



Heidi Glover having no problems

Summerland pays out on ATM provider

The Summerland Credit Union is reviewing ATM access arrangements for its members pending contractual negotiations with rediATM and Cuscal Ltd to provide an improved service to Nimbin.

The review coincides with an article in January's *NGT* complaining about outages and availability of cash at the Cullen St ATM machine

Summerland spokesperson Sally-Anne Cumine said the credit union has contracted a third party to provide ATM services through the rediATM network, which is owned and operated by Cuscal Ltd.

"We are fully aware of a number of issues relating to the rediATM in Nimbin, including it regularly being out of order or not stocked with sufficient cash to cope with increased demand during holidays," Sally-Anne said.

"Summerland Credit Union, as the long time community financial services provider to the people of the Nimbin region, has always provided high levels of service," she said.

"We too are extremely disappointed with the service and outages and have discussed the impacts on our members – including the magnitude of such impacts on small regional towns – on numerous occasions with the ATM owner."

"As fellow users of the ATM, Summerland Credit Union sympathises with anyone who has been affected by the outages."

She said, despite extensive contact with Cuscal the servicing, maintenance and stocking of the ATM has not met Summerland's expectations.

Attempts by the *NGT* to contact Cuscal were unanswered.

Canteen needs helpers



Simone, Marie, Lisa and Lyndal in the canteen

Looking for a warm, dry and air-conditioned space – with its own cappuccino machine – to hang out in during this wet and humid weather? Nimbin Central School is urgently seeking volunteers to work in its canteen.

Canteen manager Simone Barnes said volunteer numbers were low this year and the situation had become worse because a regular volunteer will be unavailable for a month from 13th March.

"We've had a few volunteers come forward after an appeal for help on the Nimbin Hook Ups Facebook page, but we'd certainly welcome some more," she said.

"Ideally we'd like enough to be able to set up a roster where people would be required for just a few hours one day a fortnight.

"Canteen hours are inside school hours so it's easy to drop the kids off before and pick them up after canteen duty, as well as do a few things up town."

Simone said people registered with Centrelink were able to fulfil obligations by volunteering at the canteen.

In addition to canteen volunteers, K/1/2 teacher Gail Pearce is on the lookout for parents to work a couple of hours a day, assisting with things such as reading groups.

Contact Simone (canteen) or Gail (reading) on 6689-1355 during school hours.

Wireless rolls up north

Communities across Ballina, Byron and Clarence Valley shires, Kyogle Council, the City of Lismore, Richmond Valley Council and Tweed Shire should have access to fast, reliable and affordable broadband by the end of 2015.

The Minister for Broadband, Senator Stephen Conroy, the Member for Richmond, Justine Elliot, and the Member for Page, Janelle Saffin, have all welcomed plans to connect Northern Rivers communities to the National Broadband Network.

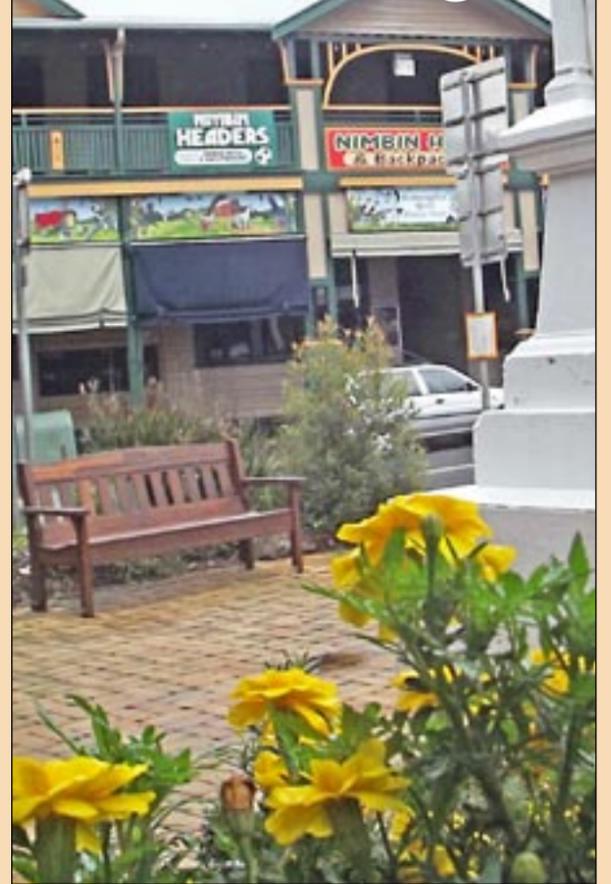
"This is fantastic news for the people living in these communities," Ms Elliot said. "The NBN will change

the way we live and work here and I am very excited by the progress we'll see on the ground in the next 12 months."

