



## Have you heard about The Grapevine?

### BUSINESS PROFILE

The Grapevine 100% Organic Café is about to morph into a new phase of life.

Anna, David and Ben have been busily researching and resourcing from all the wonderful fresh ingredients in the local area, plus supplementing with superfoods to create an awesome new menu.

From Tuesday 15th November, the cafe will be opened with an 'a la carte' menu, guaranteed to bring a fresh and delicious dining experience for those with time to sit and enjoy.

While for those on the go, deli style items such as Nimbin Organics' legendary pies, lasagne, and salads will

once again be available from the Organic shop next door.

The café layout will be slightly modified to accommodate the changes, but will in essence continue to be inviting and comfortable.

Daytime opening hours will not be affected, but after many requests, the café will also be opening Friday and Saturday evenings from 2nd December to allow you and your friends to enjoy those lovely warm summer twilight evenings.

For those wishing to book end-of-year get-togethers, they will be taking pre-bookings. Just drop in at 50 Cullen Street or ring them on 6689-1445.

# Spruce-up for museum

The future of Nimbin Museum was much discussed on the popular Nimbin Hook Ups Facebook site in the last month. Elspeth and Michael welcome any help to keep the place alive and evolving.

"Unquestionably it can be tiring every day and it's a huge commitment, but lately we have struggled to pay the rent," Elspeth says. "No doubt the museum is looking a bit worn thin in places, but also tourist numbers are down."

Determined to stay open, the pair are going through the place with fresh eyes, with recent enthusiasm by Sue and Greg (pictured) and Amanda making a difference.

"A lot of stuff has reached its use-by date and other displays need a good freshen-up," Elspeth said.

There is a new flier to help explain what the journey is about. "So far the brochure has proved helpful and there are plans for more explanations inside along the path of the Rainbow Serpent," said Michael.

"It's always been more art than museum perhaps and spelling out some things and labelling others may help people to understand what we are on about."

Michael emphasises that volunteers are always welcome, either cleaning, painting or welcoming visitors at the door.

He says he enjoys welcoming travellers to the village as much as anything. "Nimbin attracts a lot of interesting, off the beaten track a little, tourists, and they love talking to locals the same as we did when we spent years wandering



the Planet.

"Often the only local they actually converse with is someone across a shop counter, and one of the reasons we made the museum originally was as a place for visitors and locals to meet each other."

Elspeth says, "It can be like an information centre where the locals tell their own stories, things you'd never hear in a traditional museum. Like the Living Library. Come and enjoy the local coffee, welcome people and give them a living Nimbin experience."

## Aquarius on show

Several houses have been completed in the Aquarius Nimbin development, and the developer, Tareeda Properties, is putting four homes on display at a family Open Day this month.

The development can be accessed from Alternative Way, past the Rainbow Power Company. It's been in the pipeline for several years, since Byron-based managing director John Callanan acquired property, formerly known as the Foulks Estate, in 2006.

The first 10 blocks went on sale in February 2008, and three are left. Publicity at the time of the release said "the eco-village "aims to set the standards for sound environmental living... (and) ...promotes a village lifestyle – based on awareness, choice, efficient design and an appreciation for the environment".

John Callanan and architect Tom Koch hosted a workshop to "imagineer" a village green for community use within the eventual 90-lot development.

John Callanan said he wanted to create a model for living that would set the standards for earth-friendly sustainable housing.

The Family Open Day, to be held on Saturday 12th November 10am – 2pm, is an opportunity to check Tareeda Properties' progress on their aims, as well as to enjoy a fun day with a jumping castle, face-painting and sausage sizzle on the picturesque tract of land, the site of the 1973 Aquarius Festival's main stage.

Everyone attending goes into a raffle for a weekend for two at the Pacific Hotel, Yamba, and anyone over 18 inspecting the houses goes into the hourly draw for a helicopter joy ride.



## Holly has a head start

### BUSINESS PROFILE

Holly Tutin has 11 years' experience in the hairdressing industry and comes directly from an award-winning inner city salon in Brisbane. During the seven years she spent there, Holly was manager for four.

She has developed her skills and specialises in style cutting for men and women, special occasion blowdry, and upstyling. Holly is also a qualified trainer in her speciality and has spent the past six years teaching others in her field.

What is her style and passion? "My personal style comes from a 'client's needs come first' attitude," she said. "I will personalise a style cut for the individual, and cater



for both men and women. I like to find out what inspires my clients and bring that to fruition for them, whether that is a funky modern edge to their style or simply something classic and beautiful."

Prices start from \$45 to \$55 for women and \$28 to \$40 for men.

For appointments call Snipping Heads, phone 6689-1000 for an appointment, every Thursday from the hours of 9.30am to 5.30pm at 76 Cullen St Nimbin.

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### Court win for rally pair

In Lismore District Court Judge James W. Black recently dismissed malicious damage charges against Scott Sledge and Daniele Voinot (pictured), who were prominent campaigners against the Repco Rally car race in the Green Cauldera.

