



Tears for fallen forebears

by Paul Le Bars

This year's ANZAC Day ceremony is on Thursday 25th April. The march will muster at the Nimbin Hospital at 10.40am to start the march at 10.45am and arrive at the memorial at 10.50 for the service. Everyone is invited to attend.

The ceremony for the dedication for the Seat of Remembrance in March was a small but moving ceremony recalling the sacrifices of forebears from these valleys, the struggles at home and abroad, of soldiers and their families and of the Aboriginal story across all conflicts since the Boer War.

The dedication opened with a welcome to country by Aunty Viv. The seat was then blessed by Padre Jim Gallagher (pictured), dedicated by Lismore deputy mayor Cr Simon Clough, and the ribbon cut by Phyllis Williams.

Also in attendance was Kylie Watson, representing the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service. The plaque was donated by the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

Many a tear was shed. Thank you to everyone who attended. The Seat of Remembrance has a rebate for the laying of name plates of local veterans as a token of thanks for their contribution to their country and community, and to their families who endured the hardships during the conflicts and cared for the veterans upon their return.

The nameplate inscription will be: name and rank (in bold), serial number and campaigns (plain text). A name laying ceremony and dedication will be held on Remembrance Day, Monday 11th November. Contact paullebars@gmail.com

Thanks to Darvy and Gai for their work on the memorial gardens, to Dallas and others for keeping an eye on them and chasing the chooks away, and to Bob Dooley and Farren Hogan for their assistance with the dedication.

Thanks also to the Nimbin community for your continued support.



Farewell to summer

The plug has been pulled on the Nimbin pool for another season.

Friends of Nimbin Pool gathered for their ceremonial breakfast and idea-fest, and came up with lists of things they can't afford.

Despite this, plans for the future look rosy. The Lismore City Council is updating the underwater vacuum cleaner and replacing various filtration equipment, including sand and pipes.

This year the colourful seats added a bit of comfort, and John and Chris excelled

with the maintenance of the water quality, the grassy surrounds and the very busy barbecue area with its free gas and tap for fresh water.

The pool is usually open from around sunrise to sunset and during that 12-hour period hundreds of people use the pool to relax, exercise, rehabilitate a body part, frolic, swim or rehearse for the Synchronised Swimming Award at the Annual Nimbin Olympics.

All that is now on hold for the winter. The pool reopens in early September.

War, peace and memory

Multicultural, multi-faith public peace events organised by Remembering and Healing (RaH) are planned for Anzac Day in Lismore.

These events are supported by Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell. The goal of Remembering and Healing is to promote peace and deep reconciliation. These events aim to honour all war dead, civilian and military, on all sides, and all who have suffered through wars.

The events are also a commitment to work towards preventing such sacrifice and suffering in the future. Remembering wars needs to go hand-in-hand with the wish and commitment to solve future conflicts in non-violent ways.

RaH also believes that a day of national importance like Anzac Day needs to be relevant to all Australians, irrespective of cultural heritage, and all should feel included.

To honour and respect the suffering of all who have suffered in and through



violent conflicts, the greatest memorial would be a world at peace.

The gatherings will be held on the eve of Anzac Day, Wednesday 24th April, 5:30pm at Lismore Uniting Church, Cnr Woodlark/Keen Streets, and on Anzac Day, Thursday 25th April, half-an-hour after the official program finishes (around 11am) in Lismore Peace Park (Bob Crowley Park), on the corner of Ballina/Keen Streets. Wet weather venue: Trinity Hall, 1 Dawson Street.

Remembering and Healing can be contacted via PO Box 770, Lismore 2480, NSW, or by calling Sabina, Larisa, Margaret or Rod on 6688-6214.



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Tech-savvy seniors

by Claire Harding

ACE Community Colleges are once again running a series of free classes for anyone over the age of 60 wishing to gain or improve their computer skills.

The classes will begin on 1st May in Lismore and 6th May in Casino and run for half-a-day over four weeks, allowing participants to gain basic or more advanced skills.

Students will learn how to use the Internet, send emails, stay safe online, use social media, use online banking and (importantly for the ladies) master online shopping!

Past participants most enjoyed being able to keep in touch with their families by learning how to use email and other technologies such as Skype and Facebook.

One past student said it was important for her to keep her brain engaged and she enjoyed playing some of the games available, such as Solitaire.

Anne Stapleton, college manager at ACE Community Colleges Lismore and Casino,



Judy (standing) and Karren

said, "We thoroughly enjoyed working on this project last year. It was so rewarding to see the participants gain these most valuable skills. Some had never even turned a computer on before."

"They most enjoyed being able to keep in touch with their children and grandchildren, and one of our ladies now regularly Skypes with her grand-daughter in Dubai. We are so pleased we can offer it again to our communities."

Another course in Casino will start on 1st June. To register for one of the classes, contact the Lismore ACE college on 6622-1903.

