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# Chamber Chat



by Teresa Biscoe, president

It's that time of the year again, with the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce AGM coming up at Birth and Beyond on Thursday 23rd November at 6pm for the election of a new committee.

Projects the Nimbin Chamber has undertaken over the last year include:

- The 'Light up Nimbin' Project, a joint partnership between the Nimbin Community Centre and the Chamber to install solar powered lighting under the awnings in Cullen Street to improve the safety and visual amenity for those in the village at night. The Nimbin Chamber has undertaken to match the funding that the Community Centre has been granted by the State government for the project and has committed \$18,000 from the Special Business Rate Variation Levy fund. Many thanks to the local police service who provided crime stats and supported the funding application. We have also sent a request to Lismore Council to contribute \$2000 to this project as part of the Lismore Crime Prevention Strategy, as this project has been included in its report. Hopefully this will be more successful than the initial application made to Lismore Council for \$10,000 to support the lighting project.
- We have also restarted



Teresa speaks to NBN-TV in July after the announcement of the Light up Nimbin grant from the NSW Community Safety Fund.

the Nimbin Murals Restoration Fund with collection tins being distributed throughout the village. Thank you to those businesses who took a collection tin. Our beautiful murals from local artists are a reflection of the richly creative community we have, and add a unique splash of colour to our streetscape. We will also support any application by local business owners to the Heritage Assistance Grant from Lismore Council for mural restoration. We are actively contacting business owners of village buildings to encourage them to restore or sponsor a mural on their building.

- We are working towards a 'Plastic Bag Free Nimbin' future. We are committed to supporting local community groups working on Boomerang Bags, have initiated the Nimbin Ecobag project which should be out in the community early next

year, and are looking into a reusable Nimbin Travelling Cup.

- We supported local events by donating \$250 to the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, meeting with the organiser of the Nimbin Roots Festival, Lou Bradley and writing a letter of support for a grant application to stage the event. We also met with Michael Balderstone from the Hemp Embassy to give feedback after the annual MardiGrass event.
- We have held regular General Meetings to give an opportunity to our membership and community to raise concerns and hear from our guest speakers who included elected members of the Lismore Council, managers from the council, representatives from the NSW Business Chamber (of which we are a members) and the Lismore Area Police Service. Topics covered included

local development, water quality, roads, pavements, parking, signage, local infrastructure, available services for members, scams and community safety.

- We have contributed to street beautification by providing paint for the map restoration in the park and the repainting of the planter pots. However, Jane Mari deserves the praise for her unflinching management of the decoration, planting, maintenance and funding of the planter pots.
- Ongoing projects include support for the Light up Nimbin, Nimbin Walking Trail Project, the 7 Sibley Street Sustainability Hub and the Nimbin Cultural Centre. We are committed to improving the infrastructure and image of our village and representing the interests and concerns of our members.

I would like to thank all the current members of the chamber executive who have volunteered their time energy and enthusiasm to the chamber. They all have an ongoing commitment to promote sustainable development whilst protecting the alternative values and the natural assets of our dynamic little village.

We look forward to seeing our members at the AGM and would also like to thank our members and the village community for their support and interest at our general meetings, your feedback is important to us.

## Generation rent deserves housing security



by Jenny Leong,  
Greens MLC

Renters have become a mainstream group in our society, but our laws have not kept pace with this societal shift, and renters do not have the same basic rights as everyone else.

Despite being a third of the population – equal to the number of people who have a mortgage – renters can be evicted from their home, for no reason, with just 30 days' notice.

For families with kids, and older people especially, having to move at such short notice can be extremely stressful.

No-grounds evictions affect tourist towns up and down the NSW coast and in the Snowy Mountains.

Under current laws, it is perfectly legal for a landlord to rent a property to a 'permanent' tenant, but then evict them at the start of the holiday season so they can rent the place out to tourists

at vastly inflated prices. It's not fair, it causes massive stress and insecurity to many in our communities, but it happens all the time.

Communities living in mining towns or near large infrastructure projects also suffer from these unfair laws. When there is an influx of temporary workers, existing tenants can be issued a no-grounds eviction – again so that a greedy landlord can jack up the rent to the cashed-up temporary workers.

That's why there is a growing community support to end unfair no grounds evictions through the Make Renting Fair campaign – endorsed by over 80 organisations in NSW alone.

Many other countries recognise that housing is a human right – and that means being able to live free from rent-stress. To reflect this, they have introduced caps on rent increases, but here in NSW landlords can increase the rent as often as they want, and by large amounts. It is very stressful for someone who is renting to know that they may not be able to afford the rent in the future, because it can increase substantially, with very little warning.

The result of this insecurity is that many people are afraid to ask for repairs and maintenance, in case they are branded a 'problem tenant', and issued a no-grounds eviction.

It's time for our rental laws to catch up with where we are at. Renting is no longer a transitional form of housing for young people who are saving up to buy a home – many people on ordinary wages and in a range of circumstances will find themselves as long-term renters. Our laws need to provide better protection to these people – and not prioritise the bank balance of investors over renters' rights to a safe, secure place to call home.

We have an historic opportunity to reset the balance, and give people who are renting the security to put down roots in their communities and the freedom to plan their lives.

When the *Residential Tenancies Act* is reviewed by the NSW Parliament later this year, the Greens will be moving amendments to end unfair no-grounds evictions, put a cap on rent increases, and allow people who rent to have pets and ensure that additional provisions are in place to support people fleeing domestic violence. Because there are over 800,000 people renting in NSW, and they deserve to have a secure home and a secure life.

Jenny Leong is a Member of the NSW Parliament and the Greens spokesperson on housing, rental and tenancy. You can find out more about her work to protect renter's rights at: [rentersrights.org.au](http://rentersrights.org.au)

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# From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith  
Lismore City Council

I want to start with a personal thank you this month. Many people in Nimbin and surrounds have seen the HART services (formerly community transport) cars and buses around town. Many locals would know that I have been the operations manager of that organisation for almost six years as I have attended many meetings with volunteers and staff at Nimbin Aged Care. I have had to finish up this week in the role of operations manager as it proved too big to hold alongside my mayoral duties.

