



Good things come to those that wait

Recently local skaters Connor Anderson and Cedar Lee Berry met with Lucas Bridgeman from LCC and Rob Lewers from Concrete Skate Parks to discuss a few minor changes and to bring the boys, who have been involved in the design of the skate park from the beginning, up to where they are exactly in the big picture of the finished project.

"Weather has been our biggest issue, and the crew are just standing by to go full steam ahead," Rob said.

"Remember that this is a construction site, and anyone entering this area without my permission will be breaking the law and will only delay the deadline of the skate park. Especially when the concrete is poured, it will be very tempting for eager skaters to want to skate, but they will just have to be patient, because it will happen quicker without interruptions," he said.

On behalf of the skaters of Nimbin, Connor and Cedar are very pleased with the construction that has already been done to the park. Connor said, "It is great to have a say in the concept and design of the park, it gives us a new appreciation of what goes in to building a good skate park."

"We are very eager to see the skate park finished and can't wait for it to be opened," said Connor.

Nimbin park plan wins council backing

by Monika Boenigk

Lismore City Council has pledged on-going support for the Nimbin Village Park project.

Several members of Friends of Nimbin Village Park were present at last month's Council meeting to make our submission towards the motion, and to direct pertinent questions at Council staff.

The Council will continue to work with the group on the planning for future development of the parkland, assist with funding applications, consider the implementation of the park proposal in the next four-year delivery plan in 2013, and include the park in Council's 10-year sport and recreation plan.

The voting went against fierce presentations by some councillors. One accused Nimbin residents of "bombarding" councillors

with emails about the proposal, others dismissed the need for some more extensive parkland as nonsense. Another objected on the grounds of parkland not being "brick and mortar", therefore not a savvy investment for the Council to get into.

Councillor Isaac Smith, in a passionate presentation, pointed out that Nimbin was not asking for any money, just for support and assistance. He also highlighted the fact that "Nimbin looks after itself very well".

He pointed out the importance of creating community hubs, which pull all members of a community together, giving it a soul. Recent workshops and seminars for Council staff have been highlighting the relevance of such hubs. Cr Smith felt that the location of proposed parkland off Alternative Way was ideally suited to becoming Nimbin's



Happy park supporters Monika, Aine and Lisa at February's Council meeting.

"heart" as it connects varied community spaces and facilities.

Other issues may have taken a back seat while this was resolved, but if one always waited for all issues of high priority to be settled before striving to address things lower on the priority list, one may miss out on some vital elements which make life altogether worth living.

Sometimes, low-priority community enterprises may actually in mysterious ways aid the resolution of issues further up the priority list. It is important to be inclusive and welcoming of any community engagements.

With the Council's express support, the group will make inroads into the acquisition of the land. If you'd like to get involved, call 6689-7490.

Get pollied trained up

Rail activist and Independent candidate for Ballina, Karin Kolbe, is calling on all candidates and parties to detail their funding commitments for the Casino-Murwillumbah line.

She says the line, a rail link to Queensland and other improvements to public transport, are long overdue.

Ms Kolbe says she is disappointed that the Nationals' recent policy launch failed to make a funding commitment for regional rail or public transport projects.

"There is no funding for the Casino-Murwillumbah rail line, the link to Queensland or any other public transport project in our region," she said. "The election is less than a



month away and already the Nationals have been sidelined.

"The major parties have neglected rail and public transport in our region for too long."

• The next rally for rail services will be held at Lismore Railway Station on March 10 at 4.30pm.

Meet the candidates

The Northern Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC) will be holding a series of public pre-election forums with election candidates to discuss issues relating to the social and community development of the region. The forums will be held mid-March in the electorates of Tweed, Ballina, Lismore and Clarence.

Members of the public are invited to come along and find out what our potential future NSW government representatives have to say about the development of our region. NRSDC is keen for members of the public and community service providers to have an opportunity to question candidates about their policies on a range of social and community issues, from regional transport and housing options, to youth, aged and disability services. The community sector is critically important to our region, not only socially, but economically as one of the biggest industry employers in the region.

To help our preparation for the forums, we are keen to know what the most important social and community issues in this region are for you. To have an opportunity to put



Greens candidate for Lismore, Susan Stock

your questions, issues or concerns to our future NSW government representatives, please email your questions to info@nrsc.org.au

Electorate: Ballina
Tuesday, March 8, 6-8pm
Ballina Beach Resort
1 Compton Drive, Lighthouse Beach

Electorate: Lismore
Wednesday, March 9, 6-8pm
Lismore Workers Club
Keen Street, Lismore

Electorate: Tweed
Thursday, March 17, 6-8pm
South Tweed Sports Club
4 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South

Strip'n'ride with pride

by Mijimber

Since the 2010 World Naked Bike Ride, Aussies have bought over 26,164 million litres of fuel at the bowser. This equates to a national fuel bill of something like \$33,800,000,000!

