Letters

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, the last Wednesday of the month. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

Pot priority

I am grateful to Beth Shelley for her letter (*NGT* June) supporting the NSW Upper House committee of inquiry's findings to allow the use of cannabis for medical purposes to a somewhat limited group of people who could use as part of their treatments. She is spot on in pointing out that anyone coping with an illness, where cannabis can be of help, should not also have to worry about being busted.

There is, however, one aspect of that Upper House Inquiry where she seems to have been completely misinformed. The inquiry was actually proposed by Luke Foley, the ALP's Upper House Leader. He did this following discussions with the HEMP Party when he visited Nimbin last year. The HEMP Party also briefed Amanda Fazio, the ALP's representative on that committee, when she visited Nimbin earlier this year before the committee began their hearings.

The NSW Greens did, belatedly, support the use

of cannabis for medical purposes during those hearings but then, ultimately, so did all of the members on that committee which also included, Liberals, Nationals and Shooters. The recommendations were unanimous.

So yes, pot smokers do deserve a to have a political party willing to stand up for their rights to peace, safety and justice, and that party is the Nimbin based HEMP Party.

> Graham Askey Lismore

HEMP dodgy deals

Rumours are swirling through the community that the HEMP Party may have stitched up a dirty preference deal with the Shooters Party in the Senate at the coming election.

I had a look at the Shooters Party policy on marijuana and it turns out it is totally opposite to the HEMP party platform. Shooters Party policy states that harm minimisation approaches have failed and the legalisation of marijuana should not be supported.

I would be interested to know if HEMP Party members support this preference deal with a far right, anti-environment, anti-hemp party? What this means is that we could see a right-wing Shooters Party MP elected instead of The Greens senate candidate, Cate Faehrmann who has been a consistent advocate for progressive law reform in this area, including medicinal marijuana for those suffering

commercialisation of hemp for agriculture. Don't vote for the HEMP Party on election day, unless

you want to increase the chance of a Shooters Party MP getting elected. Sharon Gibson

chronic pain and the

Mullumbimby

Redneck HEMP agenda?

I was thinking of joining and voting for the HEMP party as I support the decriminalisation of cannabis. I thought that by supporting the HEMP party, my vote would always go to parties that supported cannabis reform. But I now understand that this is not so.

Back in 2004, according to the HEMP party's website: "We think we stuffed up our preference deals." They gave their preferences to the Liberals for Forest, who were ideologically aligned with the centreright sympathies of the Liberal Party of Australia. One of the outcomes of this spectacularly stupid deal was that a potential Greens seat was lost.

And in this 2013 election (don't worry about the previous two elections as the HEMP party stuffed up their registration as well), another stuffed-up preference deal. The winner of the HEMP party preferences is? The Shooters and Fishers party, who state on their website: "This election is forecast to be highly polarised, but we believe that there is a good opportunity for Parties like SFP, KAP, Country Alliance and other minor parties across Australia to break the Greens' choke-hold on the Senate. We have been conducting preference talks with a number of the other minor parties... voters have finally woken up to just how dangerous the Greens can be when they hold the balance

of power." I hope that Mr Balderstone realises how irrational and illogical it is to give preferences to a party that

reform. It makes no sense, and I wonder if HEMP party members (some of who have hassled me for years to join) realise that the head of the party is really a dictator and working against the HEMP party's aims. If all this is wrong, Mr Balderstone, tell us the real truth now. Erika Papp

Say no to HEMP vote

South Lismore

In the July NGT page 11 story headed "Say 'No' to synthetic highs", authored by Michael Balderstone, the article finishes with some details of the HEMP party's Senate candidates. It's ironic that some of these number one Senate candidates are owners of businesses that obviously trade in synthetic highs. Apart from losing their deposits, the HEMP Party is splitting the reformist progressive vote. If you vote for HEMP or the Anti-CSG single-issue parties, you will just lower the percentage vote of the Greens and leave us all open to ridicule.

David McInnes-King Larnook

Debatable outcomes

As the Greens candidate for Cowper I clearly support the comments of Greens leader Christine Milne when she states, "On climate change Tony Abbott is a denier, Kevin Rudd has back flipped and only the Greens can be trusted."

Luke Hartsuyker restates the Coalition is committed to scrapping the carbon tax and the leader of his coalition, Tony Abbott, has mocked the same Emission Trading Sceme (ETS) proposed by John Howard and previously agreed by the Coalition.

The Nationals and the Liberals are not serious about combating climate change despite the fact that their "direct action policy" proposes to make all of us pay the polluters not to pollute.

Now the Labor party is in race to the bottom for the

About us

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NEXT DEADLINE:

Wednesday 28th August Email: nimbin.goodtimes @gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Responsibility for election comment is taken by the Editor

wants the big polluters to pay less and is backing away from a target that seriously combats climate change. Is Kevin Rudd now trying to go back to his disgracefully inadequate 5% target?

I would be delighted to debate Mr Hartsuyker on the impact of the climate change policies he and Tony Abbott propose. The Labor candidate is also welcome to try and defend Labor's policy, if he can be sure of what Mr Rudd's policy is on any particular day.

Only the Greens in the Senate can be trusted to keep the old parties honest. While they fight with each other, we fight for what matters.

> Carol Vernon Greens candidate for Cowper

100% possible

When HM Talling claims that the Greens' senate candidate Cate Faehrmann's push for 100% renewable energy is "pie in the sky," it is obvious that HM Talling has ignored the latest research. Associate Professor Mark Diesendorf of UNSW has recently co-authored a report about a 100% renewable energy grid for Australia, based on the results of his team's research. His team performed thousands of computer simulations, using actual hourly data on electricity demand, and matched this with hourly input from solar and wind power for the year 2010.

The team report states that by 2030 we could be powered by current renewable technologies. Moving to clean, renewable energy would generate over

67,000 new jobs in NSW, many in this area, as opposed to the 6000 jobs currently generated by the fossil fuel industry.

The Australian Government commissioned a report by the 'Australian Energy Market Operator', that has clearly show that a clean energy Australia is possible.

It is time to remove the taxpayer subsidies to the fossil-fuelled energy industries, something the older parties are reluctant to do.

