

Planning Nimbin

Nimbin, it has been revealed has a town plan, but yet it is a village. The signs have been posted telling us where to park and for how long, after the three streets were painted with markings similar to ancient tattoos.

It has been explained to the residents of Nimbin that we can all feel comfortable with the town plan.

We are now expected to park, jump into the shops and services 'as if we are jack rabbits', rush out and drive along to the new rules because 'Nimbin Future' has been established according to the design by Lismore Town Planners. I bet we all feel secure now?

Grey nomads, camper vans, and other tourists who flock here in their tens of thousands will get quite a shock when they visit our Village, because this is what it is. It is a village not a town. Nimbin is a village and yet the Local Government calls it a 'town plan'

With the new parking zones, confusions could set in, and our six streets could well end up like Noosa, a 'hellish', nightmare parking for the locals and tourists alike. Perhaps the road sign company is happy, but from what I have heard, the residents are not.

This Nimbin parking plan is done on the cheap. This is truth of the matter. Very little thought in regards to our real needs. Perhaps it is manipulative, to ensure a change 'is gonna come' and we should just sit back and let it roll along until we all become 'gentrified'. We already put up with a surveillance camera system dominating Cecil Street watching where we go, what we do.

The concept of 'creative alternative freedoms', which our community has been largely built on is being eroded by those who do not accept our ways or those who wish to make quick monetary gain. In reality this parking idea is only the beginning. The plan as being put forward by Lismore Council will deter people from coming to visit our Village.

The parking issue of course it is only a jump away from parking meters, which usually follows! Parking meters, income-earning soulless 'cyclops' machines.

Mark Pestell
Nimbin

Housing developments

Mark Pestell's opinion piece in November NGT raises some important issues about proposed housing developments close to Nimbin. Like Mark, I question the typical sub-divisions and wonder about the possibility of an alternative medium density model. I think that many of us dread the possibility of characterless housing estates creeping into surrounding farmland.

The alternative is hard to visualise but I often come back to the question of how we might create something inspired by the traditional villages loved by tourists in Tuscany and much of Europe. Not only are they visually rich but they confirm their potential for community when residents gather in the piazza at sunset.

Concentrating residents close to town minimises the need to use cars and improves the viability of local businesses. Infrastructure is more efficiently utilised and farmland is preserved.

On the downside one might question how adaptable Australians might be to successfully live in modestly dense communities, and also recognise that for the developer dividing up land and flogging it off is a lot easier and requires little imagination.

I guess we need someone like the Californian philanthropist to which Mark Pestell refers or perhaps superannuation funds might be inspired to invest in such worthy and ethical projects. It seems that Nimbin is a good place for dreams to take root.

David Temple
East Lismore

Vote 1 Sue

In the 1920's Peter Henry Buck, a Maori doctor who married an Irish woman, brought the decimated Maori people and culture back from the precipice of extinction, a legacy from the invading British empire. The people with money and power came from another part of the world with an agenda of collect and rule.

Now the Maoris of New Zealand are a thriving, respected people who help to govern the country. History did not happen like that in Australia. The indigenous people and the environment are still suffering from the God of money and power, exemplified by how, a couple of years ago in Southern Queensland, Linc Energy and the government touted fracking as the new way for jobs and growth and community benefit, and a year later the boss is in hiding owing the Queensland people eighty million dollars, and leaving polluted water and a huge contaminated site.

Another example is Ian McDonald (former NSW senator) who is serving time in jail for accepting bribes when allocating mining licenses.

The current NSW Liberal government is an environmental disaster. Increased logging near national parks, marine sanctuaries stalled. The list goes on. There is a NSW state election around March 2019, and this heralds an opportunity for change. The monster of global warming is on the horizon and the current Federal and NSW

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government is encouraging the Adani coal mine, even though it doesn't even make economic or environmental sense.

Private schools are overfunded at the expense of public schools, and NSW is the only place in the world that does unquantifiable drug testing with heavy consequences.

Be part of the change and vote for the Greens, a political party that does not accept corporate donations. In the Lismore area that means a vote for Sue Higginson. She may not be the Peter Henry Buck of Australia, but she'll try.

