

Crimewave hits Nimbin businesses

Nimbin village businesses have been hit by a spate of break-and-enters during July. The robberies, all using the same method in the dead of night, have resulted in many businesses, and at least one community organisation, being seriously out of pocket, and facing more expense to further upgrade their security.

The Nimbin Auto Centre and the Nimbin Recycling Centre were worst hit, with two robberies each within two weeks, while main street premises operated by Nimbins Stoned Fish and the Nimbin Community Connections building, the youth club at the Community Centre, were also targeted.

Amounts of money were stolen in each case, as well as easily carried goods, such as tools and cigarettes.

Security systems at the



service station caught the thief on camera (pictured), a young male wearing sunglasses, a light grey

hoodie with army-style green pants, torch in mouth, his gloved hand carrying his block-splitter and garbage

bag of loot.

Proprietor Dave Basten said, "He seemed to know what he was doing."



"After smashing the toughened glass window, he kept low, below where our sensors were set, but he freaked out when a car went past and ducked his head up, and that's when the alarms went off and he bolted."

The camera footage shows him mounting the counter to make his escape.

"We've fixed that sensor problem," Dave said, "but it looks like I'll have put bars around the whole

place, which I'm not looking forward to."

Though the village has rarely experienced this level of sustained property crime, the burglaries have brought forth renewed calls for increased night-time police patrols.

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce president Peter Wise said, "It's something we've been after for years, but we're always told it's a matter of resources."

Though no spokesperson was available for comment when NGT called, police are understood to be closing in on the perpetrator after thorough, though belated, crime scene investigations, and information gained from the public.

Anyone with further information that may assist police to apprehend this thief, phone Crimestoppers on 1800-333-000.

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Get off your butt and get inspired to Do Something!

by Andy Gough

Jon Dee is on a mission, a man possessed. Just following Jon online through Facebook or Twitter can be exhausting. His website boasts photos of him with a veritable who's who of celebrities and dignitaries.

Jon was the 2010 NSW Australian of the Year. He is the founder and managing director of *Do Something!* and in 1991 he founded Planet Ark with Pat Cash. Projects initiated by Jon have inspired millions of Australians in to making positive social and environmental change.

He instigated National Recycling Week, the National Recycling Hotline, and *recyclingnearyou.com.au* which is used by over a million Australians every year. Jon also founded *World Environment News*, the world's leading environmental news service used annually by eight million people.

He has given 139 speaking engagements on sustainability since January 2010, and says only two of those were to 'green' audiences, with most being corporate.

When NGT catches up with Jon he tells us he has a relative in Lismore who he is "terrified" of the carbon tax. Jon says she is actually somebody likely to be overcompensated under the



Jon Dee co-founded National Tree Day with Olivia Newton-John, an event for which Australian volunteers have planted 15 million native trees and shrubs.

proposal. Jon's message today is that the carbon tax is nothing to be scared of, and that it should simply be considered as a 10% energy tax, and that by taking his '10% challenge' then householders can avoid the impact of the tax altogether. A corporate version is launching soon, and Jon is very excited that he has already got Richard Pratt of Visy onboard helping the project.

Jon believes that the government has failed to explain the carbon tax adequately. He reckons very few politicians actually understand the carbon tax. Jon thinks government would be better served selling the carbon tax as an energy

efficiency and resource levy. He also congratulates the Greens for wresting control of renewables from Martin Ferguson's portfolio.

Jon says the media have failed to ask the hard questions, and have been swallowing the scare stories and spreading misinformation. Jon thinks that we get the politicians we deserve and thinks Australians have largely disengaged with the political process.

He accuses the big polluters of being 'lazy organisations'. If retailers and suppliers claim that prices are rising due to the carbon tax, Jon challenges them to "prove it". He says this is the first legislation to make

business more resilient against future resources.

Jon pulls out his iPad and shows me some of his many websites. "Do Something near you" launches in September," he says. "It's like an online Lions and Rotary guide for young people, providing a large repository of community groups for people to get involved with in their local area."

Just recently Jon has collaborated with Olivia Newton-John again to raise awareness of the coal seam gas issue. "I respectfully request a national moratorium on the coal-seam gas exploration and mining in Australia until all health, social and environmental risks have been fully explored," she said in an open letter to the media this week.

