



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

I am very humbled and honoured to be returned as the Mayor of Lismore, and I look forward to working with

## Recovery still the top priority

all of the newly elected and re-elected councillors as we continue to rebuild together.

There is no denying that the last term was tough. I remember making an announcement of an extra \$1 million to fix potholes on the Friday and by the following Monday we had the worst natural disaster in the country's recorded history.

We still have a long way to go in our recovery, but we have come a long way and learnt a lot, both as a Council and as a

community.

To help the community follow the progress of the rebuild, Council has created an easily navigable section on our website providing regular updates. Simply go to: [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) then under the Business tag at the top of the page, come down to 'Flood Restoration Portfolio'.

Council understands the mental impact the slow recovery is having on many community members. That is why we are holding a series of mental health

workshops in Nimbin and across the Lismore LGA throughout October. You will find the details for the Nimbin workshops in this newspaper and on Council's Facebook page.

Council's first meeting for this term is on Tuesday, 15th October from 6pm. As usual it will be live streamed on our website: [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) and Council's Facebook page.

While you are visiting Council's Facebook page, take the time to check out the video on the 2024

Lismore Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival that drew thousands of people to the newly upgraded Lismore Regional Sports Precinct last month.

It was a great day catching up with people and watching some terrific footy.

Also, late last month the Lismore Regional Gallery was officially reopened after major repairs and renovations following the disaster, as was The Quad.

The gallery is very popular among the community, with more than 150,000 visitors every year. That's 150,000 people also visiting our cafes and restaurants, and other



local businesses, supporting jobs.

Also don't forget the 2024 Elders Lismore Show is on 17th, 18th and 19th October. It promises to be a great event, with new attractions like Pop Zone, where imagination and fantasy rule.



The two Greens councillors on Lismore Council, Adam Guise and Virginia Waters with supporters

## Spring and new beginnings

by Virginia Waters

Spring has arrived, and with it, a fresh sense of possibility for our community.

The Lismore Council election has come and gone, though as I write this, the counting is still on-going, but it appears that we have comfortably returned two Greens councillors, Adam Guise and myself, which is truly heartening.

Our aim was to run a positive and hopeful campaign, and I believe we succeeded.

The ticket was strong, with outstanding community-minded members who genuinely care about the future of Lismore LGA and this magnificent Widjabul Wai-bel Country.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the wonderful volunteers who

helped with the campaign. Their commitment and enthusiasm made a real difference.

We were able to hold well-attended events, and I've received incredible feedback about the Nimbin bush dance fundraiser, so much so that people are already asking for more! It was heartwarming to see such a strong turn-out and support for our shared vision.

Although the final composition of Council has not yet been announced, I want to assure everyone that no matter the outcome, I will represent each and every one of you, regardless of your political affiliation.

I will work collaboratively and respectfully with all councillors, ensuring that every decision is made with the community's best interests at heart.

I am committed to

maintaining civility, transparency and accountability in all of the processes, and I will always support community-led solutions to the challenges we face.

Nimbin has placed its trust in me to listen and advocate for the needs of our community, and I do not take that responsibility lightly. I will be honoured to have the opportunity to be your voice at Lismore City Council.

As we move forward into this new season, I look forward to what we can achieve together. There is much work to be done, but I am optimistic about what the future holds for Nimbin and the whole LGA.

Thank you for your trust and support. Let's continue to build a more caring and resilient community together.

## Tackling the cost of living

by Janelle Saffin MP  
State Member for Lismore

Labor Governments at State and Federal level are committed to easing cost of living pressures, and this month I have an update on some of the latest measures.

### Woolworths and Coles face legal action

Earlier this year I applauded the Federal Albanese Government's move directing the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to conduct an inquiry into supermarket pricing. So it is great to see that the ACCC is now taking legal action against supermarket giants Woolworths and Coles for allegedly duping shoppers with phoney price dropping. This is scandalous if proven true – shoppers thought they were getting a bargain only to be ripped off at the cash register.

The ACCC inquiry examined the pricing practices of the supermarkets and the relationship between wholesale, including farmgate, and retail prices.

Farmers, who have been calling out the supermarkets for years have welcomed the court action as a step in the right direction.

### Power to the people

There are so many houses that are too hot in summer and too cold in winter and we know the expense of heating and cooling our homes can have a big impact on our energy bills.

I'm pleased to report the



Janelle Saffin goes shopping like everyone does.

Minns Labor Government has committed \$290 million in new funding for an energy strategy to help households and businesses save money and reduce power use. The Government's *Consumer Energy Strategy: Powering our People and Communities*, will make it easier for households and businesses to access energy saving technologies like solar, batteries and energy efficiency upgrades.

The strategy is a response to the Independent Electricity Supply and Reliability Check-up that the Minns Government commissioned last year. In 2020 the Parliament passed the Electricity Investment Bill, a climate change strategy and path to renewables for NSW.

However, that policy lacked a government process involving the community. This called for a whole of government approach to our transition to renewables and the Consumer Energy Strategy is the missing piece of the strategy. It is designed around people and communities.

The Government is committed to making it easier for all consumers to save money and cut emissions no matter where you live, or whether you rent or own your home. A typical house could save an average of \$2000 a year and 1100 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions with energy saving technologies.

Already many households and businesses are active participants in our energy system. New energy technologies and services like batteries and virtual power plants mean consumers can be rewarded for the energy they generate and can store it for when it is needed most.

The NSW Consumer Energy Strategy outlines 50 actions to help households and businesses including: a new incentive and rebate scheme to help households upgrade to energy saving technologies; setting the first targets in Australia for solar and battery uptake.

The Strategy is available at: [www.energy.nsw.gov.au/energy-strategy](http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/energy-strategy)

**Northern Rivers**  
DRAFTING & BUILDING DESIGN

CONSULTING  
PLANNING  
DESIGN  
ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

NEW HOMES, RENOVATIONS, BARNs, WORKSHOPS  
& RETROSPECTIVE COMPLIANCE

SEAN SPAIN 0490 178 927 NORTHERNRIVERSDBD@GMAIL.COM

Sign the e-petition for reinstating Norco as the dairy supplier to North Coast hospitals



Janelle Saffin MP  
MEMBER FOR LISMORE



[lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.janellesaffin.com.au](http://www.janellesaffin.com.au)  
02 6621 3624

Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

**Hemp Fire Balm**

Deep muscle relief, an Aussie Tiger-style balm. Hot & cold. All natural.



"I have chronic nerve pain in my lower back and legs and this is one of the few things that actually help relieve the pain. As they say fight fire with fire. Highly recommend."

— Kirsten, June 2023

Available at Nimbin Candles & Nimbin Apothecary or on our website

CALL 02 6689 1095 [WWW.BLACK-SHEEP-OILS.COM](http://WWW.BLACK-SHEEP-OILS.COM)

# Labor's dirty coal not washed by bilbies

I felt it like a kick in the guts, a real one. It hurt inside and out last week when Federal Labor Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek approved three enormous climate and nature wrecking coal mines in one day.

