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New vibe at Hemp Bar

Nimbin's world-famous Hemp Bar re-opened on Friday 13th December under new management.

Partners in the venture, Trizzy and Lyndal (pictured) both have backgrounds in social services as counsellors and social workers, and have already established a good rapport in the village.

Lyndal said, "We've had a really good response, with a lot of respect being shown by the people on the street."

"It's been lovely," said Trizzy, "perhaps because we're fresh faces in Nimbin."

With help from Trizzy's daughter Shanice, the women have renovated and repainted the café, and have introduced a new range of tempting food, made on the premises from ingredients mostly sourced from the local area.

"Everything we make has hemp seed in it," Lyndal explained, singling out their chilli hemp burger as a popular new addition to the menu, which is mostly vegetarian and gluten-free.

Trizzy is herself gluten-intolerant, and "in a former life" worked in research and development for a food services company, trialling gluten-free recipes, which she has now adapted for the Hemp Bar.

Customers especially praise their "awesome" coffee, made with Nimbin Valley milk.

"I love making coffee," Lyndal said.

While indoor seating is available, many diners prefer the footpath seating, from where they can watch the colourful passing parade on busy Cullen Street.

The Hemp Bar is now open seven days a week, 10am to 7pm, except Fridays, when they stay open until midnight for the drumming circle.

Every day after 5pm, rice and dahl is served by donation to all comers.

Lyndal said, "We really believe in doing this, as a way of giving something back to this community, which has given me so much."



Photos: Thorsten Jones

In your neighbourhood...
Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre news
www.nnic.org.au

Happy New Year from everyone at Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre!

NNIC Xmas Close dates

NNIC will be re-opening on Monday 6th January. The CentreLink Agency will be open from 2nd January. We apologise for any inconvenience during our closure period.

Nimbin Holiday Club (Vacation Care)

Fun activities for kids aged 5-12 years during school holidays. The summer program is now running until 15th January. For details see our website: www.nnic.org.au - Our Services - Vacation Care.

7 Sibley Street

• NYE Raffle

The winners were drawn live on Nim-FM on Friday 13th December and we hope they all enjoyed the festivals they went along to. Many congrats to the winners and a gazillion thanks for the donations of the festival tix from the Falls Festival, Woodford Festival and Rainbow Circus organising crews.

Many thanks to everyone who bought tix in the raffle and supported 7 Sibley Street. Thanks also to everyone who sold tix for us, especially to Chibo, Max, Dean, Cat, the Apothecary, Herbal Highs, Bringabong, the Green Bank, Nimbin Visitors Centre and the NNIC desk crew. A little over \$5000 was raised and more than 1000 raffle tix sold - a great result!

• Master Concept Plan Community Workshop Outcomes

We are collating the outcomes and they will be available asap on the website: www.sevenonsibley.com

• Fundraising Update

At the time of writing this (mid-December) the total raised is \$129,771 leaving a total of just over \$25,000 to go to pay off the loan. A damn good effort for about 18 months fundraising!

So far we have paid around \$5,500 in interest on the loan, with interest obviously reducing as we go along. Soooo if we can find just 25 people to donate or raise \$1000 or 50 people to donate/raise \$500 we will have finished purchasing the land. If you can think of someone who has not been asked yet to donate, go forth and ask them!

Soup Kitchen and Community Xmas Lunch

Held at the Town Hall on Friday 20th December, it was another fabulous Xmas lunch. Well done to Gail for organising it and thanks to all who helped out on the day. We hope you all enjoyed your traditional Xmas lunch and the fine atmosphere.

Great Koala Count Outcome

43 Nimbinites recorded 148 koalas during the great koala count in November 2013. A pretty good result since that was a period of bad weather and many of the koalas which had been very active in the weeks before (and the weeks after!) the count period went fairly quiet. It seems even the Nimbin koalas resist the census! The count will happen again next year. We will also be able to compare the results of the koalas seen in our Sustainability Survey, once we finalise the data collation. See the map below of the Nimbin koalas located. (Map courtesy of the



Great Koala Count, National Parks Association of NSW.)

Are you struggling with unpaid fines?

You may be eligible to apply for a Work Development Order which enables you to pay your fines down by doing volunteer work at NNIC. Make an appointment with one of our Community Workers to find out if you are eligible.

NNIC website

Our website aims to serve the community. You can find local transport timetables, latest news, community events, directory of local health practitioners, stuff for young people including updates on happenings at the Sk8 park and heaps more. The site is updated on a weekly basis and is always worth a visit. If you think something should be on there but is not, or for any other feedback, email us at: admin@nnic.org.au

NNIC Memberships

Your membership is very valuable to us and helps us a lot, for example to attract funding. So come on down and get your memberships for NNIC! To Join NNIC or renew your membership, drop into NNIC and fill out the form and pay your annual membership fee of a mere \$5.50. Membership forms are also available on our website.

NNIC 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 disadvantaged 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, support and assistance including material aid. If we can't help, we probably know who can.



