



Sartorial swap – so swish!

The scene last year

by Caroline Cowley

The annual Nimbin Women's Clothes Swap takes place at 6pm on Friday 10th June.

Anyone newly arrived in Nimbin might ask: clothes swap? What on earth is an Annual Clothes Swap? The way the words slide off the tongue in that seductive, kind of slithery way, conjures up an atmosphere of something mysterious and desirable.

For the uninitiated, this is how it works: You arrive at 6pm, with a bag of clothes you no longer want, pay \$10 to get in and deposit the clothes in a big pile. Next, you go onto the back verandah of the hall for an hour and enjoy plate of delicious nibbles and a vino or two.

While you are sipping, laughing and catching up, a team of fairies swoop down in an invisible blur of frenzied sorting, and deftly organise all the clothes into categories.

Not only are the clothes promptly sorted as dresses, pants, skirts, tops, jumpers, etc... but they are organised into sizes too. Unbelievable. Garments are lovingly laid out on trestle tables, and there are

even hanging racks for dresses and jackets. Ladies, I am talking civ-il-ised!

Somewhere around 7pm, the last of the clothes in their place, people start eyeing the clock and the last inches of wine go down the hatch. The adrenalin starts to flow. Did I just see my companion's eyes narrow slightly?

Then as the big hand reaches the 12, we casually and elegantly step out in to the hall and ... start screaming and elbowing each other in an attempt to eliminate the competition, pulling out the hair of anyone who dares get in the way of that dazzling purple lycra jumpsuit ...

Of course, I am joking. There is no screaming. It's more like grunting.

In a community where so many fashion flavours co-exist happily side by side, there is deep enjoyment in recycling clothes.

The most amazing thing – one would even be forgiven for saying MAGICAL – is that everyone goes home happy, with some new special thing they feel excited about.

There is no limit on what you can take home, and anything left over is donated to the op shop.

All proceeds go to the Nimbin Preschool.



Support needed for memorial plan

The Nimbin District War Memorial, a focal point of the town, is in need of some serious repair and rehabilitation.

The project to fund landscaping and access issues has the support of the Department of Veteran Affairs Lismore Branch, Lismore Sub-Branch RSL and the Lismore City Council, and grant funding is available – but letters are needed to reflect community input for the grant application.

Commissioned in 1924 and dedicated in 1925 by the then NSW Governor General, Sir Dudley De Chair, the construction is a dedication to those who fought and died, the wounded and to those who never returned from World War I. It is also a sentinel of respect to the veterans and families of WWII, Korea, Borneo, Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and peace-keeping missions around the world. For some it

serves as a point of remembrance for those lost in our community, fighting their own battles.

Eight Anzac Cove Rosemary bushes, to be offered for sponsorship by local businesses, have been set aside for the project, and each will have a plaque representing the WW1, WW2, Air Force, Army and Navy (Singapore/ Malay, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and all serving peacekeepers), Indigenous Service, Women in the ADF, and the last for families of war veterans and community remembrance.

If funding comes in, the project could be completed before next Remembrance Day, 11th November.

Please forward letters of support to Paul Le Bars, Project Officer, 138 Gungas Road, Nimbin NSW 2480, or email paullebars@gmail.com

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Ruddy meets Rusty

Kevin Rudd and Rusty Harris at the Red Dove, in Lismore, following Kevin Rudd's address. Rusty presented Rudd with his CD and a sample of hemp plastic, already being used in 35000 products, to demonstrate the possibilities for the future. Rusty assured Rudd that he was here to help. Rusty was applauded during his presentation calling for an end to fracking and chem-trails.

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BY BEKI

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Oil chief proud not to frack

Last week Woodside Petroleum's former chief executive officer, Don Voelte, said keeping the company away from coal seam gas projects was one of his greatest achievements during six years at the helm.

Voelte told a business leaders' forum in Perth that he would like to be remembered for that decision – and says he will sleep easier because of it.

"Come back and check in four or five years from now," he said. "I think one of the greatest things that I'll have achieved is not taking my company into coal seam fracking."

"I know exactly what happens with the water. I understand exactly what happens with fracking technology."

"I know I'm way on the bookend ... but I'll just say I'll rest easy at night knowing I didn't take the company there."

Voelte made the comments while

seated next to Shell Australia chair Ann Pickard, whose company took over coal seam gas developer Arrow Energy last year.

Arrow has come under attack for taking two hours to alert Queensland authorities that gas and salt water were bursting from one of its coal seam gas wells on a farm west of Dalby, in the state's south-west.

The company has almost 500 coal seam gas wells across Queensland and intends to expand the number of drilling sites, to the anger of environmental groups and some farmers and residents.

