

## Congratulations MardiGrass



Member for Richmond Justine Elliot MP with Rad Anonima at the 2013 Nimbin MardiGrass

Nimbin's federal representative Justine Elliot MP was in Lismore during MardiGrass, collecting signatures for an anti-CSG petition. She had such an overwhelming response that she had to decline an invitation to participate in the Hemp Olympix "Tug of Peace" event between police and polite.

Justine said that she recognises that, now in its 21st year, the Nimbin MardiGrass attracts visitors from across our region and from all around the world. "Nimbin MardiGrass is an iconic event for our region and I congratulate everyone involved with making the event a great success.

"I'd especially like to thank

all those people who signed the petition at MardiGrass. Overwhelmingly, our community is united in stopping Coal Seam Gas mining in our area.

"Locals tell me they're very concerned about the impact Coal Seam Gas mining would have upon the North Coast. Together we can stop the National party's plan to expand harmful Coal Seam Gas Mining and fracking in our area," Justine said.

"If you haven't signed the Petition yet, call my office on 1300-720-675 and we'll gladly email you a copy."

"Congratulations to the all involved with this fantastic event and Happy 21st Birthday, Nimbin MardiGrass," Ms Elliot said.

## Janelle's Page



by Janelle Saffin MP

The Australian Government has released proposals to improve measurement and reporting of greenhouse gases from coal seam gas (CSG) exploration and production.

In April it released a discussion paper setting out proposals to introduce CSG-specific measurement and estimation methods into Australia's greenhouse gas reporting framework.

This follows expert and community lobbying about the need to measure 'fugitive' emissions of methane released during CSG extraction and production.

Methane is one of the most potent greenhouse gasses building up in the atmosphere.

Our local community has pushed for this, as CSG activities should not be exempt from greenhouse gas reporting.

The Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science,

Research and Tertiary Education (DIICSRTE) has been reviewing existing methods for measuring CSG emissions for several months.

In particular, I commend Dr Isaac Santos and Dr Damien Maher from Southern Cross University for their study of methane emission levels at Queensland CSG fields, which they submitted to the Department's review.

Their research challenged CSG industry claims that it was a clean energy source and that emissions were 'negligible'.

I reiterate my commitment to a CSG-free Northern Rivers region, and welcome today's announcement as yet another step towards investigating the full environmental impact of these activities.

The discussion paper, *Coal Seam Gas: Enhanced Estimation and Reporting of Fugitive Greenhouse Gas Emissions under the NGER Measurement Determination*, has been released for comment.

It proposes mandatory direct measurement of emissions from CSG well completions and workovers, and foreshadows further changes including research into methods for estimating CSG emissions beyond gas wellheads and from decommissioned CSG wells.

The discussion paper can be found online at: [www.climatechange.gov.au/government/submissions/coal-seam-gas-discussion-paper.aspx](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/submissions/coal-seam-gas-discussion-paper.aspx)

### Carbon farming grants

I encourage farmers and land managers to get their grant applications in for a share of \$30 million under the next round of the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Futures Action on the Ground program.

Individual grants of up to \$775,000 are available to farmers, land managers, non-government organisations and research and industry sectors.

The grants will support innovative projects that reduce methane emissions in livestock production systems, reduce nitrous oxide emissions or increase carbon sequestration in soils.

Farmers and landholders are responsible land managers on the front line of climate change and this program will help them find new methods to reduce their emissions.

The program supports trials and demonstrations that can reduce on-farm greenhouse gas emissions or increase soil carbon, while maintaining or improving farm productivity and sustainability.

Applications for funding under round two of Carbon Farming Futures Action on the Ground close on 23 May 2013.

More information is at: [www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/action-on-the-ground](http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/action-on-the-ground)

## Green scene

by Desley Banks, Greens for Country Candidate for Page



I am the fourth generation of my family to live in the Northern Rivers; my great grandfather arrived in 1901. He cleared the land to provide for his family and began dairy farming. I was born and bred in Murwillumbah and feel very fortunate to have grown up in such a diverse, naturally beautiful and productive farming area with a strong sense of community spirit.

I moved to Lismore in 1987 to commence my teacher training at Southern Cross University. As a mature age student and a mother of two children, I worked hard to complete my studies and be involved in the local community. I was the Northern Rivers Rep for the State Country Children's Services Association and was on the Management

committee of the Big Scrub Environment Centre.

I am a proud supporter of Public Education, and for the past 25 years I have worked as a teacher in Moree (two years), Coraki (seven years) and Coffee Camp (16 years) public schools. I am a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, and have always been actively involved in my local school and community.

For the past two-and-a-half years I have been very active in fighting to keep the Northern Rivers free of CSG and unconventional gas fields. I have great concerns

that our State and Federal governments are not representing, or acting on the very real concerns of local people. I believe our democratic principles and rights are being eroded. The governments are failing to protect our local communities, our lands, air and water.

The Greens support farmers because they are really important to the economy and we want to keep farmers on the land in sustainable agriculture. We want farmers to get a fair price for their produce. We are concerned that young people leave the rural communities and head for the city and never come back. We support the growth of healthy rural communities and locally owned business. We are concerned that our farming lands are being sold off to overseas buyers. Multi-national companies are controlling the future of our nation.

The Greens are the party most concerned with the

impacts of mining and the expansion of the fossil fuel industry. We are listening to, and building partnerships with, our primary producers to protect our water, lands and rural communities. We have the right to live in a healthy prosperous community with clean water to drink and nutritious food to eat. We want to see more investment in renewable energy to protect our local and global environments.

The Greens are looking to the future and are not interested in short term profits of CSG mining. We need sustainable agriculture and industries to provide for our future generations. Our future health and food security is at great risk. I feel a true connection to the Northern Rivers communities and feel a need to speak up for local rural residents, primary producers – the stakeholders of the past, present and future – to stop this destructive, dangerous CSG industry destroying our way of life.

### Broadband Plan will be slower and more expensive

Tony Abbott and the National Party's broadband plan means that families and businesses on the North Coast will pay more for slower internet.

"Let's be very clear, under the National Party families and small businesses will be slugged up to \$5000 for access to super fast broadband," Justine Elliot said. "That's bad for our local economy – it's bad for local jobs and bad for local businesses who will have to pay more for an inferior service.

"Labor believes that everyone has the right to be well connected to affordable high speed broadband," Justine said.

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Tina Fuller (B. AppSc - Optometry) At Nimbin Community Centre

# From the Mayor's desk



by Cr. Jenny Dowell

## Council meeting

Rural Landsharing Communities (RLC) used to be called Multiple Occupancies or, by some, communes. They are synonymous with the Lismore Local Government Area (LGA) and often provide the opportunity for low cost home ownership. In this, the 40th anniversary year of Nimbin Aquarius Festival that gave rise to this new form of community, Council debated an application for an RLC in Fox Road, Rosebank.

On this occasion, Council was unanimous in its refusal of the application in-line with the staff recommendation. The reasons for refusal related to its likely negative impact on the rural environment through tree removal and its impact on flora and fauna, inadequate sewerage management and because it was not in the public interest.

## Roadworks

Following the rain we have experienced recently, the reconstruction of Nimbin Rd into the village is now due to commence by the end of May. These works are being undertaken under the Regional Road Repair Program and are funded on a 50:50 share

basis between Roads & Maritime Services and Council. Works will include the re-construction of the road and the inclusion of a dedicated footpath which will extend the existing footpath to High Street. Additionally, the formalisation of the bus pick-up/drop off area adjacent to High Street has also been included within the scope of works. These works are expected to take six to eight weeks to complete, weather permitting.

## NBN consultation

Residents will be aware that the roll out of the National Broadband Network and its required additional transmission towers is under discussion. Council has advised NBN Co to undertake community consultations especially in Nimbin where two towers have been proposed.

