

Scrub Day a winner

by Paula McDougall

There was plenty going on at this year's Big Scrub Rainforest Day at Rocky Creek Dam – including a visit from international author and activist Germaine Greer.

After the early bird walk a talk was given by Heather Harford and Jan Olley from the Brunswick Valley Landcare group. Gwen Harden, an eminent rainforest biologist, spoke about a new DVD on the rainforest plants of the region.

Gwen is a publisher and an author who gives advice and monitors the regeneration of rainforest remnants in various areas.

Germaine Greer – a friend of Gwen's – announced that Gwen has a plant named in her honour – *Eidothia hardeniana* or Nightcap Oak. This is a newly discovered tree of the Banksia and Grevillea family found only in the Nightcap Range north of Lismore.

Pirra the gorgeous and well behaved fruit bat was on hand at the Wildlife Carers stand. Pirra has been hand-raised and can't be released back into the wild.

She earns her keep by meeting local school children and educating them about



Gwen Harden with Germaine Greer. Below: Pirra the fruit bat



bats and the important part they play in the ecological community.

There were rainforest planting site walks, flora walks and a rainforest regeneration workshop.

The organisers thank Big Scrub Landcare, EnVite, Rous Water and all the volunteers and groups who made this an enjoyable and informative day.

Purge on vine weeds

The Protection of Biodiversity – Goolmangar Creek project has been launched.

Nimbin Rocks Landcare, in partnership with EnviTE Environment, has received funding from the NSW Environment Trust over the next three years to help control invasive weeds such as cats claw creeper, madeira vine and balloon vine along Goolmangar Creek.

The riparian vegetation of Goolmangar Creek is of high conservation value, forming important links to significant vegetation communities including the Nightcap National Park.

It provides habitat to a number of threatened species, including the rose-crown fruit-dove, white-eared monarch, and Richmond birdwing butterfly.

Past land use practices have left much of the creek and vegetation degraded, and over the past 10 years exotic vine weeds have spread,



compounding the problem.

Nimbin Rocks Co-operative Landcare Group members, local landowners, Ngulingah rangers, EnviTE Environment and the Goolmangar Public School community recently came together for the launch, and to participate in a day of water watch activities on Goolmangar Creek.

Goolmangar school community participants learnt about the value of riparian corridors and were

water bug detectives for the day, monitoring the health of the creek with water bug surveys and water quality tests.

Richard Burer, project officer with EnviTE Environment, said exotic vines and scramblers would be targeted to help natural regeneration, improve biodiversity and help to prevent creek bank erosion.

The project includes areas identified as priority sites with landowners who are

committed to maintenance once work is completed.

Professional bush regenerators will be engaged to control the vine weeds – which often require specialist techniques – and workshops will be held to help land managers learn how to control vine weeds effectively.

Goolmangar Creek residents who want more information can contact Georgina Jones at EnviTE 6621-9588 or email georginaj@envite.org.au

Learn that dam lesson

State Greens MP John Kaye says lessons from the community campaign that defeated the Tillegra Dam proposal in the Upper Hunter can be applied to the plan to dam Byrrill Creek. Dr Kaye said both dams would be expensive, unnecessary and environmentally destructive.

"Both have been driven by a small group of individuals desperate to leave their mark with an enormous supply project," he said. "Neither can be justified, especially after opportunities for lower cost water conservation, efficiency and recycling are taken into account.

"Tillegra was defeated by a focused and intelligent community campaign. There are a lot of valuable lessons for Byrrill Creek." Since the March state election it has become very clear that residents in Byrrill Creek have a similarly huge fight on their hands."

He said the O'Farrell government had wasted no time in announcing a review of the provisions of the water-sharing plan that prohibited the dam.

The Greens have twice tried to move a motion in parliament calling for the release of all documents relating to the



Katie Milne, John Kaye, Linda Bowden and Andrea Vickers.

review. On both occasions, the attempts were blocked in the Upper House.

"When parliament resumes on the 11th October, the Greens will continue our efforts to shed light on the government's secret plans for Byrrill Creek," Dr Kaye said.

The Minister Hodgkinson has still not made any statement that would clarify the potential outcomes of her review of the ban on Byrrill Creek dam. It is perhaps pedantic to point out she is reviewing the decision-making process, rather than the water-sharing plan.

Linda Bowden, who played a key role in the No Tillegra Dam Group, also visited with Dr Kaye.

Andrea Vickers, Spokesperson, Save Byrrill Creek group, said, "What the

community and Council need to know is: Is there a possibility that the Minister will consider seeking to remove the ban? Which members of the community is she consulting with, as there has been no public call for submissions? And, are there any terms of reference or scheduled time frame for the review? We would like some clear answers to these questions from our new Minister."

"I think the community would appreciate an end to the uncertainty about the fate of the ban. That would give Tweed Council the opportunity to move ahead, and to develop and implement a realistic water management strategy. Currently the Council resolution to build the dam remains in limbo."

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Service Station Blues

Nimbin residents are showing their resilience as the town moves into its second month without fuel.

Nimbin Auto Centre, the town's only outlet for diesel and petrol, closed its doors in August after a rash of infrastructure and technical problems – and it could be some time yet before it re-opens.

