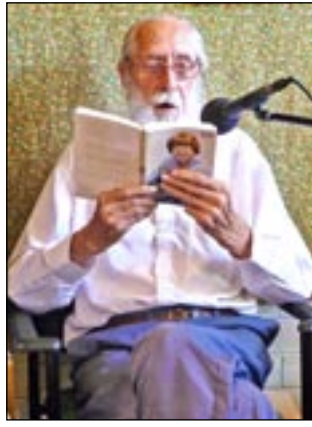


## Is Uncle Len a title-holder?

While claims as to being the "World" anything are easy to make and hard to prove, an exhaustive Google search by the Nim-FM research team has failed to unearth any regular Radio Presenters on the globe who can claim to be chronologically superior to our very own Uncle Len Harper (pictured).



As one of the people who helped get Nim-FM off the ground, Len has presented his program 'Uncle Len's Tall Tales' on Nim-FM since its inception in 1998.

Len says he was involved in setting up community stations in both Melbourne and Brisbane in an earlier life, but unfortunately the details have become lost in the ever-thickening mists of time.

However, the sharp wit and wicked sense of humour remain in the forefront, and you can catch Uncle Len

telling Tall Tales But True every Saturday from 4 to 5pm. Tune in via the website ([nimfm.org](http://nimfm.org)) if you're out of broadcast range.

Len turns 93 soon (exact date a closely guarded secret) and the crew here at Nim-FM want to take this opportunity to wish him a massive Happy Birthday and thank him for his rock-steady support.

## Aged care day out

by Jim Beatson

Forty years ago, in September 1972, Byron Bay was graced with its very first place to care for the aged, Byron Aged Care (BAC).

To celebrate this occasion, current residents travelled to the Lighthouse with Byron's newly elected Mayor, Simon Richardson, in a fully restored gleaming 1969 Jaguar – almost the same age as the mayor.

As the residents downed champagne and enjoyed a great Byron banana cake cooked in the shape of the number 40, the mayor spoke on the value of caring for our seniors.



## Fashions on the field

Sartorial elegance on show for the Melbourne Cup luncheon at the Nimbin Hotel, where a surprising number of punters backed the winner, Green Moon, at nicely long odds. Could it have been something about the name?

## November 11: A day of remembrance and peace

### Remembering the fallen

On Remembrance Day, 11th November at 11am. The community and schools are invited to a commemoration ceremony of the Nimbin War Memorial's new Seat of Remembrance at 11am on 11th November. For further information call Paul Le Bars on 6689-0396.

### Om around the world

Wherever you are at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, join hands and Om for peace. Come to the Peace Pole in Peace Park, Nimbin and join the Aquarius Foundation's Om circle.

### Bhajans

Akhanda Bhajans (devotional singing without a break) will take place for 24 hours all around the world in all lands to spread the message of love, starting at 6pm on Saturday 10th November and ending on Sunday 11th at 6pm.

Nimbin will join this global event on Sunday 11th at 11am for two hours, at Birth & Beyond, followed by tea, coffee, snacks and good company. For more information, phone Johan or Maria on 6633-7261.

## Scathing sculpture's success

Nimbin artists Paris Naday and Darmin Cameron have won first prize in the sculpture section of the 2012 Coraki Art Prize at the end of October, for their two-metre-high collaboration, 'Utopia Towers'.



'Utopia Towers' is a comment on city life in the 21st Century, constructed of hundreds of photographs taken by Paris and Darmin from of cities and towns all over the world – from London and Rome to Sydney and Nimbin.

The artists say the tower represents the pinnacle of the consumer age, large erections looming over the landscape of human habitation, making us humans feel small. The circle that surrounds the tower represents the carousel of modern life – work, eat, sleep, work, eat, sleep... rising from a landscape of sensationalist headlines, mesmerizing the residents and keeping them in a state of anxiety.

The tower rises from this sea of fear, but what

do the residents see? Beautiful images of a world, simulations of how it used to be. On the top of the tower are strange billboards, of Church, Art, Fear and Construction, all vying for attention. Magnifying glasses are attached to the sculpture to represent the need to look deeper at issues.

The judge, Gabriel Rosati from Bangalow said, "I felt the sculpture captured the destructive nature that life in a confined space may manifest, although society suggests this type of high-rise apartment living as solution for the masses, our artists have suggested a feeling of isolation, fear, and detachment."

Paris said, "It was an honour to win amongst such a high standard of entries."

### Nimbin Film Festival 2013

Plans are getting underway for the Nimbin Film Festival to be held in November next year as part of the Aquarius Festival 40th Anniversary. So get your cameras out and start filming! This screening event will be a celebration of local talent and the ideas and ideals of the many and varied people who live, work and play in the Northern Rivers region. If you want to get involved in the organising or have a film to screen, please contact Triny on 6689-0084 or email [triny.roe@gmail.com](mailto:triny.roe@gmail.com)

## It's My Life

Youth Connections N<sup>o</sup>rth Coast is calling for entries for the Nimbin Youth Film Comp 2012.

The competition, which is in its third year, has uncovered some fine local talent and encouraged many others to try their hand at making a short film. First prize is \$250, while runners up receive cash and other prizes to the value of \$500.

The competition is open to any young person aged up to 20 who lives within 40kms of Nimbin. The films can be from two to 10 minutes in length in any category from documentary or fiction to music video, as long as it has been locally produced and directed by a young person within the last two years.

The competition requires all entries to be on standard DVD format and playable on a standard DVD player or Quicktime Movie on a USB memory stick. N<sup>o</sup> other formats will be accepted. Entries will not be returned so please send copies only.

