

# Janelle's Page

Janelle Saffin MP

**Member for Page  
63 Molesworth Street  
Lismore  
Phone 1300 301 735**

## Apology

On the last day of the Parliamentary session, the Prime Minister delivered an historic national apology for forced adoption - for the policies and practices that separated mothers from their babies and created a lifelong legacy of pain and suffering.

The atmosphere in the Great Hall during the apology was incredibly moving, with so many mothers and fathers and those who were adopted as babies present to finally hear this acknowledgement.

Nothing can undo the past but an apology is recognition that the circumstances, social mores, lack of childcare and money and various government authorities' policies meant the women had no choice.

The full text of the apology is on my website: [www.janellesaffin.com.au/categories/statements](http://www.janellesaffin.com.au/categories/statements)

## Federal legislation to protect our water from CSG

In March the House of Representatives passed the

Government's legislation amending the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to provide greater protection for water resources impacted by CSG mining.

The Senate is expected to pass this in the next Parliamentary session.

I've been working with the Environment Minister and his advisors for some period of time on this and I wanted the Environment Minister, Tony Burke, to find a way to bring water into the ambit of the EPBC Act.

And he has now been able to do that and I thank him.

This effectively means that CSG mining could be stopped on the Northern Rivers if it has the potential to adversely affect our precious water resources.

I also think we need a whole new regulatory framework around mining.

Current mining laws are designed with large-scale, open-cut operations in mind. They were never predicated

on mining in our backyard.

We hadn't even had the big debate about whether should we mine in our backyard.

Should we mine on farmland?

Should we mine where there will be an impact on water?

How will this sit with our tourism industry or our fishing industry?

The advent of CSG to the Northern Rivers has highlighted how out-dated the regulatory framework around mining is.

When I returned from Parliament I had a meeting with a group of concerned farmers at Ettrick to discuss the Federal legislation and the need for the State Government to declare a Northern Rivers exclusion zone.

## The NDIS

In other news from the eventful week in Canberra, Parliament has passed the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Bill.

This is a major step towards providing peace of mind to people with disability, their families and carers, and to Australians who may acquire a significant and permanent disability in the future.

The NDIS will give people with disability choice and control over the care and support they receive, rather than exposing them to the cruel lottery that currently exists.

I've kept local people informed by hosting a series of NDIS forums, most recently at the start of April with the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Amanda Rishworth.



Janelle with farmers at Ettrick

## Protection for water under threat from CSG

The Federal Government is to amend the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to provide greater environmental protection for water resources impacted by CSG.

This effectively means that CSG mining could potentially be stopped on the North Coast if it is determined to be a risk to our water resources.

Currently there is no direct protection for water resources under our national environmental law and we're going to change that. Without water there is no life and it's important we take steps to ensure our water systems are protected.

At the Federal level, Janelle Saffin and I have done what we can. It's now time for the National Party to stop their pro-CSG agenda and stop CSG mining altogether on the North Coast at the State level. Our biggest risk is still the National Party pushing their CSG agenda at all levels of Government.

## Pensions under threat

Local pensioners will have received a boost to their payments in March with an increase in the pension that includes the start of the new Clean Energy Supplement. From March



by Justine Elliot

20 single pensioners on the maximum rate will receive an extra \$35.80 per fortnight. Pensioner couples on the maximum rate will receive an increase of \$54.00 per fortnight combined.

With the increases, total pension payments for people on the maximum rate will be \$808.40 a fortnight for singles, and \$1,218.80 a fortnight for couples combined.

In contrast, National Party candidate, Matthew Fraser and his boss Tony Abbott have a plan to cut the age pension by slashing the Clean Energy Supplement if they are elected.

We can't risk Matthew Fraser and Tony Abbott cutting the age pension for locals. Our pensioners are really doing it tough and our community has worked so hard for these pension increases.

These cuts would mean that every single pensioner would lose more than \$350 a year and every pensioner couple would lose more than \$530 a year.



by Vanessa Ekins

The NBN not fibre optic rollout gets worse and worse. The potential construction of 20 microwave towers 40 metres high in the Lismore local government area, including two in Nimbin, will not just be an eyesore but can impact on wildlife and human health and cost a fortune in electricity.

Some technicians claim that users will be locked into spiraling bills for access. The good news is that NBNCo promised to provide towns with over 1000 residences with fibre optics. What is the population of Nimbin town?

This is a frequent question and according to Council 468 people reside in the urban area, ABS 2011 census counted 1,668 people in the Nimbin district and Nimbin is a service centre for 2,500 people. Does this mean Nimbin fits into the category eligible for fibre optics? This is a question I suggest you ask [Janelle.Saffin.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Janelle.Saffin.MP@aph.gov.au) and [info@nbnco.com.au](mailto:info@nbnco.com.au) or visit: [www.nbnco.com](http://www.nbnco.com)

On another note, council is starting its biodiversity strategy. This is an essential tool for future planning because we will know what vegetation needs protecting and linking and we will be able to offer landholders incentives to look after their bit of bush. Some councillors are concerned about property rights and want to protect their land from the environment but are strangely willing to allow the subdivision of prime farmland. Actually all my colleagues on council voted to subdivide prime farmland when they know that urban development is the main threat to farmland in Australia. What are they thinking?

