# Janelle Saffin MP for Page

"Janelle's Page"

#### Prime Minister's Visit to Kyogle

What a wonderful way to start the Parliamentary year, with a visit from Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd to Kyogle the Friday before.

I was tickled pink to get our electorate some special attention regarding the impact of the flood, especially in Kyogle, but also right across the seat of Page. It was doubly pleasing that he was accompanied by the Minister for Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries, Tony Burke.

We visited Bordin Bros, who had the flood through their premises, met and talked with all, had a cuppa and then went on to Andrew and Jackie Sneath's property. They were pretty badly affected and I showed Kevin and Tony the residential area that was really badly flooded as well.

The outcome announced that day was what I had been advocating for on behalf of flood affected farmers and businesses: additional assistance with a cash grant of up to \$5,000 for severe flood damage.

As well we have secured \$600,000 to be spent on a tourism recovery programme. The State Minister had offered \$300,000 if the Federal Government did the same, and I pushed it at the Federal level.

The proper procedure is that the State Government has to request the Federal Government to trigger the cash recovery grants. The Prime Minister met the Premier immediately after his visit to Kyogle and 'Bob's your uncle' as we say. Tony Burke has also agreed to my invitation to come back for a longer visit in the near future.



#### Parliamentary Apology

Sometimes in life we are in the right place at the right time and the opening of the 42nd session of the Commonwealth Parliament was for me one of those times. The 'Welcome to Country' at the Parliament was very moving and was mirrored right across Canberra. The City of Canberra opened its arms to all who came, making everyone truly welcome. My son was with me and he was delighted to meet many people whose names we did not know, and some we didlike Ernie Dingo, Anthony Mundine and my long time friend NSW Minister Linda Burney. To sit in the Chamber as Kevin spoke to say sorry was very moving. I could see the faces of some of the Stolen Generation and along with many MPs shed a tear.

With that unfinished business now finished, we can move into the future and do the practical things we need to do to help our Indigenous communities to improved health and living outcomes, in a partnership based on mutual responsibility. The Rudd Labor Government is committed to this goal as I am here in our own backyard.

### 2020 Summit (Ideas)

You would have heard about the Prime Minister's 2020 summit that is about bringing together 1,000 Australians to put forward the best and the brightest ideas that can help meet the challenges of 21st century Australia. There will also be a Youth Summit in Canberra in the lead up to the National Summit, and schools are also being encouraged to hold their own summits.

As we have some of the best and brightest here in Page, I am hosting two 2020 summits and I want to ensure that our ideas are fed directly into the national summit. To take part in our Page 2020 summits please register with my office. I am asking that our State MPs, the Mayors and other community leaders get involved as well. This is not about politics but about nation building.

I wish to say thank you to all the well wishers and good people who have rung me, written to me and have come and met me. I am doing my best to respond in a timely way, but admit that my office has been deluged, but no complaints as I very much enjoying being your representative and your advocate.

Federal Member for Page 63 Molesworth Street Lismore Phone 6621-9909

### **Delivering for Locals**

Local seniors, carers and people with a disability will receive increased financial support from 20 March 2008, following legislation introduced into Parliament.

The Federal Government is delivering on its election commitment to ease the cost of living pressures faced by many in the local community.

Under the legislation introduced:

• The Utilities Allowance would increase from \$107.20 a year to \$500 a year.

The increased allowance will be paid to all current recipients and extended to all recipients of the Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, Widow B Pension, Wife Pension and Bereavement Allowance.

Veterans and their partners receiving the invalid service pension, partner service pension or an income support supplement will also receive the allowance for the first

The Utilities Allowance will now be paid in quarterly instalments to meet quarterly utilities bills.

- Seniors Concession Allowance will also increase from 20 March 2008 from \$218 a year to \$500 a year for around 320,000 Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and Gold Card holders, and will also be paid quarterly in line with the Utilities Allowance.
- Telephone Allowance will increase from \$88 a year to \$132 a year, will be available for around one million veterans, income support recipients of Age Pension age, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders and recipients of Carer Payment and Disability Support Pension who have a home internet connection.

Telephone Allowance recipients must give



Justine Elliot MP for Richmond

Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs details of their home internet service provider before 20 March in order to be paid the increase on time.