Business after hours

by Eugenie Stephans,
Secretary, NimCoC



Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has invited local businesses to its next Business After Hours Networking Night, from 5.30pm for 6pm start at Nimbin Hotel on Monday 15th April.

The Chamber has arranged key guest speakers for the evening, who will be giving short 5-10 minute presentations on a range of information and services, opportunities and benefits to support your business.

The guest speakers are:

- Katie Cawcutt, Nimbin Aquarius 40th Anniversary 2013 – "What's on the Events Calendar?"
 - Cullum Jordan, DES Coordinator, Tursa Employment & Training – Wage subsidies for business employing people with disabilities
 - Stuart Wenham, Industry Training Consultant – "What don't you know about Apprenticeships and Traineeships?"
 - Ty Peterson, Business Advisor; Small Business Connect – Nortec: providing business mentoring programs, business incubator sites and business training for entrepreneurs in our region.
 - Mark Young, Business Development Manager – Will speak on NSW Business Council and Nimbin Chamber of Commerce Alliance members on membership benefits featuring the Workplace Advice Line and the Members Benefits Program, including the opportunity to save up to 19% on your energy tariff and 15% on business insurance.
- The Business After Hours program provides the opportunity for local business people to network in a relaxed atmosphere. A light supper will be provided – RSVP essential by Friday 12th April, to: peterwise@live.com.au



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Women's vision of peace on parade

International Womens' Day 2013 was celebrated on 8th March with a late afternoon march from the Nimbin Town Hall to the Bush Theatre.

At the theatre, Brodie Rhodes read the Youth Leading the World statement from the three-day youth congress she attended in Nimbin last November.

"We envision a world which is healed through gratitude, sharing, respect, freedom and balance, where all people experience equal rights and there is healthy food, free clean water and renewable energy for all because there is no greed and we take only what we need. We envision a world where all life is respected."

Aboriginal singer from Beagle Bay, WA, Kerriane Cox, introduced a documentary film about her fight for her homeland and



the importance of protecting her country and community against the LNG plant planned on her grandmother's land at James Price Point in the Kimberley.

As her latest work, *Mother Song*, says:

*"Stop raping the land
We can't take what she can't
give no more
Motherland is here for us to*

*love and take
care of
Who are we to
forget about
her?
We must make
a stand, work
with her to exist
Then we will have
a place
To live with her in harmony."
Fine food was provided by*



the Bush Theatre and enjoyed by the many women who attended the event.

Githabul Growler's last stand

by Marie Cameron

The final day of the Doubtful Creek Protest started with an early morning red alert.

Police arrived just after 5am in unmarked, unlit cars. As protesters were in a pre-action smoking ceremony the police rushed the Githabul Growler, the car installation locked to the ground at the entry of the Eden Creek State Forest and the exit for Metgasco's drill rig.

The three protesters (one woman and two men) who were organized to lock-on had to scramble and successfully connected their locks with seconds to spare.

Police closed off Knights Road from both directions, preventing people from driving to the site. For a short time people were able to walk in – but very quickly police closed off all access.

The 40-strong police force took control of the protest and restricted people's movement to confined areas. The gate and front fence of Eden Forest were removed and heavy earth-moving equipment carrying rock and earth were brought in. As a makeshift road was built around the Githabul Growler the police rescue squad began their protester removal process.

First to be released was the woman, followed by simmo-Marty, leaving the man with



the most difficult lock-on. He was positioned on the front passenger floor and had his arm threaded through a hole in the floor and down into the ground.

To get him out police had to first cut the car away from his arm and then push the car back to expose his ground lock. After almost five hours the last simmo was taken away.

The Githabul Growler, the final symbol of the blockades resistance, was picked up and unceremoniously dumped to the side of the road to be finished off with some heavy duty flattening techniques. All that was left was twisted metal, but the memories of a glorious stand will live on.

Once the entry was clear the final road repair went into hyperdrive – until a front tyre on the backhoe blew out, causing protesters great

joy. Hours later Metgasco's equipment started to roll and the police held tight control of the protesters as they prepared to give the drill the collective boot.

Two of the simmos arrived back with charges of resisting an order to move and blocking a roadway. The third simmo was on bail from protest offences at Glenugie.

At 3pm, the Doubtful Creek protest came to its successful completion. With Metgasco shares and its reputation in ruins, people sent up a very loud and exuberant call of victory.

Thanks to the many who supported the Doubtful Creek Updates: Andrew and the Nimbin Information Centre; the Nimbin Enviro Centre; Lee Kirk, the many courageous simmos; Angie and Dean Draper; the many dedicated and hard-working

Doubtful Creek farmers, including Don Knight, Don Durrant, Peter Stackhouse, Roger Wimble, Jim Ficklong and many others; the Blue Knob Farmers Market; musicians Andrea Soler and the Wadeville Mob; the Northern Rivers Guardians; the Sphinx Rock Café; Michael Balderstone; Nim-FM, and the many who sent the updates around the globe.

