

The Alternative Journal of the Rainbow Region



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THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Your FREE community paper

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81 Cullen Street
 Nimbin 2480
 Phone 6689-1148
 nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Colourful, engaging protestival

by Bob Dooley

Nimbin's 32nd MardiGrass had a cruisy vibe that joyously permeated the whole village during the three-day event on the first weekend in May.

Despite threats of severe storms and rabid over-policing, neither of which eventuated, an intrepid crowd attended, estimated at between five and six thousand, approaching the pre-Covid size.

Including a large number of young people, the visitors filled the Showground camping area, as well as all other available accommodation, and proved a boon to shop-keepers and the many stall-holders alike.

In the spirit of the of the occasion, many were dressed in outlandish outfits to enjoy not only the scheduled entertainments but also the vibrant street scene, with lots of street musicians, drummers, face-painters and product demonstrators.

There was a full program of comedy, music, dance, art, fashion and poetry on the bill, and



The Gunja Faeries lead the Sunday afternoon parade in front of several thousand cannabis law reform supporters.

there were games to be played, from skateboarding to chess to bong-throwing and joint-rolling competitions.

Adding to the ambience, a Hari Krishnas group danced and chanted their way around the village.

But the centrepiece of the gathering was the series of Hemposium talks and panel discussions on everything hemp-related: medicinal, industrial, recreational and legal, including Roadside Drug Testing.

Among these, there was a great

deal of optimism from the half-dozen sitting politicians from the Legalise Cannabis Party and The Greens, with audiences taking heart in the promise of a Drug Summit to be conducted in NSW, and the Federal motion to legalise cannabis, moved by Greens Senator

David Shoebridge, which is heading for its second reading stage.

There was also a great deal of interest in the current university trials of psychedelic mushrooms currently being tested in therapeutic approaches to treat a range of psychiatric disorders.

Although the soggy conditions underfoot turned pathways over grass into quagmires, and made camping conditions rather trying, this did nothing to dampen the high spirits of visitors and locals alike.

All in all, this year's MardiGrass was inclusive, welcoming, friendly and very very happy.

And it appears that it will cover costs.



Lismore's 32nd Annual Gemfest

Lismore Showgrounds
 18th May 9am - 5pm
 19th May 9am - 3pm

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Event Info: www.lismoregemfest.com.au

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