

## Expensive scrap

There was a meeting on 16th November at the Nimbin School of Arts Hall, at which the Mayor of Lismore City Council, Councillors, the General Manager and staff managers were present to meet the locals and report on Council services and plans for the area, and to take questions from members of the public.

One of the reports covered the removal of the steel skate park ramps, and funding for a similar structure in concrete on the same level as the kids' playground in Peace Park.

It turns out that this project has cost more than \$300,000 of public money. Funding for the new skate ramps from the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program will add \$499,000. The removal of the steel, and restoration of the old site could cost up to \$150,000. The final cost of a skate park for the youth of Nimbin could be \$900,000.

When questioned from the floor about the obvious misuse of public funds on this project, Council acknowledged the costs of the project, but did not want to discuss planning history between it and the Nimbin Community Development Association (NCDA) committee and its skate park sub-committee. They obviously wanted to move on and avoid any further angst.

Regardless of that attitude, there are plenty of people around Nimbin who would like to know exactly how these funds were turned into scrap.

This project was initiated by a committee of NCDA, with funds for youth sporting activities. A skate ramp plan was chosen, so a skate park sub-committee was formed, made up of several members of the NCDA executive and youth representatives keen to get the project up and running.

I understand that a small concrete set of ramps was planned at one end of the original basketball court, and a development application was presented and approved by Council. What happened from then on is hard to fathom.

Without consulting Council, this project suddenly went from a small,

almost soundless ramp to a steel monster drum, with maintenance and noise issues, covering the whole full-sized basketball court, next to a residential house.

Who supplied the engineering plans? Who made the decision to radically alter the project? Where are the records of the minutes of the vote a decision of this importance would have required? Did the Council turn a blind eye?

It is worth noting that neighbours of this project were ignored by this supposed community-embracing organisation, until residents formed a group to oppose it.

When \$300,000 arrives in a small community to support male youth activities, it's like gold being delivered in a big pot. This pot of gold was magically turned into scrap metal: why and by whom?

Imagine what other community organisations could have done with this funding. For instance, the Headers Sports Club, which caters to a much wider youth profile than the NCCI/NCDA. A club house? A new driveway? At least! At last!

The NCDA members on the skate park sub-committee at the time, should come clean on how they managed to bring this project to its knees. They should also apologise for misleading the youth of Nimbin, many of whom put much hard work and time into the project. Thankfully, the new skate park funding will be in the hands of the owner of Peace Park, the Council.

Mal Rothwell  
Nimbin  
(Edited for length)

## Hall hire

A series of recent private function/youth parties at Nimbin Hall have left a trail of damage and violence both in the hall and on Nimbin's main street, and the management committee has determined that enough is enough.

Three consecutive 21st birthday parties have resulted in broken windows, smashed locks, doors, cupboards and hinges, fist and boots through walls, and fire extinguishers being let off; together with broken windows and other

vandalism to shops and businesses in Nimbin.

Moreover, families hiring the hall have been left to foot the bill for repairs, while the management has spent hundreds of dollars replacing windows and other repairs.

More disturbing is the violence that has been generated from these parties. At the most recent function the parent who had hired the hall was assaulted by five youths resulting in two broken ribs and a fire extinguisher being let off in his face. While a 21st party last year led to a visitor being knifed in front of the hall.

The School of Arts management committee has determined that future youth functions at the hall will require:

1. Professional security staff on duty until the end of the function
2. At least 2 weeks notice of the planned hall hire
3. Management committee approval
4. Notification and liaison with local police.

The committee recommends that families planning such youth functions should consider holding these events at private residences removed from the problems that Nimbin seems to attract to large-scale youth parties in the hall.

NSA Management  
Committee

## Sea Levels

I find it sad and ironic that letters are still appearing in our local newspapers that deny any evidence of sea level rise, global warming or climate change.

During November, Ballina hosted the 18th NSW Coastal Conference with over 250 delegates from around the state including university

professors, local government representatives, engineers, government department employees, etc.

Every single presenter at this top-level scientific conference was of the opinion that the sea level has unquestionably been rising, that it is currently rising faster than previously, and that it is projected to rise even faster by mid-century.

Yet the amazing thing is that both Ballina Council and the NSW Government are continuing to approve new developments that will experience either tidal inundation or regular flood events.

All three of the keynote speakers were university professors and each of them mentioned both Byron and Ballina as being at "significant risk". It wasn't a matter of "if", but simply of "when".

The social and economic implications for our community are going to be massive. This is not the time for denialism or even complacency. It's the time for bold, decisive, strategic action and true leadership on the part of those responsible for the North Coast's future.

Cr Jeff Johnson  
Lennox Head

## Australia's CPRS

It is fascinating to hear all the argument about the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme having to pass to facilitate a global agreement; it is actually going to undermine a global agreement.

Minister Wong cannot get away with trying to suggest that the targets Australia has on the table are ambitious and credible. They are not ambitious and they are nowhere near what the science requires. It requires a 40 per cent cut from

developed countries and an aim to get on a trajectory of 350 parts per million. What we have got is nowhere near that, so her targets are not ambitious. Are they credible? No, they are not credible. They are not scientifically credible, and they are not economically credible if she is claiming that they are in any way going to transform the Australian economy.

