

Inspirational, dedicated local people recognised

One thing that has always stood out to me is that our community is full of quiet unsung heroes.

For me, one of the best things about Australia Day is presenting Council's Australia Day Awards to recognise and honour those passionate people who dedicate a large part of their lives to building a stronger, healthier community with no thought of personal gain.

I would like to congratulate all of this year's winners and nominees. Our community would be much poorer without them.

This year's Citizen of the Year is Neville Graham (pictured) who has volunteered for more than 40 years to assist our emergency services.



Other winners were Tracy Ward (Services in the Community – Individual), Lismore CWA (Services in the Community – Group), Len Ward (Volunteer of the Year), Caitlyn Halliday (Junior Female Sports person), Alex Sipple (Junior Male Sports person), Lismore Rowing Club

(Sports Team, Group or Organisation), and Victoria Collingnon (Arts and Culture).

If you want to read more about them, go to the news section of Council's website.

I would also like to thank our inspiring Australia Day Ambassador, Geoff Coombes, who co-founded

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

Tour de Cure, a pioneering Australian charity that has raised over \$140 million to fund cancer research, support and prevention programs.

After the awards presentation, we proudly welcomed 16 new citizens from 12 countries to the nation and our community, in a Citizenship Ceremony.

Legends of Cricket

What may become another tradition is Gilly's XI taking on the Mayor's XI.

That's right, the Legends of Cricket is returning to the recently upgraded Oakes Oval this month, thanks to the support of Bennett Constructions.

The match was first held

in 2023, as part of the Opening our Heart series of events to mark 12 months since the 2022 natural disaster. Many of the players have been eager to return to Lismore and support our community.

Lismore's own, Adam Gilchrist, will take to the field with other legends, including Steve O'Keefe, Jason Gillespie, Dan Christian and Sammy-Jo Johnson, as well as great local cricketing talent.

Powderfinger's lead singer, Bernard Fanning, is also padding up to bat.

Gates open for the 2025 Legends of Cricket Twenty20 cricket match at 1pm on Saturday, 15th February, with the game blasting off from 3pm. Go to: www.visitlismore.com.au to grab your ticket.

Still on cricket, last month

we named one of the stands at Oakes Oval in honour of cricketing legend, John McMahon.

Back in his day, McMahon dominated first-grade cricket in Lismore, playing 32 seasons, 18 for Marist Brothers and 14 for Western Districts in Sydney. He achieved more than 120 five-wicket hauls across his career.

His commitment to local cricket was further exemplified by his roles as a coach and administrator, earning him life membership in several cricket organisations, including the Lismore District Cricket Association.

Recognised for his contributions, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2008.



Forest defenders action plan

Fridays4Forests recently met in Lismore to plan the year ahead for Forest Defenders.

On a very hot day in Lismore (37 degrees), we sat in the air-conditioning so we could plan our future actions.

The group decided to continue its highway actions to raise awareness of the continued logging of our State forests, which is not 'selective clearing', but it's clearing-felling everything with heavy machinery.

Other actions include holding workshops to develop skills on-line; supporting our forest protectors in court; entering the forests where the logging is occurring; attending Janelle Saffin's office with letters from our community, and creating skits out the front on the pavement, on Fridays – of course!

Look out for them at The Channon market every month, and at the 'March in March' on Sunday 23rd March.

Autism Strategy shows way forward

by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

In January, the Albanese Labor Government released the National Autism Strategy for an inclusive society where autistic people are supported to thrive in all aspects of life, in line with international human rights.

I welcome this landmark announcement that I have been eagerly waiting for, and for which I have always advocated.

The National Strategy resulted from the inquiry by the Senate Select Committee on Autism that highlighted the serious challenges faced by autistic people and their families in Australia.

Autistic people have a life expectancy more than 20 years shorter than the general population, an unemployment rate almost eight times the general population, and experience high levels of social exclusion, discrimination, loneliness and isolation.

In announcing the strategy the Federal Minister for Social Services, Amanda Rishworth said addressing the barriers Autistic people face in areas like education, employment and diagnosis was long overdue.

The National Autism Strategy and Action plan focuses on four key reform areas: social inclusion; economic inclusion; diagnosis, services and support; and health.

The First Action Plan includes \$42.3M in funding for programs including:

- A peer support program to provide lived-experience knowledge, empathy and culturally tailored advice for Autistic people in groups they resonate with. Something that more formal systems might not be able to offer;



- Enhancing community understanding, awareness and acceptance of Autism through new awareness and education initiatives;
- Improving the diagnosis process through resources to support Autistic people and their families with pre- and post-diagnosis information;
- Boosting pathways to meaningful employment.
- A dedicated knowledge translation body, which will ensure academic research into neurodiversity informs and improves the policies and services impacting Autistic people's lives day to day;
- Identifying ways to improve Australian Government services, supports, information and the safety and welfare of Autistic people;
- A comprehensive epidemiological study to identify the true prevalence of autism in Australia, which will underpin future policy development.

The National Autism Strategy together with its first action plan, means I will now be able to better encourage a



Micheal Lynch talks with Janelle

comprehensive response at a regional and state level.

The National Strategy points out the areas where the states deliver services including public hospital, community health services, schools, pre-schools and TAFE, police and courts and correctional centres, public transport, child protection, domestic and family violence services, and major sporting facilities.

This list makes it clear we now need a strategy at the state level.

I have long been pushing for a NSW Autism Strategy in the parliament, and have supported local advocates who have been calling for this because I understand the significant challenges faced by Autistic people in our community, particularly in regional areas.

Three years ago I hosted a roundtable discussion on autism in my office, and from that meeting the seeds were sown for the Northern Rivers Autism Association Limited.

I acknowledge the founder and chair of NRAA Micheal Lynch, who with Business NSW's regional director Northern Rivers Jane Laverty, drove local consultations which helped to inform the national strategy.

Like me, Micheal is very keen to see the first NSW Autism Strategy become a reality.

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Local grassroots services for youth need support

As we settle into the rhythms of a new year, many of us find ourselves setting intentions, ways to reconnect with each other and with the planet.

It's a time to reflect on what truly matters, building strong, sustainable communities, caring for our youth, and fostering connection amid the noise of politics and headlines.

And what a noise it is; the Trump return to the White House; billions funnelled into an expensive nuclear submarine program; and the bewildering chaos that seems to dominate national politics.

But when governments are distracted by power games, it's often the grassroots that step in to fill the void.

Locally, I've been fortunate to be part of conversations around much needed youth services in the LGA.

The Magpie Centre is re-emerging as a possible space for Goonellabah youth or a Youth Hub for organisations to collaborate, and Nimbin Youth is stepping up to provide support in our town that's been under resourced for decades.

Both initiatives are grassroots, community-led responses to gaps that have lingered for far too long.

