‘Nimbin dreaming’ inspires vision
by Simon Rose

In my mind, Nimbin is a great living example of a positive alternate lifestyle. Sure it is just criticised as a seedy dope town, but this has to be seen in context. It is fact that many people smoke dope. It is far better that they buy bush buds sold in Nimbin with a better balance of THC and cannabionoids than what is available in the cities.

But alternative lifestyle is the basis of the Nimbin community. Alternative lifestyle is the glimmer of hope in what seems to me to be a bleak world outlook. The Nimbin community should be justly proud of their energy. Ageing hippies or whatever they wish to call themselves who arrived in 1973, a wonderful result of the Aquarius festival, are being joined by an influx of young people and families seeking to live healthily, growing vegetables and looking after chickens and not subjugated to persistent threats of terrorism the GFC or whatever else is the current fear mongering of the media.

I bought the Nimbin site because I wish to support Nimbin. Already many people have approached my partner and me with great proposals.

Raw food, juices, herbs and teas, clothing and other local crafts, hemp products and many other creative ideas that might happen if our plans are approved. The museum site is in the heart of Nimbin, and I hope that the range of enterprises on site reflects the soul of Nimbin.

There will definitely be a large garden area we hope will be a place where people are happy to gather. Tables and benches in the garden, a fire pit, a stage and small secondary space for buskers, a subtle spray of fairy lights at night.

There will be shops and permanent market stalls available for a wide range of rental budgets. The building facing the street will be so Nimbin. I hope the stalls out front will allow us to create individual architectural erections that may become an attraction in itself.

That’s why I called this adventure ‘Nimbin Dreaming’. 

Greens urge building healthier communities

Increasing government investment in preventative health and primary care would keep more people out of hospital and cost less in the long term, according to the Greens.

Greens NSW MP and health spokesperson Dr John Kaye (pictured) joined Greens local candidate for Lismore in the March state election, Adam Guise, outside Lismore Base Hospital to call for more funding for preventative health programs.

“The Greens believe a better quality of life is possible for all residents on the North Coast. Spending on the prevention, management and recovery for patients from a range of diseases and illnesses would keep people healthier and out of hospital. In the long run it is a cost saver. It makes economic sense to help people get well before they need hospital treatment. Currently the health care model focuses on treating the symptoms of disease at the crisis end of the system. The Greens will be taking a range of policies to the election to focus on a more holistic approach to wellbeing, with far greater funding for preventative programs and rehabilitation,” Dr Kaye said.

“Neither the state nor the federal governments are doing enough to promote healthy communities and stop the incidence of in many cases, preventable illnesses like heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease, hepatitis, HIV, and cancer.”

Dr Kaye said NSW had lost $119 million due to the early axing of a joint state-federal agreement on preventative health while federal cuts would see $2.2 billion lost to NSW over five years.

Honourable updates

Rock Valley Hall Inc. has financial assistance under the Lismore Local Heritage Fund Program to refurbish and update the Roll of Honour in the Rock Valley Hall.

A considerable number of names of servicemen from both World Wars have been gathered along with some of their stories.

The original honour board (pictured), inscribed with the names of servicemen who enlisted from the Rock Valley district, in World War One, was placed in the Rock Valley Hall by Horace Knight, in 1919.

In order to create a fitting tribute to service personnel who enlisted from the Rock Valley District, names and stories of men and women from the area who served in all conflicts are being sought.

Anyone who wishes to contribute relevant information, names, photos or stories of exserviceman personnel can do so by contacting Betty Olivier on 6629-3329 or email: bettyo@ vnet.com.au

The project is to be completed prior to Anzac Day 2015, so all names and details will need to be made available by the end of February.

Indian poets live in India and also work and live in the UK. Homeward Bound was recently launched at a national conference at Holy Cross College, Trichy in India, to an audience of over 400 literary, academic and educational participants.

The book is beautifully produced by Cyberwit from India and is available direct from their website: cyberwit.net for $15 USD (includes postage) or from Amazon or Flipkart.
**Coroner to rule on future of waterhole access**

by Bob Dooley

The inquest into the death of 19-year-old Louis Vanderstappen at Hanging Rock Falls waterhole, Wadewell on 30th December is expected to resolve liability issues that have dogged the popular tourist attraction for decades.

