

Arrival of NSW Office of Ageing gives \$1 million boost to local economy

Recently I welcomed the announcement that the NSW Government's Office for Ageing will relocate from Sydney to the North Coast creating around 10 new jobs and boosting the local economy by \$1 million.

The NSW Office of Ageing provides advice to the NSW Government on the needs of the older population in the community.

I congratulate the NSW Minister for Ageing, Kristina Keneally for recognising that the Tweed with its high and growing older population is an ideal place to have this office.

Ten new jobs and a \$1 million dollar boost into the local economy is fantastic news.

The Richmond electorate has one of the highest aged populations in Australia with 20% of people aged 65 years and over. We have a large older population and as the local member I am committed to making sure their needs are looked after.

And it is great to see the NSW Government also acknowledging and supporting the Far North Coast's older population. This relocation further demonstrates the NSW and Australian Government's strong commitment to addressing the needs of our older community.

Further information on the NSW Office of Ageing can be found on their website <http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/dadhc/Older+people> or by phoning the NSW Seniors Information Service on 13-12-44

Preventing fall injuries for farmers over 55

Recently I launched a guide aimed at reducing the number of serious and potentially fatal falls experienced by



Justine Elliott with the NSW Minister for Ageing, Kristina Keneally.

Australian farmers over 55 while working on their farms.

Eliminating falls is an important part of the Australian Government's efforts in preventive health - around 30 per cent of injury-related deaths in Australia are due to falls.

Falls can result in serious injury, including admission to hospital - and they are the most common reason for premature admission into residential aged care.

We are fortunate to have such a strong local farming community here on the North Coast and like their counterparts Australia wide, all farmers are at extra risk of injury given the dangers of the physical work they perform. Avoiding falls can help them remain active, independent and able to stay on their land.

The Australian Government committed

nearly \$200,000 to the Australian Centre for Agriculture Health and Safety, University of Sydney, for the booklet Preventing Falls for Older Farmers. The booklet outlines practical ways that farmers can reduce the risk of injury on the farm as well as providing self risk assessments.

Falls on farms can be from horses, vehicles, machinery, ladders and silos - as well as conditions such as ice, mud and liquids on ground or floor surfaces. Poor tread on footwear can also contribute to falls. The Australian Centre for Agriculture Health and Safety should be commended for its work in the area of farm safety and for preparing this booklet.

The Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, University of Sydney found that 20 percent of people aged 55 and over are admitted to hospital due to on-farm injury caused by falls. The research also found 11.6 percent of deaths for people over 55 years, were due to farm related falls in 1999-2002.

The booklet complements other activities that aim to prevent injuries in farming communities. The Australian Government's National Injury Prevention Program has also contributed funds for the development of a rural water safety pilot and a three year National Child Safety on Farms Strategy - as well as national programs to improve safety associated with farm machinery and operation of all-terrain vehicles.

The falls prevention program complements the Safety of Older Farmers program also funded under the Prevention Program. The outcomes of these initiatives have aided the prevention of injuries in communities and development of a national injury prevention strategy.

Copies of the booklet Preventing Falls for Older Farmers are available by contacting my office on 1300-720-675.

Til next time
- Justine

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



Janelle Saffin on the reconciliation walk in Kyogle.

Janelle's Page

Genuine steps towards reconciliation

In the lead up to this year's Naidoc Week I was happy to be able to take part in the Reconciliation Walk in Kyogle. I flew back from Parliament just in time to get to Kyogle Memorial Park and then joined the walk down to the lagoon.

As Naidoc week falls in the school holidays, the Kyogle reconciliation group likes to have their activities early so that school children can be involved, and how lovely it was to join in with so many young people in the walk.

It was also a proud moment to be there as a member of the Rudd Government after this year's historic apology to the Stolen Generations and their families. With the apology made, we can make genuine steps towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Moves to end aerial spraying of plantations

The autumn session of Parliament is about to rise, and I believe we've achieved a lot in this session. Of course the first Rudd Government Budget was a big focus, and I've raised those issues before. But there have been a lot of other issues and reforms that haven't been reported so widely.

One issue I raised, because it concerns many constituents and it worries me too, is the issue of aerial spraying of plantation crops. In the Clarence region a number of people have approached me because they are worried about the wider effects of the chemical spraying on

eucalypt plantations.

