

Rock needs help

I am a 39 year old male and I have put up with being in pain for over 10 years.

In the beginning I was on up to 32 tablets a day to try and reduce the pain. Then in 2001 I injured my right eye. I had an operation and as a result I now have glaucoma. This gives me headaches that are always with me, day and night.

I discovered at some point in my life, that a herb called cannabis can help reduce the pain in my body. I now have a life with less pain in my body and the headaches are not as bad as in the days when I was on the drugs that the doctors gave me. I like that I have a quality of life now, with less pain.

But unfortunately I have another pain in my life now, that wasn't there before, it is called the law. The NSW and QLD government have a problem with me, now that I have pain relief and a quality of life that other people take for granted.

Under state law I get convicted for using cannabis. But the federal government signed an international convention, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. And in there it says (quote): "the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provision "must" (emphasis added) be made to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for such purposes".

Cannabis is a narcotic drug, according to this Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961. What I would like to know is how much pain and suffering do I have to be in before the government makes adequate provision for ME to use cannabis for the relief of pain and suffering? Now I have 16 charges and I spent 28 days in jail for trying to relieve the pain in my body. I have three charges left to face, one in QLD and two in NSW.

I plead: "not guilty". What would you plead?

I need help. I want to show the state governments the errors of their ways in not

providing the herb cannabis for the relief of pain and suffering, as stated in the convention signed by the federal government.

I cannot protest against the state governments all by myself, it needs support by you and your friends.

If interested contact me (Rock) at the Hemp Bar or talk to the Hemp Embassy.

Peter Till
Nimbin

History Repeats

It doesn't take much scrutiny of the thin veneer of the Howard government's latest propaganda appeal (to middle Australia) to see that it lacks compassion. It is yet again a pre-election diversion for the sympathy vote (what a good concerned Christian fellow he is). Most clearly it is history repeating itself, in graphic horror soon on a TV in your own home.

Why do we trust in all these old grey men in suits, who can only compare and implement (in-deed inflict) their standards of living, their value system, onto a race and culture that they have failed repeatedly, and continue to apply deliberate genocidal policy towards?

Be warned. The imagery you will see of the continued plight of Aboriginal children, women and men will be specifically graphic, shocking and violent. All to frighten an already threatened middle class, who sit in their comfort zones and wouldn't know an indigenous person (or their circumstances) if they fell over one. You need only to scratch the surface to find that racism in Australia is alive and kicking, despite us knowing that it is against the law and politically incorrect.

If this continued atrocity in the name of health and welfare policy was genuine, they would put their money where their mouths are.

"They" have always had the statistics and power to implement empathic, compassionate support of Aboriginal communities since Invasion Day, 26th January 1788. Instead, they choose to conquer by dividing, being



Entertainer Fast Eddie, visiting from Katoomba, gives some advice to a pelican at Broken Head.

judge, jury and executioners all in one, all over again.

If this was "fair dinkum" the Howard government would be spending say \$20 billion on providing schools, teachers, doctors, food, water and shelter to these remote communities, and "allied" health and welfare professionals (ie. educated, caring individuals from indigenous backgrounds, of whom there are many).

NOT the armed storm troopers and the "squatter mounted on his thoroughbred".

Louise Egan & Julie Appo
Nimbin

Nimbin Magazine plans

I'd firstly like to say how much I enjoy *Nimbin GoodTimes* and how much it has improved over the years. It is just so important to have a venue for a community voice.

Another venue is the *Nimbin Magazine*, in operation since 1976 and for many years the *Nimbin News*. We evolved into the magazine format over time, unable to perform the News function as a two monthly periodical. *Nimbin GoodTimes* and *Nimbin News* both came from the same source, the Aquarius Festival in 1973, so we are related, siblings.

Nimbin Magazine has now come to a crossroads. Run by volunteers who put in many hours, we want to make the most of the efforts put in by making the Mag available to more people. The only way is to make it a FREE publication.

We can only do this

with the support of the community. Firstly our advertisers, who we would like to thank for their tremendous past support. Secondly, you the reader, and thirdly organisations which benefit from our high quality pictorial coverage, and want it to continue.

