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# IT HAD PUT ON ITS SLIPPERS

A strange quiet had settled over Bathenstool. The big sewerage over top had passed, the shop owners had evicted many of their clients and put up the rents on their rented and unrented properties to capitalise fully on the government compensation, as was the custom. The few who had taken their lives due to the losses they suffered in the fouling of the city remained un-mentioned, as did the numbers of buildings condemned since the cruel sea of filth had subsided.

The stream of politicians wanting to muck-in had dwindled, while the headless flapping and squawking of chamber of commerce had also dropped in its shrill urgency.

It appears as though the incredibly mundane and mediocre city had slipped back on its slippers, poured itself a cup of tea and sat back on the porch with a copy of the 'Dead cow in the river gazette' for some well deserved quiet



## Return of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens

time – in its happy place.

Unbeknown to many, machinations of the most dire kind were well underway.

A secret cult – the sewerage water medicine cult – had inveigled their way into all the city's administrations;

everything from council to the chamber of commerce. All the big firms had one in a senior secretarial position filled by a cultist. The silent take over was all but complete.

Gush, the guru of the sewerage water medicine cult, felt a bit like a dog that chased a car and caught it, perplexed and suddenly bored.

The stinky city was his play-thing now. What would he do with it? He had no idea. He could ensure employment to his acolytes; he could skim money and continue to grow his empire. Didn't seem like enough.

He went back to the kitchen and stirred the Kool-Ade brewing on the stove. He felt like Michael Andretti who had just inherited a moke. He sipped the Kool-Ade.

"I'll think of something special" he thought. "How do I get them all to bow down before me?"

...to be continued...

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# Shop GO

# Chamber Chat



by Teresa Biscoe, President

A glorious sunny August is upon us, and we welcome everyone to the next general meeting at 5.30pm, Wednesday 16th August at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin. We would love to have your feedback and hear what you think is important for our village.

We will be starting the evening with a special presentation from Senior

Constable Dave Henderson from the Richmond Local Area Command Crime Management Unit, with the aim of reducing the number of fraud incidents, and to advise the public and businesses about the different types of scams that have taken place on Northern Rivers this year.

There will also be practical advice about what you can do to protect your customers, data, money and identity.

These information sessions are directed at retail staff, general community groups and the elderly.

Last year the Chamber questioned the quality and taste of the Nimbin village water supply and we were provided with a report that due to its technical nature provided little insight to the Chamber Committee. We have been corresponding on this issue and Gary Murphy, the executive director-

infrastructure, and Matt Torr, from Lismore City Council is attending to talk about the test results. They will not be debating the merits of chlorinated water, just any perceptions around taste and how the Nimbin water supply is set up/managed.

There will be an update on the various current Chamber initiatives, including the \$14000+ grant received from the NSW Department of Justice for the Lighting Up Nimbin Project and the Nimbin Chamber's decision to apply \$10,000 from the Special Business Rate Variation Levy currently held by Council.

Unfortunately, despite the apparent strong support from Councillors who attended the Nimbin Chamber's February meeting, and the incorporation of the project into the Lismore crime prevention strategy, the grant application for the remaining funds was rejected by Lismore Council, leaving a \$10,000 shortfall in the project costs.

We are of course extremely disappointed with this result, and will be discussing what other options are available to fund this project.

We have had a number of passionate discussions around sustainability and waste reduction and how as a village community we can move to better practices, and are now ready to present some of the strategies being discussed for your feedback, including the Ecobag project, the Nimbin Travel Coffee Cup, and the Boomerang Bag.

We are also going to rekindle fundraising for our mural restoration fund by placing donation tins on retail counters around the village, and ask that you give generously to help us restore and fund the iconic murals of our lovely village.

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by Cr Isaac Smith  
Lismore City Council

**W**ater is Life, so the bumper sticker says. And following on from our successful fight against CSG to protect that water, it seems more battles could be on the horizon.

A recent enquiry at council asked about our policy for water extraction businesses in the LGA. We have never had a specific question about this and it is not covered by any particular zoning that covers our area. So councillors are considering the question over the next few months to give staff and industry some guidance.

While I can't predict the mood of councillors, or the information that will be presented about water extraction industries, I think we should stick with the 'Water is Life' motto and protect what is natural and best about our region. If past battles were fought over gas, surely future conflicts will revolve around water.

Congratulations to everyone

involved with the Lismore Aviation Expo last month, including all the people who came along to support it. It attracted record numbers, and our airport has a bright future with new innovative businesses opening here and calling Lismore home. With such a smart group of local farmers and builders, I don't think it will be too long before we are exporting the best of what we have to places around the world that are hungry for sustainable products.

The *Your Roads* edition of *Local Matters* came out at the end of July and locals will see a long list of work to be done on our network and the state roads. The list is getting longer every year and we can no longer include them all in this one publication. So while we have a long way to go, we are headed in the right direction by putting resources into maintaining our roads and assets with an eye to long term sustainability.

To give you the numbers, there was a lot of work happening in the first half of this year, despite having a month of flood work where roads had to wait for the

clean-up. Council filled 19,693 potholes, unblocked 427 stormwater pipes, graded 178kms or gravel road, carried out 65 repairs to concrete footpaths and kerbs, replaced 359 road signs, swept 1573kms of street frontage, replaced 199 guideposts and 219m of guardrails, slashed 2384km of roadside and sidearm-slashed 161km of roadside embankments.

All these things lead to safer travelling between our villages and localities. Roads are our biggest asset and need to be maintained sustainably, with an eye to where we want to be 10 years from now, with a much better road network.

We welcomed our Japanese exchange students (pictured) at the end of July, arriving from our sister city Yamatotakada in Nara prefecture. This is a vital example of diversity and cultural exchange, as we were the first to bridge the gap between Australia and Japan, setting the example for so many. Diversity is a good thing and no-one knows that more than our community, so if you see our Japanese visitors, make sure you say hi and welcome them.

