

# Optimum orientation and tilt of solar panels

by San Rangeon, Rainbow Power Co.

When purchasing or building a new property, the way the house sits in the landscape is important.

If you are on the Southern side of a hill, you will be a lot more limited in solar power generation than if you are on a North-facing hill. Any shade on your roof will also reduce how much power your system can generate.

Ideally, you want a roof facing true North (not magnetic North) with no shading at all. To find true North, you can use a compass and then add or subtract the magnetic declination for your location.

The next point to think about is the optimum tilt of your solar panels. The general rule in Australia is to have them at a tilt equivalent to your latitude. However, you can improve your power output by not only calculating exactly the best tilt at your latitude, but also considering your power usage pattern across seasons.

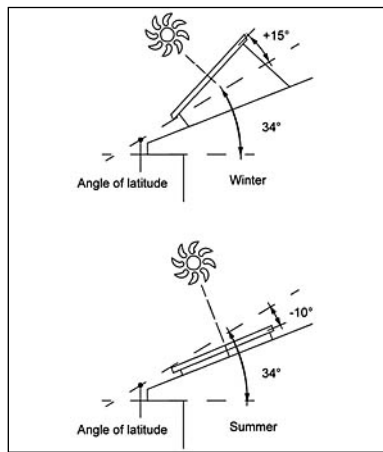
To produce the most power, your solar panels need to be exactly perpendicular to the direction of the sun rays. But of course, the position of the sun varies across seasons: it is higher in summer and lower in winter.

In addition, the irradiance is lower in winter, especially around June/July, which is also when the sun happens to be at its lowest angle.

So you need to consider your consumption patterns. Do you run exactly the same appliances year-round? If so, you will be better off angling your panels to optimise performance in winter, so you can partly make up for the lower irradiance.

If you have a significantly higher usage in summer (e.g. running the aircon in summer but not the heater in winter), then you will be okay with flatter panels to receive more summer sun.

But generally, June/July are the months where solar systems can risk falling short, so a lot of people will



choose to angle their panels for better winter performance. If this is the case for you, then the ideal tilt for your solar panels is your latitude + 15°.

This is especially important for off-grid solar systems, where maximising winter power output is crucial so you can recharge your batteries.

Most roof pitches are between 15° and 25°, so you will need to install your panels on a solar frame with adjustable legs, so you can have them set at the optimal tilt. The solar frame we general recommend allows for a 15° to 30° tilt, which is in addition to your roof pitch.

So for example, if you are at a latitude similar to Lismore, you want to maximise winter power output, and your roof pitch is 20°, your install will look like this:

Latitude + 15° = roof pitch + frame tilt

28° + 15° = 20° + frame tilt

28° + 15° - 20° = frame tilt

Frame tilt = 23°

So for this example, you will need to install the panels on a solar frame and set the frame at 23°.

Another advantage of tilt frames is that they allow for more airflow behind the panels, which increases performance by keeping them cooler.

However, tilt frames have a downside as well: if you plan on having several rows of panels, you will create potential shading

situations from one row to a higher row. So you need to weigh the pros and cons of having potentially less panels at the right tilt from having to space out your rows, or doing a flat install on the roof and simply installing more panels.

Because the STCs are based on the number of kW installed, it will sometimes make more sense financially to do an easier/cheaper install with extra panels, so you can claim more STCs.

If you are in the planning stage of building a new house, here is a summary of the considerations to take into account:

- Roof facing as close to true North as possible
- Roof pitch as close to latitude as possible for best year-round performance (for install flat on roof)
- Roof pitch as close to latitude - 10° for best summer performance (for install flat on roof)
- Roof pitch as close to latitude + 15° for best winter performance (for install flat on roof), especially important for off-grid systems.
- Install on solar frame with adjustable legs if you can't pick your roof tilt (e.g. house already built, don't like the look of steep roofs, safety concern for installers, etc.)

Always communicate with your solar installer ahead of time on this. Some installers will require additional safety procedures/cost to walk on roofs steeper than 25°. If you look at a steep church roof, you can easily see that it's not a very welcoming roof to walk on.

The same thing applies for the house builder – a very steep roof can be logistically difficult, so a roof with a more gentle pitch and a tilted solar frame may be the best solution, or a flat install with a few extra panels to make up for the lower performance.

If you need any advice, feel free to give us a call on 02 6689-1430 and we can design the right solar system for your needs.



## Landcare progress on show at Nimbin Rocks Co-operative

by Georgina Jones, EnviTe

Nimbin Rocks co-operative members, five local landowners and bush regenerators have been restoring forests at the Nimbin Rocks Co-operative and six other sites in the wider Nimbin area over the last three years.

Weeds including Lantana, Privet and invasive vine weeds have been degrading vegetation and impacting habitat for threatened species.

Systematically controlling weed threats has assisted to facilitate natural regeneration and improve condition and connectivity of important vegetation communities.

The project has provided training in bush regeneration techniques to co-operative members and participating landowners with bush regenerators working alongside landowners on sites to provide guidance and support with implementation of restoration works

increasing their skills and capacity to improve biodiversity.

