

Nimbin community asset works near completion

As we settle into the year, progress on several important projects around Nimbin is excellent.

Work is almost complete on Peace Park's \$400,000 public toilet block. This long-awaited facility has been designed with accessibility and practicality in mind, ensuring it meets the needs of a diverse range of users.

The new toilet block, expected to be completed by mid-April, will feature an accessible toilet and change room with a shower and single toilet cubicle to service the skate park, playground, Nimbin Rainbow Walk and surrounding areas.

Another accessible toilet and change room with a shower will cater specifically to Nimbin Pool users. Built

with resilience, the facility has been designed for easy cleaning and maintenance, even in the event of flooding or damage.

The existing shade sail in the construction area will be relocated to the opposite end of the pool, ensuring continued shade for users. The project also includes considerations for adjoining footpaths, drinking water access and mural artworks.

I am proud to say that this project is part of the Council's broader commitment to improving public amenities. Twenty-three toilet upgrades are currently underway or planned across the LGA.

These improvements will ensure residents and visitors have access to clean and comfortable public facilities at local parks and rest stops.



Rainbow Walk

Another exciting project that is now open is the Nimbin Rainbow Walk.

The track was designed following Australian standards for walking tracks and accessibility, ensuring that as many people as possible can enjoy the experience.

Wheelchair access was a key consideration in the design process, with accessible features incorporated wherever

practical. This includes artworks, shade shelters, picnic settings and most interpretive signage.

Further along the track, however, steep slopes and the natural landscape posed challenges. Expanding accessibility in these areas would have required significant vegetation removal, which was not in keeping with the community's spirit or the region's environmental values.

The final design strikes a balance, preserving the area's natural beauty while ensuring accessibility where feasible. The result is a fantastic community asset that will serve as a platform for future enhancements.



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

Citizenship

In other news, I recently welcomed 20 new citizens at an Australian Citizenship Ceremony held at the Council Chambers.

Our newest Australians hail from diverse countries, including Brazil, Cambodia, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Thailand.

One of the best parts of my job is welcoming new Australian citizens who are now part of the

common bond that unites all Australians and respects diversity.

Australia is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world, and more than five million people have made the decision to call this country home since 1949. Citizenship ceremonies are a special way to celebrate this milestone, and Council is proud to be part of the process.

Mandy's big thank you

by Mandy Nolan, Greens candidate for Richmond



We're on the eve of making history in this region of rainbows, as the seat of Richmond looks set to turn Green on 3rd May and send me, and you, to Canberra.

Don't take my word for it. On the day the election was called, ABC's election guru Antony Green announced on Radio National's breakfast show, "Richmond on the north coast of NSW is the seat that you've really got to watch."

Antony Green says to watch Richmond because he knows I only need a 1.8% swing to unseat the Labor MP who's held it for 20 years. In that time the Greens vote has risen dramatically, and the seat that runs from Ballina to Tweed is now one of the most winnable for us in the country.

If I'm elected, the values and voices of this region will rocket straight to the heart of the nation's capital.

If the Greens hold the balance of power with other independents and Labor, the prospect of stopping native forest logging nationally becomes much closer to reality.

We'll be demanding an end to new coal and gas projects, and the introduction of tough new environment laws to protect biodiversity and restore

our degraded ecosystems.

But before we count those chickens (free range of course), a few big thanks are in order. If Richmond turns Green, it will be thanks in no small part to the environmental activists of this region who've been working hard for five decades to defend the natural world and promote social justice.

The tree-huggers, the mud-brick makers, the hippies, the radicals and the wild-hearted free-spirited ferals, we all owe you a huge debt. Those who've locked-on and laid down your lives to save forests or to stop fracking.

It's your spirit that will win this seat. From Terania Creek to Bentley. From Whian Whian to Wallum. For 50 years, people have come here to work with nature, not against it.

The people of Nimbin were using and promoting renewable energy before Chris Bowen was in short pants. Fifty years ago, they were seen as freaks. Turns out they were future thinking environmentalists. Now the rush to renewables is a global

reality.

Science tells us that one of the best ways to take carbon out of the atmosphere, at scale, is plain old photosynthesis – bringing back the forests.

So, another huge thank you to all those who've regenerated degraded lands, who've knelt in the mud to plant out a riverbank, in the quest to bring back the Big Scrub rainforest.

But the biggest thanks of all is to the First Nations peoples, who cared for this beautiful country for tens of thousands of years. Who teach us how to centre Country in our thinking, our way of living, and if Greens get through to balance of power – in our policy.

Amid the despair and gloom, this is a time of hope. The polls are pointing to a minority Labor government, with the Greens and others on the cross bench in a shared-power parliament.

This is possibly the most important election you will vote in. In a neo-Liberal wonderland where billionaires pull the strings of their major party puppets, voting Green is how you cut the strings.

It's how we, the battlers, the workers, the artists, the families, the disabled, the elderly, the first nations get a voice. It's how we take back our democracy.

Let's do this.



by Kevin Hogan MP for Page

Walking Trail open

This is a great walking track through Aquarius Park and the soccer fields.

I was excited to obtain \$1.3 million in federal funding for this project.

The project includes concrete pathways, boardwalks and bridges, providing access to natural areas and landscape views, interpretive and wayfinding signage, local artworks, park furniture and native plantings.

The track is 1km long and great for locals and tourists. Well done to Diana Roberts and the Nimbin Community Centre.

Election 3rd May

This election is all about you. Your family. Your budget. Your future.

I speak to parents who are having to put food back on the supermarket shelves. Pensioners can't afford to heat or cool their home. Families aren't going out any more.

Parents are saying sports and excursions have become too expensive. Small businesses are laying off staff because their bills have

skyrocketed. Young people are moving back in with their parents because home ownership is out of reach.

This has to stop. We can't afford another three years of this. We need a Coalition government, to get Australia back on track. We will:

- Deliver cheaper energy with a mix of renewables, gas and zero-emissions nuclear energy;
- Provide real cost-of-living relief, including halving the fuel excise. This will save families \$1,500 over 12 months;
- Build more affordable housing, by funding critical infrastructure and restricting foreign investors;
- Ensure quality healthcare, with more doctors, lower PBS co-payments, and better regional services;
- Create safer communities, by cracking down on crime and antisemitism, and restoring pride in our nation.

On 3rd May, you have the power to send a message. That you've had enough of a government that's lost touch. And that you're ready to get our country – and your household – back on track.

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If we want change, we have to vote for it – again!

It's on folks – the Federal Election countdown has started, Saturday 3rd May is election day and no it's not all about Albo's Labor or Dutton's Liberal National Coalition – well to the extent we have to keep Dutton out and make Labor better, it is!

This is the election many of us have been waiting for, it is the one experts are saying that neither of the two old parties are likely to win an outright majority, that we are looking at the cross bench being in a shared or balance of power position.

As always, the Greens are ready, after all we are the single sustained third political force in our democracy, and over the past few decades, with you, we have achieved what we once thought impossible, we have loosened the painful stranglehold the duopoly have held over our democracy.

The last time we were in the balance of power we got dental for children into Medicare, we also got the world's best carbon tax and set ourselves up to be global climate leaders, accountable to our Pacific neighbours. Then Tony Abbott and his fossil fuel mates took control and started the decade-long climate wars.

We have three incredible locals who have thrown their hat into the ring to give it their all for us and our democracy. Mandy Nolan in Richmond, Dr Luke Robinson in Page and Eddie Lloyd running on a Senate ticket with Greens deputy leader Senator Dr Mehreen Faruqi.

Everyone already knows Mandy because she's a smart, fierce advocate for the community, who oozes love, compassion and kindness and she's hilarious. She is so close to winning

by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

Richmond; she only needs a 1.8% swing.

