

From the mayor's desk

I've had three simple guiding principles for my own performance:

- I am Councillor and Mayor 24 hours a day every day.
That means being OK with the questions about bin collections when I'm at the supermarket.
- My behaviour should pass the 'newspaper front page' test. By asking myself, "Would I be OK if what I'm doing now was on the front page of the paper or on facebook?"
I maintained a personal ethic not to bring the position of Mayor into disrepute.
- When voting in Council, I ask, "What's best for the community now and for the future?" At times, the popular position is not in the best interest of the community in the longer term.
Sadly that's a lesson some Councillors fail to learn.

Whether you agree with all my decisions or not will influence how well you think I kept to those principles.

For the last time

Well, after 12½ years on Lismore City Council, including eight years as Mayor, this is my final *GoodTimes* column. I can't remember when I started this monthly column, but it was fairly early in my first term as a Councillor. I hope readers have found it useful and I also hope that the new Mayor will appreciate the opportunity to inform Nimbin readers and those from other areas about Council decisions particularly those that affect our largest and most significant village.

August Council meeting

In August, Council held three meetings. The first on 2 August considered tenders for several large projects that will proceed in the next 12 months. We approved local builders, Bennett Constructions to build our new \$5.8 million Lismore Regional Art Gallery and the adjoining green space.

We also resolved that Nimbin's Rainbow Power Company would install \$179,363 of solar photovoltaic systems on five Council buildings including a 99.9 kW system on Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre. The third tender approved was for Suntrix to install a 99.54kW floating solar PV system on a pond at East Lismore Sewerage Treatment Plant.

At our regular and final monthly meeting on 9 August, we approved an 82-lot housing development in Goonellabah and an NBN tower

on Council land in Caniaba, but other items were fairly routine Council matters. Since 13 August, Council has been in caretaker mode and although we met again on 23 August to present the End of Term report, that was merely a requirement of every NSW Council as the four-year term draws to a close. Following the meeting Councillors and the five staff with whom we work most closely sat down for a lovely last supper.

NAG

The last meeting of the current Nimbin Advisory Group was held on 11 August and you'll find a report elsewhere in this edition. Thank you to the current and past members of the NAG who have given so freely of their time, skills and knowledge to guide Council in its efforts to engage more effectively with the Nimbin community. I hope that the new Mayor continues to value the NAG.

Election

Everyone's attention is now very much on the 10 September Council election. Voting is compulsory and I urge all voters to think carefully about their choices. If you value the direction of the council over the past term, please do not jeopardise that by an indiscriminate vote. For Mayor, I am endorsing Cr Isaac Smith, who has eight years as a Councillor including several years as Deputy Mayor under his belt. He's a respected Councillor who is keen to ensure

that appropriate development and growth is underpinned by sound sustainability and social justice principles. Of course it is your choice and Cr Vanessa Ekins is the other progressive candidate, but be aware that there are a couple of candidates who would be extremely alarming as Mayor and who would significantly change the direction of Council. Please vote very carefully.

Final engagements

In the coming two weeks, my own role as Mayor continues. I exercise my role but without signing major contracts or undertaking any significant decisions. My community events include farewells, AGMs, art exhibitions, community meetings and functions, a final Citizenship ceremony and a Mayors' bake-off at Sample food festival. The variety reflects the wonderful nature of this role that I've loved.

Reflections

It's usual for someone stepping down from public life to leave others to judge one's legacy. I too will leave it to the community to judge mine. Some will be generous, others scathing – that's politics.

What I will do, is talk about what I aimed to do as Mayor.

I said from the start that things are less important to me than people. That remains my guiding principle. I believe that if you care about people, then care for the environment, the economy and the ethics of good government



by Cr Jenny Dowell
Lismore City Council

will follow. My initial opposition to CSG was because I was deeply concerned about the social division in the community and between neighbours that this industry could cause.

The things that council has achieved while I have been Mayor are not mine alone to claim. I'm very proud that this and the previous council have a solid record in sustainability, waste management, community engagement, land use planning, CBD revitalisation, support for business and setting a strong framework for our financial future. I'm also proud that council took a strong stance and led the way to the region becoming a no-go zone for unconventional gas. All these decisions are the results of a progressive council and have been achieved despite the negativity of a couple of councillors who would rather have a much more narrow focus.

In mentioning my fellow progressives, I pay special attention to Cr Simon Clough, a fellow columnist in this newspaper. Simon is a man of great vision and intellect. His focus on climate change and sustainability has been unwavering in the last two terms and many of the sustainability measures in the past eight years were his initiative.

In my years on council, including eight years as Mayor, I wanted to practise inclusion and engender a sense of belonging for everyone. I wanted the community to know that everyone matters, that everyone has a voice that should be heard.

Council and government in every sphere are not just for those who vote or directly pay rates, for the rich, the loud and the powerful. We are also there for the marginalised, the poor, for children, young people and the elderly, for minority groups and for those whom society often overlooks. That meant Nimbin too. For too long, Councillors of the past had held a view of, at best, benign neglect or at worst, downright disdain for Nimbin.

Thank you Nimbin for teaching me about your unique way of doing things.

It may sound strange but I'm also grateful for my experience with breast cancer. It showed me that I was stronger than I had imagined and that each day is a gift.

Where next?

So it's now time for me to become a private person. I have turned down fourteen requests to join boards or committees. After a holiday and visits to family and friends, I want to experience an unplanned day, find out what boredom feels like, continue and start some new volunteering and learn some new skills.

The next chapter of my life is as yet unwritten. Who knows what it might hold. All I do know is that I am fortunate to have had the experience of serving the community as Councillor and Mayor. Outside family, it has truly been the best experience of my life.

Best wishes to the incoming Mayor and Council.