The problems began when, during a minor repair to a diesel pump, the specialist contractors found that some of the fuel lines were corroded, and repairs would entail chopping up the forecourt concrete – but the ordeal was only beginning for owner Bill Hensen.

Further excavations revealed that while the tanks were in good order, one of them was improperly bedded. It too had to be dug up, and re-set. Then, in the course of the work it was discovered that the servo's electrical system would require an upgrade to meet current standards.

Mr Henson said he is coping, "With great difficulty,



No pumps yet, but getting closer now the concrete is down.

but we're getting there. It's an asset; you've got to fix it up. It must be hard for the people of Nimbin and we're trying to get it done as soon as we can,"

Mr Hensen said the servo should be ready for business by the end of October, "sooner if we can". "We've got the concrete down now, and we want to cure it for at least a week."

"We're at the negotiation stages of what kind of fuel we're going to put on. It'll be a better servo as far as EPA and everything goes because we're up to the latest standard."

For local businesses the inconvenience has a financial

edge, while for residents it's an on-going hassle. But the town is showing its spirit and Nimbin folk are adapting. Some are filling up at The Channon or Mt Burrell, the closest filling stations; others are using this as an opportunity to cut down on unnecessary car trips.

"It's been tough for me," said mowing contractor Peter Jones, "but it's been tough for everyone. You just factor it in. Everyone just takes their jerry cans in the boot now when they go into Lismore."

Certainly, the planned re-opening party will be welcomed by all.



Can't keep a good man down

You wouldn't expect there would be much to be happy about when your house burns down and you lose everything, but Rainbow Power Company founder Peter Pedals (pictured) has found the support from the community to be "just incredible".

Since Peter's 30-metre long house went up in flames on 14th September, locals have offered him assistance in the form of clothes, places to

stay, and cash, including at a Sunday fundraiser at the Bush Theatre, where over \$2000 was raised.

"So many people have been so generous, and so many people have come to help, that it's really quite overwhelming," Peter said.

A weekend clean-up of the house site saw dozens of people turn up to help, and another working bee is scheduled for Sunday 9th at

his Websters Creek property, to make way for a replacement building.

"My dream home at the moment is a barn-style shed, but they cost about \$34,000, plus all the service connections, so it seems a long way off," Peter said.

People wishing to assist Peter with donations can make them through Karen Welsh at Rainbow Power Company, 6689-1430.

Iluka market snubs Nimbin

Nimbin Environment Centre treasurer, Lisa Costello, got a rude shock when she applied for an information stall at the Iluka markets.

Paul Ryan, who manages the Iluka markets on behalf of the Clarence Valley Council, returned Ms Costello's initial phone call and was receptive to her request for a market stall until she mentioned Nimbin Environment Centre. At this point, Mr Ryan lost his enthusiasm and said, "We're not interested."

Ms Costello says when she tried to pursue the issue and describe the stall, Mr Ryan repeated his "not interested" message, then hung up.

NEC member Wanda Halden attempted to lobby Mr Ryan. He hung up on her as well, so she continued to send SMS messages to him.

In his responses to Ms Halden, he asked "what part of 'no' don't you understand?", and told her to "go hug a tree".

NEC secretary Alan Roberts was incensed, and wrote a letter to Clarence Valley Council.

"We have never had that sort of rude reaction to Nimbin Environment Centre before and still have not been given a reason for the refusal of an Iluka market stall place," he wrote. "Others of our members who tried to find the reason for this refusal were treated even more rudely, even swearing, by Paul Ryan, but still no reason given and he regarded us in a derogatory manner."

Mr Roberts said the snub amounted to a transgression of "part of the Australian

constitution that provides for the maintenance of a democratic society".

"Democracy depends on the free flow of information and if one person – in this case it could be construed as acting with the Clarence Valley Council imprimatur – is permitted to bias that flow of information, then democracy is damaged," he said.

"We hope that Clarence Valley Council can consider this issue of its responsibility for the maintenance of democratic principles."

When *Nimbin Good Times* contacted Clarence mayor Richie Williamson for comment, he said: "The Iluka markets are privately run and operated independently of council. Council has no controls over the lessee, which is currently Mr Ryan.

"We (council) are yet to have a conversation with Mr Ryan about the allegations raised in Mr Roberts' letter. We are taking them seriously."

When told that the stall was to be an information stand about coal seam gas mining, Cr Williamson indicated that he was supportive of the moratorium the state government had put in place, and said that many residents had valid concerns about the impacts of coal seam gas exploration and mining.

He said that the council would tackle the issue with due caution. He would not be drawn on whether the NEC is likely to receive an apology from Mr. Ryan.

Light of reason shines on graffiti



Local street artists recently had the chance to come 'Out of the Shadows' and create their art on recycled doors at the Lismore Transit Centre.

Connor Anderson and Sam Bellos were two local Richmond River High School boys invited to participate in the event put together by the Lismore City Council and Youth Connections North Coast.

Legal graffiti walls and projects are common in many city centres. This project's aim was to raise the profile and the image of street art and help it become more acceptable in the local community. This is not

"tagging", this is graff art.

