

New benchmarks in sustainability on show



Solar powered tricycle



Mary Gardner



Punters at the Radicle Stage



Tesla electric car

by Omega Breakspear

The Renew Festival's Seed Day at the Mullumbimby Showgrounds on 18th June was a real energy blast, literally! This solar powered, renewable energy event made a national record for sustainability and innovation.

There was also a big emphasis on biodiversity conservation, food systems and resource recovery. With stalls ranging from bush foods to very flash, non-flush eco-toilets, it was a sustainability paradise.

The festival was launched on the Radicle Stage with Belle Arnold and the Bunyarra Dancers kicking off a day featuring a mix of forums and excellent entertainment. I loved the format of alternating informative talks and light-hearted entertainment on this stage. Highlights for me included Mary Gardner's Tangle of Life, Out of Range and Eric the Dog.

The Sunflower from Southern Cross Uni powered the Radical Stage audio visual equipment from 8am to 7pm. And this mobile solar arrays battery bank was still 85% charged at the end of the day.

The electric cars were a big hit with both kids

and adults at the festival. With two Teslas, a Mitsubishi i-MiEV, Nissan Leaf and BMW i3, the display was very impressive. As was the latest in solar battery technology, featuring Tesla Powerwall, Enphase, LG Chem and Aquion, all supported by experts chatting to interested punters and who gave talks at the Renewable Energy Pod.

Forewarned on the Renew Fest FB site, I brought my own cup and plate as part of the zero waste policy. Fortunately, there was the Water Lily Wash Pod with extra crockery for those who hadn't. With only 240 litres of recyclable waste being produced and no landfill, Renew Fest achieved a new benchmark in sustainability.

And there was plenty of fun for all the young with the Youth Connective and a kids' craft area. As the festival director Ella Goninan said, "This day being blessed by the sun was to lead and guide us into a sustainable future in remembrance and respect of the next seven generations to come."

With over 2,000 people showing up for this inaugural event, the organisers were overwhelmed by the community support, and will be following up with a three-day festival. I can hardly wait.



Chris Downie at the revamped Nimbin Recycling Centre

Nimbin's recycling rebirth

by Sophia Hoeben

Locals visiting the Recycling Centre in Nimbin of late would have noticed some obvious improvements.

It's much easier now to drive up the ramps and deposit articles in the bins at waist level. The whole place looks cleaner and tidier and even the atmosphere is brighter as Chris, the council worker, greets you with a ready smile and an offer to help unload.

Chris Downie came from Victoria 11

years ago and has worked for Lismore City Council for the last five years. Since coming to Nimbin, he has enjoyed talking to the locals who he says present him with interesting and lively conversations.

Subject to council approval, Chris has dreams of opening up a tip shop in the brand new building recently erected on the site. He also wants to plant trees and gardens around the entire site and would like to see this as a community project. Anyone interested in a planting day at the recycling centre should contact him directly.

The gladiatorial art of poetry

by Teresa Biscoe

The time has come once again for poets far and wide to gird their loins and prepare for the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup. This is the marathon event for poetry contenders. Eight minutes of poetry performance gives a dynamic forum for poets to show their best poetic form.

Poets travel to the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, on the first weekend in August, from as far as South Australia, Melbourne and Sydney to try their luck against a strong field of local poets competing for a prize pool totalling \$5000. This weekend is a feast for the lover of words, a chance to see some of the depth of talent that represents poetry in Australia performing at the highest level.

This fabulous event is sponsored entirely through local community sponsorship and the fundraising efforts of organizer Gail Clarke and her team of poetry supporters. "This is a moment for all poets to shine," says organiser Gail Clark. "It is wonderful to see how events like this encourage and develop the



Last year's winner Josh Holms (pictured centre with finalists), who will be a judge at this year's event.

skills of new poets and bring them to new audiences to appreciate." The event is run over the two days with heats on the Saturday and semi finals and the grand final on the Sunday.

Application forms are available by contacting: www.NimbinPoetry.com Entry closes on Tuesday 2nd August.

The event will be staged at the Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August. Entry to the heats and semi finals is with a gold coin donation, and the grand final tickets are very reasonable being available for \$15 with a concession (\$10) for concession card holders. Tickets available at the event.

Protectors lock on to NSW Parliament

by Scott Sledge, president
Northern Rivers Guardians

More than 200 people came from all over NSW, including the Northern Rivers, Gloucester and Pilliga regions to tell the NSW government they will not accept the recently-proclaimed laws aimed at protestors. About 100 protectors locked on to the fence and gates. No one was arrested and the 23rd June demonstration ended peacefully.

Scott Sledge, President of the Northern Rivers Guardians, delivered to the office of the Police Minister and Deputy Premier, Troy Grant, a petition with more than 1000 signatures from the Northern Rivers asking for the news laws not to be implemented. At least on this day they were not. Police were smiling and relaxed for the most part.

The issue of civil liberties has emerged as a campaign issue in the Page electorate, with candidates for the Greens, ALP and Coalition all saying they will support Federal legislation to ensure that Australians have the basic rights that most of us take for granted.

In reality we have no such rights, apart from a tradition that goes back to the Magna Carta agreement with King John of England. Australia achieved its highest level of political liberty during the 1970's and 80's. Following the euphoria experienced during the 1990's around the end of the Cold War (and the threat of nuclear annihilation) unbridled capitalism led to global control of economic and political structures by multinational corporations. Unelected corporate figures developed an ever-increasing



Ian and Vicki Gaillard, Judi Emmett, and Scott Sledge join Kokoda Track veteran Bill Ryan (94) locking on at Parliament House in Sydney to protest against the NSW government's new laws which restrict the right of citizens to protest. Photo: Daniele Voinot

capacity to not only influence elected governments, but to control them.

In this way, mining companies led by SANTOS were able to demand action from the NSW government to curtail action by citizens who try to protect the environment for the welfare of their own and future generations.

In April this year lobbying by mining companies got the NSW government to pass new laws which may result in fines of \$5500 for trespass on mining sites – now expanded to include petroleum exploration zones – while reducing fines for illegal drilling to \$5000. Thus protectors are liable to larger fines than environmental vandals.

While mining companies pull the strings of political puppets, ordinary people all over the world struggle against tyranny. We fight with words and logic – and

with love – because we can't match the firepower, the might of modern militarised states. The capitalist economy fights back with legal restrictions, enforced by police with pain compliance techniques and privatised prisons.

It's an unequal battle, but if citizens don't fight, the result is fascism – state control for the benefit of a privileged elite at the expense of the many.

Australia does not have any rights guaranteed by our Constitution. Any government can change the law at any time to criminalise any behaviour. In a single day, NSW parliament legislated to support environmental vandalism and to outlaw interference by the people who really own the resources. The new laws give NSW Police power to seize anything they think could be used to interfere with mining. (In

Western Australia similar laws actually define such items as "any thing"! The state now can choose to prosecute trespass not as a misdemeanour but as a major offence punishable by seven years in jail.

Yes, the laws will be challenged in Court, but our system only requires new legislation to overcome any Court ruling victory in favour of the environment.

Australians have no Bill of Rights and we desperately need one to protect civil liberties we all think we have – or should have. The only thing standing between tyranny and a sustainable future is us, the power of the people. We must stand against evil and refuse to co-operate with bad laws and dangerous practices. That is what we did at the Bentley blockade and we did it again in Sydney. Only by demanding a liveable future will we have one.

Rainbow resurrection plans progressing

The long-awaited plans for the new Rainbow Café are finally ready for our development application to Lismore City Council.

The plans are for a single-storey café fronting the main street with a small shop adjacent, much like the previous building. However, the café will also include a much larger rear veranda facing onto the garden as well as inside toilets and improved natural lighting and ventilation.

A small residential unit at the rear

of the block, on the western side of the garden, will allow for better security on the site and also for sufficient rental income to cover the mortgage that the Co-ordination Co-op has been obliged to take out to cover the increased costs of rebuilding to current standards.

Plans are also underway to hold a community consultation at the Nimbin Town Hall on Friday 15th July from 3.30pm 'til 5.30pm. The draft plans will be available at this meeting for viewing and discussion by all

interested community members. Council staff and our architects will be in attendance also.

Please do come along to this meeting and help us get the Rainbow rising again – it's high time to fill the hole in the centre of our village with massive creative and loving energy. We hope to build a Rainbow that will continue the old and new age traditions of our town, leading us into the future with a strong and united positive community spirit.



