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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au



Lucky Santa, to have such
a great crew of Helpers:
Tamara, Pam, Gail and Heidi



Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan

The draft revised plan is now available for comment. To view the plan, the 2009-2015 report, and for instructions as to how to contribute, please see our website: www.nnic.org.au If you are not online and want hard copies, drop into NNIC during 10am-4pm weekdays and ask our trusty desk staff to download what you need from our website for you.

7 Sibley Street update

We were unsuccessful in our most recent attempt to gain funding for stage one of the project. Drats. So we have decided to commence a new fundraising campaign to try and raise the funds we need ourselves. We want to be able to occupy the site and use the house and the land and get those fences down.

The first priorities are some roof and guttering repairs. We need about \$70,000 in total to move the house and repair it to lock-up stage. If you have any fundraising ideas or would be willing to initiate, or contribute to a fundraising activity, please get in touch with Ruth, Nat or Guy at NNIC.

Nimbin women's dinner 2016 – save the date!

The women's dinner will be held at the Town Hall on International Women's Day, Tuesday 8th March 2016. More details will be in the February edition of the *Nimbin Good Times*. Meantime, get this date into your diaries. Not to be missed.

Northern Rivers biohubs

The feasibility studies in relation to the three targeted

sites (Nimbin Valley Dairy, Murwillumbah and Casino), have almost been completed. We will let you know the outcomes of this research as well as the social licence investigations in the next month or so. Look out for info on our website.

Community Drug Action Team (Nimbin CDAT)

Apologies for the delay in providing feedback to the community after the survey conducted in August-Sept 2015. We promise we will have some info out in February.

Are you struggling to make ends meet?

Household bills getting on top of you? We may be able to help with material aid ranging from nappies, sanitary products, food supplies, assistance with phone and electricity

bills and unpaid fines. To find out if you are eligible for assistance make an appointment with one of our Community Workers for advice.

Community Xmas lunch

Around 280 people came along to share Christmas lunch at the Town Hall on Friday 18th December and Santa dropped by with gifts for around 80 kids. Onya Santa. Thanks to the Nimbin soup kitchen Elves for making it happen and to all of you for coming along.

January mental health tip

Young peeps: did you know that one in every five people will suffer from some kind of mental health issue each year?

If something feels not quite right then maybe you could use some support. Check out this website: www.itsallright.org

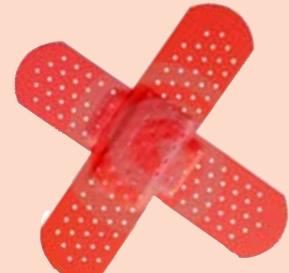
for some great resources for young people.

The NIS program at NNIC can provide support for community members and their carers/support people, experiencing mental health and/or alcohol/drug problems, aged 15 years and above. Contact NNIC for appointment details.

*Happy gasfield-free
New Year from all
the team at NNIC.*

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations.

Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments call 6689-1692 or just drop in during 10am and 4pm weekdays.



– 12pm. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Health Nurse through NSP.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. It's a 24-hour, 7 days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will speak to you and assess whether or not you need to go to the emergency department at your local MPS.

Read more information about this service at: www.healthdirect.org.au

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next meeting: 8th January.



Nimbin Hospital Information

Immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic held Tuesday 12th January. For appointments call 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health)

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. For appointments, phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month for breast checks, pap smears, contraceptive advice and general health information. Next clinic held 21st January. For appointments ring 6689-1400 and ask for Viola.

Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday 8am – 4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, palliative care, referrals, advocacy and coordinate aged care packages. Phone 6689-1288

Free health checks

In front of the Neighbourhood Centre, every second Friday, 11.30am – 1.30pm, run by a nurse practitioner and a

Registered Nurse. Cardiac, diabetic and stroke risk assessments, weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, cholesterol levels. Referrals to appropriate health professional, if required.

Free respiratory clinic

With specialist respiratory nurse and a nurse practitioner. Second Thursday of the month. Next clinic held 14th January. For appointment phone 6688-1401.

Free diabetic clinic

Every third Thursday of the month. Next clinic held 21st January. For appointment, phone Leanne Boothe 6630-0488.

Cannabis clinic

Confidential counselling, every Monday. Phone 1300-664-098.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/ psychologist

Every Thursday, Phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

Nimbin NSP

Open Mondays to Thursdays, 9-30am

Happy New Year – for whom?

by Dionne May

Imagine this – just before Christmas, Uncle David disappears. He's a bit of a larrikin so no-one is troubled at first. A couple of days later word reaches the family that Uncle has been locked up in Long Bay Jail but still no word of how or why. He is only twenty-nine and fit and healthy. His four little kids are getting scared and worried. Then a phone call.

Uncle is dead. Taken to the prison's hospital for an unknown and undisclosed reason where he died, surrounded by five prison guards. His death is not treated as suspicious although an investigation by the Corrective Services Unit will be referred to the NSW state coroner for an inquest.

