



Leader of the Greens in the Senate, Dr Bob Brown with Madelaine and Leanne at the dinner in Lismore.

## An inspiring dinner with Bob

by Susan Stock

Over one hundred locals came to dinner with Australian Greens leader, Senator Dr Bob Brown on the first Saturday of November at the Fountain Room in Lismore's City Hall, organised by the Northern Rivers Greens.

Dr Brown spoke passionately of climate change and the urgent need to do something about it in the next four to five years before it becomes irreversible.

"We know from the scientific news, one constant. Every new study finds the situation worse than the previous one. In the last

few years, we as a human community have responded by burning fossil fuels even faster. If we don't reduce it in the next four to five years it will be too late. We have to turn it around now."

He continued, "The prospect of mass extinctions requires all of us to step out of our comfort zones. Will our grandkids thank us for what we are doing today, or not?"

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report says that greenhouse gas emissions increased by 70% from 1970 to 2004.

Senator Brown emphasised the urgency of stopping atmospheric pollution. "This

planetary catastrophe is being largely ignored by the mainstream media.

"Climate change is not coming," Senator Brown said. "We're in it."

Bob Brown believes we can transform our society into a low carbon model. "If we stop logging from the Tiwi Islands to Tasmania, the amount of Australian greenhouse gas emissions would fall by 20%.

If we undertake energy efficiencies, by installing solar hot water, solar panels and insulation, we can save another 20%. We could have three million green collar jobs by 2020 in a low carbon economy."

## New ACT Green a Tuntable pioneer

New ACT parliament Greens member for Molonglo, Caroline Le Cousteu is an ex-member of Tuntable Falls community.

Here is an excerpt from her bio:

"All my life I have had a passion for social justice and the environment and I am deeply concerned by escalating climate change.

I grew up in Yarralumla, and after finishing an economics degree at ANU, I moved to Nimbin (northern NSW) and lived in a community there for 11 years.

During this time I built a house and had a daughter. I was also involved with rainforest preservation campaigns and starting a community preschool and primary school. I ran a small business selling solar panels.

After doing another degree (Data processing) I returned to Canberra 23 years ago. I worked for the public service (both Federal and ACT) in IT and then moved into renewable energy policy. Since 1991 I have been a director of the local ethical investment company, Australian Ethical Investment, and in 2000 I started full time work there as IT manager.

I am one of the two ACT representatives on the National Council of the Australian Conservation Foundation. I'm a keen supporter of groups such as the Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society, Pedal Power, Oxfam, Anglicare and the Conservation Council. My parents are both in



Caroline Le Cousteu (inset): today, with her daughter Ruth at Tuntable Falls in 1975.

Photo courtesy The Northern Star

aged care in Canberra so I am acutely aware of aged care issues.

I lived in Garran for many years, and moved to Downer seven years ago. I have renovated my house for increased energy efficiency and I'm now in the process of adding solar electric panels.

I'm a regular bike rider and gardener. "

Keep up the good work, Caroline.

## Eulogy for a Hoop Pine

by Robyn Francis

I mourn the death of an ancient being, friend, grandfather tree: a magnificent healthy double-crown hoop pine, an historic landmark tree, has been felled by the chainsaw.

For over 250 years this proud being has stood in the heart of the valley and could have stood to give joy and receive admiration for many of hundreds of years to come.

Hoop Pines live to around 500 years, they don't produce seed (cones) until they're 200 years old. This was a fine healthy tree just coming into its prime, bearing unripened cones when it was felled.

I fell in love with this tree the first time I was taken to visit the cow pastures that are now known as Jarlanabah and Djanbung Gardens. The tree has come to mean a lot



to me over the short 17 years that I have known it and has developed a deep and sacred significance. It graced my western horizon and I have appreciated and admired its silhouette against many hundreds of beautiful sunsets.

This ancient tree-being was the western sentinel of my Celtic grove and ceremonial circle. Over the years I have introduced my students to this tree, to admire its magnificence, its contribution to the sense and spirit of place for the eastern Nimbin valley, I have had my students sketch this tree in every design skills course over the past 14 years.

This valley is diminished by its loss. I fear for the other old growth trees in areas marked for development in the valley that they will suffer a similar fate. I have written a song in its memory.