There are a number of threatened species present at sites worked, including Hastings River Mouse, Sooty and Masked owls, Koala, Glossy Black Cockatoo and Squirrel Gliders.

Improved condition and connectivity of ecosystems and habitat for threatened species has been the result of the project.

One participating landowner describes the native forest where the work has been undertaken as looking amazing, with a dramatic increase in the amount of birdlife and wildlife.

The project has been assisted by the NSW Government through the NSW Environmental Trust, and co-ordinated by EnviTe Environment.

EnviTe can be contacted on (02) 6627-2844 or by email: [www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.au)

# 5G is harmless – but its carbon emissions aren't

by Dr Alan Roberts

Wild stories abound about imagined deleterious health effects from extending the communication frequencies above the current high of about 6GHz (50mm wavelength) to 100GHz (3mm wavelength) to form the so named, 5G band.

But 5G Electromagnetic Radiation is harmless because its photon energies are hundreds of times too weak to disrupt the weakest hydrogen bonds linking the DNA helix, nor can it disrupt the sulphur-sulphur bonds that hold proteins in their complex shapes which are much stronger than even DNA's strong hydrogen bonds.

Water surface tension is formed by hydrogen bonds – strong enough to support a mosquito with trampoline-like dimples under each foot, but nothing much heavier.

These DNA hydrogen bonds are disrupted naturally every time the cell reads the genetic code to make more protein and then zipped back up again when finished with no change to the genetic code. So how far up in frequency do we have to go before even being able to break a DNA hydrogen bond?

The frequency of an electromagnetic wave is the key

because that determines how much energy it can transfer when the EMR interacts with matter. The energy transfer can only happen in discrete packets called quanta.

The energy of each quantum is  $E=hf$  or energy = Planck's constant times the frequency of the EMR. No interactions with matter can take place with fractions of a quantum or if the quantum is below the level required by the matter.

From the 100GHz, 3mm waves at the top of the 5G band we step into the TeraHz (THz) gap – a band of frequencies from 100GHz (0.1THz, 3mm) to 10THz (30micrometre) where it's difficult to generate or measure the EMR. But nonetheless at the start of this band is the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) which now peaks at 160GHz EMR, composed of the original photons that escaped the Big Bang but have now cooled to 2.725K and stretched as space has expanded ever since.

Emerging from the top end of the THz gap we come to the first photons (at 10.02THz) strong enough to disrupt the weak h-bonds in DNA but to no effect as the more numerable stronger h-bonds will still hold the DNA helix together. People radiate infra-red EMR photons at 32THz with a power density of 500W/m<sup>2</sup>, strong enough to break

the weak DNA h-bonds but again it leaves the strong h-bonds holding – which require 52.6THz photon energy to break them.

"Strong" in this case is a relative term as we are only looking, so far, at weak ionic bonds not the much stronger covalent bonds that bind the rest of the DNA together.

To break these molecular bonds, we up the photon frequency through infra-red to 430THz (red light) through 750THz (blue) to ultra violet 1000THz and upwards.

You can bathe in these photons in the noonday sun at an intensity of 1000W/m<sup>2</sup> till the UV turns you bright pink from broken chemical bonds. This is a 10,000 times stronger photon than the top the 5G band photon. The UV does cause DNA damage leading to cancer unless the body detects and repairs it.

While the photon frequencies in the 5G band are 10,000 times too weak to cause molecular damage and the power levels for communication are necessarily low intensity don't conflate the military use of millimetre EMR with 5G.

The shorter the wavelength, the more narrow the beam can be made, and the more shallowly the power is absorbed by living tissue so the warped military mind sees this as a way of keeping people out of an area

– Area Denial Systems (ADS).

Their machine uses a gyrotron (see Wikipedia) to generate high power 95GHz (3.15mm) EMR that penetrates and heats only 0.4mm of skin surface which causes people to blink and turn away from the heat sensation. I can see plenty of ways this "non lethal" thing can go wrong and ways to counter it.

The machinery for it needs a huge truck as the gyrotron uses a superconducting magnet to produce the very strong magnetic field into which electrons are accelerated and once entering the magnetic field the electrons are forced into a very tight spiral which generates the EMR.

The super conductor needs to be cooled to liquid helium temperature of 4.2K which requires a huge Stirling cycle refrigerator. So the 5G transmitters can't be areal deniers in disguise.

### Carbon cost of a mouse click

The justification for moving to 5G is that the higher frequencies allow a faster data rate and less delay so that things can be controlled in almost real time and things can talk to things without bothering humans – the so-called 'Internet of Things'.

Neither the Internet of Humans nor their things have any more carbon budget remaining for non

essential stuff especially when there is no feedback about the environmental cost. For example, the monetary cost of me sending, say, a 6MB picture of my breakfast to my friends is insignificant compared with the thrill of me sharing the excitement!

But the energy cost would stop me if I had to do the same work as the Internet which is the equivalent of winning a 70kg person up 160m vertically or a 70kg person climbing to the top of a 53 story building. The Internet adds 27g of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere to handle that picture.

