

SK8 Park update

The state of play for Nimbin's future world-class play area was explained to a special high school assembly on Tuesday 20th June. A site inspection was also held on Thursday 29th June for Nimbin Central students and other youth, to see for themselves the progress made at Nimbin Sk8 Park.

Marcus Mantscheff, Romany Pike and Simon Moore gave an informative talk about the ideas behind the SK8 Park, its development over the past four years and the likelihood of a sound test in late July.

Romany has been involved with the project from the start. The idea had been an initiative of the town's youth, who had been using a small skate ramp in the community centre grounds and had dreams of a real skating facility near the centre of town.

The ramp was designed by Nimbin youth who were, and still are, frequent users of skate parks. They researched it thoroughly to include the best features in ramp design for all ability levels, in the best surface material for skating – steel.

The Nimbin Community development Association designed the project as a Work for the Dole scheme, which was good for local job-seekers, and helped finalise

the computer-aided drawings that were needed for Council approval. Marcus, the current NCDA co-ordinator, explained how the project was halted after concerns were expressed about noise generated on the incomplete project.

A town meeting towards the end of 2005 saw the commissioning of a dedicated working group to investigate the future of Nimbin Sk8 Park, its current management and associated noise mitigation options. This group negotiated with council to complete one half-length of the facility ahead of further sound level testing. Recommendations by the sound engineer were well documented, however limited by immediate funding resources.

Works recommenced in 2006 with noise mitigation infrastructure a priority. With the funds available, the NCDA is employing community noise mitigation solutions, detailed by the SK8 Park working group. This has included coating the underside of the half-pipes with a tar-like emollient, and wedging tires up against it and enclosing all sides to restrict the escape of excessive noise.

Remembering that Nimbin Sk8 Park is not a commercial development but a community project that has provided local



placement and training for seven Work for the Dole teams (totalling some 40 thousand work hours to date); Sk8 Park continues to garner support among local and regional stakeholders. Still a challenge exists to re-engage funding bodies that have seen this project suffer from controversial publicity, noise complaints, closure and considerable delays.

This whole project is for Nimbin youth, and the working group needs youth support. People could help by not playing on the ramp until it is ready. It is a locked work site, and presents dangers to those who enter unlawfully. Recently a number of fences have been repeatedly forced aside exposing the Sk8 Park to further delays. Locals need to be

concerned enough to address any players in the Sk8 Park outside of Work for the Dole supervision hours. Delays due to vandalism put unnecessary pressure on Work for the Dole participants who need to tidy-up or repair damage in order to continue work.

The NCDA understands the frustration felt by youth at the Sk8 Park remaining off-limits. In an effort to build solidarity we are designing a project to publicise the desire Nimbin youth have for a skate park. The project has start up funding and will be a multimedia web-based program to showcase the creativity of Nimbin's youth to get a purpose built skate facility in town.

Simon Moore is looking for young people interested in making a video

documentary and web-site for skaters and the Sk8 Park. He hopes to include students from the Nimbin Central School film-making group who he has been working with on Wednesdays. All local youth who want to contribute towards getting a skate park for Nimbin are invited to participate. Register your interest by dropping into the Nimbin Community Centre office.

Immediate residents have been notified by mail about the forthcoming sound test, which is expected to be on Saturday 22nd July from 11am. This date is when the sound engineer is currently booked for and is contingent on uninterrupted works at the Sk8 Park construction site. If the current noise mitigation works remain incomplete, there may be possible delays. Delays have been the result of wet weather and illness and it is hoped that there are no further delays. TURSA Employment and Training have committed two teams (four days) each week until the project is ready.

The objective of the sound check is to test the effectiveness of the installed noise mitigation infrastructure; not to sound the death knell for the project. If the noise levels have been significantly reduced by the current works, the Sk8 Park Working group will review further options to target the required levels.

World Cup time again for poets

The Nimbin Oasis Cafe poets, with the support of the community, is once again preparing itself for the 4th Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup.

This year's event has \$4000 total in prize money, the winner receiving \$1500 and the prestigious big shiny Cup.

Summerland Credit Union is sponsoring the People's Choice award for \$400, runners up will each receive \$200 and there are incentive awards of \$25 and \$50 to be presented to performers on the first day of the heats by the judges.

Every year this event attracts more visiting Performance Poets and the competition will be hotly contested.

Last year's winner 'Ghostboy' (pictured) from the Sunshine Coast is laying down the challenge and said of his win, "The Nimbin World Cup is a weekend word orgy of fine lines and mic spit, and any poet worth their salt will lick their lips and hit the Nimbin stage.....best Performance Poetry

event in Australia...best Poetry audiences in the world!!!"

Candy Royalle from Sydney took away the People's Choice award in 2005 and will be back this year more determined to be up there with the finalists and hopefully take away the Cup. Of her weekend in Nimbin she said, "What a fantastic show Nimbin puts on, what an absolutely fantastic audience and I look forward to catching up with you all again this year."

Contestants have 8 minutes to perform one or more original poems on the Saturday during the heats. If lucky enough to go onto the semi-finals, they will then perform again on Sunday starting from 11am. Sunday evening sees the Grand Final at the Nimbin School of Arts at 7.30pm.

Application forms are now available and information regarding the weekend is available on www.nimbinpoetry.com. or call co-ordinator Gail on 6689 7424.



