

MardiGrass wins Tug-of-Peace



The MardiGrass Hemp Olympix this year were held in the old skate park area after the usual sporting arena, Peace Park, was deemed too wet for competition. This led to a loss of revenue due to the inability to charge for entry, but organisers' spirits were bolstered by a significant morale-boosting win against police.

In a first for the Olympix, the police provided a team of ten burly officers for the 'tug-of-peace' event, using a hemp rope, against a home-grown Nimbin team of self-confessed hippies. The hippies overpowered the police team surprisingly easily and obliged the police for a rematch after allegations that the hippies had cheated, which they also won convincingly.

Hemp Olympix official and MardiGrass Comedy organiser S Sorrensen said, "The Tug of Peace was a coup, finally incorporating the Police team, who attend every year, into an event. I hope they train hard over the next 12 months and come back to compete next year. They showed plenty of enthusiasm, but I think some coaching on their technique could see them as serious contenders in the Hemp Olympix."

With the Bong Throw and Yell changed to a test of accuracy rather than the usual distance, and the Iron Grower Person's Event shortened to a shorter tough and muddy test of stamina, the new arena proved more than capable of hosting such a prestigious event.

Fielding a strong team of athletes this year, the French team made the podium of the Iron Grower Person's Event but it was Gela from Italy who ran the best time and is now the Iron Grower Person (Men's Division) Champion of the World. He was well-stoked.

Karen from the Sunshine Coast took out the gold in the Women's Division with a splendid display of sporting skill. Her fast walk on the No-Run section was a lesson to the kiddies watching on how to tackle that section of the course.

The joint rolling finals in the Town Hall provided some of the sporting highlights of the year. Just to watch Bob the Joint Builder in ten-fingered action raises the hairs on my neck. The man is a master. Unfortunately he didn't win the Speed Roll this year. Intense competition from around the world (and even from Brisbane) making for surprise results in

the various Joint Rolling categories.

A personal highlight for S was in the Creative Joint Roll where Bob the Joint Builder and Young Sal from Nimbin co-operated to create joints in the shapes of royals William and Kate at their wedding. "Bob's execution of Will's crown, and the long wedding train on Kate's dress built by Young Sal will forever stay in my memory. But German athlete Tobias' muti-spiraled joint won the medal with its flawless German construction."

"The MardiGrass Comedy Club has been a regular at MardiGrass for years. This year for the first time it was held in Nimbin Town Hall on the Saturday night. And I'm very happy to say it was a huge success. I love that hall. And it was packed. Headline act Harley Breen from Melbourne had the joint in stitches. All the comedians did an excellent job and with Andrea Soler and her band adding an occasional and sublime musical element, the night was another jewel in the MardiGrass crown," S said.

Watch the video of the tug of peace online:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2LIYPR_bIk



See MardiGrass liftout, centre pages



Lismore's 21st Annual Gemfest

2 Full Days: Saturday 14th May, 9-5pm
 Sunday 15th May, 9-3pm

Venue: Lismore Showground

Featuring: Gold, Jewellery, Gemstones, Opals, Rare Fossils, Metaphysical & Healing Crystals, Meteorites, Children's Activities, Food Stalls, Lucky Gate Prize, Raffles

Entry: \$5 per adult, \$1 per Child (under 5 yrs free)