Snap-happy party time

by Nina Boddenberg

Thanks to the fabulous Nimbin Community for a great party.

In the last few months, Paris Naday and I have started work on a new website for the Nimbin Community Centre.

As we walked around the Community Centre taking photos for the new site, Paris commented that the photos would be much better if we had people in them.

This led me to thinking how I could get the community together for a fun photo shoot at the Community Centre. Suddenly I had a brain wave: why don't we have a party to say goodbye to the year together, celebrate community and take some photos during the event?

This original inspiration blossomed into a fully-fledged party, with enthusiastic support from committee, members, tenants and friends of the Nimbin Community Centre.

It was a great turn out at the community centre on the night, and everyone had a great time.

Thanks to the wonderful musicians and performers who entertained us on the night; and to Kieron and Neil for organising the stage and keeping the tunes pumping.

Thanks to Donato and Julie for cooking away at the BBQ. A huge thankyou to the Nimbin Community School for organising and funding the jumping castle for the kids, which was hugely popular.

Thanks also to Rainbow Flow Arts for their efforts



providing toys to play with and putting on an awesome Fire Show. A big warm hug to all the lovely helpers on the night, too numerous to name!

And lastly, a special thank you to Paris and Darmin for being there all evening taking these fantastic photos.

Watch out for the launch of the new website in 2014.



After Aquarius 2013... what?



The Nomads dancing at the Aquarius wash-up

by Benny Zable

The curtain closed on the 40th anniversary year of Aquarius on 6th and 7th December in the Nimbin Hall, after an energetic year of ceremony, action, conferencing and celebration.

Despite a low turnout, the dream is alive and well, as participants expressed their heart and soul to share memories through archival photos, posters, film presentations, dance and music with wholesome food and drink.

There are so many people to thank for the year gone by. But I would like foremost to express a great thanks to the dedication of Katie (Love) Cawcutt, for her tireless dedication in keeping the Aquarian dream alive in the centre of Nimbin.

As a roving ambassador on the activist trail around Australia and overseas, I must say the world needs lots and lots of love and goodwill to offset the abuse and ignorance shown by the misguided people trashing our

earth, air, water and civil liberties.

I was privileged and heartened to see in New York City the Occupy movement has matured, supporting projects in protests on labour, peace, environmental and human rights issues.

The downside is we are losing the battle on climate-changing coal, oil and unconventional gas.

It's business as usual for the greedy few, and their political mates and banks.

In November, Australia will be hosting the G20 conference of world leaders in Brisbane.

We have a great opportunity to showcase a different way of living to those visitors. I hope to see that sort of installation in Musgrave Park manifest, by the protest planning team.

We the people have an obligation to keep the dream alive for future generations.

If you wish to help out and keep track of my postings and networking, befriend me on Facebook.

Have a great year.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin community

Drum up a storm... and please stay off the road

Council has been told there's a very funky drumming circle that takes place every Friday on the blister in Nimbin, and we encourage people making music, having fun and dancing to the beat of their own drum!

However there have been a couple of concerns raised by the Police Community Consultative Committee that sometimes fire twirlers, dancers and folk end up out on the street. This could be dangerous for those people and for motorists coming through the village.

Let's be very clear – we love the fact the community is getting together and having a good time and expressing themselves creatively on Friday nights. But no-one wants an accident. We ask people could they please stick to the blister and the laneway during these celebrations.

We much prefer to ensure safety via the age-old talking stick rather than any other stick. Thank you!

Visitor centres win bronze tourism award

The Nimbin and Lismore Visitor Information Centres have been named winners of a bronze NSW Tourism Award.

The Nimbin and Lismore Visitor Information Centres were up against 170 visitor centres around the State in the hotly contested 'Visitor Information and Services' category.

The sleek new websites for Nimbin and Lismore launched late last year received special mention as did the beautiful local produce and gift packs sold in centres, the high success rate in attracting events and unique publications such as the Lismore, Nimbin and Villages Arts Trail.

"It's also a great testament to our hard working and highly professional staff that promote Nimbin and Lismore to visitors every day of the year," Council's Tourism Coordinator Mitch Lowe said.

"We couldn't be happier to win this award. We are all so passionate about the region and it's amazing to be rewarded for encouraging others to appreciate this beautiful place we call home. We definitely work hard but in that respect it's the easiest job in the world!"



A smiley and familiar face around Nimbin, Andrew Walker from the Visitor Centre, with the bronze tourism award.

Review of waste services

This year Council is going to investigate the future waste disposal needs of Nimbin residents.

Council will develop a residents' survey in consultation with the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) to ensure staff have a full picture of what waste services Nimbin residents require.

People will be asked to answer a series of questions such as: Do you use street bins for domestic waste and if so why? How would you dispose of waste if the Transfer Station closed? Are you interested in kerbside pick-up?

Once Council has a comprehensive understanding of the waste habits of Nimbin residents and what people would like in the future, it will come back to the community with suggestions and costs for different options.

