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A Master Concept Plan has been developed for the 7 Sibley Street Design Team by Mark Floate.

The idea behind the Master Concept Plan is to enable community discussion and decision-making in relation to the site, as it is not the final plan for 7 Sibley Street.

The design team considered input from the community at the Forum in 2012 and the Design-In in 2013, as well as council feedback. As much as possible was incorporated.

From these workshops and meetings, three distinct types of spaces keep recurring as ongoing themes, and these have become the basis for the areas provided in the plan.

The three types of spaces are:

- Learning Spaces – “clean space” – reception, information exchange, display / exhibition, library, seminar, meeting / discussion, link-up centre.
- Production Spaces – “dirty space” – workshops, shared tool space, community kitchen, food storage.
- Landscape Spaces – “garden space” – green open space, active exercise, quiet relaxation, hard-stand areas, kitchen gardens, food security.

Challenges include disability access – equitable, barrier-free access across the whole site, including the old skate park site

The Lismore City Council has indicated there will be a need to allocate sufficient space for parking. Vehicular access across the site is another issue, with the need to provide parking as well as delivery vehicle / emergency access.

The council has also indicated that the development of 7 Sibley Street should link 7 Sibley St with the new Sk8 Park and Peace Park.

There is a need to maximise airflow and minimise dampness, so building into the ground or directly onto the ground is not preferred at this stage.

Other considerations



include optimising the solar passive potential of the site, optimising replicability and affordability of design; a need to link the whole site together for aesthetic and functional reasons; impact on the surrounding area.

The idea of treating the upper and lower levels as two separate areas with separate access meaning disabled access between the two levels is not necessary.

The buildings across the site should be linked by an “arbor” – a sort of long deck/verandah which may feature art spaces. Some areas are to be temporary constructions which can be reconstructed

as part of ongoing skills development.

Materials have not yet been decided, with a preference for hemp and timber. A tool will be developed to rate materials according to their sustainability, and this will be used to assist the decision making.

The estimated cost of the total development is around \$500,000. It is likely that a staged approach will be taken.

The ultimate goal is for the site to be as multifunctional as possible and retain green/open space in the village.

Other plans include:

- Providing outdoor exercise

and fitness opportunities;

- Generating kinetic energy to be used to power innovative elements of a life-scale game which will be part of a larger game which will progress along the Nimbin Walking Track;
- Generating kinetic energy to demonstrate various aspects of renewable energy generation, use and technologies in an entertaining and engaging way.

In this way, the site will link the existing skate park and peace park recreational area, with the Sustainable Living Hub, which has a strong renewable energy focus.

## NNIC gets into Green Globe finals

The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is a finalist in the NSW Government's Green Globe Awards recognising their outstanding commitment to sustainability. Nationals Member for Lismore, Thomas George said, "The NNIC is an outstanding grassroots organisation that

has revitalised the community and strengthened the local economy through their environmental initiatives."

The Centre was short-listed for the Community Sustainability Award that celebrates leadership in integrating sustainable principles and practices into everyday life.

"The collaborative approach taken by the Centre when implementing sustainability projects, including the Community Solar Farm, means the whole Nimbin community should be congratulated on this achievement," Mr George said. Environment Minister Robyn Parker said all of this year's 37 finalists showcase the economic and social benefits of sustainability.

"This year's high calibre finalists demonstrate that environmental sustainability has become key to successful project and service delivery," Ms Parker said.

Winners of the 14th Green Globe Awards will be announced at a gala ceremony hosted by Environment Minister Robyn Parker on 24th September at NSW Parliament House. See: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes)

## Radio activity in Nimbin 'safe'

by Jacqueline Crompton, Ericsson Community Relations Advisor

In May this year, NBN Co held a community information session to discuss its plans to deliver a fixed wireless high-speed broadband service to Nimbin.

During this session the community raised concerns about the effects of radiofrequency signals, or radiofrequency electromagnetic energy, on public health.

Following this session, Ericsson, working as NBN Co's construction partner, commissioned a survey of the existing radio frequency signals in Nimbin to give visibility of the current radiofrequency energy already in the community.

This survey was undertaken by an accredited and independent radio frequency assessor on 18th July 2013, at locations nominated by members of the Nimbin community. Those community representatives were also in attendance and observed the testing as it was being undertaken.

At outside locations, the cumulative radiofrequency signal strengths ranged from 147 times below the safety limit

(adjacent the community FM radio transmitter) to 24,390 times below the safety limit (in front of Nimbin Organics).

Inside Nimbin Organics, the cumulative radiofrequency signal strength was 71,428 times below the safety limit – almost three times lower than outside.

At the public school, the combined radio frequency signal strength was 20,408 times below the safety limit.

