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# Stamp duty on multiple occupancies

by David Spain

There is a common but dangerous myth that transfers of shares in intentional communities (Multiple Occupancy with a company structures) do not attract stamp duty payable to the State government.

In fact, such shares involve a "Land Use Entitlement" and stamp duty is payable on the share price as if land were being transferred. [Note that this is different to shares in a "Land Rich Company", where the company owns land over certain value but shares do not give holders personal rights of occupancy].

Often in NSW, intentional communities (and, traditionally, highrise strata) is structured via company shares holding certain rights. Because the share transfers are registered by secretaries away in the back woods, not on a public register, these secretaries often believe no stamp duty is payable or that failure to pay will never be noticed by OSR. In fact, full duty

is payable at land rates. If OSR found out there is duty left unpaid, then the sum involved plus interest upon it and penalties would be demanded, and this debt is a charge on the land. Not only the purchaser is liable but also the company and its secretary could potentially be seen as parties to the evasion.

"Land Use Entitlement" is defined in s1 of the dictionary in *Duties Act* (NSW, 1997) as "an entitlement to occupy land within New South Wales conferred through an ownership of shares in a company or an ownership of units in a unit trust scheme, or a combination of a shareholding or ownership of units together with a lease or licence". A "Land Use Entitlement" is dutiable property [s11(c)] and a transfer of shares granting same attracts duty [s12(1)]. That duty is not charged at the (lower) "marketable securities" rate, which usually applies to company share transfers [see s33(4)]. Rather, the general [land] rate applies

under s32. If the "Land Use Entitlement" shares are acquired by allotment (not by transfer of a pre-existing allotment), a return must be lodged within 6 months under s135 and duty is payable under s137. The Stamp Duty is on the market value of the interest, not the sum actually paid, and the Commissioner can require a valuation. A calculator for Stamp Duty rates on Transfers (including transfers of shares having "Land Use Entitlements") is on OSR website.

Stamp Duty is an arbitrary impost to raise State revenue. Besides increasing transaction costs, Stamp Duty constrains land dealings, frustrates efficient relocation (eg. living near job) and dissuades downsizing by empty-nesters that would help make homes available. It serves no beneficial economic purpose and is just as irrational as the mediaeval taxes on windows and chimneys. However, make no mistake – under the "black letter law" it is at present payable.



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## Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, President

Spring is now upon us with a very busy month of events and activities ahead including the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, The Nimbin Blues and Roots Festival, and the Nimbin Country Show.

Last month we held another general meeting and had some really interesting guest speakers.

Senior Constable Dave Henderson from the local area command gave a presentation of some of the most common scams targeting businesses and individuals in the Northern Rivers. Some of the most common include:

- Telephone scams – claiming to be service companies that will get you to give away identification data, control of your computer or purchase false vouchers.
- Change scams – using \$100 notes at the till, they keep changing their minds, making requests etc and often get away with much more than the notes being presented.
- Stealing Paywave cards – an account can be cleaned out very quickly with multiple purchases. Any card losses should be reported as soon as possible to the bank and then to the police.
- Shoplifters – CCTV is great because it gives an identifying record for police and if caught ID should be recorded. A banning notice can be served if an ID is made. Please report even juvenile shoplifters to police as they will contact the relevant agencies and investigate the home situation, as often juveniles have difficult situations that drive them into petty crime and this could get them the help they need. We also discussed a telephone tree to identify local shoplifting events to warn other businesses when its



The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has introduced a labelling system for everything 'Made in Nimbin', and would like to encourage all local businesses in supporting this project by using this labelling system in all the products which are clearly and indisputably 'Made in Nimbin'.

Prices are: 1 sheet with 155 labels for \$6; 2 sheets with 310 labels for \$10. To order, contact Peter Hughes by phone 6689-0470 or email: [pjh@lis.net.au](mailto:pjh@lis.net.au)

happening.

- Internet Scams – are multiple and here are some common ones. False invoices from a trusted supplier but with a different account, always check. Romance scams with requests for money once the romance is established. Hitman scams - threats to pay up or else. Taxman scams, claims you owe and must pay, always check the ATO. Freebies – you won a promotion, inheritance, lotto etc. asking for bank account details. All these scams cost local businesses and individuals millions of dollars every year. Please report to your local police. The Richmond LAC also have a Facebook page identifying the latest scams and the NSW Police Force also have website: [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au) that can be consulted, which also identifies the latest scams.

Last year the Nimbin Chamber questioned LCC staff about water quality in Nimbin and received a report that we didn't understand. We asked council if they could explain in layman's terms what the report meant and so Gary Murphy and Mat Tor attended to explain and answer questions.

According to the analysis of water, we have some of the purest potable water in the district because of current arrangements. The water is chlorinated twice, once at the outlet to the weir to service

houses along Gungas Road and again at the holding tank in town before it is pumped up to the pressure tank to service the village.

Levels are monitored at both chlorination points to assure that levels are within safety limits and the information is transmitted directly to Lismore and adjusted accordingly.

Currently work is going ahead to put all the Gungas Road residents onto the main outlet and when this work is complete (around December this year) there will be only one chlorination treatment required to ensure that the water is safe to drink. LCC has no idea why the water should taste so strongly of chlorine as levels are always within range, but it could be the residual chemical that remains in trace elements after chlorination that we can taste.

They suggested that after the new work is done and chlorination treatments have been reduced the taste may improve. I guess we will have another conversation if this is not the case. They also encouraged any business or individual who has water issues to contact LCC and report as they will take action to ensure the water is safe and of good quality for the village.

We finished the meeting with a round-up of community projects and chamber initiatives.

The report for the Nimbin Parking Strategy was released in the beginning of August with submissions closing at the end of the month. The chamber feels that this does not give enough time for community groups to respond and comment and that more community feedback and consultation are needed before it truly reflects the needs of the village. The date for parking strategy submissions has now been extended until after the NAG conduct their consultations on 12th September.

LCC is organising a meeting with emergency services and Nimbin community organisations to look at emergency services and responses and to see if we can develop a community emergency response plan.

LCC is also negotiating with NNIC around converting a cubicle in the public toilet into a shower facility, Nat has some figures now from LCC but currently no funding. This is an important project as there are no public access showers anywhere in the village and there are some community health issues with the loss of such services.

We also discussed with the LCC representatives our disappointment at the lack of support from LCC in regard to our grant application for \$10,000 towards the Light Up Nimbin Project, particularly as they have included this in their own Crime Prevention Plan. We are exploring other funding sources, but it looks like it will involve the Chamber having to borrow and repay the difference, which of course will then take funds away from other infrastructure plans.

The Chamber then presented some of the plastic-bag-free Nimbin strategies it was developing, including supporting the Boomerang Bag group, the Ecobag and the Nimbin Coffee Cup.





by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

I recently spoke in Parliament about the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary, which celebrated its 70th anniversary (*see pic on page 37*).

Over the last 70 years, the auxiliary's volunteer members have raised many tens of thousands of dollars for much-needed medical equipment.

Last year they raised more than \$33,000 to purchase items such as lift chairs, lounges and bladder scanners for the Multi-Purpose Service

I would like to thank each and every volunteer for the time they freely give to make our community that much better.

I would particularly like to thank the

## On the same PAGE

outgoing executive, including president Maureen Lombard, secretary Margaret McQuilty, Treasurer Robin Roos, Vice-Presidents Margret Linton and Laura Moffitt, Assistant Treasurer Louise Donadel and Bev Gardner.

It was great to catch up with Justin Hodges, Scott Prince, and Bo de la Cruz last week as they helped launch the Broncos Indigenous Girls Academy.

This is a great Federal Government-funded program to help improve attendance and results at school. The mentoring program has achieved great results.

People who are enrolled to vote will receive their postal survey this month asking "Should the law be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry".

All you have to do is mark your vote and return it in the envelope provided.

As a community we have discussed this question for a long time now and I encourage everyone to vote so that this can be resolved.

## All sorts of shenanigans

August has been huge: the marriage equality debate rages, as does the campaign to #changethedate, and there were all sorts of shenanigans on social media in response to my motion to remove the opening prayer from our Council meetings.

I was the subject of a fairly awful article regarding that motion, and had my first experience of trolling as a result. The article was written by a very right-wing author and shared as far as New Zealand and South Australia.

I received nasty messages from people in those places, who surely have better things to do with their time. I feel like I have earned a badge of political achievement in weathering my first facebook storm, and I am pleased that the motion passed in spite of the very poorly slung mud from those who want to retain the outdated opening to our meetings.

A rescission motion has been lodged and we will debate the motion again at our upcoming meeting, but the statistics from the recent census don't lie, our community is increasingly secular and a non-denominational opening is the most appropriate way to start our meetings.

And, who could miss the current moral outrage in the debate around Australia Day? White Australians bemoan the loss of our 'traditional values' as they rail against the voices of reason calling for respect for the First Peoples of our country, and choose instead to interpret that call as an attack on our national identity. They are right when they say that changing the date won't change history, what's done is done, but we can acknowledge that the generational hurt and trauma is real and that to wave our flags and chant our slogans on that particular day is adding unnecessary insult to injury. Australia Day has only been celebrated on the 26th of January since 1994, so let's just make this easy, change it again and leave the outrage for something that truly deserves it.