> Toni Wright-Turner Gleniffer

Metgasco at it again

CEO Peter Henderson is quoted in the Northern Star (25/7) saying "Metgasco believes it has support from the broader community for renewing its activities in the Northern Rivers"

He bases this belief on the results of a spurious poll conducted by the Richmond Valley Council. Spurious? Yes, because the RVC poll is based on a lot of hypothetical assumptions. Chief among them are that CSG Mining be proven environmentally safe. Well does Mr Henderson have new scientific evidence to support that CSG Mining is safe? Another assumption of the RVC poll was that the industry be appropriately regulated? Landholders still cannot refuse entry to their properties to CSG miners. Both major political parties support the theft of titleholder's properties, hardly appropriate regulation. The Greens are the only significant political



whatever

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doesn't support cannabis law

populist vote. Kevin Rudd

Grodenie



party that supports the rights of property owners to

refuse entry to the mining industry. Another assumption the RVC poll makes is that CSG will promote economic stimulus, well so do wars earthquakes and catastrophic weather events. The RVC assumed that CSG would lead to an increase in employment. Did the assumption take in to account the loss of employment to existing enterprises in the Northern Rivers that rely on clean water and air? Or a good road network? The reports from residents of the Northern Rivers who have been to Chinchilla and Tara tell of a disintegrating road network with a shockingly high accident toll caused by the thousands of CSG mining heavy vehicles. Maybe, an increase in employment in road repair, vehicle repairs/ insurance claims and lots of work for health professionals, police and Ambo's. Reports from Gladstone tell of a massive community health / social problems from the sex industry that is "servicing" the mining industry infrastructure construction. "Don't have sex here if you don't want AIDS," was the message given to a friend by a Gladstone community health worker recently.

Last Council elections, the Lismore local Government area residents voted 87% no to CSG mining. The Lock the Gate roads and community polls are returning results of 20000 people in 112 communities with a 95% support for keeping the Northern Rivers CSG Free. There is your answer Mr Henderson.

Headline needed

It is with some surprise that I learn that Metgasco is again distributing literature in our area. "Slow learners," that's for sure. We, the protectors, of our land, and children know that we won the battle but not the war. company has a social licence

Peace mission to America

by Benny Zable

n 15th August, I will be winging my way once again to the Big Apple. I will be taking with me good wishes from the Rainbow region and the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. As ambassador to the sister community of Woodstock, I plan to paint a mural for the Woodstock Museum. In New York City I have the honour of decorating Times Square on Sunday 25th August for ECOFEST, original longest running annual environment festival, for its 25th anniversary.

Also I am taking part in the Vigil for the International Day of Peace and Ecology, on Sunday 21st September, at the band shell in Central Park. This year's program ends with a candlelight procession to Strawberry Fields to the IMAGINE mosaic.

An IMAGINE mosaic replica is planned for Nimbin. I have the thumbs ups and letters for this project from the Mayor of Lismore and the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce. Because of copyright issues, I am sorting out permission for this project from Yoko Ono. If all goes well, we hope the Nimbin

of life. Nor will it be given. We know that there are extremely rich coal deposits between Casino and Kyogle which are up to 4km. deep. The gas content of this coal is very high and because the **Simon Chance** bottom coal seam which is 2 **Richmond Hill** km. thick and formed from ash, not rotted vegetation, can only be extracted by fraccing. That coal has turned to very hard rock coal. Metgasco wants it. The literature that Metgasco has distributed is mainly American data and certainly not applicable here. For instance, the landowner in America owns what is We also know that no mining under his land, not like here. Consequently if riches of any





community will participate in making it.

a millionaire virtually overnight. We, however, had that asset taken away for the war effort, and it has never been restored to us.

The literature is very out of date and very misleading. It was printed before we forced them out and, as with all their spin, does not have one iota of truth to it. It is a littany of lies from cover to cover. Anyone who thinks otherwise hasn't visited The Pilliga, or Tara, or Chinchilla or lived in a gasfield anywhere. They haven't watched their children get sicker and sicker. They haven't lit their drinking water. They haven't had their land value plummet to

See you all when I get back in November.

well is on their neighbour's land.

They say no aquifer has been proven to be contaminated by CSG. That's true, because absolutely no baseline testing has been done before drilling commenced. Governments won't do it and mining companies won't.

That's simply because they know what the result would be. But help is at hand. I implore all landowners to have their bores tested by Southern Cross Uni. It's free. Act now before it's too late. When they finish the bores, they will test our watercourses. Do not miss this one-off opportunity.

Don Durran

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Notices

Position vacant

We are looking for a new member for the Sphinx Rock Café Team to work Friday afternoons and into the evening, and then the busy Musical Sunday. These are permanent shifts. Applicants need to ideally have previous Café experience; and amongst many other things must be hardworking, work well in a team and on your own, work well under pressure, be honest, enjoy what you do, be energetic and smile. Call the Café on 6679-7118 on Mondays to Wednesdays only, or email: info@sphinxRockcafe.com anytime.

Green Day stall holders wanted

Barkers Vale School is holding its third Green Day on Sunday 15th September in the shady grounds of the school in Wadeville. This community event is about raising awareness and understanding of the impact people have on the environment, and will be an outdoor family friendly festival of Green information and products. If you are interested in having a stall at Green Day, please phone Wendy on 0437-506-624 or email: greendaybvps@gmail.com

Activating real democracy

Visionaries and Culture Creatives of the Northern Rivers Region are invited to participate in activating Real Democracy in our region. The Launch of a regional 'Activating Real Democracy' tour will be held on 17th August in the 'In Our Hands' Centre for Real Democracy, located in Byron Arts and Industry Estate, 6/19-21 Centennial Circuit. For more info see: www.earthholocracy. org or ring/text Katharine Dawn on 0411-345-834.

Embroiderers' Guild

Meets 9.30am - 2.30pm every 1st and 3rd Wednesday and every 3rd Saturday of each month in the function room at the Red Dove centre, Keen Street, Lismore. Embroiderers from all towns and districts in the Northern Rivers are invited to come along. Phone 0423-337-872 or just turn up.

Weave and mend

Basketry Weaving festival, Friday – Sunday, October 4,5,6 in grounds of Nimbin Community Centre. Enquiries phone Granny Breath Weaver on 6689-7129.