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

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



Professional & Considerate

Matthew Griffin
0400 337758
Complimentary Quotes

CLIMBING | FELLING | CHIPPING



OPEN 7 DAYS
TIL 8.30PM

6689-1199

1/45 CULLEN STREET, NIMBIN



I PAINT HOUSES

NIMBIN & SURROUNDS

RING BEN'S PAINTING:
0409 352 102

VEGAN FUNKY PIES

available at
Nimbin Emporium
UKI General Store
Bellingen IGA

Café owner/manager?
Getting asked for vegan food?
We have the answer

A delicious range of vegan food
for cafes/restaurants/grocery stores
delivered direct to your door
chilled/frozen: \$500+ is freight free
ecofunkydistributors.com.au

vegan pies - frozen ready to heat
coconut ice-cream - for smoothies
vegan melting cheese - for pizzas
visit our website or email directly to
sales@ecofunkydistributors.com.au

Secondhand Furniture & Vintage Wares

We buy & sell quality secondhand items of all kinds including:

- Collectables - Kitchenware - Vintage Linen -
- Garden Furniture - Tables - Chairs - Bookshelves -
- Desks - Tools - Glassware - Vases -
- Dressing Tables - Drawers - Mirrors - Toys -
- and much, much more!

Open Wed & Fri 10am - 4pm
& Saturdays 9am - 1pm



Ph: 0407 016 017
41 Summerland Way, Kyogle (next door to Laundromat)



PLEASANTVILLE
FRI 8th JULY
7.30pm

12.30pm TUES 12th JULY
INSIDE OUT
PG

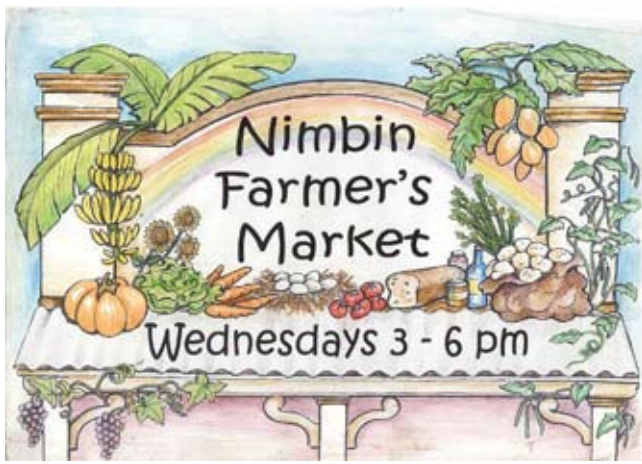
EVENING FILMS:
PHOENIX
RISING CAFE
OPEN
FROM 5.30PM

KIDS' FILMS:
FREE SERVE
POPCORN

7.30pm
LIMITLESS
FRI 22nd JULY

THE LOBSTER
7.30pm
FRI 12th AUG

\$10* entry - TIX & INFO - www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events - (02) 6689 0095 / 0418 824 598



Channon Craft Market Inc.
The Channon Craft Market Inc.

NextMarket 10th July
8.30am – 4pm

Band of the Day:
Manoa

Busker: Keith Hartley

Charity of the Day:
Dunoon RFS

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

Enquiries: 6688-6433

Blue Knob Farmer's Market

Fresh local produce for a sustainable future

- Self-sufficiency workshops
- Community Grain Mill
- Local & visiting musicians

Corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Roads
Only 8km North of Nimbin

Saturday 8:30am - 12pm
Blue Knob Hall

Enquiries contact Ian
0433-551-436 or email:
ian.slape@gmail.com

NIMBIN ORGANIC FOOD CO-OP

Fresh Certified Organic & Local Spray Free Produce

Organic Groceries, Treats & Speciality Foods

Member & Volunteer Discounts
Great Value in Organics

Grey Gum Lodge
2 High Street Nimbin

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

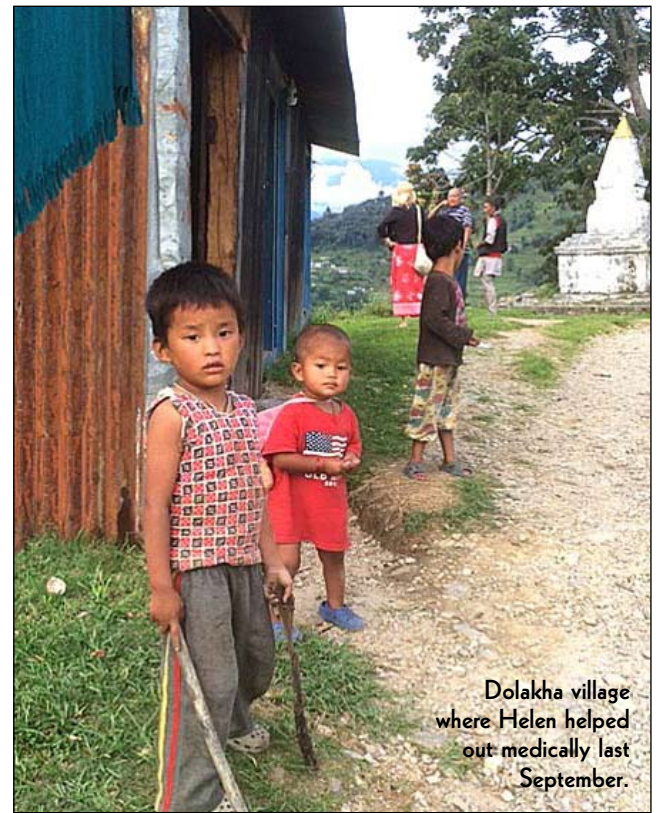
TERETRE

Four cosy one-bedroom timber cabins nestled on 33 acres of natural bushland with abundant wildlife, within easy walking distance of restaurants and shops.

Overnight or weekly - wheelchair access

TERETRE Retreat – NIMBIN

5 High Street, Nimbin NSW 2480 AUSTRALIA
Ph: (02) 66 891 908 - Mob: 0427 891 626
Email: info@teretre.com.au - Web Site www.teretre.com.au



Dolakha village where Helen helped out medically last September.

Don't forget Nepal still needs support

by Helen Simpson

Fourteen people are interested in coming over to the village of Baruwa, Central Nepal, epicentre of the 2015 earthquake, in September to initiate some rebuilding with funds raised by our community and beyond. This is very exciting, as ages range from 14-85 years, a wonderful experience for young people especially. Hardly any rebuilding of permanent houses in this village has occurred one year on, nearly the whole village was destroyed and many people died.

Crowdfunding has been launched, and quite a bit of fundraising has been organised in the next couple of months including a 'Nepali Thali' food night, photographs by Yvan Calvignac and a

music evening on 2nd September at Tuntale Falls, tickets \$20. We plan to do one in Nimbin itself and also look out for raffles.

I know there is a lot happening in the world and people feel they are always giving out money, however this is an opportunity to help a lot of people at once and to know that your money will go to where you want it to go and not be taken up in administration etc. Reiterating funds only go into house materials, not volunteers or fares.

At this stage there is still only enough for three houses using Government modules, but enough for volunteers to go on with. \$4,000 each house using local recycled materials - stone and wood plus cement (sand and gravel) which is the main cost. We

are also taking designs for earthquake resistant houses for the village to trial at some stage... these however are more costly because of the steel factor, so possibly not within our budget this trip.

The Nepal Relief Fund is auspiced by Nimbin Health and Welfare Association (Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services) and you can donate at the Nepal Relief Fund at Summerland Credit Union BSB 728728; Account No. 22305642.

For more info or if you would like to assist in fundraising or volunteering contact me:

Helen Simpson 6689-1417 or email: helensim7@gmail.com There is a Facebook page called Don't Forget Nepal with links to crowdfunding.

Goanna hosts Nepal exhibition

by Yvan Calvignac

As part of the fundraiser to help rebuild the village of Baruwa, photographs and paintings are being exhibited in Goanna Bakery and Cafe, 171 Keen St in Lismore. A book with more pictures is also displayed in the corner with the newspapers. All of the profit made by any sales will go to Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world moneywise, but one of the wealthiest in other ways. So treat yourself and make a difference for many people for whom a few dollars are worth a lot.

I live in Nimbin, but I travelled quite a bit before I got here. All along my journey, I took many photographs of unforgettable encounters and all sorts of amazing things. I left France in 2010 in search of different cultures and lifestyles. I had previously worked in an office for two years, feeling an urge to travel and meet new people brought me to a radical change. After a few months in China, I crossed Tibet and arrived in Nepal where I lived in various places.

