

School to help Mekai's family

Mekai Andriske's favourite colours are yellow and blue, and if he wasn't only four years old, no doubt he'd be a Parramatta supporter.

The son of former Nimbin Central student Ruja Winkler, Mekai (pictured) was diagnosed with leukaemia three days after his fourth birthday in April.

His illness has placed the family under severe financial strain, with Ruja having to give up her job to provide support, including weekly chemotherapy treatment at Brisbane's Royal Children's Hospital.

Family friend Katherine Hawken said, "He'll need to do that for the next three to five years, but especially the next six months will be full on."

Katherine has enlisted the support of the student representative council at Nimbin Central School to organise fundraising events to help Mekai's family, starting with a 'Yellow and Blue Day' at the school on Wednesday 25th June.

Students and visitors are encouraged to buy balloons, or wear clothes in those colours, and make a donation. A raffle will also be



launched on the day.

For further information, phone the school on 6689-1355.

Lantern parade at Tuntable Falls



Winter Solstice is when the sun is at its most northerly point in the sky.

This year at the middle of the day on 21st June, the sun reaches its lowest altitude from the northern horizon, for the year.

The students, teachers and parents of Tuntable Falls Primary School invite the wider community of Nimbin

and surrounds to come to the school and celebrate this magical time of the year with them.

The children are busy making paper lanterns for a lantern parade, symbolising bringing the light and banishing the darker forces.

The parade will be held on Monday 23rd June at the school, which is on

Upper Tuntable Falls Road opposite the Tuntable Community hall.

Festivities start at 5pm, and a hearty winter meal will be available.

For further details and enrolment enquiries, please contact Tuntable Falls Primary school on 02 6689-1423 or email tunfalls@australis.net

Radical urban planning project



It looked alarmingly like an architectural competition for a new alternative community when Nimbin Central secondary students displayed their completed construction projects in May.

The design brief for a medieval castle was chosen not by a revivalist sect, but rather by History teacher Moira Kenny, who said it was meant to demonstrate their understandings.

"They were only supposed to use two double periods, but some groups continued to work on their projects in their own time," she said.

"The results, as you can see, were really quite impressive."

Yes, but will they get Council approval?

Medieval history students (left to right, above) Jericho, Indics, Lauren and Tahlia, and (below) Siggie, Chinta and Felix.



Bahzooley Balladeer

Guitarist Ollie Landreth is rehearsing in earnest for the forthcoming Bahzooley Night at Nimbin Central School, to be held Friday 27th June in their Multi-Purpose Unit hall.

An accomplished finger-picker, Ollie will be performing for his tenth time at the twice-yearly performance night.

Tickets will be available at the venue, as will hot food and tickets in the usually amazing P&C raffle.



Environmental Maths for Education Week

Primary students from Years 3 to 6 'buddied up' to learn more about measurement during Education Week at Nimbin Central School.

Despite rain forcing activities under cover, the mixed groups moved enjoyably through four stations of practical tasks, using measuring devices to check their estimations.

Put it to the test. Primary students at Mr Everingham's 'How Fast RU' station (above), where results were compared with average speeds of a variety of animals, and Ms Hedward's 'hefting' station (right), where estimations of the comparative weight of various objects were validated using a set of scales.



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Bringing Homebase 2 to Nimbin

Homebase 2 is a free hip hop dance mentorship initiative of NORPA Dance Action.

Under the program, 15 young people from across the region with a passion for hip hop have been chosen to be mentored by local and visiting interstate professional artists.

The eight month mentorship started off in the school holidays in April, where the Mentorees attended 4 days of intensive training in hip hop, break dance, salsa, MC-ing, physical theatre, video film clips, teaching and project development workshops at Lismore City Hall dance studio.

Participant Karinya Oldfield said, "I was the only young person that auditioned from Nimbin, but there were young people from all over the North Coast."