For nearly 20 years, our youth have been waiting for



by Cr Virginia Waters

face-to-face, drop-in services, for mentoring that meets them where they are, for safe spaces where they can be heard.

These programs aren't just about keeping young people occupied; they're about holding them in community as they transition into adulthood. It's tough out there, I remember, don't you?

It's no secret that the cost-of-living crisis, housing instability, and family stressors weigh heavily on young people today. The need for a youth hub that offers wraparound services has never been more urgent.

Yet these programs, run on passion and care, often struggle to secure the funding they need. That's where we all come in.

If you have capacity and want to take action not just hopes and prayers, consider

helping out. Volunteer your time as a mentor, contribute your administrative skills, or donate what you can to support these emerging organisations in your community. Every small act counts.

We also need governments that get behind these types of services. You will have that opportunity at the next election by voting for Greens candidate Dr Luke Robinson in the Page electorate.

Luke recognises that grassroots initiatives can be even more creative and powerful when they are properly supported. Let's elect a government that gives a damn.

So, as we set our intentions for 2025, let's think about how we can strengthen the connections that matter most to our communities, to our young people, and to the planet we all share.

The insanity of politics may rage on, but at the grassroots, change happens when we step up and show that we care. Let's make this the year we hold each other close, especially the youth who will carry us into the future.

The opinions expressed here are mine alone and do not represent those of Lismore City Council. Contact me at: virginia.waters@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Kerry O'Brien and Jenny Hocking in Mur'bah

by Richard Hil



The opening event of the 2025 Politics of Life series, titled 'Unstuck Australia: Becoming a More Decent and Independent Nation', features author and broadcaster Kerry O'Brien and Emeritus Professor Jenny Hocking, Gough Whitlam's biographer and author of *The Palace Letters*.

Kerry and Jenny (pictured) will discuss the values that shape today's Australia and the sort of nation we should and could become. How can Australia become a better, more equitable, inclusive and just nation that finally comes to terms with its past?

Can we grow into a more independent country, that truly knows its place in the world?

There will be music, food and drink, sparkling conversation involving two respected progressive thinkers, and lots of open discussion that will send everyone home with a sense

of renewed understanding and purpose.

The event will be held on Thursday 20th February at M-Arts, Murwillumbah.

Doors open at 5.30pm, with music and conversation starting at 6.45pm. To book and for more details, see: www.trybooking.com/CYNOZ



We need best practice in politics Vote for change

by Dr Luke Robinson, Greens candidate for Page

waiting on the shelf.

Then there are those who say we can just engineer rather than behave our way out of climate-change, turbocharged disasters like floods or fire. It's like a doctor who tells a patient it's OK to keep on smoking and eating poorly because we can always do a major heart operation on them some time.

Or interest rates. Giving the Reserve Bank of Australia this one tool to fight inflation is like a doctor only using one medicine to treat every patient with a fever. Never mind the underlying cause. Recent inflation has largely been due to supply, and opportunistic corporate price-gouging, not excess demand. Interest rate rises do nothing to address the former, and specifically hurt mortgage holders already struggling with cost-of-living pressures, who are not responsible for the problem. A nuanced treatment plan would target the actual causes, for example by:

- Providing cheap and reliable renewable energy, produced here in Australia and not sensitive to price shocks from overseas wars or oil cartels;
 - Providing universal public services. It is both far cheaper and more equitable to provide essential services like health care and education through our government (funded by a progressive tax system) than through privatised systems;
 - Long-term public planning and provision to address and prevent workforce shortages;
 - Legislating against unlimited rent increases and increasing the supply of public housing; and
 - Legislating against corporate price-gouging.
- But if you want sensible, nuanced policy like this enacted, if you want change, you have to vote for it. This is what I and other Greens candidates, including Eddie Lloyd, our local number two on the NSW Greens Senate ticket, offer when you vote in the upcoming federal election.

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

If doctors like me practised medicine the way many politicians do politics, we'd be struck off for malpractice, for peddling disinformation, or just for sheer incompetence. In health care we have regulatory bodies watching us, but for politicians? Well, ultimately it is you, the voters. If you want change, you have to vote for it.

My job requires expertise and nuance to get things right. It requires an acknowledgment of complexity and individual variation. It requires respect for other colleagues' expert opinions, for the evidence. It requires honesty, a commitment to tell the truth with compassion. Not necessarily what patients want to hear, but what they need to hear, to accurately understand their situations and the options open to them.

A topical case of political malpractice can be seen in the hard line taken by some politicians stirring up fear and outrage on youth crime. I understand the safety concerns for communities, but overall youth crime is down. However, these lazy politicians grossly overstate the extent of the problem, misdiagnose the causes, then proffer simplistic but harsh and costly remedies, that only make the problem worse. As lawyer and Greens NSW MLC Sue Higginson says, "It costs \$985,500 per year to lock up a young person; imagine the healing and real support we could provide vulnerable young people and their families with that much money... Sending young people to prison does not work to prevent and stop crime, it just teaches young people how to be better criminals."

On energy policy, we still have some quacks prescribing the same out-dated diet (fossil fuels), despite decades of research showing it's slowly killing the patient. Then offering another dangerous and even more expensive dish (nuclear) that will be served up too late in any case. All while the cheapest, immediately available and safest food (renewables) sits

Acknowledging our young sports stars



On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan, MP for Page

I held an event to celebrate the young sporting champions of the Northern Rivers, and presented a certificate and \$550 to 34 teenagers.

They have all excelled at their sport and represented us at a State, National or International level.

The Local Sporting Champions program

provides financial assistance for competitors aged 12-18 participating in state, national or international championships.

If you visit: www.sportaus.gov.au and go to Grants and Funding, you can apply there.

More mental health services

Labor has cut the number of Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions in half,

from 20 to 10.

A Coalition Government will bring back the full 20 Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions permanently.

Having affordable mental health support is more important than ever.

With the cost of living going up, many families and individuals are struggling, and the Government's cuts have left people without the care they need.



Don't give up: Stand up for your rights!

by Eddie Lloyd, Greens
candidate for the Senate

Since Donald Trump's inauguration, I have heard many people say "It's always the darkest before the dawn."

I have personal experience of this and know it to be true. Things always seem to be at their worst before there is a breakthrough.

Trump's inauguration left many people in the dark searching for a light switch and shivering in the long shadow cast by Trump's dystopian executive orders.

We knew it was coming, but the removal of basic human rights as his first act as president is still hard to fathom. Just as we were grappling with this frightening new reality, a bright light escaped a crack and the Bishop of Washington, Mariann Edgar Budde appeared. She opened her mouth and spoke truth to power.

It's disappointing that our so-called leaders haven't called out Trump on his bigoted, divisive behaviour before now. Why do we continue to wait, like sheeple, for them to show some moral courage and say what needs to be said. How much more evidence do we need to illustrate their failed leadership?