As I really wanted to get



off the beaten track and immerse myself in the local life, I volunteered in several schools and WWOOFed in a few farms. In this gorgeous country, I was deeply moved by all these wonderful people. Very welcoming, sincere, true to themselves, happy and real, they live a simple and often harsh life, but in the end a very healthy life. I had a fantastic time amongst them, especially with the children and their contagious joyful mood.

The pictures exhibited and the others that you will find in the book were taken a few



years before the earthquake shook Nepal. I tried to catch the beauty, the love and magic that surrounded me. It is all still there and I deeply recommend you go and help these people. Volunteering directly with the locals is definitely a life-changing

experience. You will receive much more that you will ever be able to give back, and this is real magic. If now is not the right time for you to go, you can still participate in the fundraiser. Remember, every single dollar makes a huge difference.

Honoured to be your local mp



I would like to thank you, the residents of Richmond, for re-electing me as your local MP.

I'm honoured and humbled that you've placed your trust in me again.

To ensure we get our fair share from Canberra, I'm committed to continuing to work tirelessly on your behalf.

My door is always open to everyone throughout the electorate, no matter your politics.

I'll always be working hard for you and I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Justine Elliot

Justine Elliot
Federal Member for Richmond

Justine Elliot MP - Federal Member for Richmond

Phone: 07 5523 4371

Email: justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au

Office: 107 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South



facebook.com/JustineElliotMP



Authorised by J Elliot 107 Minjungbal Drive Tweed Heads South



by Cr Jenny Dowell
Lismore City Council

June meeting

As this term of Council draws to a close in September, Council's meetings are becoming noticeably more political. Observers in the gallery would be able to discern those Councillors who are intending to stand for election and those who might be retiring.

Despite the displays, Councillors generally continue to make decisions with careful attention to good governance and consideration of the needs of both the community now and in the future. If anyone is thinking they might stand for election on September 10, I strongly advise you to attend Council meetings and briefings on Tuesday evenings at 6pm.

Budget meeting

Council also adopted our Budget and Rates, Fees and Charges for the coming year. The Net operating result for the year is a surplus of \$13,385,600. If we take out grants and other contributions, the net operating result is \$2,913,300 with a cash position of \$350,000. These are considered reasonable results as Council progresses towards our goal of financial sustainability.

Nimbin water

On 8 March 2016, Council resolved to place on public exhibition a draft policy outlining which rural

From the mayor's desk

properties in the vicinity of Nimbin would be able to connect to the Nimbin water supply, following a planned upgrade of this water supply.

The draft policy was exhibited from 30 March to 30 April 2016, with two submissions being received. One was to notify council of a property that is connected to the water supply and the other included questions that staff answered. These submissions have resulted in a minor change being made to a map included within the draft policy.

Alcohol free zones

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 Council may resolve to adopt a proposal to establish alcohol-free zones for public places that are public roads, footpaths or public car parks for up to four years. Council has previously resolved to establish alcohol-free zones within business district areas of Lismore and Nimbin Village. The four-year operational period of these zones expires July 2016. The legislative framework and associated Ministerial Guidelines requires a resolution of Council for the establishment, operation, suspension and cancellation of alcohol-free zones.

At our June Council meeting, council resolved to re-establish existing alcohol-free zones for a further four-year period following completion of the consultation requirements of the Local Government Act and associated Ministerial Guidelines. The council included the ability to exempt certain minor activities (such as alfresco dining and wine tasting) within the nominated alcohol-free zones, subject to compliance with any relevant approval processes and concurrence from NSW Police.

The planned alcohol free zones

will be notified to the Police Local Area Commander. Liquor licensees and secretaries of registered clubs on, adjoining or adjacent to, the proposed zone and Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council for comment.

Floating solar

In another exciting step towards our goal of being self-reliant on renewable energy, Council resolved to award the tender for the construction of a floating solar photovoltaic system at the East Lismore sewage treatment plant and another tender for solar PV systems on five Council buildings.

MardiGrass

Police, Council officers, MardiGrass organisers and a NAG representative met in June for a debrief on May's MardiGrass.

Overall everyone was happy with the running of the event apart from the unapproved music at the old skate park site in Peace Park. The music or hip hop was regarded by many in the community as too loud and offensive and led to numerous complaints until Police shut it down.

Other issues raised included safety of pedestrians on Cecil Street and camping in the Western carpark, although the latter issue is not confined to MardiGrass.

Eau Claire

I send this month's contribution to the *GoodTimes* from Minneapolis just before I leave to fly home. The week I've spent in USA celebrating the opening of The Lismore Hotel in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and getting to know the locals. The hotel is named after us because our two cities are Sister Cities with strong ties in student exchange through Southern Cross and Eau Clair universities.

While I was there I enjoyed reading the wallpaper printed from copy from old *Northern Star* newspapers, checking out the Wilson and Richmond function rooms, a photo of the Ballina Road bridge and Lismore-named food items in the restaurant and EC-DC cafe.

I also spent time with the young owners of the hotel and visited their primary business JAMF software, toured University of Wisconsin EC campus, met with City Council and Visit Eau Claire directors, visited a cheese making farm, had a cruise on Wissota lake and met with City President Kerrie Kincaid and other elected women over dinner. It was a wonderful experience.

If you are ever travelling to the Mid West states, I'd recommend making your way to Eau Claire and spending a night. I'm sure you'll feel at home and would be welcomed very warmly. You might even like to stay in the Dowell suite on the 8th floor.

Citizenship

On June 1, I was delighted to confer Australian citizenship on 26 people who were born in 16 different countries. From Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Vietnam and United Kingdom, our new citizens remind us of the diversity of our community.

World Environment Day

Each year around World Environment Day (WED), Lismore Council welcomes students from local schools to participate in various activities that focus on care for our earth, air, water, plants and animals. This year's WED was held on June 2 at our Wyrallah Road resource recovery facility and we

welcomed students from Trinity College, Lismore and schools from Ballina, Richmond Valley and Byron council areas. The expansion into neighbouring areas for WED is designed to engage children from communities where much of their waste comes to Lismore.

Increasingly our waste facility is welcoming touring school groups that want to see the innovative things Lismore is doing in waste reduction and environmental care. At the WED, students participate in activities run by Council, volunteers from the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens, Rous Water, Friends of the Koala and other environmental organisations.

Federal election outcomes

By the time this edition of *GoodTimes* hits the streets we will know the name of our Page Member of Parliament. I'm pleased that Nimbin and all of the villages and rural areas north of our city that are within the Lismore Local Government Area are now in the same electorate. Whoever is the Page MP for the next three years must always give attention to Nimbin and its particular interests.

Lantern Parade

Although I missed this year's Lantern Parade and the inaugural Piazza in the Park, I have seen the media and Facebook photos, video clips and reports on how wonderful they were despite the cold weather. Congratulations to all the volunteers that made both events a reality.

Nimbin Recycle Centre

Thanks for all your great feedback on the new way the Nimbin Recycle Centre is operating. The improvements and Chris' friendly manner are clearly impressing many residents. Chris and council appreciate your support.

A sustainable future looks bright at Lismore Council

Winter seems to be finally upon us with a vengeance.

It seems the state government's biodiversity legislation is doomed. There is an unholy alliance of farmers and environmentalists opposing the bill for very different reasons. The NSW Farmers Federation opposes it because it doesn't give farmers sufficient freedom to do as they like on their properties and the environmentalists maintain that it offers little protection from land clearing and consequent destruction of our valuable fauna. Both sides however are in agreement that the proposed legislation is incomplete, overly bureaucratic and unworkable.

Lismore City Council will be going to the polls on September 10th along with the other "unamalgamated" Councils in NSW. I've decided not to contest the next election, but never fear,



Simon Says
Cr Simon Clough,
Lismore City Council

there are some excellent candidates standing for the Our Sustainable Future Party, which I have represented for the last eight years.

Our lead candidate is **Elly Bird**. Elly will be well known to many of you for her key role as a co-ordinator of Gasfield Free Northern Rivers. Elly was also a vital part in the whole



Gasfield Free campaign, especially at Glenugie and Bentley. Elly was the architect and a significant organiser for Gasfield Free's two huge Lismore rallies. In more recent times, Elly has been using her powerful organising and administrative skills as the national admin person for Lock the Gate.

Guy Stewart is number two on our ticket. He is from Nimbin and he's passionately dedicated to renewable energy and chairs the board at Rainbow Power Company where he works full time



designing stand alone power systems and support. He is also involved in a large number of local community sustainability projects.

Apart from the obvious skills and commitment of these two great candidates, I'm very excited by the fact that they are both under 40 and it feels like a real generational change.