Judgement

A word that sounds big is "Judgemental" – a powerfull, awful, word (Nicht wahr?)

Better think before you use it carelessly. You should chew it over, ruminate, and taste it well, before you spit it out.

Judgement, is after all "the faculty Of judging; that function of the mind, whereby it arrives at a notion of anything.

The critical faculty; discernment, discretion, understanding, good sense." (More logically one might say; "The action of mentally apprehending the relation between two objects of thought.")

So: 'tween you forcuse me

Take a good look at our judgement. It bounces around.

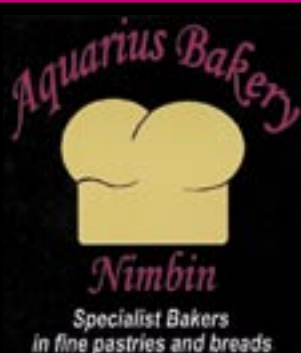
Warwick Fry

(with the assistance of the Oxford English Dictionary).

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Nimbin scores in business awards

The Lismore Business Awards for 2006 at the Lismore Workers Club was a terrific night well attended by over two hundred local business people. S Sorrensen was MC for the night, with music provided by Jim Kelly and Natalie Gay, Stipsky and The Fabulous Falagan Brothers. A local designers fashion parade hosted by Cat Anderson was also part of the entertainment.

Hosted by Lismore Unlimited Opportunities, their mission statement is to promote Lismore as the regional business capital of the region and a great place to live and work, establish and do business.

Nimbin based Rainbow Power Co. won category eight, Most Environmentally Friendly Business (sponsored by *The Northern Star*) virtually by default as the only entrant in the category! The award might as well be 'only' environmentally friendly business?



New (Age) Lawyer in Nimbin



Michael with daughter Barbara and son Malachi

Dr Michael Kidd has joined Nimbin Law at 50 Cullen St and will be practicing in the area of Criminal, Domestic Violence and Family Law. He has 27 years experience working for Aboriginal Legal Services in Redfern, Dubbo and Launceston, Tasmania.

Late last year, he returned to Nimbin after an absence of seven years having worked at the NZ Bar in Auckland; and University of the South Pacific, Suva Fiji, training indigenous lawyers. There he met his wife Savaira the daughter of a Fiji chief or Ratu; and has three children, including Malachi – who is at Nimbin Central School – a dwarf boy suffering from partial paralysis as a result of an accident when he was 18 months old.

It says a lot for the values of tolerance and diversity in Nimbin seeing the love and respect towards Malachi in school – “it blows me away” he says.

Whilst in Fiji he was appointed a mediator in the Fiji 2000 coupe by the late President Ratu Mara: “there is nothing like having an AK47 waved in your face

to concentrate the mind on one’s own life issues” he says.

Michael believes Australia and NZ are facing a spiritual void, which has seen the breakdown of traditional values like tolerance and fair go. In 2004 he was appointed by the NSW chapter of the International Commission of Jurists to report on, and investigate the treatment of an Algerian Professor, Ahmed Zaoui, then being held in custody in NZ.

His report was critical of the apparent breach by the NZ Government of the International Convention relating to the treatment of refugees: “in Zaoui’s case he had been held by a NZ higher court, or tribunal, to be a bona fide refugee, yet the NZ minister of Immigration invoked a security provision to keep him in custody”.

Michael is a colourful character having been brought up a catholic and nearly becoming a priest. In the 70s he became an adherent of the human potential movement founded by US psychologist Fritz Perls, a Jewish refugee

from Nazi persecution. He was a Rajneeshee for 15 years going under the name Swami Anand Paritosh, and has come full circle back to a practical Christianity, based on the social and spiritual teaching of Jesus in the gospel of Luke. He is an ordained pastor.

“When I saw the effects of the take over of the Fiji Parliament (in May 2000) I thought about the effects of evil in our world and the many different forms it takes. I was also aware of the presence of God at that precise time”.

He brings to the position at Nimbin Law a strong social conscience and supports the recent changes to the Family Law Act – meaning both parents will get a fair go – the emphasis being on communication and reconciliation.

His book the “Sacred Wound of Australia”, based on his PhD, and looking at the genocide of Tasmanian Aborigines, will be launched soon by Justice Michael Kirby. It will contain a foreword by Prof. Henry Reynolds and for more information see www.kiddlegal.com.

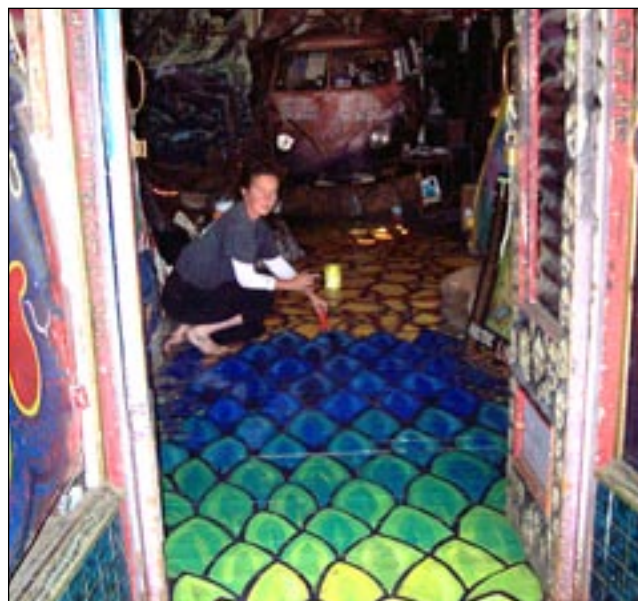
Nimbin museum closed for a month

The Nimbin Museum opened on Boxing Day 1992, and apart from a few Christmas Days, it’s been open every day since. However, the idea of being an interactive Museum, a place for visitors to meet locals, has backfired a bit, with the Museum becoming over the years a place where youth hang out.