Ms Saffin said this was an exciting time for families and businesses wanting to get on-line in regional and rural Australia. "Like water and electricity, the Gillard Government sees fast broadband as an essential utility that should be made available to all Australians," she said.

A uniform national wholesale price policy means people living in these areas will pay the same prices for NBN services as people in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Remembrance seat blessing



by Paul Le Bars

Everyone in the Nimbin community and beyond is invited to attend the blessing of the Nimbin District Memorial Seat of Remembrance on Saturday 16th March at 11am.

The new seat and plaque were purchased with community donations and built by Adrian Williamson to withstand the elements. It has been designed to take name plates to honour returned servicemen who have now passed on.

The Seat of Remembrance is intended as a place of reflection and remembrance for those who fought and for those peacekeepers around the world, under the Australian Flag and (in South Africa's Boer War) under the Union Jack.

It will be dedicated to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, to those who returned to Nimbin physically and mentally scarred, and to the families of these valleys who endured the hardships and loss during all conflicts to preserve the right to protest, free speech and social inclusion.

In WWI they were all volunteers, and men of all ages from these valleys joined the long march to fight in Gallipoli and beyond. In WWII they fought with the Allies in Europe and Africa, and deployed to repel the Japanese from invading the Top End of Australia. In Vietnam they fought the impossible war and became regarded as the most proficient soldiers in the world.

Today they are skilled peacekeepers around the world and act in arduous terrain and in highly dangerous environments. This Seat of Remembrance is a token of our respect to them.

"Lest We Forget"

The service will be performed and blessed by Pastor Jim Gallagher and attended by Lismore deputy mayor Simon Clough.

Name plaques for the seat can be obtained from Summerland Trophies-Star Court Arcade, Lismore. Contact me on 6689-0396 or: paullebars@gmail.com before planning to place a plaque.

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Uki pub blaze



Photo: Paul Robertson, courtesy My Daily News

Northern Rivers drinkers are mourning the loss of one of the best watering holes in the district, the iconic Mt Warning Hotel in Uki, and they're not the only ones.

The pub "exploded into flames" at about 11pm on Saturday 23rd February, and gutted the entire upper floor before being brought under control. Fire investigators

say the fire started in an electricity box on a wooden internal staircase.

The heritage-listed hotel, which was due to celebrate its centenary in March next year, had a colourful history going back to the old cedar getting days and the once large local dairy industry,

One famous brawl took place there in the 1980s



Be there ... and be bare!

Photo: C-Mac

It's that time of year again when you can strip off, paint peace slogans all over ya bod and ride down the street as free as a bird to the adulation of cheering onlookers.

Yes, the naked bike ride is back on 9th and 10th March in Nimbin, The Channon and Byron Bay – reminding us all of the vulnerability of pedestrians and cyclists on our roads, of how silly clothes really are, of the beauty of our skin and of how much it craves to be caressed by the breeze and kissed by the sun...

The ride is "as bare as you dare" – meaning totally naked or clothed, depending on what you're comfortable with.

A special focus this year's ride is supporting the message that Coal Seam Gas represents a risk to the natural world on which we and the local flora and fauna depend for our health. These threats come from risks to groundwater from extraction techniques and surface impacts due to CSG activities.

The ride in Nimbin takes place on Saturday March 9th – meet at Peace Park (The skate park) at 10am. More ride information on Facebook: World Naked Bike Ride: Nimbin / Byron Bay.

Bring your bike (obviously) and a helmet. The organisers supply body paint, but more is always welcome – natural paints please.

Contact Mijimberi for more info at: mijimberi@yahoo.com



Photo: Greg Soward

between conservative locals and new lifestylers who had formed a local branch of the Australian Marijuana Party and were campaigning at the pub.

Since then, the hotel has increasingly become a valuable community hub, favoured by all sections of the diverse Northern Rivers community as well as the many travellers on Kyogle Road.

While insurance assessors contemplate the fate of the ruins, publican Geoff Brown plans to have a temporary bar set up soon.

Aquarius flashmob

Ever wanted to be a part of a crowd in a musical like *Hair* or *Stardust*? Now is your big chance.

As part of the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Aquarius festival and the founding of Tuntable Falls Co-op, the Nimbin Dance Collective is organising a series of flash mob dance performances using the Aquarius theme music.

The first performance will occur somewhere over the Nimbin Mardigrass weekend with a further four performances planned over the course of the year.

Meeting every Monday in the Nimbin Dance studio at 5.30pm to rehearse and plan our performances, all interested parties are welcome, and no dance experience is necessary.

Please bring a gold-coin donation to cover studio costs.

Anger and grief as allies

Feeling overwhelmed by Coal Seam Gas? Wondering what one person can do? Worried that it might all be too late? Feeling paralysed or helpless, hopeless or despairing?

John Seed (pictured) will hold a benefit workshop to support Lock The Gate at Mullumbimby on March 17, from 10am to 5pm.

