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**24TH - 25TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

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12.30pm  
THURS 29th SEPT

**\$10\* entry - www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events - (02) 6689 0095**

# \$1500 in prizes for best youth films

The 2016 Nimbin Youth Film Festival is calling for entries. Now in its seventh year, the comp has \$1500 in prizes plus trophies to be won.

The film festival celebrates youth, creativity and the language of film. Young people have important stories to tell, and there is no better way to have people listen to your story, than invite them to sit quietly, in a darkened room with a big screen and big sound. Film is a convincing medium, and this festival puts the power of this medium into the hands of young people.

This year sees the Festival growing with a new 19-24 year old section added, with \$600 in prizes. This new category is sponsored by North Coast TAFE NSW, and opens the festival up to a wider range of entries. So now all young people aged 24 or under, who live in the Northern Rivers, are eligible to enter into one of the two sections.

The films can be made on any video device from an iPhone or DSLR camera or a Go Pro to high-end video cameras. The judges are more interested in powerful stories than the latest technology. 2014 overall winner *Wake up* by Jemima Zahari and Frewoini Baume was shot and edited mostly on an iPod. It is an astonishing film. See *Wake Up* at: <http://tinyurl.com/pd8s8r4>

The competition judges understand and recognise that filmmaking is a team-sport and encourage young people to get support and guidance from schools, parents, friends and filmmakers. Collaboration is the key to successful filmmaking. As long as the film's vision and idea comes from



Organiser Darmin Cameron receiving funds from the major sponsor Lismore City Council by Mayor Jenny Dowell

young people and they are the drivers/directors, then the film can be entered. Whole crews are invited to enter.

The festival screening and award ceremony will be held in a Pop-Up Cinema at the Nimbin Town Hall at 2pm on Saturday 3rd December, and the whole community is invited to attend. Parents, friends, supporters and the young filmmakers share in the excitement of seeing the films on the big screen for the first time.

Past screenings have been, entertaining, enlightening and educational. The films have surprised audiences with their audacious creativity and powerful messages, messages from the minds and hearts of our young people.

Visit and like the Nimbin Youth Film Festival Facebook page to find links to previous films, plus receive notifications: [www.facebook.com/nimbinyouthfilmfestival](http://www.facebook.com/nimbinyouthfilmfestival)

For entry details and to download an entry form visit: [www.nimbinyouthfilmfestival.com](http://www.nimbinyouthfilmfestival.com) Entries close Friday 18th November at 5pm.

If you would like to sponsor a prize, please contact us at: [nimbinyouthfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinyouthfilmfestival@gmail.com)  
The festival is sponsored by Lismore City Council, North Coast TAFE NSW, Nimbin School of Arts, Youth Connections North Coast, Nimbin Pizza and Trattoria, Nimbin Neighborhood and Information Centre, and Nimbin Emporium.

# Poetry World Cup a roaring success

by Gail M. Clarke

We had another absolutely fabulous weekend of performance poetry in Nimbin. 40 eager poets arrived to vie for the chance to be one of the eight finalists on the Sunday evening with every performer giving it their best.

Outright winner on the night was Robin "Archie" Archbold. People's Choice award went to Vince, a long-time supporter of Nimbin poetry and a well deserved win.

As with so many events, it takes a lot of people to make this happen. To everyone who purchased a raffle ticket throughout the year, to all the wonderful locals who donated prizes for the monster raffle on the weekend, to all the major sponsors who continually support the arts in this community – the biggest thanks.

The little poetry family in Nimbin who do an amazing job of getting the hall together, keeping the kitchen running throughout the weekend, serving delicious healthy locally sourced food. The Tuntable crew for dinner on Sunday evening, and of course every one of you who took the time to visit the hall over the weekend and support this great event.

Thanks again.



This year's winners, finalists, judges and organisers

**Star Earth Tribal Academy**  
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**Play Shops: September 2016**  
Tuesdays (6, 13, 20, 29) &  
Thursdays (8, 15, 22, 29)

[nimbintribalacademy.com](http://nimbintribalacademy.com)  
(Updates in progress, please visit  
[starearthtribe.godaddy.com](http://starearthtribe.godaddy.com)  
if inaccessible)

**Survival Proficiency Course**  
October 14 - November 18, 2016



# Traditional skills meet high tech at sustainability showcase

by Phoebe Torzillo

Where can you learn to swing a scythe, relax in a hand made subtropical yurt, and drink local coffee brewed with solar power? At Sustainability Alley, which this September again brings its unique mix of local, traditional, and technological ingenuity to the Nimbin Country Show.

Sustainability Alley has evolved over the past five years, beginning as a celebration of local food and food security awareness, and expanding to host a range of innovative local businesses, projects, talks, and competitions; including the Sexiest Farmer, Most Sustainable in Show exhibit, Local Bytes Film Fest, and Best Show-Themed shop-front.