Police said the man, a filmmaker from the Illawarra region, was using a rope to swing over the waterhole at about 12.30pm when he hit a rock face and fell into the water. He did not resurface, and despite efforts from friends and bystanders, police, NSW Ambulance paramedics and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, his body was not found until the next day by police divers.

Hanging Rock Falls, an ancient volcanic blow-hole which rates a glowing mention in the Lonely Planet tourist guides, has been the site of multiple injuries and tragedies.

Long-time local resident, Neil Lord said it had been a popular spot for tourists since the 1940s, when busloads of visitors regularly travelled from Evans Head and Ballina. "The rope has been there for about 40 years and has been removed and replaced several times," he said.

In recent times, a Canadian tourist drowned in 2003 when he became trapped under a submerged ledge and was extracted by rescuers using poles.

On 30th October 2010, 14-year-old Louis Vanderstappen, from Oren, Queensland, slipped off the rope while trying to access the rope swing at the waterhole. His body was found in seven metres of water by police divers.

At the time, the chief pilot of the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter Lynton Beggs told The Nimbin Northern Star that "there are no on-going liability issues remains to be seen."

The coroner that there are no on-going liability issues remains to be seen.
Green groups spruik Great Koala National Park vision

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW, North Coast Environment Council and North Coast Forest Alliance have all welcomed state Labor’s promise to create a 315,000-hectare Great Koala National Park on the north coast, and have urged that the government support the proposal.

The Great Koala National Park, which is one of the environment movement’s key policy priorities for the 2015 state election, would comprise 315,000 hectares of public land in the Coffs Harbour region and be created by adding 175,000 hectares of state forest to 140,000 hectares of existing conservation reserves. The park would protect up to 4,550 individuals, about 20 per cent of koalas in the state.

Several recent events have highlighted the threats and demonstrated the need for urgent action:
- The number of koalas on the east coast of Australia plummeted by more than 90 per cent between 1990 and 2010, the equivalent of only three koala generations.
- In 2012, the federal government listed the NSW, Queensland and ACT populations as vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- Surveys conducted by ecologists in 2013 in the massive Pilliga forest in the state’s northwest, an area once considered a stronghold for the species, found the population had crashed by 75 per cent in 10 years. That koala population is now considered “highly endangered.”
- “This is a strong commitment by a new Labor leader intent on making the environment an election issue this April,” said NCC CEO Kate Smolksi. “By supporting the NSW environment movement’s proposal for a major koala reserve, Luke Foley has shown he is prepared to act boldly to prevent the extinction of this iconic species.”

It is quite clear that if these trends continue and dramatic action is not taken to protect and connect habitat remnants, koalas will become extinct in the wild in NSW, possibly in our lifetime,” Ms Smolski said.

“We must do everything we can to ensure this does not happen. Given the koala’s status as a national icon, we hope that all political parties will support the koala national park proposal.

“The poor level of protection of koala habitat on State Forests was a major reason for environmental groups bringing forward the proposal for the Great Koala National Park. The NSW government failed to act.

“It’s the only way to guarantee that koala habitat is truly protected.”

Ms Smolski said a federal environment minister Greg Hunt is urgently investigating the carbon benefits of protecting the Great Koala National Park and identify what the Federal Government would be prepared to pay to avoid the carbon emissions from converting logging areas.

“NEFA spokesperson, Dailan Pugh, said the Forestry Corporation claims protecting 19% of State Forests for Koalas will remove 40% of resources in north-east NSW is an inflated fabrication.

“Similarly the industry’s claims that 3,000 timber industry jobs would be lost is sheer fantasy. There are nowhere near this number of timber industry jobs in the whole of north-east NSW. We need to have a debate based on truths, not lies.

“A 2006 study found that visitors to parks and reserves in this region contribute about $307 million per year in regional visitor expenditure, with an estimated $20 million of additional income. Visitor spending represented the equivalent of 1,650 jobs in the region. This is on top of the NPWS expenditure and 265 jobs in park management.

“Koalas already live in this region. Koala parks, where Koala populations can recover from past logging, will attract more visitors and be a boost to our regional economy,” Mr. Pugh said.