It is a horrific replay of events for the family. Just a few years back, baby brother got into mischief, caught stealing \$80 worth of grog, he was sentenced to death too. A 13-month jail term morphed into a horror story where another coroners inquest uncovered information such as the security cameras having been switched off, guards' belts removed and the 'hung' body transferred with a sheet over his head while he was still breathing... he died five days later.

David Dungay, from Kempsey, died on 29th December 2015 while receiving medical treatment at Sydney's Long Bay Prison in what James Koulouris, Corrective Services Assistant Commissioner describes as "a very sad event". Event?

This event happened to a



local man. This event has robbed children of a father. This event did not make the news. This event is called **Aboriginal deaths in custody** and the only thing that has changed in this atrocious reality in Australian history is that we don't hear about it.

A South African friend said to me, "Shit, it sounds just like 1979 apartheid South Africa!" As I sat and listened to my friend Karen Roberts' pain yesterday afternoon in Nimbin, I had no words to comfort her.

She is angry. She is overwhelmed by grief. Someone pours water over her fire. She erupts in a torrent of powerless rage.

We are living two different realities in Australia. Black or white. The local cops are called. No one knows anything. The tableau is complete.

It is now 2016, Australia. Aboriginal deaths in custody is real and has to stop. Surely

the fact that it now goes unreported in the media, and yet is still happening as recently as last week, is cause for another Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and recognition of this ongoing 'event'.

Deaths in custody have increased 150% since the Royal Commission in 1991. More than 330 recommendations have gone unheeded. The community impact – "Families are destroyed by this cruelty."

Karen's son Cedric Roberts and his mates have created a Facebook page called Stand Tall. It has become the link for all aboriginal people to find information on lost family members in prisons, and is a massive step forward.

The traditional people of this land cannot continue to die in our prisons. They deserve our respect and our help. White man's law has never been the answer in this wide brown land.

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Is your website mobile friendly?

by Russell Lean

If your website looks like the one on the left and not the mobile optimised version on the right, you have some problems that are obvious – that the navigation is almost invisible on a mobile phone, and that there is no easy way to find the business or click to call the business, as in the mobile optimised version on the right.

It has been a very quick ride from when mobile readiness for your website was not important, to it now being essential. Google actively penalises sites that do not have a mobile ready, well optimised version of their desktop site. The first and primary concern for Google is end user experience. Way back in the beginnings of Google the four start-up guys who founded what we now know as Google had a banner on the wall of their garage. It simply stated "*Focus on the user – all else will follow!*" A good mantra for any small business.

So, Google have always been intent on providing their end users the best possible experience. That is why they insist that sites have a great mobile equivalent. In the beginnings of the mobile conversion revolution, mobile sites were clunky and not optimized all that well for mobile phones. However, very quickly software developed to enable the creation of slick, fast and efficient mobile ready clones of the main website that gave the user a great experience. Some of the best platforms that now exist are Duda Mobile, Brick and Mobile and Mobiify.

A good thing to do is go and have a look at your website on a range of mobile phones. Maybe the user experience is not great. It can be easily made incredible for a small cost by a dedicated mobile conversion business. Another good practice is to go into your Google Analytics and have a look at how many people are visiting your website on mobile devices. If you match these two things up, you may have additional work to do to make the experience



of your web visitors great and not... ordinary!

If 40% of your web traffic is mobile traffic, and you don't have a mobile site, you have two problems. Firstly, people who visit your site on a mobile phone are going to leave very quickly, because they can't easily use the site on a mobile. Secondly, Google are going to penalize your main website in normal search in Google, because you aren't mobile ready. The most important consideration however is "bounce rate". They are the people who leave your site immediately because it just doesn't work well on a mobile. People are now used to that great end user experience of mobile optimised sites, and if they don't get that, they will leave in a hurry.

Let's face it, you only get one go at impressing that first time visitor to your site, and if you do, chances are they will come back many times. People often ask us what is the point of spending the extra money on a mobile friendly site. I can sum that up this way. Google will love you more, your users will love you more, your main site will rank better due to mobile penalties being lifted and you might get a big surprise about the actual number of mobile visitors your site is getting.

If you have a business and need help converting your website for mobile visit: www.convert-web2mobile.com.au or call Russell on 0468-382-600.

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Friday 15th Jan, 6-9pm
Mish Songsmith

Saturday 16th Jan, 6-9pm
Lady Writer

Friday 22nd Jan, 6-9pm
Rob Cass

Saturday 22nd Jan, 6-9pm
Bob Oort

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TUES	12 th JAN	The Cruise Brothers (JAZZ) 1-4pm
WED	13 th JAN	Brommers 1-4pm
THURS	14 th JAN	Jolanda Moyle 1-4pm
FRI	15 th JAN	Mystery Musician 1-4pm
SAT	16 th JAN	Sarah Stando 1-4pm
SUN	17 th JAN	Monkey & the Fish 1-4pm
FRI	22 nd JAN	Brommers (MOVIE NIGHT) 5.30-7.30pm
SAT	23 rd JAN	Bill Jacobi 1-4pm
SUN	24 th JAN	Beetle Juice 1-4pm
TUES	26 th JAN	Jem Edwards & Friends 1-4pm
SAT	30 th JAN	Doug & Biko 1-4pm
SUN	31 st JAN	Andy Holm 1-4pm
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by Pampussycat Bourne

The lights dimmed, the crowd hushed and 150 people had the pleasure of the most enjoyable evening in Kyogle when Stan Munro (pictured) appeared at the Kyogle Golf Club. It was an unforgettable night of glamour, music and sophistication. A Gold Coast band performed music of the 60s between sets.

