

Up, up and away for The Jezabels

by Pampussycat

It's been a great year for Sydney quartet The Jezabels.

Two of the band members hail from Byron Bay, while guitarist Sam Lockwood comes from Possum Creek.

"We have very strong links up there, except for our drummer who's from California," said 23-year-old vocalist Hayley Mary.

"December the 3rd in Byron was a bit of a homecoming.

Since releasing their second EP, *She's So Hard*, in November 2009, the four-piece have toured the country supporting Tegan And Sara, Katie Noonan and Josh Pyke, and as headliners in their own right.

I caught up with Hayley recently. "As an independent band, the people that help you out the most at the start are the bands that take you under their wing and bring you around the country when you otherwise couldn't do that," she said.

"We're often surprised when we get offered a tour support, and think 'really? They want



us to play, 'cos we are pretty different.

"Triple J getting onboard really is amazing for us. They have nominated us for a J Artist of the Year Award. That's given us national coverage. The Community Radios that got onboard for the first EP was the biggest deal for us because it meant that we could go, just as ourselves, and play at all these places that we had never been before."

With three EP releases in a year and a half, Hayley describes the momentum as a whirlwind.

"We just got back from the States and Canada, which

was our first trip as a band overseas, very exciting.

We actually met a lot of Australians over there who came to our shows which made us feel comfortable.

"I guess New York was the most different experience.

We were there for six days and played a lot of shows. It was a bit of a blur. We met a lot of (apparently) very

important people, we're a bit new to this whole thing so it brought us back to reality a bit. Coming from a pretty chilled-out city, Sydney is quite calm in comparison."

The EP *Disco Biscuit Love* shot up the top 100 in the USA and 'Easy To Love' and 'Mace Spray' have done well on the College Radio circuit.

The Jezabels are midway

through their Australia-wide Dark Storm tour, which has sold out at every venue.

Hayley says: "It's pretty hard spending a lot of time with the same three people, it makes for intense conversation sometimes. It gets a bit gross in the tour van to be honest. There's a lot of long drives in this country!"

After this tour, we start recording our album. I think we're going to take a couple of months off to write, then record mid-year. We've got a few one-off shows, but we'll be keeping low until the album tour. After that we head overseas for South By Southwest and Great Escape, in the UK, and a Liverpool festival."



by Marie Cameron

Sphinx Rock is mostly known as an impressive rock formation on the edge of Mt Burrell, but in its shadow is a secret known to those who search out good music.

The Sphinx Rock Café is one of the region's best kept secrets. People travel from around the world to experience the Far North Coast. Little do they know that the culture and vibe the region is famous for is alive and set to music at this café.

When you need to melt away and be invisible, this is the place to go. If you are looking for rejuvenation or to rekindle the joy of living, this is the place.

Large canvas sails are suspended from the café to provide cover for all the weather conditions, especially the rain. There is a small stage to the far side: this stage has become the memory bank for the years of musicians who have played the Sunday afternoon gigs.

Singers and musicians such as Loran, Djambouki, Murray Kyle, the Mystic Beats, Imandan, Deya Dova and Light Activation, to name but a few, can claim to have played some top gigs there. That stage could honestly say it nurtures local musicians and provides a memorable experience for visiting ones.

Recently Kerriane Cox played a Friday night at Sphinx Rock. Locals took the opportunity to get up close and personal with the renowned singer and songwriter. As the audience wine and dined, Kerriane took them all into her life as an Aboriginal woman from the Kimberly (WA) and into her plans for the future. The audience was spellbound.

A year ago, the café held a one-day festival called Live at Sphinx Rock. The aim was to raise the funds needed to establish a community garden in the café grounds. Proprietors Jon and



Sharon Squire brought in a good stage, and the lineup of local performers was

astounding. The large crowd loved it.

The Musicians and technicians recorded the music and a Live at Sphinx Rock CD was produced.

A year later the Sphinx Rock Café Community garden project looks great. The original dreaming for the garden had been to bring the community together, to provide a safe place where people could socialize, grow food together and build a stronger community.

So far the shed, the garden bed and the fencing have been built and with the amount of rain the area has seen of late it won't be long before the garden is overflowing with produce. The sign above the garden gate has been made ready for the naming ceremony.

This is just a snippet of the day and the life of Sphinx Rock Café.

Khan works magic with friends



Nimbin rocker Khan Johnson, with friends Tim Tonkin and Ted Cox, can work magic. Last outing, they turned a quiet Sunday afternoon crowd into dancing, singing Friday night ragers. The magicians return to Nimbin pub on Thursday 20th January.

