

Nimbin happenings



The Nimbin Espresso Bar (E-Bar) has been closed for renovations for three months, but is on-track for a grand reopening on Friday 12th December.

New surfaces with high quality finishes will house the new kitchen equipment and display cabinets prior to the re-opening, which will feature a dinner menu with new French chef, Benny.

Proprietor Moudy, who has operated the café for 19 years said, "We will still be open from 7am like before, plus Benny will cook French, Persian and Continental dishes from 6-10pm."

Soup Kitchen Community Lunch

Nimbin's annual Community Xmas Lunch will be held on Friday 19th December and everyone is invited.

Come along and share the spirit of Xmas with your community, Santa will arrive about 2pm loaded up with gifts for all the children.

If you would like to contribute any gifts or food for this fabulous sharing day drop into the Neighbourhood Centre and simply drop off your presents at the desk.

Volunteers are always needed on the day, so come along from 9.30am and help set up, serve and clean up.

The Soup Kitchen thanks all those in the community who help out and provide the goodies for our soup day throughout the year. Enquiries phone Gail, 6689-7424 or at the Centre.

Tunable Doings

• School Fete and Open Day

Tunable School's annual fete will be held on Saturday 6th December, from 10am. Come and see our children perform, view their beautiful photo and art galleries, see a school history slide show, eat scrumptious lunch and yummy cafe, go wild on our giant water slide, find a bargain in our second hand clothes and jumble sale, enjoy funky live music and three fantastic playgrounds.

We are taking enrolments for preschool and primary school for 2009. For more info call 6689 1423 to speak to Deborah and Thomas (primary) or Maree (preschool).

• Tuntable turns 35

Tunable is having a 35th birthday party on Saturday 13th December from 5pm 'til late, showcasing a kaleidoscope of Tuntable talent – music, dance, circus – with kids' performances and entertainment of all kinds for all ages, a scrumptious evening feast provided by the pre-school, and culminating in a hip-hop party till late. Entry is by donation and there will be food from 6pm.

• Tuntable Folk Sessions

The Tuntable Café and Session on Friday 21st November was a roaring success and will be followed by more. All Tuntable folk and friends and those who wish to join in the folk session are very welcome and guaranteed of a good affordable family night out with excellent live music.

An Italian feast is planned for mid-January and it's possible that there will be a solstice gathering – look out for posters.

Rainbow Café – est 1973 and still going strong

Started by Tuntable Falls Community, Nimbin's Rainbow Café has had many lives in its 35 years.

The current owner and staff would like to invite anyone who has ever worked or operated the café in this time for an evening of reminiscing. Hunt out your old photos in readiness!

The date will be in early January and announced in the next edition of NGT. Everyone to bring a plate and stories to share.

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If a tree falls in the forest... will it inspire the next hit song?

After returning from her successful US visit, Nimbin's international singing success story Diana Anaid has been busy rehearsing new tunes with her band for an upcoming CD.

Having over 50 songs to choose from for her next studio CD, likely to be a double disc, Diana had taken song-writing off her schedule until later in 2009, until a massive tree fell on her son's bedroom.

Inspired by the sheer power of nature and the fright of almost being crushed, combined with relief, Diana spent the next few days writing *The Tree Song*, in between chain-sawing, wood chipping and clearing debris.

Diana invites everyone to come along to her gig (with special guests The Antibodies) on 20th December at the Winsome Hotel to hear *The Tree Song*, *Peace*, *Forbidden* and other



new songs. She will also perform old favourites from her three critically acclaimed CD's. \$8 gets you in and it starts at 8pm.

This is her last show for the year, so put it on your calendar and go for a dance.

