



Swirls beneath the surface

With the recent change in Labor leadership, parties are circling like sharks.

The newly-formed Palmer United Party has had the first nip via its candidate for Richmond, Phil Allen.

The Greens, bigger fish with sharper teeth, are also lining up for a bite – although their aim is more modest.

Dr Allen is hoping for a political miracle. “So many Australians are filled with despondency or despair when they think about the choice they will have to make in the next couple of months, for they know deep down that whether it had been a Gillard, or will be a Rudd or Abbott government, it will simply be more of the same,” he said.

“If either returns to government we will have the same self-interest, factional in-fighting and disconnected governance which has become the norm for our domestic politics.”

Dr Allen says there is an alternative: a group of people across the country brought together in response to this dysfunctional duopoly.

“The Palmer United Party is a party of real people with real backgrounds and real skills who care deeply about



Dawn Walker (centre) with single parents at Mullumbimby

our future. We are ordinary Australians brought together by a man with a greater vision for our land than either Rudd or Abbott dare imagine.”

The federal Greens candidate for Richmond, Dawn Walker, is aiming for more realistic change – and she’s using financial inducement to get it.

She says the Rudd Government needs to follow the Greens lead when it comes to helping vulnerable people stuck on inadequate payments like Newstart.

“Any changes Mr Rudd proposes to help single parents must include all those who have been moved onto Newstart as a result of John Howard’s Welfare to Work

changes,” Ms Walker said.

“Despite voting against Welfare to Work, Labor did nothing to repeal it after the 2007 election. They have had two full terms of government to help single parents, and all we saw was a more punitive approach to those on Newstart and further cuts to parenting payments.

“The Greens are the only party with fully costed legislation on the table to increase Newstart and help all single parents on the payment. We are proposing a \$50 per week increase to Newstart, indexation to ensure the payment keeps up with increases to the cost of living and a supplement payment of \$40 per week for all single parents on Newstart.”

Dr Allen says it is time to take the focus off the two major political parties “who have so spectacularly failed us” – and at least there, the two outsider parties are in agreement.

ATM boost for credit union

Summerland Credit Union will unveil new ATMs and a new ATM partnership next month.

These changes follow feedback from members. Summerland asked how its service could be improved. Two of the top suggestions were 1) reliable ATMs and 2) easy access to your money on the go.

“We are proud to say that we’ve listened and acted,” said Nimbin branch team leader Vicki Hunter. Summerland will be replacing the ATMs currently in its branches with new Summerland ATMs.

These will be available to be accessed direct charge-free by Summerland members at nine of its 13 branches, including Nimbin, starting in August 2013.

Accessing cash will now be easier and more reliable, Summerland says.

From 15th July, Summerland



Summerland’s Nimbin branch team leader Vicki Hunter, left, seen here with Sue Harris, proprietor of Nimbin Emporium, says Summerland has heard your feedback and acted.

members will also be able to access, direct charge-free, the Westpac ATM network throughout Australia. This network includes ATMs with Westpac, St George, Bank of Melbourne and BankSA.

A new smart phone application, including an ATM locator tool, is being developed.

From 1st September, Summerland will move away from use of the rediATM network.

As a result the direct charge-free access to the rediATM network (including NAB and BOQ) will cease as of 1st September and be replaced by the Westpac/ Summerland network.

Footpath tussle

by Michael Balderstone

Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell was good enough to walk the Cullen Street footpath with me looking at what changes need to be made to fit in with the new regulations, which state nothing is to be on the footpath within two metres of the shopfronts.

She came with the council’s equal access specialist who knew the regulations off by heart. It’s about disabled people and wheelchairs, prams etc being able to find their way easily along the footpath in the village, with sight-impaired people using the edge of the buildings to steer by, if need be.

I tried to say Nimbin is different, and that the footpath is possibly our major tourist attraction. A living artwork in itself that often leaves me in awe and wonder.

But the “You can’t argue about equality can you?” talk rendered me impotent. There

was no negotiation. I lost and feel helpless before the behemoth of control freak regulatory waves we are being pushed along by.

My friend Gary, who is totally blind, wanders to and from Nimbin from where he is staying at the Nimbin Rocks Backpackers, maybe a kilometre away. He loves the lively street and using his cane, feels his way along and I watch people get out of his way and guide him and help all the time. People love to help. Machines and regulations don’t help in the same way.

Gary says he would use the wall as a guide, except he reckons it may well be lined with milk crates! And he uses benches like the one in front of the Environment Centre, which will have to move, as landmarks. He says it won’t make any difference to him really and says he doesn’t have any trouble walking the Nimbin footpath.

He uses the cane to sweep in front of himself a bit like a minesweeper. He did say the zebra crossing at the pharmacy is tricky though,



hidden among the trees.

