



Open 7 days
8am - 5pm weekdays
11am - 4pm weekends

Ph: 6689-1010 fax: 6689-1210 email: nimcand@bigpond.net.au

Grey Gum Lodge

2 High Street Nimbin

www.greygumlodge.com
stay@greygumlodge.com
02 6689 1713 – 0408 663 475



Promoting the appreciation, education, benefits, culture and freedom of all natural plants and herbs.

NOW MORE THAN 50 SHOPS WORLDWIDE



Mark Dunsdon B. Pharm.
56 Cullen Street Nimbin NSW 2480
Phone: (02) 6689-1448 Fax: (02) 6689-1494
Email: nimbinpharmacy@live.com.au

Integrative Complementary Medicine Advice and Supplements

• Diabetes Agency • Baby Weighing

Wide selection of therapeutic and cosmetic skin-care products, including Australian-made Natio.

The Beauty Room

Providing a wide range of Beauty treatments including Waxing, Tints, Facials, Pedicures and Piercing

Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sour dough breads including white, rye and spelt
- Spelt bread and rolls now baked fresh daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality espresso Botero coffee
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

Making our own "Hippie Bread" from local, bio-dynamic wheat, baked within hours of being ground at the Nimbin Community Grain Mill.

NOW OPEN SUNDAYS 9.30am - 3pm

Phone 6689 1769

The Bouquet wins short film award

The Bouquet, a short film made on the streets of Nimbin, won the jury award for best short film at Byron All Shorts, part of the Flickerfest International Film Festival.

There were 13 award finalists selected from over 40 films made on the Northern Rivers Region. The people's choice award went to the popular anti-CSG short film, *Nitting Nannas*, directed by Rani Brown. The emerging talent award went to *A Catastrophic Concoction of Curious Events*, a quirky story about a young woman who has multiple complications cooking a cake, directed by Amari Sleiman. And receiving a highly commended was



Johnny Everson in a scene from the film

David Bradbury – *Keep The Cameras Rolling*, directed by Melissa Nesbitt, about the well known documentary film maker David Bradbury, and his tips and insights into film making.

The awards were selected

by a jury of local film makers including indigenous writer Jon Bell, local film maker Sharon Shostak and local film maker and Flickerfest festival director Bronwyn Kidd.

The Bouquet was co-directed by Peter Hardwick

and Pancho Colladetti and was filmed around Nimbin, including Cullen Street and the Nimbin Apothecary. It is a whimsical love story with an edible weeds theme. Johnny Everson stars as the young suitor who presents the woman of his dreams, Carla Muhling, with a bouquet of weeds which she transforms into a love feast.

Local street musicians Leif Larkin and Donato Rosella played live music, recorded by Suse Wolf during the multiple film takes to help create a surreal and moving atmosphere.

This is the second award for *The Bouquet*, which also won the Local Food Bytes award at Nimbin Agricultural Show.

A purrr...fect way to spend Australia Day

by Dionne May

The Nimbin Pool Olympics, featuring a synchronised swimming competition, is a new annual event held on Australia Day each year, and it is starting to gain momentum.

As an array of beautifully created trophies shone in the momentary dazzle of sunshine (handcrafted by the talented Pauline), the awaiting participants limbered up for the day's events while ever-faithful friends drizzled in with the rains to enjoy and support the day.

The events included longest distance underwater, three-legged racing, duck round-up, save the babies and the riveting, fiercely contested, challenge of the longest floater. At the nineteen-minute mark, the event was called a draw. Congratulations to the marathon floaters, Trish and Denise.

Both synchronised swimming teams are former champions of the event, and keen to claim the trophy. With practised finesse and fabulous costumes (the great CC strikes again), those red-lipsticked, hip-swinging girls launched into their routine. Choreographed to Zucchero's *The Night is on Fire*, the Love Cats had their 4.06 minutes of fame. The crowd went wild, the paparazzi jostled for position and the competitors, the Flirts (women who flirt with danger) looked duly worried as they took their positions by the pool.

Bartling with music malfunction



and wrestling with six-foot blow up crocodiles and sharks, they were graceful and entertaining, but eventually conceded defeat to the Love Cats, (Christina, Danielle, Petria and Dionne), who were declared Nimbin's Synchronised Swimming Champions of 2014. The crowd cheered (and laughed), the Bowlo crowd looked over with puzzlement, and random tourist groups set up picnics beside the pool and enjoyed the show.

The day was rounded off with a marathon swim (congratulations Louise), inflatable racing (a dead heat between Louise and Sally, both riding crocodiles), a poolside fashion parade (won by Pauline for her matching hat and fan) and the trophy presentation



Long distance floating

ceremony. The day was gallantly MCed, loud-hailer in hand, by the ever-cheerful Andrew from the Tourist Information Centre.

Cheers (with a well-deserved cold beer, hot chips and tomato sauce) to all those involved with the day, especially Sue, faithful pool lover. Another great way to spend Australia Day with your mates and your community.

If you are interested in being involved in synchronised swimming next year, look out for weekend workshops next January at the pool.

Nudes to pedal back into town in March

The World Naked Bike Ride pedals back into town on Saturday 8th March (Nimbin) and Sunday 9th (The Channon Markets).

Each year across the globe, bike riders get bare and ride the streets of their local towns to remind other road users that we all share the roads and that courtesy, respect, concentration and driving/riding competence means we all get to arrive safely and untraumatised at our destinations.

Join us on this fun-filled ride round the streets of Nimbin and/or through the Channon Craft Markets.

If you aren't comfortable being naked in public, it's okay, you can wear your clothes and you're still welcome to join us. You will need a bike and a helmet though.

Naked bike riders like to paint their bodies and decorate their bikes with peace slogans. Please feel free to bring body paints and flags with your favourite peace or protest sign. Last year many bikes were decked out in anti-coal seam gas (CSG) flags. Unfortunately CSG is still a threat to the environment and social fabric of the Northern Rivers, so no doubt there will be some more anti-CSG flags this year.

