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POLICING POT PROHIBITION

by Sophia Hoeben

Human rights are being eroded away on a daily basis, and throughout the world people are suffering the effects of totalitarian regimes. Nimbin has always been a microcosmic forerunner of what is happening in the wider world. As an energy centre we experience a lively country and the lively action it engenders. Energies attract energies – both positive and negative. Nimbin has a proven record as a force for the betterment of society and at every level promotes the natural and organic. The police, the foot soldiers of the establishment, reflect the will of the government of the day, and things are getting ever more right-wing since the unfortunate arrival of Tony Abbott as prime minister.

People in their thousands have come to Nimbin from all over the world, not just to buy marijuana but to settle and become a part of an energy that is not destroying the world, but enhancing it. After three decades of observation as a member of the Nimbin community, I have noticed a great deal of difference between alternative thinkers and those who work for the bucks in a destructive system in conflict with their inner values. The values most hippies hold are simple and as ethically true today as they were in the sixties and seventies. We cherished the Earth over the mutually assured destruction (MAD) syndrome affecting the leaders of the world back then. Nothing changed really except for the speed at which we are racing towards



10 people were charged after police allegedly found 4.5 kilograms of cannabis and 138 plants during a raid involving over 70 police officers as part of Operation O'leary, which will continue with sniffer dog patrols. "We expect there will be further arrests and further charges," Inspector Cameron Lindsay told media. "We know that it won't be long before it's business as usual, but we're not going to go away," said Commander Greg Martin, who later sent 20 officers to disrupt Nimbin's monthly markets.

• More stories and comment p14

extinction. We as a community have stood strong together over the years against all sorts of authorities who were mostly insensitive to anything different or just morally corrupt. We knew then and still do now that the 'bad guys' usually have the upper hand in their never-ending quest to crush our human rights as well as our planet. The odds are always against us on a physical level, after all brute force often wins the day. However, on a spiritual level we have the energies of the Earth and our ancestors behind us. We also hold the powerful

energy of love. Loving the Earth enough to protect Her, loving each other enough to defend each other and stand strong against the tyrannical despots, the type that would send 70 police in to raid our village after the burning down of its heart. On that day, friends were taken away for nothing more than having money in their pocket, businesses were once again invaded and goods taken. A well-known Aboriginal elder was twice pulled over by police when leaving town. Initially they breathalysed him, then when he was a kilometre down the road they pulled him up

again, he asked them if the harassment was because he was a Koori. They allegedly replied, "Your car is smoking, just like you lot from Nimbin." They found his car to be roadworthy, however. Everyone I know is sick and tired of being targets for these macho aggressive invaders who don't follow the regulations set out for police under the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act (LEPRA). If you have a look at that act you can find out what rights you have left:

1. You do not need to give your name and address until you have been

2. If you are a minor or disabled you have the right to have someone present;
3. If you run a business you have the right to see a search warrant; and
4. Police must give you their name, rank and station before arresting, searching or questioning you.

There is real strength and safety in numbers. This has been proven many times. Most minor marijuana cases are thrown out of court by intelligent magistrates due to insufficient evidence. If we are to challenge this nanny state law of prohibiting a herb which has now been

classified as a medicine by saner societies, we need to regain our communal strength, our sense of camaraderie and most of all, stand up for what are our basic human rights. Let us not allow our human rights to be constantly flogged at the altar of capitalism forever. To let our strength and unity be shown, hundreds if not thousands of us will congregate for the Nimbin Inaugural Smoke-In on Saturday 11th October at high noon, outside the Hemp Embassy, and stage a protest against police victimisation of our village. Let's stop cowering, people.

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