

Tasmanian Gunns mill politics... Same Old Same Old.



by Lisa Yeates
Tasmanian correspondent

Last month I wrote that it finally looked like the Gunn's Pulp Mill was dead in the water. I am very sorry to have to tell you the day after I sent the story the State Forestry announced they had renewed the license to Gunns for the timber quotas to supply the proposed mill. How can one believe anything down here?

Since then there has been a fantastic action where a handful of protesters sneaked onto Gunns Bells Bay woodchip loading port and locked onto the conveyer belt and other machinery.. They effectively stopped work for a day and by doing that revealed, through the press photos taken, the horrifyingly long queue of trucks laden with logs backed up on the road leading to the gate. Over the next few days the letters to the editors were expressing their horror that so much of Tasmania's forests are being destroyed etc.

At the same time the plight of the Tasmanian Devil has declined to the point of their extinction being predicted within 10 years. To me this is an absolute travesty. If ever there was a warning example of what enormous threat the forest logging practices were having on the viability of species existence, this is it.

Not only are the old native forests being clear felled by the hundreds of hectares at a time but then they are

replaced with monoculture plantations requiring multi sprays of dangerous chemicals which eventually have impacted on the viability of the Devils. Scientists now believe that the horrifying plague of cancers that is killing the Devils is caused by the constant contact with these herbicides which has suppressed their immune system allowing a transferable virus to take off causing the cancerous growths that eventually kill them. We knew that years ago.

I remember when I was living here 15 years ago that there were so many Devils due to their very successful adapting and developing a taste for fowl. They were constantly being cursed for breaking into hen houses and killing the chooks. We had to build the pens to repel Tassie Devils not goannas and pythons.

On a brighter note. Mid December I met fellow NAGer, and Tent Embassy activist, Winiata (the flag carrier up the back), who arrived in Launceston with Kerri and her six-year-old daughter (holding the flag in the front on the right) who have walked 1,500 Km from Canberra to the pulp Mill site. They were joined by this gang of Tassie Aboriginal children for their walk through Launceston. They finally reached the BELL Bay pulp mill site on the next Sunday. What an epic journey.

Preserving Aquarius

The Aquarian Archive operates to provide a keeping place for all types of memorabilia associated with Nimbin's Aquarius Festival in 1973 and for the new settlers who have since moved into the region.

The archive currently resides in the Lismore Library of Southern Cross University, and is home to Benny Zable's banners, Chester Harris's posters, John Corkill's forest files of the struggle to save local rainforests and Jeni Kendall and Paul Tait's films are amongst many other collections.

Because much of the collection is over thirty years old the archive has to take some special measures to keep it in good condition. Last year they applied for a grant from the Cultural Heritage Fund of the National Library to employ a professional conservator to survey the collection and make recommendations as to how best to preserve these irreplaceable items.

Late in 2008 the archive were successful and received \$4,950 to cover the cost of the preservation survey and associated expenses. Graham Irvine went to Canberra to attend workshops



run by the National Library in various aspects of archiving.

Graham thanked Joan Kelly, the regional museums' development officer who wrote an impressive significance assessment report, which concluded that the Aquarius collection is of national significance.

We are hoping to hire a conservator early this year so that we can continue

the work of preserving, cataloguing and making available the items in our collection. Contact Graham Irvine on 6689 1666 or email grairv@yahoo.com.au if you think that you might have something to donate or be assessed.

The Aquarian Archive are always welcoming new members to join in carrying on this vital work of preserving our past for our children and the future.

NIMBIN EVENTS CALENDAR 2009

Blue Moon Cabaret

Sat 14 March
Nimbin School of Arts
Ph 02 6689 1577

Concert of Dances

Sat 21 March
School of Arts
Ph 0428 452 479

Nimbin's 39 Hours

Short Film Competition & Festival
Fri 27- Sun 29 March
Nimbin Village
Ph 0429 897 042

