



by Bob Tissott

‘T was the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring because we’d all gone to Woodford!’

Yes boys and girls, in our desperate attempt to be good at something, even if it was only waiting in a queue, we had left bright and early on the 24th for the splendor and wonder that is the Woodford Folk Festival. So what if it meant sleeping in a park, waking pre-dawn and attempting to beat the other parkies over the last 2ks to the festival gates. This year we managed No. 9 in the queue (in the top ten – yay!) and after a little bit of the old argy-bargy to grab the best campsite (when I got in with the car I found Diana, who had raced in ahead of me on foot, locked in mortal combat with a Kombi owner for the site)

We then got down to creating a little piece of Nimbin, far from home. Persian carpets, copious cushions, good coffee and fragrant herb soon had our camp the envy of each and every one of those 50,000 other campers (I think most of them popped in at some time or another for a chat). We soon discovered about a dozen other locals (NImbin/Jiggi/Barkers Vale) all within coo-ee on the most desired piece of turf north of Uki.

[Random thought – If we could apply the same ingenuity, perseverance, and focus to completing the skate park that we do to grabbing a prime campsite, the damn thing would be finished in a week]

Then, after a couple of days of pre-festival training (which involved a vigorous regime of half marathons and scrum practice) the gates opened and we flooded in; a globally warmed sea of humanity. Six days, two major storms

and 40+ degrees of temperature later, we ripped it all down, somehow managed to squeeze everything into the trailer (no bloody idea how we managed it), and happily sauntered home.

We were entertained by some of the finest musicians, wordsmiths, actors, clowns and downright freaks of nature in the universe. We were educated by a phalanx of doctors and professors and fed to bursting point by a million chefs. [OK, maybe there was only ½ million chefs].

One thing that did strike me was what a huge influence Nimbin poets have had on all the spoken word events. For a small town we were robustly represented in the slam, the brawl, the breakfast and the storytelling by David, Archie, Len, Doug, Bicko, and even I threw a verse or two around.

The highlights for me were “True Live”, a string quartet with drums and vocalist doing intelligent rap; Jeff Lang, who would arguably be one of the finest guitar players on the planet; Arte Kanela Flamenco, who simply left the audience stunned and breathless with their performance; and The Bird, who with multiple percussionists pumped out the best high energy dance music of the festival.

Oh, and Wild Marmalade... and Doch... and Fiddlers Feast... and... and... you get the idea. Only 356 days till the next one.



Left: No. 9 in the queue on Xmas Day.

Repeat performance by Popular Demand



Robert i Corowa (left) and Louis Burdett getting ready to swing again in Nimbin.

Following the magic New Years Eve on Mingle Park stage in Nimbin, it’s on again this Saturday afternoon, January 10, from midday, behind Nimbin Museum, featuring Monkey and the Fish, Spooki, Louis Burdett and his band Vasuda.

Insightful, calming, collectable

by Bob Dooley

Robert Bruce’s long-awaited new offering, *Tanglefoot*, is a meditative, reflective album that artfully combines several of his preoccupations.

A collaboration with guitarist Michael Fairley, and recorded at Bush Traks, all twelve tracks resonate with an airy, ethereal feel, from the carefully crafted accompaniments and highly articulated instrumentation.

The transcendent guitar music is beguiling, lulling – at times like a mantra – and a good match to Bruce’s lyrics, simple and direct, yet shamanic and mythical where appropriate.

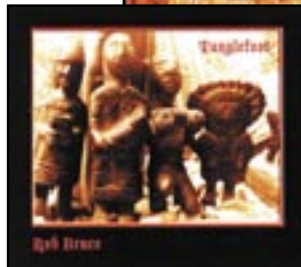
His narratives alternatively tell of the fragility of relationships and poignant events, then relate allegorical stories, such as *Till I heard the laughter*. Longing is well expressed in *Song of the Sea*; empathy gets stretched in *Run Wildcat Run*; and there’s pathos aplenty in *Corazon of Mexico*.

As in previous releases his symbolism is of the sea and horses, and his references go to the archaic period of the Americas, particularly its use of psychoactive infusions as ‘sacred medicine’.

The well-packaged CD includes a booklet containing full lyrics, as well as photos of mescaline plants, peyote and achuma cactus, as well as an ayahuasca cauldron, used to extract DMT from the Banisteriopsis vine in



Central American influences. Robert Bruce (left) and Michael Fairley, and the new CD cover.



Columbia.

But you don’t have to re-read Carlos Castaneda or Aldous Huxley to appreciate this album of fine, respectful music.

