

World OM for peace



Remembrance day was observed in Nimbin with an OM for peace around the peace pole in Peace Park.

It was a sincere and solemn ceremony, many of those attending having lost family members in the first world war. At 11am, Katie Cawkutt of the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation made a plea for world peace and led the quiet

OM, as the group joined hands and gave voice to the accompaniment of birdsong from the trees in the caravan park.

The OM circled the globe, as it was repeated in local time zones at 11am by those working for peace in every country of the world. It carried with it Nimbin's earnest hopes for peace on earth

Less bums on seats at Bush Theatre

As the age of home cinema and DVD's and online access to films increases, venues such as the Nimbin Bush Theatre must struggle to meet costs. The events co-ordinator for the Bush Theatre, Jesikah, said "Cinemas like ours are in financial troubles and need to make revenue from other sources or we will go out of business."

Those who frequent the Bush Theatre may have noticed a steady decline in the numbers of people in the cinema watching movies. In an attempt to reverse their fortunes the owners of the theatre will host a number of

events and functions over the next few weeks with a variety of talent from musicians to thespians. As the theatre tries to revitalise, the owners are asking the community to get behind the Bush Theatre and its entertainment. The management is open to suggestions.

Take time out this holiday season and visit the Nimbin Bush Theatre with some friends and support this important local resource and great source for a broad diversity of films that may not otherwise get screened by other mainstream local cinemas.

Nimbin Rox tops poll

Nimbin Rox YHA has been rated the top backpacker hostel in NSW for the third year in a row. The NSW Youth Hostels Association survey is drawn from paying guests who pass judgement on cleanliness, hospitality, safety, comfort and value for money.

Robert Henke, NSW YHA operations manager said, "The unique environment of Nimbin and the personal touch of Chris Clarke from the Nimbin Rox were instrumental in winning this award."

The Nimbin Rox YHA is a family run

business, owned and operated by Nimbin locals. They offer the visitor access to many of Nimbin's amazing attractions, the National Parks, local events and encourage people to lay over for a few days, which assists the broader business community.

People from all over the world stay at the Nimbin Rox and become big fans of wonderful Nimbin. The reputation of the Youth Hostel, and Nimbin's, is spreading, and the positive aspects of this award-winning (again!) facility is a reflection on all that is good about Nimbin.

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Celebrating female strength and safety

The second highly successful Nimbin Women's Dinner was held on 2nd November.

This year we incorporated an art show with the dinner and over 200 works of art were on show – all originals made by Nimbin women. It was spectacular. The hall looked absolutely stunning – a feast of the feminine with pieces ranging from sculpture to painting to fabric to photographs to ceramics and beyond. Revealing incredible talent, diversity and strength of the women of Nimbin.

The evening was organised by the Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee. Members, assisted by community women, worked long hours to ensure the success of the event. Special mention must go to Mandie Hale who has been a key visionary for the hosting of the two Nimbin Women's Dinners. She and the committee have not only organised the events, but they have managed to successfully intertwine having a good night whilst promoting the important message of women's safety in the community.

Sadly, Mandie was involved in a car accident while on her way home the afternoon of the dinner (to pick flowers for the dinner tables), and she was airlifted by helicopter to Lismore Base Hospital where she underwent surgery. She is now recovering from extensive injuries.

This was traumatic for Mandie, her family and for all the women who attended the dinner. Her presence was deeply missed and collective love was sent to her at the opening of the evening.

Mandie's and the community of women organiser's efforts were rewarded with a fantastic evening of food, fun and



fabulous performances from Nimbin women's talent pool and other guests.

We thank them all. And, of course the more than 200 women of Nimbin who, in great style, celebrated their sisterhood throughout the night.

Project Launch

The evening saw the launch of the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre's, 'Nimbin Safe Community Project' funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department. The project aims to raise awareness about domestic abuse and violence in

community.

Lizette Twisleton has been employed as the project worker and can be contacted at the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, Ph: 66 891692.

Watch for further announcements regarding Aunties and future workshops.

16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women

The NSW Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women launched the 16 Days Project which runs from 25 November to 10



The young women's group who made the flags are (left to right): Rosie, Lulu, Kylie, Julia, Jemma and Eva.

the Nimbin community. Workshops, for young women and women, with a focus on goal setting whilst increasing knowledge about safety in relationships, will be organised during the projects 3 year term. The project will also see the development of an Auntie's program for young women in Nimbin and a Young Women's Survival Guide will be printed.

A third and important element of the project is the establishment of a Victims of Violence Support Network, as well as continuing the ongoing community campaign around issues of domestic violence and violence in the Nimbin

December with the theme Together We Can Stop the Violence. Posters are being displayed in the town during this period that promote 16 Ways to Stop Violence Against Women

Flagging Concerns is an initiative of the Lismore Women's Health Centre funding received from the Lismore City Council. The flags, with messages about creating safe physical and social environments for young women, were designed by the young women's group at the Nimbin Youth Centre and were displayed on the night. These flags will be flown in Nimbin and Lismore throughout the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women.



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Still dealing on Common Ground

by Marcus Mantscheff
on behalf of the NCDA

Open-air drug dealing is commonplace in Nimbin. The geographic element of the Nimbin Community Centre being so close to arterial roads, with its network of leafy pathways and sharps savvy toilet block; optimises the contact between drug peddler and buyer/user.

Professor L Mazerolle of Griffith University's School of Criminology & Criminal Justice notes in his *Systematic Review Of Drug Law Enforcement Strategies* that drug sellers assess the places attributes before deciding whether or not to sell drugs. Dealers also choose places which minimise the risk of apprehension, and prefer places with weak place management to minimise the risk of interference. The natural and built landscape of the Community Centre cannot be changed, though we can address how the site is to be managed.

No doubt the Community Centre is not the only 'hot-spot' in town for this trade, however it is one of the few places providing family support services with associated childcare. Without debating the pros and cons of drug law reform, it must be acknowledged that there is evidence of health and social problems associated with the drug market. It is unfortunate when the violent and saddening outcomes of drug dealing impact directly on the children who bear witness.

The NCDA is presented with the challenge to curtail drug dealing within the Community Centre. Harm reduction strategies through community, problem-oriented, and third party interventions are evidenced to effectively compliment traditional drug law enforcement tactics (eg: crackdowns, raids, stings).



However Mason & Burke (2002) found that community based interventions are only partially effective in disrupting drug dealing from residential or commercial properties & not at all for open-air dealing.

