

**Centrelink clarification**

Following a recent item in your paper titled, 'There are benefits to being over 55', I'd like to clarify some points regarding concession cards.

Centrelink issues three concession cards, the Pensioner Concession Card, the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and the Health Care Card.

The Pensioner Concession Card is automatically issued to all pensioners, people receiving Mature Age Allowance, Mature Age Partners Allowance and Carer Payment, and to Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance customers who are single and have a dependent child; or who have been assessed as having a partial capacity to work. It is also issued to people over 60 years of age who have been continuously receiving certain other payments for more than nine months.

The Pensioner Concession Card entitles holders to extra concessions. These may vary from State to State and include reductions in property and water rates, reductions in gas and electricity bills, reduced fares on public transport, reductions in motor vehicle registration and one or more free rail journeys within the State each year.

The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card is issued to people of Age Pension age who don't qualify for the pension. You can have an annual income up to \$50,000 for singles, \$80,000 for couples, and up to \$100,000 for illness separated couples. You must be an Australian citizen living in Australia and you can apply for the card

separately, there is no need to claim a pension.

The Health Care Card is issued to people receiving most other Centrelink payments, including Newstart Allowance, Special Benefit, Sickness Allowance, Partner Allowance and certain Youth Allowance recipients. Low-income earners whose income is less than \$3,432 for singles and less than \$5,984 for couples plus \$272 for each dependent child may also apply for a Health Care Card. Income is assessed over a 8 weekly assessment period and if eligible the card is issued for six months. The card is also available to foster carers under certain conditions, and from 1st October 2007 former holders of the Carer Allowance Health Care Card who are aged 16-25 and who are full time students may also be eligible.

Pharmaceutical concessions are available with the Health Care Card and limited concessions for household, educational, recreational and transport may also be available. If you believe you are entitled to a concession you should enquire directly with the relevant organisation.

To find out more about Centrelink concession cards, call Centrelink on 13 28 50 or go to the Centrelink website at <www.centrelink.gov.au>

**Nathan Bonamy**  
Lismore Centrelink Manager

**Mia Culpa.**

Lisa is very sorry for the very confusing, inaccurate piece I wrote in the last issue.

First excuse is that I am guilty of not following my own advice about proof

**Wilfred Ernest Parmenter**  
"Wick"



19th February 1921 – 22nd September 2007  
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reading everything you write. This meant that I didn't pick up that the vital words "Pensioner Concession Card" had been deleted by my computer. It also seems that I had confused "Disability Pension Concession Cards" information with "Seniors Cards".

The positive slant on this mess-up is that so many people rang Centrelink to find out more about the concession cards, it clogged their system big time. Which all goes to show how many read The Nimbin GoodTimes.

So embarrassing...

**Lisa Yeates**  
Nimbin

**Bikie threat**

Adam Pryor (NGT Letters, Sept 07), Methinks you protest too much.

What's the connection, Sport? When you were at the Bush Theatre, your standard threat towards the rest of the tenants here was that you could fill the car park with bikies at the drop of a hat.

It seems that you don't like any press on this subject, local or otherwise.

**Craig Fry**  
Nimbin Candles

**Spirited defence**

Adam Pryor, you are no different in your letters (NGT Sept 07) than you are in real life. Bob Dooley was only quoting an article.

What a load of dribble your letter was. We hear you on your side of the fence and it sounds a little like hypocritical blaa blaa blaa. Who are you and where did you come from? Have you been associated with our school community, or any other part of our community?

If you did, you'd know the positive contribution Bob Dooley has been within our

community for many years.

We feel you are in no position to comment on our community or our community newspaper. What have you done for the community lately Adam Pryor? We wish to remind you of a conversation you had whilst at the bush theatre, where you gushed on about all the things you've done for the community.

You talk about negative press! When you had the bush theatre you created a black cloud over the whole building, locked us out of the toilets, for what reason were you still trying to work out.

Your fascination with bikies can only lead us to believe that you are in some way connected to them. You used to think you were threatening the Bush factory with 'I'll fill the car park with bikies' when you were running the Bush Theatre into the ground.

