



From the Mayor's desk
Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

I hope everyone had a relaxing Christmas and New Year. The beginning of a new year is good opportunity to think about what lays ahead, but also remember where we have been. It's been a long road since

Initiatives completed in time for new year

the February 2022 natural disaster, and as a region we are still have some way to go, however, we have come a long way.

Road re-openings

For me, one of the highlights of last year was re-opening Nimbin Road to two-way traffic after Council repaired the two major landslips that required a feat of engineering to address the significance of the damage.

During the government-funded \$14.5 million reconstruction of the road, 318 micro piles and 700 concrete blocks were used to create a 160m long retaining

structure to stabilise that section of Nimbin Road.

I know there are other roads around the village in need of repair, but it all takes time and funding.

I ask for the community's patience and understanding as we continue to improve our road network.

Nimbin Rainbow Walk

Just before Christmas, Council issued an update about the construction of the much-anticipated Nimbin Rainbow Walk.

To briefly recap, construction continues with a number of milestones achieved, including finalising the design of signage and



changing the name of the project from 'Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track' to 'Nimbin Rainbow Walk' after receiving much community feedback.

The simplification of the name will help to brand

and market this valuable attraction to locals and visitors, and removes any confusion of it being a track along a road, while maintaining a strong focus on 'rainbow'.

This project is funded

under the Australian and NSW Governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA).

Rail Trail

Also, just before Christmas, we opened the Lismore to Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

It was great to see so many smiling faces at the official opening, and by all accounts, the trail is proving to be a success, with many cyclists and horse riders making the most of the opportunity to use the picturesque trail.

If you haven't tried it yet, I encourage everyone to jump on their bike and ride the trail.



Photos: Gwilym Summers

Signs of the times

by Gwilym Summers

On 19th December, around 80 people assembled at Lismore Council's Extraordinary Meeting to attempt to keep the Gas Free and Nuclear Free signs at the entrances to Lismore.

How Kafkaesque / ironic it was that the Mayor lectured us about respect, because we applauded Meg Nielsen for her amazing speech.

Meanwhile, he and five councillors showed no respect to the hundreds of people who got up at 5am in winter week after week to drive to Bentley to potentially face 800 police trying to bring in the machinery to start coal seam gas fracking.

It was an historic win and achievement to keep the Northern Rivers CSG-free, and was news all over the world. We should be proud of the signs.



End of year review and looking ahead

Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

The New Year is traditionally a time for reviewing the past year and planning for the year ahead.

While I often write about what I have been doing locally, I thought I would take this opportunity to give you a wrap up of some of the good news from the Minns Labor Government in 2024.

Teacher vacancies have been slashed in regional NSW public schools. There has been a 64 per cent drop in the number of merged and cancelled classes across the Lismore electorate in 2024. Most public school principals(95%) say the **mobile phone ban** has improved student focus and reduced social isolation.

We've cut the **elective surgery waiting list** (waiting longer than clinically recommended) from 14,000 to 3,500 in one year.

We've introduced **housing reforms**, including a historic \$5.1 billion investment in public housing, as well as extensive planning reforms to deliver more homes and improve housing affordability. And **rental reforms**, including banning no grounds evictions, limiting rent increases to once a year and making it easier to have pets in rentals.

The Minns government introduced the toughest **domestic violence laws** in the country, making it far harder for perpetrators to get bail. We've also introduced changes to planning controls to speed up the availability of **crisis and temporary accommodation**.

The **Bulk Billing incentive**: \$189 million to safeguard bulk billing at GP clinics across the state by waiving payroll tax for GPs who bulk bill 70% of appointments (80% in metro areas).

First Home Buyers Assistance by waiving or reducing stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing homes up to \$1 million. This is the most generous



At the opening of the Gigadome at Lismore's Heritage Park, from left, Lismore City Cr Harper Dalton-Earls, Lismore City Council Manager Liveable & Active Communities Tony Duffy, Janelle Saffin MP, Lismore City Cr Andrew Gordon and Heritage Park train-ride operator Brian Gray.

first home buyers support scheme in Australia.

Energy rebates of \$250 for families and seniors and \$350 for low income households and those with medical conditions. This is on top of the Australian Government's \$300 energy relief payment.

Wages: our budget provides for a 10.5% pay rise over three years for the State's essential workers. This comes on top of the 4.5% pay rise last year, the biggest in over a decade. We have abolished the former government's wages cap which caused real wages to go backwards over the 12 years they were in office. I note that the Nurses and Midwives pay claim has not yet been resolved, and I continue to support them in their campaign.

This year we also saw the regional **Drug Summit** in Lismore and the NSW Summit in Sydney. Following on from that summit, the Minns Government has announced a 12-month trial of pill testing at festivals.

A welcome move to save lives.

Summer weather watch

The start of the year is historically a peak time for extreme weather events – storms, extreme heat, bushfires and floods.

NRMA Insurance has released its latest Wild Weather Tracker, which looks at our weather patterns and forecasts for the year ahead.

In 2024 the Richmond Tweed region was the hardest hit by weather events in NSW, making up 12% of weather damage insurance claims.

The report found that when going on holiday people will prioritise a tidy house over taking steps to protect it from severe weather.

The NRMA says if you are going to be away: clear your gutters, downpipes and drains to protect from storm water overflow and property damage.

Secure loose outdoor items; clean up debris around your property; clear overhanging trees and branches around your home and get a professional to do it if it's dangerous.

The tracker is on-line at: <https://articles.nrma.com.au/help-nation-wild-weather-tracker>

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Wishing you lots of Good Times in Nimbin in 2025

My office will reopen on Monday 6 Jan 2025

Janelle Saffin MP
MEMBER FOR LISMORE
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— Kirsten, June 2023

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Lismore Council December meetings wrap-up

I wish everyone a safe and happy New Year. May 2025 bring us all time with loved ones, community, peace, sustainability, and a greener future.

It's been a great journey so far as a councillor. I've been learning every day and am hopeful that we can build a collaborative, inclusive, and safe Council.

Despite our differences, I do believe we all share a commitment to the best interests of the LGA.



Cr Virginia Waters

government may intervene on this issue.

December Council and Extraordinary Meeting Wrap-Up

One of the most divisive decisions made at the December Council meeting was the vote to remove the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) and Nuclear Free signs from the entrances to our city and villages.

These signs represent the community's hard-fought victory to declare the region gasfield-free. Their removal represents an erasure of our history and a disregard for the will of the people. Crs Guise, Knight-Smith, and I raised a rescission motion in response.

The extraordinary meeting to address this decision saw over 100 protesters fill the chambers, voicing their disappointment and frustration. Despite this community representation, six councillors continued to vote to remove the signs in a tacit approval of a filthy extractive industry that as a community we voted to oppose.

This is not a done deal. We cannot and will not let this stand: 87% of our community voted to see off the scourge of coal seam gas and to keep our lands and water clean of it.

Affordable housing

The defeat of the Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme was another blow to a fairer community.

