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New bubbler a real furphy

by Sue Edmonds

At last a water bubbler has been installed at the BBQ area near the Nimbin Pool.

It was manufactured by Furphy Foundries, in Shepparton, Victoria, which gained notoriety when they made a water carrier for troops in the First World War. Local farmers were so enthusiastic about the water carrier that the foundry expanded their production for local use. The water carriers became meeting places where rumours and gossip were exchanged.

The name "Furphy" became associated with rumours and made its way into the Australian lexicon and now has a dictionary definition of "false report or rumour".

It's fitting that our very own Furphy water bubbler will service the Nimbin Pool. The well maintained BBQ area, with its colourful tables and seats and now its own Furphy, is a popular venue for locals and tourists for picnics and parties; places for rumours and gossip to be exchanged.

The bubbler was installed with a grated drain so it won't be a muddy quagmire any longer. Friends of Nimbin Pool



Before and after the furphy

organised this enhancement of the facilities assisted by a grant from the Lismore City Council. It was installed by the staff of the Caravan Park – a big thanks to them for their tireless work in relation to the pool and its surrounds.

It's no furphy that the pool's short and medium term future is secure, and in the long term the costing for upgrading is at last clear. Resurfacing the pool is estimated at \$250,000, and an amenities block to service the pool, children's playground, BBQ area and Skate Park

is estimated at \$300,000. It's good to know these estimates and to have the resurfacing of the pool and the amenities block separated.

The Friends of Nimbin Pool will soon be sanding and repainting the seats around the pool in preparation for the next swimming and wading season. Anyone wanting to get involved with this vibrant community group, who organise the Pool Olympics on Australia Day each year, can join by email: friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com

Bush Theatre comes alive for Benny

On Thursday 25th June, the Nimbin Bush Theatre and Rainbow Region Gigs hosted a Benny-fit for local environmental icon Benny Zable.

Benny turns 70 in October, and after a recent accident where he fell from an unsteady tripod, he requires medical treatment. Around 150 folk gathered for a heartfelt concert honouring Benny and his work. He is regarded as an elder of the international activist community.

There was a screening of two films, Behind the Mask – Benny Zable speaks about his art produced by David Lowe, and the world premiere of Benny Zable – Imagine by Cloudcatcher Media.

The Gypsy Nomad Bellydancers danced a happy Zable into his seat of honour to watch the show, which started with a Welcome to Country by Uncle Ces Roberts. MC S Sorrensen hosted the variety show of over 20 performers, including Steady Eddy, Jo Satori, Mookx Hanley, Diana Anaid, Davey Bob and Jimmy Willing.

Performers spoke warm words directly to Zable, seated front centre row, the overwhelming sentiment being that he had inspired many with his dedicated art activism.

Benny Zable came from a family of Jewish socialist activists and cannot remember a time when he was not directly involved in some way with the conscientious objection to unethical environmental and human rights issues.

It was during the anti-Vietnam war protests of



Photo: Eve Jeffery

the early 1970s that Benny became a full-time activist. He travelled to Nimbin during this time and was at the Terania Creek protests. After Terania, he and a small band of activists travelled to the mid-north coast of NSW to protest against deforestation. There were only a few protestors, many police, no cameras, no media.

Benny was arrested and not permitted to return to the scene of the protest, but that night he crept in unseen to the scar left that day in the otherwise pristine forest habitat. He sat and meditated all night on the devastation around him – seeking a way he could have more impact, go unseen and make a greater statement. He says that night he had a "personal awakening". This was the night that Benny donned the mask.

It started as a simple cardboard skull mask. It hid his identity as well as bringing a fresh dramatic approach to protesting that engaged his artistic streak.

By the 1980s, Benny's gas-masked character 'Greed Dozer' had fully emerged. It is Greed Dozer who has appeared in media all over the world since the 1980s when Benny first started his international activism – all from his home base of

Nimbin.

A true art activist to the core, Benny developed a range of flag motifs and a distinctive style of banner writing, which have been used in campaigns all over the world and continue to be widely used.

Benny has won awards for his efforts to protect the earth, and is an official Ambassador for Peace for the Universal Peace Federation. He has been a champion of Indigenous Australians, and holds a deep respect and love for the Aboriginal people of

Australia.

Benny said, "Nimbin is one of the most progressive places in the world. It's controversial and a front-runner for issues relating to caring for one another, healing the earth and the freedom to express. It always was and always will be Aboriginal land."

\$2,272 was raised to help Benny with his treatment. A delighted and moved Zable described the night as "just magic".

"Thanks to Nick and David for putting this together, and to the people of Nimbin for their generosity," Benny said. "I'll be back!"

Benny Zable heads to New York at the end of the month for further activism at Ecofest. He is then moving to Canberra to begin the development of an arts and sciences museum.

Local people will miss him dearly.

Don't forget Nepal

by Helen Simpson,
Nepal Relief Fund

I will be heading to Nepal at the end of August to assist in recovery with teams from Dulikhel hospital, Kathmandu.

Dulikhel hospital is an independent not-for-profit university hospital, servicing a population of 1.9 million people. The hospital is guided by the principles of social equity and sustainability and delivers compassionate healthcare.

We will be going to an outreach centre at Kirentar, region central Nepal.

The relief effort is seeking volunteers, who don't need to

be medical – there's plenty to do – but need to have passport, fare and minimal accommodation costs. If anyone is interested in coming over, please contact me on 02 6689-1417 for more info.