Stan Munro may be best known for his work in the Les Girls clubs as a stunning cross-dressing singer and dancer. I caught up with him after the show to find out more.

Stan grew up in Wales and began performing at nine, tap dancing. At 15 he toured Germany, France and the UK as part of a dance and acrobatic duo called The Two Munros. They worked with Petula Clark, Cilla Black, The Andrews Sisters and Anthony Newley.

Stan was a bit of a gypsy and, wanting to see the other side of the world, came to Australia. The Two Munros continued to perform, then Stan was approached in 1963 by the choreographer of the Les Girls Show which had opened three months earlier. Stan worked with Les Girls as a male dancer, then comedy drag, and before long compere of the show.

"Les Girls club was a beautiful club in Sydney," he said. "People used to dress up to go out in those days, ladies in long gowns and fur coats, men in dark suits, I met some wonderful people in those days, lifelong friends. I'm only in contact with one or two of the original Les Girls. They live up in the Gold Coast."

In 1969, Stan had an opportunity to compere a show in Hong Kong promoted by Col Joye. "It was a drag show and all the kids were from Australia."

Stan returned to the UK when his father died, then worked in Beirut as the only female impersonator in a show for six months. Back in the UK he got word he was wanted for work in Les Girls in



Melbourne, which opened in April 1970. He worked there for eight years, leaving to go solo. While at Les Girls Melbourne, Stan got a part in the first Alvin Purple movie as Mrs Warren, then a part in Jeff Bridges' first movie. Stan also did charity performances for AIDS research.

Stan is glamorous when in costume, and wears very high heels with his sequinned dresses. Most of his costumes are made locally, the rest bought from Thailand. Thailand is the centre for drag queen costumes. His legs are stunning and shapely. I asked how he kept fit. "I go to the Kyogle Community Gym often and have my own personal trainer, Kelly of Bodyworks."

Stan says that a lot of young kids who try to come out in the country area find it confronting, and often have little community support. "If anything, since I've been in Kyogle I think my presence has made gay people being open about their sexuality more acceptable. Early in

2015 I started to get poison pen letters, really personal stuff. I think I know who it was. It wasn't nice."

Although he went to take a look, Stan has never performed at Tropical Fruits. "I'm not a prude, but everybody seemed to be stoned, I can't stand all that. I do know Michael Gates, Maude Boat, and went to his exhibition recently in Lismore."

Stan doesn't take female hormones, although a lot of the early Les Girls performers did. In Thailand the lady-girls generally take female hormones to grow breasts, but in the UK you don't see many female impersonators with their own breasts: "They're the genuine thing, like me."

Stan does a lot of charity shows, mostly for cancer. Stan says he is happy to be contacted by email and is available to perform, especially for charity work, all over the Northern Rivers. Email him at: stan.munro@gmail.com

Stunning scenery and surprise skateboard shenanigans

Friday 22nd January – Music + Movie Night: *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013; PG)

'Negative Assets Manager' sounds as boring a job title as Walter Mitty's life, though he does work at the iconic *Time & Life* building in New York. To balance his apparently tedious existence, Walter has a fantastic imagination, which he employs at whim to give a sense of 'adventure' to his days.

This escapist heroic daydreaming is the basic premise of James Thurber's 1939 short story, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, which offered film-makers of that era a 'novel' gimmick upon which to loosely base a flick of the same name. (Older readers may recall that 1947 movie



starring Danny Kaye.)

It's said that the 2013 film, also called *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, is an alternative adaptation of Thurber's novella, but it's more a remake of the 1947 film with contemporary themes and a plot based on personal growth and redemption rather than on crime or glory.

Ben Stiller, who co-produced the latter version, stars as the unassuming Mitty. We, the audience, are privy to his frequent flights of fantasy and his equally secret crush on co-worker Cheryl, played by Kristen Wiig.

His mundane life is about to be turned upside down, however, when *Life* is caught up in a radical business downsize and it is deemed that the legendary magazine will shift to online publishing only.

As part of one last grand 'hurrah', the final cover is due to feature a special image by prized photographer, Sean O'Connell (Sean Penn) – except the negative has gone missing and, with his proverbial neck on the line, Walter vows to find it...

Suddenly, he must muster courage and tenacity to venture beyond the safety of his predictable world into a real-life adventure that rivals his covert fantasies: Cue majestic Nordic landscapes, lusciously understated soundtrack (featuring Jose Gonzalez), and some surprise skateboard stunts. Walter will never be the same again.