I have really enjoyed my two terms on Council, and feel that I have been able to achieve a lot of what I set out to do including:

- A motion to initiate Comprehensive Koala Plan

- of Management;
- A motion to initiate Biodiversity Management Strategy;
- Notice of motion to introduce energy efficient street lighting in Lismore saving 1,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year \$200,000;
- Recommending Federal funding for Nimbin skatepark;
- Keen support for the new art gallery;
- A review of Infrastructure Services including roads and road maintenance;
- Challenging TransGrid's \$280m transmission line which was eventually dropped;
- Revamping the Tourist Caravan Park;
- Introducing the extended outdoor smoking policy;
- No to car registration hike for rural areas;
- Leading Councils fight against CSG and unconventional gas mining;
- Moving to protect Jarjum

- Preschool funding;
- Support for affordable housing and the new land release areas;
- Supporting Council's goal to be dependent on renewable energy by 2023;
- The successful motion to divest from banks etc. investing in fossil fuels;
- Moving to keep Casino-Murwillumbah rail link in public ownership; and
- Supporting Rural Landholder Initiative.

I also served on a number of Council panels and committees.

It seems likely that there will be six councillors retiring at this election including our esteemed mayor Jenny Dowell. So please ensure that you are enrolled to vote so that you can support new blood on Council from Our Sustainable Future.

Please contact me regarding any Council issues at 0428-886-217 or email: simonclough@internode.on.net Wishing you a cosy winter.

Incumbent returned in Page

I have been returned as the Member for Page. I thank you for your support. I will continue to always put the interests of our community front and centre in Canberra.

I am looking forward to getting on with the job and rolling out all of my election commitments.

Here is the list of commitments I made during the election campaign:

- \$25 million North Coast Jobs and Investment package;
- Almost \$6 million to tackle Ice use on the North Coast;
- \$1.4 million to redevelop Oakes Oval;
- \$250,000 for Southern Cross LADS safe driving training track;
- Our local Primary Health Network named as one of the lead sites for roll-out of \$192 million suicide



Kevin Hogan MP
Member for Page

- prevention programme;
- \$500,000 for a new Wollongbar Multi-Sports Complex;
- An additional \$2 million to fix local roads, including Conway Street;
- An additional \$2 million to replace ageing wooden bridges;
- \$1 million to build an amphitheatre in Casino;
- \$1 million for Casino Beef

- Week Festival;
- \$250,000 for upgrade of Kyogle pool;
- \$1 million to move the Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club;
- \$1.8 million for Maclean Riverside Precinct;
- \$110,000 for Woodburn pontoons;
- \$40,000 for irrigation at Woodburn/Evans Head Golf Club;
- \$100,000 for community groups to install solar panels;
- \$220,000 for CCTV in Grafton and South Grafton;
- \$30,000 to upgrade the Rushforth Soccer Complex in Grafton;
- \$10,000 to upgrade the Coutts Crossing Cougars Football Club; and
- Continued NBN roll-out three years before the rest of the country.

Northern Rivers shows support for Greens

Green Scene

Dawn Walker
Greens candidate for Richmond

This election, the Greens campaign in Richmond has been bigger than ever before, with a 5.6% swing to the party.

Our team knocked on 4,000 doors and made 25,000 phone calls to voters, made possible by hundreds of people giving thousands of volunteer hours, because they care about the Northern Rivers.

I see these thousands of conversations as the most extraordinary aspect of this campaign. The community offered us the greatest gift; they took our calls, considered our questions, and shared their struggles, dreams and hopes for the Northern Rivers.

While we have the strength in numbers, it is difficult to out-compete millions of dollars in campaign donations that the old parties receive.

The Greens do not accept corporate donations from the fossil fuel, or any other industry. With the average donation to the Richmond campaign being \$92, our campaign has been people powered, not fossil



fuelled. We're not beholden to big donors, we act in the community's interests.

We have two Greens mayors, NSW's first lower House MP in Tamara Smith and an Upper House member in Jan Barham. With support for the Greens continuing to grow, a Federal member is a natural progression.

We will turn the Northern Rivers Green.

Kudra Falla-Ricketts
Greens candidate for Page

The campaign is over and counting continues slowly, just to make sure there's a great anticlimax. Now I'm free to go back to doing what I was doing before, which is lots of art, activism, time in nature and getting to see my friends and family for the first time in ages. But of course I must reflect on the crowded, all consuming election campaign that I've just been dropped out of.

Each of the candidates that ran this election had different values and policies, however through the dozens of meet the candidate forums, joint interviews and the countless hours spent on polling booths, I got to know them a little better and I assure you that whoever has won the seat of Page by the end of this election has the community in their heart and will do the

best job they can to represent you in parliament.

The best part of the campaign was the conversations I had with people in our community. The ones not recorded, the ones with doctors, supporters of Gonski, university lecturers and TAFE students, with solar companies and elderly people and young people. It was wonderful to listen to our amazing, vibrant community and be a voice for their concerns, for their values and for what they care about.

I have said many times that the reason I got involved in politics is because it's one of the best avenues for creating change. It was incredible that even just by running as candidate, I was suddenly able to speak out about the things that matter and people wanted to listen.

Climate change, coal seam gas, university fee

deregulation, privatisation of TAFE, health care, Gonski, a bill of rights, ending the corrupt system of political donations, asylum seekers, marriage equality. I feel so honoured to have had the privilege to be a voice for our community on these important issues, and I look forward to the day when I will not only be a voice in our community but a voice in parliament, and when I can make sure that these things don't get brushed under the rug by our politicians.

This campaign was an incredible opportunity for me to learn and grow and stand up for what matters, and while this campaign may be over, I'm not done yet. I will never stop fighting for a better world, I will never stop trying to make sure that the planet and the people that I share it with are as safe, happy and healthy as possible.

Janelle bows out gracefully

by Janelle Saffin,
Labor candidate for Page

I thank the many people who supported me in this election, for those who put themselves in the firing line, by giving out how-to-votes in the extended pre-poll and on election day, door-knocking, telephoning, running the campaign offices, answering calls and emails, giving donations and dropping in cakes and good food for my campaign workers. Some Labor supporters, some personal supporters. A big thank you.

I wish to congratulate Kevin Hogan, our Federal Member for Page. He and I enjoy a healthy respect for the other, despite being political adversaries. I tell him he is in the wrong Party. He has a tough time ahead, as it is clear that local people have not given the Liberals and the Nationals a mandate to use our money to give big corporations a \$50 billion tax cut, tax cuts to millionaires and their 'jobs and growth' grand pie-in-the-sky plan. We all know that giving our money to the big four banks, over \$7 billion of it, would not create one extra job.

When did we last see banks hire people, even with mega profits? Precisely.

Bill Shorten said on election night that Malcolm Turnbull and the Coalition lost their mandate and that is clear from the campaign that they did. Labor won the campaign policy debate that responded to everyday concerns, such as: a decent health system with Medicare in public hands; fully funding Gonski reforms; childcare; pensioners retaining the best of the three measures test that Labor introduced and



the Coalition cut; renewables supported; real action on climate change; and no budget that gives tax cuts to those over \$80,000 as the 2016 budget did and nothing for those below. Our median income is just over \$41,000.

Mr Turnbull and Mr Hogan locally are trying to blame what they call "Mediscare" but it was them who set up the privatisation payments taskforce, Telstra to have cancer records, removed the incentive payment so that pathology would start charging for blood tests and more, and they extended the freeze on GP payments to 2020, which GPs said would cause us to pay up to \$20 more per visit and crash bulk billing. These issues need to be addressed.

The National Party campaign against me was that Bob Carr and I were responsible for all CSG in NSW. They say Labor issued the licences. I have said from day one when we all discovered what CSG was, in about 2009, that yes they did issue licences and like all of us believed it was 'natural gas'. What the Nationals omit to say was that they reissued the licences in NSW after knowing about CSG. The other part was the 'debt and deficit' mantra, with no mention of the fact

that in the last three years, the budget deficit has tripled (with no Global Financial Crisis either), unemployment has gone up, growth has gone down and wages growth has stalled.

The Northern Star and *Daily Examiner* to some extent looked like Mr. Hogan's own newspapers with the wraparound, and his name and photo popping up with every click on-line.

I have to ask myself could I have done more and better? Being all too human I can say yes. I could have knocked on everyone's door, but that is really not possible. Could I have spent more on advertising? Yes, but it is not easy to raise campaign money, and I was up against extreme advertising from the National Party machine. They 'sandbagged' this seat and that of Cowper, so as to not lose their 'Jewels in the Crowns'. The Nationals have said, "On Our Side". I say show me the evidence.