Council, like residents, can make suggestions and provide feedback, but there is no provision for a development application to come to Council for approval or rejection.

## Nimbin Advisory Group

Readers of the April *GoodTimes* will have seen reference to the Nimbin Advisory Group in my column and the separate report from the NAG written by Diana Roberts.

In that edition, there was a call for nominations for vacant positions with a closing date of April 22. There was meeting of the NAG is May 2, and I expect Council will endorse new members at our May 14 Council meeting.

## Imagine Lismore

Lismore Council's process for

Imagine Lismore, our ten year Community Strategic Plan, has attracted considerable attention from groups such as New Democracy and from Councils throughout NSW and interstate.

On April 26 I visited Fraser Coast Regional Council to share our CSP experiences as that Council goes through its Imagine Maryborough community engagement. On May 13, Council will hold an Extraordinary meeting to consider the Draft CSP and place it on public exhibition for your comment. On May 18, our original Citizens' Jury formed last year, reconvenes to consider the report too.

The draft CSP is being drafted with input from our six place-based forums, numerous specific consultations with community groups and our 500 surveys and the workshops held in Council with Councillors and staff. The CSP will include some significant changes to Council's activities so please take the opportunity to look at it.

## T Corp

NSW Treasury (T Corp) has, for the first time released comparative financial reports on all Councils in NSW. The outlook is not positive. More than 1/4 of all Councils in NSW including four on the North Coast are in a Weak or Very Weak category. Lismore Council has been assessed as in the Moderate group but our Financial Outlook is rated as Negative. In order to improve that Outlook, we have been working to increase our investment in our existing assets in order to fund their replacement. That also means cutting costs elsewhere. The CSP process has involved balancing community expectations with our

fiscal responsibilities so again, I stress the changes you will see in what we do. In simple terms, we are like a home owner who needs to our money aside for structural improvements. In order to ensure our 'house' lasts another 50 years, we need to plan and pay for some re-stumping, replace some plumbing and wiring and forego some non-essentials for the next 10 years.

## Autumn Arts

As usual, the Autumn Arts Extravaganza met all expectations for high quality works in all media. The works were exhibited beautifully and gave locals and visitors alike a greater appreciation of the talents and diversity of our local artists. Again I found two works to grace my office walls and hope that all artists made some sales.

## Trains

Many readers will be disappointed with the latest report on the viability of a re-opened Casino-Murwillumbah rail line. The report estimates the cost of restoring rail services at \$900 million and concludes that improved bus services is the better option. The report makes interesting reading and is available at: [www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/b2b/projects/c2m-transport-study-low-resolution.pdf](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/b2b/projects/c2m-transport-study-low-resolution.pdf)

On another train matter, I am pleased to have been appointed to the High Speed Rail (NSR) Advisory Committee formed by the Federal Government to progress plans for a very fast train from Melbourne to Brisbane. With an expected 40 year time frame, I hope younger *GoodTimes* readers

see HSR become the reality in Australia that I experienced in Japan in 1975.

## Anzac Day – Men's soccer

As I write this, the men of the Nimbin Headers football club will be gearing up for their B Division Anzac Cup final against Bangalow at Oakes Oval on April 25 at 12.15pm. I hope to be there for the start of the game before I go to another Anzac Day Service at Carroona. Go Headers! (See report p.31)

## The Future of Local Government

As the deadline for this edition closes, I am reading the latest report from the Independent Local Government Review Panel. While most media attention will be on the recommendation to reduce the number of Sydney Councils from 42 to 16, there are also huge changes proposed for rural and regional Councils. The paper recognises Lismore as the Regional City at the centre of a new Northern Rivers County Council involving Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore and an amalgamated Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council.

There are many other recommendations included in the paper 'Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps' including on roles of Councillors, strong regions, financial sustainability and the relationship between local and state government. I encourage anyone with an interest to read the report and watch out for the planned community hearings.

Read the report at: [www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/documents/LGR/Future%20Directions%20Paper.pdf](http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/documents/LGR/Future%20Directions%20Paper.pdf)



by Cr. Simon Clough,  
Lismore Council

The beautiful autumn weather of the last two weeks has nearly made up for the months of rain. I've been on my bike regularly, avoiding potholes with gay abandon!

Trish and I attended the

*Not Quite Square* exhibition at the Lismore Art Gallery. It was an exhibition of photos and drawings of owner-built houses, mostly built on local communities. There was a large gathering of people and it was great to see some amazing builders honoured for their work.

The exhibition is part of the Aquarius Festival 40th anniversary celebrations. The festival and the influx of 'new settlers' to the Northern Rivers and the changes they brought to this area is an extraordinary story and one in which many of us have shared.

The Regional Art Gallery, which is literally falling down and is way too small, has launched a major fund raising initiative. The gallery is asking for pledges of money. In fact there was an anonymous pledge of \$50,000 on the day of the exhibition.

The pledges will be called on should the gallery be

successful in attracting a major grant to refurbish C Block and build a new gallery. You can make your pledge by calling into the Gallery in Molesworth Street.

The new gallery is proposed for the quadrangle at the rear of the library with the Conservatorium and C Block. The plans envisage a major civic square to be come the heart of Lismore with the opportunity for live performances of music and drama. All we need is your pledge and a grant to create a vibrant physical heart our community and artists so urgently need.

One way or another there is going to be massive change in local government in the next few years. First is the White Paper on the new planning act. I have grave concerns about the proposed changes to this act. My understanding is that the proposed act will only involve

the community in the early stages of drafting a strategy plan and from then on the community will have no rights to object and in fact, Councils will have limited rights to object because any issues will be resolved by expert planning panels, which 'will remove the politics from planning decisions'.

I've seen these experts at work before and have been far from impressed. If you want to follow up this critical issue have a look at the Better Planning Network website and make a submission.

The second major area of change proposed is to the Local Government Act itself. There has been a local government review process going on for almost a year and the results are contained in a White Paper released last week. There are lots of great proposals for improving the financial

viability of councils and good points made about supporting local government altogether. However, it is quite unclear about the role of new expanded county councils, which in our case would include Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle and Richmond Valley.

There has been some talk that the county councils will take on more of the infrastructure role currently done by local councils. I would not favour this idea, as it could too easily lead back to the 'bad old days' when engineers essentially determined most things by

their placement of roads and other structures with little reference to anyone else.

Lismore Council is about to get serious about its budget for this year. We are looking at redirecting over \$1-million, with most of it going to road funding. There will be cutbacks in some services, which I'm sure will cause community concerns. Unfortunately, if Council is to seriously challenge its financial situation, we have to both reduce our debts and service our infrastructure better.

Hope to see you at the Aquarius celebrations.

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# High-speed National Broadband Network fixed wireless for Nimbin

NBN Co is planning to deliver a high-speed fixed wireless broadband service to the Nimbin community. More broadly, NBN Co is planning to acquire and build fixed wireless facilities across the Lismore local government area to deliver high-speed broadband services to homes and businesses in Clunes, Gundurimba, Tregear, Bagotville, Bexhill, The Channon, Coffee Camp, Dorrroughby, Dunoon, Georgica, Goolmangar, McLeans Ridges, Modanville, Rosebank, Tullera, Wyrallah, the rural surrounds of Lismore and the rural surrounds of Alstonville.

Other areas in the Lismore local government area will receive either fibre or satellite services depending on where they are located.

The Federal Government has set a target for NBN Co to connect 93 per cent (with a minimum obligation of 90 per cent) of Australian homes and businesses to fibre-to-the-premises technology. To reach all homes and businesses in our vast country, fixed wireless and satellite services will be used for the remaining parts of Australia including certain areas in the Lismore local government area, including Nimbin. Fixed wireless and satellite services represent a significant improvement to services currently available to many Australians living in rural, regional and remote communities.

