



# NIMBIN MARDI GRASS.COM



## 17<sup>TH</sup> CANNABIS LAW REFORM RALLY & GATHERING PROGRAM 2009 MAY 2+3

### WELCOME to a unique assembly of people who support cannabis law reform.

Nimbin's Seventeenth MardiGrass culminates in the Law Reform Rally on the Sunday afternoon. Activists and social imbibers from across the planet have been arriving in Nimbin since the beginning of April for the big weekend, and the local crew are as welcoming and resilient as the Earth itself. You may have spotted the Polite Force in Byron on Good Friday with their giant inflatable, floatable reefer.

Since last MardiGrass, Nimbin has been subjected to increased police raids and random searches in an effort, of no small expense, to rid the town of cannabis traders. In fact, the local area police commander recently offered a reward of up to \$1000 if you can Dob-in-a-Dealer.

Is this possibly part of the Government's stimulus package? Many young people have criminal records that make it even harder for them to get jobs in the future, and some are in jail. The expensive police operations appear to make little difference as both

the popularity of the village and the availability of herb continues to attest. Isn't it overtime we reviewed the war on drugs; a war which criminalises our young people for youthful experimentation with a reasonably safe euphoric herb and deprives the sick of an effective pain killer?

Late May the Big Joint, accompanied by the Polite Force Media Unit, will revisit Parliament House in Sydney for the tenth anniversary of the Sydney 1999 Drug Summit. Even then the recommendation was to decriminalise cannabis. Virtually every other enquiry since then has recommended the same.

Why do the laws never change? Who profits from prohibition? The giant pharmaceuticals, the private prison operators and the various global insurgencies funded through illicit drug profits. It's time (as it has been for a generation) to stop the madness.

This years MardiGrass includes a forum with visitors from overseas who have Medical Cannabis cards. You can hear for yourself how medical cannabis works in their country. California has had legal medical pot for over a decade. In fact, fourteen

American states now allow cannabis for medical reasons, which is one of the reasons for the Obama poster, emphasizing how out of step our own government is.

John Howard's Reefer Madness worked a treat, including on Kevin Rudd, our 'man of compassion'. He has a lot to learn and we are urging people to write to him with their story. Tell him how cannabis has worked for you and how prohibition has adversely affected you. And if the truth can be told so it is understood, it will be believed.

The 'Send Rudd a Bud Campaign' at MardiGrass will provide 100% hemp paper for you to write your story on, and we'll send it for you if you'd like.

There's also a petition to allow Australian's to eat hempseed, a privilege currently reserved for their pets. We are the only country on the planet where hempseed as food is still forbidden. Packed with protein and all the Omegas in balance, the Chinese we believe now plan to grow it in the Kimberleys for their army, which already eats it extensively in their diet. **Wake up Australia!**



**The HEMP OLYMPIX has a new event. CORRECT WEIGHT**  
Make up announce bag. Closest to the correct weight wins the Olympix medal.

**PHYTOCANNABINOID**  
Also called natural, herbal, and classical cannabinoids, are only known to occur naturally in significant quantity in the cannabis plant, and are concentrated in a viscous resin that is produced in glandular structures known as trichomes.

**STREET PARADE 2.00pm**  
Gather and get ready for the MardiGrass Parade. If you want to be in it join us all at the top of Cecil Street where it meets Cullen Street, opposite the local Police Station. The march is the main event, so please come and join in.  
**PROGRAM CENTREPAGE**

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HERB WARS  
GANJA IN INDIA  
CANADA & USA

**HERB WARS**  
Natural Medicines - Prohibited Plants



### BIG JOINT HEADING TO CANBERRA

**Got a Gordian Knot in your gut?** We will have fear as long as newspaper editors remain cynically addicted to fear inducing headlines for sales. They profit by our fears. The more fearful we become, the more newspapers we buy to validate those fears. Hullo hamsters! Keep running. You are generating power for some historical event somewhere, beyond our control and receiving our sustenance. Surely it is not a satisfying life to be afraid of everything outside your box. Come to MardiGrass and see for yourself that our difference can be enjoyed and that we threaten

nothing. There might be threateningly different views somewhere else in the world, but not here. We wear the peace sign, footprint of the chicken, with some pride. We have a lighthearted romp and pageant organised round a peaceful protest once a year. Come and see for yourself the farce that drug laws, over-policing, and media indifference or gullibility (you decide!) can combine to create.

We believe cannabis laws and the enforcement of those laws are causing more social harms than cannabis ever could by itself.

**Where can you get a better deal?**  
**NIMBIN MARDI GRASS**  
**\$50 DEAL**  
**ALL EVENTS WEEKEND PASS WITH 2 NIGHTS CAMPING!**

**Legalise Marijuana? YES WE CAN nabis**  
WAKE UP AUSTRALIA  
"Medical Marijuana is entirely appropriate."  
"I inhaled frequently, that was the point."  
**2009 MAY 2+3**  
**NIMBINMARDI GRASS.COM**  
\*HEMP OLYMPIX - JOINT ROLL, BONG THROW, IRONPERSON, CORRECT WEIGHT  
\*MARIJUANA MUSIC AWARDS \*HEMP INDUSTRY EXPO \*MEDICAL FORUMS  
\*GLOBAL MARIJUANA MARCH \*KOMBI KONVOY \*HEMPLORE TATTOO  
\*POT POETRY \*COMEDY CAFE \*POT ART \*PICKERS BALL \*HARVEST BALL  
\*CHEECH AND CHONG LOOK ALIKE CONTEST \*RED PILL CIRCUS OF TRUTH  
\*POLITE FORCE \*MARDI GRASS MARKETS \*YARNDI YARNS IN MINGLE PARK  
\*GANJA FAERIES \*BIG JOINT \*BEST FLOAT AWARDS \*CANNABIS CUP  
\*SUNDAY PARADE 2.30PM \*RALLY FOR CANNABIS LAW REFORM

# LEGAL ADVICE

There are separate offences for possession, use, cultivation or supply of pot.

