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School fountain gets solar treatment

The old water fountain at Barkers Vale Public School has been given a thorough solar makeover, courtesy of the Rainbow Power Company's generous Community Grants Program.

After years of disuse, the traditional piston-pump fountain was replaced by a solar pump and panel, much to the delight of the children who were very impressed when the renewable-powered pumping system delivered water to their school playground.

Principal Dafydd Thomas said, "It was fantastic to have RPC support. They were very helpful and their support has made a big difference to our school grounds."

A crowd of smiling young faces showed their appreciation by giving the Rainbow Power Company installers three big cheers for helping to get their school fountain flowing once more.

For information about the RPC Community Grants Program, phone Tam at RPC on 6689-1430.



Family photos

Family Support Network Lismore celebrates and embraces family diversity in all its forms, and is marking Families Week this year with a photography exhibition.

Locals are invited to submit a photograph on the theme Stronger Families – Stronger Communities, and the winning entry will receive a family portrait session with VSWPhoto in Lismore.

Closing date is 5pm Monday 12th May.

Entries are free. Only one photo per entrant is permitted, and must be accompanied by an entry form, available on the Family

Support Network website: www.fsn.org.au and at their reception area at 143 Laurel Avenue, Lismore.

Entries may be submitted by post as A5 prints to Family Support Network, PO Box 236 Lismore, or electronically as files under 5GB to: admin@fsn.org.au Accepted entries will be hung on display boards and exhibited at Lismore Library, Magellan Street, between 15th and 21st May.

The winner will be announced on Wednesday afternoon 21st May at Lismore Library.

Family Support Network Inc. is funded by the NSW Dept of Families and Community Services.

Want to become involved with Nimbin's Bush Tucker Garden project?

by Amber Seccombe

We invite you to be part of this 'edu-venture' where we will be creating a beautiful, permaculture inspired garden with a focus on providing and sharing knowledge on local bush foods.

If you are interested in becoming part of this experience you can come and join us on Fridays at 11am – 2.30pm at the Nimbin Cultural Centre. There is also an option to contribute

through sponsoring a plant from as little as \$5.

Any donations are appreciated, including materials such as compost, dolomite or mulch.

If you are interested, please join up with the Aquarius Land Council. This includes an annual cost of \$10/year, which provides insurance whilst working on the Community Centre grounds.

To join or make a donation, please visit Judy at the Nimbin Community School.

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre news



www.nnic.org.au

May is our snapshot month

Every year in May and October we are required to collect feedback from our clients and service users to find out if we have made any difference to them. The surveys are anonymous and are a great chance for you to let us know if we have been of any assistance – or not!

Community Sustainability Survey

Speaking of surveys, the Report on the CS survey which many of you may vaguely recall filling out sometime between September and November 2013, is now available on our website – see About Nimbin > Survey Results.

'Our Pets, Our Wildlife'

Workshop at Nimbin Town Hall on Sunday 29th June at 11am. This workshop is about responsible pet ownership and living with wildlife, and especially for Nimbin (pursuant to ongoing discussions on Hook Ups), will include information about chooks and snakes – how to keep them all safe. There will be experts there to advise you on practical solutions such as wildlife friendly fencing, appropriate snake management and the laws relating to pets and wildlife. Don't miss it! Brought to you by ALEP – Animal Law and Education Project (auspiced by Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre), and NNIC.

7 Sibley Street fundraising

About \$18,000 and a bit to go. The next fundraiser event is the Aquarius Anniversary Folk Concert at the Town Hall on Saturday 10th May. The perfect way to wind down from MardiGrass madness. All proceeds to 7 Sibley St. Many thanks to David

Hallett and the School of Arts crew.

WANTED: Fabulous gardens, amazing Hand-built/owner-built houses, sustainable farms

After the fantastic success of the 2013 Nimbin House, Farm & Garden Weekend, we have decided to do it all again. We are putting out the call for people who are interested in opening up their homes, farms or gardens for this year's Nimbin's House Farm and Garden Weekend, likely to be held in September.

