



# THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

Fresh and FREE

Brush Coral Tree Edition

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## Erotic thrills galore

by Pickwick, fashion reporter



Photos: cloudnine

It must be Spring, despite the weather. The one sure sign is when all the hot young designers go burlesque, and that has definitely been happening, big time.

Fashion Shows, Masquerades, Moulin Rouge Nights and similar risqué soirées have sprung up all over the Far North Coast – it's exhausting trying to attend them all. None-the-less, one perseveres.

Fantasies Cabaret Erotique (pictured) was amazing, with two steamy sold-out shows at Kohinor Hall, Main Arm, featuring most of the talent from all over the hills.

With provocative costuming, lots of flesh and daring routines, the dancers and models were sizzling hot.

Nimbin musicians Michael Skinner, Pauly, Kavi and Tone added melody to the flow, along with DJ Pop's mix, pumping the sinuous rhythms of desire that affected performers and audience alike.



Not that it was formulaic, but it's a great formula.

Everybody is excited about when the next Fantasies show will hit Nimbin town. Meanwhile, check out coverage of the event on facebook: judywhodesigns.

## Groundswell community conference develops anti-mining strategies

by Lisa Costello

Over 150 people from around NSW attended the inaugural Groundswell Coal and Coal Seam Gas NSW Community Conference held at the local high school in Gloucester at the end of October.

After a welcome to country by Aunty Norma Fisher, Booken Booken Elder, we heard from Gloucester mayor John Rosenbaum, in his passionate opening speech told us that mining companies have no social licence in the Gloucester area.

Local independent



Annie Kia with other panellists

Federal MP, Rob Oakeshott encouraged us not to be afraid to convince policy makers that they must listen to our concerns over the issues of not allowing mining near prime agricultural and environmentally sensitive areas. There is

a need to increase our food productivity by 70 percent, which would be near impossible with miners and gas extractors wanting to use the same land and water.

The weekend included a variety of workshops and talks by expert speakers, including ex-coal miner

Graham Brown on emissions; Muswellbrook's Dr Au on respiratory diseases; Fiona Simpson, president NSW Farmers Association; Drew Hutton, president Lock the Gate Alliance; Stephanie Venuti, EDO; and Ken Johnson, from The Gloucester Project, an initiative to grow food locally involving many different community groups.

Conference convenor Julie Lyford said, "People are determined to continue to fight to protect their communities. The aim is to foster a year of co-ordinated community action to oppose coal and coal seam gas expansion."

## Can we save the EDO?

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) faces an unprecedented threat to its survival and will be "decimated, if not destroyed" in the New Year, says executive director Jeff Smith.

Funding cuts have put the EDO NSW under the axe after nearly 30 years of helping the people of NSW to protect their environment and heritage under the law.

Mr Smith says jobs will be lost. "If the current situation goes unchanged, we will have to lay off most of our valuable, highly professional and tireless staff early in the New Year, and begin dramatically scaling back or shutting down our popular key community services."

The NSW Energy Minister Chris Hartcher recently attacked the EDO's involvement in a community conference in Gloucester. The conference allowed community members to obtain information on developments across NSW.

His broadside follows months of repeated attacks in The Australian newspaper, the National Civic Council and in NSW Parliament, mainly by Shooters and Fishers Party MPs.

"These are unjustified attacks on our work as lawyers for the environment," Mr Smith said.

### Funding Crisis

The NSW Government is being urged to stop funding to the organisation under a review of legal assistance services. Another major source of EDO funding, from the Public Purpose Fund of the Law Society of NSW (PPF), has been slashed.

"We have been receiving PPF funding since 1996, normally under three-year grant agreements, and our work has been actively supported by the Trustees," Mr Smith said.

"The first cut was to six months (July-December 2012); and as of this month has been reduced to only three months (January-March 2013), with the dollar value cut by a quarter.

"Our PPF funding, and NSW Government funding, must now be

considered at risk."

### Uncertainty

Mr Smith says this "damaging uncertainty" makes it hard to maintain a strong, independent EDO, that can offer on-going help to clients, and serve the wider community, while operating free of the politics of the day.

"If our PPF funding is not restored and public funding affirmed, then EDO NSW as you know it will be decimated, if not destroyed, in the New Year," he said.

The uncertainty could be resolved by the NSW Government making clear its strong and unambiguous support for ongoing PPF and public funding of EDO NSW, Mr Smith said, "ideally with cross-party agreement in the Parliament" to maintain community participation and public confidence in the planning and environment system.

Mr Smith said the public had a role to play in defending the defenders. "We need our many supporters to speak up long and loud," he said. He asked community members to do any or all of the following:

- Contact your local Member of Parliament to call for their support to save EDO NSW, and to express your support.
- Contact the Premier (office@premier.nsw.gov.au or ph: (02) 9487-8588), the Attorney General the Hon. Greg Smith (office@smith.minister.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 9228-5246) and the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP (office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 9228-5258)
- Speak to your local media and look for opportunities to support us such as calling in to radio talkback or make a donation to EDO NSW.

Key community services likely to be cut soon include efforts in areas including coal seam gas, native vegetation, water plans, mining, private conservation and local planning.



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