

Nimbin Park — in the Think Tank since 1986



by Monika Boenigk

Since my last article in January, inroads have been made into obtaining letters of support for a big Village Park from Nimbin community-groups, relevant enterprises and local Council.

It has also transpired that an attempt for exactly such a project, and amazingly, in the same location as currently envisaged, was made in 1986 by well-known Nimbin entity and long-time head of the Chamber of Industry, Eric Bazzana.

Eric contacted me recently to express his excitement over the re-birth after 24 years of this long-overdue project. He is pleased that Nimbin Valley residents are again having similar visions and aspirations for an improved Nimbin.

He also forwarded a map of the grounds (above) as it was proposed back in 1986. Council back then was hostile towards the project, so it came to nothing at the time.

The same cannot be said for the current Council. The "Parks" Division is currently preparing for a Valley-wide enquiry into Lismore Council resident's recreational needs and preferences, including parks, walk- and cycleways and any other requirements for passive recreation.

Consideration of the Nimbin Park proposal will be part of this review. While this is going to take time, I would like to see Nimbin residents move forward concurrently to try and obtain the land in question. Two community groups have indicated their willingness to take the Park Project under their auspice, and I am now looking for kindred spirits to join me in a thoughtful task force which will carry the project forward to the next level.

So, please come along to our meeting on Thursday 15th April at 6pm at Birth and Beyond. You can contact me on 6689-7490 or m.b@idl.com.au Looking forward to a healthy turn-out!



New Wall

Daniel Cooper (pictured) took 2½ weeks to build this beautiful dry stone wall at the Nimbin Community Centre, using 13 tonnes of Coraki sandstone. He can be contacted on 0428-679-880.

Exciting developments in the coffee growing industry

by Paula McDougall

Six years ago, Greg and Janice Jansen (pictured) moved from Sydney to their farm near Rocky Creek Dam at Dunoon. Greg was interested in the local coffee scene and planted 18,000 trees over 10 acres.

Herbicide and insecticide free, their Hills of Byron coffee is growing in reputation, winning three bronze medals in previous years and this year awarded a silver medal for their plunger coffee at the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show.

Greg and Janice also roast beans for smaller coffee producers in the area. Greg keeps a roast profile for each customer so that individual tastes are guaranteed.

Their Hills of Byron coffee is sold locally but mostly their customers are e-customers



from Noosa, Darwin, Brisbane, Yamba and Sydney. They are close to securing on-going orders from Fiji.

Greg and Janice are part of a new group called Australian Sub Tropical Coffee Association (ASTCA). This group is only six months old and has 40 members from Coffs Harbour to Maleny and consists of wholesalers, roasters, harvest contractors, Southern Cross University – in fact, anyone who has an interest in promoting Australian Subtropical coffee.

Many of those involved with ASTCA are not traditional farmers. Like Greg and Janice, most have professional backgrounds but have a common interest in growing and producing high standard coffee.

"Not being traditional farmers means that people are coming into the group with new ideas and open minds" says Greg. "We are pushing new and exciting ideas to produce a top quality product."

"Smaller growers as well as bigger growers are all welcome.

We're wanting to establish a quality standard for members of the ASTCA so when buyers see the logo on the packet, they know they are getting a product that is produced within certain guidelines."

"One of the new ideas the association is looking into, is how we can use all the coffee that is harvested – instead of discarding the unripe green cherries and the over-ripe raisin cherries, as in the past," says ASTCA member Jos Webber of Kahawa Estate Coffee in Booyong. "These are now being blended in with the ripe red cherries and this is giving the local coffee some interesting and exciting flavours."

This type of research will give coffee growers a higher income per yield and less wastage. Something not seen before in the Australian coffee industry.

Bush Factory Theatre story continues...

by Benny Zable

During the May 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival, the then dormant Buttery was converted into a performance space.

I performed with our then *Melbourne Metaphysic Theatre Company*, a multimedia experimental hippy version of H.G Wells' *Time Machine*.