The legacy of corporate power is a future of extinction at its worst, and uncomfortable at its best. The policies of the Greens aim at turning this around. Sustainable ecological, economic and social society is possible. All it needs is a change of government, and it starts with voting for Sue.

With a history of running the Environmental Defenders Office, and fighting the legal battle with the community against polluting multinational giant corporations, she is well qualified for the job.

Think Green, act Green, vote Green.

Yagia Gentle
Nimbin

Vote for climate action

At the last federal election it was Green preferences that put Kevin Hogan over the line, helped the Coalition gain a one seat majority and halted action on climate change for another three years. The result might have been different if informal voters had at least numbered their ballot to indicate who they didn't want.

In the 2016 election one in five Green voters preferred the National Party before the Labor party and so the National Party gained these votes after other candidates were eliminated. When you vote, your order of preference is just as important as your first preference.

In the State seats of Lismore and Tweed the combined Labor and Green vote was well ahead of the Nationals but here the problem was people only marking a first preference. Though this type of vote is allowed in the State election, a high proportion of initial votes for Greens or Labor were "exhausted" later

in the count because no second preference was marked.

The coming elections are critical. We cannot afford more years of delay and pretence on climate change. What happens here matters. A quarter of all global Greenhouse gas emissions are from countries like Australia and smaller. Global Warming cannot be stopped unless large AND small countries take strong action.

You may want a particular candidate to win, or not like any of them but what matters this time is whether your choice will vote the current Federal and NSW governments OUT. We cannot risk that somehow they cling to power to give us more spin instead of real action.

Make your vote count. Not voting or voting informal actually favours the status quo. Use your preferences to vote for ALL the parties that plan strong action on climate change. Most importantly, the National Party MUST be numbered LAST or they may collect your vote anyway.

Just 3,000 votes could make the difference and send powerful ripples far beyond the Northern Rivers. This is where the Bentley Effect could make another big difference. Come to a strategy meeting at the Birth and Beyond room in Nimbin at 6pm on 14th December.

Greg Reid
Mount Burrell

Independents Day

Bring on the Canberra chaos! The rush to women and independents can only be a catalyst for democratic evolution. Brave women have challenged the patriarchal status quo.

Consider with me three, perhaps essential propositions, to lead the world from pretence to real democracy.

It requires an injection of genuine compassion into government, and means equal numbers of real females. So far they have been pressured to fit the male mold.

We need to discard the party political system. Parties are perfectly designed to ensure the power elites remain firmly in control. Only independent politicians can remain true to their electoral base.

And we must discard the fake belief that capitalism is an equitable system. It has for eons been promoted by a powerful patriarchy via all manner of institutions. We have seen the tip of the corruption that permeates them all.

Corporations without borders, often out-muscle governments. They show little regard for human consequences and international conflicts resulting from their actions. Indeed, they often profit greatly as a result.



An independent compassionate parliament working for community is incompatible with the dictates of business. Independents and women are essential to implement necessary legislation. Women who hear only false party promises that leave some of their children on the outer, are willing to contemplate a paradigm shift.

Don't blame politicians for the inherited systems. They feel the conflict between their propaganda line and party actions on behalf of unknown corporations. Their increased nastiness reflects the desperation of the power elites, from legal to criminal, as they battle each other and the avalanche of corruption exposures.

Politicians who wear their religion on their sleeves, surely have unresolved internal conflicts. How does a belief in Jesus, the master of compassion for all people, sit with policies that knowingly budget for millions miss out? The magnificent capitalist system simply believes it is OK to blame these discards.

An independent parliament must legislate for complete transparency in all aspects of Members' relationships with business.

We have no control over the quality of party candidates. Most have been traumatised via patriarchal educational and religious traditions that have diminished their natural human trait of compassion. That may in the past have equipped them for patriarchal roles such as colonisation, military, or CEO's.

We need to select and support our independents to promote changes in corporate, banking and finance laws. There is no scarcity of the essentials of life, only a

contrived scarcity of currency. It keeps people voluntarily enslaved in a system that enriches the upper echelons at ever expanding rates.

It seems crystal clear that only with compassion and inclusiveness, can we have a fair system for all. There is some potential for reform from within institutions. But by and large, to expedite change it needs to happen from the bottom up. That is, with independents who recognise their constituents have very similar issues, hence they are all on the same side.