It will be a day of deep ecology processes, generating renewal, enthusiasm, vision and empowerment to protect the beauty of the North Coast.

We are conditioned to repress and avoid feelings and expressions of grief, fear and anger. This takes a heavy toll and causes burn-out and the burden of quiet despair.

We need to draw on these feelings for energy, not fight them. In this workshop John Seed will create a safe container of fellowship to invite these banished feelings back into our lives, and explore their potential for wisdom, energy and empowerment.

John Seed has participated in direct actions in defense of nature since Terania Creek in 1979. He founded the Rainforest Information



Centre in 1981 and initiated nature conservation projects from PNG to India, from Ecuador to Borneo.

Since 1986, alongside his activism, he has facilitated hundreds of deep ecology and despair and empowerment workshops all over the world. In 1995 he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his work.

Cost of the workshop is \$100, with concessions available. For bookings phone John on 0410-370-632 or email: johnseed1@ozemail.com.au

Djanbung backs brave blockade

by Robyn Francis

The students and staff at Djanbung Gardens are hosting a special equinox event on Saturday March 23rd to support those on the CSG frontline, to show heartfelt appreciation of their courage and commitment and to raise funds to help their action.

This is a chance for those who've been unable to join the blockade to show solidarity and celebrate the power of the community.

The line-up for the evening includes Diana Anaid (pictured), Pagan Love Cult and EarthSong, plus DJs OPM (Melbourne) and Valfa (Germany). The event will start with a sunset Celtic ceremony for the equinox, Restoring the Balance, then party on until late.

Chef Melian Fertl will be cooking up a feast of local and organic foods for vegetarians and ethical



omnivores. Melian has recently returned to Nimbin after nearly 10 years in Melbourne as chef at venues including Neil Perry's famous Spice Temple.

Recommended door donation for the evening is \$15 or \$10 concession, or what you can afford. All takings will go to support the anti-CSG campaign.

Saying it with flowers

by Maree, Richard and Silvia

Welcome back, and welcome to the new students and families of Tuntable Falls Preschool. We are looking forward to a fun-filled and adventurous year ahead. The children have always really enjoyed picking flowers around the school and bringing them from home to fill vases to decorate the preschool. We have often discussed how flowers make us feel, and their importance in creating a beautiful space.

This inspired us to begin building our long-dreamed-about flower garden to complement the established herb/vege garden.

We have been talking with children about the types of flowers they would like to grow. Amber said: "I have heaps of marigolds at home," and that afternoon her mum brought in some for



us to plant. We have looked at pictures of flowers for inspiration, and discussed what is in season, what is native and what is a weed.

As part of our environmental education, we are being mindful of keeping the flower garden contained, so that non-native flowers don't spread into the forest.

We have been very busy making garden beds and preparing the soil. The children have enjoyed digging in the beds, finding worms

and unusual bugs. The wet weather has been perfect, making soil soft enough for children to dig. We are just about ready for planting – woo hoo!

Come and have a look at our beautiful preschool (phone 6689-1179). We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for children aged two and up. We currently have vacancies, and there is a playgroup on Tuesdays from 10am until noon. All welcome.

A very wet start to the school year has not hindered the Tuntable Falls Primary School community in getting back into routine.

For parents and teachers, this has meant preparing the school grounds, classrooms and vegie garden for term time. Children always look forward to returning to school after a long summer break, and return with enthusiasm and excitement – a whole year older!

This year has begun a little differently at Tuntable Falls with the introduction of the Kindy Class. This has meant building work in the holidays to convert our old library into a classroom, parents working hard to get the new library ready and teachers designing the room and buying furniture and supplies for the new classroom.

Student numbers have swelled due to the nine little people happily occupying this new space. The classroom has a glass exterior door looking out into a rainforest area and a small creek that runs only



Kindy kids step up

in heavy rain periods. This has proved to be a wonderful outdoor learning area for them.

The class has spent this settling-in period learning the routines of the day as well as spending hours at creative play to help them get to know each other and work well in their new group dynamic. We have also celebrated the Chinese New Year with baking, craft, art, dressing-up and stories.

The Kindies are running the school garden worm farm

program. They have prepared an old bath and now anticipate the arrival of the worms with great excitement.

Life for a new kindy child is demanding and exciting as they learn the expectations of their new school lives. This group of nine has made wonderful headway into "big school" at Tuntable Falls Primary School.

Enquiries for new enrolments can be made to Laurel at the school office on 6689-1423.



Young swimmers shine

Neem, Zaydn and Jay-J

by Pixie the Builder

The Small Schools' Swimming Carnival was recently held at the Lismore Memorial Pool, with Nimbin Central School competing against Coffee Camp, Goolmangar, Blakebrook, Jiggi, Larnook and Caniaba schools.