The Doubtful Creek protest, 10th January to 14th March 2013: A magnificent and memorable expression of people power. Goodbye Metgasco. The people told you the gate was locked and now the people have thrown open your gates.

At this point, the Doubtful Creek mine site does not have any above-ground infrastructure. All that is visible are the signs of where it is hidden underground.

Report from Lismore Council's Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG)

by Diana Roberts

The Nimbin Advisory Group was established following a community forum in 2009 that identified a need for closer collaboration and communication between the local community and Lismore Council. To keep you better informed of our discussions we have decided to place the notes from meetings on the local Council noticeboard (on the side of the Nimbin Hall), provide feedback boxes in the Neighbourhood Centre and the mobile library, forward notes to the Chamber of Commerce and report to you through this paper. If you have other ideas let us know. The following are notes from our most recent meeting.

Village traffic management: Council staff is seeking funding in the 2013-2014 budget for a traffic-calming device in Sibley Street, adjacent to the skate park. The NAG raised the need for a traffic management plan for the village that takes on board the impact of future developments. What happened to the Nimbin main street beautification and traffic-calming plan? The NAG will progress these issues and ensure the community are engaged in the discussion.

Nimbin Physical Activities Centre: In consultation with the community, Council is currently exploring a range of business models to support the ongoing sustainability of the Nimbin Physical Activities Centre based at the Nimbin Showground. It is hoped that a detailed report of this process will be published in the May edition of this paper.

Naming landmarks and roads after individuals: It was felt that there is a need to hold a community conversation at some point around this issue, as it can be a contentious and divisive process. The NAG was referred to Council's Road Naming Policy and the NSW Geographical Names Board Policy.

Imagine Lismore: Council has conducted extensive community consultations as part of its Imagine Lismore strategic planning process and it was great to be updated on the issues that have emerged from place-based consultations, including Nimbin. People were randomly selected to participate in this process, so Council have heard the voices of people who may not otherwise be heard. The outcomes have been fed into Council's decision-making processes and are already beginning to ripple through.

Detached dual occupancy: Some of you may be aware that recently Council unanimously voted to amend the local environment plan to allow boundary adjustments and the consideration of detached dual occupancies in rural areas. This was in response to feedback received from the Imagine Lismore consultation processes.

Footpath dining: Clarity was requested on Council's newly adopted footpath dining policy and its implementation in Nimbin. This is not to be confused with footpath trading which is subject to a different approval process and will be the subject of further discussion at our May meeting.

Vacancies on the NAG: The NAG has seven members appointed by Council and we have recently welcomed Mayor Jenny Dowell to our group. There are currently three vacancies. If you are interested in joining, application forms are available at the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, Tunttable Falls Co-op shop, Nimbin Visitor Information Centre, the Nimbin Post Office and on Council's website www.lismore.nsw.gov.au. Applications close April 22. The NAG's next meeting will be held on May 2 at 5.30pm. If you would like to attend as an observer, please contact Annie McWilliam on 1300-878-387.

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Nimbin Early Learning Centre News

by Lisa Torpey

"Behind the grey clouds, the blue sky is always still there" – Old Buddhist saying.

With all the rain around, it has been important to find positive activities that we can do within the weather limitations, so a few outings and adventures have been great.

Nimbin Early Learning Centre's children and staff had so much fun on our excursion to the Lismore Playgroup that we are going to make it a regular outing. We were picked up by their bus – what an adventure, all chatting and singing all the way to Lismore.

There we experienced a Playgroup Centre full of new and interesting things to explore, including a huge bike track, the biggest dress-up range we've

ever seen, and different areas for inside and outside craft – perfect in the rainy weather. We are also going to soon visit the library, where we will extend our love of reading, and also the Peace Park Playground, now that the rain is easing...

The children have been enjoying doing some cooking and creating with food, recently making nori rolls, tzatziki dip and hummus. They are improving their cutting skills and having the opportunity to try some foods they don't usually eat at home.

Cooking with children is such a fun-based, artistic and shared experience. It helps with language, communication, science concepts, independence, fine motor skills, and gives children some autonomy in learning responsibility for their own wellbeing.

It also enhances a child's feelings of

belonging to a family, cultural group and society, building confidence and self-esteem... as well as a great outcome to share yummy food and much praise and appreciation from friends and family!

We created some more delicious recipes in preparation for Harmony Day on March 22, which we celebrated with a party, sharing stories and food from around the world.

Each staff member and family brought a special dish that was meaningful to his or her family and tradition. We talked about how diverse our community is, and just within our centre we have at least seven languages spoken...

We have been practising some simple words and counting in Balinese, French and Spanish, and making some amazing Balinese woven baskets to hold flower offerings. Creating an understanding of differences and diversity within their own community helps children grow up as harmonious peaceful beings.

One of our favourite recipes: Tzatziki

250gram Greek thick yogurt
2/3 garlic cloves crushed or chopped finely

Juice of half a lemon

One Lebanese cucumber grated or chopped finely

Salt to taste

Method: Simply combine all of the ingredients. The children ate it with brown rice crackers, carrot and celery sticks, but it's also delicious added to meals or salads. Enjoy!