In the case of open-air drug dealing, interventions emphasise traditional enforcement tactics with an absence of police/external agency partnerships. This highlights the question of community workers being required to intervene in disrupting drug dealing (to ensure the safety of themselves and those who access community services) because of an apparent absence of NSW Police strategies to include the Nimbin Community Centre.

Further to the previous month's *Nimbin Goodtimes* article "Dealing on Common Ground" I would like to express my apologies to those volunteers and social workers who felt misrepresented by a reference to addressing drug dealing within the Nimbin Community Centre. Community workers and volunteers in Nimbin are not being 'soft' on crime. Were it not for these committed individuals strengthening the 'place management' of the Community Centre, by disrupting trade and challenging drug dealers to move on, this community space would be without a deterrent to drug related crime.

Jungle Patrol workshop success

Nimbin Community Development Association (NCDA) recently hosted a workshop that aimed to design a sustainable and appropriate community patrol model for Nimbin..

The workshop was facilitated by local woman Jennifer Parke and participants included representatives from police, health, the Neighbourhood Centre, local businesses, people involved with Jungle Patrol, the Community Centre, Nimbin Central School, and the Premier's Department.

The workshop examined the achievements and challenges of the Jungle Patrol and determined that Nimbin is the ideal location for a community patrol model. Various issues were identified as being vital if a community patrol was to be funded again in Nimbin. These included the following:

- Jungle Patrol was an ambitious concept that had achieved the aims of the funding agreement,
- the establishment of a security service was

beyond the capacity of a community based organisation to achieve,

- Various management and operational difficulties had resulted in Jungle Patrol ending before the funding period expired. Several alternative management structures and funding sources were proposed. The focus of a community patrol model would include 'street beat' workers to greet tourists, make referrals to welfare and support services, be the 'eyes and ears' of the street, intervene in a non-confrontational manner in incidents on the street, provide crowd and traffic control at local and regional events and continue the street cleaning contract.

There was a great deal of energy and enthusiasm for a community patrol and the benefits of such a project in Nimbin.

If you have any inquiries regarding Jungle Patrol or are interested in becoming a part of the organisation phone Dave Hyett 0418 824 597 or (02) 6689 0095 or email dave@bringabong.com.

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Odds lengthen on IR reforms



Over 1500 people, plus the mainstream media, assembled at Lismore Turf Club on Tuesday morning, 15th November, to watch a Skychannel broadcast over the monitors and PA system in the betting ring.

Fluoro safety shirts stood solidly alongside blue collar workwear, the casual wear of teachers and academics, and the emblazoned T-shirts of many unions, as North Coast workers met in the biggest regional meeting in the state, to express their opposition to the federal government's proposed industrial relations legislation.

The professionally produced ACTU presentation was broadcast live from a rally outside Sydney Town Hall, and

cut to several pre-recorded segments.

ACTU Secretary Greg Combet told the rally, "This bill is motivated by ideology. It is a scandalous abuse of democratic rights in this country." Greens senator Bob Brown accused the government of "lining the pockets of the rich."

The effect of the proposed changes on workplace safety is of major concern to unionists. One segment featured a range of workers in industries not covered by Awards, who had been sacked after taking sick leave or suffering an injury at work. The corporate example of James Hardy Industries was also raised in this context.

The effect of the abolition of Awards on workplace

culture was also of concern. Greg Combet said, "It's going to have a dire effect on our way of life," citing the prospect of compulsory weekend work and overtime, and its impact on family life.

Workers, speaking in interview segments, made the point that all improvements in working conditions had been won by struggle, over 150 years, and that no-one has the right to give those away. Back live on stage, ACTU president Sharan Burrows said, "Every union leader is ready to fight like never before."

But it was Greg Combet's declaration that brought forth the biggest cheer in the betting ring that morning: "We're going to fight until we win!"

Draconian 'Anti-terror' laws set to pass

by Andy Gough

Despite condemnation of the Howard government's Anti-Terrorism Bill by legal experts and civil rights activists as 'unnecessary', 'excessive' and 'violating civil rights', the Bill looks set to pass the Senate any day now.

Last week a Senate inquiry produced a bipartisan report calling for the crime of sedition to be removed from the legislation because of concerns for free speech.

"It is good to see the suggestion that sedition should go but what about detention without charge or trial?" Senator Brown asked.

Howard conceded a few minor changes to the initial bill, however the sedition section will remain, having been the most controversial



Greens leader Bob Brown addresses a rally against the Anti-Terrorism Bill.
Photo: S Sorrensen

clause. The sedition charge carries a possible penalty of seven years imprisonment.

Historically, sedition laws have been used by oppressive governments to violate the civil rights of such people as Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Aung Sang Su Ki.

Preventative detention measures will allow 'suspects' to be held for up to 14 days. The 'suspect' can call a family member to say they are ok but if they or their family tell any more they can go to prison for

five years.

The new laws will also give police broader authority to stop, search and question anyone, anywhere, anytime if they suspect they may be a terrorist.

The attorney-general, Phillip Ruddock, will be able to declare an area (building/suburb/state) a "security zone" for up to 28 days.

The government has agreed to a review of the sedition provisions by the Australian Law Reform Commission in the new year.

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Treats. Kali gets amongst it at the new Rainbow Wholefoods shop.

Tuntable school orientation

Tuntable Falls Community Primary and Preschool will be holding an orientation day for families on **Thursday 8th December** from 10am to 12pm. This has been organised for those who are interested in observing the structure of the schools and their operations.

The orientation day presents an opportunity to explore these unique alternative schools, nestled in the picturesque heart of the magnificent Tuntable Valley. So do come along and enjoy the relaxed friendly atmosphere of our beautiful schools.

Big Scrub AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Big Scrub Environment Centre is to be held **Thursday 8th December** at the Rainforest Information Centre (13 Wotherspoon Street Lismore), commencing at 6pm.

The meeting will be followed by a short discussion of the Big Scrub Environment Centre's strategic and campaign priorities for 2006. All input welcome. Please join us for dinner and drinks at 20,000 Cows at 7pm, if you are able to.

Contact the Big Scrub info@bigscrub.org.au or by phoning Valerie on 6689 5205.

Oasis Poetry Night

Come along and celebrate the summer season under the stars – **8th December**, yes, that's the second Thursday, gathering together from 7pm.

Hope to see you there for some fun, laughter and great sharing.

Kids Xmas party

Santa's coming! With the fire truck, too, to Nimbin Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club's annual kids' Christmas party at 2pm on Sunday 11th December. All welcome. Lots of fun, surprises and treats.

