

Roundup overkill

by souljuice

The NEC has taken action regarding the perceived heavy-handedness of the Tweed Council faery with the wand, waving excessive amounts of Monsanto brand Roundup and casting nasty spells on the soil.

The results are witnessed by seeing dead grass two metres or more either side of the white poles on the sides of the roads leading into Nimbin from the north. In one spot, it appears Roundup is being sprayed from one post to the next to make it easier for the roadside tractor mowing.

Wow! Monsanto must have given that council-in-administration-due-to-shonky-practices a discount deal they couldn't refuse on bulk supplies – the way they're throwing poison around...

I remember reading a scientific report years



ago of a kid who had a particularly adverse reaction to Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, and he died from walking on it with his bare feet.

If it is as harmless as some preach, why don't the Occupational, Health and Safety dudes on the worksite tell the workers to throw away their protective gear and use it with their herbal teas at lunchtime.

Okay, so it's effective

and trees may not have grown if it wasn't for good 'ol Roundup that kept the weeds at bay, but still - a poison is a poison, is a poison...ask a soil microbe what it thinks of Roundup after the plant's died and left its rotting toxic residue in the soil.

Besides, who in their right mind these days would trust Monsanto, a giant multi-national conglomerate when they say a chemical sprayed in public is safe? Or is it that some soft greenies who even use it, are getting softer and just don't want to know...

Concerns have been registered with council and paper is being shuffled, no doubt as we write and read.

Is direct action the only way to make people in perceived positions of power properly listen and respond responsibly to us, the public?

What about Nimbin town's water?? Now that's another issue....

Koala Kolumn



by Lorraine Vass for the Friends of the Koala



Kaytoo and Nina

The sight of a belligerent magpie swooping on a koala can be upsetting. It is normal behaviour and unlikely to seriously harm the koala. Powerful owls may occasionally take small young off a female's back. Eagles are reported to take koalas. An eye witness account of a python swallowing a back-young recently described at a Friends of the Koala Basic Training Day was particularly harrowing. Koalas also succumb to attack from goannas, dingoes, foxes and feral dogs.

The domestic dog can be a major threat to koalas. The koala climbs down the trunk of a tree backwards and once on the ground can move quickly in a bounding gait from tree to tree - the perfect moving target for a diligent dog protecting its turf. The koala's behaviour can sometimes appear to be surprisingly indifferent to the danger a dog presents. Medium (11-25 kgs) and large (over 25 kgs) dogs are the problem. 80% of koalas attacked by dogs either die from their injuries or are euthanased.

As a general trend, Friends of the Koala's experience is a decline in the number of animals brought into care because of dog attack. We like to think that over the years people have responded to our educational efforts to encourage responsible dog ownership.

Now let's play 'what if'. What if the Australian government allows the

importation of a monster moggie called the savannah cat as a domestic pet? The savannah is a cross between a wild African serval and a domestic cat. It has been claimed that early hybrids can weigh as much as 20 kgs, although proponents put the average weight as up to 14 kgs.

Whatever their weight these designer pets can leap over two metres from a standing start and are twice as big as a domestic cat. They are of a size, strength and jumping ability to hunt larger mammals like koalas and wombats should they be allowed to roam or they escape. Imagine what could result from such an animal breeding with a feral cat!

There are up to 16 savannahs in US quarantine almost ready for delivery to the Gold Coast. Another interested breeder is in Coffs Harbour. If importation goes ahead we could have suppliers to the north and to the south.

Australia's record on containing exotic species, even those imported with worthy intent, is extremely poor. Impulse pet buying is already endemic with over 60,000 dogs and cats being euthanased by the RSPCA alone each year.

If you are concerned about the loophole in Australia's legislation that is enabling the importation of savannah cats as well as other wild hybrid cats and dog breeds you can sign an on-line petition at:

<http://www.gopetition.com.au/petitions/savannah-cats.html> If the link doesn't work, simply Google 'petition savannah cats'.

Letters posted to The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts and to The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will also help.

Minister Garrett has invited public comment (deadline 17th July 2008) on "a draft assessment report of the likely damage that could be caused by the import of Savannah cats..." at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/invitecomment/savannah-cat.html>

Information about koalas and Friends of the Koala is available at www.friendsofthekoala.org or email info@friendsofthekoala.org or phone Friends of the Koala's (24/7) Rescue Hotline on 6622-1233.

