

nimbin

24th Annual

MardiGrass

CANNABIS LAW REFORM RALLY & GATHERING

HEMP Olympix
Green Cabaret
Picker's Ball
Comedy
Music

29, 30 April & 1 May 2016

Hemposium
Harvest ball
Kombi Konvoy
4:20
Stoner Blaze

RALLY & PARADE

2.30pm Sunday 1st May

WELCOME TO NIMBIN & THE MARDIGRASS,
our annual cannabis law reform protest & gathering.



It's been 24 years now since our first march to the village police station demanding fair treatment for our medicine of choice. We had such a good time that day in 1993 we vowed to protest every year on the first Sunday in May until the laws were changed. We're still doing it.

The last twelve months in Australia though has finally seen a little acceptance and understanding of the truth we've been saying for all that time. They're doing trials to find out, did you know? Maybe cannabis can stop children's epileptic seizures? Imagine how good that would be for entire families, not just the child. But why wait for the trials? Come to MardiGrass this year and hear for yourself from a dozen families who have experienced relief from pain & suffering. Hear for yourself the healing stories from the man who woke Australia up to medical cannabis by helping hundreds of families become seizure-free, or close to it. He's still a criminal and so are all the people he's healed.

Cannabis is also fantastic for old people with aches and pains and poor sleep. It reduces inflammation (where most pain comes from). It relaxes tension, it kicks off the imagination, detaches you a little from the physical and settles the

emotion... settles the muddy water so you can see clearly.

Sure, pharmaceuticals may do the same, but this plant can be easily grown by anyone in their backyard or in a pot on the balcony. A medicine with side effects to die for... and no hangover. A herb our ancestors revered, built temples to and no one has ever died from. An incredibly safe medicine and if you don't want to get stoned then don't heat it, use a cold extraction. A plant with infinite variations in its cannabinoid mix making the future incredibly exciting for healing. Different strains for different ailments. Plants bred for specific sicknesses and individuals.

A future so exciting that pot has been on the front cover of National Geographic and Time magazine in the last year.



But here in Oz, Big Pharma has convinced our politicians that cannabis is a deadly dangerous drug and the police continue to arrest over 1000 people a week for weed. The police and politicians both seem to believe the lies. No doubt all those who have been jailing and hunting pot smokers for decades are going to have trouble accepting they've been destroying lives rather than helping them.

A shrink once told me "weed is manure

for the imagination" and I know we'll never see the truth without imagination in the mix. It's the sun in the sunrise. There are countless vested interests who want to hide the truth but at last the war on weed is starting to falter. It's certainly about time.

So we're looking for some seriously good vibes at this years protest with a good harvest behind us and finally (after about eighty years) our elected rulers saying "Gee... maybe the hippies were right after all". We dug up the history on the drug war and discovered it was all founded in greed and corruption. Now, the lies and fears are embedded in our culture and what was once the most popular plant on the planet is outlawed. No one has ever died from cannabis use but thousands die every year from Big Pharma's pills. We've been hoodwinked big time.

Thank you for joining us in the protest weekend this year and know that you are doing something good and important for the Earth and humanity.

The law is the crime, not the plant.

Michael Bald'n'stoned
(HEMP Embassy Prez)



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The gods must be crazy



Cannabis

A PLANT OF MANY USES

Cannabis is among the most versatile and useful plants on earth. Every part of the cannabis plant can be used: roots, leaves and flowers for medicine; stems for textiles, rope and paper; and seeds for food and oil. The psychotropic properties of THC are well known. However, there are close to 80+ other cannabinoids within the cannabis plant all with varying benefits.

FOOD

Hemp seed is one of the easiest to produce and nutritious food crops on earth. For many centuries it was the staple food crop for most of the world. The oils produced from the seed contains the highest amount of essential fatty acids in the plant world. Hemp seed oil helps clear the human system of cholesterol. The banning of hemp as a food, as is the case in Australia, is senseless.

FUEL

Cannabis biomass is potentially the cheapest and most reliable, way to produce energy. It is estimated that up to 90% of the energy produced by the use of fossil fuels could be produced instead from biomass. Hemp can be converted to methane, methanol or petrol. Henry Ford's first Model T was designed to run on methanol petrol produced from hemp seeds.

PAPER

75 to 90% of the paper used for books, maps, bibles, banknotes and newspapers, was made from hemp until the 1880s. The Chinese used hemp paper since the first century AD, and it was used in Europe since the 5th century. Cannabis can be harvested in three to six months as compared with 30 or more years for trees. It can produce more fibre than wood chippings and requires no dangerous chemicals in the paper pulping process. No chlorine is needed for bleaching and no deadly dioxins are thrown into the environment. Hemp paper will outlive even the best quality wood pulp paper.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Hemp could replace wooden materials, as it can be pressed into a variety of forms. It may be used to make furniture and beams, being stronger and more

flexible than timber as well as more financially and environmentally beneficial. Houses can be built from hemp bricks. Hemp can also be used to make plastics, and the processes involved are far less polluting than current industries. As well as using hemp fuel for his Model T, Henry Ford used hemp plastics to build the bodywork.

TEXTILES

Approximately 90% of sails and rigging, nets, rope, flags and sealant was made from cannabis until the 20th century. Even sailors' shoes and socks were produced from cannabis fibres. The original hardwearing Levi jeans were made from cannabis. In 1938 Popular Mechanics, an American magazine, stated that hemp was the "standard fibre of the world". Clothes made from hemp are more durable yet softer than those made from cotton, a plant which requires great quantities of pesticide and fertilizer to produce.



MEDICINE

Safer effect than pharmaceuticals and less toxic as both a prevention and cure for a wide range of medical conditions. Assists with appetite stimulation, pain relief, and may ease insomnia and improve the quality of sleep.

SPIRITUALITY

Sects within Tibetan Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Sufism and a variety of other religious groups have used cannabis for spiritual practices for thousands of years. Many ancient cultures from China, India, Japan, Iran, Greece, and Israel also recognized the value of cannabis as an aide to spiritual practice. In more recent times, the Rastafarian religion which originated in Ethiopia in the 1930s observes cannabis as sacramental and deeply beneficial plant.

COSMETICS

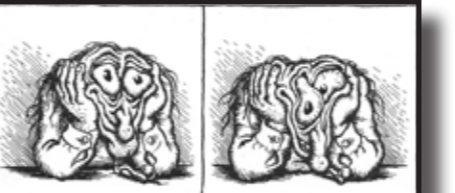
Facial creams, body lotions, soaps, lip balm, shampoo and conditioners, massage oil can all be made from hemp seed oil.

RECREATION

Healthier choice of inebriant and relaxant than alcohol. Can help overcome alcohol and other drug dependency. Cannabis can reduce stress and relieve tension.

CREATIVITY

Cannabis may act as a teacher plant: if used with intention, we learn to let go of what we 'know' and, instead, wonder. Marijuana can extend the range of our free-associative capacities. It increases the novel ways in which we find connections between ideas, and it also extends the range of ideas that we might somehow relate to one another.



EATING CANNABIS

If you consume cannabis orally (eating cookies, cakes, etc.), you could be in for quite a ride. The liver metabolises THC into 11-OH-9-THC, a compound far more psychoactive than the effects achieved from smoking cannabis high in THC. Foods made with high THC "heads" or hashish can give a powerful, almost psychedelic experience, which can be very uncomfortable if you're not expecting it. The effects are slower to come on (1 to 2 hours) and last considerably longer (4+ hours).

Different people have different experiences. While one person might go to sleep, another might smile and laugh excessively, while another might have a panic attack. These are classic responses but they are by no means definitive. Experiences vary. If smoking cannabis makes you nervous or agitated, then it is probably best NOT to consume cannabis, or indeed any other mind altering drug.

Do not assume cookies from different sources are of the same strength. Even different batches from the same source can vary. Know thyself. Stay in your comfort zone. Try half a cookie first, and assess the effect.

in the NSW Hunter Valley, the emerging hemp industry there will make a significant contribution to creating a viable future for the region.