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January Gigs

Thursday 6th
Friday 7th
Saturday 8th
Sunday 9th

Bo Jenkins
Belle Hendrik + The Rogue Gene
Captain Kickarse + The Awesomes
Borgs And Reidy Duo

Thursday 13th
Friday 14th
Saturday 15th
Sunday 16th

Nicky Convine
Symbols + Support
Jed Rowe Band
Ronit

Thursday 20th
Friday 21st
Saturday 22nd
Sunday 23rd

Khan and Friends
Somersault
Farrago
Dunhill Blues

Thursday 27th
Friday 28th
Saturday 29th
Sunday 30th

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- **Wednesday 26th** – Australia Day – Social Bowls
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16th Luke Vassella & Colin Bullock

23rd Lucky Wonders

30th Tommee

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www.sphinxrockcafe.com

Lucky Wonders play Sphinx



The Lucky Wonders will be back at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 23rd January from 1pm, fresh from the Illawarra Folk Festival.

With two national tours last year and a trail of rave reviews behind them, the local foursome have been likened to The Waifs and Frente.

Their debut album *Thirteen O'Clock* has well-received, and if you still haven't heard them, give your ears a sneak preview at: www.myspace.com/theluckywonders

Greenthief steals the show

Greenthief is a relatively new band that has exploded onto the scene with its own take on psychedelic rock.

The band – Julian Schweitzer, Gwen Warnick and Steve Tyssendraws – brings elements of classical and world music into its songs, with echoes of Jeff Buckley and Trent Reznor.

Greenthief uses electronics in its live show, where sampled drumbeats and

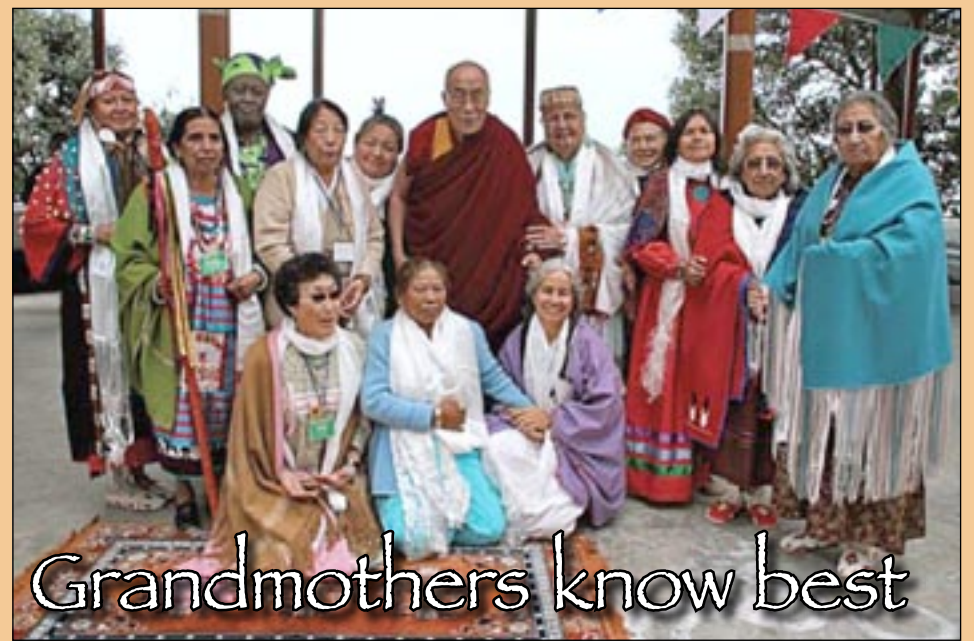


other effects are run off a laptop.

The band's drummer then takes on keyboard duties during performances to help create the more textured song arrangements the band

favours.

Greenthief has also been known to incorporate two drum kits in live shows, creating a primal sound that is intense, vivid, and hard to ignore.



In October 2004, thirteen grandmothers from around the world – the Amazon, Asia, Africa, Mexico, the Arctic Circle, and United States – gathered at Tibet House's Menla Mountain Retreat in upstate New York.

They did not know one another, but were mysteriously "called" to come together and share their combined wisdom. The Grandmothers agreed that without following the ancient ways of the world's indigenous peoples, humans will not be able to break away from destructive habits and create the changes necessary for our survival.

The Grandmothers decided to form an alliance to share their indigenous ways of peacemaking and healing with the

world. As the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers, they meet twice a year at places around the world.

The film *For the Next 7 Generations*, screening at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Wednesday, 19th January, accompanies the Grandmothers' early travels to the Pojoaque Pueblo in New Mexico, to the Brazilian Amazon, and to the mountain-top village of Huautla de Jimenez in Mexico.

In October 2006, they went to Dharamsala, India, the second home of our Tibetan Grandmother Tsering Dolma Gyalton, for a private meeting with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The film starts at 7pm. Tickets are \$10, children by donation.

Mountaineers hit the high notes

For fans of old-time mountain music and roots music, the Virginian band The Whitetop Mountaineers are an act not to be missed.

