

New FunFruiterers



Jennene Matteson and Wayne van Boheemen (above) are the proud new owners of Nimbin's FunFruits greengrocery.

Self-confessed tree-changers from Sydney - Wayne is an ex-Rail Corp service technician and Jennene is an ex-legal secretary - they moved up from Penrith six months ago, after buying a house in Thorburn Street 18 months ago, then organising to move their gear up.

During this time, Jennene worked at Vinnie's, the Emporium and the Bowlo kitchen. "Nimbin has been good to me," she said. Wayne said, "We wanted to live and work in the community; participate in and BE the community." Wayne's two boys, Dylan and Kirk, attend Nimbin Central School.

"When Peter Robinson (of Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate) showed us the flyer for FunFruits, we thought 'Oh yeah, we could do that, it's not rocket science,'" Jennene said. "But we've learnt heaps in the last four days. Wayne has been up to the markets twice with (former owner) Phil."

"The early starts don't worry

me. I've done shift work all my working life," Wayne said.

Inventory control is a major priority of the shop, with the emphasis on fresh produce, rather than being kept in the coolroom. "We aim to provide the best quality within an affordable price range," said Jennene.

The shop will remain basically the same, and continue trading as FunFruits, though it will get a new paint-job with some colourful murals, and the produce will be diversified to include baskets of jams, chutneys and preserves.

They will also be offering a home delivery service. "There's a lot of elderly people, and those less mobile, who would appreciate delivery," said Jennene. The service is COD with a \$5 charge up to \$25 (free over that) for delivery within the Nimbin area, phone 6689-0400.

"We've got two 4WDs and two motorbikes, so difficult access is not a problem," said Wayne, who rides a BMW R115. Jennene rides a red 200cc Aprilia scooter.

Pop into the shop and try their revved-up smoothies.

Climate Change and the Bali agreement

It took blood, sweat and tears but the world has come to an agreement in Bali. So what's next?

In Bali, a road map was created to move forward with climate change negotiations. Australia finally joined the global community and now it's time for policies that will see emissions fall.

After ratifying the Kyoto Protocol at the meeting's start, Australia had conference watchers worried. Would they support short-term emission reduction targets of 25-40% for developed countries?

At the eleventh hour, the new Australian government finally showed its support and distanced itself from the spoiling tactics of the US at the meeting. Prime Minister Rudd even made a pointed reference to the US in a speech to the Conference last Wednesday, saying "all developed countries outside the Kyoto Protocol" must "embrace comparable efforts".

The US gives in

The Bali road map was weakened by spoiling tactics from the US and other countries. Things looked grim up until the final hours. But in a dramatic end to the meeting, harsh words from other delegates, including Papua New Guinea (who advised the US to exercise leadership or get out of the way), forced the US to give in.

Australia's next move

The challenge for the Rudd government is to implement policies that will reduce Australia's spiralling greenhouse emissions. According to a Newspoll survey in December:

- 86% of Australians want emissions to start falling in Rudd's first term
- 77% support a phase out of coal fired power

Prime Minister Rudd clearly has the country's support on reducing Australia's reliance on fossil fuels.

How to say no

While Australia was in Bali building a framework for saving our planet, work started at home to double the world's biggest coal export port in Newcastle.

Worse still, new coal-fired power stations are proposed for most Australian states and \$10 billion in taxpayers' money helps subsidise fossil fuel use.

For Mr Rudd to get serious on climate change, he must:

- say no to new coal-fired power plants
- transfer that \$10 billion to clean renewable technology
- start a discussion about which coal plant to close first and how to replace it with energy efficiency measures and renewable energy

Prime Minister Rudd has said that he wants to play a leadership role - here is his great opportunity.

Courtesy Greenpeace Australia

Australia a hot spot for solar energy

Despite the local downpours, a map of the earth's sunniest locations reveals that Australia is a sunburnt country, with plenty of solar energy to spare.

The map, produced by researchers, the Ecole des Mines de Paris, using satellite data collected over the past 22 years, shows on average how much solar radiation reaches the earth's surface.

The sunniest locations on earth include the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Sahara Desert in Niger, Tibet, and almost all of Australia.

Data from maps such as these could be used to assist in the development of solar energy technologies such as photovoltaic panels and solar-hydrogen technology, seen as a viable alternative to fossil fuel energy.