Anyone wanting to donate to the Nepal Relief Fund, supported by Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services, can deposit into Summerland Credit Union Acc No.22305642 BSB 728-728.

Funds will be going towards medical supplies, equipment and basic shelter and food requirements. I will be ensuring the funds are distributed appropriately.

Open Day a resounding success

The Djanbung Gardens 11th annual Open Day attracted over 150 visitors from throughout the Northern Rivers and as far afield as Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Brisbane and the Gold Coast, despite the weather.

Visitors enjoyed the diverse program of workshops, tours and presentations given by the Diploma and Certificate IV students. Topics included caring for soil, tiny homes, fermentation, food forests, animal systems, how to render lard and the health benefits of natural fats, toe-to-tail cooking, appropriate technology, extracting Arrowroot starch and makingbamboo lanterns.

The students created interesting visual displays of their design work, garden crafts, tropical tubers and conserves made through the garden-to-table Growing Abundance classes.

The open day donations raise funds for PCA (Permaculture College Australia) to purchase training and student resources. Several years ago the open day generated the funds to



Tour of the integrated animal systems generated a lot of interest.

purchase a professional microscope for identifying beneficial organisms in our soil, compost and compost teas. This year's proceeds will go towards a special camera to use with the microscope to

take photos and also project images on the screen.

The PCA students and staff at Djanbung Gardens thank everyone for their support.

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Blue Knob pumpkin festival approaches

Blue Knob Farmers Market will be hosting the fourth annual Pumpkin Festival on Saturday 18th July.

Daytime activities include pumpkin carving and choko races for the kids, new this year is a pumpkin cooking competition with three categories (savory bake, sweet bake and pumpkin soup), and a cake to celebrate the fifth birthday of the market.

Cutting of the cake and the drawing of a winter garden makeover raffle (proceeds of raffle to benefit running of the market) will be at 11am.

The evening will be our Bush Dance and dinner fundraiser for upkeep of the Blue Knob Hall Gallery (for those who do not know, the latest project is a ceramics studio, well underway). Dinner will be served at 5.30pm, with the Bush Dance commencing at 7pm.

The band is the Reunion Scratch Band, a composite of musicians, many of who played at the Blue Knob bush dances in days of yore, so if you remember those days, or are sorry that you missed them, take this chance to experience the magic. Traditional bush dances will be called, so come and join the fun. Prices for dinner and dance are twenty dollars individual, thirty dollars for a couple, and forty dollars for a family. Tickets are available at the Blue Knob Farmers Market, or at the Blue Knob Hall Gallery.

Dinner is primarily provided by our local community, who love food and love to share it. If you wish to be amidst this group of generous angels, bring along some food you love, ideally co-ordinating with the market – check in at the Backyarders Table, or e-mail Eric at: upsidedownliving@hotmail.com

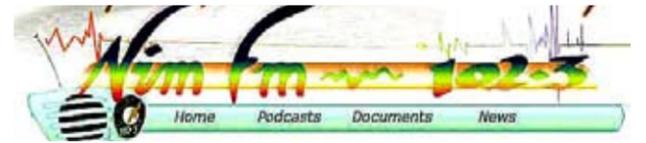


Pum Kin Dress by Polly Stirling
Photo Geoff Stirling

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MediCan workshop hears remarkable claims

Nimbin's HEMP Embassy hosted another of its popular Medical Cannabis Workshops on 20th June.

The special guest speaker this time was Paul Lawrence (pictured), who survived an astounding 43-hour surgery in 2010 and endured a mega dose of radiation in 2013 to treat his recurrent Chordoma.

After exhausting all avenues modern medicine had to offer, he has transformed his health and stopped all pharmaceutical medications by turning to medical



Cannabis, diet and a healthier lifestyle.

The Workshop also heard about a group of people who went to China for chemo



treatment and two of the group responded quite differently to the treatment.

In fact, they responded so positively that the Chinese

doctors were very excited and said they will be doing their own trials now, using medical cannabis combined with chemo.

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Rail trail stopped in its tracks



by Basil Cameron
TOOT President

The NSW government has announced that the expressions of interest (EOI) process for a rail trail on the Casino-Murwillumbah line will not proceed to stage two.

A media release from the NSW Minister for Regional Development, John Barilaro cites "differing views as to the best model and a range of views and options for investment" as the reason for cancelling the EOI process.

It is apparent that many of the expressions of interest received were track-based, and thus inconsistent with the rail trail proposal to rip up the tracks, which also lacked a viable business plan.

Trains On Our Tracks (TOOT)

President, Basil Cameron described the decision as "a win for the Northern Rivers community."

Mr Cameron said, "The Minister's words make it clear that the rail trail proposal failed to gain sufficient community support. In the face of a well-funded and slick marketing campaign, the community has remained firmly in favour of using our tracks for trains."

"The rapid growth in the regional north-south and east-west transport corridors demands rail solutions that are less expensive and safer than a super-sized roads-only solution."



TOOT's lantern in the Lismore Lantern Parade

"Rail is a far better investment in tourism infrastructure that will deliver economic benefits and public transport across the region, as well as ease traffic congestion in coastal towns like Byron Bay."

"TOOT has always supported a dual-use corridor, and looks forward to community rail groups being included in discussions to bring this about in the near future."