Considering the extent of the housing affordability in crisis, this initiative could have provided essential tools to support families, workers, and vulnerable residents.

Its development represented an incredible body of work by council staff and, unfortunately we saw developers profits prioritised and we are hoping that state

Waste

Waste decisions continue to be made behind closed doors, which is something Cr Guise and I strongly opposed. We both voted against these discussions to remain confidential.

While I did support the move from Regional Model C to Regional Model A, which acknowledges state government funding to modernise our garbage truck fleet and retain in-house garbage collection services, I am an advocate for greater transparency.

Our community deserves to understand these services, and the plans for the future.

We need to pivot towards a circular waste economy and adopt the most environmentally sustainable models. This means having open conversations about reducing consumerist behaviours, embracing practices of re-use, and maximising recycling.

It's not an easy journey, but it's essential for a sustainable future. We need to be responsible for our waste and not dump it in others' backyards.

Widjabul Wia-bal Day

On 19th December, I had the privilege of attending the inaugural Widjabul Wia-bal Day at Heaps Oval.

This incredible gathering celebrated and shared the culture and generosity of the Widjabul Wia-bal people. It was a moving reminder of how fortunate we are that their culture has survived despite the atrocities of the past.

May we all walk together, show respect, and be the allies needed to honour the Widjabul Wia-bal and First Nations people of the land on which we live.

Truth-telling is vital, and it was inspiring to see it shared on such an important day.

Greens candidate

On an incredibly positive note, I am thrilled to support Dr Luke Robinson's candidacy for the Federal seat of Page in the upcoming election.

Let's get behind him and push for the change we need!

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

Meeting practices code

Transparency also took a hit with proposed changes to the Code of Meeting Practice likely to get up in 2025. Public access is now slated to occur an hour before meetings, and councillor attendance will no longer be compulsory. This change weakens accountability and limits opportunities for meaningful community engagement.

These revised Code changes will go out on exhibition for 28 days, with submissions open for 42 days. I urge you to make a submission and it is open until 31st January for comment on Lismore Your Say.

Council needs to be representative of public opinion, not just beholden to wealthy sectional interests. Let's work together to ensure public access remains part of Council meetings and achieve the best outcome for our community.

SCU arts

A big thanks to Jan Davis and Dr Andrew Binns who addressed council in the last public access session. Their passionate advocacy for Southern Cross University to retain its creative arts and humanities degrees was inspired. SCU arts are vital to Lismore and the region's cultural identity.

While Council did agree to speak with the Vice-Chancellor, stronger advocacy is needed to protect this essential part of our community. We have the largest number of creatives and creative industries outside of metropolitan Sydney and an incredible legacy.

Medico Luke Robinson to contest Page for Greens

Luke Robinson, Greens candidate



Hi, my name is Dr Luke Robinson, and I am honoured to be standing as the Greens candidate for the seat of Page at the next federal election.

I live in Whian Whian, on Widjabul-Wiabal country north of Lismore and work as a specialist Emergency Physician in the emergency departments of Lismore, Casino and Ballina hospitals, having also recently worked at Grafton and Maclean.

I also perform as a singer-songwriter/poet at music festivals and public events locally and around Australia.

In Whian Whian I am involved in Big Scrub rainforest and native grassland regeneration activities on local land.

Working as an emergency department doctor in the Northern Rivers, I care for a broad cross-section of our community, with a deep appreciation not just of the medical needs, but also the social and economic challenges my patients and their loved-ones face.

I see people struggling to get timely health care, whose pay doesn't keep up with the cost of living, in insecure work, barely able to afford a roof over their heads or made homeless. Too many are still reeling from (un)natural disasters, with their bodies, minds and relationships groaning under the weight of it all.

There is strength and resilience in our communities too, warmth, and a desire to support one another through tough times. We are stronger when we are connected and work together – essential as we face many challenges now and into the future. One of the most important ways we can achieve this is through our shared public services, through our government.

I believe we should look after each other, and our land, using well-funded and well-run government services, paid for through a fair and progressive taxation system. The provision of universal public services is the best way of ensuring fairness, and they are more economically efficient than expensive privatised ones – health care is a prime example.

For decades, governments have been under-investing in our public services and as a result, we have suffered as individuals and as a

country creating damaging divides socially and economically. Unfortunately, the major parties either make the problems worse, or lack the ambition required to really make a difference.

Government should be working for us all, but we have to demand it and elect representatives with the vision and ambition to make it so.

Together, through our government, we can have the world-class public healthcare and public schools that a rich country like ours should have. We can stand up for ordinary people and guarantee secure work with decent pay. We can once again have affordable housing. We can make the big end of town pay its fair share of tax and play by the rules we set.

Together, through our government, we can support workers and communities in their transition from old to new industries, rather than pretend that change isn't happening or leaving people to the vagaries of the market.

Our unique, our only, irreplaceable natural home can be treasured, protected and healed from the many wounds we have inflicted.

We can be proud of the ancient and enduring cultures of our First Peoples across this continent, finding peace as we listen and learn how to connect with each other and this land.

To care for each other and to care for country is what motivates me to present as your Greens candidate for Page. It would be an honour to represent you when you vote at the next federal election.



by Kevin Hogan, MP for Page

It was great to secure the \$9.9 million grant to construct this section. 30km of rail trail is now complete between Casino and Lismore.

The Rail Trail is already one of the top 10 tourist attractions in the world, ranked by Trip A Deal.

This is a fantastic project for locals, tourists and businesses near the Northern Rivers Rail

Trail, who will all benefit from this major tourist landmark.

Walking track

The completion and opening of the Nimbin Rainbow Walk is due shortly. I was excited to obtain the \$1.3 million in Federal funding for this project.

Signage designs have been finalised. Council's contractor has completed two of the four bridges, with the remaining two bridges due to be completed over the coming

months. Work has also been progressing well on the entry points of the walk.

They are also now working on a rural-style timber fence and a large timber pergola, the installation of park seating and picnic tables, bike racks and waste bins.

Happy New Year

As we step into 2025, I look forward with hope, optimism and excitement for what this year will bring for our community.



Keeping the Green vision alive in 2025

It's an election year. The Federal election will be called soon, it will be held sometime between now and May and folks, it's going to have a thread of dirty money funding a dirty campaign against progressive politics.

With populism so removed from the actual politics of the crisis era we have entered, the two old parties desperate for power and centrism, hard-right campaign group Advance's \$5m single-goaled campaign to destroy the Greens and a mainstream media monopoly owned by right wing billionaires, it's going to get very dirty folks and it's going to take all of us to keep the Green vision alive in 2025.

The 2025 Federal election is likely to be the penultimate election of this most critical decade for us to genuinely address climate breakdown, decarbonise our economy, close the inequality gap and reverse the nature deficit.

The stakes are high. According to polls and commentators it's going to be a tight race, for the old broken two-party political system.