Its ancient dimensionality (also associated with the effects of the psychoactive infusions favoured by those authors) is a hallmark of the work, well expressed in the chorus to *The Healing*: “As without, so within.”

Definitely worth a listen.

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Daddy Cool took second prize in the Original Tunes Competition at the 63rd Australian Jazz Convention, held in Lismore from 26th to 31st December.

Five finalists performed their originals in front of the judges and the Lismore crowd, four big bands and Cool on solo piano.

"I didn't think I had much of a chance against four big bands from Sydney and Melbourne, but the judges voted me second and awarded me the \$300 prize money," Cool said.

"I was very surprised."

The winning tune was *Haven't got time for the Blues*, words and music by Cool, but as he explained, "I can't read notes or music, and one of the rules in the competition was the submission of the music, including the notes, on music manuscript – so I played it for local muso Ren Waterfall and he wrote down the notes."

The Original Tunes Competition is sponsored by the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) and the Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (AMCOS).

Nimbin goes to Hollywood



There's a little bit of Nimbin in the latest Hollywood blockbuster *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, which opened in cinemas worldwide in December. This movie is an epic based on an F. Scott Fitzgerald story about a man who is born old and grows younger.

Taren Cunningham, who lived in Crofton Road with her family for several years in the 1980s before they moved to Bilambil Heights, has been working as a supermodel for the last 13 years, after her chance discovery at a modelling competition in Murwillumbah when she was 15. She was whisked away to Milan to work for the Ford modelling agency, and has since had an illustrious career walking the catwalks of Milan, New York and Paris for Ford and Trump agencies, and adorning magazines worldwide.

According to her proud father, Paul, a conversation Taren had with Robert Redford and Donald Trump in New York last year about the possibility of moving into an acting career led to her being offered a part in *Benjamin Button*, which stars Brad Pitt, Care Blanchett and Tilda Swinton, along with a long list of other stars. Taren plays Tilda Swinton's character, Elizabeth Abbott, at about the age of 19 years, when she swam the English Channel early in the twentieth century. It's a small part, but not a bad score for a novice actor.

Benjamin Button is already getting good reviews and Oscar vibes, with predictions for a possible six Oscars. Good work Taren!



There's a huge gig happening out here in the bush Saturday 24th Jan.... 6 bands,DJs plus circus and dance acts starting at 3pm till late.

King Farook will be headlining, supported by many local favorites including Mona Lizard, young MCs Street Wisdom, Plonk, funk-meisters The Hoochers,

Manifest, The Durga Babies, and more... something for everyone.

The King Farook show is a maelstrom of multitasking mayhem. The drummer/main rapper sits front-and-centre, the bass and guitar are a single hybrid monstrosity, the keyboard player also plays sax (yes, at the same time), and the lead vocalist is liable to leap into the crowd at any moment and start dirty dancing with a random audience member.

The sound itself combines dance grooves with urban flows, soulful vocal harmonies, jazz tonalities and a rock edge.

Come and join in this one-off feast of talent in our very own backyard... Members and their guests are all welcome: 3pm Sat Jan 24 at the Tuntable Hall.



A Planet in Space formed in 2007, and the four-piece has quickly become one of the most intriguing acts on the Australian live scene. At the beginning of 2009, the group is ready to bring its unmistakable music to the world with its debut EP, *As the Pieces Come Together*.

With two full drum kits, guitar, bass, two vocalists, samples and keys, A Planet In Space comprise of a unique blend of genre crossing music that offers them freedom to explore all possibilities of past and present musical cultures.

Dan Fox Smith, Ben Thomas, Ben Castelluccio and Alex Hayes see their fusion as the organic outcome of their quest for a lyrical and musical journey which is exhilarating and honest, seeking to communicate their own deep love of music to every audience.

Upcoming Shows!

- Beach Hotel, Byron Bay, NSW - Wed 21st January 8PM Free
- Nimbin Hotel, Nimbin, NSW - Fri 23rd January 7:30PM Free
- The Railway Hotel, Byron Bay, NSW - Sat 24th January 7PM Free



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January Gig Guide

Friday 9th	The Bakery (Melb.)
Friday 16th	Street Wisdom (Local Hiphop/Guest MCs)
Friday 23rd	A Planet In Space
Friday 30th	The Baby Durgas +Special Guests

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Nimbin's Main Street Disgrace

The closures of the Nimbin Hemp Bar and the Sound Lounge have not alleviated the open selling of drugs in Nimbin's main street.

The Richmond Police local area commander Superintendent Bruce Lyons vowed to 'shut down the drug trade' after the 2008 Mardi Grass Festival. But open selling in the main street is as rampant as ever.

