

Jett makes a splash



pool's looking cared-for and inviting, and Chris has a shop in the new park office with goodies from crystals to slushies.

The Nimbin Olympic Games will be held next Australia Day, 26th January 2013. That's four months for the synchronised swimming teams to work on their routines, and for the marathon swimmers, underwater swimmers, waders and jumpers to train hard and aim high.

Perhaps you'd like to be in a synch team (no particular previous skill required, best if you've got some strong bathers), or join the Friends of the Pool. Contact: friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com

The Nimbin Pool has opened for the season with a mighty splash and celebration.

The Icebreaker Award was won by Jett (above), who was first in the water. The Friends of the Pool celebrated the new year by trying out the poolside seats jointly funded by The Friends and the Pool and Park management, then enjoying a pancake breakfast.

Complex manager Christine and her willing helpers have given the place a facelift with a coat of paint. The council has done some necessary repairs and resurfaced and painted around the edge, so the



Some of the Friends



Nimbin Market – it's a date!

by Harmony and Peace Freeborn

There are hopes that a change of date could lead to a change of fortune for the Nimbin Markets.

Lismore City Council has approved the change of market dates to the fourth and fifth Sunday of each month, beginning 28th October.

Organisers hope this will see local art and craft stall numbers increase as the word spreads, and artists and artisans take advantage of the opportunity to display their skills. They hope the new dates will give a boost of vibrant community spirit, and enough customers to keep stalls financially viable.

A poster campaign from Byron Bay to Ballina is advertising the changes, and organisers are hoping to enlist support to put them up further afield. Posters are available from www.facebook.com/NimbinMarkets and supporters are asked to print them up and put them in appropriate places.

Over the past few months there has been behind-the-scenes action breathing new life into each market. The focus has been on local musicians and local talent, drawing on the deep local talent pool.

There have been local album launches, music promotions and a broad range of musical styles.

The market co-ordinators can be reached on 0458-506-000, or emailed at: peaceandharmony@live.com

Great food, great music and great community.

Get crafty and recycle

Weekly Saturday Craft / Recycle Markets are starting on Saturday 13th October in the carpark between the Nimbin Community Centre and the Neighbourhood Centre.

Artisans with jewellery, bags, pottery, clothes or any other interesting item can be a part of this new market. The organisers are also looking for buskers, entertainers and second-hand stalls.

The market will run from 9am 'til 3pm. Come on down and support the region's local artists, and enjoy great food and entertainment.

All inquiries call Cat on 0429-194-248.

Darcy's Patch

Nimbin Community Gardens is to dedicate a special plot in memory of Darcy Goodwin and his legacy of the Five Loaves soup kitchen.

At the last Nimbin Aquarius Landcare meeting, a proposition was put forward to the group asking whether a garden could be created in honour of the late local humanitarian. Landcare members immediately welcomed the proposition and works are currently underway to begin the memorial garden.

The area where Donato's water feature is, was nominated as a good choice for Darcy's garden. Various themes have been suggested,

such as medicinal herbs, an assortment of veggies in season, and/or flowers.

The produce can go towards meal preparation for the Five Loaves Soup Kitchen.

The Nimbin Community Gardens is a 0.8 hectare property owned by the Anglican Church and managed by the Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group. Currently the group are seeking potential members to be involved in the planning of the garden and gardening in general.

Those interested are invited to come along to the Community Gardens at 27 Cullen Street, Nimbin on Fridays where your help/ideas will be greatly appreciated.

Graffiti well-meant, but misguided

by Paul LeBars

While an overwhelming majority of the community would agree with protestations against war and conflict, using the Nimbin War Memorial as a canvas is misguided and misplaced.

The memorial will need repainting after a recent act of protest vandalism.

The memorial is not a celebration or affirmation of war. It is a point of focus, for respectful reflection for/by our community, of those who have served in the ADF since its inception.

The human loss and sacrifices made by those in all the wars and peacekeeping under the Australian flag is reflected by our community values, standard of living, freedom of speech and the right to protest. Many of these selfless contributions have been made by Nimbin District locals and their families. It is a slight on them and the community.

Rehabilitation

The process of rehabilitating the Nimbin District War Memorial has been slow, but the work carried out by the Lismore City Council has been completed.

Work is now being done to establish gardens, set plaque stones and acquire the plaques. The 10 ANZAC Cove Rosemary plants, donated by Natalie and the kind people at Pierce's Nursery, have been collected and await planting.

Another win for the site is a post-and-rail fence to stop foot traffic over the garden, with help from a Commemorations Grants



CCTV footage

program and the Lismore City Council's Parks and Gardens team, led by Martin.

Thanks go to Gai Reid for her continued patience, perseverance and assistance with the project.

New Seat

A new Seat of Remembrance has been built for the memorial site by Adrian Williamson. The seat is large, robust and comfortable and has been designed with a rebate for the installation of remembrance nameplates.

Thanks to the community for its donations towards the seat, and to Jab for raising the idea and having the energy to collect the funds.

A ceremony to commemorate the seat is planned for Remembrance Day on 11th November.

RIP Arthur Pike

We will miss your stories of triumph over adversity, and your kind support. You will be remembered.