Visitors to the region and locals alike, love a spectacle – especially one that carries a message of hope that we can share this world with respect and that those who come after us will inherit a planet that is in reasonable shape as a result of human activity.

The ride is completely safe, if riders abide by some basic OH&S practices:

1. Check your bike – including brakes – prior to the ride (one rider last year didn't, and was only saved by the Setaria grass thicket at the bottom of the car park behind Cullen St);
2. Remove any genital piercings (a rider last year ended up in stitches – literally – after getting jewellery caught in their bike's mechanics); and
3. Wear a helmet.

If you would like to join us, meet at Peace Park in Nimbin at 10am on Saturday 8th March. It generally takes an hour or two to strip and paint up. We then ride the main street of Nimbin a few times (so it isn't a strenuous ride). To keep up with details, you can join us on facebook. Search for WNBR Nimbin. Alternatively, email: mijimberi@yahoo.com

NSW Government still long way off mark on CSG regulation

The Lock the Gate Alliance has said the NSW Government still has a long way to go to protect land and water resources from CSG mining, and that the so-called ‘reforms’ announced in January still fall far short of community expectations.

“The announcements are mostly smoke and mirrors by the NSW Government – they have gazetted some important agricultural areas as Strategic Agricultural Land, but done absolutely nothing to protect those areas,” said Phil Laird, spokesperson for the Lock the Gate Alliance.

“Perhaps the biggest betrayal in this package is the betrayal of farming families – urban areas trigger a 2km buffer, but families living in farmhouses in rural NSW will have gas drillers on their doorsteps.

“The health risks of CSG on children are the same no matter where you live – the city or the bush.”

The government also still has controversial plans pending to weaken the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* and to introduce a land access code that will facilitate access to farming land for CSG miners.

Mr Laird said, “These moves are about delivering certainty for only one industry – the gas mining industry. Other industries such as agriculture and tourism have largely been hung out to dry.”

The announcement came as the rice industry is realising how serious the threat of coal seam gas is in the important irrigation areas of the Riverina. Now southern farmers are wondering if anywhere is safe from CSG, and the answer appears to be no.

Surveys in regional NSW of communities affected by unconventional gas show 90% of respondents do not want to live in a



gasfield. A further 84% of NSW voters say that the landholder should have the right to say no.

“The NSW state election is now just 15 months away, and candidates around the state can expect to be hearing a lot of noise on this issue over that time period,” Mr Laird said.

“The Government claims that it is

striking a ‘balanced position’ simply don’t ring true, because gas mining giants still have the powers to force themselves onto farmers’ land.”

The Alliance has developed a number of important principles that should guide the planning process regarding unconventional gas, all of which appear to have been ignored.

Fenton brings warning from Wyoming



John Fenton (pictured) is a beef farmer and a leading activist in the US against unconventional gas and featured in

the *Gasland* film. From Pavillion Wyoming, there are 24 gas wells on his farm. He lives with polluted ground water, air pollution, restricted land use and other effects of the gas industry. The EPA directed him not to use the water to drink, bathe, wash dishes or clothes. John will speak at the Bangalow A&I Hall on Monday 24th February at 6pm, and at the Casino RSM on Tuesday 25th February at 7pm. He is brought to Australia and the Northern Rivers by Greens MP Jeremy Buckingham. The tour website is: <http://fentontour.com>

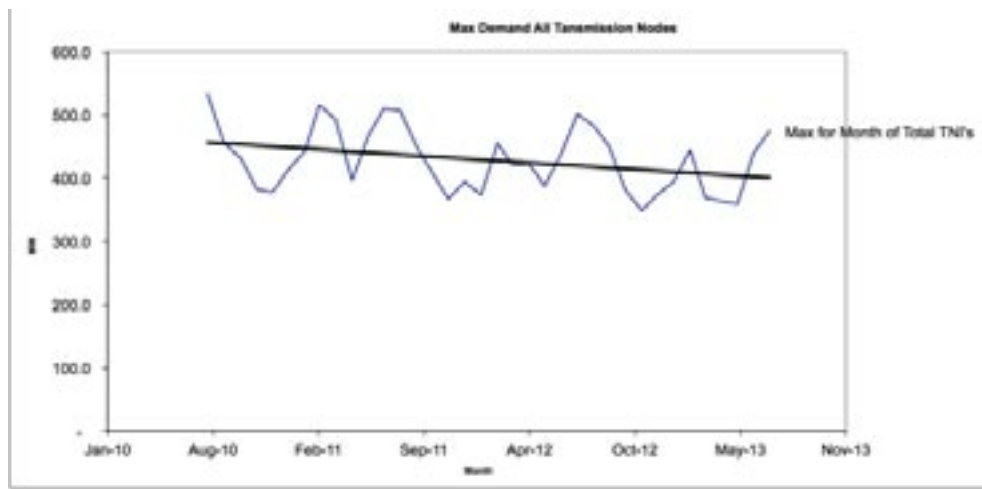
Down, down, our carbon pollution is down

Carbon emissions from electricity sector consumption on the North Coast are down for the second year in a row, according to new data from the North Coast Energy Forum.

“Our emissions have now reduced by about eight per cent over the two years from 2010-11 to 2012-13, from about 2.6 to 2.4 million tonnes of CO2 in the region from Port Macquarie to Tweed Heads,” explained Mark Byrne, convenor of the forum.

“The electricity sector accounts for over one-third of Australia’s greenhouse emissions, so the decline in both peak demand and total consumption is good news. It’s in line with the seven per cent reduction in national electricity sector emissions after the introduction of the carbon price in 2012,” Mark said.

“This is likely due to the high uptake of rooftop solar systems on the North Coast, plus households and businesses being more energy efficient in response to



Consumption figures supplied by Essential Energy show the decline in peak demand. The reduction in emissions was calculated by multiplying the total consumption figures for all major substations for each financial year by the average NSW emissions intensity for the period, which for NSW was 0.976.

skyrocketing prices.”

But the trend is unlikely to continue, Mark warns. “Mild summers and winters over the last few years have also played a part, and this summer’s heat waves are creating a surge in consumption as people switch on their air conditioners.”

