

Zee Book Exchange

We sell and exchange:

- Old and New Books
- CDs and DVDs
- Jigsaws, Games and Toys

Nimbin Community Centre, Room A2
9am – 5pm Monday - Friday,
10am – 2pm Saturday



Four cosy one-bedroom timber cabins nestled on 33 acres of natural bushland with abundant wildlife, within easy walking distance of local restaurants and shops.

Overnight or Weekly – Wheelchair Access

TERETRE Retreat – NIMBIN

5 High Street, Nimbin NSW 2480 AUSTRALIA
Ph: (02) 66 891 908 - Mob: 0427 891 626
Email: info@teretre.com.au - Web Site www.teretre.com.au

NIMBIN NUMBERS

- Book-keeping – Mobile service avail.
- Tax Preparation
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged BAS Agent: 98777003
- Tax returns lodged for Centrelink recipients

Phone Jayne 0457-497-011
Email: jayne@nimbintax.com.au

Nimbin Tattoo Studio

+61 02 6689 1993
Nimbin Australia

info@nimbintattoo.com
Find us on Facebook

Shop 2/46 Cullen Street, Nimbin

Nimbin Farmer's Market

Wednesdays 3 - 6 pm

TROYS

Driveway & Landscaping Supplies

- Sand & Gravels • Garden Soils & Mulches
- Decorative Pebbles • Truck Hire
- Delivery to all areas

Mon-Fri 7:00am to 5:00pm • Sat 7:00am to 1:00pm
187 Casino Street, South Lismore
Phone **6622 8890**

Stop the chop

by Dawn Walker
NSW Greens Upper House candidate



Green Scene

A personal experience of the 10/50 code. The small village of Fingal Head on the northern NSW coast has the Tweed River on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other and is surrounded by rainforest. Some parts are original remnant littoral rainforest, which occurs where the rainforest meets the sea and is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

One of these original remnants was on a private allotment. The block was known locally as Jean's place; a nature lover and accomplished pianist. We have photos that show this stand of rainforest as a mature remnant in the 1930's; an old and mysterious rainforest full of vines, birds, possums, owls and many rare small bats including the tiny common blossom bats that are in fact endangered and not common at all. When Jean died the developers tried to subdivide the block but were always thwarted by the rainforest; protected by local, state and federal environmental laws.

However, within two weeks of the 10/50 code's introduction and only days after council had refused a DA on the site because of its impact on the critically endangered Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thicket, I received a call that the tree loppers had arrived on site. The chain saws were revved and before our eyes hundreds of square metres of critically endangered littoral rainforest were clear

elled. It took them 12 hours to do it but by the time they had finished every one of the hundred year-old trees was down. The thud as they hit the ground was sickening.

The police were called, council notified, the federal Department of Environment contacted – but nobody could stop it because the clearing was under the authority of the 10/50 Code of Vegetation Clearing, which was established under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (NSW) and commenced on 1 August 2014; known as the 10/50 Code.

This code allows property owners in 'clearing entitlement areas' to chop down any tree within 10m and any bush within 50m of a home. The code overrides tree protection orders, heritage listings for trees and local planning instruments yet there is no credible evidence that chopping these trees will reduce the likelihood of houses being lost to ember attacks. Some property owners are using the code to enhance views and development potential rather than for bushfire safety reasons.

An independent ecological report into

the Fingal Head clearing identified it as likely having a significant impact on an ecological community at serious risk of extinction. However the Coalition's federal environment minister is still refusing to take any action. As the NSW Government has made a botch of these laws and the federal minister has shown he also will not protect this critically endangered vegetation, the Greens are demanding that local communities be given the opportunity to opt-out from the code and become 10/50 free zones. In addition, environmental and heritage protections should be restored under the scheme and the code suspended until an independent review involving communities across NSW is initiated.

The Greens 'Give 10/50 the chop' campaign has been running since these laws came into effect and it was only the Greens MPs that voted against this awful legislation. The 10/50 code, much like the Coalition's 'shooting in National Parks' plan, is just another in a long line of attacks by the Liberals and Nationals on the natural environment. These special places that we all enjoy and that support the biodiversity that sustains us, continue to be sacrificed. The Greens recognise how important protecting these areas are and will continue to work with communities to preserve these places for generations to come.

Postscript: A few days after the clearing in Fingal Head, I walked the beach track along the back of the property and came face to face with a large barking owl sitting disorientated and confused on Jean's old clothes line. Her home, in the hollow of one of the old rainforest Tuckeroos was gone forever.

Cruel and unfair budget



by Justine Elliot
MP for Richmond

In the final week of Parliament in December I spoke about the Abbott Government's cruel and unfair budget:

"This matter of public importance relates to this Prime Minister and this government's many, many failures and also to its very unfair and cruel budget. In fact, here we are, months after the budget, still talking about how unfair and how cruel it is. It has been the government's year of broken promises and policy failures across a whole range of different issues. It has indeed impacted everyone across Australia but, in terms of the broken promises, these have been very severe for those in rural and regional Australia.

Before the election we had the Prime Minister and all the members of the Liberal and National parties out there, saying, 'There'll be no cuts, no new taxes—none of this will happen.' I know that in areas like mine, the North

Coast of New South Wales, we had those members of the National Party out there running around and saying that to everyone. That is why no-one trusts the National Party in my area now, because there they were, saying, 'No cuts; no new taxes,' and that is precisely what happened after they got into government.

And if we look at some of those measures, the really cruel and unfair measures, we see things like the GP tax, which is a tax on the sick and vulnerable. We see the \$100,000 university degrees stopping kids, particularly from regional and rural areas, getting to university. We see the petrol tax pushing up the cost of living. We see cuts to age pensions – how cruel is that? – robbing our older Australians of \$80 a week. We see cuts to family payments, cuts to schools and hospitals, cuts to the ABC.

And remember, before the election, we had the Prime Minister on the SBS news saying, 'No cuts to education, no cuts to health, no changes to pensions, no changes to the GST, no cuts to the ABC or SBS.' And since that time, what has the government done? They have cut more than \$500 million from the ABC and SBS. And of course for regional Australia this is indeed another betrayal by the National Party, because these cuts will be devastating to regional areas like mine on the New South Wales North Coast.

So, you can call it what you

like. You can call it a lie, you can call it a broken promise, you can call it deception, or you can call it an untruth. But one thing is very, very clear: this Prime Minister and the Liberal and National parties just cannot be trusted. That is the reality. And what do they do now? They lie about lying—it gets even worse. Let us have a look at another one of their massive broken promises, and that of course is their \$7 doctor tax. In this budget, the Abbott government's first budget, they essentially declared war on Medicare and universal health care, and I think that is one of the worst broken promises—again, particularly for regional and rural areas.

We have the doctor tax plus the PBS hike. It really is devastating, because introducing a \$7 GP tax for all patients will cost over \$1.4 billion to communities living outside of metropolitan areas. Indeed, Department of Health data shows that people in these regional and rural areas will be the hardest hit by the Abbott government's more than \$1 billion hike in PBS medicines. And the top 12 electorates that will pay for the highest out-of-pocket expenses for PBS medicines are in regional and rural areas; that is a fact. So, they are getting a double whammy: the cost of the GP tax and the PBS increases will increase total out-of-pocket costs to patients. It is unfair that those patients get charged out of pocket when they go to see the doctor—they are charged \$7—and then when they need to fill

their prescriptions or have scans or X-rays they also have those increases, and again when they go for blood tests. So, it will be particularly devastating for people in regional areas.

Let us move to the petrol tax, which is incredibly unfair—a harsh tax that will hit people in the regions.

People are incredibly angry about the petrol tax, just as they are about the \$100,000 degrees. A university degree should depend on hard work and good marks, not on your parents' bank balance. But what people tell me in regional areas like mine, the electorate of Richmond, is that it is just out of reach for their kids to be able to get to university.

That is what this government has done when it comes to their unfair and cruel budget—measures like the GP tax; \$100,000 for university degrees; the petrol tax; the cuts to age pensions, which is so incredibly unfair to our elderly Australians, those who have served our nation; and the cuts to family payments. You can look across any area and see these severe cuts that are impacting our community.

And now they are saying, 'We've got to reboot, reset.' That does not change the substance of what they have done, it does not change the cruelty and the unfairness of it. The problem is that they said one thing before the election and then did something else. That is why people do not trust them: because they did exactly the opposite when they got into government."