Members from the 72-nation Group on Earth Observations (GEO) met in Cape Town, South Africa, last month to discuss how scientific data from this map and other data like it could be applied to issues such as climate change, health, agriculture and energy. The results confirm the findings of a report published by CSIRO's National Solar Energy Centre in 2001, saying Australia had the highest average solar radiation of any continent.

Dr Leigh Sheppard, of the University of NSW's Centre for Materials Research, believes an area approximately 160 kilometres



Solar lighting trees on display at the Piazza della Scala, Milan, and Vienna
Photos: David Zanardi/Gerhard Koller

square, or one-third the size of Kangaroo Island, could provide all of Australia's energy needs.

He also believes that using solar energy and titanium dioxide to produce hydrogen, by splitting water

into oxygen and hydrogen gas, would be the cleanest, greenest energy option for a sustainable economy.

"When you burn (hydrogen), it gives water, so there is no pollution of the environment," Dr Sheppard said. "The process has the additional advantage that it works best in sea water. Australia is rich in titanium, has abundant sunshine, and we are surrounded by ocean."

Courtesy grist.com



What a sight to greet family and friends visiting the elderly residents of Nimbin's purpose-built Mulgum House! Overgrown with weeds, and with a rampant lawn almost knee-high, the facility appears neglected and forgotten. An enquiry to the Office of Public Housing revealed that the contract for garden maintenance is based on a once-a-month visit, regardless of the season. Residents have investigated hiring a gardener themselves, but have been informed that this would pose insurance problems. Meantime, the building's fire protection alterations, in the pipeline for 18 months, may be done in January.

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Nimbin's Santas out in force over Christmas holiday period



They know if you've been good or bad, and they've been conducting street patrols throughout the village in the lead up to Christmas. These Santas aren't just the dudes in red either, they're the armies of volunteers who have ensured that the season has been festive, with a pre-school party, the Bowlo's kids' party, a seniors party, the community lunch, solstice celebrations and a carols night. They're good.

NNIC Community Lunch

by Gail M. Clarke

Co-ordinator for Nimbin Soup Kitchen
The annual Xmas Community Lunch held at the Town Hall was a resounding success again this year. Nimbin Soup Kitchen wishes to thank all the beautiful helpers who appear on the day to help make it such a fabulous sharing experience and to our constant supporters throughout the year.

A thankyou also to our special Xmas fairy who provides so many of the presents for Santa every year, and to Mim who personally wrapped every present.

We served over 170 meals on the day and everyone had a full belly at the end.

Nimbin Soup Kitchen was originally started in the 90's by the Older Women's Forum who served soup on Friday outside the town hall. Faye Scherf and Winifred Mitchell dished out a lot more than soup on those days, often times it was a chance for people to talk, be encouraged to laugh and share.

In 2001 Faye and Badon were ready to take off travelling, and Winifred was unable to drive anymore so the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre decided to continue the service from the veranda of the Centre. Mim kept the soup coming every week and I would serve it on Fridays.

As I was already a volunteer at the Centre, I noticed the need for food to be available everyday we were open. As is in this town, I talked about getting a freezer and preparing food for take-away, and next thing I heard the pub had an old freezer they were throwing out and if we wanted it, come and get it. So started the Soup Kitchen take-away service.



Depending on demand there is always something in the freezer for either take home, or the volunteers at the Centre will heat food in a few minutes for any who needs a meal. The service is available to all in the community.

At times after paying a large bill or repairing the car there is not much money left over for food, Soup Kitchen can and does supply enough food for a couple of days to see people through till next pay day. There are those who need help when they are sick and unable to feed themselves: a few frozen soups and bread to take home really helps.

This service is made available through the generous donations we receive on Soup Friday, as well as donations of cash from supporters to fill the cupboards with groceries and stock the freezer. If you would like to support this service you could always buy a few extra cans, jars or noodles and drop them into the Centre, or leave a donation at the desk and it will be well spent.

The freezer originally donated by the hotel is dying, and I will be sitting outside the newsagency on Saturdays selling raffle tickets for a 2kg jar of delicious, Happy Bees honey to fund the purchase a new energy efficient freezer for the Soup Kitchen, so please support our efforts and buy a few tickets.

As with any Soup Kitchen, it would not happen without the continuing support of our dedicated volunteers Terry, Kala, Jen, Mel, Reg, Chris, Ron and Annie who either chop the vegies, make the soup, butter the bread or serve the meals.

Thanks again to all involved.



Nimbin Central School's annual Carols by Candlelight went ahead, almost as usual, despite the torrential rain on the night that caused localised flooding.