Upcoming NAG meeting

The next meeting of the Nimbin Advisory Group is on 6 February 2014 at the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre from 6-8pm. The meeting is open to community observers.

First Council meeting for 2014

The first ordinary meeting of Lismore City Council for 2014 will be held on the 11 February at 6pm in the Goonellabah Council Chambers. Council meetings are held throughout the year on the second Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome.

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Email council@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Lismore – a great place to live and work



Abbott razor gang’s attack on Medicare

by Dawn Walker,
Tweed Greens federal
spokesperson

The Federal government’s Commission of Audit is attacking Medicare by proposing to make it more expensive for Australians to see their doctor.

This will have a major effect on the Nothern Rivers area, with already high numbers of disadvantaged families and a growing retiree age group creating a strong demand for local healthcare and social services.

The cost for patients accessing health care is already on the rise, but instead of planning to reduce that cost barrier, the federal coalition wants to make it more expensive, moving Australia towards a two-tiered American-style health system where your



GREEN SCENE

health is determined by your ability to pay.

The proposed blanket \$5 co-payment for GP visits will mean that patients who need health care will think twice before seeing a doctor. Making it harder for low-income families to see a doctor is not the way to

balance the books. The Greens won’t stand by while Tony Abbott’s razor gang attacks Australia’s system of universal healthcare.

As the Chair of a new Select Senate Committee that will act as a watchdog to Tony Abbott’s Commission of Audit, Australian Greens Senator, Dr Richard Di Natale will ensure this agenda is not pushed through in secret.

“We will hear from a broad range of experts and stakeholders to expose the real world impact of the razor gang’s proposals for cuts. So far it looks like vulnerable and low-income Australians are the ones who are going to pay the price,” he said.

The recommendations from the Commission of Audit are due by the end of January.

New Rate Notices for small landholders

Under new administrative arrangements, thousands of owners of small rural lots will this year be issued rate notices from the State Government’s newly-formed Local Land Services Corporation (LLS).

In the past, occupiers and landholders in NSW on hectareage of 10 +hectares are “rated” or “taxed” by the Livestock Health & Pest Authority, firstly according to the number of hectares owned, secondly on the number of mythical livestock an LHPA Officer guesses can be sustainably carried for one year and thirdly a few other “rates” are added in, such as an IT levy which is otherwise not explained.

From January 2014, the Livestock Health & Pest Authority will yet again change its name as a result of the latest of 27 or 28 reviews costing, according to the LHPA Annual Report, \$3.4million in total.

So it’s gone from Pastures Protection Board (PPB) started about 130 years ago, to Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) to LHPA, which has now been merged with the Catchment Management Authorities into



Trevor Kirk on the campaign trail

the Local Land Services Corporation.

As a result of this merger, from January 2014, landholders on hectarages of 2+ will be welcomed into the LLS community with a rate (read excise) notice.

Trevor Kirk, aka TruBluTrev, is an occupier of 11ha at Urbenville who has a strong financial background, and is the convener of a planned Class Action against the NSW DPI LHPAs, soon to be LLS.

He is nominating for a Directorship on the North Coast LLS Board, and said, “I pledge to work hard for the dismantling of at least the demanding money with menaces, currently called LHPA rates collection.”

“I need every landowner in the LLS North Coast region to vote for me in the upcoming elections, so I can work to tear down this outrageous revenue extortion which has been fought for over 35 years and which is still being fought by Landowners all over NSW,” he said.

Nominations for three positions on the 7-member boards in each region close on 31st January, with all occupiers of rateable land eligible to enrol to vote via the website: www.lls.nsw.gov.au before 17th February (one vote per property). Voting is to be completed by 12th March.

ALP Branch disgust at ‘Holden affair’

At their December Meeting, members of the Lismore Branch of the NSW ALP voiced their disgust at the way in which the Federal Coalition have dealt with anticipated Holden factory closures.

Branch media person, Bette Guy said, “It has been assessed by an independent study that the loss of the car manufacturing industries in Australia will eventually equate to the loss of up to 60,000 jobs, not just the initial 3,000. This will cause catastrophic flow-ons to unemployment, health and education issues and mortgage failures.

“Perhaps this is in preparation for the next round of Work Choices. Beware all Australian workers.”

Mobile Home residents slugged

Update on Tony Abbott’s cruel plan to apply GST to Mobile Home Parks

On 5th December in the Federal Parliament, I asked the Prime Minister in Question Time about his Government’s cruel plan to impose GST to Mobile Home Parks.

The Prime Minister then admitted that “various things happen”.

I asked the Prime Minister this question on behalf of the thousands of locals who are deeply concerned about this GST increase. His answer was an insult to them.

Before the election, the Prime Minister said that there would be no change to the GST. What the Prime Minister has now admitted is that he fully intends to slug Mobile Home residents with the GST on their site rentals.

The Prime Minister has obviously lied to the people, given he has now admitted that his Liberal National Party Government will be imposing GST on the site rental for those people who live in a Mobile Home.

Locals now have every right to question what other changes to the GST Tony Abbott’s government will consider.