The mayor did think the Kombi poking its nose out of the Museum should be OK, but everything else is to go to keep a minimum two metres from the wall clear. We all agreed it was a pity about when it’s raining... hello?

I’m not blaming anyone, as I can see it’s all well-meant, but are these just more rules to be broken, or are we to have footpath police in the future, and of course, fines?

Incidentally, gentle Gary is looking for a lover... looking is probably the wrong word. His biggest drama in Nimbin of course is getting busted. Someone calls taxi but he can’t see where the cops are and it’s hard for a blind man to stash his weed.

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Gold at the end of Rainbow’s hard work

Rainbow Power Company (RPC) is pleased to announce the signing of a major contract with Western Power in Papua New Guinea.

Under the contract, RPC will provide consultancy, training services and solar equipment over the next 12 months.

The contract is to provide access to electricity to 49 villages located at the mouth of the Fly River in Western Province, Papua New Guinea. A total of 3400 houses with a population of 33,887 will benefit from this project.

Each village will be serviced with three-phase solar / battery / inverter systems that will be distributed via village Mini Grids.

Each system will be capable of delivering 13.8 kW to the village for lighting, television, phone charging and a community cool room. The solar arrays range between 11 and 22 kW in capacity. The total capacity of 650 kW will be provided by 3250 Trina solar panels.

About 11,000 kWh of German-made, sealed batteries will provide storage and German-made SMA inverter technology has been selected to generate the 240- / 415-volt power. RPC has chosen the highest quality equipment for this project, as reliability is a key criterion in remote areas.

A further 275 Solar Home Systems will be provided to those houses which are too remote to be connected to the



Paul O'Reilly (centre) signs the multi-million dollar deal with Western Power representatives

Mini Grid systems. These will be powered by a 90-watt solar panel, which will provide 12v power for three Sundaya LED lights, a stereo and mobile phone charging.

RPC is excited to see the introduction of solar power to a very remote area of Papua New Guinea. Currently, only 20% of the population has access to electricity, mainly sourced through diesel generators running for six hours a day.

Western Power has a target of providing access to electricity to 80% of the population by 2020. Due to the remote location of the villages, solar is the most cost-effective solution to meet this ambitious target.

The provision of electric lighting also promotes the education of schoolchildren and the potential of small income generation from home crafts.

The local villages will benefit from having clean electric lighting after years of using smoky kerosene lanterns. Kerosene lamps cause local and indoor air pollution – a nasty mix of particulates,

carbon monoxide and carcinogenic gases, according to the World Health Organisation.

The World bank estimates that 780 million women and children breathing kerosene fumes inhale the equivalent of smoke from two packs of cigarettes per day. Shockingly, two-thirds of adult female lung cancer victims in developing nations are non-smokers (*SELF* Newsletter, 2002).

RPC director Paul O'Reilly said he was pleased that the experience gained in alternative technologies is now being exported. "This project will provide increased employment for local residents in Nimbin, as well as an exciting opportunity to work in PNG," he said.

"RPC would like to thank the local community for their support over the past 25 years. As a token of our appreciation, we will be instituting a Community Care Fund to assist local projects undertaken by not-for-profit organisations. Guidelines will be released in coming weeks."

Towers issue divides community

by Nell Berry

Opinions are divided in Nimbin about a recent decision by NBN Corporation to install fixed wireless technologies as part of the National Broadband Network roll-out.

The National Broadband Network is a \$37 billion dollar government initiative, recently marred by the asbestos crisis, and the biggest infrastructure development in Australia's history.

In a recent press release, Malcom Turnbull said that under a Liberal Government villages with between 300 and 1000 dwellings (such as Nimbin) would not receive fixed wireless but have the ADSL internet updated to VDSL. VDSL uses twin coils of copper within the existing phone lines to improve internet speeds without the need for dangerous new infrastructures.

To relay the signal from Lismore's optical fibre to potential receivers on house rooftops, fixed wireless would require line-of-site connection. Undulating hills and valleys would mean six new towers between Lismore and Lillian Rock, two in the Nimbin village, a total of sixteen new towers in Lismore Shire, some as high as 50 metres.

Many people are concerned about the potential visual impact, especially at sacred sites like Mountain Top and Lillian Rock.

Another implication of this, and the co-location of Telstra mobile phone antenna on these structures, is an increase in the amount of electromagnetic radiation in communities. While some residents would agree with the need for one more tower to improve mobile phone coverage, the fixed wireless option is considered by many to be dangerous and inappropriate.

Proponents of the scheme say that the signal strength is safe, but there is no doubt that electromagnetic radiation causes harm to living organisms. Peer-reviewed articles written since the 1970s confirm this. NBN



has vested interests in developing fixed wireless and mobile phone antenna, and opponents feel claims about the safety of the signal are deliberately misleading.