Tell us Mr Adam Pryor, where's our theatre now? If you wanted to do something positive for the community why not return or donate the contents of the bush theatre, including the projector, screen, curtains and everything else and give us back our bush theatre!

**Sep and Lisa**  
Candle Factory

**Renewable targets**

John Howard has rejected the worth of renewable energy sources all through his prime ministership. Now, in desperation, the Federal Government is proposing a 15% renewable energy target by 2020.

All the State Labor governments are well ahead of the Federal Coalition on this issue. Eleven years of inaction on low emission energy sources and now a promise that may not be fulfilled.

The Liberal and National parties would happily subsidise nuclear power in a huge way. So why haven't they done so for much safer and cleaner renewable energy technologies?

Instead, their strategy has been to make green energy optional and at the direct expense of those willing to purchase it. We should all pay more for clean energy and it should not be optional. This can be done through government subsidy. We do it for lots of important things, so let us recognise the need for renewable energy and legislate for it.

Non-core election promises will not cut it. The Coalitions' inaction speaks volumes. You have left your run too late, Mr Howard.

**Eric Kaiser**  
Kyogle

**Voting Green**

The two key issues in the upcoming election are climate change and IR laws.

The coalition's answer to climate change is denial, nuclear power and 'clean coal', none of which will adequately address the problem. Labor is little better, still bent on subsidising the coal industry and expanding their platform on uranium mining and export rather than reducing it. Only the Greens have policies to re-energise Australia with sustainable solutions.

While Labor offers to amend WorkChoices, the Greens would scrap it altogether.

Don't be scared into thinking you have to vote for the ALP to get rid of John Howard, especially in the Senate. Labor cannot possibly regain control of the Senate at this election - the only way to end Howard's hold on the upper house is to vote in more Greens Senators, which could give the Greens the balance of power.

NSW Greens Senator Kerry Nettle is up for re-election and deserves a second term to keep up the good work.

Voting 1 for the ALP and 2 Greens does nothing to break down the two party system. By voting 1 Greens and then putting Labor before the Nationals candidate ensures that your vote will not end up with Howard's cronies and tells both parties that their policies are inadequate and short-sighted, and that you care about the future of our planet.

Vote 1 for Giovanni Ebono, the Greens candidate for Richmond - or, if you live in Page, vote 1 for Theo Jongen. And remember, this is a federal election so you have to number all the boxes on the House of Representatives ballot or your vote will be invalid.

On the Senate ballot, just put 1 for the Greens above the line to rescue the Senate from John Howard.

**Andy Gough**  
Larnook

**Notices**

**Nimbin Independent Media Inc (Nim-FM)**

Annual General Meeting, 25th October at 1pm, in the Aboriginal Cultural Space, below the Nim-FM office and studio. All welcome, membership renewable at meeting.

**Labor Branch meeting**

The Nimbin Branch of Country Labor meets on 8th October, 5.30pm at the Nimbin Bowling Club in Sibley Street. Visitors and prospective members are welcome to attend.

**New Dance Date**

Nimbin's 15th Annual Concert of Dance will now be held Friday 23rd November, 7.30pm at Nimbin Town Hall.

**Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre Inc (NNIC) Community Welfare Worker**

NNIC seeks a suitably qualified and experienced person to become one of our two generalist Community Welfare Workers. Part time – 26 hrs/fortnight – SaCS Award Grade 3: 2-3 days per week alt. The position involves client work inc. information and referrals and crisis support.

Applicants MUST address the selection criteria in the Job Kit, available from Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre at 71 Cullen St, Nimbin, (02) 6689 1692 from 10-00 am til 4-00 pm Monday to Friday.

The position is funded by the DoCs Community Services Grants Program (CSGP).

**Applications close Friday 5th October 2007**

NNIC is an EEO employer. ATSI applicants are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will undergo the Working with Children and relevant Police checks.