## What is fixed wireless technology?

NBN's fixed wireless network, which uses advanced technology commonly referred to as LTE or 4G, is engineered to deliver services to a fixed number of premises within a coverage area. This means that the bandwidth per household is designed to be more consistent, even in peak times of use.

The network will use cellular technology to transmit radio signals to and from a small antenna fixed on the outside of a home or business, which is pointed directly towards the fixed wireless facility.

## Consultation and town planning requirements

NBN Co works in consultation with local councils to determine an efficient and effective way to rollout the fixed wireless network. A key consideration in these decisions is the design of the network, which takes a number of factors into account including population density, geography, radio frequency and other network specific considerations.

Wherever possible NBN Co looks actively to use existing infrastructure when planning the fixed wireless network before proposing new structures.

## Community Information Session

29<sup>th</sup> May 2013

NBN Co is providing a Community Information Session on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Nimbin Town Hall, 45 Cullen St, Nimbin. If you would like to find out more about the NBN fixed wireless network, please drop in at any time between 4pm and 7pm to see the information display and talk to NBN representatives.



## More information

To find out more about the National Broadband Network and what it means to you, call 1800 OUR NBN (1800 687 626), visit [nbnco.com.au](http://nbnco.com.au) or email [info@nbnco.com.au](mailto:info@nbnco.com.au)

# Local activists in gas badlands



John Pene Fonmosa, Jarmbi'je Githabul, Ingo Medek, Ash Grunwald, Peter Stackhouse and Dayne Pratzky

by Nick Hanlon

A convoy of Northern Rivers activists recently returned from a pilgrimage to the Kenya Gasland of central-western Queensland.

This is a vast gasfield known as the Surat Basin in the Western Darling Downs.

You head west from Brisbane for four hours through the Lockyer valley. It is vast country, the Queensland heartland, and was once a major food bowl. The main industry in this region now is gas mining.

As you enter the gaslands you notice the impact that the infrastructure that delivers gas has had on the environment. Huge new roads have been created for this industry; most vehicles you encounter are mining trucks and cars. Swathes of forest have been torn down for pipelines. There is surveillance everywhere, and very little wildlife.

Huge earth walls have been built to hide the holding ponds which hold the toxic water waste from CSG mining. These walls can be kilometres long.

The industry is undecided how to dispose of this water waste safely. In the meantime they are emptying it onto the local roads in the name of "dust suppression".

Dayne Pratzky lives on a 250-acre farm bang in the middle of the Kenya Gasfield. With Google Earth you can observe his farm as an untouched island in the middle of a vast field dotted with CSG wells. Dayne is one of a small group who remains in the area to oppose CSG mining and document the expansion of this industrial juggernaut.

Dayne offered to take a group of local Northern River activists on a tour of the Kenya Gaslands.

The Northern Rivers group included musician Ash Grunwald, Githabul activist Jarmbi'je Githabul, Doubtful Creek farmer Peter Stackhouse, journalist Mick Daley, promoter Nick Hanlon and Ingo Medek, a "Simmo" (a person who has locked their body onto machinery at one of the many protests and blockades against CSG mining nationwide). Ingo was representing those who had locked-on at Doubtful Creek near Kyogle.

## Four out of five anti-CSG in South Casino

There is widespread uncertainty in Richmond Valley about the safety and wisdom of unconventional gas mining.

This was confirmed by last week's door-to-door survey of South Casino residents.

The results also show that four times more residents don't want

mining than those who do.

These findings are the first strong indication that the claim by Metgasco and its supporters that there is a 'massive silent majority in Casino in favour of gas mining' is an unsubstantiated myth.

The survey, conducted by a team of trained volunteers,

The Doubtful Creek campaign persuaded Megasco and Dart Energy that resistance to CSG mining would continue to drive share prices down and was closely watched by the international community.

Most of those who once lived on the country block estates of the Kenya Gaslands have left. The health impacts on the community are alarming – nosebleeds that last 48 hours, rashes, headaches. There are reports of seizures and neurological damage in children.

Marion Palmer and her husband can't leave; they have seven children and a mortgage on a property that has lost a third of its value and is unsaleable. Marion has contacted every government agency she can to get help to leave, to get support for the children's health, for some kind of acknowledgement of their struggle.

"The government has abandoned us," she said.

There has been very limited independent testing of the impact of CSG mining on its immediate environment. Most reports in the public domain have been organised by the mining lobby, who continue to deny that this industry has any impact on health.

As the Northern Rivers group entered the Kenya Gaslands, the first remarks began to be made of a strange metallic taste. By the first night at Dayne's property, eyes were watering, skin was itching and many had headaches.

Scott Collins, a Tara local, said: "They claim that the CSG industry creates 27,000 jobs, but that is not a good enough justification for this destructive industry. The same could be said about the asbestos industry. That also created jobs. If that is all the justification you need why don't we start up the asbestos industry again?"

Dayne will be hosting a private party of supporters at his farm for his birthday on July 13, where there will be musical guests, including John Williamson and Ash Grunwald. Dayne hopes many of his friends and supporters from the Northern Rivers will make the journey up to his farm come July to bear witness to the destructive effects of CSG Mining.

"It is too late for this area," said Dayne.

"Once this destruction is done it's done forever. We need the rest of Australia to wake up and learn from our misfortune."

canvassed almost 500 homes, gathering responses from over 600 residents. Where residents were not home, leaflets were left inviting them to phone-in or email their responses, enabling every resident to have their say.

Richmond Valley Group Against Gas thanks all respondents for their valued opinions.

# Doubtful brings certainty

by Binnah Pownall

The Doubtful Creek Coal Seam Gas blockade near Kyogle was a real first in modern Australian history – black, white and brindle, conservatives and Greens, standing together in defence of the Earth and in opposition to CSG.

There was a lot of sacrifice experienced at the time by a number of particularly responsive people.

Besides leaving personal business unattended and the grass left growing on the home front, those at the front line found that standing on a plastic-tape line in all weathers discussing "argy-bargy issues" with police all day was a very taxing and tense situation.

What else was found was that we were involved in the birth of some sort of post-2012 community. Unlike in the past, people didn't allow the bitterness and grudge energy to be so present, people now pushed on through, or left.

It was quite a sovereign camp at Doubtful Creek – everyone took responsibility for their actions, and no harm was done.

People found their various niches around camp. There was always room for people to involve and empower themselves, from lock-ons to kitchen duties to banner-making and music.

Others worked diligently at the profile we put out to the mainstream world and defined to the media what the point was. The local farmers' support for the camp was integral to its success.

A number of warriors from the Githabul tribe were at the front and active from day one of the DC blockade. When they see white people put their bodies on the line at blockades to confront the white laws they see us being real, and of our word. This seemed to be acknowledged in the way the Githabul were willing to take us into simple, but powerful, ceremony.

The birds always seemed to appear during or after these ceremonies. Yellow-tailed black cockatoos were constant companions in the pines.

They would sit with us every afternoon. At other times, around ceremonies or talk circles when thoughts were focussed, eagles flew over the

site.

We gratefully took this as re-assurance and verification that we were being supported from the "other side" by those who had passed through. Gratitude must be extended to the Githabul Originies – particularly Jarmb'je for such beautiful and deep sharing. Deep, ongoing and lasting links have been made. Some are planting food with the farmers now, others put on the 'No Fracking Way' Cabaret in Nimbin.

Talking closely and resolving social issues in small circles has always worked. There's hope for community yet – if we can get beyond the things that, in the past, we have chosen to let limit us.