"The first week was spent learning in different areas, such as film and song writing. We did a lot of groupwork which helped us get to know each other; we talked about our goals for the year, as well as learning the dance routines."

"We had opportunities of learning different dance choreographies including popping/locking, break and new school hip hop, which were all a challenge to pick up in the first few days, but the experience was amazing."

"At the end of the four days we had a mentor who we would be able to stay in contact with for the remainder of the eight months."

There were a range of teachers involved in the induction, including Mentors



Dance on. Karinya Oldfield (left) with her mentor Daniella Finkenauer. Photo: Bernadette Gardiner

Daniella Finkenauer, Rangimarie Ferguson and Sean Spencer as well as visiting artists Jason Campbell, Travers Ross and Errol Cenita.

Homebase Project Manager Bernadette Gardiner said, "The mentorship program encourages participants to build interest in dance among their friends, work towards a dance-related project in their home community and develop skills in their own styles as professional dance artists."

In July the mentorees will be back for their second Homebase 2 in-house session in Lismore; there will be a third on in October, and a Hip Hop Theatre Show at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore that they are creating and performing in, at the end of November.

In the meantime, Karinya will be running some free

workshops in Nimbin throughout the year. The first hip hop workshop is on Saturday 28th June from 11am – 1pm at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Look for the posters she will be putting up.

Homebase 2 is the second hip hop mentorship to be run by NORPA Dance Action, and could not happen without funding from the Australian Government Regional Arts Fund, and is also supported by Arts NSW, Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council, CONNECT, Creative Peoples Collective as well as other community partners in the region. Youth Arts Queensland held workshops for the Mentors and Mentorees on mentoring, and will be involved throughout the year. The mentorship relies on the support of these partners in order to run successfully throughout the Northern Rivers Region.

Nimbin Safe Community Project

by Amara Bartlett
Safe Community Project Worker
(shared with Maire Barron)

Just an update on what's been happening with your local Safe Community Project. This is the third year of the project, which has been running through the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC). Maire filled you in last month on the fantastic Womanly Wise Diary launched at Nimbin Central School in April, plus other young women's workshops that have been, and will be happening.

I've been working on anti-violence strategies around women's safety in Nimbin. The first part of this will be three training sessions aimed at women in the local community who are already in an informal support role, helping or assisting people who have experienced violence. The sessions will include



information on Domestic Violence, communication skills, boundaries, what you can do as a support person, and an opportunity to meet with experts in the area. The sessions will be held in June, won't cost you anything, with lunch and morning tea provided, and are a great opportunity for local informal support people to get some more information and assistance in this area.

The Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee meets

monthly at the NNIC. This Committee is made up of local service providers and discusses issues around violence, creating safe community and also organizes the fabulous annual Women's Dinner.

If you are interested in attending these meetings, or if you (or anyone you know) would be interested in attending the three training sessions in June, please contact me at the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre on 668-1692 (and leave a message for Amara including a contact phone number) and I'll get back to you. Places in the training sessions are filling up fast, so please contact me ASAP if you are interested in coming.

The NNIC Safe Community Project is an Australian Government Initiative, funded by the National Community Crime Prevention Programme, and is steered by the Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee.

Digital video to the people!



Technically speaking. Visiting Woodstock filmmaker Nathan Koenig conducting a workshop in video editing at the Nimbin CTC, using footage shot for his 'Nimbin Downunder' project.

by Roy Radle

It's close to a year since the CTC contracted back to the Nimbin Community Centre building, but in that time community support has seen us grow from strength to strength.

Thanks to our newly expanded volunteer base, the Nimbin CTC is once again able to open its doors six days per week.

While not all services are available at all times, customers are encouraged to stop in and discuss their requirements. If we can't carry out your request right away, you're welcome to leave work for later collection.

On the creative front, our recent master class by Woodstock celebrity filmmaker, Nathan Koenig, has proved such a success we are taking expressions of interest for a series of video production workshops. The

workshops will be run by local entertainment legend, Mark Jago, and are expected to cover camera basics, from getting to know your camera through to connecting it to your computer.

