

# Norco milk contract not renewed

## On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan, MP for Page

Labor has axed Norco milk from our local hospitals. This is a shameful decision.

Norco has been the long-standing milk supplier for health facilities from Tweed Heads to Port Macquarie, yet the Labor State Government has now dumped them for another supplier.

Labor don't get our regional communities and don't understand that this could have real consequences, including potential job losses and reduced income for the 191 farming families and the hundreds who work for our local co-operative.

### Crozier and Oakes Oval official opening

The Crozier and Oakes Oval Lismore upgrades have officially opened! I secured \$6 million towards this \$12.4 million project.

This is an important upgrade to get visitors and events back into our town, attract significant sporting events across five different codes, in addition to being a great facility for our local community too.

These events will mean more money spent in local motels, restaurants, cafes and retail shops, securing local jobs and helping small businesses.



The Oakes Oval upgrades include:

- A new media and coaches boxes;
- Change room upgrades;
- Upgrade of grandstand including new seating;

- Internal refurbishment to the Gordon Pavilion that includes a function room, bar and kitchen; and

- Upgraded amenities, accessible amenities and storeroom.

The Crozier upgrades include:

- A new pavilion off the back of the existing grandstand, which includes a function room;
- Commercial kitchen, amenities, a lift and office space;
- Coaches boxes and viewing deck for both fields; and
- Old change rooms have been upgraded and another one constructed.

Across the precinct, three new amenities blocks have been constructed, two scoreboards upgraded, construction of spectator mounds, new cricket facility training nets to a national standard, landscaping and new perimeter fencing installed.

This was funded by Federal, State and Local Governments, with contributions from sporting codes. Great to see all levels of government working together.

### Red Cross turns 110

Recently in Parliament, I congratulated the Australian Red Cross on 110 years of valued service to our communities.

The Jiggi-Georgica and Lismore branches have both played incredibly important roles during our floods, bushfires, and many other challenging times.

Thank you to all staff and volunteers involved at these branches for your tremendous efforts.

# Much-needed NSW Drug Summit

by Janelle Saffin MP  
State Member for Lismore

The Minns Government has announced that the NSW Drug Summit will be held in Sydney on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December this year, with two days of regional summits in October.

In 1999, I attended the Drug Summit conducted by the Carr Labor Government, which is widely acknowledged as a significant turning point in drug and alcohol policy.

It led to initiatives such as the safe injecting room in Kings Cross, which has been saving lives for 23 years. But that was a long time ago.

Since then we have had the Special Commission of Inquiry into Ice which came up with some fantastic recommendations and I anticipate these will all be on the table at the Drug Summit.

We need a drug policy that is fit for the 21st century. I have a mountain of reports from round tables and

inquiries over recent years, all saying the same thing: recognise drug use as a health and social justice issue.

It was a Minns Government key election commitment to hold a drug summit because of the great need in the community for drug policy reform.

### CSIRO flood mapping

The Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative, led by the CSIRO, has for the first time provided extensive and detailed data for flood mapping our region.

The \$11.4 million project used LiDAR and Bathymetry to build a 3D digital surface map covering more than 30,000 square kilometres of the Northern Rivers.

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data was collected using an aeroplane with LiDAR sensors attached flying over the region. These sensors were used to collect accurate digital elevation models for the region for hydrodynamic modelling.

There were also ground crews conducting surveys to test information collected by the LiDAR equipment.

River bathymetry refers to boats in the rivers with sonar equipment that collect accurate information on the cross sections of the river network to inform the hydrodynamic model. This detailed mapping provides a comprehensive overview of the river systems and can now be used by local councils and consultants for flood modelling and planning to reduce the impact of floods.

The data forms the critical scientific evidence base that can be used by the NSW Government, local councils and non-government organisations for a range of other purposes including: land use, transport and housing planning, environmental and ecological studies, hydrological assessments, and flood mitigation strategies and plans for the Northern Rivers region.

The CSIRO report into flood mitigation strategies is

due for completion in August 2025.

### Cutting red tape for teachers

Great news for our teachers, with changes to teacher accreditation and professional development, that will free them from a lot of tedious red tape and administrative work.

Teachers are required to do 100 hours of professional development every five years to maintain their accreditation.

The changes mean they won't be forced to do 50 of these hours in previously mandated areas, but instead they will be able to identify the professional development that is relevant to their teaching and the education of their students.

And they will no longer need to write time-consuming evaluations of the professional development they complete.

These changes will ensure that every hour of professional learning that our teachers do is valuable to their classroom.



Janelle Saffin MP with Associate Professor Berto Pandolfo from the Living Lab Northern Rivers, on site at the timber recycling trial, involving the deconstruction of a Lismore buyback home

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- Kirsten, June 2023

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## The Waste Services Review: A controversial process

Lismore City Council's Waste Services Review was supposed to provide a comprehensive roadmap to improve the financial sustainability of our waste management systems. Instead, it has led to secrecy and potentially harmful decisions for our residents.

The decision to move discussions about the waste review into confidential sessions has sidelined the public and cast a shadow over the entire process. This lack of openness is alarming, especially when the outcomes of this review could lead to the privatisation of our waste services.

The council's decision to discuss the Waste Services Review behind closed doors raises serious questions about transparency. Waste management is a critical public service, and any changes – especially those that could lead to privatisation – must be openly debated.

The fact that these discussions have been kept confidential is deeply concerning. The community deserves to know what is being considered, why certain decisions are being made, and how they will be affected. This issue is not just about waste management; it's about upholding the principles of good governance and accountability.

One of the most concerning aspects of this situation is its impact on households. Many residents are already facing higher costs for waste services, yet they are receiving less in return. For example, many rural residents are being hit with a user-pays system that provides less frequent waste collection; however, the cost has doubled.

The potential outsourcing of our waste services poses significant risks to our community. Outsourcing a core public asset such as our Waste Management Service could weaken our local economy.

By handing over a public service to a for-profit private company, we risk losing local jobs and undermining



by Harper Dalton-Earls

the economic stability of keeping these services within our community. Local businesses that currently supply goods and services to council could see their contracts terminated, which would have a ripple effect throughout the local economy. Another serious concern is the potential increase in illegal dumping. When services are cut back, and costs rise, some residents may resort to improper waste disposal methods out of sheer necessity.

Lismore has faced issues with illegal dumping before, and exacerbating this problem would not only harm our environment but also place additional strain on already limited local government resources.

The message is clear: any review of a core public service like waste management should be made public. The community has a right to know what decisions are being considered and how they will impact their lives. Transparency is essential for building and maintaining trust between the council and the people it serves.

I am committed to fighting for the public release of the Waste Services Review. I will work to ensure that any further changes to our waste services are made with full community consultation because your input is invaluable.

