

Janelle Saffin MP

"Janelle's Page"

I had planned to begin my first column as Member for Page with a Happy New Year wish, and while I do want to extend my best wishes for health and happiness in 2008, I am mindful that the year started with devastation for many hit by the January flood.

In recent weeks I have visited the flood affected areas and talked to many families, business people, and farmers about the damage, stock losses and aftermath of the flood. It's always heartbreaking to see people's ruined belongings out in the street, and to know the loss this represents for them. I lived in a floodplain for a long time and can really feel for all those affected. While the waters may recede quickly, the recovery is a long slow process.

In my visits to the area I've been inspired by people's resilience in the face of this natural disaster. But as this was our third natural disaster in the area in three months, and some farmers were still dealing with long term drought, this flood has been overwhelming for some.

I met Premier Morris Iemma when he visited after having declared the Natural Disaster Areas, and since then I have urged him to seek additional Federal Government assistance through the Natural Disaster Package which is a combined Federal State process. I have also been lobbying Federal ministers for relief grants on top of the Natural Disaster Relief measures. I've invited Federal Primary Industries Minister Tony Burke to come



and see the effects of the flood first hand.

I advocated to the Insurance Council of Australia and individual insurance companies on behalf of those affected by water damage, saying I wanted them to be fair and as kind to our community as they were to people in the Hunter Valley last year where claims were treated as storm damage. Legal Aid also has a free publication called Turning the Tide: Storms, Floods, Insurance and You (you can download it from www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au) or you can ring Lismore Legal Aid on 6621-2082.

Of course floods aren't the only issue in the electorate, and in particular roads and health services are priority concerns and I'm preparing a package of priorities for Page that I'll be taking to Canberra.

In mid-January I opened my electorate office in Lismore and it will soon be fully staffed. It's been a busy start to the year, and one I hope that sees our area recovering quickly and moving ahead.

Federal Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street Lismore
Phone 6621-9909

Justine Elliot MP

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2008. I am very honoured and proud to be your local Federal MP and I look forward to catching up with many of you in the near future.

Whaling

As we all know, we have fantastic local whale-watching enterprises that bring much needed economic benefits to the North Coast and our region in general.

Our community has always been vocal in our opposition to Japanese whaling.

Kevin Rudd and Peter Garrett have always been clear in their opposition to Japanese so-called "scientific" whaling, and they have my full support.

Anyone who has seen the majesty and beauty of our whales on our coast, and all those involved in the local tourism industry find Japanese whaling disgusting and I will always stand up for locals on the issues that are important to us.

CDMA Mobile Network Closure Postponed

The CDMA mobile network closure has been postponed beyond the planned 28 January deadline.

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, has announced that closure of the CDMA network would be postponed beyond 28 January.

I have received numerous inquiries regarding the closing of the CDMA network and concerns expressed with poor network coverage. The Minister has taken the necessary steps for better services under the Next G network.

North Coast Wild Weather

Recently our region has experienced some of the worst weather conditions and subsequent flooding for many a year. This has resulted in a significant economic impact on local business and the community in general.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our magnificent emergency service workers, social services, State Government's and local Councils, local businesses and business chambers in their response to this crisis.



We all understand that tourism and farming play a large part in the economic viability of our region. This weather crisis has resulted in many taking a hard knock, and we hope that recovery will be swift.

Kyoto Protocol Ratified

Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol was considered and approved by the first Executive Council meeting of the Government.

Under United Nations guidelines, ratification of the Kyoto Protocol enters into force 90 days after the Instrument of Ratification is received by the United Nations. Australia will become a full member of the Kyoto Protocol before the end of March 2008.

The Kyoto Protocol is considered to be the most far-reaching agreement on environment and sustainable development ever adopted.

The Federal Government will do everything in its power to help Australia meet its Kyoto Protocol obligations. This will include:

- Setting a target to reduce emissions by 60 per cent on 2000 levels by 2050.
- Establishing a national emissions trading scheme by 2010.
- Setting a 20 per cent target for renewable energy by 2020 to dramatically expand the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

Celebrating a milestone?

