



# THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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Christmas Bush Edition

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## The not-so-silly season approaches

by Bob Dooley

As the end of the year approaches, the traditional celebrations, parties and family gatherings are being planned, but this year those celebrations are likely to be rather muted.

Retailers report a slow start to the season, and sales are forecast to be down this year as consumers watch their pennies. With electricity charges continuing to rise, elaborate power-hungry Christmas lighting displays are becoming a thing of the past, replaced by a few strings of economical LED lights.

The mantra of 'reduce, re-use, recycle' has also had an effect on gifts, cards and wrapping paper, with hand-made presents, decoupage cards and brown paper bags all making a comeback.

Christmas parties are turning into dour affairs, with the police adding sophisticated drug-testing to their armoury for the annual RBT blitz, making life both dull and nerve-racking for the nominated drivers.

But more than anything, there's a pervasive doom-and-gloom outlook that



is tainting the festivities. The Abbott government's procession of broken promises / commitments / assurances; the prospect of higher taxes and charges, new co-payments and fees; and the dismantling of infrastructure such as Medicare and the ABC have left a legacy this year.

Thanks to President Obama's speech in Brisbane, the realisation that climate change is a major problem for the

world, and that Australia is out of step with other OECD countries in addressing it, is not comforting. Nor is the uncomfortable heat with its lethal effects on wildlife, or the prospect of a disastrous fire season.

Of major concern is our over-reliance on fossil fuels, and the influence of giant mining companies on our economy and parliaments, which has seen a turnaround in investment in large-scale renewable projects.

There's more depressing news from overseas: beheadings, terrorist attacks and mass abductions in the middle east have sent our armed forces into Syria, with more surely to follow, and the fearful prospect of random IS attacks on our shores.

And then there's the ebola epidemic. Gawd. It's enough to turn a man to drink! Except that option is limited...

The only salvation is to use this holiday period to get back to our most sustaining values: family, community, generosity, hospitality, continuity; eschewing the tinselly spend-fest for more core priorities.

So, go ahead, have a good one anyway.

## 23rd Dolphin Awards reward Nimbin talents



Nimbin identities Tim Tonkin (pictured) and Jeff Joubert took out the award for Best Music Video for 'Love at First Sniff' at the 23rd annual NCEIA Dolphin Music Awards, held at Ballina.

The Awards this year comprised 21 categories and over 60 judges including member of such iconic bands as INXS, Moving Pictures, The Choirboys and Weddings Parties Anything.

Each category was appraised by three to five judges, and feedback from the judges was that the entries received this year were of such a high standard that there was often only one or two points separating finalists from overall winners.

The awards this year were streamed live to air on River-FM and the internet.

The Dolphin Awards are pieced together by a dedicated group of volunteers for the purpose of showcasing, encouraging, celebrating, supporting and mentoring musicians of the Northern Rivers region.

The year 2013 to 2014 saw musicians at the forefront of a great and powerful social movement. It was a movement in which the people rose up against what was vastly perceived as corpo-political sociopathic intent against our environment. That movement became known and will be remembered as The Bentley Blockade.

The Dolphin Awards are dependent upon the good will of sponsors. These are not the easiest of socio-economic times as we are all well aware, so on behalf of the board and the winners, our heartfelt gratitude to all of the sponsors who have again risen to the occasion.

## WIRES to the rescue

High over a deep swimming hole at Rosebank, this beautiful goshawk (pictured) was snagged on a fishing lure.

To reach the site, the rescuer walked a few hundred metres downstream carrying the rescue gear, at times wading waist deep with car keys and phone high and dry on his head in his cap.

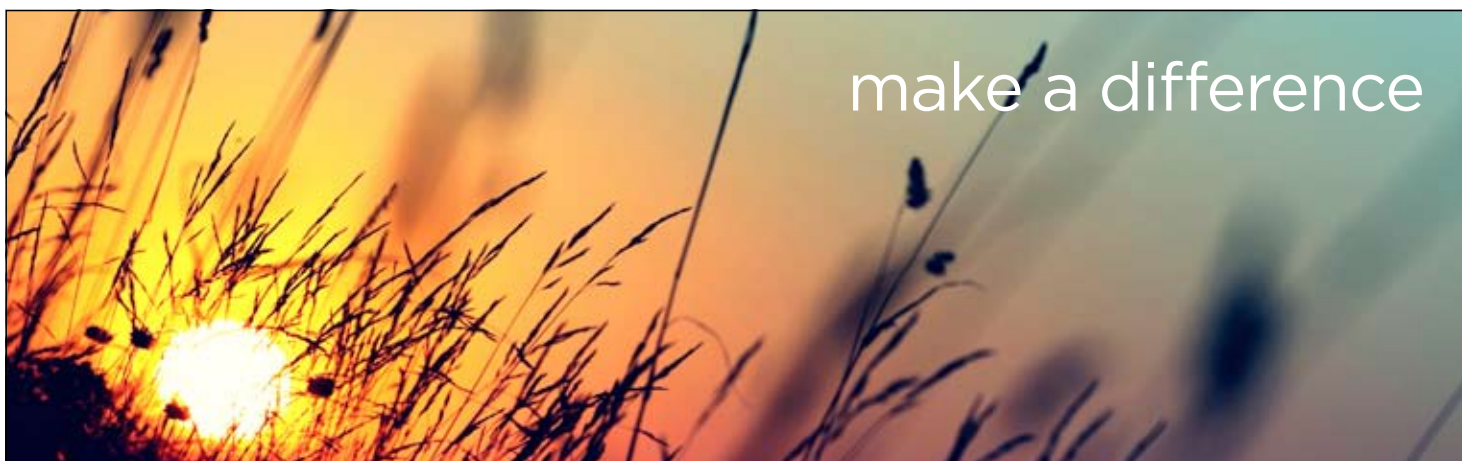
It was a very tricky situation. There was no straightforward way to reach the branch but ingenuity and team work prevailed. Jamil, the member of the public who discovered the situation, stood on top of a two metre step ladder which he managed to secure on the pond floor. Two extendable poles were tied together with a knife secured on the end to cut the line while a snake bag was held ready to catch the bird before it hit the water.

After many failed attempts and

exhaustive efforts, Jamil finally managed to jag the line and the hawk landed close to the opposite bank. He quickly swam to its aid and floated back to the rescuer on the other side of the creek with the bird cupped in both hands.

The bird had a fishing hook deeply embedded in its wing and was taken immediately to the WIRES raptor specialist. With the help of a local vet, the barb was removed and it appears that the bird will make a full recovery.

An all-volunteer organisation, WIRES relies heavily on the generosity of caring people for support as it is a charity, not a government service. All donations \$2 and over are tax deductible. WIRES give basic training courses three times during the year. If you are interested, call the 24-hour hotline on 6628-1898 or go to: <http://wiresnr.org/Helping.html>



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