By prioritising the needs of our residents and the health of our local economy, we can ensure that Lismore's public services are managed fairly, transparently, and in the best interest of all residents.

# Working together for community

by Vanessa Ekins

I am really proud of this sensible and community orientated team of good people putting their hands up to be your next Lismore City councillors.

The role of councillor is hard work, poorly paid but surprisingly rewarding. Representing the interests and concerns and ideas of the community and providing strategic direction to the Council has many challenges.

Not just getting out and about visiting people and places, reading reports, taking expert advice, but also working together in the council chamber for practical outcomes.

It does not appear that the last council worked together or achieved very much. No community consultation on a future vision for our flood, landslip and fire affected people, reduced waste services and increased rates, delayed water infrastructure and attempts to disband the effective and hard-working Nimbin Advisory Group.

It is time for a change and these folk have the necessary fire in their bellies.

Adam Guise is a councillor of eight years and a voice of reason and integrity. He said, "I want a council that involves the community in decision making to create happy, healthy and liveable communities that people are proud to be a part of."

"I have not felt real leadership from the current council majority. What we need is conversations about the future and how we get housing that is ecologically sustainable, fit for purpose and genuinely affordable."

Virginia Waters is a Nimbin resident of nearly 30 years and wants our largest village represented at council.

"After going through the fires, flood and landslips, it felt like Nimbin didn't have the representation we need for important issues such as water security, village amenities and some councillors'



The Greens candidates L-R: Binnie O'Dwyer, Virginia Waters, Luke Robinson, Vanessa Ekins, Lindall Watson, Adam Guise and Shae Salmon

lack of understanding about Nimbin's community owned assets," Ms Waters said.

"As an active member of the Nimbin community and the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group, I believe I have a clear understanding of our community's needs. With future events likely to intensify, we urgently need strong leadership, preparedness, and collaboration at council."

Luke Robinson is a senior emergency physician at Ballina, Casino and Lismore Base Hospitals. This is often the front line and Luke sees the impact of the housing and mental health crises on our community.

"I've been inspired by Vanessa and Adam and their work for the good of this community. I have also watched council meetings descend into childishness, so we need a more respectful and transparent council that listens to community," he said.

Shae Salmon is an academic in Law at Southern Cross University, an enthusiastic radio presenter at River-FM and a member of the Lismore Theatre Company. Shae lives in core koala habitat and is passionate about saving wildlife

and preserving wildlife corridors.

Lindall Watson is a new generation farmer, recently arrived in the region. She has a background in education and rich experience teaching in remote and regional communities.

Binnie O'Dwyer is a local lawyer working for the Aboriginal Legal Service. She is a strong advocate for young people and lobbies other agencies for the provision of adequate support services and opportunities.

"As well as these good folk running for council, I have been asked to run for mayor of Lismore. People want an alternative to the Krieg block," Vanessa Ekins said.

"After 20 years in council, I am a reasonable and experienced voice. My achievements as former mayor includes bringing a conflicted Council into harmony, ensuring a surplus budget with no rate rise, adopting an affordable housing strategy that is being implemented today, and initiating the hand-back of sacred sites to the Widjambul Wiabal people.

My commitment to you is that I will do the work, show up, and focus on what you say is important," Ms Ekins said.

## Lismore Council rubbish: a wasted opportunity!

by Sue Higginson, NSW Greens MLC

The current leadership on the Lismore City Council, in fact the entire working majority that the mayor has had for the past three years, is not up to the job of governing.

This is true and clear on many issues, but it is incredibly apparent on the issue of waste, and waste management.

Almost everything we do generates waste of some kind or another, it is one of the physical rules of the universe that energy spent equals energy lost. "Energy lost" is an almost tragic description of how Lismore's leading edge on waste management has been dulled and disregarded by the too-much-like the Nationals running our city's council.

Last year, behind closed doors, the leading group of Nationals look-alikes on Council voted to essentially privatise waste collection at the Lismore waste centre. As the economics of privatisation would have it, the decision taken is being justified by blaming previous progressive councillors, the need to bring the line item

in the budget back into the black in the next year or so.

This is all with a distinct lack of accounting for the environment.

The reward for ratepayers of this short-sighted and toxic decision has been a 50% increase for waste collection charges for some 10,000 households, reduced frequency for green waste collection, and new charges for taking recycling to the waste centre.

Essentially, we lose investment in our own economy and people, haemorrhage ratepayers' money to a private company motivated only by profit, and the vision and capacity to build our region's circular economy is thrown away.

The Lismore area, including our beautiful and environmentally-conscious villages like Nimbin, has a long and ambitious history of leading recycling and are part of the movement demanding and making a circular economy. It is this vision that the Greens have long advocated and worked for.

Under our current Nationals-like dominated council, there has been an erosion of the progress that we had made, and

an undermining of the community's support for better waste.

This has happened because the mayor and his councillors do not want the responsibility for doing the job they were elected to do.

The decision taken by the Nationals-flavoured council could not be worse in terms of timing. The state of the environment, and the role waste has in polluting it, are hot topics in our local area, but also at the NSW, national and global levels.

In NSW particularly, major polluters are being given a free ride from regulation and laws that would actually protect the environment. From the overspraying of agricultural chemicals, to the asbestos contamination in recycled soil, to the poisoning of water by carcinogenic forever-chemicals, the toxic legacy that we are continuing to build is coming into sharp focus.

The State Government is trying to reform, and systems are about to get even more attention. Now is the time to be in the clean and circular waste business. The recognition that we need governance that prioritises a safer environment for

our communities has come to the fore, and public authorities like Councils have a significant advantage in this space.

Any connected, forward-thinking Council would be doubling down, investing and leveraging their position with the State government to be leaders in this field.

We need to end the homogenous make-up of the old Nationals type dominating our local government, and we need a broad suite of councillors who are willing to take on the challenge of making our community more resilient and safe.

The Council elections are upon us, it's time for all of us to have our say at the ballot box. Take this time to have conversations with your neighbours, friends, and families. Ask them, do they want a Council that is open to debate, public participation, a focus on the hard issues and investment in our environment and people?

Or do they want four more years of politics from the old-style Nationals where democracy is too hard, and the neo-liberal economics of yesterday comes up trumps? I know where I stand!

# Reclaim Kyogle Council

by Janet Wilson

I am standing as a candidate in Kyogle A Ward in this year's NSW Local Government Elections.

My key objective will be to restore trust in the Council and respect for the administration.

Being re-elected will provide me with an opportunity to address some of the destabilising factors in the governing process and to continue valuable work in progress for this LGA.

Governance is critical to how well services are delivered and puts residents' needs at the centre of decision making. It builds trust and respect between administration, staff, Council (the body of councillors) and residents.