This \$7.3 billion "compensation" to the coal fired power generators is really the Achilles' heel for the government. They can go out there and say, 'We are taking action on climate change,' but when asked, 'How is that?', they will have to say, 'We are giving compensation to the coal-fired power industry and keeping them operating out to 2020.' It is \$7.3 billion to keep on polluting.

So those who are saying, 'Just pass this and we will improve it,' should think again. You cannot improve it. You are locking in \$7.3 billion for nothing. It is nothing for householders and, worse still, it is locking in failure by guaranteeing that these coal-fired polluters will keep on polluting out until 2020 and beyond.

Australia is acting as a fall guy for the United States in these negotiations to dump the Kyoto protocol altogether: to not ask for a new commitment period for the Kyoto protocol but instead come up with a new treaty which will have no enforcement and compliance mechanisms at all. Australia by its actions is undermining the very treaty that the world needs to reduce climate change and to slow down the impacts that we are already suffering.

Andy Gough  
Larnook

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## Events

### Blue Knob RFS

Blue Knob Rural Fire Service Open Day, Saturday 5th December. All welcome.

### Xmas Carols

Carols by Candle [Glow Stick] Light will be on Wednesday 9th December at Nimbin Central School, with food from 6:30pm and singing from dusk. Headliners will be Williamina Bowers and Paul McGeown with a cast of thousands, for free.

### Tunable Folk Café

Afternoon Irish session followed by dinner, singing and music with Mookie and friends on Friday 11th December from 4pm at Tuntable shop.

### Byron Arts Classic

Entries are open for the Byron Arts Classic to be held at Byron Community Centre in January. For entry form and info, email artsclassic@byroncentre.con.au or phone 6685-6807.

## About us

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

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

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# Simon says...



by Simon Clough  
Lismore City Councillor

A year is a long time in politics, even at the local government level. So it was good to be back at the Nimbin School of Arts for the annual 'community forum'. The forum was smaller and less 'dynamic' than last year. In fact one of Nimbin's local identities thanked Council for its efforts during the year. In the list of achievements was the Blakebrook bridge, lighting (solar) in part of the car park, the improved condition of the Nimbin Lismore Road, removal of the Police communications tower and not least the extensive work on the sk8 park. One Council wag was heard to comment that 'chemtrails' weren't mentioned this year which probably means we can claim credit for removing them too!

It was pointed out that Nimbin needs a more structured way of relating to Council especially after the community invested a significant amount of time and energy in developing ideas on community engagement. The other issue that generated lively discussion was Council's decision to investigate the sale or lease of the Nimbin caravan park. Currently the park is losing a considerable amount of money and there are important projects requiring funds in the village eg maintenance and upkeep of the pool and the need to improve toilet and change room facilities. I'm only in favour of sale or lease if it remains as a caravan park with long term accommodation.

Council has a couple of Christmas specials for the Nimbin community in the form of new concrete bridges. Both the bridges on the Blue Knob Road are to be replaced before the end of June 2010 at a cost of \$2.7m. Funding is shared between Council and the Roads and Traffic Authority.

I think it was Confucius that said beware of any occupation that involves the purchase of new clothes. This thought

was foremost in my mind as I bought my first suit in over 30 years at Lifeline. For those of you interested, it's a light pure wool Yves Saint Laurent (YSL) with hand stitched lapels, made in Australia – great if you don't mind wearing dead people's clothes.

Council has almost completed a complete review of its budget for next year. This has been a very arduous process and looks like netting us \$580,000. A similar process last year resulted in the savings disappearing very quickly in unexpected superannuation payments.

The main focus of the Councillors at the moment is the possibility of a rate increase though a special rate variation. It is proposed to raise \$500,000 for roads, \$200,000 for environmental projects and in two years time \$500,000 for the Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC). The MOAC is particularly attractive because of the possibility of \$4m from the Federal Government's stimulus funding. There are very strong arguments that a MOAC is needed to progress our creative arts industry and assist our declining CBD. However it is also clear that Lismore rates are significantly higher than any of the surrounding Councils' and that nearly 11% of our rate revenue remains uncollected, presumably because of financial hardship. In the wake of the 'GFC' Council has lost significant funds through its investments. Additionally it's not clear how much the new Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre is costing to run. So you can see there are many issues here that are keeping me awake at night.

I'm very much looking forward to the construction and opening of the new sk8 park next year. I might even have to do something on it involving wheels myself! Trish has just pointed out that I've got the wrong type of bike for a skate park, perhaps I need a third bike....

This is my last column for the year and I would like to thank Sue and Bob for their amazing commitment to *The GoodTimes*. I would like to wish you all a safe and joyous festive season.

You can contact me anytime on 66242894 (my mobile is cactus at the moment) or [simonclough@internode.on.net](mailto:simonclough@internode.on.net)



by Jenny Dowell  
Mayor of Lismore

[Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

Where has the year gone? Here I am writing my last column for 2009 and preparing for the final few weeks of Council business before we take a break and commence a brand new year. The timing of NGT publications usually means I am looking back on the previous month and only have a little insight into what the new month will bring.