Opponents of CSG want a moratorium on all coal seam gas activity until it can be proven safe by an independent scientific enquiry.

The Northern Rivers have seen many protests this month, in Murwillumbah, Casino and at

Byron Bay last Sunday, where 2000 protesters got together at Main Beach and made a human sign to spell out "NO CSG" (pictured).

On Tuesday June 7th, Metgasco will again be meeting with local residents at the Casino RSM Club at 7pm.

The Coalition NSW state government has been taking some tiny steps towards some improvements in mining regulation for the state – but the transitional reforms are not enough, said Carmel Flint, co-ordinator of the North East Forest Alliance.

"The reforms announced by Minister (Brad) Hazzard are a step forward, but they fall a long way short of the full moratorium on coal seam gas exploration and production which communities throughout NSW have been calling for," she said.

"This is only a moratorium on



new exploration licences, not on new exploration."

More than 25% of NSW already has exploration licences – and in

these areas new coal seam gas drilling will continue without any additional constraints. There will be no extra information provided to the public about that drilling before it starts.

"Furthermore, the reforms appear to do nothing about coal and gas production, and will presumably allow the Government to approve large new production projects if they so choose," Ms Flint said.

This Friday June 3rd, Greens MP and coal seam gas spokesperson Jeremy Buckingham will introduce a Coal Seam Gas Moratorium Bill into the NSW Parliament. The Bill will create a 12 month moratorium on this industry to give adequate time for an independent inquiry into the economic, social and environmental impacts. It will also prohibit coal seam gas activities in the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

"This industry has not demonstrated it can operate safely. We need a moratorium now," said Jeremy.



Industry body launched

The official launch of Nimbin Fashion Australia Inc. took place on Thursday 19th May at 1pm in the School of Arts Nimbin.

Nimbin Fashion Australia is an association of local designers who have come together to market and showcase their designs under one umbrella.

Designers showed off some of their creations: wearable art, including recycled glow mesh mode, edgy leather, very cool street wear, fetish-styled evening wear, and more, all locally designed and manufactured in the Northern Rivers.

A work of art in itself, www.nimbinfashion.com was unveiled – a website to showcase the creations, engage and interact with the public, and serve as a sales outlet.

Speakers include Lismore's mayor Jenny Dowell, Tony Duke, CEO of Arts Northern Rivers, Pieter Verasdonck from NSW Industry & Investment, and Wendy Powitt, a fashion industry consultant.

There will be a chance to comment on where Nimbin Fashion can go and grow. For more information, contact Jaz on 0431-111-792 or at nimbinfashion@gmail.com

Extra bus services

The NSW Government has announced funding for additional bus services linking Nimbin with Lismore – an initiative from Eugenie Stephans, of Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

The NNIC will be administering the grant and overseeing the trial of the new services, which are expected to start on Monday 18th July.

State MP Thomas George said more buses would create work opportunities for people in Nimbin, and provide university students with a late afternoon bus service home.

About 300 people responded to a survey showing strong demand for extra bus runs. Mr George said this indicated the extra services would be well patronised.

The grant will provide \$45,000 towards the total cost of \$57,000, with additional support from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) and Waller's Bus Company for one year.

"This project is an excellent example of how the NSW Government can work together with the local government and non-government sectors to benefit local communities in NSW," Mr George said.



RECREATIONAL FACILITY – DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

As the consenting authority, Lismore City Council has received the following Development Applications (and/or Applications for Modifications to existing consents) for consideration.

The development application and Statement of Environmental Effects may be inspected at Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah, during normal business hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm. Staff are available to discuss applications between 8.30am and 10.00am, and by prior appointment at other times. Documentation may also be inspected at the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre, 3/46 Cullen Street, Nimbin between 10.00am and 4.00pm, seven days a week.

Written submissions in respect of any application, quoting DA number and location, and addressed to the General Manager, will be accepted by Council until 4.30pm on the date specified in the column below. Please also note that any submission you make may be made available for inspection by any member of the public, as it will form part of the file that is a public record.

Any submissions received will be considered on their merits in conjunction with the assessment of the application.

DA NO	LOCATION	DP LOT	APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE
11/0151	31 Blade Road, Nimbin	DP 230663 Lot 2	Newton Denny Chapelle	Recreational Facility (Zorbing) with associated office administration building	17 June 2011

Disclosure of Political Donations

If you wish to make a submission on any development or rezoning proposal (either objecting or supporting) you are required by the Local Government and Planning Legislation Amendment (Political Donations) Act 2008 to disclose any reportable political donations or gifts to a Councillor or council employee that were made within the period commencing two years before the application was submitted. This includes any donation or gift made when a person was a candidate for council election.