Jon's enthusiasm and dedication to his cause(s) are infectious, even as his concentration and stream of thought are often broken by his two young daughters interruptions. I'm convinced he can recite this stuff in his sleep.

I confess, I want his job.

Websites and resources

www.dosomething.net.au
www.tenpercentchallenge.com
www.jondee.com
www.recyclingnearyou.com.au
www.planetark.org/enviro-news

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Water supply to be cut?

by Janine Wilson

Lismore City Council staff have outlined a proposal to disconnect Nimbin water supply to 79 rural properties and provide water tanks in replacement at a total estimated cost of \$790,000.

The council's executive director of infrastructure services, Garry Hemsworth, said there had been no change to the current management or delivery of the water supply to those residents or the broader Nimbin community.

"What we have identified is that the water supply being delivered to those 79 consumers only will not meet, and is unlikely to be able to be upgraded to meet, the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines that will become mandatory when the Public Health Act 2010 is enacted," Mr Hemsworth said.

"The main reason for this is because the new guidelines take a multi-barrier zero-risk approach to water quality and to meet those requirements significant upgrade works would be required at the Mulgum Creek Weir. Council believes those works would be unlikely due to the time-frame, and the high environmental value of the site."

Council staff are recommending to council that the Nimbin Rural Water Supply should be declared non-potable, which means the water is not suitable for drinking and culinary purposes and that affected consumers should be offered a rainwater tank, where a tank will be installed free of charge, and those properties will be disconnected from the water supply.

The council operations



Gungas Weir from the air
Courtesy Google Maps

engineer, Paul Ellem, said the proposal was the cheapest option to address the risk management requirements resulting from change to legislation under the Public Health Act passed in 2010 and due to come into effect in 2012.

In his report to council, Mr Ellem said there had always been water quality concerns at Nimbin, where water is drawn from the Gungas Road Weir on Mulgum Creek to feed into the DE Williams dam.

He outlined the problems with turbidity that could not be controlled during rainy periods and a problem with access to the weir during floods if the chlorination of the water stopped due to mechanical failure. He said the quality of the water could not be controlled for these particular properties during rainy periods.

Mr Ellem said the council cannot comply with the new Act with respect to water policy for rural consumers between the weir and the dam. He proposed that the council disconnect 79 properties and supply and install 45,000-litre tanks at a cost of about

\$10,000 per property, or a total cost of about \$790,000.

He has recommended that the council begin consultations with the affected residents and start negotiations for the provision of rainwater tanks and current service disconnection, and that the council continues to develop a long-term strategic plan for a water supply to the whole of Nimbin.

The funding for all works undertaken in relation to the Nimbin Rural Water Supply will be sourced from the \$3.3 million already allocated for the strategic upgrade of the Nimbin Water Supply which is planned during 2011 to 2014. Those funds are sourced from water usage charges.

The council will be considering a report on the Nimbin Rural Water Supply at its Ordinary Meeting on 9th August 2011. Residents or property owners who have questions or comments regarding this matter are invited to contact Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300-87-83-87 or send an email to council@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Gr8 sk8 dates



The community is invited to attend the official opening of Nimbin's new skate park in Peace Park on Thursday, August 11, at 10 am.

Lismore City Council Mayor Jenny Dowell said the park been a great success for the community, with a constant flow of people making the most of the purpose-built, all-levels skate park since its soft opening on June 25.

"The skate park has been a hive of activity with a wide range of people enjoying the diversity of the skate park design and its location in the centre of town," said Councillor Dowell. "Nimbin local graffiti artist, Zac Price, recently painted the skate park 'Code of Conduct' and some more general artwork onto the cement surface and the whole site is now looking colourful and even more welcoming."

"It is very clear that this is a great resource for the village and the community can feel justifiably proud to have a facility like this in their town." Councillor Dowell said she had even heard of one skater who came all the way from Wollongong to try the Nimbin park out.

The skate park at Peace Park was made possible with \$449,000 in federal government grant funding.

Friends Of Nimbin Skatepark (FONS) will hold a fund-raising barbecue at the park from 12-2pm on Sunday 21st August.

