

So long, and thanks for all the healthy tucker



Phil and Lulu

Say farewell to Funfruits, Nimbin's funky fruiterer.

After being on the market for several months, both Funfruits and neighbouring Motdang Thai restaurant were bought by Gourmet Genie owner, Jefro Haselden, on the last business day of the financial year.

When asked about a rumour that the Funfruits shop would become a tattoo parlour, Jefro replied, "It's no rumour. Tattooing and piercing – there's a big demand for it."

According to Ken Jones, Motdang's will continue as a Thai restaurant with a new name and a re-fit, and he and partner Karen Wales will continue there for a month, as part of the hand-over. Then it's off to build a house under the Rocks.

Philip and Lulu looked back nostalgically at their three years in Nimbin, during farewell drinks outside the shop. Lulu summed it up: "It hasn't been all beer and skittles, but who wants skittles anyway?"

Philip said, "When we came to this town, fruit was expensive compost. If we've left a legacy, we've improved the standards. The

other businesses have had to compete with us both on price and quality."

"Another thing we've done is to introduce exotica in fruit and veg, such as mangosteins," he said.

After a short holiday, Philip and Lulu plan to head south, where Phil may resume practising law. "This has been my sixth fruiterer business in my life, so who knows if it's the last?" he said.

More changes

In other local business news, new Nimbin pharmacist Joanne Treasure is now trading in her nicely renovated premises, which now include a lotteries agency and a café area with window seating.

"I'm pretty excited about it," Joanne told Nim-FM newsman Ian Wickham.

"I'm expanding the pharmacy services, with a diabetic nurse, a reiki healer and possibly a podiatrist coming, and I've put in a juice bar, and opened up the front of the shop, just to make it fun."

Interior decoration of the shop should be fully complete this month. Expect to see a big media splash then.



Karen and Ken

Motdang Thai

Now open Thurs, Fri & Sat nights
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Quick response for mental health first-aid

A course in mental health first-aid attracted a big turn-out recently in Nimbin.

The two-day course was funded by NSW Health specifically for Nimbin. Organiser Deb Ryan said, "We had capacity-building money available targetting the North Coast, and Nimbin responded strongly when we canvassed interest."

Course activities were led by Kylie Clark, one of 600 mental health workers who go around the state doing workshops. She said, "We're skilling both workers and community members in recognition of disorders and appropriate responses. Increasing literacy in mental health makes us more helpful as a community."

The course sought to normalise mental health

experiences, which affect one in five people in Australia. Young males are now four times more likely to suicide than young females. Depressive illnesses, anxiety, psychosis, and drug and alcohol issues appear to be increasingly prevalent.

But as Kylie pointed out, "Just because a person has an episode doesn't mean it will develop into a mental illness. Especially if it is identified and appropriately referred for treatment when it happens." Being non-judgmental and supportive emerged in the course as key qualities in effectively responding to a mental health episode.

The course was a one-off, which provided a useful Certificate of Attendance. It was described by participants as "invaluable."



Kylie leads the workshop



"Illegal" doof party raises \$9,000 for local community

- "Dud doof decision decidedly dumb"

The Mardi Grass Doof organisers are a shy bunch.

For the last eight years this very loose collective of local Nimbin volunteers has "organised" the Mardi Grass Doof (or Dance For Drug Law Reform... or Open Mind Freedom Festival... they're nothing if not anarchic).

Over this time, the event has grown into a huge party that serves a dual purpose, a safety valve for the Mardi Grass and a community FUNdraiser.

This year some opposition was encountered from Council and Police, effectively banning the event from the Lismore Shire.

Unsurprisingly, a doof was organised in a neighbouring shire. The event was both well-attended and well-organised: safe, contained environments with good facilities; an abundance of all-night entertainment; a shuttle bus assuring safety on the roads to and from Nimbin. By all reports, a splendid time

was had by all.

The event raised \$9,000, which has been given to the organisers of the cancelled doof to distribute amongst local community groups, organisations and institutions.

These include the Nimbin Hospital, two local fire brigades, three local pre-schools, the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre, WIRES (wildlife rescue), INTRA (an outreach drug treatment service) and Nim-FM community radio station.

A spokesperson for the cancelled doof said that it was "an interesting commentary on the times that something as innocuous as a youth-based community fund-raiser should be demonised and declared illegal."

"Luckily we're used to that kind of thing in Nimbin."

Congratulations and "hats off" to a bunch of young(er) people who care about their community and actually DO something about it.

Drowning Tyalgum - current issues

by Peter Bennett
Save the Caldera Rivers Campaign Committee

The committee is organising a Public Meeting for Monday 23rd July at the Tweed Council auditorium. We are arranging speakers and a visual presentation. The aim will be to discuss water distribution/usage in the Caldera and the folly of a dam on the Oxley or anywhere else in the Caldera for that matter.

