

Jazz Club Notes

Brothers back on stage for jazz gig

Lismore Jazz Club's next gig at the Lismore Bowling Club on Sunday, 12th December, will showcase three quite different artists.

This musical journey will start with the *Barker's Vale Brothers*. These two brothers from the mountains of Barkers Vale play bluegrass, roots and swing music, original and traditional. They seem to like animals, trains, cheese and crackers, beer, murders, deaths, caravans and buses...

The brothers are Gareth Bjaaland and Vaughan Davies, who will be playing five-string banjo, flat-picked guitar, old-time fiddle and with some humorous banter and harmonising. They have been described as playing an "exciting brand of rootsy bluegrass with rare originality and humour" with "sparkling five-string banjo and squalling swampy harmonies (to) leave you high on mountain music".

Black Train will keep the journey moving with their own style of music – which they describe as being pre-bluegrass, with some Appalachian ballads and Woody Guthrie material. They don't significantly alter the music, but nor do they try to slavishly recreate the originals.

Black Train was formed in 2003 and comprises Kim Mclean on vocals and mandolin, George Herman



on double bass and vocals, and Dave Ramsey on guitar / fiddle / vocals. The music is simple in structure, and culturally rich.

The journey will end with another local, *Kitty Onley*, whose musical interest is jazz and swing. Kitty enjoys putting her swing stamp on quieter popular music and plays some of her own material as well.

Her first musical performance was at an Amsterdam café at age four, where a youthful aunt struck up a conversation with some hunky band members, announced that Kitty could sing and plonked her on a nearby table to perform.

It was a wild time in her teenage years after leaving school as her band performed as a support group for Normie Rowe and Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs.

Kitty continues to perform with keyboard accompaniment or backing groups at hotels, clubs, dinners, parties, weddings – and lately at funerals.

The gig will be from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$7 for members and students and \$10 for non members.



Song and inspiration at Sphinx

Kerriane Cox (pictured) and support artist *Machine* will be giving an evening of song and inspiration at the Sphinx Rock Cafe, Mount Burrell, on Friday 17th December.

The gig starts at 7pm (\$12), and there will be an afternoon performance at the Drill Hall, Mullumbimby, on Sunday 19th December at 2pm (\$15).

Cox achieved success on stage in the 1996 musical *Bran Nue Dae* before winning the Best Indigenous Artist Of The Year WAMi award

in 1997. Other awards include NAIDOC's Female Artist Of The Year 2000, the Deadlys Best Female Artist 2001, the Yvonne Cohen Award for Creative Indigenous Youth (2005), and the NAIDOC National Artist of the Year (2005).

She has performed at the 2002 Message Stick, at the Sorry Day concert at the Sydney Opera House, WOMADelaide 2003 and the 2008 *Festival of Pacific Arts*, among others.

Her CDs include *Just Wanna Move* (1999), *Opening* (2001) and *Return to Country* (2006).



Get Folked Up

The Nimbin Folk Revival has been gathering momentum since June, with monthly gigs at the Nimbin School of Arts adding another permanent fixture to the busy Nimbin events calendar.

Folke Up is organised by singer-songwriter Ewan James. "The *Folke Up* series of concerts has provided an effective sound and stage for original local music," he said. "I've had a lot of positive feedback from the audience and all the songwriters who have performed."

The next gig is on Saturday 11th December, MC duties by Gabi Bliss, with performances by Gabi, Michael Fairley, Vic Florey, Celia Harris, Ewan James, Dave Julian, Jodie Forest and Tuppeny Opera confirmed so far. Doors and Kylie's Cafe open at 7pm, music starts at 8pm, \$10 entry.

With Ewan pulling a great sound out of his gear, performers now have the option to get their songs recorded – which is great for getting more gigs, for music publishing or for pre-production purposes.



Performers Michael Fairley and Celia Harris (top), and Ewan James
Photos: Helmut Katterl



Dolphin Music Awards Female Vocalist of the Year, Andrea Soler, is hitting the road with her band and touring songs from her album *Earth On An Axis* – and all roads lead to Nimbin.

Soler launched her debut album at the National Folk Festival, Blue Mountains Music Festival, the Mullumbimby Music Festival and on Saturday December 11th will be playing at the Nimbin Bush Theatre, starting at 7pm. Entry is \$15 at the door.

Karaoke at the Bowlo

Nimbin Bowling Club is having its last karaoke session for the year – with a Christmas theme – on 11th December from 7pm to 11pm.

Come dressed in your festive regalia, prizes for the best dressed and best song of the night.



Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin, Ph: 6689-1246

December Gigs

Thursday 2nd	Dan Hannaford
Friday 3rd	Pacha Mama
Saturday 4th	Moons of Jupiter + Thunder Gods + Antibodies
Sunday 6th	Killed Two Birds
Thursday 9th	Bluesvein
Friday 10th	The Dirty Channel
Saturday 11th	Lou Bradley Duo
Sunday 12th	Troublekarmaflow
Thursday 16th	Robert Owen Duo
Friday 17th	Greenthief
Saturday 18th	Nite Star
Sunday 19th	Barkers Vale Brothers
Thursday 23rd	Bill Jacobi
Friday 24th	Azadoota – Gypsy Caravan theme*
Sunday 26th	Diana Anaid
Thursday 30th	Mat Seaberg
Friday 31st	The Firetree – Hat & mask party**
Saturday 1st Jan	Pierce Bros
Sunday 2nd Jan	Three Quarters Hazel

* **Fancy Dress Nights – Win Prizes!**

** Mention Nimbin Hotel and get 10% discount at Nimbin Hattery

Gigs start: Thurs 6pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 6.30pm, Sun 1.30pm

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What's On in December?