I told Parliament that spraying near populated areas cannot continue. I've arranged meetings with various groups on the issue, including residents, timber workers, environmental groups and will soon be meeting with Forest Enterprises Australia. I sincerely hope we can work towards a solution to the problem.

Equity in de facto separation rights

And in the last days of the Autumn session the Attorney General Robert McClelland introduced legislation that will provide a fairer system for de facto couples who separate.

It's a difficult time for any couple that breaks up, but the current laws make it particularly difficult for de facto couples.

When a de facto couple separates they can take child-related issues to the Family Court, but maintenance and property issues have to go through the State and Territory courts.

The new legislation will allow de facto couples to have access to the Family Court for property and maintenance matters, removing the administrative and financial burden of having to pursue issues through two court systems.

This reform brings the law into step with our community and it will not discriminate between opposite-sex and same-sex de facto couples.

And a reminder - over the next eight weeks I'll be hosting income support forums around the Page electorate.

- Janelle

Federal Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street Lismore
Phone 1300-301-735

Sue Boardman's Classes

Term 3: Starting Monday July 28 2008

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am		Tai Chi for Health: For those who have completed beginners (No floor work) 9-10am PIA \$10/10 weeks July 29 - Sept 30	Gentle Stretch (No floor work) 9-10am PIA \$40/10 weeks July 30 - Oct 1	Gentle Stretch H Tone 9-10.15am Backstage Room, NSA PIA \$44/8 weeks July 31 - Sept 18	Stretch H Tone 9-10.30am Backstage Room, NSA PIA \$44/8 weeks August 1 - Sept 18 (No class Sept 5)
10.15am		Tai Chi for Health: Beginners (No floor work) 10.15-11.15am PIA \$10/10 weeks July 29 - Sept 30			NSA: Backstage Room, Nimbin School of Arts, the side door. PIA: Physical Activity Centre (Old Showground Hall) Cecil St, Nimbin. Backstage Room, Nimbin Community Centre.
5pm	Gentle Exercise 5-6pm Backstage Room, NSA PIA \$15/7 weeks July 28 - Sept 11 (No class Aug 4)	Social Netball 5-6.30pm Nimbin Sports Club Oct 11 - Dec 9 8 weeks	Tai Chi for Health: Beginners (No floor work) 5-6pm Backstage Room, NSA PIA \$40/8 weeks July 30 - Sept 17	Move It! (No floor work) 5-6pm Backstage Room, NSA PIA \$15/7 weeks July 31 - Sept 18 (No class Sept 4)	"No floor work": There are no exercises that require you to get up & down from the floor. PIA: Fold in advance.

Enquiries/enrolments contact Sue: 6689-1731 or sue.boardman@hotmail.com

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A nimbin institution returns...

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Food & refreshments at the Mulga Cafe

Nimbin Bush Theatre

North coast hemp industry one step closer

by Klara Marosszeky

The Industrial Hemp Bill passed through both houses of the NSW Parliament this week making way for the development of a hemp industry in NSW. It will now take until September for the regulatory framework to be finalised, and planting will commence in NSW this spring.

The Bill tightly limits who will be able to grow industrial hemp and where it can be grown. The fear of cross-pollination from high THC cannabis means that licences will be heavily regulated. Properties will be subject to random police checks and licence applicants and their close associates will be subject to criminal checks.

For a property to be suitable, the risk for a grower that cross-pollination from high THC would occur, needs to be minimal given the powers that have always, and will continue to be invested in the police. They will retain the power to destroy crops that show any indication of substantial THC drift. Industrial hemp crops have to be monitored and samples tested through accredited laboratories for THC levels.

Last weekend the Northern Rivers Industrial Hemp Association (NRIHA) was formed in Lismore. Just over 50 people registered their interest in forming an interim body to develop a farming cooperative. A great mix of traditional broadacre farmers from areas like Coraki, Kyogle, Nashua and Newrybar, small farmers, organic farmers and permaculturalists gathered alongside



So many uses! Illustration Courtesy Purdue University, Center for New Crops & Plant Products

contract harvesters and others interested in progressing the industry. There was unanimous support to create an organisation that would nurture a sustainable regional industry that would be strong enough to enter what is proving itself to be a very competitive emerging industry.