There were plenty of smiles along with fun and competitive action. Three under-11 boys from Nimbin Central were up to the task and advanced through to the Zone swimming carnival.

They were Jay-J Lacher in the 50-m breaststroke, Neem Solomon in the 50-m

butterfly and Zaydn Ayres in the 100-m freestyle, 50-m freestyle, 50-m backstroke and 50-m butterfly.

All the boys are good mates, and are excited about their next swimming venture.

The day was a great day for all involved, with Nimbin taking the last event of the day, the Li-Lo novelty event. Six swimmers from each school were in the water and one jockey on board – always a fun way to finish the day.

The combined trophy of the day went to Coffee Camp School, with Nimbin Central two points behind in second place.



Fun on rainy days

Mereki, Riley, Kaia, Maximus and Cameron enjoying their picnic lunch in the dark.

The children at the Nimbin Early Learning Centre haven't had much time outside in the past few weeks with all the wet weather, but sometimes

a bit of water from above can be an inspiration to come up with great ideas.

We had an inside picnic in the dark, we learnt how to do meditation (little ones are fantastic at following the relaxation and breathing instructions) and we found lots of time to rediscover inside activities like puzzles, books, board and card games.

One of the things the children love is our light frame, and they sketch on it, trace around shapes and templates, make beautiful pictures with pebbles, leaves, fabric and ribbons, and stack the differently coloured windows on it to see them mix.

We have limited places left for babies aged from six months to two years, and places for two- to five-year-olds. Come in on Tuesdays or Fridays between 9.30 and 11.30am to take part in playgroups and see how your child could benefit.

We're located in Gumnut House at the Community Centre Complex at 81 Cullen Street, phone 6689-0142.



Powerful moments

Ivy and Obelia enjoy communicating through dance during their day at Nimbin Preschool.



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From the mouths of babes

by Cawongla Playhouse staff and kids

For this article, we asked the children, "What does Cawongla Playhouse mean to you?"

Eliza said, "It's a playhouse where you get to play and they look after you." We asked, "Who looks after you?" and the choral response was: "You, the teachers!"

We asked the children to tell us what they think is important for teachers to know and do at our preschool.

Eliza said, "They need kind and gentle hands and manners." Georgia thinks teachers need to "take care of all the toys". Fergus said, "Know where the ice packs are and the band aids and ring our mums when we need them."

Isabella and Jada need their teachers to be good at pushing the swing, and listening.



Breanna explores homes as she build a shelter for her pets, and we ask, what do homes need if you use a wheelchair or crutches?

We moved onto talking about what we might like to learn about at preschool this term and there were many wonderful suggestions. Fergus wants to learn more about dinosaurs and Scotland, Jazmine wants to learn more about Goorialla – the rainbow serpent (a character in one of our books), Eliza knows that Mt. Warning is pointy ...but why is it?

Elijah wants to know what the Earth is made from, Jada

wants to teach her friends how to swing by themselves and Isabella wants to read more books.

Marley and Natasha wonder who lived here before us, and want to learn about welcoming ceremonies.

If you would like to help us with our learning, or are interested in joining our Cawongla Playhouse family, give us a call on 6633-7167.

We are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm.

Nimbin Family Centre and the Nimbin Preschool will be celebrating Book Week 2013 on Friday 12th April.

The celebration will begin with a book character parade from the Nimbin Bakery, across the pedestrian crossing and into the Community Centre.

Children and their parents will be encouraged to dress as their favourite book characters. The parade will start around 10am; meet at the front of the Nimbin Bakery.

Local businesses are invited to take part in the celebration by decorating their shop windows. Representatives of Lismore Library will also be attending, with activities to encourage early literacy development.

Activities and displays, including a second-



Book Week

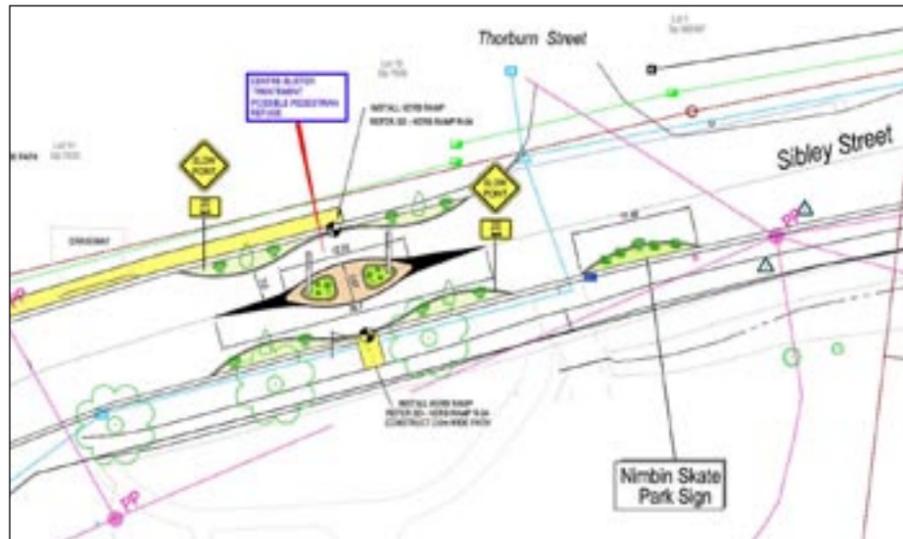
Story-time magic enjoyed by Claire, her daughter Kaara and friend Sophie.

