

**Congratulations**

With a heart-felt meaning fullness, I would like to thank and congratulate all persons who volunteered their time and effort to ensure that Mardi Grass 2007 was a huge success.

Organising such a large event is an enormous job, and is twelve months in the making; preparations for 2008 are already underway.

I found it difficult to individualise persons for accolades when it was what I considered a team effort, and I'm sure very satisfying to each of you personally, for without your contribution there would not have been a Mardi Grass.

See you all again next year, thanks,

The Plantem

**To Jungle Patrol, a big Thank You**

I would like to publicly thank the wonderful 'Jungle Patrollers' at this year's MardiGrass festival. Particularly the organisers, Heidi and Di and the radioman Paul!

Like other volunteers, I worked beyond the hours needed to pay for my ticket because I was having so much fun. The organisers worked their "butts" off, and it was nice to be part of a friendly team with community safety as their reward.

I was part of a community that knew how to have fun, were keen to co-operate with Police, Hospital, Fire, Country Energy to name a few, and take responsibility for itself. It's this spirit that enables us to sustain a happy festival when larger centres can't support theirs. i.e. Lismore and Casino.

Congratulations to the Jungle Patrol.

Jodie Archbold

**Anti-Prohibition**

As a cannabis non-carrier/ buyer/seller, who casts no aspersions on those who do this to simply get by or by choice (freedom of choice?), I was very dismayed to have my car searched over Mardigrass under the pretence of being "breath-tested".

It is generally the best policy to be very polite to policemen and I had been courteously "flashed" by a concerned member of the public just before Blakebrook School. Fore-warned is fore-armed.

Having my wits about me, I was able to handle the situation with good humour, assert myself and my anti-prohibition beliefs without getting up their noses. Luckily my children aren't scared of dogs.

Essentially, they used my two small children, who were tired and hot and wanted to get home after a busy morning playing football, as an excuse to search my car. The police officer involved asked me if my kids would like to see their dog. I replied "It's not a big scary one, is it?" - he called the other officer across the road with the floppy (addicted?) labrador pup, saying "Bring the dog over just for the kids' benefit." I commented that I think it's hilarious that the police have cute fluffy things for sniffer dogs and that he should be supplied with a full-brimmed hat or he'd get a really Red Neck.

"They" proceeded to open the car doors, the said dog jumped in, sniffed around and got a pat from both my children, front and back of the car. I wasn't breath-tested as I was informed I would be at the beginning. Unfortunate really, 'cos I've always wanted to see the insides of a Winnebago.

The police were just doing their job, and it was quick-thinking for a plod, but surely the police force have better things to do with their time and our resources than hassling law-abiding citizens and their children.

For example, protecting us from the real crime that is generated by greed and corruption. Crimes that cause women, children and other peace-able folk to be unsafe and at risk in our own homes and on the streets, night and day. Free the marijuana. Free the people. Free the sniffer dogs.

Ness Lamia

**Contradictions**

I looked up the word "oxymoron" to be sure I had it right. It seems that an oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines two normally contradictory terms. I thought it might be a moron that breathes oxygen! This brings me to the point.

On the TV news on Monday I watched thousands of people having a good time with marijuana, laughing, dancing



It's that time of year again. So, is firewood an issue at your place?

Superior Pallets, at the Nimbin Mill Farm, have lots of pine offcuts for free. Phone: 6689-1556

and a lot of smiles, marijuana is illegal. Later I saw drunks in Sydney falling down, fighting, giving the police a hard time! Alcohol is legal.

I believe the lawmakers and politicians that make alcohol legal and marijuana illegal to be the morons that breath oxygen! We need better representation!!

Michael Wright Mt. Nardi

**MardiGrass**

Just want to congratulate the organisers for the 15th MardiGrass for a great festival, celebration, sustained acts of civil disobedience (in the USA it is one's right and duty to apply civil disobedience when laws are unjust) and non violent protest.