## PENALTIES

Supply is usually considered more serious than cultivation, and cultivation is usually considered more serious than possession.

The penalty for a drug offence depends mostly on the type of offence (that is, supply, cultivation or possession), and then the quantity of drugs involved and your prior record.

A first offender pleading guilty to possession of a small amount of pot might have no conviction recorded, or get a fine. Someone convicted of supply, especially if it is not their first supply offence, would likely go to jail.

## What do you say to the police?

You do not have to say anything to the police, whether they arrest you or not.

The best advice is to say nothing to the police. Just tell them your name and address.

If you admit anything (or say something that sounds like you're admitting something), the police can use that in evidence against you.

## The law of possession

To prove possession, the police must prove that you knew that you had the drug in your custody or under your legal control. Depending on the circumstances, it might be difficult for the police to prove that you must have known about the presence of the drug.

In cases involving more than one person having potential access to the drugs – for example, shared houses – the police must rule out, beyond reasonable doubt, that another person might be in possession of the pot.

Police questions will be aimed at getting you to admit to things they otherwise might not be able to prove.

## CAUTIONS

If you have less than 15 grams of pot AND you have no prior convictions AND you admit that the pot is yours, you might get a caution (instead of having to go to court).

## Random Roadside Testing

The police have the power to randomly drug test drivers, for cannabis, amphetamine and ecstasy, by saliva swab.

If the test indicates positive, the sample is sent to a laboratory for analysis. You do not get arrested, but you are not permitted to drive for 24 hours. If the laboratory confirms the presence of the drug, you will be sent a notice to go to court.

The maximum penalty for driving with the "presence" of one of these drugs in your system is a \$1,100 fine and 3 months minimum licence disqualification.

## SUPPLY

Supply includes selling, giving away, agreeing to supply. Technically, sharing pot is also supply.

If the police can prove that you were in possession of 300 grams of pot or more (the amount deemed to be intended for supply), you must prove that your possession was not for supply (for example, personal use).



**STEVE BOLT**  
Author of *Rough Deal*, the only plain English book about the NSW drug laws (available at the Hemp Embassy)



## CULTIVATION

Cultivation means some activity to assist growing or harvesting. Cultivation of cannabis can include planting or watering or fertilising.

There is also an offence of possessing cannabis plants, with the same maximum penalty as for cultivation.

## HYDROPONIC PLANTS

There is now a separate offence of cultivation of hydroponic plants. The maximum penalties are a lot higher than for cultivating an equivalent number of outdoor plants. But the police must prove that the indoor cultivation was "for a commercial purpose" (which is not necessary in outdoor cultivation cases).

## 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.

The police have the power to search you personally, without a warrant, if the police believe on reasonable grounds that you might be in possession of pot.

## SNIFFER DOGS

The police can use sniffer dogs in some places (on trains and buses, and on or near railway stations and bus terminals, in licensed premises, at dance parties and music festivals) without a warrant. In other places, for example on the street, they need a warrant to use a dog for drug detection.

# GETTING IT STRAIGHT

Most people cut down or stop their use of cannabis without the help of formal treatments (e.g. GPs, counsellors, psychologists, drug and alcohol services, etc). Despite this, little is known about how people actually go about markedly reducing or quitting cannabis.

If you have significantly reduced or stopped your cannabis use and maintained this change for at least the last 6 months, we would like to invite you to complete a web-based survey about your achievement. If you are interested, please follow the link below for further information and to complete the survey.

It is being conducted by the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) at the University of New South Wales and is anonymous and confidential. The findings will be published on the NCPIC website to help those who wish to quit or reduce on their own.

## COURT MAKES MEDICINAL MARIJUANA MORE LEGAL in B.C.

### Review Of Laws Could Mean Changes To System

The quasi-legal status of Victoria's compassion clubs may have come a step closer to resolution this week after a B.C. Supreme Court ruling declared parts of Canada's current medicinal marijuana laws unconstitutional. The law, which forbids any supplier from distributing medical marijuana to more than one patient, has forced the non-profit clubs into operating illegally, despite the consent of Victoria's police.

The judge has given Health Canada one year to review the laws and make it easier for purveyors of medicinal marijuana, both inside and outside the law, to keep patients supplied. The verdict comes as a huge victory, especially for Mat Beren of the Vancouver Island Compassion Society (VICS). Beren was caught tending the VICS' grow-op in Sooke when police raided the facility in 2004 and confiscated 900 plants. Although Beren was found guilty of growing and trafficking an illegal substance, the prosecution's demands for a stiff sentence were thrown out.

Instead, the judge completely discharged the conviction, meaning that there will be no penalty or criminal record because Beren had been growing the cannabis for the club. This ruling brings into light the legal limbo in which many organizations such as VICS operate. The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that



marijuana, which is effective for easing the suffering of those with chronic conditions, is a constitutional medicine and the government has a responsibility to provide it to those with a doctor's prescription.

Mat Beren's defence made the case that the marijuana provided by the federal government, grown in a Manitoba mineshaft, was of poor quality and obtaining it meant jumping over "unnecessary bureaucratic delays or obstacles." Philippe Lucas, the director of VICS, also pointed out that the federal application process can take weeks or months, time which can be ill-afforded by those who are in enough pain to warrant a medicinal marijuana prescription.

It was because of these regulatory hurdles and the inadequacy of the federal marijuana that the compassion clubs were able to spring into existence - VICS serves more than 850 doctor-referred patients on Vancouver Island.

The onus to reform the legal framework lies not with the compassion clubs, which operate "openly, and with reasonable safeguards," but with Health Canada and the Canadian College of Physicians who failed to make medicinal marijuana sufficiently available for chronic sufferers, according to Koeningberg.

