

## Greens kick off campaign for 100% clean energy



Greens candidate for Page, Desley Banks and NSW Upper House MP John Kaye (pictured) launched their party's Northern Rivers 100% renewable energy campaign at the Lismore Workers Club.

Ms Banks said, "The Greens have a vision for an energy future that does not need coal or gas to keep the lights on. We live in an area with a brilliant solar resource and huge opportunities to create thousands of new jobs in the renewable energy sector. All it takes is politicians with imagination and courage," Ms Banks said.

Dr Kaye said: "The Northern Rivers region has everything it takes to set the pace for the rest of NSW and Australia in throwing off the coal and gas addiction. Few parts of NSW have the same combination of sunshine, agricultural crop wastes and a track record of innovations and openness to new ideas.

"There are tens of thousands of new

jobs waiting to be created across NSW. The Northern Rivers is in the box seat to take the lead and grab more than its fair share if we can get things moving quickly. Roof-top solar panels are plummeting in price, and the carbon price and other green schemes are giving renewable energy opportunities a big boost," he said.

"The Greens are deeply concerned that the outcome at the September 14 election could plunge Australia backwards and lock the Northern Rivers into decades of conflict over coal seam gas. An Abbott government would vandalise the carbon price and the renewable energy target and kill off the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

It's clear that more Greens in the federal parliament to bolster the defence of the carbon price and the clean energy package is essential to stop this region missing out on thousands of new renewable energy jobs," Dr Kaye said.



by Janelle Saffin MP for Page

### Nationals go to water on CSG

I was stunned to hear Nationals Senator Fiona Nash on ABC radio playing down local concerns about the Coal Seam Gas industry in our region.

Whenever Senator Nash makes comments from her base in southern New South Wales, she shows how little she knows about the Northern Rivers.

She doesn't understand the enormity of the CSG threat to our region. She doesn't get why plans for 1000 wells across the Northern Rivers would be environmental vandalism of the highest order.

She doesn't get the threat to water, farms, the beautiful environment, to fishing, tourism, real estate values and our way of life.

While communities across the Northern Rivers are screaming out that the industry is not welcome here, Senator Nash and the Nationals aren't listening, and

their Coalition leader Tony Abbott is pushing New South Wales to get cracking with expanding the CSG industry.

Nationals' candidate Kevin Hogan has grabbed onto CSG as a campaign issue and says he wouldn't want it near his farm, but what has he done about it? He clearly hasn't made an impact on his State or Federal colleagues.

When the State Government announced CSG exclusion zones for Hunter Valley wineries and horse studs, but left our area unprotected, what did we get from Mr Hogan? A fawning letter to the editor praising our local State National Party MPs.

This isn't the sort of issue that you can just pop up and say a few words about and sit back down again. This is one where you need to get in and fight for your community.

I have been working hard for years on this issue, researching the science and State and Federal laws on water protection, lobbying

for legislative change in Canberra, and talking to lots of farmers and community members actively campaigning on the issue.

The Federal Government has moved to protect our communities' water from the harmful impacts of CSG mining by amending the national environment law (EP&BC Act).

Mr Hogan is asking people to vote for the Federal Coalition, the same coalition that has vowed to wind back these environmental protections, streamline the CSG approval process and unlock huge gas reserves in NSW.

Mr Hogan needs to decide whether he is with the Knitting Nannas outside Thomas George's office, or on the inside as one of the Nationals.

### Local Government constitutional recognition

The Federal Government is proposing a Referendum at the September election to include Local Government in the constitution.

This is important because Local Government deserves to be recognised in its own right and because it gives a sound legal foundation for the Federal Government to give funding directly to local government.

This means Federally-funded programs like Roads to Recovery and Blackspot can continue, so we can fix the roads we want fixed.

## Election will be a CSG referendum on North Coast

by Justine Elliot, MP for Richmond

On 28th May in the Federal Parliament, I delivered a speech declaring that this year's Federal election will be a Referendum on Coal Seam Gas mining on the North Coast.

I used this speech to expose the full extent of Matthew Fraser and the Liberal National Party's plans to expand CSG mining and their support for the CSG industry.

The fact is this election is a referendum on CSG mining on the North Coast, and the choice is very clear: a vote for me is a vote to stop CSG mining and a vote for Matthew Fraser is a vote to expand harmful CSG mining.

I outlined the community's concerns about harmful CSG Mining and gave many examples of how the Liberal National Party continue to ignore the community and continue with their pro-CSG drilling and fracking agenda.

This is an issue of great community concern to people on the North Coast where there is a current exploration licence known as PEL 445, which extends from Lennox Head in the south to Tyalgum in the north, from Byron in the east through to Nimbin in the west. It also covers the Clarrie Hall Dam, which is the primary water source for the Tweed Shire. There is also a current application before the NSW Government that covers Tweed Heads, Banora Point, Tweed Coast and Murwillumbah.

The member for Page and I have a petition calling on the NSW Liberal-National government to make the North Coast CSG free. I would like to thank the thousands of people who have so far signed our petition. It is, indeed, very unfortunate and quite shameful that the state National Party MPs on the North Coast all strongly support the expansion of coal seam gas mining. In fact, the state members for Tweed, Ballina and Lismore are all vocal in their pro-CSG drilling and fracking agenda.