A worthy target might be the debacle that is the current citizenship crisis for the government! How convenient that whilst they hang on to their one seat majority by a thread they can sound out a rallying cry of Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, in a valiant attempt to distract the everyday citizen from the shambolic situation in Canberra. The essence of all of these issues is equality and fairness, how can anyone object to that?



**Word of the Bird**  
by Cr Elly Bird

The counter argument from the morally outraged is that by advocating for equality and fairness, we are actually excluding the dominant members of our society – those who have, and continue to hold power. Their arguments are full of nationalistic, righteous indignation, with no real substance. The rhetoric is one of fear, and a longing for 'when things were better'. I have compassion for their fear, our world is an uncertain place, with escalating tensions in North Korea, ongoing threats

of terrorism, and unprecedented flooding both in Asia and in Texas that is currently displacing more than 42 million people.

The constancy of our media cycle reaffirms to all who watch that we should be fearful, and I believe we are witnessing an outpouring of fear in the response to these sensible moves towards equality and fairness. There has been some local commentary on the priorities of Council, that somehow by engaging in these debates we are being less effective in dealing with 'rates, roads and rubbish'.

To those people I say this: Council is much, much more than just those things, we are a local voice for our community and as long as our representatives at state and federal levels don't speak out for our community on issues that matter, this Council will. Our advocacy does not lessen our work on the many other aspects of Council.

Speaking of which, our agenda for the September meeting is jam-packed. If you are interested, the meeting is Tuesday 12th September at 6pm. If you can't make it in person you can watch online, as our meetings are live-streamed from the Council website: [lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://lismore.nsw.gov.au) in the 'Council & Engagement' section. And, if you miss it this month, we will be live again on the second Tuesday of every month.

Also, every Tuesday night Council has briefings on upcoming issues and the public are welcome to come to those, I recommend calling ahead on 1300-87-83-87 to find out what is on the agenda.

Finally, welcome to Spring! I hope that amongst all the political excitement you are finding time to connect with nature and to find stillness, beauty and comfort in the world around us. As always, I can be contacted for Council or community matters on 0418-639-927 or at: [elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

## From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith  
Lismore City Council

It was a real honour to be the first Lismore Mayor to attend the Mayors for Peace conference in Nagasaki last month. They were very pleased to hear that we had recently passed a motion to resurrect our previous commitment to stopping nuclear proliferation by putting up new signs saying our community is nuclear free.

Mayors for peace started in 1982 when it was realised that cities are the targets for weapons of mass destruction. So why leave the issue to national governments, when mayors from around the world can work towards peace. Due to our sister city relationship, Lismore was one of the first signatories in 1983 and we remain committed today.

The conference was very excited about the first successful UN vote against nuclear weapons. In July the majority of countries committed to disarmament for the first time, but unfortunately both Japan and Australia did not support the motion. We need to keep the pressure on the federal government to make this commitment to remove the nuclear threat.

We had another great NAG (Nimbin Advisory Group) Meeting last month and had some good conversations about Nimbin and the surrounding area. It was great to see the

Nimbin walking trail back on the agenda, so council is keen to work with the group to get that recreational activity happening. We are also continuing to consult on the parking plan. While parking as an issue never ends, it is good to hear from the community on what is working now and what can be made better in the future. Make sure you read the NAG article in this issue for all the details.

We held our first Biodiversity awards night last month as part of celebrating our local champions in the Biodiversity Management Program. We are two years into the plan and the results speak for themselves with 49 project sites gaining 16,295 new trees, 85 hectares of restoration completed and 6.5km of fencing in place and that is just the beginning!

I want to thank all the nominees for their hard work and dedication to improved farming and environmental outcomes. The judges found it difficult to select the winners, which is a great sign that things are getting better. Congratulations to Robert Hunter for taking out the Primary producer award for his cattle property at Corndale, Wilsons River Landcare Group for best community or school group and to Ken Williams and Adrian George for best lifestyle block for their property at Georgica.

Keep an eye on this program as we have just

received another state government grant for \$100k to expand the BMS services in the coming year. So more events and outcomes are on their way. The next Rural Landholder days are for farmland ecology on a grazing property in Tuncester on the 15th of September and an upper catchment lifestyle property field day in Terania Creek on the 7th of October. You can get involved by contacting council and more info is on the council website.

I am really hoping that our recent success in recreational trails around Lismore will rub off on the Nimbin walking trail this year. While that is a much larger project, recent grants have allowed for more cycleways around Lismore, a recreational walking track from Albert park to the Wilsons nature reserve and for two small mountain bike trails in the middle of Goonellabah.

The big challenge we face as a council is connecting our villages to these networks and promoting passive recreation. While our rural roads are in need of care, I can't see us having the capacity to also connect with cycleways, but we should aim for this in future. There is a lot more coming to Nimbin in the year ahead with some new outdoor gym equipment in Peace Park, so what better than a new walking trail to link everything together and keep visitors and locals more connected and active.

## Bottled water sucks us dry

by Cr Vanessa Ekins

Do you buy bottled water? Know where it comes from?

Mount Franklin spring water is actually sucked from groundwater at Mount Tamborine and 27 trucks a day take it to Brisbane for bottling. Local farmers are very worried about aquifer water levels.

Nu Pure is extracted from groundwater at Uki and trucked on narrow country roads to Brisbane, with unknown and unmeasured impacts on local water systems.

The owners of these bore licenses pay one cent per thousand litres to the NSW government. We pay 300 times this for our reticulated water.

So while these license holders can earn \$25 per thousand litres for this extracted water, we are paying for the impact on our local road network, farmers are freaking out about the lowering water table and councils are struggling to manage the waste produced from plastic water bottles.

And now Lismore Council



is under pressure to allow water mining for bottled water. Water extraction is a growing industry with almost no redeeming features, providing little employment, depleting water sources for private profit and is energy intensive, producing vast quantities of waste.

Currently Lismore's Local Environment Plan does not allow water extraction. Council staff suggested inserting a clause to enable water extraction and bottling in the rural zone but Greens I argued to defer this matter to a workshop for further discussion. I said,

'We fought CSG to protect our water, do we want to bottle it now? This is the

next big challenge we face as a community, there is so much pressure on our water systems already for irrigation, stock and domestic use, we cannot lose more water for private profit. We don't even know how much water there is or how rainfall and surface flow recharge our groundwater systems. We need a lot more research and an evaluation of existing water licenses before we even start talking about the ethics of bottled water.'

If you feel strongly about the mining of water for bottling please let your Councillors know because there is a lot of pressure on them to allow this industry access to our water. Development Applications for extraction of groundwater for water bottling are often modified to increase the scale of mining and size and frequency of semi-trailer deliveries without adequate regulation and compliance. Unfortunately selling water is seen as easy money with few restrictions, few costs and few risks for the license holder. Water is precious and not for sale.



# Open letter to the Premier from the Nimbin Action Group

Dear Premier,

I write to you not so much as a long-term resident and representative for Nimbin, but as a woman speaking to another woman.

Last Saturday morning, Nimbin suffered another tragic and senseless death as a young man aged just 18 was found dead from an overdose of hard drugs on the footpath outside a café in town. He was one of many who have died in our town since marijuana was made unavailable and taken off the street by the NSW police.

Since my arrival in Nimbin in 1980, I have witnessed the town and surrounding communities experience so many police raids as to be recordable, which I did in three full scrap books. They are full of news stories and accounts by people, both locals and visitors to Nimbin, of heavy-handed police behaviour, a roughness not really called for in Nimbin at all.

As an alternative-minded people we have promoted and employed many beneficial additions to society. Alternative housing, energy, schooling, permaculture, forest regeneration and healing to name only a few. One of the strongest concepts of the alternative movement from 1973 on was that peace was better than war, and love better than hate. This was the reputation of Nimbin and many thousands came from around the world because we had this reputation, one of empathy and compassion and of something else besides a capitalistic self-obsessed view of life.

Today's Nimbin is still compassionate despite the worse reputation of 'drug capital of Australia' and never-ending police invasions. So many people, mostly the chronically or terminally ill, still come seeking pain relief from marijuana as they have done for decades. You see, as any long-term resident of Nimbin can tell you, we have been scrutinising its medicinal properties over the last four decades. Folks have reported back when a medical condition they suffered from improved or their pain from cancer was diminished.

These days, these people cannot find any relief in Nimbin. They walk around town with anguished faces seeking what cannot be found; it's heart breaking.

Some might say what a good job the police have done, but the police forgot to take away the hard drug dealers who the 'Laneway Boys' of Rainbow Lane constantly chased out of town. Today, we have more people dying from these horrible drugs instead of being able to access herbal medicine. Whilst the most dangerous drug, alcohol, is freely available to all and sundry.

On a financial note, the frequency of police raids in Nimbin have taken their toll, negatively affecting both visitors and locals who come into Nimbin for shopping. As a result, shops in Nimbin have reported a loss of revenue and the Mardi Grass lost thousands in the number of tourists who usually come.