Here in Australia, it is the failed leadership of the two major parties that has contributed to the climate collapsing, that has allowed the expansion of coal and gas, and it is they who have made laws that criminalise the right to protest against their poor leadership.

Our right to speak truth to power is the cornerstone of democracy. If we are jailed for speaking the truth, then the only people left to speak freely will be the powerful. The silencing of truth tellers in Australia has already begun.

David McBride's case has shown that the State will stop at nothing to shut a citizen up. David McBride revealed the truth that the Australian Defence Force is rotten to the core.

He revealed evidence that showed that the ADF leadership knew that soldiers like Ben Roberts-Smith were committing heinous war crimes, including murder.

They not only did nothing about it, but they went to great lengths to cover these war crimes up. It was the actions of the leadership involved in the cover up that attracted David McBride's attention and triggered his complaint.

Instead of championing David McBride for acting in our public interest by

exposing this criminality, the State persecuted, prosecuted and jailed him, removing him from his daughters, family and community.

As for Ben Roberts-Smith, he continued to be awarded medal after medal by those in leadership positions who knew about the blood on his hands. Despite a court finding that it was more probable than not that Ben Roberts-Smith committed murders, why is he still not charged?

Why is there a photo of him and his medals still on display in the Australian War Memorial? Some have said that if he is charged, he could bring down the whole deck of cards and that is why he remains a protected species.

Meanwhile, David McBride has been in jail for 10 months. On Monday 3rd March, at the Supreme Court in Canberra, he will appeal the conviction. A large group of supporters will be there so please join us, if you can. If not, consider making a donation to his legal fundraiser: <https://chuffed.org/project/davidmcbride>

McBride has not wasted a single day in prison. He starts his day doing 20 km on the rowing machine, followed by weight training and running. His focus is laser-sharp. He is stronger than ever before.

He is not seeking justice for himself. He is driven by the desire to fix the rotten pillars of our democracy and protect our right to speak truth to power without fear of being persecuted and jailed. His fight is our fight, the fight to protect freedom of speech.

We must quit being bystanders and stop waiting for others to lead. We must be leaders ourselves because if we don't, we will lose everything.

I am grateful to Bishop Budde for her leadership. It is now up to us to be leaders. We can attend rallies. We can stand up for our rights in everyday situations too, in our homes, at the dinner table, at the shops, on social media and in conversations.

Wherever and whenever we see our own or someone else's rights being trampled, we have a duty to each other to say something. By doing this we can build a chorus of voices so loud that we cannot be ignored.

Albert Einstein once said that the world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.

Don't be a bystander. Listen to Bob Marley: "Get up, stand up for our rights. Don't give up the fight."

Too much law and order shrill and not enough justice

If ever you needed another reason to know the current National Party Federal Member for our electorate of Page needs to go and is not capable of doing his job, it's his latest shrill and dangerous law and order politicking.

It is a double barrel of disgrace because the truth behind it is that it's a declaration of war on the most troubled and vulnerable young people in our community and it is nothing more than his tired political ego feeding his pre-election relevance deficit.

He started on his social media claiming that "Youth Crime is Out of Control" on a tile with a picture of him and a 2GB radio host with a picture of Parliament House in Canberra with an Australian Flag flying in the middle. The words of the post read:

"I spoke with 2GB Sydney this morning about youth crime being out of control in our communities. We need to get these kids off our streets, for the communities and their own good. They need to learn accountability and responsibility.

"As part of our plan to get Australia Back on Track, a Coalition Government would work with the states and territories to develop stronger laws to tackle these problems. We will toughen bail laws and knife crime, and make it illegal to use social media to boast about crime."

He then did a series of comments to various media outlets in what can only be described as lynch mob politics. It's not just dangerous, it's stupidly ignorant! His law and order shrill is what criminologists refer to as a moral panic, it's dangerous and baseless.

Of course stealing things and threatening or actually hurting people is wrong and should not happen and of course the victims of any crime must be delivered justice. But this MP is not working on the facts or calling for genuine solutions.

Furthermore, the guy is so out of touch he's running off at the mouth calling for laws that already exist here in NSW, tighter bail and knife crime laws and offences to post and boast a crime on social media, those laws were all passed in March 2024.

The truth about crime is that the youth crime rate is actually falling overall and



Sue Higginson,
NSW Greens MLC

what we are seeing, in some localities across regional and rural NSW, is a spike in break and enters and car theft. The reason many break and enters take place associated with car theft is due to needing keys to open and operate a vehicle.

Young offenders are always young people who have been failed, through no fault of their own, they are carrying trauma and pain that has been inflicted on them and more often than not suffer from cognitive impairment or have a disability.

What we know is that being tough on crime and sending young people to prison does not work to prevent and stop crime, it just teaches young people how to be better criminals, the rates of recidivism and lived experience shows this in no uncertain terms.

It costs \$985,500 (nearly \$1 million) per year to lock up a young person. Imagine the healing and real support we could provide vulnerable young people and their families with that much money if we had political leaders who really want to stop young people committing harmful property crimes and who had the intelligence to drive the advocacy needed.

Most countries around the world have worked out that locking up kids is not just disgraceful and a breach of international human rights standards, it doesn't actually work and they have raised the age of criminal responsibility. In Nordic Countries, where crime rates are extremely low, the age of criminal responsibility is 15 and in China for property offences it is 16.

The evidence is very clear that when you take the criminal justice system out of the equation and young people

are held to account and responsibility through appropriate support and trauma informed mechanisms and care, behaviour changes and the crime stops.

I think the harshest truth is that here in NSW, 66% of young people behind bars right now are First Nations young people, they are as young as 10 years old, and yet they are only 4.5% of the entire youth population of NSW.

I attended the recent Magpie Centre Community meeting in Goonellabah, organised by CEO and Aboriginal community leader Bradley Walker, where the community came together to discuss genuine approaches to assisting young people at risk and those who have fallen off the rough edges of their life track.

Bradley is calling for support for a safe place for young people to gather, where genuine programs and support can be provided, for it to be a hub for identifying all the local resources, services and organisations already addressing youth needs and coordinating the wrap-around support our kids need and deserve.

It was brilliant. I love that we are a community who believes in the politics of love, hope and action and that we are not afraid to be guided by kindness, even when the problems before us are hard and complex.

The Federal National Party MP apparently couldn't make it, I noticed on the very same day he made it to the TV news cameras where he was continuing his shrill, reckless, lynch mob divisive and hateful, law and order politicking.

What's clear is that it's really only a few older people in positions of power and privilege, who have no expertise in law, criminology, health or social justice services or sensible economics who engage in dangerous law and order, moral panic, lynch mob politics – just so they can get on radio or TV and get some clicks in the lead up to the Federal election.

If we want better, and we deserve much better, we need to vote for it. Dr Luke Robinson cares deeply about the wellness of all of us and wants to work to see more social and environmental justice for our region. If anyone can do that, it's the good Doctor Luke.