Until next time, happy koala spotting!

Country Energy signs on to protect region's koalas

Country Energy has joined forces with the Friends of the Koala group to aid in protecting the region's increasingly vulnerable koala population.

Impressed by the group's commitment to helping local koalas, the electricity provider is offering assistance under its environmental and community sponsorship program.

"Country Energy is a long-time friend to Friends of the Koala," said group President, Lorraine Vass.

"Over the years we have often called on their bucket trucks to retrieve koalas in difficult places. More recently Country Energy has recognised the significance of our work in regional koala conservation by providing very welcome funding and other assistance," she said.

Country Energy sponsorship has funded the production and distribution of four issues of Friends of the Koala's quarterly newsletter, Treetops, and enabled the outdoor enclosures of the Koala



Good works 'Home' by Frey Micklethwait of Mullumbimby (above) was a finalist in the 2007 Country Energy Art Prize for Landscape Painting. At \$35,000, it is Australia's richest annual landscape art prize, and is non-acquisitive. Closing date for entries this year is 22nd July.

Care and Research Centre in Lismore to be securely fenced.

Funds have also been used to offset costs associated with propagation of koala food tree seedlings, which the group supplies to landholders free of charge under its koala habitat enhancement program.

Country Energy's regional general manager, Brian Glawson, said the utility was pleased to be able to support

the volunteer group.

"We know what good work Friends of the Koala does, and often our employees are in a position where they can help rescue stranded or injured koalas," Brian said.

"This year we have also arranged for our vegetation workers to source suitable species from FOK's plant nursery, as we realise every little bit of support makes a difference."

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Private logging highlights environmental concerns

by Binnah Pownall
for the Nimbin Environment Centre

The information received by the Nimbin Environment Centre from neighbours and concerned residents regarding logging on private land up at Mountain Top, a few k's south of Nimbin – particularly concerning the extent of the clearing of native trees on a particular private block as reported previously – has been challenged by one of the family of timber harvesters as being wrong.

The private land loggers claimed that, even though trees were felled for harvest and profit, it was done 'selectively' – and that anyway, it had been reclaimed land and was, basically still better than it was in the past.

The NEC asked if a viewing of the land could be arranged for us to witness and assess for ourselves the claims of a more sensitive harvesting operation than was reported. Unfortunately our viewing request was declined, therefore we are still unable to get a clear and accurate picture of the extent of disturbance of the native flora and fauna. Such is the continuing frustration of the public attempting to find out what is happening to its natural heritage.

The bottom line is still that Australia has the embarrassing distinction of leading the world with extinctions. Every single time the natural process is disturbed in nature, it invites unwanted guests like Bell Myner birds and invasive weeds like Madiera vine to fill the immediate imbalance created by pulling out even one tree. This is an extreme scenario pointed out to show how insensitive we may have been in the past.

The Australian native forest and all the life it supports (including our own perhaps) are under extreme pressure and threat like never before – whether it



Endangered: Ninox strenua

be our State Forests or on private land.

Our natural forests are particularly under threat on private land not just from individual farmers grabbing for an ever shrinking dollar, but more so from agri-business and mining companies which through the drought, bought up small farms going belly-up out west of here, from Grafton to Woodenbong, and then employed well-experienced plantation timber companies from Tasmania to put in vast tracts of monoculture trees – mainly Eucalypts as a perceived carbon sink tax dodge.

They must be sprayed – so big, they are crop-dusted by plane (too bad if you're downwind that day when the wind changes as it tends to) ...and didn't we find out years ago that the unnatural practice of plantations of one species together just doesn't work?

With global warming swamping us, and being told almost regularly now that the meltdown is coming quicker than the scientists thought it was the day before...

We need to stop what has been called 'ordinary practice' up 'til now and put the so-called 'development' of any natural resources (like air-making trees) on hold – until we know if we still have an Earth to live on for our grandkids.

As dramatic as it sounds, it is what we at the NEC believe to be the truth about our present situation on our one and only beautiful home, Earth.

We must take the opportunity here to give due respect for the actions of the land 'owners' – who are in their full rights to sell the timber that nature grew on their land, so the money gained can assist the families to maybe make ends meet.