“With the federal government planning to scrap the carbon price this year and a cloud now hanging over the Renewable Energy Target, it’s

also possible that the trend to more renewable energy in the national grid will stall, and even go backwards.”

“It is therefore critical that we do whatever we can as individuals, communities and businesses to reduce our emissions to help reduce the severity of climate change. Most of our electricity still comes from outside the region, but there’s still a lot more scope for us to meet our own energy needs with

solar energy, along with the emerging bioenergy industry.”

“This year, keep an eye out for small, affordable battery systems to store solar energy for evening and overnight usage, as well as innovative ways to buy local energy without being completely tied to a major retailer, such as community solar farms.”

For more information phone Mark Byrne on 0403-070-442 or email: markb@tec.org.au

Support available for fathers

A tragic outcome in the January disappearance of Greg Hutchings and his daughter Eeva, with the discovery of what is likely to be their bodies at a Pottsville beach, and police treating it as a possible murder/suicide.

Mr Hutchings was involved in a custody dispute with the child’s mother, and was likely suffering depression and anxiety.

Support is available for anyone who may be in similar circumstances, by calling Dads in Distress 1300 853 437, Mensline 1300 789 978 or Lifeline 131 114. The Men and Family Centre in Club Lane, Lismore, also produces a ‘Bloke’s bookler’ with many more resources for men. Call them on 6622 6116 or visit: www.menandfamily.org.au

Vale Pete Seeger

3/5/1919 – 27/1/2014



Mookx hands over Benny Zable Earth flag for the sloop “Clearwater”

by Brendon Hanley

“The key to the future of the world is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known.”

Pete lay back on a banana lounge on the deck of his pine forest house-become-hamlet perched on a bluff overlooking the mighty Hudson River in upstate New York, near Woodstock. The lightest imaginable rain began to drift down. He closed his eyes and raised his face to the sky in a grateful, feeling-blessed gesture.

“So you sing for the planet like me, do you Mookx? You ever make any money at it? No? Neither did I! But I’ll give you a present of a story to take with you. It’s like this. I see this big see-saw with a bucket on each end. On one side the bucket is full of big heavy rocks weighing it down. On the other end is a bucket of sand which is leaking out through holes all over the place. We’ve all got teaspoons and sand and we’re frantically trying to fill it up and tip the scales. One day a little kid will come and pop a teaspoon of sand in there and the whole thing will swing down and we will have won. Someone will look at the little kid and say, “That was easy wasn’t it?”

Musician, musicologist, historian, songwriter, singer, leader, author, publisher, humanitarian, Internationalist, philanthropist, sponsor, eco-warrior, pacifist, great-grandfather... the list goes on. He took the torch Woody Guthrie had ignited and shone it across the whole planet.

His awareness was stand-out from his contemporaries. His 60s songbooks are printed on recycled paper. They contain songs in many languages and photos of people of all colours and races. He altered politically-incorrect lyrics decades before it became de rigeur. He was such an example and role model for creative artists everywhere.

His output was prolific. Over 100 albums, untold songs, books, film and video, concerts, festivals, protests. He worked with a kids’ choir in his home town of Beacon NY. He initiated the Clearwater campaign which was responsible over time, for turning the Hudson from flammable to potable... a move which caused his rates to soar once the real estate market discovered the newly available riverside property market.

He was a tireless, fearless, constant voice for the planet and its inhabitants everywhere. He even got arrested, tried and banished from the top of the hit parades because of his beliefs and association with unions and other underprivileged leftist groups and causes.

He was a mentor and total inspiration for me from my mid-teens on. I learned to play the five string banjo from his vinyl recording and accompanying book, as countless other pluckers must have done. I will miss his presence, the odd appearance on Facebook (recently an anti-fracking gathering in NYC) and the lightness of knowing he was still out there doing what he did best.

He is now at rest with his beloved wife Toshi who died last year just before their 70th anniversary.

The most significant musician patriarch has just died. It is clearly the end of an era.

local Off-Grid specialist since 1990

SOLAR SUNPLUS ELECTRICAL

0413 333 800

CEC Accreditation A3353506 - Licence No. EC36035

NIMBIN LAW
Solicitors, Barristers & Conveyancers

Buying or selling a property in either NSW or QLD? Contact us for the most competitive legal & conveyancing rates.

50C Cullen St. Nimbin 2480 (Opp. Post Office)
Ph: 02 6689-1003
nimbinlaw@spains.com.au

Vast experience with Multiple Occupancy Communities. Lawyers in Nimbin since 1973



Nimbin Tax and Accounting
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Income Tax Returns – Individuals, Partnerships, Companies, Trusts and Primary Producers
BAS & Bookkeeping Services
Business Software, Business Advice, Grant Acquisitions

Weekdays 9am - 5pm, Saturdays by appointment.
Discount for Centrelink recipients

Tel/Fax 6689-0470 Mobile 0427-855-077

Old Bank Building, 39 Cullen Street, Nimbin
(Next to Post Office – parking available)

PO Box 645 Nimbin 2480 Email: accountant@nimbintax.com.au

Micro-Solar
plug'n'power
compact, self-contained solar power systems for mobiles, LED lighting laptops, tablets, 12V compressor fridges, etc

Pumping
solar, 12V, 24V & 240V for circulation, livestock, irrigation, household pressure and more...

Now stocking the **DAB Defender range**

Commercial & domestic solar
off-grid and grid-interactive
expertly designed and professionally installed

Talk to us about your power requirements and we'll design a quality system to suit your needs

prepare for every fire season

- ✓ Pumping
- ✓ Boom spraying
- ✓ Fire fighting
- ✓ Easy to start
- ✓ Irrigation
- ✓ Diesel or petrol
- ✓ Tank Filling
- ✓ Honda engine

Buy Online or In-Store
think global, shop local

02 6689 1430
sales@rpc.com.au
1 Alternative Way, Nimbin, NSW

RAINBOW POWER COMPANY
LIC:198555C

www.rpc.com.au

Talisman Saber peace action charges dropped

All charges related to Talisman Saber peace protests have been dropped. Four Brisbane peace activists appeared in the Rockhampton court today for charges related to blocking the entrance to the Rockhampton army barracks during the Talisman Saber military exercises in July 2013.