See the question live from Parliament on facebook: www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP

I’m Backing Team Koala

Recently I spoke in the Federal Parliament about the urgent need to protect the koala population on the Tweed Coast. (You can read my speech below.)

I’m backing Team Koala, Tweed Shire Council and the NSW Opposition calling for a dog ban in the Kings Forest housing development



Justine Elliot MP
Member for Richmond
107 Minjunbal Drive
Tweed Heads South
Phone 1300-720-675

to protect the largest koala colony on the Tweed.

“I’m calling on the federal and NSW state governments to take urgent action to protect the koalas and also the koala habitat on the Tweed Coast.

Parliamentary Hansard – 04/12/13

Mrs ELLIOT (Richmond) (13:54): I rise to speak on the very urgent need to protect the koala population on the Tweed Coast in my electorate of Richmond. I am advised there are currently around 150 koalas left on the Tweed Coast, and our community desperately wants them protected.

I support the call from local environmental group Team Koala, from the Tweed Shire Council and from the New South Wales opposition for a dog ban in the Kings Forest housing development to protect the largest koala colony in the Tweed.

The Kings Forest development comprises

41/2 thousand lots on 880 hectares on the Tweed Coast. These plans for Kings Forest include housing for around 15,000 people and related public infrastructure. Parts of this development will affect known koala habitat. Currently the application is before the federal Minister for the Environment for his approval, having already been approved by the New South Wales state government.

Team Koala and our community are calling for a dog ban, speed limits, corridors and overpasses in the housing development to protect koalas living there. There is no doubt that these developments need very careful environmental consideration, and I call on both the federal and state governments to recognise the need to protect our koalas and our koala habitat on the Tweed Coast.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the great work of Jenny Hayes, from Team Koala, and Dave Norris. They have worked hard to ensure that the plight of the Tweed Coast koala has been constantly highlighted to the community, and their tireless commitment and dedication has been an inspiration to us all.



by Cr Simon Clough,
Deputy Mayor, Lismore City Council

The last meeting saw Lismore Council approve fluoride for the Rous Water users of the Lismore local government area. I was deeply disappointed by this decision and would have much preferred to target preventative programs to educate and support those families who need help with dental issues rather than the ‘mass medication’ of the community.

I don’t believe that any medical system with integrity should operate on the basis of no informed consent and medicate without knowing the condition of the patient, nor the dose given. This is what happens with the artificial fluoridation of our water.

Fortunately I was able to amend a second motion that would have included Nimbin in the request to the Health Department

to implement fluoridation. While it is unlikely that the department in future would try and fluoridate Nimbin, I wanted to ensure that this was not a possibility.

Cr Battista, however, opposed my amendment but could not get a seconder. Both pro-fluoride motions were carried 6 votes to 5.

The successful motion to request the Health Department to implement fluoridation means that it cannot be repealed in future by the Lismore Council.

I was disappointed to see a half-page ad in *The Northern Star* trying to name and shame Councillors who supported the introduction of fluoride. These are people who contribute a lot to our community, giving large amounts of their time and energy and they have honestly reached a decision that they believe to be in the community’s interests.

I have also heard from many people that the fluoride issue was determined by the Mayor’s casting vote. That simply is not true. A casting vote is only used when the votes are tied. As the vote was 6 to 5 in favour of fluoride, there was no casting vote.

In other decisions affecting Nimbin, the Council voted to investigate taking control of Hutchinson Road, which is a crown road. Should Council take over this road from Crown Lands it will negotiate

a licensing agreement with a local community organisation for it to carry out maintenance. This Council decision should see a vital connecting part of the walking/riding trail system around Nimbin preserved for public use. In the longer term, this decision could see tourists spending a lot more time in Nimbin and a significant eco-tourism industry develop.

In my last column I wrote about my adventures in the Kimberley. Here’s a brief update. Lock the Gate has contracted two co-ordinators, one of whom is our first Indigenous contractor. Her first effort was to ‘snaffle’ a large group of Traditional Owners who mining company Buru Energy flew in to Broome.

Buru Energy (a shale gas and oil driller in partnership with Mitsubishi) put them up in the best hotel in town and planned to inform them of the wonders of fracking and shale gas at an ‘information day’.

Unfortunately for Buru Energy, our contractors got in first and showed them our amazing locally-made film *Fractured Country*. Apparently it had the desired effect; Buru facing many embarrassing questions which its presenters couldn’t answer at their ‘information day’.

Wishing everyone a happy and sustainable New Year.



by Cr Jenny Dowell

From the mayor's desk



Fluoride

The main issue for interest for the gallery was a rebate of water fluoridation. Readers might recall that Council approved fluoridation in 2006 but as the process was not completed, a motion to reject fluoride was adopted in August 2013.

In September a rescission motion overturned the August decision. Under rules of debate, a new motion to reject fluoride could not be redebated for three months so the issue was presented again at the December meeting.

The September meeting also resolved to hold a briefing with experts on both sides of the fluoride debate. That briefing was held the week before the December meeting.

