



Mayor slams coverage of Pine Street squatters

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

I was in two minds about submitting this column, as I do not want to support a paper that is not transparent with its readers and puts its ideology ahead of what is good for the entire Lismore Local Government Area and our community.

I write this after last issue's appalling coverage of the illegal squatters in Pine Street Lismore that three years after the worst natural disaster in Australia's recorded history is diverting attention and resources away from our recovery. This paper must be called

out on this. These people are not locals and are only homeless by deliberate choice. *The Nimbin GoodTimes'* extensive and supportive coverage of these illegal squatters make no mention of the fact that they are predominately overseas travellers, nor is it mentioned that their spokesperson, Rachele Meliani, is a 28-year-old self-proclaimed "social advocate" from Italy who does not think Australian laws apply to her and her fellow illegal squatters.

This of course is a nonsense. What they are attempting to do is generate national headlines for their cause at the expense of those who did go through

the heart-wrenching natural disaster. As our community continues to recover, we want people to know that Lismore is a good place to live, work and raise a family.

This is not the image of Lismore portrayed by these squatters.

Ms Meliani calls the occupation a "nice social experiment". We are not an experiment. We are a community trying to recover from a disaster. They should show our community some respect and leave immediately.

As your readers may know, I am not the only councillor concerned about the impact of these squatters. Other councillors, even those on the other side of politics, are opposed to this illegal occupation and the impact it is having on the mental health of nearby residents.



Some of the many supporters of the occupations

There are even reports of residents coming home to find a squatter in their homes. This is simply not on, yet it is not reported to your readers as it doesn't fit the narrative of tearing Lismore down.

I was also shocked to see

that your supportive page three "news" story did not disclose that the author was a founding member of the left-wing fringe grouping called Reclaim our Recovery that has encouraged the occupation from the start.

I do not mind being

criticised when I or Council do something wrong.

On this issue, the *Nimbin GoodTimes* is wrong and should apologise to our community for its support of this illegal occupation to the detriment of our community.

Mandy gets down with Bob Brown

by Mandy Nolan, Greens candidate for Richmond

I love Bob Brown. In fact, when I joined The Greens, it was the Brown that got me interested.

He was the antithesis to Gerrymander Joh, king of the conservative right-wing forest-lopping, tree-choppin', clear-felling, red-neck electorate where I grew up. Kingaroy in Queensland.

Up there, nature was something you sprayed or sprayed, or ate or shot.

The idea that it was something you lived in reverence of was saved for calendars with religious quotes on the back of toilet doors.

My great grandfather was a timber-getter. He logged the graceful giants, the majestic Bunya pines and he carried them out in a bullock dray.

I have generational forest trauma. My ancestors cut the forests down, so it's my karmic duty to save what's left.

Saving nature isn't radical. It's sensible. It's respectful. It's the least we can do.

Bob Brown became a hero because he spoke up. And he had the ability to light a flame, to show people who felt completely disempowered that they could make a difference; that small actions can have great consequence.



That David can beat Goliath.

If you haven't at the very least given the finger to the corporate coal and gas giants, or Forestry Corp, then I don't think you'd be living in Nimbin.

I love how Bob reaches people. He's warm and funny and inspiring and humble. When he goes places, everyone wants to speak to him, get a Bob Brown selfie, tell him their forest story.

I've watched him graciously give his time, listen, smile, and embrace. He's our Attenborough, our Dalai Forest Lama. It occurs to me that kindness is a much-overlooked trait of any forest warrior.

Bob Brown was the ignition switch for the Greens movement. As leader of the tiny group of Green Independents he went on to help form the Australian

Greens in 1992.

He was Greens leader and helped Labor form minority government with Julia Gillard in 2010. This was when we created world-leading climate policy and got a kid's dental program into Medicare.

So, spool forward to 2024. When Bob Brown heard that nay-sayers were bagging the Greens saying we're no longer the Party of Bob Brown, he got on the blower. To me, the Greens candidate who only needs a 1.8% swing to win the seat of Richmond.

I was actually walking up a creek in Bellingen in the Promised Land, so it felt spookily on point. Bob asked me bluntly, "What can I do to help?" Turns out, a lot.

He and I shared a stage at a wildly successful gig in February in Murwillumbah.

I was humbled. This great granddaughter of a timber-getter gets to work with our greatest forest champion on our way to finish the job he started: ending native forest logging, which will be first on the agenda if the Greens form a minority government with Labor after the coming election.

The only thing we'll be clear-felling is corruption, self-interest and greed.

I'm not just running for the Greens, I'm with Bob.

Break the cycle of youth criminalisation

The Legalise Cannabis Party (LCP) is calling for urgent cannabis law reform in Australia, highlighting the devastating impact of prohibition on young people, particularly Aboriginal youth.

LCP NSW Senate candidate and lawyer, Miles Hunt argues that criminalising cannabis users fuels a cycle of disadvantage.

"Statistics show that early contact with the criminal justice system often leads to ongoing involvement," said Hunt. "By legalizing cannabis, we can reduce the number of young people entering the system in the first place and help break this cycle."

Michael Balderstone, president of the Legalise Cannabis Party, and long-time advocate for drug law reform, has witnessed from his hometown Nimbin, first-hand how prohibition leads to unnecessary incarceration, particularly for Indigenous Australians.

"One-third of adults in jail in Australia are Aboriginal, and the numbers are even worse for youth: 100% in the Northern Territory and 60% in NSW," Balderstone



said. "How's the future looking there? Are we really going to keep investing in child prisons instead of real solutions?"

Balderstone criticised the current system, pointing out that the cost of locking up a child is close to a million dollars a year.

"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?" he said. "I think it would be much healthier in every way for Aboriginal families to be living on country rather than in the burbs."

LCP argues that rather than pushing young people into a broken system,

Australia should invest in community-based programs that offer real opportunities.

Balderstone also questioned the stigma surrounding cannabis, arguing that many Indigenous Australians use it as a safer alternative to alcohol or methamphetamine.

"So many blackfellas I know love their nyanrdi. It keeps them off the grog or meth and keeps their fury at bay. It helps people think and settles anger," he said. "It could be in the jails. They could even be growing it in the jails."

With growing public support for cannabis law reform, LCP continues to push for policies that prioritise harm reduction, social justice, and economic common sense.

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Helping the Northern Rivers to Prosper after natural disasters



Launching the Prosper plan are, from left, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery and Lismore MP Janelle Saffin, Summerland Bank chief operating officer Donna Kildea, the Casino Food Co-op CEO and Northern Rivers NSW brand chairman Simon Stahl and Business NSW Northern Rivers regional director Jane Laverty.

by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

I was pleased late last month to deliver another of my major election commitments – \$250,000 in State funding for Business NSW Northern Rivers to develop a strategy to support the economic recovery, wellbeing and revitalisation of our region.

The Prosper Northern Rivers Regional Economic and Environment Plan will help identify opportunities and reduce barriers for long-term sustainable economic development across eight local government areas, from Tweed to Tenterfield and south to the Clarence Valley.