Jim Dowling, David Sprigg, Andy Paine, and Robin Taubenfeld were arrested on 19th July for lying on the road outside the barracks, holding photographs of victims of the US led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The group held a vigil with these images outside the court before proceeding to their hearing, at which time they were notified that it would not proceed.

"The dropping of the charges exposes the illegitimacy of police attempts to shut down peaceful protest. Those of us who are concerned about the never-ending pursuit



of war need to be public in our opposition and take this result as encouragement," activist Andy Paine said.

Talisman Saber 2013 was one of the world's largest-ever military exercises, involving 18,000 American and 9,000 Australian troops engaged in land, sea and air warfare training. The exercises take place in Australia every two

years, primarily focusing on the Shoalwater Bay region, using Rockhampton barracks and airport as a base for the combined training.

"Australia's unwavering support for US military endeavours is bringing suffering, not liberation, to countless people – civilians and military personnel whose faces we never see

– while increasing, not diminishing, threats to Australia's own peace and security," Mr Paine said.

"In a time of never-ending war, it is our responsibility to do what we can to thwart the war machine, call for peace, and give voice to those invisible victims."

"The two major wars these exercises have supported for more than a decade, have both been unmitigated disasters, undertaken largely without the support of the Australian people. We feel nonviolent resistance to war making, is the best contribution we can make to promoting peace in Iraq and Afghanistan," Mr Paine stated.

"More war making has definitely proven to be the worst contribution our country could have made."

The four activists continue to call for a stopping of the biennial Talisman Saber exercises, a closure of all US bases and facilities in Australia – an end to war.

Spontaneous lock-on to save ancient tree

by Susie Russell, president North Coast Environment Council

I was at the camp on the Therribri Road opposite the property known as Velyama when the call came that the Aboriginal scarred

tree a few kilometres down the road had been damaged with an excavator working in the area.

With my friend Marg, we headed down there. I heard a huge thump, and saw an excavator whacking the most magnificent, gigantic River Red Gum which had an 'H' painted on the front and was full of nesting hollows. The tree shuddered but it was clear it was not going to fall.

Throughout the forests of NSW an 'H' painted on the front of a tree means it is a habitat tree and needs to be protected. I thought the excavator operator was making a mistake. This work was unusually being done on a Sunday. I got out of the car and started walking towards the area. There were no fences, gates or signs to keep out. On the spur of the moment I started to run towards the tree. The excavator operator saw me coming and stopped the machine.

Someone in a hard hat was close behind me and he told the operator to lock the machine and move away, which he did. Around the base of the tree there was a huge hole, three or four metres deep. It was full of compacted river silt, the walls were not sheer and there were several ways into the hole. I slid down into the hole to touch the tree. I find it inconceivable that at this point in time in human history we treat these ancient beings with such contempt. I know how long trees take to grow and form hollows and this was 'one big mama'.



It would not be exaggerating to say it was already an old tree when Captain James Cook arrived in this land, at least 500 years old. How can something so irreplaceable be destroyed without anyone noticing?

There were other people there by then, and someone said: "You could lock on to this root", and I thought: 'yes I can'. I have never done that before and the idea of being locked to something by the neck is one I find quite terrifying, but in that moment it seemed like the right thing to do. A bicycle D-lock was produced, I got myself on the ground, and, although it was a very tight fit, managed to get the lock on.

Someone put an umbrella over me for shade, someone else asked about food, someone called for a banner and one person took photos and I heard another speaking on the phone to tell someone at the camp what had happened. People were moving around the hole and earth trickled down on to my face and hair and in my ear. Marg suggested that everyone but us get out of the hole.

It was a very uncomfortable reality. The lock was so tight



that I had to pull down on it with my hands to be able to draw a shallow breath or swallow. Marg sat beside me and trickled water into my mouth from a bottle cap a couple of small sips at a time, which calmed but couldn't quench my thirst. Talking was difficult, so mostly I was silent or communicated with a whisper to Marg.

It was 40-degree heat but we weren't in the full sun, being sheltered somewhat by our glorious tree and the cool earth beneath me provided some relief too.

The police arrived, and stood at the edge of the hole with men in hard hats and asked questions. I couldn't answer. Marg tried to explain and gave our names and dates of birth. The policeman told everyone to leave the site except the mine workers and except Marg who was looking after me in the hole and another man who offered to be our police liaison.

• Continued on Page 31

Time for action to protect Leard



by Alan Roberts

It's rolling action time in the Leard Forest camps. Perhaps it's the feast of opportunities presented by the Whitehaven, Boggabri and Pilliga mines that is irresistible to the protectors, drawn from all around Australia and overseas and keeps them going.

We think that 13 mining machines tied up to one monopole might be a record-breaker, but on the same morning as six other tripods and lock-ons were blocking access into the critically endangered White Box Gum community that Whitehaven and Boggabri coal want to turn upside down. It's amazing that getting 8m long poles in past security patrols for so many events dispersed throughout the forest all went so smoothly, but it did. We stopped all work for Tuesday 28th January.

Next day Whitehaven Coal continued to refuse, as they had been for a month, to hand over the independent ecologist's report on the claimed offsets for the critically endangered White Box community. The original offsets had been fraudulently claimed to be as good or better than the White Box Gum ecological community proposed to be destroyed by Cumberland Ecology who are now being investigated by the Ecological Society.



The Northern Rivers crew's tripod on Teston Lane, one of the access roads into Leard State Forest.

The original offsets are just rubbish country that the mines have bought up with, for the most part, no White Box community and not at all suitable for the raft of endangered species. Alison Martin of Greenloaning Biostudies from Tuncester is supposed to be the independent ecologist assessing the veracity of the original offsets by Cumberland Ecology. However she has been working for Cumberland Ecology and its CEO has been working on the same projects as Alison, so no independence there.

