

Bush Theatre closure leaves film buffs reeling

by Belinda Marsh and Daniel Soler

A friend was shocked to hear that we have closed the Bush Theatre, and demanded an explanation, stating that the town needed to know why.

To many people, the Bush Theatre has been a community and cultural icon for decades; a place to hang out, a place for events, a place to meet. When we were handed the keys two years ago, we were determined to bring it back to life after years of neglect. We listened to the people, and worked hard to make it all happen. It was a labour of love, and we were excited to be reinventing the cherished venue.

Unfortunately, there was a lot of disrespect shown to the Bush Theatre and to us personally. We have had battles with badly behaved people, been walked over by event organisers, and been harassed by particular neighbours. We're always the ones caught in the middle, trying to walk the fine line and make everyone happy, but the ones who ended up unhappy were ourselves.

We always copped the brunt of vitriol and anger. WE were the ones who had to explain our actions to those in authority, taking responsibility for the badly behaved in Nimbin, and having to be answerable to those harassing us.

By far our favourite events were the movies. Showing everyone films they might not otherwise have seen was a complete delight. We would put in hours of research, then contact and liaise with distributors. Occasionally we'd have technical problems with the film, and it was always a stress. Thankfully,



Last drinks: Belinda and Daniel



Lots of music at the farewell party

the majority of the people of Nimbin are so easy-going that it made the projection easier. But it saddened us when numbers were low, and here we were, showing an amazing film, with only a handful of people there to watch it yet again.

Basically, it comes down to this: apart from a handful of devoted and astute followers, the main reason for our decision to close the doors is lack of support by the community. The complaints by neighbours (not Pixie the Builder!) and the disrespectful behaviour shown by some were nails in the coffin.

The disappointments and the stress added up, so we have taken the opportunity to finish it on a high. The Bush Theatre building is on the market, with a strong decision by the owner to finally sell it. She has been very kind and good to us, and until sold, we will be the caretakers of the premises. We have no idea of its future, but we're happy we were part of it, because the good times were great, and we have made some sincere friends. It's time for us to get back to what we enjoy doing the most: writing. And it's time to rest, and enjoy our community! So thanks, Nimbin.

We are hoping that the concept of a film society will take off, and said friend is working hard to make it happen. We will be delighted to be part of it, and offer our knowledge through our love of cinema.

So watch this space.



Goonellabah Primary School dance troupe emerges from dressing shed

Jarjum jumps the gap

by Sue Edmonds

The average life span for Indigenous people in Australia is 10 years less than for non-Indigenous people.

Close the Gap day was designed to highlight some of the needs in health, education, housing and the workplace, and Jarjum Preschool, Lismore, was one of the venues for Close the Gap day on Wednesday 22nd May.

The day was a great demonstration of the

Aboriginal community and friends coming together for a celebration of culture, and a fantastic feast. Boys from Goonellabah Primary school performed dances, accompanied by a teacher on didgeridoo.

The preschoolers were itching to join the group and dance and performed some acrobatic tricks and a breakdance.

This was followed by a quick cooking demonstration by Mindy Woods and her helpers, Marinda and Lizzy. Then we were let loose on

kangaroo curry, damper, fried rice and Vietnamese spring rolls, all topped off with fruit salad and yoghurt. The cooks excelled.

Jarlanbah Permaculture Community has "paid the rent" to Jarjum for 10 years as a donation to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land. This year, the Nimbin Community School decided to also support Jarjum.

All donations are gratefully received as the enthusiastic staff are establishing a vegetable garden and chook run on a shoestring budget.

Nimbin Holiday Club Winter Program

Nimbin's popular school holiday program will be operating from the Youth Connections building in the first week of July.

The program runs for children aged 5 to 12, and each day runs between 9am and 3pm. The basic fee is \$12 per day – more on excursion days, when children are asked to meet in the Nimbin Central School car park at 9am.

Please read the dates and venues below carefully and book to avoid disappointment. To book phone NNIC on 6689-1692,

between 10am and 4pm.

Parents are asked to ensure that their children wear appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, and have adequate food and drinks.

The Holiday Club program is administered by Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre. It is funded by NSW FaCS and is an OOSH service.

The Management Committee of NNIC thanks all parents and carers for working constructively with the Vacation Care staff, and hope you enjoy their winter program.