The NRIHA will be launching a website in the next few weeks which will provide information on all aspects of the industry, from farming to investing in emerging regional manufacturing industries. Information about the website will be posted in *The GoodTimes*.

This kitchen is really humming

Nimbin's local pub bistro has re-opened with new décor, a new menu, new people and a new name – the Hummingbird Bistro.

The people behind the changes are partners Stuart Campbell and Angelica Samut (pictured). Stuart is a chef who was previously working at Rydges, Brisbane, and Angelica has an art background as a printmaker.

They have moved to Nimbin, partly to be closer to Angelica's family in Rosebank, where she grew up, and partly because they are excited by the prospect of running the pub kitchen.

"It's a bit different to Ridges," said Stuart, "but I've also worked at the Oxford Street Cinema Café

in Brisbane, so I know the bistro format pretty well."

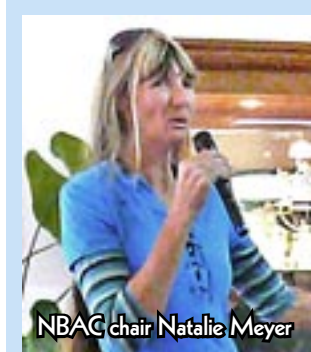
Since the bistro opened late in June, the pair have received "lots of good feedback" about the new menus, with the lamb shanks and whiting salad proving early favourites.

Stuart describes his cuisine as modern Australian with Mediterranean and Asian influences, and says he "loves curries". Using local organic produce wherever possible, he is happy to fill orders for

vegan and gluten-free dishes.

Angelica said, "When we're fully up and running, we'll hope to be doing catering and also functions on the second floor verandah. We're also looking forward to the deck being extended for an alfresco dining area."

The Hummingbird Bistro is open during winter from 12-3pm and 6-8pm, seven days a week at the Nimbin Hotel and Backpackers, phone 6689-1246.



Gymnasium handover

The official handover of the Nimbin Physical Activities Centre from the Nimbin Building Active Communities (NBAC) Project to the new Nimbin Health & Welfare Management Sub-committee, will be held at 11am on Wednesday 23rd July 2008 at the Physical Activities Centre

at Nimbin Showground.

The original three year BAC grant ended on 30th June and from now the project will be largely self-funded.

This facility is a wonderful asset for the health and well-being of the whole Nimbin community, and a credit to the energy put into the project by the BAC committee and its co-ordinator Sue Boardman.

Hospital Auxiliary needs new members

by Faye Scherf, President

The Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary is a small group of only eleven members who raise money to buy extra equipment for Nimbin Hospital to make for easier and more comfortable delivery of service for both staff and clients.

Members raise funds by having a regular monthly raffle of four \$25 vouchers to be spent at four different Nimbin businesses.

Auxiliary members also attend fundraising social events run by other Auxiliaries, and zone and regional conferences, but find it difficult to attend State and National conferences



Faye Scherf at Mardi Grass

because of the distances to be travelled.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary is in desperate need of new members. The Auxiliary is 61 years old. – our oldest member is 93 years young, and several are approaching or over 80 years of age.

We meet on the second

Friday of the month at the hospital – our AGM will be in August, date and time to be announced. Due to personal circumstances, our secretary is resigning and we have no-one to take her place. If we cannot attract new members and a new secretary the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary will be forced to dissolve.

As president of the Auxiliary, I hope and pray that this does not happen – Nimbin Hospital and the community will be a lot poorer in community spirit for I feel we all support and "own" our hospital.

Please you younger women and men, join the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary.

Nimbin lights pilgrims' way

Staff at Nimbin's candle factory has been working flat out lately, all in the service of the Pope.

Nimbin Candles was delighted to receive an order from the Ballina diocese for 400 white pyramid candles, to form part of a souvenir gift pack for the 400 pilgrims to World Youth Day who are being billeted on the North Coast.

"It's a good order for us," said managing director Craig Fry. "For volume, it's one of the biggest orders we've done."



The handmade 13cm candles, made from food-grade wax and featuring a commemorative label, were made in batches of 24 over a

two-week period and shipped at the end of June.

"It's nice to see the local area get a rub-off from the Pope's visit," said Craig.

Mulgum House gets its makeover

Nimbin's Mulgum House is having work done, which when completed will signal the start of a new lease on the facility by Multitask Human Resource Foundation.

