

State Government announces faster funding pathways to recovery



From the Mayor's desk
by Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

There was quite a bit of discussion at Council's March meeting about the Nimbin Advisory Group and whether it should be broadened to include other villages within the Lismore Local Government Area. In the end, it was decided to set up a separate advisory group for our many villages to give them a voice to Council, while retaining

the NAG as it currently operates. I believe this is the best outcome.

Council continues to work with the NAG and the local community on projects like the Nimbin Place Plan.

During last month's consultation phase, Council received 181 survey responses and the two public workshops were well attended.

Once Council develops a draft of the Place Plan based on the feedback received, we will host another workshop, as well as publish it on-line.

This will ensure that Council has interpreted all the information correctly and has developed a plan that authentically reflects local aspirations.

We currently have a placeholder for the evening of Thursday, 6th June. For updates, go to Council's Your Say page at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Thank you to all those who

took part in the survey and workshops. It shows just how committed locals are to making Nimbin an even better place to live.

Greens Bridge

Later this month, I will be joined by State Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Transport and Roads, Anna Watson, to officially open Greens Bridge on Stony Chute Road just outside of the village.

The ageing wooden bridge was replaced with a three-span 38m-long concrete bridge on bored pier foundations designed to provide unhindered clearance over Goolmangar Creek.

The deck height of the bridge is also 1.2m higher than the previous bridge, which was submerged during the 2022 natural disaster.

Council engaged Quickway Constructions Pty Ltd, which used its Northern Rivers-based team to build

the project.

More than 30 local subcontractors, suppliers and workers were involved in its construction.

The \$4.5 million project was jointly funded by the NSW Government's Fixing Country Bridges program and Lismore City Council.

Recovery funding

Lismore, and our recovery effort, received some great news late last month, which I believe is probably the most significant day in our rebuild.

The NSW Government announced a new, faster funding pathway to make it easier for Northern Rivers communities to rebuild vital roads and transport infrastructure following natural disasters.

The Tripartite Agreement between the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Transport for NSW and seven local councils will ensure a speedier roll out of



Steve Krieg signs off on the new funding agreement with NSW Premier Chris Minns and Janelle Saffin MP.

reconstruction funds after floods, fires or other natural disasters.

Prior to this agreement, Council had to finance the rebuilding of infrastructure before we could access additional funding from government.

Now, we can access critical funds upfront at each stage of reconstruction, easing the financial burden and making it easier to undertake reconstruction work more quickly.

Expect to see the pace of our recovery take off very soon.

Landmark environmental reforms pass NSW Parliament

by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

I have a lot of environmental news to share with you this month, as there have been some significant developments.

Ban on offshore mining

The Minns Government has moved to protect our beaches and coastal environment by banning seabed petroleum and mineral mining and exploration off the NSW coast.

The Government secured support from across the NSW Parliament for the ban, making NSW the first state in Australia to prohibit offshore exploration and mining.

Offshore mining activities can have a devastating effect on our marine wildlife by releasing toxins, destroying habitat and creating harmful sediment levels.

I am pleased to be part of a government that is prepared to lead the way on protecting our marine life and coastal environment. No other state or territory has acted so comprehensively to prevent the environmental impact that can result from offshore mining.

Giving the EPA some teeth

The Minns Government has brought in the biggest changes to environment protection rules since the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) was established in 1991.



Susie George NSW Reconstruction Authority Executive Director, Janelle Saffin MP and Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg at the announcement of the second Resilient Lands Program site.

The Parliament has passed legislation giving the EPA stronger powers to deter environmental crimes and respond faster to pollution incidents, giving us the strongest environmental regulations of any state or territory in Australia. This fulfils Labor's election commitment to provide the EPA with teeth.

The Environment Protection

Legislation Amendment (Stronger Regulation and Penalties) Bill 2024 includes:

- Doubling maximum penalties – the most serious offences will carry penalties of \$10 million for companies and \$2 million for individuals.
- Raising on-the-spot-fines – fines for common environmental offences will more than double

to \$30,000 for companies and \$15,000 for individuals for a first offence, going up to \$45,000 and \$22,500 respectively for a second offence.

Councils will have authority to issue illegal dumping fines of \$5,000 to companies and \$1,000 to individuals, with higher penalties for dumping in sensitive places like a school, hospital, or national park.

Public Transparency – a 'name and shame' process will issue warnings about poor environmental performers and substandard practices.

Penalties for serious environmental offences had not been raised since 2005 when Labor was last in government.

Have your say on Koalas

You are invited to have your say on the best ways to help our endangered koalas.

The Government is reviewing the NSW Koala Strategy and the discussion paper is online until 26th April for people to give feedback on habitat protection and ways to improve the safety and health of koalas.

Go to: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy/reviewing-the-nsw-koala-strategy

Grants to reduce food waste and feed those in need

Two new grant programs have been announced to help reduce the tonnes of food that go to waste every year in NSW.

An estimated 70% of food wasted in NSW is still edible, and meanwhile more than 30% of the state's households are experiencing some level of food insecurity.

Through the new Business Food Waste Partnership Grants, businesses, peak industry bodies and councils can apply for grants of up to \$200,00 to reduce food waste and boost recycling.

And food relief organisations can apply for funding of up to \$500,000 to better manage increasing amounts of rescued food and delivery to those in need.

Apply at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/food-rescue

Vehicle emissions ratings

The Government has launched a new Vehicle Emissions Star Rating website to help drivers consider sustainability when buying their next new or used vehicle.