WIRES weekend course

Learn how to safely rescue and provide emergency care for injured and orphaned wildlife. The next course will be held 7-8th September. The NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service is an all-volunteer organisation that needs new members throughout the Lismore region. Call our 24-hour hotline on 6628-1898 or go to: www.wiresnr.org to join WIRES and to find out about the many ways you can help.

Pre-loved clothing sale

Enjoy a shopping spree that won't cost the earth, and support your local Lifeline crisis telephone service (13-11-14). Clothes for women, men, children and babies, plus shoes, books and magazines. 9am-1pm at Uki Hall on Thursday 15th August, and Nimbin Hall on Friday 16th August. All proceeds go to Lifeline Northen Rivers.

Youth leading the world

Global Youth Leadership Congress at Nimbin Town Hall from Tuesday to Friday, 3rd to 5th September. Get informed on global and local sustainability issues, and share your concerns with other change-makers. Days 1 and 2: Youth Congress; Day 3: Community Forum – local business, government, parents and teachers are invited. Register at: www.ozgreen.org For enquiries, phone

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by Janelle Saffin, MP for Page

I welcome the Federal Government's announcement that a new position of Independent Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports will be established. This was a recommendation of the Caucus Live Animal Export Working Group that was set up last year, of which I'm an active member. This is something I have long supported- an independent office to develop and enforce animal welfare standards at a national level.

I know this has the strong support of lots of people in our local community. The Independent Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports will audit and review the live animal export regulator across the supply chain, including investigation and compliance procedures. The position will be an independent, statutory office holder reporting directly to

Janelle's Page

the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Draft legislation will now be developed to define the scope and powers of the new role. Our working group has examined good models and they are with the Minister."

No logging in National Parks

I was not surprised to hear Nationals Senator Barnaby Joyce calling for logging in National Parks when he dropped into the Page electorate to campaign for the local National party candidate. At the State level we have seen the Coalition prepared to open National Parks to recreational shooters.

Senator Joyce is one of those behind the Coalition's plan for 100 dams across Australia, including the Clarence River.

Federally the Coalition's Shadow parliamentary secretary for the environment has vowed that if elected they will wind back the Government's water-trigger legislation to protect our water from CSG activities.

Now Senator Joyce pops up in the Northern

> **Janelle Saffin** Member for Page 63 Molesworth Street, Lismore Phone 1300 301 735

Rivers, and stands beside Nationals candidate Kevin Hogan, calling for logging in National Parks. This puts Senator Joyce and Kevin Hogan at odds with the State Minister for the North Coast, Don Page, who does not support logging in National Parks.

Our National Parks are not for logging and there are better ways of supporting a

sustainable timber industry. The challenges facing the local timber industry are a complex mix of international market forces and state and federal factors. The Australian Government has programs to support the industry to remain competitive and sustainable into the future. In typical Federal Coalition style, Senator Joyce thinks simplistic slogans like 'logging in national parks' will fix it, but people in our area won't fall for it. The Federal Nationals seem to think it is a matter of

jobs versus environment, but in our region, protecting the environment is important for supporting the economy, our agriculture, fisheries, tourism and way of life.

'Poolitics in Page' to raise funds for PCYC

The candidates of the three major parties are set to engage each other on Saturday 10th August, at high noon – not in debate, but on the indoor sporting fields of the PCYC in Dawson Street Lismore.

Their challenge is to raise funds for the youth centre, and for the Rescue Helicopter Service.

The event, Poolitics in Page, features five commonly enjoyed pastimes: pool, table tennis, carpet bowls, hoop shooting and the most controversial – the tug'o'peace.

All Saturday afternoon leaders of teams -Red (Labor) Janelle Saffin, Gold (National) Kevin Hogan and Green (Greens) Desley Banks – will do battle in individual and team challenges.

The afternoon will also feature music from Luke Vasella, Blackboi and many more, the Barefoot Gypsies will demonstrate their unique style of belly dancing and there will be a sausage-sizzle.

There will also be yoga with Annie McGhee and belly dancing lessons for all.

Rudd government backs Australian live music

Justine Elliot welcomed the announcement that the Rudd Labor Government. supported by some of Australia's best live music acts, will help revitalise our live music scene.

Arts Minister Tony Burke has announced the Government's support for Australian live music through the creation of a new National Live Music Office. Live music is a vital part of the local music scene on the North Coast. This announcement gives much needed support for live acts in our local community.

Live Music Ambassadors including Katie Noonan, Suffa from the Hilltop Hoods, Stavros Yiannoukas from Bluejuice, Kav Temperley, Kevin Mitchell from Jebediah, Dave Faulkner from the Hoodoo Gurus, Leah Flanagan and Dwayne Everett Smith will support the new national office. The National Live Music Office will partner with governments, local councils, communities, businesses,

Justine Elliot Member for Richmond 107 Minjunbal Drive Tweed Heads South Phone 1300-720-675

musicians and songwriters on how to lift barriers to ensure more acts can perform at venues around the country.

Justine said it will now be easier for more people on the North Coast to walk into a local venue and hear a live local act.

The National Live Music Office will be supported by \$560,000 in funding over three years from 2013-14 with the specific aim of developing practical strategies for promoting collaboration and cooperation to make sure that we can find the right environment for live music

that benefits everyone. This announcement gives our vibrant local music scene every chance. It supports Australian live acts and but also preserves the liveability

and amenity of our local neighbourhoods.

The National Live Music Office will be administered by APRA (Australasian Performing Rights Association) and managed by the recently appointed National Live Music Coordinator, Dr Ianto Ware.

Dr Ware, a musician for 15 years, was appointed Live Music Coordinator by the Australian Government in March 2013 and has extensive experience supporting artists, venues and industry associations in tackling regulatory issues.

Based on APRA's recent research, the venue-based live music industry contributes around \$1.2 billion to the economy, servicing almost 42 million patrons and supporting nearly 15,000 full time jobs Australia-wide.