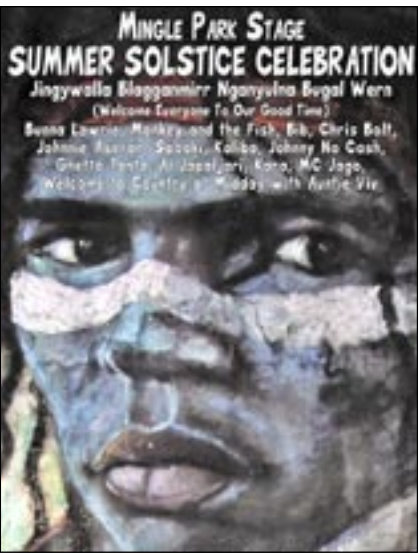
Mingle Park stage summer solstice celebrations

On Sunday 21st December the Mingle Park stage plays host to a Summer Solstice celebration behind the Nimbin Museum.

Opening with a Welcome to Country at midday with Auntie Viv, presenting artists and performers including Bunna Lawrie (and a showing of his *Whale Dreamers* film), Monkey and the Fish, Bib, Chris Bolt, Johnnie Aseron (Lokota songman and storyteller), Spooki, Al Japaljari, Kaliba, Johnny No Cash, Ghetto Tonto and Nimbin's new discovery, singer/poet Kara. Mark Jago will be the MC.

"This celebration of the longest day is also to acknowledge the museum's ongoing contribution to the community. This place has stood by our mob through thick and thin over many years. The museum has helped to raise awareness of many Aboriginal issues. We feel welcome here and we are very grateful the museum is going to continue," said Widjabal Burri na, Bib.

Elsbeth Jones, the new museum leaseholder says, "I'm learning about where I am. The Aboriginal cultural/earth connection underlies everything and my priorities are changing. We have



Jingywalla Blagganmirr
Nganyulna Bugal Wern.
(Welcome everyone to our good time)

to care for where we are and celebrate our freedom to do so."

Having so many Aboriginal people at the museum was teaching everyone a lot, according to museum curator Michael Balderstone. "They have a

much stronger sense of community, and family and sharing than us recent arrivals. Fortunately the hippies' love of the Earth gives us a connection which has been forged from thousands of years of getting to know this country. Aboriginals are the best friends hippies ever had, and I suspect it may be the same for some of them. We are on a journey to where Aboriginal people already were for thousands of years, in harmony with nature."

The new cameras for the museum should be installed by the Solstice event, as well as a fence around the backyard, named Mingle Park some time ago by volunteer gardener Aaron Richardson. Resigned to the police conditions imposed on the landlord recently, museum volunteers are waiting to see how the new situation pans out. "We'll know soon enough," Michael said.

Admission for the day is \$10 if you are waged, \$5 for unwaged and backpackers. The gig coincides with Nimbin's 3rd Sunday of the month Christmas Market.

For further info phone the museum on 6689-1123, or Chris Fisher and Roy Gordon on 0427-034-379.

Hippyfest New Years Eve

Street markets, tribal drums and hippie bands will bring 2008 to a close as Nimbin celebrates its first Hippyfest this New Yars Eve and New Years Day.

Hippyfest organiser, Judy Canales says "Now is the time for us hippies to come out of the forest and join together as one to celebrate New Year Nimbin-style, singing up peace, love, and global healing from the heart of the rainbow region across the world. So get your colourful gear on, let your hair down and wear flowers. Love is the law. We wish everyone a Hippy New Year."

Mingle Park, the recently enhanced garden and entertainment area behind

the Museum will be the centre of the attraction with local hippie bands from 4pm to 11pm.

The street will be lined with all our favourite stalls and a tribal drum jam in Allsop Park will call the village together. Magpie and Turtle will then do a sunset ceremony with the Aquarius friends in the park, whilst in Mingle Park there will be an open mike for youth from 5pm to 7pm.

After 7pm, local hippy bands (to be announced) until 11pm. Known for lifting the lid off the Woodford Chai tent, the Tribal Drummers will raise the vibration from 11pm to midnight in

Mingle Park.

2009 will begin with an eleven minute Earth healing meditation facilitated by Azriela and Zjael, followed by Peace Trance Dance with DJ Mojo.

This is an alcohol-free event at Mingle Park and will have the Rainbow Chai tent with Michael Jack and Benny Zable, and Bundjalung BBQ for the two day celebration.

For further information, call Judy Canales on 0427-090-624.