Round Three in the battle to save our native forests

by Aidan Ricketts

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) is reminding us of the ongoing campaign to save our native forests from unsustainable logging whilst the Terania and Nightcap campaigns led to the protection of two rainforests in the region in the 1980’s, it was NEFA’s campaigns in the 1990s and 2000s that led to over a million hectares of old growth and HCV forest being protected from the ravages of an unsustainable timber industry. NEFA’s battle to save the old growth involved over a decade of blockades and eight successful court cases, culminated directly in the resignation of then Premier Bruce Carr.

There are numerous important functions that healthy forests provide that now far outweigh the value of industrial logging of our native forests. The native forest industrial logging sector in these days employs no more than 1600 people state-wide and remains dependent on cash subsidies from us the taxpayers. Thankfully competition from plantation wood has internationally and domestically has as much to do with the death throes of the industrial logging sector as does the lack of a sustainable resource.

The role of forests in sequestering and storing carbon has become far more important and massively more economically valuable, as policy makers are increasingly realising the stabilising water flows over changing seasons. For our wildlife, every bit of intact forest counts, and the survival of just koalas requires the immediate preservation of very large areas of threatened forests between Sydney and the QLD border.

Whilst the state opposition has recently embraced NEFA’s call for a Great Koala Park if elected, the chances of that happen are dependent on a change of government in the coming state election remains uncertain. The record of the current LNP state government is nothing short of appalling, having presided over four years already of non-enforcement of logging regulations, proposals to introduce hunting and even logging into National Parks and most recently, the outrageous proposal to commence highly destructive cable logging on extremely steep slopes in a desperate attempt by the industry to grab previously inaccessible timber.

Proposals to introduce extreme new extraction technologies such as cable logging are symptomatic of a deep-seated crisis in the dying days, and a government of environmental vandalism. The soil erosion alone associated with cable logging would do massive damage to coastal river systems.

In the Far North the picture is far more grim with vast tracts of state forest threatened by logging induced dieback. If the logging isn’t stopped, once forest areas are disturbed by logging, lantana infestations often follow so the government needs to act immediately to prevent the damage caused by kiln drying and colonisation by bellbirds that farm an insect pest (psyllids) that cause the death of the remaining trees over time.

Over 100,000 ha is already seriously effected with up to 2 million ha remaining vulnerable. State forests have known this for years but have failed to ever address the catastrophic results.

So the fight is well and truly on again for our native forests and NEFA with its proven track record of forcing the state government to acknowledge that they have three years to recognise the true value of native forests on a planet in crisis. The ALP plans for a koala park are great but will only come to fruition if there’s a change of government in in 2011, not if then it is gone on for the whole of the next political term.

Our battles over gasfields were very much about our water resources and so is this battle. We all need forests that forests provide the best form of catchment for creeks and rivers, for our farms and town water supplies so we all depend on them. The fact that we also need forests for our health and our endangered species hang on a knife edge is all reasons to make a clean break and save our forests now.

So find out more, offer your support or follow the action, go to: nfs.org.au; facebook.com/NorthEastForestAlliance or contact Susie Russell: susie@brushbox.info

The Nimbin GoodTimes
nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com
February 2015
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nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com
February 2015
Tweed’s koala-gate protests

Tweed shire councillor Barry Longland has been under fire for a controversial motion to push for koala-protection gates at the Black Rocks sports field south of Pottsville to be replaced by a grid, which has angered koala campaigners and inspired public protests.

There are widespread concerns that specially designed koala grids will work to stop the movement of koalas into the adjoining urban landscape, but (depending on their width) may not work to stop access by domestic dogs in that dogs may be able to jump over the grid, and that removal of the gate would leave no restrictions day or night to motor vehicles driving over the grid, putting resident koalas at high risk of vehicle strike and stress from impactive activities.

Cr Longland’s successful motion also called for a study to obtain baseline data on koala numbers at Black Rocks and said the gate would not be removed until the koala grid was in place.

At a protest in Uki attended by around 40 people, president of the Northern Rivers Guardians, Scott Sledge told the rally that more than 200 hectares of primary and secondary koala habitat was devastated by the Christmas Day bushfire at Pottsville, and the surviving koalas will most likely take refuge in favourite food trees like swamp mahogany at the Black Rocks sports field site, which was the only part of their habitat not affected by the fire.