The Hemp Bar closed after Police served an eviction order in April. The Police State Protection Group had already visited another popular off-street venue where marijuana was tolerated, the Sound Lounge, the previous September of 2007.

There was talk at the time that Police wanted to declare that venue a 'drug house' but they didn't seize enough Cannabis to force an eviction there. The Sound Lounge continued to offer locals a

'chill out zone' for about another 12 months before the former leaseholder decided to close the venue, after almost constant harassment mostly from young people who were known to be dealing drugs in the main street.

While that venue had its own controversies, the most vehement criticisms of the Sound Lounge and other off street venues that tolerated marijuana were really over money not morality. Their closures have done nothing to stop open drug selling in Nimbin; that has only been made worse by driving the problem out into the street.

When friends visit me in Nimbin these days I am ashamed to take them shopping in Cullen Street. Once you take a non-local anywhere down the main street, the hawkers and barkers think you are serving some tourist and converge on them.

There are more young people loitering in front

of the Museum than ever, none of them tourists. The competition amongst street sellers is now so cut throat that they are constantly eyeballing the street for both potential customers and competing dealers. The Museum is on a bend in the street that seems to provide them with a vantage point.

I have been offered marijuana for sale several times recently in the area of Allsopp Park and the Museum. On one occasion on politely declining, I was asked if I was looking for 'anything else'. That came as no surprise to me. Most main street marijuana hawkers and barkers are either alcoholics or addicted to other hard drugs.

And since the hawkers and barkers have been largely freed of their off-street competitors with the assistance of the Police, they are now up against the people who really are their worst enemies. Now they must deal with each other.

Name and address supplied, but withheld on request.

The Nimbin 'label' in Hong Kong

People in Hong Kong can be very status conscious and this extends to labels – clothes, watches, cars – anything with a label and gave status was highly regarded.

I wore a Nimbin T shirt to a Halloween party, while holidaying in Hong Kong recently. It was a Gillian Jones' classic from a hand painted range that she sold in the 1980's. The only lettering was the word Nimbin at the bottom. Very much loved by yours truly and only worn on special occasions.

One of the Hong Kong locals came up and said "I love your T-shirt... Nimbin – I haven't seen that label before." Another local commented that I was the most fashionably dressed at the party and the T-shirt was a big hit.

If you wear designer label clothing in Nimbin, most people do not notice. If they do notice, they think you got a great deal at the op shop. Lets face it, Nimbin is the only place in the world where crushed velvet has remained fashionable for the last 35 years. Interesting the difference in cultures.

David McMinn

Black Sheep Butchery

I wrote an article for NGT last month that was published under the title "A Wolf In Black Sheep's Clothing," and included a montage of George Bush and Barack Obama.

I was dismayed and angered that a junior editor on your team, (not Bob Dooley),

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Enquiries to Gloria at Mousetrap Media on 6689-1184 on Tuesday or Friday arvo.

A Boy is Born

Maya has given birth to 7+ lb young lad at 9.13pm in Broome named Tristan Marcel. Love to All, Paul LeBars

Rainbow Café get-together

The promised date for the evening of reminiscing for previous staff and owners of the Rainbow Cafe was supposed to be announced in this edition of NGT, but it is now going to be postponed until mid-February. The date will be announced in the February edition.

Free Listings

Send us a short Notice (under 50 words) by deadline if you've got something of a non-commercial nature of interest to NGT readers, and we'll run it for free for you.

saw fit to edit the piece in a way that drastically altered its intent and purpose, and led to my being unfairly misrepresented.

My original title made no mention of a "black" sheep, only a sheep in wolf's clothing. Nor did it contain the montage picture blending Bush and Obama, which was inserted at the expense of two vital concluding paragraphs.

The edits seem minor, but their intent appears more sinister, and point to an editor pre-occupied with making distinctions based upon race. Obama's race is absolutely irrelevant to my thesis.

Some leftist commentators like John Pilger have labeled Obama an "Uncle Tom" serving the interests of a white power elite at the expense of "his own people," but I make no such race based distinction. To me, people are people and race is completely irrelevant. Obama's race has nothing to do with his criminality, but rather to his position of privilege within the American political elite, and his determination to

continue the murderous and genocidal policies of his predecessors in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Latin America and elsewhere.

The only other explanation I could find for the insertion of the word 'black' in the title of my article was to imply that Obama will be a maverick, a black sheep out-sider and a force for real change within the White House. But my whole point was that he will be anything but that; that he is a classic establishment man, using old establishment money, and that he will merely be the latest in an unbroken line of US presidential war-lords waging wars of aggressive imperial conquest for mercantile and ideological ends.

