



THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

Fecund and FREE

Pigs Face Edition

September 2018

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Show preparation almost done and dusted



Recently retired pavilion steward Lorraine Keen with president Phil Williams, during the set-up last year.

by Dave Fawkner

Next year will mark the centenary of the Nimbin Annual Country Show, but right now the Nimbin A & I Committee and volunteers are flat out putting the final touches to this year's show, to be held on 22nd and 23rd September.

There will be the usual dog show on the Saturday, with cattle displays and equestrian events on both days, plus a host of exhibits in the main pavilion.

And while the Sustainability Alley section is expected to be smaller this year due to exhibitor commitments in other areas, a number of regulars – including the popular Palate to Plate Cafe – have indicated they will be taking part in the show.

There'll be live entertainment in the marquee from Ted and Kahn on both days, plus a talent quest.

Along with regular attractions such as the

snake display and sideshows, the committee hopes to have pony rides for the younger children. There will also be an exciting announcement regarding next year's show.

And it will all wrap up on the Sunday afternoon with the ever-popular and always exciting Dog High Jump.

Behind the scenes it's been a busy year and it's beginning to show. Along with the opening of the new poultry pavilion (see story in June NGT), exhibitors are expected to be delighted with the revamped cattle ring, and patrons will be able to enjoy a video display of past shows while enjoying refreshments in the canteen.

These features are just part of ongoing improvements to the showgrounds, made possible by the collection of camping fees.

The committee is currently budgeting to replace the show ring fence, which is in a dilapidated condition, in time for next year's centenary show.



Photo: Marie Cameron

Nimbin's preponderance of poets

by Teresa Biscoe and Marie Cameron

It was another hotly contested Cup this year, with many new faces as well as the local talent.

This year, applications exceeded expectations, with more than 40 entries in before the deadline. Fortunately, there were a couple of drop-outs, which reduced the Saturday heats program to 10 per heat. Nevertheless it was a huge day, with the last heat finishing after 7pm.

The general standard was incredible and judging was an unenviable task, but decisions were made and the final four from each heat were selected for the semi-finals on Sunday, and then whittled down to the final eight for the grand finale on Sunday Evening.

The People's Choice Award, which is decided on the Saturday, was for young newcomer Zac Simmons, who gave an incisive commentary on life, humanity and the need to start action now.

The local talent was well represented in the finals with some cracking poetry and

performances from the well-known master poet David Hallett, who took us on an historical journey through our lovely valley; rap master Daniel Pearson, who showed the love and struggles he has experienced with his family and young blood; and Otto Nomous, who bent some great words to describe the human condition.

We also enjoyed the fresh new talents of Dynah Mikah, who took a stand against chemotherapy and took us on ayahuasca trip; Katinka Smit, who gave a compelling and deeply personal performance about the death of a baby; Kate Barker, who took us on a fairytale childhood journey into where the witch's cottage was real and the child was not safe; Janette Hoppe, who explored and affirmed her ancestral connections and the strength she drew on through a wonderful collection of poems.

The winner this year was first-time entrant Sarah Temporal, who wove for us the fascinating history and significance of the Rapunzel

story, re-imagining an age-old fairytale into a modern-day woman's experience as an expression of definitions of womanhood, sexuality and empowerment.

Like Rapunzel's hair, it snaked through the room creating story, history in a context of beautiful imagery, and brought the house down with acclamation.

35-year old Sarah Temporal is a relief high school English teacher in Murwillumbah, who has been entering slams and performing poetry for 15 years, mostly around Lismore, the Gold Coast and at arts events.

She said, "I would like to introduce more people into the joy of poetry. I had no idea I would come out on top of such a strong field."

The top three were separated by a mere quarter of a point, which must have made it one of the most difficult finals to judge yet.

It was a wonderful weekend of words, many thanks to Gail M. Clarke and her wonderful volunteers who make this such a great annual event.

Beware the pesky rodent

Mice, rats and other vermin are always a challenge for the country dweller, but add a severe drought to the mix and things can become quite dire.

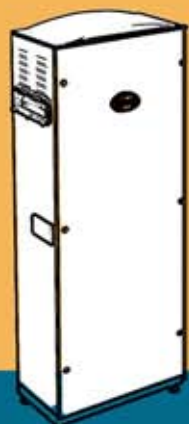
Such was the experience of a number of Nimbin residents in August when seemingly inexplicable fires ignited in and around vehicles.

The Rural Fire Brigade has reported three fires caused by rats nesting under motors or guards of vehicles, and local towing man Johnny Mac has reported two vehicles suffering the same fate.



Car fire caused by rats

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