

# The ancestry of the Aquarian Archive

by Graeme Irwin

In 2004 a group of local Aquarians and others set up an incorporated, not-for-profit association called the Aquarian Archive, taking its name from the 1973 Aquarius Festival in Nimbin which attracted 10,000 – 15,000 people to the then dying hamlet.

In turn, the Festival's title drew on the wholesale shift of consciousness which emerged in Australia in the 1970's and which to those of us caught up in it really did feel like the dawning of a New Age, affecting almost every facet of our lives. The "relaxed and comfortable" post-War years had finally given way to a sense of change and innovation, to a sense of experimentation in lifestyles.

The anarchic quality of the period is perhaps encapsulated by the changes that took place in the Aquarius Festival itself, which was the successor to the National Union of University Students Festivals, previously held for years at university campuses around Australia.

The Universities Festival immediately previous to Aquarius had been held at the Australian National University, where the food provided by the University Union was considered so bad and overpriced

that a group of Festival-goers unilaterally took over the sports field in front of the Union and started up a food cooperative as an alternative to the official catering.

This was one of the factors that led to the organisers of the '73 Festival to locate it off-campus and to transcend its university roots to embrace all the manifestations of the new consciousness. This Festival was to be not just a music festival like earlier 1970's festivals, but a whole-of-lifestyle festival, a do-it-yourself experience.

The invitation was a clarion call to movers and shakers around the country and also overseas, and so they came in their thousands to learn and to celebrate. So great was its impact that, to this day, those who didn't make it can still tell you what they were doing and where they were during that magical week.

Although a handful of New Settlers had moved into the region before Aquarius, it was the Festival that gave the impetus to hundreds and later thousands of people seeking a different lifestyle for themselves and their families to migrate to what came to be known as the Rainbow region.

The Aquarian cultural movement reached its peak here in the

Rainbow Region and continues to pervade almost every aspect of Australian society and culture. To give you an idea of the range of fields in which the Aquarians have had an impact and are still making an impact in this regard, consider:

- In community development - the "Land Sharing Intentional Communities" movement,
- In agriculture - the application of the "Permaculture" system of land management;
- In alternative energy - wind, solar and water power;
- In food production - organic produce;
- In architecture - domes, yurts and innovative designs involving recycled materials;
- In building - sawdust, sand & cement for wall panel infill; recycling of building materials, hand made mud bricks;
- In health - herbs and alternative healing modalities; home birthings, home burials;
- In spirituality - meditation and Buddhism;
- In politics - forest blockades; election of new settlers to Local Councils and the State Government;
- In publications - local newspapers, periodicals and journals;
- In music - protest songs and the introduction of ethnic elements and instrumentation;
- In education - the establishment of "free" community schools;
- In fashion - tie-dyeing and batik;
- In media - new styles of documentary filmmaking, community radio and the establishment of one of the first commercial internet service providers;
- In trading - the establishment of "Country Markets";
- In obtaining affordable housing - the construction of low cost self help housing;
- In food distribution - the establishment of retail bulk-food outlets for example, "Fundamental Foods" in Lismore and other towns



in the Region;

- In Planning Law - the introduction of State Environmental Planning Policy Number 15 which enables, with Council endorsement, the construction of multiple community dwellings on rural zoned land throughout NSW.

The Aquarian pioneers were the advance guard of a migration that continues to this day and, in proportional terms, comprises the largest single subculture in the world to re-settle in a rural area.

Now, more than 30 years on, we are in danger of losing touch with the 70's wellsprings of this culture as people move on and this is why the Aquarian Archive has been set up - to document, collect, preserve, store, restore and display the cultural artefacts of the Rainbow Region New Settlers of the 1970's and beyond.

I would like to thank the organisers of today's Forum for giving me the chance to remind us all of what a great opportunity we all have to achieve something which will celebrate and preserve this important part of our shared regional heritage.

• This is the text of a speech that Graeme gave on 7th July 2006 to the Southern Cross University forum on the Aquarian Archive project.

## New email discussion group for community members

Pan Community Council (Pan Com) was established in Nimbin almost 20 years ago as an umbrella organisation for rural land-sharing communities in north-eastern NSW. One of Pan Com's primary aims is to promote interaction between communities and assist communities in their dealings with councils and other organisations.

Thanks to Greg Hall from Elands, Pan Com has recently established an email discussion group to assist those of us living in intentional communities (or hoping to) to exchange questions and answers, ideas and information.

The site will also contain an index page with links to key resources on-line, whether on the local site or elsewhere. This will be a valuable resource for those wanting more information

about communities.

While it is terrific to have this list in operation, its value will depend entirely on the quality of material posted on it and the level of participation by subscribers. At this early stage there is no restriction on topics that can be raised. In addition, the most useful information will be collated, indexed and archived for open access through the website.

Apart from inquiries from local community members, Pan Com gets regular requests from people wanting to set up communities, visit communities or simply obtain information about them. Questions cover issues such as ownership structures, meeting processes, planning laws, insurance, fire protection, building techniques, rules about pets, shares for sale and accommodation.

We often get inquiries from secondary and tertiary students undertaking studies of community living and lifestyles. The discussion group will enable Pan Com to broaden its response to such inquiries by allowing others to have input.

While many communities are on the existing Pan Com mailing list, the discussion group provides an opportunity for all members of communities (or at least those with email) to tune in and be kept informed. Of course, you can unsubscribe at any time.

For general information about the mailing list and to subscribe please visit:

[http://elands.com/mailman/listinfo/pancom-1\\_elands.com](http://elands.com/mailman/listinfo/pancom-1_elands.com) For more specific information contact Diana Roberts: [dianaro@bigpond.com](mailto:dianaro@bigpond.com)

## Thanking all men for positive times with our children

For the past three years Nimbin Central students have won first prize in the Thanks Dad Photo Competition, which originated in Lismore.