November meeting was full of drama and not a little comedy. Councillors wrestled over a recommendation about the costs of passes into the Memorial Baths and I made a procedural error in ruling on a motion before adequate debate. It was not Council's finest hour and we all need to 'apply ourselves' in school teacher parlance.

### SkatePark

Council has lodged its application to build a new concrete skatepark in Peace Park with the \$449,000 of Federal stimulus funds. Discussions between LCC and NCCI sorted out the remaining issues to allow the application to proceed and now we await its approval. The steel skatepark's future is in the hands of NCCI but we have agreed not to require the removal of the structure until the new one has been approved and work has commenced.

### Caravan Park and Pool

At our November meeting, Councillors considered a report on budget and community benefit of the Nimbin Caravan Park

# From the Mayor's desk

and Pool. Both involve a cost to Council and there are some arguments as to whether the provision of a caravan park is Council core business. Notwithstanding our concern for the future of low cost permanent accommodation, Council will proceed with an expression of interest process for the sale or lease of the facility before any decision is made.

Council recognises the value of the Nimbin pool in promoting healthy activity and in providing a cool spot in the heat of summer. The pool is free and has no lifeguards- quite a novelty in this day and age. The pool's filtration and pumping equipment and the facilities require some upgrade. Councillors made it clear that if the caravan park is sold or leased, any income will be used to address the needs of the pool.

### Nimbin Community Forum

On an incredibly hot night, it was very pleasing to have about 50 people in the School of Arts on November 16. As usual, Nimbin residents spoke their minds on a wide variety of topics from the skatepark, Allsop Park BBQ, community safety, lighting, drains, speed limits, caravan park and pool and many other topics. Six Councillors attended and, as usual, we all left with a better understanding of the things that are important to the locals.

### High Street Housing

The major planning instrument of any Council is its Local Environmental plan (LEP) For some time, Lismore has been preparing its new draft LEP for submission to the Minister seeking permission for its exhibition. In the November meeting, Council unanimously agreed to include 13 High St, Nimbin for rezoning as Large Lot Residential subject to the owner signing a planning agreement that addressed vegetation rehabilitation and

road works. The proposal would allow for subdivision to create four rural housing lots. When advertised, the community will be engaged on the Draft LEP and all its inclusions.

### Dreaming Festival

Council also approved a \$100 donation from the Mayor's Discretionary Fund for Nimbin's Dreaming Festival to assist in the supply of food for the community meals. This donation follows an earlier Council donation of \$400 towards costs for the successful festival.

### Workshops and meetings

Council closes on December 23 for two weeks and most Councillors also take the time for some rest and relaxation. Our last Council meeting for the year is at 6 pm on **Tuesday December 8** at Chambers in Oliver Avenue Goonellabah. At that meeting there will be discussion on several important issues such as the Olley and a proposal for a special rates variation application.

### Olley

As readers may be aware, there is hot debate in the Council Chamber and in the community as to whether Council should apply for the latest round of competitive Federal grants to build a new regional art gallery. Applications seeking a minimum of \$1 million for works that are ready to commence, close on January 15.

Lismore's current regional art gallery was condemned in 1953. It is clearly inadequate and has been described as possibly the worst regional gallery in NSW.

We have an opportunity now to apply for \$4 million from the Federal Government. This together with \$1 million from southern Cross University and \$3 million of our own money will deliver an \$8 million Olley Arts Centre

on the old high school site off Keen St.

Some Councillors are keen to take advantage of this opportunity for \$5 million of external funds however it will mean loan repayments of \$350,000 pa and Council will need to curtail some areas of discretionary spending. Opponents point to our infrastructure needs, particularly roads and sewerage. Council will decide on December 8. If you have an opinion, I'd love to hear from you.

### Special Rates Variation

Also at the December meeting, Council will decide whether to embark on the six month process towards seeking permission for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) from the Minister for Local Government. The options before Council are for extra rates for our roads construction and for environmental policy development and implementation that would include a biodiversity strategy. There is also a separate proposal for an increase in the rate paid by businesses.

Any SRV application must demonstrate a clear link with the community strategic plan and a strong community consultation process. The needs of the Council in providing for the things the community wants and needs are considered alongside the financial impact of higher rates on ratepayers. If the community tells us they are opposed, the SRV will be withdrawn or rejected by the Minister.

### Happy Christmas

I sincerely trust that all NGT readers have a relaxing and joyous Christmas and holiday period with family, friends and your community. I also hope that 2010 commences with hope and optimism for a great year of working together to make Lismore, Nimbin, our villages and rural areas and indeed the whole planet a healthier and happier place for all who share it.



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# Janelle's Page



by Janelle Saffin, MP

The apology to the Forgotten Australians in the last session of Parliament for the year was an incredibly moving event.

The apology was something that forgotten Australians and child migrants had long asked for and I was pleased to be able to support four local people in getting to Canberra to hear the apology from the Prime Minister.

I know the apology brought up a lot of emotions for people, and some were ambivalent about attending and others said they didn't want an apology without compensation.

