# We desperately need an ecological revolution

by John Scales Avery

#### Our present crisis of civilisation is unique

Does history repeat itself? Is it cyclic, or is it unidirectional? Certainly many aspects of history are repetitive – the rise and fall of empires, cycles of war and peace, cycles of construction and destruction. But on the other hand, if we look at the long-term history of human progress, we can see that it is clearly unidirectional.

An explosion of knowledge has created the modern world. Never before has the world had a population of seven billion people, to which a billion are added every decade. Never before have we had the power to destroy human civilisation and the biosphere with catastrophic anthropogenic climate change or thermonuclear weapons.

Our situation today is unique. We cannot rely on old habits, old traditions or old institutions. To save the long-term future for our children and grandchildren, and for all the other creatures with which we share the gift of life, we must overcome the inertia of our institutions and our culture.

#### Harmony between human society and nature must be restored

Among the many global leaders who have pointed to the need for fundamental change are Pope Francis and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

In June, 2015, Pope Francis addressed the climate crisis in an encyclical entitled "Laudato Si",



in which he said "Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principle challenges facing humanity in our day."

In his Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium", Pope Francis wrote: "Just as the commandment "Thou shalt not kill' sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say thou shalt not to an economy of exclusion and inequality."

For very many years, Al Gore has struggled to call public attention to the existential dangers of catastrophic climate change. These efforts were recognised with a Nobel Peace Prize, which Al Gore shared with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The October 2018 report of the IPCC shocked the world. The report finds that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C would require "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities. Global net human-caused emissions of carbon-dioxide would need to fall by about 45 percent from





2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050.

Another conclusion of the report was that humanity has only 12 years in which to act if tipping points are to be avoided, beyond which uncontrollable feedback loops would be set in motion.

This situation caused 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, addressing the 2019 Davos Economic Forum in Switzerland, to say: "Our house is on fire. I am here to say that our house is on fire. According to the IPCC, we are less than 12 years away from not being able to undo our mistakes. In that time, unprecedented changes in all aspects of society need to have taken place, including reductions of our  $CO_2$  emissions by at least 50%."

#### Fundamental changes are needed

Fundamental changes are needed in order to give our economic system both an ecological conscience and a social conscience. In many countries, economics and politics are linked, because excessive inequality in wealth has meant that corporate oligarchs control our political systems.

To restore democracy, we must decrease economic inequality. Furthermore, reformed economic systems must prioritize ecological goals, especially the replacement of fossil fuels by renewable energy, reforestation, and the drastic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Since rapid and fundamental changes are urgently needed to save the future, it is perhaps not an exaggeration to speak of the need for an ecological revolution, but it must be a nonviolent revolution.

Strong reasons for avoiding violence in situations of conflict have been given by Mahatma Gandhi. To the insidious argument that "the end justifies the means", Gandhi answered firmly: "They say that 'means are after all means'. I would say that 'means are after all everything'. As the means, so the end.

Indeed, the Creator has given us limited power over means, none over end... the means may be likened to a seed, and the end to a tree; and there is the same inviolable connection between the means and the end as there is between the seed and the tree. Means and end are inconvertible

terms in my philosophy of life."

Trained as a lawyer, Gandhi fought his battles in the court of public opinion. In this court, violent methods fatally weaken one's case, besides being futile if one is opposing overwhelming military strength.

Today, our case for the need to make rapid and fundamental changes must be fought in the court of public opinion. This is made difficult by the fact that the mass media are firmly under the control of power-holding oligarchs. However, the internet is still relatively uncensored, and this gives us the opportunity to create our own media.

We give our children loving care; but it makes no sense to do so unless we also do all that is within our power to give them a future in which they can survive.

None of us asked to be born at a time of crisis. But we have been born at such a time, and history has given us an enormous responsibility. If we do not work with courage and dedication to save our beautiful world for future generations, all of the treasures that past generations have given to us will be lost.

You and I, all of us together, can save the future if we work hard enough. Let us join hands and save the earth for our children and grandchildren.

John Avery's book, We Need an Ecological Revolution can be freely downloaded from: http://eacpe.org/ app/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ We-need-an-ecological-revolution-John-Scales-Avery.pdf



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# There really is nowhere to go from here

by Bernardine Schwartz

was counting down the days leading up to the federal election and feeling very optimistic about celebrating the end of this government, but I couldn't have been more wrong and I'm still pinching myself.

