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Not shared between states

I come from Victoria and have often noticed how information and experience gained is not shared between the States, "why" is a big topic and I won't examine that here.

But what I do want to pass on is information about a fabulous organisation that a friend of mine has alerted me to, in reference to the above topic, affordable housing.

Housing First developed from the Port Phillip Housing Authority under the auspice of City of Port Phillip and has a dazzling array of affordable housing across Melbourne, developed with an ethos of support for all who become part of their communities. eg Kyme Place, Port Melbourne.

I believe that North Coast Community Housing has a similar brief.

Housing First works with Councils and developers; their properties win building industry awards. They have a criterion of tenants only paying 25% of their income for rent.

It's a big website with a lot of information, so I have just included a few quotes that could apply to Councils here: Tweed, Byron, Lismore, Casino and Kyogle.

"HousingFirst is looking for new opportunities to partner with developers, organisations and investors who wish to further the supply of quality affordable housing for key workers and people on low incomes.

"Our experience, our dedicated staff and our many successful past developments ensure positive results for all future collaborations with like-minded organisations. "HousingFirst is looking for new opportunities to partner with councils who wish to further the supply of quality affordable housing for key workers and persons on low incomes within their municipalities"

See: <https://housingfirst.org.au>

Carol Chandler
Pottsville

Charge more, give less

Mayor Smith finally got around to mentioning Lismore Council's massive budget bungle from February in NGT's June

issue.

While congratulating staff on a wonderful job of turning their deficit into a surplus, he neglected to mention that this involves a 31% rate increase. Was this because of shame or embarrassment?

What he probably won't be mentioning in this month's 'From the Mayor's Desk' is that our esteemed councillors have awarded themselves a pay rise.

He will probably continue to ask for patience and respect, while Council continues business as usual.

Are they simply so out of touch that they don't know people are already struggling to pay their rates, or do they simply not care

G. Rosen
Nimbin

Money for nothing

Councillor Ekins of Lismore City Council wants a pay rise.

She is currently receiving \$20k for what was once a job done for free and the honour of serving the community.

If she is not happy with doing it voluntarily, resignation is an option.

\$20k is what aged pensioners receive to exist on and pay their council rates out of.

She theorises more pay will attract better people to serve on councils.

The General Manager of LCC receives \$250k and rates are still rising while services diminish.

When you have a 31% rate rise, compound no doubt, on the way and a Mayor wanting over \$60K with Councillors demanding a pay rise Ratepayers need to ask WHY?

The Federal Government tells us inflation is a mere 1.5% so what is the justification for our rates to rise to around \$6,000 pa after a 31% compound rate rise?

Something is rotten in the City of Lismore.

