Quick thinking by local musician Tonto almost certainly saved an itinerant man from burning to death in his van. The man named John had been unable to escape from the vehicle parked in a Cecil Street property, after its interior caught alight at around 6am. Tonto, sleeping nearby, was alerted by the noise. “I could hear this thumping and yelling, and at first I thought some neighbours must be having a blue. Then I saw smoke coming from the van,” he said. “He couldn’t get out from the inside because the door was jammed or something, but I got it open from the outside and got him out.”

In quick succession Tad arrived, then the RFS fire tender, and the blaze was extinguished with only minor scorch damage to the adjoining timber building. John was taken to Nimbin hospital, where he was treated for severe lung damage, and was for some time unable to talk.

Tonto was loath to see the rescue as an act of bravery or heroism. “I just did what anybody would do,” he said.

Major film on press freedoms

“Good sight, and good luck” was Ed Morrow’s sign-off piece for his news show set to Now on CBS from 1951. It was a time when broadcast journalism was in its infancy. Free speech was called into question in 1953 when reporting critically on Senator McCarthy’s anti-communist committee hearings could have dire consequences. To your livelihood, or indeed to your very life.

George Cluney’s directorial debut (he also plays Morrow’s producer Fred Friendly), this docu-drama takes you into the well-heeled, smart but seedy world of 50s New York where slur and innuendo are rife, and people at CBS, where sponsorships and cash flow all help to define decisive sharp-talking equipment, everyone frames. Antique production settings of 50s New York under pressure.

Th e drug’s always been around, but now it’s easy to cook up and there’s more of it around, of higher purity, and usual. “I’m not into it. You get psychosis.” Another common view was that there were “three or four” of the lads who were into speed, and had been for five years, their numbers neither increased nor declined. “You can get it.”

According to staff, admissions at Richmond Clinic do not seem to indicate an “epidemic,” but “there are some who know how to work the system.” It will be of interest to see what grounds there are for Mr Hee’s assertions at the Butterys community seminar on the topic on 12th April at the Byron bay Community Centre from 10am - 4pm.
Local heroes recognition scheme

On 3rd March 2006 the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Milton Orkopoulos, unveiled a new recognition and rewards scheme for the unsung heroes of Aboriginal communities across the State.

The Local Heroes Recognition Scheme has been introduced to recognise the contribution and positive efforts of Aboriginal people at a local level, working towards improving education, health, wellbeing or general living circumstances of Aboriginal people.

In launching the scheme the Minister said, “It’s clear that in many cases these local heroes offer advice and support for those doing it tough, and deserve our support and encouragement. They are a source of inspiration for many, and most importantly are positive role models for Aboriginal people.”

Aboriginal people who reside in NSW can be nominated if:
• they participate and contribute in their community by making a positive difference for Aboriginal people;
• their contributions are an example and inspiration to others;
• they have the general support of the community;
• there is no known reason why they should not receive this acknowledgement.

Recipients will receive a certificate of recognition and will be invited to apply for a small amount of funding (up to $1,000) to assist projects he/she is involved with.

Some initiatives that could receive funds include:
• breakfast programs and transport to school;
• tutoring;
• equipment to support health and educational projects;
• support for elderly;
• teaching Aboriginal languages.

Nominations can be made by completing and submitting a nomination form, which can be downloaded from www.daa.nsw.gov.au. There is also a fact sheet on the scheme at this site.

Nimbin Hair Salon

How do you find a catchy name for a hairdressing salon that hasn’t been used before? Penny Wind (“rhymes with kind”) is facing this quandary as the new proprietor of the Nimbin Hair Salon. A hairdresser for 23 years, she has worked in the UK and on catwalk shows in the ACT before moving to Cawongla, where she has lived for four years. She was working for Kaye one day a week when “the opportunity came up and I went for it.”

“It felt comfortable, and I’m really enjoying it.” She has inherited most of the salon’s clientele and is gaining new customers. Penny likes to keep up to date with the trade, for example she will be travelling to Sydney for the Hair Expo in June. She likes doing glam hair, formal hair, and retro styles. “I’m not doing anything too different to Kaye, but I have my own styling,” she said. “I love cutting and colouring.”

