

# Local members examine the fine print in Rudd's first budget

## Justine Elliot MP for Richmond



Justine at the launch of Seniors Week 2008, at the Aveo Mountain View Retirement Village, Murwillumbah

### Budget 08: Election Commitments Delivered

The Rudd Government's first Budget has set a new benchmark by delivering on our election promises made prior to the last election.

Budget 2008 put working families and seniors in Richmond at the centre of the Rudd Government's commitments to tackle inflation and lay the building blocks for a stronger, more modern Australia.

At the centre of the Budget is a \$55 billion Working Families Support Package that delivers on the tax cuts we committed to in the election and helps Australian families with childcare and education costs.

And this assistance package also helps us tackle the 16 year high inflation legacy left to us by Mr Costello and Mr Turnbull.

The Budget also contains a \$40 billion investment in Australia's future to fund new and improved roads, hospitals and schools.

Here in Richmond, the Budget has delivered:

- \$1.5 million for The Byron Community Sport and Recreation facility
- \$1 million for the Tweed River Museum
- \$5.2 million for Southern Cross University
- \$200,000 to clean up our bus shelters
- Roads to recovery funding for Byron Shire Council of \$541,259
- Roads to recovery funding for Tweed Shire Council of \$1,419,040

The Budget was the first step towards building a new more modern Australia with first class economic and social infrastructure. This has only been made possible because we've had the courage to take the tough decisions that in the long term will make Australia stronger.

### New Directions for Older Australians

Older Australians will benefit from a range of measures announced in the 2008-09 Federal Budget.

The Rudd Government will ensure older Australians get the quality care - and choice of care - they want and need

Today there are two million Australians aged 70 and over, comprising nearly 10 per cent of the population. This number will double to 4 million in the next 20 years.

The Government, working closely with senior Australians, state and territory and local governments, and the aged care industry, will reform the aged sector to meet changing Australian demographics.

Measures announced in the 2008-09 Budget include:

- An additional \$293.2 million over four years to provide an extra 2000 transition care places to older people who no longer require hospital care, to help them recover and regain their independence before making a decision about their longer term care needs.
- Increasing the level of the Conditional Adjustment Payment (CAP) by 1.75 per cent from 7.0 per cent to 8.75 per cent of the basic aged care subsidy, meaning an additional \$407.6 million over four years for

## Highlights

Key initiatives of the Rudd Government's first Budget include:

- Strong economic management - surplus of \$21.7 billion;
- Abolishing \$7 billion of the Liberals' reckless spending;
- Working Families Support Package worth \$55 billion;
- An investment of \$2.4 billion for Australian seniors and carers.
- Unprecedented investment in Australia's future - around \$40 billion put aside for infrastructure, education and health improvements;
- \$15.2 billion for sustainable water initiatives and to help tackle climate change;
- Over \$22 billion for road and rail projects.

investment in the aged care sector and bringing total CAP payments over the next four years to \$2 billion.

Increasing the nursing workforce in residential aged care by encouraging up to 1,000 nurses to return to the nursing workforce over 5 years. The program is part of a larger measure through which the Government will provide \$138.9 million over five years across the Health and Ageing and Education portfolios to encourage 8,750 qualified nurses to return to the workforce and to create 90 new Commonwealth supported places in nursing in the second semester of 2008, with a further 1,170 places in 2009.

• \$300 million in zero real interest loans to aged care providers to encourage them to build or expand residential aged care and respite facilities in areas of high need, where providers might not normally invest. This measure will provide up to 2,500 aged care beds where there is a shortage of residential care beds.

Regularly reviewing aged care planning ratios to take into account demographic changes and ensure the supply of aged care appropriately meets current and future demand - that older Australians needing care in the future receive the most appropriate services.

The Federal Government is committed to building a modern Australia capable of tackling the challenges of the 21st century.

Til next time.

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

## Janelle Saffin MP for Page



Janelle discusses the Lismore Base Hospital's radiotherapy unit plans with Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon and North Coast Area Health Service CEO Chris Crawford.