If you are not already part of a Landcare group or community farm, join one. There are several in the Nimbin area and hanging out with other people in a paddock or by the creek is a great way to learn Latin and get your hands in the dirt. The Wilsons River Landcare group has been planting trees and pulling weeds on the riverbanks in Lismore's CBD for 20 years. Sometimes we don't work; we just sit, chat and enjoy the rainforest space we have created. It is a wonderful feeling to make change in your own community.

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

# From the Mayor's desk



by Jenny Dowell

I write this article as we go into the Easter break. We at Council look forward to a few days off with family and friends but I know it marks a very busy time in Nimbin with more tourists in town and the start of the famous Autumn Arts Extravaganza.

I look forward to getting out to see the exhibition and know that the standard of works will be as high as ever. Congratulations to all artists on your work.

## February meeting

Council's February meeting was one of the shortest on record. There were some important matters on the business paper but generally the votes were unanimous so we closed the meeting around 7.45pm.

Among the unanimous votes were resolutions to prepare a planning proposal that would allow

detached second dwellings on rural properties. This decision will come as welcome news for many farmers who would like to build a second home for a family member on their property. While a second home is currently allowed, it must be attached to the primary house by a covered walkway.

Following strong support from the Lismore businesses that pay it, Council has agreed again unanimously (Cr Clough declared an interest and left the Chamber) to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for permission to raise an additional \$106,500 from our Lismore businesses for the next five years. The money will be used for promotional activities under the banner of 'Lismore - Come to the Heart'.

We also unanimously agreed to work with the Rural Fire Service to review our Bushfire Management Plan and clarify Council's role in times of bushfire.

## Footpath Dining in Nimbin

There has been some lively Facebook Hook-Ups discussion on the new kerbside dining policy and its implementation in Nimbin. The policy was adopted by Council in December after much consultation

in Lismore and Nimbin.

The policy ensures that cafes' tables and chairs leave the required gap between the shopfront and tables to allow access for all pedestrians including those with walkers, prams and people with disability.

In addition to the policy, there is a four tier fee structure for the lease of the space occupied by the tables and chairs. Nimbin is under Tier 1, the lowest, with the annual payment of \$25 per square metre. The smallest cafes will therefore only pay \$75 per year.

There is also a flat \$1000 bond that can be paid by cash, bank guarantee or by \$100 installments.

## Roads and Potholes

Also at present, we are enjoying some much-needed fine weather. While it may not last over Easter, and April is predicted to have above average rain, Council road crews are filling potholes as the sun shines.

There are still many treacherous traps for the unwary motorist, but we are working hard to get around all our 1200km of roads. Understandably, the priorities go to the most highly trafficked roads first in descending order to those roads with minimal local traffic.

The first roads to get attention are therefore our state highways where Roads and Maritime Services

(RMS) direct Council to undertake repairs. Second are the designated Main Roads such as Bangalow Road and others that carry large numbers of vehicles including buses.

Nimbin Road has had many potholes filled but of course others will continue to appear so please drive carefully. If you notice a particularly dangerous pothole, please call Council on 1300-87-83-83 to report its location and nearest corner.

If you use a smart phone, check out the free App 'Snap Send Solve'. It can be used to report road damage, litter, dumping, vandalism, graffiti and more. It uses GSP to identify your location or you can manually add the address, and then the email automatically goes to the Council identified by the App when you press Send.

## Arts and Culture Advisory Group (ACAG)

Council received three high quality applications for a vacancy on our ACAG. Gillian Jones, a Nimbin local with many skills and who had previously been a member of the group, was reappointed.

## Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG)

I'm delighted to Chair the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) and note that nominations have been called for vacancies. Elsewhere in this

edition, you'll see a report on the February NAG.

## Independent Review of Local Government (IRLG)

Readers with an interest in local government (LG) will know that two independent reviews are currently underway in NSW. One is a review of the 1993 LG Act and the second is a review into every aspect of LG.

Submissions for the IRLG are invited from any person or organisation and there are numerous discussion papers available at [www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/home.asp](http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/home.asp)

On March 11, I was invited to meet with the Panel and Mayors and GMs from 11 other regional inland councils. The discussions ranged from a variety of models for Councils, boundaries, optimal size, resource sharing, voting options, roles of mayors, County Councils, water authorities and more. The Panel will be make recommendations to the Minister for LG in July or August and although the extent to which the Government will adopt the recommendations is unknown, it is very clear that dramatic change will be recommended.

Contact Jenny via email to [Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or phone 6625-0404.



Simon says...

by Simon Clough  
Deputy mayor, LCC

13th March 2013 (13/3/13) is a date which is indelibly inscribed in my memory. It is the day that Metgasco indefinitely suspended drilling operations in our area. I had been mediating all morning on that Wednesday, so was quite stunned by the news and amused to see anti-CSG people looking rather dazed in the streets of Lismore hugging each other.