I realise that you would have many more important issues in your basket, however, you are our last approach and hope for reason. Since becoming administrator for the Nimbin Action Group, I have made several approaches to the Minister of NSW Police.

The first, in 2014, was responded to negatively by Parliamentary Secretary for Police Niall Blair MC; the second approach came with 350 signatures and a plea from locals to the NSW Police Commissioner. It was replied to by Superintendent Greg Martin Commander, Richmond Local Area, also negatively.

Please find the enclosed 1000 signatures from locals and visitors to Nimbin on a petition to NSW Parliament requesting a less aggressive approach to our village. As a small peaceful town, we have had enough, and given that marijuana is now legal for recreational purposes in so many other countries around the world, we call for reason.

Thank you for any help you may have to offer,  
Yours truly, Sophia Hoebe

On behalf of the Nimbin Action Group.  
Email: [sleepygully@bigpond.com](mailto:sleepygully@bigpond.com)

## Don't mix depressants

by Nimbin Community  
Drug Action Team

**WARNING:** Mixing CNS Depressants (Benzos, Alcohol and Opioids) can be fatal – approach with extreme caution and stay alive!

All CNS depressants are cross-tolerant with one another, meaning that developing a tolerance for one will result in a tolerance for another, and the temptation to keep increasing doses to achieve the expected effect increases the risk of overdose. Regular use of both can also make withdrawal from either much worse.

**Benzodiazepines** such as alprazolam (Xanax), clonazepam (Klonopin), diazepam (Valium) and lorazepam (Ativan) are in the sedative-hypnotic class of drugs that includes alcohol and barbiturates. Sedatives are CNS (Central Nervous System) depressants like opiates and opioids.

While benzos used alone do not usually produce fatal overdose, they can when used together with an opioid, or alcohol. The combined sedative effects are enough to cause death from depressed breathing. This risk is greatly increased when Benzos are mixed with the synthetic opioids Tramadol and Tapentadol. You should avoid mixing these at all costs.

**Tapentadol/Palexia:** As well as the opioid-like effects, Tapentadol also blocks reuptake of nor-adrenalin and can cause seizures in people with brain injuries or epilepsy. Palexia is a sustained-release type of Tapentadol, designed to



Chibo Mertineit, Deb Woodbridge and Sabina Brady with Captain Competent, sharing harm reduction and drug overdose information on International Overdose Awareness Day.

have long-lasting effect, so the risk of overdose is greatly increased if the pill is crushed and then swallowed, snorted or injected.

When mixed with amphetamine-type-stimulants including MDMA, cocaine, synthetic stimulants like "bath salts", "flakka", "gravel" and many hallucinogens (LSD, psilocybin, mescaline, NBOMe series drugs), Tapentadol can cause dangerous toxicity and overdose.

Herbal products containing St John's Wort might also cause similar problems when used in combination with Tapentadol.

Tapentadol should not be used by people with liver disease.

**Tramadol** also acts in a slightly different way than typical opioids. Use of tramadol carries all the risks associated with use of other opioids and some additional risks as well. Withdrawal from tramadol can produce seizures which are not usually

experienced as a consequence of opioid withdrawal.

Mixing it with Benzos can increase the lethality of Tramadol and the likelihood of death.

Combining alcohol and tramadol also increases the chance of overdosing on either or both. Tramadol and alcohol also increases depression and can cause suicidal thoughts or actions.

If you are prescribed either benzos or opioids by a GP it is essential you tell them about any other drugs you are using. Not doing so could result in severe injury or death if you mix certain drugs together.

If you are addicted to benzos and/or Tramadol, get help to get clean. Talk to your GP, or if you live in Nimbin, contact Nimbin Integrate Services on 6689-1497.

Live elsewhere in the Northern Rivers? Contact Riverlands on 6620-7600. You can also call ADIS for help with illicit drug use on 1800-422-599.

## Lucy Haslam rails against snails pace of medical cannabis reforms

Suffering from an aggressive bowel cancer from which he would eventually die, Dan Haslam found relief from the debilitating nausea induced by his chemotherapy with smoked cannabis.

With the support of his mother Lucy Haslam, a former nurse, and his father Lou, a former policeman, Dan Haslam became the poster boy of the medical cannabis movement and the Haslam family became powerful advocates for medical cannabis laws in New South Wales.

In the two-and-a-half years since Dan's death, Lucy Haslam has witnessed the creation of a medical cannabis regime in New South Wales that she finds shameful.

In this interview with Bay-FM's Dr John Jiggins, she speaks out against the institutionalisation of a system that is bureaucratic, convoluted, time-consuming, expensive and ignores patients, while the overwhelming majority of medical cannabis users are still forced to be criminals, sourcing their medicinal cannabis from the black market.

**JJ:** When your son Dan died in 2015, as a grieving parent you were consoled because Dan had made a huge difference to the lives of many people through his courageous championing of medical cannabis.



Dan and Lucy Haslam. Source: ABC.

Several years later, what do you think of what has become of Dan's legacy, the medical cannabis laws in NSW?

**LH:** I'm actually ashamed of it to be honest. There is nothing compassionate about the legislation that has been thrust on the Australian people. New South Wales laws put up additional rules for people to jump over. I think Dan would be shaking his head as I am. I think he would be very ashamed of it. I certainly am very sad about it.

**JJ:** What are the failings of the current medical cannabis system?

**LH:** There was never any conversation with patients. From the start the government decided to go down a pharmacological pathway, which is not the preference of patients who would

prefer a botanical product. Patients are still criminals, even if they have valid medical uses or are terminally ill or suffer epilepsy. So there has just really been a failure all round for the government to identify the needs of patients and to respond to them.

**LH:** You have got to wonder why the pushback is starting to come now. Politicians were so eager to embrace medicinal cannabis because they could see it was politically popular but they're getting a lot of pushback from conservative doctors and we know behind conservative doctors there are pharmaceutical companies. There are a lot of forces that won't come out and be honest and state who they are and what their intentions are, but they have a lot of impact on the policy that we're being given by governments and is not a good impact.

**JJ:** Your petition states that NSW urgently needs a simple Compassionate Access Scheme. How would that work?

**LH:** A Compassionate Access Scheme would look like what I call precision medicines or an n-of-1 study, in which a patient who needs medical cannabis is given protection under the law so it's decriminalised, and they

are under the care of the doctor so they are not ostracized, as in the current situation. The doctor cares for them as a patient using cannabis, reports any adverse effects, reports positive outcomes. All that data is collected and all that information can be evaluated in an n-of-1 study, which is a valid medical study. Instead the doctors say that patients must wait for a randomised, double-blind placebo controlled trial, which takes a long time and is a very expensive.

**JJ:** How many people have managed to legally access medical cannabis in NSW?

**LH:** In New South Wales I would say between 30 or 40 at most.

**JJ:** From your deep involvement with the medical cannabis community, how many people might be accessing medical cannabis illegally in NSW?

**LH:** Illegally? I would have thought there would have been tens of thousands.

**JJ:** Do you think medical users should be able to grow their own medicinal cannabis?

**LH:** I'm not against it but, as the mother of a really sick person, I would have preferred the option of being able to go to the chemist and get a medicine and know the quality of each batch was

reproducible and standardised. I think there are benefits for having it standardised, but I'm not against home-grown by any means and I think because of the time that this is all taking it is a better alternative for some people. To guard themselves, to know what they are getting and where it's coming from, unlike the current situation where they're relying on the black market and they have no understanding of where the medicines come from.

**JJ:** Any final words?

**LH:** I think that New South Wales voters should realise they have been duped at both the state level and the federal level. Politicians have been very quick to stand in front of the camera and to take the accolades for making medical cannabis available when in fact they've done the opposite. I think it's time they were held to account to be honest. We need to start speaking out against this because a lot of people are suffering unnecessarily. People are suffering from the bias and the stigma associated with cannabis, which is really something that should be in the past now. I think in an innovative country we should be listening to our citizens and not ignoring them the way the current system is doing.



# Individualism – is it just a consolation prize?



by Aidan Ricketts

I was recently invited to speak in a panel discussion about individualism with two excellent co-panellists our illustrious former mayor Jenny Dowell and Lismore's new and quite surprising Bishop Gregory Homeming. A very interesting topic in these days of late stage capitalism and one I found myself contemplating deeply before and after the event.

As we learnt from *The Life of Brian*, we are all individuals. Well yes, at some level there's an apparent obviousness to this sense of being a single specimen living in a bag of skin. This is reinforced throughout our lives by being given a name, having records kept about us and these days having a carefully or less carefully curated presence on Facebook or other social media.

But just how significant is it. Our liberal-capitalist economic model is built upon a very specific and I would say distorted understanding of individuality. Liberalism proceeds from what can be called ontological individualism, a belief that our individual identity is the most important defining feature of us as a human.