They have been an amazing support to my "other" role during my time there, even when I couldn't go into work for a month during the flood. It was that flood which made me realise that they need someone who's focused 100% on them and not being pulled away each day. I have loved working in the not-for-profit sector and I know HART are an organisation that helps so many in our community, so I will miss being a part of that team.

Now back to our regular bat channel...

If anyone is in Lismore on Thursday 12th October, make sure you get down to Richards Oval from 4.30pm to watch the 8th annual African All Stars vs the Lismore Legends soccer game. This is a wonderful celebration of our African community and this year council is hoping to bounce back after a few losses in a row. We love our diversity, so these events highlight just how amazing and important that diversity is.

North Lismore Plateau has been a controversial development in some areas of the community, but after a site inspection last week, councillors have been pleasantly surprised by the integration of local Aboriginal heritage in the design. The road and public space layout has been designed around feedback from the recognised Aboriginal parties so that significant sites are not only protected by celebrated.

This integration of our history going back thousands of year is an amazing achievement and will hopefully impact on all

future developments. It is also significant that this is really the first development on the western and northern side of Lismore in many years. Roads around this Nimbin and Dunoon area are being upgraded and this will serve to re-centre our city so that it is more connected to the north and less with the coast. I believe this is a significant step in moving people back from the seachange era into a more sustainable treechange lifestyle.

I want to finish with a reminder about our live web streaming of council meetings. On the second Tuesday of each month you can go to councils website at 6pm and watch all the action as council debate the many and varied topics that come into the chambers.

Last month we had almost 400 people tune in live during the meeting and many more since then have gone back to the recording to watch an issue they are passionate about. So there is no need to travel all the way into Goonellabah, though you are very welcome, to see and hear what your representatives are saying.

## Indigenous under-representation in industries a cause for concern

As Greens Aboriginal Affairs spokesperson, I have called on the NSW Premier to order an urgent investigation into the recruitment practices of the NSW Department of Industry after new figures tabled in NSW parliament revealed that only 9 out of 2,747 staff employed in the regional offices of the Department of Industry are Aboriginal.

It has also been revealed that there are no senior executive staff who are indigenous and that the average wage of indigenous staff in the department is more than 10% less than the average wage for non-indigenous staff in the department.

These are truly shocking figures and the NSW Government and public service should be ashamed at the lack of indigenous people employed in the Department of Industry.

These numbers are so low that they point to serious issues, including the potential for institutional racism, in the recruitment practices of this department and the premier needs to order an urgent investigation to get to the bottom of this.

This is even more alarming when you consider that the Department of Industry is responsible for key indigenous issues, including processing and approving



**Green Scene**  
by Dawn Walker MLC

Aboriginal Land Claims, overseeing cultural water access and fishing rights, and improving employment and skills training in disadvantaged indigenous communities.

I have written to the NSW Auditor General, Margaret Crawford, to request that she also commence an investigation into indigenous employment across the whole of the NSW public service as a matter of priority.

This issue goes to the heart of indigenous representation and participation in our society and highlights the need for NSW to begin the process of developing a state-based Treaty, which could include issues such as employment requirements.

The NSW Department of Industry is responsible, among other things, for TAFE, primary industries, crown lands, water, tourism, jobs creation, regional development and industry policy. The Department is overseen by NSW National

leader and Deputy Premier, John Barilaro.

In 2008, the NSW Government signed up to a Council of Australian Governments agreement to a target of 2.6% indigenous employment in the public sector by 2015 as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation.

The figures have been taken from answers to Budget Estimates supplementary questions from NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales, skills, and small business, John Barilaro:

*How many Aboriginal staff are currently employed in the regional offices of the Department of Industry?*

(a) *What proportion of these staff are senior executive staff?*

(b) *What is the average remuneration for non-Aboriginal staff?*

(c) *What is the average remuneration for Aboriginal staff?*

ANSWER: *Nine within Department of Industry.*

(a) *Nil*  
(b) *\$93,471*  
(c) *\$84,060*

*How many staff in total are employed in Regional offices of the Department of Industry?*

ANSWER: *2,747 excluding casuals.*

## On the same PAGE

by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

We changed the law last year to legalise the medicinal use of cannabis.

Because of this, a private company is looking to invest \$50 million in our region on a cultivating and processing operation. It will provide over 300 permanent new jobs. Great news.

I would like to congratulate the Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education that recently celebrated its 21st birthday.

This is a great achievement for a community school and credit goes to principal Marga Helms, the school board, teachers and students.

I secured a grant of \$150,000 for the school to build a new administration block and refurbish its learning areas, which was matched by the school.

The Nimbin Show celebrated its 95th year last weekend – and what a great show it was.

Agricultural shows are a wonderful opportunity for our community to display the wonderful healthy and green produce we grow.

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in organising this 95th milestone.

I recently spoke in Parliament about the Nimbin Roots Festival.



I would like to thank organisers Lou and Phil Bradley who created an event that the whole community can get involved with.

I officially opened the Friends of the Koala's new \$170,000 Burrubi Education and Administration Centre last week.

This is a terrific project that will allow the Friends of the Koala to deliver more educational information about koalas to more groups.

It will also extend the range of skills Friends of the Koala currently offers to Centrelink clients and potential volunteers.

The project included construction of a colorbond building with a garage, disabled toilet and shower, office and kitchenette and bitumen sealing adjacent to Rifle Range Road.

The centre's current building will be turned into a dedicated koala hospital to help koalas which need long-term care.

## Flood survey aids recovery

September marks a year since the Council elections, we've had an interesting, and at times, extremely challenging journey, and it has definitely been one of the most intense rapid learning phases of my life.

This week marks six months since the flood. Like many others in our community, my personal and professional life has been turned upside down and it has only been in the last week or so that I have really slowed down enough to appreciate the significance of what I personally have been through, and to appreciate the scale of the impact in a deeper community-wide context.

I think I have mentioned in other columns that recovery from a natural disaster is widely accepted to take at least two years. There are still more than fifty families in our community without permanent and secure housing since the flood, many residents and businesses continue to battle with insurance companies, and the economic and social impacts continue to develop and unfold.

Over the past six months I have been part of a community advisory group with the University Centre for Rural Health who are undertaking research into the mental health impacts of the natural disaster on the community of the Northern Rivers.

I encourage everyone to find 15 minutes to complete the survey to help inform the research. The survey is for every single person across the Northern Rivers, regardless



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

of if you were directly impacted or not.