When Bob Marsh retired as the community police officer after the Nimbin Aquarius festival, he converted the Nimbin Buttery into a pet food cannery. A few years later a group of Nimbin new settlers co-opted to become shareholders in buying the former Nimbin Buttery/cannery. Terry McGee, along with shareholders and volunteers, were instrumental in building the Bush Theatre, in which a couple of his one off musicals premiered. Notably, Paul Joseph was responsible for a great deal of the building of the theatre and Cafe. The theatre was also wired up to Bush Traks for recording live concerts, believed to be a first in Australia.

Later on, Sandy Wise bought the theatre and cafe and has managed it ever since, converting it into a regular movie house to help pay its way. Sandy had leased out the Theatre and Café to a number of groups since leaving



Nimbin. It was unfortunate that one of the leasees was from the notorious Lone Wolf biker gang who stripped the place after being evicted because of lapsing rental payments.

Now a young enthusiastic Adam Bell has leased the place and is asking the Nimbin community to help get this place fixed up and going. Anyone wishing to help out or put on a gig, get in touch with Adam Bell, email: adam@nimbincookies.com or phone 0448-419-587.

Re-opening gig

The Bush Theatre and Café will be re-opening on Saturday 17th April with the *End the Uranium Circus* benefit, starting at sunset with a smoking ceremony by Bundjalung Custodians Louis Walker and Anthony Toulbume Gordon.

The night will feature the bands Mama La La, Stipsky, Bodhi & Murray Krew and Manifest as well as performances by the burlesque Hot Flushes, Thrimpanurle Raggascormus with Circatcix trapeze artists, the Nimbin Performance Poets, Stars Fire performance and a drum circle in the Channon Chai Tent set up outside.

There will be clowns and a kids' space and yummy food from the Radical Faeries in the Bush restaurant as well as an amazing Trans Urban lightshow.

Beyond Beef

From Saturday May 22nd to June 1st I will be focusing my attention on Beyond Beef Week. On May 26th my Australia Day trespass case will be taking place in the Lismore Court.

Anyone who would like to help and/or display at Beyond Beef, the court case and actions, please email me on bennyzable@gmail.com or phone 0427-149-237.

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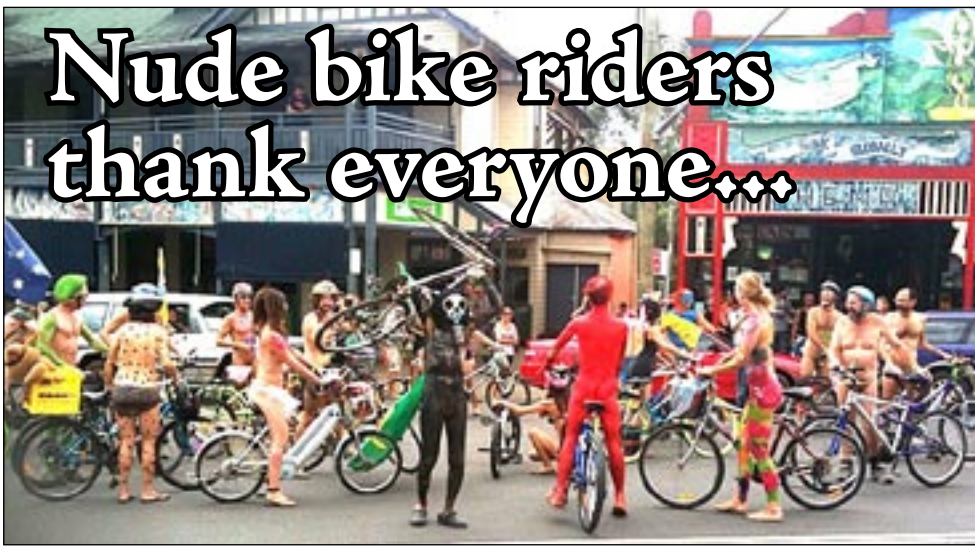
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Ph: 6689-1010 fax: 6689-1210 email: nimcand@bigpond.net.au

Nude bike riders thank everyone...



by Co Quivooy, co-co-ordinator, Nimbin World Nude Bike Ride

A big thank you to anybody and everybody who was involved with the logistics and actual Naked Bike Ride itself, in the main street of Nimbin on Saturday 6th March.