Is there really that much oil deep inside our earth? Obviously there is and a whole lot more (or there was a whole lot more) as we are only one country amidst hundreds guzzling our way through this fossil slick.

We live in the Northern Rivers where we need to travel some distance for most weekly activities – work, shopping, play. So accepting that this is the reality for many locals is a good starting point.

From there we might want to envisage a future that is less dependent on limited fuel reserves, that is less destructive to the earth.

Nimbin is simply fantastic at imagining a different world and then going for it. The struggle to create the Nightcap National Park, the establishment of intentional communities, on-going re-forestation, development of permaculture and having our own local PC training facility in Djanbung Gardens. Think the Environment Centre, the



Neighbourhood Centre, and the list goes on...

The World Naked Bike Ride joins this long list of happenings. It dares us to think outside the combustion engine and away from consumerism. It's cheeky, quirky and holds a space for creativity. It pokes fun at the superfluity of wearing clothes and promotes skin pride.

The World Naked Bike Ride is a "bare as you dare" event. So if you are not ready to strip completely in front of all your friends and relatives, just come along and be part of the fun. It may change your life. It may change the world.

For more information, join us on Face book: World Naked Bike Ride Nimbin or at www.australia.worldnakedbikeride.org

Details of the ride: Saturday 5th March; meet at 10.30am at Peace Park. Bring bike, helmet, body paints – natural ones if you can get them.



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Nimbin and Districts

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More leaking gas wells

Local Greens candidates for Lismore and Clarence, Sue Stock and Janet Cavanaugh, have been alerted about a potential third leaking coal seam gas site at Lower Dyraaba, west of Casino.

This is one of Metgasco's exploratory drill sites. This is a potent greenhouse gas with 21 times more warming potential than carbon dioxide.

The Greens are calling for a moratorium on all coal seam gas drilling until a full independent scientific inquiry can take place to assess the risks to water and land.

Upper House Greens spokesperson Cate

Faehrmann said the coal seam gas industry is "essentially calling the shots here in NSW", with "grossly inadequate safeguards combined with a very low level of expertise within government".

"Lies and misinformation have become common practice to allow gas companies access to farmlands and residential areas," she said.

"Labor and the Coalition have attempted to allay overwhelming community concern and anger about the lack of environmental oversight by releasing new policies. However they



Leaking corroded well head at Bowerbird 1, Dyraaba

fail to protect aquifers and farmland, and both (parties) have ruled out a full moratorium (on fracking).

"Once an aquifer is contaminated, or a community is exposed to harmful chemicals, no future

strategy or regulation can fix it," said Ms Faehrmann.

"Many of the risks to water, food security and health will have been realised well before the Coalition policy comes into full effect after three years in office," she said.

Northern Rivers Hemp field day

by Guy Stewart,
Secretary, Northern
Rivers Hemp Assoc

Andrew Kavasilas could not have been luckier with his timing this year. A wet spring meant he didn't have to irrigate and then a dry spell just in time for harvest. This is a special harvest too, among the first commercially licensed hemp crops in the northern rivers.

The Northern Rivers Hemp Association conducted a field day to visit the crop and bring prospective members up to speed with what they have learnt so far.

The results from testing have just come back with no detectable THC meaning his plants have no drug potential.

Andrew is experimenting with half a dozen varieties which he has sourced from as far as the Ukraine, Hungary and China to find the right combination for our unique region.

The best plants will be selected for qualities such as seed yield and compatibility with existing machinery.

He is building up seed stocks with the idea to go broad acre and give soya farmers this side of Tenterfield a ready to go rotation crop and supply



our region with locally grown grain seed.

Hemp food still has a way to go though. The plant's food status is currently under review by Australian Food Standards group FSANZ and opens to public submissions in March.

Farmers like Kenrick Riley in Jiggi and Andrew believe that food is the future for the crop though and are pushing ahead with cultivating varieties for their nutrition, yield and taste.

If this crop is anything to go by, the future is bright green.

If you want to be involved get in touch via their website, northernrivershemp.org

Controls set for the heart of the sun

The Nimbin Community Solar Farm is up and running.

The Farm, a partnership between Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) and the Rainbow Power Company, consists of a solar system totalling 45kW spread across six host sites in Nimbin – Nimbin Bowling Club, Nimbin School of Arts (Town Hall), Nimbin Community School, Nimbin Headers Sports Club, Blue Knob Hall and NNIC itself.