The Australian voter has chosen to stay on the path of no tomorrow, and I'm perplexed as to how they could possibly forget our PM's unforgettable performance last year, when he gleefully serenaded a chunk of coal.

They have chosen a PM who believes his victory was a miracle. Does that mean God put him there and ultimately he serves God? The public should be deeply worried when religious ideology begins to interfere with the running of government, especially when the religion in question opposes many of the fundamental principles of democracy, and worships a God who gives everlasting punishment to the wicked.

Australians also completely dismissed the UN's landmark report, along with the government: "We are facing an irreversible calamity, with a million species on the brink of

These reports aren't just words on a page. Every minute of the day as we go about our daily lives and safely sleep in our beds at night, the sale of the century races on.

Since that fateful day, the 18th May, I have been in mourning and what really bothers me is, there is nowhere to go from here.

The public are proving to be the major obstacle in fighting climate change and I'm at a loss, as to what it will take to get them to wake up. The gentle approach hasn't worked, trying to get people to feel remorseful hasn't worked either and the threat to our children, our greatest treasure, has had no effect at all.

Is it because we've known about it for over 25 years and everyone is still alive, so nothing to worry about? No matter what the reasoning, it's appalling, and a shame that all of our young aren't eligible to vote.

Global warming isn't confined to the northern hemisphere and we will eventually catch up to the rest of the world.

We are entering a new stage of climate change with April temperatures being the second highest on record for the entire planet, and for



the first time in the history of mankind we have reached 415.26 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub>. A massive upheaval is occurring in the natural world and record temperatures in the Arctic is clear evidence that global warming is progressing rapidly.

Arkhangelsk is a town in Russia and is situated at the entrance to the Arctic Ocean. On 11th May, it reached an unbelievable temperature of 29 degrees Celsius, and the following day in a nearby location, it soared to 31 degrees Celsius.

The planet is falling apart and yet our PM's only interest in the environment, is its natural resources. He has openly expressed his vision for Australia: "A

weaker mining industry means a weaker Australia, and a stronger mining industry, means a stronger Australia."

Those who voted for jobs should have done their research. Mining doesn't equal more jobs, only more extinctions, and with automated mines growing every year and some already completely autonomous, it can only spell the loss of jobs, more profits for the already wealthy and escalating environmental destruction.

The IPCC believe our ecosystems will totally collapse when we pass 1.5 degrees, which we're approaching and higher temperatures will not only threaten our wildlife,

forests and oceans but kill them. Humans need to be reminded that they are animals too and just like all the other living creatures, we're not immune from the effects of global warming.

Startling new research published in Nature has discovered that the average male's sperm count and quality, has declined dramatically since 2002, and the sole cause is rising temperatures.

Sperm doesn't like heat, and it can have a lasting impact on a man's reproductive fitness, reducing their sperm count to half. Heatwave conditions especially had a critical effect, and researchers were surprised at how consistent the results were during a fiveday period.

Even more alarming, successive heatwaves almost rendered men sterile but It doesn't end there. The study also revealed that it had a shocking impact on their offspring, giving them a much shorter lifespan.

Nobody wants to acknowledge the impact climate change will have on all our lives and until their standard of living dramatically declines, nothing will change.

We are without a doubt,

the most dangerous predator on the planet. We treat Mother Earth as if she were a gigantic game of Monopoly and a Theme Park rolled into one; buying, selling and building, and Her sole purpose is to entertain us.

The latest update is that the theme park will now have a multi-billion dollar international airport directly in front of the entrance to the Sacred Valley in Cusco, Peru and construction is already underway. This will make life more convenient for the intrepid traveller to journey to Machu Picchu and don't forget, it will create jobs growth and extra revenue for the tourism industry.

It's incredible to think that we have polluted and nearly exhausted 510.1 million square kilometres, ranging from the highest mountain tops to the depths of the oceans. We've given ourselves exclusive rights to all things on this planet whether it be dead or alive, and it appears that we won't stop until the forces of nature intervene.

We're going to learn our lesson the hard way, when we come to the realisation that we have imprisoned ourselves in a world of our own making, made of concrete, steel and plastic, and we have no way of escaping.

# Weed Maps Espana – a cannabis culture tour of Spain

by Krista Schaefer

s a traveller and a pot smoker it's nice when I can **L**get some weed to enjoy. My most recent trip in Spain was so easy due to an app I accessed: Weed Maps Espana.