And that is just a picture, for a 3GB movie download the Internet uses energy which is the equivalent of 22 days hard labour.

An analysis of the energy used to keep the world wide internet running has found the Internet's average power is 141GW, or roughly 140 typical base load power stations with annual carbon emissions twice that of Australia's reported carbon emissions. (See: <https://aacee.org/files/proceedings/2012/data/papers/0193-000409.pdf>)

If 5G is introduced the increased data rate will increase carbon emissions manifold. It makes me curious as to whether any of those planets with no sign of life snuffed themselves out with thoughtless mouse clicks or was it a thing that did it?



# It's in my face and there's no avoiding it

by Bernardine Schwartz

Every time I'm amongst the public, it's in my face and there's no avoiding it. How little they seem to understand the predicament the entire planet is in, and to me, it appears that the majority don't care to know, and Nimbin is no exception. We all have to be mindful of everything we do, but most aren't conscious of anything they do.

Our most important role as adults, is to give care and protection and yet out of the seven billion people on this planet, it took a child, to find the courage and conviction to stand up and speak the truth and say, you are not doing anywhere near enough and it's WRONG.

Greta Thunberg is one of the 2.3 billion children in the world and she has achieved more for the cause of global warming than most adults and world organisations put together. Her inspirational speeches have united the children of the world to take to the streets, but even though Greta's heart rending words have been spoken at international summits, the world continues to do very little, while global warming gathers strength every day.

Here we are, a world in crisis, and time is of the essence but our leaders don't want to have another chat till next year. I, like others, am sick of the rhetoric, I want action and I want it now because I cannot change the world all by myself.

I can't even count on most of society, they're so blinded by their possessions, to the point of

neglecting their own children's welfare and they either just can't see it or choose not to. Our children don't need a shiny new car, the big house and untold possessions, this is what you value in life, and it's killing the planet and their future.

My fear of governments has grown over the years but I'm now also very fearful of the human race, as I'm made to watch them gamble with the lives of all our children and it's not hard for me to imagine a growing divide in society, as resentment builds up and erupts from those of us who are treading as lightly as we can, while others continue to stampede through life.

Our children should be our highest priority, not the economy, but instead our young have become the sacrificial lambs of the world?

According to the World Health Organisation climate change is a rising public health risk to ALL children of the world and this is why 88% of the existing burden of disease, that is attributable to climate change, falls on children five years old and under.

They will suffer from increased risks to infection, threats to food and water security and disease, and this will not be restricted to the third world. Currently a third Ebola outbreak has occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the world's second largest on record and it has now spread to neighbouring Uganda. This is what our children will be condemned to live in, a world where outbreaks like this will be a part of everyday existence.



Photo posted on Twitter by Barack Obama saying: "Yes we can, Greta"

A warming planet has serious consequences for the young, when they have to endure heat stress and dehydration, especially infants under one, who are at a higher risk simply because of their smaller surface-to-body ratio. Prolonged periods of persistent heat also exacerbate air pollution and allergens and children are more vulnerable because of their underdeveloped respiratory and immune systems. They are also more likely to suffer from renal failure, electrolytes imbalance and fever and cyclones and floods will increase the risk of gastroenteritis, asthma and skin infections.

Having enough food and water in the future will be an uncertainty for our children and there is now evidence that increased levels of CO<sup>2</sup> in the atmosphere are lowering the protein content in wheat, barley and rice, which could lead to malnutrition for many children. Plagues of pests caused by warming

temperatures will be another consequence of global warming and recent attacks by army worms in Africa and Southern Asia, have destroyed 50% of their crops.

The planet's water is disappearing and the IPCC predicted as far back as 2009, that two thirds of the world will have a severe shortage of water or none at all by 2025.

Our young will not only suffer physically but emotionally, with PTSD, anxiety and depression, caused from climate related disasters and a study after the 2003 Canberra bushfires, revealed that well over half of the children suffered from elevated symptoms of PTSD.

A study done by the Western Australian University, Monash University and Climate Health Alliance, supports these findings with estimations that Australian children will suffer from a 30% to 100% increase across the spectrum of health risks by 2050, caused from exposure to continual traumatic episodes, increasing psychological distress in children and adolescents. The young will be living in a world where temperatures are predicted to be at levels never experienced before and all the planet's glaciers and both the poles north and south, will be completely free of ice before the century ends.

Our children will be living in a world without forests and never get the opportunity to experience their beauty. Summers will no longer be anticipated but dreaded as frequent wildfires, droughts or floods become the new reality.

The planet's oceans will be toxic

and parts of Florida experienced this firsthand during an eighteen-month period from 2017 through to 2018, with red algae consuming the ocean and beaches, making it dangerous to even approach the shoreline.

Scientists were compelled to wear face masks because of toxic fumes, as they waded knee deep through dead carcasses, including the highly endangered manatees.

Nearly all the coral reefs will be gone by 2030, and the Great Barrier Reef, will be a relic of the past, stripped of all its vibrant colours.

