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# Shoppy the cat needs a leg up

Shoppy (pictured) is the shop cat who hangs out in OzKat Clothing and the Newsagency and is loved by kids and many people in Nimbin.

A few weeks ago OzKat's Lesley Clere found him injured – he had been run over - and took him to the vet in Lismore. It was either put him down, or amputate his hind leg.

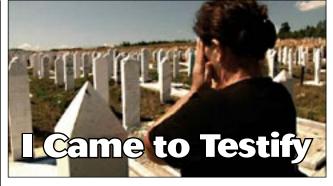
Lesley said, "The vet assured me cats are fine on three legs - and hey, we have two 3-legged dogs in Nimbin. I could not put him down, so I put the \$800 on my credit card because I didn't have the money. If anyone would like to donate some money to help cover his vet bill, we would all greatly appreciate it."

Kind people have already donated \$150, leaving \$650. There are donation boxes in Nimbin Newsagency,



OzKat Clothing and Nimbin Hardware.

"The main thing is, our Black Kat is still with us," said Lesley. With three legs now, his name has changed from Shoppy to Hoppy.



What if we looked at war through women's eyes? What if we looked beyond familiar images of male soldiers and ammunition and saw women - emerging as witnesses, courageous survivors, peace activists, political negotiators and heads of state?

The film I Came to Testify is part of the Women, War and Peace series, this particular one focusing on the engagement of Liberian women in ending the Liberian civil war. It will be screened – with free entry - on Monday 9th December, 7pm at the Star Court Theatre, Lismore.

The film will be followed by GA Res 260(III).

a panel discussion with guests who have distinguished backgrounds in international law: Sam Garkawe, Associate Professor at the School of Law and Justice at Southern Cross University; Crown Prosecutor Julia Bayly SC, Ms Kirsten Keith, officer of the International Criminal Court; and Ms Yvette Holt, lecturer in the School of Law and Justice at SCU.

The 9th December 2013 was chosen, as this date commemorates the 65th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment on the Crime of Genocide

## What 'safety limit' for radiation?

by Jane Jennings

Responding to Jacqueline Crompton of Ericcson (NGT September 2013), Ms Crompton repeatedly refers to how many times below "the safety limit" various readings in Nimbin were, without saying what the safety limit is.

Ms Crompton quoted percentages of "the safety limit". An actual figure measured in microwatts per square metre would be more honest, to give the community an idea of what they are

You are in for a real run-around if you try to find out the 'safety limit'! The WHO which Jacqueline quoted, itself refers to ICNIRP, the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection for 'International Exposure Guidelines' (1998). Their recommended guidelines are different for each country, and they are not called safety limits.

ICNIRP says: "[our] guidelines are based on short term immediate health effects". Regarding long term health effects: "available data are insufficient to provide a basis for setting exposure restrictions" or "more studies need to be done". It's a case of Nero fiddling whilst

However, microwave expert Barry



Trower says there are over 8,000 scientific studies showing that microwaves are not safe for humans.

Next I went to ARPANSA, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Authority, whose 136page document on Maximum Exposure Levels to RF fields I found extremely challenging.

After three whole days on the net, I finally found the 'exposure levels' on page 56 of an inconspicuous file called: rps3.pdf. It turns out there are different exposure levels (watts per square metre) for different frequencies (hertz).

In a recent press release the BioInitiative group, a collection of concerned professionals from around the world, stated that "The existing FCC/ IEEE and ICNIRP Public Safety Limits and reference levels are not adequate to protect Public Health", and many scientists agree with them.

There are no safety levels, there are

only recommended guidelines – which are widely different for every country. Work that out. Same humans across the globe - but we tolerate different levels of

My point in all this is that the argument about safe or not safe will go on forever, unless we are prepared to investigate the issues carefully and to question 'authorities'. It is well known that big business is more interested in money than you, your health or your sanity. The government is not for the people, or by the people, it is a corporation and it is for itself and its corporate masters. Those promoting the wireless industry are committing a crime against humanity.

I'm horrified to hear that the Nimbin Environment Centre has voted not to pursue the issue of towers! They obviously have no idea what is at stake. In future it is likely that these same towers will serve as bases for smart meter technology as well.

Malcolm Turnbull has indicated that country towns of 1,000 people would be eligible for fibre-optic cable. Please Nimbin, don't fry your brains, demand fibre optic NBN, completely safe and equipped to cope with increased future demands.

## Call to put Nimbin on bus route

Nimbin resident Ian Corr has taken the widening, straightening, cuttings, and transport bull by the horns by writing to the Nimbin – Blue Knob Road, and the MP Thomas George and Lismore Mayor Nimbin – Lismore/Casino Road, have Jenny Dowell to request a Countrylink service for the town.