Claire De Ellae
Urbenville

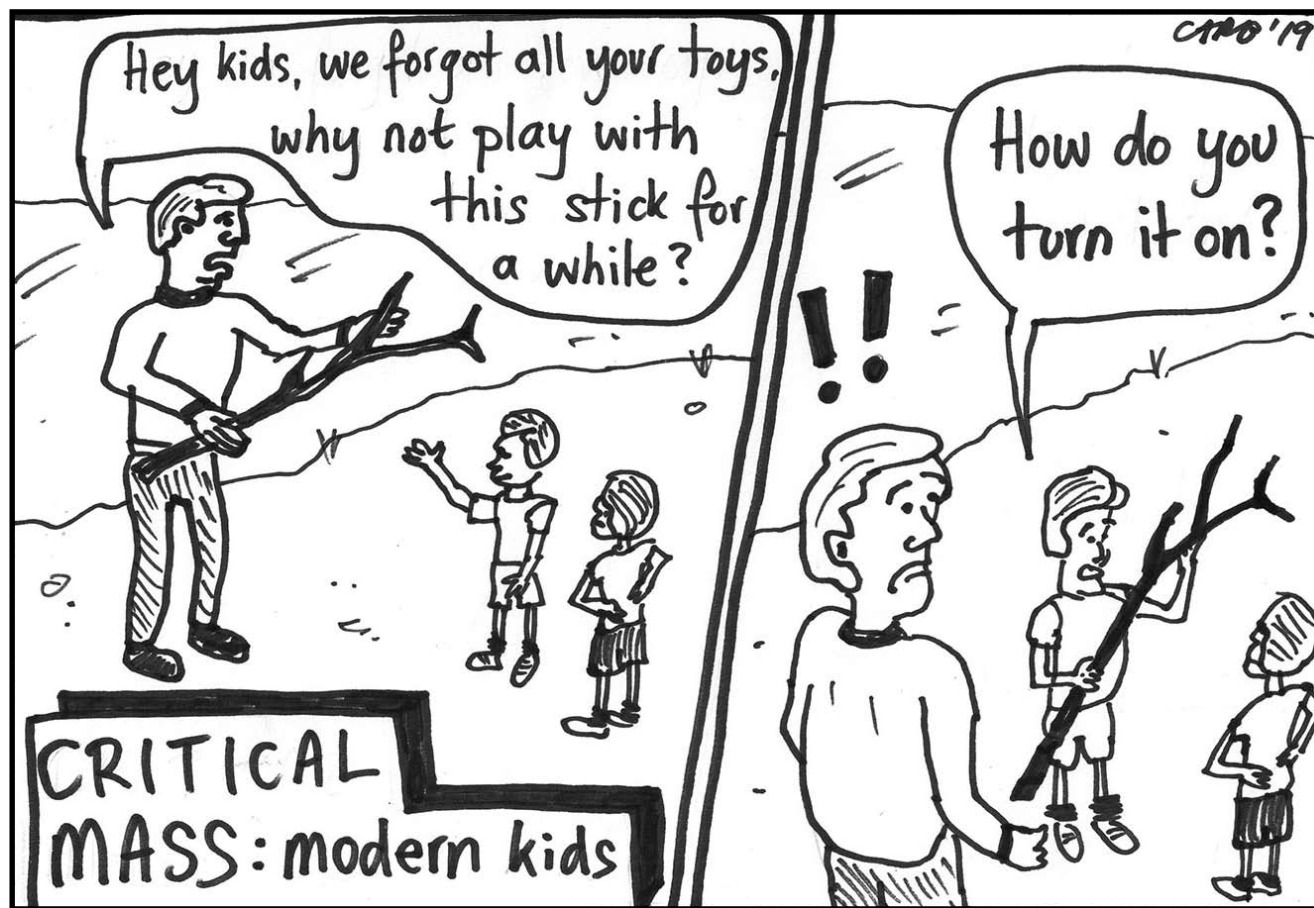
So many women

So many women and their families are homeless because their jobs are poorly paid, often compared with women doing the same work as the men in those jobs.

It is really important that women have less children to support as the Government cannot afford to house them.

If they can limit their family size to two or three children they can live on the lower wages so it is important they have control on their family size.

Some are raped, abused or simply make mistakes and girls really need access to the morning after pill. They often end up having to



support the children without a partner.

These abortion rights should not have to be made by Governments or Courts (mostly men), but perhaps women should take the babies they can't support and leave them on the steps of Parliament or the High Court (appointed by the Government) and they can decide which of them will adopt the kids.

Women need Abortion Rights NOW.
Anne Sutherland
Robina QLD

Not dropping the ball

Kudos to Cr Cooper for not dropping the ball on the concept of a sustainable tiny house village for the homeless. It's about time Tweed Council did more for the homeless in our shire than support agencies delivering services.

MP Geoff Provest is right when he says \$5.1 million from state government for services to the homeless is not enough to make a dent in this problem.

What homeless people need more than anything is their own place, however small, to restore their dignity and self-worth.

That's why Cr Cooper's council motion to establish an affordable housing village in Wardrop Valley (with shuttle buses into town) is a step in the right direction.

Why is it taking so long to actualise this simple solution when it is working so well overseas, for example at the Community First! Village on 51 acres in Austin, TX, created by Mobile Loaves & Fishes?

The purpose of this community is to lift the most chronically homeless off the streets and into a place they can call home. Residents live

in about 100 RVs and 125 micro homes with plans to add another 310 units in the near future.

That will take care of 40% of the chronically homeless. Pretty good start eh?

