



Members of the Nimbin community expressed their gratitude to Darcy Goodwin, a remarkable man whose mission was to “help the needy, not the greedy,” at a memorial gathering at Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Tributes were paid to his selfless dedication to the Nimbin community with his mobile soup kitchen, furniture donations, and even long-term loans of caravans to the poor, the hungry and the needy, and those just down on their luck.

Mayor Jenny Dowell was among those who paid tribute to Darcy's tireless work for the community, describing him as “a great man and a huge asset to our community.” She announced that Lismore Council's Australia Day Community Services Award will be named in his honour. Darcy was the recipient of this award in 1988.

Lismore Seventh Day Adventist Church's Pastor Keith Jackson sang a moving tribute with his daughter Kristie, and gave a commitment that the Five Loaves mobile soup kitchen would continue to operate, with assistance from the church.

Harry Westera's portrait of Darcy and his Five Loaves van, on loan from the artist, was on prominent display and is now viewable on the first floor of the Lismore Library, where Darcy had been involved as a 'Living Book'.



Peace Freeborn and his partner Harmony (pictured) take over as Nimbin market co-ordinators from September 16. Peace and Harmony are keen for a change from the 3rd and 5th Sundays, to the 4th and 5th Sundays of each month. They'd love to see you come down to the market, whether as a visitor, a stallholder or a performer and they are contactable on 0458 506 000, or by email at [peaceandharmony@live.com](mailto:peaceandharmony@live.com)

It's your market, and makes for a fantastic reason to venture into the village on a Sunday. Live music this month includes Uki favourite *Sydney or the Bush*, a great trio playing Australian Folk music.

## Aquarius calendar

Nimbin Aquarius Foundation meets every Tuesday from 2pm-5pm in the Nimbin Community School room to compile the calendar of events for 2013.

There is still time to add your event and photos for the calendar before it goes to print. We would welcome more input, especially from the many community groups.

The calendar aims to showcase the many achievements of the Nimbin community from 1973 to 2013, and to portray the evolution from a relative ghost town to a vibrant thriving community.

Email [aquariusnetworking@gmail.com](mailto:aquariusnetworking@gmail.com) Please also check our Facebook page. Nimbin Aquarius towards 2013. Click 'like' to receive updates.



by Nat Meyer

The Nimbin-Lismore Bus Extension project, funded by NSW Transport, ended on June 30, and sadly, the additional services did not reach viable passenger numbers over the 12-month project period. However, their usage levels over that time were sufficient for Graeme Waller to extend the additional afternoon bus runs for a further six months. This is due to Graeme's strong commitment to improving public transport options in this area.

Use must continue to grow, to ensure their retention at a time when fuel prices are on the rise, and cars are the source of our community's biggest carbon footprint.

So if you are headed for Lismore, think about taking the bus. With someone else doing the driving for you, you can read a book, study for that exam or listen to some music on the way.

There have been some alterations to the timetables which are available on our website [www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

Overall, the use of all services increased over the period, with use of the 5.30pm Lismore-Nimbin run being the most popular. Although the figures shown are averages and reflect the slow initial uptake (and do not reflect the actual numbers of passengers in the final month, for example),

A full bus at peak hour takes 40 cars off the road. A smaller bus, taking 20 cars off the road, is significant in terms of reduced carbon emissions and wear and tear on our roads.

they clearly demonstrate the need to significantly increase numbers to ensure the viability of some of the bus runs.

The majority of passengers were concession-fare passengers, indicating a low uptake by working people. It would seem that car culture is deeply entrenched in the community, and at this stage the perceived benefits of taking the bus do not appear to sufficiently outweigh the perceived cost and loss of convenience of taking the car.

The total number of passengers travelling on the Bus Extension routes was 2,036.

### Lismore to Nimbin

7.00am service: total passengers – 156 – Average 3/week

4.20pm service: total passengers – 208 – Average 4/week

5.30pm service: passengers – 1,040 – Average 20/week

### Nimbin to Lismore

7.30am school-holidays-only service: total passengers 60 – Average 5/week

4.25pm service: total passengers – 312 – Average 6/week

6.05pm service: total passengers – 260 – Average 5/week.

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## Homelessness an interagency issue

The Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc (NH&W), based at the Bottlebrush Studio in Nimbin, hosts the Nimbin Health & Welfare Interagency Forum four times a year. The forum aims to support community health and welfare workers in the Nimbin area to work in partnership to develop solutions to local health and welfare issues by providing networking opportunities, guest speakers and interagency updates on relevant information.

The October forum includes guest speaker Wol Zala, homelessness services coordinator with On Track Community Programs Ltd, based in Lismore and covering the Nimbin area. This will be a great opportunity to connect with Wol and learn about how On Track approaches homelessness, plus refreshments and discussion time. Please let us know if you would like to come along.