We intend that the Mag keeps its high quality, four pages of colour and initially we will print 1000 copies.

We are proposing a 25% increase in advertising rates, still the cheapest rates around covering two months, which will pay for most of the extra printing costs. A 1000 print run may not go too far, so we could keep some copies available, in the office, for our regular readers.

Our subscribers will receive the mag as usual, but the sub will reduce to \$12 per year, which will cover postage and packing. Our regular local readers could subscribe and get it at home.

We are also hoping to attract workers for the Mag. We need writers, interviewers, computer savvy people who know, or are willing to learn Pagemaker and someone to keep track of our advertisers. Working in this way often leads to paid work, as has happened many times, including last week for two of our workers.

So... anyone out there in Nimbin World interested? It's up to you. You can get in touch on 6689-1184 on Tuesday and Friday or email <nimbinnews@nrg.com.au>

Always hopeful,
Gloria Constine

Labor's Anvil

Well the government has approved the proposal to open a new coal mine at Anvil Hill in the Hunter region. Why do we need more carbon dioxide emissions when there are renewable energy options?

Has the Labor party completely lost the plot (more uranium mines as well) or did they really have it in the first place? Does the Labor party deserve our support come the federal election later this year?

The case of being between a rock and a hard place of what to do, really gives me the shits because I really want to vote the Howard government out, and to do that I either have to give my vote to Labor or I preference them after my main choice.

The rock and the hard place isn't getting any softer, thanks to the biggest real estate agent in NSW, Frank Sartor, the coal companies' best mate.

Paul Brecht
Mullumbimby

Notices

Bowlo AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Nimbin Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club Limited will be held at the Club on Sunday, 5th August 2007 at 10am.

"Any member being absent from the district on the day of the meeting or by sickness shall have the privilege of a postal vote by making application to the secretary. This vote must be returned before 10am on the day of the meeting."

Nominations for office close at 10am 22nd July 2007. All nominations for office, duly completed, must be in the hands of the Secretary by this time. No nominations

may be accepted after this time.

Any notice of motion to be dealt with at the AGM must be in the hands of the secretary by 10am 22nd July 2007

Writers Fair

Bangalow Writers Group are once again holding their book fair "Off the Shelf" on Sunday 22nd July, market day, at the Bangalow A&I Hall.

The fair is not only for self-published authors but also for designers, editors, manuscript assessors, illustrators and photographers, publicists, booksellers - anyone involved in the production and marketing of self-published books.

Entry is free and all are welcome to come along and see what is available. Those wishing to promote their work or exhibit may book a table for \$25, or arrange to share a table. For further details or to make a booking, contact Jean Ringland on 6687-8094 or email <jeanr@nsw.quik.com.au>

Bentley Art Prize

The Bentley Hall Committee will be holding their 23rd Annual Art Prize on 3rd, 4th and 5th August 2007, with prizemoney totalling \$6,000.

There are 12 sections to be judged, including painting (oil or watercolour), photography and scrapbooking. Special sections are available for schoolkids and oldies.

Entries close 25th July 2007, with entry fees ranging from \$2 to \$6 per section.

The prizegiving and official opening will take place on Saturday 4th August at 2pm.

For further information, phone Helen Trustum on 6663-5283 or email <helen-trustum@hotmail.com>

About us

Editor: Bob Dooley
Assistant: Sue Stock
Layout: Bob Dooley
Photographers: Sue Stock (principal), Cath Marshall, Rahima Jackson, Lisa Yeates, Andy Gough, Gail M. Clarke
Bookkeeper: Lisa Yeates
Website: David McMinn
We are online at www.nimbingoodtimes.com


Thanks to all contributors and sponsors.

NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.

Next deadline: Wednesday 25th July

Email: goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com or put stuff in the ComSchool's pigeonhole in the Nimbin Community Centre.

NIMBIN NEWSAGENCY & GENERAL STORE



- * Fresh fruit & vegetables
- * Newspapers & magazines
- * School craft supplies
- * Bill Express agent
- * EFTPOS



Huge range of body jewelery, locally-made jewelery, Goth collection, armour rings, fashion rings, necklaces, Nimbin art.

