

It's showtime again

by Mal Rothwell

The Nimbin Country Show is on 23rd and 24th of this month at the Agricultural & Industrial Society (A&I) showground, which will be celebrating its 86th anniversary.

Our annual show brings a bit of country to town, with a mixture of bucolic contests. There are prizes and cash to be won by young and old.

On Saturday, under the scrutiny of judges, riders will be showing off some of the handsomest gleaming horseflesh you will ever clap eyes on. Well-groomed cattle of all colours, shapes, and sizes will be on parade attended by white coated servants with long thin black sticks and blowdryers. In the chook shed, cockerels in all their colourful varieties will strut their stuff under the beady eye of both hens and judges. To one side of the main ring on the AFL grounds lies the venue for the Dog show.

These celebrity breeds arrive in their own air conditioned mobile premises and have personal chauffeurs and hair stylists. Competition is stiff and serious. It is no laughing matter when, these celebrities, proudly high-stepping around the ring, are rudely put off their stride, by a personal trainer who can't keep up. There is nothing more hangdog than a



humiliated canine. Come on down and check out their lifestyle. It may give you some ideas on a career choice application for your next re-incarnation. It could be a dog's life for you.

The Pavilion is where the arts, crafts and food exhibits are on display. If you are a dab hand at growing vegetables or flowers, cooking or preserving, drawing, painting or photography, quiltmaking, furniture or carving don't be shy to enter your efforts for others to appreciate. Those wishing to enter exhibits should consult the show program booklet.

On Sunday, the main attractions in the ring are the horse jumping events. In the afternoon and on the lighter side of things we have a talent quest. Last year this was a very popular contest. The winner walks away with \$50. Remember last year? Everyone was tripping over witches and fairies. This year you had better look out for scarecrows. They will be arriving for the Build-a-Scarecrow competition convention.

There are pet shows, fancy dress shows, and the ever popular dog high jump. On the more physical side there will be a gum boot throwing competition and also a race where first is last and last is first and wins the prize; the slow bike race. There will be raffles and prizes too numerous to list. The incomparable



compere, Nimbin identity and zany humorist, Dave Wacey will handle the afternoon's fun and activities.

The A&I Showground maintenance and the annual show is all done with mirrors and sweaty volunteers. Anybody interested in meeting and working with a convivial group of locals over the show weekend, even if only for a few hours, would be welcome and appreciated. Willing workers should contact A&I President Phil Williams on 6689-1583.

Show programs are available from the Post Office, newsagents and hardware shop.



Nimbin Show Programme

Saturday 23rd September

8.00 am
Showground Ring 1
Including Shetlands, APSB Ponies, Riding Ponies, Saddle Ponies, Junior Riding, Pony Hacks
Showground Ring 2
Arabs 'B' Class Programme, Galloways, Galloway Hacks
Showground Ring 3
Aust Stock Horses, Aust Quarter Horse 'B' Class, ANSA, Colorama, Palomino, Open All Breed

8.30 am
Championship Dog Show
Sports Oval

8.30 am
Beef Cattle Judging
Bruce McClelland Cattle Arena

9.00 am
Exhibition Poultry
Charlie Soward Poultry Pavilion

10.00 am
Guinea Pig Pet Show
Pre School Building
Free entry on the day – 19 classes

2.00 pm
Grand Parade & Official Opening of Show
Bruce & Marj McClelland will open this year's show

2.30 pm
Whip Cracking Open
Cattle Arena

3.00 pm
Afternoon Games
Secretary's Office
Three-legged race, Slowest Bike race, Best Decorated Bike, Egg & Spoon, Gumboot Throwing & more

Sunday 24th September

8.00 am
Horse Events
Showground Ring 3
Riding Events – Junior & Senior, Hack Classes, Gala Ring, Sporting Events
Showground Ring 4
Showjumping

8.30 am
Showground Ring 1
Miniature Horses, Miniature Ponies

10.00 am
Children's Pet Show (exhibitors 15 yrs & under)
Secretary's Office
Prizes for Best Presented, Ugliest, Noisiest, Most Talented, Friendliest Pets – bring your pet along and enter on the day

11.30 am
Novice Whip Cracking (15 yrs & under)
Bruce McClelland Cattle Arena
Best Dressed, Best Style, Loudest – enter on the day

12.30 pm
Dog High Jump
Secretary's Office
Any dog will do – as long as it can jump!!
Large, Medium & Small classes

2.00 pm
Talent Quest
Secretary's Office
Sing, Recite, Dance, Play!!
Open to everyone big or small, young or old
Junior – Intermediate – Senior
\$50 First Prize

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Political farce

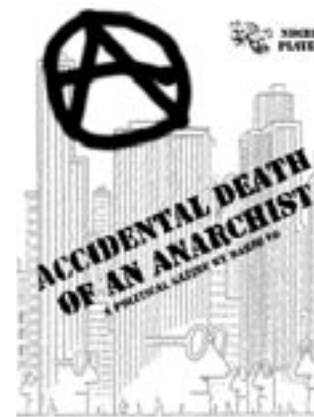
Nimbin Players will stage Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* on the nights of 14th, 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd September in the Nimbin School of Arts Hall.

On December 12, 1969 a bomb went off in the Agricultural Bank in Milan killing 17 people and wounding 100. Immediately after the bombing fascists of the Italian Social Movement (MSI) distributed leaflets

denouncing the 'red terror' and police in Milan went into action, sweeping up a number of socialist, communist and anarchist activists.

Nobel Laureate Dario Fo has penetrating insights into the nature of power in contemporary society and in this play he exposes some of its contradictions. The play is nevertheless extremely funny, rooted in Italian traditions of farce and of commedia dell'arte.

The play's probing of issues of fascism, totalitarianism and



the threats of a police state transcend the particulars of the events which inspired it. In the

current political climate driven by both real and unreal fears of terrorism, Fo's commentary is as meaningful and relevant as it ever was.

The Nimbin Players' production, directed by first-timer Martin Gill, features Zeb Schulz as The Maniac, Wal Davies, Annette Miller, Sam Grandison, Cath Smith and Cass Jeffreys. The script has been adapted for a modern Australian audience.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available from Perceptio.

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Council's top brass visit Nimbin

What were they doing here?

The best way to find out what's happened is always to ask the people who were there. Here, two of the participants give their accounts of the meeting, held Wednesday 30th August at the Community Centre, with an eight-point agenda.

Michael Balderstone:

The Lismore Council Mayor, Merv King, and the General Manager, Paul O'Sullivan, came to visit on the first day of Spring. There had been a bit of real unrest in the troops from the building just south of the big alcohol dealer in town. There was even a bit of talk of Big Joint having a little jaunt around the Council offices, so they came out to explain why the Mardi Grass and the Hemp Embassy were left out of the Council's new tourism brochure.

The GM took the rap, it was his decision alone he said, and the reason: Lismore City Council doesn't support nor does it want to be seen supporting cannabis law reform. End of story, it seems. The DA they want us to put in each year, is just them being responsible and making us get organised, etc.

The GM thinks God made a mistake with some herbs, I think, but the Mayor, well he grew up running through Nimbin paddocks, but clearly didn't try the goldies. Pity. They both listened respectfully and, to make up for our hurt, promised to show some respect for our village with a number of issues.

These include moving the blister past its trial stage, which finished some years ago. They'll be a new rubbish bin in Rainbow Lane, and the dead trees in Allsop Park will be replaced, and we might get some ongoing maintenance of the park, and they're going to look at the lighting in the western carpark and on the crossing in the exit, and where the caravans and buses park in town. Recycling was discussed, a number of other issues.

Anyway, we are getting the rubbish bin within a month, and they'll be consultation on the redesign of the blister before the end of the year.

They agreed the Skate Park needs a major new vision to make it work, but



were encouraging about this, saying the Attorney General's department is loaded with cash for such crime prevention strategies and a new committee needs to be got together with genuine keen enthusiasts who know what they're taking about and want to help make this work for everyone. They were quite open to talking about roofing the whole structure, and ra ra ra.

How do we communicate with council is a big issue, and they're going to have a whole council meeting in the town hall next year so we can talk to them, but I still think, and they agree, it needs proper consultation, especially with the Chamber of Commerce in crisis.



Andrew Kavasilas

I had been speaking with the local government ministers' office expressing concerns about various issues, so I started compiling those issues together and then we got this phone call. Michael had been onto the Council, and my call probably helped a bit too, and they arranged this meeting, all hotch-potched, that's how it came about. During the meeting, my main concerns

were positive representation for Nimbin, and whenever possible, this council should positively represent this community and back us up, and when ill-things are reported in the community, that they should back us up.

We spoke about the cameras, now they're claiming that there's only been one that's been dodgy and the cameras have been going the whole time, although no evidence has ever been used. They will seriously have a look at putting the cameras or one of them live to the web to give people opportunity to visit Nimbin without actually coming.

We spoke about ongoing police ops in Nimbin, we're going into a quiet time and the businesses aren't prepared and don't trust police enough to go into a marketing campaign which would culminate or coincide with some police operation, as has happened in the past. So that's another reason why Chamber's not very necessary at the moment.

We spoke about in future, if the executive walk out and are not replaced how the businesses will go being represented by Dave Hallett and Marcus, over the road there. There is grave concern that they will not be able to represent the proper views and the wishes of Nimbin about cutting editing or giving council what they want to hear.

We spoke about Mardi Grass in terms of the conditions which they've set out in their DA. I said they should use Nimbin's knowledge and take that on board.

SK8 Park whispers

Stakeholders have at last received their letters from Council's Health and Building officers, outlining the next step in the SK8 park construction saga following the acoustic engineer's report on the sound test in August.

The report identified a varying degree of noise attenuation and a significant reduction is noise emissions, but showed that a significant reduction is noise emissions is still required to achieve the nominated project specific noise performance standard.

That standard appears to have been lowered significantly, to 40.2 db. According to the EPA website <http://www.lhh.org/noise/decibel.htm>, which is about environmental noise, 40db is a noise level between a soft whisper and rainfall; a quiet office or library, or private residence recreation areas in quiet neighbourhoods. It lies

between a soft whisper (30 db) and rainfall (50 db).

According to Alan Salt, Hemp Embassy Vice President said, "This 40.2 db council noise target seems to be just a roundabout way of council saying 'No.'"

A NSW EPA spokesperson confirmed that while it is a council decision, usually 5db above the normal background noise is allowed. "The skate park noise is meant to be compared to normal sound levels for the area, which in previous use was a basketball court," said Mr Salt.

Council is now seeking formal discussions of viable alternative design options for additional noise attenuation. Barriers are likely to be required, and possibly a roof, but such works will require the further consent of Council. Council has already expressed significant concerns regarding the construction of barriers with this recreation facility.

Lismore Mayor Merv King and General Manager Paul O'Sullivan took the opportunity to view the SK8 Park from their car, during their visit to Nimbin in late August, and commented favourably on the project.

Michael Balderstone reported, "They said how impressive it was, and how big it was."

The Council surrendered management of Peace Park to the NCD, leaving the status of the working group uncertain. This surrender includes their management responsibilities to Sk8 Park, though Council has resumed their role as title holders and regulators.

Council will hold title to the Nimbin Community Centre Peace Park until February 2008 when the Deed of Agreement is finalised and the Nimbin Community Development Association takes 100% ownership of the two sites.

Hot Hip Hop Happening

Street Warriors Performance
Nimbin Town Hall,
Saturday 26th August.
Reviewed by Caitlin Barnes-Whittaker

The first act was Jeddah, Kirra and Tara performing One Mob. They were also making a film clip.

After them was Monkey Muck, he did rapping and later on he did breakdancing. DK was next and he looks like Ice Cube. He included everyone in his songs.

Simone, Brodie and Amelia were dancing on the floor in the front of the stage. They got filmed as well.

Jeddah requested The Street Warriors play their song 'Murray Flow' and it was great.

As an encore Jeddah and the Twinz sang their song. Then later Lluella and Jalia sang a song with them.

When it finished everyone went and Kirra, Tara, their dad and I dropped Brodie off at her place. Soon after we went home to Kirra's and enjoyed a movie together.



Rappers. Tara, Jeddah and Kirra Bayles on stage at the Street Warriors performance, while they were being filmed.

Have a Happy Holiday!



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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!

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Miles Merril and Donne Restom

Interviewed by Warwick Fry

You both gave very impressive performances at the Nimbin Poetry Cup yesterday, and it just raised a few questions in my mind. I'm a scribbler rather than a performer, and I'm just wondering what sort of differences you see between writing poetry and doing performance poetry.

Miles: I think they are two completely different things, it's hard to write something and then imagine getting up and performing it, especially if you take into consideration all the noises you can make when you're on stage, and if you can go (funny noise) and write that down, well good luck. There's just lots of variation with spoken word, and I guess its such a direct form of theatre, as well, so I often find I'm writing theatrical pieces rather than thinking of them as poetry.

What about you Donne?

Donne: Yeah, I think it is, it's the word Performance poetry. The performance part of it, it's like fifty percent of what you're presenting as a whole. And also the way that, often I find word choice and the way lines are constructed is very different, because you're giving the audience something, that you'd like them to be able to understand immediately - you don't have time to devour it and read it over again. You have to be, I guess in a way, a lot simpler in what you write.



You've integrated a little bit of music into your performance last night - a bit of singing, but that wonderful sort of cadence and the segue from music to the poetry and back again, it was quite impressive. Have you been influenced by hip hop?

Donne: Oh definitely, I love hip hop passionately. I can't even really pin point exactly what it is that influences me in such a strong way.

Yeah, I was like the kid who always wished they could be a rapper, but I'm not good enough with the rhythms to be able to rap, so I did the poetry instead. For me, the music and the poetry, when I write poetry it's a musical process, and I find it important for the styles that I do to be able to snip/slip? as much between them and meld them, as much as possible.

Miles: Yeah, there are a few people I think who have become a bit disillusioned with the hip hop scene because so much of it is focused on the beats rather than the content, and so you get people who used to do hip hop, but they found that their



material - nobody was really listening to the words, they were just bobbing their heads, and so they've kind of cut out the beats, and just gone straight for the text, which is kind of exciting because they still keep those rhythms in their spoken word performance, but they don't cloud it with the boom boom boom in the background, you know.

Is it going to attract younger people, do people come out of high school now taking poetry seriously, in this post modern age?

Donne: I think performance poetry it's a really strong link for that. For me, I see it as, when you look at when hip hop started happening, it was kids roaming in playgrounds or whatever, and people using beats behind them in order to speak politically - and also it's almost like a game in playgrounds, you have little battles and stuff. So the mentality of using words in that way, I think, is in youth generations. I have this theory that hip hop kind of sped up a lot. Physically it sped up and as it got so strongly into the commercial arena it got plasticised a lot as well. So I think there's a very strong culture of youth coming out, who are influenced by that but are also thinking, and use poetry either like me, as a medium, as a halfway point between being a full rapper or being a written poet or whatever, and also I think a lot of kids realise that it's, it kind of sounds a bit stupid, but it like, makes poetry cool, makes it accessible.



Cup goes south: Finalists of the fourth annual Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, won by Emilie Zoey Baker.

Thom the World Poet and Nimbin Aquarius

by Benny Zable

Tom the Poet, now Thom the World Poet, made it to the finals of this year's World Poetry Cup. It was great to hear his brand of poetry once again playing here in Nimbin.

Little is known of Thom's connection with Nimbin, which goes back to the Nimbin Aquarius Festival in May 1973. These are some recollections by Benny Zable of those days.