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Monopoly, monopoly! Read all about it!

After months of investigation, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) announced on November 19 that it would not oppose the acquisition of *The Northern Rivers Echo* newspaper by APN News & Media Ltd.

The ACCC investigation sought to ensure compliance with the *Trade Practices Act 1974*, section 50 of which prohibits mergers and acquisitions that substantially lessen competition in the market, or are likely to do so.

APN currently publishes *The Northern Star*, *The Byron Shire News*, *The Richmond Examiner*, *The Ballina Shire Advocate*, *The Tweed Daily News* and the *Grafton Daily Examiner*, among others.

Speculation that APN might pull out of the deal arose after the ACCC delay and amid turmoil in financial markets, as well as its CEO and largest shareholder, Irishman Sir Tony O'Reilly, announcing he wanted to offload his majority 39.1% stake in APN.

APN proceeded with the purchase however, and took ownership of the *Northern Rivers Echo* on December 1 with an estimated sale price of \$1.4 million.

Since the initial announcement of the sale there has been a departure of staff from the *Echo*, starting with journalist Luis Feliu, who moved on to become editor of the newly launched *Tweed Shire Echo*, and followed by sports writer Laurie Axtens and most recently graphic artist Andy Gough.

Two sales reps have also left and not been replaced.

In an interesting turn of events, journalist Andy Parks joined the *Echo* team after resigning from the *Northern Star*, only to find himself now back on the APN payroll.

Heather Williams will continue in the role of general manager for another two years.



Echo editor Rudi Maxwell remains optimistic about her role. "We've been given an assurance that the editorial structure won't change. I have every confidence in

the ability of the editorial team, including myself, to maintain our extremely high journalistic standards," she said. "Regardless of the owner it's up to the editor to make decisions on content. I guarantee our approach won't change and we will continue to put out the best newspaper in the Northern Rivers," Rudi said.

APN News & Media expects a flat net profit result for the six months to June 30 as it continues to battle challenging market conditions. Operating earnings for the half-year would be marginally behind last year's result because of increased costs for investment projects, it said.

APN boss Brendan Hopkins said earnings would fall 12.6 per cent in 2008, more than three times the decline forecast three months ago.

"APN continues to actively reduce its cost base through restructuring with headcount reductions of in excess of 200 already made", it said



in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) in July.

What changes readers will see in our local weekly nobody knows at this stage, but they will most likely be subtle and begin with a move from being printed by Horton Media to the APN press in Ballina once the current printing contract expires. No more staples!

♦ *The Kyogle News (TKN)* is reportedly also for sale at the moment. Keep sending in your contributions, NGT will print what APN won't.

Nimbin School of Arts and Neighbourhood Centre lead Nimbin Solar Roll Out

by Len Martin

Federal government subsidies have been approved for the installation of interactive solar systems for both the Nimbin School of Arts and Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre.

Fifty-six Nimbin households are also signed up for installation of interactive solar systems and government rebates via the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre Solar Package Scheme and Rainbow Power have bought a vast number of solar panels.

The rebate for NNIC's own system has been approved and as soon as the weather is amenable, work will begin on the installation, as well as those for the households who have applied under the scheme. Everyone pray for a couple of dry-ish months!

Rainbow Power hopes to have both systems installed and running early in the New Year or even sooner. So, in 2009, both local institutions will be doing their bit to combat global warming by pumping green energy into the grid.

Both systems will have meters enabling monitoring of just how much electricity is produced from solar energy and how many tonnes of CO² we are saving. The hall committee plans to have a continuing public display of our cumulative savings at the Nimbin School of Arts and hope to have that ready for the Renewable Energies Forum that will be held there in February.

Applications from the community for the NNIC Solar Packaging Scheme are now closed, but RPC is willing to offer a discounted rate to Nimbin community members for the 1kW grid feed systems at the new price of \$3,890 after the rebates – but you need to consult with RPC directly as this is not part of the NNIC Scheme.

Contact Dave Lambert at RPC on 6689-1430 for more info.



Energy savings. Proposed location of solar panels on School of Arts roof.