The lesson is to keep moving forward and wholly focussed to the positive outcome – as was achieved at Doubtful Creek. Whatever it was, let's have some more of it. Thinking outside the square takes a lot of bravery – as well as imagination.

All you have to do is throw fear aside, put your body on the line and be heart-determined to stay peaceful at all cost.

## Call to cancel local Petroleum Exploration Licences

by Scott Sledge,  
President, Northern Rivers Guardians

The Northern Rivers Guardians has called on NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell to cancel the region's Petrol Exploration Licences (PELs) which are used by private companies to prospect for Coal Seam Gas and other fossil fuels.

The political climate has changed in NSW, and we want the government's attitude to change with it.

We welcome the announcements by Metgasco and Dart Energy that they have suspended all activity in the Northern Rivers and I believe that now is the right time to declare this area to be a frack-free zone. The Northern Rivers is one of the world's most diverse ecological communities and our future depends on careful management. We don't want to be overrun by a 'gas rush' that will destroy tourism and agriculture and our wonderful rural lifestyles for the sake of short-term profits for a few big investors.

In March, the NSW Government announced it would protect urban areas and certain industries (horse breeding and grape growing) from mining. It could easily protect our marvellous region. This month, the NSW Government redefined its proposal to rule out mining on prime agricultural land, by requiring landowners to submit proof that their property qualifies on a 10-point criterion.

This means that no areas will be safe and mining can proceed just about anywhere, despite the government spin about new

safeguards. We need whole regions protected as a prelude to a total ban on mining fossil fuels. The waterways are all connected and no one has any way of cleaning a polluted aquifer.

The Northern Rivers population has voted against CSG (87% in Lismore LG elections and around 90% by Lock The Gate neighbourhood surveys) and has blocked drilling operations for more than 100 days near Grafton and Kyogle. We won't let CSG mining happen here anyway, so why prolong the agony?

Northern Rivers Guardians Inc is open to all the community. People can support their lifestyles and protect the environment by joining NRG or donating through our web site: [northernriversguardians.org](http://northernriversguardians.org)

The Coalition government believes that the current CSG problem was created by the previous ALP government which gave out licences 'like confetti' according to NSW Planning Minister Brad Hazzard.

I challenge the current government to come into the new era of sustainable practices. Cancel the petroleum exploration licences and invest in renewable energy. Now.

According to BHP, we have plenty of conventional gas for the foreseeable future, so I hope the government will stop listening to panic-merchants who say the lights will go out in NSW. If we switch now to safe renewable energy that is generated from solar and ocean wave action we may save ourselves from some of the disasters which are increasing due to pollution and climate change.

Be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

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• 300mm - 400mm Auger •  
• Tipper Hire 5T •

**Laurie Turner**  
0427 891 708



Paul Joseph 1978, Smiling Ruth 1978, Mick Diggles 2013 and Mic Conway 2013

by Ruth Miller

The Aquarius Masquerade Ball will be a fitting culmination to a busy and merry month of May, and a

chance to kick up your heels and dance the night away.

This one-off gala 40th anniversary event will be held on the full moon on 25th May, with fun, colour and

thrilling entertainment.

Feature acts include Mic Conway (of Captain Matchbox), Maireid Sullivan, Andrea Soler, Paul Joseph, Renee English, Janie Conway-Herron, the Silly Sisters, the Tap Bitches and Tribal Monsoon.

The dance band will be Blue Skies, which is re-forming especially for the ball. The original members made magic at Blue Knob and other country hall dances in the 1970s. They are "Smiling" Ruth Miller, Brent Fredberg, Mick Diggles, Hugh Morris, Alan Shaw and Harry Freeman, and they'll be joined by Ben Cox on drums and

Julie Metcalfe on violin.

Wonderful food will be served by the Radical Faeries, there is a secure area to leave bags and coats, prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and a professional photographer will be on-hand.

Gaia Films will be filming the event and producing a DVD that can be ordered for \$20, with half the proceeds going to the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation.

A word about costume:

The idea is to recreate the exuberant 1970s fancy dress vibe and bring a lot of colour and pizzazz to this celebration. You can wear ballgowns, masquerade

attire, any sort of costume or fancy dress, anything outrageous, colourful or even just something nice that will put you into a celebratory mood.

Tickets are \$30 and must be pre-purchased at Nimbin Artists' Gallery (open seven days 10am to 5pm) and Caddies Coffee And Tea, Lismore.

The ball is not yet sold out and all tickets must be sold to be able to stage this special event – so it will help the organisers if you get your tickets now.

Now get to work on your costumes, see you at this not-to-be-missed occasion!



## Let the good times roll!

NORPA, the region's leading theatre company, is throwing a party for the community at the Lismore Skating Rink on Friday 17th May to celebrate its 20th anniversary and launch its 2013 season.

It runs from 5pm to 7.30pm, and while guests won't be on skates, the Northern Rivers Roller Derby gals certainly will be. Key figures from NORPA's colourful history will share their highlight moments.

Anyone remember the

crazies jumping from the roof of the Lismore City Hall for The Cars That Ate Paris, or thousands walking through the streets of Lismore for The Flood? Or, more recently, sitting on the tracks for Railway Wonderland?

NORPA's artistic director Julian Louis will also give a sneak preview of the shows NORPA is bringing to the stage of the newly renovated Lismore City Hall in 2013.

At a time when many other regional theatre

companies have closed doors, NORPA is still going strong – it is one of only a handful of companies remaining that creates its own works as well as presenting the work of other high-profile Australian companies.

"NORPA continues to work on that vital thread that connects us to our audience and community," Julian says. "Touring companies repeatedly tell us how much they love performing to a NORPA audience – they sense a palpable energy in the room, and a willingness to get on board with new ideas."

"Without doubt, our audience is the inspiration driving us forward – always brave, ready to take an imaginative leap, and to embrace the new over the formulaic."

Planned for this year are classic theatre performances with well-known actors, cabaret

with punch, playful dance from internationally re-known choreographers and contemporary circus.

There will be lucky door prizes and a raffle at the party, nibbles from Raw Experiences and grazing platters of local delicacies, wines from De Bortoli and Watershed Wines, beer from Coopers and groovy tunes from DJ Crucial D.

Subscription packages and tickets to all NORPA's 2013 shows will be on sale on the night. Early bird subscribers will automatically go in the running to win tickets to the Byron Bay Writers Festival, Mullum Music Festival, Sample Food Festival events and Byron Bay Film Festival in 2014.

Place are limited, so reservations are essential – call the NORPA box office on 1300-066-772 or email: [rsvp@norpa.org.au](mailto:rsvp@norpa.org.au) to grab a spot. More info at: [www.norpa.org.au](http://www.norpa.org.au)

Picture this: Nimbin, on a Sat'dy night. The streets are quiet, there's a chill in the air and the deep pulse of a people in celebration can be heard coming from the Nimbin Bush Theatre at the No Fracking Way Cabaret... everyone coming together that night to perform, laugh and breathe a collective sigh of relief for a well-earned victory.

Big thanks to Neil Pike, Tim Tonkin, Bee Gonos, the one who shall remain nameless (you know who you are), David Highet, Alan Roberts, Nat Meyer, Daniel Soler... and the rest of you fracking awesome creatures who supported performed promoted and rocked up, to stand together once more...

Over \$2500 was fun-raised that night to contribute to the post-blockade legal costs of all those who were arrested at Glenugie and Doubtful creek, and a contribution was made to the Githabul-Ngarakbul people's project at the newly established Grevillia school.

IMAGINE, an Aquarian Arts Happening... coming up on 19th May, on the old bridge by the



Wanda Vaya Con Dios onstage  
Photo: Marie Cameron

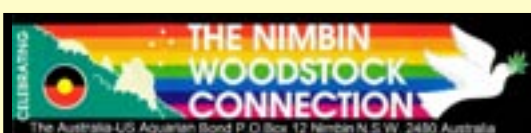
Bush Theatre with drums and fire at sunset, is to gather again and reflect upon the resistance that has thus far let all CSG companies know that our region and waters are sacred and will be protection... see you there!