### Yumbahlelah

*With your branches so high  
embracing the sky  
You stood for two hundred years  
But they severed your girth and fell  
you to earth  
While helpless I shed my tears  
When the chainsaw blade screamed  
to shatter your dream  
The earth trembled in your wake  
And the valley bereft is grieving your  
death  
A victim for progress sake  
Yumbahlelah  
No more birds find their rest nor  
places to nest  
No eagles adorn your crown  
For Two hundred more years would  
you sing with the breeze  
Now shattered lie on the ground  
As the sun moon and stars look down  
on your scars  
The mist finds an empty space  
As the wind seeks your form it joins  
us to mourn  
The loss of your ancient grace  
Yumbahlelah  
(Yumbahlelah means Farewell in  
Bundjalung language.)*

## River Reach Rehabilitation Plan for Mulgum Creek

• **Project manager:** Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group Inc.

• **Supported by:** Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

The area to be rehabilitated starts at the causeway near Black Sheep farm, Gungah Road, and extends to the locked gate.

It is approximately 1km of creekside. There are some open spaces that will benefit from frost-hardy species.

Rewarding work in a beautiful environment: removal of weeds and inappropriate vegetation, followed by planting with suitable local natives.

Work days: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri. Volunteers



**Re-gen.** Wirriga community, where an Envirofund project, funded by the Australian government, involved planting both sides of the track.

welcome, also donations of plants. Bring tools.

Contact: Pat La Fleur 6689-1313 (leave message). Pat is an

experienced Landcare worker and bush regenerator who has been working on Mulgum Creek rehabilitation for years.

## Diabetes trial

Nimbin Village Pharmacy has been selected as part of a pilot program to assist people manage their Type 2 diabetes.

"We are excited to be involved with this pilot program as we feel that it will contribute to the management of Type 2 diabetes, which is becoming a bigger and bigger issue in our society," said Joanne Treasure, pharmacist at Nimbin Village Pharmacy.

It is estimated that 1.5 million Australians have diabetes, with around 275 more people being diagnosed every day. About 85-90% of these people have Type 2 diabetes.

The provision of a Diabetes Medication Assistance Service through the local pharmacy has previously demonstrated that the pharmacist can assist and support people with Type 2 diabetes to better

manage their disease.

The pharmacist reviews and monitors the diabetes medicines and resolves medicine-related problems as well as assisting with self-management and continuity of care.

"We will be working with the local GPs and other health professionals to integrate this intervention with the patient's overall management plan," Joanne said.

The program will be managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia with support and funding from the Australian government Dept Health and Ageing.

As it is a pilot program, there are a limited number of subsidised places for patients to participate. However, Nimbin Village Pharmacy can make other arrangements for those people with diabetes who may not be eligible, or who may miss out.

For more information contact Joanne Treasure at Nimbin Village Pharmacy on 6689-1448.

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# Visions Collective events bring the streets to life



The Beltane event with reggae collective Imandan on Friday 31st October marked the completion of the October phase of the Nimbin Visions Collective (NVC) Safe Street Project. The vision involves filling the streets with legitimate activities, like musical performance, street theatre and spoken word, reflecting the vibrant culture in the village and getting the message out in the media that Nimbin is a fantastic place to be and not just about drugs and drug law reform.

Nell Berry, who co-ordinates the NVC, said, "The problems of violence and intimidation in Nimbin are complex, and there needs to be a great effort from local people to have a positive presence in the village."

"There are lots of disenchanting hippies who came here with a vision for a better world that have a lot to teach the young folks," she said. "The hope is that by providing a relaxed and open atmosphere, the NVC events can be a space where people can come together so that the original vision can continue to unfold within the next generation."

The highlight so far was the Children's Event on the 10th October on the Rainbow Lane Blister, and a similar event has been envisioned for the park next to the Neighbourhood Info Centre during the December/January school holidays. If you want to get involved in this come to the meeting on 12th

November (for details see below).

Another highlight was musical performances by young people like Li Moore and Essie Thomas. NVC has applied for grants from Indent to train young people in skills to organise drug and alcohol-free musical events, thereby creating their own entertainment. A hip-hop festival that showcases the positive aspects of youth culture is another NVC vision to be discussed on Wednesday 19th November.

All the NVC meetings start at 6pm on Wednesdays at the Market Stage in the Community Centre grounds. The next meeting is on 5th November and will focus on community connections and fundraising. Donations are appreciated. Summerland Credit Union BSB 802-222 Nimbin Visions Collective account number 22271179.