Thank you everyone and farewell.

Simon Says – some famous last words...

While I am standing in the local government election on 10th September, it is in an "unwinnable" position (unless I'm wildly more popular than I ever dreamed!). I have greatly enjoyed eight years representing the people of Lismore, and I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from my wife Trish and many others over the years.

I believe there has been a significant change in the community's attitude to its city. Years ago people would even refer to themselves as "Lismorons". There was certainly a lack of pride in the city. I feel that has all changed and I sense people are proud of our community, its culture, its diversity, its productivity, its achievements, and even its organisations.

I put this down partly to the huge leadership contribution our Mayor Jenny Dowell has made, but also to eight years of a progressive Council, with the assistance of some

excellent Council staff. It should also be acknowledged that the region's successful fight against CSG has massively increased the region's self-confidence and its belief it can determine what happens here.

Council's attitude to Nimbin, I believe, has changed dramatically over the years. Finally there is recognition that \$1 spent in Nimbin by Council will be multiplied many times because of the work of the numerous community organisations in the village.

The current Council and its predecessor have had some major achievements. Personally I have been very pleased to have introduced the Comprehensive Plan of Koala Management and the Biodiversity Management Strategy. Before these initiatives, Council was spending less than 0.5% of its budget on the environment, hard to understand in one of the most biodiverse

regions in Australia. Some other highlights have been introducing energy efficient street lighting saving over \$200,000 pa, putting Council on the path of divestment from fossil fuels and helping stop Transgrid's attempt to cost consumers \$275 million in unnecessary infrastructure.

My contribution to Council's role in stopping the invasion of industrialised unconventional gasfields was very important to me.

To continue a progressive majority in Council I believe is critical. Our Sustainable Future, which is a local government focused party that I am a part of, is fielding a great team lead by Elly Bird who many of you will know from her inspiring efforts at Glenugie, Doubtful Creek and Bentley. Elly is completely committed to the Lismore community and I'm convinced will be an excellent Councillor.

Guy Stewart is our number two, and if elected would be a

great voice for Nimbin. Guy is a very impressive young man who chairs the board of the Rainbow Power Company, and is involved in just about every sustainability initiative in Nimbin. In his spare time, Guy teaches Permaculture.

To maintain the progressive Council, I'm recommending a vote for Our Sustainable Future, the Greens and Country Labor with a vote for Isaac Smith for mayor.

I can't resist nominating a few directions I believe Council should pursue. Firstly I would like to see a project to engage the whole of Lismore to become reliant on renewable energy. Second, partnering with local organisations to develop low cost housing for homeless people, and finally a fantastic Lismore Park connecting Lismore Square and the CBD and providing a regional scale recreational facility complete with water park, children's playground, walking and cycling tracks and of course

picnicking facilities.

Council is also taking a strong position regarding developments which will provide more employment and economic diversity for the city. These developments include:

- \$11.5 million Masters Home Improvement Store – complete;
- \$38 million redevelopment of Southern Cross University library – complete;
- \$9.27 million Lismore Base Hospital multi-storey carpark – complete;
- \$260 million Stage 3A redevelopment of Lismore Base Hospital – under construction;
- \$10 million Bennetts office development – under construction;
- \$1.87 million upgrade of Lismore Regional Airport and general aviation facilities – underway;
- \$5.8 million art gallery upgrade and Lismore Quadrangle project – tenders called;



Simon Says
Cr Simon Clough,
Lismore City Council

\$15 million Lismore Home & Leisure Centre superstore – DA to be lodged by December 2016; and \$13 million Quest apartment complex – progress to sale of land.

In addition, there are numerous land developments which will be offering a wide range of housing options to the community.

I'm looking forward to doing a lot more work for Lock the Gate on moving the economy beyond fossil fuels.

Vote in a Guy from Nimbin

by Guy Stewart

The Lismore City Council elections are on Saturday 10th September, and I am proud to be sharing the Our Sustainable Future ticket with Elly Bird. I love Nimbin, and we'd both love to see the expression and innovation we take for granted here extend into the Lismore City Council area. Nimbin dreams big, and we need regional collaboration to address the bigger issues.

We need to encourage low-impact living in human-scale villages that are robust and resilient. Food production, social and community engagement, affordable housing, volunteerism and compassionate support for each other are exactly what we need to see recognised and supported. History has shown our region to be a leading innovator in these areas.

Innovative solutions to problems and working together despite our differences are forged in the community of places like Nimbin. Sharing what we have, and working together on the necessities of life, are all on display every single day in Nimbin. Nimbin has carried forward the ideals, and applies them to the reality and essentials of living.

We should be amazingly proud of what we have and what we've achieved and preserved. The next step for me is to share and represent this at the local government level. When Nimbin receives the respect it deserves at the local government level, it will allow for our successes to be shared further, appropriate autonomy to be argued for and the best and brightest ideas championed.



People in Nimbin and surrounds have made a conscious choice to balance the economic opportunity of this area with the lifestyle it offers. I want to see this living balance of environment, community and economy adopted and expanded beyond our beautiful village.

I was at a Nimbin Environment Centre meeting recently, and the issues of roadside spraying for weeds, fluoride and public transport were raised. Other imminent issues include rebuilding the fire sites, town parking and traffic, Cullen Street works, the Nimbin pool, the recycling centre and many more.

Nimbin needs a voice on council that works and lives in this community if we want a say on these matters. Council by

its nature is a planner. Its function is to co-ordinate and support its employees and communities to apply appropriate solutions to issues. If elected, I can get these issues on the agenda, and make sure that the community is consulted.

I promise I will continue to speak up for Nimbin. I will listen to the community and I will do my best working with community organisers, standing up for the issues that are important to us.

