

Five Loaves funding crisis



Nimbin recently celebrated *Five Loaves'* decades of service to the community – but the charitable operation is under threat.

Darcy Goodwin has been setting the table on the region's streets for 23 years. His *Five Loaves* vans travel around the North Coast delivering food, furniture, clothing and resources collected from donors and shop keepers to people in need.

Darcy says things have been hard over the past year, with a shortage of funds to keep the service on the road. "The public have backed the Winsome, that's where all the money has gone," he said. "The Lismore City Council had been providing an annual payment towards *Five Loaves*, but that's gone now too. The council has instead been repairing my vans."

The Winsome Hotel reverted to a homeless shelter and soup kitchen to meet the growing homelessness in Lismore City – but these two services provide for different clients. The Winsome is in a fixed location, catering to Lismore locals; *Five Loaves* is a mobile service, providing

meals in the form of a "street kitchen" to different areas five times a week.

Food from growers, such as bananas, must be collected directly from the farm gate, bread from bakeries at the end of the day. Then the vans are loaded up with cooked meals, salads and rolls to provide another dinner in another town.

"We're down over \$7,000 this year from what we received last year," said Darcy. "The council have really moved into action to help the Winsome – and missed us out."

Five Loaves Street Kitchen needs help to survive. Darcy says money is needed to register two of the vans, without which this valuable service will be hobbled.

Money is needed to maintain the vans, buy fuel, plates, cups and consumables for the table, including butter and cheese.

The Nimbin celebration held on Saturday 27th November was a great success, with tables of sumptuous food, original local blues music and happy hugging people sharing food and a few laughs.

Major Skate Park work gets underway, at last



Survey work has been carried out on Nimbin's new concrete skate park during November, and weather permitting, stormwater works will commence in early December, with work now due for completion by 31st January. Picture shows removal of steel half-pipes.

Haiku successes



Local poets Leonie Bingham and Nathalie Buckland have had a successful year with their haiku. Both have had work published in prestigious Australian literary periodicals.

Publication in *Going Down Swinging's* 30th year anthology, launched at the Melbourne Writers' Festival earlier this year, was a particularly gratifying achievement for them both. Several issues of *Famous Reporter* have also featured their writing.

Awards include those from the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival haiku competition and Japan's 'Ito En'. Their haiku has been published in the UK, New Zealand, Ireland, USA, Croatia and numerous Australian haiku magazines including the Jack Stamm anthology, 'Dipped Oar'.

Leonie and Nathalie first met at Nimbin's Adult Education Creative writing course some years ago and were drawn together through their love of poetry. Together they explored the intricacies of English language haiku, and became members of the local group 'cloudcatchers.'

recycling...
the dog sorts bacon rind
from potato peelings.

Leonie Bingham
'Going Down Swinging'

cherry petals
cover your footprints.
this loneliness

Nathalie Buckland
Vancouver Cherry
Blossom Festival

Leonie is now part-way
though a writing degree at
SCU.

Nathalie experiments with
various genres, including
songwriting.

Coffee Camp's cup runneth over



Coffee Camp PS choir and band asait the official party at the school Centenary celebrations. Photo: Charlie Wood

More than 500 ex-pupils, friends and current students gathered to celebrate Coffee Camp School's recent centenary.

MCs and school leaders Tiger Jefferys and Grace Bateman got the day off to a great start and kept the official ceremony rolling.

Bob Johnston and Luke Walker, respectively the oldest and youngest local residents, cut a centenary cake while past teachers Vic Smith and Rick Healey planted a centenary tree with principal Steve Boyd.

Classrooms were filled with amazing memorabilia, slide presentations and photographs. Students enjoyed horse and cart rides and visitors were entertained by the musical talents of the school choir, school band and

an array of talented past and present students, ably backed by Val Mace and Brett Webb.

Souvenirs were sold and the School Centenary book was launched, Val Pruess, Don Johnston and others did a marvellous job of tracking down historical photos and stories.

Parents and Citizens' president Carol Boomsma with her band of willing helpers worked tirelessly to make sure the day went smoothly.

Desley Banks, the organising committee and the school staff worked for many months to make sure everything was perfect, and everyone enjoyed a social occasion filled with entertainment, friendship and memories.

The X-Factor in Nimbin



"He and his lady friend pored over our menu, but their pink wigs didn't fool me... it was him alright... Altiyan (pictured), the one I always tipped as the eventual winner on X-Factor," Elena Wise said triumphantly.

"I told him that I thought he would win the contest, but he didn't quite share my enthusiasm and confidence as they finally settled on our Nimbin Natural Pizza," she said.

"We shared a bottle of wine and chatted – about Sydney... about Nimbin.

"A lovely guy... down to earth and humble."