The US duo of Martha Spencer and Jackson Cunningham are back in Australia by popular demand after delighting audiences across the country with their mix of mountain music, song and dance. They were invited to Woodford Folk Festival for the second time in December.

Both musicians are skilled multi-instrumentalists – Jackson on guitar, mandolin and claw hammer banjo, and Martha on fiddle, guitar and banjo. They are both strong vocal performers and their close harmonies are indicative of the old time and bluegrass traditions. Martha is also an exceptional dancer, having spent much of her life learning Appalachian dance.



Their newest release *Go Away With Me* draws from bluegrass sources in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and includes a few original songs. Listen to tracks from it at www.whitetopmountaineers.com

The Whitetop Mountaineers will perform at the Eltham Hall on Saturday 8th January, with featured guests Hussy Hicks and Minnie Marks, a rising star

who has spent most of 2010 wowing audiences around the country with her guitar playing and original tunes.

Doors open at 7.30pm and entry is \$15 (concession \$10), kids under 14 free if accompanied by an adult.

Food and soft drinks/tea/coffee available, BYO alcohol. Eltham Hall is at 5 Mayfield Street, Eltham (behind the pub).

Poolside fun in Lismore

If you're looking for something to do over the holidays, you could always try ... Lismore?

Fun in the sun? Try the Lismore Memorial Baths. Family entry is \$10.50 and the Giant Red Pool Inflatable runs daily from noon to 3pm.

Family entry to the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre pool is also

\$10.50, including access to the Blue Thunder Waterslide and pool inflatable from noon to 3pm, and there are free barbecue facilities in shaded grassy areas.

Active Kidz Vacation Care is a great structured program that runs sports, games, dance classes, drama sessions, craft time and pool games, CCB

registered for discounted rates. Contact the aquatic centre reception on 6625 5370 for enrolment details.

Swimsations Swim School is also running intensive swimming lessons, starting 10th January, with five-day lesson blocks available for \$50 from the Lismore Memorial Baths or the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre. Call 6625-5370 for a free assessment with an AustSwim qualified teacher.

A School Carnival preparation clinic runs from 8.00am to 9.30am starting on January 10th at the Lismore Memorial Baths. Australian champion coach Graham Walker will be taking the children through all strokes and dive starts.



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Bye Bye Bluey

Our local police Area Commander Bluey Lyons departing shot for the 'silent majority' in Nimbin to stand up was as lame as it gets considering he's been saying the same line for four or five years now. (And I know who they are, all three of them!)

He vowed to clean up Nimbin when he arrived six years ago in huge *Northern Star* headlines, and his spending of more than a million dollars a year in the tiny village seems to have tripled the number of dealers and that's about all it's done. We now have nine permanent police and cameras on the street live to the station. We've had the Riot Squad visit from Sydney several times and countless sniffer dog searches.

Fortunately, this summer the pot supply is bountiful and top class, which is just as well otherwise we'd have our one street full of drunks or powder loonies.

It was very disappointing he never really heard or supported our constant requests for a trial of some different way of dealing with the illegal drug trade in Nimbin. His mantra of, "I just want the normal mums and dads to walk up the main street of Nimbin and not get offered drugs" was more of a fantasy than any the hippies have.

Let's hope his replacement, who knows Nimbin from his time here before, will be a bit more socially inclusive to the noisy majority and their understanding of cannabis as an exceptional medicine. We are sick of people trying

to make out we are criminals and bad people just because we use pot.

Nimbin is ideal for a trial of some new way of supplying cannabis and we need a sensible copper to support us.

Michael Balderstone.

President HEMP Embassy

Cannabis Eradication Program

I refer to the piece by Mike Birch (*NGT* Dec 2010) about the Cannabis Eradication Program and the Police. It put me in mind of my father, who held a Master of Laws degree, and was the wisest man I have ever known. He was fond of saying "The surest way to have a bad law changed, is to enforce it strictly".

Bob Kemnitz

WikiFraud

There has been much ado about Wikileaks in the news lately and there has been much support for Julian Assange the 'alleged' people's hero. I can understand this because, on the face of it, it seems that Wikileaks are the good guys who are exposing the dirty, dark, dastardly

secrets of the bad guys. Anonymous whistle-blowers, under Wikileaks protection, are espousing uncorroborated stories to expose secret documents. But is this really what is going on? When we join the dots and the dollars, an entirely different story begins to emerge.

Julian Assange, the Wikileaks founder who plans to leak bank documents that will take down "one or two" major banks according to Forbes, has won an award from the Economist, a magazine belonging to the Economist group, half of which is owned by the Financial times, a subsidiary of Pearson PLC, a group of independent shareholders, including many members of the staff and the Rothschild banking family of England. The reigning Rothschild patriarch, the self-styled King of the Jews, was the major power behind the Palestinian land theft that became Israel. So it's no coincidence that Wikileaks hasn't leaked anything disparaging about Israel. Could this be where this anonymous and exclusive information is coming from?