The Vehicle Emissions Star Rating website also has information on electric vehicles, the location of charging stations, battery recycling and the differences between electric, hybrid and internal combustion engine vehicles.

Visit: www.vesr.gov.au



I love working with our community to make a difference.

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Janelle Saffin MP
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Pointing the finger at Labor on forests



by Sue Higginson,
NSW Greens MLC

Thousands of wonderful people from everywhere gathered around the country this March to march for our precious native forests.

In NSW thousands showed up in Sydney, Lismore, Bellingen, Newcastle and Bega. It was an incredible show of force and determination and the finger was pointed at NSW Labor for radically failing us on forests.

When people hear the truth about what is happening across our incredibly important but small

public native forest estate (less than 2% of the area of NSW); that we still allow the industrial logging of our native forests, the response is "How is it still happening?"

The answer is simple, "Because NSW Labor have not yet stopped it." The fact is NSW Labor could end logging our public native forests today, they are choosing not to.

It doesn't matter which way you look at it, the evidence says we should stop logging our public native forests immediately.

Actually, it shows that we should have stopped a long time ago and we should have boots on the ground regenerating them and removing the invasive species that are within them.

Every time NSW Labor logs our forests they are driving us further into the extinction crisis. Our precious forests are literally refuges to some of the country's most threatened wildlife that can't and don't live anywhere else.

Every single logging operation is driving them closer to extinction and some of these animals, like Greater Gliders, which require the big hollow old trees, are so close to extinction

it's scary.

Every time NSW Labor logs our native forests they are driving us further into the climate crisis. Not only through the releasing of around 3.6 million tonnes of carbon (CO₂e) into the atmosphere every year, but destroying the health of our forests reduces their capacity to draw down and store carbon most effectively.

3.6 million tonnes of carbon is equivalent to the annual emissions of 840,000 medium sized cars or four and a half times the annual emissions of domestic aviation in NSW.

If we end native forest logging immediately it would prevent the short-term emissions of 1.8 million tonnes of carbon (CO₂e) per year and long-term emissions of around 76 million tonnes of carbon (CO₂e) by 2050.

This is a carbon mitigation cost of around \$2.5 billion, based on the current low costs of carbon per tonne.

Every time NSW Labor logs our native forests they make our communities more at risk of dangerous wildfire. The research



Sue Higginson addresses the Sydney March for Forests

has now shown, what so many of us already knew, that logging makes our forests more susceptible to more intense and more frequent wildfires.

Taking timber from forests dramatically changes their structure, dries them out, making them more vulnerable to bushfires and fires that are more likely to burn out of control.

Every time NSW Labor logs our native forests they spend millions of dollars from the public purse. We literally prop up the native hardwood industry every year to the tune of millions, and that's just in losses, it is not including the actual subsidies.

It is not lost on me that the day

before I rallied and marched with the thousands in Sydney calling on NSW Labor to stop being shit on forests, hundreds of us gathered in the beautiful hand-crafted wooden Tuntable Falls Community Hall to farewell our forest friend Gum.

It was there I once again strengthened a resolve I did not know was possible to strengthen: to end the destructive logging of our precious public forest estate.

We can and we will win this. Please join me now and send a message to NSW Labor Premier and Ministers and tell them to end the madness now follow this link: www.suehigginson.org/logging

Funding secured for rehabilitation of coastal estuaries

by Tamara Smith, Greens MP for Ballina

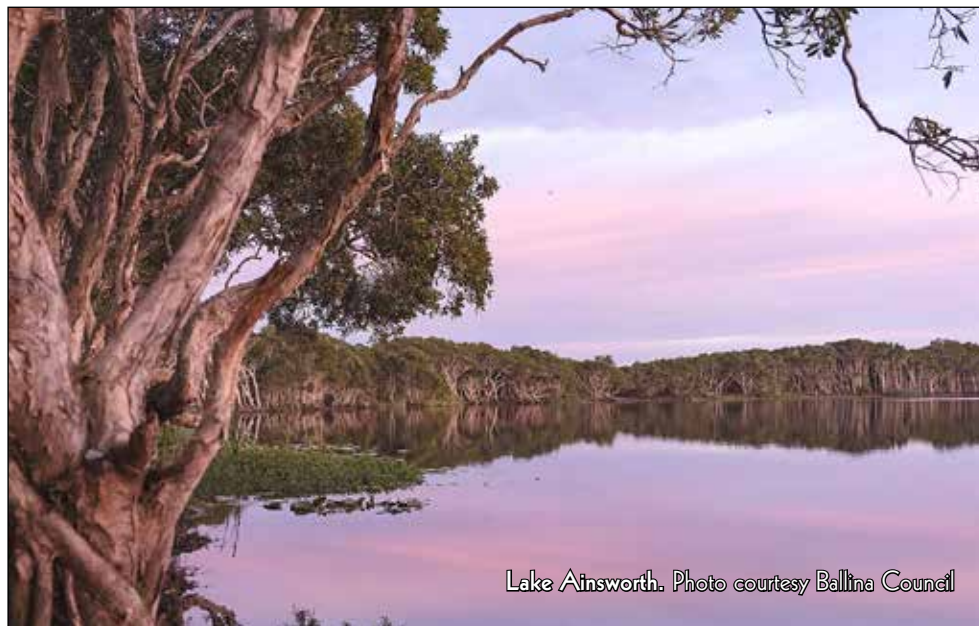
I have announced funding from the NSW government for the rehabilitation of three key coastal estuaries in the Ballina Electorate, as part of the 2023-24 Coastal and Estuary Grants Management Program.