Open 10.30am - 4pm Monday - Saturday

Call Sharon, 6689-0376

For free and professional business advice contact:

NORTHERN RIVERS BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICE

1300 650 058
info@norbas.com.au




Local kooris mobilise response to Howard's land grab

by Louise Mehta

Elders meetings are being held in Nimbin Arts Studio at 11am from Friday 6th July and every Friday thereafter.

All peoples are welcome. It is primarily to talk about Aboriginal Rights in Australia.

The armies are in full swing in Aboriginal communities as all uranium mines are on Aboriginal Territory. Nimbin local Julie Appo says, "It's obvious that the Australian and American armies need land to dump uranium and want that land cleared."

This week news coverage on all TV channels and newspapers showed the government has declared a state of national emergency on Aboriginal communities due to child abuse.

Child molestation has happened since time immemorial in every race and culture. The government's response has been to send the army heavies in and their medical teams to conduct physical examinations on all children. There's now a total



PAINTING BY HELEN RODRIGUEZ

is -5 degrees. I am visualising families who have fled into the caves in fear of the army. They may easily die of cold on the way."

Local Nimbin Elder Aunty Viv says, "Why didn't the Government meet with the Elders of the communities before moving the Army in? It's about respect. I say we go as One Mob to Canberra. Get dressed up."

Now is the time to protect the land and talk with guardians around the globe, share knowledge. Life as a forum rather than a fight. The Aborigines have deep understanding of the essence of nature of Australian land and are considered a race that has been living from caves for thousands of years.

Humane support is needed NOW to face the armies of America and Australia to protect this planet from an ecological emergency! Every Act Counts.

Come cosy at 11am Friday in The Rainbow Building, Nimbin. The Forum is open to share some knowledge.

Much love and respect.

ban on pornography and alcohol.

Underlying army plans are terrifying the locals from their homes into the outback. Aboriginal communities will be feeling the shivers of the 1940's Stolen Generation, having had a state of emergency called upon their homes.

Julie says, "Most Aboriginals lived off the land and used animal fats in winter to keep their bodies warm. After a diet of shop food, alcohol & petrol sniffing they now have little tolerance to the cold. In parts of Australia the temperatures

Nimbin Safe Community Project

by Rose Hogan

In the past month I've had a great time getting around Nimbin, meeting some interesting folk and hearing from them about innovations for the community. There is an absolute aliveness of energy. People who are part of positive change with an eye for future possibilities.

The children and young people of Nimbin are very much this future vision. They are the community members, business people, parents, artists and activists of tomorrow. What are they

learning from us today?

The better the community adopts positive response the better for just about everyone. In particular the children and young people. The best leaders, lead by example. Kids notice that.

For any local women who would like an opportunity to come and laugh, play and explore issues of adversity, join me for a workshop on Friday 13th July, "Life and Laughter" - guaranteed fun and a free lunch.

For more info and to book, Neighbourhood Centre 6689-1692. Keep safe and keep smiling.



The Nimbin Safe Community Project is an Australian Government Initiative, funded through National Community Crime Prevention Programme and auspiced by the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre.

Poetica

There's only one Poetry Night to go, at Nimbin's Oasis Cafe, before the World Cup weekend.

It's on Thursday night 12th July, so get down to hone your skills, or just check out the early running for the Cup.

Now in its fifth year, there's \$5,000 in prizemoney to be won. See <www.nimbinpoetry.com> for more information.

Lismore Council Jottings

by Cr. Jenny Dowell

6625-2206 Jenny.

Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Budget

With a couple of late submissions, an evening of presentations by applicants of 12 submissions and some final tweaking and debate, the 2007-2008 Management Plan, Budget and Fees and Charges was adopted by Council.

It is never easy choosing 'to fund or not to fund' when there are so many wonderful projects worthy of support but our dollars simply don't stretch far enough to cover everything. If a particular project missed out this year, better luck next time or perhaps there may be another funding source to assist.

Nimbin

In addition to the projects outlined in last month's *GoodTimes*, Council also provided an additional \$25,000 for the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre to ensure that there is sufficient funding (\$50,000 total) to run an effective service for the hundreds of daily visitors to Nimbin.