A completed Disclosure Reporting Form, available on the Department of Planning website www.planning.nsw.gov.au must accompany your submission if you have made any such donations or gifts.



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Happenings at Nimbin Central School



A Wally of a photo: Museum volunteer Wally and Christina on the way to the Book Fair.

Book Fair

The school's recent Book Fair featured students from Nimbin Central School dressed up as their favourite book and film celebrity characters, strutting the red carpet and munching on popcorn. Well-known museum volunteer Wally entered into the spirit of the day with an hilarious take on the *Where's Wally* series. Sales from books helped to raise money for additional books in the school library.

Concert at Cafe Central

Cafe Central, the school's canteen, will host a concert featuring music, art and drama from Nimbin Central School students on Thursday 9th June at 6pm in the MPU. The students have selected just over eighty minutes of their favourite music to sing, pluck, strum and tinkle while you feast on healthy vegetarian food. Entry is \$5 entry with great food for sale. Funds raised will assist with repairs to instruments and improvement of canteen facilities. Community groups and businesses are encouraged to book a table to join in the fun. Phone 6689-1355 for bookings, or with any other enquiries.



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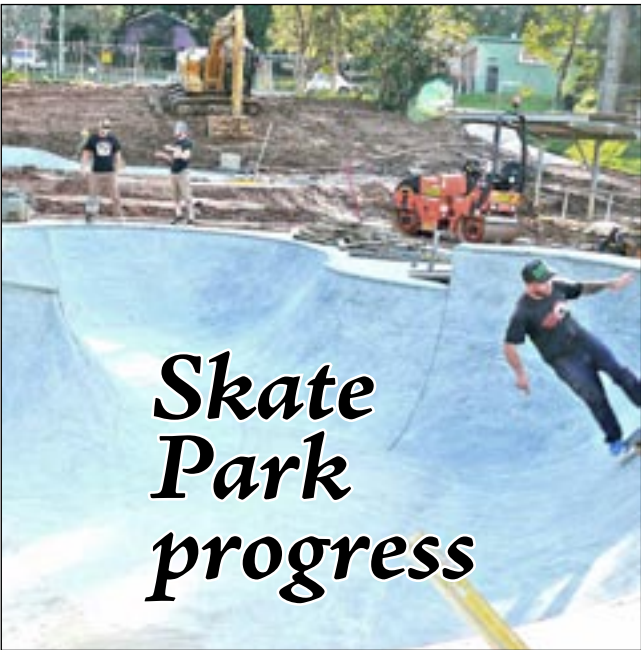
Medal merit for Mala

Former Nimbin Central School student Mala Roberts has received the University Medal from Southern Cross University for outstanding academic achievement. She attained First Class Honours on completion of her double degree in Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Business. On graduating, she also received the S&P Lawyers' Prize, the Ross Reid Prize for Conveyancing, and was selected as the graduate speaker. Mala's schooling began at Nimbin Pre-School, followed by seven years at Nimbin Central School. Trinity Catholic College in Lismore completed her schooling, and after receiving a scholarship Mala decided to undertake her five-year degree at Southern Cross University's Lismore campus.



Mala on Graduation Day with partner Aaron Heffernan

Mala, who began her working life at the Rainbow Café and later with Nimbin Bakery, has recently moved to the Sunshine Coast and is working as a solicitor with Butler McDermott Lawyers in Nambour.



The concrete has set, and members of the construction crew have been taking trial runs around Nimbin's long-awaited skateboarding facility. And the verdict? It's a beauty! View some of the construction process at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8969IMJKbc

Big map gets an expert touch-up



Paint Job. Kathy Stavrou (second from left) repainting the map with three generations of Johnson family artists (right to left): Liz, Andrew, Edith and Peta.

The painting of the totem designs on the Big Map in the park by Aboriginal artists at the end of May was the culmination of the big 'Nimbin and Environs' map's 21-year history of being painted and repainted. In 1990, Kathy Stavrou persuaded the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce that a big map of Nimbin and Environs should be painted and erected in the Park. In her ignorance, Kathy thought back then that she could paint Bundjalung words and place-names on the Map, not knowing at the time that these words belong to a sacred and secret language. It was years before she got the blessing of the Aboriginal Elder custodians to put some Bundjalung words on the map. Now, not only are there some Bundjalung words, but the Johnson family (Kangoulou artists from the Birri Gubba people near Mackay) and friends have properly beautified, with brilliantly dotted designs, the totems painted on the map some years ago by another visiting Aboriginal artist.