Further information about the National Live Music Office can be found via the website of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and sport at: http://arts.gov.au/music

een scene vercoming barriers for farmers

EcoMart's Effie Ablett and Cate Faehrmann

Greens lead Senate candidate for NSW Cate Faehrmann joined Greens candidate for Page, Desley Banks at the Lismore Community Garden to outline The Greens new \$85M initiative to connect farmers

"At the moment there exist many barriers for farmers to sell directly to consumers," said Ms Faehrmann. "Many farmers have no other choice but to sell their produce at low cost because of the

"This initiative is about giving farmers more control over food markets including the ability to set up food processing hubs where they can share the costs of things like bottling and labelling," she said. Faehrmann and Banks were joined by Dr Effie Ablett, the manager of community-based coop EcoMart.

EcoMart local food co-op allows producers to sell directly to shoppers via an online shop. Locally made and locally grown goods purchased online are delivered to homes, workplaces or to convenient pick up points. Shoppers can buy their groceries without going to the supermarket, and support local farmers and manufacturers rather than the supermarket chains.

ÉcoMart Northern Rivers Coop (www.nr.ecomart.net.au) was set up three years ago in Lismore and shopper members working as volunteers to promote local food production. Funding is needed to expand the Co-op and extend this model to other regions.

Dr Effie Ablett, co-founder of EcoMart said, "I feel Kevin Rudd and the major parties seem to accommodate mining companies, big business and coal seam gas companies. It is about time they did something to support local farmers and shoppers who are, after all, the people who vote for them."

"Initiatives like EcoMart should be supported so they become more widely available to food consumers and producers alike," said Faehrmann.

"Farmers markets should be as easily accessible to consumers as Coles and Woollies. The farmers and communities that I speak to, think it's madness

prioritised over local produce," she said.

Greens candidate for Page, Desley Banks said, "Here in the Northern Rivers we see the benefits of local food production at places like the Lismore Community Garden and the EcoMart community co-op."

"The Greens initiative would give more farmers the opportunity to reach consumers directly, which means a fair price for farmers and affordable healthy food for our community," said Ms Banks.



Desley Banks, Cate Faehrmann and unity Garden's John .



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Why I want to see the North Coast CSG Free

"I think locals deserve to hear the real story about risky coal seam gas from independent experts rather than just being bombarded with industry spin from the CSG aligned National Party politicians and lobbyists."

There is no life without water...

Independent research by the National Water Commission has found many potential dangers associated with coal seam gas developments and its impact on our precious water systems.

Out of the many risks identified by the commission, let me briefly touch on three standout threats that underpin my drive to see the North Coast declared CSG Free.

- 1. The commission warns that CSG drilling may cause reductions in surface water flows that could affect surface water systems, ecosystems, irrigation and grazing lands. It has the potential to also lead to land subsidence over large areas of ground;
- 2. CSG production requires large volumes of waste water to be treated. Should this water make its way into other surface water systems it could alter natural flow patterns and have significant impacts on water quality, and on river and wetland health; and
- 3. The practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, involves injecting water, sand, and chemicals into underground rock to free reserves of gas. Fracking has the potential to damage the quality of groundwater and result in cross-contamination between aquifers.

On the issue of water alone, I believe that CSG presents itself as just too great a poisonous risk to residents, the environment, farms, valleys, communities, and to our general prosperity.

Our region has already embraced renewable energy technologies like solar. Renewables need to be our focus as our entire economy transitions away from fossil fuels, including dangerous coal



Email: justine.elliot.mp@aph.gov.au Phone: 1300 720 675 Office: 107 Minjungbal Drive, **Tweed Heads South**





www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP

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From the Mayor's desk

by Cr. Jenny Dowell



Rural dwellings

At our Council meeting on July 9, Councillors voted to allow a second dwelling within 100m of the first on farms. The change from only allowing a second dwelling if it was attached by a covered walkway, will, we believe, allow ageing farmers to stay on their farms by providing a home for someone else to run the farm or to provide supplementary rental income.

The next step is for the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to allow the change. Stay tuned.

Mulgum House

At the July Traffic Advisory Committee meeting, we considered the challenges faced by Mulgum House residents in safely crossing Thorburn Street to get into the village. Traffic and pedestrian numbers don't meet the requirements for a crossing but the matter as been referred to Council's works section to see how the footpath and crossing point can be made safer.

Footpath access and trading

Council's policy on village footpath trading and access has not been reviewed since 1998. Staff briefed Councillors on July 16 on a wide variety of planning matters including this one. The plan is to bring a report to Council in September for consideration of Council's options and then undertake consultation in Nimbin with the Chamber of Commerce, retailers and other stakeholders. Council staff will not be undertaking enforcement action regarding use of footpath areas in Nimbin until Council's policy position is clear, but may still respond to complaints and matters that affect public safety.

Roadwords on Nimbin Road

Nimbin residents have been patiently awaiting the commencement of roadworks at the entrance of the village in the knowledge that the finished works will be so much better for road users and pedestrians. Works have now commenced and are expected to take 8 weeks to complete, but that timeline may be affected by the weather.

Equally those who drive Nimbin Road into Lismore were patient during recent wet weather and the myriad of deep potholes on many sections of the road. Council workers crews spent almost a week filling holes the old fashioned way, and I'm pleased to pass on some positive comments posted on Nimbin Hook-Ups facebook page.

Nimbin skatepark 2nd birthday

August is also a special month in Nimbin with the 2nd birthday of the much-loved Skatepark celebrated on August 11. Congratulations to Friends of Nimbin Skatepark (FONS) and all skaters, young and not-so-young for your respect for the facility and each other. It is a credit to you and your community.

Japan Sister City

August is a very special month in Lismore for several reasons. Firstly because August 7 is the 50th anniversary of the Lismore and Yamato Takada Sister City Friendship Agreement. This year to mark the occasion, 50 guests from Yamato Takada including the Mayor Mr Masakatsu Yoshida will visit Lismore for 4 days.

We are taking the opportunity to combine the official opening of City Hall with a celebration of the Anniversary at City Hall in the morning and a dinner sponsored by Southern Cross University in the evening. The following days there are tours and children's activities.

Arts in August

August is a huge month in the Lismore Council area and the region with a myriad of arts and cultural events on offer. Lismore and Nimbin Tourism have developed a great website *www. artsinaugust.com.au* that lists more than 40 distinct events including the Nimbin Poetry World Cup, the Blue Knob Gallery exhibitions and Nimbin felt-making workshops. Well worth checking out.

