



Janelle delivers her maiden speech to Parliament.

Janelle Saffin MP for Page

"Janelle's Page"

The first two sessions of Parliament have been exciting and busy times, and it's been wonderful to be a part of the Rudd Government as it brings in so many long awaited changes as we roll out our election commitments.

Increased allowances and pensions.

The Government brought in legislation to increase the utilities allowance for aged pensioners to \$500 a year. For the first time, these payments will be extended to recipients of the Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, Widow B Pension, Wife Pension and Bereavement Allowance. The \$500 will be paid in quarterly instalments with the first payment starting at the end of March.

Work Choices

The Government's "Transition to Forward with Fairness Bill" which is the start to dismantling Work Choices has been passed and proclaimed by the Governor General which means there can be no more Australian Workplace Agreements.

But while the Government has been able to bury the AWAs The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Julia Gillard is finding it harder to dispose of the \$121 million worth of Work Choices propaganda left behind by the Howard Government, including 100,000 Workchoices mousepads.

Minister Gillard is seeking creative suggestions for disposing of the mousepads, her favourite so far being that they be used as floor liners for portaloos.

Teen Dental Plan

I'm acutely aware of the problems many people have being able to access affordable dental care. In fact I raised this issue in my first speech to Parliament. So I'm pleased to know that many parents in the region will benefit from the Rudd Government's Teen Dental Plan.

Under the plan, eligible families will be able to claim up to \$150 towards the cost of an annual check up for each of their teenage children between the ages of 12 and 17. I was also pleased to see that the Australian Dental Association has said many dentists will be able to provide some straightforward treatments on top of a check up for \$150. I hope dentists in our region will provide that service.

The Teen Dental Plan aims to encourage young adults to continue to look after their teeth once they leave home. The plan comes in from July 1, 2008.

Climate Change

After last year's election, one of the first acts by the Rudd Government was to sign the Kyoto protocol, and the Government has already released its initial report – a year earlier than the UN deadline.

The Minister for Climate Change and Water, Penny

Wong has announced a timetable for the introduction of emissions trading, with preliminary consultations already underway and a Green Paper to be released in July. The emissions trading scheme is due to commence in 2010.

There is also a new government taskforce which will work on ways to reduce greenhouse emissions, waste, energy and water use in Government operations and examine options to increase government sustainability.

Local Transport

On the topic of sustainability, one issue of major concern in our region is the lack of public transport. I was able to raise the issue in Parliament when speaking in support of the Infrastructure Australia Bill 2008.

I told Parliament that the feasibility and costing of light commuter train services should be part of a long overdue integrated study for improving public transport in the Northern Rivers.

As I write this I'm preparing for the local 2020 summits to be held in Grafton on April 4 and Lismore April 5. I know there'll be some innovative and creative solutions coming out of these events, and I look forward to putting them to the National Summit in Canberra.

I may see you there, or come and chat to me at the local markets around the Page electorate.

Federal Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street Lismore
Phone 1300-301-735

Justine Elliot MP for Richmond

As your local MP I know that the North Coast is a great place to live and as the Minister for Ageing I'm so proud to showcase our magnificent area. Earlier this month I was pleased to host the inaugural meeting of the National Dementia Advisory Group – right here in our area.

The new Dementia Advisory Group, comprised of members from all over Australia met for the first time on Monday 3 March 2008 at Kingscliff NSW.

The new advisory group has been established to streamline and build on the work done by the Dementia Taskforce set up in 2005. It will advise on Australia's response to the challenge of its ageing population and the growing incidence of dementia. Australians now have the world's longest life expectancy and the government is committed to building a modern Australia, capable of tackling the challenges of our ageing population.

This 16 member advisory group will be co-chaired by former Brisbane Lord Mayor, Ms Sallyanne Atkinson AO, and author and dementia carer advocate Sue Pieters-Hawke. Both have complementary skills that will assist the Australian Government in responding to the challenges of dementia in our communities.

I also announced grants of more than \$9 million for dementia research grants across Australia. These grants will support people with dementia and their carers through funding ongoing research and dementia prevention initiatives, early intervention and support programs, and dementia specific training for our aged care workforce.

The North Coast is a wonderful location for Ministerial meetings and I look forward to bringing more to our great area.

I was also pleased to announce recently that a new mobile Rapid Response Team will be set up to help older Australians who have been waiting to be assessed for vital government funded aged care services.

To gain access to aged care services, a person must usually be assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT). Some people have been waiting up to three months



to be assessed by ACAT. This is simply not good enough.

