

NAIDOC in Nimbin



by Rose Cubis

On a very rainy Friday at Nimbin's Aboriginal Cultural Centre there was a hive of activity as the Nimbin Aboriginal community cooked up a storm to feed the community celebrating NAIDOC.

Cecil Sarb Roberts, Deb, David, Gilbert, Monica, Goodrun, Auntie Viv were all in the kitchen producing dampers, fried bread, salads and roo spaghetti, roo burgers, roo casserole, chicken curry and rice, and cakes and bikkies as well, an absolute feast.

The Nimbin soup kitchen mob came with Gail M too, with vege and chicken soups.

Lisa Green from the Nimbin Environment Centre operated the projector and we had highlights of the *Bush Mechanics* and some other short films.

Chris Fischer and Marcell of *Monkey and the Fish* played music, and Steve and Minnie (pictured) treated us to traditional dance.

From Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services came Amber, Rose, Angela and Joseph, bringing some craft for the kids and local service info. Karin Ness from the Community Legal Centre handed out info and answered queries and the Indigenous Money Mentoring team came from Lismore Neighbourhood Centre.

So thanks to all involved and to the community who supported the event, despite the rain. We were cosy, all well fed and entertained

Happy NAIDOC to all our Aboriginal community. The Lismore celebration will be held on 9th August at Heritage Park. If there is enough interest we'll hire a bus to go there; please contact Amber on 6689-1709.

A new Nimbin festival?

by Marcello Angulo

At a recent Business After Hours meeting, organised by Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and held at the Nimbin Hotel, the topic of another festival for Nimbin was raised for discussion.

The response from those present was passionate to say the least, with most conveying their thoughts and ideas, which clearly reflected the desire for another festival in Nimbin.

At this stage, the only planning of future events other than the annual MardiGrass is the Aquarius Committee, with the 40-year anniversary just around the corner, for which the organisation is seeking to include events throughout all of 2013.

Organising another successful event for Nimbin requires many things such as; funding, council approval, business support, and mainly the energy of many collective souls.

This said, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce extends an invitation to the entire Nimbin community for people wanting to get involved with the planning and management of the Village's next festival.

The location for the event will be the Showground, incorporating "Sustainability, local produce, music, arts and culture". Ultimately, the view is for the festival to run every year in Spring.

There is support from local business, and some funding available through Lismore council. The rest will be up to the committee to plan, raise funds, and submit any development applications to council.

So, if you are passionate and have the belief, time, and desire to get involved with the festival committee, which will decide on dates, events, and planning for the festival, please email your contact details to: eugenie11@hotmail.com

CSG big day out at Rocky Creek dam

The Guardians of Rocky Creek Dam from Dorroughby, Whian Whian, Rosebank and areas around, are gathering at Rocky Creek Dam at 11am on Sunday 22nd July to unite their communities, Lock The Gate, make their roads Gasfield-free and spread the message that they demand their water be protected and secured for future generations.

The plan is to participate, parade, publicise and party, with Welcome to Country, banners, cameras, music, games, and a BYO picnic/BBQ. Come along and meet other "extremists". Share in achieving our goal to keep Rocky Creek Dam and the Northern Rivers CSG free.

It will be a great fun day for family and friends with free legal advice available for landholders. Rous Water Chairman, Mayor Philip Silver, will receive the road declarations.

On Saturday 7th July at 2pm, a working bee will be held at Dorroughby Hall to make roadside banners – all help welcome. Final organisational meeting is at Rocky Creek Dam on Sunday 15th July, 2pm. For information re interim meetings, contact Georgina Whaley on 6689-5959.

Get into the Aquarius 40th calendar

Preparations are in hand to co-ordinate a year of events to mark the 40th anniversary of the Aquarius Festival in Nimbin.

The focus of the celebrations is to feature present day activities that have developed from the alternative lifestyle themes of the original festival.

To this end, Nimbin Aquarius Inc. is preparing a calendar, meeting on



Tuesdays in the Community School room at the Nimbin Community Centre, from 2 to 4pm. Bring photos, artwork, and graphic design for possible inclusion.

Dates of planned activities during 2013 are also sought for inclusion in the calendar, which is planned to be available in September. You can contact the committee at: aquariusnetworking@gmail.com



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Community and Police BBQ

Nimbin Police Sergeant Darren Wilson extends an invitation to everyone to attend a barbecue in the front yard of the Police Station in Cullen Street on Wednesday 11th July, from 10am to 2pm.

A beef and vegetarian sausage sizzle will be provided, as well as the opportunity to tour parts of the Police Station and have a look at some police vehicles.

Nimbin Police are hosting the function, which will be very informal, to allow community members to meet and talk with local police officers in a more relaxed atmosphere than is sometimes possible at other times.

World class poetry bonanza

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup.

This community sponsored event is already attracting a lot of attention from poets Australia wide. Organisers anticipate that this will be the biggest 'World Cup' yet.

Last year's winner Doubling Thomas returns as the judge, and special guest performer for our nail-biting Grand Final. He has a tough job ahead of him as the standard of poetry and performance continues to grow. Poets have eight minutes to impress the judges and audience with one or more original poems in a contest of poetry and performance.