hand book stall, will be held between the Nimbin Family Centre and Nimbin Early Learning Centre from 11am.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin community

Sibley Street traffic calming



Lismore City Council has completed a number of possible designs for traffic calming in Sibley Street in order to ensure a safe flow of traffic.

There are three possible designs at this stage, one of which is pictured here. An application will be made as part of Council's annual budget process later this year for funding. If successful, Council will then construct a design of this nature.

Nimbin Advisory Group members wanted

Following the resignation of two Nimbin Advisory Group members, Council is calling for expressions of interest to fill these positions.

This process will commence on 4 March and close 22 March 2013.

Application forms which detail the scope of the group's role will be available at Nimbin Post Office, the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, Tunttable Falls shop and on Council's website.

For further information phone Annie McWilliam on 1300 87 83 87.

Nimbin Physical Activity Centre update

Council is currently undertaking a second round of stakeholder consultations. These consultations will inform the current review of services being delivered from the Nimbin Physical Centre.

A more detailed report on these consultations will be provided in the April newsletter.

As part of this review, Council is hoping to identify a Nimbin community group that is interested and has the capacity to operate as an auspice body for this project.

For further information on this role phone Annie McWilliam on 1300 87 83 87.

Rural forum dates 2013 – correction

The dates printed in last month's *Nimbin GoodTimes* regarding Rural Contact Forums were incorrect. Many apologies for this.

The Nimbin Rural Contact Forum will be held on Monday, November 18.

Outdoor Dining Policy adopted

Lismore City Council has adopted an Outdoor Dining Policy that is relevant for anyone who is providing or planning to conduct outdoor dining in Lismore, Nimbin and surrounds.

The Policy ensures Council and dining establishments are covered by the appropriate insurances and anyone who has not told Council about outdoor dining activities should do so in order to establish a licence agreement. This is an easy process that Council staff can assist with and everyone providing outdoor dining or wishing to do so is asked to phone Land and Property Officer Anne-Marie Fahey.

Businesses in Nimbin have been notified by mail but if for any reason you were not made aware please phone Ms Fahey to begin the process. Businesses that do not have a licence agreement with Council will be asked to cease outdoor dining.

Upcoming Nimbin roadworks

Roadworks on Nimbin Road adjacent to High Street (beginning near the 50 speed sign as you enter the village) are scheduled to commence in March.

The planned roadworks include a 400m road reconstruction and widening with an upgrade of the existing drainage structure. The provision of a new footpath is also included in the scope of works from High Street to Cecil Street.

There will be traffic control in place and short time delays coming in and out of the village. Work is expected to take eight weeks, weather permitting.

This project is jointly funded by the Regional Road Repair Program and Lismore City Council.

Corporate Centre 43 Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH 2480

CBD Office 55 Magellan Street, LISMORE 2480

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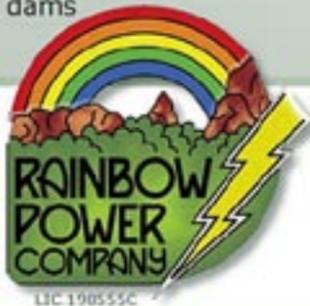
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Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, the last Wednesday of the month. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

Footpath policy

Warning bells are going off and I see broken golden eggs with the introduction of a Footpath Dining Policy in Nimbin. It's the same policy as Lismore has and probably the same one Sydney has. Probably designed by insurance companies too, who have made impossible regulations. Is that to ensure minimal payouts, or what? The first two metres in front of shopfronts have to be clear of everything, and 600 mm in from the kerb as well. Footpath diners can then apply to rent square metres of what's left (\$25

per metre per year). If this continues as I suspect, benches will have to be moved, entrances altered and footpath stalls or blankets will be a thing of the past. What to do with the Museum Kombi poking its nose out is keeping me awake at night.

Nimbin's street can definitely hold you up at times, but perhaps that's a good thing. Are we alternative or not? I think we should ask to be exempt from these laws, which have already sent some cafe owners broke in Byron Bay. Can the Chamber of Commerce help?