This year, several unique local businesses will be presenting at the Alley, including Kungur's Rewild. Run by Scott Poad, Rewild aims to inspire a positive connection to nature by teaching bush craft, survival skills, adventure and nature immersion. Rewild runs a fortnightly bush school for kids aged 8 -14yrs, and will be bringing demos of their workshops and skillbase to Sustainability Alley.

Also on display will be the Tiny House Design Comp winners, courtesy of Northern Rivers Sustainable House Day. These designs will be displayed inside the sub-tropical yurt, a 6m diameter, fully portable home. Built in Nimbin by Frank of Ponyland community, the yurt is several adaptations from its mongolian predecessor. The subtropical yurt is made of beautiful sustainable timber harvested in Nimbin, and includes windows, doors, and dimensions with our local conditions in mind.

Traditional skills demos over the weekend will include home bottling, tilling by hand (with the gundaroo tiller), scything, coffee roasting, soap making, and more. If you have a valuable endan-



gered skill, get in touch and share your skill via a demo at the Alley.

Abundance Cafe will again be feeding stomachs and minds, with the incredible Paddock to Plate cafe, utilising ingredients from within a 100km radius.

Tech solutions, both high and low, will be presented over the weekend. Power is provided by Rainbow Power Company and Australian Solar Trailers, plus Dorroughby Environment Centre will present its educational renewable energy van. On display will be a homemade 44-gallon drum methane digester, which produces gas for cooking from waste food scraps; and a DIY wheelie-bin composting loo.

Stall holders will include Djanbung Gardens, Nimbin Hemp Farmer's Co-op, Hemp Revolution soap makers, Terraeden Farm, Biochar Industries,

Blue Knob Farmers Market info tent, and more.

Applications for stalls are still open, email: [show@nnic.org.au](mailto:show@nnic.org.au)

Sustainability Alley presents a great opportunity to connect with progressive local makers, doers and problem solvers; learn old and re-imagined skills, or just kick back with incredible regional food and drink. There are also many exhibits, displays and entertainment of a good country show.

Nimbin Country Show and Sustainability Alley, 24th and 25th September at Nimbin Showgrounds, 33 Cecil Street. Entry is \$7 individuals, \$2 kids and \$15 families.

For more info, email: [show@nnic.org.au](mailto:show@nnic.org.au) or check our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/Nimbin.Show.Sustainability.Alley](https://www.facebook.com/Nimbin.Show.Sustainability.Alley)



Open 7 days  
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## Meet your council candidates

On 10th September, local government elections will be conducted throughout NSW.

In Lismore City Council, a number of Councillors, including Mayor Jenny Dowell, are not standing for re-election, and there are 50 candidates contesting 10 positions. There are also six individuals standing for the Mayoral position.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is inviting all business and community representatives, residents and property owners within the Lismore City Council local government area to "Meet the Candidates".

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th September, 6.30pm at

Nimbin Town Hall. The Chamber has invited all candidates to attend, and a positive response has been received from all the major groups.

"The evening will allow for a concise presentation from each group of candidates outlining their reasons for running and what they hope to achieve," said Chamber President Teresa Biscoe. "Presenters will be asked to make specific reference to how they see the future for Nimbin."

There will then be an opportunity to ask questions from the floor, and to chat informally with candidates after the meeting.

Lismore City Council has an im-

portant role to play in the future of Nimbin and surrounds. The Chamber believes the next four years will be significant years, as the village is coming under increasing pressure from residential and commercial development.

Former Councillor and organiser Diana Roberts said, "Those successfully elected will be representing the community for the next four years, and Nimbin has enough votes to influence the outcome. The Chamber is keen to see a Council that listens and respects Nimbin views, while providing effective mechanisms for the community's voice to be heard."



### It's Time to Grow the Greens' Voice

- 12 years Council experience and knowledge
- The time, energy and commitment to participate fully in Council business
- Record of mediating better outcomes for the community

"I am the right person to lead a progressive team of Councillors to protect hard-won gains in our community's culture and natural environment, further improving the quality of living and working in our region."

Authorised by Nina Giblinwright, Shop 1, Star Court Arcade, Molesworth St, Lismore, NSW 2480

THE GREENS

Vote 1 Greens to keep our council progressive (then preference only Our Sustainable Future and Country Labor)



# Report from the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG)

by Diana Roberts

August was Mayor Jenny Dowell's last meeting of the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG). Jenny has been an excellent facilitator of our meetings and a great supporter of the group's advisory role to Lismore Council and we'll miss her considered input. However, we are optimistic the NAG will continue.

If you are interested in joining or remaining on-board, now is the time to put in nominations to be considered by the newly elected Council at their October meeting. Nomination forms can be obtained from: [tina.irish@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tina.irish@lismore.nsw.gov.au) and must be submitted by close of business, Monday 19th September.