It is very unfortunate that people have lost their jobs over this issue.

The anti-unconventional

gas social movement has been one of the most powerful I have witnessed. The "CSG Free Communities" strategy with people surveying their neighbours face to face and the numerous morale boosting community gatherings gave the campaign a very broad base of community support. This issue like no other has forged strong links across all sectors of our community rural/urban, Aboriginal/white, conservative/progressive. Many people who have never contemplated being part of a blockade or protest movement have joined in and been amazed by our collective power. It has been an extraordinary transformative process for much of our community.

I would like to honour all those people who contributed to this amazing action. The list of people to be grateful to is far too long to detail but thank you all. Every one of your contributions no matter how small has helped create this amazing outcome.

I believe that the underlying issue that has united nearly everyone is love for this land. Many people

have been attracted to this area because of the beauty and the nature of this land. Many others have been here for generations and don't want to see land water and air damaged for the sake of a few years profit from an industry which has far from proved its environmental credentials. I was just looking at Google Earth this morning at the areas around Chinchilla in Queensland. The familiar grid pattern of unconventional gas mining is scored all over that country. I certainly don't want to see our rural heartland turned into an industrial area.

This is of course not the end of the issue of unconventional gas mining in this area or more generally. But as an example of the strength that has been forged here, I received a message that some of the farmers from Doubtful Creek are keen to join us travelling to Gloucester to talk about our experiences with those threatened in the Gloucester area.

## New Planning proposal

Lismore City Council's March meeting saw a motion passed that Council prepare a Planning Proposal that

permits:

- Boundary adjustments to occur with resultant lots being less than 90% of the minimum area of the zone;
- Detached dual occupancies in rural areas, subject to a Councillor Briefing being held on this matter.

I believe this motion is good news for rural ratepayers. The boundary adjustment issue arose from the recent Local Environment Plan, which limited boundary adjustments to only 10% of the adjoining property. This is a loss of flexibility for rural areas and often means retired farmers can't stay on the land, and was another example of the previous government's 'one size fits all approach'.

Dual occupancy of rural land is another issue important for rural landholders. Without allowing subdivision, it should allow for farmers to accommodate more than one generation on the land, increasing the viability of rural properties. This motion was passed unanimously.

I trust you all had a relaxing Easter (I'm stocktaking our business!) and may autumn be kind to you.



You're invited!

The Channon Folk Club is celebrating the 5th Birthday of its Open Mic series on Sunday 28th April from 2pm.

The Channon Folk Club is a local group of "folk" who volunteer their time to hold an Open Mic at The Channon Butterfactory Tavern on the fourth Sunday of each month.

With the motto "Folk and beyond", the club encourages an eclectic mix of musical styles, but still with an acoustic feel.

Many thanks to the performers, the audience, to all who help with the set-up, and to the Tavern, The Channon Gallery, Terania Times, *The Nimbin GoodTimes*, and the *NR Echo* and *Byron Echo* newspapers for their continued support.

"Bring a song, Bring a verse, Bring a friend"  
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**STRING WORKS**

Don't lose hope. We are still coming soon.

My intent is to open soon but in the meantime I am looking for someone to look after the computer side of the business.

This is a great opportunity for someone who is looking for a main street location to run a PC repair or similar business. Most of the setup cost are taken care of. I have the hardware for an Internet cafe, floor space and a working area. The right person will need determination to succeed and the appropriate skills. I'm flexible on the commercial side and can offer serious rent reductions during the start up.

If this sounds interesting call me on 6689 7255 or email on [lillianrock@spin.net.au](mailto:lillianrock@spin.net.au) and we'll have a chat.



# JAZZ in extenso



Lismore Jazz Club is excited to bring JAZZ in extenso to the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday 28 April from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non members.

JAZZ in extenso consists of Royden Ainsworth on clarinet and saxophone, Jack Thorncraft on double bass, Ben Rogers on guitar and Pete Wilkins on drums. All of these fine musicians have played and recorded with many leading lights of Australian jazz artists as well as performing with numerous visiting overseas musicians.

Royden Ainsworth was a studio musician for over 30 years, playing with many bands in the television industry, in particular Tommy Tycho. He backed international artists at Chequers and the Silver Spade and has played for theatre and opera productions. Royden has also recorded with Don Burrows and John Sangster and is well known locally for his appearances with the Northern Rivers Big Band.

Ben Rogers started his musical career in Melbourne and played there for many years before venturing north and moving into jazz. He is also a regular with the Northern Rivers Big Band. Ben has also played in the Clarence Jazzmen but is probably best known for his contribution to The Big Band At the End of the Universe and his band the Cod Squad.

Bass player Jack Thorncraft rose to prominence in Sydney, when he returned from 3 years in London, playing with "The Last Straw" led by John Pochee and Bernie McGann. After moving to the far north coast of NSW he began working on a vocal repertoire which culminated in 1998 with his Aria nominated CD "Sing Some Play Some". The CD included some of Jack's own compositions. He is currently working on a follow-up CD with his trio.