## Green scene

by Dawn Walker Greens Candidate for Richmond

### Dawn of a New Age

It's been a wonderful whirlwind of community activity since the Greens leader Christine Milne and NSW mining spokesperson, Jeremy Buckingham MLC came up to Murwillumbah to launch our federal election campaign for a Green 'CSG free' Northern Rivers.

I have been very humbled standing as the endorsed Greens candidate for the Federal seat of Richmond – an area with a proud history of environmental and social activism.

I came to this point straight from community life. I moved here some seven years ago and settled with my family in the small coastal village of Fingal Head. We enrolled the kids in the local public primary school and immersed ourselves in community life – P&C meetings, Coast Care plantings, cultural heritage days, surf club training,



street gatherings. It was community living. I loved it.

But it didn't take me long to realise that the community life and the precious environment that I was enjoying, couldn't be taken for granted. I could see that developers had plans for the area. I also knew that many people didn't share the developers' vision and this needed to be given a voice.

We live in communities here – wonderful diverse communities that argue and tussle over issues but are held together by this powerful environment – our mountains, rivers, rich red soils, abundant wildlife and pristine coastline.

The outside pressures however are mounting. Global warming, industrialisation of our

farms through CSG mining, underfunded public transport, cuts to single parents benefits and sprawling housing development to name a few.

Many of you reading this have dedicated your lives to ensuring these outside pressures do not take hold in this region. For some of you this has been political – (four of the five strongest booths for the Greens nationally in the last election came from Richmond). For some it has been a life dedicated to environmentalism. Others of you have stood on the front line – using your body and your spirit to stop the destruction of our land, water and community life.

You work tirelessly to protect a vision for the Northern Rivers where our young people can have sustainable local jobs, can surf in clean oceans, fish with their friends in the rivers and raise their families at the foothills of the mountains, in the valleys and along the coast.

A vision where our local businesses are invigorated by robust infrastructure and

good public transport and where our less well off are supported and cared for and, most importantly, are part of the decision making process. A vision where our rich cultural heritage is preserved and celebrated.

My job will be to stay close to this community and make sure we get a voice when developments are being decided for the region – to bring our community and our magnificent environment to the table – so we are heard.

And more than this – so we can contribute and in fact lead the national debate on renewable energy, CSG-free sustainable communities, healthy small businesses, living cultural heritage, and protected environments – because the Northern Rivers is a place that has always walked the talk. It's a place worth fighting for. It's a community with a vision.

I hope you'll join me on this campaign. I know that together we can make a difference for our beautiful Northern Rivers.

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At Nimbin Community Centre

# From the Mayor's desk



by Cr. Jenny Dowell

## Budget

May and June are the months in which Council considers its Operational Plan and Budget for the coming year. This year is without doubt the toughest I have faced in my nine years on Council.

As reported last month, Council is balancing the desires of the community as expressed in Imagine Lismore (IL) 10-year vision with the knowledge that we are not setting aside enough money for asset renewal. With those as our guiding principles, we are trying to find more than \$1-million in cuts and savings to provide \$350,000 for IL projects and \$700,000 for our road assets.

Council will hold an extraordinary meeting on June 25 to adopt the three parts of IL, the one-year Operational Plan, Budget and Rates, Fees and Charges, the four-year Delivery Plan and the 10-year Community Strategic Plan. The

draft plans are available at [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) Just click on 'Have Your Say'. Your submissions are invited until June 14.

## Piggery

In the lead-up to our May Council meeting, there was considerable community interest in the DA to bring an existing piggery on Mountain Top Rd, Nimbin to compliance. Council unanimously approved the application with 20 conditions including an additional requirement for a water-quality monitoring program to ensure that the piggery is not adversely impacting on waterways.

## Roadworks

I know residents are eagerly awaiting the start of the roadworks on Nimbin Road from High St into the village. The work had been delayed while the construction crew undertook culvert replacement works on Rock Valley Road. That work was a higher priority because the road has been restricted to one lane under the control of traffic signals for such a long time.

The \$380,000 Nimbin project is funded through the Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) Regional Roads REPAIR program where Council and RMS share funding on a 50:50 basis. The work will include the reconstruction of

the existing road pavement, an upgrade of stormwater culverts and a footpath. I would think that Nimbin residents were probably happy that traffic into the village in May was not disrupted by works, so hopefully the delay has not been too difficult to bear.

Council has completed \$510,000 of roadworks on Blue Knob Road north of Blade Road, also funded by the REPAIR program that included reconstruction and widening of the road and an upgrade of stormwater drainage. Full RMS funding of \$747,000 under the Road Toll package allowed Council to reconstruct and improve safety on Blue Knob Rd between Blade Rd and Cemetery Rd. An additional \$392,000 has also been spent on Nimbin Rd north of Bishops Creek Rd under the Black Spot program to improve driver safety.

While on roadworks, 2011 flood restoration works approved by the RMS to repair landslips are either underway or complete on Blue Knob Rd and Tuntable Creek Rd. Slips from the 2012 flood event are still in the design stage but approval has been received for \$900,000 towards general road damage from that flood event.

Damage estimates from January 2013 are approximately \$1.5 million including the considerable costs of removing fallen trees. The approval process takes a long time so I cannot estimate when the amount of our

claim might be approved or work might begin.

## NBN tower

As I write my column, I know that the National Broadband Network Company (NBN) will be hosting a display and information session in the Nimbin hall on Wednesday May 29, 4-7pm.