Solar feed-in tariffs for NSW

Under a new NSW government scheme, households generating solar power will be paid for surplus electricity they pump into the grid.

A taskforce will be set up and report back by January 2009 with details of the amount for the feed-in tariff, which may be as high as 60 cents per kilowatt.

Similar schemes are in place in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, which pay households and some small businesses for the extra power they generate and put back into the grid.

The ACT has a more generous scheme – known as a gross feed-in tariff – which pays people for all the power they generate, including what they use themselves and what they return to the grid. It is this kind of scheme which is favoured by the solar industry.

Currently most green groups support the scheme but say it should be broadened to include industry and community groups and are calling for a federal plan for renewable energy to ensure the same tariffs are paid by all states.

Jarlanbah pays the rent

by Pam Bourne, aka Pampussycat

For most of Australia, 11th November is Remembrance Day, but on this day Jarlanbah community holds a special ceremony, they are paying the rent.

The word Jarlanbah is a Bunjalung aboriginal word for 'Place of the Rainbow', acquired by association with Robyn Francis. About six years ago the community decided to acknowledge their use of that name.

Jarlanbah treasurer Sue Edmonds said, "In terms of reconciliation, we voted to 'pay the rent'. We decided where to direct the money by asking a couple of elders who said, give it to the kids. We thought the easiest way was to start with the little weenie ones. Each year we invite Jarjums preschool to come out in their bus from Lismore".

The children are running around, playing on the swings and slides, weaving hide and seek between the trees, looking into the dam trying to find frogs. The space reverberates with laughter, as the jarjums explore the gardens. They are eating watermelon, cherry tomatoes and home baking, while listening to Peah's guitar and Sue's ukulele songs, making a connection.

Therese from Jarlanbah



Jarjums kids and teachers at Jarlanbah.

said of the day, "It's about recognition and respect to the people who came before us, by paying the rent, of a dollar a day. It's an acknowledgement."

Jarlanbah is a permaculture community, which attempts to get landholders to plant out as much of the grounds as possible, also their own house blocks to grow food, especially native varieties, rather than having lawns. In the spirit of that, the kids potted up bush beans to take home, so by the end of summer the jarjums will have some nice bush beans to eat. The shade house is full of indigenous and exotic species to be planted out at Jarlanbah.

Jarjums preschool is located in east Lismore. It caters for twenty children a day.

There are six staff. Most of the children attending the centre are aboriginal. Lee from the centre said they are fortunate to have speech therapists, dental therapists and occupational therapists who visit the centre, and language groups. About 10% of the children have special needs, so support workers come to assist them. The centre is lucky to have a bus for outings. Jarjums is the aboriginal word for children.

The Jarjums preschool is having working bees soon. They'd love to hear from anybody willing to lend a hand. There are a lot of repairs needed, painting, trimming, nailing, and restoring the backyard play area and cubby house. If you would like to help, call Jarjums on 6621-9203.

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A&I BBQ

President Phil Williams

Nimbin's A&I Committee loves to host a good barbeque, and now they've got a great place at the Showground to do it. To show off their new kitchen and dining facilities, they held a country BBQ luncheon for sponsors and volunteers at the end of November. The new steel building was constructed in 2006 with federal funding, and since then, volunteers have progressively fitted out the interior, notably last year with the addition of a solid fuel stove. As a work in progress, the newly-insulated and painted pavilion certainly met with the approval of the crowd getting stuck into the good tucker.

Chamber Chatter



Wendy addressing the Lismore Council community meeting

A bargain with a small god

by Raine

If you've read Terry Pratchett's *Small Gods* you'll have an idea of where I'm coming from. It explains how minor gods (small 'g') lose their powers if no-one believes in them or pays them homage. Sort of like fairies.

I've discovered a small god who assists me with mechanical things and in exchange I've promised to raise awareness of his (yes, it is male) presence, and gain him some converts.

I call him 'The god of small motors'.

You women out there, how

often have you approached a lawn mower, pump, generator, or even a fragile car, with the words, "Please, please, please work?" Me too.