The rapid response team is expected to target far northern NSW and northern Sydney. It will then move to other priority areas across Australia. The \$250,000 pilot is part of a \$1 million boost to cut assessment waiting times for older Australians in 'black spots'.

The new Rapid Response Team is headed by an experienced assessment team manager with nursing qualifications who is supported by aged care experts/allied health workers.

It is the first stage of the Rudd Government's response to a national review of Aged Care Assessment Teams +ACATS) begun by the previous government.

An implementation plan based on the recommendations in the National Review of Aged Care Assessment Teams report is being developed in consultation with the states and territories.

This will be followed by the deployment of more aged care assessors to help with the backlog of aged care assessments.

There are 115 Aged Care Assessment Teams in Australia made up of health professionals who assess people's care needs and help them find appropriate services.

These teams are a vital gateway for people to get Commonwealth-funded services from aged-care residential beds to packages allowing them to stay longer in their homes and local communities.

The teams may include geriatricians, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists and psychologists or physiotherapists.

The Australian Government provides funding to state and territory governments to operate the ACATS, which visit people in their home or can be located at hospitals or community centres.

The Government is committed to tackling the challenges of the 21st century. Til next time.

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



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A nimbin institution returns...

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Skate park saga



by Elwyn Paitson for Friends of Nimbin Skatepark

In September 2007 a community forum was held in Nimbin to discuss whether to continue with construction of the Nimbin Skate Park.

Construction was halted by LCC in 2005 after local residents complained about the noise generated by the park; at that time no sound proofing measures were in place. Lismore City Council agreed to let the Nimbin Community Development Association, (NCDA), continue work on the skate park, providing they could reduce sound output levels to the approval of all residents. The community was strongly supportive of the project and voted by an overwhelming majority to continue.

Following the forum the Friends of Nimbin Skatepark, (FONS) formed, to explore soundproofing options and begin fundraising. It has been estimated that completion of the ramp will cost between one and two hundred thousand dollars.

FONS are currently finalising costings and plans to construct the necessary sound barriers and complete the park. Clara Morasszky has offered to donate her time and materials to construct a trial hemp masonry wall on a small section of the ramp so that we can test the viability of this option. We aim to carry this out during April.

We are also planning a fundraising event at the upcoming MardiGrass, exploring available grants, and searching for sponsorship to help us achieve our aims.

FONS are passionately committed to opening the skate park. Our aim is to satisfy the needs of both the youth and skaters in our community, and the local residents who are directly affected by the

Discussions
A Friday afternoon meeting at the skate park (above) and the skaters who set the wheels in motion (right).



sound generated by the ramp. We believe that the proposed sound mitigation will go above and beyond the recommendations set out by the acoustic engineers report.

Over the past week, local kids have opened the park themselves, removing the safety fencing and skating on the ramp. They have taken this direct action because they are frustrated with how long this process is taking, and 'just want to skate the ramp'. They have requested that a Section 96 amendment be made to the Skate ramp DA, allowing the ramp to be opened in time for MardiGrass, and for a six-month period.

While we are really excited to see local kids so passionate about the skate ramp, and understand their frustration at seeing the ramp closed for so long, we are also concerned that nearby residents may suffer as a result. This in turn may jeopardise the long term viability of the project. FONS recognise that the concerns of nearby residents are legitimate and believe that meeting their needs is of foremost concern.

There are also safety concerns about the site. The ramp is still under construction and prolonged weather exposure has left the surface rusted and rough, potentially quite dangerous.

FONS hope that we can work together as a community to get the ramp opened permanently.

With the support of the NCDA and local police, the FONS have agreed to

apply for a Section 96 DA amendment. Before we submit this proposal we want to consult the residents and businesses that will be directly affected. We will be contacting the immediate neighbours soon and hope that they will meet with us in the near future to learn about the proposal, voice their concerns and discuss appropriate conditions to the amendment.

Our suggestion is to open the ramp for limited hours per week, perhaps 9am-3pm on Saturdays. We also suggest that we apply to open only a section of the ramp, as rust treatment will have to be carried out to ensure the skaters' safety before the ramp is opened.

Opening the ramp for even these limited hours will require both funds and energy to achieve. We hope that we can gain these through the support of the broader community.

We're looking for volunteers to help run our fundraising and information stall at Mardi Grass, as well as prizes and ticket sellers for a raffle.