I have strongly advocated for infrastructure support for critical road infrastructure, such as Oxbow and Homeleigh Roads and the repair of landslips on the vital Kyogle to Murwillumbah Road as well as road access to private properties badly affected in the floods.

In my four terms in office, I have advocated for improved services for residents, support for volunteers and encouragement of the arts and cultural industries, which contribute to local community economic activity.

I have used my skills and knowledge to support council committees such as the Audit

Risk and Improvement Committee, and delegations to Arts Northern Rivers, and Kyogle Chamber of Commerce.

I have supported the visions of the Cawongla Community Centre, Hanging Rock Hall and the redevelopment of Arts Kyogle.

The benefits of my community support are seen through the Kyogle Bazaar, Kyogle Together, the Kyogle Gym and Community Gardens, and representing council on the State Government's enquiry about coal seam gas to save the Lions Road as a community road.

Providing a safe physical environment for the aging population to continue to live at home and for young people to find employment and accommodation that allows them to continue in community life is important to successful community wellbeing.

Ageing infrastructure requires consistent assessment and review and inclusion in the council's work plan for an extensive network of roads, bridges, and footpaths. I have put culverts and causeways on the council agenda for urgent work to address historical compliance issues with environmental regulations.

I support the candidacy of Kieran Somerville and Naomi Worrall in recognition of the need for council to transition to younger representation, in particular young women.

I seek your support on 14th September.

## Building a resilient Kyogle

by Kyogle Environment Group

As the Kyogle Council elections approach, it's crucial to vote for candidates who prioritise climate action.

The recently commissioned report by Kyogle Council, developed by Meridian Urban, outlines a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, focusing on the increasing risks and impacts of climate change on the Kyogle LGA and its community – particularly with regard to land systems, land use, the environment, economy, lifestyle and wellbeing.

One of the key responsibilities of the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) has been to advocate for and educate the community on these issues. However, since its

inception in July 2020, the group's efforts have been limited, with plans for a Community Engagement Plan and Community Survey on Climate Change, as well as discussions on mitigation strategies, barely coming to fruition.

The new Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan promises meaningful consultation, consistent with Council's Participation Plan, to involve the community and key stakeholders, including the CCWG. This development is a positive step forward and is welcome.

The role of climate change in shaping Kyogle's future is well-recognised, and the State Government expects Kyogle Council to lead in educating the local and business communities, while planning and delivering effective ecosystem



management.

This goes beyond mere adaptation. The land use sectors of agriculture and forestry are central to both contributing to and mitigating climate change. Forests, as significant carbon sinks, and the land-based mitigation measures, often termed nature-based or natural climate solutions, offer substantial benefits to both human wellbeing and biodiversity.

In a time of ecosystem stewardship, it's imperative to elect councillors in the upcoming elections on 14th September who understand the importance of good governance in facing the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Vote wisely.

## Ready to represent diverse locality

by Kieran Somerville

I am running as a candidate for Kyogle A Ward in the NSW Local Government elections because I want a seat at the table where decisions are made.

I am ready to represent our diverse community and make a contribution. I enjoy working with people and helping people. I want to support the Kyogle LGA as it evolves. I have lived and worked in rural and urban settings, and appreciate both.

I have an Honours Degree in Environmental Management (Sustainable Development) from the University of Queensland. I also have a Graduate Diploma in Regenerative Agriculture (Soils) from Southern Cross University.

I work as an environmental consultant and co-manage a third-generation farm. I feel a deep connection with nature and a responsibility for the well-being of our natural and social environments.

Our forests are precious and I care for the land, sheep, cattle and wildlife that I look after. I have the ability to



plan, problem-solve and innovate.

One of the biggest challenges for the Kyogle LGA in the next term will be how the community plans for and responds to the changing climate. We need to turn ideas into practical solutions that achieve sustainable development.

I believe that challenges can open the door to opportunity. We need well thought-out projects that will benefit Kyogle, the community and nature. The decisions we make now will affect

future generations.

As the climate changes we have to adapt and find new ways to do things. I know how challenging farming has become. During the recent years of chaotic weather, it seems as if I can never get the tractor out to work the paddocks.

Farmers are amazing problem solvers, but they need our support. We must protect both our natural environment and our community assets. What happens on the farm affects the town, and what happens in town affects the farm.

I believe it is essential to promote our unique local businesses, arts and culture. Buy local where you can.

I have worked as a professional photographer and I very much appreciate the depth of talent on display in Kyogle's shops and galleries.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected on the 14th of September, I look forward to working with you all See: [www.facebook.com/SomervilleKieran](http://www.facebook.com/SomervilleKieran)

Authorised by Kieran Somerville, 79 Toonumbar Road, Toonumbar NSW 2474

## Kyogle Council renewal

by Brett McNamara

I am standing as an independent candidate for Kyogle A Ward. I am a 58 years old retired regional manager, ACT National Parks.

I offer a professional skill set and an appreciation for good governance. I have extensive experience in setting strategic directions; the big picture in moving forward. I'm future-focused, embracing opportunities for renewal, restoring civic confidence and pride.

With a National Parks career spanning 40 years, I've operated in local government arenas, managing multimillion-dollar budgets, serving on government

boards, leading large teams during challenging times.

As a former fire boss, teamwork was crucial. I will bring to a renewed Council my highly developed people management skills, reaching consensus where there are differences.

My vision for Kyogle is a caring place to raise a family. A caring place to grow old. A creative place that fosters and nurtures artistic endeavors. A place for business and agricultural prosperity. A place shaped by pioneers, built on the hard work of our rural sector.

If elected, with care and compassion, I firmly believe that you tap into the hearts, the hopes, the aspirations of those you serve.

As your councillor, my role will be to listen to your voice. To be expansive in listening to all voices. To be mindful. To be respectful. Serving you in local government would be a privilege. Vote for renewal. Vote for respect.

### Popularly elected mayor election referendum

I'll be voting No.

My experience in working with high functioning teams is that unity, cohesion, consensus works best when the team leader has mutual respect. That is, the confidence of the team that they lead. A popularly elected team leader, that is a mayor, enforced upon the team/Council may erode this concept of teamwork.

I'm future-focused ensuring that the Council of tomorrow works collaboratively as a

collective team in moving forward.

Merging three wards into two I believe will not be in the best interest of advocacy, the true representation of community voices.

Kyogle's Local Government Area is dispersed. The geographical range is large. The demographics are rapidly changing. History tells us that the three-ward system focuses on councillor's minds in terms of serving the different needs of their respective ward.

I believe that losing one ward and only having two will dilute this representation across the large and expansive Kyogle LGA.

For these reasons I'll be voting 'no' to the referendum.

Authorised by Brett McNamara, 659 Wiangaree Back Road, Kyogle.