“Many displays have taken a hammering and it’s time to pull it apart, give it a big clean, and put it back together in a new and fresh way,” said owner Michael Balderstone.

“Perhaps we’ll simplify some areas, and the Rainbow Serpent Path which follows a time line through Nimbin’s history needs repainting. A lot of treasures are buried in there and already starting the clean up today has unearthed jewels we haven’t seen for years. Our archival system is as unique as the Museum itself!”

Several local artists are going to do new works, the Cave will be rebuilt and the Hemp room



Elsbeth Jones, one of several local artists engaged in the museum renovations, repainting the Rainbow Serpent path.

“replanted.”

Over the years the Museum has gained quite a reputation, and museum staff will try not to disappoint visitors to the village who are keen to see it, some of whom travel to Nimbin specifically for it. They will be welcomed inside

to see what they can while the work is being undertaken.

The latest incarnation of the Museum Kiosk is planned to open shortly and operate independently of the Museum.

For further info phone the Museum on 6689 1123, or go to www.nimbinmuseum.com.

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Policing Nimbin

by Warwick Fry

Sydney Morning Herald columnist Peter Hartcher made the astute observation (SMH May 26 "A Red Herring to Prompt a Labour Split") that John Howard's nuclear power bombshell was less about alternative energy and economics, and more a classic manifestation of his mastery of the tactics of 'wedge politics', designed to bring out the latent divisions and tensions within the Labour Party. Wedge politics is now a recognised feature of the Howard 'style', and there was a good demonstration of it at the meeting of the community and interested community groups in front of the Police Station just a few days before the Mardi-Grass.

Police media liaison officer Anne Langford was tactful enough not to echo the "Thomas George line" that implied: 'the Nimbin community is a behavioural sink seething with social tensions and festering problems just waiting to erupt into an orgy of gratuitous violence'. But she did attempt to foster differences within



the community by conflating the issue of the excessive police presence for Mardi-Grass with the issue of an improved police presence generally. It was an artificial division between fictive audiences that either wanted an improved police presence, or who didn't want police at all.

Unfortunately she chose an example that gave the whole rhetorical game away.

Real issues were dodged (eg: why there has only been a limited 9-to-5 police presence over the last ten years) with lip service recognition of problems that were 'unique to Nimbin'. These were essentially social problems (homelessness, youth violence, mental health) – presumably unique to Nimbin because of tolerant community attitudes. To illustrate her point she

referred to an incident that had occurred the Friday before, when, she claimed "two of my officers were ... injured, when they attempted to detain a mentally ill young man to have him taken to Richmond clinic, and a hostile crowd gathered, hindering their efforts..."

Unfortunately (I have to say it again), for Anne's skilful PR exercise, the incident had been recorded on sound and video. On the sound track you can hear aboriginal elders assisting the police. In fact, in one section you can hear the police officer who was restraining the man ask him to listen to what one local elder was saying. You can hear the emotional appeals by both male and female aboriginal elders for the man to go with the police peacefully, and in the end, the young man was

persuaded to enter the police vehicle voluntarily on his own two feet.

It was a moving, powerful, and convincing demonstration of police and community cooperation, and could almost be used as a police training tape on how healthy police/community relations might work, if allowed.

An edited version of the sound track of the incident is available and can be downloaded from the 2NimFM podcast site (direct link: <http://nimbinradiomedia.libsyn.com>) in the May archives. The sound file can be downloaded directly from: <http://media.libsyn.com/media/nimbinradiomedia/Police012.mp3> Complete and unedited copies of the entire incident are also on file in various locations.

Again, it was unfortunate that this human drama should be used in what was effectively, part of a massive police disinformation campaign. We saw this in the lead up to the Mardi-Grass with the regional commander Bruce Lyons doing interviews on regional ABC radio claiming overwhelming local support for (for what? Remember wedge politics?) an increased police presence,

disingenuously implying that this was community endorsement for the 200 strong Mardi-Grass crackdown.

We saw it during the Mardi-Grass when tourists on their way were actively discouraged at police checkpoints in the villages around Nimbin, to turn back from the Nimbin Mardi-Grass, and we saw it in the conspicuous absence of police the day after the Mardi-Grass, and indeed, the following week. It will

probably become more apparent when NSW Police Minister Scully will be forced, under FOI to disclose the costing of the exercise, and on what grounds he was persuaded to approve it.

For those who would say let District Commander Lyons have his day, (he did make promises to 'improve' the police presence in Nimbin) look at the track record behind the rhetoric, and maintain the rage. Make our day, Bluey!

Nimbin Safe Community Project

There will be another information session on Thursday 3rd August at 3pm and a training day on Saturday 5th August for women interested in becoming an aunty. These will be held at the Birth & Beyond rooms. This will enable the Aunty program to finally get up and running.

