

To The big People

A message from the H.E.M.P coalition. Help End Mardigrass Parade. Please help end the mardigrass parade. We want whoever is out there who has it in their power to end, end, end it. The repetitious, worn out slogans and the dried up, hacking, cough of self righteous wanna be charismatic religious leaders need to be stopped. Please end marijuana prohibition for the sole purpose of shutting down the "protest" which is just an excuse to have nothing more than a booze fuelled, poor little rich kid from the gold coast, glass smashing, ceremony. Let us admit that it has become a flow on right of passage for schoolies who fantasise they are a little alternative and "oh so f***ing daring and visionary" for all of a weekend. Could it be moved to Surfers Paradise? It is about as visionary as a person with major mental health issues who thinks they are the new saviour! Would the big people who make the decisions about drug law reform get onto it quickly? Would the Santa wannabees who host the events please try to think of a single new line and at least pretend to be interested in the local cult members who attend events yearly looking for amusement?? Please change the laws so that I can have a smoke just to be able to dull my senses at the fresh faeces in our creeks, the dancer with the mouldy costume and botched Bali Botox job, the 'eco' plastic big joint and the self appointed leaders

and royalty of Nimbin who have an open relationship with themselves. Please bring more backed up riot police. Since everyone is too scared to smoke Marijuana, alcohol consumption is on the rise as Nimbin becomes nothing more than a convenient disposal unit of left over blues festival grog. Let the Locals who sell jams and pickles laced with cockroach crap make their car rego money during the other busy tourist seasons... Oh and please, please sing your Christmas carols oops I mean protest slogans somewhere else.

The new, authentic self appointed leader, Charismatic Guru Mayoress of Nimbin (God knows it needs another one).

Jennifer Bongiorno
Nimbin
(and many, many unnamed devotees)

Bentley Art Prize 2011

The countdown to the 2011 Bentley Art Prize is underway and this year will mark the 27th year the annual event has been staged.

Artists from across the region and beyond, are encouraged to enter their work by registering their intention to submit art for display and judging at the Bentley Hall from Friday 5th through to Sunday 7th August, 2011. Entry Forms are available from local libraries, council chambers and art galleries throughout the Northern Rivers region. Alternatively, entrants are able to download the 2011 Entry Form from the new

website www.bentleyartprize.com.au

Visitors to the website are also able to easily seek directions to the Bentley Hall by clicking on to the Google map on the home page. For more information, contact Bentley Art Prize Coordinator Helen Trustum on (02) 6663-5283 or send me a message through the Contact Us page on the website or to helen-trustum@hotmail.com

Entries close 28th July, 2011.

Helen Trustum
Bentley

Skills on Show



With the soft ground conditions of Muddy Grass, many good samaritans with trucks, tractors and 4WDs were kept busy pulling out bogged cars. Their task was not made easier by some people's choice of parking spots.



Notices

essential: 02 6679-7316 or babareki@gmail.com

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Create Locally : Sell Globally Getting your business out there!!!

Two-day Workshop on 12th and 13th May, led by Natascha Wernick and Garry Gnapp especially for small businesses in our regional area.

The "Create Locally : Sell Globally" workshop will cover topics such as networking and personal branding, social networking and blogging as well as creating an online product.

"Small business people living in our regional area often find it hard to be so isolated and can feel left behind with technology. I want to encourage these small business people to consider these workshops as essential professional development for themselves and their business," Natascha said.

These workshop will be held at the Doon Doon Hall Crams Farm 9am - noon, 12th and 13th May. These workshops are free and are proudly supported by Tweed Shire Council and Clubs of New South Wales. Bookings

Camping at Cabaritta Beach Horse Club

Long weekend Sat 11th June 'til Mon 13th. All welcome. BYO Horses if you have one. \$15 per night. For more info phone Lavina 6689-7184.

CABARET 360 Call for performers

Back for 2011, on Sat 25th and Sun 26th June. at Uki Hall, Uki. CABARET 360 presents the best of the performing arts from all over the Tweed Valley and beyond.

Featuring physical theatre, dance, circus, comedy, performance poetry, costume, music, the unique, the bizarre... Last 2 years shows were a total sell out!