Labor and Albo are, rightly, on the nose, remember on the last day of business



Sue Higginson, NSW Greens MLC

before the holiday shut down they approved four new coal mines, then actually tried to hide it, they have signalled they will not strive to meet our climate targets rather they will readjust them and they have abandoned their nature positive laws.

The Liberal-National Coalition and Dutton, who no longer gets called Mr Potato Head, are still riding the wave of the racist tanking of the Voice and climate denialism, and they now have their anti-renewables, nuclear one trick and Trumpism in their pocket.

As the major parties scrap it out in a race to the visionless bottom, they will be joined by hard-right campaign group Advance, on the main stage, to dump on the Greens.

We will see it at heightened scale here in the Northern Rivers, because we are in the spotlight over the Federal seat of Richmond where Labor and Advance are scared of the Greens winning, where our wonderful local superstar Mandy Nolan is running and has more than a real chance of winning.

It's not a coincidence that here in the Northern Rivers, we are at the centre of the national stage holding the flag of progressive politics. Here we hold true and live out the politics that is the Greens, a politics deeply rooted in environmentalism and fairness, the politics of love, hope and justice.

We know what it means to fight for justice in the face of injustice, we have learnt that every injustice is ours to fight against and we know that real power is held by us, the people.

So, let's brace ourselves for what has started and what is about to happen in this upcoming election campaign. While I hate to give them any attention at all, it's important to know that Advance has amassed a multimillion-dollar war chest to fund their campaign which has a single goal, to try to

destroy the Greens and our vision! Advance is the mob who destroyed any chance of First Nations people having a Voice to Parliament and being recognised in the Constitution.

Advance has been described as "a billionaire backed racist disinformation factory undermining democracy".

If you want to know who their funders and backers are beyond Australia's richest woman, miner Gina Rinehart, just google it!

Advance has described the Greens as the single biggest threat to their freedom, security and prosperity in Australia, so it has set their goal to shrink the Greens share of the national senate vote by 4 percentage points and cut our vote in the lower house by 2 percentage points.

Their CEO said Advance's strategy would target mostly women voters and be focused on people aged between 33 and 49. Advance says they will employ 23 full-time staff and expand its permanent campaign infrastructure to include data analytics, creative, digital, communications, fundraising, political strategy and a call centre!

Advance has appointed a

former Australian Federal Police officer, Sandra Bourke, as its new national spokesperson. She fills the gap left by Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, the right wing senator who became the face of the "No" campaign in last year's Voice referendum.

At times I scream at how our politics and our democracy is bought and sold and how inextricably linked dark money, exploitation and power is in Australia, even though so many of us can see through the dark and dirty money.

As Adam Bandt, leader of the Australian Greens reminds us, while Advance may have a few wealthy donors, a key question to ask of the group is why they are doing what they're doing.

It has become clear that the conservatives, right wingers, billionaires, miners and haters are fighting the Greens and not Labor anymore because we're the actual progressive alternative now.

The difference between Labor and the Liberals is slight and while there is still a difference between them it is not making a difference in this crisis era we are in.

As you know, the Greens don't have the big money

to pay for power in our democracy, we are a people powered movement and wherever we are in a position of direct or indirect power we drive innovation, sustainability, fairness, hope and accountability because that is what people-powered movements are built upon and deliver.

So, as this campaign revs up, let's stay focussed, let's help each other to remember that the truth and the facts matter and any fight against the Greens is waged by exploiting billionaires, against a positive, hopeful and innovative people powered movement.

Any fight against the Greens is a fight against progressive politics and a fight for the old politics of just the Liberals and Labor and the worsening of the climate, inequality and nature crises.

If we stay focussed here in the Northern Rivers, we can keep the Green vision alive for our region and all of Australia, because Mandy Nolan winning Richmond would do that.

But it will take all of us. If you are not already involved in the Greens, consider joining today.

NSW native forest logging an 'economic basket case'



Photo courtesy WWF

A recently published report by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) raises doubts of the economic viability of native forest logging in NSW.

The report's release follows the publication of Forestry Corporation's latest Annual Report, which revealed that its native forest logging division posted a \$29 million loss in 2023/24. Over the past four years, Forestry Corporation has cost taxpayers over \$70 million.

Forest Alliance NSW spokesperson, Justin Field said, "In the last four years the NSW Government-owned logging company has lost over \$70 million dollars logging NSW native forests; has been prosecuted multiple times; and fined over \$1.5 million for breaking environmental laws.

"This report shows for the last decade it has not even been recovering the costs of logging and transporting timber under existing contracts."

The NSW Government is currently considering the future of the timber industry in NSW, presenting an opportunity to end native forest logging and shift the industry to a sustainable plantation-based future.

Dailan Pugh from the North East Forest Alliance said, "The NSW Government needs to heed the advice of IPART. NSW needs to stop paying to degrade public native forests and instead profit from them being managed for wildlife habitat, recreation, tourism, water and their essential service of carbon capture and storage."

Steve Ryan of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW said, "Clearly, logging doesn't stack up economically, and the cost to the species that depend on healthy native forests has been far too high for many years.

"We're calling on Forestry Minister Tara Moriarty to recognise this reality and decisively move to a sustainable plantation-based timber industry."

Andrew Wong of Wilderness Australia said, "No industry can survive so many years of decline, financial loss, criminal prosecution and broad public disapproval.

"We've already seen that same inevitable conclusion in the collapse of the native logging industry in Western Australia and Victoria last year. For the Minns government, this will be hard to ignore"



Put things right in our forests

by Gwilym Summers

Fridays4Forests is deeply concerned that on-ground action to end native forest logging in our public native forests has not been taken.

Instead, we still experience:

- The loaded logging trucks travelling along our local roads full of native tree trunks
 - Our local State forests as hot places with fewer trees and full of weeds.
 - Community representatives impacted by logging are still being sent to the Courts like criminals. See: www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/08/environment-summit-taking-place-in-sydney-while-greater-glider-habitat-is-logged-is-bullshit-advocates-say
- Added to this list, we note in NSW forests:
- The proposed Great Koala National Park is still being logged.
 - Emissions are still too high: "For the past 20 years, Australia has had the highest rate of deforestation in the developed world." – Andrew Macintosh, Australia Institute, Policy Brief No 12.
 - ForestryCorp is still breaching its own rules and has lost the respect of our community. Dr Miriam Pepper said, "Since 2020 the EPA has started and/or completed more

than 50 formal investigations of Forestry Corp's compliance, often after receiving complaints from the local community. More than 30 of these investigations have resulted in enforcement action so far, with fines and other costs totalling over \$1.7 million."

- After the 2019/2020 fires impacts and continued logging, no bounce back of endangered fauna has happened, and is not likely to happen. See: <https://science.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/more-half-nsws-forests-and-woodlands-are-gone-ongoing-logging-increases-extinction#:~:text=News%20%26%20>

We call on Premier Minns to please consider an immediate cessation of logging operations in NSW State forests with a just transition for the workers to plantation employment and targeted forestry management; a disbanding of ForestryCorp,

The NSW Government could take advantage of the great opportunity presented by these actions to cut carbon emissions quickly and effectively.

