



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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Cultural confrontation at Cedar Point

by Binnah Pownall

Githabul Tribal Council representatives Rob Williams, Jarmbi Githabul and about ten members of the Save Cedar Point (SCP) group met at the gate of the proposed quarry at Cedar Point just before lunch on Tuesday 19th July, and were confronted by the defenders of the quarry – the landowner Peter Carlill, his very irate wife, the sites officer from Gugin Guddaba Land Council, Mick Walker and a number of his family members.

The police were also present as a heated discussion was had between parties. A number of issues were aired in the heat of the moment that obviously needed further discussion. Both parties left in stalemate. At least some hands were shaken and opposite parties got to eyeball each other for once.

The Tribal Council and the SCP group have been calling for talks on the topics touched on at the gate before that time. It is hoped that representatives from the Land Council and the Tribal Council can talk more from here. There is much more information regarding that site now known than when studies were done, at least four years ago now.

This information adds weight to the importance of this site in history. The Environment Defenders Office is studying the case, as it is alleged that there have been many breaches of Laws and Acts by not just the proponents, Grahams Quarries. Unfortunately, it looks as though we must



seek justice for the Original Cultural Heritage of this country in court very soon.

None too soon for those reputed to be entombed on site. The blasting is looming. The neighbours are bracing themselves. When is the world going to stop being so greedy? Haven't people got enough from the land yet? How much more do they want to take and take? What about giving something back?

The Save Cedar Point group stand resolute in support of those wishing to defend remnant sites of the world's oldest culture. We vow not to let this ignorant desecration happen. Our grandchildren may want to see it one day – and even perhaps use its facilities.

God knows we need some sort of initiation for these big boys still playing with big toys and not really knowing what they are doing or where they are steering us all to – in the end.



Concrete pathway leads to the ancient ceremonial ground



Earnest discussions at the gate

Kyogle car rally proposal meets with fierce opposition

by Kathleen Green,
Kyogle Action Group

A Border Ranges Car Rally has been approved for 27th August, not on the Border Ranges, but around Kyogle and the back roads.

After fierce opposition to the last car rally, we thought they would never come back again or that Council would give permission. The first we knew of this one was a letter in the mail from Council on Thursday 21st July, without community consultation. There will be road closures all day and residents will be locked in or out of their

properties.

Before you comment, try and put yourself in our shoes. We live on a farm property at Iron Pot Creek. Birds, cows, chickens, wildlife, beautiful and peaceful. On one side of the property is Iron Pot Creek Road and on the other side of the property is Ghinni Ghi Road, about a distance of 700 metres. Both are gravel roads. We are literally in the middle of part of their track.

Last time, there was two days of racing during a week-long event. The noise and disruption was awful, the house and the pasture was coated in dust and I didn't hear any birds

for days. With noise, low flying helicopters and barking dogs, wildlife left the property. Cows huddled as far away from road as possible to get away from noise. Six calves were born prematurely the night of the first race and our chooks went off the lay.

Did I mention noise? Screaming, revving cars. The noise echoes around the hills and valleys. Drivers start driving the rally track before the event and then fans keep turning up on weekends for months afterwards to drive the rally track. Not quietly, not slowly. The solar panels and all windows were covered in dust. The promise to water down

the roads to lower dust was not carried out.

The cars will also be crossing a bridge with a 2-tonne limit, that Council has classified dangerous. If it collapses will be not be replaced. The roads were graded before the last car rally, the race wrecked the roads and no maintenance was carried out after the event.

We live here, we pay rates and receive nothing. The roads are disgraceful and dangerous. We do not benefit from a car race in any way. We cannot leave the property on the race day as they suggested we do, we have work to do, our cows or

the neighbours' cows may be startled to the extent that they break through fences. Last car rally, every property owner on this section of the track placed banners on their property opposing the rally, which meant the media helicopters could not film that section of the race.

This is farmland, not a race track. We do not want it. It is a Queensland club event. There is plenty of land out west where they can race without affecting anyone. If you would like this car rally to go past your front and back door, please contact the organisers and offer your neighbourhood for the rally.

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