### "Janelle's Page"

The Rudd Government has brought down its first Budget and I'm pleased to be able to report that it delivered on my commitments to Page.

The Budget includes \$15 million to fast-track the Radiotherapy unit at Lismore Base hospital, the release of funding early so work can begin on the Ballina and Alstonville Bypasses, and an extra \$5.2 million for Southern Cross University to upgrade its infrastructure and \$2.22 million invested for family support programs as well as significant investment in projects in Casino and the Clarence Valley.

And in recognition of the widespread problem of homelessness, the Budget included \$200,000 towards the Lismore homeless shelter. Of course, this is just one small step. Nationally the Government is looking for new ways to tackle the unacceptable level of homelessness in Australia and is holding a series of consultations in line with the Prime Minister's commitment to a Government White Paper on the issue.

The national forum on homelessness will come to Lismore for consultations with the community on 16th June.

Anyone who has experienced homelessness, or those with an interest in the issue, are invited to make a submission or attend the forums and these will inform the Government's White

Paper on homelessness. (For details go to [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au) or phone 1800-774-055.)

I know many people in our community are doing it tough, such as those on income support and those struggling to put a roof over their heads.

That's why there is to be a review of all income support payments as part of a national inquiry into taxation. I will be holding an income support review in Page and seeking input from people on income support and their families.

Also in budget week the Rudd Government announced the scrapping of the unjust Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) scheme for asylum seekers set up by the previous government.

Under the TPV scheme, unauthorised arrivals who were owed protection by Australia were only eligible for TPVs in the first instance and had no travel rights, reduced access to settlement services and couldn't be reunited with family members.

These TPVs didn't deter unauthorised boat arrivals, and in fact because asylum seekers' families couldn't officially apply to join them, more women and children risked their lives with people smugglers on leaky boats.

The scrapping of the TPVs fulfils yet another of our election commitments for a fairer Australia.

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## The sunrise gets freshened up

It's easy to tell when Nimbin's muralists are in town. Ladders appear against shop awnings, and overhead the colours of the heritage-listed facades gradually turn vibrant again.

Muralist Benny Zable said, "You don't just touch them up, they have to be completely repainted again."

Benny has been working

on his murals since April to have them spruced up for the Aquarian birthday celebrations, which in turn brought Vernon Treweeke (pictured) to town.

Vernon immediately set to updating his work above the pizzeria, and when he had finished, took on the job of re-painting the sunrise gable on Cullen Street.

The building used to house the Nimbin Community School, and was known as the Sunrise School, until it was sold in 2006 to raise funds to buy the Community Centre, and became a private residence.

This is the first restoration of the mural since that time, but it looks so good now, no doubt it won't be the last.

## Bunjalung Dreamtime Walkabouts

by Myban

The date has been set for the beginning of a new adventure for the historic Bunjalung Dreamtime Walkabouts – 20th June, 2008.

Those choosing to go will meet in Nimbin (stage behind the Museum) at noon on this date, to be led by Bunjalung elder Lewis Walker to a base camp in Tabulum. If you have no vehicle, then transportation might be able to be arranged.

Following going to this base camp, 15 people at a time will be taken by Lewis for 5 days and 5 nights into the bush, where they will hunt for the food, gather medicine plants, and sleep out around a camp fire. When the 15 people return, the next 15 people head out til all have been.

The cost is \$150 per head, or donation of food to the equivalent value. This amount and arrangement has been made by Lewis himself, and goes towards the cost of running the base camp, and looking after country.

The cost is the same for overseas visitors as well as for locals. If arrangements need to be made, then feel free to contact the author, or the Environment Centre, so that your situation might be assessed.

Be prepared to explore your own dreams and imagination on these spiritual walkabouts with Lewis. Your relationship with country and your own dreams is what will determine each person's successful walkabouts, and your ability to trust Lewis to provide for you in the bush. No-one will be forgotten!

