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81 Cullen Street
Nimbin 2480
Phone 6689-1148
nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com



A welter of wordsmiths

The 2017 Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup has been decided, with Tug Dumbly (pictured, centre and right) ending up the winner of the glittering Cup and the \$2000 purse.

His entertaining eight-minute performance included many memorable lines, including "Throw another planet on the barbie" and "Rage against the dialysis machine".

The eight finalists traversed a range of recurring themes, from identity, love and relationships, ageing, smartphone technology, nature, to the state of the nation and world affairs.

The People's Choice Award went to Josh Holmes. The other finalists were



Tug Dumbly

Thundercloud, Vasudha, David Hallett, Joshua Donellan, Jacqui Malins and Gezelle.

The Grand Final was judged by Diana Anaid, Peter Bareza and last year's winner, Robin Archbold.



Josh Holmes

Organiser Gail M. Clark said the event, now in its 15th year, was "A wonderful weekend of fantastic performances," and congratulated all who entered.

Planning is already underway for the 2018 Cup.

Remembering Nightcap

The Terania Native Forest Action Group and Nightcap Action Group focused national attention on logging in the area. On the 35th anniversary, Sophia Hoeben recalls the action.

"Red alert! Red alert!" Di Kivi's voice came over loud and clear on the CB radio from Nimbin's Media Centre. "Logging trucks, bulldozers and 4WD police vehicles pulling through Nimbin."

The year was 1982 and Nimbin was about to face the biggest challenge in its short nine-year alternative history. The call to save the forests had begun and people came from everywhere to answer that call. Base camp was established on Mt. Nardi as tents went up and cars, campers, trucks and buses brought people brave enough to challenge the loggers greedy desire to log the ancient forests.

We could not allow this gross miscarriage of justice to occur in the beautiful environment we had chosen as our home. It was a fight for the ancient trees, the old giants which have graced our planet for thousands of years, supplying oxygen, food and shelter for humans and untold numbers of animals and birds.

Of the three camps set up, I parked my Kombi on the higher ground close to Andy Frame and Beanie's place, where in the morning, I found Ian Cohen's truck parked close by. My friend Rick Wright and myself had conversations with Andy over what tactics would be used to stop the logging trucks going up the mountain.

Andy was worried about his nearby neighbours and any actions which might be seen as too radical, however we convinced him all would be well and that he was doing the right thing by allowing the protesters on his land for this very important event.

Our collective love for the forest was great. We all realised we would probably be arrested



Nightcap National Park was created in 1983. In 1999 a further 3200 hectares of Whian Whian State Forest was added.

and possibly reviled by the public and the media who usually made us look like ratbags or dirty hippies. Such were those days when they sent 100 police in to tackle us on Newton Drive as we stood firm on the road, locked arms and sang songs of protest for the forest.

For four long months, we languished in all the conditions the camps offered, rain, mud and very basic food, squatting over a muddy hole in the mornings and getting out of jail in the afternoons. We were told we were not allowed back in the forest when released, but most of us ignored these bail conditions and quickly returned to the mountain we now called home.

When it rained, the logging was halted, so we prayed to the Earth for rain even though we were saturated at stages. When the sun came out, so did the loggers and it would start all over again, up at 4am, throw a mouthful of porridge down the gullet, then back out on the road as the trucks pulled up the mountain.

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