Weedmaps was launched in Orange County California in 2008 and Spain quickly followed suit as the Spanish law allows the possession of unlimited amounts of marijuana plants. These clubs are legal which makes the whole thing so easy.

I visited the beautiful city of Santander in the North of Spain. I downloaded the app and typed in 'Santander'. Immediately several different pinpoints appeared. I checked out the one nearest to where I was staying. It was an hour's walk along the coast to get there.

There was an address and telephone number online. I telephoned the place and said in my best Spanish...'I got your number from Weed Maps, can I come over?' The friendly male voice confirmed the address and toldme I was welcome. I could smell the marijuana from 10 minutes away.

Arriving I could see people sitting outside at tables, drinking coffee, beer and wine and smoking the sacred herb. Entering the bar area I was greeted by the man I had spoken on the telephone to.

I enquired about the pot that I wished to purchase. I was told that I would have to join the club before I could buy any cannabis and fill in a brief form with my name and passport number on. I paid 10 euro (\$A16) and then paid a further 20 euro (\$A36) and bought a decent sized bag of delicious sativa.

My journey through Northern Spain continued, and when I reached Cangas in the province of Galicia, I was needing to reload my stash. Weed Maps informed me that the nearest cannabis café was in Vigo which is the capital of Galicia. I took a ferry across the bay which arrived at the old town, and my maps guided me on an uphill 30-



the best route but the place was not as easy to find because the address was a bit ambiguous. It seemed like No. 44 was a restaurant, but a plethora of elderly folk was not the clientele I imagined would be sitting minute walk. Google maps supplied there smoking cannabis. I noticed

some graffiti which guided me to a block of residential flats and the familiar aroma reached my nose.

I buzzed Flat 2. The same words came out of my mouth, 'I got your number from Weed Maps'. The door electronically opened and I walked up the stone stairs to the apartment. Once again I had to join as I was now in the province of Galicia. I objected to 20 Euro (36 A\$) and I reported that I had only paid 10 Euro in Cantabria. The young man halved the price. The deals that I purchased were double what I would get in the UK or in Australia, and I liked the fact that it was grown outside in the beautiful Spanish sun.

My next weed café that I visited was in Madrid. I still had more than enough, but being a capital city I found the place quite lonely.

I searched on Weed Maps for the nearest café and there it was a twenty minute walk away. After the usual phone call I was buzzed into the café which was behind a heavy graffitied iron door. The usual,

and I was greeted with a smile. This time I did not have to join the club as I was not purchasing cannabis. I did buy a café con leche and openly smoked a pipe full of ganja.

My final stop on the Weed Map tour was Malaga in Andalusia. I still had a stash but I wanted to meet some like minded people so I checked on Weed Maps and found the nearest store 40 minutes away.

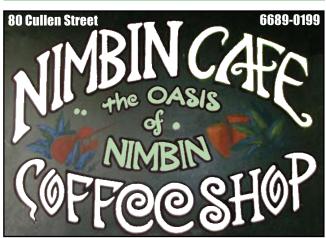
I did not bother calling this time as I had the address. I called the number when I arrived and asked if I could come in. This time the lady who answered the phone was not so friendly and demanded that I have my passport with me and I would still have to join the club even though I did not intend to buy. The fee to join was the most expensive yet: it was E40 which was an amount I did not want to pay.

I did not have my passport and I declined to enter so I continued on back to my room. I did stop at the beach and have a sneaky pipe while sitting on the sand watching the sun pleasant aroma hit me as I walked in setting on the Mediterranean Sea.





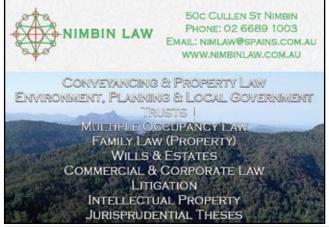












## Their hair was as big as their hearts...

Lismore Theatre Company's next production, *Steel Magnolias*, opens 5th July.

This is a bittersweet award-winning play written by Robert Harling which chronicles the lives of six women who frequent Truvy's Beauty Spot in Chinquapin, Louisiana.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the 1989 film of the same name, made famous by Hollywood icons Dolly Parton, Sally Fields, Daryl Hannah, Julia Roberts, Shirley McLaine and Olympia Dukakis.