## Meet the Candidates

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm in the Nimbin Hall, a 'Meet the Council Candidates' meeting has been organised by the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce. Everyone is welcome to attend and the NAG encourages you all take advantage of this opportunity to meet candidates first-hand before you vote the following Saturday.

## Village car parking

Planning for future car parking needs within the village requires significant consultation and community input. Residents in Thorburn Street have specifically asked to be included in the consultation process as they experience numerous traffic and parking problems. Can Thorburn Street residents please let the NAG know the best time for Council to consult you? For instance, would you attend a Saturday morning coffee cart on your street to share your thoughts with Council staff? Is another day, time, venue better for you?

If you would like to drop a note in to Diana at Nimbin Apothecary or to Nat at Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre noting your preferred methods for consultation, we will pass this on to Council. If anyone in the community has specific suggestions regarding village parking, can you also leave your thoughts (preferably in writing) with Diana at Nimbin Apothecary. These will be passed on to the Chamber of Commerce who will

collate your suggestions and pass them on to Council staff.

## Nimbin DCP

On several occasions the NAG has raised concerns about the application of the Nimbin Development Control Plan (DCP) when staff are assessing developments in the village. Staff recently responded to our concerns, advising that Council planning staff are required to exercise their professional judgment when assessing specific developments, and it's not uncommon for community interpretation to differ from that of staff. This response elicited a few groans from NAG members who reiterated their desire that Planning assessment staff give more credence to the Nimbin DCP as a planning and assessment tool.

## Other issues

- Council must proactively lobby to see Optus co-locate onto the Telstra tower approved for Falls Road last December, rather than permitting erection of a third tower in the same area.
- The need for traffic calming and increased pedestrian safety on Cecil Street is to be referred to the Traffic Advisory Committee.
- Delays associated with the Council's Community Panels were due to staff shortages. Consultations will recommence shortly.
- A review of priorities within Council's Sport & Recreation Plan will commence shortly. Community consultation is currently planned for November 2016. The NAG understands that many Nimbin residents are concerned the current plan makes no mention of the Nimbin Pool, which hampers its ability to attract funding for much-needed renovations.
- Concerns were raised about the safety of children crossing the creek behind the Hall to access the Headers ground.
- The Cubes development has been approved with a number of conditions including reduction to 24 rooms, manager's residence, tree removal, landscaping, civil works, the construction of six new car spaces and the line marking of 76 car spaces within the adjacent Council owned public car park.

# Weighing it up – Trains vs trails

by Lydia Kindred, President, Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG)

Once again, recent surveys by our local media show public transport high up on the list of what locals want most in our region. We've been hoodwinked into thinking that public transport as enjoyed by those in other regions and cities cannot be ours.

The so-called study (ARUP, 2013) added an extra \$480 million just for 'contingencies', even though the line had been running regular train services a short time before!

Their price tag (\$953million) was a cynical exercise in stopping further arguments about bringing trains to our region again. On the front page of the report, ARUP states that it was written under "the particular instructions and requirements of their client" and "the conclusions should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken."

Rail trailers are currently colluding with local councils to pull up the tracks between Casino and Lismore and between Murwillumbah and Crabbes Creek, for bike trails – potentially eroding our chances of ever having regular passenger services from Lismore to Brisbane (via Casino and Kyogle could be a first step).



And why can't we have both? That seems to be the obvious solution, but rail trailers want it all, to the detriment of locals who so need public transport.

Rail trails would be used by perhaps 10% of the population, while a regular passenger rail service would attract at least 90%, if not 100% of locals and visitors at some point. An integrated public transport system would incorporate mini buses connecting to our local villages, via an internet-based system, taking us to and from the trains.

The lie that they're peddling (excuse the pun) is that a rail trail will protect the corridor from sale. In fact, the *opposite* is true – at present our railway corridors are more protected in NSW than they are in any other state, but the Rail Trail Bill that was proposed last year, if approved, would have weakened the protections so much that a minister

could simply sign off on the destruction of a whole branch line such as ours with the stroke of a pen!

If the tracks were pulled up and the rail trails shown to not bring much economic benefit to our region, the polities would of course be 'forced' to sell the highly prized rail corridor real estate!

Massive donations by trucking, petroleum and road building companies to ensure funding goes to roads and not rail, especially in regional areas, has been happening for years. Unfortunately, we would be the poor cousins forever in our beautiful Rainbow Region – no real public transport means we would eternally be behind: socially, economically and environmentally. Could this be a quiet conspiracy to keep the 'alternates' and 'hippies' in their place and not reach their full potential?

Imagine wonderful train carriages, built of sustainable

building materials like hemp and bamboo, with local foods and drinks provided while musos serenade the travellers.

If rail trails, as proposed, perhaps added to the local economy in some way, how much more would regular passenger services throughout our region, with stations rebuilt or refurbished and cafes, shops and housing springing up around these rail hubs? Imagine getting on a comfy train and travelling to the beach through beautiful countryside, without all the traffic and parking problems.