**About us**

**Editor:** Bob Dooley

**Assistant:** Sue Stock

**Layout:** Bob Dooley

**Photographers:** Sue Stock (principal), Marg Canning, Pam Bourne, Diane Tissott

**Bookkeeper:** Lisa Yeates

**Website:** David McMinn

We are online at [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)

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**Next deadline: Wednesday 31st October**

**Email:** [goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com](mailto:goodtimes@nimbinaustralia.com) or put stuff in the ComSchool's pigeonhole in the Nimbin Community Centre.

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The pool's open!

**Get wet!** Opened at the start of the school holidays, Nimbin pool is already proving a popular family venue.

## Nimbin Chamber of Commerce alive and well

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce held its AGM on 18th September 2007 and elected new office bearers and committee members. The new Chairperson is Kara Forsyth, proprietor of Daizy's and Cullen Street landowner. The new Secretary is Margaret McLaren of Nimbin Artists Gallery, Nimbin Regional Gallery, Nimbin School of Arts and other local Incorporated Associations. The new Treasurer is Marnee Wong, co-owner of Nimbin Craft Gallery and local book-keeper.

Following the AGM, there was a general business meeting. The main topics under discussion were:

- The lighting and general appearance of the Western Car park, particularly with respect to safety and the first impressions of visitors;
- The possibility of a Master's student to study and work on the needs of central Nimbin;
- Now that recycling collections occur in

Nimbin, the installation of recycle bins on the main street;

• An updated town map for businesses to hand out. The possibility of printing these on paper bags instead of or as well as the usual pads.

Thanks to Jodee and Gerard, meetings for the remainder of 2007 (16 October, 20 November, 18 December) will be held at 6 pm Third Tuesday of the Month at the Rainbow Café. Use the door next to Real Estate for access.

Please give us your opinions and feed back and come along and get involved if you are involved in local business. Please update your subscriptions (still \$50 per annum) to receive minutes, email news and be included in Nimbin Chamber of Commerce decisions.

Contact the Chamber at PO Box 433, Nimbin 2480 or email NimbinCoC@gmail.com.au.

## Nimbin Community Aged Care Packages

by Helen Simpson

Community Support packages are available to help older people remain in their own homes preserving their independence.

Nimbin Community Health are now offering Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) which are planned and coordinated packages of care to help older people remain living in their own homes.

They are subsidised by the Commonwealth Government to provide for the complex needs of older people. For people on the maximum basic rate of the aged pension fees will not exceed 17.5% of that pension and are negotiable with the CACP Coordinator at Nimbin. It can include up to a 7 day per week service if necessary. Community Aged Care Packages may be an alternative to an aged care facility and can alleviate some of the stress

and anguish associated with caring and being cared for. They are designed to be very flexible and to provide a variety of services by trained assistants in nursing, coordinated by a registered nurse and in contact with that nurse if a medical problem arises. These services include:-

- Personal care - bathing, showering dressing
- Housework and laundry
- Transport, outings
- Meal preparation
- Shopping
- Social supports
- Respite Care
- Monitoring of medications.

A care plan will be developed outlining the services to be received and a copy is kept at the recipient's home. We try to maintain consistency with staff so that confidence and trust can be developed. To receive a CACP, an assessment by the Aged Care Assessment Team is required to determine

if a CACPs can meet the person's needs.

People receiving the service have the right to:

- Qualified competent staff
- Have respect for their values, religion and convictions
- Fair treatment regardless of race, nationality, sex, disabilities
- Seek information and advice from other sources
- Make complaints about service delivery
- Absolute confidentiality
- Refuse the presence of people not directly involved in their care.

Once approved, the CACP Coordinator for Nimbin Health will be in contact, to arrange a visit to discuss needs and type of care required. Applications for an ACAT assessment can be made directly through ACAT, based in Ballina 6620-6290 or

Ring CACP Coordinator Helen Simpson or Gail Jenkins, 6689-1288.

## Lismore Council Jottings

by Cr. Jenny Dowell

6625-2206 email Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

### McLeans Ridges

The Mayor surprisingly moved a Mayoral Minute at the September meeting to progress rezoning applications for two proposals in McLeans Ridges. A Mayoral Minute is a mechanism for Council to debate an urgent matter that has arisen since the production of the Agenda.