There is growing understanding that climate resilience will depend on strong regional economies, as well as growing recognition that hemp is a very positive option for Australian farmers and manufacturers because of its benefi-

cial impact on soils and the varied end products that can be made. As world demand for hemp is steadily growing, opportunities are developing in multiple regions of Australia which will contribute to a healthy green economy.

Klara Marosszaky, President, Australian Industrial Hemp Alliance

CONSTRUCTIVE HEMP

Hemp lime building materials are increasingly attracting global attention because hemp construction allows you to create infrastructure that stores carbon. It offers a solution to zero-carbon building, produces healthier homes and workplaces, and has major potential in mainstream housing as well as in commercial construction. Research at UNSW from 2000-2006 resulted in the development of a range of Australian hemp lime building materials that have so far been used in 42 Australian homes (new homes and retrofits) and in the construction of the zero energy CDL Green Gallery and Heritage Museum in the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

ate healthy indoor air quality. The adequate air exchange discourages mould growth.

A recent study funded by the UK government showed that the insulating properties of hemp reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions in the range between 50% and 80% lower than in buildings with conventional brick and block construction when insulated to the same U-value as the hemp construction. The negative embodied carbon footprint (carbon sequestration potential) of the hemp structure is 4.3 tonnes CO₂, compared with +10.7 tonnes CO₂ for brick-block building of same dimensions.

Hemp buildings have excellent thermal performance. The slow phase change material creates walls that are highly insulated, manage humidity and radically reduce energy-related running costs. The materials are non-combustible, recyclable, light and easy to work with, and breathable walls cre-

When industrial hemp is grown for fibre it is a rapidly growing annual biomass. Few durable building materials are made from renewable resources, let alone from a resource with such clear potential to improve Australian farms, harvest carbon and create further green industry. With a new hemp mill

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Medical Marijuana

THE HEALING HERB

WHAT ARE GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD DOING ABOUT MEDICAL CANNABIS?
Here's the medical cannabis story in a nutshell. No Government in the world has willingly introduced a meaningful medical cannabis regime.

In America, the United States Constitution allows for States to have 'Citizens Initiated Referendums'. However, all the State Governments in which cannabis is now legal ran 'NO' campaigns during those Citizen Referendums, from California in 1996 to Colorado in 2014. There are no clinical trials or recognised scientific research, dispensaries can't use the banking system, and cannabis is still illegal under Federal law.

In Canada, a 2002 Court ruling resulted in the Government being ordered by the High Court to initiate a medical cannabis regime within a year. The Government fiddled for 2 years. The eventual regime proved to be restrictive and unworkable, and this resulted in the people taking charge. While successive Canadian governments have sought to stick directly to the initial High Court ruling, the people decided they wanted to grow their own, or have cannabis grown for them. Pot shops, compassion clubs, boutique mail order dispensaries and home delivery services sprung up, all illegal under federal laws. The Canadian cannabis community now boast over 20,000 people employed in various cannabis industries.

Similarities with the US situation persist with the Canadian medical profession at large not embracing medical cannabis. There are no clinical trials and there have been another ten High Court challenges by Canadian governments to restrict progress on medical cannabis law reforms.

Israel you ask? Seems there is some limited research happening there, but just as in the US and Canada, the medical profession has not embraced medical cannabis. Reports do come in of clinical success, though clinical trials resulting in products to the people are virtually non-existent. Doctors from Israel presenting at the 2014 Medical Cannabis Symposium in Tamworth spoke of limited patient access after almost 30 years of research.

The medicinal uses and healing properties of the cannabis plant are many. In the last decade, this has finally been recognised by mainstream science AND mainstream society. Medical Marijuana has become a popular way for "normal" people to deal with a range of health problems.

Governments worldwide are slowly realising the unpopularity of busting sick people and so are trying to write legislation to accommodate this. Corporations and drug companies are also poised in the wings counting their prospective profits.

Given the traditional close relationship between corporations & government, the Nimbin HEMP Embassy believes that whatever legal framework is arrived at for medical cannabis should include the right to grow your own.

Here's the brutal irony though: medical cannabis is mentioned in United Nation Drug Conventions. In fact it says if a country wants to grow cannabis for medical and scientific purposes the same rules as opium apply. Lawful poppies grown for legal opium production into medicines are owned by two of foreign companies which grow over half the world's lawful opiates in Australia. We know there's a lawful high THC cannabis crop grown every other year at the University of Mississippi and it's distributed by a US Agency known as NIDA, the National Institute of Drug Abuse. NIDA has kept a strangle hold on supply of cannabis for scientific research for well over 30 years now. A 2010 quote from a spokesperson confirms the organisation 'only supplies and funds research into the negative consequences of its use, not medical beneficial purposes'.

The British company GW Pharmaceuticals is an anomaly in the mix. With extraordinary assistance by the UK government, GW were allowed to develop a whole cannabis extract for the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. The product, Sativex, has been spoken about in government inquiries in Australia and no doubt in many other countries seeking to address the medical cannabis issue. In the latest Australian Federal Inquiry, Sativex was found to be too expensive, difficult to clinically trial, and that similar products should be developed here. On the other hand, trials could well provide sufficient evidence to show pharmaceutical cannabis products are less effective than conventional illegal cannabis currently being used by tens of thousands of Australians for medical purposes.

Andrew Kavasilas, Secretary, HEMP Party of Australia

Despite changes in federal legislation in 2016, here in NSW it is still currently an offence to use, possess, cultivate or supply cannabis for medicinal purposes.



Baby Bashing Bankers And Other Bastards

by Andrew "Dr Pot" Katelaris

Despite great progress around the world with the provision of medical cannabis to sick and dying persons, Australia is moving at a glacial pace. Currently the only supply of cannabis herb and medical extracts available in Australia is from motivated individuals and compassion clubs. Patient and carers groups have repeatedly called on governments to ease their burden and facilitate access, but these pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

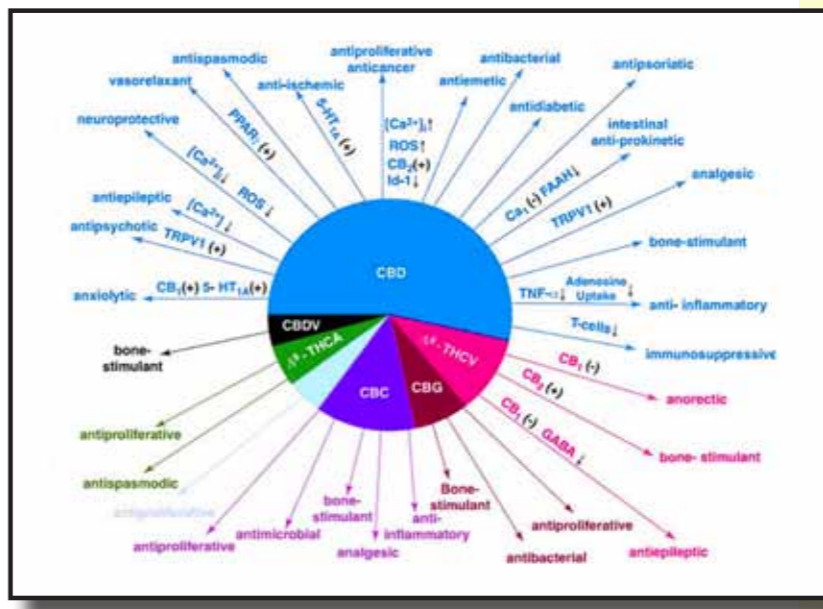
There are many needy groups, including those suffering with chronic pain and spasticity, degenerative and inflammatory conditions and cancer, but those with intractable epilepsy

best illustrate the potential benefits to the patient, carers and society in general, as well as expose the sinister lack of compassion currently displayed by our political leaders and their bureaucrats.

Intractable epilepsy is by definition seizures uncontrollable by any current methods. Despite lack of efficacy, doctors continue to trial drugs with high toxicity and serious side effects, yet have been silent about the remarkable benefits of CBD dominant cannabis as encouraging results continue to pour in from substantial clinical trials in US and Israel. The Australian Medical Association [AMA] continues to urge "caution" and hint darkly at possible adverse long-term effects of cannabis, while callously ignoring the fact sufferers of childhood epilepsy have a cumulative mortality of 15% per year.