Some other notable roles in the film are played by Adam Scott, Olafur Darri Ólafsson, and the legendary Shirley MacLaine as Walter's mother.

This PG-rated 'rom-com' drama is also an unforgettable road-movie of sorts, and will be shown on the big screen at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Friday 22nd January at 7.30pm.

Venture on down there if you'd like to create your own adventure for the night, starting with troubadour tales by the equally well-travelled Phil Brommers at neighbouring Phoenix Rising Café from 5.30pm (tasty treats as per a special menu for the night). Tickets to the film are \$10, available online: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events or at the Café.

For further info about the Nimbin Bush Theatre and its events: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com or phone Venue Manager, David Hyett on (02) 6689-0095 or 0418-824-598.



Flickerfest to premiere local indigenous comedy

Flickerfest is celebrating its 25th birthday in 2016 and its 18th year of screening in the Northern Rivers.

A smorgasbord of the world's and Australia's best shorts, chosen from a record 2400 entries, will be screened over four jam-packed sessions on one big weekend, 22nd-24th January at Mullumbimby Civic Hall.

Mullumbimby residents, Flickerfest director Bronwyn Kidd and tour manager Shane Rennie, are thrilled to be bringing the festival home to their own town, and look forward to sharing some incredible festival highlights with their local region.

A glam catered opening night party will be held on the Friday night followed by the Best of International Shorts; Saturday kicks off with Byron All Shorts, showcasing the best from our region, and afterwards the Best of Australian Shorts; and on Sunday night the global Short Laughs Comedy programme highlights handpicked funny films from across the festival.

Among the impressive array of highlights this year is a delightful locally-produced new comedy film *Nan and a Whole Lot of Trouble*, an 11-minute short drama shot in Tullera, Lismore and Wardell.

Told with warmth and humour, the film tackles cultural taboos around death and grief, highlighting the complexities and tensions that arise around culture, tradition and identity in a modern multicultural community – even within one family.

Written by Sue McPherson, based on characters from her



Nan (Noeleen Shearer) and Aunty Min (Pamela Young) in a scene from 'Nan and a Whole Lot of Trouble'

award winning novel *Grace Beside Me*, the film was produced by local resident Lois Randall (*The Gods of Wheat Street*) and directed by award-winning indigenous director Dena Curtis (8MMM Aboriginal Radio and *Jacob*).

Visit: <http://iQ.org.au> for full programme, info and tickets (also available at the door). Watch the Flickerfest 2016 Tour Trailer at: vimeo.com/flickerfest/flickerfest2016tourtrailer

Flickerfest Mullum is a fundraiser for the Island Quarry Arts and Eco Reserve.

World's best entertainer?

by Heather Kimber

Elvis has left the building!

Well, no he hasn't – I heard Elvis singing at The Channon Tavern the other day. Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, and Neil Diamond were there too. (Actually, it was my brother Greg Weidner impersonating these great entertainers.)

The Nimbin Aged Care Centre put on a fabulous Christmas lunch with raffles and carol singing for our elders, with Greg providing the entertainment for the afternoon.

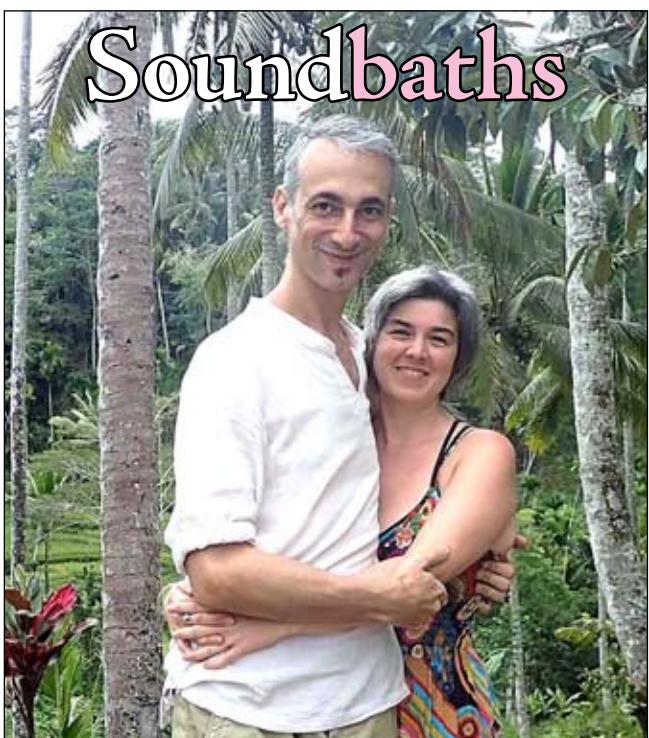
A great time was had by all, and I would like to thank Rose, Cedar, Jenny, Dirk and all the volunteers and helpers for providing this wonderful outing for our precious mums and dads.

And if you would like to have a karaoke evening at your place, Greg is available to come and set up his karaoke equipment for you and your friends to have a great night.