Some of her ideas for MandGrass hair include “stencilling, ponytail swatches, and colour, colour, colour,” and she is introducing more eco-friendly colour products.

“I’d like to say a big thank you to Kaye and to Nimbin town for accepting me. There’s been a very positive response to the change,” she said. The change, including a new name, “Snipping Heads,” will be more apparent when her signage goes up, and when the ramp under construction in front of the salon is completed.

Incidentally, the salon walls are available for artists to hang their work, for sale or for show. Contact Penny at the salon on 6689-1000.

Optimistic timeframe for Skate Park

Council discussion of the Nimbin Skate Park was postponed from the 7th March 2006 Workshop due to competition for time with the Lismore Memorial Baths Marketing Plan and Lakeside Pool. It is anticipated that a report to Council or Workshop will be planned for April.

The Skate Park project is managed by the Nimbin Community Development Association (NCDA). The NCDA have development consent to construct the skate ramp and have exercised their right to complete the project as outlined in their Development Application, but will only complete part of the ramp, sufficient to allow the sound generation to be tested. TURSA have indicated the works will be completed in 3 weeks. Further sound testing of the structure will take place when this stage is complete (est. March 2006).

Completion of the project has been delayed due to the generation of unacceptable noise levels when the ramp is in use. Council is assisting the NCDA in resolving issues regarding the project and to this end, in late 2005 a working group was formed by Council involving staff, NCDA representatives and the local community.

The next meeting of this working group will now be held towards the end of March.

Concurrently, Council and the NCDA are discussing the future management of the skate ramp and Peace Park.

Nimbin Players have launched their first ever autumn season with a confident production of Hanne Rayson’s Hotel Sorrento.

An ample first-night house was impressed by the slickness of the multi-stage transitions. “They laughed in all the right places,” said stage manager Angus.

The playwright said she wanted “to provide the audience with something to talk about over the show,” and judging by the audience reaction, this smooth, assured production has certainly achieved her goal.

Director Deborah Wild expressed her thanks to all the players and non-players who lent a hand in bringing this work to life.

The play runs until Saturday 8th April.
rainbow ridge extensions opened

by mel mcmillan

rainbow ridge steiner school at lillian rock held the grand opening of their newly completed extensions last week. aboriginal elder aunty agnes also took part by welcoming everyone in attendance to bunjalung country and local member ian causley was there to cut the ribbon.

tony gain, the school administrator said, “it has been a long and hard struggle to get the school built. it has also been a great learning opportunity for the students to watch the building going up around them.”

the two new classrooms and undercover area were constructed with labour from the local community. four german Zimmermen, builders renowned for their attention to detail, also participated in the project.

“We designed the building to make the most of natural light,” said laurence forrester, one of the building’s designers. we also considered the importance of the children being able to see nature at all times. the low lying windows allow children to look outside.”

the federal government contributed $100,000 and the school raised the remaining $190,000 required to complete the extension. ian causley said the government’s contribution was part of its commitment to education. the opening ceremony finished with the Rainbow Ridge students singing songs.

hospitals helpers

nimbin hospital auxiliary has certainly been making a difference to the new hospital since it opened in september last year. the group conducts a saturday morning stall outside the newswagency, and meets monthly to review its fundraising initiatives, and to decide on how the money will be spent.

by february this year, they had fundraised over $13,500 worth of improvements to the facilities of the hospital, on equipment and decorations to assist patients’ recovery by making their hospital stay more comfortable. purchases have included a tv and dvd player, a mobile bath and two chairs, a barbeque, bookcase, flags, paintings, and a set of drinking mugs. thanks are due to the generosity of all in the community who have supported the fundraising drives.

but thanks are also due to the unsung heroines and heroes of the nimbin hospital auxiliary, whose tireless efforts are continually making things better for patients.

cartoons bring history to life

local cartoonist peter gibson has been lending a hand with high school history classes at nimbin central school.

class teacher moira kenny was teaching a unit on propaganda, using source material from the world wars, when one of her year 9 students, elijah gestle, suggested getting in touch with mr gibson, who had introduced him to the pleasure of cartooning.

ms kenny did so, and the rest is history. “i wanted the students to understand the power of political cartoons,” she said. the issue is particularly relevant in the wake of the kerfuffle over political cartoons recently.

the classes were very practical, as gibbo (as he signs his work) helped get the students to represent their ideas visually in linework.

ms kenny was very pleased with how the classes went. “kids find history wordy, there’s a lot of writing,” she said. “it’s good to look at other forms of communication for expressing ideas and points of view.”

the response from students was very positive, and teachers are now looking at further ways of involving gibbo in the curriculum.