The arrays will generate around 61,000kWh a year, which amounts to the average annual consumption of almost 23 average Nimbin households (based on a local sustainability survey in 2009).

The project, funded as a social enterprise/job creation project, has created three long-term jobs, ten short-term/casual jobs, one traineeship, and three work experience placements.

The project encountered many barriers along the way, including four policy changes in NSW relating to the solar industry since the start of the project in late 2009.

Natalie Meyer, team leader of NNIC,



NNIC's Lisa Lucken, (left) with Nat Meyer

says the project could not have proceeded without the goodwill and tenacity of the Nimbin community. She says the farm was signed-up to the now-closed NSW Solar Bonus Scheme, and praised the patience and flexibility of the Commonwealth government, the hard work of staff at NNIC and Rainbow Power Company, Lismore City Council and support from Country Energy.

"It is a great shame that the current policy vacuum in NSW in relation to the solar industry and the feed-in-tariff has effectively stalled the local solar industry," she said. "The quagmire of

regulations at local government and state government levels operate to effectively render duplication of our project in other communities almost impossible in NSW at this time."

She said the project demonstrated the challenges of replacing coal-fired power with renewable energy. "Until such time as there is a realistic value placed on energy, projects such as these ... will not be able to attract investment."

"Our project was only able to proceed because it was funded by the Commonwealth Government and we are not aiming to replace our infrastructure costs. Clearly this would not be a viable proposition at a commercial level in the current state of play."

Ms Meyer called for a cohesive national approach to the increase in renewable energy sources, where all levels of government, and key stakeholders work together.

The project and the power of the Nimbin community will be celebrated at an official launch of the Solar Farm at 11am on the 31st March at the Nimbin Bowling Club.

Dammed if you do, damned if you don't

by Joanna Gardner

Despite the NSW Government ban on the Byrrell Creek dam released in December, the Tweed Shire mayor Kevin Skinner is still pursuing the dam as an option.

He claims it could be used for flood mitigation and water supply. The Tweed Shire Council seems to be sliding backwards to March, lobbying politicians for a change of heart and hoping for a new state government.

As the south-western part of the Tweed Shire is now split from the north eastern part of the shire for the NSW election and with two current National members of parliament involved, it is imperative for residents to know what

the Nationals policy on the Byrrell Creek Dam is prior to the election.

The proposed dam is in National party Thomas George's Lismore electorate, but will supply water to the Tweed electorate of fellow Nationals MP Geoff Provest. The issue covers both electorates. Greens candidates Sue Stock (Lismore) and Andrea Vickers (Tweed) do not support the dam, nor does Labor candidate for Lismore, Andy Moy.

Mr Provest has suggested raising the dam wall of the existing Clarrie Hall Dam, while Mr George is "sitting on the fence".

To further complicate matters, the Nationals and the Liberal Party do not support a Part 3A under the EPA Act (for dam approval) and will replace

it if they win the election, which will again have ramifications on the Byrrell Creek Dam issue. Please make your voices heard to candidates, especially the Nationals, from the top (Andrew Stoner) and Barry O'Farrell (Liberals) downwards. Use your vote wisely.

A recent Brief Independent Review of the Tweed Council's Demand Management strategy, compiled by Geolink, has highlighted the shortcomings of the council's strategy, stating: "The most appropriate and sustainable water supply strategy should be developed by considering all options in an integrated manner" (for example, tanks, recycled water or groundwater and stormwater harvesting).

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Nimbin Preschool running strong

Nimbin Preschool has started the year with many local families taking up positions for their children.

Situated in the Showgrounds and open Monday to Friday (9am to 3pm), Nimbin Preschool is currently taking enrolments for children aged three to five, with vacancies on every day.

Under the care of staff Diane Wilder, Kathy Williamson, Barbara Mills, Gordon Ellard and Sally Wallis, the children are flourishing in play-based and child-initiated curriculum that embraces young children as being capable, competent and insightful learners.

The staff work under the direction of Diane, who has a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education, to ensure that the preschool environment not only reflects a strong sense of community, but also enables young children to feel safe and secure in their learning.

The daily program has a gentle routine that provides each child with a consistent framework in which to learn through engaging play.

The current staffing ratio of one teacher to six children is higher than required by regulation, ensuring that each child receives a high degree of individualised contact and learning with teachers, and enables us to fully embrace the concepts of the Federal Government's new National Early Childhood Curriculum.

The staff continually embed



age-appropriate literacy and numeracy into the curriculum along with music, drama, dance, story-telling with visual aids and a high degree of creative and visual arts.

