

Nimbins' Gutter Press

One would have hoped that a town with a reputation of being alternative would reflect that in its own local press, but time and again we've seen in the Nimbin GoodTimes a willingness to print articles of a most negative nature which seem deliberately designed to tear the very fabric of town apart.

In the last "Good Times" the editor, Bob Dooley chose to run an article entitled "Demonising Nimbin" which makes hideously wild and disgusting claims that bikies are taking over the town. Personally, I haven't seen the rows of parked Harleys one might associate with a club presence, I haven't seen numerous nefarious types sporting club patches which one might expect of a club taking over the town and I haven't been invited to the grand opening of the Nimbin clubhouse of any bike club, not that I'd expect an invitation to such an event.

Bob Dooley you simply seem to have been hooked, lined and well and truly sinkered by the so-called popular press. If nothing else, a truly alternative press would do its homework to ensure truth is printed in our paper but it would seem that Bob Dooley, a former school teacher, doesn't understand the concept of doing his homework.

No doubt the editor will argue that he was just informing us of the bad press other news agencies have been reporting. Why bother re-hashing the tripe? I would suggest that, if other news agencies

have already reported this trumped-up version of the establishments' purported truth, the editor of a somewhat enlightened press would simply put the nay-sayers straight, with the truth of the matter.

That however requires at least a little, real journalistic skill and yes by now you've probably guessed it, that requires asking questions, probing questions and then rationalising those answers by comparing them with the answers you've received from the other probing questions asked and answered, not just an ability to print articles sent to the papers mailing address or reprinting the condensed versions of what the high and mighty real press has already offered.

A truly enquiring alternative editor of our town's newspaper should make it blatantly clear in irresistibly distinct terms which side of society's metaphorically tall paling fence he sits on as sitting on top of that rough sawn fence will only end up with a nasty case of posterial splinterisation.

Bob your loquacions are multitudinous, your logic flawed, your motivation questionable and your service to the town ??? If you intend to represent the town as its press, at least do us all the service of talking the town up instead of bagging it and the local businesses at every gutter press opportunity.

Bob, do you remember the old adage? If you don't have anything good to say....don't say anything at all.

Adam Pryor,
Nimbin



Soccer raffle

This letter is to thank all the beautiful and supportive people within the community and beyond who purchased raffle tickets in the Sony Digital Camera Raffle that ran for six weeks and was drawn on Saturday 11th August at the Nimbin Newsagency.

The lucky winner was Guenther from Stoney Chute who so generously and kindheartedly donated the camera back to Uri to take on the Soccer Camp Trip to England in October. Thankyou so so much Guenther, Uri will put the camera to good use while over there and maybe he will snap a few celebrities too.

We raised \$720.00 from the raffle which is fantastic and will help immensely towards the cost of the trip. We would also like to thank Neil and Rodney at the Newsagency for allowing us to sell the raffle tickets outside their shop.

So once again thankyou to everyone for supporting Uri in the raffle.

Marie Cameron
and Uri Ross, Nimbin

Not for Sale

Contrary to recent Lifestyle Real Estate advertisements listing Nimbin Candle Factory for sale, Nimbin Candle Factory is not for sale, and has not been for sale since Craig and Lisa Fry purchased it in January 2005.

The advertisement should have read that Unit 5, Old Butter Factory was for sale, not the business inside it! At the moment we're being inundated with queries and questions about the supposed sale of Nimbin Candles.

We do thank you all for your interest and hope to see you at the candle factory soon.

Lisa Fry
Nimbin Candles

Sledge for Richmond

That's it! I've decided to stand for Parliament. I've heard too many weasel words, lies and deceptions from politicians. Australia very much needs to get the Senate back functioning as a house of review. In the last election the Coalition quietly gained absolute control and passed anything it wanted without reference to the wishes of the people. No debate. No amendment. I had hopes that now people are finally sick of Howard's clever tricks, we could be rescued from cruel tyranny by voting in the other mob. Labour however has taken to shadowing the Howard Coalition with every policy being, "me too," except for a few issues where they believe they may safely oppose Howard.

