



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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The arts of September beckon

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Winter may be a 'quiet time' for the arts and events of Nimbin, apart from the BIG poetic spectacle of the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup in early August (see stories p.4). But, come September, cultural things 'go off' with quite a bang in the little village.

The beginning of Spring heralded the inaugural **Nimbin Independent Film Festival** on Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd September. Following on from the success of 'Nimbin's 39 Hours Short Film Competition & Festival' in January, the Nimbin Film Industry Group have already organised the 'Winter Workshop Weekend' and now their first regional film festival (see story p.18).



Come to the Nimbin Show!
23rd and 24th September
at the Nimbin Showground

Some of the top documentary filmmakers from the Northern Rivers presented a wide array of short and feature films, together with some local novice film producers. There were well attended matinee and evening screenings at the School of Arts on the three days, and it augers well for

future film festivals. The second weekend of September will celebrate the wonderful **Blue Moon Cabaret Ball**, now in its 15th year. Featuring a grand sweep of the performance arts, the evening has two dance band opportunities with 'Roll Like That' and Nimbin's own 'Beetroot'.

There will also be comedy with Brisbane's Fiona McGary, mime with 'The Hirsutes', singers Rebecca Ireland and Mark Heazlett and master percussionist Greg Sheehan, plus Spaghetti Circus and the Homebase Hip Hop Crew. This is another sellout show at the School of Arts, but there

will be another Blue Moon Cabaret on Saturday 11th November, so book early.

The **Nimbin Players** (now in their 10th year) will present their first designated Spring Theatre Season with the production of Dario Fo's "Accidental Death of an Anarchist" (see story p.2). Opening at the School of Arts on Friday 15th Sept, the show will feature on two weekends, following on from the success of the Autumn season of *Hotel Sorrento*.

September will end with the beginning of the school holidays and the launch of three Nimbin events. The **Spring Arts Exhibition** at the School of Arts will open on Saturday 30th September, presenting fine arts and crafts from the Nimbin Valley to the thousands who visit Nimbin during this busy holiday period. The

exhibition, which includes daily music recitals, is open throughout the holidays, and entry is free.

Of course, Nimbin's longest running event, the **Nimbin Country Show**, will also be on the weekend before the holidays (Saturday and Sunday 23rd and 24th September) at the Nimbin A & I Showground (see programme p.2).

To end the month, the second annual '**Weave and Mend Festival**' will be held on Saturday 30th Sept and Sunday 1st Oct in the grounds of Nimbin Central School (see story p.11).

Definitely Nimbin's biggest cultural events month, a great way to shake off the Winter chills, with something for all: film, cabaret, theatre, arts, crafts and the annual Country Show.

See you there.

Crunch time for Chamber

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is on the verge of collapse, with the executive set to resign at the September meeting.

Established for over 12 years, the Chamber currently has 30-odd members from the business community, but meetings over the past months have failed to achieve a quorum.

President Andrew Kavasilas said, "I've had enough. I've had a go, now it needs someone else to move the organisation forward."

He said the President has to give a balanced view of issues affecting the town, and he often engages in discussions with people seeking to balance their perspective.

However, he felt that hampered his ability to present his own views.

"It's an uphill battle representing business interests in Nimbin," he said. "We need a positive representation of Nimbin, right up the line. We've been getting a knee-capping from Council. When the mayor and both local members are making negative comments about the village, what hope have you got?"

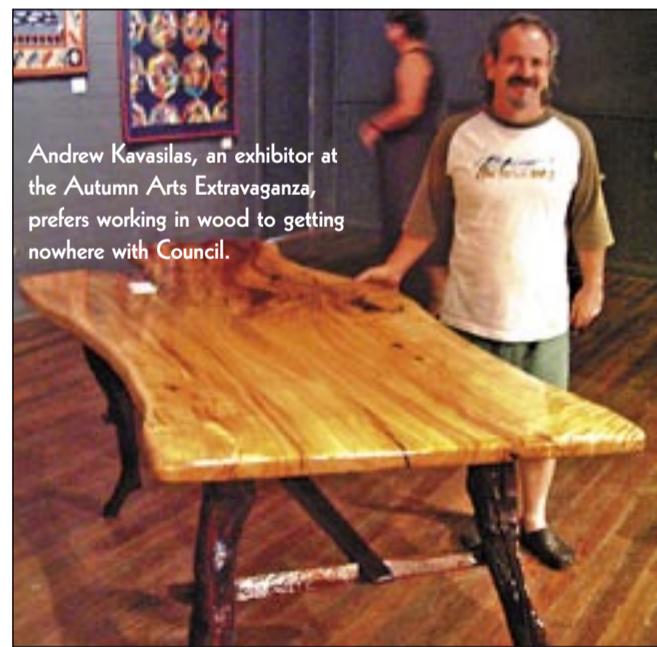
Businesses are currently experiencing the annual "winter lull," with tourist numbers well down, and there are tough times ahead, as rising petrol prices and interest rates affect domestic tourism.

Major police operations, which have

targetted tourist coaches, and the resulting spate of negative publicity, have done little to enhance Nimbin's reputation as the second most popular tourist destination in the region, after Byron Bay. "Byron Bay doesn't want tourists, so there's a flow-on effect from that, too," Andrew said.

"We need a lot of work before summer to get people here. We need to be talking the area up. Aussies want to come to Nimbin - it's an icon. So do overseas visitors. There's a little bit of Nimbin in everyone."

The next meeting of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th September at 6pm at the Bowling Club.



Andrew Kavasilas, an exhibitor at the Autumn Arts Extravaganza, prefers working in wood to getting nowhere with Council.



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Bring a Mate: p4



Poetry Cup: p 5



Catch! p 20