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby

Free the refugees

I was disappointed to hear our prime minister claim that the government has been quietly and methodically moving the children off Nauru without any grandstanding when nothing of the sort is actually true.

Firstly, the government has continually denied there are any children in detention.

Secondly, almost all medical transfers have been fought in the Federal Court against the Department of Home Affairs.

Thirdly, on 26th October the Australian Government sought to change the court process so court orders need to be approved by the High Court and not the Federal Court. The High Court only has seven judges. This appeal was not successful.

Currently the families who are coming to Australia are not being held under community detention as would be expected. They are either being split with one parent and a child in one location and the other parent and child in another, or being held in motel accommodation with a guard inside the room

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

and another outside the room. Others are being held in onshore detention facilities. No child is attending school.

Currently there are 27 children on Nauru. They need to be brought to Australia with their families and be released into community detention.

How much longer does the Government intend to persecute these children and adults? The lives of people should not be used for political point scoring.

Anne Tuart
Goonellabah

their pet to the vet, spend \$thousands only to have it die? Vets can't guarantee their treatment will cure paralysis at any stage so why not at least try Vitamin C?

Most vets are pro-pharma. Vitamin C is cheap. therefore they don't recommend it, otherwise they'd lose business if people treated their animal at home.

If paralysis is too advanced, then Vitamin C injection or intravenous could be tried. At that stage what do you have to lose?

Menkit Prince
Uki

Protect pets from ticks

Paralysis tick season is upon us once again. Years ago a feral cat walked into my house and collapsed. His back legs were starting to go. As he lay there I pulled off 30 paralysis ticks each measuring almost 1cm.

A naturopath suggested high doses of Vitamin C (for a 6kg cat, one tsp every 2 hours) and homeopathic Ixodes twice daily to help neutralise the toxin. In 36 hours the cat was better, and I domesticated him so he could not continue killing birds.

Unfortunately, the medical profession does not acknowledge the efficacy of high doses of Vitamin C so we can't say it cures venomous bites. We can say that in the 1940's Dr Frederick Klenner was able to reverse 30 diseases including snake and other venomous bites using high doses of Vitamin C.

In test tube experiments, Vitamin C neutralized any toxin to which it was exposed, based on that you could either give your pet Vitamin C orally every two hours (day and night) or ask your vet to inject Vitamin C intramuscularly – or better still IV Vitamin C if you can find a vet to do it.

Vets recommend treating your pet with Frontline. Even newborn kittens can be sprayed with this carcinogen meaning our pets might avoid paralysis ticks but then will die down the track of cancer!

How many people take

Water a precious asset

Australian of the Year Michelle Simmons, specialist in Quantum Physics says we should always act for what matters to society.

In Australia, water and its conservation is the most important issue. Most of our water is used in the extraction of fossil fuels and renewable energy businesses are poorly funded.

Our leaders divide people talking of terrorists when our nation needs to act together. Our military bombing of other countries is a terrorist act and such a destruction of Earth's finite resources. They make enemies of other nations.

Their skills would be better used helping fight bushfires – such a waste of water. Their facial recognition techniques can be used to catch fire bugs and their satellites spot fires early before they have a wide front as well as rescuing people.

Population control then is the responsibility and duty of individuals. Without these holocausts, we need fewer children. We only have one planet and currently consume one and a half Earth's resources.

We must do better to survive. Think globally act locally. Don't destroy our water bodies.

Anne Sutherland
Robina

A letter to the editor...

Illiteracy, innumeracy, immorality, insubordination, intolerance, in trouble, in the clink.

Injustice, interjection, injunction, innuendo, intolerance, the whole system stinks.

Pornography, paedophilia, phone taps, police arrests, paybacks, it's a hell of a mess.

Court leniency, corruption, car bombs, casualties, cold cases, never ending stress.

Out on bail, out of money, out of friends, out of town, out of answers, robbery to get some dosh.

Domestic violence, danger drugs, divorce, drawn-out settlements, damaged kids, forever counting the cost.

Greedy banks, grubby deals, guarded secrets, gratuitous gains, gobbledygook, time to jail the bastards.

Inquests, imposters, illegality, inferences, insults, infuriation, rehearsed lies mastered.

Tertiary fees, testy teachers, tricky tests, tight time lines, tantrums, it's the pressure to succeed.