Fortunately, a majority of Councillors were able to persuade the Mayor that there was no urgency and that a perception of undue haste could send the wrong message to residents. The Mayor withdrew the Motion and the matter continues to raise considerable debate in the McLeans Ridges community.

In recent times the residents of North Lismore have also challenged Council to present a vision for their community. It is apparent that Council's community consultation processes need a thorough review. As a start, I am proposing that Council engages a consultant to work with the McLeans Ridges community to develop a vision for future development and identify the necessary infrastructure and facilities that will be needed to support the new and existing residents in years to come.

### Lantern Parade

As anyone who attended this year's Lantern Parade will know, wet weather put a severe dampener on the event and kept crowds down. As a result, the donations did not cover outgoing costs so, at its September meeting, Council agreed to advance the organisers the \$15,000 that had been approved in the budget for next year's event. LightnUp is heavily engaged in raising revenue by providing expertise to similar events in other cities so there is confidence



### SK8 Park

I attended the community forum on September 20 and was impressed by the level of support given for the completion of the current noise reduction works. While residents spoke enthusiastically for the facility, they were mindful of the potential disturbance to neighbours.

There is certainly no guarantee that completion of the attenuation measures will lead to the desired compliance, but being so far along the track the community agreed, as did Councillors at a workshop held in August, to at least finish the job and find out.

### Fun and Film

On a personal note, Ron and I had a great time at the recent Blue Moon Ball and look forward to the Autumn Arts Festival. Nimbin certainly turns on some great events.

Should any of you want to see a glimpse of Nimbin in the 70's, I'd urge you to be at Star Court Theatre in Lismore on 5th October at 7.30 pm for the screening of 'A Place in the Sun' and 'Give trees a Chance'.

These two fantastic film were made by North Country Flix in 1979 and are being shown as a fundraiser for the Richmond River Historical society. Tickets are \$10 each.

Finally, 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.

that the advance will be recouped well before the 2008 Lismore Lantern Parade.

### Budget

Competing demands always result in some budget requests being unmet. At its June budget meeting, Council had requested staff to prepare a report on how several outstanding projects could be funded -water, energy and climate change initiatives, a trial Lismore library Sunday opening and the appointment of a Cultural Development Officer.

Unfortunately the report that came back was an explanation why these projects could not be funded. After much debate, staff were again requested to prepare the report on how these projects could proceed.

### Nimbin Road Realignment

In order to progress the construction of a new Blakebrook Bridge, there was a need to realign the road and so Council has approved the purchase of some additional land and sold another piece to adjoining landholders.

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# Don't mention the Nazis!

by Peter Godden

Of-times lately I have been giving some thought to the similarities between the ways of our (Western) nations and that of the Nazis on their rise to power in Germany in the 1920's and 1930's.

But before you, dear reader, get all upset and accuse me of being trivial, I'll confess that the Nazis in their final solution mode had nothing on us, at least not yet. But I can't help thinking of how delicate and fragile our freedom and rule of law is, and how easily it is all slipping away under the pretence of the so called "war on terror".

Also ever-present in my mind these days, more than ever, is George Orwell's masterpiece 1984, which was compulsory in English way back in my high school days and should be so today if it is not.

To back up my fears that we, like Germany then, are on the slippery slope to Facism (defined by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini as the merger of state and corporate power), I offer the following observations on the current state of our society:

- An obsession with material wealth to the exclusion of other considerations such as social equity, the environment and the arts.

- A kind of pathological extraversion by which introspection is stifled, and scapegoats sought (projecting the dark side which is within each person)

- Propaganda used by the government way beyond that previously brought to bear, and the crushing of all opposition, aided by the acquiescence of the media.

- Surveillance to the max - cameras and date collection everywhere you go and exponentially increasing. Go shopping in Sydney for a day and you will be photographed over a hundred times.

- Beating up on minorities like refugees, Indigenous inhabitants, Muslims, the unemployed.