Please let the state government know you want trains back on our tracks! Contact NSW Transport Minister, Andrew Constance ([www.nsw.gov.au/contacttransportminister](http://www.nsw.gov.au/contacttransportminister)) and tell him what you think!

Note: Simon Richardson, Byron Shire Mayor, has created a plan to bring both a light rail service and bike tracks together to his whole shire – stay posted on this.

# Earth-Q screening in Nimbin

by Helen Simpson

Djanbung Gardens is proud to present the screening of the award-winning documentary *Earth-Q* in Nimbin. The filmmaker, Mark Pinoli (*pictured*), will be present for a discussion and Q&A after the film.

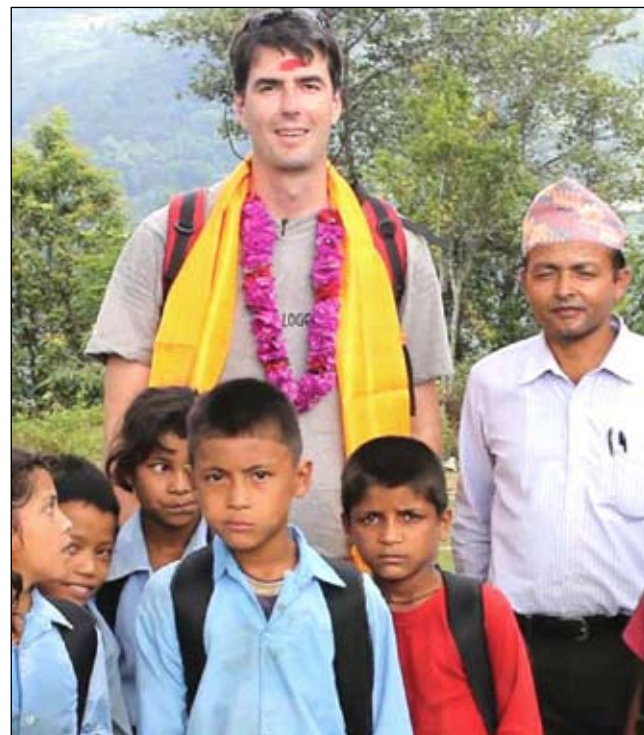
*Earth-Q* is a story about the journey taken by the Logged On Foundation to help seven schools destroyed by the 2015 Nepal earthquake and the struggles communities now face to provide a quality education for their children.

The film is also a journey through the beauty of the Himalayan region of Nepal, a celebration of the welcoming nature and selflessness of its people, and a witness to the appeals of teachers and parents for help to get their children out of tents and tin shelters into proper classrooms.

*Earth-Q* will be screening on Thursday, 8th September at Djanbung Gardens, 74 Cecil Street, Nimbin. The event will start with a yummy curry dinner at 6.30pm by Abundance Café, followed by the screening of the film at 7.30pm.

Tickets: \$25 (concession \$20) with dinner; \$15 (concession \$10) without dinner. Proceeds from this event will go towards rebuilding schools destroyed in last year's Nepal earthquake.

For reservations, email: [admin@loggedon.org.au](mailto:admin@loggedon.org.au) or phone 6689-1755. For details visit: <http://earthq.loggedon.org.au/nimbin> and for more info about the film, visit: <http://earthqfilm.com>



# The Rainbow continues to rise

Many thanks to all who came to our community consultation on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Some helpful suggestions were received and have been taken into account in some minor tweaking of the plans to make the kitchen area more workable.

The plans as presented to that meeting were on display in the window of Happy High Herbs for several

weeks after. The final plans will be available for viewing when we have them.

We have also held a pre-lodgement meeting with Lismore Council, which was fairly encouraging. We hope to formally lodge the Development Application very soon. Our fabulous team of professionals, Malcolm Scott, Toni Appleton, Julie Lipsett and Alex

Faulkner have helped so much to move the project along to a successful conclusion that we are hopeful of approval by the end of the year.

Thanks to them and to all in the community for their patience in this ongoing mission, and to the new owners of the Museum site for their willingness to negotiate and communicate all through the process.



# Keep Lismore Council progressive with smart preferencing

by Aiden Ricketts

So many councils in this state get overtaken by real estate agents and property developers or others with a vested interest and corruption or bad planning decisions becomes a real problem. In Lismore, we have a chance to retain a progressive council.

In the past two terms, Council has managed the finances well, kept our road network functioning despite the climatic challenges of our region and progressed innovative initiatives that the region can be proud of. For the sake of keeping Lismore and its villages progressive and continuing all the good work done by previous councils on environmental sustainability, affordable housing, social justice, gasfield-freedom and the arts, we all need to be disciplined in our preferencing when we vote in the upcoming council election.