I spoke with many people from all over the world, as well as many visitors from all over Australia who had really enjoyed themselves. Also thanks to Commander Lyons for having the wisdom not to repeat last year's police heavy handed debacle (and saving tax payers \$4 million dollars in money not spent to bring the blue meanies for a repeat performance). Also thanks to Thomas George for not making his infamous warning linking Cronulla riots in the same breath as Nimbin grass smokers.

There were a number of issues that the MardiGrass brought home in their literature, their forums (*Just say Know*) and between the lines from their talented comperes. When has prohibition ever worked? Does it make sense to harass and jail someone who's caught for smoking pot? What is the social cost (the millions spent on policing, judicial and penal system, as well as the impact of the incarcerated person, who is abused physically, mentally and has learned a large bag of antisocial tricks in jail).

After throwing billions of dollars at the war on drugs, availability of drugs and drug

takers have not lessened. The war on drugs has been an on going failure, yet our blinkered politicians cling to the status quo (the Greens are the only political party that has Harm Minimisation as its policy on drugs). Many enlightened political leaders in other countries have stopped hounding marijuana users and use a Harm Minimization Drug Policy, viewing drugs as a health issue, not a criminal issue. This approach is far less costly to individual and community.

Regarding cost, one of the seminars was in part on the new saliva testing procedure that NSW police has introduced. It is interesting that after two years of use in Victoria, the Victorian government and police have stopped the testing. One major reason for this cancellation was the poor test results. People who hadn't smoked were tested positive. One of the presenter said that they had conducted tests and many results were faulty in either not detecting or detecting when the person hadn't smoked. The other problem of these saliva tests is the cost involved in the testing procedures.

I would like my member Mr. George or Commander Lyons to please tell us why if Victoria has cancelled the testing why has NSW police embarked on a faulty system. And what is the cost of the Winnebago testing units and the cost of testing individual drivers costing tax payers? I know there are a million things I would rather see my tax dollars spent on.

Prior to the USA creating the prohibition on grass in 1937, marijuana was considered a very beneficial substance that was used for food, medicine, fibre, rope, building materials, a recreational drug etc for thousands of years. Reefer madness transformed this very valuable crop into a deadly drug overnight. When are our politicians going to realise that

the US fucked up again and restore marijuana's beneficial status with its 5000 + year history?

Lastly I thought it ironic that there was a lot of anti social behavior and disturbance of the peace with drunks (we could smell them and watch their drunken stupor) on Saturday night. The cops were called but they were nowhere to be found. Where are cops when you really need them?

Tlloc Tokuda, Upper Coopers Crk

**Nuclear referendum**

Ian McFarlane, the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy, says there is a lot of misinformation about nuclear power but doesn't elucidate what it is.

He also refuses to discuss nuclear waste, which is a pollutant more dangerous than any we have yet created.

Nor does he discuss the economics of the entire nuclear fuel cycle, which includes decommissioning nuclear power plants and managing the waste products for 100,000 years.

It will require huge and ongoing government subsidies to establish and manage this process. That's our money the Liberal/ National coalition intend to spend on a centralist/ corporate adventure.

This should be a referendum issue. Let's make it one.

Eric Kaiser Horseshoe Creek Kyogle

**Enrol to vote**

There's no doubt about it, Howard and his henchmen have to go at the forthcoming Federal Election. As in the US, its time for the gentler and fairer party to take the helms. And, as in the US, the need to enrol younger voters is a crucial part of this movement. (A third of the Democrats' success in

the mid-term elections has been attributed to people - particularly African-Americans and Latinos - registering and voting for the first time).

No doubt aware of this factor, Howard has changed the rules governing voter registration in this country. As soon as he calls the election, which is any time from now, the books are closed. How unfair is this, given that this is when many people will even start thinking of the election?

So if you aren't on the electoral role it is crucial that you get on to it now.

Enrolment is compulsory at 18 years of age. and so is being part of this world where democracy and peace have to be sometimes fought for. Now is such a time.