Bloating botox, big lips, big boobs, big bodies, blistering tattoos, evil substances feed a need.

Freeways full, fast cars, flirting with danger, fuel on empty, frazzled drivers, it's getting worse.

Cops chase, cutting corners, horrific crashes, critical condition, call the ambos, call a hearse.

Media influence, managing the masses, movie moguls, misbehaviour, motives exposed, red carpet outrage erupts.

Violent cartoons, vicious storylines, vulnerable kids, vague parents, viewing blindness, when will they wake up?

Canberra chaos, crooked MPs, curly questions, crossing the floor, cunning votes, it's driving voters insane.

Pompous attitudes, pleasing him, pleasing her, pleasing the party, pleasing constituents, would somebody please explain?

And when the sun sets, when the night is quiet, we can sit back and relax to escape the mayhem.

For beyond the ideas of right and wrong, there is a field ... a serene place for you, me and them.

Peter Murphy, Tweed Heads

If domestic violence triggers you, then maybe this column isn't for you.

However, I dearly want to dig down into the nauseating shame and pain it has produced in my life, in the hope that I can remove this dark mortal curse of wrath from myself and from our community.

We are all aware now that the real terrorists aren't Muslims or dark skinned strangers, they are the people who profess to love us.

Once a week on average, a woman is killed by her partner or ex-partner.

My father, may he rest in peace, had hourly bouts of explosive anger for trivial offences. To save us from a living hell, my mother stopped us from eating together due to the corporal punishment that was regularly meted out for cutlery misdemeanours.

We sat and stared at the TV while we ate – and contented ourselves with the daily screaming matches between them as the safest of the possible options.

I learnt to walk silently and hide impeccably, and as I sunk deeper and deeper into my shell, I sadly developed an anger that was just as uncontrollable and easily provoked. The kids at school soon learnt how to manipulate it. They avoided me generally, and those that didn't had broken fingers.

However when we played



Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

Rugby League, my own players would punch me in the scrums 'til I turned into a berserker – a regional representative one.

I contend that it is this deep, almost precognitive fear of injury and loss that is at the heart of all violently repressive attacks.

And I also propose that many people are drawn to violent and oppressive partners because for all its shamefulness it shows they care – even if it's a deranged expression – better than being completely ignored.

The early childhood developmental causes of violent behaviour offer no excuses: we need to create a safe community, and this means excluding violent perpetrators. However, we should offer these injured souls, we injured souls, what help we can.

A place where they can unburden themselves of generations of fear and suffering without judgement, where we might learn that love isn't a tattoo for our knuckles and that hate is just the terror of loss.

Building for Rent

The Fig Tree building at the Nimbin Community Centre is available to rent. Internal area is 104.62m² composed of large central room with kitchen, two offices and bathroom.



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Please feel free to share this with your family, friends, community and networks.

Notices

Accommodation wanted

Active bicycle riding mature gent seeking a granny flat, share house or similar in Nimbin. Applicant considers himself well read, intelligent and funny. He does the news for Nimbin FM 102.3. Please contact Doug on 0415 929 224 or email: douginch@gmail.com

Ettrick Hall Annual Combined Market Day

Saturday 8th December, 8am-3pm. Book stalls \$10. Promote your club or group. Music by Max Maher and others. BBQ, coffee, cake, drinks, fruit stall, Men's Shed, Ando's 4x4, hairdresser, karate, Kyogle Motor Vehicle Club and many more. Phone 6633-9067 or 6633-9019.

Carols for Christmas

St Marks Anglican Church, Cullen Street Nimbin, invites the community for Carols on Wednesday 19th December, 6.30pm. Stay for a cuppa and cake. Enquiries: Faye Scherf 6689-1440.

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Council clarifies changes to recycling

Over the past few months Council has been working hard to develop our new recycling guidelines.

I wrote in this column a few months ago about the changes to recycling since China adopted its 'National Sword Policy' which basically meant that they are no longer accepting mixed plastics from other countries, which is fair enough, who would want to be the rubbish tip for the whole world?

Those changes are impacting us here in Australia, and we now need to make changes to our recycling habits at home.

Essentially we need to keep our recycling clean and simple. The only products that can be recycled are hard plastic bottles and containers, glass, steel and aluminium cans, and clean paper and cardboard.

