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A year on from the 2017 flood and our community is remembering what happened, but also reflecting on what we have done in the 12 months since.

While news footage and reporting was dominated by pictures of water flowing through the streets of Lismore, our rural areas were also greatly affected. Nimbin and surrounds, at the top of the Leicester Creek catchment, saw rainfall and flooding that has never been seen before. When I told people that businesses were inundated in Nimbin, they didn't understand.

But our rural community pulled together and made sure their neighbours were safe. Roads needed clearing to allow vehicles to pass and fences were knocked down by falling trees and floating debris. Culverts and driveways became impassable and people became isolated in their homes. For many new residents who have not witnessed a big flood, this was a scary event. Then again it was scary for all of us.

With climate change comes increased risk. These micro-climates that drive extreme weather events are only going to increase and cause weather situations we haven't seen before. So we have both wetter and dryer conditions coming our way in the future. A long absence of rain will be followed by a localised storm cell that will carve out channels in the weakened landscape. Our biodiversity is under threat.

But the answer in saving



Isaac Smith surveys the damage to businesses on Molesworth Street following the 2017 flood.

From the mayor's desk

the future is the same as it was 12 months ago when the water came. We work together. As families and communities, we make decisions that not only help us, but those around us as well. In coming together, we find solutions that elude us as individuals.

So thank you to everyone who helped in our flood recovery. You are the ones who give me hope. We can work together and we can make a difference.

Thank you to all those who gave council feedback on the Nimbin parking strategy. No issue defines council more than parking. It is a constant that impacts on every development and strategy, so it is important to get it right.

And the best way to get it right is to keep talking about it, especially in a busy and multifaceted community

like Nimbin. With so many competing demands, council is hoping to strike a balance between supporting visitors without penalising locals. So as these changes are put in place over the coming year, please continue to give us feedback on what is working and what can be improved.

It was good to speak with locals working on the Rainbow Road walking trail in Nimbin in recent weeks. Many will be familiar with this proposal, as it has been developed for some time. But it now seems closer than ever with a few small items to be resolved, it can attract a grant from the state or federal government.

Much like the rail trail proposals, it is great to see communities looking to walking and riding through our region. Not only is it sustainable, but it keeps you



by Cr Isaac Smith

in a location much longer, so you're not just driving in and out. The longer you stay, the more you get a real sense of the community you're with. It would make me very happy to see this project get an official tick later this year.

Last but not least, I look forward to seeing you all at MardiGrass this year. I hope to see you at the gathering in a few weeks, and let's continue to push for law reform in NSW and Australia.



Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, president



At our last general meeting, the group present focused on two presentations. Trevor Reece spoke about the Rainforest Monument Project, celebrating and focusing on the 40th Anniversary of the Terania Rainforest Protest and its legacy.

He has drawn together a number of very interesting stakeholders locally and nationally who recognise the significance of this protest action, that inspired and informed the modern Australian history of eco-activism. He sees this monument project as an opportunity to inform and publicly acknowledge the places where this historical event played out.

Celebrating, recognising and honouring our unique and colourful local history, both modern and ancient, and the beautiful environment we enjoy in this area as a result, is part of what continues to attract visitors and migrants from all over the world. The people present all expressed support for this very worthy project. Thank you Trevor for your brief.

Our next presentation came from Paula Newman, Strategic Development Officer and Peter Whitlow, engineer from Lismore City Council to discuss the Draft Nimbin Car Parking Strategy.

Shorter term strategies were discussed first which included changes to parking zones in the main precinct, increased ranger enforcement to ensure parking zones are respected, and line marking the western carpark. Residents also spoke about better signage generally, but especially at pedestrian crossings and slowing devices.

Long term strategies were also discussed including the acquisition of parking spaces to the east and west of the street, a long vehicle parking zone on the outskirts of the village, and the link road from the Alternative Way development to Cecil Street. Villagers also discussed parking options in Cecil Street and how the new developments would impact on village infrastructure and areas immediately beyond the scope of the current parking strategy report, like Cecil and Thorburn Streets which are already experiencing traffic and parking issues.

Paula gave a great brief on the parking document and the process undertaken to create it, and Peter advised on the engineering and budgeting of the proposals and the long term plan for a pedestrian-friendly main street. They also updated us on some of the work that they had been doing with proposals in the report, approaching the stakeholders from the areas

proposed to explore the options available.

I would like to thank both members of Lismore City Council staff for generously sharing their time and expertise with us and giving us a brief glimpse of some of the work they are doing on our behalf.

All the discussion at the general meeting around the impact of upcoming developments on infrastructure stimulated a deep discussion of the terms of the existing Nimbin Development Consent Plan and how it informs the current Development Consent Approval process. The Chamber would like the terms of DCP to underpin and guide the process, to an outcome that preserves the natural charm of the village.

If poor urban design choices are made because a developer is able to tick the boxes in the approval process, the results could spoil the natural beauty of the surrounds and the historic charm of the village. The Chamber would like to invite Lismore Council staff to a general meeting to inform and discuss this important issue with the village.

Steph Seckold provided a very delicious array of wholesome savoury snacks at the supper after. If you are interested in being informed of chamber meetings and events, consider becoming a member. We can be contacted via our email: chamber@nimbin.nsw.au and offer very affordable rates for membership.

Dogs don't work, but Sniff Off does

by David Shoebriidge, NSW Greens MLA

Sniff Off is a community based program to raise awareness of the expensive, invasive and ineffective drug sniffer dog program in NSW.

Why target drug dogs though? Because they get it wrong more than three quarters of the time, and the result is young people and Aboriginal people facing humiliating public searches for no good reason.

When we started campaigning on this in 2011 there were about 40 people a day being searched inappropriately –with an 80% error rate. In the years since then, our sustained pressure has brought this down dramatically with both the number of searches down, and accuracy up.

In 2014 we worked with the Young Greens to launch Sniff Off on social media as a way of alerting people to the locations of drug dogs at train stations, on the street and at music festivals. The Facebook page alone has over 30,000 likes and an enormous reach beyond this. And it is working.

Searches in the Tweed/Byron area have gone down from 1082 in 2014 to just 247 in 2017. The number of false positives has also gone down from 67.19% to 46.15% suggesting a far more targeted use of the program.

While this is positive, it still means that almost half of the people subject to invasive public searches are not found with any drugs on them.

Even when they do identify drugs on people, it's generally tiny amounts, a single joint or pill. It's clearly a useless program in terms of the supply of drugs. As one of our speakers said at the recent launch of Sniff Off in Newcastle: "It's not like the drug kingpins of Newcastle are riding around on Opal cards."

Clearly if police want to target high level suppliers who are linked to organised crime loitering at the entrance of Splendour in the Grass, it is unlikely to result in success.

Music festivals are a particularly risky place for drug dogs. At festivals the program can be a cause of active harm when young, often inexperienced festival-goers will see the drug dogs at the entrance and, in a panic, ingest any drugs they have.

Tragically this can lead to overdoses. This is one of the reasons we have called for amnesty bins to be placed at the festivals so people can dispose of their drugs safely.

We also know the large number of officers deployed with dog handlers mean resources are pulled off "actual policing". Every report that we get at Sniff Off represents at least six police officers who are not out there making the streets safer, tackling domestic violence or assault, but instead waiting for a dog to give an indication that is more likely than not to be wrong. The waste of the program is enormous.

There is still more to do. We've lodged an information request with the police for the amount of time, money and resources allocated to bringing drug dogs to Falls Festival to catch a couple of people with a joint, or a single pill. We will of course share the results with the *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

While the success of Sniff Off is heartening we've still got a way to go. Ultimately we need to legalise marijuana, regulate it and tax it. Continued drug prohibition leads to the development of unregulated black markets that encourage the growth of corruption and organised crime.

It is here where the police should be focussing their efforts, not harassing kids at train stations or music festivals.

I was humbled to be unanimously elected by the Parliament last week to be the new Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

This position is not appointed by the party leadership, but is voted on by the Parliament.

