



THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

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Hemp Edition

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Twenty-three years and counting

Police drug testing and downpours of rain fail to dampen MardiGrass revelry



by Dionne May

I was in the Mardi Grass Parade. Dressed to the nines, which is no small feat in the bush. Creating a costume, applying the make-up and struggling into a costume in the back of a van, ready to dance in heels down the main street of Nimbin, when you're a hippy and way out of practice with all those unnecessary frills! But dance I did. In the presence of a row of Nimbin angels, a group of six-year old girls.

Preparing in the back of my van, I had time to pause and remind myself why I am doing all this. Some people would say we are mad, even here in Nimbin, others possibly a little contemptuous of our seeming frivolity. Even the police that I chatted with over the weekend were confused and still ignorant of the current medicinal cannabis debate let alone

aware of *any* of the other amazing qualities of the cannabis plant. Australian media and politicians you did the job, you demonised the most healing and beneficial plant on the planet, you continue to propagate such ignorant unsubstantiated claims (the 'reefer madness' campaign) that family members turned on family members and communities, in favour of the legal drug alcohol, spurn the pot smokers.

More than twenty years later and with the masses of information available now regarding the absolute healing qualities found in this plant, *you should be ashamed of yourselves!* If this hippy living in a humble solar powered home with no internet connection can research and discover the truth then what the hell is going on in Australia 2015? Writing for the NGT, I

recently met so many sick people, sick children and their families and carers at the four recent Medicinal Cannabis Forums. Small children in prams saturated with pharmaceutical drugs that will cause organ failure or death while slowly, painfully sucking away their very precious little lives. I met Deysha, eight f**king years she was hooked up to machines, epileptic fits every 3 to 5 minutes of her life, some lasting up to 38 minutes. Can you imagine this life? Why aren't the medical profession helping? Researching? What kind of



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doctors are they? More of these children lay wasting away. Dying every year in this country when I have seen the effects of pure organic cannabis tincture save Deysha's life. She has been fit and pharmaceutical drug free now for nearly a year.

I can't stand the injustice and the apathy any more. As a recreational smoker of cannabis I can't stand police officers in Nimbin blatantly disregard civil

rights in our community. This MardiGrass I was barrellled in the shoulder by a senior officer, I witnessed one of our Aboriginal Elders harassed and searched in a grossly unlawful manner, I was lied to about my citizen's rights and saw guests to our protest festival hounded in their private cars and vans. We are not criminals and the waste of police resources and damage to community relations is appalling. This war on cannabis must end. It is literally killing sick children and wasting this community and the police too much time and energy.

Isn't it the greatest irony that with all the information about cannabis more abundant and more scientifically compelling than ever before that educated Australia police, politicians and citizens have never appeared more ignorant, basing opinions, it seems to

me, on very, very tired old 'stoner' stereo-types. Well this hippy is calling your bluff. I'm fighting for the children I met. Children I know whose lives will be changed and saved with cannabis. I'm fighting for my right to be a free, respected cannabis smoker. I'm fighting because I'm old enough now to see through the bullshit.

This is our country... these are our Australian children and quite frankly the police officers of Australia have got their work well and truly cut out for them with legal alcohol and its related violence, crack and the new 'ice' epidemic... time to leave cannabis alone, time for a truce. Colorado now has a model we can follow... legalise medicinal cannabis, regulate and tax it, then the recreational cannabis can follow. Change the law now.

•More MardiGrass p17-19



Lismore's 25th Annual Gemfest

Featuring: Gold, Jewellery, Gemstones, Rare Fossils, Meteorites
Opals, Metaphysical & Healing Crystals, Raffles, Children's Activities, Food Stalls, Lucky Gate Prizes

**2 Full Days: Saturday 16th May, 9-5 pm
Sunday 17th May, 9-3 pm**

Venue: Lismore Showground
Entry: \$5 per adult, \$1 per child (under 5 yrs free)