I began to think there was something going on when my pleas began to take shape, and the more I focussed, the quicker the small motor would respond.

These last few weeks I've been doing a bit of brush-cutting (haven't we all). I quite like cutting grass, but nothing turns me off quicker than a machine that doesn't do what it promises. To my surprise, after a quick prayer to the god of small motors and three or four pulls, it's

been starting.

I thought I'd test it out. I had a conversation with my small god and told him if he's really there, I'll tell everyone about him. Guess what? The brush-cutter started after one pull.

So here I am telling you about this wonderful, clever, handsome (OK, I'm piling it on, but isn't that what you do with gods?) helpful, efficient – you get my drift.

So next time you have a small motor to start, don't approach it with trepidation, approach it with a small god. Tell your friends.

There, I've upheld my side of the bargain.

by Wendy Sarkissian

The new Nimbin Chamber of Commerce got off to a lively start in November with the unexpected announcement that Lismore City Council was holding the annual Nimbin contact forum on 10th November. With only four days notice, members of the executive undertook a village-wide advertising campaign, including letterboxing to all post office boxes and putting up posters throughout the village encouraging people to attend this annual event.

The Chamber hosted the event, which attracted over 80 participants. It was a highly successful forum, ably facilitated by the new mayor of Lismore, councillor Jenny Dowell, and recorded in shorthand by Chamber secretary, Eugenie Stephans. Eight councillors, including the mayor and deputy mayor, the Council's general manager, Mr Paul O'Sullivan and several senior management staff, attended the forum. Detailed minutes have been sent to the Council and are being sent to all participants.

A systematic evaluation of the forum, completed by 20 participants, revealed that most felt that it was very successful or quite successful in achieving its aims and participants' personal objectives. Several

participants asked for more advanced notice and expressed gratitude to the Chamber for publicising the event. It was agreed that the mayor did a great job of facilitating and people were delighted with the opportunity to welcome her to Nimbin. Some participants felt that advance notice would have been helpful and that Council staff might have been better prepared. An earlier start with more time for socialising with councillors was suggested. There were positive responses to the decorations of the hall with banners created by Benny Zable. No participants expressed dissatisfaction with the way questions were handled and undertakings given by the Council.

Among the issues raised in the meeting (and detailed in the minutes) were:

Lighting to the western car park; recycling bins (promised before Christmas); Landscaping to the western car park; upgrading of the swimming pool; Development Application from the Nimbin Pre-School; road safety at the intersection of Cullen and Cecil Streets (previously reported to Council and deemed a safe intersection); upgrading of the Blue Knob Hall; Benny Zable's art works and community donations; car-hooping in the bus lane near Nimbin Central School;

upgrading of the BBQ in Allsopp Park; financial issues related to ongoing CCTV coverage; Nimbin Community Centre funding; policing; gazetted roads and fire trails; streetscape; art and music support; future community forums; stormwater run-off in the western car park of the Nimbin Central School; skate park issues; revitalising of the war memorial (cenotaph) in Allsopp Park. All of these issues are described in detail in the minutes.

It is important to remember that not all of these issues are regarded by the Chamber as the primary business of the Chamber. However, as the Chamber hosted the forum, we felt it was important to list the issues in the hope that responsible bodies will take action on them.

Issues specifically related to the business environment in Nimbin were discussed in detail at the first meeting of the new Chamber of Commerce at the Bowling Club on Monday 17th November. Minutes will be circulated to a wide number of people for the next few months and then in March 2009, we will limit circulation to paid-up Chamber members.

We wish to reinforce that voting at Chamber meetings, including AGMs, can be undertaken only by financial members of the Chamber. Annual membership is \$50.

Small motor specialist starts up, first go

Dick Hopkins (pictured) is a long time resident of Nimbin. As an ex-Vietnam Vet with a background in diesel engineering, he decided to relocate to Australia from the U.S in 1972.

He has now decided to use his wide knowledge and love of small engines to start a business in welding and repairs to lawn mowers, brush cutters, generators and chainsaws.