Incarcerating our kids is not the answer

by Michael Balderstone

Long before I knew our aborigines are the oldest living culture on Earth, I was fascinated by them, and as a kid dreamt of what it would have been like here before us white fellas came storming in.

And I can imagine what it's like for aboriginal kids growing up in Goonellabah now, or any white fella town for that matter.

I've seen the boarded-up suburbs of Dubbo and watched kids in Nimbin for decades get busted and go to jail. Sometimes I never see them again and wonder if they're still in there.

Of course, once locked up you have access to drugs to help you handle the situation. Addictive drugs.



Photo courtesy The Nightly

I get Kevin Hogan's frustration when calling for more to be locked up: his people are frightened, understandably. But who wants another law and order election when clearly that way is not working. And

what about the nightmare situation we've created for the cops? They're exhausted and defeated and being asked the impossible of.

The kids running riot at night have little respect for our system, and no wonder.

One third of the adults in jail in Australia are aboriginal men and women. But the figures are way higher for youth.

Sue Higginson says the cost of locking up a child is close to a million dollars a year now. God, couldn't we be so much more creative with all that money rather than locking them up in a criminal university. Otherwise known as a private profit-making prison.

I also hear quite a few kids would rather stay in jail with three sure meals a day, video games, drugs if you want, and no home dramas, because of course that's where most of it starts.

Our colonial bullying is fast catching up with us, and it ain't going away. We have big time karma on this one.

Will we get a Great Koala National Park in 2025?



by Scott Sledge, president

More than 200 people gathered outside the NSW Forestry Corporation's regional offices at Coffs Harbour, on Monday 13th January.

Sue Higginson, Greens MLC and Northeast Forest Alliance (NEFA) president, Dailan Pugh both spoke passionately about the on-going logging in areas considered essential wildlife conservation zones in the mid-North Coast region.

The NSW ALP has long promised it would declare a wildlife protection area to be known as the Great Koala National Park (GKNP).

The Minns government has sought recommendations for inclusion during the past year, but has allowed logging to proceed in many vulnerable forests. Important wildlife habitat is being destroyed using public money!

Publicly-owned Forestry Corporation continues to lose money, collecting \$29M in NSW taxpayer subsidies last year.

The Coffs crowd was outraged to think that we pay for the destruction of forests; destruction that increases the risks of climate change and puts plant and animal species at risk of extinction.

As the incoming administration of autocrats in the USA pulls out of the Paris Agreement (to reduce fossil fuel emissions) climate change continues to accelerate with extreme-event fires and floods in many parts of our planet.

Healthy forests play an important role in mitigating climate change impacts.

Confirming that the current rate of habitat destruction would result in extinction of koalas in the wild by 2050, both Federal Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young and Caz Heise, a 'Teal' (Community Independent) who ran for the seat of Cowper in the last election, said they would make the ending of public-forest logging a national priority.

Australia has one of the world's worst records for land clearing and species extinction.

Sue Higginson said we're very close to getting an official declaration of the GKNP, which would allow logging to be stopped in that designated area.

Sue said once we get the GKNP, other areas of public native forests will also be targeted for protection.

At a December 2024 meeting organised by Kyogle Environment Group and Lock The Gate, Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin (ALP) told me the state government would likely declare the GKNP early in 2025.

We need to maintain pressure on the government to act on this promise. Although many issues demand attention, the survival of our own species depends upon a healthy biosphere.

Amenity block at Nimbin pool

Construction has now begun near the pool. It will have changerooms and showers that can be accessed from either the pool or the park.

Nimbin residents have lobbied hard for this infrastructure, and I thank all involved in this improvement to our village.

Rainbow Walk/Aquarius Park

Another long-sought-after project, the Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track, which starts at Aquarius Park, is well advanced and the official opening will be in March.

Already, most of the weeds have been replaced by native-plant seedlings; a few wildlife nesting boxes have been installed, and

directional signage is in place. Benches and picnic tables will also be installed.

Many local people and organisations have contributed to this project, and the centre of our community is enhanced by it.

NSW Govt gift to developers

Developers can now apply to a three-person Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) in Sydney if they say their project has 'State Significance.'

The government aims to fast-track new housing starts but have neglected to put time-frame requirements into the process. This means that the 'zombie approvals' could be land-banked and offer no quick results. Local government is effectively cut out of the approvals process for any project said to value more than \$30 million.

Tweed Council mayor, Chris Cherry said, "We need real change

Part of the protest gathering in Coffs Harbour during January.

to the legislation that means if a developer gets a concession to our planning controls, they need to actually be required to deliver housing within a short timeframe. Otherwise, the land banking will continue."

Environment Centre shop

The NEC shop on Cullen Street continues to trade seven days a week and helps to inform the public about issues important to our environment.

We won't get on very well without a healthy environment, regardless of what the new oligarchy in the USA thinks.

Drop in to catch up on the news and see the range of local products, clothing and gift items. All proceeds go to support our environment. All involved are volunteers.

Let's talk trash

by Kyogle Environment Group members

You diligently sort your recyclables from general waste, place the bins out for collection, and likely don't give your waste another thought, naively believing that our color-coded bins and the recycling logos on our purchases meant society has solved the problem.

But, alas, no. Our waste does not disappear.

The journey begins at the local government area's waste facility. A cursory glance at these sites reveals a facade of order – designated areas for waste and recycling give the impression of modern efficiency. Yet, a closer look uncovers a system grappling with inadequacies masked as progress.

Recycling, supposedly the linchpin of environmental responsibility, feels more like an exercise in futility.



Materials are tossed into co-mingled concrete structures, partially covered but open to the elements. Winds scatter fragments of paper and plastic beyond their intended confines, littering the area with the detritus of a broken process.

As for general waste, it meets an unceremonious end, funnelled into massive containers before being buried in a vast, unseen landfill.

How deep does this graveyard of human consumption extend? Each layer silently chronicles squandered resources, buried potential, and a system



Kyogle Waste Facility, and its Job's tears weed infestation.

content with out-of-sight, out-of-mind solutions.

Yet, amidst this grim reality, nature persists. Behind the bulk waste containers at a facility near you, grows Job's tears, a plant classified for eradication on the North Coast.

Its silvery-green blades and bead-like seeds thrive defiantly in the shadow of human carelessness. It stands as a stark symbol of resilience, a mocking contrast to the inefficiency surrounding it.

Our waste facilities,

far from embodying sustainability, are stark reminders of the urgent need for reform – not only in waste management but also in our collective responsibility to the environment.

Troubling questions arise:
 • How much waste does your local government area produce each day?
 • How much of it is truly recycled and reintegrated into a circular economy?
 • How many of us are aware or care that much of this "waste" consists of plastics made from petrochemicals,



derived from fossil fuels?

• How can we reduce our consumption?
 • Most importantly, how can we do better as a community?
 Certainly not by developing or using waste to energy incinerators! For decades, what we thought was being recycled wasn't. And in many cases, it still isn't.