I am intending to hold a series of workshops for women, beginning 10th August each two weeks until Thursday 7th September. These will include a pampering day, safety in relationships, self esteem, assertiveness and

goal setting. Lunch will be provided and we aim to have heaps of fun as well as create a supportive and safe space for women to share and learn new skills.

The young women's group meets every Thursday afternoon at the Youth Club. If you are between 15-18yrs and would like to join please ring me or come along. We will break for the school holidays but start meeting again on Thursday 20th July.

Contact Lizette, phone (02) 6689 1692 or email safenimbin@hotmail.com, if you are interested in any of the above workshops.

Economic developments

David Hallett, CEDO

The past 6 months has been an action-packed time for major events in Nimbin, and the Community Economic Development Office has been riding the wave of new and established programs that are a highlight of cultural life and business in Nimbin. Assistance with promotion, production, venues, sponsorship, funding submissions and reports are all aspects of the CEDO's liaison with event co-ordinators.

Nimbin's 39 Hours Short Film Competition & Festival was an inspiring start to the year. Most involved were first-time filmmakers, and the standing-room-only crowd at the awards night was a great response to this first-time event; moreover the camera and editing workshops by the CTC (with more

workshops coming up) were the real foundation for the event, and for the next '39 Hours'.

The Nimbin Players celebrated their 10th anniversary with their first programmed Autumn Season. 'Hotel Sorrento' was an innovative multi-stage production with many new faces joining the company.

The Autumn Arts Extravaganza was a new venture for the Nimbin Artists Gallery, and what a success...over 10,000 visitors, a variety of workshops, a large scale exhibition of new works many especially created for the show, and daily concerts of music, dance and poetry.

The Blue Moon Cabaret was a full house and one of the best of the past 15 years; and it was interesting to note that many locals had invited out-of-town friends and visitors to marvel at the variety and talents of this cultural icon.

MardiGrass, apart from the media/Police taskforce/crackdown, was as always a fascinating explosion of concerts, bands, comedy, poetry, street theatre, Hemp Olympics, forums, the odd Doof (or 2), legions of Combies, and the rally...among other things. Numbers were down somewhat thanks to the various bits of various wars on various terrors, but the history of MardiGrass marches on.

The 14th annual Concert of Dance was another grand show of tap and bellies and ballet and more, while the galleries of Nimbin and Blue Knob continue to display the works of the valley's large population of artists, craft workers and designers.

The CEDO has also been liaising with Council's Tourism Services in the co-ordination of the Nimbin Visitors Centre which has been operating since May 2005. The Visitors Centre is managed by the Nimbin CTC, and the provision of internet facilities and other

IT services has been beneficial in sustaining both organisations, which are significant for thousands of annual visitors to Nimbin, and also for many locals as well. The Nimbin VIC is one of the busiest in the region receiving between 150 and 300 visitors daily.

The Nimbin Walking Trail is a major long term project which the CEDO has been engaged with for the past year. Council is very supportive of the project and has successfully applied for funds to manage workshops to strategically scope the project. The initial workshops will be held in July. Another project that the CEDO is involved with is the Rainforest Way. This is a large undertaking involving NSW and Queensland tourism bodies together with several Councils on both sides of the border. Significantly Nimbin is a key point on the main route of the Rainforest Way.

The CEDO has also been engaged in aspects of ongoing

improvements, beautification and signage in Nimbin. Street lighting, pedestrian crossings lighting and lighting in the Western Carpark and access laneways have all been areas that the CEDO is overseeing, as well as the ongoing trial of CCTV installation and monitoring in Nimbin.

The position of CEDO is a significant liaison point with key stakeholders in Council's Economic Development Unit and Tourism Services, as well as the Dept of State & Regional Development, Northern Rivers Tourism, Arts Northern Rivers, Area Consultative Committee and Southern Cross University's Office of Regional Engagement. From the first of July the management of the CEDO position will be transferred from the Community Centre to Lismore City Council. The intention in this transfer is to consolidate the CEDO role as an ongoing Nimbin-based position engaged by Council.

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Principal fondly farewelled

by Margie Hayes

For almost seven years as I have turned into Thorburn Street and driven into Nimbin Central School I have thought 'who would be anywhere else?' I now find myself about to be that very person who is going to be somewhere else.

After the holidays I commence as Principal of Casino Public School. It will be interesting to return in a different role to the school I attended as a young child from Year 2 to Year 6. Whilst I had absolutely wonderful teachers as a child, I also gained a valuable insight as a student there about the long term impact a thoughtless comment or action by an adult can have on a child. This relates to my having been in the school choir and the choir master determining someone was singing out of tune. Each child had to sing individually to discover the 'culprit'. When it was my turn, believing I could sing, I burst forth in song loudly and volubly only to be publicly humiliated by being identified as 'the culprit' – and excluded from the choir. That choir master would not have known the damaging long-term effect his public exclusion would have on my desire to sing. The gift of this experience meant that as an adult parent and teacher, I became consciously sensitive to the way children are spoken to (and about). One of the many pleasures of working in a Central School has been having students enrolled from K-12. Each year our new group of Kindies have been heart stealers and a constant reminder of the beautiful innocence of childhood. Over time I have developed a strong belief (borne out by research) that the earlier interventions are put in place to support children experiencing personal, social or learning challenges, the better the outcomes.

