



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

# LCC commits \$1.2m to affordable housing

have developed a solid plan to address the village's future needs in a thoughtful and sustainable way.

As part of the motion adopting the plan, Council will consider an annual allocation of funding for capital works over the next four years to deliver on the priority projects the plan identified.

Council's Housing Grant program hit a significant milestone, with half of the available pool of \$1.2 million now committed. Under the program, eligible landowners can receive up to \$15,000 to go towards buying a house, relocating a house, or building a new one within the LGA.

Lismore is in desperate need of smaller and more affordable housing solutions, and these grants are just one measure we have in place to assist in meeting that demand.

While affordable housing is traditionally the responsibility of state governments, Council has been able to utilise Australian Government funding to facilitate these much-needed opportunities.

It was great to recently meet one of the lucky recipients and first-home owner, Andre Stamatakakos (pictured), who used the grant to move from an MO and build his own home in Nimbin.

In other good news, the highly anticipated opening

of the Lismore to Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail is set for Saturday, 14th December.

Over the past month, construction crews have worked hard to add the final touches. Works are being completed at Bungabee car park, South Lismore car park (at the Lismore Railway Station), and the shared path connection to Nesbitt Park.

A local South Lismore supplier has repurposed existing railway steel into various artifacts. First is a commanding Lismore sign at the Lismore Railway Station, which features railway steel from sections of the original line. Seats at the trailhead

have been constructed from historic bridge timbers with brackets made from repurposed railway steel, as have horse-hitching rails.

All five rest areas are now built and feature a shelter, picnic tables, bike racks, and a hitching rail and water trough for horses.

This project has been made possible thanks to funding provided by the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

I know it's a busy time of year, but please take the time to complete Council's Community Strategic Plan survey. The survey is a really important document for Council and the community.



It has a ten-year outlook and sets out what Council will deliver to the community over that timeframe, so your input is crucial.

You can find the survey and a series of questions and answers about the CSP at: [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au)

And lastly, I hope you and your loved ones have a great festive season.

## NNIC submission on loneliness

Janelle Saffin MP  
State Member for Lismore

At this time of year, as always, I send my best wishes to all readers of the *Nimbin GoodTimes* for Christmas and the New Year.

This can be a time of celebrating with family and friends, of Christmas Carols and Santa. But we know the Christmas season can also be a very difficult time for many people.

Loneliness is a growing and often hidden problem in our communities, and I commend the Minister for Mental Health, Rose Jackson, for initiating a Parliamentary Inquiry into the prevalence, causes and extent of loneliness in New South Wales.

The inquiry has received 135 written submissions, including one from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC).

This is an excerpt of my speech to Parliament on 14th November, acknowledging the NNIC, highlighting what loneliness can look like in a regional area:

The NNIC is a hub of community support services in the heart of Nimbin, which welcomes everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, religion, age or social status. It particularly aims to support people who are isolated, vulnerable and disenfranchised.

The NNIC conducted its annual community wellbeing survey in May and June this year, which measures belonging, participation,



Janelle Saffin MP (left) with attendees at a working breakfast in Parliament to share information on modern slavery with the visiting UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Slavery Prof. Tomoya Obokota (centre front) and the NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dr James Cockayne (back)

trust and access. The results showed that people living with disability scored the lowest across all measures, compared with other groups.

Men also scored lower across all those measures. It found that men are less likely to participate in local activities and groups. They are among the least likely to volunteer or take part in neighbourhood centre activities.

The Neighbourhood Centre followed up with an on-line survey, the Nimbin Loneliness Survey, to better understand the extent of loneliness in the community.

The survey showed that men were more vulnerable to loneliness and indicated a link between loneliness, ageing and disability as isolation becomes an issue. The issue becomes compounded for our elderly people when they have to give up their driver licences.

NNIC runs many social activities including the weekly food pantry and soup kitchens, weekly workshops, monthly food swap, the annual women's dinner, the big free community Christmas lunch, Nimbin NAIDOC Day and regular weaving circles and singing circles.

The following are some of the comments that people have shared:

"I really love the Food Pantry days and Soup Kitchen too. The service is great and it has become an important part of my life, giving me a sense of social connection and emotional wellbeing."

"Some of the best conversations I get all week are at the food pantry and soup kitchen days."

"How thankful I am and how blessed our little village is to have the Neighbourhood Centre

and all the amazing workers and volunteers. You guys really are the backbone of our community."

Volunteering plays a major role in reducing social isolation in Nimbin, and NNIC's activities involve more than 50 volunteers per year. One volunteer said:

"I've found that feelings of loneliness stem from feeling disconnected from the community and world around us. Helping others through volunteering helps you feel less lonely and allows you to have a sense of mission and purpose in life."

In regional areas, Neighbourhood Centres play a critical role in helping people stay connected to their communities.

I thank the NNIC for submitting a comprehensive report on loneliness in my electorate to the inquiry.

## Support for financial abuse

The NSW Government is continuing work to create a safer New South Wales and address domestic and family violence in all forms, including financial abuse as a form of coercive control.

Following the criminalisation of coercive control in New South Wales in July this year, 45 percent of reported incidences of this crime have involved financial abuse, with estimates that 1 in 5 women across the state experience economic abuse by a partner from the age of 15.

Over \$200,000 of debt has been waived in New South Wales over the past 14 months for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, with the support of financial counsellors from Legal Aid NSW's Domestic Violence Unit.

The waived debt includes bank loans, credit card bills, Centrelink debts and fees incurred due to financial abuse.

The New South Wales Government has invested \$8.1 million in the Redfern Legal Centre to expand and extend its financial abuse support services, which include free and confidential advice on financial abuse.

\$372,000 has also been invested in Firmer Foundations, a program run by Good Shepherd, which works to build the financial literacy of women who have experienced or are vulnerable to family violence with an aim to reduce their risk of entering or returning to an abusive relationship.

Financial abuse is a pattern of control, exploitation or sabotage of finances, affecting a person's capacity to make, spend and save money, threatening their financial security. Further, economic abuse regularly coincides with other forms of domestic and family violence, with financial instability hindering a victim's ability to leave these environments.

Like all domestic and family violence, each experience is complex and different, however it can include a perpetrator:

- Placing someone on a strict budget that barely covers the essentials such as food or clothes.
- Limiting access to bank accounts.
- Coercing, deceiving or pressuring someone to take on debt.
- Hiding money or assets.
- Preventing someone from having a credit card.
- Rigorously monitoring spending.

"The legal assistance sector plays a critical role in supporting many victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, by providing access free, timely legal advice to stop problems escalating," NSW Attorney General Michael Daley said.

"Financial abuse is a particularly insidious form of coercive control that can often have long-lasting and devastating impacts on the victim."

If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, call the Police on Triple Zero / 000.

For confidential advice, support, and referrals, contact 1800 RESPECT or 13 YARN on 13-92-76.