From the mayor's desk

Happy New Year to all the team at *GoodTimes* and to all your readers! I hope 2015 is a wonderful and hope-filled year for you and your community.

Like many I'm also hoping to see the sites of the Nimbin fire redefined in 2015 with a new centre of village life in some form rising from the bare ground. Nimbin has always been astoundingly resilient and purposeful and I have no doubt that whatever develops on these sites will be wonderful.

The New Year brings so much promise but first, I must report on a few of the items from the last Council meeting of 2014. For all details go to: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and click on Business Papers for the Agenda and the Minutes.

Rail trail

At the final Council meeting for 2014, Council reaffirmed its support for a rail trail along the disused Casino-Murwillumbah rail line.

In the week following the meeting, representatives of three of the four Councils along the line met with representatives of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail group to discuss the proposed Expression of Interest process that is expected to be commenced shortly.

There is a role for Councils in this process, and in the longer-

term governance of the trail but it has been made clear that the costs associated in the process of investigation, planning, design, construction and importantly, maintenance, cannot be expected to be met by local government.

Renewable energy master plan

Two of the most significant items on the December meeting agenda related to Council's progress towards our goal to be self-generating of our electricity needs from renewable sources by 2023.

The first is our staged renewable energy plan that was adopted by Council subject to funding through our annual 1 Year Plan process.

Farming the sun

The second initiative was also approved by Council. The resolution is to sign a Heads of Agreement (HoA) to develop costings, grid connection and business modelling for two community solar farms on Council owned sites.

As this HoA progresses, community investors will be sought to support the funding model and a report will come back to Council for further consideration.

Essential energy streetlights

Also on the topic of energy use and savings, Council supported Cr Simon Clough's motion to write to the supplier of our street lighting, Essential Energy, the Australian

Energy Regulator, the NSW Minister for the Environment and the Premier expressing concerns that Essential Energy does not appear to be committed to using LED technology in the short to medium term.

The apparent reluctance to move to more efficient and less costly LED lighting means that our Council continues to pay increasing costs for outdated technology.

New Year

My 2015 starts with events associated with the Under 12's cricket carnival to be held in Lismore from January 6-9.

This year, 20 teams from NSW and SE Queensland will be here and playing on various pitches throughout the city.

Australia Day

The official Council New Year starts with the Australia Day ceremony on January 26. This year's ceremony will see 39 new citizens welcomed to our community. We'll also present Lismore Australia Day awards in various categories for citizens who have contributed in wonderful ways to our community or who have achieved success in their chosen sporting fields.

Our Aboriginal community has embraced Australia Day and have supported my initiative to name an Aboriginal Citizen of the Year. This year, the award will be named after Aunty Debra Rhodes (name used

with family consent) who passed away suddenly in October just days after our first Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) meeting.

At our November meeting, the other members of the AAG suggested naming the award after Deb and I'm pleased to say that Deb's son Blake and mother Aunty Hazel are also supportive of this award in Deb's name. Deb had a long and distinguished career in the Commonwealth public service as well as in local community organisations.

Australia Day Ambassador

The guest speaker at this year's ceremony is Australia Day Ambassador Clyde Campbell, the grandson of Clyde Campbell, Mayor of Lismore for a decade from 1956.

Mayor Campbell was the signatory to our sister city relationship with Japan in 1963. His grandson, who still has links to this region, is a spokesperson for Parkinsons disease, having set up the Shake It Up Australia Foundation after being diagnosed with the disease two years ago.

All residents and visitors are welcome to the Australia Day ceremony at Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre on January 26 at 8.30am to hear our guest speaker, acknowledge our community volunteers and achievers and to welcome our new citizens.



by Cr Jenny Dowell

February meetings

Council will hold its first briefing for the year on Tuesday January 27 and the first formal meeting of the year on February 10 at 6pm in Chambers.

At this early stage some of the items for debate include the Draft Residential Development chapter of the Development Control Plan, the Review of our Market and Temporary Events Polices, the South Lismore Sewerage Treatment Plant proposed upgrade and the Four Year Plan 2013-17 update.

Nimbin Advisory Group

The first meeting of the NAG for 2015 will be on February 5 at 6pm.

Visit my own facebook page, email: Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au or phone 6625-0403.

Simon says...



by Cr Simon Clough,
Lismore City Council

So good to see some rain! The country is turning green so quickly, and it's such a vibrant colour.

Our final Council meeting of the year was quite momentous, as is often the case for a December meeting. Some of the highlights were:

1. The Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP). This plan has the goal to "self-generate all of Lismore City Council's electricity needs from renewable sources by 2023".

The REMP has the potential to put Lismore City Council at the forefront of energy efficiency and renewables in Australia. Councillors Bennett, Meineke and Scheibel voted against the plan.

2. The next stage is 'Farming

the Sun', a community solar farm project. This is an innovative community energy initiative that aims to result in renewable energy production by the Lismore community in line with Council's delivery of the Imagine Lismore 10-Year Plan Community Vision: Lismore Being a Model of Sustainability – to have Lismore recognised nationally and internationally as a centre for sustainable living.

The project requires the setting up of two private companies where the community invests to lend the money for two 99kW solar farms. Unfortunately, because of the uncertainty around the Renewable Energy Target created by the Federal Government, the project could not be done as one project. Once again Councillors Bennett, Meineke and Scheibel voted against the recommendation.

3. I put forward a motion that Council write to politicians and Essential Energy expressing our concern that Essential Energy was being very slow in the provision of LED street lighting. LEDs have the potential to save Council significant amounts of money and greenhouse gas emissions. Councillor Meineke opposed this motion.

4. The rail trail probably caused the most discussion of the whole meeting. Cr Ekins put forward a motion that proposed dual use of the rail corridor by trains and bikes etc. Councillor Bennett put forward a "bring back the train" motion which failed.

I have changed my position on this issue, having been a firm supporter of the rail coming back into use, possibly with a rail car. However, the complete lack of interest in rail by either major party has convinced me that pursuing that course is a waste of time.

Additionally, the rail misses out on two major population centres, Ballina and Tweed Heads. With 177 viaducts and much of the rail easement on the floodplain, I don't believe dual use is possible unless there is a pot of gold to regularly restore the rail trail after floods.

In the end, a motion to support the rail trail was endorsed, with Councillors

Bennett, Meineke and Marks dissenting.

Gasfield Free Northern Rivers is still awaiting the results of the judicial review on Metgasco's claims that it has been treated unfairly by the government. The results could be quite decisive about other unconventional gasfields in NSW in terms of the responsibilities for drillers to consult with communities.

I recently returned from Adelaide, where I ran a weekend training in non-violent action and strategy for 20 people from around the state. It's deeply shocking to hear of the plans of the mining companies and the state government to damage or destroy the 1% of SA which is arable land.

For example, the Coonawarra region, famous for its wine growing, is facing Beach Energy which is already doing exploratory drilling for shale gas. Apart from producing some of

the best wines in the world, Coonawarra is totally dependent on artesian water. But don't worry, the government and miners say, it's very different from CSG drilling, much safer.

I can't count the number of times I've been told in our area, "Don't worry all those films about gas from the US are about shale gas, CSG drilling is much safer!" As an older farmer said in *Fractured Country*: "You can tell when

they're lying because their lips are moving."

In the same vein, AGL, which has been fracking four wells in Gloucester, has been fined \$30,000 for dumping contaminated flow back water into the Hunter sewage system. (*Newcastle Herald*)

Wishing everyone a joyous and healthy New Year.

Contact Simon: phone 0428-886-217, email: simonclough@internode.on.net



Lismore Council gives its approval for rail trails – this one is in York County, USA. Photo courtesy americantrails.com



WILDLIFE RESCUE & IMMEDIATE CARE COURSE

21st & 22nd February 2015
Southern Cross University

This 2 day course will qualify you to become a member of WIREs by teaching you how to safely rescue and provide emergency care for injured and orphaned wildlife. There are other ways you can help, too.

Get involved ... join WIREs

For more information call our 24 hour emergency help line on
6628 1898
or visit our website
www.wiresnc.org



NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service

Chocolate Bouquets and Gift Baskets
Many colours. Made to order.
For all occasions.




For quality confectionery and chocolates
and friendly, good old-fashioned service, see Robin at

Chocolate Chip
Confectionery, Chocolates
& Tobacconist

135 Barker Street Casino
Phone 6662-3309





PINKERTONS
FOURGLASS JEWELLERS

DIAMOND RINGS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY

Family Business established 80 years.