The show is directed by Hamilton Barnett who brings his artistic vision, professional production values and a passion to showcase the performing arts. Hamilton is particularly interested in stimulating the performing arts in the region by encouraging performers to audition, assisting performers to develop their acts and inviting existing professional performers to explore new territory.

The result, for the inaugural show in 2009, was a show that featured performers from 13 years old to 70 years old and traversed the full range of human emotion from the sublimely moving to the outrageously funny.

If you are interested in auditioning for this year's show, please contact Hamilton: cabaret360@gmail.com Original contemporary pieces will be given priority.

In Memorium

Bruce Smith

8-5-1964 to 5-4-2011

Born with a heart of gold and eyes that saw the truth, you walked the hard road for many years, Carving out your own path Now you are truly free, my brother. Love from here to eternity, Your Family



Jack Pearson

26-1-1982 to 22-4-2011

In Loving Memory Now at peace He had a great love of children, and they for him. "Free to be who you want to be" Greatly missed by Family and Friends.

About us

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www.nimbingoodtimes.com

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

Next deadline: Wednesday 25th May

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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What new threats/challenges need to be included?

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Youth funding boost to encourage culture and creativity

by Justine Elliot, MP

Local MP Justine Elliot encourages local organisations to apply for government grants to support the artistic and creative development of young people.

Grants totalling \$500,000 are now available under the Youth Development and Support Program, as announced by Minister for Youth Peter Garrett at the launch of National Youth Week.

Justine said organisations can apply for up to \$70,000 to help engage young people in activities that develop skills and connections within their communities.

"These grants will go to organisations that support grassroots activities to help young people become better engaged with their communities," Justine said.

"The Government, in understanding the importance of arts and culture to young people, has placed the emphasis of this year's grants on arts and creative enterprises."

The Youth Development and Support Program is a national program designed to provide financial support to non-government, not-for-profit organisations that deliver youth-led community-based projects.

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

The Program funds eligible organisations to support initiatives that inspire and encourage young people aged between 12 and 25 years to develop skills and connections within their communities.

Applications for the Youth Development and Support Program 2011-12 are now open, and will close on 27 May 2011. Organisations working with Indigenous young people are encouraged to apply.

Information on the Youth Development and Support Program government grants is available at www.youth.gov.au

Richmond debating competition

Justine hosted the inaugural Richmond Invitational Debating Competition on 4 April 2011.

The competition was generously held at Mount St Patrick College Murwillumbah. This first competition was won by Xavier Catholic College, Skennars Head.

The debating competition was open to high school students from



Local MP Justine Elliot with one of the teams in the Debating Competition

across the North Coast with schools from Tweed Heads, Banora Point, Murwillumbah, and Skennars Head participating.

The final debate of the competition was between Xavier Catholic College and St Joseph's College Banora Point.

"Debating and Public Speaking are important skills for life and it was such an honour and privilege to

host this competition," said Justine.

"It was a pleasure to see teams from Mount St Patrick College, Banora Point High, Xavier Catholic College, Wollumbin High School, St Joseph's College Banora Point, Murwillumbah High School, and Lindisfarne Anglican College and to hear such high quality speeches and debates.

"I congratulate Xavier Catholic

College on their success and thank all the schools for their participation and in particular Mount St Patrick College for their assistance in making the event such a success."

The Richmond Invitational Debating Competition will be held again in 2012 and all local High Schools are encouraged to participate.

At the Travelling Filmfest

Janelle's Page

by Janelle Saffin, MP

There's a lot of speculation at the moment on what may or may not be in the Federal Budget. We will have to wait until next month for those details, but in the meantime I can let you know about some welcome Government reforms that are now in place.

Child Care

From July, local families will be able to choose to have their Child Care Rebate paid fortnightly, and in many cases, weekly, following the passage of the Government's legislation on the child care rebate. This means parents won't have to wait until the end of the quarter to receive their payments, which will help them pay for their childcare costs as they arise. "The Government has listened to parents about what would work best for them, and as a result of our legislation, families will

have more choice than ever before in how and when they receive child care assistance

Mortgage Exit Fee Ban

The Gillard Government's ban on mortgage exit fees passed into law in March and will apply to all new home loans from 1st July 2011.