June Meeting

Despite the emphasis on the budget at this time of year, there are many other decisions required by Council each month at our regular meetings. Among the more exciting items on the agenda was a proposal to develop a plan for a small affordable housing project in Lismore. I am overjoyed to see Council address the growing problem of affordable housing. While Lismore is a little better off than the coastal councils, only 4% of houses for sale in our city are within reach for those on low to moderate incomes. We will face increasing problems in attracting and retaining workers and with maintaining our wonderful social diversity unless we address this growing social need.

Council also approved



the Roads Program for the coming year and while there is extra money available for urgent safety issues, the only work to be undertaken in the Nimbin area is the sealing of about 1 km of Stony Chute Road.

GM Performance Review

Disappointingly, only half the Councillors were present for the General Manager's presentation that constitutes the first part of the annual Performance Review process. The presentation covered the highlights of the past year and an outline of how the objectives have been met. The presentation is also an informal opportunity for Councillors to ask questions and provide feedback. At the time of writing, the Review Committee is meeting with the General Manager to undertake the formal review. My personal view is that Paul O'Sullivan is doing a good job, is thinking outside the square to secure Council's financial position and is to be congratulated for his leadership. There are always things Council can do better and, for me, community consultation is the key area for improvement.

Community Events

In June, Council also had a variety of celebrations for some very special community members including the Italian migrants who have been part of Lismore's history for over 80 years. A wonderful morning tea was held in Chambers to honour Italian Republic Day and a celebration in the company of the Philippine's Vice-Consul acknowledged the strong Filipino community we have in our area.

The largest celebrations however, were held on World Refugee Day (June 20) for our most recent arrivals, the African refugees. The 80 new residents have been supported by the local group Sanctuary as they settle into our community after years in refugee camps. In a moving ceremony, the Mayor signed the declaration of Lismore as a Refugee Welcome Zone but a more exuberant expression came in a Refugees vs Council soccer game at Crozier Field.

The Refugee Allstars were joined by a Council employee who had been a refugee from Vietnam. To the delight of the very vocal crowd, the Allstars won 2-0.

The wonderful week was capped off by the Lantern Parade - a fitting finale to a great showcase of Lismore's community spirit. Like many, I went home to a warm bed but hopeful that the campaign being launched by the Northern Star will see the realising of a vision for a shelter for our city's homeless people. I know that many readers in Nimbin will share that vision too.

The views expressed in this monthly column are mine and are not intended to be a reflection of the Council as a whole or of other individual Councillors.

Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup
Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th
AUGUST 2007
www.nimbinpoetry.com

Nimbin Tax and Accounting
ABN 60 797 128 595
Tax Returns from \$55
Electronic Lodgement Service
BAS Statements
Small Business Accounting Software
Saturday mornings, other times by appointment
66c Cullen St (Rear Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate)
PO Box 645 Nimbin 2480
Tel/Fax 6689 0470 Mobile 0427 855077
Email gjh@lis.net.au

Annie's Tea Garden & Nursery
Blackboard menu featuring Annie's home cooking, oven-baked on a wood stove, including fish schnitzel, pasta and quiche dishes. BYO
4460 Kyogle Road, Wadeville
Cafe hours: 8:30 - 5pm Tues - Sun
Stroll through 5 acres of beautiful gardens.
Quality sun-hardened Native and Exotic plants for sale.
Phone 6689-7369

RVBYESQUE
ALAN MORRIS PROPRIETOR
SMOKING PARAPHERNALIA & FINE USED BOOKS
21 CARRINGTON STREET LISMORE 2480
PO BOX 1184 LISMORE (02) 6622 4676

Nimbin Post
Open 7am - 5pm Monday - Friday
Full counter postal services
Home of the Next G range of pre-paid phones
Locally owned and operated
New stock arriving!
POSTshop

CANNABIS CARBON CREDITS

by **Heathen J. Lovechild**

Carbon credits are a tradable permit scheme. They provide a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by giving them a monetary value. International treaties set quotas on the amount of greenhouse gases countries can produce. Countries, in turn, set quotas on Industrial emissions. Industries that exceed their quotas must buy carbon credits for their excess emissions and industries below their quotas can sell their remaining credits.