Mr Corr says the Countrylink 171 and 174 services could be re-routed Murwillumbah to Casino, via Nimbin. to join the Nimbin region to the Sydney XPT Services 033/034 at Casino – without any extra buses.

"The distance from Murwillumbah to Lismore via Nimbin is 5km shorter than the alternative routes via Bangalow, and the distance from Murwillumbah to Casino via Nimbin can be up to 15km shorter if Lismore is by-passed," he said.

The Tweed – Kyogle Road has been improved, with new bridges, road

recently been similarly upgraded with widening and new bridges.

Mr Corr says four buses pick-up passengers from Queensland and the Tweed border areas to meet the CountryLink Train Service 034 from Casino to Sydney each day.

Two of these services travel via Murwillumbah to Lismore and Casino, one of them direct, not servicing other pick-up points that could miss-out if that Service 174 travelled via Nimbin.

"And daily, four buses (numbers 167/171/173/175) pick-up passengers for the Queensland and Tweed border areas from the CountryLink Train

Service 033 from Sydney to Casino," Mr Corr said. "Three of these services (167, 171 and 175) travel via Murwillumbah, one of them direct, ie not servicing other drop-off/pick-up points."

Services 171 and 174 would also provide Nimbin with a direct connection from/to Robina, Brisbane CBD, and a Brisbane Airport connection, he said.

Mr Corr believes Nimbin offers a large potential CountryLink patronage, and says the region is more dependent on public transport than most. "And Uki residents might also appreciate (optional) stops as the services pass," he

He says that if patronage is significant, further services might offered to the

# Park logging plan felled

The NSW Government has finally ruled love that National Parks enjoy from a out logging in Northern NSW National Parks.

The Public Land Inquiry had recommended "tenure swap" - swapping logged State Forest for unlogged National Park as a means of shoring up the logging industry.

"This is a decision for common sense and we are pleased that Premier O'Farrell has decided to quell the speculation," said NCEC president Susie Russell.

"There is little doubt that the Government has seen the support and wide spectrum of the community.

"There has been overwhelming opposition to his decision to allow hunting in National Parks. Logging was clearly a bridge too far."

North East Forest Alliance spokesperson Dailan Pugh said that now that the timber industry's proposal to open up a million hectares of north-east NSW's national parks for logging has been rejected, the NSW Government must urgently slash timber commitments from State forests to a sustainable level.

"The timber industry has been

intentionally logging north-east NSW's public forests well in excess of the identified sustainable yield for the past 15 years," he said. "They have been cutting out the future of their own

"If the NSW Government wants a hardwood sawlog industry in northeast NSW in 10 years' time it must immediately reduce logging quotas to a sustainable level."

He said he expected this would require quota cuts of more than 50%.

The longer the Government waits the deeper the cuts will have to be," he said.

# Falls Road issues feature at forum

by NGT staff reporters

Lismore City Council's annual Nimbin Community Forum in November lived up to its pre-meeting hype: it certainly was "all about direct engagement."

Structured as an open Q&A session between residents, councillors and staff (pictured), many issues were raised, and strategies noted for follow-up.

Pre-eminent were questions about High Street-Falls Road, with several residents making requests for extending the sealed section of the road, particularly to reduce the dust hazard where the road passes houses.

The issue of widening High Street, now that it has a new corner onto Nimbin Road, so that two vehicles can pass on the tarmac, was also noted.

Telstra's preferred option of constructing a mobile phone tower on

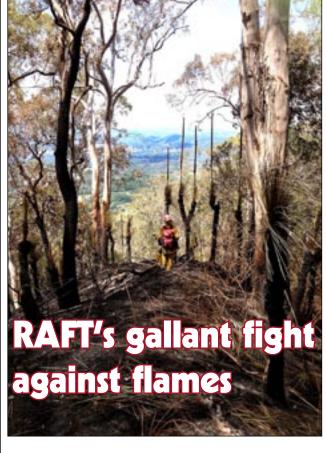


Council land adjoining Falls Road near the water tower was raised as a matter of concern, particularly with co-location with NBN transmitters likely. Council staff said that Council approval had not yet been sought, and that a DA would be required, which would have a period for public comment.

Other issues raised included extension of the CountryLink bus service from Casino to Robina to include Nimbin (see story p2); the future of the Nimbin Waste Transfer station, and the possibility of extending the kerbside pick-up service (see story in

Council's Community Newsletter, p9); the development of bridal paths on gazetted Crown Land road reserves; the possibility of a rating concession for the Nimbin Tennis Club; and several road maintenance matters - repairs to Cullen Street footpath paving, Western carpark beautification, and Thorburn Street bridge fencing among them.