Date	Program	Cost
Monday 1 st July	Nimbin Youth Club, Park and Skate Park Please bring food and water. DVDs, Art, Craft, Games, Wii, Music and Cake decorating YUM! Sophie and Alex	\$12
Tuesday 2 nd July	Excursion to Murwillumbah Cinema & Crams Farm Movie at the Regent and then we will go to Crams Farm for play and games. Please bring food and water. Sophie and Alex	\$22
Wednesday 3 rd July	Nimbin Youth Club, Park and Skate Park Please bring food and water. DVDs, Art, Craft, Games, Music, Drama Games and Cooking. Sophie and Gaz	\$12
Thursday 4 th July	Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink and Heritage Park Skating followed by lunch and play at Heritage Park. Ride on the mini train too! Sophie and Alex	\$20
Friday 5 th July	Nimbin Youth Club, Park and Skate Park Please bring food and water. DVDs, Art, Craft, Games, Wii, Music and Last Day Party! Sophie and Gaz	\$12

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54 Cullen Street – safely back in community hands

by Bob Dooley

Fifty-four Cullen Street (pictured), home to the Nimbin Environment Centre, Nimbin Apothecary, Birth & Beyond and more, now has a sure future in community hands following three years of litigation.

While court-conducted mediation was unsuccessful, negotiations continued and Nimbin Community Centre (NCC), which will become the new owner, accepted an undisclosed figure to buy out the plaintiffs.

NGT understands the agreed figure to be in the vicinity of \$200,000, and below the current commercial market value of the building.

The building was purchased by the Australian Union of Students in 1973, and used as the office for the Nimbin Aquarius Festival. After the festival six individuals purchased it from the organisers for \$900. The original shareholders were Harry Freeman, Beth Cameron, Co-ordination Co-operative (Tunttable Falls community), Jan Oliver, Carol Elliot and Gael Knepper.

The building, which had originally housed the Nimbin RSL branch, was dilapidated but over the years attracted considerable government funding that allowed for its restoration and an extension to the rear that almost doubled its size. A range of community groups and individuals has cared for the building over the past 40 years.

When Beth Cameron passed away, her son, Tobe Freeman inherited her share. He gained a second share early in the recent dispute when Oliver transferred her share to him.

Under the agreement, Harry and Tobe Freeman



and Carol Elliot will sell their shares to NCC. Gael Knepper recently donated her share to NCC, while Co-ordination Cooperative, which has led the effort to keep the building in community hands, is in the process of transferring its share to NCC.

While details of the settlement are sketchy and the contract is subject to confidentiality, it is understood that the purchase will be funded from rental income collected from the building itself, \$15,000 donated to NCC by Coordination Co-operative, a generous interest-free loan, and NCC reserves.

Rent from the building is expected to repay the loan over the next five years and restore NCC's reserves over 10 years. Following that, the building will be an asset with the potential to generate funds for community purposes.

According to NCC Treasurer Diana Roberts, the overriding concern has been to see the building remain as a community facility.

"If acquiring the building meant turning it into a full-scale commercial operation, we would have considered the community to have lost out," Diana said.

"From NCC's perspective,

the cost of going to the Supreme Court would have exceeded the value of the building for an uncertain outcome. While NCC feels the agreed amount is extremely generous, it was in no-one's interest to proceed to court on a matter of principle.

"NCC's decision ensures 54 Cullen Street remains in community hands for the benefit of future generations."

Ms Roberts said there were many in the community who have given tirelessly to the cause of keeping this building in community hands.

Particular recognition should go to Lynda Young, the Sydney barrister who gave her time pro bono; Coordination Cooperative and Gael Knepper who gave their shares to NCC (Coordination Cooperative also contributed \$20,000 to legal costs); David Spain from Nimbin Law who worked for over four years at a vastly reduced rate; the numerous people who signed affidavits supporting arguments the building was held in trust for the community, and those who spent hours and days going through archival material.

Title to the building will be transferred at the end of August.



Tony Bower, with wife Julie and supporters, following his release

Commonsense prevails in medical cannabis case

Tony Bower, Director of Mullaways Medicinal Cannabis Pty Ltd, has had his twelve month sentence for cultivation commuted to a suspended sentence to be of good behaviour, after a successful appeal in the Port Macquarie court on 4th June.

Outside the court, Mr Bower said, "I would like to thank all those who have shown support for my release. It is good to be home with family and friends. I will be taking some time to consider the way forward from here."

The NSW Upper House Inquiry recently found it's not acceptable to criminalise people for simply trying to achieve pain relief and quality of life, which has now raised the need for trials and research so cannabis-based medications can be developed and produced safely, cheaply and legally, to be made readily available from licenced pharmacists and hospitals.

