

WALL STREET – OCCUPIED TERRITORY

The Occupy Wall Street movement is spreading across the world, and Nimbin artist and activist **Benny Zable** is in the thick of the action. He has been involved in the planning, watched the policing, talked with the protesters and last week made a stand on his home-town's behalf – complete with Greedozer costume – on his 66th birthday.

"We're hoping it will go viral all over the world to occupy public space and develop a movement with everyone to bring on the changes we are asking for to heal our planet," he said.

He sends this 'activist diary' from the Big, but apparently rotting, Apple.



From Benny Zable in New York City

21st September

It is wet and windy here at the Occupation of Wall Street encampment in Zuccotti Park, a stone's throw from the Ground Zero 9/11 site in the heart of New York City's financial district.

The park is surrounded by police. The city is crawling with police. Scare announcements are blared out on the subway, commuters are told to report suspicious activities. The campers here are mainly very young. They are organising training, workshops, legal support, media outreach, feeding the people. Major decisions are made by consensus.

I have visited this camp twice. One of the campers, Cary Robyn, wearing a Sea Shepherd T-shirt, inquired about Nimbin. Actually, this park has been transformed into a Nimbin. I missed the rally on Wall Street and the beginning of the occupation of Zuccotti Park. I am balancing performing tasks for the West Side Cultural Center, which hosts me, and attending meetings organizing the vigil for International Peace in Central Park. I am also helping design the NO NUKES rally on 1st October (my 66th birthday) with Helen Caldicott and a who's-who of the movement here. What is taking place in this park downtown is major as the greed economy here is in decline and business as usual rules the world from here. President Barack Obama is in town at the UN.

26th September

Peaceful protesters need our support while camping outside in a park along Broadway and Liberty Streets, NYC.

THINK GLOBALLY – ACT LOCALLY. What is happening here will affect civil rights worldwide. Global solidarity with Occupy Wall Street. Only we can get the real story out.

This is a university without walls, educating us about what's happening to our civil rights.

1st October

My 66th birthday. I start the day helping set up the Nuclear Free US and Canada protest rally at the Hudson Valley Park.

After the rally I'm heading downtown to Occupy Wall Street, which best described as a Rainbow Gathering, taking up a whole city block in the heart of the financial district of New York.

You could not ask for a better setting for us aging peace activists, joining the growing breed of young peace activists, holding fort in the financial centre of the world. Birthday attire will be my Greedozer costume, with activist





friends wearing the rad suits and carrying my flags into the centre of New York City.

2nd October

Occupy Wall Street-type actions are taking place around the US. I spent all day at Liberty Plaza doing my gas mask GREEDOZER work-consume number, promoting the Nuclear Free rally.

I set up among the signs in the morning and kept going up till 6pm. Cameras everywhere were clicking, taking in this awesome happening. Michael Moore visited the site last weekend, and a growing revolution is in motion.

When I eventually got back to the West Side on the subway, streams of marchers were going around, mixed in with commuters and police making sure the protesters didn't





spill out onto the roadway.

A military spokesman came on TV, indicating that military action could be used to terminate this uprising if it gets too big to handle. The unions came in to support the occupation of Wall Street. More than 100 police officers are actively supporting the occupation.

The drumming circles are getting larger. In camp there is a kitchen where food is dropped off and prepared for the people. The centre of the occupation has an operating legal team, art collective, assembly calls, information stand. People just drop down and sleep all over the place in this soup of action.

Today I will be helping with the setting up of the Nuclear Free World demo, which we plan to take on after the occupation of Wall Street.



Adam, a Byron Bay guy, is leading a meditation at #occupywallstreet. I have met a few from our region taking part in this uprising.

It is 4.30am and I just can't get a decent sleep in this city that humps and bumps 24/7. Tomorrow I am helping set up the Rally for a Nuke-Free World. Then we all go over to #occupywallstreet at Liberty Plaza.

3rd October

Melbourne is planning to march in solidarity with us in New York.

As we are hoping it will go viral all over the world to occupy public space and develop a movement with everyone to bring on the changes we are asking for to heal our planet. Suggest to get together on doing a similar march which ends up as an occupation camp.