At the December meeting a motion to reject fluoride was lost and another motion to ask the Health Department to step in was approved.

The result of those resolutions of Council mean that Rous Water will add fluoride to the reticulated water supply that Rous provides to Lismore and some villages. Nimbin will not have fluoride added because its water is provided directly by Lismore City Council.

For a full chronology of Council's decisions, visit www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and follow the Fluoridation link on the left side.

Crown Roads

Another motion debated at the December meeting related to

Crown Roads and the proposal by Crown Lands to sell these unformed paper roads to adjoining property owners.

The community concern about selling those assets relates to the potential for the connecting roadways to be closed to walkers and horse riders. In particular, the Nimbin community is interested in the future of Hutchison Road.

Council resolved to investigate council taking control of Hutchison Road and negotiating a licensing agreement with an appropriate organisation such as the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre or the Australian Long Forest Association.

Council also resolved to liaise with the Crown Lands department to hold off on the sale of Crown roads until further investigation takes place.

CBD Parking Lismore

There has been considerable debate in Council in recent months about parking hours, paid parking areas and the associated fines for non-compliance in our Lismore CBD.

At our December meeting we resolved to hold a public consultation in April to assist Council in reviewing all aspects of CBD parking. We also agreed not to reinstall paid parking in the Kirkland Riviera carpark beside the river at the end of Magellan Street and to revert to parking times that were in place before July 1. Those changes to times are now in place.

CSG

It came to NOROC's notice that there were state government proposals to change the Petroleum (Onshore) Act and the Mining Act to allow mining companies to access Council controlled lands such as road reserves and to access

private land for testing for coal seam gas.

Council resolved to write to the Premier, Minister for Planning and our local member Thomas George expressing our concerns at this proposal to erode landholders rights. In my next report, I hope to be able to report on the response.

North Lismore Plateau

The Development Control Plan that will guide the development of housing, roads and conservation of natural flora, fauna and heritage on North Lismore Plateau was adopted by Council.

This DCP is a major step towards much needed housing on the Plateau. We are expecting pre lodgement meetings to be arranged very soon and Development Applications to follow in the next few months.

It is the hope of Council and the developers that work may commence on roads and other infrastructure around mid year with house blocks for sale around the same time. There will also be attractive rebates for qualifying buyers to make the blocks affordable.

Waste and Resources

As readers will be aware, Council leads the way in waste management and resource recovery.

In the last few weeks, the first pieces of equipment for our new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that will further improve our ability to reduce landfill and maximise the value of recyclable products have arrived. At present Council pays to have our unsorted recyclables transported to Carrara.

The MRF includes a conveyor belt, magnets, air flow and other devices that allow us to sort plastics, paper, metals, glass and other materials and stockpile them for sale.

At our December meeting

we resolved to request three organisations, On Track, Summerland House with No Steps and Multitask, that employ people with disability to tender to provide services at the MRF.

While on waste matters, in the next few months Nimbin residents will be asked to complete an anonymous survey to see how you dispose of your household waste and what your needs are for household collection and community drop off.

Council will work with community members to devise the survey and arrange places to return your completed surveys.

Section 356 grants for Nimbin

Each year Council calls for applications for Miscellaneous grants for worthwhile community projects. The grants are given under section 356 of the Local Government Act and the maximum available is \$2,200.

This year we relieved 46 Applications for the total of \$30,500. Councillors each voted for their top 15 and were able to fund 14 projects including three from Nimbin.

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite received \$2,200 for raised garden beds, a shade structure, water storage and irrigation. Friends of Nimbin Pool received \$2,060 for a drinking fountain near the pool and BBQ. Nimbin Preschool and Childcare Centre received \$1,548 to purchase a fridge for children's lunches.

As we enter a new year, I encourage readers to contact me via email: jenny.dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au phone 6625-0403, Facebook Jenny Dowell or Twitter Mayorjd if you want to pass on information, make an enquiry or provide feedback.

There is also a Lismore City Council Facebook page and Twitter account for valuable updates.



Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Kyogle



Honour Roll. She has been a tireless campaigner for her people and acts as a bridge between Aboriginal and white Australia spreading messages of tolerance and understanding. I'm sure you all join with me in congratulating her on this outstanding achievement.

With summer rapidly approaching, it's really important for everyone to stay cool and calm. I know

and understand that dealing with government at different levels can be a frustrating experience especially if you don't understand the legislative, policy and administrative base from which Council, and other areas of government, have to operate. We all want simple solutions to complex problems and if we could do it, we would but that's rarely possible.

By way of example, I recently witnessed a person approach the public counter area in Council and proceed to berate staff over some issue or other. It would be good if I could be more specific but this individual was so enraged that it was not possible to ascertain

what the issue was in order to address it. Being so upset that you cannot form intelligible sentences suggests that you need to go away, calm down and come back when you're sufficiently composed that you can be clearly understood.

