

Greens breakthrough on political donation reform

There has been a major breakthrough in a long-term campaign by The Greens NSW to clean up political donations and the money politics that dominates at election time.

The Keneally government has introduced a bill to reform election funding and donations that will substantially stem the dangerous influence of corporate donations on the democratic process.

The new funding model is designed to reduce corporate and private donations and provide political parties with

with The Greens did see Labor modify its original tiered election funding model, to better support new, emerging and smaller parties and provide start-up money for new parties.

They also agreed to the cap on corporate donations applying to a group of companies, closing a loophole which could have seen far more money flow to the major parties.

The Greens say they remain committed to a total ban on donations from corporations and other organisations and strict limits on money from individuals.

Nonetheless, the proposal to cap corporate donations at \$5,000 for a party and \$2,000 for a candidate is a big advance on the open cheque book style currently operating.

Despite claims by Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell, The Greens are not especially advantaged by the new scheme, which is fair to all parties and independents.

"The Greens did not negotiate a system that suited us. We worked for a funding model that was fair to all parties and left the door open to new and emerging movements," Dr Kaye said.

The Coalition wants to defeat this bill, with the Liberals set to miss out on hundreds of millions of dollars in donations when the bill passes.

"Barry O'Farrell's chief concern is apparently that the Coalition's access to massive corporate donations will be blocked. Enhancing democracy and ending large corporate donations are worth the extra spending," Dr Kaye said.



additional public funding.

"Although the reforms are not perfect, they are a significant step forward in reducing corporate influence on the political process," Greens MP John Kaye said.

The new bill follows an extensive negotiation process between the government and The Greens. It comes off the back of nearly a decade of campaigning by former Greens MPs Lee Rhiannon and Sylvia Hale and the donations project www.democracy4sale.org, directed by Dr Norman Thompson.

While Labor refused to ban corporate donations outright, or place much tighter limits on campaign expenditure and spending by third parties, negotiations



All in a good cause (left to right): Nimbin locals Peter, Colleen, Laurelli, Helen, Niki, Deb, Jamie, Maureen and Jenny.

Melbourne Cup, Nimbin style

American may have come out of nowhere to win the Melbourne Cup, but in Nimbin punters came from everywhere to get into the spirit of the big race, and help raise much-needed funds for the Nimbin Community Preschool.

The so-called High Tea at the Nimbin Town Hall actually began at lunch time, hours before the feature race, allowing time for judging the Best Dressed and Most Outlandish Hat awards, hooking into the champagne and finger food, and having a

punt on the numerous sweeps.

John Wilcox showed his form as an auctioneer, talking up the bids on sweep selections to outrageous levels, which together with the hilarious hobby-horse race, helped take the total funds raised by the \$30-a-head function to around \$2000.

The hard-working preschool committee was delighted by their second annual Melbourne Cup fundraiser, and have already ear-marked the proceeds to buy additional resources for their programs.

Solar scheme gutted

Greens NSW Upper House MPs have voted against the Keneally government's legislation to cut the solar bonus rate tariff to 20 cents per kilowatt hour.

The vote comes after the Greens' move to limit the cut to 30 cents per kilowatt hour was defeated by the combined numbers of Labor and the Coalition, said Greens NSW MP John Kaye.

"The Greens accept the need for change to the 60 cents bonus rate, but 20 cents/kWh rate risks throwing the solar scheme from boom to bust," he said.

"In the rush to make the scheme socially sustainable, the Keneally government has been panicked into an over-reaction that could inflict long-term damage on the industry and the prospects for a green economy.

"The industry and the jobs it supports need a 40 cents/kWh bonus to survive.

"The NSW government wants 20 cents, and the Opposition is talking about closing the scheme.

"The best we could have hoped for out of the political process was a compromise

at 30 cents, with a review at the end of a year.

"Labor and Coalition MPs voted against our 30 cents amendment, leaving the Greens with little choice but to oppose the legislation."

The bill passed with the combined votes of the large parties, which Dr Kaye said puts the future of the industry in the balance.

"Having been given almost a year of boom conditions, installers will now be thrown into bust. This is the worst-case scenario for the long-term sustainability of the industry and the thousands of jobs it could create," he said.

"The Greens accept the argument that the 60 cents bonus rate needed to be reduced in order to avoid windfall profits for households installing solar panels, and unacceptable increases in electricity bills for others.