## POLITE FORCE...

FTNWO

New members are always welcome. However there is a rigorous training program under Stupidnonintended and members are encouraged to bring their own set of blue overalls if they can find some. Slow down training is essential, chillax degrees essential and humour testing continuous and random. Duties include carrying and looking after Big Joint, slowing people down (reminding them nothing is that important), checking greed and raw deals, and checking everyone has an armband .....



Legal problem?  
See Steve Bolt at



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First appointment FREE if you mention MardiGrass!



# CALIFORNIAN CANNABIS

LOS ANGELES — With little notice and even less controversy, marijuana is now available as a medical treatment in California to almost anyone who tells a willing physician he would feel better if he smoked.

Pot is now retailed over the counter in hundreds of storefronts across Los Angeles and is credited with reviving a section of downtown Oakland, where an entrepreneur sells out classes offering "quality training for the cannabis industry." The tabloid LA Journal of Education for Medical Marijuana is fat with ads for Magic Purple, Strawberry Cough and other offerings in more than 400 "dispensaries" operating in the city.

Los Angeles officials say applications for retail outlets surged after Feb. 26, when U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. announced that the Drug Enforcement Administration would no longer raid such stores. Those pressing for change in drug laws regard the announcement as a watershed in a 40-year battle against marijuana's official listing as a dangerous drug — a legal fight that, in California, is being waged on ground that has shifted dramatically toward acceptance.

All told, 13 states have legalized medical marijuana, a trend advocates credit in part to growing openness to alternative healing. As a "Schedule 1" drug under the 1970 federal narcotics act, marijuana officially has "no currently accepted medical use." But doctors have found it effective in reducing nausea, easing glaucoma, and improving appetite and sleep in AIDS patients.

Marijuana use is widespread — government surveys show that 100 million Americans have smoked pot or its resin, hashish, in their lifetimes, and 25 million have done so in the past year. Yet polls show that the public is still wary of legalization. As President Obama recently said when asked about legalizing marijuana, "I don't think that's a good strategy to grow our economy."

But in California, pot is such a booming growth industry that lawmakers are being asked to consider its potential as a salve to the state's financial woes. Betty Yee, chairman of the California State Board of Equalization, endorsed a bill in February to regulate the estimated \$14 billion marijuana market, citing the state's budget problems.

California currently collects \$18 million in sales taxes from marijuana dispensaries, and Yee said a regulated pot trade would bring in \$1.3 billion.

"I think the tide is starting to turn in terms of marijuana being part of the mainstream," she said. "The pieces seem to be falling into place."

In Los Angeles, Councilman Dennis Zine warned that half the city's sales outlets might be forced to close, but only to control the growth of what the city now regards as an accepted business. "We're not getting complaints about people smoking marijuana," said the retired motorcycle policeman. "We're seeing complaints about the proliferation of facilities. They opened up right down the street from my district office, in the same complex as a liquor store. Got the big green leaf in front."

The new reality can be disorienting. In Mendocino County, the heart of Northern California's "Emerald Triangle," marijuana farming has been openly tolerated since the arrival of counterculture refugees in the late 1960s.

But elected officials say they are being forced to crack down on growers who offended neighbours with aggressive farming after medical marijuana laws hastened pot's shift from the black market to a gray zone.

"Prop. 215 opened up a new world for people who had been underground," said Scott Zeramby, referencing the 1996 ballot proposition that legalized pot for medical users.

By 2007, Zeramby's garden supply business in the town of Fort Bragg was doing \$2.5 million in business amid a land rush by new growers eager to cash in.

"Things were getting a little crazy, even out of hand," Zeramby said. "What happened? A critical mass."

At the other end of the supply chain, some 200 dispensaries have opened using a legal loophole in an L.A. moratorium on such outlets, some making only the thinnest pretence of operating as "caregivers," the legal justification for providing cannabis directly.



## YOU could WIN the GET - THE - MUSEUM AWARD



You may be eligible for up to a thousand dollars reward.

## Reasons to VOTE HEMP

This was a topic of extreme discussion recently and a range of suggestions were made by an informal think tank.

These are the suggestions received:

1. To alleviate the suffering of the chronically or terminally ill.
2. To enhance the environment by replacing environmentally unsound products.
3. To reduce avenues of fast cash for terrorists, insurgents, arms traders, and security organisations.
4. To reduce the flow of cannabis money to criminal gangs.
5. To limit corrupting temptations available to Police, Customs Officials, and Prison Guards
6. Decriminalisation of hemp would drastically reduce Police workload, and free officers to tackle genuine crimes where it is not as easy to gain high arrest rates.
7. To remove an avenue for scaremongering by opportunistic politicians and journalists.
8. To hopefully lower the price of hemp.
9. To put an end to using dogs as a tool of discrimination against a harmless sector of the community.
10. To put an end to the marginalisation of cannabis users, indeed to try to put such petty behaviours to rest in many areas of politics.
11. As the Democrats have forgotten all about "Keeping the bastards honest", and would rather play "Make a deal", the HEMP Party would undertake to try to keep the bastards honest.
12. To allow people to enjoy a spiritual, relaxing experience - legally

### A Message from George Bernard Shaw

The old notion that people can "keep themselves to themselves" and not be touched by what is happening to their neighbors, or even to people who live a hundred miles off, is a most dangerous mistake. The saying that we are members one of another is not a mere pious formula...It is a literal truth; for though the rich end of the town can avoid living with the poor end, it cannot avoid dying with it when the plague comes.

People will be able to keep to themselves as much as they please when they have made an end to poverty; but until then they will not be able to shut out the sights and sounds and smells of poverty from their daily walks, nor feel sure from day to day that its most violent and fatal evils will not reach them through their strongest police guards.

