



THE NIMBIN VALLEY GOOD TIMES

let it be FREE

Passionfruit
Edition
March
2006
81 Cullen Street
Nimbin 2480
phone 6689 1148
email: goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com

Autumn means Arts in Nimbin

David Hallett
Nimbin Community Economic
Development Officer

With the passing of the summer heat the cultural hotspot of Nimbin is about to launch into a comprehensive Autumn program of cabaret, theatre, visual arts and crafts, and dance.

Renowned for its colourful, comedic and often zany population of artists and performers, the events calendar of the Nimbin Valley has developed into a major attraction for locals and visitors alike. The small village is home to about a thousand residents but draws over 110,000 tourists and travellers each year.

The first BIG show is the Blue Moon Cabaret at the Nimbin School of Arts on Saturday 25th March. The 'grand old hall' has been celebrating the popular 'Blue Moons' for 15 years, featuring a full array of the performance arts from acrobatics to Zen belly-dancers. Comedy and tango are strongly featured at this Cabaret, together with ukulele, hip-hop and the dance band 'Roll Like That' amidst a 16-act show. (Bookings essential on 6689-1766).

The Nimbin Players Autumn Season features the Australian production 'Hotel Sorrento' at the School of Arts (Friday 31st March to Saturday 8th April). First



performed at Melbourne's Playbox Theatre in 1990 and written by Hannie Rayson, the play delves into the drama of family conflicts. Directed by Deb Wild, 'Hotel Sorrento' marks the inaugural Autumn Season for 'the Players' after 11 years of productions in Nimbin (Tickets at Perceptio).

Fine arts exhibitions have been a feature of Nimbin's cultural map for many years, but this year the 'Autumn Arts Extravaganza' will be managed by the Nimbin Artists Gallery. Incorporating the Artists Gallery and the School of Arts this major visual arts venture will present the works of many

of Nimbin's fine artists, craft workers, designers, photographers and installation artists. The 'Extravaganza' will also involve daily entertainment with Midday concert recitals, together with morning and afternoon art/craft workshops. The exhibition will be open from Saturday 15th to Sunday 30th April. (Info phone 6689-1444)

The annual Mardi Grass in early May, Nimbin's biggest weekend of the year, features a smorgasbord of entertainment, both programmed and impromptu. Apart from the madcap Hemp Olympics there will be music jumping out of venues all over the village. Comedy is the



feature at the Oasis Cafe, plus a big program at the Bush Theatre, the infamous Pickers Ball at the Hall, and all the wonderful street theatre and pageantry at the Sunday rally and parade. It's on 6th and 7th May (Info phone 6689-1842).

Rounding out the cultural program of Autumn shows is the annual Concert of Dances (Friday

19th, Saturday 20th May). Nimbin abounds in a variety of dance forms and schools of dance for children and adults. From Nomad Dance to the Tap Bitches the goddess is certainly dancing in Nimbin, together with a wide spectrum of multicultural dance (Info phone 6689-1097).

See you at the shows...

New chapter beginning for Mulgum House

Anglicare North Coast has informed the Department of Community Housing that it intends to discontinue its involvement with Mulgum House on the 31st March.

The announcement comes after a period of intense media pressure, and following the involvement of state parliamentarians Sylvia Hale and Clover Moore. It is understood the community housing facility will in future be managed by Public Housing.

Anglicare, in its role as manager of the facility, has had little capacity to influence the future of Mulgum House. Nonetheless, its representatives have met with community members to

help identify options for continuing viability.

Mulgum House was at risk of closure or an otherwise bleak future in 2002, prior to Anglicare's intervention. It gave notice to withdraw over 18 months ago,

but after negotiation with Community Housing, agreed to continue its management role until tenants could be relocated.

It appears that the responsibility for management will finally rest where it should, with a public body administering a public asset, a step that could have been taken back in 2002 without so many elderly lives being disrupted.

More Mulgum
see page 2

Inside

More bad press p.3

Women want peace

p.5

Hemp seed p.11

Feral pets p.13

Pirates vs Climate

Change p.14

Actors afoot p.17

Planned obsoles-

cence p.18