If you would like to be involved, have suggestions or comments, the FONS meet weekly at 5pm on Fridays at the ramp, or out the back of the Oasis Café in wet weather. Following Mardi Grass we will be meeting fortnightly. You can email us at fons@exemail.com.au, phone Duncan on 0427-889-815, or check out our website for more information at <http://sk8park.nimbincommunity.org.au/>

Fired up about Fossil Fools

Benny Zable is passionate about protecting the environment, and prepared to go to great lengths to make his point.

"We must look after the earth," he said. "It will continue anyway, but it won't discriminate, it will shake us off. We're just confetti."

Benny's passions were aroused when Country Energy came to Nimbin to upgrade the power infrastructure – he chained himself to a pole and gained widespread publicity.

"Nimbin should be an example of a green town," he told the media, calling for renewable local power generation, and for the cables to be run underground.

Lismore Council's current Development Control Plan for Nimbin includes a map of Cullen Street dated December 2000, which bears the words, 'Conduit for underground power has been laid in Cullen Street', reputedly at a cost of \$40,000, but so far, no-one can find



a map of where it was laid.

In anticipation of Country Energy's next visit, Benny painted a large billboard above the newsagency, and organised a rally for 1st April, 'Fossil Fools Day'.

Unfortunately, police operations on the day detracted from the rally, but this did nothing to dampen Benny's enthusiasm.

"Decisions are being made by big business, rather than at the grassroots," he said. Pointing out the dangers of overhead power lines, he argued that we should be planting more trees, and "trees and power lines don't live together."

He is now setting his sights on a low-energy usage MardiGrass, where electricity is only used for essential services.

"We can show what's possible, by being an example of using less," he said.



War memorial restoration

by Paul Le Bars

The Nimbin War Memorial has now been restored to its original state, with financial assistance of the Dept. of Veteran Affairs & volunteers from the community. Thanks must go to Wilson McLelland from the Lismore Sub-Branch of the RSL, Wayne Fuller and his donation of the paint and organising the painting of the flag pole, Martin Soutar from LCC, Vic Florey, the crew from the NNIC (for their patience and support), Nimbin Police, the Northern Star, ABC North Coast and all of the people and community organisations who supported the project.

Commissioned in 1926 and dedicated in 1927 by the then NSW Governor General Sir Dudley De Chair, the



construction is a dedication to those who fought & died, the wounded and to those who never returned in the

first World War. It is also a sentinel of respect to the veterans & families of the following (WW2, Korea, Borneo, Vietnam) and continued theatres of defense (Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and peace keeping in many countries across the globe).

This year's ANZAC Day parade, on Friday 25th April, will muster at the Nimbin Memorial Hospital at 10.45am to start the march at 10.55 and commence the service at 11.00. I would like to invite everyone to participate on the day, in the march or as a spectator in the remembrance ceremony. Following a service will be held at the Nimbin Bowling Club at 12pm with refreshments available.

Many thanks for your support. "Lest We Forget"

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On the up and up

Nimbin School of Arts President's Report March 2008

by David Hallett

Following the major internal renovations and external improvements in the courtyard and carpark during 2006-7, the past year has seen a steady revival of the finances of the Nimbin School of Arts (NSA) prior to the next stage of improvements to the 104-year old hall, particularly the repainting of the hall exterior.

The School of Arts remains the prime venue for most of Nimbin's major annual events: the three Blue Moon cabarets and Spring Arts Exhibition, co-ordinated by the NSA, together with the Nimbin's 39 Hours film screenings and awards evening, the Nimbin Independent Film Festival, Nimbin Players productions, Autumn Arts Extravaganza, Concert of Dances, Nimbin Fashion Shows, Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup and Mardi Grass.

The main hall, studios, pianos and kitchen continue to maintain regular use from a wide variety of community hirers. While the Hall no longer provides the church services that it did in 1904, and occasionally in recent

years, it continues to be the venue for many community and cultural events.

Due to the constant use of various facilities of the NSA, the obvious wear and tear requires considerable vigilance in the maintenance of so many fittings, locks, lights, doors, tables, chairs, etc. It is a credit to the ongoing work of Tony Gibson that the hall is kept in operation in so many small and large ways. Many thanks, Tony.

The major annual programme of Cabarets and Spring Arts Exhibitions have been very successful during the past year, and the NSA sponsored Nimbin's 39 Hours, Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup and the Weave and Mend Festival. The NSA continues to foster the arts in Nimbin by providing reduced rentals and hire to a number of cultural events, and also by assisting various community events staged in the hall.