## Reflections on federal and state politics

I've been watching with interest the goings on in federal and state politics this last month.

The shock resignations of Senators Scott Ludlam and Larissa Waters are a blow to progressive politics that is only balanced by the possible exit of Matt Canavan.

Canavan was the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund and an unapologetic Adani supporter, enamoured by big coal and apparently oblivious to the impacts and consequences of opening up a massive greenfield development in Queensland for a measly amount of underestimated jobs. We would be a lot better off without him, in my opinion.

The arguments against the Adani Carmichael mine, and indeed any greenfield coal mine or mine expansion are many, varied and compelling yet we continue to see our politicians firmly supporting the coal industry, subsidising mining with huge amounts of public money and limiting investment and commitment to renewables. I am constantly embarrassed to be Australian in this day and age when we need swift, sure commitment to concrete action to limit our emissions.

Apparently, our history as a resources dependent nation means we can't change our course, and the long term relationships our politicians have with mining companies and lobbyists are too strong. Let's see what Canavan does next if he does indeed have to leave parliament, perhaps he will be lucky enough to scoop one of the precious few jobs being offered by Adani. Look no further than the blatant revolving door between parliament and the mining sector for the truth of who some of our politicians really work for.

The other shocking story is the theft of billions of litres of water from the Murray-Darling over the last five years, another instance of the privileged few, with direct lines to politicians and bureaucrats totally rotting the system. Our political system is flawed and tainted and it is little surprise that so many people are completely disengaged, even now when it is so critically important for our politicians to actually represent us.

Climate change, water, energy and food security are such important issues of inter-generational equity; it saddens me that so many of our so-called leaders refuse to be brave enough to stand up and make a



**Word of the Bird**  
by Cr Elly Bird

difference.

But let's lower our gaze a little and brighten the mood with what is happening locally. Lismore City Council is one of the first councils in Australia to sign on to the Climate Council's new initiative, The Cities Power Partnership. The partnership recognises and supports local government efforts to address climate change, embrace renewable energy and cut emissions. Lismore Community Solar Farm is a unique model for community and Council partnering to deliver

significant solar projects and through this partnership we will be able to share that model with others, as well as our work to reduce our emissions and increase behind the meter solar at Council facilities.

Speaking of partnering, this week we launch Council's new partnership strategy. Partnering has been Council's approach for the last six years, as we work to deliver more with less money. It is a critical way that we can work with other organisations and collaborate with great results. These partnerships help us fulfil our community's vision for the future and improve our social well-being, our economy and our environment.

There are 17 partnerships in total so I don't have room to outline them all, but a couple of key ones you might be interested in are: the Lismore Flood Ready partnership project, which will see important work done to capture our learnings and improve community preparedness to respond to the next disaster. It is predicted that flooding will increase with climate change, so we need to get ourselves organised to mitigate against significant impacts.

Community Panels have been established across the LGA to work in partnership with communities in our valleys and villages to deliver community determined outcomes; Rural Landholder Capacity Building, supporting farmers and landholders to implement best practice land management, land-use profitability and environmental restoration; Cultural Alliance with NORPA and Creative Lismore Partnership, to strengthen and value our cultural identity; and the Lismore Health Precinct, to co-ordinate the development and improvement of our health facilities and services. Just a glimpse of the range of work that Council is doing every day.

I can be contacted for Council matters at: [elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or on 0418-639-927.



by Kevin Hogan MP Member for Page

I recently took the Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion to Nimbin Rocks to inspect the great work being done by the Working on Country Ranger Project.

The Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council is doing a terrific job.

Thank you to Lead Ranger Keshia Gordon who gave the minister and I a presentation on the work that has been achieved.

I would like to congratulate all those involved with Working on Country, in particular the chair of Ngulingah LALC Queenie Speeding, deputy chair Tracy King and CEO Dan Rose.

During the Minister's visit, I also announced funding of \$1.7 million for Rekindling the Spirit to reduce family violence and support youth in our community.

The funding will deliver a safe and trauma-informed service to reduce family violence by working with men to encourage behavioural change, including through cognitive behavioural therapy.

It will also provide services to address mental health, disengagement and anti-social behaviour.

We have some of the best co-operatives in the country in our region, which is why I got the Government to establish the new \$14 million Farm Co-operatives Centre of Excellence here in Lismore.

It has already proved itself to be a great success, providing expert advice to tens of thousands of farmers and farming groups around the country.

It recently announced \$4 million worth of projects to create new co-ops around the country, including in our community.

Its website: [www.farmingtogether.com.au](http://www.farmingtogether.com.au) has provided information to more than 16,000 farmers and 7000 have signed up for the monthly newsletter

I would like to congratulate Rainbow Power Company on celebrating their 30th anniversary.

The company, which is now the largest private employer in Nimbin, has been at the forefront of renewable energy well before it became mainstream.

## Feedback sought on Nimbin Parking Strategy

The draft Nimbin Parking Strategy is now on public exhibition and Lismore City Council is seeking comments from the Nimbin community.

The draft strategy includes a plan to manage parking in the village, including the possibility of increased enforcement action to ensure parking

supply and demand is managed well for both residents and visitors.

The draft Nimbin Parking Strategy is on exhibition for public comment from 2nd August to 2nd September.

Copies of the draft Nimbin Parking Strategy are available at: [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) under the 'On Public Exhibition' link.

Submissions relating to the draft strategy outlining issues, concerns, objections or support should be in writing and addressed to the General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A, Lismore, or emailed to: [council@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lismore.nsw.gov.au) Submissions must be received by close of business on 2nd September.

## New Allsopp Park mural in development

The Nimbin Community Centre will be co-ordinating the creation of a brand new mural to brighten up Allsopp Park.

The new artwork will be designed and painted through a youth inclusive project facilitated by the super talented, local, indigenous artist Gilbert Laurie.

Over the next month, Lismore City Council will be removing and replacing the existing structure for Gilbert and the kids to get creative on and help keep Nimbin colourful.