"The clinical trials in Victoria will need to be worked through and applications made

to NSW Ministry of Health to acquire a license to cultivate, possess and supply cannabis plants for the purposes of scientific research, analysis and study," Mr Bower said.

"This will allow Mullaways Medical Cannabis to legally grow a certain number of cannabis plants to be made into Mullaways natural, low-dose, non-psychotropic cannabinoid tincture to be used in the clinical trials, so definitive research on cannabis and cannabinoids and their medical benefits may finally be done in Australia."

Alan Salt, HEMP Embassy Vice President said, "This is the best news we've had for a while. Hopefully the powers that be are beginning to see that cannabis is not the horror story that some elements would like to portray it as."

Medical cannabis users in NSW are urged to talk to their local members of parliament over the next months and inform them of the facts, as they will be voting on the issue before the end of the year.

Sibley's simple fun

The Super Sustainable Sunday Social is the next fundraiser for 7 Sibley Street.

It will be held on Sunday 16th June at Peace Park, a fun-filled family day with games such as egg-and-spoon races, three-legged races, tunnel ball, relays and more.

Bring a picnic or there will be sausage sizzles, both meat and veggie, on separate BBQs.

Game registration is from 11am (\$10 each player) and the games begin at 12 noon.

Come along and be part of this community day and help raise funds for Sibley Street. Sunday smart gear and dogs on leashes please.

For more info, contact Cat on 0429-194-248.

• Read the update on fundraising on Page 7.



Muralist Amanda Williamson has done a great job of creating and installing the second half of her work above the Nimbin Newsagency.

The completed mural artfully depicts a representation of local flora and fauna. "It's their world too – share the world," said Amanda.

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Creative and arty

by Christina Schaumann

In the past few weeks, we have been getting in touch with our creative and arty sides at Nimbin Early Learning Centre.

It started with an experiment to make three colours with food dye. After we dipped the brush into the wrong bucket a few times, the children realised that the colours mix and make new ones.

They pointed at our branch in the farm corner and noticed that they had created the colour of its leaves.

We talked about the colours of autumn, then used the same paint to make some paper leaves and cut them out. We also made some origami butterflies and thought about what else we could do with all the food dye. We have been tie-dyeing a few sheets that are now used as tablecloths and decorations.

We ventured further into our little art space and found another activity for the food dye. Three canvases, a bit of clear glue and a bunch of preschoolers is all it took to create our new display above the hooks.

We began to make a dolls' house from cardboard boxes, and the children used the food dye to paint the walls. Food dye is very versatile – have a try at home.

We have limited spaces for children aged from six months to school age. Contact us on 6689-0142 or email: nimbin@yourfamilydaycare.com.au

Design and a gran on-loan



At the exhibition

by Michelle

The children of Tuntable Falls Primary School recently visited the *Not Quite Square* exhibition with Peggy Pop Art at the Lismore Art Gallery.

It seems to have made a lasting impression, and has been the inspiration for some home-grown designs.

We recognised a few photographs of local alternative houses and were encouraged to observe and talk about different shapes, materials and designs. It isn't often that children are encouraged to draw on the walls, but we were soon doing just that – drawing our dream houses in chalk on the art gallery walls.

There appeared magnificent modernist monoliths with tensioned steel and rooftop pools, whimsical mushroom houses with fountains, and teetering towers and a teeny-tiny house for two guinea pigs.

Fast-forward to this week and the children have decided to take their interest in house design a little further. Groups of children have been spending their lunch- and morning teatimes collecting materials from the bush around the school to build cubbies.

Wonderful cubbies abound while conflict resolution skills are also put into practise as they undertake their collaborative building!

Mid-term finds all the classes busy with their respective learning programs. The Kindy class is exploring "family" and the students were excited to have a grandma on loan for a day. They recently made rosella jam and were delighted to share it, on freshly baked scones, with Grandma.

The Lower Primary Class has been busy trying to find responses and solutions for the big question "What can I do?" as part of our environmental education.

Starting off with the wonderful story book by Oodgeroo (aka Kath Walker), *Father Sky and Mother Earth*, we are looking at problems and individual contributions to help Mother Earth, dealing with all the problems that the "Human Animal" has caused...

In preparation for the school cross-country run, the children in Upper Primary have been monitoring their times for the practice runs each week. Many are excited that their personal times are improving over the weeks and are setting themselves a goal for the actual race.

The children are excited, engaged and having fun in all aspects of their learning, which makes for a very happy school.

Musical revelations

by Diane Wilder

When Tony Gibson so generously donated his piano to Nimbin Preschool in April, we all had a vision of what might transpire.