In 2005 the competition went national, and was again won by a Nimbinite, Portia Hunter, with her photo of Industrial Arts teacher Stan Kovac and one of his twin daughters, Luka. Her photo also took out the People's Choice award.

Entries for the 2006 competition close 25th August 2006. Photos must show a child or young person (or part of them) with their father, grandmother, stepdad, uncle, sports coach or other significant man in their lives.

As well as the overall



winner, there are nine categories, each awarding a \$100 Cash Prize, donated by TPHealth and Fletchers Photographics Lismore. Photos will be entered in all relevant categories. See [www.thanksdadphotos.org](http://www.thanksdadphotos.org) for info and entry forms.

Nimbin Central School is holding a "Dad's Day" on Friday 11th August, 1pm to 3.30pm, which will be a great opportunity for taking photos! Contact the school for more details.

## ADVERTISE HERE

and be seen in

5,000 copies monthly of the **Nimbin GoodTimes**

This size ad only \$45 per issue

**Phone 6689 1148**

[goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com](mailto:goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com)

## NIMBIN VILLAGE BUTCHER

Hormone & Chemical-free  
Beef and Pork  
Free-range Chickens  
Continental & Gourmet Deli  
All organic meats

Friendly and obliging service  
Phone 6689 1311

**Aquarius Bakery**

**Nimbin**  
Specialist Bakers  
in fine pastries and breads

**6689 1566**  
Cullen St, Nimbin

**Open every day**  
6am-5pm mon-fri  
6am-2pm sat-sun  
+public holidays

**NIMBIN CANDLES**

**Open 7 days**  
8am - 5pm weekdays  
11am - 4pm weekends

**Phone 6689 1010 Fax 6689 1210**

# Wondrous word-orgy weekend

Nimbin Oasis Café poets, with the support of the community, is preparing itself for the fourth Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup on the weekend of the 5th and 6th August.

This year's event has \$4,000 in prizemoney, the winner receiving \$1500 and the prestigious shiny cup.

Summerland Credit Union is sponsoring the People's Choice Award of \$400. Runners-up will each receive \$200 and there are incentive awards of \$50 and \$20 to be presented by the judges on the first day of the heats.

Every year this event attracts more visiting performance poets and the competition will be hotly contested.

Least year's winner, Ghostboy 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



Ghostboy will be a judge at the 2006 Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup.

poet worth their salt will lick their lips and hit the Nimbin stage.

"Best performance poetry event in Australia, best poetry audience in the world!"

Candy Royalle from Sydney took away the People's Choice Award last year, and will be back more determined than ever to be up there with the finalists, and hopefully take away the Cup this year.

Of her weekend in Nimbin she said "What a fantastic show Nimbin puts on.

What an absolutely fantastic

audience. I look forward to catching up with you all again this year."

Contestants have eight minutes to perform one or more poems on the Saturday during the heats. If lucky enough to go through to the finals, they will then perform again on Sunday, starting from 11am at the Oasis Café.

The evening sees the Grand Final at the Nimbin School of Arts at 7.30pm. The verandah café, staffed by the Tutable Pre-School, will be open for dinner and light snacks (and cakes).

All the heats and semi-finals on the weekend are free to attend; admission for the grand final show is \$15.

A bonus event this year is the 'Roving Raving Poets Show,' which will be parading through cafes and the hotel on the Saturday night.

Organiser Gail M. Clarke said, "Come along and have some fun. I look forward to seeing everyone there."

upside down in Shenzo's Electric Stunt Orchestra have caused a sensation at festivals and on TV around the country. Shenzo performed with world music group Monsieur Camembert at the 2004 Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

Peter has graced many ensembles in Brisbane with his buoyant and articulate style. An adept of modern jazz, he is a gifted improviser and sensitive accompanist and is not shy to add his talents to Blues, Bluegrass, traditional Irish, Latin and Manouche. He has backed the best of jazz performers from the USA, Europe and Australia.

Lismore Jazz Club stages live jazz on the 3rd Sunday of the month, featuring a variety of bands and jazz styles. LJC is also staging a couple of special events – the George Washingmachine Quintet on Thursday 28 September and the Bob Barnard Quintet on Saturday 25 November. What a season of good jazz! More info Michael Bird 6622-5912.



Latin Jazz. He has studied and performed in Spain, England and Ireland as well performing locally at the Woodford Folk Festival, and various live music venues around Brisbane, Noosa and the Gold Coast.

Jérémie has spent the last couple of years in France reconnecting with his French heritage and has discovered his true passion in "Jazz Manouche". Jérémie's solid rhythm and soulful French singing gives the quartet both stability and the extra layer of colour that makes this line-up something special.

Shenzo studied classical violin and has continued his studies in jazz playing both violin and guitar. His performances on violin

# Jazzy Lismore

## Cameron Ford Quartet

Sunday 20th August. City Bowling Club 2pm-5pm \$5 / \$8 'Gypsy Quartet' Jazz Manouche

High energy acoustic music that takes the audience on a Gypsy Journey from Bach to Django Reinhardt. Featuring Cameron Ford - virtuoso guitar, Jérémie Nagabbo - rhythm guitar/vocals, Shenzo Gregorio - violin / guitar, Peter Walters - double bass. A non-stop pumping swing rhythm, guaranteed to keep the joint jumping.

Formed in the middle of 2005, each member comes from a long background of performance in various fields. Add to that a good blend of Hot Club Jazz and many experiences in Montreaux, London, Dublin, Edinburgh, Spain and Paris and you have a well-seasoned group of world class musicians.

Cameron has played guitar for many years specialising in Flamenco, Gypsy Jazz and

# NIMBIN MUSEUM



The Museum has undergone a major clean and the repainting continues. Many thanks to helpers.