So if you have a green thumb and have grown an oasis in your back yard or if your talent has lent itself to building an amazing creative home, or you just want to show off your sustainable home, we'd love to hear from you. We are especially keen to hear from people who have straw bale, mudbrick, sand-sawdust-cement, bamboo, hemp or earthship buildings. Contact Cat at the Neighbourhood Centre on 6689-1692 or email: catanderson6@gmail.com

ALSO WANTED...Angels for auction

Seeking folks with halos who are willing to donate a few hours of their time and skills to be auctioned off as a fundraiser for Sibley Street. For example, IT training, Handyman, Massage, Wardrobe Re-vamp (Cat), Sewing Lessons (Cat again!), Mowing and brush cutting or anything else you can think of. So if you have Angelic tendencies (please note: Devils offering time or skills will also be accepted) please contact Cat on 6689-1692 or email: catanderson6@gmail.com

7 Sibley St Master Concept Plan community consultations

The Report on the Outcomes from the

two community consultations held in Nov and Dec 2013 are now available on the project website: www.sevenonsibley.com Hard copies are available for reading at all the cafes in town, the GP clinic and at NNIC.

Are you struggling with unpaid fines?

You may be eligible to apply for a Work Development Order which enables you to pay your fines down by doing volunteer work at NNIC. Make an appointment with one of our Community Workers to find out if you are eligible.

NNIC website

Our website aims to serve the community. You can find local transport timetables, latest news, community events, directory of local health practitioners, stuff for young people including updates on happenings at the Sk8 park and heaps more. The site is updated on a weekly basis and is always worth a visit. If you think something should be on there but is not, or for any other feedback, email us at NNIC: admin@nnic.org.au

If you're a local health practitioner not listed on our website and you would like to be, simply complete the form (available on the website – see Health) and send back to us and we can add you on. This will assist local people to find you.

This month's Mental health tip

Changing behaviours can be difficult – Imagine if the energy you put into "thinking" about stopping a behaviour was directed into the action of stopping. That energy could generate outcomes which would help you succeed!

It's My Life

Nimbin Youth Film Competition 2014

Youth Connections North Coast is now calling for entries for the Nimbin Youth Film Comp 2014. In the past this competition has uncovered some fine local talent and encouraged many others to try their hand at making a short film. So now is the time to grab a camera and start shooting. There is a prize pool of over \$500 with other prizes donated by local Nimbin businesses plus fabulous trophies in the shape of a film clapperboard for the top three winners.

Some of the winners of last year's first prize for their film "Stolen by Stoned Demons" Liv Emmet, Savannah and Odessa Smith (see picture) were so inspired by their big win, that they are furiously working on another film to enter this year.

This year will also herald a new category 'Best Sk8 Film' and at this point it is wide open to interpretation as long as it involves skating and/or skate parks. It could be an artistic interpretation of skating on a board or bikes with original music and visuals, or it could be a work of fiction with a narrative and actors or a documentary on your local skate scene. Let

your imagination run wild. This will have its own big cash prize and will be a sub-category of the main comp, with its own judges versed in skating and filmmaking.

Judging the main section of competition will be two of the North Coast's most experienced and award winning filmmakers; Jeni Kendall and Paul Tait of Gaia Films, who have a combined experience of over 60 years in the Australian Film and Television Industry.

The judges use a complex marking criteria to grade the films. Each film is marked out of a possible 100 points. The breakdown is: 30 points for entertainment value, 30 points for story/narrative and 10 points each for direction, editing, audio which includes soundtrack and the final 10 points for camera technique.

The competition is open to any young person aged up to 20 who lives within 40 road kilometres of Nimbin. The films can be from 2 to 10 minutes in length in any category from documentary or fiction to music video, as long as it has been locally produced, written and directed by a young person within the last two years.



Happy winners of last year's comp (L-R in front): Savannah Smith, Amete Baume, Odessa Smith, Jemima Zahari, Liv Emmett, with Mayor Jenny Dowell and organiser Darmin Cameron.

The organisers encourage young people to seek support from adults or professionals in the field to help them get their film from an idea to the screen.

Entries close at 5pm on Friday 8th August, with the winners announced and prizes awarded on Saturday 16th August at the Nimbin Town Hall.