Enrolment forms are available at all Australian Electoral Commission(AEC) and Australian Post Offices, by telephoning the AEC on 13 23 26 or can be downloaded from the AEC website <www.aec.gov.au>

Peter Godden, Secretary, Nimbin Branch, NSW Country Labor

**Notices**



**Forest Festival**

Next meeting of the planning group for the Forest Festival in September: Friday 15th June, 4pm at rear of Nimbin Oasis Café.

**Memorabilia wanted**

Would anyone with photos or artefacts relating to the history of the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, please drop them in to NNIC for use in a forthcoming display.

**About us**

Editor: Bob Dooley Assistant: Sue Stock Layout: Bob Dooley Photographers: Sue Stock (principal), Cath Marshall, Pam Pussycat, Jodie Allen, Thorsten Jones, Karen Welsh, Garry Mimlich, Lisa Yeates 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 27th June

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

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## Free Envirosaver service

Fieldforce's Envirosaver Program has been receiving an amazing response from the Lismore public and businesses alike since its arrival at local shopping centres. And why not? It's free, it's environmentally friendly and it saves everybody money.

Now that you can phone for an auditor to come to you, the program is even busier.

The regional Manager for Fieldforce, Tyler Birch explained, "In the past there have been stall give aways, but this is so much better because we send an auditor to do the work for you. Whether you have one bulb or one hundred, we will come and change them for you free of charge."

Fieldforce has received thousands of calls every week from an eager public. Business has been so busy that a new call centre

number has been established to take appointments at 1300-780-858.

"Since we started offering this free service to the people of the Lismore area, the take-up has been incredible," Tyler said. "I assumed that the service would be welcomed, but this has been overwhelming."

The Envirosaver program is the initiative of the NSW and ACT State governments, and targets the reduction of carbon burning through the retro-fitting of compact fluorescent lights and water-efficient showerheads. Anybody who lives in NSW is entitled to have this service undertaken by Fieldforce's accredited auditing team.

Tyler said, "We tend to use Australian-owned products in our program and, as we are the only full retro fit company out there, we have a



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large range of stock which the public and businesses really appreciate. With Fieldforce you get a great choice."

If you want to book in for an appointment, Fieldforce's free phone line has plenty of helpful operatives who will arrange a convenient time to conduct the audit and retro-fit.

The Fieldforce Envirosaver team will be back at Lismore Square from 4th June for two weeks, but you don't have to wait until then, just call 1300-780-858.

### Family Drug Support – Byron Bay

Open Support Groups for those supporting a drug dependent loved one are held every 2nd and 4th Monday each month, from 7-9pm at the Guide Hall, Carlyle Street, Byron Bay.

The group offers:  
• caring and confidential support  
• non-judgmental and non-religious

environment  
• a safe place to talk and share with others going through similar journeys  
• an opportunity to gain strength and skills  
There are no rights or wrongs – shame and stigma have no place here. You don't have to do it alone or remain helpless. Cope better and survive intact.

For more information contact Cath Marshall on 6629-3133

## INTRA's "Growing Edge" comes to Nimbin

INTRA is a community outreach service based at The Buttery and operating throughout the Northern Rivers. It provides a range of groups throughout the region and is also involved in community work. Recently INTRA provided a chill out space at the Mardi Grass and organised the Saliva Drug testing workshop at the Town Hall.

INTRA is introducing a new group in Nimbin. The "Growing Edge" group runs every Wednesday from 11am to 12.30 at Birth & Beyond. The group is primarily about personal growth and

improving coping skills. The group process can help people to identify their particular 'growing edge' and how they are in the world, what works for them, and what doesn't.

It will offer an opportunity to explore issues around group dynamics as they emerge in the here and now. Naturally participants can share their stories, learn from others experiences or explore a particular life problem in a supportive group environment.