AND a big THANK YOU to the understanding shown by those who lost HempJobs due to the cancelled live cannabis demon-strations!

Open every day. Phone 6689 1123.

A friendly environment for both locals and visitors!

## NIMBIN LAW

Solicitors, Barristers & Conveyancers

are pleased to announce that they have now been joined by ...

DR. MICHAEL JOHN KIDD LL.M. Ph.D

Solicitor & Barrister with 27 years

practical legal experience

who will be providing services in the areas of

**Criminal Law and**

**Motor Vehicles Law**

Nimbin Law also provides services in the following fields (NSW&QLD):-

- Conveyancing
- Multiple Occupancy
- Wills Estates Probate
- Company Law
- Business /Commercial
- Family /De facto
- Trusts
- Litigation in all Courts
- DA's



50C Cullen Street  
Nimbin 2480

Ph: 6689-1003

nimlaw@spains.com.au

# Diana Anaid sparkles

Review by Warwick Fry

Live CD/Film Clip recording  
Bush Theatre Saturday 29th July  
2006

Step aside Patti Smith. Diana Anaid is in town. Diana Anaid might not be as butch but she is just as 'in your face' and maybe, just maybe, more challenging than Patti. Her poetry is certainly less contrived, and this gives it the strength and authenticity of an emotional honesty rarely found in the lyrics of a pop star.

I must confess that I only went to this concert because a female friend (who is a pretty strong character in her own right) told me how impressed she was with the strength of Diana's performance. This, I told myself, I would have to see. I'm glad I did.

Diana deftly sidesteps the traps of teenage angst and maps her own path through personal relationships. These are described without excuse or apology, but with the clarity of a clean passion and the courage of unremitting honesty. She wields this emotional honesty with a talent for lyric; a sense of phrasing and timing that makes each word seem to be precision welded into just the right place.

I can remember thinking while listening to her first song that if ever she lost the use of her hands and her voice she would still be a poetess of stature.

While an obviously sophisticated and experienced stage performer she is not over polished. There is nothing false about her performance. Her stage presence is warm, natural, intimate, no frills, addressing her audience directly. One doubts that she could get away with telling her audience when she'd had her last period if she had been performing in Hollywood, but it seemed just right, for Nimbin.

The performance itself was certainly a demonstration of strength of female character. A large number of young women followed the act



with rapt attention drawing on a strong rapport. Diana reads that audience well, her eyes and voice reaching out to them, generating warm applause at the end of each set. And perhaps some of the younger men may have even begun to learn something of the feminine mystique, the needs, expectations and vulnerabilities of their girlfriends, if they happened to be listening closely.

And there was something there that reached the mature audience as well. I hardly noticed, it seemed so natural at the time, when the woman

standing next to me felt inspired to strip down to the buff and start dancing. She was soon joined by several of her sisters. It was a spirit I hadn't seen since ... err ... well, ... since 1969...

This Homecoming Queen doesn't have a gun, but she has a voice, and she definitely has enough 'attitude' to take care of half a dozen country towns like Nimbin.

If only Thomas George could have been here ... it might have changed his life. It certainly could have changed his views on the value of Nimbin as a rich environment for home grown talent.

## Klassic Lodge

Special Deals for August

Self-contained units

\$50 per double per night

Motel Units

\$40 per double per night

Salt-water swimming pool and BBQ facilities  
Weekly rates available

Phone Kim on 6689 9350

1597 Nimbin Road Goolmangar

11km from Nimbin, 19km from Lismore



## Nimbin Village Pharmacy

Join our Vitamin Club

for Free Vitamins!

Buy five vitamin products by Pharmacist Formula, Nature's Way or Bioglan and the average value will be deducted from your sixth purchase.

Ask us how to join.

Cullen Street Nimbin 6689 1448

# R-e-s-p-e-c-t

by **Manuela Geiss**  
Community Liaison  
Officer, Nimbin Central  
School

In order to encourage more involvement from parents and caregivers, Nimbin Central School has been employing me as their Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for one day a week for more than a year now

When I started out I felt that I first needed to know what parents and caregivers thought and wanted so I organised a number of parent/caregiver forums. During the last one, a group of parents voiced their concerns about an apparent lack of respect by high school students and suggested that the school organise a Respect Forum to address the issue.

Ms. Grieves, the Deputy Principal at the time and now Acting Principal, immediately jumped into action. Soon we had set the date and began inviting parents and caregivers of our Year 7 - 10 students. Many parents and caregivers came and participated together with their child, their child's peers and the teachers in



an exploration of Respect. The sessions were superbly organised and facilitated by Ms Grieves.

The Respect Forums received very positive feedback from parents/caregivers, teachers and students alike. For example:

- "The forum was pretty good. It's good to put things out in the open. I hope those sort of things happen more often." (Parent)
- "It was a very valuable awareness raising exercise for all age groups." (Teacher)
- "The word 'respect' has since been used by teachers and students more often. I think this is a good sign." (Teacher's Aide)
- "It was a good way to share ideas about respect. It

would be good for younger kids." (Student)

This year, the NSW Department of Education has sent a memorandum to all State schools outlining what schools should do to raise student awareness of and levels of respect, and this year Nimbin Central School is again organising Respect Forums. This time we will include the students and parents from Class 4, 5 and 6.

We are doing this not as a response to the directive from above, but because we at Nimbin Central School feel that we are leading the way through modelling respect. We believe, as Mel Webb put it so aptly in his song 'Go the carrot not the stick' that 'Respect can't be demanded, it has to be acquired.'

## Grant money for Central School

Nimbin Central School has received funding of \$2,200 from Lismore Council to aid the **Little Nippers Project**, which will commence in Term 4.