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Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year  
to all readers of  
the *Nimbin GoodTimes*

My office will be closed  
from 23 Dec to 6 Jan 2025

Janelle Saffin MP  
MEMBER FOR LISMORE  
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— Kirsten, June 2023

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## Whirlwind beginnings and community updates

**P**hew! Five weeks in, and my last article did feel like a shopping list – thanks for noticing, Jane! It's been a whirlwind, but I'm enjoying it, even with so much to learn and absorb.

On Tuesday, November 12, we had a Council meeting. Key highlights included adopting reports, committee minutes, and our first State of Our City Report, a new requirement for transparency and accountability at the end of each Council term.

We adopted the Nimbin Place Plan, securing funding considerations for priority projects over the next four years. Amendments included renaming the walking track to 'Rainbow Walk' and addressing community feedback on traffic management and water hoses for street planters.

A thank you to Diana Roberts, Jane Mari and James Wick from NimbinYouth for speaking at public access in support, and to all councillors for their support. I look forward to seeing this plan come to life!

On other Nimbin matters, there's a push to disband the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG). Council is opening discussions with councillors about restructuring advisory groups, and I will keep you updated. My priority is to ensure there remains a meaningful opportunity for two-way communication that benefits both the community and Council, resulting in the best outcomes for all.

Another update is the allowance of Artisan Food and Drink Industries now permitted in RUI primary production zones. This change offers a fantastic opportunity for rural landowners to diversify while opportunity in boosting local tourism industry if they decide to open to the public.

The Community Scorecard Survey for the Lismore Community Strategic Plan (CSP) has been open and by the time this has been published closed; I hope many community members had the chance to share their feedback.

This survey was a valuable opportunity to share ideas about building an inclusive, liveable, and thriving community one that prioritises green spaces, recreation, and opportunities for everyone.

Personally, my priorities include addressing housing relocations, preserving our beautiful Big Scrub homes, providing options for temporary occupation



Cr Virginia Waters

during transitions, affordable housing and envisioning a sustainable future for the Local Government Area (LGA).

The CSP will guide Lismore's priorities for the next decade. If you missed this survey, don't worry, there will be more opportunities to provide input next year. Everyone's voice is essential in shaping our community's future, and I encourage everyone to get involved.

It's vital as a community we co-create and prioritise our collective vision for an inclusive, kind and connected community. In my view, connection is one of the most important foundations of strong and resilient communities.

I also attended the NSW Local Government Conference, the key advocacy body for councils held in Tamworth. It was a great opportunity to connect with councillors from across NSW, especially my Greens colleagues to share ideas and advocate on key issues like affordable housing, better public transport, and disaster recovery.

Fascinating hearing the different challenges for Metro, City and County councils. The Business paper had 100 motions, most going through unanimously, although it was incredible to watch the debate when dissent was called.

One highlight was supporting a motion for the Uluru Statement Voice, Treaty, Truth which was adopted and listening to the two incredible First Nations women sharing and representing their community. I personally thanked them.

Our next Council meeting is on 10th December. For upcoming listening posts, check my Councillor Facebook page or get in touch. Wishing everyone a happy and safe end of year!

*The opinions expressed here are mine alone and do not represent those of Lismore City Council. Contact me at: [virginia.waters@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:virginia.waters@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or 6622-0164.*

# The People's Blockade of the world's largest coal port

**W**ell, what an absolutely incredible journey The People's Blockade of the World's Largest Coal Port 2024 has been.

It is acclaimed as the "biggest act of civil disobedience in Australia's history" with 170 people arrested on the Newcastle Coal Port over a few hours as members of the community took over the shipping channel and stopped coal ships from exiting the port, which was part of a three day 'protestal' calling for real action on climate change.

We've already hit an increase of 1.5° of global temperatures and the biggest contributors to global heating and climate breakdown are emissions from fossil fuels. Australia's emissions have increased since we set goals to decrease our emissions and NSW is continuing to mine coal and export it out of Newcastle like there is no tomorrow.

Organisers of the People's Blockade, Rising Tide, are some of the most inspired, positive, determined and hardworking organisers of our time and they are behind an amazing ever-growing movement of people power actioning collective hope for climate justice.

The three-day protestal they just pulled off, in addition to mass non-violent civil disobedience, included a festival event of workshops, panel discussions, education activities, cultural sessions, incredible food and first class entertainment including Peter Garrett, John Butler and Angie McMahon. It was followed by a convoy to Parliament House, Canberra.

It is testament to people power that the event went ahead at all, because the NSW Labor Government threw everything at trying to stop it. The People's Blockade of the World's Largest Coal Port was as much about democracy and the right to protest as it was a mass

movement calling for climate action.

**Attempt Number 1:** Police Commissioner Karen Webb, with the full push from Premier Chris Minns, dragged Rising Tide through the Supreme Court to try to prevent the Protestal from taking place.

They were successful in convincing the Supreme Court, on what can only be considered spurious claims of danger and harm, that the court should not force the police to grant the authorisation that Rising Tide had applied for, which they had received the year before.

Fortunately, the thing about protest in NSW is that you don't have to have police authorisation to assemble and protest on public lands. Rising Tide applied for authorisation in the full spirit of co-operation so that the police could work with the will of the people who attended the event. So, without that, Rising Tide continued plans for the blockade.

**Attempt Number 2:** Transport for NSW, in other words the NSW Labor Government, told Rising Tide they could not use the public lands at Horseshoe Beach for the camp or the festival activities! Even though it was used last year for the same purpose, without a hiccup.

The only reason given was that the people should just not be allowed to gather on "their" land to hold the protestal; not even the fact that world class music acts would be performing alongside family friendly camping mattered.

I now know that the NSW Labor Government speak of their vibrancy program for NSW in Parliament excludes the kind of grassroots politically engaged vibrancy the over 6,000 people who gathered at the protestal yearn for and love.

Fortunately, Newcastle Council granted Rising Tide a Special Event permit for



Sue Higginson, NSW Greens MLC

lands adjacent to Horseshoe Beach, which turned out to be an excellent site for the land-based parts of the protestal. But even that was not without enormous pressure from the NSW Labor Government on the mayor to not grant that permission. The attempts were so cruel Rising Tide literally had marques and gear worth tens of thousands of dollars sitting on site and representatives of the State were trying to stop the construction of the camp.

**Attempt Number 3:** Just a few days before the event the NSW Government issued a notice under the *Marine Safety Act* creating an exclusion zone for the entire waters of the Port of Newcastle prohibiting all vessels and people from entering the waters!

This was just an act of bastardry because the biggest highlight of The People's Blockade of the World's Largest Coal Port is of course the people playing together in the water and the amazing flotilla of hundreds and hundreds of kayakers and vessels on the waters of the Port of Newcastle.

It was this act that sent me into a state of fury and fight. I felt the flow of injustice that has flowed in my veins all too often. I opened the *Government Gazette* and read the notice. I blinked twice. As an administrative lawyer for decades now, I knew the notice was not a valid exercise of administrative power, I

advised Rising Tide.

Twenty-one-year-old Alexa Stuart of Rising Tide, who won young Newcastle Citizen of the Year in 2020, took to the Supreme Court to challenge the NSW Labor Government. She was represented by the incredibly skilled and fierce barrister Felicity Graham. Felicity is an expert in criminal, administrative and human rights law and beat the former Government's attempts to silence the Black Lives Matter protests.