By allowing credits to be bought and sold, a business for which reducing its emissions would be expensive or prohibitive can pay another business to make the reduction for it. This minimizes the quota's impact on the business, while still reaching the quota. In addition to the burning of fossil fuels, major industry sources of greenhouse gas emissions are cement, steel, textile, and fertilizer manufacturers.

The main gases emitted by these industries are methane, nitrous oxide, hydro-fluorocarbons, etc, which increase the atmosphere's ability to trap infrared energy. Our addiction to fossil fuels, coal and oil, has changed the quality of our air, water and earth. Our health is affected by toxic-related cancer. The cost of production, transport and storage of our food requires energy. Energy in solid, liquid and electrical form is ever increasing amounts. Coal fired power stations are trying to clean up their efficiency. Nuclear power has negative issues. Wind, solar, hydro, tidal, geothermal and plant material (biomass) have all become more viable as the price of crude oil rises and supplies diminish.

HEMP is ENERGY (E=hempseed squared)

Biomass from food crops and their byproducts is used to make Biofuel. Bast fibre crops include such species as Flax, Kenaf, Sun Hemp and Industrial Hemp. The "hurd" is the inner woody core of the bast fibre plant's stem. In general bast fibre crops produce the greatest amount of usable biomass, over the shortest period, for the least amount of water. Bast crops are a highly efficient mop crop and can use most types of waste or even brackish water. Between 1.7 and 1.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide is absorbed from the atmosphere for each tonne of bast crop cellulose produced. We typically grow 10-14 tonnes of crop straw per hectare. Another 2-3 tonnes of cellulose mass is produced and stored in the root system. So each hectare of hemp could immediately sequester some 22 tonnes of greenhouse gases. Bast crops are able to sequester more carbon than trees in a short 150 day season cycle and yet



Two weeks grown cannabis 80% vegetative and before budding stage. Photo:USDA

leave arable land available for food and other crop production in the remainder of the year.
Pyrolytic Conversion
 Organic plants are converted into pyrolytic fuel using a thermochemical process. Using the same technology as fossil fuels, the conversion of plants into renewable energy is the most efficient method of producing charcoal, pyrolytic oil, gas or methanol. Pyrolysis occurs whenever solid organic material is heated strongly in absence of oxygen, e.g. when frying, roasting, baking, toasting. The process also occurs when burning compact solid fuel, like wood. An ancient industrial use of anhydrous pyrolysis is the production of charcoal through the pyrolysis of wood. More recently, pyrolysis has been used on a massive scale to turn coal into coke for metallurgy, especially steelmaking. Anhydrous pyrolysis can also be used to produce liquid fuel similar to diesel from solid biomass or plastics. Pyrolysis of wood for charcoal was a major industry replaced by coal during the 1800's Industrial Revolution.



HEMP versus CORRUPTION

In the 1930's, US papermaker William Randolph Hearst, with the then Secretary of Treasury, Andrew Mellon, financier for DuPont Company, that patented the chemical used to process wood pulp into paper, and the Rockefellers plus other "Oil Barons", who were developing vast empires from petroleum, ALL had vested interest in seeing the renewable resources industry derailed, the hemp industry eliminated, and biomass fuels derided.

HEMP versus PROPAGANDA

A campaign was begun to discredit hemp. Playing on the racism that exists in America, Hearst used his newspapers to apply the name "marijuana" to hemp. Marijuana is the Mexican word for the hemp plant. THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the psycho-active constituent of Cannabis. Associating anti-social and criminal behavior of non-white immigrant labourers with marijuana smoking portrayed them both as evil. This application along with various "objective" articles created fear. By 1937, these industrialists were able to parlay the fear they created into the Marijuana Tax Act. This law started the demise of the Hemp Industry in the US and the negative effect on the biofuel and many other industries.



HEMP versus FOSSIL FUEL

Biodiesel is composed of methyl and ethyl esters. Any source of complex fatty acid can be used to create Biodiesel and glycerin. Peanut oil, hemp oil, corn oil, and tallow were used as sources for the complex fatty acids used in the separation process. The process for making fuel from biomass feedstock used in the 1800's is basically the same one used today. Currently, soybeans, rapeseed, canola, corn, recycled fryer oil, tallow, forest wastes, and sugar cane are common resources for the complex fatty acids and their by-product, Biofuels.