Family Drug Support offer steps of hope

Around the region, people are waking up to yet another day of sadness and confusion – caused by someone they love being dependent on drugs or alcohol. For most, the journey has been long one full of broken promises. Life changes forever. What has become of the person they once knew? There is often little left to do but quietly mourn their losses. People often feel as if they are on their own, caught in a nightmare that no-one can truly understand. Isolation sets in along with increasing helplessness. Help and support is available from Family Drug Support (FDS). FDS has been providing support services for family members of alcohol and drug dependents for over a decade. FDS will run be running two family events in June and July, an introductory evening followed by a two-weekend *Stepping Stones to Success* course. "I have seen the enormous difference from when people enter the course and when they leave," says Theo, from FDS. "They are stronger, better supported and have skills to better manage their relationship with the user." FDS aims to establish a regular support group in Lismore. The two events will hopefully provide the numbers to start this much needed group. "Becoming more resilient and having skills to cope better will allow you to survive the journey intact," says Theo. A free FDS introductory workshop evening will be held on 30th June from 6:30-9:30pm at the Lismore Worker's Club. *Stepping Stones to Success* will be held August 16th-17th and 23rd-24th from 9:30am to 4pm. Bookings are essential; call FDS on (02) 4782-9222 or Theo on 0402 604 354. For help and support at any time, call toll free 1300-368-186.

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Rural roads to ruin?



Deformations on the notorious Blue Knob Road. Photo: Charlie Wood

Lismore City Council's Draft Operational Plan (aka the Budget) is on public exhibition, and various organisations are calling for public submissions and an urgent re-assessment of rural roads and road funding...

Lismore City Council needs to urgently reassess its regional and local roads funding – even if that means cutting back on spending on some community services. So says Lismore councillor David Yarnall. “Community services are vitally important, but only if the council’s in a position to deliver adequate service.” Cr Yarnall says other council spending – including a \$50,000 plan to examine the siting of a CBD office, and an upgrade for the city’s art gallery – could go towards adequately funding road repairs.

Roads funding is complex, with the council’s contribution to regional roads reconstruction matched dollar-for-dollar to RTA funding. The council is solely responsible for all maintenance of regional and rural roads, and all local road funding.

“At the May council meeting I put forward a motion to include a report in the budget process of how council will address shortfalls of \$940,000 in rural road funding and about \$1,000,000 in gravel road funding,” Cr Yarnall said. “This is a no-brainer. The \$940,000 is the extra re-construction funding required to maintain the region’s rural roads at the current standard for the next 10 years. Our roads are bad enough without them deteriorating further.”

The \$1,000,000 is a staff estimate of the shortfall in gravel road funding. The council spends \$1,000,000 year on 455 km of gravel road – or \$2200 per km. “Clearly this is not enough to provide a safe road network for residents to travel to school, work and play,” said Cr Yarnall. “Council needs to re-organise its priorities to include adequate funding of our roads.”

The motion was passed but four urban

councillors – Crs Clough, Battista, Dowell and Smith – voted against the extra funding.

“We think this is a good time to state which of our councillors are actually opposing increased rural road funding, because the main reason we have bad road conditions is lack of funding,” said Greg Bennett, of the Rural Ratepayers Association of Lismore Incorporated (RRALI)

Mr Yarnall said that at a workshop on the draft budget – held the day after the council meeting – not one councillor spoke in favour of including the extra road funding in the budget.

“I’m not giving up,” he said, “but I need help. If this issue concerns you, contact the councillors concerned and let them know how you feel about our rural roads.”

In the Nimbin area, Blue Knob Road was recently inspected by Garry Hemsworth and Darren Patch, who found that a considerable length requires complete reconstruction.

Funds are not available to undertake all of the reconstruction required, but works are planned for some sections.

These include a 1.4km section north of Symonds Road, scheduled for reconstruction in July 2011. The council is already well advanced on the road design. RTA funding has been confirmed and the council’s contribution is currently going through the 2011/12 budget process.

A further section, a 0.6km stretch north of Blade Road, is scheduled for reconstruction in 2013/14. The council has also applied for flood damage funding for a section of road near Noble Road. The outcome of this application will not be known until July.

“These projects cover the worst sections of Blue Knob Road, but represent the probable funding for reconstruction over the next four years,” said Peter Wise, of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

“We have grave concerns the remaining

sections of road will not be able to be maintained to a satisfactory level of service with the maintenance funding available.

There are very limited maintenance funds remaining this financial year due to wet weather. The maintenance schedule will be reassessed in July 2011, when a new financial year of funding is available, and the amount of the flood damage application is known.

RRALI members attended the recent Dorroughby rural public contact forum, where roads were again the main issue of debate.