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au

NNIC website

Yay! Yippee! We are FINALLY back on line. See our new website... same old address but brand new format and lots of changes to reflect feedback from our web users. For example, we have put all the bus and train timetables on the Home page so they are easier to find.

We have also created a new local health register as per the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan. To get onto the register you need to download the application form from the website, and bring it back to us once it is completed, or else grab one at NNIC. www.nnic.org.au

7 Sibley Street

We need to raise funds very urgently...interest is piling up and buggin all funds coming in. We are targeting Mardi Grass to raise some funds and are seeking folks with ideas that they are willing to initiate etc to contact Nat or Cat at NNIC (that's Cat the person, not the cat).

See the website www.sevenonsibley.com for updates.

Food Bank

We are still working on this and will let you know hopefully in the May NGT.

Thanks heaps to all the good folk who brought in food for us to distribute when we ran out last month. It was great help and made a big difference to some needy folks.

Nimbin Advisory Group

If you have suggestions for the NAG (ie issues to raise with Council etc) – feel free to put them into the NAG Suggestion Box at NNIC.

NNIC Verandas

Due to ongoing issues with managing candles and other burnables on our verandas at night, and a couple of very near misses where fires were started, we have unfortunately been forced to enclose them all in to prevent folks from being able to sleep there overnight.

The NNIC team has struggled with this as we would have preferred to be able to provide refuge for homeless folks. BUT in the end we also don't want to lose the whole centre to a fire as this would be bad, real bad, for the whole community.

Vacation Care

Autumn program commences 15th April. See our website (or this issue of NGT – at left) or drop into NNIC for the program.

NBN rollout

The NBN is identified as a key strategy in our Community Plan. Nimbin is supposed to be getting fixed wireless which will mean at least two towers erected somewhere in Nimbin.

We are well aware that towers will not be popular in the Nimbin valley. We will be fighting to get fibre at least to the village, and to retain our copper wires and ADSL access. We are concerned that the alternative to fibre and fixed wireless, which is satellite, will not be as good as the current ADSL service.

The NBN crew will be out in Nimbin in the coming months to undertake community consultations of some kind... so watch this space (and our website and Hook Ups etc).

Aquarius and beyond

May is a month of celebrations to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Aquarius Festival.

On 23rd and 24th May, Southern Cross Uni is hosting Aquarius and Beyond at the Nimbin Town Hall, which will be two great days of history, films, photos, discussions, presentations and info about Nimbin over the past 40 years and into the future. This will be a great event, so make sure you mark it in your diaries.

CSG

Good work and many thanks to all the Nimbinites who went out to and supported the Doubtful Creek blockade.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to community members.

For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our CWWs for referrals.



Powerful moments at Nimbin Preschool

To find oneself immersed in dance movement is to truly surrender one's life within to the world... and so Amiah dances!

A rhythm between thought, body, mind and a swirly skirt inextricably bound together. A conversation. A dialogue. An expression that builds a powerful dynamic. Ever so brief, but ever so compelling!



Nimbin Holiday Club Autumn Program

We are operating from the Youth Connections Building and on excursion days please meet us in the Nimbin Central School car park at 9am. Day runs between 9am and 3pm. The program runs for children aged 5 – 12. Please read the dates and venues below carefully and book to avoid disappointment. To book phone NNIC on 6689-1692 (between 10 am and 4 pm). Please note that the basic fee is \$10 per day and more on excursion days. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

Date	Program	Cost
Monday 15 th April	Excursion to Flat Rock Beach and Macadamia Castle Bring swimmers, lunch and a change of clothes. After a fun and safe play at the beach we will be going to the Macadamia Castle. Price includes train ride and feeding bags for the animals. <i>Sophie and Alex</i>	\$22
Tuesday 16 th April	Nimbin Youth Club, Skate Park and Pool Please bring food, water and swimmers. DVDs, Art, Craft, Old Nintendo, Music and Cake decorating YUM! <i>Sophie and Alex</i>	\$10
Wednesday 17 th April	Nimbin Youth Club, Skate Park and Pool Please bring food, water and swimmers. DVDs, Art, Craft, Old Nintendo, Music and Animal Art. <i>Sophie and Gaz</i>	\$10
Thursday 18 th April	Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink and Heritage Park Skating followed by lunch and play at Heritage Park. Ride on the mini train too. <i>Sophie and Gaz</i>	\$18
Tuesday 23 rd April	Nimbin Youth Club, Skate Park and Pool Please bring food, water and swimmers. DVDs, Art, Craft, Music and Nintendo Wii Dance off (and other games!). <i>Sophie and Alex</i>	\$10
Wednesday 24 th April	Nimbin Youth Club, Skate Park and Pool Please bring food, water and swimmers. DVDs, Art, Craft, Old Nintendo, Music, Sushi Making and Ice-creams. <i>Sophie and Gaz</i>	\$10
Friday 26 th April	Excursion to Murwillumbah Cinema (ZAMBEZIA!) & Crams Farm Last Day! Movie at 10am and then we will go to Crams Farm for play and games. Please bring food, water and swimmers. <i>Sophie and Alex</i>	\$20

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Young swimmers shine

by Pixie the Builder

Three boys from Nimbin Central School qualified for the recent Northern Rivers Zone Swimming Carnival at Lismore, so myself, Jay-C, Neam, and Zaydn were there as the school representatives.