Council's draft Growth Management Strategy is still available on its website, and submissions on urban development options are still welcome, prior to a workshop and report to Council in February or March.



by Marcus Mantscheff

Lightning recently ignited trees beneath Thimble Rock, one of three volcanic extrusions that characterise the southern rim of the Mt Warning caldera, 2km southwest of Nimbin.

Local residents were quick to dial 000 as the fire gained momentum, and Nimbin, Hanging Rock and Jiggi Valley rural fire brigades responded.

Difficult terrain with no observed access to the fire plus dry, windy conditions made firefighting that afternoon too dangerous.

Residents immediately north-west of the fire-front activated their Bushfire Survival Plan and prepared to evacuate but some rainfall late on the Sunday night slowed the fire's spread.

Early Monday, local Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT) members studied possible access points, returning later with Blue Knob 9 (4WD equipped for firefighting) and a third Northern Rivers RAFT member.

The volunteers hiked though dense lantana and forest to the fireground. Despite the rain, heavy ground fuels had sustained the fire overnight and it continued to progress down the northerly slope: from grass tree and blady grass into National Parks and Wildlife mixed eucalyptus/ casuarina

forest, on towards cured grasslands and residential

By early afternoon RAFT had mapped the fireground: four hectares extending north-east across the base of Thimble Rock to Needle Rock and over the saddle. Using dry firefighting techniques and with communications and materiel support from Northern Rivers Zone Office, RAFT "blacked-out" the fire edge into steep gullies and across ridges beneath the escarpment and south beyond the saddle linking Thimble and Needle Rocks.

Trees burning internally were felled into black ground and vegetation cleared around any live fire danger to unburnt ground.

After six hours, water, fuel and calories were exhausted and with an evening storm forecasted, the team completed their work.

Locations of dangerous trees still alight were GPS recorded before the RAFT exited the fireground. Nimbin volunteer firefighters continued to remotely observe the fire as it burned remaining fuel within blackened ground into Tuesday.

Remote Area Firefighting Teams (RAFT), operate across the State in both the NSW Rural Fire Service and Service (NPWS).

### **Aquarius finale**

The Nimbin School of Arts will host the finale for 40th Anniversary of Nimbin Aquarius Festival on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th December, from 12 noon to

'Showcase of Aquarius 2013' is an exhibition of posters and photos of the myriad of colourful community events that took place during 2013. Entry by donation.

On Friday 6th December, from 6pm to 9pm there will be an Aquarius film night, showing local films made during 2013, and video footage from Aquarius 40th Anniversary events. \$8/5

On Saturday 7th December, from 1pm to 3.30pm there will be community workshops about the 7 Sibley St. master concept plan.



On Saturday 7th December, dress up and dance for the psychedelic '70s from 6pm to 11pm. A colourful night of lively 1970's music to groove and dance, featuring local musicians joining with Travis Granville. (see www.facebook. com/acousticroute). \$12/\$10 entry.

The cafe on the verandah will offer food and refreshments at all events.

### Remembrance Day 2013

by Paul Lebars

Thanks to everyone who attended the Remembrance Day and plaque dedication service at the Nimbin District Memorial. The ceremony, performed by pastor Jim Gallagher, and, the commemorative address by Cr Simon Clough encapsulated the meaning and respectful importance of the day and the sacrifices made by Australian men and women, at home and abroad, past and present. The first two name plaques on the seat of remembrance were dedicated as part of the service.

I would like to encourage other families, or relatives, of late ADF personnel in the Nimbin District to



seat, or, if you can assist with ANZAC Day 2014 please contact paullebars@gmail.com. Also thanks to Bob,

Farren, Gai and Darvy for all their help in preparation for the day. As always in this wonderful town, it is a community initiative driven by pride and respect.

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# **Gurrea's lair**

Farmers, environmentalists, overseas visitors and Gomeroi elders met recently to discuss the significance and protection of the Leard and Pilliga (Billiga) forests, under threat of coal and CSG mining.

Elders are making a stand and bringing focus to Gomeroi culture with the goal of making the Billiga CSG-free.

Ancient stories have been passed down for thousands of years, and the Elders are showing what they need and how their culture and people can be supported.

The issue of mining inevitably leads back to the question of land ownership, which in turn leads back to the harsh truth that the original people of Australia had their land taken from

In rural Australia, the land continues to be taken from the indigenous people causing ongoing heartbreak, desecration, devastation, division and death. The land is their Spirit. Their heart-soul connection. Their Dhuyi Gii.

The Gomeroi are a proud and powerful people, and the Leard and the Billiga represent the heart and the lungs of their nation. Right now, their people are dying at an alarming rate of heart and lung disease.

The Leard is being mined for coal, the Billiga for coal seam gas.