That was a month ago, and Altiyan has indeed been declared the final X-Factor winner and Elena is now entertaining a career as a talent scout, or clairvoyant!

Come back to Nimbin, Altiyan, and the best of Nimbin luck, from Peter and Elena Wise and all the people of Nimbin.



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Police "\$8million" cannabis operation riles rural residents

Police claim to have seized about \$8 million worth of cannabis in the Richmond Local Area Command during the first raid in this year's Cannabis Eradication Program, with police targeting Lillian Rock, Woodburn, New Italy, Alstonville, Rappville, Tabulam and the surrounding National Parks.

Drug Squad Commander, Nick Bingham, warned illegal drug growers, "You won't know where or when we'll strike, but we've got your crops in our sights."

Strike Force Unwin comprises detectives from the Drug Squad's Cannabis Team, with assistance from the NSW Police Air Wing, Dog Squad and Richmond LAC.

Billen Cliffs Village in nearby Larnook was targeted by the strike force, with the air wing helicopter reportedly flying dangerously low over residences and terrifying residents, livestock and wildlife. Billen Cliffs is a rural residential strata plan set on 800 acres, containing 115 units of 2 acres, homes to over 200 residents, including many young children and some elderly folk. Several residents took photographs and video of the helicopters activities and some have

made formal complaints to the police minister about the air wing's intrusive and intimidating tactics. One resident remarked that the chopper was so low that it blew out the flame from under his kettle.

Michael Balderstone, President of the HEMP Embassy said the police operation "was an attack on alternative communities and their earthy culture."

"Hippy communities were obviously targeted, when we

all know they are not a home for commercial crops," Mr Balderstone said.

Billen resident Andy Gough said in his complaint to the minister, "I have been unable to confirm whether any other police attended the

property to follow up any alleged sightings of cannabis plants, and the local media has not mentioned any hauls from the Larnook area.

"I therefore assume that the hours of harassment from the police helicopter were a complete waste of police time and resources and a completely unsubstantiated intrusion on residents of this valley... It would certainly not be allowed or tolerated in a suburban environment."

During the operation police issued five field court attendance notices for cultivation offences and two people were charged with commercial cultivation and supply offences.

More than 4800 plants, up to two metres high, were located and seized by police during the operation. Also seized was 25kgs of dried cannabis head. The total estimated potential street value of the plants seized is claimed to be \$8 million. All plants seized by police have been destroyed.

Mr Balderstone challenged the value of the police operation. "Valuing every tiny seedling at \$2000 is a joke, and very unfair. If the Police want to win back respect, they have to treat people reasonably and fairly. Respect is not won by

intimidation and force."

"Our aim is to detect and destroy cannabis crops across the state," Det Supt Bingham said. "Whether it's a semi-rural crop or on a steep mountainside in a remote part of the state, there's a very high chance police will find it. If you think you're safe growing cannabis then think again,"

"We should be thoroughly ashamed of ourselves in Australia for not examining closely the consequences of the so-called 'war on drugs,'" Mr Balderstone said. "The HEMP Party is registered and we are looking for Senate candidates from each Australian state to run at the next federal election. And we will get cannabis law reform on the agenda at the NSW state election next year."

The NSW Police Cannabis Eradication Program has been running since the mid 1980s, to mixed responses from the public. This year police promise to conduct a number of similar raids over the next few months in an ongoing effort to target cannabis cultivation.

To register a complaint about Strike Force Unwin or the police air wing write to the police minister, office@daley.minister.nsw.gov.au and your local MPs.



"Driving into Nimbin the other day I found my way blocked by a police helicopter parked on the junction of the Mt Nardi and Tuntable roads. It had been set down skillfully in that small area between the trees. Flanked by three guardian Toyotas, its motor was running and its rotors thudding. It was a beautiful French-made Eurocopter. A bundle of cannabis plants on the roadside indicated the nature of its mission. I love aircraft but not on roads. I walked over and asked, irritably, how long they would be and received an irritable reply. After a few minutes the chopper took off and the supporting police vehicles left. A little later, diluting my feelings of resentment and intimidation with an excellent cup of coffee in the Rainbow Café, I reflected on the incident and questioned the direction of my ire. While it was appropriate for me to express my annoyance, I have to recognise the police were following their instructions. They don't make the laws. If we want change then we have to organise to change the instructions. I think it is time to write another letter to my local member." – Mike Birch

Survey highlights local public transport deficiencies

by Eugenie Stephans

A survey has been developed to address some of the public transport concerns raised by the Nimbin community.

The survey, developed by the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, was recently distributed to the community to explore what bus services were needed.

There were 311 responses to the 1,000 surveys distributed, and the results support a 7.50am departure from Nimbin (8:30am arrival at Lismore) and a 5.30pm departure from Lismore.