The Cup is held in the Nimbin School of Arts hall, with food and light refreshments available on the Veranda Café. Heats will run from 10am Saturday 4th August, where The Peoples Choice Award will be decided, with the Semi-Finals from noon on Sunday the 5th. The Grand Final will be held on Sunday evening – doors will open at 6pm with the event starting at 7.30pm featuring eight finalists vying for the big shiny Poetry World Cup and the \$2000 first prize.

A \$500 prize will be given with The People's Choice Award, this year sponsored by the Nimbin Community School, and a \$300 prize for the rest of the finalists as well as several encouragement awards given during the heats, totalling \$5000 in prize money.

This event has become a major fixture on the regional yearly calendar, drawing contestants and audience



Last year's winner, Doubling Thomas. Photo: Darmin.



Zelly Oops, last year's People's Choice winner. Photo: Sue Stock

from all over Australia, offering one of the highest prizemonies for Performance Poetry in NSW.

The Nimbin Poetry crew is looking forward to playing host to the many performance poets returning, as well as new poets, who are always a welcome surprise.

Camping will be available on the weekend at the Nimbin Showground, for \$20 per person per night.

For enquiries phone 0447-044-603, go to www.nimbinpoetry.com or email: poetryworldcup@gmail.com

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CSG attention turns to legal issues with ponds

by Boudicca Cerese

Protestors who ended their week-long action at the Metgasco pond site at Shannon Brook on June 26 will now turn their attention to the legal and regulatory issues associated with the wastewater ponds.

Local anti-CSG group, Richmond Valley Group Against Gas, will continue to monitor the site on a regular basis to record how the pond is being constructed.

Lock the Gate Alliance Northern Rivers' spokesperson, Ian Gaillard, said there were a number of ongoing legal concerns in relation to the construction of the coal seam gas wastewater pond by Metgasco that they were pursuing.

"We are also investigating whether Metgasco has the required approvals from the Department of Primary Industries to use this pond for wastewater disposal as referred to in Minister Hartcher's statement last week," Mr Gaillard said.

He said the Minister's statement had raised a number of issues and highlighted the inadequacies in the current system for regulating coal seam gas exploration in NSW.



"In particular we are seeking clarification and detail from government about the Water Management Plan that Metgasco is supposedly operating under in their current operations.

"There have been a long list of failures with wastewater management by Metgasco over the last months and it is time the government stepped in and sorted out this mess.

"This peaceful action has been successful in highlighting the failings of both government and industry as the coal seam gas industry rolls out rapidly across the Northern Rivers

region," he said.

Meanwhile, protesters have denied involvement in an incident where a section of security fencing was pushed over at the Pollocks Road site.

The Richmond Valley GAG spokesperson, Dean Draper, said the alleged incident took place without the knowledge of the group maintaining the vigil, which did not condone such actions.

"Those involved in the protest are committed to peaceful direct action and are strongly opposed to any damage to property," he said.



An interactive walking track with hilarious anecdotes and historical footage accessible via QR codes and other smartphone apps is the vision for a new tourist walk through Nimbin.

With more than 100,000 young backpackers visiting Nimbin each year, Lismore City Council is investigating the feasibility of the Nimbin Walking Track, which would use cutting edge technology to tell the story of a village that was always ahead of its time.

Locals Lois Kelly and Ross Wallace will work with experienced Nimbin planner Malcolm Scott to deliver a feasibility plan for the Nimbin Walk Track, building on a scoping report commissioned by Lismore City Council in 1997.

"Our young visitors want to learn about communities, see and learn about Nimbin's alternative culture, its innovation, its history and its ethos," said Andrew Walker from Nimbin Tourism.

"More and more backpackers access everything via their smartphones. This project presents the perfect opportunity to teach people from all over the world about creativity, community, talent, tolerance and alternative life... Nimbin style!"

If the project proves feasible in the early stages, consultants will work with the community over the next eight months to develop

a route and design for the track.

"The consultants bring with them a wealth of experience," said Mitch Lowe from Lismore City Council.

"Lois Kelly brings many years of practical and successful experience in community development; town planner Malcolm Scott has extensive experience in identifying and solving local planning and development consent issues; and Ross Wallace is a locally-based, nationally-recognised 'place' designer."

Lois said by using the latest technology new footage and audio can continually be uploaded as stories from the community are recorded.

"We know we are developing more than just a walk," said Lois. "We are telling the stories of the fabric of this community. We need help from the community! We are after input from as broad a cross section as possible on what stories to tell and how to tell them."

A community workshop to present on the project, and to get ideas and input, will be held at Nimbin Bowling Club on Saturday, 12th August from 2pm to 4pm.

This project is made possible thanks to cooperation and funding assistance via Lismore City Council, NSW Industry and Investment and T-QUAL Grants, an Australian Government-funded initiative.

96.42% of Goolmangar community 'extremists'

by Len Martin

A recent survey by Goolmangar locals of all the residences on all the roads in Goolmangar (a total of 335 individuals), showed 96.42% of the community opposed Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining locally, with 3.28% unsure and only 0.3% in favour. Presumably NSW Deputy Premier and Nationals leader Andrew Stoner would view the 96.42% as 'extremists', having so branded opponents of CSG at a recent National Party conference.