Similar to the Kokatha people of South Australia, who warn of widespread destruction if their ancestral being, a massive sleeping lizard, is disturbed, the Gomeroi also have a being from their dreaming which will wreak havoc if disturbed. This dreaming ancestor is called Gurrea, the crocodile.

Gurrea was greedy and caused trouble. He was stopped and banished into an underground lagoon that has no tributaries so he cannot escape. But elders say that digging up the earth and the underground water-ways risk releasing this dangerous

When a drill pierces the base of the aquifer 30 feet

down the underground stream runs right down the hole into the aquifer below.

One wonders is Santos have already drilled down to Gurrea's lair. There is already so much stress amongst the people of the North West who are desperate to stop Santos' plans.

Uranium that was mined from Kokatha country, dug out of the back of their sleeping lizard, fuelled the Fukushima reactors and is now poisoning the Pacific Ocean.

Santos Mining is also being warned, but it is not just mining companies that are at fault.

"Some of our own people are signing off on Country," says Gomeroi man Paul Spearim. "They are doing it under the guise of Native Title. They are using the tribal name Gomeroi disrespectfully...

"Some of these people have sons and daughters that are working in mines in other parts of the country who are coming back sick. Some of them are young, in their

Paul Spearim (left, pointing) with Murray Dreschler at the Tarrawonga Whitehaven Mine where sacred Gomeroi sites once were.

Gomeroi Culture is being shared with indigenous people from other countries, visitors from overseas and interstate.

forties, and are dropping dead from heart attacks.

"How do they think they can go and dig up other people's countries and survive? Many of the Gomeroi are dying sad."

But all is not lost. "Sacred law isn't dying," says Paul Spearim, "it is coming back through the land itself, through reactivation of our cultural connection to the trees, to the land, to the birds, to the water, through the story, songs and dances of our ancestors...

"What we are doing here in the Billiga right now is vital for the survival of all people in this country. So all people are invited to come here to learn, listen and thrive."

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### Rainbow backs the Guardians

Rainbow Power Company (RPC) has granted Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) a sponsoring donation of solar electric equipment.

The donation consists of a small solar panel and three rechargeable battery-powered lights. NRG is accumulating camping and communication equipment that can be used to further their aims of protecting the region from inappropriate development.

The organisation has been active this year in a number of issues facing the region, especially highlighting the dangers posed by unconventional gas mining.

NRG president Scott Sledge said that he appreciated this donation coming ahead of a likely confrontation with gas exploration company Metgasco.

"Our members joined with other citizens to form Lock The Gate Northern Rivers regional alliance to oppose the incursion of CSG mining company Metgasco, first at Glenugie south of Grafton, then at Doubtful Creek south-west of Kyogle.

"We have learned a lot from the experience of community opposition and are preparing for their third – and probably final – attempt which they have announced near Bentley, only 14 km from Lismore, which voted 87% against CSG in a referendum."

RPC Director Paul O'Reilly said, "Our company is highly supportive of the work NRG is doing to raise awareness of the environment and social issues associated with CSG in our local area.

"CSG is a stop-gap measure to solving the looming energy crisis and has significant environmental risks. The cost of wind and solar has dropped so rapidly, it now competes



head to head with gas and coal. There is now a rush to exploit CSG, as very soon it will be uncompetitive against renewable energy sources.

RPC has recently formalised its donations process, and is now focusing on supporting local not-for-profit groups through its community grants program. Information can be found on its website: www.rpc.com.au

Mr. Sledge said that NRG promotes clean new technologies, such as RPC provides, for a sustainable future.

"Fossil fuels is doomed to give way to renewable technologies and the sooner we move away from this dirty fuel addiction the better," he said.

"The alternative doesn't bear thinking about. Climate change is happening and we need to limit our pollution."

#### Fluoride gone in a flash(mob)



by Omega Breakspear

The fluoride issue continues to grow in controversy and involvement, generating a recent flashmob event outside Rous Water in Lismore.

Stay tuned for the Truth Fairies flashmob and ongoing rallies to stop this toxic industrial waste product from China finding its way into our water supplies.

Large amounts of funding

are being offered from the State Government for fluoridation, accompanied by spin doctors with clever Powerpoint presentations largely devoid of real facts and peer-reviewed research.

The anti-fluoride movement, by contrast, is backed up by years of scientific research and a growing worldwide movement against fluoridation.

### **Kyogle locks the gate**



by Johanna Evans

About 350 people attended 'Exploding the Myths' at Kyogle Memorial Institute, an event which showcased the release of a 54-page referenced health report looking into the impacts of CSG and Unconventional Gas.

Wayne Somerville, a clinical psychologist, examined worldwide information to produce his report, focused on the possible physical and mental health impacts of unconventional mining, as well as the potential impact on workers in the industry.