He has thousands of songs to choose from. For bookings, please phone Greg on 0466-600-694.



Greg Weidner as Flem



by Olivier Maxted

Home. I'm home. I'm enjoying realising the significance of these simple words.

It's been two years since I left these shores to return to Cornwall to care for my

parents.

Returning to this beautiful land has filled me with joy once more. I feel at home.

In the two years that I've been away, life has brought a whole new direction. When I left I had just begun creating sound meditations,

or Soundbaths, mostly in Brisbane. In Cornwall I met Megan Selby from The Living Voice. We began collaborating and she introduced me to a new idea of home. Coming home to Myself.

Since then we've played together in Portugal, the Scottish Highlands, Bali and Glastonbury Festival. Wonderful physical journeys, and more importantly journeys into people's hearts. We treasure the encounters we have had and souls we have touched and who have shared their experiences with us.

Megan has been singing sacred mantras for many years, learning her art with people like Chloë Goodchild and Deva Premal. Mantras have been used for centuries to bring the divine into everyday life.

Since singing with her I have experienced incredible shifts and deep healing on a soul level. I have also felt these changes in those who come and participate in our events. I feel deeply that this is how we change the world –

sharing from our hearts and bringing this mindfulness into our daily life.

The Soundbaths that we create together are often also profound healing journeys. With people sitting or lying down they are free to completely drop into a relaxed state and receive healing vibrations. Megan plays harmonium and uses her angelic voice, I play the didj, crystal bowls and heartbeat drum and together we weave a web of healing sound. Each event is a unique experience.

The people present, the land we're on, the energy of the moment all combine to produce what is instinctively right for each person present. To bring them home to themselves.

Olivier and Megan will be creating a mantra chanting and Soundbath event at Eternity Springs, Turtletable Creek on 16th January at 4pm, \$25. Bring a yoga mat and comfy things to lie on. Further details online: [www.tinyurl.com/eternitysprings](http://tinyurl.com/eternitysprings) or phone 6688-6546.

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Sunday Gig Guide

January 1pm start

10th Manoa

Manoa's music is medicine that allows audiences to explore the essence of the relationships between each other and Earth.

17th Liquid Amber

Worldy sounds that will take you on journeys and have you writing home about it...

24th Elena B Williams

A truthful and soulfully unique talent Elena uses for the good of her people and the beautiful island nation she calls home: Samoa

31st James Bennett

Acoustic folk/roots artist from the mid North Coast

Feb 7th Andrea Kirwin

Hip Hop, Funk and Soul with an Island Style Roll



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53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

January Gigs

Friday 8th	8pm	Fish on Fire
Saturday 9th	8pm	Soula
Sunday 10th	5pm	Richie Williams
Thursday 14th	7pm	Jock Barnes
Friday 15th	8pm	Will Massey
Saturday 16th	8pm	Fiona & the Sweepers
Sunday 17th	5pm	Ritchie Langford
Thursday 21st	7pm	Loa
Friday 22nd	7pm	Pete Allen
Saturday 23rd	8pm	Romaniacs
Tuesday 26th	1pm	Neil Anderson
Thursday 28th	7pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 29th	7pm	Adam Harpaz
Saturday 30th	8pm	Jesse Morris Band
Sunday 31st	5pm	Brommers

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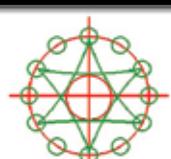
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Highway robbery

by Wayne Wadsworth

We had another protest in Lismore about the saliva testing of drivers not really being about impairment and causing cannabis users to show positive, days after using. Twice as many came as the first time, maybe sixty all up, and there were many good speakers whose lives have been dramatically altered by the new driving laws saying you cannot drive with THC in your system.

There are fifty-odd drug driving charges in Lismore court every week now and I don't think anyone quite expected those numbers. Responding to the high figures, NSW is trebling saliva testing in 2016 and QLD doubling theirs.

Up to one in five drivers testing positive for drugs, makes for huge front page headlines and of course there is a lot of shock-horror reactions from the authorities. The figures are always released with and compared to alcohol figures. Recently on the North Coast it was 1 in 6 tested positive for drugs and 1 in 180 positive on the breathalyzer!

The drug test is only for cannabis, amphetamines and MDMA and they never release a breakdown of which drugs, but we all know the majority are for cannabis. Some of these initial tests are proved to be false alarms when the final test in the lab is done at a later date. More importantly, the tests are

supposed to be random, and this doesn't appear to be true at all.

When a roadblock is set up, cars are pulled over and everyone is tested for alcohol and then some drivers are selected for the drug test, which is an expensive throw-away device which collects saliva. They cost \$49 each, I understand. And unlike the cost-free booze test, this takes some time, as everyone has to wait to see if your spittle makes the little stick glow blue, or whatever.

So of course, the cops are going to select who to test. Long-haired hippies and greenies are a given, young people generally perhaps, young blackfellas for sure. We can all tell who might use illegal substances, can't we? The colourful hairy people, or the shaved heads! They're not going to waste their limited \$50 dice throws on straight oldies, are they?