- **Saturday 11th** – Xmas Karaoke with Tina 6 - 11pm
- **Sunday 12th** – Kids Xmas Party, Santa arrives at 1pm
- **Club Closing Times** – The Club will be closed from 7pm on Saturday 18th for staff Xmas party, and all day on Saturday 25th, Xmas Day. Apart from these times, the Club will be open as usual throughout the holiday period.
- **Book in your End-of-Year Function now!**



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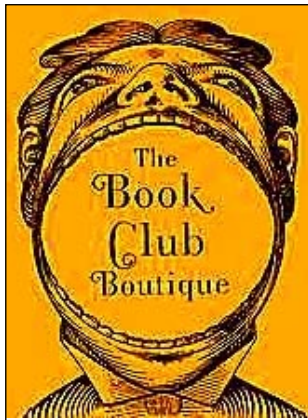
Soho's Book Club Boutique, London's hippest literary salon, is coming to Nimbin.

The motto is Books, Booze and Boogie-Woogie – and the BCB is unique every time, with Salena Godden (pictured) as the resident poet and host, composing and performing something completely new at each event.

Every event is themed and this is no square affair – there is dancing, merriment and mingling over cocktails, plus different DJs and live music provided by The Book Club Boutique Band, The Hussy Hicks and Melania Jack.

The Book Club Boutique Band is collaborating with friends from down under, following a storming summer in 2009 touring the UK festival circuit. This Aussie interpretation stars the girls of Shiny Shiny fame – the brilliance of Patty Bom on drums, Melania Jack on guitar and Bec Newman on keys.

Now the Book Club Boutique Band has been reunited with Australian cohorts, they are booking shows along the East Coast, picking up poets, grabbing the best authors, hooking up



with musicians, remaining open to suggestions and the open road...

The Book Club Boutique launches its Australian East Coast Tour at the Tuntable Community Hall on 17th December at 7pm, entry \$10 (members and guests).

The night will feature local performance poetry by David Hallett, Christine Strelan and Jane Treasure.

Tuntable Hall bush dance



A good time was had by all at the Bush Dance at Tuntable in November, and now organisers want to make it a regular event once again.

Some 50 dancers turned up to whoop and holla through such favourites as the Drongo and Strip the Willow, under the tuition of the patient caller Belinda, leader of the 12-strong Tuntable Bush Band, which included some of the finest folk players in the region.

Sustained by ample amounts of Megan's tasty food and chai, everyone had a great night, with the promise of more to come, possibly three dances scattered throughout the coming year.

Bush Theatre back on track

by Imandan

Hot on the heels of the auspicious appearances from California's globe-trotting *Groundation* and guitar hero Phil Emmanuel last month, comes the world renowned Turbulence (pictured) on tour from Jamaica.

Turbulence will play the Bush Theatre on the afternoon of Sunday 5th December, after headlining at the Byron Bay Reggae Fest the day before.

We may even be honoured to host *Midnite* as they unwind before they head back overseas... this show is one not to be missed!!

Andrea Soler will also be performing with her new band on 11th December (see page 8). After catching her amazing set at the recent

Ukitopia Fest, I know they've got people talking.

Plus Movies are coming back! Movie Nights will start in December, and more international, domestic and local music gigs.

We have Nimbin's newest mural in progress. A combined Benny Zable and Gilbert Laurie piece, this mural will provide an excellent backdrop for the Nimbin "Riverstage."

Construction of the "Riverstage" will be complete in early December, providing a third stage, outdoors, for live entertainment.

The River appears alive and well and the platypus don't seem to mind the bridge construction.

We are always looking for new gigs, events or ideas on how to use the space. Please email



adam@nimbinbushtheatre.com
Local bands and musicians are welcome to apply for

support act selection and submit CDs for sale in our store.

On the record with Nim-FM

It's been a few years since Nimbin's last home-grown CD was delivered to 100 radio stations around Australia.

That Nim-FM initiative was a compilation of 14 original songs written and recorded by local performers.

The time has come again for Nim-FM to support local music artists – and it's calling for new songs for its next project.

All previous artists are asked to submit another song for this double CD, so if you



have recorded a song within the last two years send a copy to PO Box 522, Nimbin, 2480, care of Martin Preedy. Include your contact details.

Musos can also make contact at the studio on Tuesdays between 10am and noon at the Underwater Radio Show.

Kick off your NYE in style

Join the Clown Prince of Polyester – Bob Downe – in his brand new show, *20 Golden Greats!* He sings, he dances, he takes very good care of his hair!

