



THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

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Bob Brown visit inspires region

Bob Brown accompanied by lead NSW Greens Senate candidate Cate Faerhmann and local Greens candidates, Dawn Walker and Desley Banks, spoke to a large passionate crowd at Mullumbimby at the end of June.

He was introduced by Byron Mayor Simon Richardson, who described him as "a person who had achieved so much with grace."

Bob Brown talked about working for Sea Shepherd and said that he loved working for them and protecting our warm-blooded mammal cousins in Antarctica.

The Greens are saying we need to live with this planet and all its creatures. "This will take activism." Bob said, "I'll be Green till the last breath I draw."

Bob emphasised the importance in this election of ensuring Tony Abbott does not get control of both houses of Parliament. He outlined the importance of supporting Greens in both the Lower and Upper Houses.

Bob Brown explained that with Adam Bandt currently the only Lower House Green in Federal Parliament, it would be a step forward to have another Green like Dawn Walker (Richmond candidate) or Desley Banks (Page candidate), elected in the Lower House to second important motions for debate like climate change, CSG, fairer banking laws, Newstart and protection of Australia's precious natural wonders like the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage rainforests.

"For a while, I was the only Green in parliament," Bob said, "but now there's ten of us representing every state in Australia, and 1.7 million people voted Green in the last Federal election."

He said that there were such good Green candidates here in the Northern Rivers. "Cate Faerhmann will be a voice for integrity in the



Cate Faerhmann and Desley Banks with Bob Brown at Mullumbimby Civic Centre

Senate," he said.

Cate said, "In this Federal election it is considered that the final seat in NSW for the Senate will go to one of three groups: Pauline Hanson, The Shooters and Fishers Party, or The Greens. This is crucial as to who holds the final balance of power in the Senate. Imagine an Abbott led Government backed by Pauline Hanson or the Shooters and Fishers. It's in your hands."

"The environment, particularly the future of our shared natural heritage in our national parks, now presents a choice for voters to make between the track record of Liberal-National governments and the Greens, the only party that has the numbers in the Senate to prevent further damage."

Greens candidate for Page, Desley Banks, spoke of the the gasfield free

communities initiative, a grassroots democracy process to survey local communities house by house and road by road, a process which has built bridges in our communities with farmers, environmentalists, rural residents, all coming together, people from all political persuasions united to protect our region..

"Our objective is to have the Northern Rivers region declared a CSG and unconventional gas free zone, and for all current licenses and leases that allow such activities to be revoked," she said. "Our precious water and food security must be protected."

"I am fighting as the Greens candidate to build an Abbott proof fence, to get Cate elected in Senate and promote the development of a renewable energy industry not just on the Northern Rivers but all

around Australia.

"I have been teaching in the public education system for 25 years and I see more respect and better behaviour in my K/1 class than I see from our politicians in Canberra."

Dawn Walker, Greens candidate for Richmond, spoke of the great thrill to be with Bob and Cate on the 20th anniversary of the Byron Greens.

She said, "I have just come from Kingscliff where people gave Bob Brown a standing ovation as he came and left the local hall. They are ready for change."

"I really believe more and more people are looking for answers about our future and that of our children and you here today have never given up in getting the Greens message out there."

"I want to thank you for that."



NAIDOC in Nimbin

NAIDOC Week is a chance to come together as a community to create a space where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage can be celebrated in all its colour and diversity.

Nimbin will be celebrating NAIDOC Week on Friday 5th July, from 10.30am until 2pm in Allsopp Park.

After a Welcome to Country there is a great line up of musicians including Monkey & the Fish (and friends) and Black Boi (Tom Avery).

The day will also include a fashion parade, with label 'Wild Honey' being showcased by local beauties, and for the kids there will be a jumping castle available.

The Nimbin Soup Kitchen will also be set up in the park.

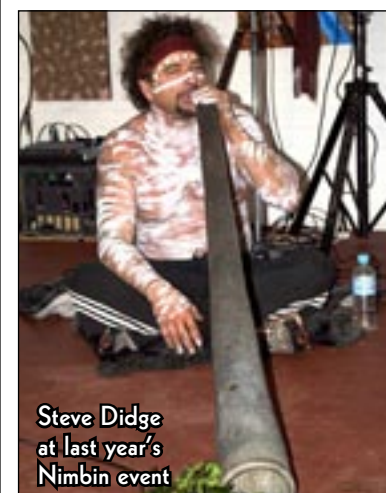
Other NAIDOC Week events in Lismore include:

July 6, 11am to 1.30pm: Cushion Concert at the Conservatorium

July 8, 10am: March through the CBD and flag raising at TAFE.

July 11, 10am to 2.30pm: Sports and Fun Day at Kadina Park.

July 12, 6.30pm: Miss NAIDOC 2013 at Lismore Workers Club.



Steve Didge at last year's Nimbin event



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