It was before the Nimbin Aquarius Festival, I met the then Poor Tom the street poet.

He was a familiar figure on the streets of Melbourne handing out poems printed on sheets of paper which he had organised with all those who wished to express themselves in word around Melbourne. He also assisted The Wizard (Ian Channel, now the Wizard of Auckland).

As a street artist myself I found myself a participant in his actions. It empowered me in my social experiments with dance be it a protest, street happenings, poetry readings at the North Melbourne Commune, La Mamma in Carlton, Monsalvat, and other dives around Melbourne where us free creative spirits met to play with each other, or play to each other.

Coming from a writers family myself, I observed the limitations of the written word so I broke with family tradition to express in image and perform with time and space in a kinesthetic manner.

Tom's happening events gave me great freedom to interact in dance movement and later with an ensemble of dancers/performers that came to the Nimbin Aquarius Festival in May 1973.

Tom got together musicians to form a poetry band that accompanied our show based on H.G.Wells "Time Machine" performed in the ruins of the Butter Factory (now the Bush Theatre). This partially structured, multimedia, improvised performance took place only once, which happened to be during the infamous bust at the festival. Following Aquarius, we continued meeting, empowering each other, dreaming live, enriching the world of multimedia and improvisations.

Thom started improvising at Nimbin and continues to this day in his new base of Austin, Texas where he runs several poetry venues and was a co-founder of Austin International Poetry Festival

He has been a co-celebrant with artists and movers such as Benny Zable from the beginning. Apart from Street Poetry broadsheets and coffee house poetry live performances, Thom has published 152



Thom, left, and Benny get together before the judging of the Poetry World Cup. He later conducted improvised poetry workshops at Nimbin Central School.

books of poetry as well as 23 CDs and 35 tapes of improvisations. He remains true to his improvising origins and can be seen on stage and screen and in multi-media events in many countries.

WATCH THIS SPACE! YOUR POETRY IS DREAMING YOU

*Pilgrims came to this Aquarian Festival converted a ghost dairy town into a diary of our futures
by enacting peaceful demonstrations of art and life
in colour-filled murals and spiritual awakenings
Every person underwent self-initiations into communal living and sharing resources tribal affiliations and personal growth relationships
became lifelong, and songs and poems spelled out
a future Australia Aquarian ...AstralAliens landed
and started their Independent Republics of the Possible
Our heroes were (and are!) each other!
We were empowered by the possibility of change
on the lip of a future of diminishing resources we were rich in sharing with each other - single mothers, children, tribal and ferals all added their power and gentleness aligned with mountain, rock and rivers, forests of new folk flocked to this tiny town of Nimbin
In the shadow of Mt Warning, in the space of Nimbin Rocks
a new world is being built upon the bones of the olde
Change is constant, dramatic, power-filled and ecstatic -
ask any Nimbinite what it is that they like - EVERYTHING! they reply! And they do - as they build
new worlds around, surrounding and within - We are all Nimbin. We are all pilgrims.*

- Thom for Nimbin August 11, 2006

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International Children's Day - Help us celebrate being a kid

I always hear people saying "What a funny old town Nimbin is." I wouldn't know about things that are old because I'm only 3! And as a 3 year old in Nimbin, I notice that we're not noticed very much at all.

How many of the 13 cafes/eateries have high chairs? How many shops are big enough and safe enough to take a pram into? You'd be surprised with what we littlies have to go through, you forget because you're too old to remember. If you'd like to be reminded about what being a kid is all about, then come and help us celebrate OUR day. That's right: Children's Day, on Thursday 26th October. It's part of National Children's Week.

We're going to have a big colourful parade down the

main street starting at 10am, and we're going to march and dance all the way to Peace Park. At Peace Park there's going to be heaps of fun stuff to do and see: singing, painting, play doh (!), dancing and jumping castle.

There's going to be heaps of entertainment too, but more will be revealed in the next Nimbin GoodTimes (I hear you adults like surprises. I like surprises too, especially when it's mum's best chocolate birthday cake with candles on it that you have to blow out - I love that).

There's also going to be a kiddy art exhibition, which should give you a fair idea of how we interpret the world we've been brought into. The exhibition will showcase the fine talents of the under 5's in our community. We're also

going to have a book for you to write down your thoughts on how we can make Nimbin a more child friendly town.

I'm sure as adults you would know better than me just how important your role is in raising little people like me, and what a community can do to help my mum and dad raise me - they need a lot of help - I can be a bit of a cheeky monkey sometimes, after all, I've just gone through my so called 'terrible twos', but I reckon it should be changed to 'terrific twos', don't you?

If you want more information please contact Nimbin's own Marie at our Family Friendly Centre on 6689-0423 (ie for art exhibition, volunteering, ideas for the day etc)

**Signed: a very excited
3 year old.**

Book Week fun for kids



Booked out. Eden Creek Fairy Mount Pre-school with good library witch Cheryl Thompson. Check out their artwork on display in the library - it's amazing.

witches who cackled their way through discussions about CBW, storytimes and library orientation tours, with all children receiving spooky colour-ins, puzzles and tricky, sour sweet treats.

Kyogle library would like to say a big thankyou to all the schools and teachers who visited CBW at Kyogle library. We would also like to extend an invitation to the whole community to drop-in to the library and check out our spooky displays - lots of dark fun for everyone!

What's happening in September @ your library?

Pizza & Pages for Young Adults 12 - 17 years of age, at Kyogle Library Young Adult Area on Wednesday, 20th September 2006 from 4.30 - 5.30pm.

Loads of fun, yummy pizza plus a cool craft to learn and take home. All for free. RSVP essential, by Monday, 18th September. Contact Kyogle library staff on 6632-1134

Bring-A-Mate Day rocks!

by Manuela Geiss

The words most people used to describe the afternoon were "I had so much fun. I can't remember when I had so much fun!" They were talking about Bring-A-Mate Day.

The idea for this event came from the realisation that Dads are still mostly absent from school and that perhaps if we organise an event with Dad-friendly activities they may come and begin to feel a little more comfortable with the thought of coming to school.

Then we realised that of course not all children have ready access to their dads and would feel left out if we were to restrict the event. On the day, those students who expected no-one from their families had the opportunity to chose a staff member, a peer or a high school students as their mate. This proved highly successful and everybody was very happy.

The 'day' began with a BBQ lunch and was followed by sporty games, which our high school students from Years 11 and 12 designed and helped organise. What a team spirit!

Students from Ms Avery's Year 11 PD/H/PE class, Sarah Layer, Dean Chaussivert and Tristan Glover, as well as the K-6 teachers, manned stations at which various physical activities had to be completed. The level of competition was fierce and while skill may have been lacking, determination and fun certainly wasn't.

The laughter and joy experienced by all those involved whether young or not so young was a pure delight to behold. Thanks also to high school students, Christian Hanlon and James Van Hest, who acted as mates to some of our K-6 students. What a magical experience!

I bet that a few of the adult mates had



Kyleaha MacDonald and her dad John



Alanna Hurley and her dad Mick.



Craig Fry and daughter Holly

some sore muscles the next day that they didn't even know they had. All in all I counted around 40 adult mates for our 60 primary students.

A big thank you to all who came and helped make the afternoon so much fun.

Pictures by Alice Matheson-Geiss

Ministry for peace, global alliance

24 hour Peace Vigil

Thursday 21st September is the official United Nations - International Day Of Peace. Peace is an imperative if we want a healthy nation and a healthy world, and indeed, a healthy body and mind.

We wish to encourage our community and our nation to celebrate this day in a spiritual manner, thus making it a day of national importance to all. As peace is not the prerogative of any one group, we invite all religious and humanitarian organisations to join us in co-organising this 24 hour peace vigil.

We acknowledge the fact that there is one race on earth the

human race. Thus this invitation is extended to humanity and we ask that you contribute what you can to this day. You may wish to organise prayer and meditation groups, you may wish to celebrate it with poetry or choirs, that is up to you to organise and create in your town or state.

Ministries for Peace

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace gathered at Royal Roads University, Victoria, Canada on June 19-22, 2006 for the *Second People's Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace*, held to advance the establishment of ministries and departments of peace in governments worldwide.

Sixty government and civil society delegates, representing diverse cultures, nations, ages and languages united to develop an effective global and national architecture for peace. Delegates came from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom, and United States.

Speaking with one voice they called on countries around the world to establish government structures whose goal is to work hand-in-hand with civil society - reflecting, building, and sustaining a culture of peace.

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Disappointed

For the past seven years, my wife and I have been making a yearly pilgrimage to Nimbin to spend six to eight weeks soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the beautiful surroundings of the Nimbin area.

The one thing we look forward to above all things is to visit the Bush Theatre to catch a movie and indulge in a piece of sticky date pudding. This year we were disappointed and saddened to discover the theatre is no longer running and even though there are signs stating 'Café Open' there never seems to be anyone about. Our first attempt was at 11am on a Tuesday morning. The signs were out but no one was there. Our second was the following Thursday at about 12 noon, again, no one was there. We decided to try a third time on a Saturday thinking surely it would be open to catch the day trippers, but again no one was there. We asked at the Candle Factory which was always open, and were informed by the friendly people there that we should try later in the afternoon. So back we came on the following Friday night.

WHAT A MISTAKE! We didn't find the atmosphere we were hoping for, instead there was a teen 'Trance' Dance going on. The car park was littered with drunken kids, yes kids, some who didn't look older than 13 years. We witnessed some pretty disgusting behaviour. Even though we were dubious about parking and leaving the car we felt

having come this far we decided to press on and check it out. The memory of the sticky date pudding was that strong!

The whole place felt unwelcoming and violent. As we walked around to where we hoped we would find our pudding we became aware this was not the same beautiful environment we had loved on our previous visits. The music was so loud, and had that threatening feeling. It featured a heavy, do-your-head-in bass that must have driven the local residents insane. There appeared to be a couple of adults serving over-priced food, but after standing for several minutes observing them bickering between themselves we decided to abandon our mission and leave. As we were leaving, a huge 4-wheel drive roared into life, skidding and spraying gravel over everyone or thing that happened to get in the way. We left, never to try again.

We've told our story to many locals now and all seem to have the same disappointment on losing the Theatre to these people. It makes you wonder how a business can continue to operate when there is no consistency to their opening times, their menu is bland and over priced and the atmosphere is anything but inviting. Nimbin appears to have a café that doesn't serve coffee and a theatre that doesn't run movies. What are they doing? It makes you wonder. I feel so sorry for the rest of the businesses and residents of the bush theatre.

It always had a feeling of being an oasis of culture, creativity and calm.

The last straw that prompted me to write this letter was the erection of a platypus viewing sign which must have been installed very recently. Platypuses are well known to be shy and elusive creatures. Have these people taken into consideration the effects the loud bass and music would be having to the very creature they wish to exploit? I doubt it very much.

We cut our stay short this year, our disappointment was that great. Will we be back next year? Probably, we have our fingers crossed this group won't last too long and the theatre will be brought back to life in the future. We live in hope.

John J Hoser

Disgusted

Most people do not wish to have our village known as the site of a drug festival.

So many local (young) people are already cannabis addicts, in broken families, and would be unable to hold down a job. I would not wish to stand in the shoes of those encouraging dope smoking.

Will not a judgement come upon them?

Let the vocal weed promoters get out and pick up the rubbish strewn for miles along our local roads, flung there by so called 'law reformers'. If hemp did not cause intoxication, people would almost never mention its use as a fibre. This is a transparent ploy.

Weed smoking has spoiled the originally healthy and positive alternative movement. To experience true spiritual power, read your bible and know a pure and lovely lifestyle.

Vyvyan Stott
Blue Knob

Heartfelt thanks

I want to send huge heartfelt thanks and love to the Doctors and Healthcare Workers of Nimbin. On 2nd August a new baby boy was born. A beautiful and pretty common occurrence, except he was

birthed very unexpectedly over a week early, rapidly and an unknown breech at our Nimbin Hospital.

Orlando's successful birth was very much due to a fantastic team of people the Hospital hurriedly got together within minutes of our surprise arrival. Much love and gratitude to Dr Dan Oxley, Dr Mark Drulis, Gail Jenkins, Eleanor Nixon, Ray Phelps, Linda Hannah, Shane Clapham, Steve Sherlock, Leanne Clark, Doug McFadden, the two ambulance workers, and any other staff I've missed. Also my huge love to Gellie (who luckily for us was my amazing doula), Pete and Oscar for their support and care and Sankalpa for her care of Osc. You guys were all amazing and jumped to the task like absolutely the professionals you obviously are.

I had a beautiful natural birth at a country hospital, without lots of equipment, etc, that would have appeared at a "big" hospital. Just shows how possible this could be!! I had been quite disappointed through my pregnancy that I "had to" go to a "big" hospital, unable to afford my preferred homebirth. But now I am just filled with beautiful and happy birth memories.

Thank you for that. Orlando sends you kisses. Much love and welcome also to the many babies born recently and those who helped them arrive.

Love and blessings,
Lisa Torpey and family

Fibreglass frustration

I am still DESPERATE to find a reliable fibreglasser who is capable of manufacturing the birthing furniture I have designed. I have already tried out several manufacturers in the area, but they either are not interested in doing smaller runs, or they simply don't know what they are doing - the results of their efforts are below standard.

I am pulling my hair out and feel that I may be forced to take my manufacture overseas if someone with excellent skills does not emerge out of the woodwork. It is a shame,

but I hear it from other people looking for manufacturers, it is very hard to find anyone these days.

One day in the not too far future, this country will regret that they let manufacture slip to this low level. When oil prices are prohibitive, we simply won't be able to afford importing goods from overseas any more and will need to return to "in-house" manufacture, but by then the skill basis will be gone, and costly to re-attain.

Would you be able to put out a notice once more, perhaps with an image of the Studio? Perhaps there is still someone out there who'll put his hand up! If you do decide to run a notice, could you please add the website below.

Monika Boenigk
www.birthire.com.au

Bushwalkers Club credit

A few weeks back, someone, I can't remember who, complimented me on "the work I had put into starting the Nimbin Bushwalkers Club." I am concerned that others in the Nimbin community might share that misapprehension

Although I have ended up as president, I did nothing to start the club. This was due entirely to the initiative of Sue Boardman as part of the Building Active Communities program.

Sue called a community meeting to find out if there was sufficient interest in forming a bush-walking club - and there was. Sue then researched what was needed and, at a second meeting,

presented us with all of the background information and documentation needed for set-up, affiliation to the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs; insurance; incorporation and so forth. In this day and age of litigation, the paperwork involved in setting up and running an activities-based club is extensive.

At that second meeting, a Nimbin Bushwalkers Club committee was formed, and subsequently that committee has put in much effort in generating a walks program, leading walks, setting up a web page, dealing with all the paperwork involved, insurance issues etc. And for those reasons, all members of the Nimbin Bushwalkers Club Inc. committee deserve congratulation and thanks.

But as for setting up the club, thanks are due to Sue Boardman, without whose efforts it probably would never have happened.

Len Martin

Wunbong Makes A Move

Dear Anita (bypassing you, sorry Ed), I have been seeking a sensible debate with you since I challenged the unsupported assumptions and bigotry in your first article re rich, conservative, greedy, pretentious, mentally constipated Liberal/National voters (your words, Anita) pushing up real estate prices and driving out all the poor, interesting, artistic types and fucking up Nimbin. Where are these Skase clones? I can't seem to find them.