All the winner's films and selected entries will be shown on the award presentation afternoon. The honourable Mayor of Lismore Jenny Dowell will be there to hand out the prizes and offer words of encouragement to all those who enter.

Last year's viewing was a fantastic affair with a big audience, big screen and big sound. The Nimbin Town Hall was packed. There is an open invitation to everyone

in the Nimbin region to come along and support our budding film talent. Entry is free!

Entry forms will be available from Nimbin Youth Centre, Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, and Youth Connections North Coast main office in Lismore. There will also be boxes for your entries at those locations.

The competition requires all entries to be on standard DVD format and playable on a standard DVD player. No other formats will be accepted. Entries will not be returned so please send copies only.

For more information or enquires contact organiser Darmin at: darmincameron@gmail.com

It's My Life is a project funded under Family & Community Services, Community Builders.

A mesmerising dance work on a stage literally flooded with water

By Lisa Wilson

Incredible... I've never seen a dance piece like it." ABC RADIO

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A history of care

by Noelle Lynden-Way, Community Rep, BUNK

Urbenville MPS (pictured at right) has a very interesting history. The original hospital burned down in the late 1950's and the new building was opened on 2nd September 1962.

Dating back to the 70's, Urbenville used to boast a maternity ward and birthing suite. There were four beds in a nursery for the babies and sometimes up to six were fitted in. The babies were only taken to their mothers for four hourly feeds. This was strictly enforced – no feeding earlier than four hours!

The hospital used to care for a lot of young children – croup and asthma were the primary complaints.

There was a separate adjacent building for Community Health and Nurses' accommodation. The Matron lived there on-site full time.

The doctors at Urbenville used to perform surgery prior to the 70's – anything from minor procedures through to major gynaecological and abdominal operations. Many local children had their tonsils removed at the old hospital.

Joy Walsh, who has worked as a nurse at Urbenville Hospital since 1974, describes a time when "everything was different". The nurses all wore veils and stood up to acknowledge Matron when she entered the room. They had very little access to equipment that is considered



EEN and Nicole Ellevsen, Acting Nurse Manager, for providing this background and photo for the Urbenville Multi Purpose Service.

Farewell Joy

Joy Smith (pictured left), Physiotherapist at Kyogle MPS for the past eight years is retiring. At her farewell party on Wednesday 16th April, Joy remarked that working in Kyogle has been the best time of her career. She has been able to integrate all that she had learned in previous jobs and extend herself as a physiotherapist and in the local community.

Joy was a mainstay on the committee of Kyogle Together, which organised the very successful Health and Wellbeing Expo at the local Memorial Institute Hall in 2012.

Thank you Joy from your many clients and colleagues for the years of excellent service and hard work. We will miss you.

Community Engagement Groups

Nimbin, Kyogle and Urbenville MPS will be starting Community Engagement Groups at each

of the sites. It is envisaged that 10 community members will take part in these meetings, to be held every three months. Terms of Reference are to be decided.

If you are interested in taking part, please email Nancy Martin, Director of Nursing at: Nancy.Martin@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

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Rachel Feeney
T: (07) 3346 9090 E: r.feeney@uq.edu.au



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Justine shows support for the Bentley protector camp

by Justine Elliot MP,
Member for Richmond

I recently visited the Bentley Protector Camp in support of the campaign to keep the Northern Rivers Gasfield Free.

I stand with our community in opposing CSG mining and together we'll continue to fight the National Party and their pro-CSG expansion agenda.

National Party broken promises

Budgets are all about priorities and we all share concerns about some of the proposed changes in the Liberal National Government's Budget this month.

We know that Tony Abbott and the Liberal National Government want to cut support for families, pensioners, and people with disability so they can pay millionaires to have a baby.

Their priorities are completely twisted. Why should the 32,000 pensioners in Richmond have their pensions cut to pay for an exorbitant \$5.5 billion parental leave scheme?

Tony Abbott has already moved to cut the SchoolKids Bonus, the Income Support Bonus and the Low-Income Super Contribution.