Seems like a model for success especially as it's sustainable and off the grid. Council owns this land so there is no land purchase required. Infrastructure costs can be recouped from rent paid by residents over time.

What an accomplishment this would be!

Menkit Prince
Uki

Whistle-blowers

To anyone concerned with the erosion of freedom, the abuse of power and the defence of whistle-blowers, Julian Assange, freedom of the press, the ABC and our right to know, it's obvious by the extreme events of the past month that the regressive elements of the COALition still control the agenda.

Emboldened by the undeserved and unexpected success of their last contrived campaign, a triumph of fear and lies, marketed and sold through the use of dirty money stolen from nickel workers and the taxpayers, they have further exploited their pox on democracy with their abusive and opportunistic assault on our freedoms and the separation of powers underpinning our Westminster system of government.

By any historical perspective and/or dictionary definition, this represents a more threatening, dangerous and regressive slide down the dark and divisive hole of fascism.

On the positive side,

the rare opportunity now exists for political unity and consensus arising from this grotesque and frightening abuse of power, to achieve better, stronger laws, more protective powers, more protective and supportive of investigative journalists, whistle-blowers and their publishers, and most importantly, the separation of powers constitutionally.

Australia should morally and ethically lead the world, and reject the persecution of journalists and whistle-blowers like Julian Assange, and do it now!

There should be no support, endorsement or alliance with countries that persecute well-meaning, innocent people for exposing government and corporate cover-ups, corruption and murders.

What on earth has happened to our collective moral compass? This is a war on truth and freedom masquerading as a "war on terror". This is fascism built on fear, bigotry and hatred.

Wake up Australia! Why are we sleepwalking to hell?

M. Stewart
Carool

Ideas wanted for Nimbin Community Centre space

Over the past six months we have been advertising the main room of the Figtree Building for rent.

Despite several inquiries, we have not yet received a clear expression of interest in renting the space.

The Committee is currently looking at the idea of making this space available to the broader community as a casual hire space with similar costs and conditions to the Dance Studio and Birth & Beyond meeting room.

Earlier this year, while the

space was vacant, we allowed the artists painting the Lifestyle Real Estate Mural to use the space to paint the mural in.

At the time they spoke about what a great studio space it made due to the great natural light and open space.

We are considering short term (hours or days) for casual use or weeks and months for longer-term project use.

We would love to have feedback from the community around whether there is a need/ interest in this kind of space and what would be considered reasonable rates and conditions of hire for both short and longer term usage.

Contact the Community Centre on (02) 6689-0000, email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au or call into the office from 10am to 2pm Monday to Thursday.

Teresa Biscoe and Helen Lynne
Co-ordinators
Nimbin Community Centre

Nimbin woman

- Purple dress
 - Blue eyes
 - Henna hands
 - Bare feet
 - Whoopee Doo
 - Look at you
 - Butterfly soul
 - Gentle heart
 - Kindness –
 - Dancing
 - Rainbow Dreaming
- Kevin Barry,
Ballina

The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people who are the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.



Charles Robert Anthony Green

4/7/1949 – 3/6/2019

developing natural solutions to the damage and degradation of soil and water.

Over the years he planted thousands of trees all over the region, and was a ground-breaker in understanding the importance of soil micro-organisms, developing inoculants to be used agriculturally.

A major project was to develop methods of harvesting water hyacinth and other nuisance aquatic weeds, to produce commercially-viable compost.

Many people were inspired by this possibility and 'Earthmakers' was born.

Robbie's soil inoculants were of unsurpassed quality and were to be used in a global project to sequester carbon into agricultural lands, the most viable way to reverse global warming.

His death is a great loss to our future ability to solve many of the immense environmental and health problems we all face today.

Born in Devonshire, England, Robbie spent his early years in Libya, where his father was stationed in the army. On returning to England, Robbie was educated at the Royal Naval College, where he developed an interest in nature and agriculture.

At 22, Robbie immigrated to Melbourne where he ran the popular hotspot 'Greens Restaurant' specialising

in gourmet hamburgers. A competitive backgammon player, he designed and made boards for sale. Robbie then dropped out of the fast lane to the Dandenongs, preferring to ride his horse for transport.