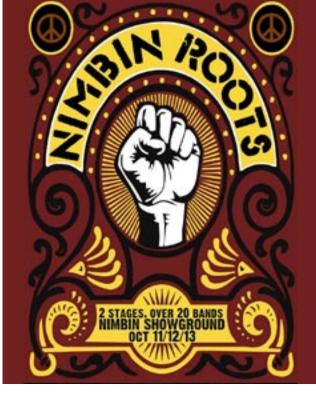
Blakebrook Quarry open day

It may not be Arts and Culture, but Council is hosting tours of its Blakebrook Quarry on August 10 from 10am-2pm. There will be a sausage sizzle and any resident of our LGA who visits on the day has a chance to win a trailer-load of quarry product.

Heart v Roar

Some say that football or soccer is the beautiful game, so perhaps this one could be listed under Arts in August. Council is delighted to welcome A League teams Melbourne Heart and Brisbane Roar to Lismore's Oakes Oval on August 25 for a game.

Tickets for the main grandstand have sold out, but good seats in other stands are still available for





Do you have an old guitar



by Simon Clough, Deputy Mayor, Lismore City Council

ouncil workload seems ever-expanding at the moment – no sooner have we scrambled over one hurdle than another one looms.

Having just completed the budget, we had another extraordinary meeting to determine Round 5 of the Regional Development Australia funding. Lismore Council was entitled to \$436,000.

I supported the provision of undercover parking in the Browns Creek carpark with the possibility of solar panels spectacular or plaque-able (a word I've just invented for projects pollies love to unveil a plaque on) project, but very practical, especially when the temperature gets over 30 degrees C in the CBD. As a former business owner, I'd often observed that when the mercury gets high the streets were deserted.

Calling all Nimbin tennis players: please join the Nimbin Tennis Club. Numbers are dangerously low and the rates need to be paid. At its last regular meeting Council unanimously agreed to change the Local Environment Plan 2012 to allow detached dual occupancies in rural areas. Worker's cottages are also to be prohibited with this change.

There was very strong community support for this change in the placebased forums which were held as part of the 'Imagine Lismore' process. If the state department of Planning and Infrastructure accepts this proposal, it will mean that rural ratepayers can build a second house on their of their existing dwelling. It is hoped that these dual occupancy provisions will allow rural landholders to stay on their land longer supported by family or by a rental income from a lessee in the second house.

The first week in August is the 50th anniversary of Lismore's sister city relationship with Yamato Takada. I am in awe of the Glynn brothers, two Catholic priests who organised for Lismore to have the first sister city relationship with a Japanese city in 1963.

I moved to Sydney in 1962 from this area and know very well just how conservative it was, and that the hatred/ dislike of all things Japanese was very strong. I'm sure the Glynns must have taken much criticism and worse for their initiative.

The NBN towers which are invading our region are causing lots of concern and in some cases distress. If you are worried about a tower planned near you, it's important to get together with your neighbours and make a noise.



\$12 adults, \$7 U15 or \$27 for 2 adults and 2 children. General admission is \$10, \$5, \$20. Go to *www.visitlismore.com.au* to book.

Nimbin Fun Run

Of course the Roar v Heart match clashes with the annual Nimbin Fun Run that is also on August 25 at 2pm. This well-organised community event offers attractive prize money (15 cash prizes of up to \$250) and other prizes just for entering so it's sure to be well patronised by serious athletes and those who emphasise the 'fun' part of the event. Congratulations to Cassandra for organising this great fundraiser for the Physical Activities Centre.

Blue Moon Cabaret

It's in September, but it's always worth noting one of the premier arts and cultural activities on the calendar. Like many of you, I'm looking forward to the September 7 Blue Moon Cabaret and the high quality local and imported talent.

> around for more suitable sites. NBN and its contractors seem to have made quite a few location changes because of the public outcry.

Recently, as part of my role as chair of the Lock the Gate Alliance, I went to Melbourne for the Powershift Conference. The whole conference was brilliantly organised by the young members of the Australian Youth Climate Change Coalition.

I was greatly inspired to see around 1500 highly committed young people working on the climate issue with special emphasis on the Pacific Islands and our own indigenous people.

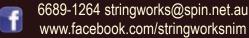
I contributed to a couple of panels on the Northern Rivers experience of nonviolent direct action against coal seam gas. The young participants seemed particularly enthusiastic about our victory (so far) over CSG and about James Price Point in the Kimberley.

Point in the Kimberley. It's time to go and prepare the garden for some major spring planting.

Wish you all well for the

hidden away? Bring it in and let us restore it to its former glory. Just ask for Martin

On the veranda next to The Contented Tummy Cafe

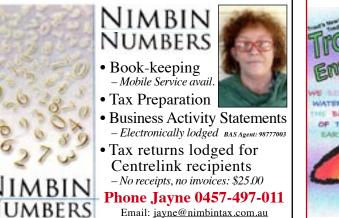


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on the roof. Not the most

property within 100 metres

It is also worthwhile looking last month of winter.





Help the HEMP party help you

The Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP) Party is twenty years old but the recent online rebirth of the party has seen a big increase in membership and passion to have cannabis law reform on the political agenda.

We are optimistic that following the President Obama ("of course I inhaled, that was the point") led changes in America we cannot be ignored for much longer. HEMP aims to run Senate candidates in all six states and pay the \$4,000 nomination fee to the cashier of the Australian Electoral Commission, in the capital city of every state of Australia, before 5pm on Thursday the 15th August. That's \$24,000, which is a lot of dough for people who have to pay at least \$10 a gram for their medicine, which they could grow in their backyard.

So, just like like Kevin Rudd and the rest, we are begging for donations from our supporters. We have almost half the bond money and plenty of promises, but now is the time.

We can also now start spreading the word in earnest: vote one HEMP above the line on the Senate ballot paper. And do our best to get the politicians to talk pot. Everyone can help think up new ideas and we have a head start with our imaginations, thanks to the herb. Banners on bridges, chalk on footpaths, stickers



and posters if you can print them from our website, talk back radio, online debate, or chasing Kevin and Tony down the street with a big joint. We can be resourceful.

