



Skate Boarding Australia and Lismore City Council will be running another free skate clinic in Nimbin on Sunday 10th June between 9am and midday.

Professional coaches Dylan, Flavio and Tooza will be there to help enthusiastic skaters of all ages master their skills. Free use of protective gear and skateboards by SBA is also available during the clinic. Register at 8.30am.

A free barbecue will follow the clinic, courtesy of Friends of Nimbin Skatepark, who will also have Nimbin Skatepark T-shirts for sale on the day.

Come along and join in the fun.

Brisbane solidarity with Julian Assange

by John Jiggins

Supporters of internet activist Julian Assange held a vigil in solidarity outside the Foreign Affairs office in Brisbane on May 30 as the ruling on his appeal against extradition to Sweden was announced.

Foreign Affairs has been accused by Assange and his mother, Christine, of failing in its duty to represent Assange, an Australian citizen.

Anti-war activist Ciaron O'Reilly, who has recently returned to Brisbane from London where he accompanied Julian Assange at over a dozen court appearances in the last 18 months, told the crowd, "US secretary of State, Hillary Clinton is visiting Sweden hours after the verdict. This visit is the first bilateral visit to Sweden by a US Secretary of State for a very long time according to the Swedish Foreign Minister and was only announced after the Supreme Court decision on Julian's extradition was publicly released last week. Draw your own conclusions."

Ciaron O'Reilly fears Clinton's visit to Sweden was to deliver the United States request for extradition of



Julian Assange flanked by supporters Ben Griffith, UK Veterans for Peace (left) and Ciaron O'Reilly.

Assange. WikiLeaks has revealed that a secret US Grand Jury indictment awaits Assange with a probable follow-on extradition to the US to face prosecution for conspiracy and espionage over the release of diplomatic cables.

O'Reilly, who served a year in US prisons for a Ploughshares action that damaged a B52 bomber in New York during the first Gulf War, and more recently, was acquitted in Ireland of \$US2.5 million damage to a US war plane en route to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, called on the anti-war movement to defend Assange:

"Throughout my years of imprisonment for non-violent anti-war activity I have learnt the significance of simple acts of human solidarity in sustaining the spirit of the anti-war resister in chains or the dock.

"All of us who marched and acted against these wars in our millions in 2003, implicitly incited Bradley (Manning), Julian and others to non-violently expose and resist these wars. By doing so, we now have an implicit obligation to accompany Bradley, Julian and other brothers and sisters who now find themselves in chains as consequence of non-violently

exposing and resisting these wars. Julian, Bradley and others are in chains and electronically tagged for us. We're on the loose for them!"

In London, Veterans for Peace UK, London Catholic Workers and others supporters, such as journalist John Pilger, were also demonstrating in solidarity. John Pilger declared that the attempt to extradite Assange was unjust and political. Assange has not been convicted of any crime, yet he has been the object of character assassination and highly political smear.

As the *London Independent* has revealed, Sweden and the US have already begun talks on Assange's "temporary surrender" to the US – where he faces concocted charges and the prospect of unlimited solitary confinement. And for what? For telling epic truths."

Assange's legal team have two weeks to appeal the court's ruling and reopen the case on a legal technicality. If that fails, Assange's last hope before being shipped to Sweden is an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

Ciaron O'Reilly will speak in Nimbin on the Assange case in July.

NEMBC visits NIM-FM



by Bob Tissot

A couple of weeks ago, Bec Zajac, the membership organiser for the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcaster's Council, flew up from Melbourne to meet with NIM-FM's Ethnic Broadcasters.

It was love at first sight when Bec said, "With four ethnic programs, NIM-FM is one of the NEMBC's valued

member stations, and is a vital part of the NEMBC's member base."

Well, there was a palpable crush as our presenters enthusiastically renewed their financial credibility within the NEMBC.

The station's management team acknowledged the great job the NEMBC does as it fights to give ethnic minorities a greater voice within their local communities.

Keeping the 'media factory' in community hands

Prior to 1973, 54 Cullen Street, known variously today as Birth & Beyond, the Environment Centre and the Apothecary, was home to the Nimbin branch of the RSL. The building was purchased by the Australian Union of Students (AUS) and was then known as the Media Factory. It was used as an organisational centre and media hub for the 1973 Aquarius Festival. After the festival the AUS transferred the building to a group of Aquarian stayers for \$500.

At that time the building was in a very dilapidated state and was kept standing over the next decade thanks to the contributions and effort of numerous community volunteers. Contributions to upkeep also came in the form of grants from the Dept. of Youth & Community Services. In 1983 Birth &



Beyond received a government grant of over \$80,000 to restore the building and, primarily as a consequence of this funding, the building is in the condition we see it today. For 40 years the building has been used to assist or subsidise community purposes on a 'no profit' basis.

Now three of the title holders, with four shares between them, want to "cash in" the asset they hold. It is currently valued at about \$450,000. They say they own the building outright, not as trustees for the community. Gael Knepper

and Co-Ordination Co-Operative (known to many as Tuntable Community) are the defendants in the resulting litigation. They have joined with Nimbin Community Centre Incorporated to keep the building, or at least the value added by the community, in community hands.