- Creating divisions in society using arbitrarily derived "values" of distinction, rather than universal values.

- Constantly shifting of the debate, changing the subject, redefining the language and repeating the spin ad nauseum.

- Outsourcing of

responsibility through privatisation and sub-sub-sub contracting. Equine flu possibly, Wheat Board bribes, pathetic FEMA Katrina response, Halliburton mercenaries run amok in Iraq.

- Radical "reform" by so called Conservatives running rampage like a Blitzkrieg - Shock and Awe economically as much as militarily. What Naomi Klein has called Disaster Capitalism.

And a few noteworthy facts to consider:

- George Bush's grandfather profited from his involvement with the financial backers of the Nazis on their rise to power, up until 1942, when forced to withdraw by Congress

- Hitler invaded Poland (and everywhere else) on a flimsy pretext. All "freedom fighters" were labelled terrorists.

- The 9/11 investigation was not conducted at all properly and too many questions remain. (Google it if you want to find out).

- Plans to invade Iraq were drawn up before 9/11 (which had nothing to do with Iraq anyway).

- The condoning, if not implementation of torture: Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, "Extraordinary Rendition".

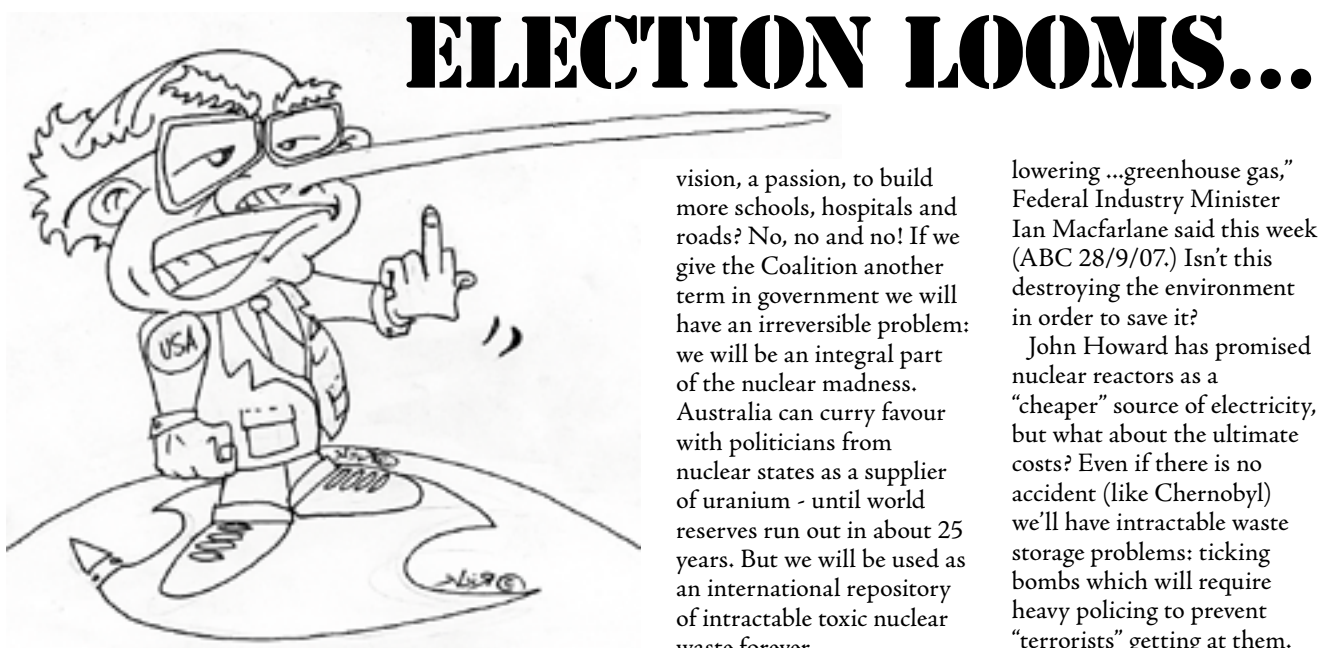
All of this is not necessarily to blame the Governments for everything.