NBN has refused to lay optical fibre from Lismore to Nimbin, apparently because of the costs involved. Sceptics feel that Telstra is driving the agenda for towers for mobile phone antennae co-location, which emit signals at much more intense frequencies than fixed wireless.

Residents are more likely to agree to towers on their properties as part of a government broadband roll-out, but once the towers are up Telstra can get the go-ahead for mobile antenna to co-locate.

Probably the best option for Nimbin is improving the ADSL network by upgrading to VDSL. Only about 500 houses in the village will receive any benefit from high-speed connection from the towers. The vast majority of people in the area will have the option of satellite broadband.

Nimbin has a long history of resistance to corporate agendas and resilience in the defence of the land and culture of this region. To stand aside while these new towers are deployed, with the resulting proliferation of electromagnetic radiation, would be a great failure on our part, not just for the precious flora and fauna but also for future generations' ability to enjoy a sustainable, healthy environment.

Surveys to ascertain the local internet usage and culture are currently being formulated.



All Community Centre tenants, committee members and friends were recently invited to celebrate the new mural over the Bark Hut.

The mural, entitled 'Then and Now', was sponsored by Nimbin Community Centre and painted by local artist Elspeth Jones (pictured).

People gathered at about 4pm for afternoon tea, to admire the painting, and give praise and love to Elspeth for her wonderful work of art. Afterwards, there was some music from Neil's garage.

Katie Cawcutt (pictured right) said, "I had an image of this mural in my mind for some years, with the Bark Hut being the link from past to present. I am not an artist, so finally Elspeth came along and painted this version of my concept."

Another dream realised, and a lovely thing to celebrate.



Freedom convoy heads our way

by Omega Breakspear

The Freedom Flotilla is a collective of artists, musicians, activists and Indigenous ambassadors from Australia and West Papua who are travelling from the shores of Lake Ayer to Cairns, and then on a flotilla of boats to West Papua.

They will be bringing sacred water from the mound springs of Arubunna country and ashes from the fires of the Lake Ayer and the Aboriginal Tent Embassies, as offerings of peace and justice.

"There is a dreaming line with the water that comes down out of the mountains of Papua, flies down through the Northern Territory and ends up in Arabunna country, so we have a deep connection to their people," explained Robert Corowa from the Tent Embassy in North Lismore.

He has co-ordinated with Arabunna Aboriginal Elder Uncle Kevin Buzzacott for the Freedom Flotilla to come through Nimbin on 27th and 28th July on their way.

"All the Elders of the Bundjalung, Githabul and Ngarakwal will be welcomed and invited to participate in the Healing Ceremony to be held at the Nimbin Cultural Centre on the 28th July with Uncle Kevin," said Robert Corowa. "Everyone who is interested in the Free West Papua Movement is most welcome to come and join the convoy."

"We are one people, we must uphold our cultural connection, the old land is calling us," Uncle Kevin Buzzacott said.




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Nimbin Pre-school News



by Kylie Kingston

Nimbin Preschool is excited to finally announce a date for the official opening of its new preschool building – 30th November, from 2pm.

We know you have been waiting a while for this, but we have been busy preparing the new building and surrounds. The preschool has been an important part of so many community members' lives, so

we hope you can all come.

In other news, we are extremely grateful to the generosity of the Sidney Myer Fund for giving the preschool \$10,000 to purchase new furniture. We have already spent a large portion of this on much-needed chairs, tables, shelving, storage, light-tables and easels. As a result, the preschool looks amazing.

Also, the new chicken coop that Rory designed last year is nearly finished. This has been constructed by an eager group of dads and Ken Bright from the Dad's in Schools program (pictured), who comes to the preschool every Thursday.

They work with the children in all stages of designing, planning and building. Kai's plan includes an egg run that allows the chicken to lay its egg directly into a tunnel that leads to the kitchen – and straight into the pot.

Last but not least, we have a new teacher, Stephen Gallen, starting one day a week at the preschool next term. Stephen is highly experienced in early childhood pedagogy. We are grateful for the opportunity to extend our teaching team.



Rooooooar – the wild animals are out

This is true, the wild animals are definitely out roaming at the moment – at least at the Nimbin Early Learning Centre, where we've been playing like jungle animals for the last few weeks.

We set up our sandpit like a jungle with branches stuck in it and lions, elephants, jaguars, rhinos, leopards, monkeys and children roam free in it.

The animals get looked after very well by our little

ones, with mud pies and sandy cupcakes, of course. Riley asked: "Will the trees grow in our sandpit?"

The Nimbin Early Learning Centre has a few vacancies left on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and if you would like your child to become one of our group, to join in all the fun, please phone 6689-0142 or drop in at 81 Cullen Street (Community Centre Complex) in the Gumnut House.