Nimbin's unique (Aquarian) village atmosphere, with so many buildings held in the community's trust, is one of the characteristics of our village and surrounding regions that make us unusual. It shows how we are resisting the 'greed is good' paradigm of property speculation and, like our historical pioneers, trying to keep homespun values of caring and sharing alive. It is part of the 'health' of our community and sets an example to inspire others.

The campaign to keep 54

Cullen Street as a community resource is presently the subject of a legal challenge in the Supreme Court. The defendants are now required to 'specifically identify the scope, quantum and nature of the alleged donation of materials and voluntary labour'. To this end we are seeking your input.

If you have ever donated your time or materials to work on improvements, repairs or maintenance of 54 Cullen Street from 1973 to the present, or know of others who have, we would like to hear from you. If you have charged your labour at a cheaper rate or provided discounted materials in support of the building being in community hands we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Diana Roberts on 6689-1648 or 0427-886-748.

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MardiGrass was ruined for a young group of German backpackers when their hire car failed to take the approach to the bridge on Thorburn Street, sparking calls for safety rails to be installed.

The accident, which occurred on the evening of Friday 4th May, resulted in one occupant being transferred to a Gold Coast hospital with neck injuries.

This is the latest in a series of incidents in which people have fallen off the bridge on their way to or from the two popular tourist accommodation venues nearby.

Council has so far responded by placing reflective bunting at the approaches to the bridge, but it is clear that a longer-term solution needs to be found.

New mobile phone tower for Nimbin?

Telstra is planning to install a new mobile telecommunications facility in Nimbin, due to the existing base station at Mount Nardi almost reaching full capacity.

Telstra Area General Manager Sue Passmore said, "The amount of data being carried on the network continues to double every year, largely due to the popularity of smart-phones and tablets. While the existing base station has been expanded to meet demand on the network, this is no longer enough."

Telstra has identified a location on High Street for its 40-metre monopole, and made an approach to property owner Kevin Soward, but he has said, "We will not agree to this happening until this proposal has been debated by groups representing our Nimbin community."

Concerns have been raised about health issues

related to electro-magnetic radiation, and also the visual impact of the tower.

However, the issue of mobile and broadband connectivity has been identified as a key issue in relation to the future viability of the community in the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan, developed by the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre (NNIC).

NNIC team leader Natalie Meyer said, "As a community we need to be strategic around how to achieve upgrades with the most minimal impact."

Ms Passmore said Telstra would consult with the community about the best location for the new base station with the aim of increasing mobile capacity and meeting community expectations, and is planning a community session to seek input. It will advertise details of this session in June.



Lismore's 7000-strong anti-CSG rally brought together people from all walks of life in an extraordinary spirit of community unity, to express their determination to oppose CSG mining, and to dance!



CSG protests rain on Beef Week parade

by Daniel-John Peterson

I remember when parades were a chance to show how proud you were of your unique and valued 'style of passion'. At least that was my childhood memory of Beef Week. Aah, those were the days. However, that memory was clearly not what I saw on Saturday 26th May this year in good-old Casino.

"Bizarre." That was the word my co-workers used on Monday to respond to my description of the Beef Week parade. In this parade I participated as a member of the (carbon-negative) Lock the Gate Alliance walking float. Our float was the largest float in the parade and I was feeling good. But as we made our way along Walker Street with an admiring crowd cheering us on, I was taken aback by the sight of the Metgasco float. You read that right, a Metgasco float, consisting of two flat bed 20+ tonne trucks.



The first truck was carrying a single row of about 30 middle-aged women, waving and trying to smile. Needless to say, they didn't do much waving in our direction.

The second Metgasco truck carried a very neat and tidy display of full-sized steel pipes. In a macabre kind of way, they alluded to beauty. The way the pipes were so deliberately and symmetrically tied down was almost art-like in style. However 'pride' was not what I saw on the truck driver's stone-cold face, in the air-conditioned cab of his Metgasco truck. Confusion perhaps, disconnection certainly, but pride it was not.

At that very moment I woke



suddenly from my industrial delirium and realized how profoundly surreal this whole scene was. What on Earth was a bunch of regular townsfolk and visitors doing, gawking at this mining machinery? Have we gone completely insane?

This was absolute shameless

economic self-promotion at its very worst. This year's parade looked more like a real-life version of the capitalist propaganda we normally associate with television. A very long way from a celebration of the best our town can offer.

I look forward to next year's Beef Week parade, to see how things have changed yet again, and I strongly encourage everyone to come and check it out. And if you can, be proud. It's a microcosm of the macrocosm – a fantastic opportunity.



Nimbin Aquarius Towards 2013 Nimbin Hall meeting



Nimbin is to mark next year's 40th Anniversary of the 1973 Aquarius Festival with its own calendar.

About 30 people attended a meeting in the Nimbin Hall on Wednesday 23rd May to discuss the development of the illustrated 2013 Nimbin Calendar.