The whole shebang was moved indoors, with glowsticks and theatrical lighting replacing the customary candles and sunset.

Though attendance was down, those who braved the elements were treated to a lavish spread of musical bon bons, under the direction of MD Val Mace, and joined in hearty renitions of those songs we only sing once a year.



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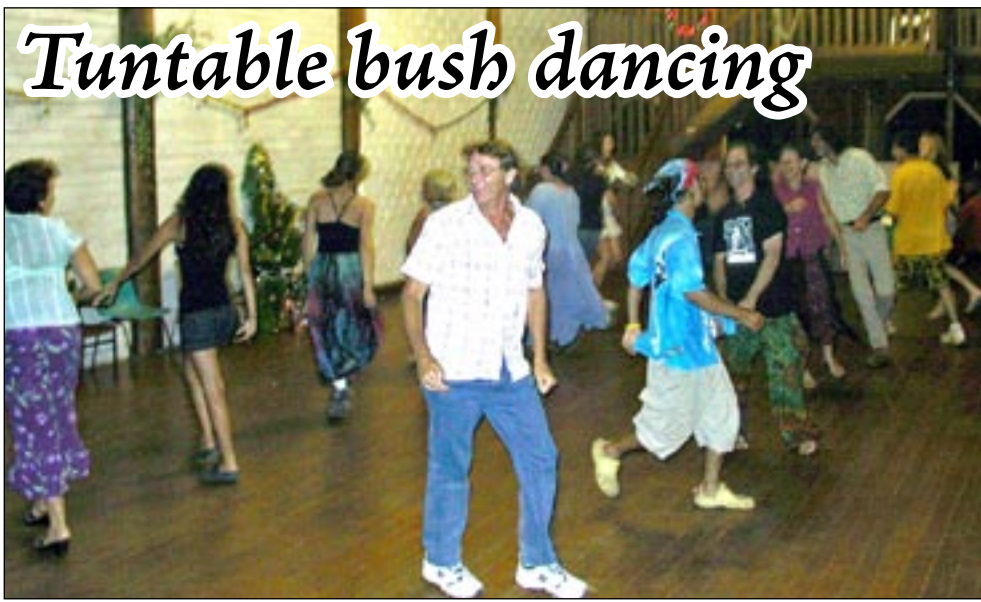
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Tuntable bush dancing



The dancers may have initially been a bit rusty with some of the steps, but after a little tuition from Belinda the caller, they were well on their way to enjoying a great night of Celtic folk dancing.

Reviving a Tuntable tradition that had lapsed over the years, the Tuntable Folk Band ensured no foot was left un-tapping.

The dancing may not have always been totally authentic, but old hands and newbies alike formed up for the set dances with gusto, and had great fun in the process. Strip the Willow, indeed.

Brilliant Tuntable catering, another tradition, assured a magnificent night of bush dancing - hopefully the first of many.



Award-winning kids



Congratulations to all Primary students who picked up awards at their end-of-year assemblies, like those shown here at Nimbin Central School.

As Primary APs Marc Everingham and Dian Whitney said, "A fantastic effort by all."

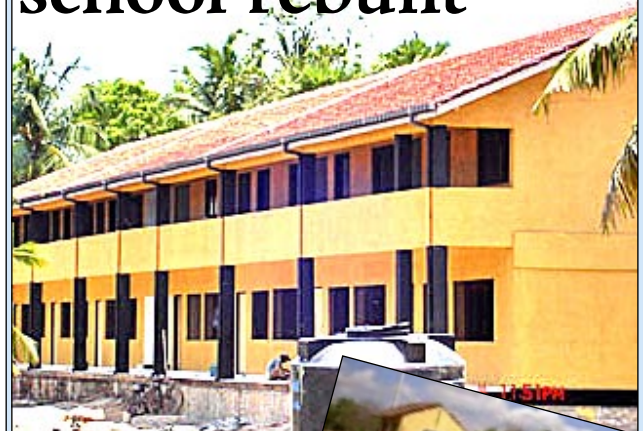
Possibly of greater interest to the students were the range of end-of-year excursions involving water-slides, river cruises, parades and dinners.

Photos: Kirra Bayles



When next at Nimbin's Sunday markets, say hi to Juan and check out his decorative ceramics.

Nimbin's tsunami school rebuilt



Reconstruction of Thambaddai GTMS school in eastern Sri Lanka has been completed.

Funds were raised in the Nimbin community for the Rotary project after the 2004 tsunami. The final cost: \$A296,330.