This will help boost competition in the home loan market over time, by giving consumers greater freedom to walk down the road if their bank isn't doing the right thing by them.

This builds on the Government's existing reform giving ASIC the power to pursue banks over unfair exit fees on both new and existing mortgages.

Removing Red Tape

And there is good news for Australian builders and plumbers with the new National Construction Code to be rolled out in May. This means for the first time Australia will have one set of building and plumbing regulations,

giving consistency across the country.

This will reduce red tape and lead to multi-million dollar savings for the construction industry and the economy.

Human Rights Framework

The Australian Government is continuing its practical action in supporting and protecting human rights, through the Human Rights Framework - Education Grants Program.

The program provides funding to non-government organisations to prepare and deliver human rights education programs to the Australian community.

A stronger understanding of human rights is fundamental to maintaining a safe and tolerant society.

In our local community we have a number of social justice organisations, including school and church groups, that do good work to promote human rights and I encourage them to apply for funding.

Last year funding was provided for projects including education campaigns, online resources and interactive games for children and young people highlighting human rights and responsibilities.

While we enjoy rights like privacy, health, not having to incriminate oneself, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, it's important to remember that some within our community have experienced life where these rights are not respected.

There are many others worldwide seeking to join communities where these rights are automatic.

Information is available from www.ag.gov.au/hrgrants Applications close 19th May 2011.

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From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

As I write this column, the rain is pouring down and I am hoping that the clouds clear in readiness for MardiGrass. The organisers work well with Council to prepare the village for the thousands of visitors who descend and while I am not one of them, I do hope all are safe and respectful of this place and each other.

North Lismore Plateau

At the April meeting of Council, a momentous decision was taken to unanimously support a planning proposal for the North Lismore Plateau. This land, on Dunoon Road opposite the showground, extends to the north, south and west and has the potential to provide 1500 housing lots. The plateau offers magnificent views and provides the opportunity for developing Lismore to the west rather than continuing the ribbon development towards the coast. We also anticipate that the increased housing supply will improve choice and affordability. If approved by the Department of Planning, through a 'gateway' process, the first stage of the development could become a reality within the next couple of years.

Crawford Land

At our meeting, Council also agreed to fund a new sewer main to service the university-owned Crawford Land on Military Road in East Lismore. This land was once the proposed site for Cellulose Valley technology park but is now planned for housing and the Asia-Pacific Football Institute. My husband Ron is employed at Southern Cross University and sits on its Council so I declared a perceived conflict of interest and did not participate in the debate or vote.

Nimbin Caravan Park

Council has been looking for a lessee for the Nimbin Caravan Park who will also operate the Nimbin swimming pool. Unfortunately the tender process failed to deliver a conclusive result, so Council has entered into negotiations with Christine Seymour and Peter Mann with the aim of securing a contractual agreement.

Festival and Events policy

Council has reviewed its previous Festivals and Events policy and produced a new policy reflecting the feedback from our community consultation. The survey indicated strongly that sporting events and cultural festivals are our favorites

and most people agree that Council should continue to provide financial support for them. The Lantern Parade and the North Coast National Show are regarded as 'iconic' events and respondents agree that they should receive specific funding.

In the past month, Lismore has hosted the Rugby Country Championships and the National Under 16 and Under 18 baseball championships. It is estimated that the 12 day baseball event injected \$2 million into our economy.

The Festival and Event Policy that outlines funding opportunities and support that Council can provide, is on public exhibition for comment. To see the policy, go to the Council website and click on *Have Your Say*.

Water supply review

Like many Councils throughout the nation, Lismore is concerned that the Infrastructure Australia preference for state run water authorities has some negative consequences for local water supply. Councillors accept that there is a need for high drinking water standards, improved pricing and a skilled workforce but we reject state ownership, having seen what has happened to electricity supply. Consequently, Lismore has lodged a submission expressing its position and supporting locally controlled regional water authorities, as we have in Rous Water, or mandatory regional alliances as our preferred models.

Donations to rural halls

Lismore Local Government Area (LGA) has an abundance of small villages and rural areas each with an historic hall. The costs for upkeep, utilities and insurance are quite a burden to their committees so Council is pleased to provide some small contributions to assist.