Organisers Katie Cawcutt and Benny Zable said that rather than a retrospective of the festival, the calendar will feature present day images to illustrate themes growing out of Nimbin's history and developments since the Aquarius Festival.

The 12 illustrated categories planned to be developed for the calendar are:

January: Bundjulong Nation, Welcome to country.
February: Mind, body, spirit, health.
March: Young and old.
April: Arts, Woodstock

Nimbin connection.
May: The merry month, protest and celebration.
June: Environment, permaculture, sustainability vision.
July: Alternative energy.
August: Story of the town
September: Nimbin Show and market.
October: Community and lifestyle.
November: Music, film, fashion, local industries.
December: Festivals and world peace.
This list was further fleshed out by those attending the meeting.

The aim is to have details of the calendar finalised by September in order to give plenty of time for printing and distribution before the beginning of 2013.

Other postings can be seen on the Facebook site: Nimbin Aquarius Towards 2013.

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Gumnut House news

Nimbin's own Childcare Centre, Gumnut House at 81 Cullen Street, has a new director. Christina Schaumann has worked at the Nimbin Childcare Centre as a Bicultural Support Worker once a week since last October, before taking on the role of the director in May.

Christina was the coordinator of an Out of School Hours Service for six years, and before then, lived in Germany where she worked in several childcare centres in Munich.

The Gumnut House is programming accordingly to the new national Early Years Learning Framework 'Belonging, Being and Becoming' for children between birth and 5 years. "I'm looking forward to working with the Nimbin children and parents. It's fantastic to have the opportunity to work in such a multicultural and diverse community."

The Nimbin Childcare Centre is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm and runs educational programs and activities for children from 6 months to 5 years. It is staffed with qualified and very experienced educators.



Permanent as well as casual bookings are welcome. The fee per day per child is a very affordable \$14.

"We also run a Playgroup on Tuesdays and Fridays between 9.30 - 11.30am where parents and their children can join us for some quality play time. This gives them the chance to socialise with other children and parents and can be a gentle way of introducing them to centre based child care and education."

The Playgroup sessions are free of charge.

To find out more about the Nimbin Childcare Centre or to book your child/ren in please call the friendly staff on 6689-0142 or email: nimbin@yourfamilydaycare.com.au

In your neighbourhood...



Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News
Website: www.nnic.org.au

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to community members. For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our CWWs for referrals.

7 Sibley Street

Fantastic work by all involved to secure this site for the Sustainability House project. We hope to see you at the Community Forum on the 16th of June, 2pm at the Town Hall, to begin scoping the project in more detail.

The property will be open for community inspection between 12.30pm and 1.30pm on June 16, before the forum. See our website for the bank account details for donations. Please get your pledged funds in! Please also try and tell at least one new person about the project and encourage them to a) donate and b) come along to the forum.

Post harvest processing equipment library

The slab has gone down for the new shed and library memberships are now open. To join you need to join NNIC (if not already a member) plus pay a one off library joining fee (\$55 inc GST). There will be an annual renewal fee of \$21.50. Membership will entitle you to unlimited use of the equipment (subject to bookings) with no hire fees or deposits.

Drop into NNIC and complete the application form and the terms of agreement form. Or else download these from our website (or ask us to email them to you) and send them into us. Bookings will be via our front desk.

Funds taken in the form of library membership fees will be used to maintain the equipment and insurances, as well as to keep purchasing new equipment to add to the library over time.

Nimbin community grain mill

Zone One has closed down in the village, so the mill will be relocating during the week, which we are currently negotiating. So watch this space and our website for more info. Meantime the mill will continue to operate at the Blue Knob Farmers



Market on Saturday mornings. Thanks heaps to Annette who is taking on responsibility for the operation of the Mill.

Food security meetings

Next meetings are on: Thursday 21st June and Thursday 19th July. All meetings held at 6pm at NNIC's Elmo room. Come around the back steps and food is always welcome. We have a lot of work to go ahead with so new members always welcome.

100% Ready Clean Energy Forum

Tuesday 12th June, 6pm at Lismore City Bowling Club - by the Nature Conservation Council, featuring the Nimbin Community Solar Farm. Free event - register on website.

Telstra tower

Some community members may have heard about a new Telstra mobile phone tower proposed for the village. The owner of the property is not willing to allow this to go ahead without community agreement.

The issue of mobile and broadband connectivity was identified as a key issue in relation to the future viability of the community in the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan. Without upgrades, the risk is that we are left behind as a community and people trying to run home businesses and young people in particular may be driven out of our community.

As a community we need to be strategic around how to achieve upgrades with the most minimal impact. It is hoped that the community will get the opportunity to explore the issues in a lot more detail via a constructive consultation process.

Join NNIC Now!

When NNIC applies for funding or writes submissions on behalf of the community, the first thing that funding and other key external bodies want to know about is our membership base. These bodies consider the membership base of an organisation to be the primary way of measuring the extent to which we represent the Nimbin community. Thus your memberships help support our work in the community.

Membership is \$5.50 per year. Membership forms available on our website or at our front desk (posted on request). Support us to support you!