It is important to realise that an event like this affects us at a community level, you might not have been flooded yourself but you will know people who were, you most likely shop at businesses that were impacted, your road might have been cut off, or your property has had significant damage, you might have volunteered to help in the clean up, or you might feel deeply for our community and the impacts that have been suffered by so many of us.

This questionnaire will turn our flood stories into the evidence we need, to let policy makers know where the gaps in services are, and what works best for community recovery. The information that will be gathered from the questionnaire will support the ongoing flood recovery and help to improve future responses to disaster events.

The results will provide a unique picture of the wellbeing of the community six months after a natural disaster, in a region that is a hotspot for extreme weather events.

You can find the survey online at: [www.ucrh.edu.au](http://www.ucrh.edu.au)

The survey is open until November, so please take the time to participate before it closes. The more people that participate, the more valuable the research will be, you can help ensure more people know about it by helping to spread the word across your networks, and across the region.

If you were significantly impacted it could be difficult for you to complete the survey, there are agencies that can provide you with support to fill it out: Red Cross, Interrelate, Salvation Army, and Lifeline are all offering this support.

Paper copies with reply paid postage are also available at local libraries and at Red Cross, St Vincent De Paul, Lifeline and Salvation Army stores, and they can be mailed to you. Phone 02 6620-7570 or email: [northern-rivers.flood@sydney.edu.au](mailto:northern-rivers.flood@sydney.edu.au) to find out how you can access these offers.

As always, please contact me if I can be of any help with Council or with any community matters, email: [elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or phone 0418-639-927.

# Trashing endangered rainforest must be prosecuted

by Dailan Pugh,  
North East Forest Alliance

The North East Forest Alliance has requested the Minister for the Environment, Gabrielle Upton, to ensure that action is taken against the Forestry Corporation for roading and logging 95 hectares of the endangered ecological communities 'Lowland Rainforest' and 'Grey Box-Grey Gum Wet Sclerophyll Forest' in Cherry Tree State Forest, given that 21 months after being told of the breaches the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has failed to take regulatory action.

Cherry Tree SF is on the Richmond Range 29 km west of Casino, adjoining Mallangane National Park which has been identified on the UNESCO Tentative List for addition to the Gondwana Rainforest Reserves of Australia World Heritage Area. These world heritage value rainforests extend into Cherry Tree and appear to have been illegally roaded and logged.

It is astounding that in this day and age a NSW Government agency can get away with recklessly and illegally bulldozing through endangered rainforest, causing immense damage, and nothing is done.

Last December, over a year after our complaints, the EPA issued the Forestry Corporation with an official caution for 66 breaches



Roading in the EEC Lowland Rainforest and logging in the EEC Grey Box-Grey Gum wet sclerophyll forest

of logging laws in Cherry Tree State Forest involving illegal logging of hundreds of habitat trees, damaging threatened plants, logging within stream buffers, and failing to drain roads.

At that time the EPA told us they would separately deal with the worst offences of illegally roading and logging endangered Lowland Rainforest and recklessly damaging hundreds of retained habitat trees. Now it seems they were just trying to ignore these complaints

because they have still done nothing.

The EPA have had the evidence for over a year; their refusal to act on it is purely political.

We are concerned that the EPA are once again allowing to expire the two years available for them to prosecute the Forestry Corporation, as they did for our complaints over Whian Whian.

Over a year ago the EPA completed a project to map 13 Endangered Ecological

Communities (EECs), which NEFA recently obtained under a freedom of information request.

The EPA's mapping confirms that at Cherry Tree the Forestry Corporation made 33 incursions into mapped Lowland Rainforest, including construction of seven roads through rainforest, trashing 4.5 ha of rainforest in the process.

The EPA's mapping also shows that the Forestry Corporation logged up to 90 hectares of mapped

Grey Box-Grey Gum Wet Sclerophyll Forest. This endangered community is characterised as a low rainforest with emergent eucalypts.

It is disturbing that the EPA knew that most of the offences they found the Forestry Corporation guilty of committing last December, occurred in this EEC, and yet failed to mention this, or deal with them as the more serious offences of causing damage to an EEC.

The outstanding offences of recklessly damaging habitat trees also mostly occurred in this EEC. It is no longer tenable for the EPA to pretend that the EEC Grey Box-Grey Gum Wet Sclerophyll Forest doesn't exist. We know it's a cover-up.

Cherry Tree is part of the 'Border Ranges North and South', one of Australia's 15 recognised biodiversity hotspots. The Border Ranges Rainforest Biodiversity Management Plan is a national recovery plan that covers this hotspot and specifically maps these EECs as both a Conserve Priority and a Repair Priority. They should never have been logged in the first place.

The trashing of 95 hectares of two Endangered Ecological Communities in a biodiversity hotspot of world significance is environmental vandalism of the worst kind.

These are clear breaches of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* that the Minister for the Environment has the responsibility for administering. As the EPA continue to refuse to punish the Forestry Corporation for their wanton and reckless environmental vandalism, it is the Environment Minister's responsibility to make them uphold NSW's environmental laws.

NEFA's assessment of the EECs and audit of Cherry Tree State Forest are at: [www.nefa.org.au/audits](http://www.nefa.org.au/audits)

## Ecological impacts of festivals on North Byron Parklands significant

by Denise Nessel,  
Northern Rivers Guardians Inc.

North Byron Parklands has been hosting Splendour in the Grass and Falls Festival in a trial development overseen by the NSW Department of Planning.

When the owners first sought state planning approval, they claimed the site would be used for only ten days a year, so ecological and social impacts would be minimal. They admitted that the best mitigation against impacts would be limited use of the site for festivals.

For five years now, residents have been disturbed by the noise, traffic and anti-social behavior that arrive with the festivals. Risks of fire increase dramatically when tens of thousands party outdoors within metres of heavily forested areas.

The police have expressed serious concerns about attendee safety and have said the site cannot be evacuated in eight hours if an emergency arises. Long-time residents know the history of major floods on the site and are incredulous/amazed that the state government appears unconcerned.