Greens Xmas bash

Northern Rivers Greens and Nimbin Greens end of year social gathering will be on **Sunday 11th December** from 3pm at The Winsome Hotel in North Lismore.

Members and supporters are welcome. Music generously provided by Mona Lizard. Support The Greens so we can support you.

Aged-care sing-song

Nimbin hospital's aged care residents are hosting a special Christmas program of sing-along music with the Lillian Rock singers, Pamela MacDonald, Lynette Law and Lucinda Law. It will be held in the hospital's aged-care facility from 10am on **Tuesday 13th December**.

Come along and add your voice to the joyful throng. For more information contact Helen Colburn on 6689-7451.

A night at the Kasbah

Middle-eastern music, dance and food at the Nimbin School of Arts hall on **Friday 16th December**. \$15/\$10 at door, children free.

Tuntable Bush Dance

Swing your partner at another fabulous Tuntable Bush Dance, the last for the year. Be sure to be there on **Saturday 17th December** from 7.30pm at Tuntable Community Hall, featuring

the Tuntable Folk Orchestra. The dances are called, so anyone can do it, and there are always spot prizes...

Solstice



A Summer Solstice Celebration will be held on **Wednesday 21st December** at Djambung Gardens, 74 Cecil Street, Nimbin to celebrate the shortest night of the year with live performances followed by electronic music with DJ Seed.

This is an opportunity to gather and explore the wisdom of our Celtic heritage and how it relates to the Australian landscape. On the longest day and shortest night of the year, the sun is in its zenith and in full power. It marks the beginning of the holiday season, time for fun, family and friends.

View the open Permaculture garden from 5pm and stay for the Solstice Ceremony at sunset. Meals, snacks and drinks available. Bring firesticks, drums etc. Feel free to come early and make a flower garland for the ceremony.

Christmas party

The Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre Annual Community Christmas Party, formally known as the Older Women's Forum Beggars Christmas Party, will be held this year on **Friday 23rd December**, from 12 noon.

Co-organiser Gail Clarke said, "We are putting a call out for gifts for children of all ages, and looking particularly for presents suitable for children over 8 years of age.

If you have any toys, in good condition, that could be given out by Santa Claus on the day, the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre will be a collection point.

Gifts, wrapped and marked with appropriate age and gender, will be distributed at the Christmas lunch, which you are all invited to."

Nimbin Markets

By Marie Barron

Don't want to go to the Lismore Square? Can't stand the fluoro lights and air con? Want something unique to buy? The Nimbin markets is the place to be and the next one is on December 18.

Now's the time to come and get some Christmas presents from our large variety of local crafts. Shop local and support your community.

The markets represent the amazing collection of talent that can be found in the surrounding hills including food, buskers, music and arts. It's a great to see such diversity within our community.

Lunch time is a winner with flavours from India, Mexico and specialty vegan. Great coffee, chi, sweets and last but not least the famous Nimbin



ice cream.

The markets also offer an outstanding line up of musicians which have been drawing heaps of crowds playing a great selection of tunes. Sure to satisfy everyone's tastes.

If you're good at finding a bargain this is defiantly the place to be, always a nice selection of second hand treasures. Clothes, books, music, tools and the odd antique to name just a few.

Have you got anything lying around the house you want to sell? Bring it down and have a stall, make some extra cash for yourself.

The Nimbin community markets
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\$35 food stall or a double stall
\$20 normal stall
\$12 blanket stall
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On the good news front, Council has set its targets to work towards achieving Milestone 3 in its Cities for Climate Protection Program. Council has endorsed the goals of reducing its own and the community's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% of the 2001-02 levels by 2012. Electricity consumption from water, sewerage, buildings and streetlighting makes up 60% of our corporate emissions and 53% of our community emissions. The next highest sources of the Council's emissions are waste (24%) and diesel (14%) while the community's next highest are petrol (15.3%) and diesel (6.8%). The late Brian Slapp left a legacy to sign up to CCP and it is great to see his donation bearing fruit.

Also at the November meeting we debated the immediate future of the free Lismore Lake Pool. The Royal Life Saving Society prepared safety assessments and improvement plans for both the Lake and Nimbin pools with a high non-compliance rating for both pools. Although staff recommended supervision at a cost of \$20,000 per month be provided at both venues, Councillors did not follow this advice. If we had done

so, it may have resulted in the closure of the very popular Lake pool, especially when we are well aware that the new pool does not cater for 5-10 year olds.

Of further interest to Nimbin readers was the inclusion of several local groups among the 31 to receive donated Council surplus computers. Nimbin 50+ Learning Centre, Tuntable Falls Early Childhood Centre, Jiggi and Georgica Adolescent Democracy, and the Tower Preschool were all successful. This year a total of 45 computers were donated in what has now become an annual event. Community groups interested in applying next year need to keep an eye out for next year's call for applications.

The last meeting of Lismore Council for 2005 will be held on 13th December, 6pm at Chambers in Oliver Avenue. The community is always welcome – you never know it might inspire you to stand for election next time (September 2008). Have a great festive season and take care on our roads.

Contact Jenny Dowell by phone on 6625-2206 or email jenny.dowell@lismore.gov.au

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RTA drug testing

By Michael Balderstone

Cannabis appears to be the scapegoat once again as Howard tries to ramp up the war on drugs in Australia. The current Federal campaign against cannabis seems to be driven by psychosis stories despite clear statistics showing no increase in psychosis since 1970 when cannabis use started exploding. How come there wasn't an outbreak of psychosis in the sixties and seventies when pot arrived in the west? Meanwhile they've emptied mental health institutions onto the streets where the illegal drug market is!

More likely modern psychosis has a number of contributing factors including today's climate of fear and uncertainty over the future, poly drug use and an entirely different cannabis culture created by prohibition. And what about the fear, or paranoia even, of breaking the law and trying to hide being stoned? Is that not a ready-made recipe for psychosis or schizophrenia? It certainly keeps sunglasses in favour!

The ABC phoned me at home one morning asking what I thought about saliva testing. I rambled on not quite sure what to say but it included something about long term smokers might be safer drivers if they had their morning bong. The beautiful voice from the ABC, as they all are, sent a transcript out on the wire that said god only knows, but a dozen radio stations rang up for interviews.

Slowly a picture has emerged of technology that is not yet worked out, fully shonky propaganda which confuses blood, urine and saliva samples, which all record cannabis for various and varying lengths of time, a full on government and media campaign to demonise pot using mental health as the new big stick...all helping to justify the new driver drug saliva testing.