#### **Support for Veteran** community

Local Ex-service organisations are set to benefit from the Australian Government's nation wide investment by funding made available through the

Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) program administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The funding will provide much needed financial support to enable exservice organisations to buy computers, printers, photocopiers and other equipment and resources crucial to the work of advocates, pension and welfare officers.

Many members of our local veterans depend on the support and guidance provided by local veteran's organisations and groups and the Federal Government wants to ensure they have the necessary equipment to do the job well.

Our local veteran's organisations provide a vital service in helping veterans, war widows, widowers and dependants, as well as current members of the Australian Defence Force, access entitlements and support.

Nationwide this extra \$5 million will provide veteran's organisations with resources that improve their ability to provide timely, accurate, and effective advice and assistance to members of the veteran and service communities. I encourage those eligible to take advantage of this oneoff equipment program and submit an application.

Applications for BEST funding are open until 15th March 2008. For more information, or to download an application form, visit www.dva.gov.au

#### **New Laws**

In Parliament I also introduced the Aged Care Amendment Bill 2008 which was passed through the lower house with bipartisan support and was passed by the Senate on the 14th February, again with bipartisan support.

The legislation introduces a fairer system for calculating the contribution for new residents to the costs of their care. This new system makes it simpler and fairer for many older Australians to access residential care.

In particular, many self funded retirees will pay lower fees when they need nursing home care.

Self-funded retirees with few assets would benefit from the new laws as they will become eligible for accommodation assistance from the Australian Government for the first

The changes resulting from the new legislation will come into effect from 20 March 2008.

Til next time.

Federal Member for Richmond 107 Minjungbal Drive Tweed Heads South Phone 1300-720-675



John Kaye leads the charge against power privatisation On his visit to Nimbin and Lismore in February, Greens MLC Dr John Kaye advanced a raft of arguments why the NSW government should not privatise electricity utilities. Big or small, We Stitch It All! Foremost among these was the lack of control that parliament would have in reaching targets set under the Kyoto

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The subsequent Unions NSW protest rally showed the

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# Desperately Hacking Susan

by Rob Harle

The saga of NGT photographer Sue Stock's identity fraud, by someone hacking into her Yahoo email account, made front page news in the NR Echo, and has again raised questions about internet security.

Many people have been bending their heads trying to understand how the hacking of Sue's computer files, particularly her email accounts, could have happened.

I may have found the explanation for this serious breach of Sue's personal security. When speaking to her, I asked if she stored her Passwords on her computer. "Yes", was the answer. "Do you have an up-to-date, quality Firewall?" "Not sure," she replied. My answer was, "Oh dear!"

It seems the hackers gained remote access to Sue's Mac computer, because they got past her probably outdated Firewall. I understand one

Send the money by Western Union or moneygram to:

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Audacious. Text of an email sent by the hacker, who also provided the phone number of the "doctor" who was "treating" Sue: +234808995245. Nigerian authorities have few resources to prosecute those involved in 'Nigeria's major industry'.

comes standard with the Mac operating system (like the one that comes with Windows XP). The hackers can then simply copy the passwords or other files.

Perhaps we should learn from Sue's unfortunate experience that you should NEVER store your passwords on your computer, just as you wouldn't write

your banking PIN number on your keycard. And if using the Internet you must have a Firewall installed and operating correctly in real time when you are on the net.

A Firewall is a software application which when installed and configured correctly makes you virtually invisible on the net - this, like the piece of steel in your car between you and the engine, prevents you getting burnt.

Macs are not immune to viruses or hackers, nor are machines running Linux for

Having Firewall, Virus Checker and Adware/ Spyware programs, all up-todate and installed correctly on your own machine is NOT a matter of choice if you use the Internet regardless of operating system or Internet Service Provider it is essential.

More information on protection from scams is available at www.scamwatch. gov.au The golden rule is: don't make it easy for them.

# Take the 39-hour challenge

by Paris Naday

Treckon we can be really **▲**proud of our young people in Nimbin.