"However, the Keneally government's slash and burn 20 cents per kilowatt hour is unfair to installers and their employees. It puts the economic, social and environmental benefits of a thriving solar industry at risk."

Birth and Beyond for sale?

by Paul Joseph

Many people would be aware of the controversy regarding the ownership of the Birth and Beyond building. Ever since the Aquarius Festival the Birth and Beyond building has been a community owned and run facility for the benefit of the whole Nimbin community. Indeed the Aquarian pioneers regard Birth and Beyond as an important sacred site of hippiedom.

Now, legal action has been taken to sell this valuable community asset. Originally the RSL Club, but by 1973 an abandoned building, it was purchased by AUS for \$500 and used as organisational hub and media centre for the festival.

After the festival a group of people, including the embryonic Tumble Falls community, each contributed \$100 and agreed they were custodians of the property on the community's behalf, rather than investors.

For over 37 years, Birth and Beyond has served our community well. Healing centre, homebirth resource centre and Environment Centre – services that have brought great benefits to our community, empowering our visions for a

sustainable and healthy future.

But it seems youthful hippie idealism can be put to the test when there are vast profits to make. The Tumble Falls community is now the champion of those ideals and agreements, forced to defend these principles in court against other custodians who want to sell.

The Nimbin Environment Centre has been housed in Birth and Beyond for many years. The shop is a high profile focal point for community environment action, raising funds, sharing information and raising awareness of locals and visitors alike. All members are grateful for the use of this valuable resource and are afraid that if sold, it would be priced out of the reach of community.

The NEC has decided to host a celebration of gratitude for the community's use of the Birth and Beyond building. The date is yet to be decided, but will be very soon and all community members will be invited to participate and celebrate.

It is hoped that when the custodians see a strong community spirit is invested in the property then they will recall their motivations in establishing Birth and Beyond and cease their



court action to sell.

We need to ensure that our grandchildren and their children enjoy the same benefits and opportunities that Birth and Beyond has brought to our community for the past 37 years. We need to all stand strong together and we issue a special invitation to the custodians in recognition of their generosity and vision.

For further information, or to offer your participation, contact Paul Joseph on 0401-275-099.

Our Community has lovingly owned, restored, developed and maintained this building since the 1973 Aquarius Festival. We have always respected and honoured ancient wisdom of all the Indigenous First Australians of the Nimbin region, where communal ownership is by all, for the good of all.

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Locals scoop the pool in Youth Film Competition

The winners of the Nimbin Youth Film Competition 2010 were announced to an audience of nearly 90 at the Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday. Mayor of Lismore Jenny Dowell presented the awards to the inspiring young filmmakers of the region.

Tom Savins took out the top guernsey with his 11min epic animation/live action masterpiece 'Locomotor Ataxia'. This is what the judges Paul Tait and Jeni Kendall of Gaia Films said about Tom's Film:

"This film is very provocative and explores deep themes in a complex and extremely interesting way. Although it was a little obscure at the beginning it dropped into a disturbing pattern that was really challenging and thought provoking.

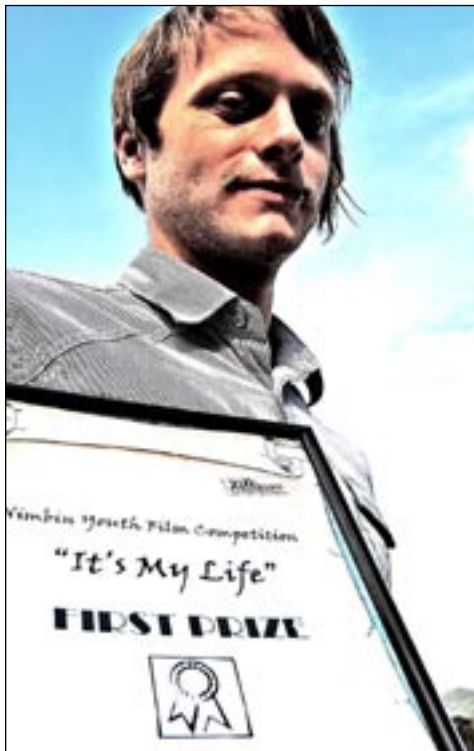
"The music was totally in sympathy with the subject and really well done. The direction was excellent as Tom thought about every aspect of how to put this subject to us the audience in such a fresh and brave way. Well done and congratulations."