I am not the only contributor to *The Nimbin Good Times* who has had their submissions altered drastically and without consultation, and I would appreciate you publishing this letter in its entirety with no editorial 'discretion' and butchery.

Robert Bruce

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Nimbin skatepark misses out on infrastructure funding

Despite putting a strong case to Lismore Councillors, the Nimbin Community Centre Inc. (NCCI) has failed to gain a majority endorsement for funding to complete the Nimbin skate park from the federal infrastructure stimulus package.

NCCI Secretary Diana Roberts, who had argued for a 5% share of the \$1,049,000 available to fund projects within the Lismore City Council area, described the decision as "a lost opportunity."

Council was addressed in December by NCCI Co-ordinator Marcus Mantscheff, who outlined how the project met the required criteria for funding, and pointed to the broad community support for the development.

But Councillors stuck with their proposal: \$679,000 for the Goonellabah Youth Plaza, \$245,500 to upgrade Nesbitt Park in South Lismore, and \$145,000 to be split between 29 rural halls, provided they submit suitable projects by the end of January.

This was despite an



Best shot. Marcus Mantscheff (at left) puts the case for skatepark funding to the December meeting of Lismore Council.

"Time and time again this Council has consistently failed to address the youth agenda with the necessary strategic funding."

– Cr, Vanessa Ekins

amendment, moved by Vanessa Ekins, to reduce the rural halls allocation by \$50,000, to go to Nimbin skate park, which was lost along party lines.

Mayor Jenny Dowell, who

voted for the amendment, provided a glimmer of hope after the meeting, telling the NR Echo's readers not to be disheartened, because "Council may be able to help find another funding source for Nimbin's skate park."

Meanwhile, the steel half-pipes are about to undergo some serious welding, as the infill sections are installed to assist in sound mitigation.

The work is due to start soon, as part of a stimulus package funded by NCCI.

communities and this money will have a huge multiplier community benefit because it will generate so much extra volunteer labour.

I was disappointed that my motion to investigate Council partnering with local credit unions to provide very low interest loans for ratepayers to install solar hot water systems, photovoltaic panels and water tanks was voted down. I realise that persistence is needed to get traction on these issues.

After a traditional Christmas (friends and family, presents, overeating, spending time with Trish and our daughter Elly) I'm settling in for a quiet January at home. Plenty of gardening, painting, building etc. need to be done and of course developing strategies for my work on Council for 2009.

Wishing you all a rich and satisfying New Year, which sees us making some real advances in developing sustainability and reducing the risk of catastrophic climate change.

From the mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell
Mayor of Lismore

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

Happy New Year

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, Management and staff of LCC, I hope that NGT readers all had a wonderful Christmas and that 2009 is filled with health and happiness. No doubt there will be many challenges along the way but I am confident that by working together we can overcome them and find ways to make our communities more resilient, stronger and better places in which to live, work and enjoy life.

Federal Money

At Council's final meeting of 2008, we decided on the projects on which we will spend the Federal government allocation of \$1.049 M that had been announced in November. Lismore will spend \$679,000 on the Youth Plaza at the nearly completed Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre, \$245,500 to upgrade Nesbitt Park in South Lismore and will offer \$5000 to each of our 29 rural halls.

As readers can imagine, there was considerable debate on several other worthy projects including the completion of Nimbin's SkatePark and the development of a Youth Activity Centre in the Lismore CBD. Both these projects are considered highly by many Councillors and I would urge readers not to be too disheartened by the lack of funding for them at this stage.

In addition to the general allocation, Councils around Australia had the opportunity to apply for funds from a pool of \$50million. Applications are on a competitive basis for projects requesting \$2m or more. Lismore is seeking \$2.75million for the revitalisation of Woodlark

Street. While again there are other projects, including the Margaret Olley Art Centre, worthy of this large expenditure, the application required a 'ready to go' status. If Lismore is successful, the money would be used for underground work, roadworks, guttering, parking, seating and shade for the section of Woodlark St between Molesworth and Keen Streets. It does not involve traffic lights or changes to the intersections.

McLeans Ridges

Also at the December meeting, Council clarified its position on the rezoning of land on Camerons Rd, McLeans Ridges. Councillors Clough, Houston, Smith, Yarnall, Ekins and I declared that we did not support the rezoning that had been proposed to the Minister for Planning by the previous Council while Crs Chant Meineke, Marks and Graham declared their support. Cr Battista abstained from declaring his position. Following the meeting, Council wrote to the Minister to inform her of Councillors' positions.