Mayor Gary Bagnall said council staff did not support removal of the gates and were not consulted prior to Cr Longland’s notice of motion.

Cr Sledge said the removal of the protection gate would “almost certainly result in the Tweed Coast koala population becoming extinct. This is not a time to reduce protection for the koalas but to improve it.”

Mr Sledge said the removal of the grid would result in a significant reduction in koala habitat and that koala protection at Black Rocks and Rosebank would be seriously compromised.

In 2014, the NSW Scientific Committee recognised the plight of the Tweed Coast koala by making a preliminary determination that their threatened status be upgrad ed to ‘endangered’.

In October 2014, the Tweed Coast koala population had told him the Christmas Day fire near the sports field had been deliberately lit.

In November 2014, Tweed Shire’s koala gates were deliberately lit.

Longland has been under fire for his decision to remove koala gates.

Passing of local musician and community advocate

Farewell to Garth Kindred by Lydia Kindred

The loss of Garth, after a long and brave battle with acute myeloid leukaemia, has deeply saddened many people who knew, loved and respected this intelligent, kind hearted and remarkable man who had a great knowledge of history and world politics.

After receiving a degree in philosophy, Garth moved from Newcastle to the Northern Rivers in the early 80s, beginning the building of his home in 1982 at Rosebank, near the Rainbow Temple, between two lush leafy gullies.

With no road access and using only hand tools he designed and built a beautiful wooden house with star shaped timber floors, diamond skylights and windows, in the calm forest setting, amidst towering tallowwoods and an ever growing rainforest and fruit orchard that he loved to nurture.

Garth has been a stalwart supporter of the Rosebank community for almost thirty years, being on the committee of both local halls over most of this time. He also established Rosebank Community Environmental Teams (RICT) – an umbrella organisation for local groups to support each other and share information and to ‘tease private’ the Village Journal as a community-owned newspaper.

Garth co-ordinated Rosebank Landcare and was responsible for establishing the Rosebank Recreation Reserve, registering it as a publicly owned community asset, now transformed from a weedy plot into a pleasant public recreation reserve.

Garth also edited and co-edited with me, The Village Journal over a period of 12 years, championing the cause of the environment, interviewing long time locals, and writing many an educational series. ‘On Common Ground’ eloquently explained the connections we all share in common – from rivers to roads to community halls and much loved local trees.

Garth shared environmental information and photos, for local hinterland communities to learn about our natural environment and threats from invasive weeds etc.

Garth created many inspirational and melodious songs throughout his life, writing and playing music since his early teens. While the leukaemia prevented him from completing the recording of his album, local musicians have agreed to record his songs so that his music can be shared with the world. He also has a vast storehouse of original songs and instrumentals that were recorded in times past that may be released in the future.

Garth co-organised local music clubs, supporting the local halls, where hundreds of local musicians contributed their talents over many years, much to the enjoyment of those attending as the quality of musicianship was excellent.

Garth was much loved by many for his fine sense of humour and intelligent insights, not least by the young people in the teams he mentored over six years as an EnviTE Green Jobs Corps supervisor.

The commemoration for Garth, held recently at Repentance Creek Hall, saw about 300 friends and family celebrate the incredible legacy of this ‘giant’ of the local community.

Garth recently spearheaded the campaign to Save Our Rails from demolition by the rail trail lobby. His deep seated belief in the need for rail and public transport led him to write many articles and letters which have, through his insightful writing, helped bring about a resurgence of enthusiasm and belief in the importance of public transport in our region.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, and his inspiration will live on in the hearts and minds of those whom he touched, with his beautiful visionary and warm practical nature. His was a great life, cut short, a warrior for peace and integrity – he was prepared to stand up for what he believed in, doing the hard yards in order to change things for the better, with his great love of humanity and for Mother Earth.

We salute you, dear Garth – Kindred by name and kindred by nature.
Gas plan not a plan

The NSW Government is spending thousands upon thousands (perhaps now edging closer to millions) of tax-payer dollars in advertisements to try to sell their so-called ‘NSW Gas Plan’ to the residents of the Northern Rivers. This is an obvious attempt to shore up votes for the coming State election in those seats in the Northern Rivers Region where local National Party candidates are most likely to suffer voter backlash from the many disillusioned members of the community. It is not a genuine attempt to inform, educate and consult with the community.