In going to Casino Public School (K-6), I am really aware that I will no longer have daily contact with secondary students. I know already I will miss the daily joys and challenges of working with adolescents. One of the psychological tasks of adolescence is to form one's own identity – and each progressive group of Years 7, 8 and 9's (affectionately referred to by me as 'hormones in Reebocks') have created varied and interesting approaches to the task.

I am grateful to have been here long enough to witness the amazing transformations which take place over time – the young adults who complete Year 12 at our school are a credit to all the people and forces who have supported them to develop their individual identities. Nimbin young adults continue to impress me over time with their highly developed sense of social justice, their compassion and resilience, and their ability to take their place in the world. I have worked in many communities throughout NSW during a career now spanning 32 years, and have never seen a community such as Nimbin with so much intellectual and creative capital. I have also come to respect the honesty that is Nimbin –



Margie Hayes holding Dally, pictured with teacher Jack Doyle.

and the determined and innovative solutions this community is developing in response to endemic world-wide social issues.

The deep respect the Nimbin Community shows towards Aboriginal culture should serve as a model for other communities. I have personally valued my contact with Aunty Agnes and Aunty Viv – and appreciate their sharing of knowledge and wisdom to support Nimbin Central School to develop culturally appropriate protocols.

I have had the good fortune throughout my life to have had two parents who loved me and my siblings unconditionally – my parents have always supported us in our many and varied endeavours and always provided a safety net of love and reassurance when we experienced difficult personal challenges. At 89 and almost 83, with 63 years of living together, the advances of time and the ageing process have meant that Mum and Dad now need more of my love, time and support to enable them to remain in their home and live out their final years with dignity.

My moving to Casino Public School is to enable me the time to provide this.

Throughout my time at Nimbin Central School I have worked as one part of a duo with Ms Christine Grieves, currently Deputy Principal. This experience has been one of my most enriching experiences professionally – and I have the utmost respect for Christine's professional integrity and commitment to ethical practices.

It is a personal relief to me that Christine will relieve as Principal – Christine is passionately committed to supporting students at Nimbin Central School to maximise their potential and she has all the leadership capabilities, energy and drive to so do. I also know all members of the Executive will support Christine and ensure a smooth change-over. As I think fondly about teachers at our school, I am aware that our staff population provides the same rich diversity of individuality as our students. The

positive aspect of this has always been that it gives each student at Nimbin Central School the opportunity to connect with a teacher as a significant other adult person in their lives. In my time here as Principal, I have witnessed the extra mile our teachers often go to in order to facilitate positive outcomes for all students. Similarly our Support Staff and Cleaning Staff – who are the most wonderful team of people who provide the necessary infrastructure to enable the school to function, and who relate to all members of the school community in a respectful, helpful manner.

In my Principalship at Nimbin Central School I have had the pleasure of working with two P&C Presidents – Kim Hanning and Manuela Geiss. Both Kim and Manuela demonstrated a real commitment to Nimbin Central School and voluntarily gave many hours of their time to support our school. Our parents and community members who volunteer their time to support our initiatives deserve our deep appreciation.

The canteen at Nimbin Central School is the best I have ever eaten from – always delicious, nutritious and served with extra scoops of love and care. Thank you to Tanya, Cassie and Kath and your band of helpers.

The efforts of Val over a long time supporting the musical talents of our children have become part of the rich history of Nimbin Central School. If only someone just like Val had been there for me as a young child!!!

Through our 2006 Priority Action Schools Programme, Vanessa Miles-Taig (an intern psychologist) has been employed two days a week, and the innovative programmes she has developed and is implementing at Nimbin Central School have so impressed our new School Education Director, that they are likely to be used as a whole District initiative. I have truly valued my discussions with Vanessa and have appreciated her lively intelligence and her generous sharings



of knowledge and insights from a young professional now much closer to 'youth culture' than myself.

And finally, and most importantly – the past and present students of Nimbin Central School. Thank-you for giving me a heart full of love, a mind flooding with so many special memories, and the opportunity to have been a part of your lives. My seven years at Nimbin Central School have been a most significant and rewarding part of my life's journey – enriched by my contact with you all.

My genuine wish for you all is that you will continue to shine your light brightly. I have every confidence in your abilities to make a positive difference in the world.

I am not saying goodbye – as I will continue to take an interest in your lives (I can see myself in my old age working as a volunteer at Nimbin Central School – listening to your children read).

I live in North Street, Casino – Phone 666 24606 – and love visitors. Feel free to stay in contact.

Love and deep appreciation,

Margie Hayes

Natural childbirth available

Giving birth can be a daunting prospect, but it's not something you need to face alone.

The Natural Birth Centre, nestled amongst the hills behind Wollongbar, is there to give you the support you need to help you prepare for birth and beyond. Margaret Spain (Santo) as childbirth educator and co-ordinator of the centre, along with other experienced midwives, can give you all the information you need to make informed choices on pregnancy care, labour and birth, along with breastfeeding and post natal care. Accommodation is also

offered at the centre.

Natural childbirth education classes run over four weeks, for three hours at a time, where the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual aspects of birth are all addressed. Only four couples are involved in any one class, allowing for a relaxed and intimate environment. Many couples find that they make new friends through the classes, as they learn and grow together.

Attending the childbirth classes at the centre is one of the criteria for utilizing any of the three midwifery continuity services offered

by the centre. These services include birth support for hospital, or midwifery services for either home or at the centre – when the impending birth is considered low-need.