**Next Forum:** Tuesday October 2, from 2.30pm to 4pm

**Speaker:** Wol Zala, On Track Homelessness Services Coordinator

**Venue:** Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre

**Phone:** 6689-1709 (c/o Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Service)

**Email:** [jenmartinnhw@hotmail.com](mailto:jenmartinnhw@hotmail.com)

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We couldn't have asked for better weather to help the Nimbin Skate Parks first birthday bash be a huge success. With the SBA free clinic in the morning, the day got rolling, it was a great way to start the day, thank you to Dylan and SBA crew. Mayor Jenny Dowell cut the slab of chocolate cake in the morning to help celebrate, FONSK8 ran a fund raising BBQ and organised giveaways and small prizes for encouragement throughout the day. Sam Dowsett from Capers On Cullen gave us his time and great music to add more vibe to the afternoon's events. David Harris helped me organise a jumping castle



by Laurelli Anderson

which was a huge success with the younger children. The Skate Jam saw some great skating and talent in the afternoon, with some crew

from the Gold Coast showing us how it is done. In the adult open Brodie Sellars from the GC won first prize, Jacob Robinson from Ballina and Keegan Palmer from the GC also went home with prizes.

Thank you to the skate shops that generously donated vouchers and merchandising for the day, Bringabong Nimbin, Truck Stop Ballina, 36 Chambers Lismore, Byron Bay Skateboard Coaching and Pharside Murwillumbah, as well as Rob Lewers, from Concrete Skate Parks who designed and built the park, who made the effort in his busy schedule to be there on the day. It was great to see such a diverse group of people of all ages all enjoying the park, which is why it was built and why it is such a huge success and such a necessary facility for the youth of Nimbin and the broader community.

## All eyes on Tara in CSG health analysis

by Wanda Halden

As Brian Monk (pictured) and his family enter their second year of 'co-existing' with major coal seam gas operations in Tara Queensland, his grandson is recovering from yet another unexplained seizure.

Seizures, nose bleeds, skin rashes and headaches in children and adults have become common since CSG company Queensland Gas Company (QGC) commenced operating in Tara.

"A number of people living near where coal-seam-gas (CSG) exploration is occurring... are reporting symptoms that are consistent to gas exposure," Dr Rowan of the Australian Medical Association said.

There are five CSG wells inside the large Tara Residential Estates and many more surrounding it. Suspected gas leaks at these wells have contaminated at least one water bore on Brian's 5000-acre property, yet the Queensland Government



has ignored the pleas for help from the Monk family and other community members affected by suspected CSG poisoning.

Adrienne Stones from Stoney Glenn Farm in the Northern Rivers has been following the Monk family's story closely since CSG began its ugly impact on their life.

"Somebody has to care about this. These people are suffering and are now having to leave their family homes," Adrienne said.

"They have nowhere to go and no money to start again. They're essentially gas refugees. I wanted to let them know that there are people everywhere in Australia watching how they're dealt with by the Queensland

government. We're behind them.

"The health minister, Lawrence Springborg, has so far ignored these people and their suffering, and the government's lack of understanding or accountability for CSG industry impacts means this could be any one of our own kids very soon."

To date the Monk family don't qualify for compensation or support from either QGC or the Queensland government.

Adrienne has launched an online petition, 'Help the Monk family of Tara find out what's poisoning them'. She used GetUp's community petition portal [communityrun.org](http://communityrun.org) and has so far generated close to 500 signatures in support of the Monk family and the residents of Tara.

The petition asks Mr Springborg to provide a comprehensive list of the dangerous chemicals and gases the Monk family and the residents of the Tara residential estates have

been exposed to since the commencement of CSG mining in their community.

The reality is that the Monk family members face life as CSG refugees. For the sake of their family's health, well being and their right to live in peace they are about to abandon their 5000-acre farm in Kogan on the outskirts of Tara. The health implications of being forced to co-exist with CSG mining have reached a critical point for many Tara families.

Adrienne's efforts have inspired a number of CSG Free Northern Rivers campaigners.

A call for action in October is planned to coincide with the sitting of the Queensland Parliament and the National Week of Action against CSG in NSW.

The petition will be delivered to the health minister in person. You can show your support for the Monk family and sign the petition at [www.communityrun.org](http://www.communityrun.org). To be involved visit [www.csdfreenorthernrivers.org](http://www.csdfreenorthernrivers.org)

## Tweed puts pressure on candidates over CSG stance

The CSG-free Communities Initiative is rolling through the Tweed Valley, gathering pace as it goes, with the communities of Doon Doon, Mt Burrell and Kunghur the latest to declare themselves CSG-free.

"Over 96% of residents surveyed in the Upper Tweed Valley want their community to be CSG-free" Michael McNamara, from Lock the Gate -

Tweed, said in presenting the result to Tweed Mayor Barry Longland.

Mr McNamara also said that the growing community calls for the Tweed Shire to be CSG-free were putting pressure on candidates in the council elections to declare their hands.

"It is time for Council candidates to let the community know what they will do, if elected, to reflect these strong

community views. There are strong, positive actions that Councils can take to protect the community from the threat of CSG exploration and production."

"The CSG-free Communities initiative has given communities an opportunity denied to them by the government and the CSG companies - to actually have a say," Mr McNamara said.



Max Pike about to extract a 'fine' from Lismore Council Greens candidate Beth Shelley at the fundraiser.