Funds will go into the FONS account for general maintenance, with hopes for a small shed for maintenance equipment, barbecue, fridge and lawn mower.



Laurelli and Julie help
Trout with the BBQ



Donations can also be deposited into the FONS Summerland Credit Union account in Nimbin.

FONS plans to hold these social barbecues every third Sunday (Nimbin Market Days) for kids and adults to get to know each other and have a bit of fun and discuss park improvements.

The group thanks Neil for all his time and effort keeping the park clean and tidy. Check



out *Slam Mags* utube footage or *Recon Nimbin* for footage shot in the Nimbin Sk8park.

Parking patrols coming

Lismore City Council has determined to increase parking patrols in Nimbin in response to a number of representations made by local business people and community members.

The council's compliance co-ordinator, Matt Kelly, said the representations mainly highlighted concerns that the reported level of parking non-compliance in the village was making it difficult for community members and visitors to the town to have fair access to shops and facilities.

"In response to these representations, council has determined to incorporate the

Nimbin Village Centre into its regulated parking patrol program," he said. "Routine patrols will be undertaken in the village centre on a regular basis."

As a limited introductory phase to the program, compliance officers will initially provide warnings to road users who overstay time-limited parking. This flexibility will not be provided to no stopping, no parking or accessibility parking areas.

The introductory phase will conclude and the regulated parking patrol program will be fully introduced, with all fines applying, as of 1st September.

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In your neighbourhood...

News from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre

by **Natalie Meyer,**
Team Leader, NNIC

Work Development Orders

The trial ended mid July and the good news is the program has been adopted permanently. If you have unpaid fines you may be eligible to pay off your fines via voluntary work at NNIC. Book in to see our Community Welfare Workers to find out if you are eligible.

Warning! New Centrelink penalty regime

Has commenced relating to missed appointments. See Venessa in our Centrelink Agency for more info.

Towards a Sustainable Nimbin

The Draft Plan is now being finalised. Some of the strategies are already being progressed. Watch this space and our website for more info.

Nimbin Solar Farm

To date we have generated 27,748kW of energy which is in line with our projections. The evaluation of the Solar Farm Project is now available on our website: www.nmic.org.au

Nimbin Bus Extension

The new bus runs commenced on Monday 18th July with a free Fancy Dress Bus Party on the first 4.25 run into Lismore and back to Nimbin.

The new finalised timetable for Wallers bus runs between Nimbin and Lismore is available on our website (Home – Sustainability – Transport tab) as well as here at the Centre.

Nimbin locals only can also purchase MultiTix at NNIC – 5 trips at \$35 or 10 trips at \$70 (ie \$7 one way reduced from \$9 one way). Ask at our front desk.

Nimbin Food Security

Project The Grain Mill rolled out on the 2nd July at the Blue Knob Farmers market's First Birthday celebration. It poured with rain but you came in your hundreds to celebrate the achievement of the markets. Well done to everyone involved! We milled everything we took with us and interest in our new community grain mill has been high. This month the



Mill will come fully on line and watch out for it at Nimbin Organics and ZoneOne on Mondays, Nimbin

Organics on Wednesdays, and the Farmers Market every Saturday.

More details will be posted on our website.

Food Security meetings are on the last Thursday of the month at 5.30pm at the Elmo Room at NNIC, 71 Cullen St – Come around the back steps. Food always welcome!

Nimbin Ag Show

The Blue Knob Farmers Market will be moving from its usual location at Blue Knob Hall to the Nimbin Show Grounds to be part of the Nimbin Ag Show on Saturday 24th September.

The Grain Mill will be there all weekend, as well as information and updates on the Nimbin Food Security Project. We will also be hosting the first ever Sustainable Produce Awards. Entry forms will be in the Show Program (out soon). There will be ribbons for First, Second, Third and Champion in Show Sustainable Produce exhibits. We encourage all food producers including backyard vege growers, to enter exhibits in the Show. Let's fill that pavilion with fresh local produce!

Nourishing Nimbin

Saturday 29th October – a celebration of sustainable local food. If you are interested in helping or have ideas for the day, or are a local producer who would like to be involved in showcasing your produce, contact Guy on food@nmic.org.au In the meantime, get this date into your diaries as it will be a great event for all the family and anyone into food. Which we figure is most people!