In 1978, Robbie arrived in Nimbin where he quickly took his place in the vibrant music scene, adding his multi-instrumentalist talents to many musical initiatives over the ensuing years. He was actively involved in building the award-winning Bush Traks recording studio.

Throughout the 80s and 90s Robbie took part in Nimbin's culture and development, including being on the Town Hall Committee which undertook the massive restoration and renovations on the hall. He was the driving force for extending the building to include a backstage area, music studios and toilet.

In 1983 Robbie and Willamina gave birth to their daughter Crystal, and in 2001 their granddaughter Lakeisha extended their family.

Our Robbie was a very kind and special friend to many over the years and the world is a lesser place without him. He will be missed by Sihem – his partner for 15 years – his family, and his friends.

Goodbye Robbie.

– Ren Waterfall

Perhaps the best way to describe Robbie is in other people's words: "A true spirit", "a kind soul", an "intelligent wonderful gentleman", "I treasure the memories, the deep conversations, music making and fun times", "Robbie was loving, happy and inspirational; funny and energetic", "he was a fun filled pixie of a guy overflowing with enthusiasm", "a lovely light being", "Such an amazing man, I loved his business 'Earthmakers' – the best soil ever!"

Robbie Green passed away with Crystal his daughter at his side, in her home.

He was a remarkable being, a very kind, loving man and father, a seeker for truth and knowledge, who could often challenge people's beliefs, with his passion to educate us all.

Robbie was a man of and for the Earth who worked passionately, seeking and

Position Vacant

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre Inc (NNIC)

Community Worker – 18hrs/wk (over 3 days)

NNIC seeks a suitably qualified and experienced person to become our Community Worker. This is a Permanent Part Time position, SCHCADS Level 3.

Applicants MUST address the selection criteria in the Job Kit, available from Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre at 71 Cullen St, Nimbin, (02) 6689-1692 from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday, or on our website: www.nnic.org.au

Applications close: Friday 19th July 2019

NNIC is an EEO employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait applicants are encouraged to apply.

Successful applicants may be required to undergo the Working with Children and relevant Police checks.

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Notices

Exploring economic development initiatives in Nimbin

Lismore City Council is developing a new Economic Development Strategy and needs input from the business community.

The Economic Development Strategy will identify ways to support sustainable growth of our existing industries and services, and encourage the development of new ones over the coming decades.

Thursday, 25th July, 6pm – 8.30pm at Birth & Beyond Hall, 54 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

Barbara Weidner

8/12/1933 – 10/6/2019

Thank you Mum for your wisdom, kindness, patience, understanding and all the love you gave us in everything you did for us and others.

Our Mum (Barb) came to Nimbin eight years ago and spread her sunshine in her smile to all who knew her. Nimbin embraced her and will sadly miss her, like we miss all who move on to new beginnings.

We will meet again someday, and feel the warmth of her smile again. Thank you also to all the wonderful staff at the Nimbin Hospital for their love and care of our dear Mum.

Love you Mum

– Greg, Heather and Sandra



Rental Vacancies at Nimbin Community Centre



Room A3, Acacia
Small room (15.91m²) in Acacia House available. It comes with a sink and has 2 windows. Great location and security. Rent will start from \$259.13/month (net GST) for a non-profit group. Commercial rates available on application.



Room C3, Figtree
A large (85.34m²) central room with kitchenette, and bathroom attached. Would suit many different purposes. Rent from \$871.88/month (net GST) for non-profit. Commercial rates available on application.

If you are interested in renting one of these rooms, please direct a written Expression of Interest to the Nimbin Community Centre Management Committee at 81 Cullen Street Nimbin, or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au You will need to provide 2 rental references.

For further information on what to include in your Expression of Interest, please contact our co-ordinators during office hours Monday to Thursday between 10am and 2pm on 6689-0000 or via email.

About us

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And find us on Facebook

NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

NEXT DEADLINE: Wednesday 24th July

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

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Saffin backs community on pedestrian safety

by Janelle Saffin
Member for Lismore

I am hopeful that Lismore City Council this month will join me in supporting a community-driven initiative to improve pedestrian safety in Nimbin's Cecil Street in the interim until a permanent bridge over the creek culvert can be funded and built.