126 BARKER STREET CASINO 2470 Phone: (02) 6662 1172 Fax: (02) 6662 2773 Email: pinkertonsjewellers@bigpond.com



CASINO ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INFORMATION • NETWORKING • EVENTS

Defending the Environment and Small Business
Locally-made produce: hemp oil, soap, candles, macadamia butter, honey, eggs and more

Promoting Sustainable Living

137 BARKER STREET CASINO
0457-123-943
Email: casinoenvirocentre@gmail.com

- FLOOR SANDING -
New & old floors, verandahs, decks




- Free quotes & advice
- Prompt service
- Quality work assured
- All areas serviced

Rob Clark ph 6632-3342 or 0410-016-694
ABN 93 105 831 192

ADVERTISE HERE
and be seen in **16,000 copies monthly** of



This size ad **FULL COLOUR**
from only **\$60** per month
Phone 6689 1148 nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Network proudly rewards you...

Rent 1, Get 1 FREE

NETWORK Video
My... Prime Entertainment Experts
www.networkvideo.com.au

Conditions Apply. Bring this coupon to the store:
122 Walker Street Casino

Happy New Year from everyone on the NNIC team

We are back up and running as usual as from Monday the 5th January 2015. Mondays-Fridays 10m-4pm. Emergency Relief vouchers Mon-Thursdays. Centrelink is open Mon-Fri 10am to 2.30pm.

Weather weirdness

At this time our thoughts are particularly with our friends and colleagues in Victoria and South Australia battling severe bushfires, while we here in here in Nimbin have received some welcome rain over the past two weeks amidst some heatwaves.

The rain on New Year's Eve at Kohinur Hall was, however, rather more than necessary. Apparently there are more heatwaves in store for us, so stay cool folks and remember to leave out water for the wildlife on hot days. If anyone living along Gungas/Andersons Roads behind the flying fox colony is willing to assist with the monitoring of the colony during hot weather, please email Nat: admin@nnic.org.au

Sibley Street January Challenge

With only \$4000 left to pay off the loan,

Nat has thrown down the gauntlet and offered to pay off the last \$1000 if all the rest of you can come up with the other \$3000 to match by 31st January.

If every reader of the *GoodTimes* threw in a mere \$10 each, we would have enough to also do Stage One of the development (and some). Support this great project. Donations can be made either via PayPal (see: www.sevenonsibley.com) or directly into the project's bank account:

A/C: 22290728 Nimbin Community Centre; BSB: 728-728 Summerland Credit Union. Key three letters for the target account: NIM

Please include your name in the reference. Write "anon" if you wish your donation to be confidential or else "public" if you are happy for your donation to be acknowledged down the track.

Nimbin Holiday Club

Fun stuff for 5-12 year olds during school holidays. Kicks off again on 7th January. See our website or contact NNIC for the program. Thanks again to the Nimbin Community School for allowing us to use their space for the program, and to Kylie Jurd our

wonderful Co-ordinator. (See the full program on page 31.)

Annual Community Xmas Lunch

Thanks a million to Gail and the Soup Kitchen gang for yet another fabulous Community Xmas Lunch. Around 280 people partook in the very impressive (as always) spread and the kids reported that Santa did the best job ever with the gifts this year. Onya Santa. Taking feedback on board. Thanks to everyone who came along. Thanks also to everyone who donated towards hampers and gifts.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals, and is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub.

Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to disadvantaged community members.

For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region, drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our Community Workers for referrals, support and assistance including material aid. If we can't help, we probably know who can.

New aged care staffer

by Noelle Lynden-Way, Community Representative, BUNK Quality & Safety C'ttee

The three MPS sites (Nimbin, Kyogle, Urbenville) have recently been joined by a new staff member, Nerida Adams, (pictured) in the position of clinical nurse consultant for residential aged care.

Nerida moved to the Northern Rivers ten years ago and was previously in the private sector in aged care and taught Bachelor of Health (Nursing) at the University of Newcastle.

She brings a wealth of expertise and experience to our facilities with post-graduate qualifications in gerontology, mental health, community health, holistic nursing, complementary medicine and dementia studies.

Nerida will be introducing person centred care principles to the residential aged care residents and families, ensuring that each person is the centre of all decisions, care and activities.

Nerida will provide clinical leadership to the staff at the three MPS sites and revamp many of their processes and paperwork, ensuring that they meet current standards and



evidence-based practices. If you have a relative in an MPS aged care unit, you will hopefully meet Nerida in the near future and be involved with her in improving the care they provide to the aged residents.

Community Consultation Committees

The Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) Community Consultation committees held their second meetings in late November. These committees were formed to provide a communication channel between the community, the local MPS facility and the Local Health District. Diverse membership is encouraged to reflect the unique makeup of each town that the MPS facilities service.

Next meetings are in early February.

Nimbin Hospital Info

Child immunisation clinic
For 0-5 year olds. Held second Tuesday of every month. Next Clinic 13th January. For appointments phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health)

Early childhood nurse
Every Tuesday. Phone 6620-7687 to make an appointment (through Lismore Community Centre).

Women's Health Nursing Service
Every 3rd Thursday of the month. Next clinic 15th January. For appointments phone 6688-1401.

Nimbin community nurses
Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy. Provision of palliative care in the home. Provide and co-ordinate aged care packages.

Free health checks
In front of the Neighbourhood Centre, every second Friday, run by a nurse practitioner and an RN. Risk assessments, including general health assessment, random cholesterol and random blood sugar tests. All welcome.

Free respiratory clinic
With specialist respiratory nurse and a nurse practitioner. Second Thursday of the month. Next Clinic 8th January. For appointment phone 6688-1401.

Free diabetic clinic
Every 3rd Thursday of the month. Next clinic 15th January. Appointment phone Leanne Boothe 6630-0488.

Nimbin NSP opening hours
Will be open on Mondays and Thursdays, 9.30am - 12pm. Arrangements can be made to see a health nurse through NSP.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary
Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next meeting: 9th January.

How Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary spends your money

Last year the Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary purchased the following equipment for the Nimbin Hospital:		
Jumbuck lifter with power tilt tray	\$7,105	Two mattresses (replacements) \$ 906
Jumbuck scale (for weighing patients)	\$2,800	Vital Signs 4200 series blood pressure monitor and thermometry machine, (especially good when treating children) \$1,837
MC 200 electric bed (very comfortable)	\$3,007	
Stand-up floor nurse call alarm	\$ 432	TOTAL FUNDS SPENT \$16,392
Stand-up lap alarm	\$ 101	
Stand-up chair alarm pad and cover	\$ 204	
(These alarms are very good for patients who get out of bed or stand up out of their chairs and fall over. The alarm alerts the nurse and prevents patients being in a dangerous or uncomfortable position)		

The Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary raises funds purely through raffles and donations to support the Nimbin MPS to assist where there is no additional government funding. So, when you see those clearly labelled donation boxes in the chemist, the pub and the post office please give generously.

Complementary medicine you can make at home

An elixir made from pawpaw juice and aloe vera is being hailed as a 'magic cure' for a range of internal healing problems.

The juice is being enthusiastically touted by 78-year old Bilambil Heights resident Brian O'Toole (pictured), who has been taking it for 18 years and producing it for so many other people that he can no longer supply enough to meet the demand.

"It is truly a powerful healer," he said. "It has positive results against arthritis, stomach ulcers, hernias, high blood pressure, dengue fever, enlarged prostate and liver disease."

Mr O'Toole discovered the concoction on a trip to Fiji. "I went to Fiji with an enlarged prostate and arthritis," Mr O'Toole said. "When I got on this mix, it was like a miracle. I haven't had any arthritis since."

Following the publication of these claims in an article in the *Tweed Daily News* in August last year, the newspaper was deluged with enquiries, as well as with users' testimonials confirming the efficacy of the preparation.



PHOTO: Nolan Verheij-Full, courtesy Tweed Daily News

Although the formulation does not have approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Mr O'Toole says, "I've never had anybody tell me it hasn't worked."

He is very keen to have the curative properties of the elixir recognised. "I first wrote to Tony Abbott when he was Health Minister in John Howard's government, and since the last election I have written to him three times, but I am yet to receive a reply," he said.

Mr O'Toole is now making his formulation public, so that people can make it themselves. He said, "I have given up trying to cope with

supplying it myself, as it has grown too big."