Liz Stone from Caritas said, "We've built schools, but we've got to make sure there are sufficient teachers."

Seed parade takes long view on environmentalism



Black bean, brush cherry, grevillea and lilly pilly seeds were given away to anyone in Nimbin on Thursday afternoon, 13th December. The seeds are native to our area and non-hybrid.

The inaugural Seed Parade was an initiative of the Nimbin Green Corps group, who are committed to promoting the growing of native plants to promote healthy eco-systems.



The group had no trouble recruiting the assistance of the Nimbin Environment Centre and Nimbin Central School, as well as local seed merchants, to bring the venture to fruition.

The project's stated aim was "to have children give the gift of seeds to reclaim and regenerate our land and ourselves." This initiative showed the process to be well underway.

Digital new year's resolutions from the CTC

This New Year make a resolution to let the Nimbin CTC take the hassle out of using a computer and all things digital.

We can help with Information Technologies like the internet, email, eBay, online banking, online job applications, computer access, education and training courses, computer maintenance, website development, desktop publishing and printing services, all at low cost.

The CTC also offers affordable pricing on digital media production, for example DVD authoring, VHS to

DVD transfer as well as audio cassette and vinyl to CD transfer, equipment hire and venue hire.

This year, do yourself a favour and visit the Nimbin CTC to see how we can help you or your business apply the information technology facilities and services required to participate in today's emerging information economies.

Your Community Technology Centre is a not-for-profit community organization, wholly staffed by volunteers passionate about providing good service and quality product to the

Nimbin community.

The Nimbin CTC also provides a hub for community members to enhance their IT skills by knowledge pooling/sharing and practical hands on experience. Of course with so much going on, we welcome committed individuals either as volunteers or as part of the WFTD program.

Give us a call on 6689-1183 or drop in and see the friendly staff at 81 Cullen Street.

Wishing our supporters all the best in the New Year, your Nimbin CTC.

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Nimbin's high achiever

Kevin Cousins and Matthew Gambin



Among the dozens of students who celebrated their achievements at Nimbin Central School's Year 10 Formal, perhaps none was more modest than Matthew Gambin.

A participant in the school's accelerated learning program, Matthew also completed his HSC in 2 and 3 Unit Mathematics, making the merit lists (over 95%) in both subjects.

His results were good enough to get the school into the SMH 100 Top Schools list in Mathematics, with 15% of its candidature appearing in the merit lists.

Co-ordinator of the school's Gifted and Talented program, Kevin Cousins scoffed at the league table obsession of the media.

"The whole idea is to get the best out of each individual student," he said.

"Because Nimbin is a small school, it's relatively easy to adjust a student's timetable and support them for cross-stage learning."

Matthew, who also sings in the school choir and plays keyboard in the school rock band, is not in a hurry to finish his studies.

"I'll be going on to Year 12," he said.



A Year 10 alternative

Students who have difficulty operating within the traditional school system should consider an alternative way to achieving their Year 10 Certificate, according to Chris Harding from Alesco Northern Rivers.

"Alesco has been designed to accommodate students who just don't seem to fit into traditional classrooms," Chris said. "Students operate as a core crew in a class that is no larger than 15 - 20 in total. They are encouraged to form strong relationships with each other and teachers in an effort to keep them engaged and enthusiastic. It works because they all work together to reach a common goal, which is the School Certificate," she says.

Mr Harding lists a number of great successes among 2007's graduates, including one student who has just been offered an apprenticeship in Graphic Design after showing great enthusiasm and initiative during the Work Experience



program.

"Outcomes such as this are a great credit to the school and students given that many of the students were considering not even completing school at the beginning of 2007," he said.

"Now those students have just completed their Year 10 certificate exams and are eagerly awaiting their results," Mr Harding said. "We are all very excited."

The School is now opening its doors to the next round of students and holding interviews regularly at ACE Lismore.

Potential students should call ACE on (02) 6622-1903 to make a booking or email Alesco through its Myspace site at <www.myspace.com/alesconorthernrivers>

Alesco has been in operation for two years and is now located in newly refurbished premises in the RSL building in Market Street, Lismore.

SRC decides: everybody needs a dance party



What a way to finish the school year! In a time of school formals and presentations, the Student Representative Council at Nimbin Central decided that

all students had cause to celebrate the completion of another year's schooling.

With the help of SRC co-ordinator Lishia O'Reilly, the school's P&C

committee and Canteen staff, the students organised a themed dance party, and turned up in droves. More are planned in the new year.

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