I've seen young people winning hip hop and rapping competitions, and starring in films with a positive and proud message about Nimbin ...like the group "These are the Facts" which took out the 'community spirit' award at last year's Nimbin Independent Film Festival. They rap, dance, act, direct, write scripts, use cameras, microphones and computers ...and their mastery of the mobile phone leaves me for dead! Not to mention their networking, leadership and teamwork skills. And most important, they can rise to a challenge: making a movie in 39 hours and having that movie screened in public takes courage and commitment. Good on you guys!

The call is out there to all Nimbin youth, if you can scam a camera, take the 39hour challenge and give these guys a run for their money. And adults! Come on! You've been given a wonderful example.

39 Hours is, I believe, a great event for Nimbin, with support and development this event could grow to bring people to Nimbin one weekend a year for a unique creative competition. The ability to make films and put



**Head start.** Last year's Community Spirit category winners, from left: Felix, Reece, Karinya and Lluelle, prepare for Nimbin's 39-Hours 2008. Photo: Paris Naday

them in the public domain is growing exponentially with the web. In Nimbin over the past three years there has been a large increase in film making expertise, availability of equipment, and general digital know-how. As far as I know 39 Hours is the only event of this type in Australia that has a youth section.

The 3rd annual Nimbin's 39 Hours film competition, kicks off on Friday 14th March at 6pm (teams register from 5pm) at Nimbin School of Arts. Films must be handed in for judging

39 hours later, at 9am on Sunday the 16th March, and premiere screenings take place that evening.

Express yourself.... Expose your genius... Take the 39 Hour challenge! For more information our website is www.nimbins39hours. com entry forms are available online and at the Nimbin CTC. Email 39hours@gmail.com.

# Nimbin Players return from Babylon



After a week and a half in Sydney competing in the Short & Sweet Theatre Festival, the Nimbin Players returned triumphant, having won the Wildcards section of the competition and then performing in the Gala Final at the Everest Theatre in the Seymour

The Players, (above) Bob and Jed Tissott, and Athol Compton, together with Diana Tissott as producer / director, went to Sydney to perform a piece written by Bob called "100 Years", a frank and often brutal look at the parlous state of black / white communications of the past century or more.

"We were one of the few 'serious content' plays in the competition", said Bob. "The majority were comedies and I suppose when you only have 10 minutes to get your message across it's easier to get the audience to laugh at a pavlova in the face than to get them to think about social attitudes and

"But having said that, I was amazed at the

positive audience response to the play. Many people approached the cast afterwards to thank them for injecting some "reality" into a program of fiction."

The Players competed against 40 other theatre groups in the Wildcards section, before joining the 10 best plays from the "Main Season" for the Gala Final. However, the major awards would prove to be elusive.

The critics weren't as enthusiastic as the audience, describing the piece as "linear and didactic" as well as "over-simplified and sparse", although we did get a commendation for stagecraft," Bob recalled.

All the pieces in the final were filmed by Movie Extra, a pay TV company, and will be screened as six half-hour shows, sometime in

Apparently the bright lights and boundless opportunities of the Big Smoke did not tempt our traveling thespians and they were all relieved to be back in the land of fresh air

# New energy at youth club

The Nimbin Youth Club is warming up again thanks to vital local energy; a new focus from Community Connections North Coast; and the appointment of two Youth Support Workers.

The appointment of a new General Manager has brought fresh energy and a strong youth focus to local community and interagency meetings.

The Nimbin Youth Support workers have increased their local presence from 4 to 5 days each week, and are gearing up for Youth Week at the start of April. They have invited the widely respected Red Cross 'SAVE A MATE' training back to Nimbin during Youth Week.

The Daisy program is being co-ordinated over two days from the Nimbin Youth Club

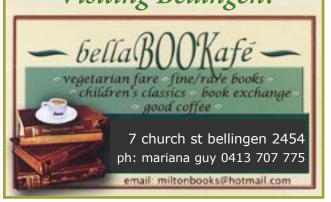
and offers driver training to Nimbin Central School students and local youth who are living independently. Contact Collette on 6622-8002 for more information.

Though there are no immediate plans to re-open the Youth Club as a "General Drop-in" venue, the Youth

Club at the Community Centre continues to be used to host and facilitate programs dedicated to supporting local youth.

Contact 6689-1933 or 0427-419-551 for more info and to get involved in Nimbin Youth Club activities.





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### Saying Sorry

by Jeni Kendell and Paul Tait

Wednesday 13th February in Parliament House.