Entries close at 5pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December with the winners announced and prizes awarded on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>



Last year's Presentation Ceremony

December in Nimbin. All the winning films and other selected entries will be shown on the presentation afternoon.

Entry forms will be available from Nimbin Youth Centre, Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, and Youth Connections N<sup>o</sup>rth Coast main office at 17b Keen St. Lismore. There will also be boxes for your entries at those locations.

Last year's viewing was a fantastic affair with a big audience, big screen and big sound. There is an open invitation to everyone in the Nimbin region to come along and support our local Tarantinos.

Entry is free!

To help and support young people to create their films, Youth Connections N<sup>o</sup>rth Coast is running a series of free film-making workshops in Nimbin on Saturday mornings in late N<sup>o</sup>vember and early December at the Youth Centre in the Nimbin Community Centre grounds.

For more information or enquires contact organiser Darmin on 0428-337-088 or email [darmincameron@gmail.com](mailto:darmincameron@gmail.com)

It's My Life is a project funded under Family & Community Services, Community Builders.

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# Taser-Powered Fantasies of Fear

by Warwick Fry

Officially the Jury's still out on Tasers until the coronial inquest into the death of Roberto Laudisio Curti is released. (The young Brazilian student died after being Tasered nine times, including several times after having been restrained by police).

This was convenient for the Ombudsman. Barbour's report, supposedly reviewing incidents of Taser use until November this year, was presented before the results of the hearing. Barbour delivered a mild rebuke to police and recommends clearer and more stringent guidelines for the deployment of Tasers. Yet he endorses their continued use. The incident involving Curti was excluded from the review.

The police Minister Gallacher claims that Tasers 'de-escalate violence' while President of the NSW Police Association Scott Weber stated "Tasers are an effective tool in protecting people and controlling violent and dangerous situations".

The arguments for the deployment of Tasers appear reasonable on the face of it. Some of us might remember the case in Canberra some pre-Taser years ago when neighbours called in police to subdue a suicidal schizophrenic. The police kicked down his door, saw him holding a kitchen knife, and shot him. How easily that might have been avoided if he could simply have been Tasered. Cheaper on the public purse too. The officer who fired the fatal shot was put on stress leave on full pay for six months, and his wife won a \$10,000 'victim compensation' claim for 'post-traumatic stress' caused by the incident.

Later reports revealed that the real victim, the suicidal schizophrenic, was an experienced mental health worker who had learned to manage his schizophrenia over more than a decade. He had sensed an 'episode' coming on and tried to commit himself to M ward at the Canberra Hospital and had been turned away. Sympathetic neighbours had called the police in the hope that police would get him into M Ward for the treatment he sought.



The idea that Tasers could be a substitute for the more lethal armed response in situations where police felt themselves physically threatened seemed to be 'a good idea at the time'. Unfortunately it doesn't take into account some unsavoury aspects of police training and police culture.

When the idea of Tasers was first mooted it was agreed that they should first be 'tried' for two years. The assumption was that if there were indications that they were being used abusively, the idea should be dropped. The Ombudsman has not seen sufficient evidence to recommend a moratorium on their use.

Yet, according to his own statistics there have been 556 cases of deployment of Tasers (one wonders if as many loaded guns would have been drawn in the same period) 80 of them inappropriately, in the last six months. Most of those cases had not been addressed by internal police procedures.

Greens MP David Shoebridge commented, "On the Ombudsman's findings one in eight cases was an inappropriate, and potentially unlawful, use of a Taser."

"Taser use has not displaced firearms use to make citizens safer, instead it is being used together with firearms in an escalation of police force," he said.

Barbour did gain an admission by police that they thought about a third of the people hit by Tasers had suffered, or were suffering from a mental illness, and more than half had been affected by alcohol or drugs at the time.

This brings us to a disturbing conclusion. Do the stock phrases ('a tool in protecting people and controlling dangerous

situations') indicate a cynical curtain over uncomfortable facts, or a fundamental flaw in police training?

Statements by the officers involved in the Taser death of Curti express an irrational fear of abnormal behaviour. "He seemed to have the strength of 10 men; he was potentially murderous," was the opinion of at least one of the officers.

Even before Tasers, the gratuitous shooting of people known to be mentally disturbed was an indication that many police officers are, like bullies, easily frightened people, or (and this is an even more disturbing thought), they are trained to be frightened; to overreact to abnormal behaviour in thuggish, punitive measures.

David Shoebridge has also made the point that police are increasingly using Tasers as a compliance tool against the Aboriginal community.

"While Aboriginal people make up 2.5 per cent of the population, 30 per cent of people in NSW Tasered between June and November 2010 were Aboriginal," he said.

The Ombudsman might perhaps look to this and modify his task to the more considered question of effective methods of 'protecting people from violent and dangerous officers of the law'.

David Shoebridge is unequivocal about solutions: "One of the clear options for limiting Taser use by police is to withdraw them from general duties officers and limit them to specially trained squads.

"The minister can't hide from this, he must require a review of police Taser use, and take immediate steps to limit their increasing use, as part of a comprehensive review of police use of force in NSW," he said.

# CSG: Community ramps up opposition in face of government attacks

by Len Martin

Is it time for a Northern Rivers "Spring"?

Well, perhaps not armed rebellion, but a massive 'peasants' revolt' of civil disobedience and non-violent direct action – an appropriate response to a state government in thrall to big business, and out of touch with, and contemptuous of its rural constituents, and hell-bent on imposing an environmentally and socially destructive industry on communities who have clearly stated they don't want it.