Based in Crofton Road, Dick is known to many through his work as a General Assistant at the

Nimbin Central School for the last 18 years. He is also president of the Nimbin Community Centre (NCCI), and has been involved in many community activities since his time in Nimbin.

Years ago he used to drive bulldozers, and there are a few stories around about him fixing bulldozers and tractors for farmers when he first came to town.

As part of his concern for the planet, Dick says that by maintaining your machinery you can get many long years out of them, as well as save yourself the expense and hassle of having to replace your machine well before its "use by" date.

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Building blocks for the future – Out of the chook shed, into the preschool!

by Jennifer Parke

After years (and years!) of tireless work by parents and staff, Nimbin Community Preschool is building a brand new, purpose-built facility.

Parents have fundraised and donated, and the Department of Community Services has provided a grant specifically for this purpose.

Originally, the plan was to lease land from Nimbin Central School to build the preschool. However the cost of head works (sewerage, water etc) was prohibitive. After consultations with the Nimbin A&I Society, it was agreed that the Preschool would be built on the existing land, on the eastern side of the existing building.

There are numerous benefits to building here. Headworks are already connected, it is a peaceful setting appropriate for early childhood education, there are established trees in the playground, and two



Interior layout plans for the new preschool building

valuable community-based organisations benefit from improved infrastructure. The A&I have agreed to a 21-year lease – a condition of the DoCS grant. The current preschool building will be demolished to become a huge undercover outdoor play space, as well as an improved facility for the Nimbin Show. Building will start as soon as the Development Application is granted by

Lismore City Council. Staff and Management say the building work should not disrupt the preschool too much, as the site will be fenced off during construction.

Parents will receive updates through the Preschool Newsletter and articles in *The Nimbin GoodTimes*.

Once the new building is underway and the budget is definite, we will be able to allocate some funds toward redeveloping the playground.

What can the community do to help this exciting, community managed resource become a much improved reality?

Volunteer to assist with moving into the new building, get involved in the planning and/or development of the new playground, ask the staff or management committee what else you can do to help!

STOP PRESS: Development consent has now been given by Council.

What's the buzz at Preschool this month?

by Jennifer Parke

Nimbin Community Preschool is always a hive of activity. The staff, volunteers and children have all been Busy Bees this month!

Our new Playgroup happens each Monday at 11am for children and their parents. It's a great way to introduce young children to the Preschool as well as spend time playing with your child as they make new friends.

We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers - Emma, Nicolette, Hannah, Shari, and Purnami. We appreciate the efforts of all these students and volunteers as they allow for greater individualised interactions with the children and release staff from kitchen and cleaning tasks allowing them to spend more time with the children. Assistants Barbara and Sheree are always there, making sure the children are safe and happy.

Director, Kathy Williamson is an incredible source of energy and enthusiasm, and we are very fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated early childhood teacher in our community. This year Kathy has introduced the emergent curriculum whereby the daily program is based on the childrens' interest and passions as well as the teacher's.

This month the children developed an interest in pirates. We set up the pirate boat in the playground, went fishing with the magnetic rods, made pirate hats, used pirate maps to find treasure (cocos palm seeds painted with gold glitter) and had the toy pirate boat in block play and imaginative play with sea creatures. We read pirate stories and sang sea shanties. It was all great fun.

Another focus has been animal or nature based. We had a baby bird fallen from a nest



in the yard and observed its parents care for it. We've had large huntsmen spiders in the playroom, march flies, leeches and a frilled lizard visit us. There have been lots of snake experiences shared at news time, with a child bringing a long snakeskin from home. Each of these experiences allows the children to express their understandings and feelings/fears about wildlife. We use reference books to increase our knowledge, learning the important role each creature has in ecosystems and learning about biodiversity in the beautiful region we inhabit.

We've had a fair bit of rainy weather, providing greater opportunity to explore table-based activities such as board games, language/communication activities, a wider variety of puzzles and construction resources. Maths-based activities such as measuring length using small blocks, patterning with beads, and logic games using attribute blocks have provided challenges and kept many busy during the wet weather.