For more details call Nell on 6689-7001 or email [nimbinspeakup@feelings.com](mailto:nimbinspeakup@feelings.com) or write to PO Box 166 Nimbin 2480.



## Markets to celebrate 10 years

The Nimbin Aquarius Market will celebrate 10 years in the Nimbin Community Centre on Saturday and Sunday, 29-30th November, with a special two-day market providing twice the colour, fun, music and stalls.

And to make the event even more special, the Nimbin Community Centre (NCCI) will officially take over the title to the community centre from Lismore City Council.

The official handover will take place at the market on Saturday, 29th November, with Mayor Jenny Dowell in attendance.

It's 13 years since the idea of using the 90-year old Nimbin Central School site as a community facility was first open to community consultation; 12 years since Nimbin Ethical Developers Association

was incorporated as Nimbin Community Development Association (now the NCCI); and 10 years since the first Visions of Nimbin event showcased Nimbin's community aspirations.

Since that time, the old school site has opened its doors (and grounds) to local not-for-profit organisations (like the market and community radio station) and has nurtured many projects.

The celebratory double market will run both days with music on the stage, a huge range of stalls, face-painting, street theatre and belly dancers from 10am-5pm.

Any stallholders, performers and community groups wishing to be involved, please ring Cat on 0429-194-248.

## Trivia helps fund preschool

by Lisa Torpey, parent representative, Tuntable Falls Preschool

Hilarious entertainment, cerebral stimulation, luscious meals and desserts, slinky table dancing, musical statues en masse, paper aeroplane flying, children's art exhibition and an auction all made the Tuntable Falls Preschool Trivia Night a hugely successful fundraiser, immensely enjoyed by all. The money raised will add to the wonderful preschool resources that already have improved the beautiful learning environment.

Our Trivia comperes, Liz Vegas (Claudie) and Larry Lounge Lizard (Josh) had the packed room in stitches. The quiz was challenging and funny and the competition fierce at times. Congratulations to the clever winners of some lovely prizes (much gratitude to the generous local businesses who donated prizes). Many thanks to our amazing Director Maree, and staff Ajita and Richard who, along with dedicated parents and friends, created such a beautiful event.

Preschool staff follow the Emergent Curriculum model which is a child-initiated learning environment. The preschool is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm and places are available to all children in the area (aged 2 1/2 to 6).

A bus service runs between the preschool and Nimbin Central daily. Nutritious cooked lunches are served every day, there are children's organic vege gardens, and a music program is run by a Lismore Music Conservatorium teacher.

Playgroup is on every Tuesday from 10 till 2 so come and join the fun. You are welcome to



**Sort of educational.** Quizmasters Liz and Larry; (inset): Preschool director Maree Conroy and Tiffany Corcoran display auctioned artwork.

drop in anytime or call Maree on 6689-1179.

Come and see our amazing new wooden adventure playground plus lots of stimulating activities that engage our children, and create such a loving fun atmosphere.

A heartfelt thank you to all the community for your continuing, very generous support.

The Tuntable Falls pre and primary school's amazing fete will be held Saturday 6th December all day. There will be heaps of fun kids activities, yummy food, entertainment, second hand clothes, raffle, auction, pampour parlour, music, etc. Note the date!

## Nimbin's biggest-ever clothes swap

Clean out your wardrobe - Spring is here. What to do with that outfit which won't fit? Perhaps you came along to the swap!

The 'Biggest-Ever' (and possibly first) Clothes Swap was a fundraiser for Nimbin Community Preschool, held at Nimbin Hall on Saturday night, 1st November.

Women from around the

region brought all kinds of clothing to swap. It was great to have a girls' get together, with ladies trying on and parading potential new outfits to each other.

For a \$10, and a ticket to win \$100 in the raffle, this was a very cost-effective way to refresh the wardrobe.

There were also lovely cakes and refreshments available at very reasonable prices.

Eat, drink and be merry, plus a new wardrobe! What a night!

The event was a huge success, with over \$1300 earned to help the preschool keep afloat. Organisers were left with plenty of clothing, and plan to have a fundraiser stall at the Nimbin Markets.

It was such a success that there may be more clothes swaps ahead.



