

## Copenhagen Greenwash

In retrospect, the Copenhagen talkfest with its disappointing outcomes was all fairly predictable and should have surprised nobody. The sticking points were always going to be the adequacy of emissions reduction targets and financing arrangements to assist developing countries.

Sadly, the event turned out to be a missed opportunity for the world to get serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions. While Kevin Rudd may appear to be showing leadership on the world scene, a closer look shows that his chest-puffing displays were just the usual greenwashing from a government that is taking a "business as usual" approach to climate change and peak oil.

The Australian Government's emissions reduction target of 5% is an embarrassment to individuals, organizations and the other levels of government that are taking steps to dramatically reduce their individual or collective emissions.

The few billion that Rudd is throwing at renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives should be applauded but this is far from being enough to transform our economy and demonstrate to the world that Australia is taking the necessary steps towards reducing our emissions. If Kevin Rudd wants any credibility at the next round of talks in Bonn and Mexico he should start negotiating now with the Greens to get a vastly improved CPRS passed through the senate.

The targets will need to be a minimum of 25% and the multi-billion dollar compensation package will have to be redirected away from the polluters towards individuals. That alone will offset the inevitable rise in prices to occur whilst transforming our economy. The Government's own modelling suggests that our economy would still be able to grow, while at the same time making significant cuts to our emissions.

It's simple: (1) stop large scale land clearing (2) get serious with energy efficiency (3) stop building new coal

fired power stations (gas is a much cleaner alternative in the short term) and (4) invest more money in large scale renewable energy projects and the emerging Green economy.

Cr Jeff Johnson  
Lennox Head

## A Bend That Could Kill!



Coming down the steep mountain on Stony Chute Road, heading towards Kyogle — right at the bottom of the hill at the turn-off to Campbell Road, is a very deceptive bend in the road. Many a driver has had to hit the brakes hard to be able to navigate safely.

But in the last two years, two drivers were not so lucky... one of them had an unpleasant early Christmas surprise this week when their vehicle failed to take the bend in time to miss the tree on the side strip. Resident cows looked on in amazement to see the front end of the vehicle pushed in and all the windows shattered.

It is only a matter of time before someone gets seriously hurt. Council would be well advised to alert drivers with an additional road sign to the forthcoming dangerous bend.

This is even more relevant as there is a bus stop opposite the common crash site with children waiting for the school bus or for their parents to pick them up after school.

Monika Boenigk  
Stony Chute

## Jump on board Life

Having read the piece by Binnah Pownall "Imaging Beyond Endings" in the December edition of NGT, I would like to express my thoughts in reply:

Binnah, friend, you have to say one thing about life, it likes to laugh in our faces. Sure it has a kinky sense of humor. Everyone knows life likes to kick a bloke when he is down. Yet the next time 'round, life is just as likely to give the same bloke pleasures beyond his wildest dreams.

That's the way of it.

During this accelerated energising period for Earth, life is revving up, "bouncing" from one extreme to the other. We are caught up in this and we really have no choice now but to trust life as we have never trusted life before. We are all going to be kicked and beaten to pulp otherwise. Let's face it, a lot of sad people are going to be. That's because they are bunching up at the wrong extreme — know what I mean?

Binnah! that's not for you. Jump on board the magnificent steed, Life, brother, and in one bound you can soar free. And to anyone who cares to listen I say, ask yourself are you heading for a kick in the balls from life or towards hidden treasures? Whichever it is, you are sure and true going to find out before the close of 2012.

Life favours those who give it both sparkle and depth. If you turn your back on life it will turn the same on you. But when you look life square in the eye and dare it to kick you just one more time you will be surprised

by the respect you will have earned. But you cannot command life to give you the best it has to offer. You have to win life's affections, like a lover. Life will not raise you up if it does not like you or if it has no good reason to or if you simply take life for granted and give nothing back. Binnah, it is life that is touching your heart, calling to you.

Life itself is reality and we humans are the magicians who create what we will from it, and by God we have picked up on a few tricks over time, but suddenly we are not too sure about how to undo the unwise stuff. So we are getting a tad concerned about the possible consequences of our smogfest and gluttony.

For as long as there is at least one human left who reaches out to life with a pure and sincere heart life will be available to the rest of us to practice our wizardry on. Until life has been demeaned and abused to where the last pure heart turns away it will never abandon us, but on that day it surely will.

Shanjuran  
Rural Byron Shire

## GoodTimes loses mascot

Jemima, the faithful *Nimbin GoodTimes* newshound, suffered a stroke just before Christmas, and was euthanased and buried at home.

A labrador cross who was originally a pound dog, Jemima lived to the ripe

old age of 18 years. Her image appeared in the *GoodTimes* on several occasions, whenever we did a dog story and needed a model.

Her presence, particularly underneath the layout table during the wee small hours, is sorely missed by the production team.



## About us

Editor: Bob Dooley

Assistant Editor: Sue Stock

Layout: Jo Evans and Bob

Photographers: Sue Stock, Pam Bourne, Roslyn Parry, Thorsten Jones, Diana Tissott, Len Martin, Paul Tait

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

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

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

Next deadline:  
Wednesday 27th January

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

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

## Notices

### For Rent



86sqm building, Nimbin Community Centre. A/C, private access, from \$164pw. Available Feb. 2010. Email Expression of Interest to: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)

### For Rent

Self-contained, one-bedroom dwelling in secured garden, five minutes walk from Nimbin Post Office, \$180 per week. Phone 6689-0517.

### For Sale

1984 Toyota Hi-Ace pop-top van. Manual, petrol, 2-way fridge, stove/grill, water tank, rear tent, tow bar. Only 137,000km, good condition. Urgent sale due to illness, \$6,200 ono. Phone 0427-336-910.

## Events

### Kyogle Markets

The Kyogle Produce and Craft Markets will resume on Saturday 9th January. The Tidy Towns Committee wish to thank the stallholders and their customers for supporting the Markets and wishes each and every one of you good health and prosperity in the New Year. Phone secretary Joan Hayman for more information on 6633-9143.