If Assange were a real activist, he would not be



getting any coverage from the mainstream media, let alone so many headlines every day in every well known corporate media outlet. The alleged hide and seek between Assange and the US government, as well as Interpol, is played out on the theatrical stage of the world's media when it is well known the US government and Interpol can arrest anyone they want, given their immense resources.

Could it be that wonderful Wikileaks is really a false flag operation hyped by the media? Could it be that Assange is a Rothschild stooge whose deliberate publication of sensitive documents will result in the robbery of millions of people by getting financial regulators and the police to scrutinize all financial transactions and stop banks declaring themselves broke artificially, thereby robbing customers?

Wake up and smell the BS.

Chris Degenhardt

Fictitious empire

How many people really live in Koonorigan? According to the 2006 Australian Census,



Sick call

Great to see local firey Charlie Cohen up and about again.

877 people "considered Koonorigan the place they most likely call home". I have even seen this figure quoted in an academic article. This is, of course, rubbish. So how did the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) get it so wrong? I checked this figure on their website, and, yes, you can quote it as gospel.

They supply a map of the area the ABS considers to be Koonorigan. It gobbles up parts of The Channon, Keerrong, Tuntable Creek, Coffee Camp and Goolmangar. This is a map of the collection area of one census collector, a fictitious empire with little relevance to meaningful statistics. Too bad if you want to know statistics for, say, Goolmangar, The Channon or Coffee Camp. These places cannot be searched in their database. To the ABS they do not exist.

Each month, every household in Koonorigan gets a copy of the Koonorigan Kronicle. We distribute 65 of them. With an average of 2.6 persons per household (ABS statistics!), that gives Koonorigan a population of 165 people.

Michael Smith,
Koonorigan

Notices

Meetings

Notice of CTC @ Nimbin Inc Special General Meeting. A Special Resolution calling for Voluntary Cancellation of the Association is to be voted upon. Meeting is for Thursday, 20th January at 1pm in the NCCI's Dance Studio.

Wanted to rent

Local resident urgently needs house to rent, 2 brms within 20kms of Nimbin preferred, but anything considered. Reliable tenant with references, part-time parent, experienced in gardening and rural home maintenance. Phone 0458-229-199.

Defeatist attitude

I see Will Jeffery still insists (*NGT* Dec 10) that we should abandon all hope for the return of a rail service on the idle Casino to Murwillumbah line, and instead support his delusion that tourists will flock to walk or cycle along the line instead.

Well I'm sorry Mr Jeffery, but a rail trail targeted at tourism is a poor substitute for a functional commuter rail service, and will not be practical for local workers, students, disabled and the elderly to travel between towns.

It is an absolute disgrace that our rail line was abandoned by the Labor state government, and we should not accept anything less than the return of trains on our tracks from our local Nationals members, who have been promising the establishment of a regular commuter service on the line when they are in government.

There will be no more excuses then, right Thommo?

Andy Gough
Larnook



Comment on the weather by the Stony Chute dog.

About us

Editor: Bob Dooley
Assistant Editor: Sue Stock
Sub-editor: Hal Williams
Layout: Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley
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Website: David McMinn
www.nimbingoodtimes.com

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

Next deadline:
Wednesday 26th January
Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.



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From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell
Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Happy New Year to Editors, contributors and all NGT readers I hope that 2011 is a happy, healthy and fulfilling year for all of you. 2010 ended with a moderate flood across Lismore and its surrounds but fortunately there was no significant damage to private or public infrastructure.

As I write this, Council staff are estimating the damage and awaiting news of a possible Natural Disaster declaration to assist in funding for repairs. As usual in these events, our roads bear the scars of the relentless rain so I take this opportunity to encourage you all to take care while driving. Advice from the SES indicate that the effects of La Nina are likely to bring above average rainfall to our region over the next few months so there will be a continuing need for extra care. If you have internet access, log onto MyRoadInfo for information on road closures if you or your visitors are planning a trip and have a battery radio handy to listen to your local ABC for flood and storm alerts. Let's continue to be safe this summer.

GM Recruitment

Council has appointed Stephen Blackadder from Blackadder Associates as the consultant to facilitate the recruitment of Council's new General Manager. BA was our first preference of the three interviewed and we were delighted with the excellent referee responses from Mayors of three Councils that had recently engaged Mr Blackadder. Preliminary work has commenced on the preparation of a position description, employment package and the selection criteria ready for a Councilor workshop in early February and a subsequent report to the February 8 Council meeting.