Just as the Nazis needed the support of at least a sizable proportion of the population, and the cowering, apathy or elimination of the rest, I reckon if we were all fair dinkum about democracy and human rights we'd be much more active and agitative than we are - myself included.

Don't forget that Howard won the last election, which was after the invasion of Iraq was proven to be a sham.

And as the US gears up to invade Iran (and why wouldn't Iran develop nukes given that the rule of law has been trashed in their region by a Nuke State and only such a deterrent might save them from an agressor?), ask yourself how different we really are from Germany in its early rise to Fascism, and what you would be willing to do to stop this from happening.

Assuming that Labor holds true to its current policies, voting for them (or giving them your preferences) would be a good step in the right direction I would think.



## Don't be A Lert, Be Alarmed. Be Very Alarmed.

by Scott Sledge  
Australian Democrat  
Candidate for Richmond

I may live near Barker's Vale but I was not just woofing when I wrote to NGT last month warning that we'll need protection against radiation if the Coalition wins the next election.

If you're not worried then you haven't been paying attention.

John Howard now wants us to "be kind enough" to vote the Coalition in again so he can finish some unspecified long-cherished projects.



He's already been in power for eleven years, the past 2 without effective opposition in the Senate.

So what does Howard want to finish? Does he have a

vision, a passion, to build more schools, hospitals and roads? No, no and no! If we give the Coalition another term in government we will have an irreversible problem: we will be an integral part of the nuclear madness. Australia can curry favour with politicians from nuclear states as a supplier of uranium - until world reserves run out in about 25 years. But we will be used as an international repository of intractable toxic nuclear waste forever.

Would the Coalition bring in something as unpopular as nuclear power? Howard says he will, and on that at least I think we can believe him.

Little Johnny has brought in GST and Work Choices, sold off Telstra, and gone to war in Iraq - all against the wishes of the Australian people. He campaigned for the GST, got re-elected and no one could deny his mandate. In the Senate the Democrats were able to get the legislation amended to exempt food and medicine.

John Howard has a plan to mine and export uranium, build 25 nuclear reactors, import and store toxic waste. "It would be irresponsible to do anything else, bearing in mind our commitment...to

lowering ...greenhouse gas," Federal Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane said this week (ABC 28/9/07.) Isn't this destroying the environment in order to save it?

John Howard has promised nuclear reactors as a "cheaper" source of electricity, but what about the ultimate costs? Even if there is no accident (like Chernobyl) we'll have intractable waste storage problems: ticking bombs which will require heavy policing to prevent "terrorists" getting at them.

And where will we get the water to cool the reactors? Maybe dams in the Tweed Valley!

Don't give politicians a mandate for nukes! We can't trust either of the major parties to resist the drift into nuclear madness. Labor supports increased mining and export of uranium. Now more than ever we need the Democrats.

The Democrats were the first environment party and led the fight to save the Franklin River. They believe in sustainable development for a healthy environment, and oppose uranium mining and all aspects of the nuclear madness.

**Put people first: vote Democrats. Vote for a Nuclear Free Future!**



The Greens have announced that Theo Jongen will be their candidate for the marginal seat of Page in the upcoming federal election. Born in Holland, Mr Jongen has lived on the North Coast for 23 years, first in Nymboida and now in Grafton. Father of four and grandfather of two, Mr Jongen works in health care services.

A seasoned anti-nuclear and forest campaigner, Mr Jongen is deeply concerned by the Howard Government's moves to promote nuclear power and uranium exports, and to scale back Indigenous and workers' rights. He is also disgusted by their failure to take responsibility for the dental health crisis, and to address the impending impacts of

## Greens announce Page candidate

peak oil and climate change.

He is also a strong believer in improving our democracy.

"Evidence from other countries is that proportional representation not only gives minorities a greater voice in parliament, it also raises the standard of political debate", he said. "Imagine how much could be achieved if politics was more than just a football match, with two sides attacking each other!"

Mr Jongen is keen to support The Greens Senator Kerry Nettle's bid for re-election to the Senate.