Autumn Arts

Extravaganza
Sat 4 - Sun 26 April
School of Arts
Ph 02 6689 1444

Mardi Grass

Fri 1 - Sun 3 May
Nimbin Village
Ph 02 6689 1842

Nimbin Performance

Poetry World Cup
Sat 1/ Sun 2 August
School of Arts
Ph 02 6689 7424

Blue Moon Ball

Sat 12 Sept
School of Arts
Ph 02 6689 1577

Nimbin Country Show

Sat 26/ Sun 27 Sept
A & I Showground
Ph 0429 890 373

Weave and Mend Festival

Fri 2 - Sun 4 Oct
Nimbin Central School
Grounds Ph 02 6689 7129

Spring Arts Exhibition

Sat 3 - Sun 18 Oct
School of Arts
Ph 02 6689 1577

Nimbin Independent Film Festival

Fri 30 Oct-Sun 1 Nov
School of Arts
Ph 02 6689 1825

Blue Moon Cabaret

Sat 7 Nov
School of Arts
Ph 02 6689 1577

Nimbin Fashion Show

Fri 13/ Sat 14 Nov
School of Arts
Ph 02 6689 0205

Poetry at the Oasis Café

Second Thursday of the month
7.30pm

Nimbin Markets

Third & Fifth Sundays
Nimbin Community Centre

Saturday Market

Rainbow Lane
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Christmas, Nimbin style



There may have been a disparate mish-mash of symbols when the hairy red fellow arrived by Harley (above at the Bowlo), or by CAT1 fire truck at the Town Hall, not to mention in the whole of the NGT Xmas Lights winner in Goolmangar (right), but no-one worried about any of that in the spirit of good cheer.



Nimbin Renewable Energies and Sustainable Community Forum

On the weekend of the 14th and 15th February there will be a series of free forums and workshops around renewable energies and a sustainable community, to build upon the achievements of the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre Solar Packaging Project.

There will be info sessions, speakers and workshops to look at community initiatives which reduce the carbon footprint of Nimbin. The full program will be announced in the

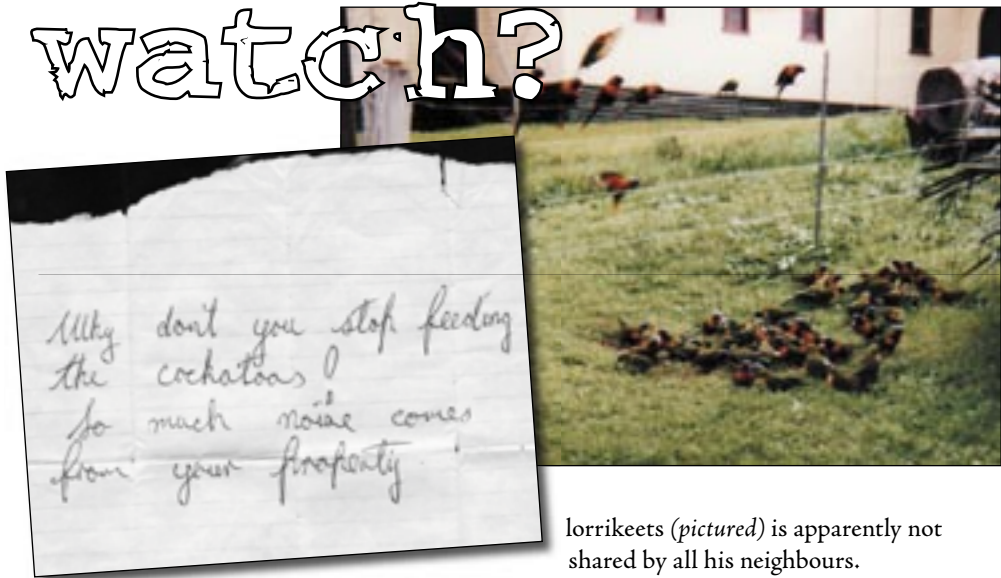
February Community Calendar.

Get this important weekend in your diaries – we hope to see lots of people there with ideas and input.

Proudly presented by NNIC, Nimbin Environment Centre, Djanbung Permaculture Gardens, Nimbin School of Arts and Rainbow Power Company.

Anyone wishing to hold a workshop or make a presentation should email Natalie at the NNIC on nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au.

Neighbourhood watch?



An anonymous note in the mail-box puzzled an elderly resident of Cullen Street recently.

His delight in observing the results of putting out sunflower seeds for the rainbow

lorriquets (pictured) is apparently not shared by all his neighbours.

The melodious chattering of the birds, more animated now during the mating season, has long been the inspiration for poetry and song.

It's good to know that the important issues are being addressed now in Nimbin.

Nimbin Celebrates 18th Christmas Lunch

by Pam 'Pussycat' Bourne

Have you been good in 2008? If so, perhaps a fire truck came by your home this Christmas, with a guy in red, and an elf or two, calling HO HO HO!!! And bringing Christmas cheer?