I advocated strongly for this initiative because I could see early on that there can't be community flood recovery without economic recovery, and that demands a coordinated strategy.

I wanted the business chamber to drive this, and I have been working closely with Business NSW Northern Rivers Regional Director Jane Laverty.

This will dovetail very nicely with the regional masterplan about to get underway.

Jane Laverty sees Prosper Northern Rivers as an exciting opportunity for a whole-of-region approach to sustainable economic development that is specific to the Northern Rivers and our community values.

"The timing is right to enlist and engage with passionate and knowledgeable advocates for the Northern Rivers and ensure we live up to our potential today while also setting up the next generation of NorRiveans for success," Jane says.

The Prosper Northern Rivers Regional Economic and Environment Plan will provide strategic advice on economic and environmental risks facing the region to help future-proof economic development, create new opportunities for different types of jobs and industries, and support entrepreneurship.

The initiative will be guided by a Regional Project Steering Group made up of local representatives including First Nations and youth participants who will work with community, business and local councils to develop the plan.

The plan will identify opportunities to help local businesses and industry thrive, with a focus on innovative projects that create

opportunities for economic development in other industries and communities.

It will also help develop a method to identify both risks to existing businesses and potential growth opportunities in industries such as eco-tourism, creative industries, value-add manufacturing, sustainable agriculture, health care innovation and renewable energy.

Such projects could include development of a health precinct to attract Allied Health businesses, and Food Connect Precincts housing for-rent commercial kitchens and office spaces to support micro-enterprises.

The plan also aims to build capacity, attract investment, act as an advocacy tool for future funding opportunities, and help grow regional branding and identity.

Good Neighbours Program tackles pest and weed menace

I welcome the Minns Labor Government's strengthened commitment to tackling pest and weed infestations between neighbouring public and private lands across our electorate of Lismore.

The \$10-million Good Neighbours Program, led by Local Land Services and involving other agencies, Landcare and local councils, will undertake 21 initial biosecurity projects in priority areas, benefiting local farmers and communities.

I fully backed this major election commitment to support public and private land managers working together to better manage invasive species to protect the profitability of our agricultural sector and our rich biodiversity.

Some local projects are:

- **Job's Tears Eradication Program:** Led by Rous County Council, Landcare and landholders, eradicating Job's tears from creek lines in the Kyogle and Lismore City LGAs.
- **Tropical Soda Apple Eradication (TSA) Program:** Targets Tropical soda apple across the Lismore City, Kyogle, Tweed Shire, Byron Shire, Ballina, and Richmond Valley LGAs, led by Rous County Council, community groups and landholders.
- **Cane Toad Program:** Joint efforts between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Local Land Services, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Corporation of NSW, Landcare and private landholders to control cane toads on the North Coast.



It's time to open Mount Warning/Wollumbin

by Kevin Hogan
MP for Page

On the same
Page

The Wollumbin NP has been closed for years and used to attract over 100,000 hikers per year.

I was recently joined by Aboriginal Elder Sturt Boyd and Nationals candidate for Richmond, Kimberly Hone, calling for it to be reopened. This would not only

restart the tourism trade, but also allow access for Aboriginal Elders.

This mountain has long been a major drawcard for visitors, supporting our small businesses, accommodation providers,

and tourism operators. They have all felt the full force of the track closure.

The decision to extend the closure until at least the end of 2025 is a further blow to local businesses.

The community deserves a say in shaping a balanced approach that ensures its future as a place of both cultural significance and sustainable tourism.

Why would a doctor want to go into politics?

by Dr Luke Robinson,
Greens candidate for Page



Dr Luke Robinson with Mandy Nolan and Adam Bandt announcing the GP for Free policy in Ballina.

What motivates an emergency department doctor to go into politics? It is because politics is where the big decisions are made, decisions that affect the care I can provide to my patients as well as the health of our community and precious natural home. In my job, working out a diagnosis and medical plan is often much easier than dealing with the social and financial problems impacting a patient's health. A couple of recent examples are illustrative (names have been changed for confidentiality).

John was an elderly man who presented to a small local ED with debilitating chronic pain in his feet, due to nerve damage from poorly controlled diabetes. This is not ideally managed in an ED.

What he needed was long-term care with a GP coordinating a multidisciplinary team involving a podiatrist, community nurses and dietician to manage this notoriously difficult to control pain, get his blood sugars under control, and address multiple other chronic health needs.

However, he could not afford private GP fees, and there were no bulk-billing GPs in his town. There were some 30 minutes' drive away but John could not drive himself, was wheelchair-bound and could not use the limited public transport. He was socially isolated with no family or friends to take him.

John was still on the waiting list for a higher-grade home care package that included the transport services he needed, but that was at least nine months away. To top it off,

he often couldn't afford his medications. We did what we could for him, but could not provide the long-term care he really needed.

Allan was another socially isolated elderly gentleman that came to our ED one hot day this summer suffering from heat stress. He lived in a shed with poor insulation, and could not afford air conditioning. He had chronic heart and kidney conditions requiring fine balancing of his medications and fluid intake, especially in hot conditions.

Once again, there were challenges accessing a GP and affording medications. When it was open, he would use the public library to keep cool, but otherwise had to swelter at home. With some time in our air-conditioned ED and intravenous fluids he recovered, though when ready for discharge he asked if he could stay in the waiting room until the cool of evening, which of course we allowed.

The lack of bulk-billing GPs in this region and country at large is clearly demonstrated in these stories. But so too are the socioeconomic determinants of health. Factors like housing, transport, education, food options, social connection, aged care services and financial circumstances.

Page has one of the lowest median household incomes of all federal electorates in Australia (ranked 144 of 151 in the 2021 Census, and needs decent public services even more than most.

In a rich country like Australia, we should be able to provide adequately for all our citizens. As we saw with Allan, we are also vulnerable to the extremes of a changing climate, and need to take urgent, decisive action to address this.

For nine years, with our current member for Page and the Liberals/Nationals in power, Medicare and many other essential public services went backwards, while the cost of housing skyrocketed. Labor made some timid efforts to repair this, but as usual, at nowhere near the scale required.

I am standing as the Greens candidate for this community because we have the courage and ambition, with practical and costed policies, to take on these challenges. Like being able to see a GP for free wherever you live, funded by making the billionaires and the one third of corporations who pay no tax, pay their fair share.

It's time for a change. But if you want change, you have to vote for it.

Kyogle Council kicks off its Community Strategic Plan

Council has kicked off 2025 with a Community Strategic Planning session, with all Councillors contributing and highlighting the issues that have been raised with them.

The Community Strategic Plan is Council's long-term plan for the future and outlines the vision and aspirations or our communities.

Council will be engaging with communities, whether through community conversations in the villages, attending Progress Association or other community meetings, or putting the draft plan on public display, so residents can have input into the process.