Spokesman Greg Bennett said there was concern at a general lack of maintenance, along with pot holes, the failure to maintain verges and a general deterioration of road surfaces. “When are our councillors going to get the message that we are sick of bad road conditions?” he asked.

Another issue raised at the contact forum was the new 60kph zone at Modanville. A new 60kph zone for about four km appeared at Modanville a few months ago. “No one was consulted or informed, it just appeared,” said Mr Bennett. “To say the locals are not happy is just a slight understatement.”

A petition with more than 500 signatures was lodged with councillors. RRALI has also submitted letters of complaint to the Lismore City Council and the State Government. Mr Bennett said the response from Mayor Jenny Dowell was not that she couldn’t change the decision, and that it was done for safety reasons.

“If this is the methodology that they are using we will be soon lumbered with 60kph zones on all of our rural roads,” he said.

* Copies of the Draft Operational Plan can be found on council’s website www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and are available at council’s Goonellabah and Magellan Street offices and the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre.

Free Festival for Environment Day

A free festival, themed on Forests and the Biosphere, will be held at Knox Park, Murwillumbah, on World Environment Day, Sunday 5th June.

The fun goes from 10am to 3pm, beginning with the Mason Rack Band at 11am, followed by the Latin grooves of Suavemente. The day’s musical treats are finally tied in a melodic bow by the gentle tunes of Loren.

For the kids there’s the Hoopla Children’s Circus, not only performing but running a free circus workshop. There’s also a children’s tent, with plenty to do. Youngsters can go on a Quest, build a Green Mandala, listen to stories, and participate in all kinds of environmentally themed arts and crafts, all of it free-of-charge.

The Trashformers will be there, transforming discarded trash into artistic treasures – and encouraging you to do the same.

There will be a rich choice of environmental information, ideas and inspiration, all centred around the idea of a biosphere for our region. John Seed will talk about turning fear into empowerment, John Hunter will put an airtight argument for biodiversity, Tony Gleeson will lay out a meticulous plan to change our energy use to 100% renewable by 2020 (with no extra cost, just transferring subsidies from coal and oil to renewables), and Dave Forrest will show us how to easily grow our own food – without chemicals. Alan Roberts from Troppo will speak about the effects of Coal Seam Gas mining on our food production land.

Aside from this, there will be lots of stalls with information and conversation about animals, forests, coal seam gas mining, the biosphere reserve, and anything else on your mind.

There will also be lots of environmentally sound products and produce on sale, and some of the most delicious food on the planet for this glorious day of celebration.

Steiner school info evening

Mr Warning College for Steiner Education is holding an information and enrolment evening on Tuesday 14th June.

Information about alternative high school education, based on Rudolf Steiner principles, will be presented and light refreshments will be available.

The presentation runs from 5pm to 6pm at Rainbow



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In your neighbourhood...

News from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre

Eat, plan, love

by Natalie Meyer, Team Leader, NNIC

A Sustainable Nimbin Community Planning Day will be held on Saturday 4th June at the Town Hall from 12 noon.

Yummy local food will be provided to attract community folk to come along and share their brainpower and energy to get a comprehensive and representative plan together. The plan we developed at the 2009 forum led to the Solar Farm Project and the Nimbin Food Security project.

We will be breaking into groups and working on each of the focus areas so there is sure to be something to cover everyone's area of interest and enthusiasm. It will all be about you and your ideas... The focus areas are energy, food security, transport, local jobs, arts and culture, health and wellbeing, housing, social and political.

Groups will form and work on each of the focus areas so there is sure to be something to cover everyone's area of interest and enthusiasm.

The event organiser, Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre (NNIC), is hoping to get some representation from young people and the local Goori mob to capture as many diverse ideas and thoughts as possible.

We need as many folk from the community to come along and share their brainpower and energy so we get a good comprehensive and representative plan out of it. We can't do it without all of your support and input. Nimbin needs you!

Food Security Project

The Grain Mill is in the building! Yes, it has finally arrived and we are getting a road case built for it before we roll it out to the community – watch this space and our website for more info. Also see our website for details of the next meeting. Meetings are usually on Thursday evenings at 6pm at the Elmo Room at NNIC, 71 Cullen St – Come around the back steps. Food always welcome!

Nimbin Local Food Day

Saturday 29th October 20 – a celebration of sustainable local food. If you are interested in helping or have ideas for the day, or are a local producer who would like to be involved in showcasing your produce, contact Guy on food@nnic.org.au. In the meantime get this date into your diaries as it will be a great event for all the family and anyone into food. Which we figure is most people!

Trouble paying your Telstra phone bill?