The big question remains unanswered, how long after a smoke does your saliva not turn on the light! Of course it



will vary for individuals, and perhaps it is also affected by how much you smoked, how regularly, what you've eaten or drunk since, etc. What about people who eat their medicine, or use tincture? There are no clear answers, it's the brave new world order!

It seems sensible and fair to have a years' saliva testing trial with no charges laid to give the police and drivers a chance to work out the system. At the moment there is little idea of how strong a batch of cannabis is, and the little research and testing that has been done shows huge variations in potency. No-one seems to know how long after ingesting cannabis their saliva stops registering cannabis. We did ask police if they wanted a stall at Mardi Gras this year where people could get tested! They declined, understandably.

Victoria has just begun analysing the results of its 12 month trial. 10,546 drivers were tested with 214 caught with illicit drugs in their system (including 49 truckies), five times the number with over .05 alcohol. Now they are going for it, more drug buses, perhaps police cars equipped for saliva testing and probably automatic loss of licence. In the trial positive results for cannabis or speed were fined \$307 and lose three demerit points, or are taken to court.

A police blitz on the morning after the AFL Grand Final indicated 11 out of 26 drivers had either pot or speed in their system!

All up, it looks like the saliva tester is not too predictable but it is the gateway for the police to get you into the big white van where they get your blood or urine and anyone who

has been smoking in the last month or two might show up then!

The campaign for saliva testing is being led by *Reefer Madness* style talk from people like NSW Nationals leader Stoner, ironically, who quote blood tests from accidents as if anyone registering positive on cannabis was high at the time of the accident! There are Qld figures from teenage burglars where 80% had cannabis in their blood when arrested. Therefore 80% were stoned when they climbed in the window, say the Stoners, but really 80% had smoked in the previous 2 months!

There is already plenty of folklore about what will stop your saliva stick glowing red... Kentucky Fried, raw bacon, haggis, butter, or in fact anything fatty. Then there's the acid school who reckon a eucalyptus lolly, or even camphor laurel leaves from beside the road, or vinegar (what about cheap wine, so long as you're under .05?).

There is plenty of room for complaint to your local MP! They are not testing drivers for plenty of other drugs including heroin and coke, mushies or acid, petrol or glue, pharmaceutical cocktails including methadone. Cannabis once again is the scapegoat and the easy bust. Every trial of stoned drivers has shown minimal impairment and even improved performance in some cases. (see story)

The mixing of drugs including alcohol is clearly an issue these days, but once again cannabis is the easy bust. It's smelly, especially when you use it, it's bulky, it stays in your blood forever, but it's a herb anyone can grow in their back yard and that makes it very hard for big business or governments to control.

Unquestionably coming down hard on cannabis has dramatically increased the use of more dangerous powders and pills which users are far less likely to get caught with. We must be careful saliva testing doesn't just push cannabis users into other drugs that don't register on the saliva testing.

SBS dope joke under a cloud

The Australian Communications and Media Authority's investigation of the episode of the SBS comedy *Fat Pizza* staged at Nimbin, in which a drug deal is filmed and a group of schoolchildren watch a character smoke what looks like marijuana, is under investigation by the broadcasting regulator, coinciding with John Howard's call for a crackdown on cannabis.

The episode shot in May during the Mardi Gras shows the crew participating in the joint-rolling competition, at a time when the linking of cannabis use to mental illness has triggered a renewed campaign against decriminalisation.

Patricia Karvelas of *The Australian* reported that a spokesman for SBS would not comment on the episode but said a response would be given to the ACMA in the coming month.

The former voluntary drug counsellor who lodged the complaint with the ACMA, Jon Woodworth, said it was "a little ironic" that at a time



The *Fat Pizza* team at last years Mardi Gras.

Photo: Alex Clarke

when the Prime Minister was talking about lax attitudes towards drug use, public funds were being used to make jokes about it. "I think that it's dangerous," he said, adding that a disclaimer, in which *Fat Pizza* creator and star Paul Fenech says "I don't endorse any of these drugs", could not be taken seriously.

"The serious parts get mixed up with the comedy, and the program is targeted at young males who would get the impression that drug use is OK," Mr Woodworth said.

In a letter to Mr Woodworth, SBS insisted Fenech "carefully distanced

himself" from the activities in the episode. But Mr Woodworth said SBS had refused to sign a statutory declaration that no real drugs were smoked in the episode.

The head of Enough is Enough and a member of the NSW Government's Sentencing Council, Ken Marslew, was outraged by the episode. "They are making light of a product that is illegal and is damaging lives. Any kids that see this *Fat Pizza* mob get the impression it's OK to take drugs and it's not anywhere as bad as people make it out to be."

Not people like you, Ken.

Does cannabis use make you a safer driver?

Taking the high road may not be so dangerous after all according to Jonathon Carr-Brown in England's Sunday Times.

Ministers are set to be embarrassed by government-funded research which shows that driving under the influence of drugs makes motorists more cautious and has a limited impact on their risk of crashing. In the study, conducted by the Transport Research Laboratory, "grade A" cannabis specially imported from America was given to 15 regular users. The doped-up drivers were then put through 4 weeks of tests on driving simulators to gauge reaction times and awareness. Regular smokers were used because previous tests in America using first-timers resulted in the volunteers falling over and feeling ill.

The laboratory found its guinea pigs through what it described as a "snowballing

Cannabis improves driving – more arguments

"Simulated driving scores for subjects experiencing a normal social 'high' and the same subjects under control conditions are not significantly different. However, there are significantly more errors for alcohol intoxicated than for control subjects"

– Cancer Study, Washington Department of Motor Vehicles.

"Compared to alcohol, which makes people take more risks on the road, marijuana made drivers slow down and drive more carefully.... Cannabis is good for driving skills, as people tend to overcompensate for a perceived impairment."

– Professor Olaf Drummer, forensic scientist the Royal College of Surgeons in Melbourne in 1996

technique" – one known stoner was asked to find another after being promised anonymity and exemption from prosecution.

Instead of proving that drug-taking while driving increased the risk of accidents, researchers found that the mellowing effects of cannabis made drivers more cautious and so less likely to drive dangerously.

Although the cannabis affected reaction time in regular users, its effects appear to be substantially less dangerous than fatigue or drinking. Research

by the Australian Drugs Foundation found that cannabis was the only drug tested that decreased the relative risk of having an accident.