HEMP versus CORN

Corn is a staple grain and is also used to make biofuel. Hemp produces far more biomass suitable for conversion to methane than almost any other plant. This renewable biomass fuel contains no sulphur and whilst growing helps remove CO2 from the atmosphere via photosynthesis. Cannabis creates carbon credits.

HEMP versus COTTON

Fibre from hemp stalks is superior to cotton and hemp produces higher yields. Hemp cloth is softer and warmer than cotton and has 3 times the tensile strength. It is many times more durable and does not harbour bacteria, which makes it a very good plant for the health industry. Hemp does not require the amount of pesticides and chemicals needed for cotton cultivation.

HEMP versus SOYBEANS

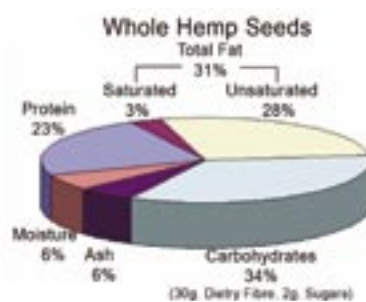
Soybeans are high in protein in a form that needs to be balanced for human consumption. The complete protein and the essential oils contained in hempseeds are in ideal ratios for human nutrition. Protein content in hempseed is in the form of globulin edestin (65%). The readily available protein in hempseed contains all the essential amino acids that create immunoglobulin or protein antibodies for your immune system. Hempseeds are the highest plant source of EFA (Essential Fatty Acids. Omega-3: alpha-Linolenic acid. Omega-6: gamma-Linolenic and Linoleic acids.) Hempseed has no THC.

HEMP versus FISH OIL

Fish oil also contains Omega3. The exceptionally high edestin content of hempseed combined with albumin, another globular protein contained in all seeds, means the readily available protein in hemp seed contains all the essential amino acids in ideal proportions to assure your body has the means to create proteins like disease fighting immunoglobulin. These antibodies ward off infections before the symptoms of sickness set in.

HEMP versus DISEASE

People with nutrition-blocking ailments like tuberculosis receive maximum nourishment from Cannabis seed protein. These essential oils support the immune system and guard against viral and other insults to the immune system. These essential oils, linoleic and linolenic acids, are responsible for the lustre in your skin, hair, eyes, and even your thought processes. They lubricate (clear) the arteries and are vital to the immune system. These essential fatty acids are used to successfully treat "terminal" cancer patients, as well as those suffering from cardio-vascular disease, glandular atrophy, gall stones, kidney degeneration, acne, dry skin, menstrual problems and immune deficiency.



HEMP versus LINSEED/FLAX

Flax oil is pressed from the seeds better known as linseed oil, the base for oil paints. Unless you get flax oil right from the processor and freeze it until you start using it, it will already have deteriorated by the time you buy it. Hemp oil contains more EFA than flax and actually tastes good. It is nutty and free from the objectionable undertones of flax oil. Hemp fibre is superior to flax.

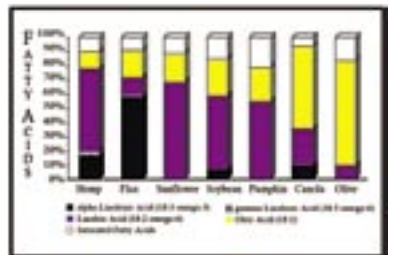


HEMP versus WOODCHIPS

Paper made from hemp is stronger and less likely to tear. It has more wet resistance than wood pulp and is 7 times as recyclable. It is also grown from an annual plant thus saving forest resources. It can produce a wider range of papers, whilst only using a fraction of the dangerous chemicals. No dioxins are produced and less energy/water used. Cannabis can be mixed with other fibre pulp for strength. Hemp produces many times the cellular fibre of trees and is perfect for hemp bricks, concrete framework and particle board. Hemp is very long lasting and highly flexible. The Bible and US currency will both be printed on hemp again as they were before.