Equally significant are the ecological impacts on the site and on Marshalls Ridge Wildlife Corridor and Billinudgel Nature Reserve, which are adjacent to the site. Although the landowners have paid consultants to do ecological surveys, as required by the approval, the



scope and rigor of the monitoring program are not strong enough to detect impacts. So the landowners' claims of negligible effects are not credible.

Valid conclusions also cannot be drawn from the monitoring data because clear comparisons cannot be made between pre-approval and post-approval conditions.

Jones Road, contiguous with the Wildlife Corridor, runs through the site at some points and alongside it at others. Residents have sighted koalas regularly along this road, yet the Parklands' owners ignore them because the koalas weren't seen within the boundaries of their

property. Acknowledged or not, the koalas are there, as are the other 50 threatened or endangered species that inhabit the Nature Reserve.

The presence of this festival site so close to the habitats of fragile species is extremely concerning. The festivals could go elsewhere; the koalas and other wildlife don't have that option.

The NSW government spent millions of dollars establishing Billinudgel Nature Reserve and the Wildlife Corridor but they appear uninterested in protecting that investment. The Department of Planning has not provided rigorous oversight of compliance with the consent conditions. Self-monitoring



Music festivals such as Splendour in the Grass have had social and ecological impacts on the Byron Parklands site for five years now. Photos: Yael Stempler

is the rule, so it's not surprising that the developers get good marks for compliance.

And because the state is in charge, Byron and Tweed shire councils have no say in the matter. The state recently approved a 20-month extension of the trial period – to allow Parklands more time to prepare their proposal for permanent approval.

If they obtain permanent approval, the number of festival days will double, and daily attendance limits will increase dramatically. If the owners get what they want, the area will see still greater festival scale and frequency.

Live Nation, the US festival conglomerate, recently purchased 51% of Splendour and Falls and will be expecting Parklands to host even more of their events. Residents

were told festivals could be held as often as once a month. So much for mitigating impacts with limited use!

Instead of low-key development that would be compatible with this ecologically sensitive area and nearby residential villages, the state is supporting the growth of mega festivals that will send most of the profits to the US, turn North Byron and South Tweed into Party Central, and keep local governments at bay.

This short-sighted perspective doesn't represent good planning principles. We call on the community to help find another location for Splendour and Falls and other Live Nation events and help preserve the Nature Reserve and Wildlife Corridor as they were originally intended to be preserved.



Roots rocking duo Salt and Steel have won the Battle of the Bands – Passport to Airlie held at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

150 punters packed the auditorium to cheer on the finalists of this national band competition which featured a line-up of Blakboi, Mecha Mecha, Sarah Stando and Drift.

Winners Salt and Steel are off to the Airlie Beach Festival of Music in November to stay in VIP accommodation, play 3-5 gigs, be paid \$1000 and to compete with the winners from around the country to be the national winners.

If they win, they will feature on the main stage at the Airlie Beach Fest 2018. This is a real leg-up and opportunity for these talented musicians.

# Is Australia really this conservative?

by Aidan Ricketts

One could really be excused for wondering if Australia is the most backward developed nation on the planet. It certainly feels that way at present. Our federal government is hostage to reactionary conservative forces that have our country's wheels collectively bogged in a past of intolerance, fossil fuel corruption and the denial of science.

Conservatism is a maladaptive virus that paralyses societies in times of rapid change and can even hasten their decline by disabling necessary adaptive measures. Resilience is all about adaptation not paralysis. Conservatism is not just a quaint nostalgia for the past, it's actually life threatening in times of critical change.

There are still a lot of rational people in Australia in public life and business, but our federal government is captured by a tiny minority of crackpots, fascists, corrupt coal luvvies and religious nutters. As a result, we have seen decades of paralysis on climate policy, a deliberate policy to discourage renewables, public subsidisation and protectionism for the doomed coal industry and lately a completely pointless and divisive postal survey about whether people who love each other should be allowed to get married depending on their gender. Without even having had our Trump or Brexit moment, Australia is already looking like a basket case.

Are we really such a conservative country? That's hard to tell. Traditionally we have had much more liberal attitudes to sex than other English speaking countries



Photo courtesy: [recovery.com](http://recovery.com)

like the US and the UK. We have generally refused to care about politicians having consensual adult affairs, unlike the UK where the newspapers thrive on it, or the US where polities are all supposed to be monogamous Christians. We are one of the more secular nations on the planet. We had openly gay politicians and judges long before comparable countries with very little hoo har. Along with New Zealand we have some of the most enlightened sex industry laws on the planet (decriminalisation), whilst many countries like Sweden who are usually associated with progressive policy embrace regressive criminalisation models in relation to sex work and personal drug use. When it comes to drug laws we are still a prohibitionist backwater.

Current indications are that the pointless postal survey on same sex marriage enjoys large support, let's hope it passes handsomely, despite the "vote No or a big snake will eat all your children" messaging from the No campaign. We have historically had a strong labour movement and one of the world's strongest labour parties. Research suggests we do by and large accept climate science, and want meaningful government action, and that we also by a substantial majority oppose new coal and seek investment in renewables, and actually privately

invest in renewables despite our dimwit governments attempts to discourage us. We have historically one of the stronger national environmental movements and a strong well educated and effective feminist movement.

So, what the hell is going wrong? Well a few things. First, the fossil fuel lobby is very powerful due to its history of embedding itself into our major political parties and parliaments over the last sixty or more years. The corruption that characterises the relationship between politics and the mining industry in this country is a form of corruption so pervasive that it is as invisible as oxygen despite its ubiquity (all pervasiveness).

Second, there has been an ongoing process of desecularisation of our parliaments. Religious groups have formed within the major political parties and across party lines like the Lyons forum, that seeks to organise politicians who believe in self-evident non-empiric truth into powerful intra party policy blocs. Why is it no surprise that their religiosity takes a string stand against marriage equality but is silent or even supportive of gross human rights violations for asylum seekers. Like many religious movements today, these are really political movements, and this case deeply right leaning.

Thirdly, politics and election outcomes can have perverse results that don't really represent the way we voted. Partly because Malcolm Turnbull was so narrowly elected, his government remains reliant on the support of every LNP MP which means the nutters have taken over the asylum. He is largely captive to these dangerous fruitcakes.

The net result, an Australia that has both back wheels bogged in climate denial, coal industry protectionism and religious motivated homophobia.