Karinya Oldfield took out Second Prize for her black humour piece, 'The End is Nigh', which was extremely funny, and well directed and acted by everyone in it. The judges said, "The concept is a clever modern reworking of an old theme, but with great twists and turns and was very entertaining. There was a lot of work to achieve this great result, and everyone involved really excelled in their craft to come up with a very professional end result."

Third Prize went to Georgena Shultz for her video clip 'Always = Right'. Judges: "We really liked this film, especially the fine song and the musician being present throughout the drama as it unfolded. The story really stays with the audience in a very interesting way and we thought it would stand up anywhere as a provocative, well made dramatic piece."

15 films were entered in the competition and the judges agonised over picking the top three. Every film screened received a warm and positive response from the audience.

Another notable film was "Ghosts and Carparks" by Sam Graves. This young



filmmaker already shows considerable talent at the age of 16. 'Ghosts and Carparks' was: "Highly atmospheric, with a palpable tension leading to a cruel and shocking twist at the end well acted and the music chosen was outstanding."

Organiser Darmin Cameron, himself an award winning filmmaker, was impressed by all the films and said every filmmaker showed promise and he encouraged each and every inspiring young filmmaker to continue making films. "The idea was to encourage young people to get creative, then have a forum to exhibit their creativity and sit with an audience and watch their reaction," he said.

There is talk of making the Youth Film Competition an annual event, so there's plenty of time to get ready for next year.

The Nimbin Youth Film Competition was sponsored by Youth Connections North Coast Inc. with support from the Department of Education, Employment and Work Place Relations, in Partnership with Nortec Youth Services and Byron Youth Services.

Entries now open for Byron film comp

Byron All Shorts is calling for entries for the third annual 'Byron All Shorts' competition, presented with iQ Arts & Eco Centre.

Films may originate from any format, but must be entered in DVD format and be no more than 30 minutes in length.

All genres are acceptable for this competition and films are to be completed within two years of the close of entries, from residents of the Northern Rivers, or



films with a relation to the Northern Rivers.

The programme will

screen on Saturday 22nd January 5pm 2011, alongside the Byron Flickerfest three-day screenings of the best of the world's short films.

Awards night is on Sunday 23rd January, with prizes totalling around \$5000 in value

Entries close: December 24th, 2010. Visit www.iq.org.au for entry forms and info. For more info, contact Shane Rennie on 02 6684-5577.

No Rally Group celebrates

The decision by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport to move the Repco Rally to Coffs Harbour may not have been universally applauded, but it was certainly a cause for celebration by the No Rally Group (NRG).

The group recently held a commemorative party in Uki to thank all who had supported the campaign, during which the cardboard coffin prop was ceremonially burnt.

The 'coffin', made by Paul Taylor, had become considerably worse for wear after being used throughout the campaign, its image appearing in every regional newspaper.

Joanna Gardner said, "Thanks to everyone who wrote, phoned, photographed in support of the No Rally Group."

The rally's move from the Tweed-Kyogle area, which has been attributed to the strength of community opposition, is the culmination of 18-months



Releasing the Spirit. Andrea Vickers and Scott Sledge (at left) and Janeke (right) enjoy the symbolism of the moment.

of activism by the group, which used petitions, public meetings, rallies and a sustained letter-writing and media campaign to achieve the result.

Numerous scrap-books of press clippings attested to the effort made by the No Rally Group and the Kyogle-based 7th Generation group.

Janeke said, "If ever anyone

thinks something is too big to take on, take this to heart."

Members of the NRG, which will change its name and focus when the few outstanding debts have been settled, are now putting their considerable political experience into the campaign to save Byrrill Creek from inundation.

Northern Rivers youth suffering from lack of transport

A community transport forum held in Byron Bay has revealed how a lack of public transport in the Northern Rivers region was letting young people down by limiting access to work opportunities and tertiary education.

The forum, held by the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) and Trains on Our Tracks (TOOT), was an opportunity for members of the Northern Rivers community to identify the key transport issues in the region and share their ideas for improving transport in the region.

RTBU NSW Secretary Alex Claassens said that the disadvantage many regional areas suffered from was a lack of investment in transport services, which was clearly on display at the forum.