Our Opening Hours

NNIC is open 10am to 4pm weekdays. You can access photocopying (inc colour), fax, computers, newspapers and other local and regional information. You can also drop in or telephone for an appointment with one of our welfare workers or with the Nurse Practitioner (Drug and Alcohol/Mental Health issues), phone 6689-1692.



New bus service gets off to a flying start

There was a party atmosphere at the bus stops in both Nimbin and Lismore (pictured) for the run of the first extra bus service on 18th July.

An initiative of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce with the support of Wallers Bus Company, the extra service has been subsidised by a \$45,000 grant from the Ministry of Transport, which has allowed fares to be reduced to \$9/\$4.50 each way, or less with a multi-trip ticket.

New Mon-Fri bus times are: Nimbin-Lismore 4.25 and 6.05pm depart; Lismore-Nimbin 5.30pm; but it's only for a 12-month trial period, so use it or lose it!

Always interested in expanding ?

by **Jenny Creasy**

Have you ever thought of having a small vegetable or food stall, or selling household items like lip balms or shampoos made from herbs or flowers you grow in your garden? The Blue Knob Farmers Market is always interested in expanding the range of produce and products we can offer to our many loyal customers. We have two categories of Stallholders, those who grow produce on their own farms and gardens, and "value added" producers, like myself who make goods like sauerkraut. Of course you can have a mix of both. As a value added stallholder, you can make or grow your ingredients yourself or find them locally. Many people have been put off the idea of a small food business because of a belief that you need to have a commercial kitchen.

Fortunately we have been able to work with Lismore Council to clarify that if you are mostly retailing a product, ie at a farmers market, then it is perfectly ok to use your home kitchen. We have drawn up a set of guidelines based on our discussions with LCC. So if you have had an idea running your head of something that might fit into the farmer's market, come down and see us on Saturday mornings or call Peter on 6689-7004.

Sharing Local Knowledge

Saturday 6th Aug 10am. Worm Farming – Dean Huff

Worm farming is an excellent way to turn kitchen scraps and lawn clippings into soil conditioners that really improve soil quality and fertility. Dean has been involved with small-scale worm farming for 15 years and has a great deal of practical knowledge to assist the beginning worm farmer. He'll be discussing; worm biology, feeding, general care and worm farm design.

Saturday 13th Aug 10am. Tying Practical Knots – Stuart McConville

Learn how to tie six simple everyday knots and their practical applications. Never trip over your shoelaces again with the REAL double bow, join ropes safely with a sheetbend, tie off a line with a clove hitch, pull down a load with a truckies hitch and put up a tent with a running hitch. All knots guaranteed to come apart easily WHEN you want them to, not before. Lots of hands-on practice during Stuart's talk means you get real, practical skills you can use.

Saturday 20th Aug 10am. Earth Bag Building – Beccy

This low-impact, natural building technique creates water and fire-proof structures of great strength that



maintain stable interior temperatures. Costs are kept low as building requirements are mainly local earth, bagging material, binding medium (such as lime or clay) and some wire. The size and shape of an earth bag building is limited only by the skill and imagination of the builders.

Beccy has completed basic instruction in earth bag building (also called super adobe) under the tutelage of teachers trained at the Cal-Earth institute. She'll present her own experience in this technique along with slides of her work. Beccy, a grandmother, says; "If you can lift an earth-filled flower pot you can build with earth bag. You can adjust the work to suit your own pace and level of fitness."

Saturday 27th Aug 10am Farmhouse Cheese Making – The Soft Cheeses, Feta and Quark – Jenny Creasy All Day Workshop, registration required. Contact Jenny on 0488-009-808.

Blue Knob Farmer's Market, 9am to 1pm every Saturday, runs rain, hail or shine. Corner of Blue Knob and Lillian Rock Roads, 8km north of Nimbin. Talks start at 10am sharp. If you'd like to know about future talks and Market news, send your name and email to Jim at uloborid8@gmail.com



Lishia, Miles and Wolfgang at the grain mill

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CSG: Poison in our water

Submission to Public Hearing by Senate Rural Affairs Committee

by Trevor Crouch

Extracting coal seam gas from more than 80 sites in Queensland and New South Wales is poisoning water above and below ground.