I would like to personally thank all the members of the management committee for their contributions during the past year, particularly Kim Hanning, who has provided book-keeping expertise. It is sad to see



Kim leave her invaluable role at the NSA, and to note, as I have in previous years, that like other volunteer organisations, the NSA is managed by a small and ageing committee that needs somehow to attract some new and younger members to develop their skills in the management and maintenance of the NSA.

Kara fires up Nimbin's Chamber of Commerce

by Gerard Dwyer

The Nimbin Community will be pleased to know that once again there is an active and functioning Chamber of Commerce.

Initial meetings were held late last year, and confirmed the need and desire to get the Chamber up and running again. Kara Forsyth of Daizy is the elected president, and is doing a great job of resurrecting and re-invigorating NimCoC.

Meetings are held at 6pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Rainbow Café, and local business owners are most welcome to attend.

Issues that have dominated discussion so far are the erection of lighting at the pedestrian crossings on Cullen Street, the beautification and adequate lighting of the western carpark, and the introduction of waste recycling facilities in town itself.

The Chamber has commenced lobbying Lismore City Council on these as well as a few other issues, and we are pretty hopeful of some positive outcomes in the near future.

You might notice some new green 'All roads lead to Nimbin' maps being distributed around town. These are a Chamber initiative designed to provide



visitors with relevant information about the town itself and also showing major connecting roads in the area.

Anybody who has spent time working in a Cullen Street business will know how many times you are asked, 'Where is...' or 'How do I get to....?'

The maps are available in books of 100 at a nominal cost, and local businesses are encouraged to keep a stock of them. They will also eventually find their way out to the obvious information posts at the coast, Lismore etc.

The Chamber has also been involved in actively seeking resolutions to other on-going issues such as the reliability of ATM access in town, and

encouraging Country Energy to upgrade electricity supply infrastructure to prevent a re-occurrence of last year's supply issues during the Mardi Grass Festival.

Hopefully we can make a difference.

A vibrant, bustling little town like Nimbin really ought to have an effective Chamber of Commerce to represent not just the interests of business owners, but to make a positive difference in the community generally. The new NCoC certainly has plenty of enthusiasm, energy and ideas, and we are looking forward to seeing fruits of that in the months to come.

Come along to the next meeting if you have time.

Community Centre meeting

NCDA Special Meeting 5.30pm Thursday 17th April 2008
Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio



In July 2008 the Nimbin community will take title to Nimbin Community Centre. Our ten year lease with Lismore Council expired in February, we have repaid all the money we borrowed from Council to purchase and develop the site and now it's time to hold the title deeds in community hands.

To support this process we have reviewed the aims and objectives of the organisation. We have come a long way over the past ten years and it's time to move forward into a new phase in the life of the Nimbin Community Centre and those valuable organisations which contribute so much to the Nimbin community. As a consequence we are holding a special meeting on Thursday April 17th from 5:30pm at the Community Centre Dance Studio. If you are a current or historical NCDA Member or are interested in getting involved in our future directions, please feel welcome to come along.

We are determined to organise a special celebration when we take ownership in July



and will keep you informed of our plans. If you have an email address, please send it to our office. In the meantime we hope you can attend the special meeting. If you are unable to attend but would like to appoint a proxy you are welcome to do so and a proxy form plus a list of members can be obtained from Marcus at our office.

Neighbourhood Centre turns 30

NNIC 30th Anniversary Celebrations in Allsopp Park (next to the Neighbourhood Centre) 18th April from 11am

On Friday 18th April 2008, starting at 11am, Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) will hold a public celebration marking 30 years since NNIC began operation and 21 years since its incorporation. NNIC is celebrating 30 years of achievements and:

- Launching its new booklet - The History of NNIC from 1978 to 2008.
- Introducing the Nimbin Integrated Service Delivery Project (NIS) - a partnership between NSW Department of Premiers and Cabinet, North Coast Area Health Service, Nimbin Health, NSW Police, NSW Department of Community Services and NNIC, to establish the Nimbin Integrated Community Care



The new extensions to the Neighbourhood Centre

Nurse Practitioner position to provide community-based services to clients with a dual diagnosis (mental health issues as well as drug and/or alcohol issues).

• Conducting the official opening of the newly renovated premises at NNIC - there are now two beautiful new office spaces and a new community workshop/meeting area.

• Also being launched is the Brighter Futures Program in Nimbin - the new early intervention program, a voluntary program offering

intensive support for an average period of two years per family, targeting families with particular vulnerabilities and young children, with the aim of enhancing the strengths of the family and the potential of the children into the future.

