



THE NIMBIN GOLD COAST JUMMIES

WILD & FREE

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Impressive Aussie Battlers Nimbin's young people win at HipHop contest

Nimbin kids are pretty into hip-hop. They showed just what they can do during the Aussie Battlers competition at the newly-refurbished Lismore PCYC on Australia Day.

A group of girls formed The Happy HipHoppers for the occasion, roping in a boy along the way, and came first in the Open HipHop Crew category.

Crew member Karinya Oldfield said, "Community Connections came out to Nimbin and taught free workshops a few weeks running. We choreographed a dance together and performed it at the Aussie battlers. And we won!"

Brothers Dan and Chris Walsh, already experienced rappers, won Best HipHop Song at the event, now in its third year, against entrants from as far afield as Port Macquarie and the Gold Coast.

"There was some great talent that performed on the day," Karinya said, "great breakdancers from Grafton, a really talented 14 year old beatboxer, some really good choreographed dances and some good break battles."

"There was also a really good krumping competition that got the crowd going," she said.

Travers Ross, who organised the Intensive Festival in Coffs Harbour recently, also judged the Aussie Battlers. The event was organised by the local Bundjalung people of Lismore.

Happy HipHoppers (at right, clockwise from top left): Stewart, Karinya, Nikita, Tara, Alex, Lluella, Phoebe, Lily, Kimberley, Indie. Not in photo: Zara and Nadine.
Pictures: Raphaela Rosella



It's official: NextG is a dud

Despite Telstra's series of threatening letters and denial of customers' complaints, new Communications Minister Stephen Conroy has cancelled the CDMA switch-off deadline for a third time, citing network and handset deficiencies.

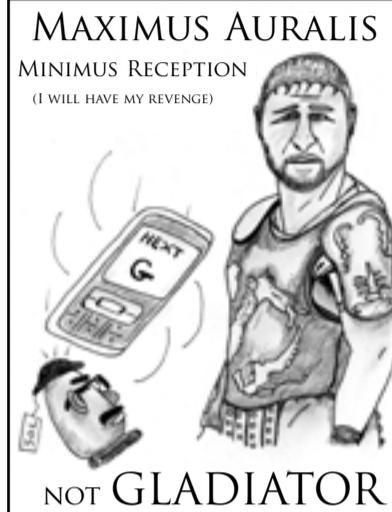
The minister saw the switch to the inadequate new network as a breach of Telstra's licence conditions.

In a breath-takingly shoddy marketing exercise, CDMA customers had been told to throw away their working phones and buy NextG handsets, or they'd lose their credits, their number, and their service agreement.

Which would be OK, if the new network actually worked. Nimbin businessman Des Bennett told The Australian he switched to NextG in November.

"I am running a business on the phone, I have lost thousands of dollars. The tower is right up on the hill behind me and it doesn't work. It's shit. The handset is the most expensive they have," Des said.

Secretary of Billen Cliffs, Alfredo Bonanno, enquired with



Cartoon by Alex Charles

Telstra about the poor or non-existent coverage throughout their community.

"They answered back that our area needs satellite phones and there are no provisions to install any antenna to extend to us the service," Alfredo said.

While customer complaints about NextG coverage fell on deaf ears at the market-share focused telco, local members of parliament have again proved much more pro-active.

CDMA is far from perfect, but Telstra has a lot to do to NextG if it is to meet its next deadline in three months' time.

"While the waters may recede quickly, the recovery is a long slow process."

Janelle Saffin MP

Read our MP's columns on page 2.



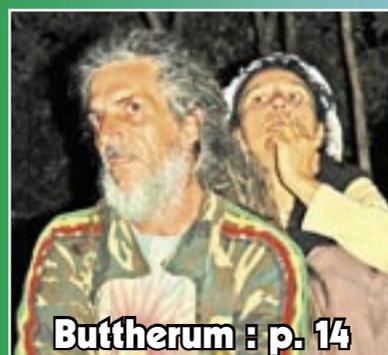
Coffee-coloured.
Goolmangar Creek at Coffee Camp
Panorama by Sue Stock, taken 5th January 08



Backs Up : p. 7



Bands : p. 10



Buttherum : p. 14



Beat Up : p. 19