### Tunable Family Cafe

The Tuntable Family Cafe Sunday dinner will be back again on 24th January starting at 5pm. As always, we aim to bring you delicious, healthy meals in a nice atmosphere. If rains happen, we can cozy up inside the community hall. And as always, musicians are very welcome to join us. The theme will be Middle Eastern and belly dancers are also invited to come. If anyone knows of an inexpensive food display-warmer/bain marie, do let us know.

George, Stephanie, Nicolette and Sophia

### Kick up your arts

Fundraising party, Saturday 30th January, 7pm at Uki Hall. Featuring information about 2010 Ukitopia events, a collection of interesting performances, interactive theatre and concluding with a live music and dance extravaganza featuring Uki's top musos. Cost \$30, 12-20 yrs olds \$15 — includes dinner and a hot drink and cake. Pre-booked tickets essential. Phone 6679-5677

whatever you're looking for...



we can help you find it...

**nimbin**  
Rainbow region

**nimbin visitor  
information centre**

80 cullen st nimbin nsw 2480  
02 6689 1388



[nimbin@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nimbin@lismore.nsw.gov.au)  
[visitnimbin.com.au](http://visitnimbin.com.au)  
open 10am-4pm

**Nimbin Newsagency & General Store**

EFTPOS  
Ink Cartridges  
Every Day Groceries  
Office & School needs  
Newspapers & Magazines  
Prepaid Phone & Internet Credit

For all your everyday needs

**Channon Craft Market**  
The Channon Craft Market Inc.

**Next Market**  
10th January  
9am — 3pm

**Band of the Day:**  
**River Eddy**

**Charity of the Day:**  
The Channon Rural Fire Service

**Enquiries: 6688-6433**

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"



# Simon says...



by Simon Clough  
Lismore City Councillor

Welcome rain! It's so good to see the land becoming vibrant green again and the sound of the creeks gushing and crashing over rocks. It's a reminder of what a wondrous part of the planet we inhabit. What better Christmas present than to have full tanks, revived gardens and greening paddocks with contented livestock.

The last Council meeting of the year was a "full-on affair" with issues ranging from the decision to apply for funding for the Margaret Olley Arts Centre to a motion suggesting signs to the north and south of Nimbin stating "Lismore City Council supports a drug free Nimbin, your support would be appreciated". The Council meeting went till after 11pm with no Councillor sneaking off to attack the traditional last meeting prawns (which apparently has happened in the past!)

The decision to apply for federal funding for the Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC) was very close with the Mayor using her casting vote to decide the issue. I voted for the application because I'm convinced that the art/cultural community is already a significant growth industry which will repay the Council's investment handsomely in both cultural and economic terms. The impact of \$8.5m spent in the local economy should also not be underrated. If the MOAC is to go ahead it will coincide with a significant advertising campaign for the CBD which has the 'tag line' "Come to the heart!" all of which I believe will have a very positive impact on the CBD.

Council is of course putting itself on the line financially with the MOAC proposal. It would be great to see the

creativity and flair that our artists possess channelled into raising funds to help with the MOAC. It could be loads of fun participating in some innovative fundraising events.

One of the major decisions of the Council meeting was the decision to proceed with the Southern Trunk Main (sewerage), which will mean that the pressure (literally) is taken off the Goonellabah system and much more land is available for urban development close to the CBD. This is only part of the story, because from a sustainability perspective Council is keen to see an increase in housing density, more affordable housing and housing that is able to be accessed by walking, riding or public transport.

The community will hear a lot more about the Special Rate Variation. Council has resolved to approach ratepayers for feedback on the proposal for a 3.51% additional increase in rates to raise \$700,000. \$500,000 will be for roads and \$200,000 for an environmental levy.

The environmental levy is of most interest to me. This levy is for the development and implementation of a Biodiversity Strategy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, improving public transport, improved catchment management and sustainability planning.

Council has determined the Biodiversity Strategy to be essential in its Delivery Plan. It's very positive to see a proposal to map one of the most bio-diverse parts of our continent. Depending on the ratepayer response Council will approach the Department of Local Government to convince it of the necessity of the rise.

I can't finish this column without reference to the Nimbin "drug sign". Councillor responses ranged from outrage at the insult to the Nimbin community, to incredulity that anyone could believe that signs stopped drugs. It's not hard to guess my attitude to this motion, but the usual four Councillors eagerly supported it.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and fulfilling 2010.



by Jenny Dowell  
Mayor of Lismore

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Happy New Year to all NGT readers! I hope the coming 12 months brings you good health and happiness.

The Council year finished on December 23 and Councillors, Management and staff all took a well-earned break. Council offices reopen on January 4 but many staff and Councillors take the opportunity for annual leave to refresh, ready for the coming challenges that make local government interesting.

The December Council meeting was a five hour affair with some of the most significant decisions of 2009. Many of the 90 people in the gallery contacted me to say how fascinating they found the experience.

Councillors really appreciate having residents observing the process as it brings a greater understanding of the complexity of Council and demonstrates the diligence with which Councillors undertake their duties.

## Urban Land Release and sewerage

Land use planning is one of the most important tasks of any Council. For some time our Councillors and staff have been doing a stock-take of urban land that could accommodate

# From the Mayor's desk

Lismore's future population growth.

At our December meeting we considered the report on all that work. Seven sites were identified and each was assessed using criteria including social, natural environment, transport access, proximity to services, open space and infrastructure demands.

All the identified areas are to be included in a Growth Management Strategy that will provide Lismore's land for the next 25-30 years but some areas are clearly more readily suitable.

The Southern Trunk Main (STM), a new sewer line servicing Goonellabah and areas south of the city, is also a high priority to relieve current capacity problems. Building that STM will also service the first three areas to be released - Military Rd, East Lismore, Invercauld Rd, Goonellabah and Chilcotts Grass.