Women who complete childbirth classes offered by the centre can stay at the centre after birthing in a hospital. The Natural Birth Centre is a non-profit organisation, although bookings and fees do apply. Donations of cash, services or goods are always welcome. Call the centre's administration on 6629-5312 or email info@naturalbirth.org.au for more information.

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Bongs lock horns

For someone who displays strong elitist proclivities in the public forum and doesn't mind a bit of a sledge herself: "...conservatism, greed and pretentiousness (not nice people)...mentally constipated Liberal/National voters...pretentious affluent," Anita Bong is a surprisingly sensitive little violet (NGT June 06).

And my letter was not badly written Anita - you just didn't like what it said and lack a little literary versatility. I challenged you on a number of points using hyperbole and humour a la The John Cleese/Rowan Atkinson school of diatribe (which you read as vitriol). Not only have you substantiated my claim re your lack of humour, you have failed to address the points made.

A lot of people were pissed off by your letter and the narrow-minded judgemental attitudes displayed. I read it carefully and so should you. I stand by what I said and how it was conveyed.

Nothing personal but you should engage your brain before you enter the public arena as you did. The lads at The Retro reckon it was cool (go ask them) and the women at The Apothecary (whom I know well) have a social conscience and a sense of humour too. You just didn't get the point and I made plenty of valid ones.

And thanks to the NGT for encouraging healthy debate despite the probability Anita would likely prefer me censored or deported.

Wunbong Tumani (who incidentally doesn't smoke...anymore).

Medicinal Culture

Recently, listening to Nimbin's 2Nim-FM's (102.3FM) Tony Stallone's health radio show, I heard him regard food as "Medicine." How Logical! How Sensible! etc.

Since that show, the ABC has used the same term "Food Medicine" five million times? er... no..., once, but that's good enough, for it is a much overlooked truth, that FOOD IS

MEDICINE, when regarded and consumed aright.

So, a long way of writing what came to mind 'tother day, when reflecting on that "Food Medicine" term: "Cultural Food-Medicine" resulted from that short ponder, which means, implies, aspires to light-up in other minds that Good Culture, like Good Food, is Medicine.

That's all! What's Good Culture? Natural, Agrarian, Organic, Communal, Indigenous, Sustainable, Spiritual. Heaven-on-Hertha!

Max Nichols Meredith
Nimbin

Missing

On the night of 8th June 06, the HEMP Bar joint was stolen from its place under the awning outside the HEMP Bar. A reward of one ounce has been posted for its safe return.

Unless we hear of its return very soon we may need to resort to using the camera footage to discover the perpetrators, and report them to the police.

Another option would be to dispell the rumours that pot-smoking people are non-violent. Either way, this is a small villiage and we will find out who stole it and take whatever action we think appropriate.

Peace.

Dave Cannabis

NOTICES

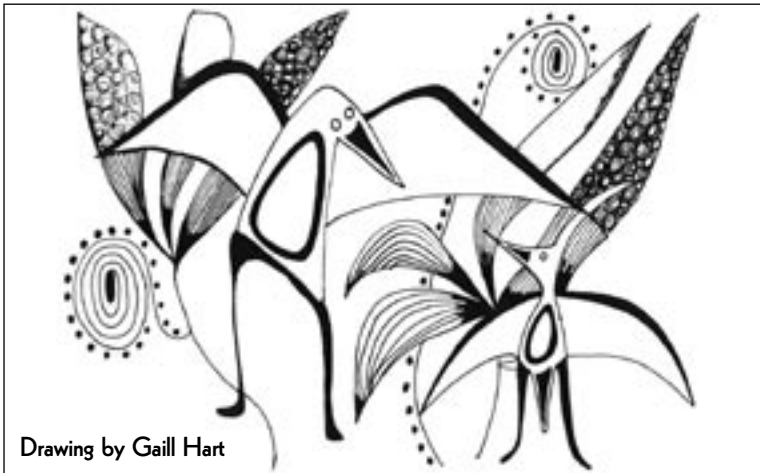
Vacation Care

Nimbin Vacation Care will be running from Wednesday 5th July at Nimbin Central School. Co-ordinator: Fiona Salkeld. Bookings are essential. Phone 6689-1692.

Immunisation Clinic

The Nimbin Immunisation Clinic, held on the 2nd Monday of each month, is relocating from the Parenting Centre (at the Community Centre) to Nimbin Hospital, Cullen Street.

This Clinic is run between 1.30



Drawing by Gaill Hart

and 3pm for children 0-5 years. Appointments must be made through Lismore Community Health, on 6620-7687.

Next clinic - Monday 10th July.

Women's Public Meeting

and community consultation on the establishment of a Women & Children's Health & Wellbeing Centre

11am Wednesday 5th July at the Aboriginal Arts & Culture Centre (Hub café)

Nimbin Community School

Annual General Meeting 6.30pm 26th July at the Green Room, Nimbin Community Centre

Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group

Annual General Meeting 11am 29th July at Nimbin Community Gardens. All welcome Also... The old church hall will be demolished after 12th July unless

funds are found, or volunteers come forward to move it onto the gardens site. We need only \$1000 to get it moved immediately, then can organise its repair and renovation.

Car Pool

In cooperation with the guys from needaride, www.byronevents.net is now able to offer a free local carpool feature on the byronevents.net website. Those who need a lift or wish to offer a lift around the Byron Bay, Lismore, Nimbin, Tweed areas can simply do so by following the ShareRide link on the byronevents.net main page.