LEP

The five public submission sessions on the Draft Local Environmental Plan were well attended and have resulted in good feedback for Councilors to consider. In the New Year, Councilors will hold workshops to consider and discuss all submissions and how the DLEP might be improved. The issues that have emerged include the RU1 and RU2 zones, flood and ecological overlay mapping, boundary adjustments and some site specific zonings in urban areas. These

issues and others will be considered as we prepare the final Draft LEP for adoption by Council around May to send to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Nimbin Reference Group

It was very pleasing to see that nine residents nominated for the Nimbin Community Reference Group formed to enable more effective communication and engagement with Council. The nine include representatives from a wide range of government and non-government organisations, community groups and media and display an impressive array of skills. Unfortunately no men, young people or Aboriginal people nominated, but perhaps some may come on board once the NRG is established. In the meantime, congratulations to Sue Edmonds, Venessa Johnstone-Kappel, Gillian



Jones, Lois Kelly, Natalie Meyer, Jennifer Parke, Diana Roberts, Rebecca Ryall and Susan Stock. I'm confident that they will be a great communication link for Council and the broader community of Nimbin.

Blue Knob Road

At the November Nimbin community forum and in email correspondence since, residents have raised concerns at the condition of Blue Knob Road. This road is well used by both locals and tourists and is in need of significant repair and reconstruction. Some sections have reached the end of their serviceable life and hence are very difficult to maintain. Council hopes that a funding announcement will be made in the near future for reconstruction under the RTA (REPAIR) program.

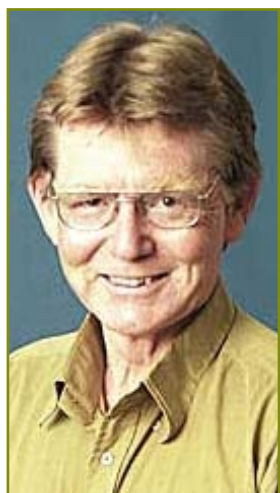
In the meantime, Council has undertaken some bitumen patching repairs and has installed signs warning of the condition of the road. With or without more rain over the coming months, there is no substitute for careful driving.

May I add that LCC is not alone

in facing a huge funding shortfall for roads. Councils throughout NSW need \$600 million to address maintenance needs of local roads, according to research done by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia. Nationally, the figure is \$1.2 billion. Recognition of local government in Australia's constitution may pave the way for a share of taxation such as a portion of GST, but Councils need more money now. Frankly, it is time for our state government to provide it. In the lead up to the state election, it would be timely to ask our candidates what their position is on this important issue.



Simon says...



by Simon Clough
Deputy Mayor of Lismore

How soggy can you get? My heart goes out to the people who have had to move because of the rain, those in caravan parks and low-lying houses. It's not much of a welcome to our many visitors, especially those camping. The thousands of visitors for "Tropical Fruits" who often camp must also be very wet. I hope it doesn't affect the party!

Lots of landowners must also be heavily impacted with the inability to get on to the land to sow or harvest crops. Not to

mention the poor animals, many of which will be getting foot rot and other problems from the difficult conditions.

On the home front, we're experiencing the 'Lismore shop owners' blues', that's when you can't go anywhere or do very much in case there's a flood and you have to pack up the shop. It involves most of your time spent in close study of the Bureau of Meteorology web site.

Street Lighting

Lismore City Council's year ended on a very busy note.

After over a year of my lobbying, I was very happy to see that Council has received a proposal from Country Energy to replace street lighting throughout the city area with more energy efficient lighting.

A significant capital cost of approximately \$270,000 would be required to accept the offer. However, this cost is offset by significant savings of approximately \$280,000 per annum in energy and infrastructure charges. The matter will be reported to Council at its first meeting of 2011. As a representative

of the micro local government party 'Our Sustainable Future', these are the issues I'm keen to pursue. Most importantly the proposed change should take almost 900 tonnes of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

Coal Seam Gas

At the last meeting of the year, Council voted unanimously to support David Yarnall's motion to call for a moratorium on coal seam gas extraction in NSW.

The motion supported the call by the NSW Farmers Association and is in response to grave concerns about the pollution of water supplies by this mining technique.

I have serious doubts about the safety of this energy source, as water is our most precious resource.

These environmental problems must be overcome if coal seam gas is to have a major role as an interim energy source in the transition to zero emissions energy.

Bundjalung Signage

A majority of Councilors supported my motion to have staff prepare a report on the implications of providing signs in the Goonellabah area (at least initially) in Bundjalung

and English.

Obviously if this proposal is to become a reality, there will have to be a process of consultation with the Aboriginal and wider communities. However I believe the benefits to the whole community could be significant in proudly upholding Aboriginal language.

It also builds on the teaching of Bundjalung language which has been part of Goonellabah Primary School for 10 years.

Reference Group

It's very important that Nimbin, as our largest village, has a strong voice and gets a fair share of expenditure.

This was my thinking in getting Council to approve the establishment of a consultative group for Nimbin. Council approved the applicants for the Nimbin Community Reference Group at its last meeting, but one would have to ask where are all, or in fact any of the men!