The report shows young children are particularly at risk. Dr Somerville exploded the industry-backed myth that unconventional gas is safe, and concluded that there is a "high likelihood of catastrophic health impact from operating gas fields in populated areas".

The Australian Medical Association's Steve Hambleton urges that the precautionary principle be applied.

"Despite the rapid expansion of CSG developments, the health impacts have not been adequately researched, and effective regulations that protect public health are not

in place," Dr Hambleton is quoted in the report.

Also speaking at the event was Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith from the National Toxics Network, who spoke in support of Dr Somerville's report and highlighted several toxic threats that the uncoventional gas industry poses to human and animal health.

The event was MC'ed by Julie Tyson, a Meerooni woman of the Guerang tribe (Agnes Waters, Bundaberg region) and a descendant of the Nughi Nunckle people of Stradbroke Island with connections to the Kari tribe in Central Queensland (Springsure).

The community was welcomed by Ian Gaillard from Lock the Gate with speeches from Jaambi, a local Githabul man, and Federal politician Kevin Hogan.

The Kyogle Mayor Danielle Mulholland was on hand to receive the Lock the Roads Declaration from the local community.

The day concluded with music from Blakboi and Mama La La and a screening of Fractured Country: An Unconventional Invasion, a documentary made by Lock the Gate.

### Violence, and why we like it



by Robert J. Burrowes

The pre-eminent problem confronting humankind is human violence.

It is our own violence, in its various guises, including the ongoing possibility of nuclear war and the ongoing devastation of the natural environment, that threaten to consign us to the fossil record within decades.

And yet we devote virtually no effort to trying to understand human violence and to developing strategies to end it. Why?

The short and highly unpalatable answer is because most of us want to use violence when it suits us and to "get away with it" when we do.

This is why most of us find ways to inflict our violence in socially legitimised ways or we do it in relative secrecy.

The most obvious example of socially endorsed violence is that allowed during military service, but another sector that absorbs many perpetrators of violence are the police, legal and prison systems.

There is no evidence that violence (even when labeled "punishment") and the fear that it causes can restore functionality.

But modern societies have devoted vast quantities of resources to the military, police, legal and prison systems rather than

financing research efforts to understand why human beings are violent and then developing comprehensive strategies to eliminate it.

Why do governments devote resources to the military, police, legal and prison systems? Because members of governments want to perpetuate violence in the delusional belief that it gives them control.

One socially endorsed way of participating in this violence is to perpetuate an institutional framework that defines enemies and criminals as legitimate victims.

But there is no budget allocation anywhere to fund research to understand this most pervasive and phenomenally destructive problem, although humans spend approximately \$2 billion each day on military violence.

Who benefits? The military, the government, those corporations that make the weapons and build the military and prison infrastructure, and those employed within legal institutions.

At the superficial level it is about things like status and money: taxes, profits, income from jobs. But the deeper, psychological reason is that it helps these individuals to suppress awareness of the terror, self-hatred and powerlessness that has destroyed their selfhood.

So what can we do? According to research, all violence is an outcome of the visible, invisible and "utterly invisible" violence inflicted by adults on children.

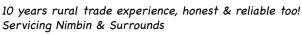
If you wish to join the worldwide movement to end all violence, you can sign the online People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World: http://thepeoplesnonviolencech arter.wordpress.com





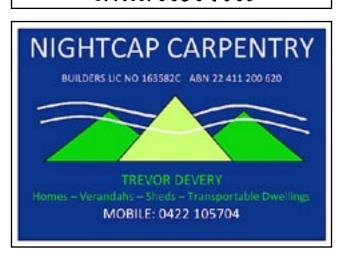
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### Letters

#### Agenda behind penalties

I was reading the article about penalties against motorists (NGT Nov 13), and I think we should all be a bit more insistent about being informed about newlyintroduced road regulations.

The regulators should have to explain, in detail, their logic to a citizens' committee, which would have the power to suspend or veto any proposed new law.

The most supreme exercise in apparent pointlessness is the 'indicate left when exiting a roundabout' regulation. It is obvious that when driving straight ahead through a roundabout, that indicating is not necessary. I have written to various parliamentary offices and officers until finally, when it was realized that I was not going to be fobbed off, I received a letter from the RTA/RMS, which itself gave a contradictory explanation.

Unfortunately I hear drivers arguing that it's no great imposition and it's good for public safety, etc. It seems to be indicative of a naïve, sheep-like mentality which never questions whether there is another, parallel agenda beside the stated logic: the more regulation created, the more the law of averages says that more people will trip over the new, unjustifiable law, which will mean more revenue generated to pay the wages of those overseeing all the BS logic, with a tidy profit left over for the government's coffers.