The very meaning of 'disposable' has shifted, from something extra, like disposable income, to something designed to be thrown away like disposable nappies.

Like the climate crisis, the waste crisis can feel overwhelming. Yet, just as with climate solutions, effective answers to our waste problems already exist. The challenge lies in turning awareness into action and demanding change from systems that perpetuate inefficiency.

It's time to move beyond complacency, embrace innovative solutions, and work together as a community to reduce waste and protect our planet.

The path forward is clear, if we choose to take it.



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 New stock arriving all the time. Check it out

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by Rain and Wick co-ordinators

Nimbin Youth is officially back and ready for exciting things in 2025! Our doors are open Wednesdays and Fridays between 3-6pm.

This year, we're brimming with exciting ideas and programs for the young people of Nimbin.

Stay tuned, we'll be sharing updates as we roll out new opportunities and activities to engage and inspire the young people in our community.

Call-out for volunteers

We're on the lookout for dedicated volunteers who are passionate about working with young people.

If you have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC) and a police check, we'd love to hear from you.

Even if you're just curious, come and have a yarn with us!

Support us on our mission

A huge shout-out to our amazing friend Tahlia, who has set up a GoFundMe campaign to help keep Nimbin Youth going strong.

It is at: <https://gofund.me/cff0fb0e>

Your support will allow us to continue opening our doors and showing up for the young people in our community.

Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference

Year 12 formal incentive

We're collecting formal dresses, suits, shoes and accessories to help young people attend their Year 12 formal in style.

If you'd like to donate, email Rain at: office@nimbin youth.org.au to arrange postage, drop-offs, or collection. Donations in good condition are greatly appreciated.

Help us make 2025 a year of growth, connection and opportunity for the young people of Nimbin.

Let's make it happen, together!



by Kerry Hagan

As most of you know, Nimbin Hospital has an 11-bed aged care facility housed at one end of the building.

It's surrounded by gardens and should be a delight. Except that it's not.

The gardens have been neglected in the last few years to the point where the residents are afraid to go out there.

On Saturday 15th February, Nimbin Garden Club is having a working bee at the hospital gardens.

With many hands, we should have it cleaned up in an hour.

From 2-3pm we are doing a blitz, with the wonderful help from CMC, the people responsible for fixing our roads.

They are providing a truck and a couple of strong blokes to cart away the green waste and rubbish.

From 3-4pm, we are having afternoon tea on the verandah to which the residents and their carers are invited.

Please come and join us.

The work isn't really hard, just bring your gloves, wellies, pruning shears etc and a plate to share.

Entry is from the side gate in Cecil Street.

Hope to see you there, and we will all pray to the garden gods for fine weather.

Embracing the opportunities ahead

As we enter February, it's time to embrace the opportunities for the new year while celebrating our incredible community and natural beauty that make Nimbin so unique.

With the year in full swing and children settling back into school routines, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce continues its mission to support our business community and strengthen the connections between local enterprises, councils, and regulatory bodies.

Together we aim to foster resilience, collaboration and growth for the benefit of all.

Tourism features

Nimbin is, without question, a tourist town. People worldwide are aware of our existence, drawn by the unique culture, stunning natural beauty and rich experiences we offer.

Visitors come to experience Nimbin's vibrant lifestyle, embracing community and authenticity.

Nimbin is surrounded by natural beauty that visitors and locals alike can enjoy. From the lush greens of our subtropical environment to



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

iconic landmarks such as the Nimbin Rocks, Mount Nardi, Minyon Falls, Blue Knob, Lillian Rock and Sphinx Rock, our village is surrounded by breathtaking landscapes.

Nimbin is home to a rich network of artists and craftspeople who bring vibrancy and authenticity to our town. Art in Nimbin is not just a creative outlet; it allows members of our community to benefit from the unique authenticity of their works, creating opportunities for meaningful connections and economic growth.



From pottery, painting and weaving to jewellery and sculpture, Nimbin's creative heartbeat is a source of pride and inspiration. Exhibitions at the Town Hall – such as the seasonal Spring and Autumn-Nimbin Art Fair – provide platforms to showcase these talents and attract visitors from near and far.

We proudly welcome artisans who wish to display and sell their works on the streets of Nimbin. This openness enhances the character of our village, providing visitors and locals with access to one-of-a-kind creations, while supporting the livelihoods of talented craftspeople.

We embrace and practise wellness, from massage, acupuncture, spiritual healing, yoga and cacao ceremonies. Nimbin offers diverse practices that cater to holistic health and well-being.

Our long-standing cannabis culture further reflects this ethos, as we continue to champion its healing potential through oils, tinctures and topicals.

Entertainment is another cornerstone of life in Nimbin. With venues like the Nimbin Town Hall, Nimbin Bush Theatre, Nimbin Bowling Club and various community halls, we are privileged to host a wide array of talented musicians and performers.

Our thriving arts and entertainment scene brings people together and provides unforgettable experiences for residents and visitors alike.

Survey

The Chamber recently produced a survey, which is doing the rounds to ascertain the needs and priorities of local businesses and the broader community.

This initiative aims to

provide valuable insights into how we can better support our members and foster sustainable growth in the village.

We encourage all local businesses and community organisations to participate in the survey. Your feedback is vital in shaping the direction of our efforts and ensuring that all voices are heard.

Workshops

The Chamber is funding a public speaking workshop featuring practical and creative activities in a fun, safe, and inclusive environment.

The workshop will be held at the Nimbin Information Centre at the Bush Theatre on Thursday 27th February, from 9am to 3.30pm.

For info and tickets, go to: www.nimbinaustralia.com.au/event-details/public-speaking-workshop

The Chamber will also host a meeting with Lou Bradley, founder of the Roots Festival, and local businesses on Saturday 22nd March, to explore ways to collaborate to maximise the opportunities this exciting event will bring to the village.

This meeting is an essential step toward ensuring that the festival benefits visitors, the local community and businesses, creating a vibrant and prosperous experience for all.

Inclusiveness

What truly sets Nimbin apart is our community.

Through support and collaboration, we've built a way of life that embraces everyone, offering spaces for all beliefs and lifestyles. This inclusiveness fosters a strong and supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

The Chamber of Commerce is here to champion our collective interests, but we can't do it alone. We encourage all business owners and community members to get involved by attending meetings, joining committees, or simply sharing their ideas. Together, we can continue to create a vibrant and resilient community that benefits everyone.

Let's embrace the opportunities ahead and keep building on what makes Nimbin unique – for ourselves, our visitors, and future generations.