Many of we 'Nimbin true-blood-anti-materialist-life-lovers and lovers' totally empathise - as we only know too well how increasingly difficult it 'REALLY' is to 'scratch a crust together' these days – what with the price of food in the shops and all....guess it's all coming down to 'realistic' standards of living....

Chopping and selling maturing native trees that not only hold the dwindling moisture in the ground, give cool shade for other emerging species to establish, and that also keep the air clean – ending all those life maintaining processes - all for short term monetary gain, is NOT going to save anybody's arse in the long run.

In fact, if the same practices are continued for much longer, as if nothing is wrong, cutting down those trees may do the exact opposite.

If you care enough about the future, why not join the NEC and get active defending and improving our local Natural Resources and Heritage.

Support us by becoming a member today and getting involved. Contact the Nimbin Environment Centre, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin 2480, phone 6689-1441, or visit www.nimbinenvirocentre.com

100,000 hectares approved for logging

The North Coast Environment Council has raised the alarm about logging on private lands, with more than 100,000 hectares approved for logging by the Department of Environment and Climate Change statewide in just 10 months, under a veil of secrecy.

"We have grave concerns about the implementation of the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)," said Ms Susie Russell, vice-president of the North Coast Environment Council.

"DECC has made getting a logging approval a tick-the-box exercise, and some areas that were protected under the previous regime are now being opened up for logging. No site inspections are required and no routine monitoring is carried out," she said.

Ms Russell said that the logging approvals operate for up to 15 years and suspend the operation of the threatened species laws. They can allow logging

in areas mapped as oldgrowth forests, rainforests or endangered ecological communities.

"In just 10 months they have approved 108,492 hectares of forests in NSW for logging. That equates to 517 football fields of forest approved for logging or patch-clearfelling each day for the last ten months. And it is being done under a veil of secrecy."

Logging approvals are not subject to the same public accountability provisions as clearing approvals, and the Department has twice refused a Freedom of Information request by NCEC to gather some basic information on the implementation of the Code.

"The grounds on which the Department refused the Freedom of Information request were spurious and very ill-considered. Their claim that there was no public interest in releasing the information is nothing short of outrageous.

"It seems the Department is

completely out of touch with the community and think the public has no legitimate interest in this matter. The agency that was once an environmental champion is now the logging advocate," Ms Russell said.

She argued that, as we hurtle towards runaway global warming, the community has a stronger stake than ever in the future of our fragile forests.

"Their health is central to our ability to survive the global warming that is already in the system. Logging results in a net loss of carbon from forests. Resilient, healthy forest ecosystems are a crucial buffer against the impacts of climate change on both humans and the environment. Many threatened species already on the brink will not survive if their habitat continues to be destroyed at the current rate," Ms Russell said.

The Public Register for Private Native Forestry can be found at http://www.nativevegetation.nsw.gov.au/registry/prnf_pvp.shtml

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Reef, or Madness

Ocean acidification to weaken coral reefs, make islands more vulnerable to storms

Acidification of the ocean could make low-lying island nations like the Maldives and Kiribati more vulnerable to storms since it can significantly weaken coral reefs, according to a new report. When the oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, carbonic acid forms, which makes it more difficult for sea critters like coral and starfish to form shells and skeletons. "If ocean acidification weakens the structure of reef-forming corals and algae, tropical systems (islands) will be more vulnerable to physical impacts from storms and cyclones," the report said. So far, the world's oceans have absorbed roughly half the carbon dioxide emitted by human activities since pre-industrial times. And if acidification keeps increasing, as it's expected to, the ecological effects on sea life could be even more extensive.

What Would You Do If We Sang 'Out of Tuna'?

E.U. ending bluefin tuna season early amid overfishing concerns

The European Union is ending its bluefin tuna fishing season early this year due to concerns that fishers are already nearing their quotas for the popular, lucrative fish. Bluefin tuna are prized for their succulence in sushi, and demand remains strong. Market prices for bluefin in Japan have nearly tripled since last year. May and June are the most productive months for bluefin catchers; commercial fleets often haul in over 500 tons a day. Environmental groups applauded the bluefin season's early closure, but stressed that much more is needed to save the bluefin. "WWF believes this out-of-control fishery should never have been allowed to open this year at all," said the group's European fishing expert. "Overfishing and massive illegal catches threaten the survival of bluefin tuna." Last year, the E.U. exceeded its bluefin quota by about 25 percent, despite a similar early closure.