Lest We Forget



New garden beds

Bidding bid for funds

An auction is planned for November to raise funds for Nimbin's Sustainable House Project.

Organisers are looking for donations of quality goods to auction: building products, art, jewellery, furniture or anything of value.

The auction will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 10th November at SEVEN on Sibley Street, with viewing of the sale items from 9am until 11.30am on the day.

A Recyclers' Market will be held on the same day at the old skate park site, starting at 9am. Do a spring clean – your old trash could be someone's treasure (and vice-versa!). Stalls are filling fast.

All enquiries to Cat on 0429-194-248.



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'If CSG comes here, there'll be trouble'

by Len Martin

That was not some Nimbin Greenie speaking, but a respected, conservative Goolmangar farmer, dismayed by the NSW coalition's abandonment of NSW farmers to the CSG industry.

This month I'm spoilt for possible headlines: 'Deaf, Blind and Dumb?' - our farmer's reference to Don Page implying (*Weekend Star*, Sept. 22) that no farmers opposed CSG; 'Lies, damned lies and APPEA', referring to CSIRO's rejection of Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association's claim, that CSIRO [and government studies] have shown that groundwater is safe with coal seam gas'. At no time has CSIRO made such a statement, and nor do the results of CSIRO research support such a statement... CSIRO has also indicated that groundwater levels will fall as a consequence of CSG extraction. In some places this could see aquifer levels subside by tens of

metres for tens of years; in others it is likely to reduce aquifer levels by several metres for several hundred years" (www.csiro.au/e/Portals/Media/Groundwater-and-coal-seam-gas.aspx).

Just replace 'APPEA' with 'Mr Stoner', for his statement in *The Land* (Sept. 20) that, "NSW Government's new Strategic Regional Land Use Policy... was developed... in partnership with farmers, miners, local councils and the broader community". That's certainly not how it went locally!

On release of the policy I wrote to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, starting, "On 4th September, CSIRO rejected APPEA's claim that..." [full quote as above]

On 11th September the O'Farrell government announced what amounts to open slather for CSG extraction in NSW ('Entire state up for grabs in coal seam gas and mining rules', *SMH* 12-09-12), making a mockery of its pre-election promises. CSG poses far greater threats to Australian agriculture

and food production than the sale of Cubbie Station. Where are the voices of those farmers' friends, Senators Joyce and Heffernan when it comes to protection of our precious water? Meanwhile, in the Lismore local government area referendum, 87% of voters are opposed to CSG, and community surveys show comparable or greater levels of opposition across the Northern Rivers. Makes for an interesting future."

The *SMH* published it in Opinion and on page 2, but omitted paragraph one! However, a personal phone call from Senator Heffernan followed. Alas I was out, but next day's 7.30 Report (www.abc.net.au/news/2012-09-21/nsw-releases-coal-seam-gas-policy/4274872) showed he was voicing our concerns,

"You will not decontaminate a contaminated aquifer with a cheque in the mail. What we don't know and... CSIRO... and... scientists don't know are the geological fault lines... in the aquifers which are naturally balanced over thousands

of years... if you depressure an aquifer, which is what you are doing when you extract CSG, you alter the behaviour of the aquifer and hence... you'll have a contamination from one aquifer to another".

A patronising response from Mr Stoner: "Senator Heffernan should sit down and talk to the NSW Chief Scientist... if CSG is properly regulated, if we have the appropriate penalties in place for non-compliance, you can safely... extract gas resources without damaging either aquifers or our farm country." Well we all know how well the government has policed and penalised the mining/CSG industries to date - totally ineffective.

Quentin Dempster questioned the lack of an independent arbitrator or right of appeal. Planning Minister Hazzard rhapsodised about, "independence all the way... independent scientists... the Planning and Assessment Commission, again an independent body... everything being done openly and transparently... a process that... guarantees the protection that we

want... and on top of that you can actually appeal... to a court, The Land and Environment Court... I just ask people now to settle down... and let it work,".

A devastating report in *The Land* (Sept 20) details how NSW Planning ignored pleas (and independent scientific soils report) from Bellata-Gurley district Durum wheat growers, inviting Planet Gas to renew their exploration licence, with Planet managing director saying the government had made it clear that "with education and consultation the... CSG industry can co-exist with... agriculture". Significantly 90.8% of respondents said "yes" to *The Land's* online survey question, "Critics say the government's strategic regional land use and aquifer interference policy falls short of what was promised by the O'Farrell government. Do you agree?"

So folks, we are not alone, and we shall not settle down. We shall fight - peacefully, but oh so very firmly. And I did email Senator Heffernan, thanking him and detailing our local survey results.

No means no, but CSG grinds on

by Annie Kia

Just two days after residents in the Lismore City Council area delivered a resounding 87% NO vote to the poll question on Coal Seam Gas mining, the NSW government announced gas mining would proceed here.

So much for the wishes of Northern Rivers' people, and too bad about what invasive gas mining could do to our tourism and farming industries, and to our health, wildlife, livestock and communities.

In effect, the NSW government has issued a blizzard of paper regulation that will provide them with media opportunities to show how much they are doing. But the stark reality is these regulations provide a gateway for gasfields to spread over our region.