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NIMBIN NUMBERS

Hey Chris Minns, where's our Koala Park?

by Susie Russell



Knitting Nanna Chris Degan locked on

On Monday January 13th, the good folk from across the region gathered in Coffs Harbour outside the offices of the Forestry Corporation. At the same time about 80 people in Sydney did a solidarity action. They were well-behaved but angry. Angry that the promised Great Koala National Park has not materialised and that intensive logging is ongoing at an accelerated rate compared to when the Coalition was in Government.

Truly sickening. A crowd of close to 300 listened to a great line up of speakers, including Ashley Love, who was the visionary behind the research project that verified the importance of the area between the Clarence and Macleay Rivers as home to potentially one fifth of all the koalas in NSW.

As well as Grahame Douglas, long time campaigner with the National Parks Association; Luke Robinson, Greens candidate for Page; Dailan Pugh, president of the North East Forest Alliance; Caz Heise, Independent candidate for Cowper; Sue Higginson NSW Parliamentarian and Senator Sarah Hanson Young.

Impromptu speeches from Sam and Spencer Hitchen had the crowd roaring in response to his call to make their voices heard. There were songs from Inga and Luke, as well as the Pine Creek Choir and the Save Bulga Forest crew.

The message was clear. The logging is a betrayal of the promise. At the latest 2025 should have heralded an end to the destruction. So many precious places have been much diminished by having their eucalypt canopies scalped. Satellite images clearly show the level of the damage. But no, the police are still providing escorts for log truck convoys.

After the rally, most of the crowd walked several blocks around the CBD, chanting many things but 'Hey Chris Minns, Where's our Koala Park?' was the most popular.

Two days later, a 75 year-old Knitting Nanna, who has been sitting outside the Forestry Corporation offices nearly every Friday for the last two years, locked herself to a massive piece of logging equipment in Gladstone State Forest.

She was quite roughly treated by the first responding police officer, resulting in serious bruises on her upper arm and neck. Pathetic that some police are so partisan and

assume that the forest defenders are the criminals, when we all know that the Forestry Corporation is an organisation with a whole string of convictions and more than a million dollars worth of fines and penalties... paid by us of course.

"There comes a time", Nanna Chris said, "that more drastic action is called for. It's no small thing to stop logging by being attached to a machine, so it can't be started for the day, but it feels more empowering than sitting outside the Forestry office."

Word is out now that logging is set to commence in Pine Creek State Forest. That's where then Labor leader Luke Foley announced in January 2015, that Labor, if elected, would create a Great Koala National Park. Who would have thought that 10 years later, a Labor Government would be allowing the logging of this iconic Koala stronghold, while still promising the park... after it's been logged.

Nature is under assault everywhere, and it is our life support system. One thing we can all do is not be fooled again by Labor promises and only vote for those people who are clear and strong in their commitment to stand up for nature and stop the destruction. It's time. It's past time.

No protection for coastal endangered gliders

On 22nd January, the results of a citizen science project identified two endangered greater gliders and two yellow-bellied gliders, also endangered, in the Gladstone State Forest, south of Bellingen.

The forest is currently being intensively logged despite being a critical corridor integral to the movement of koalas throughout what will soon be the Great Koala National Park, according to North Coast Environment Council spokesperson, Susie Russell.

"Both of these animals are well and truly on the path to extinction and depend on older forests with a connected canopy. They also don't tolerate heat and need the shade of multi-layered forest with tall trees and mid-storey.

"It is yet another failure of the Minns' Government that not only have the Great Koala National Park boundaries not been announced yet, but logging continues to strip out habitat that will make parts of the park less viable to support species like greater and yellow-bellied gliders in the future.

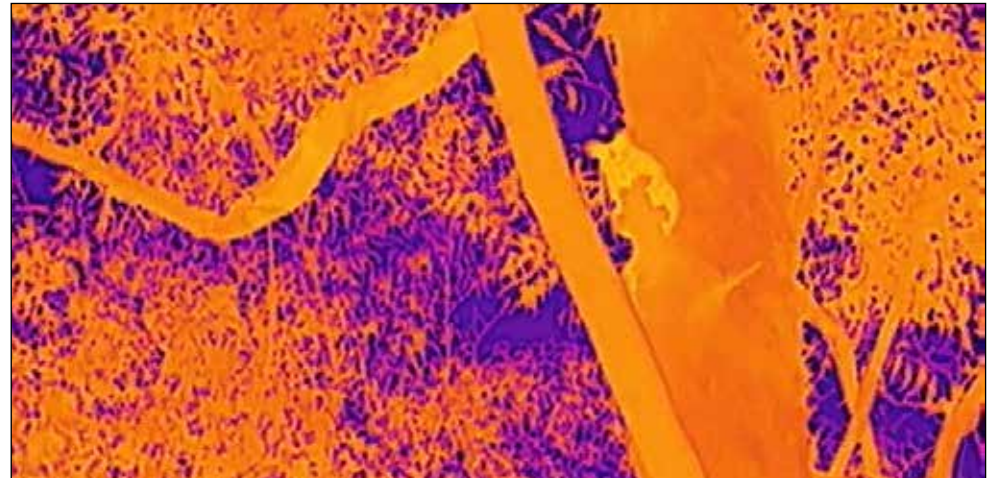
"What is particularly galling is that the Gladstone-Viewmont State Forests are part of an area deemed by Forestry Corporation to have low densities of greater gliders and hence don't trigger a pre-logging nocturnal search," Ms Russell said.

"You would think that where these endangered animals are more rare, on the coast, that they should be included in the requirement to look for them at night," said Lyn Orrego of the Nambucca Valley Conservation Association (NVCA).

"Our more-than-rare gliders along the North Coast are not being found nor protected. It takes citizen science efforts to bring this to the attention of the public.

"We want our coastal gliders to be afforded night time surveys like the other gliders in NSW.

"Yes there are fewer gliders left in coastal forests... but this makes them more precious... where they remain they should be protected so that as the forest grows older they can recolonise. As nocturnal animals it's



Thermal scope image of a nocturnal greater glider in Gladstone State Forest on 21st January 2025.

a no brainer that they must be looked for at night," she said.

"NVCA is writing to the EPA who have the power to include the coastal gliders in the special rules made last year for the other

gliders in NSW" she said.

"Failing that, there is an existing rule requiring searches for gliders generally that Forestry Corporation insists they will not do at night. The EPA could enforce this rule."

MARCH IN MARCH FOR FORESTS

BOB BROWN FOUNDATION marchforforests.org

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY
23.03.25

Theatre-making with movement at its heart

Highly qualified and internationally experienced choreographer, director and teacher, Deborah Mills (MAHons in Dance-Theatre) is teaming up with Lismore Theatre Company (LTC) to offer an exciting and innovative project.

Ms Mills is calling all interested creative people wanting to learn new skills and have the opportunity to perform on stage.

This is the first time LTC, a local, not-for-profit community theatre company, is investing in the creation and development of an original theatre work from the ground up: from script-writing to stage.

This ground-breaking project consists of 12 months of workshops culminating

in an original production in February 2026 at Rochdale Theatre.