Two such toxic sites, which have resulted in government action, are the Arrow Energy wells, at Moranbah, west of Mackay, and the Cougar Energy site, near Kingaroy.

The thousands of wells being planned will increase the problem a thousandfold and destroy the lifeblood of agriculture in this country, our underground water.

Coal Seam Gas cannot be extracted without poisoning water supplies. Coal Seam Gas is methane bonded to the surface of coal particles. (So-called natural gas exists in the space between grains of sandstone and similar types of rock.)

The water which fills the coal seams keeps the gas in place as a thin film on the coal. The water becomes heavily polluted with heavy metals and toxic chemicals such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene, but because it is not disturbed it poses no threat to the environment, or to the sub-aquifers which flow through the same areas with pure water.

To extract the Coal Seam Gas, a well is dug and the gas – together with vast quantities of toxic water – is pumped out. The water is released onto the surface where it contaminates the natural flow of rainwater over the ground into streams, into rivers, into dams, and into the tap in your kitchen.

There is no way of stopping this contamination.

The final coup de grace to our pure water supplies is “Fracking”. This is the intentional fracturing of the coal seam to release more methane by the high pressure injection of enormous volumes of chemically treated water.

Much of this fracking water remains underground, where it leaches into the sub-aquifers and poisons our underground water.

The polluted water, which keeps the methane in place, is also able to leach through these fractures into the underground water.

In her recent report, Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith, senior advisor of the National Toxics Network, says we have no idea what chemicals are being injected into our water supplies because the mining companies claim such information is a “trade secret”.

Dr Lloyd-Smith has been able to confirm the presence of hydrochloric acid, glutaraldehyde, ammonium persulfate, dimethyl formamide, methanol, naphthalene, mineral oil, potassium chloride and ethyl glycol, among others.

These will end up in the water we drink and the food we eat. There is no method of preventing this happening if coal seam gas extraction is allowed.

Professor Peter Doherty, of the University of Melbourne, points out that many of the chemicals released into the water supplies by fracking are volatile organic compounds, which easily contaminate water and are released with water vapour. He says it is well established that long-term exposure to even small amounts of these chemicals can affect the bone marrow of humans, causing anaemia and increasing the risk of leukaemia.

There is already both State and Federal Legislation in place to protect the environment – and with which Coal Seam Gas Extraction cannot possibly comply.

All we ask is that this legislation be applied immediately, and that Coal Seam Gas extraction be totally banned – or you can look forward to a sign on our Great Artesian Basin reading: “Poison Water – Unfit For Human Consumption”.

Trevor Crouch has a Diploma of Ag. Science and is an agricultural journalist with a small farm at Bungendore near Canberra.



Dam threat to rare snail

A critically endangered snail, the Richmond River Keel Snail, *thersites richmondiana*, has been discovered within metres of the wall construction zone of the proposed Byrrill Creek Dam, and has been photographed at the site.

The snail, with a distinctive pyramid shape, was found on a log amid deep leaf litter in bushland adjacent to Byrrill Creek, south-west of Mt Warning in the Tweed Shire. It is the first sighting of this snail in the Tweed area.

The Byrrill Creek snail was photographed and reported to the Australian National Museum's Australian Living Atlas website by local resident and amateur wildlife photographer John Morrison.

Mr Morrison said the snail was first spotted by his five-year-old grandson, Rohan Morrison, during a garden clean-up on his property. The living snail was returned to the leaf litter beyond the garden area.

The area where the snail was found is connected by dense bushland to Byrrill Creek about 200 metres upstream from the site of the proposed Byrrill Creek Dam wall.

Mr Morrison said the find emphasised the importance of the area for biodiversity conservation, and Tweed Shire mayor Kevin Skinner's push for the dam was a misuse of public money.

The site was first considered for a dam in the 1970s but the Clarrie Hall Dam was built on Doon Doon Creek instead.

During the drought of 1985, Tweed Shire Council pursued a project to supply water to the Gold Coast and bought a farming property at Byrrill Creek with the intention of building the dam and selling water to south-east Queensland.

The NSW State government put a stop to that project, and the pipeline to Queensland remains half-built. The land purchased with ratepayer's money at Byrrill Creek has since been variously leased for cattle and planted out for hardwood timber production.

