

Nimbin Chainsaw Massacre

After being witness to your destructive effects on our community I can stay silent no more. The death and destruction is of shocking proportions. You call this maintenance on your coal carrying power lines, which are also now carrying green power from the sun. Go solar !

I and a lot of other people are appalled by your actions. You claim to be green and have environmental credentials; I have proof (photos of destruction) to prove otherwise. While everybody understands that trees and powerlines are a bad mix we don't understand your application of your environmental standards.

I was witness to three weeks of cutting mature trees to the base for a power line, two skinny little wires to feed one house. These trees are obviously around 20 to 30 years old. If you people are trying to keep yourselves in a job, you are killing the only thing that keeps you in a job: trees. As I told your workers on our property, do not kill the trees, trim them, leave them alive and come back next year.

And as for the use of Roundup on power easements and people's properties, Roundup kills human body cells within 24 hours diluted over 100,000 times (Monsanto French court case October 2009). It is also responsible for the death of soil and water organisms. I stated this to your workers who told me it is harmless. I then told them to have a drink of, course they refused. So I told them no Roundup and you can just trim our trees, thanks.

These people feed on



Wedding Bells

Rob Carroll and Lisa Green were married at their home by Debbie Guest on 29th May, and also making it a combined birthday for Rob who turned 51.

The after party was at Hanging Rock Hall, with most people turning up not knowing they had just been married. It was a very happy night for all.

people's ignorance of rights on their own properties. Your property, your rules. Let them trim and send them on their way. The destruction you, the Councils and the loggers are causing in our community is your liability.

We have the evidence against you and unless you all change your ways you will be guilty by intent as you know what you are doing and you know it is wrong. So I say to the corporate greed mill, get real: be who you claim to be, green!

Robert Carroll
President, Nimbin
Environment Centre

Logging breaches by Forests NSW

The Clarence Environment Centre is seriously concerned at the discovery, by expert ecologists for the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA), of more major logging breaches in the biodiversity rich Doubleduke State Forest, north of Maclean.

The report that about six hectares of forest have been logged without any mark-up by Forests NSW is outrageous, and shows they believe themselves to be above the law.

This is exactly the type of thing that we reported as occurring in other compartments of the same forest earlier this year,

but have yet to receive any response from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water in respect to those allegations.

It is a clear legal requirement that Forests NSW mark up compartments prior to logging, not after, so under the circumstances, we fully support NEFA's call to the Environment Minister, Mr Sartor, for an immediate halt to logging at Doubleduke, pending a full investigation into all aspects of the current logging.

John Edwards
Honorary Secretary,
Clarence Environment
Centre

Council cars

I am very disappointed that Lismore City councillors decided to spend \$700,000 on 21 new cars and utes for staff, even though the council budget is in deficit.

Every year, Council is approached by residents needing footpaths for children to walk to school and every year Council says no. This year Council was asked to spend \$40,000 for cleaning asbestos out of the City Hall ceiling so routine plumbing and electricity maintenance can occur. Council said no but yes to spending \$46,000 replacing

the general manager's three-year old Holden Statesman.

Council said no to removing a dangerous water-filled sand pit from a preschool (\$10,000), and also scrapped the youth activities grant (\$20,000) which funded worthwhile projects like breakfast at a local primary school. Council has reduced funding for cycleways and roads; water and sewer infrastructure is tens of millions of dollars behind being satisfactory, but Council is following best practice in fleet replacement.

I think decisions like this do not benefit the community and we need to think carefully about whether providing staff with brand new cars to drive home at the end of the day is appropriate use of scarce Council resources.

Vanessa Ekins
Lismore City councillor

In Memorium – Nimbin CTC

As discussed and determined at a meeting of the CTC Nimbin Inc Management Committee, on Thursday 3rd June, the association is no longer viable.

Consequently the Management Committee passed a special resolution to voluntarily wind up and cancel the registered association as per the NSW Department of Fair Trading's guidelines.

This process, including the distribution of surplus property, is vetted by the NSW Department of Fair Trading.

The Nimbin CTC Inc Management Committee wishes to thank all our clients for their support over the years.

Roy Radle
Co-ordinator

Notices

For Sale

- **Business** Chantico's Natural Cordials, wholesale business and market stall, phone Chantico, 0428-337-068.
- **Car** Subaru Outback 1996 auto, tow bar, very good condition, \$7,500 ono. Ph 0427-336-910.
- **Caravan** 16ft Jayco Pop Top, gas hot plates and oven, 2 way fridge, awning, stabiliser bars. Good condition \$7,500. Phone 0427-336-910.
- **Motorcycle Jacket and Pants** DriRider Extreme, black and grey, PC, all weather with removable inner liners. Jacket – size 12/DS, chest/bust 86cm, \$200; Pants – size 46/36XS, \$150. Phone 6689-0001.

To Let

Nice room for rent very close to Nimbin, gorgeous views, young person OK, must be working or studying, \$100 pw incl water, elec plus bond. Phone 6689-1087 for more info.

Wanted to Buy

Wardrobe wanted for Ganja Faerie costumes, must be solid and lockable, contact Chantico, 0428-337-068.

Job for Local Artist

Nimbin Solar Farm project needs signs made for six host sites, NNIC and RPC. The Solar Farm is an exciting development for Nimbin, putting us in the spotlight as the solar capital of Australia. Paid contract work – send CV/portfolio to Nat at Neighbourhood Centre, 71 Cullen Street Nimbin, 02 6689-1692.

Meetings

- **Lismore Jazz Club Inc Annual General Meeting**, Thursday 15th July, 6pm at Lismore Bowling Club. \$20 annual membership fee now due, payable at meeting.
- **Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP) Party Annual General Meeting** Friday 16th July, 5pm at the Hemp Embassy, Cullen Street Nimbin.