Things you will need to bring will be a warm sleeping bag, warm clothes and good hiking shoes. Those suffering ailments can



Art display at Nimbin Central School

wait at the base camp, without needing to walk miles, hearing from all who come and go.

Children are most welcome, and they will always come first to the Bunjalung. As far as the writer knows, most planning going on this journey will bring their entire family; young and old, including Lewis' own family. We look forward to seeing as many people who can make it, for this walk to the other side of the rainbow (finally)!

Should you wish to volunteer for this event, only limited people will be involved in this, and you should contact me as soon as possible, for the different things to be done at that time.

This is the Bunjalung way of assuring us all that their culture will continue to thrive and survive till the end of time itself. Come be a part of the country walkabouts we all love!

Please read my article on "The Legendary Bunjalung Lewis Walker" in the last Nimbin Magazine for more information about the walk, which has been planned for some time.

Another of the Bunjalung Dreamtime Walkabouts is planned for the solstice in September, with a different base camp along the mighty Clarence River.

## Imagineering the Village Green

by Bob Dooley

It's not often that a property developer invites a bunch of hippies to design a community facility for his development, so when John Callinan did just that, there was a good deal of scepticism at the idea, all round.

However, for most of those attending the 'Imagineering the Village Green' workshop in May, such apprehension was largely dissipated.

"I see myself as providing an opportunity for things to grow," John Callinan said, admitting that his 100-lot development, the Aquarius Village, could double the population of Nimbin over 10 years.

"This is a positive, constructive approach to development," said Nimbin Aquarius Foundation president Paul Joseph, who chaired the workshop.

Beneath the rainbow-coloured marquee of the Rainbow Chai tent on the site of the 1973 festival's amphitheatre, the 40 or so participants stuck to the surprisingly tightly-structured programme to develop an 'Ideas Agenda'.

There were plenty of ideas, and numerous commonalities emerged. As well as designated outdoor areas, a Cultural Centre was proposed, to house performance space, areas for cultural and educational activities, art studios, archive storage, exhibition space and possibly a cafe. A name for it was even suggested, the 'Nimbin Rainbow Ark'.

Sitting amongst the colourful rugs and cushions, smelling the steaming urns of chai, hearing the fluttering flags and soft guitar, it did not seem so difficult to imagineer a 'living museum'.

Graeme Batterbury said, "The dream of setting up an alternative cultural centre in Nimbin has long been held," and called for "a formal and informal educational hub to study alternative cultural, technological and spiritual modalities."

Benny Zable saw the opportunities for cultural tourism and creative employment in "a place to honour the achievements of the Peace, environmental and social justice movements in a stimulating working setting."

Inevitably, a committee was formed to further develop these proposals, using a blogspot to communicate, and report back.

The first 10 lots of the Nimbin Village development went on sale in February for \$135-\$158K. A tender has now been let for the extensive roadworks required by Council.



**Form follows function.** Speaking at the workshop, eco-village developer John Callinan (above), SCU's Ros Derrett and Paul Joseph (below) and Graham Irvine and Graeme Batterbury (bottom).



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# David and Goliath struggle continues at Dunoon

by Paula McDougall

A second council workshop was held on Tuesday 27th May at Lismore Council chambers regarding the Hardies development proposal for Dunoon.

At the previous workshop on 29th April, councillors told planning staff that they had little information on the sewerage treatment plant (STP) proposed for the Dunoon development and requested them to compile a report on the Econova system in operation at Noosa. Prior to the workshop, council had organised for Dunoon Community Group (DCG) members and councillors to inspect a working system at Manly West in Brisbane. It was cancelled at the last minute when the operator advised that in fact, this system was not up and running at that time.