The recipe is simple: chop up six pawpaw leaves and stalks and boil for 35 minutes in three litres of good water, then strain, place in container and refrigerate. Into half a glass of this liquid, scrape two inches of aloe vera, adding a spoonful of honey to make it more palatable.

Take three half-glasses per day, and after a month, Mr O'Toole claims symptoms of a variety of conditions disappear.

For more information, phone Brian O'Toole on (07) 5590-7497 or 0420-653-067.

Whatiscraniosacraltherapy?

by Betti Wille

Craniosacral therapy (CST) is not unknown to the majority of people, it seems. Some have picked up the story of a very satisfied CST client, you might have read about it in Daniel Kestzler's articles in the *NGT* a while ago, or you've already tried it yourself.

It has been more common in Europe and New Zealand in the past few decades. In Switzerland, craniosacral therapy is well known for its benefits and is even covered by health insurance.

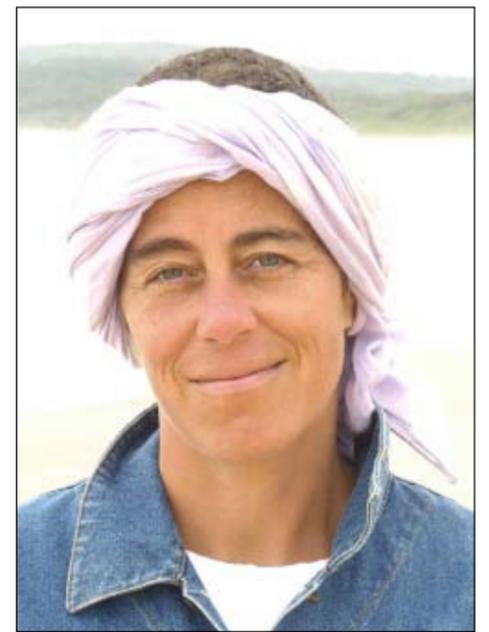
The term "craniosacral therapy" was coined by American osteopath John Upledger DO in the 70's. He was one of the first to teach it far and wide across the borders of the osteopathic society. Physiotherapists and other therapists or body workers were able to take courses with him.

According to Upledger, the rhythmic tide of 8-12 cycles per minute throughout the whole human body is mainly based on the movement of cerebrospinal fluid. His work was loosely based on the "work in the cranial field" by osteopath William Garner Sutherland DO (1930's) who is the father of what is called biodynamic craniosacral therapy nowadays.

Sutherland's discovery and teachings of a polyrhythmic phenomenon that moves all tissues, including every bone of the body, led to some opposition within the osteopathic community. He named those tidal movements that seem to govern our body physiology "primary respiration" or "breath of life" and its origin is not named or known (yet).

There are at least three levels of primary respiration palpable throughout the human body. The one mentioned above is called the cranial rhythmic impulse. With 8-12 cycles per minute, it's the most superficial one, but deeply connected with the body's fluids and tissues. The mid-tide, with only 2.5 cycles per minute, is somehow acting as the fluid within the fluids, and moves us at a more profound level. And at the core level, far beyond current "issues in the tissues", the long tide is present with 100-second cycles.

Whatever name or explanation, it is for



sure that our body benefits greatly through closer connection with these rhythms. A natural order is being expressed within this movement and will lead to improved health if listened to closely. In order to do so the nervous system needs to slow down — with the practitioner as guide and partner.

I am a practitioner of biodynamic craniosacral therapy. As so many people seem to know about this kind of therapy, I would like to let the community know that I am here. If you send me an email to: biodynamic.touch@gmail.com I can send you a little more information. I work from Sphinx Rock Community until the end of February and then I'll be at Blue Knob from the end of May onwards. In between I'll be away in retreat, so there will be only the very occasional email correspondence during that time.

It takes something else if you would like to embark on a releasing journey through your nervous system — the intention and courage to meet your inner body space, which has memories of all experiences back to conception. Safe guidance through trauma is part of the work. I am also a midwife (14 yrs of independent midwifery in Germany), and therefore confident with pregnancy matters.

Let's be happy and enjoy this life fully.

Are you asbestos aware?

by Tash Morton

Did you know that one in three Australian homes contain asbestos? If your home was built before 1987 then products made from bonded asbestos may have been used in your home.

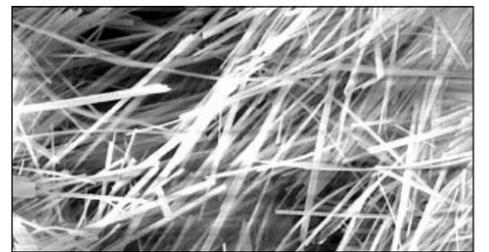
Whilst you may be aware that asbestos was included in fibro sheeting in walls and ceilings, you may not realise that it was also commonly used in water drainage and flue pipes, roofing and guttering, and the backing of floor coverings including carpet.

Peter Dunphy, Chair of the Asbestos Education Committee, says "If you find asbestos in your home, don't cut it! Don't drill it! Don't sand it! Don't water blast it! If left undisturbed, asbestos containing material is stable and not likely to release harmful fibres."

For homeowners, tradespeople and renovators the message is simple: "Get to know asbestos and learn how to protect yourself and your family from exposure to asbestos fibres," says Peter.

If you are undertaking a renovation and unsure whether your house contains asbestos you can get it inspected by a licensed removalist or a licensed asbestos assessor.

Mr Dunphy said, "There are legal requirements for asbestos removal and disposal and the safest way to remove asbestos is to engage a licenced removalist who is trained and equipped to protect your family



from the dangers of asbestos dust and fibres."

In NSW, a homeowner can legally remove up to 10m² (or three sheets of fibro sheeting) without engaging a contractor, as long as the site is not a worksite and correct safety procedures are engaged.

When it comes to disposal of asbestos, Northern NSW homeowners can take advantage of reduced disposal costs of up to 50% at participating landfills in Tweed, Richmond Valley, Lismore, Kyogle and Clarence Valley until 30th June 2015.

Residents in these council areas, and Ballina and Byron, can access the Household Asbestos Disposal Scheme by completing the registration form and providing a copy of their rates notice to their local council.

For more information on the scheme, visit: www.newaste.org.au/asbestos or contact your local council. The scheme is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.

For more information on asbestos, visit: www.asbestosawareness.com.au

Plant of the Month

Davidson's Plum *Davidsonia jerseyana*

by Sue Stock

Davidson's Plum grows up to 18 metres high under the rainforest canopy, or four to five metres in the open. It is a distinctive tree with small pink flowers and furry, pink new leaf growth. There are two main varieties, *Davidsonia pruriens* and *Davidsonia jerseyana*.

Davidson's Plum trees are found between Northern Australia and the Northern Rivers. *Davidsonia jerseyana* is the variety found in the Northern Rivers region and is currently only known in the wild in the Tweed and Brunswick River catchments. The northern-most and westernmost confirmed record is at Chillingham.

Davidson's Plum is listed as Endangered on both the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. (EPBC Act). It is now grown on plantations in the region, especially around Lillian Rock.

The most distinctive part of the Davidson's Plum is its striking dark purple fruits which hang in clusters directly on the trunk of the tree. Each fruit contains two flat seeds encased in a bright-red flesh, which is quite sour to taste. Tim Low calls this plum "the Queen of Australian rainforest plums".

The fruits are a popular food source for many rainforest creatures, including the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. They were also widely used as a food by Aboriginal Australians.

The Davidson's Plum fruits are healthy: a recent study has shown that they are extremely high in antioxidants — even higher than blueberries!



They have 100 times the vitamin C found in oranges and also contain lutein, a compound that plays an important role in eye health, along with magnesium, zinc, calcium potassium and manganese.

They are also an important part of the modern Australian bush food industry. Davidson's Plum fruits are used to add colour and flavour to many dishes in restaurants, and are prized for making delicious jams, chutneys, sauces and even wines! They are also used as flavouring in some locally produced yoghurts.

Davidson's Plum jams and chutneys can be bought locally in Nimbin and at the local markets.

PHOENIX RISING CAFE
Beautiful natural setting @ the historic Nimbin Butter Factory



January Gigs

Saturday 10th	Reggae DJs
Sunday 11th	Sarah Stando
Saturday 17th	Cruise Brothers
Sunday 18th	Mish Songsmith
Saturday 24th	DJ Feel
Sunday 25th	Reubin Barkley
Saturday 31st	Rueben Garcia
Sunday 1st Feb	Sara McCafferty

Open 7 Days 10am to 4pm Phone 6689-1111

Drift out to the Bush Theatre

Guitarist, creator and major writing force of one of Australia's greatest bands ever, The Cruel Sea, Dan Rumour and his band The Drift are playing a one-off concert at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Friday 16th January at 7pm.