This is not just a project-based plan, it also incorporates how Council manages its assets, influences budget allocations, identifies community based and funding partnerships, resource plans, timelines and responsibilities measured against performance measures.

The Community Strategic Plan will guide our communities' future development and is regularly reviewed to ensure it stays responsive to the needs of residents.

Please take the time to have a look at the draft plan, participate in a workshop, send in a submission or complete the on-line survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WFFCDB8



by Mayor Danielle Mulholland

Pumpkin Festival

I would like to extend my congratulations to the organisers of the Summerland Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival, which is fast becoming a signature event for Kyogle.

Everyone got into the spirit of the festival, with local shops decorating their windows, an arts and craft competition and eateries selling food, all with the pumpkin and watermelon theme.

Advocacy

Now the festive season is over and Parliamentary sittings have restarted, our advocacy efforts will now be ramped up with Government ministers.

Council has a number of priority projects for which we will be seeking funding, especially with a Federal election looming.

Reactivating those relationships will be key to Council delivering ambitious outcomes for the benefit of all our residents.

Forestry Corporation's deception and destruction

For decades, communities across NSW have known the grim reality that our precious native forests are being systematically exploited and their ecological wealth stripped away.

But recent revelations about the Forestry Corporation's biomaterial reports have uncovered a hidden deception – misleading the Parliament, and revealing the perilous lack of understanding that loggers have about our forests.

Late last year, the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) and South East Forest Rescue (SEFR) exposed shocking inaccuracies in Forestry Corporation's official biomaterial reports – reports that the government relies on to measure the (un)sustainability and impacts of logging activities.

After intense scrutiny and repeated contacts, the Forestry Corporation quietly admitted their "errors" and revised the reports for the past three years, revealing that timber yields had been overstated by an astonishing 28%.

The scale of this deception cannot be overstated. These reports aren't merely bureaucratic paperwork, they determine government decisions about logging quotas, environmental protections, and financial accountability. Incorrect data means false justifications for logging, wrongful assessment of industry impacts, and significant loss of public money.

Across three years, nearly 66,000 cubic metres of premium, large, high-quality logs were reclassified to lower-value timber categories, and low-quality log yields were overstated by a staggering 616,000 tonnes. The consequences are devastating.

Assessments of economic impacts, employment statistics, and environmental sustainability; every



by Sue Higginson, NSW Greens MLC

one of these critical metrics has been based on Forestry Corporation's grossly inflated figures. This misreporting confirms the complete lack of evidenced environmental viability and financial integrity of the entire industry.

This deception further underscores the madness of continuing native forest logging in NSW. The logging industry's claims of sustainability and economic value collapse under scrutiny, leaving exposed a system propped up by political inertia and falsely perceived benefit of short-term profit.

It is false because the Forestry Corporation's hardwood logging division haemorrhages public money. Just last year they lost \$29 million and over the past four years that number is \$73 million.

I have referred this, what can only be described as maladministration, to the Auditor General who has also referred the matter to the Ombudsman. Our public forest estate belongs to all of us, not the loggers, and they need to be managed for all of us and with this lens applied, they are worth far more standing than they are destroyed.

Logging of our native forests not only destroys irreplaceable biodiversity,

driving species like koalas and greater gliders closer to extinction, but also jeopardises water security, contributes significantly to climate change, and undermines First Nations cultural values.

Every time they log our forests, they make them and all of us more at risk of more extreme fire. Every tree felled in native forests today represents another step towards irreversible ecological breakdown tomorrow.

The recent revelations add urgency to calls from communities and environmental groups demanding a full independent audit of Forestry Corporation's operations. The government must immediately suspend logging activities in native forests until this independent audit is complete and its recommendations fully implemented.

We can no longer accept the deception and maladministration that has characterised native forest logging for decades. Now is the time for action – for transparency, accountability and genuine protection of our unique ecological heritage.

Ending native forest logging is not just about protecting trees, it's about securing a sustainable future for our environment, our wildlife, and the generations that will follow us.

Together, we must stand firm and demand the protection our forests desperately need. The era of deception must end. It's time for a new beginning based on honesty, science, and respect for nature.

If you can, please send the premier and the ministers for the environment and forests an email telling them you want them to get on with the job: protect our forests now!

There is an easy link on my website here: www.suehigginson.org/logging

The year ahead for the Lismore People's Assembly

The Lismore People's Assembly (LPA) has been supporting grassroots democracy, creating connection and enabling local solutions to important issues since May last year. Last year we held assemblies on housing, and disaster preparedness. These were important conversations for the community and, we believe, were a critical step to getting action.

The LPA team recently held a planning day attended by 17 participants, and we came up with a few priority projects:

- Support local tiny house production;
- Erect 2022 Flood signage up on poles – if the council won't do it, we will;
- Neighbourhood picnics – let's try Neighbourocracy and see if we can get democratic communes going like in Rojava, Syria;
- Regular LPA presence with stall and chats at local markets – Lismore on Thursdays, monthly Channon Market and Nimbin market;
- Training, workshops and events – let's bring people

together in different ways;

- Support for the Magpie Centre initiative in Goonelabah.

We also did some visioning of the kind of world and the kind of Lismore we want to see in 2050, and realised that our future and our present are guided by our values.

The big picture

It could be a time for despair but it's not, it's the time for coming together and taking action. We can't change the weather but we can plant trees.

If you think the existing systems of governance, from local to global, are: not fit for purpose; making things worse not better; dominated by capitalism, or don't represent everyday people, then the People's Assembly is for you. We are a subtle revolutionary force, working towards a better system of governance.

If this resonates, or sounds like something you'd like to be involved in, please contact us! See us at the Lismore Market on Thursday. Or check out: <http://linktr.ee/LismorePA>

Housing housing everywhere, let's all stop and think!

by Adam Guise, Greens councillor, Lismore Council

It has been disappointing to witness the dog-whistle politics being played by a vocal minority in response to the occupation of buyback houses in Pine Street, North Lismore.

The foaming-at-the-mouth accusations by some of these people being 'criminals', 'free-loaders' or 'foreigners' is divisive and follows Trump's toxic playbook.

It's worth remembering that most of us are foreigners in this country. Unless we come from a lineage of some 60,000+ years of unbroken connection to this country demonstrated by First Nations peoples, then we are all 'occupiers', 'squatters' and 'blow-ins' occupying this land illegally.

Rather than 'punching down' at the most vulnerable, why aren't we focussing on the big end of town?

Like the banks who continue to post mega-profits despite inflicting crippling interest rates on struggling households? Or the fossil fuel barons we subsidise billions of dollars annually as they accelerate global heating? Or the technology giants who manipulate us with their algorithms and their offshore tax-free incomes. Talk about victim blaming!

Houses are being occupied because the disastrous government response to the floods and housing crisis left a vacuum. Three years on and we still wait for a plan or vision. Some of us tried to lead a vision post-flood but were shouted down by fragile egos fearful of losing control to the community.



"We know better" they declared, meaning the status quo of doing nothing and instead promoting advancement of their own businesses and allowing disaster capitalism to prevail.