Each of our 29 halls is given \$1000 for maintenance and Council covers land rates ranging from \$394 (South Gundurimba) to \$1487 (Nimbin School of Arts) Additional donations have been approved for 14 community organizations including \$804.40 to Nimbin A&I Society, \$898.79 to Nimbin Headers Sports Club and \$5000 to Mardi Grass. These donations cover costs of providing services or supporting programs.

Lismore Housing Strategy

Council is in the process of developing a new Lismore Housing Strategy designed to provide different types of housing that meets the needs of all residents within the Lismore LGA. The aim is to ensure that Lismore's residents have access to good quality

housing that is appropriate to their needs and that they can afford. Ratepayers can expect to receive a survey form and all residents are encouraged to log-on to Council's website and *Have Your Say* by June 30 so that we hear as many opinions as we can to help define Lismore's housing needs now and for the foreseeable future.

Budget

Council will meet on Thursday May 12 at 6pm for a briefing on the Delivery Plan, Operational Plan, Budget and Fees and Charges. This is an important evening for consideration of what this Council intends to undertake in the coming financial year. The fiscal restraints will mean that there is little room for additional spending so I take this opportunity to prepare readers



for a lean year ahead. Many of you will want more money spent on a particular activity, whether it is roads, environmental works, community support, economic stimulus or a myriad of other projects. I know whatever Council decides, some people will not be satisfied but I can assure you that we will do our best to balance community needs and the money

available.

At the May 10 Council meeting, we will vote to put our best efforts on public exhibition for 28 days. This is your opportunity to provide input prior to the formal adoption of the Plans, Budget and Fees and Charges on June 21 at 6pm.

GM Recruitment

Council is getting closer to making an appointment for a new General Manager to replace Paul O'Sullivan when he retires on June 30. The field of applicants was very strong and Council will meet in May 3 to decide on its choice for an offer to be made. I'm aware that many in the community are watching the process with great interest. I can assure you all that the Selection Panel and all Councillors are mindful of their responsibility and will choose wisely. I look forward to making an announcement and introducing the incoming GM in the next edition of *The Nimbin GoodTimes*.

Simon says...



by Simon Clough
Deputy Mayor of Lismore

Coal Seam Gas (CSG) seems to be at the forefront of people's minds at the moment and with good reason. Under the misconceived idea that CSG will be the magic bullet that allows business as usual to continue while reducing carbon emissions, oil and gas companies have started a huge gas rush. Currently over 75% of NSW land has exploration licenses over it (Alan Jones). Yes, that Alan Jones, right wing shock jock and he and I are in agreement!

No, Alan still hasn't accepted the reality of climate change but he is deeply concerned about the threat posed by coal seam gas mining to our ability to produce food. He is also virulently opposed to the legal rights of mining companies to walk on

to anyone's land and start drilling simply by notifying the "owner" of their intention. With Alan on-side, there's a great chance of a very diverse coalition forming to oppose CSG!

Congratulations to the Nimbin Environment Centre for hosting the CSG gathering on Tuesday 26th April. I knew it was a very serious gathering when I arrived five minutes late and it was well underway, in Nimbin. I estimated that there was close to 100 people there, many of whom were ardent CSG opponents. Aging male activists (in whose ranks I would count myself) were a little over-represented amongst speakers.

Nonetheless there was lots of information including material from Alan Roberts who asserted that CSG mining was much more dangerous than coal production in terms of greenhouse gas emissions (see Nimbin Environment Centre website for details). As someone on Tuesday night said "this is the big one".

Lismore, Tweed and Kyogle Councils have all voted unanimously to support the NSW Farmers Association

moratorium on CSG mining. Meanwhile at Richmond Valley Council a Councillor couldn't even get her motion seconded to notify Rous Water if there is to be any further CSG mining in their local government area.

Council has been very absorbing in the last few weeks with large amounts of my energy and time being devoted to the interviewing of candidates for the General Manager's position. The final decision will be made at a special Council meeting on Tuesday May 3rd. We anticipate the new GM will be starting early in the new financial year.