Pete Wilkins joined the youth percussion orchestra "Young Drums" run by Peter Jaggle at age nine, and toured around Australia and overseas with them for around eight years. In mid 2006, he was invited to join urban roots outfit Blue King Brown. During that time he toured extensively both nationally and internationally, headlining festivals and shows as well as touring with many international and national stars. Other highlights include Live Earth 2007, The Big Day Out, Womad, Montreaux Jazz Festival (Canada), Das Fest (Germany), and Summer Sonic (Japan).

Preceding them will be a welcome return of the Northern Rivers Conservatorium Youth Jazz Ensemble. There will also be a BBQ from 12pm so come along and have a light lunch and enjoy a great afternoon of jazz with the young guns and the more experienced jazz players.

## Get masked up and have a ball!

Nimbin's gala social event of the decade is just around the corner. On 25th May, the glitterati will be out in force for the Aquarius Masquerade Ball, a fancy dress affair in Nimbin Hall to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Aquarius Festival.

The organisers, for Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, aim to create an atmosphere combining elements from past and the present: mid-1970s Blue Knob Hall dance meets Blue Moon Cabaret... The early dances at Blue Knob Hall were legendary affairs, with themed nights and fancy-dress masked balls, a hall packed out with revellers, old and new settlers alike.

Mic Conway (pictured) will be the special guest star. Mic's band, the Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band, performed at the Aquarius Festival in 1973. He has carried his inimitable vaudeville style combining singing, comedy, dancing, juggling and magic into his current acts that include Mic Conway's National Junk Band and solo and duo acts.

Former Nimbin guitarist Mick Diggles will accompany him, and Janie Conway-Herron will join him for a song or two.

Blue Skies Dance Orchestra is re-forming, more than 36 years after its last gig, specifically to provide the dance music for the Aquarius Masquerade Ball. Blue Skies is the band that started the Blue Knob dances in 1974, and their joyous and



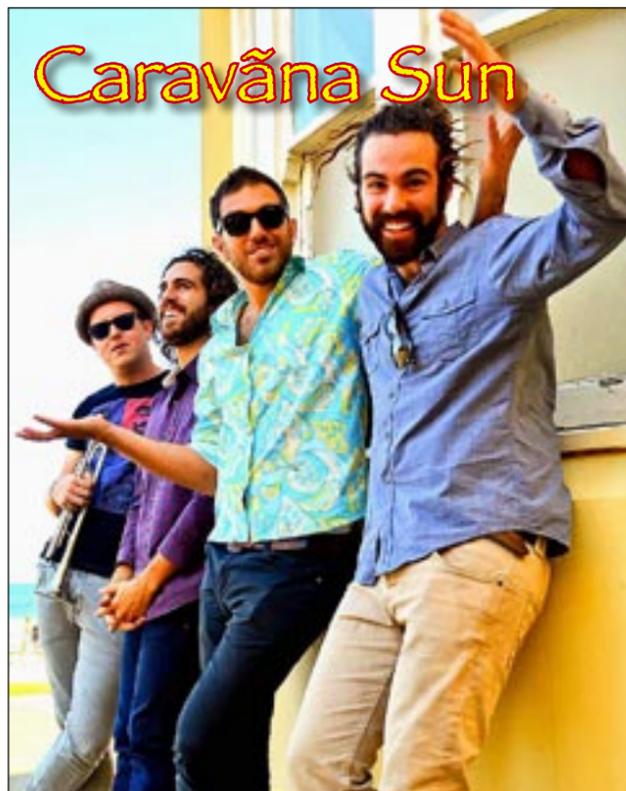
danceable music, based mainly on 1920s to 1940s swing jazz and blues, was heard around the area in the following years at everything from moon dances to kitchen teas.

Celebrated singer and video producer Maireid Sullivan, who was responsible for much of the community liaison prior to the Aquarius Festival, will also be performing, as will another Aquarius Festival performer, Paul Joseph, while Andrea Soler, Renee English, the Tap Bitches and Tribal Monsoon complete the line-up.

When it comes to costume, masks are desirable but optional; fancy or fantasy dress is compulsory. Show off your creativity, humour or style. Look out for mask-making workshops to be held by Annie Heitmann leading up to the ball.

Doors will open early on this fun-packed event. Food will be served by Radical Fairies, the limited tickets will all be pre-sold at \$30 from the Nimbin Artists' Gallery in the Nimbin School of Arts building (open seven days, 10am-5pm), or at Caddies Coffee and Tea, Carrington St, Lismore.

## Caravãna Sun



Catch Caravãna Sun on their End Of Summer Tour before they head overseas touring Spain, Portugal, France and Switzerland.

Off the back of their hugely successful *The Bottle* tour celebrating their release of the same name, the band is currently in the studio recording their highly anticipated second album in the hills of QLD's Kirra

shoreline and is slated for a release later this year.

Caravãna Sun have proved time and again to be a crowd favourite with many sold out shows across the country, and have been setting dancefloors alight since the release of their debut album *Rising Falling*. It's a guarantee the audience is always in for a big party with their surf gypsy ska-rock fuelled sound.