Tweed Council is supportive of our views, and are not in favour of a dam on the Oxley. Piping water to Qld is not on their agenda, nor is there any imminent Council plan to increase water storage in the Caldera basin. Council has established a contact officer for the assistance of the Campaign, which has already been helpful.

We are continuing to prepare for a Rally on Saturday 4th August in Murwillumbah. The assembly area and route are still under discussion but the Rally is planned to terminate in Knox Park. We have commitments from Justine Elliot (Federal member) to attend and other relevant speakers are being approached.

Thomas George (State member) has finally agreed to meet with some committee members on 26th July. Letters have gone to Malcolm Turnbull (Federal Water) and Phil Koperberg (NSW Water). We have been advised that Koperberg will be responding shortly. No advice has been received from Turnbull.

The Senate Committee Inquiry into the Water Shortages in South East Queensland is now compiling the received evidence and is expected to produce a final report in late August.

Informally and without verification we have been advised that the Senate Committee will not be recommending the diversion of water from NSW to Queensland. However there is still an opportunity for that Committee to recommend further enquiries or to refer the question of water diversion to another (post election) Committee.

The Hinze Dam (Qld) Inquiry Phase 3 is continuing with submissions. In general the aim is to increase the capacity of the dam but that does not explain where the water needed will come from. From the Caldera Rivers?

Supporters need to check out information about Veolia, the US water company which "specializes in the outsourced management of the water cycle", which is taking control over water resources in Australia and 58 other countries. See < <http://www.veoliawater.com.au/en/> >

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Fortress Nimbin

Now that Nimbin's blister is complete, it has again become a talking point in the village.

While local wags have had a field day constructing apocryphal stories of an old historical fort, or a future canon emplacement, or an outpost in the war on drugs, the actual wall by Daniel Cooper, decorated with glass beads, encloses an engaging sun-trap courtyard, perfect for that favourite Nimbin pastime, people-watching.

No sooner had the Council workers installed the finishing touches than the unofficial opening ceremonies started. On the first weekend, a musical smorgasbord of local entertainers tested the new acoustics, followed a few days later by the symbolic raising of the peace flag by members of the Aquarius Foundation.

The issue of a name for the spot is also being discussed, as the Council's word "blister" is so unattractive. "The Stone Rainbow" has become an alternative that may gain currency.

Museum curator Michael Balderstone sees more seating required on the structure. "We need benches, where big groups can sit around," he said. "Lismore Council spent all their money building it, so we have to pick up the slack."

He has funded the acquisition of old bridge timbers, to be made into communal benches by chainsaw carpenter Jeff Little from Barkers Vale.

Jeff has started work, at the rear of the Museum, so if you hear the noise, go have a look, it's impressive to watch him at work, but, unlike the "blister", he won't be there long.

Now open. Top: Amanda (left) leads an Om circle for the Aquarius Foundation while her peace flag flies above; middle: Jimmy and the boys let rip at the Saturday "opening"; below: Lismore Council parks workers (left to right) Luke, Kylie and Gary.



Nimbin's Saturday market kicks off in high style



Nimbin's first Saturday morning market went off without a hitch, transforming Rainbow Lane for a few hours into a colourful, vibrant bazaar environment.

Organiser Cat Anderson said, "The laneway boys were treated with respect, and they treated us with respect."

There were only a small number of stalls at first, but Cat is certain this will build up. "There's been great feedback today," she said. "There have been lots of people coming through, and more people are interested in taking a stall next week."

The market's emphasis is on local people from the local area. "There will be no stalls available for people from outside who are selling cheap imported goods," said Cat. Local produce, art and craft featured strongly, as did second-hand and bric-a-brac.

Local songwriter Bo Khan entertained market-goers for the opening, but in future Cat proposes a showcase for local buskers, with names and times listed on a whiteboard.

All in all, an auspicious start to what seems set to become a regular event.

Chocolate Wars

Nimbin is awash with chocolate bars for sale, as two young soccer players raise funds for a tour of northern England.

Kaine Allan and Yuri Ross will play every other day during the 18-day tour, organised by Football Far North Coast. There will also be time to watch professional games in cities such as Nottingham, Newcastle and Liverpool.

Local businesses have been quick to support the families to realise this great opportunity for these talented players. As well as helping to sell the ubiquitous chocolates, traders have donated raffle prizes and auctionable goods to help raise money.

A fund-raising karaoke night at the Oasis Café raised over \$1,200 for Kaine, while Yuri has a raffle going, and is planning a fund-raising auction night at the Nimbin Bowling Club next month.