Algae Whiz

Sapphire Energy hopes to soon power your car with algae

Sapphire Energy says it has successfully turned algae into biofuel, raising hopes that a viable oil alternative could be produced without need for agricultural land. The indeed-sapphire-colored fuel produced by the year-old company is coaxed from algae, sunlight, non-potable salt water, and carbon dioxide. Sapphire says its fuel is equivalent to conventional crude in both chemical makeup and price, and could be processed in existing refineries and used to power existing cars. And though vehicles burning the fuel will still produce tailpipe emissions, the company says the CO2 pulled from the atmosphere for production will effectively make the whole shebang carbon neutral. Sapphire hopes to have its fuel commercially available within five years. "We've talked to people in the oil industry who've said, 'This is the first thing I've seen that can change the game,'" says Robert Nelsen of ARCH Venture Partners, which backs Sapphire. "We want to take it to a whole new level."

We Spend That Before Breakfast

Mere \$45 trillion needed to tackle climate change, says IEA

A G8-backed goal to halve greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 would take a global clean-technology investment of merely \$45 trillion, the International Energy Agency said in a report in June. That's about 1.1 percent of the world's average annual gross domestic product through 2050; more overwhelmingly, it's also about three times the size of the current U.S. economy. To meet the 50-percent-by-2050 target, the world must build some 1,400 nuclear power plants by 2050; erect 17,500 wind turbines per year; and fit more than 50 coal- and gas-fired power plants per year with technology to capture and store carbon, says the IEA. Under current policies, warns the report, global CO2 emissions will rise 130 percent and oil demand 70 percent by 2050. It all "represents a formidable challenge," says IEA Executive Director Nobuo Tanaka, "and we would require immediate policy action and technological transition on an unprecedented scale." So hop to it.

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Grim Tales from History

Kathy Stavrou, July 08

The Great Court in the Sky v New South Wales Government (1788 - 2000)

This episode of "Grim Tales from History" is part of a historico-legal Earle Stanley Gardner-type cyber thriller and mass murder investigation. All documents and terms referred to in this document may be found, in chronological order, at www.kathystavrou.net

Judge: This Court is now in session. The case is the Great Court in the Sky v the New South Wales Government. Defendant, stand.

(Ponderously, and with a malevolent look, the cloaked old government, surrounded like a massive oil tanker with its flotilla of bewigged counsel, comes to its feet in the stand.)

Judge: In this first of a series of actions covering particular periods of time, the New South Wales Government now stands accused in this Court; that "Between 1788 and 1862, against the express and explicit instructions of the British Crown and Parliament, the New South Wales Government progressively, illegally and corruptly extinguished the subject and land possession



Caption: "Group of Richmond River Aborigines photographed in 1865." Source: Sydney Mail, 1928

rights of the Aboriginal peoples of New South Wales, by the misuse of its executive powers in the form of the promulgation of Standing Orders, Proclamations, Acts of Parliament, and by the utilisation of the New South Wales Native Police."

Judge: What do you say, Government? (Aside: However, that is like a question about the welfare of the Oysters in 'The Walrus and the Carpenter', in Alice ... "but answer, there was none, but that was hardly odd, because they'd eaten every one.")

Judge: The Great Court in the Sky is now in session. The time is the future, or now as the case may be. In this Court, the Judge is also the

Detective and the Prosecutor: along the lines of what Lt. Tragg, of the Metropolitan Homicide Department, says to Perry Mason, Attorney at Law; "for a lawyer, you make a fine detective", or words to that effect, (Earle Stanley Gardner, The Case of the Calendar Girl, 1964) or even in the same way as the New South Wales Commissioners for Crown Land from 1839 were Military, Judge, Prosecutor, scourger ("torturer") and summary executioner all at once, just as empowered by the Crown Lands Unauthorised Occupation Act (2 Vic 27 1839). Or to refer again to that great old authority of circa 1862, Alice, "I'll be Judge, I'll be Jury, said

cunning old Fury, I'll try the whole case and condemn you to death."