**Janet Wilson**  
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE  
for A Ward – Kyogle Council

**Reclaim our Council**


- Put people first in decisions and actions to rebuild our council
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- Support the CBD business people and arts and culture practitioners to improve prosperity
- Protect koalas, native species and habitat
- Improve climate change responses for future generations



Authorised by Janet Wilson 10 William Street, Kyogle NSW 2474  
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**Brett McNamara**  
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE  
for Kyogle Council - A Ward

**Restoring Community Pride**  
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My grandfather and father served our community with distinction. I proudly walk in their footsteps, bringing respect, renewal and revitalisation.



## Meet the candidates forum

How quickly the months pass! As I write this in the late afternoon, swallows are gracing the Bush Theatre with their lively presence, building nests for their eggs.

Fireflies dance around the building in the evenings, and the days get longer and warmer.

A significant upcoming event that will impact businesses and residents in Nimbin is the Lismore council elections on Saturday 14th September.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a forum at the Nimbin Bowling Club, where prospective councillors engaged with the community.

About 60 enthusiastic community members attended, seizing the opportunity to ask questions, address local issues, and gain insight into the candidates' attitudes before casting their votes.

Most prospective councillors were present, including mayoral candidate Steve Krieg, Harper Dalton's Labor Party, The Greens led by Vanessa Ekins, Adam Guise and Virginia Waters from Tuntable Falls, and independent candidate John Jenkins. Mayoral and councillor candidate Big Rob declined to attend.

Key concerns raised by the community included healthcare, recycling, pothole repairs, the public toilet and shower block, support for the Chamber's management of the special business levy, management of street cleaning, and the continuation of the Nimbin Advisory Group as a reliable conduit between the Nimbin community and the council.

For those unfamiliar with the importance of local councils, here's a brief overview of their roles in local governance:

- **Legislation and policy:** Councils create and pass local laws, often referred to as ordinances, to address community needs and issues;
- **Budget, finance, and accountability:** They approve the municipal budget, allocate funds to various departments and services, ensure



### Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

fiscal responsibility, and monitor the performance of municipal departments to ensure efficient service delivery;

- **Public services:** The council oversees essential services such as water supply, waste management, public transportation, and the maintenance of public spaces;
  - **Urban planning and development:** Councils make decisions on land use, zoning, and urban development projects, guiding the municipality's growth;
  - **Local representation:** Council members advocate for the interests and concerns of their constituents, addressing regional issues;
  - **Community engagement:** The council engages with the community through meetings, public consultations, and outreach programs to gather input and address concerns;
  - **Emergency response:** During crises or disasters, the municipal council coordinates emergency response efforts and ensures that necessary resources are allocated.
- Overall, the municipal council plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth operation and development of the local community, balancing residents' needs with effective management and planning.

### Bakery laneway mural

Work on the mural is well underway and shaping up nicely. Students from Nimbin Central School are actively participating in the project, adding another dimension of community involvement.

### Public speaking workshop

Details of the upcoming public speaking workshop, including the date, location, content and cost will soon be available on the Chamber's website.

There will be limited places, so it's a good idea to book early: [www.nimbinaustralia.com.au](http://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au)

### Wellness in Nimbin

It is becoming increasingly noticeable that wellness is a theme attracting visitors to our village.

Various modalities, including massage, cacao ceremonies, sound bowl healing, and breathworks are drawing visitors and receiving support from the local community.

### Nimbin Interagency

Many community organisations in Nimbin are tirelessly working towards improving village life.

It has been proposed that all organisations meet at least twice a year to inform each other of the actions taken and any overlaps between group efforts.

### Upcoming meeting

Our next general meeting will be held on 17th September, 5.30pm at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

This is an excellent networking opportunity for all Nimbin business owners to connect and gain a deeper appreciation of the diversity and depth of our commercial sector.

The evening will have both a social and business focus, with presentations from business leaders, including Rainbow Power Company (our largest employer), the new operator of Nimbin Tax and Accounting, and a presentation from the economic development team from Lismore Council.

We are stronger together and will continue to support each other.

# Get ready for the Youth Code workshop

by Rain Wickham,  
Nimbin Youth Project co-ordinator

Exciting times are ahead!

From Monday 30th September to Friday 4th October, we are hosting the Youth Code workshop, a fantastic opportunity for young people aged 12-19 to learn how to code, design and launch their very own websites!

This hands-on workshop is supported by the NSW Department of Regional NSW, Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, Remote Village, and Nimbin Youth: [nimbinyouth.org.au](http://nimbinyouth.org.au)

Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, this event is designed to ignite your creativity and build valuable digital skills. Places are limited, so make sure to join us for a week of innovation, learning and fun!

### We're moving into our new space

Exciting news! Nimbin Youth is currently moving into a new space at the Nimbin Community Centre.

This new home for our youth activities will be a hub for creativity, connection and growth. To make the space as cosy and welcoming as possible, we're reaching out to our community for a few items: lounges, rugs, desks, chairs, and any other items you think would be suitable for a youth space!

We kindly ask that these items be in good condition, with no holes or stains, so they can last and serve our young people well. If you have something to donate, please message us or email us at: [office@nimbinyouth.org.au](mailto:office@nimbinyouth.org.au) Your support means the world to us!

### A splash of colour

Adding a vibrant touch to our space is a stunning new mural, painted by the talented Lora Flora (see page 3).



This beautiful artwork not only brightens up our youth space but also symbolises the creativity and passion of our youth community. It's a piece that we are proud to showcase and we can't wait for everyone to see it!

### Supporting our Year 12 students

We're also excited to announce The Year 12 Formal Incentive, a community-driven initiative to help our Year 12 students feel special on their formal night.

We all know how expensive formals can be and we want to make sure that every student has the opportunity to feel like a million bucks on their night of nights.

If you have any formal gowns, suits, shoes, or jewellery that you'd like to donate, we would be incredibly grateful. Donations can be sent to, or dropped off at Nimbin Youth, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

You can also message us or email us at: [office@nimbinyouth.org.au](mailto:office@nimbinyouth.org.au) with any enquiries.

Thank you so much for your continued support of Nimbin Youth!

## CWA Nimbin Branch news

CWA Nimbin Branch will be present at the up-coming Nimbin Show on Saturday 21st September only.

We will be selling our famous homemade scones and jam along with hot drinks and homemade cordial on Saturday only. We always look forward to our beautiful little Country show and can't wait to see you all there.

### Open Days

CWA Open Days are held on the second and third Wednesdays of each month.

We serve nutritious and affordable \$5 lunches, and it's a great opportunity to come in and chat to members to learn how the CWA contributes to the community.

### Op Shop donation request

If you have any unwanted clean quality summer clothes we would appreciate donations.