As the name implies, the characters are as delicate as magnolias but as strong as steel, as they deal with the joys and sorrows which occur over two years of their lives.

The show embodies sass, style and sisterhood from the big-haired 1980s, and is awash with memorable witty one liners such as Dukakis' "The only thing that separates us from the animals is our ability to accessorise."

Lismore Theatre Company's production of Steel Magnolias is directed by Sylvia Clarke (director of Last of the Red Hot Lovers, Lipstick Dreams). The cast comprises well



known talented and experienced local actors Jacquie McCalman, Elyse Knowles, Jenny Dowell, Sinead Fell, Lisa Walmsley and Sharon Brodie.

"It's great to see the cast blossom into their roles. This not just a chick show, it has something for everyone who loves to laugh, cry, or eat Southern food," Sylvia said.

Performances: July 5-20 (Friday and Saturdays 7.30pm, Sundays 2pm) at the Rochdale Theatre on Ballina Road. Bookings: www.lismoretheatrecompany. org.au

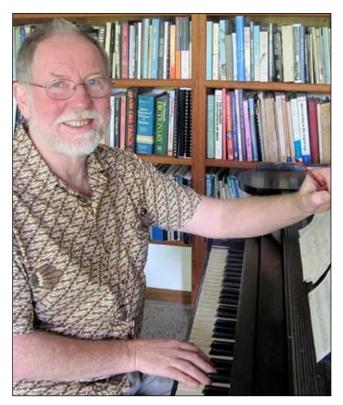
# The 'Festival of Michael' begins

Acclaimed local composer, keyboardist, and musicologist Michael Hannan's 70th birthday will roll around on 19th November. In celebration of this milestone event a veritable 'festival of Michael' will begin in June.

On Sunday 16th June, a concert of Hannan's recent piano music will be performed by the composer at Nimbin School of Arts from 2pm. The door takings of this and other piano concerts will be donated to the Tyalgum Music Festival.

On July 8-12, Michael Hannan will be giving a presentation entitled "Zoömusicology and composition using transcribed birdsong" at the 2019 Australian Wildlife Sound Recording Group (AWSRG) workshop at Smiths Lake UNSW Field Station.

On Sunday 25th August, a concert of piano works composed by



Peter Sculthorpe and his composition assistants, will be performed by Hannan at the Nimbin School of Arts from 2pm. It includes concert world premieres of piano film cues co-composed by Peter Sculthorpe, Michael Hannan and David Matthews for the feature film, Essington (1974) and works by Anne Boyd, Ross Edwards, Peggy Pollias, John Peterson and Caroline Szeto.

In November, a solo retrospective exhibition of Hannan's scholarly and creative work will be on display in the library foyer at Southern Cross University, Lismore, from 4th to 29th November, with an official opening at 12 noon on Wednesday 6th November.

And on Sunday 10th November, an experimental piano-based music and sound event curated by Michael Hannan will happen at the Nimbin School of Arts, at 2pm.

In addition, there will be parties, wine tastings, additional performances, a Nimbin Garden Club gathering chez nous and some published articles written by Michael about his

### **Express yourself through theatre**



by James Straiton

A small group of artists have come together down at the Nimbin Bush Theatre, to read and share scripts together, with the intention of staging a play.

This is an invitation to all those aspiring actors, singers, dancers, writers, painters, builders, techies and creative types of all kinds to join us or introduce yourselves – even if you aren't sure how you'd like to be involved.

At present we are hoping to stage *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard. There are still places available to be a part of that, but if you've a script you would like to share, a song you'd like to sing, a set you'd like to paint, or just a general interest in being more involved in our creative community, we would love to meet you all the same.

If you feel like being a part of something creative come visit us at 6pm on Monday nights at the Nimbin Bush Theatre, or phone 0401-756-615.

Hopefully there will be more productions and theatrical happenings in the future, too.

## How the HEMP Party vote pleasantly surprised everyone

by Michael Balderstone

he HEMP Party vote surprised everyone in the election with it's vote, more than doubling to around two percent and not far behind Palmer who spent \$60 million or more.

We got the sixth highest vote after the big three, Pauline and Palmer. It doesn't sound much but that's over 230,000 Australians who chose cannabis law reform as their priority.

Their number one most important single issue in the privacy of polling booths, where no one knows and you won't lose your job!