I hope to make it to the 6-7pm session to hear community concerns about the placement of towers and the needs of those who want improved broadband access.

## Briefing on illegal dwellings

A Notice of Motion to hold a briefing to discuss a possible moratorium on illegal dwellings in rural areas was supported by a majority of Councillors. While there are some concerns of the Pandora's Box of issues that might arise, Council resolved to at least hear about the issues surrounding dwellings that have no approval.

Knowing that there are probably many more illegal dwellings or building additions than we might think and knowing that the worry and costs associated with non-compliance, I will post the planned workshop as soon as I know when it might be scheduled.

## NAG

Following the call for nominations for vacancies on the Nimbin Advisory Group, I am delighted to confirm that Council has endorsed Rob Fisher, Max Pike and Steven

Wright as the new members. I look forward to welcoming them to the next meeting on August 1.

## New Outdoor Dining agreements

I'm delighted that Council has endorsed license agreements for footpath dining for Nimbin Pizza, Grapevine Café and Nimbin Organics, Caper on Cullen and the Bakery. The fees paid are based on a formula and range from \$102.50 to \$300 per year for a two-year period.

## Aquarius Festival

Last, but definitely not least, congratulations to everyone involved in the May Aquarius Festival anniversary celebrations. The coverage in local media and state and national TV and print proves that community interest in the 1973 Festival and its legacy in Nimbin today have not waned. The Aquarius and Beyond symposium and the final Masquerade Ball were fitting finales to a spectacular month.

The art exhibitions at Blue Knob Gallery and Lismore Regional gallery, the Aquarius in Lovemore film and music events, the talks at Richmond River Historical Society and the Nimbin Bush Theatre's concerts, films and festivities together with the presence of Nathan and Shelli from Woodstock added to the kaleidoscope of colour, music, stories and movement. In just 10 years, we'll all be back to celebrate an amazing half century!



by Simon Clough, Deputy Mayor, Lismore City Council

Local government is having a massive shake-up at the moment, probably the most comprehensive series of reviews in 30 years.

Firstly there is the White Paper on exhibition for the review of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act. I believe the proposals will mean a marginalising of local councils and the exclusion of most community input from the planning process and certainly the exclusion of communities from rights of appeal against inappropriate development.

If you would like to have a say on these very significant

reforms you can see the White Paper on the website of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. The Better Planning Network, a community based lobby group, has excellent comments on the government's proposals at: [www.redwatch.org.au/govt/nsw/nps13/bpn/130420bpn](http://www.redwatch.org.au/govt/nsw/nps13/bpn/130420bpn)

Secondly there is the Report of the Local Government Independent Review Panel. This report makes many good proposals regarding local government finance, although it has not tackled the hugely inadequate system of the rating of land at unimproved capital value.

For our region, the proposal is to extend Rous County Council (our water authority) to cover Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Kyogle. The expanded County Council would have powers to take on regional planning and development, regional lobbying, the road network etc. I believe that this is a sneaky way to begin amalgamation. I have a number of issues with this proposal:

- It is creating a fourth tier of government that is not directly elected.

- Mayors and general managers are supposed to be Council's representatives. Both these individuals are already extremely busy and have little hope of truly representing the community.

- There is a real risk that decisions will be made out of context of local conditions by regional-level bureaucrats.

Essentially I remain unconvinced that amalgamating local councils improves their functioning when the real problem is that local government has been starved of sufficient funds to carry out its essential work. Though if we were to look at a general regional level of government with the abolition of the states, I would be on board immediately. Anyone who wishes to comment on these proposals can see the report and have the opportunity to comment at the Department of Local Government website: [www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg\\_index.asp](http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_index.asp)

Nimbin seems to have been at the centre of the universe this month with Mardi Grass

and the Aquarius Festival 40th anniversary shortly after. As someone who attended the festival (and yes I do remember it), I'm proud of the extraordinary contribution the festival and those who followed have made to this community. It is hard to think of any aspect of our community that has not benefited, whether it be through education, the arts, community organisations, the environment and my personal favourite, sustainability. And like all these things, others of like mind are attracted and the momentum builds.

Lismore Council's last meeting was quite lively, especially regarding Cr Houston's motion asking for in-principle support for marriage equality. I'm strongly in favour of marriage equality and was pleased to see the motion passed 7 to 4, but only after nearly every Councillor had expressed an opinion. Councillors Battista, Bennett, Meineke and Schiebel opposed the motion.

Council's budget is currently on display, and everyone is welcome

to comment. Council is trying to increase its spending on infrastructure, particularly roads, while realigning its priorities with 'Imagine Lismore' its major community consultation. It's a big challenge and we seem to have stirred a hornets' nest with the proposal to close the Goonellabah branch library. I'm sure a compromise will be reached that will be more satisfactory for everyone.

Another major policy document from Lismore Council is our Growth Management Strategy, which sets out the possible directions for growth in the local government area. The medium and higher projections for growth include the scrapping of any future rural multiple occupancy developments. To me, such a policy is hard to justify, when MOs

have contributed so much to affordable housing for hundreds of families in this area and have contributed so much to sustainable energy, waste and food security. Both the issues of affordable housing and sustainability are very high on Council's priority list.

It would be great to get some feedback on these proposals. Is multiple occupancy still relevant in terms of affordable housing? Is it still meeting the needs of those who wish to live more communally?