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Movements for the mind

Eighteen teachers from Nimbin Central School and community members and three councillors recently took part in a three-hour training workshop to learn the techniques of Brain Gym.

Brain Gym is a program of physical activities that enhance learning ability, developing the brain’s neural pathways through movement. Developed by Paul Dennison in California in the 1970s, the program is based on the techniques of kinesiology, and has had great success around the world in assisting people of all ages to overcome learning difficulties.

Satu Linnamo, the educational kinesiologist who conducted the workshop said, “The exercises help settle hyperactive children, alleviate stress and improve concentration. They are simple to do, and have benefits for left brain/right brain integration, which can greatly improve reading, writing and listening, as well as hand-eye co-ordination.”

The teachers plan to use the exercises to help improve students outcomes in communication and organisation tasks, and to help build their confidence.

For those interested in learning more, an accredited four-day course is being held from Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd April at the Byron Bay Brain Gym Centre, costing $450. Contact Satu Linnamo for more details on 6685-3923 or email satu@spot.com.au

Making a safe community

by Lizette Twisleton

Nimbin Aunty Afternoon Tea

A gathering of women interested in becoming involved in the Nimbin Aunty Project will be held on Friday 21st April, 2pm at Birth & Beyond. Please come along and be part of this exciting and worthy morning program.

Contact Lizette on 6689-1692 for further info.

Stop Violence Against Women

Following on from last month’s article about the myths and facts of sexual assault I would like to further explore both domestic violence and sexual assault. Information raises awareness and awareness empowers and increases our ability to make healthy choices. So although this information may be confronting, heavy and challenging I hope that the process is essential nature of your self and the essential nature of being.

It is an opportunity to allow the natural processes of the self, confronting its conditioned tendencies, obstructions, distractions and contradictions in the light of its inherent desire for freedom, love and openness.

It prompts nothing less than transformation from non-acceptance to acceptance, from distraction to a deeper sense of reality. It is a simple and kindly process, in which each person unfolds occurring within you or her own time.

Yet it may well be one of the hardest experiences of your life.

Although there is a modest $50 fee by Samaya for the three days’ use of facilities, the retreat itself is free of charge. For a map and further details please visit www.byronevents.net Phone: 6688-2000 email samayaretreat@hotmail.com

Sanctuary, Fire and Anudasi, joyful stillness of Samaya Retreat at Rosebank

“THe awakened there is nothing out of place, not even ignorance, bogus future or suffering for he is blissfully beyond ignorance.”

The next Samaya Gathering will be held on Saturday 15th April, 10am to Midnight at the Samaya Retreat, Lot 12, Emerson Road, Rosebank.

The idea is to get together with some good food, good music and good company and have a great time.

Please bring a plate of food, your musical instruments and your ideas. We expect a range of fun activities spontaneously and freely provided by some of the participants.

On current estimates we will have some musical performers, yoga sessions, dancing, a 2km long sacred labyrinth walk in the forest, meditations, games, psychic readings, story telling, poetry readings, playback theatre, dream explorations, swimming in the creek, bush walks and a bonfire to finish the day.

Bring your friends, bring your kids and enjoy the good life. The event is free of charge.

The next Samaya Retreat, "The Art of Awareness" will be held from Friday 21st April, 10am to Sunday, 23rd April, 5pm.

The Retreat is three days of direct experience. It is a subtle process that explores the apparent paradoxes of one’s existence. It is an opportunity to come face to face with the difficulties that are faced by someone experiencing abuse, we can offer our support not only in practical ways, but also assist in creating a safe and caring environment where privacy and confidentiality are respected and victims are encouraged to seek help.