Whilst this idea captures at least an important part of what it is to be human, it misses what is by far the greater part, like the rest of the universe actually. We all have a face and a name and we all feel it most when our own finger is cut, but in reality none of us are born alone, none can truly exist alone for long and in any case our bodies are actually ecological systems. We now know that 90% of the genetic material in our bodies is microbial not our own DNA, what's more we could not live without many of the 100 trillion microbes in our bodies.

Far greater than our cultural self-perception of individualism is the fact that we are inseparable from our communities, nature, and the microbial world and in fact the

entire universe. The thin bag of skin around our flesh does not create a barrier between self and the rest of the universe, it is all just universe.

I think of individualism as being just one part of a somewhat paradoxical figure eight infinity pattern that we live in. At one extreme point on it, is that spark of personal self-awareness that enables us to stand back from the world and look back at it, and more importantly to be creative, experimental and expressive. This is the type of individuality that is important, that needs protecting from oppressive over-governance and repressive moral normativities. Important because for all species the individual is a place of experimentation where evolutionary change can be initiated. The paradox partly explains itself, we are part of the whole but we travel endlessly to the edge of that wholeness for this very creative process to be sparked.

But we should not, as liberal-capitalism does, celebrate that apparent separateness of self and reify it as definitive of the human condition, it is nothing but a moment, a flash in a continuum.

I often see people, young people and young males especially holding on to their individuality and their individual autonomy like it is the most precious asset in the world. It may be precious, but be careful, it may also simply be the consolation prize that late stage capitalism offers you after you have already lost your connection to the things that really matter in life, your family, your community and nature itself. Connectivity is the wellspring of wellbeing, not the endless race to the bottom of trying to find a true self through consumption, pride or worldly achievement.

Paradoxically the more we suck up into our individuality the smaller (and ultimately more frightened) we become, the more we connect outwardly the more expansive we become.

So in the end, it is not that



individuality is mere illusion, it isn't, it's just a moment in the figure eight spiral of connectedness, our chance to contribute something back to the grand experiment we are all part of. For some of us that may mean contributing as a Nobel prize winning scientist, for others as an inspirational artist, for others as simply as a person of good will and integrity and love.

Unfortunately late capitalism encourages us increasingly to cling to our fragile senses of identity, fuel them up with competitiveness and worst of all to try to fill our voids with material consumption. All very good for corporations, which actually are soulless profit-seeking forms of artificial intelligence but a path of hopelessness for humans, who are ecological creatures.

Part of our great alienation comes not only from the conceit of toxic individualism but from the grand species-wide conceit of human centeredness (anthropocentrism). That ludicrous and unscientific cultural trope in which we imagine that humans are somehow especially important on this planet. Honestly the microbes can live without us, we can't live without them, and we had better get humble and pay some respect to our hosts.

Is there a connection between individualism and consumption? You bet there is. The increasing isolation people feel in late capitalist culture manifests as anxieties about our old age, not being cared for, being in poverty, being homeless, all things we fear most because of the

disintegration of our communities, our families and our extended tribal structures. The great privilege of being a first world citizen is to carry the lifelong anxiety that we need to buy an overly expensive home and amass a million in super just to avoid being left out in the cold in our old age. The old people I met in Bougainville recently had no such burden in their lives.

For many of us we will pay a mortgage to the bank our whole lives, only to have it remortgaged

in favour of an increasingly predatory residential aged care industry. Such is life when individualism is the consolation prize for lost connection.

Fortunately for many of our readers here in the Northern Rivers we already know this. Our history of land share communities, of community based self-help, of volunteering and of activism are all signs that our connectivity is not lost. At Bentley people became euphoric over months of standing together to protect our shared region, so much so that the camp was not disbanded, nor the Greet-the-Dawn ceremonies finished until two weeks after victory. The Lismore Flood reminded us of our smallness before nature and brought the connectedness out in so many.

These are frightening times we live in as the economic, cultural and environmental cancer of late stage capitalism is laid bare in all of its consumptive, destructive horror. We see the spectacle of populist politicians who offer nothing but the politics of lateral hate and violence as a salve for the incomprehension people feel at a world that is failing them.

But as ever in human history we are still ecological beings, it is actually impossible for us to actually disconnect from nature. The connection exists in every cell of our bodies and we can feel it whenever we are ready. So next time you are struck by ennui (feelings of meaninglessness) look not for what your small self craves but for what you can contribute, however small, and healing begins.

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# Tricks and traps in stand-alone power



Guy Stewart  
Rainbow Power Company

The Nimbin community is known for rejecting the powers-that-be and doing it ourselves.

Rainbow Power Company has been walking the fine line between empowering our community with knowledge and access to equipment while promoting a high quality and professional design and installation service.

We often get phone calls from people asking for help with a failing system or inspect systems for a house they have just bought. I have made a list of 15 or so common things that I regularly see and hear and will be submitting a couple each month to the *GoodTimes*.

**Incorrect fusing**  
By far the most common issue we see with inexperienced system builders is mistakes with fusing.

This is particularly worrying because an incorrectly fused system will appear to be working perfectly, until there is a fault and then an inconvenience turns into a disaster.

Getting this right isn't always easy. Systems often have different wire sizes and additive loads (e.g. battery charger + solar charger).

All Rainbow Power Company system designs are thoroughly reviewed by separate inspectors who make sure that current demands, wire sizes and connection points match the fuses. Most system contain five different kinds of fuses to match the characteristics of the loads that they are subject too.

For example, our solar panel string fuses are dual pole DC rated, as cheaper single pole AC rated circuit breakers can fail over time as their breaking points are not designed for the higher arc potential of DC supplies.

Our inverter wiring is protected by High Rupture Current (HRC) ceramic fuses. These are able to

handle spikes of very high current without blowing, for the peak surge loads typical of motor start ups powered by the inverter.

Nearly all stand-alone power systems should have these. They are typically large and white, with a handle you can pull down to quickly shut down the system.

If a fuse or circuit breaker keeps tripping, it could be due to a fault or because the load is too large. The solution isn't a bigger fuse! The fuse is there to protect the wire and is usually sized correctly to match. If the fuse doesn't go first then the wire might catch fire.

**Experimenting in the field**  
Stand-alone power systems are a technology, and technology moves fast.

There is always new equipment on the horizon, usually with bold revolutionary claims. While it is exciting, using the latest breakthrough to keep the lights on is fraught with risk.

We get excited too, and definitely don't want to be left behind. So we try to do our homework and test equipment before it is installed into a customer's premises.

Eventually though, we need real world experience. Often there is some early-adopter demand, and we will find someone wanting, who is nearby and make them aware if they are getting something new to market.

As we gain confidence and experience with new equipment and systems designs, we will install them into our more remote customers.

This staged roll-out of our systems helps keep long and expensive service calls to an absolute minimum. And if we are required to return to a customer's site, we usually know exactly what the problem is and how to fix it quickly saving everyone time, money and grief.

If you are thinking of trying something new or advised to buy a particular thing ask how many years' experience does it have? Have they lived with it? How many have been installed?

Unlike the Aquarius settlers, we are lucky that we now have 30 years of stand-alone power system experience and when it comes to a power system, reliably boring can be preferable to unknown and untested.

## A warning about SECURITY and intellectual property

by Russell Lean    web2trafficstrategies

If you are going to build online infrastructure – own it.  
My brother-in-law recently (over the last three years) built a significant service online. It was one of those situations that comes in life really out of the left field. He was diagnosed in 2014 with Hepatitis C and was going down the Interferon path.

There was only one option, to pay Gilead, the patent holders of Sofosbuvir (the product name of Sovaldi – a proven pharmaceutical cure for Hep C) \$90,000 Australian dollars for the cure. It has been proven over and over again – this drug is a cure for Hep C, and this year finally it was put on the PBS in Australia.

Greg did not have \$90,000 in 2014, so he started looking for an alternative, and came up with a plan. In India, pharmaceutical companies did not recognise the Gilead patent on the cure and it could be purchased as a generic drug for about \$900 US dollars, a lot less than the patented medicine. Greg travelled to India and sourced the three month treatment, and 12 weeks later was Hep C free – and I do mean *cured*. Greg set up a Blog to tell others about his experience at Homestead, an online site-building platform.

Very soon, the site was getting many hundreds of visits a month. That turned into many thousands of visits a month from people seeking a cure, and a lot of enquiry. The website inadvertently became a significant business and leader in generic medication solutions online for Hep C.

Greg would facilitate the ordering and delivery of the life saving medication from India and the recipient would pay a small fee for the service – really the cost of his hours to facilitate the delivery. If the fee could not be afforded by the person it was waived. In many instances, where people could not afford the treatment, it was provided at Greg's cost from the donations of fees from other people.

In the middle of August 2017, Homestead notified Greg that they had received a complaint about his website and that it was going to be shut down. Greg inquired as to the nature and source of the complaint to try and find a resolution. Nothing was forthcoming, and a deadline for shutdown was issued.

He had 48 hours to organise an alternative. Of course Greg contacted me and we were able to clone the site and set it up again on Wordpress as an independent site, using our web developers BSP Corporate in Western Australia.