Gasfield-free movement seeks donors

by Annie Kia

During June, I flew over the coal seam gasfields in south-western Queensland. I expected it to be bad, but the full scale of the industry shocked me.

From horizon to horizon, and as far as the eye could see, there were coal seam gas wells, roads, pipelines, power lines, waste water holding ponds and gas compressor stations. To see so many of our rural areas being transformed into full industrial zones was nothing short of devastating.

Is it any wonder that communities all around the country are looking at this industry and choosing to declare themselves gasfield free?

Just last week Adelaide River became the first community in the Northern Territory to go gasfield free, and the previous week, Irwin became the sixth community in Western Australia.

That takes the tally of communities who have banded together and stood up against this dangerous industry to a total of 354 nation-wide.

From South Australia, to Queensland, Victoria and back to NSW, that's over 354 communities where locals have knocked on every door and residents have voted resoundingly to protect land and water.

But local communities can't do it alone, and it is only possible with your generous support.



The starkest warning about what lies ahead if we don't act comes from the US, where there are now more than 1 million active coal and gas wells. That's right, a staggering 1 million wells.

A recent *Rolling Stone* article: 'What's Killing the Babies of Vernal, Utah?' (June 22nd, 2015) summarised the appalling facts about air pollution caused by fracking in the small rural township of Vernal, Utah.

It described dangerous smog that usually only occurs in the largest, most polluted cities: "Ozone readings that rivalled the worst days of summer in New York, Los Angeles or Salt Lake City; particulate matter as bad as Mexico City; and ground air

fraught with carcinogenic gases like benzene..."

And the big take-home message: "The impacts of this pollution are regional, not just local." So, the emerging health impacts are affecting people who are miles from fracking sites.

The range of health impacts being reported from gas drilling in the US is still growing. Particularly disturbing is new research showing that mothers living near fracking sites are more likely to have underweight babies than those who live further away (*Stacy et al 2015*).

But it is early days for gas drilling in Australia, and your actions can prevent it from becoming a runaway juggernaut like it has in

the US. You are an integral part of an extraordinary movement that is spreading across the country.

If your vision of Australia is about healthy communities and productive landscapes, please consider making a small monthly donation to help protect our country. Despite attacks by the mining industry, donations to Lock the Gate are still tax deductible.

By becoming a regular monthly donor, you are backing local communities, spreading the word, and exposing the risks of this unsafe industry. You are the only force that can prevent the dangerous industrialisation of our most precious landscapes.

www.lockthegate.org.au

WTF? A deluxe print shop for Nimbin



WTF Print Shop has hung its shingle on the front fence of the Green Bank.

Peter Barrett, formerly of Blue Knob Printing, has joined forces with the new owner of the Green Bank building, Ross Pentreath. Together, they moved the business out of the hills and into the heart of Nimbin town.

By using the quirky acronym, WTF, people have assumed an incorrect translation. Peter is quick to point out it stands for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, because that is when the business is open.

"Nimbin has been extremely welcoming and we've had a lot of work come through the door, and we want to see everyone come in," Peter said.

"We can do almost anything. We can print t-shirts, we can print onto glass or wood, and we don't judge what people

want to print."

WTF printing services span the broad spectrum of banners, booklets, car signage, stickers, badges and booklets. Core flute (placard) printing is a popular item. One-way rear vision stickers or self-adhesive bumper stickers in multiple weights can be achieved in quick turn-around times.

Ross Pentreath's specialty is compressed digital landscapes printed onto canvas. Under the name of Mushroom Landscapes, Ross's artistry can be found at both the Nimbin Gallery and WTF. Ross is also the man for canvas over frame stretching.

Artists and home designers can take their graphics to WTF. All print ideas can be explored. If you don't have a design, WTF can generate one for you. Cotton canvas, polyester and vinyl are

the print materials, and any size prints can be accommodated.

WTF uses eco-solvent cartridges that are UV proof, waterproof and eco friendly. The high definition printer uses ultra-chrome ink.

Lamination is another service – most sizes can be sealed on the spot – and the 1-hour photographic printing is a hot service.

WTF offers monthly specials: the July special is a freestanding two-metre pull up banner for only \$180, and business cards will be \$25 for 250.

Instead of driving out of town, call in to see these two print-passioned gentlemen at the WTF Print Shop.

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Enrol now for Nimbin Open Learning classes



The Nimbin Open Learning Centre will soon be taking enrolments for third term. This is a great opportunity to learn something new, to brush up on stuff you're already into or to teach a useful skill you'd like to share.

It is a community-based education group auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-Op. The aim is to offer a programme of interesting and useful classes and workshops at low fees. The Learning Centre is especially seeking tutors with ideas for

Left: Writing class with Pam, Michelle and Graham Right: Carole teaching an art class.

classes. Some of the previous classes included home plumbing, cosmology, art, ukulele, dance, myth and folklore, sewing, Aboriginal studies, creative writing, Tai Chi, Chi Gong and Spanish. What special skill-sharing trip can you conjure up that people would like to participate in?

The call is out for tutors with gifts to impart and students who want to expand their horizons or just have some

fun. All enquiries welcome.

The NOLC operates out of the Nimbin Community Centre classroom and dance studio at 7/81 Cullen St. Phone: 6689-1477.

Third term begins on 22nd and 23rd July, running for eight weeks. Enrolments are open on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th July, from 10am to 3pm, at the Community Centre classroom.