"But it's unsafe to live on the floodplain" they claim, all the while having accumulated rental portfolios of bargain-basement flood houses and ignoring the fact that some thousands of people not subject to buybacks still live on the floodplain with no hope of relocation.

They also conveniently ignore the hundreds of dirty industries that still occupy the floodplain. One person's safety is another person's control.

The debate is more about greed and envy than anything else. We don't want 'free-loading' if it means missing out on our profits or if it challenges a broken housing system designed to privilege developers, investors and speculators.

Scarcity is key to profiteers and the disaster capitalists would rather see these houses left to rot than be beneficially occupied for the greater good.

Let's not forget that on any given

night some million habitable homes sit empty around Australia, more than enough to house those experiencing homelessness.

It is not so much a housing crisis as a social crisis: that some of us have so much and yet still want more, particularly if it means propping up the rental ponzi scheme and locking a further generation out of stable housing.

Occupation until relocation has been the mantra of the movement. Why let many perfectly good buyback houses fall into disrepair, get stripped out by opportunistic poachers or occupied by disrespectful elements when they could be safely lived in until relocated?

We should not be abandoning or destroying our precious 100-year old hardwood homes in a housing and ecological crisis. Relocate them yes! Beneficially re-use them yes! But destroy them? That's insanity!

The allocation of "0.25 day's work" (two hours?) to demolish a house can mean nothing less than wanton destruction, all to be fossil-fuel trucked to a QLD dump site to either rot as methane or be incinerated as CO₂.

The incinerator lovers that lurk among us rub their hands in anticipation of fuelling a toxic incinerator at Casino with the demolished houses and flood waste of Lismore. Don't let this happen!

Kind-hearted Virginia Waters and I continue to fly the flag of compassion, reason and respect on Lismore Council because we love and care for this community. Please continue to shine your light as a beacon for others to keep the rainbow spirit alive.

February came and went so quickly, we scarcely had time for our usual monthly NEC meeting (second Wednesday of every month at Nimbin Community Centre from 5 to 7pm.)

Many of us have been busy controlling the rampant weed growth that this warm, wet summer has facilitated. And we have had to get the young ones back into school or work.

The NEC shop on Cullen Street has been open every day to sell local products and provide information to the public about environment issues. Because the shop is staffed entirely by volunteers, all profits go to help environmental causes.

Save Wallum

We donated to the Environment Defenders Office (EDO) to make a case in the Federal Court of Australia that the land known as Wallum near Brunswick Heads has unique values that should not be destroyed to make an expensive housing estate.

The Temporary Injunction granted to the Save Wallum group last year is up for review which was started on 21st February, so the Court is due to hand down its decision any time now. If the site is to be protected, the stop work injunction will be made permanent, and the wetlands and wildlife there will be spared from the developer's greed.

There is precious little left of the coastal wetlands in the wake of relentless development pressure. The former Byron Council decided to allow the developers, Clarence Property to proceed, as they feared a possible loss in Court would be too expensive for Council.

We can be proud of the Northern Rivers people for standing up to save this land. Housing can be erected on less sensitive sites. I am told that the site is currently fenced



NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

off and patrolled by heavy security personnel.

Aquarius Park

NEC money has also been spent to install nesting boxes along the Rainbow Walking Track, which is due to have its official opening on 23rd March.

This culminates a long-held dream to provide a quiet space in nature for residents and visitors alike. A walkway with benches and picnic tables have been installed along the stream that runs through the village from Sibley to Cecil streets.

We may be able to get some information hand-outs for visitors that come to our shop as many are curious, and Lismore Council is talking to Wick and Rain who want to promote tourism, events and business in Nimbin.

This is a work in progress. I am glad Lismore recognises Nimbin as a unique attraction.

Bob Brown in town

On Friday 21st February the 'Mandy Nolan for Richmond'

team hosted an event at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre to promote The Greens candidate for the impending Federal election.

The featured speaker was former parliamentarian and leader of The Greens political party, Bob Brown. Bob may have turned 80, but he speaks eloquently without notes. He was given a standing ovation by the adoring crowd.

He said that the crossbench of the next federal Parliament would likely determine what legislation gets passed, as neither of the major parties is likely to gain an absolute majority in the election which he tipped most likely to be on 12th April.

If he is right, the date of the election will be called in early March.

So it was very much a campaign event, with Mandy Nolan only needing a primary vote swing of 1.8% to be elected over the sitting ALP Member Justine Elliot.

It was clear that Mandy had a passion to be heard in Parliament, saying she was not intending to "sit there and tick boxes", but would

speak out to represent the people of our region.

She got a roar of approval when she said The Greens would bring an end to logging native forests right around Australia. She said it was disgraceful that the major parties allow fossil fuel companies to control the agenda when Australia needs a well-structured Environmental Protection Agency to control development which are not "nature friendly". A good feature of the night was a Q&A chaired by Mick O'Regan that included Bob, Mandy and local activist Valery Thompson.

Valery has been arrested several times during protests, and Bob Brown said, "Change doesn't often come from writing letters, but because people are marching in the streets."

Valery said, "Being out in native forests, standing up for their protection, always gives back more than we possibly can give to them. Being in wilderness and natural ecosystems changes our whole beings. What else more life affirming could we be doing with our lives at this point in history?"

Mandy said that hope for our future and the future of our children and grandchildren is what motivates her.

March in March

Valery and the Bob Brown Foundation are spruiking a march to alert politicians that people in our part of the world care about preserving forests and other wildlife habitats as priority issues.

It seems crazy that our tax dollars go to support destruction of our environment. There is a reluctance to promote climate change issues by the major parties despite the crises caused by fossil fuel pollution.

The world will continue to suffer climate disasters if we fail to control the increasing emissions, so concentrating on "cost of living" expenses is both short-sighted and ineffective.

Will voters stand up for the greater good or follow the "I don't give a rat's" attitude demonstrated by selfish politicians?

We can send a message by our numbers at this peaceful protest. Gather at Railway Park in Byron Bay at 10am on Sunday morning 23rd March.

From there we will proceed to town beach where we link with other demonstrations in Hobart and around the country.

I will be there with NEC and Northern Rivers Guardians banners.

Offsetting Eden

by Kyogle Environment Group members

Ningaloo Reef in Western Australia is baking hot-white from coral bleaching caused by humankind's ever-worsening addiction to fossil fuels.

The same Western Australia is also the State at the very heart of the mining caliphate that controls politics and media in Australia, and whose Labor Party now electively has a stranglehold over the federal parliamentary branch of the ALP, with broken political promises piling up like so much discarded confetti.

Federal legislation to enhance the protection of the environment and our ever-dwindling biodiversity through the Nature Positive



Bill has been scrapped and binned in the manner of a losing lottery ticket.

The even bigger lie still remains: that you can gleefully trash the planet in one location by putting a value on conserving nature, and buying 'Biodiversity Offsets' somewhere else.