The respondents spanned ages from under 18 to over 70; more than 55 per cent travelled to Lismore to shop, while almost 38 per cent were jobseekers or workers. Other reasons for travel were medical appointments and study.

Of the respondents, 115 hardly used the bus service – but 77 said they would give bus travel a try if the timetable suited them.

For those bus commuters going into Lismore for work, study, medical appointments and

Centrelink, the 8.30am arrival into Lismore was needed (45.34%), while 28 per cent wanted a 9am arrival.

Most respondents (61 per cent) wanted a 5.30pm departure from Lismore.

With school holidays and Christmas approaching, the current holiday bus timetable offers only one bus into Lismore and one returning to Nimbin, Monday to Friday. The 9.35am arrival in Lismore and 2.35pm departure is inappropriate for job-seekers/workers, Uni/TAFE students, those queuing up at Centrelink as well as those attending medical appointments.

The survey also highlighted locals' desire to have a bus service during the weekend to go to the beach, the markets and Lismore. Of the 311 respondents, 174 (55.95%) wish to commute to Byron and 175 (56.27%) want to travel to Lismore during the weekend. If there is a mini-bus available and some drivers who wish to offer their services, maybe some weekend transport can be organised.

Nearly all of the respondents provided

additional comment and suggestions. The main issues raised were:

- The necessity for an 8.30am arrival into Lismore and a 5.30pm departure to Nimbin
- The cost of full fare travel to Lismore (\$9 one-way/\$18 return).
- The importance of bus timetables to meet connecting transport (flights and other bus services).
- The need for a weekend bus service to Byron and Lismore.

This week a letter was received from the Minister for Transport, John Robertson, who said: "Transport NSW Northern Rivers regional office is currently working with local bus operators to trial new arrangements in your (our) area to improve local transport."

The NSW State Plan commits the government to prepare nine regional transport strategies, including one for the Far North Coast.

Mr Robertson said this will be developed in consultation with local councils, transport providers, community transport groups and

regional state agencies, and will encompass specific measures and actions across all transport modes and support future regional growth.

He said that the development of the draft Far North Coast Regional Transport Strategy will start this month. Upon completion, it will be placed on exhibition for public comment.

The results of the survey are now with Transport NSW Northern Rivers office. Transport NSW is considering funding for a free trial bus service for Nimbin.

Graeme Waller of Waller's Bus Company is also keen to support the initiative.

* I wish to thank outlets that made the survey available to the community and those who kindly donated paper, offered their facilities and letters of support. After spending many hours doing the data entry, I needed urgent assistance with the summation – thank you to Reg Saunders at the Nimbin Neighbourhood Information Centre for doing this promptly.

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In your neighbourhood...

News from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre



Farewell Community Calendar

The decision has been made to save trees and many hours of folding by volunteers each month, by scrapping the hard copy of the NNIC Community Calendar.

The Calendar has been a fantastic way to communicate with the community over the past 15 years, but with our new website and the increased circulation of the fabulous *Nimbin GoodTimes*, we reckon it's time to say goodbye.

Many thanks to all the many people who have helped with the calendar, and to Melanie, Jamie and most recently Claire, who edited the calendar for us over the past eight years. Thanks also to all the advertisers who made the calendar possible.

The concept of the calendar is not entirely redundant, however, and we have replaced it with our new on-line Community Calendar. We think this has the potential to be a far more comprehensive and up-to-date calendar of community events than the hard copy calendar ever could be. Check it out on our website: www.nmic.org.au

The calendar is specifically for local events happening in and around Nimbin. The more people use it, the better it will work as a planning tool/diary tool for local events.

To get your events into the calendar, join NNIC as a member to get a web password which will enable you to put them up yourself. Alternatively, if this is impossible for you, email your events through to NNIC and we will put them up for you. (Best to do it yourself though, as we are very busy and it could take us a while to get your events up for you).

Nimbin food security project

- **Meetings** – No meeting in December. Next meeting will be the last Thursday of January 2011.
- **Grain Mill** – Approvals are being finalised and we are aiming to purchase the Mill by the end of 2010, so watch out for the Mill out and about in town and the markets in 2011. Interested in the Grain Mill project? Contact Guy at food@nmic.org.au
- **Commercial Kitchen** – We are still seeking to build a strong group of committed potential kitchen users so if you are on or know one and have not filled out the Kitchen Survey yet, or been in contact with us, email us at food@nmic.org.au
- **Workshop Outcomes** – Outcomes from the October workshops with Robina McCurdy plus tools and materials are now available on our website under the Food Security tab.
- **Blue Knob Farmers Market** – Come along to the twilight market on Xmas Eve from 4pm to 8pm. and help celebrate a successful year for the Blue Knob Farmers Market, an increasingly important link in Nimbin's Food Security, to support and encourage local sustainable food producers. Congratulations to all the people involved in the Farmers Markets and to everyone for supporting it. Choirs and musicians welcome... contact Peter on 66897-004 if you are interested.