Lately I have been incensed by Federal intervention into NT Aboriginal communities. Where is the justification for taking control of Aboriginal lands? The authors of the Little Children are Sacred Report feel betrayed that they are being used as a justification. Rex Wilde QC and Pat Anderson said : "There is not a single action that the Commonwealth has taken so far that corresponds with a single Report recommendation." This is NOT about saving little children from abuse!

Former NT Labour MP John Ah Kit called the intervention "cultural genocide." There was no consultation with community leaders before the big Shock & Awe- style announcement of a "national emergency." Where are Howard's hand-picked Aboriginal advisors that replaced ATSIC? Maybe ATSIC was disbanded for being too effective.

In November 2006 The Federal Parliament passed legislation to allow Aboriginal land in the NT to be used for a radioactive waste dump. It seems that the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link was completed as part of a subtle plan to sign up to Uncle Sam's nuclear program which requires countries supplying uranium to repatriate it

for storage. Suddenly John Howard gets passionate about reducing greenhouse gasses: simple, we build nuclear reactors. Plenty uranium to dig up. Mine owners and nuclear contractors will get rich and everybody will be happy ...until we remember there's no safe way to store the radioactive waste. How much more convenient will this plan be should the government succeed in wresting from Aboriginal communities their rights to negotiate about use of their traditional lands?

Kevin Rudd supports this process and Labour backs it, aware of the deeply rooted racism in this country that allows such disregard for community wishes. That means no succour from a future Rudd Labour government. Soon Australia will be visible from space ... glowing radioactive. I thought we had rejected this crazy idea decades ago.

The only parties who stand up for the future of our children - children of all colours - are the Democrats and the Greens. I like the Dems for the Honesty, Tolerance and Compassion principles which guides all their policies. I believe that the Australian public did not intend to give the Coalition control of both houses of Federal Parliament, but let it slip by under the radar. Now the major parties are offering little choice, and I hear people saying, "but what can I do?" Vote for the Democrats in the coming election, for a start. The other parties want to demolish the Democrats with their mantra "the Democrats are dead." With four Federal Senators and a nation-wide member

base the Democrats are very much alive. Together with the Greens, the Democrats can be a powerful thirrd force calling the Coalition and Labour to account for abuses in our Parliament. Having either Labour or Coalition in absolute control of the Parliament is an absolute disaster. Many bad policies get through if there is no effective house of review. And if we go nuclear there'll be no turning back, and no turning green!

Scott Sledge
Kingscliff

Notices

Labor Party

The Nimbin Branch of the Australian Labor Party will next meet on Monday 10th September at 5.30pm at the Nimbin Bowling Club.

We've had a few resignations recently and we welcome (as always) new members, to help keep this little part of our democracy locally viable.

Peter Godden
Secretary Nimbin Branch
Country Labour

For Sale

1972 Bedford Diesel Bus 10.5m long with side doors, uncluttered living space with stove, sink, gas/electric fridge, wood heater. Unregistered, towable, working motor, \$12,500 phone Leanne 07-4666-6080 or 0434-885-001.

Expressions of interest

ArtCamp International, Cullum Cullum World Heritage National Park, 17-19th October 2007.

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

**Next deadline:
Wednesday 26th September**

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

Application for Membership

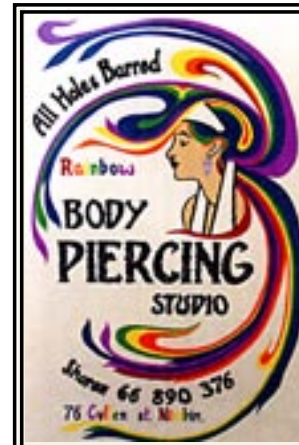


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Nimbin Visitor Centre open - sort of

The doors to the newly re-vamped Nimbin Visitor Information Centre have been open again for a couple of weeks, and there's new paint, carpet and shelving, but the other equipment and furniture is a bit behind schedule.