Mr. Sledge said it was alleged that he had written anti-rally slogans on the roads, and police had decided to prosecute.



"The case against us was built on inference and a lot of assumptions," he said. "Judge Black said that no evidence had been tendered to prove the case against us.

He dismissed the malicious damage charges."

Mr Sledge was media spokesman for protestors in the No Rally Group and Ms Voinot was the fundraising committee chair.

Judge Black said there was insufficient evidence to support a conviction and overturned the judgement Magistrate Michael Daikin reached earlier this year.

The couple were represented by lawyer John D. Weller.

## Water key for Cavanaugh

The Clarence Greens candidate for next month's by-election for the seat of Clarence, Janet Cavanaugh (pictured), says protecting precious water supplies from mining pollution will be a key issue for her.

"There is the risk posed by antimony mining on the Dorrigo plateau to the Coffs-Clarence regional water supply and our estuarine fisheries," she said, "and the potential for coal seam gas exploration to drain and poison groundwater reserves as well as wreck important farming land and wildlife habitat."

Anchor Resources, a Chinese company, is proposing to reopen the Wild Cattle Creek mine near Dorrigo with a one-and-a-half kilometre open cut mine.

Wild Cattle Creek flows into the Nymboida River, part of the Clarence River system which supplies water from Sawtell to the Clarence estuary.

Antimony is found with arsenic, and they are released from the ore and clays. Antimony and many of its compounds are toxic, and cause headaches, dizziness, and depression.

According to a 1999 study by the National Academy of Sciences, arsenic in drinking water causes bladder, lung and



skin cancer, and may cause kidney and liver cancer.

The study also found that arsenic harms the central and peripheral nervous systems, as well as heart and blood vessels, and causes serious skin problems. It also may cause birth defects and reproductive problems.

Ms Cavanaugh says mining "needs to be better regulated". The Greens have introduced a bill to create a 12-month moratorium on coal seam gas exploration across NSW, and are calling for a ban on mining within important water catchments.

"The major parties seem unable, or unwilling, to act to protect our land and our water," she said. "This by-election is an opportunity for voters to voice their disapproval by casting their vote elsewhere.

"The new Liberal/National Government has already broken promises, and we're all disappointed by what happened here in Clarence."

"And when it comes to NSW Labor, it is too soon to expect the electorate to have forgiven all the poor and Sydney-centric decisions made under Emma, Rees and Keneally."

Ms Cavanaugh said it was time to send a strong message to both of the major parties that they need to act to protect water supplies, and clean up their own standards "before the electorate should trust them."

Janet Cavanaugh is an engineer and has lived in the Clarence for 20 years, and has family connections to the area dating back several generations.

The Greens have opened a shop front at 65 Walker Street Casino in the Casino Centre Arcade. The office was opened by Greens Upper House MP Jeremy Buckingham on Wednesday.

The Office will be campaign HQ for the duration of the Clarence by-election until polling day on the 19th November. They welcome people calling in and discussing local issues. They would also appreciate any assistance. If you can help, please email Simon on [clarencegreens@yahoo.com.au](mailto:clarencegreens@yahoo.com.au)

## New blood at Park Friends

by Monika Boenigk

After two years of lobbying with the community, organisations and Lismore City Council, the Park Project is still firmly on everyone's agenda.

There is no going back now, especially after it has become evident how thirsty Nimbin people are for recreational outlets within the village, such as the new Skate Park. The crowds around it at any odd time are a sight to behold.

It is only a natural progression to open the surrounding areas for public enjoyment.

We are at the phase of generating funds for purchase of the site (between the caravan park and the Rainbow Power Company) and have been exploring various avenues.

My involvement with the project however, is coming to an end. Sadly, I am leaving the area for personal reasons. Friends of Nimbin Village Park have been able to recruit Terry Beltrame of Nimbin as co-ordinator, and he'll apply his skill and finesse in this particular area.



Seasonal creek at the proposed park site.

Please extend him the same support and assistance I enjoyed, so that the project may soon become reality.

My work with the enthusiastic core-group has been enjoyable and it was my pleasure to chip away at such a worthwhile project. I thank everyone for their support and encouragement, including members of Lismore City Council.

Terry will shortly set a date for a meeting of the working group, and everyone keen to get involved is most welcome.



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# Food festival hits the spot

by Natalie Meyer

Nourishing Nimbin, the local sustainable food festival, marked the end of Food Links funding for the Food Security project.

Around 150 people participated in the event, organized by Nimbin Neighbourhood Information Centre. There were stalls, workshops and fun events for kids, who had fun with the worm farm and lemonade-making workshops, and painted two banners.