It still bothers me greatly two weeks later, that this situation developed at all. How many suffering Hep C infected people have missed out on all the great information that was curated on the original site and a fast track to a cheap and absolutely effective cure. How many people could have been saved if Homestead had not been influenced by "whoever complained".

This brings into focus a reality that anyone who wants to do business / charity work / brand building of any kind on the internet faces. Rule 1: Own your infrastructure. If Greg's initial site *HepatitisCtreatment.homestead.com* had been *www.hepatitisctreatment.com* and hosted independently, no-one would have been able to shut him down without a court order and the great work he was / is doing would have continued unimpeded.

It is a really great lesson for everyone, that in this world we live in, so many are driven purely by profit, the status quo, absolute control of everything, agendas free from personal feelings and the greater common good. May we be all better than that.

Thankyou Nimbin for being a light in the centre of darkness and for all that you gift to those who come here, including me. If you know someone suffering with Hep C in another country other than Australia, please visit: <https://www.generichepatitisdrugs.com> or contact Greg Jefferys: [gregjefferys@outlook.com](mailto:gregjefferys@outlook.com) Hep C cures are now available in Australia on the PBS.

This article is dedicated to all those who have passed without affordable medical access.

# Crypto currency seminars

Do you know if you had invested \$20 a week in Bitcoin (the dominant crypto currency) since 2011, you would by now have in excess of two million dollars worth of Bitcoin?

Crypto Currencies are a peer-to-peer virtual currency, which means there is the removal of a intermediary from point to point transactions, usually occupied by banking institutions who can control and manipulate the market. Anyone can buy or sell Bitcoin or other crypto

currencies; all you need is a virtual wallet and you are ready to go.

Decentralised crypto currency is produced by the entire crypto currency system collectively, at a rate which is defined when the system is created and which is publicly known. In centralised banking and economic systems such as the Federal Reserve System corporate boards or governments control the supply of



Nakamoto, is this a person or a group? What is known is that this anarchistic approach to currency is quickly changing the economic frontier of the world, and empowering people from all walks of life and all economic levels to trade in a currency that is egalitarian in its availability and earning potential.

currency by printing units of "fiat money" or demanding additions to digital banking ledgers.

In the case of decentralised crypto currency, companies or governments cannot produce new units, and have not so far provided backing for other firms, banks or corporate entities which hold asset value measured in it. The underlying technical system upon which decentralised crypto currencies are based was created by the group or individual known as Satoshi Nakamoto.

Not much is known about the mysterious Satoshi

The Nimbin Bush Theatre is starting monthly crypto currency seminars from those who are currently trading in crypto currency, on the first Thursday of every month, 5.30pm-8.30pm. These meetings are suitable for both beginners and experts, with the first half of the meeting dedicated for the learners, and the second half aimed at more seasoned crypto traders.

The first seminar will be held on Thursday 7th September, next will be Thursday 5th October.

## Nimbin Parking Strategy consultation extended

Lismore City Council is extending consultation of the draft Nimbin Parking Strategy to gain further feedback from the Nimbin community.

Council will wait to give consideration to the draft Nimbin Parking Strategy until after the Nimbin Advisory Group has carried out its own local consultation into the draft strategy.

The draft strategy includes a plan to manage parking in the village to ensure parking supply and demand is managed well for both residents and visitors.

The Nimbin Advisory Group will be holding two focus groups for interested people to discuss parking issues and proposals on Tuesday, 12 September at 10am and 6pm at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street.

The Nimbin Advisory Group will advise Council of the discussion had by these focus groups and any issues or proposals raised. People are also welcome to make individual submissions to Council about the draft Nimbin Parking Strategy outlining issues, concerns, objections or support.

These submissions can be made online or in writing to the General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A, Lismore, or emailed to [council@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lismore.nsw.gov.au).

For more information, phone Strategic Planning Coordinator Paula Newman on 1300 87 83 87.





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ROOTS FEST

The second Nimbin Roots Fest kicks off on Friday 15th September, for three fabulous days of roots-inspired music across six venues around Nimbin village.

The rich diversity of the roots genre will be showcased with 50+ acts, including Black Rabbit George (pictured), Blues Arcadia, Paul Greene, Wild Marmalade, Delsinki Records, and much more.



Of the acts performing, around a fifth of the line-up comes from the local area – a significant, and unusual inclusion, in a music festival - reflecting the richness of the music community in the Northern Rivers. Playing over the weekend, amongst others, are local faves, Sarah Stando, Bo Kaan, Jolanda Moyle, Wil Massey Band, Missus Hippy and The Love Handles, and Diana Anaid.

Additional location this year, the Aquarius Stage (market stage) will feature solely local artists – highlighting the talents that abound in the Nimbin valley.

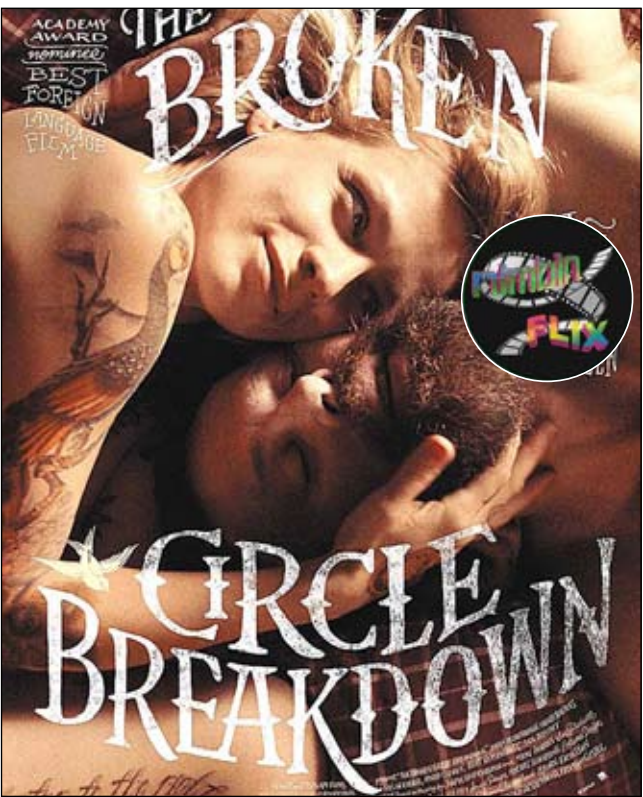
A shuttle-bus will be looping around the venues for patron ease. There will be a market area near the Aquarius stage, and the Abundance Village will be hosting workshops in yoga, permaculture and more if you need a music breather.

Celebration of music is what the weekend will be all about – no egos, no headliners; just outstanding original music with a relaxed vibe. The culmination of the festival will be the 2nd annual Australian Roots Music Awards on the final night (Sunday 17th).

The inaugural festival last year was highly enjoyable, with festival patrons coming from all over Australia (and the world – as befits our eclectic, multi-national village). Don't miss out on what is sure to become a gem in the festival circuit. Not to mention being the most affordable festival around – bring your family, bring your friends, bring your music-loving selves.

As a thank-you to locals for sharing their village, there is a special ticket price available for locals (Nimbin residents only) – \$80 for a three-day pass; available only before the festival at Hemping Around.

For all other ticket, program and festival information go to: [www.nrfest.com](http://www.nrfest.com)



This month's movie at Nimbin Flix is *Broken Circle Breakdown*, a Belgian drama about love, loss and music.

Didier, a romantic atheist, and Elise, a religious realist, fall in love at a concert where Didier's bluegrass band is playing.

She is a tattoo artist who covers her body with symbols of her life and failed relationships. He is a musician in love with the idea of America, the home of the free. Despite their differences, they have a passionate relationship which blossoms into marriage.

Their daughter becomes seriously ill and these differences become greater as they each struggle to cope.

Set to a fantastic soundtrack, the movie covers seven years of their lives as they journey through their highs and lows.

Beautifully acted, this is an award winning drama that looks at love, family, politics and religion in a deeply moving way, exploring what happens to perfect love when tragedy strikes.

Nominated for best foreign film at the Oscars, *Broken Circle Breakdown* will endure in your heart for a long time afterwards

At Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street on Saturday 9th September from 6.30pm for 7pm. Members free, non-members \$10 donation. See: [www.facebook.com/nimbinflix](http://www.facebook.com/nimbinflix)

Gimme Shelter

and Q&A with Sam Cutler



The film *Gimme Shelter* (M) is an amazing insight into the tour the Rolling Stones did in 1969 across America which culminated with the infamous Altamont gig that marked the end of the Summer of Love. Sam Cutler (pictured) was the personal tour manager of The Rolling Stones throughout this tour and we are fortunate

to have him in town as a judge for our Battle of the Bands, so decided this was an opportunity not to be missed.

Relive the days of chaos and glory, worthy of a large PA and big screen. *Gimme Shelter* is a flashback to a time of cultural upheaval. America was changing. The war in Vietnam had created disenchantment among the new hipster generation who were busy bucking the system, experimenting with LSD and reinventing cultural paradigms. This was when a mega band like The Rolling Stones were a cultural force, second only to The Beatles in world fame and popularity. The Rolling Stones, inspired by their recent free concert in London's Hyde Park, (that Sam Cutler organised) were keen to offer the American people a similar free experience. What happened next was the Altamont Festival. Against Sam Cutler's better instincts shady mob-like characters got involved and the Hells Angels ran the security, and when local police mysteriously peeled away the festival dissolved into mayhem.