Road Repairs

Jiggi, Rock Valley and Quilty roads have all had tenders let for reconstruction, so hopefully in the new year there will be significant

improvements in these local roads.

MAMIL

For those of you who have been following my career as a cycling MAMIL (middle aged man in lycra), I finally got on the road again.

Last week (on the one fine day) I decided on a ride along River Bank Road believing that no magpie could still be operating in late December. How wrong was I!

Not only did I get repeatedly swooped, to the extent that in true MAMIL fashion I turned around, but I was also chased by red and blue cattle dogs and a goat! Well, it was a very difficult situation, weaving to avoid the animals the magpie and the specially provided monster potholes while laughing hysterically. Fortunately no sentient beings were actually physically harmed by the experience.

Please drive carefully after all this rain. With our "expansive soils" there will be potholes galore and it's going to take some time to fix them.

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Janelle's Page

The Hearing Voices choir sings Christmas carols outside Janelle's electoral office in Lismore.

by Janelle Saffin, MP

Whale conservation

Across our community people are passionate about putting an end to whaling and I am happy to be able to report on a recent development that will strengthen Australia's anti-whaling action.

The Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and his New Zealand counterpart Murray McCully have agreed on complementary strategies to support Australia's case in the International Court of Justice, against Japanese scientific whaling.

The Australian Government is committed to whale conservation and has been working closely with New Zealand about how best to push our shared anti-whaling objectives.

In line with Australia's preference, the New Zealand Government has decided not to file as a party to Australia's action in the International Court of Justice against Japanese 'scientific' whaling, but will instead intervene formally in the case.

By intervening in the case, New Zealand will be able to make written and oral submissions to the Court that Japanese whaling is contrary to its obligations under international conventions to which Australia and New Zealand are also parties.

Australia had indicated it would prefer New Zealand not to file as a party to the case because New Zealand has a judge on the ICJ. A joint action would have meant Australia losing its entitlement to appoint a judge to the case.

WikiLeaks

A lot of local people have been asking me my view on WikiLeaks, in general discussion in the community, through telephone calls and emails.

What I have said about the current situation, is this:

- I respect the rule of law, the foundation stone of our system of government, and that means 'innocent until proven guilty'.
- I could not see that Mr. Assange had broken any Australian law and based on the information available to date the Australian Federal Police has not identified any criminal offences where Australia has jurisdiction.
- I was appalled at some commentary in the US and Canada, with some calling for his death.
- There was a debate to be had around whether it was in the public interest to release what I call diplomats' gossip and possibly defamatory comments sent via cables to their homes. A lot of this stuff wasn't new, I had read much of it in our own

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

newspapers gained from other leaks and on-the-record comments.

- I would resist any attempt to have Mr Assange extradited to the US if it is correct that they are looking at whether treasonous acts have been committed.

If Mr Assange wants to come home to Australia, then that should be able to happen but I do not agree that he should be nominated for Australian of the Year, as some people are calling for.

I am glad that he has been getting good representation, and he is as entitled as any other Australian citizen abroad to have consular assistance.

I sent all who emailed me our Foreign Minister's comments on this matter.

And finally my best wishes for 2011 to the staff and readers of *The Nimbin GoodTimes*.

- Janelle.



Australia Day nomination for Assange?

Sun shines on indigenous jobs

Local MP Justine Elliot congratulated the organisers and 30 participants in the First Sun Indigenous Employment Program.

Justine said the First Sun program, run through Yabur Yulgun Employment Services, provided the 30 participants with formal or accredited training in industries including retail, tourism, hospitality, agriculture, building and construction, transport, forestry and fishing.

"The First Sun program is changing the lives of Indigenous Australians in the Richmond and Tweed areas providing pre-employment training, 26 week job placement and mentoring," Justine said.

"The Gillard Government is proud to work in partnership with Yabur Yulgun to build and strengthen job opportunities for Indigenous Australians in northern NSW.

"We are committed to providing Indigenous Australians with skills and training to enhance their work skills and their value to employers."

Justine said this program was a fantastic opportunity for the Indigenous residents of Richmond.

"I look forward to seeing the new trainees around town as they begin their job placements in the local community."

The program is part of the Australian Government's commitment to close the gap on Indigenous employment. The Gillard Government has a target of creating more than 100,000 jobs for Indigenous Australians by 2018.

The government has committed more than \$750 million over five years to the Indigenous Employment Program to assist Indigenous Australians into ongoing, sustainable work.

MORE SCHOOLS GET SOLAR GRANTS

Justine congratulated the eleven North Coast schools who received between them a total of \$393,337 from the Australian Government's National Solar Schools Program.

The grants of up to \$50,000 (\$100,000 for multi-campus schools) were made to install solar and other renewable power systems, rainwater tanks and to help implement a range of energy efficiency measures.