Various studies have reported positive responses of 40% to over 70% when using medical cannabis to control seizures. Lives have been transformed. Bearing in mind that there are thousands of such children, the salvaging of so many children's lives is not only beneficial for the child and their family, but a massive saving for the health system, with a huge reduction in ambulance call outs, hospital admissions including intensive care, expensive trial drugs, testing and managing side effects.

Let us reflect on what is occurring here. Each time a child has a prolonged seizure they suffer brain damage similar to a concussive injury. Depriving a child of the chance to avoid further brain injury is in every effect the same as bashing that child repeatedly. If we are to apply a test for psychopathy, based on a callous disregard for the well being of others, Australian governments easily qualify as psychopathic.



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Cops & criminals, doctors & delinquents, academics & activists, politicians, pot-growers, patients, panderers & plain ol' pot-heads... we got 'em all at the...

We are pleased to present some mind-bending action at this year's HEMPOSIUM at the 24th MardiGrass where we pull back the curtain to reveal creative, happening and abundant places around the globe basking in the post-prohibition green glow. As Australia is just yawning and waking up to the benefits of medical cannabis, the MardiGrass HEMPOSIUM is an important crossroads to learn, share and network about our favourite plant ally and healing herb. Friday 29 April is a day of drug law reform presentations, while Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May are devoted to medical and industrial cannabis.

There is an impressive line up of international speakers from North America who will share their medical cannabis experiences, discuss cutting edge advances in cannabis genetics, and reveal the campaigns and gains made in other cannabis loving communities around the planet.



Fiona Patten

Canadian Dana Larsen is an author, politician and Cannabis legalisation activist. Dana worked on Cannabis Culture magazine from 1994 until 2005, producing 54 issues with publisher Marc Emery. Dana is involved with 'Sensible BC' working on legislative roadblocks that need to be resolved. In April 2016 he undertook a cross-Canada "Free Marijuana - Overgrow the Government" tour during which he gave away free high-THC seeds, encouraging people to grow as much pot as freely and publicly as possible - overgrowcanada.com

Returning to MardiGrass 2016 from Canada Aja Mae Moon has been a



Aja Mae Moon

medical and recreational cannabis activist since 2005. Since the closure of her dispensary (Three Happy Cats) Aja has been focusing on twelvehighchicks.com and weedwoman.com. At this 24th MardiGrass, Aja Mae will share the do's and do-nots of travelling with a medical marijuana license, as well as providing a rundown on her Twelve High Chicks [12HC] magazine which mixes weed-entertainment with weed-activism.



Abe Acton

Abe Acton based out of Colorado, USA, will return to Nimbin for the 2016 HEMPOSIUM, to launch OPERATION

TOLERANCE to provide safe access to safe medicine. He will show video footage of this year's high country grow season, and share his in depth knowledge of the specific genetics that are most useful as cannabis medicine. Abe has 6 years in the medical cannabis industry growing organic medical strains, processing medicines, and teaching workshops. His vision and goal is to provide

2016 HEMPOSIUM



access to safe, natural medicine that is effective for a number of conditions including epilepsy, pain relief, sleep aid, anxiety relief and many more. He practises farm-to-table concept with organic cannabis medicines - highcountrycannabistours.com

Long time MardiGrass attendee, Coral Reef, a blogger from California USA, will return in 2016 as a speaker. Coral has dedicated herself to the fight to end cannabis prohibition using social media as her tool. She has a YouTube channel where she hosts her weekly show, Stoney Sunday. Coral also runs News Nug, which helps keep her followers up to date on cannabis news stories from around the world. Her blog, CoralReef420.com, has been updated daily for 5 years as she travels and explores the international cannabis community.

We are also excited to announce an outstanding line-up of Australian based post-prohibition proponents and cannabis experts including MardiGrass founder Bob Hopkins, Prof Nick Lintzeris (Lambert Foundation), Dr David Caldicott (ACMO), Fiona Patten [Sex Party MLC, Victoria], David Shoebridge [Greens MLC NSW], Derryn Hinch [Justice Party], Will Tregon-



David Shoebridge

ing [UnHarm!], Damon Adams [Law Enforcement Against Prohibition], Andrew "Dr Pot" Katelaris, Tony Bower [Mullaways Medical Cannabis], Ray Thorpe [Happy Herb Company], Dr Mehreen Faruqi [Greens MLC NSW], and Dr John Jiggins [Cannabis Historian] as well as a magnificent array of local experts in cannabis for medicine, food and industry!

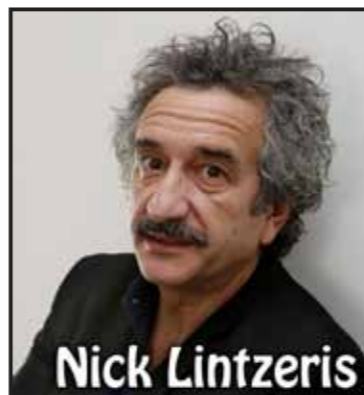
The Hemp Embassy's Medical Cannabis workshops held in the Nimbin Town Hall throughout 2015 and 2016 have

attracted large numbers of the newly emerging and increasingly visible Australian cannabis demographic - families with extremely ill children, and people dealing with chronic pain and often terminal illness.

The HEMPOSIUM will include real world stories from medical cannabis families from around Australia, including families whose lives have changed dramatically for the better thanks to Tony "Mullaways" Bower.

Other parents will discuss growing cannabis for medicine, and how cannabis has helped a wide range of serious conditions like brain injury and adult epilepsy. Michael Harding and Bek will talk about "Weed for Warriors". Michael has PTSD from serving in Afghanistan and is trying to get help for veterans. Marika Toivo will talk about her "Fearless Father" campaign and how to make social media work for cannabis campaigning. Michael Lambert, whose father donated \$34 million to the University of Sydney for medical cannabis research, will talk about his daughter Katelyn's Dravet Syndrome (Epilepsy) and how she has greatly benefited from CBDa/CBD cannabis oil imported from Denmark.

It's time this magnificent herb was welcomed into mainstream Australian life, and the persecution and prejudice to stop. Medical cannabis has been a growing international phenomenon over the last few decades, and Austra-



Nick Lintzeris

lia is only now starting to catch on and catch up. The HEMPOSIUM brings together speakers and doers, and aims to expand the mind as much as that special weed herself. We look forward to making the HEMPOSIUM a space to inform, learn, agitate, inspire and connect in this massively important green revolution. Come help us get the police out of healTHCare!

OPERATION TOLERANCE

Where cannabis is currently prohibited, Operation Tolerance politely asks law enforcement to tolerate the growing of at least three plants per household. By tolerating home cultivation the patient won't be supporting the black market, thus taking away its revenue stream. And benefits for the Cannabis patient:

- Access to inexpensive, safe, natural medicine that works.
- Knowing what genetic the patient is consuming. Each genetic has different properties for specific ailments and conditions.
- Knowing what fertilizers were used while growing.
- Knowing your medicine is not laced with another substance.



Due to prohibition, possession of small amounts of cannabis has often adversely affected a person's personal and professional life. We have observed that communication, education and understanding are the difference between guilty and not guilty. Operation Tolerance asks for compassion and tolerance from legal systems and police forces under prohibition. Home garden cannabis cultivation, and consumption for personal medical use, should be tolerated human rights.

Abe Acton, Colorado USA

It begins...



TOWN HALL		Friday 29 April	
10.45am	Information Booth Opens MardiGrass Verandah Café open all weekend serving healthy meals, local coffee & homemade hempseed cakes Hangout Tent in Hall Garden	RANDOM HAPPENINGS	
11.00		10.45am Gather on footpath outside Nimbin Hospital	<p>THE PLANTERMAN THE GHOST WHO TOKES</p> <p>PROTECTOR OF THE FOREST</p> <p>WATCHER OF THE CROPS</p> <p>A FRIEND TO THE POOR & DOWNTRODDEN</p> <p>...DON'T FUCK WITH HIS DOG.</p>
11.45	HEMPOSIUM OPENING	11.00 March for Cannabis Law Reform from Nimbin Hospital across the road to the Police Station	
Midday	Damon Adams, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition - Drug reformation in Australia	<p>MARDIGRASS OPENING CEREMONY</p> <p>After the arrival of Chibo carrying the Hemp Olympix Torch with the Eternal Flame For The Victims Of Prohibition, the Bundjalung Custodians will do a smoking ceremony and welcome to country followed by a minutes silence to remember our Brothers and Sisters, Victims of this senseless War on Drugs.</p>	
12.30pm	Greg Chipp, Drug Policy Australia - Challenging prohibition assumptions	HEMP BAR: Church of the Holy Smoke MardiGrass Blessing	
1	Abe Acton, High Country Cannabis Tours, Colorado USA - Colorado in its 2 nd year of legalization	INDICA ARENA - DISCO SISTA'S TENT	
1.30	Andrew Kavasilas, HEMP Party of Australia - Influence of police on cannabis legalization	BUSH THEATRE	
2	Dana Larsen, Sensible BC, Canada - Cannabis movement in Canada	Live music all weekend! Come & relax in a beautiful setting by Mulgum Creek at the Phoenix Rising Cafe	
3	Fiona Patten, Sex Party MLC Victoria - Political strategies to Legalize Dope	ALLSOP PARK: MardiGrass Opening Ceremony	
3.30	Will Tregoning, Unharm! - Building a drug law reform movement	HEMP BAR: HEMP Party members meet up	
4	Dr Mehreen Faruqi, Greens MLC NSW - Experiences from California & Oregon USA	CULLEN STREET BLISTER: Nimbin Street Drummers	
4:20	David Shoebridge, Greens MLC NSW - Roadside drug testing in need of reform	MOVIES & MUSIC	
5		with Disco Sista	
6	From 7 till 9pm GREAT GREEN CABARET A fabulous fast-paced variety show featuring comedy, acrobatics, poetry, hip hop, salsa and flamenco dancers, plus singers and musicians... a grand mix of performers from Nimbin and all around the region including Sassy Salsa, Barkersvale Steppers, Willie McElroy, Pitts Family Circus, Arte Gitana, Sarah Stando & more!! Entry \$10 or MardiGrass wristband	DAIZY'S Seedy Disco	
7		PICKER'S BALL featuring: Itchy Dog Band, Ruffscapes, The Blindfolds	
9pm		Something deep & meaningful & profound about weed & freedom & stuff...	
Midnight		HEMPING AROUND Down the verandah at 4/45 Cullen St. - NIMBIN SOUVENIRS - COOL STUFF - HEMP THINGS ph 02 66890024	

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MardiGrass 2016

CANNABIS LAW REFORM RALLY & GATHERING

Saturday 30 April

"These substances are known to cause irrational behaviour, paranoia & hysteria.. in people who don't use them"
- Tim Leary 1965

TOWN HALL	
10	Information Booth Opens
10.30	HEMPOSIUM
11	Medical cannabis families share their stories - Hosted by Tony Barry
Midday	
12.30pm	Ajia Mae Moon, Twelve High Chicks, Canada, Medical marijuana "a travellers guide"
1	Abe Acton, High Country Cannabis Tours, Colorado USA, Specific genetics for specific medical conditions - featuring footage from the Colorado grow season
2	Dr Nick Lintzeris, Lambert Foundation, Medical Cannabis Research at University of Sydney
2.30	Torsten Wiedemann, Shaman Australis, Cannabis Science
3	Dr David Caldicott, ANU, Introducing the Australian Medical Cannabis Observatory
3.30	Q & A: "Save Your World"
4	4:00
4.20	4:00
5	HEMP OLYMPIX Joint Rolling First Heats
6	FORUM Pot Politics: How to achieve cannabis law reform through legislation [or not?] Hosted by Steve Bolt Panelists: Gabe Buckley, Liberal Democrats Glenn Druery, Political Strategist Deryn Hinch, Justice Party Andrew Kavasillas, Hemp Party Fiona Patten, Sex Party David Shoebridge Greens

INDICA ARENA	
SAVE YOUR WORLD HEMP TENT	DISCO SISTA'S TENT
Presentations on hemp for health, food and a sustainable economy	HEMPOSIUM presentations, comedy, music and movies
Klara Maroszeky, Building carbon negative homes with hemp	
HoneyBee, Vape Mistress, No one is smoking anything	
Radha Wilkinson, Hemp for Food & Health	Coral Reefer, Social Media for Advocacy
Martin Ernegg, Hemp for super strong green consumer goods	Dr John Jiggins, Marijuana Australiana
Wadzy, Building community owned Green hemp industries in Australia	Andrew "Dr Pot" Katalaris, Baby Bankers & Other Bastards
Ash, Can Cannabis Kill Cancer & cure other diseases?	
Dolph Cooke, Biochar & Hemp	Ray Thorpe Happy Herb Co Herbicide laws are harming us
Q & A: "Save Your World"	Ajia Mae Moon WeedWoman

RANDOM HAPPENINGS	
Stoned Yoga Led by Maz & Dionne to set your perfect MardiGrass day. Meet at the Oasis Cafe at 8am to experience fun ethical yoga with the locals!	OASIS CAFÉ Stoned Scrabble Bring your scrabble set!
	BURNT MUSEUM SITE MardiGrass World Stoned Chess Championship Register by midday. Winner decided by sunset. Drug testing will be compulsory, but not after every move.
	OASIS CAFÉ Old fashioned Cannabis Cooking with the Cookie Queen

SATIVA STADIUM	
Yoga, Legal Advice, Hemp Olympix & MardiGrass Music.	Yoga on the Grass @Hash Bowl Stage
	LEGAL ADVICE with Steve Bolt @Hash Bowl Stage
11.30am	HEMP OLYMPIX Hosted by SSorrensen & Alan Glover \$2 Registration for athlete entry into all Hemp Olympix events
Midday	HEMP Olympix TUG O'DRUG WAR between Police & Polite with the big hemp rope!
12.30pm	HEMP Olympix First heats of Bong Throw & Yell and Grower's Ironperson
2.30pm	FRINGE Hemp Olympix Hosted by Nic the Hippy & Baldenstoned with consultant Bob the Builder Beard & Dread Stash, Correct Weight & Seed Sorting



Correct Weight - Attempt to fill a bag with as close to an ounce as possible. You've got vegetable matter, a baggie and no scales. Closest to the correct weight [28.349 grams] wins!

Beard & Dread Stash - How much can you hide in your hair? Who can hide the most the best?

About HEMP OLYMPIX Events
Growers Ironperson - Involves lugging a sack of fertiliser and buckets of water around the simulated growing area obstacle course with a tick and leech infested lantana tunnel. The men's event is a 40kg sack while the women contend with an 18kg sack. The top 5 crawl into the final on Sunday.
Bong Throw & Yell - Entrants throw a bong full of stinking water as far as possible whilst yelling "free the Weed" or something similar.

JOINT ROLLING
Must burn from one end to another!
The 4 Categories:
Speed Roll - Roll a standard 3-paper joint as fast as you can. Joints must include a cardboard filter or will be judged incomplete.
Artistic Roll - Roll the most beautiful joint within 10 minutes with as many papers as you like.
Roll in the Dark - Athletes are blindfolded
Adverse Conditions Roll - Dependent on weather conditions on the day and the judges' creativity.

NIMBIN CAFE - THE OASIS OF NIMBIN
Open all weekend serving green smoothies, hemp protein and seeds and organic local juice and cordial, green soup, chilli con carne, warm fire and friends.
Open following Stoned Yoga to kick start your perfect MardiGrass day. The GREEN ZONE is a CHILL OUT SPACE. Acoustic music is welcome!
Come and share the joint with locals.

PROP AND COSTUME MAKING FOR SUNDAY PARADE
SPontaneous Art Event
#imagination @ 7 Sibley St (On the way to the skate park)
Drop in and get creative with local makers of sculpture, puppets and fun.
#imagination is building fabulous props for this years protest parade on Sunday.
EVER wanted to be a more colourful part of protest? Get your creative skates on to paint, sew, cut and bedazzle!!
Happening throughout Friday and Saturday!