Nimbin community leaders Diana Roberts and Michael Balderstone approached me to help address growing safety concerns from locals in the wake of the tragic death of Tonia Jansen and serious injury of her partner, now the subject of court proceedings.

Diana is currently overseas but knowing how good the former Lismore City councillor is at researching issues, I did not hesitate to lend my support to a delegation of three other Nimbin women who made a well-received deputation to the Council's Traffic Advisory Committee on 19th June.

The delegation was headed up by Teresa Biscoe, who is co-ordinator of the Nimbin Community Centre and vice president of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce Incorporated, together with Cat Anderson (Chamber member/Hemp Embassy manager/Cecil Street resident) and Robyn Francis, owner of Djanbung Gardens and Cecil Street resident.

They had the strong backing of the Nimbin Advisory Group, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce Incorporated, Nimbin A&I Society, Nimbin Community Centre Incorporated, Nimbin Headers Sports Club, Nimbin Preschool, Nimbin CWA, Djanbung Gardens and Nimbin Physical Activities Centre.

The Traffic Advisory Committee now will recommend to Lismore City Council's ordinary meeting on Tuesday 16th July that its design services team prepare a plan to install the following interim measures for Cecil Street:

- The existing travel lanes at the Cecil Street culvert be converted to one way/one lane traffic in conjunction with a protected pedestrian thoroughfare on the northern side of Cecil Street.
- Provision of a give way sign and



Pedestrians and drivers negotiating the obstacle course on Cecil Street.
Photo: Chibo Mertineit

relevant signage for eastbound traffic. The existing traffic calming device be retained and included as part of the interim measure treatment.

The committee will also recommend that a response be provided to representatives of the Nimbin community and that community consultation be undertaken.

It will recommend that funding be sought from NSW Transport, Roads & Maritime under the NSW Safer Roads Fatal Crash Response Program 2019/20 for installation of a pedestrian bridge on Cecil Street.

The committee would review the proposed interim measures in December this year.

I believe this is a good start towards what the delegation advocated – better forward planning and consultation with the community for the development of safe pedestrian access along the length of Cecil Street.

Cecil Street is set to become busier once Alternative Way links Sibley Street with Cecil Street and approved subdivisions in Cecil Street are completed.

I am planning to visit Nimbin on Wednesday 24th July to meet with local residents to discuss a range of issues of concern raised by the Nimbin Advisory Group.

State election commitments

Interpreting the recent State Budget was an exercise in trying to match up the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government's

election commitments with budget papers scant on detail.

I had been following up with various Ministers on the NSW Nationals' suite of election commitments made during the campaign for different parts of the electorate of Lismore.

This is what any newly-elected MP worth their salt would do on behalf of the community groups and organisations anxious for news that funding was locked in so they could get on with their projects.

Deputy Premier and Nationals leader John Barilaro wrote back recently, confirming that the Liberals and Nationals Government will honour all election commitments.

"Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention," Mr Barilaro wrote. I can only take him at his word.

As a bit of insurance though, I have compiled a spreadsheet of all election commitments and will hold the Government to account if there is any slippage in delivering them.

New signage on electoral office

Many locals have commented favourably on the new signage which has gone up at the electorate office on the corner of Conway and Carrington streets, Lismore.

Thanks go to Roger Kelly, of Kelly Signs and Designs, for a wonderful job. He's been in the signwriting game for almost half a century and I like to support local trades and businesses wherever possible.

On the same PAGE

Kevin Hogan MP
Member for Page

I was humbled to be nominated by my colleagues for the position of Deputy Speaker recently.

We had our first Party Room meeting and I was unanimously elected to the position.

I will always encourage robust debate, but never personal attacks or name calling.

NAIDOC Week will be celebrated from July 7 to 14. It is an important week to acknowledge our First Australians. They are the guardians of this nation's soul who give us a spiritual connection with our land. This year's theme is Voice. Treaty. Truth.

Per capita, Australia invests more in renewable technology than any other nation.

I recently announced a \$200,000 grant to test a revolutionary new device that reduces the amount of fuel used and carbon emitted from heavy vehicles.