The Goolmangar survey, along with many others locally showing similar levels of opposition, was completed before Mr Stoner announced a raft of new measures to regulate and monitor the CSG industry. Nevertheless, the tone of Mr Stoner's announcements made it clear that the government intends that CSG extraction will proceed in NSW irrespective of any opposition, that he would not deal with 'CSG activists' and the government not back away from encouraging CSG mining in the state. "I send a message

that the extremists... will never be pleased... so we won't be dealing with them. We will be dealing with people who make constructive suggestions as to how we can protect our farm future whilst also reaping the benefits of resource development." (ABC Rural Report, 25 June 2012.)

Changes include removing the five-year royalty holiday previously applied to CSG activities in NSW; establishing regional community funds, which would see local communities receive a share of their region's assets (though communities not affected by CSG would not have access to the funds); development, by a working group of NSW farmers, irrigators, cotton growers, and the CSG industry, of a standardised agreement with landholders for all CSG activities; appointing a Land and Water Commissioner to oversee application of the agreements. However, the existing access laws would remain in place.

So, are the 'extremists' of Goolmangar reassured by this? Apparently not, with comments like "government not acting for



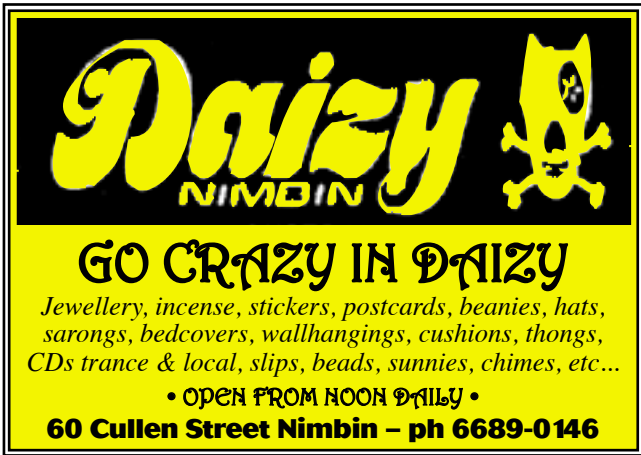
regional Australia, only for big business". CSG is very big business with very big companies lusting for billion-dollars profits. But there will be no gas for us – all for export – the industry again warning, "Mandating that some of the gas be used in Australia would reduce financial returns, essentially acting as a subsidy to other industries and a tax on developing gas reserves." (Sydney Morning Herald, June 25, 2012).

While the new regulations may guarantee landowners and local communities some financial crumbs, they would still have no right to prevent CSG miners accessing their land, bugging their farms, their water, their landscapes, their communities, their catchments. And can we trust the companies to self regulate,

or government agencies to monitor and regulate them? In these respects, the recent sagas of the Metgasco holding ponds in Casino make damning reading – particularly the ponds' reported lack of sufficient freeboard and our continuing heavy rains. The local catchment is the Richmond River, which flows all the way to Ballina. "No problem, it is only salty water, nothing toxic," according to Metgasco, quite OK to truck into the Casino sewage, only a million litres or so.

Local communities can battle politicians who are blinded by dollar signs through people power! It does work and the best way to demonstrate our strength is with the ever expanding, community-driven, CSG-free road surveys which lead to: gasfield-free roads, farms, landscapes and catchments in a gasfield-free Northern Rivers – and ultimately to a broad network of strong gasfield-free communities committed to protect their homelands from devastation for the sake of a fast buck.

To find out how, visit www.csdfreenorthernrivers.org



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by Nena Pollard

Cawongla Playhouse – a community-based pre-school where families connect and kids have fun as they learn through play – is situated in a peaceful country setting, a short 15-minute drive from Nimbin.

Mixed-age groups encourage care and co-operation and children can self-select from a comprehensive range of equipment, freely exploring at their own pace. Shady garden play areas include a track for scooters and trikes, adventure cubby house, swings, slides and landscaped sandpit.

We have caring, supportive and qualified staff offering a wide range of creative activities for the children. We have talented local musician Jamie, who explores music with the kids using a variety of instruments and fun interactive songs; a wonderful storyteller Leanne who weaves her beautiful and imaginative tales using puppets, costumes and song; an enthusiastic cooking mentor Marley who explores food and nutrition with the kids including sharing their kitchen creations at mealtime; and a resident green thumb Natasha who imparts the joy of cultivating, nurturing and harvesting food grown by the children in their own pre-school garden.

Our centre is also busy programming according to the new national Early Years Learning Framework and we are integrating the regulations and standards into our quality learning and care programs.

We are looking forward to offering a great line up of fun and educational activities and special events for children in Term Three. We will be announcing details of this program shortly.

Our fees are very affordable and we are offering some special rates and discounts to new and existing enrolments, so drop by or give us a call for more information.

Cawongla Playhouse is taking enrolments for toilet-trained children aged between two-and-a-half and five years. Playgroup for toddlers runs daily between 9am and noon. The centre is open Monday to Thursday between 9am and 3pm. Please call our friendly staff with any enquiries on 6633-7167 or email us at: cawonglaplayhouse@harboursat.com.au