Although INTRA is mainly known as a drug intervention program, "Growing Edge" group members are supported

in achieving the goals they set for themselves. As Paul Phillips, INTRA counsellor and main group facilitator, puts it: "Some people may have 'use' related goals or for some drugs may not be a problem, but life often is. We will work with you and support you in what you want to get out of the group".

The N.E.A.R. acupuncture program has been operating for over six years. The treatment involves having pins therapeutically placed in key points of the ear then sitting quietly in a semi meditative state. The N.E.A.R. treatment brings one more wholly into the body and into a more balanced state of mind. Perfect for attending the INTRA Growing Edge group straight afterwards.

N.E.A.R. acupuncture clinic happens every Wednesday from 10am - 11am in the nurturing space of Birth & Beyond. There is no cost involved for either group.

INTRA  
The Buttery Outreach Program  
Funded by the National Illicit Drug

## GROWING EDGE

**Wednesdays at Birth & Beyond**

**N.E.A.R. ear acupuncture: 10.00 — 11.00**

**INTRA support group: 11.00 — 12.30**

Come to one ... or both

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## Lismore Council Jottings

by Cr. Jenny Dowell  
6625-2206 Jenny.  
Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

### Budget, Budget, Budget

May and June are the months in which Council considers the draft Management Plan and Budget for the coming financial year and while there was a regular May Council meeting, the budget remains the main focus for Council attention.

For 2007-2008, Council received 206 submissions from staff, Councillors, committees and residents for projects valued at \$46.7 million dollars. The first step in the process for considering these submissions is that staff presents them to Councillors in two lists- those 121 (\$37.9 million) supported by LCC management and those 85 not supported. Then over a long evening of discussion in mid May, Councillors refined the lists and opted to fund an additional 9 projects. These included \$20,000 to progress options for a homeless shelter, \$18,000 waive of DA contributions for the Animal Rights and Rescue Group, \$3000 for WIRES, \$6000 for a koala population study, \$27,500 for the Richmond River Historical Society, \$5,300 waive of rent for the Rochdale Theatre, \$100,000 for urban footpaths, \$5,000 for The Channon hall and \$10,000 for maintenance of Nimbin Peace Park.

### Nimbin

Other Nimbin projects to be supported are \$60,000 for lighting in Western Car Park, \$30,000 for pedestrian crossing lights, \$15,000 for safety camera monitoring and \$44,000 for the completion of the caretaker's residence at the caravan park. \$25,000 has also been allocated for the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre but the location for the VIC may change and is yet to be determined.

Nimbin projects that were not supported included the



sealing of Lillian Rock Road (not as high a priority as other roads), a hoop sign for Nimbin Community radio (advertising not permitted on road reserve) and renovations to the School of Arts (referred for section 356 grants)

### Big Ticket Items

The main expenditure is \$17.7 million on roads, \$1million on the Local Action Plan to address climate change, \$100,000 for rainwater tank rebates, \$17 million for the Goonellabah Recreation Centre and \$4 million for the reconstruction of Blakebrook Bridge, Bishops Creek Bridge and Smiths Bridge on Nimbin Road and Tuncester Bridge on Kyogle Road if matching funds are sourced.

The draft document, on public exhibition until 9am June 18, outlines a deficit budget of \$145,000 but we have since heard that the rate pegging limit that Council had expected to be 3.5% is set at 3.4% thereby creating an additional shortfall of approximately \$200,000. Council will therefore need to determine its level of comfort with a larger deficit while considering any late submissions and hoping that Federal Assistance Grants are larger than planned. Whatever the figures, there is likely to be some tweaking before the final budget is approved in late June.

On Tuesday June 19 there will be a special meeting for those who have submitted budget requests to address their items and on Thursday June 21 Council will meet to

formally adopt the Budget and Management Plan for the coming year.

In the meantime, the draft Management Plan is available for inspection on Council's website and at various locations including the Nimbin Community Centre and the Goolmangar Store.