### Invitation to next NCCI meeting

All interested members of the community are invited to an hour-long meeting where NCCI will present our plans for the year ahead.

We welcome your ideas for the Community Centre and your feedback on the projects already underway.

The meeting will be held on Thursday 10th August, 4.30pm to 5.30pm at Birth & Beyond, nibbles provided. The session will be followed by the normal monthly Committee meeting.

# Thirty years of Rainbow Power

by Rebecca Ryall

Thirty years ago, three intrepid hippies (Peter Pedals, DC and Jack van Hest) launched a small enterprise selling solar torches at the Channon and Nimbin Markets. Along with a few mates, they banded together in May 1987 to form what became Rainbow Power Company.

Since then, the RPC family has grown to include 150 shareholders and 30 staff, working with hundreds of suppliers, and servicing the solar needs of roughly 18,000 customers. Not bad for a bunch of hippies.

On Saturday 22nd July the founders, shareholders, present and former staff, customers, friends and family of Rainbow Power Company gathered together to celebrate this milestone. Over 200 people enjoyed the festivities, which included music from the Dark Town Strutters, and the James Street Preachers, delicious food lovingly prepared by Steph and Truffula Catering, and a jumping castle, which thrilled adults and children alike. The mid-winter weather delivered beautifully, and the whole day was capped off with a huge bonfire.

Big thanks to Mark and Csilla for organising such an enjoyable event. And special thanks to all those staff members past and present who stepped up to make the day go off so well in true Rainbow family tradition.

A highlight of the celebration was a video message from Midnight Oil frontman and former Environment Minister Peter Garrett. He acknowledged the important foundational work of Rainbow Power Company, and congratulated the founders for their vision, and staff for continuing to deliver planet friendly power solutions to their customers. This video message can be viewed on our Facebook page.

From humble beginnings, Rainbow Power Company now designs and installs off grid stand-alone power systems, as well as grid interactive systems for residential customers with mains power. Additionally, RPC is developing a reputation as a leader in commercial design and installation, and has collaborated on major installations for Lismore City Council, as well as ongoing work in various countries throughout the south and central Pacific region.

The staff take great pride in providing high quality products and services, and in making the benefits of solar available to all. RPC has long been a proud supporter of various local businesses, sporting teams, charities and community organisations and events.

The staff of Rainbow Power Company



Current staff members



The founders of the company cutting the cake



The original crew

would also like to acknowledge the sad passing of friend and long-time supporter, Terry McGovern. Terry was involved in the RPC vision from the very beginning, and his partner Karlin has for many years delivered her hugely popular 'Living with Solar' workshops for those interested in an off-grid lifestyle. He was key to RPC's overseas service delivery, working on design and installation of systems in such diverse areas as Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, South America and Nepal.

His focus was on systems designed specifically for the individual requirements of these diverse customers, as well as delivering training to ensure these customers could continue to maintain their systems once RPC had left.

Terry was a valued mentor for many at Rainbow Power, and he will be sadly missed. In memory of his generosity

of spirit, and in tribute to this true gentleman, RPC is proud to announce a new school-leavers scholarship to be granted in his name. More details of this scholarship will be announced in the near future.

As a business is nothing without customers, all at Rainbow Power Company wish to say a big thank you to all our supporters, old and new, near and far. Here's to another 30 years and another 18,000 happy customers.

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# A local case study in dominating Google

by Russell Lean [web2trafficstrategies](http://web2trafficstrategies.com)

Web 2 traffic Strategies were approached in 2013 by Melville House in Lismore.

Melville House have a 4.5 star bed and breakfast in Ballina Road and 18 holiday cottages/self contained apartments in the inner part of Lismore, all close to the CBD.

Initially we were engaged to update the website and to do Search Engine Optimization for the owner and to advise on how she could get more traffic to her website. Like most accommodation vendors, the inventory of rooms at the B&B and the houses/apartments were already listed on some accommodation portals, the B&B rooms were on the website and we suggested adding them to Airbnb and some other booking sites.

This in itself created a new stream of bookings. We added a holiday rentals page to the website and listed the holiday houses there – eventually with an availability calendar and contact form.

As far as website traffic was concerned, in 2013 the website was getting about 75 unique visitors a month, and there was not any way for people to make an enquiry through the website. The Google ranking positions for key accommodation niche phrases were not great, most being on the 2nd and 3rd pages in search results (read as not many people finding them). Visibility in Google was 22%. The "bounce rate" – people leaving the site after viewing one page – was up around 60%.

Today, as we speak, the site now gets on average close to 500 visitors a month, resulting in direct bookings through the website daily. Rankings are by far the stellar result in this ongoing campaign. Visibility of the site in Google is 99% – meaning when anyone searches an accommodation related key phrase for Lismore, the likelihood of Melville House appearing on page 1 is 99%. In Google Maps and Google Mobile it is 99% and 96% respectively. 19 of Melville House's top 24 accommodation niche key phrases are at #1 on Page 1 of Google. The other five are in positions 2-4.

The "bounce rate" is now much lower and audience engagement has grown to where the average visitor stays for three and a half minutes and looks at over six pages. This all results in a very favourable situation for the business online.

So, how did we achieve these results for Melville House? Firstly we had two main focuses. Best practice SEO on the website and a sound and proven Google Maps strategy. There are only three ways to get on Page 1 of Google for any particular search result – paid ads, Google Maps and Search Engine Optimization. Google Maps is by far the quickest, however it must be done correctly, following all the best practice parameters.

This being done, we then worked month by month on consolidating the ranking positions through the campaign process that we have developed. Every SEO business takes a unique approach as there are in fact many ways to achieve results. However at the core of successful top rankings campaigns is best practice, which is dictated by Google.

We get our training directly from them, and last week we became one of a few businesses to achieve Level 7 Google Local Guide. This means we have spent the time and effort to understand how Google Maps works for local business and we are able to leverage this experience and position businesses who engage us to dominate that space.