The Nature Positive Bill would have included reforms for the development and implementation of robust compliance on Biodiversity Offsets, to give the public



some confidence at least, that if a proponent promised to provide and offset, that the promise would be kept, with a new EPA as the 'tough cop on the beat'.

Biodiversity offsetting is a system for placing a value, a 'unit' on habitat, plant or animal in one area, wrought by large scale development projects, from mining and industry through to highways and land-use planning, that can be bought or sold to 'offset' damage being done and conserve natural assets elsewhere.

Offsets don't always align with the intention of 'like

for like', where biodiversity conserved is equal to biodiversity lost, and overall it's recognised as a broken system.

With carbon offsets, a tonne of CO₂ is still a tonne of CO₂ but privatising and commodifying nature, using market-based mechanisms to solve environmental problems is difficult because ecosystems are complex and many offset schemes circumvent this complexity by focusing on specific species or habitats, rather than attempting to value all the species within it.

Offsets are built around

the idea of 'no net loss', and alarmingly, the question is, should there even be a market for a public good, such as biodiversity, that reduces complex lifeforms to a tradeable statistic and limits our definition of what's important.

A growing claim from governments is that offsets and biodiversity-offsetting markets are essential because there is no money in state coffers for conservation, but according to Dr Yung En Chee at the University of Melbourne, it's "not an honest product".

Last year 42 new species were added to the Threatened list – 21 animals like snakes, skinks, geckos, birds and fish – and 20 plants with a further 138 species currently on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment & Water

(DCCEE) Priority Assessment List. What a mess.

Putting a human money system above the natural world that is essential for species survival and then thinking the two systems are somehow going to work together is the latest in a line of flawed thinking that has culminated in the neo-liberal experiment of the past 40 years and whose latest reincarnation now puts a price on nature.

Environmental crimes of wildlife and plant loss through habitat destruction, both for the price of buying a few acres of pristine Eden somewhere else, is the type of thinking that got humanity into trouble in the first place.

For more info, go to: <https://interactive.carbonbrief.org/carbon-offsets-2023/biodiversity.html>



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin
New stock arriving all the time. Check it out



Strengthening business and community connections

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has actively engaged with local businesses to understand their needs and priorities.

Our most recent survey highlighted key areas of focus for the year ahead.

One of the most potent messages from our members was the need for professional development, especially in marketing, technology, and financial management.

Many business owners also desired more vigorous event promotion and a 'Buy Local' campaign to encourage more excellent community support for businesses in Nimbin.

The visitor experience remains a primary focus. Nimbin has always been a unique and welcoming place, and we know that visitors leave with lasting memories when they form meaningful connections with our



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

community.

Whether it's a chat at a café, a friendly recommendation at a shop, or a conversation at the markets, these interactions create a lasting impact and encourage return visits. Strengthening connections

between locals and visitors will continue to be a priority.

An important outcome of the survey was strong support for the Chamber as the best-placed community organisation to coordinate a business response to significant planning initiatives.

Members expressed confidence that the Chamber can effectively represent their interests and ensure local businesses have a voice in key decisions shaping Nimbin's future.

Interagency approach

The Chamber is championing the idea of a bi-annual interagency meeting to bring together local community organisations.

The goal is to recognise the contributions each group is making, identify areas of overlap, and ensure a strong collective voice when

engaging with government and bureaucracy on behalf of our community.

Nimbin is fortunate to have many active community groups which could benefit from such meetings.

Outstanding contributions

The Chamber is excited to announce a new chamber-sponsored event, Nimbin Business Awards, which will celebrate and recognise outstanding contributions to the community. This initiative will highlight the dedication, innovation, and impact of local businesses and individuals who help make Nimbin a thriving and connected community.

Details will be announced soon, so stay tuned for more information on how to nominate and participate.

Newest member

The Chamber is pleased



to welcome Venu, the owner of a new eco-friendly cosmetics business. We're excited to support her work in sustainable products and encourage our members to connect with her.

Upcoming March events

The Chamber is also hosting a series of community-focused events this month:

- Women in Business Talking Circle: Wednesday, 13th March at Nimbin Youth Centre
- Chamber Networking Meet-Up: Tuesday, 18th March (venue to be confirmed)

• Roots Festival Stakeholder Meeting: Saturday, 22nd March, 9am-10.30am at Nimbin Town Hall. Festival Director Lou Bradley will lead discussions on how local businesses, musicians, and community organisations can benefit from this year's festival.

All events are free, but registration is encouraged to assist with planning. Visit: www.nimbinaustralia.com.au for details.

By working together, we can continue to build a thriving, connected business community in Nimbin.

Where would we be without vollies?



by Pauline Ahern

Life in this village is never boring! Here is a list of organisations that run on volunteers in the village of Nimbin.

Apologies if I have accidentally omitted your group (contact the *Nimbin GoodTimes* to complain).

Some organisations have paid staff in addition to volunteers.

All preschools and schools rely on volunteers to provide those cherished extras, the many and varied communities in the area are run on volunteers.

There are more volunteer run organisations than shops in Nimbin. This community so punches above its weight!

There must be some group that fires up your passion, give a little get a lot!

7 Sibley Street
Allsopp Park maintenance
Aquarius Archives Centre
Blue Knob Gallery
Cullen Street drummers
Djanbung Gardens
Friends of Nimbin Pool
Ganja Faeries
Headers Football Club
Local choirs
Local Fire Brigades x 4
MardiGrass committee
Nimbin Advisory Group
Nimbin Aged Care
Nimbin Aquarius
Foundation
Nimbin Artists Gallery
Nimbin Bowling Club
Nimbin Chamber of Commerce
Nimbin Community Centre
Nimbin Community Centre garden maintenance group
Nimbin Community School
Nimbin CWA

Nimbin Dying, Death and Beyond
Nimbin Environment Centre,
Nimbin Farmers Market
Nimbin Garden Club
Nimbin GoodTimes newspaper
Nimbin Health and Welfare
Nimbin Hemp Embassy
Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary
Nimbin Neighbourhood Association
Nimbin Organic Food Co-op
Nimbin Poetry World Cup
Nimbin School of Arts
Nimbin Show Committee
Nimbin Youth
Nim-FM radio station
Permaculture College at Djanbung Gardens
Rainbow Walking Track
Landcare group
Weave and Mend Gathering

Floods and nature-based solutions

Richmond Landcare (RLI) is hosting a Science in the Pub event at the Channon Tavern on Wednesday, 6th March to discuss and share with the community the viability of using nature-based flood mitigation solutions.