Just prior to Christmas, Council was told that the Minister has approved the rezoning and while it does not become legal until it is listed in the Government Gazette, residents are aware that the decision has been made.

PAGs

Unfortunately Council did not handle nominations for community membership of our Policy Advisory Groups as well as we may have. After the Business Paper was issued, late nominations were accepted and voted upon thus giving the impression that proper process had not been followed. Accordingly, a rescission motion has been lodged that has suspended the notification of successful nominees and it is anticipated that new nominations will be invited in February. While this must be frustrating for some



people, it is important that we get the process right and give everyone an equal opportunity to know the guidelines, apply and accept the process and outcome as fair and transparent.

Clunes STP

Following a nine year saga, Council has disbanded the Clunes Wastewater Committee and declared its support for the preferred option of on-site treatment and local reuse of treated effluent through irrigation. Careful analysis has demonstrated the cost effectiveness of the preferred option over piping the raw sewerage to the South Lismore treatment plant. While some nearby landowners have some concerns, the majority of the committee has been vindicated in their stance.

Australia Day

Last month I urged NGT readers to consider nominating people for Lismore's Australia Day Awards. Categories include Citizen, Sporting, Art and Culture, Reconciliation, Community Service, Multicultural and Environmental. The closing date for nominations is January 14 and the forms are available on www.lismore.nsw.gov.au.

The Australia Day celebrations on January 26, will be held at the Trinity Sports Centre from 8.30 am. If readers have not attended a ceremony before, I would encourage you to come. Not only do we recognise our local volunteers but 17 people from various nations will be accepting Australian citizenship and we will have an inspirational Australia Day Ambassador with us.

Simon says...



by Councillor Simon Clough

It's that time of the year for me for review and reflection. In fact I was reflecting so hard that I nearly ran off the road on my morning bike ride. It's just three months since I was elected to Lismore Council. Several things have become clearer to me in that period:

- Councillors are not simply going to do what I suggest!
- I could spend almost every waking hour on Council business.
- If I'm to have any impact on the issues I consider

important, I need to prioritise strategically. The Council meeting in December was very good. I say that, even though every motion I put forward or every motion I voted on was lost. What I thought was particularly good was the high degree of involvement on the part of the Councillors. There was lively debate. Councillors who had rarely spoken were suddenly eloquent and underlying this there seemed to be respect and even a little humour.

Unfortunately the Nimbin skate park did not get funding out of the "Rudd money". However I'm confident that this long standing and controversial issue will get real attention and that we will have a skate park for Nimbin in 2009. All the rural halls are to get at least \$5,000 from the "Rudd money" if they apply. So, that is encouraging for local rural

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Seasonality, Lunar Phase & Bear Market Lows

by David McMinn

Historical US bear market lows were assessed for possible guidance on the timing of the ultimate low of the current stock market turmoils. Over the past 120 years, such major lows exhibit strong seasonality, as they were most likely in September - October and least likely early in the calendar year. Lunar phase also had relevance in the timing of bear market lows, which was an unexpected finding. The low of November 20, 2008 was considered in relation to these historical DJIA trends.

Background. The degree on the ecliptical circle has been abbreviated to E°, while the angular degree between the Moon and Sun (lunar phase) has been given as A°. Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) bear market lows for 1896-1996 were sourced from *fiendbear.com*.

Seasonality & DJIA Lows

Seasonality is strongly evident in the timing of the 27 US bear market lows recorded since 1890.

- Only one happened between December 20 and March 30 (significant p < .01).
- Eight occurred between September 20 and October 31, where as 3.0 could have been expected by chance. DJIA lows occurring in the same period will also tend to happen in similar calendar months, a finding that held up consistently throughout the 20th century (see Table 1). For 1890-1935, all 11 lows happened in the latter half of the year, while the 6 lows during 1980-2008 took

Era	Number BM Lows	Season
1890 - 1899 (a)	3	Jul 20 - Dec 10
1900 - 1935	8	Jul 01 - Dec 20
1936 - 1945	3	Mar 20 - Apr 30
1946 - 1970	6	May 20 - Oct 31
1971 - 1979	2	Dec 01 - Feb 28
1980 - 2005	6 (b)	Aug 10 - Nov 20

(a) Based on the 12 Stock Average index to 1896.
(b) Includes the proposed low of Nov 20, 2008

place between August 10 and November 20.