Much of the government's response to reasoned opposition has been name calling – Mr Stoner labelling CSG opponents 'extremists'. Now energy minister Hartcher accuses the Lock the Gate Alliance of being allied with radical socialists: "This isn't just about coal, this is about a leftist agenda to destroy the economy..." – sounds a bit like Climate Change being a Green-Left conspiracy to destroy the world's economy!

Yet various Sydney Morning Herald articles suggest otherwise. Thus Gas Exports Come at a Cost (SMH, October 17), quotes a report commissioned by The Australian Industry Group and the Plastics and Chemicals Association which describes the massive adverse effects CSG exports will have on local industry: "...driving up the price of domestic gas and limiting its supply, risking harm to manufacturing, increasing household energy costs and resulting in 'a very significant negative impact' on jobs and the economy!"

Call for Industry Policy Overhaul (SMH October 18) reported that Andrew Liveris, president of Dow Chemical Company, slammed moves to export liquefied natural gas from the east coast, instead of setting the resource aside for domestic users, as occurs in countries such as Canada, while Aluminium Industry Steps Up Gas Push (SMH October 17) reported the aluminium industry had ramped up its push for gas to be set aside for domestic manufacturing, calling gas a 'publicly owned resource' with the government the custodian of that resource.



Ministers Stoner, Hartcher and Hazzard have repeatedly emphasised the need for CSG extraction because 'NSW is short of gas', yet neither they, nor the CSG industry, want any reserved for state use.

As for the much-vaunted rules to regulate the industry and 'protect' our aquifers, farmlands and homelands – if you haven't watched the ABC's 7.30 report on CSG please do – it's still on the web: ([www.abc.net.au/news/2012-09-21/nsw-releases-coal-seam-gas-policy/4274872](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-09-21/nsw-releases-coal-seam-gas-policy/4274872))

Some weeks later, the Environmental Defender's Office, which has represented public interest in court cases for 25 years, had its funding slashed, and was accused by Minister Hartcher of consorting with radical socialists at a recent workshop, calling into question the public purpose role of the EDA. (See stories on Page 1)

"The idea that we are part of a Leftist agenda is arrant nonsense," the EDO's director, Jeff Smith said.

"The work that we do is, by definition, in the public interest and that means we engage with many groups in the community... the overwhelming majority of matters... 'mums and dads'-type issues relating to planning matters."

Meanwhile we must not forget that CSG is not just about water. Farmer Don Durrant of Afterlee (a Metgasco lease) spent three days in the Darling Downs



People's blockade of Metgasco HQ on 2nd November (top); creative protest by the Knitting Nannas Against Gas (above).

'Gasland'. He returned horrified by the social disruption of the community, the industrialisation of the landscape, the never-ending fences and keep-out signs, the night-time floodlights, the gas flares and the 24/7 diesel-engine-like sounds of the gas pumps.

That is why we must keep up the fight – to protect our communities, our farmlands, our homelands.

## Public Meeting Stage 2 Lock the Gate to CSG

Goolmangar, Jiggi and Rock Valley are under the Metgasco Production License. A public meeting will be held at 2pm on Sunday 18th November at Goolmangar Hall. (Afternoon tea available – please bring a plate.) Unite to protect our water and land.

## CSG Idol

Thursday 29th November at the Australian-Italo Club, North Lismore. Entries now open in 10 categories. (For details, see story on Page 12.)



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# Students v Wild



Surf School

by Bella, Ember and Tarquin

Recently Nimbin Central School's Years 7 and 8 students went on a three-day camp to Coffs Harbour and stayed at the Coffs Coast Beach School, which was not that close to the beach!

On the way to Coffs Harbour, we stopped at Woolgoolga Beach to have lessons in Ocean Awareness and Surfing – most people could stand up on a surfboard by the end of the session.

When we arrived at our destination, it took us a while to get sorted into our cabins, but in the end we got settled for the night.

On the following day we had four exciting activities lined up. The first was the Zorb Ball which was not scary but fun.

The second activity was called Man v Wild, which was interesting to see how many useful things you could find to use to survive in the bush.

Next we did an activity called Ladder Logs where we had to work together as a team to reach the top of a ladder course. The fourth activity was The Leap of Faith, which was kind of scary because it was like free falling from the top of a telegraph pole. We did wear

harnesses!

That night we had a fun Dance Party. The food and the accommodation were magnificent – especially as we had six meals a day, including morning and afternoon tea and supper!

On the way home we stopped at the Big Banana and went ice-skating, which was fun. All up we had a great time!

Thank you to Ms Marshall, Ms Hart and Mr Doyle.



Leap of Faith



Zorb Ball

## YOUTH LEAD THE WORLD

Nimbin Town Hall, 27th-29th November

Around the world, young people are getting together in many ways. On 27th to 29th November, they are getting together in a special way in Nimbin.

Our communities look forward to hearing the voices of our youth (aged 12-28), to see them express themselves about our collective future in as many different ways as possible – art, music, poetry, dance, etc – at this three-day youth environmental leadership

Congress.

Youth Leading the World (YLTW) is organised by Oz Green, who are focused on accelerating 'the shift to fair futures by building a movement of inspired leaders' in the belief that 'local communities are best equipped to understand how change can happen in their local area'.

The YLTW Congress will be conducted simultaneously in multiple locations, connected by digital media. Innovative workshop techniques combined with social networking and web 2.0 technologies will focus on three ways to make a difference:

**Inform:** learning to live within the limits of one planet

**Inspire:** inspiration and social innovation to create change

**Involve:** connecting change-makers locally and globally.

Locally, the YLTW Congress is being organised by a core group who have completed the facilitator-training program. Everyone is encouraged to participate at some level and support our young people, our Earth and our future.