## RESULTS OF LATEST HEMP PARTY REGISTRATION EFFORT

As at 13 January 2009, staff of the Commission had the following results for the 42 persons who were attempted to be contacted from the Party membership list:

- 14 confirmations of membership
- 11 denials of membership
- 17 could not be contacted by registered mail

The random sample membership check did not disclose any cross-party or internal duplicates and no members under 17 years of age.

That's one out of three. We extend our gratitude to the fourteen who confirmed for their unwavering support.

It is a natural consequence of Prohibition that many cannabis users are alarmed by official contact, and some move about without leaving forwarding addresses at Post Offices.

That is why we ask that you only become a member if you are settled and brave enough to reply to a registered letter or phone call from the AEC (Australian Electoral

Commission), saying "Yes I am."

If you can say "Yes, I am.", then "Yes We Can" make a difference.

We need new members to replace these denying Peters! (see New Testament)

Contact Graham Askey at the HEMP Party Bar over MardiGrass, or write to Graham Askey 9 Frank Street, Lismore, NSW 2480, or email [graham.askey@gmail.com](mailto:graham.askey@gmail.com) if you have questions.



**Nimbin HEMP Embassy**

NIMBIN CANNABIS LAW REFORM RALLY and MardiGrass, the annual gathering on the first weekend of MAY.

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10-4:30 Sunday & public holidays

Anna & David  
ph 66891445  
fax 66890188

## THE KILLER COP AND THE MURDER OF DONALD MACKAY



TOWN HALL SATURDAY

5:00 pm \*

Dr John Jiggins speaks on Underbelly and his new book "The killer cop and the murder of Donald Mackay". Underbelly 2's reenactment of the murder of Donald Mackay was the most watched drama in Australian television history with an audience of 2.5 million. It was wildly inaccurate, and its historical inventions were criticised by many of the people portrayed, from Bob Trimbole's ex to Donald Mackay's son. Dr John Jiggins, author of "The killer cop and the murder of Donald Mackay" explains how Underbelly 2 got it wrong and explains who the murderers were and why the NSW police covered up the murder. "The killer cop and the murder of Donald Mackay" by Dr. John Jiggins is available at the HEMP Embassy.



## ABSOLUTE DISCHARGE

My name is Mathew Beren and I recently got the B.C. Federal Court to rule 2 sections of the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations as unconstitutional here in Canada.

This case revolved around the Vancouver Island Compassion Society (VICS), a non-profit organization dedicated to supplying medical marijuana to those with medical needs. I was the grower that was supplying the VICS with high grade medicine before the cops raided our research facility.



Mathew Beren speaks on Cannabis

After 5 years of battling in the courts I was given an Absolute Discharge with praise from the Judge about the research and the work I was doing..... Google my name to find out more... Mathew Beren  
Now that I am a free man and riding the high of beating the Man.....

I'm looking to let loose. I'm coming to MardiGrass. A good friend of mine is also coming with me, her name is Sita. She is an icon in the marijuana world, having owned the Amsterdam Seed Company, Sativa Sisters Bed and Breakfast and currently owning Green Harvest, supplying Mila's pollinator and various products here in Canada...  
[www.greenharvest.ca/catalog/](http://www.greenharvest.ca/catalog/)

## CANNABIS MEDICINE HITS WALL STREET

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA BUSINESS

If you thought that the legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes was a controversial, imagine how controversial it would be if a company was public in the sector of legalized marijuana.

A small and formerly unknown company called Club Vivanet announced that it is the first public company to enter the legalized, medical marijuana business.

The company even changed its name to Medical Marijuana, Inc. While it does not trade on the NYSE nor on the NASDAQ, the stock does trade over-the-counter under the ticker "CVIV" and is listed as Medical Marijuana, Inc. (OTC: CVIV) on the pink sheets.

The company filed a patent application for an invention that the company says "potentially satisfies various governmental and the medical marijuana dispensaries' needs for tax collection in the medical marijuana industry." This is to identify the dispensary's tax ID number and tax rates for state and local taxes.

The company's description says that it is positioned to take advantage of opportunities as they appear in the emerging legal medical marijuana

industry through an enhanced payment gateway introducing verifiable levels of enhanced security. It also states that a trend is in place that clearly indicates medical marijuana is quickly becoming a legal enterprise in need of various solutions in numerous areas.

Whether or not this one takes off is something we won't speculate on. If you ever thought that cannabis, pot, weed, or hemp were not going to be applied to a public company, it looks like that has changed.

## COMMERCIAL HEMP LICENSES

As a holder of a NSW hemp license, and president of Northern Rivers Hemp, I acknowledge and commend your long-term support of industrial hemp legislation.

Thank you for your efforts and your leadership, without which I believe we would be considerably behind the rest of the developed world.

Northern Rivers Hemp Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation established to support the local hemp industry. To date we have run a number of hemp workshops including a hemp license application workshop.

It is certain that the NSW hemp industry has a high level of potential and I believe that a number of hemp products will become available in the near future. We are still at the very infancy of the industry, with only 3 fully registered license holders, and 2 interim license holders.

However, with the amount of serious farmers expressing interest in the industry, I anticipate that these numbers will increase exponentially during the next few years.

My only concern is the hemp food issue. Hemp farmers and manufacturers are still prohibited to sell hemp food products for human consumption. Australia (and New Zealand) are well behind the rest of the world, with a wide range of hemp food products available in supermarkets throughout Europe, United States, Canada and most other developed countries.

I firmly believe that legislation allowing hemp food production would double the value of the NSW hemp industry.



I therefore urge you to promote and support national and state legislation that would allow hemp food production.

Thank you again for your ongoing support for the NSW hemp industry.  
Best Regards, Keith Bolton  
President, Northern Rivers Hemp Inc.  
A letter to; Donald Page, The Nationals Member for Ballina.