Fond farewell for Coffee Camp teacher



Coffee Camp school held a special assembly to farewell a much-loved teacher, Ms Hillier, upon her retirement.

There were speeches, flowers and gifts from families and the school, a spider song from the kindys and a performance by the ukulele band.

Kerrie Hillier said Coffee Camp School was by far her favourite of the 11 schools she has worked in.

"I feel truly blessed to have ended my 40-year career here," she said.

"The staff are authentic people who made me feel welcome from the get-go. Their dedication and love for the children is self-evident.

"The children, and their families, regularly demonstrate the core values of respect, responsibility and consideration [and a] love of and respect for the environment.

She says the students' advances are explosive – "They are unable to read, then they can, they are unable to write, then they can.

"I feel honoured to share in this

and I strove to ensure each child felt successful, and that learning is a positive experience."

Coffee Camp children have had fun and achieved great results in sport this month. A Coffee Camp team took part in high jump and shot-put events at Blakebrook School.

Well done to all the children for doing their best, and to Arnhem, Ella-Rose, Frewoini, Jaxon, Kai, Miky, Phoebe, Shakira, Tahi and Tamara for great results.

More congratulations go to Shakira for her impressive gymnastic results – first winning the local, then the regional and now the state competition! We are all behind you as you go to the next level.

And finally, well done to the special Nimbin Headers under-7 team which took part in the Lismore Thistles Soccer Carnival.

They worked together, played fairly and won every game. Congratulations to Benji, Cedric, Jean-Charles, Kane, Liam, Mundarra and Tobin.

A tale of early literacy

by Leanne Logan

Stories are an integral part of our cultural heritage and a vital element for early literacy. At Cawongla Playhouse, we use storytelling as one of our educational tools to stimulate and expand children's learning.

Stories live inside children. They remember the events in fine detail. Ideas sparked through storytelling are incorporated into their imaginative and dramatic play. Fine motor and gross motor skills are honed in associated activities. Therapeutic storytelling has the ability to address in a subtle but effective manner many challenging issues. Storytelling is both visual and oral communication in practice.

Storytelling comes in many forms. Last month, indigenous storyteller, Mereki, brought stories, props, songs and music to our preschool. Through her work, we connected with Aboriginal culture and

explored cultural diversity and working in partnerships. Amongst our own preschool community, we have many talented storytellers. Sometimes it's the children, sometimes the educators, and sometimes it's a combination of both. On an everyday level, we tell stories, illustrate narratives and use puppets to bring tales to life. These experiences capture children's interest and can lead children to learning and a love of literacy.

Many of our puppet shows involve working with the seasons. Interwoven throughout this seasonal thread is a realm of story themes – families, friendship, community, nature, belonging, deeds great and small, diversity, mystery, curiosity, gratitude... Many of these themes relate directly to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

As the storytime chimes resound around our preschool each day, we find bottoms are well and truly on the mat before the chimes have even finished



Stella's story evolves

ringing out. That enthusiasm speaks to us of the value of storytelling in our program.

Due to government funding, we can now offer 4-5 year-old children three preschool sessions for \$25 per week (plus enrolment fee and community levies). For more information call us on 6633-7167. Term 3 starts Tuesday July 16. We welcome you.

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Youth, camera, action!

Youth Connections North Coast is calling for entries for the Nimbin Youth Film Competition 2013, It's My Life.

The competition has uncovered some fine local talent in previous years, and encouraged many others to try their hand at making a short film.

Ari McKinlay (pictured below) won last year's first prize for her film, *Imagine This*, about the impacts of suicide. She said winning the competition was "incredible".

"It was amazing to watch my film on the big screen, and then for people to tell me that it helped them is just unbelievable," she said. "Winning has given me so many opportunities, I want to thank everyone involved."

The competition is open to anyone aged up to 20 who lives within 40 km of Nimbin. The films can be from two to 10 minutes in length, in any category from documentary or fiction to music video, as long as it has been locally produced and directed by a young person within the past two years.

Entries close at 5 pm on Friday 6th September, with the winners announced and prizes awarded on Saturday 14th September Nimbin Town Hall. Last year a few entrants missed out because they didn't make the deadline, so note this date.

All the winning films and selected entries will be shown at the award presentation afternoon. Last year's viewing was a fantastic affair with a big audience, big screen and big sound. There is an open invitation to everyone in the Nimbin region to come along and support our local film-makers.

Entry forms will be available from Nimbin Youth Centre, Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, and Youth Connections North Coast main office at 17b Keen Street, Lismore. There will also be boxes for your entries at those locations.

The competition requires all entries to be on standard DVD format and playable on a standard DVD player. No other formats will be accepted. Entries will not be returned so



Mahto, Ariel and Jamie at last year's Film Workshops

please send copies only.