This means that the FM community radio transmitter on Cullen Street produced the strongest radiofrequency signal detected at any location. It accounted for 94% of the total radiofrequency energy present in the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre car park.

However, only 250m away, out the front of Nimbin Organics, the community FM radio signal strength was 84 times lower than the car park.

The report concluded that across Nimbin, mobile network signals were so low as to be barely detectable by the testing equipment – they were negligible compared to the FM radio and UHF TV signals, which themselves were very low compared to the safety limit.

Mobile network signals were more easily detected outside Rainbow Power, where there is a clear line-of-sight to the facilities on Mount Nardi.

This environmental data at Nimbin is consistent with advice from the following World Health Organisation (WHO):

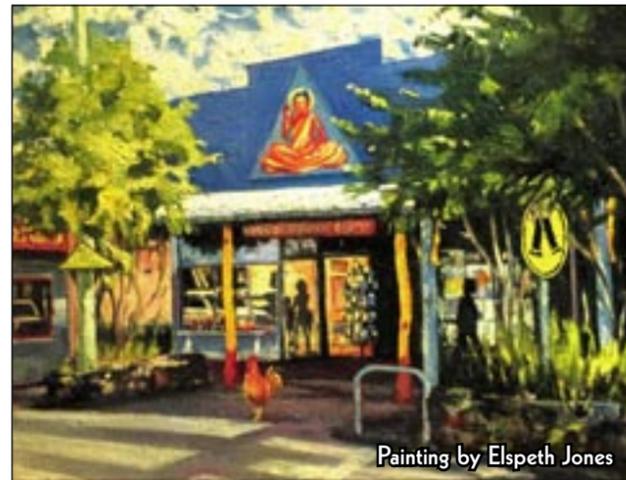
"The strength of RF fields is greatest at its source, and diminishes quickly with distance..."

"Recent surveys have indicated that RF exposures from base stations and wireless technologies in publicly accessible areas (including schools and hospitals) are normally thousands of times below international standards." (Ref: WHO Fact Sheet: Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health: Base Stations and Wireless Technologies)

NBN Co will be holding a second information session in Nimbin on 2nd September, 3-6pm at Nimbin Town Hall.

The full EME survey report will be available at the session and Michael Bangay, the independent radio frequency assessor who undertook the survey, will also be there to answer questions.

## Transfer of title at 54 Cullen



Painting by Elspeth Jones

On Saturday 31st August there will a ceremony to acknowledge the official transfer of title of 54 Cullen Street Nimbin to the Nimbin Community Centre.

The ceremony will be held at 9.45am in the meeting room of 54 Cullen Street, and there will be an 'open house' to the various facilities and studios of the building during the morning.

The function will feature music by cellists Lisa

Cameron and Gerard Lynam, displays and photo/history, a solar power launch and speakers including Mayor Jenny Dowell and NCC management.

There will also be a naming board for suggestions to rename the building previously known as the Media Factory, Birth and Beyond, Aquarius festival office, Nimbin RSL, etc.

All are welcome to join in the celebrations at the transfer of title ceremony.

## Rainbow shares gold pot

Loyalty and support from the local community has kept the Rainbow Power Company afloat through many tough years.

It began with three friends – Pete, Dave and Jack – way back in 1987. The Rainbow Power Company has developed and grown its professional and business skills to become the business success it is today.

The support of our local community has been vital to this success.

The company employs over 20 staff and remains committed to supplying viable renewable energy solutions locally, and to the Australia and Pacific regions.

Rainbow Power is recognising the public support by establishing the Rainbow Power Community Grants Program.

Funding will be made available to not-for-profit groups for projects with educational, environmental or cultural benefits for the group and the wider local community.

Applications will be considered quarterly: in October, January, April and July.

Applications for the Inaugural Rainbow Power Company Community Care Fund are now open.

Applications are available online: [www.rpc.com.au](http://www.rpc.com.au) or in hard copy for those applicants who request it.

To request a copy call Karen Welsh at the Rainbow Power Company on 6689-1430.

## Tip your hats to vollies

Nominations are now open for the 2013 Community Sector Awards.

Award nominations will be open until 14th October and award winners will be announced at the 2013 Community Sector Ball and Awards Night on 9th November.

Nominees must work or volunteer for a community

services organisation on the North Coast, from Clarence Valley to Tweed Heads.

Categories include: Above and Beyond the Call of Duty, Most Inspirational, In the Line of Fire, Centre of the Universe, Community Group or Team and Lightbulb Moment – Community Innovation.

See: [www.nrsdc.org.au/ball.html](http://www.nrsdc.org.au/ball.html)

## Infernal tower battle goes on

The people of Lillian Rock and Barkers Vale in the Kyogle Shire are fighting against NBN Co fixed wireless tower proposals.