It is Alison's report that is legally required to be made public but has been withheld by both Whitehaven and the federal department. There is only a week remaining in which to comment on a report we haven't seen so, after

Whitehaven again refused to hand over a copy we went to their Boggabri office to demand a copy. The Whitehaven CEO, executives and all the office staff changed into office security trying to shut the door we held open whilst negotiating. We could have pushed through to occupy the office, but it was apparent that it would have been a nasty business. A police officer from across the street turned up but was no help to us in getting the offsets report.

All the time new protectors are turning up and slotting into the rolling actions. There are various options for camps on some really lovely spots. Currently there are some 50 of us at the FLAC camp prepared to take on the Narrabri council's bluff. We are planning for the long haul.

Gomeroi Elders plan 'culture ride' with petitions

Gomeroi Elders are planning a 'culture ride' to all townships throughout NSW to speak with Gomeroi people and communities to share their concerns about government failures to protect Gomeroi cultural sites, including burial sites, and their failure to protect Gomeroi cultural values. Elders will also share with regional communities their experiences with Whitehaven Coal Maules Creek executive and staff, including their disrespectful treatment of Gomeroi Elders and community and malicious tactics to marginalise the concerns of Elders and community.

Elders state that they don't understand how a mining company like Whitehaven, with a former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and National party member, Mr Mark Vaile, as one of their directors, can disregard and

disrespect Gomeroi cultural values, causing deep seated anguish, especially to Elders and the desecration of Gomeroi ancestors.

Elders express concerns that until recently the Gomeroi community has enjoyed a reasonably good relationship with Idemitsu Boggabri staff, however their increased partnership with Whitehaven Coal has adversely influenced their consultation approach, which has contributed to a deterioration in that relationship.

Uncle Dick Talbott said, "We have got to get the message out there. If this can happen to us as a people to our community and our sacred sites, then this can happen to your communities. We need to share what's happening to our burials, our sites and the exclusion of our people. We have been excluded and belittled by

Whitehaven because we have had the audacity to disagree with what they are doing and to seek protection of sacred sites. We have been insulted, called a minority to shut us up and shut us out of our own culture and heritage. This is just simply wrong and we will fight this with everything we have available to us. I will fight till my last breath to save my culture and heritage."

Michael Anderson, Native Title claimant and one of the elected Native Tittle Gomeroi spokespersons, recently wrote a public statement for the community and spoke out against the behaviour of Whitehaven and criticised those Aboriginal parties, who he described as, "betraying our trust by being coerced by the dollars from the mining company. From my position, our culture is not for sale." The Elders and community

believe that Whitehaven have taken advantage of the poverty levels in Gomeroi communities to achieve their own goals and to marginalise the concerns of Elders and community with the closest connections and understanding of the values of the area.

"These parliamentary petitions are important and we will be talking to the folk throughout NSW and taking our petitions with us." The purpose of these state and Commonwealth parliamentary petitions is to ask parliament to instruct federal environment minister Greg Hunt to protect their burial and sacred sites, and for the state parliament to instruct MP Brad Hazzard to include these sacred sites for protection under the Aboriginal cultural heritage conservation strategy which Whitehaven is obligated to develop.

NIMBIN'S
MAD HATTERY

YOUR ONE-STOP HAT & PARTY SHOP

- Unisex hats
- Top Hats
- Trilbys
- Bowlers
- Fascinators
- Hatinators

- Wigs
- Masks
- Boas
- Hosiery
- Corsets
- Costumes

See Jan "The Hat Lady" for all your special requirements

Shop 5, 46 Cullen Street, Nimbin 6689-1550

Nimbin Apothecary

Est. 1999

The Complete Herbal Dispensary

Providing over-the-counter advice combined with an extensive range of herbal extracts, dried herbs, berries and powders, homeopathics, supplements, oils, crystals and more

54 Cullen St Nimbin (02) 6689 1529 www.nimbinapothecary.com

Plumber & Gas Fitter

- Leaky Taps & Toilets
- Hot Water Systems
- Blocked Drains
- Gas Fitting
- New Installations
- Renovations
- Septic & Waste Water Systems
- Rainwater Harvesting & More!

10 years rural trade experience, honest & reliable too!
Servicing Nimbin & Surrounds

PH: 0468 459 151
OFFICE: 6689 7362

OCEAN & EARTH
PLUMBING & GAS

ABN: 87 326 031 091
NSW Lic No. 261903C

NIGHTCAP CARPENTRY

BUILDERS LIC NO 163582C ABN 22 411 200 620

TREVOR DEVERY
Homes - Verandahs - Sheds - Transportable Dwellings
MOBILE: 0422 105704

Fashionating!

54 Cullen Street Nimbin

The House Martins are back!

For the first time in 3 months, Technical Martin and Musical Martin are in the shop.

Come in and chat, play, or even buy.

New and used guitars,
Repairs, Lessons

6689-1264 stringworks@spin.net.au
www.facebook.com/stringworksnim

Celebrant – Trevor J. Moore

- Weddings
- Commitment Ceremonies
- Baby Naming Days
- Renewal of Vows
- Non-denominational Funerals

Phone: 0414-55-77-39
t.j.moore@hotmail.com



EARLY MORNING YOGA

New class starts Tuesday 11th February

6.00AM – 7.30AM

Meditation – Pranayama – Asana

Teacher – Rick, since 1986

Enquiries 6689 7595

NIMBIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dance Studio

Letters

Bentley protest action

The time has come for us to get out of our comfort zone as Metgasco are preparing to bring in the next drill rig to Bentley.

If you do not want to see the Northern Rivers turned into a gasfield and all our land become devalued, if you don't want our water table to be irreparably damaged, if you want your grandchildren to have a cleaner, healthier, brighter future, the time is Now.

If we are to stop this, it is going to take everybody to help, and everyone can do something from those on the frontline dealing with everything that entails, to writing letters, signing petitions, painting banners, making food donations of everything from camping gear to kitchen stuff, money offering, showers etc – even giving out hugs and making cuppas is vital.

We can only succeed if we stand together, for together we are strong. Donations can be made at Nimbin and Casino Environment Centres, to the Knitting Nannas or Northern Rivers Guardians. (Write 'Frontline CSG' so they know what it's for.)