The last term of Lismore council saw hard won progress on some very important sustainability endeavours. Not the least is the biodiversity management strategy (BMS) which commits council and the community to ongoing improvement to our waterways, farmland and public lands with a view to better protecting and enhancing biodiversity values. The Northern Rivers is a globally significant bio-diversity hotspot, and the BMS deserves our fullest support. There are several other important projects underway, all of which could be threatened if a regressive team of councillors



by Aiden Ricketts

was able to gain ascendancy in the coming election. These include plans for a community solar farm and the overall 2023 renewable energy strategy.

The Lismore Council also played a vital role in our region's successful defence from gas mining through conducting the CSG plebiscite in 2012, as did the hard work of many of our councillors. Add to these forward-thinking programs the fact that the budget position has improved markedly in the last two terms, and it is clear there is a lot at stake.

Of course not everyone gets everything they want (fluoride being a big stand out issue for many), but we cannot afford to take our progressive council for granted. Waiting in the wings always is the regressive right ready with the razors to gut environmental, social and artistic programs and re-direct the money into ratepayer-funded business promotion.

The numbers have always been tight in council, with a slim

progressive majority amongst the 11 councillors. With the retirement of our charismatic and omnipresent mayor Jenny Dowell, and councillor Simon Clough, the right wing are hoping that this time they can upset the balance of power and re-establish a conservative council.

The numbers are probably still with the progressives in the Greens, Our Sustainable Future (OSF) and the Country Labor Party, but only if voters are very clear headed in allocating preferences.

The council election process has two parts, a separate poll for the popularly elected mayor (more about that later) and then a proportional count for the 10-member council.

This means that the main council election for the 10 councillors is run much like a small scale senate election. You can vote for teams above the line or you can vote below the line for councillors of your choice. This is where the risks lie. The voting system allows for votes to exhaust and so a below the line vote is potentially dangerous, as it can actually damage the chances of the team that you prefer.

You may personally like the number three candidate for one team and the number four of another team and the number three of yet another team, but be warned, if you go down that path there's a substantial risk your votes may not elect any of your preferred candidates and so inadvertently help conservatives across the line. My recommendation for a progressive



vote is to vote above the line for the three progressive teams (Greens, OSF and Country Labor) in order of your personal team preference, and to leave the conservative teams boxes blank so there's no vote spillage as the count continues.

The mayoral election is separate and elects only one mayor, but whichever team scores the mayoral spot is likely to also score an extra councillor because that team's mayoral candidate has been plucked from the top of the ticket and elected as mayor and the team's votes proceed from their number 2 candidate onwards (another reason why team voting above the line for councillors is best practice).

With Jenny Dowell and Simon Clough bowing out of the Mayoral race, it will come down to an unpredictable contest between

the lead candidates on each ticket and any other mayoral contenders. Again, smart preferencing is the only way to maximise your progressive vote. Vanessa Ekins and Isaac Smith are the progressive front runners so you should be sure to choose one and number the other two in your preferences so your vote doesn't exhaust. After these two, it's probably best to leave the other mayoral boxes blank so you don't have your vote end up with any of the conservatives.

Vanessa Ekins has the benefit of 12 years' experience on council and heads the Greens team for council. Isaac Smith has eight years on council, and heads the Country Labor team.

So my strongest advice to everyone is that, as tempting as it may be to play personal favourites below the line, or to vote for people from your own town, village or locality below the line, please resist the temptation, it is very risky. It can undermine your preferred team's number one candidate (and could lead to their defeat) and it very often leads to vote exhaustion that will only help the other side in the final count.

We have a lot to be proud of and lot to be optimistic about in Lismore and its surrounding villages, but we need to be smart about how we vote if we want to keep the progressive momentum going. With the state and federal governments we currently have, we need to do all we can to keep a strong progressive council in place.

Vote well, stay active.



Isaac Smith

for  
**MAYOR**  
on  
**September 10th**



grow community solar farms

Lismore is well on the way to becoming energy neutral with our National award winning Renewable Energy Master Plan. Working with local businesses like Rainbow Power, our community solar farms will make us sustainable in the near future. More importantly Council will lead by partnering with our community on the journey.



continue increases in road funding

With a \$10 million dollar increase in just 8 years, Lismore is finally seeing its road network improve. We will continue to fund improvements and we will lobby the state government so that they can properly maintain their regional road network. The feedback from our community tells us we are on the right track with fixing our roads.



continue supporting our landholders

Backing our farmers is a key aim of council. It is great to see the success of the RLI as sessions are booking out. All the participants are excited about improving farming practice and outcomes. The big issues like weed control and water management are tackled and knowledge is shared, leading to better results for everyone.



increase support for our villages

This council now prides itself on consultation with our community, which is why we started the Nimbin Advisory Group and seven rural community panels. These groups are vital to Council delivering services in rural areas, so we need to listen to what our villages say and better resource these groups to deliver their community priorities.