Baby blessings

We would like to welcome Sarah Phoenix to our Nimbin Family Centre. Sarah will be holding the baby playgroup (for children aged under 2 years) on Tuesdays.

Gail will be holding the toddler playgroup on Fridays (for children under school age). Both the baby and toddler playgroups will be held each week during school term. Doors are open between 9.30am and 1.30pm.

We hope you can join us for a chat and play in our safe, open-minded, friendly and



Mums Nerelle Draisma and Sigrid Van Iersel admire the Nimbin baby beads.

welcoming groups. For more information contact Gail or Sarah on 6689-0423.

Nimbin Preschool and Child Care Association Inc.

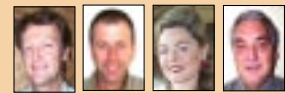


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Chamber Chat...



by Eugenie Stephans, Secretary

Launch of Business After Hours

These days it's all about business networking. If you are starting a new business, or refreshing your existing business, people are loving having a bit of a celebration in honour of their hard work - and Nimbin Chamber of Commerce think there is no better way to network than having Business After Hours.

On Monday 28th May, the Chamber, in conjunction with the Nimbin Hotel, hosted the first Business After Hours event. It was well attended by 30 businesses and guests including Councilor Isaac Smith, Deputy Mayor and Glenn Costello, Marketing Manager of Tursa Employment and Training. Glenn gave an overview of services available by Tursa and the importance of business networking and supporting one another.

From this first night, it was clear that Nimbin businesses are very keen

to network and socialise. Capitalising on this is a great way to build business relationships as well as get your name out there - and it does not have to cost businesses an arm and a leg to join the Chamber and participate in these business networking events. Membership fees are payable at Nimbin Tax & Accounting.

Our thanks to the Nimbin Hotel, catering by Hummingbird Bistro sponsored by Tursa and lucky door prizes donated by OzKat Clothing, Nimbin Soap Factory and Nimbin Visitor's Centre.

On the night, the topic of another festival for Nimbin was raised for discussion. The response from those present was passionate to say the least, with most conveying their thoughts and ideas, which clearly reflected the desire for another festival in Nimbin.

At this stage, the only planning of future events other than our yearly MardiGrass is the Aquarius Foundation which is currently planning

events throughout all of 2013 for the 40-year anniversary of the Nimbin Aquarius Festival.

Organising another successful event for Nimbin requires many things such as funding, council approval, business support, and mainly the energy of many collective souls. This said, we extend the invitation to the entire Nimbin community for persons wanting to get involved with the planning and management of the Village's next festival.

Be it a spring festival, sustainability, local produce, music, visions of Nimbin, or all of the above, the Village needs your involvement! There is local support from local business and some funding available through Lismore Council. The rest will be up to the committee to plan, raise funds and submit any development applications to council.

So, if you are passionate and have the belief, time, and desire to get involved with such a project, please email your contact details to eugenie11@hotmail.com

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Tuntable Falls Primary School kitchen garden project

Our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Project is progressing well at our beautiful school. With the support of parents and volunteers from Djanbung Gardens, we managed to commence our first plantings and build our first raised bed.

Thank you to everyone for all the commitment and hard work. The garden is taking shape and the kitchen is almost finished, and we are slowly but surely thinking of the big opening day in the near future...

but there are more beds to be built, soil to be moved into the garden, paths to be constructed and the green house to be fitted.

Everyone from the wider community is invited to participate and be part of an exciting program that will form the basis of our curriculum at our unique primary school.

The structure and philosophy of this program lends itself to learning that relates



to health, physical education, wellbeing and personal development. This will be at the heart of the curriculum of our school.

Please feel free to come along at any time and visit Tuntable Falls Primary School to wonder and appreciate what a group of committed parents can contribute to the education of their children.

Nimbin Preschool is a place for listening

As we listen closely, we discover so many ways to connect. In the following conversation, we come to a place we had never been before and which created a new possibility.

Gryff (aged 3) asked a question: "How did it get cold?" This generated much discussion between a small group of children (aged 3-5 years) and Kylie, their teacher.

Oki: Because the sky is up and the sky is making it cold. Winter is nearly coming.

Kylie: What brings the winter?
Oki: When the sun goes down it gets dark and dark and dark and dark and the wind doesn't come and only it's cold when it's dark. The wind is so strong. But it doesn't blow boys or girls away.

Gryff: Metal doesn't blow away.

Oki: Plastic bags blow away, but not my plastic skateboard.

Kylie: Why not?

Oki: Because it's got strong metal wheels

that stop it blowing.

Eden: Screw drivers don't blow away.
My tool box doesn't blow away.

Kai: A kite blows away.

Oki: Paper blows away.

Eden: Spider webs blow away.

Gryff: Water can blow away.

Makani: Birds don't blow away.

Oki: I think the birds are cold.

Eden: No, they get a leaf in their nest and get warm.

Oki: Some people put jackets on.

Kylie: Do birds put jackets on?

Eden and Oki laugh.

Eden: We could make them paper jackets.