The concept of no-go zones has been abandoned. Fracking will go ahead, even though the national chemical assessor has not assessed fracking chemicals. Requirements for cost-benefit analysis and a public interest test have been made voluntary. There is no mandatory consideration of impacts on communities, or, for example, on our region's \$1.3b tourism industry.

There is no protection for drinking water catchments. The Aquifer Interference



Ballina protest

Regulation has been left with no legal teeth and the Minister for Primary Industries and the NSW Office of Water have been relegated to a purely advisory role. There is no Aquifer Interference Approval required for CSG activities.

Mapping of high conservation value areas has been dropped. Too bad about our important biodiversity. Mapping of Strategic Agricultural Land has increased but the gateway process has been weakened.

We are now seeing the results of all the lobbying by the powerful mining industry. The Coalition has broken key election promises to protect land and water from mining, undertake cumulative impact assessments, ensure triple-

bottom-line assessments and to mandate public-interest tests and cost-benefit analyses.

We've been given a shut up and settle down message by the government.

I think they are in for a rude awakening. The Lock the Gate movement is spreading like wildfire. In essence, anyone with the Lock the Gate triangle on their property is part of this amazingly strong social movement to protect what we hold dear.

In the Northern Rivers, a strong alliance is being forged between action groups in the Tweed and the Clarence. The growing number of groups include CSG Free Lismore, Richmond Valley Group Against Gas (GAG), Kyogle

GAG and others. More than 30 communities - stretching in one continuous band of territory from Nashua to Cawongla, and up through Uki to the Queensland border - have declared themselves Gasfield Free. This initiative is now spreading in Richmond Valley, Byron, Ballina and the Clarence.

When people are united and maintain non-violence opposition, the social movement can grow and, over time, win its objectives. Success does not come immediately. Peaceful roadside protests will be held at drilling sites. Even if drilling ultimately proceeds, these simple actions can amount to important moral victories. People who stand up for what they believe are to be admired.

In the long term, the NSW government will not be able to withstand the persistence and creative energies of Northern Rivers residents. The objective of getting all petroleum exploration and production licenses revoked can be achieved.

The social movement needs support. The national movement is calling on everyone to join Lock the Gate by paying a \$10 joining fee, which they can do online at: <http://lockthegate.org.au>

For information about the regional alliance (Lock the Gate Alliance Northern Rivers), go to: www.csgfreenorthernrivers.org

Bushfire risk 'highest for a decade'



Kunghur RFS president David Vincent says the bushfire risk is the highest it has been in a decade.

To educate the community and to demonstrate fire intervention methods, the Kunghur Rural Fire Service is holding a Community FireWise Day at the Sphinx Rock Café, Mt Burrell.

"Being Fire Wise helps minimise risk, so we encourage the community to come along," David said.

Experts will be on hand to help establish bush fire survival plans and help community members determine whether fire vehicles can access their property.

There will also be demonstrations, including

Kunghur RFS members, Alby Jansen and Ron Duckworth, in action.

information on toxic fumes, clothing fires, cooking oil and car fires, and a "do and don't" session on smoke alarms.

Children will be able to meet the fire crew and explore the Kunghur fire service truck... and there's a chance they will be allowed to set off the siren.

The volunteers of Kunghur RFS donate their services to help keep the community safe. Join them at the Sphinx Rock Café, 3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell at 12.30pm Sunday 14th October.

Remember: In the case of fire, phone 000.

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Kids check creek's pulse

Goolmangar School students spent the last day of the school term checking the health of the Goolmangar Creek and planting vines for the vulnerable Richmond Birdwing butterfly.

The school has been monitoring creek health for two years, with the help of Nimbin Rocks Co-operative Landcare members and the local community. The on-going survey has found an array of water bugs, indicating a creek system in good health.

The Nimbin Rocks Co-operative Landcare Group, in partnership with EnviTE Environment, received funding from the NSW Environment Trust to control weeds such as Cats Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine and Balloon Vine that are threatening riparian vegetation along the creek banks.

"These vine weeds smother trees and destabilise creek banks, they

also contribute to the destruction of habitat for threatened species in the area such as the Richmond Birdwing butterfly," EnviTE Environment support officer Georgina Jones said

"It's great for the Goolmangar school children and local community to be able to actively participate in practical activities assisting in the recovery of threatened species and monitoring creek health."

The Richmond Birdwing is under threat of extinction. Land clearing and changes to horticultural and agricultural practices are depriving the insects of food and natural habitat.

By growing the Birdwing Vine, *Aristolochia praevanosa*, provides food



for the caterpillars of this species. The butterflies feed on the nectar of the flowers of the Birdwing Vine, while the larvae eat the leaves.

For further information about the project contact Georgina Jones at EnviTE on 6621-9588 or email: georginaj@envite.org.au

"As above... so below"

Weave & Mend Festival 2012
5th to 7th October (Friday to Sunday) in the Nimbin Community Centre grounds



The Weave & Mend basketry weaving festival has been a successful yearly event since 2005.

Our festival is hands on... sharing skills and knowledge... keeping ancient skills alive through learning and practice. We keep it simple and low cost – our carbon footprints tread lightly on Earth Mother.

Weaving workshops begin on Friday 5th October at 1pm, and run continually through the weekend. Two-hour workshops are \$5 per person, and entry to the festival is by donation.