The proposed GP Tax is also unfair and it would force patients on the North Coast to pay an extra \$6 per person every time they visit their local doctor or be forced to visit an already crowded Emergency departments.

The Abbott Liberal National Government's first Budget is set to be a Budget of broken promises. I'm worried about the cuts to payments and increases in taxes and charging more for basic services – all in breach of clear election commitments.



Abbott Liberal National Party Government gives the green light to racism

Changes to the Racial Discrimination Act announced by the Abbott Liberal National Government will significantly water down protections against racist hate speech in Australia.

The Attorney General, Senator George Brandis has confirmed the repeal of four sections, including Section 18C, in the face of widespread opposition from the community.

Racism has no place in modern Australia.

These sections of the Racial Discrimination Act have served Australians well for almost 20 years.

The Liberal National Party

Government needs to say no to racism, rather than giving it the green light. This only goes to show the Abbott Government's twisted priorities.

The new section proposed by Senator Brandis, who said that everyone had a right to be a bigot, removes the words offend, insult and humiliate.

I would encourage everyone who is opposed to these changes to contact National Party MPs and tell them they reject these changes.

Keep in contact

Please keep in touch or if I can be of any assistance please contact me on the following: Email: justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au Facebook: www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP Twitter: @JElliotMP Instagram: justinelliottmp

Why vote Greens?

Green Scene

with Carol Vernon,
Greens candidate for Oxley



The next State election is fifteen months away, but right now I want to remind people that the Greens are the strongest political voice working to put people and the environment above the interests of big business and corporate lobbyists in NSW.

Voters are tired of the culture of lobbying and corruption now exposed by ICAC. Too many Liberal, National and Labor politicians retire to the boards of companies where they serve as internal lobbyists for the interests of corporations.

In 2010, the ICAC made recommendations for reform. Since then both sides of politics have studiously ignored the most important recommendations.

The Greens MPs remain untainted and are placed to be able to deliver reforms to the donations process and the lobbying culture.

I believe that voters want to know their concerns are heard in Sydney. Whether they are singles looking

for jobs, seniors concerned about local health services, farmers and village residents wanting to protect their local environment from the ravages of mining and irresponsible logging practices, voters want to be heard.

New independent MPs will not have the support network or experience the Greens continually demonstrate.

In the March 2015 state election, I shall stand as a Greens NSW candidate in the Oxley electorate against Andrew Stoner, National Party Deputy Premier and Minister for the North Coast.

I stood for the Greens in the recent federal election where Greens achieved a 3.6% swing in Cowper towards the Greens, the second largest swing in Australia.

Pre-selections are currently underway for Greens representatives in other seats on the North Coast.



Cr Danielle Mulholland,
Mayor of Kyogle

I'm really enjoying getting out and meeting with so many people across the Local Government Area (LGA). So far we've been to Woodenbong on 12th February, and Bonalbo on 12th March, and Mallanganee and Mummulgum on 16th April.

The next Village Mayoral Meeting will be held at Cawongla on Wednesday, 14th May, from 10am to noon, and I would be very pleased to see you there. All I ask is that you ring and book a time with Ms Janelle McLennan at Council on 6632-0214 to that you won't be kept waiting.

If you can also advise her of your issue and contact details (phone number, email) this will help me to make some background inquiries so that any information you receive is correct and up to date.

I hope you are getting as much out of the meetings as I am and I hope it provides an opportunity to interact directly with members of the Council.

I do appreciate your input. I think having everyone together means that our chances of addressing issues are so much better.

ANZAC Day

I'm glad to report that hundreds of people attended ANZAC Day commemorations held at Kyogle, Woodenbong, Bonalbo/Old Bonalbo, Mummulgum and Mallanganee, to honour those who gave so much to defend our way of life.

Council's Focus Groups

These continue to be held, and last month the focus was on visitor attraction and ageing in place with some great ideas coming out of them. We'll keep the momentum going to achieve some real outcomes and I'm hoping that while gradual, you'll see some tangible positive changes in the near future.

Water bubblers

A big thank you to the ladies from Quota who donated a cheque for \$1000 to Council for the installation of water bubblers down behind the Visitor Information Centre.