The fundraising committee for Nimbin's Sustainability House, 'Seven on Sibley' project, struck gold with their trivia night in August, painlessly raising over \$3,500 from the entertaining evening, to bring the total donated since May to \$51,000, about a third of the total needed to repay the bridging loan for the property.

## Walking the rainbow road

by Lois Kelly

More than 30 people gathered at the Nimbin Bowling Club on 11th August to workshop their thoughts and ideas for the development of the Rainbow Road - a walking track which will serve two purposes: to give locals and visitors an interesting walk around the village, and to highlight the innovative thinking that has made our village a leader in sustainable and leading-edge technology.

This community brainstorming session confirmed three themes for the walk: early indigenous culture and spiritual awareness; white history through to Aquarius and activism; and looking to the future via sustainable and edgy alternative innovations.

A presentation by Rainbow Road designer Ross Wallace inspired all of the community members who came along to the session. Great ideas for sustainable pathways, recycled sculptural forms, alternative energy showcases showed up what



we can do to give our visitors experiences of what Nimbin is about.

Consultation and planning to date reveals there are three natural stages for the development of the project - which at this stage is estimated to span five years.

The project team will continue to consult, listen and adapt plans over the next five months. We will survey tourists to find out what special features attract them, what experiences they would like to have, what narrative would interest them?

Feedback is always welcome... with an open forum on the website. All comments and suggestions are welcome, and over the next few months concepts and features will be added as project developments.

Visit the website [www.nimbinns.au/walkingtrack](http://www.nimbinns.au/walkingtrack) for more details; or email [nimbinwalk@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinwalk@gmail.com)

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# Nimbin Holiday Club Spring Program

The Holiday Club program runs for children aged between 5 and 12. Please read the dates and venues (below) carefully and book early, to avoid disappointment.

To book, phone NNIC on 6689-1692 (between 10am and 4pm). Please note that the basic fee is \$10 per day. The day runs between 9am and 3pm.

Parents please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

This program is brought to you by Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, and is funded by NSW FaCS and is an OOSH service. The Management Committee of NNIC thanks all parents and carers for working constructively with our Vacation Care staff.

Date	Program	Cost
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Nimbin Youth Club and Mulgum Creek (weather permitting) + arts and crafts and games. Bring protective gear for skating at the park. April & Sophie	\$10
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Excursion to Protectors Falls. Signing in and out at Nimbin Central School. A sausage sizzle with a vego option will be provided. We will be taking the bush walk up to the bottom of the falls. April & Sophie	\$12
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Nimbin Youth Club and Mulgum Creek (weather permitting) + arts and crafts and games. Bring protective gear for skating at the park. Sophie & April	\$10
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink and Heritage Park. Signing in and out at Nimbin Central School. Skating followed by lunch at Heritage Park. Sophie & April	\$18.50
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Nimbin Youth Club and Mulgum Creek or Nimbin Pool (weather permitting) + arts and crafts and games. Bring protective gear for skating at the park. Sophie & April	\$10

## Move2Change coming to Nimbin

Move2Change, which has been offering low-cost exercise and healthy eating programs in Lismore and Dunoon for the past three months, is finally making its way to Nimbin.

The long awaited project is aimed at creating a healthier community through physical activity and healthy eating that is suitable for all adults, regardless of fitness, age or ability.

Classes will be available in community venues all over Nimbin, beginning in October. On offer are Heartmoves, light exercise for those with heart disease, diabetes and other related conditions; FOODcents, a nutrition program that includes modules on shopping, budgeting and cooking and throws in a healthy lunch; Beat It, a physical activity and lifestyle education program designed by the Australian Diabetes Council; and Lift for Life, a resistance training program for people with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes.

Classes are just a gold coin donation for anyone who is unemployed, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, from a non-English speaking background, over 55, a refugee, living with a disability, or a carer.

Move2Change is funded through a Federal Government Healthy Communities grant and has been busily training Personal Trainers in Lismore and Nimbin to deliver the programs.

To register, or to find out more, call Tarryn at Lismore City Council on 6625-5377 or visit [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/move2change](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/move2change)

### Nimbin Preschool



### Enrolments available now.

Preschool: Nimbin A&I Showgrounds, Cecil St.  
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## Tuntable Falls Primary School adds a Kindergarten class



In response to the growing demand for a smooth and age appropriate transition from Preschool into the Primary school years, Tuntable Falls Community School will open a new kindergarten class in 2013.

Deborah Williams is the new Kindy teacher who will take the separate Kindy class in a new classroom.

Deborah will bring with her an enthusiasm and love for the little ones, based on her experience as a primary school teacher for more than 10 years. With a background in Montessori and Steiner Education, and as a mother of three children, she will be able to nurture the needs and gifts of the children.

Parents are invited to meet Deborah at our Kindergarten Information afternoon on Thursday, 20th September at 3.30pm. Enrolments are open now. Please phone 6689-1423 for more information.

## Family Green Day

Raise your family's awareness and understanding of the impact we have on the environment at the second Family Green Day at Barker's Vale School on Sunday, 16th September.

Hear respected local guest speakers from the Richmond Land Care Group and the Rainbow Power Company; review great environmental information and products; enjoy the market stalls, delicious food, and fabulous entertainment with the local Barker's Vale Brothers and students' performances.