### Answers to Questions raised at Forum

The following issues were raised at the March Nimbin Contact Forum. General Manager Paul O'Sullivan advises they have been addressed as follows -

• Can a footpath extending from existing to High St be included in future footpath program? Yes, will be considered in rural footpath construction program. \$17,000 per year.

• Is tree planting along the boundary of the Western Carpark still proposed? No tree planting is proposed along Western Carpark as this will interfere with power to proposed lighting.

• Can the layout of the toilet at the pool be improved? Currently no separate male/female change area. It appears there is no simple adaptation of the existing building that could be undertaken. It would require a new building to be constructed, or added to the existing at substantial cost. In the past patrons of the pool have used the caravan park toilets but this was stopped due to vandalism etc. The current managers would not favour going back to this arrangement. • Can we provide an additional BarBQ in Peace Park? Not supported in budget proposals.

• Can additional seating be provided in town? Not supported in budget proposals. Extra seating included in blister design.

• Is a pedestrian footbridge included in the proposed upgrade of Cullen St Bridge? Pedestrian footpath is proposed to be included in Cullen Bridge upgrade.

*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.*

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# Fantastic Fibre at Blue Knob

by Heather Kimber

This annual show, now in its third year, has become very popular and this year it's going to be huge! We will be showcasing work by the region's finest fibre artists and designers, as well as fibre basket makers, sculptors, and more and well known fibre artist, Polly Stirling will be opening the show.

'Fibre Fantastic' will open on Thursday 14th June at 6.30pm. The Café will be offering a dinner of scrumptious vegetarian cuisine of vegetable and mixed bean goulash and brown rice, with Greek cheese rolls and garden fresh salad for \$12 per person. Please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 if you are intending to stay for dinner.

## Demonstrations and Workshops

During the exhibition, there will be several felting demonstrations by well known felt artists Polly Stirling, Barbara Mills and Robin Moore (dates to be announced). Also available will be a number of workshops. These will include:

• **Chris Hanson – Fibre basket weaving** - Cost: \$5 (includes all materials). Date: 20th June. Time: 11am-4pm. Chris will take participants through coiled basket weaving and different stitching techniques. Limit of 5 participants.

• **Satchiko Kotaka – Origami** - Cost: \$30 (includes basic materials). Dates: 27th June and 18th July. Time: 9.30am-12.30pm. Satchiko will be teaching the ancient Japanese art of Origami or paper



folding and participants will be creating special cards and gift ideas. Limit of 8 participants per workshop.

As numbers are limited, please contact the Gallery on 6689 7449 to book and pre-pay your place.

• **Polly Stirling – One Day Workshop – Rust Dyeing and Printing** – Cost: \$75. Explore techniques for printing from rusty objects onto fabrics. The resulting surface designs are wide-ranging from controlled to random – for instance mandalas or border prints. Date: 6th July, 10-4pm Venue: Wild Turkey Feltmakers Studio, Robb Road Community, Blue Knob. Phone 6689-7409 or email <pollyfelt@earthlink.net> for bookings and materials list.

• **Polly Stirling – Two Day Workshop – Reverse Nuno** – Cost: \$150. A felt making technique designed to achieve a drapeable felted fabric with stretch that is a real comfort cloth to wear. Date: 7th-8th July, 10-4pm Venue: Wild

Turkey Feltmakers Studio, Robb Road Community, Blue Knob. Phone 6689-7409 or email <pollyfelt@earthlink.net> for bookings and materials list.

## The Best of the Short Films - Flickerfest

Blue Knob Hall Gallery would like to invite you to **Cinema at the Gallery**, Flickerfest Short Film Winners, on Sunday 3rd June, 7.00 for 7.30pm, \$12 per person (includes films, coffee and cake).

There will be 9 short films from this year's Best of Flickerfest (a total of 87 minutes) and includes: 'Charmed Robbery', 'Richard', 'Recall' 'The Deal', 'Booth Story', 'Cleverman', 'Alls Swell that Ends Well', 'Film Lovers', and 'Extreme Makeover'. Bronwyn Kidd, the Director of Flickerfest will be present to introduce the films.