Some of these visions have appeared, but others have been moments of revelation.

Resisting any urges we may have had to teach the children notes or chords, we embarked on the journey with each other, surprised and moved by sound.

Becoming lost in it is one way to describe this creation

of music, and we resisted providing any scored music sheets and instead have grounded music within the visual domain.

In the photograph, Solomon experiments with sound after he has chosen a contemporary Indigenous artwork as his visual musical reference.

Accompaniment was played by Diane (teacher), Kai (drums), Jayalee (xylophone) and Amiah (glockenspiel). Solomon conducted the ensemble by describing the music (visual



image) as sad and slow.

Derestricting the children's approach to the creation of sound as

a meaningful story has become our primary aim within the space that is now our sound laboratory.

Philosophy at the Playhouse

by Natasha Livock

At Cawongla Playhouse we have been actively engaging in conversations of thought, value, belief and intellect to develop our service philosophy.

To begin this process I had to ask, "What is philosophy, and what does it mean?"

In the context of an early-childhood education and care service, the following formed our definition:

- Love and pursuit of wisdom by intellectual means and moral self-discipline
- A system of thought based on, or involving, inquiry
- A set of ideas or beliefs relating to a particular field or activity
- A system of values by which one lives

This is a community preschool, so the process of establishing a

service philosophy must engage the community. Educators were asked to develop a personal teaching philosophy and by incorporating all that was integral to our ways of teaching, learning and living, our philosophy was developed in draft form.

We engaged in meaningful conversation and got to know our community better. Feedback was supportive, insightful and challenging. The process included the Management Committee, and when the final draft was presented the process had taken almost a year.

My most humbling conversation: "What do you need us (educators) for?" I asked after some children were telling me how clever, big and strong they were.

After some thought, the response was, "To chop the fruit, help us go to the toilet and push the swings. We can do everything else."



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Coffee stirred and inspired

by Kirrily Owen

Term Two at Coffee Camp means special activity afternoons each week. In mixed age groups, the kids took part in a wide range of activities including pottery, quilting, Aboriginal painting, video-making, meditation, exercise games, art and woodwork.

These afternoons have been a great success thanks to the enthusiasm of the kids, teachers and parent helpers.

Years 5 and 6 have been presenting their very impressive personal poetry collections, made into handmade books or using PowerPoint.

Years 3 and 4 visited the Lismore Waste Management Facility as part of World Environment Day and to fit in with their ongoing learning about our connection to the



environment.

A term highlight was the Big Scrub Activity Day with Blakebrook, Larnook, Jiggi, Goolmangar and Caniaba primary schools. Year 3 and 4 students – all 90 of them – descended on Coffee Camp School for a day of sustainability activities.

It was a good way to bring environmental discussion back to the beauty and history of our local area.

Congratulations to the children who took part in the Zone Cross Country, despite the weather, and to Coffee Camp's two PSSA (Primary Schools Sports Association) Soccer Knockout teams.

The boys were knocked out after a very exciting 2:2 game, while the girl's team is moving onto Round Four after three successive wins. Well done to everyone taking part.

What's good about preschool?

by Maree Conroy

The staff and families think Tuntable Falls Early Childhood Centre is very special for many reasons and so do our children. When we asked some of the children recently, what it is they like about our preschool, these were some of their responses:

Aron said, "Playing in the sandpit, making drains," Arcana said, "Digging," and Aragorn said, "Weeding

with Phillip, and snowpeas."

Sapphire said, "My favourite is circus, because we go upside down and do tricks."

Toulania said, "I like making cards for my mum and cooking cakes."

Billie said, "The clay – I make boats," while Amber said, "I like making a bird's nest out of clay with eggs and little baby birds."

Nala said, "Spanish counting to 15 and singing." Obelia said, "I like dancing

and felting with Silvia."

Honeymoon said, "I like playing with my friends," and Tamati said, "I play cricket with Aron."

Please feel welcome to come and see our beautiful preschool. We run Playgroup on Tuesdays from 10am to noon, for children under 2 years.

We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm during school terms and we take children from 2-5 years old.

Call Maree our Director on 6689-1179 for any enquiries or enrolment information.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin community

Portrait Prize celebrates region's many faces

The 58 finalists in the 2013 Northern Rivers Portrait Prize have been announced from an exceptional group of 164 entries.

"Each year the prize seems to grow and the entries get stronger," Lismore Regional Gallery Director Brett Adlington said.