Notwithstanding, I cannot and will not condone our staff being treated in this manner. The young ladies that had to deal with this, and other individuals of this nature, have to deal with the emotional and psychological aftermath of being abused and demeaned. Let me make it clear that our staff are not public punching bags for the gratification of the marginally in control and I whole heartedly support

the policy of staff not being subject to obscene language or aggressive behaviour.

Our staff are trying to help you, but you need to be calm, state what you want clearly and listen to the advice that is provided to you. Unfortunately it won't always be the answer you want, but that doesn't mean that it isn't correct. Stay calm and we'll do our best.

On 28 November I was happy to launch this year's Take The Pledge initiative against domestic violence. The pledge simply says, "I swear never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women." To support this initiative across the LGA, you'll find pledge sheets in shops and

places you frequent and on the counter at Council where you can sign to show your support. Can I encourage everyone to get behind this important awareness campaign and let the world know where you stand.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Have a wonderful break with family and friends and from everyone at Council, we wish you all the best and look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you in 2014.

Until next time, all the best.

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Med-Pot – no quarter given

by Dr John Kaye, Greens NSW MP

Fear-mongering and prejudice have once again trumped common sense and humanity in the debate over the legality of medicinal cannabis.

In a victory for cannabis hysteria, last month the NSW Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, took the politically expedient path of rejecting the unanimous findings of a NSW Parliamentary Inquiry that the terminally ill be allowed to possess and use small quantities of crude cannabis.

In May of this year, the Upper House committee conducting the inquiry recommended that people dying from diseases such as cancer and end-stage HIV and their carers be exempted from prosecution for possession of a very small amount of crude cannabis.

Recommendation number 2 in the committee's report was that the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 be amended to provide "a complete defence from arrest and prosecution for the use of cannabis and possession of up to 15 grams of dry cannabis or equivalent amounts of other cannabis products, and equipment for the administration of cannabis," for the medical use by patients with terminal illness and those who have moved from HIV infection to AIDS.

The committee reached that conclusion after taking extensive evidence, including from those who had benefited from the use of raw cannabis to deal with pain and nausea associated with HIV and cancer. Even though the police and the conservative anti-cannabis professionals were predictably hostile, every



member of the committee was persuaded that our duty was to focus on the possibility of providing some relief for those who were nearing the end of their lives.

The committee broadly represented the body of New South Wales politics: two Coalition members, including a conservative Liberal; two Labor members; one Shooters and Fishers Party member; and one member of The Greens. The unanimous finding gave hope that for once this State's decision-makers would do something unexpected and find the collective courage to confront the hysteria that surrounds any mention of cannabis.

Instead, the O'Farrell government took the politically expedient path. Health Minister Jillian Skinner's response to the inquiry's recommendations, tabled in parliament last month, will leave thousands of terminally ill patients with the awful choice of either breaking the law or suffering unnecessary pain and nausea in the last few months of their lives.

Despite the committee targeting those with little time to live, the Minister rejected the findings, arguing that cannabis can be a harmful drug with a number of health impacts.



The Minister studiously ignored the reality that people who would be eligible for an exemption from prosecution for possessing small amounts of cannabis are dying. Long-term health impacts are irrelevant to those who have only a few months to live. The argument that allowing patients wracked with nausea and pain to access cannabis will somehow glamorise the drug is similarly absurd.

The committee was mindful of so-called leakage issues. It proposed the creation of a register of authorised cannabis patients and carers to address this issue, and actually divert cannabis out of the recreational market.

The government accepted the Committee's recommendation that products like the sprays and tinctures that have no perceptible psychoactive effects should be treated as normal pharmaceuticals. This aspect of the report was uncontroversial and required no political courage to act on.

The O'Farrell government ignored the focus on the needs of the dying, proving that they are more concerned about avoiding a minor backlash from anti-cannabis groups than helping cancer sufferers cope in the last few

months of their lives.

This was an opportunity for Health Minister Jillian Skinner, with the backing of all political parties in the Parliament, to take a stand for a humane outcome. It is a shame that the O'Farrell government proved itself to be more focused on the opinion polls and radio shock-jocks than on the needs of the terminally ill.

In the absence of any rational or humane response from government, the Greens are giving parliament the opportunity to implement the key recommendation of the Upper House committee.

We are drafting a Bill to amend the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 to add a complete defence to the use and possession of cannabis for authorised medical use by patients with terminal illness and those who have moved from HIV infection to AIDS.

The bill will be introduced into the Upper House of the NSW Parliament when it resumes in March 2014. All members of the Legislative Council will have the chance to endorse the unanimous findings of their colleagues who carefully and sensitively assessed the evidence brought before the inquiry.

Hemp Party politics – A reply to Graham Askey

by Dr John Jiggins

In the first paragraph of my article 'A train wreck named HEMP' (NGT October 13, p.12), I stated I decided to leave the HEMP party because of the lack of internal democracy, that the troika of Michael Balderstone, Graham Askey and James Moylan decided on candidates, preferences and tactics, while the wishes of the rest of the HEMP party members were ignored.