Plenty of camping is available locally for those wishing to stay over the

weekend. We have a Chai Tent space for refreshments and a good food stall for those wishing to enjoy sitting around a campfire at night listening to acoustic music.

Materials are provided for each workshop. They include natural local fibres and recycled cloth. Please bring a blanket to sit on and a pair of scissors. Needles (including hand-crafted deer antler needles) are available at the festival.

Our festival has always been small – from little things big things grow – and relaxed, family-oriented and educational. Everyone is welcome, to sit and watch, to attend workshops, and to enjoy our Chai tea.

Weave & Mend is organised by Wednesday Women Weavers, who meet weekly (since 2000) to weave together.

Weave & Mend is sponsored by: Nimbin School of Arts, Nimbin Community Centre, Nimbin Hemp Embassy and ACE North Coast.

For more information, phone the co-ordinator on (02) 6689-7129.

Nimbin Preschool



Enrolments available now.

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

Chamber Chat...



John Murray (Regional Manager, NSW Business Chamber), Peter Wise, (President, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce (NCC), Lt. Ashley Baldrey, (Regional Manager, Defence Reserves Support) and Mark Young, (Business Development Executive, NSW Business Chamber).

by Eugenie Stephans, Secretary

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce recently joined the Northern Rivers - NSW Business Chamber 'Local Chamber of Commerce Alliance'.

This new alliance not only allow Nimbin's voice to be added to the growing strength of the Northern Rivers' business community but will also see members gain valuable access to some of the service and product offerings of the NSW Business Chamber at no cost.

On Monday 17th September the Regional Manager of the Northern Rivers, NSW Business Chamber, John Murray attended a special Business After Hours event at the Nimbin Hotel to highlight the benefits of the Alliance. Mr Murray thanked Chamber president Peter Wise and all those that attended for their support and friendship. He said he hoped for a long and mutually beneficial relationship coming out of the union.

The Regional Manager of Defence Reserves Support, Lieutenant Ashley Baldry, also conducted an informative presentation highlighting the benefits of employing reservists and encouraging local businesses to register for a Supportive Employer program. This national initiative is strongly supported by the NSW Business Chamber and is open to all employers, regardless of whether you currently employ a Reservist or not.

If you would like to register your business as a Supportive Employer, please call 1800-803-485 or visit the Defence Reserves Support website: www.defencereservessupport.gov.au

The night was a big success, and reflected well on the Nimbin Chamber executive and their aims of adding even more value to the membership.

For enquiries phone 6689-1639 or email: peterwise@live.com.au

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News
www.nmic.org.au



SEVEN on Sibley Update

\$53,000 has been raised to date, \$94,000 to go. Only two months before interest kicks in, so we need a massive effort from now on to get as much paid down as possible.

The branding is almost finalised and we are also investigating the possibility of relocating the existing old house to the top right hand corner of the site, given the general preference in the community to retain the building on site if possible.

Several fundraising initiatives are underway:

♦ **Family Fun and Auction Day:** Saturday 10th November. People with stuff to donate to auction (good quality stuff only) contact Cat at NNIC (leave message if she is not in).

♦ **Quilt Raffle:** We are currently raffling a gorgeous quilt made by Nreen McLean from Queenbeyan, a champion quilter who has specially made a very fine sun-themed quilt. Tickets are three for \$5, available at NNIC, and look out for folks selling them around town. Raffle will be drawn at the end of the month.

♦ **Name the Baby Comp:** Look out for the Name that Baby comp posters around town (and on Facebook and our website). All the babies are well known Nimbinites and we have given some clues to help you get started. Entry forms are available from NNIC and entries are \$5. The winner/s get 10% of all proceeds. You can buy extra clues at NNIC for \$2 or you can try your best to bribe the judges (Nat or Cat) for more.

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

2012 Annual Nimbin Agricultural Show

What a great show this year and what a phenomenal cabbage! Thanks to the A&I people for all their hard work – especially Ed Harris, Phil Williams, Neville Plush and all the other hard yakka crew down there. Thanks also to the Food Security group and Blue Knob Farmers Market mob for the fabulous Sustainability Alley. We will all be back even bigger and better next year... Let's keep our show growing!

♦ Winners of the Most Sustainable in Show 2012:

The winner was Jed Cameron – organic and biodynamic producer and grower of the aforementioned cabbage. Djanbung Gardens and Stuart McConville were worthy runners-up. The judges inspected all three farms and were very impressed – especially so with Jed's incredible achievements on his property in less than three years, and his amazing crop yields.

♦ **Winner of Nimbin's Sexiest Farmer Comp:** The winner was Kit McNamara and we thought her enthusiasm for farming and especially her chooks made her Nimbin's Sexiest Farmer. At a time when the average age of farmers is 67, and younger generations are leaving the family farms which are being sold off, we were pleased to see 30-year old Kit continuing the family farming tradition.

♦ **Food Security meetings:** Next meeting will be on Thursday 29th November at NNIC at 6pm.

Shed at Blue Knob

Finally the shed is completed, and a gazillion thanks to John Bell, Paul Tait, James Creagh, Dolph Cooke, Guy Stewart and all the other folks who got the thing up. The Food Equipment Library is now fully up and running. Drop into NNIC to become a library member. The more members we have, the more gear we will be able to buy.