Large areas remain as regrowth bushland which connects Mebbin National Park with Wollumbin National Park.



Pipeline slated to go through park

Residents have raised serious concerns about the proposed Metgasco gas pipeline from Casino to Ipswich, with fears that it will damage agricultural land in the Richmond Valley and the World Heritage Border Ranges National Park.

The pipeline will extend for 145km. “Metgasco plans to run this pipeline along one of the steepest and windiest roads in the region, the Lions Road through the Border Ranges NP, and we simply do not believe that is possible without causing serious environmental damage,” said Kyogle shire resident Boudicca Cereze.

“The environmental record of Metgasco has raised alarm bells – if they can't even properly remediate a water storage pond near Casino, then how can they be trusted to drive a major gas pipeline through a World Heritage area?”

Rural Fire Service volunteer Thorsten Jones says Lions Way is a high slip area, which has been closed for weeks at a time after rainy periods.

“This is an extremely sensitive area which will be severely damaged by the proposed pipeline,” he said.

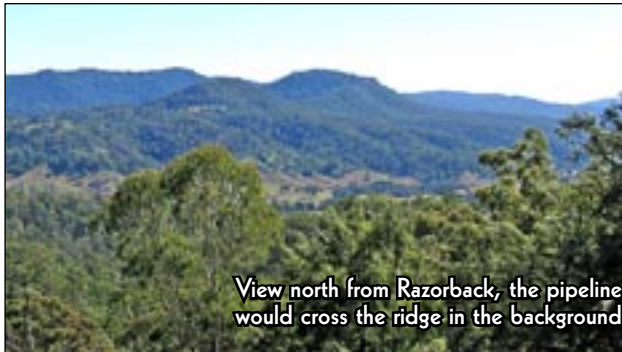
“Construction activities may include blasting with explosives through rock and will lead to serious impacts on wildlife and vegetation from heavy machinery operation, noise, dust and erosion.”

Further south from the Border Ranges, Lynches Creek is one of the most pristine in the region. “This will be placed at risk from sedimentation and erosion where the pipeline crosses the creek,” said Lynches Creek resident Leah Hobbs.

“We are also concerned about clearing adjacent to the creek. Dairy farmers in the valley rely on this pure water to produce quality milk that is consumed throughout the region.”

Ms Hobbs said residents were calling on state and federal governments to reject this pipeline.

“Not only will it do direct and irreversible damage, but it will



View north from Razorback, the pipeline would cross the ridge in the background



Gary Gilliland and Leslie McQueen and son at Collins Creek where the pipeline would cross

open up the entire Northern Rivers to a massive expansion in coal seam gas production. Our local communities intend to fight this every step of the way.”



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Zac Jenson planting a mulberry tree

Green Day is coming...

Barkers Vale Public School is planning a community event on Sunday 18th September called Green Day, aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the impact people have on the environment.

It will be an outdoor festival of environmental information and products as well as live music, to be held in the Barkers Vale school grounds in Wadeville.

Speakers include Stuart McConville, from Pooh Solutions, talking about grey water, septic tanks and composting toilets, and Dolph Cooke talking about Biochar. Local nutritional doctor Oscar Serrallach will also be giving a talk on Healthy Soil, Healthy Plant, Healthy Body.

Kids will have fun making scarecrows for the veggie patch with Michelle Taylor, and crafting wire crowns with Melissa. There will

be healthy home-made food served all day by the school canteen.

Barkers Vale principal Dafydd Thomas said: "Green Day will be a great opportunity to showcase all the work we have done so far in creating a sustainable school, and to raise funds towards achieving the next steps."

Green Day is being organised by parents and volunteers, led by Wendy Jansen, who is also the school's environment officer. Wendy is planning to allocate funds raised from the event towards a new water tank, a fence, an upgrade to the existing green house and an outdoor sink and propagation area.

Anyone interested in getting involved with Green Day, as a stallholder, speaker or demonstrator, is asked to email Wendy Jansen on greendaybvps@gmail.com or ring Barkers Vale Public School on 6689-7202.