It was a fun event, and a spectacle worth watching, and conveyed a very clear message for anyone who did not know this yet:

The creatures sitting on top of the bikes, able to make them move from A to B, are actually made of flesh and blood, just like you and me!

Yes, they are human beings, very vulnerable and begging you to give them enough room so they can feel safe and be safe on the road.

Several Nimbin riders backed up to carry the message the next day at the Byron Naked Bike Ride. That's a lot of pedalling, and a lot of paint!



At last, the travelling didge

Didgeridoos are such an amazing wind instrument – able to produce such deep tones with rich timbre and unusual rhythm effects – that thousands of people worldwide have mastered the circular breathing and become proficient in playing them.

Nimbin's Sam Bernard (pictured) was one such enthusiast. While he enjoyed playing traditional didges, he was frustrated by how heavy they are, and how difficult to transport. "Have you ever tried getting on a plane with one?" he said. "It goes in the hold, you can't take it on as cabin baggage."

So Sam started designing instruments that had the same tube length, but with the tube curled up, and the Spiralidoo was born.

Sam has sourced a factory of timber craftsmen in Indonesia, skilled in the technology of carving half spirals from hardwood, which they then glue together.

The finished products weigh less than 1.4 kg and fit neatly into a handy carry bag. They can be supplied oiled, or painted and varnished, or supplied with paints to add your own design.



Different length spirals produce tones of different pitches, from C to G. They are increasingly turning up on stage in the hands of serious didge musicians.

Sam has a range of Spiralidoos available. Check the website www.spiralidoo.com, or check them out at Happy High Herbs in Nimbin.

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Members of the Gold team, carry-over champions from last year, coming to terms with their crushing defeat by the Pink team, which included Summerland Credit Union staff...

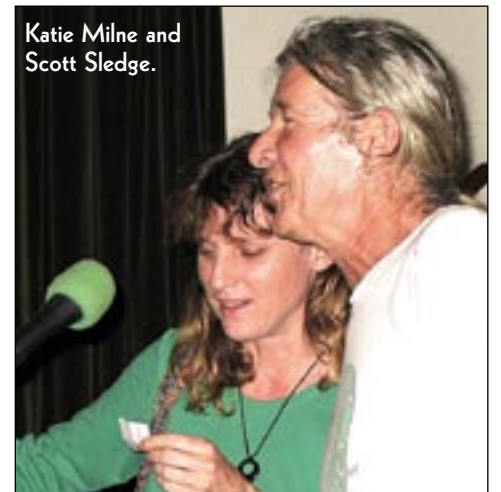
Huge support for No Rally Group

About 80 people turned out to view the climate change awareness feature film *The Age of Stupid* at the Nimbin Town Hall on 19th March.

Nimbin area residents showed their commitment to the cause of protecting the sensitive environment and unique culture of this region. Several people dug deep to donate and brought jars of coins they had saved.

Food by No Rally Group (NRG) and The Radical Faeries, sound by Richard Bell, technical services by Robyn Frances, cold drinks, raffles and an entertaining auction helped nett a profit for the event of \$2,340. The Rainforest Information Centre contributed another \$1000 to bring the total to \$3,340, a great result for the No Rally Group fundraising drive, which aims to cover legal costs for ecologists reports and the attempt to stop the Repco Rally in Federal Court.

Katie Milne, who was the plaintiff in that case and Al Oshlack, who provided legal guidance, were present, and Katie drew the raffle. A good time was had by all. Thanks especially to Rainer Glasker for organising the event.



