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From the mayor's desk



by Cr Isaac Smith
Lismore City Council

So I'm not into New Year's resolutions. I can't remember any I've made in the past and who knows they could be just as good this year as they were when I made them. Especially if it's the one about exercising more.

But I do believe in fresh starts. I do believe in finding new opportunities to help people and to me the Christmas / New Year time is about finding a better way... next year.

That's one of the reasons I love our recycled Christmas tree in Lismore. It shares the tradition of a community tree that brings people together, but with a twist. In making it recycled it also sends another message that what we do matters. That we can make a difference. That is a pretty traditional message even in the original Christian sense of the celebration.

Speaking of opportunities to gather, I am so pleased that the Allsopp Park mural is being officially unveiled on the 12th. Council was glad to be a part of this project and I am really proud of the hard work done by the Nimbin Advisory Group on behalf of the community. Each of our community panels plays a vital role in highlighting community need. In a time of Facebook and instant opinions, gathering together in person, on community, has never been more important. So see you all there on the 12th at 11am!



I am really looking forward to seeing the missing piece of the Nimbin main street filled in 2018, with proposals and DA's finally firming up. I know the community is wanting to see this healing take place and it will happen in a way that is very sensitive to the community's needs. It will be a part of Nimbin for a long time to come, so it has to be right.

Unfortunately, due to the length of debate at our December meeting, we were unable to debate the development in Nimbin at 4 Blue Knob Road, just out of town. I have heard concerns expressed about it, but also some positive comments from locals. Expanding a village is always a difficult call, but in terms of sustainability we need to focus growth around centres with services. I was prepared to

support this at the December meeting, so I am hopeful that it will get up at the next opportunity we have to vote.

I am also hopeful that by the time you read this there has been work on the remaining land slips that are around the Northern parts of our LGA. We finally received disaster money from the state government at the end of last year, so we were able to bring in engineers to work on what will be a few significant projects. The amount of work required is a little scary, but we don't want these land slips to occur again, so it has to be done right.

These flood impacts and others are still with us after the event last year and a reminder that not everyone or everything is back to the way it was. I have been using the word hope a lot in my column this month, so I think that is the theme. Hoping that the year ahead is better than the one that has passed.

Hope is important and we need to make sure as a community that everyone has their hope reservoir topped up over the break. So make sure that Christmas and New Year means something significant to those you meet and spread the love for a happy and sustainable 2018. From my family to yours... Happy New Year!

Bus trial of coast run to Lismore underway

A new commuter bus trial started in December for commuters to Lismore from Ballina, Lennox Head and Byron Bay.

Social Futures' Transport Development Officer Alex Lewers said the trial was put forward by the Lismore Sustainable Transport Group and championed by Lismore MP Thomas George.

The new service is being delivered by Blanch's Bus Company, and is running on a six-month trial.

"This is a great win for commuters," Mr Lewers said. "A cheap and direct service taking in the major employers and education institutions at a time that is convenient for commuting."

The service departs from Jonson Street, Byron Bay

at 7.20am and picks up at Lennox Head (Beachfront Bus Zone) at 7.40am and Ballina (Tamar Street) at 8am, arriving at the Lismore Transit Centre at 8.40am, stopping at Goonellabah, Lismore Base Hospital and Lismore Square along the way and terminating at Southern Cross University.

The return trip departs from Lismore Transit Centre at 5.15pm and follows the same route.

The commuter bus costs \$6.60 for a single adult fare outside of Lismore, with usual concessions applying. Regular commuters can also purchase an unlimited travel, daily pass for \$12 or a weekly unlimited travel Freedom Pass for \$36.

"For five-day-a-week



commuters, the weekly pass equates to \$3.60 per trip, that's much cheaper than using the car for the same trip," said Mr Lewers. "What's more, you can read a book, answer emails, catch up on Facebook and while you're doing it save mileage on your car."

In addition to the commuter service, a new direct route from Lismore to Byron Bay and return is also available, via Bexhill, Clunes, and Bangalow.

This service departs the Lismore Transit Centre at 8.40am every weekday and returns at 3.55pm from

Byron Bay.

For more information and to view the timetable visit: www.goingplaces.org.au/new-commuter-bus-service-lismore or contact Blanch's Bus Company on (02) 6686-2144.

Whether the trial is extended or not will depend on patronage, so it's use it or lose it.

For anyone wishing to discuss public transport and interested in joining a transport working group in their area, contact Alex Lewers on 0402-134-311 or email: alex.lewers@socialfutures.org.au

Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, president

This fresh New Year brings with it a number of great projects. The Light Up Nimbin under awning and mural lighting project will be installed and completed. We hope that once the initial infrastructure and lighting is installed we can in the future extend the project on both sides of the streets.

Lismore Council has released a draft of the Nimbin Parking Strategy. Many of the ideas expressed in the paper are a result of councils consultation with the Chambers General Meeting in February last year as well as feedback from the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) and individual Nimbin village members

or interest groups who have contacted Council with traffic and parking concerns. The document is available from LCC for anyone wanting to look at and comment on this draft document.

The Chamber is engaging with Council, local, state and federal members to support the reinvigorated Rainbow Walking Trail project for funding.

We are also working with local emergency services to understand how our services work to support emergencies in our area and how we as a community can support and develop our own emergency responses when an emergency occurs.

The devastating fire that destroyed two totally iconic buildings in the town heart



showed how important this response is. In that incident it was the quick thinking of neighbours that prevented this fire from destroying more of our lovely old town.

We are working towards organising a public meeting with all the stakeholders to give the community the chance to contribute to this important issue.

We are also working on getting some great special guests to our next general meeting in March. Watch this space and I'll have a lot more detail in the next *GoodTimes*.

Happy and successful New Year to all.

Collective experiences are good news



Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

I'm writing this sitting in my camp at Woodford. It's been a great festival so far, and the opening ceremony went really well.