The children are consistently provided with a wide range of open-ended experiences and materials to extend their ideas, skills and knowledge in all areas of the program.

Nimbin Preschool is a community managed and not-for-profit organisation that values input from the broader community. We pride ourselves on our strong reflection of Indigenous culture within our curriculum and always welcome community members with skills that can be shared with our children to increase their awareness and belonging within the Nimbin Community.

If you would like more information, call in for a visit or enrol your child at the preschool by calling Diane or Kathy on 6689-1203.

Tunable heads for big three-oh

by Biskit

School has started and all of a sudden we find ourselves well and truly into term one.

Tunable Falls Community Primary School is thrilled to welcome Leif, our new teacher to the team. With Hartje's support he is offering a theatre, circus and music program that all the kids love participating in.

Over the course of the year they will be working toward a performance featuring what they have learned from all this fun.

It is amazing to think that our beautiful little school turns 30 this year. As a newcomer to the school community it was fascinating listening to some of the parents from the 80s talk about the beginnings and evolution of the school.

Back then an alternative to mainstream schooling was desperately needed for the Tuntable Community children. Parents were looking for a school that better reflected their values, was local, and helped the children feel nurtured within their community.

The school now reaches beyond the Tuntable Community and attracts children from throughout the Nimbin district, made possible in part by the school bus service.

Despite this some of the original



Cooling off at our beautiful creek after a long hot day

values persist: Offering an alternative education that nurtures children within a strong sense of community, the relationship between family and school being integral.

Environmental integrity is another enduring value. Our organic kitchen garden and cooking program is a winner with the children. All the summer holiday weeds have been dealt with and new seedlings are in the ground making a start. When the food is ready, the garden produce will

be part of our school cooking program, learning about food from planting to the plate.

We were hoping to be able to show off all this to our old school members as part of our 30th celebrations planned for March. Due to overload, these celebrations have been re-scheduled for Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th of September.

New families are welcome – contact 6689-1423 or tunfalls@australis.net for information.



Nimbin Central students take to the pool

On Thursday 10th February a team of Nimbin Central School Primary students aged 8 years and up, supervised by Mrs Mackney, competed brilliantly in the Terania Creek Small Schools Swimming Carnival at Lismore Memorial Pool.

With promising weather, plenty of block-out and ice water available, it was a great opportunity for Nimbin students to showcase their swimming abilities and cheer their schoolmates on. It was terrific to note so many students nominating themselves for extra races on the day and scoring points for the school.

Congratulations to the two students who swam qualifying times for the Richmond River Zone Carnival and to the remaining students for their sportsmanship and participation.

The school's Secondary Swimming Carnival was also held in February, which was also a very pleasant day as usual, with lots of fun for both students and teachers.

Many individuals put in great performances, including Mr Neenan who swam in nearly all of the events. Sapote deserves special mention for consistently making the full length of the inflatable tube while looking like a ballerina on a tightrope.



It's raining keys...
Hallelujah

Aspiring pianists at Nimbin Central School have been donated not one but two pianos this week. This will support talent development programs for musicians at the school.

Former music teacher Di Bell has given the school a full-sized Kawai electric piano that may be connected to a computer for compositions. She has also donated various percussion instruments and sheet music.

Concern about inequitable funding of music in public schools compared to private

schools inspired Leslie Ryan to give her mother's piano to the school. She is excited that a love of music can be fostered in a new generation with this instrument.

Di and Leslie are both former school teachers who are active in the Ballina arts community. They heard about the need for instruments in Nimbin from newly appointed music teacher Marian Webb.

If you have any unused instruments 'looking for love' please phone 6689-1355 or drop them into the school.

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Meg EnviTEd to take the helm

Meg Nichols is the new general manager of EnviTE Inc.

Ms Nichols replaces Graham Bird, who retired after 17 years at the helm to manage his farm property near Nimbin

Dr Tony Parkes, chair of the EnviTE Management Committee, says a smooth transition has taken place over the past few weeks.

"The Management Committee was impressed with Meg's skills, experience, intelligence and energy," he said. "In Meg Nichols, we have found a strong leader and we are looking forward to working with her as we build EnviTE's potential, services and performance."

Ms Nichols has more than 10 years experience in the training and employment sector. She has also worked in marketing, hospitality, real estate and justice administration.

Meg Nichols attended Mullumbimby High School, has a BA and a graduate business qualification from Southern Cross University. Earlier in her career, she owned and operated a business in Lennox Head, where she lives.

Ms Nichols said her first priorities were to build on the foundations put in place by Graham Bird. "I want to expand the range of employment, environment and training services provided



Mark Jackson, founder of EnviTE, and Meg Nichols, EnviTE's new general manager, wish Graham Bird

by EnviTE in our local communities. EnviTE has always played a key role in developing local green skills and jobs and our environmental scientists are highly recognised for their expertise in assessment, planning, bush regeneration, monitoring and evaluation," she said.