We got many inquiries about who gets our preferences and what's our policy on immigration, or housing, or franking credits, etc. That was easy. We're a single issue protest vote about the cannabis laws and then you put second your party of choice.

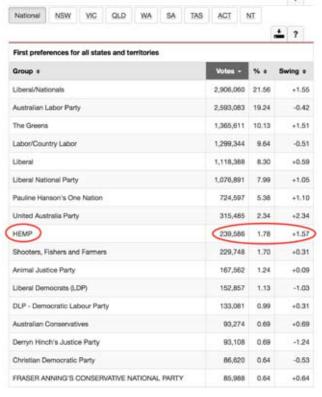
Our policies are simple. Legalise and regulate cannabis. Separate it from the other illegal drugs it's entirely different to. Allow home grown. Introduce a fair roadside impairment test for drivers no matter what drugs you use.

We scratched around to find the fees to run candidates and then had to scratch further for candidates because so few want to publicise their 'criminality'. And apart from an odd Vote 1 HEMP sign nailed up and a bit on-line there was little promotion. Why did it jump so much, people are asking.

I think the word is out there about the lies we've been told, and are still being told. It's actually a super safe amazing medicine. People are angry about it. Especially RDT and remember ten percent of Aussies are regular cannabis users and drive.

We've been picked on for years, we're used to it, but saliva testing drivers is below the belt. Un-Australian bullying that's gone a step too far.

Documentaries on Netflix and mainstream television are showing other countries with regulated legal cannabis First preferences by Senate group



and we want it too. They're also portraying extraordinary hypocrisy with the drug war and healing with cannabis where pharmaceuticals either fail, or virtually destroy

people's bodies. Children's bodies, emaciated but alive.

Keeping people alive seems to be the obsession of the health industry, which is well and good, but at what cost?

What about quality of life? People are asking why can't we use the herbal world as well as pharmaceuticals?

They can help each other we are fast discovering. Chemo with cannabis is a new thing.

People have woken up that cannabis is a champion at pain relief and without the unpleasant side effects of opiates. This is a herb that can give their grandparents a good night's sleep and take away their arthritis pain.

It starts there, then there's the cancer treatments, the childrens brain tumors and autism, the epileptics and Parkinson sufferers, the anxiety and depression epidemic.

Meanwhile it has never been harder for a cannabis user in this country. The hard line policing using sniffer dogs and now saliva testing has changed drug use to unpredictable and unknown chemical mixes.

People are not so stupid, especially young people. There is little respect for the drug laws, just fear. Force doesn't work, every

parent learns that, respect is different.

Cannabis is the drug to get off other drugs with, a gateway away from addictive drugs like ice and heroin, and alcohol.

Perhaps a tipping point is that Australians continue to be lied to with politicians bragging about how they've made medical cannabis legal.

We've waited decades for this, and when it comes they treat us like idiots. Sure, it's legal, but you have to be nearly dead and you're not allowed to drive. They didn't say that bit on the news. 99% of cannabis users rejected again.

As the medical cannabis debate continues to mature and the penny drops in Australia, more and more people will come to realise that we can't have any type of meaningful cannabis law reform while police maintain and support the use of saliva testing for traces of cannabis.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced next year they will test the saliva of 200,000 NSW drivers, more than double the current number We're going backwards.

# STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

S como won't let up on me. The Hemp Election, he called it the other day, and in front of all his staffers, most of whom scowled.

He laughed when he first saw me after the election. "Your hippies got more than the Shooters and the Animal Righters. You nearly beat Clive and his billions. What's going on, Bethany?"

"It's a message to you, sir. The Australian people have spoken in the only place they feel safe, anonymous in the polling booth." He bounced it right back at me.

"They feel safe with me Beth, they just proved that."

I don't think he's ever called me Beth before, and I've never seen him crowing as much as this, though he's full of the Jesus Juice most of the time.

"They're scared of change I think, sir. And Mr Shorten just didn't quite cut it did he? He lacks your passion, sir."

"He hasn't found the Lord Bethany. That's where my passion comes from. The Almighty is leading us, not me. I am but his servant." Fuckin hell, I'm thinking. Does he really believe the Earth was only made six thousand years ago, but I wasn't game to ask him. I ducked out of the conversation at that point and left him to the endless hangers-on after his attention.

But they are talking about the HEMP vote in Parliament, and why it more than doubled. It's well known many of the politicians have rellos using the medicine, especially the oldies who need a good night's sleep and relief from aches and pains.