Events

- **Nimbin Markets– 18th July** Relax under the shade of our tree-filled avenues of stalls, listen to live music, feast your eyes, pick up a bargain or a hand crafted gift, and feast on some yummy food. Stallholders and buskers contact 0429-194-248 or markets@nimbincommunity.org.au
- **Lismore LEP** Anyone concerned with the future of Peace Park should request that it be reclassified from Operational to Community. Submissions can be made to council@lismore.nsw.gov.au or to the General Manager, PO Box 23A, Lismore 2480. Closing date is 29th July.
- **Pub Deck opening** Grand Opening of the new deck at the Nimbin Hotel, Sunday 1st August. Alfresco cocktail bar, delicious free finger food and live music. Come revel in the celebrations.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Nimbin Craft Gallery was founded in the iconic 70's as a retail outlet for local artists and craftspeople, and has continued to fulfill this role for over thirty years.

It has continued to grow during this time and is now a thriving business with a guaranteed income.

The three partners need to sell our lovely enterprise and would love to hear from anyone or any group interested in taking up this great opportunity.

We are located right on the main street, next door to the Nimbin Hotel, and are open 7 days a week. Drop in and have a chat to us, or call us on 6689-1375, AH 6689-0345.

Nimbin continues to grow, and this is a fantastic chance to own this business.

About us

Editor: Bob Dooley

Assistant Editor: Sue Stock

Layout: Jo Evans, Bob Dooley

Photographers: Sue Stock, Pam Bourne, Len Martin, Sue Adler, Pixie the Builder, Wadzy

Distribution: Angus, Sue, Coralie, Ben, Hilary, Gabrielle & Warren (Bellingen), Dave (West End), Matt (Glebe).

Bookkeeper: Martha Paitson

Website: David McMinn

www.nimbingoodtimes.com

NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.

Next deadline:
Wednesday 28th July

Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

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Goodbye Nimbin

by Gloria Constine

It's thirty years since I first arrived in Nimbin on holiday from Melbourne. Two years later, I settled on the Tumble Falls community and shortly after I started helping at the *Nimbin News*. It has been a long and sometimes torrid affair, but overall very satisfying for me.

Over the years there have been many transformations including office location, volunteers and name changes of the periodical. We published under the banner of *The Nimbin Magazine* until two years ago when Peter Pedals, the original founder, took on the compilation at home, helped by Sophia Hoebe and Harry Neville. We changed the name back to *Nimbin News* then and it comes out quarterly now, rather than every two months.

I must have worked with hundreds of people over this time and I want to thank every one of you for your talents and dedication to the cause. I especially want to thank Graham Ferguson, Len Harper, Peter Chaplin and Tamaso Lonsdale (who as well produces the *Beyond the Rainbow* literary magazine) for their friendship and consistency.

My passion has been to supply a vehicle for the community to give voice to their concerns and aspirations; to give information about subjects that don't make the news or the papers in the mainstream media. The new look *Nimbin News Quarterly* has more local commentary, with a focus on political, social and environmental issues, and is still a great read.

I think one of our best decisions, back then, was to make the *Nimbin Magazine* a free publication, which meant our distribution went from around 300 up to 2000 now, depending on the advertising income.

Speaking of advertising, I'd like to thank our advertisers who have sustained us all this time, and introduce Kala, a new volunteer, who is already working in this area.

The last eight issues have been less busy for me as I now only deal with the many



Image from Nimbin News 'Gloria's Rave'

jobs performed in the office, which are not compilation-based.

But, and this is one point of this article; I'm embarking on a Sea Change, after living the Tree Change for so long. It seems funny to be chased out of my home by ants – jumping ants in fact. If you've read *Nimbin News* over the years you would have noticed, in Gloria's Rave, my physical distress when stung and my increasing allergy has now become life-threatening, hence my need to leave.

You'll see me around town while it's cold and they're less active, but come spring and the warmer weather, I'll be off to the beach. I will be visiting of course, but will no longer be working on NN, so, I'm asking for someone to replace me in this interesting volunteer activity of helping to publish the NN.

Our office is comfortably situated in Nimbin's Community Centre. It is not hard work, but office skills and consistency would help, and while I'm still here I'll show you the ropes.

Whadayereckon? Is there someone out there wanting to help the NN? Please contact the office on 6689-1184 and leave a message if I'm not there and I'll phone you back.

So it's 'au revoir' from me. I'll miss colourful Nimbin and all the good people here; my community, my hand-built home and having my family close by, and I look forward to my new life, new interests and hopefully find friends to play scrabble with.

I won't be too far away, and I daresay there will be visits from my friends in Nimbin. And I'll keep on writing and place my renditions wherever they are welcome.

Good luck world, good luck Nimbin and good luck me in these 'very interesting times'.

Timor's Gas – Clawback or Payback?

by Warwick Fry

After the shakedown comes the clawback. East Timor's relations with Australia reads more and more like a morality tale. *Shakedown* is the title of the book written by Paul Cleary describing Australia's bullying, and at times thuggish tactics in getting far more than its fair share of the oil and gas in the Timor Gap. In fact, Australia came close to getting virtually all of it.

Fortunately, due to the efforts of some left wing Labour politicians working with Timorese representative (now President of Timor Leste) Jose Ramos Horta, the UN refused to recognise the Indonesian 'sovereignty' over East Timor, but the Hawke government, fawning over the 'Indonesian Lobby' in DFAT with the Foreign minister of the era, Gareth Evans, sealed a deal of dubious legitimacy in international law, with the Indonesian government, over the 'Timor Gap' gas and oil reserves.