EnviTE is a not-for-profit organisation, providing employment, training and professional environmental services in the Northern Rivers since 1993.

When Graham Bird joined EnviTE as general manager in 1993, he says the organisation was full of idealism and enthusiasm, "but not so much practical experience or knowledge".

Mr Bird was responsible for giving this energy a direction and by 1995, EnviTE had 35 staff and a reputation for

delivering results on time and within budget.

Projects were suspended after the change in government and EnviTE's staff shrunk to four.

EnviTE soon exceeded its original size and was expanding into Ballina, Clarence and Coffs Harbour.

Over the next 12 years, EnviTE provided over 500 young people with skills and accredited conservation and land management training and assisted over 15,000 job seekers through Work for the Dole and other government programs.

Mr Bird was instrumental in lobbying for EnviTE Employment to be awarded a contract to deliver youth services in the Richmond area, which covers Nimbin, Casino, Kyogle, Woodburn and Lismore by Job Services Australia.

Visiting visionary sees with soul

by Lynne Oldfield

Gordon Fuller, a Hopi and great-nephew of Buckminster Fuller, says he and his travelling companion chose to visit Nimbin in order to understand sustainability, Australian history and social issues.

Gordon likes to find things that do the most social good. He thinks good things should be profitable.

He has spent many years working with people with disabilities, recognising them, and the elderly, as a large field of connectivity that involves virtually everyone.

Gordon has a genetic eye disorder caused by a polio vaccine which has permanently damaged his vision. Regardless, Gordon has had a very busy career as both a virtual reality guru and designer of products for people with disabilities.

He has worked with NASA and others to create simulators, so he had to understand how vision worked. He says westerners use mostly central vision and intense focus, while indigenous people use their peripheral vision.

Gordon created the Arizona Media Program in Tucson, Arizona, where disadvantaged young people were sent to him, and have gone on to successful careers in the media. He has made many music



videos and television commercials and is making a movie called *Quest for Vision*.

"In the synthetic world of our own vision, we have become functionally blind," he says.

"We are all the power. We don't intend to destroy the earth, but we keep coming up against people who do. Collectivise vision."

RRALI round the rural zones

by Greg Bennett

In late February members of the Rural Ratepayers Association of Lismore Incorporated (RRALI) committee met with council planning staff to discuss the Draft Local Environment Plan 2010 (DLEP).

Issues discussed with the Council included:

Rural Zones: RRALI is lobbying for all State and regionally significant farmland be zoned RU1 and that all other land suitable for, or used for, agriculture also be investigated for inclusion into the RU1 zone. (The council's own documents clearly state that such land should be zoned RU1.)

Environment Zones: RRALI believes environment zones should not be placed on private land without the owner's permission. Council planning staff said that privately held rural land is a community asset and therefore they have the right to place environment zones as required.

Whilst RRALI rejects this position it does however insist that if this is council's chosen path then the cost must be shared equitably. It is unfair, unjust and unacceptable that the entire cost be placed on some rural ratepayers.

If the community as a whole wants environment zones on private land then the community as a whole should pay for them, and no one should be exempt. All areas must be included, this means town and city areas of the LGA.

RRALI asks why a

community vote cannot be taken to ask if ratepayers wish to have these zones, and if they wish to share the cost.

Inaccurate mapping: Council staff agree that there are inaccuracies in the mapping of Native Vegetation in the DLEP. Council staff will be starting a biodiversity study soon to address these.

Council planning staff informed RRALI there will probably be substantial changes to the DLEP and that parts of the DLEP may be re-exhibited for further public discussion.

High Tide on Valentine's Day

Story and photo by Pampussycat

The destructive flood waters from Queensland, through Cowper and down as far as Victoria, brought devastation to families, homes and businesses.

It also brought about a real feel for Community, as people cut through walls of separation, to meet and help rescue neighbours and strangers. The response to calls for outside volunteers was tremendous.

But here in our little village, flash flooding rushed through Nimbin on Valentine's Day, turning creekbeds into rushing rivers and turning gardens into swimming pools.

Some of the viaducts and drains in town again were inundated and could not cope



with the sudden downpour, which dumped over 4 inches on the village in under an hour.

Between rainy weather, it's time to check the weeds growing around your viaduct and drains. Flash flooding is rapid and can take human and animal life, plus damage to homes. State Emergency Services has flood safe tips and information

on preparedness, safety, response, recovery, Home Emergency Kits and Business FloodSafe Toolkits.