Last week police revealed details of new drug-driving tests to be administered by the roadside, which were received with some amusement. They require suspected drug-drivers to stand on one leg, lean back and touch their nose with their eyes closed, and to count to 30 silently with their eyes shut. This is apparently difficult for puffers.

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Letters

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Get the facts correct please!

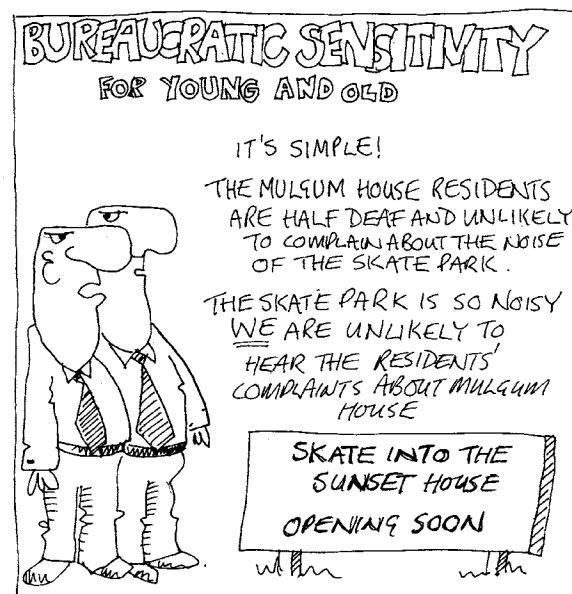
In the last edition of *NGT* (Nov) you published a letter by Andrew Kavasilas apparently speaking for the Hemp Embassy. Apart from containing quite a few negative generalizations, which have the effect of creating paranoia, the letter also contained incorrect information regarding household and motor vehicle insurance. I quote, "If that's not enough, being an Australian cannabis criminal now rules you out of insurance for your car or home." Rubbish!

If a person has a criminal conviction (whether it be for cannabis possession or anything else) an insurance company will assess the person's case on an individual basis. They take into consideration such information as; the nature of the conviction, how long ago it was handed down, how many other convictions the person has and so on. In the case of a cannabis conviction, if a person incurred the conviction greater than five years ago, home insurance would not be declined.

If the person was convicted, say one year prior to applying for insurance, acceptance or declination would depend on the nature of the conviction. If it was for a small amount for personal use, that would probably not affect the insurance. If it were for possession of fifty kilos it would most likely result in declination.

So, from my understanding, the Hemp embassy advocates the abolition of criminal convictions for possession of small amounts of cannabis for personal use. If under the present regime a person is busted for possession of such amounts and then is actually unlucky enough to be convicted, it will probably not affect them in obtaining home insurance.

The situation is almost identical regarding car insurance, either comprehensive or third party property. A person is not required to disclose criminal



convictions which have occurred five years prior to the time of applying for such insurance. In other words, if a person was convicted of cannabis related offences, say six, ten or fifteen years ago, it is simply irrelevant concerning current insurance arrangements. Convictions within five years require disclosure and as with house insurance are treated on an individual basis.

In short, being an "Australian cannabis criminal" in the past does not prevent a person obtaining insurance at all and being a "current criminal" does not automatically prevent that person from obtaining home or car insurance.

Rob Harle

Dear Uneeda

Have you stopped to think that the choppers might enjoy seeing a few redsoil blanks in the very green bush and then putting the GPS coordinates into their computer so they can come back to the same spot when it is full of very big plants like you reckon they, the police, want?

Why do the police wear camo when they don't have a reason to hide from anyone? Perhaps we should bring OH&S into the picture and the police could wear, perhaps pink, I think I'd enjoy seeing the police romp thru the bush in the pink! If they are bitten by a snake or break a limb or 3 the rescue chopper could

easily spot them and evacuate them.

Should we ring the terrorist hotline when the choppers come over and scare the cows and horses to run into barbed wire fences? What about the family pets that get the shit scared out of them by the roar of the terrorists, run into the bush, get a paralysis tick and then burden their owners with huge vet bills to get them healthy again. Please print the terrorists hotline number so everyone can put it on the fridge for future reference!

Is this overreacting?

She'llbe Wright

Junk Mail

Are you sick of receiving junk mail? If so, follow the instructions below.

Fill the reply paid envelope with all the insignificant junk you can find, because the alleged reply paid mail is not paid until it is received by the original sender. So it costs you nothing, but a walk to the Post Office.

May I suggest some junk to send back: hardware pamphlets, monthly movie programmes, Blue Moon Cabaret dates, invitations to Mardi Grass, cake recipes, losing TAB tickets, yoga lessons, pictures of koala bears, healthy eating suggestions, banking withdrawal slips, and any other type of junk that will fit into the reply paid envelopes.

Oh, if you submit your name and address as I have, you will soon find that your junk mail will cease. Why? Because it is costing the organisations who invade your privacy (money).

Thank you
Chicken George,
Nimbin

Terrorism & Capitalism

This is the cause of Terrorism: injustice and inequality. The Third World/Iraq are told this is Democracy; in reality it's Capitalism.

Democracy and Capitalism are actually opposites; they cannot function together. Any apparent harmony is short-lived. It is the cause of Terrorism, War, Economic Depression, and false use of Technologies.

Fair Trade and Capitalism are also opposites; they have different intentions. Fair Trade has NO profit motive. Profit from economic competition, is blood

Mandie recovers



Thank you to all of the people who gave me support and kindness in so many ways after my car accident. Thank you to all those who helped at the scene and the Nimbin Hospital staff who provided such good care.

Spending the first two

weeks in a large hospital made me realise how lucky we are to have such a good hospital in Nimbin. To everyone who I haven't been able to thank personally, your well-wishes made a big difference and I appreciated them all.

Mandie



money made off the back of another human being. The phenomena/mass delusion is that we also do this to ourselves in our own society.

In the Nation's case, the AID (as pictured above) given to facilitate this conformity is Centrelink payments. Our own trick of enslavement uses unemployment benefits and the promise of old age pensions, if you live that long, while the real wealth goes elsewhere.

Some complain of paying

Nimnet

I'd like to let you and the readers know about the Nimbin Network Association. This is not another 24/7/364 Internet Service Provider, but a club

now 8 years established to facilitate computer networking and access in our area, serving the Community Centre with a LAN and many more members with dialup access.