Residents have launched the OREAD Project (pronounced Oh-Ree-Ad. Oreades were the spirits who protected the mountains in the classical world). OREAD is intent on protecting humans and wildlife from the effects of radiation from NBN Co towers.

A 50-metre lattice tower has been proposed for Lillian Rock Road, which has stirred locals into action.

At least seven residences at the western end of Lillian Rock Road have refused offers by NBN Co to

host towers on their land, despite financial incentives understood to amount to \$100,000 over a 20-year period.

Concern that potential tower sites could emerge anywhere inspired OREAD to embark on a microwave-awareness information program, with the intent of halting all towers in residential areas.

While NBN Co has had community consultation in Nimbin, there has been no communication with Kyogle Shire communities.

The tower placement is geared to serving the Lismore side of the valley. NBN Co describes the area as "sparsely populated", when it is in fact



the most densely populated area in the Kyogle Shire, outside the CBD.

NBN Co informed residents within 200 metres of the proposed tower, while in Victoria, they informed residents up to 1km away.

OREAD has been collating information on the health impacts of this form of radiation, how these emissions affect cellular activity and the formation of blood cells in the bone marrow as well as a other effects on the hormonal system.

Residents from Homeleigh through Barkers Vale have been undertaking a full blood count through health professionals to form a baseline to refer to should towers be erected near them. Any deterioration in the blood through a follow-up test after residents have been exposed to radiation from a tower could be grounds for litigation.

Authorised by M. Balderstone, 51 Cullen Street, Nimbin NSW 2480

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# Candidates for Richmond

## What do our House of Reps candidates stand for?

NGT asked them three open questions.

See Box opposite.



### John Ordish Christian Democrats

1. Stability and integrity is lacking in this nation.
2. CSG mining affecting the land and waterways, Pacific Highway completion, Farming and small business concerns, young people and the disabled needing opportunities.
3. For refugees to be given assistance in resettlement without causing loss of life and danger to them e.g. travelling in boats that have cost many lives. We must approach this with a responsible attitude, understanding that this is a global issue.

### Kevin Skinner Independent

1. As a local, I stood for council believing politics did not exist in that arena.



### Justine Elliot Labor Party

- I was sadly mistaken and so decided I could achieve much more if I was going to be political by entering the federal arena.
2. Economy, environment, education, aged care, health, unemployment.
  3. Review Regional Development Fund (RDF) funding model and grow the concept, so funds can continue to flow directly from the Feds to local govt. Call for the now delayed referendum on the recognition of local government in the constitution.

1. I'm standing for election because I want to make the North Coast an even better place to live and raise a family. I'm proud to be part of Kevin Rudd's team and we've got a new way to meet the challenges and secure the future.



### Matthew Fraser The Nationals

1. The North Coast is a fantastic place to live but we have been let down by Labor. Our economy is not as strong as it could be and our voice isn't being heard in Canberra. I am running for Richmond because I want to stand up and fight for the issues that matter like making sure our kids can get good jobs, protecting our local businesses and strengthening our local economy.
2. The economy and local jobs are a major focus. Businesses and workers are struggling to keep up with their bills and we are seeing the effects of Labor's big new taxes, like the carbon tax, with many of our local companies forced to shut their doors. I have a plan to support our small businesses and create local jobs that reward workers for their efforts. I also strongly oppose coal seam gas which is another major issue on the North Coast.
3. I am passionate about creating jobs and job security, and lowering the cost of living for the North Coast. I can start working towards these goals with one policy change – I will abolish the carbon tax, which is hurting businesses and families, and doing little for our environment.

2. On the issue of Coal Seam Gas mining my position is very clear. I stand with locals in opposing harmful CSG mining on the North Coast and I'm continuing to call on the NSW Government to declare our area CSG mining free. CSG is just too great a poisonous risk to residents, the environment, farms, valleys and communities. This is in contrast to the National Party's pro-CSG, drilling, fracking and expansion agenda for the North Coast.

policy supports the expansion of CSG. The Greens are the only party standing with the community and saying NO new coal seam gas; we have renewable alternatives. The Greens want to move to a clean, caring economy by investing in renewable energy, education, raising the Newstart allowance above the poverty line and supporting single parents.

3. My first action in the new Parliament will be to move legislation to ban all new coal seam gas. This is a toxic unproven industry and has no place anywhere in Australia. Only the Greens have a national plan to stop all new coal seam gas across Australia.

Unlike the old parties, we care about what life will be like in 50 years, not just the next three.



### Phil Allen Palmer United Party

I have been a surgeon here in Richmond for the past 15 years and have seen first hand the impact of cost of living increases, rising unemployment, lack of adequate public services and failing infrastructure. Simply put, life has become harder than it should be in Richmond.