Tuntable Falls Community School 30th Celebration and Fete

Calling all Tuntable Community Schoolers

Tuntable Falls Community School turned 30 this year, and in the springtime on Saturday 17th September, we are throwing a big party to celebrate.

This party will be a fete day, as they have traditionally been a really enjoyable gathering point of the wider community.

We have heard some wonderful stories of our origins from interviews that the children have been recording around Tuntable Community and we would love to hear more of them. We ask of the Nimbin community that it rummage around and root out those old pictures, or film, of the Tuntable Community in the beginning of the 1980's, especially anything particularly to do with the school. These will be part of a display installation for the celebration.

We also would like anyone who knows any students or teachers from the school from any time in the last 30 years to, please try to contact them and let them know of the celebration of their beautiful little school – let's see if we can make it a reunion!

One of the loveliest relics of the early school is the



Photo by Sue Stock, 1985



exquisite little ivy covered rock cottage cubby house situated at the very front, which we understand was originally a women's project to build.

It would be a very good thing if we could repair this cubby to its former splendour. We have had to re-roof this gorgeous little house and it sports a shiny new tin roof and is begging for shingles to

be put back on top, but also the floor is rotting and the children sadly cannot play in it as it has become unsafe until it is fixed. What we would like at the very least is some advice on shingle making and materials needed, at the most a work party of dedicated individuals who would like to restore the cottage cubby. Either would be much appreciated.

Interested people are encouraged to contact the school on 6689-1423 with their intent and we will go from there, it would take maybe a week's work on the outside to completely do the tiny roof and little flooring area but what a difference it would make to the children and the returning students on the big day.

Any suggestions are welcome on how we could make this a very special day for all concerned. Love from the present school body.

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Most Sustainable Produce in 2011 Nimbin Show

Are you are a **local sustainable agricultural producer**? We welcome you to showcase your innovations at the 2011 Nimbin Agricultural Show! **Get Your Entry Forms In** for this NEW and EXCITING Inaugural Exhibit Category.

Sustainable = the production has minimal negative or even a positive impact upon the environment, & practices may include water conservation and recycling, use of organic fertilisers/soil improvement methods, organic pest management, animal husbandry with strong focus on animal welfare and land care.

Entries will be accepted for all food/agricultural produce. Entries can be submitted for an entire farm or operation. More than one entry can be submitted. Judging will be based on the sustainability of production practices, and not the quality of any products.

Entries Close: 31 August 2011

Entry Forms Available at: Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre
71 Cullen St Nimbin 2480 nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au or download from our website www.nmic.org.au
Queries to Nat or Guy on 6689-1692

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.

A family fun day for everyone

Celebrate Spring at Rainbow Ridge's Open Day

With Spring just around the corner, our local Steiner primary school, Rainbow Ridge at Lillian Rock, invites the wider community to help celebrate the change of season by coming along to our annual Spring Fair on Saturday 10th September from 10am to 3pm. It's the best opportunity you'll have all year to see what a Steiner school is all about.

There's something quite magical about walking into a Steiner school. Classrooms that radiate harmony and love, students' work that resonate with colour and life, and people - staff and parents - who share a deep-seated belief in the importance of education.

Beautiful classroom displays, great live music, craft activities and stalls, fun games, children's performances, delicious food and good coffee all combine to make this event one of the highlights of the school calendar.

Visit our classrooms, talk to our teachers, buy quality toys and craft all made with love and care by our parent craft group, and browse books that will leave you wanting to delve deeper.

And if that's not enough, visit our kindergarten - you'll be wishing on every shooting star to have your time as a five-year-old all over again. We look forward to meeting you there!

Please feel free to contact the school for any more information: Rainbow Ridge School, 279 Lillian Rock Rd, Lillian Rock NSW, 2480 phone: (02) 6689-7033, email: www.rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au



Early skateboard crew



Nimbin Central School will proudly host the *Early* skateboard crew this month, with the view to educating our local students about safety.

Early skateboards will present gripping safety videos on why you should wear a helmet, plus a few Early skate videos featuring locally sponsored talent, followed by a coaching session by *Flavio Biehl*. Byron's *Dancing Tommy* of YouTube fame will also be heading out to Nimbin as an

Early artist guest.