This Court is a cyber Court: the Detective hunts down, digitises and cyber-posts the documents that form the Brief of Evidence; the Prosecutor examines the Defendant's documents, then the Judge (maybe also known as History, whatever that may be) enables whoever reads these documents to be the Jury in naming the wrongs committed against the subject and land ownership rights of Aboriginal peoples of New South Wales, by the Government of New South Wales, between 1788 and today.

Prosecutor: As to a remedy for wrongs: in terms of Acts of Government, my contention is that a fair and equitable modern land rights legislation in New South Wales can't be built on a substratum of corruption and cruelty that commenced in 1788 and continued without a break to the present day; rights being easy to extinguish but hard to restore. The remedy this cyber court in the sky can provide, is to confront the New South Wales

Government with its own documents, and to enable the truth to be told, about what happened to the Aboriginal peoples in New South Wales between 1788 - 1862, why it happened, and how the invaders and murderers got away with it scot-free.

This Court, in its argument about the illegal extinguishment of Aboriginal subject and land ownership rights, uses the 1628 Petition of Rights document as the standard for British subject rights in 1788. The *Petition of Rights, 1628*, sets out the rights and liberties of the subject as opposed to the prerogatives of the Crown. In particular, think that if the ideals of freedom in Section III had been applied to the Aboriginal peoples, as it was supposed to, instead of the subversion of the law of the land which occurred; justice could have been done. And the other Sections, of the 1628 Petition of Rights, are just as relevant.

S III: "And whereas also by the statute called 'The Great Charter of the Liberties of England, it is declared and enacted, that no freeman may be taken or imprisoned or be disseized of his freehold or liberties, or his free customs, or be outlawed or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, but by the lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land."

The second document, *Notice: Copyright in legislation and other material (NSW 1996)* is of central importance to the presentation of this Case. A number of New South Wales Government documents are reproduced in full in support of the Court's charge against the accused.

The Government's own documents, as presented by the Prosecution, form the Brief of evidence against the New South Wales Government in this great Court of true justice in the sky. I argue that this Brief is even able to satisfy the stringency of the eternal Brigginsshaw test arching, full-spectrum'ed, over all. In *Brigginsshaw v Brigginsshaw (1938) 60 CLR 333 at p362* Dixon J says: "The seriousness of an allegation made, the inherent unlikelihood of an occurrence of a given description, or the gravity of the consequences flowing from a particular finding are considerations which must affect the answer to the question whether the issue has been proved to the reasonable satisfaction of the tribunal. In such matters "reasonable satisfaction" should not be produced by inexact proofs, indefinite testimony, or indirect inferences."

Judge: Right, we've got to about 999 words: Court is adjourned to the next "Grim Tales from History".

Help wanted

by Nina

Grant Writers Sought

The Nimbin Environment Centre is seeking volunteers with grant writing experience.

We are looking for someone who is either able to write grants on behalf of the NEC, or willing to donate some time to teaching a few of our members the ins and outs of writing grants for community organisations.

Please email us at nimenvirocentre@bigpond.com or call 6689-1441, or simply pop into the NEC shop on Cullen Street and leave your details.

Calling for our history!

The Nimbin Environment Centre would like to call out to all past (and present) members, volunteers, activists, supporters, and friends.

We are trying to compile an NEC history for our

website (and possibly other forms of media in the future) and would like to invite people to contribute.

We are looking for donations of written or oral histories of the NEC from anyone who has been connected with the centre. This also extends to environmental campaigns run from the NEC or by members of the NEC.

Archival materials that concern the NEC or environmental activism in the local area would also be greatly appreciated. Articles, photos, artwork, old magazines etc....

Thank you for helping fill in the gaps in the NEC's history, and the rich history of environmental activism in Nimbin.

Anyone wishing to make a time to record an oral history can do so by leaving your name and number at the NEC shop and we will contact you. Call 6689 1441.

Commonsense Human Values

Fifteenth in a series by Laurie Stubbs



Two articles back I made the statement - life develops itself (LDI) is a clear principle at work now on our planet --- and said "Evidence for it is very strong; from no life, to self replicating molecule, and over 4.8 billion years, to beings intelligent enough to manipulate the planet".