Recovery is possible with innovative policy and good management. That is what the Palmer United Party offers and I am ready to take up this task for the people of Richmond.

The Palmer United Party has already announced a raft of policies to rebuild regional Australia, such as returning 25% of the wealth generated by Richmond back here to our community, reviving our infrastructure and services after years of neglect. We have also pledged increased funding for our public hospitals and schools.

For veterans and pensioners we have announced increases in their incomes including a 20% increase in the basic aged pension.

We will reduce business and household energy costs and have placed a moratorium on CSG exploration.

The Palmer United Party has listened to the concerns of the people of Australia and our policies speak for themselves in our determination to return this country to prosperity.

Vote 1 Allen on September 7th.



### Dawn Walker The Greens

1. This region is one of the most biodiverse and culturally vibrant in Australia. Its mountains, rivers, ocean and farmlands are too precious to risk losing to threats such as unconventional mining and inappropriate over development. Our communities need a strong advocate in Canberra to ensure that the old parties don't rob us of our unique lifestyle in this beautiful environment.
2. Both Labor and Coalition

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# Candidates for Page

## What do our House of Reps candidates stand for?

NGT asked all the candidates in Richmond and Page to answer the same three questions:

1. Why are you standing for election?
2. What do you see as the main issues facing your electorate?
3. If you could bring about one change in national policy over the next term of Parliament, what would it be and why?

Here are their responses, printed in the order that their names appear on the ballot papers.



**Kevin Hogan**  
The Nationals

1. Too many of my friends and family have had to move away to find jobs that would pay the bills. Bills keep going up and it seems that even if you find a job in the area, wages don't keep up.
2. *Maintaining our lifestyle.* The North Coast has a way about it, a feel. It is more than just the setting, it's the people, the environment, we don't want to lose that. *Make life easier.* People shouldn't have to spend their life worrying about being able to pay bills or buy food or raise their kids. We need people to enjoy life, not endure it. *Creating opportunity for the future.* From education to job creation we need to ensure that our kids, families and people who move here can succeed. It does no-one any good to raise their family in such a lovely place only to see them travel to get a job. We need to get our local economy going again so we can keep our families together.
3. I would love to see politicians become more accountable to their electorate again. Too often we see politicians supporting their party instead of their community.



**Janelle Saffin**  
Labor Party

1. Because our community needs and deserves a strong voice and effective representation, so that we do not get overlooked as we did do for a long time. I bring

that strong voice to the role, plus the passion of an activist, the skill of an advocate and the disposition of a diplomat. When I was first elected in 2007 I pledged to always put our community first and to work hard to get our fair share of services. My track record shows that I have delivered.

2. The big one on our doorstep right now is to stop CSG mining and any mining, in the Northern Rivers. Other critical issues are the continued upgrade of our health and hospital services, better education opportunities, from school level through to trade training and higher education, the NBN roll-out, community infrastructure and jobs and keeping our local economies strong – all things I have secured for us and will keep doing.
3. To have an integrated food and land policy so that the right protections and opportunities are in place to for us to be the food bowl of the region, with prime land not able to be mined.



**Carol Ordish**  
Christian Democrats

1. I'm dissatisfied with the lack of stability and the whole downward spiral of our nation.
2. Protection of land and water from CSG mining, previous mining and proposed mining at the Clarence headwaters that affects farming, businesses, tourism and residents
  - Completing the Pacific Highway
  - Restoring and improving higher education
  - Lack of Specialist Mental and Dental Health Services
  - Respect and recognition for the indigenous nations
  - More assistance for families, young people, disadvantaged and disabled
3. Change to the Asylum Seeker Policy, endeavouring to stop people using boats that risk drowning. Assisting re-settlement of refugees in

the best possible places for them, with proper attention and protection. All refugees, everywhere, are the world's responsibility; it therefore requires a global approach for efficient care.



**Stephen Janes**  
Palmer United

1. Disillusionment with the labor/liberal duopoly and the current state of the country's economy, which has left Australia devoid of ideas and confidence in the future. As a small business owner I am aghast at how this sector is neglected by both sides of politics when they employ almost 70% of the workforce. Business is drowning in red and green tape and consumer confidence is at an all time low.
2. Employment and economic confidence, with youth unemployment at 30% in some places within the electorate. There needs to be a considerable injection of funds to stimulate the economy and provide jobs growth. Palmer United has a range of economic policies that will turbo-charge the economy and allow business to prosper: abolishing carbon tax; a significant change to the company tax payment structure; making \$10,000 of your mortgage payment tax deductible; abolishing FBT; reducing by 50% the tax on a second or subsequent job.
3. I'd love to be able to see significant tax reform and reduction in bureaucracy, Australia has become a nanny state of regulations and we are taxed beyond belief, these need to change in order for the entrepreneurial spirit that forged this great nation can blossom once again.