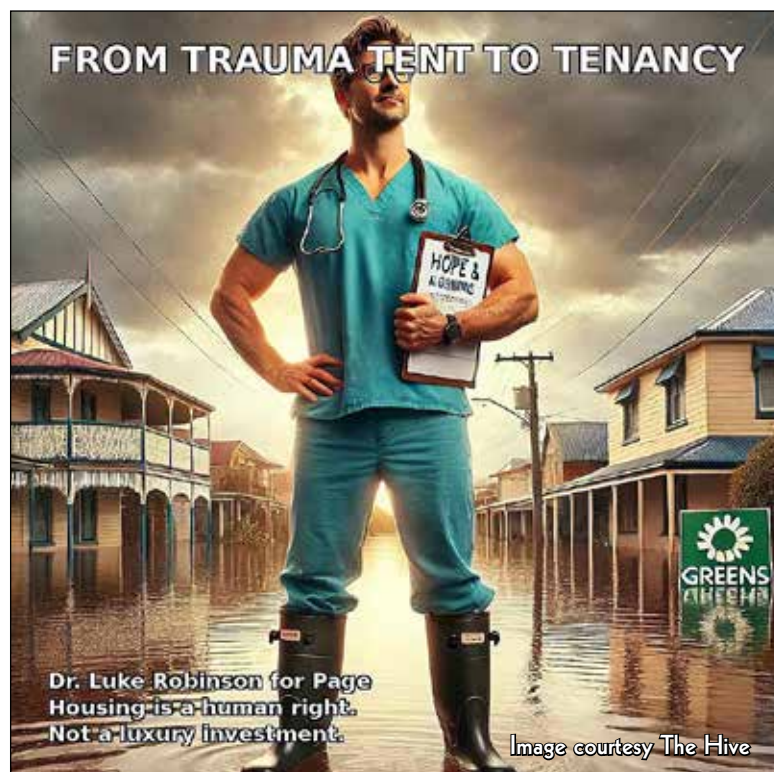
Dr Luke is a specialist emergency physician in our public hospital system, he is joining the race because he is inspired and motivated to make things better, I mean that's what good doctors do, right?

He is contesting the National Party's Kevin Hogan, the guy who has engaged in lynch mob politics and punches down on the most vulnerable. He recently championed the old tough on crime trope, which has now driven the highest rise in the rate of imprisonment of First Nations children and young people this state has seen since colonisation; it is sickening.

He has contributed to the awful war of hatred on the homeless community of Pine Street in North Lismore. Hogan, like Dutton, trades on the politics of hate and division. Dr Luke takes all people and their humanity as they come, he treats them with expertise, skill, care, support and kindness. Dr Luke is so inspiring, he has the politics of love, inclusion and hope in his veins.

Eddie, former Lismore councillor, is a social justice lawyer, who works tirelessly with the community. She has defended forest and climate defenders in court and is now running the high profile appeal of Australian whistleblower David McBride, who was thrown in prison for telling the truth about war crimes. Labor could have intervened to resolve this gross injustice.

We've now had one term with Albo's Labor and let's be honest,



it's been very disappointing. We have seen radical failure on the environment and climate. They're still logging our precious but ailing native forests and approving new coal and gas like there is no tomorrow.

Remember the day they approved four new coal projects and then the minister posted on social media saying they had not approved any new coal – that was just weird. They shelved the promised new nature laws and walked back from the promised Environment Protection Agency.

Then in the last sitting, unbelievably, they rushed through amendments to our piss-weak

environmental laws so that the salmon corporations can continue to drive extinction and pollute Tassie's waters. Then just for an extra kick in the guts, they removed the people's access to the courts to hold them to account. Tony Abbott threatened to do this, but even he didn't go that far.

For many, Labor's appalling failure to call out and take action against Israel's genocide of Palestinian people in Gaza will never be reconciled. It was political failure driven by an inability to really see and know injustice in the world now.

In their re-election bid, Labor have now promised free GP visits, strong regulation to stop the supermarkets price gouging and to wipe more

student debt. Sound familiar? Yes, the Greens in this last term campaigned hard on these important things. We introduced laws that would stop price gouging, wipe student debt, protect koalas and legalise cannabis. Having Greens in parliament is so powerful, because with you, we set agendas and drive change inside, from the outside.

As the realities and injustices of the intersection of the climate, nature extinction, cost of living, housing, inequality and kindness crises have become more and more severe, Labor's lack of courage to act and their incrementalism has become insufferable and stirs an anger.

Mandy, Dr Luke and Eddie, along with Senator Mehreen Faruqi and Senator David Shoebridge, are part of our awesome Greens team. Our roots were first planted in the forests of Tasmania. We were born from a protest movement with a hunger for environmental and social justice. We will always be that bit (and sometimes a lot) activist about what we do and how we do it.

With more Greens in parliament, we can keep Dutton and the Liberals out and make Labor act on the things we need, like dental into Medicare, the end of native forest logging and real action on the climate, housing and cost of living crises.

This is it folks, it's time to step up. If we want change, we can have it, it's within real reach, but we have to vote for it (again), and here in the Northern Rivers it's going to be so easy to vote 1 Greens. You know you can get involved too, it's your democracy.

See you on the hustings!

Lismore Council reimagines role of advisory groups

At the last Lismore council meeting, we officially said goodbye to the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG).

This is a real loss. NAG has played a big role over the years, making sure Nimbin had a seat at the table and pushing for what matters in our village.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to the group over many years, we see you and appreciate you.

We came very close to losing all the community advisory groups across the Lismore LGA, which would have been a huge blow to community voice, lived experience and grassroots input.

After listening to Public Access speakers and some debate, councillors agreed to keep the advisory groups, but to redesign them. Sadly, the Nimbin Advisory Group didn't survive that process.

There has now been the creation of a new Villages Advisory Group and Nimbin will have two representatives on it. I nominated to chair this group and it was accepted.

I see this as a fresh opportunity to strengthen the voices of our rural and

village communities and keep seats at the table for Nimbin.

Keep your eye out for the application if you are interested.

Visitor Information Centre

I'll be bringing a Notice of Motion to the next council meeting about the need to re-establish a Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Nimbin.

Since the last one closed in 2020 there has been a real gap.

The motion calls on Council to explore and engage in due diligence and prepare a business case and EOI for the Vinnies building and look at how council and community can work collaboratively if purchased to create a VIC, Aquarius Archive display and other possible community activities.

Nimbin welcomes thousands of visitors every year. We need a place to greet them, offer information, showcase local initiatives and creatives and promote our values and culture. This motion is the first step towards that.

Flood recovery

At Council there have been conversations on flood



by Cr Virginia Waters

recovery, and it's clear we need stronger leadership and a shared vision at council.

Our community and others across the region are still waiting for practical, people-focussed solutions.

We need to lead the way and press the Reconstruction Authority and State Government on answers for people who have not yet been advised of their stream, release of lands for relocation, relocation for those who are still waiting, support retrofitting and house raising where it is viable.

Only 16 grants given to date for retro-fitting and house raises which is a terrible outcome after three years, and to promote salvage and reuse for those that are not relocatable.

Also we must not forget

those impacted by landslides, who need clear and compassionate assistance.

It's time for the Council to step up and lead with purpose and advocate for our community.

Recovery is not just about rebuilding, it's also about restoring and supporting dignity and community resilience.

Youth Week

Youth week is coming up on 9th-17th April, and I hope the whole community will get behind it.

Our young people deserve to be seen, heard and supported. Whether you show up to an event, have a simple conversation or simply remind them that they matter, your support can mean the world and change a life.

This will be an area of personal focus for me through this term at

Council, working out ways to strengthen youth services and activities.

Show some love for our young people, not just in Youth Week but always; they are our future but also our now.

See Council's website for the full activities program.

Rainbow Walk

It was wonderful to be with the community for the opening of the beautiful Nimbin Rainbow Walk.

It's a fabulous new green space that honours the spirit of community. The signage, co-designed with Gilbert Laurie and the Widjabul Wiabel mob, reflects the deep cultural generosity we are so fortunate to receive and thank them for.

