

## Letter of thanks

Hey Nimbin folks, I want to thank you so much for the support in raising funds for my court appeal.

For those unaware, I am involved in a solicitor uproar as legal aid make you plead guilty on the assumption that your penalty will be reduced 25%. Please hold onto your truth, don't be intimidated. I am walking the way for medical cannabis and thank you greatly from myself, my heart and my soul.

To date \$1100 was raised from our street music night and another \$180 from the Guess the Jelly Beans, which was won by Huey with only two beans less than the total beans in the jar, 267.

I am half-way there with solicitor costs and will do up an extraganza raffle, so check the Hemp Bar.

Good and great blessings,  
Sandra Nilsen  
Nimbin

## Community BBQ

Dear Nimbin  
Community Member;  
On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April, Nimbin Police are having a BBQ in the front yard of the Nimbin Police Station in Cullen Street. I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to the

## New baby



Congratulations Chilo Pike and Sarah Jakeman on the birth of Layla Kathleen Lily Pike, born 21st March 2010 weighing 7lb 5oz.

function.

The gathering is a very informal one and will be the first in a series of regular BBQ's throughout the year where you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with local Police Officers in a more relaxed atmosphere than is sometimes possible at other times.

A beef and vegetarian sausage sizzle will be provided as well as the opportunity to tour the Police Station and have a look at some police vehicles. I look forward to seeing you on the day.

Peter Bryant  
Sergeant  
Nimbin Police Station

## Announcement

The Nimbin Hotel is happy to inform the Nimbin community that we have received approval from the Lismore City Council to extend our back deck (the DA notice was posted in The Northern Star), making it just less than double its present size.

Al fresco dining is a part of the Australian lifestyle. By increasing the deck, customers and especially those with children, who choose to dine in the Hummingbird Bistro which serves consistently great food, will be able to sit away from the bar area and enjoy a quieter, more serene and natural environment.

The Hotel will continue to serve our community and its visitors in a responsible manner. The staff at the Nimbin Hotel would like to thank our loyal customers for their continued patronage and we look forward to welcoming some new faces who we hope will be encouraged to enjoy our new facility.

The Hotel will continue to create a clean and safe environment where all our community and visitors can feel welcome and comfortable.

Debbie Guest (Hotel Manager)



Bridgework underway for Southwell Bridge, Nimbin

## Health Notices

### Womens Health Services

3rd Thursday of every month, next one: 15th April at Nimbin Hospital. Appointments can be made at Nimbin Hospital on 6689-1400 or the Community Nurses 6689-1288.

### Childhood Immunisation Clinic

Held at Nimbin Hospital, birth to 5 years, 2nd Tuesday of the month. Next one: 13th April. By appointment only, ring 6620-7687.

### Garage Sale!

Old hospital forecourt, Saturday 17th April, from 9am.

## Doings

### Contemporary Folk Revival

Thursday 15th April, 7pm at Tuntale Co-op Hall. Featuring Air2, Mick Daley, Michael Fairley, Vic Florey, Mim Hanley, Hannah from Utah, Rebecca Ireland, Ewan James, Neil Pike and more. \$10 entry.

### Aquarius Fun Raiser

Saturday, 24th April, 5pm to midnight at Tuntale Co-Op Hall. \$10 entry, members and guests. Local singers & dancers, colourful visuals, 4 bands: Li Moore, N.O.O., Pagan Love Cult and rocking guest band Broadfoot. Food and drinks provided.

### Yoga Classes

Every Thursday 9.30am- 11am @ Lillifield Community Hall. Continuing through the school holidays. Classes are suitable for all levels of experience. Contact April on 6689-7539.

## Notices

### Wanted to Rent

Local resident requires new dwelling. Looking for 2 br house within 15 kms of town but anything considered. Reliable tenant with references, experienced gardener and maintenance person, part time parent. Phone 0458-229-199.

### Wanted to Rent

Mature, quiet non-smoker seeks 2-3 br house on acreage. No pets or children. Phone Janet 0438-430-109.

### To Rent

52sqm room at Nimbin Community Centre, from \$100 pw plus bond & bills. Available April/May 2010, email Expression of Interest to: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)

### Wanted: Caring Person with Car

To work with an aged person or younger person with a disability who is socially isolated. You will be doing a range of social support activities including home visiting, assistance with shopping, providing transport to social outings, and more. Must own a comprehensively insured car. All expenses will be paid and training provided. **STOP PRESS:** Person urgently required for client who lives in Larnook. For more information please call Jeannette Tyler on 6621-7397

### AGM

Annual General Meeting for Tuntale Falls Early Childhood Centre, Thursday 22nd April at 9am.

## About us

Editor: Bob Dooley

Assistant Editor: Sue Stock

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Photographers: Sue Stock, Pam Bourne, Len Martin, Deb Felton, Corey Summerton.

Distribution: Angus, Alex, Coralie, Ben, Hilary, Gabrielle & Warren (Bellingen), Dave (West End), Martin (Maleny), and Matt (Glebe).

Bookkeeper: Martha Paitson

Website: David McMinn  
[www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)

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

Next deadline:  
Wednesday 28th April

Email: [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

## Employment Opportunities

### WANTED!! Volunteer to assist with bookkeeping at NNIC.

Are you a retired accountant or bookkeeper looking to contribute something useful to your community? If so, then do we ever have the very important volunteer job for you!

- Experience in MYOB or Quickbooks essential.
- Understanding of not-for-profit organisations and government funding programs desirable.

### POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE PAID WORK AS NNIC BOOKKEEPER.

Please send your CV and expression of interest to: The Team Leader, NNIC PO Box 168 Nimbin 2480, or via email: [nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au) or drop in during our opening hours, 10am to 4pm weekdays.

### WANTED!! Casual staff for our Centrelink Agency Casual Relief Pool

Up to 22 hours per week relieving permanent Centrelink Agency staff, as may be required. MUST be available to work on short notice. Applicants MUST address the Selection Criteria available from NNIC at 71 Cullen Street, Nimbin or via email: [nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au)

NNIC is an EEO employer. ATSI applicants are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will undergo the Working with Children and relevant Police checks.

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## What we focus on grows

Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group Inc (NALGI) would like to respond to the last edition's article titled, "Irresponsible IV users bring an end to regeneration project."

The article was written by Assistant Principal Mark Everingham, but the headline was not – it focussed on the discovery of needles found lying around in a spot just behind the School of Arts Hall, alongside a tributary of Mulgum Creek. The choice of this spot was made by NALGI after many considered consultations and discussions.

ABC Radio was quick to focus on this negative aspect of our community and so this negative aspect of our project grew. This negative feedback affected another project on Mulgum Creek closer to the catchment area, the students and staff of Nimbin Central School, NALGI and the entire Nimbin community.

The project referred to is a joint initiative of NALGI and Nimbin Central School and is titled "Mulgum Creek: the Way of Water."

The idea was to focus on our local waterways in a positive way, through creating a caring, giving and restorative relationship to country, planting trees/grasses and seeing the state our waterways are in and responding. Water

was to be tested for quality and students were to express their thoughts through Art at the end of their experience. The idea was to focus on improving the situation and still is.

NALGI also manages the Nimbin Community Garden and so the project began at the Garden, following the water run-off to where it meets with Mulgum Creek proper.

Our NALGI team, who actually, physically followed the way of this water prior to the beginning of the project, encountered a mass of barbed wire fences, stinking toxic spots, evidence of RoundUp, stagnating water, a dam upstream, cows, the caravan park, mowed grass, rubbish and general neglect and disrespect, epitomised today as IV needles strewn on the ground. But which is worse?

Isn't it time for our community to focus on our nearest waterways and make them beautiful, non-toxic, clean areas where habitats are restored and young and old are safe to be? The alternative is to create further taboo areas of neglect.

Nimbin streets get swept clean and rubbish removed every day, while our waterways, a stone's throw away, are left to fester.

So let's go down to the



river to pray, to talk about those good old ways, what we are teaching our children. We asked our young people whether they liked the project and why. They were unanimous in their response. They loved it because it was outdoors in nature and because it was a "real" project. So we will continue to negotiate with the school regarding the best way forward for this project to continue.

Any members of our community who are interested in this issue are welcome to come and talk about positive action. We can be found at the Community Gardens on Fridays from 10am to 3pm. Let's focus on our waterways, especially those in the heart of Nimbin and remember that Nimbin means "home for the little people".

Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group Inc. Management Team

## The Joys of Community Gardening

by Sue Stock

Recently, I attended a town planning conference on the mid north coast where I heard about the importance of local food.

The speaker mentioned the absurd situation where a load of avocados from the North Coast had been trucked to Melbourne, back to the Brisbane market and finally ended up in Alstonville. All those food miles. What a waste. We need to grow more of our own local food. And joining in with your local community garden may be a fun and social way to do it.

In urban and village areas, there is the opportunity to grow food in a local community garden. A community garden is a green space cultivated on common land by a group of people.

Community gardens come in all shapes and sizes. They can grow flowers, veggies, fruits or trees. They can be used as sustainable food resources, or just to look pretty. They are a place for people in a community to interact who may never normally do so and provide opportunities to work with and understand other cultures.

You can learn about agriculture/permaculture/biodynamics/organics/water usage/botany/biodiversity/soil structure and chemistry/animal husbandry/carbon sequestration.

Australia's first community garden was built in Melbourne in 1977. Since then, the gardening bug has caught on, and now there are dozens of gardens in every state. Community gardens are supported by a variety of larger organisations, including the Australian Community Gardens network, Green Thumb, and in some states, even the Department of Housing.

In this area, there are community gardens in Nimbin (pictured), Lismore, Lindendale and Mullumbimby among others. Lismore's community garden is probably the newest. It is located on Brewster St in Lismore (near the corner of Magellan St), just a short walk from Lismore Square Shopping Centre. It was opened by Cr Jenny Dowell on 16th October 2009.

The Lismore Community Garden is a joint project of Rainbow Region Community Farms Inc and the Northern Rivers Social Development Council. Check out the calendar of events for April on their website at [www.rrcf.org.au/org](http://www.rrcf.org.au/org)

Why produce food in The Community?

City households spend from 10 to 40% of their income after taxes on food purchases for the home and meals outside the home.



Poorer households spend a larger percentage of their incomes on food than do more affluent households.

Food waste is a significant portion of the household, commercial and institutional waste streams. Including food packaging, food wastes make up close to a third of the total waste that ends up in many city landfills.

Many health problems are food related-whether due to inadequate or unbalanced diet, or excessive intake.

When affordable housing is in short supply in a city, poorer residents may be at greater risk of hunger. This is because they place a higher priority on rent than food, given the graver short-term consequences of rent default over reduction of food intake.