For more information, contact the co-ordinators on 6689-7129 or 6689-7424, or visit the website: [www.ozgreen.org](http://www.ozgreen.org)

## Kids create Insect Rights

At Nimbin Preschool we have been talking about rights, and at a recent meeting a group of children discussed their own.

Rory identified that people have the right to hammer, to drill, to eat and to drink. He said that he had the right to smash coconuts and ice – but only if he asked the owner first.

But he believes we don't have the right to hammer a honey jar or hammer someone's head.

Eden said that people have the right to have a cuddle, and to get on a plane and play outside. He thinks people have the right to pick a flower, but not to smash a flower.

Elliot said that he has the

right to be good, but Manoah thought he had the right to be naughty. This generated an interesting moral dilemma, and much discussion.

Manoah stated that we all have the same rights, but Rory disagreed, thinking that we don't all have the same rights because we all think differently.

This discussion was a precursor to another meeting a few weeks later when the topic

of the rights of insects came up. During this discussion the children established the following as an agreed set of Rights of Insects: 1) Insects have a right to live. 2) They have a right to live in our gardens. 3) They have a right to food and water. 4) We do not have a right to squash them or keep them in containers.

For enrolment enquiries for 2013, phone the Preschool: 6689-1203.

## Nimbin Preschool



Enrolments available now.

Preschool: Nimbin A&I Showgrounds, Cecil St.  
Phone/Fax: (02) 6689 1203  
Email: [nimbinpreschool@bigpond.com](mailto:nimbinpreschool@bigpond.com)

## Class of 2012



Reign Todd, Matthew Ruggeri and Lauren Hill (pictured) cut their school farewell cake, having successfully completed their HSC studies at Nimbin Central School in preparation to sit their final HSC exams. Principal Mary Jane Pell congratulated the Year 12s, thanked them for their service to the school, and gave her well-wishes to the school's smallest ever Year 12 cohort.

## In your neighbourhood...



Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News  
[www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

### Upcoming BIG Dates for your diaries

• **Family Fun & Auction Day – Saturday 10th November.** People with stuff to donate to auction (good quality stuff only) contact Cat at NNIC (leave a message for her if she is not in). Fundraiser for SEVEN on Sibley.

• **10th Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner – Wednesday 28th November** Women's Film Nite at the Bush Theatre, featuring films by local gals and a special screening of "The Sapphires". Tix at NNIC and the door. Bookings via NNIC. \$10 entry plus dinner.

• **SEVEN Fundraiser Trivia Nite – Friday 7th December** Back by popular demand after the huge success of the June Trivia Nite. Don't miss out next time if you didn't make the last one!

• **Annual Town Hall Community Xmas Lunch – Friday 21st December** Fun for all the family with Santa and traditional Xmas dinner in the Town Hall. A huge day last year... the hall was packed and a great time had by all. Non-perishables for hampers or suitable gifts for Santa to give away can be left at NNIC.

**SEVEN on Sibley Update** \$56,000 raised to date, \$91,000 to go. Only ONE MONTH before interest kicks in. Throw everything you have at it folks! To donate: Bank: Summerland Credit Union; BSB : 728-728; Account Name: Nimbin Community Centre Account Number: 2229 0728; Three letter code (if required): NIM.

Please include your name and in the references write either "anon" if you wish your donation to be confidential or else "public" if you are happy for your donation to be acknowledged down the track.

Or send your donations by cash/cheque to Nimbin Community Centre, c/- PO Box 20168 Nimbin 2480.

### Name that Baby Competition

It seems that people want more clues, so here is a list of 15 names. 10 of them are correct and 5 are 'ring-ins'. Match the names to the correct baby picture (see our

website or posters at NNIC or around town) and be in the running to win 10% of the takings. \$5 per entry – entry forms on line or at NNIC: Neil Pike, Amelia Rosella, Faye Sherf, Martha Paitson, Kevin Soward, Robin Moore, Dick Hopkins, Sam Dowsett, Len Martin, Diana Roberts, Zac Price, Rebecca Cook, Diana Anaid, Natalie Meyer, Vicki Hunter.

### Quilt Raffle

Last chance to get tix in our gorgeous quilt raffle – to be drawn this month. Tix are 3 for \$5, available at NNIC or look out for folks selling them around town.

### Post Harvest Processing Equipment Library

Don't forget to join the library so you can borrow equipment to process your spring and summer harvests! \$55 joining fee. The more people who join the library, the more gear we will be able to add to it.

### Food Security meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 29th November at NNIC at 6pm.

### Catch the Bus!

Walters will be reviewing all runs at the end of this quarter so make sure you catch the bus as often as you can between now and the end of the year to keep the bus runs running!

### About NNIC

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 welfare workers for referrals.

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

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## Are you digital-ready? Help is at hand

In less than four weeks, analogue TV signals will be permanently switched off in the Richmond, Tweed and Clarence areas.

TV addicts must be digital-ready by 27th November, because those who aren't will no longer have access to free-to-air TV.

There are two assistance programs available for households and both schemes provide for installation of new equipment in the home.

People who need help and advice to get ready for the switch to digital-only TV should visit the Digital Ready website at [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au) or call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800-20-10-13.

Requests for local support should be directed to Alex Grantham, Digital Switchover Liaison Officer for the Tweed and Richmond (including Clarence) area.

Council waste transfer centres are expected to have free tip days for e-waste in early December.



## School Fete in Your Hands

by Simone Rutley

Tunable Community Primary School has been planting, cooking and eating.