Not just one but three, massive coal mine extensions in the Hunter Valley that will belch an additional 1.3 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over their lifetime, which is eleven times more emissions than the entire annual emissions of NSW.

These extensions represent a catastrophe for the climate, the environment, nature, water and all of us.

This decision by Labor's Tanya Plibersek is a national disgrace, and sets fire to any claim that our Governments are taking climate change and nature protection seriously. Both the NSW and Federal Labor Governments are acting contrary to their own public and legislated emissions reductions targets and are spitting in the face of the environment and community that are getting smashed by climate driven disasters.

These mines are so much worse than climate change



by Sue Higginson, NSW Greens MLC

bombs that will drive serious climate disruption, because they also destroy our nature-based defences to the climate crisis. They will lead to significant impacts on the Hunter River, potentially its collapse.

They will destroy hundreds of hectares of threatened species habitat, including that of our poor koalas that are facing extinction in the wild by 2050. Federal Labor have caved to the worst of the fossil fuel interests, those that are continuing to dig and burn to our end of times.

Tim Winton has just penned a piece that seriously resonates, titled 'Our leaders are collaborators with fossil fuel colonialists. This is the source of our communal dread'. It is a swift dive into

the climate crisis, fuelled by exploitative fossil fuel capitalism and that is making us sick.

He likens fossil fuel capitalism to colonialism, in which our political leaders are agents and accomplices. He speaks painful truths about the physical ailments we carry, particularly our young, and how "climate anxiety", "eco-grief", "solastalgia" do not "capture the enervating creep of loss and dread that torments so many".

He explains what so many of us know, that these "conditions" are chronic, disabling and suffered communally – but that they are masking responses, manifestations of moral injury. Their underlying causes are invisible to those who generate them and profit from them.

Those in power cannot acknowledge what's right before their eyes, because to do so would not only undermine their status but threaten their very conception of reality.

He likens our situation, here and now on this wild beautiful ancient continent, to that of French colonialism in Algeria, where "colonial officials recorded widespread 'malingering', a general, almost pandemic level of melancholia, and constant complaints of 'phantom pain' usually associated with amputees. French doctors coined a racist term for it – the North African syndrome."



Tanya Plibersek and bilby character. Photo courtesy Mick Tsikas/AAP

Of course, there was a logical explanation for what mystified French occupiers. What they witnessed but never quite saw was the misery of subjugation; what happens to people when they're robbed, scorned and humiliated every day of their lives.

He describes our political leaders, Albo and Tanya, as being so "ensnared in webs of patronage and co-option they can neither see nor acknowledge our real predicament, which is a state of global subjugation to fossil capitalism.

What they offer us – young and old – is business as usual, and for all their deluded airs of respectability and legitimacy, our leaders are largely agents of desolation."

Things have become so sick, and the capture of our

political leaders is so deep and insidious here in the land of the world's largest coal port.

The same day that Labor's Tanya Plibersek approved these three giant climate and nature wrecking fossil fuel coal mines, she also issued a joint media release with her NSW counterpart Minister for the Environment, Labor's Penny Sharpe.

They wanted a good news story, with a bunch of pictures of herself with cute bilbies, as if she is some nature hero. This bullshit nature-positive washing and spin while we cook the planet is just beyond sick.

Winton's article reflects meaningfully on our resistance at all levels, including civil disobedience and what so many of us know. How it is a necessary and fundamental part of

the defiance of and the fight against the climate wreckers, because while the fossil fuel empire senses its own end – and some players are divesting and getting out – others are digging in for the last bloody grab.

So too must our will to fight and resist be entrenched, because that end-of-times part of the empire is desperate, and it is already targeting electoral politics hard. The empire is aiming to destabilise and unseat those who will fight against their last deadly dig.

Right now, we know the biggest political threat to, and target of, the fossil fuel colonialists and their agents and accomplices, are the Greens. They are targeting us everywhere in every way.

So, while we are all fighting for our lives, we are fighting for the balance of power in the next Federal Parliament, because it's clear, Federal Labor cannot and will not stop the climate wreckers.

Here in the Northern Rivers, we are a massive player in this plan. If we win the Federal seat of Richmond from Labor's Justine Elliot, then we actually have a chance of ending two harmful conditions, "fossil fuel capitalism" and the "two party monopoly over our democracy".

So, if you are not already involved, it's time to get in touch with the Greens campaign for Richmond and back in Mandy Nolan – oh, and it promises to be a fun and wild ride.



## New Green mayor for Byron Shire

The Byron Greens have achieved a significant victory in the recent local government elections, with long-standing Greens councillor Sarah Ndiaye elected as mayor of Byron Shire and Elia Hauge, Delta Kay and Michelle Lowe elected as councillors.

This result marks a historic moment for Byron Shire, reflecting the community's strong support for the Greens' vision of a thriving and sustainable future. The election also sees Elia Hauge become the youngest ever Byron Shire councillor, and for two Bundjalung women, Delta Kay and Michelle Lowe, to join the council.

"This victory belongs to all of us. It's a testament to the power of our community and our shared vision for a thriving, sustainable Byron Shire. I'm proud to have run alongside four incredible women – Elia, Delta, Michelle and Nell Schofield. You believed in us, in our ideas, and in the possibility of positive change – and together, we've made history," mayor-elect Sarah Ndiaye said.

"We've promised a more transparent, compassionate, and effective Council, and that's exactly what we intend to deliver," Mayor-elect Ndiaye stated. "We're ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work on the issues that matter most to our community."

The Byron Greens' success is attributed to strong grassroots support, with numerous volunteers and supporters contributing to the campaign effort.

Mayor-elect Ndiaye added, "This is just the beginning of our journey together. We have big challenges ahead, but I'm confident that with our community's spirit and dedication, we can create the fair, sustainable, and vibrant Byron Shire we all envision."

The new Council, led by Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, will be sworn in on Thursday 10th October.

## Put Norco milk back in our hospitals

### On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan, MP for Page

Labor recently voted down reinstating Norco milk in our local hospitals. This is an outrageous betrayal of our local farmers and the workers at Norco.

This could have real consequences for the 191 farming families and the hundreds who work for our local co-

operative, including job losses and reduced income.

Norco has been the long-standing milk supplier for health facilities from Tweed Heads to Port Macquarie.

Please keep the pressure on Labor by signing this petition: <http://savenorcomilk.com.au>

### Citizenship Day

To celebrate Citizenship Day on Tuesday 17th September, I attended

the Lismore City Council citizenship ceremony.

It is a great day to remind ourselves of what a great country Australia is. Thousands of people with great pride became Australian citizens on the day.

Congratulations to Andrew Abma, Kristine Bagatan, Rachel Barham, Edward Burke, Magali De Moor, Efraim Haver, Feng-Chih Hsu, Hoon Ong, Tegan Platt and Shannon Wilson.



# Navigating the economy with Nimbin's unique strengths

Like many across Australia, small businesses in Nimbin face on-going economic challenges as we enter the last quarter of 2024.

However, Nimbin's strength lies in its vibrant, alternative community, which reflects Aquarian values. We offer a unique experience. Nature is at our doorstep, with rainforest walks, waterfalls, and exceptional scenic beauty.