Lunar Phase & DJIA Lows

Bear market lows since 1890 were placed in order of increasing lunar phase. Certain lunar phase ranges have the Moon and Sun in restricted segments on the ecliptical circle. The results held up very well, apart from the March 31, 1938 low and the four lows with lunar phase between 235 and 255 A°.

Of the 25 bear market lows since 1900, 16 occurred with lunar phase in the following ranges about 180 A° opposite in the angular circle: 035 - 110 A° and 235 - 280 A° (significant p < .01).

Curiously, the 9 major market lows from 1962 to 1994 had lunar phase around the 3rd quarter Moon (from 245 to 325A°). Most lows happened within a day or two of this lunar phase, with only one exception on October 19, 1987.

In Summary

Overall, bear market lows were most likely to happen around late September - October and least likely during the early months in the calendar year (see Table 1). Furthermore,

those bear market lows with similar lunar phase will usually have the Moon and Sun within similar ecliptical segments (see Table 2). The US market low of November 20 aligned within previous Moon Sun patterns, indicating that it may be the final low of the 2007-08 bear market. Only the gift of hindsight will reveal if this is correct. The analysis is only statistically significant and anomalies arise that deviate from the ideal. Using historical precedent, one was able to predict the 2007 bear market, but not the 2008 collapse as it deviated completely from previous cycles.

The Moon Sun findings reduce the concept of free market capitalism to an absurdity. What is more ridiculous than a world financial system highly dependent on the heavenly positions of the Moon and Sun? This is something that traditional economists fail to appreciate. During the latter decades of the 20th century, American cowboy economics promoted deregulation and free market efficiency. We are now all paying for such gross stupidity and the world financial system will take years to recover.

Phase A°	Number of Lows	Sun		Moon	
		E°	Range	E°	Range
010-065	4	105-200	095	165-245	080
065-140	5	125-270	145	225-000	135
150-240	3	015-085	070	185-300	115
235-255	4	No distribution pattern			
270-355	10 (a)	095-260	165	025-215	190
355-000	1	The 1938 low did not align with any other BM low			

(a) Includes the proposed low of November 20, 2008.

Local heroes honoured

from Justine Elliot, MP

I recently presented Rex Budd, Glenn Nott, Geoff Price and Charles Worrell with a certificate of gratitude from the Federal Government.

The Certificate was awarded for their voluntary service towards assisting developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development and was presented to the Rotarians for their volunteer work abroad.

Volunteers contribute to the aid program by working in-country, sharing their time and expertise to enhance the living standards of others. The program also benefits our local community when our volunteers share their experiences and knowledge of other countries and cultures when they return home.

They spent two weeks in a remote Papua New Guinea village completing the building of a community hall/ church and are already planning their next venture - the provision of rain water tanks to the same community. People interested in becoming involved or finding out more information about Rotary can contact Charles Worrell on 0407 130 449.

I am so proud that Australians, and in particular our locals, are making such a valuable contribution to the world.

I have an inside perspective on the program as my husband Craig has been a volunteer in the past with Australian Volunteers Abroad. Craig spent twelve months in Sri Lanka teaching at a Technical College.

It is about building bridges and having a better understanding of and relationship with our neighbours and it's great to see public recognition for the selfless work of our overseas volunteers. I commend them and all the other volunteers from the Richmond area.

Member for Richmond
107 Minjungbal Drive
Tweed Heads South
Phone 1300-720-675



Justine Elliot congratulating Murwillumbah electrician Rex Budd, Mt Warning AM Rotary Member Glenn Knott and Tweed Heads South Rotary Members Geoff Price and Charles Worrell.

250,000+ benefit from teen dental plan

258,203 teenagers have received a dental check up under the Rudd Government's Medicare Teen Dental Plan. With tooth decay ranking as Australia's most prevalent health problem and gum disease ranking fifth, untreated dental decay is a major problem for our nation's teenagers.

7,598 dentists across the country have provided services under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan, which equates to almost 70 per cent of dentists.

The Rudd Government announced in its first budget that it would allocate over \$490 million over five years to help more than one million Australian teenagers look after their teeth.

To achieve this, the Government has provided a \$150 voucher towards an annual preventative dental check to teenagers aged 12 to 17 in families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A or teenagers receiving Youth Allowance or Abstudy. The value of the voucher will be indexed to \$153.45 for the 2009 calendar year.

Additional groups of teenagers will be included in the program. Eligible teenagers receiving Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment, Special Benefit, Carer Payment or Double Orphan Pension, as well as those receiving assistance under the Veterans' Children Education Scheme or Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme will be provided with a voucher for a

preventative dental check-up.