Annual Community Xmas Party

This annual event will be held at the Town Hall Nimbin on Friday 17th December, with Morning Tea at 11am, and from 12pm onwards: music, entertainment, Xmas Lunch and Santa. ALL WELCOME! Brought to you by the NNIC Soup Kitchen, in conjunction with Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service.

Donations of non-perishable food and gifts for family Xmas hampers gratefully received at NNIC. Drop stuff in during our opening hours.

NNIC Soup Kitchen

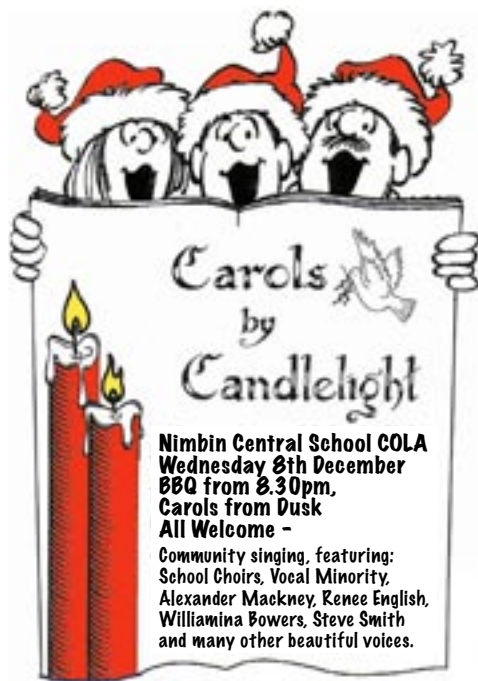
Thanks to all for their support in 2010 – Nimbin Emporium, Nimbin Aquarius Bakery, Nimbin Organics and the Community Gardens (as well as all the local pumpkin growers!). Thanks to Gail M. Clarke for co-ordinating the Soup Kitchen.

Nimbin Community Solar Farm Update

Four systems are now all live and in action. Installations are underway at the Headers on their brand new roof. Final DA for the last part of the farm has been lodged. It's been a long slog but we are almost there. The farm is unaffected by the change to the Solar Bonus Scheme, as we signed it all up on time. We will officially launch the farm in early 2011 when all six arrays are on line.

Welcome to Izzi

Our new Rat Project Manager has been recruited. She is only a young 'un and is now in training... watch out for her.



Lismore's Living Library – the first of its kind in Australia – celebrated its fourth birthday in November.

This revolutionary concept gives people from different walks of life – the "books" – the opportunity to share their experiences with "readers". The "books" represent groups frequently confronted with prejudice, stereotypes, or discrimination.

The idea of a Living Library was first developed by the Danish youth organization, *Stop The Violence*, in 2000. The concept took root and has spread across Europe.

The concept was launched in Lismore in November 2006, and many books and readers expressed their desire for a regular Living Library service.

These regular reading sessions are now held at the Lismore City Library. The project is organised by



Top: Hearing Voices choir performing at the birthday party

ordinary members of the greater Lismore community who are working towards the creation of a harmonious society. The living library aims promote understanding and celebrate diversity.

In this library books cannot only speak, they are able to reply to specific questions – and they can

even ask questions and learn themselves...

The Lismore City Council and the Lismore City Library are working to make the Living Library a vibrant, long-term and on-going project.

For more information about participating in this community project, contact the library on 6621-2464.

Chamber Chat...

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce

The Annual General Meeting of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce was held on 22nd November 2010, with a good attendance of local business owners and several guests. Throughout the year the Chamber has been very active in pursuing its goals in a wide range of areas, for the benefit of both businesses and the wider community.

Chamber President Peter Wise presented the Chamber's Annual Project Report, providing a summary and action plan of the year's projects and business. He thanked the outgoing Executive and was received by a round of applause and a sense of gratitude that those that had worked so hard during the past year had built a firm foundation for the new Chamber's work.

The outgoing Executive's freedom was short-lived – all positions were decided by acclamation and the existing committee re-elected: President Peter Wise, Vice President Bevan Whitney, Secretary Eugenie Stephans and Treasurer Peter Hughes.

The new Committee promised to continue the work of the Chamber with commitment and enthusiasm.

The speaker for the evening was Helmut Katterl who spoke about the creative potential of Nimbin and how the establishment of a Creative Industries Hub can enhance Nimbin's arts industry.

A discussion ensued in relation to tourism. Peter Wise was delighted to



announce that the Lismore and Nimbin Visitor Information Centre's (VICs) won the GOLD award for Visitor Information Services in the 2010 NSW Tourism Awards.