Sharon Brodie, President of LTC, says "This adventure into the realm of dance-theatre is new and risk-taking for us, since movement is the primary focus."

Ms Mills calls this process Embodied Theatre. When asked to explain her term, she says, "My process places the human body at the heart of the narrative. I train the performers to use their bodies to express their emotions, so the spoken text is fully embodied."

"My hope is that participants will take to the stage this time next year!"

Ms Mills has created and directed productions in



Europe and Australia. Adults of all levels of experience with an interest in improvisation, movement exploration, experimentation with props, script development and performance, are most welcome to join the workshops and share in the fun of theatre-making. Workshops will be held

at Rochdale Theatre, Goonellabah on Tuesdays 6-9pm starting 18th February, and/or every third Sunday of the month 10am-4pm starting 16th February.

Cost: \$75 per three-month semester (\$50 for LTC members). For more information, and to make bookings, go to: www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au

LISMORE THEATRE COMPANY

Embodied Theatre

LTC is proud to announce the development of an innovative Embodied Theatre project that merges text, movement and storytelling in ways that captivate and inspire.

Tuesdays 6-9pm and/or 3rd Sundays of the month 10am - 4pm
At Rochdale Theatre
Starting 16th and 18th of February

WORKSHOPS
We are currently in the script development phase, crafting a theatre piece that will develop through workshops, improvisation, movement exploration and experimentation with props. Come and experience the magic of theatre-making!

OUR VISION
This project places the human body at the heart of the narrative, exploring themes in live performance through an exciting fusion of text, movement, soundscape and design. This 12 month process will culminate in a production that brings to life LTC's vision at Rochdale Theatre in February 2026.

Cost: \$75 per semester (3 months) / \$50 (LTC members)

Adult actors, movers and creators of all levels of experience are most welcome

Bookings through Humanix
<https://www.humanix.com.au>

admin@lismoretheatrecompany.org.au
www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au

Rochdale Theatre
403 Salford Rd, Goonellabah
0430299843

Byron comic book workshop

On Valentine's Day, Friday 14th February, from 2pm to 5pm, local artist and comic creator Holly English will be hosting a free event 'The Alternative Comics Workshop'.

As a Byron Bay Library special event for 'Library Lover's Day', Holly will be teaching the basics of making a comic book and how to express yourself through pictures and words. No experience or drawing ability is necessary.

You will leave with your own self-made comic and new knowledge and resources to explore this fun and therapeutic medium of storytelling.

There will be a break for beverages, strawberries and chocolates during the workshop, giving you time to mingle or simply check out the stellar selection of graphic novels that will be on display and available to borrow from the library after the workshop.

Holly said, "Everyone has a story... many stories to tell! Even stick-figure comic books can be truly moving. Share your stories with the world or even just a few friends.

Perhaps only for yourself!

"It is a joyful, explorative way of telling your stories; the good, the bad and the painfully ugly! There's beauty in the mess of our lives."

Holly is a contemporary artist, comic book and zine creator, cartoonist, illustrator, photographer and inclusive model, living on Arakwal Bundjalung Country (aka Byron Bay) since she was a teenager.

She has made nine comic books and is currently working on her first graphic novel. Holly has been shortlisted for The Australian Comics Award, and twice for the International Broken Pencil Zine Awards (Comics Section).

In 2024 she was featured at 'Read to Me' in Sydney, reading her Byron Bay comic book on the big screen in front of an enthusiastic live audience, which was recorded and later broadcast on 'All The Best' FBI radio.

This is an 18+ adult event, inclusive and accessible. Bookings are essential: (02) 6685-8540. Please let the library know your accessibility needs when you book.

LIBRARY LOVER'S DAY SPECIAL EVENT

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

18+

THE ALTERNATIVE COMIC WORKSHOP WITH HOLLY ENGLISH

BYRON BAY LIBRARY FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025 2-5PM 6685 8540

Richmond Tweed Regional Library
Cairns, Mackay, Brisbane

What's happening at Flourish Sanctuary?

by Jagad Samuel

Having concluded another wonderful World Peace Festival, Flourish Sanctuary continues to offer a diverse and vibrant line-up of events.

February is packed with opportunities for meditation, music, yoga, and connection.

Whether you're seeking tranquillity, inspiration, or simply a chance to connect with like-minded souls, there's something for everyone at Flourish.

Satsang: Time for connection and peace

These gatherings provide a sacred space for spiritual discussion and connection.

- Friday 9th February: The first Satsang will take place in Mullumbimby. Please contact Jagad for the address and other details.
- Friday 16th February: The second Satsang will be held at Flourish Sanctuary in Nimbin.

Both events run from 1pm to 3pm, followed by a potluck meal. Guests are encouraged to bring a plate to share in the communal meal that embodies the spirit of togetherness and sharing.

Monday morning meditation

Join Jagad and Charlie for Monday morning meditation sessions from 10.30am to 12pm.

These guided meditations are designed to centre your mind and bring clarity to your week.

Wednesdays: Practical Permaculture

Get your hands dirty and learn sustainable living practices with Bodhi every Wednesday morning from 9am to 12pm.

These hands-on sessions are perfect for anyone interested in cultivating a deeper connection with the earth and learning techniques to nurture the land.

Thursdays: Sound healing

Let the soothing vibrations of sound healing wash over you every Thursday from 9.30am to 10.30am.

Michael, a skilled sound healer, uses instruments and frequencies to guide participants into a state of relaxation and harmony.



Fridays: Music sessions

Join Bodhi as he introduces the mystical sounds of the Dilruba, a traditional Indian string instrument.

This session is an invitation to immerse yourself in music's meditative and transformative power.

Saturdays: Yoga, meditation and kirtan

A vibrant blend of activities that nourish both body and soul.

This combined offering is led by GuruDevAnanda, Bodhi, and Jagad.

- 9am: Begin with an invigorating yoga session.
 - 10am: Move into a serene meditation practice.
 - 11am: Experience the joy of Kirtan with guitar, drums and harmonium.
 - 12pm: Conclude the morning with herbal tea and conversation.
- This program is offered by donation, with a suggested contribution of \$10. You are welcome to come and go as you please.

Monday morning radio show

Tune in to Jagad's radio show, returning to the airwaves every Monday from 7:30am to 9:00am on Nim-FM 102.3.

For the month of February, Pritam will be joining as a special guest, bringing his unique insights and love to the show.

Start your week with uplifting conversations and music that resonates.

March Retreat

A special Meditation, Music and Satsang Retreat will be held from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th March.

This three-day immersive experience will include guided meditations, soulful music sessions, and profound spiritual discussions.

Flourish is committed to making retreats accessible to all. The cost for the retreat is just \$90, with additional costs for accommodation and meals. Spaces are limited, so be sure to reserve your spot soon.

WWOOFing spots

Flourish has a few WWOOFing places still available for February and March.