Fridays4Forests meet weekly at 10am in towns and native forests to bear witness and share knowledge to protect wildlife from logging.

by Scott Sledge, president

It's 2025. I write to welcome the New Year with some trepidation and a new commitment.

I fear for our world, with humanity in wars and strife that detract so much from our opportunities to make the world a better place. How could so many American voters choose hatred over hope? Were they just not listening? After more than a decade of prominence in the news, few could claim they didn't know Trump as a narrow-minded narcissist whose lies are consistently self-serving.

Voters don't always get it right, I know. When Reagan and Thatcher gave the world 'Reaganomics' in the eighties, this resulted in loss of community assets to greedy capitalists and tyrants. Many countries now have a housing crisis as a result.

The world desperately needs to rein in fossil fuel emissions that are causing climate disasters on every continent, and rising prices for almost everything. I was hopeful that humanity would learn and advance in a positive direction; that dream has been shattered.

There are embers that still glow. When I feel it is all too much and that everyone is only out for their own self-interests, I encounter love and generosity in our community, and especially in family life.

Shops in Australia pretty much all closed for the public holiday on 25th December and many people of

all faiths enjoyed happy gatherings filled with joy.

The Donald claims to have "brought back Christmas" but I think the blessings of social inclusion and the benefits of multiculturalism will eventually replace the superficial dark side of politics.

The Good News

During December, many people came into the NEC shop on the main street in Nimbin, which continues to trade well and profits from being entirely staffed by volunteers.

No-one gets paid at NEC. The environment gets any surplus created. Some money is voted by members to go to causes that benefit our struggle against greed and corruption.

During 2024 donations went to: Tarkine Forest blockade \$400; Environmental Defenders Office \$1500; Nimbin Preschool prize \$35; Captain Paul Watson Foundation \$500; Nature Conservation Council of NSW \$1000 plus membership; Jagan & Jagalingou (defence against Adani coal mine) \$1250; Friends of the Koala \$500; Save Wallum \$200; Aquarius Park Landcare \$600; Rising Tide Peoples Blockade \$500; NEFA \$500; a total of \$6435.

The Nesting Box Project continues with many of the boxes installed this year already being used by wildlife. Several were recently placed along the Rainbow Road Walking Track.

All involved want to see another



The community gathered on 11th December for carolling at Nimbin Central school. Photo: Trish

round of grants approved to add to the total in our region.

Nimbin Pool amenities block at Peace Park. Lismore Councillor Virginia Waters and Janelle Saffin MLA have both responded to enquiries. The money is in hand and a design approved which will include change room and showers.

Construction is due to commence early February after the school holidays. Hooray!

Wallum Estate. The opposition to this housing development at Omega Circuit near Brunswick Heads was supported by NEC.

We wrote to authorities, including Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek, asking for the threatened ecological community to be protected under the EPBC Federal law.

We also made a financial donation

to the Save Wallum legal fund. The Save Wallum group achieved a temporary halt to development through a court injunction, and that may become a permanent injunction in the coming year.

NEC's End-of-Year picnic gathering on Thursday 12th December near Nimbin Pool was well attended; food was great and weather was perfect.

Not So Good News

The World Wildlife Fund State of the Planet 2024 report indicates we have lost 70% of our wildlife and need to do much more to preserve habitats and introduce more sustainable practices.

NSW's nature laws have been failing to protect nature for far too long. The NSW Labor Government was elected carrying a promise to

'end runaway habitat clearing' and fix biodiversity offsets.

Both state and federal governments have been slow to bring in law reforms to address runaway habitat clearing.

The Minns Labor Government was elected on a promise to establish a Great Koala National Park (GKNP) near Coffs Harbour, but has yet to announce any boundaries and has allowed open slather for the government-owned Forestry Corporation to denude vast tracts of forest without the required surveys to check for endangered wildlife.

The narrative may be: "Yes, we promised a GKNP but never said there would be any koalas in it. And maybe there will be no trees. Most parks don't have trees: they get in the way of ball games."

Reminders

The NEC shop is open seven days a week and stocks a wide range of books, clothing, local products and handicrafts suitable for gifts.

NEC has monthly meetings open to all on the second Wednesday of every month from 5 to 7pm in the Green Room at the Nimbin Community Centre.

The Aquarius Park Landcare Group continues to plant trees along the new Rainbow Road Walking Track which will have an official opening soon. Join the team on the third Saturday every month.

The Caldera Environment Centre re-started a Murwillumbah branch in December, and will open a shopfront this month at 2/43 Wollumbin Street, next to the wholefoods shop.

New members and volunteers can make contact at: caldera@calderaenvironmentcentre.org

Debate intensifies over private native forestry

by Kyogle Environment Group members



As momentum builds to end logging of state forests, pressure mounts on NSW Premier Chris Minns and Environment Minister Penny Sharpe to protect forests for their ecological value and role in mitigating climate change.

But where does this leave the contentious issue of Private Native Forestry (PNF)?

The Independent Forestry Panel (IFP), tasked with balancing timber supply and environmental commitments, recently received nearly 1,700 submissions on its consultation process.

Among the key questions raised was whether PNF should play a larger role in meeting timber supply needs.

These submissions, now

available on the IFP website, underscore the complex trade-offs involved.

PNF offers a vast expanse of land for timber harvesting compared to public forests, often touted as a lucrative real estate selling point. Properties are frequently marketed with high timber valuations.

However, this comes at a cost: diminished community well-being, degraded habitats, and the loss of iconic species.

Data highlights a concerning trend. The number of approved

Forest Management Plans (FMPs) – a prerequisite for harvesting under PNF – soared from 13 in 2021-22 to 281 in 2023-24.

While the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has pledged stronger compliance measures, citing PNF's history of regulatory evasion, the Local Land Services (LLS) has yet to release figures on new PNF plans approved during this period.

The issue is particularly pertinent in Kyogle, where a 2021 Local Environmental Plan (LEP) amendment proposed removing the Development Application (DA) process for PNF. This regulatory layer is crucial for ensuring community oversight.

After lobbying by Kyogle Environmental Group, the decision now rests with Planning Minister Paul

Scully, pending a vote by Kyogle Council, which was due by 13th December.

Interestingly, this timeframe has been delayed due to the failure of the planning department to come up with a statewide position on PNF.

This delay raises questions about due process, especially given the increased uptake of PNF and its potential expansion if public logging ends.

The outcome in Kyogle could set a precedent for PNF regulation across the state.

Correction: The previous article from Kyogle Environment Group in the December edition, 'Juice' was wrongly attributed to Tori Bail. It was in fact written by John Macleay and submitted on his behalf. Apologies for the production error. – Ed.



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Wishing everyone a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

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Nimbin's Community Care Team meet up

by Anna King

In a disaster situation, having a neighbourhood that's prepared is a huge advantage towards recovery.