I look forward to carrying out my new role, and I thank my fellow Members of Parliament for their nomination and support.

Robust debate is healthy, name calling isn't – that will be rule Number One.

Farming industries generate around \$1 billion in income for our region each year. It directly employs thousands of people locally.

That's why I brought the new Agriculture Minister David Littleproud to our community last month. We met with representatives from the blueberry, macadamia, sugar, beef, pork, dairy, and other industries. We also met with Northern Rivers Food Inc.

I recently announced a grant to Northern Rivers Food Inc to upskill our farmers and producers. This will help local producers such as Nimbin Valley Dairy.

Domestic violence is never okay, and we should do all we can to support its victims.

That is why the Government will ensure that up to a further six million workers covered by the *Fair Work Act* will have access to five days unpaid family and domestic violence leave per year.

The drug PrEP is 99% effective in stopping the transmission of HIV and, combined with existing strategies,



On the same PAGE

by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

we now have the potential to eliminate its transmission in Australia.

From April the Federal Government will make PrEP available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. This means the cost of a prescription will fall from around \$2500 a year to under \$40 for each script.



This time last year, our community was in the grip of recovery from Cyclone Debbie, it's been a long year, but at the same time it feels like it was only yesterday.

Readers of the *GoodTimes* would know that I have been very focussed on our recovery for most of the year, and I am coming to the end of a

particularly busy time. I've been working on a couple of anniversary initiatives: the first is an anniversary event at the Quad in Lismore on Saturday 7th April from 2pm; and the second is re-opening the train station in South Lismore for a week of community activities.

The results from the University Centre for

Flood recovery continues in Lismore

Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

Rural Health survey into the mental health of our community six months after the flood were released recently, showing that many people have increased levels of anxiety, depression and PTSD. It's hard knowing that people are experiencing so much stress, and I hope that these events are an opportunity for people to connect with each other, and to realise that none of us are alone on the tough road to recovery.

There was a lot of commentary last year that we did remarkably well as a community to work together and get ourselves back on track, and I believe that is because we are a connected, networked and resilient community. We should be justifiably proud of ourselves, but also we should be gentle and patient because we aren't quite recovered yet. Recovery is a marathon, so let's

remember to rest and drink plenty of water along the way.

I went down to the Lock the Gate #Time2Choose rally in Sydney on 24th March. It's one year out from the NSW state election, and the rally was part of the campaign to put coal and gas squarely on the election agenda.

You would have to be blind to miss the Stop Adani campaign, but what many people don't know is that the number of coal expansions and approvals currently planned for NSW are bigger than Adani.

There are now 11 contested new coal projects proposed in New South Wales. These developments will mine more coal and take up more land and water than Adani's controversial coal mine in Central Queensland. More water use, more emissions, and more impact on farmland, and there are even more uncontested expansions.

The campaign in NSW is just as important as Adani

in the fight against climate change and the fight for more renewable energy. Our region will be a key battleground in the upcoming election and we have an opportunity to make it abundantly clear that our community expects action from the elected government.

Finally, on Council business, we are currently managing a raft of grant applications. The state government has \$1.6 billion up for grabs for regional projects as part of the Regional Growth Fund and Council is working to prepare a number of grant applications for projects in our LGA.

It's an opportunity to see some positive outcomes, but it is a challenge for staff to do the work involved to submit the applications on top of business as usual, and of course much of the money has election sensitive timing.

Council is submitting major funding applications for Lismore Park; for stage two of Oakes Oval upgrade;

for NBN access in the CBD; for a new library; for a public plaza and carpark as part of the serviced apartments and cultural precinct; for a Crozier Oval upgrade and also for a range of smaller projects as part of the Stronger Communities Fund.

The final projects in this round are yet to be determined. On the list for Nimbin we are considering the Nimbin Walking Trail, public amenities refurbishment, and possible upgrades to Nimbin Pool and facilities.

We will know later in the year which projects are funded, and if they aren't funded in this round there is another \$4 billion in funding coming from the sale of the snowy hydro, so we can try again then. It's once-in-a-generation money, and we are working to secure as much as we can for our community.

As always, I can be contacted for community and Council matters on: *elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au* or on 0418-639-927.

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BATTERIES

Nimbin Advisory Group reports progress

The March Nimbin Advisory Group meeting was chaired by Deputy Mayor Vanessa Ekins, with valuable input from Council's strategic planning co-ordinator Paula Newman and Councillor Adam Guise.

The discussion predominately revolved around the Nimbin Parking Strategy and major development projects within and around the village including the proposed Nimbin Walking trail 'Rainbow Road' project.

Parking strategy

Paula Newman recapped the development of the Nimbin Parking Strategy to date, which involved consultation with the Chamber of Commerce and the community in general via public meetings facilitated by the NAG.

She presented it in two phases, the next two-three years and from five years out. The short term goals are all funded and will provide new signs on approach to the village, signs indicating "All Day" parking in the western car park, line-marked car parks to increase efficiency/numbers, one-way directional arrows.

On street parking will be 15 minutes between the blisters and two hours elsewhere. The bus/loading zone remains outside the Tourist Information Centre, with another bus/long vehicle parking zone intended to be developed opposite the Bowling Club, provided resident concerns can be addressed.

There was a suggestion that suitable bus/long vehicle parking might also be possible adjacent to St Patrick's Church or on a currently unused piece of land near the staff car park at Nimbin Central School. The NAG expressed the community's wish that the existing two disabled parking places, currently in the Western car park, should remain and did not support the proposed motor bike parking outside the bakery, requesting it be relocated away from the centre of the main street.

The major long term goals are not funded but identified as: 1/ the need to create an easy to use, safe, public/pedestrian access from the western car park to the village. 2/ As the population

and tourist visitors are expected to increase, there will be a need to acquire land suitable to either extend the existing western car park, or build another within the village precinct.

Nimbin Walking Trail

The Walking Trail Project has recently been revised, costed and is ready to be constructed. It has the support of the mayor and both Thomas George and Kevin Hogan, however funding has yet to be found. Its route follows some existing public "Right of Way" to create a Walking Trail.

Council were asked why they recently wrote to the NAG advising that a "Right of Footway" was withdrawn. The discussion then turned to Council's apparent unwillingness to support or advance this project, despite its investment in the initial feasibility studies and planning development. It is possible that some funding may be available from the Stronger Country Communities Fund, but some local council funding is also needed to advance the project.

The NAG is concerned that Council staff do not have an understanding of how advanced and ready to implement the project is. The NAG resolved to write to senior Council staff who have carriage of this project with a request Council be more proactive with its advancement and to all Councillors with a call to action for their support.

A visitor survey, funded by NAG, was conducted over the Christmas period. Whilst its findings are still being analysed, it showed a majority of respondents were interested in a walking activity in and around the Village.

Rainbow Lane redevelopment DAs

The owners of the Rainbow Lane/Museum site have contacted the Chamber of Commerce to say they will shortly lodge their DA and wish to seek further community engagement with their development. We agreed to thank them for their efforts in consulting the community to date and suggest that, once the DA is lodged, a copy of their plans be posted in a prominent position inviting

community comment/questions.

There was discussion about how Council's DA approval process appears to ignore the recommendations of the Nimbin DCP. NAG members suggested that future DAs need to incorporate "livability" factors such as bike trails and walking paths so that developments would be more integrated.

Clr Ekins suggested that where an individual had concerns about a DA, in addition to lodging a submission, they should also raise their concerns with Councillors. She also drew the NAG's attention to a list of new development applications which Council issue weekly, via email, available on request. This listing is an easy way to identify a DA which may need to be looked at more closely through Council's online DA Tracker.

Adam Guise raised a question regarding the recent change to zoning where it is possible to convert land to Community Title where the land was within a 4 km radius of the village. Council staff said she understood this would apply only to existing MO/Communities but it was agreed this legality needed to be checked further to ascertain whether it unintentionally created a door to allow inappropriate Rural Residential Developments. The NAG sought further clarification from Council.