If you or a family member are celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary. I am able to arrange congratulatory messages from the Prime Minister, and in some cases the Governor General and the Queen.

Til next time.

Federal Member for
Richmond
107 Minjungbal Drive
Tweed Heads South
Phone 1300-720-675

John Kaye MLC

NSW Premier Morris Iemma and his Treasurer Michael Costa would have us believe that this state faced two choices. Either we agree to privatisation of the electricity industry or the lights will go out some time in 2014 or 2015. The logic behind this dichotomy is as flawed as the consequences of accepting it are dire.

The problem appears to have started with Treasurer Costa's dual obsessions with building a new coal-fired power station in NSW and selling off as much of the electricity industry as he could get away with. The search began for a justification for both breaking an election promise to keep the industry in public hands and for massively increasing this state's greenhouse gas emissions.

In late April of last year, the Iemma government commissioned Curtin University Professor Tony Owen to report on the need for new generation capacity in NSW.

The Iemma government's terms of reference for the Owen Inquiry misquoted last year's report by the national electricity grid operator, NEMMCO. The implication was that an emerging shortfall in generating capacity would require new plant to be built in NSW to maintain supply reliability. The report actually said nothing of the kind.

There are enormous technological opportunities to reduce energy wastage and to change the way people consume electricity. If these were fully exploited, demand would be reduced sufficiently to delay the need for new large baseload capacity until at least 2020 and probably well beyond, even with population growth.

The most outstanding example is electric off-peak hot water systems. It is now commonly accepted that encouraging households to heat water overnight with lower priced electricity has passed its useful life. Off-peak tariffs were originally designed to create a load for the large coal-fired power stations that experienced cost penalties and technical difficulties if they had to reduce output at night. They are now seen as an incentive to a wasteful use of energy that is bloating the demand

for new baseload capacity.

The Greens' analysis showed that replacing the 70 thousand off-peak water heaters that reach the end of their life each year with solar or high efficiency gas or electric units would remove any need for new baseload plant in NSW for the foreseeable future. For less than the paltry sum of \$6 million a year, the NSW government could ensure that no household was financially worse off and the state would be significantly better off.

Other industry observers agree with the conclusion that it is cheaper, lower risk and better for the environment to reduce wasteful usage of energy and assist consumers in changing to more efficient technology, than it is to build new baseload plants.

Professor Owen however chose to ignore much of the evidence submitted to him. He dismissed the demand side opportunities and reinforced the myth that without new baseload plant the lights would go out. While this would have been standard thinking in the mid 20th century, it is deeply outmoded in a world where the technological opportunities have grown dramatically and greenhouse constraints should be taken very seriously.

The report went on to argue that without privatisation of the retailers and at least long term leasing of the generators, NSW would not be able to build a new baseload plant and maintain its international credit rating. Combined with the enticing prospect of a \$14 billion war chest to spend on in the lead up to the 2011 state election, a majority of Labor MPs were unable to resist the argument that without privatisation the lights would go out.

They have a lot to answer for. Not only have they fallen for an argument for privatisation that is based on an entirely false premise, but they have committed this state to massively increasing its greenhouse gas emissions. They have also undermined long term jobs and placed at risk household electricity bills.

John Kaye will be in Nimbin on Sunday 17th February at the Town Hall from 4pm to discuss privatisation and other State matters.

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Still Lovin' It - 2 1/2 years on

Robyne Love, the manager of the Lovin' It bistro at the Nimbin Hotel and Backpackers, is going fishing.

She'll be taking a trawler out of Fremantle to work the Indian Ocean and the Gulf for three months, secure in the knowledge that the bistro will run perfectly well without her.