Also, it subtly suggests to the citizens not to question regulations that have the 'public safety' tag attached. It is politically incorrect to do so. In addition, the more that idiot laws are broken, the more personal data is attached to any given data base or data collection agency. This then assists people control, allowing our fragile democracy to be white-anted, bit by little bit.

The same false logic extends to cannabis laws. It's not about drug control. It was only ever vested interests that caused cannabis to be made illegal, about 90 years ago, and it has since been evolving into a taxpayer-funded training mission for police.

I live 100 metres from a playing field used for police choppers looking for cannabis. At about \$1500 per hour to run the chopper, plus costs of 4WDs, trucks, sundry equipment, personnel, etc for about 24 hours - do the maths. And this is only one site. The whole exercise is to train a bunch of chaps to play civilian soldiers.

If something is maintained to be illegal, yet there is enough evidence to say that

### About us

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the illegality itself is wrong and wrong-headed, then one has to start looking behind the picture presented to us to see if there is another agenda in progress.

> I Morris The Channon

#### Yay Geoff, boo Parks

Just a couple of lines to congratulate Geoff Dawe on his article concerning humans' blindness to care of country (NGT Nov 13, p.18).

I do now and again work with Geoff on our bush regen working bees at Combeben Swamp in Byron Bay, so I admit I am biased towards the man and the great work he does for Mother Earth, along with all those other people who attend the working bees.

I am a bit worried about the NPWS and their methods of bush regen, such as spraying herbicide, and now incendiary bombing the Nightcap National Park (NGT Nov 13, p.3) – what were they thinking?

> Paul Brecht Mullumbimby

#### Hogwash

What a nice story a pig given a name and liked by the students. Lovely picture of Claire being patted by two of the students. And then she gets to die. I hope all the students get to see her die and be gutted, then the hair on her dead body burnt off.

64 billion land animals die each year to feed humans, and most suffer greatly in their short lives. Sad, very sad.

David Cooke

#### **Democracy debate?**

What is democracy? Is it merely a voting system to select a leader who runs things on our behalf, or is it more involved? What ideas or values should a healthy democratic system include?

At its heart, democracy is about people power - the original Greek word means 'rule of the people'.

Democracy is based on a notion that we each have certain inalienable rights and freedoms. These rights and freedoms are not negotiable, but are intrinsic.

Like the freedom of speech - the liberty to speak our minds is not something for which we need permission! Despite what they might say, Bookkeeper Martha Paitson Website Clickable edition at www.nimbingoodtimes.com And find us on Facebook

NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin **NEXT DEADLINE:** Wednesday 18th December

Email: nimbin.goodtimes **@gmail.com** or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

no government or authority has a right to silence us.

Recent world events however, have highlighted a crisis of democracy. Popular revolts, the occupy movement, WikiLeaks, whistleblowers, Anonymous – are but some examples of people feeling pressured by social injustice and greater regulation.

Beyond the media mainstream, news sites and social networks are buzzing with talk of social and political reform. People around the globe seem discontented with the system - a system that supposedly serves the people, yet instead, serves some people more!

In the current climate (let's not deny this one), a candid public debate about democracy would seem appropriate. So while we still have a community paper, I would like to hear what others think about this subject.

How does protesting coexist with social obedience? Why do we only vote at elections? What if a large majority of people really don't agree with the government?

Gandhi once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Perhaps the democracy we long for most is less about the people we elect, than about our own willingness to participate!

### LHPA rate collection

The corporatised Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) is upping the ante on landholders refusing to pay their rates across NSW.

From my enquiries it appears that Karl Balian and Co/Executive Collections, the debt collector for the LHPA, has sent a legal clerk to serve at least 200 "statements of claim" on defiant landholders, just in the Northern Rivers LHPA iurisdiction.

A legal clerk/server, purportedly employed by the debt collector/lawyer, claimed in two separate affidavits lodged in Parramatta Court that he had served me with these alleged "statements of claim", yet I have never been served with any statements of claim. I deem this to be perjury as consequently a "default judgement" was



ordered against me.

I have spoken to other landholders in this situation. The local Sheriff has informed me they had a large number of default judgements relating to this matter to deal

I am at present making a formal complaint to the NSW Legal Services Commissioner and the Ombudsman about the conduct of the Karl Balian organisation. If you have a grievance to express, please contact me on 6684 9208 or go to: www.lhpaclassaction.com

All your readers who live on hectarages of 10ha or more are currently being taxed for the right to live other than cheek by jowl. No doubt many of them are being pursued by the Karl Balian organisation. If you are being harassed by Executive Collections please tell your story in a Statutory Declaration so your evidence can later be presented to the Court. Email a copy with signatures - yours and that of a JP or other qualified witness to: others@lhpaclassaction.