For a strong Nimbin voice on council, please tell your friends to follow Our Sustainable Future How-to-Vote cards that will be handed out at the Nimbin Central School Booth on 10th September. Vote 1 for Guy Stewart and Our Sustainable Future.

On the same Page

Road funding

Last week, I announced Lismore City Council had received its latest quarterly instalment of \$758,421 to fix and maintain our local roads.

This year the Federal Government has almost tripled the amount it will give Lismore Council to repair our local roads to almost \$3 million.

The programme was set up for councils to make road spending decisions based on local needs and without interference from Canberra, to ensure that funding is truly directed to where it is most needed in the community.

If there is a local road in your area that needs to be fixed, please let Lismore Council know.

Recycling initiative

I recently saw a demonstration of an innovative new system that turns non-recyclable plastic into fuel. Although it is still under development, there is great potential to reduce the large amount of plastics that go into our landfill, while at the same time producing much needed fuel. This is one of the practical ways we can protect our environment.

Lyme disease inquiry

I have met with many people in our community who are suffering the



Kevin Hogan MP
Member for Page

symptoms of Lyme disease. I have also spoken with the Health Minister about it. As they know, during the last Parliament, the Senate held an inquiry into Lyme disease. Unfortunately, as is standard procedure, the inquiry was disbanded when Parliament was dissolved for the recent election.

When I am in Canberra this week, I will be meeting my Senate and cross-bench colleagues to make sure the inquiry continues.

School Leavers Guide

With Year 12 students about to leave school, I have produced a School Leavers Guide to help them move into higher education or work. I have emailed the guide to all the schools in our area.

If a student or parent has not received a copy of the guide, it can be picked up from my Molesworth Street office in Lismore, or call 6621-4044 and I can email an electronic copy.

Vote

1

Our Sustainable Future

BALANCED • INDEPENDENT • PROGRESSIVE

Lismore City Council elections September 10th



Our Sustainable Future is committed to a vision that balances the social, environmental and economic needs of current and future generations.

Our Sustainable Future is a registered local government party. We are independent and not affiliated with any other political party.

Find us on

YOUNG LEADERS TAKING ACTION

Authorised by Elly Bird, 14 Foleys Rd, South Lismore.



Nimbin Optical
6689 0081

Tina Fuller
OPTOMETRIST

Eye disease can sneak up on you. Have your eyes checked regularly every 2 years.

Quality Diagnosis
Honest Advice

66 Cullen Street Nimbin
Next to Real Estate



NIMBIN NUMBERS

- Book-keeping – Mobile service avail.
- Tax Preparation
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged BAS Agent: 98777003
- Tax returns lodged for Centrelink recipients

Phone Jayne 0457-497-011
Email: jayne@nimbintax.com.au

Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls including organic white and bio-dynamic spelt
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

Making our own "Hippie Bread" from local, bio-dynamic wheat, baked within hours of being ground at the Nimbin Community Grain Mill.

OPEN SUNDAY 9am - 3pm
Phone 6689 1769

Did you know?

All our links are clickable in the web edition. Visit www.nimbingoodtimes.com and click away!



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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au



Position vacant at NNIC
Casual Relief Community Worker: NNIC is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced community worker to relieve our permanent staff when they are on leave. Applicants MUST address the selection criteria – see the Job Kit available on our website or collect one from NNIC during our opening hours. Min Cert IV qualification.

Changes to Centrelink Agency staff and support hours

Welcome on board to our new Centrelink Agent and IT support worker, Dave Julian, who will be helping you with your Centrelink business from now on. Our former Centrelink Agency worker, Ruth, will now be in charge of our front desk.

The support worker will be available to assist you with your Centrelink business every Monday to Thursday 10am to 2.30pm. Please note: As from September, Fridays will be self service only.

Sibley Street Art Auction fundraiser

Saturday 15th October 2016, 11.30am. Come along and snap up some pre-loved art (as well as new pieces) and turn it into re-loved art, and help us raise funds to save the old house at Sibley Street at the same time. Viewings commence at 10am. More details on our Facebook page and website. If you wish to donate some art, contact Mandie at: halegarden@yahoo.com.au

Nimbin Country Show 24th & 25th September

• Sustainability Alley Updates, including the program for Sustainability Alley, will be posted on

the Nimbin Show and Sustainability Alley Facebook page, the NNIC website and Facebook page and around the village. Queries to: show@nnic.org.au

• **Best Shop Display competition**
We can't wait to see what our local main street businesses come up with this year for the 2016 Show-Themed Shop Display competition. Displays must be up by at least 2 weeks before the Show, for judging. Be in the running to take out the coveted Perpetual Pumpkin trophy! A great opportunity to promote your business and dress up the town in celebration of local annual country show.

• **Local Film Bytes Short Film Competition**
Films must be local (i.e. shot within a 30kms radius around the village), max of 10mins long and have a sustainability theme. Prizes and accolades on offer. Entry forms available on our website.

• **Sustainable House Day Expo 2016**
The Expo will be held at Mullumbimby on Saturday 17th September and this year there will be the chance to "speed date a designer". All the design competition entries will be on display plus loads of info on sustainable housing technologies. Not to be missed.

Sustainable House Day Expo 2016

Details are available at: www.sustainablehousedaynr.org

Details are available at: www.sustainablehousedaynr.org

Donations needed

We are seeking donations of good quality and preferably new toys for kids aged 0-12 years, for Santa to give out at Christmas time. Our former donor, who collected toys for us during the year in time for every Christmas, has finally retired. Many thanks to Vera Bourne for all her support for so many years.