Many citizens would like the right of reply to these advertisements but we do not have the vast amount of dollars required to buy the necessary newspaper space and radio time to counteract the misleading statements made via this patronising propaganda.

The main avenue for us, the voters, to have our say regarding our concerns, is by writing letters to the editors of our local newspapers. We are grateful for this opportunity, however, there is limited space in the newspapers to publish our letters - certainly not a full page plus one bonus advertorial half-page!

So it is totally unjust and inappropriate that Kylie Hargreaves, deputy secretary, Resources and Energy, NSW Trade and Investment, should write a 457-word letter (19/1) to Grafton’s Daily Examiner to refute the written opinion of a member of the public (15/1). The Government is already bombarding us with advertisements – we open a newspaper or other local publication, we turn on the radio or, worst of all, in the words of our own privacy of our own home we log into our Facebook page to connect to our friends, and up pops a NSW Government Gas Plan advert!

Please, Ms Hargreaves, leave us at least one forum where we can have our say without interference from the Government!

And while I have this much-appreciated opportunity to express my opinion – may I point out that the ‘NSW Gas Plan’ is not about “Keeping our water pure”, “Securing farming future” or “Protecting future generations.” It is all about encouraging the gas industry to proceed throughout NSW!

Rosemary Joseph

Elephant in room

‘Chaos’ label unfair

I write to you in response to your article ‘Chamber in Chaos’ (NGT Jan 15), where you recop all recent activities by the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce. Your perspective paints the Chamber in a bad light, and I think you have done this hard-working local organisation a disservice.

Firstly, you correctly point out that the NSW Gas Plan is about “Keeping our water pure”, “Securing farming future” or “Protecting future generations.” It is all about encouraging the gas industry to proceed throughout NSW!

Rosemary Joseph

Rob Harle

EMR ‘harmless’!

As a health conscious-thinking non-scientist, I am offended by the opinions pushed as ‘science’ by Alan Roberts of Byron Echo. In recent editions of the NGT, he has been pulling up the headline but not the story.

John Murray

Regional Manager
Northern Rivers
NSW Business Chamber

Sweet reason

Just a short note to thank and congratulate Alan Roberts for his clear-headed, calm and non-hysterical information generally, and especially for his letter in NGT January 2015.

Reading this was like the relief a sanity-driven brings on a hot and humid Nimbin summer’s day. Yes absolutely Alan, “people have a responsibility to verify information that they promulgate.”

Don’t take Alan’s word for all this, or mine for that matter, go buy yourself an EMF meter ($50 - $100) and measure everything you irrationally think is emitting killer waves. You’ll be pleasantly surprised.

Then please supply factual links to the unbiased, double-blind trials which show how bad all the EMF monsters are that haunt you. If you cannot supply these, then perhaps better not promulgate (or publish) any more harmful nonsense.

Rob Harle

Nimbin
Letters for the editor

NGT writes letters by email, not by the print line. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published elsewhere will not usually 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.

www.nimbinfoodcoop.org

Letters to

Becuugger, Martha Patsim
Web www.nimbinfoodcoop.com
Andru on Facebook
NGT is inspired by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin
NEXT DEADLINE
February 22, 2015
Email nimbin goodwillies@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Boastury’s letter for “appealing to emotion” (NGT Dec 2014), yet another over-exaggerated thing, dismissing a highly respected scientific body (the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)) and other scientists’ findings as incorrect and “against the laws of nature”, authoritatively pronouncing the phone towers and phones as “harmless”. He goes further by ridicule any opposing opinion or scientific findings as ‘EMR misinformation’. On 21st May 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a committee of 27 scientists from around the world, working on behalf of the World Health Organisation (WHO), concluded that exposure to mobile phone radiation is a ‘possible carcinogen’ and classified it into the same category as that of tobacco smoke, asbestos, lead, petroleum engine exhaust, burning coal and dry cleaning chemicals, just to name a few. Professor Dariusz Lexzycanski, of the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Institute, Poland, explains why this should be considered big news: “... for the first time a respected scientific report states it so openly and clearly: RF-EMF is possibly carcinogenic to humans. One has to ask oneself how that report, which in micrograms are considered as ‘gold standard’ in evaluation of cancerogenicity of physical and chemical agents. If IARC says it so clearly, then there must be sufficient scientific reason for it, or IARC would not put its reputation behind such claim.” Mr Roberts, what authority have you and what exactly are your qualifications? One may

be excused for thinking you’re pushing another agenda, such as the Coalitions’ standard NBN internet plan.