If you need assistance in your business to rank better online and to dominate your industry in the Google Maps space, call Russell Lean on 0468-382-600.



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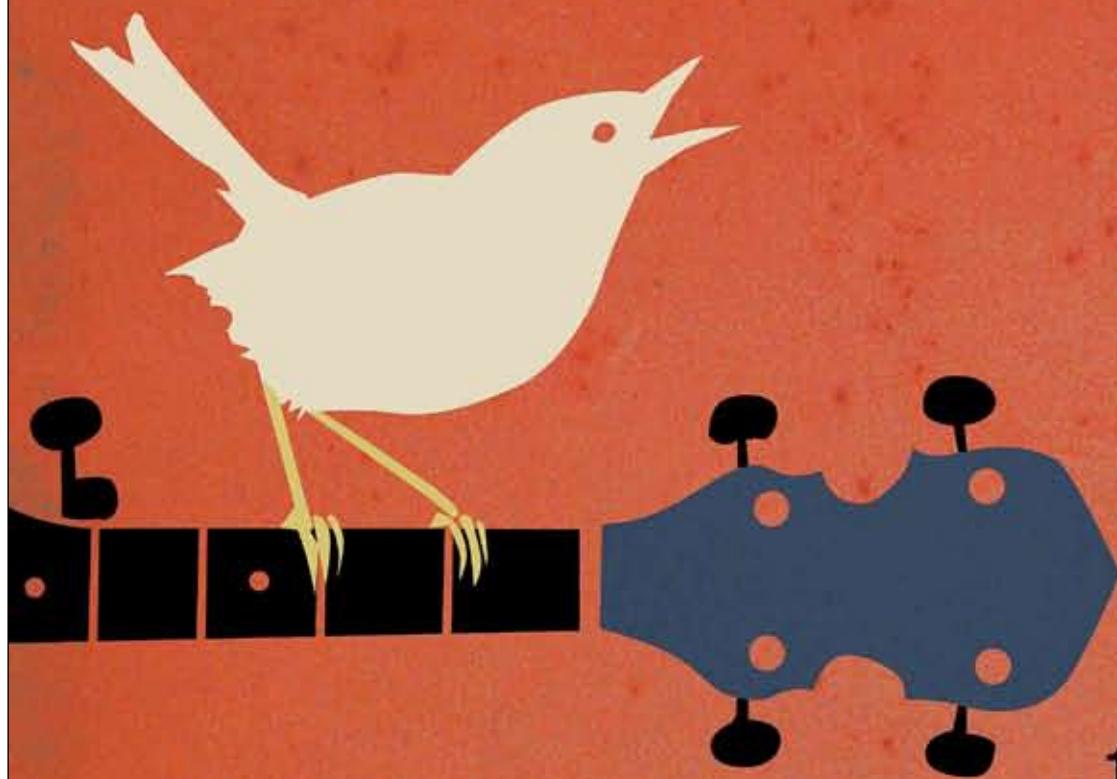
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# Film Screening: An Inconvenient Sequel



by Greg Reid, Tweed Climate Action Now

Ten years ago solar panels cost \$10/Watt and the manufacturers were controlled by fossil fuel companies. Then the film *An Inconvenient Truth* galvanised a grass roots demand for action on global warming.

Many battles have been fought over carbon pricing, feed in tariffs, coal seam gas and community energy. Today, new coal power plants are being cancelled in China and India, electric cars are entering mass production and if you want cheaper power then solar is the answer. But global warming has not stood still.

The emissions from our cars, from grid power and from the factories making the goods we consume are still warming the planet. Climate tipping points are looming.

The world is changing but is it fast enough?

Al Gore has released a new film, *An Inconvenient Sequel*. It is inspiring because renewable energy is now unstoppable. It is hopeful because we can still avoid the worst of climate change. Yet it is also alarming because our energy transformation has been delayed by vested interests, misinformation and weak politicians. We have to speed up action NOW.

Paramount Pictures has made early screening too expensive for most small theatres but Tweed Climate Action has taken up the challenge. A special screening has been booked for Friday 18th August at the Murwillumbah Regent at 6.30pm.

Come along. Get the global picture and join the race to create a turning point in history.  
[tweedcan.org.au](http://tweedcan.org.au)

# Timeless beauty that lingers

This month Nimbin Flix presents *Babette's Feast*, a glorious film released in 1987 that remains timeless and beautiful.

Set in the 19th century, the narrative revolves around a small religious community set up by a stern puritanical pastor and maintained by his two aging daughters who sacrificed their chances of love to take care of him and the congregation.

Into their lives comes Babette, a French refugee who has lost both husband and son

in the wars, who they take in to cook and clean for them. She learns to prepare the plain Danish fare that they subsist on, and helps look after the aging congregation. Her only link to France is a lottery ticket that she eventually wins.

She asks the sisters if she can prepare a French meal to celebrate the 100th birthday of their deceased father, as a way of thanking them for their kindness.

The sheer joy of Babette's cooking changes their lives forever. "Righteousness and

bliss shall kiss each other," says the visiting general in his toast at the end of the wonderful meal.

Beautifully shot and executed exquisitely by an ensemble cast, *Babette's Feast* is a movie that lingers in the heart and mind as would the taste of the wonderful meal she cooks.

Showing at Birth and Beyond on Saturday 12th August, doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Drinks and refreshments are available. Entry is free for members.



Friends of Graeme Dunstan are crowd-funding so he may get a new hip and stay active, rather than be grounded by pain, wait-listing for maybe three years.

That's the same Graeme Dunstan saluted by David Bradbury in his piece about Talisman Sabre, "A call for peace in US/Aus war games", in *The Byron Echo* 26th July and his recent documentary, *War on Trial*.

Since the sixties Graeme has been a prominent activist. In 1966 he put his

body under the car of US President Lyndon Baines Johnson to protest the US alliance.

In 1973 he was director of the transformative Nimbin Aquarius Festival. He was a force at the 1979 Battle of Terania Creek and the Timbarra campaign and he was a founder of the Lismore Lantern Festival.