Come in and see our community welfare workers – you may be eligible for a Telstra Bill Assistance Voucher to help you get on top of it.

Our opening hours

NNIC is open 10am to 4pm weekdays. You can access photocopying (inc colour), fax, computers, newspapers and other local and regional information. You can also drop in or telephone for an appointment with one of our welfare workers or with the nurse practitioner (drug and alcohol/mental health issues). 6689-1692 www.nnic.org.au



Izzi the Wanderer

To anyone who Izzi (pictured) has bothered during her many adventures around and about Nimbin in the last month... we are very sorry! She is taking her role as community liaison and networking officer much more seriously than we ever bargained for. Here she is worn out from all her travels, asleep on the printer. Feel free to call us anytime to retrieve said toddler cat should you need us to.

Happy birthday Blue Knob Market...



The Blue Knob Farmer's Market is ready to throw its first birthday party – and everyone is invited.

On 2nd July, from 9am to 1pm, stallholders will offer a special for the day, and minstrels will stroll around strumming their tunes. At 11am, official speeches will be followed by the cutting of the birthday cake. For the kids there is face painting and storytelling.

It's easy to see why it has been such a success.

Set in a location that can



only be described as stunning, people from near and far turn out to sell and buy local produce. Many of the local veggie gardens have been grown from seedlings bought at the market's seedlings table.



The Backyarders Table is a great example of what people love to grow.

The Sharing Local Knowledge seminars give free weekly workshops on subjects ranging from community living to how to grow your own food.

In the market, musicians provide a cool sound-track, while families enjoy time together in a place of fertility.

For more information, phone Peter on 02 6690-7004 or email Marie at marieatmarket@gmail.com

Sharing Local Knowledge seminars program at Blue Knob Farmers Market

• **Saturday 4th June, 10am: Biodiesel** – Rohan Stewart. Rohan has been using vegetable oil as fuel for years and has converted several vehicles to run on used vegetable oil. This workshop will be a brief introduction to using waste vegetable

oil as an alternative fuel for diesel engines. There will be information on converting a vehicle and making biodiesel.

• **Saturday 11th June, 10am: Herbal Medicines from your backyard** – Rebecca Ryall. Rebecca maintains her own health and well-being, and that of her friends and family. This presentation will introduce some simple herbal preparations made from

plants that many people will have growing in their backyards.

• **Saturday 18th & Sun 19th June: Advanced felting** – Sachiko. To register email sachikoart@dodo.com.au
• **Saturday 25th June: Gouda cheese-making** – Jenny Creasy. Registration essential.
• **Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July: Beginners felting** – Sachiko. To register email sachikoart@dodo.com.au

Chamber Chat...

Have your say on murals plan

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce considers the murals of Nimbin to be an intrinsic part of the village character, and their upkeep essential to the streetscape and village.

The Chamber has developed a Draft Murals Strategic Plan for the maintenance and continuing development of the murals. The chamber invites any interested parties to comment on the plan and / or make submissions in writing.

The Draft Plan can be downloaded at: www.nimbinweb.com.au/chamber.php

Comments and submissions can be made by email through the website or by letter addressed to Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 433, Nimbin NSW 2480.

National Broadband Network (NBN)

Recently, Nimbin Chamber members recently attended a presentation on "the NBN rollout and the Digital Economy from a governance perspective".

Presenters from Ipswich and Sunshine Coast Councils



Nimbin
Chamber of Commerce

proved their regions are well advanced in the planning to be shovel-ready for the NBN fibre optic rollout. Further information can be accessed at www.broadbandtoday.com.au

In order to progress this for the Lismore Local Government Area, Mark Batten, council's business facilitator, said there was a need for a formal survey and service/reception mapping exercise, at a predicted cost of about \$10,000.

Nimbin businesses have expressed concern about the NBN. Dave Lambert, director of Rainbow Power Company, said about 30-40% of business is web- and or export-related.

"To compete in a world environment we need the fastest access to email, internet and telemetry that we can reasonably have," he said. "Large systems are increasingly being monitored by the internet for routine diagnosis of faults. It can also become an innovative marketing tool as well as for educational purposes."

The Nimbin Chamber fully supports this initiative for the mapping exercise and has encouraged councillors' support for allocation in the budget.

Happy 1st Birthday Blue Knob Market!
Market-wide Celebrations
Saturday 2nd July, 9am to 1pm

- Decorated stalls
- Birthday specials
- Giveaways
- Live & local jug bands
- Face painting
- Story telling

Cutting of the Birthday Cake at 11am

Info Peter 6689-7004 Email marieatmarket@gmail.com

Blue Knob Farmers Market
Every Saturday 9am – 1pm rain, hail or shine
Cnr Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Roads, Blue Knob



Mould and dust have accumulated on the Murals and needs to be removed.