Katie Milne and Scott Sledge.

Further fun fundraisers are being planned to establish a healthy balance in the Legal Fund for future contingencies. Check out the NRG web site: www.norallygroup.org

Donations to the Legal Fund can be made at any time by direct transfer to Acc # 1027 8397 BSB 062580 or NRG General Fund # 1027 5161. Cheques should be made out to NRG Treasurer and can be posted to PO Box 309 Murwillumbah 2484 NSW

Women's walk against uranium



On 13th March, five women aged from 37 to 69 years began walking from Brisbane to Canberra for a nuclear free and sustainable future. The women arrived in Brunswick Heads on Monday 22nd March and headed off to Byron Bay the following morning with 25 locals joining them. If you want to find out more and how to help, go to www.footprintsforpeace.net

Nimbin Central School

Nimbin Central School Captains Meet NSW Governor



On Friday March 19, Nimbin Central School Captains, Kathryn Hawken and Nikita Rogers flew to Sydney to take part in a NSW State Leadership program.

With 120 other School Captains from both the North Coast and Riverina Regions, the girls were given a tour of Parliament House, viewed the Assembly and met their local member, Thomas George. The girls particularly enjoyed the "back of house" tour Mr George gave them.

However, the highlight of the day was definitely the private tour of Government House and its beautiful grounds in the Botanical Gardens and then personally meeting the NSW Governor, Marie Bashir. She spoke to both girls about their plans for the future

and congratulated them on their leadership role.

Both Kathryn and Nikita agreed that it was a day they would never forget and felt proud and privileged to be involved and to represent Nimbin Central School in this way.

Nimbin Central School SRC induction

The Student Representative Council Members and School Captains for 2010 were inducted into their new roles at a formal assembly at Nimbin Central School on Thursday 4th March.

Attended by the entire school from Years 5 to 12 and by proud parents and caregivers, the new Captains, Kathryn Hawken and Nikita Rogers in the Secondary School and Angus Solomn in the Primary recited and accepted the SRC Oath



The newly inducted SRC representatives cut their congratulatory cake

on behalf of all the SRC members.

Their badges of office were presented by Mary Jane Pell, Principal, Marc Everingham, Primary SRC Co-ordinator and Catherine Marshall, Secondary SRC Coordinator and were later joined by parents for morning tea.

Nimbin Central School's SRC has always been extremely active and has boasted NSW State Representatives for the past two years. They have already planned for leadership activities in 2010. *Congratulations to all the SRC Representatives*

Year 6 Information Afternoon and School Visits

As part of ongoing school promotion within Nimbin and the wider community, Nimbin Central School held an information afternoon tea for prospective 2011 Year 7 students and their parents and caregivers on Monday 15th March.

Firstly the parents and then the students themselves were given an information session by the Principal Mary Jane Pell covering school policy, programs and beliefs and values, followed by a school



tour conducted by SRC students.

Opportunities for open discussion and questions were provided, with a range of queries and comments forthcoming. With a large turn-up of approximately 15 families present, all felt that it was a highly successful and positive afternoon, further opening clear communication between the school and its community. Many of those who attended are now looking forward to joining Nimbin Central next year.

To further extend knowledge about the school and its programs, Science teacher Anthony Neenan, Art teacher Cath Marshall and the Year 7 SRC representatives visited the local primary schools later in the week. The Year 5 and 6 students were treated to an exciting science experiment involving dry ice and then made a colourful fridge magnet to take home.

With the SRC Representatives helping and answering questions about

Nimbin Central and high school in general, awareness of the school and its programs, teachers and facilities was raised.

Many of the students from these schools – Tunttable Falls, Rainbow Ridge, Coffee Camp and Barkersvale – are now looking forward to high school at Nimbin Central.

All the SRC representatives involved – Luke Asi, Kalita Ward, Mahalia Jackson, Jazlyn Douglas, Ani-Rae Fry and Simone Thenet – are to be congratulated on their fine representation of the school at these events.