The people have spoken, but what have they said? They want a government that governs for all, not just the big end of town, does not try the 'trickle down' experiment on us with the Coalition's corporate tax cuts, and ensures that our health and education needs are covered first.

Screaming in the boardrooms

There is a spectre haunting Australia, the spectre of democracy. All the ghouls and troglodytes of the major political parties, and the vested interests that animate them, are in uproar at the prospect.

"Oh what a disaster, what instability... now we have to corrupt more than just the three big parties. All that money spent getting our cronies into power and now they'll have to actually share power. They will have to openly and credibly debate with and convince uncorrupted independents why we deserve special treatment."

They're screaming in the boardrooms, they're going to eviscerate Turnbull for this. The big banks are going to have his sexual organs removed and set into an office toy.

In the past, elections have been an affordable



Return of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

purchase, the media was owned and employed to ensure the required result. All the papers you could think of were simply kennels for attack dog columnists, barking out fear of refugees, fear of drugs, fear of Muslims, fear of fear campaigns.

However, thanks to social media we are all commentators with virtually the same possible impact on the voting public, and with

real voices like the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, the truth is out there and everyone can hear it. The undead and big business can't hide in boardrooms plotting greater and great economic injustice any more.

Hung parliaments aren't weird apparitions, they are the given state of affairs in virtually every working democracy in the world. They mean our democracy has come of age. That's all.

Democracy has broken out. Power is going to have to be shared amongst a number of parties. The powers that be are gonna have to learn to share, and being pathological narcissists it's going to be difficult for them.

We are going to have to be patient, there will be tantrums, gnashing of teeth and lots of screaming, screaming and screaming (particularly from Malcolm as he is disciplined by his bosses).




Nimbin Optical
6689 0081

Tina Fuller
OPTOMETRIST

Eye disease can sneak up on you. Have your eyes checked regularly every 2 years.

Quality Diagnosis
Honest Advice

66 Cullen Street Nimbin
Next to Real Estate



NIMBIN NUMBERS

- Book-keeping – Mobile service avail.
- Tax Preparation
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged BAS Agent: 98777003
- Tax returns lodged for Centrelink recipients

Phone Jayne 0457-497-011
Email: jayne@nimbintax.com.au

Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls including organic white and bio-dynamic spelt
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- 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.

OPEN SUNDAY 9am - 3pm

Phone 6689 1769



Did you know?

All our links are clickable in the web edition. Visit www.nimbingoodtimes.com and click away!



Mr BOBCAT

6689 0044
0427 946 823

• 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • 4 tonne tipper

• NOW WITH EXCAVATOR •

Terry Bressington

PLASTERIN' NIMBIN'

0427 891626

Gyprock walls and ceilings
New work or renovations

Lic. No. 100169C

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au



Nimbin Holiday Club (aka vacation care)

Fun stuff for kids aged 5-12 years during school holidays. The Winter round kicks off on 5th July. See program on page 28 or see our website or facebook page for the full program.

Life beyond the 60c Feed in Tariff

Sunday 24th July, 10.15am at Nimbin Town Hall – See poster below. An info session for community members with grid-feed PV solar arrays to help you plan for the end of the Feed In Tariff.

Nimbin Food Equipment Muster

Thanks to everyone who has brought in the food library gear for cleaning etc. We are still chasing up one of the honey extractors and a dehydrator. If you have them please bring them into NNIC ASAP.

Sustainable House Day 2016

The Design Comp for 2016 is now open. The categories are Professional: Design a Tiny Neighbourhood; Community: Design a Tiny Home; Young people: Design a teeny tiny home. Details including entry forms are available on the website: www.sustainablehousedaynr.org

The Expo will be held at Mullumbimby on Saturday 17th September and this year there will be the chance to "Speed Date a Designer".

Nimbin Country Show 24th & 25th September

• **Sustainability Alley.** This year we will feature DIY living skills. If you have skills to share which involve making stuff, (e.g. tool skills, weaving, electronics, ANYTHING) please contact us on: show@nnic.org.au

• **Best Shop Display Competition.** Hopefully all you Nimbin businesses are starting to put your thinking caps on for your Show-Themed Shop Display for 2016. Displays must be up by at least 2 weeks before the Show, which is when we will be judging them. Be in the running to take out the coveted Perpetual Pumpkin trophy!

• **Short Film Competition.** Films must be local, max of 10mins long and have a sustainability theme. Prizes and accolades on offer. Entry forms will be available on our website soon.

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

New members welcome to help us implement a variety of harm minimisation strategies arising from the findings of the survey we did last year. Meetings are generally once per month at NNIC for about two hours on a Thursday at 1pm – contact us at: admin@nnic.org.au for details and meeting times.

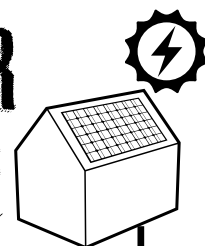
Social and Community Housing Survey

Thanks to everyone who participated – 117 responses in just one week. We used the info you gave us in a funding application for 7 Sibley Street – fingers crossed everyone.

Tidying up your books at tax time?

Did you know that your very own Nimbin Neighbourhood

NIMBIN SOLAR INFO SESSION



Advice for the end of the 60c Solar Feed in tariff

& Batteries on the Grid



NNIC has organised a free information session at the Nimbin Town Hall on **Sunday 24th of July** starting at **10:15am** and finishing at 12PM noon with Q&A at the end.



For further details or to RSVP email guy@nnic.org.au or call 6689 1692

Centre is a Registered Charity and donations to us of \$2 or more are tax deductible. To donate, contact us so we can issue an ATO compliant receipt.

NNIC office shuffle

We are switching the community workers' office with the NIS office so that we can use the Elmo room for more activities without disturbing Genevieve or her clients. Apologies for any confusion this may cause.

Struggling with household bills? Got unpaid fines?

We may be able to assist with electricity and telephone bills, and you may be eligible for a Work Development Order enabling you to pay off your fines via volunteer work. Phone us on 6689-1692 or just drop in to make an appointment with a Community Worker.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments call 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.

Nimbin Hospital Information



Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held on the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic 12th July. For appointments, phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. For appointments phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next clinic 21st July. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6688-2401 to make an appointment.

Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm. Phone 6689-1288. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home and co-ordination of aged care packages.

Wound clinic

New service run by community nurses every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Referrals from Nimbin Hospital, GPs, self-referral. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288.

Nurse practitioner clinics

• **Diabetes clinic:** 3rd Thursday of the month, next is 21st July.
• **Respiratory clinic:** 2nd Tuesday of the month, next is 12th July.
Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Free health checks

In front of the Neighbourhood Centre every second Friday, 11.30am – 1.30pm. Cardiac, diabetic and stroke risk assessments, run by a Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse. Smoking cessation advice and assistance. Weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, cholesterol levels. Referrals to appropriate health professional, if required.

Cannabis clinic

Every Monday. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

Nimbin NSP

Open Monday to Thursday, 9.30am-12pm. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Health Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. It's a 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to the emergency department at your MPS.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next is 8th July.



Business people discuss development issues

The last general members meeting was held at Nimbin Central School where we received a presentation from the school's Community Liaison Officer, Anne Bowden who updated us on the dynamic programs and achievements of the school.

The school is asking the community to support its students by offering work placements, part-time work, tutoring, Careers Market Day support, Autumn Arts Co-operation, and workplace visits. There is a dynamic group of students with a wide range of interests and skills. Please support them and contact Anne and the school and they will only be too happy to let you know how you can help.

The school music program is also a strong part of the school culture and every year the students show their fabulous skills in the school concerts, but the school piano needs replacing so if anyone out there can help, please let them know. To know our school is to be



Chamber Chat

Teresa Biscoe president

proud of our school.

We also heard a presentation from Rob Lonetree who has, along with a number of High Street and associated area residents, been petitioning Lismore Council, protesting the proliferation of telecommunications towers in the area. The NBN has been installed at the showgrounds, Telstra has been approved to put up a tower at the top of High Street and Optus has now also applied to put another tower in the general vicinity.

Rob pointed out a number of problematic issues for Nimbin residents associated with this trend. The towers are a visual obstruction that will lower land and house values in their area. Telcos are under no obligation,

once approval is given, to consult or inform the community when extra equipment is added to towers. Current Australian safety standards are woefully out of date and fail to recognise all of the EMF radiations from the technology. The towers will only address access to small areas and Nimbin's geography will necessitate a proliferation of towers to cover all the "black spots".