Sport and recreation

On a very positive note, Council advised that the Fitness Park equipment, which has long been discussed, has been purchased with installation expected to be completed by late April 18. Council is currently reviewing their Sport and Recreation Plan and we are asked to give feedback via a community-wide survey, followed up with community meetings.

It was reported that Council staff have fixed spikes to support poles in the swimming pool with the intention of preventing people from climbing. As these measures may actually cause injury the NAG asked Council representatives present to raise the issue with the appropriate department and seek an alternative solution.

Nimbin Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe and Inez Price, Co-ordinators

20th anniversary celebrations

20 years ago almost to the day, the community took occupation of the former High School grounds and established Nimbin Community Centre.

In recognition of this incredible fundraising achievement, we are organising a big community celebration on the weekend of the 8th and 9th September. We envisage a special market on one day, perhaps a big community picnic, a Flix film night, complemented by open days hosted by the tenants and much more.

We would welcome participation by everyone and if your group or organisation, or you as an individual, would like to have input please let us know. If you have any photographic memorabilia, art or history relating to Visions of Nimbin 1997 or 1998, we would like to include it on our website and in other marketing.

Please either send digital copies via our email: ncc@nimbincommunity.org.au or drop material in to our office, which is open Monday-Thursday from 8.30am to 4pm.

Rent review

Nimbin Community Centre has recently had the unenviable task of working out how to cover the withdrawal of Lismore Council's funding from our budget. For many years the Council has contributed \$10,000 annually but, in line with funding cuts above the board, this financial year it won't be there.

This leaves a big hole in our budget bottom line that is exacerbated by an increasing wages budget. Our staff are employed under the Social Community & Disability Services Award and it has long been recognised that these employees, generally women, have traditionally been undervalued and underpaid.

Following years of lobbying, their award has been gradually increasing beyond the annual Fair Work allocation.

While we applaud this, it has stretched our budget. In addition, Council rates have increased and this year Council is applying for a significant special rate variation. And let's not talk about insurance premiums.

As our major income source is rental, we have had to carefully consider rents into the future as we sign new leases. Traditionally we calculated rents on area and we have decided to maintain this practice as it has served us well.

In the interests of ensuring the community centre has community interests at its heart, we have established different categories of tenancies - Not for Profit (NFP) community group; NFP community group with outside funding; other NFP; commercial in a non-prime trading position; commercial in a prime position. The lowest area rental is being applied to those in community categories. Some spaces are large and the rent burden would be unreasonable, so we have discounted rent based on

size of premises.

An exhaustive part of the review was discussion around how new rent levels would be implemented so existing tenants would not receive an unmanageable increase. To this end we have decided to phase in rent increases, and the maximum to be applied in any one year will be 10%. Once the new rental level is reached, which may take many years for some tenants, rent increases will be subject to standard annual increases.

While any rent increase is regrettable, Community Centre rents are still very reasonable and within reach of most community organisations. If you have any questions or comments about this issue, we would welcome an email from you and can assure you that Facebook speculation and commentary is not always well informed.

We are a volunteer management committee doing our utmost to manage a community facility in the interests of the wider community and we welcome any considered input.

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LATEST LISTINGS

NEW
2 HECTARES

Contact John

158 Tuntable Creek Road, Nimbin \$585,000
 • 4 x bed, 1 x bath, 2 hectares original farmhouse w/ polished timber floors
 • 3 x large built in robes, front and back decks w/ stunning panoramic views
 • Home office (formerly dairy bales) carpeted w/ power, plumbing and NBN

NEW
2 ACRES

Contact Jacqui

Lot 2/265 Martin Road, Larnook \$260,000
 • Gorgeous stone and timber cottage - on one of the first Billen blocks
 • Spacious open plan living areas downstairs, 2 x bedrooms w/ upper deck
 • Lovely gently undulating land to dam w/ hoop pine stands & fruit trees

NEW
100 ACRES

Contact Grant or Samara

157 Gwynne Road, Jiggi \$325,000
 • 100 acres. Desirable plateau near 'Tower Mountain'. Rich soil, tall native forest
 • Abundant water from mountain springs and dam. Views, views & more views
 • Modest cottage and Colorbond shed. Central to Nimbin, Casino & Lismore

NEW
74 ACRES

Contact John

39 Wallace Road, The Channon \$795,000
 • LOCATION LOCATION!! Just outside pretty & desirable Channon village
 • Rich-soiled acreage drops gently away to road/big creek. Subdividable
 • 4 x bed, 2 x bath spacious brick homestead. Simply beautiful farmland

NEW
BUSINESS

Contact John

Nimbin Newsagency/General Store \$550,000 + Stock
 • Lucrative business "bucking the trend" in retail. Centre of a bustling town
 • Well-stocked and well-patronised business in a franchise-free community
 • Nimbin: 3rd most visited tourist destination in N.S.W. w/ consistent trade

NEW
5 ACRES

Contact John or Jacqui

396 Gungas Road, Nimbin \$565,000
 • A most amazing stretch of creek! Bubbling water to big swimming holes
 • 3 x bed (one loft style) home + 1 x bed stone cottage. Both 2 x storeys
 • Third self-contained rental opportunity. Walk to colourful Nimbin Village

HOT OFF THE PRESS

NEW
25 ACRES

Contact Yvonne

274 Mountain Top Road, Georgica \$290,000
 • Amazing price for such a top property. 25 acres of gently sloping land. Value!!
 • DA plans approved for a 1 x bed house - available on request. Motivated vendor
 • 2 x unapproved dwellings + small sheds. Lovely creek around & through property

NEW
2 ACRES

Contact Yvonne

94 Basil Road, Nimbin \$449,000
 • Location LOCATION! End of cul-de-sac with beautiful Nightcap Ranges views
 • 3 x bed (1 x large attic room), 1 x bath refurbished home. Under house storage
 • Pretty feature dam surrounded by landscaped gardens. Lovely presentation

NEW
1.25 ACRES

Contact Jacqui

19 Basil Road, Nimbin \$195,000 or \$ 275,000
 • Buy one half of this block (STCA) or the full block for a discounted price
 • Glimpses of the beautiful Nimbin Rocks. Ready to build the dream home
 • 1.25ac just a short walk to village of Nimbin. Power, mains water, NBN

FEATURE PROPERTIES

LAND
NEARLY 1 ACRE

Contact Klaus

62 Collin Street, Kyogle \$135,000
 • 3919m2 of beautiful land within walking distance of Kyogle township. Value!!
 • The most outstanding panoramic views in town. Build the dream home

NOTHING TO DO
100 ACRES

Contact Klaus

1511 Cawongla Road, Larnook \$595,000
 • Authentic period home w/ modern twist on private acreage. Creek w/ waterfall.
 • 4 acres of tree-studded lawn with dam and sheds around the house. Immaculate

WOW FACTOR
500 ACRES

Contact Grant or Samara

999 Mulvena Road, Larnook \$590,000
 • No, your eyes are not deceiving you!! 500 acres of freehold pristine forest
 • Panoramic views almost to the Queensland border. Quaint dwelling w/ solar

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Dress up and celebrate MardiGrass 2018

by Michael Baldenstoned and Miss Guidance for MOB, MardiGrass Organising Body

There is a lot of enthusiasm for this year's MardiGrass. Passion really. Passion for pot which is finally getting some respect, even if we the users don't. Many are saying a celebration is being called for as the prohibition wall is quickly crumbling... or is it? Certainly the issue is on the table finally, thanks to recognition of medical cannabis, and now the greed of Big Business and their scramble for profit from our pain relief can be seen more clearly. That alone should get everyone off the couch to protest!

We want your enthusiasm this year, especially on Sunday 6th May for the Rally. There are big prizes for the best float, the best dressed and the most cleverly put statements regarding Cannabis law reform. In other words, we need your creativity more than ever, and that's what we can do best in Nimbin.

There's already a very full program with several new events including a Cannabis Hypothetical in the Hall on Saturday night between the Joint Rolling Heats and the Comedy. Dr Deb will be playing Geoffrey Robertson's part with a panel of doctors, lawyers, patients, growers and smokers and we're working on the police to join in.