At the end of 2011 we were very fortunate in being awarded the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Grant. The past year has seen our old craft room transformed into a beautiful, functional kitchen from which has been wafting the smells of fresh bread, pesto and other culinary delights. There is now a completely enclosed, very sizeable kitchen garden with planting in this season of plentiful growth well underway.

My seven-year-old has been so inspired that at home we now have a small flower and vegie bed by the front door with brush turkey protection and cut and come lettuce.

To celebrate the achievements this grant has



afforded us, we are officially opening the garden and kitchen at the annual Tuntable pre-school and primary school fete.

The children love the very hands-on experience of the school's paddock to plate curriculum, which is then being integrated into other unit studies within the school. Last term the upper primary class studied ancient grains as well as planting them.

It is also hoped that the new wood-fired pizza oven will be ready for the celebrations. Food is such an integral part of our existence and we all love cultures where we are nurtured

around the dinner table. We invite everyone to join us for the delicious food that the school is reputed for. There will be Chris Anderson's infamous water-slide, a variety of activities for the kids, and a chance to look over the school and pre-school and meet the teachers.

The fete and garden opening are on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 10<sup>am</sup> to 4pm.

### New Kindy class

A Kindergarten class will commence at Tuntable Falls Primary School in 2013. This class will be the ideal transition from pre-school to 'big' school, with a program adapted to the needs of this age.

The Kindy teacher, Deborah will offer a two-day orientation program this term for kindy children enrolling in 2013, on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. Phone 6689-1423 to make bookings.

# LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

## Nimbin Community Forum

The annual Nimbin Community Forum is coming up on Monday, November 19, giving local residents a chance to meet with Lismore City Councillors and senior staff.

The Nimbin Community Forum is an open Q&A session where people can freely speak with their elected representatives about issues that affect them.

Council's Community Services Coordinator Annie McWilliam said it was a good opportunity for Councillors, the GM and other senior staff to have a face-to-face conversation with Nimbin residents. "Council does not have an agenda for this meeting – it's simply a chance to freely express views and get information, plus it's important for Councillors and staff to visit the village and hear what people in the community are thinking," said Annie.

"It's all about direct engagement and in the past we've found it to be a generally friendly and positive experience. We urge people to come along and add to the conversation."

The Nimbin Community Forum will be held from 7pm on Monday, November 19 at the Nimbin School of Arts.

## Advisory Group nominations sought

Community consultation is informed communication between Lismore City Council and its community prior to Council making a decision. Advisory Groups are one way that you can get involved in decision making.

Council has a vacancy in its Arts & Culture Advisory Group and expressions of interest are now invited from people passionate about arts and culture who are interested in assisting Council to develop policies. Preference is for someone from the Nimbin area due to the resignation of the Nimbin representative. Advisory Groups meet quarterly.

Application forms, the complete scope of these Advisory Groups and information about how to apply can be obtained through Council's Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87. Any questions regarding the Arts & Culture Advisory Group, contact Brett Adlington on email [Brett.Adlington@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Brett.Adlington@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or phone 6622 2209.

Applications are due by 4pm on Wednesday, November 21, 2012.

## Youth Activities Fund – applications open

Applications for Lismore City Council's annual Youth Activities Fund are now open to community groups wishing to undertake projects and activities for young people aged 12 to 25 years.

The Youth Activities Fund offers one-off grants only, specifically for programs for young people. Grants are not available for capital or equipment purchase.

Council is looking for projects that address:

- After-hours passive recreational facilities for young people;
- Recognition for young people's culture;
- Young people's sense of community belonging and sense of self-worth and value;
- Social isolation due to distance and lack of accessible transport; or
- Information about young people's rights and services available to them.

The closing date for submissions is Friday, November 30.

The application form and guidelines can be downloaded from the 'Have Your Say' section of Council's website or for a hard copy phone Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

All enquiries should be directed to Lizette Twisleton on 1300 87 83 87 or email [Lizette.Twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lizette.Twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

## Songwriters Comp wants you...

Lismore City Council is looking for musicians to be judges at next year's Young Songwriters Competition as well as people who would like to provide help or sponsorship.

Held during Youth Week in April, the Young Songwriters Competition has been a great vehicle to encourage young talent to burst out of the bedroom or garage and onto the stage.

Anyone who would like to help in an organising capacity, become a judge or sign on as a sponsor should phone 1300 87 83 87 or email at [Lizette.Twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lizette.Twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

## Nominate now for 2013 Australia Day Awards

Lismore City Council knows there are many unsung heroes in our community – people who work day in and day out making our beautiful corner of the world a better place to live. Sometimes it's nice for good folk to be recognised with a little pomp and ceremony. To see them stand up in front of the whole community and formally be given a well-earned and very public pat on the back.

The opportunity to give them that recognition is simple – you just have to nominate them before December 20 for a 2013 Australia Day Award. Now is the time to put forward the name of an individual, organisation, club or team who you believe deserves recognition for their time, skills and energy.

In honour of the late Darcy Goodwin, who fed the needy in Lismore and Nimbin for many years, the Australia Day Community Services Award will be named after him in 2013.

Nominations are open in the following categories: Citizen of the Year, Aboriginal Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Art/Cultural, Sustainable Environment, Services in Community (individual and group), Sportsperson (junior and senior) and Sports (team/group/organisation).

Nominations are due by December 20 and an application form can be downloaded from the website in the 'Council News' section.

Corporate Centre 43 Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH 2480

CBD City Office 55 Magellan Street, LISMORE 2480

Phone 1300 87 83 87

Fax (02) 6625 0400

Website [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au)

Email [council@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

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## Dear adventurers!

I love the fact Nimbin has such an active hiking group. However after reading the article about your last Fraser Island trip I felt I had to pass on some different views of Fraser.