For turning your footage into a film you can share via DVDs, Mark recommends Ulead's Studio 10. Hence the video editing section will also use Ulead's non-linear editing program, Studio 10.

Places are limited and, with the cold winter weather driving people indoors, those places are sure to be filled quickly. So our advice is to put aside those old Dirty Laundry Show recordings and step out to your CTC, and make all your cyber dreams come true.

Speak to one of our friendly volunteers, between 10 am and 5 pm, Mondays to Saturday, on 6689-1183 or visit us @ www.nimbinctc.byethost13.com/

Everybody wants embroidery

Popular businesswoman Lavina Hemming (pictured) is expanding her embroidery business Sew Cool, to meet the demands in



the rainbow region.

Since starting the business six months ago, she has upgraded to a 4-head computerised industrial machine with in-house digitizing, and is now supplying large companies in Sydney and Melbourne and as far north as Darwin.

"I am now in the process of purchasing another 10-head machine," said Lavina.

"I have employed two people for a quick turnaround time, and I am now looking for another person with some experience with computerised embroidery."

Sew Cool can supply Bisley, King Gee, Hard Yakka, corporate and office wear, offering very competitive rates to schools, clubs and teams for uniforms, badges, caps, bags and towels. (See her work on the back page.)

Lavina can be contacted on 6689-7184 or 0412-248-554.

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Protect and serve

Superintendent Bruce Lyons says that the police aim to "get rid of Nimbin's drug culture", (NGT, May 08). Could I respectfully suggest that they begin with the state endorsed drugs? Closing down the caffeine, nicotine, petrol, sugar and alcohol dealers should pretty much destroy the township's economy. Nimbin's 'illicit' drug culture could then be persecuted without hypocrisy.

I think every town has its drug problems; what infuriates the police about the Nimbin drug culture is its sheer honesty with regards to recreational drug use.

The frustration police feel about this issue is justified – they are being asked to enforce laws which are largely considered anachronistic by the populace.

Perhaps we should adopt a modern outlook on drugs; something like the Northern European model. Policy could be formulated to reflect drug use as a health issue, not a legal issue. Police efforts could then be redirected towards their motto: to protect and serve.

Straighty-180

Sk8 park ethics

The diversionary, delaying tactics for re-opening the Nimbin Skate Park are wearing a bit thin and must stop.

Once again the issue of ethics rears its ugly head. Could all the "grown-ups" put aside their personal politics, values, morals, beliefs and own up? That is, take responsibility for their own actions, inactions or general "fence sitting".

Please use your free will, do what is right for yourself (by all means possible), but be aware your behaviour may be affecting others. Especially the children.

Ida Sharpe

Coorabell Hall

The long-serving committee of Coorabell Hall has made a decision to discontinue having live bands at the hall. With due respect to the Committee, I personally thank you for your commitment over the years for running and maintaining this great hall.

Years ago, when Jabiluka uranium mine was raising its ugly head, a few of my bro's and sis's organised a benefit gig at this hall. It

was a great night had by all and we were able to send off \$1200 to the fight, at the time the lease was being taken over by RioTinto. My point being, I was living just out of Nimbin at the time, and it was a combined effort from bro's and sis's from Nimbin and Byron Shire. If it wasn't for Coorabell Hall, we may not have done as well elsewhere.

The times for booking the hall were 6pm to 2am, and we did it to the max, with musos playing from both Lismore and Byron Shires

Unfortunately, I have to write this section into my letter, there have been complaints about noise and bad behaviour. The jury is still out about the noise pollution and I believe it's one of them Johnny and Jill come-latelys who have maybe retired from the city to a quiet life in the country and it is, but apparently up to a point.

That point being when the decibel level is tested at the next and final gig, with two great bands "Wild Marmalade" and "Fatter than Nusrat".

