

Tower

I am writing to express my anger and dismay at the gall of the NSW Police and Lismore City Council to erect this so-called communications tower without so much as consulting the community on the following concerns.

As our house is opposite the Police Station, the tower, which is probably more than ten storeys high, has completely ruined our view to Blue Knob and the Tweed Valley and is no more than 350 metres away. It breaks all the rules in relation to the Heritage listed site and it exceeds Council's stipulation that buildings are not to exceed two storeys.

We have listed our property on the market and we feel

that it has affected the value of our property, because it has ruined the lovely view we used to have from our front verandah and the health implications on local residents.

My other concern is in relation to my husband's health. In 2003, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor (Meningioma). He had brain surgery that year to remove most of the tumor but, as it grew close to the main artery of the brain, some of the tumor was left untouched, as it was too dangerous to remove completely. We both feel that this tumor was the result of his previous employment in the 80's at Mt Nardi TV tower. His role there was maintenance (which entailed climbing the

tower), gardening and general caretaker. He held that position for about eight years.

We have to travel annually to the Princess Alexandra Hospital for his MRI to keep an eye on his residual tumor.

So much for democracy. What a joke. One rule for everyone please. I will be seeking legal advice in relation to these matters with the removal of the tower from the current site and/or seek compensation.

Mariella Childs

Rally

I wish to express my strong concerns about the Repco rally going ahead.

Environmental: There has been no thorough environmental impact study done in an area known for its unique biodiversity values and valuable endangered species. The rally is going through highly sensitive areas, it goes against the work over many years in the community to build the eco tourism industry in the region which has been successful and in keeping with the nature of the region and the community. On a broader level, in this age of concern with carbon emissions, outdated and destructive events should be branded environmental vandalism not encouraged.

Social: I am extremely concerned about encouraging another "schoolies week" style event that focuses on speed and alcohol, and encourages alcohol-fuelled behaviours such as violence, disruption, lewd and obnoxious behaviour, rubbish and general hooning and destruction. And who is going to pick up the clean up bill? Us the local community who doesn't want it in the first place. it

will also completely change the experience of the local community who moved to this region for the peaceful lifestyle it offers. It is well known that there is a high percentage of elderly in the region – this is also going to effect the services and support that they are able to access, and the traffic congestion is going to be horrendous.

Economic: Anyone who thinks this is going to benefit the local community needs to look at the example of the Indy on the Gold Coast. Businesses in that region suffered terribly due to the traffic congestion causing delays, late appointments, delivery problems, and clients/customers generally avoiding the area due to the disruption. Most of the profits went to the overseas organisers and merchandisers. The local community has to foot the bill for the clean up and disruption for months before, during and after the event. It is a lie that it will bring in economic benefit.

Political: I am extremely concerned that this kind of event can be imposed, without following due procedure, and without community consultation, changing legislation in a backroom deal, inappropriate relationships between organisers and approving authorities, subsidies from the public purse yet the exclusion of the public from the decision-making process, ignoring the protests of the local community to support a foreign influenced event.

These are all big, newsworthy issues, let's see some more coverage! On the corruption, the community issues, the real story!

Suzanne Gray

Notices

Room to Let

Large studio room to rent in friendly house in town. Nice garden, great views. Freshly painted, ensuite toilet. Meat-free, smoke-free house. \$90 pw + bills. Call Olivier 66890488.

Long Term Lease Wanted

Apiarist (amongst other things) with 100 organic hives and a 20ft shipping container, looking for long term lease in the area. Phone Stuart 0427-273-567. Rent references available.

Accommodation Wanted

Gary, resides in the New England area, quiet, 51, non-drinker, interested in exploring Nimbin and surrounding countryside. Seeking either private campsite for station wagon and tent, or private accommodation, primarily as respite from family care. Requiring 8 days per month for agreed negotiable rate, can also contribute labour. Phone 0432-801-915 or leave message at 02-6736-2150.

Health notices

- Nimbin Immunisation Clinic, birth-5 years, 11th August, appointments ring 6620-7687 Nimbin Hospital
- Nimbin Health & Welfare Interagency meeting 11th August, 3pm at Old Hospital meeting room.
- Nimbin Red Cross Club AGM 17th August, 4pm at the Old Hospital meeting room. New members welcome.