"Rumour delivers more inspired imagination in three bars than most people manage in three songs, transporting us beyond our usual musical borders, gliding effortlessly from groove to

gloriously relaxed groove." Dan Rumour knows how to turn the Australian summer into a tune. His sun-baked, salt-encrusted sound was the magic behind The Cruel Sea.

Rumour is supported by Nick Larkins on Hammond organ and guitar, Michael Turner on bass and acoustic guitar, and Nick Fisher on drums.

Popular local acts The Baby Durgas and Atunaha are supporting the Drift.

Tickets are \$20 at the door.



Be creative in the Tweed

TWEED CREATIVE STUDIOS

REPAIRS
Amp, Guitar & Computer

PERCUSSION & UKULELES

Pre loved Instruments
Amps

RETRO · MUSIC · WARES
REHEARSAL ROOM GREAT RATES

19 BUCHANAN ST MURWILLUMBAH
TURN AT THE CARTERS ON TWEED VALLEY WAY
0266725556



by Chantal Waters

Tweed Creative Studios is the result of many years of research to bring a facility of this type to Murwillumbah.

The studio supports all types of arts and entertainment. My main drive in creating the studio is my passion for community, offering half price studio time to students under 18, and donating to the SES and local schools.

Our rehearsal room is fully equipped,

clean and air conditioned for the comfort of our clients. We have hosted 90 bands since our grand opening in November 2013.

The business has been steadily evolving to include lessons from singing to piano, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, drums and guitar. We also offer services including costume design, computer repairs, guitar and amp repairs.

We sell quirky stuff, collectables, vintage and old wares. We sell new

percussion instruments, djembes and ukuleles, and as a second hand dealer we now offer a great range of pre-loved guitars and amps.

We host monthly jam nights and entertainment and arts industry related workshops and have art on display.

Tweed Creative Studios are located at 1/19 Buchanan Street, Murwillumbah – turn at the Caltex on Tweed Valley Way. Phone 02 6672-5556. Follow us on facebook: *tweedcreativestudios*

IT MIGHT BE SMALL, BUT IT STILL GETS NOTICED!

For a limited time, you can buy this space for only \$30.
Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Get into the GoodTimes!

Get help with those jobs you've been meaning to do.
Meet new people and share adventures.
Exchange skills. Learn and teach new skills.
Learn and practise a new language.
Receive volunteers and get help on your project!

It's FREE!
Sign up as a host on www.WORKAWAY.info.



workaway.info
The site for travel, volunteering and cultural exchange



Now that we have arrived at 2015, it's time to come celebrate on Saturday 31st January with a Bush Dance and dinner at Tuntable Hall.

With the usual amazing and changing line-up of fantastic folkies and wonderful food, it promises a great family-friendly night out. Healthy affordable dinner from 6pm, dancing from 7.

Bring your kids, they'll love it (and so do we!) There is nothing better than a whole hall filled with people of all ages laughing and dancing together to live music.



Monkey & the Fish

Chris Fisher and Marcelle Townsend-Cross create a special vocal harmony and presence in the popular Goonellabah-based duo, Monkey & the Fish.

They will display their evocative lyrics and magic songcraft at Sphinx Rock Cafe Sunday 1st February from 2pm.

Sets will include a selection of material from four original studio albums, plus the recently released single 'Hand In Hand' that was inspired by the Bentley Blockade and is included on the 'Songs of the Bentley Blockade' compilation CD – available through Lock The Gate.

More info and links: www.fruitbatmusic.com

Fantastic Fantuzzi

Nimbin Bush Theatre will host a joyous event in January, known the world over as Fantuzzi, presented by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation.

As soon as he enters the stage, his blissful smile, laughter and penetrating gaze ignite the audience into jubilation.

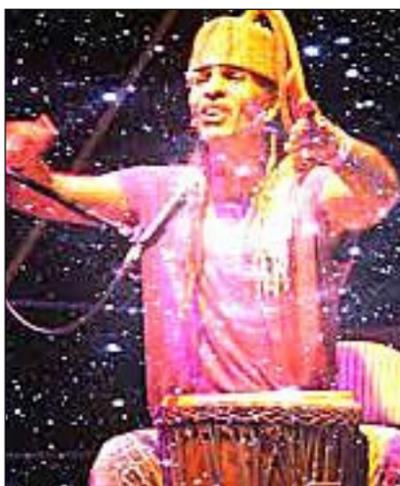
Fantuzzi's African-Caribbean roots and phenomenally extensive international travel experiences meld on stage into ecstatic, dramatic, transformational, interactive performances, infused with a dynamic variety of musical styles from Reggae, Latin Rock, East Indian Kirtans,

Niabinge, Salsa, and African-Caribbean.

Fantuzzi is supported by The Hayden Hack Infusion, an incredibly talented and exciting 8-piece funk family featuring drums, percussion, bass, guitar and an amazing 3-piece brass section, including Lee Hardistry from OKA, who play infectious dance grooves.

This extravaganza of Afro-funk-soul-jazz-reggae will be hosted at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Saturday 10th January, starting at 2pm in the relaxing garden Café with some dub reggae beats by a local DJ.

Doors for the main show open at



7.30pm. Entry is \$20 and food is available.

MECHA MECHA GOES MEGA MEGA

Mecha Mecha have been performing since October 2013 with a line-up that has changed and adapted as the months have gone by.

Currently, they're a 5-piece alternative art-rock band whose compositions are heavily influenced by the alternative rock giants of the 90s, as well as having incorporated an underlying traditional gypsy melodic structure and tone in their progressions.

Having played close to 50 gigs in little over a year, Mecha Mecha are well adept in rocking the floors and raising the roof wherever they perform.

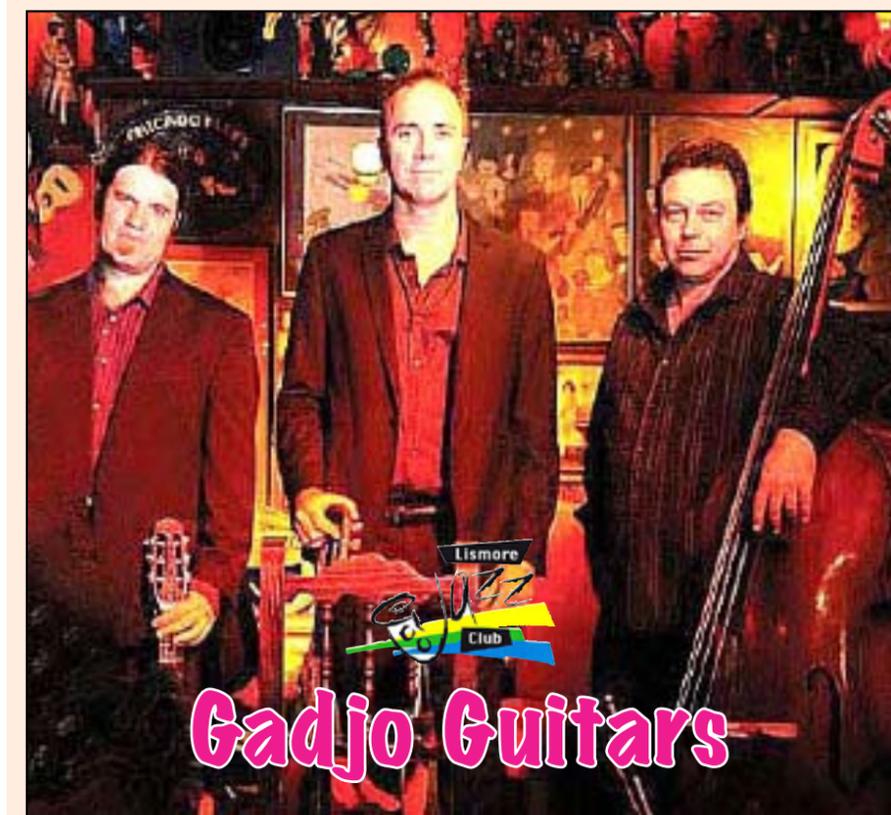
Fronted by Nimbin locals Walter and Angelo Webb, Mecha Mecha are kicking off their 10-week Cosmic Comfort Tour of



Queensland and EP launch with a bang at their local, Nimbin Hotel on Friday

30th January. Also you can catch them with their new line-up,

including fiddle player Amanda Terry, at the Nimbin Markets in January.