The projects being funded include:

- The Western foreshore of Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head – \$321,999 to fund the design, approval and works of a rehabilitation project.
- Cavanbah and Belongil Beach, Byron Bay – \$31,559 to restore dunes that have been impacted by coastal processes.
- Along Maguires Creek, in Ballina Shire – \$240,672 to fund restoration of a large stretch of riparian area with high importance to the Richmond River Coastal Zone Management Plan.

I'm proud to have secured funding for these three critical restoration projects in the Ballina electorate.

The Greens have long been advocating for



Lake Ainsworth. Photo courtesy Ballina Council

a real plan to protect the environmental and cultural values of Lake Ainsworth, and this funding will support restoration works right

across our beautiful lake.

The project also includes building a boardwalk across the western foreshore,


which will protect some of the sensitive areas, as well as provide an opportunity for the community to learn more about the lake's environmental and cultural values.

At Belongil Beach, the dunes will be re-shaped and revegetated to stabilise them, and funding to repair the large stretch of riparian area of Maguires Creek is an important step in improving the health of the Richmond River.

The Maguires Creek project has been a top priority for me in parliament. I acknowledge the amazing work of students at Alstonville High School, who have partnered with LandCare groups and organisations like OzFish to lead the charge in protecting Maguire's Creek from degradation and the negative impacts of extreme weather.


I'm hopeful this funding will facilitate even wider involvement from the community in protecting Maguires Creek.

For more information on the projects and the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program visit: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/coasts/coastal-and-estuary-grants




TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA



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Extradition looms for Julian Assange

by John Jiggins

The UK High Court has delayed the extradition of Julian Assange to the US for a further three weeks, requesting the United States give assurances that Assange will be protected by First Amendment free speech rights, that he won't be discriminated against as an Australian citizen, and that he will not face the death penalty.

The High Court judgment said that if those assurances were not given by the United States, leave to appeal will be given to Assange, and there will then be an appeal hearing.

The US will no doubt give the required assurances. They will extradite Assange with High Court approval, and then do what they like.

It seems purely pantomime; the UK High Court washing their hands, Pontius Pilate-like, before dispatching Julian Assange to his US crucifixion. In this current round of the Game of Empires, the US is the hegemon, and the UK is the vassal, and the power relationships dictate that the vassal will comply with the hegemon's requests.

Things are looking very bleak. Extradition looms menacingly near for Julian Assange.

Julian's brother, Gabriel Shipton, commented:

"This morning, I was hoping Julian

would be granted leave to appeal. At worst, I feared he would be extradited before tomorrow morning. Instead, his purgatory continues — but that also means we have another window to increase the pressure on the people who can take decisive action to make a real difference. Right now, that is the Australian Government."

Outside the court, Julian's wife, Stella Assange, addressed supporters:

"Today's decision is astounding. The courts recognise that, Julian is exposed to a flagrant denial of his freedom of expression, and his free speech rights, that he is being discriminated against on the basis of his nationality as an Australian, and that he remains exposed to the death penalty. "And yet, what the courts have done have been to invite a political intervention from the United States to send a letter saying it's all OK. I find this astounding. Five years into this case, the United States has managed to show the court that their case remains an attack on press freedom, an attack on Julian's life.

"What the courts haven't agreed to look at is the evidence that the United States has plotted to assassinate Julian, to kidnap him, because if it acknowledges that, then of course, he can't be sent to the United States. Julian is a political prisoner. He is a journalist and he is being persecuted because he exposed the true cost of war in human lives. This case is a retribution. It is a signal to all of you, that if you expose the interests

that are driving war, they will come after you. They will put you in prison and they will try to kill you.

"Julian is just a few days away from the 5th anniversary of his arrest and imprisonment in Belmarsh prison. He has been in Belmarsh for five years without conviction and the charges against him are to punish him for publishing the truth, for publishing evidence of the war crimes committed by the country that is trying to extradite him.

"Now the UK courts have invited the United States to issue assurances. The Biden administration should not issue assurances they should drop this shameful case that should never have been brought. Julian should never have been imprisoned for a single day. This is a shame on every democracy.

"Julian is a political prisoner. He is a publisher, and he is being punished for expressing his political opinion, for expressing freedom of the press in its purest form. Free Julian! I ask everyone to rally behind him and call for his Freedom. Call for the Biden administration to drop the case, and support House Resolution 934 before the US Congress to drop this case. Thank you. Free Julian!"

NB: John Shipton is coming to MardiGrass and is speaking on Saturday 4th May at 3pm in the Town Hall, and marching with his supporters in the Grand Parade on Sunday 5th May.

New crowd-funded Assange documentary

by Andy Kelly

In the era where free speech is increasingly under threat and injustice prevails, a beacon of hope emerges with the release of the crowd-funded documentary *The Trust Fall: Julian Assange*.

This documentary not only sheds light on the tumultuous journey of the renowned journalist and activist Julian Assange but also serves as a rallying cry for individuals to stand up against any form of tyranny and infringement on free speech.

The Trust Fall delves deep into Assange's life, showcasing his unwavering commitment to journalistic integrity and the immense sacrifices he has made in the face of adversity.

However, this documentary goes beyond just one man's story. It resonates deeply with communities in the Northern Rivers, where the spirit of protest and speaking out against injustice runs deep in the cultural fabric.