It mightn't look like it, but this is the start-up of Lismore City Council's \$55,000 plan to provide a "professional, reliable visitor information service" in Nimbin.

Tourism workers Franca Woolf and Andrew Walker are staffing the Centre for now, offering good local information to all comers.

"It's not just for visitors," said Andrew. "There's lots of maps and guides that locals will find useful, too."

These include hard-to-find NPWS guides to all the World Heritage national parks on Nimbin's doorstep.

Local arts, crafts and souvenirs are also being sought to sell at the Centre, located at 80 Cullen Street, phone 6689-1388.

Council's Tourism Services Co-ordinator, Mitch Lowe said, "We'll be encouraging visitors to explore the area,



Local knowledge. Andrew Walker may not have furniture or a computer, but he's ready to help visitors and locals alike.

stay longer and spend more money in the village."

Employment

Two staff positions, one permanent, one temporary have been advertised for the Centre, with these criteria:

"The ideal candidate will have completed a TAFE Certificate of Attainment in Tourism together with experience within a Visitor Information Centre

environment. Extensive knowledge of the Nimbin, Lismore and surrounding Northern Rivers Region from a tourist perspective will be highly desirable but not essential."

Applications close Friday September 14, 2007. For more information go to <www.lismore.nsw.gov.au> and follow the "Positions Vacant" link.

Chamber meetings target carpark

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 18th September at 6pm at the Rainbow Café. This is your opportunity to elect a new committee and executive for this resurgent organisation.

Recent meetings have been very well attended, despite adverse weather conditions. Many town-wide projects have been proposed to benefit the business

community as a whole.

The project attracting the most immediate support so far has been to consider the arrival of many visitors, locals and tourists in the western car park. Lismore City Council has included some lighting in the car park, as requested in submissions by locals.

The overall impression on arrival is an unlit carpark to the rear of business rubbish collection areas.

Ideas, suggestions, help and your subscriptions (now due) are welcome, and it is hoped to see a large and representative attendance at the AGM.

Meetings for the remainder of 2007 are at the Rainbow Café on the third Tuesday at 6pm: 16th October, 20th November, 18th December.

Send all correspondence to Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 433, Nimbin 2480.

Volunteers keep Nimbin CTC afloat

by Roy Radle, Manager

It's been three months since we became a volunteer-run organisation, and this has only been possible due to the nature of the Nimbin community.

We would like to thank you all for your generous support and gratefully acknowledge the importance of everyone who has come through our doors for their part in keeping the CTC ship afloat.

As a central strategy of our CTC change, we are returning to our core business of addressing community IT issues, ranging from the usual business services to more community school classes beginning in Term 4.

To facilitate this and to enhance our existing services, we are looking for more volunteers.

The current voluntary staff are flat out just keeping the doors open. New volunteers will have the chance to not only help the CTC meet community needs, but also to acquire new skills and expand their own knowledge base.

On a different tack, Lismore Council has revealed plans for its own internet access facility at its new, so-called standalone visitor centre. Could this move impact negatively on Nimbin Community organisations such as the Nimbin CTC and the Neighbourhood Centre? We can only hope that LCC will realise how counterproductive this actually is in furthering community interests.

In the meantime, we invite you to drop in and see how we can help you make the most of the digital age.

Lismore Council Jottings

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

Homeless Shelter

Council voted unanimously at its August meeting to negotiate with the State Government to lease land in South Lismore for a homeless shelter. A working party was formed and will be looking at management models to enable the shelter to be built by March next year.

This is a very ambitious project but with the help of government grants and community donations, we determined to provide a warm and dry space before next winter. On census night in August last year, there were 87 people in our local government area (26 in Nimbin) living in 'improvised dwellings, tent or outdoors'.

While census collectors in our area did a great job, this number is likely to be understated and growing, so it is imperative that Council and other groups act now.

SK8Park

There were four Nimbin residents present in the gallery for the workshop presentation on the Nimbin SK8Park where staff had recommended that alternative options such as relocation or a new concrete structure be investigated.