A mass exodus of the people will eventually occur, when countries can no longer feed themselves because of lack of water and civilisation will be turned upside down. This can only lead to conflict and eventually war and why security agencies are already advising governments to make preparations for a volatile future. Our children will be living in a science fiction but at its worst.

Most will probably read my words and think it a gross exaggeration. Well I dare you to do the research and discover for yourself, because tragically this is the truth!

The University of Western Australia, Monash University and the Climate Health Alliance concluded: "Right now the science is telling us we're not doing enough and adults have an ethical obligation to do everything possible to prevent further damage to our children's ability to thrive in the future. To do otherwise is to ignore the very thing many of us see as the most important reason for living."

Why aren't you?

## Lost in the bush

by Krista Schaefer

A few years ago when I lived in Nimbin, I decided to go for a bush walk which turned out to be an experience I will never forget.

It was a cloudy, overcast June day, random showers teased the country folk and it was probably a good day to stay home in front of the fire with a good book and a cup of tea.

My friend was visiting from the UK and we were both excited about exploring the beautiful nature of Nimbin and the surrounding area. I had suggested a bush walk on Mt Nardi which is a world heritage listed national park formed from the Wollumbin shield volcano over 20 million years ago.

After breakfast, coffee and a

joint we headed up Tuntale Falls Road to Nightcap National park which lies to the north-east of Nimbin town.

The cement road turned into dirt road and an array of indigenous and imported plants greeted us along the way. It was a wild drive twisting around the corners and elevating up the mountain. We were full of laughter and joy as it had been a while since the two of us had spent quality time together.

We arrived up the mountain and parked near the phone tower in the designated parking area; we packed our supplies into my back pack and headed down the bush path of the Mt Matheson loop walk straight ahead of us.

We were engrossed in conversation: "How is so and so? Who is going out



Mt Matheson loop track  
Photo: NSW National Parks

with who? Anyone won the lottery?" that was the gist of the conversation as we skipped down the path without a care in the world, just happy to be in each other's company on a majestic mountain.

After a while we came to a sign. Looking back, I recall there was just one direction pointed out on the sign and we decided to take the other direction. Well I let Paul make the choice, I'm not sure why, but we were being so carefree and having so much fun, what could go wrong?

We carried on along the path

which quickly turned into a very narrow path and then we climbed over a dead tree trunk, now the path was just a small line of flattened grass which came to a full stop.

By this time it was late afternoon, and I realised we were at least three hours away from our starting point. Paul wanted to go on and he believed we would eventually end up on a country road with a pub on the corner. He wandered a little further and then realised there was no path and he was unsure of which direction to go. Luckily

I had stayed in the same place and directed him back with my voice.

Darkness was now creeping in. I started to get worried, but kept that to myself as I didn't want Paul to go into a panic on his second day in Australia. We started walking back up the very narrow grassy path which was slowly disappearing as the night was coming and the canopy of trees and plants were blocking out any remaining sunlight. We stopped briefly to restore our energy with muesli bars and an apple, saving the chocolate for "just in case".

We solemnly trudged on; our conversation had died down as the rain began to fall, first a few drops and then a huge downpour. I looked down at my feet and saw leeches. I had been so stupid, I only had sandals and soft cotton pants on. Those leeches started to crawl up my legs. I pulled them off not caring

if their teeth were left in my flesh, but there were so many I just had to leave them on my body.

Eventually we came to the sign which gave me an optimistic lift, luckily I did not know about the steep drop on the left hand side of the mountain as we dragged ourselves up the small man-made steps of the route. Now it was dark and we could barely see in front of us. We were both covered in leeches and tired and wet through. We lumbered on with only the sound of the rain hitting the trees to be heard and in darkness gently feeling for the next step.

We had been walking for hours when I stopped and glanced to my left and down a narrow path was my car sat under a street light! I could have so easily missed the turn-off. We were so relieved to see the car. We were safe, covered in so many leeches, but safe!

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# Learning about herbal lore

by Lynne Oldfield  
and Lo-Arna Okan

Every human being alive today has an ancestral connection to herbs and herbal lore. We would like the Nimbin Herbs Learning Centre to be a place where people can reawaken that connection, encouraging an unfolding of plant wisdom that can help to heal our world.

The confrontations and contradictions apparent in the world today can be a stimulus to search for a remedy that propels us into a deeper place of healing. Resetting our body and mind is an opportunity to renew our relationship to each other, the land and the plants.

Nimbin Herbs Learning Centre (Room A2, Nimbin Community Centre) is the gathering point for all plant enthusiasts. We are planning social events and gatherings where documentaries will be shown and ideas discussed.

There will be presentations by experts in their field. There will be classes starting next year with teachers on various herbal subjects where small groups can learn on-hand how to use and prepare herbs.

Nimbin Herbs is building a library of information online, providing practical and in-depth tools and resources for both beginners and the more experienced herb users. Over the years to come we will dive



deep into learning how herbs and plant medicines interact with our bodies, minds and spirit.

Our themes cover broad topics including herbalism, eco-psychology, permaculture, psychedelic plants, medical marijuana and neuropharmacology. We will delve into the histories of plants and the theoretical frameworks that different herbal traditions have developed to understand them.