Grown-ups got the chance to learn from Ange how to grow organic vegetables. There were also classes on making Keffir cheese with Jenny, processing backyard roosters with Gaz, making BioChar with Dolph, cooking a fine rabbit dish with Jason, growing



grains in the backyard with Ash and making sourdough bread with Guy.

The day ended with a summary of the project, followed by the messing-up of the food mandala, which had slowly taken shape during the day.

The organisers thank all the people who made it happen, especially Ash Jones, Jenny Creasy, Guy Stewart and Tanya Hall.

## In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News



**G**enevieve, our Nimbin Integrated Services Clinical Nurse Practitioner, is currently away on some much deserved leave. She will be back in early December so hang in there folks!

NNIC is open 10am to 4pm weekdays. You can access photocopying (B&W/colour), fax, computers, newspapers and other local and regional information. You can also drop in or telephone for an appointment with one of our welfare workers (emergency relief food vouchers, Telstra vouchers, generalist support, info and referrals) or with the Nurse Practitioner (Drug and Alcohol/Mental Health issues). Phone 6689-1692 or visit [www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

NNIC will be closed over the Xmas period as from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January. At this stage Centrelink agency will be open as usual between 10am and 2.30pm except for public holidays.

**Join NNIC** – your memberships help support our work in the community. Membership is \$5.50 per year. Membership forms available on our website or at out front

desk (posted on request). Support us to support you!

### Upcoming events

#### • Nimbin Women's Dinner

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Nimbin Women's Dinner will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm 'til late. Tix now on sale at NNIC. Tickets are \$10 per person, (dinner and drinks not included). Loads of fantastic women performances, and even a short Zumba session. Get your tix early to avoid missing out on this fabulous event.

#### • Nimbin Community Xmas Lunch

– Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at the Town Hall. Volunteers will be needed on the day to help prepare, serve and clean up on the day. Anyone who wishes to contribute towards the hampers and raffles by donating non-perishable goods or add to the collection of toys for Santa to give away can leave them at the Centre. We are particularly seeking high quality local produce (non perishable) to add to our hampers.

The Nimbin Soup Kitchen would like to acknowledge and thank our major sponsors, The Nimbin Emporium, Charters Hardware and The Nimbin Bakery for their continued support throughout the year.

To all our supporters and soup partakers, thanks for your donations and participation on Friday Soup Day.

### Towards a Sustainable Nimbin

The Food Links funded project is drawing to a close but the project itself will go on. The final project report

will be made available on-line once completed.

Thanks to everyone involved in the **Nourishing Nimbin** – Local Sustainable Food Festival, and to the weather for turning on a very sunny warm day for the event. If you missed out we are planning to do the vent again in 2012.

### Community Food Sustainability Survey

We have commenced collating the results which will be made available on line via our website next months.

**Food Security** meetings are usually (good idea to call us on 6689-1692 and check) on the last Thursday of the month at 5.30pm at the Elmo Room at NNIC, 71 Cullen St – Come around the back steps. Food always welcome!

### Free Home Power Savings Program

The Home Power Savings Program gives people who really need them the tools and insights to take control of their power consumption. LCSA (the Peak body for neighbourhood and community centres in NSW) is pleased to partner with Home Power Savings Program because we believe that those who most need to know how to save on power bills are often the last to be informed.

Home Power Savings is working hard to correct this inequity and enable people who really struggle with their power bills to regain control of this vital expense. Follow the link on our website to find out if you are eligible and what the program may be able to offer you.

# Farmers' markets are super

by Jim Arachne

There are so many advantages for a local community in setting up a farmers' market.

Money tends to stay in the area rather than going to interstate or overseas suppliers, investors and owners.

The UK New Economics Foundation found that "an organic farm's income generated twice as much money for the local economy [on a dollar-for-dollar basis] as a supermarket's income in the same area."

In some instances money spent locally may be worth almost 400% more to the regional economy than money spent out of the area.

Another obvious beneficiary of Farmer's Markets is the farmer. The market can open up an additional income, especially for small scale production, and give higher net profits as the "middle man" is cut out.

Of course the customers benefit as well. Fresh, healthy food, usually picked on the same day, is a hallmark of farmer's markets whereas supermarket produce has long periods between harvest and eventual sale.

A Spanish trial where fresh picked broccoli was held at 1°C for seven days (to simulate refrigerated transport) and a further three days at 15°C (simulating retail display) found that "between 51% and 80% of nutrients were lost."

Markets can also have big social benefits. Psychologists comparing American

supermarkets and farmers' markets found (not surprisingly) that markets are more "friendly, personal, rural, smaller and 'happier'".

A December 2010 survey at Blue Knob market found that seven out of 10 people had met new friends or acquaintances there, and had better networking and social contact.

### Sharing Local Knowledge

If you've missed any of Jenny Creasy's remarkable workshops this year, then November is the chance to catch up. These workshops are unique, hands-on, skill based events. You definitely finish the day with a great deal of practical and immediately useful information.