Community gardens are often more than the sum of their parts. They don't simply aim to grow plants but to educate people in organic gardening or permaculture, build local community connections, teach children about the environment and supply fresh food.

So get involved at your local community garden.

## Gungas Road River Catchment Management

I am a resident of Gungas Road, Nimbin, one of two women working passionately on a River Catchment Management funded project on the end 1.6 km of Mulgum Creek and Gungas Road.

Seven years have passed since the first removal weeks and cattle grasses began on road areas, which are often the start of weed spread. Native ground cover has resulted in amazing changes to soil and the environment, allowing the existing native seed bank of trees to germinate. Funding for planting to create diversity began about 12 months ago.

In early march, Lismore Council contractors began patch work on the road causing damage to off-road areas. Unauthorised entry of my land and removal of rocks from my creek resulted in early communication with them on the work Pat and I were doing and the damage they were causing. Council had been informed of the project last year when Jenny Dowell arranged for free

tipping of green waste.

On 10th March I attended a Lismore Council Rate Rise Justification Meeting at Nimbin, total attendance 17 people. No money for road repair as their major issue, followed by money for environmental projects. I vocalized my complaints at the meeting, about lack of respect for private land, our work in progress, no communication with residents and a plea to not incur further damage.

Within days the road crew arrived. Ignoring the rain the trashing began. Machinery was driven into unfenced land, wheels sank into soft maintained off-road areas, churning it into mud, tree branches broken and a fruiting guava uprooted when machinery collided with my fence.

Truckloads of earth and small rock dumped on the road surface resulted in several bogged cars after knock-off time and the final finished road extremely slippery when wet. Churned up areas beside the road now hold water and an

exploding mosquito population. Many phone calls and a visit by Lismore Council have fixed no more than the fence.

Now the road crew has left we wonder if the missing Elkhorn and Birdsnest ferns went with them.

Sadly the potholes will return with the next rain and our work to repair Lismore Council's environmental vandalism is long term for us.

Re-introduction of weed and cattle grass seed from vehicle tyres is guaranteed to explode next spring.

In my nine years in Gungas Road I have watched the destruction of a very special water catchment area increase with each invasion. Is the uglification of Woodlark Street, Lismore what council's environmental policy is all about?

I know I will not be supporting a rate rise to help fix the roads when this is the result.

Camilla Cameron  
Gungas Road

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## Showground prepares for MardiGrass



There's no worries that water for the showers will run out for the campers at the Showground during this year's MardiGrass.

Mr Bobcat (pictured) has just upgraded the waterpipe to 2-inch, with the help of hard-working Showground committee members.

## 2012?

The year in which an ancient civilisation predicted that humanity will have no further need of a calendar, when perhaps we will have run out of time to:

1. Prepare to face a global trauma of a sufficient scale to cause our extinction, eg a pandemic, a stray meteorite, or extreme climatic change or a larger Chernobyl.
2. Develop the spirituality consequent of contact with a natural power far greater than ourselves and thereby make time itself appear to be redundant.
3. Accumulate a ready supply of jokes and derisive comments regarding ancient civilisations and their predictions.

Whatever 2012 holds in store, the Mayan prophesy is an alternative to the glib scenarios offered by our leaders/owners regarding the future of Western civilisation. Perhaps Nimbin, the heart of alternative living, should be interested.

Contact Len: 02 6689-1121

# Janelle's Page



by Janelle Saffin, MP

At the beginning of March the Rudd Government announced the biggest change to Australia's health and hospital system since the introduction of Medicare.

Our health needs are my top priority and I welcome the announcement of the new National Health and Hospitals Network, that will be run locally and funded nationally.

**Run locally** – Local Hospital Networks will bring together small groups of hospitals where our own health professionals with local knowledge will be given the necessary powers to deliver hospital services to our community.

**Funded nationally** – With the Australian Government taking on the dominant funding responsibility for the hospital system to end the blame game, eliminate waste and meet the rapidly rising health costs.

You would have heard a lot about activity based funding. This means that our smaller essential rural and regional hospitals will be funded directly and properly. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has assured as that they will get

funding for their services and additional funding where costs are higher because of rural factors.

*The Australian Government will be:*

- Taking 60 per cent of funding responsibility for public hospitals
- Taking over full responsibility for GP and primary health care services
- Establishing Local Health and Hospital Networks
- Paying Local Hospital Networks directly for each service they deliver rather than handing block funding to the States.
- Bringing fragmented health and hospital services together under a single National Health and Hospitals Network.

This will be a good change for our region and it is what everyone has been asking for locally. I am confident that this funding model will ensure we have our health needs met.

## Jobs Fund supports North Coast environmental project

In March Local Minister for Employment Participation Mark Arbib and I announced \$1.46 million funding for

EnviTE Inc under the Local Jobs stream of the Australian Government's Jobs Fund.

EnviTE Inc will use the funding for the North Coast Environment Employment Project which will restore native vegetation and diverse habitats, including costal areas, waterways and rainforest.

The Project will see five project teams based in Tweed, North Coast, Richmond, Clarence and Coffs Harbour and will help create or retain 41 jobs, 40 work experience positions and nine traineeships.

## Jobs Expo

Parliamentary Secretary for Employment, Jason Clare and I opened the Jobs Expo in Lismore on March 19, which attracted more than 2000 people from across the region.

The Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic centre was transformed into a jobs supermarket for the day.

The Northern Star has reported that 14 jobs were filled on the day and another 160 jobs are expected to be filled as a result of resumes submitted at the Expo.