It's only a matter of time before Lismore Council will have a ranger here more days than not, collecting revenue from overtime parking and footpath diners creeping over the line. Everyone needs a licence or a permit, and I just know with the dreamy hippies there'll be plenty of non-compliance. Probably enough income to create a JOB, the most sacred thing of all to this strange economics driven culture we are trying to be alternative to.

Maybe the Chamber could ask for an exemption of sorts as our footpath, and the creatures who inhabit it, is probably the main attraction we have for visitors.

Michael Balderstone,
Nimbin Museum

Recognition an important marker

I, along with many Australians, welcome the passage of the Act of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as a major stepping stone towards a referendum on the Constitutional Recognition of Australia's First Peoples.

The legislation recognises the 'unique and special place' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and is designed to give momentum for constitutional recognition. This was passed on the 5th Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations – a very poignant time, and signalling that Australia has moved one step closer to recognising its first people.

Julia Gillard called this lack of recognition 'the unhealed wound that even now lies open at the heart of our national story' and Tony Abbott said, 'this stain is on our soul'. It is rare to see both parties unite on any issue.

The passage through the lower house of an Act of Recognition was met by applause from the public galleries and from Aboriginal leaders. However, it is important to remember that the consequences of the action taken against the Stolen Generations continues to affect Aboriginal communities today, and will continue to do so into the future.

I believe it is important that we enhance our commitment to assist those who continue to suffer as a result of the policies of previous governments. No gesture speaks more deeply to the healing of our nation's fabric than amending our nation's founding charter.

We welcome the passage of the Act of Recognition but the hard yards in achieving substantive constitutional reform are just starting.

Julie Leete
Interrelate

Justine and CSG

The local federal member, Justine Elliot has officially recognised the dangers of CSG mining for our water, land and community health. Yet her focus is on petitioning the NSW State Government when immediate protections could be achieved from action in Canberra.

Practical measures that could be taken include: amending the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) to include water as a key trigger requiring Commonwealth oversight; using the Export Controls Act 1982 to put in place high thresholds of environmental assessment as a condition of export; increasing federal royalties to ensure Australians get a fair return from the profits of this industry; and including fugitive emissions in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) so that the pollution from CSG methane emissions is paid for by the gas companies.

Will our local member push for real action on CSG mining through implementation of practical measures from the Federal Government before the next election?

Dawn Walker
Tweed Shire

CSG policy

I would like to applaud Justine Elliott for her personal stance on CSG, but I am wondering why she stops, and only confines her concerns to the Northern Rivers?

It is the State and Federal governments that hope to make a financial killing by selling the gas overseas.

Justine would do well to work with Janelle Saffin and take her concerns to the Federal level. If mothers don't want it in the Northern Rivers, why would mothers anywhere else want it? It really is a Federal issue and every community must work together to stop this insidious industry.

Lets face it, the evidence is out there despite what the gas industry try to deny. The evidence is out there despite the cover-ups by all government levels.

We the people have proven

- In Memorium - Colin "Col" James

The sad news of Colin James' passing on 13th February 2013 evoked fond memories of an exceptional man for many in Nimbin and the Northern Rivers. Activist, architect, planner, humanitarian, teacher and mentor, Col touched the lives of many thousands through his work for social justice and sustainability.

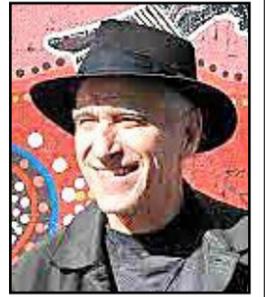


Photo: SMH

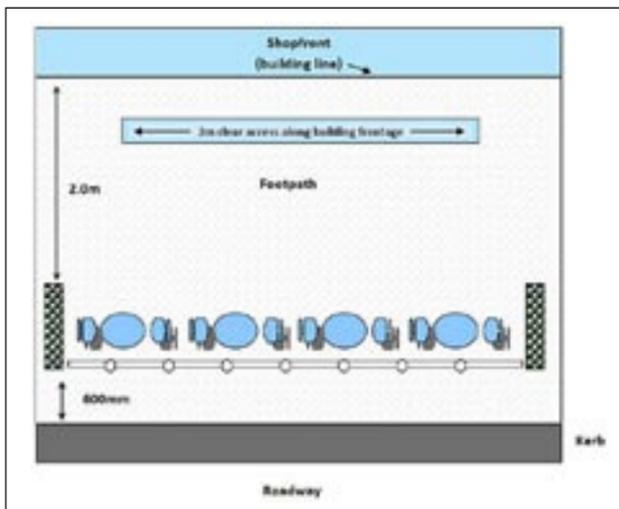
Paul Joseph recalls: "Forty years ago, when AUS said they would not fund land to host the Aquarius Festival event, Col James, Sydney University architect lecturer, suggested we recycle the town of Nimbin. This suggestion crystallised our intentions and dreams and led to the relationship with the then ghost town. Col James' life was an incredible history of contribution to Australian community culture. I celebrate him and am grateful for his life's work."