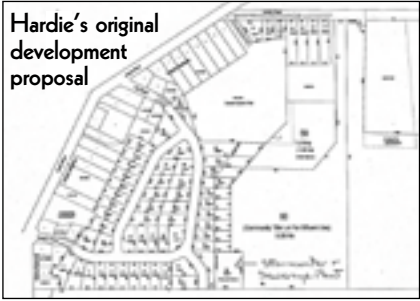
Because of the lack of accurate information presented to councillors at the first workshop in April, they requested that council staff research the Noosa plant and report back at the workshop in May.

Members of the DCG who attended the April workshop were given the impression that the planning staff were being selective as to what facts and data they presented to councillors. They appeared to be finding solutions to accommodate the developer proposal rather than requiring the developer to comply with the council's own Development Control Plan (DCP) and zoning objectives.

Because of our concerns regarding our perceived lack of transparency in the presentation by planning staff, and our concerns of their interpretation of Lismore City Council planning documents, two DCG committee members took it upon themselves to take a trip up north on a fact finding mission to Noosa and Brisbane and actually look at these STP systems in operation to assess their suitability for the Dunoon development.

At the workshop held last Tuesday night, planning staff presented developer changes to the January 08 DA which included:

- 7 community lots near Sports Club carpark have been reduced to 1 Torrens title lot
- Recreation area to the west of the Sports Club was deleted due to the fact that the Sports Club septic trenches are located in this area. Another recreation/park area was not allocated within the development.
- All residential lots sitting on the boundary of the village zone and encroaching onto agricultural land were pulled back to fit within the village boundary. Which resulted in two lots being lost due to lots being resized, and the road being narrowed to accommodate this resize. As a result, these lots will be somewhat smaller than first proposed.
- The sewerage treatment plant has



been moved from below the Sports Club onto the boundary of this estate and Avondale.

Members of the DCG are most concerned about not only the STP and lack of risk management, but also the lack of amenity of the village, and planning staff disregarding everything in the DCP for the village. Planning staff do not consider the unanimous village opposition to this development as being against public interest. Some Councillors, and the DCG, could not understand how, after going through the expense and considerable consultation with the community to develop a DCP, that it could be ignored.

Council staff engaged the Dept of Commerce to review the proposed STP. Their report identified 14 concerns which needed to be addressed. We considered Hardie Holdings response only addressed three of the concerns expressed by the Dept of Commerce, and the others were whitewashed over, to be addressed at final design stage.

The DCG considered this to be most unsatisfactory and therefore commissioned a local independent engineer's report regarding the Sewerage Treatment Plant. This report questioned in depth the report submitted to council on behalf of Hardies. Because of this report presented to the workshop, several Councillors grilled the planning staff with questions and in most cases, the questions were not answered to their, or our, satisfaction. The planning staff had obviously not done their homework on such an important piece of infrastructure.

Planning staff gave a brief report on the Manly West development which they said was now up and running. They also gave a report on the Noosa system. Planning staff were grilled with many valid and specific questions about Noosa's STP, and its comparison to the system proposed for Dunoon.

Councillors also had deep concerns about the lack of risk management assessment and most importantly the capability of the residents of a community title development to manage the system, physically and financially. Hardies have advised Council that these matters would be addressed prior to the release of the construction certificate, well after the development approval.

Going against normal protocol, Councillors agreed to a motion put forward by Cr David Tomlinson at the beginning of the workshop for a representative of the DCG to address

councillors after the staff report. This gave us the opportunity to provide accurate information on the Manly West and Noosa systems and developments. This first-hand report showed up the inaccuracy of planning staffs' report due to their lack of research.

The Noosa resort, which planning staff was using as a working model, was actually for tourist accommodation including some cabins, a camping ground and 24 five star time share accommodation houses (\$1.2 million each, plus \$7K strata fees - per year). These houses were only connected to the STP in December 2007 - less than 6 months ago. At the time of the DCG visit there were only 3 houses occupied and both the camping ground and cabins were at minimum occupation levels due to the off-season. On talking to the resort manager, this is not unusual and the only time of full occupancy was at the December/Jan holidays and two, maybe three weeks at Easter. Weekdays are generally very quiet with only a moderate increase at weekends.