After Woodstock the local authorities were worried by the mobilisation and activation of large numbers of people who were rejecting the old paradigm of the "American Dream" and creating a new more free world. Could the FBI have deliberately dosed thousands of concert goers to discredit the hippy movement? This huge free concert, that was slated to be the next Woodstock, disintegrated into chaos and bought the hippy dream of the Summer of Love crashing down.

*Gimme Shelter* captures a moment in our cultural history, with a mighty soundtrack by the Rolling Stones at the height of their powers. After the movie there will be a Q&A with Sam Cutler, who will give us an insider's view of this time and how the Rolling Stones navigated the fall out of the Altamont disaster. It's a magical bit of musical history and we can't wait to hear the stories from Sam Cutler that didn't make the film!

Nimbin Bush Theatre, Friday 29th Sept, 7.30pm, \$10. BYO.

**NIMBIN ROOTS FESTIVAL**  
September 15th, 16th, 17th 2017

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For more info and to buy tickets visit **NRFEST.COM**

Logos: Nimbin Aquarius Market, Nimbin Bush Theatre, Armonica, etc.

**NIMBIN ROOTS FESTIVAL**  
September 15th, 16th, 17th 2017 PROGRAM

**FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER**

<b>NIMBIN HALL</b> OPENING CONCERT 5pm - 5:30pm Welcome to Country Smoking ceremony 6pm - 7pm Kahl Wallis 7:30pm - 8:30pm Paul Greene 9pm - 10pm The Hunting Birds 10:30pm - 11:30pm Wild Marmalade	<b>PHOENIX RISING CAFE</b> 1:30pm - 2:30pm James Street Preachers 3pm - 4pm Anna Smyrk 4:30pm - 5:30pm Button Collective 6pm - 7pm Marguerite Montes 7:30pm - 8:30pm Sarah Stando 9pm - 10pm The Tin Can String Band 10:30pm - 11:30pm Red Crow Hula Hooping And Fire Twirling	<b>BOWLO</b> 1:30pm - 2:30pm Matty Rogers 3pm - 4pm Maja 4:30pm - 5:30pm Sarah Rzek 6pm - 7pm Jeff Gibson 7:30pm - 8:30pm Cloudbird 9pm - 10pm Jimmy Willing and Real Gone Hiccups 10:30pm - The Long Johns	<b>ARMONICA CAFE</b> 10am - 11am Great Aunt 11:30am - 12:30pm Jackson 1pm - 2pm Born In October 2:15pm - 3:15pm Rory Faithfield 3pm - 4pm Stranger Land 5pm - 6pm Justine Wahlin
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**SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**

<b>PHOENIX RISING CAFE</b> 11am - 12pm Richie Richardson 12:30pm - 1:30pm Charlie Keller and The Shakes 2pm - 3pm Great Aunt 3:30pm - 4:30pm Winter Gypsy 5pm - 6pm Jim-Bob 6:30pm - 7:30pm Wayward Henrys 8pm - 9pm Tullara 9:30pm - 10:30pm Big Iron Hula Hooping And Fire Twirling	<b>BOWLO</b> 11am - 12pm Rory Faithfield 12:30pm - 1:30pm Nina Lotus 2pm - 3pm Jim Mongrel 3:30pm - 4:30pm Brooke Taylor & Delsinki Records 5pm - 6pm Emma Bosworth 6:30pm - 7:30pm Sweet Emily & The Judgemental Fucks 8pm - 9pm Mitch Power/Jen Mize 9:30pm - 10:30pm Den Hanrahan	<b>NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE</b> 11:30am - 12:30pm Kelly Cork 1pm - 2pm Barkinwado Brothers 2:30pm - 3:30pm Jeff Gibson 4pm - 5pm Wolf & Willow 5:30pm - 6:30pm James Street Preachers 7pm - 8pm Little Georgia 8:30pm - 9:30pm Button Collective 9:45pm - 10:45pm Brook Taylor & Delsinki Records	<b>NIMBIN HALL</b> 11am - 12pm Famous Will 12:30pm - 1:30pm Darktown Strutters 2pm - 3pm Blues Arcadia 3:30pm - 4:30pm The Taste 5pm - 6pm The Pitts Family Circus 6:30pm - 7:30pm Rhythm Hunters 8pm - 9pm Winter Gypsy 9:30pm - 10:30pm The Hunting Birds
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**SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER**

<b>NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE</b> 11:30am - 12:30pm Paddy McHugh 1pm - 2pm Lou Bradley 2:30pm - 3:30pm Diana Anaid 4pm - 5pm Mitch Power & Jen Mize 7pm - 9pm ARMA Awards	<b>BOWLO</b> 11am - 12pm Karrie Hayward 12:30pm - 1:30pm Sam Newton 2pm - 3pm Dusty Boots 3:30pm - 4:30pm James Street Preachers 5pm - 6pm T.K. Reeve 6:30pm - 7:30pm Sweet Emily & The Judgemental Fucks 8pm - 9pm Ben Wilson 9:30pm - 10:30pm Paul Greene	<b>NIMBIN HALL</b> 11am - 12pm Gretta Ziller 12:30pm - 1:30pm Kelly Cork 2pm - 3pm Jimmy Dowling 3:30pm - 4:30pm T.K. Reeve 5pm - 6pm Jimmy Mountain 6:30pm - 7:30pm Den Hanrahan 8pm - 9pm Dusty Boots 9:30pm - 10:30pm Lost Thylacines	<b>PHOENIX RISING CAFE</b> 11am - 12pm Wil Massey 12:30pm - 1:30pm Jolanda Moyle 2pm - 3pm Cloudbird 3:30pm - 4:30pm Terence Boyd Thallon 5pm - 6pm Black Rabbit George 6:30pm - 7pm Closing ceremony 7:30pm - 8:30pm Sam Newton 9pm - 10pm Diana Anaid Hula Hooping And Fire Twirling
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**ARMONICA CAFE**  
10am - 11am Great Aunt  
11:30am - 12:30pm Wayward Henrys  
1pm - 2pm Richie Richardson  
2:30pm - 3:30pm Sam Newton  
4pm - 5pm Anna Smyrk  
6pm - 7pm Mitch Power  
7:30pm - 8:30pm Born In October  
9pm - 10pm Stranger Land

All You Need Is Love Peace Rally 3pm  
(held in car park behind the hall. Bring peace and love banners)

For more info and to buy tickets visit **NRFEST.COM**

Logos: Nimbin Aquarius Market, Nimbin Bush Theatre, Armonica, etc.



# BUSH THEATRE MOVIES IN SEPTEMBER



## How to Change the World (M) Fri Sept 8, 7.30pm, \$10.

*How to Change the World* is a documentary film from writer-director Jerry Rothwell (*Deep Water*), which chronicles the adventures of an eclectic group of young pioneers who set out to stop Richard Nixon's nuclear bomb tests and who ended up creating a worldwide green movement. In 1971 a small group of activists set sail from Vancouver, Canada in an old fishing boat – their mission to stop Nixon's atomic test bomb in Amchitka, Alaska. Chronicling this untold story and with access to dramatic archive footage unseen for over 40 years, the film centres on eco-hero Robert Hunter and his part in the creation of the global organization we now know as Greenpeace, who introduced non-violent, direct action to popular culture as a means to restore and preserve Earth's ecosystems. Seven years in the making, Rothwell uncovered hundreds of hours of original 16mm film footage from the 1970s, and selected historic, previously unseen moments from the birth of Greenpeace. The film, based on the written memoirs of Bob Hunter, is authentic and super-real. Hunter was certainly not alone in conceiving of an "ecology movement" on the scale of the peace and civil rights movements, but this film follows his personal story. Friends and family remember Hunter, who passed away in 2005, as a visionary. He saw the shape of an ecology movement before most people had ever heard the word. He wrote groundbreaking journalism, coined the term "mind bomb" to describe using media to introduce ideas into human culture at the largest scale, and he helped fashion the Greenpeace tradition of creative non violent direct action. Through all of this, we witness the challenges of changing society, the resistance of the status quo, and the human frailties of the heroes and heroines who put themselves on the line to stop these atomic tests. *How to Change the World* premiered at the Sundance film festival in 2015 where it won the special jury award for editing and the candescent award for best social change documentary. As our planet enters a period

of ecological uncertainty, this film offers inspiration and a roadmap as to how a small group of dedicated activists changed the world, defied governments and with great sacrifice and bravery shone a light on ecological injustices for the greater world to see and understand. It is a powerful story, and one of hope and defiance, if you think the world needs changing don't miss this film!