Before and during my recent trip to the island I had been frequently told about dingo safety and precautions needed. Part of the reason you are forced to camp in the enclosed areas is because people feed the animals and they become reliant on humans for food, and then become aggressive when refused. It is very important to not feed the wildlife!

The pup playing is a perfect example of a young dog testing you, learning to not be afraid.

These are just my views and I hope this letter is received in good will, it was never meant to anger people. Just to inform people to be informed when going to such fragile and unique places; we are so lucky to have such beautiful natural wonders.

Jono Hagen

## Clearing up the weed debate

I write in the interest of more clearly reporting the results of the Weed Debate. The editing process last month upon my final paragraph, I feel, resulted in a misrepresentation of the overall outcome of the evening.

Though the naysayers did indeed win the debate, perhaps in part due to the flamboyant style of their speakers, the main issue, it was agreed, was how one weeds, acknowledging the necessity of weeding.

P.S. a few words for Mr Dawe: "Invade: to occupy in large numbers; overrun;

infest. To enter and spread throughout, especially harmfully; pervade." Collins Concise Dictionary. 'Invasion' is a physical, observable event, not a cultural attitude.

Triny Roe

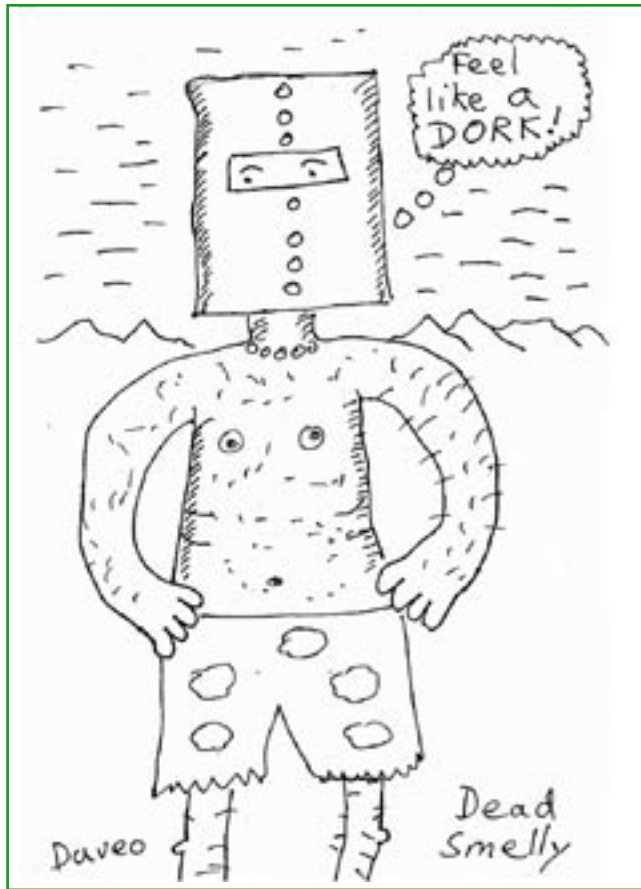
## Grandparents raising grandkids

Do you have grandchildren? There can be great joy in watching your children's children grow up. But some grandparents also play the role of parent. Up to 15,000 grandchildren are permanently living with their grandparents who, as a group, provide the most out-of-home care for children unable to live with their parents.

Grandparents choose to become the legal guardian of their grandchild for various personal reasons. They then have to deal with issues that they probably didn't plan on having to deal with at their age.

Raising grandchildren may present legal, financial and health challenges. If you are thinking of accepting this responsibility, or have already decided to do this, the Family Referral Service can assist you. The Far North Coast NSW Family Referral Service (FRS) can help to link you into existing local community support services. A recent example where the FRS assisted a grandparent carer is:

A grandfather rang the FRS stating he and his wife were the primary carers of their twin granddaughters following the death of their own daughter as a result of suicide. The grandparents were dealing with their own relationship issues, grief and loss issues as well as struggling to assist their



granddaughters cope with the sudden death of their mother.

The FRS were able to link the grandparents into relationship and grief and loss counselling as well as referring the grandchildren to a counsellor that specialised in children's counselling.

The Far North Coast Family Referral Service is available for both grandparents and parents across the Far North Coast, please call 1300-338-774.

Julie Leete  
Interrelate

## Tweed Koalas

Mayor Longland told us he was now one of the four progressives in council that were all going to work together. What happened?

At the last council meeting I witnessed him voting in bloc with the three pro-development councillors on many occasions. Cr Milne proposed some measures to protect Kings Forest koalas (writing to the Minister of Planning expressing concerns for koalas, reminding him of Council's 2009 resolutions and original advice from Dept Environment in 2006 to exclude Cudgen Paddock and the eastern side, expressing councillors non-support of dogs in Kings Forest, requesting

best practices including specialist advice on improved sustainability outcomes in light of Tweed's national and international environmental significance).

Mayor Longland voted against this critical motion so it looks like we don't have four progressive councillors, only three - Cr Katie Milne, Cr Gary Bagnall and Cr Michael Armstrong.

I speak for thousands of koala-loving residents in Tweed when I say that we are all so disappointed. I really thought he meant what he said at election time about being concerned about the Three E's - Economy, Efficiency and the Environment. What happened to the Environment part of that formula?

He also said he would vote as he did at the last council vote on such a ban in January, which he supported at the time.

It appears that Mayor Longland is not a man of his word.

As for being a 'middle of the road man' I'd say he is more a 'sit on the fence man' as he can't seem to make up his mind about which side of the fence he is on, pro-development or pro-sustainable development.