These towns have historically understood the importance of dissent



and challenging authority in the face of evidence of tyranny, and *The Trust Fall* serves as a reminder of the crucial role they play in defending fundamental rights and liberties.

It underscores the significance of raising one's voice against oppression and standing up for what is right, even when

faced with daunting opposition.

In a time where dissent is often silenced and truth is obscured, *The Trust Fall: Julian Assange* serves as a poignant call to action. It urges individuals to reclaim their power and actively resist any attempts to suppress free speech and muzzle the truth.

As this documentary spreads its message far and wide, it ignites a flame of resilience and determination in communities, reigniting their passion for justice and reaffirming their commitment to defending the principles of democracy.

The Trust Fall isn't just a documentary, it's a testament to the enduring spirit of those who refuse to be silenced in the face of injustice.

This is a must see for all Australian citizens. While Mr Assange may well not live to hear our protest, it is crucial that his message propel us to be world citizens and not just minions of foreign and national governments.

The Trust Fall: Julian Assange will be screening at the Palace Cinema, Byron Bay on Wednesday 10th April at 6.30pm.



Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine hosted their 18th event, Politics In the Pub: Peace and Freedom in Israel & Palestine Fundraiser, in March at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.

The event, held as part of the group's on-going advocacy efforts, was a resounding success, attended by over

150 people and raising some \$3000 for the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund (PCRF), furthering a commitment to supporting humanitarian causes in the region.

Many people contributed to the event's success, from the dedicated attendees to the speakers and

performers who lent their voices to the cause.

Speakers were David Heilpern, Rihab Charida, Sam Watson, Subhi Awad and Surya McEwen.

Áine Tyrrell's captivating performance added a poignant touch to the evening, inspiring all present with her powerful words and music.

With the collective efforts of the community, Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine have raised well in excess of \$25,000 for the PCRF.org and Olive Kids, marking a significant milestone in their journey towards advocating for peace, justice and freedom in Palestine and Israel.

Subhi Awad said, "As we continue to stand against injustice and oppression, we reaffirm our commitment to promoting the fundamental rights of all people.

"Together, let us strive for a future of peace, justice, and freedom for every individual, in every corner of the world."



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

the walkway from the western carpark to the main street has received a much-needed dressing up.

The Rainbow Walking Trail is progressing steadily, promising to offer tourists a captivating experience beyond the main thoroughfare.

While there have been significant challenges with flora and fauna, remediation will be enacted. The benefits to the community far outweigh any drawbacks.

Nimbin Medical Centre mural

An initiative in partnership with Lismore city Council and the NSW Health authorities to commission a mural on the Nimbin Medical Centre's south-facing wall reflects the Chamber's efforts to beautify

delivered to the door. Who would've thought such a scenario possible, and why is there a lack of media attention?

With the shift, local raw material producers may see decreased demand, impacting the local economy, while big Pharma and tax-seeking governments set the protected and legitimate route to increased profits.

It's time for the pioneers in the wellness industry to legitimise their activities or risk obsolescence.

Collaboration

Collaboration between the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, Lismore City Council, and various state gov't bodies has sealed several positive outcomes for the village.

The Wayfarers Project is making strides.

An unused grassy bank in front of the Greenbank has been transformed into a charming mini park providing a peaceful retreat for locals and visitors alike;

Greetings to all of you, the esteemed individuals who take the time to delve into the written word

Currently, the headlines are ablaze with topics ranging from petrol wars, migration, prospective pandemics, and gender inequality, along with a breadth of issues from climate change to artificial intelligence.

The desire to comprehend the mass of data and information flows often overwhelms me.

Amidst the whirlwind, it's surprising to note the minimal coverage given to the acceptance of marijuana as a health aid in Australia.

A significant proportion of the population in Australia can now obtain prescriptions to help with ailments, which include PTSD, depression, bipolar, childhood seizures, and Parkinson's, to name a few.

After being prescribed, patients can visit the chemist or have flowers or tinctures



Women in Business

On the entrepreneurial front, Nimbin Women in Business is hosting another meet-up for the members of this group.

An excellent opportunity for networking and sharing projects and local initiatives.

Jane Laverty, the Business Regional Director of Northern Rivers and an exceptional guest speaker will share business tools, inspiring insights, and stories and advise how Business NSW can assist local businesses.

Executive Committee update

As you may have guessed by the introduction, I am back in the seat of Presidency due to our previously elected president, Liam Brehm, stepping down due to family and work commitments.

The welcoming of Jeanne Patel as a new executive committee member, with her extensive expertise in the tourism industry, signifies the Chamber's ongoing efforts to enhance its leadership team and drive forward community-focused initiatives.

Together, we are more vital. If you own or run a business in the area, please consider joining the Chamber and adding your voice to support outcomes that are good for the village we love.

community spaces and enhance the aesthetic appeal of essential local services.

An EOI to our local artists in the community will be released shortly.

Economic development initiatives

The Chamber committee has been planning for the 2023/2024 fiscal year, focusing on sponsorship and funding for significant community events like the Nimbin Roots Festival, MardiGrass, and Illuminate Nimbin 2024.

The Chamber has submitted a \$25,000 grant from Create NSW and additional support from local businesses for Illuminate 2024. Watch this space.

Book project support

The NCOC purchased 20 copies of the 'People of Nimbin' photographic book, highlighting the Chamber's support for projects that document and celebrate the community's unique

cultural identity.