## Beauty and the Beast (PG) Weds Sept 27, 11am. \$10 entry with free popcorn.

In Rococo-era France an enchantress disguised as a beggar arrives at a ball and offers the host, a coldhearted prince, a rose for shelter. When he refuses, she transforms him into a beast and his servants into household objects, and erases the castle from the memories of their loved ones. She casts a spell on the rose and warns the prince that the curse will never lift unless he learns to love another, and earn their love in return, before the last petal falls. Years later, in the village of Villeneuve, Belle (Emma Watson) dreams of adventure and brushes off advances from Gaston, an arrogant former soldier. Lost in the forest, Belle's father Maurice seeks refuge in the Beast's castle, but the Beast imprisons him for stealing a rose. Belle ventures out in search for him and finds him locked in the castle dungeon. The Beast agrees to let her take Maurice's place. The film is based on Disney's 1991 animated film of the same name, itself an adaptation of Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont's eighteenth-century fairy tale. The film features an ensemble cast that includes Emma Watson and Dan Stevens as the lead characters with Ewan McGregor, Kevin Kline, Ian McKellen and Emma Thompson in supporting roles. This is classic old school Disney at it's best with superb artistic direction and cinematography resulting in a magical experience. The Cafe will be open serving kid friendly meals and snacks and award winning coffee.

## Star Wars (1977) (PG) Weds Oct 4, \$10 entry with free popcorn. Prizes for best dressed.

*Star Wars* (later retitled *Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope*) is a 1977 American epic space sci-fi film written and directed by George Lucas (pictured, right). Starring Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Alec Guinness, the film's plot focuses on the Rebel Alliance led by Princess Leia (Fisher), and its attempt to destroy the Galactic Empire's space station, the Death Star. This conflict disrupts the isolated life of farmhand Luke Skywalker (Hamill), who inadvertently acquires a pair of droids that possess stolen architectural plans for the Death Star. When the Empire begins a destructive search for the missing droids, Skywalker accompanies Jedi master Obi Wan Kenobi (Alec Guinness) on a mission to return the plans to the Rebel Alliance and rescue Leia from her imprisonment by the Empire. According to Lucas, different concepts of the film were inspired by numerous sources, such as Beowulf, Joseph Campbell and King Arthur for the origins of myth and religion. When it was released in 1977 *Star Wars* was a technological wonder that changed the landscape of movie making and amazed audiences worldwide. Lucas's superb vision and masterful direction created a modern franchise that would go on to create seven other movies, and the franchise continues on to this day. Youngsters are encouraged to dress up in their best *Star Wars* costumes, with great prizes being awarded to the best dressed boy and best dressed girl. The Cafe will be open serving kid friendly delights and award winning coffee for the grown-ups. May the Force be with you for lots of fun in the school holidays!

## Magic Trip – Ken Kesey's Search for Kool Place (M) Fri Oct 6, 7.30pm. \$10

In 1964, Ken Kesey, the famed author of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, set off on a legendary, LSD-fuelled cross-country road trip to the New York World's Fair. He was joined by "The Merry Band of Pranksters," a renegade group of counterculture truth-seekers. Neal Cassady was the driver



and painter of the psychedelic Magic Bus, and was joined by Mountain Girl, Ken Kesey and many other who have gone into legend for their part in this journey. Kesey and the Pranksters intended to make a documentary about their trip and so filmed the experience. For many years this footage was untouched, but a few years ago it was unearthed and the result is *Magic Trip*. For anyone who has read *The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test* by Tom Wolfe, this is essential viewing. In his novel Tom Wolfe chronicled this incredible odyssey of way out trippers on the road to discover new territories, inner and outer, fueled by a range of psychedelic drugs that certainly did help them to discover a new world. One of the most cultural revolutionary books of the last century, Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* was based a character called Dean Moriarty. For many that read *On the Road*, Dean Moriarty is a somewhat mythical figure, a psychedelic tramp of great insight. In *Magic Trip* it is Dean Moriarty/ Neal Cassady driving the bus. Literally. Moriarty was based on Kerouac's experiences with Cassady. Cassady drives the bus with the help from a mountain of drugs that may have laid out a lesser being, however Cassady is one of the most jaw dropping characters in modern history. An astounding intelligence, fuelled by heaps of speed and LSD results in a man who is completely mind blowing. He eclipses Ken Kesey in this film. Kesey was undoubtedly the ring leader of this experiment, and he is clever, charismatic and handsome, Cassady is just out of this world in a way that clearly astounds and exhausts his fellow Merry Pranksters as they take a Magic Trip across American in their bus "Further". They changed the world, and this is essential viewing for anyone who wants to know their psychedelic history. The Cafe will be open from 5.30pm with delicious meals, drinks and sweet treats. BYO.



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**Sunday Gig Guide**

**September 12 noon start**

**10th Jim-Bob**  
 Performing songs by Skip James, Memphis Minnie, Roy Rogers and a sackfull of their own, featuring the broad talents of Jimmy Willing and Davey-Bob Ramsey.

**17th Mantlepeace**  
 This music showcases an original blend of influences from classical, folk, jazz, rock and ethnic world groove, combined with the unique uplifting vocal styles of Sue McKenna.

**24th Bill Jacobi**  
 A Uki local, Bill uses foot percussion, lap slide and open-tuned guitars, with a combination of finger-picking and bassline-driven rhythm that make his songs both evocative and passionate.

**3rd Oct Aine Tyrell**

**Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers**  
 53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

**September Gigs**

**TRIVIA NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7pm**

Thursday 7th	7pm	<b>Guy Kachel</b>
Friday 8th	7pm	<b>Wendy Ford</b>
Saturday 9th	7pm	<b>Wayward Suns</b>
Thursday 14th	7pm	<b>Surf Report</b>
Friday 15th	7pm	<b>Richie Williams</b>
Saturday 16th	3pm	<b>Khan</b>
	7pm	<b>Mecha Mecha</b>
Sunday 17th	4pm	<b>Eastwood</b>
Thursday 21st	7pm	<b>Brommers</b>
Friday 22nd	7pm	<b>The Irrists</b>
Saturday 23rd	7pm	<b>Eastwood</b>
Thursday 28th	7pm	<b>Richie Williams</b>
Friday 29th	7pm	<b>Rumble Fish</b>
Saturday 30th	7pm	<b>Diana Anaid</b>

**JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING**

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## JIM BOB

Jimmy Willing and Davey Bob Ramsey are Jim-Bob, two well-travelled troubadours who have a right to sing the blues, not only do they have a right but they do it so damn well. Jimmy and Bob have captured the primal earthy sound of early country blues in what is a very lean and stripped down show. It's a less-is-more affair, just a guitar, a harmonica, two voices and some well told tales of love, loneliness and heartache. Jim-Bob play the Sphinx Rock Cafe 12 until 3pm on Sunday 10th September.



Mantlepeace is the musical collaboration of Sue McKenna and Jake Mann, both innovative multi-instrumentalists and composers who perform with bass and guitar, and incorporate percussion and effects to enhance Sue's lyrics and melodies.

Their music showcases an original blend of influences from classical, folk, jazz, rock and ethnic world groove combined with the unique uplifting vocal styles of Sue.

Mantlepeace create an adventurous, poetic, intimate and dynamic genre all of their own, and have been performing far and wide for over a decade, at festivals, community events, hotels, halls, house concerts, weddings and more.

Releasing their first full album *Answers Tree* in 2011, now fresh from the press comes a second offering, *Shelaybyou*, with an eclectic selection of fresh new tunes in collaboration with some of the North Coast's finest. Check out the videoclip for the track 'So I Can Be' on Youtube.

Mantlepeace will be playing at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 17th September, from noon, with guest performers Dan Smith, Fiona Ryan and Abhinava.

## See the stars collide at Mullum Circus Festival

For three monster days, MCF 2017 turns The Biggest Little Town into a wonderland of artists, acts, stalls and workshops at Mullum Showgrounds.

Now with two big tops, MCF 2017 welcomes wondrous talent fresh from sell outs at Edinburgh Festival, hit shows, ABC TV and so much more!

Casus bring their new show *Driftwood*, from Edinburgh and Brisbane, a colourful concoction of pure joy and intimacy about our need to connect. One Fell Swoop redefine acrobatics with an amazing new rope and pulley apparatus.

Beeswax and Bottletops is the vampy vaudeville stylings of Lil Tulloch, partner George Le Couteur and her beloved mum Monica Trapaga!

Circus Tricktease sold out Edinburgh Fringe with *Children are Stinky* –

highbrow toilet humour for immature kids.

The stars of ABC hit *Hoopla Doopla* are also doing shows. It's just too good!

Yes, folks! Witness the impossible.

Discover a new oddball. Join flying trapeze aficionados from WhoKnowsWhere. Test your mettle on the outdoor rig. Try intimate cabaret, dirty sideshows or our circus workshops. Healthy food and market stalls. Something special for everyone.

The festival is on from 29th September to 1st October at Mullumbimby Showgrounds.

It will be a 'waste-wise' event, so bring a water bottle.

For info and tickets visit: <http://mullumcircusfest.com> \$300 families (weekend) or \$450 with camping.



