

Hospitality industry skills

A 12-week Hospitality course at Nimbin's Aboriginal Cultural Centre is proving a big hit with the 14 keen students enrolled.

Teacher Alan Davis, from Wollongbar's International School of Hotel, Catering and Tourism Management, said the students' progress was "excellent".

The course was funded on a submission basis by the North Coast Aboriginal Learning Partnerships program. Applications were also open to non-indigenous students.

"It's funded on the basis of need," said Alan, who has co-ordinated similar courses at Tabulam and Ballina.

Students learn food hygiene,



Hospitable. Alan Davis (left) with students from the Nimbin Hospitality course.

coffee-making and cashiering, and gain an RSA qualification.

Their skills will be on show at the 'Deadly Days' festival at Wollongbar TAFE

in October, featuring the achievements of Aboriginal students.

"We're showing something positive," said Alan.

Weaving the fabric of society

The 4th Weave & Mend Festival
Friday 26th, Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th of September
Nimbin Central School Grounds

This is a hands-on festival, run on a shoe-string budget. It is a community-based initiative by local weavers, Wednesday Women Weavers, to keep alive an ancient tradition in the "modern" age.

While we weave and create, we talk about life and share our thoughts, weaving and mending our way through each other's lives, weaving and mending the very fabric of our community, our families, our children.

The Weave & Mend Festival is a three-day camp, so bring your tent and bedroll, and your children. Facilities at the school for overnight campers include toilets and shower, and if the weather is wet, the school hall will be available.

You can come to watch, do as many workshops as you choose, bring a mat and display your wares, which may or may not be for sale. Loom weavers, knitters, painters are welcome, as are buskers.

Camping and entry to the festival are by donation. "Mother-ship" chai tent on site. Workshops will run every two hours from 10am-4pm each day, costing \$5.00 each per person. Bring fibres if you like, otherwise fibres are provided free with each workshop. Weavers wanting to run



workshops simply put their names on the board in the morning.

Enjoy coming together, sit around the campfire and listen to some local music. Acoustic music night around the fire, Saturday 27th. Any inquiries please phone 6689-7129.

Nimbin kicks off Show calendar



88th annual Nimbin Country Show
Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st September



Three-day Movie Festival

Apart from computers and education the Nimbin CTC is also about using digital film as an art medium. With filmmaking gear cheaper than ever, this is the time to get creative with a camera and exhibit your art in public on the silver screen.

The Nimbin Film Festival organising arm of the CTC is calling for local and not-so-local films. Screening of the three day weekend event, October 24-25-26, Friday to Sunday, will take place in the picturesque Nimbin Bush Theatre and Cafe'.

Hard-copy' entry forms are available in the CTC or you can down-load a copy from the website: www.nimbinfilms.co.cc/

Since filmmaking is very much a team effort, the CTC invites volunteers to join the Nimbin Film Festival organising team and ensure this event remains part of the Nimbin cultural experience.

Help with sound and editing is available at reasonable tutoring rates through the CTC. Don't forget the film submission deadline is 30th September.



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Nimbin Players axe Spring season



After rehearsing for several months, Nimbin Players have killed off their latest play, a black comedy about death. Director Deborah Wild said the decision was made reluctantly to cancel the ill-fated run of 'It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To' by Elizabeth Coleman, which had previously been postponed, due to changed circumstances. "There was just no way we could get it on in time," she said. Rehearsal cast photo above shows (left to right) Chris Harris, Jan Martin, Annette Miller, Sam Grandison and Loey Elphick (Martin Gill not shown).

New venue manifestly suitable

The inaugural Nimbin Underground gig at the Birth and Beyond centre was a raging success, according to spokesperson David Hyett.

David said, "The venue was great. It is quite small, which created incredible intimacy amongst the crowd and the audience. As soon as people walked in they engaged, and the majority danced to the music.

"A few of the yoga crew were a bit worried about us using the space, but we brought a loving energy of a different kind and some other members of the community who had seldom entered the space benefited from its healing vibe."

The night was started by Slug, a four-piece punk band with members from Lismore and Nimbin, whose lead singer Dave made his presence felt by his antics on



Loving energy. Dave Hyett (above) at the Birth and Beyond gig, and Asia (right) guesting with Mona Lizard at the Nimbin pub in August.

the floor.

Manifest had its solid support crew of fans and groupies, as well as a team of entertaining punk line-dancers led by lovely legs Les from the Antibodies.

David has rebooked the venue for 7.30pm, Friday 12th September.

The next gig will feature



Nimbin singer-songwriter Asia, the new Nimbin band Bill Lane, who have sensational original material, and Manifest who continue to go from strength to strength.