Well, so the legend goes in Nimbin.

On December 19th, Nimbin's soup kitchen, supported by the Nimbin Neighbourhood Information Centre held a very successful final lunch for 2008, a special sharing for Christmas. It was attended by over 180 locals, and some overseas visitors, all of whom ate their fill from the deliciously wholesome array of goodies. The menu included vegetarian bake, fritters, roast chicken, ham slices, a variety of locally made salads and fresh fruit. Dessert was plum pudding with custard and ice cream, and delicious chocolate slice, or individual cup cake sized fruit cakes. Hilary provided some Nimbin Natural Passionfruit Ice Cream.

Fruit punch was offered to wash down lunch. Diners were serenaded by the tinkling of ivories with Daddy Cool on the piano. Sweet sounds, and honky tonk, but the heat of the summer's day was evident as DC sweated it out.

Raffles and donations each year help to fund the event, raffle prizes are food hampers. The raffle winners this year were Robyn from Choices, Matt from Charters Hardware, and Rosie, a great volunteer. The hall was decorated by volunteers, food served by volunteers. Gail M Clarke said that many events in our town would not run without the help of our many volunteers and for that she is grateful.

The afternoon came to a close, with Santa and elf arriving on the back of the fire truck, with glitter, and lollies, and sacks of presents for the children. Santa entered the hall to the sounds of the children singing Christmas carols, eagerly waiting at the stage. Thanks to Brad from the Nimbin RFS for driving Santa to the event, this has become a Nimbin tradition. Reindeers don't like our summer heat! Thanks go to the gnomes for the presents.

So how did this event begin? For about eighteen years, there has been a Nimbin Community Christmas



Lunch, held on the last Friday before Christmas, in the Nimbin Hall. Originally this event was the gift of the Nimbin Older Women's Forum. These ladies, Faye Scherf, Winifred Mitchell, Wendy Kaye, Tomaso Lonsdale, Koula Halliwell, Mo Dunn, Jeanie O'Donovan, Vivian Baldock and others, were the genesis of the Soup Friday.

Soup Friday was served in the foyer of the Hall, and as the generous donations started to grow, the women looked for a way to give back to the community. Most of these women are mothers themselves, and saw that many persons in the village had no close family ties, and many were isolated from the whole Christmas festivities. Christmas is seen as a time of joy, and coming together for family; but for others it is a time of isolation and loneliness, leading to high suicide rates at this time of year. There was a need to invite the community together for an all inclusive Christmas lunch. A get together for the whole Nimbin Family!

About five years ago, the numbers in the Older Women's Forum were dwindling due to ageing, the Soup Friday and Community Christmas were handed to the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, who prepare the food, and serve the people of Nimbin through the coming together and the breaking of bread in these beautiful ways.

I feel honoured to be a part of this community and share Christmas this way.



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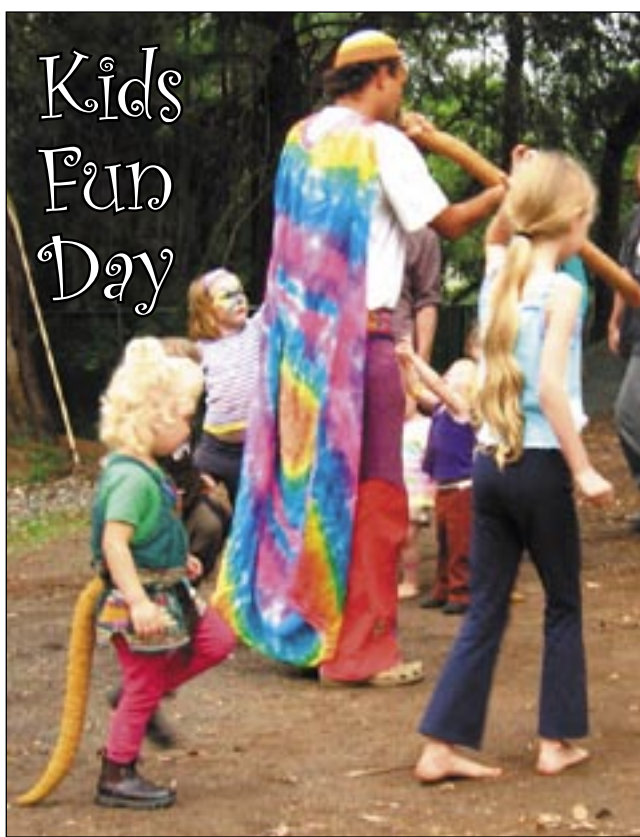
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Kids Fun Day

Come and celebrate a children's fun day at Allsopp Park on Friday, January 16th, starting at 2pm as the Nimbin Visions Collective brings together another Nimbin event.