Eden and Oki then design paper jackets for birds.



Eden's design for a bird's jacket

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

NIMBIN WATER SUPPLY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Lismore City Council is seeking community feedback about three options identified for the possible future upgrade of the Nimbin Water Supply. While this issue largely affects residents connected to the water supply located in Gungah, Tuntable Falls, Kirkland, Basil and Weismantel Roads, Lismore City Council wants the whole community to have an opportunity to provide comment and invites interested people to a public information session on Thursday, June 21.

Council's Strategic Engineer Rod Haig will give a presentation on the options available for the upgrade of the Nimbin Water Supply, including explanations of the engineering issues involved and the costs associated with each option.

A feedback sheet will be provided to people who attend so they can have a say on the option they prefer and provide comment to Council. People who are unable to attend can obtain information and feedback sheets at the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre or from Council's website.

The public information session on the proposed upgrade of the Nimbin Water Supply will be held on Thursday, June 21 at the Nimbin Bowling Club from 6.30pm.

Completed feedback sheets may be handed in at the conclusion of the information session or given to the Nimbin VIC, posted or faxed to Council or submitted online. Feedback must be received by July 6.

TELSTRA COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Lismore City Council is aware of rumours circulating in the Nimbin community about a Telstra mobile communications tower. Council had discussions with Telstra in February 2012 regarding their plans to install towers in various areas across the Lismore Local Government Area but there were no details provided of specific proposals.

While Council is not involved in the placement or building of these towers as they are to be sited on private land Council staff have strongly recommended and impressed upon Telstra (and their representatives) the need for meaningful community consultation at an early stage in any project development. Community members with concerns should contact Telstra.

FREE SKATEBOARDING SESSION

Lismore City Council has partnered with Skateboarding Australia and the Federal Government to provide an interactive skateboarding session in Nimbin with food and professional training – all for free!

The event is being held at the Nimbin Skatepark on Sunday, June 10 and experienced skateboarders as well as those keen to learn will be catered for.

Three of Australia's best skateboarding coaches – Dylan, Flavio and Tooza – will show people tips and tricks from 9am to 12 midday, with a free BBQ afterwards for everyone to enjoy, courtesy of Friends of Nimbin Skatepark. People should come at 8.30am to register and don't forget your helmet!

BLUE KNOB ROADWORKS

Lismore City Council wishes to advise residents there has been a minor delay to roadworks on Blue Knob Road, which were scheduled to commence during May 2012. Funding from the State Government for the replacement of a failed culvert on Upper Tuntable Falls Road was received and as this was a high priority project, the Council work crew is completing those roadworks as a matter of urgency.

Roadworks planned for Blue Knob Road will now commence during June and are likely to be completed by early August, weather permitting.

A COMMUNITY-DESIGNED FUTURE

Lismore City Council is kicking off a 14-month community-wide consultation process where we will be asking how you would like to shape the future of this Local Government Area (LGA). We will be inviting you to share your views about the future you would like for your community, your quality of life, your family, your employment or business opportunities, your facilities and your environment.

The aim is to develop a community-designed and owned plan that will inform decisions affecting our local area over the next 10 years – the 'Imagine Lismore' Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023.

Once you have shared your views, Council will be working within our organisation and with other service providers across the community, such as state and federal agencies and non-government bodies, to plan a response to your priorities and aspirations.

This is an exciting opportunity to rethink how we do things... We invite you to 'Imagine Lismore'.

For information visit our website at www.imaginelismore.com.au or phone Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

DRAFT 2012/13 OPERATIONAL PLAN ON EXHIBITION

Lismore City Council has put its draft 2012/13 Operational Plan on public exhibition, giving residents a month to provide comments and feedback on Council's annual budget and strategic projects.

The \$123.2 million budget includes \$18.2 million for the region's road and bridges network plus more than \$5.4 million to improve the wastewater services network and more than \$2.6 million for the water supply network.

Council has earmarked funding for a new housing officer to enact the Lismore Housing Strategy plus \$3.8 million for a new materials recovery facility at the Resource and Recovery Centre and approximately \$4.8 million for Stage 1 of the Lismore City Hall upgrade.

Rates will increase in line with the rate-pegging limit as set by IPART and charges in line with cost recovery principles.

The draft 2012/13 Operational Plan is on public display until Friday, June 15. You can view it on Council's website, at Council's offices in Lismore or at the Nimbin VIC, Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre or the Tuntable Creek General Store.

Corporate Centre 43 Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH 2480

CBD City Office 55 Magellan Street, LISMORE 2480

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Too many cops

While attending the MardiGrass on 5th and 6th May, I must have seen at least 20 police while traveling to Nimbin and over the weekend festival itself. The cost of policing must have been over \$1-million when salaries, transport and other costs are included. I saw and heard of no violence. This is \$1 million that now cannot be spent solving serious and violent crime.

What a waste! It's time we accepted that the War on Drugs has been lost and started to consider more effective and more cost effective ways of responding to cannabis.