Nimbin Community members past and present are invited to come along and enjoy the food and festivities starting from 11am. Bring your brolley in case of rain!

For more information, contact Natalie Meyer, Team Leader, on 6689-1692

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Open Learning Centre – five years on

by Sue Edmonds

Five years of classes and the Open Learning Centre is still going strong. In that time, 500 people have enrolled in programmes, varying from Dance to Aboriginal Studies, Drawing to Yoga, Computer Studies to Sculpture. As well as the experience of studying and participating in stimulating sessions, many firm friendships have been made.

An important part of developing the programmes has been, and still is, suggestions and ideas brought in by interested people.

Sometimes an idea is presented with tutor and programme already designed. Sometimes it is a matter of



finding an appropriate tutor to match the idea. There have been regular requests for language classes, specifically Spanish and Italian, to complement the French classes (which will return in Term 4 2008)

The O.L.C. aims to interest as many people as possible and accordingly the topics range from academic study, such as Aboriginal People in

Today's Society, Milestones to the Cosmos; physical, (yoga, dance); the arts of sculpture, drawing, writing and painting and the esoteric arenas of astrology and mandala.

So if you have any ideas for interesting programmes, call into the Com School room at 81 Cullen Street (the NCC) or ring 6689-1477.

Next term the definitive study of the ukelele has been added to the programme and weaving with Moksha makes a return.

Watch out for the bright pink leaflet. Enrolment dates are Wednesday, 30th April and Thursday 1st May. The eight week term starts on 7th May and ends 25th June.

Pleasurable parenting

by Helen Lieschke
Family Support Network

Parenting young children is a full time and demanding job. More importantly it is an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Family Support Network and Nimbin Family Centre are committed to supporting parents to get the best out of parenting.

Nimbin Family Centre is open Monday, Tuesday and Fridays from 9.30am to 3pm to do just that.

The Centre offers a range of programs, playgroups and resources to build parenting confidence and add to parent's enjoyment of their children.

Beginning Monday 5th May, Nimbin Family Centre is running a free six week Participatory Program Promoting Pleasurable Parenting (P5).

This Program presents a positive approach to parenting and family relationships. The emphasis is on exploring ways for developing potential in both parents and children.

The P5 group is open to all parents and carers in the



Nimbin area with children up to twelve years of age. The group will be held at Birth and Beyond in Cullen Street.

A Family Worker from Family Support Network in Lismore visits Nimbin on Mondays for appointments at Nimbin Family Centre. Parents or anyone caring for children 0 to 12 years can use this service.

This service offers a listening ear and provides information and ideas for parents to address concerns impacting on their family.

Jamming Preschoolers, an

interactive music program for children aged between 3 to 5 years with their parents, is to be held on Friday afternoons between 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

Bookings must be made to secure your child's place, as this program will be limited to a maximum of 12 children.

For more information about the P5 program, Family Work appointments, Supported Playgroups, Jamming Preschoolers or programs for families delivered at Lismore (Family Support Network) please phone Mimi on 6689-0423 or Helen on 6621-2489.

Lesbian outreach project

The Lesbian Health Project at ACON, Northern Rivers Branch is visiting 10 towns in 10 days during April.

The project will be at Birth and Beyond Centre, Nimbin on Tuesday the 15th April from 10am to 4pm.

This is an opportunity for same sex attracted women living in the Northern

Rivers to come together and develop personal networks and pick up information and referrals in a safe and supportive environment.

Information sessions will be available on the following topics: Relationships, ageing, stress and depression, discrimination, parenting and much more!



Local women's support/health services and groups are involved and encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Amber 0400-242-934

Transport, information and support is available, call ACON 6622-1555

Party smART this year

Do you live in NSW? Are you aged 16 to 25? Do you know how to party smart?

Do you want to have the chance to share in \$12,000 in cash and prizes?

Then start filming, writing or designing now.

Play Now Act Now is a film, graphic design and writing competition for young people aged 16 to 25 in NSW. Play Now Act Now recognises that young people do and will drink alcohol and use other drugs, and sets out to minimise the harms associated with this.

This year's theme is party smART.

Finalists from each category will be showcased at an Award Presentation and on the 2008 DVD and Education Resource.

Deadline for entries is 25th July 2008. Entry is free and open to all residents of NSW aged 16 to 25.

For entry forms and more information visit the website www.playnowactnow.net.au or contact Katrina Douglas on 02 9356-1818 or email partysmart@metroscreen.org.au

Play Now Act Now is a collaboration between NSW Health & Metro Screen, proudly supported by Artshub, Screenhub and the NSW Writers Centre.