East Timorese independence was a big monkey-wrench in the works, and it put the international arrangements between Australia and Indonesia into a spin that – well ... drew a bit more international attention than Timor Leste had attracted (apart from human rights activists) previously. Paul Cleary's book documents how the Australian government tried to bully the East Timorese into passing the former (internationally illegitimate) agreement with Indonesia, on to the newly independent Timorese, that gave the Australian government rights to gas and oil exploitation that were frankly, unacceptable under international conventions.

Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao's

recent broadsides against the Australian government have been variously interpreted. But few media commentators acknowledge the history of Australian bastardry in its relations with Timor Leste.

PM Xanana lashed out recently with a series of attacks on Australian treatment of East Timor. He even goes so far as to bring up the actions of the Australian 'Sparrow' Force in World War Two that brought down heavy Japanese reprisals on the East Timorese. Observers put this down to Xanana's sometimes 'erratic' style and a tendency to posture. Others attribute it to an attempt to shore up weakening support for his government in East Timor. Jose Ramos Horta's recent visit to Australia was probably timed to smooth some ruffled diplomatic feathers.

But there could be method in Xanana's 'eccentricity'. The row is part of the continuing discourse of who really benefits from the gas reserves in the Timor Gap, and even the Timorese PM's political opponents are with him on this one.

When Woodside Petroleum decided to develop one of the larger gas fields, they were hoping to build the refinery in Darwin. The Timorese pointed out that Timor Leste was much closer. Woodside responded that there was a large seabed trench that negated the geographical proximity of Timor. After a year Woodside opted for an experimental floating refinery on the gas field itself. The Timorese objected to this proposal claiming that the seabed pipeline to Timor had not been properly studied. Independent research organisation Lao' Hamatuk agree, and even some Australians point out that the

surge in development and employment opportunities in Timor would ultimately be to Australia's benefit too, in terms of greater stability and easing of the Australian aid burden to Timor in the future.

Under the terms of the Gap Treaty, all parties have to agree to the development of any of the 'shared' resource fields. This means that if Timor Leste is not convinced, the Timorese government can effectively block the development of the field indefinitely.

And therein lies the crux of the matter. In the next decade or so the current Gap Treaty expires and the seabed boundaries will have to be renegotiated. It would be to Timor Leste's advantage to simply leave the gas in the seabed, steadily appreciating in value, and renegotiate the Treaty from a position of much greater strength than they were in formerly.

The current treaty was negotiated with the Timorese under great duress. It was during the first years of independence when the country had been virtually razed to the ground by the departing Indonesians. Money was urgently needed for reconstruction. The Australian negotiators exploited this urgent, indeed desperate need to force the Timorese to accept less than their fair share of the oil fields, while themselves refusing to accept the arbitration of the UN that would have delayed development for several more years.

Now that some of the benefits of the current development are starting to trickle into the country the Timorese aren't so easily subjected to this kind of economic blackmail. It is they who can now afford to play the waiting game and redress the balance.

Film Screening:

We Are Not Afraid!

A documentary of the Honduran coup

We Are Not Afraid! documents the first months of the brutal coup in Honduras on 28th June last year. Two million Hondurans came out onto the streets in protest, and were ignored by the mainstream media.

Katia Lara and Carlos del Valle grabbed their cameras last June and started shooting: "protesters gathered on the Tegucigalpa streets, soldiers firing live rounds into crowds." (GlobalPost, see <http://axisoflogic.com/artman/>



publish/Article_60178.shtml)

A year later and Katia Lara, working in exile, has released a devastating documentary. You can see it first here in Nimbin, with English subtitles, at Djanbung Gardens on Friday 23rd July. Warming soup and hot drinks available from 6pm for the 7pm screening.

Katia Lara insists that the film is strictly not for profit, so admission will be by donation to cover costs, and to send donations to the Honduras National Resistance Front.

Lismore Council LEP 2010 – 1 Month Until Submissions Close

Lismore City Council's Draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010 is open for public comment for 1 more month. This plan may affect what land owners can or cannot do on their land.

Council is urging all residents to consider how this document may affect them and the City and to make a written submission about their concerns or support before 29th July, 2010.

For more information about the draft LEP visit Council's website at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au or phone Council on 1300 87 83 87 and ask for a Strategic Planner.



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Janelle's Page

by Janelle Saffin, MP

There have been some dramatic developments since my last column, with Julia Gillard now our Prime Minister.

For two and a half years I was in the ear of the previous Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, about the needs of the Page electorate. I also have a good relationship with Julia Gillard and have already started to get in her ear on local issues.

While I join many women in celebrating this milestone, our first female Prime Minister, more important than gender is the fact that we have in Julia Gillard a strong, intelligent and competent leader who is also known for her wit, warmth and compassion.

I share the Prime Minister's passion for education and the other values that drive her as expressed in her first speech as leader. I include an excerpt here:

"I will dedicate my abilities to what I believe in. A nation where hard work is rewarded and where dignity of work is respected. A nation which prides itself on the excellence of its education system. Where government can be relied upon to provide high quality services for all Australians. A strong Australia respected as a global force for progress, for peace and tolerance. A democracy for the world to admire." – Julia Gillard, 24th June 2010.

Mining Tax breakthrough

The Prime Minister promised to get to work on negotiations for mining tax reform and with Treasurer Wayne Swan and Resources Minister



Janelle with Prime Minister Julia Gillard

Martin Ferguson, announced a breakthrough agreement on 2nd July.

I am very pleased that the mining tax is settled, so that the Australian people can get a better and fairer share of the wealth, given the resources we own in common, which can only be dug up once.