"I have a great team," Robyne said. "It's taken me 2 1/2 years to get these girls, and now we've got one of the best kitchens in town. In saying that, many locals have worked at Lovin' It, and without their contribution we wouldn't still be open, so I'm really grateful to them."

The bistro has come a long way from its shaky start, when Robyne took it over after it was closed for a month.

"Tom (Mooney) gave it to me on a handshake," Robyne said. "There was an egg flip and a scourer in the kitchen, that was it. We painted the kitchen, borrowed \$400 to buy food, and opened. Heaps of Nimbin people gave me utensils and crockery to get me started, and I would really like to thank the loyal



Lovin' It Bistro staff (left to right): Robyne (rear), Tanya, Amanda, Narelle, Niki (centre), Kate, Erica (front), absent: Morigan.

band of customers who have supported me. Many eat here every day."

Robyne's secret of success is simple. "It's about putting love in the food," she said. "We make everything on the premises, and our meals are a good size, and of consistent quality."

The bistro's name reveals another aspect of Robyne's approach. More than just a clever take on her name, the concept relates to the 1993 film 'Like Water for

Chocolate', where Tita expresses her emotions through her cooking, and when she's in a happy mood, the whole town is happy.

Robyne plans to make use of her contacts in the fishing industry to introduce a special menu of fresh seafood within three months.

While she's away, Kate Payne will be managing the bistro, which is available for functions of up to 60 people - weddings, parties, anything.

For the love of pool ♦♦♦

Jack Halligan plays a pretty good game of pool. He should do. He was in the World Champion 8-Ball team rankings in 1993 and 1995. Twice World No. 1 pool player.

Visiting Nimbin to play exhibition matches, give hints and demonstrate trick-shots at the Nimbin Hotel and Backpackers, Jack was happy to take on all comers.

"I do this in pubs, clubs and mining camps all round Australia," Jack said. "I'm on the road all year round."

Patrons recalled the last time he visited, in September 2005, when the only local who could beat him was Johnny Bayles. He still keeps a signed poster from the event.

This time again there was no shortage of competitors, one of the youngest being pool enthusiast Jared Atkinson. Jack asked him, "Were you here last time I was here?" He would have been 13 at the time, well past his bedtime.

Jared was left with six balls on the table after a masterful display of accurate drops and clever cue-ball positioning by the world champion.

Jimmy Guertsen, who Jack remembered had beaten him in Bowen last year, came close to winning a game, making a seven ball break but failing to pot the black. Max Pike got even closer, sinking all eight balls but pocketing an opposition ball after the black.

Eventually Johnny Bayles' son-in-law Kyle Hudson broke the drought, defeating Jack and so creating something of a family tradition. His feat was soon after repeated



Gentleman Jack Halligan

by Matt Andriske, also in a close black-ball game.

Jack took the losses in good grace. "That's the game," he said with a shrug. "I've just come back from five weeks' holiday where I didn't touch a pool-cue."

Many posters were signed. "I'm really enjoying playing at the moment, and I love coming here," he said. Looks like he's welcome in Nimbin anytime.

Opera at the Trattoria

It was a night of musical treats when Nimbin's Trattoria presented an evening of Italian Opera and Song in January.

Home-grown tenor Paul McGeown led diners through three centuries of song, from Caccini's 'Amarilli Mia Bella' of 1601 to Puccini's 'Nessun Dorma' of 1917, providing informative and witty introductions to each of the 13 songs he performed.

The programme of Neopolitan singing, a mix of light opera and beefed-up Italian folk songs, was deftly handled by Paul, accompanied by the accomplished pianist Alan French, with local soprano Williamina Bowers also joining him for two moving duets.



Dramatic. Williamina Bowers (left) accuses Paul McGeown of cheating, basically, but all sung, in Italian, with Alan French (right) accompanying. Magnifico!

Video images by Chibo Mertineit

The capacity crowd that had braved the elements to attend the event, were roused to sing along with the lively finale, Francesco Sartori's

'Con te partito' with its glorious chorus, 'Funiculi, funicula', ensuring the night ended on a high note.