New Preschool Director

Tuntale Falls Early Childhood Centre has a new Director, Maree Conroy.

Maree is a local of 4 years, an experienced Early Childhood Teacher and Mum of three kids. She is excited about her new role and is looking forward to getting to know all the existing children and families at the centre.

Parents are welcome to bring their children (aged 2-5) for playgroup Wed-Thurs 9-3. We are currently taking enrolment enquiries for Term 2, our number is 6689-1179.

Welcome Maree!



Have your say at 2020 summits

Federal Member for Page Janelle Saffin has invited the community to participate in a local 2020 summit early in April to feed into Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's Australia 2020 Summit in Canberra on April 19-20.

The summit will be hosted by Southern Cross University at its Campus Central auditorium from 9.30am until 12.30pm on Saturday, 5th April. It will be co-chaired by SCU's Executive Director (Corporate Services) and Council Secretary Mr Malcolm Marshall. Light refreshments will be provided.

The summit will start with a Welcome to Country ceremony performed by Widjabul

tribe/Bundjalung nation elder Aunty Irene Harrington, who is also a member of SCU Council.

While it will be 'come one, come all' affair, trained facilitators will be volunteering their expertise and time to keep five discussion groups focussed on two of the 10 critical areas. The major outcomes of the local summits will be summarised into a regional report, which then will feed into Mr Rudd's national process.

To register your interest in the local summit, please contact Ms Saffin's policy adviser Peter Ellem by emailing peter.ellem@aph.gov.au or by phoning him on 0437-303-875.

Local health issues forum

Richmond Health Participation Forum
Wednesday 9th April
2008 at 11am
Birth & Beyond Meeting
Room, 54 Cullen Street



Richmond Health Participation Forum invites residents of Nimbin and surrounding areas to meet with members of the Forum to discuss community health issues and concerns.

Richmond Health Participation Forum consists of 12 community members appointed by North Coast Area Health Service. The Forum provides advice to

the Area Health Advisory Council and the Chief Executive on matters relating to community health concerns, health planning, and service provision within the Richmond Network.

The Forum is keen to hear of concerns and issues in relation to health services from residents of Nimbin and surrounding areas. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet with us face-to-face.

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact Melanie Dorian (Chairperson) Ph. 0413-887-068 or email Diana.Roberts@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au or visit <http://www.ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au/participation>

Annie's Tea Garden & Nursery

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Indigenous arts

Nimbin's 12-week indigenous arts course is up and running, with a large class that is already creating interesting works.

The course is an ACE North Coast initiative, with local artists Gilbert Laurie and Burri Jerome training students in contemporary techniques, principles and composition, using powerful dreamtime stories and language.

On completion of the course, students will receive a Certificate 2 in Indigenous Cultural Art.

Burri Jerome (above) and Gilbert Laurie conducting training sessions.



Big cultural festival planned

Yuggera Corroboree Festival
Saturday 13th September 2008
at White's Hill, Mount Gravatt

An exciting new Murri cultural festival is planned

for September.

The Festival will involve at least 15 different dance groups and will feature:

- Spear-throwing contest

(Grand Prize of \$1000)

- Boomerang-throwing contest (Grand Prize of \$1000)

- Fireworks
- VIP Luncheon

The supporters of the Festival so far reads like a who's who of indigenous culture.

Archie Roach, Roger Knox, Yamba (NITV), Sean Choolburra, Troy n Trevlyn and Angus Rabbit are just some of the many people who are already involved with the Festival at this early stage.

Contact Shannon Ruska on 3299- 4470 / 0413-830-756 or email nunukulyuggera@yahoo.com.au

Watch for more information to be circulated in the near future.

Organised by Quandamooka Lands Council Aboriginal Corporation, the Festival promises to be 'deadly'.

Start making plans for September soon – it's going to be good.

Journey to Respect program

Information Session for referring agencies and parents/carers
Thursday, 10th April from 2pm - 4pm at Lismore City Council, 43 Oliver Ave, Goonellabah Council Chambers

Our Journey to Respect is an inter-generational violence prevention program developed for young Aboriginal males.

This program looks at ways the participants can identify and manage feelings of anger, sadness and shame, which may inturn lead to aggressive or violent behaviour.