So perhaps you can see that the life of a local Councillor is not all expense accounts and junkets! But it really does help if members of the community can get engaged and give us and the state government feedback on some of these important issues that affect us all.

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# Gunshots, gas and brave Nanas



Knitting Nana Anne Thompson

by Marie Cameron

CSG activists have converged on Tara for Operation Tara Surge, in the heartland of Queensland's coal seam industry.

Tara landowner Dayne Pratzky set up an environmental defenders' camp, with showers, toilets and a kitchen in place on his 147-acre property. It quickly became home for those taking the fight to the British gas group QGC.

The Knitting Nanas arrived in force, the group Bridging the Divide provided Brisbane people with a gas-field bus tour, Dan "Stop CSG Tara" brought his iPad and made ready to upload action shots to the web. Protesters from the NSW Glenugie and Doubtful

Creek blockades arrived en mass and joined committed Queenslanders to take the fight to a new level.

In late May, the group commenced rolling actions. The aim was to prevent workers from leaving their camps, to blockade the gates, roads and buses, and to delay arrival at worksites. The overall goal was to cost QGC real money and challenge their image.

Earth defenders targeted multiple sites in a co-ordinated action. Each team would roll out of vehicles before dawn to halt traffic. Long queues of utes soon banked up. The QGC security team surveyed the situation and phoned the police. Until they arrived, the blockade stayed in place.

Police got protesters off the road and the



traffic would flow again, but in one day up to 10 actions could go down. By day two, police patience was wearing thin and officers started asking for identification and warning protesters to keep off the road.

On the Friday the action hit QGC's Kumbarella State Forest development, where massive earthworks were in progress. The spaghetti grid of pipelines is serviced by a large workforce. Activists set up seven roadblocks and brought the field to a standstill.

For the 90 minutes it took police to arrive, activists kept the roads shut down. At one stage gunshots rang out but nothing moved the blockades.

On the Ducklo-Gulera road a truck driver decided to push his luck and force the blockade open. With his bull bar pressed against the Knitting Nanas he revved his engine only to be offered a coffee and biscuit and be entertained by two women dancing in the headlights.

When the Nanas were ready they let him pass, they knew he would be stopped again at the next blockade. Dan used the Operation Tara Surge Facebook page to post live and uncensored blockade shots, forging new media boundaries.

When the police arrived the word passed to each blockade and together the activists pulled back. On nearby private land owned by the Morrison family, they regrouped for a big breakfast of bacon and eggs, leaving the police to drive around looking for them.

Operation Tara Surge came to a close on Saturday 25th May. The protest took its final moments to the front gate of QGC's Kenya gas hub office on Vanrenes Road. The police closed a section of the road and allowed the group of 60 to let them know: we will be back.

As Tara's David vs Goliath struggle gains momentum, Dayne's party on 13th July is set to attract visitors from around Australia.



# Living with the land, and each other

by Anastasia Guise

## It takes a village...

There are two kinds of (human),  
That seems quite clear  
One sees bamboo as grass  
And one as spear  
One thinks of ownership  
And one of earth  
One shapes the forms of death  
And one, rebirth  
And what is fear?  
It is the eye that sees bamboo as spear...



So wrote Bill Mollison in the opening pages of *Permaculture One*, eloquently summarising the spiritual, scientific and practical nature of the Permaculture Concept.

As a response to an ailing planet and society, this mysti-science is not only a framework for integrated, self-sustaining ecological-sociological systems, it seeks to take back the control over lives and lands, and reject the insanity of a society without value, direction, or ethics.

Permaculture is not some romantic return to subsistence agriculture, it recognises the best in both ancient and modern technologies and its need has become more urgent. Even in distant villages of Asia I have come across those whose eyes light up at the word "permaculture".

A key image for me growing up with the permaculture concept was a farmhouse placed inside an ever-widening

set of zones, from the kitchen garden through to the sustaining orchards and chook runs, to the outer zone of unfettered forest. Over the years, while I have tried to create my own little farmhouse and its version of expanding zones, I have tried to work out what it is that has bugged me about this enduring image.



I worked in East Timor with young artists who were illustrating a permaculture manual for the country. While they did not take long to create excellent country-specific examples of permaculture concepts, they just couldn't get the idea of a single farmhouse at the centre.

Of course, they were right. A single household – which in our case more often than not suggests a nuclear family – simply does not provide the necessary labour base. It is a hard ask for a nuclear family to maintain orchards, woodlots, vegetable gardens, animal systems, machinery, food preparation and storage, water, power systems, waste systems.

But how are we to live together, with the many challenges that intimacy brings? That is a challenge to take our permaculture practice into villages and relationships, with the tenderness, love and integrity the planet deserves.

Anastasia Guise will co-facilitate a Permaculture Design Certificate course next year. For more information phone her on 6633-7391 or Anthony on 6633-7282.

## YOUTH AT THE HELM

by Moksha and Gail

YLTW (Youth Leading the World) Congress is on again, around the world and in Nimbin on 3rd-5th September at the Nimbin Town Hall.

For those who missed the last year's congress, Nimbin's first, YLTW is a three-day youth environmental leadership event conducted simultaneously in multiple locations around the world, connected by digital media.

It's all about allowing young people to express their feelings and ideas about what's going on on our planet, and what to do about it locally.