In case of emergency call the State Emergency Service 13-2500. SES volunteers come from all walks of life and there are many roles that an SES volunteer can participate in, regardless of age, gender or ability.

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Aquarius Foundation Calendar



Film Night

On Wednesday 9th March at Djanbung Gardens Permaculture Centre, Benny Zable will be showing films and images of his journey to the USA last year, and he will share with us about events, and people he met along the way. Also we are premiering in Australia *We Love You*, the three-times award nominated Rainbow Gathering movie from the producer Steve Kalafer.

Curry, chai and cakes will be served from 6pm and program begins at 7pm. Entry is by donation.

Rainbow Corroboree

A Rainbow Corroboree has been called for 18th, 19th and 20th March at the beautiful Rocky River in the Bunjalung Northern Rivers District of Australia.

This event is sponsored by the Tabulam Indigenous community in the spirit of sharing culture and Country for all to enjoy. Come together with culture, community, creativity and celebrate. It is time for us to embrace and be embraced...

For more information go to www.facebook.com/BunjalungDreaming

Earth Hour

On 26th March, hundreds of millions of global citizens, from one hundred different countries, will unite in the action of lights out. Will you be one of them? Earth Hour is a call to action to every individual, every business and every community. It starts with a flick of the switch at 8:30pm Saturday 26th March, in a collective display of commitment to protect the one thing that unites us all – the planet. Sign up to show

your support – www.earthhour.org.au. Started in Australia, embraced by the world.

40th Anniversary

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation is preparing for the 40th anniversary in 2013. We would love you to join us, to share ideas and help with planning. Dr Rani Kerin, Research Fellow at the Australia National University is looking for person/s who can help with its history, especially Aquarius related stories.

This is a summary from her brief:

"I am writing a history of Nimbin's establishment, focusing on the people involved in setting up the Aquarius Festival in 1973. It will be a long(ish) term project, including something to commemorate the 40th anniversary – possibly a conference."

Rani is compiling a contact list of people to interview. Please contact her if you can help: Dr Rani Kerin, Research Fellow, National Centre of Biography, School of History, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200.

No More Hiroshimas

The August 6th-7th Hiroshima Live Peace Woodstock program for our region so far is Saturday 6th August, a dawn meditation and a morning concert on the Main Beach in front of the Byron Bay Lifesavers Club.

In the afternoon and evening, a LIVE PEACE concert will take place at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. On Sunday 7th August a program is being planned for Lismore.

More on Live Peace at www.livepeaceinternational.org

Nimbin Community Solar Farm

Official Launch and Celebration of the Nimbin Community Solar farm on 31 March 2011 at 11am at the Nimbin Bowlo. There will be Ministers and important people there as well as hopefully all of you! For more info see www.nmic.org.au. RSVPs to nimbinmic@yahoo.com.au.

Food Security Project

The next meeting of the Working Group is on Thursday 3rd March 2011 at 6pm at the Elmo Room at NNIC, 71 Cullen St – Come around the back steps. Food always welcome. (Note this is the postponed Feb meeting).

The following meeting will be on Thursday 31st March 2011 at the Elmo Room at NNIC.

Market Stallholders

Tools to assist you in the permit process are NOW available in the Food Tools section on our website (Sustainability tab- Food – Food Tools), including a template to assist you to develop your own Food Safety Plan. Also we will

In your neighbourhood...

News from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre



post up a Frequently Asked Questions factsheet from our conversations with Council regarding the many questions stall holders had regarding the details of the Local Market Code. www.nmic.org.au

The Community Grain Mill had been delayed and is still being built in Germany and will be shipped to us by the end of March.

Landshare Australia

A new FoodLinks initiative to link landholders with food producers. If you are looking for land to produce food on, or conversely you would like people to be able to use your land to produce food – visit the website - www.landshareaustralia.com.au

Nimbin Local Food Day

We will be holding a day of feasting and celebration of locally produced food later in 2011. We are interested to hear from anyone who has ideas about workshops, events, farm gate tours, cook offs, as well as anyone (food

producers in particular) who would like to be involved in any way. Contact Guy, Food Security Project Coordinator, on food@nnic.org.au.

New colour photocopier

The high quality colour copier formerly belonging to the Nimbin CTC has been donated to NNIC as part of the wind up of the CTC. We are in process of preparing a price list and the community will be able to access the new colour copier for colour copies as from March 2011.

Got Unpaid Fines?

You may be eligible to work off your fines at NNIC via a Work Development Order. Make an appointment with one of our Community Welfare Workers for an eligibility assessment.

Izzis Birthday!