The walk also celebrates the Aquarius legacy with works and sculptures from local artists.

Huge thanks to the

Community Centre, especially Diana Roberts and Lois Kelly, to Council staff, John Blatch and Aquarius Landcare and the funding bodies who made this happen.

It's a beautiful collaboration and community vision.

Election

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to endorse Whian Whian resident Dr Luke Robinson as the Greens candidate for Page.

His deep care for the community, experience in health and social justice and calm, thoughtful approach to leadership would be a refreshing and much needed change in Parliament House.

Please note, the opinions expressed here are my own and not those of Lismore City Council. Feel free to contact me at: virginia.waters@lismore.nsw.gov.au



Young Northern Rivers residents react to budget

by Monique Tovo

Potties have been installed at Richmond and Page electorate offices as part of a nationwide protest.

Fed up with decades of inaction, young Northern Rivers residents from the Tomorrow Movement are taking a bold stand against the federal budget, installing toilets outside key Labor and Liberal-National MPs' offices across the east coast – including the Richmond and Page members' offices in the Northern Rivers.

The protest symbolises how both major parties are “flushing young people's futures down the toilet” by prioritising big business over real solutions to the housing, cost-of-living and climate crises.

“Young people are the ones that are predominately facing the brunt of the cost of living and climate crisis,” said Monique Tovo, a 30-year-old organiser with the Tomorrow Movement.

“Young people in Northern Rivers are working harder than ever, but we're being locked or flooded out of housing, saddled with student debt,

and forced into insecure jobs – all while Labor and Liberal-Nationals throw billions at corporations and submarines.

“This budget proves once again that they don't care about our future.”

The Potty Art protest

The potties, accompanied with slogans like “Labor's Budget: Flushing our future for big business” and “National's Budget Reply: Same shit, different party” serve as a stark reminder of how both major parties have prioritised corporate interests over everyday Australians.

Young people “flushed” symbolic items like paper money and cartoon submarines down the toilets, representing the billions wasted on AUKUS and developer handouts.

In the Northern Rivers the protests outside the Richmond and Page electorate offices highlighted how young Northern Rivers residents are being left behind:

- Housing crisis: Rental affordability is crippling Northern Rivers young people, with low income earners on \$40,000 per year having to pay 85% of their



income on rental housing.

- Student debt: HECS debts are now \$10,000 higher in real terms than 20 years ago, while graduate wages have barely budged.
- Mental health pressures: Mental health disorders among young Australians have surged by 50% since 2007, as financial insecurity takes its toll.

Why this matters

With young people making up 47% of voters, the 2025 Federal Election is a critical moment to demand better.

Research shows that fewer than one-third of young voters consistently back the same party, and right-wing identification among young Australians has nearly halved since 1998.

“This isn't just about the budget,” said Jack Simmons, a Tomorrow Movement organiser. “It's about whether young people will ever get a fair go in this country. We're watching politicians throw billions at corporations while we struggle to pay rent.”

“It's time for young people to fight back and demand a government that actually works for us.”

Turning a new leaf

by Eddie Lloyd

Greens candidate for the Senate

One of the most reassuring things my mum used to say to me after a hard day was: “Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life.”

Those words have always meant a lot to me. They remind me that I don't have to carry the burdens of today into tomorrow. I can leave the past behind and start afresh tomorrow. I don't have to stay the same.

I don't have to believe in the same things I did yesterday. Just because I have always done things one way does not mean I have to continue, and I don't have to apologise to anyone, nor feel guilt for ditching beliefs of the past and holding new beliefs.

The tomorrows of today allow all of us the opportunity to turn a new leaf and start again. Soon tomorrow will be 3rd May. The Federal election offers all of us the opportunity to do things differently than before – to vote for change.

Do you always vote for a major party, even though life hasn't really got much better for you? Is loyalty to a major party working out for you? How is your housing situation? Your finances? Are you happy? Do you wake up full of excitement for your child's future? How is your health?

How do you really feel about the major parties accepting donations from coal and gas, gambling, liquor, pharmaceutical companies, property moguls, the big banks, corporations and billionaires? These vested interests have hijacked our democracy, and they influence (and sometimes buy) decisions about our future. Their money destroys the power of our vote, and that is what is hurting our democracy.

What also hurts our democracy is the increasingly punitive and draconian anti-protest laws targeted at anyone who exposes the dirty donors who are hijacking our democracy. And if you blow the whistle to expose the rot in the government, then the government will make sure you are silenced by putting you in jail, just like David McBride.

Dissent and free speech threaten the power of the duopoly. Yet, despite the vested interests bankrolling scare campaigns for their puppet politicians, I don't think Australians are buying it anymore. And I don't think Australians believe the major parties when they say that a minority government will be total chaos either, because you and I know that the last minority



government under Julia Gillard saw more legislation pass than ever in Australian history.

When power is dispersed to Greens and Independents in a minority government, our democracy is strengthened. When power is monopolised by two major parties, democracy is weakened.

Consider the duopoly of supermarkets that limits our choices and drives up prices while making quality go down. This mirrors the major party duopoly that stifles true democratic representation. Both scenarios limit our choices and don't give us value for our money, or our vote.

There is a reason the major parties do not like minority governments. It will send the duopoly to extinction. It will disempower the vested interests, and it will restore democracy.

A minority government with Greens and progressive independents with the deciding vote means affordable housing for all, dental and mental into Medicare, the end of dirty donations, no more new coal and gas, whistleblower laws that protect not prosecute whistleblowers, an increase to welfare support and unshackling ourselves from Donald Trump before he makes Australia his 51st state.

When you enter the voting booth this election, just remember the wise words of my mum: “Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life.” This election isn't just another obligation, it's an opportunity to turn a leaf.

Your vote is private, shielded from scrutiny, yet its influence can ripple through society in profound ways. By voting for what you really believe, rather than just out of loyalty, your conscience will be clear, and you will experience a sense of personal integrity that feels truly empowering.

You don't need to continue to carry the burden of the past into tomorrow, leave it behind you and turn a new leaf on 3rd May.

The Greens: leading on the important issues for Australia

by Dr Luke Robinson

Greens candidate for Page

I am standing for The Greens in Page because I believe they are the only party with the ambition and urgency required to address the many challenges our community and planet face.

The Greens develop principled, sensible and costed policies based on evidence from both experts and people's lived experience. The Greens stand up for you and our precious natural home, rather than the billionaires and big corporate donors like the old parties do.

I grew up in a conservative rural family, but my father inspired me with his waste-not-want-not attitude, being a keen recycler, and respecting the land around him. He helped stop a large open-cut coal mine being opened in the fertile dairy farming valley we lived in. My mother worked as a nurse and was a deeply caring person, who after my father passed away when I was 14, raised four kids on her own.

From my early twenties onwards, I came to realise that as a person who cared deeply about community, decent public services and the protection of our precious natural home, of all parties the Greens most closely represented my values. My years of working as a specialist Emergency Physician in our local public hospitals has only reinforced this.

The Northern Rivers now is more diverse and open than the region I grew up in. However, there are still many people here who do likely hold values that align with the Greens policies, but out of tradition still vote for one



of old parties, though they no longer truly represent them.

Country voters are tired of inadequate public services, tired of having to fight off the big miners that would ruin their farms and water, and tired of facing one fossil-fueled (un)natural disaster after another. They want representatives that turn up, and listen to their needs, not the billionaires and corporate donors of the old parties.

So, when people hear Greens policies, they like them. To see a GP for free and have six free government-run community health centres in every electorate would be a game-changer. Finally getting dental into Medicare. Ensuring all public schools are properly funded so our children can get a decent public education. Making the billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax, so we can pay for the services we need.

Treating housing as human right for everyone rather a plaything of property speculators, building enough public housing, and making housing affordable for first-home buyers and renters. Facing up to the reality of climate change, stopping dangerous new coal and gas developments, and making the fossil-fuel companies help pay for our skyrocketing insurance.