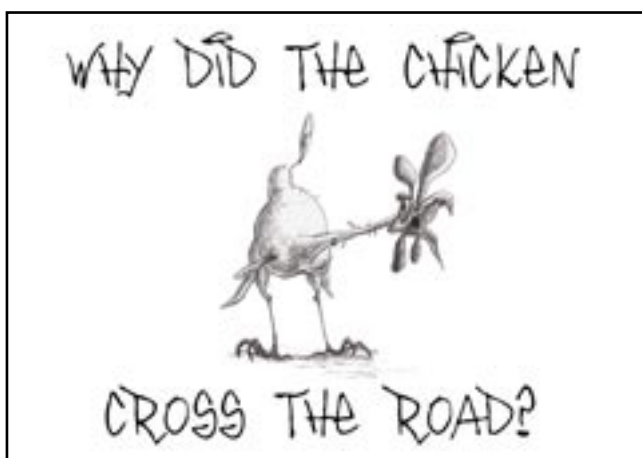


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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News
Website: www.nnic.org.au



Nimbin Holiday Club

Fun activities for kids aged 5-12 years during school holidays. Winter program kicks off on 4th July. See our website for details (see the Youth section) or contact NNIC for the program and bookings. Thanks as always to our parents and carers for their support and cooperation with our program staff and volunteers.

Struggling with unpaid fines?

Come and see our welfare workers to find out if you are eligible to pay off your fines by volunteering at NNIC.

Anyone for tennis?

The Nimbin Tennis club is calling out for more members and donations/financial support to maintain the Nimbin tennis courts. If you don't mind a hit now and then, consider joining the club and supporting the continuation of our local facilities. For more info see Byron at the Post Office.

7 Sibley Street update

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Community Forum on 16th June. The Forum Notes are available on our website. Contact NNIC to be added to the newsletter email list.

A fundraising working group has started up and meets at 10.30 am every monthly Nimbin market at the rainbow seats in front of Nimbin Aged Care building (or at the Rainbow Café if it's raining). To join the group contact NNIC or simply come along to the next meeting.

A facebook group has also been set up for ongoing discussions and debates about the future of the site, branding and logo issues etc – search for "7 Sibley Street".

To date we have raised almost \$40,000.00 towards the loan repayment. Spread the word and see if you can find at least one person who can add in \$500 (but any donations are of course welcome) so that we can get this loan paid out by December if possible. Come on folks... we can do this!

Farmers Market second birthday: 7th July

Wow! What an achievement! Come along to the Birthday Party - a Pumpkin Bush dance and Feast at 5 pm onwards on Saturday 7th July at Blue Knob Hall. Live music, loads of great local food - Tix are \$20 (\$30 for couples and \$40 for families). All proceeds towards ongoing Blue Knob Hall renovations.

Nimbin Agricultural Show 2012

Get Your Entries in for the 2012 Most Sustainable in Show exhibit category. Entries are free and close on Monday 20th August. Last year's winner was Tutti Fruity Farm. Entry forms available from NNIC or our website.

And don't forget to save your very best produce for entry into the general exhibit categories at this year's show. Last year we saw an increase in the amount and quality of produce exhibited. Let's keep the Nimbin Show growing with even more entries this year.

2012 Year of the Farmer

To celebrate the Year of the Farmer, we are running a competition to find the Sexiest Farmer in the Nimbin bio-region (within approx 30 kms from the village). Be in the running for free family passes to the Nimbin Ag Show!

Send your name, contact details and a photo of your nominee by 20th August, and explain in 500 words or less why you feel they (can be a man or woman) are Nimbin's Sexiest Farmer. Send your entries to NNIC at PO Box 20168 Nimbin 2480 or admin@nnic.org.au

Post harvest processing equipment library

The shed is almost up, and library memberships are now open to individual NNIC members. One off joining fee of \$55 (plus NNIC membership if you are not already a member). Application Forms available on our website or else contact/drop into NNIC. Funds taken in the form of Library membership fees will be used to maintain the equipment and insurances, as well as to keep purchasing new equipment to add to the library over time.

Food Security meetings

Next meeting date has changed to Thursday 26th July. All meetings held at 6pm at NNIC's Elmo room. Come around the back steps and food is always welcome!

Join/Renew your membership of NNIC Now!

Your memberships help us to attract funds which support our work in the community. Memberships are \$5.50, and fall due on 1 July each year. Membership forms available on our website or our front desk (posted on request). Support us to support you!

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals. Email: admin@nnic.org.au

NNIC is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub to provide information and referrals to community members. For info about all services available in the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our CWWs for referrals.

Chamber Chat...

by Eugenie Stephans, Secretary

Telstra

Telstra representatives met with Chamber and Nimbin Advisory Group members to discuss planning to upgrade local services. The Chamber recognises the need for improved telecommunications and supports Telstra's intention to deliver improved capacity for mobile and data, on the condition that Telstra undertakes comprehensive community consultation.

Local business benefits from alliance

At a recent Chamber meeting, members unanimously voted to proceed in forming an alliance with NSW's largest member-based business support group, the NSW Business Chamber under the Local Chamber Alliance Program.

"Joining forces with a peak body such as NSW Business Chamber

provides local chamber members with additional benefits and services which their local chamber just cannot afford to deliver," President Peter Wise said.

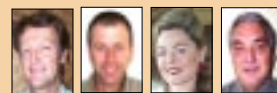
Chamber members will continue to receive the local networking and business support benefits of their local Chamber. They will also, at a small cost of membership for the first year, receive additional benefits from the NSW Business Chamber with access to a broad range of services such as technical advice, business support tools, information services and educational events.