Whether you're heading to Tropical Fruits, a party with friends, or out on the town, Bob Downe's *20 Golden Greats!* is the perfect way to kick off your New Year's Eve celebrations with some big laughs and fabulous music.

Bob Downe's *20 Golden Greats!* is on at 8pm Friday 31st December, at Lismore City Hall, Tickets: \$35 / \$28 at the door.



Spiritual music at Kaivalya Meru

If sacred or devotional music, kirtan or communal chanting are your thing, then a new music night at Kaivalya Meru Community will appeal.

Organiser and resident Dana Mynard is keen to offer evenings that will inspire guests to connect with their hearts and beauty in a lush natural setting. The retreat hall on the community is the venue for the evenings, and has provided the space for deep transformational work for a number of years.

Join us for an exquisite evening on Saturday 11th December, with the talents



of local musicians The Peace Collective and Vesica Pisces, who both appreciate the space between the notes!

Vesica Pisces (Rebekah Ray's soaring vocals & flute, Jason Karabash's eastern tinged guitar and Elvis Callaghan's global violin) create a unique experience through original sacred music – with influences from

the glacial waters of the Holy Ganga, the writing of 13th century Sufi Mystics, to the ancient Earth Worship ceremonies of the British Isles.

The Peace Collective is Elias Callaghan

(pictured) on vocals, guitar and flutes, Marti on guitar and vocals, Anira on mandolin, bazouki and violin and Pete on harmonium and vocals.

The spiritually inspired and smoothly lyrical nature of their music takes listeners on a journey into a deep, still place within.

Kaivalya Meru is a drug, alcohol and smoke-free space located at 3981 Kyogle Road, Lillian Rock – 10 minutes from Sphinx Rock Cafe. Delicious food is available via the community kitchen from 6.30pm, with the musical atmospheres floating free from the speakers after 7.30pm.

Please car-pool if possible, as parking is limited. Entry is \$15. For more information call Dana on 6689-7533 or email visionsinharmony@yahoo.com.au

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Manifesto up in smoke

Mandie Hale (Letters, NGT Nov 10) is so right about the Manifesto handed to the Nimbin police.

It was the inaugural "smoke and deal in" where protestors had to buy their tokes on a joint with a \$5 or \$10 note.

I must admit it was a lot of fun making our point that Nimbin needs a place to trade pot and full marks to the coppers who stayed inside and let us do our thing. The sergeant has since retired! Not every day you get to sell joints and smoke them on the footpath in front of the copshop.

The Manifesto writer, alas, was clearly carried away, such was the excitement of the event and quality of the props, and you are right Mandie, it was really a bit of a theatrical document and God only knows how such rubbish made it into this marvellous newspaper. The original, I'm sure, landed in Bluey's wastepaper basket. I wonder if the cops do recycling in the office?

A couple of thoughts on the rest of your letter. No one intended for Nimbin to get a big marijuana label, just like the greedy businessmen and religious moralists who outlawed pot never foresaw the horrendous consequences of their lies and propaganda. The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

The main game is feeling good, no? Seems that's what people want, and of course it then becomes potentially a huge money-maker, and grubby humans lie and cheat to get slices of the cake. Prohibition of pain relieving herbs is a relatively recent phenomenon and making illegal the most popular herbal medicines in history has of course created

massive black markets and all that goes with it. Nimbin is tidy town compared to Mexico or Afghanistan, even if we have become a refugee camp from the ludicrous war on drugs.

Despite all you say about the village's rough edges, we in fact still pretty much have to police ourselves and myriad good people put a lot of energy into that. I admire Nimbin's compassion and understanding. It is a rare community indeed and it suits that our annual event is about human rights and not just celebrating a flower or a tree, even if we are!

Ironically, our tolerance has kept the village relatively real too, I reckon. Yuppies don't like druggies!

Michael Balderstone
President, Nimbin HEMP Embassy

Hemp Party

As a committed Greens member I have some concerns about the Hemp Party (NGT Nov 10, p13).

Will a ballot of members take place to select candidates? Which parties will be preferred in the upper house, and will an ethical selection for preferences be followed?

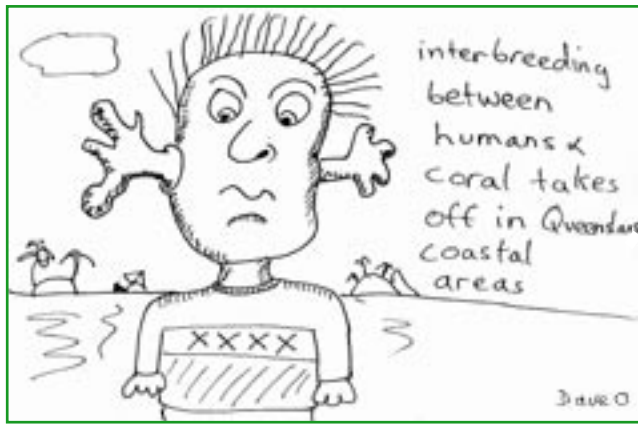
I am suspicious that G. Askey is using this party to play politics and that it isn't a grass roots party.

The Greens' policies on drugs are used against us every election, but we keep them in our policy for ethical reasons.