You offered up nothing

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Billen Cliffs resident and local Jedi Knight Andy Gough recently married his very own elven princess, Georgie Leech, in a unique ceremony at his property near Lamook. Watched over by close family and friends, Georgie and Andy (NGT's regular graphic artist) held an outdoor celebration of their intergalactic union in a beautiful bushland setting. "We are overwhelmed at the generous and loving support we share with our neighbours and friends and thank them all for making our day just perfect... and I'll be back at work next month, Bob," Andy said.

Picture: Ariel Cameron

Q. What did the Irishman say to the Goddess?

Laugh out loud!! Gerald The Self Appointed Goddess! We gleefully commiserate on the point of all the useless intellectualizing that went over his/her head. We have a personal taste for all politically incorrect humour, but all this Goddess worshipping appears to have dulled any sense of humour.

Isn't it about time, as grown ups, that we respectfully acknowledge our differences, confine the in-house fighting and personal vitriol, and find some common ground? Why not focus on a modus vivendi (agree to disagree) rather than any secular modus operandi (way of operating for group gain). We could combine our forces (sex, class, religion, culture) to really challenge the status quo instead.

If it's all just a matter of semantics, and labeling, (name-calling), then it's a mortal shame. Amazonian knife-wielders be warned! Sharpen your wits (and refine your writing skills) instead of your tongues. We need a Class-ier Action, and the pen will always be mightier than the swear-word.

Kim Gould
God & Godder
Eureka Stockade/Sanctuary

Negative attitudes

As a right of reply to Gerald Taylor's accusation, I would like to explain to him I most likely saved him from serious injury on the day I forcefully removed him from my doorstep where he was needlessly provoking already distressed people. Weapons were being drawn inside the house and I had no desire to be a witness to aggressive males having it out with one another.

To associate the Goddess with marijuana in Nimbin is a bit of a joke. Marijuana, because of its illegality and links to the underworld, has attracted with the help of sensationalist press articles, a wholly different style of people to Nimbin than the original Aquarian inspired settlers.

The original Goddess-inclined Nimbin culture has been badly bruised by heavy-handed territorialism, greed, paranoia and the thought of

using the natural resources of the area to make a lot of money; just like the outside world.

Domestic violence is rife in the area. So much so that police comments from community meetings have noted this. There are many distressed women in the area, victims of domestic violence and a male attitude of being derogatory towards women that wouldn't get above ground in more civilized places. There are male youth growing up in the town treating young women badly, verbally and physically.

The Australian nation is

being led by men bringing back old negative attitudes towards women and other minorities as well as bringing back the old love of war. Examples are the current persecution of single mothers, demonisation of non-white races and the militarization of Australia.

This is the patriarchy and we seriously need to revive the understanding of the goddess to reveal why the earth has become so dysfunctional.

The words we use and the attitudes we convey, especially in our local press, go a long way towards influencing attitudes in our town, as well as in the observers of our

town.

By the way, the word church is derived from the medieval Greek word Kuriakos - pertaining to the Lord, from the noun Kurios - master, lord. A church is a patriarchal construct.

Lynne Oldfield

Stop it

As a servant of the one Goddess and with peace in my heart, I say this to Gerald Taylor:

It's better to remain silent and be considered a fool, than to open your mouth and prove it. Stop it, or you'll go blind.

Blessed be,

Harry Neville

Council jottings Cr Jenny Dowell

Council has been steady-as-she-goes since my last column, until a grey-headed flying fox raised its head.

In March, at the Council meeting held at Koonorigan, a Mayoral Minute was carried to request the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation to remove 'bats' from Rotary Park in response to complaints from 4 neighbouring properties. A Mayoral Minute is by nature a last-minute motion with no community consultation, no opportunity for opponents or supporters to speak at the meeting and no time for Councillors to educate themselves on the issue. The motion was carried 7/4 with Crs Tomlinson, Elkins, Swientek and Dowell against (Cr Irwin absent).

Recently, without informing Councillors or the community, staff lodged applications to both the NSW DEC and the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage for permission for Council itself to relocate the colony of Black and Grey-Headed Flying Foxes using very loud noises. Council requested permission to undertake dispersal of these vulnerable species in the second week in September before the



will be moving a motion that Council takes no action to relocate the animals. I'll let readers know the result next time.

In other Council news that might interest readers, a new Heritage Conservation DCP has been approved for 6 local precincts including Nimbin Village. The DCP contains a statement of significance of the township as having 'high local significance as a cultural landscape' and of the 'outstanding' main street as 'unique in Australia' and with 'State Significance'. The Plan includes Precinct Policies relating to restoration and construction, awnings, facades, colours, security shutters, murals and streetscape to ensure the significance of this heritage precinct is protected.

If readers would like to contact me about any Council matter, please phone 6625-2206 or email Jenny.Dowell@lismore.

except 'poor me' syndrome and a snipe at my bad writing and lack of humour (oh, the irony) in your response, so I challenged you in my second letter to put up or shut up. Rather than present anything resembling reason to support your assertions, you have erroneously presumed I am a get-rich-quick Gold Coast-type developer "salivating at the prospect of rapid capital gain."

Gee, you don't challenge Anita and get off lightly. I've been in Nimbin for over 20 years. I started off in an old army tent with a shovel and broly for a dunny. I now own property (like most NGT readers I dare say) but no house. I rent. I work and pay off my mortgage. I vote Greens. My car is 16 years old. My capital gains have not been 'rapid' and I don't salivate abnormally. I'm just a nearly normal Nimbin person who, despite years of being hippy-bashed in the media, still has a sense of

fair play and is not afraid of Nimbin's evolution.

But despite the fact I disagree with you Anita, I love your spunk. I think about you lots. I had a dream about you last night. Do you think we should meet? The readers have probably tired of our little public tiff by now. I am of average height with an athletic physique, value honesty, love wicked humour, enjoy long walks on the beach, holding hands, poetry, good coffee with intelligent and stimulating conversation, music and dancing and tantric sex or a quiet night in, snuggled up on the sofa watching a romantic comedy with a bottle of red or the Nimbin equivalent. I am financially independent so no worries there, plus I am domestically proficient but not anal.

What do you reckon, Anita? Is there a chance for us?

Yours tenderly,
Wunbong Tumani.

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Cattle Truck Anniversary – Saturday 12th August

A celebration of hippies surviving and thriving in Nimbin, despite 30 years of 'asymmetrical' policing.

Remembering the raid of '76

Press Release,
Nimbin, August
12th, 2006.

Thousands of Police stayed away from Nimbin today, no arrests were made, and as far as we know no media were present. As a result, the crowd that attended had a great day locking up mock police in a cage on the back of a cattle truck, having a smoke-in, and listening to live music with short speeches in the breaks.

It brought people out of the hills that had not gathered together in that way for a long time. It brought back memories of the way the 1976 Raid united us; like when people were collecting money for bail and people were throwing their wallets in, anything they had, to free the 42. That sort of unity of purpose is an amazing thing when it happens.

That unity has reappeared in the wake of the 2006 "Riot Squad" MardiGrass, and by staying away from Re-Enactment Day, they enabled us this day to "reclaim the Nimbin" that we wish it always was. It was a return to the Cullen Street of '76, to the kind of day that an aging hippie wishes the rest of the world could have.

Spare us all from the politics of fear, hatred, and division.

Alan C Salt, HEMP Embassy Vice President, HEMP Embassy & Nimbin MardiGrass Webmaster
<http://www.hempembassy.net>
<http://www.nimbinmardigrass.com>



Police overkill

by Arthur Pike

In March this year, responding to National Party M.P, Thomas George's outcry for eight extra police to "clean up" Nimbin, several long-time Nimbin residents wrote to the Northern Star, challenging the politician's remarks. I drew NSW Premier Iemma's attention to George's comments and residents' reactions, stating that "what we need in Nimbin is better allocation of resources, focus on community policing and funding of community activities" for the 8,000 plus people in Nimbin and its environs.

The Premier said, "You may be sure that your comments will receive close consideration". He referred my letter to the Minister for Police. I looked forward to receiving some sort of policy reaction to my expression of Nimbin needs, other than "extra police".

Police Minister Scully, in turn, referred my letter to Parliamentary Secretary for Police, Tony Stewart MP, who wrote on 8 June, that 'Superintendent Bruce Lyons, Richmond Local Area Commander, advises me that two additional police officers are due to commence work in Nimbin on 21 May, 2006 in "overstrength" positions which will increase the staff of Nimbin Police Station to six officers.

Nimbin police are committed to working with residents of the Nimbin area and local community groups to address crime and associated problems,¹

This wasn't the Government policy response I'd expected. However, it was in keeping with Police Minister Scully's proposed name change from the NSW Police Service to NSW Police Force.

A flyer promoting a Nimbin



gig commemorating August 12th, the 30th anniversary of the Great Tumble Falls Cattle Truck Bust stated: "On that day in 1976, 60 fully armed police raided the Tumble Falls Community. Using photocopied search warrants they rounded up 42 people at gunpoint, transporting them (some in a cattle truck) to Lismore where they were charged."

The real question is whether there was some over-kill," said NSW Premier Neville Wran about the raid. An official enquiry decided there was over-kill. Eventually, all charges were dismissed and the police reprimanded for their heavy-handed (and illegal) tactics.

Today, many Nimbin locals feel that little has really changed. They believe the police attitude towards alternative culture is still negative. The overwhelmingly police presence at this year's Mardi Grass, recent weekend-long roadblocks outside Nimbin (manned by uniformed police, Dept. of Immigration officials, Centetlink investigators, sniffer dogs) and comments by local politician George under parliamentary privilege

stating that Nimbin was "another Macquarie Fields waiting to happen" have done little to dispel this feeling.

It is thought by many residents that policing policies in Nimbin are asymmetrical or one-sided, concentrating on relatively minor drug crime whilst completely ignoring vandalism, drunkenness and violence. We feel the policies are based on prejudice and bigotry rather than genuine community concern.

In our paranoid moments, we feel that we are being used as a convenient "soft" target by the police and ambitious politicians wishing to make a name for themselves.

Scully's call for a name change when he opened the new \$15 million Lismore police HQ was decidedly macho: "We are not a customer service organisation. We're not selling fruit and veg at the supermarket. We're chasing down bad guys and locking them up and that's a police 'force'."

Parliamentary Secretary Stewart's reply to my letter and recent increased police activities in Nimbin seem to follow a familiar path police over-kill.

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Ninjas in Nimbin?

by Graeme Dunstan
Peacebus.com

The Kyogle Cyanide Watch action of Friday 11th August went well. With the support of the good folks of the Nimbin Environment Centre we had set up near the Kyogle Council Chambers and spruiked about the cyanide transports.

After we were thanked for coming to town by both the Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Lewis and the local police officers in attendance. Cr Lewis later went of ABC Radio committed to getting the NSW government to reveal exactly how much secret cyanide is approved for transport through Kyogle and the headwaters of the Richmond River.

Tired but happy, Peacebus.com camped that night in Djambung Gardens, staying near the village so that we might support the Cattle Truck Bust Re-enactment the next day. From deep sleep I was awakened by the rocking of the van: something heavy on the roof. "Possums!" was my first thought as the weight went from the back of the van to the front. "Permaculture must be breeding big possums."

Then Jennifer the Maremma barked and, looking out the open door, I saw a black clad figure fleeing in the moonlight. It bore a bum, which I would swear after my many years of study of the subject, was female. The incident made no sense and Jennifer and I were soon asleep again. The meaning became clear the next morning when I set up Peacebus.com flags and signage in Cullen Street making it look strong and beautiful for the Cattle Truck Re-enactment.

It was then I discovered the cables to the PA speaker horns had been cut. Sabotage! My own personal Ninja attack! Someone had earnestly wanted to silence Peacebus.com that day, someone, I am supposing, who doesn't like the sound of my voice.

My first response was gratitude for the inverted compliment. Someone somewhere in the Nimbin hills is thinking what I have to say is so important as to warrant dressing up and prowling about the shadows of night with wire cutters. My words must be touching a nerve somewhere.

A more sobering response was to reflect on the arrogance and assumed cultural superiority motivating the action. Somewhere in the shadow lands of the Nimbin hills, we may assume, is a self appointed Politburo, the real hippies as it were, which has taken upon itself the power to

decide who and who may not speak in Nimbin.

What a mountainous delusion! What a horrible crippling of the imagination! But we may rest assured it is a delusion which will come unravelled in its own time and in its own very Nimbin way, no help needed from me or anyone else.

The root cause of this Ninja phenomenon is malicious gossip: somewhere, some one or few have been bad mouthing me. Since the habits of bad speech are not restrained by subject, we may assume they are bad mouthing others too. And probably that they say awful things about themselves.

Let's notice the stultifying and divisive outcomes of gossip. It is a poison that bedevils marginalized peoples in particular. Notice how it creates distrust amongst us and dis-empowers us. It is both a cause and a symptom of our internalized oppression.

Right speech is what is needed to build community and resistance to the Earth devouring corpocracy. Right Speech is the path to creating visionary and uplifting cultural movement (see box below right).

On that luminous day in Nimbin the Peacebus.com PA was soon fixed thanks to help from friends in the Hemp Bar. I gone there and cried out my helplessness: "Is there an electrician in the house?" And sure enough ... The PA might have been a useful stand-in when the set up for Cattle Truck Re-enactment was delayed. While the musicians were getting themselves together it could have served to get some public speaking and remembrance of the Big Bust happening.

As it was, the only entertainment offering to the sizable crowd standing about waiting was the spectacle of yet another bunch of late arriving hippies struggling with cables, microphones and speaker boxes.

Later Johnny Bayles, master DJ formerly of Redfern Radio, realised the amenity of the Peacebus.com PA and offered me an excellent CD of koori reggae to play, between the bands and after. The music filled the street and added to the laid-back feel. Great choice of music, Johnny.

What ever the politics of fear and envy, it was another of those beautiful, beautiful Nimbin days. Excellent vibe. Lots of old hippies were in town and me amongst them, humble and happy to be sitting sharing pot and chat with old friends in Cullen Street again.

May all Ninjas sleep at ease. May all beings be happy.

Whistle-stop tour by police minister

News Thursday 3rd August 06
by Ian Wickham, Nim-FM

Carl Scully, the NSW Police Minister (pictured at right), paid the Hemp Embassy a surprise visit at lunchtime today.

Hemp Embassy spokesperson, Michael Baulderstone, and surprised volunteers met the Police Minister and his two assistants, and gave them a whistle-stop tour of the premises. Michael gave Carl a complimentary postcard, featuring the Prime Minister meeting our Hemp gang, to which Carl seemed to chuckle.

Carl, in turn, seemed truly surprised at the variety of uses that hemp can be used for, after being shown examples of hemp clothing, rope, bricks & building materials, oil, antique hemp artefacts, & protest posters.

'You truly have an interesting place here,' the police minister said before leaving.

PS Hey wait a minute! Now he's reaching in for his mobile phone. He's talking, out on the road.

'Get me the police chief. ... Is that you, Bluey? I've just visited Nimbin and these hippies are OK, man. Let's stop hassling them, hey!'

WARNING. I made the last bit up. It was just a pipe-dream.

Nim-FM News can be heard nightly at 5.55pm on 102.5FM.

Michael Baulderstone recalls:

"We're just political fodder for the war on drugs, we are. That's how I feel."

So Scully, the Police Minister's up to announce the new police station in their law and order campaign. So Bluey and him and Thomas do this quick trip to Nimbin, which I reckon they're using as a sort of whipping post to get more police on the Northern Rivers to lobby.