Young Womens Empowerment Cards Launch

Two car loads of excited girls from Nimbin Central School headed to Byron Bay Community and Cultural Centre on Thursday night, March 18, for the official launch of the Young Women's Empowerment Oracle Cards.

The girls at Nimbin had been a part of this region wide project from September last year when they began working on the Play the Cards you Choose Project. This involved the girls designing and creating artworks to be submitted for selection in the creation of a

deck of young women oracle cards. Over 100 artworks were submitted from across the region and of the 50 selected for the deck, 5 were from Nimbin.

Opal Wone's artwork was selected to represent Freedom, Mali Monahan's for In Pieces, April Hard's for Look Harder, Mahalia Jackson's for The Mother and Charlotte Colless's for Walk Away.

The cards are beautifully professionally produced and presented, their purpose being to promote the artwork of local young women and to be an empowerment tool for them.

After an enjoyable night meeting the project coordinators and the other girls from Byron Bay, Mullumbimby, Evans Head and across the whole region, the school was given a box of card sets. These will be distributed to all Nimbin Central senior girls.

Special thanks to Project Coordinator, Belle Arnold and congratulations to all the girls involved in the project.



Community farewells 'special' teacher

The Barkers Vale School community came together recently to say goodbye and thank you to Di Tissott, who had been the Support Teacher for Learning Assistance for the past 16 years.

Former and current pupils joined with parents and staff recently for an afternoon of great food, moving eulogies and many trips down memory lane. Di's previous boss, retired principal Peter Lanyon, gave the main address, speaking of a teacher with a "gift for connecting

with children". This fact was evident from the large number of children present, who mobbed Di on her arrival and presented her with dozens of hand-made farewell cards.

However, behind the smiles, some parents spoke of anger at the loss of such a well-respected teacher from the school. One parent, who spoke on condition of anonymity, as her child still attends the school, said, "When I heard that Diana had been replaced I was shocked. She's helped my child enormously.



I went to the next P&C meeting to find out why, but Mr. Thomas told us that he was the Principal, it was his decision and that basically it was none of our business. I think it's disgusting." Many other parents echoed this sentiment.

It appears that incidents such as this are on the increase as the Education Department continues with its policy of devolving power, particularly in relation to staffing and finances, down to Principals. In a similar incident at Loftus Public School, a specialist Librarian was replaced by part-time ancillary staff. Locally, Kyogle High School is to trial a pilot program giving Principals even more powers, despite

objections from over 60% of the teaching staff, who took stop-work action on 16th February to protest.

It seems that the Department of Education is determined to re-brand all Principals as Human Resource Managers, a role in which they have no training or expertise. Gary Zadkovich, Deputy President of the NSW Teachers Federation, recently said, "It is clear that DET management is content with pitting principals against teachers and generating conflict and division in school communities".

It is difficult to see how this policy will deliver any educational benefit to children. Barkers Vale certainly seems to have missed out.

Nimbin Vacation Care

Autumn 2010 Program

Dear parents/caregivers and kids,

We warmly welcome everyone to the new Easter Holiday program.

The program runs for children aged 5 – 12. Please read the dates below carefully and book to avoid disappointment.

To book phone NNIC on 6689-1692 (between 10am – 4pm). Please note that the fee is \$10 for Vacation Care.

Once again, we will be operating from Nimbin Central School. Please meet



us at the front of the MPU at 9am on excursion days.

Please pick up your child no later than 3pm from the MPU at Nimbin School.

Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

If it is too wet on MPU days we will stay at the school. Extra activities on these days will include, still-life painting, badminton, cricket, tai chi, paper craft, traditional games and a parent approved video to end each day.