The Nimbin Community Care Team (NCCT) is an organisation that is helping residents through the region by creating pathways for response and building connection.

The aim of the project is to account for all people's well-being and assist communication with emergency services, as well as to ensure that remote residences are trained in the meantime and ready to be confidently self sufficient at a time of need.

The first NCCT welcome meeting was held on Saturday 9th November and brought together neighbours from Nimbin as well as Stony Chute, Rose Road, Blade Road, Mountain Top, Gungas Road and Crofton

Road.

We discussed how to set up Community Care Teams with like-minded neighbours, got an understanding of the region's emergency radio network, learned tools for managing trauma after a disaster and made plans for interested members to do First Aid and Mental Health training.

The Nimbin CCT offers a fabulous opportunity to enhance your readiness to respond in case of disaster and to support your neighbours in a time of need.

If you'd like to be proactive with disaster preparation and learn more about ways to assist your neighbours in an emergency, please click on the Disasters tab on the Nimbin Neighbourhood centre website: nmc.org.au to learn more and register your interest, or email: cct@nmc.org.au and get on our mailing list.

Yabai mumbala, running water

by Paul McKern

In December, the Nimbin Water Collective (NWC) had its third meeting and decided to create an increase in community awareness regarding our water supply and consumption.

In order to do this, we designed a sign, now on display in the Environment Centre window, adjacent to the door.

We decided to put our supply on top, with colour-based indications of inadequate or adequate environmental flow into Mulgum Creek.

Red indicating critical is on the left, with blue/green indicating abundant flow on the right.

The bottom half shows our consumption in litres per person per day (lpp pd). It is also colour-coded with red on the opposite side from the top.

This is because 250 lpp pd is EXCESS consumption (indicated by red), whereas 140 lpp pd is beneficial consumption, indicated by blue/green.



It is interesting to note that during 2020, level 3 water restrictions were introduced to reduce Nimbin's water consumption down to under 175 lpp pd.

Input on design and colour layout was sought from the NWC since October, and from the community during December. It was decided to follow the Australia-wide system of emergency colour identification.

Increasing community understanding about these subjects has become very important as our days become

hotter.

We will also be adding rainfall data to create a more solid understanding of what we have and how we are using it.

Are there people in our district who are already recording rainfall and are prepared to share their findings with the NWC?

We are seeking up-to-date information to go with our sign and we do appreciate your support.

In addition, we are producing three larger signs of the same design to be displayed in the village for locals and visitors.

Our Water Monitoring Booklet continues to develop, to help people monitor their own springs/water sources.

It will also contain sections specifically to educate others on water conservation.

Suggestions and ideas on what to say and how to say it are most welcome.

Next meeting of NWC: Wednesday 15th January, 2-3pm at 7 Sibley Street. For further information please contact: sibley@nmc.org.au

New Year reflections and aspirations

In the New Year, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce reflects on its advocacy efforts while assessing the opportunities and challenges ahead. Supporting local businesses and ensuring their success remains central to our mission.

Moreover, we continue striving to establish Nimbin as a vibrant centre.

Reflecting on the past year:

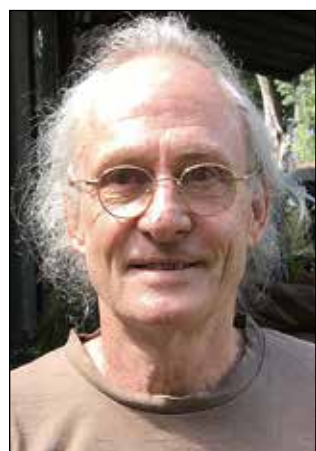
Advocacy in action – addressing key issues

The Chamber actively engages with decision-makers to advocate for our community's needs.

One example is the monthly meetings with the Lismore Council's Economic Development team, where we discuss matters affecting the well-being of businesses and residents.

These meetings focus on essential areas such as investment, tourism, and community development. Promoting local events helps ensure Nimbin remains an appealing destination for both visitors and locals.

This year, a significant advocacy effort involved addressing the state of our roads, which pose challenges



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

for residents and visitors alike.

Road hazards deter tourists and are vital to our local economy; they also lead to considerable costs for residents due to vehicle damage and repairs. Specific areas of concern include:

- Nimbin Road from the Nimbin Post Office to Lismore CBD, where 39 road hazards were identified during an audit conducted by myself and Steve Taylor from Nimbin Limousines.
- The section on Sibley Street next to the Nimbin Service Station and Nimbin Building Materials.



Join Nimbin's business community at nimbinaustralia.com.au

- Tuntable Falls Road, described as resembling a moonscape and particularly hazardous.
- The Chamber communicated this information to the council just before the busy Christmas period, highlighting the urgency of addressing these issues. Thanks to Councillor Bing for advancing these concerns; the responsibility now lies with the council. We will continue to monitor progress to ensure effective resolution of these critical issues.

Welcoming new business owners

- Nimbin businesses continue to set a high standard for quality and innovation. Special commendations go to:
- Mountain Coffee for their outstanding achievements at the Sydney Royal Show, winning awards for quality produce.
 - Nimbin Building Materials

- Johnathon Spain for creating The Hub, an exciting and innovative warehouse and industrial complex that opens up new possibilities for the area.
- Contained in Nimbin for representing the village and winning prestigious state and national tourism awards, showcasing the unique appeal of Nimbin on a broader stage.

Acknowledging business innovation

- Special recognition goes to the business owners who continue to refine and enhance their operations.
- By staying at the forefront, these businesses maintain their competitiveness and elevate the overall standards of Nimbin's economy.

Their dedication to innovation and quality is inspiring and integral to the village's success.

Looking ahead

A key focus for the Chamber in the coming year is fostering connections among business owners through networking and sharing opportunities.

Building strong relationships within the business community is vital for mutual growth and success. Upcoming notable events include:

- A Public Speaking Workshop in late February aimed at building confidence and communication skills.
- Four 'Women in Business Meetups', providing a collaborative space to workshop ideas and share experiences.
- The inaugural Nimbin Business Awards in July, a new initiative to celebrate the champions of our business community.
- Three Chamber General Networking Meetings to strengthen bonds and encourage collaboration within the business community.

- Collaborative business-focused workshops, supported by Council, to address shared challenges and explore opportunities for innovation.

Closing Message

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the current Chamber committee. Special recognition goes to Vice President Aline Binetruy for her exceptional commitment, Diana Roberts for her vast experience and political savvy, Caroline Nature for her invaluable street smarts, and Ariescia Matheson for keeping our finances in order.

Your contributions have been instrumental to the Chamber's success.

To the community and local businesses, thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

A special thanks to those business owners who, through their innovative efforts, keep Nimbin on the cutting edge.

The Chamber remains dedicated to representing your needs and ensuring that Nimbin continues to thrive.

Wishing everyone a safe, successful, and prosperous New Year!