Out of the Shadows was devised by Lismore students undertaking the Community IV in Community Services as a way to engage young people with the wider community.

Zac Price, Lina Svensson, Corey Mills and street artist Nathan Eyres were all a part of

this project, helping to mentor young artists.

The doors were auctioned off at the end of the day with the funds going back into the project, so hopefully this great project can happen again and perhaps on a regular basis. The highest price paid for a door was \$100.

Zac and fellow street artist Nathan Eyres from Back Alley Gallery in Lismore feel it's a great precursor to a project with Lismore City Council to turn disused laneways in Lismore into mural displays.

Teenagers can come out of the shadows – hanging around under bridges doing their art – they can showcase their art.

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News



Rainbow Living Health Expo

Tuesday 11th October 10am-2pm

After the fantastic success of the Rainbow Lane event in 2010, The Nimbin Rainbow Living Health Expo is back – even bigger and better!

Venture down to Rainbow Lane, Allsopp Park and the Town Hall to find out about your health including blood pressure and other checks.

Nourishing Nimbin

Saturday 29th October

A free community festival to celebrate sustainable local food at the Nimbin Showgrounds.

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!

Nimbin Community Xmas Lunch

NNIC's Soup Kitchen wishes to remind readers about the upcoming Community Xmas Lunch, this year to be held on Friday 23rd December at the Town Hall.

Volunteers will be needed to help prepare, serve and clean up on the day. Anyone who wishes to contribute towards the hampers and raffles by donating non-perishable goods or add to the collection of toys for Santa to give away can leave them at the Centre.

The Nimbin Soup Kitchen would like to acknowledge and thanks our major sponsors, the Nimbin Emporium, Charters Hardware and the Nimbin Bakery for their continued support throughout the year. To all our supporters and soup partakers, thanks for your donations and participation on Friday Soup Day.

Towards a Sustainable Nimbin

• Food Security

The Grain Mill seems to have found its weekday home at Zone One, Cullen Street, behind the vet clinic. Many thanks to Steph for having it there. Zone One is well worth a visit while you are there.

Bring your grain for milling to Zone One, Mondays to Fridays, or the Blue Knob Farmers Market on Saturday mornings. You can also get your bread made from our freshly milled grain from Jason at the Farmers Market and ask for it also at the Nimbin Bakery.

See our website for more Grain Mill info.

• Community Food Sustainability Survey

Now that we have all done the census... here is your chance to give us some *really useful* data! The survey can be downloaded from our website or else grab a copy at NNIC.

We got a phenomenal 106 responses at the Nimbin A+I Show, so keep them coming in by 30th October. We need at least as many responses as we got in 2009-10... so we are aiming for a minimum of 140 responses, but the more we get, the more valid the results will be.

Please please please (!!!) complete the survey and get it back to us by 30th October.

• Food Security meetings

Usually held on the last Thursday of the month (good idea to call us on 6689-1692 and check) at 5.30pm at the Elmo Room at NNIC, 71 Cullen St – Come around the back steps. Food always welcome!

Nimbin Ag Show

The show was fantastic this year, and many thanks to everyone who came along and supported the Show, the Farmers Market and filled out the Community Survey.

Congratulations to the winner of the inaugural Most Sustainable in Show Exhibit category – which was Tutty Fruity Farm at Lillian Rock.

Transport

Nimbin Bus Extension MultiTix (5 trips for \$35 or 10 trips for \$70) available at NNIC during our opening hours. The timetable for buses between Nimbin and Lismore is on our website – follow the link on our Home page.

Energy

Bio Char Action Learning Circles – happening now – every Saturday arvo at Blue Knob Hall. Places are limited – contact Dolph on dolph@biocharproject.org or Paul on 0412-027-818.

• FREE Home Power Savings Program

At the A+I Show we spoke to many community members who are concerned about their rising electricity bills. The Home Power Savings Program gives people who really need them the tools and insights to take control of their power consumption.

LCSA (the Peak body for neighbourhood and community centres in NSW) is pleased to partner with Home Power Savings Program because we believe that those who most need to know how to save on power bills are often the last to be informed. Home Power Savings is working hard to correct this inequity and enable people who really struggle with their power bills to regain control of this vital expense.

Follow the link on our website to find out if you are eligible and what the program may be able to offer you.

Social and Political

The Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) was established this year to improve consultation between the Nimbin Community and Lismore City Council.

Check out the new (and very trippy!) NAG /LCC noticeboard outside the Town Hall.



Photo: Sue Edmonds

Nimbin Women's Dinner

The 8th annual Nimbin Women's Dinner will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 30th November.

Tix will go on sale at NNIC in November.

Blue Knob's James pips 'em

Blue Knob Farmers' Market stallholder James Creagh's farm Tutty Fruity won first prize in the inaugural Most Sustainable Produce section of this year's Nimbin Show.

This award posed the question: "How sustainable are our food production methods"?

Criteria included minimal negative impact on the environment, water use, the use of organic or biodynamic fertilizers and pest control, and animal husbandry with a primary focus on animal welfare.

All entrants allowed judges access to their farms or gardens.

James' orchard of fruit and nut trees and his market garden impressed the judges on all four counts.