Hopefully they will not be the last to play at

Coorabell Hall. Let's not let this happen. We need to go through the proper processes so we can all enjoy the benefits this great hall brings to our communities.

Paul Brecht
Mullumbimby

Radiation

I read with great interest the electromagnetic radiation article (NGT May 08 p.17) and was wondering if the author would be interested in asking other people for their experiences and stories so that maybe we would be able to get a bigger picture of the symptoms etc.

I'm sure there are many others as well as myself, feeling a very big difference in their bodies and well-being.

If so, would he publish his email address for us to contact him?

Many thanks and love the GoodTimes.

Judee

Ed's note: Like, he'd have a computer?

Notices

House share

Three bedroom house to share with one other. Town

About us

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Website: David McMinn
www.nimbingoodtimes.com

NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd. and completely produced by volunteers.

Thanks to to all our loyal contributors and advertisers.

Next deadline:
Wednesday 25th June
Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in the ComSchool's pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

end of Cecil St. \$110 per week plus expenses. Must be working. Contact Quis on 0412-307-679

AGM for Tuntable Falls Primary School

On Monday 30th June 2008, 11 am at the school, Upper Tuntable Falls Road Tuntable Falls

Nimbin Community Garden

Fridays in the garden. Come and see what's going on. Work together, then eat lunch together. Together we can be of service. Fridays 10am -3pm, beside Anglican church, Cullen Street.

Sick Call

Keep these people in your

good thoughts:

• Philip is still not well after his bike crash...it's a slow process. He is in hospital in Brisbane now to get his neck stable, and has a lung infection.

• Alan Platypus, the sexton, has had a serious car accident and is currently on life support.

Weave and Mend Festival 2008

Friday 26th, Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th September.

Three days of continual weaving, 2-hour workshops - \$5 each, camping for participants on school grounds, entry by donation. All welcome. Enquiries please phone 6689-7129

Open letter to Council

Mr Kris Whitney
Director, Lismore Crematorium
Dear Kris

I recently went to Nimbin cemetery and was shocked and disturbed to see that the gardens built over recent graves had been bulldozed and the ground flattened. There was no trace of the roses and herbs that had been planted as memorials and the wooden crosses that marked the graves had been unceremoniously stuck in the cement blocks. The wind could easily blow them away from there.

I was personally quite upset as one of the graves belongs to my ex-partner. I told my daughter and she was very sad about it too. I am also concerned for the feelings of members of other families whose partners, brothers and fathers are buried there. Grief is a disempowering experience as it is, without the added loss of the little memorials we have put there for our dead.

When my husband died a year ago we respected his wishes and buried him at Nimbin. I know he thought that would mean that we could put up a meaningful



memorial to him there. Instead, we have a line of cement blocks with not even space between them to plant a rose. The only memorial allowed is a brass plaque for which the council charges a fee of \$300 on top of the manufacturing cost of \$300 - a lot of money for some people. We already pay almost \$2000 for the grave



plot as well as funeral costs. Many people will have to wait a long time before they can afford a plaque.

Many people in the Nimbin area that I have spoken to about this are also extremely concerned. We would like to have a cemetery and places of burial that reflect our own lives and beliefs. We would like to be able to memorialise our dead.

I am not aware of any consultation with the community which took place before this establishment of a lawn cemetery. If there was, it was not well-advertised.

If you are prepared to meet with a group of Nimbin people to discuss this issue, we would be very grateful.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the General Manager for Council and several Councillors. I may be contacted by mail at the above address, or by phone or email. Thank you for your time and I hope to meet with you soon.

Yours sincerely
Megan James
Tuntable Falls

Sadly slipped away from us



Adriana "Orch" Harrison - Nee Cassiano

7th July, 1964 - 23rd April, 2008

Formerly of Nimbin and Sydney.

A private family funeral service was held at the Lismore Memorial Gardens Crematorium on the 1st May, 2008.

La familia would like to extend their sincere thanks for all the flowers and condolences, especially from the Nimbin Community.