We need to recognise and call out all of these pressure groups that exert undue influence. We need to make sure the LNP is not re-elected, which may not be so easy if trump starts a war with his kindred soul in North Korea. A stupid war about, um, whether north Korea can arm for war provides the perfect cover for conservatives, patriotism is the last refuge to which a scoundrel clings.

So, we need to remain vigilant, mobilise within our communities to ensure open minded people remember to post their postal survey forms on marriage equality, and participate in the next round of elections by supporting parties and candidates who resoundingly support a progressive, environmental sustainability, climate action, fairness and equality, peace and grassroots democracy.

Australians are not really so conservative it seems, but we have been being misrepresented and misgoverned for too long by corrupt interests and religious minorities.

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## TRIBAL MAGIC

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# Powering up the South Pacific region

by Rebecca Ryall

The Rainbow Power Company has a long history of participation in solar projects in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and throughout the Pacific region.

Continuing this tradition, we recently completed a project in Kiribati, an idyllic yet particularly vulnerable archipelago in the Central Pacific region.

The islands, and people, of Kiribati are directly impacted by climate change, and rising sea levels. The highest point on the main island of Tarawa sits only about three metres above sea level.

The nation comprises about 100,000 inhabitants, spread across numerous islands, occupying an area of about 4000km, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean – one of the most isolated nations in the entire world.

In August, RPC representative, Paul O'Reilly, travelled to Kiribati for seven days, to oversee the delivery of eight 10kW solar arrays, and to co-ordinate training in design, installation and maintenance of these units.

This project was funded by the Italian government, as a direct result of the recent Paris climate accord.

Rainbow Power has worked closely with the Kiribati Department of Ministry, Public Works and Utilities and Energy Planning Department on this project, which is designed to strengthen the local marine export industry.

The eight units will be spread across the islands, and used to supply off-grid power to refrigeration units, thereby increasing storage capacity.

Fish products are the main export market in Kiribati, and access to a renewable energy resource is an important step in ongoing self-sufficiency for this vulnerable population.

Education is a major focus for Rainbow Power



Company, and projects such as this one in Kiribati are not restricted to the simple supply of products.

As part of this project, Paul was involved in training local staff in the design of cost-effective off-grid solar arrays, and the installation and maintenance of these systems.

Rainbow Power remains available for after-sale support for this and all other projects.

Paul reports that the island people of Kiribati were warm and welcoming, peaceful and happy, and he greatly enjoyed working with them.

Rainbow Power Company is proud of its involvement in this, and other renewable energy projects, both locally and abroad.



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## John at helm of booming business

Universally respected for his character, his philanthropy and his genuine expertise in the business of real estate, Nimbin's own John Wilcox has taken the helm of Nimbin Hills Real Estate as the sole owner and licensee.

Former co-owner Chris Clarke has changed career paths in order to spend more time with his growing family, and although Chris still pops in from time to time, it is now John "running the show".

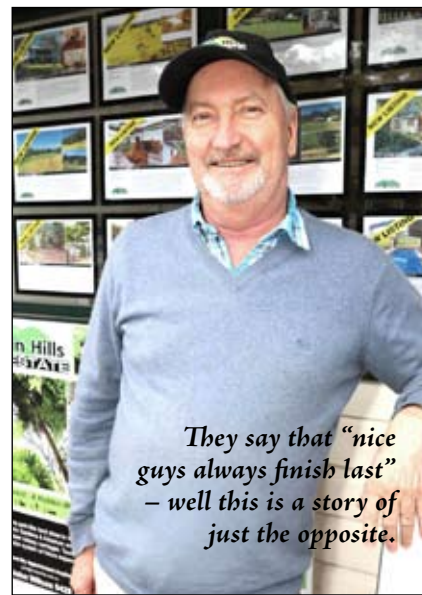
Although his wife Gail would love John to have retired, it was his love of real estate and his dreams for the growth of the business that put a dent in her plans.

"I have a shortlist of reasons for wanting to continue with Nimbin Hills," he said.

"After 40 years working in and around Nimbin, I truly love this area and community, and it still gives me a thrill to be able to provide a service to keep good people in and around Nimbin (vendors or renters) or to welcome new people in.

"Most vendors want to stay around, with those moving on usually citing health or family as their reluctant reasons for leaving."

John's cited the staff as of primary importance for staying at Nimbin Hills. "I have a vision of being able to provide a healthy career for at least six local families with this business," he said.



*They say that "nice guys always finish last" – well this is a story of just the opposite.*

And he is realising that vision, currently employing seven full-time staff, five permanent part-time staff and one casual. "That's an enormous undertaking for a small business, but this is the happiest, most cohesive and hard-working team I've ever worked with. All are well-credentialed, and some have amazing experience to draw upon."

The greatest changes in recent months have been the addition of salesperson Yvonne Campbell, the sideways change for Samara Burcher to assistant salesperson, and the return of Nathalie

## Nimbin Hills REAL ESTATE

Dease to the property manager position.

Yvonne has been an editor with both [realestate.com.au](http://realestate.com.au) and [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au) and this has broadened the network of our operations – evident in the unbelievable interest that one local property, 7 High St, has gained from Sydney radio to the 'News' section of *Domain* Australia-wide.

"Our local superstar Samara has started her selling career in spectacular fashion, and her previous role of property management has been taken over seamlessly by the experienced Nathalie."

But perhaps the greatest noticeable change in the firm's offerings, according to John, is the professional photography and the addition of local Saras Salvador, who is providing professional drone footage of properties for buyers from out of the area.

And because of all of this, records keep tumbling. John last month sold his first \$1million+ property, only to be (happily) outshone by Grant Rossiter who sold over \$3million in total in the past month.

John said, "Jacqui Smith has held all the office records for a few months now, so it's nice to give the boys a go. Not for long, no doubt."

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# Fantasies Erotique



**F**antasies Erotique cabaret 2017 was on fire for its fifth year running. On Saturday 9th September the Nimbin hall was brimming with elevating performing arts.

Producers Jaz and Judy Who created the show as a collaboration of creativity, sensuality and rawness. The overall outcome was to expand the audience's imagination. Raw Designs fashion and costumes are the foundations of the cabaret, where all the imagination begins.

This year the acts were delicate, erotic and bold, and had the audience all roused up on their seats. Lustful scenes and real stories were displayed on the smoky catwalk that were full of honest expression and laughter.