RSVP 7th April to Lee-Ann Emzin, Aboriginal Community Development Officer, Lismore City Council, phone 02 6625-0432 fax 02 6625-0400 or email lee-ann.emzin@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Service POSITION VACANT

Aboriginal Social Support Worker

Seven hour per week part time position
SACis award applies (relevant to experience)

Purpose of Position

The Aboriginal Support Worker will work as part of the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services (NAC) team and with the support of the Nimbin Health and Welfare Association Inc (NH&W) management committee to coordinate, develop and support the delivery of services to older indigenous people and their carers in the Nimbin area.

Essential Job Requirements

- Aboriginality
- Experience in working with Aboriginal communities
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Experience in delivering community based activity programs
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Senior First Aid Certificate
- Current Driver's License

Applications close Friday 24th April 2008

Information package including selection criteria available from Cedar Wicce-Otter or Rose Cubis, Co-ordinators Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Service, phone 6689 1709

(Aboriginal Social Support Worker (section 14D of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977))

Blue Knob Hall fundraiser

This was a not-to-be-missed event - at least, over 100 people thought so, and it was standing room only in the little hall for the 'Back to Blue Knob' concert on Sunday 30th March, featuring The Romaniacs.

The title was apt – musicians Phil Levy and Guy Maddigan last played there in 1976, when bush dances and full moon dances made the venue legendary throughout the region, up until the late 1980s.

The other performers, Leo Glass, Chris Aronsten and Julie Metcalf also played in the hall frequently in those days, though they have been back since, and clearly enjoyed hearing the sound of their acoustic instruments again in the wooden hall.

As did the rapt audience, whose prolonged applause after each tune was far louder than the music.

Organiser Jeni Kendall explained how the concert came about.

"We got \$40,000 in grants to build a workshop at the rear of the hall, \$33,000 from Arts NSW and \$7,000 from Lismore Council, leaving the hall committee to raise \$5,000 to fund the



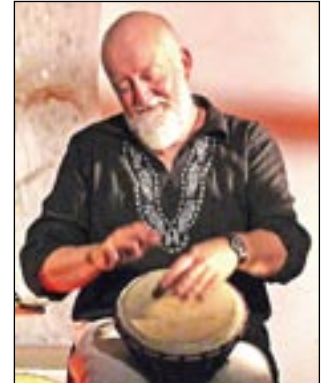
construction," she said.

The committee had raised \$3,500 from cinema nights and raffles, so they only needed another \$1500.

They put the idea of a fundraising concert to the band, who were enthusiastic, and so many people turned up that now the money has been raised, and work is scheduled to start in this financial year.

"I'd like to thank everyone for coming, everyone who made food for the supper, and of course, the musicians," Jeni said.

The real beneficiaries were the audience, who got a taste of the way it used to be.



Letting rip. The Romaniacs, including Chris Aronsten and Julie Metcalf (top) and Guy Maddigan (above), impressed the big crowd with their breathtaking musicianship and robust ensemble playing.



Earth Hour, what Earth Hour?

by Bob Dooley

Earth Hour observances, from 8 to 9pm on Saturday 29th March, were intended to be a strong demonstration of reducing energy consumption, and hence carbon emissions.

But in Nimbin, lights blazed as usual. The Environment Centre's planned celebration did not materialise, and for the pub, the Bowlo and Darcy Goodwin's soup kitchen, it was business as usual.

Of the community-owned buildings, only the Community Centre was dark – the School of Arts floodlights and under-awning lighting, though controlled by time-switches, burnt as usual.

Along Cullen Street, environmental tragiocs consoled each other, bemoaning the lack of consciousness about the need to reduce our carbon footprint despite the melting ice-caps.

But at the Trattoria, it was a different story. Cheerful candlelight and a warm welcome made the restaurant a beacon of conviviality, and all those who entered the darkened room were rewarded by being connected with the world-wide environmental movement.

Perhaps it is more important for the big cities, but it's a pity most of Nimbin wasn't up for it. It means we can't take any credit for sparing tons of CO2 from going into the atmosphere.

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Pre-IWD Women's gathering

by Raine West

The pre-International Women's Day Gathering was well attended and very much enjoyed by those who came. As is the way with this amazing town, there was plenty of talent-sharing with song, dance and poetry.

The evening was begun with Welcome to Country from Auntie Viv and Auntie Liz led us in an honouring of women past and present.

Healing Earth, a newly formed women's band began the entertainment with a set of original songs, followed by Nirelle with a circle chant and drumming. Pov sang a few songs, followed by Bobbin and Inez dancing to her music. Moksha and Antonia performed a couple of original songs and Leora sang a feminist song from Peggy Seeger "I want to be an engineer". She then led a beautiful set of Israeli circle dances, which had most women on the floor. Ib danced her beautiful Thai dance and Janey told a couple of poems, which had us all wanting a wife of our own.