Tough for the koalas. They need every bit of help they

## 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 elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

can get. Cr Byrne claimed that domestic dogs are not a threat to koalas, only bushfires, cars, wild dogs and large dogs. If she searched a bit harder she would discover that Dr Steve Phillips said 'there is no such thing as a koala-friendly dog.' As Cr Bagnall said, it only takes one bite from a dog (small or large) to kill a koala, as they have no antibodies against dog saliva. Cr Bagnall also wisely reminded us that wild dogs were formerly domestic dogs owned by irresponsible people.

To rely on new Kings Forest residents being responsible pet owners is an unrealistic considering how few responsible pet owners exist in the wider community. Mayor Longland said he could not support a dog ban because it could not be reinforced - well neither can responsible pet ownership!

Surely in these times when we are down to the last remaining koalas on the coast, we should be doing everything in our power to protect them. We cannot stop cars (as Cr Byrne suggested) nor can we stop the developer plonking 15,000 people on the last bastion for koalas, Kings Forest. Cr Milne was just asking for some last-ditch measures to protect our remaining koalas. Is that asking too much? Or are koalas less important than people's convenience and developers' profit?

Menkit Prince

## Life on the farm is a gas

We chose to live in the country because we love the peace, tranquility and the natural world. So it was a shock when a gas drilling rig

appeared next door, right on our boundary, just 300m from our house.

We were neither consulted nor warned about this or what was in store. Our neighbour had agreed to the drilling on his land, but we were not consulted.

So, the procedure is this: on the drilling site, two small dams are dug to hold the water used in the drilling process. Large quantities of salt and a biodegradable polymer are mixed with the water. In our case, the rig was located 50m from our dam and 30m from a wetland watercourse.

For the first couple of weeks, a small mobile rig is used to start the process. Operating during daylight hours the noise and activity is bearable. Then the 'big gun' arrives - the Mitchell Drilling Rig accompanied by a procession of trucks, tankers, container shed, zircon site office, plus two sets of diesel-powered flood light banks. Then the nightmare begins: 15 days of 24hr/day drilling.

The PR men visited us with apologetic, reassuring overtures. A trailer-load of hay was set up as a 'sound barrier' and the lights were faced away from the house. The reality is that this is the bush and it is very quiet at night! Sound carries. Our house is on top of a small hill overlooking the drilling site, so every sound drifts up to our verandah.

The sound is akin to a Boeing 737 parked in your paddock with the auxiliary power unit in the tail running day and night. The ambient light from the floodlights illuminates an area the size of three football fields. The test hole goes down some 3/4 of a mile and is contained with steel casing 4-inches in diameter.

Apparently they reached their target depth quicker than expected, and on the 11th day they started the withdrawal. By this time we were stir-crazy!

The rig has moved to Fairy Hill and the bore capped with steel standpipe, valve and gauge. What happens now? It could be a while, and the company tells us that the hole 'may not be chosen' - but if it is and we are faced with the prospect of a

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"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

'nodding-donkey', connected to a gas pipeline, choofing and chuffing 24/7, we will fight in any way we can to stop the installation.

The Richmond Valley and Kyogle shire councils are of no assistance, as they reply that this is a NSW State Government matter, 'nothing to do with them'. Metgasco conducts this drilling in a covert manner and is very sensitive to landholder's negative reactions.

We would be interested in discussing this with other concerned citizens.

Paul & Carol Worsnop,  
Dyraaba

## Seismic Testing at Casino

As I was driving out of the Casino CBD at 11am on Saturday 3rd November, I was confronted by a convoy of half a dozen white survey trucks and a dozen white Landcruiser utes emblazoned with the "Terrex Seismic" logo and all loaded to the hilt with equipment.

Blue and red lights on the top of police cars were flashing at the head of the convoy, at roundabouts where other traffic was held up by police, and at the rear. I could have been forgiven for thinking I was in a war zone in Afghanistan.

The gas survey vehicles were frightening to some and overbearing to others. Many respectable-looking protesters were in attendance, following the convoy. Others maintained their guard at strategic locations.

It had been announced that the seismic survey would take place between Spring Grove Road and the Casino Airport, which had been closed to all aviation users between 11am and 3pm, to enable survey trucks to drive over the runway and take seismic

readings. Members of the aero club, private hangar-keepers and airport businesses had to shut down for the day.

The convoy raced down the Summerland Way and entered a paddock. Other vehicles raced down Ellangowan Road and entered Hockey Lane, and suddenly it was all on. Vehicles and survey equipment spread out on a line to the east and the operation commenced.

I saw marked yellow and white highway patrol cars, a dark red unmarked highway patrol car, a white paddy wagon and an assortment of other marked and unmarked police vehicles. At least half a dozen police in navy blue combat fatigues were in attendance, just in case the protesters gave any trouble.

Unlike in other countries, here the miners get this police assistance for free.

It became blatantly apparent that the guard has changed at Richmond Valley Council and this is the beginning of turning Casino into a town like Roma or Chinchilla, where the average family no longer has a place. Coal seam gas development is going to take over, come hell or high water, as this Council is now very, very PRO-CSG.

It made me wonder if the Council has ever read the Local Government Act 1993, Section 8 which says:

- to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions

Margaret Howes  
Empire Vale

## Adele Wendy Alderson

Wendy was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England on 22nd April 1933 to Ronald (surgeon, radiologist and Squadron Leader in the RAF) and Edith (ambulance driver for the British Army).