Jenny's workshops run for the whole day with a start time of 9.30am. Registration is required so contact Jenny on 0488-009-808. Cost of all her workshops is \$75.

- **Saturday 5th November: Haloumi Cheese Workshop – Jenny Creasy**
- **Sat 12th Nov: The Basics of Preparing Nourishing Meals – Jenny Creasy**
- **Sat 19th Nov: To be confirmed.**
- **Sat 26th Nov: Grain Preparation and Sourdough – Jenny Creasy**

All talks are at Blue Knob Farmer's Market, corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Rds., 8km from Nimbin. To hear about future talks and Market news, send your name and email to Jim at [uloborid8@gmail.com](mailto:uloborid8@gmail.com)

# Shared times for good cheer

Gail from the Nimbin Family Centre, Jennifer from the Nimbin Child Care Centre and Maureen from Lismore Child Family Health (pictured) have put their heads together towards a combined effort for parents and carers to help get ready for a happy Christmas season.

"Gift giving does not need to burn holes in pockets – there are so many inexpensive and creative ideas that will make giving gifts fun and give hours of

pleasure for little ones".

Come along on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Child Care Centre for some fun hands-on activities including dough modeling, celebration piñatas and juggling balls.

Morning tea will be provided at 11.15am at the Family Centre for light refreshments including fruit kebabs and party hedgehogs!

There will be fun giveaways, door prizes and lots more so don't miss out.

For more information,



contact Gail on 6689-0423 or Jennifer on 6689-0142.

## Chamber Chat...



**Nimbin**  
Chamber of Commerce

At the September Chamber meeting our new Police Sergeant, Darren Wilson who had previously worked in Nimbin for several years, was invited to discuss issues relating to the recent spate of break ins.

As a result of these discussions, he recommended that it was important for each business to improve their security by installing cameras or alarms (if possible), improve lighting, safely depositing all monies by banking and not leaving cash on the premises and most importantly, reporting incidents.

Businesses also requested a review of footage from the street CCTV cameras relating to these incidents.

Darren also recommended the introduction of the BizKeys system where businesses

register their key holder details with the NSW Police BizKeys secure database in Lismore. Should an incident occur on the property outside of hours, Police are then able to contact the correct person to advise and assist in re-securing the property when required.

For those businesses who wish to participate and register in the BizKeys system, the Confidential Information form is available through the Nimbin Police station or the Post Office.

### Chamber AGM

Members are invited to the Annual General Meeting to be held at Nimbin Bowling Club at 6pm Monday 21 November 2011.

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# Servo re-opens

Nimbin's service station is open again, much to the relief of local residents.

The owners were also very relieved to be back in business, after being closed for over two months while major underground infrastructure work was completed.

Co-owner Bill Henson (pictured) was behind the counter of the freshly painted shop when it reopened at the end of October, and said he was delighted that the expensive works were now complete.

As well as fuel, the auto centre stocks its usual range of oils, gas, groceries and snackfoods, with more lines



being added.

More changes are afoot too, with plans to discontinue supply of the e-gen ethanol fuel in favour of premium unleaded, in response to demand from customers.

# Garden grant for Tuntable school

by Thomas Rose

Tuntable Falls Primary School is one of 50 schools in the state to receive the \$60,000 Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden grant.

The grant (SAKG) is to create a garden and a kitchen on the premises.

The aim of the Kitchen Garden Program is pleasurable food education for young children. The underlying belief is that this holistic approach will positively influence children's food choices and help to encourage healthy eating habits.

The school will soon start to create a 400m<sup>2</sup> garden with an outdoor classroom and a new home-style kitchen.

There will be opportunities for children in all grades to participate in the journey from seed to the dinner plate. Many small hands will be busy planting, digging, harvesting, chopping and cooking.

One of the key aims of this program is to plant the seed of knowledge, passion and enthusiasm for growing and preparing one's own food.

This is a particularly pressing issue in times of food security and growing prices for organic food.

The SAKG is much more than just another garden program. It will be a core

element of the curriculum and it will be tailor-made to the needs of our children.

All key learning areas of the curriculum will be incorporated in this project. The children already have participated in the planning by measuring and designing aspects of the garden layout and by creatively contributing to the beautification of the garden.

All members of the wider community are invited to

become part of this project. Anybody interested, from the passionate gardener to the creative cook, young or old, can become a member of the kitchen and garden project.

Businesses have the opportunity to add their name on the list of friends and supporters of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Grant project.

Please contact the school on 6689-1423, or make arrangements for a visit.



## Fun leads to funds

Tuntable Falls Preschool is presenting another "Fun" draiser at Tuntable Falls Community Centre on Friday 25th November, from 6pm, with delectable hearty Middle Eastern cuisine. Only \$10 for dinner, kids' meals and drinks available.

It is a relaxed, welcoming, super child-friendly, warm atmosphere with kid's activities and entertainment.

All profits go to assist the quality running of the beautiful and thriving Tuntable Falls Preschool.