Jason Clare and I also visited the National Green Jobs Corps project at the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens, which EnviTE and Job Futures have developed in conjunction with the Lismore City Council and Friends of the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens.

Janelle

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



# Rudd Government delivers \$449,000 for Nimbin Skate Park

by Justine Elliot, MP

Developing community facilities like the \$449,000 Nimbin skate park are creating jobs and boosting the local economy during difficult financial times.

The Rudd Government has recognised the importance of community facilities to our regions in the first two rounds of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

The first round of the program provided \$70,000 for upgrades to many of our local halls and community centres, such as the Corndale Hall and Jiggi School of Arts.

The second round of the program benefited the electorate of Richmond for ten ready-to-go community infrastructure projects such as the skate park.

These shovel-ready projects have added to the vibrancy and growth of local towns in our region.

This program is continuing to provide jobs and facilities for working families in our community during these difficult economic times.

Further information can be found at <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/cip/index.aspx>

## Better Health and Hospitals

The Rudd Government is determined to deliver real change to our health system,

so that all Australians can have better health and better hospitals.

To deliver better hospitals the Rudd Government will establish the new National Health and Hospitals Network.

The Network will be nationally funded but locally run and set new national standards for all Australian hospitals.

Having locally run hospitals will empower our local doctors and nurses to tailor services to meet the needs of our community.

The new National Health and Hospital Network will take local day to day hospital operation decision making away from central bureaucrats and place it in the hands of local professionals who understand local needs.

For more information, please visit [www.yourhealth.gov.au](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au)

## Supporting Volunteering in our Community

Applications are now open for the Volunteer Grants 2010.

The \$21 million Australian Government program offers grants between \$1000 and \$5000 to help eligible non-profit organisations purchase much needed equipment and to help cover fuel costs.

This year, for the first time, the program is also offering grants to assist with the provision of training courses and background checks.

These grants are a great opportunity for local non-profit organisations and help support volunteering within our community.

Last year more than 75 local organisations received funding under Volunteer Grants 2009, providing a great boost for organisations in our region.

Volunteers are the backbone of our community and I would encourage eligible organisations to apply.

Applications for Volunteer Grants 2010 opened on Thursday 11th March and will close at 2pm, Friday 16th April.

To apply, or for more information, please visit [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au) or call the hotline on 1800-183-374.

## Celebrating a Milestone?

If you or a family member are celebrating a milestone 90th or 100th birthday, or a 50th or 60th wedding anniversary I can help organise congratulatory messages from the Prime Minister and in some cases the Governor General and the Queen.

Please contact my office on 1300-720-675 for further details.

Justine.

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

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# Simon says...



by Simon Clough  
Lismore City Councillor

Wow! What a full on month it has been for your local government representatives.

One of the most uplifting events of the month was accompanying the Mayor when she received her award for "NSW Local Government Woman of the Year" (rural and regional). It was exciting to go to NSW Parliament House (I managed to leave my lycra at home unlike a certain opposition leader) and see Jenny graciously receive her well earned award from the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Women. I had nominated Jenny particularly because of her extraordinary work during the floods of last May. Jenny had just completed chemo for breast cancer yet was totally dedicated to the people of Lismore, staying up most of the night of the flood and chairing the Flood Recovery Committee for months. It was also Jenny's attitude via a radio interview that attracted the Governor General Quentin Bryce to visit Lismore as part of her support for our local community.

We've had 8 public meetings regarding the proposed special rate increase, 7 rural and 1 urban AND 4 more in depth forums at Invercauld House. Did I really sign up for Lismore's largest community consultation? It has been a very interesting process and quite sobering to see how much negativity there is towards Council, particularly about roads. A recurrent theme was, why would I give you more money for roads when you're already wasting our roads money. There was less feedback about the \$200,000 environment levy with some in support in support others not. There were very revealing moments in this process, for instance when one ratepayer stated, "I was concerned about climate change, but then I turned off the radio and TV and it went away". The audience

applauded loudly in support. I was shocked, but perhaps we should turn off the radios and TVs and all the crises facing humanity will disappear?

So, what to do? We've had the meetings, the in-depth forums, the feedback from the website and letters and phone calls. I know in our personal situation it will cost us a little over \$1 per week for the rate rise. Yet I know for many it will be very difficult. One of the renters at the in-depth forum said she and her husband were unemployed and after expenses and paying over 50% of their benefit in rent had \$80 a fortnight for food!

Light bulb jokes were in my mind when I put forward a motion asking Council to write to the CEO of Country Energy seeking assistance to change the light bulbs in streetlights to the latest energy efficient variety. Council had been negotiating with Country Energy for 3.5 years on this issue and got nowhere. I was surprised to see the Regional Manager of Country Energy at the Council meeting. He spoke in public access admitting that Country Energy had been "dragging the chain" but that his organisation was now about to embark on a program of moving to compact fluorescent bulbs which would be installed in Lismore in July next year. Not only that, there was also an indication that Council would not have to buy out the individual contract for each streetlight to replace the bulb.

I also put up a motion for a report to be prepared for Council on an "Outdoor Smoking Policy". I would like to see the policy ban smoking within 10 metres of outdoor eating areas and the same distance from the doorways of offices etc. It would be great to have smoking banned from recreational areas too. But let's wait and see what the Council officers recommend and what are the results of public consultation. Something tells me it will be very difficult to limit outdoor smoking anywhere in Nimbin.