The fact is, the apology is a good start.

Everyone's experience of institutional care is different but you have to ask, how can a young child not be damaged in some way by being in an institution where there was no love, no nurturing, no caring.

There were many heart-breaking stories told on the day; stories of waiting for someone to come and rescue them, and stories of deprivation, neglect and abuse.

Growing up without that trust and nurturing, it must be incredibly difficult to find your place in society, to feel included, and go on to try to have relationships and be a parent.

I've had many discussions with a local group of

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

forgotten Australians about compensation and one idea is that there be a gold card to entitle them to access to counselling and health services they need.

The apology was long overdue, but it was wonderful to see these people finally be believed and acknowledged for what they had suffered.

### A new approach to disability

The Productivity Commission is to investigate new approaches for funding and delivering long-term essential care and support for people with severe or profound disabilities.

One of the options the Productivity Commission will be considering is whether a no-fault social insurance approach to disability is appropriate in Australia.

This is an option I personally favour as I have seen it work for people who are catastrophically injured in traffic or industrial accidents.

Disability groups have long argued that a long-term care and support scheme would provide certainty for people with disabilities and their families.

The Inquiry will begin early in 2010 and there will be opportunities for local people

Tina Coutts was one of a group of Forgotten Australians Janelle helped to travel to Canberra for the Apology on November 16.

with disability, their carers and families to have input.

### Taking action against torture and the death penalty

I welcome the legislation introduced by the Attorney-General Robert McClelland in November to strengthen Australia's position against torture and the death penalty.

The Legislation Amendment (Torture Prohibition and Death Penalty Abolition) Bill 2009 implements a specific Commonwealth offence of torture into the Commonwealth Criminal Code. The Bill also amends the Commonwealth Death Penalty Abolition Act 1973 to ensure the death penalty cannot be reintroduced anywhere in Australia in the future.

The purpose of these amendments is to ensure that Australia complies fully with its international obligations to combat torture and to demonstrate our commitment to the worldwide movement for the abolition of the death penalty.

*And I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy holiday season.*

Janelle.

# Rudd Government delivers more computers to Nimbin Central School

by Justine Elliot, MP

Nimbin Central School received 13 new computers under the Rudd Government's \$2.1 billion National Secondary School Computer Fund. This was a great result for Nimbin and the other five successful schools in the Richmond electorate.

The National Secondary School Computer Fund is a key component of the Digital Education Revolution initiative - a \$2.2 billion investment over six years.

This investment by the Rudd Government is a vital step towards creating a world class education system for Australia. This will enable every student in the Richmond electorate in years 9 through to 12 to be able to incorporate information technology into their education.

All secondary schools in Australia have been given the opportunity to apply for funding to bring them to a 1:2 computer-to-student ratio, including funding for ongoing costs. Future funding to enable schools to reach a 1:1 ratio will be provided through a national partnership agreement with state and territory education departments. Funding agreements have also been established with Catholic and independent education authorities to meet this objective.

Almost 2,700 secondary schools across Australia have now been approved for funding to purchase almost 290,000 new computers through the first, second and supplementary (2.1) rounds of this initiative. Further information about the National Secondary School Computer Fund can be found at: [www.digitaleducationrevolution.gov.au](http://www.digitaleducationrevolution.gov.au)

### Supporting and building a stronger economy

The Rudd Government took decisive action to cushion Australians from the worst impacts of the global financial downturn. Our Nation



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

and employers. For more information visit: [www.keepaustraliaworking.gov.au](http://www.keepaustraliaworking.gov.au); and

- An increase to the pension for the more than 27,300 pensioners in the electorate of Richmond.

### Christmas Message

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the families of Richmond a safe and happy Christmas. Christmas is a time when families, friends, neighbours and communities get together to celebrate the festive season.

I want to recognise and thank the individuals and charities who do so much to bring Christmas cheer and care to those in need.

I'd also like to thank the people of Richmond for giving me the honour of serving you in Federal Parliament this year.

We've delivered federal funding in the areas of health, education, aged care, community services and the arts. We have fought hard on the issues that are important to us like climate change. I look forward to catching up with you in 2010. My husband Craig and I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

And if you ever need help with any Federal Government matters, please call my office on 1300-720-675.

Justine.

Building Economic Stimulus Plan has helped support jobs and small business today by investing in the infrastructure Australia needs for tomorrow.

Over \$145 million dollars has been invested in the electorate of Richmond for projects that will help create or retain jobs and training opportunities for local workers.