Some of these benefits include: Business hotline for support and advice on all questions; Workplace advice line connects you to specialists when you have a workplace relations issue or question such as wages and allowances, termination of employment, superannuation, long service leave, and other workplace compliance and management matters; Business resources available online 24/7 with

detailed "Ask us How" online reference guides, checklists and tools covering topics such as Strategy and Planning, Marketing, Operations, Legal, Safety, People and Management; Online business vitality health check for your business providing you with a report that benchmarks areas of high performance as well as opportunity for improvement within your business.

Being a member of NSW Chamber will add strength when lobbying government at local, State and Federal level and will deliver a stronger and more powerful message to Government.

The Chamber is looking forward to partnering with the NSW Business Chamber, which will enable Nimbin businesses to better face the challenges of a continually changing economic landscape. For enquiries phone 6689-1639 or email peterwise@live.com.au



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We explore our abilities to research what we want to know, enriching our shared knowledge and constructing understandings.

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thinking enables us to live and function within the changing world with an empowerment of morality and ethics based upon a strong sense of generosity, empathy and social justice.

We responsibly communicate our thoughts

through many pathways to ensure that we maintain freedom to believe in ourselves and each other with respect, strength and altruism.

We act with the knowledge that everything has rights and we have responsibility.



Holiday fun for littlies

The Nimbin Child Care Centre is open during the holidays and limited vacancies still exist for children between six months and five years.

The Centre, located in Gumnut House at the Community Centre complex, offers a fun and educational program and is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm. The fee for a full day is a very affordable: \$14 for enrolled children and \$20 for casuals.

We also offer Play Sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays between 9.30-11.30am that are free of charge.

So come along for some holiday fun to make beautiful craft, play outside, have fun with friends and learn lots of different things in a safe and caring environment.

For more information and bookings call the Nimbin Child Care Centre on 6689-0142.

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LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

COMMUNITY SURVEY: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE LISMORE LGA TO BE LIKE IN THE FUTURE?

Council has kicked off a 14-month community-wide consultation process where we are inviting residents of Lismore, Nimbin and surrounding villages to share your views about what you would like for your community, your quality of life, your family, your employment or business opportunities, your facilities, your environment and your ability to have your say about future decisions for your place.

The aim is to develop a community designed and owned plan that will inform decisions about our future for the next 10 years – the 'Imagine Lismore' Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023.

As part of this extensive consultation process we are conducting a community-wide survey from now until Friday, July 13, where we are asking the following three questions: What do you love and value most about Lismore? What is important to your quality of life? What would you like the Lismore area to be like in the future?

The survey can be completed online at www.imaginelismore.com.au or hard copies can be picked up from the following locations: Nimbin Visitor Information Centre, Shop 3/46 Cullen Street, Nimbin; Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah; Council's CBD Office, 55 Magellan Street, Lismore; and the Lismore Library, 110 Magellan Street, Lismore. Alternatively, a hard copy can be requested by phoning Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

PROPOSED UPGRADE OF NIMBIN WATER SUPPLY: DEADLINE EXTENDED

Around 25 people attended a community briefing on Thursday, June 21 about different options for a future upgrade of the Nimbin Water Supply.

The briefing was held at the Nimbin Bowling Club and feedback sheets were handed out so residents could indicate their preferred option and provide comment.

It was an informative evening and Council hopes it answered questions people had regarding the proposed upgrade and provided a clear picture of Council's options into the future.

In response to community requests, Council is extending the deadline for feedback by two weeks to Friday, July 20.

Information on the proposed options and feedback sheets are available at the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre or from the 'Have Your Say' section of Council's website at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Completed feedback sheets can be handed in at the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre, posted or faxed to Council or submitted online.

REMEMBER YOUR MOBILE LIBRARY!



The Richmond Tweed Regional Library has a mobile library which stops at the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre each Thursday and is open from 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.00pm.

The mobile library has a complete range of library services for both children and adults, with a stock of over 8000 items available for loan. Popular items such as adult fiction, large print, paperback,

periodicals and audiovisual items are changed regularly. New items are received and put on the shelves each week.

Two public PCs are available for internet access and word processing, and documents may be printed out for a small fee. A photocopier is also available.

ARE YOU READY FOR DIGITAL TV?

The Federal Government has announced that areas of northern NSW will be the next to make the switchover to digital TV on November 27.

People are urged to ensure they are ready for the switchover, the biggest technological change in broadcasting in Australia since the change from black-and-white to colour TV more than 30 years ago.

Around 82% of households nationally have already converted to digital television but for those who haven't there is plenty of time to do so and a new website and hotline is available to answer any questions people may have.

For the maps of the switchover area, to find out how to make the switch or to check coverage in your area, visit the Digital Ready website www.digitalready.gov.au or call the Digital Ready Information Line on free call 1800 20 10 13.

Corporate Centre 43 Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH 2480
CBD City Office 55 Magellan Street, LISMORE 2480
Phone 1300 87 83 87
Fax (02) 6625 0400
Website www.lismore.nsw.gov.au
Email council@lismore.nsw.gov.au



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Who will be liable for the first human killed by a bullet in a national park while hiking, camping, picnicking? Will it be a child, a pregnant woman or an overseas tourist?

Is a \$3 billion deal worth sacrificing a \$35 billion international tourism industry?

Barry O'Farrell should be liable for any deaths. Unfortunately we have to wait for people to die before anything will change...