Investing in cheap and

reliable renewable energy, and ensuring workers can transition from old to new industries. Protecting this country's amazing forests, rivers and seas and the unique but often threatened creatures that live in them.

Opposing the 370 billion dollar AUKUS boondoggle and its handful of ill-suited nuclear submarines that will arrive either too late, under foreign command, or not at all. Developing our own independent defence capability and foreign affairs policy in light of an increasingly unreliable US “ally”. And supporting our First Nations peoples' rights to self-determination over their own destiny.

On each of these issues and more, the Greens have been prepared to take the lead, far ahead of the old parties, and changed the debate in this country. Sometimes, like with our popular GP for Free policy, Labor and even the Coalition have been forced to at least partially match our commitment.

But the best way to guarantee that these policies actually get implemented is to vote Greens representatives like me into parliament. This election, to keep the Coalition out and force a minority Labor government to take real action, vote Green in the lower house and in the Senate.

To find out more about me or support my campaign, go to: <https://greens.org.au/nsw/person/dr-luke-robinson> or www.facebook.com/DrLukeForPage

To find out more about our policies, go to: <https://greens.org.au/platform>

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Elliot no fan of Wallum's unique ecology

by Scott Sledge, president

As the Federal election draws near, I remember a visit to Justine Elliot's Richmond electorate office at South Tweed in March 2024.

About 30 citizens gathered to demonstrate for the urgent need to reform environment and planning laws at both state and federal levels.

Fridays4Forests had asked Justine in advance to address us or to delegate one of her staff to meet us.

She did neither. She locked the office doors and plastered the windows with papers attacking the Greens.

She later sent a message saying, "This latest planned Greens Party 'protest' is about trying to stop a new housing development at Wallum."

This was only partially true, as Wallum and other 'zombie' developments that should have lapsed under any sensible planning laws were – and still are – a Greens concern.

But Justine and her staff know me and had been advised that we were not from the Greens, just constituents who wanted to express concern over planning decisions at all levels of government that allow serious damage to our ecology, and especially to the habitat of wildlife in our public native forests.

Federal ALP had promised a "nature-friendly" review of planning laws before the 2022 election, but that is yet to happen. Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek could have called for a review of the decision to allow the Wallum development to proceed in sensitive coastal wetlands, but she did not.

Justine Elliot claimed, "Developments only need to obtain approval from the Federal government when they are likely to significantly impact matters of national environmental significance."

The fact that Wallum represents a threatened ecological community in one of the last remaining coastal areas on the east coast of Australia



should be enough for the Feds to have a look at it, but instead the Save Wallum group of local environmentalists had to pool money to finance a court challenge by the EDO which led to a Temporary Restraining Order against the developers.

We await the court's decision about making it permanent. Possibly the site can be bought with donations from the public.

Forests

The issue was raised again at a rally in Byron Bay on 23rd March, with forest campaigner Valery Thompson saying, "Building a new set of luxury houses will do nothing to alleviate the housing crisis but will destroy the homes of the wildlife that currently live at Wallum."

NEFA president Dailan Pugh estimated the march down Byron's main street to the beach park attracted nearly 1000 people. He said taxpayers spent \$29 million last year to prop up Forestry Corp's (FC) dodgy operations.

Professor David Heilpern, Dean of the SCU Law School, said that FC regularly gets fined for poor practices which violate the agreed-upon rules, but they don't care because no-one is held accountable when the government pays their fines.

He said the FC, a public corporation, should be "disbanded" because it is "a criminal organisation" and he would do that if he were to be appointed CEO. Mandy Nolan, Greens candidate for Richmond, promised to negotiate a ban on logging in public native forests as a top priority.

Climate change

Labor promised a national effort to rein in climate change, but many new licences have been issued for fossil fuel extraction that aggravate

the damage being done to our environment.

I can't see how the Labor government's campaign promise of saving 30% of Australia from land clearing by 2030 (the 30/30 pledge) will be anywhere near enough.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) says "Deforestation is having a devastating impact on native wildlife. Australia is currently ranked second in the world for biodiversity loss." (Evergreen, Greenpeace, October 2024)

CEC

The Caldera Environment Centre and shop is open again at a new location: 2/43 Wollumbin Street Murwillumbah, next door to Fresh Wholefoods. Contact: <http://calderaenvironmentcentre.org> or FB: Caldera Environment Centre.

CEC's annual **World Environment Day Festival (WED)** will be held on Sunday 8th June, 10am-3.30pm at Knox Park, Murwillumbah.

Ari Erlich wrote, "WED is always on 5th June. We hold our festival on the closest Sunday. WED aims to halt degradation of ecosystems to achieve global goals. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, counteract climate change, and stop the collapse of biodiversity."

"This is a call to action to combat the accelerating species loss and degradation of the natural world."

NEC will combine with Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc for an information stall at WED.

Great Koala National Park?

Maybe by then the NSW government will make good on its 2023 election promise to create a Great Koala National Park in the Coffs Harbour-Bellingen area.

NEFA members in the Lismore area have decided to campaign for



another National Park as a sanctuary for the biologically unique koalas in the forests of the lower Richmond River catchment, where koalas are likely to become extinct by 2050.

These forests have been targeted by loggers although the remaining spindly trees are mostly suitable only for fenceposts and woodchips.

The FC does not "responsibly maintain native forests for sustainable yield," as they claim. Currently the forests are protected by the consistently wet weather that impedes logs being removed, despite government paying big bucks to cut and gravel roads into the forests. So the rain is good for something!

The logging lobby has lately been whining about not getting enough logs from our public native forests.

Surely it's time to turn to 100% plantation timber instead of scavenging our forests for whatever they can find and leaving behind cleared areas that become home for little other than invasive weeds and feral animals.

Federal election issues

The major political parties have abandoned the future in favour of pandering to voters' immediate financial issues.

The housing crisis gets the most attention, and the Coalition is spruiking more gas to get us through to the nuclear-powered age – in about 30 years.

Does anyone seriously want to pay more for electricity generated by the most hazardous method imaginable, with great risk to our children and grandkids?

If enough Greens and Independents

are elected, they could sway the ALP to stop approving fossil fuel projects, which cost us the earth as we count the effects of climate change.

Our national environment could be protected with a revised Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) that requires decision-makers to address the effects of new projects on climate.

The 1999 EPBC doesn't even mention climate change, and has failed to prevent massive destruction of nature from threats like continuing land-clearing, increased bushfire intensity, logging, mining, and inappropriate development.

Of course we hope for responsible management of social housing, medicine and education. If we don't have a liveable environment, the other issues won't matter.

The new government must *not* follow the USA into social discord and favouritism. It may be our only chance to get big money out of politics.

Sometimes it all seems sad, but we hang on with hope. Please vote wisely.

AGM in May

NEC will hold its 2025 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14th May at 6pm in the green room (Community School room) at Nimbin Community Centre following our regular monthly meeting which starts at 5pm. All welcome. Nice refreshments.

A good time to pay annual membership. Only paid-up members can vote or stand for the management committee.

Give peace a chance!

Nature at risk: The cost of delaying conservation action in Kyogle LGA

by Kyogle Environment Group

As Australia grapples with a biodiversity crisis, species are quietly being added to the threatened list while their habitats continue to be destroyed.

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek now faces legal action from the Wilderness Society over the government's failure to implement recovery plans for hundreds of unique animals and plants.

At a local level, this raises urgent questions about habitat protection in the Kyogle Local Government Area (LGA). One of the most effective tools for conservation is the implementation of conservation zones – previously known as environmental zones (E Zones) – administered by local councils.

These zones are designed to protect land of high conservation value where the primary



land use over the past two years has been environmental conservation or management.

When determining conservation zone designations, councils assess ecological evidence to decide whether an area qualifies for E2 (environmental conservation) or E3 (environmental management).