**Desley Banks**  
The Greens

1. I am standing as a candidate in this election as I am fed up with the two old parties saying one thing (promises) and doing

another (breaking them). We need our leaders to have integrity and show that they care for all our people and the protection of our natural resources and environment. They need to have a clear vision and make decisions, that are good for the future of our country. There can be no more business as usual.

2. Global warming is affecting us all. We are facing a global climate crisis. We must end further fossil fuel developments of coal and invasive gas mining to reduce our carbon emissions, to protect our agricultural lands and water supplies. We need to be preparing for a global food and water shortage. Government should be supporting our farmers and small business owners. Our farmers are vital to our economy and future food production to ensure that we can eat local food and that regional communities stay strong. We need to stand up to the mining industry, big business and the supermarket duopoly that are adversely affecting farmers and small business owners.
3. No new coal or unconventional gas mining industry. We must develop a sustainable renewable energy industry to provide for our future energy needs and future local jobs.



**Rod Smith**  
One Nation

1. I'm standing for this election to add political texture to the electorate. I don't believe a choice between two parties is democracy.
2. The big issue facing our area is we have problems retaining young people because of a chronic lack of secure employment.
3. If I could change one thing I would lobby to never allow property to become the expensive hell it has become, with high prices and rents for both families and businesses. One Nation would like to put in restrictions on predatory lending and easy credit that has fuelled the bubble, as well as limiting the three levels of government's ability to double and triple dip into property for tax and revenue. We would also like to re-introduce a government-owned bank that could compete vigorously with private banks to lower costs and improve service.

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cate.greens.org.au  
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# Letters

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## Stop CSG preferences

So, the Stop CSG party has decided to put the Greens candidates at 43 to 48 on the Senate preferences list. Why didn't the Stop CSG Party put the Greens higher on the list?

The concern for me is that the anti-CSG party probably won't get voted in, but worse, their preferences may go to another party that has no interest in CSG (or worse they want CSG) and in the process rob The Greens of votes, and ultimately lose the CSG movement a Greens Senator.

What a tragedy that would be.

Harry Shell,  
Lismore

## Wiki-prefs

Voters need to be aware of the dangerous preference deal that the Wikileaks Party has done with the Shooters Party in NSW. Wikileaks have betrayed progressive voters by preferencing the far-right Shooters Party who are competing with The Greens candidate, Cate Faehrmann for the last NSW senate spot.

In 2004, the Democrats did a similar preference deal with Family First in Victoria. They did not expect to get ultra-conservative Steve Fielding elected (it was part of a complex deal that was intended to save the seat of the third Labor candidate), but instead it wound up electing Senator Fielding by accident.

The outcomes of preference deals with micro parties can be highly unpredictable. That's why Wikileaks' decision to preference the Shooters Party is a monumental mistake and seriously risks electing a pro-gun senator whose sole agenda will be to placate the gun lobby and relax gun control laws.

The Wikileaks Party state that they stand for transparency and accountability, but in reality they have put ego and deception before principle.

Progressive voters who care about issues like stopping coal seam gas mining, internet freedom and including dental care under Medicare need to vote 1 for The Greens above the line. Voting for the Wikileaks Party will only help Tony Abbott and his right-wing nutters take control of the senate.

Graeme Williams,  
Mullumbimby

## Green vote counts

Christine Milne, while interviewed on ABC Radio National, cited Nimbin as being one of the chief supporters for The Greens party across Australia.

So don't forget to vote, Nimbin. Our vote towards a sustainable future for ourselves and our kids really does count.

Roslyn Parry,  
Nimbin

## Greens for the future

They say it's been the warmest winter on record, and the SMH revealed an 80cm sea rise warning this week. All the predictions about global warming appear to be coming true, and yet the Australian people seem unconcerned.

I am worried about the future for my children and find it hard to understand why people are so blasé. But then, you look at Abbott and Rudd who both seem unconcerned, and you have to think either global warming isn't a serious threat, or those two are crazy for ignoring it.

Maybe our leaders just can't imagine letting go of the billions to be made digging coal and fracking gas out of the ground. Or maybe they're mates with the leaders of the fossil fuel companies and believe what they say.

I have faced the idea that our political leaders might be insane and it's frightening me. I understand why people might just try not to think about climate change. But there's an election happening, so if anyone shares my fears, now is the time to do something. I ask that people seriously consider the future of this beautiful country and vote for the Greens.

Beth Shelley,  
Boorie Creek

## Nationals misleading

Every householder in NSW recently received a misleading leaflet from the National Party stating that the Federal carbon tax and green energy schemes add about \$330 a year to a typical household electricity bill. This equates to \$6.35 per week.

