



THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

FREE

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Kidding around in Peace Park

On Saturday 25th June the long awaited children's playground was opened in Peace Park. Aunty Viv performed the "Welcome to Country" ceremony, before the metaphorical ribbon was cut by mayor Merv King.

A carnival atmosphere prevailed as the crowd of over 200 enjoyed a barbecue cooked by three members of the Nimbin Police Force. Owen and his patient horses provided pony rides for the children. There were face painters and jugglers and Huchi and Anna appeared on stilts.

The park came about as a result of the efforts of the Sunny Tuesday playgroup and was supported by Carolyn Cowley and the Nimbin Community Development Association with funding from the Lismore City Council.

Artists Burri Jerome and Donato Rosella built and painted the rainbow serpent which wraps around the play area. Burri also designed the Bundjalung symbols that appear on the soft fall in the



Everyone's happy. The delight by children on the new equipment (above) was matched in the faces of mayor Merv King and police BBQ chef (top right) and cocreator Burri Jerome (right).

Photos: Mel McMillan

playground area.

Numerous volunteers participated in the construction of the serpent and numerous more will be involved in the landscaping

of the playground area. The community of Nimbin thanks them all.

Children played on the new equipment while mums and dads sat on the

grass in the afternoon sun and chatted. It was a great day and everybody agreed, especially the children, that the playground is a great facility for Nimbin.



Big rain!

The welcome re-appearance of the wet stuff in the last week of June brought forth much appreciative comment from gardeners, and wry observations about global warming and self-correcting cycles. Farmers had a spring in their step.

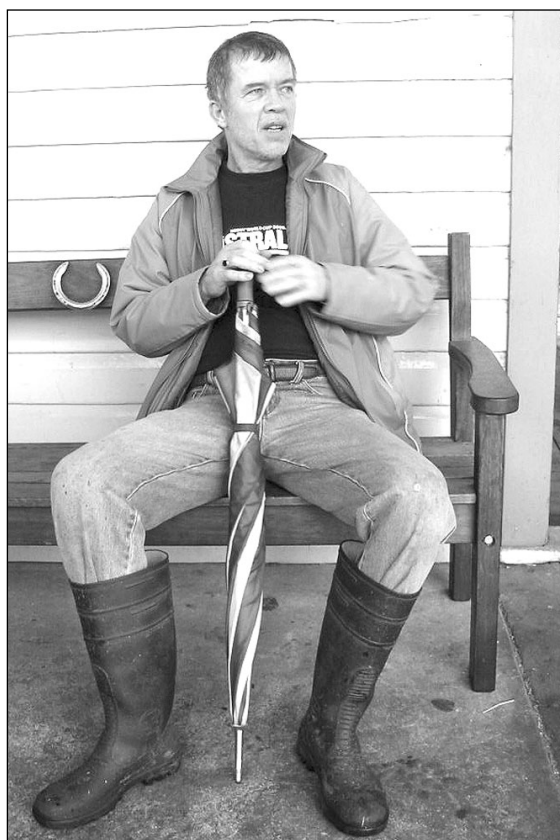
By the Wednesday, it had become a nuisance. Driveways bogged, solar power gone, Tweed road closures, people listening to the radio. NIM-FM went into flood warning mode by dusk, reading bulletins from the SES, which was issuing 10-min updates, including flood warnings for the Wilson River, and at 7pm the closing of the newly-installed Lismore floodgates, all to the sound of teaming rain on the studio roof. As an announcer observed, "Enough! My tank runneth over."

But things were to get more biblical yet. On Thursday morning the word was "stay at home." Schools

were closed and bus runs cancelled, the Pacific Highway was blocked, and hey, Centrelink was closed. Local names were popping up like bits of macadamia in the muesli - Repentance Creek, Rosebank, Corndale, Main Arm, Cooper's Shoot, Mullum, Bilinudgel. The E-word was starting to be used, Evacuation.

Lismore began to prepare for a "flood event," or a "significant occurrence" at least. The new \$19 million levee looked set to fail its first test. Sightseers were starting to cause a problem for emergency services as shopkeepers in the CBD packed up, and an ABC radio interviewee said, "This is the real Northern Rivers experience. Just sit back and enjoy it."

Then the rain stopped. All afternoon the Nimbin village shops got busy as people ventured out for provisions and news, greeting each



Gumboot weather. Al was dressed to the nines. "They'd been collecting dust," he said.

other gaily with, "Isn't it great?" and remarking on all the daggy wet weather fashions. The drama of the levee was eagerly anticipated by the council critics, but were disappointed. By seven o'clock it was official. "The emergency is over," announced the Prime reporter in her live cross.

Friday: Premier visit to inspect the damage, with photo opportunities.

The power of nature. For schoolkids it was an early holiday, for brick-layers a day in the pub, for road-builders a bonanza in the making, and for farmers it could go either way.

This edition of the *GoodTimes* was produced under very adverse conditions, like no power and closed roads. Talk about commitment!

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