In Term One a similar event was held. It was a gorgeous night with a very



Toph at preschool

special party atmosphere. We all had a ball – so we are doing it again.

Please come and thoroughly enjoy yourself and support our beloved preschool.

## LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

### Big roll-up for Nimbin Skate Clinic

The October Nimbin Skate Clinic was a huge success with 68 skaters taking part. Skateboarding Australia brought eight coaches to the clinic to work with different skill groups and they reported that participants made plenty of progress on the day. The great atmosphere was helped along by the high level of community support and the big turn out by local parents. The coaches were very impressed with the skate park and commended that there was such a high number of girls skating in Nimbin. On the back of the success of the day, Council is working towards making it all happen again next year. Skateboarding Australia will be uploading a Nimbin Skate Clinic highlights video to their website soon. Check it out at [www.skateboardingaustralia.org.au](http://www.skateboardingaustralia.org.au)

### Council's annual Nimbin Community Forum

Nimbin residents are invited to come along to Council's annual Nimbin Community Forum to be held at the Nimbin School of Arts on Monday, November 21 from 7.00pm and discuss matters of interest with the Mayor, Councillors and senior Council staff. Staff will also make presentations on current projects. For further information, please contact Graeme Wilson on 1300 87 83 87.

### Drainage improvements to continue in Cullen Street

Design plans have been completed for Stage Two of the drainage upgrade works on Cullen Street, Nimbin. Quotes are currently being sourced from suitable contractors to undertake these works. These works are a continuation of Stage One which was completed earlier this year. The project is aimed at alleviating current drainage issues affecting the southern side of Cullen Street in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossing.

It is anticipated that the Stage Two works will be undertaken early in the new year. Affected surrounding businesses owners will be notified prior to these works commencing.

### Cullen Bridge works nearing completion

Works are currently drawing to a close on the construction of the new Cullen Bridge. The new footpath located on the southern side of the bridge is almost finished and then a bitumen seal will be placed at the approaches to the bridge. Once these works have been completed, dismantling of the existing timber bridge structure will commence with a start date yet to be confirmed.

The works are planned to be undertaken within the next two months, weather permitting. Dismantling of the old timber Southwell Bridge will also be undertaken at the same time. Affected surrounding businesses and property owners will be notified prior to these works commencing.

### Limited amount of bridge timber available for community group

In response to the level of community interest in the old Cullen Bridge, Council has arranged to make a limited amount of bridge timber available to a community group should they want it for a monument or some other not-for-profit purpose. The amount of timber is limited and this will be determined by Council.

An expression of interest can be made by emailing [council@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or writing to PO Box 23A, Lismore, NSW, 2480 by COB Friday, November 18. For more information contact Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

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## Megalomania

It was with a growing sense of unease that I read the letters page in the last issue of NGT. Not one, but two letters railing against the megalomaniacal, unsavoury minority element (in other words, the aristocracy), who have control over the various kingdoms, principalities and communities in our area. Good Lord, do these people actually believe that we enjoy ruling, any more than the working class enjoys working? That a life of obscene luxury and privilege in any way compensates for the priceless liberty of no responsibilities? It does not!

They even conjured up the ghost of Benjamin Franklin in an attempt to lend credibility to their treasonous cause; which is ironic as Ben wasn't that keen on communities and sharing. "Mine is better than ours" he would say, when he wasn't saying "Time is money!"

To decide to live within a community is also to decide to give up certain 'liberties'; possibly such things as private land ownership, pet ownership or restrictions on the use of noisy machinery on Sundays. All communities have rules, some more than others. It was the silent majority who made the rules and they expect their designated aristocracy (directors, tribal council, management committee) to uphold them. If this means telling Muriel III that an orange house with lime-green trim would constitute a community eyesore then so be it.

As Ben Franklin would have said: "Any fool can criticise, condemn and complain; and most do."

Prince Robert IX  
of Lillian Rock

## Potholes app

Regarding the "Simon Says" column (NGT, Oct 11), I find it concerning that our supposed leaders take so long to keep pace with life in

the community. I have been espousing this application for quite some time.

Most importantly though, Cr Clough neglected to state that once Council has been notified by photo and GPS location of potholes, that Council is required by law to act within a reasonable time to carry out repairs. If Council fails to address the problem within a reasonable period of time, the Council may be held liable for injury or damages that may be caused by that pothole.

Perhaps to give your photos some perspective, I suggest placing an A4 size piece of paper, maybe with a picture of your favourite or not so favourite councillor on it, in or next to the pothole.

P.S. Do not litter.

Name and address supplied

## Zorbing approval

A new development has come to the sleepy hills around Nimbin: Zorbing, the art of rolling down a hill while suspended inside a clear plastic ball.