Just one hour before the notice was due to come into effect and as already hundreds of people had gathered on the water, the subject of the exclusion zone, the court declared the NSW Labor Government's Notice and exclusion zone invalid.

The word reached the wonderful people on the waters of the Port of Newcastle and screams of joy erupted. The people won, the Government's attempt to stop the people from exercising their rights to play, paddle and bathe in the waters of this state failed, as it should have.

The People's Blockade of the World's Largest Coal Port was once again a complete success for the climate justice movement. What took place in the lead up was an incredible journey of resistance against a government hell bent on silencing dissent and squashing the people's rights to peacefully protest and their ability to engage in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience.

What the NSW Labor Government did should send warning signals to each and every one of us. They went to war against the people and were so hell bent on silencing the people dissenting against the government's inaction on climate that they went outside of law. No-one is above the rule of law in a democracy – there are clearly players in the Minns Labor Government who think they are.

## Labor has now axed local beef in our hospitals

### On the same Page

Kevin Hogan, MP for Page

**F**irst it was Norco, now Labor has dumped South Lismore's Hutley Bros Butchery from supplying local hospitals.

Hutley's have been a family-owned and operated business in our community for 144 years. They had a long-standing contract, supplying meat for health facilities across the whole health district. Now it's gone. The majority of meat used for this contract was supplied from local wholesalers and processors. This cancellation has serious flow-on affects for this business, our local meat worker and beef farming families.

Another shameful decision by a city-centric Government that clearly doesn't care for our community and the regions.

#### Free speech is under threat

Labor has introduced a new Bill to Parliament, that gives the government and its bureaucrats extraordinary powers to regulate speech and decide what is classed as misinformation.

This is the most dangerous Bill that has been introduced to Parliament in decades. It has no place in Australia.

There is a famous quote that says, 'I disagree with everything you say, but every day will defend your right to say it.' That is not what Labor in Australia think. We must continue to protect open discussion and debate, which is essential to our democracy.

#### Merry Christmas

At this special time we reflect on the year past and what is ahead for us all. Family, friends and our wonderful



community are the reasons we do everything we do. The support and love that we show is our collective strength. As always, there is no place I'd rather be than our beautiful region.

# Successful year for Chamber of Commerce

This year's Nimbin Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting, held on 23rd November at the Nimbin Bush Theatre, celebrated significant achievements while charting a path for future growth and collaboration.

As the Chamber President for 2024, I was honoured to report on the successes and initiatives that have strengthened our vibrant community and local economy.

There were several key achievements throughout the year, as summarised below.

## Supporting community projects

Contributions included advocacy for the Rainbow Walking Trail and the Rail Trail project, support for events like the Nimbin Fashion Show and Poetry World Cup, and collaborative

projects with Nimbin Central School.

## Preserving local heritage

Development of a comprehensive mural database to document Nimbin's iconic public art. Also, support for the book *Out There*, a photographic chronicle of Nimbin notables with insightful interviews, celebrating our community's history.

## Strengthening local connections

We hosted two successful networking events featuring local business leaders and inspiring guest speakers.

We expanded the Chamber's website and digital communications, boosting member engagement and outreach.

## Empowering women in business

Initiated new programs under vice president Aline Binetry

to foster collective problem-solving, collaboration and empowerment for local women entrepreneurs.

## Boosting local businesses

Allocated Business Rate Levy funds to support events, marketing and workshops, driving growth and visibility for local enterprises.

## Advocacy and representation

Progressed efforts to secure not-for-profit status for the Chamber. Maintained a strong presence in economic development meetings with Lismore City Council.

## Recognising excellence

Celebrated award-winning businesses, including Mountaintop Coffee, Contained in Nimbin, Nimbin Building Materials and Nimbin Valley Dairy, for their outstanding contributions.

## Acknowledging service

Expressed gratitude to outgoing committee members, including Chris Ardil Guinness, Ben Hartley and Nicole Lindner, for their invaluable service to the Chamber.

## Looking ahead

The Chamber is excited to focus on initiatives that will further enrich Nimbin's identity and offerings:

- Public Speaking Workshop (February 2025): A community-wide event to help individuals develop confidence and communication skills.
- Roots Festival Round Table: This is a platform to enhance the festival's local impact, introduce new artists, and attract broader audiences.
- Supporting wellness tourism through activities like yoga, cacao ceremonies, massage and sound healing reinforces



Nimbin's reputation as a creative and refreshing destination.

## Special guests and updates

Karen Hirst, Destination Co-ordinator for Lismore City Council, highlighted upcoming tourism initiatives.

The significant upgrades to the Visit Nimbin website, progress on the Lismore leg of the rail trail, and the imminent opening of the Nimbin Rainbow Walk are new drawcards for visitors.

The meeting concluded with an 'Around the Room' session, where members shared updates, fostering connections and collaboration.



## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

## A year of collective success

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce remains dedicated to supporting local businesses, fostering innovation, and building a stronger community.

We encourage everyone to join our efforts as we enter another year filled with promise and opportunity.

## 200 letters against logging



Gail Mensinga, Janelle Saffin MP, Dave Forbes, Dot Moller and Sean O'Shannessy

On Friday 25th October, Lismore's Fridays4forests handed 200 letters to our parliamentary representative, Janelle Saffin, as a result of a letter writing/signing stall at the Mullum Forest Rally.

Janelle Saffin had previously handed letters personally to the premier and told us that "the end is coming because it's

unsustainable," and "I will do my best to drive this". Now that's a new tune from Janelle!

The letter-writing campaign included locking on to machinery at Myrtle State Forest on the following Tuesday, and a Highway action to promote the Bob Brown Rally in early November.

## Coal port blockade court cases finalised

by Kitty Kitty Meow Meow and Emma Dorge

Blockade Australia, a network which organises targeted disruption of destructive systems, successfully blockaded the world's largest coal port at Muloobinba (Newcastle) for well over 100 hours across 16 days.

The mobilisation took place from 24th June to 10th July, and was made up of a series of actions by dedicated climate resisters. These actions stopped coal and freight activity, as well as activity within the port.

Nimbin-based activist kittykittymeowmeow climbed onto a coal train on its way to the Newcastle port on Monday 8th July, on day 15 of the mobilisation.

Dressed as a quoll, representing voiceless animals and ecosystems at risk, Kitty was responsible for all coal and freight activity in the port being blocked for the early evening.

Then, due to multiple people taking anonymous action to occupy the trains all night, the coal line was not re-opened until the next day, when Blockade Australia decided to end the actions.

Police had been unable to stop the sustained actions, even after re-instating a Strike Force against Blockade Australia. Passenger trains were replaced with buses for weeks, as rail companies prioritised the movement of coal in the times they had control over the track.

Transport websites said this was "due to police operation" and the traditional media stayed unusually silent into the second week of blockading, while Blockade Australia's facebook page experienced 'shadow-banning'.