Internationally recognised downhill skater *Austin Nitsua* is stoked to bring Early skateboards to Nimbin.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to meet learning outcomes in a rich learning environment while taking full advantage of our local skate park.

Already there is excitement building for what will be an electric day. Thankyou to all those involved.

Nimbin Preschool doings

There's a buzz at Nimbin Preschool as the children and staff prepare for the preschool's first Art Auction to be held at Blue Knob Hall Gallery on Friday 26th August.

The exhibition, titled *Memories of Childhood* will showcase the children's artwork alongside artworks from community members. The artworks,

many of which will be for sale on the night, form a visual landscape of what the children have been talking about during the last few months at preschool.

As with children's artwork, the emerging themes may be similar, but the interpretation varies a great deal. It is through the interpretation that we can see the individual child emerging from the colours they choose, to the style that they adopt.

At Nimbin Preschool children have the opportunity to work on many of their artworks over time. Children are given space to re-think their ideas, re-visit their designs, and to formulate new plans and directions for their artworks.

The natural environment is of great importance at Nimbin Preschool, and this continues to be an inspiration to the children and staff for ongoing artworks. During the past few months the use of natural fibres has been explored through felting and weaving experiences. We continue to offer a high quality play-based program that is always drawing



Cienna drawing eyes on her owl

upon the emerging interests of our children. We encourage families to come down and visit us at the showground.

There are limited vacancies for this term, and we are currently taking waiting list applications for 2012.

We cordially invite all community members to come along to the *Memories of Childhood* Art Auction at Blue Knob Hall Gallery on Friday 26th August from 6pm opening, and 7.30pm for auction. For dinner reservations phone 6689-7449.



Hilde starting to paint her owls

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Sending Hope

Ra Ra Youth Theatre at The Channon, together with a group of local young actors, have written a play about children seeking asylum in Australia.

The play 'Sending Hope' has been written and will be performed by teenagers aged 11-15.

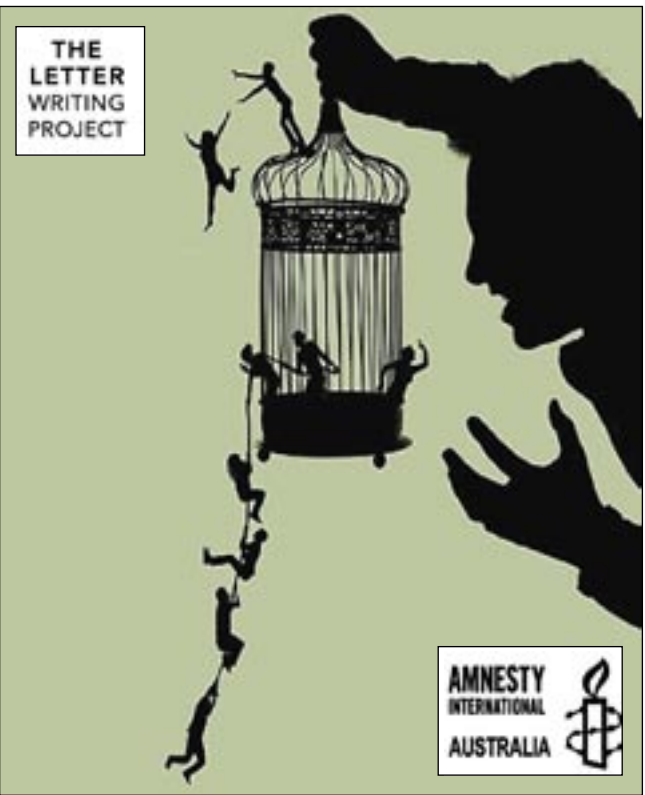
Ra Ra Youth Theatre will donate the funds raised from this sometimes funny, moving and mature piece of theatre to the 1041 children currently being detained in mandatory detention in Australia.

The students have been

writing to children inside detention and have used the letters in their play. The money will be donated to children in Detention Centres and to The Letter Writing Project.

'Sending Hope' will be performed in The Channon Hall at 6pm on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th August. With tickets only \$10 or \$20 for a family, this is a great way to support youth theatre and a good cause.

For more info, contact Ra Ra Youth Theatre director Tamlin Mackenzie on 6688-6551.



FOR APPOINTMENTS
Tel 6689 1000

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