After much discussion, Councillors voted unanimously to continue the current works and assess the noise levels of the completed facility. I spoke in support of this action as I consider that the staff concerns over the use of a different noise level criteria were not justified and that the previously used criteria was unachievable for a day time facility of this nature.

A community consultation session is planned in the near future and I would encourage all interested Nimbin residents to attend.

2008 election

Disappointingly, only 3 Councillors voted for a referendum to be held at next year's Council election on the question 'Are you in favour of decreasing



Group. Sue Stock represents Nimbin on the Community Services PAG. Also in August, Council held its Strategic Plan Steering Committee bi-monthly meeting and received the report on the review of the PAGs.

After much discussion of the 24 recommendations, only the first was accepted-to hold a workshop to consider the scope of all 7 PAGs. This workshop will be held on September 25 at 6 pm at Council Chambers in Goonellabah and the community is invited to observe.

Coming up

The 'lost' film 'A Place in the Sun' will be screened at the Star Court Theatre on Friday October 5 at 7pm.

This film of Lismore and its villages was made in 1979, lost in the early 1990's and found in Richmond River Historical Society's storeroom late last year. It is a great slice of our cultural history and well worth a look.

One year to go

The next Council elections will be held on Saturday 27 2008. I would encourage Nimbin residents to consider standing for Council to improve your representation. If anyone would like any suggestions on where to start in gathering the information needed to make the decision, please contact me on the email or phone number below. I would particularly like to encourage more women to stand.

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.

the number of Councillors from 11 to 9 (including the Mayor)?' John Hampton, David Tomlinson and I argued that the community should decide and not us, the Councillors.

There are arguments both for and against a reduction of numbers and information for both sides would have been prepared but the vote was lost 3/8 (Cr Henry absent) so, unfortunately, you will not have the opportunity to tell us what you think.

Community Donations

Under Section 356 of the Local Government Act, Council can make donations to the community in various categories including rural halls, fire brigades and others. In the miscellaneous grouping, the individual votes from all Councillors are tallied to determine the successful applicants.

This year, the amount available (\$30,978) funded 16 projects for a maximum of \$2,100 including Nimbin Preschool (\$2,100).

Policy Advisory Groups

At the August meeting, Council endorsed David Hallett as the representative of Nimbin arts to the Arts and Culture Policy Advisory

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How low will the US stock market go?

by David McMinn

1947 and July 27, 1977.

As noted in my previous article 2007: A US Bear Market? (NGT April 2007, p12), a severe decline in the US stock market was expected in the current year.

This was an easy forecast to make, given the amazing propensity for major stock market declines in 7-ended years. It has been a very consistent pattern since at least 1887. Even so, most analysts were completely unaware of the dangers that were ahead in 2007.

The 2000s witnessed the greatest debt bubble in history and now it is payback time. The collapse of the sub prime mortgages in the USA has activated financial distress around the world.

Key US stockmarket indices peaked on July 19, 2007 and experienced financial distress before hitting a low in August 16. Is this just a warm up for the main panic event? I really do not know, but we can look to historic cycles to gain some idea of what may lie ahead.

Another October Panic?

The record peak in the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) happened on July 19 when the Moon was near the autumn equinox point (180° on the ecliptical circle or Virgo – Libra cusp for the astrologers). The same position was realised for both the record highs and crashes for each of the 1929, 1987 and 1997 great panics.

The record DJIA peaks in August 25, 1987, August 06, 1997 and July 19, 2007 were each separated by intervals of exactly 3534 days or 123.06 lunar months (equivalent to a Triple Hepton eclipse cycle but I will not bore you with the details). Variations on this cyclic theme were repeated between 1987 & 1997 for the panics, the recoveries and the post crash lows.

An annual one day (AOD) fall is the biggest % one day fall in the year commencing March 1. For years ended in 7, DJIA AOD falls were most likely to occur in the two months beginning September 15 (see accompanying table). Of the total 11 AOD falls (=>2.00%), 8 happened in the 2 months commencing September 15, where as 1.8 would be expected by chance.