So Wally comes over from the museum. We're in the middle of the hemp meeting, it's a Thursday, and he says oh, the police minister's in town, I thought maybe you'd wanna see him. So we're finishing the meeting, in the middle of a bit of damiana.

And we all go upstairs, and I walk out of the embassy straight into Scully and his entourage which is all female, and he's looking very sort of fashionable, and not a bit worried about walking the streets of Nimbin, like Thomas who won't leave the green zone.

Anyway, Thomas and Bluey are driving around in the car, and they don't get out of the car and so to Scully I say, come and look at our Hemp Embassy. He's straight into the hemp embassy,



he immediately spots the picture of his premier Iemma, and of the?? cartoon of Jamie, Iemma's going 'ah good, I'll be supplying all of Sydney's hydro now', or something, new laws. It's a sort of cartoon - he wasn't too impressed by that.

He got the rave from someone about the hemp, and he liked the shirt, and Justin did the smartest thing, I think. He pointed out the latest Cosmos magazine to him, which has got a good rave about psychosis and cannabis use. It's a good rave I reckon. And he said he'd seen it on the desk, and he'll have a look at it. Then he sort of whisked away, and I just thought it was funny the way Thomas and Blue were driving around in the armoured car leaving the green zone occasionally, with the police minister strolling the street with these young girls. They looked pretty cool - like they were ordinary visitors.

Right Speech is what's needed now

Right Speech is what the Buddha called it and so important did he regard it, that he named it as a path of its own in the Eightfold Noble Path to Enlightenment, which he described in the first sermon after his enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.

By Right Speech he meant truthfulness but also no harsh speech or gossip. Rather he advocated speech that creates no suffering; speech that promotes harmony and kindness. "Noble silence" was how he would respond to

speech arising from anger, fear, ignorance or delusion.

There is a famous story of a rich and powerful man coming to the Buddha and publicly accusing him of perverting youth and other fabrications born of ignorance and fear.

The Buddha listened to the man in silence, not offering any response. The man raged and verbally abused the Buddha, left and came back again. Three times he did this and the third time as he left he raged at the muteness and unresponsiveness of the Buddha.

Then the Buddha spoke: "You have come and offered me your anger. Thank you but I do not accept your offering."

Let's not accept the offerings of malicious gossip. Be aware that those who bad mouth others to you, will soon enough be bad mouthing you to others.



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If our annual event on Friday 11th August, 2006. Write down the name of this herb and put it in the SPECIAL BOX at the Nimbin HEMP Embassy. Then you will have the chance to WIN a FREE PASS

NIMBIN MardiGrass Cannabis Law Reform Rally

What's age got to do with it?

by Mac McMahon

Look at me, age sixty-two and still discovering my hidden talents, thanks to the Nimbin Open Learning Centre.

Last year I embarked on a very productive time in their creative writing course. Our teacher Nell Cook showed us the ropes, and before I knew it, I was published in the Nimbin Beyond the Rainbow literary magazine. Since then I have had four articles published here in Nimbin and even one in Sydney.

Just when I thought I had found an outlet for my creative energies, I enrolled in Donato Rosella's sculpture class.

Under Donato's tuition, in eight weeks I had produced eight sculptures, in clay, hebel stone, wire-framed plaster, papier mache and stone.

I had found inspiration from Donato's incredible talent and energy. His outstanding works that dominate the landscape can be seen in Lismore and Nimbin. Also his tales of stonework in Nepal – I



Creative urges. Mac McMahon at work, and one of his stone screens (inset).

believe he had something to do with building Mt Everest – stirred some creative urges inside of me, and I have not been able to stop.

I am currently exhibiting a sculpture at the Blue Knob Gallery and I have four commissions. Where to next?

I found age was not a handicap, but to think if I had started 40 years ago, I might

have rivalled Michelangelo. Well, OK, let's see what the next 20 years might produce.

A major plus in doing these classes has been to meet other like-minded people, both in writing and art. You learn as much, if not more, from your fellow students, and I think I have made lifelong friendships.

Term 3 is currently running.

Art show plans

by Margaret McLaren

The Nimbin Regional Gallery is already planning for next year, and want to hear from interested artists.

Over 10,000 people came to the Autumn Arts Extravaganza this year. They delighted in the art work, the workshops and the performances. There was extremely positive feedback and very healthy sales. We showcased the Arts in Nimbin, visual and performance BUT how about going further next year?

Dates for next year's Autumn Arts Extravaganza have been set as 7th to 22nd April.

We could build on this year's success as a whole community and the sixteen days could showcase more than the Arts. There could be displays in other venues with a good map to hand out to visitors showing what's on and where. The shops and cafes could emphasize the local products in use or for sale.

Simply making more of what is already the case could be enough – for instance a detailed display about where that local coffee is produced and what it looks like. There could be walks offered at the supplying properties, perhaps with special tastings.

Other local businesses, such as the candle factory, Rainbow Power Company, The Pallet Makers, Film and Sound Studios and many more might find such an event a very cost effective way of putting their goods, services and skills further out into the world.

Businesses can use their existing premises and/or collaborate to put on supplementary displays which could result in a community-wide celebration of what we do without a large investment.

If you would like to come and talk about this, please come to The Nimbin Regional Gallery (The Rainbow Building in the Community Centre) at 6 pm on **Friday 22nd September 2006**, or write to Margaret McLaren, PO Box 60, Nimbin 2480 or leave your letter at Nimbin Artists Gallery (next to the Hall).

Two new exhibitions are also on the drawing board for next year, which also offer opportunities for the arts community:

Successful showings. Over 10,000 visitors viewed the works at this year's Autumn Arts Extravaganza at the Nimbin Hall, below, curated by Margaret McLaren, top.



A New Exhibition in the Hall Summer Holiday 2007

January sees the greatest influx of visitors outside of Mardi Grass weekend, particularly the first half of the month.

It is a good time of year for sales in general. It might be a great time for outdoor furniture, garden sculpture, fountains and so on. Local plant nurseries could be included as well. Performers too may be able to find some good exposure, possibly leading to bookings elsewhere.

If you might be interested in participating in an exhibition with an Indoor/Outdoor theme, please let us know.

A Possible Exhibition in the Hall Winter Holiday 2007

In July 2005 Nimbin hosted the National Parks & Wildlife Indigenous Art Exhibition. It was the largest and most successful of these exhibitions, including that held in Lismore this year.

Are you someone with an interest in seeing an exhibition here again, at that time of year, in future years? This might have a format of say Indigenous meets Non-Indigenous art.

To express an interest in any of the above exhibitions, write to Margaret McLaren, PO Box 60, Nimbin 2480 or leave your letter at Nimbin Artists Gallery (next to the Hall).

Alternatively, phone the Nimbin Artists Gallery 6689-1444 Mondays or leave a message.

**WANTED:
PUBLIC
ART SPACE**



Local sculptor Adrian Ward created this work as an allegory of the good (on right) and bad (on left) aspects of village life. He is offering it to be on permanent display in Nimbin, but has so far been unable to find a suitable space. Find him at adrianward.com

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The Second Weave and Mend Festival

Nimbin's Basketry Weaving Festival,
September 29th - October 1st 2006
Nimbin Central School grounds
Wiyabal Country - Bundjalung Nation



This is a hands-on skill-based festival. Artists/weavers can come together for 3 days, bringing their wares and sharing their skills, knowledge and techniques with children of our local regional and wider communities, each other and the general public. It is community based and focused on Weaving and Mending the fabric of our society through our jarjum – our children – thereby our future.

As well as hands-on introduction to the traditional craft of basketry, there is a focus on the Earth Mother, utilising her resources (her grasses and fibres) in a conscious way, and on recycling material as fibres, minimising 'cost' to ourselves and Earth Mother.

Using collaboration and cooperation between all aspects of community, for the sake of our children, Art



Sisters in Lore performing at last year's Weave & Mend Festival, and below left, co-organiser Granny Breath Weaver.

becomes a way of mending the fabric of our community.

Artists will be demonstrating their skills throughout the 3 days (10am to 3pm) and will be asked to do a 2-hour workshop (Saturday or Sunday) for which they will be paid a fee \$5 per head.

Weaving acoustic music, song and dance throughout the Festival, local musicians and travelling buskers are invited to play throughout the weekend at appropriate

times. A Performance night will be held Saturday 30th September from sunset on. The theme of the evening, as with the rest of the Festival, is weaving and mending, healing the fabric of our society.

Please let us know if you have any particular requirements for your performance.

For more information please call Raine, Musical Director on 6689-1129 or 0427-336-910.



Postcard from London

Ballerina Khadi Wolf-Brooke, who at 15 has eight years of training in classical and contemporary dance under her tutu, is currently attending Summer School at the Royal Ballet School in London. An afternoon variety concert was held at the Nimbin Hall in June in her honour and to help with her expenses for the trip. Khadi sent this postcard to her many well wishing friends, and all those who have supported her.

Hello Nimbin

Two days into Summer School at The Royal Ballet, still can't quite believe I'm here in London. The teachers have wonderful new ways of putting things across.

The other students have come from all over the world, Italy, Iceland, Norway, Japan, Germany, Asia. Bit of a language barrier, but we manage.

Hectic schedule, classes every day, 9.30am till five plus Saturday mornings – classical, character contemporary and jazz; also 'Pas de Deux' with a partner – that's a first for me! Boys have to do push-ups every day so they can lift us.

This building is amazing. Five huge mirrored studios



Top flight dancer: Khadi, at left above, with fellow students at the Royal Ballet, and below at Madame Tussauds.

with piano in each, and dressing rooms; it's connected to Covent Garden Hall by a covered walkway. We go there for lunch. We have tickets for Billie Elliot, the musical tomorrow night.

July 30 Sight seeing. Been to Madame Tussaud's of course, unreal (pardon the pun), lunch in Hyde Park, saw 'changing of the guard' at the Palace, Trafalgar Square – it's like Monopoly come to life!

Aug 12 End week two. Working on La Bayadère, third act, 'Kingdom of the

Shades' variational solo for principal dancer. Although I know this piece, the choreographer is working on precision of arms and eyes. Good to be learning such refinement.

Aug 14 Attended dress rehearsal of Swan Lake by Bolshoi at the Covent Garden Royal Opera House. Sat in top stalls, we weren't allowed to clap. It was fantastic.

Aug 16 Out of 150 students nine of us were picked today to perform solos in the Presentation performance, tomorrow. Feels very positive to be one of those.

Aug 18 Time's gone so quickly, I leave tomorrow, every moment has been precious. Taking one last trip to Oxford Square for shopping. The tubes here are really fast, fast, fast – one's coming now, bye.

Khadi

Thanks to Williamina Bowers for passing on news of Khadi's progress.



Out of Your Comfort Zone

Opens Friday 8th September at 6.30pm
Blue Knob Hall Gallery

Artists exhibiting in this latest show have interpreted the theme 'Out of Your Comfort Zone' in many different ways. Some have used new techniques, others have used it as a vehicle for political and environmental statements and still others have taken personal life experiences to construct some very interesting works.

Christopher Macartney-Filgate will be opening the exhibition, and dinner will be served at 7pm.

If you are able to come please RSVP on 6689 7449 if you are intending to stay for dinner. The cafe will be offering a set menu of scrumptious mushroom risotto, roast vegetables, pumpkin and spinach filo rolls and fresh garden salad for \$10/head. BYO wine if you like.

It is essential that you ring and book for dinner, as our exhibition opening nights are becoming very popular, and we want to make sure we can cater for everyone.

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The spectre of fluoridation looms

by Rodney Hearne
(Ballina and Lismore
Information Group)

This outdated 1950's practice is in its death throes around the world, but enjoying a last splutter of life in Australia.

Why is this State Government spending millions to build dosing plants when what we need is real dental care?

The adverse effects of fluoride consumption in small doses are now well proven (US NRC 2006). There is no longer a 'balance' in favour of fluoridation, but rather in favour of the immediate cessation of fluoridation on grounds of dental ineffectiveness and lack of health safety.

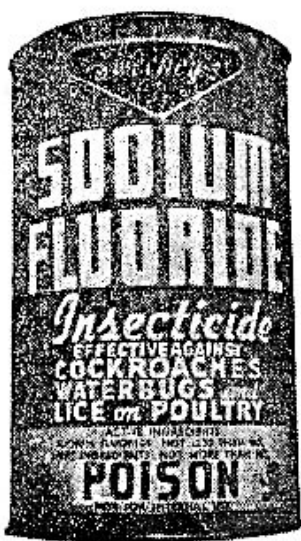
UNICEF (2001) reports: "For many decades we have believed that fluoride in small doses has no adverse effects on health to offset its proven benefits in preventing dental decay. More and more scientists are now seriously

questioning the benefits of fluoride, even in small amounts ... It has long been known that excessive fluoride intake carries serious toxic effects. But scientists are now debating whether fluoride confers any benefit at all."

Most of us know that fluoridation is a nonsense as less than 1% of dosed water is actually consumed while the remainder is flushed away to pollute the rivers or soil.

In fact, State Government Health policy to fluoridate does depend on the whim of local councillors for implementation.

Out west, Tenterfield (as of late August), has been directed by the NSW Health Dept to fluoridate or be fined \$1000 a day. The council tried to have the decision to fluoridate reversed after strong opposition from residents and councillors but the Fluoridation Act of 1957 does not have provisions to reverse fluoridation without approval from the Secretary. This Act needs immediate correction so that councillors have real power to cease dosing (whenever they see fit), since they are



the ones given the power to commence fluoridation.

Further south, the Mid North Coast Area Health Region comprises Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Nambucca, Bellingen and Coffs Harbour. Nambucca is fluoridated and the others have been recently gazetted by the Fluoridation Committee to start fluoridating, although there does seem to be a budgetary problem for even this. The whole Region is therefore 85% unfluoridated and the interesting thing here is that decay rates in 12 year old permanent teeth are less severe than in 4 out of the 5

fluoridated Sydney Regions.

Closer to home, in the last year Byron Shire Councillors have twice rejected fluoridation. Ballina Councillors initially voted to have fluoridation but then, to the amazement and admiration of the local community, thoroughly researched all sides of the argument and voted to reject it. Richmond Valley Councillors want fluoridation, but have put themselves in the hands of the Health Department.

Leaving only Lismore where Councillors have been steadfast in their resolve to not only have fluoridation but also passionately oppose a referendum on the matter. All towns between Nightcap and North Woodburn are also under Lismore control and will be subject to the fluoridation gazetting. It would be a shame to see a dosing plant built at Mulgum Creek.

Even if you have tank water, please sign the petition to encourage Lismore councillors to reverse their decision and keep the whole Lismore Local Government Area unfluoridated.

The petition is at Nimbin Organics and the Nimbin Environment Centre.

Nimbin's Questions for Budget Time in State Parliament

by Sophia Hoeben, for the Nimbin Environment Centre

In July, Greens MLC Ian Cohen asked the Nimbin Environment Centre to formulate ten questions to be put to State Parliament at Budget Time at the end of August. We are hopeful of receiving some answers before the next edition of the Good Times. Here are the questions:

Power Water and Waste Management

Will the government establish a long-term grant scheme to subsidise the purchase and installation cost of domestic renewable energy systems including solar, wind and water driven systems? Such a scheme should be both permanent and indexed to inflation.