Gadjo Guitars

Based in Sydney and featuring in jazz festivals Australia-wide, Gadjo Guitars is a vibrant, sparkling, swinging acoustic jazz trio that will leave you breathless, smiling and asking for more.

Comprised of Cameron Jones (guitar), Nigel Date (guitar) and Stan Valacos (bass), Gadjo Guitars is gypsy jazz at its best: sophisticated, classy, passionate, and world class.

The word 'Gadjo' is a name gypsies have for non-gypsies, but when you listen to their music, you wouldn't know that these guys have anything but gypsy blood in their veins, straight from the Django Rheinhardt school of hot swing jazz.

Grab a cool drink, sit in the summer breeze at the Lismore City Bowling Club and treat yourself to an afternoon of hot gypsy jazz, on Sunday 1st February, 3pm-6pm. Entry: \$15 / \$10 members.

Crazy to miss it.



The (Thando) Voice

R'n'B sensation Thando Sikwila and her band are coming to the Northern Rivers, but only for one gig.

After making it onto Kylie Minogue's team on *The Voice*, Thando (ta-ndo) has gone from strength to strength. Returning to Melbourne, Thando has been working on her follow-up single to *Inferno, Won't You Be Mine*, and is due to start touring in

late January.

Since her debut in 2013, Thando and her band have played at several iconic venues in Melbourne, and are steadily attracting a following of loyal R&B lovers.

With songs penned about love, life and sex, front woman Thando Sikwila isn't afraid to lead the outfit into risqué territories, and their live shows speak for

themselves.

With influences spanning across all genres, Thando and her band bring a unique edge to R'n'B, creating a sound that can only be described as slick, sexy soul that is sure to get you off your feet.

Check her out at the Nimbin Hotel on Sunday 25th January as she stops through on her East Coast Tour.

Nimbin Tax and Accounting

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Income Tax Returns – Individuals, Partnerships, Companies, Trusts and Primary Producers
BAS & Bookkeeping Services
Business Software, Business Advice, Grant Acquisitions

Weekdays 9am - 5pm, Saturdays by appointment.

Discount for Centrelink recipients

Tel/Fax 6689-0470 Mobile 0427-855-077

Old Bank Building, 39 Cullen Street, Nimbin
(Next to Post Office – parking available)

PO Box 645 Nimbin 2480 Email: accountant@nimbintax.com.au

sphinx rock café

3220 Kyogee Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 www.sphinxrockcafe.com

Sunday Gig Guide

January 2pm start

11th Hayley Sales

Hayley's music is rich & soulful, she hails from Byron Bay.

18th Walrus and the Carpenter

All the way from Mullumbimby, Modern Folk.

25th Two Lions

Northern NSW-based folk duo "Two Lions" deliver well-crafted songs with a rare onstage chemistry that will leave you wanting more.

February 1st

Monkey & the Fish

Singer/songwriters Chris Fisher and Marcelle Townsend-Cross create a special vocal harmony and presence, performing masterful arrangements of popular songs and emotive, evocative originals.

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

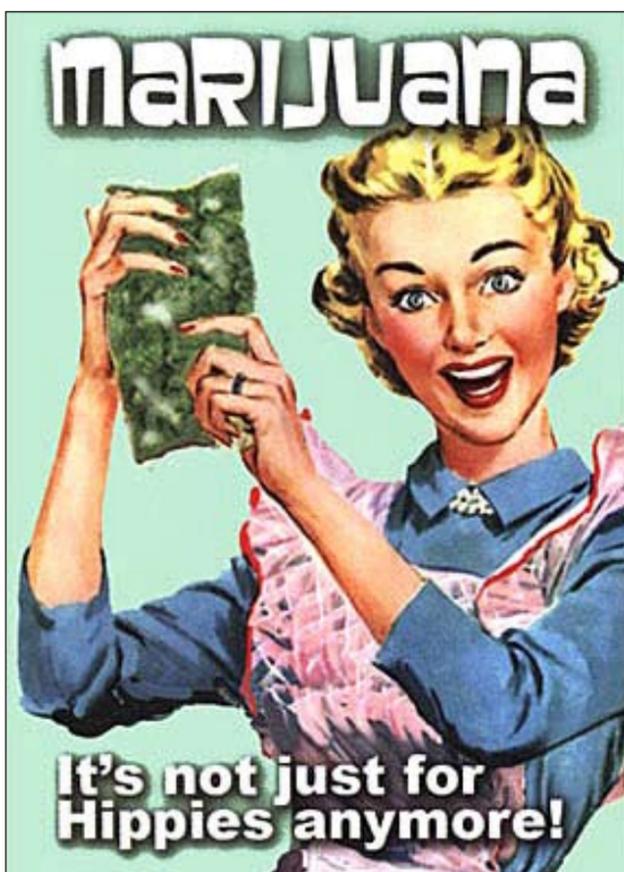
January Gigs

Friday 9th	7.30pm	The Romaniacs
Saturday 10th	6pm	Michael & Friends
Sunday 11th	5pm	Kazya
Thursday 15th	6.30pm	Jock Barnes
Friday 16th	7.30pm	Monster Guitars
Saturday 17th	6.30pm	Delmar Sun
Sunday 18th	5pm	Ben Purnell
Thursday 22nd	6.30pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 23rd	7.30pm	Hayden Hack Infusion
Saturday 24th	6.30pm	The Diamond Blow
Sunday 25th	5pm	Thando and band
Monday 26th	3pm	The Kava Kings
Thursday 29th	6.30pm	Gavin Diniger
Friday 30th	7.30pm	Mecha Mecha
Saturday 31st	6.30pm	Andrew Farrel (the Wizard)

All Gigs are Free of Charge

JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING

Hummingbird Bistro
Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta;
Thurs \$10 steak 250g



HEMP Party removes executive members

by John Jopkins, your outta town commentator

Some extraordinary events have occurred within the Nimbin-based Help End Marijuana Prohibition Party of Australia.

"Some are saying it's like the left faction of the Party finally stood up to the right and kicked them out," said HEMP Party President Michael Balderstone.

HEMP's interim secretary Andrew Kavasilas said, "Clearly we had some problems, cracks were appearing that showed a disconnect from the Party's heart and soul.

"What we had was a couple of people trying to steer a personal course while manipulating and reinterpreting the

constitution of the Party."

In a drama-filled lead-up to the festive season, events unfolded when a presidential hopeful sought support for his move against the current president Michael Balderstone.

Support was not forthcoming, and as a result the scheduled AGM was arbitrarily cancelled and an attempt was made to reschedule a new AGM 600 kilometres away in Newcastle.

Unbeknownst to Nimbin Hempsters, it seems plans had been underway for a couple of months, and we had a genuine coup about to be executed.

Nimbin did what it does best in a crisis: the Hempsters got some heads together to mull over the

situation. Many phone calls were made, Oracles and a Goddess were consulted.

Disregarding all conventional advice, a neat plan was instigated that invoked the enthusiasm of a toe-cutting head-kicker. "Never back the Left into a corner" was the cry. Alas, there was little blood spilled.

Upon closer examination of the constitution and the breaches uncovered in a detailed report, the Party removed its Secretary and Treasurer from the executive and approved interims.

The AEC were consulted on several occasions and a new AGM has been called for 10th January at the Nimbin Town Hall, at 4.20pm.

We invite all past and present members to attend, because our constitution only

allows those who attend to vote.

Many now see this as an opportunity to re-stabilise the Party and put the decades of experience from within the community on a better footing to progress industrial, hemp seed foods, medical and rational recreational cannabis measures.

As well as discussing the future direction of the party, also on the agenda for the AGM are the issues of on-line party voting, membership fee levels, reports on state Party branches and a review of the constitution.

The AGM really is a great time to re-acquaint with the HEMP Embassy, and those who work behind the scenes, to hold the Government's feet to the fire to deliver on the promises they make.