Thank you ladies – your efforts are really appreciated and your donation will help to water our thirsty travellers.

Kyogle Council: 6632-0214
Danielle.Mulholland@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

From the mayor's desk

by Cr Jenny Dowell

The April 8 meeting was relatively quiet in terms of community interest, but it contained an item of great importance for our City and Local Government Area.

Council has proposed a radical change in the way we levy Section 94 and Section 64 charges on development particularly in our CBD. The changes basically reduce or eliminate these charges for secondary dwellings and encourage granny flats or the like on the same block as an existing dwelling.

The change also encourages new businesses in the CBD by lowering charges for businesses moving into a premises where the previous use was as a different form of retail. As an example, a restaurant opening in what was previously a dress shop would have been liable for a s64 fee of up to \$60,000. The proposed policy drops those fees provided that no additional infrastructure is required. The policy will be on exhibition until May 16 and will be reported back to Council for possible amendment and adoption. Simply go to: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and click on 'Have Your Say' to reach the links.

Library funding

Council will participate in the NSW Public Library Association's campaign for increased funding for our much-loved public libraries. When the original Public Library agreement was signed, the funding of libraries was split 50:50 between the state government and local councils. Over the years that balance has tipped so that Councils paid 77% of the costs in 1980. The



current state government had, in its campaign, promised to increase its share of the funding. Instead it has slumped to an all-time low of just 7%. If you are visiting the library or the mobile library, please support the campaign.

Section 356 review

As I outlined in the April edition, Council is proposing to overhaul the Section 356 Community Donations Policy. If you belong to any community based organisation, I urge you to look at the proposed changes to these community grants for the coming financial year and let Council know your views by May 16. Simply go to www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and click on 'Have Your Say' to reach the links.

Health promotion policy

Council received Federal Government funding in 2012 to support health promotion and to develop policies that support physical activity and nutrition. As a result, Council has developed a Policy, Planning Procedure and Food Provision guidelines that promote activity and healthier food options for Council and at our facilities and events. Again the documents are on exhibition until May 16. Go to www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and click on 'Have Your Say' to reach the links.



Photovoltaics

Council has awarded the tender for photovoltaic embedded generation systems on various Council commercial services buildings to local company, Nickel Energy for \$177,444. With the solar panels being installed at our new Materials Recovery Facility, over 70% of the energy needs will be provided by renewable, self-generated energy which will go a long way towards achieving our goal of being self-sufficient in renewable energy by 2023.

Budget

Every year at this time, Councils engage on the difficult process of shaping the Operational Plan and Budget for the coming financial year. Having adopted Imagine Lismore with its 10 and 4 year plans, the direction for Lismore City Council is largely set for the next 10 years as we move towards financial sustainability so there is little scope for new projects unless they enhance the direction we have chosen. The Operational Plan and Budget will be debated

by Council at an extraordinary meeting on May 6 and will be placed on exhibition shortly after for 28 days. The recommendation includes keeping the Nimbin Transfer Station open. The charge is recommended to increase to \$123.77 as we move towards cost recovery. Council's net operating result for the year before grants is a surplus of \$579,700 and our cash position is balanced. I again urge readers to consider the proposed Plan via the website. We will adopt the Plan and Budget at another Extraordinary Meeting on June 17.

Bentley

Many readers will be familiar with the Protectors Camp established at Bentley in Richmond Valley Local Government Area by those opposed to unconventional gas mining in our region. At the time of writing this column, Richmond Valley Council has rejected a Development Application for an enlarged camp and there is talk of a new DA being lodged for a camp on land in the Lismore LGA. At our Council, most DAs are determined by staff rather than Council but I would expect that if a DA is lodged for a camp in our LGA, it will be called up by Councillors for determination in the Chamber. If this happens, I will inform you in the next edition.

Rural Forum

The next Rural Contact Forum for 2014 is at Tuntable Creek Public Hall on Monday, 19 May at 7pm. Six Councillors will attend the evening and we encourage all residents of Tuntable to take advantage of this opportunity to meet your Council representatives on your own turf. Residents can ask questions face-to-face, raise issues

of concern and generally get up-to-date on any Council business that interests them. This is the chance to have a frank and open discussion with Councillors in your own community space.