Our digital resources will consist of short courses, interviews and workshops, featuring some of the world's leading

thinkers in herbalism and plant medicines.

We are building a physical library of books on herbs in the Learning Centre and are looking for donations of old herbal books you might like to gift to the Learning Centre – help us fill our new bookshelves with books!

We are working on our calendar of courses and events for 2020. If you are interested in running a class or presentation on a plant wisdom topic in our Nimbin Herbs Learning Centre please feel free to contact us.

# Betwixt and Between



The annual Betwixt and Between Festival is a Renaissance and fantasy faire where myths and legends come alive with a full schedule of workshops for adults and children alike.

Artisans will be sharing their collections of handcrafted costumes, adornments, artefacts, delicacies and elixirs.

Heroes Odyssey LARP are readying themselves for two days of non-stop battling. Training and inductions will be happening daily.

The piece de resistance is a vegetarian faery banquet, and, there will also be sumptuous roastings at the carnivorous carnivale in the Goblin Realm.

The Betwixt and Between Festival is held on Sat 10th and Sun 11th of August at the enchanting Hanging Rock Hall, Williams Rd, Wadeville.

Book yourself passage on this magical journey at: [www.betwixtandbetween.bigcartel.com](http://www.betwixtandbetween.bigcartel.com)

# FORGOTTEN ARTS FAIR

Last call for crafters, artisans and people with practical survival skills, traditional trades and home-crafts to register for the inaugural Forgotten Arts Fair in August at Djanbung Gardens.

Come and share your skills through demonstrations and workshops, inspire and empower others with things they can do and make by hand. This is an important aspect of the great re-skilling and move to a more earth-friendly, carbon-neutral society.

Themes can include home crafting and food traditions, natural building, re-wilding skills, knotting and lashing, leatherwork, woodwork and whittling, making and mending and practical tips

for sustainable living.

The Forgotten Arts Fair is a one-day public event on Saturday 10th August, 10am-5pm with short workshops, demonstrations, displays and a market place for stall-holders.



There will be a folk stage with live music, a Fibre-to-Fabric demonstration and workshop site, and in a separate forge area for demonstrations and workshops by the Northern Rivers Knife-makers and Blacksmiths group.

Workshop sessions at the Fair will be ideally 20-40 minute duration.

Please contact us before 30th July to discuss what you'd like to do or if you want to book a stall site.

On Sunday 11th August we are hosting a special series of Artisan Masterclass workshops. The workshops are three-hour immersion sessions 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-4.30pm.

Workshop presenters will be paid, and participants will need to pre-register. Please contact us before 15th July if you would like to offer a masterclass workshop. Volunteers are always welcome to help with preparations and on the day.

We would love to see this become a regular event and a positive forum for Nimbin to share its diversity of skills and talents with the wider Northern Rivers community and beyond.

Contact Robyn Francis on 0429-147-138 or email: [info@permaculture.com.au](mailto:info@permaculture.com.au)



# Medican grows from strength to strength

by Michael Balderstone

It was one of the best Medicans, if not *the* best. Just good energy, and great speakers. Like we've got the recipe sorted now.

Dr Deb Waldron from Queensland is first cab off the rank and makes everyone feel comfortable in no time. Most of the crowd has never been to Nimbin before. And never hung out for a day with a bunch of stoners either!

Dr Deb did medicine at UQ as a single mother and has been treating her own pain all her life. Cannabis has been so impressive she's now at the tail end of a degree in herbal medicine as well. There's a hippy in her not far beneath the surface and she loves visiting Nimbin.

Sally Macpherson, a lawyer friend from the coast, spoke next, spelling out to everyone just where they stand as far as the law is concerned. The drug driving rules are stopping at least half the people who want to try mediweed for their pain.

That Gladys Berejikian has doubled the number of saliva tests to 200,000 to be done by NSW police in the next year shows just

how nailed down we are by this nasty law which has nothing to do with impaired driving. Testing for the mere presence of cannabis in your saliva ensures medical cannabis can never really get off the ground. They test for five and charge you for anything over ten nanograms of THC. That's ten parts in a billion!

Dr John Teh from PlantMed in Queensland spoke after Sally and explained how the legal mediweed clinics like his are getting traction as more and more doctors realise just how good cannabis is for a wide variety of ailments. It's easier to navigate legal access in Queensland apparently, and he was optimistic about the gate opening further and further each month.

He said prices were on average four to five times more expensive than the black market, but there were plenty of takers because you knew exactly what you were getting and weren't in fear of the law. For those that can afford it!

He was an excellent speaker and hopefully will be back next time as well. It doesn't seem to matter that the same speakers come regularly to



Dr John Teh addresses a workshop

Medicans, as they all have so much to tell.

Andrew Katelaris aka Dr Pot spoke next, and I notice some locals keep coming just to hear his experience and knowledge pour forth, and in no uncertain fashion. And he's just written a book after it came clearly to him in jail that was the next thing to do on his amazing crusade for the cannabis plant. *Up In Smoke* it's called, "The life experiences and accumulated wisdom of a hemp activist."