Nimbin students and community members will be given the opportunity to participate in the Little Nippers surf lifesaving skills program with Evans

Head Surf Lifesaving Club on Sundays. The school welcomes the involvement of parents as helpers in this program.

Nimbin Central School Landcare Group has won a **Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grant** for \$500. The money will go towards purchasing equipment and funding rehabilitation works within our Big Scrub Rainforest area.

A call has now gone out for expressions of interest from landholders in the latest round of Natural Resource Management grants, focussing on river restoration. Contact Chris Herden on 0427-326-031 for more information.

## Rainbow Ridge Open Day

Rainbow Ridge Steiner School will be throwing open its doors for its annual Open Day on Saturday 24th August.

If you are considering a Steiner education for your child or are just curious, this is a chance to find out what Steiner education is all about. You are also invited to inspect the school grounds and classrooms, meet the teachers, and most of all enjoy a fun day with the school community.

Rainbow Ridge has been enjoying strong growth over the past few years and this year the school underwent a major extension. The school offers a variety of learning programs including art, music, Japanese, German, cooking, and dance.

In a Steiner school, children not only focus on the academic, but on the creative and social as well, or head, heart and hands. With small classes and a stable and dedicated college of teachers, Rainbow



**Xavier Lane and her best friend Lilly Hewitt, who are both in Kinder at Rainbow Ridge Steiner School.**

Ridge provides a balanced approach to the modern curriculum.

On display will be examples of the children's work, both academic and creative. There will also be performances by the children and teachers, food, music, activities for children and a fresh produce stall.

Things will kick off at

around 10am and will go all afternoon. The school is located at Blue Knob, 2.5 kms up Lillian Rock Road from the Nimbin Road turn-off.

### Make It, Bake It, Grow It Market

The Rainbow Ridge Steiner School is seeking expressions of interest from within the local community to contribute towards creating a local craft & produce market day.

The market aims to support local artisans, growers and industrious home businesses with a local craft & produce market space. Stall fees will go directly towards the Steiner School and will be \$7 - \$15 depending on how much space you need.

We especially encourage people with an abundance of food in their gardens to bring it along. The market is proposed for the first Saturday of each month. For further details contact Lisa on 0428-221-290.

## Council jottings

Cr **Jenny Dowell**

After the hurly-burly of the Budget process, Council returned to its normal steady workload in July. At our monthly meeting we again addressed the contentious issue of fluoridation. As you may recall from my June article, while I am a supporter of fluoridation, I also support a referendum so again I voted for the people having their voices heard but the motion was lost 4/8 as before.

It was much less agonising to approve \$33,050 in Section 356 Community Donations. There were 37 applications for grants of \$2200 maximum. Each Councillor voted for 15 and the projects with the most votes were approved. Successful applicants in the Nimbin area include:

- Tuntable Falls Cooperative Youth Group - repairs
- Nimbin Family Centre -



Children's Week Parade

- Tuntable Falls Early Childhood Centre - maintenance
  - Nimbin Central school - lifesaving activities
- Cheques for these recipients and representatives from our rural halls that receive \$1000 towards their costs will be distributed at a function on August 1 to mark Local Government Week. At that event the combined clubs also handout their CDSE grants to other community groups so there should be a few happy groups throughout the community.

While on giveaways, Council is currently advertising free computers for non-profit community groups. Applications close on August 11.

The Community Services

Policy Advisory Group has been fortunate to have Sue Stock as one of two Village Representatives and as Chair, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for Sue's input and look forward to her continued representation in the coming year.

Briefly on other news, Council has obtained some additional funds to address several 'blackspot' roads including a section of Blue Knob Road. I understand there will be some shoulder widening and new line markings.

On pleasurable matters, it was great to catch up with Nimbin locals at Southern Cross University's discussion on the creation of regional archive for the culture that was born and has thrived in and around Nimbin. A working party has been formed to further plans so stay tuned.

If readers would like to contact me about any Council matter, please phone 6625 2206 or email [jennydowell@hotmail.com](mailto:jennydowell@hotmail.com).

### The Channon Children's Centre

## Curry Night

Annual Fund Raiser  
Saturday September 2nd  
7 pm - \$15 per person

Bookings phone

6688 6330 or 6689 0333

Great Food, Local Musicians  
Clown and more Fantastic Fun!  
We Look Forward  
To Seeing You There

### Clarrie & Sally Rose, trading as Nimbin Mill Farm Hardware & Gas

at the Old Sawmill on Gungas Road.

*The name says it all!*

We sell bulk landscaping materials and Searles gardening products.  
Come out, see our range and compare prices.  
Free delivery to Nimbin township  
Phone 6689 1206

### House Plans Building Design Building Supervision



ph (02)6689 1592

fax (02)6689 1492

Building Supervisors License No 39513S

## NIMBIN BUILDING MATERIALS

for a broad range of

**NEW + USED**

materials at competitive prices

Open Wed,  
Sat, Sun

Phone Andy 0429 891664

6689 1644, 6689 1014

# Safe Community Project

## Women's workshops

Mondays 14th, 28th August and 11th September. Birth & Beyond 10am- 2pm

The first 2 days will focus on pampering, self nurture, sharing stories, discussing safety in relationships, and on the last day we will do some goal setting. Workshops are free and lunch will be provided. Please phone Lizette 66891692 or 0429363850 for further info and to secure a place in the workshops.

The following information is reprinted with the permission of Kids Help Line  
1800 55 1800, [www.kidshelp.com.au](http://www.kidshelp.com.au)

## Develop Resiliency

With one in seven young Australian's estimated to have mental health problems, young people are growing up in uncertain times (AIHW, 2005). One of the most important roles adults can take is to assist children to develop skills to be resilient during the changes and challenges life brings. By assisting children to develop resiliency we can help them to gain the necessary skills to cope with adversity, promote achievement and enjoy better health.