This is a fund-raising event for our building fund, so please come along and support your community gallery.



# Lost and Found in Kyogle

by Ruth Tsimbinis

A group of local eclectic artists have developed a contemporary response that will challenge viewer's notions of what it means to be Lost and Found. This recent exhibition at Roxy Gallery Kyogle incorporated a combination of installations, live performances, video and two-dimensional mixed media work.

Some of the artists included in Lost and Found are:

**Zeb Schultz**, a multidisciplinary artist who often works with marginalised groups on large scale Community Cultural Development projects. Zeb's work often encompasses a cross-section of artforms. His response to the notion of Lost and Found is no exception. Zeb invited viewers to enter one, or both of two rooms which he had constructed inside the gallery. Here they were confronted and entertained by a cacophony of visual arts, soundscapes, video projection, live performance and probably at least one too many Po-Mo devices.

**Katie Alleva** works explores the world of digital texture. Challenging the digital stereotype, her work is experimental and based on re-arranging memories that

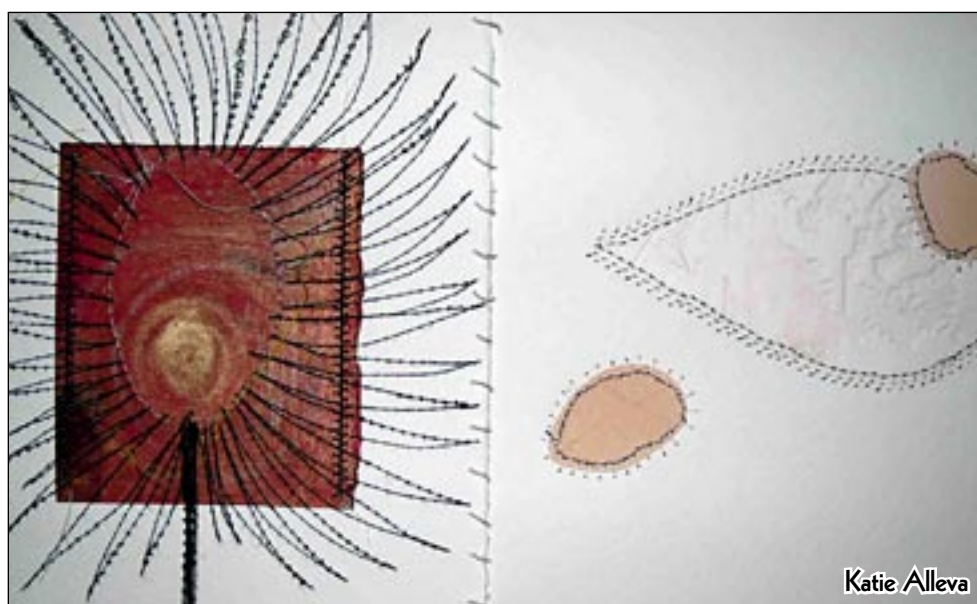
release themselves within the brain as fractured recollections of the past.

**Jamie Wilson** comes from a design background. He believes we are all born with a creative soul and we all have a lifetime to discover, explore and express this gift for the pleasure of ourselves and for the joy of others. He has created images through many mediums including charcoal, pen and ink, pencil, oil pastel, 35 mm film, creative gardening, dry stone walling and most recently digital photography and design.

Five years of extensive travel through 22 colourful countries, including Asia and Europe, opened Jamie's soul to a new world of rich cultures and diverse colour wherein a creative journey into photography was born.

**Paul Schultz** explores the way that 'things' that have been lost and then found again are always somewhere altered in the distance between loss and finding. He displayed a sample from his vast collection of lost and found objects juxtaposed with simple songs (also from his vast collection).

Along with these RealArt Works were works from other artists yet to be found or still lost. All in all this exhibition was full of surprises.



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