Will the government establish a uniform code covering the recycling and reuse of domestic and other water supplies, thereby enabling easier approval of such systems at the local level? Funds would need to be allocated to study the requirements in various catchments.

Will the government establish a uniform code covering the recycling and reuse of domestic sewage carried out on-site? Any study should include all current methods of on-site sewage management including dry composting and anaerobic digesting.

Development

Through the establishment of incentives, would the government encourage developers to use alternative methods of energy supply and waste treatment as an integral part of future residential developments? It is envisaged that such an 'eco' village would be largely independent of reticulated systems of power and water. (Ideally such systems should be mandatory in rural areas.)

Land Management

Would the government establish a program to financially assist Landcare groups and landholders to protect all riparian zones within all catchments in NSW? Such protection should be sufficient to exclude grazing stock entirely; funds may have to be allocated to provide off-stream water storage for any grazing stock. The protection of catchments in the Northern Rivers is perhaps the most urgent of considerations.

Will the government allocate funds to enable the investigation and implementation of alternative methods of bushfire hazard reduction, excluding the use of fire? Such a system could be administered by the RFS and would reduce the incidence of wildfires by at least 90% (RFS figure).

Will the government allocate funds for the full rehabilitation of all inactive dip-sites within the Northern Rivers catchment area? Such a move should include steps towards the removal and rehabilitation of all active dip-sites as an on-going process.

Will the government allocate funds through the NPWS to provide fulltime work teams to maintain and improve facilities within existing National Parks on the North Coast? Such a system could draw on Work-for-the-Dole and Green Corp participation, which is largely federally funded.

Protection of Native Fauna on the North Coast

Will the government allocate funds to enable closer scrutiny of all RTA proposals for highway diversions based on environmental considerations through more extensive EIS studies?

Would the government provide extra funding to wildlife rescue and carer groups on the North Coast? The koala population on the north coast is currently at a critically low level. Urgent action is needed.

Grist Environmental News

In Clemente Conditions Radioactive, cancer-causing tritium leaks into California groundwater

Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen that can cause cancer, miscarriages, and birth defects, has leaked from a nuclear power plant near San Clemente, Calif. Groundwater tested at up to 330,000 picocuries of tritium per liter; we don't know what a picocurie is, but California's public-health goal for tritium is 400 ppl -- which could still cause one cancer per million people exposed. While drinking water appears to be unaffected, officials have shut down a well as a precaution. "We owe it to our residents and business folks to properly test the water," said San Clemente's public works director. (We would argue that the nuclear

plant owes it to residents not to leak tritium into the water, but we're picky like that.) Officials are piping the contaminated groundwater into the Pacific Ocean, which, when you think about it, really seems like the best place to put radioactive waste. Tritium leaks have been found at over a dozen nuclear plants across the nation in recent years.

Forsmark and Several Fears Ago

Sweden shuts down four nuke reactors after near-meltdown of one

The near-meltdown of one of Sweden's 10 nuclear reactors has resulted in the closure of three additional reactors over safety concerns. It's also fueled a raging debate in the country over the future of nuclear power. After a

short-circuit of the national grid kept power from reaching a reactor at the Forsmark plant 125 miles north of Stockholm, only two of the four diesel generators meant to provide backup power for a safe shutdown came online -- barely enough to contain a disaster, critics said. Analysts say that without power, if none or even just one of the generators had come on, a meltdown was possible in some 90 minutes. "It's a bit like a lottery," said nuclear engineer and consultant Lars-Olov Hoglund. (Just what you like to hear from nuclear engineers!) In the 1980s, anti-nuke activism was all the rage in the country. Looks like that retro fashion may be back in style.

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Selected and edited by Sue Stock

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Private Logging Threatens Nimbins Future

by Sophia Hoeben

The Nimbins Environment Centre, along with other environmentally concerned groups and individuals, are currently busy contesting the latest proposal for the biggest assault on the forests of the North Coast since the Nightcap range was threatened in 1982.

The Department of Natural Resources, who is said to have control (but never does), over the logging of private land, has produced a Code of Practice which falls drastically short of protecting forests in the hands of private landowners.

It has taken the NSW government some ten years to produce a Code of Conduct governing private land that satisfies nobody. Yet, there are more than 4 million hectares of native forests on private lands in NSW in danger of being clear-felled or logged without any meaningful environmental controls.

Locally, there is a proposal for a hardwood mill at Kyogle, which according to Andrew Hurford, of Hurford Timbers, will depend on 50% of its timber coming from trees felled on private land in the area. This conservative figure is largely dependant on how many people will buy up 'private forests' with the view to cutting down most or all of the trees on their land.

The code continues to allow the legalised destruction of the habitat of threatened species and totally ignores the felling of trees constituting animal corridors. The code also fails to include the imperative of environmental impact assessments of all land proposed for logging, or has set any limits on the size of trees that can be felled. The glaring omissions continue when the code pretends to protect old-growth and rainforest, yet sets no restraints for the destruction

of both through what is cynically called 'field testing' which in reality is yet another excuse for cutting down the forest.

Previously designated old-growth forest, under the 'Field testing' regime is downgraded and may be logged if one or two stumps exist in the area. Clear felling is allowed 20 acres at a time with no time limit between further logging. These practices were pioneered and perfected in Tasmania, where the forests are rapidly disappearing.

Under this spurious code there are no provisions for sustainable yield assessments, logging cycles or the control of weeds, disease or feral animals. And, ensuring its total uselessness, landholders have the right to amend the code to suite themselves whenever they choose.

Just imagine the scenario of all those speculators seeking to profit from the demise of our native forest, buying up all the freehold land in the area just to cut the trees down. Further imagine coming to live a quiet, peaceful life in the bush, buying your land, with the intention of actually improving the environment, planting trees and even cleaning up waterways, to one day find your neighbours clear felling around you. Unlikely you say? I think not in this day and age when greed rules everything including many people's moral values. Forest knows no boundary or fence lines and logging occurring on adjacent land can drastically affect the soil and water quality on your own land.

The doomsayers of the logging industry in 1982 firmly believed that the Northern Rivers was economically finished if the



Northern Rivers Echo, August 24, 2006. Is this the future for our local forests?

Nightcap was 'locked up'. Just recently, the Minister for the Environment, Mr Bob Debus, stated that 124 million dollars in injected annually into our local economy from the 6 million visitors to our National Parks providing some 1900 jobs. It is foolish to think that reduction of forest cover, whether on State Forest or private land, would not be detrimental to the economy of Nimbins.

Since the declaration of the Nightcap National Park in 1982, after a long fought battle, tourism-driven growth has resulted over the years in local land prices soaring. It would be ironic if the saving of the Nightcap was negated by logging to its boundaries, as is the practice in Tasmania.

Speaking environmentally, any large scale logging venture at this stage is utter madness. Our planet is reeling from the effects of global deforestation, climate change, decreasing ozone levels, pollution and war. Isn't it time we started large scale replanting of the forests instead of finding new ways of cutting them down? And isn't it time the logging industry adopted value adding techniques instead of continuing in the same old destructive ways.

If you are concerned with this issue, further information may be accessed at the Nimbins Environment Centre. In addition, you may also like to express your outrage to your local State member. After all, the election is just around the corner.

Denis Walker's wisdom

This is a paper written by Aboriginal Activist Denis Walker in about 1993. This paper can also be loosely related to the Traditional Initiation Process of Aboriginal Peoples.

1. THE CONSCIOUS STATE

God the Father: The Absolute Truth of All Matters - which takes up ten percent of the mind (Einstein said that). The other ninety percent you are not using is the 'bright heavenly bliss', the 'prior condition', prior to all else, where you reside with the Absolute Truth of God, the Father - having sacrificed your Ego up...

Without that sacrifice of the Ego up to the Father, which IS the Conscious State, you deal directly from that ego state, which is likened to 'screwing your teddy bear'...you are 'popping gum', you are 'bullshitting' - and that is the everlasting hell of it all...

It will continue until you sacrifice your ego up to that Conscious State of the Absolute Truth and by residing in that ninety percent of the mind which is 'the bright everlasting heavenly bliss' - beyond and prior to all else, a state of no mind. An emptying of the mind, beyond all desire, made by way of and through recognition and realization of:

2. THE SPIRITUAL STATE

God, the Holy Ghost - which is the oneness, which is the Spirit, which is the Natural Law/Lore - personified by the ELDERS in Council, bloodlines back to territory. The spiritual path becomes revealed by sacrificing the Ego and ascending through the Holy Ghost up to the Father and in the descent upon those paths revealed by the Spirit upon proper and full consideration with God the Father in that 'bright heavenly bliss' - manifesting or re - manifesting in the Now - which is the only reality, moment by moment, step by step in the material realm.

This material realm is illusory because of its constantly changing condition - necessitating the moment to moment, step by step manifestation or re manifestation of the material Now which is expressed laterally and three dimensionally. This is the recognition and realization of Heaven on Earth by the doing of Gods Will on Earth in His name and in His Creation - which is the Garden of Eden. This is further achieved by proper manifestation moment by moment, step by step, here and Now by way of:



3. THE EGO STATE

God the son - which is the manifestation, the reincarnation or second coming - after having made the sacrifice of the Ego (which is the source of the dis - ease), and transcended through the Holy Ghost up to the Father and giving proper consideration in the 'bright heavenly bliss' and descending back down through the Holy Ghost on those Spiritual paths to do Gods will, righteously stepping those Spiritual paths to create Heaven on our Mother, Earth.

Faith without Action is Blasphemy, Action without Faith is foolhardy.

Bejam Denis Noonukel Walker
Elder of North Stradbroke Island

SACRED

Sacred means just that...sacred... it's a place where spirits rise, with the rainbow wings of sunset, on the edge of paradise. Sacred...that's my father, that's my mother, that's my son, Sacred...where the dreaming whispers hope for everyone.

In the silence of the grottoes of Australia's mighty land, Stand together with the Kooris, stand together hand in hand, Open eyes to endless beauty, and to spirits, far and near, For Australia is my country, it is sacred to me here.

Ah, white man, I am searching for the sites, sacred to you, Where you walk in silent worship, and you whisper poems, too, Where you tread, like me, in wonder, and your eyes are filled with tears, And you see the tracks you've travelled down your fifty thousand years.

- excerpt from 'Ah, White Man Have You Any Sacred Sites?'
A poem by Denis Kevans 1985

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ASTROLOGICAL TRENDS FOR SEPTEMBER 2006



by Bev Murray - Insight Astrology

BIRTHDAY – Virgo

Virgo. These are the reliable worriers of the Zodiac. They are generally intelligent and analytical! They can be critical of others and very critical of themselves!! They need to watch getting bogged down in small details at the expense of the bigger picture. It is essential for these guys to spend as much time as possible in the fresh air. Give them: A picnic in the country, a weekend retreat, a 'how to' book, someone to clean their house, lots of praise and affection!

What September holds...

Virgo: This month requires that you stop talking and start acting... there are opportunities but you have to work for them! When Mars conjuncts itself on the 16th, a new phase begins for you and finances should take a turn for the better. September 22nd is a rare second new moon in Virgo! It's also a solar eclipse, so the effect for you is quite strong. An excellent time to get clear about goals.

Libra: It is essential that you stop lingering in the past and get on with your future! Finances look good and those involved in hospitality or service industries will get a boost. While the first two weeks are relatively quiet, after the 16th of the month problems can be dealt with and changes can be made. The last two weeks are excellent for self healing and building a new fitness regime!

Scorpio: This month emphasizes finance, you need to be alert to both opportunity for gain and loss!! Get comparison quotes for any big purchases before making a final decision. Anything with a high speculative risk is out of the question. Mid-month you can experience some divisive energy and loyalties can be tested. Mercury square Pluto on the ninth can bring to light something hidden!

Sagittarius: Trust your intuition this month. If you do all should be pretty good! The Full Moon on September 8th can herald a power struggle or two, try to let go and avoid getting all hot under the collar! This too will pass! If you refuse to be baited you can get back to normal in no time! Generally group activities or those associated with large organizations should run smoothly for you this month.

Capricorn: Mercury sextile Saturn on the 26th September is an excellent opportunity to go out and get what you really want, ask for that salary increase or such! For the most of this month routine and responsibility seems to use up much of your time. Work and career are definitely the focus! Try to make time for some personal relaxation too or your health will suffer.

Aquarius: An overall quiet month, but some confusion and chaos around the full moon can have you running in circles!! The 20th sees a Moon and Uranus opposition, which can mean differences of opinion. If you have to enter into discussions try to avoid your tendency to be perverse for the sake of it! Others are not as patient as they could be and you will be at a disadvantage.

Pisces: This month can see you making a new commitment or renewing an old one! The Pisces' Full Moon can reveal some health issues that need your attention. A solution will be easy to find once you've recognized you need one!! You can get a lot of work done from the full moon on and you will be quick to capitalize on this. Others can be a bit distant, let it be!

Aries: A month of surprises, business opportunities and a revisitation of an old health issue. Best not to avoid any of these now and knuckle down! The first three weeks of the month can seem a tad slow for you fast moving types, but they provide an opportunity to plan and structure! Those of you working in education will find the workload increases or job opportunities abound.

Taurus: A great month for creative activity! Inspiration will come thick and fast! The full moon in Pisces offers most of you an opportunity to deepen existing relationships or commit to new ones! Listen to your heart and go with the flow. An opportunity late in the month could cause a dilemma, think it through well before acting! Moon trine Venus on the second encourages self-indulgence.

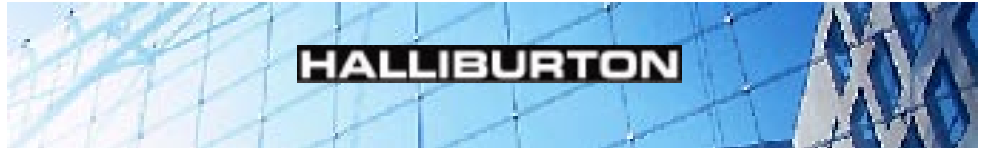
Gemini: A month that focuses on getting things done and organizing your life better! Dysfunctional emotional patterns are likely to get an overhaul. From the second week on, romance is highlighted and some surprising but definitely nice things can occur! Restlessness can be a problem (when isn't it with you guys?). The best ways to deal with this are getting old jobs done, especially around the home!

Cancer: A pretty good month over all. Everything seems to be falling into place, work is full of positive opportunities and socially you'll have a ball! If others seem a little annoyed around you, just back off and don't take it on or get involved. Enjoy and don't feel guilty about your good fortune! Solutions to old issues abound in the last week. It is time for you guys to move ahead!

Leo: Keep an eye on finances this month, some adjustments might need to be made. Communicating with those in far off places and travel are highlighted. Moon sextile Sun early on the 17th aids relationship discussions. If you have anything you want to say, do so before 1pm. The 24th, 26th and 28th are your best days for resolving problems and receiving good news!

Email Bev: insightbevmurray@yahoo.com

Why John Howard wants to sell Uranium



by Warwick Fry

What is really behind John Howard's rushed Uranium policy? Halliburton may be the answer.

The corporate media of Australia seems to have blinked when it came to Halliburton's involvement in the building of the Adelaide to Darwin Rail link. Australian businessmen took much of the credit. But the major investor was Halliburton, through a thrice-removed subsidiary. APT (Asia Pacific Transport) was put together by Kellogg Brown and Root, which is owned by Halliburton. APT built the line.