Then there's Billy Cliff's Legends Tribute Competition (see below), and he already has entries from



Photo: Garry Mimlich

two Neil Youngs, a John Lennon, a Frank Zappa and a Bob Dylan. The Laugh Mob is bringing a new show called 'Good Evening Nimbin' which was nominated Best Comedy, Fringe World 2016. Nomad the awesome Magician will be there. Wild Marmalade leads a long list of music which includes Darky Roots, Fat Picnic, Thunder Fox, Sol Tradas, Louey Howell, Guthrie, Essie Thomas, Street 66, Rates and P. Smurf. There's an over-fifty Bong Throw in the HEMP Olympix this year due to the old hippies needing to have a chance at a medal.

As usual MardiGrass offers full tilt ideas and education all weekend at this year's HEMPOSIUM, where we pull back the curtain to reveal creative and abundant places around the globe basking in the post-prohibition green glow. As Australia is just waking up to the benefits of medical cannabis, the MardiGrass HEMPOSIUM aims to inspire, as we learn and share knowledge about

our favourite plant ally and healing herb. There is an impressive line-up of speakers who will share their cannabis expertise and experiences, and reveal the gains made in both Australia, and throughout other cannabis loving communities around the planet.

In 2018 we are excited to host speakers from North America, including Adela Falk and Dennis Boisvert from POW420, a Californian-based advocacy group for cannabis offenders suffering life sentences in American prisons, as well as returning Canadian WeedWoman, Ajia Mae Moon. And we're massively happy to welcome Precious Chong, award winning actress, writer and comedian living in Toronto, to her first visit to Nimbin.

From around Australia, we welcome passionate educators of medical cannabis including United in Compassion's Justin Sinclair, Dr Teresa Towpik (Medihuanna),

Carol Ireland (Epilepsy Action Australia), Deb Lynch (The Canna Nannas), Tony Bower (Mullaways Medical Cannabis), Todd Subritzky (National Drug Research Institute), Martin Williams (Psychedelic Research in Science & Medicine), Ray Thorpe (Happy Herb Company), Rebecca Houghton & Brooke Vogler (Weeded Warriors), and Nick Wallis (Australian Psychedelic Society).

We are excited to announce an outstanding line-up of Australian based cannabis advocates: Dr Deb Waldron, Jenny Hallam, Dr Andrew Katelaris, Michael Lambert, Kog, Malcolm Lees and Rayman, as well as families from the medical cannabis community. Barrister, author and political commentator, Greg Barns will speak on current legal issues. Politicians joining us include: Derryn Hinch (Justice Party), Greens Mehreen Faruqi and David Shoebridge, and Fiona Patten (Reason Party).

This year's MardiGrass HEMP Tent will promote global and local hemp solutions for medicine, food and industry featuring: Andrew Kavasilas (HEMP Party), Martin Ernegg (Hemp Fibre Fusion), Dolph Cook (Australian Cannabis University), Wayne Wadsworth (Health Farms International), and WA based hemp farmer Glen Ossy-Orley. Kog and Malcolm will host Grower's and Breeder's circles, and Rayman will astound with a super health session on raw cannabis

juicing.

In the lead-up to MardiGrass, the Big Joint will be dusted off for Nimbin's happening of the worldwide 420 celebration on 20th April. On Tuesday, 1st May we plan on gathering at the Lismore Court House for the traditional Mayday March at 1pm and then we will walk to Thomas George's office and make sure he has a good send-off as he is finally retiring.

This year's MardiGrass also coincides with the 45th Anniversary of the Aquarius festival which changed the face of Nimbin dramatically in 1973 and special events are being dreamt up as you read this, including a special Grassroots market at the Community Centre where local visionaries will showcase the rich and diverse range of alternative and sustainable ways of existing on this planet. Apparently Graeme Sait, author and soil health expert, will appear over the weekend here also.

Stallholders, advertisers, volunteers or performers who want to be a part of this year's MardiGrass should get in touch asap through the website: <http://nimbinmardigrass.com/participate> or come to the weekly Friday evening MOB meetings in the HEMP Bar from 4.20, of course.

Locally, we are still looking for beds and car parking spaces in the village over the weekend as well as more drug-free drivers. Well, drivers who don't show positive on the saliva test!

Aquarius Legends rock protest songs



Aquarius Legends entrant Al Basch (pictured) reckons John Lennon's *Imagine* is just as relevant today as it was when it was first recorded in 1971.

A long-standing local, Mr Basch will be channelling the former Beatle in this year's inaugural Aquarius Legends competition, which will feature tribute artists celebrating the counterculture icons who laid down the soundtrack of the changing times, all culminating in 1973 here in Nimbin with the legendary Aquarius Festival, ten days of peace, love and music, which has forever radically changed the face of Nimbin and its broader surrounds.

Mr Basch said John Lennon led the way with inspirational messages back in the sixties and seventies, painting word pictures with relatively simple songs, protesting against power, bigotry and greed.

"*Imagine* is a classic, along with the anthemesque *Give Peace a Chance*. They have

stood the test of time, and with the cold war warming up again, they still relate and reverberate as much today," he said.

Besides John Lennon, the Aquarius Legends competition will also feature other key icons such as Bob Dylan, Frank Zappa and Neil Young.

Aquarius Legends organiser Billy Cliff said he invites more contestants to join in.

"This is our first year staging the event, but we hope to grow it organically and exponentially, especially in the run-up to the 50th anniversary of Aquarius in 2023, so the more entrants the merrier, but I'm concerned that we still don't have any female legends represented yet, so come on girls, dress up and show us your Janis Joplin, Joni Mitchells and Carol Kings."

Prospective entrants can email: nimbinmardigrass@hempbassy.net or visit <http://nimbinmardigrass.com/participate> or simply turn up and register before the rally on Sunday 6th May.

Heats for the Aquarius Legends competition will be held in the Hemp Bar from 1pm, Sunday 6th May. Three finalists will be selected to battle it out on the MardiGrass main stage at 4pm with celebrity judge, Senator Derryn Hinch adjudicating.

Undacuva and the herd immunity

I've heard there are requests for more Undacuva news, so it's painful for me to have to tell you Bethany is still in recovery. She's had multiple crude around-the-campfire operations and is finally getting confident all tracking devices are out of her body.

But the mental scars are much deeper. And the paranoia is such a habit I'm not sure she can leave it behind.

Amazing how any habit can become your security blanket. It's why actors can never really leave the stage. Sometimes life is not worth living without an audience. The stage becomes their life and without it nothing makes sense. And who are you anyway? When the character has become you, like Bethany did, what's next?

She was so upset by the Laneboys' hidden camera. So totally betrayed by the Boss and the CC, Canberra Connection. Hard to believe a lifetime of service meant nothing after all. When questioned, all she got was, "You were well paid."

I worked with Beth for years. It started out when I became a JAI, Just Another Informer. It was either that or jail, and I had kids to lose. A no-brainer, but as much as I hated it at first, I soon settled in and managed to screw up quite a few people I didn't like while protecting my mates. That's where I met Bethany... smoking weed with the boys under the big fig. She sensed straight way I was a JAI but it took me years to realise she was a full blown Unda.

Anyway, she asked me to tell you some good news: the current beating you are getting can't last much longer as some neurotic family coppers got it into their heads that the great unwashed and unvaccinated have prevented herd

STREET SHUFFLE

I'm back! Unda

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

immunity in Mullum and the Bin, and they might infect their own kids when they go home. I don't really undastand the thinking. If the coppers' kids are immunised what are they worried about? Meanwhile the union is onto it and more and more of the Force is refusing to do the Mullum or Bin beats.

Hence there's a new campaign underway to show the public how synthetic drugs are causing an increase in violence towards the coppers. It's actually being pushed along by the unvaxxed scaremongering mob who are confused about which drugs the ferals use. Amazing how the ignorant keep putting all drugs in the same basket. The feral unwashed are of course the natural druggies, and rarely touch synthetics.