According to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, householders should expect an average increase of \$3.30 per week as result of the carbon tax. To offset this and other cost of living increases associated with the carbon tax, householders are receiving on average \$10.10 per week. No one is currently out of pocket as a result of the carbon tax, in fact typical income earners are better off as the carbon-tax related cost increases are less than \$10.10 per week.

The remaining \$3.05 per week is attributable to the installation of energy saving devices. This is an investment and a long-term cost saving measure to consumers, not irrecoverable expenditure as this leaflet suggests.

Electricity prices did not

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**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
Wednesday 25th September

Email: [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

increase on 1st July 2012 when the carbon tax was introduced. They have been rising for several years as a result of goldplating practices by greedy energy corporations, who have been building unnecessary energy infrastructure and passing the costs on to consumers.

A price on carbon is designed to benefit, not punish, the community. All the experts agree that a market-based mechanism is the best and fairest way to reduce greenhouse emissions. I believe that the Liberal-National Parties are using the carbon tax as a political weapon to win votes.

Let's hope that voters do not have to face the massive increased costs associated with their direct action plan.

Lyn Dickinson,  
Pottsville

## Rudd's CSG stance

Kevin Rudd's suggestion in the *Australian Financial Review* (12/7) that increased coal seam gas mining will lower electricity prices is misguided and short-sighted. We have safe, renewable energy alternatives that won't sacrifice our land and water, and are already economically competitive with fossil fuels. Furthermore, the former ALP Resources Minister, Martin Ferguson has described CSG activists as 'ideological crusaders' while defending the benefits of CSG.

Here in Richmond, we've had the Labor member Justine Elliot MP telling the community that she is against CSG, yet also a strong Rudd supporter. Now we hear that Rudd is planning to increase CSG production across the country.

How can Justine continue to campaign against CSG when her re-election as a Labor Party member would help support it?

It seems the Greens are the only party standing with the community against coal seam gas mining.

Andrew Carter,  
Mullumbimby

## Leaving technocracy

The post-industrial age begins for each person only with the epiphany of acceptance of

the need to move away from technology dependence. There is nothing material that needs to be done beyond having that acceptance. This is what is meant by the car sticker, "Subvert the dominant paradigm".

Once the new paradigm has been mentally accepted as truth, human pre-frontal cortex use will automatically align for consideration of the means by which there is actual movement away from industrialisation.

We will then see that the genius of humans that produced amazing technologies, can also find the means by which they can steadily be done without. The means by which they might be done without, was always the hippie way.

An alternative view of immigrant species does not eschew the use of technologies, it attempts to present means by which there might be reducing dependence on them.

Geoff Dawe,  
Byrill Creek

## Community declaration of rights

Each day more people come to the inevitable conclusion that Western democratic countries serve the interests of a trans-national corporate elite and not the will or the welfare of the people. And, though many of us are busy just trying to make ends meet, we know in our guts that we can't just stand by and watch the destruction of our planetary biosphere and the loss of our fundamental human rights for dignity, wellbeing and fulfillment in life.

As the global pro-democracy movement affirms: "The People Are The Solution". The obvious way – in the current context – to liberate the goodwill and genius of the people, is for local communities to claim and exercise their rights. A Local Community Declaration of Rights has been developed to this purpose and is available for viewing at: [www.earthholocracy.org](http://www.earthholocracy.org)

The world is in good hands: it's in our hands.

Katharine Dawn  
Byron Bay

*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.

**Backing Balderstone**

Those folks who like to bag Michael Balderstone or the HEMP party for giving preferences to parties that they don't like, should come to the meetings and make themselves and their viewpoints known.

Personally, I think that preferences are a way to make the water muddy and difficult to see in, at the best of times. Perhaps it should just be said that majority wins and that's that. I for one, don't like either of the major parties, and it is the bickering of the minor parties that makes the major parties all the more powerful, by dividing and conquering.

I don't always agree with Michael, but my respect for him is great and boundless!

**Michael "She'llbe" Wright,**  
Mount Nardi

**HEMP under attack**

I'm a big fan of the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, but the August edition attack on the HEMP Party was very misleading. We have been inundated by angry people and no doubt many others will not vote for HEMP because of it. If that is what you set out to achieve then it worked a treat. However, if these people don't vote Green you may well have shot yourself in the foot because the HEMP preferences do go to the Greens and will not help the Shooters as your paper implied on the front page and spelt out in no uncertain terms in several vitriolic letters.

I thought it was particularly weird the way you wrote on the front page exactly what we said we were going to do with preferences, and did, yet you chose to print three letters virtually saying the opposite! Letters based on Facebook rumours, certainly partly fed by Greens!