My heart aches for what I know is coming. We need to stand together now as a community: original people, farmers, hippies, new settlers and townfolk; even a couple of staunch politicians thrown into the mix. Let's create a brighter future for all – come on, let's do it now.

Chantico Love
Nimbin

Pilliga Protest

Jacks Creek State Forest near Narrabri was closed by the NSW government in the middle of January on the flimsy pretence that the safety of the anti-CSG protectors who were camped there may be at risk from a bushfire.

Police and Emergency Services minister Gallacher blatantly misused his ministerial powers in this attempt to sideline concerned citizens, while simultaneously allowing CSG monster Santos to destroy the precious Pilliga unopposed. Both Premier O'Fracker and his minister Gallacher deserve condemnation for this latest low act in their government's ongoing betrayal of the majority of the people of NSW.

However, there is good news for protectors and bad news for the Santos/O'Fracker consortium. A brand new camp has been established on Narrabri Council-owned land; to get there from Narrabri take the Newell highway south towards Coonabarabran and after travelling 41kms you will see the camp on the corner of X Line Road.

Camp phone number is

About us

Editor in chief Bob Dooley

Assistant editor Sue Stock

Sub editor Andy Gough

Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley

Photographers Sue, Omega, Benny Zable, David Lowe

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

0455-945-245 or call Crystal on 0458-642-495. Please get out there as soon as you can to join the fight against CSG mining. Don't let the Pilliga be fracked – frack this treacherous NSW government instead!

Bruce McQueen
Mt Burrell

Acid sulphate soils

I, like many other earth lovers/carers/activists, write this letter which I hope gives readers a positive quantum leap in hope/boldness/consciousness; and succeeds in stimulating debate.

We are all horrified by the gas fracking practices that are occurring and the effects these practices have on our delicate continent and its waterways. In tandem with this violation is the further rise of rigidly conservative politicians and financial developers that seek to overdevelop small towns, dismiss concerns regarding delicate infra-structure and override democratic local Council decisions. Indeed, they dismiss the legitimate concerns of local communities. This phenomenon appears to be happening rapidly along the East Coast.

In Byron Bay there is a proposed development that will release a large area of Acid Sulphate soils that will guarantee total destruction of the Belongil Estuary, living systems and without doubt the long term health of our surrounding ocean. Due to the hubris of these politicians, rezoning (that seems to ensure elimination of Environmental Impact Studies), has resulted in an overwhelming sense of defeat in some people who believe this issue is rubber-stamped and will proceed. In other words, "we will all have to adapt to the dictates of progress"! Bugger the environment.

We are all interconnected to Earth. To allow such destruction is tantamount to saying we have rezoned cancer on the human body. Rezoning does not eliminate the danger of Acid Sulphate soils or human cancer! We have an environmental legal precedent in Byron Bay. The Club Med development was halted by the legal recognition of the destructive release of Acid Sulphate soils. Indeed, this development was initially

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 26th February

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

announced with a certain sense of fait accompli. The community proved otherwise; a legal precedent was legally ratified in favour of Earth Law.

Now we see the Universal development of Earth Law in the Rights of Mother Earth. (Bolivia) The Pachamama people let a River speak of its rights to exist. They won the case. Indeed, recently Dr David Suzuki urged all environmentalists to access this precedent in the growing environmental struggles. He even suggested that politicians be criminally indicted. In Canadian law, "wilful ignorance" has teeth. We will have to fundraise. We will have to challenge outdated Constitutions, outdated laws that privilege commercial interests over environmental imperatives.

The history of Law has evolved through legitimate challenges. This gives us hope, or am I just a dreamer? I am sure there are dreamer/activists out there. Let's talk.

Jo Faith
Byron Bay

Fluoride

The only two occasions I have ever ingested fluoride was in city drinking water, at uni in Brisbane and Toowoomba. I could not stomach it, so I took to drinking juices, soft drinks and beer.

These are the only occasions I felt the hard coating on my perfect teeth go soft. I also put on 15kg each time. I wonder how much the sugar drink companies lobby for fluoride?

I think governments want us unhealthy in mind and body as a form of social control. After all, controlling a nation of fit, healthy exuberant free thinkers can't be easy. Be a good little consumer, have your fluoride and your sugar and your pills, and be so buggered every afternoon that you just sit down and watch the box and be dictated to.

Andrew Humphreys
Bora Ridge

Towers and radiation

Debate around broadband towers raises many issues to consider.

We live in an increasing sea of high frequency electromagnetic fields, yet we don't have the understanding and common knowledge of

4G, megahertz or alpha waves as we do have of concepts like protein, calories and vitamins.

With food we have choice: a balanced diet or processed food. The proliferation of wireless technology is akin to fast food: being cheap, fast and convenient, but unfortunately without choice. We are all immersed in these pervasive fields which penetrate walls into our homes and also into ourselves.

All the fields emitted are compliant with safety standards which are based on levels that cause thermal effects, but they cannot be said to have no effect. Our brainwave states resonate into and affect our physical body, and vice versa: outer fields penetrate our bodies and stimulate effects in body and mind. Everything is interconnected.

Brainwaves include delta(0.1-3.9Hz), theta(4-7.9Hz), alpha(8-12.9Hz) and beta(13-100+Hz). The frequency of the earth is around 7.83Hz. We need balance, including lower frequency activity for overall health and well-being.

Spend a day in the fields of a shopping mall compared to a day in the natural frequency of nature. Most of us would note some difference. Higher frequency beta waves make us feel more stressed, tired, more disconnected from one-another and the environment, and mentally less clear. One day is harmless, like one meal of chips and soft-drink. However, the more exposure to ourselves and children, the more diligence required to produce alpha waves.

To consider that exposure to these high frequency stimuli could have no effect is like believing carbon emissions couldn't affect climate. It's inconvenient to face, but how can we not expect subtle internal change. Repeated low doses of anything can have profound effect. Anything that stimulates higher frequency beta states cannot be beneficial for us as individuals or collectively. Educational benefits of NBN are pointless if healthy brainwave states and the capacity for learning are compromised.