Sharing Local Knowledge seminars

• Saturday 8th October

Biodynamics – an Introduction – Jim Arachne

The oldest intentional organic gardening system to produce food and increase soil fertility. Jim is the convenor of the Nimbin Biodynamic Group.

• Saturday 15th October

Backyard bananas and more – Shane Conroy

Shane is a third generation banana grower and has been a professional vegetable and banana grower for 25 years. How to cultivate and look after bananas, common diseases and how to prevent or treat them, handy tools and varieties for the Northern Rivers. He'll also touch on growing sweet potatoes and capsicums.

• Saturday 22nd October

Growing Sub-Topical Fruit Trees – James Creagh

Here in the sub-tropics, abius, sapotes,



dragonfruit, carambolas, sapodillas, jakfruit, jaboticabas, mangosteens and rollinias all flourish but are often ignored in favour of the more familiar supermarket fare. James presents basic cultivation methods. Some seedlings will be available for sale and some fruit for tasting.

• Saturday 29th October
Nimbin Local Food Day at Nimbin Showgrounds

All talks start 10am at Blue Knob Farmer's Market, corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Roads., 8km from Nimbin.

If you'd like to know about future talks and Market news, send your name and email to Jim at uloborid8@gmail.com

Eat, share, learn

by Guy Stewart

Nourishing Nimbin presents a weekend of free family events that kick off with a screening of the film *The Economics of Happiness* at 6.30pm at Birth & Beyond on Friday 28th October.

Nourishing Nimbin is a series of showcase events for the Nimbin Food Security Project, a project of Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre that aims to strengthen and support local food production and supply.

After Friday's film screening there will be a discussion with local food activists who reflect on the implications and strategies for the community, and delicious local fare will be available.

The event continues at the Nimbin Showgrounds from noon until 8pm on Saturday 29th October for another free celebration of local food.

Share in a traditional harvest picnic, bring along a rug, family and some food

locally made or grown to share or to add to the giant food mandala.

There will be an interactive learning space for the kids to have fun harvesting seed pods, planting seedlings, making healthy soil with worms, painting a mural, finding bush tucker and making bush lemonade.

There will also be some friendly farm animals to meet, interactive displays, market stalls, food vendors, cooking demonstrations and workshops.

There will be entertainment by local musicians and a harvest mandala will be created.

On Sunday 30th October, four local producers are hosting small-scale farm-gate tours. Meet the farmers and see some sustainable production practices in action.

A bus will be visit the properties – seats are limited. Call Pete 6689-7004 for more information or to book your place.



Tutty Fruity farm open for inspection

Saturday Workshops

12.30pm – Bio-char
1.15pm – Making a home vegie patch
2pm – Growing backyard grains
2.45pm – Baking Bread, from Grain to Loaf
3.15pm – Keffir cheese making
4pm – Processing a backyard rooster
4.45pm – Nimbin Food Security Project Presentation
5.30pm – Conversation Cafe

For more information call Ash on 0400-438-698 or Guy on 0432-655-314.

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

NCS celebrates graduation day

The current Year 12 students at Nimbin Central School graduated from school with a formal assembly on the last Thursday of term. They received graduation certificates and portfolios as well as an array of special awards.

Representatives from each year in the school gave an address farewelling the Year 12 students and Viola Asi, mother of the School Captain, Luke, gave a moving parent address.

The assembly was followed by a lunch for the students, their parents, families and friends and the cutting (and eating) of their graduation cake.

They are a wonderful group of students who will be missed by the whole school community and we wish them all the best for their HSC exams starting next term.



Region rocks for kids

Youth Connections North Coast (YCNC) has been successful in securing funding for an exciting new project, Our Village Rocks.

Funding is from the NSW Government Community Builders program, for a period of three years from October 2011 to 30th September 2014.

The project will be delivered in the three large communities of Billen Cliffs Village, Tunttable Falls Community and Nimbin Village, and is designed to engage young people (10-18 years) in health, recreational, environmental, arts (music, dance and film making) and cultural programs. Our Village Rocks aims to build and celebrate the positive community identity, sense of place and

participation of our local young people.

The project will be managed through YCNC and a project steering committee comprising representatives from each of the three targeted communities and will:

- Engage young people from the three communities in activities, programs and events that are meaningful to them and which build social inclusion, connectedness and participation.
- Deliver an after school program during each school term at the Nimbin Youth Centre.
- Facilitate a Saturday activities program during school term running out of community halls located at Tunttable, Billen and Nimbin.

- Deliver school holiday programs annually for the duration of the project.
- Engage and train 10 adults from each of the communities as volunteers to support the program outcomes.

- Engage young people from each community in leadership workshops to support 3 community events delivered by, with and for young people and the community.
- YCNC is currently recruiting a 3.5 day a week co-ordinator for the program (see advertisement on Letters page).

Employment Information Packs are available via the YCNC web site online at: <http://ycnc.com.au>

Youth Screen Time Running Out

Entries for the Nimbin Youth Film Competition close on 15th October. Entry forms are available at the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, or visit Youth Connections North Coast website <http://ycnc.com.au> for details.