Last Council meeting included a message of sympathy and support from the Mayor for the people of Japan and in particular our sister city Yamata Takada. It's hard to comprehend the horror of the situation there. It certainly puts Lismore's potholes into perspective!

The North Lismore Plateau development got its initial go ahead at the last Council meeting. Cr. Meineke declared that it was an historic day and we should all embrace the development. He was so excited I thought I might get embraced as well. Seriously it seems that Council will have a lot more land available for housing with the Crawford

land at the Uni as well as the plateau. While these developments may stimulate the local economy and may be needed I'm very keen to ensure that there's a high standard of energy efficiency in all the houses and that there is a significant proportion of affordable housing.

I was somewhat amazed that Council's crime prevention plan involves spending 10's of thousands of dollars to reduce the effects of alcohol fuelled violence, yet the people who profit from this trade (the pubs and clubs) are able to trade until 3am. Lismore's rate of alcohol related assaults is nearly double the NSW average, though I'm assured there are more recent figures showing improvement. It does strike me as strange that Council is committed to the principle of "user pays", but in this case we subsidise the hotel industry.

For further "adventures" and items of interest involving the life of a Councillor go to Cr Simon Clough on Facebook.

Wishing you health and happiness.

Contact Simon at
simonclough@internode.on.net
or by phoning 6624 2894
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Jazz Club Notes

Horns, and all that jazz



The Lismore Jazz Club is honoured to be able to present 'Horn Among the Roses' on Sunday 15 May at the Lismore City Bowling Club from 2pm to 5pm.

'Horn Among the Roses' is a unique combination of extraordinary talents. John Hoffman, legendary flugelhorn player, is joined by Sharny (Russell), singer, songwriter, arranger and keyboardist, and vocalist Elizabeth Lord.

These three brilliant musicians provide spontaneous jazz interpretations from the best of jazz, Broadway and popular standards, beautifully harmonised by

two of the best female voices in the country and John's incomparable horn.

Do not miss the dazzling piano and vocal talents of Sharny with the exquisite warmth of Elisabeth's vocals and the artistry and sensitivity of John.

Prior to this, there will be a return visit by the Northern Rivers Conservatorium Youth Jazz Orchestra. They were a great hit when they performed for us last year and they return with a bigger and better repertoire.

Admission is \$10 members and students and \$15 for non-members. A sausage sizzle will run from 12pm to 2pm.

Harmony and Peace with Elias



Come and heal your heart and the world with the power of music and love!

Elias Harmony and the Peace Collective play songs, chants and mantras from around the world. Elias Harmony is a gifted performer who uses different cultural and musical influences in a style of music that is devotional, but not religious.

The intention of the sessions is to create a healing atmosphere through the elemental vibrations of ancient and modern music.

Elias is a true world citizen. Born in Brunei to a Burmese father and a Phillipino mother, his childhood was a cultural melange of Asian musical influences. As an adult he toured the world playing percussion, and in his mid-20's found himself in India.

It was here that his love for Indian devotional music began. Ancient mantras, sung in the traditional call and response style, struck a chord deep within him. Their timeless sounds were simple yet had great power. He realised that the music of Bhakti (the Sanscrit word to describe devotional love) could transform himself and others.

The Peace Collective are comprised of Tony Hogan on guitar, Peter Walken Brown on harmonium, Hari Bhakti on dhol, (traditional Indian drum), Mal Knight on flute, gorgeous vocals from Lila Aldous, and of course Elias Harmony on vocals and guitar gently guiding the musicians and audience on a musical journey.

On Saturday 7th May, Stokers Siding Dumbible Memorial Hall will be transformed into a magical setting, somewhere between India and Persia, a sacred space for this magic carpet ride. Bring a cushion or mat if you'd like, but traditional seating is available. Doors open at 7pm for an 8pm concert, and the cost is \$15. Cakes and chai will be available, but this is an alcohol- and drug-free event.

Blessing the Earth with Song

by Katrina Ross

One morning recently, a group of 11 adults, three children, a three-week-old baby and one baby-in-belly met at the Living Arts Sanctuary for a morning of song.