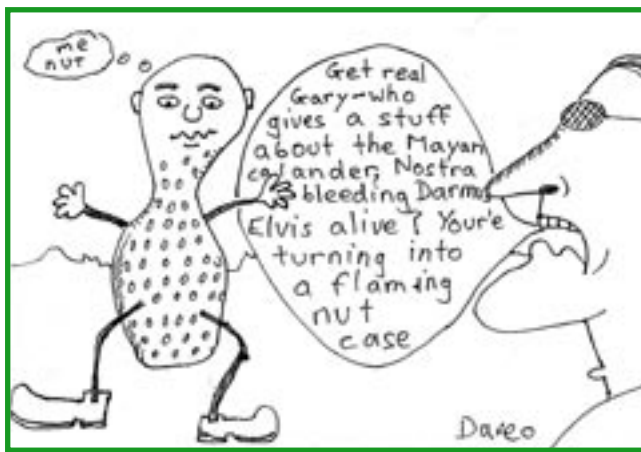
The act of zorbing apparently originates from New Zealand and in true Kiwi fashion it is being exported to Australia. The Gold Coast has a facility and Nimbin is to be the next site thanks to a vote in favour of a zorbing facility at the last Lismore Council meeting.

The facility catering to the backpacker trade has the capacity to cater for up to 200 people per day or 55 people at any one time. Opening hours are virtually all day 364 days of the year on narrow Blade Road, 1.5kms from Nimbin town.

Now while this may well be a suitable development for the Gold Coast, is it a suitable development for Nimbin? After all, didn't we move to the hills around Nimbin for the peace and quiet?

And what's a commercial enterprise doing in a rural zone, you might ask?

The answers to questions



like these led me to decide against the Zorbing facility. Sure Nimbin needs more business and jobs for the locals, but should that be the sole reason for approving development?

Don't we run the risk of losing the very things we came to this area for? Unfortunately there seems to be a desire amongst planning authorities to accept development at the cost of the quality of life of those people who already live here.

I believe the balance needs to be redressed in favour of existing residents and ratepayers to preserve the rural quality of our village life.

Possibly what Nimbin needs is a community discussion about the future direction of tourist development around the town. A genuine discussion between all stake holders to establish the pathway for tourism in Nimbin before we lose what is a unique rural setting.

Cr David Yarnall  
Terania Creek

## Pokie perils

The icy "tentacles" of poker machine addiction are being felt by our community. Interrelate come into contact with some families experiencing the fall out of poker machine addiction, loss of the family home, broken families, fractured relationships with children, poverty, growing debt and theft offences etc. It is interesting to note that Australia has about 20 per cent of the world's poker machines which is extraordinary considering our population is .03 per cent.

I applaud the recent debate, which explores responses to problem gambling and our joint responsibility in

light of this issue. Poker machines revenue does fund infrastructure like roads and hospitals (\$779 million) and for those people who like a flutter it is not an issue.

However, the serious impact is on individual and family who can't stop. In many ways the seduction to some has been described as the crack cocaine of the gambling industry.

The Productivity Commission has estimated the booming gambling industry costs society up to \$2.9 billion annually in associated social problems, outstripping the cost of illicit drugs (\$890 million) and alcohol (\$2.4 billion) as a social problem. A balanced debate is essential to ensure all stakeholders are heard and that we as a community provide the best/ multiple supports for people affected by gambling addiction.

Julie Leete  
Interrelate

## Cannabis withdrawal

I refer to your October item titled "Volunteers wanted for cannabis withdrawal trial." It is not surprising that the clinical trial of lithium for the treatment of "cannabis withdrawal" has not attracted many recruits because such a phenomenon does not exist. It is a syndrome invented and proselytised by a clique of researchers who have persuaded an ignorant government to set up so-called "cannabis clinics" in Lismore and around NSW.

As part of my PhD thesis on the legalisation of medicinal cannabis in NSW I trawled the literature for evidence of withdrawal from cannabis but found that the scientific consensus is that there is none.

I would not mind betting that the recruits to this

## AGMs

### Nimbin Community Centre

Notice to members and others with a passionate interest in the Community Centre the AGM is scheduled for 6pm Thursday 3rd November, 2011 at the Dance Studio, Nimbin Community Centre. Nibbles provided.

### NIM-FM

Nimbin Independent Media Inc. will be holding its 2011 Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10th November at 1pm in the Nimbin Community School room. All members, lapsed members and interested future members are most welcome.

### Aquarius

Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. 2011 Annual General Meeting to be held at 4pm on Friday 25th November in the Community School room of the Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street Nimbin.

## Groups

### Sai Unity Bhajans

1.15 pm Saturday 12th and 26th November, 10th December at Birth & Beyond. Phone Maria 6633-7261.

### Nimbin RFS

Nimbin Rural Fire Brigade has changed its meeting day to the first Monday each month, 6.30pm at the shed. The months will alternate: training (Nov 7th), meeting (Dec 5th) and so forth. No meeting in January.

trial are characterised by dependency and/or poverty in other facets of their lives. Clearly a week's free accommodation and meals would be more attractive to a homeless or indigent cannabis user than to one wealthier. Moreover many of these recruits will be addicted to other drugs, especially tobacco and the withdrawal they experience is from those drugs and not from cannabis.