Well, there's another powerful principle at work throughout Earth's history, and that's Love. Love also is clearly a universally powerful force. Can love be a reference point for a system of values?

Love for most people is felt and understood at many levels. Love of mothers for children is ensured by the umbilicus, which mothers, rarely emotionally accept as cut. Fathers are prompted to love by their inbuilt prideful outlook on their kids. Love of

man for woman, and woman for man is a different emotion, often transient.. I feel it is true that Love potentially capable of remodelling humanity. Yet, lift the focus to any transcendent level and Love becomes hard to find indeed

As long as the word is love, it gets confused with lust, affection, parental responsibility and all the rest of the meanings assigned to this overworked word. Love, in the sense of a force able to steer and guide mankind is not easily defined. St. Paul's is probably still the best attempt, though some would not agree.

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Love suffereth long and is kind | Thinketh no evil |
| Love envieth not | Rejoiceth in iniquity, but |
| Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up | Rejoiceth in the truth |
| Doth not behave unseemly | Beareth all things |
| Seeketh not her own | Hopeth all things |
| Is not easily provoked | Endureth all things |
| | Love never fails |

Most of St Paul's meanings have however, long been replaced by rampant individualism in our societies. Imagine politicians filled with this value of love, statesmen working between nations on this base, people responding to love in their daily lives in the cities and towns and the rural areas. In this sense the living value that Love represents has never been tried.

With the last 300 years of our history actively ignoring Love as a value, its very tough to see how it might again become a dominant value. Love has been touted for years and years as the way to fix the world's problems. Hence it is a yawn for too many people.

Now, between this and the previous article we are hopefully free of some of the limits of the conventional wisdom, so let's return to the question posed earlier about our axiom 'life develops itself' - "Is this the most important lesson?" On the negative side there are heaps of conclusions you could reach from the record. Perhaps they are best summed up by the statement that violence, conflict and brutality do sometimes work, but are very temporary bases at best.

Whichever way you choose to look at history from the beginning of life to the present, this feature of the purposiveness of life in developing itself seems dominant. It has freshness and a potential for guiding humanity. For the moment, let's accept the idea as a base for thinking out some values, and work through some of the basic implications in the next article.

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Camp for Climate Action

by Sue Stock

There are now less than two weeks to go until Camp For Climate Action and people from all over Australia are preparing to travel to Newcastle to take part in the camp.

The camp is on public land at Sandgate, just outside Newcastle. It is immediately adjacent to the Pacific Highway. After reaching the Hexham Bridge, you turn left for Newcastle and travel 6.5 kilometres. Further details of how to get there, including rail, are on the website.

The Camp for Climate Action will be six days of inspiring workshops & peaceful direct action culminating in a large-scale community protest aimed at shutting down the world's largest coal port in Newcastle. "The week-long camp will culminate in a large community protest in which people will be encouraged to peacefully block coal trains – stopping climate change in its tracks" said Holly Creenaune, spokesperson for Climate Camp.

"This camp aims to up the ante - taking peaceful direct action against the reckless expansion of the coal industry. We are facing a climate crisis. We can't just sit back and watch while State and Federal Governments continue to support the expansion of the coal industry, at the expense of our future."

The Camp is being organised by community activists, supported by a coalition of organisations, and timed to coincide with similar direct action camps across the world, including North America and Europe.

Organisers of the camp are calling on the Australian Government to halt all coal expansion projects, implement a moratorium on new coal mines and kick-start an urgent transition to a green economy.

The action will be colourful, festive and child-friendly, with arrestable and non-arrestable roles. Meet 10am on the Sunday at Islington Park (close to Hamilton Station) for a march to the Carrington coal terminal. There will be speakers, activities and food but come prepared with some of your own



provisions and creativity! The organisers say that blocking the coal line for one hour will stop the movement of coal, which when burnt produces the same amount of greenhouse gases as all cars on Australian roads for that hour.

Don't forget to check the website for what to bring before you set off. The most important things to remember are warm and waterproof clothes, bedding, your own eating implements and your own ideas to contribute to the mass action.

Professor Ian Lowe, President of the Australian Conservation Foundation said about the Climate Camp, "I don't think there's any doubt in ecological terms we're booked on the Titanic and we're sailing for the climate change iceberg, that is being broken off more rapidly from the polar ice caps as more of them recede."