Your child could attend one of the fun children's workshops – Hip Hop; Ephemeral Art; Tie Dye or Banjo playing. Take a 10-minute, \$2 school tour and enter the scrumptious raffle. You could even get a massage.

Last year, Barker's Vale School's first Green Day was a huge success, raising \$1,800 for the school and enabling the purchase of raised vegetable beds, new tools, gardening books, soil and mulch.

Barker's Vale School's Family Green Day provides a great space for our community to gather and share their vision of a greener place for our children and their children, to live.

Join us at Barker's Vale School, Wadeville from 10am-3pm.

## New hours for Nimbin Optical

From this month, Nimbin Optical will no longer operate on Thursdays but will instead be open on Tuesdays between 9am and 3pm and on Fridays from 10.30am to 5.30pm (later by appointment).

For appointments, please phone Tina on 6689-0081, or drop into the Community Centre on a Tuesday or Friday and write your name in the book outside her office.

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## In your neighbourhood...



Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News  
Website: [www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

### Seven on Sibley Update

Thanks to everyone who rocked up to get fleeced by us at the very entertaining Trivia Night on Friday, August 17. We raised \$3,555.85. Special thanks to Cat Anderson for organising it all, and to everyone who helped make it a hilarious night. There will be another Trivia Night by popular demand on December 7.

A big fundraising auction will also be held on November 10, so get these dates into your diaries. If you have something really good to donate to the auction... please contact NNIC. No bric-a-brac etc. please – quality items only.

\$51,000 raised to date, with another \$96,000 to go by December to pay off the loan. That's only 96 people with \$1000. See if you can find just one for us! You can also help us raise funds (without spending a cent) by signing up so you can follow us (Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre) on Community Engine, and getting all your friends to do the same. <https://communityengine.com.au/notice/4ff503204a423109242600fa>

### Some 2011-12 Project Statistics

**Nimbin Solar Farm** – power generated from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2102 = 61,250.630 kWh (target is 61,000 per year). Target exceeded in spite of lots of rain and clouds.

**Nimbin Grain Mill** – total grain milled in the first year of operation (50 weeks) was 928 kg, with an average of 18.5kgs per week. The most popular grain milled was spelt, (almost 40%), followed by wheat.

**Nimbin CSG survey** – The survey covered almost every resident (1,830 people) of each of the 42 roads of the Nimbin Valley including the Lismore-to-Nimbin road from Terania Street, and through Boorie Creek and Goolmangar. The survey covered to the end of Stoney Chute Road, and from Nimbin to the end of Blue Knob Road, but did not include the rest of the Nimbin catchment in the Barkersvale, Wadeville and Uki areas... these are being done separately. It seems that more Nimbinites participated in this survey than in any other in history (including the census!), and over 98% indicated they are opposed to CSG development in our valley. A phenomenal effort by the roads' coordinators.

### Post Harvest Processing Equipment Library

The shed is finally up and ready at Blue Knob Hall and the library gear will be officially located there as from the start of September. Many thanks to John Bell and Paul Tait in particular, and to everyone else who helped, for getting the shed done.

### Nimbin Murals Project

NNIC will be co-ordinating some work around the murals using Local Heritage Grant funding, with the aim to get three done by the end of the funding period (April 2013). Any businesses interested in renovating/restoring their murals should contact Nat at NNIC or Peter Wise at the Chamber of Commerce.

### Food Security Project

We are going to quarterly meetings from now on. The next meeting will be in November... date to be advised next NGT.

Don't forget to get along to support the Nimbin Country Show on September 22 and 23 and check out the Sustainability Alley. There will be lots of speakers and workshops and a paddock-to-plate café. And remember to enter your best vegies and other produce into the exhibits.

*Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals, funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to community members. For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our CWWs for referrals.*

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# Nimbin Preschool News

by Kylie Kingston

## Workshop space

Along with the current construction of our new building, the community owned and run Nimbin Preschool is about to embark on the development of a new workshop space, where children and adults (including staff and family members) alike can go to, to construct and build out of wood and other materials.

We are grateful for the support in funding and development of this project that we have gained from the people at the Lismore Men and Family Centre's 'Dads in School Program', who the children have been meeting with, to discuss and plan.

This additional funding recently allowed us to walk up to Charter's Hardware to begin purchasing tools and equipment. Some of the items that the children chose from the shelves at the hardware included hammers, tape measures, pliers, screwdrivers, saws, nails and screws. We still have power tools, shelving and lots of wood on our list.

We are keen to get the preschool parent community involved in the building of

our workshop.

Regarding our new preschool building, surely it must be nearly finished. It's been over a decade in the planning and almost a year in the building. Lucky we are a patient lot. Fingers crossed, we will be in there after the next school holidays.

The opening of the new building will be a huge celebration to mark the conclusion of an enormous amount of work by many, many community members; and the beginning of a new journey for your Nimbin Preschool.

## New Garden

Following council directions and by preference, we are hoping to plant more than 20 native species in and around the new preschool grounds that in part reflect the natural diversity of our area.