I've started to "tweet", if it's good enough for Obama. Trish was quite shocked to learn that the President doesn't do his own tweets. You can find me on Twitter as Lismore\_IS\_More.

Please contact me at:  
simonclough@internode.on.net  
Simon Clough, Councillor  
Phone 02-6624-2894  
Mobile 0428-886-217

# From the Mayor's desk



by Jenny Dowell  
Mayor of Lismore

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

## Rates

LCC has now completed the largest and most extensive community engagement program in its history as we determine the level of ratepayer support for our application for a 3.51% increase to raise \$800,000 pa for road construction (\$500,000), environmental and climate change projects (\$200,000) and business promotion (\$100,000) – the latter to be raised from Lismore and Goonellabah urban businesses only.

The community engagement program commenced in early February and consisted of:

- Individualised letters to every ratepayer explaining the intent to the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV), the consultation process and the monetary impact of the SRV on that particular property
- Eight two-hour community forums in rural halls (including Nimbin and Goolmangar) attended by almost 300 people, all Councillors, all Executive staff, Finance Manager and Communications staff
- An on-line forum with information, videos, FAQs and other background material – with some sub-sections visited to date by up to 8000 viewers and with many hundreds of comments lodged
- Two 4-hour Deliberative Forums for 60 ratepayers and community representatives (20 randomly selected, 20 invited as representatives of various community

organisations and 20 self-nominated)

- Two 4-hour Deliberative Forums for 30 Lismore and Goonellabah urban business representatives (10 randomly selected, 10 invited as representatives of various sections of the business community and 10 self-nominated).
- Presentations to community groups such as Combined Pensioners and Superannuants and
- The usual advertising for submissions via the website, radio, television and print media

Considering that this process did not conclude until 9pm on Wednesday March 31 and that the Council, having received a report summarising all the feedback, will not determine its course of action until April 13, at the time of writing this, I cannot tell you the result. Council will hold an extraordinary meeting at 6pm on April 20 in our Oliver Avenue Chambers, at which we will receive the feedback from all sources and we will vote whether we proceed or abandon the application. As readers will know, the application is finally determined by the Minister for Local Government. Stay tuned.

## Nimbin Forum

The SRV Forum held in Nimbin was attended by 15 residents, 8 Councillors and 4 staff. Following presentations from three Councillors on the three aspects of the SRV (Roads, Environment and Business), the community raised many important issues. They ranged from broad matters such as affordability, how Council manages its finances and how rates are related to property valuations to specifics such as the condition of various roads, sewer inspection costs and waste charges.

## March Meeting

Council's March meeting was a relatively short meeting with few controversial matters on the agenda. Cr Simon Clough was successful in proposing that staff prepare a report on how we can introduce a policy for smoke-free public outdoor areas. He also won support for Council to encourage Country Energy (CE) to hasten its roll-out for energy

efficient street lighting. The Regional Manager of CE, Richard Wake, attended the meeting and told Councillors that Lismore's street light replacement program will commence in June next year. This program will give us a 25% efficiency gain in our main street lighting and a 75% saving for our suburban street lighting.

Also on energy efficiency, Council will access its Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) fund to provide \$37,000 to expand solar heating at the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre. The CCP fund is available for projects that have a short pay back period so that the fund always has revolving money to fund other projects. This \$37,000 cost will save Council \$13,000 pa in energy costs, giving a pay back period of 2.85 years.

Council endorsed the draft Access and Inclusion Plan (AIP) for public exhibition at its March meeting too. This plan provides a blueprint on how Council can improve services for people with disabilities, older people and those with prams and young children. The AIP is on exhibition until April 16. Please check it out at the Have Your Say link on the Council website [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au)

## S356 and CDSE Funding

Local community organisations are invited to apply to Council for Section 356 Miscellaneous Community Donations (maximum \$2,200) and/or for Community Development Special Expenditure (CDSE) grants (maximum \$5,000)

Application forms, guidelines and other information is available on Council's website or by phoning 1300 878 387. CDSE applications close at 4pm on April 12. S356 applications close at 9am on Monday, April 19, 2010.

## Bridge Work – Southwell Bridge

Readers will note that work has commenced on the replacement of Southwell Bridge. This and the Cullen Bridge will be replaced as part of the Timber Bridge Replacement Program under which Council receives a dollar-for-dollar government grant. The new bridges will

be of concrete construction thereby reducing maintenance costs and extending the life of the bridge.

## Award

Thank you to the many residents who congratulated me on my recent NSW Local Government Women's Award on International women's Day. It was a great honour to be the recipient and I thank Cr Simon Clough and Cr Vanessa Ekins for nominating me.

## April meetings and workshops

All these are in Chambers at Oliver Ave, Goonellabah unless otherwise indicated.

- Tuesday April 6, 6pm – Workshop – Section 356 donations, Policy Advisory Groups' Chairperson reports, Councillor Reports from Committees
- Tuesday April 13, 6pm – Council's monthly meeting
- Wednesday April 14, 6pm – Public submissions to the Council's 4 year Delivery Plan and Councillor discussions of the Plan
- Thursday April 15, 6pm – Delivery Plan continued (if required)
- Monday April 19, 7pm – City Community Forum at Goonellabah Sports Club, Oliver Avenue
- Tuesday April 20, 6pm – Extraordinary Meeting to consider the Special Rate Variation

## Nimbin Events

The recent Blue Moon Cabaret again lived up to its reputation as a high class exhibition of local talent thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. I'm now looking forward to the Autumn Arts Extravaganza in the same venue, the Nimbin School of Arts.