On visiting the Manly West community title development, we discovered that it was comprised of one display home which had only been opened for one week. This clearly showed that neither of these developments could be considered as a working model on which councillors could draw information from to make an informed decision regarding the approval of Hardies proposed development and STP in Dunoon.

### Local Farmer Concerns

The General Manager of Hancock Farms Australia put in a second submission last Friday to Lismore City Council asking why their first had been ignored. They had many concerns about the STP, operational issues and the possibility of contamination to Numulgi Creek, which runs through their Duncan Road property and other maca farms downstream and could have a major economic impact on these local farms if it's perceived that raw sewerage is being irrigated on their crops. In addition it may have an impact on the reputation on Lismore as a producer of quality produce.

Their other major concern was why a certain LEP regulation relating to buffers to avoid potential land use conflicts was not being enforced. Being a major agriculture processor, they have to adhere to strict regulations concerning their operations, which may affect the water catchment of the Lismore Source.

And so they should. So why does it appear that these regulations and buffers are being diluted for a sewerage plant placed on agricultural land, against zoning objectives, to facilitate a dense urban style development in the heart of our village?

For further information please call Paula on H: 6689 5954 or at work: 6621 4688

# Cheap solar, anyone?

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is looking for Nimbin community members who are interested in obtaining cheap solar power via the Beyond Building Energy solar power scheme.

Beyond Building's Solar Neighbourhood Project is a bulk buying solar programme, available Australia wide. It's a high volume, low margin model where, they say, "We deal directly with manufacturers, buy and install in bulk, and pass on the savings."

NNIC team leader Natalie Myer said, "If we can get 50 households in Nimbin who are eligible for the scheme, each household can get a 1 kW grid-feed system for only \$895, after the rebate."

To be eligible for the scheme, householders must be:

- On the electricity grid
- Owner/occupier of your house
- Within 15kms of Nimbin
- Able to put \$8000 up front (total cost \$895 after rebate received)
- Earning a taxable income under \$100,000 per annum.

However, the proposal has drawn flak from the Rainbow Power Company, with Director Dave Lambert saying, "It would seem that a government-funded community organisation is going into competition with a local business."



"Rainbow Power Company has been in Nimbin for over two decades now and will no doubt be around for another two decades to look after our customers."

"Where will Beyond Building and their roving installers be in five years if there is a problem with their Chinese-made solar panels?"

The scheme has already been launched in a number of local areas including Wilsons Creek, Rosebank and Federal. The installation in Federal will be starting this month.

"We'll be closely watching their first installation in Federal," said Dave Lambert.

People still interested in the Beyond Building scheme can register their interest with NNIC. Drop in a written note with your contact details and mark it for the attention of Nat, or else drop in and see Nat yourself on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Natalie Myer said, "This is the same scheme that Deb Guest has been involved in, and she is keen for NNIC to take over the co-ordination role. So if you have told Deb you are interested, please come and tell us now instead."

For more information about Beyond Building Energy see [www.beyondbuildingenergy.com](http://www.beyondbuildingenergy.com)

# Help me help you

by Sue James  
EquityExcel Mortgage Consultant



Because of the overwhelming demands made upon me each day for references of professional services and contractors, I am committing my time and resources to compile a directory of the finest individuals and companies serving our community.

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I would love to receive your input, and value your opinions. If you have contractors or professional services that you would like to recommend, from window cleaners to babysitters, please email them to me

with any relevant comments and contact details. My email address is [Susan.james@whytecorporation.com.au](mailto:james@whytecorporation.com.au)

Only those services that have been exceptional in serving you and your family should be submitted. This directory will be comprised of the most reliable and professionals people I can find.

I look forward to having this directory available to you within the next two months.

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# Friends of Nimbin Skatepark update

by Elowyn Paitson

Friends of Nimbin Skatepark meet every two weeks behind Nimbin's Oasis Cafe to progress the Nimbin Skatepark towards completion. This community-driven project needs its community to participate if it is to succeed.