Isaac Smith has been a Councillor for Lismore City since 2008, serving almost half that time as Deputy Mayor. As a father of four with a day job as Operations Manager and his volunteer commitments, his work ethic and passion for our community makes him the most experienced candidate for our next Mayor.

Isaac supports our whole community and believes in maintaining a balanced and respectful council. It is this balance and innovation that has made Lismore and its villages an award winning example for other councils to follow.

keep **Lismore** moving





**Channon Craft Market Inc.**  
The Channon Craft Market Inc. logo featuring a bull and the text 'The Channon Craft Market Inc.' is at the top. Below it, a black and white illustration shows a group of people at a market stall. The text 'Make It, Bake It, Grow It' is at the bottom.

**NextMarket**  
**11th September**  
9am – 3pm  
**Band of the Day:**  
**Smokestack Lightnin'**  
**Busker:** Two Tears in a Bucket  
**Charity of the Day:**  
**Tuntable Creek P&C**  
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# Hilarious farce from Ballina Players

In the mountains near Dublin, a group arrive on a rainy night at the Patrick Pearse Motel, due to be opened in one week.

All are met by the dodderly rather senile caretaker, Hoolihan (Mike Harris) who shows off the rooms with pride, and marches everywhere. He barges into guests' bathrooms and takes them over because of his "sudden kidneys".

Mike has had a fifty-year career in stage, TV and cinema as well as in stand-up comedy and this is his first role with the Ballina Players.

The play *The Patrick Pearse Motel* has all the elements of hilarious farce. The two-bedroom set is arranged to make the most of the farcical situations and sight gags, giving scope for complications and confusion and simultaneous action.

Wives Grainne (Brook Lacy) and Niamh (Jamie Sheehan), husbands Dermot (Daniel Richards) and Fintan (Mike Sheehan), manageress Miss Manning (Michelle Anderson) and TV personality James Usheen (Carl Moore) chase or evade one another, and leap in and out of beds, bathrooms and wardrobes.

Recurring objects include a fur coat, a



Grainne (Brook Lacy) and Niamh (Jamie Sheehan) fight over the fur coat while Dermot (Daniel Richards) and Fintan (Mike Sheehan) look on with concern.

black nightdress, lost trousers, Usheen's constantly jammed trouser zip and a missing shillelagh.

There are many clever one-liners. Niamh says of Grainne's flimsy black nightdress: "I suppose it's the same as sunglasses; you can see everything through it, but it takes away the glare", while Miss Manning declares that husbands are disappointed when they realise that "underneath the mint sauce is the same old mutton".

*The Patrick Pearse Motel*, by Hugh Leonard, is a hysterical bedroom farce that will have audiences wondering how it will end.

Directed by Sue Belsham, *The Patrick Pearse Motel* will be staged at the Players Theatre from 9th to 18th September, Thursdays to Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm. Book on-line at: [www.ballinaplayers.com.au](http://www.ballinaplayers.com.au) or at Just Funkin Music, 6686-2440 (a booking fee applies).

## Lest we forget our authenticity

by Daniel John Peterson,  
Chair, Lismore Environment Centre

Since time immemorial, the land under us has cradled the lives of countless generations of babies, children, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, families, relatives, and elders. Quite literally, as you're reading these words, the land itself holds these memories of humanity's longest continuing family.

We in Australia cannot help but be blessed, by both the physical and non-physical parts of this ancestry. Yet, at the very same time, we regularly defy national embarrassment by focusing our incredible human power for memory on such trivial mistakes as the organised massacre of war on foreign land. Not only do we choose to remember our human criminality of war, we choose which particular wars to remember, and which wars to forget.

Clear in our local memory however, is the victory at Bentley, after a long self-organising campaign of anti-CSG extraction in the Northern Rivers. Anyone who had anything to do with this epic battle remembers with immense pride how an individual's conscious effort contributed directly to a collective immune-like outcome. Yet as time slowly dissolves our pride, we increasingly face the familiar dilemma of which memories to remember, and which memories to forget.

If I could ask for one thing from our 'gas-field free' campaign, it would be that we remember the authenticity of our campaign – gifted by Original people – Original families – the nations' first people. The tribes' presence, and indeed leadership, was our campaign's foundational moral authority, upon which we built a successful social movement to protect farmland. Senior strategic minds realise the importance of campaign authenticity for campaign success. This is what I choose to remember.

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance; and the world continues to challenge our community with the dilemmas of resource extraction, that cut to our core. Our collective humanity's shameful addiction to

**The Cedar Point sacred site needs your help now. Please become a paid member of your local Environment Centre (Nimbin, Lismore, Casino etc.); personally visit and connect with the Cedar Point locality in person, on Edenville Road; register your concerns with Kyogle Council and Councillors; communicate with the Gugin Guddaba Kyogle Local Aboriginal Land Council, and the proponent Graham's Quarries Pty Ltd, telling them about the importance of an authentic community; and please talk openly and enthusiastically to media about the importance of the Cedar Point sacred men's site.**

resource extraction continues to destroy what is left, after centuries of colonial enterprise. From the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia to Uluru in Central Australia, to our very own backyard at Cedar Point in Eastern Australia, the heritage from which we draw our authenticity is being violently compromised each day.