Meanwhile, coal trains were stopped anywhere between one and four times per day by determined activists, and some nights there was NO coal movement at all!

People climbed coal trains, locked onto the track and port machinery, climbed structures like monopoles and bipods and tree-sits to block the rail line for 16 days.

Two young people – Sam and Laura – were given respectively one- and three-month prison sentences initially by a right-wing magistrate (Barko). They immediately appealed this and did not



Kitty Kitty Meow Meow on the coal train (above) and outside Newcastle courthouse (left).

serve this time in prison.

Most people who have fronted court, including those two with prison sentences, have been given fines or other good behaviour agreements. Sam self-represented in court and received a CRO.

In early November Kitty had her court case in Newcastle finalised and was handed down a harsher sentence – a CCO (Community Corrections Order), a section 10A and \$1100 worth of fines – which she is planning to appeal.

## Liberation is action

Blockade Australia is dedicated to maintaining sustained direct action against ecocide and tyranny.

The Australian system set up on this continent has always had total disregard for life – from the attempted genocide of First Nations people or the land pillaged and poisoned for profit.

The destruction is deliberate and there is no space under a capitalist system to change the power structures that allow this to happen. This mobilisation is not about coal specifically, it's about the economic and political pinch points that matter most to the destructive system imposed on this continent."

We are currently in a time of total climate collapse and emergency. In less than 250 years, Australia has destroyed a continent which had been cared for and managed sustainably for tens of thousands of years.

Our collective liberation and the liberation of life on earth rely on all of us to do everything we can to prevent further calamity and create new systems that value and protect life.

The climate crisis is already hitting hard, and being felt by millions of people, including us here in the Northern Rivers who have already experienced multiple 'unprecedented' flooding and fire disasters.

## What now?

Kitty co-hosts *Unexplained* with Louis Burdette on Thursday evenings on Nim-FM 102.3, and is involved in a lot of local community groups and events.

If you want to get involved in direct action within your communities or with Blockade Australia, come have a chat at SOAR (Socialise, Organise, Art, Resist), which is a weekly potluck and meeting happening in Lismore at 6pm every Wednesday at 31 Pine Street, North Lismore.

Visit: [blockadeaustralia.com](http://blockadeaustralia.com) and see YouTube or the usual array of socials for more. You can also help by giving to or sharing our support or legal fundraiser, and work generally. Some merch can be found at the Nimbin Environment Centre.

Kitty said, "Anyone can make a difference, it's up to you to decide to step up and rise in the face of climate catastrophe. Collectively we have the ability to be the change we want to see in the world. Sustained, organised direct action resisting climate collapse is one of the many ways in which you can get involved."



## Triple-0 community BBQ

The Nimbin community is invited to attend the Triple-0 Christmas BBQ in Allsopp Park, on Saturday, 14th December at 12pm.

The BBQ was suggested by representatives at the recent tri-monthly Police & Community Consultative Committee meeting. This will be a good time to meet the local officers who truly make our community a safe and happy place.

The free BBQ will be relaxed, an opportunity for the community to get to know the emergency personnel and thank them for their support.

The food including salads and drinks will be provided by the local police, fries and businesses. Taking turns to cook on the grills, also welcome. The last BBQ was a success with 300 snags cooked by our local police officer, Steve.

Donations and assistance are most welcome too.

by Scott Sledge, president

The *New York Times* reports that Joe Biden wants Congress to provide nearly \$100 billion in 'urgently needed' aid for communities ravaged by hurricanes and other disasters in recent months.

President Biden cites the devastation he saw firsthand as he toured states like Florida, South Carolina and Georgia after hurricanes Helene and Milton. The Small Business Administration's disaster loan program has exhausted its funding.

I didn't want to mention the terrible results from the US elections, yet can't help but register some amazement that states could be devastated by "unprecedented" natural disasters and still vote for a government of Republicans who believe that "climate change is a hoax"! And now The Philippines has been struck with six cyclones in four weeks. I vote for "unprecedented" as the word-of-the-year.

On the first Sunday in November, the Bob Brown Foundation organised rallies in 11 locations, mostly NSW and Tasmania, where publicly-owned forests are under threat from government corporations. In Hobart 3,000 people turned up to demand public forests be protected from logging, and in Mullumbimby 700 came,

making it the second largest, as Sydney only amassed 600.

The Dean of Law School at Southern Cross University, David Heilpern, called for the NSW Forestry Corp to be abolished because of its history of unlawful behaviour with no remorse or improvement. He said recidivism of this sort by an individual is harshly punished, but publicly-owned "corporations" – which are meant to make a profit but they rarely do – are able to get away with it.

And taxpayers are forced to subsidise their destructive efforts with about \$22 million per year in NSW. Forests, our public assets, are often clear-felled and left to grow weeds while the unmillable logs – 92% of trees – are pulped and sold overseas to burn for electricity. Consequently, Australia ranks #1 in the world for species extinction!

About 19 months ago the new NSW Labor government, led by Premier Chris Minns, was elected with a promise to create a world-class reserve for public forests and wildlife, but this has yet to be established. Rumours are that the Minns administration has allowed Forestry Corp to attack areas around Coffs Harbour likely to be included in this Great Koala National Park (GKNP).

David Heilpern mused that the Premier intended to deliver a GKNP that would not have any

koalas in it, or even trees. "Many parks have no trees at all: they get in the way of ball games." It seems that way to me too.

NEFA President Dailan Pugh recently wrote: "The GKNP is indeed being targeted for logging; with around 20% of north-east NSW's native State Forests, it supplies over a third of the annual cut, and higher for some products. That means that the total yields from north-east NSW in 2023/24 were 331,995 m3 (with 34% from GKNP) and in 2022/23 were 300,926 m3 (with 31% coming from the GKNP).

"According to the biomaterial reports the area of the GKNP logged increased from 1,525 ha in 2022/23 to 2,179 ha in 2023/24 (though yields per ha have declined). Aren't we lucky to have a government committed to protecting the GKNP!"

What can we do? Dailan Pugh says now is the time to contact our politicians who will make the decisions on how to destroy or protect our natural heritage. Once the GKNP is declared, we can get the loggers out of at least the gazetted zones.

Please contact the NSW state Premier Chris Minns plus Environment Minister Penny Sharpe and local members like Janelle Saffin and Geoff Provest in the Northern Rivers region, and also the Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek. They need to be encouraged to stop logging in our public native forests. Victoria and WA have already done so.

Please write, email or phone their offices before the end of this year.



Now is a good time, before the parliament's break for the holiday season. NSW Parliamentarian Sue Higgs suggests wording along the following lines (but best to personalise if possible):

*I hold serious concerns about the trajectory of emissions in NSW and the dire consequences for the world if we fail to meet the minimum emissions targets that our Government has set. Climate change is already causing catastrophic disasters here in NSW, around Australia and the World.*

*We must do whatever is necessary to ensure that the worst projected impacts of climate change never come to pass. That means doing a lot more right here in NSW. You have a paramount responsibility to protect the people and the environment of NSW, and unless we meet and beat the minimum targets set, we will all pay the price.*

*I believe we can and we must:*

- End coal and gas by 2030;
- End public native forest logging immediately;
- Regenerate and reforest our landscapes;
- Build the protected area network to 30% of NSW by 2030; and
- Get to net zero by 2035.