Rathyatra fun for all

The festival of Rathyatra will be celebrated in July at the Hare Krishna farm at Eungella. It's a festival full of fun, color, singing, dancing and feasting.

Rathyatra is when the Lord of the Universe, Jagannath comes out on the streets and is pulled on a colourful decorated chariot along with his brother Balaram and sister Subhadra. The English word 'juggernaut' originates from the word Jagannath.

The festival is thousands of years old and originated in Puri, India. It is now celebrated all around the world by singing, dancing and feasting as well as having great fun pulling the chariot.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this festival, at the New Govardhana farm, 525 Tyalgum Road, Eungella on Sunday 19th July, starting at 10am with the parade, followed



by a free vegetarian feast, market stalls, Indian dance and children's activities until 4.30pm.

Please contact Kisori Dasi for more info at: kisori_dasi@yahoo.com



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Letters

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline. 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.

Treachery

Over two thousand years ago a fellow named Judas let his best mate down for a few shekels. Well, by George, a modern day Judas is amongst us today and history has repeated itself.

This Judas told us that he had 'seen the light' a week before the election and was now against gas mining on the Northern Rivers. The cynical amongst us might say this sudden turnaround was because well over 90% of his electorate refuses to have the area turned into a toxic gas field. He should remember that the other Judas is reviled to this day for his treachery.

This change of heart and the inclusion of Tenterfield into his electorate just got him over the line by an extremely slim majority. At the National Party State Conference, a few days ago, his memory and integrity had suffered a relapse, and he circumvented a motion by Chris Gulaptis to have the Northern Rivers declared Gas Field Free. This motion was supported by the deputy premier, however Judas jumped up and said: "This has already been debated and can't be debated again." The motion then lapsed without further discussion.

The first Judas caused the death of his best friend by his greed and treachery. Quite a few shekels are traded in parliament for souls these days. I wonder what the going rate is. This Judas, if he gets his way, will cause great harm to our health, our livelihoods, our way of life, our environment that we love, our very reason for living here.

A gasfield cannot exist safely and harmoniously in this area. Our properties are small and a very low number of wells can be drilled on each property and so the income is very low but the impact on that property and adjoining properties is very high. A gasfield means pipelines to each well and from there to a compression station and onward to

The gutter press, literally

Walking home after dropping my car at the mechanics this morning, I was absolutely appalled at the amount of rubbish laying on people's lawns and driveways and clogging drains across East Lismore.

Closer inspection revealed it to be *The Northern Rivers Echo* strewn about.

Whoever is in charge of distribution needs to be told this is an absolute disgrace, and an environmental disaster.

If you can't put it in my letterbox then *I don't want it*. Lismore City Council should prosecute for corporate littering.

When I rang Council, I was told to take it up with APN myself. So I have.

Andy Gough
Lismore



Ballina or Evans Head or somewhere else for export to China.

Our lives have been given to acquire and develop where we live and for this to be nullified for the benefit of a few fat cats is just not on around here. Judas will be hated and reviled for many lifetimes to come. The damage to his party will reach far beyond his electorate. He will go out of office having destroyed a safe blue ribbon seat during his tenure – not a legacy to be proud of.

Don Durrant
Afterlee

Immigration

There's lots of discussion at the moment about the high cost of housing in Sydney, but no-one seems to mention that it's caused by the hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants that the Federal government brings in every year.

Lots of them are from Muslim countries and they come to Sydney and move in with their own people, which is understandable. However the government doesn't provide housing for them, so of course demand for housing rises, which pushes up the price. Both major political parties say it's good for the economy but it's not good for ordinary people who can't afford to buy their own home.

Now our Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, is suggesting that these people he is bringing in could be terrorists, so then people start feeling scared of Muslim immigrants. Muslim people start feeling persecuted and discriminated against, which encourages those with

mental health problems to think they have to protect themselves against persecution.

The government seems to believe they can get votes by creating fear about the very people they are bringing in. We need to demand the government cuts the number of legal immigrants to stop the rise in housing costs and to also stop inciting fear and the potential for violence. If the government refuses to listen, we need to vote them out. This may be the only way to make them listen.

Beth Shelley
Boorie Creek

Finding monsters

Debunking stoooge? Demonic Goddess? I'm flattered, but Mark Rengel (NGT Letters, June 15) has a vivid imagination and leaps to wild conclusions. I am definitely not a 'shill'. (Though would love to be paid for what I do.) Why could I not just be a person concerned at the level of anxiety in the community and wanting to address this issue to allay some of the fears?

Someone needs to offer rational information and explanation to provide balance to the argument. "Encoded message"? Mr Rengel definitely

seesmonsters where there are none.

The 'nameless' people are certainly real. They are my friends. They are nameless to protect their privacy and avoid embarrassment. Mr Rengel implies that these comments were made up. Is he calling me a liar? He then dismisses my replies as being "unscientific and factually bogus". Simple way to try to discredit someone: just call them a liar. And a shill!

Yes, Youtube videos were examined. Everyone posts their videos on Youtube and it's where I was directed by various people who expressed concerns to me about chemtrails. In the spirit of the 'pursuit of truth' I started my investigation by personally watching a number of these videos and not just relying on what someone told me.