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NIMBIN NUMBERS

Will President Biden pardon Julian Assange?

by John Jiggins and Constantine Pakavakis

Julian Assange may no longer be behind bars, but his conviction casts a shadow over press freedom and the safety of journalists everywhere – a wrong Assange and his supporters worldwide are determined to set right by overturning his wrongful conviction via a presidential pardon from Jo Biden.

In a remarkable bipartisan effort this month, Republican Congressman James McGovern and Democratic Congressman Thomas Massie came together across the aisle and co-authored a letter urging President Biden to pardon Julian Assange.

The congressmen raised serious concerns about Assange being required to plead guilty to felony charges, arguing that this threatens both freedom of expression and press freedom.

They warned that provisions for handling sensitive information could be misused to target journalists and publishers for routine journalistic work, emphasising that the plea agreement sets a dangerous precedent, marking the first time the Espionage Act has been used against a journalist and publisher – an alarming development for advocates of free expression and press freedom.

The congressmen argued: “A pardon would remove the precedent set by the plea and send a clear



Julian Assange, addressing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Strasbourg, October 2024
Photo courtesy Blueprint for Free Speech

message that the U.S. government under your leadership will not target or investigate journalists and media outlets simply for doing their jobs.”

Australian campaigners for Julian Assange are hopeful that prime minister Anthony Albanese can convince his friend outgoing US president Joe Biden to deliver a pardon for the WikiLeaks founder.

The brother of the WikiLeaks founder, Gabriel Shipton, said a pardon would be significant: Julian Assange was convicted for something journalists do every day.

“Julian is pushing for a pardon, not because it affects him. But because what he stands for,” he said.

To further build momentum for a pardon before President Biden leaves the White House, Gabriel Shipton travelled to Washington DC earlier this month to meet with US lawmakers and activists. He is currently visiting Canberra with Assange’s wife Stella to lobby MPs for support.

“The parliament was integral to getting Julian out and they were the key to unlock his cell basically, and they can continue and finish the job and push for this pardon. There’s a ticking clock going on for when the president can make the decision to pardon Julian,” Gabriel Shipton said.

Mr Shipton has previously said

there was concern the campaign for a pardon would not succeed after Mr Trump is back in the White House. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has a great relationship with Mr Biden and a plea for a pardon in a farewell call to the President would hold significant sway with Mr Biden in securing a pardon for the WikiLeaks founder, he said.

“Now that the process is at a conclusion, it really is in the power of President Biden to unwind this precedent that originated with the Trump administration. (A pardon) would be a real coup for the Prime Minister,” he said.

Mr Albanese had successfully

raised the issue of releasing Assange with President Biden, with powerful support from a cross-party group of federal MPs who travelled to the US to lobby US lawmakers, and a vote in the Australian house of representatives, which strongly backed a motion by Independent MP Andrew Wilkie calling for Assange’s release.

After 14 years of enduring various forms of detention, Julian Assange made his first public appearance to give testimony to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg on 1st October.

His testimony supported their report that confirms he was a political prisoner and calls on the UK to conduct an independent inquiry into whether he suffered inhuman or degrading treatment.

He concluded his testimony by thanking his supporters and urging them to keep up the fight.

“It’s good to be amongst friends. And I would just like to thank all the people who have fought for my liberation. And who have understood, importantly, that my liberation was coupled to their own liberation,” Julian Assange said.

“The basic fundamental liberties which sustain us all have to be fought for. And that when one of us falls through the cracks. Soon enough, those cracks will widen and take the rest of us down. So, thank you for your courage in this and other settings and, keep up the fight,” he said.

A Christmas birthday

by Paul Dorahy

What curious things birthdays are. Annual celebrations of a shock transition from one life-sustaining medium to another.

Not necessarily a pleasant experience for a baby that’s already been alive for nine months. The actual birth, in the sense of something coming into existence, is really the moment of conception nine months earlier.

Unless it’s an accident, it’s a blissful act of conscious creation. Now that’s worth celebrating. So, what then of the events surrounding perhaps the most famous birth of all? So famous in fact, we celebrate it as if it was Christmas.

Let’s start with what happened nine months before the 25th of December 0CE. A carpenter named Joseph and his wife Mary presumably conceived a baby who later became a very influential figure.

The versions handed down of course are nowhere near that simple. So, what did happen? The first thing to remember is that neither Jesus nor his parents wrote anything about his life. That was left to a bunch of blokes sometime later who were busy creating a religious

cult.

To give it real impact they decided their founder should be no less than an actual god. Mere prophets were losing their kudos. You could find one on practically every second street corner back then. So, they introduced a little angel dust in the form of divine insemination.

It was common knowledge in those days that pagan gods often had their way with mortals. Why should Jewish divinity miss out? We’re not so loose with the facts today, so let’s look at what we think we know from the records.

It seems there was a different kind of funny business going on. We know Joseph and Mary were newly-weds, so you’d expect them to be bonking away like crazy. There was no pill then and Catholics hadn’t been invented to teach them the rhythm method.

So why would it be a big deal for Mary to get pregnant? Because they weren’t newlyweds when Jesus was conceived. They were only engaged. It was known then as betrothal which is not quite the same.

All marriages were arranged and kids got matched up – betrothed – when they were quite young. They went their separate ways with no intimacy until



someone decided it was time to get them hitched.

Before that happened though, Mary got pregnant. Having had no hand – or other body part – in the matter, Joseph was as surprised and shocked as everyone else.

He could have cut his losses and divorced her, which is what was done to misbehaving fiancés. If it became public though, Mary was likely to be stoned to death, a common fate for

single pregnant women.

But Joseph was an honourable and honest tradie. He decided to do the chivalrous thing and marry her. Yet tradies still had reputations to protect, so they kept it quiet as long as they could. They didn’t get hitched until just before Jesus came along.

The myth-makers went to work on this and gave it a twist. They claimed Joseph really did intend to divorce Mary but was warned off the

idea. To achieve this, they employed a handy literary device of the time: the dream visitation.

They had an angelic fixer named Gabriel pay Joseph a nocturnal visit. He told Joseph not to sweat, God would take the rap. Joseph was to keep it quiet though and marry Mary at the appropriate time.

You see, heaven had plans for the baby Jesus that they wanted to keep under wraps. Gabriel would fix it, so no-one got suspicious until the big day when God had some theatrics planned to advertise the event.

And there, as far as we know, are the authorised and unauthorised versions; depending of course on who you perceive as ‘the authority’. Who Jesus’ real father was, Heaven only knows.

Then there’s the matter of dates. Exactly when did Jesus emerge from the womb? The consensus now seems to be it was more like 4 to 5 BCE, but does it matter?

BCE and CE are only inventions of our modern

Gregorian calendar. There’ve been many other calendars in the past 2000 years. Most were before leap years and other correcting devices. That’s just years, let alone months and days.

So why not guess a date and stick to it? At least that’s better than what was managed for his death. Any Friday from late March to mid-April will do, so long as it’s not the same as last year’s. They must have had calendar burn-out when they came up with that.