### 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 enquiries please phone: 0461-412-83, or email: [secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com)



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# Legalise Cannabis senate candidates decided

by Michael Balderstone

We had over a hundred candidate applicants when we sent a letter out to Legalise Cannabis members seeking people to run in the next Federal election. There's been dozens of interviews and we've finally selected Miles Hunt to be our lead senate candidate in NSW.

I've met Miles a few times, and he spoke at this year's MardiGrass. He's a very likeable fellow with a quick sense of humour and he's long been onto the importance of drug law reform.

Miles is an Aquarian, born on 9th February, 1982. He grew up in Sydney where he was bullied at school which he says taught him an important lesson about treating others well and instilled in him a desire to fight injustice.

He studied Law and Philosophy at Macquarie University. Law for a career, and philosophy because he always enjoyed philosophical and ethical discussions.

He learnt a lot about life in his days at Law school – not least from working in the hardware store and the bottle shop. He also started smoking weed then and experimented with other drugs.

He then took a year off to travel through South America with his best mate David King. They travelled through Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. He loved South America and connected to its people and revolutionary history. He returned a year later to Peru where he lived with a local girl.

Miles spent much of his life in his 20's travelling the world, throughout Asia, South and North America, and Europe. This was real life University and it helped him see the struggles many people face in their daily lives. After returning from living briefly in the UK, he began working at a law firm with his friend David. He worked as a personal injury and workers compensation lawyer, branching off into employment, human rights and criminal law.



Miles is passionate about his cases when I talk to him. He specialises in psychiatric injury cases and complex litigation for badly injured clients. Some cases take many years and require him to be both lawyer and counsellor through the long journey to a settlement.

During this time he also started doing criminal law work for people arrested and charged for possession of cannabis and other drugs. He has always felt that the criminalisation of drug users was a great injustice – their lives often ruined over their simple drug choice.

Something that humans have done since the dawn of time and will do into the future he says, "The search for experience and altered consciousness is as much a human condition as the need for connection, community and love. To criminalise these people is an ethical failure of modern society. Especially when so many people use legal drugs that can be far more dangerous and destructive than some of the illegal ones."

It was during this period of his life that Miles got into drug law reform. He joined the Drug Law Reform party (run by Greg Chipp) and was selected by them to run for the Federal Senate in 2013.

The result was only a small number of votes for the party, but it did allow Miles to come out on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* discussing his own personal drug use and the problems with criminalising drug users.

He hoped that by speaking openly about his own drug use he could help start a

more honest conversation on the subject that would lead to better laws and a more harmonious relationship with drugs across society.

Miles now works as a lawyer in an arts union where he protects the rights of some of the most important and underpaid workers in the community he says.

He was a stand-up comedian for a few years (although not a very good one, he says) and has written many books and published two novels with Australian Scholarly Publishing/ Arcadia.

*The Unfortunate Death of James Douglas O'Flaherty* (2017) – was satire/comedy about the luck involved in every life conceived, and *The Information Editor* (2021), a dystopian, set in a world run by corporations. He is about to release the follow up, *The Storyteller*, about a community living away from the failures of society – the two novels are written as complete opposites and provide contrasting visions of the future.

Miles and his Brazilian partner are currently raising two young girls and a cat, all whom he adores. He lives on the mid-north coast of NSW but regularly travels to Sydney for work and pleasure and loves visiting his family and friends. He enjoys conversations and social interaction, and as drugs have had a profound effect on his life, like they have for many of us, he's passionate about changing the laws.

The other Senate candidate we have decided on is well-known campaigner Fiona Patten to run in Victoria. Fiona was first elected to the Victorian State Parliament on a Sex Party ticket in 2014 and re-elected in 2018.

She has been a long-time advocate for cannabis law reform and been to almost every MardiGrass in the last 20 years. She was the driving force behind the inquiry into the Use of Cannabis in Victoria and the first politician I know of to admit to using cannabis regularly to relax.

We'll be announcing more Senate candidates soon, just in case Albo decides on an early election so he can get on with getting married!

# Misinformation rife in anti-Greens attack ads

by Shae Salmon,  
Greens candidate for  
Lismore City Council

It's almost that time again, another election and this time, we're voting for our local council representatives.

While some people take the time and make the effort to become aware of the policies of each candidate or party, some people vote purely on appearance or for the same traditional party.

But times change, as do needs, and it is up to us to aim for wise change, especially with dangerous climate change lurking.

Perhaps one of the worst aspects of the political scene is the practice of defamation and denigration of those of opposing political thought.

It happens at all levels of government, from our own local council electorate to the federal level. It is an insidious and quite disgusting action and occurs too often.

Instead of promoting their own policies, they choose to attack opponents, often in an unpleasant and offensive manner. It seems the Greens often cop the brunt of attacks as they do not adhere to such childish and deceptive measures and are often seen as a threat to the conservative parties.

An example of this is the huge billboard that shows an unpleasant picture of one of the Greens MPs with the slogan "The Extreme Greens want to defund the police and defence forces" which is



New Labor Party press ads and billboards campaign



intentionally misleading.

The Greens actually only want to cut wasteful defence spending and cancel failed defence procurement programs and put that money into such programs as tackling crime at the source through providing affordable housing and fully-funded public schools.

Another flyer says "The extreme Greens agenda is wrong for Australia" – so what is right? These critics do not state what they think needs to be done, just attack without basis.

Perhaps one of the worst examples of attack on the Greens came from a former

Nationals MP when his Facebook post showed a picture of him pointing a gun and saying, "You gotta ask yourself, do you feel lucky, greenie punks?" This is completely unacceptable behaviour from a politician.

So, the point is, don't pay attention to the negative. Look for the positive – the real facts and policies when choosing who to vote for in any election.

Go have a look at the information on the candidates and especially the policies they endorse and the values they represent.

Your vote is powerful, use it wisely.

# Keep natural animal foods on shelves

The Australian Hemp Council has launched a national campaign that urgently seeks to raise \$50,000 to tackle the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's alarming decision to classify hemp seed oil and by-products as "veterinary chemicals".

This move could devastate both the Australian hemp industry and limit the availability of natural, nutrient-dense foods for pets and livestock.

Containing little to no cannabinoids (CBD or THC), these products are packed with essential amino acids, fibre and omega 3 and 6 fatty acids.

Now costly applications and research permits are needed to overturn the decision. Donations can be made at: <https://australianhempcouncil.org.au>



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# Roxby Downs: where it's at now

by the Roxby Vigil

*"It is in the interests of the State that mineralisation within the Olympic Dam and Stuart Shelf areas should be developed, and the state is satisfied that a very large capital of expenditure is necessary to ensure that such deposits are efficiently and economically developed."* – Introduction (g), Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act, 1982.