International Software Freedom Day

We want to get together a team to help celebrate International Software Freedom Day on Saturday 19th September. Linux and other open source software users, come help us spread the joy of using free libre open source software. If you want to be involved in any way or find out some more info ... please email us: flossbrigade@gmail.com

Tunable Cafe

The Tuntable Sunday Cafe is back again on 23rd August. Because of cooler weather, we will be starting a little earlier at 3pm. The theme will be Mexican, and as always, it will be low cost vegetarian cuisine with musicians encouraged to come play as well. If convenient, bring a piece of firewood for the evening hours. Looking forward to seeing you then, George, Stephanie, Nicolette, Sophia and John.

NIM-FM Fundraiser

Big Bad Disco Night at Nimbin Town Hall, Saturday 29th August, from 6pm. Prizes galore: door prize, dance prize, best/worst costume. Karaoke, raffle, yummy food and more.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL

BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS

**Cullen Bridge, Nimbin Village
Southwell Bridge, Blue Knob Road,
Nimbin (0.75km north of Nimbin
Village)**

Lismore City Council, on behalf of the RTA, will undertake the following bridge replacements in the 2009-2010 financial year under the Timber Bridges replacement program. These works are required as the existing bridges are no longer economic to repair and do not meet current design standards.

Whilst works are yet to be scheduled, both bridges are likely to be constructed concurrently and will take at least 6 months to complete, weather permitting. Traffic control will be in place around bridge work sites during this period.

The existing bridges will remain under traffic during construction. Upon construction of the new bridge, the existing bridges will be removed.

Design and environmental assessment for the new bridges is currently underway. Preliminary design plans are available for viewing at the Nimbin Visitor Centre, 80 Cullen Street, Nimbin, and the Goonellabah Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah during normal office hours.

Members of the community are invited to make written submissions regarding the proposal, any potential impacts within the locality, or any other information relevant to this project. Submissions will be considered as part of the Review of Environmental Factors for the proposal.

Submissions must be in writing and are to be lodged by 24th August, 2009 and addressed to the General Manager, Lismore City Council, Bridge Replacements at Nimbin, PO Box 23A, Lismore 2480

Enquiries in relation to the above matter should be directed to Mr Barry Goodwin, Design Engineer, phone: 1 300 87 83 87.



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NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.

Next deadline:
Wednesday 26th August

Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

whatever you're looking for...



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nimbin

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"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

Simon says...



by Lismore City Councillor
Simon Clough

You have to hold your breath sometimes in Council meetings. In one recent meeting we were briefed on the serious impact a building with "skewed piles" had on a neighbouring property. Councillors themselves can also be entertaining. Recently one Councillor boldly pronounced his love of Koalas, only to add quickly and rather "sheepishly", "not in that way!" Another Councillor, a climate change sceptic, stated that climate change was merely "politicised science similar to Eugenics" (!)

I'm hopeful that Council will be able to resolve the Nimbin skate park dilemma with an injection of Commonwealth funding. I know that it is on the top of my list of priorities for funding and I'm hopeful that many other Councillors feel the same way. Needless to say some further lobbying of the council by the community wouldn't go astray!

I believe there are a number of reasons for optimism about the current Lismore City Council. Most Councillors are hard working and there is a genuine spirit of co-operation focused on what is in the best interests of the community. The level of polarisation has certainly decreased compared with the last Council. Not to say that we agree on everything (see above). The General Manager's review of Council's structure has made significant changes. I believe the most exciting of which is the creation of an "Integrated Planning" section which will contain all the elements of planning, be they land use, environmental resources management, social and

cultural planning as well as recreational planning. The new Integrated Planning section will be under the retitled Executive Director for Sustainable Development and should put Lismore in a very strong position to create holistic planning which will make it a leader in the field.

The draft Business Plan for the CBD has been released and it presents an exciting vision for the CBD, with "come to the heart" as the main promotional tag. The plan focuses on "hot spots" in the central area, such as Spinks Park, the river and Magellan Street as an "eat street". The plan has the Lantern Parade as Lismore's iconic event and seeks to encourage high quality markets and artistic performances. I felt the plan was a very refreshing change from the old policy of "shop in Lismore because it's cheap".

The Council's Community Engagement Policy is up for public comment (see the Council's website). Given that the Nimbin community has already had a very successful workshop on this topic it would be great if members of the community could respond to the policy. I thought the policy was lacking in detail and was assured that these issues would be covered in the Guidelines. There was a strong move not to put the guidelines out for public comment! I would have liked to see an opportunity for the community to have input on the specifics of implementation of the Policy.