All children are born with an innate capacity for well-being and resiliency. A resilient child is emotionally healthy, equipped to successfully confront challenges and bounce back from disappointment and setbacks.

However, children and young people should not be expected to always be resilient. No one can cope when they encounter repeated experiences of adversity over prolonged periods of time without help.

Adults can promote resiliency in children through their words, actions and the environment they provide. Raising resilient children requires caring and supportive social environments for both children and adults. The whole community including parents, extended family, peers, schools and workplaces need to take responsibility for

fostering environments that value children and promote resilience.

Information gathered from Kids Help Line and Parentline counsellors highlights several possible strategies that may assist adults to promote resilience in children:

- Foster a sense of connectedness and belonging to family, school and others;
- Let children know they are loved, valued and wanted;
- Try to ensure there are several adults in a child's life who care about and can support them;
- Spend time with children and be available when they need you;
- Listen to children and show them understanding;
- Be interested and involved in activities that are important to them;
- Balance affection, warmth and responsiveness with clear, realistic and consistently applied boundaries and limits appropriate to their developmental stage;
- Consult with children and ask for their opinions;
- Have fun with them - laughter, humour and games help build a sense of trust;
- Encourage peer relationships;
- Pay attention to how children feel about their school life.

### Provide opportunities

- Allow children time to do what they are good at as well

as encouraging them to try more challenging tasks

- Encourage children to learn how to do things for themselves appropriate to their developmental stage
  - Allow children to explore and take risks.
- Notice and highlight strengths and achievements**
- Recognise their efforts and their willingness to try new things
  - Affirm their mastery of newly acquired skills
  - Encourage persistence and that making mistakes is okay - even valuable.
- Role model resilience**
- Talk through experiences, reflecting on what worked well and not so well
  - Problem-solve together to address their concerns
  - Be aware of and role model self talk that is positive and realistic
  - Assist children to notice and challenge their automatic, negative thoughts
  - Model respectful behaviour towards children and others and expect it in return.

### Protect children

- Ensure children have adequate supervision, consistent with their developmental age
- Take appropriate actions to ensure children are physically safe and free from harm.
- Take care of yourself
- Ensure you take care of your own wellbeing and look at ways to enhance your own coping skills.

## Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – Well, One Out of Three Ain't Bad

The happiest nations are not the high-consuming ones, survey says

A new Happy Planet Index supports the cliché that money can't buy happiness. The New Economics Foundation, a British think tank, looked at 178 countries' consumption levels, life expectancy, and happiness, and concluded that people can live long, happy lives without sucking up large quantities of the planet's resources. In its ranking of happiest nations, the South Pacific island of Vanuatu earned the top slot. Vanuatu, population 209,000, runs its economy mainly on small-scale agriculture and tourism; its GDP has been ranked 207th out of 233. Latin American countries dominate the top 10 happiest nations, with Colombia in second place. Many African and Eastern European nations are near the bottom, with Zimbabwe the official unhappiest nation. The U.S., with the world's second-largest ecological footprint (after oil-rich United Arab Emirates), ranked an unhappy 150th. Report co-author Nic Marks says the report reveals "patterns that show how we might better achieve long and happy lives for all while living within our environmental means."

# History booklaunch a late inclusion



Wybaleena cemetery, February 1998. Aboriginal section to left (unmarked graves); European section to right with memorials. Plaque in memory of the last of the Aboriginals, middle left front. Photo: MJ Kidd.

*The Sacred Wound of Australia*, a book by Nimbin lawyer Michael Kidd, is being launched in conjunction with the Byron Bay Writers Festival at a separate location – the Scout Hall at Marvel Street, Byron Bay, on 6th August at 2pm.

The subject matter is the genocide of Tasmanian Aborigines last century and its implications for Australia of today.

Henry Reynolds approached Michael Kidd to launch the book at the festival and after much adjustment the printing was able to be brought forward, but unfortunately it was too late to be included in the official Festival program.

This is what two well-known commentators on Australian history say:

Professor Henry Reynolds: "this unique combination of talent and taste... so

characterises *The Sacred Wound of Australia* and will assure it of a special place in the literature. It is distinctive, it is fresh and it is highly original. It will interest, stimulate and even inspire its readers. It will also annoy, anger and agitate."

Veronica Brady: "... a significant example of inter-disciplinary scholarship ... the mainstream legal system in this country will continue to fail Aboriginal Australians until it is able to take into account spiritual values central to Aboriginal culture..."

Ohlah Publishing of Nimbin are the publishers, and it is hoped this will be the first of many books with an alternative look at issues facing Australia. For enquiries contact them at: PO Box 615 Nimbin, NSW 2480, email: [ohlah.publishing@hotmail.com](mailto:ohlah.publishing@hotmail.com)

# Nimbin Hall available to all

If you are planning a meeting, an event or a class, remember your Village Hall.

The Hall costs \$10 per hour during the day and \$15 per hour after 5 pm. A night costs \$100 for 5 to 12 pm. The veranda gives ramp access to the toilets and the venue is great for most uses. Talk to the committee if you have special requirements as they may be able to help! The Foyer is only available by arrangement with the committee, but is an excellent place for an information session.

The Hall and studios one & two and the veranda and toilets are wheelchair accessible but the stage and backstage studio are not.

There are three studios available, as well as the Hall and the veranda. The backstage studio, which has ceiling fans and a smooth sealed floor is ideal for dance, drama, yoga and more and is only \$6 per hour (or

\$7 including the use of the grand piano, for authorised users only).


Downstairs, studio one is \$5 per hour and has an upright piano and studio two is only \$3 per hour. Both are ideal for music lessons, meetings, massage and more. Hirers of studios one and two also have access to the downstairs toilets.

The Veranda & facilities can be hired for \$10 per

hour and is ideal for basket-making, outdoor meetings etc and some of our local clubs and societies hold Xmas get-togethers there.