The fact that a negotiated settlement was reached puts paid to the fear campaign and demonstrates that a change to the mining tax regime was needed and that we shall all benefit through this key economic reform.

New incentives to bring doctors to our region

There is good news for Page with the new Australian

Government initiatives now being rolled out that will attract and keep doctors in our local area.

The Australian Government is investing is a total of \$134.4 million to encourage doctors to relocate and stay in rural areas as part of the Rural Health Workforce Strategy.

The Government has changed the classification of rural and remote areas and now Lismore, Alstonville, Ballina, Wardell and Wollongbar have been included in the list of areas that can offer incentives to attract and keep GPs.

I lobbied for these local centres to be included and worked with local doctor Andrew Binns to push for these changes which have now been delivered.

These incentives benefit all residents of Page by encouraging more doctors to move here, as well as keeping local GPs in the area.

Janelle.

Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street
Lismore
Phone 1300-301-735

Australia's first Paid Parental Leave Scheme

by Justine Elliot, MP

For the first time, Australia has a national Paid Parental Leave Scheme.

The Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme legislation passed the Parliament on 17th June. It was an historic day for Australian families, who have been waiting decades for paid parental leave.

That wait will be over on 1st January 2011.

The government funded Paid Parental Leave Scheme will provide eligible working parents with financial support so they can spend those important early months with their newborn baby, giving babies the best start in life.

From 1st January next year, eligible parents will receive 18 weeks Parental Leave paid at the Federal minimum wage, currently \$570 week.

People on the North Coast will be able to lodge claims for Paid Parental leave with the Family Assistance Office from 1st October this year.

If you would like more information on the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme, please contact my office or visit the Department of Families' website at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au>

Helping residents remain independent and in their homes

I recently announced an additional funding package for Home and Community Care Services across New South Wales, with services on the Far North Coast to receive more than \$990,000 in additional funding.

Local service, the Nimbin Health and Welfare Association, will receive \$14,000 for modifications to its premises.

The Home and Community Care program provides affordable and accessible care to assist older people, people with a disability and their carers to remain living independently in their homes and communities.

The services delivered



Justine with Prime Minister Julia Gillard

through the program make a real difference to the daily lives of people in our community and this funding will help many people continue to live in their homes, close to family and friends.

Comprehensive support for Pregnancy, Birth and Baby just a phone call away

The Australian Government is providing more support for women and their families, with a new, enhanced national 24 hour Pregnancy, Birth and Baby Helpline.

We understand how important it is for parents and families to have access to quality information, as well as the compassion, support and understanding that is often needed during pregnancy and when you have a new baby.

Local women, their partners and their families can call the Helpline for information and advice about pregnancy, birth and the first 12 months of a baby's life.

The service offers information and counselling on a wide spectrum of topics, including issues such as nutrition for mothers and babies, relationship support, health care options and

breastfeeding. The helpline is also a resource for women who experience a loss at this crucial time.

The service can also refer to or provide information on other organisations with special areas of expertise.

This free service is provided by Royal District Nursing Service, an independent charitable organisation.

I am proud that the Australian Government has introduced this important service for local women and their families. The Helpline can be reached on 1800-882-436

Celebrating a Milestone?

If you or a family member are celebrating a milestone 90th or 100th birthday, or a 50th or 60th wedding anniversary I can help organise congratulatory messages from the Prime Minister and in some cases the Governor General and the Queen. Please contact my office on 1300-720-675 for further details.

Justine.

Member for Richmond
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Simon says...

by Simon Clough
Lismore City Councillor



I'm delighted that Australia has a woman Prime Minister. I'm still doing a little double take when the news refers to the PM as "she". It's great to see a representative of a minority (and sometimes oppressed) group getting the top job. I am of course referring to redheads, of whom I count myself (though a little faded with age). I do hope that the new PM will grasp the climate change issue and take up Prof. Ross Garnaut's proposal supported by the Greens to place an interim tax on carbon emissions. For me it's a real test of her credibility.

At the last Council meeting I put forward the recommendation that the Nimbin skate park go ahead at the Peace Park. It was unanimously approved by Councillors. I know there were concerns about the skate park taking up the limited green space, however it was the preferred location of those surveyed. The "showground" site was considered impractical and strongly opposed by the police and Nimbin Child Care Centre. I believe some of the concerns with the loss of green space will be overcome when the Nimbin Community Centre Inc. removes the old skate park and the area can be landscaped. I must admit I had a chuckle when I saw 53% of respondents made further comments on the survey. Only in Nimbin would you get that degree of community engagement!

I have just returned from a *Future of Local Government* conference in Melbourne organised by the Municipal Association of Victoria. It was inspiring to be with a group of local government representatives who are wholly committed to protecting their communities from the worst impacts of climate change and peak oil. Local government in NSW seems a long way behind in its thinking on these critical issues.

Nimbinites may be interested to know I had a meal with Russell Anderson, while in Melbourne. Russell is formerly from Nimbin Community Radio and did aid work in East Timor establishing community radio. Russell is currently Executive and Policy

Officer with the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council. Russell is well and as usual seems to be putting an enormous amount of energy into his work.

Sometimes things just "fall into place" regarding Council. I had a wonderful experience of that today. A person rang me regarding an extensive clean up of the Nimbin Rocks he has carried out. He requested that Council come and pick up this large amount of garbage. I referred him to Council's Waste Education Officer, but advised him not to get his hopes up. Today I discovered that Council, along with the Aboriginal Land Council, has just received a significant grant from the state government to clean up some local communities, including the Nimbin Rocks. So our good Samaritan's work has not been in vain, as the resources are now available to collect the garbage. Ah, synchronicity!

It's hard to think of any lighter moments in Council recently. The budget setting tends to bring out the serious side of everyone. Not surprising with a significant budget deficit and no money to fund important community priorities.

I was disappointed that Council refused \$5,000 for the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce to get started on the restoration of the Nimbin murals, which benefits the whole of the community in terms of tourist numbers.

Thinking of "lighter moments", Trish and I attended the Lantern Parade again this year. What an event! There were people from all over the country, of all ages and types, all joined by the magic of the glorious lanterns. You can certainly see why it has become Lismore's signature event.

*May you all be warm and happy.
Please contact me any time on
6624-2894 or 0428-886-217
(I have a new mobile that is so
complex only a child can operate it!)
or simonclough@internode.on.net*

From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell
Mayor of Lismore
Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Well winter is upon us but spring is in sight. Having passed the winter solstice in the warm glow of thousands of lanterns in the Lismore Lantern Parade, the days will gradually start getting longer again. How lucky are we to live in this wonderful area with sunny winter days. As I write this I have been out visiting three of our local schools to see their sustainability programs, to participate in NAIDOC week celebrations and to welcome school netballers from six states and territories. All groups were enjoying our winter sunshine.

The first week in July is school holiday time and NAIDOC week. I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to all the schools that are celebrating NAIDOC week and honouring the Unsung Heroes of this year's theme. I also hope that school students and teachers have a rejuvenating break for the next two weeks.

SkatePark
I know that Nimbin students are very excited as the Skatepark design develops. I have received messages from several young people and parents to say that Concrete Skateparks, the successful tenderer for the work, are really listening to the skaters in their design process.

At Council's June meeting, we considered but dismissed the suggestion that the Skatepark should be built at the entrance to the Showgrounds. Concerns that were raised were the lack of natural surveillance, proximity to a dwelling and child care facility and the distance from the town centre.

Early in July, Richmond MP Minister Justine Elliot will see the Peace Park site and concept plans. Work is planned to commence in September for a December completion, weather permitting.

Budget
June is also Budget time and, as always, many hours are spent by Councillors and staff in bringing in a budget that is fair, well-considered and responsible. Some additional costs for the coming year such as increased legal fees to defend the decision to refuse the Champions Quarry expansion have had an impact. As

a result, some things have been trimmed and others have been 'parked' in a list to be funded if and when additional money is available. One of these parked items is a new Lismore, Nimbin and Villages visitors booklet. In the budget there is money for a touring or driving guide map to link the region. Nimbin is sure to have a prominent place.

Federal and Local Governments
All readers will be aware of the tumultuous changes in leadership in Canberra in recent times. Fortunately Minister Anthony Albanese retains his portfolios of Local Government, Regional Development, Transport and Infrastructure- all Ministries that relate directly to Councils.

I am fortunate to be on the Australian Council of Local Government's Steering Committee, chaired by Minister Albanese that was formed in November 2008. We met again in Canberra in June along with over 400 Mayors and Shire Presidents from all around the Nation. The ACLG has forged a new partnership between these two levels of government and has also led to the successful Regional and Local Communities Infrastructure Program. Lismore has received almost \$4.3 Million from RLCIP including the \$449,000 for Nimbin's Skatepark. It is widely acknowledged that the RLCIP is the shining light in Australia's infrastructure and jobs program to combat the GFC.

While in Canberra, I took the opportunity to suggest to the Minister and our local MPs that the home insulation program and the school building program could have been managed and delivered more effectively by Local Government.

Also announced in June was \$250,000 for an education campaign on the need for Constitutional Recognition for Local Government. This important move will assist in getting a Yes vote at a future Federal election and legitimise direct grants from the Federal government to Councils.

RCLIP Round 3
Unexpectedly at the ACLG meeting, Minister Albanese announced Round three of the RLCIP with Lismore City Council set to receive another \$449,000. At our July meeting



Councillors will decide on the preferred project. We have several projects in the Delivery Plan post the current budget that could be funded via this program. The money cannot be used on roads, cycleways beside roads, maintenance or programs in the current budget.

SRV Debrief
Readers may remember the community consultations that Council held to discuss the proposed Special Rate Variation. Council decided not to proceed with the application for a rates increase for residential properties but has applied to the Minister for Local Government for a 0.44% in the rates paid by urban businesses.

The process of debriefing following the consultations has resulted in a commitment to do some things differently. Our communication to residents will be enhanced and Councillors are also considering new ways of engaging directly with residents. In time, you might see us at the Nimbin market or in the mainstreet and available for face to face meetings. Stay tuned.

Library
Over the past few weeks there has been some unwarranted concern over the future of the Richmond Tweed Regional Library. In short, legal advice indicated that the management structure did not comply with the Local Government Act. All Councils agreed on a new model that is being implemented by Lismore Council. There will be no changes to the libraries or to the mobile library that is so loved in Nimbin and other villages.

Police Tower
Recent communication from the Assistant Commissioner of Police indicate that the Police will reconsider the need and site options for a communications tower in Nimbin. Again, stay tuned.



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Greens announce Federal candidate for Richmond

Joe Ebono is back – running for the seat of Richmond in the forthcoming federal election – building on the 12,000 votes won by The Greens at the last federal election.

That 15.1% makes Richmond the sixth greenest seat in the nation. Only Denison in Tasmania, Batman and Melbourne in Victoria and Grayndler and Sydney in NSW have more Greens voters.

With the ALP on 35%, a ten percent swing from the ALP to the Greens would see Joe neck and neck with the Minister for Aged Services, Justine Elliot.

Joe Ebono is a publisher, broadcaster and performer who previously stood as the Greens candidate in Richmond in 2007. During the last campaign Joe said that the major reason he ran for office was that all laws are made by politicians and unless there are good politicians we will continue to have bad laws.

“Community consultation is at the core of Greens policies,” Joe said. “Aged care,



The Senator, the Mayor, and the Candidate.
Lee Rhiannon, Jan Barham and Joe Ebono at the Greens State Delegates Conference in Mullumbimby.

overdevelopment, employment and a sustainable future are key issues concerning people living in northeast NSW.”

He said that his passion was to create a sustainable future for the people of Australia and he thinks that the people in the hinterland of the Richmond electorate have done a lot of work to develop solutions for a sustainable economy.

“Green businesses,

organic farmers and green thinking householders are showing how to live well in a sustainable, robust fashion,” he said.

Joe ran the popular radio show *The Generator* on Bay FM, showcasing sustainable solutions, and has published a number of books on living sustainably.

“I will be campaigning hard for a sustainable future for the northeast NSW,” he said.

Ballina councillor preselected as Greens candidate for Page

Jeff Johnson is The Greens’ candidate for the Federal seat of Page, which includes the major towns of Lismore, Ballina and Grafton. Jeff has been a Greens Councillor on Ballina Council since 2008.

Jeff is 34 and grew up in Sydney. He has lived in the region for 11 years. In his spare time he enjoys going to the beach, playing the guitar, bushwalking, and playing squash.

Jeff holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Cross University and has experience in management and small business. He presently works as a renewable energy consultant.

Jeff and the Greens believe in a fair go for everyone in our community, that all government decisions should be ones that future generations can be proud of, and that politics must be more than power plays and petty bickering.



NSW MP Lee Rhiannon and Jeff Johnson identifying issues facing the electorate.

- Jeff is committed to:
- serious action on climate change, where polluters pay, not households.
 - a vision for our region becoming self-sufficient in energy and food production.
 - investment in public and alternative transport.
 - better services and sustainable jobs and economic opportunities for our smaller communities and rural areas, including our indigenous communities.
 - protecting native species and the land and marine habitats that sustain them.
 - more funding for the public health system, including dental and mental health.
 - equal rights for all in our society.

Jeff said, “I have been saddened, since my early teens, at the way human society continues to mindlessly destroy places of immense and undescrivable beauty like rainforests. We continue to pollute our waterways and treat our beautiful earth like a dumping ground. Our modern society seems disconnected with our spiritual side and continues to exploit our natural resources at an increasingly unsustainable rate.

“This belief has led me to aspire to play an active role in our political system, because it is after all the politicians who write the laws of the land, allow companies and society to exist the way it is.”

Regional Rail Forum confirms support for rail corridor

by Karin Kolbe, President TOOT

The preservation of the Casino-Murwillumbah rail corridor was resoundingly endorsed at the Regional Rail Forum held in Byron Bay on Tuesday 28th June. Attendees also agreed that identifying a future coastal rail corridor from NSW to QLD was vital.

The forum was called by lobby group Trains on our Tracks (TOOT). Attendees included Ballina MP Don Page; Mayor of Lismore and NOROC Cr Jenny Dowell, Mayor Byron Shire Cr Jan Barham, Deputy Mayor Byron Shire Cr Basil Cameron, CEO Northern Rivers Tourism Richard Mills, CEO Regional Development Australia - Northern Rivers Katrina Luckie, CEO Northern Rivers Social Development Council Tony Davies, and Manager Byron Community & Cultural Centre Paul Spooner. There were also planners, a representative from North Byron Parklands and Maryanne Stuart from the Sydney office of the Rail Tram and Bus Union.

MP Don Page reiterated the State Nationals’ 2007 election pledge to get rail services running on the line if the coalition win office in the March 2011 state election.

Concern was raised that the new state LEP template (Land and Environment Plan) must clearly identify all transport and rail

corridors. Instead such corridors are zoned the same as the adjacent land in the new LEP. This issue will be raised with the NSW Planning Minister by Don Page and others, including the Local Government and Shires Association.

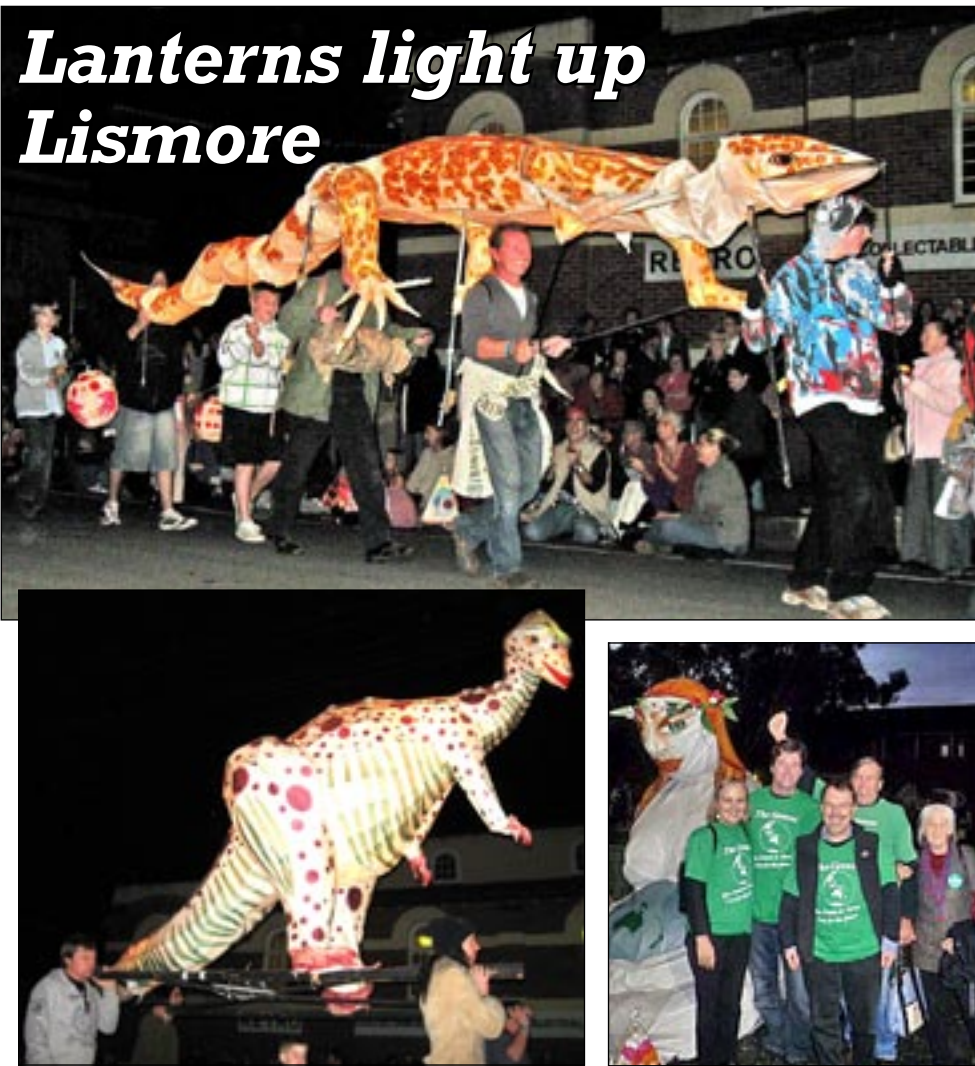
The group also resolved to get an updated engineering assessment on the condition of the line. Australian Rail Track Corporation [ARTC] will be asked for details of its current maintenance schedule.

The question of whether it would be sensible or feasible to start with services on a part of the line instead of trying for the whole 132 km from the beginning. Sections considered were Byron to Lismore, Mullumbimby to Bangalow, Bilinudgel to Bangalow etc.

Most participants acknowledged that the re-opening of the line would be a boon not only for local commuters, students and workers, but also very much for tourists. The Byron Councillors Jan Barham and Basil Cameron agreed to have further discussion with Russell Mills from Northern Rivers Tourism

The forum acknowledged that progress on assessing the reopening of the line would assist the progress of a North Coast Regional Transport Strategy as well.

Some attendees pointed out that future pricing on carbon also needs to be considered in long-term strategies.



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Hemp Party rolled up but not yet lit

It looks like the one million Australian cannabis users will have a chance to vote to decriminalize themselves at the upcoming Federal Election, unless new Prime Minister Julia Gillard calls an election in the next few weeks.

The Australian Electoral Commission advertised the pending registration of the HEMP Party on 23rd July, allowing one month for objections.

Hemp Party secretary Graham Askey said, "The AEC is so dilatory in processing party registrations, they should give seminars in Nimbin on being laid-back!"

The AEC has spent months



finding out if HEMP Party members are real and not simply names pulled out of a phone book, as well as picking apart every aspect of the application in an extremely bureaucratic manner.

"We don't anticipate any difficulties from here on," said HEMP Party President Michael Balderstone this week. "It's just that the registration process has taken so long, we may run out of

time if Julia calls an early poll." Otherwise, the HEMP Party will target both houses of the Federal Parliament at the next election.

The re-legalisation of cannabis

The HEMP Party will reflect the commonsense view of most Australians that the current prohibitions relating to marijuana are simply not working.

Marijuana prohibition, like alcohol prohibition before it, has failed.

The HEMP Party will advocate for the re-legalisation of cannabis, which will:

- protect young Australians

- from criminal influences,
- save Australian taxpayers huge sums of money,
- remove the single biggest contributor to police corruption,
- assist in building better relationships between citizens and police,
- allow medicinal cannabis users access to their therapeutic agent of choice,
- provide Australian Governments with much needed taxation revenue,
- stop children gaining easy access to cannabis, and
- regulate a currently unregulated marketplace.

Prohibition = Chaos
Regulation = Control

NIMBIN STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuvva

In Canberra they're comparing Nimbin to Afghanistan. The MBK, Military Big Knobs, are studying the two unwinnable wars as they desperately search for exit strategies for both. Crunch time approaches, decisions have to be made. That's why you may have seen the Big Brass snooping around the tiny weed village. Work out the answer to the little village war that on paper should be a cinch, and it may save us in Kandahar. And has my local knowledge been sought after? Flavour of the month if I say so meself.

Obama the Magnificent was the catalyst again, writing to the Rudder telling him he wouldn't come to Oz if they blocked the Hemp Party registration. Rudder and the Swan had realised Stoners could hold the balance of power if they get elected, or even help another Green Senator get in, so it had to be fixed. And was, until Obama pulled the plug on that little plan.

Then the MBK leaked the stats on drug war expenses related to success in the tiny village and the rest is history. Gillard never minded potheads anyway. She didn't like losing control herself but loved the company of stoners at university. "They had the best ideas, even if they couldn't always follow them through."

Her choofing mates taught her early on proper bong etiquette and she was the favoured muller and packer at the parties, running a very tight ship making sure even the most reticent got their share of cones. In her first year at Uni she was made secretary of the all powerful Mullers and Packers Union.

In Canberra she asked me about the Stoner policies. I assured her 'the hippies will put the environment before investment everytime. They plan on changing the world and believe they have the plant to do it.' She smiled her Mona Lisa Welsh best, grinning from ear to ear



which reminded me how her homeland grows the best magic mushrooms on the planet. The reason so many great musicians are born there.

In one extraordinary day we moved from the Rudders frightened 'evidence based approval' needs, to the mystical Gillard country where gnomes are normal and mushrooms on toast for breakfast are not always what they appear to be.

Operation Clean Up Nimbin never missed a beat however and is still in full swing, don't worry, and the clock is ticking. As you know when you enter the Force everyone else then becomes a criminal waiting to be discovered. We've now tagged every person who shopped for groceries in Nimbin in the last two months. Over 10,000 tags. Descriptions, photos, short profiles and points allocated. 5 for long hair, very short 3, beards 3-6 depending on length, barefeet 6, hippy or colourful clothes 2, dreadlocks 4, etc etc.....the computers do it all but because many photos are blurry or too grainy everyone is personally checked by two of our people. Talk about boring, lucky we have the pick of the confiscated weed.

Most of the tags come from satellite images which are costing a fortune. The \$14 million spent pulling weeds in Nimbin over the last 3 years will be dwarfed by the cost of "Operation End" in the next 6 months. The vast majority

of course, about 85% of the budget, is going on consultants, study missions, reports and recommendations.

But the real issue is morale, the same as in Afghanistan. Remembering why we are in the war and how well we are doing is never far away for the troops headspace. Compulsive Risk Assessment Psychosis (CRAP) is the new terror and spreading like an Aussie bushfire in a gale amongst troops on both fronts. Here in Nimbin the computer imagery is throwing up ridiculously happy level stats with only minor CRAP around Rainbow Lane. Unfortunately one address reached the full alert level, 38 Cullen Street. Most embarrassing for the Boss.

I told the Dalai Lama and he said our shocking Karma is building to a crescendo and the guilt burden is crippling some of the young and pretty Undas who seduce and put our youth in the lock up. They are the frontline high risk troops simply taking orders but the cracks appearing are too big to ignore.

In the middle of all this the Tourism Authority releases its annual popularity poll and it seems that those forms you fill out as you are leaving the country has the Opera House as the most visited site in Oz, closely followed by a WKNTA (Well Known Nimbin Tourist Attraction.) The figures were buried of course with the MBK catatonic about never ever letting hippies get positive media. It took one hell of a joint session to bring them out of it I can tell you, but nobody else.

Virtually every Unda, Over, Informer and Uniformer is working the machines compiling the reports so the street is a free for all for now, as you may have noticed. Enjoy it while you can because the Gillard factor is coming, and us girls see it all a bit differently, eh girls? For a start she will probably call an early election before the Hempsters get registered. That will fix the cocky hippies and show Obama who's really in charge.

Book Review:

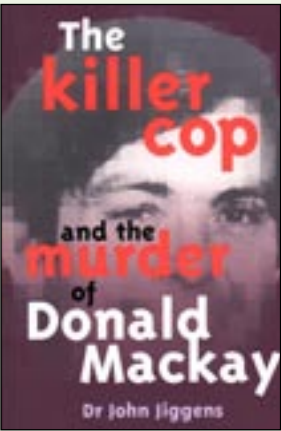
The Killer Cop and the Murder of Donald Mackay by Dr. John Jiggins

Donald Mackay, Furniture store proprietor and prominent Griffith NSW Liberal Party member in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, was murdered in Griffith in 1975.

Using information and vehicles supplied by Mackay on November 10, 1975, Sydney drug squad detective Senior Constable Ron Jenkins and other detectives raided a property at Coleambally 60 kms south of Griffith. Screened from the road by a line of trees they found a huge marijuana plantation spread over 31 acres; the total crop was estimated to be 375,000 cannabis plants. When mature it was expected that the plantation would produce 60 tons of pot – at a time when the total value of agricultural production of the entire Murrumbidgee irrigation Area was estimated at \$60 million, this crop had an estimated street value of \$30 to 60 million. This venture led to the largest marijuana seizure in Australian history. Dr. Jiggins' book reveals with its impeccable research, a rich source of a little-known period of our history.

He suggests that Mackay was murdered to protect a network of key influential individuals who reached to the highest in the land, ranging from NSW Premier Rob Askin to TNT Chairman Peter Abeles.... not only in Australia but in the U.S.

Overseas connections embraced governments, the CIA, corrupt administrators, law

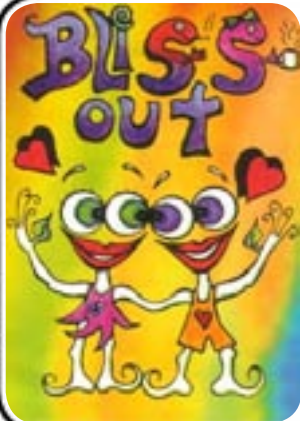


enforcement officers and drug rings in many countries. Orders to eliminate Mackay originated with the Nugan Hand Bank.

Mackay it seems, was 'the man who knew too much' of the machinations of marijuana cropping and Nugan Hand financial secrets. Ex-detective-sergeant, Fred Krahe, who ran a private police force for Frank Nugan, organised Mackay's murder.

An appendix at the end of the book, 'Gough Whitlam on CIA activities in Australia', refers to 'The Nugan Hand principal who played a political role in the destabilisation of the Whitlam government'. The allegations were that Michael Hand helped forge documents during the loans affair and the Cairns affair, while Frank Nugan was the conduit for CIA money to the Liberal Party via Robert Askin....

The quotes from Whitlam raise a manifold of issues. These may well be the intriguing subject of another book; answering many unanswered questions going back to 1975.



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