In addition we have also provided:

- Nimbin Health and Welfare Association with \$3,415 funding through the National Respite for Carers Program;
- A \$100 million down payment for the Apprentice Kickstart package to help young people find a job in the traditional trades;
- A new Keep Australia Working information service for job seekers

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by Undacuvva

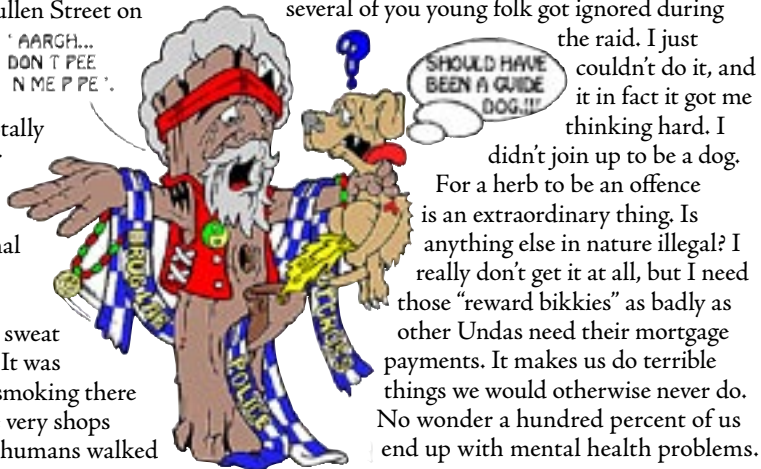
Unda is clearly faltering.... ed.

**M**y life as a dog. A weed sniffing dog. The schoolies on the streets of Byron are one thing, Nimbin is quite another. Totally different smells.

In my many incarnations as a human Unda I've had to hang out with some rank crowds but the streetsweat of Nimbin takes a lot of beating. On that steamy Thursday they decided to go in, it was as good as it gets. It was like a dream.

I floated through Cullen Street on currents of cannabis sweat. There was a slight breeze and it was everywhere. Totally confusing for a sniffer who maybe picks up one whiff of hashish at Sydney International a week, here I was swamped.

The pot in the body sweat flooded the footpath. It was like people had been smoking there since time began. The very shops were soaked in it and humans walked



by like they were swimming in a sea of wafting seaweed, but it was another weed.

There was a bigger problem. The hippies are so gullible, I felt sick for my old mates. We've been smoking cones together for years, how could I sit down next to them?

The strategy was simple. Take the dog everywhere but the Museum in the morning and tell them you are giving them a break today. After lunch, zoom straight in there and some fools are sure to have been sucked in. Sure enough, a 45 gram ball of hash, hidden in the cave. It was like catching mice in a grainery.

The rest of the time I had to stop myself sitting next to stoners. Everyone in Nimbin smells of weed to a dog, some just more than others. Finally I hit the jackpot which is what earned us the scotch - more than a kilo of cookies. Maybe the cookies were made with weed, maybe not, but it took the day's take up from 73 grams to 1,497. Now you tell me, which figure sounds best in that plum voice on the ABC news in the morning, and on the endless "funding justification reports"?

We won't even bother to test the cookies for weed. Come to think of it, didn't they get eaten at the party? With the bottles of scotch from the Boss, the hash made for a great night and a welcoming initiation for the new Sergeant. We wet ourselves laughing at the street camera footage, making new selections for Best Home Videos.

I spend a lot of my life in a cage, making it impossible hard for me to lock people up or even contribute to such a thing. And that's why several of you young folk got ignored during the raid. I just couldn't do it, and it in fact it got me thinking hard. I didn't join up to be a dog. For a herb to be an offence is an extraordinary thing. Is anything else in nature illegal? I really don't get it at all, but I need those "reward bikkies" as badly as other Undas need their mortgage payments. It makes us do terrible things we would otherwise never do. No wonder a hundred percent of us end up with mental health problems.

## Have Breakfast with the Nimbin Justice Action Group

Five BBQ's over five Saturdays through Summer.

Secretary of Lismore and External Undergraduates Student Union (LEXUS), Jim Moylan is a law student at SCU who has had a long association with Nimbin. He first hitchhiked here from Sydney as a 13-year old and spent a couple of years "homeless" in the area as a teen.

"When I wasn't sleeping behind the big camphor laurel tree in the park I was out at Tuntable on a verandah or at the Bush Theatre," says Jim wistfully.

"I just so couldn't get my act together as a kid and if the Justice Action Group (JAG) can help some of the local kids better manage these formative years, it is the least I can do. Nimbin saved me in those years. This society needs safe bolt holes."

The first JAG breakfast BBQ was well attended and Jim's speech well received. The "Police Surveillance Log" will be kept in the cafe in the Museum and everyone is welcome to write their experiences with police down while they are fresh in their mind. Of course you can be anonymous if you wish.

Lexus Union of students at SCU is compiling a report on the policing of Nimbin to forward to the New South Wales Council of Civil Liberties 'Police Overview' Branch.

JAG will be holding further BBQs over the summer as listed below, and everyone should feel welcome. The Nimbin JAG is all about becoming legally organised citizens of a close-knit community, says Jim.

Many people it seems agree with him about police priorities, and that police Groundhog Day raids on Nimbin are a waste of public resources with disastrous consequences for the young people who get caught in the net ending up with criminal records impacting seriously on their future employment.



Jim Moylan launches the Police Watch Project at the first BBQ Breakfast.

### Programme

This series of five Saturday Morning BBQ breakfasts, held at 11am in Mingle Park behind the museum,

They are presented by the Friends of the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, the LEXUS Union of Students of Southern Cross University, FULegal, and Halliburton.