For the last two years, both VICs won the bronze award, so it was a great win and third time lucky. This is a magnificent result given there are over 170 accredited Visitor Information Centre's in NSW. Currently Nimbin attracts 78,000 visitors each year and a big thank you to Council's Tourism co-ordinator Mitch Lowe and Andrew, Franca and Renee of the Nimbin VIC for all their efforts in serving and representing the Nimbin community.

Tourism was the talk of the night, given the large number of tourists coming to Nimbin each day, remarking that many visitors stay for four hours or less. A discussion ensued on how to encourage them to stay longer.

The Public Transport Survey is at its final stage now and information is currently being collated, ready for interpretation.

Peter Wise thanked each Chamber member for their contributions throughout the year and wished them all the best in their business.

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Council comes to Nimbin

The annual Nimbin community meeting of Lismore Council took place in November, generating a good deal of heat from the scores of people who attended.

Mayor Jenny Dowell sensitively chaired the meeting, accepting statements and questions from the floor that were beyond the scope of the three agenda items, the draft LEP, roads and the formation of a community reference group.

Criticisms of the draft Local Environment Plan centred on the land-use rights of property owners, with several impassioned speeches outlining the impact of environmental protection measures in the plan.

Councillors will meet in the new year to consider their response to over 1,000 written submissions received, and will determine proposed changes to the draft at a formal Council meeting in May.

Apart from a brief



presentation by Annie McWilliams at the end of the meeting on the structure and purpose of the Nimbin community reference group, most discussion concerned the maintenance of rural roads.

Executive Director Sustainable Development, Garry Hemsworth was on hand to field a range of questions, centred on the badly deteriorated state of Blue Knob Road.

He told the meeting that maintenance costs for the road, part of the Regional Roads Network, were shared 50-50 between Council and the State through the RTA, but that money for reconstruction was limited, with Council bidding for

funds against 12 other Councils.

A points system used to prioritise projects, based partly on road volume and accident statistics and also test vehicle results, has placed Blue Knob Road on a priority list of 6 projects to be submitted for the competitive funding process in February.

One speaker asked whether perhaps the road could at least be patched to make it safer in the meantime.

Another questioned Council's formula for allocating Section 94 road levies paid by developers, which sees less than 10% spent in a village where development occurs.

See responses to the meeting by the mayor and deputy mayor on page 11.

Hub gets wheels turning

News of the formation of the Nimbin Creative Industries Hub is rippling through the government, business circles and the wider community.

The hub is now linked to the wider network of Creative Hubs in other states, with new avenues of funding support opening for the not-for-profit operation.

A space in the Nimbin Community Centre is available, and negotiations are now under way to establish suitable working and lease arrangements and starting time, planned for early next year.

Helmut Katterl provided background and updates of the Nimbin hub at a meeting

of the Creative Industries Consortium at Newrybar, chaired by Tony Duke of Arts Northern Rivers, which provided an update on NSW creative industry sectors including fashion, audio, film and literature.

A three-phase report and action plan, including preliminary cost estimates, was presented to potential State Government funding bodies, and other funding possibilities are being investigated.

An event to assess the region's creative resources and establish project priorities is now being planned. For more details, contact Helmut on 0458-048-565 or by emailing helmut@tribalplanet.org

Giving birth to new era of understanding

A fun-filled family day is planned for Saturday 11th December, when a plaque will be unveiled at Birth & Beyond, Nimbin to mark the great part the building plays in the community's culture.

There will be demonstrations and presentations, music and film, and all the colour and joy alive in Cullen Street. The unveiling ceremony will commence at noon and will feature music and talk to recall the history of Birth & Beyond, with plenty of time to catch up with family and friends.

This is an opportunity to recall past agreements, appreciate the benefits that have flowed from them, and to share our best intentions to the future of Nimbin community.

A special feature of the day will be a concert presented by Nimbin's Vintage Songsters at 3pm in the Town Hall, with performances from Marian Henderson and Smiling Ruth Miller with their band, the Julias, Mookx (remember BeeBop?), Paul Joseph and others who give voice to the thriving spirit that has

been the hallmark of Nimbin's community since Aquarius.

Mookx and Paul Joseph have written a new song to help the Byrrill Creek no-dam campaign, and are making a short film clip to get the word out far and wide. This clip and song, 'No Dam No Way' will be launched at the concert.

The intention of this Birth & Beyond Dedication Day is to enjoy a positive experience and not to condemn, but to offer a reminder of why we have made such agreements in our community.

If we acknowledge, with gratitude, the rich culture we share and the parts we all play, then we are truly renewing our sense of community.

In the bonding process we do things and share things and make promises to each other that tie us both as benefactor and participant in the living process. We need to take responsibility and reconnect with our core to project the positive elements of our culture.