Halliburton is a major defence contractor for the US military, and is under scrutiny for its routing of contracts to feed US troops in Iraq, 18 million missing US dollars, the 'outsourcing' to its security personnel, and food caterers of up to 30% of the US military budget ... (there's more ... white slavery rackets in Kosova with out of control privatised security personnel,

shonky contracts for the rebuilding of New Orleans, billing the US military for unfed soldiers, untrammelled over-budgeting in Iraq etc.).

The former CEO of Halliburton (which has a large office headquarters in Adelaide) is US Vice-President Richard Cheney. Donald Rumsfeld (US Defence Secretary) in November 2005 attended an Asia-Pacific Clean Development and Climate meeting in Adelaide. According to Ken Cotterill, an independent Canberra journalist, this indicates that the seeds of the Howard government's nuclear power policy were planted then. Howard's visit to the US in June this year was part of a briefing on US officials' expectations of Australia's role in a 'GNEP' (Global Nuclear Energy Partnership) set up in February this year.

In his article in the Canberra Voice Ken Cotterill comments on an Australian Financial Review Article that "... under the GNEP Australia would be expected

to mine and enrich uranium at the BHP Billiton-owned Olympic Dam mine in South Australia which, according to estimations, holds the world's largest known uranium deposits.

The enriched uranium would then be exported via the newly constructed Adelaide to Darwin rail link to Freightlink's container terminal in Darwin for export." Uranium waste products could also be imported back into Australia using the rail link.

Cotterill sums up: "Halliburton made the rail link possible. Freightlink, with its connections to Halliburton and BHP Billiton, have exclusive rights to transport the freight on the line. BHP Billiton own Olympic Dam uranium mine."

Oh! ... And By the Way ... the parent company, Halliburton, through its subsidiaries, have exclusive transport rights for the next 50 years.

How now Johnny: How hard?

WALK AGAINST CYANIDE

by Trappa

Coalition to Protect Lake Cowal

On the 14th August 2006, from Musgrove Park, West End, Brisbane, we paid our respects to the land and asked the ancestors for guidance in our walk and campaign to Save Lake Cowal and follow the Cyanide Route to the Lake.

However we decided to follow the coastline to Byron Bay to take in the spectacular coastline and perfect days.

We are now in Lismore till Monday the 4th, and continue to Casino and Grafton. We hope to raise awareness in all the towns on the 1400km cyanide route, arriving at Lake Cowal convergence corroboree on 27th October.

It takes a pinch of cyanide, with a teaspoon of water, to kill a human. Six thousand tons will be transported from Gladstone (Oraca) to Lake Cowal for the processing of gold. This walk is in protest.

For more details, phone 0431 577 907 for any enquiries or donations, or to join the walk. We especially need support crew, and people who



can join us, even for an hour or two, along the way. For more onfo see savelakecowal.org

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The Nimbin Financial Times

Lunacy & free markets

by David McMinn

year beginning March 1.

Of all the heavenly bodies, it is the Moon and Sun that have an overriding effect on the Earth and its life forms, including humans. This is strongly supported by a multitude of scientific studies. Thus, it is only reasonable to speculate whether these two luminaries have a direct impact upon financial markets. Numerous correlates have been produced between the Moon, Sun and market trends.

Yuan et al (2001) and Dichev & Troy (2001) from the University of Michigan released two academic papers which both showed a strong lunar phase effect in stock market activity worldwide. Markets tended to rise on a new moon and fall on a full moon with statistical significance, a finding that could be used to trade profitably. Yuan et al (2001) believed that investors' moods varied significantly at new and full moons, thus accounting for the variation in stock market returns over the lunar month. It is not a question of whether the Moon and Sun play a role in financial trends, but whether their influence is subtle or highly profound.

Surprisingly, there is much evidence to support a very strong Moon - Sun influence in the market. The following examples show how these two luminaries can be closely linked to market activity. NB: The annual one day (AOD) fall is the biggest % one day fall in the

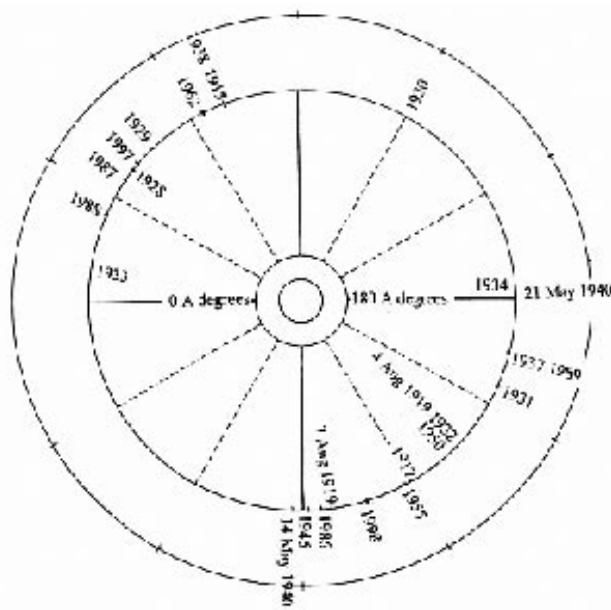
Annual One Day Falls

Major AOD falls for the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) correlated exceptionally well with lunar phase for the period 1915 to 2000. Of the 26 AOD falls ($\Rightarrow 4.50\%$) presented in the accompanying diagram, 25 appeared approximately in two segments - first quarter to full Moon and third quarter to new Moon. This was quite remarkable and very unlikely to happen by chance ($p < 10^{-5}$), with the only exception being the 1930 AOD fall.

The Sun's zodiacal position was also highly relevant. Of the 26 AOD falls in accompanying diagram, only two happened in the 4.5 months beginning November 1 (significant $p < .001$). These events were least likely to happen between Scorpio 8 and Pisces 24.

The Great Panics of 1929 & 1987

The most remarkable parallel of Moon - Sun cycles happened between the 1929 & 1987 panics. Intervals of precisely 717 lunar months appeared between the pre crash spring lows, the record highs, the October highs, the black days and the recoveries (McMinn, 2006; Carolan, 1992, 1998) (see Table 1). The interval of 718 lunar months appeared with the post crash bear market lows, the post crash spring lows and the 1931/1989 AOD falls. These 717 & 718 lunar month intervals



Lunar Phase & the biggest AOD Falls

This gives the lunar phase angle for all DJIA biggest AOD falls ($\Rightarrow 4.50\%$) between 1915 and 2000 in years commencing March 1.

equal a Double Inex eclipse cycle (716) plus 1.0 or 2.0 lunar months. The Inex cycle is highly significant in financial patterns, but I will not bore you with the details.

Numerous additional correlates could have been presented to support the Moon - Sun hypothesis (www.davidmcminn.com), but space limitations prevent a detailed coverage.

In Conclusion

The random walk - efficient market theory was the dogma of traditional economics in the latter decades of the 20th century. This theory considered that markets were both efficient in allocating financial resources and random in their structure. Moon - Sun cycles have shown that markets are not random, but follow definitive mathematical structure. Free markets also fail the most fundamental test in economics - that is efficiency.

What is more ridiculous than a world financial system highly dependent on the heavenly positions of the Moon and Sun? It reduces the whole notion of marketism to an absurdity. Even so, economics is a very conservative profession, so changes to theory will not be made anytime soon. As John K Galbraith commented, "Economists are economical, among

other things, of ideas; most make those of their graduate days last a lifetime."

There is a sound scientific basis to support a very strong Moon - Sun effect in financial activity. Previously, it has been very difficult to explain why the markets moved in the observable cyclic patterns. Why do millions of investors react in the same manner and at the same time? Why is the financial history littered with manias and panics over hundreds of years? Moon - Sun cycles could provide an explanation to these puzzles.

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Cooking the evening meal with Solar Power

by Peter Pedals

You may have heard the joke about the Irish inventing a solar powered torch. The trouble with this joke is that it's not funny, solar powered torches exist just as solar powered houses exist. Instead of making the Irish look foolish as was the intention of the joke, it must rebound on the person who tells the joke as he or she has obviously not thought of storing the solar energy in rechargeable batteries.

In the same fashion as you can store the electrical output of photovoltaic solar panels you can also store the heat energy of a solar hot water system or the heat energy of a solar cooker with a well insulated container. This is where Thermos has come to the rescue with several models of Thermal cookware comprising of one or two stainless steel/carbon steel pots that fit very snugly inside of the large thermos flask for which it was designed (check the ThermalCookware.com internet site). The idea then is to commence cooking your meal with the solar cooker and then to complete the cooking process in the Thermos flask where the meal continues cooking very slowly like in a crock-pot for the rest of the day.

This means that you can have your hot evening meal without burning any fuel and without spending a lot of time at the solar cooker. The Thermos will keep it hot till the evening, making it possible to prepare dinner at a time best suited for solar cooking. Depending upon the ingredients, in many cases you only need to bring the food to the boil and then let the Thermal Cookware do the rest. On a sunny day you can get a pot to boil in probably around 15 minutes and certainly in less than 1 hour.

Slow cooking is the preferred method of cooking Chinese meals where the veggies retain their shape and texture and the



protein is soft and tender because protein cooks at a lower temperature than carbohydrates. Slow cooking also enables you to have a hot meal where most of the nutrients stay intact and aren't destroyed by the heat of faster cooking.

You will need to be aware of the different times required to cook different ingredients. Brown rice takes longer to cook than white rice and vegetables and so you will need to keep the brown rice cooking on the solar cooker for a little while whilst preparing your veggies. Because of its higher protein content, beans, lentils and wild rice will cook better at the lower Thermos temperature than brown rice and you won't need to cook wild rice on the solar cooker for as long.

One downside of the Thermal cooking process is that you will need to fill the entire Thermos flask with hot material. Thus, if you only want to prepare a small meal you should do so in a smaller sealed pot inside the larger pot filled with boiling water. Any quantity of air inside the Thermos flask will rapidly reduce the temperature and thus cease cooking the meal.

The Thermal cooker, if used correctly, will only drop 3-4^o C per hour because of the superior insulating properties of the vacuum flask over any other material, allowing you to have a hot meal 8 hours after you placed the cooking meal in the pot. Don't be tempted to open the Thermos flask before you are ready to eat it because each opening represents a rapid heat loss.

| MOON - SUN PARALLELS: 1929 & 1987 GREAT PANICS | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1929 Panic | 1987 Panic | Lunar Month Intervals | DJIA Events |
| May 27, 1929 | May 20, 1987 | 717.12 | Spring lows |
| Sept 3, 1929 | Aug 25, 1987 | 717.05 | Record highs |
| Oct 10, 1929 | Oct 2, 1987 | 717.09 | October highs |
| Oct 23, 1929 | Oct 16, 1987 | 717.09 | Pre crash falls |
| Oct 29, 1929 | Oct 21, 1987 | 717.02 | Black Days |
| Oct 30, 1929 | Oct 21, 1987 | 717.02 | Recoveries |
| Nov 6, 1929 | Oct 26, 1987 | 716.99 | Major falls |
| Nov 13, 1929 | Dec 4, 1987 | 718.07 | Post crash market low |
| May 3, 1930 | May 23, 1988 | 718.07 | Spring lows |
| Sept 24, 1931 | Oct 13, 1987 | 718.04 | AOD falls |

Sources: McMinn (2006), Carolan (1998).

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In Cuba, buying local is the only choice

By Erica Gies

Tired of my government's hyperbole on the subject, I visited Cuba not long ago. I wanted to see it for myself and draw my own conclusions, before Castro died and the United States annexed it as a Sandals resort. Reports of Cuba's denigration are greatly exaggerated by people with ideological fish to fry. Cuba is no North Korea, and Castro is no Kim Jong Il. No, it's not a perfect system -- the most obvious, insurmountable issue being that its 11.4 million people are basically held prisoner on that island. Freedom of speech, press, and assembly are severely restricted, and there are no free elections.

However, the people have not risen up against Castro for several reasons. OK, one reason is that he has allowed dissenters to leave in several waves, and has taken a stern hand against resident dissidents who don't hew to his view. But there's another reason, and it's just as important. Cuba had a long history of imperial domination by Spain and then the U.S., with just a few short years of not-so-democratic democracy before Batista's coup and Castro's revolution. Since 1959, Castro has delivered on many of the revolution's promises of equality, and the state has provided for the people in ways that often go unrecognized. Today, its approaches to public health and the environment could be a model worth following.

Castro just had surgery. He was in a good place for it. Cuba has one of the best medical systems in the world, with twice as many physicians per capita as the U.S. Its infant mortality rate and life expectancy are about the same as in the U.S., and its HIV/AIDS prevalence is almost nonexistent. The country also donates its medical expertise abroad: it made a huge contribution to

the Pakistan earthquake-relief effort, sending 2,500 medical personnel. It even offers free medical training for students from disadvantaged areas of the U.S., provided they agree to return home and work in low-income neighborhoods. The mostly non-white and female doctors who otherwise wouldn't get a chance to practice medicine are grateful, and Cubans take a great deal of pride in the program. Cubans also enjoy a level of race and gender equality that I haven't seen anywhere else in my travels through 24 other countries. The revolution's principles of equal pay and equal opportunity for all have woven themselves into the social fabric. Because many who benefited under Batista were white or of Spanish descent, they were the majority who left during the first wave of emigration. Today, Cuba has a slight black or biracial majority. Interracial dating is commonplace, and kids of every color play together. People of every shade and both sexes are liable to hold any job. Most don't live in fancy digs, but no one is homeless.

An organic farm in Viñales.

It may be the country's environmental gains, driven by economic necessity, that are most impressive. Cuba is the only country in the world to have converted to organic agriculture in less than 10 years. On my travels, I saw fields near Viñales where corn and beans were grown together for better pest control. I also glimpsed the network of small, urban gardens that augments the country's agricultural system, the beginnings of which are chronicled in a book called *The Greening of the Revolution*. After the Soviet Union collapsed, Cuba lost \$4 billion to \$6 billion in annual support, including food, farming equipment, pesticides, and petroleum. Facing severe shortages, the country had to rapidly convert its fields to food crops; since there was no money for chemical inputs, farmers learned organic

methods instead. It was hard for several years. Food was scarce, and public sentiment turned against Castro. He called it the Special Period in Time of Peace, which basically meant suffering wartime scarcities without war. But by the late '90s, the system was up and running. In 1999, the Grupo de Agricultura Organica, the organic farming association that spearheaded the conversion, won an important international honor -- the Right Livelihood Award, known as the "alternative Nobel."

Hitching a ride in a government truck.

After the collapse, when the Soviets were unable to supply fuel and the giant autopista (think: autobahn) running the length of the country lay empty because no one had access to gas, he bought 1.2 million bicycles from China and manufactured 500,000 more, distributing them to the people. Most didn't know how to ride, and accidents were common. But the government gave classes, and people got the hang of it. When I visited, bikers expertly threaded their way through classic American cars, horse-cart buses, pedicabs, and Coco taxis -- not quite with the fearless bravado of riders in Asia, but with more laid-back flair. The government also passed a law dictating that government vehicles must pick up as many hitchhikers as they can fit. It's common to see 30 people standing up in the back of an industrial truck rattling along a road. Unfortunately, it's also common to see people standing on the side of the autopista all day, fruitlessly waiting for the ride that never materializes. While the cities are filled with all kinds of random conveyances -- including giant buses called camelos (camels) that can hold 200 people -- getting between cities is a bit more of a problem.

Old, but not finished.

