

Neighbours' row gets poetic

The Nimbin Oasis café has been informed by Council staff that their monthly poetry nights, which have been conducted for the past five years, may be in breach of Council regulations.

Though no order has been issued, proprietors Andrew and Teena Kavasilas moved quickly to submit an application for an event licence, to cover the popular literary evenings.

The issue highlights an on-going dispute between the café and neighbours, Kim, George and Jim Harris, who have stated in a letter to NGT that "live music gigs, band rehearsals, drumming classes and amplified poetry readings have resulted in high levels of noise-related stress and illness."

Andrew Kavasilas responded by saying "I feel sorry for these people, and I find the whole thing slightly embarrassing. No-one wants to be involved in hassles."

The Nimbin Oasis café has long been a supporter of local art and culture since its opening, and has, like



Disappointed. Poetry nights organiser Gail M Clarke, who has given years of voluntary dedication to the arts and the community.

most cafés, allowed acoustic music to be played on the premises. The proprietors have actively supported various community and charitable causes through allowing the use of the café for fundraisers.

The monthly poetry readings, organised as a non-profit activity by Gail M Clarke, have grown into the annual Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, which is now a nationally accredited event with prize-money that is the third highest for a literary award in Australia,

and brings visitors from around Australia and New Zealand.

Teresa Biscoe, winner of the 2004 Performance Poetry World Cup and long-term patron of the café told NGT:

"Shortly after moving next door to the Nimbin Café, despite very clear communication from the proprietors about the natures and hours of the café prior to their purchase of the property, the café began to receive complaints and harassment from the neighbours, despite attempts by the proprietors to negotiate an arrangement that would suit both parties."

The Harrises wrote, "The Council can act as a really good mediator in situations such as these," and they hoped that "Council can step in and restore peace and harmony on a fair basis."

And let's hope they can do it quickly. The poets are sharpening their quills, and the next poetry night is scheduled for Thursday 13th October.

Tolerance

by Kay Martin

Change is in the wind -
After new developments
Will the spirit live?

Newcomers can be
Intolerant of others,
May demand changes.

Some people complain
Children's drumming annoys
them,
Our Oasis, too.

Parking's a problem
They object to the Markets
Nothing pleases them.

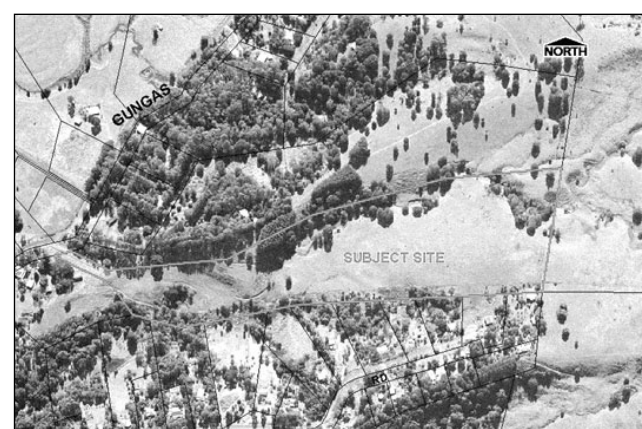
Tolerance, we ask.
You live as you want to, and
Let others do, too.

Don't expect to change
Customs well established
here,
Settled over years.

Open your hearts, and
The Nimbin community
Will welcome you in.

Feel part of this place -
Enjoy its rainbow colours
Value what is here.

Green light for Gungas development



Archie's acres. The hilly site, which features beautiful Blue Knob views - development application successful! Picture: Aspect North

Lismore Council has approved a development application for a subdivision of 14 lots at 156 Gungas Road, Nimbin.

The 11 hectare property, zoned 1(c) Rural Residential, is approximately three kilometres from the township of Nimbin. Currently there are no improvements on the site and the property has been used for grazing in recent times.

The site consists of undulating terrain with a large hill rising to the eastern boundary. This hill falls away at varying gradients (10-30%) to the northern and southern boundaries.

The development application was presented to Council by Aspect North on behalf of the three local owners, who have connections with Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate agency.

Public Consultation

Lismore City Council has undertaken an open process in dealing with the application.

The application was exhibited, and adjoining owners were notified in accordance with Council Policy. At the close of the exhibition period, seven objections and six submissions in support of the application were received, as a result of which the application underwent further development.

Two Councillors exercised

their right to require the matter to be reported to Council, so Council staff prepared a comprehensive report which identified four key issues associated with the application:

- bushfire requirements,
- effluent disposal,
- riparian remediation and management, and
- vehicular access.

The report concluded by recommending that development consent be issued, subject to appropriate conditions, to which Council unanimously agreed at its September meeting.

Conditions

A watercourse runs through the property on the northern boundary before flowing south across the site, and pockets of remnant vegetation occur along the watercourse. Chief among the conditions is the improvement of this riparian zone, which entails removal of exotic weeds while retaining native flora, and replanting with native species to achieve revegetation of the creek-line.

The application had to meet stringent standards for on-site water harvesting and effluent treatment, which should ensure a low impact on downstream ecosystems.

In addition the developers will pay to Council a sizable set of section 94 levies, totalling a high 5-figure sum, to support the infrastructure of the village, including roadworks.

The Channon development

By Alex Charles

A rural tourist development on Tuntable Creek Road, The Channon is attracting criticism from some members of the local community, with the development application suspended pending more information from the applicant.

Developer Ian McKay is famous for being 'Strops' architect at The Beach Hotel in Byron, as well as many multi-million dollar developments up and down the coast. He defended his eco-resort, stating, "It's only seven cabins, with a manager's residence."

"The land has been fully fenced, and after removing the cattle, its amazing the amount of natural regeneration, and increased wildlife and birdlife that is



last two and a half years have planted several thousand trees per year," he said.

The concerned residents remain to be convinced. Amanda Furze said, "While not discounting the developer's environmental credentials, there has been little regard for the social aspects of more million dollar developers cashing in on quiet country communities.

"The main question is, is the development

appropriate for The Channon at this point of time? It might be more appropriate for The

Channon community to get together and figure out what sort of tourism we want to attract, how to manage it, and how more local residents can benefit from tourism in the future," she said.

The development application is in hiatus while Council awaits further response from the applicant. Helen Manning, the Planning Services Manager for Lismore City Council said "There are three areas of the development that require a further response from the developer. They are the proposed water supply for the development, the internal access roads for bush fire management, and the contamination history of the site"

Any residents concerned about this issue can contact Community Trading at The Channon.

returning. On top of this we've been concentrating on some serious valley restoration, and for the

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