I believe splitting first preference votes away from the Greens will be electorally damaging to progressive politics.

The best hope for reform is a strong Green vote.

David McInnes-King
Larnook



Medicinal Cannabis

Several months ago I was in Nimbin Hemp Embassy when an elderly couple came in very distraught. They told me that their 35-year old daughter was dying of cancer and that they had seen on the internet Rick Simpson's method of making a tincture using 1 kilo of high grade cannabis.

I tried to explain to them that it was illegal for them to try and save their daughter's life in Australia. They thought it was different for them. They were not criminals nor did they want it to sell, they just wanted to help their child.

I did help them with some medicine, but I have wondered ever since if they could have got that 1 kilo and I was a police officer outside when they left, what would I have done to those people? What would I have done to their already distraught lives? What would I have been able to take home to my children from that experience to defend what I do?

If you can't defend it and you have to hide behind it, then it is probably time to change it.

Discretion is given to us by our parents and some times overlooked as a tool for making a point.

Anthony D Bower
Director, Mullaways Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd.

Rail Trail

Imagine Nimbin without tourism. That is the daily reality for the other inland towns and villages of our region.

The question about how to better distribute \$ Tourism inland is a difficult one – Nimbin is worth a visit, most of the others are not. They don't have clear appeal, tangible attractions, or an overt tourism presence.

A rail trail would give the towns and villages along the rail corridor between Casino and Murwillumbah a slice of Byron Bay's tourism pie. Who would walk or ride past a cool drink or a meal at Mooball? Wouldn't Lismore, Eltham or Bangalow be a great place to spend the night and a few dollars? All the towns and villages would benefit, as would adjacent businesses and landowners, especially those willing to build a few bungalows or start up a kiosk or camping ground.

Our inland towns and villages could work together and share one big iconic attraction. Into the future, it could form the spine of an integrated pedestrian, cycle and equestrian network that would connect trails throughout the region, including Nimbin and the "Long Forest Project" tracks.

This would encourage the rapid development of other regional tracks and pathways that would, for example, include a circle Tweed Valley track joining at Murwillumbah. If we could get started soon the next generation would inherit the world's most amazing and valuable rail trail.

Domestic and international tourists would enjoy a sublime mix of World Heritage, Big Scrub history, incredible bio diversity, internationally acclaimed surf beaches and more. No other rail trail in the world can offer that! This is eco-tourism in its purest form! Low impact holidays are now big business.

Tour operators could craft diverse, high value tourism products that could be tailored to the needs of a wide range of customers. We could draw upon some of the elements that make trekking in Peru, Nepal and

Notices

Position Vacant – Cook

Flexible, reliable cook wanted for casual position in busy cafe. Must have good attitude and be well presented. Some weekend work. Barista skills a bonus. Phone 0429-816-832.

Position Vacant – Market Manager

The Channon Craft Market Inc. seeks a Market Manager. Are you dynamic, energetic and passionate, and able to take this original community market into the future? This is a casual position – people and computer skills are essential. For information package, visit www.thechannonmarket.org.au Closing date is 30th December.

For Sale

Musckovvy ducklings. Need to be securely housed at night. Contact Rikki 6689-0001.

Wanted

Qualified Traffic Controllers for MardiGrass. Please contact the HEMP Embassy on 02 6689-1842 or visit www.nimbinmardigrass.com

Yoga

Yoga classes with Jo at Birth and Beyond, Nimbin during December, Monday 9-10.30am, Friday 5.30-7pm. The classes are a mixture of styles and are suitable for all ages and levels. Enquiries, phone 6688-8176.

Free Listings

If you have something to advertise in under 50 words, that we think would interest our readers, we'll run it here for free.

Thailand so appealing, infuse it with an Australian flavour and take it to the world!

Imagination is the only limit, and I'm sure we have already proven that we are an imaginative lot!

Will Jeffery
Lismore

the West Coast of America like Las Vegas, Oregon and Nevada.

Syd, who now stands at 6.8', has represented his own school basketball teams and gone on to play with the Lismore Basketball Association.

The trip is costly, but with the commitment of community we will send Sydney over to represent our rainbow Northern Rivers Region in the USA and advance his basketball career.

Phone 6689-0014 or 0405-011-060 to donate. Thank you Nimbin for your generous support.

Harmony Freeborn,
Nimbin

Support sought for basketball tour

Our boy, Sydney, has been selected to compete in the United States with his basketball coach and other selected players from this region, in a tour organised by Kempsey Basketball Club.

They will enjoy a lively competition playing against numerous high schools on

About us

Editor: Bob Dooley
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Sub-editor: Hal Williams
Layout: Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley
Photographers: Sue Stock, Pam Bourne, Thorsten Jones, Len Martin, Marie Cameron
Distribution: Angus, Sue, Coralie, Ben, Gabrielle & Warren (Bellingen), Dave (West End), Matt (Glebe).