The fact is there is scientific evidence, research, and published papers showing that EMR is harmful to humans and other living things. For a large number of people living in this area (and elsewhere), there is enough evidence that they do not wish to be exposed to the ever increasing range to EMR. It is one of the reasons that many people, like myself, have chosen to move away from urban areas with lots of EMR and live in the country. Just because it is not scientifically proven in an absolute sense, doesn’t mean we should not be cautious about the location and location of such technology. It took many decades of science to prove conclusively that smoking cigarettes causes cancer and other diseases, yet many saw the writing on the wall and knew it was bad long before we had the ‘scientific proof’.

After all, if we are truly being scientific, we should apply the ‘precautionary principle’ and not allow mobile/wireless internet tower sites to be built close to people’s homes. There is no scientific certainty that they are safe, as Alan so boldly (and foolishly) wrote, and certainly a lot more study and evidence is required. Perhaps Alan could volunteer for a long-term study and relocate to live under one such tower! In his own words, “People have a responsibility to verify information that they promulgate.”

Michael Frey
Nimbin

Rails not tralls
As a representative of a group who aims to challenge the dominance of the two ‘major’ parties, Cr Simon Clough’s column is just another spin from the Nationals on their broken rail promises is disappointing (NGT Jan 15, p. 9). The community and Our Sustainable Future supporters would expect Simon to counter the poor excuses put out by Don Page and others.

Fact: regular light rail shuttles would service eight of the ten largest population centres in the Northern Rivers – Lismore, Murwillumbah, Casino, Kyogle, Grafton, Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby and Byron Bay. Of the remaining two, Tweed Heads will have a rail link in the next few years as Queensland builds its southern rail line to the border. To deny benefits to the entire region because Tweed Heads is not currently connected to rail is ludicrous.

TOOT have proposed a dual use for many years, making use of the land alongside the rail as occurs in many parts of the world. To opt for a single use bike path instead of $75 million plus is an incredibly wasteful use of public funds, especially as this would be sufficient to get trains on our tracks instead of ripping them up.

The Northern Rivers sits within the second busiest transportation corridor in the country with a growing economy and population. The Casino to Murwillumbah line connects all major north-south and east-west transport routes in the region.

It has cost the Queensland taxpayer billions of dollars to reinstate its Southern rail line to ensure that the road network between Byron Bay and Tweed Heads does not come to a complete standstill. Let’s not allow the major parties to ruin our future.

The Nationals claim to be the voice of regional NSW, yet we have repeatedly been ignored when calling for the Northern Rivers to be gasfield-free and they are in league with the Liberal Party whose policies actively create greater disparity between the rich and poor. This is not the kind of world I want my children to inherit.

So how is it that we can live in the Rainbow Region, a place where people gravitate to live an alternative lifestyle, and yet we have dinosaur policy, and in power? I can only assume it’s because people are not utilising their right to be conscious.

If we don’t consider what policies and practices the various parties adhere to, if we don’t evaluate our future project will cost $12 billion and “a mere $5 billion, Eco- Transport Sydney, would buy us a world-class public transport system.” The Liberal National party promised for years they would reinstate the Casino to Murwillumbah railway service and extend it to Queensland once they got into government. Back in 2002 Ol’Farrell set up Infrastructure NSW where from June 2011 until July 2013, Nick Greiner was the Chairman.

In 2012 the Ol’Farrell Government funded a study by the ARUP group ‘which declared that reinstatement of the railway service would cost over $900 million for 130 kms or approx. $6.5 million per km. Recently a private railway contractor quoted $800,000/km for repair to a section of line in Byron.

The Liberal government said the railway service was “irreconcilable”. According to Wikipedia, Nick Greiner is the chairman of Lend Lease Infrastructure, which is considered to be a key contender to Ewingdele upgrade to the Pacific Highway, ($862 million). This cost works out to $50 million/ km. I think this is an ICAC matter.