It's a real honour to bring it all together and create an opening ceremony with the Jinibara traditional owners, community ambassadors from the local community, beautiful lanterns made by Lismore's own LightnUp, fiery sculptures, and Bob Hawke singing Waltzing Matilda (yes, really). As usual there is incredible music, circus, cabaret, activism, art and food around every corner.

I've always been fascinated by events, and the human desire to gather in large numbers and have collective experiences. Our ability to come together to create environments and moments that are purely about celebration, dance, beauty and movement.

Our social need to celebrate, and to be together collectively which we honour at this time of year.

There is more that could be said about that, but I'm no academic and I'm sure others have said it more eloquently than I can right here right now in camp at Woodford.

Besides, I'm feeling a need to celebrate and get into the festival and get amongst it. What I think I am trying to say is that when we work together it is amazing what we can achieve, and that celebration and collective community moments are important for all of us to rebalance ourselves, and to stay connected to our place and our people.

I've been loving seeing the photos from Tropical Fruits, an equally iconic event held in

Lismore every year, with people from all over the country. I'm sure the party was epic.

Wherever your New Year found you, I hope it was a good one, and if you chose to spend it quietly at home I hope it was restful and relaxing. I'm sure that 2018 will bring its share of challenges, as well as times of happiness, and I'm looking forward to whatever comes our way.

Recently I found a great resource for finding hope called *Future Crunch* which I really recommend following, if you are on Facebook. It's important to remember the good news in amongst all the bad news that we are constantly exposed to. I don't usually do New Year's resolutions, but this year I think I will endeavour to watch less news.

Future Crunch have just published '99 Reasons Why 2017 Was a Good Year', and here are a couple of my favourites:

- Women now occupy 23% of parliamentary seats around the world, up from 12% in 1997
- In July, 1.5 million people in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh set a new Guinness record for reforestation by planting more than 67 million trees in a 12-hour period
- In 2017, the ozone hole shrunk to its smallest size since 1988, the year Bobby McFerrin topped the charts with 'Don't Worry Be Happy'
- New figures at the beginning of the year showed that the global coal industry is taking a hammering with a 48% drop in pre-construction activity, a 62% drop in construction starts and a 19% drop in ongoing construction
- On the eve of one of their major feast days, 40 Catholic institutions on five different



On the same PAGE

by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

At the start of 2018 I wish everyone all the best for the New Year. It is a good time to recap on some of the things we have achieved together in 2017.

Soon our region will become one of the largest growers of Medicinal Cannabis. PUF Ventures Australia is investing \$50 million in our region to cultivate and process medicinal cannabis.

I am looking at ways to assist them to fast track the project that will create 300 local jobs and, importantly, help reduce the suffering of many ill people in our community.

We also announced the legalisation of hemp seeds and hemp seed products. This is wonderful news for our region. Hemp seed products will now be legal to purchase including hemp chocolate, hemp beer and hemp oil. Hemp products will boost our region's economy and provide even more jobs for our region.

The return of the postal plebiscite on same sex marriage returned an overwhelming 'yes' result which means same sex couples can now marry. Across the country, 7.8 million people voted for a yes result and in our electorate of Page almost 60% of

continents announced the largest ever religious divestment from fossil fuels

- China will have installed 54GW of solar by the end of 2017, more than any country has ever previously deployed in a single year, and doubled their 2020 goal to 213 GW
- In December, Australia became the 26th

the community. At the same time, this legislation very much protects the religious institutions and freedoms in our country.

From July 1 last year, some of the toughest laws against multinational tax avoidance in the world were introduced, allowing the government to crack down on multinational tax avoidance.

This legislation aimed to claw back about \$2 billion in tax this financial year. It quickly took effect with the Federal Government recouping \$340 million in taxes owed by US-based giant Chevron.

Any large multinational corporation that attempts to move undeclared profits overseas will be hit with the new 40% Diverted Profits Tax.

It is only fair that if a company makes money in Australia, it should be taxed in Australia. The additional tax collected will be used to provide services for our community. We need to ensure that multinationals pay their fair share of tax here in Australia so that we can continue to afford vital infrastructure and services.

We have also seen near record job creation in the last 12 months. Over 380,000 jobs were created over the last year, which means on average, around 1,000 new jobs created a day.

country to legalise same sex marriage. A wonderful victory, hard fought for by so many brave people. About bloody time.

All the best to all of you for 2018. As always, I can be contacted for Council or community matters on 0418-639-927 or: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Greens lash Liberal-Nationals 'heartless' disability advocacy cuts

by Dawn Walker MP,
Greens Disability spokesperson

The NSW Government's planned cuts to disability advocacy funding that will see a dramatic loss in support for people with a disability on the North Coast and I call on the NSW Premier and North Coast Nationals MP, Ben Franklin to urgently intervene.

The looming cuts will take effect from June 2018 and threaten to wipe out local disability information services, DAISI based in Ballina and Ability Advocacy in Alstonville.

I'm appalled that NSW Liberal-Nationals think it's acceptable to cut core funding from our disability advocacy services that assist some of the most vulnerable people in our community with a range of everyday issues, including housing needs, service complaints and developing their NDIS applications and plans.

These heartless cuts mean organisations like DAISI and Ability Advocacy, which have been assisting people with a disability

right across the North Coast for almost 20 years will be forced to massively decrease the number of people they support, lay-off staff and possibly even close altogether.

Doug Hollingworth, Manager Ability Advocacy, Alstonville, said, "We employ six staff and support approximately 120 people with disabilities in the local area. These cuts would mean we would lose two staff members and we'd be forced to stop providing support to 40-50 people with disabilities who will have nowhere else to turn.

"We know how important our services are to local families and people with disabilities across the North Coast who will suffer as a direct result of these cuts."

Joanne Mclean, DAISI CEO, Ballina said, "We are facing a huge funding cliff due to these cuts, including a dramatic loss of staff and the closure of our shopfront in Ballina. We are applying for grants and doing what we can to try and keep providing services to people with disability, but the reality is that unless the State Government



Dawn Walker with Greens MP Jenny Leong

maintains disability advocacy funding, our organisation is on the edge of survival."