In 2008 Youth Leading the World was launched and 100 local and regional organizations from 18 regions (five international 13 Australian) got involved. OzGreen piloted the program in seven locations in 2009, and each year it has grown.

Last year two local grandmothers, Gail and Moksha, went to Coffs Harbour for

facilitator training with Sue Lennox, founder of OzGreen and YLTW.

For our young people who participated, some of the most significant outcomes were:

- An understanding of their own carbon footprint
- Increased awareness/ understanding of climate change and sustainability challenges
- Connection with other young people as change-makers

Our young people gained confidence in self-expression and leadership skills and the congress provided the forum and situation for them to exchange ideas and information with others living in very different, often far less privileged circumstances.

And even though the subject is serious, we all had fun!

Once again we will be inviting young people from the vague age-range of 10-25 to register their interest. Arrangements will be made with schools to allow young people to attend the congress on those three school days.

For more information email: [yltw@ozgreen.org.au](mailto:yltw@ozgreen.org.au) or phone 6689-7129.

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# HEMP HEADLINES

## US: In Denver, can a business light up? [smh.com.au]

From January next year an amendment to Article 18 of the Colorado state constitution will make it legal for anyone aged 21 or over to possess up to an ounce (28 grams) of the drug for recreational purposes. The amendment represents a potential \$50 billion business opportunity and thousands of entrepreneurs are lining up to take advantage of the new legal landscape.

As soon as the details have been worked out, all manner of cannabis-infused products – from butterscotch sweets to soft drinks – are expected to go on sale. Shoppers will be able to buy pre-rolled joints packed with strains of super-strong cannabis produced by “master growers” or, if they’d prefer not to smoke, a range of other ingenious delivery mechanisms, from odourless vaporisers to tinctures administered under the tongue.

## Medical Marijuana now on sale in Czech pharmacies [stophedrugwar.org]

Medical marijuana became legal in April in the Czech Republic and is now available for sale in pharmacies. Medical marijuana is available by prescription only and has been okayed for people suffering from cancer, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, and psoriasis.

## World Anti-Doping Agency proposes easing marijuana restrictions for athletes [blog.mpp.org]

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) raised the threshold for a positive test for marijuana

from 15 nanograms per milliliter to 150 nanograms per milliliter, significantly reducing the likelihood of detection for athletes who use the drug. “We wanted to focus on the athletes that abuse the substance in competition,” said Julie Masse, WADA’s director of communications. “This should exclude cases where marijuana is not used in competition.”

## US: Michigan Supreme Court protects medical marijuana patients [blog.mpp.org]

In a crucial win for patients in Michigan, the state Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the state’s zero tolerance driving under the influence law does not apply to medical marijuana patients when it is based on the mere presence of THC in a patient’s blood stream.

Because THC can remain in a person’s system for days after it is consumed, the only other result would have meant that thousands of medical marijuana patients would be driving illegally simply for having used their medicine hours or days earlier.

## Marijuana: The next diabetes drug? [Time]

Toking up may help marijuana users to stay slim and lower their risk of developing diabetes, according to the latest study, which suggests that cannabis compounds may help in controlling blood sugar.

## NSW Drug Squad chief calls for softened penalties [ABC]

In a wide-ranging interview, Detective Superintendent Nick Bingham told ABC Triple J’s Hack program that police should move to a softer approach for policing



Sam Khalil at his stall during a Medical Marijuana Expo in Los Angeles.

personal drug use and possession offences. Det Supt Bingham said he would like to see cautions given for all “use-possession-type offences”.

He said a cautioning program would move people away from the criminal justice system and into health programs, adding that being caught with a small amount of drugs has wide-ranging effects that impact on a person’s career.

## Asian peasant workers imported to grow dope [news.com.au]

Vietnamese crime gangs are bringing peasants from Asia to operate high tech cannabis “grow houses” in suburban Melbourne in a burgeoning drug racket. Victoria Police figures released to the *Sunday Herald Sun* reveal almost 50% of people charged with growing marijuana on a commercial scale are Vietnamese. Organised criminals are using standover tactics to recruit poor Vietnamese illegal immigrants to act as “sitters” in suburban “grow houses”, paying them as little as \$50 a week to watch the plants.

Members of the Vietnamese community in Australia – many who have overstayed visas or incurred gambling debts – are also lured into tending plants.

## Old: Man avoids jail over cannabis crop [ABC]

A 38-year-old Bundaberg man has been given a suspended jail sentence for growing more than 140 cannabis plants. His defence said he used the cannabis to relieve neck pain after a football injury. In sentencing, Judge Gary Long accepted the plants had been for personal use.

## In the future, your drug dealer will be a printer [vice.com]

Scoring drugs is one of life’s great pains in the ass. But don’t worry, it won’t always be this way. Scientists are working on a solution. That solution is 3D printed drugs. Instead of having to go and get drugs from the scary outside world you’ll be able to print custom drugs adapted to whatever your needs are, right there at home.

And you won’t buy drugs either, you’ll download apps. These apps will give you access to the blueprints that will give you what you need. And you won’t even need to worry about the legality of drugs any more, because there won’t be any drug laws, because drugs will be so tailored it’ll be impossible for the state to keep up without resorting to selling them itself.

# Cannabis Cup

This year’s annual Cannabis Cup, possibly the 16th, saw 66 judges evaluate 32 entries from the north coast and far afield, to determine the best in show.