For more information or enquires contact

organiser Darmin on 0428-337-088 or email: darmincameron@gmail.com

Youth Connections North Coast is running five free film workshops for young people aged 10 to 20, during the July school holidays. The workshops start on Tuesday 2nd July and run for a further four days at the Nimbin Youth Club.

The workshop will cover all aspects of filmmaking process from pre-production and scriptwriting to the final edit. You can bring your own camera and computer or use the equipment supplied.

The workshops will be facilitated by North Coast filmmakers Darmin Cameron and Paris Naday, and free lunch will be provided.

Workshop dates are Tues 2nd, Thurs 4th, Tues 9th, Thurs 11th and Fri 12th July from 10am to 2pm, at the Nimbin Youth Centre.

LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin community

Portrait prize winner honours long-time local carer

A portrait of former RED Inc Manager Jenny London, who has worked with people with disabilities for almost four decades, was named winner of the annual Northern Rivers Portrait Prize last month.

The \$10,000 prize went to Georgica artist Rene Bolten, who said it took 18 months to get the portrait right – a wait that was well worth it. The painting was originally planned for last year's competition.

Judge Philip Bacon praised the standard of work and announced he would personally purchase Rhonda Baker's artwork *Can't Eat Coal Can't Drink Gas* of Knitting Nanna Against Gas Clare Twomey for Lismore Regional Gallery's permanent collection.

Lina Buck's *Mother 2013* won the \$1500 Armsign Award. The People's Choice winner will be announced following the close of the exhibition on July 14.



Imagine Lismore – a new direction for Council

The Imagine Lismore 10, Four and One Year Plans were adopted by Lismore City Council on June 25. The 10 Year Plan sets the strategic direction for Council over the next decade. The Four Year Plan sets out what projects and outcomes will be delivered in the next four years and the One Year Plan outlines the budget and where money is being spent in the 2013/14 financial year.

Council wishes to thank the residents of Nimbin for their input and feedback, and especially those who attended the Nimbin Place-based Forum.

Council will now move toward a model of community-based panels to engage the community and seek collaboration in on-ground projects. This is our new Community Partnerships project and a pivotal part of Imagine Lismore. The model represents a new way of Council doing business. Instead of making decisions on what community priorities are we will ask the communities themselves, and with their help provide funds, guidance and facilitation to implement those priorities.

These community panels will be place-based as we know that what people want in Nimbin is very different to what people want in urban Lismore. The community panels will enable Council to begin tailoring projects that build on the unique character of Nimbin.

Everyone is encouraged to head to Council's website and familiarise themselves with the Imagine Lismore 10, Four and One Year Plans and what it means for the Local Government Area into the future.

Nimbin Transfer Station viability investigated

The Nimbin Transfer Station charge will increase by \$14.43 in the 2013/14 financial year and the long-term viability of the facility will be investigated following the adoption of the Imagine Lismore 10, Four and One Year Plans on June 25.

The draft plans initially proposed that the Nimbin Transfer Station charge should increase from \$105 to \$178.20 to reflect full cost recovery. This was recommended as the facility was being subsidised by other waste revenues and Council resolved a report on the viability of the Nimbin Transfer Station and the potential impacts of its closure be prepared.

Two submissions objecting to the proposed increase were received during the Imagine Lismore public exhibition period including one from the Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre. This stated there was a lack of consultation and no opportunity for the community to examine cost efficiencies. It stated closure should be a last resort and only an option after the community had the opportunity to investigate possible models for usage into the future.

In light of these submissions, the fact the proposed increase was significant and the Nimbin Transfer Station's operations being reviewed, Council voted not to impose the full increased charge.

The 2013/14 charge will only include rate pegging and GST increases, rising from \$105 to \$119.43.

Council will now undertake community consultation and prepare a report on the ongoing viability of the Nimbin Transfer Station and potential impacts of a closure.

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Vale John 'Canoe' Barrett

22nd September 1936 – 30th May 2013



John Barrett, also known as John Canoe, passed from this life at the end of May at a place he loved to be at one with nature, Clarrie Hall Dam.

Maybe he chose the time and place, but like many things he did in his life he had no personal need to be noticed, for sure he wanted no one to suffer pain from his passing. He would be wishing a beautiful life and happiness for all those who

cared about him, especially those who unexpectedly had to search for him.

John was such a simple man, at the same time an absolute master of the way of Zen, a bricklayer from England to a masterful creator of magic and goodwill in the Nimbin area. He lived at Rainbow Retreat for the past seven years, and prior to that at The Garden of Eden, at Tomewin.