"The economist's approach is to say: there's no point travelling steamage if you're booked on the Titanic, you might as well go to the bar and order the vintage

champagne, because your cheque is never going to reach the bank.

"The apathetic's approach is to say: the crew must know what they are doing so we might as well just enjoy ourselves.

"But the activist's approach is to say that we don't have to hit the iceberg. We don't have to condemn the world to unacceptable climate change. If the crew on the Bridge won't change course, we should organise a mutiny. What I think the Climate Camp is about is organising a mutiny.

"If the people we elect and place so generously to make decisions on our behalf won't make responsible decisions on climate change, we will in the great tradition, honed to an artform by Mahatma Gandhi; we will indulge in civil disobedience and we will force people making the decisions to take a more responsible approach."

So check out the details at the website <http://climatecamp.org.au/> and make a stand for the future of our beautiful planet.



Is another Byron possible?

by Robin Harrison

During June a Byron Community Forum was held, where the question was asked, "Is another Byron possible?"

Of all the problems being enjoyed by our shire, one that makes my heart weep is watching the more bohemian arts community, that wellspring of creativity vital to a vibrant community, under attack; music in halls, drum circles, music and art in Byron streets on balmy nights. Who would have thought, 10 years ago, that it could happen in this community?

Well, as a matter of fact, I did and so did others. Letters to the Echo pointed out the population demographics for this region, which predict a single metropolis from Ballina to Gympie by 2020; that the only development model is suburbia and, therefore, the culture of sustainable living we were trying to create would come under increasing pressure. It was well under way 10 years ago.

The problems of this region are not unique, they are global. They are also not topical; no amount of band-aids will fix them. Following on the heels of growing suburbia, they are symptoms of systemic dysfunction. If we don't do something about the systems we won't solve the problems.

All our social operating systems, including our economy, emerged from a patriarchal social system. They are inherently exploitive, funnelling those resources to the elite in that system. There's no conspiracy; that would presuppose that it's hidden and it's not, just follow the money. It's done OK for a few

thousand years but it's past its use-by date; it's no longer sustainable.

Wars are thrown by people who profit from them, then we all get an invitation. The vast majority of people want to get on with each other. What we need is a set of social operating systems that emerge from a society in harmony with each other and our earth, a set of social operating systems that nurture that behaviour. It's worth nurturing, it's potentially extremely prosperous.

Why don't we use a marketplace that is moving rapidly in our favour to create that society?

Right now, globally, there is a housing shortage, affordability stress, food problems, social problems, a creaking economy and a suffering environment. There is also a population that now, almost entirely, knows they need an environmental answer; something almost unimaginable 30 years ago.

In a development marketplace with only one product, imagine the growth potential of an alternative that is far more attractive, affordable and prosperous than suburbia. Over the last few decades the sustainability movement has, disparately, raised all the skills and knowledge to achieve this. The concept is outlined at www.livingsystems.com.au

We have the product; is there a corporate entrepreneur out there with vision and imagination who would like to kick-start the major growth industry of the 21st century; sustainable living?

Is another Byron possible? Sure, lots of them, all over the world; or none. In marketing it's called export or perish.

Nimbin Survey Form

Are you fed up and frustrated with all the bad press our little village has been getting lately? Feeling powerless to make any worthwhile changes come about? Complete this survey and let your voice mean something. Stand up for commonsense!

Please circle your answers, cut out and return to Nimbin Post Office.

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Are you a resident of Nimbin? | Yes | No |
| Do you operate a business in town? | Yes | No |
| Do you use Nimbin as a central shopping/social venue? | Yes | No |
| Would you like to see the decriminalisation of cannabis for personal use? | Yes | No |
| Would you like to see better community policing? | Yes | No |
| Are you tired of negative media coverage focusing solely on cannabis? | Yes | No |
| Do you feel that crime other than cannabis-related incidents is adequately policed in Nimbin? | Yes | No |
| Do you feel that police tactics in Nimbin are sometimes heavy-handed? | Yes | No |
| Do you think that street cameras reduce the incidence of crime in Nimbin? | Yes | No |

You can attach written comments too.

Please complete the survey during July, and read the results next month in *The Nimbin GoodTimes*.

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