Many Aboriginal people came to Canberra from all over Australia and we talked to people from Darwin, Broome and Northern Queensland. It had been a long journey to come so far and wait so long to be there on this momentous day. Many had stories of being taken away as little children, some never seeing their families again. One man was held up in a church as a fouryear-old boy "who wants this little Aboriginal boy?" He was taken far away by his "new white family" and didn't see his own family again for 51 years.

And "Link Up", based in the Blue Mountains, who do such a great job in reuniting these families, has a paid wage for only one person to do this huge job and so 8,000 people are still waiting to "go home". Even today it is possible to adopt an Aboriginal child and change their surname and Birth Certificate, so they lose their identity and relationship to birth families and relatives. Perhaps cousins marrying cousins, perhaps brothers and sisters never able to find each other, creating what Aboriginal people are starting to call the "Lost Generation".

It was with these new stories and old stories of loss and separation in our hearts that we went in to film the "Apology" in the Great Hall of Parliament House. A thousand people crammed into the room and standing in the galleries above and a line of people who had been waiting at the doors since 5.30am hoping to get into the House of Reps. Outside, thousands more on the lawn with Benny Zable waving his peace flag, Graham Dunstan and other Nimbin friends amongst the crowd. People with "thank you" tee shirts and everywhere Aboriginal colours and tired worn faces.

The people inside like the media "sign in" on the desk in the car park, the liaison people, the ushers, the tea makers all saying again and



A new way. Part of the huge crowd in Canberra for the formal apology to the stolen generation.

Photo: Bruce Foreman

again "great day!", "took a while, but great day!". Then as the clock came towards 9am the huge screen showed the Members of Parliament arriving to their seats. And there was Kevin Rudd, our new Prime Minister, in a new Parliament starting to speak.

"Today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history. We reflect on their past mistreatment. We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were stolen generations - this blemished chapter in our nation's history .... We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these, our fellow Australians.

"We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country. For the pain, suffering and hurt of these stolen generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry. To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry. And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry."

We watched the tears flow on the screen and before us in the Hall. Our Prime Minister's speech living up to our hopes as he said what was longing to be heard. He delivered his speech with genuine words of meaning and with compassion from an open heart. A new day and hopefully a new way are born.

We will skip the next bit with Brendan Nelson as we couldn't hear it over the slow clapping and Aboriginal people walking out, but at the end of the day together they have made a commitment to "right the wrongs of the past and so move forward with confidence to the future". People stood up together and cheered and clapped and cried and shook hands. The invited Aboriginal people inside, in their usual amazing generous way, presented the Parliament with a glass Coolamon with these words:

"Prime Minister Rudd, On behalf of our people, thank you for saying "sorry". Saying sorry is important. It shows compassion and opens a path for us to walk together into the future. In return, we give you this gift on behalf of all of us affected by being taken away from our families. This is our way of saying "thank you". The gift is a glass Coolamon, fragile yet strong. Coolamons have traditionally carried our children. The gift is a symbol of the hope we place in the new relationship you wish to forge with our people - a relationship that itself is fragile yet strong. We have a new covenant between our peoples - that we will do all we can to make sure our children are carried forward, loved and nurtured and able to live a full life." Signed -It sure was a great day.

### Nimbin presence in Canberra for Sorry Day

by Graeme Dunstan

Sorry Day in Canberra, and what a great day it was to be at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

Mobs had come in from all over: Brewarrina, Bourke, Elcho Island, Alice Springs, Cairns and so on, many having decided to go to the Embassy only the day before realizing what a significant moment it was and wanting to be there to share it with friends and fellow activists.

There were maybe 300 Kooris and their supporters in residence by the time we got to Sorry Day and 2000 or more passing through. All around the Sacred Fire on the lawns in front of the Old Parliament, groups were to be seen sitting about in small circles, some on the ground, some on chairs. Many the soft heart and the soft smile and all about the sweet nectar of gentle conversation, the soft buzz of clan relatives meeting, greeting and exchanging news.