After the performance, Paul said, "It was a great night, and gave us the opportunity to get out and have fun."

"The style was developed so you can be heard over the sounds of a cafe or bar."

"We were testing the waters, as we haven't really done anything like that before. We definitely want to do it again."

Next time book early.



It's snake time, beware!

Local dancer Chantico was hospitalised for two days after being bitten by a snake at her home on Stony Chute road last Monday.

The venomous snake that attacked her ankle was believed to be a Clarence River tiger snake, also known as a rough-scale.

"It struck three times in a second, but I didn't know that until later," Chantico said. "It just felt like a stick scratching you, at first."

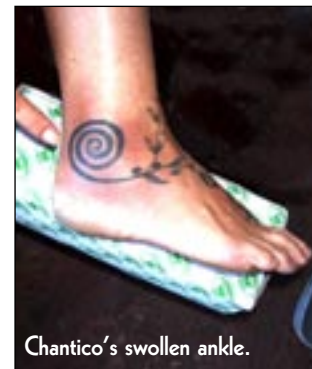
"I bandaged it, rang a neighbour and got a lift to hospital, but by the time we were half-way down Stony Chute, my head started to ache like I'd been hit with an axe."

Chantico said others should heed the warning that snakes are active at the moment. "I just walked straight into his path, through long grass in

bare feet," she admitted.

Though discharged from hospital, the multiple puncture wounds had developed a secondary infection, and Chantico's swollen ankle will keep her from dancing for some time yet.

In the meantime, Bobbin is taking Chantico's dance classes.



Chantico's swollen ankle.

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Nimbin Players take on Sydney with 100 Years in 10 minutes

The Nimbin Players have been accepted as a 'Wildcard' in the 2008 Sydney 'Short & Sweet' Theatre Festival.

They will be performing at the Seymour Centre on Saturday 16th February.

The Players will be presenting a 10-minute piece written by Bob Tissott, and will be up against 39 other theatre companies from around Australia.

They will be the only theatre company representing the North Coast at the national festival.

The play, '100 Years', deals with the sorry history of Black / White relations in a fast-paced, frank and sometimes brutal manner.

"The timing of our



Sorry Business. Bob Tissott in his role as president of Nim-FM

performance couldn't be better, coming three days after Kevin Rudd's much anticipated apology," said Bob.

The play features father and son, Bob and Jed Tissott as the ever-evolving faces of White occupation, with Athol Compton as the indigenous men.

A.C.E. North Coast @ Nimbin CTC

Are you an Australian citizen or permanent resident over 25 years of age, not holding an HSC or a Certificate 11 and want to upgrade your computer skills?

Nimbin C.T.C is offering a Certificate II in Information Technology.

The course will give you the necessary skills to work effectively in an IT environment, use a computer operating system, use computer hardware, design documents and detect and protect your computer from destructive software.

This course will be run under Australian Skills Voucher Programme, if you qualify it will be at no cost to the student.

This course will give you a certificate that is recognized as a qualification to work in an IT environment or simply upgrade your computer skills.

This course is open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants wishing to acquire qualifications.

The course will run one day a week 9.30 - 3.30 for 12 weeks.

We are asking for people interested in doing this course to come along to the Nimbin C.T.C. for an information session / sign on day on FRIDAY 15th February from 10am to noon. Please bring along a copy of your ID.



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Nimbin Indigenous Arts Programme Drawing on Culture

Well known local indigenous artists Burri Jerome and Gilbert Laurie will be the ACE North Coast trainers, conducting a 12 week programme in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander cultural art.

This is for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and will be run in Nimbin on Wednesdays.

This course is open to anyone who is over 25 years, and has no formal qualifications. Each student will attain a Cert II in Indigenous Cultural Art

The course will offer Aboriginal arts Culture and art disciplines, in a unique mix incorporating the principles of drawing, and painting, using powerful dreamtime stories, language and background to inspire and train students.