## The Channon open mic



Julie out front of 'Splash' (left) and Norm and Kathy delighted the crowd with all original songs (above).



by Ray (Rayzor) Flanagan

Normally I wouldn't have much to say at this time as our next Open Mic is yet to happen. However, the Open Mic has been indulging in 'extracurricular activities'. Past performers got together to provide the musical entertainment at The Channon Market in August.

The variety of performances ensured

there was something to appeal to all tastes – from folk to rock to rap.

There were a number of collaborations between former 'Open Micers', which produced some great sounds.

The day began with a minor drama when we discovered that our plan to hybridise my electronic drum kit (using acoustic cymbals) wasn't going to work without all the components plugged

in. Having left the electric cymbals at home I was forced to make the twenty minute round trip to grab them.

Our next Open Mic will be on Sunday 22nd October, as I am away during September. The starting time will be 3pm as we will have moved to daylight saving by then.

Hope to see you there at the Butterfactory Tavern.



# BATTLE OF THE BANDS

The semi final and final of the Battle of the Bands - Passport to Airlie are coming up at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. So far in the semi final we have multi-instrument powerhouse Craig Atkins and captivating songstress-poet-rapper Cecilia, with more runners up yet to be announced.

The Finals will be a great evening concert in the Auditorium and so far feature the incredible talents of dynamic roots duo Salt and Steel (*pictured*), and Nimbin's own supergroup Drift.

The biggest band competition in Australia chose Nimbin as the only location between Tamworth and the Gold Coast to host this national competition and it is a real chance for local musicians to have a shot at playing three to five gigs at The Airlie Beach Festival of Music in November 2017, to receive \$1000, VIP accommodation as well as a chance to compete for the major national prize which is a spot on the main stage at the Airlie Beach Festival of Music in 2018.

Our Judges between them have contributed on many levels to musical history and the cultural enrichment of the national and international music



## Passport to Airlie Beach – Battle of the Bands

Semi-final and Final at The Nimbin Bush Theatre. Free entry, all ages.

Semi: Sat Sept 23, 12.30 – 5.30pm  
Final: Sat Sept 30, 6.30 – 10.30pm

scene. Firstly we have Neil Pike, a local artistic multi-digital acoustic psychedelic troubadour who tours to major folk festivals around the world at the helm of his legendary project The

Pagan Love Cult.

Next we have Sam Cutler who was the Rolling Stone's personal tour manager as well as the manager of The Grateful Dead at the height of their powers. Sam Cutler is part of rock history and it goes without saying that he is passionate about good music.

Jackie Marshall is a leading light in alt country roots and soul, and widely regarded within the music industry as the musician's musician for her searing talent. She sings incredible songs with a voice that is pure emotion and is a widely loved regular at major festivals around Australia and the world.

There is free entry to both of these gigs and they are all ages. Come and see some of the the best music the north coast has to offer!

The Airlie Beach Festival of Music brings 74 acts to the Whitsundays from Thursday 9th November through to Sunday 12th November. Already announced are performances from The Sex Pistols, The Sneaky Sound System, The Baby Animals, Leo Sayer, Kate Ceberano with more announcements to come – including the winners of the Battle of the Bands.

## Dinner under the stars with Lost Thylacines

Margaret River locals, the Lost Thylacines will play acoustic roots with a surfy coastal feel at the Bush Theatre on Friday 22nd September from 6.30pm.

With Jason Neptune (*pictured*) on lap-slide, acoustic guitar and vocals and his mate Rob on percussion and didgeridoo their sound is upbeat with distorted riffs and chilled out harmonies. These boys play with the sounds of the sea, of the freedom of the wild and with a joy of rootsy beachy vibes.



Having supported the likes of Dallas Frasca, Jay Hoad, Dave Mann, The Pierce Brothers and Declan Kelly

they have made an impact and achieved significant radio play both nationally and internationally in the USA, Canada, Europe, the UK and Indonesia.

The Lost Thylacines are more than just musicians, they are also protectors of the environment and walk the talk by cleaning and protecting the beloved beaches of the world that give them so much inspiration. This gig is entry by donation, with a suggested donation of a gold coin up to \$10, to help

donate towards their Crystal Land Tour to Sri Lanka in November where they are cleaning up 20 beaches by removing marine debris.

This will be an uplifting performance by some inspired surf loving rockers, under the Milky Way in the gardens by the Mulgum Creek.

The Phoenix Rising Cafe will be open from 5.30pm serving delicious meals, award winning coffee and sweet treats. This is an all ages, kid friendly show. BYO. Entry by donation

## Sounds of India



The rich history of Indian classical music comes to Kyogle again.

'Sounds Of India' is a dynamic and deeply moving world music concert not to be missed. The last show was a sellout and this one is sure to be just as popular.

Kyogle local singer Jo Kelly (*inset*) brings Vinod Prasana from Melbourne to play bansuri flute accompanied by tabla player Rodney Wright from Byron.

Vinod is a world class virtuoso and captures the hearts of his audience with emotive melodies, exquisitely improvised rhythms and stirring beauty. His sublime flute songs soar over tabla drums and harmonium drones



taking you on a dynamic and deeply moving journey of sound.

Jo is an award winning singer and joins Vinod and Rodney to sing her songs. Together they will weave mystical improvisations and heart stirring melodies bringing the Sounds of India to you on Saturday, 30th September, 6pm–9.30pm, \$40 includes two-course dinner and show. Tickets at the Sugar Bowl Cafe or online at: [www.cafemantramusic.com/events](http://www.cafemantramusic.com/events)

## Light triumphs over darkness

Spring is a time to celebrate, a time of fertility and creation, a time to dance and sing.

Before any religion there was the Earth and the Sun and the natural movement and change of the seasons. Four times a year we gather and celebrate the Equinox and the Solstice.

These natural quarterly celebrations are dictated by the movement of the Earth and Sun and provide us with an opportunity to participate in simple ceremony and an opportunity to connect with each other and the NOW that is happening constantly.

The Spring Equinox performance is an Elemental based play that shows the four seasons and how they interact with each other as our world spins and moves through the cosmos.

Join with us as we once again connect with our roots and the hidden or forgotten past at Hanging Rock Hall, Sunday 24th September, 5pm 'til late. Donation entry.

This is a family event with performance and ceremony, and delicious food for sharing will be available.

## Sun sun sun, here it comes

We've certainly had our fair share of sun during the last month or so, and Kyogle's friendly neighbourhood choir The Semitones are going to brighten things up with a little help from some talented young local musicians as part of their annual fundraiser on Sunday 10th September.

This time the proceeds are going to Kyogle Aged Care.

The fun begins at 3pm in the KMI Hall, corner Summerland Way and Stratheden Street – nowhere else but beautiful uptown Kyogle.

Admission \$5, \$15 family; donation for afternoon tea. More men are required for the choir. Rehearsals every Friday 10am-12pm at Kyogle Primary School Hall. Enquiries to Martin 6632-3740

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<b>Fri 8 Sept</b> 7.30pm M \$10	<b>Movie Night</b> 'HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD' How Greenpeace was born	
<b>Sat 9 Sept</b> 12.30 -3.30pm FREE	<b>Battle of the Bands</b> 'PASSPORT TO AIRLIE' LAST HEAT of the Battle!	
<b>Fri 15 Sept</b> - Sun 17 TIX & INFO ONLINE	<b>NIMBIN ROOTS FEST</b> 3 days/nights of live music from Nimbin & beyond <a href="http://WWW.NRFEST.COM">WWW.NRFEST.COM</a>	
<b>Fri 22 Sept</b> 7.30pm DONATION	<b>Roots Rock Gig</b> <b>LOST THYLACINES</b> Distorted roots rock riffs from Margaret River	
<b>Sat 23 Sept</b> 12.30 -5.30pm FREE	<b>Battle of the Bands</b> 'PASSPORT TO AIRLIE' SEMI-FINAL - Best performers vie for a place in final	
<b>Wed 27 Sept</b> 11am PG \$10*	<b>Kids' Film</b> 'BEAUTY & THE BEAST' Latest Disney version of a classic tale of love	
<b>Fri 29 Sept</b> 7.30pm M \$10	<b>Movie Night</b> 'GIMME SHELTER' What went wrong @ Altamont + Q&A w/ Stones' Manager Sam Cutler	
<b>Sat 30 Sept</b> 6.30 -10.30pm FREE	<b>Battle of the Bands</b> 'PASSPORT TO AIRLIE' FINAL - Who will make it to Airlie Beach??	
<b>Wed 4 Oct</b> 11am PG \$10*	<b>Kids' Film</b> 'STAR WARS' Original film + DRESS-UP COMPETITION!	
<b>Fri 6 Oct</b> 8pm M \$10	<b>Movie Night</b> 'MAGIC TRIP' Ken Kesey's search for a kool place	
<b>Sat 7 Oct</b> 6.30pm DONATION	<b>Dinner Under the Stars</b> <b>TORI FORSYTH &amp;</b> <b>CARL THE BARTENDER</b> Alt-Country angels	

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**Sat 14 Oct - FLAMENCO NIGHT**  
**Tues 31 Oct - HALLOWEEN**  
**2 Nov - TENNYSON KING [Canada]**

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