Zaydn Ayres went on to qualify for the regional swimming championships in the Under-11 division to be held at Coffs Harbour. He qualified in the 50-metre backstroke, 50-metre butterfly, and 200-metre individual medley.

Earlier in the day, he swam under the banner of Terania District for the 4x50-metre relay. The team was Tahī White, from Coffee Camp, Oscar Fields, from Coffee Camp, Zaydn Ayres, Nimbin Central and Seth Geuris, from Caniaba.

All four boys swam a strong race and



qualified second in the 11- to 13-year-olds, which was a great effort, swimming against older boys.

One week later, in the regional swimming carnival in Coffs Harbour, swimming under the banner of Northern Rivers Schools, the boys all swam strongly again and finished third in their heat but did not qualify for the State titles.

Well done our boys. We are all proud of your swimming efforts.

'Funny face'

by Cawongla Playhouse staff and kids

Cawongla Playhouse has been exploring its emotional literacy program this term.

This involves providing a range of resources to support children in exploring different feelings and how to constructively express them. This supports children in developing a strong sense of identity and well-being.

In support of this, we have started a "funny face" book with children taking photographs of their peers and educators using a magnifying sheet for effects, which has resulted in lots of laughter and discussion.

Now we want to make



Fergus makes a phat beat on the kaossilator

more books with children, featuring them and their photography, books such as sad faces, angry, surprised and so on.

Another interesting development this term has been some of our play-based learning taking a technological turn. In true creative spirit, we have been using audio technology to organise patterns of sound

(make tunes) and digital photography to make animations and time-lapse films that document certain sequential games and creative activities.

This has been beneficial in allowing children to see the results of recording and progressing through sequential processes, and supports children in becoming confident and involved learners, being able to transfer what they have learnt from one context to another.

Cawongla Playhouse is open for enrolments, and fees for one or two days' enrolment range from \$15-\$20 per day, depending on income. Third and fourth days attract a flat-rate fee of \$10 per day. Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9am-3pm.

For more information, phone 6633-7167.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin community

Exhibition celebrates thinking outside the box



The Northern Rivers is home to a multitude of weird and wonderful houses designed, made and called home by people who have chosen to live outside the square. A new exhibition at Lismore Regional Gallery, *Not Quite Square: the story of Northern Rivers architecture*, studies this phenomenon and tracks the influence of an owner/builder culture that emerged in the region after the 1973 Aquarius Festival in Nimbin.

The exhibition will display ephemeral material relating to this story, commissioned photographs, and a documentary film. Scheduled to coincide with 40th anniversary celebrations of the Aquarius Festival, this is an exciting local project that involved extensive community consultation.

Recognising the impact that architecture students from Sydney University had on the Aquarius Festival, and in subsequent years, this exhibition will travel to the Tin Sheds Gallery at Sydney University in late 2013.

Not Quite Square: the story of Northern Rivers architecture will be on display at the Lismore Regional Gallery from 13 April to 2 June.

Nimbin pool closure

The Nimbin Community Pool has been closed for the autumn/winter season.

Council is aware that this means the pool will be closed over the school holidays but unfortunately this is unavoidable for this year. School holidays occur later than normal this year which has affected the pool closure schedule. Council apologises for this inconvenience and thanks people for their understanding in this matter.

The Nimbin Community Pool will re-open in September 2013.

Nimbin Advisory Group deadline extended

Council has 3 vacancies on its Nimbin Advisory Group and the nomination deadline has been extended until 22 April.

Expressions of interest are invited from people passionate about the future of Nimbin to assist Council in developing policies to complement our services to you.

Application forms, the complete scope of this Advisory Group and information about how to apply can be obtained by contacting Council's Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

Nimbin roadworks update

Roadworks on Nimbin Road adjacent to High Street (beginning near the 50 speed sign as you enter the village) are likely to commence sometime in May. These roadworks have been delayed due to ongoing wet weather.

Meanwhile, works on a road subsidence on a section of Blue Knob Road south of Noble Road have commenced. They will take approximately 4-6 weeks, weather permitting. Temporary traffic control measures will be in place during this time.

Mobile Library Thursday visits

The Mobile Library visits Nimbin each Thursday, offering a complete library service including talking books, DVDs, CD, access to PCs with internet and printing facilities, online catalogue and an after hours drop off chute.