## AUCKLAND CANNABIS CLUB TILTS AT THE LAW

A club for cannabis smokers has been openly flouting the law for months, with hundreds of people a night turning up to buy and smoke dope.

The "Daktory" has been operating from an Auckland warehouse since November and boasts having 400 people on a busy night.

Those behind the scheme are involved in efforts to have the drug decriminalised, and say they accept arrest by police is a possible outcome of their provocative club.

One of those involved, Brian Borland, has taken a further tilt at authority by registering a business through the Companies Office called the Roaring Lion Cannabis Shoppe.

He says he will pay tax on any cannabis he sells through the business.

As a promotional stunt, Borland has delivered cannabis plants to the electorate office of Prime Minister John Key, and also to TVNZ and TV3.

It follows a trip around the country by the National Organisation for the Reform of

Marijuana Laws group in its "canna-bus". Protests were held in centres across the country where cannabis was smoked - and overlooked by police.

Daktory manager Dakta Green, who changed his name by deed poll from Kenneth Morgan, says police appeared to have been avoiding arrests because it gave the protesters a platform to campaign from.

The club began operating in November, charging \$20 a month to those who wanted to become members. "It was a nice, secure place where people can get good quality weed at a reasonable price."

Green says it proved so popular that the club - which was R18 would attract between 300 and 400 people a night, and membership reached 1500 people by Christmas. He would not reveal where he sourced the cannabis but said the large membership meant a lot was sold.

It wound down in February for reorganisation, and is reopening this week. This time, Green says it will not sell cannabis because "you can get it anywhere". David Fisher

Proud organisers of the Kombi Konvoy

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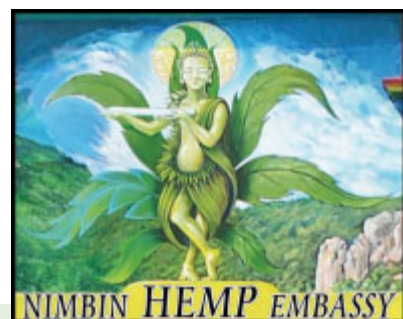
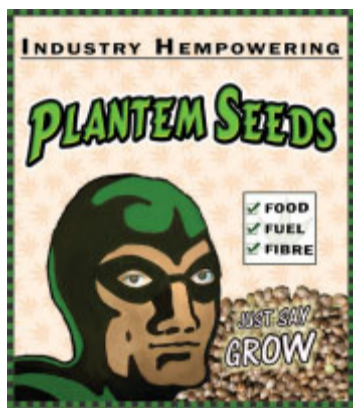
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## THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE NOW BLOWING ON DRUG LAW REFORM

Dr Alex WODAK,  
President, Australian  
Drug Law Reform  
Foundation

The global momentum for drug law reform, slowly building for many years, has recently begun to accelerate.

Drug law reform is now winning many more battles than it is losing. The language being used in the media has started to change.

Even Drug War warriors are now uncomfortable with the term 'War on Drugs'. In March 2009, a ten year UN review of global drug policy was completed with a major meeting in Vienna.

For the first time, the precarious international drug policy consensus was fractured when 26 countries (including Australia) inserted support for harm reduction in a footnote of a major document.

In April 2009, the Executive Director of UNAIDS (Mr Michel Sidibe) and the Executive Director of the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (Professor Michel Kazatchkine) publicly noted the far greater difficulties in achieving HIV control among injecting drug users created by an international drug policy virtually reliant on drug law enforcement and with minimal room for harm reduction.

Both called for drug law reform including decriminalisation.

There are several reasons why harm reduction and drug law reform are slowly gaining the ascendancy over punitive approaches to illicit drugs.

First, the scientific debate over harm reduction is now over: it is now widely accepted that harm reduction is effective, safe and cost effective.

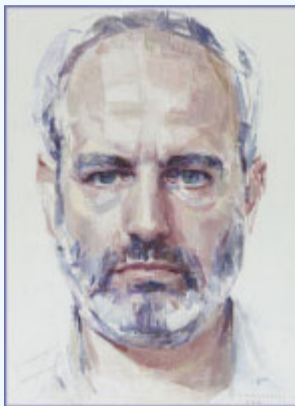
Second, there is growing acknowledgement that not only has prohibition failed, but the collateral damage from relying on drug law enforcement results in very high health, social and economic costs.

Third, the global financial crisis is forcing governments to abandon expensive white elephant programmes and shift funds to more cost-effective interventions.

Fourth, Barack Obama is now the third US President in a row known to have consumed cannabis but the first to not only admit using and enjoying the drug but doing so 'many times'.

Fifth, the international problems created by prohibition in countries such as Afghanistan and Mexico have highlighted the huge costs of the unintended consequences of the War on Drugs.

Sixth, the increasing availability of computers has created a more level playing field in the debate between



supporters of drug law reform and War on Drugs supporters. Finally, there is increasing recognition of the need for drug policy to be based on evidence and respect the human rights of all citizens including drug users.

Momentum for drug law reform is also building in the USA. Inevitably this is affecting the policy environment for cannabis. If the USA moves a millimetre, other countries can then move a metre.

President Obama has made it clear that his Administration will not interfere with legislation passed by the states to permit medicinal use of cannabis.

Reducing the harms of cannabis will be much easier when the drug is controlled and regulated than under the present arrangements.

## WHY IS CANNABIS ILLEGAL?

Originally, the laws against cannabis use had a great deal more to do with racism and religious bigotry than with public health.

Later on, oppression of cannabis was reinforced by the influence and lobbying of the powerful 20<sup>th</sup> century capitalists who saw the superior and sustaining hemp fibre as a threat to their 'growth' industry of paper making (using a new process of wood pulp and chlorine bleach!), synthetic textiles, fuel and plastics.