In the next five weeks during the campaign, wherever you live across Australia, try and steer the election conversation to the topic, 'prejudice against marijuana/ganja/weed'. Cannabis law reform is a massive elephant in the room politicians are refusing to take notice of. There are millions of Australians who work, smoke and vote.

Cannabis consumers must be allowed to grow their own supply. We are not criminals – the law is the crime. It is foolish to not regulate and tax the industry. Legal cannabis could potentially make billions in tax revenue and save billions in expensive law enforcement, policing, jails, health and social costs etc. Evidence based laws make more sense and the huge benefits are now obvious in many other countries that have embraced change.

This mission is to relegalise a herb and make an end to incredibly damaging and ridiculous laws. Hemp seed food will be totally legal when there's an end to the unnecessary conditions imposed upon industrial hemp crops, which also contain cannabidiol (CBD) one of many medicinal cannabinoids.

Thanks to the support of everyone, we can feel good about doing together what is really important for the future of all people, as well as the whole planet. Cannabis was the number one plant on Earth, for centuries, for a myriad of uses, and it can be again so easily if we will only look at the facts. http://youtu. be/BIfMJ9yK6Js

Please give what you can in this rare opportunity to help us have our say. Donations can be made by a natural person, a corporation, a trust, an unincorporated body, or a union. The donor does not have to be on an electoral roll.

Your donation to the HEMP Party is tax deductible.

HEMP HEADLINES

Next weekend will mark the fiftieth anniversary of Brisbane's first marihuana raid and arrest, the marihuana weirdo raid, which was announced in a lurid story, "Marihuana seized by police in swoop on weirdos", which was the front page story on 11th August 1963 for Brisbane's Sunday Truth. Cannabis historian Dr John Jiggens has called a meeting for Sunday August 11 to commemorate this event, and to acknowledge 50 years of drugs policy failure.

"The marihuana weirdo raid was the first marihuana raid in Brisbane. It was a police home invasion, led by the most corrupt detective in Queensland history, Rat Pack leader, Glen Hallahan," Dr Jiggens said.

"It marked the beginning of 50 years of marihuana persecutions, police corruption and the misuse of the drug laws. In the following 50 years, more than 500,000 cannabis offences have been prosecuted in Queensland. There have been hundreds of thousands of raids on people's homes. In many instances, the police brought the drugs with them, a tradition that started with Glen Hallahan and the marihuana weirdo raid."

The meeting will feature a re-enactment of the marihuana weirdo raid and speeches by Dr John Jiggens and Dr Wendell Rosevear O.A..M.

Dr Rosevear said:

"Making drugs illegal, guarantees gross profits, which guarantee supply and the crime which goes with both supply and addiction. It sadly gives votes to power seeking politicians but it denies the reality that only one person in the world can stop someone using drugs and that is the person themself.

"When we criminalize those who use



drugs we waste the money on prison rather than using it for education and health. Unfortunately while this strategy doesn't work, it actually makes it worse as we stigmatize users and exacerbate their needs, so they want to use more drugs or beat the system to become "heroes". Alternatively they seek peer group acceptance in using or hide behind mum and dad's back and so we kill the parent-child communication that could help people experiment and learn, rather than collect guilt and shame and want to use more drugs to alleviate the pain.

"All drugs should be legalized, dose regulated, taxed and have education re risk and dose at point of sale. We should use all the taxes of all drugs, including alcohol and tobacco to help those who want to stop and educate about the facts of drugs and addiction. Addicts are valuable people who may not know it and we don't help them by stigmatizing them as "bad" or "sick".

"Denial is always part of the addiction equation and our current drug strategies in the main are based on denial, power and punishment, these make people feel worse. I know if I want to help someone get off drugs, I need to help them feel better than drugs do or why would they want to stop? We need to GET REAL."

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

UNDA REFUGEE STATUS

After repeated efforts at trying to create a riot in the Bin, the Force gave up on the idea, decades ago. It was an important milestone in them waking up to the peacekeeping power of pot. At the time I actually headlined my report, "Stoners Unable to Riot".

It was all too much hard work for the peaced-out hippies, and what was the point anyway, said an angry bearded fellow, glaring at me fiercely. It was thirty years ago but that moment is frozen in my mind.

It was a very different audience and strategy on Manus Island this month where there was no weed in sight. A tropical island growing



couldn't sniff out a patch anywhere and that's my absolute expertise.

I console myself with the fact the insurance company has to pay the six million dollars for the refugee camp burnt to the ground, because I tell you it was one of the worst

time. I think because he is realizing the war on weed is futile, like I've been telling him. Now that he agrees, it's my fault apparently that the Force got it so wrong for all these years? Work that out! I've been Undacuva as a refugee a

The Boss is picking on me big

few times before but just to collect data, nothing more. Starting a riot from the inside, lighting the flames as it were, was new territory for me. There were three of us which made it easier, the only Undas in Oz who could pass for Persians. And the plan worked. Everyone involved is being sent home with criminal charges and none of their relatives will ever get a look in again. And herein lies the catch. By relative, they mean anyone at all. Even a fourth wifes kids from a third uncle, will be rejected. No matter what the circumstances.

The nerd who came up with the idea reckons we've cut the possible refugee potential from that part

creating the banned family lists. It was as simple as slipping a generous dose of ice into the cheapskate canteen cordial drink pretending it was anti-malaria powder. In no time it was like everyone was plugged into a battery charger. The energy was fizzing and cracking, light bulbs started blowing. We started arguing about injustice and how the WOB's (White Ozzie Bogans) will never let us onto their massive island which has only about half the population of Mexico City.

In no time, it was like there was nothing to lose. The fire raged like the place was built out of eucalyptus and no-one could see beyond the moment, blinded by the smoke from their revolutionary fury. It never occurred to anyone, exactly as the Canberra nerd predicted in her plan, that their millions of very distant relatives were now barred forever from entering the Great Southern Land. been hanging out with the "dirt lovers", as they are called in the Station these days since the CSG protests. For one they always seem to have an excellent weed stash, but also I'm collecting ID (Immunization Data) and TTNP (Threats To National Prosperity).