The Nimbin community's focus on the environment, holistic values, artistic pursuits, and wellness attracts those seeking relaxation and personal growth. Many community members warmly welcome visitors, helping to create meaningful connections and enhancing their experience in Nimbin.

One of our greatest strengths is the local support for businesses. Nimbin operates as a circular economy, where much of



## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

the money earned locally is returned to local companies and then returned to the residents who work in the community. This cycle of local spending helps sustain our economy, foster growth, and strengthen community bonds.

We consistently achieve impressive results in the realm of entertainment.



In the past month alone, Nimbin community members have created and presented significant events such as the Spring Arts Festival, Performance Poetry World Cup, Nimbin Country Show, Blue Moon Cabaret, Sonic Bloom Dance Party, and the Nimbin Fashion Show.

These events showcase our town's spirit and provide valuable, unique experiences for residents and visitors to Nimbin alike.

The Chamber's general networking event on September 17th at the Nimbin Bush Theatre was a great success, filled with insightful talks, local connections, and inspiring ideas.

We were fortunate to hear

from several distinguished speakers who are making a difference in our community: Ken Jones and Carly Chapman from Rainbow Power Company, Loris Bianco from Nimbin Tax & Accounting, and Virginia Waters, Nimbin's very own successful Greens candidate for Lismore City Council.

It was an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow business owners and community leaders, fostering collaboration and strengthening relationships within our local area.

We would also like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Diana Roberts, former Nimbin Chamber of Commerce president and foundational member of many other community organisations throughout her rich history, including a stint as a councillor in the Lismore City Council from 1991 to 2004.

Diana recently attended a

ceremony in Sydney where she was awarded the well-deserved OAM (Order of Australia Medal). We thank you, Diana, for your extraordinary contribution to our community.

Additionally, local business Mountain Top Coffee is congratulated for winning the top gold in the Piccolo and Plunger categories and Champion Coffee with its Nimbin Blend. Their success demonstrates the high quality of local products and reflects the thriving entrepreneurial spirit within our community.

The Chamber would also like to welcome five new members: Loris Bianco from Nimbin Tax & Accounting; Aki and Aki from Nimbin Shokudou restaurant; Arwen Beaton; Liz Wilson Art; and Ryan Dylan. Alone we are faster, together we are stronger. We look forward to introducing you all to the Chamber and community at future networking events.

To further support the

community, the Chamber is sponsoring a public speaking workshop at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. The workshop, facilitated by Tony Kirton and guest facilitator Aline Binetruy, will be held over two half-days on Saturday, 12th October and Saturday, 19th October from 9am to 2pm. Tickets are AU\$100 for two half-days, and bookings can be made at: [www.nimbinaustralia.com.au](http://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au)

Open to everyone, this workshop will help you unleash your voice and body, share your message, and gain the confidence to speak your mind in public! Join us and the hundreds of others around Australia who have benefitted from this exceptional experience. As a community, we're resilient. By focusing on what makes Nimbin unique and continuing to work together, we can navigate these economic challenges and ensure our town remains a destination like no other.



## Nimbin youth space officially opens

by Rain Wickham, project co-ordinator

We are so happy to announce the official opening of Nimbin Youth. The space is off the second floor walkway at the Community Centre.

Our doors are now open for young people every Wednesday from 3pm to 6pm for our Lofi & Chill Night, and every Friday from 3pm to 6pm for Friday Weekend Vibes.

These are perfect times to unwind, connect and enjoy the space.

A massive thank you to everyone who has contributed through donations or support in any capacity. We, along with the young people, are incredibly grateful for your generosity.

The space is looking fantastic, and we're excited to see the amazing opportunities this will create for the young people.



### Animal therapy farm trip

Nimbin Youth would like to invite you to our animal therapy farm trip on Thursday, 17th October, from 3.30pm to 6pm.

This is a free event, but spots are limited to just 8 participants, so bookings are essential! If there's a lot of interest, we'll happily organise another session – we don't want anyone to miss out!

We'll provide transport, though space is limited, and guardian consent is required as we'll be leaving the Youth Space.

To secure your spot, please RSVP here: [www.nimbinyouth.org.au/event/animal-therapy](http://www.nimbinyouth.org.au/event/animal-therapy)

## Serving the annual Nimbin Show

by Sage Bryant, CWA Nimbin Branch

CWA Nimbin took part in the annual Nimbin Show again this year, and had the pleasure of serving our homemade jam and scones, along with tea and coffee. We love having the opportunity to showcase our scone and jam making skills, and we love feeding our community!

Thank you to the Nimbin A&I Society for putting on another fabulous show and for providing space for the CWA to participate. We hope to be serving both days again next year.

We would also like to thank Farmer Charlies in Lismore for their generous donation of the strawberries that our members made into the delicious jam served on the day.

### Open Days

CWA Open Days are held on the second and third Wednesday of each month. We serve nutritious and affordable \$5 lunches, and it's a great opportunity to come in and chat with members and learn how the CWA contributes to the community, and how you might benefit by being a part of a supportive women's group.



Morning crew



Afternoon crew

### 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-12noon, every Saturday, outside the newsagents.
- **Branch meeting:** 5pm, 2nd Monday of the month, new members always welcome!

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



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin  
New stock always arriving



# Protestors mobilise to disrupt weapons expo in Naarm

by Roisin McSweeney

In early September, Naarm hosted an international land defence and weapons exposition at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

It was a gathering of military companies and international contractors from Australia, Asia, Europe and the US to connect their military industry.

Tanks, guns, surveillance and robotics were displayed, alongside performance reviews of the equipment in real examples of killings and invasions.

Exhibitors included:

- NIOA – the largest Australian-owned supplier of weapons and ammunition;
- Israeli Aerospace Industries – suppliers of drones used in Gaza during ‘Operation Protective Edge’ which saw thousands of civilians killed and many injured;
- Boeing – the fifth largest weapons manufacturer, making bombs confirmed to be used on Rafah refugees;
- Birdon – Australian company for Maritime and Submarine warfare, listing the ISRAELI Defence Force (IDF) as one of their clients;
- ELBIT – Israel’s largest weapons provider; and
- Lockheed Martin – the world’s largest weapons manufacturer, providing F-35 jets to Israel, to name a few.

Other exhibitors included many of our universities, many of whom have engineering departments sponsored by these companies.

Before the expo began, I ‘locked-on’ to the Sleeping Lizard on the Montague Street exit to the Convention centre to disrupt the ‘bump-in’, aka the deliveries of arms to the expo.

I secured my arm inside a metal cylinder attached to the Sleeping Lizard (a transformed vehicle), where it is difficult to reach, requiring me to be cut out by the police before being arrested. This disrupted the access on this road for a couple of hours.

The Sleeping Lizard, Kalta, is seeking to spread the power of resistance. Living beneath Roxby Downs on Arabana country, Kalta has been woken by BHP, the largest uranium mine in the world, by cutting right in the lizard’s body.