Topics covered are as follows:

- 1. 28th November:** Pushback means Getting Organized - The Launch of the Nimbin Police Watch Project.
- 2. 19th December:** Police Wrangling - Why you shouldn't hump a copper's leg in public (don't talk to the coppers)
- 3. 2nd January:** Surviving a visit to the Cop Shop in Good Legal Health - Arrest and interview strategies (don't sign a statement)
- 4. 16th January:** NSW Laws: Drugs Misuse, LEPR and Summary Offences - Learn exactly how you might be legally shafted (how fast, how deep, and how far to bend over)
- 5. 30th January:** The Ongoing Community Resistance. You have friends and broad support across the North Coast (much more than the coppers)

## H\*E\*M\*P Bar now features nutritious hemp cuisine

These days an entirely new aroma comes wafting out of the front door of the H\*E\*M\*P Bar when you walk past. It's the smell of 100% LEGAL hemp seed cooking. A massive amount of work 'behind the scenes' has been done by some very dedicated activists over the last months to prepare a menu of hemp food items for the culinary delight of both locals and tourists.

Instead of copious amounts of pot smoking 'for political reasons', the H\*E\*M\*P Bar is 'demonstrating' a wide range of hemp food stuffs; spring rolls, cakes and cookies, Inner Space balls and chocolate hemp truffles. We've got burgers and muffins, and occasionally we have hemp



pizza, hemp quiche and even rainbow colored hemp jelly!

"It's the start of a cannabis catering revolution, that's for sure," said Max Stone. "Everyone who has sampled our hemp-foods has commented about how wonderful it all tastes and how there should be more of it. Hempseed foods contain the elusive and vitally important 3 omegas in perfect balance. Everyone is chasing them in fish oil, which we

know is amongst the most polluted food stocks on the planet.

"Hempseed has omegas bound up more efficiently plus its protein level is second only to soya beans. This IS the food for the 21st Century. Hempseed was recently declared the number one weapon in America's fight against obesity," he said.

The beverage department has also been radically upgraded and expanded

with every type of coffee you can think of. There is a huge range of herbal teas and chai, and for summer, iced tea and Chantico's famous cordial (eight homemade flavours). Thanks to the Zig and her crew of baristas, the H\*E\*M\*P Bar's reputation as a coffee house is getting right up there with the best in town. It's certainly more cost effective than everywhere else, only \$2.50, which means that donating to the H\*E\*M\*P cause has never been as rewarding or as delicious.

The H\*E\*M\*P Bar web cam has long been an internet institution and it is back on line and uploading pictures from 9am until whenever we close, which has been after 9pm most nights. As before,

we offer wireless access, you can use one of our laptops or bring your own.

Also known as the H\*E\*M\*P Party Bar, we are still signing up new members every week as we inch ever closer towards re-registration.

Many H\*E\*M\*P Party members will have received a MUST REPLY letter recently from us. We are trying to verify how reliable our list is for the final submission to the electoral commission of 500 members.

# Nimbin Fashion – Going Green is the new Black

by Pampussycat Bourne

The 7th Nimbin Fashion Show delivered all it promised, and surprised the enthusiastic audience with another outstanding presentation of high quality clothing.

Inspired by the ongoing eco-debate, most collections of the 20 local designers shown, embraced the idea of 'going green' and came up with very unique ways of reducing our carbon foot print', using recycled materials, organic and natural fabrics and everything made in the local area.



## The designers

**Sylvia Nagy**, self confessed frockaholic, whose range of redesigned formalwear using satins, taffeta and lace, included gothic wedding wear for bride and groom, and antique lace for the mother of the bride. 6621-8692

Richmond River year 11 designers **Demi, Lauren, Sorrell, Cielle, Harlea and Cyan** presented soft cottons and strappy satins in shorts and formal wear in their fun Spring collection.

**Bija** gave us elegant and stylish outfits, feminine but



practical. Using Australian made bamboo fabrics, combined with recycled materials. Her outfits are available exclusively at the Mimi Tree, Star Court Arcade Lismore.

**Corinne Isabel** was inspired by the inherent order of chaos found in nature. Silk robes with big angel sleeves colored with original artwork by her mother Heidi. Corrine incorporates felts and fun fur, scarf's and bows. [www.corinneisabel.com](http://www.corinneisabel.com)

**Myfanwy Stirling** produces original one-off pieces of felted fashion. Her pieces were revealed as accessories over white suits. Belts, vests, hats hand felted many with the striking contrast of pure silk thread work. Check out [www.von-we.com](http://www.von-we.com)



**Judy Who** designs reek of adventure. Wild but feminine, Judy sends my mind spinning to a bygone era of Vikings or Robin Hood. Leggy and sexy, great for a night of dancing. [www.judywho.com.au](http://www.judywho.com.au)

**Honey** brought glo-mesh to the spotlight, the HoneyCut Collection inspired by Monte Carlo in the 20's. Flappers, fringes, knee length, these glo-mesh designs caught the light, looking slinky, almost alive, although a rather weighty material. 6688-6312

**Tara Austin** presented wonderful young designs of bodice and tutu combos, great for end of the year parties or schoolies week. Lace up, dancing shoes, stockings and top hats set off these fun creations. Available at Daizy, Cullen St Nimbin.