Fifty years on he is still at it, a passionate old man in a battered

old van, bearing witness for peace, journeying for justice and speaking out for a sustaining Earth.

An honourable elder but, alas, with a limp. His left hip has worn out.

"The upside fruit of a life of activism is a host of uplifting friends," observes Graeme. "The downside is material poverty and the absence of health insurance. The simple lifestyle is, and has been, a sustaining joy. But the worn out hip is ongoing pain."

Last month he consulted an orthopaedic surgeon in Rockhampton and was told that hip replacement surgery in the public system came with a three year wait. For \$25k upfront a hip op could be had within three weeks.

Graeme is booked for the hip op on 8th August. Friends are gathering around to raise the cash for him.

The Chuffed crowd fundraiser "Keep Graeme Dunstan on the Hop" is taking off with \$3400 already raised. Every little bit helps.

<https://chuffed.org/project/keep-graeme-dunstan-on-the-hop>

# Meeting and rally support sobriety

Alcoholism and drug addiction are enormous social problems bringing challenges to medical, legal and mental health counselors alike as well as for families and communities.

Alcoholics Anonymous' primary purpose is to help alcoholics stay sober and then to help others to achieve sobriety.

Alcoholics Anonymous Northern Rivers Central District is holding a Public Information meeting, where topics include:

- the difference between heavy drinking and

- alcoholism;
- alcoholism and the legal system;
- how the health system treats alcoholism; and
- alcoholism and recovery through AA.

Speakers include a medical specialist in the treatment of alcoholism, a lawyer practising in the area of criminal law and male and female members of Alcoholics Anonymous who will share their stories of recovery through AA's 12-step programme.

Members of the public are invited to attend if you or

someone you know could be suffering from alcoholism.

The meeting will be held on Friday, 18th August at 7.30pm at St Pauls Church (opposite Woolworths) 188 Keen Street, Lismore. Parking entry is via Hampton Lane and admission is free.

## Annual Rally in the Heart

The 2017 Rally in the Heart will be held Saturday, 19th August from 7.30am at St Pauls Church 188 Keen Street, Lismore (opposite Woolworths). Parking entry is via Hampton Lane.

Approximately 100 people attended last year and both Al-Anon family groups and Ala-teen will also be holding meetings.

This annual event is a celebration of sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous and the public is welcome. There is a small \$5 admission fee to help pay for the venue.

Every year the overall theme of the event is The Language of the Heart – how reaching out and helping one another is how we stay sober.

For more information, call Don on 0401-006-215.

# BUSH THEATRE MOVIES IN AUGUST



## WE ARE MANY

Rated M \$10

Friday 11th August, 7.30pm

*We Are Many*, directed by Amir Amirani, is a documentary film about the February 2003 global day of protest against the Iraq War, which was the biggest demonstration in human history.

Over 15 million people marched against the Iraq war in over 800 cities around the world to register their opposition to Bush Junior's war, which was justified to the world as necessary on the false assumption that Iraq was harbouring "Weapons of mass destruction". No such weapons were ever found in Iraq, but the war remains one of the most destructive wars in the region, and started a chain of events that led to further destabilisation of the Middle East and the emergence of ISIS.

This fearless, thought-provoking documentary is the remarkable inside story behind the first ever global demonstration, and its surprising and unreported legacy. The film features testimony from a unique cast of direct participants, including organisers, activists, high-profile figures, and of course the public, filmed in seven countries – Italy, Spain, Egypt, Sweden, Australia, UK, and the USA.

The star-studded list of contributors includes Danny Glover, actor Mark Rylance, film director Ken Loach, Prof. Noam Chomsky, musicians Brian Eno and Damon Albarn, writer and Vietnam Vet Ron Kovic (author of *Born on the 4th of July*), Rev. Jesse Jackson, Richard Branson and Colin Powell's former Chief of Staff Col. Lawrence Wilkerson.

It is a poignant time to remind ourselves that we are indeed "many" and that the power of the "many" can change the course of history.

## ESTEEM

Rated M \$10

Friday 25th August, 7.30pm

Australian filmmaker Peter Charles Downey takes us on a personal and cathartic journey of empowerment, redemption, and powerful healing with this documentary.

*Esteem* is the film for those of us who feel overwhelmed by the current state of the world and the escalating environmental destruction that is happening to our planet. Hurt people hurt people in return, it's a pattern,

and hurt people will hurt the Earth. But just as the pain of an artist can lead to brilliant creativity, so too can the pain of the world lead us to esteem.

With interviews and contributions from Subhana Barzaghi, Prof. Stuart Hill, local legend and inspiration John Seed, Carol Perry, Aladdin Jones, Elisabetta Faenza and Lenita Vangelis, the film looks into the pain we feel for the state of the planet we live on being polluted by our lifestyles and how this pain can be transformed through awareness into ESTEEM, for oneself, the community and the planet.

This is an important film for those who feel despair at the state of the world and where we are going. The pain we feel can be transformational for ourselves and for the planet. After the film there will be a Q&A with contributor John Seed to share his vast knowledge of the ecology of the earth and of the human heart.

## PUNKS FOR WEST PAPUA

Rated M Entry by donation –

suggested donation \$10

Saturday 2nd September, 8pm

The cry of the West Papuans has gone unheard for nearly 50 years... but Australian Punk is loud, very loud.

The genocide of the West Papuan people at the hands of the Indonesian military, is one of the saddest yet rarely told stories of modern times. West Papua, a land of untold riches, was hijacked with a violent and rigged vote by Indonesia in 1969. With the support of Australia, the USA and the United Nations, the Indonesian Military have slaughtered nearly half a million indigenous West Papuans in the years since, all in the name of a mountain of gold. All of this kept secret by a ban on journalists and foreign aid from entering West Papua.