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# Farewell Bruiser



Ray 'Bruiser' Maxwell (right) and his old boss Eric Bazzana talk banana shipments in the late 1980s. Photo courtesy Eric Bazzana

Raymond Stanley Maxwell, known to one and all as Bruiser, died on Sunday October 12 was cremated in Lismore on October 20. He was 70.

Bruiser was born in the Ballina district in 1937 but his family moved to Blue Knob to run a dairy farm soon after. The times were tough and the Maxwells, like other farmers in the district, struggled. Bruiser helped by cutting and selling firewood for the family while still at school.

He left school in his mid teens to work as an offsider on trucks operated by Jack Rann and Sons, the Nimbin carriers. He obtained his driver's licence as soon as he was old enough and began driving trucks for them, giving most of his wages to his parents.

His jobs at Rann's included a daily cream run to more than 30 farms on Gungas, Kirkland, Tunttable Falls and Tunttable Creek roads. This was before milk tankers, and involved manhandling heavy cream cans on and off the back of the truck.

When his parents moved back to Ballina, where his father Sam took up a job with the Ballina Shire Council, Bruiser stayed on in Nimbin, boarding with a number of families. After the Ranns sold their business in the mid 1960s, Bruiser began driving for the Gungas mill, operated by the late Barry and Keith Walker.

Bruiser's driving was an integral part of day-to-

day activities in the area, whether delivering goods to Nimbin businesses or carting bananas and other produce to market. He is also fondly remembered by many of the New Settler movement for his delivering of building materials, animal feed and fertiliser in the 1970s and 1980s.

Bill Nugent recalls him delivering firewood and flour to the bakery for many years. "On winter nights when he'd been at the pub and it was too cold to walk home he'd come over with a bottle of green ginger wine which he'd share with the baking crew," Bill said.

"Afterwards he'd sleep it off on a bunch of old flour sacks in a warm corner before waking to a breakfast of pies straight from the oven."

Apart from a year growing potatoes with relatives in Queensland, he spent his entire working life in Nimbin. He never married and spent his retirement at

the Nimbin Caravan Park, occasionally doing some relief driving. For the past six years he has been a resident at the Pine Haven Nursing Home at Suffolk Park. He was predeceased by his parents Sam and Renee, his brother Collin and sister Glenda.

Eric Bazzana, who delivered an emotional eulogy at Bruiser's funeral, said he could not have wished for a more loyal servant, a better driver, or a harder worker.

"Anyone who knew Bruiser would know that he liked a drink," Eric said. "What they may not know was the character and integrity he displayed in later life when he realised the drink was getting the better of him and he voluntarily refused to renew his diving licence."

I visited Bruiser a few years ago at Suffolk Park. Eric had warned me that he had good days and bad days, and while Bruiser didn't recognise me, he was happy to have a visitor and the playful Bruiser personality was still evident. I only half recognised him myself because on that occasion he was wearing pyjamas and an old cardigan. My eternal memory of Bruiser involves work boots, faded blue shorts with a matching singlet, and suntanned arms and shoulders glistening with the effort of whatever load he was hoisting on or off a truck at that particular moment.

Eric reckons it was the former Nimbin publican, Jimmy Browning, who gave Ray the name Bruiser. It was one of those ironic nicknames that Australian men give each other, calling short blokes Lofty and redheads Bluey. The only bruise Bruiser was capable of inflicting was one upon himself.

Dave Fawkner

## Passing of an Earth Champion



Vale Peter Hamilton (1924-2008), architect, musicologist and environmental activist. Pall-bearers for the long walk to his final resting place on Bodhi farm, which he helped found, included many from the Paterson Hill campaign, which saw endangered plants and fauna protected in the Arakwal National Park. Rest in Peace, Peter.

# Reflecting on the Weave & Mend Festival

by Granny Breath Weaver

Another fine inspiring creative hands-on festival.

This year we had an increase in attendance, a result of an overall increase in interest in weaving – keeping the spirit, skill and art of weaving alive through practice.

It had the most wonderful support team that Nimbin seems to muster whenever there is a community event. Many, many heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed and created such wonders for this festival, including the inspired archway in bamboo as a beautiful entry point to the festival, and the beautifully woven children's space that magically appears every year.

The festival was opened and attended by traditional custodian Aunty Lilla Boyd, who also put her hands to weaving. Due recognition is also given to teachers Dorothy Dharangu from Galiwinku and Elizabeth Djutarra from Ramingining,



NE Arnhem Land.