"This is the fourth year the prize has been running and I think it's going to be better than ever. I'm thrilled."



Rhonda Baker's artwork *Can't Eat Coal Can't Drink Gas* (Clare Twomey) 2013, oil on canvas.

The finalists are incredibly diverse and range stylistically from very expressive to extremely realistic.

The Northern Rivers Portrait Prize opens on Saturday, June 8 at Lismore Regional Gallery at 11am when the \$10,000 winner will be announced. The \$1500 Armsign Award is also announced at the opening while the \$500 People's Choice Award is announced after the exhibition closes on July 14.

New Nimbin Advisory Group members

Council voted at its May meeting to appoint three new members to the Nimbin Advisory Group. This followed a call for Expressions of Interest after vacancies became open.

Community members Robert Fisher, Max Pike and Steven Wright were appointed. Council wishes them the best of luck in their new roles.

Nimbin roadworks – they are coming!

Roadworks on Nimbin Road were postponed in May due to an urgent landslip on Rock Valley Road that required repairs.

Council apologies for the wait in getting this project started. Wet weather and urgent roadworks this year have delayed its commencement.

Nimbin roadworks will definitely start in June. They begin adjacent to High Street near the 50 speed sign as you enter the village.

The project includes a 400m road reconstruction and widening with an upgrade of the existing drainage. There will also be a new footpath from High Street to Cecil Street. There will be traffic control in place and short time delays coming in and out of the village. Work is expected to take eight weeks.

This project is jointly funded by the Regional Road Repair Program and Lismore City Council.

Feedback on Nimbin growth wanted

Lismore City Council is calling on people to have their say on the Lismore Growth Management Strategy Discussion Paper, which is now on public exhibition.

The Discussion Paper has been prepared as the first step in developing a new Growth Management Strategy for the Lismore Local Government Area for the next 20 years. It will guide development in local villages and rural areas as well as Lismore City and asks questions surrounding the type of development people want in the future, looking at options from land sharing communities to rural residential estates.

Do you think your village should expand? Do you think there should be more land sharing communities or should we have none? Should we save all our farmland for food production or allow eco-tourism developments? Do we want another 10,000 people living here in the next 20 years? The Discussion Paper presents the challenges related to growth, employment, housing and how we live along with three possible options for responding to these challenges.

The options are not set in stone and using the community feedback, different elements from each option may form the final Strategy.

The Discussion Paper is on exhibition until 13 June at Council's offices and on the website under 'Have Your Say'. Submissions can be made via post to the General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A, Lismore, NSW 2480 or via email to council@lismore.nsw.gov.au. Submissions should state reasons for objection or support and include name, address and email.

For information or enquiries, phone Strategic Planning Coordinator Paula Newman.

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Gone, baby, gone

The Bush Theatre has closed. Again!

We love our Bush Theatre. If we haven't said those words aloud, we've certainly heard them. It is an integral part of our history, our culture, our community, our social fabric.

The last time the Bush Theatre was out of action – for many, many moons – the town felt as if it was missing a limb.

Abruptly, indeed overnight, the village was confined to a rectangular box of what's on where, and the outstretched arm that beckoned away across the bridge to a sanctuary of visual delights had been severed.

When Belinda and Daniel Soler re-opened it some years ago, offering quality film viewing and dining, Nimbin was back in its element.

The community has enjoyed the benefits of The Bush Theatre for many decades now. It is an important aspect of social, cultural and informative exchange. The rural location and the ethos of environmental sustainability are added

About us

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

reasons why supporting our local cinema makes better sense than driving to corporate-owned cinemas.

The diversity of viewing content at The Bush Theatre made the Nimbin cinema experience competitive in a niche market.

Thank you Belinda and Daniel for your wonderful input into our community. May you enjoy a well-earned break.

Hopefully we will enjoy local films again. Perhaps through a local film society?

Moira Kenny,
 Tuntable Creek

No more MOs?

It's a cruel irony that on this the 40th anniversary of then Aquarius Festival, Lismore City Council is proposing to prevent the establishment of any new Multiple Occupancy developments in two of its three proposals for growth outlined in its new Growth Management Strategy. Multiple Occupancies were largely a product of the festival and the 'new settler' movement.

Multiple Occupancies have made an extraordinary contribution to this local government area. Council's strategic plan Imagine Lismore, the most extensive

consultation Council has ever undertaken, prioritises affordable housing. MOs as they are commonly called have allowed thousands of people in this area to live in a low cost way, often building their own homes and providing their own roads, energy and waste disposal systems. While Lismore City Council has talked about affordable housing for many years, members of MOs have been out doing it and in some very creative ways as the recent exhibition, Not Quite Square, at the Lismore Art Gallery, demonstrates.