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### Sunday Gig Guide

#### April 1pm start

##### 14<sup>th</sup> Romaniacs

Tunes inspired by gypsy, folk, Latin, Celtic, Spanish and Eastern roots.

##### 21<sup>st</sup> Cheynne Murphy Trio

Cheynne combines sublime harmonies and a blend of 12 string and finger picking guitar.

##### 28<sup>th</sup> Lez Karski

Lez has been the unique soul/blues guitar and vocal style of the Bondi cigars and Hippos to name a few...

#### May

##### 5<sup>th</sup> The Pepper Boys

The Pepper Boys bring their own unique blend of folk, rock, reggae and jazz with lashings of fun.

## NIMBIN BOWLO



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### What's On in April?

- **Sunday 7th** – Club Visit: Mermaid Beachcombers
- **Sunday 14th** – Club Visit: South Tweed Trippers
- **Sunday 21st** – Club Visit: Cobaki Cobbers
- **MardiGrass** – Social Bowls, Pot Trivia Saturday night
- **Open Mike** – Wednesday 10 & 24
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### April Gigs

Thursday 4th	6pm	Bo Jenkins
Friday 5th	7.30pm	Monster Guitars
Saturday 6th	6pm	Caravana Sun
Thursday 11th	6pm	Surf Report
Friday 12th	7.30pm	Bourbon & Ink
Saturday 13th	5pm	TBA
Sunday 14th	5pm	Lauren Dent
Thursday 18th	6.30pm	Ian Rowe
Friday 19th	7.30pm	Run Dos Run
Saturday 20th	6pm	TBA
Sunday 21st	4pm	Gavin Doniger
Thursday 25th	6pm	Brent Calcutt
Friday 26th	7.30pm	Romaniacs
Saturday 27th	6pm	TBA
Sunday 28th	5pm	Tom Sullivan

All Gigs are Free of Charge

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## Blue Knob Farmer's Market



by Jim Arachne

In the late 1920's the people near Blue Knob got together to finance and build a local hall, which opened in 1930 and like many country halls of the time it became a popular hub for dances, parties, celebrations, lectures and meetings. The hall was also used as a polling booth for state and federal elections.

However, commercial cinema, radio, TV and easier transport all gave people so many other things to do with their time that, by the 1970s, fewer and fewer people were using the hall and by the 1980's it had fallen into disrepair.

But the hall fortune's turned. In 2000 a group of local artists and craftspeople got together and began extensive renovations to the hall. In 2004 their work saw the Blue Knob Hall artist-run gallery and cafe officially opened. Six years later another initiative from locals established the now thriving Blue Knob Farmer's Market in the grounds of the gallery. The old-but-new hall has once again become an important social and cultural hub!

However, ~200 people visiting the site every week means lots of wear and tear and maintenance costs. So on Sunday 28th April from 10am 'til 2pm, there's a fundraising trash and treasure for the hall (see below).

### Events at Blue Knob Market for April

#### ♦ Saturday 6th April 12.30pm – Biogas Group get-together

On Sat 16 March a local Biogas Group formed with the aim of building one or more working Biogas units. There was lots of ideas, discussion, sketches and information sharing. On Sat 6 April we'll be examining a small prototype and talking about trialing a more ambitious unit.

#### ♦ Saturday 13th April, "Inspiraling" is playing on the workshop verandah.

This local band plays mostly original music with a laid-back and uplifting feel. For more info check out Inspiraling on Facebook.

#### ♦ Saturday 20th April, 10am – Soil Testing, Stuart McConville

Simple home tests and an inexpensive pH test kit can tell us many useful things about our soil. Stuart will show us some hands-on soil testing by taking soil samples from around the Market site to determine basics such as; structure, texture, clay content, soil profiles, pH etc. Does your soil need lime? Is it a clay, sandy or loamy soil? What's its water holding capacity? What irrigation rates best suit your soil? Get down and dirty with your soil!

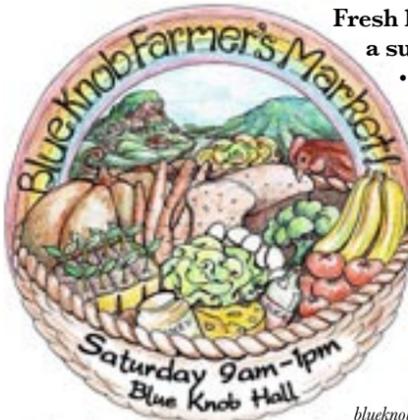
Stuart owns and runs a small pecan and garlic farm while also running a consultancy business, "Pooh Solutions", designing on-site composting toilets, water re-usage, and disposal systems.

#### ♦ Sunday 28th April 10am-2pm. Fundraising Trash & Treasure for the hall

Do you have some quality trash & treasure items you could donate to help this hall fundraiser? Or would you like to run a T&T stall yourself (there'll be a small fee)? There'll be music, sausage sizzle, cakes, a raffle, auction and lots of fun!

Please ring Jenny on 0488-009-808 for more details about having a stall, donating goods etc.