**Raquel's** high class clothing included flowing garments complete with cut aways, tops tastefully tied with ribbons, feminine handkerchief cut skirts, very stylish, very innovative yet practical. [raqscc@hotmail.com](mailto:raqscc@hotmail.com)

**Barbara Mills** has taking felting to new levels, using wool, silks and natural fabrics some dyed with eucalyptus leaves and rusty implements. Barbara brings a very tactile collection, the dyes give autumnal tones. She



launches her new jewellery collection which features Nimbin crystals and beads. [barbfelt@hotmail.com](mailto:barbfelt@hotmail.com)

**Mia Brennan** brought a range of wearable designs, which ranged from cotton playsuits, and funky jumpsuits, to an amazing wrap dress. From Goddess to Punk. Available at the Mimi Tree, Shop 4, Star Court Arcade, Lismore.



**Jessie McIntosh and Duncan (Punkin's)** combined efforts brought a collection of spannertastic mechanations. Outfits used Jessie's screen printing and Punkin's hand tailored designs, mesh together to make strong and stylish clothes for men. Stand out at the Auto Mechanics Xmas party this year, or make your mark at a dance party with this range. Special

Occasion wear.

**Pol** gives us his New Model Army dressed in micro pleated structures. These take the attention away from the human form, and draw the eye to the shapes created with his pleat wear. Pleats as collars, pleated tops, pleats as the neckline with a checked dress. Many of these designs are formal. 6689-0231

**Christina Chester** entices us with her latest collection "Collective memory". We travel to a distant time, evoking ancient memories with the use of natural fibers such as linen, silk, hemp, denim and cotton. Dye effects and hand painted embellishments, lurex threads and hand sewn designs all show a new definition of femininity. Accessorised with shoes from Shoe La La Lismore. This



collection is very wearable. See more at CC Designs, 39 Cullen St, Nimbin.

## Thanks

A special thanks to our dedicated group of local models, who filled the designs with vibrancy and made them come alive, also thanks to the crew for another flawless and professional presentation of the show.

Thanks to the incredible community support for the Shows, the Fashion Collective's ideas of Nimbin as an Alternative Fashion Capital can grow to the next level.

The DVD and CD with images of the Show will be available very soon in Perceptio Bookshop, Snipping Heads, Bringabong, CC-Design Shop and other retailers. For more info please contact Christina on 0427-326-790.

## 2009 Nimbin Fashion Show, The Review

by Stephen Wright

Fashion, as David Bowie once (fashionably) sang, is what makes everyone "turn to the left, turn to the right" at the same time. It's what happens, he crooned, when the goon squad comes to town. Even a cursory look at the fashion industry with its overpaid supermodels and designers at one end, with egos the size of Jupiter and ethics the size of grass ticks, and child slave labour at the other end, can see that the act of wearing clothes shouldn't have to be such a bizarre and cruel exercise.

The Nimbin Fashion Show, with its motto of recycling and reusing, with

models of all shapes and ages and sizes, is very happily something different. The only slave labour involved must have been what went on behind the scenes to produce such a well-staged event. Christina Chester did the benign dictatorship thing and put it together with a large crew of backstage support. The Saturday night gig I attended was packed out, and if you possessed a set of nines, you were dressed up to them.

Nimbin Fashion Show was very much a community event, put together by a few people with nous – which is how all community events get put together – that exhibited Nimbin in all its

diversity, both onstage and off.

A slew of more than twenty designers produced an amazing variety of work from faux art deco to apocalyptic chic, and it really worked. The models must have been changing backstage faster than Superman, because many were doing repeated shifts on the catwalk. It looked great and it made me reflect, at any rate, on what clothes are for.

A friend of mine once said, "I wear clothes, they don't wear me," and if capitalist High Fashion is the reverse of this, where the label is all, then the Nimbin Fashion Show caught the sentiment of that statement exactly.

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# SCU Honours Art Exhibition

by Andrew Speers

Adjunct Associate Professor Jan Davis opened the 2009 Honours exhibition which featured the work of eight post graduate artists and was attended by a large appreciative audience.

I spoke to four artists on the night. Mixed media, oil on canvas, bronze, porcelain and wool were some of the chosen materials.

*Dawn Thirlaway* was inspired by her recovery from cancer and featured this in her theme. Dawn employed her arts practice as a vehicle to understand and express the trauma associated with a life threatening illness, and used the healing process to explore the issues of identity, survival and voice.



*Mark Richards'* view was more primal and very eye-catching with porcelain infants delivering bullion and being blown off into emptiness. His work was attempting to build a dialogue between the struggle for survival and the disillusion he feels towards consumer capitalism.



*Katie Cross* featured a work that consisted of over 1200-11x15 cm handmade paper pages. Each page was collaged from words and paragraphs from books that spoke of her identity. During the process Katie saw her identity could not be solidified with something as fluid as ideas about self and ran counter-logical to her project.