Punks for West Papua is an Australia-wide movement, and the brain child of Jody Bartolo. Jody and his band 'Diggers with Attitude' spearhead Punks for West



John Seed in Esteem

Papua with the aim to raise money and awareness for the Free West Papua cause. A midnight text message to film maker and friend, Ash Brennan, started the wheels in motion for a small video think-piece at the original Punks for West Papua benefit show at Sydney's Town & Country Hotel.

But Jody and the Australian punk rock community would turn this event into a no-holds-barred Australia-wide event involving over 50 bands in seven cities around the country, making Punks for West Papua the biggest, and no doubt, loudest punk rock event in the nations history. The film grew with it.

The P4WP film crew travelled around the country, interviewing all the main players of the movement, plus features interviews with two time Nobel peace prize nominee, Benny Wenda, journalist Hugh Lunn who was in West Papua for the 1969 vote, rock journalist Stuart Coupe and United Liberation Movement for West Papua leader, Rex Rumikiek.

Narrated by Basia Bonkowski, Punks for West Papua is an intriguing story of a musical initiative that inspired a nation and is recommended viewing for not just fans of punk rock but for anybody who believes in justice and revolution.

## HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Rated M \$10

Friday 8th September, 7.30pm

*How to Change the World* is a documentary film from writer-director Jerry Rothwell (Deep Water), which chronicles the adventures of an eclectic group of young pioneers who set out to stop Richard Nixon's nuclear bomb tests and who ended up creating a worldwide green movement.

In 1971 a small group of activists set sail from Vancouver, Canada in an old fishing boat – their mission to stop Nixon's atomic test bomb in Amchitka, Alaska. Chronicling this untold story and with access to dramatic

archive footage unseen for over 40 years, the film centres on eco-hero Robert Hunter and his part in the creation of the global organization we now know as Greenpeace.

This film may be the most insightful film document yet made about the motivations, inspirations, challenges, and ultimate success of Greenpeace, which introduced non-violent, direct action to restore and preserve Earth's ecosystems. Seven years in the making, Rothwell uncovered hundreds of hours of original 16mm film footage from the 1970s, and selected historic, previously unseen moments from the birth of Greenpeace.

The film, based on the written memoirs of Bob Hunter, is authentic and super-real. Hunter was certainly not alone in conceiving of an "ecology movement" on the scale of the peace and civil rights movements, but this film follows his personal story. Friends and family remember Hunter, who passed away in 2005, as a visionary. He saw the shape of an ecology movement before most people had ever heard the word. He wrote groundbreaking journalism, coined the term "mind bomb" to describe using media to introduce ideas into human culture at the largest scale, and helped fashion the Greenpeace tradition of creative non-violent direct action.

Through all of this, we witness the challenges of changing society, the resistance of the status quo, and the human frailties of the heroes and heroines who put themselves on the line to stop these atomic tests. *How to Change the World* premiered at the Sundance film festival in 2015, where it won the Special Jury Award for editing and the candescent award for best social change documentary. The film earned top ten audience favourite honours at Hot Docs 2015, and best feature honours at both the Sebastopol and EcoFilm festivals.

As our planet enters a period of ecological uncertainty, this film offers inspiration and a roadmap as to how a small group of dedicated activists changed the world, defied governments and, with great sacrifice and bravery, shone a light on ecological injustices for the greater world to see and understand.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open from 5.30pm serving delicious meals, treats and award winning coffee. BYO.

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**Sunday Gig Guide**

**August 12 noon start**

**6th Monkey & the Fish**  
 Performing a unique mix of originals and covers with folk, rock, roots, reggae and jazz influences.

**13th The Button Collective**  
 Brodie Buttons' guitar-driven songs are backed by accordion, double bass, banjo, fiddle, drums, and rich, multi-layered vocal harmonies.

**20th Phil & Tilley**  
 Hailing from the New Forest, UK, Phil & Tilley play a blend of alternative acoustic/folk music.

**27th Manoa**  
 California-born and Byron based roots artist Manoa draws upon reggae and folk influences to weave a dynamic soundscape of upbeat songs.

**3rd Sept Out of Range**  
 Cabaret, swing, gypsy, reggae and boogie with a healthy dose of irreverence.

**Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers**  
 53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

**August Gigs**

**TRIVIA NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7pm**

Thursday 3rd	7pm	Guy Kachel
Friday 4th	7pm	Entropix
Saturday 5th	7pm	Moondog Blues
Thursday 10th	7pm	Slim Pickins
Friday 11th	7pm	LADIES NIGHT – Khan
Saturday 12th	7pm	Daneel and The Feel
Thursday 17th	7pm	Surf Report
Friday 18th	7pm	Two Tears in a Bucket
Saturday 19th	7pm	Eastwood
Thursday 24th	7pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 25th	7pm	Rumble Fish
Saturday 26th	7pm	Drift

**JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING**

*the mended drum*  
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# Fantasies Erotique Cabaret

It's a sexy time of the year, Spring. Ask any bird and many others. They will agree.

True to its most sexy self, Jude and Jaz Who's Erotique Cabaret is once again going to expose all its talents at the Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 9th September.

Fashion that would make any woman look beautiful, world class circus acts, burlesque, pole dancing, comedy and lots of laughs are just a small part of this excellent show.

I have been to many, and it

is always a feel-good event.

The show begins at 8pm. But because Jude and Jaz feel that the audience deserves to appreciate every minute from arrival, the venue will be licensed and food will be served from 6.30pm.

Tickets are available from Perceptio in Nimbin, Music Bizarre in Lismore (+ BF) or online through 'Eventbrite'.

VIP tickets, which almost place you in the laps of the performing gods and goddesses are \$55. Tickets for the more shy are \$40.



All Our Eyes

**Mullum music fest**

Ten years ago the first Mullum Music Festival pioneered a different type of music event. No gates. No big headlines. No VIP areas. A festival where artists and performers mingled, where shows are held in halls, clubs and pubs, and instead of driving hours to park in a field and trudge on site, patrons became enmeshed in the spirit of a vibrant village. It worked.