MC Maire Joy Barron was stunning in her colourful sequin Raw Designs piece and brought along her vagina pillow for show.

To mention just a few of the highlights: He-Don-ist showed

his shibari skills by suspending a willing woman from the roof; not one but two elite dancers high up on a pole; a fireman who took his clothes off and made everyone nervously laugh; and brave Amelia told her hilarious 'coming out of the closet' story...

There were numerous masked men with glitter beards razzing up the crowd and swinging off the catwalk.

The show's production was somewhat grand. The lighting and vision mixing with the live camera feeds done by Tone Wonderland from Crystal Grid was an exhibition in itself.

The food made by the Radical Faeries was delectable, and their service was priceless.

This original Erotique Cabaret 'Fantasies' has always been restrained, keeping it right on the edge but no further. It grows every year, gaining the fans respectability.

Make sure you catch it next year.



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No need to make an appointment. Drop in at any time.

### Event details:

Thursday 19th October 2017, 3.00 – 6.00pm  
Nimbin Town Hall  
47 Cullen Street, Nimbin NSW 2480

For more information,  
visit [nbn.com.au](http://nbn.com.au) or call 1800 687 626



This month Nimbin Flix brings you the definitive version of arguably the greatest Sci-Fi flick of all time, *Blade Runner: The Final Cut*, screening on Saturday 14th October at Birth & Beyond at 7.30pm.

From the distinctly informed mind of Phillip K Dick and the brilliant director

Ridley Scott, *Blade Runner* has been praised as a groundbreaking work and one of the greatest sci-fi films of the 20th century. Now in the 21st century comes the only version of the film which the director had full control over (the 80s version was botched by the studio, and the 90s "Directors Cut" was based on Ridley's notes).

This third release of the film has been fully digitally remastered for modern high definition displays, was personally approved by the director, and looks amazing.

Come join Nimbin Flix to experience this amazing film once again in hi-def. With the sequel, *Blade Runner: 2049* released on 5th October, it's the perfect time to revisit the classic in what the director called the "ultimate edition".

Members free. Non-members \$10 donation. Cake, tea, and coffee available for purchase. [www.facebook.com/nimbinflix](http://www.facebook.com/nimbinflix)



Bill Hicks



Janis Joplin

## BUSH THEATRE MOVIES IN OCTOBER

### American: The Bill Hicks Story (M)

Friday 20th Oct at 8pm

A captivating and animated documentary drama on the legendary Texas outlaw comic Bill Hicks, whose profound observations on American life changed the face of comedy forever. Three years in the making, *American: The Bill Hicks Story* brings the tale of one of modern culture's most iconic heroes to the big screen.

Much more than a comedian, Bill Hicks was and still is an inspiration to millions. His timeless comedy tackled the contradictions of modern life head on. But his unique gift was to tease apart the essence of religion, the dangers of unbridled government power and the double standards inherent in much of modern society, using nothing but his hilarious ideas and the uncompromising observational style.

Bill's story is told by the 10 people who knew him best: his family and closest friends who recount the twists and turns of his life. From Kevin Booth, Bill's talented lifelong friend, to the Outlaw Comics who introduced Bill into their heady world of drugs and alcohol, to photographer David Johndrow who perceptively captures some of the most revelatory moments of Bill's life. Each speaker is a compelling narrator who still carries a piece of Bill with them and, woven together, they bring a palpable sense of Bill's presence to the screen. Raw materials – video clips, photographs and personal recollections – have now been put together to recreate a full sense of Bill's life,

ambitions and achievements and a lasting testament as to why he will remain one of the enduring cultural cornerstones of our age.

### Janis – Little Girl Blue (M)

Friday 27th Oct at 8pm

Janis Joplin is one of the most revered and iconic rock and roll singers of all time, a tragic and misunderstood figure who thrilled millions of listeners and blazed new creative trails before her tragic death at age 27. This in depth examination presents an intimate and insightful portrait of a complicated, driven, and often beleaguered artist. Joplin's own words tell much of the film's story through a series of letters she wrote to her parents over the years, many of them made public here for the first time. Joplin was a powerhouse when she sang, and her recordings have never left the radio or the hearts of rock fans.

It strikes a fine balance between the Janis we think we know – the strung-out psychedelic white-blues belter who roared out of Haight-Ashbury in 1967 and found instant stardom after slaying them at Monterey – and the other half of her. Namely the Texas teenager with the classic, boring, suburban 50s childhood. She defied and transcended this childhood in a grand manner, going from Port Arthur outcast to major San Francisco scene-insider in three years. Even at the height of her fame Janis still wrote home to her family every week and remained that yearning Port Arthur girl somewhere deep inside. Much of the narration of this film is based

on these letters. This is a superb new documentary which incorporates revelatory interviews with family, friends, band members and associates (some long since dead), a good deal of stirring live and archive footage, and a lot of insight from people who knew her well.

Beyond anything *Janis – Little Girl Blue* reveals an incredible performer with a fearlessness that left the world spellbound – and then heartbroken with her untimely death in 1970

### Tanna (M)

Friday 3rd Nov at 8pm

*Tanna* is a 2015 Australian-Vanuatu production set on the island of Tanna in the South Pacific. It tells the true story of a couple who decided to marry for love, rather than obey their parents' wishes. In some ways similar to *Romeo and Juliet* and Australian production *Jedda*, the movie is based on an actual marriage dispute that happened on this remote island. This heartfelt story, enacted by the Yakel tribe, tells of a sister's loyalty, a forbidden love affair and the pact between the old ways and the new.

Tanna is a stunning location captured beautifully

in this film. Covered in rainforest and dominated by an active volcano, the film was shot entirely on location by filming the local Yakel people, not actors and stars Marie Wawa as Wawa and Mungau Dain as Dain. Most of the cast played their own roles in the film – Dain was cast as the lead male because he was considered the village's most handsome man. The cast members did not regard the filming as being difficult because their roles were "performing what we were used to in our daily life."

*Ten Canoes* was screened as an example for the actors so they could understand this realistic approach to capturing a story. This results in an authentic representation of the lives of the Yakel people – shot in the Nauvhal and Nafe languages. This is a stunning film with superb cinematography that feels like an authentic immersion into the world of the Yakel people. *Tanna* won many international accolades including two awards at the Venice Film Festival and a 2015 Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film. Don't miss it on the big screen, it is utterly gorgeous.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open serving delicious meals from 5.30pm.