Bookkeeper: Martha Paitson
Website: David McMin
www.nimbingoodtimes.com
NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.
Next deadline: Wednesday 29th December
Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

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Simon says...

by Simon Clough
Lismore Deputy Mayor

I'm not sure if anyone shares my feeling, but I have a definite sense of the year galloping away. Partly it's due to the Council timetable, most staff are on holiday over January, which means everything has to be done before the December meeting. While I might be galloping, I'm certainly not riding my bike which has had only one outing since the 100k Brisbane - Gold Coast ride three weeks ago. It's a great feeling, and a little scary being part of nearly 10,000 cyclists speeding through the tunnels and along the Brisbane expressways.

Council approved the development application for the new shopping and residential development at 47 Sibley Street. The development could employ up to 100 people. I'm particularly interested in the economic and environmental impact of this development. 60 - 70% of money spent locally recycles in the local area, this is good news for the Nimbin economy. This development should not only stop money "leaking" to Lismore, but should also reduce car traffic to Lismore which is a great win for the environment. I have confirmed that the development contributions are designated to Nimbin's roads, which was an initial concern.

Work on the Nimbin skate park should have started or be about to start. The sod-turning went well with the Mayor and the local Federal member, plenty of media and a few notable locals. I have to confess I'm always a little nervous with so many cameras, thoughts like, am I going to be caught with my growing tummy in profile, torture me.

Fifty-six people attended the Nimbin forum Council holds every year. This year's forum was pretty hot, featuring the draft Local Environment Plan (LEP) and roads. Many rural ratepayers are very concerned that the LEP will affect their farming, by requiring them to fence creeks or prevent them from changing agricultural activities. The truth is that LEP will not be able to force landholders to do anything.

The LEP only becomes an issue when landowners want to change the use of their land by lodging a development application. The LEP will not prevent development but will raise the issues that must



be considered in a development proposal. It also must be remembered that the LEP is still in draft form and that changes will be made where necessary to accommodate the genuine concerns of land owners.

Most of the road issues centred around the terrible state of the road between Nimbin and Blue Knob. Council has committed to fixing this problem as soon as possible given the dangerous state of the road this can't be soon enough.

For the third year in a row, I was part of the assessment panel for Richmond River High's year 10's oral presentations. The year 10 students take us through their year's assessment, talk about their lives and their aspirations. I'm always inspired by how articulate the young people are. In my day, me and my mates had mastered the mumble and not much more.

I'm very concerned about the coal seam gas industry. There has been exploratory drilling locally at Keerong by Arrow Energy, which has been implicated in contaminating groundwater at a number of sites in Queensland. According to the environment correspondent of the Sydney Morning Herald, these companies do not need to get permission from the state government to carry out hydraulic fracturing which is the process of breaking up the underground rock layers to release methane gas. Carcinogenic chemicals are often used in this process and that's what can get into the water system. The exploration companies are obviously concerned about growing community reaction to this drilling because I received numerous "fact sheets" from the industry personally addressed to me. I must say I'm unconvinced by the exploration industries facts. It's an issue which demands much closer scrutiny.

This is my last column before Christmas and New Year, and I would like to wish you and your families a joyous and safe holiday period.

Don't forget you can contact me at simonclough@internode.on.net or on 6624-2894 or 0428-886-217.

From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell
Mayor of Lismore
Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Nimbin VIC wins GOLD

The Lismore and Nimbin Visitor Information Centres have won the GOLD AWARD in the Visitor Information and Services category of the 2010 NSW Tourism Awards.

The award is a testament to our dynamic Tourism Team and demonstrates the important economic and social value of tourism to Lismore, Nimbin and Villages. Congratulations Mitch and all in Lismore and to Andrew and the Nimbin VIC team.

Congratulations also to Lismore's brilliant Lantern Parade - bronze award winners in the Events and Festivals category and to GunnaWannaBe Aboriginal Café, Gallery and Learning Centre, bronze award winners in the Indigenous Tourism category.

GM Recruitment

At the November meeting, Council formed a Selection Panel (Crs Dowell, Clough, Graham and Yarnall) to interview consultants for the facilitation of the recruitment of a new General Manager.

Those interviews have taken place and a recommended consultant will be considered at Council's December meeting. The Selection Panel will then work with the consultant and Councillors on the preparation of a position description, employment package and the selection criteria and process. It is envisaged that advertising for the GM's position will commence in February.

McLeans Ridges

Many NGT readers will be familiar with the controversy surrounding rural residential proposals in McLeans Ridges. One, for about 60 lots on Camerons Rd, required the developers to provide funds towards a community park. The development of facilities

on the parkland would be dependent on further land developments that may not occur, thereby leaving Council with significant on-going costs. While many Councillors remain opposed to the development, we decided unanimously to accept an offer from the developer of an alternative site with \$70,000 of works on the site.

Nimbin Supermarket

Councillors also voted unanimously to approve a staged shopping centre comprising a supermarket, bakery and five specialty shops and a 20-lot residential development in Sibley Street. The provision of jobs and local shopping opportunities were significant factors in Council's decision. While some concerns were expressed about increased traffic and environmental impact, Council was satisfied that the plans adequately addressed the issues.

Nimbin Caravan Park

In an evening of unusual unanimity, Councillors also voted together to proceed to an open tender for the lease of the Nimbin caravan park. Selling the facility was not recommended by staff because it could result in increased tariffs that would impose undue hardship on residents or lead to the redevelopment of the site and the loss of this affordable housing option. I am so impressed that staff and Councillors frequently consider the social impact of our decisions rather than relying just on the dollars.

Money for Roads

The report that led to the most heated debate was Council's attempts to find extra funding for roads and the environment. The staff rejected a full budget review and another attempt at a Special Rate Variation. Instead they recommended that the matter be considered in the review of the Community Strategic Plan in 2012. An attempt to make a 7.5% budget cut across all Council

areas except roads and environment lapsed for want of a seconder and Council voted 9/2 to support the staff recommendation.

Budget Review

Every three months, Council receives an update on how the budget is tracking against forecasts. There are always unexpected additions to both income and expenses. Unfortunately for this quarter, extra expenses were much greater than extra income. If not for the additional \$300,000 for the Champion's Quarry legal costs, there would have been a small surplus. Instead, Council has a \$226,500 deficit for the September quarter.

State of the Environment Report

It had been understood that the NSW Division of Local Government (DLG) changes in Integrated Planning and Reporting did not require the preparation of an update to the State of the Environment (SOE) Report. In late August, the DLG issued a directive that the SOE Report was required by November 30. Staff worked diligently to complete the review and it was pleasing to see Councillors endorsed it unanimously. That is not to say we have no concerns about its contents. While diversion rates from landfill are increasing, we are not meeting our own targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions and we have 57% water loss in the Nimbin supply. This water loss, attributable to unmetered supply, unmeasured flushing and leaking pipes, requires attention.

LEP

Council has been successful in receiving \$120,000 to assist in the preparation of our Local Environmental Plan. Public submission afternoons and nights are being held from late November until December 9 for people who have lodged written submissions to the draft LEP. Councillors will listen so that we are well-informed of community concerns and proposals



and can consider them in conjunction with the written submissions as we prepare the LEP to send to the Minister for Planning.

Community Forum

It was great to see 53 people at the recent Community Forum in Nimbin on November 15 at 7pm. Councillors and staff answered questions relating to the draft LEP for the first hour and then questions on roads, bridges, drainage, murals and improved communication with Council.

The Nimbin Community forum is an annual opportunity for Council to meet locals but please do not think that all concerns need to wait until the third Monday in November. There are many opportunities to engage with Council and all Councillors are just a phone call or email away.

Nimbin Reference Group

The formation of a Nimbin Reference Group is a great initiative and I look forward to hearing of nominees. The NRG will regularize two-way communications and supplement the Council to community information flow through a noticeboard, direct mailing and LCC community notices, news and two Councillor columns in the NGT.

Christmas and New Year

On behalf Lismore City Council, including Councillors, Management and Staff, I extend to the Editor, contributors and readers of NGT, a very Happy Christmas. May you all enjoy a festive season filled with joy and surrounded by family and friends. I trust 2011 starts with hope and unfolds with health and happiness. See you in 2011.

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Janelle's Page



by Janelle Saffin, MP

As a long time advocate of equal pay for women, my commitment to pay equity is rock solid, as is the commitment of the Gillard Government.

The Australian Services Union, which covers community sector workers, is pursuing a pay equity test with Fair Work Australia, with the Government's support.

There have been misleading reports that the Government has reneged on its support, but that is not the case.

It was the Australian Labor Government that changed the Fair Work Act and broadened the equal pay provisions so that the Australian Services Union could mount the pay equity case.

It is clear from the Australian Government's submission to Fair Work Australia that it is committed

to pay equity, that it acknowledges the vital role of the social and community service sector and recognises that much of the work in the community sector is undervalued.

If the decision comes down the way we want it to, in favour of pay equity for our lowest paid workers in the community sector, we have to find a way to fund this.

The heads of agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the ASU recognises that any resulting pay rises will have significant financial implications for the Commonwealth and the States.

That is why the agreement includes a gradual phasing in of any such wage increase.

I can assure the workers in the community sector and local union members that I am committed to both winning the pay equity and winning the funds to flow for such.

Release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

In November I put up a notice of motion in parliament to mark the welcome release of Burma's Democracy leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from years of house arrest.

I moved that the House welcome, on behalf of the Australian people, the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest; congratulate the Burmese pro-democracy movement for its resistance to military rule and ongoing campaign for democracy and call for the immediate and unconditional release of the more than 2,000 political prisoners still detained in Burma.

As well, the motion called upon Burmese authorities to embark on a genuine process of national reconciliation and engage in dialogue with all of Burma's ethnic groups.

The motion called on the Australian Government to make the most of this opportunity to bring about lasting reform for Burma and its people; to reinforce the campaign for political reform in Burma with increased engagement through government and diplomatic channels; maintain efforts to enforce a universal arms embargo against Burma; and support at the highest levels of Government the efforts of Aung San Suu Kyi and her colleagues to restore democracy and peace.

As I said in Parliament, I have seen dictators change. I have seen military regimes transition. We have all seen it in our lifetime in many places. It can happen as well in Burma.

- Janelle.