Replying for the troika (NGT Letters, November 13, p.6), Graham Askey confirmed my criticisms by ignoring them. He didn't deal with the criticism of the undemocratic nature of the HEMP party because he hasn't got a clue what running a democratic party entails. Askey set up the HEMP party to run in an authoritarian way where he has all the power. A democratic constitution would deprive him of this power.

Who decides where HEMP preferences will flow?

Askey does, and he does it in a highly controversial way that members disagree with so strongly that many have left. As my analysis showed, Askey's choices mirror the choices of Glenn Drurey, a political operator employed by the



John Jiggins

Shooters and Fishers Party. His choices have little to do with the party's support or otherwise for drug law reform. Vote for HEMP and your vote will go to the Climate Skeptics, Motoring Enthusiasts, the Sport Party, even to Family First. If you support drug law reform, HEMP is not the party you should vote for.

Why are HEMP members given no say on preferences?

According to Michael Balderstone, it is because Askey alone understands HEMP's constitution, which is an unbelievable state of affairs.

By contrast, the Pirate Party sent its members the policies of the other parties and allowed them to decide who the party should support. Those lucky Pirate Party people are probably allowed



Graham Askey

to select their own candidates too!

The extent that HEMP has degenerated into a Nimbin rump is shown by the fact that its South Australian, West Australian and Queensland candidates at the last Senate election all came from the Rainbow Region. As a consequence of Nimbin's self-chosen isolation, cannabis legalisation parties are being established in Victoria and other states.

Because of Askey and Moylan, a significant element of the Australian drug law reform movement will not work with the HEMP Party. Michael Balderstone, who defends Moylan and Askey on the grounds that they are the only ones who help him, might well reflect on why this is.

HEMP HEADLINES

Uruguay becomes first nation to legalise marijuana trade [Reuters]

As of December 10, 2013, Uruguay became the the first country in the world to make it legal to grow, sell and consume marijuana. Uruguay residents may now purchase, smoke and store marijuana freely within the country with no repercussions. The consensus of the politicians who pushed for this change was that legalising cannabis would help to diminish drug cartels and cease the violence associated with drug trafficking. Groups of people who supported the law gathered around to celebrate Uruguay’s “cultivation of freedom.” December 10, 2013 goes down in history as the monumental moment that the world made a major breakthrough with regulating drugs. The new legislation allows consumers in Uruguay to purchase up to 40 grams of cannabis per month from licensed pharmacies.

American Herbal Pharmacopoeia Classifies Cannabis as a “Botanical Medicine” [Weedist]

In a great stride for the future of medical cannabis, the AHP (American Herbal Pharmacopoeia), whose mission is “to promote the responsible use of herbal products and herbal medicines” officially classified cannabis as a “botanical medicine.” The AHP’s designation of cannabis as medicine doesn’t carry the same gravity as, say, the FDA or other federally powered oversight organizations, but it is a big leap forward.

Call for marijuana to be legalised for restricted medical use [ABC PM]

There’s been another high-level call to consider legalising cannabis for medicinal use. An article by Emeritus Professor of Anaesthesia, Laurence Mather, published in the Medical Journal of Australia in December argues that medically supervised use of cannabis provides relief for some chronic nerve related conditions with fewer side effects than existing medications. In May this year a New South Wales parliamentary committee recommended legalising medicinal cannabis for selected conditions. But the New South Wales government has since dismissed the unanimous recommendations of the committee, which had members from five political parties.

Surry Hills artist Jesse Willesee launches pro-marijuana campaign on social media [The Telegraph]

“Marijuana is not a crime”, says Jesse Willesee, who has been attempting to prove his point by being photographed in front of six police stations smoking weed in a brazen daylight stunt. Willessee, 27, said he was “fed up with feeling like a criminal for something I don’t believe should be a criminal act” and posted the images as part of his ‘Marijuana is Not a Crime’ Facebook campaign launched in December.

Pesticides Can Transfer to Marijuana Smoke [Smell the Truth & Huffington Post]

Buying organic might be a good idea for your food as well as your weed. Cannabis tester Jeffrey Raber, who runs The Werc Shop in California, conducted a recent study that found up to 70% of pesticides found in marijuana can transfer to the smoke when



Martin Sharp’s 1967 poster collage, ‘A Gathering of the Heads’, depicts a tribal utopia of musicians, poets and shamans, which served to lure hordes to London’s Hyde Park for a Legalise Pot rally. On a print of this image, Sharp recently scrawled a postscript: “Youthful folly... wishful thinking... pipe dreams”. Vale Martin.

inhaled. Additionally, Heather Miller Coyle, a forensic botanist and associate professor at the University of New Haven in the USA, says all sorts of nasty things not visible to the naked eye have been found in marijuana — mold, mildew, insect parts, salmonella and E. coli, to name a few.