In the last week of March, Council hosted a bus tour to mark Seniors Week. The large number of older residents enjoyed the trip through our past as they toured Lismore's CBD under the guidance of the Richmond River Historical Society. The bus tour then made its way out to Blue Knob Hall Gallery and Café for a delightful light luncheon where I was able to meet them for a chat and a cuppa. The event was a great success and I thank Christine from LCC for arranging it.

## Easter

In conclusion, I wish all NGT readers a happy safe and rejuvenating Easter break.

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# Cannabis Science coming to MardiGrass

Robert Melamede PhD will be a special guest at this year's Nimbin MardiGrass, 1st and 2nd May, and will discuss the health benefits of cannabis extracts and their anti-aging and anti-cancer properties.

Dr Melamede is president and CEO of Cannabis Science Inc., a company that works with World Authorities on phytocannabinoid science targeting critical illnesses – adhering to scientific methodologies to develop, produce, and commercialise phytocannabinoid based pharmaceutical products.

Cannabis Science is in negotiations with several companies in the US and internationally to contract or license its cannabis-based formulations. "We want to make cannabis extracts available in every state in the USA, and to have the government health care programs pay for them," said Dr Melamede.

Dr. Melamede serves on the Advisory Board of The Journal of the International Association for Cannabis as Medicine, the Scientific Advisory Board Medical of the Marijuana Policy Advocacy Project, the Scientific Advisory Board



of Americans for Safe Access, a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the City University of New York. He retired as Chairman of the Biology Department at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in 2005, where he continues to teach.

He is an expert on the biology of the cannabis plant, how it relates to the human endocannabinoid system, and why the cannabis plant has the potential to affect so many diseases and illnesses. "Medical cannabis has far fewer and milder side effects than most currently prescribed pharmaceutical products do. We are working hard to have one or more products ready for FDA clinical trials as soon as possible."

"Because of the anti-aging and anti-cancer properties inherent in turning up our endocannabinoid-activity thermostat, the first nation to embrace the mutually supporting historical and modern science of cannabis will reap the benefits of a healthier population while dramatically reducing healthcare costs.

"In modern societies, age-related illnesses that are all inhibited by cannabis, are killing us. We can minimize this problem by consuming more of what has become an essential nutrient for humanity – cannabis."

"We are very excited about this American new age legend coming to MardiGrass," said Michael Balderstone.



# Lessons from the War Against Drugs in Colombia

by Warwick Fry

"On March 16, 2010 several anti-narcotics police planes sprayed with chemicals the communal gardens and plots of the Eperara Siapidaara women of the Joaquinquito Indigenous reservation, in the Naya River."

This is the latest post from the Alliance for Global Justice on the situation in Colombia where the victims of the US financed 'drug war' are not the drug barons, or even peasants with coca plantations. It represents the hidden agenda of 'the war against drugs', which is to persecute vulnerable communities that try to achieve a level of self-sustaining sufficiency.

This defies the agenda of the Colombian government and local landlords to take over land for multinational agro-business corporations for 'macro farming' projects, and to use the local peasant population as cheap labour.

"The planes also sprayed the plots of their Afro-Colombian sisters from the Santa Cruz township who have joined the Eperara women in developing an agro-ecological production project. This project seeks to expand alternatives to a growing illegal coca economy."

"The government disregarded the community's peaceful claims and sprayed their crops with even greater intensity. Several women were looking to move to the health post of Puerto Merizalde for medical care."

(Alliance for Global Justice)

There is an irony here, that wherever and whenever the US invests money into the 'drug war', the trade traffic and growth seems to increase incrementally, if not exponentially.

Neighbouring Venezuela is complaining that the US military build-up (five new military bases, mostly near the Venezuelan border) is not about the war on drugs, but about destabilising Venezuela, which is engaging democratically in a socialist



Gold plated modified AK47 found in home of Colombian drug baron

program.

US-manufactured drone planes have been downed inside Venezuelan territory and paramilitary squads from Colombia have made incursions into the border to support Venezuelan landowners resisting the Venezuelan government's land reform program.

Since the Venezuelan government expelled the US Drug Enforcement Agency from Venezuela three years ago (allegedly for spying) the number and quantity of big drug busts in Venezuela has trebled.

The current President of Colombia, Uribe (who changed the Constitution to serve a second term) was once on the DEA's top thirty list of 'most wanted' drug traffickers.

As 2NimFM's Latin Radical program went to air on the last Sunday in March we got a call from Honduras announcing that seven journalists had been assassinated in the last ten days.

The announcement came not only from a youth group that has become an integral part of the resistance movement against the coup in Honduras, but a number of international human rights organisations denouncing the same assassinations, kidnappings, and death threats by the current regime.

The same coup regime that was recently 'endorsed' by Hillary Clinton.

**Nimbin Goodtimes Mardi-Grass 2010**

**Photographic Competition**

Two Cash Prizes of \$50

Entries must be received by 5pm on Monday 3rd May 2010.

E-mail your best publishable shots to [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com)

# First Industrial Hemp Harvest

The successful harvest of the first commercial industrial hemp crop began last Friday at Ashford in NSW's central west.

Planted in mid-December, the 4.5 metre crop has brought hope to the economically struggling region, which was the tobacco growing capital of NSW until 1995, when growing tobacco was phased out by the NSW government.

It's also the first larger-scale irrigated hemp farming project. Ashford has only seen one day of rain in the past month. Sitting at the edge of the cotton country, it's dependent on water for irrigation from the Severn River, one of the headwaters of the Murray River system.