The legacies of Arabana Elder Uncle Kevin Buzzacott and many others, are empowering people to shut down the uranium mines (extracted for nuclear war).

This mine has radioactive contamination impacts on the health of the landscape and its natural cycles, irreversibly poisoning our resources and ecosystems.

At a time when we need



to be helping people recover from disasters and suffering, protect our air, water and soil health for a turbulent future, we – being the Victorian Government in particular, as major sponsor of this arms fair – instead invite profiteering companies into our city to make deals with militaries and police forces across the planet.

All the while, the shareholders win as Naarm is complicit in supporting violent governments that oppress their people, fight to kill their neighbours and gain control of resources and land.

The media was suggesting 25,000 protesters would attend to cause chaos.

This sensationalised exaggeration (we wish 25,000 people came!) gave Victorian Police justification to spend \$10-15 million to bring in officers from across the state, resource them with special weapons to use on crowds, and authorise them with ‘special powers’ under the *Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003*.

Allegedly, all of this was to protect persons attending the 2024 Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition from a ‘terrorist act’, but what it really did was demonstrate the State’s refusal of the right to protest.

Wednesday morning, 11th September, was the first confrontation. On the one side were over 50 collectives – each with loud messages of anti-war, demilitarisation, weapons out of Naarm, stop arming Israel and free Palestine – joining to disrupt land forces.

These collectives came face-to-face with the Victorian Police Force and their defence of the exposition and its attendees. It was incredibly disturbing.

What I saw was hundreds of cops, three rows deep; cops on horses, cops behind shields, cops wearing gloves spraying pepper spray, shooting rubber bullets, five cop takedowns.

The use of these crowd control weapons was legal under the Control of Weapons Act and obviously

rather fitting, being used to protect a weapons expo. They came prepared for conflict, ultimately creating it.

The following days saw fewer protesters and less

violence, yet the presence of resistance was still holding at the barricade, where still, three rows of cops stood in silence.

This state-sanctioned

violence embodies the very paradigm we are challenging. It is deeply unsettling to realise that our government’s priority is to safeguard a wealthy minority that profits from war and environmental destruction — through resource extraction, control over distribution, and the violent suppression of those who strive to protect the land essential to our survival.

The protesters were enraged, the explicit irony of the situation had people fuming, leading to more aggression and ultimately 30 arrests, many injuries, a couple of flaming bins and no doubt some trauma.

We return to our homes after these protest events exhausted, united and in some cases divided. Similar questions reeling on each other’s minds, how do we make effective change?

How do we inform the public, encouraging participation in a way that is accessible and desirable? How do we get through to the perpetrators?

It has been announced that Land Forces will be held in Naarm again in 2026. After two Land Forces expositions in Brisbane were disrupted consecutively, ultimately the state government decided not to host it anymore.

With the exposition returning to Naarm in two years time, this is our opportunity to strengthen our strategy and effectiveness, and to boot this horrendous violence-fair off the continent.

At the least we will return, to disrupt and to bring it to the attention of the people on this continent, who are non-consensually and indirectly funding these military-industrial, grotesque, profiteering efforts for ‘safety’ and ‘security.’



by Kyogle Environment Group

How time flies. On February 9th 2017, the then federal treasurer, Scott Morrison rose from his parliamentary front-bench seat and delivered one of the more colourful, albeit disturbing, stunts in modern Australian political history.

“Don’t be afraid, don’t be scared, it won’t hurt you, it’s coal,” he said, clutching a lump that had been coated with lacquer so not to dirty his \$1500 designer suit.

The defiant performance that mocked the fear of climate change drew guffaws of laughter from his Liberal and National party colleagues, as he accused the then Opposition of “coal-o-phobia.”

How times change and how times don’t change!

In 2017, global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions were 405 parts per million (ppm) and today they are about 424 ppm, and well on the way to 550 ppm by mid century. Anything over 350 ppm is considered a dangerous level for future climate and that compares with pre-industrial levels of 280 ppm.

At this rate of increase, which is tracking above the worst-case scenarios, the world is on target for at least three degrees, possibly four, of average global warming by late this century and with it, according to the International Panel on Climate Change, will come massive environmental, social and economic change for the worse.

The world has already reached 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and some scientific journals say that

## Hunter Valley operations

figure could be two degrees above in as little as six years from now.

And since 2017 in Australia? A coal export boom. Especially in the key producing states of NSW and Queensland. With production topping out so far at about 335 million tonnes in 2023, with about 40% in NSW, and Queensland taking 50%.

But that boom shows no signs of coming to an end any time, with Environment Minister Tanya Pliberseks’ approval this week of extensions of three existing coal mines in NSW making a mockery once more of climate science and the dire warnings of people as diverse as Pope Francis and the head of the UN Antonio Guterres about the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to preserve a stable, inhabitable planet.

Even though the rest of the world has begun to take steps to transition away from a carbon economy, Australia is still riding on the coat-tails of an industry that with the best of help from both major political parties, the Murdoch media and the Minerals Council of Australia is going absolutely gangbusters in terms of being a machine to print money, with the latest figures showing annual coal revenues up from \$38 billion in the year just before Morrison’s stunt, to \$163 billion in 2023.

So if you’ll pardon the pun, let’s drill down further into what makes this industry tick and why you the citizen of this beautiful place (planet and country) are getting metaphorically screwed on several fronts including coal miners not paying any tax, and leaving a legacy not only with a fractured climate and atmosphere but also with a fractured landscape.



If you want to see this close up, we suggest a drive to the Hunter Valley. The mines there can clearly be seen from space. Save yourself the trip and the petrol, and instead check out Google Earth and the enormous opencut coal mines appear like sores that have erupted from the living landscape itself.

They’re all there, and they are big, and 17 of them are due to close over the next two decades as the coal is mined out, representing about two thirds of the valley floor in some areas of the Upper Hunter.

While there is a feeble attempt to restore the land to its once-productive glory, the nature of mining – stripping the topsoil away (overburden is the industry term) and the release of toxic chemicals such as mercury from the coal itself – poisons the water courses that once ran through the area. Nothing will ever be the same again.

So what to do in this situation? Expand coal mining yet again, but this time on an even bigger scale, one that dwarfs the existing open cut coal mines in the Hunter Valley.

Psychology and sanity may seem like terms that have little to do with mining engineering but bear this in mind with the phrase Hunter Valley Operations, or HVO for short.

HVO represents two opencut mines about 25km from the town of Singleton and would be the biggest

ever coal project in the history of NSW, with about 400 million tonnes of coal and about 1.2 billion tonnes of emissions over the life of the mine, equal to eight times the annual emissions of all of NSW.

Given the NSW government’s ambition of net zero by 2050, this proposal has some serious implications for global climate.

But it gets worse. The joint owners of the project, Yancoal and Glencore, are major companies but legal avoiders of tax in this country. Glencore has been involved in corruption issues in Africa.

Not only does the Australian taxpayer miss out on the massive boom time profits from these two corporate miscreants, they also face the massive bill for mine reparation at the end of these coal mines’ economic life given that their corporate owners can legally walk away from their responsibilities with little consequence.