So far I have yet to find anything that resembles proof, even on the geo-engineeringwatch.org website, which contains inaccurate science and some very dubious material. This includes the grainy night-time video of what could be anything from a dust storm to a heavy fog whirling around, while the commentary says it's the 'chemtrail' which has now come down to ground level.

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 29th July

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



David McInnes-King 1945 – 2015

David McInnes-King believed in building community and he contributed 40 years to this work in the Northern Rivers.

He and his lifelong partner Deanne were posted here as high school teachers in 1973.

Together they established an intentional community which is thriving today on the Mackellar Range.

David was an active member

of the Landcare movement and spent a lot of time wrestling weeds and restoring local rainforest. He seemed most happy with his work boots on, digging the garden.

David was an enthusiastic member of the Northern Rivers Greens and he livened up the hustings wearing a kilt. David contributed to community by being positive, cheerful and always turning up to meetings.

It is this persistent and regular commitment that helped the Greens increase their vote and

win elections.

David was very attached to his men's group. David wrote and published a beautiful book about tree dinosaurs, and it was his achieved ambition to visit every *araucaria* on the planet.

David wrote many pithy poems, including this one:

*Like an araucaria, I am tall, slow
growing, prickly, solar powered,
erosion controlling and patient.*

David McInnes-King was buried on top of the mountain at

Mackellar Ranges on 24th June.

Over 100 people laughed and cried, told stories and sang songs, it was beautiful.

Thank you David for the huge contribution you have made, and for the big warm hugs.

– Cr Vanessa Ekins

*My heart is too big for the rib cage
My mind is too big for the skull
My spirit is too big for the body
No wonder I have aches and pains*

• See also Simon Clough's tribute on Page 9.

So something that occurred at 30,000ft, disperses out and covers the sky during the day, has now descended and is still at high enough density to be filmed? No information about when and where it was filmed. Were air samples collected? This video is not evidence of anything.

Noteworthy of mention is that many of the Youtube videos are monetised – ie. the people who put them on the internet make money from ads every time someone watches.

Perhaps Mr Rengel could have quoted a reference for even one of the "50 + research papers" he refers to. But I am confused. First he claims "alumina particulates are being dumped into the atmosphere".

Then he states these papers raise concerns about heavy metals poisoning of the soil. Aluminium is a light metal, not a heavy metal. It is also the third most common element on the planet and comprises 8% of its solid surface. We should expect to see high levels of Al in the soil and even in water. Acid soils naturally have high levels of Al.



What a NIGHTMARE... They've finally taken over, I've been trying to warn people for years, but no one would listen...

Concentrations can also rise after long-term phosphate fertiliser use. Aluminium sulphate is used to ameliorate alkaline soils. It's already everywhere in high concentrations.

Mr Rengel quotes me as putting people in "conspiracy-nutter basket" and dismissing them as "conspiracy-mind-control-nutters". Those are your words Mr Rengel, not mine.

I am not denying many illnesses and adverse health conditions abound in the community, and the environment has been badly damaged. People are frightened and looking for something to blame. But you are more likely to get sick from the toxic substances in your home, or air pollution from industry and traffic, than something sprayed 12km up at the top of the

troposphere.

Air fresheners, mould and mildew cleaners can contain formaldehyde, carpet and upholstery shampoo can contain perchlorethylene. These chemicals are both carcinogens. Furniture polish contains petroleum distillates, phenol and nitrobenzene: all highly toxic. The list goes on.

Namaste.

Naamah Lamech

Remembering Lois

by Bob Hopkins

17 years ago on July 31, 1998, Lois Roberts, a 38-year old woman from Lismore was last seen, publicly, hitch-hiking opposite the Nimbin Police Station, returning home after visiting friends in Nimbin. She was a true child of the area, her ancestral association with the land extending back for thousands of years.

She was not seen alive again other than by whoever it was who picked her up that night. Her body was found in Whian Whian State Forest in January 1999. She had been tortured before being murdered.

There's a sense of abject horror for me that surrounds the death of Lois. She was one of the most openly friendly, sparkling and charmingly effervescent people I can recall from my years in Nimbin. She was a regular visitor to town, as the loved the openness and laid-back atmosphere here.

She was also one of the most trusting of souls, maybe innocent to the point of naivety, who knows, but that was the way of Nimbin then: she was loved and accepted for the person she was. Bright, bubbly, funny, intelligent.

The recent television story of Ivan Milat reawakened the memory of this tragic story for me. I was reminded that the judge who presided over Milat's case, in his closing comments, noted that all evidence suggested that Milat did not operate alone. All the hallmarks of that nightmare were present in Lois' case. It sickens me to think that such a person is still out there.

In no way do I point the finger at Nimbin. Just the fickleness of fate that put her there on the roadside with a murderer heading in her direction. As well as this instance there have been many such disappearances without trace of young women in similar circumstances both before and since then. May all love surround...



I would dearly love to see justice done for Lois and for her family. And for future generations of women to be secure against such barbarism. Someone knows.

Whatever the case, I cannot forget her. She used to light up my life. The darkness is unbearable.

Notices

MardiGrass debrief

Council staff, police and MOB and A&I reps will be meeting at Birth and Beyond in Nimbin on Wednesday 15th July. There will be an opportunity between 2 and 3pm for community members to provide feedback on this year's MardiGrass. The group is interested in input on what worked well and what could be improved for next year. Please come along and share your thoughts.