"There was one young woman from Coraki who was forced to hitch-hike from Lismore because there was not a public transport service to take her to Byron Bay.

"She said that the lack of public transport was making life impossible for young people like herself because there was simply no way they could travel to many workplaces in the area, to uni



Karin Kolby addresses the meeting

or to TAFE.

"Without access to convenient transport options, too many young people are at risk of missing out on employment and educational opportunities.

"In the end, these sorts of problems are what drive young people to leave regional areas and move to the city."

President of TOOT Karin Kolbe said that the first step towards improving public transport in the area was opening the Casino to Murwillumbah line to regular, local, light rail services.

"Once we see services back on this line, you would then start looking to introduce bus services that branch out from the line and reach an even broader section of the

community. But the train line is the key, it has to be the backbone of any effective public transport plan."

The RTBU has since launched a petition calling for a rail service to be introduced on the Casino to Murwillumbah line.

Mr Claassens said the petition would be presented to candidates from all sides of politics and would demand each of them to make their position on the rail line clear in the lead up to the election.

"We encourage everyone who feels strongly about this issue to sign the petition and send a message to our politicians that regional communities will not put up with being forgotten any longer."

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Nimbin Markets in 12th year

by Jak Murphy

The world famous Nimbin monthly market is still operating after almost twelve successful years at the community school grounds.

At the market, which operates every third and fifth Sunday in the month, stallholders sell home made goods, jewellery, locally made and imported clothes, second hand goods, plants and fabulous food.

As well, Ali wakes us up with her great coffee, it's a sad sight to see stallholders (and market co-ordinators) feebly begging for morning coffee at 0630 while Ali speedily brings her machines up to steam heat. Ali also makes delicious cakes for breakfast while Russell takes a more relaxed approach to the day, preparing to serve Dosas for lunch.

Recently we were slightly disturbed to hear that the Byron Bay greedies planned to operate yet another Byron market on our Sunday. We are yet to feel the full impact of this at Nimbin, but it does seem a little inconsiderate to other regional markets that operate on this third Sunday, yah boo Byron greedies, it isn't all about money you know, love a little.

Another popular feature at Nimbin market is the music. We are fortunate to have a good stage, an amazing supply of local and visiting musos and a talented musician and sound man, Bo Kaan, who organises the entertainment. Speak with Bo if you are an aspiring musician or entertainer looking for an unpaid gig in front of a supportive audience.



Colorful scenes at the markets.

So what don't we have? Enough stallholders and enough visitors. Why? Don't really know.

Our site fees are the lowest in the area, our market is the easiest to get a stall at, the venue is excellent and altogether, those who do come have an enjoyable time with good food, good music and good company. The market is child friendly and safe.

Some have suggested we should change our day to the fourth Sunday in the month to accommodate Byron, no way I say, we have spent twelve years holding successful markets on that Sunday, it's our day.

The market committee is looking at a few options, more signage and more promotion. If you have a roadside property in the area we would like to speak with you about erecting a permanent advertising sign visible from the road, or if you have other ideas that might be helpful, please come and discuss them.

If you have a product you want to sell, book a site. We prefer locally made or grown, and right now we don't need



more food stalls, although this may change depending on who we lose to Byron market.

We have a very strict quality control policy regarding food sales and would not encourage processed or fast food. (Although personally I would welcome back the fairy floss lady, the children loved her product and their opinions count...)

There is a very exciting idea being discussed by the committee, but it is too soon to let you know what, stay tuned and watch this space. I am still enjoying being the market organiser, despite the position being recently advertised, so I am the person to see if you want a site, see you at the market.

The Basil Bunch restaurant

Channel 10 may have *Master Chef*, but Nimbin has "The Basil Bunch", four young boys, Zac aged 12 and brothers Jack, Sam, and Alex, aged 11, 8 and 5. They got together for a day of Master Class and hands-on cooking.

The day started with the presentation of chefs' aprons, hand-made and printed with B B for the name of their restaurant, plus a folder containing all the recipes needed, plus a three course menu for the guests.

All the parents and some friends had been invited for dinner that evening.

Preparation commenced with an entrée of fettuccine with a julienne of pumpkin and creamy pumpkin cheese and nutmeg sauce. For main course, lamb shanks served with roasted cherry truss tomatoes, boulangere potatoes and side vegetables.