National recognition for Nimbin tourism

Contained in Nimbin Accommodation, representing our vibrant community at the 2024 Qantas National Tourism Awards in the New Tourism Business category, has done Nimbin proud by receiving a highly commended award.

This accolade celebrates the innovative spirit and excellence of local businesses in Nimbin and elevates our town's status nationally, showcasing the unique tourism opportunities and experiences we offer visitors across Australia and beyond.

Membership onboarding and system update

The Chamber has finalised the automation of our membership system to streamline the onboarding process, showing commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and member engagement.



All local business people and folks living within 30 kms radius of the Nimbin village are warmly invited to:
Community Workshop #3

Economic Development

Key Result/Vision: A local economy that allows and enables people to achieve their employment and skills aspirations and generates environmentally sustainable and innovative jobs and Industry.

Goal 1: There is a strong and appropriate tourism industry that showcases the community's cultural diversity and sustainability achievements.

Goal 2: There are strong local training capacity and capabilities.

Goal 3: There are diverse local employment opportunities and economic activities.

Goal 4: Nimbin businesses and local culture are effectively represented in decisions relating to the economic development of the community.

BYO Brains. Breakfast provided.

Monday 29th April 7.30am-9.30am

At: Nimbin Town Hall

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Nimbin's 32nd MardiGrass mulling up for another protest

by Michael Balderstone

Some festivals come and go, especially where the dollar is the driving force.

Meanwhile Nimbin is gearing up for its 32nd annual MardiGrass on 3rd to 5th May, the cannabis law reform protest and gathering in the tiny one-pub village.

"It's extraordinary the change in thirty years from being a gathering of protesting criminals to now we are hearing from AHPRA, a million people in Australia have legal medical cannabis," said MardiGrass Organising Body (MOB) president, Michael Balderstone.

"However, as far as law reform goes, we still have a long way to go with change, especially the tragically cruel driving laws. Roadside Drug Testing needs to be about



impairment and not just the mere presence of cannabis, and we also must be allowed to grow our own plants instead of having to buy them with a prescription," he said.

This year's MardiGrass is blessed with two of California's most experienced and respected cannabis doctors flying out to be with us. Weed has been legal there since 1996 and surely we can learn a lot from them.

Dr David Bearman is a specialist in using cannabis to manage pain but wants to also speak with us about how they deal with driving over there.

Dr Jeffrey Hergenrather wants to warn us about how the use of cannabis has been commandeered by commercial interests. "People not only need support in understanding how to use cannabis but also to find peace with the fact that regular use of cannabis may normalise their life and health," Dr Hergenrather wrote to us.

MardiGrass will be riddled with politicians this year from the Legalise Cannabis Party and the Greens. Jeremy Buckingham is leading a panel about his new HEMP Taskforce and then alongside Cate Faehrmann discussing together how they plan to legalise pot in NSW.

We can all feel the change



Scenes from last year's Grand Parade. Photos: (left) Brian Alexander, (above) Sue Stock

NIMBIN MARDIGRASS KOMBI KONVOY
Saturday 4th May 2024

BYRON BAY
 Gathering from 10.30am
 At public parking area
 Somerset Street
 Departing at 12.30pm

LISMORE
 Gathering from 1.00pm at
 public car park cnr
 Magellan & Dawson Sts
 Departing 3pm
SHARP

just around the corner for recreational use so there will be plenty of conversation this year about just how we actually legalise it.

We are also about sensible law reform for all drugs, so this year, in partnership with Entheogenesis Australis, we have one tent dedicated to other medicinal plants and psychedelic therapy.

Mushrooms have risen to the top again as agents of magical healing and enlightenment, proving once again how the hippies were far ahead of their time.

Comedy has become an integral part of MardiGrass and as usual there is a huge line-up from the Laugh Mob driving up from Sydney to perform on all three nights.

The Hemp Olympix comperes S Sorrensen and Alan Glover have Steady Eddy returning, as well as Jenny Wynter and Peter Willey for their Saturday night comedy.

The Olympix has a new team event this year, the

Dealers Nightmare, and as well Correct Weight is finally in the Town Hall again. Contestants have to estimate an ounce, 28.35 grams; the winner keeps the bag.

The Pot Art winner this year will be extremely difficult to judge with a number of amazing posters. Pot Poets Breakfast on Sunday morning with David Hallett is always top class and his Great Green Cabaret Friday night has a mouth-watering line up.

Music this year for the Pickers and Harvest Balls includes Funkatu, Taiaha, Jesse Morris Band, Spy Eater, the Felicity Lawless Band, the 420 Superstore including Wilfred the Dog, the Trombone Kelly Gang, Paul Jarrah Band, Coneheads, Bluntfield and Alien, and Zen Mechanics.

All the traditional events are in place. Stoned Chess, Joint Rolling comps and the

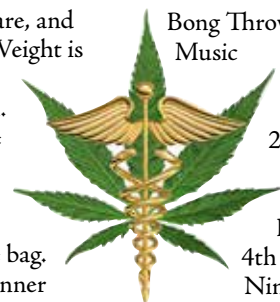
Bong Throw, the Marijuana Music Award with no song to be longer than 4 minutes 20 seconds, the Kombi Konvoy which leaves Byron on Saturday 4th May to arrive in Nimbin for the 420

Rally.

The main event, the Grand Parade and Rally for Cannabis Law Reform on Sunday 5th May promises to be as colourful and controversial as ever.