Kyogle Group Against Gas fundraiser

Trivia Night, Saturday 11th July, 6.30 for 7pm start, Kyogle Memorial Hall Supper Room (enter via back lane). 6-10 people per table, \$10 per person. Lucky door prizes, raffle, coin toss, table winner prize. Bring a plate of nibbles to share with your table – coffee, tea and cake available. Phone Dean to book a table on 0423-753-748.

Beginners Tai Chi

Yang style (long form). Classes will be held at Community Centre, Mondays 4pm, starting mid-late July (date to be confirmed). To register interest or for further enquiries, phone Mel on 0431-958-443.

Sound bath sessions

Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm upstairs at Nurture, 115 Keen Street, Lismore. Come and unwind with a relaxing Sound Bath, all you have to do is relax and let the sounds of chimes, bells, singing bowls and rainstick wash over you, taking you on your own journey, leaving you regenerated and balanced. Group sessions \$10.

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 Dove Centre, Keen Street, Lismore. Contact 0423-337-872.

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From the director of *The Sapphires*
& writer of *Bran Nue Dae*



by Cr Jenny Dowell

From the mayor's desk



concerning an individual, privileged legal information, or commercial in-confidence. At the June meeting we considered two matters that fell into two of these categories.

Unlawful development

In the confidential section of the June Council meeting, Council considered a report on an unlawful development in Nimbin. While I cannot disclose the nature of the breaches or the location, Council resolved to instruct solicitors to prepare documentation and obtain the necessary orders to remedy the breaches. Once the documents have been compiled and before commencing proceedings in the Land and Environment Court, Councillors will be updated.

GM contract

Also in the confidential section, Council considered a report on the General Manager's contract. Gary Murphy's current five year contract was due to expire in August 2016, one month before the Council elections. To take the contract out of that cycle, Council resolved to offer the GM a three year contract from August 1 this year. That means the new Council will have some time before it needs to consider a possible new appointment in December 2017, nine months before Mr Murphy's contract expires.

TAC meeting

At the June Council meeting, Council endorsed the recommendation from

the May Traffic Advisory Committee that a reduction in speed and the installation of a noise barrier on Blue Knob Road was not warranted, but that a guard rail will be installed on the bend at 162 Blue Knob Road.

The Council also endorsed the TAC's recommendation that some improvements are to be made at the main Cullen St pedestrian crossing. These works will include vegetation thinning, repainting the crossing, and a new 'LOOK' sign for motorists. A painted zig zag line on the road was not considered warranted because vehicle speeds are generally low.

In other road news, earthworks are continuing on Tuntable Creek Road at the site of a landslide and there are various sign upgrades and line markings underway on Nimbin Road and Blue Knob Road.

June Extraordinary meeting no.1

At an Extraordinary meeting in mid-June, Council typically considers its Budget for the coming financial year. So on June 16, Council met to adopt its Imagine Lismore One Year Plan and the Rates and Annual Charges that help fund the projects and routine programs for the year ahead. Council's total budget is approximately \$134 million with a net operating result for the year of \$7 million and the net result before capital grants and contributions of \$120,300. These surpluses are the pleasing results of tough decisions made in the past year and set Lismore

City Council further on the path to being Fit for the Future as required by the State Government.

In addition, Council considered two other reports. One was on the application for Round Two of the National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF). We considered and agreed to lodge applications for funding for a new Regional Art Gallery and for an upgrade of the South Lismore Sewerage Treatment Plant. Since our unsuccessful Round One application, Council has shortlisted several architects who developed designs for a new gallery. At the June 16 meeting Council resolved not to accept any tenders but to enter into negotiations with Dominic Finlay Jones Architects to further clarify the scope of works and enter into a contract conditional on a successful NSRF grant.

June Extraordinary meeting no.2

Our second Extraordinary meeting was held on June 23 to endorse Council's submission to Fit for the Future, the State Government's reform agenda for Local Government. As readers might know, Kyogle was recommended for merger with either Lismore City Council or Richmond Valley Council. None of the three parties wants to amalgamate so each will submit its own criteria under the most appropriate template. Our Council believes we have the scale and capacity to be a stand-alone

Council and can demonstrate how we currently meet or are working towards meeting the criteria for financial sustainability by 2023.

Community grants

Each of the Councillors has made their selection from the applications for the \$121,600 available. The results of our combined votes will be reported to the July meeting. Nimbin organisations that applied for funding were the Neighbourhood Centre (for 7 Sibley St Stage 1), the Community Centre (Imagine Nimbin Youth project) and the School of Arts (Youth Film Festival)

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

What a wonderful celebration of the new garden on Thursday 18 June! The raised beds, new seat, beautiful inlaid cement work make a wonderful garden for greens and tea herbs. The garden was funded by a grant last year and much volunteer design work, materials and labour were provided by Sam and Robyn from Djangbung Gardens, Adrian and of course by Jenny and her team. The colourful garden party to celebrate the new features was just delightful.

June ordinary meeting

Ensuring fire safety in buildings is an important regulatory function of Council as people in Nimbin are aware. Recently staff have reviewed our policy and identified inefficiencies, complex fee structures and alternatives to improve our processes. The new process endorsed by Council will eliminate multiple reminder letters to building owners and will facilitate new shop-top housing in Lismore.

Council has also committed to prepare a procedure to manage fire safety in existing buildings in Nimbin by the end of 2016.