Dessert was black forest profiteroles filled with chocolate praline mousse and topped with whipped cream and gilded cherries.

Under the guidance of Carolyne of *Cooks Corner* in *The Nimbin GoodTimes*, these four young budding chefs prepared and cooked all three courses with a skill and enthusiasm equal to any of the *Master Chef* juniors.

There were a few slip-ups, making for a great deal of laughter, and gaining quite a



Master class (above): The junior masterchefs get ready to cook up a storm in their Basil Road premises. Below: the lucky diners.



lot of knowledge.

The parents and friends were seated at 6pm at a table set by the young chefs, with linen tablecloth and napkins, silver cutlery, flowers and stemware for the wine they were serving with the meal.

After plating up each

course, they served the meal with the expertise expected of any high class restaurant.

All the guests and their instructor at The Basil Bunch Restaurant congratulated the four on a wonderful evening and an absolutely professional result.

Shannon Turner nominated for Apprentice of the Year

Local young man Shannon Turner from Nimbin has recently been nominated apprentice of the year in Queensland, and has been short listed in the finals of the annual excellence awards for young apprentices.

Shannon moved to Brisbane to pursue an apprenticeship as an electrician, and joined the team at 240 Electrical and is now in his third year.

There are numerous awards that encourage and recognise outstanding achievement throughout the electrotechnology industry. To celebrate the success within the industry, the Electrical and Communications Association, in conjunction with Master Electricians Australia, will be holding an awards presentation night in Brisbane, on Friday, 5th November 2010, at The Sebel



Citigate, starting at 7pm.

It will be a fun-filled night with entertainment and celebration, in honour of the 2010 nominees and winners.

Family, friends and the community would like to acknowledge, and wish Shannon all the best in the finals.

KIMI HANDYMAN



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Stars in their eyes

by Rebecca Ryall

It was a community celebration of our young people. And celebrate them we did!

The Hidden Talent Show on Saturday October 30th saw more than sixty talented young people from ten local schools, strutting the stage and treading the boards of Hanging Rock Hall, with enthusiastic support from a local crowd. Performers ranged in age from four to eighteen and included a budding authoress and some tiny little flamenco ladies from Barkersvale, musical maestros from Rainbow Ridge, singers galore from Kyogle, and some seriously cool acrobatic boys from Uki.

It was a celebration of our community. With representatives from four local schools, as well as the Rainbow Chai tent, Tennis club, rural fire brigade and hall committee, and the efforts of many other groups and individuals, we made community. We were community.

It was a celebration of talent. We asked young people to show us what they love to do. And they did so. Beautifully. They read and recited. They strummed, hummed and drummed. They kicked their heels, they did cartwheels, and tumbled (few stumbled!). They pounded the keys and trod the boards. And we loved it!

Our bellies were most pleasantly filled with food prepared by Tuntable Falls Community School, Barkersvale Public School, Rainbow Ridge Steiner School, the Hall Committee and the chai tent. Daffyd Thomas delighted his school community and amused onlookers

by volunteering himself for a drenching.

Kids and adults of all ages enjoyed free workshops and demonstrations by Hartje from Tuntable Circus, and Kirrah and Guy with their contact juggling. There was lantern making all day, which climaxed with a lantern parade at sunset, followed by the lighting of the bonfire.

The community building continued into the night, with a fantastically rousing set by local musos, the Barkersvale Brothers, and Jimmy Willing and the Real Gone Hiccups playing on 'til late.

It was a wonderful day, filled with smiling faces, laughter and music. It was uplifting to see so many people come along, bringing their presence, enthusiasm and energy, and contributing to the success of this event.

Thank you to all involved for your generosity of spirit – performers, parents, teachers, schools, organisations and supportive businesses. We are truly privileged to live in such a supportive and diverse community, and for the asset that is our community halls, and it is events such as these which highlight this for us, and remind us, should we ever forget.



Shopkeepers celebrate new footpath

Roger Simpson (4th from left) with builder Mark Holbut and tenants of the refurbished NRMA building, toasting the completion of paving and curbing work, which marks the end of the two-year project which, with new foundations and roof, cost over \$300,000. "We're so happy it's over," Roger said.

Cocktails!

It was dress to impress at the cocktail party held to raise funds for the Physical Activity Centre at Nimbin Showground.