Fibre connections are safer and more efficient. The long term health implication of exposure to the towers EMF radiation has not been factored into this piece of planning infrastructure. We encourage all community members to research the issues raised, and we as a progressive alternative community may need to action some objections to council if the consensus is that this is not appropriate development for our village. Other local Councils have refused this technology, so there is a choice.

We also discussed the parking

survey conducted recently by LCC. The area surveyed was from the intersection of Cecil and Cullen Streets to the intersection of Cullen and Sibley Streets with Thorburn Street and included the western carpark and parking area behind the Nimbin Laundry. A number of issues were raised by those present and the need for an open community consultative process was discussed, as this is an important issue for long term planning and infrastructure for the village.

The LCC consultant present, Mark Batten said that the parking survey report will be finalised soon and an open forum organised for community input. The chamber will try to let the community know when this meeting is scheduled and would value the input of the community in this process.

The chamber has decided to support the Nimbin Solar Awning and Mural lighting plan as presented to the last Chamber meeting by the Nimbin Community Centre. We would

like to see a lighting plan that not only provides good lighting for security but also contributes to the overall aesthetics and ambience of the street. Street beautification in general was also discussed with a suggestion that sculptures in front of businesses as well as well-tended planters could contribute colour, and individuality into the streetscape.

All current major Nimbin Developments are still in process: The Cubes is awaiting council deliberations. The Rainbow Cafe development now has plans to present for community feedback, and these plans will be ready for the DA once this has been completed, and the Museum site is still in the planning stages.

Applications are open for the Local Heritage Assistance Grant from LCC, this can be used for Mural Restoration by local businesses on heritage listed buildings in Nimbin, check the council website: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au for details.

Nimbin Community Centre news

NCC has been successful in getting a \$14,480 NSW Regional Aboriginal Arts Funding grant to run a 12-month arts and culture project at the Wai:bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre. There will be workshops for local Aboriginal people in dance, weaving and painting. Keep a look out for further information about workshops, events, performances and exhibitions, as the project rolls out.

Many thanks to our partners: Wai:bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Northern Rivers Arts, Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council, and Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service. Thanks also to Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre for their support.

We were unsuccessful in gaining a federal Safer Streets program grant to improve community safety by improving lighting in Nimbin. However, we will be working to support the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce to identify alternative sources of funding.

Since the cutbacks that forced Youth Connections to close its operations at Nimbin Community Centre, NCC has recognised that our community desperately needs more youth activities. As a result, we have been actively seeking funding for the past twelve months. Our most recent application is to the NSW

government for a Youth Opportunities grant to run a project in 2017.

Are you thinking of running a class or workshop? Do you need a meeting space? The Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio is available for hire at \$11 per hour or \$33 per day, with a \$20 key deposit.

If you would like to get involved and take part in the future of Nimbin Community Centre, why don't you become a member? Membership fees: \$15 (adult), \$10 (seniors over 60) and \$5 (youth). Your membership assists to guarantee the success of the organisation as an effective vehicle for current and future community initiatives.

Our organisation aims:

- To manage the assets of the organisation in a sustainable manner for the benefit of future generations of Nimbin and surrounding areas.
- To provide and maintain buildings, grounds and open space for community development, education, recreation and other community purposes.
- To support and build on community resources, services and facilities.
- To initiate and advocate for projects and services based on the changing needs of the community of Nimbin and environs.

Why reviews are so important

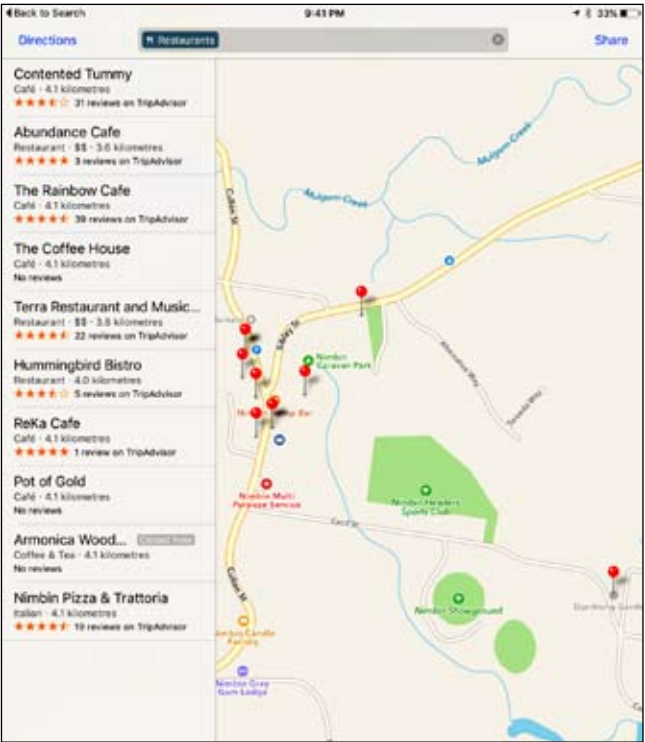
by Russell Lean

Kerelen and I were in Bali for most of June, visiting potential new accommodation clients and having a holiday. It had been 2½ years since we were there, and a lot had changed. The first thing we noted was that some clever entrepreneurs had installed Italian coffee machines and great coffee blends into many of the previously cappuccino-free warungs, restaurants and hotel eateries.

Secondly, Google Maps reviews and Trip Advisor reviews have taken a front seat in the battle for supremacy of position in search for accommodation vendors. Not that this was not happening before, it is just that now, coupled with Facebook, even those accommodation places that are website free (meaning they don't have one) are gaining traction on-line.

It is really interesting that those places that have taken the time to embed the Trip Advisor Review App into their Facebook Pages are getting more exposure and more bookings than others. People can view all those positive Trip Advisor reviews without having to leave the business's Facebook page.

We asked the businesses that those places that have taken the time to embed the Trip Advisor Review App into their Facebook Pages are getting more exposure and more bookings than others. We stayed in accommodation in Denpasar, Munduk, Lovina Beach, Seminyak, Ubud, Penestanan and Candidasa, in a combination of budget bungalows, mid range homestays and luxury resorts. Across all accommodation types, the stories were the same. Where a business had claimed



their Google Maps listing, also known as Google My Business, and had also been using Facebook for their business and had the Trip Advisor Review App installed in Facebook, owners said bookings were up.

The situation was the same for restaurants and other food venues as well. We ate in low cost local warungs and mid range bistros all the way up to fine dining places. In all levels of price, it was clear to see the places that had used reviews as a means of increasing business. Some places were packed and a few doors away, their competition were empty. Checking them online, the places with good reviews and active updating, going on in Facebook, Google and Trip Advisor, were the ones that were busy.

So, why is it such a phenomenon? Why is it that it is so patently better to be using these things

whether your business has a website or not? Well, it relates to the way the internet works overall, and it also relates to credibility. If I say a good thing about my business, even though it is true, people may doubt it as truth because of my vested interest in having only positive things said about my enterprise. However, if you say something positive about what I do in business, it has far more weight.

If you are a restaurant or accommodation vendor, you must engage with a review portal. The biggest two are Google and Trip Advisor. If you need assistance setting this up on your Facebook Page, or setting up a Facebook business page and getting started, that is part of what we do in an exceptional and cost effective manner. You can Call Russell or Kerelen on 0468-382-600, or email us at: web2trafficstrategies@gmail.com



Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary did well on voting day, raising money to purchase much needed equipment for the Nimbin Hospital. Thank you to all who continue to support the Auxiliary in their endeavours to raise money for our local hospital.

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline. 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.

Arrested Development

Woop Woop! That's the sound of the police taking our children away.

Big Banana, Dalai Lama, marijuana! The times they are a changing. Ice, ice baby. It's a dirty ol' town... but I just can't get you out of my head. A town like malice. Round and round, up and down, through the streets of our town. And they still want to pull down the trees and put up a parking lot... my teardrop explodes.

I do have a heart of glass, so don't throw stones. The big wheel keeps on turning and another massive attack is imminent. It's a damn shame that public image is more important than love... which is a very splendid thing.

Johnny Bayles says, "It's the best little town in the world. Jingawala/welcome!"

So wake me up before you go go, because I want to come to Nimbin too! I don't want to drive fifteen miles to the love shack to find that love don't live here any more... and if I can't find me love, love... I'll send an S.O.S. to the world, because I would walk five hundred miles to take a hit from the bong and find out what's behind the

green door. Hopefully then the boys will be back in town and the world will be a better place for you and for me. Fuck the police.

Ant
Nimbin

The only future is Green

What was missing from the election campaigns was a narrative and vision for the future. Instead all we got were three word slogans. I expect there were many who cringed every time they heard 'jobs and growth' and 'put people first'.