My L-plates (okay, it's been less than a year) got a polish at the last Council meeting. Because of short timing, I submitted proposals from SEPAG (Sustainable Environment Policy Advisory Group) on a number of items to be incorporated into the Council's long term Strategic Plan with insufficient time for the Councillors to consider the proposals before voting to ratify the Strategic Plan. The proposal was resoundingly defeated.



by Jenny Dowell
Mayor of Lismore

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Planning Review

Pam Westing produced her report on Council's Planning processes on July 23 after presenting her 29 recommendations to Councillors and members of the community at the workshop two days earlier. The review was prompted by the concerns of the Lismore Developers Action Group and the Dunoon Community Group but was broadened to include public submissions and case studies of three building approvals that have met with considerable opposition from neighbours.

The review concluded that there was nothing fundamentally flawed about Council's processes and that the 2008 Department of Local Government's Better Practices Review's findings that Council had good policies and practices in place was upheld.

Nevertheless there were findings that there is a need for greater alignment between the land planning and building planning approvals process, better communication between Council and developers and the community and more attention to the cumulative effects of amenity issues as legitimate grounds for rejection of an application.

The full report is available from Council offices.

Land Availability

Readers may be aware that some local developers are concerned about the lack of availability of suitable land for residential development in our Local Government Area (LGA). A meeting in July highlighted the lack of land choice and the number of building blocks to ensure Lismore can sustain a healthy population growth and employment levels. Council shares much of the concern and will be

From the Mayor's desk

working with the industry to provide information to the Department of Planning that will indicate that the current restrictions on land release rather than reflecting a low growth rate are actually the cause.

Council is mindful that growth and land release need to be planned and sustainable and will be looking at all options as we prepare our new LEP and undertake an audit of land that is suitable for further residential supply.

Organisation restructure

Within 12 months of its election, Council must re-determine its organisational structure. The structure should reflect the strategic plan of our new Council that is more focused on sustainability and a more integrated approach to planning and other services. The proposal put to Council by the General Manager and Executive Directors has 10 Manager-led program areas.

Those reporting directly to GM Paul O'Sullivan are Finance, Corporate Services and Organisational Development. Garry Hemsworth, ED Infrastructure Services will be responsible for Works, Assets and Commercial Services. Brent McAllister, ED Sustainable Development will be responsible for Integrated Planning, Compliance, Information Services and Arts, Tourism and Leisure.

The Economic Development Unit will be disbanded with its current sections repositioned in the new structure. Councillors voted unanimously in support on the new structure.

Community Engagement Policy

The draft community engagement policy is now on exhibition for 28 days. From this policy, Council staff will prepare the practical guide to be used in determining how, when and where the community will be involved in the decision making processes of Council on a wide range of items such as DAs, policy development, expenditure and service delivery.

I would encourage your feedback on the policy so that we can get the level of

engagement, whether it be inform, consult, involve or collaborate, appropriate for the each task on which we need to embark.

Development

Also at the July meeting, Councillors took staff advice and rejected an application for a subdivision in Richmond Hill because the land is too steep to comply with Council's on-site sewerage management policy. With Councillor Yarnall absent, the vote was tied 5:5 and came down to my casting vote.

Fortunately the vote to approve a subdivision in Caniaba was carried 6:4 but only after another casting vote to approve an amendment requiring a koala management plan.

Casting Vote

During the July meeting evening, I exercised my casting vote five times. Council watchers often ask me how I decide my casting vote and I'm happy to explain that, after much deliberation, I do not use the 'status quo' guideline. Instead I ask myself 'What is in the best interests of the community in my role as Mayor?' Sometimes my casting vote differs from my first vote as a Councillor. I see no anomaly because my first vote is as an individual Councillor whereas my second is in my Mayoral role. While this may seem difficult to understand, I am comfortable with the decisions I make and trust that the community is too.

Nevertheless, I'm hoping that the August meeting sees our full complement of 11 Councillors again!

Trees for Koalas

At its July meeting, Council acknowledged the importance of providing suitable land

for the cultivation of trees as a source of fresh feed for koalas in care at the Koala Care Centre. The proposal to make land available near Lismore Lake posed some concerns over the possible effects of 1000 trees on the flood plain so council decided to ask staff to identify other sites including some at the entrances to the city so that visitors to Lismore can see that we care for the koala population in our urban midst.

Community Garden

There was spontaneous applause from the gallery when Council voted unanimously to endorse 400 sqm of community land on the corner of Brewster and Magellan Streets as the site of a Community Garden. The community has provided great support for this site after considerable frustration on the part of the proponents when many other places in the city were examined and discarded as unsuitable or unpopular. Congratulations to Rainbow Region Community Farm and Northern Rivers Social Development Council for their perseverance. Good things do happen.