And what type of coal is to be mined? Thermal coal to be used for electricity production. A commodity that is going to face an economic squeeze with the worldwide growth of renewable energy.

So for Yancoal and Glencore and the other coal miners, it’s a case of grab and plunder what you can and bugger the consequences. While the taxpayers won’t benefit, the (mostly overseas) shareholders will!

# Not police business!

by Michael Balderstone

There's a marvellous story about the Maories fighting the English back in the day. They called a halt to the fighting for a count of each side's numbers, and when they discovered it had got unfair, they gave some of their warriors to the English to even it up.

Maybe the drug gangs should lend a few of their troops to the cops now.

The drug war is slowly destroying the police and no-one should be surprised. It is undermining their culture a little bit more every day.

What should be just a health issue is now a battle between not very highly paid frontline cops versus well-armed gangs living the high life, high risk lifestyle.

Anyone half-educated understands by now the drug war is all about Big Pharma keeping control of the pain relief market. The poor cops are their pawns. Big Pharma is licensed to grow opium and sell it in pills, but anyone else using the plant is a dirty junkie.

Cannabis can only be safely consumed if it comes via a doctor (and grown overseas indoors and irradiated). It is deemed dangerous for people to grow their own, even it hasn't killed one person in 10,000 years.

The drug war propaganda has been brilliantly effective, especially when you throw the question out there about risking mental health. Smoke weed and risk going mad, thank you John Howard.

We all know drug use is really a health issue, but how can we extricate ourselves from this war which just gets worse by the day. A lot of businesses now depend on it for their work: courts, lawyers, the jail and rehab industries, and the police.

The majority of police work is drug related. The majority of people in jail are there for drug related crime. (35% are



Aboriginal in Australia, 3% of the population! At least be embarrassed, please.)

The police have consistently opposed any change to the drug laws apart from recent cautionary moves, because they simply cannot keep up and waste hours on paperwork for personal drug use busts that receive minimal if any punishment in the courts. Why? Because everyone else has realised that drug use is a health issue.

But this war is their work, their daily job. Their mortgage payments. Arm up and strap yourself in because any house you have to knock on the door of could open to a looney with a gun.

Constables get paid about \$80k a year, increasing only ten grand or so after five years in the force, which should be called service. Police Service. Force creates resistance by its very nature. The average Aussie income is over \$90k.

Recent data shows about one in five police are on long term sick leave from workplace injuries or vacancies. 4500 vacancies in Australia with about half in NSW. In fact, 2279 vacancies in NSW and 1362 on sick leave, leaves the force in our state 20% down.

Of course response times are down and cops are

exhausted and stressed. 665 new recruits came in last year against 1423 who retired in NSW.

I've spoken to dozens of police over 40 years in Nimbin, mostly decent blokes trying to make sense of their jobs. The majority however don't talk, are closed off and understandably afraid and wary of showing themselves at all.

I puzzle over their insistence to keep supporting the drug war. Now they're seen as the experts and get the last say. On every front for years I hear they oppose change. Experts at the war maybe, but not drug experts at all, surely!

People say it's corruption. Surely those bad old days of the brown envelope under the table are no longer, yet their bullying culture remains the same, as recent news shows. Very, very similar to the army. Maybe it's as simple as the gangs saying we know where your kids go to school; don't touch us!

Whatever makes them insist on keeping on at the impossible task to win war, or possibly just power, it's destroying their culture. Who actually respects and supports the drug war anymore? Nobody I know, not one person.

It's very hard for the police to admit they've been barking up the wrong tree though. But so it is for most of us all over the place, when I look at our recent history.

Change is being forced upon us, better to let go soon than be dragged along for another decade or two.

# Australia's double standard on Palestine

by Robert Cameron

*"Truthfulness has never been counted among the political virtues, and lies have always been regarded as justifiable tools in political dealings."* – Hannah Arendt

*"Political language – and with all variations this is true of all political parties, from Conservatives to Anarchists – is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."* – George Orwell



On 1st August 2024, the Government of Australia made a Declaration of Intervention to the International Court of Justice in the matter of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. In its submission the Government noted the following points: "Australia stresses its continued commitment to the rules-based international order that is critical for maintaining international peace and security. It recognises the vital role the Court plays in this regard as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, particularly in relation to the peaceful settlement of disputes."

The Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Foreign Minister often refer to Australia's continued commitment to the rules-based international order when discussing solutions to Israel's genocidal war on the Palestinian people.

Given this so-called continued commitment, it is concerning the Australian Government has not made a Declaration of Intervention to the International Court of Justice in the matter of the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v Israel), brought before the International Court of Justice on 29th December 2023.

The ICJ reached the following conclusions on 19th July 2024: "Israel's

continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) is unlawful. Israel is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the OPT as rapidly as possible".

(The Occupied Palestinian Territory referred to includes the West Bank, the Gaza strip and East Jerusalem),

The Court added that Israel's legislation and measures violate the international prohibition on racial segregation and apartheid. The ICJ mandated Israel to end its occupation, dismantle its settlements, provide full reparations to Palestinian victims and facilitate the return of displaced people.

It seems that Australia is exhibiting a double standard here. While it has provided full support for Ukraine, a country fighting for autonomy against the invasion of Russia, it has not found any voice when it comes to supporting the ICJ's advisory findings on the occupation of the Palestinian territories.

The Court refuted the notion that Palestinian self-determination must be achieved solely through bilateral negotiations with Israel – a requirement that has subjected Palestinians to violence, dispossession and rights violations.

The Court reaffirmed the principle that freedom from foreign military occupation, racial segregation and apartheid is absolutely non-negotiable.

Unfortunately, a final decision by the ICJ may be many years away. The court has made these findings in an advisory capacity only as it has in the Ukraine/Russia case. This was understood

even when the case was brought to the ICJ. Even if the decision was binding who is going to enforce it? Israel has undying support from the USA, the world's primary nuclear power.

What does Australia mean by its adherence to the 'Rules Based Order'? This is a matter for on-going conjecture, but one explanation could be "the rules that protect sovereignty, preserve peace, and curb excessive use of power".

If Australia had any inclination to abide by the advisory decision of the ICJ and therefore the "Rules Based Order" It would need to at the very least do the following:

- Work to promote a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and now Lebanon
  - Assist with ensuring safe delivery of essential food and medical supplies to Gaza
  - Boycott and defund any Australian based organisation that provides funding to Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank
  - Ensure independent investigations into the death of humanitarian aid workers including Zomi Frankel and her co-workers
  - Call for the suspension of intelligence sharing with the IDF
  - Investigate any Australian citizen who has travelled to Israel to fight for the IDF (just as happens when Australians fight for the armies of other countries)
- As Hannah Arendt wrote: "This constant lying is not aimed at making the people believe a lie, but at ensuring that no one believes anything anymore."