This is a Government that likes

to crow about budget surpluses, but shows its true colours when it refuses to fund essential disability services. They use the transition to

the NDIS as cover for these cuts, but other states like Victoria have stepped in to ensure that their disability advocacy funding will be maintained, despite the NDIS rollout. NSW must do the same.

I'm calling on the NSW Premier and National Party MP, Ben Franklin to show some heart and reverse these cruel cuts to ensure DAISI and Ability Advocacy retain their funding beyond 2018 so they can continue to support people with a disability from the Tweed down to Grafton.

The looming funding cuts have occurred because the State Government will roll its disability advocacy services funding, worth \$13 million state-wide, into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). However, the NDIS does not cover advocacy services, leaving a major funding gap for NSW's disability advocacy services that will impact nearly 50 disability advocacy services in NSW, many in regional NSW.

For more information, see: <http://standbyme.org.au>

Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe and Inez Price, Co-ordinators

End of year party

Bologman Ngulingah Garimah: Belonging, Sharing and Respect.

We had a fantastic day in Allsopp Park at the end-of-year party for the Nimbin Community Centre on 15th December, hosted by the Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

There was a wonderful opening, a Welcome to Country from local custodian and elder Uncle Cec Roberts, some fine storytelling and introductions from local artist Gilbert Laurie and traditional music, songs and dances from Steve Johnson, Louis Walker and the Indigenoise boys.

We also enjoyed the golden tones of local legend Billie Smith and the culturally informed original works of contemporary indigenous artist Blakboi with his soulful songs and moves, grooves and raps of Indigenoise.

We would like to thank the Cultural Centre for hosting this event and generously sharing their hospitality and culture with us all. Thanks especially to their wonderful group

of volunteers including Darren McElroy, Jeddah Bayles, Linda Roberts and Saskia Kouwenburg, who provided a fantastic feast for the whole community.

All who attended had a wonderful time and I know that visitors who were lucky enough to attend the event were amazed at the wealth of culture being shared so freely.

Opening of Allsopp Park mural

We wish to invite the community to attend the opening of the new mural in Allsopp Park, Nimbin. This project was funded by Lismore City Council and managed via Nimbin Community Centre. The mural structure was replaced by Council as it was corroded and potentially unsafe.

The surface of the mural was also badly damaged, so local indigenous artists and culture men Gilbert Laurie, Louis Walker and Oral Roberts worked together in the Cultural Centre to paint an important local dreamtime story, the fight between the goanna and the two-headed serpent.

This beautiful and culturally significant



Gilbert Laurie and Louis Walker
Photo: Tor Davis

work will be opened with a smoking ceremony at 11am on Friday 12th January. We would like to thank Council for their commitment to culture in commissioning this work.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Stop Adani movement gets a boost at Murwillumbah

by Scott Sledge

The nation-wide Stop Adani campaign has grown with a new group formed in the Tweed during an information-sharing night at the Regent Cinema at Murwillumbah on 13th December.

Publicity from the organisers spread by Northern Rivers Guardians and Caldera Environment Centre brought about 175 people together from Uki, M'bah, Tyalgum, Lismore, Nimbin, Tweed Coast, Tweed Heads, Byron, Mullum and other places on the North Coast to watch the documentary film *Guarding the Galilee* and put questions to an expert panel.

As MC, I directed pithy (not pissy) questions from the audience to comedian Mandy Nolan, "actorvist"



MC Scott Sledge

Tony Barry, recently retired CEO of NSW Environmental Defenders Office, Sue Higginson and national Stop Adani spokesperson Ben Penning. There is global concern about the effects of fossil fuel pollution on the world's climate. This issue is our issue. The 28-minute film *Guarding Galilee* demonstrated how more fossil fuel mining will affect Central



Tony Barry, Ben Penning and Sue Higginson

Qld and its existing industries of tourism and farming.

The Queensland govt has agreed to allow Adani access to unlimited water for 60 years! No other mine or industry enjoys this privilege.

The effects on global climate change may be hard to quantify but it certainly won't help to achieve the reduction in carbon pollution agreed to at the Paris Climate talks. I think we need to

remind our governments that Australia has signed up to this accord.

Recently I heard the Federal Minister for Energy and Environment, Josh Frydenberg, say on ABC radio that all states should follow the Queensland example to mine CSG. He said the rest of Australia is "crazy" not to do so.

What is crazy about wanting to protect our air,

soil and water? These long-term assets are essential for a sustainable world where our children and grandchildren can thrive. Fossil fuels? That is so last century!

We are on the threshold of a future world that technology promises to transform – probably at an ever-accelerating pace. We need to make a choice of how to use our human capacities: will we see a future when we share the planet wisely with all other species or continue to pollute and destroy?

We are second only to Indonesia in the number of species extinctions... and these continue as habitat is cleared for mining, logging etc. If we continue down this path, the Earth may soon only be suitable as a launch pad for rockets to take our cancerous greed to other planets across the universe. The future will

be decided by us.

Here in the Northern Rivers we have already decided that we will not sacrifice our future for handful of damaging jobs or a fistful of dollars.

We stopped rainforest logging. We stood up against damming the Oxley River and Byrrill Creek. We said No to CSG mining, and now we say no more coal mining which would damage the Great Artesian Basin, and probably destroy the Great Barrier Reef.

We need to tell our polities that the Reef is not theirs, but belongs to all the world and all its creatures. To damage the Reef is vandalism of the worst sort.

We need to be weaned off fossil fuels. Renewables are the answer. Our number one priority for 2018 must be to Stop Adani!

Passion in the Pilliga

by Sharyn Munro

In December, about 300 people gathered from far-flung parts of the east coast to show that they cared: about the unique Pilliga Forest and its flora and fauna; about the Great Artesian Basin; about the farmers of the North West; and about the Santos CSG Narrabri Project that threatens them all.

Most camped at Barkala, home to the deservedly famous Pilliga Pottery, a creative and conservation oasis built by Maria and her family over decades, on their beautiful Pilliga property, a birdwatcher's paradise.