I urge readers to reflect on the impacts of abuse both personally and within the wider community.

To make a personal stand and say NO to violence.

Contacts

If you have in the past, or currently experiencing abuse and would like support you can contact the following services.

Rape Crisis Line
1800-424-017 (24 hr service)

Lismore Sexual Assault Service
1800-200-3970

Men & Family Centre (Lismore)
6622-6116

Mensline
6622-2240

Domestic Violence Helpline
1800-645-463

Nimbin Police
6689-1244

Nimbin Hospital
6689-1400

Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre
6689-1692 (10am-6pm weekdays)
by Michael Balderstone

I can’t remember who wanted Mardi Grass meetings on Mondays at 5pm! This week’s meeting saw the numbers double, from two to four.

Gail Clarke came and she’s going to bring back Pot Poetry Breakfasts in the Rainbow. The meeting emanated confidence in everything coming together. All a bit scary except it’s similar to the last few years…

We talked a lot about Jungle Patrol, which is the only hole in this year’s dreaming, or the only one we’ve thought of so far! Tom, our Red Cross man from Sydney is going ahead with the training days for Jungle Patrol, on Monday and Tuesday 1st and 2nd May, like we normally do. There’s a book in the HEMP Embassy to put down your name as a volunteer, either with Jungle Patrol or not. We’ll get plenty of help when the time comes but we need locals with experience to use the radios etc and be guides for our other visiting back-packer volunteers.

Lismore Council is again very supportive and rubbish, toilets, security and parking is organised, along with fences, rents, slashing and so on. We can always do with more parking paddocks and it would be great to use the showground if the weather is fine. Weather is a bigger unknown than JP and we live with this until the last moment. Peace Park gets cold, so plans are to have a program there until only 9pm on Saturday. There’s plenty of other venues including the Town Hall, Bush Theatre, Bowlo, the market stage, Oasis and other cafes, behind the Museum and the pub. And the streets! All market enquiries to J at 0409-045-016 or kahoze@mad.scientist.com.

Most of MardiGrass this year will be similar to last. A bigger forum and discussion on Saturday afternoon with a focus on relevant issues like saliva testing and psychosis. Please get involved and bring your questions, answers and experience along. The Cup is moving back to Sunday evening. Spaces’ new Pot Art Tattoo competition in the Town Hall garden and a bigger Peace Park program are a few changes that come to mind. Ian Glover’s comedy with S has been a highlight at the Hemp Olympix and the Oasis for some years, this year he’s bringing his band the Recliners from Sydney. We are looking for someone to do hemp paper making in Peace Park.

Any other educational, informative, creative hemp ideas that will entertain all ages will surely bring backers of good karma. Anyone want to organise Pot Art in the shop windows? We plan to travel to Canberra with the Big Joint and a message for Howard on the day after MardiGrass. A few people are telling me that ‘no one wants MardiGrass’, which is very unfortunate but happily not true. I am sorry it has such an impact on the whole community. It does have a bit of a life of its own now and has grown by popularity and reputation, particularly overseas and throughout the cannabis culture. Fortunately many local groups and businesses do well enough these days to offset some of the less popular impact on our tiny village. We do try hard to minimise harm over the weekend and many locals and MG annual visitors have already confirmed they will be here again to play their part in keeping it a peaceful protest, and celebration.

Sergeant Garry Acton, who has recently transferred to Murwillumbah, told the Daily Telegraph in a recent story that Nimbin was a town that stands alone on its attitude towards the war on drugs. ‘That’s not something I feel ashamed about. We are an extraordinarily well educated community in this field and do have something to offer. Does the wider Nimbin community want MardiGrass? How many people care enough about cannabis law reform? Who cares? Or is it all about personal comfort these days? I came to Nimbin to be alternative. The Museum… how that’s another issue, and I do understand the people who want to close it down. Somedays I feel the same, but I’m not sure that whatever’s troubling them, and me, will leave town if the Museum closes. Meanwhile I’m hoping to ride out the storm, change is inevitable and then perhaps we’ll be inspired again to give the Museum a big facelift? Maybe even Boton! Still I remain amazed at how often visitors enjoy walking the Rainbow Serpent path as it is. Do feel comfortable and help make a better show. MardiGrass meetings are on Mondays at 5pm on the back verandas of the HEMP Embassy, via the laneway next to the pub. Fridays same time in the Hemp Bar is also good. All welcome, if you can’t make it then please get in touch. Sane good locals in Jungle Patrol is the obvious need. We are indeed a unique community and it would be a pity to get too normal!”