It's a small community Nimbin and the HEMP Embassy is a big contributor, think MardiGrass as well. All good if the rumours eventuated, but they didn't. Extraordinary when you consider you could have waited for this edition when

you would have known exactly what preferences HEMP was giving and to whom.

It was a smart person who said about preference dealing, "You don't make sausages in public." The whole preference trading game is extremely hard to follow and seems highly unethical to me. Like so much in politics, it's a game of numbers. It reminds me of old systems that were originally well-intentioned but are now corrupted and abused. No wonder the Greens and even the two major parties get it wrong at times, as in the Greens helping to elect a Shooter in WA earlier this year.

It's an unfortunate fact for me that most pot smokers are not hippies and only about half HEMP's members would actually vote Green otherwise. Add that to the frustration and anger by many of us that the Greens do not speak up for us, despite social justice being a Green cornerstone policy.

I haven't heard one word on drug law reform in this campaign from either of our local Green candidates who were pictured on the front page of the *GoodTimes* HEMP Party attack edition. Do they think it is not so important, or is it about votes? The whole election campaign is crying out for inspiring leadership but perhaps News Ltd has stifled it.

And the least you could have done, Mr Dooley, is mention cannabis law reform when you were asked on AM this week what are the big issues for Nimbin people! I now think of you as Nimbin's very own Murdoch, fortunately a Green one.

**Michael Balderstone,**  
HEMP Party President

**Rumours of skullduggery**

I wish to express my disappointment at your lead story in the August edition, "Preference Deals Make Strange Bedfellows". The story, based on a rumour, was nothing more than crude attempt at a hatchet job on the HEMP Party. The fact that the story ended with a categorical denial of the rumour simply underlines this fact.

After hearing the rumour, I raised the issue of preferences on "The Hemp Hour" (Fridays 12-2pm on Nim-FM) and what followed was an uncensored, robust debate on the moral minefield of preference allocations for single-issue parties. (Personally I thought it made entertaining and informative radio.)

The upshot of this debate was that the Federal Executive of the HEMP Party decided to abandon the traditional

practice of not showing your cards 'til everyone else shows theirs, and issued a press release detailing just where HEMP preferences will go (Wiki, Sex, small pro-cannabis parties, Greens, ALP and the Hunters and Shooters somewhere near the bottom). I wonder if The Greens are prepared to do this?

I realise there are some Greens who still cling to the fantasy that most HEMP voters are just greenies who like a smoke, and that a good scare will send them scuttling back up into the eco-treehouse. I am also aware that there are some HEMP people who still feel bitter at what they perceived was a betrayal by The Greens when they dumped their pro-cannabis policy.

If The Greens are really concerned at losing votes to HEMP, the answer is simple. Develop and pursue a progressive, intelligent, fact-based policy on cannabis and the HEMP Party will be rendered irrelevant.

**Bob Tissott,**  
President Nim-FM, producer  
The Hemp Hour, member  
HEMP Party

**Good times at other's expense?**

Many local Greens supporters can't see the point in making unfounded accusations about a political organisation sprouted in Nimbin with the sole purpose of repealing prohibition.

The HEMP Party exists because of the Green's failure to recognise the importance of cannabis issues.

What the Greens do and say off-the-record is not reflected in their policy on Cannabis. The Greens have bundled 'marijuana' with other illegal substances and make no reference to the suitability of hemp for green technology and permanent agriculture, nor do Green policies mention the nutritional benefits of hemp seed foods for humans or as stock-feed.

The promise of a 'Drug Summit' may be enough to save some votes, but the Greens need to lift their game to retain the faithful. The Greens' idea of a high-speed rail link for the capital cities is a prime example of how out-of-touch the Greens are with supporters from the rural areas, where their policies for sustainability would ultimately be put into practice. Spending money on a fast train set that cuts through the landscape with steel and concrete doesn't sound very Green, or necessary.

Liberal Party preferences gave the seat of Melbourne to the Greens, and Greens preferences elected a Shooter & Fisher to Parliament in

Western Australia. Such eventualities are virtually impossible to predict.

The NSW Greens preferences flow to many other parties before HEMP receive any. NSW Labor Senate preferences go to Greens, Senator Online, Shooters, WikiLeaks, Katter, HEMP, Liberal Democrats etc. In NSW the HEMP Party preferences eventually go to Greens ahead of Labor in a 2:1 split and HEMP preferences are 50/50 over the 6 States contested.

A vote for the HEMP Party is a protest vote on prohibition. Cannabis prohibition is a bi-partisan issue. Prohibition will most likely be repealed by a Labor Government with the support of the Greens and a few small parties who can accept the fact that cannabis prohibition has failed to consider your health, failed to prevent illegal supply and failed as a 'drug' policy.