As to the use of lithium, there is no good evidence that it is efficacious for cannabis "withdrawal" though there is abundant evidence that, over the long period of its use, it has been found to have dangerous side effects which is why it is no longer used as it was formerly for psychiatric and psychological conditions.

There is no justification for this treatment which is based on flawed research as I have conclusively shown in my analysis of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Council in my thesis.

The north coast community and taxpayers would be better served if the needless millions poured into

this furphy was spent on legalising medicinal cannabis which really would help thousands of seriously ill patients and for which there is a large body of evidence in support.

Dr Graham Irvine

### Balderstone supporter

I have noticed with concern the continuing personal attacks by Adrian Williamson on Michael Balderstone in the media. He really has got a bee in his little bonnet, hasn't he? Somehow he draws a clear connection between Michael and all the changes that have occurred over the years in Nimbin.

We all loved Nimbin in the 70's and 80's. It was the centre of so much action, change, love and innovation. Whether it was birth, education, food, health, arts, environmentalism, alternative energy, multiple occupancy and, yes, drugs, we charged well ahead of the pack. Even the pub was filled with ideas. We just about staffed Southern Cross University, we had more alternate schools than any other rural community, and

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## Next Market 13th November

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Enquiries: 6688-6433

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## Trailer theft: reward!

The custom-built Jungle Patrol community safety trailer, which was housed at the Nimbin Tip, has been stolen – hitting the town's rubbish-collection service.

The president of Jungle Patrol, David Hyett, said it was "a crime against the community of Nimbin".

The trailer was purpose-built to take Nimbin's rubbish bins from the main street to the tip on a daily basis. "This piece of equipment is essential to us fulfilling our obligations to council under our street-cleaning contract," David said.

The trailer was only one year old, and was purchased at a cost of almost \$8000.

The chain and padlock on the tip gate were removed with an angle grinder and the trailer was taken.

David said Jungle Patrol had a good reputation for keeping the streets clean and assisting with Mardigrass traffic and crowd management. Jungle Patrol recently donated \$2000 to the Friends of Nimbin Skate Park and are in the process of buying a gas stove for the Aboriginal space in the community centre.

David says the loss of the trailer will curtail any donations or grants to community organizations until Jungle Patrol recovers. "We have no choice but to purchase another trailer, and we have serious concerns about the crime being repeated," he said.

Jungle Patrol is offering a reward of \$500 for information leading to the recovery of the trailer. The thieves are asked to reconsider their actions and contact David on 0418-824-598 to arrange return of the trailer.

Good karma can be restored...

Jungle Patrol is a non-profit community organization that employs three street cleaners and a bookkeeper; a volunteer committee administers Jungle Patrol.



would not have happened.

So, I would say to Adrian if you don't like it, you can keep on this track, or move towns, or become part of a movement for change. If the village stood together it may just forge something new and lead the way in important social changes. But to continue to carp on and on with personal attacks as though one person is responsible for the changes in Nimbin that you don't like, and if that one person shuts up the clock will instantly be turned back, shows that your position is based on a simplistic, narrow minded blame game.

I would say to Adrian, move beyond the personal, you will find a whole satisfying world out there.

Name and address supplied

### NimCoC campaign

Is Adrian Williamson serious? The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce (NIMCoC) has produced a "fresh new logo and advertising campaign" to attract more tourists to town? And here I was thinking that town was wash with them. In my opinion, the time and resources of NIMCoC would be put to better use getting right behind the biggest event on the Nimbin calendar, MardiGrass. Why leave control of the biggest influx of tourists each year, 1/10 of the annual total in one weekend, to a single, not-for-profit organisation staffed by volunteers.

In the light of Andrew Kavasilis's article last issue, perhaps it's time for NIMCoC to give Balderstone and the M.O.B. a bit of a hand; step up to the plate and shoulder their share of the load.

Bob Tissott  
Nmbnjee

### Balders beautiful

Oh! For goodness sake Adrian, what is this thing you have going for Balderstone? At first your slugging was faintly amusing but that has long worn thin and your carping has just become tiresome, and more to the point; inaccurate.

To set the record straight Mike has never been the self proclaimed Mayor of Nimbin, it was I who named him that several years ago and the title just sort of

stuck: He never calls himself Mayor and often curses me for entitling him as such.

When officials come to town; politicians, the media or religious figures, they invariably seek out Michael because although he has some strange and silly ideas he also has honesty and integrity; you may not agree with what he says but there is little doubt in anyone's mind that he truly believes in it.