Tanna

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Friday 27th Reuben Barkley, 6pm  
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**Sunday Gig Guide**

**October 12 noon start**

**8th Tim Stokes**  
*Into this crazy world of increasing distraction walks Tim Stokes, a big-hearted man with a pocket full of songs, reminding us of who we are and what really matters.*

**15th Bethanie Jolly**  
*Bethanie's rich folk style is coloured with splashes of old time blues and deeply moving soul.*

**22nd Azrai**  
*Her songs are born from wide open skies, wild tame places and anarchistic frontiers.*

**29th Hunter & Smoke**  
*Hunter & Smoke's firm belief in the revival of music and all of our connection to it, will be sure to get you off your behind with an irresistible need to boogie.*

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**October Gigs**

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Friday 6th	7pm	<b>Khan</b>
Saturday 7th	7pm	<b>Fright Ibis</b>
Thursday 12th	7pm	<b>Surf Report</b>
Friday 13th	7pm	<b>Slim Pickins</b>
Saturday 14th	7pm	<b>Eastwood</b>
Thursday 19th	7pm	<b>Brommers</b>
Friday 20th	7pm	<b>Occa Rock Ladies Night</b>
Saturday 21st	7pm	<b>TBA</b>
Thursday 26th	7pm	<b>Ben Purnell</b>
Friday 27th	7pm	<b>Connecting Souls</b>
Saturday 28th	7pm	<b>Richie Willams Band</b>

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**Bethanie Jolly**

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Bethanie's unique soulful voice tells heart stirring, deeply personal tales that will captivate you and leave you swooning for the sun, the moon, the land and the heart.

Fellow North Coast musician Kat Cooper will also be sharing her sweet and soulful tunes.

Bethanie will be performing 1pm on Sunday 15th October at Sphinx Rock Cafe, and also at 6pm on Friday 20th October at a house concert in Mullumbimby.

For more details, got to: [www.facebook.com/bethaniejollymusic](http://www.facebook.com/bethaniejollymusic)

## Songwriting comp to play Mullum

The 10th annual Mullum Music Festival (16-19 November, 2017) is a family-friendly event that takes over the streets, cafes and halls of the NSW North Coast town of Mullumbimby. This year's line-up of more than 90 acts includes Jon Cleary & The Monster Gentlemen, Marlon Williams & The Yarra Benders, All Our Exes Live in Texas and Frazey Ford.

If you'd like to perform at Mullum Music Festival's 10th anniversary, then get writing and enter the annual Play Mullum Songwriting Competition.

Fittingly, the theme for this year's competition is 'Celebration' as Mullum Music Festival celebrates 10 years of creating musical magic this year. Entries will be shortlisted by the Mullum Music Festival team and a winner will be selected by esteemed music supervisor and publisher, Norman Parkhill.

"I was thrilled to be invited to be the judge of this year's Play Mullum Competition," said Norman Parkhill. "I've been a devoted attendee and fan



2016 winner Matt Henry

of Mullum Music Festival for 10 years and I'm very much looking forward to

being part of the celebration." Each year the theme of the Play Mullum Songwriting Competition is different. Previous Play Mullum winners include Matt Henry with his song 'The Best That They Could Do' responding to the 'Break-Up' theme in 2016; Nicole Cross in 2015 for her song 'White Walls' that responded

to the theme 'One Day Can Change Everything' and Dan Hannaford in 2014 for his Protest Song 'Payday'.

So get writing and recording (a simple video recorded on a mobile phone will do) or send your already themed song in to the Play Mullum 'Celebration' Songwriting Competition for your chance to win a 30-minute performance at the festival on Sunday 19th November and two festival passes. Entries close Friday 27th October. Bands and individuals can apply. Head to: [mullummusicfestival.com](http://mullummusicfestival.com) for full details and application forms.



**Bowlo introduces Junior Mic**



The Bowlo Open Mic happens every second Wednesday (October dates: 11th & 25th) from 7pm, and all musos, poets, comics etc are welcome to get up and show everyone their talents.

A PA support crew is on hand to help you set up, and there are usually back-line players floating around that are more than happy to accompany you if you so wish. A drum kit is provided, but you'll need to bring any other instruments with you (including bass

guitar if that's your thing).

From time to time we've had some wonderfully talented kids and teens hop up, and we'd like to encourage more of Nimbin's young talent - so once a month we'll be kicking off at 6pm and opening up the stage for the first hour or so to our up and coming junior musical maestros.

All are welcome, there's always a friendly and supportive crew on hand to help you littler stars shine. First

Junior Mic session will take place at the open mic on 25th October.

The kitchen opens at 6pm, and the more senior mic-ers kick off around 7pm. Always a great night, and you never know who's going to pop out of the woodwork (or their lounge room) to play you a few tunes, or tell a few stories/poems etc.

More info and photos of each open mic's performers at: [www.facebook.com/NimbinBowloOpenMic](http://www.facebook.com/NimbinBowloOpenMic)

# Island Vibe still eco conscious

With over eighty acts performing across four stages over four days, it's easy to forget that Island Vibe is about more than just the music and fun in the sun.

But as Island Vibe Festival heads into its twelfth year, the event is edging ever closer to their goals of being a shining example of sustainability and carbon-neutrality.

Margaux Cappe, marketing manager for the festival, says her key focus is to spread the word about the festival's environmental commitments.

"We'll have a stage that is powered by solar power and all of our waste is hand sorted at the festival before being recycled." Margaux says

North Stradbroke Island, where the festival is held, is home to rare and endangered species as well as several heritage-listed sites.

Punters themselves can reduce their own carbon footprint by carpooling or



opting to join the group ride to get to Straddie, allowing them to cycle safely from either Brisbane or Dunwich while their luggage is forwarded ahead.

"There will no plastic at all sold on-site. We will have water refill stations so bring your own bottles. This year we're

also taking a big step towards having no single-use plastic on-site, so bring bowls and forks" Margaux says.

Island Vibe is held 26-29 October at North Stradbroke Island. Tickets for this year's festival are available for sale at Happy High Herbs Nimbin.