Date	Program	Cost
Thursday 8th April	Excursion to Murwillumbah Cinema to see 'Alice in Wonderland' (PG) 2D, followed by lunch at Sphinx Rook Cafe and Park. There is a small creek at the park which the children will be allowed to swim in, and hot chips will be provided. April & Julian	\$14
Friday 9th April	MPU – clay tiles & egg painting, a swim and sausage sizzle at Nimbin Pool and a parent approved video to end the day. April & Kim	\$10
Wednesday 14th April	MPU – Gardening and Weaving at Nimbin Community Gardens - followed by a swim at Nimbin Pool. Please wear a hat and closed shoes. April & Aite	\$10
Thursday 15th April	Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink followed by lunch at Heritage Park. Please bring socks. April & Aite	\$14
Friday 16th April	MPU – lunch at Mulgum Creek and a visit to Nimbin Candles, followed by ice candle making at school – please bring a clean empty cardboard milk carton for this activity. April & Kim	\$10

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Jazz Club Notes



The Lismore Jazz Club will be presenting The Wizard and Oz on Thursday 15th April, 7pm at the Lismore Bowling Club. Admission is \$7 for members and \$10 for non members.

Andrew Farrell grew up in the southern suburbs of Melbourne and started piano lessons at the age of eight. He studied classical music for many years and then after hearing some boogie woogie, thought that it might be fun to play. He then set about playing every style of music that appealed to him, which gave him a wide and varied arsenal of tunes.

David McMillan spent his early years in London and Surrey, he was given a small guitar when he was four and eventually found that not only could it be used as a cricket bat, but also to make

music. He played solo guitar until he was fifteen and then some one asked if he could sing. He found that he could and then started digesting all kinds of music.

Both Andrew and David moved to the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, where they both were playing solo gigs, they met in 1986 and have been making music together ever since. They have played many of the jazz festivals, both nationally and internationally, with rave reviews and are always a crowd favourite.

They are described as enthralling, amusing and entertaining as well as providing great piano virtuosity and stunning vocals. Their style of music is incredibly diverse and delivered with panache.
www.wizardandoz.com.au

Blue Moon in March

Story and photos by Pampussycat Bourne

The Blue Moon is Nimbin's thrice yearly premier event. It is a chance for locals and visitors to glitz themselves up and dress like royalty. A chance to enjoy a night of fine food, top shelf entertainment, then hit the dance floor.

The March Blue Moon Cabaret delivered the goodies and delighting the senses. A smorgasbord of performers was served out to delighted patrons.

From the intricate piano performance by Fred Cole, through to the crazy retro renaissances of Lil Fi, to the Tuntable Falls Circus, there was something for all tastes on offer at the first Blue Moon for the year.

Lovers of folk enjoyed the sounds of Chris Aronsten and Shanto. Kavi, Zelly, Biscuit and Gerard performed a haunting original piece about the haunting of an old home. Dance came from Daughters Of Babylon and Sexy Moves Dance Studio from the Lismore area. Daniel Pearson spoke his wisdom about life in rapping verse. David Hallet later shared societal commentary also with poetry. S Sorenson and Alan Glover brought out the laughs performing their wicked and slightly warped style of comedy, having just returned from the Jackey's Forest Festival in Tasmania.

Tuntable Circus skilful use of trapeze, tumbles and lifts inspires awe, as the sleekly slide and roll seamlessly between positions. Blues/jug band Blue Skillet Rovers closed the evening, as dancers took to the ballroom floor.

Blue Moon events always sell out fast. Get in quick when tickets are announced for the next Blue Moon in September.



Alan Glover and S. Sorenson



Blue Skillet Rovers



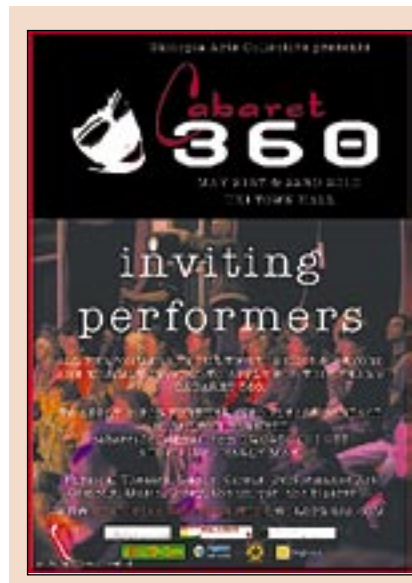
Shanto and Chris Aronsten



Lil Fi



Tuntable Circus



CABARET 360 is on again on 21st May at the Uki Hall, presenting the best of the performing arts from all over the Tweed Valley and beyond.