Some of the stalls in Sustainability Alley last year

Non-perishable food donations also needed

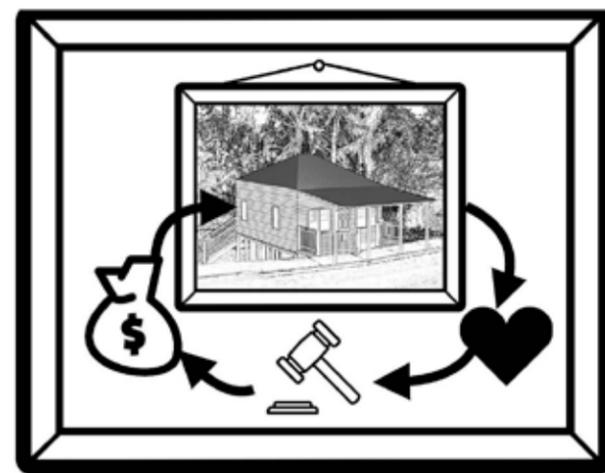
The demand for meals and food is ever increasing due to increasing pressures on household incomes. Next time you are out shopping why not consider buying a couple of extra items for our food cupboards at NNIC, so we can pass them onto people in need.

Remember to Vote!

Lismore Council elections Saturday 10th September. Every vote counts.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations.

Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments call 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.



PRE-LOVED ART AUCTION

7 SIBLEY ST FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER

VIEWING FROM 10 AM

AUCTION FROM 11:30 AM

NIMBIN TOWN HALL

OFFERS, CATALOGUE & PRE-BIDDING ON 7 SIBLEY FACEBOOK PAGE



Nimbin Hospital Information



Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held on the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic 13th September. For appointments, phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. For appointments phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next clinic 15th September. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6688-2401 to make an appointment.

Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm. Phone 6689-1288. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home and co-ordination of aged care packages.

Wound clinic

New service run by community nurses every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Referrals from Nimbin Hospital, GPs, self-referral. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288.

Nurse practitioner clinics

• **Diabetes clinic:** 3rd Thursday of the month, next is 15th September.
• **Respiratory clinic:** 2nd Tuesday of the month, next is 13th September. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Free health checks

In front of the Neighbourhood Centre every second Friday, 11.30am – 1.30pm. Cardiac, diabetic and stroke risk assessments, run by a Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse. Smoking cessation advice and assistance. Weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, cholesterol levels. Referrals to appropriate health professional, if required.

Cannabis clinic

Every Monday. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

Nimbin NSP

Open Monday to Thursday, 9.30am-12pm. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Health Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. It's a 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to the emergency department at your MPS.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next is 9th September.



Communities see work begin on hospital sites

by Noelle Lynden-Way
BUNK community representative

There is a lot of activity in the Northern Rivers these days where new medical facilities are being built, funded by the State and Federal Governments.

Grass roots community groups have seen the need for more local services and have spent many years lobbying and working with the Local Health District and State Government representatives to make them a reality.

In Bonalbo, work has begun on the multi-purpose services (MPS) site. It was the local Save our Services (SOS) committee who worked determinedly for years advertising in many areas for a GP to set up a local practice after the previous doctor had retired. This was the necessary first step before a new medical facility could be built. The members of SOS never gave up their goal and

worked with the Northern NSW Local Health District capital works team to ensure their community will have a new health facility complete with emergency department, residential aged care and community health in the near future.

Over in Coraki, the hospital was closed in 2011 after storm damage to the roof. It has taken years of community campaigning by local people like Paula Starkey, Claire Hetherington and George Thompson to reach the stage of "turning the sod" with local State MP Chris Gulaptis on 25th July for the new Coraki Campbell HealthOne facility.

Costing \$4 million, it will be built on the old hospital site and will provide general medical practice, community and allied health, an Aboriginal medical service, mental health, drug and alcohol services and visiting specialist services. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

The other good news this month is that Vicki Wale, clinical nurse educator for our MPS network was runner-up in the 2016 Local Health District Quality Awards for clinical innovation with her successful SEPSIS awareness staff training, and won first prize in the People's Choice Awards. Congratulations Vicki.

Turning the sod: Chris Gulaptis MP with members of the Coraki-Campbell HealthOne Community Reference Group, Paula Starkey, Claire Hetherington and George Thompson.

At the Local Health District Quality Awards (left to right): Julie Cadet, change manager, Bonalbo MPS Project; Nancy Martin, EO/DON MPS Network; Lynne Weir, general manager Richmond Clarence Health Service; Vicki Wale, clinical nurse educator MPS Network; Melissa Ingram, acting nurse manager Kyogle MPS.



Chamber looks to the future

Chamber Chat
by Teresa Biscoe, President

This month we are busy gearing up for the 'Meet the Candidates' meeting for the LCC election, in the Nimbin Hall on Wednesday the 7th at 6.30pm.

I hope we get lots of response from the community, as there are two Nimbin candidates in the mix and if we all participate and vote, we can get someone who has the interests of our town in mind on the next Council.

Mural restoration

The Chamber has contributed \$1750 to the Nimbin School of

Arts to assist in the restoration of the wonderful mural that adorns our community hall.

The request was made as this year the School of Arts has some major expenditure with the installation of a special fan system to keep the hall cool during big events and needed extra funds to manage the mural restoration project as well.

The funds were set aside by the Chamber specifically for mural projects, and we are exploring fundraising options so we can continue to assist businesses in maintaining our lovely collection of murals in the main street.

Our town beautification project is well under way with local artists

being asked to paint planter pots, various businesses offering to care for planters in front of their shops and Jane's propagation efforts to supply plants for the project.

Fire danger

The Chamber liaison attended the recent PCCC meeting and raised concerns with Police around the recent spate of fires that culminated in an arson attempt on the building on The Cubes development site. In the wake of the event, there were reports from a few sources that other fires had been lit around town before the

arson attempt.