"It's not just about one act, but rather all the performers," festival director Glenn Wright said.

This year the festival tips its hat to the line up ten years on by including many of the artists who were on the first bill. It's a Festival Homecoming with patrons Suzannah Espie, Mama Kin and Harry James Angus all returning to perform along with Tinpan Orange, Jojo Smith, Liz Stringer, Hussy Hicks, Oka and a swag of acts everyone has grown to love.

So what's so damn good about this modest little event in Mullumbimby? Well its affordable, it's appealing to all ages and it's about good music. And it's on 16-19th November.

California-born and Byron-based roots artist and environmental educator Manoa is playing at Sphinx Rock Cafe on 27th August as part of his crowdfunding launch tour for his new album, which is being recorded in Byron.

You can check out the crowdfunding on Indegogo or on his website: [www.musicofmanoa.com](http://www.musicofmanoa.com)

Manoa draws upon his reggae and folk influences to weave a dynamic soundscape of upbeat songs with positive messages and intention. His music ranges from laid back soulful folk melodies to upbeat infectious reggae and funky jams that uplift the spirit, inspire bodies to move and get people grinning from ear to ear!

Manoa's early musical influences come from growing up sailing around the Caribbean, where he was influenced by the music of the islands.

After completing his PhD in Environmental Education in Western Australia and sharing his music throughout the Southwest, Manoa moved to Byron Bay and lived at the Bentley Blockade in 2014 for three months.

There he experienced first hand the power of music to bring community together. He spearheaded production of the album *Songs of the Bentley Blockade*, showcasing the grassroots music that was written by the Bentley 'protectors'.

Catch Manoa at the Sphinx Rock Cafe.



## Dolphin Awards open for 2017

Entries open in the annual NCEIA Dolphin Music Awards on Saturday 8th July. Great prizes and accolades among the Local Music Community will again be up for grabs for entrants in 23 song categories.

The Dolphin Awards are an annual iconic 'local music' event, organised by the North Coast Entertainment Industry Association (NCEIA) to celebrate and bring together the wealth of musical talent in the Northern Rivers region.

Since 1991, the Dolphin Music Awards have uncovered musical talent that has gone on to big careers in the music business. The Awards are open to all original recording artists, songwriters and composers and video producers, both amateur and professional, living in the (02) 66 telephone area code.

The NCEIA Dolphin Music Awards Night will be held on 24th October this year. It will be a live music extravaganza, featuring a diverse selection of up to ten live musical performances on the night.

To enter go to: [www.nceia.org.au](http://www.nceia.org.au) Entries close on Friday 8th September at 9pm. For more information, please contact Matt on 0413-960-257 or email: [matt.unbeaten@gmail.com](mailto:matt.unbeaten@gmail.com)

## The Channon open mic

by Ray (Rayzor) Flanagan

As is often the case these days, we were off to a slow start – musicians seem to find lots of things to do at home on Sunday mornings. Nevertheless it was a very pleasant afternoon. Isn't this the best time of year on the North Coast?

It was mostly the regular locals performing this month, the exception being Graham and Ellie from down Woodburn way, who were well received.

The Channon Open Mic is providing the musical

entertainment for the next market at The Channon on 13th August. Any past performers who are keen to play can contact me on 6688-6100 or email to: [thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com](mailto:thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com)

Please come to our next Open Mic on 27th August from 2pm at The Channon Butterfactory Tavern.

There will be no Open Mic in September due to my absence, but we will be back again for October.

Remember, it's held on the fourth Sunday of the month.



Max (guitar), Brad (drums) and Glen (ironing board guitar)

# BATTLE OF THE BANDS COMES TO NIMBIN

Passport to Airlie Beach – Battle of the Bands will be happening on Saturdays in late August and early September at The Nimbin Bush Theatre culminating in a final at the end of September. The biggest band competition in Australia has chosen Nimbin as the only location between Tamworth and the Gold Coast to host the competition, and why wouldn't they? Nimbin and the wider rainbow region is bursting with some of the most talented and original artists in the world. This is a chance for aspirational musicians to have a shot at playing three to five gigs at The Airlie Beach Festival of Music in November 2017, to receive \$1000 and great accommodation as well as a chance to compete for the grand national prize which is a spot on the main stage at the Airlie Beach Festival of Music in 2018. It is the only band competition in the country that is free to enter and free to attend and The Nimbin Bush Theatre is opening its doors.

Our judges between them have a huge love of music and a wealth of musical experience and are Neil Pike (The Pagan Love Cult), Sam Cutler (Mgmt Rolling Stones, The Grateful Dead), Chana Waters (Tweed Creative Studios), Jackie Marshall (The Musician's Musician) and David Hyett (Nimbin Bush Theatre owner).

This is a competition that does not seek to raise money with entry fees, ticket sales and sponsorship deals. You simply win the opportunity of playing at a great festival and all the advantages that comes with that. The competition is the brain child of Gavin 'Butto' Buttlin who runs the Airlie Beach Festival of Music, who says, "I wanted to create a festival where you could see the classic rock bands and hear the songs we grew up with, and at the same time discover new talent and give them a chance."

The competition is open to most genres –rock, pop, blues, folk, alt, acoustica etc.. and can feature large bands (a maximum of five artists), solo performers and duos. All genres, ages (must be 18+) and ensemble sizes are welcome to apply. (Due to the nature of the Airlie Beach Festival of Music super heavyrock/thrash/metal are not suitable for the competition as they would not sit well within the festival.)

This competition is open to all musicians whether from



The Sneaky Sound System

**HEATS**  
 12.30-6pm Sat Aug 19      12.30-6pm Sat Aug 26  
 12.30-6pm Sat Sept 2      12.30-6pm Sat Sept 9  
**SEMI FINAL**                      **FINAL**  
 12.30-6pm Sat Sept 23      12.30-6pm Sat Sept 30

Nimbin, Murwillumbah, Byron Bay, Lismore, Tweed Heads, and beyond. Anyone from anywhere can enter, but be quick, there are only 24 performance slots available.

