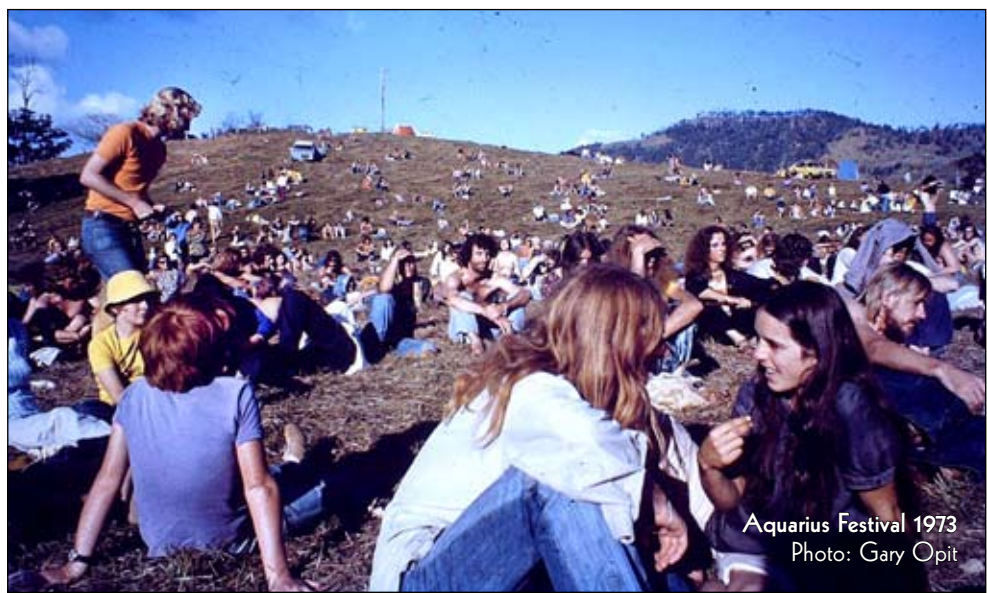


THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY



MardiGrass 2021
Photo: Sue Stock



Aquarius Festival 1973
Photo: Gary Opit

by Bob Dooley

This month is shaping up to be huge for Nimbin, with many thousands of visitors expected for the annual MardiGrass protestival and the 50th anniversary of the Aquarius Festival.

Both events promise to be engrossing and entertaining.

After a postponement last year due to the floods, the three-day MardiGrass this year has dozens of guest speakers lined up and workshops on all things Hemp, along with cabarets, comedy, poetry, art, music and even sport, though not to be taken too seriously.

A feature this year is the attendance of the five members of the Legalise Cannabis Party elected to parliament in various states, plus a similar number of Greens MPs. Several medical doctors will be speaking on recent research into medicinal cannabis.

And of course, not to be missed is the street parade on the last day featuring the indefatigable Ganja Faeries, celebrating their 30-year anniversary.

The 10-day Aquarius50 commemoration is shaping up to be bigger than Ben Hur, with each day themed for the counterculture contributions

from progressive developments in First Nations respect, community living, alternate building, holistic health and birthing, schooling and youth, environmental and farming practices, alternative energy, art and spiritualism.

The final day will focus on renewal and the way forward, facing the major challenges of climate change, war and loss of community.

Among the many dignitaries to attend (see Page 5) are the organisers of the 1973 festival as well as many of the performers, notably from overseas Philippe Petit, the French aerialist, and musician Fantuzzi.

The programme features talks,

yarns and storytelling, films, tours of farms and intentional communities, workshops, dances, fashion shows, LSD Fogg lightshows and Lighten Up streetscape illumination, as well as dinners and a Masquerade Ball.

Selected happenings will be live-streamed on the net, with a daily package of highlights.

Entry fees for Aquarius50 are payable on-line, as are some venue charges. See: www.aquarius50.com.au

Camping for both events is available at Nimbin Showground. It has a deal of \$50 for MardiGrass, which includes entry to the whole program. See: nimbinmardigrass.com

PROGRAMMES INSIDE

Full run-downs for Nimbin's two gatherings in May are included in this issue.

- For a handy small version of the three-day MardiGrass Program, see Page 18. The full-size version is in the centre of Nimbin Hemp Embassy's Pot Papers.
- The three-page pull-out for the 10-day Aquarius50 celebrations starts on Page 19. There is also a map of the venues in the village on Page 23.

A month of celebration!

MardiGrass

5th – 7th May 2023

www.nimbinmardigrass.com



Aquarius

12th – 21st May 2023

www.aquarius50.com.au



Lismore's 31st Annual

Gold, Jewelry, Gemstones, Opals, Rare Fossils, Meteorites, Healing Crystals

Gemfest

Lismore Showground

- Saturday 20th May - 9-5pm
- Sunday 21st May - 9-3pm
- Entry - \$5 per adult, \$1 per child (under 5 free)

www.gemclublismore.org.au

Kids' Activities, Food Stalls, Raffles, Lucky Gate Prizes.

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