Confidential items

From time to time Council considers a few matters in confidential session at the end of an ordinary meeting. The grounds for closing a meeting are that the item relates to ratepayer hardship, personnel matters

Unfair Abbott budget hurts local families

Tony Abbott and the Liberal National Government continue to hurt locals with their cruel budget measures. We've already seen so many cuts to health, education, community and youth services and these latest cuts to family support programs will be devastating.

Results from the recent National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) research found a raft of unfair and cruel cuts hidden in Tony Abbott's latest budget.

Families across the North Coast will see a huge portion of their disposable incomes slashed due to yet another unfair budget handed down by the Abbott Liberal National Government.

The budget unfairly targets local families, as Tony Abbott's Liberal National Government continues to strip billions from family support payments, education, child dental and other community health programs.

Here are some examples that will hurt local families:

- A couple on a single income of \$65,000 with two children one in primary and one in high school would see cuts to their income of \$3734 in the 2015-16



by Justine Elliot, MP for Richmond

financial year continuing to rise over the next four years to \$6164 in the 2018-19 financial year. This represents a total loss over four years of \$20,825;

- A sole parent with an income of \$55,000 with two children in primary and one in high school would see cuts to their income of \$3714 in the 2015-16 financial year continuing to rise over the next four years to \$6107 in the 2018-19 financial year. This represents a total loss over four years of \$20,647;
- A couple on a dual income of \$60,000 with two children both at high school would have their income

cut by \$825 in the 2015-16 financial year continuing to rise over the next four years to \$3843 in the 2018-19 financial year. This represents a total loss over four years of \$10,603;

- A couple on a single income of \$75,000 with two children one in primary and the other not at school yet would be cut by \$670 in the 2015-16 financial year and continue to rise over the next four years to \$2014 in the 2018-19 financial year. This represents a total loss over four years of \$6,049.

Tony Abbott's Liberal National government's budget fails the fairness test, and it will hurt locals on the North Coast. This Budget has more tax, more debt and higher unemployment.

The fundamental unfairness of last year's Budget disaster remains. At the core of this Budget are the same cuts: \$80 billion cut from hospitals and schools; \$100,000 university degrees; and cuts to family payments.

The Liberal National government have lied and broken so many of their election commitments and their dishonesty and incompetence continue to hurt local families.

Costly rocks

At an extraordinary meeting in mid June, Council voted 5/4 to proceed with building a rock wall along Belongil Beach outside of an adopted Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) and against the advice of key coastal experts. The proposal has proved to be highly divisive and an unnecessary diversion of \$1 million that could have been better spent on repairing roads. Meanwhile work continues on finalising the CZMP so that the community is able to consider the costs and benefits of all options for future coastline management. Future costs may include removal of this new wall if the community decides that the long-term social, economic and environmental costs of protection are too prohibitive.

Sustainable markets

Council's long awaited draft markets policy is currently on public exhibition. The policy is the result of ongoing community consultation and a long negotiation with NSW Crown Lands as the owner of many Council controlled reserves where markets are held. Council has consistently backed the community preference for markets to be operated for the direct financial support of non profit services, facilities and festivals. Over more than six years a succession of draft policies that sought to enshrine this principle were rejected by Crown Lands



Byron Views by Cr Basil Cameron

as being out of step with National Competition Policy. The impasse has been broken by ensuring that an open selection process can operate based on criteria and fees set by Council. The draft is a credit to the market operators, stall-holders and community representatives who have worked with Councillors and staff to develop a policy that protects community aspirations and ensures fair value for the State government.

Rail trail off track

Another big win for the community is the decision by the NSW Government not to proceed with the rail trail. Insufficient community support and lack of a viable business plan appear key reasons why the proposal failed to get the nod. The fact that many competing proposals were based on retaining the tracks no doubt worked against the trail without rails. In another snub to long neglected public transport needs, the government has decided to

reallocate the \$50 million to regional airports.

Public transport, tourism

To date, public transport and tourism management have not been considered as complimentary objectives of a transport system. The rail trail funding process excluded public transport proposals for the line, while the discredited rail study undertaken by the current government used only resident data, thus excluding over 4.7 million tourists from its viability calculations.

Yet the potential for win-win solutions based around rail are obvious. Just last week, high school students at a Byron Bay Masterplan workshop again repeated a request for a light rail 'tram' so that young people and others can move safely around the Shire. At the same time, there are tremendous opportunities to develop hybrid public transport and tourist visitor services with key festival sites and most of the larger market sites connected by rail.

While some private investment is already occurring in projects such as the Byron rail shuttle, the long-term value of the line is as a regional public transport backbone connecting local bus services through to Queensland. With the sale of the state's 'poles and wires' now going ahead, it is time for the NSW government to take a fresh look at the opportunities for meaningful investment in our rail infrastructure.

basil.cameron@cr.byron.nsw.gov.au

Simon says...

I was shocked at Council's Extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 23rd June when the gang of five (Councillors Marks, Bennett, Scheibel, Battista and Meineke) all voted in favour of amalgamation with Kyogle Shire Council by refusing to support Council's Fit for the Future submission.

In supporting amalgamation with Kyogle, these Councillors have gone against all our discussions in Council and have ignored the pleas of Kyogle Councillors to not amalgamate. In voting for amalgamation these Councillors are agreeing to commit Lismore City Council to the massive financial burden of Kyogle's failing infrastructure.