From Friday evening onwards, the cars rolled in from the dusty road, tents and signs popped up, and volunteers manned information and kitchen tents.

The 200 or so campers spent Saturday morning on walks and tours discovering the Pilliga. I opted for Maria's Walk, to her special lookout, where we looked across one aspect of the vast 500,000 ha of this largest temperate woodland west of the Great Dividing Range.

Maria pointed out to us and her small grandson the distant Warrumbungles, with the dome of Sidings Springs Observatory just visible. Their special Dark Sky status will be ruined if Santos proceed: science and tourism gone for gas.

The Pilliga is one of Australia's biodiversity hotspots; at first passing glance it may look the same, but is actually diverse and rich, with around 30 distinct ecosystems, home to over 1000 native plant species and 300 animals, including 15 threatened flora species and 35 threatened fauna species... at least so far as we know, since the Pilliga has not yet revealed all its mysteries.

Those we do know, like the Pilliga Mouse, the Black-striped Wallaby and the Koala, cannot survive in the maze of an industrial gas field.

Workshops filled the afternoon, with planning forums and a fabulous indigenous dance performance into the twilight before dinner and music and song, then bed, as a 7am start was planned for Sunday's actions.

Amazingly, an early and bountiful breakfast awaited, plus snacks to take with us. A long convoy of vehicles drove for about an hour, up the Newell Highway and into Pilliga State Forest to dry sandy Bohena Creek, site of the human NO CSG sign we were there to make.

Many more met us there: locals and farmers, our numbers now being about 300 passionate Pilliga Protectors. The Pilliga region is so vast that even locals may have to drive several hours to get to another part, as today.

Several farmers spoke eloquently and movingly about the grave risk – guaranteed?



– to the water sources on which they depend. The Pilliga is a critical recharge area for the Great Artesian Basin. Depletion and pollution of precious water for an uneconomic and unnecessary gas resource? Fire danger from the tall gas flares, permitted even on total fire ban days in this dry forest, was another huge concern.

Marshalls directed us to the letters drawn in the sand; about 60 people per letter. All ages were here, from the elderly on sticks to kids and dogs, with Knitting Nannas from the Central Coast, Newcastle, Gloucester, the Manning and the Northern Rivers.

Many of us then followed the innovative Jo Holden and her two tiptrucks of bagged paper symbolic 'toxic waste' to the gates at the Leewood Facility, where they were piled up to the chant of 'We don't want your toxic waste', amongst others. Narrabri CSG will be seven times as salty as that from the Queensland

gasfields.

There is NO solution for dealing with the vast amounts of this toxic material: it is not 'merely' salt that comes up from the coal seams in the water that must be extracted to release the pressure and let the gas flow. Radioactive elements are just some of the naturally occurring contaminants. (Note: fracking is not currently the proposed method of extraction here.)

The People from the Plains were grateful for the outside support shown here; farms are large and scattered over great distances. They need us to keep up the passion felt this weekend and the pressure to say NO to the Narrabri project, which would be just the first of the Santos PEL empire.

The insanity of the Santos CSG project was made crystal clear; there are no good reasons for it, only obvious reasons why it must not proceed.

Making an example of Dr Pot

by John Jiggins

The latest casualty in the war on the underground medical cannabis community in Australia is Dr Andrew Katelaris, aka Dr Pot, a medical cannabis pioneer, who has been languishing in various NSW prisons since December 5, 2017.

Dr Katelaris has been charged with multiple offences, including supplying commercial quantities of a prohibited drug and manufacturing and producing a commercial quantity of a prohibited drug, charges which could see him jailed for decades.

His wife, Maria Katelaris, said, "Andrew has been lobbying for decades to decriminalise a plant, namely cannabis, and in the process he's become criminalised himself."

She says that, for the crimes of the compassionate use of cannabis and for being decades ahead of NSW laws on medical cannabis, Dr Katelaris is being treated by the NSW police and the Department of Public Prosecutions (the DPP) as a major criminal.

Nimbin people are familiar with Dr Katelaris who regularly speaks at Mardi Grass and at medical cannabis workshops and they know that he is not a big drug dealer, as the police charges imply. Katelaris has been a pioneer in the legalising of cannabis debate forever.

Governments claim that since medicinal cannabis has been legalised in Australia, the black market in cannabis medicines must be suppressed. Michael Balderstone of the Hemp

Embassy disputes this:

"We are in a position now in Australia where cannabis is sounding from the politicians like it's legal but in fact it's now virtually impossible to get it legally, so a lot of people are risking their necks to help people access medical cannabis."

Maria Katelaris points out that governments haven't legislated for a moratorium for those who supplied medical cannabis before the alleged legalisation and who continue to supply it to tens of thousands of patients who cannot obtain the extremely scarce legal cannabis.

"Because there is no amnesty, Andrew's fallen right between the cracks," she said.

Suppressing the medical cannabis insurrection

Before 2016, all medicinal cannabis was illegal in Australia and all supplies – whether for childhood epilepsy, for cancer patients, or for those with intractable pain – were illegal and had to be sourced from the black-market. Medical cannabis was a crime.

The injustice of the prohibition on medicinal cannabis changed due to an extraordinary campaign of testimonies for the beneficial uses of cannabis that were aired on the mainstream media between 2013 and 2016 by numerous champions of medical cannabis including Andrew Katelaris, Tony Bower, Dan and Lucy Haslam, Elizabeth and Matt Pallett, etc.

As Australians learned about using cannabis for the treatment of childhood epilepsy and pain relief,

support for medicinal cannabis sky-rocketed, reaching over 90% in several polls.

Given this level of public support and the growing international acceptance of medicinal cannabis, Australia's politicians were forced to accept that criminalising sick people for using a drug that eased their suffering looked heartless, and many switched sides to support legalisation.

However, the enemies of medicinal cannabis, the police and the health authorities, have shaped the medical cannabis laws the politicians brought in and these regulations, or rather over-regulations, continue to make legal medical cannabis as unworkable as possible and cannabis medicines almost unobtainable from any other source besides the black market.