"Feed the fear" is the Force motto from forever, and it keeps 'em in a job of course, but the synthetic chems are proving to be the nightmare that hippies predicted. Couldn't the cops see it coming? The Force of course is a decade or two behind in thinking as you may know. Conservative to the core they are, Catholic conservative too.

Of course there is more violence happening. Their war on drugs is guaranteed to create an increasingly endless supply of synthetic nerve-wracking drugs. They don't seem to undastand chemical horrors can be as addictive as paranoia. In fact they are one and the same. Anything to feel something? Or is it just drowning out

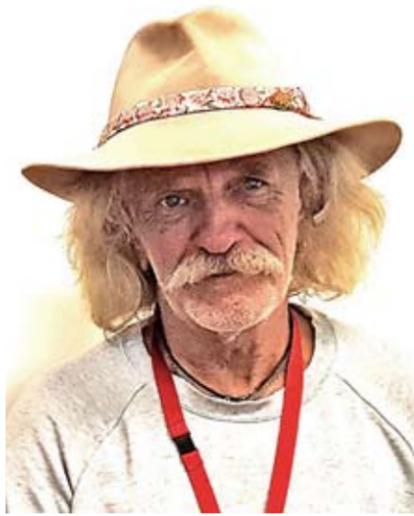
whatever reality worry you have?

And there's a new old feeling in the Force returning, which is that it's a lost cause trying to get rid of drugs from those communities anyway. "Let's leave them to it," has been an argument for decades, but now the ferals' lack of herd immunity has given it new impetus.

The other awkward embarrassment for the Force are the consequences of the 'spit cops'. The idea was really to harass the stoners knowing full well their weed shows up for weeks if not months, but no one expected the drug pattern to shift. Smack is back and they are never going to test opiates are they? And shrooms are almost as popular with grow-your-own kits selling online like hot cakes. Just imagine, hallucinating epileptic drivers who will never test positive!

Beth got sick of trying to convince them if they legalised weed their job would get so much easier. They couldn't tolerate the loss of power. But she says to tell you not to worry, it's unfolding just as it should, although I happen to know she's been on an almost fruitarian diet for the last year, and combined with the DMT soup every full moon, I'm not sure just how solid she is any more.

The faraway look she gets reminds me of the Dalai's seer she often mused about. She insists the future is all good but that's because no-one really dies, just your body rots, as she keeps telling herself and everyone else in the camp, deep in the rainforest.



by Bob Hopkins

Je suis MardiGrass

increasing number of well-informed Hanrahans.

In 1992, the year of the initial MardiGrass, the May gathering became the centrepiece of a ritual empowerment process for a community whose Aquarian dreams of a new age of community support, development and alternative lifestyles, and their clarion calls in defence of an environment constantly facing pillage, had been met in the only way the conservative local ruling classes knew how – bring out the Drug Laws.

These laws were originally based on racist and cultural bias, hysterical (and false) claims of lurid threats to societal wellbeing, and providing those in authority with the big stick they considered necessary to keep the uppity minorities in line.

Unless you were here then you can't imagine how fearful the local people were of the pre-Royal Commission on Police Corruption cowboys who masqueraded as law enforcers. And how liberating that first MardiGrass was in cultivating personal pride as well as minimising the fear of pre-dawn raids, random (and illegal) searches and intimidation, and that crushing sense of a province facing conquest.

But times have changed and new challenges now face us. The Drug Laws, however, remain for many of us as the emblematic of bad laws.

And so Good Governance is now our motto. Only venal political opportunism can deny those who seek these simple but apparently positive benefits of cannabis for their ailing children, whilst their political donor mates are bestowed the exclusive monopoly rights to grow and distribute (at great profit) those same plants.

Who hampers the efforts of palliative patients and their carers to access this simple respite to their anguish? Only cowardly power-obsessed political parties who refuse to consider drug

addiction as a health, rather than a criminal issue – to the overwhelming disadvantage of ordinary Australians, but to the obvious glee of the organised criminals who benefit so crassly from their immoral trade. To the disadvantage and despair of those in the Police force who wanted to be a benefit to society but are reduced to terrorising those in the thrall of substance use but who could be otherwise productive and responsible citizens.

It's never been about aggressively promoting and justifying yet another intoxicant. Despite cannabis' low toxicity and genuinely benign impact, we recognise that there are those who react negatively to contact with it, just as peanuts cause anaphylaxis in some people. This is especially so with young people and their developing brains, and in no way do we urge its use to them. Quite the contrary.

Nowhere else in Australia has there been such a determined, consistent and enduring campaign to bring about change to the discriminatory drug laws. But now we need your help. In great numbers.

Sunday 6th May is the epicentre of the protest. Only a massive turn out of singing, dancing, celebrating, colourful and creative people will be noted by those in authority and the Media. It's not a spectator activity. It's standing up and, like the schoolkids in the USA, saying loud and clear: Enough is Enough! It's time for change!

Come with your friends, use a designated driver, bring masks and costumes, drums, bells, and a joyful heart. Post the good news on social media. Be here for the spiritual and cultural experience, because that's what it is. For yourselves, for your children and for your grandchildren.

It is only together that we can build a strong caring compassionate kind and respectful world. We'd love to share that experience with you.

With Nimbin's 27th consecutive MardiGrass looming, a totally new set of circumstances provides the setting for this year's Drug Law Reform protest gathering.

New housing developments provide a new resident demographic; plans for a new commercial shopping centre point to a revised main drag; local community development organisations struggle to survive in an atmosphere less conducive to volunteerism; and an increased police attention to testing road users for alcohol and drugs (though in the case of cannabis, not impairment but merely use in some indefinable previous period) plus an increased presence in town (with dogs) has resulted in a sharp downturn in tourist numbers.

As well, the alarming magnitude and complexity of social problems generally – ecosystems under assault together with increasing species' extinction, diminishing soil fertility and food output, increasingly rising inequality, a lack of rural employment opportunities, greater demands on health, education and infrastructure services coupled with less funding – jostle for our attention and act to increase cynicism, scepticism, despair and rage. "We'll all be rooned" say an

MardiGrass parking restrictions

27TH NIMBIN MARDIGRASS
Friday, Saturday, Sunday – May 4, 5 & 6

The MardiGrass Organising Body would like to thank Nimbin residents for their tolerance, assistance and enthusiasm for this just cause.

From Friday 4th May to Sunday 6th May, there is no parking in Thorburn Street between Sibley and Cullen Streets, and also no parking down Cecil Street to the Showground camping entrance.

The centre of the village will be free of parked cars with water barriers put in place outside the Town Hall from Perceptio to the Pub, and between the Old Museum site and the Emporium on the other side.

These new zones will be clearly signposted by Council at least 72 hours prior to the event. The signs shall be "bagged" or screened until the commencement of MardiGrass on Friday 4th May. The parking restrictions will be removed on Monday 7th May.

We tape off no-parking areas, and advise locals to do the same with driveways or entrances they wish to keep clear, but drivers will get a fine if they ignore the parking signs.

Short term parking is notoriously difficult from Friday to Sunday. We suggest to get your shopping early, and if you need help with it, please contact us.

Day parking – Visitor parking will be appropriately signposted on the Northern, Southern and Eastern

entrances.

RTA approved road traffic control will be in place during MardiGrass. Cullen Street will be closed for [1] the Kombi Konvoy between 4pm and 4.30pm on Saturday, and [2] the Protest Rally, Sunday afternoon between 2.30pm and approx 3.30pm.

The Rally will gather in the northern end of the Western carpark and make its way south along Cullen Street to the Police Station where it will turn left and head down past the Greenbank into Sativa Stadium for rally speeches and MardiGrass float prize presentations.

Just follow the Ganja Faeries and the Big Joint!

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The Channon Open Mic
by Ray Flanagan (Rayzor)

Mish

The Teacher is the Nimbin Flix movie choice for April. It's a Slovak film (subtitled of course) set in Bratislava during the final decade of communism.