Section 356 Grants

Section 356 of the Local Government Act provides the means by which Councils can make donations to community groups. Each year, after submissions are invited from community organisations, Councillors vote for their preferred projects. When the votes are tallied, the funding of about \$30,000 is divided among 15 groups that each receives up to \$2200.

The Nimbin Community School received the maximum of \$2200 in this year's allocation.

KIMI HANDYMAN

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Janelle's Page

by Janelle Saffin, MP

Saffin wins Minister's support for local environment and arts projects

The Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, was able to soak up the rich cultural and environmental heritage of our region during a visit to Page in July. I invited him at the request of local artist Dailan Pugh, who asked the minister to open his Marine Wonderland exhibition at the Lismore Regional Gallery.

In Dailan we have an incredibly talented person, a wonderful creative artist and dedicated conservationist who has a unique talent for combining art and environmental activism and I was keen to support his request.

Peter also visited Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare group to see first hand the rainforest rehabilitation and restoration made possible with funding under the Caring for Country program, as well as Ballina Wetland Care and representatives of Friends of the Koala.

Then at the 3 Rivers Aboriginal Art Space in Lismore, Peter announced more than \$300,000 in funding for the Northern Rivers Indigenous Arts Business Centre and a Business Manager.

This was a wonderful opportunity for Minister Garrett to be exposed to the wealth of artistic and environmental endeavours of our community.



Art Lovers (left to right): Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett AM MP, with local artists Karla Dickens, Digby Moran and Jacqui Williams, Janelle Saffin MP and Regional Arts Development Officer, Lois Randall.

Member for Page
63 Molesworth Street
Lismore
Phone 1300-301-735

Giving locals a voice on the future of managed investment schemes

There was a strong turn out at Kyogle Council Chambers on July 7 when the Chair of a Parliamentary Inquiry into agribusiness managed investments schemes, Bernie Rippoll MP, attended a roundtable discussion to hear local views on these schemes and forest plantations.

Bernie is Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services, which is inquiring into agribusiness MIS following the collapse of Timbercorp and Great Southern forest plantation companies.

Since being elected I have been approached by many people across the electorate concerned about the impact of MIS forest plantations on local farming communities and the environment.

I invited Bernie to Kyogle because I felt it was important that local people have input

into the inquiry.

The meeting was attended by farmers, environmentalists, council members, community organisations and local residents and Bernie certainly left with a clear picture of local concerns and the level of interest in the issue.

Community funding to tackle binge drinking

I encourage local community groups to apply for the latest round of Australian Government funding to tackle youth binge drinking.

The community-based grants are aimed at supporting partnerships between non-government organisations, councils, police and others to develop local solutions to address youth binge drinking.

There are grants of up to \$150,000 for individual projects over two years, or organisations can collaborate to apply for up to \$250,000 over two years for joint proposals.

Our community pays a high price for the effects of excessive alcohol consumption and the Rudd Government's \$53 million National Binge Drinking Strategy aims to build environments that shape healthier cultures and reduce youth binge drinking.

Instead of reports of alcohol-fuelled violence in our local papers it would be wonderful to see reports of a local project successfully targeting binge drinking.

Details of the criteria for the grants are available at www.health.gov.au/tenders or by calling the Health Department on 1800-209-312.

Janelle.

\$43.8 Million package to train more than 8000 Aged Care Workers

by Justine Elliot, MP

As the Minister for Ageing, I recently announced a \$43.8 million education and training package designed to up-skill more than 8,000 aged and community care staff. I made the announcement at the Ballina TAFE which will receive more than \$191,000 under this funding round.

Training organisations such as TAFE NSW in the electorates of Page and Richmond will receive more than \$850,000 to train more than 150 local workers. The \$43.8 million education and training package is a key part of the Rudd Government's investment in improving quality of care through the development of a skilled aged and community care workforce to meet the challenges of an ageing population.

Australians now have the longest life expectancy in the English speaking world and we are responding to the challenges of our nation's ageing population. We are continuing to invest in training so that the aged and community care workforce is equipped with the right skills to provide high quality care to people in their own homes and in aged care homes.

This package brings the Rudd Government's investment in training for aged care workers to more than \$127 million, providing training for more than 21,300 aged care workers. This is a practical and commonsense measure. It is about helping people build a long-term career in aged care. We are committed to ensuring older Australians receive the best quality of care, whether they chose to remain at home or enter residential care.