The upgrading work was needed to bring the Dept of Housing's community accommodation facility up to the fire code for the new use, and to complete maintenance on the building and grounds prior to the hand-over.

Sources in the Office of Community Housing said they couldn't give a date for work to be complete, as that depended on sub-contractors, but were "very keen to get it handed over in the near future."

Under the lease, Multitask, which operates



a range of residential facilities for people with disabilities on the North Coast, will keep several rooms available for aged tenants.

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Nimbin's Next Generation –
Learning Through Fun



Elka learning how to hold a pen

by Jen Parke

It's been a busy few weeks at Nimbin Preschool. One of the local and well known Aboriginal friends, Burri Jerome visited the children. "Jingiwallah. Wita beyang?" That means "Greetings. How are you?" "Boogle beh!" means "I'm good!" The children sat in a circle and listened to Burri play the didgeridoo.

Then Preschool Assistant, Barbara, Director Karen and Burri made some ochre paint with the rocks and painted the children. Once the children were painted, Burri showed them dance steps for the girls who had to dance in the protected inner circle and the boys had different steps and danced on the outer circle. The girls danced like emus and women holding babies and the boys danced like kangaroos and old men.

Other activities have included a focus on

winter, with Assistant Sheree and Director Kathy helping the children weave wool and fleece through tree branches to decorate Winter Trees, with everyone doing an individual branch as well as co-operating to work on a group tree. We made collage sheep, did felting (with help from Barbara), and explored different fabrics in collage.

We read stories and discussed how wool is produced, shorn, spun and woven, knitted. Lots of vocabulary development was associated with the topic, as well as with winter clothing and rituals. The children enjoyed singing Click Go the Shears Boys, in spite of the old fashioned language.

Making space ships and rockets has been a popular activity, as well as learning the Planets song and names of the planets as we studied our Solar system. Finding out that our Sun is a star, and what a special planet we live on was the source of lots of discussion. We looked at books, magazines and posters on the Space theme and learnt about the Space Shuttle, Space Station and robot explorers on Mars. Counting backwards for Blastoff of our rockets encouraged some children to investigate writing numbers.

This week we went on an excursion to Tuntable Falls Preschool for a musical performance. Thanks to Tuntable Preschool for welcoming us in their beautiful setting. Thanks also to the Bowling Club who donated the use of the bus to make the excursion possible.

Nimbin Preschool is a community based preschool. We currently have vacancies for 3-5 years olds except on Thursdays. Ring the preschool on 6689-1203 or visit us at the Showgrounds at Cecil St if you would like to enrol your child or find out more about this wonderful community facility.

Tuntable Falls school welcomes winter



Winter Solstice was celebrated with a very heart-warming ceremony at the Tuntable Falls Community school on Monday 23rd June.

The children prepared an evening that will be remembered fondly by both the school community and their guests from the wider community.

The evening focused on bringing light into the darkness, and then out to the world to welcome the new solar year. A number of rituals were carried out to celebrate this special cosmic event of the longest night and the shortest day of the year.

Each pathway to the entrance of the school was hilted on either side by candles and all those who gathered felt the special nature of the evening.

Children from both the upper and lower primary sang songs, read poems and played music to bring light into the hearts of the guests.

The children then lit their handmade lanterns and completed the spiral walk which they had set up earlier in the day.

Hearty soup and chai made by the children was served and a huge bonfire lit which burned well into the night, bringing light and warmth into our world.

Among other entertainments on the evening was this poem, performed and written by Year 6 student Theotius Marsden Hall.

Gold

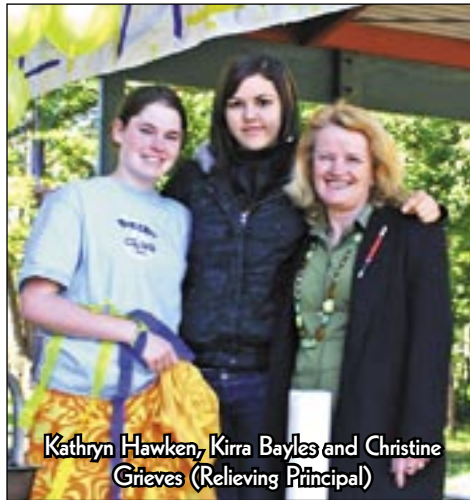
Gold smells like burning guilt and bitter treachery of greed

Gold looks a dangerous trap for greedy men and an exquisitely beautiful decoration for a rich woman.