Dirty cardboard and used paper towels have never been recyclable, so make sure it goes in your organics bin or in your home compost, along with your food scraps and garden waste.

This is a small list of some of the things that DO NOT go in your recycling bin: no soft plastics or plastic bags, no meat trays, no biscuit trays, no take-away coffee cups, no clothing or fabric, no chip packets, and nothing smaller than a credit card – so no bread tags or bottle lids.

There is a much bigger list of things that we can't recycle, so please go to the website to inform yourself.

You can also pick up a fridge magnet that will help you double-check items from Council in Goonellabah or from the Lismore or Goonellabah libraries.

If you follow the clean and simple rule and only recycle hard plastic bottles and containers, glass, steel and aluminium cans, and clean paper and cardboard



Elly Bird with Paul LeBars in Nimbin on Armistice Day

Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

you will be helping our staff at the Materials Recovery Facility a great deal.

More information about our new recycling guidelines are at: www.northernriverswaste.com.au And remember, if you live in one of the other Northern Rivers Council areas these guidelines apply to you as well, because Lismore processes recycling for our neighbouring Councils as well.

I know a lot of people will be disappointed that we can't recycle as much as we used to, particularly that we can't recycle soft plastics now. I know I'm very disappointed, and I am shocked by how much plastic is going into landfill.

Coles and Woolworths are accepting soft plastics though, so you can bag them up and drop them off there. There are some new programs that are

turning soft plastics into furniture, and hopefully they will be able to expand to help repurpose some of the plastic waste our society generates.

The pressure that has been created brings great opportunity to innovate, and at the same time we need to insist on regulatory action for manufacturers. Manufacturers could be using 100% recyclable plastic to package their products if they chose to, but hardly any of them do.

State and Federal Governments need to work together to address the whole cycle of waste and to put more emphasis on reuse of recycled materials.

The other critical part of finding solutions is funding. Last year, the NSW Government collected \$727 million from industry, business and local government, through the waste levy. Councils alone pay around \$300 million in waste levies every year.

Only around 18% of that is reinvested by the NSW Government in recycling and waste management, with the rest disappearing into government coffers.

If you are concerned about recycling and waste, I encourage you to contact our State government candidates and ask that they commit to 100% reinvestment of the waste levy into waste and recycling.

In doing so, Government could address the recycling and waste crisis without increasing costs to the community. There is more about that campaign at: www.saveourrecycling.com.au

I am on leave from Council over the holidays as I head to Woodford for my annual gig up there. So until early January I'm not contactable as usual. In the new year however, you will be able to reach me at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au or on 0418-639-927.

Turning the Page on better pay

by Patrick Deegan
ALP candidate for Page

If it feels like you haven't had a pay rise in a while, you're probably right.

Wage growth in Australia has been at record lows for the past five years. In fact, in real terms wages have barely moved at all.

Over the same time the cost of essentials like electricity and housing have skyrocketed.

Stagnant wages not only put the squeeze on our household budgets, they have impact on the national economy, and on the amount of money that governments can raise to provide services like health, education and public safety.

The most galling thing about the low level of wage growth in Australia is that it has come about at a time when corporate profits are soaring.

In fact, last year, company profits grew by 22 per cent – the second fastest annual growth in the past 30 years.

So if the top end of town is doing so well, why are the rest of us missing out?

Last month the former treasurer Wayne Swan dropped by the Northern Rivers to meet with local voters and businesses.



Sam Wise from the Dusty Attic Cafe with Wayne Swan MP and Country Labor candidate for the seat of Page, Patrick Deegan.

Wayne explained to me how government policies like the cut to penalty rates for workers in the retail, hospitality and pharmacy sectors were intentionally keeping wages low, and how this was impacting on the local business environment. "Inevitably this has an impact on people's purchasing power, and the amount they can spend in local shops," Wayne said.

The cuts to penalty rates certainly have hit the Northern Rivers hard. In fact, around 6,000 workers in the electorate of Page were directly affected.

Thankfully, there are a growing number of local

businesses in the Northern Rivers who see the benefits in paying their staff a bit extra to work on weekends.

One of those is the Dusty Attic café in Lismore. Wayne Swan and I called in there for a great lunch, and we chatted to the café's co-owner and chef Sam Wise.