The brainchild of fitness instructor Cassandra Jeffereys, the event attracted over 90 people to sample cocktails made by Sally, Rebecca and Rhyanna, nibble on finger food made by the Hummingbird Bistro, and hit the dance floor to the pulsing beats and swirling lights operated by Tim Tonkin.

It was a great venue and a perfect night," said Cassandra. "Everyone loved dressing up



for it – I'd like to make it an annual event."

"Thanks to everyone who came along, and all the businesses that supported it: Nimbin Emporium, the

School of Arts, the Chemist, the Apothecary, and Daisy's."

A massive \$1900 was raised for new equipment, with the decision to be made on the actual purchases in December.



Rainbow Living: Holistic Health

Scores of people took the opportunity to have a free body tune-up in Rainbow Lane on 3rd November.

Nimbin's Fright Night

by Pampussycat Bourne

Halloween was celebrated in Nimbin this year in a colourful and friendly atmosphere.

Groups of youngsters, often accompanied by adults, scampered in the shadows of the village and surrounding communities, knocking door by door calling "Trick Or Treat".

Photographed are locals seen in the Nimbin Village and Jarlanbah Community.

Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain, which is a celebration at the end of harvest season in Gaelic culture.

The Gaels believed that on October 31st, the boundaries between the living and the dead overlapped, and the deceased could come back to life and cause havoc like damaged crops or sickness.

The festival often included bonfires. The bonfires attracted insects, attracting bats. Masks or costumes were worn to mimic the evil spirits.



The tradition of carving a lantern started in Ireland. However it was traditionally carved from a swede or a turnip. They were carved on All Hallows' Eve and left on the door step to ward off evil spirits.

The word itself, "Halloween," actually has its origins in the Catholic Church. It comes from a corruption of All Hallows Eve. November 1, "All Hallows Day" (or "All Saints Day"), is a Catholic day of observance in honour of saints.



In Nimbin, the Halloween witches, ghosts, vampires, mummies, and black cats evaporated back to their homes soon after sundown, with tired legs and bags of goodies, and another happy memory – Nimbin style!

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Nimbin Central School



Textiles expo

by Marg Canning
textiles teacher

What great talented textiles students and models we have! Our Years 10 and 11 students willingly participated in the Combined High Schools fashion parade and static display at the Lismore Workers' Club on Wednesday, October 12.

Nimbin Central Students received huge applause as they modelled their outfits in the fashion parade. Mahalia Jackson (Year 11) led the team out with playful twists and turns, clad in her brightly coloured and varied panelled dress which was complimented by her accessories of red felt hat and blue boots.

She was followed by Year 10 student, Jocinta Sleeth, who presented stunningly in her black corseted 'after five' dress and managed to

elegantly strut out in her black stilettos, with the attitude and look of an 'haute couture' model!

Finally, Possum Rose (Year 11) skipped out in her gorgeous lilac evening dress and swung her dress charmingly to reveal the bias cut of her gown to its best advantage. Cody-Lee Robinson's (Year 11) delightful lacy, black and white lingerie top and skirt set, was modelled by Possum Rose in another section.

It was a big learning curve for our students, as not only did they participate but they were also able to view so many varied textile items ranging from recycled outfits made from colourful plastic bags to HSC major works of a formal wedding gown and kimono. Apparel wear and furnishings, costumes and textiles were on display.

Cody Lee's felt hats and denim vest exhibited well as did Mahalia's green felt vest.



Jocinta

The stimulus of this variety, plus viewing the polish in the finished product, will assist our students in their planning of their own textile items for next year's HSC.

Sue Harland provided generous assistance to students and for guiding complex problems to a satisfactory end. We are justifiably proud of our textiles students and I thank them for their curiosity, patience and genuine good will in representing our school in such a big event. Congratulations girls!



Possum

Year 7 visit to Bonalbo Central

On Thursday 28th October, the Year 7 students from Nimbin Central School spent the day at Bonalbo Central School.

The visit was part of the COGS Integrated Curriculum Unit of work that the students have been participating in Terms 3 and 4. Bonalbo Central is Nimbin's sister school in this project and also undertook an Integrated Curriculum unit of work and used this day to showcase their results.

Bonalbo's project looked at their school and community's links to the Bundjalung nation as well as to Japan. This interesting project saw the students write creation stories from both cultures, make music from both cultures



Bonalbo's percussion ensemble

as well as study both languages.