Apart from the very real danger to the individuals upstairs during the event, it also raised concerns about how a major fire could damage and destroy our largely wooden main street with its heritage buildings. We are asking anyone seeing a fire in Nimbin, anywhere inappropriate, to advise the police immediately so that the matter can be effectively investigated, hopefully before a serious and damaging fire occurs.

Nimbin colour

The Chamber would like to recognise and thank some unsung heroes who contribute to the life and culture of our town. We would like to thank Mark (Two Dogs) who has contributed regularly, beautiful chalk art designs on the pavements in the main street. We love the colour, life and good vibes your work brings to our street.

We would also like to thank Michael Skinner, Paulie from Star Earth and all the other Nimbin locals who contribute to the ongoing event of the Friday Night Drumming.

This event attracts tourists from all over and creates a wonderful example to all of the vibrancy, colour and authenticity of the alternative culture that permeates our community.



September Social Activities at NACRS

- For all elders and carers in our local communities
- **Nimbin Social Groups:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9.30am-1pm at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, with morning tea and light lunch, small fee.
 - **Craft Group,** 5th Sept, 11am-1pm, guest felt crafter Carol, bring your favourite crafts to Bottlebrush Studio at NCC (every 1st Monday)
 - **The Channon Social Group:** Thursday 22nd Sept, 11.30am-3pm, the Channon Pub for lunch, all welcome, phone for info.
 - **Koonorigan Social Group:** Monday 26th Sept, 11.30am-3pm, Bring a Plate Lunch, Koonorigan Hall, all welcome.
 - **Bus Outing:** Tuesday 13th Sept, morning tea Lighthouse Café, Ballina + whale watching! Lunch Eltham Pantry
 - **Home visits** for company or a break, phone to find out more.
 - **Drop-In** at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, Monday-Friday 10am-2pm, for a cuppa, a chat, internet, computer, a quiet sit down. Phone 6689-1709, visit: www.nacrs.com or find us on Facebook.

Bathenstool ballot

It's on again – before the good burghers of Bathenstool and their dissolute clientele have even washed the grey dust of electoral fatigue from their lifeless bodies – another election.

On 10th September, the exhausted citizens will march up to polls to determine who will wield the mayoral shovel and wear the mudded gumboots of office.

The mayoral duties have traditionally been assigned to the most nondescript and monosyllabic of the residents. In short, someone who could be counted on to do the bidding of the Chamber of Commerce.

This all changed around the turn of the century, when a rather graceful and indefatigable woman thought she might knock on every door, remember every name and be present at the opening of every letter. The great Gerty won the mayoral race in a landslide and has worn the boots ever since.

Until now. This election she will not be standing and her absence from the poll has produced a huge vacuum. Who can fill the gumboots of state she has so distended?

Will it fall to her sheepish second-in-command? Mr Default. Certainly there are



Return of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

more frightening candidates. One man appears to have floated straight out of a Harry Potter novel, a Dementor destroying joy with every word.

Another appears to have modelled himself on Frank Zappa's 'Central scrutiniser' – keeping dossiers on everyone and eaves-dropping on the police.

Then there is the man-who-loved-the-sound-of-his-own-voice. And another who has promised to glue himself to a tropical fruits float as a protest against diversity.

Whoever takes home the shovel and gumboots will dominate Bathenstool. Only two respect Gerty's legacy. Preferences will determine the result. So more than ever in the stinky settlement, people's number twos will take on extra significance.

Position Vacant Financial Controller



Rainbow Power Company is a profitable unlisted Public Company with an annual turnover of approximately \$4M employing 24 staff in Nimbin established in 1987. We are an importer and exporter who undertake retail, wholesale and web shop sales, training, installation and servicing of renewable energy products. Our financial books are subject to full company audit procedures and consequently must be maintained to exacting and rigorous standards. This role will include broad visionary responsibilities as well as hands-on management providing financial leadership and accounting strategies.

Accounting

The Financial Controller will ensure that all accounting allocations are appropriately made and documented. They will also perform cash management functions and oversee accounts payable, accounts receivable, cash disbursements, and payroll and bank reconciliation functions.

Internal Controls

This role is responsible for executing internal controls over the company's accounting and financial procedures. This includes reviewing all invoices to be paid, as well as accounts receivable ageing reports, handling collections on invoices and coordinating with external auditors who prepare annual audits of the company. This requires keeping company records organised and readily available for examination.

Shareholder management

The position is responsible for the maintenance of the shareholder register and private

information and will assist with share enquiries, transfers and dividend payments to approximately 130 shareholders.

Financial Planning and Reporting

The Financial Controller will be responsible for all banking and finance activities as well as reviewing all financial contracts, financing agreements and insurance policies. They are also responsible for providing accurate and comprehensive financial information to Management for long-term financial strategising. They must provide crucial financial data and work with Management and the Board of Directors to co-ordinate all financial planning functions with business operations. Financial reporting duties include preparing financial statements, balance sheets, cash flow reports, budgets, budget-to-actuals and financial projections.

Financial Analysis

In addition to financial reporting, the applicant must be skilled at in-depth financial analysis and providing expert financial perspective and opinions. They must be proficient in spreadsheet design that is often complex and their financial analysis skills will be instrumental in helping to assess risk, analyse efficiency and inform policy decisions made by Management.

We are looking for a person who is positive, reliable, organised with a strong service ethic and is a team player. The role is based at our offices in Nimbin NSW and the hours are negotiable. Please send your resumé and a covering letter to: mark@rpc.com.au by Tuesday 6th September.

A pretend democracy

In the upcoming Lismore City Council election, there are 50 candidates jostling for a position in our royal family.

Despite being a regular reader of the *Nimbin GoodTimes* and the *Lismore Echo*, I've never heard of 40 of them. The list of 50 contenders didn't even appear in print until 18th August, and the election is on 10th September.