The latter is a new category that all Undacuvas have to keep records on, and of course the hippies and ferals from the Rainbow Region are notorious for their lack of respect for the sacred dollar.

The Bin extremists lighting their 4.20 joints with a sacrificial US\$100 note is a red rag to the Abbot brigade who are already sniffing power.

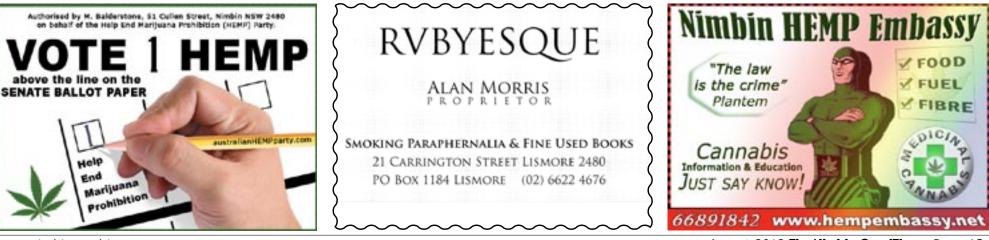
HipiLeaks: Moscow Feb 2013. Smirnoff agree to pay special police wages during splendid in grass music party in exchange for five year supply contract to ensure both parties do plenty good business. Police sleeping on duty with two

paradise it could have been, but I

assignments I've ever had to swallow. of the world by more than half in

After that little nightmare I've

jobs not our problem.



www.nimbingoodtimes.com

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Catch The Hottentots

Flemish nomad Carl Cleves and Greek-Australian songbird Parissa Bouas, better known as The Hottentots, are modern troubadours.

They are heading out across regional NSW with their ballads, rousing choruses and gripping stories, and play at the Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 1st September.

The Hottentots' genrebusting songs have riveted audiences from Berlin to Brazil with classic folk melodies that combine with an international flavour. Parissa's soaring vocals and polished percussion join Carl's warm baritone and unique guitar style.

The synergy of their live show is something to be experienced. On this tour they will be accompanied by guitarist Alex Mcleod.

Their latest CD, Out of Australia, was released on renowned German label, Stockfisch Records, to widespread critical acclaim. Carl and Parissa's discography boasts 12 albums and numerous awards

The concert will feature new material from these CDs, as well as travel tales



from Carl's page-turning memoir, *Tarab: Travels with My Guitar.*

The Hottentots have played major Australian folk festivals, including Woodford, Port Fairy, Blue Mountains and The National.

They regularly tour Europe and Latin America, playing cultural centres, theatres, churches, museums, wineries and schools.

Blue Moon Cabaret

For over 20 years, the Nimbin School of Arts has been producing and hosting an increasingly wonderful series of Blue Moon Cabarets featuring a fascinating array of local and visiting performance artists: comedians, poets, singers and musicians, dance ensembles plus circus and acrobatics.

This year's second Cabaret show on Saturday 7th September will feature singers Carl and Parissa, Vasudha and Jem, Lil Fi and A.M. Sommerville, plus young singer/pianist Gracie Hughes; poetry Mike Russo, Christine Strelan and Irish Joe Lynch from Maleny; the dance ensembles Gypsy Rose Soiree and Tango Motion from Melbourne, harpist Margaret Curtis, React Circus, the Hoochers, comedian Greg Sullivan, MC David Hallett and a surpise act.

The Cabarets have proven to be very popular shows and bookings are essential. Ticket and table reservations are still available at Perceptio at Nimbin Hall (ph 6689-1766). The evening is catered by Hearth and Soul, and the show is licensed (no BYO).



Brisbane acrobats Twisted Hitch

The Blue Moon Cabarets are major annual events in Nimbin and also significant fund raisers for the grand old hall.

Tickets are \$30/\$25 conc.

Songwifter inspired by region



by Kyle Lionhart

Ye been surrounded by art, music, eccentricity and creative people my whole life, with only the humble rhythms of nature as my solitude and to inspire me further. I always roll the lyrics off my tongue for the first time out in

the surf, or winding through the back roads of this beautiful valley. When I started playing music, I was under the influence of conspiracy theorists, fairy-loving parents, and old school rock and roll.

The thing I love about writing music is not just expressing myself, but how it doesn't always make much sense at the time but feels so good to write. I never really wrote to perform.

I'm influenced by old school rock and psychedelics but there's a raw sweetness about folk music that really pulls me, and I feel I can get to the point more when trying to explain a certain emotion or idea.

National Broadband Network

Plans for high-speed National Broadband Network in Nimbin

NBN Co community consultation continues

The NBN is an upgrade to Australia's existing telecommunications network, designed to provide affordable, high-speed internet access for all Australians regardless of where you live, with a combination of fibre, fixed wireless and satellite technologies. NBN Co is planning to deliver the infrastructure for high-speed broadband to the Nimbin community using fixed wireless technology.

In May this year more than 100 Nimbin residents attended a Community Information Session hosted by NBN Co, introducing the community to preliminary plans for the network. Two fixed wireless facilities are proposed to service the Nimbin village and surrounds, to ensure as many people as possible can enjoy access to fast broadband services.

NBN Co is continuing to seek feedback from residents on the best way to deploy the NBN for the Nimbin community. Residents are invited to a second Community Information Session on Monday 2rd September from 3pm to 6pm at the Nimbin Town Hall.

During the session NBN Co representatives will be available to present and discuss with you:

 A recent survey commissioned by NBN Co, using an accredited environment consultant, of the existing radio frequency signals (or radio frequency EME) present at Nimbin (survey conducted 18th July 2013)

Community Information Session

2nd September 2013 3pm to 6pm Nimbin Town Hall 45 Cullen St Nimbin



 Potential site locations for NBN Co's fixed wireless facilities to serve the Nimbin community for community consideration

No need to make an appointment. Drop in at any time.

More information

NBN0201_NGT

To find out more about the National Broadband Network and what it means to you, call 1800 OUR NBN (1900 687 626), visit ribrico.com.au or email info@lebrico.com.au

I'm doing a gig at the Sphinx Rock Café on 25th August.



www.nimbintattoo.com info@nimbintattoo.com

Shop 2/46 Cullen Street, Nimbin

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Clem Four on the menu at Lismore Bowlo

The Clem Four play a new genre, "jazzenbluzenfunk", a fusion of fresh, un-oaked fat-free notes and chords dripping with organic solos, presented on a bed of warm thousand-watt airwaves.