The cost of the tour, around \$4,500 each, does not include spending money. According to the tour programme, "English prices will come as



A sporting chance. Kaine Allan with Oasis proprietor Teena Kavasalis and supporter Biskit (above); Yuri Ross at a Headers home game (right).

abit of a shock to the boys. What we pay a dollar for here, expect to pay a pound for in England. Exchange rate is about \$2.40 to the pound."

Fundraising will continue until the boys leave on 8th October.

The chocolates are actually quite good.



Does Nimbin need a Chamber?

The rebirth of The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, NIMCOC, happened at Motdang's on the third Tuesday of June with 12 people attending, and we discovered there was some life still in the old bones. The next meeting is at the traditional time of month, third Tuesday, (17th July) but at 5.30pm, and at the Oasis so the President will be there!

The dozen who showed would have been more if more people knew about the meeting, so we are attempting to compile an emailing list of interested persons in the community, not necessarily business people only. Everyone at the meeting agreed the Nimbin community needs a voice to Lismore Council. And a forum for community decisions and cohesion would be pretty handy as well.

Suggested Agenda Items for the next meeting include, and please anyone in the community feel free to add to the list. You can email your suggestions to <hempembassy@optusnet.com.au> (for the time being) or <akavasilas@hotmail.com> (current President who is keen to retire) or in writing to Nimbin Chamber of Commerce C/- Nimbin Post Office, or you can just email us to give us your address for the list if you wish to keep posted.

Agenda for next meeting: 5:30pm, Tuesday 17th July at the Oasis Café.

1. Do we need a Chamber of Commerce, and what is its purpose? Generally it was agreed we need a Chamber to lobby Lismore Council and as a cohesive body to represent the village, but "how to revitalise the Chamber and broaden the membership

attendance" is the challenge. Where and when to hold meetings?

2. Do we change the name? Lismore did ...to Lismore Unlimited and Byron has something else also. We could have a group that's not just business-oriented with a wider membership, several community minded people have strongly wanted to be included but have no 'business'.

3. What current projects could NIMCOC contribute to or lobby council to help implement? Some suggestions of projects that could be relevant include:

- SK8 Park
- Western car park lighting, access and shade
- Pedestrian level crossing lighting
- Walking track, public acquisition of the arboretum south of town.
- Tourism – visitor information what's happening?
- New Saturday Morning Rainbow Lane Produce Market
- Lobbying local M.P's
- Making new tear-off map and info pads
- Nimbin Chambers web directory <www.nimbininfo.com> any suggestions?
- Where can visiting caravans, motor homes etc park?
- Maintenance of Allsopp Park
- Peace Park development
- Goori representation
- Nimbin promotion ideas..."Nimbin - where the grass is always greener" ..."Bugger Woolworths – shop in Nimbin"..."Nimbin – leading the way"...

Everyone is welcome.

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Tuntable Falls Community School @ the Dreaming Festival

by David Hyatt

From the moment it was decided the school would approach the organisers of this wonderful cultural event, we got the feeling that we were embarking on an adventure of great reward.

The school was given the opportunity to contribute a mapping art piece from the Bunjalung lands to be displayed at the festival along with mappings from far and wide in our great continent.

The children of the school completed the mapping with a welcome contribution from Burri Jerome and Julie Appo; it featured totems from the area, the black cockatoos, the hoop pine and significant landmarks of the Nimbin Rocks and the Tuntable Falls.

Well-equipped with the camp kitchen and enough organic food to last the four days, over 70 members of the pre-school and primary school community made their way to the Dreaming, which was held at the Woodford Festival grounds just west of



Humbling. Tuntable School's mapping art piece (top); Jericho Waters (left) with her garland of flowers made at one of the many workshops available to the children; dancer Quilliam (below) from the White Cockatoos performing group.

Caboolture.

As participants of the festival through our mapping contribution, we were awarded a prime camp space in the performers' area and very close to the festival grounds.

After selecting our individual camp sites, helping each other get set and putting up the kitchen, it was time to get amongst the entertainment and immerse ourselves in the richness, beauty and sadness that is encompassed in Aboriginal culture.

These were truly wonderful experiences that fascinated all senses, the mind and soul of anyone who was prepared to look, listen and learn to enjoy the spirit of one of the oldest living cultures on earth. In addition to the entertainment provided and performed by aboriginal people, there were also singers, musicians and dancers from other indigenous tribes from as far away as America, Timor and New Zealand.

There were many opportunities to

compassionately share some of today's sorrows and pains of the Aboriginal people, and to find many beautiful (and not so beautiful) stories and issues expressed through drama, dance, music, film, art, photography and comedy.