Check out the massive program for yourself on the website. \$30 for a one-day pass and \$60 for all weekend, \$150 includes three nights camping. If there's a cheaper weekend, we will beat it by ten percent!

MardiGrass is run by volunteers, and if you would like to help do apply at: nimbinmardigrass.com This includes if you want to join Jungle Patrol and the Ganja Faeries, as well as have a stall or entertain in various ways.



THE ADVENTURES OF Reckless Rita & Freddy Foolhardy Featuring: Clued-Up Claudelia

29

Hi Rita! I'm off to stock up on Nangs...I'm running low...

I'll come with you ... I need to get some more too...

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Brought to you by Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (Nimbin CDAT) c/- NNIC P.O. Box 20168, Nimbin NSW 2480. www.nnic.org.au

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Protest over park closure for brumby cull

On Easter Sunday, an impassioned protest unfolded at Long Plain in the iconic northern end of Kosciuszko National Park.

Hundreds of individuals and horse riders united to voice their vehement opposition against the government's controversial decision to close the park to all recreational users for six months from Thursday 4th April for the aerial culling of the few hundred remaining iconic Australian wild horses in the north of the park.

The area targeted is a long-standing retention zone for wild horses where 3000 horses are supposed to reside under Legislation. But locals say 3000 horses no longer exist.

The demonstration was marked by a spectacular procession of over 100 horse and rider teams descending the hill, amidst the roaring cheers of a huge supportive crowd. This was the largest crowd seen at a protest of this kind in over 70 years.

Protesters, armed with placards condemning the planned brumby slaughter as sadistic, included hundreds



of generational locals and interstate visitors, also demanding the Park be left open as usual for all to enjoy.

Kosciuszko National Park, a region historically inhabited by pastoralist settlers for grazing before its designation as a national park, is argued by locals and visitors alike to benefit from the presence of large herbivores.

These animals play a crucial role in managing the lush undergrowth that poses a significant fire hazard, especially evident in the aftermath of the last devastating Black Summer fire that left the park scattered with ghostly remnants of dead trees and

devoid of wildlife.

Deep concerns were expressed over the park's desolate state, highlighted by this unsettling absence of wild horses, wildlife and birds.

Critics of the cull argue that the park, now marred by signs warning of 1080 poison, Snowy Hydro and ski tourism construction activities, and machinery, is being stripped of its natural heritage.

Speakers at the protest underscored the park's importance to all Australians, lamenting the six-month closure's impact on families seeking affordable holidays and opportunities to connect with nature, and the huge economic impact on local towns.

Highlighting the historical symbiosis between humans and horses, from travel and war to agriculture, recreation and companionship, the protesters called for the preservation of the last few hundred brumbies in the retention zone.

This plea is bolstered by the scientific community's interest in the modern

megafauna for conservation and regeneration, and the unique DNA of the brumby, to any other horse population, contradicting claims by the government of a wild horse population posing risks to native flora and fauna.

Local counts and independent aerial surveys indicate a drastically reduced number of horses to only a few hundred, far below the government's estimates of 17,000 to 22,000.

Among the many passionate speakers, locals Leisa Caldwell and protest co-organiser with the Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group, Dick Roberts, outlined the history of the horse and the people who loved and cared for the area for generations before it was gazetted a Park.

In a rallying cry for action, Peter Cochrane, a prominent figure at the protest, declared from horseback, "This is about our freedom!"

The community is calling on the government to immediately cease the cull and re-open Kosciuszko National Park to the public.

Completeness of Developmental Stages



by Dr Antoinette Ensbey

Anything that nurtures Mother Love comes from the core.

It comes from inside. A seed is a star. The tiny entity is a powerhouse that bears the tree, the flower, the fruit into which it is growing. We know it because we can observe the seed unfold.

How about the mind? Is the mind also complete inside the shell of the egg? I believe it is. A sentient being's cognition, intuition, knowledge and wisdom together weaves that spiritual material that designs and shapes the form, the physical outer reality that we can perceive.

It's been a while since I held my own baby and realised for the first time the presence of that mind giving my bundle of wonder the completeness of life. I saw the age-old wisdom deep in the soul of my child, and I vowed to accept her wisdom as a new dimension into my life.

As grandparents we experience that same wonderful discovery of a mind so strong and present in the features as the outer form of the inner being. The mind is there in the first instance even before the child is born. That

is the star in the seed.

The developmental stages of the human being demand each to be completed before moving on to the next. In the context of physicality this is a concept easy to grasp. The physical stages of growth are better perceivable than the mental stages.

What exactly is the developmental stage of the mind in a new-born baby? This single question triggers an endless array of research. Truth is that science can widen the gap, taking us further away from the infant's reality. If we clutter our brains with all these concepts, how can we read the mind of our child and really know what's going on behind those innocent clear eyes?

Refuse to look for expert guidance and you quickly realise that you already possess the knowledge about the intuitive treatment of your baby because simply you have been evolved to know.

Unfortunately, parents no longer have the independence of their excellent self-reliance. The empirical world of reason does not seem to expect parents to know what to do with their babies. So as a parent you are being instructed, and as a result the natural maternal impulse may be inhibited; a perplexing situation for parents and little ones alike.

Early life of baby is structured and follows a schedule. For baby an upsetting confusion arises when mums and dads do not immediately heed to innate reflexes thereby compromising the natural response to baby's

needs. Baby is waiting for that comfort and relief when it should be given on cue. The result is an immeasurable loss of faith that the infant experiences in early life, and that is hard to be cured in later life.