A screening of the new 10-hour documentary series work-in-progress on the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival and beyond, that traces the impact of the festival on the Northern Rivers region of NSW, and draws comparisons between Nimbin and Woodstock, the art colony that exploded in the aftermath of the 1969 Woodstock Festival in the U.S.

While Woodstock was best known as a festival of sex, drugs and rock 'n roll, Nimbin expanded the concept to create a community based on rural, alternative lifestyles founded on peace, love and cooperation. How well the 40-year social experiment succeeded is part of this tale of Australia's least traditional town.

Filmmakers and founders of Woodstock Museum in upstate New York, Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton, will be on hand to discuss the film, which is being screened in six parts with a special repeat of Part 1.



**WOODSTOCK DOWNUNDER 2013**  
at The Bush Theatre in Nimbin Australia  
Suggested donation: \$10 per session

**Tuesday May 7th, 2pm & 5pm**  
Nimbin Aquarius Festival: Recycling of the Town, Mardi Grass & Cannabis Culture, Drugs & the Nimbin Community  
2hrs4min

**Friday May 10th, 2pm & 5pm**  
Sister Villages: Nimbin & Woodstock  
Benny Zable, Powerhouse Museum & International Environmental Actions  
2hrs45min

**Tuesday May 14th, 2pm & 5pm**  
Tuntable School & Nimbin Walkabout  
Happy High Herbs, Basket Weavers, Birth & Beyond, Nimbin Family Centre  
Biskit at the Oasis, Celebration & Lantern Ceremony at the Bush Factory  
1hr45min

**Friday May 17th, 2pm & 5pm**  
COMMUNITIES: Tuntable Falls, Dharmananda & Woodstock Buddhist  
Wisdom, Yolunga  
1hr57m

**Sunday May 19th, 2pm & 5pm**  
**Repeat of Introductory episode**  
Nimbin Aquarius Festival: Recycling of the Town, Mardi Grass & Cannabis Culture, Drugs & the Nimbin Community  
2hrs4min

**Tuesday May 21st, 2pm & 5pm**  
COMMUNITIES: Djanbung, Jarlanbah & Moondani, Lillian Rock  
1hr18min

**Friday May 24th, 7pm only**  
Communities Conference at Djanbung  
CONCLUSION  
1hr35min

## Aquarius events in May

**Throughout May.** *Not Quite Square.* An exhibition at Lismore Regional Gallery showcasing a history of unique owner-built housing in the region.

**7th, 10th, 14th, 17th, 19th & 21st May,** at 2pm & 5pm; **24th May** at 7pm  
*Woodstock Downunder* film. Parts 1 to 6 at Nimbin Bush Theatre.

**9th to 12th May.** *Aquarius in Lovemore* at Star Court Theatre, Lismore.

**12th May.** *Channon Market* celebrates the Aquarius 40th Anniversary as well as Mothers' Day and the 32nd birthday of the Rainbow Chai Tent.

**13th to 20th May.** *Nimbinovations – Living the Dream* 18-panel Aquarian Archives display at Southern Cross University Library.

**17th, 18th & 19th May.** *Spirit of Nimbin* A weekend of festival events:

**17th May.** Welcome to Country followed by street drumming. Café open in Nimbin Town Hall. Band playing at Nimbin Hotel, cafes open, chai tent.

**18th May.** 9am to 5pm. *Circus Arts and Crafts Fair* in Nimbin Community Centre grounds. A circus-themed event with fun and entertainment for all ages. Food and craft stalls and craft demonstrations and participatory workshops. Featuring the fabulous "Nylon Zoo", Tuntable Circus and React Circus, Sista Gurl, bands, buskers, flash dancers, choirs, hoops, fire twirlers, face painters, balloon sculpture, and a fantasy kids (of all ages) parade. Hosted by Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc.

**18th May.** 7pm. *Aquarius Folk Concert*, featuring Nimbin singers of past, present & future, in Nimbin School of Arts. A fundraiser for the 7 Sibley St. Sustainable House.

**19th May.** 12 noon to 12 midnight. *IMAGINE: An Aquarian Arts Happening.* Dedication ceremony for Nimbin's IMAGINE PEACE mandala site at the Bush Theatre. Bands, feat. Fantuzzi, choirs, dance, art installations, lanterns, light shows, childrens activities, interactive art. Elders ceremony and fire dancers at sundown. Film screenings, *Rainbow Dreaming Exhibition* and book launch

**20th to 26th May.** *Rainbow Dreaming Exhibition.* Tales from the Age of Aquarius: a multimedia exhibition and photo-documentary. Presbyterian Church, Nimbin.

**21st to 31st May.** *Nimbinovations – Living the Dream* 18-panel display in Nimbin shopfronts.

**23rd & 24th May.** 10am to 5pm. *Aquarius and Beyond: 40 Years On.* A two-day market of ideas to reflect on the events that together became the Nimbin Aquarius Festival of May 1973. Presentations, forums, films, displays. Thursday evening, 24th May there will be a dinner, music and films. Hosted by Southern Cross University.

**25th May.** 6:30pm to 11.55pm. *Aquarius Masquerade Ball.* Come in fancy/fantasy dress, wear a mask if you like. Travel back to 1974 and dance the night away to the band that started it all, Blue Skies Orchestra, Mic Conway and many other exciting performances.

**26th May.** 8am to 5pm. *Nimbin Market.* Great food, great music, great community, then *Nimbin Goes Classic* at 4pm in Nimbin School of Arts.

Web: [www.aquarius2013.nimbin.nsw.au](http://www.aquarius2013.nimbin.nsw.au) Email: [aquariusnetworking@gmail.com](mailto:aquariusnetworking@gmail.com)

## Aquarian Folk Celebration



Nimbin has developed as a hot-bed of folk singers since the 1973 Aquarius Festival. As part of this year's anniversary celebrations, the Aquarius 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Folk Concert of Peace, Love and Protest will be held at the Nimbin School of Arts on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

The evening will feature a line-up of Nimbin singers past, present and future, including Andrea Soler and James Ross (pictured), Paul Joseph, Neil Pike, Diana Anaid, Essie Thomas, Phil Levy and Ruth Miller, Doug and Biskit, Vasudha and Jem, Kitty Solomon, Michael Fairley, Gracie Hughes and many, many more.

The show will be hosted by David Hallett and S Sorrensen.

All the performers are contributing their talents for free and all proceeds from the concert will be going to the 7 Sibley Street Sustainability Project.

Doors open at 7pm, the verandah cafe will be open, there'll be a lovely raffle and tickets are only \$10 at the door.

This will be an amazing anniversary show featuring 25 different acts, and it's a great way to assist Nimbin's major community project.

## 40 years on

Aquarius Festival organiser Johnny Allen and Graeme Dunstan are among the keynote speakers at 'Aquarius and Beyond: 40 years on', a two-day conference convened by Southern Cross University in Nimbin on May 23 and 24.

Often referred to as Australia's Woodstock and the birthplace of Australia's hippy movement, the Aquarius Festival had no line-up of music industry stars. Instead 'survival' was its theme and for 10 days 'the people are the festival' was its program.

Dr Rob Garbutt from the School of Arts and Social Sciences said the conference would revisit and critically examine the Aquarius Festival, its aftermath, and the Australian counter-culture then and now.

"Aquarius has resonated well beyond 1973. Its ideas adapted and altered as time went on, yet the Aquarius spirit – hope for the future – is still clearly alive. Nimbin became a place where ideas mixed and morphed to create something new." Dr Garbutt.