Dr Alex Wodak AM
Darlinghurst

A sniffer dog bit my muffin

It was MardiGrass Friday morning, and I was feeling very excited about going for my massage. About 10am I jumped into my van and began driving out of Nimbin town to the hills. Suddenly the euphoric feeling disappeared as I drove directly into a police blockade. Here we go...

"Do you have any drugs in your van?" asked the young policeman, holding a very lively sniffer dog by the leash. "Yes officer," I replied holding up the 5 grams of beautiful homegrown bush, I really didn't want the sniffer dogs' muddy paws all over my bed in the rear of my van.

Before I could say 'boom shankar', the sniffer dog jumped into my van and bit my muffin! How rude! Isn't that illegal, to bite into something that doesn't

belong to you? I was looking forward to eating that muffin after my massage! I received no apologies, no compensation, no offer of breakfast, just a cannabis caution notice.

The young police officer did offer me my grinder back, but then after a minute of thought decided to confiscate it again. God, I wish they would make up their minds, and hey Mr Police officer, you owe me a blueberry muffin!

Krista Schaefer
Nimbin

Prohibition

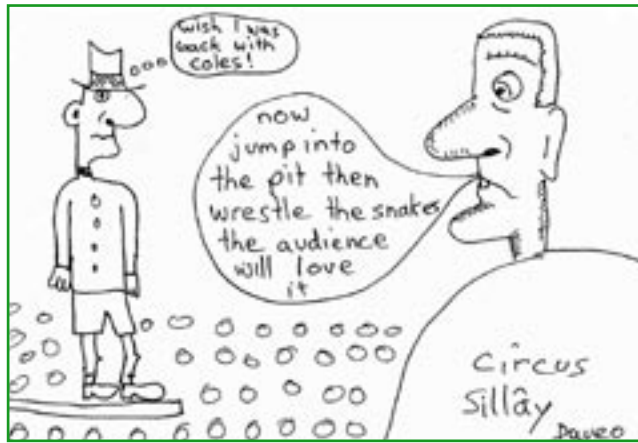
It's time for Nicola Roxon and Julia Gillard to start realising that nobody is listening: prohibition has been an abject failure.

The education threshold Nicola mentioned the other day on Radio National has been discussed for 40 years. How much longer do we have to keep talking? Greg Smith, the NSW, Attorney General, should be applauded for having the guts to say it's not working, and jails are universities for crime.

Recidivism is alive and well. As for rehabilitation, it barely exists.

Another legacy from Prohibition is the inability of people who have been convicted for drug offences over 40 years ago to participate in public life. I am a 62-year-old male who still surfs, plays golf and continues educating myself. I am gainfully employed and consider myself a law-abiding citizen, despite serious criminal convictions in the sixties and seventies, which included 18 months in jail.

My past convictions



preclude me from any active service in public life. Recently I was offered a pre-selection in the Gold Coast local council election, plus a shot at a state seat on the Gold Coast. I had to decline because of the possibility of embarrassment to those supporting me.

I would say confidently almost every Australian has had some contact with drug use. Whether it's use or abuse, it has touched every family, from Prime Ministers down.

We should change the paradigm, start taxing users – they are already a burden on the health system. Issue growers licences at say, the current price of an ounce. Once the greedy capitalists in Government realise the money in it, they will soon start mouthing the benefits, as in the state of California.

This will also be a way of minimising hydro growth, a non-organic product that plays havoc with young people.

The quicker we disentangle ourselves from the 1925 Geneva Convention on drugs which the USA insisted we sign up for, the sooner we may have clear air to look at this on a local level.

What we need is an 'Arab Spring' to occur on our social media, denouncing prohibition.

Brent Osment
Elanora

Beef Week

On Saturday my friend and I went to the Casino Beef Week march to represent Kyogle Group Against Gas. The march was great - different than most we have been to - but we all felt the

reception we received was positive. We all behaved ourselves and no complaints could be made by anyone.

I had arranged with my partner that I would meet him outside the front of the Commercial Hotel instead of going back to the park where the rest of the Lock the Gate marchers were going. This cut my march short.

As I walked across the road after leaving the marchers I ran into Stewart George and a few of his friends. They all were dressed very similar and had the same caps on, blue, red and white. I could not see what the logo was on these caps. Being in a happy mood and feeling pretty elated after our march, in passing Stewart I said, "Hello Stewy" that was it.

Standing to his right side shoulder to shoulder with him was a young man; a young man old enough to be my son. As I passed him he put his booted foot out to try and trip me over. Luckily I noticed his foot being put out and managed to move so he only skimmed my leg. I realised it was intentional so I turned around and faced him. I asked him why he would do that to me and his answer back was, "Get a life you f...ing Greenie bitch". I asked him again why he would do that to me, and he then leered at me and said something to the effect of get out of here.

Now this has really made me realise what we are up against. These men have no morals; they simply don't care. What is happening in this area when young men feel they can try to hurt women, or for that matter anyone, because we express

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, the last Wednesday of the month. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will usually not be considered. Please include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

a different opinion. I have always loved Beef Week as a celebration of our rural life and the cattle we breed, having pride in an industry.