"This program shows that schools are getting smarter about their energy use and water conservation, and it gives students the opportunity to learn about renewable energy generation at first-hand," Justine said.

The local schools which were successful included Banora Point High School, Brunswick Heads Public School, Centaur Public School, Crabbes Creek

Public School, Jiggi Public School, Mount St Patrick College, Murwillumbah High School, Pottsville Beach Public School, The Channon Public School, Tweed Heads Public School, and Pacific Coast Christian School.

Applications were assessed using merit-based criteria, meaning schools had to demonstrate value for money, as well as environmental and educational benefits.

Applicants who were not successful in this round will be eligible to re-apply in

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

future rounds.

Further information about the National Solar Schools Program including a list of successful grant recipients is available on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website: www.climatechange.gov.au

FREE SPORT FOR KIDS

Justine Elliot welcomed the announcement by Minister for Sport Mark Arbib of the 2011 Active After-School Communities (AASC) recipients in Richmond.

Active After-Schools is a Federal Government initiative to encourage children into sport and other structured physical activities after school.

Justine congratulated the 22 local schools and after-school care centres which have been accepted into the AASC program.

"Active After-Schools is a fantastic program for the children of the North Coast and around Australia," Justine.

"It provides children with the opportunity to participate in physical activity after school and hopefully gain the confidence to join a sporting club.

"The program encourages participation in physical activity and sport and this will help in the fight against childhood obesity and foster healthy habits for life.

"Local sporting clubs will also benefit from the increased emphasis on physical activities. Children may discover a passion or skill for a sport they have never tried before. We may find Australia's next sporting champion in our very own backyard."

Justine said that the success of the program would not be possible without the skills and expertise of all the qualified coaches, supervisors and coordinators who work hard to deliver the program.

"Sporting organisations are the heart of our local community. They would not survive without the dedication and time of local volunteers," Justine said.

"The local schools and after-school care centres also benefit as they receive valuable training in delivering a positive and fun introduction to sport for primary school children."

- Justine.

NGT ENJOYED BY ALL AGES

Nobody is too young to read the

Nimbin GoodTimes!

Amelie Latika Sledge, 10 months.

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Hemp News

Hemp health pioneer heads North

It is possible a \$5.2 million medical extraction facility planned for NSW could be built in Queensland instead.

After two years of attempting to negotiate with the NSW Government, Anthony Bower (pictured), director of Mullaways Medical Cannabis, has decided to re-apply in Queensland.

"There are so many sick people relying on me to provide these medicines," he said. "This facility needs to be built soon. The need is pressing. It could easily employ up to a hundred people within two years of operation."

"Negotiations have stalled." Mr Bower has sought the assistance of police, MPs, journalists and health professionals in his bid.

"I have explored every avenue open to me wherever possible to advance this matter, but have failed to gain a response."

Mr Bower says the cannabis tinctures have been tested by Southern Cross University



and found to contain no illegal substances or psychoactive components. Our tinctures are the result of research to isolate the anti-inflammatory properties of cannabis from the psychoactive (ones)."

Dutch may ban foreigners from coffee shops

The Telegraph (UK) reports that EU judges have ruled that the Dutch authorities are not in breach of European single market laws by barring foreigners from buying cannabis in coffee shops.

The Dutch restrictions, aimed at curbing "drug tourism" from Belgium and Germany,

are currently limited to border cities such as Rozendaal and Maastricht, but will soon be extended across the Netherlands to include Amsterdam, marijuana mecca for British travellers.

Inundated by cannabis-smoking foreigners, arriving at the rate of 10,000 a day, Maastricht passed a law in 2005 to prohibit marijuana-selling coffee shops from admitting people who do not reside in the Netherlands.

The EU ruling was requested by the Dutch supreme court, the Council of State, after Marc Josemans, the owner of the Easy Going cannabis café, sued after being forced to close for breaking the "no foreigners" rule.

But the European Court of Justice found that the ban, which explicitly discriminates against foreign consumers in a breach of EU single market rules, was "justified by the objective of combating drug tourism and the accompanying public nuisance".

A new government is planning to use the model to restrict the sale of marijuana and hashish by creating a "grass pass" that will be only be given to Dutch adults, preventing drug tourists from being served in cannabis cafés.

Jury mutiny over cannabis charge

The Missoulian newspaper reports that jurors on the way to a trial in Missoula County District Court last week staged a revolt.

"They made it clear they weren't about to convict anybody for having a couple of buds of marijuana. Unfortunately, the defendant in question also faced a felony charge of criminal distribution of dangerous drugs."

The tiny amount of marijuana police found while searching Touray Cornell's home on April 23 became a huge issue for some members of the jury panel.

No, they said, one after the other. No way would they convict somebody for having a 16th of an ounce.