"The last three years have demonstrated how important it is to have third party insurance in the Senate. The Greens will hold the big parties to account, ensuring a just and sustainable future for all Australians."

"In deciding who to vote for, I will be asking voters in Page to use the preference system to their advantage. By giving The Greens their first preference, they can tell the big parties that they want action on climate change and a fair society. If the Greens candidate is excluded in the count, their vote flows on

to their next preference at full value.

"Voting for The Greens does not waste your vote - it doubles the value of your vote," he said.

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# Reclaim the night

by Sally Penhaligon

Hello, my name is Sally and I will be writing the column for the Nimbin Safe Community Project for the next little while. I have been a member of the Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee for four years now and I sit on the Steering Committee of the Nimbin Safe Community Project.

On the last Friday in October women all over the world take to the streets to celebrate their strength and to draw attention to that most basic human right, the right to live our lives in safety and free from violence.

It's called Reclaim the Night and this year the Nimbin Safe Community Project is organising a Reclaim the Night march in Nimbin and would like to invite women from Nimbin and the surrounding area to take to the streets, to bang their drums and blow their whistles and advocate for their right to live in a world free of violence.

Reclaim the Night was started by Italian women in Rome in 1976 as a reaction to the increase of sexual assaults in that town and the lack of response to the crimes by the authorities.



**Noisemakers.** Last year's Reclaim the Night march in Nimbin.

Later in the UK, there was a notorious rapist at large known as the Yorkshire Ripper and women were warned not to dress provocatively or walk alone at night. Women felt that society was blaming them for the sexual assaults rather than placing the blame on the rapist, and they began Reclaim the Night marches to proclaim the right to dress however they pleased and the right to walk the streets at night.

Today sexual assault is just as prevalent in our communities. Young women in particular seem to be

targeted often via drink spiking which has happened in Nimbin and continues in towns along the coast, particularly those that have a high number of young female tourists coming to town.

And it would seem that women are still getting blamed for their behaviour, as we saw in the terrible response from those called to give evidence at the Diane Brimble inquest over the last year.

The statistics around sexual assault are shocking, with one in four women and one in seven men being sexually assaulted by the time they

are 18. Only 10% of sexual assaults are reported and only 5% of those reports ever make it to court. These statistics show that sexual assault is still a hidden crime with victims feeling shame, fear of reporting the crime and difficulty in confiding to others.

Given this, it is good to know that there is a specialist service available for victims of sexual assault. The Richmond Sexual Assault Service is a locally-based 24-hour service that assists victims of sexual assault at a time when they are feeling most traumatised. They can assist victims to contact the police if that is what they want to do, they also provide a counselling service to assist sexual assault victims to deal with the trauma of the sexual assault. The Sexual Assault Service offers counselling in a non-judgemental, supportive environment. They can be contacted on 6620-2970.

The Nimbin Reclaim the Night march will be held on Friday 26th October with women gathering at the Nimbin Police Station at 6pm and marching through town to Allsopp Park. Bring along your noisemakers. Whilst we are marching to draw attention to a serious issue, we always come together in an atmosphere of joy, celebration and solidarity.

Traditionally men who want to support women and make a stand against violence against women come along to clap and cheer the women from the sidelines as we march through town. We encourage Nimbin men to line the route and support the women marching in this way.

## Banner-making workshop

Finally, the Nimbin Safe Community Project will be holding a banner making workshop at Birth and Beyond on Friday 12th October. Canvas, paints and morning tea will be provided. All women are welcome

to come along and create something dazzling to carry along the street on the night of the march.

For further details contact the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre on 6689-1692 or email <nimbin safecommunityproject@gmail.com> Leave your contact details and a worker will call you back.

The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre's Safe Community Project is funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Community Crime Prevention Program and is steered by the Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee.

## October fundraisers for women's cancers

Nimbin Bowling Club will be the venue for two Cancer Council fundraising events this month.

A Girls Night In has been organised for Saturday night, 13th October from 7pm. Entertainment will be by Neil Anderson, entry by \$10 donation and please bring a small plate to share.