Nimbin Murals Project

Are you a local business? Want to get your mural done? Then you should apply for Lismore Council's Heritage grants. Up to \$2000 is available if you can match it. Contact Nat at NNIC for more info.

For your diary

♦ **10th Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner:** – Wednesday 28th November. Instead of the dinner at the Town Hall we will be doing a Women's Film Night at the Bush Theatre. More details will be posted on our website and in next month's NGT. Queries to Teena K at NNIC.
♦ **Community Xmas Lunch:** – for all the family with Santa and traditional Xmas dinner – Friday 21st December in the Town Hall. Non-perishables for hampers or suitable gifts for Santa to give away can be left at NNIC.

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Rainbows on the Ridge

by Leanne Logan

"Abundant" is a good word to describe the life of the children who attend Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner education at Lillian Rock. One day is never the same as the next, and every day is rich.

A snapshot at this time of the year goes something like this: In the kindergarten children are welcoming back Lady Spring with songs, stories, games, art and crafts, setting the stage for future academic learning.

The kindy curriculum nurtures each child's sense of wonder and oneness with the world. Its gentle rhythms allow young children to form deep associations with all that share this realm.

Up in the primary school, students are involved in everything, from the usual English, maths and science... to the more unusual.

Here you'll find Class 1 children learning Chinese songs and games, exploring the world around them, including visits to each other's homes, and mastering the fine motor skills needed for knitting, sewing and recorder playing.

Class 2 and 3 children are helping to build a fabulous permanent cubby and eagerly anticipating the school's new Strings Program, led by a classically-trained local violinist.

The school's upper classes are honing their muscles for their very own Greek Olympics – to be staged with other Steiner schools in the region – in November. Together with this come rehearsals for a dramatic class play on Greek mythology, which will be presented to the whole school community in the new performance hall.

In the adjoining new kitchen, these same students cook up a storm each week preparing nutritious tuckshop meals for the entire school. Ingredients come, in part, from our abundant vegetable garden, and fundraising from the most recent tuckshop endeavours will go towards the class's eagerly awaited snow camp next year.

And it's not all child-focused. The parent



Class 1 student Gwynevere Logan-Cole proudly shows her classwork during Rainbow Ridge's recent Spring Fair Open Day.

community at Rainbow Ridge is equally supported with workshops, visiting guest speakers and an enthusiastic Parent Group which co-ordinates, amongst many other things, a "welcome back" bush dance at the start of each term.

Parent Group is also actively involved in the school's recent Spring Fair Open Day. This annual event offers the wider community a window into Steiner education, with classroom displays, the opportunity to talk to our teachers, music performances and craft activities. It's always a day of good food, great music, and much fun – the maypole dance, catapult castle and coconut shy are favourites.

Another opportunity for interested parents to explore Steiner education is the upcoming Kindergarten Orientation Day on Saturday 20th October. A visit to our beautiful kindy leaves many adults wishing they could have their turn at being five all over again. This special place reflects the warmth, dedication and reverence that our teachers hold for our children.

The school is now taking enrolments for 2013. For details on enrolments, the Kindergarten Orientation Day, or information in general, contact the school on 6689-7033, or visit www.rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au

Life's for learning!

The Community School's Open Learning Centre begins Term Four on Monday 15th October, running for eight weeks.

This term courses on offer are Art, Creative Writing, Basketry, Ukulele, Collage, Yoga, Sewing and French.

Enrolments will be on 10th and 11th October, at the Community School. For enquiries, phone 6689-1477.

Sophia in Carole Barrett's drawing class.



Tyalgum Celebration of Spring

Sunday 7th October, 10am to 5pm (Daylight Saving Time)

Hosted by the village's art, craft and food businesses, this fundraising event includes vintage, retro, collectables, arts and crafts, two sausage sizzles, "hole in one" competition amongst the roses, live music, wine, traditional village atmosphere and much, much more.

Twenty-one raffle prizes have been donated by Tyalgum businesses, and proceeds will raise funds to help save the Tyalgum Community Hall.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

GREAT WEEKEND AT THE NIMBIN SHOW

Beautiful weather, friendly show-goers and the kind support of the Nimbin Show Society all made for a great weekend at the Nimbin Show.

Thanks to everyone who dropped in to the Council stand to check out some of our Council initiatives such as the ongoing Nimbin Advisory Group, the Imagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan project, our Sustainable House display and the Indian Myna bird control program. We also had great interest in our Move2Change physical activity program which is starting up this month in Nimbin (you can check out all the details below).

If you would like more information about any of these initiatives, please phone Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.



MOVE2CHANGE NIMBIN OPEN DAY

After months of preparation Nimbin instructors Cassandra Jefferys and Sue Boardman are ready to strut their stuff at the Move2Change open day being held on Friday, October 12 to celebrate the start of the low cost Move2Change physical activity program in Nimbin.

The open day will give community members a chance to find out more about the project, watch or take part in some demonstration classes, and share a free lunch between 11.00am and 1.30pm.

Move2Change is a Lismore City Council project funded through a Federal Government Healthy Communities Grant. It aims to create a healthier community through physical activity and healthy eating programs that are suitable for all adults, regardless of fitness, age or ability.