Nimbin HEMP Embassy Phone 6689-1842.

Mardi Grass plans

Colour and movement. A view of last year’s Grand Parade.

Breakfast guest. Popular poet Gina La Costa

Drugs policy failing says Australia Institute

Australia’s ‘Tough on Drugs’ policy has failed to significantly reduce domestic drug markets or confront drug-related mental health disorders according to a new report from the Australia Institute.

The report, titled Drug Law Reform: Beyond Prohibition, by the Institute’s Deputy Director, Andrew Macintosh, calls on governments to shift the emphasis in dealing with illicit drugs from law enforcement to treatment and prevention strategies. The issue of drug abuse needs to be confronted as a health rather than a legal problem.

“Four out of every five state and federal dollars allocated to dealing with illicit drug issues are going to law enforcement,” Mr Macintosh said. “This hugely disproportionate spending of funds has not been accompanied by significant reductions in drug use and drug-related harm, but it has been accompanied by increased mental health and other social problems.

“Treatment on the other hand has been shown to substantially reduce drug and mental health problems and drug-related crime and corruption. Studies have shown that treatment is extremely cost effective, yielding savings of up to $12 for every dollar invested.”

Mr Macintosh said the Council of Australian Government’s strategy to address mental health issues, which is due out in June, should adopt a treatment oriented approach to drug misuse rather than the counterproductive stance currently espoused by the federal and several state governments.

“We are coming at the problem from the wrong way. Eighty per cent of drug arrests in 2003/04 involved consumption offences and 60 per cent were for using or possessing cannabis,” Mr Macintosh said.

“This is back to front thinking. Users are at the end of the line. Moreover the statistics show that legal threats are not deterring them. Prevention and treatment programs within a health context hold far more promise.”

The report finds that strict drug law enforcement policies have failed to dent illicit drug markets and have exacerbated the social cost of illicit drug use.

“There is much that is illusory in present claims to success in confronting the illicit drug trade,” Mr Macintosh said. “The recent heroin drought for example is not so much the result of law enforcement but of a decision by heroin producers and traffickers to switch to methamphetamine. The Federal Government puts itself on the back for the decline in heroin use, that treatment and methamphetamine problems have increased dramatically.”

“When you lay the facts on the table, they are indisputable. If we really want to get anywhere with this issue, we must start taking viable alternatives seriously.”

For comment, please contact: Andrew Macintosh 02 6125 1273 (mh) or 0403 804 540

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Madtang Thai

March 2006

Page 6 The Nimbin Goodtimes

www.nimbongoodtimes.com
In many discussions, several phone calls and hundreds of emails between dozens of high profile political representatives it has been noted that the Hemp Rescue Package has been given the green light and thumbs up. So far the package contains instructions for the cultivation of broad-acre Industrial Hemp crops.

The Cyclone Larry Hemp Rescue Package will quickly create employment and provide long term financial benefits to the entire region recently devastated by Cyclone Larry. Hemp is a very fast growing crop and will produce a primary source of protein from its rich seed oil in less than six months, the Bananas would still be bananas. Hemp has a historically proven success record in producing durable and viable products from the plant material such as Hemp bricks, chipboard, plasters, rope, cloth, paper plus many others. Hemp will become the answer to the prayers of many of the Farmers stricken by this hellish disaster. Sixteen participants aged 16 to 18 shared their experiences and feelings to identify personal barriers and different levels of anger. Using the Green – Amber – Red / Traffic Light model, participants were able to establish how their anger is expressed and diminished according to physical and emotional indicators.