Enquiries, phone Paul Joseph 0401-275-099.

One dam thing after another



A choir of 30 people sang the new Save Byrrill Creek anthem, No Dam No Way, at the proposed dam wall site in November. At 11am on Sunday 5th December, a picnic and walk / swim will be held at the wall site. Contact Janaki for details on 6679-7163.

A decision against the controversial Tillegra Dam in the Hunter Valley could have implications for the proposed Byrrill Creek dam.

The NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, refused approval for the Tillegra Dam after \$100 million had already been spent – and four of the six reasons he cited for his refusal are directly relevant to Byrrill Creek.

Kelly vetoed the Tillegra dam on the grounds that "there is inadequate justification for the proposal as the best option to meet the long-term water supply needs of the Hunter Region".

The Tweed Shire Council's decision to push ahead with the Byrrill Creek proposal was taken against the advice of the shire's professional planning staff and there was little – if any – scientific justification for the option.

The Tweed already has an existing dam – a factor in the Tillegra case, with the Chichester dam serving the Hunter area.

An independent review of Tillegra called for the reassessment of the principles, figures, and economic and environmental costings that underpinned the demand management figures.

The Tweed council will not agree to, or fund, an independent review.

Kelly said that on "the basis of the precautionary principle" there were threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage as a result of the Tillegra project. He said there was "significant uncertainty whether these threats could be avoided or minimised to acceptable levels".

Byrrill Creek is the highest-level conservation riparian area in the Tweed Shire and the environmental damage would be irreversible, and could not be minimised. The area is also an important wildlife corridor and habitat between three National Parks, two of which are World Heritage-listed.

The minister stated: "an unacceptable level of risk that the impacts of the proposal on the ecological values of the internationally recognised Hunter Estuary Ramsar wetlands have not been fully and accurately assessed".

He would surely be aware that Byrrill Creek is home to 45 threatened fauna species, 26 threatened flora species, and two Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs).

Steve Phillips, of the ecological consultancy

firm Biolink, has stated that because of the delicate balance of nature in the area, the case will be referred through the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act and the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

Kelly also said that the Tillegra Dam "is not in the public interest" – and opponents of the development say that damming Byrrill Creek would be the most expensive of all the options, with an estimated cost of \$67 million.

The dam would also sever a major tourist drive around Mt. Warning and affect access to Mebbin National Park campground.

Many Tweed residents are opposed to the dam, and with the new Tweed Water Sharing Plan due to be legislated early in December, action has been heating up locally and at state level. A petition against the dam has attracted 5000 signatures in just three weeks.

The Greens MLC, Ian Cohen, tabled a motion in NSW Parliament on Thursday 25th November, raising the issues of high conservation, environmental and Aboriginal cultural values.

Cohen's motion also states that construction of Byrrill Creek dam would lead to the inundation of 400 hectares of land and a portion of the Mebbin National Park. It also points to the proposed dam's conflict with the NSW Weirs Policy, and community opposition to the proposal.

He asked the Government to maintain the prohibition on construction of a new dam at Byrrill Creek within the new Water Sharing Plan. Cohen said construction of the dam would impact on environmentally significant flora and fauna species and threatened habitat.

The Government's own water policy is against construction of this dam, but the Tweed Shire Council is actively pursuing it on the basis that it is required for water security.

"This is simply not the case, as shown in the council's own documents and deliberations," said Ian Cohen.

Joanna Gardner, spokesperson for Save Byrrill Creek, said, "The growing opposition to the whims of three councillors may well become a tidal wave that washes away the proposed dam, the tainted smell of a lack of democracy, and save \$67 million of ratepayers' money from going down the drain."

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Fete takes a hand at Tuntable

by Simone Rutley

With the weather threatening, everyone was a little anxious that the Tuntable Falls Community School and Pre-school fete on Saturday 20th November would be a wash-out.

Not a chance. The school and pre-school proudly showed off their newly renovated campus. Charlie Cohen and his crew have worked tirelessly over the year to give it a fabulous facelift.

The teachers were able to show off their renovated classrooms, complete with computers and smart whiteboards, a new office, library and undercover areas. It is all looking clean and fresh with a new coat of paint.

The pre-school is building a special area for bike riding and has a beautiful new sandpit. This was achieved despite the headaches and budget pressures of implementing



Three of the students performing their clowning act. They are taught circus by Hartje as part of the school curriculum.

new fire safety regulations imposed by council after the Black Saturday enquiry in Victoria.

There were a number of stalls at the fete, including the quirky garden gnomes made by former students, and the school's reputation for good food was again shown to be well-deserved.

Chris Anderson organised an adventure water-slide that brought out the daredevil in everyone.

