

See a snake and not know what to do? Te-Iwa Bedggood says leave it alone and phone him. "You learn to respect a snake," Te-Iwa says, recalling that over the years he has been "nipped" by a black snake, and a brown snake spat on his daughter's leg.

The heavily tattooed, friendly Maori gentleman has 26 years experience handling snakes and knows how to care for and sensitively relocate them. His experience was hard earned, keeping his house safe in far north Queensland and working out how to be good at it – by learning how they behave. "In the mornings they're sluggish, but once they warm up they can be pretty lively – well into the evening," he said. "It's best to deal with them in the mornings."

He deals with venomous snakes with a jig, involving a taut piece of string on the forked end of a pole, which is looped around the snake's head from a distance. The most dangerous snakes common here to watch out for are the brown snake, which can drop from trees, and the death adder, which coils up in foliage.

By comparison, the red-bellied black snake and tiger snake are relatively benign for venomous varieties. Rarely, a coastal taipan also gets far into the hinterland, and they are one of the deadliest and most aggressive snakes in the world.

Charters Hardware displays



## Hands off snakey

Don't try this at home. Regina getting up-close and personal with her first snake - a diamond python. Picture: Graham Batterbury

a collection of locally-caught specimens in jars, which confirm that our valley hosts snakes on the move from other regions, so advanced skills in identification are definitely a pre-requisite before any intervention with a snake is contemplated. "Most snakes will keep away from you," Te Iwa said.

Because snakes are territorial, having a non-venomous snake take up residence at your place has its advantages, making it less likely that other venomous snakes will move in.

According to Te-Iwa, the diamond python is the house-guest of choice. He was soon to get a new tenant, when

Peter from the Kebab shop appeared at the Oasis café holding a 3-metre python, found near Mulgum creek. A quick phone call and Te Iwa appeared, soothed the snake, removed a tick and took the snake away, draped around his shoulders.

It's good to have a professional like him around. Snake mating season is before winter, which is when they make such a racket throwing themselves around above the ceiling, then they hibernate, and give birth to up to a dozen little wrigglers in spring, right about now.

So jot down Te-Iwa's number, 6689 1889, just in case

with old friends.

As numbers will be strictly limited this year to ensure the catering can be accurate, bookings are essential. This event is for adults, but babies in arms welcome.

Tickets will be available from 13th October from Marie at the Nimbin Family Centre or from Perceptio's Bookshop, costing \$10 conc, \$12 waged. If the cost is prohibitive, Mandie at the Neighbourhood Centre will have a small number of subsidised tickets available. Tickets for the entertainment only (after 8pm) will be available at the door.

To display your art, ring Mandie on 6689 1692.

Residents of Billen Cliffs were hit by an intense 25 minute downpour of hail up to the size of golf balls at around 3pm last Tuesday. Many houses took a pounding in the onslaught and suffered damage, gardens were flattened and trees stripped of their foliage (there goes the crop).

The hail appeared to focus on the 800 acre community, with the nearby Cawongla Store being spared from the rampage.

While some residents were kept busy keeping the hail out due to smashed skylights or



## The blizzard of Billen

Photo: Anthony Neenan

broken windows, others had time to take photos and even get into some alpine style recreation with boogie boards.

## More practical wisdom for challenging times

We are very fortunate to see another visit to the Northern Rivers by Lama Choedak Rinpoche.

Lama Choedak Rinpoche is an internationally respected Buddhist scholar, translator, author, teacher and meditation master, who has been living in Australia for the past 20 years. He is a clear, skilful communicator, and a humorous and entertaining speaker. His special wish is to make the practical benefits of Buddhist wisdom and meditation practice more accessible and available to communities throughout Australia.

His last three visits to the Northern Rivers have been at the invitation of Marylyn Pett, one of his long time students and a member of the Nimbin community for more than twenty years.

Interest in what Rinpoche has to offer is growing throughout our rainbow region. Rinpoche's last visit in April attracted an audience of 100 to a public talk in Lismore, 90 to a public talk in Nimbin, 60 to a meditation workshop at Byron Bay Buddhists in Brunswick Heads, and 40



"Since most people are not aware of the relationship between good health and its fundamental causes, they may be creating the very causes of their own ill health through negative attitudes, unhealthy habits and spiritual neglect."  
- Lama Choedak Rinpoche

to a meditation workshop in Nimbin.

He will be giving a public talk "How to be your own therapist" on Friday 14th October, at 7.30pm 'at the Fountain Room, Lismore City Hall Cost at the door is \$10/\$5

He will also be conducting two workshops in Nimbin on Saturday 15th October at Birth and Beyond, 54 Cullen St, Nimbin. The programme

is:

9.00am – 11.30am  
Buddhist Teachings on "Health and Vitality"

1.00pm – 4.00pm  
Empowerment and Meditation Practice of Healing Goddess Parnashavari

Goddess Parnashavari is a healing goddess: a form of Tara in the Tantric Buddhist pantheon. This practice is reputed to be particularly effective against epidemics and all forms of contagious diseases. In the afternoon workshop participants will receive the unbroken transmission of a more than thousand year old lineage. A practice manual will be provided, as well as know how instruction on the healing meditation practice.

Cost is \$40/\$30 for both workshops, or \$25/\$20 for one workshop, and space is limited so those who book will be seated first.

For bookings or enquiries phone 6689-7334 (Marylyn) or 6622-2785 (Alison)

Rinpoche's recently released book, *Healing Relationships*, which was the topic of his talk in Nimbin last year, will be available for perusal and purchase.

## Women rejoice

By popular demand there will be another Nimbin Women's Dinner this year, so get ready to enjoy good company, food, music, dance, comedy, poetry and art.

It will be held on Wednesday 2nd November in the Town Hall. A sit-down meal is included and will be served at 7pm. An exhibition of women's art will also be part of the evening.

The great line up of entertainment includes Mandy Nolan, Hip Hop Fusion, The Frocks, Janie Conway, Val Hopkins, Mereki, Tap Bitches and Christine Strelan.

Catering is by Ka-toush who will provide delicious Middle Eastern food which will be delivered to tables. Wine will also be available at the hall.

This event is an initiative of the Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee, with the aim of strengthening the social networks of women in Nimbin and celebrating the strength, resilience, and creativity of Nimbin women.

It will be an opportunity to meet, talk, laugh and share common ground. If you are new to Nimbin, or have been isolated, come along and meet some new people or catch up

## UK to host 2006 Global Marijuana Music Awards

Get ready to rock & roll at the 2006 Global Marijuana Music Awards

Being held at the 2006 Cannabis Law Reform Rally in London, the 2006 GMMA is open to all music across the globe with a marijuana theme.

Entries accepted in English, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, German, Japanese, Greek, French, Hebrew & Arabic.

With 14 music categories to choose from and a cash prize for Pot Song of the Year, marijuana is something to sing about! Wanna be a Potstar? Check out [www.rainbow-records.com](http://www.rainbow-records.com) to enter the 2006 GMMA.



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