As in previous years, samples from the prizewinning entries will be entered in competitions overseas, where the Aussie products generally rate well.

## Prizewinners

**Outdoor:** 1. Blueberry ruderalis; 2. Don’t No. 3; 3. Aunty Barb  
**Indoor:** 1. Juicy Legless Lucy  
**Hashish:** 1. Oasis Gold (2nd year); 2. Zee Blonde; 3. Snaketail



## Best Buds

Outdoor

Indoor



# STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast’s longest serving covert

by Undacuva

## Undacuva Immunised

The Boss went home, cancelling everything for the day simply saying he felt sick. He was white as a sheet, and only I knew why.

Sick of being bagged every time I claim the hippies’ weed is a medicine, I printed the new diabetes research showing how the weed helps prevent that as well. We all know he’s a diabetic and I thought he’d be interested, but it bounced like an Aussie Rules ball.

“I’m embarrassed and ashamed,” he mumbled when he started reading it. “How can we admit we’ve been so wrong all these years? Do

we now say, ‘Sorry, you can come out of jail, we made a mistake’? My men have been hunting this plant and anyone who uses it for decades. Now what do I do?”

I wasn’t sure how to say it but it launched all by itself. “You eat shit, Boss. It tastes alright after a bit. Just do it. We live in times of huge change. Everything is moving and we’re learning new stuff all the time. We used to burn witches at the stake, and of course women weren’t allowed to vote not long ago, or Aborigines. Slavery and child labour was all good in the colonial days, but we realised it was a mistake. What about gay rights?”

But there was no moving him. He was shattered. It was like the

diabetes news was the final straw.

Pipe is excited, a rare thing. He’s just heard kids who haven’t been immunised are not allowed into preschools. Not that any of his tribe ever went to preschools, but the very idea of not being allowed to go to school has got him jumping for joy.

At Undacuva College we were immunised for every disease I’d ever heard of, plus some I hadn’t.

“Now we can really make an alternative tribe,” he says, eyes glistening. “It was all perfect up here in the hills away from society, until we had to send the kids to school. I watched them change. First they want to wear shoes. ‘So the other kids don’t laugh at me’. Next they want a uniform. It’s all training for the workplace, a life of working every day. OK if you like the work, but what if you don’t?”

Home schooling had been difficult, and he admits the kids

wanted other people the same size as them to play with. Eventually the tribe had relented and every day now there’s the long walk down to catch the school bus and every evening the long walk back up the mountain. They were all smart, computer literate, gardening experts, good at reading and writing.

“So what are they going for?”

“They want to socialise,” was the only answer he could get from the mothers.

And in no time, they were friends with the farmers’ kids and the town kids and soon they wanted white bread jam sandwiches and started playing football. Then it was all a confused tangle, says Pipe. “They don’t know who they are anymore. Everything we taught them comes into question and they start to feel funny about their homemade clothes and long matted hair.”

“So this is how the Aquarius

ideals got watered down?” I ask him later, mulling up around the fire.

“I guess so,” he says. “We’re all in this mess together, so no matter how clean we live up here in the hills, in the end we have to share the planet with the rednecks below.”

It reminded me of the Dalai asking, or really telling me, “You hippies may get enlightened, but then you have to help the others catch up, don’t you?”

**HipiLeaks:** Feb 2013. Colorado Police HQ to UN Police HQ: Confidential. Marijuana users may be getting legal but they will be walking after agreeing to strict drug driver testing limits of no more than two nanograms of cannabis in their blood. Hitch hiking numbers in Germany have risen 700% since the new testing was introduced there last year, so the impact is instant.

**WOULD YOU VOTE FOR...**

**HIM, HER or HEMP?**

Authorised by James Nepley, 23 Fine Street, North Sydney, 2060, on behalf of the HEMP Party.

**AUSTRALIANHEMPPARTY.COM**

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## Mazstock 5

### Mazstock is big, bad... and back

Lismore's premier rock and roll event may be under new management, but its figurehead and spokeswoman, Maz Schofield, says Mazstock 2013 is going to be as rowdy, rambunctious and fun as ever – and Nimbin's *Antibodies* are on the bill.

In its new home, Lismore City Bowlo, 13 bands from the Northern Rivers, Brisbane and – in the headliner (pictured) *Leadfinger's* case – Wollongong,

will be in rock and roll heaven on 9th June as they plunder Lismore's partying reputation in the fifth anniversary of the festival that first started at Maz's venerable venue, the Winsome Hotel.

"As it's the fifth anniversary, we've decided to celebrate how far the local scene has come in that time," Maz said. "We've got a combination of bands who played the first Mazstock along with those who have come up since.

"A lot of Brisbane bands

come down here and play so we've established a bit of a sister-city relationship there, and like to throw a Brisbane act or two into the mix.

"Then there's *Leadfinger*, who have been adopted by the locals, many of whom consider them the best rock and roll band in the country."

Maz reckons the Bowlo is the perfect location to host Mazstock, being within coo-ee of the CBD and with a great rock'n'roll track record.

"The Bowlo has been so supportive of rock and roll in Lismore. Without it, many of the bands at Mazstock would struggle to get a gig," he said. "The management are very cool to deal with and keen to give Mazstock the treatment it deserves."

Mazstock is on the long weekend Sunday 9th June. Doors open at noon and the bands kick off just after; \$15 entry.