That Scomo has a rello using it is well known, and in fact as I listened to them talking, nearly everyone knew someone who knew someone who was using the medical weed.

The more time I spend down there in Canberra, the more I

realise it's not Scomo running the show, nor Jesus, nor any politicians, it's the faces behind the scene. The staff who've been there for decades.

The Health Minister comes and goes, but the staff who advise them stay forever. And the staff of course are the ones talking to the paid pharmaceutical lobbyists, the jail builders, and now the church leaders are making appointments because Scomo's at the helm.

Wined and dined by all sorts of vested interests, they find it easy to laugh and joke about the hippies. Running around long-haired and naked in the hills is the standard picture. Children not going to school. Non-contributors, quite likely on the dole. There's whole departments devoted to them that don't fit into somewhere.

I've been included in several long

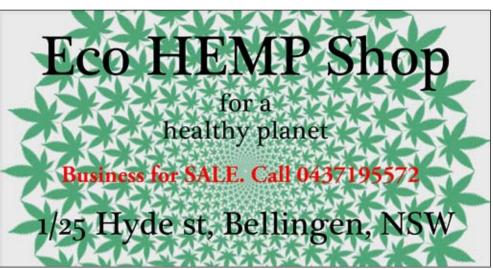
lunches now. Crayfish, caviar, the lot. Make you feel important is number one rule for lobbyists. A bit like Undacuva training. Fear is the basis of all arguments though.

"If we let the herbal world loose, all hell could break loose," I actually heard one guy threaten." There's plants out there that can kill in seconds." They look at me sideways hoping for a reaction, and sometimes I can't help myself.

"Do you think carrots should be regulated, even banned?" I asked one day. "I heard if you drink a lot of freshly-juiced organic carrots, like three glassfuls, quickly. The rush is similar to heroin. Beetroot is something else. Kids are fainting, trying to out-do each other."

Definitely time I get back to the hills, and the real people running around naked.







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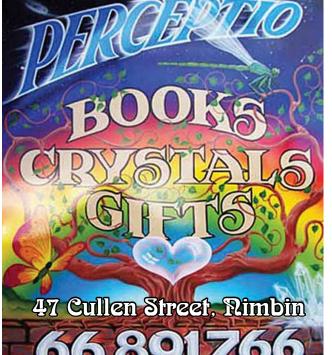
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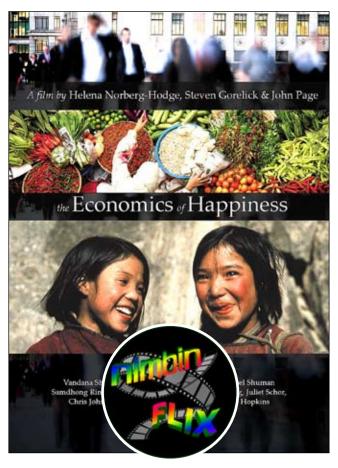
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# The economics of localisation



This month Nimbin Flix is supporting the Buy Local campaign initiative by showing this important film The Economics of Happiness on Saturday 8th June at Birth & Beyond.

The film describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. On the one hand, government and big business continue to promote globalisation and the consolidation of corporate power.

At the same time, all around the world people are resisting those policies, demanding a re-regulation of trade and finance - and, far from the old institutions of power, they're starting to forge a very different future.

Communities are coming together to re-build more human scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm - an economics of localisation.

We hear from a chorus of

including Samdhong Rinpoche, the former prime minister of Tibet's government in exile, Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, David Korten and Zac Goldsmith.

They tell us that climate change and peak oil give us little choice: we need to localise, to bring the economy home. The good news is that as we move in this direction, we will begin not only to heal the earth but also to restore our own sense of well-being.

The Economics of Happiness restores our faith in humanity and challenges us to believe that it is possible to build a better world.

The film is being screened Saturday 8th June at the Birth and Beyond meeting room, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin. Doors open at 6.30pm movie starts at 7pm. Light refreshments will be available.

### Extraordinary moments in new NORPA show

Director and acrobat Darcy Grant is making waves across the globe as a powerful force in contemporary Australian circus and physical

His work Backbone with circus company Gravity and Other Myths was the sell-out hit of 2017 Adelaide Festival, prompting the festival to commission Out of Chaos, that premiered to rave reviews this year. Now his powerful new work Fold: A Domestic Circus will premiere at NORPA on 28th and 29th June before touring

Fold: A Domestic Circus intimately explores how relationships grow more complex over time. Familiar gestures, everyday objects and domestic rituals are transformed into breathtakingly beautiful physical theatre.