Featuring physical theatre, dance, circus, comedy, performance poetry, costume, music, the unique, the bizarre, last year's show was a total sell out, leaving the audience in rapture, and this year's show promises to be even better.

The show is directed by Hamilton Barnett who brings his artistic vision, professional production values and a passion to showcase the performing arts. Hamilton is particularly interested in encouraging performers to audition, assisting them to develop their acts and inviting existing professional performers to explore new territory.

If you are interested in auditioning for this year's show, please contact Hamilton: cabaret360@gmail.com. The first audition is on Tuesday 4th May, 7pm to 10pm at Uki Hall, and is strictly performers only.

The Time Warp Show

by Pampussycat Bourne

The Lismore workers Club played host again to the Time Warp Show in March.

Transylvanians from everywhere arrived in fishnets, masks, sequins and bodices.

The Time Warp Show brings a new chapter to the Rocky Horror Picture Show, as Brad reminisces and retells the story of woe that stole the innocence of himself and fiancée Janet Weiss.

The cast played with the audience and the show spilled into the crowd often.

'The Time Warp' was the encore song and costumed consumers in the crowd were asked to join the crew on stage to take that jump to the left.... But it's the pelvic thrust that really drives you insane.



Lynette from Casino, Peter from Drake, Vicki M Harvey of Lismore with Pampussycat of Nimbin.

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Phone 6689-1246

April Gigs

Thursday 1st	Blues Vein
Friday 2nd	Imandan
Saturday 3rd	Shaun Kirk
Sunday 4th	Claude Hay + P.O.V.
Thursday 8th	Bill Jacobi
Friday 9th	Jimmy Willing & Hickups
Thursday 15th	Khan Johnson
Friday 16th	Somersault
Sunday 18th	Mama LaLa 1.30pm
Thursday 22nd	Adrien Keys
Friday 23rd	CC The Cat

Mardi Grass: Fri 30th 7.30pm Mr Speaker; Sat 1st 1.30pm Aurora Jane Band, 7.30pm Tijana Cartel; Sun 2nd 1pm Blue Skillet Rovers, 6pm Durga Babies.

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- **Anzac Day service** 1pm Sunday 24th April
- **Mardi Grass Events** Saturday 1st May
 - Tattoo competition 2pm
 - Comedy Cabaret 7pm

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Honouring our Elders



Dot Holden, Ida Daley and Joy Armour in the Elders Tent at Ukitopia Festival 2009.

Uki's first Honouring our Elders Day will be held on Sunday 18th April from 9am, at Uki Town Centre. Organised by the Ukitopia Arts Collective the Honouring our Elders day will be a day for our community to honour the older generation.

"We want the elders to feel a valuable part of our community by providing them with a special day full of things just for them," Ukitopia Vice President and event organiser Sue Mckenna said.

The event was inspired by Elders Tent space at the Ukitopia Festival last November. "The feedback from the community was very positive and encouraging", Sue said.

The event will coincide with the regular Uki Buttery Bazaar markets and will have a variety of activities, including an elders sharing stories, space equipped with microphones, special healing spaces, performances, historical photos, Devonshire teas and more.

Ukitopia and Tweed Sire Council Community Transport has organised a mini bus service on the day, leaving Knox Park at 8:45 am and returning at 2:30pm. This bus will also travel from Uki Sports ground and Sweetnam Park Uki as needed on the day.

For more information contact Sue Mckenna 6679-5645.