Lucy Haslam of United in Compassion, spoke of the deep shame she felt in politicians who had imposed a system designed primarily for the pharmaceutical companies, which was bureaucratic, convoluted, time-consuming, over-regulated and expensive, where the overwhelming majority of medical cannabis users were still forced to the black market.

"I think that New South Wales voters should realise they have been duped at both the state level and the federal level. Politicians have been very quick to stand in front of the camera and to take the accolades for making medical cannabis available when in fact they've done the opposite."

In practice, the laws allowing access to medicinal cannabis are so strict that



not more than thirty or forty patients are able to access legal cannabis in New South Wales. Lucy Haslam estimates that the black market contains tens of thousands of medical cannabis users.

While access to medical cannabis is administered in this highly-restricted, bureaucratic manner, many of the activists who campaigned for legalisation continue to be arrested by the police and their supplies and their plants have been confiscated.

The names of those who have been raided and arrested before Andrew Katelaris include Jenny Hallam, Matt and Elizabeth Pallett and Tony Bower, and reads almost like an honours list for medicinal cannabis activism.

Maria Katelaris remarked: "Letting Andrew languish in jail for the next 20 years over a principle that he has held dearly for several decades is medieval."

Dr Katelaris will next appear in court on January 24, when his bail application will be debated.

Dr John Jiggins is a writer and journalist who has published several books including Marijuana Australiana and Sir Joseph Banks and the Question of Hemp. He currently works as a journalist at Bay-FM in Byron Bay.

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A weekend of Medican workshops and seminars

The medicinal uses and healing properties of the cannabis plant are many.

In the last decade this has been more widely recognised by mainstream science and society. Governments worldwide are gradually implementing legislation to accommodate this.

Drug companies are also poised in the wings as there are big profits to be made from selling a medical cannabis products. However these medicines are easy and affordable to make for yourself.

The Nimbin HEMP Embassy believes that whatever legal framework is arrived at regarding the uses of medical cannabis, it should include the right to

grow your own.

The next Medican Workshop and Seminar will be held at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st January from 11am to 4.20pm. Free entry.

Speakers include MC Michael Balderstone, plus three Californian Medican makers, who will demonstrate various methods of creating Medican products, (with legal herbs) and talk about their experiences in North America.

Saturday's speakers include Dr. Deb Waldren, Dr Teresa Towpik and CBD Luke on using medical cannabis in today's climate, plus Steve Bolt on legal

advice. Sunday's workshop also includes Rayman on juicing raw cannabis, Radic AI on whole plant therapy and Andrew Kavasilas on the government's latest legal stances.

It's free entry and the Nimbin Bush Theatre Cafe will be open serving great locally produced coffee and treats, including some very delicious Hemp and Matcha cheesecake!

At 6.30pm, Neil Pike from the Pagan Love Cult will perform on the outdoor stage. Free entry.

Makers or users of medical cannabis who want to share their stories, please email: head@hempembassy.net or phone 02 6689-1842.

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MOVIES AT THE BUSH THEATRE



Inside Out

11am, Wednesday 10th January
 Rated G. \$10 entry. Free popcorn with every ticket!

Inside Out is a 3D animation psychological comedy-drama film produced by Pixar and released by Disney. The film is set in the mind of a young girl named Riley Andersen, where five personified emotions—Joy (Amy Poehler), Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust—try to lead her through life as her parents move from Minnesota to San Francisco, and she has to adjust to her new surroundings.

Docter first began developing *Inside Out* in 2010, after noticing changes in his daughter's personality as she grew older. The film's producers consulted numerous psychologists, who helped revise the story by emphasising the neuropsychological findings that human emotions affect relationships and can have a significant impact on them.

The film received several awards, including a BAFTA, Golden Globe, Critics choice award and the Academy Award for best animated feature.

A great fun film, with a few real insights that may guide a smaller person to understand their own emotions, while enjoying classic laughs and some moving moments. The cafe will be open serving great kid-friendly meals, snacks and drinks, and award winning coffee for the grown-ups.



The Man Who Knew Infinity

8pm Friday 12th January
 Rated PG. \$10 entry.

The Man Who Knew Infinity is the true story of a friendship that changed mathematics forever. In 1913, Srinivasa Ramanujan (Dev Patel), a self-taught Indian mathematics genius, travelled to Trinity College, Cambridge, where over the course of five years he forged a bond with his mentor, the brilliant and eccentric professor, G.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons), and fought against prejudice to reveal his mathematical talent to the world.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Srinivasa Ramanujan is a struggling citizen of Madras in India working at menial jobs at the edge of poverty. His employers notice that he seems to have exceptional skills at mathematics and they begin to make use of him for rudimentary accounting tasks. It becomes increasingly clear to his employers that Ramanujan's mathematical insights exceed the simple accounting tasks they are assigning to him. They contact G.H. Hardy, a famous mathematician at Cambridge College, who takes a special interest in Ramanujan, eventually mentoring

him and guiding him onto worldwide recognition as a mathematical genius.

This is an inspiring story of adversity against racism and poverty and a deeply moving film, both hopeful and tragic, and one that has been greatly admired for its revelations and celebration of the life of the great Srinivasa Ramanujan – the man who knew infinity.



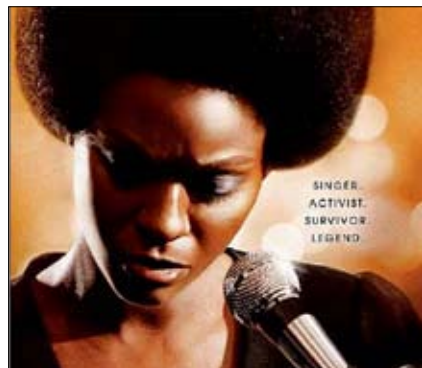
The Empire Strikes Back

11am, Wednesday 17th January
 Rated PG. \$10 entry. Dress-ups! Free popcorn with every ticket!