I had a chuckle to myself, someone calling me a Greenie, but I can assure I will not be voting National again, because above all things I am an Australian and believe in good old Aussie values which is not what happened to me on Saturday.

Georgina Ramsay
Kyogle

Feminazis

I suspect that David Hallett and A. Gustavsson (NGT May) have not yet experienced the full brunt of the 'Feminazi' in action. I have, and so have many of my close friends.

I was merely pointing out that women should not be attacked by anyone male or female; but my experience is that the Feminazi's bite is far more deadly than any male.

BTW, another classic trait of the Feminazi and their supporters is to censor freedom of speech and opinion.

Lis Miller
Nimbin

Appreciation

Before I forget to do this for another month... I would like to thank all those people who work together to produce the *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

I'm from Melbourne, lived in Sydney, Brisbane now Mullum.

Your paper is refreshing, informative, creative, real, so funny, community spirited... what more can I say?

I love it and look forward to reading it each month. The other is too commercial, predictable, conservative. I read it, yes but find it uninspiring, staid and tired.

Thank you again to

everyone involved in the production of this great "real" newspaper.

Laurin Patience
Mullumbimby

Fluoride

Many find fluoride and its propaganda hard to swallow. What is not well appreciated or understood is that fluoride effectively blocks the absorption of the essential element iodine, not only needed by every cell but critical to maintain the healthy stimulation of every process in the body, including dental health.

By promoting iodine deficiency, fluoride works for the destruction of health, it may as a side effect harden teeth but it does so at the expense of the rest of the body.

The first to use fluoridation, the Nazis, found it useful as it produced a population that was docile and compliant. I have not found it documented that the Nazis held concerns for the dental health of concentration camp inmates.

Anton Vanderbyl
Palmwoods

• See Brendon Hanley's report on Fluoride, p. 27 – Ed.

Vitamin D deficiency

I wish to draw your female reader's attention to an urgent aspect of women's health, which has been 'under the radar' far too long, and which is currently presenting itself as another 'epidemic' that the pharmaceutical companies are doing their best to capitalise on by treating the symptoms and not the causes of the complaint.

As a consequence of the demonisation of the sun by the Cancer Council, many people have become Vitamin D deficient. This is particularly serious for

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woman who are mothers and who have been, or are, breast feeding, as the increased demands on the body's calcium supplies can cause de-mineralisation of the bones (including the teeth) when the body attempts to provide adequate calcium in the breast milk.

This is especially the case where a woman has a poor diet, is vegetarian or, even more especially, vegan and / or post-menopausal.

Women using soy milk instead of dairy milk (raw milk is definitely best) will be significantly more at risk of bone loss for several reasons, not the least of which is that the phytoestrogen in Soya milk can upset the body's very important progesterone/estrogen/testosterone balance and contribute, not only to further bone loss but, in the post-menopausal group, debilitating hot flushes, loss of libido, etc.

I therefore urge all women who are vegetarian, vegan or post-menopausal to get tested to ensure they have adequate levels of Vitamin D (necessary for adequate calcium absorption), get a Bone Density scan – especially if older than 50 – and find a doctor competent in testing and assessing your Progesterone levels.

Don't be fobbed off by a 'know-it-all-doctor' because only the empirical evidence from such tests can help you decide if you need to make changes to your life-style or diet and avoid joining in the Osteoporosis epidemic.

Let my own experience

be a warning. Living in a community situation, I was vegetarian for some 10 years and vegan for five years, while breast-feeding my youngest child for three years. I had largely given up refined and processed foods and consumed diets high in fresh fruits and vegetables.

This diet, along with exercise including yoga, had kept me very healthy for many years. Or so I thought.

Unbeknownst to me, my Vitamin D levels had dropped to the point where I was losing bone mass and this situation was exacerbated by my progesterone/oestrogen/testosterone levels being out of balance.

These factors seriously affected my body's ability to absorb calcium.

Like many in the 'alternative' community, I was using soy milk instead of dairy milk. Women may be more at risk of bone loss for several reasons, not the least of which is that the phytoestrogens in Soya milk can upset the progesterone/oestrogen balance and contribute to further bone loss.

For a number of years soy was considered beneficial, but concerns are now surfacing – including the phytoestrogens in soy products contributing to the 'feminisation' of baby boys.

So, at the age of 65 and by now eating a very healthy and varied omnivorous diet, which included processed (!) milk, I realize I'd had some hints of a problem when my regularly and assiduously cleaned teeth, showed decay and it was found I had

inadequate bone volume to accept a dental implant.

The penny didn't really drop until a year later when I suffered my first fractured vertebrae.

My subsequent experience with doctors, together with the substantial research I undertook, revealed to me the abysmal level of awareness, both among the medical fraternity and the general public, of the extent of osteoporosis (especially among slim, post-menopausal women) and its causes.

My mission now is to make women aware of their need to check their Vitamin D levels, their bone mass and their Progesterone levels. Waiting until bone has been lost and one is crippled with the pain of vertebral fractures – or suffering a broken hip – is not something to look forward to.