So for Northern Rivers hemp farmer, Klara Marosszeky, there's the additional bonus that a

contribution is being made to improving water quality downstream. The crop has been grown without fertilisers or herbicides and with minimal irrigation.

"There's been an amazing level of co-operation and enthusiasm for this project from the farming community and from the Ashford Business Council and NSW State and Regional



Development is supporting the move enthusiastically", Klara said. "The bigger dream is a hemp industry unfolding

across the north of the state, triggering industry and innovation and the acceptance of hemp as a major commodity in the Australian economy. It finally feels like it's underway."

A late February planting is also coming along nicely. "We're examining the possibility of farmers being able to produce two crops, an early and a late one, and ascertaining how the cultivar will perform to meet the economic needs of the farming community and provide the supply that will be required when the industry really takes off."



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# MardiGrass Update

## Jungle Patrol

A local volunteer organisation that patrols the streets, encourages people to keep the peace, and bear witness when they do not, the Jungle Patrol cannot enter an affray, but will encourage a peaceful resolution to any disturbance. If there is an incident, it is witnessed, and aid is rendered after the event if necessary. Jungle Patrol members will be able to contact the Police if the situation warrants it.

Jungle Patrol operates from Friday 8am through to early Monday morning and people are urged to sign up for two four hour shifts.

*Save-A-Mate* First Aid Course Thursday, 29th April at the Bowlo, 9am start for all pre-registered participants. Limited places. Pre-register at the Hemp Embassy or contact; Heidi 6689-7589 or Paul 6689-0396

## Free Bus

Lismore Liquor Accord, RTA and NSW Government have offered an exciting service for this year's MG. Free transport buses are being

organised to bring people in from Ballina, Wardell, Alstonville, Coraki, Casino, Kyogle and Lismore to Nimbin. The services will run over the three days, Friday to Sunday. This allows people who would normally not come to MG due to road traffic, congested parking, accommodation, no license or car, road blocks etc, will be able to come and go with safety.

MOB wishes to express their sincere thanks to those organisations for providing this much needed service. Anna is working on Tweed to provide a similar service from Murwillumbah and Uki. As soon as we have the timetables, routes and pickup points they will be posted around the village and on the MardiGrass website [www.nimbinmardigrass.com](http://www.nimbinmardigrass.com)

## Camping

The local showgrounds are fitted out with new facilities including hot showers and a great vibe. Three nights camping and a weekend festival pass is \$80 per person or register as a volunteer.

## Rally Float Awards

With \$1,000 for first prize put up by Happy High Herbs as an added incentive we hope everyone puts some energy into the Parade this year. Your entry doesn't have to have wheels and is a chance to be creative for hemp law reform. Register your float before the Parade begins outside the police station.

## Buskers' Grass Stand

Fifteen designated busking zones for MardiGrass 2010. The winner of the 'most popular' busking performance during the big weekend, whoever collects the most "tokens", has the opportunity to travel to Canberra to visit Obama in June with the BIG JOINT and the Obama look alike winner. Keen buskers can register for their preferred locations at the Town Hall info booth or at the Embassy on the day.

## Thong Throw or Shoe Toss?

Give Who the Shoe or For Whom the Moccasin?

Made popular by George Bush in Iraq, this is a new HEMP OLYMPIX Event for 2010. Get ready to toss a thong at your choice of

targets on the first weekend of May.

For \$2 you can fling a thing at your choice of targets (all profits towards victims of the drug war).

## HEMP Olympix Tug-O-Peace

Teams of five is the chosen number, and they all must have something in common.

## MardiGrass Entertainers confirmed so far:

PEACE PARK: Drunken Munk, 50 Bags, Chocolate Strings, Anarchist Duck, Diana Anaid, Groove Foundation, A French Butler Called Smith, Fyah Walk, Pagan Love Cult, Red Belly Black, Imandan, Alice Blue, The Jiggi Jam Hog, A Little Province in China.

MINGLE PARK: Greg, Booze Hag, Quandamooka, Bart Willoughby, Guriabu, Monkey and the Fish Band, Louis Burdette, Manju, Burri. MARKET STAGE: Janaka, Jade Supernova, Kaptan Reefer and the Konescrapers, Spencer.E.Rogans Sensory Explosion, Dr Baz and Mr Slyde, Alice Blue, April Maze, Diana Anaid, Grasshopper, Essie Thomas, Homeless Yellow, Mayana and Friends.

## Mullaway Medical Cannabis

Meetings will be at MardiGrass where Tony Bower is compiling a register for his soon to be authorised medical cannabis clinic, the first in the country. MS, HIV, cancer and chronic pain sufferers are invited to be part of Australia's first legal medical cannabis dispensary trial.

## MardiGrass Arm Bands

MardiGrass has always been about trust but it doesn't happen all by itself. Months of preparation and groundwork go into the weekend so the village as a whole benefits as well as the thousands of visitors. We'd like it to happen in such a way that everyone who attends it has an uplifting experience.

Accordingly, the MardiGrass organisers ask that everyone understands the critical importance of us selling armbands. Without those sales we are history, this year in particular. Some businesses even give preferential service to armband wearers and we support that. MOB is making a huge effort organising an \$80,000 weekend. Let's showcase our hippie village at its best.