The storyline focuses on a teacher who heads the local Party and attempts to use her pupils to manipulate their parents for her own personal gain.

Dealing with weighty matters based on real-life experiences, this wonderfully subtle film is lightened with humour and irony. Good direction, some excellent acting, a fabulous soundtrack, a consistent script, careful photography and ideas with relevance make this a film well worth seeing.

Don't miss the beginning – in the words of one critic: "I take off my hat before the initial scene, absolutely brilliant, overlapping the beginning with the end, sketching the master lines of the story with wit, associating the future of the kids with the profession of their parents. Only by this flash is it worth watching the movie."

Screening Saturday 14th April at the winter time of 7pm, now daylight saving has ended. Doors open 6.30pm and refreshments will be available. All are welcome. Entry free to film society members. Non-members \$10 donation at the door. Nimbin Flix is auspiced by Nimbin Community Centre.



'The Teacher'

MOVIES AT THE BUSH THEATRE

Spookers

Friday 13th April, 7.30pm
\$10 entry. Rated M

This film by Florian Habicht, which was a Hot Docs Official Selection 2017, is an hilarious exploration of the most successful scare park in the Southern Hemisphere, run by a close-knit New Zealand family who try to face their own fears in order to make others face theirs.

Spookers is a live entertainment experience in which the victims move through theatrically-themed haunted houses, and outdoor environments decorated by sets, props and live scare-actors. Every weekend come rain, hail or shine, this diverse group of amateur performers unite to terrify punters at the southern hemisphere's largest scream park, situated in a former psychiatric hospital.

As night falls at Spookers, dozens of seemingly ordinary people become freaks, zombies and chainsaw-wielding clowns.

It is said to be the only theme park in the world where the actors are allowed to touch the punters. Needless to say many folk experience huge scares, which is extremely comical and feeds the schadenfreude in us all.

Amid the laughs and scares, *Spookers* takes a deeper look at the people who play the scary freaks and reveal a community of support and respect that is actually touching. Playing scary creatures has become a kind of therapy for many of the actors.

Director Florian Habicht reveals the transformative and paradoxically lifesaving power of belonging to a community that celebrates fear.

This is an equally scary and hilarious film. Come dressed in your best Spooky costume!



Return of the Jedi – Dress Ups

Thursday 19th April, 11am

\$10 entry with free popcorn. Rated PG

Return of the Jedi (also known as *Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi*) is the third instalment in the original *Star Wars* trilogy.

The film is set one year after *The Empire Strikes Back* and stars Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Warwick Davis and Frank Oz.

The Galactic Empire, under the direction of the ruthless Emperor, is constructing a second Death Star in order to crush the Rebel Alliance once and for all.

Since the Emperor plans to personally oversee the final stages of its construction, the Rebel Fleet launches a full-scale attack on the Death Star in order to prevent its completion and kill the Emperor, effectively bringing an end to the Empire's hold over the galaxy.

Meanwhile, Luke Skywalker, a Jedi apprentice, struggles to bring his father Darth Vader back to the light side of

The second Open Mic for 2018 at The Channon Tavern was held on one of the few fine days in the whole month, Sunday 25th March.

It proved to be a brilliant day from start to finish. New local band, Queen of the Ants, opened with a half-hour set of original material.

They were followed by Mish Songsmith with a couple of tunes from her soon to be released CD.

Open Mic regular, Toby, was next followed by another new combo (provisionally named Grey Area) playing a few jazzy numbers.

Tom treated us to a few ballads with some

nice finger-picking, and 'Peter, Paul & Mandy' served up some nice harmonies.

The eclectic afternoon of music styles was then rounded off by Di with some nice folk tunes as she accompanied herself on mandolin.

Next month's Open Mic is on Sunday 22nd April. The starting time is back to 2pm with the end of daylight saving.

If you would like a week's notice of the coming Open Mics send me an email asking to go on the mailing list to: thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com

Love to see you on the 22nd. Good vibes.

the Force.

This swashbuckling conclusion to the original trilogy is full of great characters from the previous movies, and also introduces some charming Ewoks to the mix, including Wicket, famously played by Warwick Davis.

Dress up in your best Star Wars costume to enjoy this wonderful film, and may the Force be with you. The Cafe will be open serving kid-friendly meals and treats.

School Holiday Movie – The Lorax

Thursday 26th April, 11am

\$10 entry with free popcorn! Rated G

The Lorax by Dr Seuss is a widely loved children's book that has been reborn as an animated musical fantasy-comedy.

The film was released by Universal Pictures on March 2, 2012, on the 108th birthday of Dr. Seuss, whose eccentric illustration and writing style was unique.

The cast includes Danny DeVito, Ed Helms, Zac Efron, Taylor Swift and Betty White.

Ted Wiggins is a 12-year-old, idealistic boy, who lives in Thneedville, a city that is almost completely artificial; everything is made of plastic, metal, or synthetics with no living nature. His energetic Grammy Norma tells Ted the legend of the Once-ler, who will tell anyone about trees if they brought him fifteen cents, a nail, and a shell of a great-great-great grandfather snail.

Ted leaves Thneedville in search of the Once-ler and what unfolds is the fable of *The Lorax*, a creature with a message for all humanity – still as relevant as ever it was. This is a moving and funny kids movie with a serious message, the Lorax loves the Earth and so should we!

The Cafe will be open serving kid-friendly meals and treats.

A FEW GOOD MEN



by Mike Sheehan

Ballina Players' next production is the courtroom drama *A Few Good Men*, directed by Mike Sheehan.

Many people would remember the 1992 movie starring Tom Cruise, Demi Moore and Jack Nicholson.

Also in the movie was the actor Keifer Sutherland who played Lt Jonathan Kendrick, an over-the-top, duty-focused Marine who exemplifies all that is wrong with myopic leadership.

Kendrick instigates many confrontations and uses the Bible as a thumping card when he needs to prove a point.

Playing the role in the Players production is Dane Bodley, who was most recently seen on the Players stage in the Nov/Dec 2016 production *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

Dane first joined Ballina Players for the 2015 musical *Big River*, and has played many roles since then,

for the Players and also Bangalow Theatre Company.

Kendrick is a strict and arrogant flunky, who berates his platoon leaders and continually draws on the Marine mantra: "Unit, Corps, God, Country!"

In playing Kendrick, who is not a likeable character at all (and he doesn't care that people think that!), Dane is looking forward to the challenge of having a very 'meaty' and dramatic role.

In the photograph (above), Kendrick is addressing his platoon commanders and ordering them not to perform a disciplinary action known as a "Code Red" on Private Santiago who is the victim in the play.

In the court-room drama *A Few Good Men*, Jo Galloway (Mel Strawbridge), Sam Weinberg (Graeme Speed) and Daniel Kaffee (Dylan Wheeler) form the defense team.

They are defending two Marine

privates, accused of murdering another soldier, however, the privates claim that they were ordered to perform an illegal disciplinary action, known as "Code Red", by their platoon leader, Lieutenant Kendrick.

Jo, who is passionate in her belief in the innocence of the privates, is chastised by the judge for constant objections, and angrily confronted by Sam who lectures her on her inexperience.

Graeme Speed, who plays Sam, is a very experienced actor (most recently as Edsel in the 2016 Nov/Dec production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*), and has appeared in many Players' productions since 2010. Dylan, who plays the very challenging role of Daniel, first appeared for Ballina Players back in their 2005 production of *Oliver*.

The famous movie of the same name has a script that varies only slightly from the play. On a budget of \$33 million dollars, it grossed over \$243 million dollars.

It was nominated for four Academy awards and five Golden Globe awards, and is one of only 60 films to receive an A+ rating from its audiences.

Tickets are available now, online at: ballinaplayers.com.au/bookings or at Just Funkin' Music in River Street Ballina near the pedestrian lights (\$2/ticket booking fee) in person, or on 6686-2440. Opening Night Special: Canapes and free glass of champagne from 7.15pm.

The season runs from the 6th to 15th April.