While this devotion to alternative transportation is a step in the right direction, many vehicles in Cuba are still 1950s-era gas-guzzlers. In fact, air pollution has increased since 1990. This is particularly noticeable in crowded Havana. In other places, however, the relative scarcity of combustion

Alkatiri absolved?

by Warwick Fry

In a groundbreaking program in the last days of August, SBS' *Dateline* came out with an investigative documentary that went a long way towards vindicating the deposed East Timorese Prime Minister, Mari Alkatiri. History, it seems, has absolved him.

The *Nimbin Goodtimes*, along with John Pilger and a some Portuguese sources, was one of the few Australian media that did not accept at face value the demonisation of Mari Alkatiri, at a time when the Australian media was almost unanimous in placing the blame for the troubles in East Timor squarely at his feet.

It seems that the 4 Corners Program, was a little too quick off the mark with the story that Alkatiri had tried to set up a special 'hit squad' to eliminate his political opponents. The only evidence for this was the statement of one man (Raylos) who has since disappeared. The suspicions of more experienced journalists (like John Pilger, and John Martinkus) were aroused by the fact that the first the Fretilin government of East Timor knew about it was when a tape of the 4 Corners Program was delivered to the Prime

Minister. *Dateline* provided compelling evidence that the informer, and leader of the so-called hit squad was actually collaborating with the dissident soldiers and illegal militia that he claimed he was ordered to eliminate!

Martinkus also provides footage, and eyewitness accounts indicating that it was the mutineers who opened fire first on Timorese government troops, rather than vice versa, as was formerly believed. And he comes up with some interesting background on both the leader of the mutineers, and the 'hit squad' informer. Both have a background of training with the Australian military, and both had early associations with the Indonesian military.

Martinkus is also one of the few journalists who has followed up the stories that two English speaking foreigners were around before the 'troubles', approaching members of the government about the possibilities of deposing Alkatiri. They were also seen inciting the crowd when the violence first erupted. He follows the tortuous trail of arms that were removed from certain police stations and which found their way into the hands of militias in

areas hostile to Alkatiri.

Alkatiri is finally allowed to have his say. One interesting point that emerged from interviews with him is that he had successfully negotiated for a fairer share of the oil and gas fields in the Timor Gap, in the face of Australian and Indonesian opposition. Even more interesting is that at the time of the outbreak of 'troubles' he had almost finalised the negotiations to have the pipeline from the fields built to East Timor for the processing plant, rather than to Darwin. It seems that the new Prime Minister, Jose Ramos Horta, and the President Xanana Gusmao, are not so sure that the pipeline should go to East Timor. It will be interesting to see if Darwin will win out, rather than East Timor, under the new administration.

One of the criticism levelled at Alkatiri (even by those sympathetic towards him) was that he overreacted to the troops whose mutiny sparked the general outbreak of violence in the streets of Dili. His response to those criticisms was that he had strong indications that there were moves afoot to unseat him, including rumours of an impending coup. It's clear now, that those fears were not groundless.

engines offers clear vistas and easy breathing. And Cuba's per-capita CO2 output is one-tenth that of the U.S. While Castro's oil-bearing friend in Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, may help up that ratio slightly, his input isn't likely to have a dramatic effect any time soon. Outside the cities, pristine land seems to abound, and that extends to underwater areas. I went to Guanahacabibes National Park and got a fantastic five-hour tour of unusually eroded limestone caves and related habitat from the ranger, who had extensive botanical, biological, and geological knowledge. I also went scuba diving off Maria La Gorda,

part of the Guanahacabibes Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1987. The waters there have been recognized as among the healthiest in the Caribbean, due in part to limited coastal development. The sea fans are flourishing, the tube sponges are neon green, and the corals have retained their color -- unlike so many places around the world, where they are bleached.

So is Cuba in a position to show other countries -- especially its neighbor to the north -- how to succeed with health-care reform, sustainable agriculture, alternative transportation, and protected ecosystems? Maybe, but only if those countries put aside

their broken-record, Cold War-era reactions and really listen. Let's try to look at his Cuba clearly, to realistically evaluate the revolution's successes and failures -- and perhaps even learn something. With some members of the Bush administration champing at the bit to widen their democracy experiment to Cuba, let's remember how audacious it is to assume that there is only one true way.

Erica Gies is a freelance environmental writer who lives in San Francisco, Calif.

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Good things come in small packages



Just ask Rock Valley residents, who must have one of the smallest post offices in the country (if not the world). The local landmark sits by the road looking more like a large parcel itself, than a fully functioning postal facility. Let's hope they don't get too many big deliveries.

A glimpse from the brink

by Gerald Taylor

Do I detect a tremor in the force, the beginnings of a sea

change? Has the pendulum that is Australia swung as far right as it can and is now beginning, just beginning, to swing back?

As everything's connected, I look for connections and signs in everything. First the economy. To curry favor with the electorate our government has been printing money as if it were a best seller and distributing it to the already wealthy.

Consequently our currency has lost its value, plunging us into economic depression. Many of us now live in million dollar houses yet our children can't earn enough to pay their debts.

The money they earn is no longer worth the plastic it's printed on. Cars are cheap but it's getting difficult to run them, or afford parking spots to stack them.

Politically too the omens are good. Our government has trashed workers' rights and workers will soon be forced to civil disobedience

just to feed their families. The senate, Howard's lap dog, has finally turned and nipped the tyrant on his arse.

No longer can we transfer refugees illegally to other countries, denying our responsibilities as humans. Now we have to behave like New Zealanders and give them shelter from the storm, at least until we hear their stories. Fortress Australia has been breached from within and the trickle of dispossessed humanity may very well become a bloody flood. Bring 'em on!

Then there's Davey Hicks. Snivelling Phil Ruddock has finally told his war criminal mates they have to charge Hicks with something, anything, or he'll gum their ankles to ribbons.

And even snivelling Phil knows Hicks has done nothing wrong, either internationally or domestically. Phil always was an embarrassment to the species, but I guess that's what's made him such an outstanding attorney general in Howard's fascist cabinet.

When Davey comes home I want to be at the airport to welcome him and bring him back to Nimbin where he belongs with us other black

sheep. But I don't want to get completely carried away with Pollyanna positivity only to find it a false dawn. The dark night has been so long now I can't help but feel my spirits rise. Although Labor, the alternative to Howard's lot, are a joke, we've been down so long almost any alternative looks like up to me. So, maybe it is time.

Whatever else, Howard is beginning to look alarmed. Just the other night I watched as he mopped sweat from his brow on the 7.30 Report. I wanted to tell him, 'Stop! John, you can't polish a turd, you'll just smear it.' But I held back.

So shake off the gloom my friends and lend your shoulder to the wheel, we may just turn this mother yet.

Vote Green, minimise your GST. And keep the faith. The sun's got to rise again someday.

Something rotten in Denmark

The Archie Code
Episode 4
Robin Archbold

Lolling about the idyllic ambience of the Greek Islands disguised as tourists whilst questing for The Missing Plot at the behest (and expense) of tenacious NGT editor Bob 'Bulldog' Dooley (never stand between him and a good story) was taking its toll on the Archbold family. My Man In Skiathos had changed his appearance, insisted on calling himself Spiros, not George, and denied we had ever met. Sensing danger I



whispered sotto voce "Are we being watched"? He feigned alarm and told me to "Fuck off, weirdo" which fuelled my suspicions. I thanked him for the warning and left.

Now, around various parts of the Mediterranean, soiled toilet paper is put in an adjacent bin, not flushed. I was thus engaged whilst fruitlessly applying a little Sacred Herb to ease my confusion and paranoia because it's my medicine man, when a chance observation revealed the omen I sought was right in front of me, the paper revealing a silhouette with an uncanny likeness to Rembrandt (and now available on eBay beside the Mother Theresa potato chip). My holiday reading had already revealed the complicity 'twixt dastardly conspiracies and famous painters so I was instantly alerted. A quick web search revealed that Rembrandt's house was a famous landmark in Amsterdam which is how we ended up in Copenhagen. I always get those two cities mixed up, especially when I'm...er...medicated. Jo just smiled and said it's the will of Allah and baby party animal Ella couldn't care less so I was guilt-free.

Copenhagen is as flat as George B's IQ. There are steeples splitting the sky everywhere and a pedestrian avenue teeming with shops, boutiques, galleries, cafes et al, leading from square to square with jazz bands, buskers and hucksters thick on the ground. This lures you to the canals, boats bobbing, wall-to-wall eateries, colourful 400 year old restored buildings and hordes of friendly merrymakers.

We were unfortunately compelled to linger here for some time at the expense of NGT sponsors while waiting for purpose to reveal itself. The lobster was superb, you'll be glad to know. Suddenly, from out of a clear blue sky, a lasciviously-coloured pamphlet landed in my lap. Museum of Erotica, Rembrandt Street, was scarcely a frolic away. I looked at Jo. She twinkled and raised an eyebrow. Our duty was clear.



Ella was asleep in her pram so censorship was unnecessary. After carrying pram holding infant, baby accoutrement and burgeoning day pack through four stories of porn I was unprepared when she woke in the last room where twelve screens of various explicit endeavours were assisting as a sales aid to horny customers. There's always counseling later on when she leaves home so it's cool. "What's the point of all this"? I asked the buxom counter girl, hoping for a

clue as she rang up our... souvenirs. No amount of words or bodily fluids could convey the lewdness of the wink she gave me. However, upon discovering we were from Nimbin she uttered that fateful word that renewed our quest. "Christiania".

So the next morning our little caravan set forth for Copenhagen's alternative community, where 800 hippies eventually moved into an abandoned military facility on the canal in Christianshavn about the same time as Nimbin's Aquarius Festival in 1973. We could see it had been hippy heaven in its halcyon days, but the once rainbow-painted buildings were graffiti-ravaged and largely unkempt, weeds and rubbish were rife, hardly anything was open except for a gaggle of tacky souvenir stalls, and a menacing air emanated from surly dealers on bicycles with pit bulls on leads - like Nimbin in the bad old days. We hid the camera. Apart from that Christiania was like a ghost town. Being swallowed by a greedy, violent drug trade and locked into consensus decision-making were two oft-mentioned possibilities that assisted its predicament according to local sources. The vibe was dispiriting and we turned to leave when a raggedy Merlin-type guy grabbed my arm and said earnestly, "What are you looking for? I am Your Man In Christiania".

At last! "The missing plot," I hissed in my most conspiratorial manner, whereupon he instantly recoiled, shouting "I never took it! I only do powders, no pot! It was probably Stefan. Stay away from me"! He then lurched erratically to the end of an old jetty and hurled himself into the water twenty feet below and began thrashing for the opposite shore. It's possible that the missing plot may have rested here at one time, but I fear we were too late. It appeared to have moved on. The quest continues.

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Contact Andy Callan 0428-339-250
At Nimbin Apothecary soon.

Winter Weekend Workshops

by Paris Naday
Nimbin Film Industry Group (NFIG)

Over the weekend of the 12th and 13th August Nimbin Film Industry Group held a weekend of filmmaking workshops. Workshops were held in script writing, directing, documentary, camera, audio and 'acting for camera'.

On Saturday the weekend started with an inspirational seminar with Tristan Bancks, who shared tips on making films on little or no budget. This was followed by script writing with Vale Mendelsohn, which ran concurrently with the camera workshop with the legendary Paul Tait.

The camera workshop coincided with the re-enactment of the 'Tuntable Cattle Truck Bus' the whole class trooped out to have a go at filming the 'live action.' Saturday was rounded off with an informative question and answer session with Jenni Kendall about 'making documentary.'

Sunday started early with a one and a half hour workshop with Dharmin on recording audio and the first session of the day-long acting for camera 'masterclass' with the highly experienced and dynamic Rowan Grieves. The first session involved warm up exercises and preparation of improvisations. The second session was 'auditions' using scripts prepared by the script writers and the prepared



improvisations. The professionalism of Paul and Rowan and the set with lights, camera and boom mike gave participants a taste of the real thing.

During the afternoon session we reviewed the performances and received feedback. Tea, coffee and hot soup was provided by the wonderful Judy Hale. Over a coffee during a break Rowan commented on 'how civilised we ran things here in Nimbin'. I would like to thank Jenni Kendall, Paul Tait, Tristan Bancks, Vale Mendelsohn, Dharmin and Rowan Grieves for their generosity of spirit and passion for their craft which made this weekend not only memorable but an amazing learning



experience for all involved.

Editing and sound score workshops will be held in October at the CTC to round out the workshop program for the year. The NFIG are planning to repeat this weekend of workshops before the next '39 Hours' short film competition to be held in March 2007. Check our website for updates www.nimbinfilmindustry.org

Nimbin Independent Film Festival

This event was a first for the intrepid, overworked and underpaid NFIG team, and thanks to the gallant acts of many volunteers and the warmth, enthusiasm and tolerance of our 'Nimbin' audiences we are calling it an outstanding success and are going to do it again next year - with improvements of course.

Thank you all and see you next year.

Open Garden



The next meeting of the Nimbin Garden Club will be held at 2pm on Saturday 16th September at Len and Kay Martin's home garden. The entrance to the Martin property is off the Nimbin to Lismore Rd, opposite Shipway Rd, and will be marked with the Garden Club sign.

The garden features mostly native plantings and has a significant wetland feature which attracts many



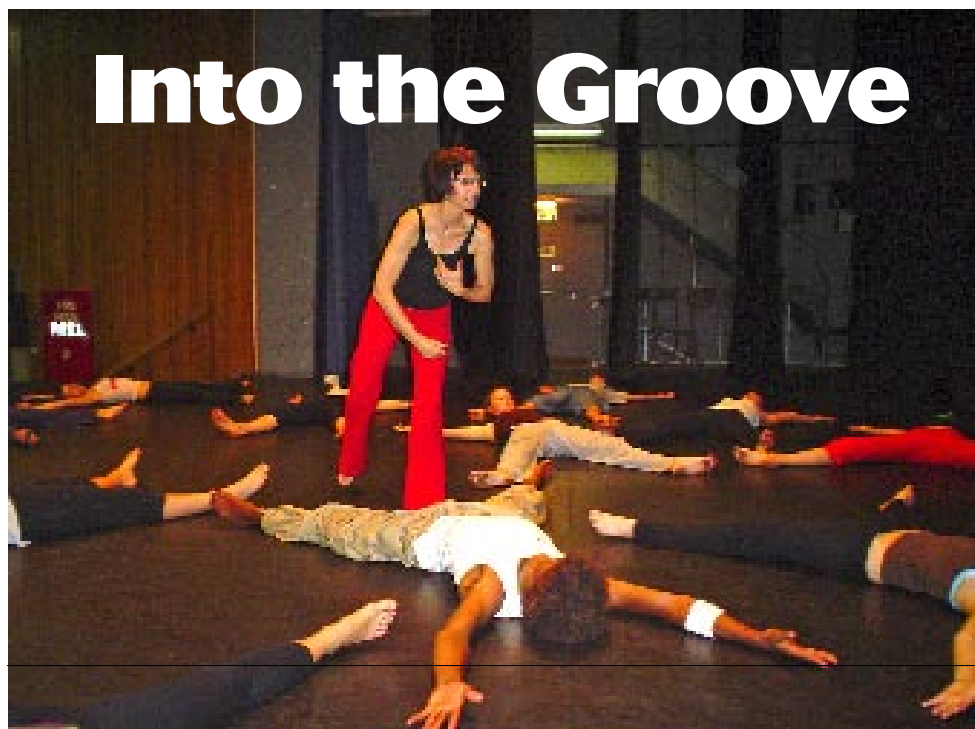
Garden Club members at Lindy Bentley and John Knight's rose garden in Falls Rd.

bird species. Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome.