Allow me to warn your readers who live on hectarages of 2ha+ that the new Local Land Services, (LLS) created by the NSW DPI merger of the 14 LHPAs and the CMAs (Catchment Management Authorities) will start R J Poole charging rates on those 2ha+ Lismore hectarages from January 2014.

> Dare I say, Sheriffs all over NSW are really going to be busy, eh.

> > Howard Furner Goonengerry

#### Council votes to protect koalas

At last there is a glimmer of hope that our Tweed Coast koalas can be brought back from the brink of extinction, thanks to decisions made at our last Council meeting.

It is commendable that Mayor Longland, Deputy Mayor Armstrong, Cr Milne and Cr Bagnall voted in favour of rejecting an application to construct 8 tennis courts (with night lights) at the Black Rocks sports field, which is situated in the middle of core koala habitat, an endangered ecological community, the Black Rocks koala population cell and the Pottsville/ Wooyung Wetland wildlife corridor.

### Notices

#### **Share accommodation**

Conscientious person sought to share spacious 150m2 hillside home on 2 acres. Quiet, secluded position with wide views of valley and Border Ranges. Fully furnished, well appointed kitchen, gas cooking, solar power, solar hot water, tank water, wi-fi internet. Extensive covered verandahs. Strictly no cats or dogs. Child friendly, suit single parent. Two rooms to choose from, large or small \$100 or \$150 p/w. Vibrant, large rural community of 115 shares. Nimbin 20 mins away. Visit www.billencliffs.org.au for more info and pics. Contact owner on 0458-727-141. Available now.

#### **Nimbin Communty Centre party**

Thursday 12th December, 4pm at the Market Stage. Food and drinks, local musicians and performers, jumping castle, fire show. All welcome! Come along to celebrate community and say goodbye to 2013. Proudly supported by Nimbin Community School.

#### **Christmas Carols**

Sunday 22nd December, 6pm at St Marks' Anglican Church, Nimbin. All welcome to come and enjoy the service, followed by fellowship and refreshments. - Faye Schirf, Warden.

#### **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. All embroiderers, from all towns and districts in the Northern Rivers, are invited to come along. Phone 0423-337-872 or simply turn up.

#### Birth & Beyond

Birth & Beyond is having a break during December and the pregnancy group meetings will recommence in mid-January. Contact Kirrah for more info: 0429-308-851.

#### Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, usually 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.



## **Retail therapy**

Kalen Petrie finished school in 2011 at the age of 16, and started working full-time at Nimbin Emporium.

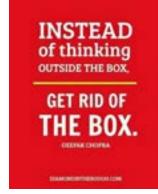
In no time, he fitted in with the 35-member team at the Emporium, learning how to work in every department of

With the support of his family, workmates and Nortec Employment and Training, Employment and Training, he started his Certificate III in Retail Services. 12 months later, he has now completed his traineeship, which is recognised across Australia.

The Emporium's Sue Harris said, "I'm really proud of Kalen's achievement and

how far he has come since he left school. It is a real credit to him - his hard work and determination has now paid off with a great outcome. As he progressed through his traineeship, I noticed him implementing new skills as he learnt them.

"I highly recommend Nortec who made the training process easy and straightforward. We will be using them again in the future. I encourage other employers in the Nimbin area to consider offering traineeships to their employees, as it is a rewarding process for everyone involved."



In particular, my thanks go to Cr Milne, whose support, commitment and tenacity were invaluable in achieving this incredible outcome. My appreciation is also extended to Cr Bagnall for his wellresearched presentation of the facts.

In his commentary Cr Armstrong concluded that even if daytime tennis courts were approved now, it is likely that in the future lights would be installed. I believe this would pave the way for the two planned football fields with night lights. This rationale supports the community's concerns that high order night sports would have significant adverse impacts on the survival of the koalas in the surrounding bushland.

I wish to clarify confusion in the community re the Pottsville Tennis Club's need to relocate. There were previous plans for the Department of Lands to resume part of the land on which the current 4 tennis courts are located for a by-pass road behind the Pottsville shops. However, these plans have been scrapped in favour of an 11m wide access road. According to my telephone conversation with the Department of Lands, I understand that there is now no requirement for the Tennis Club to move from their central, highly visible position.