These classifications apply to rainforests, wetlands, endangered plant species, vegetation that has been cleared beyond 70% of its original pre-1750 extent, or areas of cultural significance to Aboriginal communities.

For agricultural land, important environmental features should be safeguarded through vegetation mapping. Astonishingly, Kyogle LGA has neither conservation zones nor vegetation mapping in place – an omission that needs urgent attention from the council.

Despite this, one positive step forward is the current requirement for dual consent on private native forestry (PNF) operations in Kyogle. This means PNF plan-holders must apply for a Development Application from the council, allowing a more comprehensive assessment of logging's cumulative impacts.

This process is crucial for planning wildlife corridors, including for koalas and other species dependent on connected habitats.

Fortunately, many of the threatened ecological communities that should be protected under conservation zones are already recognised under the Local Land Services (LLS) Private Native Forestry Code 2022.

When landholders apply for a PNF Plan, certain threatened species – such as the pouched frog, greater glider, yellow-bellied glider, and long-nosed potoroo – should receive protection. Other vulnerable species

in the Kyogle region include Albert's lyrebird, marbled frogmouth, regent honeyeater, eastern bristlebird, glossy black-cockatoo, red-tailed black-cockatoo, and of course, the beloved koala.

However, responsible and honest self-assessment by PNF landholders before logging is crucial to ensure these species are identified and protected. Equally critical is for Kyogle Council to act on implementing conservation zones and vegetation mapping without further delay.

At a broader level, Minister Plibersek must be held accountable for the failure to enact recovery plans for Australia's threatened species. Without decisive action at all levels of government, our nation risks losing irreplaceable biodiversity.

Individually, collectively and politically, we must step up and give nature the protection it deserves.



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High time to end the war on weed

by the MardiGrass Organising Committee

Fun fact: Cannabis now outsells beer in America

For 33 years, MardiGrass has given voice to the Oz weed resistance, tirelessly educating and agitating for an end to the war on weed.

As usual, MardiGrass offers mind-blowing ideas and education all weekend at the 2025 Hemposium, and is an extraordinary chance to share and learn about our favourite plant ally and healing herb.

The Hemposium will showcase an impressive line-up of speakers who will share their cannabis expertise and experiences across medical, industrial, science, politics, culture and more. A Weed University weekend!

MardiGrass is also all about sensible law reform for ALL drugs, so in 2025 we once again partner with Entheogenesis Australis to present a program dedicated to a rainbow range of medicinal plants.

We promise expert knowledge-sharing on iboga, mushroom cultivation and the alchemy of fungi, the effects of psychedelics on the brain, harm reduction, and San Pedro as a Guide to Surfing the Apocalypse. Don't miss it! 10am-10pm, Saturday 3rd May in the Town Hall Garden.

In 2025 we are excited to welcome nurse

and cannabis clinical researcher Dr Melanie Dreher from California. Melanie was a graduate student at Columbia University in the 1970s studying with famous social anthropologist, Margaret Mead, and went to Jamaica to study the use and effects of marijuana among the Rastafarian people, in particular the way that cannabis is used by the women and children of Jamaica.

Cannabis and the law

In 2025 MardiGrass is promoting a "human rights and justice" theme with an array of impressive and passionate speakers.

Behavioural scientist and leading saliva testing expert, Dr Michael White will discuss the science and justice of Australia's roadside drug testing programs.

Local poet, ex-magistrate and Dean of Law at SCU, David Heilpern, will host a Q&A on drug driving laws in Australia, while Cameron Francis from The Loop will give us a rundown on what's happening with drug and pill checking in Australia.

Human rights lawyer, Dr Pat Keyzer, will step us through why cannabis is now legal in so much of the United States, but not here in the land of Oz.

Long-time local drug law reform advocate, Steve Bolt, will provide helpful legal advice. Bring your questions!

Cannabis and science

And we haven't forgotten science or medicine. Plant Tissue Culture wranglers, Jess and Allison, from Cymra Life Sciences will instruct us on the best way to propagate and store disease-free clonal lines of cannabis.

Join Dr John Teh and Chloe Jean Teh, from PlantMed Medicinal Cannabis, for a medical cannabis Q&A. John and Chloe have been working within the Medicinal Cannabis industry since the legalisation of cannabis for medicinal use in Australia in February 2016.

Paul Benhaim, Chief Cannabis Officer of Cannabis Psychedelics, will take us through the respectful use of this medicine for deep therapeutic enquiry, while our market area will host a dedicated Hemp First Aid demo space with Radic AI Conscious.

Cannabis and politics

Now the election has been called for Saturday 3rd May, our politician guests have thinned out somewhat. We are very excited that long-time cannabis law reform supporter, Federal Senator David Shoebridge will share the Greens Party's fully-costed scheme for legalising cannabis across Australia – a green new deal!

NSW State MLC, Jeremy Buckingham from the Legalise Cannabis Party will record episodes for his 'Into the Weeds' podcast which explores cannabis current events, politics, crime, conspiracies and culture.

We're pleased to welcome Miles Hunt, Lead Senate Candidate (NSW) for Legalise Cannabis Party to share his campaign experience: a story about fighting for a better future – one that involves decriminalising nature and supporting the many functions of hemp and the incredible cannabis plant.

Industrial hemp

This year's MardiGrass Industrial Hemp Expo will feature a hempstone workshop by molecular sculptor Martin Ernegg; and agronomist John Shaw Muir will share how abandoned hemp crops can provide re-entry points for more sustainable farming rotations.

Gerald Taylor of the Hemp Club will discuss accessing the endocannabinoid system through the skin, and the program will include a demo on soothing your tired body with Deep Hemp oil.

Meet licensed hemp farmers and demos all weekend at The Hemp Club, 80 Cullen Street, and Northern Rivers Hemp Growers Co-op, 46 Cullen Street.

Legends

And a massive shout-out to MardiGrass legends and stalwart supporters of cannabis law reform who will share their expertise and inspiration again with us in 2025, including legendary master gardeners, Tony Mullaways and Kog.

Hemp historian John Jiggins will return to ask whether Australian was originally intended as a hemp colony?

We are also honoured to announce that John Shipton, Julian Assange's father, will speak at MardiGrass 2025 about the importance of journalistic freedom as a cornerstone of a thriving democracy against dangerous tyranny.

The 2025 MardiGrass Hemposium is a space to inform, learn, agitate, inspire and connect in this massively important green revolution.

Tickets are for sale at: nimbinmardigrass.com and cost \$150 for three nights camping and entry into all events.

The history of the Hemp Olympix

by Chibo Mertineit

In the first three years of MardiGrass, from 1993, we experienced a lot of drunken violence around the pub and on the streets of Nimbin at night-time. Bob Hopkins, inventor of the MardiGrass, in his foresight had already initiated the 'Jungle Patrol', a volunteer-run community support group, for the time of the festival.

As Bob, Michael Balderstone and I were sport enthusiasts and the Sydney Olympics were coming in 2000, I came up with the idea of the Hemp Olympix. As the heroin crisis was growing and some people had no idea about drugs, we thought we'd make it educational and fun.

From the spilled bong water on the carpet and the smell of it came the idea of the bong throw and yell. Typical overreaction of joint smokers.

I thought we should show what hard work it is to grow the plant with drought and floods and helicopters overhead. The Iron Growers person event was born. As we were all joint smokers, we created the ten minutes artistic joint roll, followed



by the speed roll, the blindfolded and under extreme conditions rolls.

The fundamental events were established for the 1996 MardiGrass. While the events were held, I informed the audience about drug laws in other countries.

As I've always admired the Olympic Torch run, I thought it would be great to have runners coming into Nimbin from all directions for the new Opening Ceremony, to point out to visitors and locals that this is a drug law reform festival and to be responsible and caring for Nimbin and each other.

I couldn't find the other runners and thought then it should be a symbolic run from Lismore, where our local court is based which makes these devastating sentences for people who grew and used cannabis.