Make sure you check the venue out – you are guaranteed an intimate evening.

The Ray Mann Three come north

"Urban, neo-soul, a dash of funk, lots of spunk with a truly fresh spirit... The Ray Mann Three have the ability to propel you into a higher sphere allowing your soul and intellect to waltz into the lofty clouds of the unique." - Drum Media

The Ray Mann Three is those guys in the corner: sitting, jamming, sketching with soulful strokes; inhabiting a world of their own, but inviting you to visit - and maybe stay awhile...

Vintage threads and stripped-back sounds: The Ray Mann Three's sound whispers its love of folks like D'angelo, Al Green and The Beatles - but listen a little closer: it hints at so many others too.

Singer/guitarist Ray Mann (ex-lead guitarist with Sydney band Kid Confucius), drummer Bart Denaro (who continues to play in



Kid Confucius), and bassist Byron Luiters (who also plays with pretty much everyone else in town) have created a special place together: a space where their collective musical style is boldy minimal yet surprisingly full, startlingly dynamic yet warmly intimate.

The resulting debut album, "The Ray Mann Three", was recorded in three days,

live to tape, at Sydney's Electric Avenue studios, and produced by Buchman (a.k.a. Tony Buchen). Released in April 2008, "The Ray Mann Three" is simply the sound of three guys in a room - and in a moment.

They will perform at the Nimbin Hotel on Friday 12th September at 7.30pm. The gig is free.



Slim Pickens & Dr Baz (pictured) wowed them at the Nimbin Bowlo in August, with their eclectic range of classic cajun-country-Delta blues-honkytonk-spiritual-Western swing numbers. Plus very rootsy originals.

This month, Dr Baz, aka Barry Ferrier, is doing a solo gig at the Bowlo on Sunday 14th, from 2-5pm. Get there early for members happy hour.

The Buddha Belly Cafe presents A Middle Eastern Belly Dance Event Saturday 13th September, 2pm till late

Featuring Brisbane's Premier Middle Eastern Band "Muziz" & Middle Eastern Belly Dancer, Tamara Taylor Dance, Drum and Ney Flute Workshops
Local belly dance performers from Chillingham, Nimbin and Murwillumbah

- Belly Dance Workshop 2 - 3.30pm
- Drum Workshop 3.30 - 5pm
- Ney Flute Workshop 5 - 6pm
- Belly Dance for Fun (Troupe) 6.30 - 7pm
- Muziz Band 7 - 7.30pm
- Local performance 7.30 - 8pm
- Muziz 8 - 8.30pm
- Jamming/dancing 8.30pm onwards

Tickets are to be purchased at the door: \$20 per workshop, \$45 whole day ticket (includes all workshops and the evening performance), \$15 Evening performance (6pm onwards). No



concessions - kids under 12 free. Yummy cakes, drinks and vegetarian / vegan food available.
The Buddha Belly Cafe, Mt Warning Road, Mt Warning NSW. Phone 6679-4188

Nimbin Hotel and Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Phone 6689-1246

September Gig Guide

Friday 5th Invisible Friend
Friday 12th Ray Mann Three
Friday 17th Mixed Bag
Sunday 19th Thrillbilly Stomp 1-5pm
Friday 26th The Diana Anaid Band
All Friday night gigs start at 7.30pm

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Nimbin Bowlo

Sibley Street Nimbin, phone 6689-1250

What's On in September?

Monday 8th - Ladies Gala Day, from 10am

Sunday 14th - Barry Ferrier, 2-5pm

Sunday 28th - Chris Aronsten 2-5pm

• Social Bowls Wednesdays from 1pm, Sundays 10am

• Members Happy Hours – Tues-Wed-Thurs 5-6pm, Sundays 1-3pm. Social Membership only \$5.



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Tuesday - Sunday



Soft Targets

Hurray, hurray, hurray. Nimbin free of drug dealers at last. Close the Nimbin Museum, close the Nimbin Hemp Bar and the dealers disappear. Why has no one thought of this before? It is so simple.

What a brilliant stroke. This must surely come from a brain un-befuddled by drugs - no cannabis, no alcohol. This is good. All too often those most evangelical in the war on drugs use the drug alcohol. I know how alcohol blunts the intellect - I write as an ex-drunk (who does not use cannabis).

The brilliance of this move on Nimbin is proof positive that the originator does not use alcohol - "the one drug whose harm outweighs all the others put together... the major drug scourge of Australia" (Professor Nick Crofts, Director, Melbourne's Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre, Weekend Australian, 24-25/02/07). Crofts cited brain-damage (adult and foetal), cancer, road-deaths, violence.