"To get really high is to forget yourself and to forget yourself is to see everything else; and to see everything else is to become an understanding molecule in evolution, a conscious tool of the universe."
- Jerry Garcia

KOMBI KONVOY



rolls up in Nimbin having wended its way from Byron Bay. Line the street to welcome up to 100 kombis! Special thanks to AI at Rvbyesque

Medical Cannabis Families
Meet, greet & network space
Also featuring launch of Kickstarter campaign for the film STONED about events in Australia on legalisation, clinical trials & activist/political events.

HEMP BAR
Home of the 4.20 and where you can join the HEMP Party over the weekend. From 8.30 pm till late on Saturday, the HEMP Bar and Polite Bureau will host a W.A.N party

STONER BLAZE & GLOBAL MARIJUANA MARCH

Welcome to the Earth's longest running "Four Twenty" Demonstration in Nimbin! Come on everybody! It's time to take control of the street! OCCUPY!! Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with your fellow cannabis lovers and light whatever you have in your hand. Let's appreciate that all around the world millions of people are smoking pot at Four Twenty. They are getting together outside factories and offices. They are lighting up in homes and in gardens and on beaches, and pretty much everywhere! At Four Twenty everyone ought to be thinking **pot for peace and peace for pot** and ways to achieve it!!
Thank each other for bravery in the face of what can seem at times to be overwhelming opposition, and for standing strong against those who think cannabis is a problem. Thank each other for spreading the word that cannabis is part of the solution.
Now take this vibe out into the world and tell everyone you meet that there is a tribal wave of change coming. Tell them everything you learned at Nimbin MardiGrass!! [More at bigjoint.org]

"Everybody must get stoned" -Bob Dylan

ENTERTAINMENT & MUSIC

BUSH THEATRE	
10am	Freewin Harper
11	Jolanda Moyle
Midday	Sarah Stando
1	Will Massey
2	Smiles & Ink
3	Beetle Juice

MINGLE PARK	
Workshops and Music throughout the weekend	
Hip Hop Workshop hosted by B.A.P. Inc	
	Drift
	Michael Skinner
	Nicky Swamp

MARKET STAGE	
Family friendly market zone at Nimbin's Community Centre featuring local musicians	
Joel Sweetman	10
Dave Baraba	11
Will Massey	Midday
Drift	1
Michael Skinner	2
Johnny Ganja	3

TOWN HALL GARDEN
Midday Bubblebag Demo
Friday, Saturday and Sunday!

NIMBIN SK8 PARK:
Open all weekend!!
Performances with open mic time, plus more...
Pro skatepark demo with giveaways from Oz Hip Hop Shop.



All day Gardener's Breakfast
with Mullaway and friends. All gardeners and wanna-be green thumbs welcome!

NIMBIN ABORIGINAL ARTS AND CULTURE CENTRE
In Sibley Street on the way to the Skate Park will be open throughout the MardiGrass weekend with Bush Tucker, an Art Exhibition and a chance to talk with Local Elders. Australia's Aborigines make up 2 to 3% of Australians today but comprise close to 50% of our jail population. How can we live with this shame?



SILENT DOOF
Midnight

INDICA ARENA	
Disco Sista's Tent	
COMEDY LAUGHING ON THE GRASS Weed love to make you laugh! The Laugh Mob returns to MardiGrass	
MOVIES & DANCE NIGHT with DISCO SISTER	
including "The Emperor Wears No Clothes" & Ganja Music Sessions	

SATIVA STADIUM	
HASHBOWL STAGE	
Sian Evans	HRBRT
Guthrie	Out of Range
Kenta Hayashi	Baltic Bar Mitzvah
Street 66	Azza Doota
CC The Cat	Moochers Inc
The Madtones	
Black Bird Hum	

"Marijuana is taken by musicians and I'm not speaking about good musicians" -Harry J. Anslinger	
Emph n Treats	Rob Bruce
Silicon Slave	Tegan Ellena
B.A.P. Inc	Brommers
P. Smurf	Neil Pike & the Pagan Love Cult
420 Sound	Desert Blues Cartel

GREEN BANK Herbal teas, therapists and relaxing massage all weekend.

Special Thanks to **Tony L. Partridge** for the use of his photos.
tonylpartridge.com

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Come in and talk to our friendly passionate staff to stress less and rediscover a happier healthier you!
With locations across Australia!

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 - Health Tonics • Mood Enhancers •
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Sunday 1 May

	TOWN HALL 10am Information Booth Opens	MARKET STAGE Tommy Feather	SATIVA STADIUM 9am Yoga on the Grass @Hash Bowl Stage	BUSH THEATRE 10am Cosmic Bliss
	10.30am LEGAL ADVICE with Steve Bolt Including Roadside Drug Testing & Medicinal Cannabis	RANDOM HAPPENINGS OASIS CAFÉ Stoned Scrabble	POT POET'S BREAKFAST @ Hash Bowl Stage Hosted by award-winning Nimbin Poet Olympian David Hallett, this May Day wake-up call will be a pot-pourri of Nimbin & other worldly poetic tales..... visiting pot poets welcome!	11 Ocean & Earth
	MINGLE PARK	FINAL	HEMP OLYMPIX Hosted by Sorensen and Glover \$2 Registration for athlete entry into all Hemp Olympix events	11.30
	Midday HEMPOSIUM Dana Larsen, Sensible BC Canada Overgrow Canada!	ArtWomb [Interactive Art]	Last Heats & Finals of Bong Throw and Yell & Growers Ironperson Includes a ceremony for the medal winners	Midday Doug & Biskit
	1 Andrew "Dr Pot" Katalaris, Baby Bashing Bankers & Other Bastards	OASIS CAFÉ Old fashioned Cannabis Cooking with the Cookie Queen	POT TATTOO EXPO @hashbowlstage Bring your skin!	1 Dave Barbara
	2 PARADE FLOATS Get out your fabrics, banners, paint brushes and sewing machines to get ready for the annual MardiGrass Parade Float Awards. Prizes will be presented to the winning floats in Sativa Stadium after the Rally.	CANNABIS LAW REFORM RALLY & GATHERING Gather and get ready for the MardiGrass Parade at the exit of the western car park, across the road from the Community Centre Market. The march is the main event, so please walk with us for cannabis law reform! Led by the Widjibal Elders of the Bunjalung Nation, with children holding the Koori flag, the parade this year will make its way south along Cullen street past the Police Station where it will turn left and head down Cecil Street and around to the Hash Bowl Stage in Sativa Stadium for the Cannabis Law Reform Rally, speeches and MardiGrass Float Prize presentations. There is also a short cut down past Green Bank if you run out of puff! Just follow the GANJA FAERIES and the BIG JOINT!! Ganja Faeries celebrate the spirit of MardiGrass. They dance behind the Bunjalung people who traditionally welcome the protesters to their country each year. Their dance has itself become a tradition simply because the laws remain unacceptable to all self respecting ganja users, be they Bunjalung, faeries or otherwise. Rally speeches from Bunjalung Elders, Michael Balderstone, Ganja Faerie Chantico, Dana Larsen (Canada), Abe Acton (Colorado), Dr David Caldicott, Gabe Buckley, Ray Thorpe (Happy Herb Company), Andrew "Dr Pot" Katalaris This is our twenty-fourth consecutive annual Rally for Cannabis Law Reform. We vowed to Rally every year on the first Sunday in May until we are no longer criminals for using this herb. Prohibition is an incitement, not a control! MardiGrass will become a Festival when we can celebrate the herb without fear of prosecution and persecution. When the Police have a float in the street parade behind the Ganja Faeries, Big Joint & POLITE, then we really will have a proper festival and celebration. In the meantime, this annual event is a POLITICAL PROTEST RALLY .		
	4 Chiggz Oblivious Gestures	HEMP BAR: Church of the Holy Smoke 420	Doug & Biskit	Diana Anaid
	5 HEMP OLYMPIX Joint Rolling FINALS	Sista Gurl	The Family Johnson	Sem [Bob Marley Celebration]
	6 HARVEST BALL Loey Howell	HEMP BAR: HEMP Party members meet up	Beetle Juice	Mamajae
	7 B-Syde	DAIZY'S: Seedy Disco	Pineapple Lazer	COMEDY LAUGHING ON THE GRASS Weed love to make you laugh!
	8 Golden Zephr	FLOAT PRIZES First prize of \$1,000 cash 2nd & 3rd prizes Happy High Herbs gift vouchers of \$250 & \$100 Conditions: Height - Must not exceed 3.2 metres from "the road" Width - Must not exceed 2.4 metres Length - Must not exceed 4.2 metres Floats must be people or green powered. Floats can be a single person, or group, or a centrepiece of an on foot display. Judging: Judges will be announced on the day, and will be from the Happy Herb Company and the HEMP Embassy A one to ten point score method will be adopted. Pre-parade while assembling. Use of recycled materials, originality and punctuality During Parade: Locomotion, costumes, power of the message, crowd response and overall effect		MOVIES & DANCE NIGHT with DISCO SISTA Ganja Music Sessions
	9 Hemingway			
	10 Matt Neilsen			
	11 Neil Pike & the Pagan Love Cult			
	Midnight			