The Empire Strikes Back – *Star Wars: Episode V* is a 1980 film – the second instalment in the original *Star Wars* trilogy – and stars Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Frank Oz (as Yoda).

The film is set three years after *Star Wars, Episode IV*. The Galactic Empire under the leadership of the villainous Darth Vader and the Emperor is in pursuit of Like Skywalker and the rest of the Rebel Alliance. While Vader relentlessly pursues the small band of Luke's friends across the galaxy, Luke studies the Force under Jedi Master Yoda. When Vader captures Luke's friends, Luke must decide whether to complete his training and become a full Jedi Knight or to confront Vader and save them.

The Empire Strikes Back received mixed reviews from critics initially but has since grown in esteem, becoming the most critically acclaimed chapter in the *Star Wars* saga. Come in your best *Star Wars* dress-ups and enjoy the magic of the Force! Our last *Star Wars* dress-up was a great success, with small Jedi, Leia's and Storm Troopers enjoying the show. A Wookiee may even appear!



Nina

8pm, Friday 19th January
 Rated M. \$10 entry.

Nina is an American biographical film written and directed by Cynthia Mort. The film focuses on American musician and civil rights activist Nina Simone, portrayed by Zoe Saldana. In 1988, world famous and highly regarded singer, Nina Simone is financially unsound, mentally unstable and an alcoholic. Her 1960's heyday is far behind her. After threatening a lawyer with a gun, she is forcibly committed to a LA Psychiatric hospital for twenty-four hours. While in hospital, Nina hires Orderly Clifton Henderson as an assistant. What unfolds is the story of

Nina's road back to the stage, assisted by Clifton who believes in her talent passionately and champions her cause. After many trials and tribulations, Nina performs in New York's Central Park, crowds flock to see her perform, and the concert goes down as a triumph in musical history.

The film is moving and dramatic, it studies a remarkable talent, and the highs and lows of stardom and fame. Nina remains a huge inspiration to many: her performances are known as a benchmark of excellence that many performers today can only aspire to. Her stance on human rights is still held as a high point of musical activism that inspire many artists and activists to this day. Her musical interpretations of others' compositions are growing in esteem over the years, as with hindsight her talent is recognised as stellar, rare and beyond peer. Nina was a brave woman: she would not silence her politics to please the music industry, which cost her dearly. But Nina has the last word, as one of the greatest singers of all time. Hear her music on the big PA and get ready to get chills! BYO is OK.



Spear

8pm, Friday 26th January
 Rated M. \$10 entry.

As part of The Nimbin Bush Theatre's Survival Day Festival we present Artistic Director, Stephen Page's adaptation of the Bangarra Dance Company's own stage performance piece, *Spear* (2015). Young indigenous actor Hunter Page-Lochard (Stephen Page's son, an incredible dancer, who has since gained fame as 'Cleverman') plays the central character of Djali – a young Aboriginal man who is on a journey to understand what it means to become a man and, in particular, a man with ancient traditions living in a modern world. Djali's journey takes him from grimy Sydney city streets to majestic Australian country landscapes such as northeast Arnhem Land, all the while surrounded by the Bangarra dance team as they act out the expression of not only his journey, but that of many indigenous men who have struggled to survive in 'white' Australia. The film explores alcoholism, suicide, spiritual redemption, celebration and survival.

This is a contemporary fable, told through movement and dance, underscored by an evocative soundtrack composed by Stephen Page's brother, David Page (who sadly passed away in April 2015). This beautiful work of art deserves to be seen on a large screen and through a professional PA. It is an artistic immersion into some of the themes of modern day Australia from the viewpoint of a young Indigenous man, and a testament to the power and the survival of the worlds oldest living culture.

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FRI 5 Jan	Cafe Open for Dinner w/ Ambient music Group bookings welcome	
SAT 6 Jan 11am - 1.30pm FREE	Monthly Seminar CRYPTOCURRENCIES Discuss Bitcoin & more - All levels welcome	
SAT 6 Jan 11am-11pm \$10	All-Ages Gig 'NORTHERN RIVERS MASSIVE' Hip-Hop/Electronica/Acoustica	
SUN 7 Jan 8pm \$25	Dance Night! 'TIJUANA CARTEL' + 'BLACK RABBIT GEORGE' & 'DJ FUTURE ROOTS' [MELB] East meets West electronica + soulful acoustic folk + rootsy dancehall vinyl sets	
WED 10 Jan 11am \$10 PG w/ POPCORN!	Kids' Film 'INSIDE OUT' The crazy world of emotions	
FRI 12 Jan 8pm \$10 PG	Movie Night 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' True story of an Indian maths genius	
SAT 13 Jan 10am 8pm \$15	All-Day Festival 'HAPPY AFRICA' Music Dance Drumming Food Workshops for kids & adults EVENING CONCERT: Happy Africa Orchestra	
WED 17 Jan 11am \$10 PG w/ POPCORN!	Kids' Film 'THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK' The saga continues .. DRESS UP!!	
FRI 19 Jan 8pm \$10 M	Movie Night 'NINA' Portrait of a legend	
SAT 20 Jan 11am FREE	Public Education MEDICAN WORKSHOP Run by Hemp Embassy	
FRI 26 Jan 11am DONATION	All-Day Festival SURVIVAL DAY Smoking Ceremony + EMILY WURRAMARA + CRAIG ATKINS	
8pm \$10 M	Movie: 'SPEAR' Inspiring Bangarra dance story	
FRI 2 Feb 7pm DONATION	Dinner Under the Stars THE MAGNIFICENCE New Orleans' Jazz + Gumbo on the menu!	

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



Survival Day event in Nimbin

The Nimbin Bush Theatre proudly presents a day to celebrate the survival of the world's oldest living culture on 26th January, 1pm to 10pm (entry by donation), featuring Indigenous performers and ceremony, and culminating in the epic masterpiece from Bangarra, the film *Spear*.

From 1pm to 4pm we present Craig Atkins, a proud Indigenous man from the Meru region of the SA Riverina. Craig is a passionate performer of rootsy blues, playing guitar, a stomp box and didgeridoo. He will get your feet tapping and body moving with his great blues played with 100% commitment and a passionate verve.