He had a love of gardening in a very natural way, and his sense of recycling and recreating within his landscape generated a simplistic and beautiful outcome for everything he touched. His spirit will live on in the village, along with those other artisans and iconic village angels who make massive contributions, without a fuss, and sometimes without being noticed.

Much of what is so special in Nimbin is the result of such unsung heroes.

For many years John has travelled annually to India and usually stayed three months, during which time he would invariably find some community project of his own making, fixing something, creating rock work, caretaking an area, looking after straying dogs or more recently cleaning a large fountain area in the centre of a village.

He talked recently about how he never found it easy if he unexpectedly attracted attention, and was surprised at that time when the local media took an interest in him.

John loved Rainbow Retreat, not only creating an amazing landscape but touching the hearts of so many travellers from around the world. He doubtless inspired many of them to envision an alternative way of life.

John consumed very little and managed to reuse and find a place for what others had discarded; his tepee incorporated cracked car windscreens as windows, amongst other things. He shared his garden with all the native wildlife and encouraged it by creating habitat.

John's daughter Tracy, her husband and their two daughters have since travelled to Nimbin from their home in Katoomba and lovingly placed his ashes in Clarrie Hall Dam.

John Canoe, many of us in Nimbin are missing you, but we love that you have been here and left your beautiful spirit amongst us in a very real way.

Doug McKenzie and family
Rainbow Retreat

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.

Bus service review

Waller's Bus Company invite interested persons to attend a Public meeting on Monday 12th August at 12 noon in the meeting room at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin.

This meeting is regarding our service review of our contracted Bus Services between Nimbin and Lismore, focusing on demand and service efficiency.

We welcome input and look forward to local participation.

Graeme A Waller
Waller's Bus Company

Foundation appeal

We so often get asked to donate to causes, and so often we ignore it because there are just too many, and it's too hard. But here is one that is so worthwhile!

I've had the honour of being involved with the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) for many years as a volunteer on their grants committee. I love being involved with this group. NRCF is an independent philanthropic foundation dedicated to

improving the lives of those in our Northern Rivers communities who are in most need of support – from Grafton to Tweed, from beyond Casino to the coast.

The people who initiated and are involved in the Foundation are truly awesome... they have put large amounts of their own money into establishing the foundation, and they give enormous amounts of time on an on-going basis to support local services and groups. It is truly a story of locals giving to locals, true generosity coming from the heart!

The Foundation is currently running its annual appeal. I urge you to get behind this appeal. Every donation counts – even tiny amounts! All money raised is put into ethical investments with the help of a professional fund manager – who provides services free of charge. This means that every year there is income that can fund worthy community projects in perpetuity.

Visit the website: www.nrcf.org.au and follow the links... it's so easy to donate! Have a look at the great projects that have been supported.

I'm giving this year... are you?

Lois Kelly
Nimbin

Harsh review

As a frequent visitor to this inimitable village of Nimbin, I have become accustomed to creative treats, so a classical concert would hardly be a surprise: it was though.

I didn't expect to hear Astor Piazzolla, one of my favourite composers, being played in the village hall,

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Editor Bob Dooley

Assistant Editor Sue Stock

Sub Editors Hal Williams

Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley

Photographers Sue, Garry Mimlich, Cath, Peter P.

Distribution Angus, Peter, Coralie, Philippe, Sue, Rob & Lisa, Stuart, Faerie Laura's (Bellingen), Dave (West End)

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Bookkeeper Martha Paitson
Website Clickable edition at www.nimbingoodtimes.com
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especially his 'Muerte del Angel', originally scored for Bandoneon and orchestra, now arranged for piano trio. This brilliant composition, a complex blend of tango, baroque, fugue and virtuosic counterpoint, is notoriously difficult to play.

As a superlative composer, Piazzolla always retained sincere humility about his work and encouraged freedom of interpretation among his musicians. I quote his own words from a CD cover: "When I finish writing something, I never know if it's good or worthless... It's not until I listen to my musicians that I can really make a final conclusion."

No doubt Piazzolla would have been as distressed as I was to read the negative critique by Professor Michael Hannan (NGT June 2013, p.13). With all due respect to him, one may perhaps suggest that what he found a "sluggish tempo in the fast sections" may have been just that freedom of interpretation Piazzolla promoted.

Trio Continentale's heartfelt rendition of 'Death of an Angel' certainly appealed to the sensitivity of the Nimbin audience, who

enthusiastically welcomed the acoustic delights of a classical concert into their all-embracing lifestyles. I'm sure many were as dismayed as I at the shabby critique it received from Professor Hannan.

Malcolm Quintral,
Sydney

(Forwarded by Vale Mendelson of Nimbin, who added, "I heartily endorse Malcolm's opinions, as do many other friends of mine.")

Racism and patriarchy

Australian society is rife with racism and patriarchy. Since living in Nimbin, I've been screamed at by a drunkard on the street and subjected to a sexual attack, which the offender got away with.