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

Pacific Coast Touring Route ready for exploration

Recently Justine launched a new project funded by the Gillard Government to support tourism development along the Pacific Coast.

The \$670,000 Legendary Pacific Coast Touring Route project will promote the corridor between Sydney and Brisbane as one of Australia's great driving holidays.

Justine welcomed a convoy that travelled up from Sydney to launch the touring route.

A Gillard Government grant of \$500,000 under the TQUAL Grants program contributed towards signage along the route, website development, marketing and promotional activities.

It is great to see another exciting tourism initiative that expands the range of quality attractions for visitors in Australia.

Linking all tourism services and products along the corridor under the Pacific Coast Touring Route brand will strengthen their attraction as tourist destinations.

The Tweed Heads launch was the Finale event of the week long Road Show, which started in Sydney and visited the Hunter Valley, Port Stephens, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Yamba, Ballina, Lennox Head, and Byron Bay.

"The Legendary Pacific Coast Touring Route has potential to attract even more visitors through the many communities along the Pacific coast and increase the turnover for local traders," Justine said.

Visitors can experience some of Australia's great holiday attractions from the wineries of the Hunter Valley, to the picturesque towns of Mullumbimby, Nimbin and Murwillumbah



Justine is introduced to one of the local attractions along the Tourism Route.

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

to the World Heritage listed rainforests of Mt Warning just out of Tweed and Byron Bay.

The project was just one of the 70 to have received a total of more than \$8 million to date.

Through TQUAL Grants we help tourism operators and communities around Australia to invest in innovative tourism projects and turn their visions into reality.

In the next four years, we will invest a total of \$40 million towards a new generation of exciting tourism projects under TQUAL Grants.

For further information: www.pacificcoast.com.au

of cultural life in regional Australia

We are committed to unleashing the potential of artists in regional Australia and strongly believe a more creative nation is a more productive nation.

This funding will allow emerging and professional artists in regional Australia to demonstrate their talents and enrich arts in regional Australia.

Justine recently congratulated Spaghetti Circus on its success in winning \$18,800 in the Regional Arts Fund program.

"The arts are a vital part of community life in Mullumbimby and this funding boost will bring professional artists and community members together.

"This funding will give artists and communities access to a wide range of exciting opportunities to build and share artistic and cultural skills."

Justine said "The Gillard Government's support means that the Spaghetti Circus will run 'For the love of Circus' in Mullumbimby".

For more information visit www.arts.gov.au/regional_arts_fund

- Justine.

Pictures of Dad

A photo competition is branching out to celebrate fatherhood and encourage men to spend fun time with their children.

The organisers of the Thanks Dad National Photo Competition received some sketches that children drew of themselves and their dads and decided to run a separate competition.

Children are now encouraged to send in a drawing of themselves and their dad, or their grandfathers, uncles, step-dads,



foster dads and even older brothers - the important men in their lives.

Age will be taken into consideration in judging. Entries can be scanned and emailed to us at tdp@yenc.com.au or

posted to us at Thanks Dad National Photo Competition, PO Box 1005, Lismore, NSW 2480.

Two winners will receive prizes of \$50 book vouchers for dad (or uncle, or grand-dad...) and \$25 vouchers for the young artists. More prizes may be offered if there are enough entries.

Entries close on 19th December and winners will be notified on the 20th December 2010. For more information on Thanks Dad, a non-profit community initiative, go to the www.thanksdadphotos.org.au website.

Congratulations Spaghetti Circus

Justine recently congratulated Spaghetti Circus on its success in winning \$18,800 in the Regional Arts Fund program.

The Gillard Government allocated \$900,000 to fund 65 art projects in communities across regional Australia. The funding is part of the commitment to the arts and the boosting

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We are planting a new co-operation

by David Peace=One Love

Recently I witnessed helicopters in our headspace trailed by ground crew in unmarked 4WDs emanating macho superiority and leaving behind damage, bad vibes and distrust. I feel burdened by my impression and intense feelings about what I perceive is unjustly out of balance, needing redress.

What do you reckon... choppers in our skies allegedly "eradicating" marijuana powered by enough aviation fuel and macho dude wages that could alternatively be used to

(Fill this space with your inspiration.)

I am connecting with our Northern Rivers community, uncovering dimensions highly relevant to our mutual sense of peaceful autonomy and integral expression for our planet at large. A lot of us feel very similarly, and are getting our heads and hearts in alignment and choosing a scenario where we are all victorious – Peace!

Do you sometimes feel we are supposed to be part of a greedy competition that could be a co-operation if we choose to get our heads out of the trip born of the erroneous almighty corporation dictating policy in our lives? Err... do you have a voice?

Nimbin is a little town with a huge historical legacy of revolution, of being on the forefront of positive social change, willing to question the rhetoric of despotic agendas and pioneer new methods of lifestyle.

But how engaged are we, how empowered are we as a healthy model of community when we let macho dudes tooled up with impressively advanced technologies roam around and above our sanctuary with an elaborate cover / decoy to protect (their own) "black market" interests, gunning to control supply and demand? In the process creating fear in our population, especially children, and increasing distrust toward police. It's counterproductive to a healthy society.

The intent of this article is to bring our beneficial plant industry into awareness, honouring and recognising we all benefit from quality herbs. I am conversing with our whole planet here, because the implications of what I'm writing asks us all to wake up to ourselves.

I'm talking about legalisation. Lawful practice needs to be brokered in when it looks like you're pedalling illusions when



you could be much more helpful acknowledging the real value of growing quality plants for market by collaborating to experience produce in its highest

potential. I'm referring to a win-win situation.

People: don't support negative behaviour from commando dudes who are ripping out our medicine and nutrition under the silent duress posed by our consistent relentless unconscious allegiance to a massive lie perpetuating the supposedly justifiable drama.

Make all our herbs available and do it in style, boldy and honestly and the natural abundance shall be seen. There is something you can do today to make it so. Act now for love. Relax, enjoy the change by documenting behaviour of poseurs in authority. Use our multimedia. People with criminal intent don't like cameras because it makes them accountable, notice?

Furthermore, provide better examples of right-use conduct with our plants. Lead the way with solutions and win as we all grow healthier and happier... how hippy!

Let's convert the hot air "disruption" and deceit in our headspace, and instead invest in inspiring infrastructure that truly serves us, integral education making it a fearless joy to live in this paradise, in these valleys, on this planet.

Let's develop our ways to connect with pilgrims touring through here, and create mutual opportunities that do contribute to the true culture and legacy of who we are coming to be... Respect!

Read more at <http://dpol.wordpress.com>

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuvva

Unda-neath it all lies The Great Mystery

When the Bosses brawl, you can hear it for three kilometres on a still day. Like buffalo charging each other. Or giant walruses fighting over their harems.

The war on drugs has finally made it to HO (head office) where the differing views rival the clash of the Titans. Some have had a gutful, but for others it's never enough. Many have made small fortunes from the WOD (war on drugs) – but there is always more. One of the Bosses had a favorite nephew, and now he is dead.

The old bull's world was freedom. Coppers ruled and we wrote our own scripts. The new bull is a university graduate in criminology and thinks you can learn it all in a book. For him, the decades of experience we've had count for zip.

So the Boss has been sending newbies out on the Nightmares, as we call them. They get to hunt tattooed butchers on ice and bourbon, while the old school is posted to hassle stoned hippies who couldn't hurt a fly. Predictably, it's all backfired and the new troops twigged that the harder we bust weed, the more druggies turn to powders and pills.

Also, the new drug testing is driving thousands away from pot to other drugs – pot stays in the system for some time, but chemicals leave the body within a few days.

Many of our old school officers used to chill with a confiscated smoke, but the random testing has caught too many, too often.

The laid back Sarge left without a goodbye. We were just getting to know each other and enjoyed some top sessions together after a day's bust. We talked too much, and of course it's all recorded. You cannot think in this job; it's almost forbidden, in fact.

Now I'm not allowed to any of the FFB's (famous Force Christmas barbecues), nor am I allowed to hang out socially with the uniforms. They've cut me adrift, as they said they would if I got too hippy.

I cased schoolies for a few days and found again that weed was scarce-as, with easily stashed pills everywhere. The kids just want to have fun and I left 'em alone.

Back in the office, the standard orders remain utterly predictable: Target

all communities with ten-point members.

Remember just living near Nimbin (5), long hair (5) and a beard (2) puts you over ten points, so communities who wish to avoid the choppers should have been wearing suits and looking normal. (Old balding and bearded hippies with pathetic scrawny ponytails, please note your almost hairless children have worked out the points system and rarely come up on the radar!)

Too late for the choppers now, the laborious research on local residents is all collated and on the giant HO wall maps. The hippy communities are crowded to bursting with markers. The choppers have no choice but to go straight there.

The chopper crew did have it easy this year and said to tell everyone they appreciated the seedlings left out for them. Their WAGs fluked a good week's weather at the Byron Resort too, with the best of the pot of course.

Beats me how even this crew still believe Nimbin must have a Mr Big. I keep telling them weed is like a religion to the crazed hippies, who really believe growing good pot is doing God's work and helping to enlighten people.

What hope do we have with such fanaticism?

At least the hippies use bongos not bombs, and their heavenly virgins are available in the here and now and not after you blow yourself to pieces.

Don't worry, the new commander will soon be here and if the suffocating layers of regulations don't render him harmless you'll have to start the education process all over again (again, again).

Meanwhile on your toes Nimbin, because the ADHD kid has been given the reins. He's eyeing-off another bonus European holiday, though stopping tourists from buying weed in the Amsterdam cafes has put a serious damper on trips there (not only for Kevin Rudd and Obama).

You do have a big weakness in the village tolerant, I have to tell tell you, even if my pay gets docked for it. Tactically we all now realise sending in one loony can completely sort the tiny stoned village. One nutter picks

a few fights and the whole mood is switched from a delightful happy hippy fashion show to a bloodbath.

You hippies have a long way to go before you will ever be allowed to have a clean village image – and by the way, scape-goating has three chapters all to itself in the new Manual of War. We get to use the very same new edition they have in Afghanistan, and you've probably noticed the tactical changes and the lack of difference it is making...



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