Deprivation or inconsistency in baby care because the books say so, stay with the person as a negative experience. Experience has the tendency to cling to the memory of a complex being, good or bad. It is therefore crucial that in each developmental phase certain innate expectations are being fulfilled to make the phase complete. If that organic process is disturbed, the disturbance carries further into adulthood.

To alleviate the pain in the grown adult is almost impossible. An incomplete developmental stage impedes on the next stage and so on until the infamous domino effect is to be felt by adults who may struggle to be satisfactorily complete and happy.

Innate happiness grounded in fulfilment of early needs is the fertiliser for the confidence in relying on your instinctual knowledge. If you become a parent, you need this knowledge, otherwise you might struggle to adequately understand the needs of your child.

As a new parent you need the inborn ability to care for infants and try to come from a place of instinctive guidance.

The hurdle for parents is that the exact treatment they missed out on in their infancy is requested to provide for their children. How can a

mature person not having experienced the fulfilment of their infant expectations re-establish the principle of Mother Love in the next generation, their children?

Simply do what your instincts tell you to do. You have a natural "baby" instinct. You need to use it. Have trust in the natural process of growth and trust in the innate wisdom that was seeded in you when you were born.

Like the new-born baby turtle crawling from the nest to the edge of the water to dive into the sea and begin its long solitude journey to maturity in the currents of the ocean, so are we equipped with the wisdom to do the right thing.

Our babies don't go it alone, but depend on Mother Nature just like the brave little marine creature swimming out into the vastness of the oceans.

We are there to nurture and look after our children in a manner that allows for each developmental stage to be complete and satisfied before moving onto the next. It is not rocket science, it is rocket wisdom and it is yours available on cue.

The completeness of the early developmental stages will be baby's consolation at all times. It's the potential of complete fulfilment in later life. Realise the maternal potency of your being.

You can trust yourself now and move on to give your child the confirmation of being naturally cradled, by you and by Mother Nature.

I'm available for counselling. Please contact me via email: mlremedies22@gmail.com

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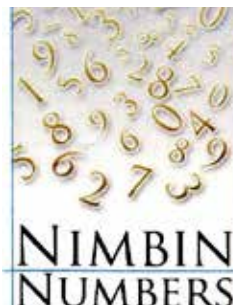
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Goolmangar Market Day



Trash and Treasure: Sunday
 21st April, 9am-2pm at
 Goolmangar School of Arts,
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Sausage sizzle and drinks
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Another great trivia night



The Trivia Team, Claire Delacey and Rene Norwie host a community fundraising trivia night on the third Saturday of each month, at the Nimbin Bowling Club and Sibley's Bistro.

March's fundraising partner was the Poetry World Cup group. Community businesses donated some great prizes (thank you Nimbin Newsagency, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Aquarius

Cafe, Sibley's Bistro and the Nimbin Bowling Club).

The Poetry World Cup group auctioned an autographed art piece. Thanks Jane and Gail. The trivia team and fundraising partner raised \$630.

The next trivia night is on Saturday 20th April, and the fundraising partner is Nimbin Preschool.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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Community music and facilitative leadership forum

A two-hour public forum will be held in May at Northern Rivers Conservatorium for anyone and everyone interested in community-based music education, leadership and facilitation.

Presented by Dr Graham Sattler (pictured), the forum will explore and discuss key aspects of:

- Musical inclusion
- Quality and excellence (definitions, dynamics and resonances)
- Community and leadership (responsibilities, opportunities, and small 'p'

- politics)
- Group musicking and resilience

The forum will involve discussion of current international models of community music development activity, investigated and experienced by Graham during a three-month Churchill Fellowship, when he investigated best-practice Community Music Leadership Training environments across the world.

Graham's findings and recommendations, together with his experiences

and relationships with leading Community Music practitioners and institutions backed by 20 years of community music leadership in regional NSW, will provide a starting point for sharing, questioning, and refreshing approaches to effective, accessible and inclusive music education and participation for communities of all types.

The first part of the evening will take the form of an interactive presentation, following will be a sharing and discussion of perspectives and approaches



to inclusive music-making, and the session will be capped off with some live music-making.

The free forum will be held on Friday 3rd May, 7-9pm at Northern Rivers Conservatorium, Lismore, funded by the Conservatorium.

Djanbung Gardens 30th Anniversary

Djanbung Gardens is hosting two very special events in May and August to celebrate 30 years of regenerating a compacted cow pasture to a vibrant permaculture garden, education centre and community resource.

A Permaculture Fair and Family Fun Day will be held on the weekend of 25-26th May, and by popular request, another Forgotten Arts Fair is planned for 10th August.

Costa Georgiadis will join us on May 25-26 to guarantee a fun time for all. On Saturday the Permaculture Fair will include a full program of talks, workshops, stalls and tour. Then Costa will MC a 'Back to Djanbung reunion open mike session' followed by a communal banquet and entertainment.

Past students and associates interested



in having a stall and/or giving a talk or workshop please contact us.

On Sunday, the Family Fun Day with Costa the Gnome as MC, will have lots of kids and creative activities all morning

with the Permalympics challenge in the afternoon.

We are seeking donations of craft materials for making masks, fairy wings, headdresses, and some old gumboots for the gumboot throwing competition.

Please contact us if you would like to be involved as a volunteer, entertainer or have suitable activities to offer or donate.

For the Forgotten Arts Fair on 10th August, we are now accepting expressions of interest for stalls, demonstrations and workshops.