I know there are four real estate agents running for Byron Shire Council, but I know nothing of what Lismore has to contend with.

Rest assured that the development lobbyists know which ones they'd like to see sitting in the Goonellabah palace.

I hope we don't end up with more foxes in the henhouse.

G Rosenswartz
Nimbin

Ed's note: The Meet the Candidates night, on Wednesday 7th September, 6.30pm at Nimbin Town Hall, should provide additional information about the people standing for Lismore Council.

Rapacious development

I read with great interest the front page article 'Cultural confrontation at Cedar Point' by Binnah Powell (NGT August 16). He makes the point that greed leads to ignorance, pointing out that those who want to mine a quarry on an Aboriginal site are ignorant of the desires and wishes of those who have a prior claim to that site, not to exploit, but to respect.

It brought to mind the rapacity of mining and tourist real estate interests, and their profound ignorance of local culture that I have been witnessing recently in Central America. The difference is that in Honduras and Guatemala, the enraged wife of the quarry owner would be able to send paid assassins to top those standing in the way of their right to make an 'honest' profit, and expect impunity from the legal system.

But to my mind, 'our' Australian society is just a small step away from such actions, and in some respects has dipped its toes in

the waters.

What is missing from Binnah's fine article is to make the point of the innate racism underlying the attitude, the anger, and the misplaced sense of entitlement of the quarry owners.

That attitude should be noted in the context of the Daley Correction Centre, and the vote for Pauline Hanson and her four colleagues in the Senate.

This underlying ignorance of a significant sector of Australians is something we should not be trying to hide. We should never fail to recognise it when we see its manifestations. It is the factor that lets businesspersons think they can ride roughshod over anything or anyone who gets in their way.

Greed and ignorance often go hand in hand (as I have seen in Honduras), but we should also understand that all too often it paints over something far more ugly, and more dangerous (as the assassination of Lenca environmental activist Berta Caceres in Honduras demonstrates).

And that is, racist attitudes which will cripple attempts at negotiation and reconciliation, however reasonable the circumstances.

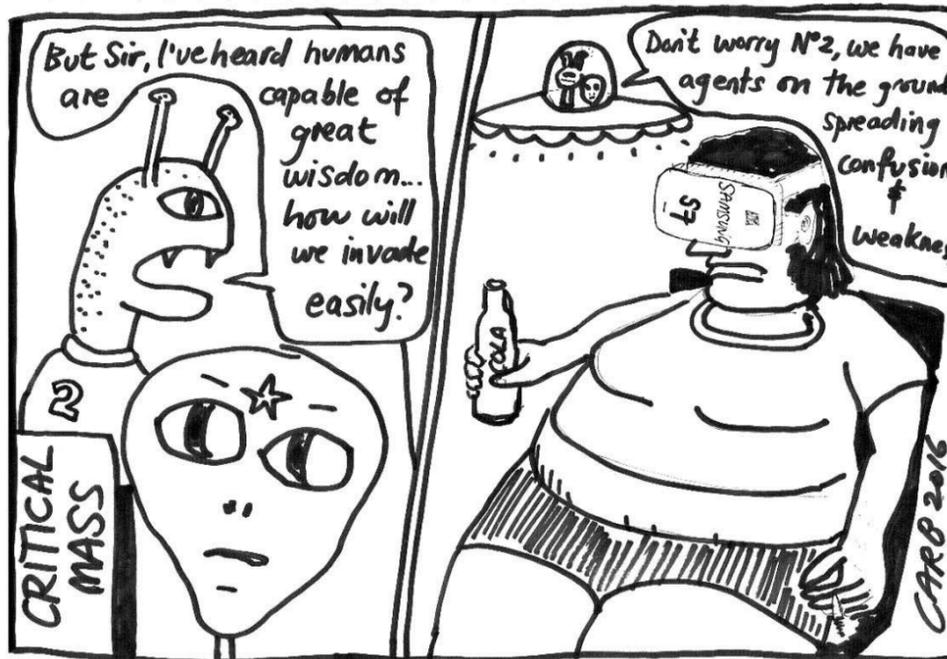
Warwick Fry
El Salvador

Correction

In Binnah Pownall's story last month, 'Cedar Point Confrontation', Wayne Walker was incorrectly named as 'Mick Walker' and his relationship to the Gugin Guddaba Kyogle Local Land Council is now understood as unconfirmed. Apologies are extended. —Ed

A view of Nimbin

Nimbin, Friday 3pm, sunny winter's day. The locals have made a lounge room in the town square on the ashes of a museum that was burnt like a witch. An indigenous man dressed elegantly swings a swag and a duffle bag over his shoulder from a night under the bridge. Hooded acid heads spin waxed reggae up the back with the snaplocked trade. Blokes relax on couches smoking spliffs, having a yarn and taking it slow. Leather faced elders on plastic chairs lean forward



talking passionately about law reform. Kids play a giant game of chess together guided by a bearded mohawked father fairie. Tourists walk past with clean hands preserved in pockets, bright eyed and untouched. They shade their face from the culture shock and look around smirking; they dig it, but they don't know what to make of it. "You want yandi? Cookies?" says a wrinkled face woman to the city slickers.

A few of the them respond to her with contempt; metropolitan attitudes calcifying from their foreheads and spiraling into horns. A man sits down next to a stranger and begins feasting on their ear; vampires twist and blend through the main drag. Hemp cloth, dreadlocks, tobacco and sun drunken skin. Scar tissue wrinkles pink in the open and kidney stones lay on the footpath like a game of marbles. Aquarius swirls down the rocky river and into the water supply.