These preventative check-ups will help prevent cavities and other dental diseases, and will help to reduce the need for more expensive dental procedures later on.

We know that dental check-ups are vital to identifying oral health problems early. According to dental health experts, there is a four-fold increase in dental decay between 12 and 21 years of age, and almost half of all teenagers have some signs of gum disease.

Vouchers for the 2009 calendar year will be mailed to eligible families from mid January.

Families who would like more information on the Teen Dental Plan can visit the Department of Health and Ageing website www.health.gov.au/dental.

Funding for aged and community care

Over the next four years, funding for aged and community care will reach record levels of more than \$41.6 billion - with \$29.5 billion of that on residential aged care alone.

This means that over the next four years, the Rudd Labor Government will provide an average of \$43,000 for every aged care home resident in Australia.

This year the Government will spend \$5.6 billion on residential aged care. This represents an increase of 10.8 per cent over the final outcome for the 2007-08 financial year.

Til next time.

Justine

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BACKYARD BLITZ

POLICE BEAT



December 2008

Prepared by Senior Constable Peter Irby, Nimbin Police.

• **Break and Enter:** On Monday 1st December 2008, unknown persons gained entry to the laundry area of the Nimbin Caravan Park through the roof and broke into the vending machines and stole a number products.

• **Drug Possession:** On Tuesday 2nd December, a local woman was arrested for supplying an amount of cannabis to a tourist outside a well known tourist attraction. She has been refused bail and is to appear before Lismore Local Court in January.

• **Attempting Self Harm:** Around 10pm on Sunday 7th of December, Nimbin Police were called to a local business in relation to a man who had locked himself in a room refusing to leave. Information was received that the male person was attempting self harm. Police spoke to the man through the closed door and he eventually opened the door and was treated by ambulance officers at the scene.

• **Drug Possession:** On Thursday 11th December, Nimbin Police received information that a local man was supplying drugs on the premises of a well known tourist attraction. Police conducted a patrol of the area and located the offender. The man entered a local business to avoid police, who detained him inside the premises. A search of the premises was conducted with a large amount of cash and cannabis being located. Police weighed the drugs with a total weight of almost 1 kilogram. The man was arrested, bail was refused and the offender is to appear before Lismore Local Court.

• **Man wielding machette:** Around 3pm on Monday 22nd December, police attended Cullen Street in relation to a male wielding a large

machette. The machette was removed and the man was arrested and taken to Lismore Police Station. The man was refused bail and is to appear before Lismore Local Court.

• **Assault Police Officer:** On Tuesday 23rd December, Nimbin Police received information that a woman required urgent assistance in Sibley Street, Nimbin. Police attended and were waived down by a female screaming and yelling and she was conveyed to Nimbin Police. A short time later, a man pulled up in the driveway to Nimbin Police Station. The man was spoken to and placed under arrest. During the arrest, a male officer sustained a broken wrist. The man was charged with nine different offences and was refused bail to appear before Lismore Local Court.

• **Serious Assault:** About 7:45pm on Friday 26th December, police were called to a serious assault in Rainbow Lane. A man presented himself to Nimbin Police Station with serious injuries. It was later ascertained that the man suffered a fractured left eye socket, a broken nose and blood on the brain. Two local men were identified as being responsible for the assault. Both men were later arrested and are to appear before Lismore Local Court.

• **Assistance:** Nimbin Police want to hear from you. We assure confidentiality where possible, however, we also believe that criminal acts and anti-social behaviour should not be tolerated. Please contact Nimbin Police in person, or on: Nimbin Station 6689 1244, Emergency 000, Police Assistance Line 131 444 or Crimestoppers 1800 333 000.

NIMBIN STREETSHUFFLE

by Unda Cuvva

"This is so beautiful, I wish Nimbin was like this all the time," overheard from an unnamed female police officer observing Mingle Park on New Year's Eve.

Congratulations to Star Earth Tribe Judy who donated her Christmas bonus cheque from Kev to make sure it was a true Hippyfest. Who would have thought such a thing, and in the backyard of a well known tourist attraction (WKTA) recently in a lot of trouble for illegal substances in the vicinity.

The very same WKTA has also attracted very keen interest from a new male police officer who insists on searching the area until he finds something worthy of the list he's collecting in order to purify Nimbin of its wicked habits. His assistant, James (not his real name) is getting very restless as he had to wait up to half an hour last week before Mike (also not his real name) could find something worthy of 'the list'... a cone, in this case.

Locals protested, saying it had only been used for mugwort, which has gained a lot of popularity since the riot squad has been coming to MardiGrass. Not to worry, the real estate and hairdressers also have lists due to recent busts near their premises, and no one wants to close them down.