Nimbin to host Cannabis Medicine Making Workshop

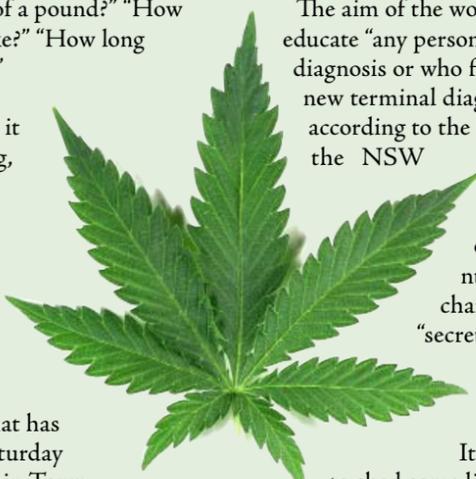
Since the announcement about the proposed "new rules" relating to Medicinal Cannabis use in NSW were made public just prior to Christmas, Nimbin has been inundated with people asking about Cannabis medicine, how to make it and where and when they can get hold of it.

This holiday season is seeing Nimbin fast becoming a hub of Medicinal Cannabis tourism. Looking sometimes like "fish out of water" sufferers are coming to the village either seeking information and/or medicine or wanting to know where to buy cannabis to make their own - with many expressing fears of "ending up with an expensive failure" on their hands should their attempts fail.

"Why is it hard to find?" they say. "When is the government going to legalise it?" "I thought it was legal in New South Wales." "How much does cannabis cost?" "How

much do you get out of a pound?" "How much do I need to take?" "How long before I'll see results?"

Now that the government has made it easier, legally speaking, for terminal patients to use or continue to use cannabis as their chosen treatment, people can find the answers to those questions at a Cannabis Medicine Making Workshop that has been organised for Saturday 10th January in Nimbin Town Hall to facilitate the SAFE extraction of oils and tinctures by carers and patients.



The aim of the workshop is to assist and educate "any person" who has a terminal diagnosis or who finds themselves with a new terminal diagnosis, or their carers - according to the broad legal definition in the NSW

scheme outline. The workshop will cover all aspects of treatments from nutrition and lifestyle changes necessary; to "secrets of extraction" demonstrations with plenty of time for Q&As.

It will also endeavour to shed some light on the new rules operating in NSW, and how and why to make application to be on the TICS (Terminal Illness Cannabis Scheme!)

register.

"The Medical Cannabis Users Association (MCUA) endorses the workshop and members will certainly be attending" said the Association's spokesperson.

"The usual cynicism and speculation abounds among the 3700 plus members, but they all remain staunch in their collective position to stand in defiance of the law that does more harm to society than good." She made it clear that "Health and Human Rights remain core focal points for members".

The workshop is free but a donation would be appreciated. Refreshments will be served and handouts given. Response has been overwhelmingly positive so far and we are expecting a good crowd at this stage. For more info, contact Michael Balderstone at the HEMP Embassy in Nimbin on (02) 6689-0326.

NIMBIN LAW
Solicitors, Barristers & Conveyancers



Buying or selling a property in either NSW or QLD? Contact us for the most competitive legal & conveyancing rates.

50C Cullen St. Nimbin 2480 (Opp. Post Office) Ph: 02 6689-1003 nimbinlaw@stetson.com.au

Vast experience with Multiple Occupancy Communities. Lawyers in Nimbin since 1973

HEMP HEADLINES

Tony Abbott gives medicinal cannabis trial in NSW the green light (Business Insider)

Prime Minister Tony Abbott has thrown his support behind a trial of medical cannabis in NSW, with preparations for the trial to begin this week. While the federal regulator has approved the drug for use under certain medical circumstances, approval for importation of the plant from Europe or the US could take several weeks, in which case the NSW government says it may grow its own crop. Upon announcing the trial in September, NSW Premier Mike Baird said the government will also explore how to provide the safest and most effective cannabis-based products.

NSW cannabis trial: terminally ill adults and children with epilepsy to take part (The Guardian)

The NSW government says if it cannot source medical-grade cannabis from overseas, it may grow it in Australia. Children with severe epilepsy, terminally ill adults and those undergoing chemotherapy in NSW could get to trial cannabis to ease their symptoms. About \$9m will be spent on at least three trials, some of which will be held at the Children's hospital at Westmead and Sydney Children's hospital. "I am hopeful the trials will help us to better understand what role medical cannabis can play in alleviating symptoms in seriously ill patients, while the scheme will help to lighten the burden of stress for those suffering," premier Mike Baird said. An expert panel, led by NSW chief medical officer Dr Kerry Chant, will be established.

Buying drugs online: NSW lawyers 'radical proposal' to decriminalise drugs (Sydney Morning Herald)

The NSW Bar Association's criminal law committee has put forward a "radical proposal" to replace the black market for drugs with a highly-regulated system of legal availability. It says its preliminary view, subject to further research and consultation, is that the current prohibitionist approach

to drugs should be abandoned and replaced with a tightly-regulated system where drugs are legally available.

Bliss molecule' similar to THC in cannabis found in expensive black truffles dug out by pigs (The Independent)

Black truffles sniffed out of the ground by pigs and dogs due to their attractive earthy and cocoa-like aroma contain a "bliss molecule" similar to THC found in cannabis, scientists have found. A compound called anandamide, which triggers the release of feel-good chemicals, is produced by the fungi.

Researchers are working on a new breathalyser for marijuana (Bloomberg.com)

Researchers are working on a device that will be able to tell if someone is under the influence of marijuana. The breathalyser, being developed at Washington State University (WSU), would work in a similar way to the alcohol breath test used by police forces around the world.

Bob Carr joins calls for drug summit (Sydney Morning Herald)

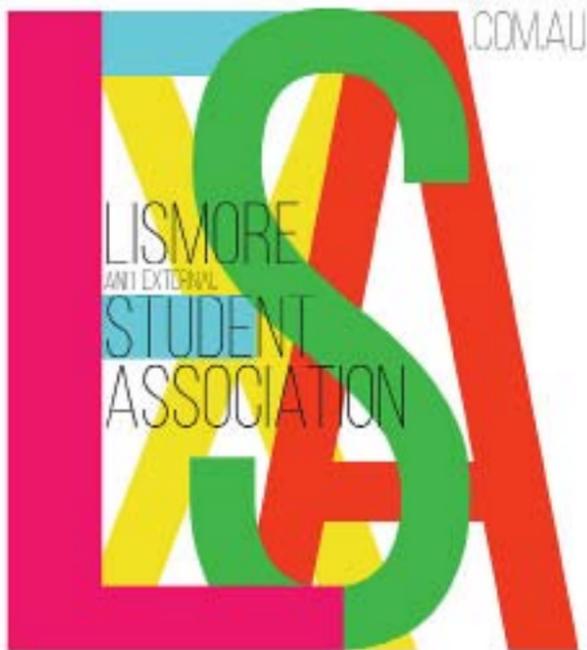
Fifteen years after he convened a historic parliamentary drug summit, former NSW premier Bob Carr has called for a new summit to tackle the state's emerging ice crisis. It is Mr Carr whose reforms, most notably the Kings Cross medically supervised injecting room, were credited with saving Sydney from the grip of a full-scale heroin epidemic.

Daniel Andrews aims to make Victoria the first Australian state to legalise medicinal cannabis (9News)

Newly-elected Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews is leading the charge on medicinal cannabis, hoping to legalise the drug for patients in need by the end of 2015. Products such as cannabis oil are used to treat conditions including epilepsy, but the plant remains illegal in Australia, and Mr Andrews said on the Today Show he was determined to see that change.

The Australian Sex Party wins its first seat (ABC)

Fiona Patten, who established the party four years ago, said she would push the Government to go further on medical marijuana and law reform.



The methamphetamine flood

by Dr. John Jiggins

The best idea of the size of Australia's illicit drug trade is gained from the many reports of drug seizures, which the police proudly trumpet as their badge of excellence.

For the sake of analysis, I categorise the biggest seizures as monster (value greater than \$250 million street-value); massive (seizures in the \$50 million to \$250 million street-value range); enormous (\$10 million to \$50 million); and big (\$1 million to \$10 million).

In the past six months, the methamphetamine market has seen one 'monster' seizure and several 'massive' seizures. The monster seizure was the biggest ever: the enormous illicit drug seizure of 1.9 tonnes of MDMA and 849 kilos of methamphetamine in November 2014. Although the police claimed it was Australia's second biggest seizure, they were being uncharacteristically modest; it was actually the biggest ever. It was the Australian record for methamphetamine and it may have been a world record for MDMA.