At 4pm 'til 6pm we are very blessed to have Emily Wurrumarra (pictured), a rising star in the firmament of Australian music performance. Singing in both English and Anindilyakwa, the traditional language of her home on Groote Eylandt, NT, Wurrumarra says, "The language songs are definitely a dedication to my grandmother."

Wurrumarra wrote her first song at nine years of age, and sings with heart and honesty. She will be launching her new single on this day, so catch her while you can. As more discover her incredible talent and honey-soaked vocals, she is highly in demand across the country. Her music is something very special.

From 6.30pm to 7.30pm we will host a sunset Smoking Ceremony and cultural exchange with local Elders on our gardens by the Mulgum Creek. These ceremonies are moving, educational and highly inspirational. All are welcome to share in this sacred moment and to be purified in the smoke, language and ceremony of our local mob.

Spear (rated M) will show in the auditorium from 8pm. This is a stunning film by the Bangarra Dance Company depicting a young indigenous man's journey through the landscape of modern Australia. \$10 entry.

The Cafe will be open serving gorgeous food, drink and treats. Come along and celebrate the magic of Aboriginal culture at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

Women Like Us Hall of Shame Tour

It's been two and a half years on the road for *Women Like Us* comedians Ellen Briggs and Mandy Nolan who have chalked up an impressive 72 shows, performing to almost 20,000 people from Moree to Melbourne, Townsville to Tamworth, Bundaberg to Brisbane and Surfers to Sydney.

They call themselves "The bogan woman's thinking woman and the thinking woman's bogan."

The show is two hours of stand-up comedy, an hour a piece by these powerful, no holes barred, tell it how it is pin-up girls for what they call Real Women. "We want our comedy to demystify a lot of the garbage that we're fed about being women," says Briggs.

"We tell everyday stories about our struggles, our failure to parent, the beauty industry, getting fatter, strange surgeries, obsessions, frustrations, and at the end of the day who unpacks the dishwasher."

The show sells out at nearly every stop. Something that initially surprised the two comedians, but now reinforces what they call "a need for truth."

"Sure we're making jokes," says Nolan, who's known to push the bucket under a few sacred cows and pull down hard, "but in the end if you laugh at something you disempower it. Women are leaving our show thanking us not just for how much they laughed, but because they said we made them feel normal!"

Mandy Nolan is a columnist for the *Byron Shire Echo*, and writes regularly for *Mamamia*. She has appeared on ABC's *Q&A*, SBS's *Mum's The Word* and *About Women*, and is in demand as a corporate and club performer around the country.

Ellen Briggs is a national Finalist for RAW comedy and winner of Foxtel Comedy Channel's *Be A Comedian*. The two women have well over 30 years of comedy experience between them, and in 2018 they look forward to launching



Women Like Us, the book!

Briggs and Nolan performed at the sold out Up Front showcase at Melbourne Comedy Festival at Melbourne Town Hall last year, these two were clearly the comedy picks of the night. One reviewer raved: "Two totally relatable ladies who hit the nail on the head of charismatic female comedy. Prepare yourself to be hunched over in hysterics!"

But this isn't just a show for women. This is a show for men who love women. Men who have mothers. Sisters. Wives. And Daughters. Men who work with women.

Women Like Us is an opportunity for blokes to step inside the female psyche and get an insight into what we really think. So often women leave the show declaring, "I wish I had bought my husband! He needed to hear this!"

Although the show does come with a warning for men who don't like women.

Stay in the car.

Women Like Us guarantees two hours of non-stop laughter with crowds declaring it the funniest show they've seen. The most common refrain is: "I can't believe you girls aren't on TV!" TV wouldn't handle *Women Like Us*. It has to be seen to be believed!

Catch *Women Like Us* when they take their comedy to two local halls for their Hall of Shame Tour, on Friday 12th January at Pottsville Community Hall and on Saturday 13th January at Uki Hall.

At both shows, doors 7pm, show 8pm. Food by Limezest with light dishes and sweet treats. BYO. Tix \$30 at: www.womenlikeus.com.au or at Dune in Pottsville or at the Uki Supermarket, or at the door if not sold out.

"There's something magic about a hall gig," says Nolan. "They're always our favourite! And they're wild!"

The Happy Africa Festival



An all-day Festival of all things Happy and African will be held at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Saturday 13th January, from 10am to 11.30pm.

Bring the whole family to this tasty day of music, dancing, story telling and celebration.

The Festival will be hosted by Gabriel Otu (pictured), who was born in Ghana, West Africa, and began dancing at eight years of age, taught by his mother, a traditional dancer of the Nungua tribe.

At 16 years of age he began travelling the world dancing and drumming, and telling stories of his traditions.

His mission statement is "lifting people through music and dance to a level of high energy and happiness".

Having played major festivals all over the world, including the famed Parmafest in Ghana, Gabriel Otu now resides and teaches in Mullumbimby, and has performed at Womadelaide,

Woodford and Splendour.

The Festival is comprised of workshops and performances for all ages with an evening concert in the auditorium of the Happy Africa Orchestra, which is a collaboration of high energy African rhythms, Afro-beats into Afro-flow; showcasing an array of percussion on the djembes, doun doun's, kick-bass, shakers, bells and asalato.

Program

- 10am – 11am. Kids Workshop. Dancing, drumming and storytelling, \$15
- 1pm – 2pm. Live African Music and Open Jam on the Outdoor Stage. Free entry.
- 3pm – 4.30pm. Drumming Workshop in the Auditorium, \$15
- 4.30pm – 5.30pm. Dancing workshop in the Auditorium. \$15
- 8pm – 10.30pm. Happy Africa Orchestra Concert, \$15. All Ages. Book online at: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events

THE NIMBIN FASHION SHOW IS BACK!



For more than 25 years, The Nimbin Fashion Show has been a great opportunity for designers from the Nimbin region to showcase their original and unique sense of fashion.