The same Mike, whose skills many in the town feel would be more useful in the army special forces, is uncompromising. A whiff of smoke from the backyard of a well known local café and he's in there like a ferret down a burrow searching for the source. He caught a lovely rabbit on that hunt, one of our very dearest Viet vets. Undeterred, Mike scraped out the vet's pipe into the evidence bag but the ashes were so scant they didn't register on the scales. Don't give up on Mike folks, he's here to learn the truth about prohibition like a hundred cops before him, and he's open to a chat, the night mayor was even seen yarning with him this week. So stash ya weed an do ya duty. He'll be gone soon, they turn em over very quickly in case anyone gets too close with the locals! Now that's sensible community policing policy – *not!* Just when the cops get to know who's who in the zoo, they move 'em on to Dubbo, or Parkes.

Yet another life was saved by the hardcore stalwarts from a WKTA this month. The story goes something like this: The Solstice celebrations at Mingle Park on Sunday 21st were excellent. Top music and sound and a special thanks should go to Chris Fisher and Bib for getting the gig together. There was one minor incident which carried on into the next day, culminating in a dramatic play for the street cameras. As often happens in wars, the weaker side got hold of a weapon – in this case a three foot machete – brand new and glistening from a well known local tool dispensary.

It was certainly a lot bigger than a fork! Fortunately, before six cars with mounted machine guns and an ambulance arrived in town at breakneck speed, our hero from the WKTA kitchen, unarmed but confident (and furious), strode across Cullen Street and demanded the weapon be handed over. Which it was. Another life saved, maybe dozens. Just imagine – the cops decide to do a Bondi beach arrest on a weapon holder in Nimbin – anything could happen.

Drinking alcohol on the street is clearly too much for the police to cope with so they are asking that everyone monitor themselves sensibly, please. "It is true we love pubs and rugby, but so far haven't got our hands on a share in Nimbin's pub", said a spokesperson.

No one was seriously injured in the many arguments this month over who was going to drive quickly around the Allsop Park corner to crash into the Police 4WD which insists on parking illegally there. The various drivers were all sure the insurance payout would set them up for life and it took a lot of convincing them whoever did it would have to pass a drug



test. It would be much easier for everyone if the police stopped parking there!

The North Coast Local Area Commands maintained their record of having the state's highest rate of sick and stress leave, coinciding with also having the highest rate of drug users and dole bludging surfers! To their credit, police lobbied hard for Lismore City Council to fund the finishing of the Nimbin Skate Park but were not heard so they have volunteered to send some of their stress leave numbers back from the beach to the very relaxed weekly Saturday morning workdays. All welcome, particularly welders.

Police are also promising to donate to the sk8park a twenty foot steel container that's been rusting behind the station for several years. "It was bought in anticipation of mass lockups at MardiGrass which never eventuated," a police equipment spokesperson said. "We promise not to use it to lock up skaters – it's for the welders to use as a workshop. We want to see this thing finished and legal so we don't have to bust skaters."

Due to a sharp increase in the number of people who call Nimbin home, but aren't allowed here, several new camps have been established at the five kilometre and 10 kilometre signposts on the Lismore road. Not to worry, it's just a build up of the bail conditions keeping people out of the village.

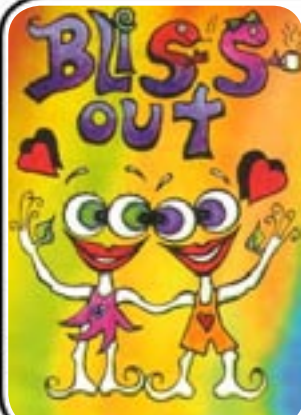
Police have promised to talk "strongly and in no uncertain terms" to the Summerland Credit Union management over the village ATM machine breaking down every time the town fills with people for more than an hour.

"Unquestionably it is encouraging thoughts of robbery for some people, if they can't fix it we'll have to legalize the blackmarket so they too can use credit cards, but then we'd be out of a job", a spokesperson who didn't want to be named said.

Police have also promised to stop running over Ganja Faeries toes, but only after the faeries vowed to perform at MardiGrass, in wheelchairs if necessary.

Do send in your local Streetshuffle news to Undacuvva, care of... care of... care of, where? Aw, just pin it on the front of a WKTA and we'll pick it up.

Thank you to the female officer who sent in our quote of the month... overheard this week from a well known Nimbin beggar. "Can I have three dollars, aw no, it's my birthday. Can I have five dollars?"



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