# UNDACUVVA JOURNAL

I had been down in Canberra a week when they finally pulled the pin on Obama's visit down Unda. Endlessly being teased about our village, the most popular detective training ground in the land, wasn't all fun. Nearly all the Feds have done a stint in Nimbin yet we are bagged to death. Jealousy? I was summoned because I have today's "knowledge" on Nimbin which basically means knowing who's who in the zoo. Who's Unda, who's Over, and who's an Informer on Intel, the growth sector which is fast taking all our jobs.

Why pay an Unda when "co-operation" is the new buzz word? The last month got very tricky because there are so many secret deals with Intel and only the Big Boss knows them all, and he's never here. There's a rash of new single parents joined lately and who can blame them. What do you say when busted, alone in the deep room and the crossroads is offered? "It's either jail and your kids go to welfare or their other parent (maybe worse). Or you co-operate." I'm lucky to still have an Unda job by the numbers on the street now with Immunity. And all it needs is a sleeping pill, I think not! Virtually all of the Canberra Squad have used Nimbin as training for the real world and they were looking forward to the Polites and the giant joint visiting as the hippies are never a problem and always good for a laugh. The HEAP as they are affectionately known, 'hippie entertainment about pot prohibition'. Apparently the President loved their invitation to 'a real joint session' and even wrote a reply which they found in the FBI trash bin.

The big whinge from the Feds however was the new performance based policing. We all agree it's a world gone mad on bureaucratic regulations. Control freak nerds behind desks hold the power now

instead of the frontline warriors. It's a massive power shift in Copperworld. Most of the nice old cops, the ones I liked, have got smaller pay packets now while the workaholic hunters new on the track are grabbing all the bonuses. There are hundreds of overseas trips (wife included) up for grabs for anyone scoring over 1000 points in a calendar month. A Well Known Nimbin Tourist Deterrent is about to visit Europe for the third time in twelve months, all on bonus points. It's like frequent fliers. Station perk funding as well as individual bonuses all now depend on performance and how do you measure that? God's own country, statistics, how else? With an oz now worth 20 points and an elbow 200, applications to work at stations like Nimbin are through the roof.

The catch is we have to keep the supply up to keep the holidays happening which has caused shocking brawls between the CEU (Cannabis Eradication Unit) and our boys because they've been pulling way too many crops. "Weed must remain the easy bust it always has been. We have to keep the supply up to feed the busts to maintain the rate to keep the funding you know what I mean round and round it goes." The Canberra gang rammed it into me over and over.

The WKNTD has scored our station a new barby and fridge, more sniffer dog hours (remember the station gets the points for every bust), better cars and the holiday trips, etc. The pharmaceutical companies and the breweries donate most of the plane tickets it seems. Certain entirely maniacal hunting for weed by the WKNTD makes a little more sense now I hope. It also explains of course why the river of weed that has sustained so much of this little valley over the last few decades must never dry up, and never will, because we will make sure

it doesn't. Besides the weed needed by so many of us there's also the training ground, needed more than ever with the explosion of WOT, the War On Terror. One old codger simply calls Nimbin *Unda University*. "I know we lose quite a few during training who simply fall for a pretty hippy chick, build a shack in the bush, grow weed and breed babies. It's called going Right Unda, we never see them again," he told me. "Their paychecks stop six months after they stop reporting in and as most people will never admit they fell in love while Unda, they just stay in role. For life! They become whoever they were playing, and who are we anyway?" He looked at me strangely. "I've learnt I can be whatever I wear, and cut my hair or grow it accordingly. Dress like a plumber and play the part of a plumber and of course everyone accepts you're a plumber. Dressing like a hippy and playing that part is a favourite of course. Smoke weed and laze around all day is what most recruits think it will be but we know different, eh?"

But who are we anyway, I wondered? Who are you? People who were plumbers all their life and lost their jobs often go into crisis. Who are they now? They get up in the morning, get dressed in the plumber overalls but there's no work to go to and they sit bewildered and lost. Many curl up and die soon after retirement. Separated from their jobs they have no idea who they are. Who are you? I'm a plumber. Oh. Well right now I'm a bum. Homeless, but never without a smoke or the mobile you'd notice if I let you, which I won't. And what a beautiful carefree no responsibility life it is. I may never change character. And all I have to do this month is keep an eye on the Council's Tourist Information Centre for them, to make sure they don't promote Mardigrass in any way.



Local portrait prize entry

Nimbin artist Maxx Maxted has been named a finalist in the inaugural Northern Rivers Portrait Prize, with his acrylic on hemp rendering of HEMP Embassy president Michael Balderstone.

A regular exhibitor at Nimbin's Spring and Autumn Arts Extravanzas, Maxx has been painting since he was 14, and has had work on show at the National Gallery, Sydney Town Hall, in Trinidad and San Jose, California, but this is the first time he has entered a portrait prize.

Maxx is not worried by any controversy that may accompany his provocative depiction of the HEMP Embassy president proffering a joint. "All art is political," he said. "I'm getting cannabis law reform on the agenda in a gallery context."

Winners will be announced on Friday 23rd April.

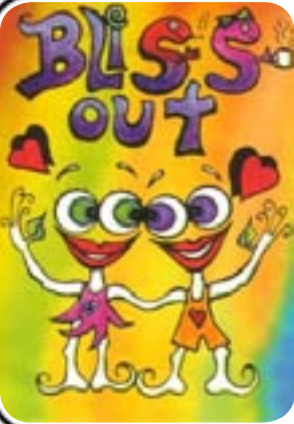


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**JUNGLE PATROL**

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