Michael Bayles of One Mob, Nimbin, was one of those who at the last minute had decided he had to be there. He arrived with a happy heart and greeted me there with a huge smile. But the Nimbin/Rainbow Region presence was something bigger than Michael Bayles because another Michael, Michael Jack, had arrived the previous Saturday with Benny Zable and set up the Rainbow Chai Tent. Just another tent, I suppose, but a rainbow coloured one and gloriously aflutter with Benny's beautiful hand-painted flags.

For five days the Rainbow Chai Tent kitchen churned out free food for the multitudes. It was a huge undertaking and by the end Michael and Benny were staggering with exhaustion. Many were the assisting volunteers, and the food just kept on coming and at all hours. Good food, too, prepared and served with love. All donated, money freely offered and strangers ringing in to ask: "What do you need? I can deliver." Truly Michael and Benny were the cultural heros of service on that Sorry Day. Hear my praise, hear my gratitude.

There were two major lead-up events to Sorry Day: the GetUp event ("Sorry, the first step" spelt out in lanterns on Parliament Hill) on the evening of Monday 11, and the National Aboriginal Alliance Converge on Canberra rally on Tuesday 12. My service was to dress the space about the Sacred Fire at the Tent Embassy and all the various events with the Nimbin Koori flags so that they became a linking visual theme through out those days. I also cut out, painted and erected behind the Sacred Fire 1.2 metre high letters that spelt out SOVEREIGNTY.

My initial inspiration had been to cut out two metre high letters spelling SORRY



Activists. Nimbinites Michael Jack, Michael Bayles and Benny Zable at the Rainbow Chai Tent at Parliament House. Below: Graeme's installation.

Photos: Graeme Dunstan

for erecting with Parliament House as the backdrop. But Tent Embassy ambassador in residence, Auntie Isobelle Coe, told me, "We are beyond sorry here, Graeme. Sovereignty is what we are about." So SOVEREIGNTY it became, twice the letters at half the size.

Many were the media cameras, national and international, and many an interview took place on those convivial Embassy lawns. That artful installation made vivid the message of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy with just one word. Likewise the Nimbin Koori flags framed many a TV shot and many were the compliments the flags received.

The more curious would approach me directly and ask what they meant and I would tell them this: That the green on the red is a profile of the Nimbin Rocks which are in the country of the Wiyabul clan of the Bunjalung. That the flags had been designed for a Bunjalung Corroborree which was produced in Nimbin in 2002 by Judy Appo, and that first set of flags were sewn up by Shanti and funded by Johnny Bayles.

That in that country since the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival, I was proud say, hippy activists had worked with the Wyabul to secure the land claim under the Nimbin Rocks and the Bunjalung had supported the hippies in their fight to end rain forest logging. That in essence the flag signified the Koori-Green Alliance, native peoples and eco activists standing together for the Earth.

"Ahh," the inquirer would respond with smiling eyes. "That's good."









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### History in the making at Tuntable



What a unique event it was, the so-muchoverdue apology from the Australian government to the Stolen Generation...

...and an event it was indeed at Tuntable Falls Primary School. The children actively and consciously participated in the making of history on that very day. Preparations were made in advance with active discussions about some of the historic background and the current reality of the Stolen Generation.

The children made their own SORRY posters and displayed them whilst saying a heart felt sorry, after listening to the Prime minister's speech.

The Aboriginal flag was raised by River Hyett, an indigenous student in Class 4, during a heart warming ceremony followed by a short speech by a parent representative which concluded with a minute's silence.

Although not all of the little ones could fully comprehend the complexity of the issue, the children left with the feeling of having participated and contributed to a very significant moment in Australia's history.

### Sorry Day BBQ

Local indigenous people (at right) cut the cake at the BBQ put on by the Nimbin Museum on the day of the parliamentary apology.

Flying a beautiful new hand-painted Aboriginal Australia flag, the Museum provided a great vaiety of meat, fish, breads and salads prepared by volunteers.

Cooks Mick and Mandy said, "We're just a humble white man and woman helping our brothers and sisters."

Commenting on the range of tucker, Museum curator Michael Balderstone said, "It had to be pretty good to make up for 200 years of illtreatment."



# Living in harmony

Annie's Tea Garden & Nursery

Harmony Day, which began in 1999, occurs on 21st March each year and celebrates Australia's success as a diverse society united by a common set of values: justice, equality, fairness and friendship.