This year's first prize is \$500 and other fabulous prizes have been donated by Nimbin businesses, including the Nimbin Emporium, Nimbin Law, Nimbin Pizza and Trattoria and Nimbin Newsagent.

Judging will take place before the grand screening at the Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 29th October at 2pm. Mayor of Lismore, Jenny Dowell, will be there to hand out the awards and cash prizes. Everyone is invited to the screening and entry is free. For more information contact Darmin on 0427-217-919.

Open the Learning door

The Nimbin Open Learning Centre is running an eight-week term beginning 26th October.

There are two new tutors: Julie Lorenzo offers Art for Relaxation, and Cat Anderson offers a Sewing class.

Paris Naday returns with her digital photography group, and Angel's morning yoga class will continue.

Carole Barrett brings years of experience to her popular art class, and Christine

Strelan's writing group and myths and legends classes will return.

Open Learning classes are a great way to meet people and explore your talents and interests. Enrolments open on 19th and 20th October.

The Open Learning Centre is located in the Nimbin Community Centre building on Cullen Street.

Watch for brochures containing more details on courses, or call 6689-1477.



In Carole Barrett's class

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LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

NIMBIN POOL REOPENING PLANS

The Nimbin Public Pool will reopen on Friday, October 7. The opening date was unfortunately pushed back a few weeks this year due to urgent maintenance issues which included replacing the pool filter pump, repairing the base of the pool, repairing the fence and shade sails and erecting some new signage. Council recognises this delay occurred over the school break and apologises for any inconvenience.

The pool season will run from Friday, October 7 through until Sunday, April 22. The Nimbin Pool is operated and maintained for Council by the lessees of the Nimbin Caravan Park.

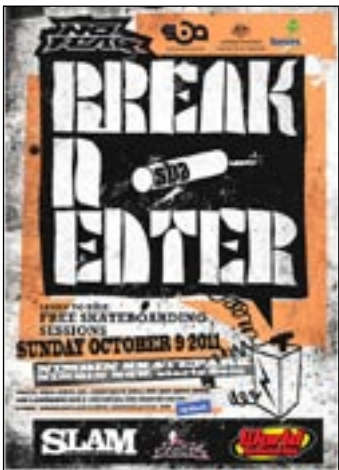
For further information contact Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

'BREAK N ENTER' SKATE WORKSHOPS: CHANGE OF DATE

Get ready to enjoy a big day out at the Nimbin Skate Park. The 'Break N Enter' skate clinics, hosted by Council and delivered by Skateboarding Australia, have been rescheduled and will now be held on Sunday, October 9 at the Nimbin Skatepark from 9.00am. There will be free skateboarding sessions throughout the day.

To register visit Council's website www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and click on 'Have Your Say' and follow the links.

For more information contact Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

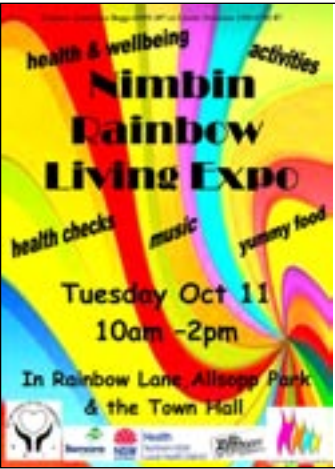


NIMBIN RAINBOW EXPO

Council is collaborating with Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, Health Services and a wide range of community service organisations to host the Nimbin Rainbow Living Expo on Tuesday, October 11. The expo will showcase the wide range of health and well-being services available locally.

There will be free health checks available in Rainbow Lane; free healthy food, music, basket making and Aboriginal storytelling in Allsopp Park; and craft activities, Zumba, laughing yoga and presentations by health organisations available in the hall.

For further information contact Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.



ZORB FACILITY DA ASSESSMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

The development assessment for the proposed Zorb facility at Blade Road, Nimbin is proposed to be reported at the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 13, at Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah, commencing at 6.00pm. The assessment report on the development proposal to be considered by Council will be available on Council's website by COB Wednesday, October 5.

Enquiries regarding the Council meeting should be directed to Council's Corporate Compliance Coordinator Graeme Wilson on 1300 87 83 87. To locate the report visit Council's website at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and click on 'Business Papers'.

FREE WORKSHOP: HOW TO GET A FUNDING GRANT

Community Groups are invited to attend a free workshop aimed at providing information and guidance about how to identify, apply for, and secure a range of Council (and other) funding opportunities.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, October 20 from 9.00am to 4.00pm at the Lismore City Council Chambers located at Council's Corporate Centre in Goonellabah. Numbers are limited so get in early to secure a spot.

For details contact Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87 or email lizette.twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au

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Lawyer vine

To Sam Dawson (NGT Sept 11 letters), thank you for sharing with us all your concern for last month's events in Mebbin National Park.

I too am a lifelong Greenie and Conservationist and bear the financial and mental scars to show. As secretary of Nimbin Bushwalkers Club, I must plead guilty to the club's condoning the gathering of lawyer vine canes by one of our members.

