

## Weeded Warrior to lead MardiGrass parade

by Bob Dooley

The Ganja Faerie Queen chosen this year is Nimbin local, Brooke (pictured), who is expecting her first child at the end of May.

She will lead the MardiGrass parade on Sunday 6th May at 2pm.

A veteran of the Australian Navy, Brooke is a passionate supporter of drug law reform and advocate of cannabis as medicine.

Brooke is a co-founder of Weeded Warrior, a support network for military and first responders, raising awareness of the use of alternative therapies in the management of service injuries.

Weeded Warrior involves itself in cannabis action and advocacy, engaging with the Department of Veteran Affairs, ex-service organisations, Government, research faculties and the wider cannabis industry to progress access and research into medical cannabis.

Cannabis can be a life-saver for veterans who are often steered toward a regime of poly-medication with multiple side-effects.

Brooke said, "Cannabis therapy has the potential to

provide a foundation to heal from trauma and distress and adopt healthy practices and lifestyle."

Ex-service members need to be given the time and opportunity to find therapies that work for them, and provide a sense of purpose and a place of belonging.

The fear of criminal repercussions remains the biggest hurdle to people being open to the idea of medical cannabis, and Brooke believes that needs to change.

Weeded Warrior provides relevant information and resources on its Facebook page focusing on cannabis for PTSD and management of mental health, harm reduction and endocannabinoid education.

Any ex-frontline service personnel interested in joining Weeded Warrior should RSVP a membership form, available on the website to: mick@weededwarrior. com providing proof of service.

Partners, carers and families are also encouraged to become involved.

Follow Weeded Warrior on Facebook or see: www. weededwarrior.com



### Miss Cannabis crowned

Miss Cannabis 2018 Rachelle Thorpe (pictured) will be appearing at Nimbin MardiGrass and doing interviews and articles

Miss Cannabis, selcted by Queensland-based #Homiemade and FRS International with www.420CannabisCulture.org

Rachelle said, "I have a deep respect for cannabis, for its medicinal, recreational and spiritual aspects. It has allowed me to open up to my own form of self expression; something I always struggled with growing up.

"Cannabis allowed me to relax while also opening my mind to the fact that this 'drug' is not deadly, but a blessing from the Earth.

"I currently hold my Certificate I in Reiki Healing and Certificate II in Crystal Healing, and I aspire to qualify for my Masters in these services."

Meet Rachelle at MardiGrass this year.







#### Lismore's 28th **Annual**

Gold, Jewellery, Gemstones, Opals, Rare Fossils, Meteorites. **Healing Crystals** 







# Gemfest

#### **Lismore Showground**

\*Saturday 19th May - 9-5pm

\* Entry - \$5 per adult, \$1 per child (under 5 free)

\*Sunday 20th May - 9-3pm

Kids' Activities, Food Stalls, Raffles, Lucky Gate Prizes. **ATM Available** 