Lismore Council is also prone to talk about 'sustainability' and in Imagine Lismore states, "Lismore has a long and proud history of sustainability and has been at the forefront of developments in this concept". It is no exaggeration to say that people living on MOs in this area have led the movement for sustainability in very practical and creative ways for the last 40 years.

It would be very short-sighted for Council to close down the option for more MOs when people living in this way have contributed so much to many aspects of society.

The public will have the opportunity to comment on the future of MOs in Council's Growth Management Strategy which will be displayed on its website and in the usual places.

Simon Clough,
 Lismore

Our Right to Vote

Didn't we fight wars for democracy? But now our democracy has been subverted by lust for more money.

When it comes to

exercising our Right to Vote, we are given a choice between two major parties that are essentially the same. Both serve the interests of the moneyed minority, the greedy-rich class of people, and both are deeply corrupted by the fossil fuel industries. Neither can be trusted.

Most Australians think of themselves as middle class, better off than most and aspiring to be even better off. Promoting the best interests of our middle and working classes there is an alternative party. The growing Greens Party has policies that promote small business, which is Australia's biggest employer, rather than capitulating to big business and big finance. The Greens are the only party truly committed to renewable energies.

But here's the hitch. Money pays, and the moneyed minority control the popular media. TVs have become tools of propaganda and subversion, the flashing pixels having a hypnotizing effect on the audience. And the greedy-rich class of people have a vested interest in maintaining a population of compliant sheep.

Wake Up Australians! In the upcoming Federal election, vote to turn around this insidious betrayal of our democratic heritage.

Miranda Mills
 Mount Burrell

Tower fears

All residents of Nimbin should take note that the two mobile phone towers planned for the community would release dangerous levels of radiation.

The impact on our health and children's immune systems is of vital concern, as the schools' use of wireless in the classrooms will increase exposure and the risk of health problems that have been well documented. (See: www.stopemf.com or www.emfsafety.com)

At a recent meeting, the output of radio systems and devices was given in watts – but it's not the wattage that does the damage, it's the 2.4 GHz frequency, which is the same as a microwave oven. This is what impacts on bodies and brains, agitating cells, stressing the nervous

Notices

Cleaning Position

Local cleaners are invited to apply for a cleaning position at the Nimbin Community Centre Inc. Position is for 4 hours per week @ \$22.50 per hour, with hours allocated to the Community Centre and Birth & Beyond Building. Must have cleaning experience and be able to provide two references. Don't need to have an ABN to apply. This position is covered by Workers Compensation. Applications close 19th June 2013. For further information and position description, please contact the Coordinator on 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Workshop space available

Share shed space in Nimbin village with retailing artist. Price negotiable. Contact: akavasilas@hotmail.com

Public Meeting

Information Night for the Nimbin Community, on the implications of the NBN proposal for Nimbin, at Birth and Beyond Room on Thursday 13th June at 6pm. All welcome. Call Nell on 0437-345-869 for more details.

Practitioners wanted

The GreenBank has vacancies available in their consultation room for practitioners of body/mind medicine. Rental is \$25 for a half day and \$45 for a full day. If you are a massage therapist, counsellor, acupuncturist or healer of any type, and you would like to have a presence in town, and be a part of a committed and enthusiastic team, please, make yourself known to Kylie or Lishia at the GreenBank, or phone 6689-1881 to discuss.

WIRES training course

The NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service is an all-volunteer organisation that needs new members throughout the Lismore region. WIRES offers a weekend course that will teach you how to safely rescue and provide emergency care for injured and orphaned wildlife. The next course will be on 22nd-23rd June. Call our 24-hour hotline on 6628-1898 or see: www.wiresnr.org to join us and to learn about the many ways you can help.

Market Fun Day

The Risk Public School will be holding a Market Fun Day on Sunday 16th June from 9am-3pm in the school grounds located on Gradys Creek Road, The Risk. A great family fun day out with something for everyone: Trash n Treasure, Auction, Market Stalls, Chocolate Wheel, Lucky Dips, Fun games, Egg 'n' Spoon and Sack Races, Animal Nursery, Face Painting, Hot Food Stalls and more. Market stall sites still available, for enquiries contact: Annette 0448-047-794, Kerri 6636-6284 or Jo 0416-544-480.