HEMP versus PETROCHEMICALS

The petrochemical, drug, and wood pulp paper industries all compete with Hemp products. Hemp plastic is bio-degradable. Until the 19th century about 80% of all rope and twine was made of hemp until replaced by synthetic Petro-chemicals.



HEMP versus ATTITUDE

As in the 1930's, we are faced with tremendous political and economic pressure creating similar challenges. The enormous influence of the petroleum industries and other industries that might be threatened and/or impacted by a resurgence of the renewable, biomass, and associated industries is being felt on all levels.

HEMP versus MONEY

When Hemp or Cannabis is a listed commodity on the Stock Market alongside Gold, Crude Oil, Coal, Soybean, Corn and Cotton then the benefits to our health, wealth, air, water, earth and fertility will create a better future for us all. Creating carbon credit from cannabis? Hemp has hope. <www.hempembassy.net>



Nimbin HEMP Embassy

NIMBIN CANNABIS LAW REFORM RALLY and **MardiGrass**, the annual gathering on the first weekend of MAY.

FOOD FUEL FIBRE

JUST SAY KNOW CANNABIS EDUCATION, INFORMATION & PRODUCTS

66891842 www.hempembassy.net

BRINGABONG

NIMBIN - AUSTRALIA

• world famous coffee and cakes

• fasta pasta

• cool drinks

NIMBIN CAFE

80 Cullen Street • open 7 days • 6689 0199

Calling all Women Weavers

The 3rd Women's Weave and Mend Festival in Nimbin will be held on the 28th, 29th, and 30th September in the Central School grounds.

The festival is free, and people attending are encouraged to participate hands-on in workshops, share their knowledge and skills, and camp communally for the weekend.

It is usually a rich and interesting weekend for all ages. Bring your scrap bag and rug needles. We aim to have the chai tent from the Friday night and meals catered from a local café.

There's music and performance usually on the Saturday night, so bring an instrument for around the campfire and to jam.

See you there!

Silverbird



Weaving together. These photos are from the first festival in 2005. The rug pictured has been worked on as a creation by many hands; Moksha amongst her creations.

Nimbin Show is closer than you think

When things get cold, wet and wintry, think Spring and realise that the Nimbin Country Show is just around the corner, the 22nd and 23rd September.

Natalie Maxwell, secretary of the Nimbin A&I Society, said, "After last year's success, we are looking forward to another great spring show this year."

"We would like to put out an early reminder to those planning on entering a Pavilion exhibit which needs a bit of forward preparation, that the Show is closer than you think."

The Pavilion is where the district's arts, crafts and food exhibits go on display. If you are a dab hand at growing vegetables or flowers, cooking or preserving, drawing, painting or photography, quilting, furniture or carving, don't be too shy to enter your efforts for others to appreciate.

Another reason to think ahead this year is the welcome addition of a home brewing section for beer and wine makers in this year's Pavilion events. As Terry Beltrame observed in last month's NGT, "a couple of months in the bottle makes all the difference to a decent home brew."

Terry leads the triumverate of triple tasting



talent to judge a wide range of beer and wine categories. After the judges complete their task there will be an Appreciation and Appraisal Seminar. The truly unfortunate thing is that "regulation" of alcoholic beverages requires that only exhibitors can take part in this seminar.

The A&I showground maintenance and the annual show, is all undertaken by volunteers. Natalie Maxwell said, "We are always stretched for willing hands, especially at this time of the year prior to the show. If you feel you could lend a hand, for instance to help set up the Pavilion displays, please call me on 6689-9313 evenings."

The Show programme of events is due out in the next couple of weeks, and will be available at the Post Office, newsagency and hardware shop in Nimbin.

Nightcap Dreaming

(From the diaries of a madwoman)

by Sophia Hoeben

Mt. Nardi, Winter of 82

The constant rhythmic beat of campfire drums wove into her dreams as she slept...

Soaring high above the camp, she beheld the fires of the would-be champions, defenders of forests and Mother Earth, blazing brightly beneath. Their jubilant laughter occupied all the space between them and her as she flew, higher and higher, until finally entering the stratosphere where the air was thin. Yet, there was no need for breath. She knew the fires below, now nothing more than mere pin-pricks of light on the landscape, heralded the dawning of a New Age, a time of wonder and great fear, an era when all would come to light, even through the darkest of forces of evil ever to rule Earth.