Izzi officially turns one on 21st March 2011. The Ghost of Momo has almost completed Izzi's training and she will soon be taking

over Momo's facebook page. Befriend the cat to keep up to date with all of the latest in Nimbin as well as Momo's (soon Izzi's) fave causes etc.

Nimbin Women's Dinner Committee

If you are interested in helping with the annual Nimbin Women's Dinner in 2011, please contact Teena Kavasilas at NNIC.

Visit our website – and Community Calendar

The more folks who use it, the more useful it will become for the whole community. See the website for info re how to access the online calendar to put your events up yourself.

Got suggestions?

If so we are always open to suggestions about services or projects. The best way to make contact is via email nimbinmic@yahoo.com.au Or else drop in and write your idea down and don't forget to leave your contact details for any follow up.

International Women's Day



Along with the international community of women, Nimbin women will celebrate International Women's Day on Tuesday March 8th at the Nimbin Community Centre grounds. All Day.

Music... song...dance... stories.

Chai...pizza oven... bring a plant (native) for the community garden. Bring a blanket to sit on, food for sharing, musical instruments and spend the day together.

For more info contact Nimbin Women's Heartquarters at 6689-7129.

Chamber Chat...



New branding project for Nimbin Tourism



Andrew Walker, the Nimbin Visitor Centre co-ordinator, has presented some draft concepts of a tourism project to develop a new branding for both Nimbin and Lismore.

The draft concepts have been designed by Greg Meek from Dog Whistle Creations and will be used for marketing of Nimbin, Lismore and surrounding villages.

The Nimbin Community Centre and Nimbin Chamber of Commerce had been independently working on branding for Nimbin.

All present members of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce were in support of the draft concepts, supplying Lismore and Nimbin Tourism with design feedback.

A document of policy guidelines for use of branding by local business and organisations will be available soon.

Andrew also talked about the major renovations which will be occurring in the Rainforest Display at the Lismore Visitor Centre. The new display will feature a range of new interpretative information panels (about Lismore and Nimbin history), along

with accompanying light boxes.

The major themes include Aboriginal culture, the environment and European history. A number of key partners are involved in the project including Rous Water, NSW National Parks and the Indigenous Heritage Program.

Nimbin's history features prominently, with panels focusing on the Aquarius Festival and the Terania Creek protest. The panels have been designed to provide teasers of information that encourage people to get out and about and explore further.

Nimbin based artist Burri Jerome has painted an 8-m by 5-m mural of local landscape, with a focus on Protestors Falls, Nightcap National Park, Nimbin Rocks and Rotary Park.

Light boxes, of images and interpretation, will feature attractions such as an overview of Cullen St, the Nimbin Candle Factory, Djanbung Permaculture Gardens and the Rainbow Power Company

The re-developed Visitor Centre is due to be launched in mid June.

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Falling stalls but rising spirits at Blue Knob

Much has happened over the past month at the Blue Knob Farmers market.

The recent severe weather conditions caused a noticeable absence of fresh produce and the number of stalls dropped. Although the market was affected by the drop in produce it provided a forum of information and culture to help everyone through some difficult days.

The importance of growing food and increasing production on a local level is obvious, and a stall called the "Backyarders' Table" allows people to bring and sell small amounts of food from their gardens. (And it will sell.)

During February the Sharing Local Knowledge lectures took off, the workshops filled with people who wanted to make a composting toilet or to raise a big flock of chooks or to plant food in public spaces.

The entertainment also took on a life of its own. On one of the mornings a member of French medieval travelling troubadour group, Les Derniers Trouberes, arrived to play on the market stage. With bagpipe and horn flute Marie Milliflore entranced the locals with her impromptu performance of medieval music and song.



Youbi, a woofers from Korea, paints new market signs

March – Sharing Local Knowledge seminars

• Sat 12 March, 10am: Keeping a House Cow – Peter Calkin

Peter has kept a small herd of milking cows, both locally and in New Zealand, for several years. He also has a lively interest in organic and biodynamic gardening and farm production. Peter's presentation will cover his experience in selecting a cow, pregnancy and calving, milking techniques, feeding, fencing, mating and what to do with all that lovely, creamy milk.

• Sat 19 March, 10am: Jenny Creasy – Wholefoods
Jenny is passionate about food and that food should create health for ourselves and our environment. She spends many hours in her food gardens and kitchen and regularly presents workshops on home production of

cheeses (such as haloumi, feta, gouda and quark), butter, fermented foods and sourdough.

Her main guide is the nutritional wisdom of traditional cultures. What is it about traditional foods that has provided excellent health from before our current understanding of vitamins and diet? How does traditional fare compare to modern refined foods?