Apropos violence, on ABC TV, April 2007, then NSW Police Commissioner Ken Moroney said, "The main cause of violent crime is alcohol. Worse than all the illicit drugs together."

So it is good to believe that the brilliant originator of this



latest move on Nimbin does not personally use alcohol as a recreational drug. Anything less would be rank hypocrisy.

And Nimbin is such a soft target.

**Dr Len Martin, Nimbin,
Northern Rivers Greens
Candidate for LCC**

End of an era

If we focus on the big picture for a change, then we see that Life proceeds logically, by cone-like, wave-like, cycles - that have an intelligent design.

Humankind is coming exponentially to the apocalyptic end of an era (and the beginning of the next and better one) that began about 6,000 years ago when our forefathers came in from outer space and mated with the local women; as reported by the elohists, albeit not by the yahwists, in their part

of the, part-true, Book of Genesis and elsewhere in their sacred-wisdom sites.

This coincides with the ends of other eras such as the capitalist and nationalist ones that began, around the North Atlantic, about 350 years ago and the economic cycle that began, with high taxation and budget deficits, in the 1930's.

Anybody using more than half a brain can, and would be wise to, work out the world-shattering implications for themselves.

Luddites who are infected by the boiling-frog syndrome will need help.

**Doug Ogilvie
Bilambil**

Eternal life

Dope-smoking has spoiled the alternative lifestyle. Positive activities have a strong tendency to get lost in the prevailing haze. Overwhelming weed-smoking sucks the energy out of many projects, which would otherwise benefit our children, unemployed and troubled citizens.

How can we heal this lung-blackening addiction? The hippies seem unwilling or unable. The police are overworked and starved of funds. Our capital, 500 miles distant, is about as likely to bring in any moral reform as would have the rum corps.

Social workers have a lot on their plate. Churchgoers are keeping a very low profile.

Young ones motor from the Brisbane-Gold Coast metropolis, now less than an hour away. Already lacking in guidance, what do they find on reaching the village?

Terrania Shire is also under seige from refugees from the city, armies of massive 4WDs. Contractors' trucks and mobile cranes race dangerously over the potholes. We face the fate of Mullum, Maleny, Bellingen etc., where alternative life is getting to be just a memory. Please, read your bible.

**V. Stott
Nimbin**

We Need More Buses

I dread the time when peak oil really hits. If prices do go to \$10 a litre and/or petrol becomes rationed, what happens to people living on rural properties that have to drive to town, especially older people who are living alone? Car pooling is one possibility, but this may be too inefficient when the crunch really comes.

We need to get affordable public transport schemes started now so they will be working when we really need them.

**Effie Ablett
Greens campaign team
Pearces Creek**

About us

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www.nimbingoodtimes.com

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

Responsibility for election comment is taken by R. Dooley, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

Next deadline: Wednesday 24th September
Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in the pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Notices

Wanted

A bushwalking companion for a 2-day walk to Sphinx Rock. Phone Michael 6689-9291 or email notmichael@bigpond.com

Book-keeper

Nimbin Community Centre Inc (NCCI) minimum 4 hours pw. Experience essential. Applicants must address the selection criteria available from NCCI office, (02) 6689-0000 10am to 5pm Monday, Wednesday & Thursday or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au Applications close 12th September 2008.

Wanted to rent 1

Nimbin family needs a new home: 3brms, sheds on acreage, Couple and 1 teenage son and 2 dogs. Up to \$300 pw. Phone 6689-0335

Wanted to rent 2

Local person looking for 2 bedroom house up to \$170 pw. Reliable tenant, part-time parent, references, experienced gardener and maintenance person.

Would prefer mains power within 10 kms of Nimbin, but anything considered. Phone 0458-229-199.

Singers Wanted

Come and join us in the choir-project "Missa Criolla". We had some problems with illness of the conductor but we have started again and everybody is welcome.

Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 4pm starting 2nd September, at the Rainbow Ridge Steiner School, Lilian Rock Road. If the venue and or time don't suit you, please contact me and if there are enough people we might start another group. Phone Hetty, 6689-7336.

Fire Permits

From 1st September, permits are required for hazard reduction burn-offs. Contact your local brigade - in Nimbin, Captain Brad Soward, 6689-1221.

Appreciation

From the Emmett and Speck families:

To all the wonderful people of Nimbin who have expressed their sympathy and kindness, sent cards or flowers on the death of Mary Emmett, our heartfelt thanks for your sympathy and support at this time of our loss and great sorrow. From Bob, Richard, Georgina and their families.