*In order for us to be ready for the changes that are already locked in,*



*please declare a climate emergency in NSW so that our communities can have access to the resources we need.*

*All of our futures, and the future of the entire planet, depend on you to get this right. Please don't let us down.*

The Heart Collectors band from Tyalgum say it well with their lyrics: "You have the strength to change the world, one little light at a time. So burn your courage bright tonight and show them how it shines." ("Stand Up", 2023)

### Breaking news

A message from Waddamuli, a Waddamangu cultural custodian from the Wangan and Jagalingou, Stop Adani:

"We've just heard news from the US that a warrant is out for Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's arrest over an alleged multi-billion-dollar fraud scheme! This lays bare what we have always known: Adani is a corrupt company with a pattern of disregarding laws, human rights, and environmental protections for profit.

"Governments and investors must withdraw their support for this immoral and repugnant company immediately."

Gautam Adani and other company executives were indicted in New York on 20th November.

# Juice

by John Macleay

Tim Winton is on stage, seated, in conversation about his new book, *Juice*, a novel about the dystopian future that awaits us all because of rapid, fossil fuel-induced global warming.

"You've all heard of stop the boats," he says. "but it'll be stop the utes," the four-times Miles Franklin award winner tells the packed audience at Sydney's art deco Cremorne Orpheum cinema.

Winton is alluding to a warmer, inhospitable future where vast reaches of Northern Australia become uninhabitable as temperatures in Summer soar past 50°, prompting an internal migration of climate refugees to the relatively cooler but also dystopian, climate-charred Southern cities.

*Juice* has a Cormac McCarthy tone, in a manner similar to *The Road*, with two main characters – a child and adult – who travel across a



charred landscape, challenged by survivors of a world where people live shorter lives, and are not as healthy as now and spend a lot of their time underground as the outdoors are just too hot to live in.

Most of the book is set in the northwest of Western Australia, an area Winton knows well. But he also writes of the blackened mountain pass that leads to the Sydney Wall and of "scabrous fellows", "dirty and ill-looking" and high-end holdouts that continued to evade.

Winton, ever the thoughtful writer, poses this question to the attentive audience: "What sort of ancestor do you want to be remembered as?"

The question goes to the very heart of the book; when the central character finds out that the world had been a much more temperate,

habitable, place but that the generations of the past failed to do anything about the planetary heating that led to their dystopian hell.

Winton is now in his mid-60s, and a grandparent several times over, a time of life that gives fresh perspective on the meaning of generation.

On stage, he talks to his audience of activities he did as a younger man that his grandchildren will never be able to do because of the rapidly changing natural world.

Marine heatwaves have all but destroyed the Western Australia abalone and the species is now in a closed fishing zone. Winton used to dive for abalone to eat as a younger man. His grandchildren will never be able to that.

*Juice* is Winton's first foray into science fiction, but its foundation is entrenched in fact. He was writing the book while at the same time being filmed for a documentary about the beauty and wonder of Ningaloo Reef, with the two disparate activities playing on his mind about just how much the next generations face to lose in terms of natural

amenity, let alone a structured sense of community.

With the expected forthcoming massive environmental degradation comes social and economic upheaval on an unprecedented scale.

He quips to the audience that a future generation might not even have the internet, pointing to the fact that without political or economic structure, there will be no one to launch, let alone look after the satellites that keep the world wide web going.

The taste of dystopian is seated deep within recent Australian experience of off-the-scale floods, rainforests burning, and, lately, oceans and global vegetation no longer acting as net absorbers of carbon dioxide.

Readers of this column are only all too aware that they already live in the most fire-prone and flood-prone parts of the continent. The Black Summer bushfires of 2019-2020 and the floods of 2022 – the second one within 30 days of the first – are but a portent of the rapidly changing climate for the worse.

Climate refugees are already among us on the Northern Rivers, yet there is still widespread government inaction on adaptation to global heating.

November's Port of Newcastle Blockade by Rising Tide and the COP29 Climate Talks in Azerbaijan are at polar opposites on tackling climate change. The latter being the port and cigars talk-fest that after 30 years still has not made a communique that there is an urgent, rapid need to cut greenhouse emissions to zero by mid-century at the latest by ending the addiction to fossil fuels.

The former, a people's protest carnival at the planet's biggest coal export port that a Minns Labor Government tried to stop through backing NSW Police taking action in the Supreme Court to kybosh any on-water activity.

Winton, in a video, has posted his support for the blockade, saying – in essence – there's no time to lose in getting government to take notice and actually do something about dangerous climate change, by calling a stop on all new coal and gas

developments.

In a world of carbon budgets and climate tipping points where the natural world starts to go haywire, from loss of ice to loss of coral reefs – there is not enough space in this column to do justice to both concepts. But time is rapidly running out.

The planet is either close to, or is just about to cross, 1.5°C above pre-industrial times for global average temperature. The upper limit on what the COP process believes is a safe limit, as set out by its Paris Agreement of 2015.

Two degrees Celsius on current rates of emissions trajectory – which is running above worst-case estimates, is only 10 or 15 years away. At that level, global temperatures will be hotter than at any time in the history of the human species homo sapiens, thinking man.

The trouble is – our political masters (Labor and LNP) and their commissars, especially in the mainstream media, remain totally captive to the fossil fuel industry.

The Australian petro-state makes a mockery of the moniker "thinking man".



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Photos: Chibo Mertineit

## Mullum rallies for forests



David Heilpern, Dean of Law at SCU addresses the rally.



On 3rd November, the Bob Brown Foundation organised nationwide rallies to tell Albo to end native forest logging. 700 people attended the Mullumbimby rally.

# Stronger Biodiversity Offset laws needed

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC) says the addition of 48 species to the NSW threatened species list this year, highlights the need for strong reforms to the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS).

The Long-nosed potoroo, Curlew sandpiper, Gang-gang cockatoo and Large-eared pied bat are among the species added or up-listed this year.

The NSW Government is proposing legislation to amend the BOS, which heavily relies on in NSW's biodiversity policy framework.

However, without clear protection for even the most at risk species and ecological communities, it is contributing to ongoing biodiversity decline and extinctions

As recently as October, financial units that represent the Gang-gang cockatoo and its habitat were being actively



traded on the BOS.

This means that six months after its uplifting to endangered status, the BOS facilitated the net loss of Gang-gang cockatoo habitat to the tune of nearly \$34,000 through the scheme.

Threats to the Gang-gang cockatoo include loss and degradation of breeding and foraging habitat from rural and urban development.

Similarly, \$2.7 million has changed hands from a

developer through the BOS to facilitate the net loss of the endangered Large-eared Pied Bat's habitat over the last 12 months.

The Large-eared Pied Bat's main threats are clearing and isolation of forest and woodland habitats, and loss of foraging habitat.