I've read the book and it's a beauty. Excellent reading and great story telling. Highly recommended, \$30 in the Embassy.

The last but not least speaker was Malcolm Lee (he spoke first on Sunday!) and he's another terrific raconteur. Who else could convince a magistrate he was the perfect candidate to grow us legal mediweed. Of course he isn't allowed.

All these speakers are heroes for speaking out and standing up in their own ways to a law that we

know is a big mistake and that must be righted.

A bonus for the weekend was the screening on Saturday evening of *High As Mike*, a recent Aussie-made movie that came recommended and didn't let anyone down except those that couldn't handle the ending. The central character has a brain tumour and goes in search of information on mediweed, but ends up not trying it because he doesn't want to break the law and become a criminal.

Personally, I thought it made the movie, along with the fantastic cinematography.

The next Medican is on the weekend of October 26/27 and then another is planned for January 18/19 2020.

Many thanks to Sista, who probably has all the talks online at the address below by the time you read this, but there's nothing like being there in person for the gathering and the conversations are the gold with all speakers available to talk to personally during the day.

See: <http://hempembassy.net/2017/11/15/nimbin-medicant-workshops/>

## Certainty in the Law

by John Adams, solicitor

When a client asks me, "What are our chances?" I sometimes reply, even if we have a good case, with words to the following effect: "When High Court judges, the most learned lawyers in the land, disagree, who am I to say? Legal proceedings can be unpredictable."

I might tell such client this parable.

There was a certain man who was caught sending poison pen letters; not that many, and not very often. But he felt, deeply, that he simply had no choice; he was fighting oppression; it was like God acting through him. Admittedly, some of what he wrote was pretty off.

He is eventually charged, locked up for a bit, and finally appears before a Magistrate facing full-time gaol. His lawyer describes him as a proud man, says he cried like a baby in gaol. Who wouldn't find such an experience emotionally disturbing?

Anyway, he was persuaded to plead guilty and sentenced to probation and 300-hours community service and banned from using the Australian Postal Service.

For most of us that would be the end of it, but this convicted felon didn't feel right about the plea. He knew he wasn't guilty. He didn't feel remorse. It wasn't Justice. He hadn't had his day in court. Then someone had a smart idea; a constitutional argument.

Back in court a few months later, this time the District Court, his lawyers file a Notice of Motion to have the indictment quashed, arguing that the section of the Commonwealth Criminal Code under which it had been brought is invalid, infringing the implied freedom of political communication.

Implied freedoms are those made up by judges in the High Court. They imply them from what's already there, in the Law. They're found in the judgments rather than the Constitution Act.

When the profession heard, excitement grew. As did hope in the defendant's heart. Does the section fit with what judges have decided in the past? This is the question on which our hero's future now depends. A fine balance; how offensive can political free speech be?

In the District Court, however, the judge

decides the section is valid. Our letter-writer is guilty as charged. But the District Court is low in the hierarchy of courts and on a point of law you can seek leave to appeal.

Ten months later, the Court of Criminal Appeal took over. Two Chief Justices and the President, ably assisted by eight barristers and four solicitors, threw it out again. An expensive operation, but the question was clearly significant to the nation.

So, a bit over three years since it all began, our friend reaches the High Court, from which there is no appeal, where the final determination is genuinely final.

Here, after much argument, the Chief Justice, assisted by 16 barristers and nine solicitors, flowers of their profession, decides that the section is invalid.

Justices Hayne and Heydon agree with His Honour's reasoning, and declare that the convictions should be quashed! Our writer of offensive letters begins to breathe a deep sigh of relief.

But then... Justices Crennan, Kiefel and Bell together say, "The appeals should be dismissed." The other Justice is due to retire and isn't sitting. There's supposed to be seven, so this doesn't happen.

So, what do the lawyers come up with now? It takes them a couple of years more but eventually, back they go to the High Court to argue the unfairness of it all, seeking leave to file a fresh constitutional challenge.

Two judges, the Chief Justice and the new one, Justice Gageler, hear submissions and refuse the application. And that really is the end of it. For the courts.

Who am I then, to tell you what the law is?

The end of it for our hero is yet to come. Giving up on the search for Truth and Justice through his pen and the Law, three days after the High Court doors slam shut, having chosen a different, though more dramatic weapon, he goes for coffee at the Lindt Cafe.

John Adams recently gained a Master of Laws (Applied Law) majoring in Family Law. After over a decade helping family law clients through divorce, parenting, and property division matters, he prides himself on refining and sorting their legal issues quickly, ethically and cheaply. Contact him on 0435-651-581 or email: [john@johnadams.com.au](mailto:john@johnadams.com.au)



### THE ADVENTURES OF Reckless Rita & Freddy Foolhardy Featuring: Captain Competent

15



I'm off to have another big weekend on the K...woo hoo! < gas later!

BUT WAIT  
FREDDY!  
WEARING  
NAPPIES IS NO  
FUN!