Cancellation

Nimbin Players has regretfully cancelled its Spring Season production of *It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To*.

Free Listings

Send us a short Notice (under 50 words is good) and if it's non-commercial and looks like it would be of interest to our readers, we'll run it for you for free.

Proposed Temporary Road Closure Stony Chute Road



Kyogle Council wishes to advise that Stony Chute Road will be closed to heavy vehicles from Monday, September 22, 2008 to Thursday, November 13, 2008, during replacement of the bridge over Websters Creek (approximately 10.2km from Nimbin Road)

A temporary detour will be provided adjacent to the bridge for vehicles up to 10 tonnes gross mass.

During this period, access for heavy vehicles to properties with rural addresses from 0 to 1020 on Stony Chute Road will be available from Lillian Rock Road and Nimbin Road, and access to properties with rural addresses higher than 1020 Stony Chute Road will only be available from Kyogle Road. The nearest alternative route for through traffic is via Kyogle Road / Lillian Rock Road / Nimbin Road.

Council apologises for any inconvenience caused by this road closure.

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Right of Reply

by Laura Myer

Laura wrote two articles on Sex Surrogacy for the NGT. Last edition carried three letters critical of aspects of her views.

My intentions are NOT to prey on women who are in desperate need of help but a desire to want to help out and educate younger women to prevent them experiencing any type of abuse. I have survived it myself, so I understand that the signs are there right at the start. My experience is enough to share with other women. Domestic abuse is a terrifying ordeal.

To be honest, I am not keen to employ other women now, as it has been a huge job in training one lady who is already working for me. Some women from Byron who applied were knocked back because they were NOT grounded in themselves. This would put them in danger. So I was not chasing a buck in this sense nor would I want that at all.

Currently I am studying sociology, psychology and anthropology. I am a writer and author of my book 'You Don't Own My Sexuality'.

I do not find 'statistics' on rape, incest and domestic abuse to be acceptable in any sense. However, we all just seem to hear about the aftermath of many problems, rather than prevention. By then it is too late.

I should have separated the article to two separate things. That is, a personal view on prevention of domestic abuse, and further awareness to a very misunderstood yet crucial industry.

A woman who has faced abuse needs time to heal. But to offer them escort work if they do not want to, would be terribly insensitive. They would need plenty of time to recover, then someone to help gently guide them to get back on their feet – through many other career path options in order to support themselves and their children. Or helping them achieve their own business aspirations. This work could be the very last thing that she needs. To be honest, I have concluded, it is only suited to the women who have worked in the industry, or feel they have done this

in a past life as a temple priestess, serving Goddess Aphrodite. Here is where it was sacred. Surprisingly, after interviewing spiritually oriented women, such women do exist even today and recall doing it in a past life in a temple setting and as part of a sisterhood.

But prevention is better than cure. Many women's magazines bombard women with the fact they are not complete without a man, as well as be and look constantly 'sexy' to find happiness. There hardly seems anybody teaching them to 'think for themselves' or the path to true liberation and independence.

Yes it does become complex once children are involved. But my point is, if children are NOT involved, then the simple solution is to leave the relationship and cut ties. Don't even consider a child with him once he has displayed signs of abuse! Signs such as disrespecting your opinions, verbal insults (remarking it was a joke and that you have no sense of humour) trying to make you doubt yourself or even shoving you physically. I stick by that point. Many times, intense sexual attraction is confused with love. Jealousy too is seen as 'loving' but in my view, jealousy is someone saying 'I own you, I possess you!' That is NOT love but insecurity. Coming from a sex worker, I can vouch that many times, sex is just sex. Love is more a devotional feeling with someone very special.

It is also a common pattern that some abusive men also want to impregnate a women, leading her to believe that he wants a happy family and a lifelong commitment. It is nothing more than a selfish desire to keep a chain on her because he is too afraid to go it alone. It is a smokescreen! I too am a survivor of rape, and being tricked into pregnancy as a goal for playing 'happy families'. I am glad that I cut all ties to this man who left his ex girlfriend with a broken nose. I noticed her nose was crooked, but later it was revealed why, which made my hairs stand on end.

Anyway, my sincere apologies to Happy High Herbs for mentioning them previously.

Lismore Council Jottings

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

August Council meeting

The Agenda for the last Council meeting of the current Council ran to a mammoth 132 pages with a similar size attachments document.

Throughout the Agenda, there were ten reports which we needed to determine whether to consider or not. The Department of Local Government had reminded Councils that they entered 'caretaker' mode on August 4 so we should not consider controversial issues, changes to policy, major contracts, non-urgent matters or expenditure outside the budget. One of the matters, a Motion to require rainwater tanks to be fitted to all new buildings, was withdrawn by the mover, Cr Ekins.