Nimbin Community Preschool is taking enrolments for 2009 for 3-5 year olds. Ring us on 6689-1203 or visit us in Cecil Street.



There's lots happening for tiny tots and their parents at the Nimbin family Centre.

Playgroups with toddlers and babies continue to hum along on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 1pm. All new parents are welcome to come and enjoy the social and supportive gathering.

The toy library is also available for parents to borrow toys for their preschool age children; there is a \$10 membership fee per year.

A musical singing group is also held on a Monday from 9am to 10am for little ones around 18mths to 4yrs of age. This enjoyable parent and child interactive group is led by an experienced teacher.

To find out more simply ring Mimi or visit the Nimbin Family Centre, phone 6689-0423 Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

NZ Elections: Failure of Christian Right

by Dr. Michael Kidd, Family Party candidate, Waitakere

"...there is a need for a moral imperative (which) must now focus on debt, aid, trade and AIDS"

– God's Politics/Jim Wallis

The Family party was formed out of the Destiny party - a Faith-based party - achieving some 14,000 votes in the '05 election; however the Family party vote dropped to 6,900 in November 8, '08 election. This is also in line with the overall drop in the Christian oriented vote from 77,000 to 40,000 votes. In fact if you take a calculator the Destiny/Family vote is proportional to this overall drop.

Is NZ a less Christian country, and what does this mean for Australia which elected a Christian Prime Minister in 2007? Wallis was very influential with both Kevin Rudd and Obama, the latter being attacked by the Christian right for pervasive liberalism.

The US and Australasia originate (with the exception of indigenous and recent immigration) from Judeo-Christian-Celtic stock, which has traditionally placed spiritual aspiration in the forefront. It can reliably be said the New Age movement looks to ethical and cultural motivation from the same roots, albeit more pagan.

Paul Adams, the deputy leader of Family party, was quoted in a post election analysis as saying that people voted out of fear rather than following the 'will of God'. There certainly was an economic scare, as many have lost their household savings, and are about to lose their jobs as a result of the greed of



New arrival: Catherine Kidd born 6th November 2008.

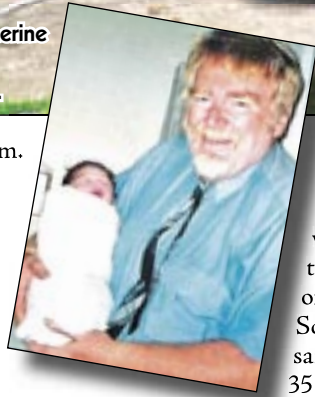
the capitalist system.

"None of this matters," he said.

Hmm...my own view is that the elections in USA and NZ shows the death of the white, evangelical voter which have traditionally lined up on anti-abortion, pro-'spare the rod and spoil the child' and "global warming is bunkum" issues.

People want a sense of hope, not gloom, as the message of Jesus to all was one of hope; fitting the issues within the context of practical solutions rather than the simply "correct".

Finally, to take up the point of Wallis, and develop it somewhat, the current turmoil in the capitalist system shows us a need for



a new form of economics which relates to the needs of people. Schumacher said this some 35 years ago and it is still

relevant today: "...by considering goods as more important than people and consumption ... (is) a surrender to the forces of evil".

The issue therefore is not just one of packaging – of which the Family party had plenty – but of listening to the warriors who have been sent, and then the walls of Jericho can fall.

Complex issues require lots of thoughtful attention by men and women who can think beyond the square, but also use Christian ethics.

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Bahzooley again enthralls

It was another packed program of entertainment when Nimbin Central School presented its last Bahzooley performance night for the year.

Singers, choirs, actors, musicians, dancers, tumblers and fire-twirlers delighted parents and friends in the school's MPU.

The school's annual Carols by Candlelight will be held on Wednesday 10th December, with carols starting at dusk. Great food and drink will be available, also glowsticks.

Come one, come all.



Photos: Athena Zelandonii



Homebase 2

Hip Hop Mentorship Project

by Karinya Oldfield

Homebase 2 has been a great help, and an inspiration to my life and for my dancing.