If you are interested in helping and you value an opportunity to learn new skills, get in touch.

We will happily teach you about anything from permaculture and bush regeneration to meditation and mindfulness.

Longer-term projects

We would like to do a special shout-out to Alison who has joined our community in a special support role to help us achieve some of our longer-term projects as well support and engaging with other organisations in the community.

We are excited to have already begun discussions with Lismore council, Dingo Ridge and the Environment Centre.

Why Flourish?

Flourish Sanctuary is more than just a venue; it's a community hub where people come together to explore inner peace, spirituality, creative expression, and sustainable living.

Whether you're dropping in for a single session or immersing yourself in a retreat, you'll find a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

We are also keen to support small retreats, so if you have a retreat idea, get in touch with us and we will see how we can collaborate.

For more details about any of the events, or to book your spot for the March retreat, visit Flourish Sanctuary, go to our website: www.FlourishSanctuary.com.au or contact us directly on 0433-173-508.

New song calls for action



by James Brook

I am proud to present from my new album, the first single 'Peoples' Uprising' which features Violet Co Co, the climate change activist and singer; Justin Moore from The Currency and other great Australian musicians.

It is inspired by the brave people I have met, giving everything to protect our environment, from nature lovers locking onto machinery to save our old growth forests, or community volunteers organising protests on the streets.

When our leaders put greed and profit and selfishness ahead of the values of nature, when they are too slow to act in an emergency, we need action, we need an uprising. Uprising to make our voices heard.

The fires are coming, the floods are coming,

it's time to act!

My new album, *Yandoit*, is named after the place it was written on. Yandoit is a Dja Dja Warung word meaning 'travel'.

The album will be released in February, inspired by my time in countries around the world and my down-time in Australia. From war-torn Ukraine to Africa and the work of anti-poaching rangers; from Peru being locked down on a ship during the pandemic.

And songs written during times of sanctuary, in the country around Castlemaine, where the mood of the Australian bush soothed my memories and heartbreaks.

A blend of folk, Australian and edgy alternative politics.

Listen to his first single from the album on Bandcamp: <https://jamesbrook.bandcamp.com/track/peoples-uprising>

ELECTRONICA DANCE TRACKS

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 and at: www.nimfm.org

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.

January was the first anniversary of the show and we are super excited to up the ante of the content in our second year.

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

Wednesday 5th February will see the renowned house music DJ, Mr Murphy (Dylan) taking us on a journey back to the days of old skool Hip Hop, remembering the likes of The Notorious Big, A Tribe Called Quest, Wu Tang Clan etc.

Wednesday 12th February will welcome the return of AudioTronix (Lewis King) to



the studio with his Back to Basics Bass House show. Bass house is presently emerging as the Dance floor vibrator in the UK and across Europe, and AudioTronix has had his finger on that trigger for the Australian dance scene.

Wednesday 19th February will welcome the up and coming talents of Keir (Keir Forest) showcasing his skills in the House and Techno Sphere.

Keir is well known among 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.

Wednesday 26th February will be a Back2Back showdown with the notorious FAB (Fabien Prevost) bringing his 'Le Fresh French' 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.

For more information and updates, visit our Facebook page: [NimFM Wednesday R&R](https://www.facebook.com/NimFMWednesdayR&R)

My favourite busker

by Ray Mezieres

Busker Bill is that guitar playing vocalist virtuoso who regularly takes to the streets of Lismore, doing his thing – just extraordinary, mate.

You not only honour your mob, you honour the entire town. Sincerest thanks, Bill.

You insist, just about every time we encounter, "It's not about the money, mate. I just like to put a smile on people's faces," and that you do, quite superbly.

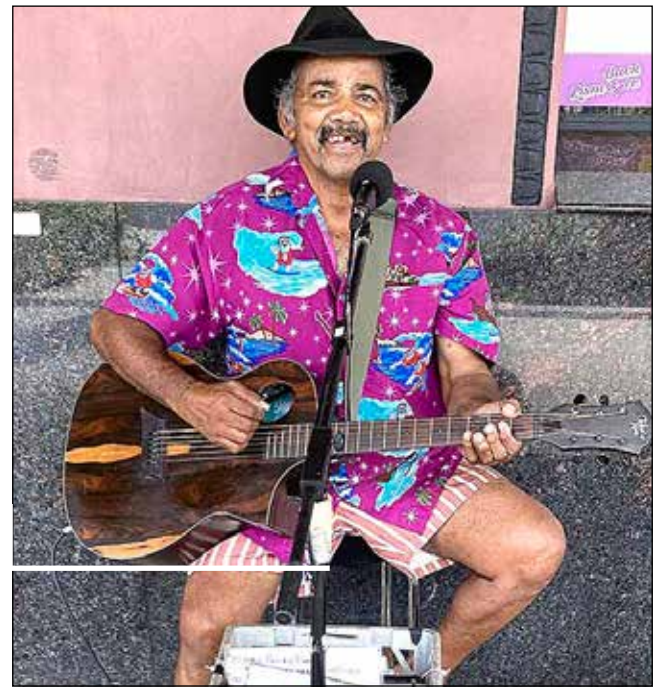
It's precisely as someone suggested to me some time back, "Black, white or any tone in between, we all bleed the same colour." Absolute truth, yet it appears 60% of us have yet to arrive at the same conclusion.

Absolutely nothing will put right the atrocities of the past, Aboriginal constitutional inclusion would be an honourable acknowledgement.

Sorry Bill, though you resist all temptation to go political or give a social message on the street, I felt obliged to mention it.

You're doing just fine, mate; my tinted friend with a warm smile, outstretched hand and an extraordinary manner.

An extra bob or two next time we pass!



Uncle Bill on Keen Street (above) and at the Invasion Day event at Byron Bay (below), with John Blatch on harp.



Nimbin Hall 2025 program

by David Hallett

During the heat of the global warming summer months Nimbin Hall is generally too hot to handle for concerts, cabarets, exhibitions, etc. But there is a big program of events ready to be launched for 2025.

The annual Nimbin Womens Dinner will be held on Thursday 6th March, and the first Blue Moon Cabaret will be held on Saturday 22nd March, with tickets and table reservations available in early February. There will be two other Blue Moon Cabarets on Saturday 23rd August and Saturday 8th November.

The annual Nimbin Art Fair, managed by Nimbin Artists Gallery will be open daily from Saturday 12th to Sunday 27th April.

Nimbin MardiGrass will be held from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th May, including the Great Green Cabaret on the evening of Friday 2nd May.

On Sunday 25th May, virtuoso pianist Stephanie Hamlet will present another in a series of classical piano recitals.

Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup will be contested on the weekend of Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September.

The annual Spring Arts Exhibition will be held from



Green Cabaret performer

Saturday 28th September to Sunday 12th October, and the Nimbin Roots Festival

will be on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October Lots to look forward to!