Dave Norris Pottsville

#### Archie's rant

So our PM Tony endorses 'tough measures' of Sri Lankan government boycotted by India and Canada for human rights abuses. He takes counsel from George Pell, calls him "one of the greatest churchmen that Australia has seen". Same man lambasted by Victorian and NSW Parliamentary reports as covering up systematic child sex abuse. Victorian Premier Denis Napthine said the abuse detailed in the report was "absolutely appalling" and said 'religions involved should hang their heads in shame'. The same George Pell who calls the Greens 'anti-Christian' and dismisses climate-change

concern as "a symptom of pagan emptiness". Same man described by Chris McGillion, co-author of Our Fathers: What Australian Catholic Priests Really Think About Their Lives and Their Church. "He's too orthodox, too ambitious, too bullying." Sound familiar? Macho Male Dominator Tony has almost no female representation, opposes gay marriage, has dropped a veil of secrecy over government operations, has ditched any notions of Good Samaritanism, and is quickly establishing a regime to take from the poor to give to the rich, no matter the social or environmental cost. Reckons he has a mandate to reject climate-change measures. Well, Tony, reputable 2013 polls indicate that twothirds of Australians think more should be done about climate change. That's a Catholic Tony MANdate. Despite years of well-known Catholic Church child abuse, it took a woman—thank you, Julia—to set up a Royal Commission. Women are also the main supporters of climate change policies. I would have to question the morality and ideology of a man whose guiding religion is responsible for six times the the number of child sex abuse cases as all the other religions combined, despite representing only a third of all religions.

All this makes me think of Catholic fundamentalism and the Inquisition with its anti-women, anti-science, pro-secrecy, pro-acquisition for the 'entitled' mentality. They called that The Dark Ages. Fuck me, we're being governed by religious fundamentalist nutters.

Robin Archbold Mapleton

#### Apology

Jaz Who apologises to Sarah Frances Ball for the use of an image containing nudity for promotional purposes without seeking the permission of the performer concerned, and regrets any inconvenience or distress this may have caused.

## In Memoriam



#### Jayne Le Mass

ayne Cathrin Le Mass was born on 19th July 1956 to Joan and Bill Le Mass. Jayne and her younger brother Bill were raised in Brisbane, where Jayne was educated at All Hallows and later gained a Bachelor of Social Work from Uni of Qld.

On completion of her degree, Jayne set up the Ipswich Womens Refuge and stayed there as counsellor and coordinator until 1981. Then Jayne was invited to take a position on the Hayman Island Management team as the Activities Coordinator and MC for the evening entertainment.

After Hayman, Jayne moved back to the mainland as public relations officer for Wanderers Paradise resort in Airlie Beach.

In 1983, Jayne stepped into the corporate world where she seemed to effortlessly rise. She was at times in public relations, sales and marketing and real estate. She excelled at them all.

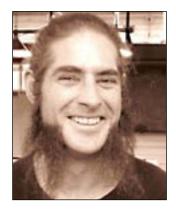
Eventually the corporate world lost its interest for Jayne because Steve had found them their own little piece of paradise at Lillian Rock. So Jayne left all the trappings and comforts of Sydney to help Steve turn their land into a botanical garden. Jayne's work life took quite a turn when Jayne became barmaid and licensee at the Nimbin pub. She worked at Mt Burrell general store and then went on to the Uki pub where she was loved by everyone with whom she came in contact.

Jayne and Steve met on Hayman Island in 1983. Jayne was always fiercely loyal to Steve and put him first in everything. He was the love of her life. Jayne chose not to have children, but there are many young people who have been nurtured by Jayne and those of us fortunate to count her as a friend know how generous she was with her time, her ideas and any way in which she could help.

Jayne loved working in her garden. In her last days, she enjoyed spending time in this ambience which she helped to create. She also really enjoyed travelling both at home and abroad. She loved soaking up new experiences, trying new food and pushing herself out of her comfort zone.

Those who had the fun of being a guest at one of Steve and Jayne's parties and will know what a vivacious and entertaining hostess she was. When Jayne was speaking with you she gave you her full attention. Jayne was equally at home mixing with high flyers in the corporate world, pulling weeds in the garden or exploring the world.

Jayne - a multi-faceted woman who will be very much missed by us all.



#### Michael Lusty

ome join friends and ✓family of Michael Lusty for the earthing of his ashes in a twilight summer solstice ceremony, 21st December at Nimbin Cemetery at 5.11pm. Please bring drums, musical instruments, snacks and drinks.

Advertorial

### Telstra Networking for Nimbin's Future

Telstra would like to update the Nimbin community regarding its proposal for a new mobile phone base station in the area. Telstra proposed to lodge a Development Application with Lismore Council during November 2013 for a site near the Water Reservoir on High Street. Telstra would like to address the matters raised by the community following last month's media update before formally lodging a Development Application for assessment. Providing customers with a reliable mobile network is important, and Telstra is continuing to work towards providing the required additional capacity in the mobile network in the Nimbin area.

For any enquiries during the interim, please contact Telstra representatives Aurecon on 02 9465 5718 or email northcoastnswtcw@team.telstra.com or Post to: PO Box 1123 Lismore NSW 2480.