The programs in the \$43.8 million education and training package are:

- Community Aged Care Workforce Development - which will equip more than 3,000 personal care workers with the skills and knowledge for home-based care of frail aged people with complex care needs.
- Better Skills for Better Care - will support more than 5,000 personal care workers in aged care homes in gaining certificate-level qualifications, such as enrolled nursing.

These training initiatives build on other programs introduced to attract and retain skilled aged care workers such as the Support for Aged Care Training, which targets smaller less viable homes in rural and remote areas.

\$168,820 Awarded To Local Businesses

I congratulate Bird Textiles, Four Stripes, Myee Carlyle and Pod Productions on receiving between them \$168,820 in funding under the Australian Government's Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) Small Business Program.

- Bird Textiles Pty Ltd Byron Bay will receive \$48,303
- Four Stripes Pty Ltd (Paper Wings) Mullumbimby - \$44,396
- Myee Carlyle Collections Byron Bay - \$29,561
- Pod Productions Pty Ltd Mullumbimby - \$46,560



Pictured with Justine is 18 year old Ballina TAFE student Meg Ahern.

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

These local companies were four of 68 Australian small businesses to be offered funding totalling \$2.6 million. Grants range up to a maximum of \$50,000. The Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) Small Business Program is providing \$25 million in grants over 10 years.

For opportunities to help your company become more innovative and competitive through the Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) Small Business Program visit AusIndustry's website at www.ausindustry.gov.au, call the hotline 13-28-46, or email the hotline at hotline@ausindustry.gov.au

Rudd Government Unit Pricing helping families save money

The Rudd Government has introduced new pricing rules for supermarkets that will help families compare prices and save on their groceries. Unit pricing displays the price of a product by a common unit of measure. For example, shoppers will be able to compare different prices of bread by checking the price per 100 grams.

Families shouldn't need a Masters Degree in Economics to make the best decision at the supermarket. The weekly shop should be simple and as cheap as possible. Unit pricing will help families compare brands and packet sizes, and reduce confusion in the grocery aisles. Large and online supermarkets will be required to display unit prices for products.

The Retail Grocery Industry (Unit Pricing) Code is now law and requires large and online supermarkets to display unit prices for all items for which a selling price is displayed, unless the item is specifically exempt. There will be a transition period and the Code will become mandatory on 1st December 2009. Smaller supermarkets can participate voluntarily, but if they decide to do so they must comply with the Code.

Justine.

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NIMBIN STREET SHUFFLE

by Unda Cuvva

POLICE TOFU VOTED BEST EVER

The Boss's community relationship building barbeque at the Station exceeded all expectations as far as consumption is concerned.

Two extra trips to the butcher were needed and the tofu was unanimously voted the best anyone had ever tasted. Only later did the veggos twig it was cooked in the boiling sausage fat. As for healing community relations, I'm not sure much has changed even if it did soften the entry for the Tower and Towcom.

The Boss will never admit defeat but the numbers are against us. These days the Stats God rules and the Force is struggling to keep 9 in uniform in this tiny one pub town. Random violence is the fear of the day and it's just not happening here enough.

They've been posting the most provocative cops they can find into the village, and still the little punks keep their cool. "Ya wan more cops in ya town, ya gotta 'av beatin's," is how one of the old school unders put it. "Ya wan beatin's, ya gotta replace the weed wid speed." Simple enough strategy and it certainly works a treat.

Trouble is, I'm sick of it. And not just me, at the Splendid Grass Fest when we split up the confiscations a row broke out between the tokers and the trippers. We all want a peaceful day at work in the end, or do we?

Many of my dumb-arsed workmates can't tell the difference between friendly and unfriendly drugs. You want a peaceful crowd, sell 'em back their weed. You want broken windows and blood, give 'em the ice and let the grog go to work.

WE CAN HEAR YOU NOW

Surely you understand why we couldn't warn the community about the Tower.



Police being grilled at the BBQ, and (right) an early protester atop the Nimbin tower.

There's nothing more difficult to handle than a bunch of naked hippies locking themselves onto a steel tower.

Imagine the television news, it'd be global. Modern Art. Naked bodies entwined in a 30 metre tower. Benny Zable on the top with his flag, grinning like a toothless lunatic. Opportunity missed stoners, it was not to be and the strategy of surprise worked perfectly for us.

By the second day, anyone approaching the base was filmed from four angles and if they climb up they can be fried with a bolt of volts anytime we like, anyway.