Both Burri and Gilbert have been winners of the



Burri Jerome

National Parks and Wildlife Indigenous Arts Prize. Gilbert has also won the "Peoples choice" award from the Nimbin spring arts exhibitions on two occasions.

This course will train students in contemporary techniques, principles and composition. Students will be encouraged to express their own culture through the inspiration of the trainers' living culture. Techniques used will include materials such as charcoal, pen and ink,

acrylic on canvas and other mediums.

This course will be commencing in mid-February. There will be an Expression of Interest day on Wednesday the 13th February 10am until 2pm at the Indigenous Cultural Centre at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please contact Jan Levy on 0429-671-808 or call ACE North Coast Lismore on 02 6622-1903 or email acenc@acenc.com for more details.



Gilbert Laurie

Oasis Events

The Nimbin Oasis Cafe has a number of evening gigs coming up in February.

Film Night

Monday 11th February
Screening of short films produced by Nimbin locals as part of a Lismore TAFE 16-week film production course last year. Lots of local cameos and locations.

Poetry Night

Thursday 14th February, Valentine's Day. Hear award-winning Nimbin poets (see page 17), and others. Newcomers welcome.

Brackets & Jam

Thursday 21st February
All musicians invited. Bring your instruments and leads, do a bracket and stay for the jam. Hosted by Biko.

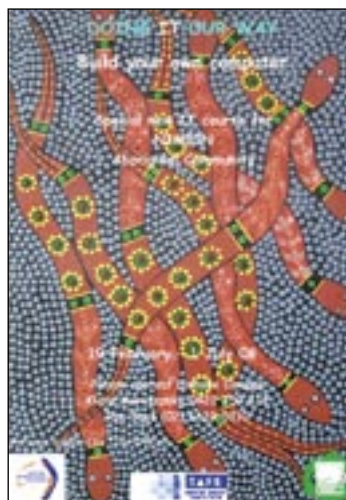
All events start at 7pm and go "until we finish."

Build your own computer

A forthcoming Aboriginal Information Technology (IT) Program in Nimbin will be the first of several TAFE programs working with the Aboriginal community, supporting them in moving forward to a culturally strong and sustainable future.

The course 'Doing IT Our Way' will run on Tuesdays over 20 weeks, from 19th February to 1st July, at the Aboriginal Cultural Space in Nimbin's Community Centre.

Members of the local Aboriginal community have emphasised that any courses put on by North Coast Aboriginal Learning Partnerships (TAFE's Aboriginal Education unit) will cater firstly to Goories, but if places are available, non-Aboriginal community



members will be welcome.

Klara Marosszeky, the TAFE Course Coordinator said, "I hope the community fully supports this initiative.

"For further information please feel free to contact Karen Roberts or Johnny Bayles, or phone me on 0422-750-612."

Pre-school donation

Marie Claire, the glossy magazine predominantly aimed at women, and based in Sydney, has donated \$500 to the Nimbin Preschool and Childcare Association.

This generosity was forthcoming after local input into a story published in their October 2007 edition, detailing the as yet unresolved demise of Simone Strobel in Lismore, in 2005.

The money was used to purchase a digital camera, and colour photo printer for the children's portfolios, and will prove to be a great asset in communicating development and special moments throughout the year to the parents and carers.

Young Endeavour sets sail for 2008

Applications are now open to apply as a crew member on board Australia's National Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour.

Young Endeavour is an impressive 44m-long tall ship purpose-built for sail training. Through the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, the ship undertakes an average of 20 11-day voyages each year for young people aged 16-23.

The Scheme aims to give all young Australians the chance to go on a true seafaring adventure, taking them out of their comfort zones while learning about communication, teamwork, leadership and, most importantly, real heroes - themselves.

Youth crew do not need to have sailing experience.

Young people in the

community aged 16-23 can apply for a berth. There are berths for 12 male and 12 female youth crew on each voyage.