Classes will begin in Nimbin community venues in October with Heartmoves being hosted at the Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Centre every Tuesday at 10.30am, while the Nimbin Physical Activity Centre will run Beat It on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10.45am. Both programs are designed for those with diabetes, heart disease and other conditions, as well as those who haven't exercised in a while. Classes are by gold coin donation for adults who are unemployed, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, from a non-English speaking background, over 55, a refugee, living with a disability or carers.

The open day will be held at the Nimbin Town Hall, 47 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Local instructors are also welcome to publicise their own classes. To register for a program or to find out more call Council's Healthy Communities Coordinator Tarryn Corlet on 6625 5377.



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Don't pay your bills

I was greatly heartened by the heading of your September front page story "Can words alone stop CSG?" by the wise Len Martin. "Of course not," I would reply.

It has become painfully obvious that majority vote no longer rules and no matter how many petitions we sign or letters we write or who in fact governs our land, this will not change the fact that our substrata has been already sold many times over to mining companies since white man first set foot here (read *A Fatal Shore* etc). There is no point lobbying a government that holds no power in this decision.

A quick review of our current global corporate management will show you who holds the real power and where to take action. Worldwide multinational companies/ banking magnates (they're all the same lot anyway) hold the potential earnings of the land and its people as security on the billions they manufacture and lend to the government in its endless cycle of debt. (Google the Great American Dream)

There is only one language these people understand and that is Money. Luckily, in their arrogance they have also provided the solution. The billions in which they deal and service the mining companies etc are mostly numbers on paper. The real money these debts rely on is the money you and I pay them in servicing our loans, credit cards, paying our taxes and rates etc. So in protest, the only way to get their attention is to stop paying them, en masse.

If you and I really want this travesty to stop, we need to use our working groups

and our strong community spirit to research the best way to do this and here in Nimbin we have so much collective intelligence, I can't imagine a better place for our cultural evolution to begin. Maybe we could set up our own Sovereign state, our own banks, our own legal departments. In fact many of us have been working towards such change for a long time with our emphasis on sustainability, holism and equality.

Challenging the system means challenging our own sense of security and vulnerability, something the fragile ego self (read child self) finds very frightening. Only with meeting these parts of ourselves, reflected in the dis-ease of the body, will we become free of the holographic co-creation that continues to frustrate us, perhaps enough to make these radical changes.

I envision that our working parties will need to address these issues individually and collectively as they come up, and have methods to do so. This is the true test of our time and the most powerful, non-violent action we can take for ourselves and the planet.

Dr Jacqueline Boustany,
Nimbin

When the gas company knocks

Come on, you Nimbin folks! Show the pollies what you're made of! How can the community let this csg debacle happen? The farmers are being shafted good and proper by the Lib-Nats and the fat cats in Parliament are getting fatter and richer.

If you were a farmer, what would you do when the gas company knocks on the door and asks for entry to

Vale Arthur Pike

(19.9.1922 - 11.9.2012)



"Arthur had a passion for justice and equality, a lifelong commitment to the peace movement, love of the environment, joy in the pursuit of creative endeavours, an optimistic outlook on the world and its citizens and, most significantly, gratitude for what he had in life and his love of family, friends and community."

- Linnet Pike

Born into a working class, union family and raised during the depression, Arthur served in the army during WWII, and saw active service in New Guinea, returning in poor health and with the loss of his right eye.

After the war, he matriculated to Sydney University, majoring in Asian and Australian History, and was active in the Student Labour Federation, becoming Secretary of the IUS and travelling to conferences around the world.

He went on to work in import/export business with China, and later became the NSW Director of the Commonwealth Department of Urban and Regional Development; also a community arts officer for the Australia Council.

In retirement, he built a house at Mt Nardi, and published three books, one of fiction, one of poetry and 'Eureka Songs', an anthology of protest songs.

We'll miss you, comrade.



the family farm? Well, I feel compelled to recite exactly what happened to a farming family from the Darling Downs.

The farmer's son had recently graduated from uni with a science degree. While he was away at uni, Arrow Energy made representations to his parents to enter their farm to assess the gas potential. Being elderly, they just went along with what the gas company wanted to do, as they thought they didn't have any option.

The Federal and State governments sell exploration licences for vast tracts of farmland for as low as \$35,000. Each licensee has to lodge a \$30million environmental bond with the government.

This particular farming family owns 1500 ha of food producing farmland. When Arrow did some exploration

work they found methane gas only 30 metres below the surface and the value Arrow placed on the gas was \$200,000 per ha. This meant that Arrow would extract \$300million worth of gas (\$200,000 x 1500ha) from beneath the family farm.

In return Arrow offered to pay \$750,000 in total compensation over a 20 year period (about a third of the value of the farm on today's market, and which equates to \$37,500 pa). Arrow wants to drill gas wells - one every 65ha - and connect them with roads, pipelines and powerlines over the farmers land. This act alone of drilling 24 gas wells would render the family cropping business unworkable. The farmers are fighting to keep the gas company out and for the right to farm their land - yet they still have to pay off the mortgage. A protesters

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.

blockade was organised at this farm, but Arrow got wind of it and decided to postpone the drilling. It tarnishes Arrow's image and share prices drop when there is conflict with the community.