Bodies and arms interweave to result in neatly stacked piles of washing. A cup of tea is balanced, shared and spilled. Mopping the floor moves from domestic chore to intricate dance.

A fitted bed-sheet enfolds the acrobats and transforms the scene from playful bedroom, to bedside care, to a funeral home.

The world premiere of Fold: A Domestic Circus will be on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th June.





## Gilbert and Sullivan come to Ballina with Pirates



Pirates of Penzance for Ballina Players is to be directed and choreographed by Jaime Sheehan, who last year also directed HMS Pinafore.

Jaime has had a love for Gilbert and Sullivan, and particularly the Essgee versions since she was a young girl.

Jaime has assembled a strong young cast and an experienced production team in Warwick Binney (musical director), Karen Goodsell (musical director), and Bev Peart-Kuter (vocal coach).

The musical will be played live by a four-piece band of two keyboards, bass and drums.

Mabel (played by Mel Strawbridge)

is the heroine of the story and is the object of Frederic's (played by Mick Webb) attention. Mabel, after falling for one of the pirates of Penzance, has to send out the police sergeant (played by Rod Ramsay) and his men to their likely death against the pirates.

Mel joined Ballina Players for their 2017 production of *Mary Poppins* in the chorus.

In the following year, she played the lead female role of Joanne Galloway in A Few Good Men, for which she was nominated as Best Actress in a Community Theatre play at the 2018 Golden Palm awards. She has since appeared in Wonderettes: Dream On

and in the chorus of *Beauty and The Beast*. Mel is an English teacher at Alstonville High School.

Rod joined in 2002 for the musical *Me and My Girl* and has played many lead roles and character parts in the intervening years.

Pirates of Penzance opens at Ballina Players Theatre on 14th June for 14 performances, finishing on 7th July.

Tickets are \$30/adult, \$22/child (16 and under), and are available at Just Funkin Music at 124 River St Ballina, 6686-2440 (\$2 booking fee applies) or online at: www.ballinaplayers.com.au (no booking fee). All shows are at 8pm except for Sundays which are at 2pm.

### Pasta masterclass

A great way to satisfy your inner Italian is to learn how to make great pasta to impress your dinner party guests or share with your family.

The 2019 Lismore Friendship Festival is offering you a great opportunity to pick up some skills from an expert and deliver culinary delights like a native.

Residents and visitors are invited to learn how to make authentic fresh, handmade pasta with one of Woodford's living legends – Giancarlo Molinaro (pictured).

Giancarlo (along with wife Susanna) have been running Spaghetti Junction at the famous Woodford Folk Festival for the last 30 years.

Giancarlo migrated to Australia following love. He comes from Calabria, from a long line of Italian cooks who taught him how to make delicious traditional fresh pasta.

This workshop will be held on Monday, 24th June from 10am to 1.30pm at Peppertree Kitchen in Magellan Street, Lismore.

It is the final offering in this year's Friendship Festival program. It is a hands-on course designed to teach you how to make pasta at home in a fun, relaxed and creative way.

You will learn how to make tagliatelle, taglierini, pappardelle and also



spinach and ricotta gnocchi. What more do you want? Ami la pasta?

At the end of the course participants will be able to enjoy a traditional Italian lunch with a glass of vino together with the fruits of their labour. Then you

could try it all again at home.

Tickets are \$100 each or \$90 if you book two or more places at once, or the pensioner rate of \$80.

Call Aliison for more details or to book your place 0428-216-079.

### Semitones concert

by Eliza Scott

Semitones Choir has been in rehearsals with children from a number of local schools, in preparation for their annual concert, to be held at the Memorial Hall Kyogle on Saturday afternoon 27th July.

They will sing a variety of material, and are busy learning some Spanish, since the concert this year will feature the renowned Flamenco group, Arte Gitana, who will add an exotic flavour to an afternoon of musical pleasure.

Semitones Choir are a community choir who meet weekly in Kyogle, under the guidance of Fiona Kerr.





11.30AM - 3PM

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53 Cullen Street Nimbin NSW (02) 66891246