Hundreds of people over the years have worked hard to bring the community top level shows year after year. Shows that combine our amazing local designs with the Nimbin community's ability to present a consistently professional and entertaining artistic show.

In that time, the co-ordination of this wonderful event has passed through different hands, but always with a community base.

This year on Saturday 24th February, the spotlight shines again as our glamorous models take a stroll down the catwalk. In a combination of the present, the past and the future, it will include new contemporary designers and several designers who have featured as far back as the early '90s and noughties, like Poppie Rose and Pol.

Some of the contemporary and future-primitive designers include Desert Owl (utilizing innovative tanning techniques), Von-We Felted Fashion (hand-made felt clothes), Pangaia and also Maya Krasna, Wylde Skye, Raquel, Tree Rivaa and many more.

Nimbin Fashion Designers is a collective of designers and creatives hoping to revive the classic Nimbin Fashion Shows of old, that brought joy to so many people.



Tickets will be available online and at the Green Bank, the Mad Hattery and at Music Bizarre in Lismore.

Any designers wishing to be involved, contact Samara on 0429-806-288 or Pol on 0419-210-074.

Little Mermaid sure to hook in audiences

Ballina Players is bringing Disney's *The Little Mermaid* to life on stage during the school holidays.

There is more to this classic tale than froth and bubbles. There is also wisdom, like loving someone how they are instead of how we want them, or not blaming all humans for a few wicked ones.

This production is a directing debut for Jackie McCalman, who is a talented and seasoned performer on stage. The team of three choreographers, each specialising in different dance styles including ballet, contemporary, hip hop, tap and Latin, provide dynamic and exciting routines.

Come and see the tap dancing seagulls and salsa dancing sea creatures – a delight not to be missed!

The Little Mermaid runs at Ballina Players from 12th to 21st January. Details and booking information are on the website: www.ballinaplayers.com.au or via Facebook.

Tickets can also be purchased from Just Funkin Music in River Street, Ballina.



Flounder (Lachlan Saul), Scuttle (Sebastian Gallagher) and baby seagull (Summer Barndon)

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Rehearsing for Heaven



New Zealand native Tony Backhouse founded Sydney's foremost a cappella gospel choir, Cafe of the Gate of Salvation in 1986.

He arranged, composed and still writes music for the choir he has

directed for 21 years.

He also founded the Honeybees choir and has sung with the reclusive male a cappella group, the Heavenly Light Quartet since 1996.

Tony has run over 2000 vocal

workshops on four continents, for the public, festivals, schools, churches, organisations and corporate training events.

He continues to record and arrange vocals with artists around the world, and lead tours to black churches and choirs in the USA bi-annually.

He returns to Australia in January to teach at his 19th Summersong Music Camp, and inspire singers of all levels in his famously fun and uplifting a cappella workshop, to be held at Byron Region Community College in Mullumbimby on Saturday 13th January, 1 – 4pm, admission from 12.40pm.

No bookings necessary; cash payment on arrival \$35, or \$30 for Summersong graduates.

For more information, go to: www.tonybackhouse.com or: www.summersongmusiccamp.com

Powerful Iraqi dance beats

WomAdelaide favourites Azzadoota are bringing their contemporary Assyrian dance-worldbeat music back to Nimbin.

Founder Robin Zirwanda comes from Iraq, where the Assyrians trace their ancestors back 7000 years. Recognised throughout the diaspora as a goodwill ambassador for his little-known nation, Robin sings catchy originals in his native

Assyrian Aramaic language.

Wearing costumes inspired by their royal ancestors, Azzadoota's powerful horn section heralds a renaissance of their ancient culture, while the driving rhythm section gives new life to traditional dance beats.

This is a band who play impeccable world music that will have your feet tapping and your heart racing. Catch them on the outdoor stage



at the Nimbin Bush Theatre in the gardens by Mulgum Creek at 1pm on Sunday

28th January, free entry. The cafe will be open, it's kid-friendly and BYO is OK.

MEDICAL CANNABIS WORKSHOP
a weekend at NIMBIN Bush Theatre
20th & 21st JANUARY 2018
11am to 4:20pm both days.

Three Californian medicine makers will demonstrate various extraction methods (with legal herbs!) and talk about their experiences in North America. Saturday speakers include...

Dr. Deb Waldren, Dr. Teresa Towpik and CBD Luke on using medical Cannabis in today's climate and Steve Bolt on legal advice.

Sunday's workshop also includes Rayman on juicing raw Cannabis, Radic Al on whole plant therapy and Andrew Kavasilas on the Govt's latest.

MC Michael Balderstone.

Makers or users of medical cannabis who wish to share their stories please email,

head@hempembassy.net (02) 6689-1842

Entry by donation.

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246



January Gigs

TRIVIA NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7pm

Thursday 4th	7pm	Surf Report
Friday 5th	7pm	Brommers Band
Saturday 6th	7pm	TBA
Thursday 11th	7pm	Guy Katchel
Friday 12th	7pm	Mistram
Saturday 13th	7pm	David & Michael
Thursday 18th	7pm	Slim Pickens
Friday 19th	7pm	Stu Hardcourt
Saturday 20th	7pm	TBA
Thursday 25th	7pm	TBA
Friday 26th	7pm	Papa Funk
Saturday 27th	7pm	TBA

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What's On in January?

- **Saturday 14th** – Visiting Club: Cabarita Bowls
- **Friday 26th** – **Australia Day** – Bowls, Beer & BBQ
- **Open Mike Nights** – Wednesdays 17th & 31st
- **Friday Nights** – Twilight Bowls, Raffles
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays, 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** – Enquire at Bar
- **Membership** – \$5 due in Jan



First-timers and novice bowlers welcome



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

- Every Thursday, 6pm **Joe Blow**
- **Friday 5th, 6pm Rob Cass**
- **Friday 12th, 6pm Dave Barbara**
- **Friday 19th, 6pm Khan**
- **Friday 26th, 6pm Freowin Harper**
- **Friday 2nd Feb, 6pm Brommers**

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