The clearing of habitat, alongside invasive species and climate change are the key overarching threats to biodiversity in NSW

"As the list of species moving towards extension continues to grow longer, we call on all sides of Parliament to work together and negotiate strong amendments to the Bill and make sure we give nature a fighting chance," said NCCs Jacqui Mumford.

"Reform of the BOS is long overdue. The use of offsetting has always been a risky exercise, increasingly magnified as a species moves towards endangered status.

"Offsetting was supposed to be a last resort, but it has instead become the norm that a developer can pay to destroy habitat. This is enabling extinction."

NCC recommends that offsets must be 'like-for-like'; indirect offsets and payments into the fund must be phased out; loopholes for 'Part 5 development' must be closed; and the destruction of irreplaceable, high conservation value land must not be permitted under the scheme.

# Legal action on unnatural disasters

by Chels Hood Withey

From rising sea levels, floods, and extreme rainfall to heatwaves, fires and landslides – these disasters are becoming more frequent and extreme than ever before and there is nothing natural about them.

Fuelled by human pollution from the coal and gas industry, and heavy deforestation, our government has an obligation to keep us safe and this case could make that happen.

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul, community leaders from the Guda Maluligal nation, have taken the Australian government to court over climate inaction and negligence in the Torres Strait.

They are touring the Northern Rivers on 4th to 6th December to connect stories of disasters, hope and power, ahead of the verdict ruling in the Federal Court next year.

The Torres Strait leaders impacted by rising seas are meeting with Bundjalung elders and Northern Rivers community members impacted by floods, fires, landslips, and extreme rainfall as they build community power for immediate government action on climate to protect our communities.

On Wednesday 4th December they will be attending an event at Bangalow A&I Society Hall on the topic of Building Community Power. Free catered event, so RSVP at: <https://events.humanitix.com/unnatural-disasters-tour-building-community-power>

On Thursday 5th December, they are doing an on-ground tour of Bundjalung country, visiting a Grafton farm to learn about the climate impacts on agriculture with farmer



Glenn Morris and horse, Hombre.

They will visit Cabbage Tree Island where First Nations community have been displaced by floods for nearly three years to hear about the rebuild finally confirmed; finishing the day in Lismore to meet with the *Koori Mail* discussing recovery challenges post-catastrophic flooding, and the lack of housing options in this climate-impacted region.

On Friday 6th December, they will meet for Storytelling Circles, hearing from locals impacted by floods at the Richmond River foreshore, Ballina and also visiting a caravan park where 2000 people were impacted and have still not been supported post-2022 disaster in Chinderah.

They conclude their tour in Main Arm where landslip victims, Eddie and Vicki are

still living beside their crushed home and have not been supported since the floods and landslips of 2022.

### Tour call to action

The Torres Strait Islands are experiencing sea level rise at twice the global average (Boigu, the lowest island, will be engulfed by the ocean by 2050), with communities already facing regular flooding of their homes, gardens and sacred sites.

Similarly, Northern Rivers communities have faced unprecedented unnatural disasters intensified by climate change. Local residents are invited to share their own climate impact stories as part of the growing network of climate witnesses supporting the Australian climate case and show their support for the Uncles and Torres

Strait Islander communities by signing the Mura Kalmel Sipa Pledge. Go to: <https://australianclimatecase.org.au/stand-with-uncle-paul-and-uncle-pabai>

### Landmark climate case

Faced with rising sea levels and distressing inaction on climate change, in October 2021 Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul filed the Australian Climate Case against the Australian Government for failing to prevent climate change harms in the Torres Strait.

The homes of people in the Torres Strait could disappear beneath the rising seas, making them Australia's first climate change refugees.

For people from Zenadth Kes, the impacts of climate change won't only force them from their island homes, but will sever their connection to thousands of years of culture and deep spiritual connection passed down generation by generation, connection to land, sea, winds and sky and community.

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul are seeking orders from the court that require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent this harm to their communities, including cutting greenhouse gas emissions in line with the best available science.

The Australian Government currently has a 2050 'net zero' emissions target, which experts say will not be enough to prevent disaster in the Torres Strait.

Leading climate scientists on the Climate Targets Panel calculate that Australia's greenhouse emissions need to be reduced by 74% by 2030 (from 2005 levels) and to net zero by 2035 to keep global heating to below 1.5°C and avert the destruction of Torres Strait Islander communities.

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**NIMBIN NUMBERS**

# Drug Summit duty

by Michael Balderstone

Lucky me, getting a ticket to the NSW Drug Summit day in Lismore, thanks Janelle. The Workers Club looked fantastic, finally open again after the flood.

I didn't think there were many of our NSW politicians there actually, no sign of the premier that's for sure. The majority of attendees seemed to be involved in the myriad agencies trying to alleviate the suffering that I reckon is largely caused by the drug war.

They announced another twenty million dollars for the Buttery and other similar programs. Addiction was a big word all day. And stigma. There was a general attitude that illegal drug use was not good, and people needed to get off these drugs. I had two fat joints in my pocket but wasn't telling anyone.

Drug Free Australia were handing out flyers outside as everyone arrived, they would have loved the tone of it. Their flyer, called "Harm reduction exponentially increased our drug deaths", was full of graphs and stats proving it!

The more they spoke of being drug free the more I kept thinking of weeding the garden, the endless weeds. Maybe tiny suburban gardens have no weeds, but I've got a huge garden and learnt to live with what we call weeds. How about managing your drug use instead of ending it? Maybe these illegal drugs are useful, they're incredibly popular.

There was no real talk at all about changing the laws apart from small tweaks like making cautioning more on the side of the druggie than the cops, who currently have complete control over whether they grant you the caution or not.

We soon broke up into groups managed by professional facilitators hired for the day. We ended up with dozens and dozens of little bits of paper, post-it notes, stuck on boards to make sure everyone's ideas got a mention.

I tended to aim for the police in my post-it notes because I keep seeing how it's not really their job this drug war, it's a health issue. Good young people join the Force and find themselves working for Big Pharma as frontline troops and it's slowly turning into a bigger and bigger nightmare for them.

Thousands have quit or are on permanent stress leave and Police numbers are down about twenty percent. The profits are huge in illegal drugs and the jails are full. What next? They've just announced big increases in police pay; let's see if that helps.

In my second group after lunch hardly anyone turns up and I learn a lot from a blackfella who works with inmates in Grafton's new jail. The biggest in Australia, the 'Clarence Hilton', someone called it. Pretty good meals, video games, and any amount of



pharma drugs available to help you chill out.

The stories were chilling in fact. People prescribed methadone and buprenorphine with no thought to the future consequences. Big bupe trade going on! Some juveniles didn't want to leave jail. Many were straight back in there when they did get out.

Average cost to us taxpayers per person per year in jail is currently \$154,000, or \$422 each day. Nice little earner for Serco who is managing the 1700 beds in Grafton for the first 20 years. It's like a hotel guaranteed full every day of the year. I'll do the maths for you, \$261,800,000 annually.

How about prescribing medical cannabis to people in jail? Why not?! Perfect for chilling people out and getting them thinking at the same time. How about we get them growing their own, doing a little gardening, hanging out with nature? Madness? Not really, we're just poisoned and confused by a century of absolute lies and propaganda about cannabis.