In the end, that's why they seek him out, that's why they talk to him. I suspect that this is the point; the reason you hate the man so much; you think they should be coming to talk to you. But you blew it Adrian; back when you ceased being Nimbin's real estate agent after irregularities were found in your use of trust funds, you lost the ability to command respect and, might I be so bold, you also abrogated your right to condemn others for lack of proper ethics.

I think it best Adrian that you hop back in your box and hope you're not noticed any more than is absolutely necessary and cease your hypocritical rants. We the community won't forget about you but at least we won't be forced to remember your anti-social nature on a monthly basis.

And while I'm at it; Bob Dooley, you should be ashamed of yourself for giving the fool so much oxygen. He doesn't represent anyone in the community but himself and you just like to see a good old barney played out in your otherwise pretty good rag. You should know better and you can do better.

Gerald Taylor  
aka the Goddess  
Larnook

### Balders bites back

I should thank Adrian Williamson for keeping me on my toes with his vitriolic letters! As the Buddha supposedly said, "regard the one who reveals your faults as the one who tells you about a hidden treasure."

But behind the anger I hear his concern about Nimbin too often in the news on pot stories. The media love pot stories, and I suspect they are a little sympathetic! They're also great for ratings I believe.

The bong story you go on about was entirely initiated by them following a news release that Victoria was changing its bong laws.

And the Hemp Olympix Orchy bottle bong throw event is a totally consistent message from the Embassy. As Professor Ross Fitzgerald said this week, "Inhaling hot plastic vapours will make more young adults sick than the dope will."

Anyway, why don't you just come and talk with me Adrian, resident of Nimbin village that you are. I never see you, you hardly know me and you keep getting your facts wrong.

Michael Balderstone

### Weeds as Regenerators

When Triny Roe (NGT, Oct 11) says that "prickly pear grew rampantly in areas that were not in need of soil protection", she might detail which land this is.

Agricultural land generally suffers for the lack of organic matter return, because of widespread use of artificial fertilisers and because food nutrient is not returned to farming land with W.C. use, forested land suffers because minerals and nutrients are exported with its logs, and even urban backyards are depleted because of 'green waste' wheelie bins.

Where is the land in Australia not in dire need of protection?

Triny's statement, "If there were no introduced plants (weeds) present, the native plants would step up to the job" is a case of putting the cart before the horse. Introduced plants occur in response to land degradation and are land healers, improving soil arguably for the best return of native vegetation. Weeds

are merely responding as the best agency for this job and are therefore not a cause of land degradation.

The smothering of natives in this North Coast region can be seen to occur because the smothered trees are not part of a largely vine-immune forested area, but mostly appear on the edge. It is by looking at adjoining land-use activity that there is potentially the solution for vines. It is not by deciding that vines are bad.

The idea that monoculturing by nature is something wrong, is expressed by a people who became technologically dependent by believing nature inadequate or imperfect, and there is no proof of that. Nature will attempt monoculture as its first means of degradation reversal when conditions are extreme.

If you want a war with weeds to end, look to the causes of weeds rather than drop into the short-term animal consciousness that has been quick to see the killing of anything as a solution to problems.

Chemical-free bush regeneration accepts the regenerative capacity of "weeds".

Geoff Dawe,  
Byrrell Creek  
Edited for length – Ed.

### Correction

In the October edition, the poem *Spell Check* (page 18) was incorrectly attributed to Peter Osmonde. It was written by Margo Roark, in response to, and using the first verse of a longer poem, *Candidate for a Pullet Surprise* written by emeritus professor of biology Jerrold H. Zar and Mark Eckman in 1992.

helped save more forest and wilderness than we could have hoped for.

But things change, and Nimbin has changed too. So has every hippy nirvana. Byron has drifted from sleepy, hippy surfing town to yuppie property developer continuing schoolies vomit fest. Bellingen is so twee, it is hard to tell it apart from Bangalow. And Nimbin has become a bit of a madhouse on the main street with drugs the main industry.

And being realistic, with the benefit of hindsight, the drug law reform movement has had something to do with that. Nimbin is the home of Mardi Grass, Nimbin Hemp, the Hemp Party and a centre of drug activism. Perhaps that is because all of the other movements that defined Nimbin have become part of the mainstream to some extent - think health food, home birth, community schools - but drugs have

remained illegal and policed. Perhaps there is a honey-pot effect.

But whatever the reason, to suddenly stop talking about and fighting for drug law reform would not return Nimbin to some pre-90's hippy town. The die has been cast, and they cannot be turned back. Nimbin of yesteryear is gone, just as it is for Byron and Bellingen. The only way Nimbin will stop being a honey pot for drug use and dealing is if they change the drug laws.

And Nimbin Hemp can be rightly proud of its achievements. It has been a pivotal part of a movement that has brought us the cannabis cautioning system, drug courts, youth drug courts, MERIT programs. The whole agenda has shifted from drugs as a legal problem to drugs as a health problem, and without the fringe group pushing at the radical end of the equation these changes

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