Reception in the Station is awesome suddenly and individual voices are already getting programmed into 'Towcom', the Towers computer deep beneath the slab. It's one thing for the bald and stoned wearing wigs as disguise, it's quite another changing your voice to fool Towcom.

INDIAN LOBOTOMY ON CALL

Once it's fully functional the Station will be able to hear anything spoken above a whisper for up to one kilometre, in any direction.

Towcom automatically deletes any background music or machinery noise, and then goes into search mode for a recognisable voice. There's still a bit of trouble isolating voices but if people would only stop interrupting each other it would work

a treat, or so I hear. The nightvision cameras on the tower are all satellite controlled, somehow, but no matter how tall it is they can't see through walls, so I'll still have a job.

What I do know is, if I talk into my watchband some dude in Canberra is there immediately. He might have an Indian accent but I made him describe the view out the window, it was the Capital all right. He's the one who told me about the psychotropicmister installed atop the Tower. Apparently in an emergency, a very fine and barely detectable 'dumbout' mist can be sprayed from the tower, largactyl-based stuff that reduces everyone to a shuffle in a few minutes. In case the village ever riots, Krishna said.

EIFFEL TOWER CONNECTION

The Tower has been a dream of the Boss for years and the French Car Rally Mob (FCRM) were easy for him to prise the dollars out of. They seem to think Nimbin is a festering pulse of protest plotting. "They never stop digging plots around Nimbin", got confused in the translation.

Mind you, the stoned ideas pouring out of some recordings we have to sort through have meant there's a list of over 350 threatening ideas we are following up. Mostly they turn out to be

loony ramblings and nothing more, but how do we know if people are serious or not.

Were they joking when they said suicide bongers dressed as koalas would be dropping out of trees onto the cars as they raced past? Have they really developed remote controlled lookalike bats?

SWANS STAR JOINS THE FORCE

Barry Hall joining the local uniforms here in Nimbin has bolstered morale no end for us Unders. Across the state, resignations are outnumbering new arrivals and everyone wanted Barry in their team, but we got him for our mission to free the town of weed. Largely because the toking uco's are way ahead in the official national annual tally stats, the one that counts.

"The weedunders assisted with the confiscation of 8059.56 kilos of illegal substance," the report states. Compare that to the powder gang, or the pill brigade. Scarcely a ton between them.

So thanks to the Stats God we get eighty percent of the new intake of Unders. No one's complaining from our end, and the rest just don't get it! Anyway, where else would I find eight tons to pick through?

Fortunately I'm still assigned to Cullen Street and specifically the bushweed work. The Bosses are keen to get rid of the competition and excited as hell over the big rains that already made it a smaller than usual crop for the hippies. By Christmas, bush will be as scarce as a tasty nectarine. Having Big Bad Barry nearby, and Krishna in the watchband to call him, is something else though, I almost feel safe out in the wilds of Cullen Street now.

Perhaps the Boss is right, we can win. Trouble is, I have to admit I'm hooked on the good bush weed now myself and that, more than anything, is keeping me at the job.



ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Draft Community Engagement Policy

Lismore City Council is calling for public input into the final stages of its draft Community Engagement Policy.

The engagement policy is an important Council document that sets the scope, framework and principles to guide the implementation of community engagement activities with the Lismore community over the coming years.

The policy follows the principles of the IAP2 Public Participation model. This model provides opportunities for public input into the decision making processes across the spectrum of Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower.

Lismore City Council has received permission from the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) to qualify the description of empower in its application in the Australian local government context.

At its meeting of July 14, 2009 the Council resolved to place the document on public exhibition for a period of 28 days until August 21, 2009.

Members of the public are encouraged to inspect the draft Community Engagement Policy at the Corporate Centre, the CBD Office or on Council's website and make submissions to Council during the exhibition period.

We invite your comments in writing to The General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A, Lismore NSW 2480 or via email council@lismore.nsw.gov.au.

For any further information about this policy, please contact Council's Communications Coordinator, phone: 1300 87 83 87.



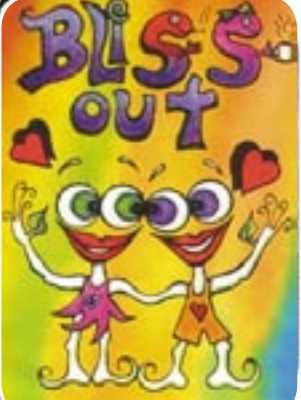


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