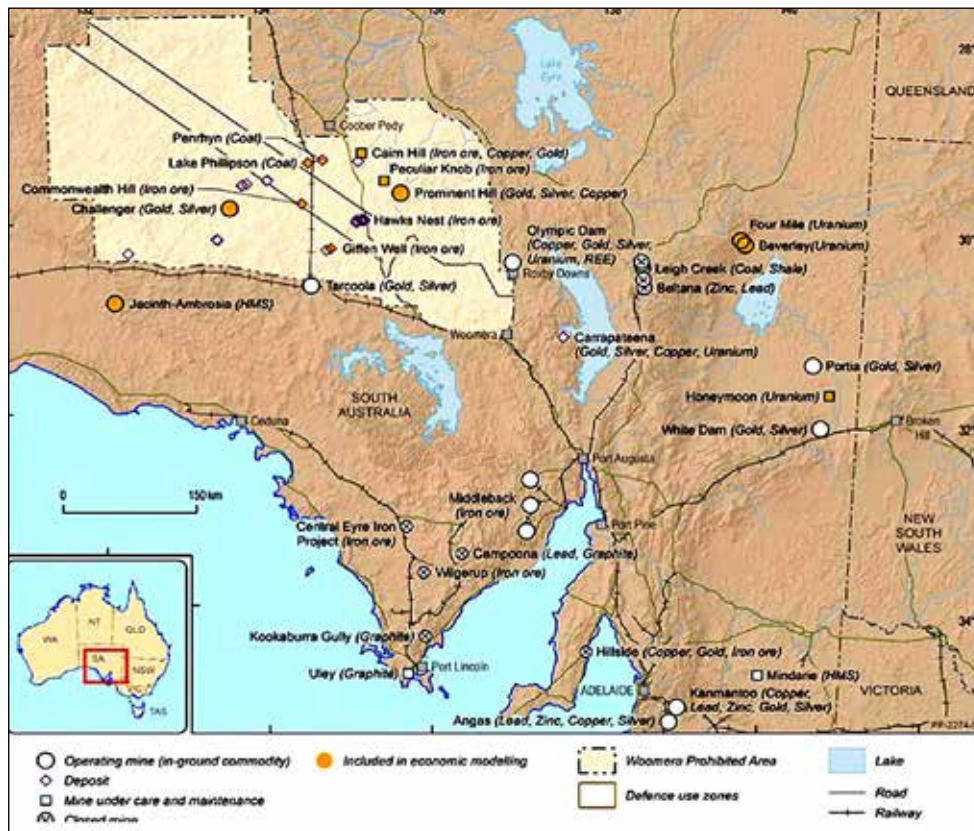
The South Australia government is co-joined in this development as an identified 'Joint Venturer'. In this way the State is inextricably linked to the fate of this mine leading to a 'conflict of interest'.

The 'driest state in the driest continent on Earth' is challenged with many perceived economic limitations. A prospect like Roxby plays a huge part in the politics and decision-making of both the State and Commonwealth Governments.

Consequently, when the Borefields A and B, 90ks and 150ks to the north are proven to be unsustainable and that they are having disastrous environmental impacts on the Great Artesian Basin and Mound Springs, a more secure water supply has to be sourced from elsewhere.

There is now an agreement with funding from both State and Federal Governments to support a major desalination plant in the Spencer Gulf north of Port Lincoln. It is called the Northern Water Project, and BHP is also a stakeholder.

A similar proposal (with a different site in the Gulf) had been rejected by SA people within the last 15 years. This current project has also been forecast by some to be a potential source of water for small modular nuclear reactors, which could then supply electricity to Roxby and other industries. An EIS on the 'Northern Water Project' will be presented to the public in March next year.



The ore body, Graben, at Roxby is complex and difficult to mine efficiently. Underground mining uses a stope and pillar method to keep the tunnel roof from collapsing. Contaminated wastewater has to be constantly pumped to the surface and disposed of. The infrastructure is described by some as being outdated and should be replaced with a new state-of-the-art plant.

Another deposit has been identified by BHP, 60kms to the southeast at Oak Dam. This large deposit is part of the same Graben as Roxby and Prominent Hill, hundreds of kilometres to the northwest, and is being touted as a major copper deposit so vital

to 'new technologies', while the uranium component barely receives a mention.

This area is now under a 'retention lease' with exploration proceeding. Roxby is being seen as a potential 'regional processing hub'. BHP also now own the Prominent Hill Mine and the pastoral leases on many stations of this region.

News just received from Friends of the Earth SA cites a Commonwealth decision to review the Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) and to investigate the option to impose a high-level nuclear waste repository in the WPA, a 122,000km<sup>2</sup> section of SA under the authority of the Commonwealth Government

and Department of Defence.

This arrangement of potentially hosting the nuclear waste is directly related to the AUKUS deal and, if established, could have far-reaching implications for Australia and SA in particular, in the disposal of nuclear waste and proliferation of the nuclear industry in a country that, en masse, continues to reject a nuclear future. Public input: [woomera.review@defence.gov.au](mailto:woomera.review@defence.gov.au)

The South Coast of SA has been identified for two private rocket launching sites at Port Lincoln and Ceduna. 'Southern Launch' reportedly has a strong link to Woomera through particular personnel and the company is in the business of launching satellites for commercial purposes. Reputedly, the military can use civilian satellites at any time for telecommunication, weather monitoring, navigation and timing.

It has become clear that the Commonwealth Government is gradually receding from its oversight responsibility of radio-active materials, their mining, use, storage and waste. Changes within the Federal EPBC Act are projected to reflect this following the next Federal election.

Contamination from Roxby Downs uranium mine impacts all levels of earth, air, water, and people. It needs to be investigated. So too, the Beverly uranium mine, an in-situ acid leach uranium mine that lies in the vicinity of Lake Frome and vital springs east of the Flinders Ranges in SA.

The 2021 Census statistics shows that the citizens of Andamooka (30km down-wind of Roxby) record higher levels of illness in eight out of ten categories, higher than the SA average, with that state also reporting statistics that read higher than the Australian average.

Roxby Downs, the 'edge of a thick wedge', is opening up the conditions for a vast area of SA to come under its 'sphere of influence' as a huge industrial/military sacrifice zone.

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# Powerful example of geopolitical power struggles

Book review  
by Andrew Jones

Warwick Fry's account of the El Salvadoran Civil War is a terrific one, in both the contemporary and more archaic meaning of the word.

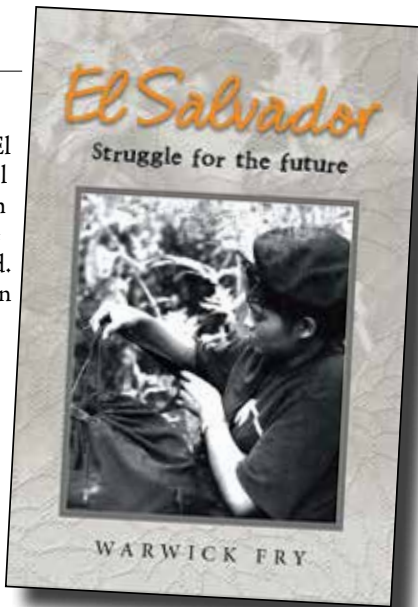
It is a tremendous addition to the resources available for anyone interested in understanding the more recent history of this beautiful country known as the Little Toe of Central America.