Great entertainment includes a visit from Rainbow Eagle (pictured), who will take us all on a journey to Sparkleland, plus Trippy the Clown, Lunaesque Stilts, Face-painting, Mask-making and more.

Come along and enjoy the fun!

Featuring Rainow Eagle, Trippy the Clown, Lunaesque stilts, face painting, mask making and more.

Thank you Lou for co-ordinating and contacting the pre-schools, Kiri for making a poster and Katie for the inspiration and ideas.

Many hands make light work. Anyone else that has ideas/energy for the kids day please let us know.

Spare posters in the Happy Highs shop if anyone would like to put one up in their community.

Greens call ALP bluff on rail line

The Northern Rivers Greens resolved at their last meeting for 2008 that in light of the Labor party's failure to make any endeavour towards restoring the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line, they would not give preferences to ALP candidates at state or federal level until some significant action is taken to maintain and re-open the line.

Former Greens candidate for Lismore Andy Gough explained the local group's decision.

"The Labor party has failed the north coast yet again. The NSW government has made no inroads towards restoring, or even maintaining the Casino to Murwillumbah line, let alone planning its continuation to the Gold Coast," Andy said.

"NSW transport minister David Campbell has not put



NSW Greens MLC John Kaye, pictured with local campaigner and former candidate Andy Gough, at the disused Lismore railway station.

the line forward for federal infrastructure funding, which apparently lets the federal Labor party off the hook as to any commitment. The NSW government now claims it will cost \$150 million over five years to restore the line. "That's just rubbish," he said.

"Neither Janelle Saffin nor Justine Elliot have made any overtures about

even one dollar of federal infrastructure funding being allocated to local rail. It was only thanks to preferences from the Greens that Labor won the seats of Page and Richmond, and the Northern Rivers Greens have now voted to withhold those preferences at the next election, which could effectively cost Labor two seats, if the Byron/

Ballina Greens and Tweed Greens also support our motion," he said.

"I'm fairly confident they will. Labor's neglect of the north coast is ongoing and unforgivable," Andy said.

"When you add the widespread disappointment of Rudd's 5% commitment to climate change, it's obvious Labor has betrayed us all."

Getting results

Greens candidates were the last exclusions in both local Divisions – Page and Richmond – at the 2007 federal election.

- Theo Jongen (Page) had 9,144 votes when excluded or 10.60%; 7,652 or 83.68% went to Janelle Saffin;
- Giovanni Ebono (Richmond) had 13,150 votes when excluded or 16.14%; 11,331 or 86.17% went to Justine Elliot.

Nimbin Central holds Bunjalung Celebration Day

This was held at Nimbin Central School on Wednesday 10th December. It was largely organised by local mother Karyn Roberts working in conjunction with Lizzie Johnson. It was a wonderful day. Funding to support the activities came from the Coffs Harbour Indigenous Co-ordination Centre.

The day began with a Welcome to Country and Welcome Dances performed by Minnie and Steve. The whole school was entranced by the stories told through dance.

At recess Karyn with Vicki Simpson provided the students, teachers and visitors with waffles, berries and cream. Karyn was demonstrating her hospitality skills acquired through her work at the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre. The waffles were delicious! So too was the damper cooked by Charlotte Williams.



The K-6 Aboriginal children with a buddy walked with the Relieving Principal to the Aboriginal Cultural Centre where they were taken to Peace Park for some boomerang throwing with Gilbert Laurie.

They also made clay animal totems in the beautiful grounds of the Aboriginal Cultural Centre. The children were

provided with lovely cold drinks and fresh fruit by the wonderful staff at the Cultural Centre. Some even had their hair braided.

The students then came back to school where they enjoyed kangaroo burgers, fish and kangaroo tail prepared by Karyn and cooked by Alan Wraight. They were then able to enjoy the delights of trifle – again prepared by Karyn.