I end up talking to a senior cop who never tried pot himself but whose mother has just discovered by chance how good legal medical weed is. I told him one of my post-it notes suggested they change the name of the Police Force to Police Service. He didn't disagree but said how about just Police? Cool.

I trust that the Truth must come to the surface eventually as ignorance slowly destroys itself by its very own nature! And the plant itself is changing minds more than anyone can.

# CWA Nimbin Christmas bakes and breaks

by Sage Bryant, Nimbin CWA publicity officer

As usual the end of the year is a busy time for the CWA Nimbin Branch, and we've been busy baking up a storm with all of your Christmas favourites, available at our Saturday street stall and in the rooms.

The Nimbin CWA year ends and begins in October each year with our AGM, where all positions are declared vacant and new nominations and voting takes place. We welcomed both new and returning branch officers who have put their hands up to dedicate their time to supporting the community.

Some of our members attended the Reclaim the Night rally at Lismore, alongside other local community groups. We joined with many other local women and organisations in calling for an end to violence against women and reclaiming the night for all.

Our poppies and poppy waterfall graced the shrine again on Remembrance Day. We are always honoured to play a small part in paying tribute to the memory of



our fallen soldiers.

Our final Open Day will be Wednesday 11th December, and then our rooms will be closing for our summer break. We will re-open on Wednesday 8th January, 2025.

### Dates to remember

- Open Days: 10am-3pm, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month, pop in for lunch and a chat.
- Op Shop Days: 10am-3pm, 1st and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

- Community Market Days: 9.30am-3pm, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month.
- Street Stall: 10am-12pm, most Saturdays outside the newsagent.
- Branch Meeting: 5pm, 2nd Monday of the month, new members always welcome!
- Location: Figtree House, 81 Cullen St, Nimbin (next to the firehouse via Sibley Street)

For all general enquiries please phone: 0461-412-831 or email: [secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com)



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## It's a horrible fate

by Michael Brooke

Imagine the president of the most powerful nation in the world suffers a sudden horrible fit of honesty.

He admits to worshipping power. "No!" he contradicts himself. "Power worships me. It adores me. I'm stuck with it. It's a horrible fate but I'm resigned to it. I don't ask for your sympathy. I don't ask for your pity – all I ask for is a little common human understanding." He puffs out his chest. He begs us to love him.

Deep down he is merely a Russian matryoshka doll painted bright red, white and blue. Open the first doll and there's a smaller one inside. Open that too and there's another doll, on and on, until there are five dolls made to fit perfectly inside each other.

Layer upon layer, memory upon memory, year upon year of a fantastical life. Until at last, at bottom, we find the littlest baddest unloved doll. Inside the big multilayered body there's just a little boy, a manikin who dreams of ruling the world.

That rough beast, its hour come. slouches towards Washington to be reborn. Poor crazy Americans: "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity". The only certain thing

about Americans' future is uncertainty. The kind of uncertainty Donald Rumsfeld touched upon, a misquotation: 'we know, there are known knowns; there are people we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some people we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns – there are people we don't know we don't know'.

We don't know we don't know that rough beast. Trump! Who would say of himself "Of course when you have no power nobody trusts you, nobody believes you, nobody likes you. Because to have power is to be virtuous, honest, beautiful and witty. And to be without power is to be ugly and boring and stupid and useless. Whereas with power I am the law. When I present my backside it is etiquette to smile and to apply the lips respectfully – it is more than etiquette, it is a cherished national privilege to be enshrined in my constitution ... an absurd thing for a god to say, but coming from Donald Trump it is taken as a benediction.

Well may we say, God help America.

(Referenced from the play *The Mad Woman of Chaillot*, written in 1943 by Jean Giraudoux)

## Celebrate New Year at World Peace Festival

by Jagad Samuel

As the sky deepens and stars twinkle, Nimbin's Flourish Sanctuary transforms into a hub of laughter, movement, and shared delight. Friends and strangers gather around the stage with their spirits lifted by the rhythm and the crowd's energy on the last night of the year.

Some dance barefoot under the stars, their joy infectious, while others lie on yoga mats inside the temple, swaying gently, lost in the music. Children twirl with glow sticks, adding splashes of colour to the scene, while a nearby circle of drummers ignites spontaneous bursts of clapping and cheers. The air buzzes with possibility – a sense that anything could happen, and everyone belongs. Could this be the meaningful way to bring in 2025 you have been looking for?

I am describing the World Peace Festival held at Flourish Sanctuary in Nimbin from New Year's Eve, 31st December 2024, to 4th January 2025.

My reflections from the event last year: "Moving through the festival, a sense of hope and possibility rises in my heart. I can see people, young and old, from many backgrounds sharing stories, laughing, and sharing quiet moments together. Workshops have sparked conversations about kindness and sustainability, and I find myself wondering could these simple, powerful ideas ripple outward into the world."

This is what the World Peace Festival is about.

Imagine this year's festival. You contribute to a group painting project, strangers are collaborating to create something beautiful together, embodying the spirit of peaceful cooperation. Later, during a meditation session, a facilitator speaks about unity and compassion, and you feel a deep resonance with the idea that peace begins with each of us.

Everywhere you look, creativity and connection abound. A better future isn't just a long-lost Aquarian dream, it's something we can work on now, one moment, one choice, and one shared experience at a time.

This fourth annual New Year's event, organised by Shunya Bell and Jagad, continues to grow as a celebration of community, creativity, and global harmony. With a diverse mix of offerings, it's perfect for families, spiritual seekers, and music lovers alike.

This year, the festival takes on special significance as we reflect on a world where conflicts have escalated in both the West Bank and in the Ukraine, while nearly half the world's population has participated in national elections, reminding us of our shared possibility and responsibility for creating a better future.

Let's not get too heavy, instead we will look at what is on offer.



### A stellar line-up of talent

Each evening will showcase incredible live musical performances, featuring Shunya, Kathryn Riding and Eltara, Prema Shakti Rising Gia Tree, Shivam Rath and potentially the return of Afro Moses.

These talented artists will create unforgettable moments, blending world music, meditative sounds, and uplifting rhythms.

### Workshops and activities

The festival offers much more than music, with a daily schedule with activities to engage and inspire you:

- Welcome to Country: Uncle Steve will open the festival with a heartfelt acknowledgment of the land and its traditional custodians.
- Daily exercise and meditation with possible facilitators for Tai Chi, breathworks, meditation and yoga.
- Dance sessions: Enjoy dances of universal peace with Anna Sophia and dance mandala with Katy, both promising to bring joy and connection to the dance floor.
- Creative expression: participate in drawing classes, improv workshops, and a joint painting project to awaken your inner artist.
- Light language workshop: Ama Joy will guide attendees in exploring light languages for deep personal transformation.
- Early morning gardening with the Weedy Gardner.
- Healing and wellness: trauma release exercises with Melissa Ort, sound healing with Michael Deanshaw, heart-opening workshop with Ananda Clayton.
- Nature and relaxation: ice baths, river bathing, use of Black Sheep Farm's pool and sauna and at designated times clothing-optional river swims.
- For film enthusiasts, there will be a special screening of David Trood's latest documentary *Down the Carrot Hole*, a thought-provoking exploration of the two years of Covid lockdown in Australia, where David discovered

the joy of creating, not just a garden, but a food forest with permaculture principles.