Our wildlife will have no safe refuge now. Birds will flee in terror at the deafening sound of guns exploding and shattering the once pristine silence. Non-target native animals will be shot and killed by speeding bullets. Gone will be the peace of our fauna's paradise, to be replaced with trashy humans littering Gondwanaland with lead bullets and their rubbish as they trample over more threatened fauna, spreading seeds of feral weeds.

Who will police these hunters to make sure they are in fact all licensed, following the guidelines and not causing inhumane suffering to animals, and most importantly, not shooting the wrong type of animal or too many? The answer is, nobody will – they will police themselves! That's right, the fox is guarding the hen house which means our national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas will become hoons' paradise to enter anytime day or night and shoot whatever, legally and illegally. NPWS is already overworked and understaffed – same with the police force.

No wonder Australia has the world's worst record for mammal extinctions – this

new bill will only make things exponentially worse!

**Alison Polistchuk
Burringbar**

Shooters terrorise tourism

The NSW State Government has sacrificed the safety of National Parks users and native animals to political expediency in order to gain the Shooters Party votes to sell our electricity assets.

Whatever you think regarding the sale of electricity assets the policy to allow recreational shooters into National Parks is short sighted, dangerous and yet another back flip by the O'Farrell government.

Not only do NP not have the resources to police this policy, allowing recreational shooters into NP places all adjacent landholders, users and workers within NP in danger of being shot.

Accidents happen and when you add the potential consumption of alcohol into the mix this policy is a disaster waiting to happen. Stray shots may travel several kilometres and NP boundaries are not marked. This has happened in NZ recently where a similar policy exists.

Tourists both domestic and international come to visit our NPs in significant numbers. Effectively the result of this policy will turn people away from our NP and reduce tourism to our regions placing an extra burden on our already struggling regional economies.

There is no guarantee that feral pests will be controlled or that native animals will not be targeted. In fact there are no guidelines at present except that the Game Council of NSW will oversee the process. They issue

hunting licenses based on an open book written exam that does not test gun owners abilities. Google the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the Game Council of NSW for examples of how the Game Council works.

Recent commonwealth figures put our feral pigs, foxes and goat populations at over 35 million across Australia. Yet last year in NSW hunters removed 14,000 feral animals mostly rabbits. That is approx. 0.7 animals per hunting license at a cost of \$249 per animal. This will not make the slightest difference to feral animal control. To be effective large numbers of animals need to be eradicated over large areas in a sustained and managed way. This new policy is about 'sport' for shooters and should not be dressed up as a feral animal eradication program.

If the intent of this policy is to eradicate feral pests then the State govt. should consult with the stakeholders and adopt a properly funded feral animal eradication program using professional shooters not amateurs.

This is an incredibly short-sighted decision by an inexperienced government for political expediency.

Now we wait for the first casualties.

**Cr David Yarnall
Terania Creek**

Fluoride conspiracies

Kudos to Mookx for his excellent article on fluoride! Well researched and unfortunately, all true! He completes his article with the question, "So, what the hell is this stuff doing in public water supplies?"

The answer to this is one that most people don't want to face. The fact that there are powerful people in high places who do not have our best interests at heart, seems to be a pill most find hard to swallow. The fact there are people with psychopathic psychologies, who are highly intelligent and highly 'functional' (and very rich) is a mental shift few are prepared to take. The fact that 'elites' are hard at work dumbing us down, intentionally making us sick via various means (without us realising it), programming our thoughts and beliefs via media (and making us think

we are formulating our own), engineering and orchestrating global events (while making us think it's all happening randomly), and conspiring in secret for complete control of humanity, is just too much for most to even begin to contemplate. But contemplate we must!

The Rockefellers and Rothschilds of this world (and their ilk) depend on our ignorance, our fear of the truth, and our susceptibility to endless distraction to bring off this global coup, which has been underway for a long time now and about to kick into high gear. After an engineered global financial crisis, an increase in war, civil unrest, famine and disease, the world will be crying out for a solution. Enter the New World Order... (or 'global governance' as they like to call it now). It's a very simple yet effective plan which most of the world will fall for, due to ignorance of how the game is really being played and who the players are. It's time we took our collective heads out of the sand and looked this behemoth square in the eyes. If we don't get our act together as a community, someone else will do it for us. And trust me... that won't be pretty!

On second thoughts, don't trust me... do the research for yourself and make your own mind up. A simple study of the two 'elite' bloodline families as mentioned above is a great place to start. They have influenced our lives in a major way and their reach is far and wide. The puppet-masters depend on our ignorance, so it's important to understand the hows and whys of our world being the way it is. To do so is not only empowering but life-changing! Let's have our eyes wide open, Nimbin!

**Myles Davidson
Barkers Vale**

Fluoride facts

I am often amazed at the many statements attacking the fluoride argument. Lots of statements but no facts.

Of course fluoride is a poison. So are many other things we ingest on a daily basis. The point is that taken in the correct dosage fluoride, as with many other items, is safe and useful. Who would take zinc or magnesium or aspirin or any number

of things other than in a controlled measure?

Scaremongering is alive and well. And the bit about the Nazis and fluoride, well I ask you...

**David Ashton
Mullumbimby**

CSG is safe? Pull the other one!