We are hoping that Nimbin locals will look at their own gardens this week with an eye out for Nimbin Preschool.

If you have any bush tucker seedlings or water sucking native grasses, any self-seeders, any extra local native plants, trees, hedges, flowers, or edible plants in your garden – please consider dropping a contribution of your garden's bounty to the preschool for us to plant.



For this current beautification effort, we would really like lilli pillis, grevillias, banksias, native frangipani (to attract birds and bees), citrus, herbs, and/or seasonal produce seedlings (ie. spring lettuces and vegies). However, ideologically and otherwise, we will proudly accept all kinds.

We are happy to label the native with your name as well as the species name if you could supply this information to us on a note with your donation. Thank you in advance for your help beautifying and enriching the children's learning and play environment.

And a huge thank you to Djambung Gardens for their investment in our 'starter' garden. It continues to inspire our children's interest in self-sufficiency and sustainability.

*Stay posted for a Nimbin Preschool beautification and working bee date.*

## Childcare Centre studies animals

The children at the Nimbin Child Care Centre are right into animals and pets this term. We learn how animals live, what they eat and have a look at their skeletons on our light box.

We set up a new aquarium and all the children helped put the new environment together: clean the tank, wash the gravel, pick the water plants and slowly put the fish into the tank.

The children are learning respect for creatures and how to treat them. We read books about underwater animals that no one has heard off, we're raising day old chickens and get to meet some of the children's pets.



To join us, please come to one of our free play sessions held every Tuesday and Friday between 9.30 and 11.30am. For more information and bookings please call the Nimbin Child Care Centre on 6689-0142 and remember to book in early for the upcoming school holidays as last time we were fully booked on most days. The Centre welcomes children between 6 months and 5 years and a permanent booking is \$14 and the casual fee is \$20 per day.

## Circus fun at Tuntable Preschool



We are very lucky at Tuntable Falls Preschool to have regular circus skills sessions. Hartje Hout, our talented circus teacher, is amazing with our preschoolers.

Hartje leads the preschoolers through circus sessions starting with warm up exercises and games. We then do small group work including: climbing up ropes and learning moves high up on the Trapeze (with a large gym

mat underneath of course).

Hartje also teaches the children how to skip, using a large rope that she turns for the children. Even some of our two year olds can skip already. We think that they are very talented!

Hartje involves the children in decision making about what they would like to try and works with each individual child's ability and enthusiasm.

Lately many of our children have been particularly

enthusiastic about circus and we have observed how their confidence and skills are developing at a fast pace.

We decided to gather the children's thoughts about circus so that we can plan further for them, based on what they think. We asked the children what it is that they enjoy about circus.

These are some of their responses:

"I like Trapeze the best"; "I like skipping too"; "Angel position is fun"; "I like climbing to the top of the rope"; "My favourite is climbing under the rope"; "Hartje is amazing on the trapeze"; "Playing fruit salad is hard".

Tuntable Falls preschool is open, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during school terms for 2-5 year olds. There is a playgroup on Tuesdays from 10am – 12noon. A bus to and from Nimbin Central leaves daily.

Please call Maree or Richard on 6689-1179 or drop in, have a look and meet us.

## David Yarnall



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**OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

**Cr. Simon Clough and Marny Bonner**

Website [osf.org.au](http://osf.org.au) Authorised by Trish Clough, 90 Beadlow St West, Lismore Heights NSW 2480



## Parallel Universe

The film of the Ballina police bashing Corey Barker is shocking on several fronts.

Not just because police were caught out lying to the court in order to lock up a young Aboriginal man, but the ferocity of their attack on him really surprised me. The film shows the police attacking Corey furiously. What did he say, or do, to make them so angry? Or is it nothing to do with Corey, and just the frustration they walk with every day in their job? Hurt people hurt people. What are they so angry and nasty about?

Equally shocking is the reaction, or lack of it, from so many people I talked to in Nimbin: "Of course Mick, what did you think?" I'm not sure what I expected, but not such fierce hatred from the police, that's for sure.

"It's happened to me," said half a dozen people and not all Aboriginals. I'd heard all the stories before, usually four or five police beating up a, probably cheeky, young lad, usually up the Gold Coast, but the Kooris absolutely thought it was par for the course.

"This is what happens Mick, we grew up with it."

"But it hasn't been caught on camera before," I'd say. "Won't make any difference," was the usual cynical response. "They'll be more careful next time to make sure the footage is properly destroyed."

I'm left with several questions while we wait for the police to examine themselves and decide on a course of action. How can they not all face serious criminal charges? And how come the court now doesn't look at previous cases where evidence from any of these police has locked up others?

As Corey's mother said, he'd be locked up now except for that short piece of camera footage which exposed not just their shocking violence but their complete fabrication of evidence and efforts to pervert the course of justice.

The only difference between this and Rodney King in California, which caused riots over there when the footage was shown on television, is this is much worse. Here, we hardly blinked. How come? Spoilt to death, selfish, scared?

I remain convinced the war on drugs has undermined respect across the board. Treating any drug use as a criminal issue gives the police huge discretionary powers over everyone they encounter, anywhere and at anytime. Most particularly those who are already vulnerable.