Another primary reason to oppose amalgamation is the lack of community of interest between Kyogle and Lismore council areas. Fortunately myself and Councillors Dowell, Ekins, Smith, Ritchie and Houston were able to carry the day and clearly establish Lismore's opposition to amalgamation with Kyogle.

Trish and I attended the funeral of David King (1945 - 2015) at Mackellar Ranges. David had died one day short of his 70 birthday.

He and Deanne were some of the first people to move to the Northern Rivers to establish intentional communities and a way of living that was more in harmony with the earth. David had also made significant contributions to

Landcare and The Greens as well as writing a book on his beloved Araucaria trees.

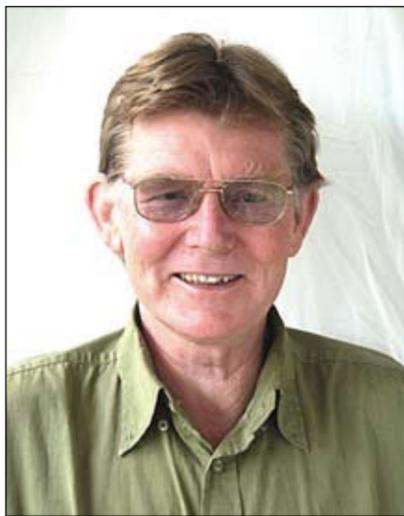
There were over a hundred people at the community's graveyard, many of whom had taken significant roles in the "new settler" movement and the wider community. This poem of David's was in the funeral program and it seems totally David:

*I'm a half hearted Buddhist
I'm a half hearted Humanist
I'm a half hearted Ecologist
I'm a half hearted Artist
I'm a half hearted Teacher
I'm a half hearted Friend
I'm a half hearted Father
I'm a half hearted Lover
I'm a half hearted Builder
I'm a half hearted Gardener
I'm a half hearted Fun Lover
But that's 5 1/2 hearts so far.*

You've left us a great legacy David, which I'm sure we'll proudly carry on.

The Federal Government under the aggressive leadership of Tony Abbott moved fearlessly even deeper into Ouija board and superstition territory by recently proposing a Windfarm Commissioner. I suspect he's acting under the guidance of his chief business advisor Maurice Newman who detests windfarms and believes climate change to be a UN plot to achieve world government!

There have been 27 reports including on by the National Health and Medical



by Cr Simon Clough,
Lismore City Council

Research Council (Australia's top medical research organisation) that have cleared wind turbines of any adverse medical impacts.

The government has removed three Commissioners in its term so far, the Commissioners for Disability, Clean Energy and Privacy. It's a clear reflection of the Abbott government's priorities to be abandoning people with disabilities, privacy concerns and bowing to the carbon corporations while upholding views that do not withstand any scientific scrutiny.

It's worth noting in NSW that while wind turbines have a two-kilometre exclusion zone from any house, unconventional gas wells can be located within 300 metres of a rural dwelling.

Contact Simon: phone 0428-886-217
email: simonclough@internode.on.net

Coal Seam Gas has no future in the Northern Rivers



by Tamara Smith,
MP for Ballina

Opposition to coal seam gas has united our community like no other issue. The neighbourhood surveys, street marches and the blockade at Bentley are a clear demonstration that every-day people are prepared to stand up to protect land, water and their communities.

The Greens response to this community movement was to take a policy to the 2015 NSW election to ban coal seam gas across the state, including in the Northern Rivers. My first action as the Greens Member for Ballina is to co-sponsor legislation in the NSW Parliament to do just that.

While the Coalition Government wound back some of the gas licences in the Ballina electorate due to community pressure, I won't ignore the surrounding areas of Lismore, Tweed and Clarence, which remain covered by licences to explore for unconventional gas. These areas grow much of our food and supply much of the clean water that our farms, households and businesses rely on.



The decision to over-turn the suspension of Metgasco's drilling licence at Bentley has only heightened the need for urgent legislative reform.

I have worked with Greens mining spokesperson Jeremy Buckingham MLC and will co-sponsor the Greens 'Prohibit Coal Seam Gas Bill' as my first action in Parliament as the Member for Ballina. If passed, the Greens legislation will ban unconventional gas licences from being issued or renewed, and ensure that existing exploration licences can be cancelled with no compensation payable to gas companies.

It will also reinstate a broad public interest test that would enable the Energy Minister respond to community pressure and cancel existing gas licences without compensation. Now is the time for politicians of all shades to back the community and support this sensible legislation.

The community didn't ask for gas exploration, and it is simply not fair that the community should have to pay compensation to companies like Metgasco who have manifestly failed to meet the community's expectations.

Regardless of the current position of the other parties, I will be seeking to work with all members of the Parliament to deliver on the community's demand and the Greens commitment for a gas field free Northern Rivers.

Experience has shown that Parliaments often fail to act without substantial community pressure and a public campaign. My ability to deliver on CSG in this Parliament is predicated on the community continuing to pressure the NSW Government to act; and my commitment is to support the community to do just that. That includes my support for a renewed community blockade at Bentley if it comes to that.

Banning coal seam gas in the Northern Rivers and across NSW is just the start. The truth is we simply don't need coal seam gas or other types of unconventional gas.

The energy future of the Northern Rivers is renewable and, as the Member for Ballina I look forward to supporting renewable energy projects that create more jobs and look after our land and water resources.

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