**Heathen J. Lovechild,**  
Nimbin HEMP Embassy

**Poisoning HEMP**

I am somewhat dismayed and disappointed by what I read in the *NGT* letters (August 13). It seems that some people thought they may poison the HEMP Party vote with utter misinformation on where the HEMP Party will be directing their preferences.

Before the meeting in which we decided where to send HEMP Party preferences, one of the debates centred around who to put last on the list after the Liberals. It was decided that the Shooters party and Fred Nile's mob would be as far from the top as we could get them, and the Greens and Labor up the top, along with Wikileaks, Stop-CSG, Sex Party, et al.

Erica Papp, where on Earth did you get the idea that the HEMP Party would endorse the Shooters party? It wasn't even decided at the time your letter was published, perhaps you have a career as a fiction writer.

The HEMP Party consists of mostly "green" minded voters, and as such would never put parties such as the Shooters party anywhere but as low as possible on the preference list. Even though the Greens have cowered away from the cannabis law reform issue, and have done nothing or at least very little to advance the cause of cannabis law reform, their recent call by for a drug summit is however a most welcome development. They still get the HEMP Party preferences.

Vote 1 HEMP in the senate!  
**Dave Cannabis**  
Jiggi

**Senate preferences at a click:**  
<http://preferences.theglobalmail.org>

# Notices

**Book-keeper wanted**

Tuntable Falls Community is looking for a book-keeper. Approx 4hrs/week. Applications close Friday 6th September. Enquiries to Karlin 6689-1005 (Wednesday only) or 0427-849-184.

**WIRES course**

The NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service is an all-volunteer organisation that needs new members throughout the Lismore region. WIRES offers a weekend course that will teach you how to safely rescue and provide emergency care for injured and orphaned wildlife. The next course will be 7-8th September. Phone the 24-hour hotline on 6628-1898 or visit: [www.wiresnr.org](http://www.wiresnr.org) to join, and to learn about the many ways you can help.

**Annual General Meeting**

Serpentine Community Gallery AGM will be held on Saturday 5th October at 11am at the Serpentine Gallery, 17 Bridge Street, North Lismore.

**Missing mixer**

Pink Zinc played at the Nimbin Hotel on Friday night 9th August, and their mixing desk went missing after the gig. It's a 12-channel Soundcraft desk and it was last seen across the road from the pub, on the walkway near the park. If anyone has it or can help find it, it would be very appreciated. Contact Sarah Grant on 0421-436-389 or contact the hotel.

**Preference facts**

The *Nimbin GoodTimes* is of course free to editorialise on their front page, but some attempt should be made to get the facts right before publishing slurs on the HEMP Party.

We did swap preferences with the Liberals for Forests in 2004, but far from being a 'centre-right' party they were in fact dripping wet ex-liberals who had broken away from the WA Liberals in protest against their clear fell logging policies in the Kauri forests of the south west. Being very small-L liberals, their drugs policies were better than the Greens. When they were excluded from the 2004 Senate race, their own preferences, along with HEMP's, flowed to the Greens. The fact that John Kaye did not subsequently get elected was because his primary vote was too low and had nothing to do with anyone's preferences.

The Greens Upper House Bill in 2003 was not to decriminalise cannabis throughout NSW, but was a poorly drafted plan to merely trial just two Amsterdam-type coffee shops – one in Sydney and one in Nimbin. The one in Sydney would have had to have been bigger than the Penrith Leagues Club and the one in Nimbin would have attracted so many thousands of Queenslanders every day that the locals would soon have been begging the police to set up roadblocks. It was such a dumb idea that if HEMP had any MLCs, we would have torpedoed it. As it was, no-one voted for it. The Greens having the

most cannabis friendly drugs policies? Well, with friends like that who needs enemies? The current Greens policy supports the continuation of prohibition as it is practised today.

I quote from their Drugs, Substance Abuse, Addiction policy document:  
**ILLICIT DRUGS**

8. *The Australian Greens do not support the legalisation of currently illegal drugs.*  
14. *Maintenance of criminal penalties for drug dealers, and introduction of a system of civil sanctions for personal use of illicit drugs.*

That is prohibition. That still puts Tony Bower behind bars. That still has the cops standing over users issuing cautions and then fines. That is not a progressive policy. That is a conservative's defence of the status quo.

The only correct facts in your story were in the quotes from Jim Moylan. Direct and deliberate Green preferences did elect a Shooters and Fishers (SFP) candidate, instead of a Labor candidate to the Western Australian Upper House this year. HEMP preferences cannot flow to the SFP in any state in next month's election unless a Green has already been elected.

The best place to see all of the Senate preference flows is not on the AEC's site but on the ABC's 'Anthony Green's Election Guide'.

Please try making a few phone calls to see if you have been fed the correct story in future.

**Graham Askey,**  
Lismore