If you arbitrarily pick dates though, you either need to be very careful or have a decent fact checker.

Shepherds being outside tending their flocks at night while Mary gives birth in the stable might sound nice and poetic but, hello? December 25th in Bethlehem is mid-winter.

No room at the inn? No room at the stable either. It’s full of sheep bunked down for the season. Meanwhile, the shepherds are snug at home sculling wine around the hearth.

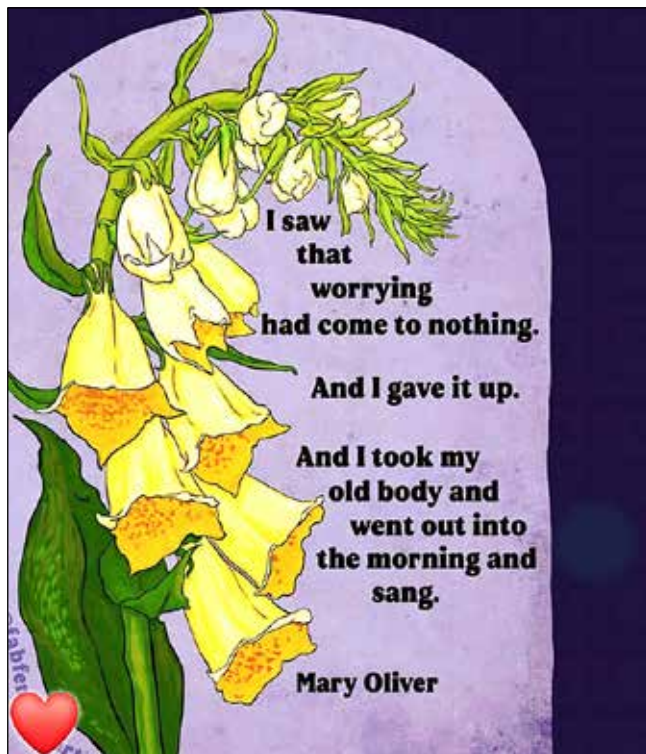
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On human survival



by Michael Brooke

Consider the statement that “all living things are connected to other living things.” Charles Darwin proposed that all life comes from one common ancestor.

Darwin’s theory of evolution tells us every living organism is from the same seed – suggesting that despite earth’s great diversity of life, every creature that ever was or is or ever will be animate is a related organism.

It appears that we humans, just like every other living thing, belong to a family of molecules birthed by the first amazing prokaryote, which is our great, great, great... grandmother.

The theory of evolution informs us life is all one force, with each bit of life interacting with every other bit. Each molecule of life sustains a vast teeming web of other living molecules. The “tree of life” is composed of many branches, but it is still just “one tree.”

On our Mother Earth there is simply one entanglement of life – walk alone and in silence in one of Australia’s ancient forests and become aware of the truth of this.

“It’s amazing to see the beauty of the world. It’s so beautiful and so brutal. It’s a reminder that every second of life is precious.” – Sally Green, *Half Lost*.

Life is so beautiful and so brutal. A lion to survive must kill. Yet a lion is beautiful. The decay of a dead tree feeds the life it seeded. Quoting the poet Goldbeck: “To end one life, another life renews; in gardens sow, where every seed will be a fresh beginning of new things for thee.”

Life feeds on life. The environment is a living, reacting, and a creating life force within which all life forms are in a co-productive relationship. “In Death there’s Life and Life in Death will dwell.”

It’s not science, it’s a vague idea, to postulate as the Gaia

hypothesis has it, that Earth is a super-organism in which life processes create the very conditions that support life. Human behaviour seems to contradict the Gaia hypothesis.

Sure humans slaughter creatures for their personal sustenance – the falcon does the same, and so the killer shark, and so does our closest relative, the chimpanzee. Our closest relative is strange like us, because like us they will intentionally kill each other, yet not for sustenance.

Humans are very strange for willy-nilly they are inclined to kill everything and anything, and they alone may do so simply for the pleasure of killing.

Carl Jung observed: “Man, on the whole, is a fool and remains a fool, oblivious to the atrocities that are going on in the world, living amid illusions which behave exactly as if they were real.”

The behaviour of Hannibal Lecter the cannibal, hero in the film *Silence of the Lambs*, entertains millions. Genocide in Gaza makes headline news – the News show is an accepted form of entertainment.

Trump administration official, David Lasseter, argued “The Department of Defense is not doing enough to ensure America is able to fight, survive and win on a nuclear battlefield,” which is crazy – that homo sapiens has become so separated from nature that it would contemplate exterminating itself.

Nobody survives a nuclear war. Perhaps the separation from nature is a primitive human characteristic. Perhaps thinking is natural only when there is nothing else to do.

There is some promise, some hope in the circumstance that some people have heads, and some have a smidgin of wisdom. A lot depends on them.

Quoting the singer John Lennon: “I am he, as you are he, as you are me and we are all (in this) together.”

Unpack your inner journey on radio

by Gwilym Summers

I do a radio show called ‘Our Stories’, which is our inner journey conversations, on River FM 92.9 Mondays from 2pm to 4pm, which I have been doing for 10 years.

I have created a space for anyone to tell their deeper stories. It is very much about our emotional self because that is the part of us that has been suppressed by cultural/parental conditioning, which has had a huge effect on all of us.

Like other things that we took on board, we don’t often recognise that we were driven by cultural narratives which don’t equate to living our lives true to our own selves.

My lived experience is that for years I had suppressed and held inside all my pain, to my own detriment. In that place I wasn’t open to love, or others, just living life in the illusion of separation.

After a seven-year journey of therapy, I started to wake up to more of who I am. I also recognised my own innate sense of healing, hence the reason I do the conversations, for awareness of who we



are, as a collective.

There is a deeper connection between my dear listeners, myself and everyone who participates, in some way. We have all had pain and suffering whilst navigating life. To have others in those moments in time who we can share/care with is, I believe, going to ease the suffering.

There is also so much commonality within our stories. The scars from our small powerless (child) self remain in our bodies. Then much later in life, we were triggered by events from the past which our bodies remembered.

That is where the reactivity often arrives, which has nothing to do with what is taking place in that particular moment.

These moments have charge which can remain unconscious, or we can illuminate them by telling our story and sharing our feelings in the moment.

Love is a way of healing, but there are fixed mindset beliefs which get in the way of us feeling the love.

The conversation facilitates reflection and self-inquiry to who you are. I frame the conversation in a way so that we share our feelings openly, which is a small pathway to a better world.

This is what is missing in our world. Just to sit down, eye-to-eye and tell our stories, recorded off-air as if we are just sitting down and having a conversation with a good friend. And a huge thanks to all have made the time to do conversations with me over the years.

As Gandhi said, ‘Be the change you want to see in this world.’ Socrates also said, “An unexamined life is not worth living.”

I, Gwilym say: “Unpack your past or it will unpack you, when you least expect it.”