So it's bullshit to say it's random, and I'm sending a copy of this to the Police Integrity Commission to ask them to intervene. That should do the trick!

Otherwise, may I suggest that people incensed by this overkill, which appears to be a joyful culture war for some, contact their local parliamentary representatives and explain to them that cannabis is a medicine that many people are used to using long term, and with safe driving records. These people also need to drive to work, or get their kids to school in the morning and



Steve Bolt addresses the rally

if they had a toke the night before to relax they're much safer than if they drank alcohol I'm sure.

Solicitor Steve Bolt (pictured), emphasised at the protest that the police are testing repeat offenders. "Once identified and they know your registration number, do not be surprised if you are then tested two, three, four times, which means the police numbers are going to look good. So when police put out figures of one in six drivers testing positive, that's not a random figure, that's a result of very selective policing," he said.

Meanwhile the next protest, in an effort to highlight the truth about the testing, will be outside Lismore Member of Parliament Thomas George's office at 55 Carrington Street on Monday 25th January at 11am. Thomas has been our local MP since 1999 and should be able to get some sort of hearing with his National Party leader Troy Grant, the Justice and Police Minister and ex-cop from

Dubbo, who is reportedly closed-minded on the issue.

Deputy Premier Grant says we will be hearing a lot more about the MDT – Mobile Drug Testing. "So far this year, one in ten MDTs have come back positive, compared to around one in 300 positive Random Breath Tests for alcohol," he said. "The NSW Government is tripling Mobile Drug Testing to 97,000 tests each year by 2017 to help combat these statistics."

If we want to legalise medical cannabis, which most of us do it seems, then the driving with THC in your system needs to be sorted. It is not a problem in other countries, or the now 23 American states with legal medical cannabis which in fact appear to be having fewer accidents, from early statistics.

HEMP Party secretary Andrew Kavasilas summed up the feeling of the protest. "Helping people who are suffering shouldn't be about profit, and it's all about profit."

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert



I am learning, Malcolm sent me round to Bill's office, and several others, with little gifts of hash for the festive season. Bill was having trouble sleeping but he's fixed now, and in fact I hear it's the new favourite sleeping pill in Canberra since they discovered there's no hangover.

I'm learning all the inside gossip hanging around the PM's corridors. Great place to be dealing. The big news this month is that Tony Abbott purchased one of Margaret Thatcher's handbags for his wife at the auction in London, but she hates it, so Tony is using it himself. I didn't believe it until I saw him in the corridor. A boxer with a handbag, it just didn't look right.

In my annual report I mentioned how

ice is not such a big deal in the Bin, or not as much trouble as other country towns, simply because weed is always there as an alternative, unlike most places. Not sure why, but it hit a nerve in the Force. My guess is they have a lot invested in this war on ice and if they free the weed we'll be unda cutting their workload.

While we were discussing the Bin report, I was told in no uncertain terms to not use the name anymore as our northern neighbours didn't like it. Apparently the Indonesian authorities contacted ASIO complaining we were taking the piss out of them, so to speak. I didn't believe them until I looked it up. As Wikipedia says, Badan Intelijen Negara, (State Intelligence Agency), commonly referred to as BIN, is Indonesia's primary intelligence agency. (above)

Hipileaks: NT Ag Dept. Dec 2015. The CTEU (Cane Toad Eradication Unit) has requested more humans to live in the area to help counter the cane toad invasion in Northern Australia. They suggested some of the refugee internees could do it. Know that all these personnel have lost their jobs and criticism of our immigration policy will not be tolerated.

Central School students get artistic

by Peter Warne

Visit the Nimbin Artists gallery in January and February and you will be greeted in the lobby by the current presentation of art works from students at Nimbin Central School.

The display shows an amazingly wide range of media used, with everything from classic oil paintings to productions which incorporate found objects and hover teasingly between two and three dimensions.

The oil paintings come from the Year 10 class, and show students in their first encounter with oils, where they appear surprisingly at ease shaping landscapes in the warm, saturated colours and brushed textures of this medium.

The photography group produced an astonishing array of styles and methods. There are examples of fish-eye photography, a style utilising an extremely wide circular lens to capture a panoramic image with everything round the margins being squeezed into a circular perceptual field, creating a weird porthole picture with a spherical effect. We see photos from the analog cameras put out by the lomography company in Austria. These are simple cameras offering limited controls to the photographer and often introducing random effects – shadows, dark patches, leaks of light etc – which add to the originality of the result. The darkroom work is also done by the students.



'Lydia' by Lakeisha King

Still on the photography theme, there are 'cosplay' images, where the students dress in the costume of a character from a popular movie or TV series, then prepare photos of this. See the self-portrait above of the Year 9 student, costumed as the starstruck goth teenager Lydia from the 1988 film Beetlejuice. Finally, we visit the origins of photography with 'cyanotype' photography,

where by using paper sensitised with cyan (potassium ferrocyanide), exposed to light through a negative photographic image, producing a picture in the characteristic Prussian blue of the early blueprints.