A neighbouring farm has been purchased by another non-farming family that owns a construction company. The neighbour was happy to let Arrow extract gas in return for the construction work building dongas for the CSG fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers. The gas wells have caused the water table to lower and two bores which provide water for cattle have dried up.

I've got a property in Ballina Shire where Arrow has a licence. The day Arrow arrives on my doorstep, I need 1,000 protesters to blockade the drill rigs. Let's help each other, and let's throw the drilling rigs out. We also need to throw out the pollies who have created this fiasco. Get rid of Thomas George and Don Page, who won't even come and talk to the community because they are so indoctrinated by "the party". If you think CSG is a good idea, ask yourself what the impact will be on the future food supply to your dinner table, as you can't eat methane gas. It is not just about clean water.

Margaret Howes
Empire Vale

Games we play

Following my vision for the future of sport, where the Olympic Games event could be joined with the Paralympic Games event, as in parallel, running alongside, not literally, but with consecutive events, I

contacted two high profile people from two high profile organisations.

The first advised that he did not know anything about the subject, and said that I should contact experts in disabilities for an answer! The second person thought a bit more, saying, maybe the paralympians may not wish to join the "mainstream".

I thought about this statement, and that night I watched contestants in the women's wheelchair basketball team smile whilst lying on the floor with upturned wheelchairs on top of them, followed by another event where winners embraced losers with warmth and love shining through.

How does this compare with an Olympic silver medal winner crying in disappointment, or other athletes disqualified for taking performance enhancing drugs?

If the Paralympic teams could be gracious enough to join in the concept of one-world games for all people, how much could they teach us?

June Crawford
Koonorigan

Grandparents Day

In September we observed Grandparents Day. For many of us lucky enough to have known our grandparents many of us value the love and support of nanny or pop. However, there are a growing number of grandparents who take on the additional role of parents for their grandchildren.

In December 2007 it was estimated that there were at least 70,000 children in Australia being cared for primarily by their Grandparents. More and more grandparents are taking on the caring role providing love, support and stability for the grandchildren. This may mean even putting well-earned retirement on hold.

This is a sudden major upheaval in the grandparents' life, with the extra costs of raising a child a second time round. These financial, legal and social costs usually occur with little outside help. Grandparents tell us they wish to see their grandchildren given the best possible chance of reaching their full potential, and are

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Busker: Juzzie Smith
Charity of the Day:
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Enquiries: 6688-6433

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

prepared to bear considerable hardship and considerable joys in pursuit of this goal.

While we want the children to live with their parents where possible, sometimes this is not possible. At a recent Grandparents Day I was overwhelmed by the stories that grandparents told and their grief and loss on many levels, and their determination to provide the best possible outcomes for their grandchildren.

As I reflect on Grandparents Day, I am reminded of the wonderful support many grandparents provide. Joyce Allston said, "Grandparents, like heroes, are as necessary to a child's growth as vitamins." Marjory Barslow-Greenbie said, "Beautiful young people are accidents of nature / But beautiful old people are works of art."

To all those wonderful grandparents out there, Happy Grandparents Day. If you are a grandparent caring for your grandchildren there is a free monthly support group at Interrelate Family Relationship Centre.

Julie Leete
Interrelate, Lismore

Yarnall reflects

The council elections are behind us, and unfortunately I have failed to be re-elected. This is a great disappointment to me and my supporters, but one that I will take on the chin, and come back stronger.

Being on council was a privilege and a challenge. With support from my colleagues, I have assisted to put Lismore Council on the road to sustainability for the future, turning around years of neglect and poor decision-making. My experience on council has shown me that there are no simple solutions to council's growing problem

of maintaining assets such as roads, and my one regret is that I could not do more for our ailing road network. However, there are processes in place that I have worked hard to establish, that will start to take effect over the next four years, including the review of road construction and the progress of council's asset management plans.

I have been a part of a hardworking, respectful council that has seen the North Lismore Plateau with the potential of 1500 houses become a reality, the upgrade of the Southern Trunk Main to get already approved residential developments in Goonellabah moving, the appointment of a new General Manager to articulate the change in direction of council, the rise of the anti-CSG movement culminating in the overwhelming poll result, community consultation, the housing strategy, the Koala Plan of Management, 2011 Local Environment Plan, Internal audit and the Planning Review. Areas of council that still concern me are the progress of council's asset management plans, the zero budget review and council's long term financial planning.

I congratulate the councillors who were re-elected, especially the Mayor, Jenny Dowell. I wish the new councillors good luck in what will be a steep learning curve. Council is no longer a part-time position, as was the case 10 years ago. The complexity of council business and the growing nature of compliance require councillors to invest large amounts of time and effort. What seems like an easy, simple solution from the outside invariably is more complex once on the inside.

There are many challenges

facing council with cost shifting and budget cuts from the State Government, falling revenue, a back-log of maintenance works and rate pegging. The current council will have little room to move without a thorough re-assessment of council's priorities. The zero budget review and the community survey are designed to give councillors direction for council's priorities rather than personal 'wish lists'. And for the long term, there is the hope of constitutional recognition through a referendum at the next Federal election that if successful could put an end to council's struggle for revenue through government handouts and rates.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who have put their trust in me and supported me during my time on council. I would also like to thank all those who helped me during the election campaign for all their hard work, advice and support and also thank those people who have expressed their support to me in the aftermath of the election result. I have no regrets, and feel privileged to have had four years on council to work and meet with many good people. My life will be the richer for the experience.