The family moved to Palestine in the mid 1930s where her father was assassinated when she was six. One month later, her mother married her father's best friend John, fulfilling a pact he had made with Ronald months earlier to secure the future of the family. The family moved to Malaysia, living in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore before the Japanese invaded in Feb 1942. Her stepfather was captured (he spent the rest of the war in Changi Prison). Edith, with Wendy and her sister Anne, commandeered a leaky merchant ship, mustered a crew and proceeded to fill the vessel with as many wounded as possible before limping out of Singapore trailing a tell-tale oil slick. They crossed the Indian Ocean to South Africa before proceeding to England.

The family lived in London during the war and Wendy could recall memories of doodle bugs, air raid sirens and shelters. In the closing months Wendy and Anne were sent to South Africa to finish their schooling.

Somehow Wendy ended up in Nairobi (in then Tanganyika) where she found work as a telephonist at the central exchange. When King George VI died in 1951, while Princess Elizabeth was visiting Nairobi on an official tour, Wendy took the call from Buckingham Palace.

She met Michel, a member of the Tanganyika Police in Dar-es-Salaam and they married not long after with Paul on the way. Marc came four years later, followed by brother Tony.

Not long after the family had to leave Tanganyika in a hurry when it achieved independence in May 1961. If you were a blond, white woman you were fair game, to the point that a raffle was being run with Wendy as the first prize. Wendy was Miss Nairobi Runner up 1951.

The family spent a year in England before sailing to Australia, where Michel had joined the Australian Army, arriving in Sydney in October 1963. They lived at Casula for a year and then moved to Avalon Beach.

In 1965 Michel went to Vietnam and returned a different man. He separated from Wendy six weeks later. She met Don Campbell a year after and moved to North Avalon. Later they moved to Wallabadah (south of Tamworth) for two years then to Mountain Top near Nimbin. She separated from Don in 1980 and moved into Nimbin where she worked in The Rainbow and the Emporium, She then bought the property at Blue Knob and set up 'Dar-es-Salaam'.

Wendy was at her happiest at Blue Knob, and although she was not religious she was quite spiritual and made a church of her garden. But the loss of her deeply loved grandsons, Marcel in 2002 and Joshua four years later, deeply affected her.

She left Nimbin in 2003 leaving many friends and the community at a bit of a loss. She had been a dedicated member of the Nimbin community for many years, was the oldest student at Nimbin Central School and became quite a hand at ceramics. She was also involved with Nimbin choirs with her bold bass-end voice and was also part of a choir in Gympie up until the her heart began to give out.

She had just moved back to Nimbin to be closer to family and her good friend Barbara, a week before she passed away, on Saturday 6th October.

Paul Le Bars



## Notices

### Treasurer wanted

Nimbin Health & Welfare is looking for a treasurer to support the work of its support service for older people in Nimbin and surrounds. Some knowledge of financial management for NGOs would be great, but general financial skills and an interest in our vibrant, caring community would be most welcome. If interested, please phone Bernadette Carter on 6689-1578.

### Share farming wanted

We are growers and breeders of rare culinary vegetables, herbs and spice seeds, looking to establish in the Northern Rivers region a share farming arrangement for a period of approximately 5 years of breeding to complete selection of varied types. Interests to: [thewholeearthveg@gardener.com](mailto:thewholeearthveg@gardener.com)

### T-shirts wanted

Donations of used but serviceable T-shirts sought for community project, to be transformed into a re-usable product, not cut up for rags. Please put into donation bag (feed sack) outside the Nimbin Community Centre office.

### Poster Art wanted

I have a paper and book binding business and want to contact any artists who created the posters and other art from the 60's and 70's who may be interested in allowing me to use their work. Please contact: [ChibiDavid@gmail.com](mailto:ChibiDavid@gmail.com)

### Bee Food Info wanted

I'm preparing a list for publication on the matter of Bee food plants in the Northern Rivers, and I'm seeking observations for the list. Replies to: [thewholeearthveg@gardener.com](mailto:thewholeearthveg@gardener.com)

### Free Biological Weed Control Day

Lismore Showgrounds Exhibition Building, Wednesday 14th November, 9.30am – 12pm. Biological control updates and distribution of biological agents (while stocks last) for control of: Giant Parramatta Grass, Cat's Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine, Lantana, Salvinia. RSVP: 6623-3847.

### Knitting and Crochet Sessions

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

### Annual General Meetings

- **Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc.**  
AGM 5pm on Tuesday, 20th November in the Comskool Room at the Nimbin Community Centre. All welcome.
- **Nimbin Independent Media Inc (Nim-FM)**  
AGM Thursday 29th November, 2pm in the Community School room at Nimbin Community Centre, to be followed by a 14th birthday Pizza Party – all welcome, bring pizza toppings, music and fun.
- **Nimbin A&I Society (Show Society)**  
AGM Tuesday 4th December, 6pm at Showground. All members invited. Please also note November monthly meeting Tuesday 13th November, 6pm. Thanks to Ian Todd for assisting with concreting, and apologies for the oversight in acknowledging his assistance.
- **Nimbin Hemp Incorporated t/a Nimbin Hemp Embassy**  
AGM 5pm Friday, 14th December at 51 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Business to include: reports; financial statements; election of committee members; memberships; coming projects.

### Nimbin Health & Welfare Interagency Forum

Tuesday 4th December, 2.30-4pm at the Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre. Guest Speaker: Declan Stark, Access Coordinator, North Coast Community Housing Company. If interested in joining the forum, please call Jenny Martin (NH&W Admin Support) on 6689-7393 or email: [jenmartinnhw@hotmail.com](mailto:jenmartinnhw@hotmail.com)

## About Us

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NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen St, Nimbin

Next deadline:  
Wednesday 28th November

Email: [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

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