The methamphetamine seizure was the fourth Australian record meth seizure inside three years. Since May 2011 the Australian record for methamphetamine seizure has increased fourfold, going from a then record seizure of 240 kilos in May 2011, to a new record of 306 kilos in July 2012, to a newer record of 585 kilos in November 2012, to this current record meth



seizure of approximately 850 kilos in November 2014. None of these previous record seizures resulted in a methamphetamine drought. Despite its size the monster was also unlikely to produce a methamphetamine drought.

The AFP estimated the street value of this seizure at an extraordinary \$1,500 million! But they could give no answer as to how the \$1,500 million street-value figure was calculated. Nor would they say whether it would have any effect on the methamphetamine flood. Was their estimation inflated? AFP Media were very unhelpful, and suggested I work out the street-value myself! So I did.

I decided to give each of my notional ecstasy tablets 90mg of MDMA. This meant I could make eleven pills per gram, which meant eleven thousand pills per kilo, which meant eleven million pills per tonne. The 1.9 tonnes of MDMA would yield about twenty-one million pills,

which would sell at \$35 each, giving a street-value of \$735 million for the MDMA. My methamphetamine street deals I decided would be about 33% purity, so each gram became three grams, so the 849 kilos yielded 2,547,000 gram deals. These would be sold at \$300 per gram, making my estimated street-value for the seizure \$761 million. Combined, the seizure was worth \$1,496 million!

Moving this amount of stock would be a daunting task. Shifting 20 million pills in a year entails having an organisation that could sell forty pills a minute, working non-stop 24/7 for an entire year. In addition to the pills, they would need to sell five gram deals of methamphetamine every minute too. That was the down side; the up side was that their efforts would yield \$1,500 million!

Massive amphetamine seizures have occurred all over Australia in the last three years and they have been increasing in size. Consider the recent seizures: in early August 2014, Victorian police found 135 kilos of methamphetamine in a Melbourne apartment. It was the start of an astonishing week of large ice seizures, leading Richard Grant of the Australian Crime Commission to claim, "In the past week, Australian law enforcement in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland have seized approximately 220 kilos of this drug."

In any other year, this would have been an extraordinary week,

but the 2014 meth flood rolled on: 90 kilos were seized in Perth, 28 kilos in the ACT, another 50 kilos in Melbourne; and then in mid-November came the Sydney monster! Counting the 'monster' and the 'massive' seizures alone, and ignoring the 'enormous' and the 'big', over 1.2 tonnes of methamphetamine were seized in five months between July and November 2014. This gives some idea of the current size of the market!

In June 2013, as part of Drug Action Week in the ACT, I delivered a paper called 'How many cones? How many pills? How many lines of coke?', which estimated the size of Australia's illicit drug market to the nearest million lines of coke and the nearest million pills. My paper estimated that the Australian illicit drug trade in 2010 consisted of a market of about three million Australians, and was worth about \$17 billion; composed of a cannabis market worth about \$6 billion, a heroin market of \$2 billion, a cocaine market of 94 million lines of coke worth about \$2.5 billion, 40 million ecstasy tablets worth about \$1.4 billion, and 6.8 tonnes of methamphetamine worth about \$5 billion.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released a much smaller estimate of Australia's illicit drug consumption of \$7 billion a year. Their estimate was that Australians spent about \$3.8 billion on cannabis, \$1.5 billion on amphetamines, \$300 million on MDMA, \$750 million on heroin and \$783 million on cocaine.

While I considered the ABS \$7 billion figure was a laughable underestimation, the chief executive

of drug harm minimisation group Anex, John Ryan, said he was staggered the drug market was so big!

The 2014 monster shows that the ABS modellers considerably underestimated the market size. Their estimated yearly value of the Australian ecstasy market was \$300 million, but \$750 million had been seized in this one bust alone. The methamphetamine seized was 50% of their estimated yearly consumption in one seizure alone. There were several other methamphetamine seizures in the massive range (\$50m - \$250m) in the last six months of 2014. If the ABS model was accurate, with so much seized, the market should have been in drought. But the monster was the latest, biggest wave in a three-year-long methamphetamine flood, driven by the demand of a considerably bigger market.

How much bigger? My estimate of a 6.8 tonne methamphetamine market worth \$5 billion street-value was a 2010 estimate, based on user population surveys by the National Drug Strategy (NDS) 2010 Household Survey and 2010 seizure data. Based on more recent figures, I would upsize my estimate to nine tonnes of methamphetamine, or about 27 million of my one-gram street deals, with a street-value of \$8 billion. To shift that quantity, every minute, 24/7, every day of the year, fifty-two one-gram deals of meth need to be sold; almost one a second!

With victories like the monster of 2014 occurring repeatedly, the AFP and their fellow agencies can anticipate ever-growing budgets and ever-increasing 'victories' in their futile war.

I've been hanging out with Pipe up in the mountains, feasting off his lillypilly and berry patches and the sapotes of every colour ripening. Black chocolate puddings as big as a small plate.

Pipe tells me before whitefellas trashed the place it was a paradise on Earth, with fruit along all the pathways and connecting meadows that had been planted for millennia. Century-old trees that dripped with fruit from their trunks when it was their turn during the year. He reckons the old Gooris enjoyed a freedom we have no concept of, finding all they needed to eat with little effort.

All the time in the back of my mind I've been wondering who's my fellow Undacuva in the local political scene. There's always an Unda infiltrated in any political party that gets a few votes, and no doubt in a one percent drug party there might be several in the membership.

Remember the Commie days when the meetings were mostly of people working for ASIO? The Undaworld is so secretive we may meet at the Christmas let-your-hair-down, but then disguises and personalities are taken on again and we don't see each other for another year. And no-one talks

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert



about their persona to another, or rarely. I do more than most and know quite a few, but I have no idea who's causing the chaos in the HEMP group. They nearly won a seat last time, twice, so no doubt that scared the pants off the Big Boys in Canberra.

The Boss knows I'm too much on their side to send me in there, and he's made sure I have no idea who the shadow is working for him. He teased me once after a MardiGrass saying I'd been smoking bongos with a fellow Unda, little did I know. I'd smoked with so many people that weekend I

couldn't work out who it was.

It's not that hard to get a job in this field as a TU, Temporary Unda. Just do the job and get out. Usually to stay out of jail. There's always a deal to be made for those who feel OK about being ruthless with their fellow man.

Pipe and his mushroom soups have knocked the fight right out of me, and I'm only left on the Unda payroll because I know too much. Way too much!

Pipe muses I should run for president. Come in out of left field and snap the trophy while confusion reigns. I think I will.

Meanwhile I had to visit the Premier in Sydney with some of Pipe's AAA oil for his aunt who is on her last legs. True to his word, he opened the door to the beginning of acceptance of the herb before Christmas with his three trials. The Force is furious, but they know they've lost the war and the ground troops all agree they'd rather deal

with stoned crows than iceheads.

Even the Boss realises the courts are sick of personal pot busts and his power is waning. Their new bullying direction will be to make the hippies walk.

"Don't worry, the new drug testing will empty the car park in the Bin," he said one day at morning tea when the troops were complaining about all the military clobber they are carrying that prevents them catching the dealers. "Who says marawana makes you unfit? These boys leap fences and cars and disappear in a flash."

Apparently in Sydney the kids are way cocky, deliberately taunting the troops who then give chase, but can never catch the young fit rock-throwers.

Pipe says they asked for it. War has consequences and there's a whole generation now who grew up knowing their parents were picked on, "for a God given herb".

"It can only get worse," he says. **HipiLeaks:** Sydney Force HQ to Lismore City Council. In the rebuilding after the fire of the drug capital Nim Bin, would you please ensure there is no Rain Bow Lane in the Plans? Any rebuilding must prioritise crime prevention, as this village has a AAA crime rating.

80 Cullen Street 6689-0199

NIMBIN CAFE

.. the OASIS of ..

NIMBIN COFFEE SHOP

RVBYESQUE

ALAN MORRIS
PROBATION

SMOKING PARAPIERNALLA & FINE USID BOOKS
31 CARBINGTON STREET LISMORE 2480
PO BOX 1184 LISMORE 2480 6622 4576

Cannabis

THE NUMBER ONE PLANT

NIMBIN HEMP EMBASSY

FOOD BETTER PROTEIN THAN BEEF
FUEL CLEANER ENERGY THAN CRUDE OIL
FIBRE STRONGER TEXTILE THAN COTTON
MEDICINE SAFER EFFECT THAN CHEMICALS
RECREATION HEALTHIER CHOICE THAN ALCOHOL