**SENIORS  
LOCAL YURT CO-OP  
PROJECT**

Innovative smart visionary shelter  
Inspect display by appointment  
**Phone 0415-638-380**  
[usefulyurts@yahoo.com.au](mailto:usefulyurts@yahoo.com.au)

**BARCOO PLUMBING**  
PLUMBING • DRAINAGE • GASFITTING

24/7 SERVICES  
LIC NO. 320695C

**IAN HARDIE**  
**0427 445 555**

GENERAL PLUMBING & MAINTENANCE • BLOCKED DRAINS  
BATHROOM & KITCHEN RENOVATIONS • RAINWATER TANKS & PUMPS  
ROOFING & GUTTERING • GAS INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS  
ONSITE SEWERAGE SYSTEM DESIGN • HOT WATER SERVICES

barcooplumbing@bigpond.com | barcooplumbingservices.com |

**Jayne E. Alleman**  
Adv.Dip.Acc., Dip.Acc.,

**NIMBIN  
NUMBERS**

Tax Agent  
98777003

**19 years  
experience**

**Phone 0457-497-011**  
Email: [jayne@nimbintax.com.au](mailto:jayne@nimbintax.com.au)

# Action underway at Roxby Downs

by the Roxby Vigil

Why should the people of the Northern Rivers care about Roxby Downs? Because we've always cared about what's going on around us, and our collective experience has been one of taking in the information, coming to an understanding and finding solutions.

Aquarian mobs have been travelling out into the wider realms throughout our small 50-year history, helping in no insignificant way to bring justice and due care of our old country across many of the actions that have taken place within that 50 years.

We have just renewed our sparking point in 2023, and having come through that cycle it's almost like being there again with another strong cycle of awareness and action gathering momentum.

Our ethics remain, our trust and care for each other remains, our willingness to stand up for 'Old Mother' is unflinching and our commitment to the future of the earth is undying. Together on this we are one; we are in agreement.

So, writing the Roxby story has been both to inform and to also open up new possibilities.

There is a small mob of people holding the flame out there on the Oodnadatta Track and in Marree at the Arabunna Centre, and by the time you are potentially reading this, another gathering of the wider mob will be happening, to set action in motion.

The massive water extraction from the GAB



and its impacts on the Mound Springs of the Lake Eyre region will be brought into focus. Roxby and the push by the nuclear industry in Australia is all being brought into focus to enable action to be taken.

Here in the most eastern realms of the country, where each new day sees the first sunrise on the continent, the fresh consciousness awakening and the inspiration to act at whatever level becomes apparent. Continuing to share and spread awareness lies at the heart of so much that has been initiated here. It is all important.

Tjilpi Buzzacott has left us late last year. He was born in close proximity to Lake Eyre South, and gave all his later adult years (40-plus) to the protection of his country... and

he wants us all to continue to hold onto the consciousness of that old country, and to do what we can to halt the water pillaging and to let the country heal. That is the first step.

The tiers and layers of Roxby itself require substantial effort and energy to peel back the glossy exterior, to expose the radioactively contaminated substances that permeate the air, land and water. Any findings are shrouded in private company data or at best in some interdepartmental package that satisfies a not very scrupulous government that does not look for issues it can easily ignore.

There are so many aspects and elements of this giant quandary that thorough investigation is what needs to be done.

To be further informed in more detail,

contact might be made with:

- Friends of the Earth in Melbourne, who continue to maintain a strong anti-nuclear working team within all their other environmental work. They continue to produce Chain Reaction, a long-standing informative publication.
- Nuclear Free WA, which has some very up-to-date information to share, including their stand against now regular visits to the Port of Fremantle by US nuclear submarines. Spent fuel rods from proposed nuclear-powered vessels are also proposed to be managed in this locale.

The WA gov through an act of stealth has allowed a waste repository to be built east of Kalgoorlie which includes disposal of low-level nuclear waste. There are also proposals for the Mulga Rock uranium mine to proceed, as yet unrealised.

Pine Gap continues to service the war machine, reportedly assisting with location of strikes in Palestine. And this is the other part of the equation, where nuclear and war are on the rise at an alarming rate.

The opportunities to counter-balance such acceleration are seemingly beyond our reach much of the time. Yet, being together, supporting our communities and putting it all out there is how we move forward.

Staying true to what brought us all together in the first place, and doing what we can to realise the solutions is our deepest commitment, and it all contributes to our main objective... a peaceful and sustainable world.



Activists from Rising Tide Northern Rivers have been meeting regularly all year to train for the 10-day blockade of the world's largest coal port in Newcastle in November.

The "People's Blockade" aims to bring together 10,000 people to stop coal ships from entering or leaving the harbour for at least 50 hours, in an escalation of last year's blockade, when around 3000 people closed the port for 32 hours.

Using kayaks, SUPs, surfboards and anything that floats, activists will prevent all exports of coal from Newcastle from 22nd to 24th November, before taking the message to Canberra.

People from the Tweed Coast to Lismore have been practising paddling on the Brunswick and Tweed Rivers every month this year, honing their kayaking, activism and consensus-making skills in preparation for the event, which promises to be the largest ever civil disobedience for the climate in Australia's history.

"Our governments are failing to protect us from the existential threat of climate change, so we are forced to take matters into our own hands," said participant Emma Briggs, 55, from Suffolk Park.

"The warnings from scientists get more urgent every year, but we are still expanding coal mines and opening new gas fields and pipelines. It has to stop, and we're determined to demonstrate that there is no social licence for new fossil fuel projects," she said.

Tweed resident and bush regenerator, MJ Johnston said, "This is now a fight for survival and humanity. It is a human reaction to feel the need to take protest actions in order to prevent the collapse of our liveable world. The time for action is now!"

Lillian Rock pensioner and environmental activist, Chibo Mertineit said, "We know since the eighties that burning fossil fuel will impact negatively on our future on the planet. Our government is still giving 22k taxpayer dollars a minute to the fossil fuel industries. We need to stop this madness now."

More information is available by contacting: [northernrivers@risingtide.org.au](mailto:northernrivers@risingtide.org.au)

If you are interested in being involved in the blockade in November; you can register on the Rising Tide website: [www.risingtide.org.au](http://www.risingtide.org.au)

## Politics of Life comes to Murwillumbah

by Richard Hil

The first in a series titled 'This Stuff Matters – The Politics of Life', takes place on the 21st November at M-Arts, Murwillumbah.

Noted authors and commentators Julianne Schultz (*The Idea of Australia – A Search for the Soul of a Nation*) and Judith

White (*Culture Heist: Art versus Money – The fight for the soul of a great public institution*) will discuss the implications of the US election.

Titled 'Phew or Spew? What the US election means for you, me and everything on the planet', the event starts at 6pm. Food and drinks will be available.

Come and indulge in some meaningful conversation that just might make a difference to how you see the world.

Watch for more fascinating conversations about how life is changing (so, so rapidly) and what we can do to create better, more joyous, connected and resilient communities.

## Mental Health Month

**lismore city council**

Lismore City Council is offering a range of free workshops to support community recovery throughout October.

For Nimbin and surrounding communities, we have the following workshops run by highly experienced and well-known local therapists and counsellors.