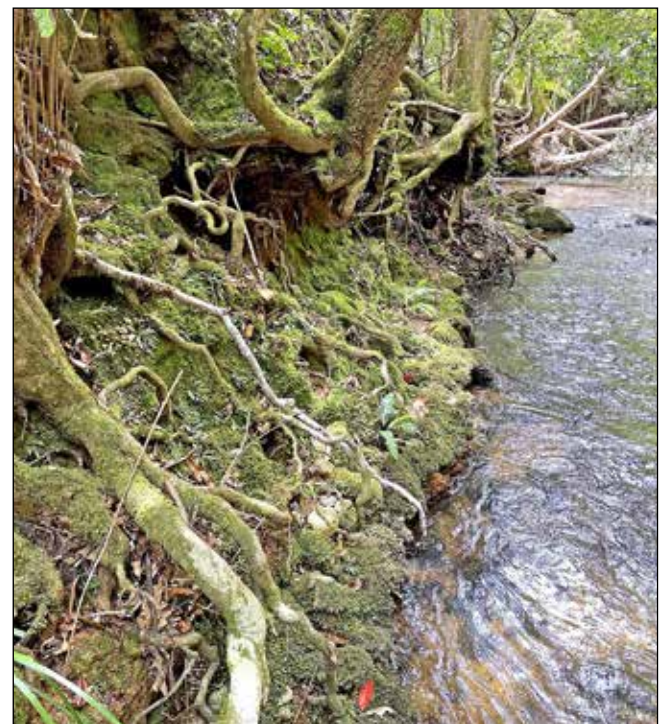
RLI is leading a groundbreaking pilot project along Terania and Tuntable Creeks and aims to test and demonstrate that reforestation, as a nature-based solution, can be an effective option to reduce the impact of flooding and flood risk to downstream communities.

The project focuses on enhancing flood resilience by restoring natural ecosystems, stabilising soil, and improving water management through the power of trees and vegetation.

RLI Project manager, Louisa Rogers says, "The flood events of recent years have underscored the need for sustainable, nature-based solutions.

"Reforestation along Terania and Tuntable Creeks will not only demonstrate how reforestation is a viable flood mitigate option but can also improve biodiversity, enhance soil health, and increase water quality."

The event will showcase how reforestation can



play a role in reducing the effects of flooding, and highlight the importance of collective action in tackling environmental challenges.

It will identify how local residents, landowners and Landcare groups can get involved and show support for nature-based solutions in the region.

Attendees can discover ways to participate in community tree planting and follow-up maintenance days, or sign up for citizen science initiatives, including monitoring water quality and

water bugs.

You are encouraged to arrive early, order some food and drinks, and get comfortable as the discussions kick off.

Whether you're a local community member, landowner, or environmental enthusiast, this is a great chance to get involved and make a positive impact on the future of flood management in the region.

The event commences at 5.30pm; register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/nbs-science-in-the-pub>

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NIMBIN NUMBERS

Clouds Creek Forest defenders convictions

by Meredith Stanton

At a hearing last month in the Coffs Harbour Local Court, forest campaigners protecting the Clouds Creek Greater Glider Sanctuary at Billy's Creek, on the Dorrigo Plateau, defended a police-imposed on-the-spot fine handed out for a traffic obstruction offence while peacefully protesting on private land against the scheduled destruction of endangered greater glider habitats in the Clouds Creek state forest.

Magistrate Julia Virgo accepted the police prosecution evidence and convicted three campaigners for obstruction of NSW Forestry Corporation vehicles entering the Horseshoe Fire Trail at Billy's Creek in January 2024.

The magistrate imposed that criminal convictions be recorded for each of the defendants whose non-violent protest actions to

protect local wildlife were deemed a 'serious criminal offence' despite the Minns government's promise to create a koala sanctuary in this priority habitat on the Dorrigo Plateau.

Between 2020 and September 2024, the NSW Forestry Corporation has racked up \$1.7 million in fines and costs for destroying important habitats in our state forests. This government corporation has lost our trust and respect, and has led us to take direct, non-violent action to prevent harm to endangered wildlife from planned logging.

We were fined \$200 for each offence and received a criminal conviction.

Jane St Vincent Welch says she accepts her fine, "but not this criminal conviction as we are endeavouring to save and preserve rather than destroy this forest. I feel that it is unjust and out of proportion to our supposed 'crime,'" She is currently making a documentary about the



Clouds Creek Vigil, and was doing preliminary filming when she was handed the police fine.

The local community's daily dawn vigil at 'Glider Reviver' has maintained a roadside presence on the Armidale Road at Billys Creek for over a year. They have successfully prevented the start of a scheduled NSW Forestry Corporation logging operation in the Clouds Creek state forest. The protest began in early January, 2024 to protect a population of endangered

koalas and greater gliders living inside the proposed Great Koala National Park.

Volunteer coordinator of Blicks River Guardians, Meredith Stanton, leads the local campaign to protect endangered species habitats in the Clouds Creek state forest and was one of the defendants in court on the Monday. On Tuesday she was back on the ground at the Glider Reviver at Billys Creek.

Stanton said "We believe the magistrate has erred in her judgement in this case.

Standing up for nature is not a crime. We will be appealing the criminal convictions in the District Court because we feel our peaceful public protest is a democratic right in this country and that the koalas and greater gliders recovering from bushfire impacts here need us to speak up for them against the real criminals, who are destroying the forest ecosystems and endangered species habitats surrounding where we live."

"It would have been

simple to pay the \$200 fine, avoiding a criminal record", she said, "But the issue of logging endangered species habitats is a matter of great public interest and defending our actions in a court of law, refusing to accept the destruction of local forests and standing up for nature against laws that criminalise public protest is a duty to our democratic society, and all future generations."

Outside the courthouse, Clouds Creek vigil participant and co-defendant, David Mcrae, said "I object to being called a criminal when forestry itself has had 15 convictions over the last five years and they've cost the taxpayers \$275 million, so I wanted to say something in court, like 'the real criminals are going free', but I couldn't say anything, I would have been held in contempt of court I feel. I got off with two \$200 fines and they registered a conviction because according to the magistrate, 'It's too serious to let it go.'"

Koalas threatened by logging at Pine Creek State Forest

by Tanya Fox

Koala habitat on the edge of Bellingen is now under threat of logging by the NSW Forestry Corporation. Pine Creek State Forest has long been recognised as one of the most important state forests in NSW for koala conservation, yet areas containing koala habitat and identified koala hubs were approved for logging to start last month.

Last year, when the Forestry Corporation initiated plans to log Pine Creek, the Bellingen Activist Network coordinated a blockade and vigil over the forest for over nine months, drawing international media attention.

An online petition to conserve the "Forest Bridge" and save this habitat collected over 27,000 signatures, which was presented to the NSW parliament in September 2024, with no response from the government.

A 'Unique or Special Wildlife



Sue Higginson joins the protest action

Values Report' commissioned by the Department of Primary Industries last year, concluded that a "likely adverse impact identified for both koala and greater glider would arise in areas where logging was due to start.

Despite all of this, Forestry Corporation stepped up the plans to log Pine Creek at the start of this year. The 'Pine Creek Forest Community Blockade' restarted with support from concerned community members in a renewed

effort to prevent the destruction of Pine Creek State Forest.

With the forest now classified as 'active,' the community is on high alert. There have been people guarding the entries to the forest every day for the last four weeks,

pledging to take further action if the machines arrive.

