



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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Mexican Sunflower Edition
April 2006
81 Cullen Street
Nimbin 2480
phone 6689 1148
email: goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com

Showcasing Nimbin's multi-faceted talents

3rd Annual Nimbin Blues Festival

The Easter Nimbin Blues Festival will feature local and regional musicians and performers in a nice relaxed festival atmosphere and a peaceful child-friendly environment.

The first Nimbin Blues Festival came about due to the annual overflow of visitors to Nimbin over the Easter weekend in 2004, and was held on the streets of Nimbin. The success of last year's festival, held at the markets in the Nimbin Community Centre grounds, has led to this year's follow-up of the event.

This third annual Nimbin Blues Festival will be held on a special two-day market in the Nimbin Community Centre grounds over the Easter weekend Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th April 2006 in beautiful Bunjalung country.

The event is a (not for profit) free community event supported by local

businesses and the Magic Hat. In other words, we pass the hat around over the weekend to collect donations that support the festival.

The Nimbin Blues Festival provides an affordable alternative, and a great opportunity for visitors and locals alike to enjoy, present and perform a wide range of alternative Blues (or Bluesy), Roots music and entertainment that our region has to offer. The line-up so far is as follows.

Solo/Duos: Doug & Biko, Daddy Cool, Burri & Friends, Lisa Yeates, Mayano & Friends, Martin Preedy, Tools & Mob, C.C. the Cat, Jade Supernova

Trios/Bands: Deadly & Burdett Al-Khimiya, Maxxed Mango & the Seedless Variety, Light Activation, Eleusis, One4One, The Intergalactic Blues Mafia, Hypernova.

And you are all invited.

April is a big month for the arts in Nimbin, with events in venues all over town featuring the cream of the region's talented artists and performers.

The Nimbin Players have a hit on their hands with their fine local production of *Hotel Sorrento* directed by Deborah Wild in the School of Arts Hall until 8th April. The quality of the home-grown performances and staging is impressive, and sets a high standard for the Norpa production in Lismore later in the year (see story page 3).

Easter sees the Nimbin Blues Festival at the Community Centre's market stage as well as the Bush Theatre. It features an impressive array of local performers, reminiscent of the early days of the

Byron Blues Festival, before the mega-acts got in on the act (see story at left).

Easter Saturday is also the start of the Autumn Arts Extravaganza, a huge exhibition in the School of Arts Hall with the work of some 35 local artists on show, together with music and dance performances by at least ten top-drawer local performers.

The renaissance of the Bush Theatre continues, with a full April programme of dance parties, groovy movies and music nights. Their Soloist Night on Friday 28th April promises to be an intimate night of relaxed dining with some of the area's smoothest solo performers.

The Nimbin Hotel continues to excel as a live music venue under

new entertainment director, the very well-connected Tim Tonkin, and in April features bands from Sydney and Melbourne as well as the best of local acts. A new direction, starting 30th April, is a series of acoustic Sundays which again draws on the wealth of local musical talent (see gig guide, back page).

All this is in the lead-up to Nimbin's biggest annual event, the MardiGrass cannabis law reform rally, which presents a smorgasbord of music, dance, spoken word and arts performances, starting at 4.20pm on Friday 5th May and continuing through to the Grand Parade on Sunday 7th (see story page 6).

What an array of creative talent! What an amazing village!

Autumn Arts Extravaganza

15th to 30th April 2006
Nimbin School of Arts Hall
10am to 5pm daily
Phone 6689-1444

This will be a magnificent extravaganza of painting, print, photography, sculpture, furniture, felt, drawing, basketry and more. The Visual Arts will be integrated with music and dance performance. In addition there will be workshops throughout the fortnight teaching some basic skills in knitting, basket-weaving, clay, collage and more.

Almost every exhibit consists of new work, much of it created specifically for this exhibition, and most artworks will be for sale.

Workshops will be held morning and afternoon from 15th to 30th April. Performances will be from noon to 1.30pm daily with seating



Angel. Oil painting by Christine Robinson

provided, and less formally at other times. Workshop and performing arts programmes will be displayed before and during the Extravaganza. Exhibiting artists include: Franklin Johnson, Carole Barrett, Paul Roguska, (drawing); Ian Pearson, Christine Robinson, Burri Jerome, Iain Harrison, Margie Rojo,

Maxx Maxted, Luke Lennon, Vale Mendelson, Shirley Miller and Magpie (painting); Adrian Ward, Ruth Sutter, Andy Hocking, Trudi Gautsch, Arnie Gautsch, Heather Kimber, John Wright, Alan Geier, Gerard Lynam, Claire Larrivee (sculpture); Thorsten Jones, Michael Strum, Paris Naday, (photography); Andrew Kavasilas, Paul Roguska (furniture); Barbara Mills, Kimana, Helena Herendi (felt); Tonia, Nimbin Basket Weavers (weaving); as well as Linday Hunt (prints), Annie Heitmann (boxes), and Fay Murray (patchwork quilts).

Performing artists include: Tony Gibson, Moksha & Rain, Giselle, Steve Holt, Nomads Belly Dancers, Al-Khimiya, Vale Mendelson, Gerard Lynam, Doug & Biskit and Deborah Turner.

Come and bring your family and friends to enjoy the best of all the arts in Nimbin.

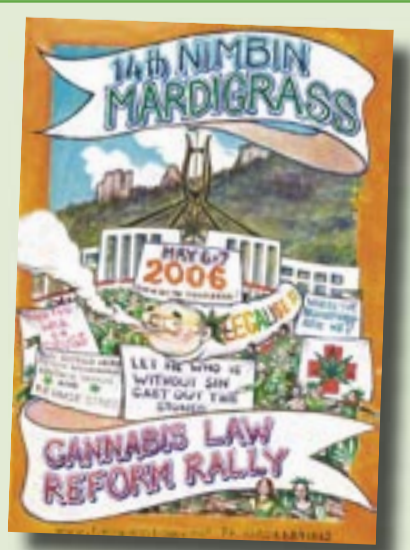
The 3rd annual **Nimbin Peoples Inter-Galactic BLUES FESTIVAL** LIVE @ The NIMBIN Markets EASTER-WEEKEND April 2006 15th 16th

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New MardiGrass poster

As MardiGrass gets closer, more and more posters are appearing, representing different facets of the artistic and political activities of the reform rally and gathering.

This new poster by Elspeth Jones presents a return to the styling of the traditional publicity, and is a marked departure from the controversial war-themed poster of cartoonist Brendan Lovechild, which is still provoking widespread comment (see page 9).



More Arts Inside:
Theatre p.3, Cabaret p.11,
Dance p.15, Photography,
Weaving & Gallery p.17,
Music gigs pp. 17 & 20
Positively bursting!