To tell your story, make contact at: <https://ourinnerstories.com.au/home>

What’s On at Flourish Sanctuary

by Jagad Samuel

As the new year begins, Flourish Sanctuary continues to be a beacon of connection, spirituality, and personal growth for the Northern Rivers community. Here’s a look at what’s happening this month and beyond:

Weekly meditations

Start your week with clarity and peace by joining Jagad and Charlie for our weekly meditation sessions. These take place every Monday morning from 10.30am to 12pm. Whether you’re new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, these gatherings offer a serene space to centre yourself and reflect.

Satsangs in January

We’re delighted to host two Satsangs this month. The first will be held on January 12th in Mullumbimby, and the second on January 19th at Flourish Sanctuary.

Both events run from 1pm to 3pm, followed by a potluck meal. Satsangs are a time to gather, share wisdom, and explore spiritual teachings in a supportive environment.

Bring a dish to share and join us for a heartwarming afternoon of connection and insight.

Kirtans: Chanting for the soul

We are thrilled to announce the introduction of monthly Kirtans at Flourish Sanctuary, taking place on the first Saturday of every month from 5pm to 7pm.

Kirtans are a form of devotional chanting that uplift the spirit and create a sense of unity through shared music and voice.

We’re currently seeking people to support these Kirtans by attending and participating, so we can



Prema Shakti Rising for the World Peace Festival - Shane, Tamara, Chandika, Shunya and Madeleine.

gauge community interest and ensure these gatherings thrive.

If this sounds like something you’d love to be a part of, please come along or reach out to express your support.

Men’s group

Our men’s group meets on Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 8pm, offering a space for men to connect, share, and grow together.

This group is open to all men looking for a supportive environment to explore life’s challenges and joys.

Nim-FM radio show

Tune in to Nim-FM 102.3 every Monday morning from 7.30am to 9am to catch Jagad’s inspiring radio show.

Start your week with uplifting music, thought-provoking discussions, and a dose of positivity.

Whether you’re driving to work or enjoying a quiet morning, this show is a great way to stay connected with the community and gain new insights.

Welcoming Bodhi

We are excited to welcome Bodhi to the Flourish community. New faces bring fresh energy and ideas, and we’re looking forward to the contributions Bodhi will make in the months ahead.

Gratitude for the World Peace Festival team

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s World Peace Festival a success. Your hard work and dedication have created a space for peace and connection that will be remembered for years to come.

We’ll be sharing a detailed article in next month’s issue once the festival concludes.

Retreats for 2025

Flourish Sanctuary is now open for 2025 retreat bookings! Our retreat centre can host up to 30 participants in a serene and nurturing environment, with additional space for camping.

As a registered charity, our venue offers highly

competitive rates and flexibility for retreats that align with our mission of fostering personal and collective well-being.

We are proud to provide an affordable space for transformative events, whether they focus on mindfulness, yoga, music, or other meaningful pursuits.

If you’re interested in hosting a retreat, get in touch to discuss how we can support your vision.

Looking ahead

As Flourish Sanctuary grows, we remain committed to providing a space for community, growth, and meaningful experiences.

Whether it’s meditation, Satsangs, Kirtans, or retreats, we’re here to support you on your journey.

If you’d like to learn more or get involved, visit us at the Sanctuary, checkout our website: www.FlourishSanctuary.com.au or reach out via email or phone 0433-173-508. We look forward to seeing you soon!

While the biggest party in the district for New Years Eve was Tropical Fruits at Lismore Showground, there was still some fun to be had in the hills.

As is becoming a tradition, Jimmy Willing and the Real Gone Hiccups played at the Hanging Rock Hall in full-on party mode.

Meanwhile in Nimbin, the Bush Theatre hosted an African-themed dance party featuring Gabriel Otu and a depleted band, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Nonetheless, his solo drumming performances kept the crowd enthralled.

The music selection by Echo Point Sound System kept the dance floor pumping until the wee small hours.

Also in Nimbin, the start of Flourish Sanctuary's World Peace Festival was heralded with music including Kirran with Iri V (pictured right).



Hoochers smokin' at the Bowlo

Throughout the past year, the Nimbin Bowlo has been establishing itself as a live music venue, a focus that will continue in 2025.

In December, local favourites The Hoochers (right), augmented to an eight-piece, rocked the socks off the packed dining room, with dancers a-plenty.

Legendary singer-guitarist Ted Cox (left) has become a frequent flyer at the club, with his encyclopaedic repertoire of everyone's favourite songs.



On 14th December, a few groups who work in health care had their Christmas/end-of year-dinner at the Nimbin Bowlo, with Ted Cox playing in the front bar.

On their way out, staff from the oncology ward at the Base Hospital started dancing and requesting songs, and Ted was happy to oblige, as always.

Ted said, "It was such a

good night!"

The monthly Open Mic nights have also grown in popularity, with a surprising array of local and visiting talent to enjoy.

The January Open Mic is on Wednesday 15th, when the club and bistro re-open.

For the rest of the year it reverts to the second Wednesday of the month.

See you at the Bowlo!

SONIC BLOOM DANCE PARTY RETURNS

Endancement Productions are super excited to announce the sixth instalment of our spectacular dance music event Sonic Bloom, to be held on Saturday 25th January.

It is the first anniversary of the Sonic Bloom crew and Nimbin Bush Theatre collaboration, and we will make it an extra special event.

It is also a long weekend so it will be a day and night party. The music will start at 2pm with lounge-house beats, and the beat will bump up as the sun goes down, banging on 'til midnight.

Sonic Bloom is a dance music orientated party, hosting top notch local and interstate DJs and their friends, who have been



putting on parties in the Northern Rivers area for over 10 years.

Our first anniversary celebration will see Glock'n'Speel once again opening this delicious

musical journey in the grounds of the luscious Nimbin Bush Theatre, with our premium Danley Sound Labs sound system, one of the crispest sound systems in the Northern Rivers, supplied by

Sound is Everything.

There will be stunning visual projections from local wizard VJ Rubin, and spectacular decor arrangements curated by local artistes Jingles and La Fae. We are thrilled to welcome the return of La Fae as well as Hugo.

The Sonic Bloom Dance Music journey has been gathering momentum in 2024, and this latest instalment promises to be another all-encompassing dance party extravaganza.

Tickets are available from the Nimbin Bush Theatre website: <https://sites.google.com/nimbinbushtheatre.com/nimbinbushtheatre>

See you on the dance floor!

Events Programme

PRIVATE PARTY
by Invitation Only
Tuesday 7th January

SONIC BLOOM VOL VI
Dance Party
6 Top Notch DJ's
Killer Sound System
2PM Sat Jan 25th

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Cacao Ceremony & Sound Meditation
10AM Sun Jan 12th

Nourishing Yin Yoga with Chrissy
9.15AM Every Monday from Jan 13th

Yin yoga & Sound bath
9.15AM Sat Feb 1st

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