New people who come to town seem to be up against the people who have been here a long time. Women without partners seem to be targets.

My place is on the market now – I will be moving to Lismore or Murwillumbah.

Good luck Nimbin. Thanks for the experience. Modern and equal? Not in my experience.

Anne Smee,
Nimbin

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you're looking for

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Busker Stage: Alisha Todd

Charity of the Day:
Dunoon Men's Shed
Enquiries: 6688-6433

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

Telstra Networking for Nimbin's Future

Telstra would like to advise the community of Nimbin that investigations are continuing in relation to finding the most appropriate location for a new mobile telecommunications network base station in the area. Providing customers with a reliable mobile network is important, and the siting of a new facility is a complex and challenging process. Telstra is continuing to work towards establishing this important improvement in the mobile telecommunications network in the Nimbin area and is committed to providing updates on the proposal.

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.

IT'S HOW
WE CONNECT

CSG petition

On 20th June 2013, the Lock the Gate petition was lodged in the NSW Parliament. Did any of the Nationals or Labor MPS support it?

The only MP who totally supported it was the Greens MP Jamie Parker from Balmain, and he said, "I support the petition of Northern Rivers residents opposing coal seam gas, gas from tight sands and unconventional gas. I acknowledge the campaign and supporters in the gallery, including those from Lock the Gate Alliance, which is the organiser of this petition.

"Almost 12,000 petitioners have united in their request that the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, encompassing all river catchments from the Clarence River to the Tweed, be declared a coal seam gas, tight sands and unconventional gas mining free zone. They also request that the current licences and/or leases that allow any such activity be revoked, and that no such new licences or leases be granted."

What did Thomas George our local National MP say?

"A lot of these contentious issues affect my electorate and that of the member for Clarence. I have never had one farmer or landowner who has exploratory wells on their property come through my door and say, "Get them off my property." I stand to be corrected, and perhaps the Minister can confirm this, but I doubt whether one person in New South Wales who has exploratory wells on their property wants them removed."

So, to all those people out there who signed the petition or who are simply concerned about coal seam gas mining – what do you think about our local State representative's Thomas George's statement to Parliament made on behalf of us?

Desley Banks
Greens candidate for Page
Koonorrigan

Federal action on CSG

I've been concerned for some time now about Richmond MP, Justine Elliot's 'campaign' against coal seam gas, which amounts to little more than lots of advertising and a blame-shifting exercise onto the State Government.

Notices

For sale

Approx. 2-acre share in small, quiet, friendly, well-established community. Company structure, no dogs or cats. Gentle sloping pasture, good building sites, valley views, power and phone lines on block. Easy all-weather access, 10 minutes drive from Nimbin. \$65,000. Phone Mandie 6689-1145 or email: halegarden@yahoo.com.au

New market

The inaugural Tuntable Market will be on Sunday July 7th from 9am to 1pm at the Community Centre... the cafe will be open and there will be all sorts of home-grown produce from Co-op members, trash and treasure and more.

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club Ltd. AGM on Saturday 13th July, 10am at the Club. Annual report, financial statements and election of directors.

Justine's position looks particularly shallow when we know there are many ways that the Federal Government could intervene to protect our communities from the threat of CSG.

The recent announcement of a 'water trigger' in Federal laws is a positive step, but it comes after the Labor Environment Minister already approved every major CSG operation in NSW, including massive new CSG mines at Gloucester.

On the other hand, I was relieved to see the Greens candidate, Dawn Walker actually commit to something credible – legislation to create a CSG exclusion zone over the North Coast. This is what the Lock the Gate movement has been asking of all Federal representatives.

Katrina Shields,
Mullumbimby

Deficits and deprivation

Almost daily, economists in the Herald's Business Day are making dire warnings about where our economy is headed.

The decline of the mining export boom has plunged Western Australia into recession, jobs were lost because export revenues dwindling.

Industrial expansion is needed to create jobs. Big problem there! Economists can't see it happening.

With rising population, 25,000 new jobs per month are needed just to keep the unemployment rate static. But thousands of jobs per month are being lost, and that's on the increase!

The politicians told us we

were better off than most. Of course we were, while China sucked the lifeblood out of the rest of the world and we wallowed in the spoils.

Capitalistic extraction of profits has deprived most of the capitalist world, us included. Our "low consumer confidence", from dwindling disposable income, started before the mining boom receded. Now it's far worse. We'll have massive job losses, declining tax revenue, deficits and deprivation from austerity, as in Europe or America now.

Very little is said about any of that by our politicians, who would be well-advised of our plight. Which is wise, considering no other government has done anything to prevent their economic collapse, and neither will ours.