Sam said the Dusty Attic is open on Saturdays, and the café pays penalty rates to its staff who work on those days.

"We believe staff should be rewarded for working at times when everyone else is out socialising and spending time with their family," Sam told us.

"They are making a compromise to be here at

those times, and it is a busy time for us as well."

Voters will have a clear choice on penalty rates at the next Federal election. I'm campaigning to restore penalty rates, and to put public services before bigger tax breaks for multinationals.

On the other hand, the current member for Page Kevin Hogan, voted in favour of cutting penalty rates eight times.

Running for parliament is a wonderful privilege, and an incredible experience.

Over the past few months I've met a mind-boggling number of people from right across our electorate of Page.

I have been welcomed into hundreds of meetings, into shops, and into people's homes. I've even been able to write a monthly article for the *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

To everyone who has talked to me about their concerns, their hopes and their dreams – thank you.

Your stories inspire me, and I love our community more and more every day.

I wish you all the very best for the Christmas and New Year season.

Please keep supporting our great local businesses, and I look forward to seeing you around the traps.

Government's inadequate response to latest climate report

by Sue Higginson,
Greens candidate for Lismore

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the United Nations international leading body on what is going on in the climate change sphere just released its 2018 Report in South Korea.

The report has been worked on for around three years, by 91 authors and editors who reviewed more than 6000 scientific papers and 42,000 comments. The report found:

- The global effort to tackle climate change has begun, but must be accelerated;
- Australia is one of the most vulnerable developed countries to the impacts of climate change, but is contributing little to solutions;
- Inaction has already cost us dearly. A 1.5°C world, our best possible future, will change our lives even further;
- Limiting global warming to no more than 1.5°C is a formidable challenge but solutions are available; and
- Carbon emissions must be cut to zero by 2050.

We know that we have already experienced one degree temperature warming and here in Australia we are seeing the effects, including more frequent, longer lasting and more intense heatwaves, harsher

droughts, coastal flooding and longer, more dangerous bushfire seasons.

While the gravity of the report is overwhelming, it did not really surprise many of us. Those of us who have been paying attention and working in the sphere already know that global temperatures are rising rapidly and that poses grave risks for humanity and the planet upon which we wholly depend.

It is clear that many of the impacts set in motion now are significant and we need to manage how to adapt to those impacts as we can't stop them now, no matter what our effort.

Federal Liberal National Coalition: irresponsible, illiterate nonsense.

Our Prime Minister's response, on Alan Jones' morning radio program, was to promise that Australia would not be spending any money on climate change conferences and "all that nonsense". He said, "We are not held to any of the IPCC recommendations, and nor are we bound by them".

Our Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack (the National Party guy who rose when Barnaby Joyce fell) said Australia will not be dictated to by "some sort of report".

Climate change is the single largest existential threat to our economy but our new Treasury



Sue Higginson and Professor Will Steffen
Councillor on Climate Council and climate change expert and researcher at ANU

Secretary just admitted in Senate estimates that Treasury had not done any modelling of the difference in impacts on Australia's economy from a 1.5 degree warming in global temperatures compared with 2 degrees. He said, "We do not do modelling on that." He also said that he had not had time to read the IPCC report.

Let's face it, the main reason this mob hasn't pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement is because it would jeopardise any prospect of a free trade deal with the European Union – not because it would be scientifically illiterate, morally repugnant and economic stupidity.

By contrast, the UK's Minister for energy responded "I welcome

the strong scientific analysis behind today's IPCC report and its conclusions are stark and sober.

As policymakers, we need to work together to accelerate the low-carbon transition to minimise the costs and misery of a rapidly warming world."

NSW State Liberal National Coalition – A brand new open cut coal mine

The same week the IPCC released its report, the NSW Government released a report recommending that the proposed massive Bylong Coal open cut coal mine in the Upper Hunter Valley be approved.

Korean owned Bylong Coal will mine up to 6.5 million tonnes of

coal a year over 23 years, for coal fire powered electricity.

The battle to protect the Bylong Valley from this development has been very long and hard. In addition to the significant contribution to raising temperatures this mine will ruin, the local rural producing farming community.