## Clunes WWS

Long term readers will know that a Waste Water Scheme (WWS) for Clunes has been considered for nearly ten years.

Council had decided on an on-site treatment system with local reuse on an agricultural site at a cost of about \$7 million. Clunes ratepayers were paying \$400 pa towards the cost.

Council has now determined that the STM is a higher priority at this time so the Clunes WWS has been postponed for two years and the \$400 fee has been suspended.

## Margaret Olley Arts Centre

A rescission motion not to appoint architects for the preparation of drawings and a DA for a new gallery was lost on my casting vote.

Two further motions that were designed to delay the project were also lost, paving the way for a resolution to lodge an application with the

Federal Government for \$4.5 million towards the Olley. Council will contribute \$3 million and Southern Cross University will add \$1 million.

Council also included the need for a report on how Council's budget for roads, cycleways, footpaths, drainage and building maintenance can be maintained with no cuts if the Federal application is successful and the Olley proceeds.

## Special Rates Variation (SRV)

In the new year, Council will consult with the community on a possible rate rise.

NSW is the only state where the Government imposes rate-pegging, a limit on the percentage rates can rise. While the limit has face-value to rate payers, it has led to NSW local governments being the least financially sustainable in the nation.

Lismore Council has decided to embark on a process towards requesting the Minister to grant permission for a SRV of 3.51% above rate-pegging. If our Council and community agree, this increase would provide \$500,000 for roads, \$200,000 for Environmental policies and their implementation and \$100,000 just from businesses for Business Promotion.

If our community agrees and the Minister grants the SRV, the average rates bill (general, waste and wastewater) will rise by \$60 pa.

## Nimbin News

Residents along Lillian Rock Road and Mountain Top Road will be pleased to know that Council has agreed to fund the sealing of another 500m of these roads before June 2010.

The RTA has also provided some funds as a result of the May floods that will complete the

remaining 500m of Lillian Rock Road.

A proposal to erect a sign promoting a drug free Nimbin was lost.

## Australia Day

Council and Lismore-born ex-Socceroo Craig Foster, our 2010 Australia Day Ambassador, will celebrate January 26 at Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre.

This is the day where we acknowledge our fantastic community volunteers in a variety of spheres. For the first time Council has called for nominations for the Aboriginal Citizen of the year and we have new categories where there is recognition but no winner such as for a Good Neighbour.

Australia Day is also the time for many residents to finalise their decision to become Australian citizens.

If you are free, do come along and enjoy the celebrations at 8.30 am and then perhaps have a swim in the pool.

## 2010

Councillor Interviews from 5.30pm on the first and third Monday of every month resume on Monday 1st February.

These interviews give residents an opportunity for 30 minutes with two Councillors rostered on a rotational basis.

Bookings are required on 1300-878-387.

Council workshops resume on Tuesday 2nd February at 6pm, when we will discuss the Community Engagement Process for the Special Rate Variation, the proposed Gungas Road Planning Agreement and a review of Waste Water and Trade Waste Charges.

The first Council meeting for the New Year will be Tuesday February 9, at 6pm. The Business Paper with agenda items and reports will be available on Wednesday 3rd February on [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au)



**BUDGET ACCOMMODATION**

- Motel rooms
- Self-contained Units
- Swimming Pool
- Restaurant & Bar
- Spa

For more details please phone  
Joe or Audette on  
**6689-9350**

1597 Nimbin Road  
Goolmanger NSW 2480  
11km to Nimbin, 19km to Lismore



[www.kiddlegal.com](http://www.kiddlegal.com)

**Dr Michael J. Kidd**  
Lawyer

P.O. Box 77 Nimbin 2480 Mobile: 0447-467-985  
Barrister (NZ), Solicitor (NSW) [michael.kidd0@telstra.com](mailto:michael.kidd0@telstra.com)

Still serving the Nimbin area

**Nimbin Post**

Open 7am - 5pm Monday - Friday  
Full counter postal services

**Home of the Next G range of pre-paid phones**

Locally owned and operated

New stock now in!







## Keeping our littlies safe in the water

Page MP Janelle Saffin is pushing the water safety message to all parents and carers of little children on the North Coast this summer.

At the Gingerbread House Occasional Child Care Centre in Lismore on 22nd December, Ms Saffin launched the 'Living with Water' DVD, which is a comprehensive guide to water safety aimed at keeping our littlies safe around water.

"It's a shocking statistic that since 2000, more than 300 children under 5 have drowned in Australia," Ms Saffin said.

"The well known Aussie swim coach, Laurie Lawrence (pictured), is passionate about keeping kids safe around water, and he's produced this DVD with the help of water safety experts and the support of the Australian Government."

Living with Water is a free DVD for parents and carers of children under five, and covers ways of introducing water safety for children from newborns to preschoolers, and alerts parents to the biggest dangers for each age group.

"I want every parent or carer of a child under five to see this DVD," Ms Saffin said.

The DVD is being distributed to mothers of new babies at hospitals, and this month Janelle will be sending it to preschools, and distributing copies at the markets and from her office.

## Regional development high on agenda

Cross-border transport planning, a regional food strategy and trade relations with the Pacific were on the agenda when Federal Member for Page Janelle Saffin met with the Regional Development Australia-Northern Rivers (RDA-NR) in Lismore in December.

Ms Saffin thanked the new Board of RDA-NR, chaired by Cr Ian Tiley, for its recent \$50,000 in-principle contribution towards developing an Integrated Regional Transport Plan for the Northern Rivers and South East Queensland.

She said real momentum was building behind the plan because the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC), led by Cr Jenny Dowell, had also decided to increase its original allocation from \$40,000 to \$70,000 for the project.

"Together with my Federal Parliamentary colleagues Brett Raguse (Forde) and Justine Elliot (Richmond), I am committed to working closely with NOROC on a submission aimed at attracting more funding to ensure the development of the plan," she said.