View the Murals Project at www.nimbinweb.com.au/chamber.php
Please donate to the Nimbin Murals Restoration Fund collection tins in local businesses or make a direct deposit to:

"Mural Fund Account" at Summerland Credit Union
BSB 802222 Account No 22279160
(For SCU transfers Surname "Nim")

Nimbin Tax and Accounting

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Income Tax Returns – Individuals, Partnerships, Companies, Trusts and Primary Producers
BAS & Bookkeeping Services
Business Software, Business Advice, Grant Acquisitions

Weekdays 9am - 5pm, except Wednesdays 9am - 1pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm. Discount for Centrelink recipients.

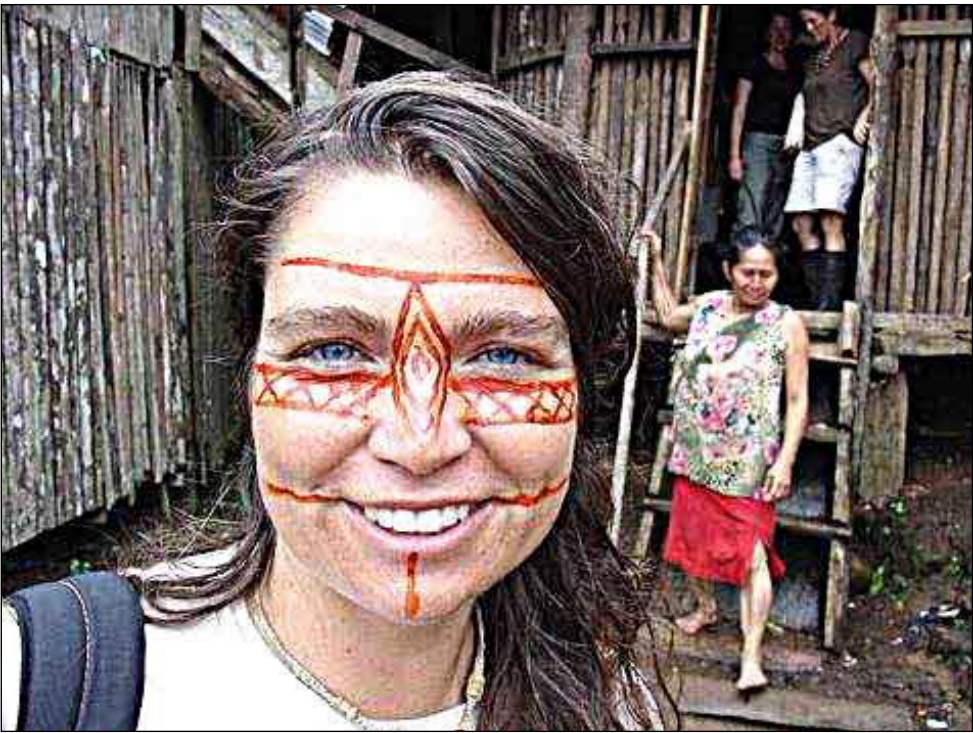
Tel/Fax 6689-0470 Mobile 0427-855-077

Old Bank Building, 39 Cullen Street, Nimbin
(Next to Post Office – parking available)

PO Box 645 Nimbin 2480

Email pjh@lis.net.au

Nicola uncovers a dark secret



In the world's most bio-diverse rainforest there is a dark secret – and the film *Blood of the Amazon* reveals it at Nimbin Town Hall on Tuesday 14th June.

Blood of the Amazon follows the journey taken by British filmmaker and environmentalist Nicola Peel. Peel followed the river from its headwaters in Ecuador to Brazil, investigating the effects of the oil industry on the environment and indigenous people who live there.

Pollution to solutions, the world's largest environmental lawsuit and the exciting Yasuni ITT Initiative to leave the oil in the ground...

Nicola will discuss her work in the Amazon after the film in a Q and A session. This work includes the foundation of a Mycoremediation project (using mushrooms to clean up oil spills), constructing rainwater catchment and filtration systems, and building with eco bricks (plastic bottles filled with rubbish).

The film starts at 7pm. Entry \$10 / \$20 or by donation. Proceeds go to projects in the Amazon. (Every \$200 raised provides a rainwater system for families currently drinking contaminated water.)