Up-skills are taking place, yarning circles are happening by the fire, and people are passionately gathering as the last line of defence for this precious forest.

Aged 22, Sam Gribben, has been on the ground everyday: "We've kept them out for this long, and we aren't going to give up now. The community is ready to kick into our next gear of action."

"Thousands of hectares of our nearby public native forests have been logged in the last two years. We think it's criminal that forests are being decimated in a climate crisis when we need to be increasing forest cover to draw down carbon.

"Standing forests remove carbon dioxide from the air more effectively than anything else on land; they moderate local temperature and keep Bellingen's drinking water clean. They do this best when they're left alone," he said.

MARCH IN MARCH FOR FORESTS

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A synchronicity of the personal and Raynor Winn's *The Salt Path*

by Sally Amber

My partner and I have just finished reading one of a beautiful series of books by British writer and long-distance walker, Raynor Winn.

The first book, *The Salt Path*, tells of the time that Ray and Moth lost their beloved home, an old stone farmhouse in Wales, when shortly after Moth was diagnosed with a rare, degenerative illness.

They were hiding like mice under the stairs from the officials sent to remove them from their home, when Ray's hand fell upon a hiking guidebook in a half-packed box, and a crazy idea was seeded: they would walk the South West Coast path, a 630-mile trail around the very bottom of Britain.

My partner and I started reading *The Salt Path* last December, when we travelled to the coast south of here, a few weeks after the death of my dear dad. I was an absolute ragged mess following my dad's shock diagnosis of extensive brain tumours followed by months of

palliative care at home with minimal support from the nurses, which finally forced us to accept a bed for him in St. Vincent's. Three weeks later he was gone.

A snippet from my diary: "I sat beneath a little overhang of rock and then a seagull came to join us, sidling up all friendly and casual, preening feathers in that way birds have of indicating friendliness. I pretended to preen a little too, in response, and I noticed H unconsciously join us, scratching his leg.

"Seagull got the message and sidled closer, obviously curious as to whether we had any snacks, but not in a pushy way. Then, suddenly, a sharp hunter move and a crab was caught and gobbled down – way better than human snacks!

"She or he then fluffed up all her feathers and settled into a watchful snooze, head tucked under wing, quite close to H, who took the hint and lay down on the sand, and then so did I, on my rock shelf, suddenly so very weary.

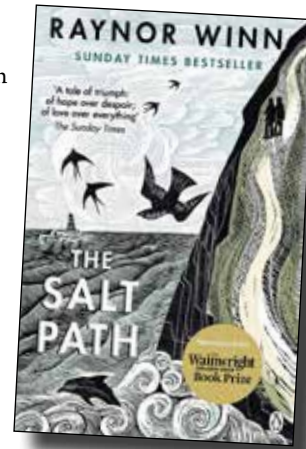
But then wave after intense wave of memory of the past six months

came washing through as my eyes stared softly at the actual waves, then closed in pain, tears not falling, just welling and swelling and hurting and breathing through it like contractions, carried, held by the sound of the waves.

"This is what grief looks like. Oh, it's exactly how you'd expect, but it's still shocking, still so strange. And the gentleness of the gull there, like an emanation of Dad, come to share this painful yet peaceful moment."

Later that evening, as we read *The Salt Path* aloud to one another, the chapter ended with a scene of Moth swimming at dusk with gulls resting on the water unperturbed as the man moved gently among them. I wrote in my diary of this synchronicity: "Same spirit. Same self."

American Author, James Gustave (Gus) Speth said, "I used to think the top global environmental



problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems.

"But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these

we need a spiritual and cultural transformation, and we scientists don't know how to do that." (Shared Planet: Religion and Nature, BBC Radio 4, 1st October, 2013)

Raynor Winn's books for me completely epitomise what Gus Speth was saying, when he spoke about the need for a spiritual, and cultural revolution; and that scientists can't 'do' that, can't bring that about. Maybe no one can 'do' that. Maybe it's not a 'doing' kind of thing. Nature isn't 'done', it happens.

When the medical consensus was that Moth's illness was incurable and he'd need to be careful, rest often and avoid the stairs, the couple's decision to take on a rugged, 630-mile hike of many, many stairs made no logical, scientific sense.

Yet through the second book, *A Wild Silence*, and by the end of the third book, *Landlines*, Ray and Moth are still hiking years later, still deeply in love with each other and the land.

They have as Moth says, become the path, become the land. They have recognised their non-separation in a deep, unshakeable way, and have created ripples in everyone who reads their books; ripples of that revolution that Gus Speth is talking about.

When humans align themselves with that 'happening force' of Nature, of Country, the unlikely of miracles become possible. That's what Raynor Winn's stories tell me, show me, inspire me to lean into and trust. And we are certainly in need of unlikely miracles right now.

Another book is due out in September, and a film of *The Salt Path* is being released in April.

Beyond cruelty in public policy

by Richard Hil

U pheaval, chaos, disruption. These are just some of the descriptors being levelled at the whirlwind policies enacted by the recently elected US president and his administration.

For a lot of observers, the pace and scale of these changes feel more like a category 5 cyclone, packing a lot of destructive power and sending people running for cover.

What's clear is that many of the Trump administration's policies are being driven by a radical, almost revolutionary ideology. It's an ideology made up of incoherent values and beliefs aimed at upending just about every aspect of American life, as well as the international order.

This is all being facilitated by Steve Bannon's notion of 'muzzle velocity', a strategy designed to overwhelm, confuse and quash all political opposition. The general idea is to enact as many changes as possible in the shortest amount of time, thereby keeping one's opponents on the back foot. And it works, at least in the short term.

Worries over this sort of shock and awe approach are rising to the surface in Australia. With the federal election round the corner many of us are wondering whether the next government will mimic Trump's lightning raid.

We'd all like to think that government policies are formulated in the best interests of citizens, and that such policies are based on rational, carefully thought-out decisions, and that they will cause the minimum harm.

This, however, is a far from the case.

Policies are driven by a variety of motives. We know, for example, that many government policies are the result of wanting to appear strong and tough, or to appease the electorate. It's no surprise that resulting policies can inflict great harm on those impacted. Think about Robodebt, or refugees.

Consider the plight of the Palestinians and the government's refusal to name this as genocide. Think too of the continuing support for the fossil fuel industry and the fact that wealth inequality is widening in Australia, with around three million people under the poverty line. Not all this can be sheeted home directly to the government, but the failure to act on some measures is as bad as legislative cruelty.

On 20th March, Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees and Dr Sue Wareham will discuss how kindness and compassion rather than cruelty might inform policy-making. They outline why this is important, and how moral principle might take precedence over pragmatism.

If kindness and compassion, grounded in human rights and international humanitarian law, were the backbone of policy making, would we have refugees languishing on prison islands or Indigenous people continuing to suffer terrible privations? I doubt it.