In addition to local carpool there is also Australia wide ride sharing.

Happy travels for a friendly community.

For Sale

1990 Nissan Patrol, LPG/petrol, 10 months rego, loads of work done over last 12 months. \$7,500. Phone 0437 397 038.

Kyogle Library News

Free Membership

Do YOU have a Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library (RUCRL) membership card from Kyogle, Casino - Central, Evans Head, Coraki or the RUCRL Mobile library? If not, membership is FREE with appropriate identification to residents of the Kyogle and Richmond Valley Shires. Contact Kyogle library staff for further details Ph 6632-1134.

If you already have a RUCRL library card why not drop into Kyogle library on your next visit to town and give it a FREE workout at the Library?

YOU can borrow up to 15 items on your card from a wide range of materials including Fiction, Non-fiction, Magazines, Music CD's, Videos, DVD's, PS2's, Large Print, Talking Books, Junior talking books, Junior tape and text, Young Adult fiction and Talking Books and much, much more!

The Library is located in Stratheden Street, across from the Kyogle Council Chambers, and opening times are: Monday 2.00 - 5.30pm, Tuesday through



Friday 10.00 - 5.30pm and Saturday 9.00 - 12.00 noon.

Mobile Library

Do YOU live in the Kyogle Shire near Cawongla, the Rainbow Ridge Steiner School, Manifold Public School, Stratheden Public School, Doubtful Creek Public School, Mummulgum Public School, Mallanganee Public School, Tabulam, Woodenbong or Rukenvale Public School? Then YOU have access to the RUCRL Mobile library. Why not drop into new state-of-the-art mobile library and check out the extensive collection. And while you're there say hi to Bill Mueffels, our very helpful and friendly Mobile Library Operator.

What's On @ Kyogle Library in July

Free School Holidays Fun for Kids Who: 5 - 12 years Where: Kyogle library children's area

When: Wednesday, 12th July. Time: 10.30 -11.30am Cost: FREE!!!

Bookings essential (Max. of 12 places)

Contact: Kyogle library staff @ Stratheden Street or phone 6632-1134 for bookings and details.

Kid's Chess & Board Game Club

Who: School-aged kids Where: Kyogle library When: Thursday arvos throughout Winter (weekly)

Time: 4.00 - 5.00pm Cost: FREE!!!

Contact: Kyogle library staff for further details.

P.S Kids, no board games from home please. Kyogle library's board games include: Chess, Rummiking, Junior Scrabble, UNO and Snakes & Ladders.

"See you @ Kyogle library each Thursday arvo for lots of board game fun!"

About us

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www.nimbingoodtimes.com

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Next deadline: Wed 26th July.

Email: goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com or put in the Community School's pigeonhole in the Community Centre.

Usual disclaimers apply. 6,000 copies this month.

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Information for Members and Guests

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- * School craft supplies
- * Bill Express agent
- * EFTPOS

Council jottings

Cr Jenny Dowell

Lismore City Council's Budget 06-07

There is much more to any Council than roads, rates and rubbish, but the 3 Rs are a good place to start when outlining the major expenditure items for Lismore City Council in the coming financial year.



Roads

Council will spend \$15 million on roads with a commitment to seal Stoney Chute Road by June 2008. The annual commitment of \$200,000 only seals 1.5 km of road but a boost of last-minute Federal Government Roads to Recovery funding of \$3.1m to be spread over 4 years, has allowed \$200,000 to be spent on Stoney Chute Rd in this coming year. An additional \$200,000 in 07-08 will seal the final section. Also in the 06-07 budget is \$250,000 for capital works on Pinchin Road Stage 2 (3.7 to 4.7 km east of Nimbin Rd).

The aggregate of 6 items such as traffic volumes, safety rating and whether the road is a bus route, provides a score used to determine the priority for road works. Unfortunately, despite a high score, the sealing of 1.2 km of Lillian Rock Road is not in the program for the next 2 years and Council has opted to seal the remainder of the much less-used Skyline Road instead.

The 06-07 budget for maintenance of our 415 kms of sealed rural roads including drainage, footpaths and mowing totals \$1.7 m and for the 407kms of unsealed rural roads, we will spend \$1.06 m including 2 grades per year for busy roads. Although there are no specific roads listed for road maintenance, Nimbin residents should expect to see continued Council activity on the roads in their area.

Rates

After last year's overhaul of the manner in which Council sets its rates formula, the 06-07 Management Plan sees a 3.6% increase in general rates in line with the State Government's imposed rate pegging limit. While it is impossible to fund many worthwhile projects, I support the imposed rate increase as providing some protection for ratepayers. Instead I would like to see an increase in Federal Assistance Grants or, better still, a percentage of GST revenue coming directly to local government.

Rubbish

Council's commitment to reducing waste will see a 3 bin system introduced in Lismore urban areas and an expenditure of \$2.45 m to build a transfer station and materials recovery facility at the Wyrallah Road depot. The aim is to extend the life of the landfill site and recover costs through the resale of materials. Costs will rise slightly for urban ratepayers to fund these changes. Already village and rural residents interested in having a curbside collection for glass, plastics, paper and cans are expressing much interest.

The charge for the Nimbin Transfer Station has risen by \$2.05 to \$59 in line with rate pegging.