Local company HRDS Technologies said its device Regenodrive can reduce usage and emissions by at least a third. It can also remove cancer-causing particles from the air.

Once the technology is verified, the company can start selling the device around the world.

More jobs were created as unemployment in towns and villages across the Northern Rivers continued to fall over the last 12 months.



This is wonderful news for our community and those looking for work.

Since 2013, the unemployment rate in the Lismore region has fallen from 6.8% to 3.8%, in Kyogle 8.6% to 5.8% and in

Casino 9.9% to 5.6%.

The strong local jobs growth in our towns and villages is part of a national picture which has seen record growth with more than 1.3 million jobs created since 2013.

Lismore Lantern Parade

Word of the Bird
by Cr Elly Bird



It's good to be back writing for the *GoodTimes*. I've had a bit of a break over the last few months, I needed to scale back on a few things after the state election and this column was one thing that I needed to let go of for a little while.

Like many of you, I have been slowly recovering from election season, and finding my feet again after such an intense effort. Election campaigning is a wild ride, and when you throw your heart and soul into it like

I did, and then you lose, it's not always the easiest thing to get back up again. But, we do, and we get on with the next thing.

For me, that was the Lismore Lantern Parade. It was the 25th anniversary this year and the biggest parade ever. I spent time in the workshop in the lead-up, and I just love seeing all of the different community groups, organisations, and schools coming in to work on their lanterns.

I'm slightly biased of course, but we really

are incredibly lucky to have such an amazing community event that we can all be part of. As always, when I feel sad or overwhelmed by the state of the world, anchoring myself in community is the perfect antidote.

It really has been a massive year so far, and dealing with significant challenges at Lismore Council has also taken a great deal of my time and energy. It hasn't been easy, and we aren't out of the woods yet, but with some very hard work by our staff under the direction of

our new General Manager we are on firmer footing than we were at the beginning of the year.

There has been a lot of commentary over the last few months about proposed rate rises, and some misunderstanding about the process and the purpose of any increases. Firstly, there is no Special Rate Variation (SRV) occurring in this financial year, but Council has approved funding to undertake Community Consultation about the possibility of an SRV from 2020/21.

That Consultation will begin in a few months' time, and I encourage everyone to engage with the process.

Secondly, the proposed SRV is not the solution to the deficit we were carrying earlier this year, we are working internally to solve the cash deficit through a range of strategies – none of which have anything to do with increasing rates.

Our Council is in the same situation that many other regional Councils face – which is that our expenses are outstripping our revenue, and as a result we are not able to adequately maintain our roads and our community assets.

I know that many people are firmly against any rate rise at all, and I understand that, but the financial reality is that the alternative option is to restrict what Council is able to deliver. We need to have a community-wide conversation about what that means and what we can and can't afford under either scenario.

So, there will be many more conversations to be had, and I look forward to engaging with you over the coming months.

I can be contacted at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au or on 0418-639-937.

From the mayor's desk

NAIDOC week is a very special week in Nimbin as it is for Lismore where council hosted our annual NAIDOC celebration at the Lismore Showgrounds. We do this to remember, celebrate and participate in our rich local cultural heritage.

Nimbin holds a special place in our local aboriginal stories and Bundjalung lore as the Nimbin rocks represent the little spirit man Nyimbunji. He was a wise leader who had many powers and helped all who respected local lore and came to him for help.

I believe we still look to Nimbin for hope and leadership, and the work of local Aboriginal leaders and the Cultural Centre uphold the spirit of Nyimbunji.

This year's theme is Voice, Treaty, Truth – all more important than the words by themselves, they are key elements taken from the Uluru statement from the heart. And all are linked to the shared future we can become a part of when we work together.

It has never been more important to unite as a community, as people, with trust in Government and other large organisations at an all-time low. This is why our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), now in its third partnership with Reconciliation Australia, is very important for Council.



Cr Isaac Smith,
Lismore City Council

Part of the latest RAP was to offer Cultural Awareness Training to Staff and Councillors so we could learn more about the 60,000+ years of Indigenous history we share here in Australia. Some councillors walked out and would not even listen to the initial presentation, clearly proving that more understanding is required.