The Mobile Library has been servicing Nimbin weekly for over 30 years. It is open outside the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre each Thursday from 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.00pm.

Corporate Centre 43 Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH 2480
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Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, the last Wednesday of the month. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

Footpath dining

Like a bedside clock, I was alarmed to read in last month's NGT that Michael Balderstone is suffering from insomnia induced by the LCC's new outdoor dining policy for Nimbin. He fears it will ruin the alternative feel of the street scene.

Oddly, this same policy has the reverse effect on me. I sleep snug, contented that the new policy will allow those less fortunate, the sight impaired and those confined to wheelchairs and mobility scooters, full access to Cullen Street's shops. Mums and Dads pushing prams will again be able to perambulate.

This new policy is not a ban on outside dining or even trading for that matter. Nor is it an example of the big bad government enforcing their will and stealing our freedom. It is merely a courtesy and respectful acknowledgement to those less fortunate.

Goodnight.

Adrian Williamson,
Nimbin

CSG salvation?

Regarding 'CSG Devil Stalks Eden' (NGT March 2013), I won't sell my soul to the devil. But I would sell it to Metgasco if it was to benefit myself or any Aboriginal person.

This land has been mined for many years. Except for mining taxes allocated for Aboriginal health and education, what have they to show?

Land and M.O. holders preach to Aborigines concerning what CSG is doing to their land. Whose land? I don't know of any Aboriginal who owns a deed or title, other than my siblings.

Guys, I might have a different view about progress and development too, if I could drive to Doubtful Creek in my beaut 4WD and go home to my M.O.

Our Government implements plain packaging on cigarettes and Maryjane is prohibited for health reasons. Yet Coal Seam Gas Exploration is O.K.??

If it's not on Sacred Land, I say go for it.

Mark Roberts,
Nimbin

Iraq war anniversary

On this, the 10th anniversary of the second Iraq war, we have heard cognitively dissonant opinions aired rationalising the war's massive destruction and slaughter by citing how bad Saddam was and how good it is that he is gone. By that reasoning why is Mugabe still in power or why didn't we take out the military junta in Burma?

There is no excusing a holocaust. There is a silver lining in any catastrophe but silver linings never justify the catastrophe.

The only section of the Iraqi population to have possibly benefited is the Kurds. As for the Sunni and Shiite populations, they have been devastated, their infrastructure destroyed and their heritage stolen, e.g. Babylon.

There are millions of displaced refugees, hundreds of thousands dead and, lest we forget, the UNICEF has stated that between the two Iraq wars 500,000 children died unnecessarily, due to allied bombing of water and sewerage infrastructure. Before Iraq 1, the cholera rate was 0/100,000. Between the two wars it rose to 1400/100,000, and that's just cholera.

We let ourselves join in this war. Australia is partially responsible for this holocaust. Where's the apology? Where's the penance?

Dr. Paul Recher
Dorroughby

Cambodian update

I think the Siam Reap that Bob Tissot visited (NGT March 13, p.26) must be a different one to the one I'm sitting in right now. To compare it with Phuket is absurd. For starters there are no drunken, sex-crazed Australians (and others) partying day and night with little or no respect. Sure there are plenty of tourists here in the downtown area, after all, Angkor Wat is one of the seven wonders of the world.

Two friends and I hired one of the tuk-tuks for two days, esky full of ice and water supplied. The guy spoke excellent English and told us all the details of each of the wats and ancient universities we clambered around. It really is an awesome place. He also had some horror stories of his own experiences as a 10-year old under Pol Pot. We had great lunches within the complex. Total price? \$8 each!

One sure could question

where the \$20-a-day entry fee goes. Many similar sights around the world would be free. (I paid for Machu Pichu). Twenty-eight percent is said to go to restoration. I did see quite a bit of evidence, including one site involving cranes and serious equipment. There were lots of props holding up toppling walls. It is 1000 years old! There were quite a few other workers around (garbage and ticket collectors etc.) but you could still wonder whose pockets are getting lined.

Peter Atkinson
Tunttable Falls

Surcharging for Council mismanagement

An ever-widening gap appears to be developing between Ballina Council and its ratepayer owners. No longer are the ratepayers in control. Their hard-earned rate monies seem to be spent at a great rate of knots on unnecessary commercial development – to be topped up by a demand for higher and higher rates to balance the books. After all, it's the ratepayers who fund the Commercial Services wage bill of around \$450,000 per annum.

The empty shops and restaurant in Ballina's Wigmore Arcade and at Pelican 181 have cost the ratepayers dearly, with over \$300,000 in lost revenue from what can only be described as negligence and mismanagement. With vacant shops appearing in towns all over Australia, how do you replace those tenants, once you have let them go? More importantly, how do you replace them at the lease-termination prices, as everyone is out for a bargain at the moment.

In order to recoup the losses, I believe the ratepayers should ask the Director General to surcharge the councillors and staff under the *Local Government Act 1993* Section 435 (2) which states:

435 Surcharging by Departmental representative
(1) If satisfied that any

Vale Alva Sandor

3/2/1932 – 13/2/2013

Alva, you made such a huge contribution to the community of Nimbin.