The three exceptions were March 14, 1907 (a major US banking panic happened on October 22, 1907), April 14,

Timing of the Low

AOD falls in 7-ended years

1887 Sep 19 (-2.24%) & Oct 12 (-2.29%)

1897 Sep 21 (-3.95%) & Oct 12 (-3.90%)

1907 Mar 14 (-8.29%)

Banking panic Oct 22

1917 Nov 01 (-4.16%) & Nov 08 (-4.21%)

1927 Oct 8 (-3.65%)

1937 Oct 18 (-7.75%)

Panic & depression.

1947 Apr 14 (-2.95%)

1957 Oct 21 (-2.48%)

Credit crunch.

1967 No AOD fall => 2.00% recorded.

1977 Jul 27 (-2.17%)

1987 Oct 19 (-22.61%)

Black Monday.

1997 Oct 27 (-7.18%)

Blue Monday.

NB: The double AOD falls in 1887, 1897 & 1917 were treated as one event in each case.

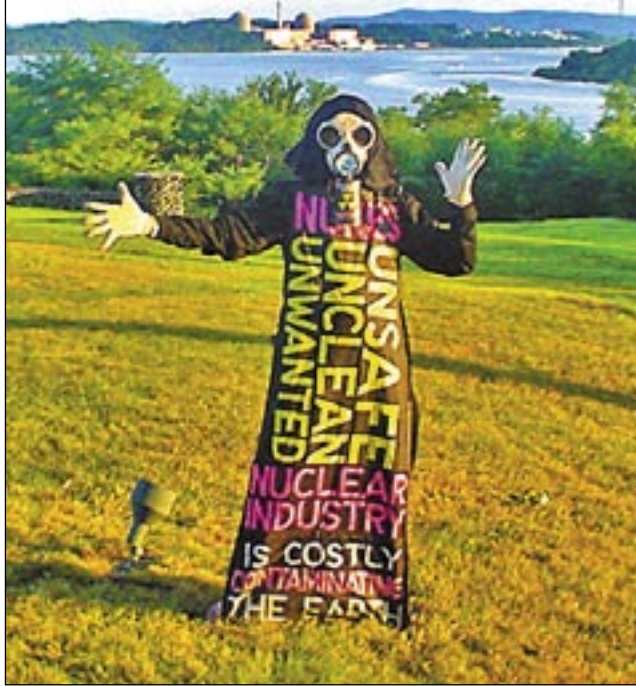
All 12 historic October panics assessed by yours truly for the 1750 – 2000 period occurred a few days prior to a new Moon and around the full Moon with no exceptions. If there is an October panic in 2007, it will most likely be on Monday October 8 (a few days prior to a new Moon) or around Thursday October 25 (near the full Moon). For the former, October 7 would be a better date, but it is a Sunday, a non-trading day. It will be very curious to see if another October panic occurs in the current year.

During a bear market it is important that you do not lose your nerve. If you do not sell you do not make a loss. You could sell, but it may not be worth the effort after you pay capital gains tax. If you sell to be cashed up, you may also miss the low when you buy back into the market. Market timing is difficult and it is always something to consider.

A major problem is that modern central banks can manipulate the markets much more effectively than in the past. In mid August 2007, the world financial system was flooded with money and US interest rates slashed to support shaky markets. The US Federal Reserve will intervene to support the US markets whenever there is a bout of serious financial distress (known as the 'Greenspan put'). How this would distort the influence of Moon - Sun cycles in financial activity can only be speculated upon.

All the best for the crash of 2007.

BENNY ZABLE IN AMERICA



No Nukes. Benny performing on Mount Monteverge, NY, overlooking the Indian Point nuclear reactor. US Hiroshima Day organiser Remy Chevalier wrote to Hudson Power, "It takes a man from Australia to ring your wake-up bell? Shut that sucker down!"

by Warwick Fry

Nimbin performance artist Benny Zable is maintaining the Nimbin tradition of breaking barriers, stepping outside the square, taking a stand and pricking the bubble of the hegemonic paradigm.