After lunch students in 4/5/6 composed a rap under the careful guidance of Li Moore and presented it to an appreciative audience including the Relieving Principal.

The students also received a Bunjalung jarjums T shirt and a show bag provided courtesy of service providers sourced by Karyn.

It was a magical day – organised, local and what the school community wanted.

Investing in our Schools



by Christine Grieves, Relieving Principal, NCS

It was with great pleasure that I was able to present to Ms Denise Whitney (pictured, left) the Investing in Our Schools plaque at Presentation Day assembly at Nimbin Central School.

This was in recognition for the goods that were acquired for the school through this program.

It has provided air conditioning for learning and office space; shelter for students at the bus bay; new stoves in the Food Technology rooms; ICT equipment and cabling; books for the Library and Art Room and Sporting equipment.

Nimbin Central School was extremely grateful to receive all of the above additions.

Nimbin Vacation Care summer 2009 program

The Neighbourhood Centre warmly welcomes all parents, caregivers and kids to the new summer holiday Vacation Care program. Please **book to avoid disappointment** by phoning NNIC on 6689-1692 (between 10am and 4pm). The fee is \$6 for Vacation Care which will be operating from the Nimbin Central School. Meet at the front of the MPU at 9am on excursion days.

Ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks. Please pick up your children no later than 3pm from the MPU at Nimbin School.



Loads of holiday fun!!



| Date | Program | Cost |
|------------------------------------|--|---------|
| Tuesday 13 th January | MPU – If the weather is good we will walk to the Nimbin Pool. Please bring swimmers, a hat and towel. April & Julian | \$6 |
| Wednesday 14 th January | Excursion to Murwillumbah Pool and Hill Slide. Children will need a hat & towel. April & Ajita | \$10.50 |
| Thursday 15 th January | MPU – If the weather is good we will walk to the Nimbin Pool. Please bring swimmers, a hat and towel. April & Ajita | \$6 |
| Monday 19 th January | Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink followed by a visit to Lismore Historical Museum. Please bring socks. April & Shawn | \$12.50 |
| Tuesday 20 th January | Kite making at MPU & possibly a swim at Nimbin Pool. April & Amara | \$9 |
| Wednesday 21 st January | Excursion to Cape Byron Lighthouse – Guided Tour and Lighthouse walk. Children will be allowed to paddle at the edge of the ocean but there will be NO swimming on this day. April & Amara | \$12 |

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New look Centrelink office opens in Lismore

Residents in Lismore now have better access to Centrelink eServices, following a major refurbishment of the local Customer Service Centre.

Minister for Human Services, Senator Joe Ludwig, was joined by Member for Page, Janelle Saffin MP, to reopen the centre at 47 Conway Street, Lismore.

"This new look centre will provide the local community in Lismore with better access to Centrelink services and support," Senator Ludwig's media release said.

"It offers the full range of Centrelink services for families, seniors, young people, students, jobseekers, people with a disability and carers."

"The centre also gives local residents access to Centrelink's new e-service arrangements, with eight computers, four telephones and three job search kiosks for customer use."

"eServices are a quick and convenient way for Centrelink customers to report, update or simply view their details,



potentially skipping long waiting lines."

Ms Saffin said the newly refurbished centre has been outfitted with the latest technology to meet the growing local demand for better access to government services.

"I encourage people in my local area to make full use of the services being offered by Centrelink at this centre," Ms Saffin said.

Centrelink has now had

a presence in the Lismore community for over 10 years.

The centre is located in the Lismore CBD, with car parking and disabled street access. It is also close to suburban bus routes. It would also be close to the train, if we had one.

"Sure it looks nice, but I still have to wait just as long," one customer was heard to say.

For information about Centrelink services, visit the website www.centrelink.gov.au

Entrance signage upgrade for Nimbin

Lismore City Council is in the process of updating the signage to village entrances throughout the Lismore local government area (LGA) and welcomes feedback from village progress associations, community groups or community representatives regarding the wording and/or images you would like featured on the signs.

Council will use the same blue arched supporting structure as the new Lismore City

entrance signs. The signs will feature the Rainbow Region logo at the top linking the village to the Lismore LGA, followed by the village name, and an image and/or tag line determined by each village.

Please provide your feedback in writing ASAP.

For more information phone Mitch Lowe, Tourism Services Co-ordinator, on 6626 0100 or email tourism@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Canberra's Memorial to Peace

from Lisa Yeates

An old friend of mine, Tim Ford, has been tirelessly working to have a memorial created in honour of all Australia's Peace Keepers and their vital work over the years.