By authenticity, I mean that which gives our lives meaning – our victories a reason. Original cultural heritage is everyone's business, because it gives everyone's lives meaning, which makes cultural heritage our heritage. The destruction of our heritage not only disconnects us from our past, it also decapitates us from our present. And for this, a vicious battle rages each moment. One current battlefield is the Cedar Point men's initiation sacred site – a 25 minute drive northwest of Lismore, just south of Kyogle, by the Richmond River.

At Cedar Point, the proponent Graham's Quarries Pty Ltd, has won the protection of government to explode dynamite and destroy yet another known sacred site of significant heritage (as if some parts of our Earthship are less sacred than others!). The Cedar Point sacred site holds within its geography, memories of families and nation-to-nation relationships extending back as far as anyone may care to look. The truth I see however, is

that our community derives pride from protecting the 'farmland' that feeds our bodies, but less so the 'heritage' that feeds our souls. Yet, the thing we class as 'heritage' has given our bodies a reason to live, since time immemorial and for longer than any other culture on earth.

You would be correct to sense in me a feeling of frustration. I've fought with you the good fight for a gas-field free community, because it was right; and I watched as our campaign drew its authenticity directly from our Original heritage. But it's frustrating to say the least, when I see that same heritage being used by us when needed for farmland, and forgotten when no longer needed to feed the body. I am very frustrated because of a complicit choice in us, to forget where our authenticity comes from.

Our farmland is not authentic simply because it feeds our bodies. Our farmland brings with it authenticity because Original people have determined that authenticity using symbiotic relationships over countless generations since time immemorial. In this sense, our farmland's authenticity was bequeathed to us (came with the stolen land). My point is, we did not earn our farmland's authenticity simply by being 'farmers'. And perhaps this helps explain why we as a 'gas-field free' community appear so willing to ignore the destruction of our heritage. But my optimistic side suggests that our authenticity will remember its own value.

I love our Northern Rivers' community, and I love our land, including the farmland. But I know that if I choose to forget where my life's authenticity comes from, I will also forget where my love for my community comes from as well.

Lest we forget; the battles that raged for the gas-field free farmlands, that give us our food.

Lest we forget; the battles that raged for the protection of the forests, that give us our breath.

Lest we forget; the blood and lives lost in the battles that raged, for the authenticity that gives us our land and our reason.

Lest we forget our authenticity.



# Kyogle car rally divides community

by Kathleen Green

On 27th August, the Border Ranges Rally took place on Kyogle public shire roads. Not at Woodenbong and Urbenville, as stated on the event overview prepared for the Kyogle Council, and where the rally has taken place for the past few years, and as far as we know, without complaint.

The rally was organised by Gold Coast/Tweed Motorsporting Club. Kyogle council supplied services and co-operation for a club that is outside the Kyogle shire. No community consultation took place. Residents living on the roads that were closed for the rally, were given five weeks' notice that they were to be locked on their properties for the day, without being asked if that was OK. Deprivation of liberty? But during that five weeks, many people told us they did not receive notification.

The four stages of the rally were on roads past farmland, affecting their right to farm. The roar of racing cars distressed stock and each time a race car passed, there were clouds of dust. Houses close to the road were covered with dust and flying rocks. Our cows came running up to the house trying to escape the noise of the rally cars. But there was no escape, as our property is bordered by two gravel roads that were part of the Toonumbar Rally stage.

On the day of the rally, rally officials set up 50 metres along the road, outside a neighbours' gate,

and three officials set up outside our main gate. Another three went through our next gate and parked on our land. We told them to leave as they were trespassing, and they proceeded to argue that they had been given permission to be there, which was untrue. The next day, we recognised cars stopped at our gateway, that had been on guard at farm gates.

The rally creates copycat behaviour from the rally fans who want to drive the rally stages, every weekend, for months. City people appear to think that country shire roads are their weekend playground. Shire roads and bridges that are already in need of repair (that council never has enough funding to fix), yet they approve a car rally that causes more damage.

All for an event that benefits a few select businesses in the town. Stall holders at the regular Saturday farmers' market said the turnover was less than usual. Kyogle town residents reported an increase in noisy cars and hooning on the weekend. Police did not approve of the rally in principle, yet approved the event, and local MP Thomas George took part in the approval process. Police were assisting in the running of the rally.

What a horrendous day of noise, dust, inconvenience, intimidation and deprivation of liberty. We filmed the dust and noise to be presented to council. There were reports from angry residents on the western side of town who had no idea roads were closed for the day.



Photo: Col O'Brien

They were then faced with a long journey home. Some reported rally fans already getting stuck into the grog on the sides of the road.