For more information please

contact Gil (6689-0581) or Caroline (6689-1945), or take a look at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nimbingardenclub/>

Into the Groove



Following the huge success of last year's *Into the Groove - Work Experience Week*, NORPA Dance Action is excited to present *Into the Groove '06 - Youth Dance Intensive*.

Aimed at secondary students in the Northern Rivers Region from years 9, 10 & 11 with a strong interest in dance, *Into the Groove '06* gives young people the opportunity to work in a dance company situation for a whole week!

For those considering a career in dance or wishing to develop their skill, this week-long intensive offers focused dance training with professional dancers culminating in a public performance.

When: Mon Oct 2nd to Sat Oct 7th, 2006 (First week of NSW school holidays)
Where: Northern Rivers Conservatorium Arts Centre (NRCAC)

Cnr Keen and Magellan Street, Lismore

Cost: \$275 includes 5 hours of dance training per day and a DVD of the performance. Students are required to bring their own food. Some billeted accommodation and transport may be arranged for students traveling long distances to Lismore.

Applications: Due Mon Sept 11, 2006.

Contact: Michael Hennessy or Paula Williams C/o Northern Rivers Conservatorium Arts Centre Ph: (02) 6621 2266 Email: nrcac@bigpond.net.au

On-line health services directory



The Northern Rivers Division of General Practice's redesigned on-line health services directory is now active.

The regional health services directory is a free community resource for the medical and general communities listing local health services and organisations and their contact

details.

The division aims to make this the definitive search tool for people looking for local health contact information and is encouraging specialist doctors, allied health professionals and other local health services that have not yet done to submit their details for inclusion in the directory.

For a copy of the template or to search the directory, visit the website at www.nrdgp.org.au and click on the directory link, or phone the Northern Rivers Division of General Practice on 6622-4453.

Nimbin Tennis Club

The Nimbin Tennis Club had its AGM this month with the same committee being elected - Pixie President, Andy Kinderman Secretary and Pete Ross Treasurer.

Wednesday night from 5pm is social night for anyone interested in a game.

Tennis coach Chris Herden is still doing a great job with the kids and can be contacted for coaching on 6689-1832.

The courts are available for hire on a casual basis for \$7 per court per hour daytime use or \$10 per hour for night time use.

People interested in playing are encouraged to join our club with annual fees of \$40 or \$80 per family. Being a club member entitles you to free court use for a year.

For more information or for court hire ring Pixie on 6689-1728 or Andy on 6689-1014.

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17th Light Activation 24th CC the Cat

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Next to the Oasis, Nimbin Café

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Lets get physical

by Sue Boardman,
Physical Activities
Co-ordinator

Netball

The Netball Training Day and Workshop was a great success despite low attendance. The low attendance allowed the privileged few to enjoy the full attention of two very experienced and inspiring coaches. Although all of us had played Netball in the past (for some of us that past was a very long past ago!) we were amazed at the depth of technique a truly gifted coach can bring to the game. Thank you very much Bev Rawson and Joan Savins. I would also like to thank the Nimbin Craft Gallery and Nimbin Candles for their contribution to the success of the day.

The outcome of that day was an agreement to meet at 4.30pm on Wednesdays at the Nimbin Central School Netball Court to practice our skills and develop our game. Our first meeting was on Wednesday 16th August. Twelve women participated, remembering forgotten skills amid much laughter and giggling. If you want to join us come on down. Remember if you are under 16 years of age you will need to have parental/guardian permission. Please make sure you wear proper sports shoes or you will not be able to play. Cost is \$3.

The Nimbin Building Active Communities Project wants to develop Netball in Nimbin as a permanent part of our sporting scene. Nimbin Headers Sports Club has plans to develop a netball court adjacent to their playing fields. Both Headers



and the Nimbin BAC Project need a strong and dynamic group of women to become involved in netball to make it independent and ongoing. This is an opportunity to lay the foundations for our girls and young women of the future to participate in team sport.

Get involved, create something worthwhile for your community and get fit all at the same time! If you want to contribute, come down on Wednesdays or contact Sue.

Friday Night Basketball Emergency!

James Koker is the backbone of Friday night Basketball. Without James there would be no basketball in Nimbin. James has worked hard to obtain his referees accreditation, coaching accreditation and Senior First Aid Certificate. But James cannot safely and effectively facilitate the basketball nights when he has on occasion up to 30 kids participating.

We are calling for community members and parents of kids who play basketball to contact Sue (see below) and become part of the Nimbin Basketball Support Team. This means being available once a month during the school terms to assist James on a Friday night from 6-8pm and ensure we can continue the basketball nights safely and enjoyably.

Community Health & Exercise information Exercise and Diabetes

On the morning of Friday 22nd September, Diabetes Clinical Nurse Consultant, Kathy Ubrihien, will be giving a talk on Exercise

and Diabetes. This is a free community event and morning tea will be provided. Venue is the Nimbin School of Arts.

Please consult the Physical Activities Noticeboard (butcher shop laneway wall) and the School of Arts windows for further information regarding start time. Direct all inquiries to Sue Boardman (see below).

Nimbin Fitness and Activity Centre Update

Everyone I see in Nimbin is asking me when the new Fitness and Activity Centre is opening. At this stage we are waiting for more equipment to arrive in early September. We will then have to wait for the annual Nimbin Show to finish towards the end of that month. Then, fingers crossed, we will be all set to go.

The Centre will be equipped for circuit training. A power circuit is a fun way of learning how to build lean muscle and train your cardiovascular system. It consists of a number of stations at which different exercises are performed plus personal challenges and games to test your commitment to your body.

You can work at your own pace in a non competitive environment, so anyone of any fitness level can participate.

We have two well-qualified Fitness Instructors preparing classes for the new centre. They are Jacinta Stevenson and Wayne Cuthbertson (see profiles at right).

Classes will be starting soon. Look out for more information in the near future.

Contact Sue Boardman: Phone 6689-1454 (Tues only) or 6689-1731. Email sueb@nrhs.nsw.gov.au

A spring in their step

Nimbin's new Fitness Instructors



Wayne Cuthbertson

"My aim is to make a comfortable environment that will entice you, the client, to get into shape for Spring, maybe lose some excess weight, improve your general fitness, strength and balance, and above all build self-esteem."

Wayne Cuthbertson is well known in the Nimbin community. He will endeavour to make the gym accessible to all the community, with circuit classes for all age groups and fitness levels, including classes for those with special needs.

"I will also cater for pre-fit clients who may want a passive and relaxed program to entice them to become more active, and can provide advice for a healthy diet which can lower your blood pressure and lower the risk of heart disease and the onset of type 2 diabetes."

Wayne has accreditation as a Certificate III Fitness and Gym Instructor; Fitness Leader- Sport and Recreational Programming; Mini/Mod- International ARL Senior Club Coach- Level 2; and a Senior First Aid Certificate.

"Improved general fitness is a great tool for controlling aggression, and helps to relieve depression. Being active helps to release good endorphins from our brain, which helps us to feel good naturally.

"So if you and a group of your friends are interested in a healthier lifestyle and increased energy levels, I can design a program just for you."



Jacinta Stevenson

"Hello Nimbin! At last circuit training and aerobics is back. Come and spring clean your body of the winter blues. Get fit and shape up

with a power circuit class with me, Jacinta Stevenson. I will also be looking to offer hi/lo aerobics, step attack classes, power bar and cardio funk."

Jacinta, from Jiggi, recently went to Sydney to complete a Certificate III in Fitness Instruction, so she has all the latest knowledge and skills on how to get you looking great and feeling fantastic.

"The rewards of leading an active lifestyle are endless: increased energy, stamina, mental alertness etc. Your body's cells need oxygen, and the more oxygen you can flush your system with, the more your body can eliminate unwanted pollutants that create toxicity in mind and body."

Jacinta also has a Certificate IV in Dance, which she completed last year at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium of Arts in Lismore. She decided that it's never too late to learn how to dance and move your body. You don't have to be a ballerina, just have fun and give it a go!

"Spring clean your body of the winter blues! Come along to a class, let's puff and pant and really give our bodies a new start this Spring."

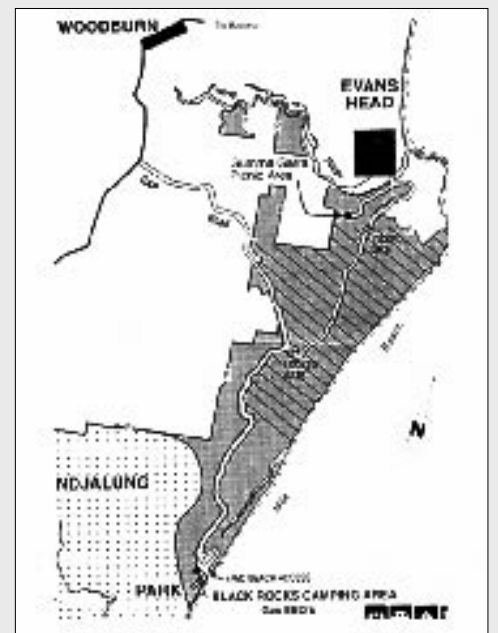
Nimbin Bushwalkers Club Inc. Walks Program July & August 2006

Sunday 17th September

Day walk Jerusalem Creek / Black Rock - Bundjalung National Park (for spring wildflowers)
Leaders Judy Hales 6689-1477 Len Martin 6689-0254
Grade 2, 2-3 hours
Meet 8.00am Nimbin carpark, then 1.5hr drive. Bring lunch, water, swimmers.
There is the option to make this a weekend camp, members making their own way to Black Rock site -Friday/ Saturday, or could stay on after Sunday, as LM intends - good push-bike rides as well as walks.

Tuesday 26th September

Terania Creek Basin and Protester's Falls
Leader Michael Smith 6689-9291.
Grade 3, 2.5km return, 1.5 hours. Walk up the creek for lunch, along old over-grown logging tracks.
Meet 10.00am at Nimbin carpark or 10.30am at The Channon Pub, or 11.00am at the



start - Protesters Falls carpark at the end of Terania Creek Road.
<http://www.geocities.com/nimbinbushwalkers>

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Lunch & Dinner

Fishing out wide



Kim with a couple of big sampson fish, 18km out of Wooli.

by Pixie, Fishing editor

After seven weeks of big seas and strong winds on our outing days, which resulted in seven fishing cancellations, the sea gods finally gave us a break and members of the Nimbin Heads Fishing team got to go to sea.

Pix, Charlie, Terry, Arrow, Harry, Ken (Harry's Dad) and friends from Bunnings, Barry and Kim, set off from Wooli jetty just as the sun was waking up and with the seas around one metre and the winds around ten knots, we were planning on a great days fishing.

We started fishing about eighteen kilometres out on a patch of snapper. After about an hour and with about a dozen pan-sized snapper in the bag, we decided to go out wide, about forty kilometres just short of the continental shelf. All we had to worry about was a strong southerly current, which we wouldn't

know about until we were out there.

On the way out, the water colour changed from a dull blue to a bright sparkling blue, which would indicate a slackening of the current, which would be in our favour for good fishing.

During our first few hours on the water, we spotted at least twenty whales spouting water into the air and doing aerials, along with a large pod of dolphins working the water. The sea was alive and we were in for a good day.

We changed all the reels to overheads for quick retrieve. After all we were fishing with slimy mackerel live baits and chasing big fish. First up Harry, Charlie, Kim and Arrow all hooked up to some nice 5kg kingfish and sampson fish, then Ken, Arrow, Barry and Terry also hooked up with some big fish. With your humble fishing editor

looking on and thinking my livey might be playing dead, I finally hooked up along with Harry and Barry into another couple of sampson fish.

After a couple of hours out wide, Kim thought he would liven up the fishing and started burleying with munched up egg and lettuce sangers, and it worked. The fish were really on the bite, we were all pulling big fish, then Bazz hooked up to a solid fish and landed a 13kg jewfish.

Stan, the boat skipper, decided to rig a jig and within five minutes had a big fight on his hands and landed an 11kg kingfish.

Not to be outdone, Arrow landed a 9kg amberjack. Kim decided to stop burleying after a couple of hours and landed a couple more nice sampson fish in the afternoon session.

With about thirty big fish in the bag, we decided to come back in close to finish the last baits in the afternoon, and hooked a few more succulent pan-sized snapper, which finished off a great day.



Harry, Barry, Ken, Arrow and Terry with some of the catch.

Bowlo news for September



New Board

The Annual General Meeting, held 13th August, saw the return of John Ryan for his fourth term as president, with several new faces on the committee replacing long-serving and valued retiring directors.

The new vice-presidents are Don MacDonald and Bob Dooley, Peter Jones steps up as treasurer and Dave Childs aka The Mongrel has become greens director. Anton Eldridge continues as bowls director.

Directors are Warren Olly, David Morrison, Luke Kearny and Peter Spiby. Sean Arden's continuing

position as secretary-manager has also been confirmed.

Nimbin Women's Annual Gala Day

This year, 64 lady bowlers from around the Northern District area will be playing in this popular event, to be held Monday 11th September.

All welcome to come down and watch the President's team: Viola Asi, Tina Masima, Wanda Way and Maria DeRighetti.

Rockhampton Visit

On an NRDBA tour, players from the

Rockhampton club will visit Nimbin on Wednesday 13th September to play from 1pm. Bowlers and spectators welcome.

Entertainment

- Fridays 6-10pm Daddy Cool and guests
- Saturday 23rd September Karaoke with Mark Jago
- The Asian Star Restaurant is available for functions and group bookings.

Happy Hours

Every Sunday 12-4pm. Featuring weekly specials, this is the best value in the region. Come and support your friendly Club.

WALLERS BUS COMPANY

Leaving Lismore through to Murwillumbah

| Normal Depart Times | School | Holiday Times |
|---------------------|--------|---------------|
| 8:00 | 2:35 | 3:20 |
| 8:10 | 2:45 | 4:00 |
| 8:20 | 3:00 | 4:15 |
| 8:45 | 3:20 | 4:30 |
| 9:30 | 3:30 | |
| 9:40 | 3:40 | |
| 9:50 | 3:55 | |
| 9:53 | 4:00 | |
| 10:10 | 4:20 | |
| 10:15 | 4:25 | |
| 10:30 | 4:40 | |

Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore

| Normal Depart Times | School | Holiday Times |
|---------------------|--------|---------------|
| 7:10 | 1:50 | 7:30 |
| 7:20 | 2:03 | 7:42 |
| 7:30 | 2:08 | 7:55 |
| 7:55 | 2:30 | 8:10 |
| 8:00 | 2:35 | 8:20 |
| 8:32 | 2:40 | 8:30 |
| 8:45 | 2:50 | 8:40 |
| 9:00 | 3:30 | 9:00 |
| 8:05 | 9:10 | 3:45 |
| 8:15 | 9:20 | 3:55 |
| 8:50 | 9:35 | 4:10 |
| 8:55 | 9:40 | 4:15 |

This service runs Monday - Friday excluding public holidays
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OCTOBER 6-8

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September Gig Guide

Friday 8th • Jimmy Willing
Sunday 10th • Blue Skillet Rovers
Friday 15th • CC The Cat
Saturday 16th • Metal night - Brain resin, Pigman Vampire, TV vs HP
Friday 22nd • Azzadoota
Sunday 24th • Roo 1pm
Friday 29th • Aurora Jane + Massive Change

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