Bad laws breed disrespect for the police as well as for other laws. Thousands of police know personal drug use should be a health issue and they are embarrassed busting people for it. It's time the Police Union took steps to start bringing respect back to the jobs of these good people who joined up to do something useful and decent with their life.

Michael Balderstone,  
Nimbin Museum

## Bush regeneration 1

I have been so inspired by Geoff Dawe's column (not to mention his letters to the editor) that my whole habitat restoration works have been put on hold.

I am now in the process of throwing out all my bush regeneration books, burning my certificates, laughing at the wealth of academics who have studied and practised land restoration for many, many years, laughing at my teachers

who must also be fools, not to mention all workers in the field, they all seem to be doing it the wrong way. Geoff is the answer, everyone is wrong except Geoff.

I have so much free time on my hands thanks to Geoff, that now I just sit back and sip lattes while watching the weeds grow, they are my friends. Actually I am so inspired by Geoff Dawes 'non' work, that I have expanded Geoff's visionary principles into Fauna as well as Flora.

I have taken up breeding cane toads, foxes and cats that I will release into the bushland to fill the niche that our native animals cannot seem to do. They will be there to 'help the land heal itself'.

Omar Cat Hart  
Wadeville

## Bush regeneration 2

Glad to see you published Mr Dawes again. One of the few who try to educate to try to save this planet, instead of purveying BS.

A tiny ray of defiance against anti-Scientism, anti-Enlightenment, and the 'dog-eat-dog' agenda of Greed (and Envy) of the NWO and its KKKriminal mates of the State.

In his own way as brave as John Pilger, a true Australian hero (to quote the title of my own ballad).

Maarten de Vries,  
Bangalow

## Bush regeneration 3

As a resident of Lillifield and as a member of its Landcare group, I feel the need to reply regarding Geoff Dawe's article 'Natural Monocultures' (NGT August 12).

Lillifield Landcare and the majority of Lillifield's residents do in no way share the views of Geoff Dawe's article relating to Lillifield and the dieback of ironbarks.

We feel the sooner we can control the lantana the better, we do not want a monoculture of privet or any other human introduced weed on our wildlife reserve.

Geoff seems to consistently deny and ignore the simple fact it is humans alone that are the cause of introduced species in Australia. The weeds did not come here naturally to help us, nor did they arrive by the hand of God, or Gaia, and thus the whole platform of his arguments are flawed from

the very beginning.

Until Geoff can accept this fact, anything he says is fictitious, and any resemblance to any tree, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

Andrew Thompson  
Wadeville

## Health services

I read Ros Fleetwood's letter in August's edition and I sympathised with her and all breastfeeding mums and bubs. It seems like the cost cutting by NSW Health Dept in the Rainbow Region is an epidemic.

On August 2 we had Chris Crawford and the member for Ballina and Minister for the North Coast Don Page trying to shove down the throats of Mullumbimby residents that having a camera link to Tweed Hospital instead of a doctor 24/7 at our emergency unit was going to be better for us. Oh yeah, we believe you, not.

With the breastfeeding clinic issue, well it's all about cutting dollars, coming from the NSW Treasury and saying to Chris and the board, cut, cut cut dollars.

If mothers don't get the right advice concerning breastfeeding their bubs, the risk of the bub being undernourished to start life off is too risky. The insidious thing about this is that the likes of Nestle, and other companies who make baby formula, may have something to do with it. I know it sounds like a conspiracy theory, but think about it. All is not what it seems in both the long and short runs – be aware, be very aware my friends.

Paul Brecht  
Mullumbimby

## Election scenarios

Most of us hippies are virulently anti-politics and heaps of us don't even vote. Why should we, when the choice is between Tweedledum and Tweedledumber?

Local council politics is different, and on 8th September we have 58 candidates to choose from in the Tweed, and even more in Lismore. The difference is that this year, the white shoe brigade of conservative collective evil are a lot more organised. Kings Forest and Byrill Creek dam will seem great compared to what will happen if they all get in.

In 2005, a few councillors were fired for corruption (the movie *Muriel's Wedding* was based on this council apparently), but then some were re-elected, along with wishy-washy wet fish like Dot Holdom and the pure crassness of Youngblutt and the developers' buddy Polglase, we now have to contend with the anti-gay unchristian christian parties like Family First (Jesus didnt eat meat OK?) and the other metamorphosed One Nation wannabees who stand for damming Byrill Creek and knocking down everything they can, so in twenty years Nimbin and Murwillumbah and the Tweed look just like the babylonian hell that is the Gold Coast.

There are also rays of hope: it seems hopeful that the Greens will get a strong majority, there is Garry Bagnall (who is showing Man of the Trees at the Regent Cinema on September 6 about local tree-planting hero Bruce Chick) and Eddie Roberts, a hero of the Eco resistance. So buy a T-shirt or some stickers or even... gasp... vote.

Or do some white magic. The future needs you.

Kippvega Whitestone  
Byrill Creek

## Sustainable development

It is interesting to read some of the comments regarding sustainable development made recently in various newspapers. One letter-writer claimed that sustainable development was 'too costly' and council should cease to expect sustainable development. In other words council should make unsustainable development as its criteria. Very interesting but... Does that mean council is on the right track with its road funding, which has been declared unsustainable by council's own finance department? No, not really.

So what does sustainable development mean? To put it simply, it's about the triple bottom line of economic, social and environmental factors.

To be sustainable, a development must adequately address all three factors to ensure that the development does not become a burden on the community, the council or the environment. It's about considering all the costs up front, not putting off the cost

## 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 elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

for others to pay at a later date. It's about the developer contributing to the social, economic and environmental effects of that development on the community.

Council has several mechanisms enacted through State Govt. legislation by which the effects of developments on the community can be accessed e.g. roads, footpaths, clearing etc. Conditions can be placed on the development that assist council to minimise the burden to the community. Certainly this adds more cost to the developer, but if the developer doesn't share in the cost to the community then the ratepayers will pay the full cost, most likely leading to a reduction in services and/or lifestyle.

Sustainable development is not about short-term economic gain. Sustainable development is about calculating all costs up-front, and not leaving those costs for future generations to pay. If the costs to the community outweigh the benefits, then the development should not go ahead. Sustainable development is about responsible development that maintains and grows the community into the future.

Cr. David Yarnall  
The Channon

## Cycle paths

I've been car free for some years now. I took this decision both to avoid the expense of car ownership, and to integrate pollution-free exercise into my life.

Cycling is both an excellent way to get to work and feel healthier about yourself. That is why the Greens are putting cycleways on the agenda at this council election. Greens councillors want Council to progress marking of dedicated cycle lanes, and

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widening of footpaths to allow for shared cycle/pedestrian access.

Who says we can't match Germany (where 10% of all trips are made by bike), Denmark (18%) or even the Netherlands (27%)? All are wealthy nations like us, where most people own cars.

We must start with small steps, and council can lead this by rolling out cycle paths that will assist our community to become healthier and greener.

Adam Guise  
Lismore

## CSG Yes or No?

There are numerous supporters of CSG: State governments (does anyone trust them?); ex-politicians on the CSG mining gravy train (bought by major CSG investment); smaller identities e.g. Lismore locals, Champion Quarries (potential subcontractors); Stuart George (queueing at the trough with council appointment, Metgasco wage and practically inadequate with thuggery tendencies); Mrs Champion's outrageous claim anti-CSG was a noisy minority; and Peter Henderson (Metgasco CEO) pesenting mistruths and self-opinionated, pretence qualifications with claims CSG being non-toxic by drinking a glass of water, which defies certified investigation and analysis by Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith of NTN and numerous other accredited science professionals.

A huge amount of money has been injected into Australia by CSG, taken up by governments and turncoat officials and directing local government. If CSG is so needed, its readily available knowledge to interested parties that CSG is not required as the mining companies say to take over fossil fuels, interested parties

can find that apart from small contributors such as Wind and Solar play only a minor part in Australia's need for electricity. Major components for power generation can be seen advancing rapidly with the ability to convert Coal Fired Power Stations (Neil Howe NR Echo 16/8/12).

Canada uses CSG in a manner as per Australia used to, tapping natural immersions, America has different mining rights – eg landowners have the right to yes or no with suitable compensation, however only a minority of the recipients live on land affected by their own CSG.

Does CSG mean jobs? If so, where are they? Only a very few are there even then not essentially for local workers. What is the promise of the future CSG? (Refer to 'A vision of the future' in the NR Echo 7/6/12, Richard Deem).

Say no to these opportunistic smash and grab artists. Thank god for Lock The Gate.

Alex Dugul  
Bungawalbyn

## Job losses exposed

Now is the time for our boardroom masters to peruse their profits. Alas, the news isn't good! "Share funds are in crisis" was reported on July 21, meaning profits are plummeting.

The boards' response almost always includes job cuts, often massive, as with Qantas. I suspect there's far worse to come, notably from BHP and Rio Tinto, who both had profit drops of around 22%. Predictable, as China loses markets while America's and Europe's economies continue to dive.

In the year prior to April, Australia's retail sector shed 26,000 full time jobs, and counting.

The commentators in the Herald's Business Day expect

more of this 'restructuring'. The devastating job losses are described as a 'hosing down' (to get rid of the filth?), or as a 'refit to suit'. No apparent concern for anything or anybody other than profits.

As is happening in nearly all of the capitalist world, profit extraction has led to the inevitable deprivation of the populace to the point where profits dwindle. The capitalists' response is to cut jobs, which further cuts market spending, further cutting profits...

Eventually, massive unemployment can't be provided for by taxes. Then it gets even worse with 'austerity', as in Greece, Italy

and Spain now, with more to come. That is where we are headed. Our capitalist system will ensure it.

Now, who believes me? Probably very few of CSG protestors. They're informed about CSG, thank goodness, but not through our popular media.

The capitalists own our popular media. The 2,800 Qantas job losses were not reported in the Herald, nor will many others be. Much of that will be reported in the Green Left or the Guardian, but who reads them?

Me. I'll pass it on, comrades, as futile as my attempts may be!  
Doug Burt  
Kyogle

## Yvette Therese Gill 1950 – 2012

With enormous sadness, we report the sudden passing of Yvette Gill, resident of Lillian Rock for the past eight years.