Large, repeated doses of ketamine may eventually cause 'ketamine bladder syndrome', a painful condition needing ongoing treatment. Symptoms include difficulty holding in urine, incontinence, which can cause ulceration in the bladder. Anyone suffering from ketamine bladder syndrome needs to stop using ketamine and see a health professional ASAP.



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# Steel Magnolias come to Lismore

by Jenny Dowell

"I'm not crazy. I've just been in a bad mood for 40 years!" Excitement is building for the cast and crew of *Steel Magnolias* that opens Friday 5th July for a run of eight performances until 20th July at the Rochdale Theatre, Goonellabah.

The one-liners are flowing from the six memorable characters – especially from Ouiser, "an old Southern woman" with a cutting tongue, a mangy dog and "more money than God." Many readers will know the film of the same name that was a huge hit 30 years ago.

The cast in this Lismore Theatre Company production has been working together for two months to learn their dialogue and accent, develop their characters and deepen the female bonds that are at the heart of this fabulous play.

The director, Sylvia Clarke has recreated Truvy's Beauty Spot, a home hair dressing



salon that is the setting for the play that spans two years in the lives of the neighbourhood women who visit Truvy on Saturday mornings.

Four of the female characters, played by Sharon Brodie (Ouiser), Elyse Knowles (Annelle), Lisa Walmsley (M'Lynn) and Jenny Dowell (Clairee), have

previously appeared in a variety of roles at Rochdale Theatre.

Truvy and Shelby are played by Jacquie McCalman and Sinead Fell who are making their LTC debut, but have previously performed with Ballina Players.

While there may be tickets available at the

door, some shows have already sold out, so it is recommended that bookings are made on-line at: [www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au](http://www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au) (\$23/\$17)

The evening shows start at 7.30pm and the Sunday matinees begin at 2pm.

The bar is open before and after the show and at interval.

## Flamenco with The Semitones

Oye La Musica will be an afternoon of music from the Kyogle Semitones Community Choir and dance from the flamenco group Arte Gitana.

They will be joined by soprano Jessica McElroy and the singing and piano students of choir leader Fiona Kerr.

Arte Gitana are a group that specialise in the Spanish art of Flamenco. With feisty footwork, thrumming guitar and soaring vocals they fill the air with a heady intensity that will pull on your heart-strings, stir your emotions and make you want to jump up and shout "Olé!"

The troupe have Mark Bromley on guitar, Meg

Walker on vocals and Kelly Houghton on the dance floor.

They want to hear you holler encouragement as they whip up a storm of passion and percussion to get your blood pumping!

The program offers a wide variety of material, spanning four centuries, and drawing from Spain, Germany, Ireland, Newfoundland and Indigenous America.

At \$5 a head, with a gold coin for afternoon tea in the supper room and a raffle with proceeds to Kyogle Landcare, it is a low cost, community-building event sure to warm the winter chills away.

To be held at Kyogle Memorial Hall on Saturday 27th July at 3pm.



## Tug Dumbly book launch

Regular Nimbin visitor, and three-times winner of the Nimbin World Performance Poetry Cup, Tug Dumbly will launch his new book of poems, *Son Songs* in a stupendously big night of poetry, song, and all the other good bits in between, at the Nimbin Bowling Club, Thursday 1st August, from 7pm.

There will be a cavalcade of special guest poets and musicians, and Tug will be doing some songs, along with poems from his new book *Son Songs* and a few of his old faves.

This is one not to miss!

**NIMBIN BOWLO**

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1250

**What's On in July?**

- **Saturday 13th** – Nimbin Jazz Club from 6pm
- **Sunday 14th** – Visting Club: Club Banora
- **Open Mic Nights** – Wednesdays 17th and 31st July, 7th Aug, 7pm
- **Thurs 1st Aug** – Tug Dumbly book launch, 7pm



First-timers and novice bowlers welcome

**BISTRO – AND – LOUNGE**

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1473

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH**

- **Friday 5th, 6pm Sarah Stando**
- **Friday 12th, 6pm Rob Cass**
- **Friday 19th, 6pm Cass Eleven**
- **Friday 26th, 6pm Brommers**
- **Friday 2nd Aug, 6pm Rob Cass**

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






Nimbin Flix films are screened at the Birth & Beyond meeting room (54 Cullen Street Nimbin), doors open at 6.30pm and the film will be shown at 7pm on Saturday 13th July.

This month's Flix selection is *Rosalie Blum*, one of those out of the box, come-from-nowhere film hits. First time director, Julien Rappeneau, who adapted the film from a popular graphic novel, brings a lot of freshness and pizzazz to this deceptively simple tale. Not for nothing was this the most attended and feted film at the French Film Festival in 2016.

The eponymous Rosalie (Noémie Lvovsky) is a middle aged single woman living a quiet life. She works in a store and is kind to all the customers. She doesn't seem too worried about the shape of her life. She is placid on the outside but may perhaps have a "past."

This is contrasted to the other protagonist: local hairdresser, Vincent Machot (Kyan Khojandi). He is similarly single, but his more adventurous cousin is always trying to pair him up, and Vincent is patient and long-suffering but not fulfilled.