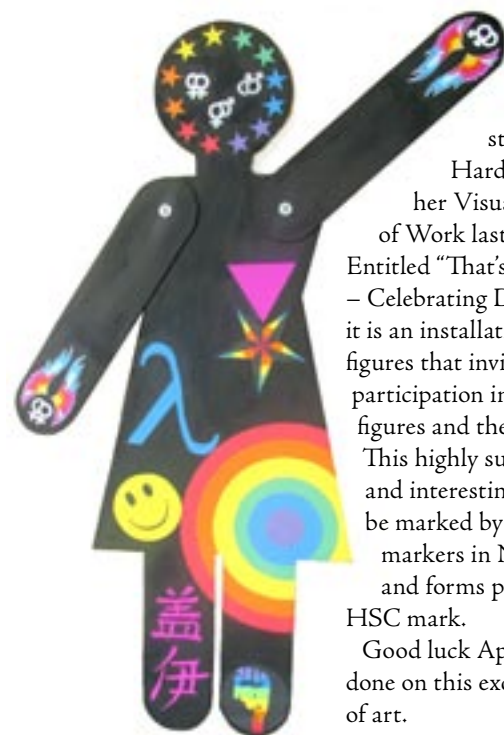
On Thursday Nimbin students had the opportunity to play Japanese Taiko drums, make and fly kites, hear the Bonalbo students report on their study and listen to a Bundjalung elder.

They were also treated to a feast of Japanese food, bush tucker including

kangaroo and crocodile as well as traditional Aussie meat pies and lamingtons.

All the students had an enjoyable day and made a lot of new friends. We look forward to the Bonalbo students visiting for the launch of our COGS project later this term.

HSC Visual Arts Body of Work



Nimbin Central School Year 12 student April Hard completed her Visual Arts Body of Work last term. Entitled "That's so Gay - Celebrating Difference", it is an installation of 4 figures that invites audience participation in moving the figures and their arms. This highly successful and interesting work will be marked by external markers in November and forms part of April's HSC mark. Good luck April and well done on this excellent piece of art.

2010 photographic challenge

Nimbin Central School students are to be congratulated yet again for their outstanding results in this year's Northern Rivers



Schools Photographic Challenge organised by the Lismore Camera Club.

With the theme of "Aged" to coincide with the Lismore Shows Anniversary the competition attracted a huge number of entries, in both traditional darkroom black and white prints as well as digital and digitally manipulated images.

Rebecca Johnson from Nimbin Central won first prize with her image entitled "Hands" and Isabella West won second prize with her digital collage "Old Carriage".

This is a fantastic result for a small school in competition with much larger schools across the entire region.

Congratulations girls and keep up the wonderful work!

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In your neighbourhood...

News from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre



NNIC Launches new website

At last our website is up and running. See www.nnic.org.au (or www.nimbinneighbourhood.com.au)

- The website features:
- Lots of Info about NNIC and its services.
 - On-Line Community Calendar – if you are or become a member of NNIC you will be given a log in and password which will enable you to upload your community events onto the on line Calendar. Anyone can access the Calendar to see what is happening around Nimbin, as well as to plan events and minimise clashes etc.
 - On Line Community Car Pool forum. Again, if you become a member of NNIC you can register for the Car Pool forum. You can then post up when you need a lift or can offer a lift and any replies will be posted to your personal email address.
 - Sustainability Section including Food Security – we will be putting up all the tools and materials we have collated from the recent Nimbin workshops with Robina McCurdy

So check out this new website where you can apply to become a member of NNIC on line, or else just drop in and fill out a membership form. All memberships are subject to management committee approval and \$5.50 membership fee.

Online membership applications lapse if the membership fee is not paid within 21 days. All financial memberships lapse at 30 June every year. Drop in and renew your membership now if you are a current member. Or else drop in and join NNIC to gain access to the website tools.

Nimbin Food Security Project

Food Security working party meetings are every last Thursday of each month at NNIC at 6pm. All community members are welcome to come along and participate in this great project.

- Current Food Security Project activities:
- Commercial Kitchen Survey – we are still surveying community needs in relation to setting up a commercial kitchen for post-harvest food processing and we need your input. Contact NNIC by email or drop in

- to get a survey;
- Blue Knob farmers market every Saturday morning at Blue Knob Hall;
- Summary of outcomes of workshops with Robina McCurdy will be made available soon on the new website under the 'sustainability' tab.