Workshops in different weaving techniques in a range of different local fibres ran continuously throughout the weekend. Most were full to overflowing. Children had the best time running around together and doing art and craft in the beautiful grounds of Nimbin Central School.

We had people from Brisbane, Brunswick Heads, Melbourne, Israel, Bali, Japan, Lismore, Tweed Heads, Kyogle, Mullumbimby – altogether an exciting cultural event.

Some comments from people who attended:

- Futuristic and fantastic!
- Inspiring and refreshingly

simple, small, organic and affordable.

- It's what I always dreamed of and wanted, and now it's happening.
- What a beautiful, peaceful and sharing energy I experienced.
- A soothing tonic for the soul
- Can we have a week-long festival next year?

Special thanks for help and support we could not have done without, go to:

- Christine Grieves, relieving principal, Nimbin Central School
- Johnny Chai of the Mothership Chai Tent and Tina, Neil, Keiren
- Nimbin School of Arts who fund us \$200 each festival
- Nimbin HEMP Embassy for getting us a good wood supply.
- Local support from our town's business people, generously donating goods for raffle.
- ...and so many more, too many to mention.
- Any profits will go to the Children's Art Trust Fund.

# Nimbin Community Development Association Inc. 2007/2008 Annual Report

by Dick Hopkins, President



The Nimbin Community Development Association (NCDA) co-ordinates and manages the Community Centre. The Centre is home to Nimbin Neighborhood & Information Centre (NNIC), Nimbin Community School, Radio 2NIMFM, Nimbin Family Day Care Centre, Nimbin Child Care Facility, Nimbin Regional Artist's Gallery & Office, Nimbin News, Nimbin GoodTimes Newspaper, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, Jungle Patrol Community Safety, Nimbin Community Technology Centre (CTC), Nimbin weekend markets and the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

The dance studio and meeting room is available for casual hire as are the centre's grounds and Peace Park. The Management Committee meets once every month to deal with plans, budgets and other issues affecting the Community Centre. Marcus Mantschew continues to do an excellent job as Centre Co-ordinator and Gardener/Groundsman.

Major improvements continue at the Centre. These include tree planting with tree guard installation in the quadrangle, storm water drainage upgrading, a retaining wall construction, a roof over the Market stage, and upgrading of the electricity supply for the Market.

The Nimbin Markets continue to prosper under the management of Cat Anderson, whose job it is to market, promote and coordinate each Market day on the 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month. Some of the profits from the Market are used to finance Market upgrades.

As a result of our Strategic Planning Day

in April '07, our Aims and Objectives were reviewed and updated and are available for this AGM. OH&S (Occupational Health and Safety) policies were reviewed and Management Guidelines for 2008-13 were finalized. There is now a new maintenance contractor and ongoing general repairs continue.

As of July '08, our organisation has a new name. We are the Nimbin Community Centre Inc. We made this change to coordinate with the final receipt of title deed from Lismore City Council (LCC), which was to happen at the same time. Issues about the ownership and maintenance of Peace Park and the SK8 Park arose with LCC.

After lots of emails, phone calls and two council meetings attended over three months, it was resolved that NCCI take ownership of the Community Centre, and the title to Peace Park stay with LCC for 12 months with the proviso that SK8 Park be completed and approved for use within those 12 months or be demolished.

There is a committee formed – "FONS" (Friends of Nimbin Skate Park) who are attempting to fund raise and organize working bees to complete the sound mitigation work and structure. At this point I would ask the community to step forward and help see this project to completion for our kids and other skaters. We only have until Sept. '09.

The time frame of this Annual Report has been expanded from the usual 1st July '07 to June 2008 time frame, to October 2008. This is because there have been some very important events that the membership and community should be up to date with.

I would like to thank all those on the Management Committee for their time and perseverance during the year.