### Hail Julius (and Kyle and Jason)

The Julius Hofstetter Trio is the next exciting gig for the Lismore Jazz Club on Sunday 30th June from 2pm to 5pm at the Lismore City Bowling Club.

Hofstetter will present a new ensemble at the Lismore Jazz Club. He has been working with Kyle Watson on piano and Jason Banister on drums. These musicians will add their own personal touch to the music of Davis, Coltrane and Shorter, and present some of the beautiful melodies found in the old standards.

He said: "At the moment we are playing some of the most exiting music I have been involved with."

Julius Hofstetter has been teaching saxophone, clarinet and recorder at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium since 2002, and has become a favourite of the Lismore Jazz Club. In 2010 he started the Northern Rivers Youth Jazz Ensemble.

He has performed and recorded with numerous artists here and overseas, playing soul, blues, reggae, pop, world music and jazz and touring the east coast of Australia. Currently he plays with *The Big Band At The End Of The Universe*, *Stipsky*, *Sould*, and numerous other projects and collaborations.

Hofstetter was classically trained on the piano and has a keen ear, a clear understanding and application of music theory, confidence, persistence, and the personal drive to push the boundaries.

The powerhouse team of Kyle Watson and Jason Banister keeps things solid. Jason originally hails from Taree and picked up drumsticks at the age of 10, building a solid career alongside some of Australia's finest musicians. He has played in numerous jazz settings from Trad, Dixieland, cabaret, Big Band and Contemporary.

This exciting music will warm you up on a cold winter's afternoon. Admission is \$10 for members / students, \$15 for non-members.



## Five years on

by Rayzor Flanagan

The Channon Folk Club open mic celebrated its fifth anniversary in April with music on the lawn of The Butter Factory Tavern.

The day also marked the last Folk Club for stalwarts Steve and Gail Loader, who have decided to call it a day on the organisation side of the club. Their years of toil are much appreciated by the many visitors to the Folk Club. The baton has now been passed to me, and I hope to keep The Channon Folk Club going with the support of other members of our community.

Our last Folk Club on 26th May was also auspicious for the fact that co-founder of the Folk Club, Paddy Curley (above) performed the



opening act. He did a great job of warming the crowd for the acts that followed. This was Paddy's last Folk Club before heading off to his new home in Tasmania. We wish him all the best with this new venture.

Our next open mic is scheduled for 23rd June, so please make a note in your diary to join us for a laid-back afternoon of local music – throw in your guitar or just come along and listen. We would love to see you there.



## Loren

### Loren, passing through...

Uki native Loren is a troubadour, dedicated to taking his music to audiences large and small, from festivals to living rooms.

Loren hit the road 10 years ago on his first

tour. Six independent albums later – the most recent release is entitled *Listening To The Moon* – Loren has played almost every festival in Australia, toured Canada, the US and New Zealand.

He has traversed Australia countless times,

offering his soulful songs wherever he goes.

"Loren writes the kind of music that, when you listen to it, you somehow feel like you're getting a massage," said fellow muso John Butler. "A sweet, gentle voice accompanied by relaxed, melodically plucked guitar, written by a man with a heart of gold."

"I've watched Loren play a few times and am always inspired by how effortless the music is." High praise indeed.

Loren will play the Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 23rd June from 1pm, and the Nimbin Hotel on Thursday 27th June from 6.30pm.



# NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street  
Phone 6689-1250

## What's On in June?

- Sunday 9th – State of Origin Bowls
- Sunday 30th – Club visit: Tweed Heads Trippers
- Open Mike – Wed 12th & 26th
- Courtesy Bus – Drivers wanted

### CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner Tues – Sun
  - Friday Banquets
  - Take-Aways
- Phone 6689-1473



Home of the 'Big Bowler'

3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 www.sphinxrockcafe.com

## Sunday Gig Guide

**June 1pm start**

**9<sup>th</sup> Lifeline**  
Funk four piece band from Byron Bay, playing urban groove, smooth keys, infectious guitar, bass lines, & an irresistible drum beat.

**16<sup>th</sup> Michael Fairley & Friends**  
One of the many talented musicians this area has to offer...

**23<sup>rd</sup> Loren**  
Melodic music with pop sensibilities; songs built on expressions of emotion & philosophy... all that is the amazing Loren!

**30<sup>th</sup> The Dillon James Band**  
A Blues collective of multi-instrumentalists, with a wide range of musical influences

**July 7<sup>th</sup> Monkey & the Fish**  
Beautiful guitar & magical songcraft, creating a special presence

## Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246



## June Gigs

Thursday 6th	6pm	<b>Marcus Corowa Dawn</b>
Friday 7th	7.30pm	<b>TBA</b>
Saturday 8th	5pm	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 9th	3.30pm	<b>TBA</b>
Thursday 13th	6.30pm	<b>Richie Williams</b>
Friday 14th	7.30pm	<b>Papa Funk</b>
Saturday 15th	6pm	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday 16th	4pm	<b>Mustered Courage</b>
Thursday 20th	6pm	<b>Adam Brown</b>
Friday 21st	7.30pm	<b>Broadfoot</b>
Saturday 22nd	6pm	<b>Guy Kachel</b>
Sunday 23th	3.30pm	<b>TBA</b>
Thursday 27th	6.30pm	<b>Loren Dent</b>
Friday 28th	7.30pm	<b>Split Chickens</b>
Saturday 28th	6pm	<b>Dillion James Band</b>
Sunday 30th	2.30pm	<b>Dr Baz</b>

All Gigs are Free of Charge

**Hummingbird Bistro**  
Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta;  
Thurs \$10 steak 250g

# Nimbin Goes Classic



Reviewed by Michael Hannan

## Nimbin Hall Sunday 26th May

Aria Viva, Margaret Curtis, Trio Continentale, Vox Caldera Choir

This was the second instalment of the Nimbin Goes Classic concept, devised and brilliantly promoted by Tony Coiffet.