But I am pleased to say that most took this opportunity to undertake this significant learning experience and find out more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait culture and lore. I found it to be both challenging and enlightening.

In our roles we are exposed to more Aboriginal culture than most, but those of us who completed it were really grateful for the opportunity. Through the stories and history it is impossible to not better understand the struggles of our nations first inhabitants.

Understanding can then lead to the next step of actions that will reconcile their culture with modern Australia with a treaty and truth, creating that shared future.

This focus on stories led me to reflect on the Italian Festival held in Lismore last month. It is a wonderful event where we celebrate the story of our first Italian Migrants and their contribution to our region.

Every person who has heard this story understands their struggles and why their culture has so significantly shaped our city. Their stories become our stories and their struggles and triumphs become our shared experiences.

This is what I found so amazing when I listened to the voices of Aboriginal people who spoke about community and connection to place. Such strong connections that can change lives and reconnect us to place in a more meaningful way.

This is why I love NAIDOC week. This is why I love to participate in every opportunity to learn more about our local Bundjalung culture.

Every story and dance, each song and mural, every smoking ceremony and elder talking is an opportunity to hear our local language. All these things remind me that a shared future is the one I want to be a part of.

Our democracy, in fact every democracy in the world, is in crisis, a crisis as profound as the climate crisis we're facing.

The growth of personally tailored social media misinformation run by totalitarian regimes is having a significant effect on how people vote.

Cynical and paranoid people are the first to be fooled. They already believe everyone's out to get them, propaganda personally constructed to reinforce their fears made a big showing before the last two polls.

During the last election cycle a popular meme depicted a dowdy lower middle class white woman explaining in the most didactic tones how informal voting would close down government.

Apparently if we put a line through every candidate's name some unseen hand would intervene and sack government. Absurd of course, but the surety with which she proclaimed her bollocks probably worked on the gullible.

It is worth noting that around 10% of the populous didn't vote in the recent state and federal elections.

This government holds government by a just a few seats – and many seats are held within 5% swing range. As a consequence manipulating a small percentage of the vote is adequate to control who is

elected.

So having eliminated the cynics, then it was time to dig a bit deeper and find the individual groups specific fears.

This isn't hard thanks to social media where people simply give their personal information away and Mr 'Suckburger' sells it on to whomsoever thinks they can use it.

At the last election I had to field questions about Labor's new death taxes. What death taxes? This lady thought Labor was going to tax her kids \$170,000 on the price on her house if she left it to them. Suckburgers.

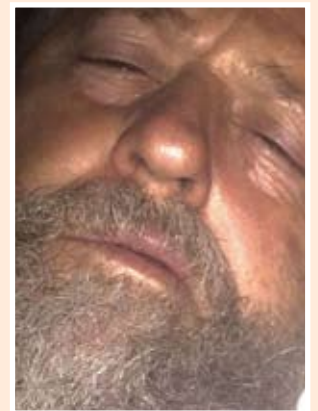
There were so many individualised scare campaigns running – Labor was going to take away; your pension, your car, your job, your power, your sexuality (truly people were arguing that).

Information is the currency of democracy, and there are cyber rooms full of paid techies making counterfeit information – and as a consequence the value of our vote is in precipitate decline.

And that's just the democratic process that is being completely destroyed.

Perhaps more importantly is just the complete loss of any sense of community, of unity or any willingness to sacrifice anything for the greater good; because the whole concept of greater good has been trashed.

The dog-eat-dog



Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

mentality is seriously in the ascendent, and this is not just among the appallingly wealthy, it's everywhere. People are happy to spend an afternoon playing dead on their way to the shops, but ask them if they're willing to forego meat or air travel?

Oh god no. Everyone is happy to proclaim the need for a society-wide change – as long as it's not them sacrificing anything. It's all someone else's fault, and someone else needs to sacrifice their excesses.

If we don't want our society to implode, we must actually give ourselves over to reducing and reusing – we have to make the sacrifices – we have to be the change.

Just consume a little less – anything, and be proud of yourself for actually doing something to address the environmental crisis and help build a loving sharing community.