



THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

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Skate park frustration at indecision

A member of The Village Residents Action Group has had live ammunition placed in her letter box. She fears she is being threatened because of her objection to skatepark noise which she says is at an unacceptable level.

The Village Residents Action Group have successfully stalled the opening of the skatepark until some kind of noise mitigation is installed. The group are lobbying to have the skatepark relocated to a non-residential part of town.

Members of the group say their health is being affected by stress from the undue criticism and the scrutiny they have received since raising their objections with the Nimbin Community Development Association (NCDA). One member of the group has long battled leukaemia while another was taken to hospital this week with breathing difficulties.

The skatepark was built with labour from the work for the dole scheme and is now in the running for the Prime Minister's Award for the best work for the dole project.

The Village Residents Action Group say such an award may legitimise what they believe is an unsatisfactory situation.

This week further sound testing has been conducted. Sound engineers recorded sound levels, while skaters used the ramp, for an entire day from several vantage points,



including the backyard of one of the members of The Village

Residents Action Group. Meanwhile skaters are



Skate on. Top flight skaters like Tim (pictured) revelled in the park being open for a day while Greg Alderson, acoustic engineer, took readings.

becoming increasingly frustrated as the now finished skatepark remains off limits until the issue has been resolved.

Franco, a well respected local skater, says he sympathises with the Village Residents Action

Group but also feels the whole situation is getting out of hand. He believes the solution is to enclose the sporting facility. "That way", he says, "you take care of the noise problems but it also means that we can skate during the rainy season"

Both sides of the debate are eagerly awaiting the results of new round of sound testing along with the engineers' recommendations for noise mitigation, which will be made public as soon as they are received.

Cameras are coming...

An allocation of \$70,000 has been made for five surveillance cameras for Nimbin in the Lismore Council draft budget on public exhibition for consultation.

According to Bill McDonald, council's traffic and law enforcement co-ordinator, the equipment has been ordered and will be installed and running by the end of June.

The four cameras in Cullen Street and one in Sibley Street will use a wireless system for monitoring at Nimbin police station 24 hours a day.

Bill McDonald said "The locations have been chosen in close consultation with business and police to provide the optimum coverage."

The system allows for expansion and the draft budget allows for \$5000 per annum for ongoing maintenance costs.

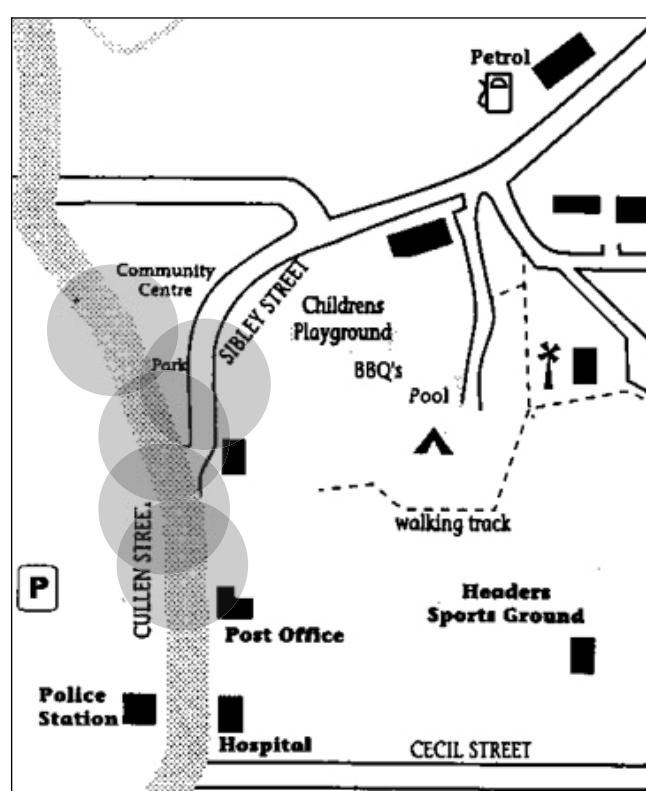
The cameras were initially proposed by the stakeholders of the Nimbin Special Business Levy who saw them as a tool that police and council can use to resolve crime.

With 24/7 video

surveillance available to police, which can be used as admissible evidence, it is thought that the need for eyewitnesses to come forward may no longer be necessary.

Other members of the community find the installation of cameras an 'ironic intrusion' into a village renowned for its alternate values.

Experience from the cameras operating in the Lismore CBD shows that instead of halting criminal behaviour, it simply moves on to other locations out of range of 'big brother'.



Smile. The approximate area (shaded) to be watched by the cameras. Will crime simply move elsewhere? Map by Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

Inside:



• Mellow minister



• Dance spice

• Wouldn't you rather a surprise?