*The market runs Saturdays, rain, hail or shine, 8.30am-12noon, corner of Blue Knob and Lillian Rock Roads, 8km from Nimbin in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.*



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## Beekeeping news

by James Creagh

The bees have been as busy as in the past few weeks. They are catching up after a very wet rainy season, they know winter is on its way and they need to start stocking up.

Recently several local beekeepers have noticed swarming behaviour during the early afternoon. Generally, swarming (when a new queen is hatched and the old one leaves the hives with around half the workers to start a new hive) occurs before midday. If they look like they are swarming after lunch, chances are that it's the maiden flights of a new generation of worker bees. We have had several weeks of better weather recently so nectar and pollen has been more available to the workers. This would have induced the queen to start laying more eggs and by now they have hatched and at the stage of flying.

But there is still a chance that they could still be swarming in the afternoon so it's worth checking. The bees will usually cluster in a bush, tree or fence close to the hive until they find themselves a permanent home.

### Raw and unfiltered honey

I am often asked about 'raw' and 'unfiltered' honey. Supermarket honey is usually pasteurized, heated to 70 degrees Celsius or more, followed by rapid cooling and filtering so that it looks cleaner and smoother and more appealing on the shelf. Pasteurisation

kills any yeast cell in the honey, preventing any chance of fermentation, and reduces the speed of crystallization of the honey. On the downside, when honey is heated, its delicate aromas, yeast and enzymes, which are responsible for activating vitamins and minerals in the body system are partially destroyed. Hence, raw honey is more nutritious, more digestible and better tasting than honey that has undergone heat and filtering treatment.

Raw honey contains all the good things that the bees get from the flower – all the live enzymes, vitamins and trace minerals. Raw honey also has a lower glycemic index (GI of 38 versus 65 for supermarket honey).

Supermarket honey is filtered under pressure with a pump. These filters are about 50 microns and remove the pollen. Pollen particles are between 1/2 micron and 200 microns in diameter.

I strain my honey with a stainless steel 600 microns filter (similar to a fly screen) as it is efficient at removing wax and the occasional bee body parts but allows pollen to pass through.

### Virgin Beekeepers

After much delay because of the wet weather, 14 bee boxes have returned from Grafton with bees inside, which are settling in at the farms of the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers' members.

Thanks to Alan from Nmbngee



Bee working on Passionfruit flower, Tutti Fruitti Farm, Lillian Rock

Community and John from Coffee Camp for helping set up hives for new beekeepers in the local area.

### Swarms

The swarming season is still current. Should you sight one please let us know ASAP and we can collect it. Contact Bayleigh on 0413-976-342.

### Next meeting

Next meeting of Nimbin Natural Beekeepers will be on the 7th April starting at 10am. Feel welcome to join the get together if you are interested in learning more about bees or are an experienced beekeeper. All ages and all level of experience welcome. Bring your boxes if they need working on. Please bring a plate for lunch to share. If you have a bee suit, bring that too, as we'll be opening hives. For more info contact [jamescreagh@hotmail.com](mailto:jamescreagh@hotmail.com)

# Shearwater abuzz over hives

Children from Shearwater Primary School are buzzing with excitement at a permanent observation European beehive into their classroom, plus a Langstroth and two Top Bar Kenya hives in the schoolyard.

The observation hive allows the students to truly discover the wonderful world of the honey bee and observe every aspect of hive life through two sheets of safety glass.

A native beehive also arrived at the school this week, and recently the children received an introduction to beekeeping. A practical beekeeping workshop for adults will be offered at school over two weekends on May – 11th/12th, 25th/26th – with beekeeper Ben Laybutt (details below).

The observation hive will live in Sally Davison's Class Four, where the bees can freely access the outdoor world through a clear tube. Sally was the initiator of this project last year, when she engaged her students in a beekeeping workshop as part of the Class Three farming curriculum.

This activity reflects the school's philosophy of children engaging in study through a living curriculum rich in imagination and hands-on activities, and in this way developing a healthy relationship with the world around them.



8-year old class 3 student Berry Agam Rom holding a beehive frame during a beekeeping workshop at Shearwater School.

The bees will also assist in the school garden and help local farmers with pollination of their agricultural crops as bees fly up to five kilometres searching for pollen and nectar.

As part of their study children are also working with bees in Kenyan Top Bar hives. This style of hive was originally developed to facilitate beekeeping in remote villagers where people needed to work with organic practices and minimal equipment for beekeeping. It is a favourite of Biodynamic beekeepers because it allows the bees to fully activate all of their natural instincts, which in turn improves the health of the hive.

These Kenyan Top bar Hives are available from the school, complete with a viewing window, for \$440.

The children are also ready to collect swarms from the local community in order to build up their apiary. Please call the school if a swarm is sighted.

Funds to start the bee program were raised from the screening of the film Queen of the Sun in spring last year. The film highlights the plight of the honey bee in America and Europe, and raises questions about conventional beekeeping practices and the effects of large monocultures on bee health.

In the Practical Beekeeping workshop, participants will learn to build Langstroth or Top Bar Kenyan hive box and frames, add foundation, practice extraction, handle bees, manage disease, registration, legislation and organic practices.