One day, Vincent spies Rosalie, and is immediately intrigued by some quality that she has. Being a shy guy, he cannot approach her directly, but the more that he follows her and fails to say something, the more it



feels like stalking.

Does Rosalie realise that she is being watched? If so, what motives does she impute to her handsome shadow? When Rosalie invokes the help of her younger cousin, it becomes a comedic game of cat and mouse.

It is important not to worry too much about the plot (delightfully twisted though it might be), because here it is all about the treatment. The back stories are economically realised.

The realisation of ordinary people that you could know and love is spot on, and the walking pace suits the whole very well. The simple cat and mouse games that Rosalie and Vincent end up playing are really fun to watch.

Rappeneau never strives for shock value or effect. Instead, the sense of comic absurdity being just one or two misunderstandings away makes the film both believable and unbelievable at more or less the same time.

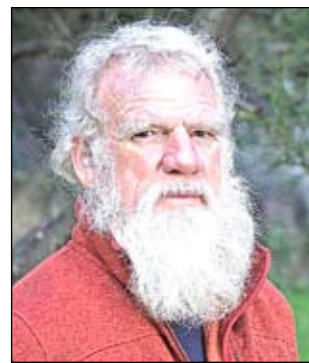
It is a difficult balancing act, but when it is done as well as this, you just have to surrender to its charm and humanity.

## Bruce Pascoe at Writers Fest

Using the accounts of early European explorers, colonists and farmers, writer and researcher Bruce Pascoe (pictured) compellingly argues for a reconsideration of the hunter-gatherer label for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians.

He invites us to see Australia as it was before Europeans arrived – a land of cultivated farming areas, productive fisheries, permanent homes, and an understanding of the environment and its natural resources that supported thriving villages across the continent.

Pascoe has collected a swathe of literary awards for *Dark Emu* and now he



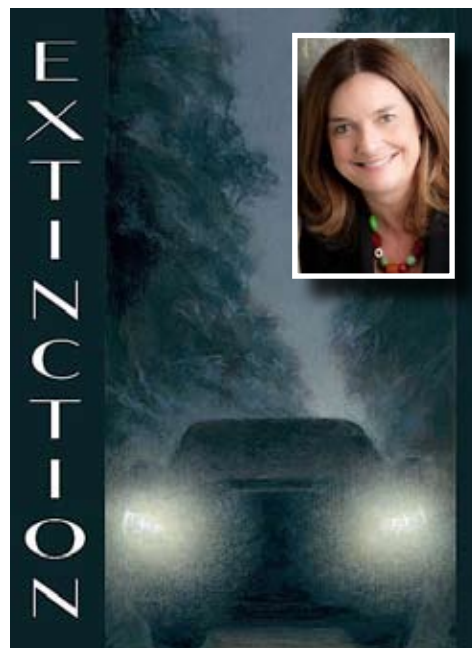
has brought together his research and compelling first person accounts in a book for younger readers, *Young Dark Emu – A Truer History*.

Bruce Pascoe will be speaking in numerous panels at Byron Writers Festival (2-4 August) along with

leading writer on climate change Tim Flannery, Damon Gameau (*2040: A Handbook for the Regeneration*) and *The Gourmet Farmer's* Matthew Evans.

Highlight panels at Byron Writers Festival for people passionate about the environment include 'Environmental Solutions' (Friday 2nd Aug) with Bruce Pascoe and Damon Gameau, 'Mother Earth: Humanity's Relationship with Nature' (Sat 3rd Aug) with Lisa Ann Gershwin and Stephen Pyne and 'Living Consciously' (Sun 4th Aug) with Tim Flannery and Matthew Evans.

Find out more at: [www.byronwritersfestival.com](http://www.byronwritersfestival.com)



*Extinction* is a play that is compelling and relevant, particularly in the current political environment. Human drama is at the forefront of the narrative, the Quoll being the catalyst that unfolds the working relationships of this disparate collective of people... an environmentalist, a coal-mining magnate, a veterinarian and an academic researcher.

Written by multi-award winning playwright Hannie Rayson (pictured) and directed by Richard Vinycomb, *Extinction* expertly depicts a struggle all too familiar to most: when is money more important than principles? This question draws the audience in to an emotive story, interwoven with both environmental and social ambiguities.

*Extinction* is edgy, provocative and funny.

Shows will run over three weekends in August at the Drill Hall Theatre in Mullumbimby. Tickets cost \$30/\$22 or \$40/\$32 including snacks/drinks and are available online at: [www.drillhalltheatre.org.au](http://www.drillhalltheatre.org.au)

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Occa Rock  
7pm

Saturday 13th  
Victor Cripes  
7pm



Thursday 18th  
Comedy Night  
Open Mic  
6.30pm

Friday 19th  
Midnight Riders  
7pm

Saturday 20th  
Mitch Lancaster  
7pm

Thursday 25th  
Surf Report  
6.30pm

Friday 26th  
Ben Torley  
7pm

Saturday 1st  
June  
Sali Bracewell  
7pm



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