ABC radio reports that we are now entering a "third generation" of suffering from asbestos-related disease. People who have had only minor exposure – like living in a house where asbestos has been broken during renovation – are being diagnosed with fatal illness. This substance that seemed so benign was mined and extensively used in Australia until we discovered that exposure to asbestos can cause slow and painful death. The company that profited most from asbestos, James Hardy Ltd., was made to fund a compensation scheme for victims – which has since proven to be inadequate. The company quickly moved overseas to avoid further legal liability.

We now know that asbestos was not a boon to human civilisation and neither is unconventional gas. We are already seeing medical reports that demonstrate adverse health risks associated with this new industry. We need to get the proponents of coal seam gas (CSG) mining to fund a compensation scheme – now, not after the effects of its poisonous activities become fully proven. The world is being told that drilling through aquifers and emptying the coal seams of trapped water that contains a toxic cocktail of heavy metals, hydrocarbons and drilling fluids will do no harm. We are assured that

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, the last Wednesday of the month. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will usually not be considered. Please include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

aquifers and surface water will not be contaminated by pumping fracking chemicals into the earth of which only half (by volume) will be retrieved and held in open-air ponds, until "some beneficial use" can be found.

We now see Metgasco building a new "temporary holding pond" near Casino next to a full one with dead birds floating on it at the headwaters of the Richmond River after they were caught out dumping their toxic waste water into the public sewage system. Where will this small start-up be in a few years when the politicians finally wake up and require their mess to be cleaned up? It is an open secret that Metgasco plans to get all the necessary approvals and then sell out to one of the large foreign corporations

When the gas is gone - along with our health - who will still be around to sue for compensation? And how will we assess the poisoning of our underground water resources? No one knows how to fix aquifer pollution. Anyone with shares in Metgasco might be smart to sell out now.

**Scott Sledge
Lillian Rock**

Office Worker

Co-ordination Co-operative Tuntable Falls are seeking a contract office worker for 7 hrs/week. Familiarity with office management systems required. Please forward application with current resume including qualifications, experience and 2 referees. Application addressed to Secretary CMB Tuntable Falls NSW 2480 or info@coco.org.au

Applications close 20th July 2012.

TO AVOID A LIFE OF INTOLERABLE CRUELTY, LOCKED IN A TINY CELL, DOPED UP ON HORMONES 10 DAYS A WEEK, BEAK MELTED OFF, BARELY ABLE TO MOVE, ONLY TO BE STEAM EXTRUDED INTO A RECONSTITUTED FROZEN PATTIE, THAT IS HARDLY EDIBLE ANYWAY!

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Open Learning Centre

The Nimbin Open Learning Centre Term 3 starts on 25th July and runs for eight weeks.

Enrolments are on 18th and 19th July at the Community School room, in the Nimbin Community Centre. We can also be found online at: www.lovenimbin.net/nimbinopenlearningcentre

On offer will be courses in art, yoga, African drumming, web design, human design, creative writing, sewing, bookbinding, exercise and Jungian psychology.

Courses cost \$50, with a discount for enrolment in multiple courses.

Get in early for these well-taught classes.

The Open Learning Centre is a project of the Nimbin Community School.

CSG vigil thanks

I was one of the hundred or so people who attended the recent vigil at the holding pond in Shannonbrook, just outside Casino. This vigil went for a week and it was an amazing and uplifting vigil to be part of.

We, the locals and the visitors from far and wide were completely overwhelmed by the support, generosity and well wishes of the Richmond Valley people and of the landowners living nearby this pond, especially a huge thank you to the kind farmer who opened his property up to us and allowed people to camp, so a 24/7 watch could be maintained.

Apart from this, the supply of fresh and cooked local produce kindly donated by local businesses and local people was truly wonderful and greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

The atmosphere at this vigil was one of a caring and committed community. People cooked soups to share, knitting Nanna's worked their needles, while kids played, adults drank tea and coffee and shared stories and their dreams for a gas free Northern Rivers. We even had an international band from the US, come to see the damage and play for us.

Some people, especially those in government positions don't understand or accept why people from outside

Holiday activities for kids and young people

Date	Program (Phone 6689-1692 to book)	Cost
Thurs 5 th July	Excursion to Annies Garden Café. Friendly miniature farm animals for feeding and petting, 5 acres of garden paths to explore and monkey vines to climb. A quality lunch is included: a cooked meal, a drink and an ice-cream. Bring a change of clothes if it's been raining. Signing in and out at Nimbin Central School Kim & Gaz	\$22
Friday 6 th July	Nimbin Youth Club – Doumba Doumba drumming workshop with Xavier at 11am + arts and crafts. Bring protective gear for skating at the park. Kim & Angel	\$15
Thurs 12 th July	Excursion to Flat Rock Beach and Ballina Maritime Museum. Signing in and out at Nimbin Central School. April & Kim	\$18
Friday 13 th July	Excursion to Lismore Cinema to see "Brave" PG, and lunch at Heritage Park. Signing in and out at Nimbin Central School. April & Kim	\$22

Date	Free Young People's Workshops (10-18 years)
Fri 6 th July	Badge making with Jesse at Billen Cliffs Hall 11am – 1pm
Mon 9 th July	Hip Hop Dance with Issara at Billen Hall 11am – 3pm
Tues 10 th July	Stencilling a canvas at Tuntable Community Hall 11am – 3pm
Wed 11 th July	Tie-dyeing at Nimbin Youth Club 11am – 3pm
Thurs 11 th July	Stencilling a canvas at Billen Hall 11am – 3pm
Fri 13 th July	Circus with Hartje at Tuntable Hall 10am – 12pm

Casino would come and support us. Well, this is why, gas mining has no council boundaries, the damage caused will be widespread and will spread to all neighboring council regions and slowly poison our underground aquifers. Aquifers that have taken millions of years to develop will be destroyed, all for sake of making a few people extremely rich while they exploit our resources to sell to China at our expense. People have to come together as we all are part of this fight to save our lands.