Capitalists run our news media and entertainment. Their shock-jocks and "personalities" mislead, distract and dumb-down our pliable populace. Capitalists cajole, wheedle, threaten and bribe our politicians to manipulate them. They're in control.

Millions of Australians will soon be stunned and devastated by the loss of living standards they've taken for granted. The fool's paradise is ending, and the inevitable hideousness of capitalism is emerging. We'll be told it's our fault, and we must now "tighten our belts".

My guess is, most of you will believe it, and remain oblivious to the wealth-sharing we would have under socialism.

Doug Burt,
Kyogle



In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre news

www.nnic.org.au

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to community members. For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our CWWs for referrals.

NNIC memberships

NNIC memberships are due as from 1 July 2013. Join NNIC or renew your membership now. To do so come down to NNIC and fill out the form and pay your annual membership fee of a mere \$5.50. Your membership helps us a lot to attract funding. So come on down and get yer memberships for NNIC.

Food Equipment Library memberships

Now is also the time to join our Food Library. Joining fee is \$55 and the renewal fee is \$22 per year. Being a library member enables you to use any of the gear in the library anytime free of charge (as long as it is not already booked out). The more members of the library, the more gear we can add to the library. To become a member you must first be a member of NNIC.

Community grain mill

The wonderful volunteer who was taking the mill to the Blue Knob Farmers Market has now moved away and as you may have noticed the Mill has not been going to the markets each week. It is currently available all week at Nimbin Organics. You can take your grain to be milled there (or else buy the grain at Nimbin Organics), and have it milled there for 50c/kilo. You can also mill pulses, as long as they are sufficiently dry (and hard).

7 Sibley St Super Sunday Social Spectacular

About 40 adults and loads of kids came along and had a really fun day. We didn't raise much money but it was fantastic to have an event which involved so many kids. So we think we will do it again, probably next year, for its own sake (rather than to raise funds). Thanks heaps to Cat and the NNIC crew.

Aquarius archiving stuff

ABC Open has asked NNIC to archive the short films they made during May 2013 on our website. This is currently in process and we will let you all know when it is done.

7 Sibley St events and activities

The next big date is Sat 24th August 2013 – get this into yer diaries folks. On this day will be a giant book sale and the EVEN BIGGER THAN LAST TIME Sibley St auction at the Town Hall. Anyone with goods to donate to the auction please call Cat at NNIC – 6689 1692.

Also – the following week 31st August (Sat night) there is a gig planned featuring some great acts and bands – also at the Town Hall.

Plus don't forget to get your Rainbow Dreaming book for only \$30. If you bought the book online and do not have it yet, come down to NNIC and collect it.

7 Sibley St – desperately seeking funky fundraisers

We (NNIC) reckon we can raise another \$15,000 by the end of the year. So we need another \$25,000 to be raised by folks like YOU. That would be 25 people raising \$1000 each, for example. Momo the cat is offering a special prize to the individual or organisation (other than NNIC or the Community Centre) who raises the most between now and December 2013. www.sevenonsibley.com

Nimbin Agricultural Show 2013

21st and 22nd September. In an era when many local shows are struggling and even ceasing to exist, our own show goes on, thanks to the incredible efforts of the Nimbin A&I Society. To keep it that way we encourage the whole community to get behind it. So make sure you enter your produce in the Show this year.

Plus NNIC together with the A&I Soc are holding a village shop window display competition in the week prior to the Show. Best shop display will win a trophy. This year Sustainability Alley and the Paddock to Plate Café will be back bigger than ever. Also NNIC Food Security project is running the Most Sustainable In Show exhibit category, now in its third year. You can enter individual products or your entire farm operation.

We are also running a short film comp – "Local Food Bytes". Max length 5 mins. Can be anything about local food production. For more info and the Entry forms for the Most Sustainable in Show or the film comp, see our website or else drop into NNIC. www.nnic.org.au

NBN update

New questions have been collated from the community and sent in to NBN Co for their responses. These will be posted up on our website or you can come into NNIC and will download you a copy. In the meantime a community member has researched whether a community (ie an MO for example) can somehow invest in fibre infrastructure for their own community and he discovered that there is in fact a program to support this – see the following link for more info: www.nbnco.com.au/networkextension

NNIC website – Complementary Health Practitioners' Register

To get onto the register you need to download the application form from the website, and email or bring it back to us once it is completed, or else grab a hard copy one at NNIC, the Apothecary, Herbal Highs or the Green Bank and drop it back to us. www.nnic.org.au

NNIC website – 'Wot's On' events calendar

The idea is to get as many local events on there as possible so the whole community can use the events calendar on our website to avoid clashes when planning your own events and so we can all look up every local event all in one place. So if you have an upcoming local event or know of one that is not on our calendar already, email it to us on admin@nnic.org.au

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