Col was an important mentor to the intentional community movement and Rural Resettlement Task Force in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and produced the book Low Cost Country Home Building, which had a big impact on the alternative building movement in NSW. The book was not only written as a resource for home-builders, but also to guide building inspectors in approving the structural integrity of building techniques – such as pole construction, earth brick and stone walling – that weren't covered in the building codes.

Col was involved in establishing The Block in Redfern and worked tirelessly for Aboriginal and community housing and housing for the homeless and disadvantaged for more than 30 years. He provided innovative solutions in partnership with people and community. His work has been acknowledged through numerous prestigious awards for his services to architecture and the community, yet he was always humble, down-to-earth and a man of exceptional vision and integrity. He remained committed to empowering others for a more just world.

I first met Col as a young hippy in the early '70s and later worked with him in the Aboriginal Housing Unit in the '80s. He was a friend and inspiration to many of my colleagues and friends. His legacy lives on through the great work he achieved and the people whose lives he touched with his humour, wisdom and dedication.

Robyn Francis



Lismore Council's footpath seating placement requirements

whatever
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10th March
9am – 3pm

Band of the Day:
Doot

Busker: Siobhan Coccorran

Charity of the Day:
Tunable Hall & Landcare

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

Enquiries: 6688-6433

About us

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NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen St, Nimbin

Next deadline:
Wednesday 27th March

Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Geoff Provest asking what his stance is, and to date have not had a reply. Disgusting!

These two men have watched on as community after community have said "NO COAL SEAM GAS!" They have sat back and said nothing as these same people have had to go out and physically stop the trucks and man the blockades, all the while risking arrest, so a law that could, and should be changed, is used against them.

These same men will want our votes in a few months time and they will promise us all we want to hear, but people are waking up. We now look at what politicians have done, to see what they will do in the future.

Provest, George and Page have done nothing to stop CSG in the past, should we believe they will in the future?

Shame on all three of them!

Julie McNamara,
 Kyogle

When coercion fails

In any authoritarian system of social organization, such as the one we live in where there is government, there are always two systems of social organization. There is the one coerced by government that is dependent on hierarchical structures where there are some winners and a mass of losers, and there is the one carried out by the people to make things better despite this other system.

In regard to the 10,000-year experiment with civilizations, we are standing at the point where it becomes noticeable to everyone that the emperor has no clothes.

Responsibility, which is necessarily the accompaniment of any attempt at authority, can be clearly seen to be not part of government.

The NSW and other state

governments, are allowing the poisoning of the underground water of Australia, and the heir-in-waiting at a federal level, Tony Abbot, without scientific justification, will repeal the carbon tax which has always been too little, probably too late as regards climate change, if he wins election. Barbarians are inside the city gates! Journalist, Paul Sheehan warned of this before the new millenium in his book, *Among the Barbarians: The Dividing of Australia*.

So there cannot be dependence on guvment. The other means of social organization is not a program for political change but an act of self-determination. One has to do it all oneself, dovetailing with the talents and abilities of those surrounding oneself. It is not alien. It is a part of the humanness that humans all but forgot in the civilization process.

Geoff Dawe,
 Byrrill Creek

Medical marijuana

The recent bill in the state parliament concerning medical marijuana was a good thing because it encouraged people's stories to be told. We, the people, were offered the opportunity to talk about the ways in which we felt assisted or helped by the beneficial aspects of marijuana use.

I am someone who has benefited enormously from the help of marijuana. When I had my first child many years ago, I had chronic post-natal depression and anxiety for 18 months. During that time my baby appeared to have very bad colic and cried a lot of the time and didn't sleep well. For me it was a nightmare experience. Not only did I feel terrible and stressed and had little sleep but I also felt I was an awful parent

and my child was suffering because I was so hopeless. During my pregnancy I gave up cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana and after she was born I gave up tea and sugar and anything else that might give her colic but it did no good.

After that 18 months I had one marijuana joint and I felt myself relax and then I relaxed some more and then even more and I realised that I was so stressed that I was in a constant state of high tension. My baby was suffering by being near to someone who was always tense. Once I realised that I needed to relax and stop worrying I got better very quickly. My baby stopped crying and started sleeping better so I got some sleep. Then it all got better and the worst experience of my life was finally over. When I had my second child I didn't suffer again because I knew how important it was for me to relax and not worry and she was fine.

Marijuana is an effective relaxant and can promote feelings of positive well-being and safety. Of course it doesn't always work like this for everyone but I believe that depends a lot on the situation of those taking it. If it wasn't illegal it would be easier to observe and research its use so its beneficial aspects could be seen. This life can get very difficult and sometimes we all need help to relax and stop worrying. I believe that marijuana has anti-depressant and anti-anxiety functions if used in the right way. Why deprive ourselves of the benefits and cause suffering to many by keeping it illegal? It makes no sense to me.