The impact of the workshop on participants opened emotional doors for some & increased assertiveness & self-confidence in others. The feedback showed the training was intense, stressful and overwhelming with positive outcomes of realization, fulfillment, respect and emotional support. This pilot workshop included a large volume of training to which the participants contributed significantly. Filmmakers documented the entire weekend and facilitated a short drama film written and starring the participants. The drama played out the critical choices individuals make when dealing with anger and the consequences of those decisions.
Greetings mortals.

Clarification from the Goddess

strip down and beat the naked truth
drug news and global gossip. It’s live,

husk; Gerald.

stop throwing things at my annoying
will encourage you rowdy Sheilas to

Sheilas my place in the great

Holy Smoke. It’s a registered and
and I, the Goddess am the official

of cannabis by fair means or foul

excellent conduit for my pure divine

Dumb as a lump maybe, but he is an

him with almost no interference.

vacancy that makes him so useful

topics are childish, muddled and

his thoughts concerning all three

only of chess, sex and politics, and

useful specimen even of mere

boy and neither female nor divine. In

Council held its March meeting in the beautifully
restored Kooroornan Hill and while most items
on the agenda related to the closure of unformed
roads, several significant items caused considerable
debate. Readers will be aware that the flying foxes in
Rotary Park became an issue for debate in a
Mayoral Minute. This is a last minute prerogative of
the Mayor and gives the community no notice of
ontemtes major items for consideration. Whilst
acknowledging the need for this process at times of
urgency, Councillors have little opportunity to
gather supporting or opposing information on which
to form considered opinions.

Also up for debate was a proposal to raise
additional Lismore house rents for flood protection.
Unfortunately the claim in the business paper that
community consultation had taken place on this
issue was stretching the purpose of the July 05
post-flood meeting held in North Lismore just a rad.

The most controversial item on the March agenda
was the proposal to reclassify ‘certain public lands’ from
Community to Operational. This innocuous-

ning Amendment to the Local Environment
Plan (LEP) has resulted in the reclassification of
Lismore Park: the land bounded by Magellan,
Dawson, Brewster and Uraiba Streets and consisting of
Oakes Oval, Crozier Field and numerous other
sporting fields, tennis court and Continental Club.

The argument put forward by the proponents
was that such reclassification would allow for long
term leases for all or part of the land. There was
no compelling evidence that such leases were not
possible under ‘Community’ land but nevertheless
the recommendation was carried. As is required
when Council reclassifies its own land, not only is
there a statutory exhibition period, but there must
be a Public Hearing and an independent party to

input into the Budget process when the draft is
placed on public display for 28 days on 20th May.

Unfortunately the Nimbin Skate Park is one
project on which Council is still awaiting some
information. The workshop planned for 7th March
was postponed as staff awaited more information
and as yet, no further date has been allocated.

In Memoriam

Julie Bell

O darling Jules, one year has passed
since we lost you.
Not a day goes by without an ache in our hearts.
And the
Guiness doesn’t taste as good any more.
From mum, Peter, Michael, Caroline, Marlie and
Anth.
Slante Jule.

Marcel Le Bars

On the 4th
anniversary of Marcel’s passing, let’s remember the quality of the youth we have around us.
Generous hearted and loving of all people,
Marcel’s legacies have been left with his family, Josh and his family, and Paul, Mark, Danielle and Toby.
Cool bananas. We love you Marcel.
His love will never be lost.

Council jottings
Jenny Dowell

O over the next few months, much
of Lismore Council’s attention will be
on the budget and management plan for the
06-07 financial year. As is
usual, the demands will far
outstrip the money to meet them and many will be
disappointed with the process and outcome.

Added to the list of budget submissions from
staff, individual Councillors, community groups and
individuals will be the priority areas as determined by
the seven Policy Advisory Groups. Last year only
half of the number and a smaller proportion of the
financial value of the submissions were successful,
and this year will be even more competitive, given
that there are several large projects vying for
consideration. These include the construction of
Stage 1 (Gallery/Museum) of the cultural centre
on the site of the old Lismore High School in the CBD,
and the design and construction of Goonellabah
Recreation and Leisure Centre.

