



# NIMBIN THE NCGOODTIMES

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## Nimbin lights up for New Year

by Bob Dooley

Perhaps it was the increased awareness of power usage, or perhaps it was the torrential rain, but it was not the biggest year for a Christmas lights show in Nimbin.

Even in Goonellabah, as soon as the rains came, Anzac Road unplugged, and suddenly, The Northern Star feared for its traditional centrespread.

They should have simply driven out to Goolmangar, where the same family has been mounting a stunning display on Nimbin Road for years.

But lights or no lights, the beaming faces in the village, as seasonal greetings were exchanged – “Happy pagan festival”, “Happy festives”, “Happy solstice” – showed there was plenty of Christmas spirit about.

It was a spirit that was liberally applied, at dozens of large parties and functions artfully scattered throughout December, with so much eating, imbibing and bonhomie that some visitors’ endurance was sorely tested.

Of particular note were the great parties put on by community organisations – the Nimbin Community Christmas morning tea and lunch (see story Page 5); Vinnie’s Christmas party; the Bowlo Kids’ Christmas Party; Loaves & Fishes party,

and more. More!

There were the parties put on by business groups – the solar industry; builders and tradies; farmers supply shops; the rag trade; the Chamber of Commerce itself – plus the many large parties held in private homes, in town, on farms and on communities.

Phew! As one party tragic remarked, “It was a full-on pig-out from go to whoa.”

Near-overindulgence generally carries its own penalty, and Nimbin’s only moment of remorse came when the high-price blues gig at the Bush Theatre was cancelled on New Year’s Eve.

Disappointed patrons joined in the impromptu drumming circle at the Oasis Café, which went off until the wee small hours with a dozen different drummers.

Others went for the band, or the karaoke, or the DJ, at the pub, the Bowlo and the fashionable parties around town – some did them all – with the traditional countdown, kissing and big-screen fireworks viewing.

The verdict? “Going to be a good one, I reckon.” The rejoinder: “Better than the last one, I hope.” That hope, that we might be getting somewhere, turning the corner, kicking goals, is always rife at this time of year. Also the sun had come out at last.

So optimism abounds. It mightn’t last long – who knows? – but at the moment, Nimbin definitely has a spring in its step.



Photo: C. Mac



### No Rabbit.

Year of the Rabbit or not, we couldn’t bring ourselves to go fully Sheng Xiao with pictures of the accursed import – a fine example of our eco-mismanagement – when much nicer native animals are in such abundance in our region.

For the newspaper, now in its 15th year, it seems that it will continue to go forth and multiply, and if it turns out to be a placid year as forecast, we won’t need that rabbit’s paw.

We wish all our loyal readers, generous sponsors and clever contributors a happy and preposterous New Year.




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