During the last 20 years, you were treasurer of the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary, member of Nimbin Health and Welfare Association and treasurer for some time and member of the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services.

You were also a volunteer driver for Nimbin Community Transport and a committee member for the organisation in Lismore.

Alva was also a member of the Red Cross Telecross team, who make regular telephone calls to people who are ill and/or lonely. You were one of the instigators to get Meals on Wheels in Nimbin, also a committee member and volunteer delivery driver in Lismore.

In your spare time, you also privately visited, transported and helped friends and others who were not part of organised programs.

Alva, friend and confidante, you were loved and respected by many, and your memory will linger on.

Travel lightly, our friend.

– Faye Scherf



expenditure or transfer, or any entry in a council's accounts, has been incurred or made in contravention of this or any other Act or of any regulation in force under this or any other Act, a Departmental representative may:

- (a) disallow the expenditure, transfer or entry, and
- (b) surcharge the amount of the disallowance on the councillor, the general manager or any other member of staff of the council by whom the expenditure, transfer or entry was incurred or made or ordered to be incurred or made.

(2) A Departmental representative may also surcharge on a councillor, the general manager or any other member of staff of the council the amount of:

- (a) any deficiency or loss incurred by the council as a consequence of the negligence or misconduct of the councillor, general manager or member of staff, or
- (b) any money which ought to have been, but has not been, brought into account by the councillor, general

manager or member of staff.

(3) A Departmental representative may not exercise the powers conferred by this section unless expressly authorised to do so by the Director-General.

Time for change? Bring on amalgamation and make the new super councils more accountable to their ratepayers.

Margaret Howes
Empire Vale

Doubtful Creek thanks

I would like to make comment to all the people who spoke with their feet and got involved in the Doubtful Creek protest against CSG in this region and say this;

Thank you for the courage of your convictions, and for your passion for the local environment.

Thank you for all the risks you took, all the challenges you faced, all the hard work you endured, through muddy and mosquito infested conditions to stop the rig from coming and going.

Thank you for keeping these destructive forces out of our backyards. Thank you

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Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

for potentially saving so much of the beautiful and diverse wildlife in the region.

Thank you for using your voice to speak so loudly on behalf of all the rest of us who didn't join you in the protest.

You are all salt of the Earth and you deserve to be given a ticker-tape parade and showered with thanks and praise for many moons to come. Your demonstration of just how strong a force people power can be should never be forgotten.

You are all truly beautiful people. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Shaun McIntyre
 Byrrell Creek

Not More CSG!

Congratulations to fellow anti-CSG protesters. Metgasco's CEO Peter Henderson says the sudden decision to leave the Northern Rivers was due to Government regulations. Not only are these new and old regulations weak and questionable this is in keeping with more mistruths.

Could the real reason be the breach of Corporate law re shareholders, the lack of production of productive gas, the grab for a licence connected to the never intended power station for Casino, and the very definite wish of communities across the Northern Rivers to be CSG free.

Support for Metgasco came from Richmond Valley Council after a recent investigation in Queensland consulting shop owners, council workers, landowners and rural businesses. CSG has few attributes and many anti-social attributes. Mining communities where few local

people have found work, due to the mining requirement for working conditions not suited to a family environment.

The miners prefer to employ fly in fly out personnel, a percentage of whom have little regard for the area in which they work and the level of alcohol, violence and crime is considerably higher and the majority of their earnings is not spent in the area where they work.

Would you wish Casino to become a family orientated derelict embraced with an escalating cost of living, falling property prices and no way out?

RVC Councillors investigative visit failed to record these points and produced a lame report and evasive action, all persons involved with this trip should be made to reimburse the ratepayers for the disgraceful waste of money.

Council's existence is to provide and maintain services for residents not funding to encourage Metgasco. Have damaged roads been repaired after recent weather? Who has been seriously affected by the low Metgasco share value?

I encourage Northern Rivers residents to be CSG free in every way possible.

Alex Dugul
 Bungawalbyn

Nats and CSG

I would like to report an incident that occurred during a Lock The Gate event in the Tweed.

After 'nailing' a list of demands on the door of Justine Elliot's office for her to take to our Federal Government, we took a walk down Minjungbal Drive to

Hungry Jacks, where we ran into the proprietor, Matt Fraser, the National Party candidate for the Richmond Electorate.

In conversation with his media man Albert Elzinger, I was astounded to learn that Matt Fraser has been terribly reported in all the local media. I was told that Matt Fraser DOESN'T support the CSG industry at all, and holds the same concerns that we do.

"Huh?" I asked, "Then why do all the local media report him as supporting this industry?"

"He has been misquoted," he said. Does this mean that every local reporter in the local media got it wrong?

Meanwhile, Matt Fraser was telling my husband Michael a similar story, saying he couldn't support the industry until proven safe.