Gold sounds like the ringing echo of echo of the heavy pick smashed on the unbreakable rock.

Gold tastes like the bitter-sweet taste of fortune and the sour sting of guilt for the poor.

Gold feels like the cold, hard-beaten metal mined from ore.



Kathryn Hawken, Kirra Bayles and Christine Grieves (Relieving Principal)

Mekai Day at Nimbin Central



For the students of the Student Representative Council at Nimbin Central School, the morning of Wednesday, 25th June was filled with last minute preparations for a fundraising event they had been organising for weeks.

The aim was to help the family of an ex-student, Ruja Winkler, whose 4-year old son, Mekai, was diagnosed with leukemia only three days after his 4th birthday in April this year. The family's lives have changed dramatically since this diagnosis.

The very successful event, a red-and-blue mufti day appropriately named Mekai Day, included a sausage sizzle, cake stall, the sale of helium balloons and fun activities for all ages, and raised over \$1,300.

Further fundraising in the form of raffles has been organised with a wide range of prizes donated by local Nimbin and Lismore businesses. Tickets are available through the school. Phone 6689-1355 during school hours.



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Nimbin Vacation Care program

Date	Program	Cost
Monday 7 th July	Excursion to Lismore Cinema to see "Get Smart" rated PG, followed by picnic lunch at Kadina Park. April & Amara	\$14.50
Thursday 10 th July	Arts, craft and games at MPU. April & Myraine	\$6
Friday 11 th July	Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink followed by a picnic lunch at Heritage Park. Please bring socks! April & Ajita	\$12.50
Monday 14 th July	Fun at MPU April & Myraine	\$6
Thursday 17 th July	Drama and Dancing at MPU April & Ajita	\$6
Friday 18 th July	Guided bush walk and picnic at Border Ranges National Park. April & Amara	\$11.50

The new Winter Holiday program (at left) will again be operating from Nimbin Central School.

Please meet at the front of the MPU at 9am on excursion days, and please pick up your child no later than 3pm from the MPU at Nimbin School.

Children will need to wear appropriate clothing, and bring adequate food and drinks.

To book, phone NNIC on 6689-1692 (10am to 4pm).

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Show Society cuts gate prices

Nimbin's A&I Society is pretty happy with how its finances are going. As well as not losing money on their annual show last year, despite its lack of horse and dog events, their fundraising efforts this year have been 'pretty healthy'.

To celebrate, the Society's committee put on a BBQ at the Showground to thank all its volunteers and sponsors, and incidentally to show off the recent work completed on their new canteen building, which now boasts a kitchen with hot water, and a fully restored Metters No. 7 cast-iron stove, 'christened' later in the afternoon.

The good-natured Society President Phil Williams thanked the dozens of people present after they had been amply fed and watered, and took the opportunity to introduce the committee's new Secretary, Gay Bransgrove. Gay, who has recently moved to Nimbin after a



Hospitable. Phil Williams (at right) introduces Gay Bransgrove to the A&I volunteers and sponsors.

career in various ministries of the NSW Parliament, said, "After working for politicians so long, I'm suspicious of the phrase 'giving something back to the community', but that's really what I'm doing. I feel I have something to offer." Committeeman Neville Plush spoke about the

preparations for this year's Nimbin Show on 20th and 21st September, and announced that the gate prices will be reduced to \$3.50 (\$2 children and pensioners) to encourage greater local attendance. "And the horses and dogs will be back," he said.

Friends of Nimbin Skatepark update



by Duncan Wilson

Well, another month rolls around and progress makes its slow march forwards on the skatepark, and the gears of bureaucracy keep grinding. It looks like Council will extend the lease held by the NCC on the skatepark for another year, giving this as a timeframe to resolve the current issues surrounding the park. Council elections are coming up in September and we need to put the skatepark on the agenda if we want to see more support coming from that direction. If anyone in the community feels passionate about this project then this would be an excellent time to write to council or present them with yet another petition requesting their full support for the completion of this project and the youth of Nimbin. The FONS have met again with Klara Marosszeky to arrange for testing of the viability of hemp masonry for use in enclosing the subvoids of the park. The first stage of this testing will hopefully take place