• Sat 26 March, 10am: Timber Identification

Three "wood men", Paul Roguszka, Peter Poropat and Andrew Kavasilas, have joined forces to offer a morning of wood identification. People are invited to bring pieces of timber old and new, photos of trees or pieces of bark and have them identified. Discussions will also include trees to plant for rainforest regeneration and for future harvesting.



An **outrageous** change to the Australian Criminal Code is being proposed by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy that would criminalise thousands of gardeners of Australian Acacias, as well as 100's of other plants such as ornamental cacti, daturas and brugmansias etc.

This means that selling or GROWING any acacia (wattle) species, any brugmansia species, any datura species and any cacti containing a controlled substance could attract a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment!

If you too believe that this proposition is not necessary and counteracts our basic human right and freedom to garden, please send an urgent email of protest *before the 11th of March 2011* to:

➔ criminallaw@aq.gov.au.

Otherwise, for a quick and easy automated submission against this ridiculous legislation please visit:

➔ www.happyhighherbs.com/Herb-Freedom.

Please do it now or we could lose our rights to garden these beautiful plants and native trees this year and forever!

For more information you can also link to:

➔ www.gardenfreedom.com.

Advert sponsorship

WHAT CAN YOU DO? **HAPPY HIGH HERBS**

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

UPDATE ON NIMBIN SKATE PARK

Persistent wet weather in our region throughout December, January and February has held up construction progress at Nimbin Skate Park. Meaningful site works recommenced late in January but were delayed again in mid-February. The continual wet weather has meant that the site needs to dry out before the foundations can be prepared for further concrete pours and to allow access for the concrete trucks.

To date, the majority of the snake run and the deeper bowl have been laid out and formed up. The shade structures have been re-positioned around the perimeter of the site. Works that have been completed include the storm-water and electrical components and the platform area around the deeper bowl.

Approximately 4-6 weeks of site works remains therefore, subject to favourable weather conditions, the expected completion is April 2011.

NEWS FROM NIMBIN VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Byron, Lismore, Nimbin Touring Route

The Nimbin Visitor Information Centre is developing a touring route and map that will showcase attractions and things to see and do in the Nimbin and Lismore Region. The route will follow the popular tourist drive along Bangalow Road through the hinterland villages of Bangalow and Clunes to the city of Lismore where visitors can picnic on the riverbank, wander around the shops, join the Arts and Culture trail or perhaps visit one of the popular tourist attractions including Gunnawannabe and the Koala Care Centre.

The route then leads tourists along Nimbin Road to the many sights and sounds of Nimbin including the Candle Factory, Nimbin Museum, Hemp Embassy and art & craft galleries. Leaving Nimbin, visitors will enjoy the rural vista alongside Nightcap Range and have opportunity to visit Nightcap National Park, hinterland villages, galleries and cafes. The route promises an interesting day full of sights and experiences unique to the Lismore and Nimbin area.

This exciting new publication will be launched in April, just in time for the school holidays.

NIMBIN COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

At the Council meeting on 14 December 2010, Council concluded the election process for the appointment of Nimbin community members to the Lismore City Council's new Nimbin Community Reference Group.

The inaugural meeting of the group will take place on Thursday, 10 March from 6.00pm - 8.00pm at the Birth and Beyond building at 24 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

Members of the wider community are welcome to attend and observe the meeting process.

BRIDGE WORKS IN NIMBIN AREA

Southwells Bridge, Nimbin

Construction of the new bridge is complete however construction of the new approaches has been delayed due to the prolonged wet weather. Once the site has dried out, work on the approaches will commence and are expected to take between three and four weeks to complete.

Cullen Bridge, Nimbin

The construction of sub-structure for the new Cullen bridge is 95% complete. Works are currently underway on forming up abutment A and placing of the steel reinforcement. Once this is complete a concrete pour will be scheduled followed by stripping of the form work. This is expected to be completed within the next three weeks, weather permitting.

The next stage of construction will be the bridges super structure and will involve craning in the bridges 60 pre-stressed concrete planks. This will be undertaken in stages and followed by transverse post-tensioning and installation of the bridge railing. Once construction of the bridge is complete, work will commence on the new bridge approaches.

Cullen Bridge and its approaches are expected to be completed by the end of May, weather permitting.

Milgate Road - Gal Helcor Tank Replacement

Works are scheduled to commence on Milgate Road within the next two weeks, weather permitting. The job consists of replacing an existing 2700mm Gal Helcor tank with a twin 1500mm diameter concrete piped structure. Works are expected to take two weeks, weather permitting.

Traffic control measures and a detour to a temporary side track around the work site will be in place during construction.

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