For bookings call 02 6625 0500 or email [recovery@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recovery@lismore.nsw.gov.au)



**Practical and powerful tools and techniques for regulating your nervous system**

Join **Lissie Turner**, internationally certified yoga therapist, to learn how to take command of your own internal experience by recognising how your body responds to triggers and traumas, and how to immediately implement practical and powerful tools to come back to centre.

No prior yoga experience necessary. Please bring your own yoga mats or a towel.

**When:** Saturday, 12 October 12.45pm – 2.45pm

**Where:** Dance Studio, 81 Cullen St, Nimbin

**Recover Me: A course in trauma recovery tools**

Having trouble making decisions or feeling easily overwhelmed? Having flashbacks of the event or repetitive negative thoughts? Feel down and depressed?

**RECOVER ME** is a mental health recovery course for those who've experienced disaster.

Learn how to heal a wounded nervous system and get back on top of your world.

Join **Paul Dodd**, Counsellor and Mental Health coach.

**When:** Saturday, 19 October 1pm – 3pm

**Where:** Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen St, Nimbin

**Stress and Trauma Workshop with Sharon Mullan (ACAP)**

Trauma happens when there is a lack of choice. While the person is holding the trauma, they will continue to feel they have no choice. It is a natural process that has yet to be completed. When a person is in the right company with the right skills at hand, the trauma or tension will come away over time.

Stress and trauma therapist **Sharon Mullan** is a person who can provide that safety and those skills.

**When:** Saturday, 26 October 12.45pm – 2.45pm

**Where:** Dance Studio, 81 Cullen St, Nimbin



Jodi Martin and Terri Nicholson

## Jodi Martin returns to Lismore

Jodi Martin's 'Country Mile Tour' is coming to Lismore, supported by Terri Nicholson.

Spring 2024 sees singer-songwriter Jodi Martin hit the road with her standout latest single *Country Mile* featuring Americana heavyweight Lachlan Bryan.

The 'Country Mile Tour' spearheads a passionate Kickstarter campaign for Jodi to raise funds for her next studio album with producer Shane Nicholson, and showcases Jodi as one of our finest songwriters and



storytellers (*The Weekend Australian*).

Josh Cunningham of The Waifs describes Jodi's show as, "heartwarming songs and hilarious stories"... a show that will lift your spirits and add a shine to the rest of your

week and beyond.

The opening set will be by very special local guest, Terri Nicholson. From the rainforests of Terania Creek, she weaves moving lyrical songs of personal and environmental themes. Influenced by living in Bolivia, South America, she shares songs in Spanish also.

Catch the show at the Rochdale Theatre, Lismore at 7pm on Friday 11th October. Tickets \$33 from: <https://jodimartin.com> or on the door.

Hot drinks available on the night.

## Big line-up for cabaret show



Mandy Hawkes

Nimbin School of Arts final Blue Moon Cabaret for 2024 is on Saturday 9th November.

Featured acts include the Mandy Hawkes band; jazz singer Laura Nobel with bassist Greg Lyon; Doug and Biko; Williamina Bowers; dance ensembles Nia Pixies and Nimbin's own Ganga Faeries; grand pianist Stephanie Hamlet; poets Tug Dumbly and Sarah Lock; comedian S Sorrensen; Nimbin Fashion; cabaret artiste Joel Salom; poet/host David Hallett and more.

Fully catered by Eltham Pantry (no BYO). Tickets and table reservations are essential from Perceptio Bookshop, phone 6689-1766. This show will sell out, so book early.

## Aquarius Festival doco to open Byron Bay Film Festival

The Opening Night film at this year's Byron Bay Film Festival is a feature-length documentary that captures and celebrates a defining event in the history of the Northern Rivers – the 1973 Aquarius Festival.

The film, *Aquarius*, directed by local filmmaker Wendy Champagne, is sub-titled 'Dreamers, Tree-huggers and Radical Ratbags', 10,000 of whom descended on the sleepy hinterland township of Nimbin, introducing sometimes unwelcome new ideas and behaviours such as drug use, free love and hedonism.

The inflow of a revolutionary agenda, weird sounds and psychedelic aesthetic transformed the moribund dairy and banana growing community into the vibrant rainbow region that still exists today.

Many of the newcomers stayed, strengthening the burgeoning environmental, anti-war, Aboriginal rights and feminist movements, and giving the Northern Rivers a reputation as a haven of social and cultural free-thinking that has attracted similar-minded seekers from all over the world ever since.

"[The Festival] attracted visionaries and prophets, pioneers, who could see the vision and knew how to work for it, and also the people who wanted to be saved, people who were falling and wanted a new kind of community to live in," says its director, Graeme Dunstan.

The hippies didn't so much "find" Nimbin, Dunstan says, as they were called there, into the heart of ancient initiation country.

Wendy Champagne is an award-winning writer and documentary filmmaker whose film, *BAS! Beyond the*



Photo: Harry Watson Smith



Wendy Champagne and Justine Kerrigan ACS on location



Graeme Dunstan and Paul Joseph Photo: Peter Derrett

*Red Light*, a study of child-trafficking, opened the Byron Bay Film Festival in 2010.

To make *Aquarius*, the Byron Shire resident says she spent three years finding storytellers and gathering and stitching together archive footage to chronicle all the excitement and chaos of the festival.

The 18th Byron Bay Film

Festival's Opening Night film and Gala Party takes place on Friday 18th October at Byron Palace Cinemas. The programme runs until 27th October.

Visit: [www.bbff.com.au](http://www.bbff.com.au) for more information.

*Aquarius* is also screening at the Nimbin Bush Theatre at 2pm on Sunday 20th October. Tickets through TryBooking.

## Wild Tails

The value of Story-telling and other Quality Interpretation in Wildlife Tourism



Email: [chair@wildlifetourismaustralia.org.au](mailto:chair@wildlifetourismaustralia.org.au)

Conference 5-7 November 2024  
Online and at Hastings Point  
NSW Australia

The conference aims to bring together tour operators, ecolodge and zoo staff, researchers, students, conservation managers, NGOs and local governments



Wildlife Tourism Australia  
Promoting environmentally-sustainable wildlife tourism  
[www.wildlifetourism.org.au](http://www.wildlifetourism.org.au)





# WOMEN OF SONG

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium is pleased to host 'Women Of Song' in its Concert Room on Saturday 26th October, at 7pm.

'Women of Song' is an authentic show of conversations and songs, articulating First Nations cultural practice in the here and now, live on stage.

It's an innovative new show, developed by the acclaimed creative producer, Jessie Lloyd (pictured) of Mission Songs Project. Preparation included extensive cultural consultation undertaken by Jessie during 2022.

The show includes themes of intergenerational practices, singing on and from country, commitment to community, and preserving knowledge in song. It's an intimate celebration of the 'here and now' of Indigenous culture, a rare mix of spontaneous conversation and songs, exploring the modern-day practice and living heart of the 'world's oldest living culture'.

The audience listens in as three First Nations singers have a conversation. Someone's story may remind another of a song; or a favourite popular song might start a discussion among them all. Each conversation and each performance will be unique, as the women explore live on stage how their songs preserve the social, cultural, or environmental shifts of a community, and deepen connections to country, genealogy, and custom.