The MARDIGRASS Parade is not just a spectator sport. Please feel free to join the parade and show your support for pot law reform. We're all in this together!

Safe & Happy Mardi Grass to all from
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GROW YOUR GANJA VICTORY GARDEN!

As Canada moves towards legalization, it's good to remember how we got here. It is civil disobedience against the unjust pot prohibition laws that has gotten us to the verge of legalization. We must keep up that momentum as we enter into the final stretch of our cannabis campaign. This is why I am calling on all freedom-loving Canadians to grow a cannabis victory garden this spring! Grow them on your balcony or your windowsill, grow them in your front yard or the back, but let us finally bring our plants out of the closet and into the fresh air where they belong.

BEATING THE BAN ON BONGS
Every step on the path to legalization has been won through disobedience to the cannabis laws. When the modern legalization movement took hold in the early 90s, there were laws on the books which prohibited the sale or even promotion of bong and vaporizers, as well as banning books and movies in favour of legalization. Yet dozens of stores began opening across Canada. The campaign of opening these new "hemp stores" was so successful, that after several years the police simply gave up enforcing the ludicrous anti-bong laws in most of the country.

CANNABIS FREEDOM RALLIES
Using cannabis is of course banned in Canada, but we have often made police turn a blind eye to that as well. Cannabis freedom rallies began in the big cities like Vancouver and Toronto, and faced harassment and ar-

rests in the early days. But here too, once again we have simply overgrown the government. There are now a growing number of toke-friendly lounges, and dozens of cities now celebrate annual events like 4/20 and the Global Marijuana March with flagrant and fragrant public use and celebration of cannabis.

OPENLY SHARING AND SELLING
After bong, books and possession, we began fighting against the ban on selling and sharing cannabis. First we started giving away joints at our rallies, and then we held marijuana raffles. Some brave people began selling joints and cookies at 4/20, and over the years we continued to push, so that in big cities like Vancouver and Toronto, cannabis is now very openly bought and sold during cannabis festivals.

The birth of the cannabis dispensary movement also came from civil disobedience. The influences of the first dispensaries in California, called "compassion clubs" spread to Canadian cities, where compassion clubs began opening in the mid-90s. About a decade ago the dispensary movement began to expand. Once again, this campaign of civil disobedience has paid off tremendously. Although the federal law has not changed, there are now well over 200 dispensaries across Canada, with more opening at a rapidly



Dana Larsen

increasing rate. I expect there will be over 500 dispensaries nationwide by the end of 2016.

The federal laws are still in place, but we have now forced Vancouver and other cities to start giving out business licenses! Our campaign has been so successful that most Canadians don't even realize that bong shops or cannabis dispensaries are still illegal under federal law.

OVERGROW THE GOVERNMENT
So now we see that the cannabis legalization movement is the largest ever civil disobedience campaign in Canada's history! But we're not done yet. The next step must be to complete our campaign to "overgrow the government."

It could be years before Trudeau's Liberals come up with all their new rules and regulations, permits and punishments for legal cannabis. Our movement has never been based on patiently waiting for politicians to grant us freedom. Cannabis liberation is about peaceful defiance, and standing up against unjust laws, not only with words, but with concrete action.

If you love cannabis, if you love freedom, or if you just love your country, then plant some cannabis seeds this spring, and we will all reap a wonderful harvest together.

All that matters is that Canadians join together, to plant these seeds and claim our right to grow in our gardens. A seed, some soil, sunlight and water. That is how we will finally end cannabis prohibition. I hope you will join me in planting the seeds of freedom from coast to coast!

Dana Larsen, overgrowcanada.com



AUSTRALIAN MEDICINAL CANNABIS OBSERVATORY

The Australian Medicinal Cannabis Observatory, headed by Dr David Caldicott, is a group of scientists, pharmacists and medical professionals who are interested in the 'hows' and 'whys' of medicinal Cannabis use in Australia; working in collaboration with United in Compassion and the Australian National University.

We are interested in your opinions if you are using, intend to use, or have ever used Cannabis for medicinal purposes. As a highly motivated group of patients, we know that you want and need more information about medicinal Cannabis. The survey is available here www.unitedincompassion.com.au/amco-survey

We feel that an appropriate starting point is not to repeat what is already known, but perhaps to examine and share current practices; i.e. how YOU use Cannabis medicinally, with a view to informing the design of studies & trials that might contribute to the growing body of knowledge of medicinal Cannabis. The survey is entirely confidential for patients; but we are committed to the concepts of 'Open Science' and 'people before profit'. We believe that your opinions should be heard by everyone, not just by commercially vested interests, so we are happy to share our findings (once fully de-identified) with fellow researchers, for the long term benefit of broad public health.

Let's Do Cannabis Better

Better Health
Better Nutrition
Better Policing
Better Budgets

HELP END MARIJUANA PROHIBITION
AUSTRALIANHEMPARTY.COM

Your HEMP Party is looking for the best deal it can get for Australian Cannabis users.

It's certainly been another interesting year in the world of cannabis law reform. The HEMP Party has worked double time lobbying the major parties as we try and direct more emphasis on the international roadblocks to medical cannabis use and scientific research. While numerous Australian Parliamentary Inquiries make mention of international obstacles surrounding the 'lawful source' of medical cannabis, it seems all sorts of politicians are making promises they can't keep. In making our concerns acknowledged on the issue, HEMP has called for interim measures to ensure a reasonable supply regime while scientific and medical trials are conducted and an amnesty for patients and their suppliers.

Australia and New Zealand remain the only countries in the world to maintain a ban on the consumption of hemp seed foods. Now the only reason we're given as to why there's a ban is that police believe hemp food consumption may interfere with roadside saliva testing. Interestingly, Australia is the only country to use saliva testing in such a way, and a Tasmanian Inquiry recommended authorities should find better ways of detecting actual impairment, rather than minute traces of cannabis. HEMP suggests following the money trail right back to the company with exclusive rights to supply all Australian Police forces with these dodgy saliva devices. Unfortunately our warnings were not heeded by the major parties, including The Greens, who voted for saliva testing against our strongest advice. HEMP calls this strategy a total failure and can't wait for the end of it so that some tough questions can be answered.

HEMP is more than happy to talk about the complex nature of regulation, taxing and supply issues, though we'd be equally appreciative if governments turned their attention to meaningful law reform concerning the medical use of cannabis, and changes to the food code to allow consumption of hemp seed foods.

HEMP has certainly not forgotten about recreational and social uses of cannabis, in fact we keep reminding politicians that Australians spend about \$5 billion per year buying cannabis (Clemants, Curtin). That's twice the size of the wine industry! So while social use of cannabis is going gangbusters, (like alcohol under prohibition in the US), our police resources, court time, and criminal justice system are being overloaded. For what?

HEMP will use whatever influence it has to push our major parties to acknowledge the concerns of approximately 2 million Australians who use Cannabis in its various forms. Moreover, HEMP shall endeavour to get a better deal for millions more who would find benefit from the reintegration of this useful plant within society.