Materials are supplied for both hives.

Cost for a Langstroth hive and tuition \$320. Cost for a Top Bar Hive with viewing window and tuition \$500. Bees are not supplied. For bookings phone (02) 6684-3223 or email: [information@shearwater.nsw.edu.au](mailto:information@shearwater.nsw.edu.au)

All payments for the practical course are received at the front office. Any schools interested in starting up a beekeeping program are welcome to contact Shearwater for assistance.



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# HEMP HEADLINES

## NSW Inquiry - Use of cannabis for medical purposes [parliament.nsw.gov.au]

The NSW inquiry into the safety and efficacy of cannabis for medical purposes received 122 submissions, with more than two-thirds of them supporting easing restrictions on cannabis for medical use. The inquiry held public hearings on 11 and 18 March. Doctors, medical researchers and cancer advocacy groups want the state government to legalise the use of medical marijuana, saying it is an effective treatment for pain including the side effects of chemotherapy. Those supporting legalising marijuana for medical use in NSW include respected bodies such as the University Centre for Rural Health, North Coast (UCRH), Cancer Voices NSW, the Australian Medical Association (AMA), the Australian Drug Foundation, and the

Cancer Council of NSW. Representatives from the HEMP Party and Mullaways Medical Cannabis spoke at the public hearing on 11th March and the transcripts from both days are available on the web.

## UN Report Highlights Abuse as 'Drug Treatment' [Human Rights Watch]

The UN special rapporteur on torture, Juan Mendez, says that people identified as drug users are held without due process in government-run detention centres in Vietnam, China, Cambodia, and Lao PDR where they face serious abuse – including physical and sexual violence and forced labour – all in the name of 'rehabilitation'.

## How online 'likes' reveal your politics, sexuality and drug use [The Age]

Social psychologists have studied Facebook user's 'likes' and found they reveal a

startlingly accurate picture of personality traits including sexual orientation, political leanings and drug use. Scientists from the University of Cambridge studied the Facebook 'likes' of more than 58,000 Americans, who, as well as giving the researchers permission to analyse their online profiles, provided demographic details and sat for psychometric tests. When they entered the data into a mathematical model they found it could accurately pick a drug user in 65 per cent of cases.

## Mick Palmer: I can no longer ignore the evidence on drugs [SMH]

"As a 33-year police practitioner who was commissioner of the Australian Federal Police during the 'tough on drugs' period, I fully understand the concerns of those who argue there is no reason to reconsider drug policy and I shared many of them until recent years. My police experience, in both the state/territory and federal jurisdictions, together

with some 15 months practising at the private bar as a defence barrister and several years experience in the drug and alcohol fields, has convinced me that I was wrong."

## The respectable drug-taker [The Age]

Illicit drugs are widely viewed with fear and loathing. The stereotypes are perpetuated by the headline-grabbing horrors of diseased, drug-addled addicts roaming the streets. However, the reality is that most people taking illicit drugs do so recreationally and without severe consequences, albeit the inherent risk. The Global Drug Survey, conducted this year in Australia in partnership with Fairfax Media, paints a picture of the mainstream drug user, one largely ignored by our focus on the harms, and crime, associated with drugs. Older, more educated and well-off respondents were far less likely to have suffered the negative effects of health, social problems or law enforcement.

## Choose weed or speed, says Unda

### STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

In an extraordinary farewell speech at the Annual Undacuva and Informers Ball, in Perth this year, the notoriously tough WA Operations manager shocked the crowd by announcing 'weed as the coppers' best friend'.

Half the room including him were sloshed and the truth started to seriously slide sideways and escape. Despite all that, there was a sudden silence when he said it. Everyone respected this retiring narc and waited for the explanation.

"Since when did someone high on weed attack any of you? Do stoners rob places, or brawl, or riot? No. They turn into dreamers and dopes. Harmless hippies may be a threat to the economy but not to the peace we are supposed to be keeping."

He had their attention now. "I've been more than 40 years in the Force and make no mistake I've beaten up my share of stoned hippies. Getting high is not the problem, it's the profits from the weed that cause the trouble."

He went on, fired up. "U and I's know the trade better than anyone. Where do the profits go? Into powders and pills, that's what I see. Time to separate the markets. Let the stoners have their weed and there will be a lot less demand for speed. Weed or

speed? Weed or speed? Tell me which you prefer to police?"

The old hardnose was as astonished as everyone else when he got a standing ovation as we all realised the truth in what he said. Us insiders can see the trends, and the trend is more violence, more guns, more ice, more trouble. Weed or speed, weed or speed. Such an easy choice really.

Back home I visited Pipe's camp, knowing the harvest had begun and the Boss wanted an idea of how the season finished. For weeks, Pipe's girls have been heading into the hills every morning to pick old leaves and the little bottom buds hardly worth smoking. They return to camp laden with sacks which are promptly emptied into four old enamel baths with fires smouldering unda them. Reminded me of the hot oil vats over the fortress gates our ancestors poured down on invaders. These baths simmer day and night, only stopping to be drained off every couple of days to be refilled with fresh oil and leaf.