Johnny Allen (Kaptain Kultur) and Graeme Dunstan (Superfest) will be in conversation with Lismore Mayor Cr Jenny Dowell on the opening morning of 'Aquarius and Beyond' on Thursday 23rd May at 9.20am.

"In 1973, the Aquarius



Johnny Allen at the 1973 festival

Festival rode the wave of rural regeneration with an explosion of energy and ideas," Johnny Allen said.

"Sadly, many of the insights and initiatives of the festival in terms of sustainable lifestyles are even more crucial now than they were then.

Graeme Dunstan said the Aquarius Festival celebrated a rare and precious moment in 1973:

"Compared to Woodstock and the rock festivals that followed, Aquarius was small in number and understated in form. Yet deep was the discourse and many were the ideas and fancies which found shape and nurture in its thrall."

The full two-day program for 'Aquarius and Beyond' is available at: [sassevents.scu.edu.au/aquarius/program.html](http://sassevents.scu.edu.au/aquarius/program.html)

Registrations are now open, at: [sassevents.scu.edu.au/aquarius/registration.html](http://sassevents.scu.edu.au/aquarius/registration.html) Tickets are \$20 for a one-day pass or \$30 for a two-day pass.

Find 'Aquarius and Beyond' on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AquariusAndBeyond](http://www.facebook.com/AquariusAndBeyond)



## Cutting a fine tune

The Sydney-based *Swingin' Blades* will be the next great gig for the Lismore Jazz Club on Sunday 26th May at the Lismore City Bowling Club.

Formed over a few beers in a Sydney pub, *The Swingin' Blades* have been swinging hard since 2009. Humorous and always entertaining, Sydney's brat-pack stamps their individual style on jazz favourites.

Elana Stone is vocalist, songwriter, pianist, accordion player and band leader, and has been described as one of the most impressive singing voices in the country.

In 2004, she was named Best Jazz Artist at the MusicOz Awards and won a National Jazz Award at the 2005 Wangaratta Jazz Festival.

Aaron Flower is appreciated by musicians for his finesse, and audiences love the confidence and clarity with which he creates melody. He is a guitarist and composer of intellect and beautiful melodic qualities and blossoms when presenting his original compositions.

Kim Lawson on saxophone quickly emerged as one of the top of the heap of up-and-coming musicians on completion of his studies. After a stint in New York and a few years of playing gigs around Sydney with several notable musicians and bands, his playing has developed an urgency and breathless intensity.



Zoe Hauptmann, on bass, has made a huge impact on the scene since moving to Sydney in 2002. She has performed nationally and internationally with many artists.

In her own band, Zoe has explored original music called jazz-a-billy, influenced by Jerry Reed, *Creedence Clearwater Revival* and *The Mahavishnu Orchestra*.

Evan Mannell plays the drum set and is fair and square on the hip list of Sydney drummers, forming the backbone of countless groups and artists on the jazz, indie-rock and underground scenes.

With left-of-centre beats and furious improvising talent, the music is always sidestepping convention and taking the listener to that rare and valued place of excitement, emotion and anticipation.

Evan is also part of the Musica Viva in Schools programme and performs interactive concerts across the country for primary school children with the Glorious Sousaphonics.

*The Swingin' Blades* play from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members / students, \$15 for non-members.

## This one's a Classic



Margaret Curtis pianist/harpist (left) and Lecia Robertson, soprano

Last December's *Nimbin Goes Classic* concert was a huge success, and another classical music concert will be held at the Nimbin Town Hall on Sunday 26th May.

The guest artists will be the outstanding duo Aria Viva, comprised of soprano Lecia Robertson and pianist Margaret Curtis. Other performers include Margaret Curtis (solo harp), *Trio Continentale* (piano, violin, violoncello), and the *Vox Caldera* choir from Lismore.

There will be two 40-minute performances

separated by a 30-minute interval, with coffee and refreshments on the deck.

The aim of these concerts is to provide accessible classical music and culture, with the entrance fee set at \$15.

Tony Coiffet, organiser of these musical events, is putting all his energy towards providing two concerts each year, one in Autumn, the second in Spring – though the Spring concert for 2013 remains uncertain.

The goal of the series is to reach as broad an audience as possible, in the hope of attracting government funding, which will keep the price of the concerts low and offer guarantees to performers.

The concert will start at 4.30pm, with the doors opening at 4pm. Stamp at the door, no concession. Please join the Facebook page: *Nimbin Goes Classic* for updates and info on upcoming events, or email: [NimbinGoesClassic@gmail.com](mailto:NimbinGoesClassic@gmail.com) for special requests.

## Channon Folk Club unplucked



After five years, The Channon Folk Club is folding.

Event co-ordinator Gail Loader said, "It's been lots of fun, but now it's time for the club to come to an end."

Gail and partner Steve, who are not folding or passing away, but will have more time to pursue other stuff, said:

"We'd like to say a big thanks to everyone who has been involved in making the club happen: the performers, those who came to listen and

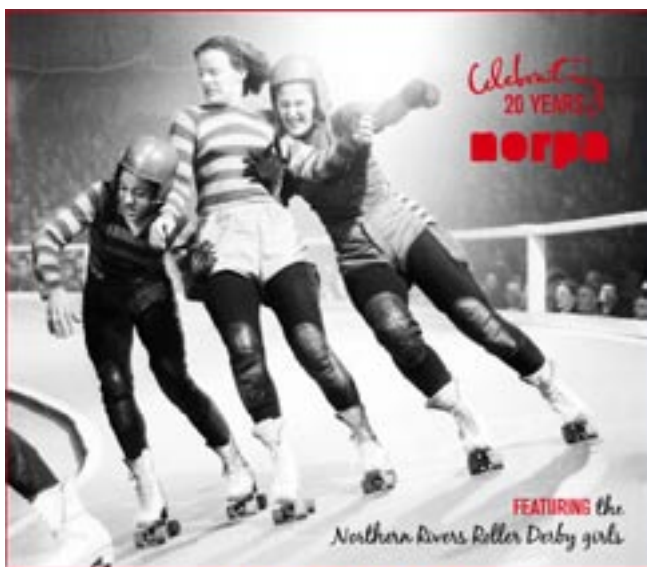
support, those who helped with the set up and pack down, and especially The Channon Butterfactory Tavern for the venue, and more.

"We'd also like to thank The Channon community, along with *The Terania Times*, *The Nimbin GoodTimes*, The Channon Gallery, *The Northern Rivers* and *Byron Echoes* for their support, and special thanks go to Paddy, George, Rayzor and Joye."

## Kerriane for Mothers Day

Kerriane Cox has a beautiful voice and is a deeply spiritual woman who brings us a message of love, unity and peace. Her songs touch the deepest part of our being.

She will be appearing at Annie's Garden Cafe, Murwillumbah Road, Barkers Vale, on Mothers Day, 12th May, 11am to 3pm, \$10 entry. Support bands: *Sisters Healing Earth* and *Mona Lizard*. Bookings: 6689-7369.



## NORPA 2013 SEASON LAUNCH

Get a taste of what NORPA is bringing to the stage in 2013

FRIDAY 17 MAY 5-7.30 LISMORE SKATING RINK

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, PERFORMANCES, LUCKY DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLE. Subscription packages and all show tickets all on sale.

FREE ENTRY but strictly limited capacity. Reservations essential. Call 1300 066 772 or email [rsp@norpa.org.au](mailto:rsp@norpa.org.au) to grab your spot.