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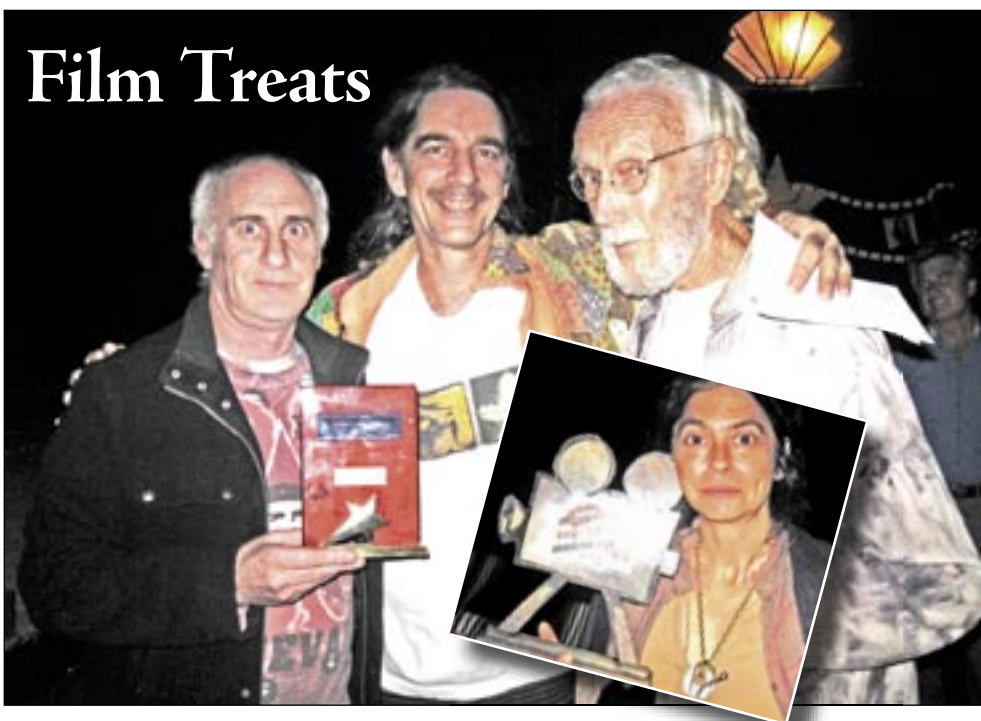
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# Film Treats



**Moving away from commercial criteria.** Festival co-ordinators (left to right): Major sponsor Peter Lawrence holding the Tribal Magic Award, Nimbin CTC's Roy Radle, and Nimbin Films office boy, Graham Ferguson. Inset: 'Mickey' Award winner Samia Goudie. Photos: Pam Bourne

by Lisa Billings

When filmmaker Samia Goudie found out that **Us Deadly Mob** had won the Tribal Magic Award at the Nimbin Film Festival, she was over the moon with the news.

Samia is currently undertaking a PhD at the Ginibi Indigenous Peoples College, at Southern Cross University, and is a recipient of an Indigenous Australian Film Commission (ACF) Mentor Fellowship and postgraduate scholarship.

"Tonight is just another link that is going to join us together as a stronger community here in Northern New South Wales in the Bundjalung Nation," said elder Elizabeth Johnson in her Welcome to Country at the festival opening.

Champagne and hors d'oeuvres launched the Nimbin Film Festival at the Bush Factory where Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell and Elizabeth Johnson both gave warm introductions.

"The programme for these three days is just fantastic. The films shown on opening night all have a very strong Aboriginal focus," said Jenny Dowell.

**Black Chicks Talking** by Leah Purcell which was a feature of the Indigenous film section, collected the People's Choice Award – such was the film's charm and the impact

of its storytelling.

Other film awards went to **Earth, Spirit, Action** by Ruth Rosenhek; **Roux** by Jamie North and Marley Myles; Adrienne Watt's **Ministry of Internal Despair**; **Tale of a Practical Woman** by Mark Jago; **Kaliba, Trial By Fire** by Li Moore; **Sharp Focus** by Graham Ferguson and **The Burning Season** by Cathy Henkel and Jeff Canin.

The Nimbin Film Festival gave filmmakers the opportunity to present films that move away from the usual commercial criteria, as well as engaging community culture.

"The festival was organised as a community initiative," said community office boy, Graham Ferguson. "Generous sponsorship from local businesses made the Nimbin Film Festival possible."

Nimbin Films in conjunction with the Nimbin CTC, give special thanks to Peter Lawrence who sponsored the Tribal Magic Award. It is planned that a compilation DVD of festival winners will shortly be available from the Nimbin CTC.

Nimbin Films would like to invite all individuals interested in creating a community film industry in Nimbin. This includes writers, editors, graphic designers, camera crew, anything related to film and of course filmmakers. Meetings are held weekly on Saturday morning in the Community Centre green room starting from 10am.

