is not a shark it is a whale, because it is bigger than a shark.

Sharks eat everything



– prawns, persons, fish, crocodiles and whales.

A whale shark can eat a whole house.

Whale sharks are humungous, they are bigger than the whole world. It can crash every building down.

Nimbin Preschool is currently taking enrolments. Please call us on 6689-1203 for more information.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

NEW LOW-COST FITNESS PROGRAM COMES TO TOWN

Lismore City Council is working towards the launch of Move2Change, a new project aimed at creating a healthier community by providing physical activity and healthy eating programs in Nimbin, Lismore, Dunoon and Clunes.

Move2Change could involve swimming, gym, gardening, dancing and cooking – anything healthy and active that you can think of. Anyone who is interested in taking part is welcome and we are offering the program for free or at the low cost of \$3 per session to people who are unemployed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, from non-English speaking backgrounds, over 55, refugees, people living with a disability or people who are caring for someone.

Programs will begin running on July 16 so let's get plotting! If you have a great idea for a physical activity or healthy eating program you would like to be part of the Move2Change program or you would like to get involved, please contact Council's Healthy Communities Coordinator, Tarryn Corlet via email Tarryn.Corlet@lismore.nsw.gov.au or by phone, 02 6625 5377.

2012 NORTHERN RIVERS PORTRAIT PRIZE ANNOUNCED

Around 700 people went along to Lismore Regional Gallery on Saturday, March 24 for the announcement of the winner of the '2012 Northern Rivers Portrait Prize'. Artist and Archibald Prize winner Del Kathryn Barton named Clunes based artist Vlad Kolas as the winner of the award for his self-portrait titled Other Side of Midnight. The work will now enter the permanent collection of Lismore Regional Gallery.

This \$10,000 acquisitive award is provided by Lismore businesses, Walters Solicitors, The Northern Rivers Echo and Hurford Hardwood. Kolas is a graduate of Southern Cross University, again illustrating the strong role the university has in supporting the artistic life of the region.

Visitors to the exhibition can vote for their favourite portrait in the People's Choice Award, which will receive a \$500 prize. The exhibition, including other category winners, will be on exhibition at the Lismore Regional Gallery until May 6.

MARDIGRASS PLANNING

There has been a degree of public discussion regarding the temporary event DA approval process for Mardi Grass, with the event being approved, subject to conditions, on Friday, April 27.

The aim of the requirements is to ensure a safe environment is provided for event-goers and the broader community; that the impact of the event on the community is managed and minimised where possible; that food is provided in accordance with health and safety regulations; that rubbish is collected and removed; that toilets are provided; that traffic and pedestrian access is managed; that public parks and reserves are protected; and importantly that there is an emergency management plan in place.

The same DA requirements apply to all temporary events, including charity fun runs, street parades and local festivals. Council provides staff to assist event organisers in developing these applications. Similar information is required to be submitted each year. Following on from the event, a review will be held with event organisers, Police, Council and community members.

NIMBIN WALKING TRACK – REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

The Nimbin Walking Track is a four stage tourism experience proposed for the village of Nimbin. Lismore City Council is seeking a suitable qualified consultant to deliver a feasibility study and provide a costed implementation plan for stage one.

Interested parties can obtain more information at www.tenderlink.com/lismore or contact Mitch Lowe, Tourism Co-ordinator on (02) 6626 0105.

Consultants are required to forward their quotations to Lismore City Council by 4.00pm Monday, May 21. Submissions may be made by email to council@lismore.nsw.gov.au by the closing date/time.

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May 2012 The Nimbin GoodTimes Page 7