So, do yourselves a favour sisters, be pro-active and get the tests done because then, and only then will you know where you stand in regard to this insidious crippling, debilitating – and avoidable – disease.

Useful information on Vit. D for everyone, (including indoor-skulking youngsters) can be gained from the Vitamin D Council website: www.vitamindcouncil.org

Some useful books are: 'Your Bones' by Lara Pizzorno, 'The Estrogen Alternative' by Raquel Martin, 'Progesterone - the Natural Hormone' by Kimberley Paterson, and Dr. John Lee's books.

Stella Brid Waitakere, NZ

Cannabis a 'dangerous narcotic'?

Thousands die each year from the effects of alcohol. Directly or indirectly the abuse of this drug of addiction causes untold misery and chaos in our society. And aside from the casualties that end up in a graveyard, every year hundreds more are driven insane or end up living in a gutter and existing on handouts. But I don't call for

the criminalizing of alcohol. That would be stupid. All the problems identified are individual substance abuse problems. Who will deny that individuals vary greatly as to their preferences and foibles? Most can drink in moderation and enjoy themselves, however some few amongst us drink like shooting stars. They get hooked.

This applies to all drugs. All drugs can have personally deleterious effects. In fact most things we ingest seem to be able to do damage. Sugar has deleterious effects for some humans but we don't ban sugar. And the lactose intolerant can die from ingesting cow's milk but we don't list milk as a 'schedule 1 narcotic'.

So how silly is it to criminalize cannabis?

In all of recorded history nobody is known to have ever died from ingesting cannabis. It is simply not a dangerous drug. It is not a narcotic. Currently there is not even a known lethal dose! So, theoretically, if you attempt to eat a ton of cannabis you will just vomit and end up pretty whacked even before you make much of a dint on the big pile - but that's about it! The next day you can come back and tuck into another half-kilo or so (with much the same result) but you won't die!

In fact, if you advertised the chance to eat as much as you can; you would get a line stretching around the block, instantly - jam-packed with happy volunteers – all willing to engage in an attempt to eat a ton of pot because they all know it won't kill them. The happy throng would know that the 'war on drugs' rhetoric is simply a lie! Just as pot smokers the world-over know that pot is simply a fun and friendly way of getting together. They know that when people ingest cannabis they get kinda nice and vague. That they rarely engage in brawling in the street, and that they almost never take over a government or trash a railway station.

But alcohol can and does

Notices

Knitting and Crochet Sessions

Thursdays at 3pm in the Community School Green Room at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Unity Bhajans

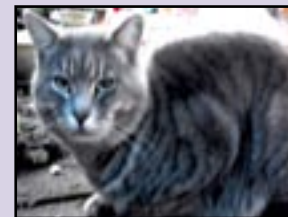
Sunday 12th and 24th June, and 8th July, 11am at Birth & Beyond, Nimbin. Enquiries contact Maria 6633 7261.

Combined Church Services

St Marks Anglican Church, 4th Sunday of every month, followed by morning tea and fellowship. Warden: Faye Scherf 6689 1440.

Cat Found

Handsome grey male tabby, very friendly, about 5 years old, turned up on Pam's doorstep near Nimbin Bowlo last year, stayed for a month and then vanished. He has now returned, but Pam is about to move house and desperately needs to find Grey Boy's family – or someone willing to take him in. Phone 6689 1300 or 0438 225 470.



kill. And tobacco kills. And pharmaceuticals kill. And the 'war on drugs' kills.

And what is wrong with this story? Do you think our kids might have noticed this hypocrisy? Do you think they respect our laws? Or respect us when we talk BS?

Lets face it: Cannabis never killed anybody – ever. Never ever. In fact, cannabis was one of the most widely used herbs on the globe up until 70 years ago when the United States demanded that every other country declare it a dangerous narcotic, precisely because it is a relatively benign substance!

And every Aussie with half a brain knows what a load of stinking BS 'the war on drugs' represents. They know these laws are a joke. How can parents engage with young Aussies

and discuss the real drug dangers that really do lurk in the recesses of our society, and tell them about tobacco, alcohol, pharma, mushrooms, eccies, speed, heroin, trips and other genuinely dangerous and potentially harmful substances, when the government, church, and our politicians are forever running around and screaming that cannabis use will cause (some unspecified) grievous injury?

Your arguments are BS. We all know they are BS. So enough with the BS already!

I don't drink. People have a right to drink. I respect their decision. I have a right to smoke pot. I invite you to respect my decision. So, with respect, get your collective knee off my neck!

James Moylan North Lismore

About us

Editor: Bob Dooley
Assistant Editor: Sue Stock
Sub-editor: Dave Fawcner
Layout: Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley
Photographers: Sue Stock, Len Martin, Thorsten Jones, Greg Soward, Pam Bourne.
Distribution: Angus, Ben, Coralie, Daniel, Faerie Laura's (Bellinger), Dave (West End), Ken (Mooloolaba).

Bookkeeper: Martha Paitson
Website: David McMinn www.nimbingoodtimes.com
NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.
Next deadline: **Wednesday 27th June**
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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