The fate of the paper calendar

We are wondering whether to replace the hard copies of the Community Calendar with the online facility. We would like to hear from anyone who objects to this idea and would prefer to see us keep the hard copy going. We are considering replacing the calendar with a one-page quarterly newsletter for NNIC members. Drop in during our opening hours, send letters to PO Box 20168 Nimbin 2480 or email us at nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au

Nimbin Annual Women's Dinner

Wednesday 17th November 2010 – get this date into your diary! Tickets available now from NNIC.

Nimbin Social Inclusion Day

Thursday 25th November at Alsopp Park All community members welcome to this all-inclusive event. Anyone interested in performing or speaking on the day please contact NNIC. Come along and celebrate an inclusive community.

RIP Momo



Momo, our fabulous therapy cat and Rat Project Manager sadly passed away on Friday 8th October after six years with us, aged 15. Her final resting place is the back yard of the Neighbourhood Centre. The spirit of Momo continues to haunt Facebook.

Great Nimbin institution regenerates

The Nimbin Women's Dinner has become an institution, bringing together the diverse women of Nimbin for seven years. From a small initial gathering it has grown to become a gala event, with women organisers, performers and caterers producing a fantastic night to network, enjoy and remember.

In past years, the dinner was organised by the NNIC domestic violence committee. Although domestic violence hasn't disappeared, the committee is now defunct. When NNIC didn't have enough funds to pay workers to organise the dinner this year, it looked like the Nimbin Women's Dinner was going to be defunct too.

In true Nimbin spirit Gail Clarke, Megan James and a team of volunteers have rallied to ensure that the dinner survives – and



a fabulous line-up of local women performers will entertain, including Nimbin's own Diana Anaid, Lil' Fi, the Julies, Tribal Monsoon, Biko and Janie Treasure. There will be information from the Women's Health Centre and speakers on women's issues. All women are welcome and no-one will be turned away for lack of funds – though if you want a seat, make sure you buy tickets from NNIC soon!

All profits will go to another great Nimbin institution, the 2011 Nimbin World Poetry Cup. This

is a marriage of Nimbin institutions to ensure the survival of community, and what is more important in these troubled times than our precious community spirit?

The Celtic seasonal festivals are still celebrated in our village, but we also honour our own seasons, rituals and values with celebrations like the Mardi Grass, the World Poetry Cup and the Nimbin Women's Dinner. These gatherings weave and decorate the fabric of our community life and are essential to our shared wellbeing.

Recycling in style



Nimbin Preschool hosted another successful fundraiser with many women turning out for a night of clothes swapping and socialising. It is a unique fundraising event that is growing each year. "It was great to see such a cross-section of the

community attending this year," said Kylie Cain, one of the organisers. "It's a chance to mingle with a whole range of women and enliven your wardrobe at the same time." With a bar, chai and some delicious food, this event is



shaping up to be a must on the Nimbin social calendar, and at the same time raising much needed funds for our community preschool. "We're hoping to attract even more women next year, of all ages and sizes," Kylie said.

Nats say 'thanks' despite Liberal lashing at polls

The Richmond Nationals candidate, Alan Hunter, joined with fellow Nationals and supporters at the Nimbin Showgrounds recently to thank federal election volunteer booth workers.

Mr Hunter, reeling from a vastly reduced primary vote in the election, was joined by the Lismore Nationals MP, Thomas George, and his wife Debbie for the occasion.

Federal candidate Mr Hunter received 21.21 per cent of the vote, a drop of almost 16 per cent, while Liberal candidate Joan van Lieshout scored 19 per cent. The Greens were knocking on the door with 16 per cent.

The Nationals must be anxious in the lead-up to the NSW state election in March 2011, hoping to oust the ALP government.

Mr George was elected with 54 per cent before preferences for the NSW seat of Lismore in 2007. The Nationals' nearest rival was Labor, with 26 per cent, and the Greens receiving 18 per cent.

Labor may be on the nose with local voters, meaning the Greens could have enough support to outpoll the ALP this time.

A raffle held at the Nimbin event raised several hundred dollars for the Lismore-based Westpac Rescue Helicopter people.



Photo: Murray Lees

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