Organiser Sue Cook said a fun night was guaranteed for women of all ages.

Funds raised for Girls Night In, held throughout October, help the approximately 15,700 women who are diagnosed with breast and gynaecological cancers each year.

Contact Sue Cook at Charters Hardware, 6689-1466 for more information.



for breast cancer research, education programs and support services that are spent in the local area.

The programme for Sunday 21st October includes a lavish brunch, social bowls, and a bra-decorating competition (\$5 per entry). Then the Boogie Nights band will boogie the afternoon away.

Pink will obviously be the key for fashion on the day. Sharon said, "It should be a lot of girlie fun."

In 2006, Pink Ribbon Day raised over \$2 million, which is going a long way to helping the 1 in 8 women who will be diagnosed by the age of 85.

Contact Sharon Eldridge on 6620-0531 for more information.



Pink Ribbon Day will be held on Monday, 22 October this year, but Sharon Eldridge thought some extra fundraising would be good, so she has organised a Pink Fun Day for the day before.

Pink Ribbon Day is an annual event to encourage women to be breast aware and highlight the importance of breast cancer research. Funds are raised



Sharon Eldridge

## Commonsense Human Values

Sixth in a series by Laurie Stubbs



Last article -- looking at where human values begin -- suggested that over the 4.8 billion years of Earth's existence, life developed itself.

After compressing all of history into a few paragraphs, we focused on life and how it developed. We looked at life's record -- from self replicating molecule at the start, through to humanity -- wielding concepts, controlling the environment and the conditions of human life. Life may be purposive and if it has developed so far then it is likely that it will develop further. The statement "life develops itself" becomes an axiom, an idea that is self evident, and the most central lesson the total time record offers us.

We took what you might call a 'meta-level' look at history and asked the question What might we have missed up till now. That meta level jump made something visible that we've been too close to see before. Life developed

itself. Humanity had nothing to do with that development. We can't claim -- or even think about claiming credit for it. AND --- we can't see the end of this process we are part of.

After all those billions of years it's fair to say that life continues to develop itself despite anything we humans might do. If we use atomic bombs we will very likely finish humanity's run, but we won't stop life. 90 million years ago something hit Earth and the effects killed off dinosaurs among masses of others. Life not only survived; it seems to have shifted focus to mammals and developed US -- along with all the other mammals! Powerful stuff -- life.

Commonsense next asks the question: "Where is life heading?"

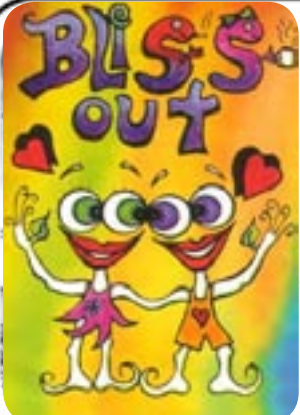
Well, I don't know: and I think nobody can tell us. Religions would give us high sounding phrases, but can they predict which life forms will next dominate Earth? And that's the level of prediction we would need. Science has begun understanding Earth's complexities but is not yet much use as a predictor. So any guesswork falls to you and me.

But hang on! Do we need to know where we're heading? Our lives are

already question marks more than certainties. We don't know when each of us will die -- and we manage to live with that. We don't know what will become of our children, or whether our life's work will make a difference --- we live with many long run open questions. Adding to those concerns an open ended-ness about "where are we heading" makes little sense. So let's put aside that question because -- at this time -- we can't get a meaningful answer. We might get opinions but they are totally limited by humanity's limited savvy. But we've now seen a new fact - life developed itself. An axiom, and a challenge.

Can we use this fact? Looking at present day human values its clear we've not used this new understanding at all. If Homo.Sapiens is the intellectual top of the tree, as we think we are, then it is time we tried out the truth of this notion.

Our value systems are producing threats to humanity and the Earth, so we'll soon have to try something different. The mish-mash of values in western society, and equally confused value sets of other societies -- let alone the conflicts between cultures, -- is the stuff we'll look at next article.



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