Whether you are a new or old settler, whether or not you have web and mail access

already, if you are interested in helping develop local networking and computer ability, consider getting yourself a good address at Nimnet. Not that it's cheap, although no-one gets paid, not that it's blazing fast, but it is local, ethical, and nonprofit; it hosts several local web sites (qv) and has room for more; that members can (but don't have to) develop their skills in developing our club, and that it can even be quite a lot of fun.

Some members are exploring a new \$5/month email anywhere account service; like a roll-your-own coolmail. O, a few more members would help us evolve too...

Interested? Have a look at www.nimnet.asn.au.

(It's an association domain.)

Ian Dixon

Notices

WANTED

Market Manager to coordinate Nimbin Market activities. Management experience an advantage. Apply to Nimbin Community Centre (02) 6689-0000 by 8th December.

ALP meeting

The Nimbin Branch of the ALP will meet on Monday 5th December at 4.30pm at the Nimbin Bowling Club. All welcome.

TOURS - FUNCTIONS - WEDDINGS



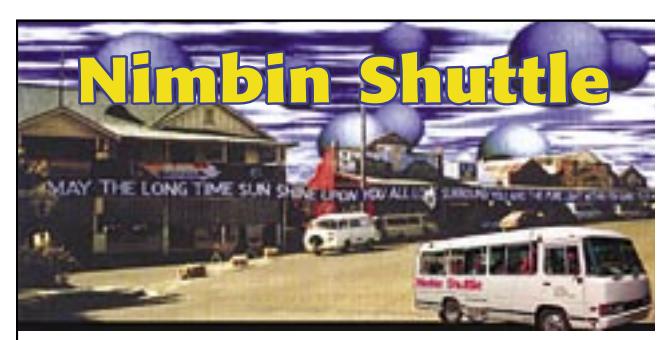
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Mike Hannan goes off

by Peter Walker



Nimbin is a village of extremes. It can be extremely hot, extremely festive or, on this occasion, extremely fortunate.

On Sunday 13th November locals were treated to no less than four world premieres by renowned composer/pianist Michael Hannan. Many people know Michael through his work as Associate Professor at Southern Cross University, where he is leader of the university's program in contemporary music.

The Nimbin Town Hall took on the feel of a dark secluded cavern, providing the perfect setting for Michael's compositions to weave their way through the warm air. The music provided a deep insight into a man who has a strong respect for nature. Michael is consequently able to make the connection between his native habitat and his own psyche using the medium of the twelve-tone system.

The concert took us on a journey that frequently demonstrated the link between artist and teacher. The opening compositions written in 1978 have since

been used as developmental aids for countless students. They also demonstrate the close association nature and emotion have with such titles as *Autumn Wind and Night Thoughts*. These pieces were all very short in length and demonstrated that music, like speech, doesn't have to be overtly complicated to be highly effective.

The middle part of the concert was centred on acknowledgment of past masters with *Hommage a Satie* and *Hommage to Chopin*, providing a springboard into *Three Meditations for Dane Rudhyar*. Michael makes his love of tone a feature in these sonic recluses with his explorations into realities defined by their sustained tonal complexities.

Impromobile I and *Impromobile III* again reminded us of the duality

of master and teacher with the primary aim of both pieces being to allow for a improvisatory input by the player within the confines of preconceived sections.

In the later stages of the afternoon Michael provided us with a rendition of six of his twelve astrologically based "Resonances". These cyclic movements extend the principle strategy used in "Three Meditations". The use of a constantly depressed sustaining pedal allows for an in depth exploration of piano resonance.

The pied butcherbird takes centrestage in the melodies of these movements, revealing Michael's ability to discern local variations of their call from Brisbane, Byron Bay, Clunes, Nimbin and across the great divide to his own imagination.

The whole afternoon concert was an ear opener. Michael stretched our collective consciousness across the galaxy and back again to our small planet, with its myriad emotions and sounds that exist within, around and beyond us.

We are all looking forward to a follow up event next year.

Farewell and thanks

from Kylie Costello

I would like to send out my gratitude and thanks to the Nimbin Community, especially the Young People, for making me feel so welcome in Nimbin. I have resigned from the youth club knowing that all the work will continue on and the efforts that I've made are much appreciated. I hope to spin full circle and come home to Nimbin in the future but for now my journey takes a different turn.

The Nimbin Youth Club has lots happening and I encourage everyone to stay involved and encourage the Young People to utilise the great facilities. The Youth Club is open every Tuesday so join Ash and Alesia for fun and games. The Young Women's group will continue on Thursday afternoons.

Also coming up is a wonderful play, "Where's our tree?" followed by a hip hop disco. This will be held at the Bush Theatre on Saturday 10th December at 2pm and is a free event for children and only \$2 for adults, so come and support the efforts of the young players, our up and coming talents.

The Nimbin Youth Voice project continues to award \$30.00 for a young person's



Young perspective. Retiring Youth Club worker Kylie Costello with Simone Thenet.

contribution to the *Nimbin GoodTimes*. The best article is chosen and published. So submit your article to the Youth Club by the 20th of each month and be rewarded with a handy \$30.00.

Any enquiries about continuing activities can be made by contacting William McManamey at Community Connections on 6622-3143.

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Nimbin Candles



from Craig Fry

Nimbin Candles, located in Nimbin's historic 'Butter Factory', has been welcoming visitors from all over the world since the early 90's.

The Butter Factory was originally built in the 1930's. Unfortunately, due to the introduction of refrigerated transport, it was only utilised as a butter factory until the 1950s. Back in the days when the butter Factory was in full swing, Unit 5 which now houses the Candle Factory was the Creamery, containing large butter churns. When you enter, you will notice the original white and blue tiles which are still there, plus the scars on the walls left by the large belts which would turn the churns. It's like stepping back in time.

The Butter Factory is now home to The Nimbin Bush Theatre and Café, Bush Tracks Recording Studios, Bringabong, Earth Makers and of course the Nimbin Candle Factory.

Nimbin Candles first came about from a need to supply a Non-Toxic, slow burning, smokeless candle, which could be burnt in confined spaces such as caravans, tents, tepees etc... to the ever expanding local community that had settled in Nimbin after the Aquarius Festival in the early eighties.

Craig and Lisa Fry took over Nimbin Candles in January 2005. Craig is well known in the community, after spending 6 years, as one of the friendly faces behind the Health food and Video counter, upstairs at the Nimbin Emporium. Now Craig, with his offsiders, Josh Fry - Master Pyramid Builder, Lisa Fry - Sales/General hand, Admin, plus the experienced hands of Seppie Edmunds in manufacturing and dispatch, Paul McDornan on the iron and Marie Cameron in packaging and sales are taking Nimbin Candles into the future.