I wanted to send out a salute and thank you to the Aquarian pioneers who came for the festival in 1973 with their vans and combis. As a German, I used the original spelling, and the 'Kombi Konvoy' started in 1996, following me through the streets of Lismore.

Later, well-organised for decades by Alan Morris, we started it in Byron to honour Rusty Harris for his 16 court hearings about a sniffer dog lifting his testicle.

The first Hemp Olympix Torch was an artwork by Geoff Moxam and we came up with 'the eternal flame for the victims of prohibition' on the Hemp Olympix Torch.

A highlight in the history was doing the Hemp Olympix in Sydney one week before the real Olympic Games, to welcome Graeme Dunstan's NSW prison tour with *peacebus.com*, counting the victims of the war on drugs.

It was an amazing day and the world media reported on our events.

For more than 20 years the comedians S Sorensen and Alan Glover have taken over the commentary and brought the Hemp Olympix to a new level, and S has written a book about it.

MardiGrass ready to roll

by Michael Balderstone

We've organised the 33rd MardiGrass same as ever, but with a new light on the horizon clearly starting to shine, even if it isn't as bright as we hoped for, like home grown and organic. I'm talking about the thousands of people in Australia being introduced to cannabis for the first time each day now.

Legal weed, sometimes now known as pharmaceutical weed, has the web awash with Telehealth offers for "alternative ways" to feel better, without mentioning the word cannabis because it can't be advertised. And it gets cheaper and cheaper as they compete for business which is now touted to be worth around \$2 billion a year.

Maybe almost half Aussie weed is now legal! And virtually all imported, the majority from Canada which has a huge over-supply.



However, there are a few legal growers in Australia who have to jump through a lot more hoops with their product than the imported stuff, and there's one stand-out who insists on being organic and growing in the Earth.

This is Cymra who have strived to produce a top quality product not far from Lismore in fact, so not in the easiest of climates. I've toured their farm which employs about fifty people who have the dream job of working with weed every day.

I'm thrilled Joel and his Cymra team are coming to MardiGrass this year to

talk about their operation in some detail. Also John Muir, a Queensland government employee whose job is teaching farmers how to grow hemp, is coming to show us his way. So there will be no excuses for not growing your own when the time comes!

All the other regular events are rolled up and ready to light. The Kombi Konvoy and the 420 Stoner Blaze, Stoned Chess, Pot Poetry, the Great Green Cabaret, The MardiGrass Comedy Show with S and Alan Glover, the Laugh Mob, the Pickers Ball and a big line-up of musicians on the Indica and Sativa stages.

Then for in between all that learning there's the stack of comedians and musicians, poets and storytellers, market stalls and movies, Nimbin will be happening for our 33rd annual cannabis law reform protest and gathering this year.

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Chamber progresses crucial initiatives for Nimbin

As we embrace the vibrant energy of autumn in Nimbin, it's exciting to reflect on recent successes and outline some of the crucial initiatives the Chamber has been working on.

Opening of the Rainbow Road – A community-driven outcome

The official opening of the Rainbow Road on Sunday 23rd March is a powerful testament to the vision and depth of community spirit within Nimbin.

The event celebrated connection, reflecting the deep ties that bind our community across generations. From the farming roots that laid the foundation of Nimbin to the Aquarian experience that transformed the village into a vibrant hub of creativity, sustainability, and alternative culture, the Rainbow Road embodies the shared experiences that have shaped our unique identity.

On behalf of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, I would like to acknowledge and express deep appreciation for the creative thinking and unwavering commitment that has driven this project forward.

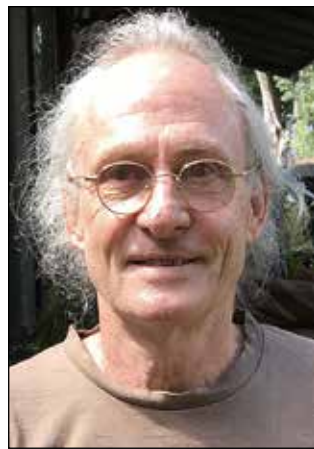
Rainbow Road's success reflects a collective dedication to achieving an outcome that benefits the wider community – a true embodiment of what can be accomplished when people come together with a shared vision.

This project is a collaborative success between the local community, state and federal governments, and community organisations. Beyond its stunning visual appeal, Rainbow Road now provides a focal point for visitors beyond the main street, offering a meaningful and engaging experience as they explore the village.

The walk is an incredible asset to the community, offering many spaces for contemplation and a connection to art and nature. The walk provides a peaceful and enriching environment where locals and visitors alike can take time to reflect, engage, and appreciate the natural beauty surrounding Nimbin. Rainbow Road is more than just a pathway – it's a place where people can slow down, connect, and immerse themselves in the spirit of Nimbin.

Mothers, fathers, youth, and elders all acknowledged the result of the tremendous effort made by members of our community who were willing to invest their energy and vision into making this project a reality.

Their dedication has left a lasting legacy for future generations and provided a powerful symbol of what can be achieved when a community works together with a shared purpose.



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

Connecting the community with Roots Festival organisers

The Chamber recently facilitated conversations between local businesses, musicians, and Roots Festival organisers, Lou and Phil Bradley, ahead of the 2025 Nimbin Roots Festival to ensure the best possible outcomes for the Nimbin community.

This collaborative gathering allowed all concerns to be heard and addressed from multiple perspectives, with the intention of enhancing the festival experience for locals and visitors.

By uniting these voices, the Chamber strives to ensure that the Roots Festival continues flourishing as a vibrant and successful event that benefits the community economically and culturally while preserving Nimbin's unique charm and identity.

Weathering the Storm – Cyclone impact and recovery

The recent cyclone Alfred brought unexpected challenges to our region. While Nimbin was spared the worst, the Chamber acknowledges the difficulties many businesses and households endured, including power outages and the impact of wind and water, which disrupted daily life and operations.

In addition, the media coverage surrounding the event often painted a more dire picture than reality, with dramatic images of floods and tempests from past events circulating widely. This misrepresentation deterred many potential visitors, impacting local businesses at a time when the community was ready to welcome them.

We stand in solidarity with those affected and will continue to advocate for support and resources where needed, ensuring that accurate information is shared to protect the reputation of our resilient community.

Inaugural Nimbin Business Awards – In partnership with Lismore Chamber

We're thrilled to announce that the Chamber is working



with the Lismore Chamber of Commerce to present the inaugural Nimbin Business Awards.

This initiative aims to recognise and celebrate the exceptional contributions of local businesses and organisations that make Nimbin unique. Further information regarding business nominations will be forthcoming.

Expanding the interagency concept – Strengthening collaboration

The Chamber is taking steps to further develop the Interagency Concept by initiating a mail-out to all community organisations to organise an initial meeting and evaluate the potential for increased collaboration.

This move is timely following the Lismore Council's decision to discontinue Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) engagement.

Chamber advocacy – Business rate levy secured

Following consultation with Lismore councillors, the Chamber successfully advocated for withdrawing a motion that would have discontinued the business rate levy.

This levy remains the

primary source of funding for the Chamber, allowing us to continue our vital work, which includes:

- Mural Maintenance – Preserving the visual stories that make our village unique.
- The Poetry World Cup – Promoting Nimbin's magical light.
- Support for Women in Business – Encouraging diversity and leadership in our business community.
- Pathways for Youth into Business – Creating opportunities for future generations.
- Funding for Major Events – Boosting the local economy and fostering cultural connections.

Welcome new Chamber committee members

We're pleased to welcome two new members of the Chamber management committee:

- Steve Taylor – Proprietor of Nimbin Limousines, with a keen interest in roads and regional transport, Steve brings a wealth of knowledge that will enhance our ongoing advocacy efforts.
- Jenny Levenu – Representing the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Jenny replaces Caroline Nature and will continue to champion the interests of

this key organisation in the retail, cultural, and wellness space.

MardiGrass 2025 – Less than a month away!