Aria Viva (*above*) consists of soprano Lecia Robertson accompanied by pianist Margaret Curtis. Their stage antics and humorous banter, along with their popular classic repertoire, made me think their act was more suited to the Nimbin's Blue Moon Cabaret series. In their performances there was a balance problem. Operatic sopranos make a big noise and the piano playing needed to have more oomph to

compete. Margaret Curtis also didn't seem to appear to have put in the necessary practice, often appearing tentative and ragged in her pianism.

It was a different story with Curtis's solo concert particularly in the two works she performed from memory, showed excellent technique, interpretive finesse and dynamic nuance. Her performance of Salzedo's wonderful 'Chanson dans la nuit' was the highlight of the concert for me.

There were some ensemble and intonation problems evident in the two works played by Trio Continentale, but my main criticism of this local chamber ensemble is their lack of performance intensity. Certainly their sluggish tempo in the fast sections of Piazzolla's 'La

muerte del angel' did little to project the clamorous dynamism of this work.

The Vox Caldera Choir performed very well, despite having a stand-in conductor (Ian Bolt). The pick of its repertoire was Monteverdi's 'Si ch'io vorrei morire' with its challenging close voicings and exquisite dissonances.



Margaret Curtis

However I found the warbling vibrato of one of the sopranos did not fit well into the overall sound of the ensemble.

Finally, I should say that the concert was too long. One set (rather than two) by Aria Viva would have been quite enough and the interval should have been no more than 20 minutes (I timed it as 35 minutes).

*Professor Michael Hannan is a composer and musicologist based in Nimbin.*



Trio Continentale

## Turn up, tune up, drop in

The beautiful Steinway piano at the Byron Community Centre will soon require an extensive upgrade and a benefit concert to fund the operation will be held at the centre on Sunday 9th June at 2pm.

The program will feature talented young musicians, including Ayesha Gough, The Lachlan Trio, Francis Atkin and Aria Viva.

The music will include works by Strauss,

Mozart, Saint-Saens, Scriabin and Schubert. This is a great program to be enjoyed on a winter afternoon in Byron Bay.

This concert honours the late Margot Dods, OAM, founder and patron of the Byron Music Society. Sadly Margot passed away prior to receiving her award, but the medal and citation will be on display at this concert.

Come and support this important fundraiser. Tickets \$25, members \$20, children \$10 at the door or online at: [www.byroncentre.com.au](http://www.byroncentre.com.au)



'Falling Petals' by Kach Perrott

by Peter P.

## Busy times frame underlying themes

It's been a very busy few weeks - a couple of months actually - in Nimbin. Right on the heels of our Extravaganza packing up, we had the MardiGrass weekend followed by all of the fabulous events that made up the 40th

Anniversary of the Aquarius Festival. Hope you had as good a time as I did.

It's been a fun and interesting time to spend behind the desk at the Nimbin Artists Gallery. Meeting first-time visitors, people who have visited Nimbin previously and who enjoy coming back for a look, and especially meeting original Aquarians who returned specifically for the anniversary.

The message from all directions seems to be that the underlying themes of alternative lifestyle and community are still strong and holding us in good stead.

After all that activity, don't think that Nimbin now falls into a winter lull waiting for the warm weather to return. Well, our artists won't be anyway. No Mad Pottter is keeping us stocked with unique and subtly changing pieces (*bottom*). And Rod Johnston hasn't put down the hammer and chisel - come see his latest sandstone sculptures (*below*).

We'll be re-hanging on 17th June, so look out for new art after that day. Stay warm.



## Fibre Brigade at Blue Knob show



Blue Knob Hall Gallery's fantastic fibre exhibition once again showcases the quality of the Fibre Arts in this area and beyond.

Artists and craftspersons from a variety of disciplines have come together in this annual show to celebrate fibre in all its forms.

Beautifully crafted felted clothing, basketry, tapestry and sculptural works have lifted these crafts from their humble beginnings into the realms of wearable art and major artworks in themselves.

Fibre art has become an integral part of the art and craft heritage of this unique part of the world, with the likes of Polly Stirling, Silvia Watt and Sachiko Kotaka having lead the way. New generations continue to be excited by and carry on the skills and traditions of working with fibre.

The practical, functional pieces, the creative sculptural works and the vibrant



'Regeneration 1' by Enid Taylor  
Felted hat by Kerry Heinzl

garments in this exhibition are inspiring and innovative. The Fibre Show runs from 6th June to 4th August.

**Artists and Friends Lunch**  
The next Artists and Friends Lunch will be held on Thursday 27th June at 12.30pm. Cost is \$15 for a set mains menu and choice of desserts.

Please contact the Gallery if you're intending to come. We look forward to seeing you there.



[www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)