Cannabis was never ever prohibited because of any presumed health risk. In 1988 Judge Francis Young of the American Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) stated, "Cannabis in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man"! As with alcohol prohibition in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the prohibition of cannabis was terribly counter productive.

The prohibition of cannabis also caused a black market industry which escalated its use to the huge proportions of today.

The 'war' against cannabis, nowadays is politically motivated. Such a useless war against a natural and relatively harmless herb is costing society dearly.

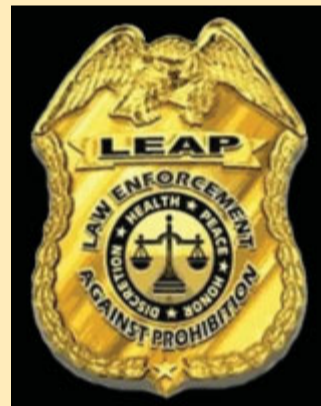
The 'war' is a huge waste of people, resources and capital. "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

The hypocrisy and lack of integrity with our cannabis laws are transparently obvious to everyone, especially young people when they experience cannabis first hand.

Sadly, this brings about a general disrespect for drug laws, social laws and authority in general. This is no doubt reflected in the lack of harmony within our society today. Not drug law, instead drug lore!

## COPS SAY LEGALISE DRUGS – ASK US WHY

As long as marijuana is worth more than gold and heroin more than uranium, we will continue to have people willing to kill each other to control the market; willing to kill police charged with fighting these useless wars; willing to kill children caught in crossfire.



When any drug is prohibited, an underground market is immediately created and moreover because it becomes dangerous to produce and distribute, that drug's value is artificially inflated. The street value of the drug is 17,000 percent higher than the cost of producing the drug. When a rapist or robber is arrested, the number of rapes and robberies in the community goes down but when a drug dealer is arrested, the number of drug sales doesn't diminish.

All we are doing is creating job openings for hundreds more entrepreneurs willing to take huge risks for the chance of receiving even huger profits. Fighting the war on drugs is just stirring the prohibition pot and it costs 69 Billion Dollars each year to stir that pot.

To remove that profit motive we must end drug prohibition. When we ended alcohol prohibition in 1933 the next day Al Capone and the smuggling buddies were out of business. The same thing would happen to the drug lords and terrorist who, thanks to today's prohibition, sell 500 billion dollars worth of illicit drugs each year to our children around the world. That would end with legalised regulation of all drugs.

**LEAP: Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.**  
[www.leap.cc/cms/](http://www.leap.cc/cms/)  
Look for LEAPs Norm Stamper in Australia MAY/ JUNE 2009

## CANNABIS COMPOUNDS

### REDUCE MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT INFECTIONS

Study Says Cannabinoids Show "Exceptional" Antibacterial Activity Against MRSA



marijuana's efficacy in treating some of the most troubling diseases mankind now faces, including infectious diseases such as the flu and HIV, autoimmune diseases such as ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), multiple sclerosis, arthritis, and diabetes, neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's, stroke and brain injury, as well as numerous forms of cancer.

According to studies published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and by the Center for Disease Control in 2007, MRSA is responsible for more than 18,500 hospital-stay related deaths each year, and increased direct healthcare costs of as much as \$9.7 billion.

Dr. Melamed stated, "Research into use of whole cannabis extracts and multi-cannabinoid compounds has provided the scientific rationale for medical

Cannabis Science, Inc. (OTCBB: GFON). Dr. Robert Melamed, PhD., Director and Chief Science Officer, reported to the Board on the current state of research into the use of natural plant cannabinoids to reduce the spread of drug-resistant bacteria, including methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), and the prospects for development of topical whole-cannabis treatments.

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# HEMP FOOD IN THE GREATER SCHEME OF THINGS...

Klara Marosszeky



Those in know about the nutritional value of hemp food products would also be aware that in Australia we can't yet legally eat low THC hemp seed.

It's under federal legislation, unlike the rest of the industrial hemp applications that are under the states. It's now legal to grow industrial hemp in NSW because of a change in legislation last June, but we can still only feed hempseed to animals, even though it's passed all human food safety testing.

Hemp food needs to be on the agenda for a number of reasons; the first is that there is a global food crisis. We're mostly blissfully oblivious because we live on one of the few landmasses that have been identified as being suitable for larger scale food production. As opposed to most of the European continent, we still have farming land where there has not yet been too much soil or groundwater contamination to farm food.

Hemp is exceptionally suitable for organic agriculture. It does not need massive inputs of chemical fertilisers. It can also be used as a soil remediator to take up excess nutrient. (In Europe it's used to remediate sites contaminated with heavy metals as well).

In terms of the negative impacts of crops on biodiversity, hemp is remarkably less "ecotoxic" than most other crops including flax, wheat, soybean, rye, rice, barley, oats, rapeseed (canola), cotton and potatoes.

It was once a part of the staple diet of many of the world's cultures. It was so widely grown and used, that the seed was readily available and provided a good source of oil, flour and easily digestible protein containing a high percentage of the essential fatty acids needed for healthy metabolism.

Today it remains in the diet of some cultures like China, where hemp milk, hemp chocolate, hemp cake and hemp oil are part of the military's food pack, and it's been reintroduced into the global diet by large scale production in Canada and the UK where hemp pasta, flour and food bars are manufactured.

Hempseed protein is known to increase energy and circulation, prevent lactic acid build up in muscles, boost the immune system, balance hormones and improve skin, hair and nail condition. It's considered to be an excellent source of protein for vegans.

Dual purpose hemp crops have the potential to save trees that would otherwise be harvested for production of lumber and pulp. In Australia and in many parts of the world we currently harvest timber faster than it grows. Hemp produces four times the volume of fibre per hectare than trees and takes up huge amounts of carbon which can be locked into strong building materials, insulation, fibreglass replacements, plastic, paper, industrial oils to begin the list.

