

Changing my life—from Sydney to Hippy Nimbin.

Cherie Milford

Five years ago, I lived in Sydney. I had a good life there. I knew many friends. I enjoyed my job. I had a comfortable home. Then one day, my son asked me to visit him. He lived in a small town in New South Wales called Nimbin. I needed a holiday, so I agreed. I didn't know that my visit to Nimbin would change my life!



I knew nothing about Nimbin before I came here. However, as soon as I arrived, I knew it was different from other towns. All the buildings were painted with bright colors. Everyone seemed to know each other. It felt like a home, not a town.

I soon learned that Nimbin is known as the "Alternative Capital of Australia." People here all live together like a family—sharing their homes, their food, and their problems. People live together in peace. Nimbin even has its own money—called Nimlets. There are many artists and musicians here. They don't live in luxury, but they make enough money to live on.

I stayed a week. I liked it. Everyone was so friendly and relaxed. I stayed another week. That became six months. I left my job in Sydney. Then I sold my home and moved here. Now, Nimbin is my home!

My friends from Sydney visit sometimes. They think I am crazy! But I tell them the lifestyle is good for me. Nimbin is in a beautiful part of Australia. We try to live in a way that doesn't harm the planet. The power we use comes from the sun and the wind. We also recycle everything. We grow all the fruit and vegetables we need.

Nimbin is an example to the world. We want to show that we can live with the planet and each other, in peace. Everyone is welcome here. Many people visit Nimbin to see how we live. Some people like it so much they decide to stay—like me! We stick together like a family. People say we have a "hippy" lifestyle. I prefer to say "alternative." Not everyone wants the same things in life.

I. Comprehension

1. Read these questions and write your answers.

- a. When did Cherie visit Nimbin?
- b. Why did she go there?
- c. What did she know about Nimbin before she arrived?
- d. What is Nimbin known as?
- e. Find three ways people in Nimbin try to help the environment.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

2. Choose the answer to each question.

- a. Where is Nimbin?
1. in Sydney, Australia
 2. in New South Wales, Australia
 3. in Europe
 4. in the U.S.A.
- b. Why did Cherie stay longer than one week?
1. She had no money to leave.
 2. She wanted to see more of her son.
 3. Her son was sick.
 4. She liked Nimbin so much.
- c. Why do people visit Nimbin?
1. to buy things
 2. to see how people there live
 3. to go fishing
 4. to become artists and musicians
- d. What do people in Nimbin want to show the world?
1. That they want to be left alone.
 2. That not everyone is welcome in Nimbin.
 3. That everyone in the world should live in peace.
 4. That Nimbin should be the capital of Australia.

II- Grammar :

1. In each sentence there is a word that is not needed. Circle the extra word.

- 1 I had had over ten different mobile phones by the time I was being fifteen.
- 2 A new computer shop has opened yesterday.
- 3 Daniel used to going study at Manchester University.

2. Complete the paragraph with these phrasal verbs.

call off get up go on make up for run out set up

Today has been a really bad day. I didn't hear my alarm clock, so I didn't (1) _____ at the right time. In fact, I was two hours late! I went into the kitchen to make a cup of coffee, but the milk had (2) _____ ! When I got to college, I discovered that the lecturers needed to (3) _____ all my classes because they had to have a meeting to (4) _____ some new courses. When I got home, I found a message from Diane saying that they were going to turn our favourite cinema into a car park! I wonder how much longer this is going to (5) _____ for! I think I'll go out for a meal with my friend later to (6) _____ the difficult day.

3. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I _____ (run) to college every day last year. By the end of the year, I _____ (run) 'over a thousand miles!
- 2 I _____ (not do) dancing lessons last year because I _____ (not save) enough money to pay for them.
- 3 By the time my parents _____ (come) home, I _____ (call) all my friends on Dad's mobile phone!
- 4 _____ (you / see) that fabulous tracksuit in Franny's shop window? I saw it when I _____ (walk) home from the leisure centre yesterday.
- 5 Jane _____ (go) to a careers fair last week because she _____ (not decide) what she wants to do when she leaves school.
- 6 I _____ (not understand) why some people _____ (be) so cruel to animals.
- 7 Colleen _____ (send) an e-mail when her mobile phone _____ (ring).

II. Writing

- ◆ You have just started a new summer job working away from home for the first time. Write a postcard home to your family saying what you have been doing, and what you are going to do next week. (90-110 words)