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 whole shift of consciousness which emerged in Australia in the 1970s 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 change 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-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 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 births, home births;
- 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-dying 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 Aquarian projects.

The ancestry of the Aquarian Archive

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 procedures, 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-l_elands.com For more specific information contact Diana Roberts: diamaco@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 TPI-Health and Fletchers Fotographics Lismore. Photos will be entered in all relevant categories. See www. thankfuldadphotos.org for info and entry forms.

Nimbin Central School is holding a “Dad’s Day” on Friday 11th August, from 8am to 3.30pm, which will be a great opportunity for taking photos! Contact the school for more details.

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Nimbin Cycles

July 2006

www.nimbingoodtimes.com
Nimbim Oasis Café, with the support of the community, is preparing itself for the fourth Nimbim 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 $1,500 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.

Last 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-ogy for 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 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 Trustable 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 Grae M. Clarke said, “Come along and have some fun. I look forward to seeing everyone there.”

## Diana Anaid Sparkles

### Review by Warwick Fry

Live CD/Film Clip recording

Bush Theatre Saturday 29th July 2006

Stop 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 goes 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 apologia, 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 support. 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.

## Jazzy Lismore

### Cameron Ford Quartet

Sunday 20th August. City Bowling Club $20 $50 ‘Gypsy Quartet’ Jazz Manouche

Cameron Ford Quartet

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

Forming 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 Latin Jazz. He has studied and performed in Spain, England and Ireland as well working locally at the Folkwood 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 rhythm and soulful French sensibility.

Shenzo has many ensembles in Brisbane with his buoyant and articulate style. An adept of modern jazz, he is a gifted impromptu 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 artists. LJC is also staging a couple of special events – the George Washington Quinter on Thursday 28 September and the Bob Barnard Quinter on Saturday 25 November. What a season of good jazz!

More info Michael Bird 6623-5912.

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11km from Nimbin, 1km from Lismore
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 heart, head and hands. With small classes and a stable and dedicated college of teachers, Rainbow 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 kins 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 stall.

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.

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 works 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.

Rainbow Ridge Open Day

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

The name says it all! We sell bulk landscaping materials and Searles gardening products. Come out, see, buy, compare prices.

Free delivery to Nimbin township
Phone 6689 1206

Rainbow Ridge Steiner
from Lismore Council to aid
received funding of $2,200
Nimbin Central School has
Grant money for Central School
peers and the teachers in
their child, their child's
participated together with
of our Year 7 – 10
the date and began inviting
immediately jumped into
organise a Respect Forum
suggested that the school

Council jottings
Cr Jenny Dowell

A fter 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 $33,850 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: • Tantable Falls Cooperative Youth Group - repairs • Nimbin Family Centre -

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

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.

Clarrice & 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, buy, compare prices.

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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 organized 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 moulding 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

Rainbow Ridge Open Day

Counsellor

The Nimbin Goodtimes
www.nimbingoodtimes.com

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at the Old Sawmill on Gungas Road.

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jennydowell@hotmail.com.
Safe Community Project

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.

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www.kidshelp.com.au

Develop Resilience

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 be resilient. No one can cope without help.

Adults can promote resilience 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, health, 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 20th 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 subject matter is the genocide of 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 characteristics 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.”

Ohliah 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: ohliah.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 it is an excellent place for an information session.

The Hall and studio one & two and the veranda and toilets and the veranda are wheelchair accessible but the stage backstage 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, treatable 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 6699 1577.

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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 Marion 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 characteristics 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.”

Ohliah 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: ohliah.publishing@hotmail.com
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. Tuntatable, 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 Tuntatable meetings. From there, the elected Tuntatable representative (at one time there were two because of Tuntatable’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 send 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 there is one too many.
The townpeople are not being consulted. It is used to be that the committees, made up of people not employed in the bureaucracy, were there to ‘keep the barstards 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-coordinator. 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, founding and life member of the Nimbin Headsers Sports Club. He was president for many years and he played the team that put the Headens 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 skatepark fund, 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 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 (D Keavy and Sonia Atkinson) and said, “We are not moving”.

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 harass 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 Universal 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 – you get to move 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’re 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 Good Times which upon receiving I couldn’t help but cry – I am very homeless 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 and 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 basking 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 guaranteed love this) … 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 Grafton, the Nimbin Museum; to the Parkies and the Laneway boys; to George of the Bush Factory; to 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, 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 fulfilling. We love and miss you all heaps – we only hope you all miss us.

Kelly Jo and family

Setting the record straight – Part 1

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:

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, our opinions are worth in the long run and Wunbong takes herself too seriously.

Gentrification is just a phase in Nimbin’s history, writes about me, I should feel bad, and it’s legal.

Anita Bong
Independent 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 split 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 fairies 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 against? 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 military and cultural invasions. I feel the French are becoming more commuter-like and driving their country illegally.

The results

The Fall Out

• Richmond Local Area Command said it was hard to justify such intrusive tactics for minor drug matters, and that random roadside searches were not effective in disrupting drug dealers by hitting their customers.

• 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.