Operating from within

the Belly of the Beast - New York; the Big Apple itself - Benny is assisting the organised resistance to this month's APEC meetings in Sydney, helping in the co-ordination of actions within the US in support of the anti-APEC demonstrations in Sydney.

Foremost among these is

a No Nukes action planned for Friday 7th September with activist friends in New York City in solidarity with activists protesting at the APEC heads of state meetings in Sydney on the 8th -9th September.

Benny said, "Dr Helen Caldicott has written us a letter to hand to Rupert Murdoch or his staff for his behalf during our action."

While in America he has been photographed with legendary protest singer and environmental activist Pete Seeger; has won an interview with the gadfly harasser of the US energy corporations, Sherwood Martinelli; and held a protest action at the Indian Point nuclear power plant built near New York (see a clip at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoMhKEmhSCA)

He has also designed and performed at the New York EcoFest conference, and zapped his sound scape activities via cyberspace time-warp across to community radio 2NimFM for podcast and re-dissemination. (Find them at <http://nimbinradiomedia.libsyn.com>)

Benny presented 'Nearly Normal Nimbin' at the Woodstock Film Festival, to much acclaim, and has put Nimbin's sister-village relationship with the

legendary Woodstock up and running on the net. (See www.WoodstockMuseum.com)

While in Woodstock, Benny connected with Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton on a number of projects related to next years Nimbin Aquarius 35 years celebrations next year.

Koennig and Lipton plan to stay in Australia from mid-April to mid-June 2008, setting up screenings of their work in progress, "Woodstock Downunder" so that Nimbinites can make suggestions and loose ends can be tied.

Benny's contacts in the US read like a who's who of the peace activists in the country, all seeking to dissuade all governments from taking the nuclear energy 'leap of faith.'

Benny said, "The core of the new nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights collapsed, yet US President Bush and Australian Prime Minister Howard are to sign a Global Nuclear Energy Partnership deal during the APEC meeting in Sydney."

Meanwhile, if you have access to a computer, any computer, you can follow Benny's travels and the actions he is involved in.

Benny is out there, alright already!

Commonsense Human Values

Fifth in a series by Laurie Stubbs



We are looking now at where human values come from. Last article we saw how genes set the scene in the last 2 million years or so. Now we need to look at the truly long perspective.

What's the message of the 4.8 billion years that Earth has been around? --- life must be pretty amazing stuff.

Science tells us our planet began as a lump of very hot gear – without life. Yet -- maybe not. Life forms have been found recently living in very hot seawater around the sulphurous vents from Earth's inner core of molten iron, rock – or whatever.

Some science guesses life probably began by random action in the chemical soup of the early oceans. Others suggest bacteria came with the comets. That's challenging, because the idea of comets probing deep space picking up living bacteria in a near void and delivering it to Earth sounds like fiction. Yet it may have happened.

But the way life started isn't really the question if we are looking for the big ideas behind the 4.8 billion years. Life began; let's accept that as a simple fact.

We know now that an early life stage was probably single cells which could reproduce themselves, and all evolved life-forms are based on that. Darwin said, the principle was -- after looking at masses of evidence, -- that random mutations in the cell's reproduction process was the base for the whole of the world's millions of species.

With this in mind let's go back to the "lump of very hot gear" – it took a billion years or so of cooling and condensation of gases before any water appeared. Some time after that life got going in the water, and spent a longish time there. Stromatolites – still visible in the salty waters of Shark Bay on our west coast – were one very early life form.

Then, after a lot of time, the sea dwelling algae and similar organisms colonised the land. The original Green Revolution had begun. Remember there are billions of years yet for billions of generations of life forms. A famous saying fits here: "given unlimited time probable events become certainties". There's been plenty of time for development from algae to trees -- and to us.

The next question about life in this great slab of evolutionary time is- "What direction does Life seem to have taken"?

It could be we humans are a bit self important here – but the best guess from looking at the great sweep of evolution and today's species is that life seems to have headed for intelligence and self awareness. In a word US.