Lisa and Regina with cello and recorder performed a very moving birthing song,



Moksha and Antonia

followed by a sexy little dance number from the "Hot Flushes". Leandra sang a couple of her songs then Healing Earth did another set.

The finale of the evening was the always stunning "Nomads". The sword dance strongly connected with the small number of women staying to the end and a beautiful sharing of energy took place.

The food brought by the women to share was plentiful and delicious.

Gail and helpers opened the kitchen for tea, coffee and cake and Doug very discreetly operated the sound for the evening. A brave man!

Thank you to everyone for participating.

The talk is of another gathering in a couple of months, perhaps full moon, maybe afternoon into evening, possibly at the newly revived Bush Theatre. As you can see, the plans are loose and open to your input. If you want to be involved, call Raine on 0427-336-910.



Banging the drum for women's rights. The International Women's Day march in Nimbin was celebrated with drums and whistles, and was applauded by the men on the footpath.

Best countries to be a woman

Measures of well-being include life expectancy, education, purchasing power and standard of living. Not surprisingly, the top 10 countries are among the world's wealthiest.

1. Iceland
2. Norway
3. Australia
4. Canada
5. Ireland
6. Sweden
7. Switzerland
8. Japan
9. Netherlands
10. France

Source: UNDP Gender-related development index

Income Gaps

Poverty means pain for

both men and women, but throughout the world it's women who suffer the most from lack of income. In these countries, women earn less than 50 per cent of men's incomes:

Benin 48 per cent, Bangladesh 46 per cent, Sierra Leone 45 per cent, Equatorial Guinea 43 per cent, Togo 43 per cent, Eritrea 39 per cent, Cape Verde 36 per cent, Yemen 30 per cent.

Source: UNDP Human Development Report

Literacy Gaps

The better a woman's education, the better chance she and her children have

of surviving economically, protecting themselves and leading healthy lives. In these countries, women's literacy rate is less than 50 per cent of men's:

Mali 49 per cent, Benin 49 per cent, Yemen 47 per cent, Mozambique 46 per cent, Ethiopia 46 per cent, Guinea 42 per cent, Niger 35 per cent, Chad 31 per cent, Afghanistan 28 per cent.

Countries with women's literacy rate less than 70 per cent of men's:

India 65 per cent, Morocco 60 per cent, Pakistan 55 per cent

Sources: UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF

Contributed by Doug Whilden



A section of the crowd at the pre-IWD Women's Gathering at Nimbin Town Hall.

Learn technology in Seniors Week

TechnoSeniors 2008 at CTC Kyogle

Are you a senior who needs help learning the computer, or are you interested in learning more about digital cameras and the Internet?

The CTC Kyogle will hold a variety of FREE activities for seniors during TechnoSeniors 2008 on Tuesday 8th April to Friday 11th April from 10am to 12pm every day. Enrol for any one session, or all of them!

TechnoSeniors is a special event run at Community Technology Centres throughout the state and is part of the NSW Seniors

Week 2008 celebrations. Seniors can learn for FREE all about computers and the resourcefulness of technology using the internet and digital photography.

You are invited to be a part of this week at CTC Kyogle

For more information, please contact Telephone Alison and Jodi on 02 6632-1833 to register and for more information.

Public Trustee's TechnoSeniors is funded by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and Public Trustee's.

Make magic at the CTC

Congratulations to all participants for their part in expanding our community's storytelling into the Digital Age via another epic 39 Hour Film Contest (see review p.14)

While the computers at the Nimbin CTC have recovered, our volunteers are still buried in paperwork. Prize winners are asked to contact the CTC and arrange to pick up their cheques and fill out their ABN declarations.

When people talk about Community Technology Centres, the conversation is often taken up by discussions of CPUs, GUIs, networks, modems, and sundry arcane witchery. A natural association you might think.

Indeed such items do rank highly in any functioning technology organisation, though it is equally true that such a focus obscures the simple fact that even the most



powerful supercomputer is only an inert tool.

Be it a sewing machine or an athame, without a living, breathing human being's magic, the power of these tools is pretty much limited to intimidating newbies or exciting acquisitive passions.

What's worse, digital tools have finite use-by dates. Unlike a Neolithic bone needle that could still be used today, try running some 20 year old software on a modern computer, or new software on your 10 year old machine.

So don't hold back, head on down to your local Technology Centre and apply some human magic to Technology for the benefit of your Community.

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