HEMP will remain a single-issue protest vote for many years to come and we are very pleased to report a 25% increase in membership in the past 18 months.

Andrew Kavasilas, Secretary, HEMP Party of Australia

VOTE HEMP! WE KNOW CANNABIS BETTER!

Mardi Grass 2016

Friday 29th
Opening night 8pm
Khanage 8pm

Saturday 30th
12pm Aardooke
3.30pm Desert Blue
8pm Ooze Rock

Sunday 1st
12pm Mecha Mecha
3.30pm The Swamp
9am
7pm Bluebell Station

@ The Nimbin Hotel

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Drug policy: The winds of change are speeding up

There is no doubt that global drug prohibition is slowly but steadily unraveling. In the US and a number of other countries, growing support for the regulation of recreational cannabis is following the availability of lawful medicinal cannabis. Unexpectedly, the USA has been leading these recent international developments. By 2015, four US states and Washington DC have approved the regulation of recreational cannabis with two of these states already implementing this policy since 2014. Now that Canada and Mexico are committed to the regulation of recreational cannabis, this could squeeze the US should the domestic US reform process stall. In the 1920s and 30s, Canada did not prohibit alcohol while the USA did. Canadian alcohol transported to the US was a significant factor in the repeal of US alcohol prohibition in 1933.

Almost every week somewhere around the world, another drug prohibition domino falls. As each domino falls, it threatens yet another domino. But no one should assume that drug law reform is inevitable. Substantial powerful forces are still opposed to drug law reform, including many vested interests, and the politics of reform is still very tricky.

The United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drug policy in New York was brought forward from 2019 to April 2016 in response to the collapsing support for drug prohibition. Most commentators assume that this major meeting will demonstrate the permanent and serious fracturing of any previous international consensus around drug prohibition. William Brownfield, the most senior US government official able to comment officially on US drug policy has explicitly stated several times that countries are now able to interpret the international drug treaties flexibly, contradicting the previous policy for many decades where the US insisted and enforced an inflexible interpretation of the same drug treaties. Why the about face? The growing popular support in the US for regulating recreational cannabis, and the increasing success of several state ballot initiatives, has forced the US government to choose between ignoring public opinion or abiding by its international treaty obligations. The US government has sensibly decided to not ignore public opinion now that a clear and growing majority supports lawful medicinal cannabis and regulation of recreational cannabis.

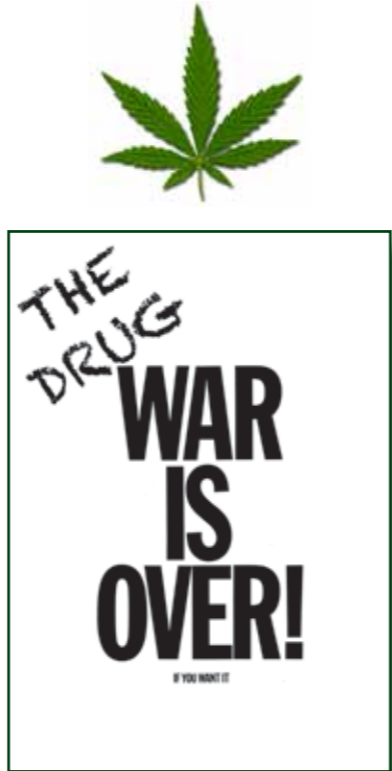
Meanwhile in many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, support for drug law reform is growing rapidly. The New Zealand attempt from July 2013 to start regulating the so-called New Psychoactive Substances lasted for 10 months and seems to have been prematurely terminated by opposition to animal testing and other problems in the assessment system. With many previous international policy firsts to its credit, a number of countries are closely watching what New Zealand will do next.

Former Australian Prime Minister Abbott clearly supported medicinal cannabis in an e-mail to radio personality, Alan Jones, and also explicitly acknowledged (29 April 2014) that the war on drugs was a war that could not be won. Both statements were very important. No previous Prime Minister or previous US Leader of the Opposition had ever acknowledged publicly and unambiguously that a policy relying on supply control had failed and could never be effective.

Drug policy in Australia has been much more moderate than in many other rich countries, especially the USA, and this has been the case for a long time. This moderation has been a huge advantage for the Australian people but it makes the task of drug law reform somewhat more difficult. Most tricky policy reforms in Australia require support from multiple political parties. Australia's bold policy response to HIV in the 1980s served the country well but all major parties supported adoption and implementation of some quite sen-

sitive initiatives. Global drug prohibition is now all but dead but we can expect that those who do well from supply control will continue to vigorously defend conventional drug policy. As Churchill said of El Alamein, this is not the beginning of the end but it is the end of the beginning.

Dr Alex Wodak AM, President, Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation [Dr Wodak will attend UNGASS in New York, USA, in April 2016]



Baby Bashing Bankers And Other Bastards ...continued from Page 3

The movement to legalise cannabis hemp in all its forms has gained great momentum in the last decade and is now unstoppable. The only thing the current system can do is delay and act as a spoiler and that seems their current strategy. The use of capricious saliva tests to harass citizens is an example. Governments who for years have trumpeted the "dangers" of cannabis are being irrefutably confronted by evidence that the cannabis herb has the potential to transform our health care system, introducing both "health" and "care" to a system currently lacking both.

Andrew "Dr Pot" Katelaris



Australia has had soldiers in the Middle East since 2001. During this time 41 men have lost their lives whilst serving in Afghanistan, with many more returning home to continue their fight post deployment. The Australian Defence Force says 8% of service personnel experienced Post Traumatic Stress in the last 12 months. Anecdotally, Ex-Service Organisations are claiming rates closer to 30% - that's approximately 17,000 veterans in the last year experiencing PTSD.

- According to the Australian Veteran Suicide Registry, there were 34 recorded Veteran suicides in 2015. (Source: AVSR Facebook)
- The Department of Veterans Affairs spent \$356 million on Pharmaceuticals in 2014-2015. (source: DVA Annual Report 2014-2015)
- 22% of the ADF experienced a mental disorder in the past 12 months. (source: 2010 ADF mental health and wellbeing study)
- In a study of Chronic Low Back Pain, 51% of chronic pain patients also experienced significant Post Traumatic Stress symptoms. (source: 2003, DeCarvalho, LT)
- In a study by The Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health exploring whether sleep disturbance is common to veterans generally or simply those diagnosed with PTSD. From a group of 152 Vietnam Veterans, 87 of whom did not meet criteria of PTSD, all with PTSD and 90% without reported clinically significant sleep disturbance. (source: 2008 ACPHM, University of Melbourne)

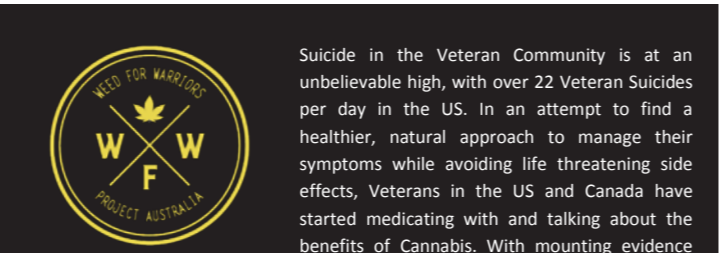


SIDE EFFECTS?

Quetiapine and Escitalopram are two commonly prescribed medications for Contemporary Veterans in Australia.

Common Side Effects: drowsiness, insomnia, vision changes, nausea, upset stomach, weight changes, constipation, decreased sex drive, increased sweating, impotence, dizziness, loss of energy, increased appetite, weight gain, dry mouth, vomiting, stomach pain,

Serious Side Effects: suicide ideation, vertigo, risk taking behaviour, high fever, uneven heartbeats, tremors, twitching or uncontrollable movements.