The quality of the entertainment was superb, with artists such as Archie Roach his wife Ruby, Christine Anu and Troy Cassar-Daley, the dance beats of Ochre, comedy by Sean Choolburra and The Bigotbri CWA, dance by The White Cockatoos and films such as Nigger Lovers are only a small sample of artists and events that had patrons in awe.

The Dreaming was a humbling experience, a festival that had an atmosphere that permeated goodwill: lots of stalls, good food, a beautiful scenic setting and a deep sense of sharing. It provided a welcome opportunity to gain an insight into the world of the Aboriginal people, the issues that impact on them, in their past, future and present.

Alas, four days was not quite enough time to experience all the entertainment the Dreaming had on offer, but still it was enough time to leave all those that attended with a thirst to put the festival high on the list of priorities for next year's school curriculum.

Both of the school's teachers were surprised at the level of understanding and appreciation expressed by the children, who thoroughly enjoyed themselves and will be more rounded human beings for the experience.

Nimbin Central School students end term on a high note



Lucia Schulz (right) with SRC co-ordinator Lishia O'Reilly

Nimbin lantern shines a light

Yes, it did go ahead, and thousands of people braved the rain, with many cheering when they saw our lantern.

The lantern was carried by parents, students and staff: Franca Wolfe, Rahima Jackson, Moira Kenny, Denise Whitney, Rowena Whitney, Christine Grieves and Manuela Matheson-Geiss, the school's community liaison officer.

The rain stopped just in time for the Finale, which was a joy to watch. The fireworks were spectacular (see colour pictures in centre spread).

Manuela said, "We are planning to improve our lantern for next year's parade by adding Nimbin Rocks and perhaps some faeries. Anyone interested in being involved in planning, design or making, please contact me on 6689-7457.

Big Bahzooley

On Friday night 22nd June, the MPU buzzed with excitement, as a large number of acts showcased the school's performing talents. From singers and instrumentalists to belly dancers, rappers and ninjas, entertainments reflected a wide range of interests from both primary and secondary students.

Principal Dot Panaretos said, "I enjoyed my first Bahzooley, and I was most impressed by the talents of our students and dedication of our staff."

Music Tutor Val Mace said, "A big thank you to all our performers. You really shone, and there has been heaps of positive feedback from members of the audience. Congratulations to you all.

"Of course it takes a willing team of workers to stage such an event, so thank you all who helped. It's all greatly appreciated."

The evening, which also featured spectacular

fire-eating, was hosted by the sartorially-attired Matthew Gambin, who originally named the performance night series, alongside girl school captain Athena Zelandonii.

The canteen was kept busy with orders for hot soup and roast beef rolls. Manager Tanya Bell said, "A huge thanks you to all who helped: Dawn, Rahima, Erika, Dan, Tahlia and Stephanie. Your tireless efforts in the canteen were wonderful, and we appreciate you all heaps."

Regional SRC rep

Four students from the SRC, Sebastian Delaile, Tristan Glover, Siggy McKenna and Lucia Schulz recently represented Nimbin Central at the Regional SRC meeting held at Ballina High.

Lucia addressed the whole group and was elected as one of four SRC members to represent the Far North Coast at the NSW State SRC Conference to be held in Sydney in July.

Nimbin's SRC Co-ordinator Lishia O'Reilly has been asked to accompany the students for the week.

Science Comp accolades

Nimbin Central students performed with distinction in the recent Rio Tinto Science competition. Three Year 12 students, Matthew Gambin, Tristan Glover and Sebastian Delaile all gained Distinctions, while Sarita Perston (Yr 11) and Lucia Schulz (Yr 10) both gained a Credit. Trina Fischer (Yr 7) also gained a Participation Award.

Principal Dot Panaretos said, "These high achieving students are a credit to their school and to their families."

State runner

Secondary student cross-country competitors Sarah (Anuna) Brady-Simes and James van Hest progressed through the Zone carnival to represent Richmond Zone at the North Coast Regional carnival at Kendall, near Port Macquarie, in June.

It was a big effort to get there, involving an all-day bus trip, billeting overnight, the run and the long trip back home. PD/Health/PE teacher Sue Avery said, "Both students enjoyed the whole experience, making new friends, and showing all concerned that a little Central state school can compete in all arenas."

At the carnival, Sarah was selected to go to the NSW State Cross country in Sydney next term, and will be doing some fundraising to help pay the \$180 costs of travel and accomodation.

Tuntable Falls Primary School

is pleased to announce
our Annual Report for 2006 is
available for viewing at the school,
or on our web site:

www.tuntablefallscommunityschool.net

For further information please
contact the school. Phone 6689-1423

The secondary
choir performing at
the Bahzooley.



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