Through all the eons of changes, brains have steadily become more complex, and increased in size. And this is so despite the extinctions of many, many life forms. Dinosaurs weren't the only ones that got the chop.

Now we can see a grand continuity of life. A giant sweep of change which starts with a replicating cell, and winds up with an intelligent self aware being with the capacity to wreck the planet. (I say "wreck the planet" because we haven't yet really shown we can live with the planet's limits.)

Out of all this we are forced to the conclusion that life developed itself. In some way therefore we – you and I – are life's creatures. We don't own life. Life possesses us.

In the next article we'll take a look at what life, developed itself, could mean to us.

Nimbin HEMP Embassy

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

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None but the brave protest Sydney APEC

by Graeme Dunstan
3rd September 2007

The Sydney APEC summit will gather many unpopular leaders, corporate resource pirates and war criminals, and many are the issues of protest and many the protest groups: peace, social justice, workers rights and climate change.

Lame duck US president Bush will be hosted by lame duck Australian Prime Minister Howard, his partner in the so-called Coalition of the Willing which launched the disastrous and illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Opinion polls predict a crushing defeat for Howard at the election he must face by the year's end. But for all that, the number protesting in the streets of APEC ghost city is not expected to be large.

For Sydney APEC, the Socialist Alliance who are organising a Stop Bush rally on Saturday 8 September are expecting about 5,000. The Greens, who will be



Let the dead dance! Graeme Dunstan (right) and Viv Roberts at the Peacebus send-off in Nimbin.

protesting climate change, nukes and coal exports, are expecting a mere 35. Ghost Dancers, maybe 200.

Compared to the 20,000 who participated in the anti-globalization protests which took place in response to the World Economic Forum in Melbourne in 2000, this is tiny.

These low expectations are because of an effective

campaign of fear and intimidation that has been integral to the publicity in preparation for the summit.

Fear campaign

When APEC comes to town, it brings the War on Terror with it and sets about terrorizing the local citizenry: the advent of Sydney APEC is not a great day for liberal democracy in

this land.

Night after night Australians have been subjected to images and stories of new riot gear for police, new laws that enable foreign nationals to bear arms and shoot to kill, of laws that allow police to prescribe known activists and restrict their access to public places, of the APEC fence and the partitioning of

the city, of a newly-acquired water cannon, of 30 new buses fitted out for holding and transferring prisoners and jails cleared to make room for them.

This massive security organisation is costing Australian taxpayers in excess of \$AUS400 million and is being justified by inflated fears of violent protest.

The organisers of the protests deny any such violent intentions and say that the intelligence of police is based on dodgy reports from undercover agents, spies and agent provocateurs.

They say the huge scale security operations have become a self-justifying industry for police and their suppliers, and that the true intention is to roll back civil liberties and intimidate and suppress dissent.

Public courage

Although the protests will be small they will be no less significant. The antidote for public fear is public courage,

and already the fearless determination of the few is having its impact.

The Ghost Dance is confirmed for 5-11pm on Friday 7th September at Hyde Park North. The gay activists of Newtown are talking it up and making costumes, and it promises to be an extraordinary dance party in the park.

As much as the APEC organisers might wish to sing of the benefits their meeting will bring to Sydney people and Australians generally, no-one with eyes to see and ears to hear is buying the message.

Prime Minister Howard had hoped APEC would project him as a statesman of world influence and so boost his electoral chances, but the security overkill has added to the loathing the people have for him and now both his leadership and his neo-conservative government are looking dead in the water.

Such is the power of artful and peaceful witness. Let the dead dance!

In the shadow of APEC

by Lynne Oldfield

Jennifer Martiniello, Member of the Advisory Board, Australian Centre for Indigenous History, Australian National University, wrote a letter to the 7.30 report researchers and several newspapers on the 22nd August enquiring why at least two of the senior women who toured major cities speaking out against a uranium waste dump on their traditional lands have been raided by the AFP on warrants issued by a Federal Magistrate in Canberra, their furniture slashed with knives, belongings damaged, laptops and mobile phones seized and phones tapped.