## Thanks due for successful Safe Community Project

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

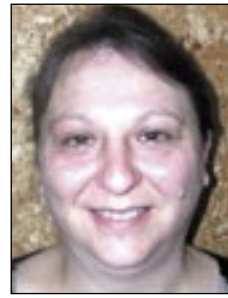
The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre's Safe Community Project is now drawing to a close after running for 3 years in Nimbin. The project began in November 2005 and was launched at the annual Women's Dinner of that year.

I would like to thank all the Project Workers (Mandie Hale, Lizette Twisleton, Rose Hogan and Maire Barron) that have been involved for their fantastic skills in running this Project in Nimbin. Also thanks to Sally Penhaligon for all her work on the Womenly Wise Girls' Diary and Mary Willis for her support and supervision of the project and staff. Also the Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee who have tirelessly supported this Project over the years, the NNIC who made it happen, and the Nimbin community who have been so supportive and involved over the years.

Hope to see all you women out there at this year's 6th Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner, on Wednesday 26th November 2008 for a great night of entertainment, dinner and dancing. Tickets are on sale 10th November at NNIC, so don't miss out!

The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre's Safe Community Project was an Australian Government Initiative, steered by the Nimbin Domestic Violence Committee.

# Chamber Chatter



**Development goals.** New Executive members (left to right): Wendy, Peter, Eugenie and Marnie.

by Eugenie Stephans

The Annual General Meeting of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce was held on 21st October, with a large attendance of local business owners and other interested people.

Outgoing President, Kara Forsythe thanked Michael Balderstone for his inspiration in reforming the Chamber and the positive changes that have flowed from improved relationships with Lismore City Council.

Following suspension of Clauses in the Constitution related to eligibility for voting at elections (for the duration of the meeting), a new Committee was elected as follows: President: Wendy Sarkissian, Vice President: Peter Wise, Secretary: Eugenie Stephans and Treasurer: Marnie Wong.

Two of the positions were hotly contested and two were decided by acclamation. The new Committee promised to undertake the

work of the Chamber with commitment and enthusiasm and promised to address many outstanding issues, particularly with Lismore City Council, given the new composition of the Council, seen as more conducive to working relationships with Nimbin

The first speaker for the evening, Andrew Walker, Nimbin Visitor Information Centre, commented on a project to replace village entry signage in 2009.

Other issues currently under discussion with the Council included recycling bins, upgrading of public toilets, Nimbin Rocks Interpretive Signage, the Nimbin Walking Track project, which has a large local indigenous content, and footpath and paving works outside the Tourist Centre and the Oasis Café. He also discussed the possibility of a Village Map Passport.

The second speaker, Paul Joseph, President of the Aquarius

Foundation, provided an entertaining summary of the characteristics of the Nimbin community and its colourful history that has distinguished it worldwide.

Paul proposed that the sale of Benny Zable's Nimbin paintings, reproduced as posters, could be a commercially viable prospect for Nimbin businesses.

Incoming President, Wendy Sarkissian's vote of thanks to the outgoing Executive was received by a round of applause and a sense of gratitude that those who had worked so hard during the past year had built a firm foundation for the new Chamber's work.

### New meeting date:

Because many people find Tuesday nights to be inconvenient, it has been decided to change the meeting night to the third Monday of every month. The next meeting will be Monday, 17th November at 6 pm at the Bowling Club.

## Working bees at Nimbin skatepark

by Duncan Wilson

Praise be to those few dedicated souls turning up at 9am every second and fourth Saturday of the month to chip away at the dream that is Nimbin skatepark.

We are striving to shake off its *Pasha Baulka* image so that finally the kids (big and small) will have somewhere to skate where they won't get hassled by the cops for practising a sport and an artform.

Anyone familiar with the sound report will know that the sound proofing of this park is highly achievable, and within a reasonable budget. The first step will be erecting the sound wall and enclosing the subvoids, beyond this we will be testing the effective for different methods of dampening the park surface. At this point all we have to do to realise this dream is get to the working bees and chip in, if these guys have to keep going it alone it's likely they will run out of enthusiasm, and that means no future for this park.