Birth Shelley Creek

Enrol to vote
On 28th March, the people of NSW will be utilising our democratic right and going to the polls to choose who represents us in state politics.

I’ve been looking at the history of the Lismore electorate, and since 1927 we’ve had, for the vast majority of the time, the National Party MPs. Historically I can understand this, being largely farming country, but can we really afford to keep the Nationals parties to rule by mistake in our name. Stand up for our.

Cr Basil Cameron Goonengerry

Leaving it on the line
Elizabeth Farrelly (SMH 29/1/15) in her article ‘Road to ruin paved with more roads’ stated that for the State Liberal government “there appears to be a deep emotional resistance to public transport and a deep love of dirty, noisy, mechanical road culture.” Personally I think it’s a deep love of dirty, noisy, mechanical road culture.

I can only assume it’s because people are not utilising their right to be conscious.

If we don’t consider what policies and practices the various parties adhere to, if we don’t consider whether or not don’t every number box clearly according to our preferences, then we only really have ourselves to blame for the disempowerment into power who don’t truly represent the interests of the people.

The easiest way to enrol to vote is online via the AEC website: www.aec.gov.au/enroll/ but you can even turn up at a polling booth on Election Day and ensure that your voice in wanting true representation in politics is counted.

Ivy Young
The Channon

Letters also received from Beverley Crossley, Georgie Morley, David Norris, Alan Roberts, Scott Sledge, Wayne Somerville and Tony Thompson.

Free firewood
Storm damage Blue Gum, you cut it down, phone 0484-334-327.

Dance Studio for Hire
Are you thinking of running a class or workshop? Do you need a meeting space? The Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio is available for hire at $11 per hour or $33 per day, with a $20 key deposit. The Studio has fantastic natural light, high ceilings, chairs and tables, and music player. Contact the Coordinator on 6689-0000 or email ncc@nimbincommunitycentre.org.au for more details.

Belly dancing for fun and fitness
Buckie’s Belly Dance class begins another term every Friday between 4 and 7pm at the Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio. New students welcome.

Self-esteem workshops
A three session workshop. Building healthy self-esteem in children is being presented by Family Support Network Inc. for parents/carers of children of all ages. They will be held on Thursdays 12th, 19th and 26th February from 10am to 12.30pm at 143 Laurel Avenue, Lismore (car park in Shepherd Lane). The workshop is free, and morning tea will be provided. To book a place, please phone 6621-2489.

Songwriting classes and art/craft therapy
Are you looking for some new creative friendships in 2015? Georgina Pollard is running a series of five classes as an experiment and a way of sharing her skills and knowledge with her local community. The classes will run at 34 Clarice Street, East Lismore from 5.30pm to 7pm on five Thursdays: 5th and 12th February, 9th & 16th March and 2nd April. The cost is $100 for the five classes, or $25 casual visit. For bookings or further information email: SongwritingGeorgina@gmail.com or phone 0417-640-369.

Wildlife Carers courses
WIREs gives basic training courses three times during the year. The next course will be 21-22 February. Anyone interested may call the 24-hour hotline on 6628-1898 or go to https://wiries.org.au/Helping.html

Al-Anon
Al-Anon Family Groups meet in Lismore at 6.30pm on Tuesday in the Quakers Hall, 57 Wyrallah Road and in Ballina at 6pm at West End Lions Club Hall, river end of Brunswick Street. If you are concerned about somebody else’s drinking, Al-Anon can help. Go to www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia or phone 1300-252-666.

Embroiderers’ group
Meetings are 9.30am-2.30pm every 1st and 3rd Wednesday and every 3rd Saturday of each month in the function room at the rear of the Red Decor Centre, Kean Street, Lismore. Contact 0423-375-872.

Special General Meeting
Nimbin Organic Food Co-op Special general meeting (for expansion of committee) to be held Monday 9th March, 6pm at Birth & Beyond. Further details in shop or on website: http://nimbinfoodcoop.org

Free listings
Keep it brief and to the point and if we think it’s of interest to our readers, we’ll run your community notice for free. Email us by deadline (see box on opposite page).