Lastly, trestle tables and chairs can be hired by the day as well as being available for hirers of the Hall or studios.

Nimbin School of Arts is the body that looks after the Hall for us. They can be contacted on 6689 1577.



**Book Launch**  
"The Sacred Wound of Australia"  
(in conjunction with Byron Bay Writer's Festival)

**2 pm Sunday  
6 August  
Launched by Henry Reynolds**

Scouts Hall,  
Marvel St.,  
Byron Bay  
[www.ohlah.com.au](http://www.ohlah.com.au)

02 66290576


**"Get Plastered"**  
...without the headaches

Gyprock walls and ceilings  
New work or renovations

**Terry Bressington**  
Phone 0427-891626  
Trades Lic. No. 100169c

**Jerry Grace**  
**Licensed Electrical Contractor**

Licence No. 17976  
Rural, Commercial and Domestic Installations



Phone 6688-8287  
Mobile 0416-182-222

**STONY CHUTE  
TILER**

Small jobs good  
Bathrooms re-tiled  
Mosaic paths

**PHONE 0419 478 248**  
LIC R.75915



## Democracy

I wonder how many of our more recent arrivals are aware that one of the dreams of the original new settlers was to establish some kind of grass roots democracy so that each person felt they had an avenue of involvement.

Tunable, for example, implemented the hamlet system. The idea being that each person in the hamlet knew their elected representative to whom they spoke of their ideas, fears or suggestions. This representative, in turn, took same to the larger Tuntable meetings. From there, the elected Tuntable representative (at one time there were two because of Tuntable's large proportionate population) attended progress association meetings which advised Lismore Council of our needs and desires.

We now have a situation where, at a national level, we are involved in a war that most people don't support, and at a state level we tried to sell the Snowy River against most people's wishes. However it's all right locally, because we have a grass roots democracy. Right? Wrong! We have a burgeoning bureaucracy which has elected itself to our fourth level of government when everyone knows that three is one too many.

The townspeople are not being consulted. It used to be that the committees, made up of people not employed in the bureaucracy, were there

to 'keep the bastards honest'. This has been negated because they elect their own committees.

The straw that broke the camel's back was the election of Sue Boardman to the position of town sports co-ordinator. I don't know Sue Boardman, I'm sure she's a good person, but I do know the other person who applied for the job. This was Nigel Hayes who is a founding, foundation and life member of the Nimbin Headers Sports Club. He was president for many years and he played for the team that put the Headers on the map. He only stopped holding office a few years ago to attend university. I cannot find anyone who does not think that Nigel should have been given the job.

This on top of the skateboard park fiasco, the toilet block shooting gallery (Would someone explain to me the sense of having a needle exchange for health reasons, then encouraging people to shoot up in a toilet?) and lastly, the failure to support Mulgum House.

Mulgum House was the classic case of civil disobedience winning the day. On the day of Notice of Eviction by the Anglican Church, the bureaucracy said, "We will have them back in twelve months." This was never going to happen. Along came a couple of our senior new settlers (Di Keavey and Sonia Atkinson) and said, "We are not moving."

## About us

**Editor:** Bob Dooley  
**Assistant:** Sue Stock  
**Layout & design:** Andy Gough  
**Contributing photographers:** Sue Stock, Cath Marshall, Thurston Jones, Celeste Oss-Emmer, Bob Dooley  
**Typist:** Billie Jackson  
**Distribution:** Sue Stock  
**Website:** David McMinn

We are online at [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)  
Thanks to all contributors and sponsors.  
NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.  
**Next deadline:** Wed 30th August  
**Email:** [goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com](mailto:goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com) or put stuff in the ComSchool's pigeonhole in the Nimbin Community Centre.

Civil disobedience is not revolution, it is merely thinking outside the box and being willing to break the rules for a principle. This is the reason we attract more people in a day than Uki gets in a year.

We are famous for three things: 1. We are a hippy town (possibly the only one left in the world). 2. We have a relaxed attitude to marijuana use. 3. We have a plethora of wonderful artists of all kinds. We have never been, are not, and will never be famous for our clerks.

George Scott,  
Nimbin

## Eviction from the Pit

I'd like to introduce myself. I am Heidi, daughter, mother, grandmother, artist and many other God-given talents do I have. I'd like to share my experience from the Pit in Nimbin.

To my brothers and sisters surviving under the cruel and harsh conditions, stay strong, don't lose heart. We became a family.

To the empty churches and grounds, while people are freezing to death, shame on you all.

To the authorities who harrass and endorse the burning out of homeless people at the Pit, is this terrorism or protection? While the police are protecting us from criminals, who is protecting us from the police?

I demand these people stand down from their official positions, as they will be judged in time, for crimes

against humanity.

You authorities are in breach of international law but worst of all you are in breach of the Univeral Law. You have endangered our community with violence. You have neglected and failed in your responsibility of duty of care, not only to me, but to every individual residing in this town, every plant, every animal, every living creature.

The earth belongs to God.  
Heidi Zekiel

## Greetings from Hobart

Hey everybody, Kelly-Jo here – fucken freezing in Tasmania. Guess everyone knows that I've moved to Hobart – with Lily, Roman and my fiancé Kieran. That's the beauty of small towns – word gets around.

Hobart, I might add, is a small town. I've only been here nine months and everyone already knows me (in Launceston!!). We have our own house and are settling in (after we've thawed out). It has four big bedrooms and is near the Derwent River, about 8 kms from the Hobart CBD, with a huge backyard and awesome views to Mt Wellington.

'Little Deb' who works at the Freemasons sent me the last two copies of the GoodTimes which upon receiving I couldn't help but cry – I am very homesick and miss all my friends terribly. I miss Nimbin and all its people very much. And doesn't Jasmine look HOT! (We all know she is anyway!)