Legislating to grow hempseed for food would create a realistic opportunity for the hemp industry to develop in Australia. Farmers could grow dual purpose food/fibre crops providing them with strong returns. Meanwhile the technologies for other industrial fibre applications could emerge.

Given that climate change has now been acknowledged, you'd think it should be full steam ahead.

Not yet ...so please sign one of the hemp food petitions available in venues throughout MardiGrass, so we can forward them to our politicians.



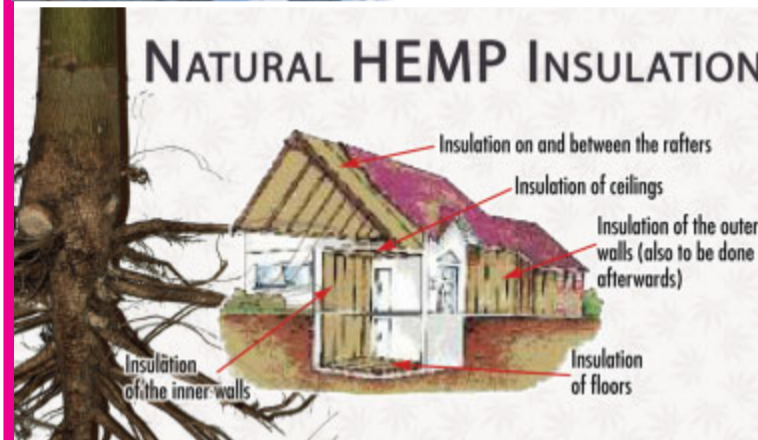
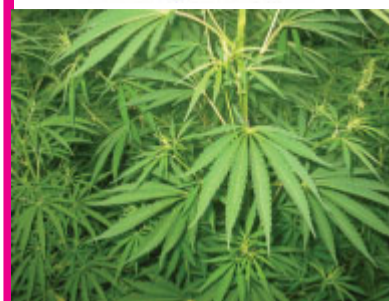
Many "developing" countries did not stop producing hemp during the prohibition era, and many "developed" countries such as Canada, England and France have established and profitable hemp industries.

Of concern, Australia and New Zealand are the only two countries that do not allow hemp seed food - which is amongst the most nutritional and sustainable of all available food products. A lot has been achieved, however a lot of work remains to untangle the web of cannabis prohibition



## HEMP FACTS

- \* Hemp and marijuana are the same species of plant i.e. *Cannabis sativa*.
- \* Hemp refers to low-THC strains (<1%), and marijuana refers to high-THC strains (5-40%)
- \* Hemp is one of the first plants cultivated by humans, and has been used for fibre, food and pharmaceuticals for millennia.
- \* Fibre is produced from the stem, food is produced from the seed, and pharmacologically active cannabinoids are produced from the foliage.
- \* Cannabis prohibition began in 1937 in the United States, and all other "developed" countries soon followed suit.
- \* Until recently, Cannabis prohibition laws did not differentiate between hemp and marijuana.



**NATURAL HEMP**  
Hemp Batts are natural insulation made from hemp fibres bound together using a thermoplastic binder.

Hemp Batts can be used in loft spaces, between rafters and within walls and floors. They have very good loft and an elastic form, holding their size and shape in all specified applications and easy to fit and hold between rafters and in walls, without additional fixings.

Hemp Batts have good thermal and acoustic insulation properties and also good thermal mass. They are vapour open and hygroscopic, making them excellent for use in "breathing" construction.

In common with wood, hemp fibres are based on cellulose. Hemp Batts can absorb and release moisture without degrading and without overall loss of thermal resistivity. This gives them a margin of safety against the formation of interstitial condensation.



Hemp Batts can be cut with a knife. Use a straight edge and cut onto a board, compressing the insulation, as it is cut. When properly installed Hemp Batts will retain their loft and thermal performance for the life of the building

Hemp fibres are non-toxic; and can be installed without gloves or protective clothing. Hemp Batts are not irritating to the skin, eyes or respiratory system and are made from; hemp fibres, polyolefin fibres and ammonium phosphate. For every 1Kg of hemp insulation used instead of mineral wool 1.4Kg of CO2 is saved.

## AUSTRALIAN HEMP INDUSTRY

The last year has seen one of the most important steps forward in the NSW hemp industry with the introduction of commercial hemp licenses.

This means that NSW farmers can now grow and sell hemp fibre and seed if they successfully apply for a commercial hemp license from NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Previously, it was only possible to obtain a license for the purposes of scientific research through NSW Health.

NSW is the fifth Australian state to allow commercial hemp production under license or permit, with hemp already being grown in Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

Based on the experience of other countries, it is likely that an increasing range of Australian made hemp products will soon be available including building products, plastics, paper and hemp seed products.

The NSW hemp industry is still in its infancy, with only three fully licensed growers registered with NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Interestingly, all licensees are based in the Northern Rivers, which means that the Rainbow Region is set to become a major centre for hemp production. This is not surprising, as this area has been always strongly supported the establishment of the hemp industry.

Despite the positive progression of the Australian hemp industry, we are well behind the eight-ball compared with most other countries.