As with the WRC in 2009, once the cars left town, so did the fans. Rally fans were interested in rally cars, not the shops and attractions. Shops missed out on the money usually spent in town by those residents who, because of road closures, couldn't get to town. There are far better, low-impact, ratepayer-friendly, more resident-considerate ways to bring dollars to the businesses in town on a regular basis than this.

Kyogle advertises the area as the Gateway to the Rainforest, not the Gateway to a Rally Track. It is a socially irresponsible event, encouraging people to drive at speed without respect for people living on those roads.

We, other residents and a few Councillors have been labelled the "anti-everything brigade". We are not 'anti-everything', and would like council to encourage more events that are suited to the area's environment.

A solution for car clubs is to keep their car racing on purpose-built race tracks or buy hundreds of acres

of cheap land where they won't affect people and build their rally tracks.

The car rally is now a council election issue. Vote wisely, do your research on the candidates, go to the candidates' forums and ask questions. Remind them that they work for you, and their position is not to be self serving. With party politics creeping into the local level, I fear it will just become a replication of the State and Federal elections.

*Ed's note: Kathleen's previous article was her personal opinion and experience, not an opinion piece from Kyogle Action Group.*

## Growing Kyogle: Bright ideas wanted

by Graeme Gibson

Growing Kyogle is interested in stimulating thoughts, ideas and discussion about the future of Kyogle and Villages.

Earlier this year, examples of exciting small community developments throughout Australia were presented to a small group. This generated the idea to seek input from throughout the community. Invitations have been issued to schools, community organisations, businesses and individuals to present creative ideas at a community forum on Thursday 13th October.

To support the creative element, presentations will use PowerPoint – but not in the normal manner. Instead, presentations will use a format known as Pecha Kucha. This is a fast and concise method of presenting ideas. It uses 20 slides each on the screen for 20 seconds. A total of six minutes and 40 seconds for each presentation. Slides use visual images and rely less on text to support the idea being presented while the presenter speaks to the idea.

Developed in Japan, Pecha Kucha means chit-

chat, and the intention is to have people chit chatting about the ideas that have been presented. People are sometimes reluctant to put their ideas out because it's too big for them alone. The forum provides the opportunity for people who share the vision or are attracted to the bright idea to get together. Growing Kyogle is committed to considering all ideas with the intention of offering support where possible.

This is fun, it's creative, it's community building and it puts people first. The PowerPoint format is simple and help is available. So don't be shy. Have a go and stretch your imagination and creative talent. No idea is too big or too small.

For more information, have a look at: [www.pechakucha.org](http://www.pechakucha.org) For local information contact either Bob Brace on 6632-2111 or Graeme Gibson on 0408-676-550. Entry forms are available from either Bob or Graeme or at Kyogle Library. Entries are needed by 23rd September and the forum will be at the Kyogle Cinema from 6pm on Thursday 13th October.

## Benny Zable: a letter from America

I was looking forward to seeing a popular movement growing from the Bernie Sanders campaign, which got a lot of young folks motivated to get engaged in the up and coming Presidential elections.

When Bernie threw in the towel conceding to Hillary Clinton, his supporters split up. Some have gone over to support the US Greens Presidential candidate Jill Stein. Others have joined Donald Trump, some the Libertarians, and some were bought out by the Hillary Clinton camp.

Hillary Clinton is still ahead in the polls, but the scandal associated around her emails and the Clinton Foundation is predicted to be damaging when election day comes round in November. Donald Trump continues to dominate the news with his bizarre comments.

Sad to say, Bernie Sanders has disappeared from the US mainstream media. Even so, the issues raised are not going away. Conversation still continues on many of them both from Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump camps. Both are protecting corporate climate polluters. So it is anyone's guess how it will all play out by election day.

This month I had the pleasure to have some friends from Byron Bay,



Above: Australian EcoFest volunteers Veda Turner and Parijat Wismer with New Jersey folk singer Spook Handy and Benny Zable. Inset, left: Benny (unmasked) at Woodstock Hiroshima march and rally.

Iris Nunn Veda and Paraji, joining in with us for the 28th annual New York City EcoFest. The theme was Lifestyle Choices. The Reverend Billy Tallen has been drawing up parks and other places where Monsanto Roundup is being sprayed around the USA. Roundup's inert ingredients can kill human cells, particularly embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells. Lisa Costello and Nimbin Environment Centre not long ago organised a rally on this specific issue.

Concerns are being raised by the effects of this spraying especially on children in playground areas. See: <https://igg.me/at/CB88Xlz70pQ>

I attended Woodstock on Hiroshima Day. A procession with flags and banners and a rally concert proceeded. A small but dedicated group attended. At the Woodstock Museum we are talking up ideas for the Nimbin Aquarius 45th anniversary and a Woodstock Nimbin Connection village setting for the Woodstock Festival 50th anniversary in 2019. Stay tuned.