One of the women told Ms Martiniello that the warrant gave 12 hours access to her home, and that she was told that the measures were justified because of the security crackdown for APEC ministers. One of those women is an elderly grandmother.

The search for a nuclear waste dump is continuing in a particularly heavy handed manner. Mr. Howard has refused to consider holding a plebiscite on whether low and intermediate level nuclear waste is transported and stored in the territory.

Mr. Howard has said that, "We're negotiating with the traditional owners of the land and let's see how those negotiations proceed".

When you consider the background reality of fear and disempowerment that Northern Territory Aborigines now live under the word negotiations is somewhat loaded.

Jennifer Martiniello was also told that house to house raids without warrants are being conducted by the AFP in all the Alice Springs town camps as well as the AFP setting up surveillance on all households in the camps and have photographed without consent every child in those town camps.

At a meeting at the Darwin Uniting Church a few days ago people gathered to hear speeches from several Territorians who work closely with Indigenous Communities.

Maningrida doctor Paul Burgess said the health checks, part of the Federal Governments intervention into Indigenous child abuse are being carried out by inexperienced doctors who know little about Aboriginal issues. He added that "The best way to provide health for children is to adequately resource primary health care teams within communities".

Dr Burgess held back tears as he talked about the Aboriginal women and children whom he says are being let down, even after telling their stories to the Little Children are Sacred inquiry.

Darwin barrister Pat McIntyre says the Federal Government was planning to remove the Permit System in Indigenous communities well before "The Little Children are Sacred" report was released.

Mr. McIntyre says he read first-hand the Howard Government's 10-page discussion paper released last year on removing the Indigenous permit system.

Coercion of Aborigines by fear seems to be a necessary adjunct of the Uranium

industry. It reminds one of the First Fleet Re-Enactment at Farm Cove where Aborigines were press ganged into playing roles in the media staged ceremony. They were held in the Police compound next to dog kennels. If they didn't co-operate they were warned their food rations would be stopped.

The story most resonant with what is happening now is the one about the Maralinga lands. In the 1940's England was looking for somewhere to drop their bombs. The central and western deserts were said to be ideal.

Dr Keith Locum, Director of Australian Radiation Laboratory said, "There was a view in the back of everyone's mind that the land was unoccupied and likely to remain so".

This view ignored the fact that an entire nation had lived on the land and had done so since before Captain Cook. A case of British history repeating itself then and now that history is repeating itself all over Australia.

Between 1952 and 1957 nine nuclear bombs were exploded at Maralinga and Emu Junction. Aboriginal people received no warning. Many people died or succumbed to radiation poisoning with their health ruined forever.

England said the bomb would harm no-one. Massive propaganda was mounted to justify tests just as is happening now to justify the uranium industry. For many years Aborigines tried to tell the truth to the world but few listened. It was only when Australia and British servicemen and military personnel who had been involved in the tests started



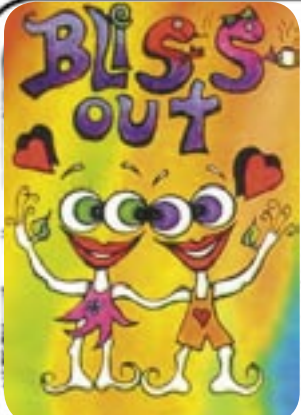
suffering and dying that the full horror of the tests began to emerge and a Royal Commission was held in 1984.

No British colony has such a foundation of cruelty. Aborigines were hunted, raped and massacred by white people who deemed them subhuman. Those old attitudes are still playing out in the manner of the authoritarian takeover of Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory.

"Australia has offered sovereignty to foreign interests rather than native Australians". A statement made over twenty years ago by John Pilger in his documentary Secret Country.

What we're seeing in this APEC Conference is the grim reality of the total sovereignty of foreign interests over all Australians, aboriginal or otherwise.

In the words of John Pilger, "Unless there is a committed policy of reconciliation, of real nationhood the ones that came recently can never claim their own".



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