This national day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our successes as a culturally diverse society, recommit ourselves to harmony and say "no" to racism.

Harmony Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Blackboard menu featuring Annie's home cooking, oven-baked on a wood stove, including fish

schnitzel, pasta and quiche dishes. BYO

4460 Kyogle Road, Wadeville

A one-day festival to mark this occasion is being prepared for Byron Shire to be held Saturday 15th March at the Byron Bay Community and Cultural Centre, and the Railway Park.

Hosted by the Australia Indonesia Arts Alliance (AIAA), the festival will be a day of multicultural music, dance, workshops, arts, community info and food.

The Festival will recognise that Australians come from all over the world. For more information contact Byron coordinator Dharma Bradridge on 0431-055-407.

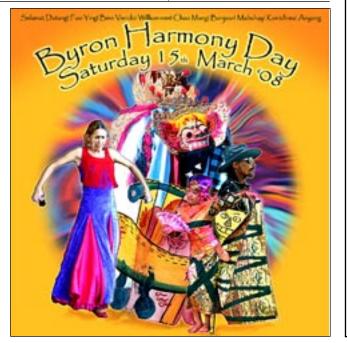
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# NNIC mega-launch planned

Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre is inviting the whole of the Nimbin community to a mega-launch in Allsopp Park on 18th April, and there's plenty to celebrate.

It will be the Centre's 30th birthday, and 21 years since its incorporation, and a new booklet will be launched, 'The History of NNIC from 1978 to 2008'.

The building renovations are complete, providing two new offices, a family friendly workshop and meeting space, and an expansion of services available to the Nimbin community.

Two new projects will also be launched. The Nimbin Integrated Service Delivery Project is a partnership involving all levels of government as well as various departments, local and regional service providers and the Nimbin community to establish the position of an Integrated Community Care Nurse Practitioner, to provide community-based services to clients with a dual Neighbourhood & Info

Sorry sight. The newly-renovated NNIC building, festooned with Sorry signs on 13th February. Photo: Natalie Meyer

diagnosis – in particular mental health issues as well as drug and/or alcohol issues.

The Brighter Futures Program is a new early intervention program, funded by DoCS and delivered by the Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres Far North Coast across the Northern Rivers region. It is a voluntary program offering intensive support for an average period of two years per family, targeting

families with particular vulnerabilities and young children, with the aim of enhancing the strengths of the family and the potential of the children into the

NNIC team leader Natalie Meyer said, "Anyone who has ever been involved with NNIC either as a volunteer, staff member, committee member or customer/user of Centre services, is most welcome to attend."

## Welcome Mimi

Mimi Manzart has been appointed as the new manager of the Nimbin Family Centre.

Mimi has lived in this local area for many years "enjoying my time bringing up my five children in this natural environment." She sees her role as "helping parents create a rich community culture where children are enjoyed and involved with others."

Mimi will be at the Family Centre (located at the Sibley St entrance) three days each

week to help facilitate family support programs there. The centre is offering playgroups on Tuesday and Friday plus parenting courses and familyworker appointments on Mondays.





#### **POSITION VACANT Aboriginal Tutor for** Homework Centre

**Position Information** 

The Aboriginal Tutor will assist Nimbin Central School teacher, Ms Christine Grieves, in the implementation of the After School Homework Centre (HWC) for Aboriginal students, which operates at the school each Tuesday from 3.30pm to 5pm (11/2 hours).

Payment is \$36 per hour, ie \$54 per session. Students are from Years 3 to 12. Focus is on assisting students to complete homework and special projects.

### **Position Criteria**

- AboriginalityDemonstrated ability to work with children to improve learning outcomes
- Excellent communication skills

This position will run until 25th November 2008. An information package is available at the school for any interested applicants. Working with Children checks will be conducted.

#### Applications close Thursday 20th March 2008

A written application, outlining experience and/or qualifications can be sent to Ms Christine Grieves, Relieving Principal, Nimbin Central School, 23A Thorburn Street, Nimbin NSW 2480. Any queries regarding the position can be made at the school on 6689-1355.

Applicants who are successful in gaining an interview will be informed of the interview times within three days of the closing date, by phone and/or letter.

Aboriginality is a genuine requirement of this position under Section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

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