Beth Shelley
 Booerie Creek

Remembering Bill

Funny how life is. It took the tragic loss of my old neighbour Bill Guy for me to re-connect with many old friends and the strong sense of community I left behind when I moved from Nimbin back in 1997.

Bill was the essence of what so many people were trying to do in Nimbin I reckon. He welcomed us onto the hill at Echo as strangers and we quickly became close friends, our lives intertwined while we struggled and developed

out little bit of paradise. He taught me that persistence and stoicism can overcome many things, and I felt humbled by my easy life compared to what he had endured.

He knew many things – about many things – a great source of wisdom on issues I'd never considered before coming to the hill. We raised our families together, shared laughter, tears, frustrations and joy. I remember with enduring fondness the many, many days we spent on his veranda with Lindy and Chloe and my mob, bathed in the golden green light that only exists at Tunttable Falls. It was a magical, formative time.

Between Bill and his family and all the other wonderful people I met over my short five years in the area, my life changed forever. I don't reckon there's a day that goes by that I don't recall a valuable lesson I learnt from you all. I do get back to Nimbin occasionally and just love the feeling of serenity and harmony that envelopes me. Life is not all sweet smelling roses, but never forget what a wonderful place you all live in.

I last visited Bill around a year ago after a perilous drive up the hill, drenched to the skin, muddy, covered in leaches and happy as shit. We had coffee and chatted, introducing him to my youngest son Raffael who was four at the time. Raffael is a pretty gregarious young lad but often shy when it comes to meeting new adults but when he met Bill with his endearing smile and gentle soul, he immediately connected with him. Bill was like an instant friend for Raffael and he often asked how he was; it was a telling moment that described Bill's nature to a tee. I don't have the heart to tell him he's gone yet.

We all pass on in time, but Bill's tragic loss has cut deep with me, despite my disconnection, reducing me to tears on many days after I heard the news. I can only imagine the sense of loss for those who were so much closer to him. Bill has left a wonderful, indelible mark on the landscape of life for so many, a final generous gesture that we should all treasure.

Nigel Morris
 Director, Solar Business Services

Notices

House for rent

Small, charming, self-sufficient home set on 2 acres at beautiful Billen Cliffs village in Larnook. Solar power, tank water. No dogs or cats. \$200 p/w. Contact Glen on 0432-534-020.

Lost glasses

Pair of women's reading glasses in silver hard case lost in Nimbin. If found, please contact Vicki on 6679-9130.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Next meeting Friday 8th March. Meetings are held in the Conference Room at the Nimbin Hospital at 10am on the 2nd Friday of each month. New members always welcome. (April meeting 12/04/13)

Nimbin Hospital garage sale

Saturday 9th March, 8am-2pm at the hospital. Donations welcome, ie clothing, bric-a-brac, homemade jams/relish/cakes etc. Also volunteers needed. If interested, contact Viola on 6688-1401.

Tunttable Falls Early Childhood Centre

AGM Thursday 21st March, 9am at Tunttable Falls Co-op Shop. All welcome.

Northern Rivers Greens

Meetings are now held on the 3rd Monday of the month. The next meeting is on Monday 18th March at the Lismore Workers Club from 6pm to 8pm.

Nimbin IWD celebration

International Womens Day, Friday 8th March, 4pm. Women and children (boys under 12 welcome) will be walking/dancing from Nimbin township to the Bush Theatre (bring drums and banners), then music, singing, dance, poetry, story-telling and both Kerriane Cox in person, and her movie, *Defining Moments*. Also a presentation from the Nimbin branch of Youth Leading the World, and wood-fired pizza.

Ukelele group

The Nimbin Ukulele Peaceful Protestors group meets again – 3.30pm Thursdays at the Comskool room in the Community Centre. Come along and have some fun playing some great songs – bring your ukulele if you have one, but most importantly, bring yourself. There will be spare ukes available. All welcome.

Embroiderers' Guild

Meets 9.30am to 2.30pm every 1st and 3rd Wednesday and every 3rd Saturday of each month in the function room at the Red Dove centre, Keen Street, Lismore. This guild is a wonderful opportunity for embroiderers of all styles and ability levels to meet and share with others who love this textile art form. Embroiderers from all surrounding towns and villages are welcome. Phone 6663-5308.

Seniors' films and fun

Wednesday 20th March, 10am to 3pm at Nimbin Town Hall. A Seniors Week celebration, seniors, family and friends welcome. Showing films by and about seniors, with lunch and a sing-a-long. Lots of fun and games for all. Contact Rose Cubis, Nimbin Aged Care on 6689-1709.

Free listings

If you've got a important Notice, jot it down in as few words as possible (under 30 is good), and if we think it will be of interest to our readers, we'll run it for you for free.

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