The school and pre-school are now on Stradbroke Island for the annual school community camp. After such a busy year and the fete, it will be a much-deserved rest for all.

Grant gets 'em growing at Barkers Vale

Barkers Vale Public School has been awarded a \$2,500 Eco School Grant to develop the school's new vegetable gardens.

The Eco School Grant aims to support students and the community in developing and implementing environmental management projects.

Wendy Jansen, a mother of three students at the school, has volunteered to develop the School Environment Management Plan (SEMP).

Thomas George MP, the State Member for Lismore, presented the school with a certificate from the NSW Government recognising the grant and the Barkers Vale Kitchen garden project.

"The grant will help us build more garden beds and involve more children and parents in the project" said Jennifer Parke, the parent who applied for the grant.

Significant environmental changes have been made at the school, with compost bins, litter-free lunches, worm farms and garden beds to grow vegetables for the canteen.

The whole school community has come on-board with the aims of reducing waste and growing food locally.



Thomas George MP presenting the certificates to Wendy Jansen and two students, Adelaide Richardson and Anika Parker.

The Eco School Grant was supplemented by a generous donation from the Nimbin Garden Club.

Future activities in the SEMP include an excursion to the Nimbin Rocks to learn from the Aboriginal Rangers, and a trip to the Lismore City Council Waste Transfer Station to learn about the impact of waste on the environment.

Games Day at Hanging Rock Hall

A games day for over-12s organised by the region's newest high school, Mt Warning College for Steiner Education, will be held at Hanging Rock Hall at Barkers Vale on Saturday 11th December.

The games day starts at 11am offers a fun variety of indoor and outdoor activities to challenge young people. It's free, and patrons are asked to bring a plate to share for lunch.

Mt Warning College for Steiner Education will begin operating next year from leased premises at Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education at Lillian Rock. The school is offering Years Eight, Nine and 10 and is currently seeking enrolments.

Committee spokesperson Helen Lynne said that the school received Education Department approval for registration in September, and has since attracted a good deal of interest from teachers.

"We've been approached by a surprisingly large number of Steiner-trained and experienced teachers who love what we're doing and really want to come on board

and be part of it," Ms Lynne said. "In our first year of operation we're aiming to have small classes. We're a pioneering school and obviously we're not expecting to have large numbers. But we're very committed to being up and running and open for business for next year."

Peter Calkin gave the audience a snapshot of the school's curriculum, using outdoor education, at a recent information evening.

"Steiner schools do outdoor education in a very powerful and profound way – it's not just bushwalking and camping," he said. "The outdoor education curriculum programs are aligned with Steiner's phases of childhood development. Like all the subjects in these schools, there is a very clear meaning about why things are done at a particular age."

"The activities start with the outdoor experience and then really build up a connection to nature and sense of place."

Anyone wanting more information on the school or the Games Day can phone Helen on 6689-0056 or Leanne on 6689-7007.



Year seven and eight students and three teachers Nimbin Central School enjoyed a two-day camp with Interaction on the 3,000-hectare property at Mebbin.

The aim of the camp was to develop team-building, organisational, leadership and personal skills under the guidance of camp leaders.

The students went hiking, set up their own tents, cooked their own food, built rafts and experienced the ultimate sensation, "the sugar glider".

Most students agreed it was an awesome experience, and they came away with a new-found confidence as individuals and as team members.

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Nimbin shows its passion for fashion

by Helmut Katterl

This year's Nimbin fashion extravaganza was one of the most vibrant, colourful, diverse and superbly choreographed shows in the event's eight-year history.

It was highly original and absolutely professional in its presentation; all is well here at the Nimbin School of Arts.

The show had everything from the colours of the earth to the colours of the rainbow, from satire to style, from the outrageous to the sublime. There were models-turned-designers to established designers with years in the industry, models like you and me and some surely destined to walk a few big city catwalks.

Tina Dvorak, with her bright and funky Kids' Collection, sparked up the packed house and set the mood for the evening, followed by the gifted 12-year-old Tessa Rutley who integrated felts by Simone Rutley into clothes that would make you smile on a chilly winter evening in Nimbin – under the guiding eyes and hands of designer and show organiser, Christine Chester.

Nimbin Central School delivered a potpourri of mix'n match apparel by Mahalia Jackson, Cody Robinson and Opal Wone, and Jacintha Seeth – under the direction of textile teacher, Marg Canning. It's fashion with an environmental conscience and the occasional clever use of recycled material.

The creations of Aena, Layla, Claire, Leni and Felix resonated with women in the audience. The five young designers clearly succeeded in their mission to transform everyday clothing items into something cute and creative.

After a four-year break, Janice Potter had come up with some fabulous creations in her Spring Collection from



pink and black, and the 'Sand and Sea Collection' in blue, sandy shades and green. All the outfits were her own designs and fabrics, and all individually created.