Brainwave patterns are more fundamental to our well-being than nutrition, as it is mind and thought patterns that lead and drive everything in this world, not just our physical health but also how we live and interact in the world. All issues we face have this one commonality. Affecting one's state of mind, in turn affects everything. Shielding bedrooms, lunch in the park and meditating will all need more consideration to ensure the physical health and mental clarity associated with healthy frequencies.

Ngawang Palter
Lismore

Tuning in to the cosmos

I'm writing to thank your correspondent, Juergen Saalmeuller (NGT Jan 14, Letters), for opening my mind to the fascinating world of musical pitch.

Following his exhortation to "critically read the advertisements", it took me no time at all to sift through the ads to find the one I was 'meant' to read, particularly as it contained the two codewords ('432' and 'chemtrails') mentioned in his article.

And so started my odyssey of discovery as I researched the history of musical pitch, bumping into Pythagorean scales, Verdi's "A" and the politics of "Concert Pitch" along the way. Over the past 500 years it's gone up and down between 415Hz (Baroque Pitch) and 453Hz (Old Philharmonic Pitch). Currently it's set at 440Hz (Standard US pitch).

I also read about the effects of sound on living entities; from increased production in greenhouse crops by playing music, to teenager dispersal frequencies as used in malls.

And of course, I read about the ability of music to create an emotional response in the listener; in fact it appears to be music's 'raison d'être'. At times, certain music has been banned for stirring the emotions of the masses too much.

So, getting back to the advertisement I was instructed to critically examine and setting scepticism aside for the moment, I see the situation this way. Some people believe that chemtrails are damaging their health and others believe that music using 432Hz as A will be beneficial to their health.

For those people who fall into both groups, the prognosis for better health looks pretty damn good, if only through a reduction in anxiety. And let's face it. Anything that confounds the Illuminati is good... M'kay?

As for me, I've learned far more than I ever thought I'd need to know about events I never knew transpired, and I'll be loosening the tension and trying to tune in to that sweet, natural vibration as much as I can.

As Protagoras once said to Socrates... "Being a skeptic is OK but you're always the last one to get on the bus to the future and you never get a window seat."

Bob Tissot
Nimbin

Ed's note: Juergen Saalmeuller's letter, published in the January edition, had to be edited for length, which may have made the general gist misleading. The unedited version can be found at: <http://juergenblog.blogspot.com.au>

Conspiracy Theories

The popularity of conspiracy theories is curious. The modern appetite for insidious, secretive plots appears endless and, likewise, there is no shortage of speculative answers to explain them. Everything from the lost city of Atlantis to airborne chemical trails has its attendant theorists who are religious in their conviction.

The truth is always 'out there', concealed from all but a select few!

Yet, the most fascinating story of all is the human psyche. The psyche appears capable of believing absolutely anything and indeed, some researchers suggest we are each hardwired for belief. After eons of storytelling around the fireside, our yearning for the mysterious has somehow imprinted itself upon our genetic make-up.

Despite the advent of scientific methodology, our desire for a good story and a shadowy, unseen monster have lost none of their intrigue. For many, this innate quality has combined with a healthy contempt for the system, to create a hyper suspicious counter-culture.

All conspiracy theories share things in common. There is often a subversive plan to conceal what's really going on – governments and Jewish bankers being the most common culprits! The hard evidence that would confirm these hidden affairs has been destroyed, or is under lock and key for fear of its impact upon public confidence.

Knowing all of this provides the faithful with a sense of empowerment. 'Knowing' is itself a form of solace that distinguishes the theorist from the rest of the herd. Non-believers are stupid, or sleepwalking!

Believing is important, but sometimes our desire for certainty plays havoc with our other senses. Sometimes our need for emotional security and self-empowerment are strong enough to obscure critical thinking.

The 'truth' conspires with our heart, leaving the mind to process what has already been decided!

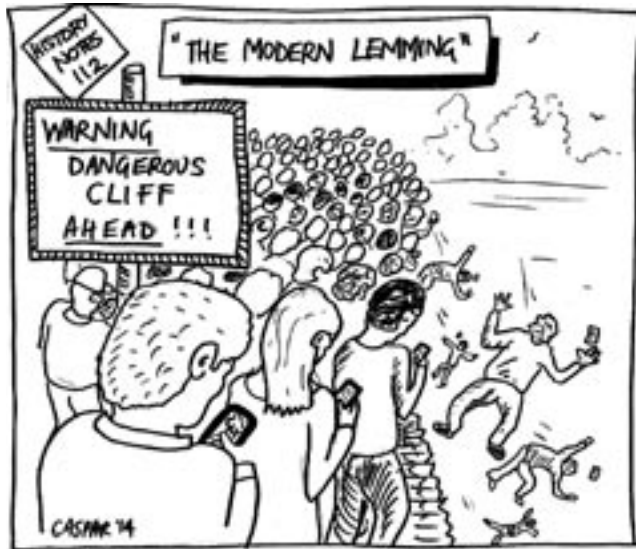
R J Poole
Lismore

Blame democracy

RJ Poole says liberty is achieved through democracy (NGT Letters, Jan 14). And yet, the opposite is true. Democracy is the opposite of freedom; it tends to less liberty not more of it.

Democracy is a collectivist system and is inherently broken, just like socialism.

Every month this newspaper features some lament of the failure and ineptitude of politicians. But don't blame them – blame the democratic process, because it breeds politicians who overspend and



promise more than they can deliver. That's how politicians get re-elected, and the democratic process ensures they rarely remain in power long enough to be answerable to any mistakes.

No democratic government has ever been able to control its spending. Every modern democratic nation has now borrowed, spent and taxed so extensively that they sit on the brink of bankruptcy, saved (for now), not by fiscal prudence or the temperance of political leaders, but incredibly, by more borrowing and spending. On the rarest of occasions when circumstances have forced governments into token reductions of expenditures, the electorates have risen up in protest at what they believe is an attack on their entitlements. Any real effort at reining in spending is hence made impossible. That's democracy.