David Yarnall
Terania Creek

Titanic of land clearing

In a Nutshell Omah (Cat Hart, NGT Sept., 2012), how many fruit and nut trees and other human food plants surround where you live? The emphasis in regenerating bush through seeing to human food producing systems rather than to primarily direct contact with the bush, is movement toward fixing causes rather than the symptoms, of habitat loss. Bush regenerators haven't been trained to look at causes because there was no subject studied called Philosophy of Bush Regeneration.

Surrounding yourself with mixed fruit and nut trees is not a do-nothing proposal. It is the sort of action worldwide that takes pressure off habitat, and as a side effect reduces the possibility of human starvation.

Bellbirds and Lantana at Lillifield, Andrew (Thompson. NGT Sept.,

2012), can be seen as responses by land to cure itself of pathology caused by old growth logging, the same as mucous can be seen as an expression of a human body attempting to cure a cold. An intelligent human would not attempt to directly stem the mucous knowing it was a bodily means of excreting toxins.

The removal of old growth trees, which Peter Andrews says are the givers rather than takers in a forest, can be seen to have compromised soil's ability to provide for mostly the sucking effect of young growth trees. The Ironbarks may be 'called' as dead wood to the soil to assist, and Bellbirds may be the means by which this is done. Lantana and its comparative short-term ability at rampant production of biomass could be seen to assist that process.

The regeneration of areas where die-back is occurring may take thousands of years naturally, and may involve the use of species formerly unknown to those areas. Professor of Mathematics and Ecology at the University of Queensland and one of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, Hugh Possingham, said about a decade ago that the clearing of Australia was a major ecological disaster. He said effects of land clearing on that scale are comparatively minor at first, but snowball further down the track of time. He likened us all to travelling on a Titanic that is about to hit an iceberg – by the time you know you are in trouble it is too hard to change direction. The damage to the economy and the environment, he said, has been, and will be, "substantial".

The attempted prevention of Ironbark die-back is like cleaning the ice off the deck of the Titanic after it has hit the iceberg, rather than closing the watertight doors. The closing of the watertight doors in biodiversity conservation is examining what human food is, noticing we are mostly not growing and eating it, and then growing and eating it. The causes of the original reason for the clearing of Australia then, mostly have their watertight doors closed.

Geoff Dawe
Byrrill Creek

Notices

For Rent – Share House

Two furnished or unfurnished rooms to let in a large, quiet, comfortable house, 3kms from Nimbin. Own entrance, modern kitchen and bathroom, possible studio and vege garden space. Wildlife refuge, creek pools. School bus/ Lismore and Uni connection at gate. Broadband. Rent: \$130 per week, plus electricity. Centrelink rent assistance form OK. Phone 0417-076-537, 0400-175-324 or (02) 6689-1415 (message).

Share farming wanted

We are growers and breeders of rare culinary vegetables, herbs and spice seeds. We are 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: thewholearthveg@gardener.com

Expressions of Interest for painting job

The Nimbin Community Centre invites expressions of interest from local painters to paint the Youth Connections North Coast Building (Youth Club) in the Community Centre grounds. Applicants will need to have an ABN, own Workers Compensation and public liability insurance, and be able to provide references.

Closing date 31st October. For further information, phone 6689-0000, email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au or come into the office any Monday or Tuesday to see Nina.

Pizzeria Renovation

Customers please note that Nimbin Pizza & Trattoria will be closed in late October for up to two weeks for renovations. Notices will be posted on the shopfront. We look forward to our re-opening and serving the Nimbin Community – La Famiglia.

Nimbin Poets

Beautiful balmy evenings – what better way to enjoy the moonlight than share with the Nimbin Poets? A fabulous night of words, laughter, great raffles and the best company. The first Thursday of each month, kicks off about 7.30pm at the Oasis Cafe.

Kufudokan Aikido

A practice group (Dokokai) for Aikido is being established. Daniel Keszler is leading the group, which is a branch of the Kufudokan School of Social Welfare, established by Grant South, [M.A.] 6th Dan, Head-of-School [Kancho]. The school aims at Body-Mind Harmony and is based on Non-aggression, Non-resistance and Non-competitiveness. Training is held every Tuesday 7-9pm. For further questions please call Daniel on (02) 6689-9249.

Knitting and Crochet Sessions

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

Northern Rivers Greens AGM

The AGM of the Northern Rivers Greens will be held at the Lismore Workers Club on Wednesday, the 17th October at 6pm. Please come along and show your support. Enquiries contact Sue Stock on 6689-1148.

Unity Bhajans

No Bhajans in October, but a two-hour Akhana Bhajan on 11th November, 11am at Birth & Beyond, Nimbin. Enquiries contact Maria or John: 6633-7261.

Church Services

Combined services held every 4th Sunday of the month, 10am at St Mark's Anglican Church, Cullen Street, Nimbin. All welcome. For more information phone Faye Sherf, church warden, on 6689-1440.

About us

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Next deadline:
Wednesday 31st October

Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

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