Stuart and Sue will speak to Beyond Cruel: Ensuring Kindness and Compassion in Public Policy at the M-Arts, Murwillumbah, on Thursday 20th March. Doors open at 5.30pm. Food and drinks are available.

What's on this month at Flourish Sanctuary

by Jagad Samuel

Looking for a space to nourish your body, mind, and spirit? Flourish Sanctuary offers a range of weekly events to bring people together in community, connection, and inner stillness.

Whether you're seeking deep meditation, vibrant kirtan, or hands-on learning in the garden, there's something for everyone. Here's what's happening this month at Flourish Sanctuary.

Sundays: Satsang (1-3pm)

Sundays at Flourish are dedicated to deep conversations and heart-centred connection. Join Jagad for Satsang, a space for spiritual inquiry, reflection, and shared wisdom.

Sessions include a discourse, meditation, and live music, followed by a potluck lunch where everyone is welcome to bring and share food.

- Second Sunday of the Month (9th March) – Satsang is held in Mullumbimby (text 0433-173-508 for full details).

- Third Sunday of the Month (16th March) – Satsang is held at Flourish Sanctuary in Nimbin.

These gatherings are an opportunity to dive deep into meaningful conversation, explore different spiritual perspectives, and connect with a supportive community.

Mondays: Meditation with Jagad (10.30am-12pm)

Start your week with stillness and clarity in a guided meditation session with Jagad. These sessions offer a mix of guided and silent meditation, allowing participants to deepen their practice and cultivate inner peace.

All levels are welcome, whether you're new to meditation or an experienced practitioner. We send our best wishes to Charlie, a beloved member of our meditation community member, who hasn't been well lately.

Wednesdays: Gardening & Learning with Bodhi (8-10am)

Get your hands in the soil and learn permaculture principles in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Gardening with Bodhi is a great



Dance of Universal Peace

way to connect with the land, develop sustainable skills, and be part of Flourish's vision for regenerative living. Whether you have a green thumb or have never planted a seed before, all are welcome!

Thursdays: Sound Healing with Michael Deanshaw (9.30-10.30am)

Sound has the power to heal, relax, and restore. Join Michael for a deeply rejuvenating sound healing session using Japanese singing bowls.

The resonant vibrations promote relaxation, emotional release, and energetic balance.

This is an ideal practice for anyone looking to relieve stress and reconnect with their inner harmony.

Saturday Schedule:

Saturdays at Flourish are a special time, offering a full morning of yoga, meditation, kirtan, and tea. Whether you come for one session or stay for the whole morning, you'll leave feeling refreshed and uplifted.

- 9am – Yoga with GuruDev. Start your day with mindful movement, breathwork, and deep stretching to awaken the body and mind.
- 10am – Meditation with Jagad. A guided meditation session to bring stillness and presence to your morning.
- 11am – Kirtan (Devotional Chanting)

Experience the joy and power of mantra singing. Kirtan is a meditative and uplifting practice that brings people together in song.

- 12pm – Tea & Community Connection. End the morning with a shared cup of tea and good conversation.

All the events held at Flourish are by donation, apart from Michael's magical sound healing. Everyone is welcome and bookings are not required.

Flourish is a registered charity. Our focus is on providing retreats and events that put more love into the world. Given the state of the world today, we think this is more important than ever.

We also offer our temple as an affordable space for transformative events, whether they focus on mindfulness, yoga, music or other meaningful pursuits. Our retreat accommodation can house up to 30 people.

If you're interested in running something, get in touch to discuss how we can support your vision to make this world a better place.

We are also always on the lookout for volunteers and/or WWOOFers.

With WWOOFers we provide accommodation in exchange for giving us a helping hand. If you are interested in getting involved, please send Jagad a text on 0433-173-508 or visit our website: www.FlourishSanctuary.com.au for details.



Blue Moon Cabaret

by David Hallett

Nimbin's first BIG cultural/performance event of the year is Nimbin School of Arts' Blue Moon Cabaret on Saturday 22nd March.

The NSA has been producing these popular fundraising shows for over 30 years, and this first cabaret for 2025 features two headline acts: the wonderful globe-trotting duo, the Hussy Hicks (pictured) and comedian Mandy Nolan, together with dance ensembles Veil of Dreams, For the Locals and Martin and Heather's salsa, plus grand pianist Stephanie Hamlet, singers Bill Jacobi, Lou and Phil and the Parissa Bouas Trio, poet Rebecca Rushbrook, Brisbane acrobatic trio Circulexical, Tuntable Circus, and poet/host David Hallett.

Bookings are essential. Tickets available at Perceptio Bookshop (ph 6689-1766), doors open at 8pm for dinner and drinks (no BYO), show is fully catered.

Life Without Me re-launched at the LTC

In August 2024, Lismore Theatre Company had to postpone Daniel Keene's show *Life Without Me* but now they are ready to re-launch the show.

Much-awarded Australian playwright Daniel Keene's *Life Without Me* is a funny, honest and heartwarming story that invites us to question life itself, or at least our own.

Set in a two-star hotel lobby, capturing the emotional truth of the almost absurd characters – from the less than competent hotel manager to the slightly obscure guests – Daniel Keene has created a symbolic world of its own.

A mix of drifters in search of the concept of happiness, trying to move on whilst simultaneously taking up residence in this unseemly perfect sanctuary for lost souls.

This thought-provoking play will leave you inspired to question your place in the world; past, present and future. Somehow you may be left feeling awkwardly familiar. "My life just seems to go on, but ... without me in it".

The cast for this show are truly amazing and include Tameika Watts as Nigel, the overworked hotel manager; Isaac Smith as John, the lost man who is desperately trying to escape his life in the city; John Rado as Roy, the sheet salesman in search of that big break; Anna Ludvik as Alice, a spinster just waiting for her new apartment to be finished; Junia Wulf as



Mrs Spence, the slightly confused hotel owner; Ruben Garcia as Tom, a married man trying to spice up his life; and Amie Gray as Ellen, a woman who doesn't really understand why she has come to the hotel but is hoping to reconnect with her husband.

All these characters come together in this run down, ramshackle hotel, in search of something meaningful in their

lives. The results are hilarious. If they can't find it they may just end up stuck in the hotel forever.

The performances are on now, and will run for three weekends until Saturday 15th March. It is a two-hour performance with a 15-minute intermission. Tickets are \$25 each and \$20 for concession and members. Tickets are on sale now at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CSJAW>

Literary Allsorts in Kyogle - save the date

The Kyogle Readers and Writers are very excited to announce the return of Literary Allsorts, which will take place on Saturday 14th June.

Literary Allsorts is our biennial single day mini fest held right in the heart of Kyogle at the KMI Hall.

Think of all the things you love about the Kyogle Readers and Writers Festival – nationally renowned authors, engaging conversations and a laid back, accessible vibe condensed in a bite sized snack.

We have some amazing authors coming along for the ride, so stay tuned. We can't wait to tell you what we've got in store.

Don't want to miss a thing? Head over to: kraw.com.au and sign up



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