Democratic societies suffer from an excess of bureaucracy and regulatory zeal. In a democracy, the intrusion of the State reaches into every pore and fibre of your life. And while the results of government actions are highly visible and tangible – the highways, the public spaces, the warships and the battalions of public servants are there for all to see – the things that don't get done remain invisible. That's democracy.

Democratic governments do a lousy job of carrying out what many people believe are their most important functions. As Poole laments, we all suspect democratic government never fully delivers on any of its promises. Crime and vandalism are rampant. The police and justice systems are unreliable, incompetent and often corrupt. To disguise the ineffectiveness, harmless behaviour is instead criminalised with many people penalised for perfectly innocuous behaviour, simply because their habits and behaviours are considered offensive...by the majority. That's democracy.

Democracy is unjust. It leads to bureaucracy and stagnation, it undermines freedom, independence and enterprise and inevitably leads

to antagonism, meddling, lethargy and overspending. And none of this occurs because politicians don't do their job, or because the wrong political party is in charge – it happens because that's how the system works. That's democracy.

The lunacy, absurdity and ineffectiveness of coming together to decide on everything that concerns us should by now be apparent to all of us. The fact that we decide on everything democratically – that virtually all economic and social issues are decided by or through the State – is the underlying reason why so much is wrong in society.

Maddening bureaucracy, government meddling, corporatism, crony-capitalism, corruption, court injustices, unemployment, inflation, these are not due to a lack of democracy. No, these things go together with democracy like empty stores and bread lines went with communism.

Scott Barlow,
Uki

Viva socialism

Australia is about to enter the world's market with revived competitiveness, and new industries will prosper.

Lower company tax, no carbon tax and workplace reform will create investment in new competitive industries. Forget Holden, Toyota, Qantas et al, their ex-workers will find new jobs!

Such are the delusional ravings of our government, and Labor would be much the same.

What's really on the agenda is a reduction of our living standards, so our workers can compete with those from Third World countries: depriving us to provide profits for the wealthy.

France and Germany are the "successes" of Europe because their workers are the lowest paid, most de-unionised, casualised, and job-insecure. And we should do the same?

Share profits are dwindling, and investors are expecting even better returns from rental properties. House prices are being driven even further out of the reach of first-home buyers, as the clamour for paying properties

increase the housing shortage, homelessness, property values, and hence the rent expected, as Australians are already struggling.

No surprise that investment advisors are warning that rising unemployment will hinder extortionate rent extraction.

Government attempts to de-unionise, casualise, and strip wages and conditions of workers will only further dampen consumer demand in an already failing economy, while our workers will still never be able to compete with sweatshop workers overseas. Heaven help us if they could!

Privatisation of public services for profit, wage reduction, unaffordable rents and austerity will all take their toll, and all benefit the wealthy. Capitalism will reign; capitalism will triumph, and the rest will suffer: that's capitalism.

It's not the provision of prosperity for all, as the capitalists seem to have our government believe. It's the extraction of wealth for a few, to the detriment of the masses.

Democratic socialism shares the wealth, to the detriment of the obscenely wealthy. Viva socialism!

Doug Burt,
Kyogle

Balderstone reflects on HEMP preference deals

Jiggen's article 'HEMP Party politics' (NGT January 14, p.12) quotes me twice, and I reckon he is confused on both counts. He is either remembering conversations so that they suit his cause or is just plain mixed up.

I can hardly be bothered responding, knowing that arguing with a fool means two of us arguing, but in fairness to those following this ongoing tussle, here goes, this is the truth as I see it.

Askey really brought the HEMP Party into existence with years of laborious paperwork to keep the AEC happy. Moylan then turns up and gets it happening online, increasing membership and finances. They are both passionate about cannabis law reform and both have experience in politics and certainly Askey has a good grip on the very tricky card game called preference allocation. A major NSW politician told me he is one of a very few who knows how to play the preference game and HEMP is very lucky to have him. Perhaps the Greens are a trifle jealous?

Askey and Moylan easily did the majority of the work to get us in the election, with a few others helping a bit, but them full time. They know a lot more about politics than me, and I must admit I am into rewarding those who do the work, those who walk the walk. There are a lot of

talkers out there.

Askey also lobbied the other minor political parties to develop hemp and cannabis policies. He then clearly tried to win with his preference strategy, and very nearly did in Qld, which was the plan. I messed it up!

When the preference allocation bitching started, I lost sleep over it, out of my depth in political nastiness I had rarely seen. The Greens, I thought, were one-eyed, not listening, smug and self-righteous in the main. I argued with Askey aplenty, but he always had the answers. And he is right, the Greens have put drugs and cannabis law reform on the back burner, scared of losing votes, they tell me. They don't compromise on other social justice issues, how come on drugs?

Ironically, if I had trusted Askey completely and not got sucked in by the local fury at HEMP, encouraged significantly by this newspaper's front page and letters hysteria about the Shooters and Fishers winning the seat the Greens wanted, which they in fact got nowhere near. If I had not interfered and told Askey he must put them below the Greens, we would have won in Queensland and Moylan would be the Senator instead of a Liberal who won the sixth senate spot in that State.

In my ignorance, I undermined his plan and credibility. He lost heart for the complicated card game and took his eye off the ball. Clive Palmer somehow wangled Katter's preferences away from us and the rest is history. That's all it took, one preference deal. Poor Askey is still kicking himself! So the *GoodTimes* in a funny way contributed significantly to Abbot having an extra vote in the Upper House after July. Weird how the best intentions can be footsteps to hell, if you don't know what you are doing.

The Greens who really want to help Cannabis law reform, need to lobby their Party to change their appalling drug policies. (eg: "The Australian Greens do not support the legalisation of currently illegal drugs.") Drug use should have nothing to do with criminality, it's truly a health issue. And as much as I love Aiden Ricketts' work, he's wrong on one count at least, small parties can win a seat in the current system, as proved in the last election. And in the WA Senate rerun, we'll be trying to win again, and preferences will flow to parties who have the best cannabis policies, which puts the Greens a long way down the list.

Michael Balderstone,
President HEMP Party,
Nimbin