*'You have touched our lives forever and you will never be forgotten.
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Lismore Council Jottings

by Councillor Jenny Dowell
phone: 6625-2206
email: Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Budget Special

June is budget time for Council but this year we have the added responsibility of forming the budget and the coming year's management plan for another Council. Each of us is mindful of our responsibility and aware that in three months, a new Council will be overseeing the implementation of our decisions.

The task is particularly onerous this year because the 08/09 budget is extremely tight.

Council is completing the largest piece of expenditure ever undertaken - the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre.

To add to the burden, the global credit squeeze has made our investments worth almost \$300,000 less and, not before time, we have made the decision to keep the dividends from water and sewer funds (\$314,000) to maintain the infrastructure for those areas rather than use the money for general purposes.

Just as it is for an individual when money is tight, only essential items are recommended to be included in the budget.

The process for the adoption of the budget is nearing its conclusion. Councillors have met to consider staff recommendations on all the submissions and the documents have been on public exhibition since May 15. Council will host an Oral Submission night on June 17 to enable those people who have lodged a submission to argue for its inclusion. Two nights later, Council holds an Extraordinary Meeting to formally adopt the Management Plan, Budget and Fees and Charge for the coming year.

Rates and Charges

The State Government pegs rate increases each year and while some of our neighbouring Councils have been granted increases above 'rate pegging', Lismore has not done so. That means our General Rates will increase by 3.2% but residents should not expect all aspects of rates to be similarly restricted. The Waste collection charge is set to increase by up to 4.9% towards cost recovery. While Sewerage charges will go up by 3.25%, all those on town water will really see the impact. The consumption or usage charge for water is increasing by a whopping 26%.



Although Nimbin is not on the Rocky Creek water supply, Rous County Council has indicated that water prices will rise by a massive 60% over the next four years and so all of Lismore's water usage rates are set to rise. The only way to avoid these massive increases is to use less water.

Capital works and Borrowings

Council's capital works for the coming year will total nearly \$26.7million. \$4,804,000 of this is in loan borrowings including for the LSAC, initial work on the cycleways plan (\$4.5 million plan to be completed over up to 10 years), underground drainage systems, a new crusher for the quarry and sewer and water mains replacement. The Department of Local Government recommends that Councils maintain their debt service ratio below 10%. In 2008/09 Lismore's will be high at 8.41% but within acceptable levels.

Nimbin's share

The items recommended for inclusion in the 08/09 budget include the long awaited lighting of Western car park and pedestrian lights on Cullen Street. Nimbin will also get public recycling bins, shade over the blister and two new street seats. The pool will have its surface remediated and the manager's residence in the caravan park is getting additional funds. Out of town, the timber bridge at Websters Creek on Stony Chute Rd will be replaced.

Missed out

Some submissions have not been supported and while there maybe some changes before the budget is finally adopted, hopes should not be high. Speed humps, signage and more policing in

Cecil St were not regarded as a priority but will be referred to the Assets and Infrastructure Policy Advisory Group for assessment and prioritisation.

In the tourism area, a submission for extra funding for the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre was not supported.

An appeal for work on the Nimbin Skate Park was not considered pending the lodgement of an application to vary the current development application and the undergrounding of power lines was similarly not included. Council did not support the submission for street shade trees because there is no street planting plan for villages in place. The BBQ in Allsopp Park missed out on support also. Of course those who lodged any of the unsuccessful submissions are invited to book in to address Council on June 17 to try and persuade us to include their particular project. It is likely that any decision to include something new also involves taking something out of the mix to make room.

May Council Meeting

The regular business of Council continues in parallel with the budget and the May meeting demonstrated the breadth of the issues that fall within Council's purview. The gallery was crowded not only with residents eager to find out how Council would vote on an item of personal interest but also with prospective candidates for the election in September.