Is this not the same thing as the moratorium called for by Lock The Gate? Why then is Mr Fraser so vehemently opposing Justine Elliot's stand on this issue?

It has been reported that he said there is no coal in his electorate, or words to that effect, and that Justine is just fear mongering.

He appeared surprised that there is an old coal mine at Pumpenbil, and locals report that a coal seam runs along Zara Rd, from Tyalgum to Chillingham. More alarming was the look on his face. It appeared he didn't even know this was a part of his electorate!

All very odd Matt, but I will leave it to those in your whole electorate to decide if you speak with forked tongue.

I never ask what a politician is going to do before an election, show me his life before and what he has done. Has Matt Fraser shown any interest in the environment or any concern for farmers in the past five years?

If he has children, is he concerned about the cumulative effect of drinking town water, where the toxins from CSG cannot be removed? Does he even know that few chemicals in the fluids used in fracking have

even been tested in Australia for this purpose, while in America, only four out of the 50 or 60 have been tested for fracking. There is a big difference between washing your hair containing minute traces of these chemicals and drinking them on a daily basis once it enters the water supply.

Any mining activity South or West of the Clarrie Hall Dam brings this threat to people all over the Tweed Shire. We are assured by Toxic Network Australia that many of these toxins cannot be removed by normal standard water treatments, nor through osmosis.

How, if Matt is concerned about the safety of CSG, can he accuse Justine Elliot of fear mongering? Or is this just something else he didn't know?

Julie McNamara
 Murwillumbah

Tracking council votes

I am happy to announce that the Northern Rivers Guardians now track online Tweed Shire councillors' votes on all environmentally-related motions.

A table of how all councillors voted will appear after each council meeting to benefit those citizens who don't have time to attend monthly council meetings to watch how important decisions governing our shire are made, or to read the minutes that follow (always available on council's website after the event).

Residents can now get a quick overview, month by month, by going to the NRG website.

Of Tweed Shire's seven councillors, three consistently vote pro-environment (Cr Milne, Cr Bagnall, Cr Armstrong - although occasionally Cr Armstrong votes the other way) and three consistently vote anti-environment (Cr Polglase, Cr Youngblutt, Cr Byrne - with occasional votes the other way). Mayor Longland's vote, therefore, can be a critical factor in deciding which motions affect our precious environment.

Mayor Barry Longland could be seen as Tweed Shire Council's 'wild card'.

Notices

Yurt to let

Large luxury very spacious 24-foot yurt for rent. complete with 2-metre roll-up sides. French windows. Table, sofas, double bed, cupboards, carpets, option for woodstove. You pickup, local area. \$100 per week. (You pickup means no rent for first two weeks.) Long let. Email: redheartdragon777@yahoo.com.au Leave your phone number and I will ring you straight back.

Trash and Treasure

Trash and Treasure fundraiser for the Blue Knob Hall. Bring all your valuable but no longer needed bits down to the Blue Knob on Sunday 28th April. Only \$10 for a stall or if you have something of value that you would like to donate for an auction. To book a stall or donate for the auction call Jenny 0488-009-808. Starts 10am.

Calling all faeries

Nimbin's Gungja Faeries are meeting every Thursday at 5pm at the market stage in the Community Centre to practise our routine for the MardiGrass Parade. All are welcome, but minors need to be accompanied by an adult.

Learn the ukulele

The Open Learning Centre Ukulele class is still going strong and will be running again in Term Two if there is enough interest. Get yourself along to the enrolment day at the Comskool room in the Community Centre in late April, the first week after the school holidays. Classes will start on Thursday 2nd May, from 2 to 3.30pm. Bring your uke if you have one, or bring \$50 to the enrolment day to purchase an excellent good quality cheapie. See you there!

Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers

Introductory training course will be held in Lismore on Sunday 21st April. For further information or to book, phone 6628-1866 or email: training@wildlifecarers.com

Complementary therapist

Cranio Sacral Balancing now at Kyogle/Afterlee. Call Beate 0432-625-612.

Fundraising cabaret

No Fracking Way Cabaret 6pm Saturday 20th April at Nimbin Bush Theatre. A night of comedy, cabaret, spoken word, lock on re-enactments, film, feasts, auctions and some serious frack-off fun.

He has publicly committed to 'protect our environment' yet sometimes makes key decisions to the contrary. For example, Mayor Longland voted against a ban on dogs in Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd's massive proposed Kings Forest housing development, despite his stated desire to preserve the threatened habitat for the last of Tweed's coastal koalas.

This table can be viewed online at: http://northernriversguardians.org/?page_id=4229

If residents don't like what they see, we recommend they contact Tweed councilors who are, after all, our local representatives.

Scott Sledge, President
 Northern Rivers Guardians

Correction

A letter in the March edition was wrongly attributed to Julie McNamara of Kyogle. It was actually written by Julie McNamara of Murwillumbah. Apologies to both Julies.

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