When you leave Nimbin to

start a new life somewhere else – it's hard. People aren't as 'friendly' or 'accepting' of my way of life as I'm used to in Nimbin. Half the people I meet are very judgmental - the other half are fascinated by the whole 'Nimbin' thing. Hell – I don't even know if I know what the 'Nimbin thing' is, but my family and I have it. It's an energy – a way of life, a way to love, a way to be – that is inoffensive and beautiful.

Just the other day I was busking in the City all in Hobart when a nice-looking hippy couple approached me. The first thing they said was 'great music' ... the second thing "Are you the girl we bought cookies off in Nimbin? .. and do you have any more?" But to their disappointment I had to say no to having any cookies for sale – in Hobart. I added that I actually have to play guitar and sing if I want to work the streets for money – and I make about \$1 a minute on average. Not too bad, and it's legal.

We then proceeded to get into a lengthy discussion on why in all the world would you move from Paradise to the coldest place in Australia – and my answer was (you're gonna love this one!) ... LOVE.

So, you see, people of Nimbin: to the people that were my closest friends; to my NimFM listeners (you know who you are); to all people that own a business, lease a kitchen, or a shop; to the servo, the NRMA; to the Doctor, Hospital and the Fire Brigade; to the Bowlo and the Bush Factory; to the Hemp Embassy and the Museum; to the Parkies and the Laneway boys; to George Scott and Graeme Ward, the Durgas, and even to the people that didn't know me very well, didn't even like me much, and to anyone I've forgotten - I miss you all very much and so do my kids.

Nimbin people are special – doesn't matter who you are – the Kelly Jo family love you all. You are all special.

Thank you Nimbin for making our lives fulfilled. We love and miss you all heaps – we only hope you all miss us.

Kelly-Jo and family

## Setting the record straight - Part 2

I wondered why all this nastiness from Wunbong, way in excess of what was required for a sensible debate. Like most things in life it probably has to do with money.

Presumably Wunbong has a property or two in the area and is salivating at the prospect of rapid capital gains as Nimbin gentrifies. How dare Anita, that 'sensitive little violet', raise concerns about this process! Sensitive I am: 'little violet' is just patronising.

Wunbong commented in his letter (NGT July 06) "And thanks to the NGT for encouraging healthy debate despite the probability that Anita would likely prefer me censored or deported". No way have I ever tried to influence the editors and have Wunbong's commentaries censored.

I know it would be hard for Wunbong to understand, but I do not care what she writes about me. If I was a real person, I may have taken offence, but I am not. On the bottom line, both our opinions are worth nix in the long run and Wunbong takes herself too seriously.

Gentrification is just a phase in Nimbin's history. Peak oil and \$6 a litre petrol will mean far fewer tourists and the affluent will move to areas with more amenities and better public transport. Nimbin will then de-gentrify.

So Wunbong get in quickly, make a killing on the local real estate and then buy your dream home on the Gold Coast. I am sure you would be a lot happier there.

I could rant on, but that would make too long a letter. Be happy.

Anita Bong



## Position Vacant – TEACHER

EXP for years 3-6 classroom. Full time position. Send apps to Tuntable Falls Community School CMB Tuntable Falls NSW 2480. Apps close 15th August. See [www.tuntablefallscommunityschool.net/](http://www.tuntablefallscommunityschool.net/) for job details.

## Nimbin Post

Open 7am- 5pm Mon - Fri  
Full counter postal services.

These work!

Hot price!

Samsung A130 CDMA phone

Pre Paid with \$10 Credit – \$99

New stock now in!



## ASIAN STAR Restaurant

Nimbin Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club  
Sibley Street Nimbin

Open Tuesday to Sunday for Lunch 12 - 2pm  
Dinner 5 - 8.30pm (5-9pm Fri & Sat)

Extensive Western Menu available  
Heated Dining Room Take Away Available

Information for Members and Guests

## NIMBIN NEWSAGENCY & GENERAL STORE



- \* Fresh fruit & vegetables
- \* Newspapers & magazines
- \* School craft supplies
- \* Bill Express agent
- \* EFTPOS

# Notices

## Wanted

Car parts for 1977 Chrysler Lancer LB. Would like to contact the people who left a message on the windscreen of my orange Lancer with mag wheels, parked behind the Rainbow Café in July-August 2005, saying they had an LB for parts. Phone Clinton on 6622-1080.

## For Sale

Vinyl Annex for caravan, 24' heavy duty. Only 3 years old. Top condition. No faults. \$750 phone 6689-7490

Practitioner's rooms for share in Lismore CBD. Car-pooling an option. phone 6689-7490

## Meetings

### Nimbin Chamber of Commerce

Next meeting Tuesday 15th August at the Oasis Café at 6pm. 'New' faces needed, new meetings, new premises, new ideas, new members urgently needed, or.....?

### Nimbin Environment Centre

Film and Food nights. Last Thursday of every month. Also @ The Channon @ Tuntable Creek Hall Friday 18th August. Programme: 'Tugun Bypass' – doco on highway development involving land rights issues. 'The Fluoride Deception' – factual evidence on the effects of Fluoride use in water

### Greens fundraiser

Dinner and doco Friday 4th August at 6pm at Djanbung Gardens.

We'll be showing *The Power of Community* which describes how Cuba was able to survive with little oil or fertiliser in the 1990's.

Cost is \$20/\$10 which includes dinner from Robyn's marvellous kitchen. For further info, contact Sue Stock on 6689-1148.

# Independence from America - and Freedom from the Police!

## - Reflection on the ironies of Sunday 2nd July

By Sophia Hoeben

The Independence from America Day at Byron this year began with some impassioned anti-American poetry and speakers in the park, and ended in a thunderstorm of drums at the markets.