The mentorship program, which involves 14 young dancers from around the North Coast, runs for eight months, we are now in our last weeks.

Homebase is very different to what I expected. The people involved all have their own dance styles and talents that they bring to the program. It's different being around so many people who are also enthusiastic to learn and commit to this.

The program encourages you to develop teaching skills and to become a better dancer, which is very valuable. It's very inspiring; creativity is a big part of Homebase 2. A lot of people think that Hip-Hop only involves one style, but there are so many different styles, hip hop also improves your dance technique a lot.

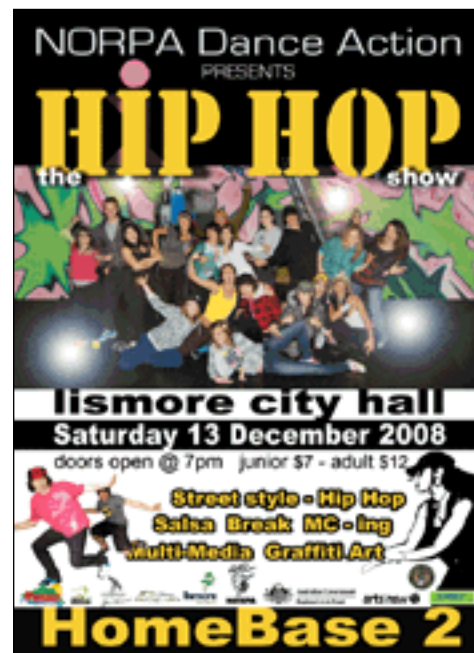
Each young mentoree has been in contact with their mentor for the past eight months. The mentor/mentoree relationship is handy, if you are stuck on a routine, or if you want to talk to your mentor they will always be there to help you. Positive criticism helps a lot with dance, and that's also what your mentor helps you with, so you won't fall behind in a routine.

It's good having such openness with your mentor – you can really get what you need to know out of them. Through this mentorship I have also been attending my mentor Daniela Finkenauer's hip hop class. This is a really good opportunity, and has improved me a lot as a dancer.

Over the past eight months the experience has been amazing. I have been able to learn from dance teachers that come from all over Australia, perform at different events, see professional dancers and their own styles, helped with different community run hip hop workshops. I have also held my own workshops in Nimbin which were very successful.

The mentorship really is worthwhile. It allows you to experience new aspects of dance. It's really about experiencing dancing and performing in the dancer's world and helping you decide about where you want dance to take you.

Teaching is a scary experience for the first time, but when you get used to it, it is



rewarding having kids pick up the things you teach them successfully. With teaching you have to be able to be patient and work with your students.

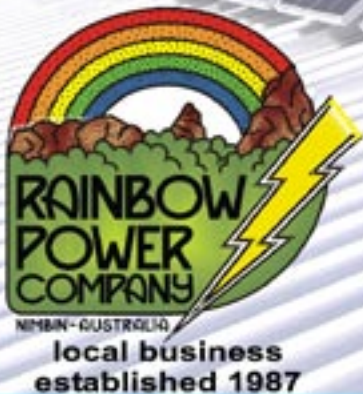
Performance is the best part of dance, after hours and hours of practice for a routine, the best part is showing people what you can do. Through Homebase 2, I have improved my performance style, which is great to bring back and show people. The community like to see young people expressing their talents, every community does. Holding dance workshops for younger kids is rewarding for me and the community, seeing them enjoying dance and having a go, it gives the kids something enjoyable to do.

I would highly recommend anyone to consider applying for a mentorship in their chosen interest to further develop as a person, and in their career.

Karinya will be concluding her mentorship with Homebase 2 on the second weekend in December, with the Homebase 2 Hip Hop Show. Come along to the Hip Hop show on Saturday 13th December at Lismore City Hall and support Karinya, the show starts at 7pm. There will be guest appearances from Travers Ross, from 'So You Think You Can Dance' and Errol Cenita and Louise Best from 'Fresh Elements' in Brisbane. Tickets are \$7 J and \$12 A, at the door.

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