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme is a not-for-profit organisation which reports to the Minister for Defence, in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy.

Local Federal MP Justine Elliot said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people in our community to expand their horizons and share the adventure of a lifetime."

Applications need to be entered by 29th February.

Further information and application forms can be found by visiting www.youngendeavour.gov.au or by contacting the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme on 1800-020-444.



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Crisis! What crisis?

Accommodation providers take a breath

by Alex Charles

Nimbin's accommodation has been stretched to the limit of late. With the closure of Granny's Farm Backpackers, and a legal brouhaha in the offing, existing tourism providers have taken up the slack during the busy holiday season, with some operators having to turn people away.

This is not an ideal situation when one considers the economic loss to the village, but one that reflects an ongoing appetite for the Nimbin experience, and must be considered in Lismore Council's tourism strategy, due for release at the end of this month.

Understandably in the wet conditions, accommodation providers are less than keen to acknowledge that there's any shortage of beds. Chris Clarke from Nimbin Rox YHA said, "Occupancy rates need to be spread over the whole year... tourism is sporadic and seasonal, and you do get those times when the town is full."

"I don't think the closure of Granny's Farm has had any appreciable effect on our numbers. There may have been an oversupply of beds before, and our figures suggest a steadily growing occupancy rate to 65% on average," he said.

Michael O'Rourke from the Nimbin Hotel and



Dry. Happy Nimbin Caravan Park campers.

Backpackers agrees to some extent. He said, "We're full, but not turning people away. Yes and no on Granny's Farm. It's just the cream on top of our existing business, but I do think if you built another backpackers you could fill it for 6 to 8 months of the year."

Doug McKenzie from the Rainbow Retreat said, "We're not chock-a-block, and haven't been. The Rainbow Retreat has beds available, and I don't think there's the demand for another backpackers."

The Lismore Council-owned Nimbin Caravan Park, managed by Judy Ryan, still has plenty of camping, but it has been busy. "Granny's Farm doesn't affect us much because we specialise in camping and powered sites," Judy said.

The Grey Gum Lodge has been busy over Christmas, and Shirley McGuire, the owner said, "It's starting to slow down now. Granny's Farm has had no real impact. I never have enough rooms." Compounding matters is

the temporary closure of Klassic Lodge Motel, undergoing renovations, according to Lismore City Council staff. The Motel used to act as a release valve, and take some of the burden in peak times.

Mitch Lowe, Council's Tourism Manager, is keeping a close eye on things. He is in possession of a draft copy of the recently completed Southern Cross University tourism survey of Nimbin, for Council comment.

Mitch said that preliminary results indicate that 75% of visitors stay less than 4 hours in Nimbin. People who stay, do so on average for 3 nights. He said, "38% of visitors come from southeast Queensland, 10% from Sydney, 18% from the Northern Rivers (Coffs Harbour to Tweed Heads), only 17% from overseas, and the rest from other locations around Australia."

These survey results will be used to direct the allocation of resources from Council. Marketing, increasing the proportion of overnight stays, and whether we have the right types of facilities, and in enough numbers to support these figures, are some of the questions that Council should answer when it releases the survey findings to stakeholders, together with its tourism strategy, in Nimbin Town Hall on Thursday 28th February.

Open Learning

The Nimbin Open Learning Centre is starting its fifth year of providing interesting courses for interesting people. The classes are mostly 1½ hours and run over eight weeks.

First term for 2008 sees some favourites and new offerings. Computers for Beginners and Photoshop will run on Thursday mornings at the CTC. Christine Strelan returns for more stimulating Writing classes, and Carole Barrett will open your eyes with techniques and skills for Drawing.

The popular course 'Aboriginal People in Today's Society', led by Liz Johnson, is guaranteed to open hearts and minds.

'Dance for Fitness and Fun', a great way to tone up suitable for all ages, will be led by Gail M. Clarke, and Daniel Keszler will teach Tai Ji Chi Gong.

