

# THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Far out and FREE

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## Lismore hosts impressive display of Indigenous culture

by Omega Breakspear

'Knowledge, Culture, Country and Connection' was a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the diversity and talent of Indigenous Australia.

The event was at Lismore's Quadrangle space on Saturday 26th May. Bringing together communities from across the Bundjalung nation, it was a deadly start to National Reconciliation Week.

The entertainment began at 10am with music and a Welcome to Country in sunny Autumn weather. The day's MC was famous Wiradjuri actor and entertainer Luke Carroll, and featured a non-stop line-up of talented musicians and dancers.

One of the highlights for me was the Nini Nahri-Gali dancers formed by Bundjalung dancer Sarah Bolt. These talented local young women and girls danced in two groups together.

Each group had matching costumes of a beautifully simple design with a spiral motif in either aqua or green. The performance featured both contemporary and traditional elements.

The Malu Kiai Mura Buai troupe from the Torres Strait Islands followed in spectacular fashion. Accompanied by their own musicians, the dancers performed in a co-ordinated and energetic traditional style with beautiful and colourful costumes.

I couldn't help thinking of the significance of the journey they had made from their island home off Far North Queensland to perform on Bundjalung country at the same time as the Aquarius celebrations.

The Mornington Island Dancers had made a similar journey exactly 45 years ago from their home off North Queensland to perform at the first Aquarius Festival.

Art and crafts were also on display and there were skills shared in a number of different techniques. Well-known local



Malu Kiai Mura Buai men



Digby Moran art class



Nini Nahri-Gali dancers



Lisa weaving Photos: Omega

painter and culture man Digby Moran helped budding young Bundjalung artists create work using traditional ochres, bark and tools.

Tania Marlowe from Salt Water Women's Weaving showed us how to weave from shredded local native plants, which were on offer to have a go. I discovered I'm not a natural weaver, but thoroughly enjoyed the experience of trying!

The Ngalingah Mijung Dubais

had a lovely display of their hand plant dyed t-shirts, scarves and bags and other art, all for sale.

This local group of Our Happy Women started by Aunty Mim Bolt are hoping to raise enough money to travel to the Cairns Indigenous Arts Festival in July.

They will have a stall with their art work at the Lismore Carboot Market, or you can email: [ameliab@ywcansw.com.au](mailto:ameliab@ywcansw.com.au)

Wi-abul Aunty Marie Delbridge

said May has been a wonderful month of cultural celebrations. Aunty Marie had also led the Hemp Embassy's MardiGrass March with Aunty Vivian Laurie-King in Nimbin earlier in May.

She is one of the women hoping to travel up to Cairns and continue the exchange of culture and skills with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island women artists.

'Knowledge, Culture, Country and Connection' was organised by

the *Koori Mail*, which is based in Lismore and published their first edition of the 'Indigenous voice of Australia' in 1991.

"I'd like to see things like this happen more often," said Aunty Marie. "It's good for the Elders and it gets the young involved in our culture."

I feel very lucky to be welcomed to Bundjalung Country and to share with the First Nation Custodians of this land.

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