Marijuana Breathalyzer Close to Reality [High Times]

Ever since legalized recreational marijuana was made a reality last year by voters in Colorado and Washington USA, the powers that be have been brainstorming new ways in which to prosecute the legal marijuana user. Obviously, driving stoned is high on the list of no-nos. In fact, a team of researchers recently published a document in the medical journal Clinical Chemistry that suggests a breath test -- similar to the testing procedures for alcohol intoxication -- may be the best way for law enforcement to analyze a motorist’s THC level. Researchers believe that the breath method of testing could eventually phase out the controversial THC-blood test currently being used to prosecute people in courtrooms all over the country.

Drugs campaigner to open ‘cannabis cafe’ in Manchester [Daily Mirror UK]

A campaigner is set to test the country’s drug laws by opening a ‘cannabis cafe’ in Manchester. Colin Davies - once jailed for drug trafficking and famous for handing over a bouquet of flowers containing cannabis to the Queen - is heading for another collision with the authorities after announcing his intention to open The New Way Cafe in January. He says the pay-for, members-only club will be a “meeting point” for people who want to smoke cannabis, but insists the drug will not be traded on the property.

Marijuana retailers in Colorado open doors on 1st January [ABC News]

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast’s longest serving covert

by Undacuva

Undacuva of the Year

Holed up in freezing Leningrad, I’ve had plenty of thinking time. Nearly every Undacuva is neurotic anyway, so it makes sense to include that quality in the persona you submit for a mission. I have to say ‘submit’ because long gone are the days of choosing. No one trusts each other anymore. I used to dress in character for a few days before going to the Boss, and never once did he ask me to alter anything. Nearly every time I would have him in a conversation before he knew it was me. Despite him expecting me that day and all. Nowadays, I submit my neurotic CR (Character Request), usually homeless (to keep costs down), and a chronic cannabis addict (again no cost involved with captured buds). They love me (not really) because I’m so so cheap. Few Undas remain in the industry long, but because my expense account is virtually zero they can hardly fire me, and in fact joke about me being a “lifer” because the budget boys rate me so highly. Lord Snowden, as Ed is called by the IUs (International Undacuvass), has proved impossible to contact or even get near physically. They speak of him in hushed tones, like he’s some kind of demigod. Hidden deep undaground inside a military complex outside the city, apparently Putin is playing chess with him at least twice a week, but it was impossible to even confirm that. Undoubtedly The Lord, as everyone keeps calling him here, has many more aces up his virtual sleeves, but the passwords needed are held by six different friends spread across the planet. “Clever rat he is,” says the Boss down the untraceable phone line, impressed. One of these friends apparently is in Orstaralyah somewhere near a place called Ningun. Unbelievable. “Had I heard of Ningun?” “Well, actually yes, I do know Ningun, or Nimbin as I call it”. There was plenty of excitement when I described the tiny hippie community where Julian himself used to score as a teen. “Stoned vegetarian hippies started today’s computer world,” I told them in my rusty Ruski. “The forested hills around Ningun are crawling with computer freaks who sit there night and day with little more than a bong for company. They live in tiny bush



shacks made from scraps they scrounge from the tip and push keyboards endlessly in their online “war against ignorance”. Lord Ed is a new demigod in their world also, and whoever holds one of the six passwords would be feeling plenty of pressure, the Boss tells me down the line. “Whoever holds the key will have to tell someone, share the blessing and burden. They always do,” he says from experience. But with six different keyholders, even the IU’s were daunted by the job, not to mention the lack of enthusiasm they had for finding and destroying his lordship’s secrets. I feel the same, and won’t be trying too hard to find the Ningun keyholder either. Largely because I have to admit, like my fellow Undas, I’m thoroughly enjoying the little rat who is creating chaos every time he leaks. In the Global Undaworld where our craft is the all-consuming and unending conversation, many I spoke with had lost the passion for the work they joined up for originally. We’ve all seen and heard too much, and the web has finished the job of tearing down the veneer of lies that fooled us when we were young. I realise that’s why teenagers are targeted by army recruiters. A decade later they won’t get sucked in so easily. With Undas it’s a little different in that we are masters of disguise and no one really knows what we are doing, if and when we are at work, or whose side we are really on. And I admit I have been thinking, perhaps Ed’s showing us the way. And a way out! I too have access to all sorts of HCL, Highly Confidential Information. And I’m an expert in disguise, so could disappear after I make sure the chips unda my skin are removed, except for who knows how many they put in when I was unda the anaesthetic for the Russian makeover. One thing is clear, we all agreed, Lord Edward Snowden is Undacuva of the Year.

MardiGrass Organising Body needs fleshing out

by Michael Balderstone

Nimbin’s 22nd MardiGrass is starting to appear on the horizon, and the MOB’s Friday 5pm meetings at the HEMP Embassy never really stopped, so do call in if you have suggestions or want to get involved.

The DA has been lodged and we plan on tweaking

a few things, now that we understand better the site we used for the first time last year. In particular we need to strengthen Jungle Patrol for this year’s event and any locals who would like to help there, please leave a contact number at the Hemp Embassy.

Musicians and performers who would like a spot should also get in touch soon.



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