The remaining nine were dealt with after we determined that there was nothing that fitted the criteria for exclusion.

Retiring Councillors

Throughout NSW, many Councillors only serve one term, so it is fitting that those councillors who serve a minimum of eight years should be recognised for their community service.

At our last meeting certificates were presented to retiring Crs John Hampton (9 years), David Tomlinson (9 years), Merv King (13 years) and Ros Irwin (an impressive 17 years). Their contribution to Lismore is commendable and worthy of sincere thanks.

The other Councillor not seeking re-election is Cr Barry Crimmins but of course there are no guarantees that those of us up for re-election will be continuing either. That's up to you the voters.

PAG Reports

Council has seven Policy Advisory Groups covering Community Services, Sustainable Environment, Arts and Culture, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Transport and Sport and Recreation. On our last meeting, each Chairperson Councillor presented a final report on their PAG's achievements and aspirations for the future. All Councillors hope that the PAGs, our avenue for considered community input into Policy, will be retained, strengthened and adequately resourced in the new Council's term.

LEP

One of the most important tasks of any Council is the determination of a Local Environmental Plan. All Councils are required to prepare a new LEP using a consistent list of zonings. While there was a strong call for the new LEP to be left for the new Council, this Council will forward the draft to the Department of Planning to seek permission to advertise the



LEP and start a detailed consultation process that will take many months. Fortunately a plan for community consultation will be prepared and I urge all residents to look out for opportunities to learn more about the LEP and to have input into it. The future look and feel of our community lies within its pages.

Tree Preservation Order

After considerable debate in previous meetings, the TPO has finally been adopted with a reduced application fee of \$10. The TPO is only applicable to trees in the urban area and while there are good arguments to extend it to the whole LGA, at least having it in place in the most built-up areas, gives some protection to trees as an intrinsic asset, environmental benefit and provider of vital habitat.

Two to Go

Sadly, two of the huge fig trees in the Memorial Park beside the Baths will have to be removed. The trees have a fungal disease and are dying. They also pose a health risk to other nearby trees and are weakened to the point of posing a danger to people. The trees are two of five planted to mark the visit of King George V in 1935. As an interesting aside, one of the young trees was removed when King Edward VIII abdicated. The trees provide welcome shade to those who gather on Anzac Day and the Richmond River Historical Society are also saddened by the news of their demise. Council will involve the Society in a ceremonial replanting of new trees that hopefully will grow to provide the wonderful amenity of the present trees in their healthy state.

Homeless Shelter

A report examining alternative sites for a Homeless Centre came back to Council with the expected news that there was no other site available.

The recommendation carried was that Council take no further action until St Vincent de Paul explores an alternative model.

One of the saddest meetings I have attended since joining Council was a recent Homeless Shelter Working Party gathering when we were told that the Federal Government's \$200,000 is dependent on the site for a shelter being out of the flood zone. At the same time, we were told that a likely partner in the shelter preferred a different management model for its operation. The freezing winter nights look to be stretching out for another year for our homeless people and many of us are deeply disappointed at the delay.

Despite the despair, I remain confident that Lismore will get a shelter. Council has also committed \$100,000 for construction and \$20,000 pa for its operation. The good will is as strong as ever. It is just a great pity the reality will be later rather than sooner.

Councillors Fees

Each year, Council must decide on the fee it pays to the Councillors and Mayor. I am very uncomfortable about this process and always vote against the maximum fee that LCC has determined in the past. This year, we determined to take no increase. The Councillor annual fee remains at \$14,540 and the Mayoral Fee is \$31,740.

Review of LCC

In May, the Department of Local Government varied out a review of LCC as part of its 'Promoting Better Practice' program. The review involved a week of interviews, examination of Council policies and processes and meetings. While the final report is yet to be released, the current Council will have an opportunity to see it and correct any factual errors before the elections and a whole new Council sits in Chambers. The briefing on September 1 as NGT goes to print is confidential but stay tuned for the report when it becomes public.

Last NGT Jottings?

With the Council election coming up on September 13, this could possibly be my last NGT column on LCC doings. I hope to be re-elected but in case I am not, I'd like to thank the Editor for inviting me to write this column each month and for all the readers who have contacted me to say thanks for keeping them informed. I really appreciate your feedback.

As usual there are so many more things that Council discussed, debated and decided at our August meeting. If readers want to know more, I encourage you to access www.lismore.nsw.gov.au for all the details.

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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