Fry's contribution in his *El Salvador: Struggle for the Future* is a mix of personal recollections of his time covering Central American politics in his capacity as a journalist and his time as a resident in El Salvador.

This is journalism as it is meant to be, holding big business, governments and their military to account.

It takes integrity, bravery and compassion to produce such eye-witness accounts in the context of the activities of brutal regimes, and Fry produces this in spades with flair and deep, well-sourced research.

His account is replete with the kind of contextualisation which is, unfortunately, lacking in much of the modern media bite journalism practised today.



war period, which is riddled with peace accord breaches, political corruption, the rise of new gang culture and continued repressions that typify the contemporary political and socioeconomic reality in El Salvador.

It corresponds to other current geopolitical situations, most obviously the massacre of Palestinians at the hands of the IDF, with the funding of the USA. Crucially as well, his work highlights the Water Defenders and their place in a 15 year grassroots community struggle that involved deaths, terrorism and bribery, but was able to bring to a halt an environmentally devastating gold mining project and change international legal precedent.

## Book launch

Warwick Fry will be launching his book *El Salvador: Struggle for the Future* at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Sunday 22nd September at 2.30pm.

The event will include a screening of Oliver Stone's film *Salvador* introduced by the author. \$10 entrance.

Fry issues an informed history of modern El Salvadoran history and the ravages of Spanish colonialism, US imperialism and the dictatorships of the 20th Century which have shaped and haunted the nation ever since.

The book's main focus is the Civil War that ravaged the country and so many everyday Salvadorans from 1979 to 1992. Government-sponsored death squads accounted for an estimated 70,000+ recorded deaths and around 25% of the population were displaced in the aftermath.

Fry's analysis does not end here; he also covers the post-

# ZÖJ – Where are you from?

A concert in September at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium will be an exploration of identity, place and the bridging of cultures.

Through emotionally raw soundscapes, ZÖJ share their lives and reactions to the world around them, where borders blur, cultures intertwine and the complexities of belonging and origin sit alongside those of the present and future.

Are we defined by where we're from, where we are, or where we're headed? ZÖJ's music invites audiences to challenge the notion of a singular identity, question whether we truly belong to just one place, and ponder what it means to belong.

Do our differences define us, or does our shared humanity transcend geographical boundaries?

Gelareh Pour's kamancheh, voice and poetry blend seamlessly with Brian O'Dwyer's drum kit, creating a dialogue between Iranian and Australian landscapes.

The wood in Gelareh's kamancheh comes from Iran, while Brian's drum kit is crafted from Australia.

These instruments, made by Iranian and Australian artisans, symbolise the convergence of diverse influences and the creation of something new and unique.



The makers, like the musicians, are shaped by their environments and traditions, leading to countless crossovers in their work.

A ZÖJ performance is a tapestry of cultural exchange, where each note and beat carries the weight of history, heritage, and personal experience. In this way, the sounds not only entertain but also prompt reflection on the value of being born in different places while being present with all that we carry.

Does it matter where we come from, or are we all part of the same human experience?

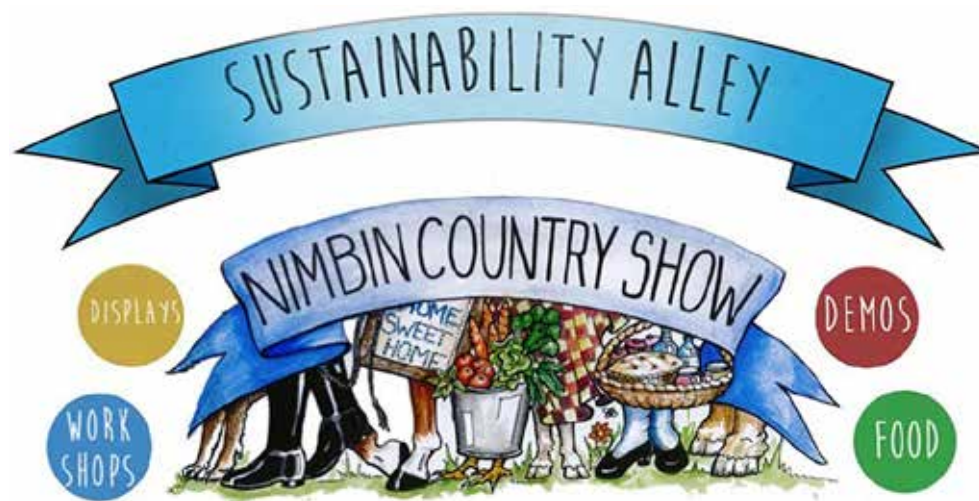
ZÖJ invites you to find

answers within yourself, to transcend boundaries and celebrate our shared humanity.

"The consistently exquisite genius of Gelareh Pour: we are simply not worthy," – Nick Cave.

"O'Dwyer is like no other percussionist I have ever seen, creating a subtle, shifting and unobtrusive audio-scape of extraordinary colour. He is hypnotic to watch." – *Broadway World*

See ZÖJ in concert on Sunday 22nd September, 4pm at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, 151 Keen Street Lismore. For tickets, go to: <https://events.humanitix.com/zoj>



## 21st and 22nd September 2024

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For more info or to book a stall/workshop/presentation



Sustainability Alley is brought to you by Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre

The review of the SNCP is supported by funding from Northern Rivers Community Foundation



# A heavenly prize?

Lismore Theatre Company is pleased to announce the next show in their 2024 season – *The Heavenly Prize*.

You put ageism and sexism together and what have you got? You've got older women becoming invisible, or at least their wisdom being ignored by a society that worships youth and beauty. Not exactly a prized lifestyle.

Observing this contemporary attitude, playwright Bette Guy was determined to write a play that captured the essence of what it feels like to still feel young on the inside yet look old on the outside. So, *The Heavenly Prize* came into being.

The storyline is simple. Two 75-year-old women, Anne and Barbara, meet up to reminisce about what life was like in the swinging sixties of their youth, compared to their current situation in an aged care complex.

They do this with bombastic humour, touching on the protests they marched in, their family life, their years as teachers and the vibrant sex lives they enjoyed.

Wanting to stave off the dreaded dementia, Barbara enjoys playing games on her mobile while Anne enters as many competitions as she can. When Anne comes across one that appears somewhat weird, Barbara thinks it might be a scam, but they enter anyway. Will they win or not? Throughout the play, Anne and Barbara as young girls come alive on stage to illustrate what growing up decades ago was like.