This town is a garden of impassioned people who sow seeds on barren earth and fertilise generously. A green pasture for black sheep where the white sheep are welcome too. A space where the mentally ill can take a deep breath. Anyone with fingers can pick open the wounds of Nimbin, for it stands boldly before you with flamboyance and broken teeth. It is a place where someone can sit in the circle of a smoke ceremony and cradle their bleeding heart.

Corey Fisher
Dorrroughby

The simple life

Gazing blissfully over the Balinese rice fields on the outskirts of Ubud, I realised that I never actually relax — not really.

As the sounds of dogs and chickens mixed with the scent of approaching rain,

I suddenly recognised my desire to do absolutely nothing was in fact, me letting go of my compulsive need to work!

It was wonderful and yet disconcerting.

Gone were the over-priced, over-regulated surrounds of my homeland, to be replaced by the seemingly impoverished, organised chaos of Hindu farmers. By Australian standards, these people are poor and have nothing. Yet in truth, they have everything.

A solemn sense of community and belonging. A calm, easy-going acceptance of life. A spiritual integrity and awareness that places people ahead of all things material.

By Western sensibilities, their lifestyle lacked anything of real value — and yet I was moved to tears by the absence of stress from the unrelenting inertia of my own country where camera-surveillance, safety paranoia and a fear of poverty are the norm.

In Ubud, I was fleetingly exposed to something many of us in Australia cannot afford. Something that despite all our apparent privilege is largely beyond our means.

A simple, carefree life!
R J Poole
Lismore

Keep Tweed Green

We are privileged to have had a Greens councillor in the Tweed Shire for eight years, and in the last year to have had our first Greens female mayor. Katie Milne has consistently stood up for the community and the environment, and provided the checks and balances against inappropriate development.

Katie has a proven track record of being innovative and getting things done. She has no vested self-interest that has motivated her to be a Councillor. Her only interest is in making our community, and the world, a

better place for all.

The Tweed is set to have 12,000 more people at Cobaki, 10,000 at Kings Forest and 6,000 at Dunloe Park. It is Katie who will do everything in her power to minimise the impacts of such a large influx of new residents in order to avoid Gold Coast-style traffic chaos.

It is Katie who will always vote for what people value, not to be crammed in like sardines, with loss of privacy and our views overshadowed by inappropriate man-made landscapes. It is Katie who votes for more parks and open space shaded by trees. It is Katie who honours the cultural rights of the Aboriginal community. It is Katie who stands up for protection of our threatened native species and the environment which make the Tweed special.

And it is Katie who instigated the Economic Development Strategy and who will continue to push for energy efficiency and renewable technology in order to combat the dangerous effects of climate change on our community.

To return our mayor and Greens councillor Katie Milne on September 10 is an insurance in the protection of Tweed's unique lifestyle and natural assets into the future. To make your vote for Katie effective, place a 1 beside her name and preference five other candidates above the line.

Lyn Dickinson
Pottsville

Save koalas

There are three Tweed councillors who I believe are not worthy of your readers' vote at the next council election. Namely Crs Longland, Polglase and Byrne, who along with Cr Youngblutt refused to second Mayor Katie Milne's motion for a council report into a koala underpass at Coronation Avenue, Pottsville. (Deputy Mayor

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.

Bagnall was absent due to illness.) As a result, sadly there was no discussion or voting on this issue.

Mayor Milne's background notes in the agenda stated: "This section of Coronation Avenue at Pottsville crosses a narrow but vital wildlife corridor between Pottsville's koalas to the north and south. The corridor has been squeezed to a critical pinch point at the road interface and is recognized as a blackspot for koalas. The koalas on the coast are in serious jeopardy and need the best possible option to reduce mortality at road crossings."

The \$50,000 offset for trees cut down during construction of the Pottsville Medical Centre was flagged for an underpass. Council chose signage instead, claiming an underpass would not fit. This was proven wrong but Council would not hold up roadworks to correct the mistake. However, at a senior planning meeting it was revealed that an underpass could be installed once the roadworks were completed.

Cr Longland was voted in at the 2012 council election on a promise of 'policies that ensure our natural assets are preserved'. Refusal to second a motion so that an underpass could be discussed and voted upon at the August Council meeting is yet one more instance where he has backflipped on his 2012 election promise. He is now running on the promise of being a 'middle ground' man. Our endangered koalas need more than middle ground decision-making.

Tweed Coast koalas are at the crossroads. They will not survive a middle/bottom line approach to koala protection by councillors and council management. Koalas are part of our community, and the community has the power to save them from extinction.

Please vote for a candidate with a proven track record of standing up for the koalas at the next council election.

David Norris
Pottsville

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 28th September
Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Responsibility for election comment is taken by the editor.

Notices / Obituaries

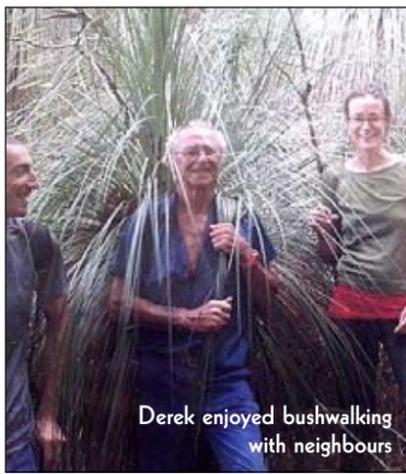
Derek William Matthews

31/3/1944 - 24/8/2016

Derek was returning from Nimbin to his home at Billen Cliffs on the afternoon of Wednesday 24th August in his beloved Land Rover when he attempted to cross Leicester Creek at Martin Road bridge.

The bridge is the only access to home for hundreds of people living along Martin Road in Larnook – including Derek, who purchased his land in Billen at the very dawn of the community in 1982. He worked in Brisbane and planned his post-65 retirement at Billen for 29 years.

While the bridge was barely under water, the creek had grown from a muddy, docile trickle into a dangerous monster over a day of torrential rain. His car was swept off the bridge into the



Derek enjoyed bushwalking with neighbours

creek where he sadly drowned.

Derek loved being in nature and was a most caring man, who contributed to his community's success story, transforming denuded farmland into a natural

paradise and a model community.

Derek was a member of the executive committee of the Owners Corporation of Billen Cliffs Village and helped co-ordinate roadworks, mowed the commons and the land of friends with his ride-on. He provided free firewood to neighbours.

He was a man with a remarkable solid core, quiet and unassuming, capable and self-reliant, happy within himself and at peace with his maker. He shared that inner ease with his neighbourhood and brought comfort to those in need.

Because of his fine character, can-do attitude and care for community, Derek Matthews was greatly respected and will be dearly missed.

Derek was 72 years old and is survived by his daughter, Laura and son, Carl and his spirit lives on in Billen Cliffs Village.

We will all miss him greatly.

Tommy Price

7/3/1980 – 30/7/2016

Tommy was born in Darwin during the wet season of 1980 and lived there until the family moved to Nimbin in late 1988.

Tommy attended the original Nimbin Central School and Tuntable Falls Primary School. He made lifelong friends at both schools and often brought them home to Moondani community for days or weeks at a time. He was a special part of a tribe of children roaming the hills and swimming the dams and creeks of the communities around Nimbin during the 90s. As teenagers they enjoyed the privacy and privilege of a community house in a lush garden with clean air and spring water. Here in the northern rivers and ocean are where Tommy gained a deep affinity with and love of nature and wildlife.

He took on a chef apprenticeship at age 16 and moved to the coast to attend Kingscliff TAFE and work in Byron Bay, where he had the time of his life, developing a passion for his work, swimming and making friends.

After his apprenticeship he moved back to Darwin and worked and learned alongside chefs from all over the world. Tom was one in a million... a funny and intelligent person with a very quick dry wit, and this was reflected in the stories so beautifully told at his farewell by his Darwin friends.

He went on to open his own restaurant in Nimbin. The Spangled Drongo Thai restaurant began in 2007 and was named after the bird which nests in the area. Influenced by the time he worked at a Byron



Tommy, our son and a brother, died 30/7/2016... thanks to the community for all the hugs and sympathy... words cannot explain the sadness we feel – he was my first son and my best mate. The funeral was amazing... mates and family from afar (Darwin/ WA) his casket was a work of art, like the food he cooked... he is survived by his mum & dad (Inez & Alan) his sister (Lucy) his brothers (Zachary, Ben, & Tyson)... peace Tommy – Alan Price

Thai restaurant and by his own high standard for achievement, Tommy was devoted to cooking and serving the very best in Thai cuisine, excelling in new seafood dishes and providing delicious and tasty food for all palates and pockets over the nine years he cooked there. His high standards of cleanliness and his shining kitchen were impressive, but he always made time for friends visiting the back door for a smoke, a beer and a yarn. Tom's storeroom was a safe port in a storm for many.

The kitchen was sold in July to a local family, and customers came to say goodbye and 'have their last supper' in the final closing days

Tommy was in celebration mode, free to move on after nearly nine years of hard yakka literally slaving over a hot wok... when he was hit by a fast moving car while he was crossing the Pacific Highway at Tintenbar, and killed instantly on the night of 30th July 2016. He was 36 years old. He is survived by his brothers Ben, Zac and Tyson, his sister Lucy, and his parents Alan and Inez.

Tommy's memory is dearly cherished in the hearts of the hundreds and hundreds of people who attended his farewell (and in the hearts of those who could not be there). The day dawned blue and clear and the sun shone on the casket, spectacularly painted by Elspeth, Simonetta, Ben, Zac and his family, showing the NT landscape, Tom's beloved mountain crater views, the Byron Bay lighthouse and a beautiful spangled drongo.

It was a glorious afternoon in the garden, sharing stories of special times in an extraordinary life striving for excellence which ended in an instant. It is a sad loss for the Nimbin community who have again thrown their mighty support behind his family. The Dempsey family also gave Tommy a Scots farewell outside the restaurant with a beautiful and moving Amazing Grace on the bagpipes amongst the flowers that were at the door.

I wish to honour my son in this way in the community that has showed so much love and support to us all.

Rest in peace my darling Tommy.

– adapted from eulogy by Inez Price

Notices

For Sale

2000 Mercedes Sprinter motor home, 266,000km, diesel, air con, hot water, shower, toilet, solar panels, gas cooktop, \$23,000 ono. Phone Anne 02 6633-5157 or 0427-586-560.

Nimbin Headers AGM

The Nimbin Headers annual presentation and AGM will take place on Sunday 18th September, from 10.30am at the Headers field. Please come along to support the amazing efforts our volunteers and players have put in through this successful season.

Sea Shepherd Fundraiser

At Tuntable Falls Community School, Tuesday 20th September, 5-7pm. Delicious vegan gluten-free curry \$10, chai and cakes available. All welcome!

How Dare Lismore Council Give That Land Away?

Completely ignoring what the Nimbin People have to say When the traffic in our only council carpark is barely coping anyway.

How Dare Lismore Council Give Our Land Away?

There's already conjection at that one-way exit Backpackers on budgets, schoolkids getting buses

24 rooms... that should be 24 (on site) parking places

What about the staff... won't they need more spaces

In the heart of our Village in such an inappropriate spot

We the Nimbin villagers tell you, you will not.

It smells of Corruption, it reeks of Deceit

They bypassed the Councillors

It was the General Manager's treat!

We all know the tales of the big-talking developer lobbyists

You'll have to give them that land

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