Fiona Maunder returns with her Astrology – beginners class. A few other classes are in the pipeline, so watch out for the bright



A project of the Nimbin Community School

yellow leaflet in your letterbox.

This term, dates are:

• **Enrolments** Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th February,

• **Classes start** Wednesday 13th February.

All classes are held at the Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street.

Costs: \$45 one course, \$80 two courses, all computer classes \$75.

Any enquiries, phone 6689-0009.

What's on @ Djanbung Gardens?

Vocational Training

Vocational training in permaculture for careers in sustainable systems and design, Semester 1 with Erda Institute begins Feb 18 – register now.

Feb 18 - Cert III, IV & Diploma courses commence – Austudy approved

Part-time Permaculture Design Course, Mon and Tues 9-5 begins Feb 25

Climate Action

Wed Feb 20 Nimbin Climate Action Group will hold the 2008 inaugural meeting starting 6pm with a screening of 'The Power of Community – How Cuba survived Peak Oil'. Roberto Perez, the Cuban permaculturist featured on this DVD will be visiting Nimbin on March 14.

After the DVD, 7pm – pot luck dinner and meeting to create steering committee and establish priorities for the year including a working group to develop a Transition Town strategy for Nimbin.



Robyn Francis

Entertainment-PLUS...

Sat Feb 23 Psychedelic Circus – an evening of music and weird'n wonderful things from 7pm with Neil Pike and others.

Further details contact Djanbung Gardens Ph 6689-1755 Mob 0429-147-138 www.permaculture.com.au

Israeli dance sessions in Nimbin

Israeli Dance Sessions are coming to Nimbin on Thursday nights.

February 14th, which is also St Valentine's Day, sees the start of these exciting classes in the dance studio at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Israeli dancing, which is an institution in Israel, has now become a worldwide phenomenon with hundreds of classes in many countries.

The dances you learn in Nimbin may also be danced in USA, Canada, UK, Europe and Asia (to name just a few), and you can attend a class in Melbourne on any day of the week.

Liora Claff has taught Israeli dancing in the

Northern Rivers since 2006 and has had many years experience both as a dancer and a teacher, learning both in Sydney and Israel.

Traditional dances are taught along side modern dances, and the choreographers draw on rhythms and patterns from many countries of the world, evoking the energy of those countries.

Horas from Europe, passionate moves with Latin influences, sensual and mystic Debkas from the Middle East, and spiritual and graceful Israeli dances are examples of what you will experience in the sessions.

The dances are short and

exercise the mind as well as the body. Easy to learn - you can learn two in a night and increase your repertoire quickly - the sessions go for a couple of hours and quickly build up stamina in the dancer. The night begins at 6pm with beginner's dances and then progresses to intermediate at 7.15pm. Everyone is welcome to both sessions, to dance or watch.

Cost is \$100/\$80conc for 10 sessions (paid in advance) or \$13/\$10conc casual, however a special Valentine's Day and opening offer is half price (\$6.50) per person or \$10 for two.

Info, contact Liora 6624-4216 or 0412-367-092

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Come and celebrate Chinese New Year with the newly formed Qigong and Tai Chi network at our first fun loaded AGM party.

It will all happen on Friday 8th February 2008 at the A&I Hall in Bangalow from 6.30pm.

Anyone is welcome, just bring a plate to share in the New Year of the Rat.

You will have the opportunity to find out more about our get-togethers at solstices and equinoxes, practice some Qigong and Tai chi movements, meet other practitioners and teachers and hear about upcoming events, workshops and classes.

You can join the network and share your skills by supporting the preparations of World Tai Chi and Qigong day celebrations on the North Coast in April.

For more information ring Astrid on 6622-4604 or Suzanne on 0434-230-042.

Annie's Tea Garden & Nursery

Blackboard menu featuring Annie's home cooking, oven-baked on a wood stove, including fish schnitzel, pasta and quiche dishes. BYO

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