The FONS is committed to getting the park open and would like to see if Nimbin shares and can demonstrate its commitment. If you have the time to contribute to this project and want to see this facility shake its Pasha Balka namesake, then you need to get on board and help steer. To find out when our meetings are, visit the website <http://sk8park.nimbincommunity.org.au/>

Respect and thanks to new sponsorships including Rainbow Power Company and Blade Road Recyclers. Support from the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce was well received and the conditional offer from CANNA Australia to match \$50,000 is expected to generate further interest.

FONS will also be discussing plans for a hemp wall trial, supervised by Klara Marosszeky, designer of the hemp wall currently showcased in the HEMP Embassy window. We are looking at alternative walling materials including panel materials commonly used along highways to protect homes from traffic noise.

The materials and their application will ultimately depend on a determination from Lismore Council, understandably



conservative in their position on noise generated from the skatepark.

Council staff are preparing a report to the 10th June meeting of Councillors regarding the future ownership of Peace Park, currently under a deed of agreement with Nimbin Community Centre Inc. This will be closely followed by FONS, as Nimbin Skatepark will no doubt be a factor in Council's decision process.

Stay tuned, get involved.

# Chamber Chat

by Kara Forsyth  
President, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce met on Tuesday 20th May for our scheduled monthly meeting, and we were fortunate enough to be joined by Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton from the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce, who have been guests in our town for the past month while making another chapter of their great documentary features on our fabulous alternative lifestyle.

Among the issues discussed at the meeting were ways of promoting and prolonging non-drug related attractions of our village and encouraging the development of positive tourism such as an Artists Tour, Music festivals, non-violent protests and green workshops. Some great ideas that we look forward to developing as time goes on.

Other matters discussed included NCoC support for the Aquarius Foundation's Peace Pole Project and a letter of support for Friends of Nimbin Sk8 Park.

We have received confirmation from the Lismore City Council General Manager of the various projects being undertaken in Nimbin, including pedestrian crossing lighting, which has a budget allocation of \$30,000 and which has passed through the design and contracting stages with work expected to commence shortly.

The western carpark lighting has a budget allocation for the first stage of \$60,000, however this is still in the design stage while Council investigates the use of solar power for the lighting.

Additionally, a budget submission for the installation of public place recycling bins in the



Gerard Dwyer says...



Nimbin business area will be considered for inclusion in the 08-09 Management Plan. Planning is also underway for shade sails over the Cullen Street blister.

The Chamber is seeking more active and interested members from the business sector of Nimbin. New perspectives and ideas are always openly received and welcomed, so please come along to the next meeting which will be held, as usual, on the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm at the rear of the Rainbow Cafe.

We hope to see you there.