This person, a founding member of the club and long-time resident of Nimbin, is a gentle soul who for many, many years has wandered the surrounding forests, usually barefoot, occasionally gathering materials for our community's weavers group. She only ever gathers lawyer vine canes and, to quote, "only where they are prolific". It is not for monetary gain and definitely not in the spirit of "foresters who removed trees for similar utilitarian purposes", but just another of her many contributions to the Nimbin Community.

This individual, also a committed conservationist, lives an extremely simple lifestyle with an ecological/carbon footprint that would be only a fraction of yours or mine Sam. In that sense she probably does more to conserve the planet's resources than either you or me. This is not to argue that our condoning these activities is justified – but to explain how it has come about – to offer another perspective.

I can understand your anger – you should see me when I meet people taking dogs into National Parks – and I'm a dog lover. The club's condoning of the gathering of lawyer vine canes is unique to this one person and came about because of her nature. I personally do not believe that the gathering of small amounts of lawyer vine cane does great harm, but that's me.

The club must take responsibility, for in that regard it is not just me who has condoned the activity. If National Parks decides to take action, then it should be the club that is prosecuted, not the individual. You will have done your duty. No one is perfect.

PS. Two of our members have expressed concern that your group, in clearing lantana, may have harmed native vegetation and trust that you had the appropriate NP permits.

Dr Len Martin

Secretary

Nimbin Bushwalkers Club

Honouring Nature

I thank Sam Dawson (NGT Sept 11 letters) for his letter regarding vine collection. I know we have been raised in a society full of self entitlement. If I want it, I can have it.

Here in the Rainbow Region we are aware, awake to other possibilities of relating to the world.

I share from the teachings of my indigenous GrandMother. Mother Earth loves to give to us. Our brothers and sisters in creation feed, clothe and house us. What can I give in return? Respect. Honour. Gratitude.

When I ask before I take, I respect. When I wait in stillness for a yes or a no, I respect. When I honour what I take and take only what I need, I respect. When I give thanks for what I may or may not receive, I respect.

Imagine the Energy of a basket that is created when the vine has freely given of herself. In harmony, the vine and I weave the dreaming of creation into reality. Honouring the Nature spirits and the energy of the giveaway, reflects in the creation itself.

Please remember the Sacred Circle and create beauty with our attitudes and actions.

I thank this situation for creating the opportunity to share Wisdom from the Elders.

I send Love and respect to all. All My Relations.

**Prudence
Byrrill Creek**

Weed challenge

In response to Geoff Dawe (NGT Sept 11 letters), while I agree that our agricultural practices are damaging to the environment, causing soil erosion and salinity problems, prickly pear did not confine itself to degraded land. It also grew rampantly in areas that were not in dire need of soil protection.

In 1920, prickly pear covered 24 million hectares in Queensland and NSW, (an area larger than England). It was spreading at the rate of one million hectares per year before the cactoblastis moth and its caterpillar were introduced as a biological control method.

This was simply a case of a plant that acclimatised readily, is drought tolerant, and has a high propensity to reproduce, both from plant segments and via seed which can remain viable for twenty years. It also had no natural enemies present and was planted widely by farmers as a fodder source for the dry periods.

Attempts had been made to utilise the abundant prickly pear. Paper, alcohol, soap and oil production were all tried but with no success. The cochineal industry for which another species of prickly pear was introduced was not successful either.

It is important for the soil to have a protective vegetative cover. If there were no introduced plants (weeds) present the native species would step up and do the job. A weed could not be considered regenerative if it outcompetes, smothers or displaces the native plant communities, forms a single species stand and reduces biodiversity.

Like the war on terror, the war on weeds cannot be won. It is an ongoing challenge to attempt to restore the balance in a disturbed environment. All strategic efforts to prevent the spread of weeds should be encouraged.

Triny Roe

Where's the love?

I read "Community living; where's the love" (NGT Sept 11 business arising)

**Yagia Gentle,
Nimbin**

and found myself asking who from my community would write such a thing. I ultimately came to the conclusion that the most likely character was me.

So I then thought perhaps the concept of howling with the wolves, and/or withdrawing from expressing a point of view, are not problems confined to just my community.

It seems a person "selling out" themselves is not something only attributable to large multi-nationals and politicians. Where I live, I can think of several people who have openly stated they just go with the flow; they have given up their individuality because it is easier than the conflict that comes from expressing a different view to that of the unsavoury minority element who are the self-professed important people.

I think Ben Franklin would have liked a quiet word with these "sell-outs".

**Stephen Jones
Billen Cliffs**

Wooden Bridge

About the old wooden bridge (NGT Sept 11), the council engineer says it would cost \$300,000 to repair the bridge and \$15,000 p.a. maintenance. This sum seems extreme and sounds like it needs a second opinion, especially as no traffic will traverse it. The legalities about the bolts is ridiculous as this situation has existed for many years and never been an issue before. It is also an easily solvable one.

Regarding the payment for upkeep, the bridge could be used as a beautiful platform for a cafe or restaurant. The power, toilets and carparking could be bought from the Bush Theatre building (or the council could buy a share of it) and the rent paid for upkeep.

Regarding the danger to the new bridge, this would need engineering advice for the alternatives available, like extra bracing or props. Apparently the development application for removing the bridge went through two years ago, so it's inevitable unless there is a lot of lobbying about it now.