We started our circle by singing Shanti Svaha in three-part harmony, focusing on being present after our busy mornings and using the sound to release any tensions, coming to focus on our heart space. Then we began to sing the Earth Mantras. These are simple affirmations of nature and spirit. Three or more different affirmations with different melodies and rhythms are sung together to create an amazing soundscape.

Very soon people are able to hold their part while experiencing the other parts as they relate to each other, dancing in harmony. Once familiar with the parts we can move beyond our minds and lose ourselves in the sound. Today we laughed, sank into the stillness and wept from the sheer beauty of what we created together. It was a wonderful session.

Singing is my joy, my medicine, my meditation, my heart's expression and my connection to the divine. To share this with others and give them the chance to open their hearts and express themselves through sound is a great privilege for which I am eternally grateful.

For the past 15 years I have taught music, written music, and performed and run singing and sacred sound workshops while working as a Steiner kindergarten and music teacher. Earth Mantra is my passion because it allows people to sing together in harmony quickly and easily. The joy, the love, the



peace and the connection with our divine selves can all happen within the first five minutes of a session. Earth Mantra gets the endorphins pumping!

Many participants have found their voices while joining the Earth Mantra singing circle. It is a safe place. They have left with the belief that they can sing. One person today said they heard a voice they did not recognise as their own, it seemed to be coming from their heart.

We finished the session with a sound bath. While the group sang in four parts, accompanied by myself on tamera and someone else on didgeridoo, each person was able to lie down in the middle of the circle and be bathed in the sound. The acoustics in the Living Arts Space are so extraordinary that it sounded like 30 people singing and not all of them human! Needless to say, everyone left feeling very uplifted and blessed to have started their week in such a way.

Earth Mantra will start again in term two on Monday 16th May. It runs from 9.30-11am for six weeks and costs \$60 upfront or \$12 per session. Please let Katrina know if you are interested, phone 6689-7308 or email katrinaross111@hotmail.com



'Sufi Soul' presents a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and art of Indian and Pakistani classical music, which lies at the heart of Sufi culture.

The concert of devotional music will be held at Kaivalya Meru Community, 3981 Kyogle Road, Lillian Rock, on Saturday 21st May.

The program will include bhajans, qawwali music, folk song and Indian classical music.

Tahir Qawal is a passionate and highly skilled performer, having trained with the highest masters of Sufi Qawwali music, who teaches Indian vocal music in the Byron shire and performs world-wide. His powerful voice conveys great depth and

feeling.

Performing with Tahir Qawal and his student and beloved partner Bhairavi Devi (pictured) is special guest from Brisbane, Dheeraj Shrestha, a talented tabla player who performs internationally.

'Sufi Soul' aims to share the beauty of the Sufi culture, bridging east and west through the love of music. Within sufi culture, sound and music are important tools for the believer to get closer to God.

Dinner is available from 6pm, music starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost \$20 and are available at Nimbin Organics, Sphinx Rock Café, or via visionsinharmony@yahoo.com.au

Phone Dana Mynard on 6689-7533 for more info.

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Friday 20th
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Lunch 12-3pm Dinner 6-8pm, Friday 6-8.30pm

sphinx rock café
3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell www.sphinxrockcafe.com

Sunday Gig Guide

1 pm Start

8 May Pepperboys
Local Legends Vic, Dave, Shane and Davy

15 May Loren
Renown acoustic/folk/reggae troubadour

22 May The Eastern
A café coup! Kick ass international band

29 May The Deckchairs
Popular Bris Vegas Band Folk/Progressive/Roots

Licensed cafe with friendly staff, fabulous food, great coffee and excellent vibes.

For more info please contact us
P (02) 6679 7118
E info@sphinxrockcafe.com

Find us on Facebook
Sphinx Rock Café

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in May?

- Saturdays – Trivia Nights – 7pm – Cash Prizes – Back by Popular Demand! –
- Saturday 15th – Club Visit: South Tweed Trippers
- Tuesday 17th – Tweed-Byron Past-Presidents Day
- Social Bowls every Sunday
- Social Membership – \$5 p.a.
- Free Broadband – Over 50's

CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner 7 Days a Week
- Friday Banquets
- Take-Aways phone 6689-1473

Home of the 'Big Bowler'