Autumn Arts Extravaganza

At the end of Easter I took the opportunity to see the fabulous exhibition at the School Of Arts. 800 - 1000 people attended this show each day and I'm sure they were blown away by the depth and breadth of local creativity. It was a fabulous exhibition and I look forward to seeing the next in Spring.

Japan visit

Last month Ron and I and the General Manager and his wife Michelle travelled to Japan on the invitation of our Sister City, Yamato Takada's Mayor Masakatsu Yoshida. The self-funded trip was very busy with long days of meetings, visits and learning and has undoubtedly deepened the relationship we share.

The Council of Yamato Takada was incredibly generous in providing our accommodation and treating us like royalty! As part of the visit we also visited Hiroshima and the Peace Memorial Museum. As a member of the International Mayors for Peace movement started by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I was pleased to write a message of Peace from Lismore in the visitors book and hang some origami peace cranes at the Children's Peace Memorial.

Nimbin Advisory Group

The NAG meets again on May 8 and, it is certain to be a productive gathering of people who are passionate about Nimbin and its community.

Simon says...

by Cr Simon Clough, Deputy Mayor, Lismore City Council

The physical beauty of the Disputed Plains area at Bentley says a great deal about why we don't want unconventional gas mining. In the early morning light, with mist drifting through the trees, the birds singing and the occasional cow bellowing, it's hard to believe that this could all be threatened by unconventional gas mining. At its peak, if Metgasco's plans are realized, this beautiful rural landscape would become an industrial area with wells, massive holding ponds, pipelines, pumping stations, constant noise, huge trucks and



destroyed roads.

Like many others, I've been spending a great deal of my time at the protector camp at Bentley. It's a life-changing experience. When we put in the primitive camp application, we chuckled at

our cheek at proposing that there would be 200 people there. Now having attracted closer to 3,000 people to one of our early morning alerts, it's necessary to put in a DA for 600 people at camp!

The main foci of the protector camp are the gates, which give access to the property to be drilled. The creativity that has gone into the design of the blockade installations is truly impressive. The huge monopoles, the 'angel tripod' and the countless 'dragons' will prove very formidable for anyone trying to bring in a 35-tonne drilling rig.

The camp and blockade are the culmination of years of effort by dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly organising marches (including Lismore's 7,000-person march), musicals, workshops, conferences,

art auctions, sausage sizzles and all manner of fundraisers. The backbone of the blockade however has been the Gasfield Free Communities initiative.

This is the program that started in The Channon on 18th April 2012. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7C4ousqB4E>

Since that time, in our region over 29,000 people in 126 communities have been door-knocked, given a DVD and surveyed for their opinion on unconventional gas drilling. Nearly 96% have rejected the idea of unconventional gas mining in their community. This work is reflected in the large number of locals actively involved in the camp and blockade. Another extraordinary aspect of this campaign is that it has all been beautifully documented

by our amazing film makers and camera people.

The most impressive element of the camp is the people. There is evidence of people's commitment everywhere, the lack of rubbish around the camp, the preparedness of people to volunteer for the host of jobs required to keep the camp functioning and the ever-expanding sense of being a community. There are of course so many people from Nimbin at the camp that some days I wonder if there's anyone left in the village.

Like all groups of people we are beginning to create our own rituals. The 5am 'greet the dawn' at the main gate, where we are often serenaded by local musicians, admire the stunning natural environment and recommit to our purpose. Then there is the late afternoon organising

and report back meeting at the main fire.

Our spirits have been maintained too by pop-up concerts with some amazing and dedicated musos coming to play for us.

Personally I'm deeply inspired by the number of people who have taken on the seemingly humble tasks of cleaning the porta loos, doing the mountains of washing up, keeping up the firewood, dealing with the endless questions of visitors and doing these tasks day in and day out.

The camp itself is a tribute to people's amazing skills, creativity and hard work. It's very clear that years of living in the bush and building communities have equipped people very well for camping and blockading.

Wishing you all a wonderful autumn.

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