"I wanted to show that the needs and desires of older women are as complex as any other human being at any other age," Bette Guy said. "They long for recognition of their wisdom and to know that it's okay for them to long for love in all of its forms."

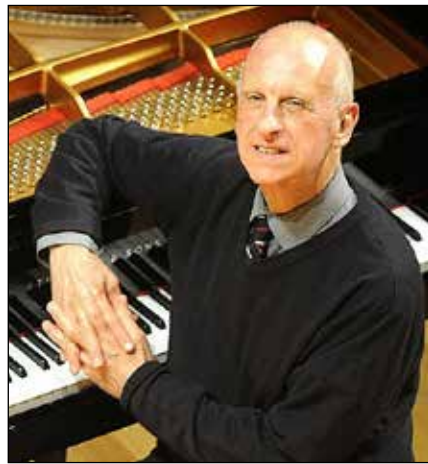
*The Heavenly Prize* is a play that tumbles with humour amid the profound comments it makes about being an older woman.

This heart-warming play will be on at the Rochdale Theatre from Friday 27th September to Sunday 6th October. Tickets are \$25 each and \$20 for concession and members.

Tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CUFBX> or via the Lismore Theatre Company website: [www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au](http://www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au)



## Virtuoso pianist Roger Woodward comes to Nimbin



Nimbin School of Arts has an extensive program of diverse cultural events this Spring, but one of the absolute highlights is the Twilight Recital featuring world renowned pianist, teacher and human rights activist, Roger Woodward.

Sydney-born and now based in the USA, Roger Woodward's international career began in the early 1970s and, over the subsequent decades, he has performed in orchestras around the world, and under the baton of some of the most famous conductors.

Woodward is a pianist with a powerful virtuoso technique and

his performances are renowned for their precision, insight, and depth of interpretation, although sometimes reviewed as unorthodox for their modernity.

This is a very special treat for Nimbin to have this hugely respected pianist performing on our hall's grand piano.

The Twilight Recital featuring works by Chopin, Debussy and JS Bach will be on Sunday 22nd September starting at 6pm.

Tickets are \$30/\$20 concession and are available from Perceptio Bookshop, or at the door. First in, best seated. For further information, phone 6689-1577.

## Go on a wild ride with NORPA

Come on a darkly wild ride of immersive storytelling, physical theatre, laughter and song with NORPA's wondrous epic *Wildskin*.

This isn't your traditional theatre experience. In an industrial warehouse, your journey will take you inside the performance as the outrageous, and unpredictable world of *Wildskin* unfolds before you.

Eva believes the only way to mend her broken life is to go on the road, solo. Lost, alone and under-prepared, she is soon breaking rules, and embracing danger.

After encountering wild animals and even wilder



humans, does Eva have the primal instincts to handle any challenge life throws at her?

From the team that

brought you *Love For One Night*, *Wildskin* is another sensory-smashing, destination theatre experience. Staged inside

a warehouse at Lismore Showground – to really enhance the bush-noir vibe – this is daring and joyous theatre.

Get the full *Wildskin* experience at the dinner and drinks pop-up at the showground, or by catching the *Wildskin* bus from Ballina or Byron, where you'll start tripping into another realm even earlier.

If you love the unexpected, grab some friends, and hold on for this one-of-a-kind evening.

*Wildskin* by NORPA at Lismore Showground, 12th-28th September. Tickets \$30-\$69. See: [norpa.org.au](http://norpa.org.au)

## World-class acts at National Circus Festival

Returning to the Mullumbimby Showground from October 4-6, this year's National Circus Festival presented by Spaghetti Circus, promises to be an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages.

From awe-inspiring acrobatics, world-class circus, and sensational cabaret, the festival offers something for everyone, celebrating the diversity and magic of the world of circus.

This year's program showcases an impressive lineup including Melbourne's *Escalate* by Throw Catch Collective – a thrilling fusion of rhythm, movement and juggling. Belfast based Snatch Circus delivers *Snatch and Grab*, a chaotic yet captivating show filled with dangerous juggling and absurd acrobatics.

Spaghetti Circus presents their smash hit show *Monumental 2.0*, reimagined in-the-round for a Big Top audience with exciting new additions to the uber-talented Performance Troupe ensemble of 11-19-year-olds.

Young audiences can also enjoy Hana Fiesta's *Disco Fiasco*, an interactive circus dance party for kids. Local favourites The Pitts Family Circus presents their much-loved acrobatic family act filled with humour and skill, Corie Hurry presents his fun filled *Planet Lava*, and Scott Hone entertains with his BMX Trick Bike Show.



Yuck Circus

A new addition to the program is Jazz Family, a roving jazz club, a moveable feast of some of the Northern Rivers' most exciting improvising musicians.

"We are incredibly proud of this year's program, bringing together world-class performers and emerging talents to create a truly unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages," festival director Alice Caldwell said.

"We know everyone deserves moments of joy, that's why we've made tickets incredibly affordable – only \$25 for

kids to enjoy 12 hours of non-stop entertainment. The Mullumbimby Showground will be bursting at the seams with circus acts across multiple stages, including the Big Top and The Famous Spiegeltent; this is an opportunity you won't want to miss, and we're super excited to share it with you!" Alice said.

The 2024 National Circus Festival is on from Friday 4th October to Sunday 6th October, at the Mullumbimby Showground. For further information and tickets: [www.nationalcircusfestival.com](http://www.nationalcircusfestival.com)

## Jungle Mongrels gig to support orangutans

Set in the sensory overload labyrinth of Otherworld Byron Bay, smack bang in the middle of town, Jungle Mongrels brings together some of the regions hottest dubstep, glitch hop and drum and bass DJ's.

Jungle Mongrels is set to immerse its patrons into an illusive jungle of plant life, digital artworks and beautiful

dance music to bring you an experience like no other in the world.

Otherworld is Byron Bay's latest and greatest attraction, blending leading edge art and technology that transports its guests into an otherworldly experience. A general admission to Otherworld costs 3/4 of the price of a ticket to Jungle Mongrels alone so if

you're looking for a good value show ticket, this is it!

All proceeds raised are to be donated to The Orangutan Project dedicated to saving and protecting critically endangered orangutans in Borneo and Sumatra.

Come dressed as your favourite jungle tribesman or woman and don't be shy to hybridise as needed, prizes

will be awarded for best and second best dressed. Bar services and delicious local food options will be available.

So come and join in on the next generation of night time entertainment.

Jungle Mongrels is happening on 20th September at Otherworld Byron Bay from 8pm. For tix visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

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- Open Mic, Wednesday 11th September, 6pm
- Trivia night, Saturday 21st September, 6.30pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome