

# 2020 Virtual MardiGrass



The 28th Nimbin MardiGrass rally observed social distancing protocols  
 Photos: Caroline, Wadzy, Sue



## Pot protest proceeds despite pandemic

by Michael Balderstone

Home before sunset on a MardiGrass Sunday is unheard of for me, and many others. And no rubbish to clean up tomorrow, or portable toilets to load, or fences to dismantle. It's the easiest MardiGrass in living memory, no sniffer dogs or saliva testing, no roadblocks, no mud or rubbish, no police almost, because it was virtual, mostly.

The central event, the Sunday Rally, still drew a respectable crowd of social distancers and no-one cared the street wasn't lined with

cheering crowds. It was kinda peaceful, and simple. A bit like the old days!

There was a tiny march on Friday to the police station, a similar excellent 25th Opening Ceremony in Allsopp Park and an even tinier 25th Kombi Konvoy.

Sorrensen and Glover did the HEMP Olympix from their lounge rooms, and though most of us hardly knew what we were doing on Discord and Zoom at the beginning of the weekend, we knew a lot more at the end.

The talks were thoroughly enjoyable for me. Not too many people in the chat room, and we could ask

questions and get in-depth answers because you can talk as long as you like in a hired zoom room.

Hundreds watched facebook live feeds I'm told, and in time what was recorded will be on: virtualmardigrass.com

By the end of the weekend, as participants relaxed at home with their respective pipe or joint in hand, it was obvious the virtual world has distinct advantages for some of MardiGrass, and it may well evolve that the first weekend in May in the future is indeed part virtual, but there's nothing like the real thing.



Hemp Olympix torch bearer Chibo leads the 25th Kombi Konvoy.



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