Anaid album launch

by Mel Williamson

After a seven-year recording hiatus, local singer/songwriter Diana Anaid is about to release her fifth studio album, *My Queen*.

She will be launching the album in Nimbin, the place she has called home (mostly) for some 30 years. It's a place that supports and influences her in its many guises, particularly the "love and respect people here hold for nature, the disenfranchised, the battlers, and individual expression," that to Diana make this a "powerful and unique area", and one that has influenced her new album to live up to her motto of "speak your truth and follow your heart".

My Queen reflects the need to "stand up and take our own power back", and particularly as a female in a still oft-discriminatory and gender-biased world.

Strong women have featured influentially in Diana's life and it is them that are celebrated in this new album; not least of all her transgender sister – who some of the songs are written for/about.

This album certainly showcases a more developed and assured songwriter, with a thoughtful depth to her lyrics, and melodies that aren't afraid to, at times, step away from her more usual rock-power.

They are still protest songs, albeit in a less "fuck-you" way than previous releases, incorporating more a sense of exploration, transformation, and acceptance – both of herself and the world at large.

Produced by Steve James (renowned former UK producer), *My Queen* will appeal to fans of old (album track: *Twisted Tale*), and new fans (album track: *Into Your Heart*) that are yet to discover the dynamic performer that is Diana Anaid.

As well as a Q&A with Steve (who has worked with acts including Monty Python, The Jam, The Sex Pistols, The Screaming Jets and Skunkhour) at the Nimbin launch, former Nimbin local Essie Thomas will be the support act, before Diana hits the stage in trio form, with Nathan Correy and Nathan Williams on drum and bass.

My Queen album launch, Nimbin Bush Theatre, Friday 20th April, 7pm, \$10, all ages.



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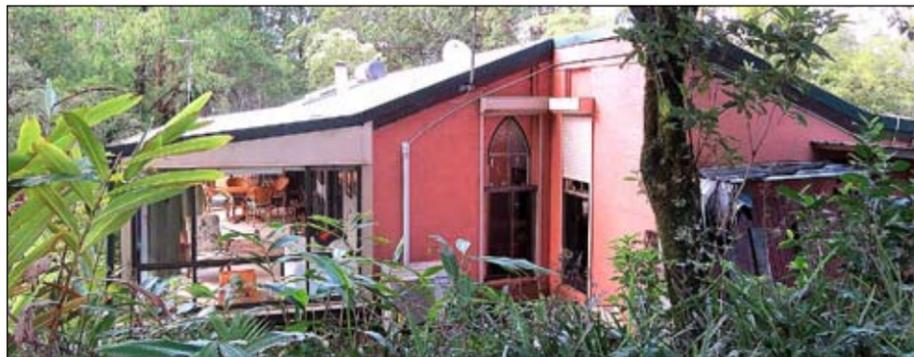
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- Endless valley and mountain views 15 mins to Nimbin / 25 mins to Kyogle

\$750,000 Negotiable

Bush Theatre April gigs



Artwomb

The last Artwomb resulted in some wonderful music and visual art and had such a positive fun vibe that the Nimbin Bush Theatre has made it a quarterly event. It's happening again on Saturday 14th April at 12.30pm, entry by donation, for those feeling inspired to create art with an ensemble incorporating music, painting, circus, dance, poetry, comedy, sketching, contortions and crafting – all spontaneous, improvised and collaborative.

ArtWomb is an incubator for new artistic collaborations, mixing artists of different styles and mediums together to promote sharing, learning and growing. ArtWomb brings together a passionate team of talented musicians, poets, gifted painters and MC's to facilitate a space that encourages all to contribute and for artistic types to network their talents.

The painting and drawing accompany the music – ArtWomb's house band The Fill Inns will be hosting an open mic and improvised music jam on the outdoor stage, sharing original music across many

genres. An incredible jam was had by all the previous Artwomb. The Cafe will be open serving delicious food and drinks. Let your inner artist shine and be supported at Artwomb.

Jamie Hutchings launches new album

"Jamie Hutchings writes songs that are epic, tender and mean" – The Thousands.

Jamie Hutchings (pictured right) is a singer/songwriter/guitarist and sometime producer, who began his career as frontman for much-loved underground favourites Bluebottle Kiss in the 1990's through to the noughties.

The group released six acclaimed albums and toured many times around Australia as well as North America and the UK, where some of their material was also released. Of his music, All Music in the US said: "...this is challenging, rugged, dramatic rock with folk tendencies woven intricately into its coarse fabric."

He has released four solo albums, two albums with the percussion-heavy quartet Infinity Broke, as well as a recent album in collaboration with Peter Fenton called The Tall Grass.

A frequent live performer, Hutchings' music has seen him tour throughout Europe numerous times, North America and even China. His production work has involved artists such as Peabody, The Maladies and Mark Moldre, and he has guested and collaborated with artists such as Paul Dempsey



and Peter Garrett.

"There is no song which doesn't leave you moved, slightly shifted in your own bubble in a way that can't be quickly remedied. That's a sign of a very fine songwriter, one of our best." – Bernard Zuel, Sydney Morning Herald

Catch him on the outdoor stage at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Sunday 22nd April at 12.30pm as he launches his new album *Bedsit* and see for yourself why he is heralded as one of Australia's best songwriters. Entry by donation. Kid-friendly, BYO.

Dangerous Song – Blue returns

2017's presentation of Dangerous Song – Blue was so moving and compelling that the Nimbin Bush Theatre has brought it back for those who missed out last time.

Featuring Linsey Pollak and Lizzie O'Keefe, the performance will be held on Saturday 28th April at 7.30pm. This is the only regional show of this groundbreaking Australian work, which is a 3D interactive theatrical experience and a breathtaking experiment in sound and vision.



Dangerous Song – Blue combines the human voice with the sounds of endangered animals to create an intriguing and moving musical performance, and a new musical language. Linsey Pollak, a national musical treasure, international TedX speaker and instrument inventor, plays a midi wind instrument where breath, lip pressure and fingering control the performance of animal call samples.

He uses live-looping technology to instantaneously record layers of music as he plays. The animal sounds are from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, and include a diverse range of species including whales, seals, walrus, fish and sea birds.

Stunning vocalist Lizzie O'Keefe (pictured above) joins him, weaving her voice in and out of the musical landscape that Linsey provides. Lizzie O'Keefe is a technically jaw-dropping vocalist. However, this impressive technique is just a platform for her emotions and this heartfelt plea to save the planet.

This collaboration takes us to a world of sound where the human

and the animal combine into a sort of sonic morphing. This sonic world is mirrored by the visual superimposition of the natural world onto the human performers using projection.

To do this, Linsey and Lizzie perform from within a 3D scrim (semi-transparent screen) with the shape of a giant aquarium. Underwater moving images are then projected onto the scrim, giving the impression that the musicians are performing underwater. Renowned and celebrated underwater cinematographer David Hannan (Ocean Ark Alliance) has provided the stunning moving images, and they are truly magical.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience this incredible work, created by two artists at the top of their game, that is a passionate plea to protect the natural world in all its mystical and transcendental beauty.

Tickets are \$25, available online at: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events or \$30 on the door.

The Cafe will be open with delicious locally sourced meals, award winning coffee and sweet delights. BYO and kid-friendly.

B	I	N	G	O
74	22	7	25	77

BINGO EVERY MONDAY

6PM

Poker Night Every Tuesday

6pm

POOL COMP 10-WEEK TOURNAMENT

PLAYED EVERY SUNDAY

5PM

Joker Poker Every Thursday

THE NIMBIN HOTEL

April 2018

THE MENDED DRUM BISTRO

SERVING UP GREAT MEALS FROM

11.30AM – 3PM

5.30PM – 8.30PM

Live Music Thursday to Saturday from 7pm

Thursday 5th 7pm

Surf Report

Friday 6th 7pm

Rumble Fish

Saturday 7th 7pm

Border Rangers

Thursday 12th 7pm

Bill Jacobi

Friday 13th 7pm

The Blue Cat Swing

Saturday 14th 7pm

Neil Anderson

Thursday 19th 7pm

Guy Kachel

Friday 20th 7pm

Khan

Saturday 21st 7pm

Carley

Thursday 26th 7pm

David Barbara

Friday 27th 7pm

Daneel and feel

TRIVIA NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY

Find us on Facebook

53 Cullen Street Nimbin NSW (02) 66891246

Mantra Tribe kirtan comes to the Rainbow Region

Starting Friday 13th April, there will be a monthly kirtan and dance event happening in the Billen Cliffs Community Hall in Larnook, with live music, ecstatic rhythms and chai.