Footage wanted

A man's five-year old son recently passed away from a meningitis type bug that causes brain clots. The boy was in the candle parade that went down to the Bush Factory during the Aquarius celebrations, at the back end of the drums as the parade crossed the bridge. The father is hoping is that among the footage taken by video there might be some footage of his son's last life event. If you have video footage of that candle parade, or know someone who does, please bring it to the HEMP Embassy and let Alan Salt copy it to computer so the father can look through it.

system and interfering with the heart rhythms.

World health findings are a case of selective reading, as I have seen documents that give opposite information,

including the warning that overuse of wireless devices may cause cancer and other health concerns.

Judee Rose,
 Nimbin

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.

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Channon Craft Market
 The Channon Public School

Next Market
 Queens Birthday Weekend
9th June
 9am – 3pm

Band of the Day:
The Romaniacs
 Busker Stage: Amy Holme

Charity of the Day:
 The Channon Public School
 Enquiries: 6688-6433

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

Renewables

I went to an Energy Forum in Lismore on Friday 31st May. Really interesting stuff: if we don't push for renewables now, we will pay heaps more for electricity soon.

One example is \$250 million for a proposed new electricity line in this area that would lock us in for a 30-years-plus contract to buy dirty coal power, stopping us from adapting to ever-widening and emerging renewable energy opportunities, restricting us for decades to come!

Our government is slamming the door in the faces of investors that are willing, able and waiting to build a variety of clean renewable power stations, by not letting them access the public infrastructure grid, but instead are currently letting private dirty polluting energy corporations use our poles and wires and have their way with us.

We need to lead by example and make our

own community owned and operated clean power generations stations like in Wildpoldsried, Germany where in just ten short years they were able to not only provide themselves with 100% of their own power needs but also to produce an excess of 221% of self-generated renewable power! They sell their excess power, which brings in extra money for their community and thus creates a lot of their own jobs for themselves in the process.

We no longer need to primitively dig holes in the ground in search for out-dated fossil fuels. The big lie/myth is that the mining sector keeps this country afloat. This is simply not true. Statistics show all mining totals about 6-8% of this country's Gross Domestic Product and only employs 2-3% of our workers, and how much of that money stays in Australia?

Mining threatens most of our other industries, like tourism, farming,

manufacturing etc., which are way more valuable and not worth losing over out-dated blinded-by-greed short-sighted old ways of thinking.

Renewables also have the opportunity to create many more ongoing jobs. If we are going to survive as a civilisation, we need to act very soon as it's not too late, but a 2-3 degree global temperature increase could quite possibly be the end game for us all... Boom Baby!

**Sebastien Sledge,
Kingscliff**

Let's talk pot

I went to the shop and noticed the paper had a front page spread on the Upper House committee's decision to support medical marijuana. My shopkeeper said, "Lots of people have been buying that paper today." I said, "Yeah, it's great isn't it? That's why I'm buying the paper." She said, "Yes, it's a good thing."

I said, "I had really bad post-natal depression and anxiety and it saved me. It helped me relax and realise how stressed I was." She said, "I've had anxiety so bad I couldn't work sometimes and it's really helped me." I said, "It's like you're so busy trying to cope that you get really tense all the time, but you don't realise you are. Having a smoke helps you notice how tense you are." She said, "Yes, it's like taking a breath. You slow down and relax. It's the legal drugs I've had bad experiences with. It's the only one I use now and I don't get the same anxiety anymore."

Life is difficult and many of us have stressful lives and problems such as depression or anxiety. If you find something that helps why not use it? I am grateful to the Greens for proposing this bill to parliament about medical marijuana. It is prejudice and discrimination to criminalise people for their drug choice, especially if they're using it to cope with difficult circumstances or illnesses.

Pot smokers everywhere need to understand that they deserve the same rights as anyone else, regardless of discriminatory social attitudes. They deserve to have a political party willing to stand up for their rights to peace, safety and justice.

**Beth Shelley
Booerie Creek**

Local muso turns 50

Popular Nimbin musician Ted Cox celebrated his 50th birthday in May with a surprise party at the Bowling Club attended by over 100 guests, which featured lots of excellent live music that continued until the wee small hours.

His mother, Gloria revealed Ted's first public performance with this anecdote:

"At about 14 months, we took him to the Parliament Hill swimming pool in London. He loved the water and splashed in it for a while, then decided he wanted to go for a walk. We walked behind him, allowing him to explore unhindered.

"Outside the showers, there was a stream of water coming from a pipe high up on the wall. Ted walked through the water, shuddered hugely, sputtered and pulled a face, then turned around and walked through it again, repeating the shudder and splutter. We had to laugh.