## Dinners under the stars at Bush Theatre



Tori and Carl



The Vanishing Shapes

### Tori Forsyth and Carl the Bartender Saturday 7th October 6.30pm

Tori Forsyth is an alt-country star on the rise. With a voice reminiscent of Emmy Lou Harris and Stevie Nicks and songs that are equal parts sweet and disturbing, Tori Forsyth makes gritty roots music sound enchantingly beautiful.

In August Forsyth released 'Grave Robber's Daughter' the first single off upcoming debut album (2018) which was produced by Shane Nicholson, who also produced her critically acclaimed debut EP, *Blackbird*.

Tori is supported by Carl the Bartender, a singer, songwriter and multi instrumentalist who has over a decade of performance and touring experience to his name – a quirky songwriter and charismatic singer, his raffish air and gorgeous voice makes listening to him a very sweet experience.

Both artists complement each other beautifully, two alt-country love children playing their songs together.

### The Magnificence Friday 13th October 6.30pm

Cam Smith has been honing his set of almost-traditional jazz and New Orleans inspired originals for over a decade, playing trumpet and singing at Edinburgh Fringe, Woodford Folk Festival and every pub and street corner from Canberra to Glasgow.

Catch these **Dinner Under the Stars** acts on the outdoor stage at the Nimbin Bush Theatre for evenings of music and food under the Milky Way.

The gardens by Mulgum Creek are a heavenly setting in which to immerse yourself with a banquet of world class music and foodie adventures.

The cafe will be serving delicious meals and sweet treats and award winning local Mountain Top Coffee.

**All shows BYO, kid friendly with entry by donation.**

He's found a gang of all-star Aussie musicians that can do the tunes justice in *The Magnificence*. They growl, they mewl, they cook – and they make audiences feel better about otherwise questionable life choices.

*The Magnificence* comprise of Cameron Smith on trumpet and vocals, Julian Smith on Double Bass and Lachi Smith on percussion.

Jazz is a meeting of the essences and emotions of many cultures. When many flavours combine to make a new taste that is greater than the sum of its spices, we call it gumbo. *Mighty Bush Theatre* New Orleans Gumbo will be on the menu for this special concert.

Don't miss this magical night of N'awlins jazz under the stars!

### The Vanishing Shapes Saturday 28th October 6.30pm

Novocastrian experimental folk mainstays *Vanishing Shapes* are returning to Nimbin where their musical style was endearingly dubbed 'fairy music' during a previous visit. Harmonic and compositional traits, including form and texture, display a combination of influences from the realms of classical and jazz music.

Despite the bizarre combination of styles that are the driving influences behind their sound, *Vanishing Shapes* have found a home for their music in some unexpected places. They have received immense support from Newcastle warehouse and house party scenes as well as supporting national and

international touring acts such as Afenginn, *The Crooked Fiddle Band* and *Asta*.

With a line-up now consisting of flute, clarinet, viola, classical guitar and double bass, *Vanishing Shapes* have been pushing themselves to defy the laws of tradition in folk music. In doing so they create an array of narrative driven pieces that bounce between being playful, harrowing and ethereal.

### Tennyson King Thursday 2nd November 6.30pm

Tennyson King is an international touring act from Canada, having performed with notable Canadian acts such as *Whitehorse*, *Sloan*, *Elliot Broode*, and *Blackie and The Rodeo Kings*. His style of rock and roll is infused with earthy roots and blues while subtly laced in psychedelic ear candy. It's a raw, gritty, and organic sound that makes the soul feel wild and the heart comforted.

He has performed at festivals such as Canadian Music Week, Winter Folk Festival, Taste of Danforth, China Town Festival, and was nominated for a 2016 Emerging Music Award.

Highlights of Tennyson King's first Australian Tour included performances at Yackandandah Folk Festival, MONA and Burke & Wills Festival and performances with Paul Dempsey, Paul Woseen (*Screaming Jets*), Yirmal, and Brad Marr (*Massive*).



The Magnificence



Tennyson King

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<b>Fri 6 Oct</b> 8pm M \$10	<b>Movie Night</b> 'MAGIC TRIP' Ken Kesey's search for a Kool place	
<b>Sat 7 Oct</b> 11am - 1.30pm FREE	<b>Monthly Seminar</b> CRYPTOCURRENCY Discuss Bitcoin & more - All levels welcome: Beginners to advanced	
<b>Sat 7 Oct</b> 6.30pm DONATION	<b>Dinner Under the Stars</b> TORI FORSYTH & CARL THE BARTENDER Alt-Country angels	
<b>Fri 13 Oct</b> 6.30pm BY DONATION	<b>Dinner Under the Stars</b> THE MAGNIFICENCE New Orleans' style jazz with Cam Smith & co + Gumbo on the menu!	
<b>Fri 20 Oct</b> 8pm M \$10	<b>Movie Night</b> 'AMERICAN: THE BILL HICKS STORY' Cutting-edge comic	
<b>Fri 27 Oct</b> 8pm M \$10	<b>Movie Night</b> 'JANIS: LITTLE GIRL BLUE' Portrait of a musical legend	
<b>Sat 28 Oct</b> 6.30pm DONATION	<b>Dinner Under the Stars</b> VANISHING SHAPES Eccentric folk faerie music from Newcastle	
<b>Tues 31 Oct</b> 3pm - 7pm \$2 PER EXHIBIT	<b>Oz Halloween!</b> DAY OF THE DEAD & THE COMING OF SPRING Games / Crafts / Trolls Faeries / Kids' Disco Dress-Up Prizes	
<b>Thurs 2 Nov</b> 6.30pm DONATION	<b>Dinner Under the Stars</b> TENNYSON KING Earthy roots blues from Canada laced with a little psychedelia	
<b>Sat 4 Nov</b> 11am - 1.30pm FREE	<b>Monthly Seminar</b> CRYPTOCURRENCY Discuss Bitcoin & more - All levels welcome: Beginners to advanced	



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

COMING UP!

**Fri 10 Nov - 'SPEAR' M**  
**Sat 25 Nov - FAT PICNIC & BEARFOOT**  
**Fri 8 Dec - SALT & STEEL**  
**Sun 31 Dec - NEW YEAR'S EVE!**

TICKETS + INFO ...

www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events