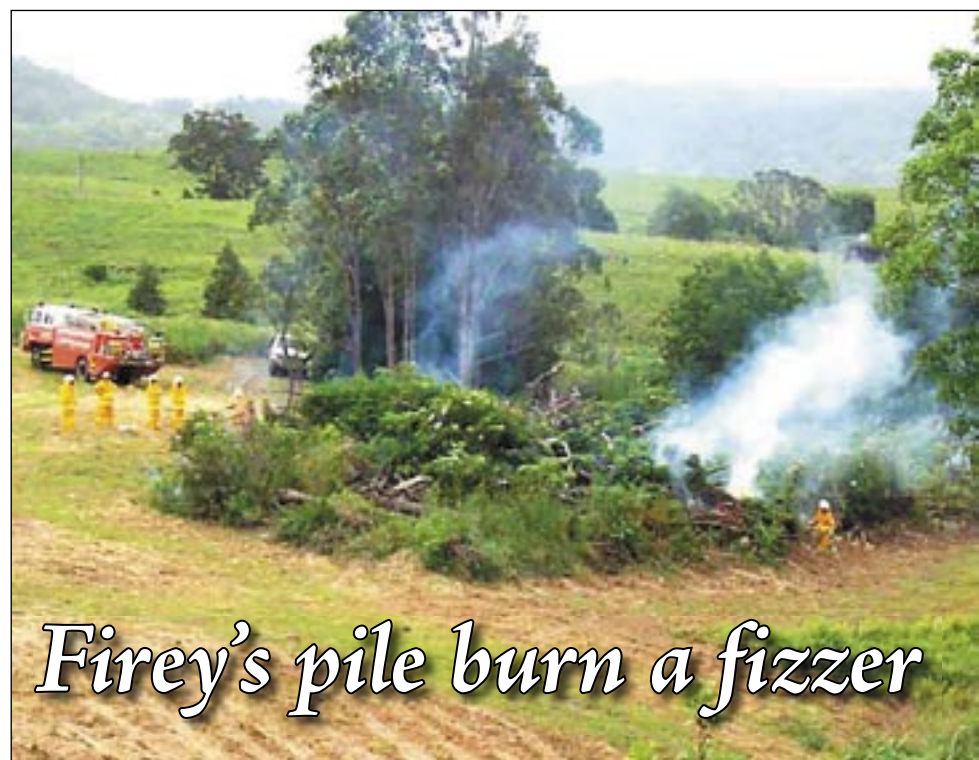
Recently the plan to build this in Anzac Avenue, near the National War Memorial was endorsed. Of course there is a public appeal for money to build it and donations are very



welcome. You will find out all about it if you go to www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/index.php.

On December 19 the

winner of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Design Competition was announced at Parliament House.



Firey's pile burn a fizzer

Damp conditions made it hard to light the large pile of camphors at Nimbin Central School on the last burning day of the year. Permits may now be applied for again – phone your RFS.

Nimbin writer in featured role at short story launch



Nell Cook (pictured), resident of Nimbin and PhD from SCU, speaking at the launch of *Re-Placement*, an anthology of writing from universities around Australia, published by SCU.

The launch was at the University of Technology, Sydney in December at the annual conference of Australian Association of Writing Programs called *Creativity and Uncertainty*.

Nell is reading an extract from her PhD, after Helen Garner launched the anthology.

OUR CLIMATE. OUR PARLIAMENT. OUR FUTURE.



Join thousands of people and community groups to form a human circle around Parliament on the first sitting day in 2009. Let's stand together and demand urgent action on climate change, for a safe climate future.

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8am Tuesday 3rd Feb 2009
For more info: www.climatesummit.org.au

AUSTRALIA DAY SOVEREIGNTY CELEBRATIONS

The Werlupal Collum Collum Aboriginal Corporation is hosting the fourth Bundjalung Peoples Gathering over four days from January 23rd to January 27th.

Situated on its unique location of the Washpool River the event includes traditional welcome and memorial Ceremonies and live music and entertainment.

It is the first time the Gathering is being held on continuously owned Bundjalung land. Everyone is welcome and camping is available at a small fee.

Contact Collum Collum Aboriginal Co-operation, Baryulgil Land Council, Andrew Donnelly or Leon Mundine for more information.

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