# What's behind the Canna offer?

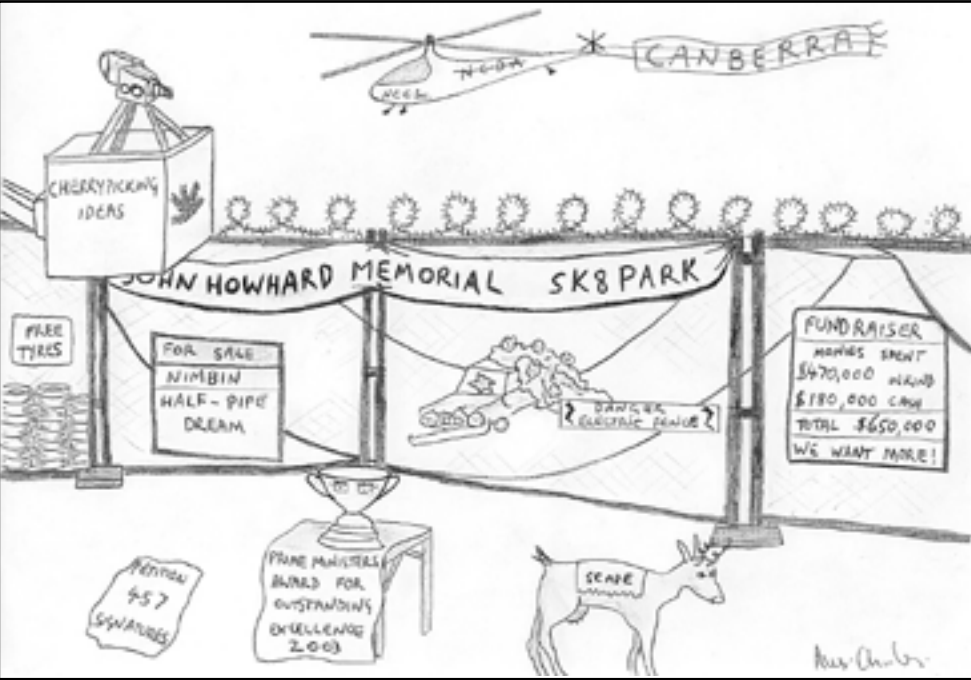
by Shaun Reid  
Managing Director, The Highlife Co. (Aust)

My understanding is that the Nimbin SK8 Park is currently closed due to the fact that nearby residents find it too noisy.

I have personally walked past this SK8 Park for several years now and it makes me feel very sad that a perfectly good SK8 park is standing there unused, yet in full view of the skaters, predominantly young people, who want to use it. It is appalling! It is unfair and taunting them. The park is important to local children and teens. These guys have nowhere else to ride!

Skating and BMX is a healthy alternative to other activities for Nimbin's young people, with riders getting high on their sport, rather than drugs and alcohol. We want healthy kids. They have made healthy choices up to this point. We are sure some local riders are good enough that they will go pro one day.

Skating is not a crime. Skaters do not have a place to practice their sport legally in Nimbin. It is important to see them riding and skating rather than drinking or doing drugs. We want to help change the situation by donating funds to give this SK8 Park back to skaters of all ages and skills, who will be able to enjoy this park.



# Putting the 'Oh' in poetry



The line between performance poetry and stand-up comedy has always been a fine one – indeed, many performers do both.

But that line was scribbled all over with a fat texta when Ghostboy brought his poetry slam to the Nimbin Oasis Cafe at the end of May.

Brisbane-based Ghostboy (aka David Stavenger), a former winner of the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, scampered irreverently back and forth over the line, and even demonstrated his prowess as an auctioneer, knocking down a Variety Club T-shirt for a princely \$13.

"Thanks, it cost \$50 for the petrol to get here," he quipped.

Also on show were the skills of performance poets Pascale Burton and Matt Heatherington, who observed, "Canberra rhymes with planning error."

Ghostboy was obstensively launching his new book 'And the Ringmaster said...' It was a great foretaste of the World Cup to come.

# Oddball Reader of the Month

Hemp Olympian Sexy Rex (pictured) made quite an impression at MardiGrass.

If there was a triathlon, he would have made a good showing, based on his winning performances in all event categories.

He left town with a swag of medallions, vowing to return next year.

So, what's that got to do with anything? Well, not much really. It's just that someone said, "Why don't you do a reader profile?" which sounded like a good idea.

So Sue took a nice photo, leaving out his skin-tight shorts and most of his big gut, and I started to interview him, but we got distracted one way and another. Anyway...

He's from Brisbane, and he loves the paper.



## Annie's Tea Garden & Nursery

Blackboard menu featuring Annie's home cooking, oven-baked on a wood stove, including fish schnitzel, pasta and quiche dishes. BYO

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## THE HEART OF NIMBIN RAINBOW CAFE

EST 1973

Great food with lots of choice for everyone, including gluten-free, vegan and carnivores.

We do everything the hard way - cut our own potatoes to make chips, blend real local organic fruit to make smoothies and create our own sauces.

We have great local coffee with great baristas.