Thank you to everyone who visited this vigil and helped to make it such a huge success in so many ways.

Jill Lyons
Casino

Water, water, everywhere – not.

Last Thursday we attended a crisis water meeting between Nimbin residents and Lismore City Council personnel at The Bowling Club. It turned out to be a meeting between Gungas Road residents and possibly one/three Nimbin residents. The Gungas Road residents were involved because the council originally served a notice to about 80 Gungas Road residents that the council was considering cutting off the town water supply and providing tanks and pumps instead. This, of course was not accepted by the residents and the current Gungas Road Action Group was formed led by Gwen Trimble. Following several local meetings and negotiations with the council, it has come down to choosing one option from three plans supplied by council. That's

what this meeting was all about and should have had about 200 people at the club.

We thought it was a great meeting, but we, also, were disappointed with the attendance particularly from the rural residents.

For the benefit of us rural residents, it must be remembered that we must demonstrate solid numbers when fronting the council, otherwise they may form an opinion that it is not an important issue and could base their decision on something other than what is important to us. This often happens with a governing body.

Although the council staff said that they didn't prefer any one option I believe that that they have one and if we are not solid in our voice, then the decision will be made for us.

It was also disappointing that village residents were also down on numbers, (perhaps 3?). This is a water problem for Nimbin, not only Gungas Road residents, therefore the village people should also be pro-active. I spoke to a number of village people before and after the meeting and the attitude was "not really my problem". I wonder who they would like to help them, if there was a monumental disaster in the town? Are the town residents going to be happy with a rates rise to pay for "our" water problem?

Lastly. The meeting was pretty friendly and I commend the attendees for their constructive questions and comments. I believe it is very important to not reach an "us and them" attitude with an opposing body. We keep calling them a "council",

but really, aren't they fellow residents of the area managing our assets? Provided this is the case, then they would also understand our issues and would probably prefer to work with us, rather than against us.

Summary. We need to shake everyone up and convince them to voice their opinion, whatever it is. You could start by obtaining a document of the options available and returning it to council ASAP. The more opinions that they get, the better they feel about the good decision they will make.

Charlie & Mavis
Brisbane & Gungas Road

On privet

Dear Mr Dawe (NGT June 12, p17), responsible land management incorporating knowledge of the vegetation, including what many call weeds, and how best to deal with each specific species, does not equate to 'idolatry' of native species. It is about helping create a healthy balance of vegetation on our farms and lifestyle properties.

I don't believe "nature has the environment in hand" in all cases. This land has been heavily used and often abused. There is little 'nature' left. *Koyaanisqatsi* – unbalanced life. Nature is way out of whack. Species that aggressively compete and form monocultures do not contribute to healthy ecosystems or biodiversity.

Small-leaf Privet, *Ligustrum sinense*, can form an impenetrable thicket, excluding all other plants, limiting access and reducing food sources for wildlife. It is not welcome on my creek bank.

Triny Roe
Nimbin

Notices

For Rent

Granny flat. Separate building in a private garden in a quiet area of Nimbin village. Recently renovated. New kitchen and bathroom. One bedroom with built-ins. Phone line. \$190 pw. Contact: 6689-0517.

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Branch of United Hospitals Auxiliaries of NSW, AGM: Friday 10th August, 11am at Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services building, 'Acacia House', Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street. Parking available on-site. All welcome; new members urgently needed. Light lunch after meeting.

Northern Rivers Greens

The July meeting will be held in Nimbin. Monday July 9th from 6pm to 8pm at Birth and Beyond, Cullen Street. Senator Lee Rhiannon attending. Visitors welcome.

Rock Valley Family Fun Day

Lock our Roads to CSG celebration, Saturday 21st July, from 10.30am at Rock Valley Hall. BBQ, cakes, local live music and more. Helpers needed, also donated cakes and salads, phone 6621-3528 or email: rockvalleygasrangers@hotmail.com

Nimbin Spirit Dance

Classes at Jarlanbah Community Centre, Tuesdays 10am – 12 (school term time) from 24th July, and every second Saturday 2-4pm (next class 7th July). This is a drug, alcohol and child free space. Bring lots of water. Contact Lisa for more info: 0428-221-290.

Unity Bhajans

Sunday 8th and 22nd July, and 12th August, 11am at Birth & Beyond, Nimbin. Enquiries contact Maria: 6633-7261.

Church Services

Combined services held every 4th Sunday of the month, 10am at St Mark's Anglican Church, Cullen Street, Nimbin. All welcome for fellowship, discussions and morning tea. For more information phone Faye Sherf, church warden, on 6689-1440.

Reply from dog-owner on skater/dog incident

RE: Skatewalk (NGT May 12, Letters, 'Mouthing Off' reply to April 12 Letter 'Safe Skateboarding'), Hey Mr Brown, 'twas how 'twas.

Footpath respect is given as it is received.

Andrea and Numina,
Green Pigeon

In Loving Memory John Shinn



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