The countdown is on! MardiGrass is fast approaching, bringing a significant injection of fun and finance to the village.

As always, the Chamber works closely with organisers to ensure the event runs smoothly and benefits the entire community.

Chamber General Meeting rescheduled – New date announced

Due to the recent cyclonic conditions, the Chamber's planned general meeting for March was postponed.

The new date is: Monday 12th April, 5.30pm at Nimbin Central School's MPU Building.

This meeting will focus on youth transitions into the workforce and strengthening ties with local schools and youth groups.

We're delighted to have Rain and Wick from Nimbin Youth and Mark Chaseling from Nimbin Public School join us to reinforce our commitment to nurturing opportunities for young people.

Women in Business – Continued success and inspiration

The recent Women in Business Wealth and Well-being practitioners' meeting at Alam Kesehatan Wellness Retreat Centre was a resounding success, with 19 women attending.

Aline Binetruy, who leads our Women in Business initiative, recently met with Pam from the Ballina Chamber to exchange resources and ideas.

Their team was highly impressed with Nimbin's women-in-business model, which the Chamber showcased at a recent Business New South Wales event.

St. Vincent de Paul building – A potential community asset

The St. Vincent de Paul building on Cullen Street is up for sale. The Chamber is exploring the opportunity for the community to acquire the site.

The Chamber has lodged an expression of interest with St. Vincent de Paul, with potential uses including:

- Aquarius Archives – Preserving the rich cultural history of Nimbin.
- Visitor Information Centre – Filling a critical gap to serve the growing number of tourists visiting the area.

Upcoming events in April

- Nimbin Art Fair– Nimbin School of Arts, 12th – 27th April
- Sonic Bloom – Nimbin Bush Theatre, 19th April
- MardiGrass – Nimbin Village, 2nd to 4th May

Thank you for your continued support! The Chamber's work is only possible because of the passion and dedication of our community members.

We remain committed to building a stronger, more connected Nimbin.

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THE GREENS

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GIG GUIDE

APRIL 2025

09 APR	Monthly Irish Folk Jam Eltham Hotel	WED
09 APR	Open Mic Night Lismore City Bowlo	WED
10 APR	Joe Dabron Hotel Metropole	THU
11 APR	Bean Magazine ft. Empty Threats Mo's Desert Clubhouse	FRI
12 APR	Stoned Waves ft. O & Shea Howl and Moan Records	SAT
12 APR	The Pretty Littles' Album Launch Bangalow Bowlo	SAT
12 APR	The Hop Ups - 50s Rockabilly Hotel Metropole	SAT
12 APR	Full Moon Reggae Party Hotel Brunswick	SAT
12 APR	NBC & Swederland Show Mo's Desert Clubhouse	SAT
13 APR	Custard #3 ft. Gut Health + More Bangalow Bowlo	SUN
13 APR	Andrew Morris Eltham Hotel	SUN
16 APR	John Craige Eltham Hotel	WED
17 APR	Kayza K Hotel Metropole	THU
19 APR	Sonic Bloom Twilight Markets	SAT
19 APR	Raiders of the slop world Alex House, North Lismore	SAT
20 APR	Punter ft. Fly Agaric + Mozzies Lismore City Bowlo	SUN
20 APR	Way Out West Eltham Hotel	SUN
24 APR	Spill the Tour with Total Buzzkill Hotel Metropole	THU
24 APR	Monthly Bluegrass Jam Eltham Hotel	THU
26 APR	Nedlands Studio Party ft. Liminal Lismore City Bowlo	SAT
26 APR	Andy Gollodge Band & Queenie Eltham Hotel	SAT
26 APR	Pennys Grove - Cover Band Hotel Metropole	SAT
27 APR	Chris Aaronsten Eltham Hotel	SUN

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Wednesday Nite R&R

Wednesday Nite R&R is an electronic and dance music radio show broadcast every Wednesday from 8pm to 10pm-ish on Nimbin's iconic and independent radio station Nim-FM, on the airwaves at 102.3 FM but readily accessible on-line at: www.nimfm.org where you can listen to any of the numerous shows that are aired 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Wednesday Nite R&R is hosted by Glockn'Speel (Ian) and La Fray (Gina) exploring all the latest trends in the dance music scene together with delves into recent and old skool toons that we electronic music aficionados love.

Through April we will be hosting a local guest DJ that will bring fresh musical themes, DJ techniques and uplifting vibes creating delicious ear-gasms.

Wednesday 9th April will see the return of Chairwoman Wong with the focus on early female producers and artists of house and electronic dance music. This show was supposed to have been aired to celebrate International Women's Day but was postponed due to that pesky Cyclone Alfred.

Wednesday 16th April will be a Back2Back showdown with the notorious FAB (Fabien Prevost) bringing

his 'Sex, Drugs and House' attitude to the Nim-FM airwaves. Glockn'Speel and FAB have been collaborators for many years and enjoy an exciting and funky DJ-ing relationship, melding various genres and mixing styles together between them. Definitely a show not to be missed.

Wednesday 23rd April will see a collaboration of Wednesday Nite R&R with Soundunes Show. This will be a four-hour Hip Hop Showcase. Once again, we will be exploring early hip hop and some funky RandB. DJ Mr Murphy (Dylan), Courtney of Soundunes and Glockn'Speel will be doing a B2B2B show that is a must for Hip Hop aficionados. This show starts at 6pm.

Wednesday 30th April will welcome the return of Keir Forest showcasing his skills in the house and techno sphere. Keir is well known amongst the younger generation of our area for his banging beats and rocking high energy dance floors. He was the highlight of the dusk set of Sonic Bloom Vol.6 Bush Theatre courtyard session.

Glock and Keir are developing an exciting B2B relationship that will be further explored on this special evening show.



The 33rd annual MardiGrass will begin with another BIG Great Green Cabaret on Friday evening 2nd May.

There will be a chance to dance with the finale by crowd favourites, The Hoochers featuring Miss Jodie Digney.

The show will also feature music by Andrea Soler and Tim Tonkin, the Smugglers, Lil Flunk and Jocelyn Freeman.

Also on the bill are React Circus and Nimbin acro-artiste Hartje, Brisbane performance poet Angela Peita, stand-up comedian Odette, the wonderful Ganga Faeries, poet/host David Hallett and more.

Tickets \$30, doors open at 7pm, first in/best seated, table settings are fully booked. Show starts 7.30, dinner and supper available.

Flourish Sanctuary: Community, connection and growth

by Jagad Samuel

As the weather has brought a lot of activity, so too has the energy at Flourish Sanctuary, where we continue to nurture a space for meditation, mindfulness and meaningful transformation.

We are grateful to have got through Cyclone Alfred without significant damage to people or buildings. Here's what's happening at Flourish in the coming weeks.

Monday meditation mornings

Every week, we offer a dedicated time for stillness and reflection. Join us for meditation sessions from 10.30am to 12pm, with optional lifts available from outside Nimbin Town Hall.

This is a great opportunity to cultivate inner peace in a supportive environment.

Garden mornings with Bodhi

Get your hands in the soil and connect with the land every Wednesday morning as Bodhi leads our gardening sessions.

Whether you're an experienced grower or a curious beginner, you're welcome to join us in tending the gardens that help sustain our community.

Sound healings with Michael

Every Thursday, Michael offers powerful sound healing sessions designed to restore balance and harmony.

Using a combination of instruments and vocal toning, these sessions provide a deep and transformative experience. Come and immerse yourself in the healing vibrations.

KYM - Kirtan, Yoga, Meditation

Every Saturday from 9am to 12pm, we gather for a morning of soulful practice.

KYM integrates the uplifting energy of Kirtan (chanting), the grounding movement of Yoga, and the deep stillness



of Meditation. Come for one or two or stay for all three.

Sunday Satsang

For those who look forward to our regular Satsangs, please note that this month we will meet only on the second Sunday at Mullumbimby.

Join us for an afternoon of wisdom, discussion, and community followed by live music played by Bodhi and a potluck meal.