Nimbin Candles can be found in many independent grocery stores, health food stores and gift shops in every state and territory throughout Australia.

Since taking over in January, the team at Nimbin Candles has released several new lines including 'Marbled Pyramids' (pure white pyramids, marbled with bright and colourful designs), the Ancient range (black Pyramids gilded in copper and Gold), church Pillars and more. All are made using the highest grade Non-Toxic Paraffin wax, the same wax used in food processing such as greaseproof paper and wrapping cheese. The dyes we use are vegetable dyes, the same used in batik art and they are free of animal products too.

The Nimbin Candle Factory is open 7 days a week, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and weekends and public holidays 11am to 4pm. It's a great place to visit. You can see how the candles are made, using one of the only water powered dripping decks, manufacturing up to 1500 perfect tapers at a time, in existence. It's like stepping under a rainbow when you see the coloured candles hanging. We have a beautiful Pyramid Room full of individually created pyramids ranging from the small 35 hour Scented Pyramids right up to the 1000 hour pyramids which stand at 1.2m tall.

We have people from all over the world visiting the Factory. We'd love to see more locals. Our friendly staff is always happy to help you select that special gift for Christmas or find the right colour for your Christmas table. You'd be amazed at how inexpensive they are directly from the factory and they make beautiful gifts, plus we have a full range of our own moulded candles such as dolphins, Buddhas, seahorses etc... Ask us about our local rates on boxes of single 9 hour tapers. We hope to see you soon. Groups are welcome and there's plenty of parking.

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Find out what it means to me...



by Manuela Geiss, CLO

Nimbin Central School recently hosted a forum on 'respect' for students of Years 7 to 10, their parents/caregivers and teachers. This marks the first step in a probably long, but certainly worthwhile move toward creating a more respectful atmosphere in our school community.

Around a third of parents/caregivers came and participated, which demonstrates their great interest in and concern for the topic. Almost 100 people in all attended the two sessions of Years 7/8 and Years 9/10. In small mixed groups they explored and wrote down what 'respect' means to them. This was then shared with the forum.

During the Years 9/10 session the question 'What

RESPECT

means

- Caring,
- Listening,
- Feeling good and
- Treating others as you want to be treated.

it also involves

- Trust
- Manners
- Personal handshake
- Honesty
- Acceptance

Respect is NOT

- Swearing
- Anger
- Abuse
- Sadness
- Frustration
- Ignoring
- Hurt

We raise respect by

- Being good role models
- Earning respect to get it
- Giving respect until people forfeit it
- Not pre-judging people
- Doing the right thing
- Ignoring disrespect

could we do to raise the level of respect?' was brainstormed. The discussions were lively and produced a long list of words and concepts associated with respect.

The results are summarised above and I look forward to a joint journey toward more

respect.

"What's next?", you may ask. What do you think could be done? The school is looking at the data we have collected and will incorporate what we have learned into our existing strategies, perhaps even change some.

Nimbin Community Drugs Action Team

by Marcus Mantscheff,
Nimbin CDAT Coordinator

The Community Drugs Action Team and the Nimbin Museum present the return of Joe Gormley from NSW Health with another drug information session on Tuesday 13th December.

Nimbin Central School will host two age-specific sessions to empower Nimbin youth with a sound knowledge to the hazards of poly drug use.

Parents contact Nimbin Central School to confirm times if you wish to support your children with your presence there. For

information on the content of these sessions please call the Nimbin Community Centre on 6689 0000 (Mon, Wed & Thurs). The CDAT Committee welcomes the commitment Joe continues to offer the Nimbin Community.

A previous event was well attended by youth and parents alike – knowing the risks is the first step towards harm reduction. The current CDAT committee wishes to remind the Nimbin community that CDAT relies on community participation and ownership. The NCDA is the auspicing body for this

current round of funding, and the Nimbin community is the steering group. Be involved. A successful outcome to this CDAT program will benefit Nimbin youth and help toward accessing future funding.

The next CDAT program event is currently being planned to deliver a conflict resolution package for Nimbin youth. This will be a program designed and delivered in Nimbin by Nimbin professionals. This is the capacity building the Nimbin CDAT hopes to engender in the participants from all its programs.

Help wanted for new footbridge

By Mal Rothwell

The footbridge across the creek, over our land between the Headers Sportsfield, and the rear of the shops and the Nimbin School of Arts, has been dismantled.

This 'temporary' bridge was built in the early '90s by Yogie Ogle and an off sider. It was to accommodate the expected flow of pedestrian traffic, between the main venue at the sports field and the main street during a Mardi Gras festival. It was a move in those days by business and volunteer community groups seeking to minimize the sudden impact on the village infrastructure of between 4,000 and 10,000 people (bums) for a weekend.

That was a lot of bums. The public toilets in town numbered six, not including the Pub. The Headers were providing their toilets, organizing space for the Markets, food van sites, and camping. Unfortunately, plans often go wrong. We got heavy rains. The whole district became a quagmire.

This old bridge, over the years, crumbled under the combined energies of age, vandals and very strong white ants. It lost its rails, somehow; foot boards went missing, etc. As a public bridge on private land, it became a public liability insurance issue, and one we were not prepared to absorb. We had already been in two 'slip and fall' insurance claims from locals using the shops. It had to come down.

What we need now is another bridge, in the right place, on a public 'right of way' with some Council responsibility. The survey plan shows the main pedestrian access from Alternative Way, the Caravan Park and the Headers, over the creek and alongside the Tomato Sauce Building boundary, through to the School of Arts carpark.



On the right track. Survey plan showing route of new walking track to the Headers ground.

The importance of public access from the Cecil St /Rainbow Power Co/Headers Sportsfield area through to the village main street is well recognized by those who use it most: early morning walkers, horse riders and residents taking a shortcut to shopping facilities, with sports competitors and spectators also flowing back and forth.

The main bearers are already spanning the creek, thanks to a contribution from the A&I Society of two long poles and a tractor. Materials from the old structure not gobbled up by white ants are already on site and more will arrive when 40mm thick x 1200mm hardwood can be found locally.

The ingredients now required for the bridge to become reality, is a smidgin of goodwill, a generous pinch of muscle and knowhow. Voluntary that is. The bearers need to be maneuvered into position, the tops chainsaw flat, the footboards nailed down, and the rails batten screwed together. Go and have a look, let us know what you think. We intend fencing the land where the old bridge stood and excluding the public from the area.

A glimpse of the future

The 16 Days of Kindness - Day Six - Fri 11th November - Teacher's Day

Teachers selflessly dedicate themselves to imparting an education to their students, often with little thanks. Teachers strive to instil a sense of value and worth in their pupils, while working in a system that is at times inflexible and imperfect.

People around the world were encouraged to use this day to recall the teacher who comes to mind as standing out, as going the extra mile, as being a shining example of that dedication to compassion.

Members of the Baha'i faith marked the day by making a special presentation to the

teachers at Nimbin Central School, where each teacher was personally thanked and presented with a student-made certificate acknowledging their work, along with a symbolic candle. A concert followed, which featured the music and dances of the Pacific Islands, performed by Baha'i community members.

"The education and training of children is among the most meritorious acts of humankind...for education is the indispensable foundation of all human excellence." – Baha'i writings.

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The informal formal

by Jana Pawlus

This year's remembrance day was shared by another night to be remembered, the official farewell of Nimbin Central School's Year 12 students, 2005.

Held at the Sphinx Rock Café, about 30 km north of Nimbin along Murwillumbah Road, the venue succeeded in satisfying the high expectations for the night. Both the food and service were delightful, and I'd recommend the café to anyone.

Starting at around 6pm (I arrived fashionably late!), the night began with laughter and photos. This, along with several glasses of champagne, established the relaxed atmosphere for the remainder of the night. Although none of us students were wearing truly 'formal' garments, we were

certainly far more made-up than what we're all used to.

The two standout dresses were worn by Davina Wittemeyer and Alecia Van Hest, who purchased their designer outfits in Sydney. Both Ruby Grabovsky and Emma Crawford wore stunning two-piece red and white outfits, Emma designing and making her own the night before.

In terms of colour, Laura Hawken pulled off the most daring dress, a turquoise colour which complemented her dark hair and clear eyes. Sabina Waters managed to look effortlessly stunning in an amazing black dress, and it was very pleasing to see the two boys of the year, Shannon Turner and Dale Matheson, competently sporting eyeliner and hair gel!

Unfortunately, at the



beginning of the night, I managed to slip and spill champagne all over my dress.

A good part of the night was taken up with the insights of Margie Hayes, which was probably due to the fact that every time she asked for a glass of water, she was handed a glass of wine!

Due to the small number of students in this year's Year 12, we share very close friendships with one another, as well as with all of the teachers and staff in the school. This

resulted in a very intimate night, conjuring tears of both happiness and sorrow, as the pressures of the past few months were forgotten, and replaced with the daunting realisation of having to say goodbye.

Many ex-students were invited, also making it a class reunion. These included Roxanne Whittemeyer, Jessa Diza, Chantelle White, Tessa Birch, and Elija Brown. Highlights of the night included the presentation of

the teachers' awards. This was especially entertaining, as on their award, each teacher was represented by a character from *Shrek*. Some undeniable similar matches included Jack Doyle as Prince Charming, Christine Grieves as Princess Fiona, and Cath Marshall as Fairy Godmother.

Sadly, much-loved and respected teachers of the school Christine Grieves, Kevin Cousins, and Stan Kovac could not attend, and their contribution was missed

by everyone.

The individual attention received by every single person, staff, or student, would never be seen anywhere else, due to the support, harmony, and equality within our school. I realise how lucky I am to be part of Nimbin School, part of this year's Year 12 and part of this community.

Our Year 12 formal was the last night we shared with the school, and also marked the start of the rest of our lives.

Stars shine at concert night



The Big Bahzooley, Nimbin Central School's end-of-year performance night held at the end of November, was a great success. It was the 10th anniversary of the first show in the school's MPU.

All of the performances in the 19-act programme were of a very high standard. They comprised singing, dancing, bands and solo musical items, and displays of gymnastics and juggling, involving students from years 7 to 11 who had been rehearsing for weeks, or in some cases, months.

A crowd of over 200 people enjoyed the concert, which was co-ordinated by school music tutor, Val Hopkins. It began with an enthusiastic selection by the infants choir, conducted by Kirsty Spence, who is leaving the school next

year.

Among the many highlights were polished performances by the established youth choirs Minor Birds, Primary Choir and Monday's Lunch, and also the primary recorder ensemble, many of whom won awards at this year's Lismore Eisteddfod.

The concert featured a very special performance before interval by the legendary Nimbin vocal group Voiceworks, who were reformed for the occasion, and delighted the audience.

Also impressive were the dance troupes the Harajuku Girls, the Chickabom Chicks and the mixed-sex Secondary Dance Option, all



of which were imaginatively choreographed and showed a great deal of highly disciplined co-ordination in their performances.

The finale of the evening was provided by the new high school band The Rubber Band, one of three rock bands directed by the secondary music teacher Clare Hopper, formerly of the innovative uni band Proem3, who also sat in on drums to replace an absent drummer.

The strains of their final song, "Take me to the Other Side" brought to a close a very enjoyable concert programme.

Ten out of ten

by Athena Zelandonii

Had you been driving down Molesworth Street in Lismore at around 7pm on the night of the 18th November, you could be forgiven for assuming that there was some sort of Hollywood function happening outside the Basilico restaurant. With all the suits, formal gowns, tuxedos, flash cameras and even swanky walking sticks, it would be an easy mistake to make.

Hollywood had not however made its way to Lismore, rather the glamorous and dashing Nimbin Central School Year 10 students, and their dates, teachers, ex-teachers and family members had.

After five weeks of anticipation, preparation and nail-biting (figurative of course; thou shalt not bite thy manicured nails!), Nimbin Central students from years 8 to 12 showed up for the celebration which marked the

completion of the School Certificate exams, and a rite-of-passage into the final years of high school.

The night was also a farewell to four year 10 students leaving us at the end of this year. So once more, a fond 'goodbye-but-see-you-soon' to Sarah Klaric, Sarah Layer, Chloe Guy-Brown and Brendan Smith.

At around 7.30 pm we made our way into the Basilico, which looked just as fantastic as we all were feeling. The service was great, and the food was to die for. There were also speeches from the Principal and Deputy Principal, some teachers and students, and our wonderful year advisor Ms Kenny, who organised the night.

A huge thank you on behalf of all who attended to Ms Kenny for organising the event, and especially to the Basilico restaurant for cutting us a special deal and playing a truly unforgettable host. And then, on to the afterparty ...



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