The Rest

Specific projects funded in Nimbin are:

- the Sibley St footpath and pedestrian bridge (\$20,000)
- monitoring of the CCTV for 3 months (\$8,500)
- tourism market research (\$8,000)

Why Jenny voted for fluoride

As readers would be aware, Lismore Council at its meeting on 14th June voted to add fluoride to the Rous Water supply at Rocky Creek Dam. The decision means that only Byron Council has resolved against fluoridation. Although Nimbin's water supply does not come from Rous but from Mulgum Weir, I felt that NGT readers might like to hear my reasons for supporting fluoridation.

As a teacher of young children, my first priority is their health and welfare and I believe that fluoridation is the single most cost-effective measure a community can take to improve the dental health of its children. While I accept that the consumption of sugar is a major cause of decay and the lack of affordable dental care is deplorable, the simple act of drinking fluoridated drinking water can achieve a beneficial outcome without requiring a change in behaviour.

At the meeting, I initially voted for a referendum to allow the community to decide whether it wanted fluoridation because I had some concerns that the two health department surveys, whose results were quite valid, were not as comprehensive as they could have been. That vote was lost 4-8.

Council then voted 8-4 to support the addition of fluoride. My reasons can be summarised as follows:

1. There is no credible evidence of damage or health risk from 1 part per million of sodium fluoride in drinking water.
2. Areas with no fluoride in NSW have 2 ½ times more children aged 0-4 hospitalised for general anaesthetics to remove decayed teeth than neighbouring shires with fluoride.
3. Professional contact over 13 years with local preschools where significant numbers of children have rotten teeth causing poor health, social development and speech and language.

In addition, New South Wales Council of Social Services, to which Northern Rivers Social Development Council (where I am President) is affiliated, supports fluoridation.

In preparation for this vote, I read widely and carefully considered both sides of the debate. In the end, despite their loud voices, I did not accept that opponents should be entitled to impose the risks, damage and costs associated with failure to fluoridate on the community at large. My personal experience in Melbourne with my two children now aged 25 and 22 with no fillings was also a factor in my vote.

I hope this explains my reasons for voting as I did. The community at large will have the opportunity to express its opinion of the decision of each of the Councillors at the next election. If the voters decide that my decision to support fluoridation is not acceptable, then of course I will accept their right to place their votes elsewhere.

- replacement of the caravan park manager's residence (\$56,000)
 - waiving of the contribution for 3 carparking spaces for the new preschool (\$9,000)
- In the Management Plan that outlines the projects for each program manager, there are also several items specific to Nimbin:

- 2 new 'hoop' signs for the entrances
 - support for the implementation of a long term tourism, marketing and management plan
 - Visitor Information Centre
 - A new tourism market research study
 - monthly City Safe meetings
- Unfortunately, despite a further submission, the lighting of the western carpark and access was not funded after the General Manager reiterated that there were higher priorities including CCTV cameras and the lighting of Cullen Street. I argued for the lighting as a community safety issue and Council agreed to attempt to secure funding from other sources.

In addition, the budget provides \$149,900 for the operation of the Nimbin Caravan Park and pool. While Nimbin residents may have been looking for mention of other budgetary allocations, their non-inclusion does not preclude further activity and support. Much of Council's work plan in a particular community is embedded in the management plan and budget for each program area. As an example, the Parks and Recreation operating expenses of \$3.7 m covers all of the Lismore Local Government Area and would certainly see work undertaken in Nimbin's parks and reserves.

It is difficult summarising many hundreds of pages of budgetary information in just a few paragraphs so if any residents would like more information, please call me on 6625-2206 or email jenny.dowell@lismore.gov.au

More Council news

As to other Council matters, despite residents concerns about noise, Council voted to approve a development application for buildings associated with Rous Water's

Lismore Source project. There are many broader environmental and financial concerns with this \$35m project that will be pumping water from the Wilson River in Lismore and pumping it up to the Nightcap Treatment Plant to become our primary domestic water supply. Because Rous Water is a crown authority, there is no way in which these concerns can be adequately debated by any of its 4 constituent councils. Despite these big issues, the residents of Howards Grass are justifiably concerned that the 103 dB noise from the high-lift pumping station less than 100 metres from the nearest house will be difficult to attenuate to the required Industrial Noise Policy requirements.

Also at the June 13 meeting, Council agreed to support a Small Business Incubator along the lines of those operating so successfully in Ballina and Mullumbimby. We also adopted a plan to allow for more industrial land in Wyrallah Rd, but deferred a proposal to approve multiple changes to our primary planning document (DCP 1) to allow a more informed discussion. The huge agenda meant a very late night and a decision was made to adjourn the meeting and resume the following week.

On 20th June we then had three meetings to conclude the previous week's business, approve the Management Plan and budget with some late additions and to hold a Strategic Plan Steering Committee to approve policy changes and reports from our Policy Advisory Groups.

On a final note, I am unable to visit Nimbin on 3rd July for my regular opportunity at 5 pm to catch up with residents, as I am on duty for Council Interviews. These interviews are an opportunity for residents to book 30 mins on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month to put a concern to the two rostered Councillors. Even more unfortunately, I have broken my right wrist and cannot drive. On the positive side, my husband, Ron drove us to see the beautiful Blue Knob Gallery's fibre exhibition so I don't feel completely housebound.

Jenny Dowell 6625-2206 jenny.dowell@lismore.gov.nsw.au

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