Nimbin elders (top): Smolder celebrating his 70th and Mike Shegog turning 84.

New hairdresser on the block

Aelwen Whitaker (pictured) has joined the staff of Nimbin's busy Snipping Heads salon, having recently moved to the area from the coast.



Previously styling hair at South Golden Beach, Aelwen is relatively newly qualified, through the highly regarded full-time program at Kingscliff TAFE, and he has already won a Gold Medal in the Regional World Trade Skills competition,

involving hairdressers from 27 countries!

Before becoming a hairdresser, Aelwen did youth, community and disability work, and sees the closely knit feel of the village to be a bonus in her new situation.

"I'm loving it here," she said. "Penny and Gilly have been very supportive - it's working out really well."

Aelwen is now available on Mondays and Wednesdays. Phone for an appointment: 6689-1000.

Slim Rickens

Slim started learning guitar 50 years ago, and says he is still learning.

In the meantime he has toured extensively and recorded six albums, the latest, *Happy Trails*, to be released this month.

Catch him at the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 11th April, from 1pm.



Interested in Bridge?



2000 people playing Bridge at last year's Gold Coast Congress

by Pixie Barrett

I played competition Bridge for around 15 years until I became very ill and had to stop. I have had the odd game in the years since and it seems it is much like riding a bike, you never forget just need to hone your skills. Bridge has its own language and I hope there is enough explanation of each term.

Bridge is played with a partner and you need another pair to play.

The entire deck of cards is used ie Ace through to 2 with Aces being the highest card - no Jokers. Each suit is also rated; Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs. This means that any bid of spades will be higher than the same number in any other suit.

Trumps are used. Trumps are the suit represented by the winning (highest/last) bid. There is also 'no trumps' where the hand will be played without any trump suit declared.

Players sit at a table where you and your partner are opposite each other and you are deemed to be sitting either North/South or East/West. The cards are dealt going around the table - 13 to each player. The 'dealer' starts the bidding.

Bidding is a procedure where you declare you hand and in conjunction with your partner you can arrive at the correct 'contract'. The contract is for the total number of tricks you will win. A trick is one round of each player playing a card ie 4 cards. Bidding is done either by using a pad with pre ruled spaces for each person's bidding or bidding boxes.

North	South
1H	1S
3C (splinter)	3D (cue)
3NT (cue)	4C (cue)
4D (cue)	4H (cue)
5S (trump ask)	6S
7S	

This was an actual auction from the recent Gold Coast Congress. The East/West players passed throughout

the bidding (auction).

We see here what is referred to as 'system'. Each partnership has an agreement (system) where they agree on basic things such as bids show four or five cards in the suit, the number of 'high card points' [Ace=4, King=3, Queen=2 and Jack=1 - this is the basic with other factors taken into account such as the length of your suit et al]. A quick explanation of the above bidding is: North opened 1H which showed around 11hcp (high card points) and at least four spades; South responded 1S which shows a minimum of 6hcp and four spades; North's jump to 3C tells partner (south) that the suit is Spades and I have no more than one card in clubs (possibly none); South shows first round control in diamonds (3D) North shows first/second round control in trumps (3NT) and so on. North's 5S bid is an ask about quality of partner's spades ie trumps South's response is doesn't have two of the top three cards.

THE HAND - ie the cards the players held for this auction - the 'x' represent minor cards.

North	South
AQxxx	KJxx
KJ10xxxx	Ax
-	AKxx
x	AJ10

As you can see, the hand that opened the auction didn't have the required points but the distribution of the hand made it a very strong hand. As you progress in learning you will learn things such as 'losing trick count' which further help to assess the quality of your hand.

We are interested to know if there is interest in the Nimbin area to run a bridge club. I can run some introduction to bridge classes initially if required. The club would be based at the Bowlo.

Anyone interested in getting a Nimbin Bridge Club started please leave a message at the Nimbin Bowling Club.

FOR APPOINTMENTS
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