"He kept on doing it time and again until a crowd of at least four people deep gathered around him, with us on the outside, keeping an eye on him. Eventually he looked up at all the people and his lower lip started to quiver, and we stepped in and led him away."

Happy birthday Ted.



Khan & Ted



What a month!

What an action-packed month May turned out to be. It kicked off with Mardi Grass of course, plus a month of Aquarius 40th Anniversary celebrations and events, culminating in the Masquerade Ball in the Town Hall on the 25th.

There were some fascinating recollections shared over the two-day *Aquarius and Beyond* talk-fest. A lot of old footage, photos and other material has emerged over the past weeks and this has generated a discussion as to whether and how best to archive this material for ongoing easy access. Watch this space for more info as the discussion continues.

16th June - 7 Sibley St Super Sunday Social Spectacular

A fun day for all the family with meat and vego BBQs, lots of fun games, activities and prizes. Starts 11am at Peace Park - (or at the Town Hall if it rains). All proceeds to 7 Sibley St. Dogs on leashes please.

Rainbow Dreaming book

Nimbinites who ordered and paid for their book on line can now collect the book at NNIC. Bring ID in case the desk staff don't know you. Copies are available for sale at NNIC (and other places) for \$30.

There are special prizes for the first two people to a) buy the book and b) find Nat in it. Congrats to Linda who was the first to find Nat. Will you be the second? All profits from the sales of the book go to 7 Sibley Street.

\$100,000 Milestone achieved

Indeed we have now raised a total of \$105,000.00. WOW! A fantastic fundraising effort during May by everyone involved. You know who you are. We love you a lot. Extra special thanks to David Hallett for the fabulous Peace Love and Protest gig at the Town Hall on 18th May. And of course to all our wonderful donors to date (the full list is on the seven website).

This leaves about \$50,000 more to raise (give or take some interest depending on how much longer this takes) and we will have paid off the loan. \$50,000 isn't so much, especially if you say it quickly! Seriously though, that means only 50 folks with \$1000 or 100 folks with \$500 or 1000 folks with \$100. And so on. If you have not had the chance to donate yet, then why not do it now? Even \$20 will help. You can be a part of this great project. To donate see: www.sevenonsibley.com

And more great news!

NNIC has received three-years' funding to support our costs of accommodating the NIS (Nurse Practitioner) service at NNIC. Whilst the NR Local Health District has been generously providing the funds to support the employment of the Nurse Practitioner for the past six years, all other costs have been borne by NNIC... with a great deal of difficulty. We are very grateful to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing for this funding.

NBN Update

A community drop-in info session, followed

by a brief presentation and Q&A session was held by NBN Co on 29th May at the Nimbin Town Hall. NBN Co will feed back to the community via the NAG (Nimbin Advisory Group) as to feedback provided to them by the community.

NBN Co has been providing answers to questions from the community as the process unfolds and these Q&As can be found on our website - see the home page. (We can print them out for you at NNIC if you need us to do this). We will endeavor to keep updating the FAQs as more questions are fielded. www.nmic.org.au

New NIMBIN Murals - Get yours done too!

Many readers of the NGT will have seen the fabulous new murals above the Rainbow Café (artwork by Benny Zable, painting by Benny and Harmen and friends), the Newsagency (artwork designed and painted by Amanda Williamson), and the Trattoria (artwork designed and painted by Vernon Treweeke).

All the murals went up just in time for Mardi Grass, and were made possible by the dedication and skill of the artists, funding provided by Lismore City Council, support from NNIC, the Chamber of Commerce, the Birth and Beyond building, and of course support from the building owners.

As per the Murals Sustainability strategy, all three murals have been painted onto boards so that they can be brought down for future restorations. Tenants or owners of other Cullen St buildings who are keen to restore/reno/replace their murals should contact Nat at NNIC.

NNIC website - Complementary Health Practitioners' Register

To get onto the register you need to download the application form from the website, and email or bring it back to us once it is completed, or else grab a hard copy one at NNIC, the Apothecary, Herbal Highs or the Green Bank and drop it back to us. www.nmic.org.au

NNIC website - 'Wot's On' Events Calendar

The idea is to get as many local events on there as possible so the whole community can use the Events Calendar on our website to avoid clashes when planning your own events and so we can look up every local event all in one place. So if you have an upcoming local event or know of one that is not on our Calendar already, email it to us on: admin@nmic.org.au

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals and is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to community members.

For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region, drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our CWWs for referrals.

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