"The support of seven local mayors and their councils, and now RDA-NR, shows that the Northern Rivers is fair dinkum about identifying and agreeing on our transport priorities and building a strong case to attract Nation-Building type funds."

Ms Saffin said she had been impressed by Northern Rivers Food project, which RDA-NR had carriage of, and which focused on enhancing the reputation and capacity of the region's food industry.

"I am keen to receive briefings on the Northern Rivers Food project, which includes developing a brand to promote the quality and freshness of locally grown and manufactured food, additionally the Food Links project, which primarily relates to food security," she said.

"I've spoken with Southern Cross University expert in regional food and tourism Rose Wright on the idea of RDA-NR working in partnership with the university and NOROC on a Regional Food Supply Chain Strategy to better link producer with consumer and commercial user, and to ensure that no opportunities are missed."

Ms Saffin also discussed future trade opportunities for rural Australian companies with Pacific Island nations. She is Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

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

## Supporting local volunteers



Justine and family

by Justine Elliot, MP

Volunteers are the backbone of Australia. People who volunteer in our community make a real and lasting difference in the lives of so many people.

The Rudd Government values the individual contributions and recognises the importance of volunteer organisations.

I am very pleased to announce that 75 volunteer organisations in the electorate of Richmond were awarded funding grants under the 2009 Volunteer Grant Program totalling more than \$236,000.

This initiative provided grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to non-profit organisations to support their volunteers and encourage volunteering.

The grants will assist organisations to purchase essential new equipment and cover the cost of fuel. This is a great result for our local communities and our deserving volunteers.

Successful organisations in our area include:

- Larnook Volunteer Bushfire Brigade;
- Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group;
- Blue Knob Hall;
- Bentley Rural Fire Service;
- You Have a Friend;
- Nimbin Volunteer Bushfire Brigade;
- Maternity Coalition;
- Rainbow Ridge School Parents and Friends Association;
- Friends of the Circus; and
- Sailability Northern Rivers.

### Celebrating a milestone?

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

Justine.

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

## \$97 Million for local Primary Schools

Local primary schools in the electorate of Richmond will receive more than \$97 million dollars in funding for infrastructure projects under the Rudd Government's Primary Schools for the 21st Century.

Local schools that will receive new and improved school infrastructure include:

- Nimbin Central School, which will receive a covered outdoor learning area and a hall,
- Coffee Camp Public School, which will receive new classroom facilities,
- Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education will receive a multipurpose hall including a library and learning area,
- Tuntab Creek Public School will receive a multipurpose hall and
- Tuntab Falls Community Primary School will have existing classrooms refurbished.

This investment in our local primary schools is long overdue. Our teachers and students should have 21st century facilities in which to teach and learn.

This new and improved school infrastructure will provide our children with a great learning environment from which to prepare for the future.

Building the Education Revolution is a key element of the Rudd Government's \$42 billion Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan to support jobs, stimulate local economies and invest in important infrastructure for the long-term.

A full list of successful schools and their planned projects are available at: [www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au](http://www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au) or at: [www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au](http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au)

# RVBYESQUE

ALAN MORRIS  
PROPRIETOR

SMOKING PARAPHERNALIA & FINE USED BOOKS

21 CARRINGTON STREET LISMORE 2480  
PO BOX 1184 LISMORE (02) 6622 4676

**DRIVINGAMBITION**  
northern rivers driving school

**6688 4449** all hours

- manual & auto
- friendly and patient
- safe driving skills
- night lessons
- fuel saving driving techniques

RICK LAUF licence 11471  
[WWW.DRIVINGAMBITION.COM.AU](http://WWW.DRIVINGAMBITION.COM.AU)

lismore • bangalow • mullumbimby • federal • nimbin



# Daisy

NIMBIN AUSTRALIA

**60 Cullen Street Nimbin – ph 6689-0146**

Open from Noon

Locally made & Imported clothes, jewellery, incense, stickers, postcards, beanies, hats, sarongs, bedcovers, wallhangings, hammocks, cushions, thongs, wildfoot, CDs trance & local, slips, flags, beads, sunnies, chimes, massage oil, etc...





Extracts from the Journal of a Nimbin Undacuva falling apart as prohibition nears its final days.

Enough of being a dog. On all levels. Even Undacuvans need a holiday, if they can remember how to have one. The sniffing of Nimbin is over and the ruining of one perfectly good dog in the process. Expensive stuff.

There are so many dealers not allowed in Nimbin now and still the Boss can't work out how come the business just aint drying up. The trouble is, in this war against weed, his soldiers keep quitting or going on stress leave while the other side has a neverending supply of fresh faces feeding off the prohibition paypacket which is impossible for him to match. In the interim he told me to take a month off while new tactics were being decided.

All that time as an Unda in Nimbin has filled me with so much spiritual waffle you'd reckon the last thing I'd want is more, but it so happens I was in Sydney when the Dalai Lama was there. I was drawn along by an irresistible force that saw me spend hours dressing up as Anna, my blonde German backpacker with the thick piggytails. Hours in front of the mirror with the Yakfat hash in the pipe. I better explain.

You know I got hooked on weed doing the job and of course I needed some for the holiday, so I dug up the "antique Buddhas" from Nepal. Some of you will remember the shipment of Nepali charras that came into Oz a few years ago as little ancient temple Buddhas. About 10 cm high, they looked like old metal covered in years of candle wax from the temples. In fact they were all solid hash, primo Nepali, coated in Yakfat. Not just coated, but rubbed and rubbed and rubbed until they shone like.... ancient temple Buddhas.

Customs reliably missed the shipment and a few boxfulls made their way up to Nimbin. I was Unda made up as a dreadlocked

vegetarian rasta at the time and we organized a bust just so we could get the stuff for ourselves. It was pure gold and I put six of the little fellas away for a rainy day. Buried 'em actually. There's still three left and the bottom half of another as I write this in Sydney. But I digress, led astray by the Yakfat, more later.