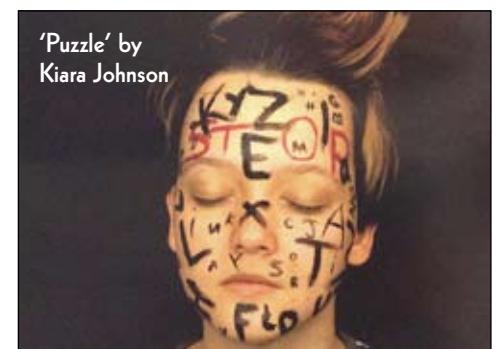
In one project the students were instructed to start with ordinary two-dimensional pictures which merge or 'escape' into three dimensions. Again, the conceptual originality is impressive. 'The last of the big cats' has a composite big cat, part lion, part tiger, part leopard, inhabiting a fictional wilderness, while wire mesh across the base of the picture hints at the encroaching march of human civilisation, so that the viewer witnesses an enclosure, a caging of the last of the beautiful beasts. Then there is the drawing of a branch with an actual bird's nest, complete with hatched eggs, perched on it.

There's plenty more to admire, but just go and see this exhibition – you'll see evidence of art classes where the teachers supply a seemingly inexhaustible succession of methods and techniques while somehow managing to open wide the doors to the fertile imagination of their students. It truly is a tribute to the Nimbin School's achieving of education in the original sense of the word: the drawing out of the creative potential of the learners.

If you don't even have time to get past the lobby, where the school's art is on display, you will still have a rewarding visit to Nimbin Artists Gallery.



'Ice' by Gaia Heart Year 10



'Puzzle' by Kiara Johnson



'The Last Big Cat' by Melita Gaias Yr 10

Choice and chance

'The Artist's Choice' is the current exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery, which runs until Sunday 7th February.

The members and artists of the gallery have chosen the works they wanted to exhibit, unencumbered by a theme, and yet again proved the quality of art and artists in the area who continue to exhibit here.

As part of this exhibition, there is a fundraiser for the hall and gallery with artists having an opportunity to participate. This fundraiser is being held along with the main exhibition, and has a dedicated wall called 'Little Pieces'.

Gallery members and artists along with well known artists, Rene Bolten, Ian Pearson and Lae Oldmeadow donated pieces and generously supported this fundraiser.

A silent auction was held on opening night and raised approx \$1600, which is nearly a record fundraiser. Work not sold on opening night is available during the rest of the exhibition period, selling for a maximum of \$30, minimum \$20.

Paul Roguszka has donated a beautiful personal craft box valued at \$300 to raffle, and tickets are available at the gallery (\$2 each or 3 for \$5). This will be drawn at the opening of the first exhibition in February.

Rainforest Birdbaths have also donated one of their wonderful birdbaths to raffle for the ceramic studio. Tickets \$2 or 3 for \$5 at the gallery. This will also be drawn in February, at the opening of the ceramic studio.

Artists & Friends lunch

The next Artists & Friends lunch will be held on Thursday 28th January at 12.30pm with a main meal which includes dessert for \$18 (vegetarian) or \$23 (non-vegetarian meat dish). Please contact the Cafe on 6689-7449 if you are planning to attend.

Please note: Cafe Blue Knob will open for the Farmers Market on Saturday 9th January, but will then be closed until Thursday 14th January.

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



'Autumn Cascade' by Shirley Miller



'Heart's Ease I & II' by Alana Grant (donated)

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Festival set for big return



Colouring up Cullen Street

As part of a drive to "Colour up Cullen", Tribal Magic recently added a bright new mosaic doorstop to the shop at 74 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

Tribal Magic business owner, Peter Laurence, commissioned local artist Melissa Markwell of Melissimo Mosaics to create the mosaic.

Melissa and Peter collaborated on the design, ensuring it captured the essence of Tribal Magic's philosophy – the magic that happens when tribes come together regardless of culture, creed, race or politics.

"Tribal Magic mosaic entrance ... colour and positive vibrations returning to the streets of the Nimbin Rainbow region ... thanks," said one Facebook comment.

"I'm looking forward to seeing more colour on Cullen in 2016," Peter said.



Melissa Markwell and Peter Lawrence



Help pay for paint

Surely, every motorist on our local roads has praised the work of the pothole painter, who has saved them huge amounts in repairs to their steering and suspension.

The reclusive artist, who prefers the name Roa D'art, is happy to continue his potentially life-saving work, but is in need of funds to pay for the expensive fluoro-coloured spray-paint.

He is putting collection tins in service stations and other businesses throughout the district, and hopes that grateful drivers and riders will contribute generously to his on-going artistic endeavours.