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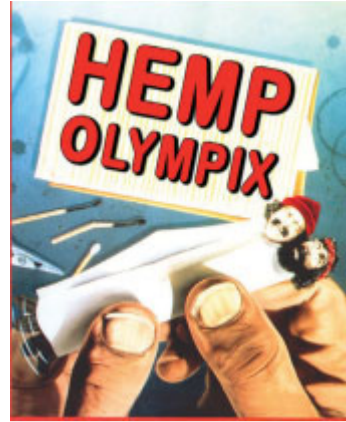
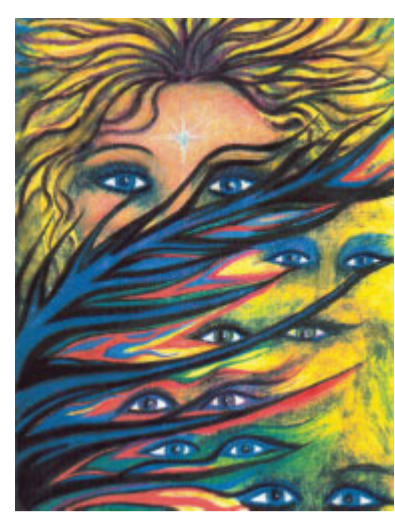
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### JOINT ROLLING

The joint must burn from one end to the other. The categories are as follows:

- 1. Speed Roll** - Roll a standard three paper joint as fast as you can. The three fastest go into the finals. Joints must include a cardboard filter, or will be judged incomplete. If this custom is alien to you, consult a local professional before the event.
- 2. Artistic Roll** - Roll the most beautiful joint within ten minutes with as many papers as you like. The three best examples enter the finals.
- 3. Roll in the Dark** - Athletes are blindfolded.
- 4. Adverse Conditions Roll** - Dependent on weather conditions on the day and the judges' creativity.
- 5. Seed Sorting** - You have to get the "seeds" out of the "mull" faster than anyone else. How fast are you?

**You could win a Bling Medal at the HEMP OLYMPIX!**

**Plantathlon Award** in memory of Plantem, 'Chicken' George for the best allrounder in the HEMP Olympix. They must be able to kick an Aussie Rules ball.

### HARM MINIMISATION

- Ways to reduce harm from smoking:

The best way to remove toxins from cannabis smoke is through vaporisation.

Instead of smoking, perhaps eat cannabis in cakes, cookies etc. When cannabis is eaten the onset of side effects is delayed about 60-90 minutes and can last between four to twelve hours! Always eat half a considered dose and wait at least 90 minutes before consuming any more.

Smoking cannabis in cigarettes or joints, pipes, water-pipes and bongs may cause respiratory and cardiovascular problems.

Cannabis smoke does in fact contain 3 times more tar and 5 times more carbon monoxide than a standard filter cigarette and burns hotter and faster.

Contrary to standard smoking practise, do not hold your breath or inhale deeply. You only absorb more tar and carcinogenic chemicals as 95% of the T.H.C. (tetrahydrocannabinol, the psycho active ingredient of cannabis) is absorbed within seconds of inhalation.

Use leaves for cooking as they are less potent when smoked and are harsh and may give you a headache.

Do not mix tobacco with cannabis. Marijuana is more effective without it! Tobacco is also an addictive drug and

the combination of these two drugs doubles your exposure to tar and other carcinogens causing greater risk to lung, respiratory and cardiovascular system.

Cannabis smokers are at risk of developing symptoms of nicotine withdrawal if they mix tobacco with their mull.

When smoking, take small puffs and avoid holding the smoke in your lungs.

Do not use cigarette filters as they actually increase the ratio of tar to T.H.C. by 30% (you also have to smoke two cigarettes to get the same effect).

Use few papers as possible in preparing joints - the less burning paper the better for your lungs.

Refrain from sharing joints or pipes. That way you not only avoid infection, but avoid getting caught up smoking more than you require, usually one inhalation is adequate.

If you must share your smoke, use a joint like a chillum or cup your hands around the unlit end, forming a vacuum and ensure that your lips do not come into contact with the joint.



### HEMP OLYMPIX XIV

**Bong Throw & Yell** - where entrants throw a bong full of stinking bong water as far as humanly possible whilst yelling "Free the Weed" or something similar.

**Correct Weight** - You've got vegetable matter, a baggie and no scales. Make up an ounce bag. Closest to the correct weight wins. (1 ounce = 28.3495231 grams)

**Growers Ironperson Event** - involves lugging a sack of fertilizer and buckets of water around the simulated planting area obstacle course with a tick and leech infested lantern tunnel. The men's event is a 40kg sack while the women contend with an 20kg sack. The top five crawl into the final. A disclaimer must be signed to compete in this endurance event.

### FLOAT COMPETITION



#### ENTRY CONDITIONS:

**Height** - Floats must not exceed 3.2 metres from "the road".

**Width** - Must not exceed 2.4 metres wide.

**Length** - Should not exceed 4.2 metres long, however this is a bit flexible.

Floats must be peopled or green powered.

You will be given a competitor number at the beginning of the Parade. Floats may feature a single person or group, or may be a centrepiece of a larger on foot display.

These floats are our opportunity to present a powerful message to the outside world of both celebration and/or protest. Your float can express whatever you feel or want to share. We need floats and displays that reflect our area,

our people, our pride and desires for the future, our fun and festivity. Drug Law Reform is a major focus of this festival and we encourage all to have their say.

#### JUDGING:

Judges will remain unknown until the day of the event. They will be women and men, and mostly not part of the Happy High Herb shop.

**A 1-10 point score method will be adopted.**

- Judged pre-parade whilst assembling: Use of recycled materials, Originality, Punctuality
  - Judging During Parade: Function (Locomotion), Costumes, Message power, Overall effect, Crowd response
- PRIZES will be presented to nominated heads of winning floats in Peace Park after the Rally.**

### WHO DESIGNS

44 CULLEN ST.

### SOMETHING FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE COLOURING IN COMPETITION

Great Prizes  
14 and under: win an **I-Pod Nano**.  
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Entries available at the Information Booth and Hemping Around. Winners announced prior to the 2.30pm Parade on Sunday.



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### HEMP OLYMPIX XIV

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### JOINT ROLLING-

-Speed Roll

-Artistic Roll

-Adverse Conditions

CORRECT WEIGHT

BONG THROW AND YELL

IRON PERSON EVENT

HEMP ROPE TUG OF WAR