The fresh morning air, alive with the chorus of thousands of birds,

woke Fia with the first rays of the sun. Disoriented by the vivid dream and at first clueless as to where she was, she sat up in bed and listened to the snap of a whipbird echo through the forest.

Filled with the wonder of waking up in a rainforest, and even the smallest prospect of stopping the logging, she arose quickly and splashed her face with cold water before getting dressed for action. Jeans- a long sleeve cotton-shirt- sturdy boots, a hat and sunglasses. No money in case she was arrested. Instead, a bottle of clean water, some fruit and a packet of wholemeal biscuits in a pack on her back. In past skirmishes with the law, she'd learnt that things of a practical nature often mattered most of all.

It was barely six in the morning, when she stepped out of the Kombi and walked down to the camp. More tents had sprung up overnight around the kitchen and close to the road, where the action

was to take place.

Local environmentalist, Ian Cohen had also joined their growing hamlet of campervans and trucks on the hill overlooking the main camp, called 'Stumps'. Parking his truck close to Fia, his 12v juicer would drive her from her sleep at precisely 5am each morning in the months that followed. His idea of action was going it alone and entering the forest as the logging commenced in the hope of forcing their hand. This was rarely successful as the loggers largely ignored the law which stated it was illegal to continue operations if there was someone in the forest.

There were two other camps higher up on the mountain, one named 'Leaf' and another in a secret location, as a last line of defence. 'Stumps' consisted of fourteen tents including two very large ones used as a kitchen and a sitting area around an open fire at the centre. The toilets were simple cesspits, almost inaccessible through the thick mud after weeks of torrential rain. The surrounding Hessian bags did little to obscure the view of someone squatting over a hole. There was no room for the shy or the unadventurous in these camps, a visit to one of those treacherous dunnies had a way of taking care of any airs people may have had.

The protesters wore different coloured headbands to indicate their chosen role. Rick, Mark and Fia joined the green-banded warriors, the front line defenders. Mark also volunteered to man the communications tent and the CB radio. Other people, including Katie, wore blue headbands and ran



the camps' army style kitchen. The first-aid team wearing red headbands handled any physical or mental injuries. The camp was extremely well organised and continually buzzed with excitement and the type of high energy which activism brought out in people.

As long as the rain pelted down, the logging could not continue, leaving precious time for socialisation and tactical planning. The camp, often shrouded in a cold saturating mist during those early spring rains of 1982, became the venue for the never-ending party around the fire. Passing joints and playing music in the steamy forest in the late mornings produced a dreamlike state in Fia, although she was well aware it was not a dream. The camp, its occupants and the forest around them, were more real than anything she had experienced so far in her thirty-four years. She felt fully alive for the first time in her life!

Nimbin, Winter of 2007

Around the table at the back of the Oasis, the Nightcap Festival Committee plans the 25th anniversary of the great forest victory. The energy is high, and as I look around at my old friends from the Nightcap days, I can see we have all grown a little older, yet, I can see the magic energy of the mountain still shining in all our eyes. Everything flows smoothly as enthusiasm grows for the day we can once again celebrate our love for the forest.

The next get-together for planning the Festival will be on Friday 27th July at the rear of the Oasis. If you have anything to offer or wish to be involved in any way, please feel free to attend. Inquiries may be directed to myself on 0428685698 and I am available on any Wednesday at the Nimbin Environment Centre from 10am - 3pm. Phone 6689-1441.



A TASTE OF ART

blue knob hall
gallery - cafe - restaurant

Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am - 4pm
Fine Dining Friday and Saturday from 6pm
719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock

BOOKINGS 02 6689 7449

Bliss out

Happy High Herbs

58a Cullen Street Nimbin
Open 7 days
phone/fax 6689 1365
www.happyhighherbs.com
Also in Newtown, Fitzroy and Surfers Paradise

MR BOBCAT

6689 0044
0427 946 823

• 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • 4 tonne tipper

PHONE GERARD FOR A QUOTE