If we really care about people and their jobs, our primary concern has to be the environment, because it is the environment that sustains us and supports life. Without a healthy environment, there are no healthy and happy people. Assurance of a clean and safe world for our future cannot be restricted to three word slogans!

If the old parties are that concerned about jobs and growth, why are they continuing to invest in the coal industry when the way of the future is renewable energy? How are we going to ensure secure jobs for our children when we are so short-sighted? Not to mention the damage to the environment by continuing to emit dangerous greenhouse gas emissions, which our children will have to fix!

There has to be a balance between jobs, growth and lifestyle. An obsession with making money will turn the Tweed Coast into a Gold Coast. The only way to stop such madness is to give our environment the highest priority. A lot more money can be made in an eco-friendly tourist destination than a concrete jungle.

There is only one political party which puts the environment at the top of the list. That is the Greens. By putting the environment first, they are also putting people first. What is the point of jobs and growth on a dead planet? To look after the quality of our air, soil and water gives us the lifeline we need to survive. No amount of money can do that!

The significant swing to the Greens clearly indicates that people are listening. Let's hope politicians are listening too!

Lyn Dickinson
Pottsville

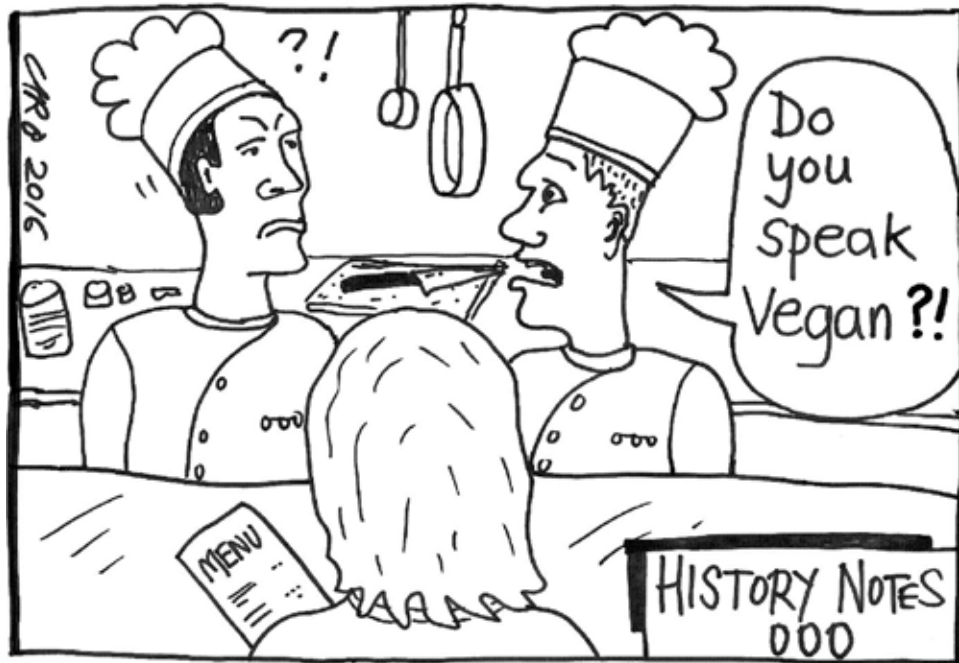
Secret garbo's business

Recently a vacancy for three days of Nimbin street cleaning was advertised online and in the *Echo*. I applied, believing my nine years of service, working a single weekly shift with occasional relief work as a Nimbin street cleaner would see me well placed to get the job. I waited to hear the result of my application, and had received no information until my co-worker informed me that the position had already been filled. I did not receive the courtesy of an interview. I wasn't even informed in the first place that a co-worker was leaving and a position coming up.

The person responsible for keeping the street cleaners informed, organising interviews and deciding who will get positions, is the Jungle Patrol operations officer David Hyett. He has kept me totally in the dark about what has been going on. I have had the galling experience of people coming up to me in the street and informing me that a co-worker was leaving and a position was becoming vacant. These are people who are not street cleaners or members of Jungle Patrol and shouldn't know more than I do.

This is a disrespectful way to treat an employee and community member. The process has not been open and transparent and so far there has been no accountability, David having avoided my attempts to communicate with him right up until yesterday when I threatened to take my grievances to the Fair Work Commission and publish in this newspaper. He then sent me an email saying he would answer me when he was "able" and had the information I need.

All I have wanted is the names of the other Jungle Patrol committee members so I might appeal David's decision to pass me over and outsource a Nimbin job to someone who lives in Goolmangar. I have already had two long-term Nimbin residents express interest in taking my position should



I get more work, as regular employment is always difficult to get locally.

To conclude I say this, the way I have been treated has led me to believe the job was intended for someone else before it was advertised, and needs to be reviewed.

Doug Johnson
Tunttable Falls

RIP Rob Sime

I first met Robin Sime at Broken Head Caravan Park in the mid-80s when he rode in on his beloved Norton motorbike. Being an old biker myself, I introduced myself and we hit it off straight away.

Over the years I kept catching up with Rob, and when I moved to Nimbin it became a weekly event at our café of choice, the Oasis.

He may be out of pain now, but he will never be out of my mind, or his friend's and family's.

RIP Rob. We miss you bro.

Paul Brecht
Goonellabah

Pool prank unwelcome

When I submitted an article to the *Nimbin GoodTimes* for the June edition it was titled "In praise of public pools". The editor changed it to "In praise of peeing in public pools or such". The article was about the positive features of having a public pool. Changing the heading detracted from the intent of the article.

I acknowledge that Nimbin parks and public places don't have adequate toilet facilities. There is no toilet in Peace Park for the skate park, children's playground or the well utilised BBQ area. Faeces are often found in the skate park, children's playground and behind the pool pump house for the swimming pool.

I disagree with the editor about urinating in the pool. During the swimming season the one unisex toilet is available for use. It's misleading to insinuate that

swimmers should urinate in the pool. This is how rumours of unsafe and unhygienic facilities spread – like a virus.

Maybe the editor was trying to stimulate a discussion on Nimbin's public toilet facilities in a subtle, subliminal manner.

Sue Edmonds
Nimbin

• *This little attempt at humour by one of our hard working drudges should have been picked up and changed in the proofing process. We do apologise.* – Ed.

McMansion development

At Ballina Council's June meeting, my motion calling on Council to amend its LEP (local environmental plan) to prevent the construction of three-storey McMansions in our residential areas was not supported. This is despite a two-storey height limit being a long-held position within the Ballina Shire.

The NSW Government's LEP 'template' changes the way building heights are calculated and have removed the previous restriction on three-storey buildings. It is my understanding that several other Local Government areas have included a two-storey height limit into their LEPs, so I can't see why Ballina Council can't do the same.

There have already been a number of three-storey residential buildings approved which cause privacy and overshadowing

issues for those unfortunate enough to live next door. Who wants to wake up one day and discover an 8.5m high wall is going to be constructed less than a metre from their property boundary?

A little while back, the Lennox Head Cultural Report commissioned by Council identified that a key concern of the community was to maintain the village atmosphere and seaside cottage culture as much as possible. Why would Council then allow McMansion style developments to proliferate in conflict with the clearly stated community view? With so many new estates opening up around Wollongbar, Ballina Heights and Lennox Head, Council should be doing all it can to stop bulky McMansion style developments from being approved.

Certainly progress and change are inevitable, however, Council should do all it can to control and manage development in accordance with the needs of our community so that the culture, atmosphere and amenity can continue to be enjoyed, and the bulk and height of three-storey McMansions prevented. Hopefully, the next Council will reconsider this issue and ensure that new developments are in line with the community's expectations.

Cr Jeff Johnson
Lennox Head

Notices

Computer wanted

Mac Mini with OS10.6 or later. Phone 0468-834-522.

Advance notice of closure

Nimbin Pizza and Ozkat Clothing will be closed for extensive repairs from Monday 18th July for approximately 2-3 weeks. Apologies to our loyal customers, neighbouring property owners/tenants and the community for any inconvenience. Keep posted on Facebook for further updates and reopening date.

Weeded Warrior Veterans Meeting

Saturday 23rd July, 11.30am at the HEMP Embassy. This is a casual get-together of like-minded ex-service members in a safe and private space. Bring proof of service; partners and families welcome. RSVP to: mick@weededwarrior.com or phone 0423-491-327.