After hearing the latest Barkers Vale Brothers album, which is both good and hilarious, I wasn't sure what to expect from Jacqueline and her *Pangaia* label – also out of Barkers Vale. I wasn't disappointed. Must be something in the air out Barkers Vale way, because her creations ooze originality. A combination of "past elegance and the modern machine", set in the Northern Rivers landscape, is how she describes it.

Monique and Lorraine Sirrianni both made a big contribution to Jacqueline's work, with their leather creations and dreadlock hair pieces.

Asia and Emma, recently joined by their friend Kara, from

Paradox Art, have been impressive throughout the show's history, and came up with yet another popular collection.

The TAFE Sector, as expected, made another bold contribution to the region's fashion mix. Wollongbar TAFE showcased the work of five Certificate Four fashion students – Sonya Osborne, Prue Montgomery, Rachel Darnell, Helena Rousova and Andrew Sheppard. They left everyone buzzing with the expectation of more to come after the break.

We stepped out of the cool Nimbin night air, straight into the comfort of Barbara Mills' felt creations – a combination of sheer lightweight material and merino wool. Her clothing features stencils and rich surface designs in vibrant hand-dyed silk. Her creations are available around Nimbin, Blue Knob and Lismore.

POL, with inspiration from the South African electro-hip hop singer Yo-Landi, presented his unique collection of *White Trash*.

What can't Mim Hanley do? She writes good original songs, she's a cool performer, she has a wicked sense of the absurd and now there is *Goat-Thing* by Mim, custom, crochet designs, "repsychled" costumes and craft. Her designs reflect her views of a planet under siege from rampant waste and greed. Ties from the 1970s, fabric remnants, broken necklaces and even kitchen utensils all end up in *Goat-Thing*. Exciting, out there, and available around Nimbin.

Emah Silberstein also explores the infinite possibilities of recycled clothing under her *Mana Fiesta* label – a collection of wearable art inspired by her "journeys through festival creativity and the enigmatic ether". A real talent on the move.

Four one-off creations, knitted intuitively without patterns, really captured the enthusiasm of the audience. Created by Nora Wolters under her *Archaic Sense* label, were ultra-stylish and unpredictable.

The Barkersvale tsunami continued with Sha Creations by designer Myvanwy Fleur – a dynamic label with its unique urban designs embodying earthy tones in tailored, reversible and adjustable garments to suit diverse body shapes: natural fabrics with some funky art, frills, embroidery and lacing.

Last, and never least, came Christina Chester of *CC Designs*, artist, designer, professional powerhouse and producer of the Nimbin Fashion Show. Her new summer collection, 'Illumined Shadows' is a stunning mosaic of colour and light, with accessories by Sha La La of Lismore and glass bead necklaces by Michele Bevis of *Emu Beads* at Uki. Check it out at *CC Designs*.

Thanks to Christine, Dionne, a thoroughly professional MC, and thanks to all the designers, the models, the School of Arts and all the creative people involved in staging this sparkling community event.

Bluesman Phil rocks the Factory

by Warwick Fry and Andrew Speers

Best from the past and all that ... but it was a real buzz to be around a charismatic guitar blues artist Phil Emmanuel playing with a heavy blues band, *Express* – yet another shining local talent. Phil used to drop in to

the Lennox Pub, back in the 1990s, and sit in with the locals on an Open Band night. Completely absorbed in playing guitar, he'd come up to the bar sometimes without noticing that his fingers were bleeding. "Beer mate?" "Sure." "By the way, you might want to use a

tissue ..."

Which might be why he prefers electric guitar. Both he and his brother Tommy have been playing guitar since childhood. "I started off playing acoustic," he said. "Mum used to tell me I couldn't have my dinner until I cleaned the blood off the strings. I went on to play electric – my brother Tommy still prefers acoustic guitar, but me, I like electric."

It certainly showed in his recent performance at the Bush Factory. Phil, with backing band *Express*, had the crowd pumping with hard-core blues led by Phil's guitar riffs.

Phil said he was in Nimbin "just to see how it was going, how it might have changed". He was last here in 1979.

Had it changed? "Not really – it's a bit like stepping back into a time warp."

Nimbin Headers provided a beer bar as a fundraiser, the cafe was open with a fire outside, and around 250 people were held spellbound for the evening.

The whole evening was something of a rebirth for entertainment at the Bush Factory.

The band *Express* rocked, a trio in the classic Hendrix/Stevie Ray Vaughan style: bass, drums and guitar. When they came on Phil did a wild bracket with them, which will be something the young players in that band, and the audience, will remember for some time.

It must have been a pleasant warp for Phil. He's going to be back for the Bush Factory *Express* gig on New Year's Eve.

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