*Cedar Henderson's* work was an inquiry into folkloric narrative structures and a sifting through cultural overlays to map the complexities of multiple voices. Nearly all of the work was on sale and those with a keen eye could no doubt have picked up a valuable prize.



## Ukitopian Art



The Images of Uki art exhibition in the Uki hall was a major part of this year's

second annual Ukitopia Festival, and a chance for artists of all styles to exhibit

and sell their work.

This year the exhibition attracted over 40 artists, including Lisa Gair, Jenny Porter, Alan & Perri Wein and Martin Proctor, and 100 works. Exhibition curator Kalia explained, "I am so impressed with the applications I received this year. It was a must see!"

25% of the proceeds of all sold work went to Ukitopia Arts Collective, a nonprofit association dedicated to supporting and promoting the creative industries in this region.

And it will all happen again next year!

## Unknown Reality

Art Manifestation of Metaphysical and Paranormal Reality

In this group showing in Lismore, three local artists question the nature of reality.

*Linden Moore*

My body of work is an exploration of the subconscious mind based somewhat on automatism. I am concerned by the concept of the artist as a shaman, channelling ideas from the subconscious mind and metaphysical realm of intangible existence.

*Emah Silberstein*

Consciously conceiving the altered mind state with the intention of connecting to the ever-present realm of spirit guides and astral existence, one ceases to feel alone. It is my intention to bridge the gap between the metaphysical and physical planes of existence through artistic expression, as the collective consciousness awakes.



*Sho Wakejima*

Most of us refer to our physical life experience as reality. We interpret our physical reality through our physical senses, but there is much more than what most of us believe there is. Everything that we perceive is vibration, so, the life we are living is our vibrational interpretation.

*Unknown Reality* is on show at the Goanna Bakery and Café, 171 Keen Street, Lismore, until 19th December.

## Old Black Magic at Blue Knob Hall Gallery

Are you looking for that magical gift, that spell-binding bargain?

At Blue Knob Hall Gallery's end of year exhibition *Myths and Magic* you will find a wide range of potential gifts from inexpensive jewellery to ceramics, felt works, one-off garments, silk scarves, sculptures and quality prints, as well as art works for the walls. All at fabulously reasonable prices.

The Gallery is run by local artists who have put together a collection of works to tempt the discerning – those of you who may not have unlimited pockets but know how to enjoy the unique value of an original magical creation.

The exhibition runs from 3rd December through to January 2010 and is open from Thursday to Sunday, 10am - 4pm (Closed Xmas Day to January 3rd).

The Magically Mysterious Grand Opening is 6.30pm Friday 4th December with dinner (\$15) if booked, AND the gallery is offering a wizard 15% discount on all art-works purchased at the opening.

But there is more – that



Callanish Standing Stones – Ian FitzSimons

fabulous cosmologically star-gazing Sphinx, Marlene will be offering readings of your soul if you cross her palm with gold!

The cafe offers light refreshments, and evening dinners may be arranged for a minimum of 10 persons, so come and refresh yourselves at our verandah cafe in beautiful surroundings, enjoy the exhibition, sometimes with beautiful music – a new feature is occasional Sunday lunchtime music with local violinist, Julie Metcalfe, sometimes joined by musician friends.

During the exhibition, *On the Easel*, an on-going promotion of individual members' works, will feature a beautiful large pastel



Peacock cape – Linda Clark

'Broken Sonata' by Francisco Alvarez.

Blue Knob Gallery and café is located at 719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock, NSW 2480, phone 02 6689-7449, e-mail [bkkbgallery@aapt.net.au](mailto:bkkbgallery@aapt.net.au)

Please visit our webpage at [www.blueknobgallery.com](http://www.blueknobgallery.com)

## Art Extravaganza a rare treat

Judy and Jaz Who, Belinda Roelvink and Kinney Garherity are having an Art Extravaganza from Thursday 10th December until Sunday 13th at Judy Who's studio, 44 Cullen Street, Nimbin village.

The artworks will fill five rooms, and include oil on canvas, collages, photos, pencil drawings, pen and ink drawings, and wearable art.

Opening night is Thursday 10th December from 7pm, and everyone is invited. Come dressed for an arty party!

Judy Who is a multi-talented artist excelling not only in fashion and painting but also interior and exterior design.

A costume designer from Melbourne, she was one of the first designers to open a hemp fashion shop in Byron Bay.

Judy's vivid paintings express a venus element, full of bold movement and colour.

Jude's daughter Jaz has just returned from an inspiring European trip. A multi-talented, she has won awards in Byron Bay for her art and was the face of Byron Fashion Week. Her paintings are original creative ideas with a strong narrative.

Belinda Roelvink comes from London and has been living in various parts of Australia on and off since 1988. Her extensive travels have provided much inspiration for her paintings.

Having exhibited in New York and London, Belle considers Nimbin to be a perfect place to live and paint, and uses nature and ecological issues in her colourful paintings and pencil drawings.

Kinney Garherity is an actor and model who has

worked all over the world and is now based in Byron. He has a passion for life drawing, but rarely has showings of his nude portraits, so this exhibition will be a rare treat.

"It will also be a chance for everyone to check out what I've done to the house," Judy said.



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