**Adam's Auto Repairs**  
Lic. No. 43839  
0429 672 723  
Nimbin and Districts  
**Mobile Mechanic**

**Blue Knob Farmer's Market**  
Fresh local produce for a sustainable future

- Self-sufficiency workshops
- Community Grain Mill
- Local & visiting musicians

Corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Roads  
Only 8km North of Nimbin

Enquiries contact Peter 0403-408-087 or email: [blueknobfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:blueknobfarmersmarket@gmail.com)

Saturday 9am-1pm  
Blue Knob Hall



## Songwriters on the Songline

Two of the leading lights in the North Coast's rising devotional music scene are sharing a bill for a soiree at the Uki Holy Trinity Church.

Songwriters on the Songline presents Mel Dobra (*above*) and Alissa Nathaniel (*above right*) on Friday 10th May, promising a dreamy autumnal evening in the company of the divine feminine.

Mel Dobra has recently graced stages at Uplift, Byron Spirit and Bali Spirit festivals and her debut CD suggests a beautiful new presence in the local music scene. She has spent many years touring nationally and internationally, supporting the sacred music of Kevin James Carroll.

Mel has recently been collaborating with Sun Hyland where she sang harmonies in his band. She will be joined by three other musicians for Songwriters.

Opening the evening, from just over the border in Currumbin, Alissa Nathaniel's

jazz-tinged vocal stylings and kirtan songs ooze pure class.

It's an experience of exquisite intimacy when holding space with Alissa Nathaniel. She connects with her audiences with open vulnerability and musical authenticity, easing them into a sense of unity to be swept up into a heated, passionate crescendo of ecstatic bliss.

Alissa uniquely blends high tempo original chants and songs, with an evocative, soulful jazzy undertone that soothes and caresses the most restless of souls.

Live mix is from Rich Bell. Minister John Tyman will welcome the congregation to this most sacred of venues, and chai and tasty treats will be available before the show and during the intermission. Doors open at 7pm, show at 7.30, \$20/\$15 (ukitopia members) advance tickets from Uki Supermarket, online at: [www.trybooking.com/46890](http://www.trybooking.com/46890) or on the door if not sold-out.

## PINK ZINC DUO PLAY SPHINX

From fronting the rock/pop covers band Pink Zinc comes *Pink Zinc Duo*.

Built on a love for Blues, this duo is a blend of blues guitar and funky solos by Cameron Spike-Porter with the Aretha Franklin meets Janice Joplin vocals of Sarah Grant.

Mixing it up with pop/rock/blues/soul, this duo is out for a good time and playing some of their favorite cover tunes from artists such as the *Rolling Stones*, *Bonnie Raitt*, *Stevie Wonder*... the list goes on! As well as a few original



pieces.

Sarah performed at the Byron Bay Blues Festival 2012 as backing vocalists for 70's soul singer Candi Staton ('Young hearts run free', 'You got the love').

*Pink Zinc Duo* are doing a special Mothers Day gig at the Sphinx Rock Café from 1pm on Sunday 12th May.

## Bring a brooch to Mothers Day in Kyogle

Kyogle CWA will be holding a Mother's Day lunch at the Kyogle Memorial Hall, Supper Room on Tuesday 14th May at 11.30am for noon lunch. Cost \$15.

Bring along a necklace or brooch that belonged to your mother or grandmother, and tell

everyone a bit of history about the particular item.

Everyone is most welcome.

RSVP to Irene O'Neill, phone 6633-1352 or Barbara Clarke on 6633-1259.



**Pictured: Vintage estate diamond habille shell cameo pin brooch**

## HITS with Antibodies



Friday night 17th May, Nimbin Hotel will feature Brisbane band HITS, (*duochrome pic above*) who drop into our village after an impressive year on the road.

HITS add Nimbin to the menu after a constant touring schedule with some of Australia's finest and hardest legendary bands, and this gig follows a European tour that has certainly shaped the HITS as an underground band that are a must-see.

HITS play no-nonsense Rock 'n' Roll with a rock revolution of sorts, an all-girl twin guitar attack that is wild,

articulate, sexy and light-hearted.

They're good, working together like a sisterhood could, and the driving and pumping rhythm section complement the guitars with a cohesion that the Labour party would be envious of!

To wrap up this Brisbane five-piece is the menacing front man Evil Dick, complete with humour, a wicked stage presence and lyrics to make Mommy melt... and the girls and boys to cry! Or dance...

This one-off event will also feature Antibodies (*pictured at top*), who return home to Nimbin to kick off the night, from 7.30pm.

## Channon Market celebrates Aquarian roots



The Channon Market will join this month's Aquarius Festival 40th anniversary celebrations with an extra colourful Aquarius market on Mothers Day, Sunday 12th May.

The event will coincide with the exact date of the first day of the Aquarius Festival in Nimbin 40 years ago, May 12, 1973.

As well as its usual eclectic collection of stalls, the market will host guest speakers; a photography exhibition documenting the legacy of the Aquarius Festival; live music from the Samba Blisstas and Juzzie Smith; an extra long drumming circle at the Chai Tent, plus a few surprises.

The Channon Market is itself a legacy of the Aquarius Festival: It began at The Channon Hall in 1976 as a social

gathering for the Aquarians and a place to barter goods.

"They would live in a hut, grow their own veges and once a month they'd get together for music and trade," said market manager Will Cotterill.

Since then, the market has moved to Coronation Park and has grown enormously (it now has more than 250 stallholders), but it continues to be a hub for alternative culture and ideas, and a meeting place for the community.

It has also held strong to the principles of sustainability and the ethos of 'make it, bake it, grow it'.

The Aquarius Festival celebrations will be held at Coronation Park, The Channon on Sunday 12th May from 8.30am.



3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 [www.sphinxrockcafe.com](http://www.sphinxrockcafe.com)

### Sunday Gig Guide

**May 1pm start**

**12<sup>th</sup> Pink Zinc**  
Mixing it up on Mothers Day with pop, rock, blues and soul.

**19<sup>th</sup> Mr Cassidy**  
Smooth, Smokey, Saucy and Deadly.... dusty earth based tunes.

**26<sup>th</sup> Wall of Love & Elevene**  
It's all about spreading the Love for these local musos.

**June**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Katrina Ross & David Sykes**  
Exquisite vocals and ambient grooves inspired by Classical Indian music traditions.

# Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

## May Gigs

Thursday 9th	6pm	<b>V Grant</b>
Friday 10th	7.30pm	<b>Blackbird Hum</b>
Saturday 11th	5pm	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 12th	3.30pm	<b>Keogh</b>
Thursday 16th	6.30pm	<b>Surf Report</b>
Friday 17th	7.30pm	<b>Hits plus Antibodies</b>
Saturday 18th	6pm	<b>Kellie Night</b>
Sunday 19th	3pm	<b>Les Karski</b>
Thursday 23rd	6pm	<b>Adam Brown</b>
Friday 24th	7.30pm	<b>Brian Watts Band</b>
Saturday 25th	6pm	<b>Mr Troy</b>
Sunday 26th	3.30pm	<b>TBA</b>
Thursday 30th	6.30pm	<b>Scott DayV</b>
Friday 31st	7.30pm	<b>Khan &amp; Ted</b>

*All Gigs are Free of Charge*

**Hummingbird Bistro**  
Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta; Thurs \$10 steak 250g

# NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street  
Phone 6689-1250

## What's On in May?

- **Social Bowls** – Every Sunday from 9.30am
- **Open Mike** – Wednesdays 8th & 22nd, from 7.30pm
- **Big Raffles** – Fridays at 7.30pm
- **Courtesy Bus** – Book at Bar

**CHINESE RESTAURANT**

Home of the 'Big Bowler'

- Lunch & dinner Tues – Sun
- Friday Banquets
- Take-Aways

Phone 6689-1473

# Jail for medi-pot hero

Campaigners for the use of medicinal cannabis are outraged over a one-year jail sentence given to Mullaways medical pot grower Tony Bower.