Notices

For Sale

1998 Subaru Forester, manual, 255,000km (I need an auto), good condition, \$5000. Phone 0447-044-603.

Office Space to Let

Nimbin Community Centre has a small office space available to let in the near future. Our priority is to provide tenancy to community organisations and services operating in Nimbin.

For more details and to organise an appointment, please contact nci@nimbincommunity.org.au or phone 6689-0000.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteering Northern Rivers currently has several opportunities for volunteers, in event management, as administrators and interviewers. For more information please call Jeannette Tyler on 6621-7397. Make a difference!

Groups

Poetry at the Nimbin Oasis Cafe

The Nimbin Oasis Poetry Crew will be celebrating their 12th birthday this month and you are all invited.

We gather on the second Thursday of each month – 13th October this month, kicking off around 7.30pm.

Calling all past performers who haven't visited for a while, and brave new readers always welcome.

Unity Bhajans

1pm Saturday 1st, 15th and 29th October at Birth & Beyond, Nimbin. Phone Maria on 6633-7261.

Tai Chi

Yang style – Beginners. Introductory class Tuesday 11th October, 4pm at the Nimbin Community Centre dance studio. Suitable all ages. Enquiries: Melissa 0431-958-443.

AGMs

Nimbin Community Centre

Notice to members and others with a passionate interest in the Community Centre, the AGM is scheduled for 6pm, Thursday 3rd November at the Dance Studio, Nimbin Community Centre. Nibbles provided.

Nimbin Hemp Inc t/a Nimbin Hemp Embassy

2011 AGM to be held at 51 Cullen Street, Nimbin at 6pm on Friday, 25th November.

Business to include: last year's AGM minutes; committee members' reports; financial statements; election of committee members; memberships; coming projects. More info at www.hempembassy.net

Of museums and teeth

Many thanks to the people who posted their old teeth to the Museum (NGT Sept 11 letters).

The collection is growing as is the sugar artwork. Please keep mailing.

Perhaps not entirely unrelated is a problem we are having with the local robbers. Each time we've been broken into, they eat some

cookies from the jar, as well as making sure the donation cans are properly emptied.

The drama is they leave the lid off the jar and the cockroaches have a ball and we have to throw the rest out.

Either eat them all or put the lid back on, please!

But do remember Karma is for real.

**Michael Balderstone
Nimbin Museum**



Nimbin "Our Village Rocks" Program Coordinator – 23.5 hrs per week

Family Relationships Program Coordinator – 30 hrs per week

Youth Connections is the primary youth service provider in the Lismore LGA is expanding our Youth and Community Building Programs team.

Applications are sought for two new positions from experienced, motivated, and results-focused individuals who would like to join our vibrant team.

Both positions are Grade 4 NSW SACS NAPSAA Award.

Salary packaging available and Employment Information Packs are available on our website <http://ycnc.com.au>

For information about each position contact Paul Laverick, Program Manager on (02) 6622-3143.

YCNC is an EEO employer and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are encouraged to apply.

Applications must be emailed to Paul Laverick at paull@ycnc.com.au

Closing date: Monday 10th October 5pm



**Next Market
9th October
9am – 3pm**

Band of the Day:

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No Authority

I saw the self-appointed spokesperson for Nimbin on the TV news the other night, holding up what he called a disgusting plastic bong. Reckons they are all over town... filthy rubbish. All a result of the war on drugs, he says.

Rather weird when you consider Michael Balderstone has spent 20 years of his life encouraging people to come to Nimbin to participate in plastic bong throwing contests. Irony.

I would like Michael to explain why he presumes he can go to the media all the time to speak on behalf of the town's residents. He has no authority. Here we are at the beginning of the busy school holidays and our self-appointed non-resident mayor goes on TV telling everyone that the town is littered with foul toxic bongs.

I bet the folks at the Chamber of Commerce who have laboured away producing a fresh new marketing logo and campaign for attracting tourists are delighted with his intervention!

It is so typical of him though... always trashing the village in order to advance his argument for marijuana legalisation. Has spent 20 years encouraging drug tourism.

Of course, when it all goes pear-shaped, it won't be Michael's fault, no, no. It's the police and the war on drugs. Blame them.

Adrian Williamson,
Nimbin

The Big Tax

I heard Tony Abbott recently and the old familiar phrase 'the great big tax' and my mind suddenly floated off onto how every time I look at my bills, the letters GST are

at the bottom, with quite a lot of money next to it.

I have never paid so much tax in my life before the introduction of the GST, and I'm pretty sure that Tony Abbot was right there at the forefront saying what a great new tax it was.

Greens politician John Kaye gave a workshop on carbon pricing last Saturday in Lismore and he stated that the GST cost people seven times more than the carbon tax. So it's by far a bigger tax than the carbon tax will ever be.

Also the GST taxes ordinary people for all their goods and services, whereas the carbon tax will be taxing people for polluting the environment. Under the new carbon tax proposal ordinary people will be compensated and hopefully only the already filthy rich will actually lose a small amount of their huge income.

Big Tax, Tony? Time to be honest and call it a great new pollution tax, and boy do we need it.