The Airlie Beach Festival of Music brings 74 acts to the Whitsundays from Thursday November 9 through to Sunday November 12. Already announced are performances from The Sex Pistols, The Sneaky Sound System, The Baby Animals, Leo Sayer, Kate Cebrano with more announcements to come – including the winners of the Battle of the Bands.

Go to this link to register and get on board to win your Passport to Airlie: <http://www.airliebeachfestivalofmusic.com.au>

## Melodies from the deep

Jordan Ireland and Soda Eaves make Australian folk music, incorporating atmospheric blues, lucid dream pop with delicate piano and gently reverberating percussion.

Returning after a well-received show in Nimbin last November, Jordan Ireland and Soda Eaves bring their unique musical explorations to the Bush Theatre garden stage at 6.30pm on Thursday 17th August, entry by donation.

The Phoenix Rising Café will be open. BYO.

## Classic elements of rock and soul

Australian singer-songwriter Jeremy Costa produces a kaleidoscope of sound and styles, Motown grooves and rock guitar, classic melody and 21st century determination.

The Jeremy Costa Band will be playing in Nimbin supported by Particles, who are a two-piece rock outfit, comprising Dan D'Arcy and Skarlett Saramore.

Catch this amazing double act in the auditorium at the Nimbin Bush Theatre

and you will believe that the big rock sound is well and truly back.

The gig is on Friday, 18th August, 7.30pm, \$15 entry. BYO, all ages. The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open.

## Monkey and the Fish

Singer/songwriters Chris Fisher and Marcelle Townsend-Cross have a unique yet Australian sound and appeal to a wide range of audiences. Beautiful guitar playing, joyous singing and a magical song craft means their gigs are highly enjoyable and with a intimate feel good edge. Catch them on the outdoor stage at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Sunday 27th August from 12.30pm. Free entry. BYO.

## Lovers of punk rejoice

Riding the wave of the punk revival happening across Australia, The Clowns (pictured) are an authentic punk rock band with energy to burn and are making an impact around the world with their uniquely Australian metal punk sound.

The Clowns will be supported by



Melbourne based Pagan, who play a metal-punk-rock they describe as "death rock'n'roll".

Crawling out of the lantana to open the night will be the primal howl that is Nimbin's own Antibodies, rocking out with their distinctive brand of North Coast feral pop-punk.

That's three great punk rock acts in one night! Mosh and stage dive to the glorious sounds of raw, committed punk.

The Clowns, Pagan and Antibodies will play the Nimbin Bush Theatre auditorium on Friday 1st September, 7.30pm at, \$20 entry. The Phoenix Rising cafe will be open. BYO.

Tickets online at: [nimbinbushtheatre.com/events](http://nimbinbushtheatre.com/events)

# Fun and frolics for Fathers Day



A family-friendly, fun Fathers Day will be held at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 3rd September, 12-3pm.

Along with a fabulous feast for your taste buds and beautiful ambience of the surroundings, the Out of Range band will be conjuring up a musical feast for your ears.

Out of Range are a quirky, eclectic local band who came together to create music that has a healthy dose of irreverence and laughter, tumbled up with cabaret, swing, gypsy, reggae and boogie-wogie musical influences.

The band features piano, accordion, violin, guitar, bass,

kazoo, melodica, bird whistle and voices.

They take you on a journey with their bouncy, genre-defying shenanigans and as you sit, you could suddenly find your toes tapping, your hands clapping and you may even find yourself swaying, swinging, swooning or swaggering along with them.

So whether you want to celebrate Fathers Day or whether you just want to celebrate being alive, come on over to Sphinx Rock for a happy afternoon of tunes and food.

<https://outofrangeband.com/music>  
[www.facebook.com/frangebandpage](http://www.facebook.com/frangebandpage)

2 Blue Knob Rd, Nimbin BYO

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Sat 5 Aug 11am - 4.20pm	Info / Workshop <b>MEDICAN</b> ALL ENQUIRIES TO NIMBIN HEMP EMBASSY	
Fri 11 Aug 7.30pm M \$10	Movie Night <b>'WE ARE MANY'</b> 15million people can't be wrong! Revisiting 15/02/03	
Thurs 17 Aug 6.30pm FREE	Dinner Under the Stars <b>SODA EAVES &amp; JORDAN IRELAND</b> Enchanting folk-pop	
Fri 18 Aug 7.30pm \$15	Indie Rock Gig <b>JEREMY COSTA BAND + PARTICLES</b> Indie rock	
Sat 19 Aug 2-6pm FREE	Battle of the Bands <b>'PASSPORT TO AIRLIE'</b> HEAT #1 - Register NOW!! GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON! <a href="http://airliebeachfestivalofmusic.com.au">airliebeachfestivalofmusic.com.au</a>	
Fri 25 Aug 7.30pm M \$10	Movie Night <b>'ESTEEM'</b> Ecopsychology: Psyche & nature	
Sat 26 Aug 2-6pm FREE	Battle of the Bands <b>'PASSPORT TO AIRLIE - HEAT #2'</b> Register online	
Fri 1 Sept 7.30pm \$20	Punk Rock Gig <b>THE CLOWNS + PAGAN + ANTIBODIES</b> Sweaty punk	
Sat 2 Sept 7.30pm MA/15+	Movie with Q&A <b>'PUNKS FOR WEST PAPUA'</b> Documentary banned in Indonesia + Q&A session with director	
Fri 15 Sept 7.30pm M \$10	Movie Night <b>'O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU'</b> American roots adventure	

**BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES**  
**(02) 6689 1111**

**COMING UP!!!**  
 2/9/23/30 Sept - BATTLE OF THE BANDS cont'd  
 16/17 Sept - NIMBIN ROOTS FESTIVAL  
 Sat 14 Oct - FLAMENCO NIGHT

**TICKETS + INFO ...**  
[www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events](http://www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events)