Other major proposals of the PAGS include the
mapping of vegetation across the LGA,
development of a cycleways plan, and much needed
major works on our ailing rural roads network. In
addition, there will be proposals to increase shade
and seating at the Memorial Baths, introduce a new
waste management system and undertake a scoping
study for the establishment of a youth enterprise
project.

All residents have the opportunity to provide
input into the Budget process when the draft is
placed on public display for 28 days on 20th May.

Submissions are also welcome at that stage before
the final Council sign off in mid June.

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project on which Council is still awaiting some
information. The workshop planned for 7th March
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Cool bananas. We love you Marcel.
His love will never be lost.
**Stay True**

by Binnah Powell

I am a purist at heart. I still hold on to ideals of a new world based on the good of foundation of Peace and Love (is there anything more sustainable than that?) – dreamt of and up for the last thirty odd years.

To see a Mardi Gras poster with a guy with a military uniform on is such a… I believe it’s called an oxymoron. Now, to my understanding, an oxymoron is not some idiot running around with a welder, it is a statement or situation that appears so hypocritical that each other cancels the other out.

No doubt that it’s a great piece of Art by one of the family over on the coast side of the world who hasn’t yet got the bigger picture quite in focus.

Here we have in the poster a person who is a supposed ‘hippy’ I assume, admittedly a bit of a hacknored phrase. Shall we call him an ‘alter-native’? Anyway, there he is standing there with a joint in his mouth and in full regalia army uniform – repellendent with ammo sash of scissors and all.

Looking at the poster leads me to entertain the thought that the whole Aquarian/New Sustainable Age credo is in great danger of being eroded and watered down, if this view of the alter-native is seen to be accepted in the general public’s eye from now on.

One of the Children of Aquarius’ visions all those years ago was for a world at PEACE. In fact, in case we are forgetting it or if it wasn’t clear in the first place – we are supposedly visioning in a world that isn’t just anti-war but a world that doesn’t even involve war in it – so there is nothing to be anti about. It is a whole different way of looking at the world – a whole new paradigm.

Please picture paradise in peace now. As the movie. What the Bleep pointed out and proved, we are creating this, so watch out what you say, ask for, or in fact draw or paint.

The poster could suggest that the alternative movement condones the riotous wanton destruction and futility of war. This is not to mention the fact that the alter-native cultures’ drug of choice, that is, Cannabis/grass/pot/ganja is our favourite – mainly because of its pacifying and chill-out qualities, now! So what has war and army got to do with getting stoned? Remember the chorus to that old anti-war song? “…absolutely nothing!”

Sure, it may appear that the ‘reality’ is that we are ‘fighting’ a drug war – undesirable verbs in a world without war (I can’t really see many people actually engaging the ‘enemy’ anyway) but to ‘fight’ is only if you really want to fight, and if you continue to choose to see it like that. As the alter-native nation has proven and despite what the ‘mainstream’ may say, we do have choices.

What is the alter-native to war? Well, we could start with talking more… we could write plays and songs and poems about the issue of concern, attempting to win the others hearts and minds over our side of seeing things. We could have huge extravagant and gi-normous international no-expense-spared Eisteddfods – you know…like when all those high schools get together and sing their heads off at each other…that would be much more fun and entertaining and a lot less emotionally draining – maybe our army alter-native would be better off dressed like Priscilla of the Desert!

Alter-natives and army uniforms look too hypocritical for my liking. I know I wouldn’t like to be an oxymoron. Let’s not get sucked back down to playing the less enlightened games of war of our distant relatives. We are more creative than that.

Stay true to peace, eh?

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**Notices**

**Mulgum House Community Forum**

Thursday 27th April at 2:30pm in the Central School’s MUP. Representatives from Council, Dept Housing and Anglicare will be present. All interested parties are called on to attend.

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**R V B Y E S Q U E**

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Page 9
Going the extra mile for kids charities

by Ian Browne

In relation to the UK Government report in February warning of dangerous levels of greenhouse gas emissions due to the world’s dismissal of renewable energy technology, I would first like to state that the following information isn’t fully, but it is based on research that I have been formulating for some time now. My hypothesis is that crocodiles porous is moving south and we had better ready ourselves to facilitate its needs, considering it is “we” as a human species that has more than likely caused ‘ropoatisation’ of the environment around us.