Permaculture College Australia Inc is the non-profit operating the education and community events at Djanbung Gardens.

For expression of interest please contact: info@permaculture.com.au phone 0429-147-138 or drop by on Wednesdays 10am-3pm.



Sidesplitting comedy

The MardiGrass Comedy Show is a tradition almost as old as police harassment.

But it's funnier, much funnier. And nobody gets hurt, unless your sides split, or you gag on a gag – a rather pleasant way to rally for drug law reform.

In Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 4th May, 8-10pm, the MardiGrass Comedy Show will feature the comedic talents of Jenny Wynter, Steady Eddy and Peter Willey (pictured above). The show, as always, will be hosted by that dynamic duo of droll, Glover & Sorrensen (pictured below).

Jenny Wynter is an international musical comedian known for her spontaneous musical creations inspired by audience suggestions. Armed with flashing wit and funny bones, she is making her first appearance at the MardiGrass Comedy Show.

Steady Eddy was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was nine months old. Some people thought this is why he didn't learn to walk until he was five, but when asked,

Steady said, "I was just pacing myself."

Yep, and he's paced himself to stand-up stardom. Now, he realises there must be more to life than sex and money. He's started wearing tie-dye and hemp undies. He just wants to live in yogic bliss and do his thing at MardiGrass.

Peter Willey is hilarious. He says so himself. Comedian, singer, songwriter and parodist, he draws inspiration from the suburban wastelands. His songs and routines are witty and insightful and often, um, just silly. His jokes have not been tested on animals.

Alan Glover and S Sorrensen are comedians – and good mates. It is a special relationship that is the art (and heart) of Glover & Sorrensen.

They've performed all over this wide brown quarry, but especially love working their two-handed stand-up magic at MardiGrass in Nimbin, S's hometown.

Entry is by MardiGrass wristband or \$20 (which gives you the comedy show and everything afterwards on the night).



Wishful thinking

by Alex Manzi Fe, Blue Knob Writers Group

Really, you've got to believe in Science. All the answers are there.

True, we are in a bit of a mournful state at the moment, what with Climate Change and the ever-possibility of new pandemics, and fossil fuels and all that.

But there's no need to be a pessimist. There is a solution – and Science knows the way.

Technology, especially AI, is going to change our world in a miraculous way. That is, if you believe in miracles, but personally I prefer to believe in Science.

Think of the advances in medicine with stem cell technology and powerful new drugs like the Covid vaccine which has saved thousands of lives. Then there's brain implants to help the mentally disabled.

As for micro-plastics and carbon pollution – Science will provide the answer to that and any other problems we might encounter.

So, stop worrying about the Future – Science will take care of that.

Understory - a magical outdoor theatre show for kids



Have you heard fungi talk? Have you felt a forest hum?

Understory is a magical, interactive theatre adventure created for children by Roundabout Theatre, and springs to life in the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens during the school holidays, 16th-28th April.

Part theatre, part quest and part wacky science field trip, *Understory* is made to inspire children aged 7-11 years with a deep curiosity, wonder and connection to the natural world.

The entire Hoop Pine Forest at Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens will become an enchanting theatrical world brought to life by an original story that is both fantastical and based in science and ecology principles.

Understory is engaging and interactive, with only small groups participating in each 90-minute session. Accompanied by two 'Wonderer' characters, children embark on an important mission to save the forest from disarray.

On their quest they collect clues, solve puzzles, crack codes, navigate obstacle courses and work together with the forest to shape the journey and outcome.

Discover the magical adventure of *Understory* in the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens this school holidays! Spaces are limited, so book early.

Understory by Roundabout Theatre is on at the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens, 313 Wyralla Road, Lismore, 16th-28th April (except 17th, 22nd and 25th April). Two shows daily: 10am and 2.30pm.

Tickets are \$30 (group discounts available), book at: <https://understory.roundabout.net.au>

Lexie Turns to Stone

Lismore Theatre Company presents a comedy about sex, money, art and respectability.

Chris is a Gold Coast sculptor who's given up on art and makes a nice living carving statues of wealthy Gold Coast identities (or their wives) to adorn their canal-front mansions.

He's commissioned by his old mate Lonny to do a statue of Lonny's wife Lexie. Inevitably, unresolved passions surface. Chris doesn't mind, but Lexie's thrown by developments.

Trouble is, Lonny's a crook gone respectable and not to be trifled with. Meantime Chris' intrusive daughter Angelica turns up and proceeds to wreak havoc with all around her, including Lonny. By the time she's ready to leave, no-one's life will be the same.

Written by Patrick Carr, an award-winning playwright and screenwriter based in the Northern Rivers, whose plays have been performed from Townsville to Tasmania.

Readings of Patrick's plays have featured at QTC's studio, STC readings, Old Fitzroy theatre (Sydney), The Stables Theatre, Ric's Cafe (Brisbane). Patrick was a founding member of MAP Theatre Company (Brisbane). He has also run workshops for early career



playwrights.

With a talented local cast and a great script this is a show not to be missed.

Performances commence Friday 3rd May to Sunday 12th May, at the Rochdale Theatre, Goonellabah.

Lismore Theatre Company is also partnering with the Northern Rivers Suicide Prevention and Awareness Group for a Charity Fundraiser on Saturday 11th May; \$10 from every ticket sold to *Lexie Turns to Stone* will be donated to this worthy charity.

Tickets available at: www.trybooking.com/CPWFS or: lismoretheatrecompany.org.au

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