They return by popular demand to the the Lismore City Bowling Club for the Lismore Jazz Club on Sunday 25th August.

The group consists of Roo Friend, baritone guitar and voice; Tris Hodson, piano; Ashley Moor, trumpet and percussion and Peter Keown, drums.

Roo Friend has revamped the electric jazz guitar, removing the frets under half the strings and creating a unique baritone fretless/ fretted hybrid that gives The *Clem Four* a unique bottom end and a bluesy solo voice.

The highlights of his 28 years' experience include playing guitar/banjo/



mandolin for the Jacobsens, Col Joye, Little Pattie and Judy

Stone (with Elvis Presley's piano player, Larry Muhoberac), drummer for Normie Rowe, bandleader for MV Fairstar, guitarist for Long Way To The Top, bassist for Ol' 55, and two years in music theatre playing 'Hello Doll'y and the Gershwin musical 'Crazy For You'.

Tris Hodson, a vision impaired musician, has the task of playing everything by

ear and is a major influence behind the sometimes dramatic sound of The Clem Four.

Tristan uses "found sounds" which are selfrecorded and introduced into the mix as samples, crossing a musical line from song performance into improvised sound tracking.

Ashley Moor has played as a member of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, the Brisbane Philharmonic and many other classical ensembles and events. He

has also played in Latin groups and has a worldclass sound. He doubles on bongos and guiro for the Latin numbers, as well as providing vocal support.

Peter Keown, a latecomer to jazz, toured North America and Canada with The Bushwackers in the eighties and is currently playing with Queensland Wind and Brass jazz big band.

He also does the Masterclass Band with Phil Emmanuel, an annual event on the Sunshine Coast. A busy man, he is adding his experience, style and broad influences to the sound of the Clem Four.

The gig runs from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members / students, \$15 for non-members.

Come and get stoked by this hot organic group on a cold August afternoon.

musical Building a

The Most Kabaret, to be held in the Lismore Workers Club Auditorium on Friday 30th August, offers more than 20 acts from around the region, celebrating circus, dance, projections, poetry and music.

The jam-packed evening with acts to "flip your switches" starts at 6pm. Some of the performers of the Kaberet have disability, and local performers - with and without disability – will be joined by professional artists, including Jimmy Willing and Bertie Page in MC roles, and performers Bare Foot Gypsy Belly Dancers, Blackboi, Bridge St Choir, Tra La La Blip, Vincent, and The Bridge.

The Bridge is a band of local musicians



from the Northern Rivers. Three of the young men, Jackson Reid, Mark Dein and Mike Smith, have a disability. The band will travel to Poland and the Ukraine in early September 2013 to take up an invitation to play music and conduct workshops with other musicians (with and without disabilities), across Poland to five cities.

They will be joined by local inclusive

Bridge

bands Pomp Remont and Na Gorze. These young men are Lismore's Cultural Ambassadors and positive role models for the disability community. This is an opportunity for these young artists to use music to express their unique view of the world, proving the amazing capacity of creativity to

transform every life. The Bridge, with community support, will now focus on raising money for their Polish travel and accommodation costs, with gigs at the Tatts Hotel Back Room (10th August) and the Lismore City Bowlo (23rd August).

Tickets \$15, children under-15 gold coin donation.



Nathaniel Trio has new material and some reworked crowd favourites to share at the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sundays.

Alissa's smooth grooves, uplifting melodic hooks and sincere presence will be sure to please on a Sunday afternoon. She delivers intimate, heartfelt songs and up-tempo grooves that are a subtle combination of world/ jazz/latin.

Alissa still draws on the element of devotion, as in her jazz/kirtan CD Sacred Soul Note from Arunachala, but this trio features her original inspirational English songs. Alissa is supported by Prakash Sawyer, bass and treble flutes and various woodwinds, guitars and

Folk club stuff

The Channon Folk Club held its last gathering at The Channon Tavern on Sunday 28th July. The weather was somewhat threatening throughout the afternoon culminating in a late rain shower. Enthusiasm was not dampened, and a late jam led by Keith Bale continued until shortly before dark.

Liora Claff and Doug Kelly opened the afternoon's entertainment with a popular half hour set and they were followed by a great variety of both regular and new performers.

Let's hope for a fine day for our next open mic on Saturday 24th August.



supporting vocals, and Peter

Saxon, djembe, cajon, various

This highly experienced trio

percussion and supporting

perform for free on Sunday

Rock Cafe before they head

off to Bali to record Alissa's

second album.

afternoons at the Sphinx

vocals.

Regular performer Toby performed at the last open mic

Remember we are on the *fourth* Sunday of the month, not the last.

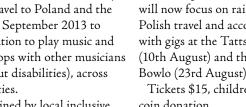
We invite performers and audience members to join us on the 24th.

Our motto is "Folk and Beyond" and we encourage an eclectic mix of music with an acoustic feel. Hope to see you there sometime.









- Open Mike 14th & 28th
- Acousic Folk Jam 7th & 21st
- Social Bowls Sundays, 9.30am

- Lunch & dinner Tues – Sun
- Friday Banquets Take-Aways Phone 6689-1473

uniquely blends her love of devotional Alissa singing with the languid evocative, smooth sounds of Jazz.

Alissa Nathaniel & Friends

with the country strains of his youth – and

the tempering power of rock and roll.

sphinx rieck café

Sunday Gig Guide

Kyle Lionhart 25th

August 1pm start

Guy Kachel A hugely experienced and widely respected singer/songwriter, with the grace and soul of the blues interspersed

11th

18th

A folk rock artist from Byron Bay and he has quickly gained a formidable reputation for stopping crowds in their tracks.

September

1st Hottentots

With Parissa's 'sweet, rich and soaring' vocals and Carl's warm rustic baritone, they make the well-travelled Hottentots...



All Gigs are Free of Charge

Hummingbird Bistro Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta; Thurs \$10 steak 250g

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