Beth Shelley,
Lismore

Community Living 2: Struggle for power

Megalomania *n.* insanity of self-exaltation; passion for kudos.

This is the Oxford Dictionary definition of megalomania, and communities are full of megalomaniacs.

Communities are an interesting place to live, they incorporate group ideals, cooperative practice, sharing and neighbourly care. Helping others, socialising, working for common outcomes, the belief that it is possible to live in harmony.

Communities are not principalities in their own



right, where specific rules and regulations need only be observed by some. They are still part of our society, our State, our Nation.

Those in communities who seek megalomania are people who should not be in communities in the first place. They make life difficult for all those other people who want to live harmoniously with their fellow man or woman or child.

These are collectives of people hopefully sharing ideals.

History shows that even the NSW State Government didn't know what community living meant as they were being established on the North Coast. But to their credit, at least they tried to find out and set about establishing legislation that could encompass the lifestyle of people wanting to live on communities. That was back in the Wran government!

When did the megalomaniacs get the idea they were entitled to take over and ruin it for everyone else? Remember the dictionary definition includes the word "insanity".

Megalomaniacs go to great lengths to ensure people are not informed and not permitted to know what is happening inside these "principalities". A secret society, but why do these power brokers want to keep their activities to themselves? Do they have something to hide from the outside world?

Probably, but ironically within the principality, one's private property or details are not kept private at all. The megalomaniacs feel it is their right to trespass on property, know private business, such as who may be visiting you, and why. What you can build, what you can plant in your garden, even what colour you

can paint your own house.

I thought megalomaniacs were people like Colonel Gaddafi, military dictators that hold the people of their own country to ransom for their own desire for power. Megalomaniacs are closer than you think.

So what do we do about these people who ruin a good community lifestyle for the rest of those living within? Well there's the old adage "if you can't beat them, join them", but we are all of free will and don't believe we have to kowtow to the likes of these megalomaniacs.

Many people merely want to be included in the activities of a community; heaven knows you are all paying for it with your hard earned money. We all would like to see civility, compassion, help, transparency and goodwill to others not the nastiness that megalomaniacs bring to communities.

Some people have a need for power, but all people have a need for compassion, respect and decency.

Unfortunately, the megalomaniacs of this world have none of these traits and hide behind their righteousness. It's what keeps the front door revolving in communities as people come and go, but the megalomaniacs stay on.

It doesn't appeal to many I can tell you, but there are those who choose to join the ranks of the megalomaniacs. Coming to a community near you.

Muriel Hedgewater III

Disaster Capitalism

Thanks for your article last month Warwick Fry, reminding us of that other September 11 in 1973. I recently was reminded of it while watching Naomi Klein's Film "The Shock

Doctrine – The Rise of Disaster Capitalism. She also wrote a book of that name.

I remember going to a mass demonstration about the coup that toppled Allende. Whether it was immediately after or the next May Day procession in Sydney I'm not sure but we were all alerted to the fragility of our new left wing reality where Labor was in power after many years on the outside.

For those who were too young or not even born I can highly recommend watching "The Rise of Disaster Capitalism" for a chronological look at the last century and the rise of the rapacious capitalism we now live under.

In 'The Shock Doctrine', Naomi Klein explodes the myth that the global free market triumphed democratically. Exposing the thinking, the money trail and the puppet strings behind the world-changing crises and wars of the last four decades, 'The Shock Doctrine' is the gripping story of how America's "free market" policies have come to dominate the world – through the exploitation of disaster-shocked people and countries." <http://www.naomiklein.org/shock-doctrine>

It contains fantastic documentary footage of South American coups and Thatcher's England with a premise that using 1960's experimental psychiatric methods on a large scale that massive shifts in our political reality are enabled. By the time of 9/11 this had become glaringly obvious but in her film she takes you back through all the other events we missed.

It has been available to watch on The Permaculture Media Blog Download site,

where many other wonderful gems may catch your eye.

Thanks to Naomi Klein many memories were revived for me and new vistas were opened that I hadn't been aware of. I had observed the method of using shock during the period of 9/11 (with television footage going continuously across the globe) and how John Howard and George Bush both went to war without the approval of Parliament or Congress relying on that shock effect to break with democratic tradition.

Lynne Oldfield

View the video at: <http://permaculture-media-download.blogspot.com/2011/04/shock-doctrine-rise-of-disaster.html>

NB. All our links are clickable on the web edition.

Cut the cat

Spring is here, and so is the cat breeding season. This is an on-going situation, with female cats becoming pregnant up to four times each season and having up to five kittens each litter.

People often find themselves with a pregnant cat and no way to re-home the kittens or pay \$150 for de-sexing.

For the month of October, Animal Rights and Rescue Group is offering people on a pension or facing financial difficulties a subsidy to get female cats desexed. The cost to the owner will be \$40.

Nimbin cat owners are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to prevent suffering and protect wildlife. (Cats can be shut in up at night – they do get used to it.)

To make a booking please call ARR 6622-1881 or Krista on 6689-1707.

Krista Mathews,
Nimbin

Above Us

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Next deadline:
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Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please limit contributions to
600 words or less.

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