### Supporting local community

This year's festival highlights the rich talent and resources of the Rainbow Region. Local food vendors are being supported, with stalls from Veggie Fiesta and potentially the Vedic Vegetarian, the local Krishna restaurant, and others.

The World Peace Festival is a drug- and alcohol-free event, ensuring a safe, inclusive space for all ages. Families will find plenty to enjoy, from creative workshops to opportunities for quiet reflection by the river.

If the large crowds and chaos of events like Woodford aren't your style, the World Peace Festival offers a smaller, more intimate, heartfelt alternative. It's a chance to start the new year with purpose, joy, and connection – all in the beautiful surroundings of Flourish Sanctuary.

### Volunteer opportunities

To make this happen we need help. Volunteers are welcome to be part of this inspiring event. If you'd like to help out, in exchange for free entry please get in touch with the organisers via email: [i@jagad.me](mailto:i@jagad.me) or phone on 0433-173-508.

### Tickets and accommodation

The festival starts on Tuesday 31st December and goes through to Saturday 4th January. Tickets are available now: Evening music tickets from \$25, day passes starting at \$65, festival passes starting at \$250.

Some on-site accommodation is available, with camping options, and other local accommodation options are available.

For more information or to secure your tickets, visit: [worldpeacefestival.com.au](http://worldpeacefestival.com.au) Hurry, early bird pricing will end five days after this article goes to print. Book now with friends to secure your spot and avoid disappointment. See you there.

**Psilocybin Symposium**  
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## New film on regenerative and holistic farming

Actor and director Rachel Ward's new film, *Rachel's Farm* is the story of one woman's journey to regenerate her farm and herself.

In the film, she voyages from her own wilful ignorance about the ecological impacts of conventional agriculture, to championing a movement to restore the health of our farmland, food and climate, and in doing so the wellbeing of the farming communities that sustain the nation, and ourselves.

Consumers can make a difference by using their purchasing power to support local growers by choosing organic, regenerative, sustainable and 'climate-positive' produce, and by donating to

organisations who are helping farmers transition their farms.

Farmers and land stewards can learn more about adopting regenerative practices and connect with local groups and organisations that can support them.

*Rachel's Farm* will be showing on Sunday 8th December, 5pm at Jiggi Hall (1034 Jiggi Road, Jiggi)

Entry \$10, children 12 and under free. Light supper by donation. There will be guest speakers, a Q&A after the film and an information table.

The ticketing and full event details are here: <https://events.humanitix.com/community-screening-of-rachel-s-farm>



# WHOPPING RESULT AT TRIVIA AT THE BOWLO

Another great night. The Nimbin Bowling Club and Sibley's Bistro host a community fundraising trivia night on the third Saturday of each month, organised by the trivia team, Claire Delacey and René Norwie.

November's fundraising partner was the Nimbin Preschool. Community businesses donated some great prizes for the raffle, and with their support, Nimbin Preschool managed to raise a whopping \$1,150.

Many thanks to Maddie O'Brien for her great fundraising skills, to Ian Dixon for a fantastic auction, and to Britt Cicchinelli for helping co-ordinate prizes and donations. Many thanks to Mitch Hughes and Tayla Stella for donating the auction items.

The next trivia will be in



The 'Row Row Row Your Boat' team

February 2025 when we have some exciting new additions to the trivia team.

Trivia is an opportunity for fundraising. It's generally held on the third Saturday of every month and we usually do ten events throughout

the year, with December and January off.

We're looking for ten fundraising partners for 2025, so if you are a not-for-profit, or fighting for an extremely good cause, get in touch with us to chat

about next year's fundraising opportunities.

We look forward to seeing you next year. In the meantime, have a great festive season.

Here's a couple of the limericks from the Nimbin Preschool's trivia session.

By the Crofton Weeds team:  
There was a sweet jarjum from Nimbin  
Whose parents ran away from Brisbane  
They built a nice place  
To escape the rat race  
But the rats climbed in through the windows!

By the Mad Pickles team:  
The kids at Nimbin Preschool are cool  
You should never take them for a fool  
They are crazily smart  
And well into their art  
The kids at Nimbin, they rule!

# All Shorts 2025 entries now open

Now in its 20th year, the Byron All Shorts dedicated local Northern Rivers short film competition is calling talented Northern Rivers Filmmakers of all ages to submit their films and showcase their talent in this annual celebration of local creatives.

Presented by, and a fundraiser for the Island Quarry Association, Byron All Shorts is an opportunity to celebrate our incredible Northern Rivers filmmaking talent. Entries will be shown alongside the best of Flickerfest short films, on tour to our region annually from Australia and the world.

The Byron All Shorts 2025 finalists screening and awards will be held on Saturday 1st March alongside the Flickerfest International Short Film Festival tour, at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall from Thursday 27th February to Saturday 1st March 2025. With a local jury of film industry experts awarding over \$3,000 in prizes that recognise and encourage



Byron All Shorts 2024 winners: SAE Emerging Talent Award Alisha Doherty-Hough, Best Short and Audience Award Jahvis and Nahra Loveday

excellence in short filmmaking.

The Island Quarry association is thrilled to partner with Flickerfest, Australia's only Oscar® and BAFTA qualifying short film festival to support Northern Rivers filmmakers, and bring the best of our local stories

to our community through the 'Byron All Shorts' Northern Rivers short film competition.

Entries for the Byron All Shorts are now open and close Friday 10th January. Visit: <https://iQ.org.au> for all entry details.

# The Necks are coming to the Bay



Photo: Nabeeh Samaan

Following a sold-out performance in Byron earlier in 2024, master musicians The Necks, return to Byron Theatre for one concert in January.

Byron is one of the few regional gigs on their Australian tour, thanks in part to Byron Theatre's beautiful Steinway grand piano.

Renowned for creating immersive, hypnotic concert experiences, seeing The Necks live is an experience like no other.

Chris Abrahams (piano), Lloyd

Swanton (bass), and Tony Buck (drums/percussion) take to the stage with no prior preparation.

They embark on an exploration of a simple musical idea, gradually evolving their pieces – which can extend for an hour – conjuring textures and aural illusions that defy easy description. No two Necks concerts are ever the same.

Their commitment to the simple concept of truly "letting the music take care of itself" is at the core of

their unique sound and their ability to create exciting, engrossing music for themselves and their audiences for more than 30 years.

Long-term fans of this unique band come back time and again, but if you haven't heard them before, catch them at Byron Theatre and find out why the *New York Times* describe them as "the greatest trio on earth".

See The Necks in concert on Friday 24th January, 7pm at Byron Theatre. \$54-\$64. Book at: [www.byroncentre.com](http://www.byroncentre.com)

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