The rally, which in previous years attracted larger numbers, still made its presence felt, mainly by virtue of the very colourful costumes and dramatic drumming routines. As the town's population lined the streets and spilt over balconies to watch the grand parade, it dawned on me just how much of a festival it had all become.

The pennants depicting the various issues seemed to be dancing beside the ganja faeries on stilts as I glanced up at the smiling crowd on the balcony of the hotel. My enthusiastic friend marching beside me suddenly called out to people standing close by to come and join, without success. Apathy is everywhere these days, so why not in Byron Bay?

Meanwhile, I couldn't help but wonder, who it was we were protesting to? And who it was that was listening?

However, it was nice to hear the Mayor of Byron, Jan Barham speaking out against America's global military and cultural invasions. I feel the French should really take back their Statue of Liberty, for it now makes a mockery of what really exists for it belies modern American politics, liberty for the



Graeme Dunstan at the head of the Byron march.

rich, injustice for the many.

Unknown to me then, it was at the same time I was indulging in the luxury of a piece of fresh fish and listening to the speakers of the morning's rally that another invasion was occurring, again in my own home town. It wasn't till Monday morning that I heard the news on the radio. Roadblocks had been set up on every road into Nimbin.

Everyone coming and going was stopped, searched by sniffer dogs and checked for registration, licence and roadworthiness, and, of course, any outstanding warrants.

The Immigration Department were also on the scene, demanding passports and papers from

the tourists, tactics even the Gestapo would have been proud of, whilst Centrelink checked people's dole status. Many people were arrested and lives disrupted again, one woman for cake and leaf, after a clandestine operation where they followed her from her home. Cripes! And there's me thinking there were real drug issues to deal with such as alcohol and speed.

So the dogs of war returned to terrorise our village some more, and reportedly with the support of a 'broad spectrum' of the Nimbin community. So who are these people that are so often mentioned by the police? Please identify yourselves, so we all know where we stand, or is your tongue held by fear and the almighty dollar?

As far as I can ascertain, nobody enjoys the harassment and heavy-handed approach of the police or their new American neo Nazi tactics. In the past, when I was young and police were unarmed public servants, people felt safe and secure in their presence. There was a sense of the local copper being a part of the community and these even lasted here in Nimbin til the 80s. Now, every police force in the world seems to be similarly attired in a more militaristic fashion and much more likely to really hurt you when you start bucking the system, or have I mis-spelt that?

Is it all really about controlling the people? Isn't 'terrorism' what terrifies you? If a whole village can be intimidated beyond the point of reason by the police, do the police then become the terrorists?

## Operation Grasstree

### The Set Up

- Extensively planned and co-ordinated, the operation was conducted over four days, Thursday 29th June to Sunday 2nd July.
- Phase One saw undercover officers in operation for two days, mainly in Lismore, while Phase Two involved roadblocks on Nimbin's main access roads throughout the weekend.
- Roadblocks were manned by uniformed police, Department of Immigration officials and Centrelink investigation officers.
- Searches included the use of Labrador drug sniffer dogs, and were carried out under 2002 legislation allowing police to take out a search warrant for a particular section of road.

### The Results

- Police conducted 383 random breath tests



The haul. In police custody.

Photo courtesy The Northern Star.

- resulting in three drivers charged with drink-driving.
- Eighty-one searches were conducted resulting in 47 drug detections, from which 21 people were charged with drug possession offences and 25 issued with cannabis cautions.
- Police seized a total of 676 grams of cannabis leaf, four grams of cannabis resin, two morphine tablets and 12.4 kilograms of cannabis cake.
- Department of Immigration

officials checked more than 70 people, and none were found to be staying in the country illegally.

- Six Centrelink fraud investigation officers visited businesses in and around Nimbin and cancelled or suspended 19 customers' payments. Another 78 people will be the subject of further investigations.
- Richmond Local Area Commander Supt Bruce Lyons described the operation as a success, saying that though no commercial quantities of drugs were confiscated, the operation would still disrupt drug dealers by hitting their customers.

### The Fall-out

- Lismore solicitor Steve Bolt said it was hard to justify such intrusive tactics for minor drug matters, and that random roadside searches were not effective against drug dealers, who did not generally drive

around with a lot of drugs on them.

- Maree Conroy, a Blue Knob teacher and mother of three, told the Northern Star said she felt violated and upset and made to feel like a criminal because of where she lived.
- A Nimbin man who prefers to remain anonymous told the NR Echo he too felt that Nimbin residents were being unfairly targetted after sniffer dogs were set

upon his seven year-old son in the passenger seat.

- Andrew Kavasilas of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce told ABC radio the action was unfair and heavy-handed, and since tourists were also targeted, was not good for business in Nimbin.
- Several complaints are believed to have been lodged with the NSW Ombudsman regarding the operation.

nimbin  
hair salon  
tel 6689 1000

**SNIFFING HEADS**

**RVBYESQUE**

ALAN MORRIS  
PROPRIETOR

SMOKING PARAPHERNALIA & FINE USED BOOKS  
21 CARRINGTON STREET LISMORE 2480  
PO BOX 1184 LISMORE (02) 6622 4676

**CTC@NIMBIN**

- Internet Cafe
- Photo Printing
- CD/DVD Burning
- I.T Sales/ Services

email: nimbin@ctcnsw.net.au  
80-81 Cullen St. Ph: 66 891 183

**Daisy**  
NIMBIN  
AUSTRALIA

**60 Cullen Street Nimbin – ph 6689-0146**

Open from Noon

*Locally made & Imported clothes, jewellery, incense, stickers, postcards, beanies, hats, sarongs, bedcovers, wallhangings, hammocks, cushions, thongs, wildfoot, CDs trance & local, slippers, flags, beads, sunnies, chimes, massage oil, etc...*