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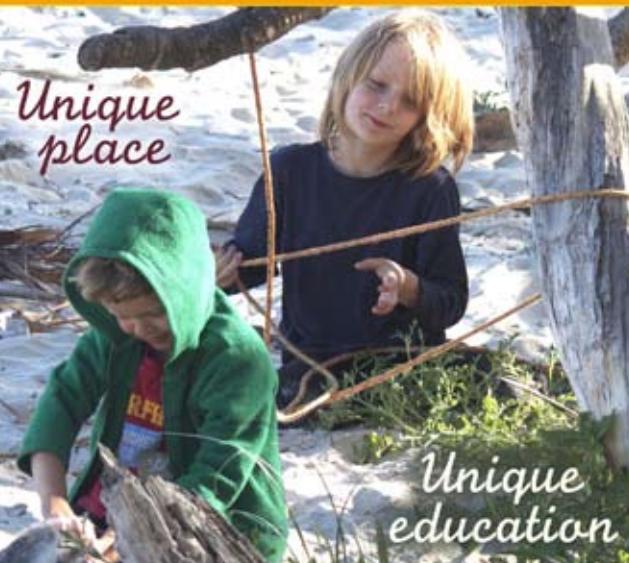
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Now enrolling for 2016

Bundjalung elder takes part in classes

by Tracey Gardiner

Jingi Wala everyone.

In the lead-up to the school holidays, we were very fortunate to have Bundjalung elder, Lewis Walker come and spend some time with us at the Tuntable Falls Community school.

The children had a wonderful time with him. Hearing his Dreamtime stories, listening to him play his didgeridoo and learning dance, songs and some Bundjalung language with him was a fantastic experience for all of them.

In the coming school year, we are planning to create an ethno-botanic walk within the school grounds, which we are all very excited about.

We are hoping to have Uncle Lewis come back and help us with this project, as his knowledge of local flora



and fauna is second to none.

I would like to thank Uncle Lewis on behalf of all the children for sharing some of

his time with us and we all look forward to seeing him again soon.

End of year cheer!

Nimbin Preschool's annual end of year party was lots of fun for everyone.

DJ Huddy mixed out some smooth grooves and funky beats for the movers and shakers. Thanks DJ Huddy!

Mirrini and Alyse swayed and swirled with the hipsters in the Hokey Pokey Bellydance. Thanks Mirrini and Alyse!

The evening was not complete until we all reminisced over John Denver's 'Take Me Home Country Roads' with guitar and percussion accompaniment. Thanks Barb for the trip down memory lane! The food was great and many thanks to the eager party food preparers, the families!

The year has gone fast, and we thank the Nimbin Garden Club for their generosity and support during 2015. The Parent Committee would like to extend thanks to the whole Nimbin Community for their ongoing support and connection with Nimbin Preschool, and to wish everyone all that is wonderful for Christmas and 2016.



Eden and Bellarose, Sol and Solomon and Sara and Mirrini (left)

Nimbin Holiday Club summer program

Nimbin's vacation care program runs for children aged 5-12, and is operating from the Nimbin Community School, in the Community Centre.

On excursion days, please meet us in the Nimbin Central School carpark at 9am.

The day runs between 9am and 3pm. Please read the dates and venues below carefully and book to avoid disappointment – phone NNIC on 6689-1692 between 10am and 4pm, or you can text or call Kylie on 0487-576-281.

The basic fee is \$12 per day and more on excursion days. Parents must sign consent forms for any excursions.

Date	Program	Cost
Friday 8 th January	Nimbin Community School, Park and Pool Art/Craft, DVDs, games, music and more (Please wear old clothes) Messy day with paper mache	\$12
Tuesday 12 th January	Excursion – Regent Cinema and Murwillumbah pool and slide Come and watch Alvin & The Chipmunks: Road Chip (PG) and then cool off at the Murwillumbah pool and slide Please bring food, water, hat, swimmers and a towel.	\$25
Friday 15th January	Nimbin Community School, Park and Pool Art/Craft, DVDs, games, music and more (Please wear old clothes) Painting day	\$12
Tuesday 19 th January	Excursion – Shelley Beach rock pools and Ballina waterslide Come explore the rock pools and some castles in the sand, then we will have lunch at Missingham Park then go to Ballina waterslide and pool. Please bring food, water, hat, swimmers and a towel	\$25
Thursday 21st January	Nimbin Community School, Park and Pool Art/Craft, DVDs, games, music and more Library craft activity – suncatchers	\$12
Friday 22nd January	Nimbin Community School, Park and Pool – Last day party Art/Craft, DVDs, games, music and more Party games, music, dance and dress-ups	\$12

Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat,

swimmers and a towel and adequate food and drinks.
Program funded by NSW DEC



Nimbin new year's celebrations



There were more New Year's Eve celebrations than usual in Nimbin, with fire-twirling and DJs in Allsopp Park (above), dancing at the Bowlo (right), as well as music at the Oasis Cafe and a great private party on Cullen Street. With such a choice for revellers in the village to see in the new year in both the NSW and Qld time zones, it was no wonder there were some sore heads on New Year's Day. Best wishes to all our readers, contributors and advertisers from the team at Nimbin GoodTimes.



Tijuana Cartel play the Bush Theatre



Santa at the Hall