I knew many of them and as an environmental lawyer I worked with them. They have all been driven out of the Valley in the worst of soul destroying circumstances. The mine has even overtaken the infamous heritage significant Tarwyn Park – the farm internationally recognised for its natural sequence farming methodologies.

The Liberals at both state and federal levels don't care and don't know what to do about Climate Change and the Nationals left the farm a long time ago. Together, they are willing to sit back while the planet gets dangerously hot and they continue each day to hand over our precious farm land to any coal and gas company they can. Lest we forget Bentley!

It doesn't have to be like this. Here in the Northern Rivers we have a great opportunity in the state election in March next year to send a strong message to all. We care and we are willing to act on the big issues.



by Kevin Hogan MP,
Member for Page

Rainbow Ridge Steiner School at Lillian Rock came to me looking to upgrade its administration block and learning areas.

I was able to secure a grant for \$150,000 and the school matched the funding.

I recently opened the new administration building, including a reception area, office and meeting room, as well as two large learning areas with break-out spaces for students.

It is a wonderful school and I would like to thank

all the teaching staff led by educational administrator Marga Helms (pictured) for the work they do.

I have moved a Notice of Motion in Parliament for a Royal Commission into the alleged misuse of market power by Australia's supermarkets, and petrol retailing in Australia.

I hear enough stories from our farmers and processors that warrant a Royal Commission into our major supermarkets. The allegations of misuse of market power, unconscionable conduct and the use of unfair contract terms must be investigated by a Royal

Commission.

The larger supermarket chains – Woolworths, Coles, ALDI - control more than 76 per cent of the industry.

With petrol retailing, I am sick of regional and country retail petrol prices being higher than city prices. It is not unusual for there to be a 20-30 cent per litre differential. This is not explainable by transport costs or any other cost input.

With very little public transport options in our community and the longer distances travelled, it is a huge impost on rural people.

From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith

It was wonderful to join the Nimbin Community on Saturday 1st December for the opening of 7 Sibley Street, the Sustainable Living Hub. This is an amazing achievement that is almost 10 years in the planning.

Obviously, sustainable living has been part of Nimbin culture over the past 40+ years, but it kicked into gear in 2009.

As a new councillor, I was excited to see the release of the first Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan which showed that locals wanted to be known for more than just a cannabis culture. They wanted to lead the country in sustainable living and show others an alternative way of life.

This first plan highlighted a new direction, which the Neighbourhood Centre was able to breathe life into with the purchase of 7 Sibley Street in 2012.

Since then a lot of blood, sweat and tears has poured into the block and that building to create this beautiful hub. The hub will now draw locals to participate. Hopefully visitors will also see this as a resource and a door to living more responsibly.

My congratulations go to everyone who has contributed to this vision. It is now a wonderful asset that will only grow in the coming years.

Speaking of growing, I am excited to be a part of the Nimbin Youth Film Festival on Saturday 8th December, 2pm at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

This creative outlet for our young people is inspiring them to find a voice and become an influencer. Something we as a society have lost sight of generally, is the voice and passion of young people.

I am expecting big things from the film producers who have shown a wonderful depth of talent in previous years. Darmin and the team have worked hard to make sure this event continues to motivate and excite our community, so please make the time to join us and see what is on the mind of our future leaders!



Cutting the ribbon at 7 Sibley Street

Again, on the theme of growing, I am always willing to speak with the Nimbin community about development in and around our town. It is always a difficult task to balance the needs of those who live somewhere, with those who want to join a community.

It is easy to see what they are falling in love with in Nimbin, but finding a way for them to stay takes a village, so to speak.

As a council we wanted to limit green field development out in the hills around our LGA. From a sustainability perspective these land developments are car dependent and alienate into valuable farmland, We made a conscious decision to limit large rural developments in favour of land that was closer to our towns and services.

In doing so, we have created a situation where more conflict can occur. Simply put, more neighbours means more conflict. It would be nice if that wasn't the case, but human nature usually gets the better of us. So as we look to grow Nimbin in a sustainable way, I would love to hear from the community about how that can happen.

I hope that everyone has a relaxing and joyous Christmas. Breathe deeply and find a way to bring more whimsy into your life and the lives of those around you.

As we look back on the year, let us meditate on that which has helped us grow, so we can be there for others on the journey.