Welcome WWOOFers

A huge thank you to Robin and Tadjia for their wonderful contributions while WWOOFing with us.

Robin has now embarked on a silent meditation retreat, and we send him our best wishes for his journey inward.

We welcome Marcus and Miyo who will be WWOOFing with us for part of April. Hello also to Alana and Raf, Bodhi's sister and nephew, who will be visiting during April.

Working bee

Lend a hand and be part of something bigger. Our next working bee will be on 10th May.

This is a great opportunity to contribute to the up-keep of Flourish while sharing in the spirit of service and teamwork.

Thinking of holding a retreat?

Flourish Sanctuary is an ideal space for small retreats.

If you are looking for a serene and supportive environment to host a gathering, reach out to explore how we can accommodate your needs.

We welcome you to be part of Flourish in whatever way speaks to you. Whether through meditation, gardening, yoga, or simply joining the community, there is always space for growth and connection here.

For more information, visit our website: www.FlourishSanctuary.com.au or visit Flourish Sanctuary in person at the end of Gungas Road, Nimbin.

The MardiGrass Medicinal Comedy Show



"Yeah, nah, good." – Greg Sullivan



Sorrensen and Glover: Putin and Trump.



Ting Lim. "Ting as a stand-up is the best Ting ever." – Jimeoin

The world is changing quickly. Hold on. Nothing is certain. Nothing can be relied upon. Except the annual MardiGrass Comedy Show, which always has, and always will, dish up dollops of laughter (the best medicine) on the MardiGrass Saturday night.

This year that night is 3rd May at Nimbin Town Hall at 7.30pm. (Everybody welcome. It's cheap as.)

Another reassuring unchanging thing? The hosts, Alan Glover and S Sorrensen, well known for being well known, older but bolder, greyer but greener, angrier but funnier. This year, the dopey duo present comedians Ting Lim and Greg Sullivan.

Ting Lim's dry sarcastic observations have endeared her to audiences since she represented Queensland in the Melbourne International RAW comedy

competition. Since then, she has toured sold-out comedy shows across Australia.

And she's a hard-working funnyist: In 2024, she performed at the Perth Fringe World, Adelaide Fringe, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Sydney Comedy Festival, culminating in a sold-out Brisbane Comedy Festival show.

Ting has just filmed her debut stand-up special with director Jim Hare.

And now, her comedy climax – the MardiGrass Medicinal Comedy Show!

As Kitty Flannagan described her: "Funny and just a little bit scary... in a good way."

And then there's Greg. Greg Sullivan, dear mate to Alan and S, is one of their favourite comedians. They're very excited that he's returning to the MardiGrass Medicinal Comedy Show.

Since first performing in Nimbin

in the 90s as a teenager, Greg has performed in China, Los Angeles and Casino. He lived with his children in the Northern Rivers for 10 years before going back on the road full-time in 2023.

He has written and performed for TV, film and radio, but he has a special fondness for the Nimbin School of the Arts (Town Hall) – and MardiGrass in particular. Some of his fondest memories are in that building and that festival.

He hopes one day they'll return to him.

So, there ya go, folks. An invigorating one and a half hours of funny stuff on Saturday 3rd May at 7.30pm in the Nimbin School of Arts, to help you make sense of a senseless world.

See ya there.

NIMBIN THEATRE TROUPE RETURNS

by Jay Stephens

Following the success of *Five Monkeys* in 2023 (with Rainbow Power's invaluable contribution of set materials), Nimbin Theatre Troupe took a break to recharge our energies and develop dastardly designs.

Now the troupe is back at the Nimbin School of Arts, and plans to deliver a double-header of theatrical mayhem – a veritable one-two punch of theatrical madness, coming your way this Winter (or early Spring, depending on schedule).

First up, in the French Grand Guignol tradition, a dark but hilarious farce written in 1906 by Eugène Héros and Léon Abric, *Chop Chop* or *La Guillotine*. So good they named it twice, this piece will be presented in a special adaptation to suit the local staging. It's a Parisian farce that will make you think, and shed some light on our 21st century tendency to lose our heads over nothing.

On the flipside of the bill, Nimbin

Theatre Troupe will premiere *Blood Moon*, by Al-Mustapha Al-Shaheed. Expect daring and innovative staging in this piece, pushing our props and lighting gurus to their limits; a tale of love, greed, betrayal, and some very, very good boys.

Get Involved

The troupe needs your energy: we are looking for volunteers to join our troupe!

A wardrobe person is urgently required – sewing skills a bonus, and most importantly, a love of rummaging in op-shops to find the perfect threads for our otherwise naked actors.

A hair and makeup helper is also needed – this could suit anyone studying for a beauty qualification who is looking to get a theatre piece on their résumé.

Finally, at least three stage crew are needed – no experience is necessary, just

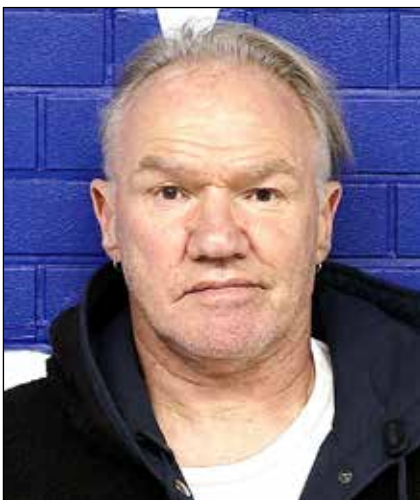


the energy to get up on stage when the lights go down and change the set in time for the lights to come up for act two!

What is Literary Allsorts?

First run in 2023, Literary Allsorts is a biennial single day mini fest held right in the heart of Kyogle. Think of all the things you love about the Kyogle Readers and Writers Festival – nationally renowned authors, engaging conversations and a laid back, accessible vibe condensed in a bite sized snack.

So who is coming? Let's start at the top with the sublime Tony Birch (pictured) who will be appearing not once but twice on the main stage. Then there is the very talented Nam Le who has returned after far too long with his latest offering *36 Ways of Writing a Vietnamese Poem*. KRAW Festival favourite's Daniel Browning and Jessie Cole are both coming back to do the talky talky they do best. We've got local writers Sharlene Allsop, Maggie Walters and Annika Johansson coming along for a panel hosted by the ABC's Angela Catterns



who is fresh off Costa wrangling duties in 2024. Then there's a very special memoirist event featuring David Kelly, Hanie Abdile and Aidan Coleman.

2025 sees the return of our always popular open mic poetry event, hosted by local hero Vince Stead, and a fun night of trivia and music MCed by the captain (that's the correct title, right?) of our local CWA the always funny Odette Nettleton and featuring local lovelies Thor and Jasmine Phillips.

And on top of all that, the poetry comp is back, and we are running a very special Ignite Young Minds schools showcase at the library with Melaina Faranda. While Hayley Lawrence and Jarrah Dundler will have their work cut out for them choosing our 2025 Writer in Residence.

You can read about these authors and more at: kraw.com.au

So when do tickets go on sale? Well aren't you an eager beaver? Tickets will be on sale towards the end of April though the website. So keep your eyes, ears peeled.



Events Programme



Sonic Bloom
Sat, 19 April 2pm - Midnight
6 DJs
Fire Artists
Body Painting Dancers
Trapeze Artists



Movie Nights
The Big Lebowski (MA15+) Friday 11 April, 7:30pm start
Bad Boy Bubby (R18+) Friday 25 April, 7:30pm start
MardiGrass Movie Double
Pineapple Express (MA15+) & *Cheech and Chong: Up in smoke* (R18+) Friday 2 May, 6:30pm start



Easter Egg Hunt
Monday 21 April
10am: Snack Bar
10:30am: Easter egg hunt & Easter Bunny Visit
11am: Peter Rabbit Movie

Host Your Event Here - Venue Hire Available

Contact
events@nimbinbushtheatre.com
0476008278

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