The Dalai Lama was like a lamp who lit up the huge crowd I was lost in so easily. For sure I was the only cop in there. He was like living forgiveness and I was blown away. How to learn that. How to get released from the endless line of arseholes that run around in my head I want to eradicate. Just as I was wondering this he seemed to look at me. Then he raised three fingers.

"Firstly," he said, "we must look at the big picture. Don't get depressed over a problem or tragedy, look at the wider perspective, the consequences. Change often brings good fortune."

"Second," he says, "stop being self centred. Think more about others. Other brothers and sisters." He was staring at me I swear. I blushed. I never blush. We are trained to never blush at Undaschool, with punishments I vowed to never disclose.

"Third," he says, "you must be realistic. You make a real effort to fix problems but when you cannot, accept. Worry just makes another problem."

"See the big picture, less self centred, and be realistic," he says.

"Get real you say," he repeats in his broken English then dissolves into raucous laughter yet again. He'd be right at home on 'Binstreet.

I'd been hearing these words for years as part of my job spying on the hippies, but this guy was really real. Then how come so few walk this path and why do we prefer the wage-eating mortgage lock down compromise? I was bewildered, as I often am and why I was originally posted as an Unda in Nimbin.

The Dalai told us other stuff too. How he tried to be a vego but got so sick the doc ordered him to eat meat again. Me too. How he gets angry at the birds of prey hunting his pet birds he feeds.

And how his favorite food is Yakfat. He loves Yakfat. It's the Holy Oil for the dudes from the top of the mountains who know reincarnation is for real. And here I was, off my rocker on the Yakfat hashish Buddha. Now I knew he was looking at me and I guess that's why he also met with me after the show but I'm not quite ready to tell you about that yet. Maybe next time. He convinced me Karma is for real so I'm gonna quit the Unda work for sure. I just don't know how to tell the Boss.

# MardiGrass turns 18

The MardiGrass Organising Body (MOB) are on the ball early this year with Lismore Council and Police insisting on bringing us into the 'new world order'.

After a few meetings in Lismore already, we were rescued by our angel Anna who is kindly volunteering to submit a 5-year event development application (DA) to Council. The infrastructure costs involved in putting this event on for the community is ever-increasing it seems, and this year we need everyone's assistance. Anna will be approaching all businesses later this month to discuss their needs that weekend and our needs. Any business supporting MardiGrass will be recognised during the event and in the programme, which is handed out all year in the village.

The focus over the next 5 years is for 'free-flowing' walkways to ease congestion on footpaths. ALL activities within the village are required to be registered with MOB for the purpose of the Council DA. Anyone trading on the street without approval will be subjected to 'move on' orders from police. There will be no street (footpath) trading apart from Sibley St, Peace Park and specified venues. The 'blister' area and the Museum laneway is clear of any activity except acoustic music with a drumming circle permitted. More venues advertised closer to the event.

There will be at least a dozen busking venues so we don't have dramas with the police like last year, with the winners vying for the most coupons received from visitors. There will be a blackboard at each venue to chalk up your time to play. As soon as MOB gets approval of these venues there will be notices in the next GoodTimes editions and around the town informing residents and visitors of the DA changes.

Restricted/no parking will be in place in the village from 12 noon Friday April 30th to 11pm Sunday May 2nd. Below are areas of concern:

- Sibley St will be closed to traffic from Cullen St intersection to Thorburn St. Residents in Sibley are asked to limit any vehicle traffic over that weekend from 12 noon Friday.
- The central section of the village will have no car parking this year. Chill Central safety zone will have no cars from the 'blister' outside the Museum to the garden before the pedestrian crossing. On the eastern side there will be no parking permitted from the Hotel all the way to Perceptios.
- There is also no parking on the southern side of Cecil Street from the Showgrounds to the creek to allow pedestrian traffic easy access to a new proposed pathway from 12 Cecil St to the Town Hall parking



area. This will have security and lighting and ease the pedestrian traffic along the footpath around the Hospital.

- No parking at the top of Cecil St at the Cullen St intersection (Sunday only) on the southern side for 50 metres to allow for the rally assembly.
- Thorburn Street from Silky Oak Drive will have a road closure managed by the Backpackers to ensure clear access to and from the campsites and their parking.
- The western council carpark is to be free of any camping – all camping is to be directed to the Showgrounds or Backpackers camping sites. Roadside camping is not permitted.

Vehicle parking paddock areas are to be managed by the Headers Sports Club this year with all profits going to the Club. They need volunteers and paddocks close enough to town. The MOB sincerely request anyone with suitable land near the village for parking to contact us. All parking areas will be slashed with provisions for toilets and waste amenities and MOB promises them to be left cleaner than before the event!

The MOB wishes to extend a welcome and many thanks for those who donate their time and finances during this event, without you it could not happen. All volunteers should register with the Hemp Embassy leaving a contact phone or email in the shop. MOB meetings have sort of started and you will find key organizers in the Hemp Bar from 4.20pm on Fridays.

Visitors to the [nimbinmardigrass.com](http://nimbinmardigrass.com) website will see event tickets including a campsite are already for sale for the weekend of May 1st and 2nd, 2010... not so far away now.

## Justice Action Group BBQ



On Saturday 2nd January, the third Nimbin Justice Action Group BBQ was held behind the Museum in Mingle Park. It was a huge success.

Revolutionary sausages and reactionary rissoles (between subversive slices, both brown and white) were consumed with gusto. Treasonous tabouli and seditious salads were also present. The conservative coleslaw was largely ignored.

After lunch the topic of the day - Arrest and Interview Strategies - was interrogated, in public, under bright lights. It soon spilt its guts.

The next FREE Nimbin Justice Action Group BBQ will be held from 11am on Saturday 16th January in Mingle Park (behind the Museum). Topic: Everything you should know about the NSW Drugs Misuse and Trafficking Act.