Yvette was born in Townsville, spent her formative years in Fiji and later moved to Brisbane and then Sydney in her early twenties. While in Sydney she met her soulmate Martin and formed a relationship that lasted over 40 years.

In the late 1970s Yvette relocated from Sydney to the Northern Rivers with the aim of providing a better nurturing environment for their two sons Brendan and Duncan. After settling in Coraki and then Dungarruba she coached the kid's football team, volunteered at the preschool and built a circle of close friends. Yvette's initial involvement with Nimbin came at this time as the Dungarruba Football Club was the first alternate football club on the Northern Rivers and along with other club members she was involved in mentoring the folks who were setting up Nimbin Headers.

Always looking for stimulation and self-improvement, Yvette studied at the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education (later to morph into SCU) and attained qualifications in computing in the days when Windows was still many years off. Yvette and family then moved back to Sydney to further her career, support Martin in his career and to provide her boys with the maximum access to education. Yvette worked in IT for many years with Telecom, Westpac and NCR before rejecting the rat race in 2001 and opting for a simpler life.

In 2004, Yvette suffered the worst thing that can happen to a mother when her son Duncan passed away. Although deeply distressed, she refused to let the cosmos overburden her and, with Martin, moved to Lillian Rock where they bought a beautiful, peaceful slice of rainforest and began their healing process.

Yvette became an active participant in the community as a Lillifield drummer, a supporter of the Nimbin Players and a volunteer at Vinnie's. In all of these activities she was a treasured friend and colleague.

Looking for even more in her busy life, Yvette joined the Nimbin Bowling Club where she not only became an up-and-coming bowler of some repute, but also threw herself into volunteering with the women bowlers and the club in general. Along with Martin, Yvette presented the weekly trivia quiz and impressed all with her charm and openness.

After six months suffering back pain, Yvette passed away peacefully on 30th August from undiagnosed pancreatic cancer, in Martin's arms. She will be sorely missed.



## About us

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**Photographers:** Sue Stock, David Lowe, Thorsten Jones, Greg Soward, Paris&Darmin  
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**Bookkeeper:** Martha Paitson  
**Website:** David McMinn  
[www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)

NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen St, Nimbin

**Next deadline:**  
Wednesday 26th September

**Email:** [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

*Responsibility for election comment is taken by the Editor.*

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# Notices

## For Rent

Self-contained granny flat for rent in Nimbin village, \$190 p.w. Contact 6689-0517.

## House-sitter/Caretaker Position Wanted

Permaculture College student (and dog) seeks position for 12 mths from Jan 2013, within 30-40mins of Nimbin, prefer rural or in villages, or nearby towns. Will consider rental cottage, light duties exchange, or caravan site. Qual/exp in hort/permaculture, farming. Mature, resp., N/S, N/D, no drugs. Refs avail. Phone Meg 0400-844-949.

## Weed Clearing

Chris and her seven goats offer thorough weed clearing – phone her for a quote. Also needs accommodation, so maybe can strike a deal? Phone 0498-481-782.

## Keys found

1. Car keys found under a tree in main street near the corner of Thorburn: Toyota car key and USB stick on a cool keyring. Describe the keyring to the Nimbin Post Office and it's yours to collect.
2. Keys found at Alternative Way, enquire at Rainbow Power Company, 6689-1430.
3. Car keys found, possibly fitting a green Ford Falcon. Enquire at Nimbin Police station, 6689-1244.

## Fire Permits

From 1st September, fire permits are required for hazard reduction burn-offs in the Northern Rivers region. Fireys anticipate a hot, dry summer, and advise extra caution. Phone brigade captains for permits – in Nimbin, Brad Soward 6689-1221. Nimbin brigade meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, new members welcome.

## WIRES course

The NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service will be conducting a Wildlife Rescue and Immediate Care course on 22nd-23rd September at Southern Cross Uni. For more info, phone 6628-1898 or visit: [www.wiresnr.org](http://www.wiresnr.org)

## T-shirts wanted

Donations of used but serviceable T-shirts sought for community project, to be transformed into a re-usable product, not cut up for rags. Please put into donation bag (feed sack) outside the Nimbin Community Centre office.

## Knitting and Crochet Sessions

Thursdays at 3pm in the Community School Green Room at the Nimbin Community Centre.

## Learn the Uke

Want to learn the ukulele and sing some great songs? Next term the Nimbin Open Learning Centre will be offering an 8-week course for all, from beginners to enthusiasts. Enrol in first week of the school term, October 10-11. Contact Meg 0429-009-594 or 6689-1719 for more details.

## Clinic Move

Registered Chinese Medicine practitioner Melissa Williamson has moved from 44 Cullen St to her new clinic at 4/66 Cullen St (rear of real estate building – down laneway). Melissa offers traditional Chinese Medicine (acupuncture, cupping, herbs, dietary therapy etc); therapeutic (remedial) massage; and Reflexology. Contact: 0431-958-443.

## Unity Bhajans

Sunday 9th and 23rd September, 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. More information: 6689-1440.

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