next on the next Friday that the FONS meet. This will involve something along the lines of making a recording of the sound level on the spine section of the park before the hemp masonry is constructed there, and then repeating that test as accurately as possible once the masonry is in place. This test is reliant on our being able to line up the necessary equipment, which is a specialized microphone and frequency analyzer, along with a professional operator. If there is anyone in the region able and willing to provide this service we would love to hear from you. The FONS is also looking at any other options that can help us reduce the overall output of decibels produced by the skatepark. As always, the FONS welcomes involvement from the community, this project runs on volunteers, which means there is only so much that any of us can give. If you have something positive to bring to this project, then get involved, dates for our meetings can be found on the website <http://sk8park.nimbincommunity.org.au> as can the minutes from previous meetings.

Chamber Chat

by Kara Forsyth
President, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce



On Tuesday 17th June, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce met at the back of the Rainbow Café at 6pm, with thanks extended to our hostess, Jodee for the use of the facility. The Chamber discussed an approach to Council for a review on the effectiveness/ usefulness of the Overhead Street Cameras, given that it is a number of years since their installation and there have been numerous changes in the administration of the system, along with the budgetary considerations. Our guest speaker was Steve Howard who spoke to the meeting in relation to the Transition Towns Program, which encourages towns such

as ours to compete in energy efficiency and a greener lifestyle. This will begin with an energy audit to assess existing consumption levels and will lead to a inter street energy saving competition. There have been murmurs of the necessity for a Nimbin town forum between all of the various voluntary and Council supported community groups which are operative within the village, which presently operate without any formal coordination. The Chamber would fully support this idea and is keen to participate as the coordination of these efforts is key to achieving



community objectives. The Chamber also encourages any members of the Nimbin community to support the efforts of the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation (NAF), who have worked relentlessly for the past 36 years to achieve the vision of our alternative lifestyle. New membership to NAF is a necessity to the ongoing existence of the Aquarius legacy and any interested parties are encouraged to join the foundation. See you at the next meeting on 15th July.

Peace Park handover hassles

Nimbin Community Centre Inc. (NCC), formerly Nimbin Community Development Association, had been planning to take ownership of both the Centre and Peace Park this month. Currently the titles to both parcels of land are in Lismore Council's name, being held in trust for the community while NCC repaid the loan taken with Council to purchase and develop the sites. After raising in the vicinity of \$400,000 over eleven years it is time to move to community ownership. In 2003 a single Court decision resulted in a huge rise in public liability insurance premiums for councils and community organisations. Faced with a massive \$15,000 annual premium for Peace Park, NCC opted out of the Park by cancelling its lease with Council, effectively handing complete responsibility to Council. It was three years before government legislation saw insurance premiums drop and NCC was once again able to insure Peace Park. NCC is very concerned a similar scenario may arise again. NCC is also concerned that as Peace Park gets developed the organisation may not be able to afford maintenance costs. Development of additional play facilities, a skate park, paved walkways, outdoor artist spaces, a stage and rainforest plantings significantly increases maintenance responsibilities. Currently NCC mows, brushcuts and undertakes periodic clean-ups of the park but is not in a position to undertake daily maintenance, unless volunteer labour can be sourced or additional funding found. Such funding should arguably be provided by Council who has refused to date to provide an annual contribution to help maintain Peace Park. As a result of these concerns, NCC has informed Council the community is not in a position to take ownership of Peace Park unless Council contribute on an annual basis to maintenance and agree to protect NCC against blow-outs in public liability insurance. Alternatively NCC is proposing that Council retain ownership of Peace Park and the land



Maintenance issues. Tree lopper Bill Cox discovers advanced borer activity in a tree in the Community Centre grounds while lopping dead branches.

be classified as community land, thereby providing a level of protection against future sale by Council or commercial development. Concerned about the skate park, Council staff recommended Council retain title to both parcels of land for at least 12 months or until NCC is prepared to take title to Peace Park without conditions. Councillors directed staff to enter into further discussion with NCC. Using the Community Centre as a bargaining tool is a questionable tactic, especially as until last month NCC had been led to believe the organisation would receive title to the Community Centre on July 1st and has worked extensively to ensure this occurred smoothly. This matter will be the subject of a notice of motion to Council by Cr Jenny Dowell on 8th July.

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