Crocs won’t be the only beasts on the move. Increased habitat, pollution and the environment and cause pressure on desired ecosystems, thus warming induced storm frequency and intensity, similar to the suitability fish and mammal prey species. Intensified global-warming incidents (e.g. such as reedy-grass banks) and perhaps a lack of suitable riparian zone nesting sites. Intensified global-warming induced storm frequency and intensity, similar to the category 2 cyclone we just accommodated recently, will modify the environment and cause pressure on desired ecosystems, thus impacting greatly on the ecological functioning of these aquatic habitats.

More on the up-side, he has not had a puncture for 8,000km, and it is 12,000km since he replaced the cycle’s front tyre, when making phable la, “I’m not replacing it if I don’t need to,” he said simply.

Andreas discovered schools of fish might be interested in his odyssey when he stopped at St Lawrence, a little town about halfway between Brisbane and Townsville. According to the rules, dignitaries must sign his book to verify his visit, and when he approached the town’s CEO, he suggested it, and rang the principal of the local school, who said “Come on down.”

The reception by the 28 students was great. The kids were stoked, they were amazed I’d gone far – less than 500km – and they all had rides on the bike,” said Andreas.

Andreas has also wanted to raise money for kids charities, and has set up a trust fund, are supported. The trustees make decisions on donations into that fund. The trustees set up a trust fund, are supported. Andreas said, “There were four believers in my journey, the Rainbow Power Company, my mother, Redlands Shire Council and the Coochiemudlo Island Progress Association,” which raised $1,000 in a festival of crafts and produce from the community.

But fear not, the ‘tropofication’ of our subtropical regions is a reality that is occurring right now! Look around you; cock your ear to the evening springtime sky, what birds are migrating south? The diversification of mangrove communities will occur and improve aquatic tropical species’ adaptation to this southern environment. Some look only at the bitumen line and self-belief, and taking the Hawaiian kahuna technique. Between Adelaide and Melbourne he was fortunate to have a masseuse, Wendy, as a crew member, who knew the particular kids, and a feasible budget, are supported. Andreas said, “I wanted to do something that no-one’s done before”, the inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records.

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The reception by the 28 students was great. The kids were stoked, they were amazed I’d gone far – less than 500km – and they all had rides on the bike,” said Andreas. After the event he has done 50-60 schools, and has polished his presentation. “I would have liked it to have been more, but I had to ride the bike,” he said.

Andreas spent the Wednesday doing media interviews, speaking to students at Nimbin Central School about goals, dreams and self-belief, and taking the donations bucket around local businesses. “It was the quickest $500 I’ve ever collected,” he said at a reception held for him at the Rainbow Power Company on Wednesday night. “100% of the people I approached gave money. Everyone in Nimbin is interested and generous. I’m glad I changed my itinerary to be here.”

Supporting his stay in Nimbin, the pizzeria, Mick Martin and the Rainbow Power Co. Andreas rolled out of the village on Thursday morning, heading for a civic reception on Coochiemudlo Island on 3rd April – exactly a year since he started.

Papua New Guinea are sure to be mobile also as well as the infamous box jellyfish.

So when are they coming? Trends and statistics are debatable as to just how fast average annual temperatures will rise. Considering that ocean temperatures along the Southern Queensland/Northern NSW coast have times reached into the high 20’s centigrade (at least in the past 5 years or so), and as croc numbers at present have exploded to an estimated 80,000 in tropical Australia, we will at least see a few salties wandering south over the winter months within the next 5 to 10 years in search of prey and habitat. Despite the diverse and negative implications of coastal urbanisation and industrial impacts, winter in present are far too cold to facilitate this very tropical reptile’s physiological and biological needs. Many other environmental factors will hamper the actual colonisation of crocodiles, including a lack of suitable riparian zone nesting sites (e.g. such as reedy-grass banks) and perhaps a lack of suitable fish and mammal prey species. Intensified global-warming induced storm frequency and intensity, similar to the category 2 cyclone we just accommodated recently, will modify the environment and cause pressure on desired ecosystems, thus impacting greatly on the ecological functioning of these aquatic habitats.

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