Mr Bower, 56, is being held in custody despite lodging an appeal against the sentence, which carries a nine-month non-parole period.

Magistrate Wayne Evans refused bail on the grounds that Mr Bower was not remorseful and would continue to give away the tincture.

An appeal date has been set down for 3rd June.

Supporters say they will continue his work dispensing medicinal cannabis to cancer sufferers and others with terminal or debilitating illnesses.

Mr Bower was charged after a police raid on his Mullaway property last year, which netted around 200 hemp plants that he had earmarked for production of medical tincture to distribute, free of charge, to sufferers.

Mr Bower distributed his medical cannabis tincture free to hundreds of sufferers. Many have cancer, others have conditions including Crohns disease.

"For these people nothing else works," HEMP Embassy president Michael Balderstone said. "Many of his patients were crying outside the court. It's time the laws changed."

Mr Bower was sentenced on 23rd April in Kempsey Court and was sorely missed at Nimbin's 21st annual MardiGrass Cannabis law reform rally. Organisers say nothing has changed in the program, with his supporters promising to continue his work.

Michael Balderstone said the news upset a lot of people in the village. "Tony does nothing but good for poor and sick people," he said. "It has fired up the protest because we all know him personally, some of us for a long time, and he is such a genuine fellow."

"Tony is a self-taught healer who American medical cannabis experts talk to for advice. He is one in a million, a modern-day medicine man."

Mr Bower was featured on television in Queensland recently in a story showing that his tincture had stopped a seven-year-old child from having Dravet Syndrome epileptic fits.

Since the airing, the HEMP Embassy has been receiving calls and people have been driving for hours in the hope of getting some of the medicine.



American parents in the same predicament were getting results with their own children since medical cannabis became available there.

Michael Balderstone said, "We desperately need some decent politician to put medical cannabis on the agenda, confirming the healing powers of this plant."

"It's not just hippies talking now, it's on the internet and being embraced by people from all walks of life. Now that half of America has legal medical cannabis there are stories emerging daily of, not miracle cures, but cannabis cures for a number of ailments."

Every plant the police took from the Mullaways medical crop was labelled for a patient, and every patient has a doctor's letter.

Mr Bower has been trying for years to get a hearing from the authorities. He promises his work will go on regardless, with more and more people take advantage of information on the internet on making tincture.

"Nimbin is home to hundreds of good people who have been in jail or have criminal records for loving this plant," Michael Balderstone said.

"For a long time Nimbin has been attracting individuals who, one way or another, have discovered cannabis is a medicine that works for them."

## Donate to the Mullaway legal fund

An appeal has been lodged on Tony Bower's behalf, and a barrister has been retained. Supporters are applying to the Supreme Court for bail.

For donations to Tony's Legal Fund, please deposit in this account: Alan Salt, Summerland Credit Union, BSB 728-728, Account 22295366.

## Plantem Park: same message, fresh hope

### From Page 1

Highlights that come to mind were the Hemp Olympix with S. and Alan Glover, with the new Plantem Park slopes ideal for the Growers Iron Person event. Contestants showed everyone that stoners are as fit and athletic as anyone.

Gary the plumber and Nic the hippy excelled themselves in Correct Weight competition, where contestants put what they estimate to be an ounce in a baggie. The Hash Bowl Stage music line-up by Essie Thomas was fantastic and the Mind Candy forums and workshops organised by Miss Guidance enabled a lot of knowledge to be shared, especially on medical cannabis.

The tincture-making workshops filled the tent and the imprisonment of Tony Bower from Mullaways Medical Cannabis just before the big weekend was a constant reminder to all the protestors of why we gather every year.

The rally and parade on Sunday were sensational and the delegation to the police station managed to get across the message: a request for police to support the recommendations from the NSW Senate Committee Inquiry into Medical Cannabis, due to be announced on May 17.

For too long, the police have been saying, "We're just doing our job", or "We don't make the rules." Well, they have more influence over the laws than anyone else, it seems.



Many thanks to the tiny Nimbin community for tolerating such a total invasion over the weekend. What's an economic boon for one is total interference for another. We endeavour to minimise the impact as best as we can, and appreciate the many locals who think for themselves and contribute to the weekend in a multitude of ways.

Quite a few things need to be tweaked in Plantem Park, but it looks like Nimbin has a terrific new outdoor venue, right in the middle of the village. It has great potential, and a big thanks to the owners of the land who gave us virtually free rein to make of it what we could.

Many thanks also to the

hundreds of locals who every year appear as if by magic to play their part in our annual protest, and a special big thank-you to all the Jungle Patrol volunteers.

By next year, I am confident there will be a crack in the wall that separates us from other medicine users, and through that crack will be – as far as the eye can see and in the not too distant future – fields of green herb!

Better protein than beef, cleaner fuel than oil, stronger fibre than cotton, safer medicine than chemicals, and healthier recreation than alcohol.

It'll be the number one plant on the planet again in no time.

## STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

### Undacuva pays the wages

"There's more than one way to skin a cat, Bethany," says the snide little clerk in the back office counting the parking, speeding and defect fines collected over the MardiGrass weekend.

I'd been playing Bethany, the homeless derro with a filthy blanket and a port bottle full of Ribena. Sleeping rough and hanging around the edges in the shadows, but wherever I went

there seemed to be a uniform writing out a ticket. Blue or brown uniform, yellow tickets. Ticket after ticket.

'Yellow is for wisdom', I kept thinking. One of Pipe's pieces of "hippy crap", as he calls them, deposited in my skull by him and now floating randomly around, leaping forward whenever it gets the opportunity. I'd seen Pipe earlier, in the crowd around the green magician, but of course he didn't recognise me.

I was feeling bad for the Bin visitors dodging the ten dollar

parking fee and copping a \$200 fine instead, so I mentioned it at the Sunday morning briefing at the Station and they turned on me like greyhounds on the rabbit. "You do it then, smartarse. Not everyone can be a drug dealer." Ouch.

No idea what got into me but I agreed, so all day Sunday I'm in a brown shirt writing out tickets for the wiper blades. Possibly the ugliest day of my life. Never have I been so happy to get back Unda. Never before have I realised so strongly what a perfect job I have. Smokin' weed and hangin' out with hippies has to be a heaven of sorts.

But as the clerk stubbornly argues, money is what they listen to these days and not much else. Pay the fine or lose your license.

Pay the fine or lose your rego. Pay the fine or go to jail. Money rules, or that's what they think, and so did I, before Pipe's gold-top stews exposed the myth of the mortgage so precisely.

Or is it explaining my existence to fellow derros that's convinced me that is who I am now? A carefree homeless who lives in the moment and doesn't care if my bag and all my possessions got stolen the other night, which they did, from right beside me sleeping in Mingle Park around the fire.

One has some extraordinary meetings in the homeless camps. I met a Mr Go the other night. Call me Letting he says, offering a warm hand. Letting Go is my name and the name of my guru, and her guru. Is there anything

else?" For once I was stumped for words, but not for long.

"There's the Triple R", I say. "The Revenue Raising Racket. Any event anywhere in the country now has to have permission notes from various authorities, just like back at school. One copy of everything goes to the RRR whose sole job is to live up to its name.

And your MardiGrass Mr Go, is very easy pickings. Simply create some new no-parking zones and send in the brown shirts. It's pay-as-you-go these days, and almost every department is out for themselves. If you want to keep your job, you have to work out how to pay your wages."

How lucky am I in the Undaworld, selling weed rather than writing parking tickets or speeding fines?

**WOULD YOU VOTE FOR...**

**HIM, HER or HEMP?**

Authorised by James Mealy, 11 Fine Street, North Lismore, 2010, on behalf of the HEMP Party.

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