Roads

You will have read that the Council voted against finding an extra \$2.5 million for roads in the coming year. There has been a great deal of criticism for this decision but Council did approve the setting up of a taskforce to see how extra funds could be found in the coming years and we are committing \$17.8 million to roads in the 08/08 year. It is simply too late in the current process to reconfigure the budget and it is also unreasonable to make such a major decision at the last minute that will then need to be managed by a completely new Council.

MOAC

Readers may have heard that we are spending \$3 million on a new Art Gallery next year too. This is simply untrue. We have committed \$30,000 to a marketing campaign to attract up to \$1 million in private donations and have committed \$3 million in our future capital works

program. This is likely to be needed in three years time and does not affect the current budget. I am a great supporter of the proposed Margaret Olley Arts Centre. Our current gallery has been described by arts professionals as one of the worst in NSW. We all deserve better.

Tree Preservation

Among the most appalling decisions made by Council in my time was the 12 month repeal of Council's tree preservation order (TPO). The TPO is in place to stop urban residents from cutting down trees until they have obtained permission from Council following an inspection process. Contrary to the emotive language of one Councillor, the TPO is not 'green tape gone mad' but a sensible way of maintaining the important trees that add to our urban landscape and provide habitat and food for our wildlife. The TPO still allows residents to prune or remove trees that pose a danger to person or property.

Councillors Irwin, Tomlinson and I have lodged a rescission motion for the June 10 meeting in the hope that this terrible decision can be reversed. If readers share our concerns, I would urge you to let Councillors know.

McLeans Ridges....

The other regrettable decision of the May meeting was Council's refusal to initiate a Public Hearing into the McLeans Ridges rezoning. The vote was narrowly lost (5/6) despite the calls by residents and a number of significant issues yet to be adequately addressed.

A Public Hearing is more than a public meeting. It requires the appointment of an independent adjudicator to assess all the submissions and allows residents to voice their concerns in an open forum. I find it incomprehensible that 205 submissions on the Camerons Rd rezoning (201 opposing), including 89 requests for a Public Hearing along with ten other major objections, can be ignored.

It was inevitable that a workshop on McLeans Ridges and Dunoon developments on May 27 would attract a large crowd of interested and concerned residents from both communities. In a break from usual practice, Councillors agreed to allow a representative from both groups to address the workshop following the staff presentations.

Michael Broughton representing Dunoon added valuable

information about the proposed wastewater treatment system (WWYS) gleaned from a visit to similar systems in Brisbane and Noosa. There remain some major concerns with this development including the appropriateness of the WWTS, the density of the development and the threat to agricultural land in the future.

There are just too many questions to be answered before the deadline for reports for the June 10 meeting so I hope this item can be held over until July for a more considered discussion.

The McLeans Ridges presentation was poorly managed and was brought to an abrupt end by the Mayor despite there being several unaddressed significant areas of concern. To add insult to the situation, the Mayor walked out of the room along with Crs Chant and Graham before Janet Allen, representing the community, had spoken.

The community is deeply disillusioned with Council's processes and after that display, who can blame them.

This rezoning, along with other current and foreshadowed rural housing developments, will have an enormous and cumulative effect on the amenity of this rural area. It has been described as 'dinosaur development' and should be extinct.

Much more information is required on traffic impacts, potential land-use conflicts, and the compliance with our planning policies before this is considered. I have requested the General Manager to schedule a further workshop on June 3 to consider the unaddressed issues and to give the community some faith that Council is listening.

I have also asked for a site visit to see the proposed community lot after it was agreed that substantial earthworks will be required to lessen the slope. Not only does this add huge costs but it increases the likelihood of adverse environmental impacts.

No doubt Dunoon and McLeans Ridges will be the topic of my July column too.

Website

All Council Business Papers and Minutes are on Council's website so if readers would like more information on the May meeting, please check out www.lismore.nsw.gov.au or contact me.

Finally, the views expressed are mine and are not intended to be a reflection of the Council as a whole or of other individual Councillors.

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