One juror wondered why the county was wasting time and money prosecuting the case at all, said a flummoxed Deputy Missoula County Attorney Andrew Paul.

District Judge Dusty Deschamps took a quick poll as to who might agree. Of the 27 potential jurors before him, maybe five raised their hands. A couple of others had already been excused because of their philosophical objections.

Paul and defense attorney Martin

Elison worked out a plea agreement and Cornell entered an Alford plea, in which he didn't admit guilt. He walked smiling out of the courtroom.

"Public opinion, as revealed by the reaction of a substantial portion of the members of the jury called to try the charges on Dec. 16, 2010, is not supportive of the state's marijuana law and appeared to prevent any conviction from being obtained simply because an unbiased jury did not appear available under any circumstances," according to the plea memorandum filed by his attorney.

"I think that's outstanding," said John Masterson, who heads Montana NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws).

Although the potential jurors in the Cornell case quickly focused on the small amount of marijuana involved, the original allegations were more serious – that Cornell was dealing; hence, a felony charge of criminal distribution of dangerous drugs.

Deschamps sentenced Cornell to 20 years, with 19 suspended, under Department of Corrections supervision, to run concurrently with his sentence in a theft case.

HipiLeaks

by Undacuvva

Christmas is a hard time for Undacuvvas. We are nearly normal too, we have children and like to let our hair down too, but it's impossible to switch identities for a day or two, the public holidays. Be who you really are for a day? Some try, all fail. It usually means the end of an Unda career, or worse. How come I'm the North Coasts longest serving covert? I never have Christmas with my kids.

Talk about cracks in the wall, the recently retired Sarge was seen in barefeet and a headband in the Emporium, buying the local brown rice. He is not Undacuva I assure you, he wants no part of us. It must have really got to him. Maybe the bit where you have to shoot to kill.

I remember Julian well from when he was a teenager hanging in Nimbin. Always a little aloof and separate he was soon noticed by our recruiting officers. As usual I had to do the groundwork forcing a friendship with him. He wouldn't smoke with the rest of us much and thought that weed was mostly for idiots though he admitted he liked the ideas he got from it.

I'll never forget his reply when I finally asked if he wanted to work as an Unda. Those blue eyes were ice wild, "You've got me wrong brother, I'm on the other side. I'm for truth, the one thing I have in common with the hippies. I will help you though," he said. "In time, I'll send you some HipiLeaks."

I hardly saw him again, his mother kept moving houses, then one day, by some miracle,



stuff just started arriving in my email. Here's some snippets for you from the Social Order Unit in Canberra.

March 2010: "All authorities are to stop the 5 kilometre ban from Nimbin. The camp on the roadside at that point is now out of control and too difficult to manage."

May 2010: "Maintaining seedy Nimbin is of the highest priority. Canberra and Washington have not spent forty years cultivating this patch of weeds for nothing. The hippies are a very real threat to our capitalist system and their philosophy of sharing their land, cars, clothes and even their drugs and bodies, is a direct threat to the stability of our society. They appear to have no conscience about receiving

unemployment benefits and have even built a "Dole Temple" as a form of Centrelink worship. Their lack of respect and refusal to join the workforce is a direct assault on the national security. Many of them are well travelled and educated and better to leave them in their huts in the bush rather than drive them out into the cities where their confidence and influence is much greater. However, full pressure must be maintained on any who are in the public eye."

June 2010: "Some hippie communes have put in a claim for accrued carbon credits which could make them all very rich and give the appearance of success. It is believed they are vegetarians who locked cows out decades ago and grew jungles to hide their crops

of marijuana. Now each acre is worth a small fortune in credits and they measured and counted every tree and worked out how much they are worth. Whatever happens they must not get this money. Our accountants have it as top priority. Please ensure all claimant communities are targeted in the next marijuana raids (map enclosed). Anyone with a criminal record will be excluded from carbon credit payments."

Sept 2010: "The DEA advise the cannabis raids in Nimbin must not be too much, nor too little. They say cannabis sales are needed to maintain social order. There are concerns if the cannabis is made too scarce more alcohol is consumed which causes much more serious disorder. Cannabis is best to quieten the anger in the masses while alcohol has the opposite effect. On the other side, if it is left for too long without policing the anti-capitalist hippies think we are softening our attitude to them. This must not happen."

Dec 2010: "We have information there is excellent quality organic marijuana available in Nimbin at present and we need two pounds for experimental research over the summer period. Please treat this order as urgent." (I was given the last job with the ADHD Kid and we completed it in a morning, still keeping the primo for ourselves.)

Dec 2010: "Ignore the hippy complaints about their roads needing work. They may have taken over the village but we control all entries and we want to make sure they don't forget it."

Dec 2010: "Fix the Nimbin road potholes asap. Sir Peter and Lady Moncrieff broke the axle of their new Jaguar and have threatened expensive legal action."

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