Suicide in the Veteran Community is at an unbelievable high, with over 22 Veteran Suicides per day in the US. In an attempt to find a healthier, natural approach to manage their symptoms while avoiding life threatening side effects, Veterans in the US and Canada have started medicating with and talking about the benefits of Cannabis. With mounting evidence showing conventional treatments provide limited, if any, benefit for combat vets, more focus is being placed into alternative modalities. This year, with support from the State of Colorado, Dr Sue Sisley and Rick Doblin will be working together in a long awaited clinical study into the benefits of Cannabis for Combat Post Traumatic Stress.

A study in New Mexico evaluated Cannabis' effects on symptoms of 80 patients with Post Traumatic Stress. Patients reported a greater than 75% reduction in their symptoms when using Cannabis compared to when they were not. (Source: May 2014, Greer, GR. Published in the Journal of Psychoactive Drugs)

Professor Raphael Mechoulam has linked properties of Cannabis to memory extinction. By aiding memory extinction, Cannabis can help veterans reduce their association between stimuli (loud noises or crowded shopping centres) and traumatic events from their service (explosions, gun shots and crowded market places). (Source: Israel, R Mechoulam, Cannabinoids as Therapeutics)

The unique nature of combat training causes hypervigilance and light sleeping habits. Combined with graphic, flashback-type nightmares, falling asleep can be a daunting experience for a veteran. By reducing stress and pain, Cannabis expedites the transition through the stages of sleep and extends the length of slow wave sleep, the most restorative phase of sleep. Cannabis also reduces REM sleep, which is the final stage of sleep during which dreams occur, limiting nightmares and aiding in a more restorative night's sleep. (Source: T Schierenbeck, Sleep Medicine Reviews, 2008)

- Side Effects!
- + Increases appetite
- + Relieves pain and nausea
- + Aids sleep
- + Fights depression
- + Relieves stress and anxiety
- + Encourages deep relaxation
- + Improves creativity and focus
- + Increases blood flow
- + Decreases aggression and irritability
- + Immediate effects



POSSESSION

To prove possession, the police must prove beyond reasonable doubt that you knew that you had the cannabis in your custody or under your legal control. In cases where more than one person has access to the cannabis (for example, where it is found in a shared house or in a car with several occupants) the prosecution must rule out the possibility that someone other than the accused person was in possession of the cannabis.

SUPPLY

"Supply" includes: selling, giving away, and agreeing to supply. Sharing cannabis is supply. Any supply is treated as a serious offence and the penalties get quite severe for supply on a large commercial scale. There is also an offence called "deemed supply". In the case of cannabis, the deemed supply amount is 300 grams. If the police can prove that you were in possession of 300 grams or more of cannabis, you must prove that your possession of the cannabis was not for supply. For example, that it was for your personal use.

CULTIVATION

Cultivation means some activity to assist growing or harvesting the plant. Cultivating cannabis can include planting or watering or fertilising. Again, the police must have enough evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt that you knowingly carried out the cultivation activity. There are higher penalties and trial by judge and jury for cultivating or possessing more than 250 plants.

HYDROPONIC PLANTS

There is a separate offence under NSW law of cultivation of hydroponic plants. The maximum penalties are a lot higher than for cultivating the same number of outdoor plants. But for this charge the police must also prove that the indoor cultivation was "for a commercial purpose".

MEDICINAL CANNABIS

Despite the new federal medical cannabis laws, in NSW it is still currently an offence to use, possess, cultivate or supply cannabis for medicinal purposes. The NSW Government has announced it will conduct trials on the effectiveness of medicinal cannabis, but there has been no change in the law. A magistrate has discretion to impose no conviction and no penalty in medicinal cannabis [and other] cases, if there is a guilty plea, or guilt after hearing.

COOKIES

Possessing or supplying cannabis cookies, or other kinds of cannabis edibles, is illegal. Bizarrely, the drug law treats cookies as if they were pure cannabis.



Cannabis is a "prohibited drug" under NSW law. Any activity involving cannabis is illegal – possession, use, supply or cultivation. It is also an offence to possess implements for the use of cannabis. All cannabis offences in NSW are dealt with in court – except if you qualify for a "cannabis caution". Cautions are discretionary. NSW does not have "civil penalties", i.e., fines without criminal conviction for minor offences, as there are in some other States and Territories.

So, because weight determines the nature of the criminal charge, you could theoretically be charged with "deemed supply" if you possess more than 300 grams of cookies, even though you are mostly possessing chocolate, flour and butter etc. In this situation, the police would charge you only with possession.

CANNABIS CAUTIONS

The police have discretion to issue a caution if you are found in possession of less than 15 grams of cannabis, and you have no prior convictions, and you admit the cannabis is yours.

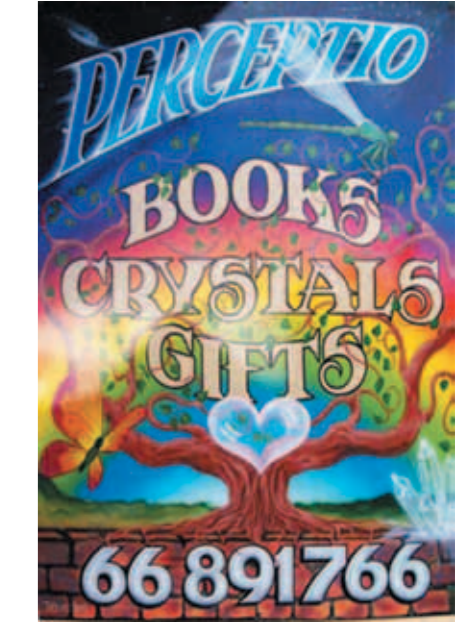


INTERACTING WITH POLICE

You do not have to answer police questions or make a statement, whether they arrest you or not. It is usually better to say something like, "I do not wish to say anything until I get legal advice." Beware of small talk and being trapped into a conversation. Just tell them your name, age and address. If you admit anything, or sound like you're admitting something, the police can use that in evidence against you. Remember that the police must prove your guilt – anything you say may make it easier for them to do just that. Generally it is better to say nothing until you have had legal advice.

SEARCHES

Police are legally entitled to enter and search private property if they have a search warrant or if they are invited in by one of the occupiers. A search warrant gives police the power to search anybody found on the premises, The police have the power to search you personally, without a warrant, if they believe on reasonable grounds that you might be in possession of a prohibited drug or a weapon or evidence of a crime.



SNIFFER DOGS

Police can only use sniffer dogs without a warrant, in certain places: on trains and buses, and on or near railway stations and bus terminals, in licensed premises, at dance parties and music festivals. However, the same legislation requires the police to obtain a warrant to use sniffer dogs in other situations, for example to conduct random street searches.

A Defence of "honest & reasonable mistake of fact"

In NSW it is an offence to drive with THC present in your saliva. Police can stop a driver for no particular reason and require them to provide a saliva sample. If there is any amount of THC found in the sample, the charge is made out. The police do not have to prove that you were impaired to any degree in your ability to drive. And the police do not have to prove that you intentionally drove with THC in your system.

But it is a defence to the charge if you honestly believed that you did not have THC in your saliva at the time you drove and that there was reasonable basis for you to hold that belief. That is, the court must accept that you genuinely believed what you say you believed. The court must also decide that an ordinary person would consider it reasonable to believe that there would be no THC present.

The NSW Government Centre for Road Safety website (www.roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au) states that the period of time that drugs could be detected "depends on the amount taken, frequency of use of the drug, and other factors that vary between individuals". The website goes on to say that the saliva test would "typically" detect THC for "up to 12 hours after use".

A defence of honest and reasonable mistake of fact might succeed where the driver satisfied the court:

- they believed that the period of detection was up to 12 hours;
- they obtained that information from the Centre for Road Safety website or a similar official source;
- they believed that they were a "typical" cannabis user, so that the advice applied to them, and they acted on that advice
- it was significantly longer than 12 hours (for example 18 hours or more) between the cannabis use and the driving, so that they allowed a margin for error

Once the defence of honest and reasonable mistake of fact is raised, the prosecution must prove beyond reasonable doubt that the driver did not honestly have such a belief or that the belief was not reasonably held. Obviously, the court would decide on those issues in the particular circumstances of the evidence in each case.

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The best advice? DON'T GET BUSTED! If ya do, keep your trap shut.

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