As creative producer, Jessie Lloyd brings together the artists for each tour, uniquely shaping the performance to the location: some will be well-known, others are exciting new talent.

Women of Song is an amazing opportunity to experience First Nations cultural practices in music from the women that practise them: this culture exists in contemporary music, and these First Nations women are leading it.

Tickets are available at: <https://events.humanitix.com/wos-lismore>

**Black Dog Honey**

Local Raw Honey, Flavoured Honey, Honey Comb, Beeswax, Candles, Balms

[www.blackdoghoney.com.au](http://www.blackdoghoney.com.au)  
Ph.0428 976 791

**Tilly's Tarot**

Intuitive guidance to seek the answers within

**Rebecca**  
4th Generation Clairvoyant

**0435 104 379**  
email: [tillystarot101@gmail.com](mailto:tillystarot101@gmail.com)  
fb: Tilly's Tarot

**Nimbin Valley Mobile Detailing**

We cover all small villages in the Nimbin Valley

**Phone: 0435 412 838**

Cars - Trucks - Caravans - 4WD's - Motor Homes - Farm Machinery

**WE COME TO YOU**

**Vedic Vegetarian**

We love the library/bus!

**76 Cullen Street**

Hot meals, veg/vegan, takeaway, eat in, salads, sweets, slushies

## Are we stuck in a climate action cul-de-sac?

"How many disasters does it take to wake people up to the fact that Australia's climate is becoming more extreme, with today's destruction set to be dwarfed by things to come? Do people realise that adapting to climate change won't be possible in some parts of the country?" – Dr Joelle Gergis

On 23rd October, the Brunswick Picture House will host 'Highway to Hell: Are we stuck in a climate action cul-de-sac?' – a pivotal event featuring a presentation by renowned climate scientist Dr Joelle Gergis, lead author of IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report and *Quarterly Essay* author of 'Highway to Hell'.

Dr Gergis will discuss government paralysis, false solutions, and the folly of adaptation in the face of uncurbed fossil fuel use. The threat is real, and the community is being called to act.

Following Dr Gergis's presentation, a panel of local experts and advocates will discuss practical solutions and community-driven initiatives. Key discussion points include:

- Ending new coal and gas projects;

ARE WE STUCK IN A CLIMATE ACTION CUL-DE-SAC?  
**HIGHWAY TO HELL**

WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER • BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE • 6PM  
\$20

Hosted by Chela Reed Wilkey. Followed by a Panel and community conversation that includes:

Young Climate Leader with Scott; Jessica Hines; Shortland; Crisla Ford; Family Justice; Bernadette Green; Caroline & the Honourable Family Justice; Climate Activist and School Teacher Michelle Lewis; Journalist and Author of Book: Australia's Toxic Relationship with Big Oil; Gayle Karmaliak

- Transitioning to 100% renewable energy;
- Creating sustainable local jobs;
- Tackling climate, housing, and cost-of-living crises through integrated solutions;
- Holding governments and corporations accountable; and
- Changing the climate story from despair to possibility.

The event goes beyond talk to action, and will culminate in a community forum, empowering attendees to get involved with local climate justice initiatives, ensuring community voices shape the path forward.

Action is the antidote to despair. This urgent gathering provides multiple avenues for immediate involvement. From housing insecurity to extreme weather events, our

community is on the front lines. This event is about turning anxiety into action, despair into determination.

Tickets are \$20 from: <https://brunswickpicturehouse.com>  
Post-event trauma-informed support will be available, recognising the emotional impact of climate discussions.

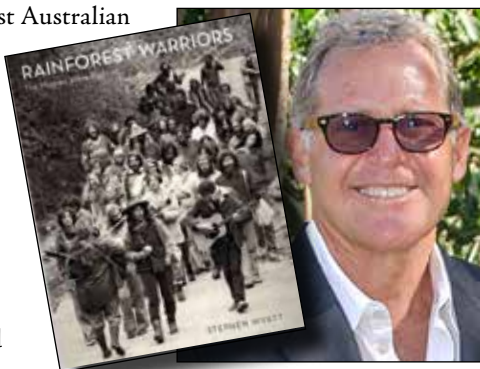
## Author talk

Goonellabah Library will host an author talk with local author Stephen Wyatt (pictured), who lives in Byron Bay on ten acres of regenerated rainforest and was a journalist with the *Australian Financial Review*.

His new book, *Rainforest Warriors: The Hippies Were Right*, tells the story of extraordinary cultural change in the Northern Rivers in the 1970s and how that led

to one of the first Australian protests against environmental destruction.

It was a fight that resulted in undreamt of success: the creation of national parks down the spine of the state, and it set the scene for environmental action for decades thereafter: at the Franklin in Tasmania, in the Daintree, coal



seam gas blockades and internationally. *Rainforest Warriors* is a large format, 'coffee-table'

style book filled with many beautiful, historical and contemporary photographs alongside its well-researched history based on interviews with original Northern Rivers activists.

The event will be held on Sunday 20th October at 3pm at Goonellabah Library.

Bookings can be made by selecting the Events tab on the Richmond Tweed Regional Library website: <https://rtrl.nsw.gov.au> or in person at any library branch, or over the phone: 6625-5100.

## Hanging Rock talent quest

There is now less than a month to prepare for Hanging Rock's Got Talent, which will be held on Saturday 2nd November from 3pm.

This talent show is all about celebrating the amazing talented souls hiding in our hills, bravely prepared to get on the stage in front of a supportive audience and four celebrity judges.

First prize is \$400 and minor prizes equalling another \$400 are available to win in junior and open sections.

Tell us a story, make us laugh, sing or play music, spoken word, dance or performance.

Rehearse a bit in your bedroom, then register by sending an email to: [HangRockHall@gmail.com](mailto:HangRockHall@gmail.com)

Entry costs \$5. Catering will be provided by Barkersvale P&C and Alfred's Coffee Cart.

**HANGING ROCK'S GOT TALENT 2024**

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER AT 3PM  
\$400 First prize - \$100 People Choice - \$100 Juniors  
\$5 Entry, Kids Free, Food & Drink Available.  
register at [hangingrockhall.org.au](http://hangingrockhall.org.au)

**HANGING ROCK HALL**  
OUR COMMUNITY - YOUR HALL

Celebrate local Talent.  
Encourage the beautiful creative souls that live in our hills.

**- FLOOR SANDING -**

New & old floors, verandahs, decks

- Free quotes & advice
- Prompt service
- Quality work assured

• All areas serviced

**Rob Clark ph 6632-3342 or 0410-016-694**  
ABN 93 105 831 192

**NIMBIN BOWLO**

25 Sibley Street Nimbin  
Phone 6689-1250

**ADVICE FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS**

*Home of the Big Bowler*

**Club opening hours:**  
Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close, Sun 8.30am to 4pm  
Sibley's Bistro open Wed-Sat 5 to 8pm, 6689-1473

- Open Mic, Wednesday 9th October, 6pm
- Trivia night, Saturday 19th October, 6.30pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome