

## Homeless shelters

In the past month we have lost so many indigenous homeless people when their lives could have been saved by giving people somewhere warm with at least a blanket to sleep.

Dion lost his life last week on the nights when it was minus zero for two nights. On the second night he went to sleep under the Uniting Church and froze to death, and yes he died under a building that was empty.

Why cannot we as a community use the churches of this town or any building that is not used overnight, that could be converted into an overnight homeless shelter, one for the men and one for women and children? It wouldn't be hard to get funds for sleeping bags and roll-out beds to give to people to use, and then be cleaned and used for the next day.

It could also employ two people to manage the shelters and clean sleeping bags for the next shift.

It would give relief to the never-ending story of homelessness in our town.

If there are any people interested in starting a group to work on the issue, or if anyone has a connection to the churches and would like to help start the process, please let me know.

Rosemary Mavridis-Barker  
Nimbin

## Political penalty

The Lismore Environment Centre has operated out of the Lismore Transit Centre kiosk in Molesworth Street since August 2014, when we were on a roll after the Bentley blockade. Philippe Dupuy from Nimbin Enviro Centre got a group of us going to start it up, so in conversation with Council staff and supported by Nimbin Environment Centre and Social Futures we began to offer public transport information, bus timetables and information leaflets.

Since that time we have offered budget secondhand clothes and secondhand books in the paved area outside the kiosk with a table and chairs and various signs.

We won a commendation for 'Place-making' in 2015, or improving the social amenity of the Transit Centre during our hours of operation.

Then along came a disgruntled Lismore City councillor Bennett who, having discovered that we pay only nominal or crown rent, decided we at the LEC are 'political' and undeserving of low rent. We have since had a visit from a compliance officer and with the threat of \$580 fine per item in the public area. Our normal activities have been reduced while we apply to Council staff for written approval for our items to be in the public area.

In the meantime, we carry on supporting campaigns to help our environment and offer a place for people to be helpful and connect with each other. If you are moved to, write a letter to the mayor and councillors to say you support us. And do drop in and say hi!

Naomi Tarrant  
Secretary, Lismore  
Environment Centre

## SEO advertorials

Those responsible for websites or internet domains are well familiar with spam; recently plenty offering 'search engine optimisation' (SEO). Online you can hit 'delete' or feed it to your junk mail filter.

SEO spam in the NGT however cannot be deleted, nor ignored once becoming so persistent.

Last month's effort ('Who do we work with?' page 37) was well over the top, including even testimonials, that hallmark of the serious spammer. It should be labelled "advertisement" and charged at 1/3 page rates.

While many NGT articles are also accompanied by a paid ad for goods or services discussed, almost all are interesting or informative in their own right; you don't have to pay hundreds of dollars to benefit from them.

And anyway, how appropriate is this flogging of competitive capitalism in a community far more leaning to collaborative co-operation? Numero Uno?

Ian Smith  
Nimbin

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

## Hopeful global trend

Refusing to add to the fear and gloom around world events is very productive. Entertaining the possibilities increases optimism and the search for positive solutions.

Trump, Putin and Xi Jinping come near the tail end of direct wars between major powers. There have been none since WWII. The birth of the EU has demonstrated the success of uniting continents in peaceful union. The surprise fall of the Berlin wall illustrated that dreadful regimes can collapse peacefully through lack of support.

Within the laws of the jungle of globalised competition, we can't identify the alliances, manipulations and secret wars between corporations, governments and dictatorial leaders. Each has their unique vested interests. Alliances constantly shift. Transparency is required.

Russia and China are inseparable from Western capitalism. They also are subservient to profiteering, while enslaving the masses, and enriching the few. Corrupt party and business elites stash their gains in Western banks and investments. Transparency laws would reveal banks and business connections, and the disregard by rulers for their nation's interests.

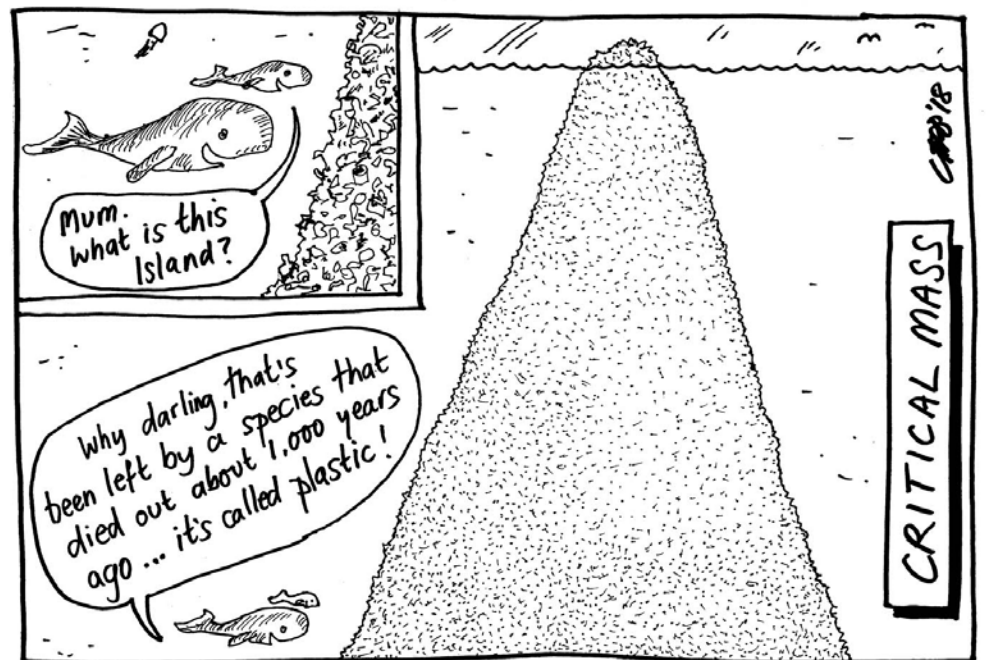
Many countries, in desperation, have flirted with extreme rulers, as do the Americans, Russians and Chinese today.

Humanity has a gutful of repression, brutality, and deceitful exploitation. In every nation!

Patriarchal leaders are a redundant remnant of past beliefs that Daddy knows best. Their economic decisions are rooted in the premise that only some can possibly do well.

But people are imagining a new paradigm. Those who dwell in history are bound to repeat it.

USA conservatives in both parties are aggressive towards Russia and China, risking war. Wars create more anger, crises, refugees, and terrorists, as we have seen in Afghanistan, Libya



# Rainbow Road in the slow lane

by Ian Brooke

Mayor Isaac Smith's open letter to the *Nimbin GoodTimes* last issue enthused that Rainbow Road is "a great idea... love the concept... leading an active lifestyle... learning about Nimbin's history."

His letter listed the history of Rainbow Road, well, some of it. Missing was that after first approaching council in 2002, Rainbow Road is still just lines on a map.

A feasibility study, squads of meetings, surveys describing tourists delighted by the possibility of a bushwalk through the history of Nimbin just metres from the main street, Southern Cross Uni reckoning \$10 million could be added to the town's coffers, and support from every Nimbin-based community group. Lots of paperwork, lots of meetings.

Council blamed some of the lag on the early proponent of the project for not following through. After 16 years, one might expect supporters to weary, people tire when other responsibilities claim them.

It's more reasonable to suggest that there was no-one on Council willing to pick up the ball. Indeed, that's what happened. Council became the proponent of the project when they applied for and got funding to undertake the feasibility. They also established the community consultative group and insisted on managing the second round of funding.

Council has been dragging the chain – not the original proponent who went to council with a good idea but not the resources to do what council required.

The absence of a strong advocate within Council – either staff or Councillor/s

– has led to the inertia and community frustration. It's also allowed people to buy land on the proposed walking trail without appreciating the significance of the right-of-way, the primary obstruction to Rainbow Road.

I think Mayor Smith can be taken at his word and genuinely wants the project to succeed. Yet can he influence the Council machine? It's worth noting that he is the latest in a line of mayors Rainbow Road supporters have looked to.

At the end of his open letter the Mayor writes, "Let's all walk together on this one, and find a peaceful path to a good outcome for the Rainbow Road and everyone in Nimbin."

Good idea Mayor. Here's another good idea to help achieve your aim: How about nominating a champion for the project from within Council; someone who can convince the Nimbin community she can see the vision, understand its rationale and, most of all, bring enthusiasm to the project?

Do that and you'll have all the support you need from the Nimbin community. Headers Soccer Club president Fabien Prevost says that knowing kids could get to and from the showground and the soccer fields safely, even after dark, is a real bonus. The father of two said, "Sibley and Cecil Streets don't have footpaths, and there's always a bunch of motorists new to town."

Mayor Smith, great projects need not be tedious; they can be terrific fun with the right people involved. Appoint a clear-thinking Council champion and Nimbin will help deliver a project that will not just be Nimbin's; the whole shire will be proud of it and all of Australia will know about it.

and Syria.

The USA deep state in 1945 deliberately plotted global rule for the benefit of home-based corporations, while it destroyed fledgling democracies. Now that these businesses are largely globalised, Trump has witnessed the loss of taxes.

Presidents have been pawns of war industries. Trump feels the spending pressure too, and sees the monstrous burden as a bad deal, unless allies ramp up. But US military withdrawal to home

base has to be good for humanity. The Chinese and Russian people have no appetite to rule other

nations by force. Seek ways to disarm globally!

Exposure of corruption in global military and pharmaceutical industries, are long overdue for a suffering world. Exposure of child abuse and banking crimes are surely symptoms of an awakening humanity. Trump tweeted criticism of the privately owned US Central Bank. Bad for treasury, bad for people. All world banks are potent tools for private control of the world's riches by unidentified individuals.

Half our working population suffers great financial stress, and most of the rest have wage stress, homelessness, poverty and

sickness. That is, 90% are slaves to the system.

Recent events and bad leadership are awakening the world to this inherently corrupt and unworkable system. 'Tough love' is a misnomer for exploitation. The average US white worker in the capital of Capitalism, now does poorly besides comparable countries. It's worse for other skin colours.

But heh! There are many suggestions out there for transforming this system. Just go search outside the corporate influenced media, as a part of your contribution.

Hayo van der Woude  
Mullumbimby

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**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
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Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.



## Saltwater people

by Dionne May

I recall a conversation I had years ago with my friend Gilbert. He described people as only two kinds... not male and female, not black or white, but rather salt or freshwater people.

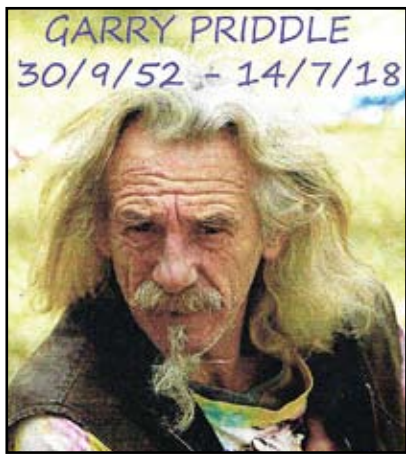
I've often dwelt on this distinction as I have criss-crossed many parts of Australia and the world, rather than dwelling on the myriad of other distinctions that eternally separate humans.

Nimbin, like many river-bound small towns across Australia would then predominately be inhabited by the freshwater people... humans more comfortable in rainforests, swimming in creeks, rivers and dams... living off the land.

Alternatively, I imagine that the coastlines are therefore the stomping grounds of the Saltwater people whose veins pound with the great tidal rhythms of the oceans of the world.

Nevertheless I know quite a few old salties who have made their homes here in freshwater country.

Garry the plumber was one of them. Looking windswept and ocean-washed,



that enormous smile and sea-blue eyes lit up the streets of Nimbin to those that knew and loved him.

Like many of us old salties who washed up on the shores of Cullen Street and made these valleys and rivers our home, we adjusted to the ways of the freshwater people. We lived and loved here in this rainforest, for our coastlines had become invested with concrete consumerism. The urban had sprawled all over the beaches of Australia, confusing and congesting the waters, so many of us found refuge here in Nimbin.

At first the fresh waters seem

calmer... tranquil. The platypus and penny turtles were distractions from big waves, foaming sprays, dolphins, whales and majestic sea turtles. Rainforest rainbows and thundering waterfalls replaced breathless sunrises over the Pacific Ocean... yet we never forgot.

As times and places change, so too has Nimbin. With every death of the old school, good men like Garry, the clear waters muddy and our alternative rainbow diminishes just that little bit more.

The last time I saw Garry he threw his arms out wide and embraced Ant and me in an enormous bear hug, crying out, "I love you beautiful people!"

Staunch, witty, outrageous... Garry the Plumber... one of the beautiful saltwater people of Nimbin. I can see him now... riding that eternal peeling right hander, hitting the lip, sailing through the air with his board, hair flying, laughing like the madman he was and forever will be... in our memories but mostly in our hearts.

There will never be another Garry the Plumber. We're so lucky to know and love him... a living bloody legend... rest in peace mate.

## Vale Peter Crichton 'Pier Lumiere'

I first met Pete in 1974 at the Nimbin Information Centre in Melbourne, set up in the Australian Union of Students' offices. He was Melbourne Uni architecture trained, and a highly accredited mathematician.

He worked at the Comedy Cafe, Brunswick Street Melbourne, cooking 40 meals a night a la carte and sweets for the patrons. Once the dishes were collected and stacked away, Pier Lumiere was paged by Fifi Lamour to operate the lights for the Fifi Lamour and

David De-most musical cabaret show. Fifi gave Pete the comedy cafe cook his nickname.

Pete drove up to Nimbin one year on a 250cc motorbike to the Tuntable Co-ordination Co-operative. He put on a Christmas show for the kids as Maxwell Silverhammer, ad-libbing the Beatles hit. He had a saucepan for a hat and banged spoons on it and sang the tune. The kids split their sides laughing, adults too. He quintessentially was a troubadour of the comedy funny man.

With his maths skills he went to work for social security in Newcastle, programming

computers for them. When he retired and left the department it is said the computers have never worked anywhere near as good since.

In Melbourne one afternoon there was a free rock n roll in the park event at the Myer music bowl. We all went along as members of Nimbin Info Melbourne group. Pete stunned us with his makeup. He captured the male/female look with his face totally covered in coloured make-up paint.

At the concert, Skyhooks were playing, and lead guitarist Red Symonds kept walking up

to the front of the stage to get a better look at Pete! From then on Skyhooks performed gigs covered in make-up paint.

In his Lismore retirement, Pete bought the latest computer games, the most complicated, and broke them with his prowess. He also made many highly decorative fine needlework designs and as well, made from imported Japanese origami paper all kinds of insects and exquisite geometrical designs.

He loved cooking to the max, so bon appetite old son. Sadly missed. Love all your memories.

— Jim Dickson

On hearing of the passing of Robin Moore there was a collective sigh of "dear dear Robin", a person of grace, kindness, generosity, creativity, dignity, wisdom and love. She lived and died well and until the end was concerned about others and for her daughter Sally while she tended her in her last days. As her artist father before her, who died at his easel at age 97 – Robin drove to Blue Knob Gallery the day before her stroke, smiled, talked with friends and finished her last ceramic piece with Heather in the ceramic studio.

An only child of Bob and Ruth, Robin was born in Chicago, coming to Australia during the Depression in 1927. They lived simply on a farm with Bob's sister near Stanthorpe finally moving to Gordon, Sydney. Teased at Ravenswood School because of her "homemade" uniform her mother said, "Tell those girls your mother has been a silent film director in Hollywood and your father is an artist. We CREATE value, we do not buy it."

Robin studied science, graduated then taught biology at Sydney University. In 1951 she married architect Tony Moore making her own wedding dress. They had three children, built an avant-garde house in North Sydney, meeting people like Ivor and Anthea Moffatt who are still dear friends 60 years later. Tony died young and when Robin's daughter Sally asked her to come to Nimbin to visit she did, ending up buying a farm on



## Robin Moore

1/5/1925 – 29/6/2018

by Jeni Kendell and Paul Tait

Robb Road in 1977. She invited artists and musicians to live there and she grew things – trees, grapevines, and people; when she and the families wanted to own it equally and create shares Robin happily did this and they became Robb Road Community.

She grew many of her veggies, lived in a simple house and ate well. She had contact with people of all ages; children were born and grew up there. On hearing of Robin's death Paedor Stirling said "she was in his DNA". She was an environmentalist, protesting at Terania Creek, researching 24D and 245T and its terrible health effect on children living on Webster's Creek. She was frugal and would put her car into neutral to coast down the woodpidoos to The Channon to save fuel! During her driving test at 80yrs, she did the same thing and was told: "If you're going to do that I'm going to fail you."

Blue Knob Hall was famous after the Aquarius Festival and stayed that way until bikers crashed a New Year's Eve party in the 80s. Robin was on the Hall Committee when the building became very run down. In 2000 she and fellow artists made a decision to turn it into an Art Gallery. The DA was for a café, workshop space, artist's studio and farmers market. Volunteers built this vision, with Robin making hundreds of morning teas. When money ran out to build compost toilets she put in her own.

The vision was largely due to Robin and what a community asset it has become over 18 years. She remained on the BKH Committee nearly 40 years. Robin began selling her famous Robbie Pies and biscuits at the farmers market raising over \$20,000. What a woman, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend; an inspiration and role model to so many of us. Robin Moore will remain in our hearts as "dear dear Robin" precious beyond words. This is a poem she wrote for her solo exhibition 'Robin Moore' at Blue Knob Hall Gallery this year. 'Connections':

*In every breath, swirl atoms that have passed through the lungs of Buddha, Christ and Stalin. Every drop of water has been a cloud, a flood, an ocean, and has surged as blood through the veins of humankind. All earthly things are jewels, born of stardust, bright children of the sky. All connect along the thread of being, in ever changing forms, but never die.*



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# From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith

It has been great to see the houses coming online with the new Nimbin water supply over the past few weeks.

This has been a major project that council has to take over after the contractor fell over half-way into the project. Despite that significant hurdle, it was delivered on time and on budget, which is a great effort by staff and sub contractors.

The Nimbin water supply project was done to deliver a better standard of water to residents. While the water previously being supplied was ok, it was not comparable to what others in the community were getting.

So a project such as this, where equity issues are involved, is one that has been subsidised by ratepayers across the LGA. Any major project that lifts standards and provides this equity to residents is worthy of support.

Equity is often the cry those who live further from the source of "power" as it were, the place where decisions are made. Residents at Georgica and Blue Knob quite rightly call for the same services as residents in Nimbin.

Nimbin residents also say that they don't get their fair share when compared to Lismore. Residents in Lismore always ask why the coastal area gets all the attention and the whole region wants to know why we get left out by a state government that only looks at Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong.

So who is right? Well, everyone actually.

Each of the groups who feel disenfranchised are quite right in demanding their fair share. While you will never have a true equality of access to services, there needs to be a balance in support so that opportunity and independence can flourish.

But the powers that be are also right in focusing on the majority of people and their needs. We have a circular curse of needing sustainability and equality, whilst still encouraging people to think differently.

When I look at the developments that have come up at Nimbin over the last few years I see this same battle time and time again.

Nimbin is an amazing place and more people want to live there and be a part of the community. This will in turn require more services and more support from council and development.

But balancing this want with keeping the character and identity that brings people here is the challenge. And more often than not it is the battle, as lines are drawn and opinions are strong.

I can only hope that people continue to bring respectful discussion and thoughtful comment to this battle, rather than anger and mistrust.

While I understand the depth of feeling and people's reactions to bureaucratic decision making, I always do my best to listen and explain those decisions, even in the most heated of

moments.

Hopefully together we can continue to show Nimbin as a change agent on all aspects of life and sustainability.

Speaking of change, council is continuing to explore our relationship with Woodstock in New York State. Ever since I met Nathan and Shelley, the Woodstock ambassadors, during the Aquarius commemorations in May, I was struck by their passion for the relationship.

What also surprised me was the lack of information around how that relationship started or what it consists of.

In very Nimbin fashion, it was not done in the conventional way, so at some point a piece of paper was signed that said something about two villages wanting something. And that seems to be where it has remained these past 15 years.

So now our Sister City committee is looking into it. Personally, I don't think there has ever been a better time to reach out to the USA and offer a helping hand and use our relationship to ask for change!



## Ena Maureen Maroney 4-2-1925 - 3-7-2018

Eulogy by Di Maroney

One of Nimbin's oldest families lost another elder this month with the passing of Ena Maureen Mahoney (nee Stewart) at the age of 93.

Ena was the second of four children to Jack and Cassie Stewart. The Stewarts were a large family with Ena's grandparents, James and Annie Stewart, having seven children - most of whom



remained in the region and worked on the original dairy farm.

The family farm was on the northern side of Cullen Bridge and Ena's grandfather

James donated the land where the Bush Factory now sits. Many of the shops in Cullen Street were built by this productive family.

Ena's childhood in Nimbin was an enjoyable one with plenty of aunts, uncles and cousins to play with.

She related many stories of the time - remembering when the "new" bridge was built (now the old bridge), when my house in Thorburn Street was built (now over 80 years old) and when

Aborigines came through town on walkabout. She was very friendly and intrigued by this mob and spent many hours with them.

Ena's adventurous spirit saw her travel extensively both around Australia and internationally. Her bright and friendly nature saw her make friends far and wide.

The last time Ena returned to Nimbin was to see her cousin Rex Walker, laid to rest. Two wonderful souls now at peace.

# Fibre and Fix-it Fair

This year's Permaculture Open Day at Djanbung Gardens on Saturday 18th August combines the Nimbin Repair Café with a day full of workshops and talks on practical earth-friendly living, traditional crafts and permaculture ideas.

Presentations and workshops cover diverse topics including natural vegetable dyes, how to grow and spin organic cotton, natural fibres, making compost, incredible edible tubers and perennial vegetables, permaculture tips for buying land, making maps using drone photography, bamboo crafting, tool care and sharpening.

The LandsEnd forge will also be going to demonstrate blacksmithing for making tools.

Enjoy strolling around the gardens or catch a guided tour. The day will also feature interesting displays and stalls with plants, books and produce for sale.

Abundance Café will be open with delicious lunches and refreshments made from fresh garden and local produce.

The café boasts that over 90% of their ingredients are sourced within 35km of Nimbin.

This will be the 14th annual Open



Part of the crowd at last year's Open Day

Day at Djanbung Gardens and will raise funds for Permaculture Australia and the local Permaculture College. Entry is by donation (\$5 or gold coins recommended)

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Meet the Labor candidate for Page



I'm Patrick Deegan the Labor candidate for Page. I live in Casino with my wife and our four children aged 12 to 19.

I am a social welfare worker whose entire working life has been focused on helping those struggling to deal with social, financial and mental health problems.

With all the advantages we have in Australia you would expect things to be getting better. However what I've seen in recent years is that life is getting harder.

After six years of the Turnbull Government and Kevin Hogan as his National Party Coalition representative in Page, why is this so?

I believe it's because the Turnbull Coalition Government have the wrong priorities and Kevin Hogan has blindly followed his city colleagues and not delivered for our local communities.

They have done nothing to ease the rising cost of living with high power bills and penalty rate cuts; education and health services more difficult to access, while working people, older people and pensioners are struggling.

I believe people in Page deserve better, I believe they need a representative who understands the challenges they face in communities right across the electorate.

I am part of the Page community. I have the same worries, hopes and aspirations. I know what it's like to raise a family here; I know how hard it is for my 20 year old son to afford post school training, find a good job and be able to stay in this region.

I connect with the people of Page because I am one of them.

Labor has a great message to sell in protecting and restoring penalty rates, reversing the cuts to the pensioner energy supplement, restoring funding to the education sector and stopping the tax cuts to big business and the banks.

Renewable energy and a fast, reliable NBN are two of the issues I am particularly passionate about.

I am committed to advocate for the Labor Party's strong action on climate change.

For the third consecutive year the Turnbull Government has overseen an increase in Australia's pollution levels and the latest Turnbull Government Budget delivered ZERO new policies or funding to drive down pollution and combat climate change.

The Liberals are not even continuing their wasteful direct action program. Meanwhile Kevin Hogan's National Party is pushing for more coal fired power stations!

Labor is committed to cutting our carbon pollution by 45 percent on 2005 levels by 2030, and to reach net zero emissions by 2050, as is consistent with our obligations under the Paris Accords of keeping global warming to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

Turnbull is building a second rate NBN with more faults, more dropouts and poor service. Once again most regional communities are getting second rate technology in comparison to cities. Connections in regional areas will be reliant on the old copper wires with copper-based fibre to the node services producing double the faults of fibre to the premises and three times as many complaints.

That's why Labor has promised to put in place an NBN Service Guarantee which will result in less downtime, faster repairs, and penalties for poor performance.

Over the past few months I've been out and about in the local community, talking to people at meetings and markets, and seeking their views on the issues that affect them.

Overwhelmingly, people are telling me that they are disappointed with the Federal Government. They feel that no-one in Canberra is listening to their concerns. Most importantly, they are sick of being taken for granted.

Our community deserves a strong and committed voice in the national Parliament. I am determined to be that voice.

When the Labor party removed the micro-managing ear wax-etarian and unemployment mogul's first man Kevin Rudd from the prime ministership they inspired the wild-eyed monk to establish a leadership protocol so bureaucratic and laborious it could see Labor out of office for decades.

Apart from dividing and conquering their own party and leaving us at the mercy of the merciless Abbott, Labor stood by and let Rudd overhaul their leadership election procedure. And his verbosity diligently set about creating a process that would allow every future Labor leader to relax in the full knowledge that they need only fear death or 'conscience driven' resignation.

In a tragic twist of fate, the Rudd anti-assassination procedure helped his own metaphoric assassin,



Revenge of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens

Shorten, to establish his own idiot proof supremacy over the party.

Now with Labor at the doors of power, only one thing holds them back: their unassailable leader, the deeply unpopular Shorten. Who will rid me of this marked man, who can? To be fair, if Shorten actually

made PM - Australia would happily adopt him - for he is as perfectly beige and just as big a liar as that old rodent Howard and Howard ended up being Australia's second longest-serving PM.

So sadly, the Rudd anti-assassination procedure looks set to allow the present tax dodging, gimp-of-the-right, Turnbull to keep the Prime Ministership he so respectfully purchased. Keeping us mired in the past when we desperately need to embrace a fast changing future. Who would have thought that the ousting of the self-righteous Rudd would have echoed for so long or so darkly down the haloed halls of history?

Much as its a travesty that we are stuck with Shorten - think if the Rudd anti-assassination procedure existed when Mark Latham was elected leader! In that case an actual knife may have been required to save Labor.



by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

Dirt Girl dropped in to see me in Canberra last month, along with her creator Cate McQuillen.

Dirtgirl World is a great television series created by Whiporie locals Cate McQuillen and Hewey Eustace of Mememe Productions. Cate and Dirtgirl were in Parliament House with a series of meetings with Ministers.

They tell and teach very important stories about waste management, saving energy, being water wise and recycling.

None were more excited to see Dirtgirl than the children in the parliament creche that day.

I also had the privilege of honouring long time Kyogle resident and businessman Jack Hurley with a speech in parliament.

Out of the six new bridges in Kyogle that I recently opened, one of them was named after this local legend.

We all want to know the origin of food we eat. From 1st July all food products sold in Australia are now labelled with their country of origin.

You will find country of origin labelling on most food you buy at the supermarket, local stores, markets, online or from a vending machine.

Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, president

We had a great General Meeting last month with quite a few local community members in attendance.

Paula Newman, the Strategic Planning Officer and Tina Irish the Economic Development Manager from Lismore City Council attended the meeting to present the Nimbin Car Parking Strategy that was adopted by Council in May and discussed current development projects and proposals and community concerns.

The first stages of Nimbin Parking Strategy will be implemented over the next few weeks and they hope to have most of it done by the end of August. This includes:

- Time parking changes in the main street to 15 minute and 2 hour zones
- Line marking the western carpark
- Moving the bus zone at the lower end of Cullen Street and replacing it with more car parking
- Moving the disabled parking from in front of the Bakery to the front of the Post Office
- Better signage to access the off-street parking and for the pedestrian crossing in Cullen Street.

We will have a week to get used to the changes once it is completed, then the Lismore Parking Rangers will be sent out on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the changes. So take note of the up-coming changes and be aware that non-compliance will lead to a fine being issued.

Other long term plans for the parking strategy include:

- extending the Western Carpark, the Council is currently negotiating with the Nimbin Central School and the Department of Education to see if the unused land near the gully could be acquired.
- Creating a long vehicle parking area in Sibley Street near the Nimbin Bowling Club.

Comments from the community members who attended included:

- the failure of Council to consider the impact of tourism on parking and village infrastructure, as funding is usually calculated on number of residents.
- The need for traffic and pedestrian mitigation in Thorburn and Cecil Streets
- The need to consider pedestrian and bicycle ways in the development of streets and roads.

We then discussed some of the proposed developments in Crofton and Gungas Roads, the Lismore Growth Management Strategy, which is part of the North Coast Regional Plan, and the relationship of local DCP's (Development Control Plans) to the state LEP's (Local Environment Plans); and the potential

impacts of Community Title on development in the area.

Community members expressed frustration at the lack of real power to say no to what they felt was inappropriate development that would destroy the very qualities that drew them to the village and area. Some of the issues discussed were:

- The high density of some housing in new developments despite larger block sizes. Where large blocks are developed to accommodate 2-3 dwellings instead of a single dwelling with plenty of green space around it.
- The lack of provision for affordable housing in development plans despite requests to include these provisions in the growth management strategy.
- The need for developers to be required to make a financial contribution towards village infrastructure. (Section 96 contribution)
- The feeling that development approvals have not been matched by upgrades to village infrastructure.
- The ability for future developers to start a land sharing community and then apply for Community title at a later date, leading to 'subdivision by stealth'.
- The use of State LEP's to override DCP's (which are developed by Council in consultation with local communities), by developers and the inability of councils to refuse because the Department of Planning and Environment will usually find in favour of the developer.

Both Paula and Tina agreed that these were huge issues facing local communities and while local Council was sympathetic and was willing to accommodate community concerns, communities needed to also lobby their state and federal representatives. Many planning issues are controlled by state legislation and the trend was towards taking more independence away from local councils and communities.

We also had a short presentation and report from the Light up Nimbin project. The Rainbow Power Company has installed Stage 1 of the project (panels, controllers and battery) and is now working on the lighting design. Having lighting that was ambient and effective was discussed and a couple of people expressed interest in being involved in the planning of the under-awning lighting.

If you are interested in the issues covered, please let us know and please take the opportunity to go on-line and make a submission to Council for any current developments if you have any concerns. Your voice matters, and together we can make a difference.





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# More important than ever to vote Green

by Daniel Reid

I'm your Greens' candidate for the next federal election. I was brought up on Bishop's Creek Road near Nimbin, and Lismore.

My mother has worked as a high school teacher in Lismore and Casino, and the Reid family has been in the area for four generations. I am a true son of the district.

I know that the small communities and villages of the Northern Rivers are the life blood of our region and bring a rich diversity to the Page electorate. I know how fiercely local people value independent thinking.

Nimbin and other villages in Page are filled with people in part time and casual paid work, who also give countless volunteer hours to the arts and environment. It's truly a shame that a town that has created cultural revolutions around the world is shackled to a federal member who doesn't value the output of our communities.

Kevin Hogan and his Nationals return your



investment in community by supporting a reduction in penalty rates, and rejecting calls for increasing the minimum pay rate, and the Newstart allowance. Our federal member does not vote for his constituents. He votes with his party – every time. I will work hard to defend fair pay for fair work, and a realistic allowance for people out of work.

Inequality is growing in

Australia and the Coalition is responsible for creating that situation. Trickle-down economics does not work, and the Greens want to see policies that work for ordinary people like you and me. I passionately want to see an end to the tax system that encourages corporate cheating and also ensure the big companies can't buy influence by funding election campaigns.

The northern half of the Page electorate has one of the highest uptake rates of private solar investment in the country and yet the current government continues to reduce rebates for solar and battery homes. Kevin Hogan will not stand up against his coal-fuelled party when it comes to subsidising new fossil fuel energy projects either. The evidence is in and coal-fired power stations should be replaced as a highest priority. By not actively supporting the development of clean energy projects the Nationals are putting our entire biosphere at risk.

A parliamentary representative should act independently when necessary, and always put our community and the environment first. I am by no means perfect but what I do have is a respect for a future we can all share. I am standing for The Greens in Page because this is my home and it is being severely damaged through wilful neglect by those with the agency to stop it. No more.

# Corporate police state threatens democracy and rights

by Aidan Ricketts

It's time we had a good hard talk about the corporate assault on democracy that is unfolding all around us.

Globally, democracy is not faring well, with emergent authoritarian regimes such as Russia and China gathering strength whilst existing democratic states in Australia, US, Europe and UK struggle against a persistent attack from neo-liberal ideology.

What is neo-liberalism? From the 1980's onwards and with the decline of the Soviet Union, right wing political and economic theorists indulged in an orgy of hubris arguing that capitalism and the market had been proven right by the fall of communism and they promulgated a belief system verging on religiosity in which all manner of unproven economic and social theory was zealously advocated.

This included seriously deluded assumptions like the trickle-down theory (making the rich richer somehow helps the poor) and the idea that opening all national economies up to unregulated corporate trade was a universally good idea.

The real power behind neo-liberalism however has always been the large global corporations. These are the entities that have demanded the ongoing disempowerment of the nation state, of democracy and of civil rights in an effort to overcome all resistance to global corporate trade.

So-called free trade treaties stripped nations of many of their rights to protect their environment, economies or populations from exploitation by large corporations. The smaller the nation state the more compelling the pressure to conform became, as many global corporations dwarf nation states in sheer economic size and power.

Democracy is about much more than elections. The large corporate sector worked out ways to manipulate our elections a long time ago, mostly through donations and funding of the major political parties (LNP and Labor

and through the establishment of a revolving door between high political office and big corporate power. The mining, pharmaceutical, armaments and agricultural chemical companies are some of the main donors and manipulators of domestic politics.

Where elections can be swayed with money, what had always been beyond the reach of the corporate sector was people power in the form of our rights to organize and assemble and to mobilise public opinion, and that's what they are going after now, with the help of our politicians in government. The corporate word for democracy is 'sovereign risk', that's wherever our self-determination might threaten their investments.

So let's look at present day NSW and Australia to see what is being done to erode our civil rights and by whom.

The power of trade unions has been subjected to decades of legislative attacks designed to reduce their ability to mobilise collective power. The new "Change the Rules" campaign addresses this attack on unions and deserves our support.

But more recently we have witnessed a steady assault on the right of public protest and assembly by the Liberal and National parties. In every state where the LNP has held government in recent years, (Qld, Vic, WA, Tas and NSW) we have seen attacks on the right to protest.

At the federal level there have been attacks on charities, attempts to withdraw rights to challenge environmental approvals, even attempts to ban some forms of satire. The latest federal initiative is laws to use the military to oppose civilian unrest.

Most dramatically last month, a regulation was introduced to remove the long standing right of assembly on public land throughout NSW. That right with the stroke of a pen is now just a police officer's discretion.

The Greens are leading the charge against the anti-protest laws. Unlike the major parties the Greens do not accept donations from mining companies, big

pharma and other corporate behemoths, so it is no surprise that the Greens are the driving force here.

There is a rally outside NSW parliament on 15th August, when Greens MLC David Shoebridge will be inside trying to get the regulation disallowed. See: [www.facebook.com/events/221015491844126](http://www.facebook.com/events/221015491844126)

If you can get down to your local National Party MPs office on that morning you could join others in a vigil for democracy from 8.30am and we will monitor how the disallowance motion fares in parliament.

So what else can we do in the Northern Rivers to defend democracy? We have a state election coming in NSW next March and we need to mobilise ourselves and fight for our democracy and make sure we remove the National Party politicians who are responsible for these extreme anti-democratic laws.

There will no doubt be some further events organised in coming months and it is everybody's responsibility to attend events and to support candidates that oppose the anti-protest laws.

The National Party politicians in the Northern Rivers are the local face of the global corporate police state and we need to kick them out. There is a very real likelihood the Greens can win Lismore and retain Ballina and a chance that they could obtain the balance of power in state parliament.

With the balance of power it is possible to reverse anti-protest laws, and to improve the accountability and transparency of political donations. These kinds of reforms won't be done by either of the old major parties on their own as they have too much reliance on corporate donations.

So for the rest of this year this is an issue that must not be allowed to rest. The government will be reluctant to move against protest actions this side of the election, but if they are re-elected it will be a different story.

It really is a love it or lose it moment when it comes to our rights to protest. It's up to all of us from here.

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**WITH HEALTH &**

**HOSPITALS**

Authorised by J Elliot, ALP, 107 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South