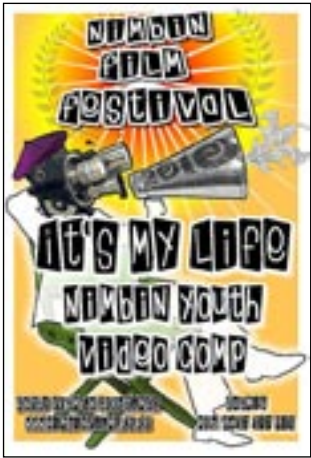
There is another screening at 5pm on Sunday 5th June at the Byron Community Centre.

'My Life' reincarnates

The Nimbin Youth Film Competition, 'It's My Life', is on again – and it's being launched early to give film-makers time to get their work perfected by deadline.

There is a \$500 first prize, with \$250 and \$150 for second and third places. Some generous Nimbin businesses are also getting on board, and extra prizes include \$200 of DVD rentals from Nimbin Emporium and a \$100 voucher from the Nimbin Pizza and Tratorria. Nimbin Law is donating an i-Pod and Nimbin Newsagent is throwing in a \$25 voucher.

The competition is open to film-makers aged 14 to 20 living within 40 road kilometers of Nimbin. Films must be two- to 12-minutes-long, in any



category – documentary, fiction or music video – and must be locally produced by the entrant (within the past two years). Entries must be submitted in standard DVD format.

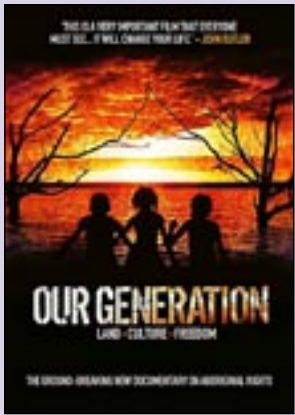
Entry forms will be available at the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre

and the winners will be announced, awards presented and the best entries shown at the Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 29th October at 2pm.

Youth Connections North Coast Inc. will be running a series of workshops on the Art of Filmmaking in the July school holidays at the Nimbin Youth Centre and at Youth Connections Multi Media Lab in Lismore.

Topics to be explored will be Writing for Film, Camera Operation, Sound and Editing. The workshops are open to those aged 14 to 20 and residing in the Nimbin region.

For more information or to register for the workshops call Darmin on 0427 217 919 or email darminc@ycnc.com.au



Fundraiser for Nimbin Cultural Centre

A film night fund-raiser for Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre has been organised for Thursday the 9th June by the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite service.

Films will be screened at Birth & Beyond from 6pm. Entry costs \$10, and affordable and tasty food will be available on the night.

Some of the local mob will be there to discuss the centre and field any questions. All proceeds go towards the maintenance of the centre.

The idea of this night is to contribute to the continuation and enlivenment of the cultural centre through an event that promotes education and togetherness, and supports the philosophies and values of Indigenous people and their culture.

Changes at Nimbin Optical



by Tina Fuller

Back in 2009 I decided to test whether Nimbin needed, and wanted, an optometrist. Now, well into the venture's third year, it's time to take stock and look ahead – and there are changes on the horizon.

I will now be open on Thursdays only, but with extended hours (8.15am–6.00pm), to allow people to come in before or after work. I made this decision in order to accept Tuesday work with an optometrist in Casino. With the high costs of running the practice, Nimbin Optical isn't quite self-sufficient yet and I need to supplement my income, at least for now. I will still be available for emergency consultations on other days.

Overall, opening an optometry practice in Nimbin has been a totally positive experience. It has been a lot of work, but I have enjoyed every minute of it. It's nice to work in a less formal atmosphere, and to have the time to cater to each patient's individual needs.

The community's response so far has been encouraging, with hundreds of people



choosing to use this local service. It's been great to see so many patients now coming back for their second checkups. As a practitioner, that's really the most honest form of feedback you can get, so I am glad that people are happy to return.

The move from a train carriage in High Street into the Nimbin Community Centre has proven to be a positive one, allowing people to just drop in for repairs, questions or to try on frames. I am now ready to evolve the practice further to accommodate changing needs and circumstances.


I have just updated my range of frames to include some

funky new styles at really reasonable prices. I also have a new basic range for those who just want a functional pair of specs they can easily afford.

I am also expecting some new equipment to arrive soon. After slaving for weeks over a grant application, I have received confirmation that the funding has been approved. I'll expand on that next month.

I would like to encourage everyone who hasn't had an eye check in the past two years, to pay me a visit. It doesn't cost anything if you have a Medicare card. Call 6689-0081 for an appointment.

OPTOMETRIST



NIMBIN OPTICAL

PH 6689 0081

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- **Children's frames** and **visual exercises**
- **EFTPOS** and **Healthfund claims**
- **Visioncare** and **Veterans' Affairs** benefits

Tina Fuller (B. AppSc - Optometry) Now at Nimbin Community Centre

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