**Open for Dinner Tuesday nights**

**"The Oasis"**

**Now with a wide range of hot and cold dishes**

**Open Sun-Fri until MardiGrass**

**80 Cullen Street • 6689-0199**

**Happy High Herbs**

58a Cullen Street Nimbin

Open 7 days

phone/fax 6689 1365

[www.happyhighherbs.com](http://www.happyhighherbs.com)

Also in Newtown, Fitzroy and Surfers Paradise

**WANTED**

**500 FEARLESS**

**H\*E\*M\*P\* PARTY FAITHFUL**

PLANTEM SAYS;

**YOU MUST BE ENROLLED TO VOTE & YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO CONFIRM YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT IF ASKED!**

**HELP END MARIJUANA PROHIBITION**

**JOIN TODAY!!**

[hempembassy.net](http://hempembassy.net)

PHONE 02 66891842

FORMS AT THE EMBASSY

**VOTE I HEMP**



# Balibo examines role of journalism

by Warwick Fry

To say that this film is more about Roger East than 'The Balibo Five' is not to detract from the work, much less the sacrifice, of the Balibo Five and the Timorese people upon the altar of governmental, bureaucratic, and political sanctity.

But let's focus on the work. If we focus on that, the movie is about journalism and journalists. And in that case the Indonesians are right. It is potentially subversive, and so it should be. The work of Roger East as the founder of the East Timor News Agency (or ETNA in the English acronym) survives. ETNA survived in Australia as a newsletter after the death of Roger East and was a critical source of what was happening inside East Timor during the Indonesian occupation throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

After the total isolation of Timor after the Indonesian invasion (with the collaboration of Australian officials) a clandestine radio transmitter was set up near Darwin that maintained contact with the Fretilin guerrilla radio inside Timor for several years. This was the main (indeed virtually the only) means of communication between the Timorese resistance and the outside world. The ETNA newsletter was distributed in Australia among supporters on roneoed sheets by the small group of Australians who still remembered the invasion and kept alive the cause of East Timorese independence.

Today we have the ETAN news list to continue the tradition established by Roger East, as a major international information centre on Timor Leste, used by academics, journalists, politicians and activists. It has become a significant channel of



communications between the many Australians who have been involved with the 'issue'. A majority of contributors 'discovered' East Timor in the 1990s after the Santa Cruz massacre and the 1999 independence referendum, but many key contributors had been involved in the issue of Timor Leste since the 1970s and 1980s.

The work of the five journalists survives in the movie, Balibo. If it took a movie (that verges in its best moments, on greatness) to get some kind of action on that disgraceful episode, so be it. Thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Greg Shackleton's wife Shirley, Jill Jolliffe (another independent journalist who wrote the book that inspired the movie), and hundreds of supporters who kept the issue 'alive' in the face of official opposition and bland denial, at least one generation of Australians, Timorese and Indonesians will know that one lie less will have been written into the official histories.

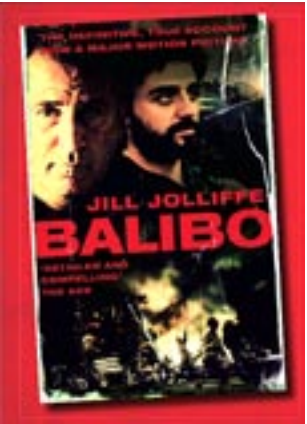
### The work of the journalist(s)

There has been significant debate on the ETNA list and elsewhere about the role of the journalist(s). There are those in the mainstream media and 'official' circles who still say, "They shouldn't have been there".

The Australian government is still shuffling

legislation about 'rules of engagement' and journalistic 'responsibility', which could well leave Australia inheriting the legacy of 'embedded' journalism pioneered by the US during the Iraq war. This was one of issues that were exposed in the debate about 'Balibo' on the ETNA list and other media. I hope Roger East is chuckling in his watery grave off the Dili wharf.

Basically, there is an argument that because of



the fate of the Balibo Five, news agencies should not send journalists to war zones without official 'protection'. (This would ensure of course, that independent and alternative media journalists like Roger East would have little or no credibility in the mainstream media).

Suggestions have been raised recently that journalist students should be 'taught' not to risk themselves for the sake of a 'story' - once by a journalism teacher in Indonesia, who to his credit arranged a clandestine showing of Balibo to his students, and once by Toni Maniati, the ABC journalist who was leaving Timor precipitately as the Shackleton team arrived.

Maniati's voice has not been heard among those of East Timor activists in Australia over the last thirty years, but he has recently published a book called *The Making of Balibo*.

I'm not sure that the team of journalists who went to Balibo were as 'gung ho' and naïve as they are depicted in the movie, nor am I sure that Roger East was as 'reluctant' as he was made out to be when the young Jose Ramos Horta engaged him to establish the ETNA newsagency (Jose Ramos Horta described ETNA as "Roger East and a typewriter"). But it is fair to allow a certain degree of artistic license in a film of this calibre and importance.

I have personal memories of Jose Ramos Horta when he first came to Australia to represent Fretilin. He had the same dry wit that we see in the film, but he was shyer and humbler than the passionate 'revolutionary' type depicted in the movie. The passion was there, but that was conveyed more in the deep sense of irony one could detect in his wit and his deceptively 'laid back' statements.

Similarly I have learned from people who knew him that Roger East was not a 'reluctant' old journalist going to seed, but an energetic, athletic man who preferred fine wine to beer. But it was a nice, very nice dramatic foil in the argument generated around the role of the journalist in a 'war zone'. In that, the movie Balibo acknowledges that Balibo was a war zone in the face of official denial that continues to this day. And therein lies the impact of this film. Official denial has been airbrushed out but we see the fact. Thanks to good journalism.

Like any dramatic narrative, the movie is about decisions, and why individuals make them. Making Roger East the 'reluctant' protagonist (like a Graham Green character), not seeking heroism, but making decisions that are humbly heroic is the strength of this film.

If we pursue the argument that there should be some kind of 'control' about where journalists should be 'allowed' to go, the point is of course, that by official accounts at the time Balibo (or anywhere else in East Timor, for that matter) wasn't supposed to be a war zone. (The 'official' invasion didn't take place until two weeks later). Discovering that, and realising that that was not the case, was Greg Shackleton's responsibility. He took the team to Balibo knowing that official denials of an Indonesian presence were false. It was a genuine decision made by an honest journalist.

I personally don't believe he was chasing the big story, the 'Big Scoop' to enhance his own reputation at all costs. And neither does his wife Shirley, who knew him better than I did. We both do know though, that he was more a 'scholarly' type, looking forward to studying journalism at Columbia University.

It is a difficult situation to depict in cinematographic narrative - one accepts that a movie 'plays' with certain genres and stereotypes. Hence the brilliance of the depiction of Roger East as a counterpoint to the 'overkeen' younger journalists - the range of stereotypes is inclusive.

The first twenty minutes of Balibo is a piece of cinema as subtly and finely nuanced as any I have seen. In a film as politically 'loaded' as Balibo the exploitation (or 'usage') of the gung-ho journalist stereotype (at one point we hear Shackleton saying "This is going to beat Channel 9!") includes a particular mindset in an imagined audience. Unfortunately it has also played to a certain weasel mentality that generated the 'they shouldn't have been there' tripe.

I'm convinced Shackleton believed in the true values of journalism; and the value of being 'present' when information is being perceptibly filtered. Like Roger

saw that what was happening around him was an insult to the integrity of the Timorese people and incidentally, to the Australian public. Good journalists can be 'stupid' that way sometimes ...

But then, so again is the 'question' of "whether a journalist should risk his or her life for a 'story'". Of course not. It is a 'weasel' question. I have known and met the veteran journalists who survived the civil war in El Salvador, and they survived because they had a very finely honed survival instinct, and that instinct existed for a very simple reason. They knew it was not 'their' story.

It was the story of the people around them working in and through, and enduring scales of suffering, of effort, of persecution, intimidation or injustice far beyond their own. And they needed to live and survive to do those people justice. It's a bit like the survivor of a massacre - someone must live to tell the story.

The fact that the Balibo Five did not live is not their fault. And their story, the story of the Timorese people has survived thanks to their work.

I think the many levels of Australian collusion in the tragedy of Balibo and East Timor, have been airbrushed out of the movie. But that is nitpicking. We can see where the airbrush has been and can form an intelligent opinion as



Ken Fry MHR and Brian Manning outside Darwin with the portable clandestine transmitter used to make the first radio contact with the FALINTIL (armed forces of FRETELIN) guerillas inside East Timor in 1975.

East, he didn't give a bugger about what the Australian or Indonesian governments wanted to be said or known, or what they thought 'should' be said, or known. The naivety I guess was in not picking up on the hints of how perfidious the bureaucrats and politicians of both those governments could be.


But that is an honest mistake, if you can call honesty a 'mistake'. Shackleton

to what was airbrushed and why.

And it remains as a powerful movie about the work of journalism and journalists.

PS. I'd love to see the original Williamson script, which was apparently much harsher on the Australian government's collusion, but that's probably just journalistic gossip ...

## Nimbin Apothecary



Established 1990

### The Herbal Dispensary

friendly over-the-counter advice  
supplements, oils, cosmetics and more

54 Cullen St Nimbin (02) 6689 1529 [www.nimbinapothecary.com](http://www.nimbinapothecary.com)



## Nimbin Trailer Hire

Phone Damian 6689 1428 Mobile 0458 491 428

## Nimbin HEMP Embassy

NIMBIN CANNABIS LAW REFORM RALLY and **MardiGrass**, the annual gathering on the first weekend of MAY.

'JUST SAY KNOW' CANNABIS EDUCATION, INFORMATION & PRODUCTS

66891842 [www.hempembassy.net](http://www.hempembassy.net)

## TREEFELLAS

Timber Felling  
Tree Climbing  
**BLUE KNOB**  
Mob. 0429 897 234



# Virtual artists' revolution

by Sandra Joran

Artists from all over the world have been quietly participating in a revolution, making a new sort of art, creating new art communities and discovering new ways to reach audiences and market their work. For these artists Virtual Reality Space has become their studio and a place where they can establish careers and networks.

One of the best known of these Virtual Worlds is Second Life. It offers a range of virtual building tools so you can literally, create your own world. Artists have been quick to establish replicas of real life artworks that are being shown in virtual galleries. There is now an established network of over 500 galleries in Second Life, some of which have been in existence for over five years.

They offer opportunities for artists to relate directly and personally to a worldwide audience through virtual receptions, openings, artist talks and similar live events.

Ritchey Sealy an Australian artist from the South Coast of NSW, has been using his gallery spaces in Second Life to market his real life paintings since 2006. People can be directed to his website or choose a painting in SL and Sealy will send the real work off to anywhere in the world.

Queensland artist Juanita Deharo gallery owner in SL since '06, runs several groups including the Australian Artists' Group, a support network and promotional tool for Australian artists working in virtual worlds. Deharo says that the opportunity to develop new art forms that are only possible in virtual space is where the real excitement

comes in. The opportunity to create moving, speaking artworks and immersive, interactive environments that are simply not possible in reality is quite extraordinary.

Australian artist Glyph Graves has been working in SL for several years and he now has a well established network of fans and a worldwide reputation. IBM recently chose Graves as the first artist to exhibit in their new exhibition space within SL, and he just won a competition that will see his SL works in a major exhibition in a real world gallery in the U.S.

Adam Nash, Christopher Dodds and Justin Clemens were the recipients of the inaugural Australia Council's Second Life Artist in Residence Award in 2007. They had a real life installation happening at



Lismore Regional Gallery in conjunction with their virtual installation, BabelSwarm, which was being opened in SL at the same time, and is based on the story of the Tower of Babel.

Anything spoken by the visitors to the installation's sky platform becomes part of the artwork, spilling from the sky in audio visual letterforms, sinking to the ground far below, and shattering on impact. The letterforms then swarm and reconstruct to create new words which bond to become the structure of the tower, which is also interactive. <http://yamanakanash.net/secondlife/babelswarm.html>

Critical debate and analysis of virtual artworks and exhibitions are still rare. This is a new medium with only marginally developed language and conventions. Infrastructure of the mainstream art world are not necessarily adequate or appropriate in this new context, although artists who work across the boundaries of the real and virtual are more likely to explain their work in terms suited to a wider audience.

One of the longest running virtual art world's journals, 'The ArtWorld Market Report', is one of the few that strengthens this crossover, with sophisticated discussion and editorial comment that links virtual art to the continuum of art history. Owned by Richard Minsky from the Centre for Books Arts in New York, the journal is supplemented by a blog, editorial comments and an in-world presence.

As in the real world, patrons, influential people, shakers and movers have emerged. Perhaps the best known is Bettina Tizzy owner of two groups 'Not

Possible In Real Life' and 'Impossible In Real Life'.

As the group names suggest, Tizzy is interested primarily in art forms that are possible only in virtual space. She is the best known of a growing number of writers and art 'appreciators' whose blogs have 'grown up' with Second Life and now extend to cover virtual world art generally.

The 'Not Possible in Real Life' blog is now probably the most widely read English language site that deals with virtual art. Increasingly such blog sites are providing the venue for discussion not just about artworks but about the whole genre. It is here that the language and conventions for virtual world art are being developed, and it is here the opportunities for developing a critical body of writings about virtual world art will be developed.

*Acknowledgements to Juanita Deharo and Artworkers Alliance, Brisbane.*

## Virtual Universities

The University of Western Australia has just opened a virtual campus in Second Life with Art Competitions being offered. The two areas they are asking artists to participate in are to create virtual artworks for display, and to design buildings in virtual space that can be built

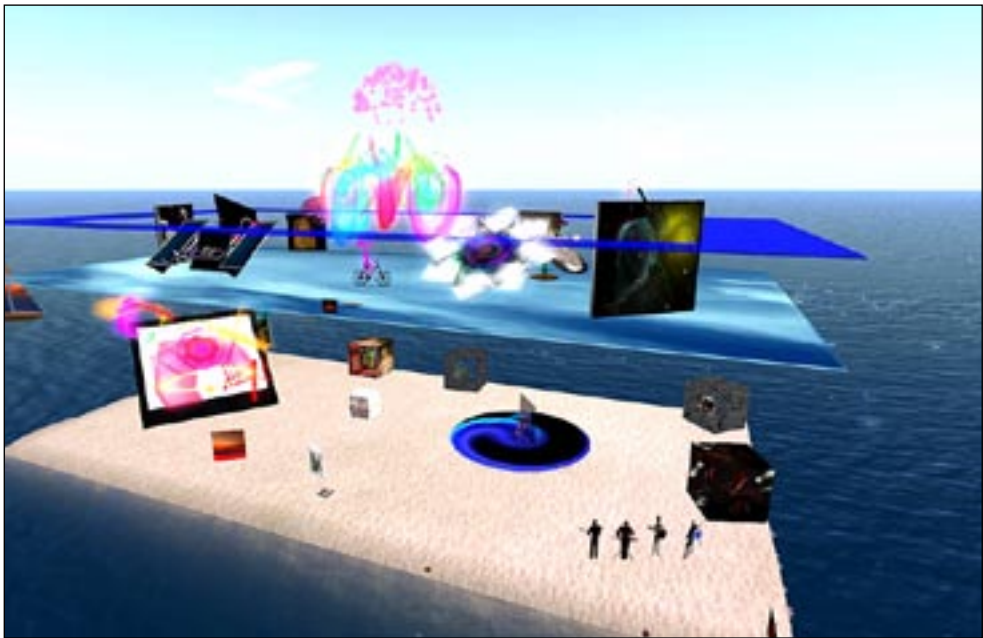
in real life.

Works to be exhibited at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery in SL with possible real life exhibitions on digital interactive art at the University of Western Australia in 2010. They are also seeking virtual designs for a Cultural Precinct Flagship Building to be called FUTURElab. A building that captures the essence of creative engagement and will provide a showcase for the work of SymbioticA. <http://www.symbiotica.uwa.edu.au/>

The architects and designers from UWA's Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts are exploring new possibilities for themselves and their communities and for those working with new and emerging technologies. FUTURElab will incorporate a black box performance/screening environment, a science/art gallery, teaching and presentation space for a range of activities across campus.

It will also provide a hub for the Creative Industries Innovation Centre (CIIC), of which the University of Western Australia is a partner.

Southern Cross University has also opened a campus in Second Life in December 2009.



## Rainbow Art Gallery



Shahan and Rick, two of the many artists who have had successful exhibitions in Nimbin's Rainbow Gallery, now up for permanent rental (see page 8).

**BRINGABONG**  
SMOKING ACCESSORIES  
ICONIC CLOTHING  
VINYL RECORDS  
PH: (02) 66890095  
[WWW.BRINGABONG.COM](http://WWW.BRINGABONG.COM)

**A TASTE OF ART**  
  
**blueknobhall gallery**  
Open Thursday to Sunday 10am - 4pm  
719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock Ph: 6689 7449  
GALLERY • CAFE

**TATTOOS**  
  
**BY BEKI**  
*New School \* Oriental  
Memorial \* Greywash \* Tribal  
Specialising in Custom Tattoos*

**Rainbow BODY PIERCING TATTOO STUDIO**  
  
Sharon 66 890 376  
76 Cullen St. Nimbin

**NIMBIN DELICIOUS**  
*Jams & Chutneys*

**TRIBAL MAGIC**  
  
Clothing - Souvenirs - Jewellery  
62 Cullen Street, Nimbin