"Might as well not waste any of this precious medicine," says Pipe, who drops off cans of the oil to aged care homes all along the east coast as far south as Sydney. "Sleeping medicine, as they like to call it."

Apparently there is some concern on how to explain the dramatic change in sleep



patterns and drop in other medicine use at the homes.

Bloody statistics, you can't hide from them. Like alcohol. What to do with alcohol, which 'wins' every stat these days? Biggest trouble maker, biggest cause of death and violence, health expense and sickness. Even the Boss agrees, these days alcohol culture is an embarrassment.

Working Undacuva is full of surprises you can never predict, like you are panning for gold and find a diamond. Visiting Pipe's camp, where there's plenty of loose chatter around the campfire of simmering oil, is a goldmine for an unda. I learnt the endless rain was no coincidence. Notice how it slowed right down once Metgasco quit?

Apparently the anti-fracking raindance troupe searched out some secrets from the aboriginal elders.

"Become the rain" seemed to be the core of the message.

I saw a couple of the women still painted with white ochre spots after days up in the hills dancing and drumming up the rain to assist the Doubtful Creek blockade.

Now they've mastered it, Pipe wants some help growing the crop.

## MardiGrass forums

A big year has just passed in cannabis law reform with two states in the USA legalizing marijuana for recreational enjoyment, and in Australia high profile doctors, public servants, business people, academics, ex-politicians and ex-law enforcers have come together to promote alternatives to prohibition via the Australia21 initiative.

And another massive year is underway. In 2013, the NSW parliament has convened an inquiry into the use of cannabis for medical purposes, while the Federal election will see not only the Australian HEMP Party running candidates for the Senate but also the emergence of another single issue party, Drug Law Reform Australia.

Join pragmatic visionaries and solipsistic psychonauts at the 2013 Mardi Grass Mind Candy Community Forums and Talks all happening in the Nimbin Town Hall over the weekend. Come debate, discuss and enjoy the occasional stoned rave as well as share your ideas on the burning issues surrounding our favourite plant ally.

### Saturday 4th May

#### • Enlightened Activism: 12.30 - 2.30pm

How to be an effective campaigner and activist for cannabis law reform? How to coordinate plans among different drug law reform groups for future action?

Facilitator: Aidan Ricketts [Author *The Activist's Handbook*] with Bill Bush, Steve Bolt, Cate Faerhmann, Deb Felton, John Jiggins, Jim Moylan, Fiona Patten, Matt Reilly, Alex Wodak.

A host of organizations and individuals have been arguing for an end to prohibition, or other changes to drug policy, some for decades. Besides the focused Australian HEMP party, other parties serious about drug law reform include the Greens, the Australian Sex Party and Pirate Party Australia, as well as a new single-issue party that has emerged in 2013, Drug Law Reform Australia. This forum will cover experiences and approaches to drug law reform, with discussions towards resolutions or ideas for coordinating our energy and resources for future action.

#### • Imagining Nimbin after weed is legal: 2.30 - 4pm

Scribe-Reporters include Miss Guidance, Sandra Heilpern, Mark Heinrich, Ivan, Erik van Keulen, Neil Pike.

It's 2023 in our magnificent land of Oz and cannabis in all its delightful forms is legal – for recreation, medicine, industry and food – and undoubtedly many other uses as well. Come tap your ganja green slippers and time travel into the great-unknown future to explore via a big fun open discussion what life would be like after weed is legal.

#### • Cannabis as an Entheogen: 6 - 7pm

Speakers: Annie, Ivan, Neil Pike, Nell, Dr Des Tramacchi

Psychoactive plants and substances that promote a sense of the spiritual element of human life are known as entheogens. Is Cannabis an entheogen? Do some stoners get more out of their weed than others?

While there are many ways to use Cannabis, this session explores the spiritual context, including: getting "out of it" by "putting into it", the merits of intention and ritual in optimising the stone-zone, and Marijuana and institutionalised religions such as Sadhus or Rastafarian, as well as more recent Cannabis Churches.

### Sunday 5th May

#### • Is it Medication Time? Cannabis Medicine in Australia in 2013: 12.30 - 1.30pm

Facilitator: Steve Bolt with Tony, Mark Heinrich, Dr Andrew Katelaris, Matt Walker.

Medical marijuana has transformed drug politics in the United States. The NSW Parliament is seriously examining the efficacy and safety of using cannabis for medical purposes; if and how cannabis should be supplied for medical use; and the legal implications and issues concerning the use of cannabis for medical purposes. If Cannabis is a medicine, does it follow that the same rules and processes apply as for the use of insulin or penicillin, or should regulation allow for self-medication? Should regulation restrict access to medicinal marijuana to pharmaceutical products consumed in nasal sprays, tablet or other forms? Just a few of the issues to be covered during medication time.

**WOULD YOU VOTE FOR...**

**HIM, HER or HEMP?**

Authorised by Janet Mealy, 11 Fine Street, North Lismore, 2010, on behalf of the HEMP Party.

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