Kirtan is the yoga of sound. A kirtan concert is a bit different than other music concerts, as in a kirtan you are part of the performance. You sit with the musicians and there is an invitation to sing with them in a simple call and response. You can also just sit and enjoy the sound.

Most of the kirtan songs are ancient sanskrit mantras, known to uplift and connect you with your heart. There is no need to understand the mantras intellectually, just feel their effect on your body and mind.

As kirtan is an Indian tradition, most songs refer to something that is bigger than the individual self. Kirtan is not religious, and encourages us to see what we all have in common instead of focussing on the differences. As our individual voices merge into one, a great sense of Oneness can be felt.

The Mantra Tribe kirtan nights will



also offer some ecstatic rhythms and guidance to give your body permission to dance your dance. And when the music finally ends there will be the deep stillness of a quiet mind.

Mantra Tribe kirtan leader is vocalist Jo Kelly, a Dolphin award-winning songwriter from Kyogle, and she is joined by Mal Knights (flute), Shivam Rath (Indian strings) and a percussionist. Together they will weave a dynamic and spiritually moving world music sound.

The Mantra Tribe kirtan nights are

a drug and alcohol free family event. Please bring a cushion and a chai mug (chairs are available if needed). Suggested donation \$10, \$5 concession.

Dates are: Fridays 13th April, 25th May, 15th June and 13th July, 7-9pm. The Billen Cliffs Village Community Hall, at 265 Martin Road Larnook (half an hour from Nimbin, Kyogle and Lismore), has wheelchair access.

More information, go to: www.cafemantramusic.com or: ilovemyself.com.au

Dinner under the stars with Georgia Delves and Patrick Wilson



As part of the Dinner Under the Stars series, the Nimbin Bush Theatre will present Georgia State Line (pictured) on Friday 27th April at 7pm, entry by donation.

"Many Australian artists refer to themselves as Americana or Alt Country these days, but very few deliver the real thing as well as Georgia State Line. Hailing from Melbourne but sounding like Texas or Tennessee, this band represents the true essence of today's country music." - Bill Chambers

Singer-songwriter Georgia Delves will be performing in solo mode for this show. Her music is a blend of old-time country entwined with today's Americana sound,

with gorgeous vocals and a truly authentic old time country feel.

Georgia cites taking her inspiration from Linda Ronstadt and current exponents within the Nashville singer-songwriter scene, centring her writing on the bittersweet balancing act between growing up and staying young.

Since arriving on the scene recently, she has enjoyed notable performances alongside Australian country music icon, Bill Chambers at the Tamworth Country Music Festival and the National Folk Festival, and has garnered nods from Paul Gough (ABC Radio National).

Her latest offering, debut EP Heaven Knows gained her reviews as "one of Australia's best up-and-coming acts." (Art News Portal)

Patrick Wilson, who will be supporting and also playing with Georgia, totes a special sound which is a blend of traditional and alternative country, drawing comparisons to Roy Orbison and Van Morrison.

He has graced the stages of Tamworth Country Music Festival, performed alongside Bill Chambers and most notably opened for country royalty, The Bellamy Brothers on the Melbourne leg of their Australian tour, with the Brothers acknowledging Wilson for his "thoughtful and diligent" song-writing. Catch these two world class musicians on the outdoor stage at the Nimbin Bush Theatre for a night of great alt-country music.

The Cafe will be open with a brand new menu to complement your sensory experience. Kid friendly, BYO OK.



New head chef at the Bush Theatre Cafe, Simon Turner, has 25 years experience as a chef, and has created a completely new menu influenced by Bush Foods and Australasian fusions.

Committed to the ethic of sustainable, ethical and nutritious foods, Simon has developed meal options such as Kangaroo San Chow Bow, Buffalo Cheeseburgers, Hemp Burgers, Finger Lime Aioli, Salt Bush Spices, Candied Quandong Salad, Lemon Myrtle house-made yoghurt, Davidson Plum Relish and Macadamia Pesto - with many of the fresh ingredients being farmed onsite at the Bush Theatre's kitchen gardens.

Add to this a huge vegan and vegetarian range of options and you have a healthy, exciting and fresh menu to explore.

BYO 2 Blue Knob Rd, Nimbin

Café open from 9am every day + Friday Nights & Special Events

FREE LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND ON OUR OUTDOOR CAFE STAGE:
12.30-3.30PM SATURDAYS
10AM-3.30PM SUNDAYS

FRI 6 APRIL 7.30pm \$10 MA/15+	Movie Night BLADE RUNNER 2049 Award-winning sci-fi sequel 30 years on ...	
SAT 7 APRIL 11am FREE	Monthly Seminar CRYPTOCURRENCIES Discuss Bitcoin & more - All levels welcome + also @ 11am EVERY WEDNESDAY	
FRI 13 APRIL 7.30pm \$10 M	Movie Night SPOOKERS A frightfully sweet & funny doco from NZ Dress up!	
THURS 19 APRIL 11am \$10* PG	Kids' Movie RETURN OF THE JEDI Episode VI - dress up! * includes POPcorn	
FRI 20 APRIL 7pm \$10	Album Launch DIANA ANAID + ESSIE THOMAS Rock'n'roll firecracker releases her new CD	
SUN 22 APRIL 12.30pm DONATION	Album Launch JAMIE HUTCHINGS New songs from Bluebottle Kiss frontman	
WED 25 APRIL 12.30pm FREE	Songs of Peace AZRAI Mountain soul	
THURS 26 APRIL 11am \$10* G	Kids' Movie THE LORAX Dr Seuss classic on film * includes POPcorn	
FRI 27 APRIL 7pm DONATION	Dinner Under the Stars GEORGIA STATE LINE SOLO + PATRICK WILSON Fresh Americana [MELB]	
SAT 28 APRIL 7.30pm \$25/\$30	Masterpiece DANGEROUS SONG - BLUE Linsey Pollak & Lizzie O'Keefe give voice to endangered sea creatures using music & cinematography	

COMING UP!
 Fri 4 May - Sun 6 May - **MARDI GRASS 2018**
 Sat 5 May - **HIP HOP FESTIVAL** [6 Briz Legends Bring the Cypher!]
 Wed 9 May - **PAY THE RENT BENEFIT** [feat. 'Back House & the Back Roaders']
 Sat 25 May - **JAZZ & GUMBO UNDER THE STARS** [with 'The Magnificence']
 ALSO in May - **DRAGATHON 2018**

TICKETS & INFO
www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events
BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES
 (02) 6689 1111

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1250

Home of the Big Bowler

BISTRO LOUNGE

- AND -

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1473

What's On in April?

- **Saturday 14th** - Visiting Club: Woolli Bowls
- **Sunday 30th** - Visiting Club: Cobaki Cobbers
- **Sunday 22nd** - Visiting Club: Golden Crest
- **ANZAC Day** - Free Breakfast after Dawn Ceremony; All-day music
- **Sunday 29th** - Kingscliff Butcher Birds

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

- **Friday 6th, 6pm** Rob Cass
- **Friday 13th, 6pm** Barkers Vale Brothers
- **Friday 20th, 6pm** Dave Barbara
- **Friday 27th, 6pm** Brommers
- **Open Mike** - Weds 11th & 25th

Lunch & Dinner Wed - Sat
Sunday lunch specials
Catering for functions
of all budgets and tastes

First-timers and novice bowlers welcome