But there is a light on the horizon, recently I heard on the grapevine that a crew of Ballina skaters have heard about our predicament. Rumour has it the lads feel so passionately about Nimbin Skatepark that they are mobilizing to come out and help get the job

so... you wanna skate (park)?  
..well, come to a working bee

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For more info call the NNIC or check the website  
6689 0000

<http://sk8park.nimbincommunity.org.au>  
or just type "nimbin skatepark" into google..

**BRING YA BOOTS!**

done. I think they understand that most parents in Nimbin are way too busy to be able to make it to a work bee on a Saturday...

Check the website for future updates, <http://sk8park.nimbincommunity.org.au>

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# Pink Ribbon events all over Nimbin

## Pink Breakfast



Nimbin Bowling Club's Pink Ribbon Breakfast and Bowls Day on 26th October was a well attended day of fun and fundraising.

Mayor Jenny Dowell bowled the first bowl of the day, spoke to the Women's Club's breast cancer survivors Phyllis, Robyn and Marie (pictured), and received a monogrammed bath-sheet set in appreciation.

The event raised over \$1500 in donations and from a huge raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses and tradespeople.

"The generosity is amazing for a small village," agreed organisers Marie De Righetti and Sharon Eldridge.



## Field of Women

Nimbin's first Mini Field of Women on October 19th was a great success.

Jennifer Parke and other supporters displayed 100 Pink Lady silhouettes at the Nimbin Markets as a powerful reminder of the human reality behind the 36 women diagnosed with breast cancer every day in Australia.

Jennifer said, "Thanks to Cat from Nimbin Markets for the great stall space, Nimbin Bakery for the donation of 100 'breast cakes' (complete with icing nipples!), and the generosity of locals and tourists who donated and purchased



breast cakes and Breast Cancer Network of Australia (BCNA) merchandise."

\$450 was raised on the day for BCNA's research, support and advocacy.

## Pink Triathlon



**Swim, ride and run.** Celeste and family celebrating at the finish line (left to right, rear): Lauren, Nash, Celeste, Rick, Keone, (front): Arwyn and Esha Oss-Emer.

The pink all-female triathlon series was held for the first time on the Gold Coast at the Runaway Bay Super Sports Centre on Sunday 12th October.

Women aged from 7 to 70 entered the event, which is a fundraiser for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, and has raised over \$90,000 for much-needed research for the prevention and cure of breast cancer.

Nimbin's Celeste Oss-Emer is a local mother of three - 5-year old twin girls Arwyn and Esha and 1-year old baby boy Keone - entered the pink triathlon as a first timer and her aim was to complete the event without stopping.

There were four categories: 1) the children's mini-triathlon; 2) a 100m swim, 2km bikeride and 1km run; 3) a 200m swim, 3km bikeride and 2km run; and 4) a 300m swim, 9km bikeride and 3km run.

Celeste entered event 4) and successfully finished without stopping, in a time of 48 min 13 sec, coming 139th out of 288. She received a pink triathlon medal and T-shirt and can now officially call herself a pinkie!

Celeste enjoyed motivation in training, and would encourage all other women to start training for next year's event, as you can enter as a team and complete the course in a relay.

"We would love to have a strong Nimbin/NSW contingent competing next year," said Celeste. "It's a great way to keep fit while raising money for such a worthy cause."

"It is great fun, exhausting but totally rewarding, and I feel that I've accomplished a great goal that I set for myself."

Triathlon Pink is held nationally in October each year, sponsored by Ramsay Health. For more information go to [www.triathlonpink.com.au](http://www.triathlonpink.com.au)

## Pink Party

Fundraiser Celeste Oss-Emer and the Cancer Council would like to say a huge thank-you to the Nimbin businesses that all donated kindly to the Pink Party Girls Night In fundraiser in October (pictured at right).

They are: Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate; The Rainbow Cafe; Nimbin Newsagency; Nimbin Village Pharmacy; Capers on Cullen; Nimbin Village Meats; Choices Café; Fashionating; Nimbin Post; Nimbin Emporium; Rainbow Love; and the Border Ranges Centre at Wadeville.

\$400 was raised, which will help fund research into breast and gyno cancers, and provide counselling and other services to women with these cancers. The Cancer Council receives no government funding, so they rely on community-minded people and businesses for donations.



Another Girls Night In is being organised by Sue and Rebecca Cook at the Bowling Club on Saturday 8th November. Entry is a \$10 donation plus bring a plate to share. Phone 6689-1466 for more info.

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