Pizza party

Nim-FM will hold a pizza party on Thursday 28th July at the Nimbin Community Centre around the pizza oven, starting around 3pm. Bring your favourite toppings.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Murwillumbah Al-Anon family group meets every Monday 10am at ConXions Church, 19 Prince Street Murwillumbah. For more info, phone 1300-252-666 or go to: www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia

About us

Editor Bob Dooley

Assistant Editor Sue Stock

Layout Andy Gough, Bob Dooley, Peter Chaplin

Photographers Sue Stock, Peter Chaplin.

Distribution Peter, Coralie, Andrew, Sue, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Dominique, Aengus, Soul Kindle (Bellingen)

Responsibility for election comment is taken by the editor.

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson
Web 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 27th July

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

Create a constructive propaganda-free media

Again we see suppression of independent thought with Murdoch's expansion into local papers, and the banning of the *Byron Echo* from a National Party meeting.

The nation would be well served by a new innovative print medium in the interests of those who aren't rich.

Major papers have agendas controlled by the corporate sector, promoting obscured political aims. They appear to set weekly themes utilising feature writers, selected letters, and headlines to create distorted pictures of reality. The results inevitably evoke anger, blame and division in the community. Never is a constructive reform platform provided which welcomes broad input.

Equally, big money also directly manipulates political parties. Thus the government route is ineffective in bringing about a just workable society. There is no point exhausting one's energy lobbying. It is much more effective to bypass government drag, and team up in local communities.

Our society and mass



media is totally dominated by economics and advertising. A lifetime of "econo-speak" effectively brainwashes our susceptible human minds to serve 'Mammon', alias profit and power, and ignores wellbeing.

Just consider the obvious. All our medicines are highly profitable with side effects that sicken our bodies. Fast foods and synthetic additives likewise also support the biggest corporations. Our mining and energy industries are destroying natural life and killing arable land and healthy food production. People are forced from jobs in the interest of profits and globalisation. Free Trade Agreements are double speak for enhanced corporate profits. Wars are largely

at the behest of the profit motive, making for a very unhappy and disrupted humanity.

This illustrates that corporations collectively, that is capitalism, lacks intelligence. It's the economy stupid, the stupid economy. It is frequently suggested that capitalism be allowed to self regulate for ethics. Individually a corporation is quite intelligent. It 'knows' that in the end only a maximised bottom line matters. Hence attempts at introducing ethics will not remain unpunished.

Capitalism is also totally devoid of emotional and ethical intelligence, or compassion. It justifies the demise of the weakest as a result of open slather for the

fittest, as though it were a God given law of nature. The ethics of that great teacher Jesus were diametrically opposite: "Who cares for the least among us..."

Whether within religions or without, true spirituality is exemplified only by those willing to act on their compassion for fellow humans.

Perhaps for the first time in history via technology, it's possible to take charge of our destiny using a free media operated by community members, and owned by no one. Our region has the motivation, skills and tech savvy operators to produce weekly printed excerpts from an online national forum for inventive solutions and news, with safeguards against interference. Distribution may be free to myriad outlets, and sold on streets for a fixed price, as income for unemployed volunteers.

Such a publication may be an arm of a compassionate think tank seeking to evolve small, all inclusive communities, aiming for voluntary participation of all individuals.

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby

You don't know what's gone 'til you look

On page 13 of your June edition you ran an article entitled 'You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone' by a person named Dionne May. I have never met her and she did not discuss with me her public assertions about myself.

This article asserts that I act for the developers (the Seymours) of the land at 80-82 Cullen Street, where the Oasis Café is situated, and implies that the town planning process has been perverted by money and business. It is not my observation that the Seymours are rich or that this is a big development. Whilst I have acted for the Seymours in certain leasing matters, I do not and will not act for them in the town planning matter and have told them that, whilst mid-level accommodation may well be good for the village (especially nightlife), I have a conflict of interest as regards parking issues.

As secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, I advise that John Seymour has always removed himself from voting on his own proposal and that he has received a very hard time from a majority of the Chamber as regards parking issues but has maintained (quite correctly) that this is a matter for traffic and town planning experts. The proper place for debate on this is not by unsubstantiated slanging rants in *NGT* but by informed submissions to LCC. Contrary to Ms May's assertions, it is untrue that any redevelopment at all is proposed for the Oasis building itself. One only has to read the Seymour's material on Lismore City Council's DA Tracker website to see that.

Ms May asserts benefits of cannabis smoking and culture. This is ridiculous and irresponsible. Whilst THC may be a valuable tool when used wisely

and as a medicine, as a lifestyle it is dubious. There is a lot of scientific and psychiatric evidence on the dangerous and addictive impact of THC on personality, reason and memory, and sad distortion (crime, greed, territoriality) clearly results from the profiteering morality of those engaged in peddling it. Ingesting THC is not compulsory; those who wish can do so, but it is impertinent to suggest that private land owners are obliged to co-operate. If Ms May feels so strongly, she should work hard, save her earnings and set up her own dope-smoking establishment, not conscript the Seymours to supply one.

The solution to assist the "little broken people, Aborigines and travellers" is not for the Seymours to donate their land to Ms May's purposes, but for the wide population to endorse Site Revenue so as to destroy land price and enable formation of thousands of self-managing, self-subsistent intentional communities on the Tuntable model. This model involves legal structuring as a democratic co-operative, with all rights and duties derived from its rules (no leases, trusts or licenses), no internal cadastral lots, guarantee of privacy and security and the right to harvest where have sown, forbidding sale of shares, capping of payment for site transfers to the value of improvements on site (i.e. no speculators), severe constraints on absentee landlordism and an inspiring but voluntary internal work contribution scheme.

Site Revenue (Google: 'Georgism') is the collection of the annual rental value of sites privately occupied in lieu of all taxation. Within one generation this reform would reduce land price to nil

(proprietors could still sell for the value of their improvements), destroy the bulk of financial inequality, allow everyone (including the downtrodden) free access to land for homes and gardens, decentralise cities, strengthen local self-management and eliminate the parasitic political and financial classes. The land was given to us by the Creator; subdividing it and imposing an access price is theft (both from G_d and from future generations) and the mother of all crime and sin. The greatest enemies of Site Revenue are the banks and vested interests, followed by the apathetic middle classes who are addicted to retaining the apparent value of their homesites.

However, not least amongst the opponents of Site Revenue are the very 'downtrodden' people Ms May applauds, who all too easily are unwilling to work with hand or brain and who feel entitled to rely on welfare derived from taxing the efforts of others. To the 'downtrodden' I say, avoid being tranquilised and deluded by dope, curse (but accept and use wisely) the crumbs dropped for you by the Establishment, meditate and educate yourselves, use your spare time voluntarily to clear weeds from roadsides and plant fruit trees there instead, and loudly demand the Site Revenue reform. As fiat currencies and welfare systems collapse, Australia, at the centre of the circle of continents, alone could then light the way for a globe now on the precipice of dangerously difficult times.

Ms May should conduct responsible research before shooting off drivel, and *NGT* should be more responsible in publishing it.

David Spain,
Tuntable Falls

Nimbin Servo

- Fuel, oils, automotive needs, ice, gas refills & Swap'n'go
- Nimbin Bakery pies & sausage rolls, drinks, icecreams
- Bread & milk, newspapers, cigarettes, Nabropure water
- Stock food, horse & cattle food, lucerne, pet food & bones

Open 7 days: Mon-Fri 7am - 7pm, W/E & Pub Hols 8am - 6pm

Shop GO

Network proudly rewards you...

Rent 1, Get 1 FREE

My... Home Entertainment Experts
www.networkvideo.com.au

Conditions Apply. Bring this coupon to the store:
122 Walker Street Casino

NIMBIN BUILDING MATERIALS

AT THE MILL FARM

For a broad range of new and new seconds at very competitive prices

- Hardwoods, flooring, decking, pine framing, weatherboards, lining boards, architraves, skirting boards, doors
- Steel posts, roofing, guttering, windows
- Sand & gravel, roadbase, cement, gas
- Polypipe and Philmac fittings & valves
- Animal feeds, hay, garden supplies & plant nursery

Open Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 8am-noon

Phone Ralph 6689-1206, 0429-048-808

Debbie Guest

Civil Marriage Celebrant

Phone: 02 6689-0089
Mobile: 0427-975-650
email: debgceleb@yahoo.com.au
www.debbieguest.com
debbieguest.blogspot.com.au

Contact me to discuss your requirements

whatever you're looking for

we can help you find it

nimbin more than you can imagine

nimbin visitor information centre
46 cullen street nimbin nsw 2480
02 6689 1388
nimbin@lismore.nsw.gov.au
visitnimbin.com.au