

Wollumbin ban

In response to Gisela Stielitz' letter (NGT March 21) on the closure of Wollumbin (Mt Warning) by NPWS and her heartbreak over the public ban to climb the Mountain, it needs to be put into its original perspective: an Indigenous familial link to Wollumbin and surrounding areas.

The story has to be "put straight" to halt the public's nonsense and hysteria over the ban from Sacred Earthly locations.

Ms Gisela whinges over fines if caught out crossing the barrier to trek up the Mountain. Her question, "Why are we not allowed to walk on the only road in the Tweed Shire without cars?" sounds familiar, but now in reverse.

"A new toilet block was just lovingly built not long ago." Ms Gisela endears me with images of romantic picnics beside a flowing creek.

"But why?" Close the barrier to hikers. Close the Korumbyn picnic area. Close the car park. NPWS' barbaric ploy to "rob" tourists of an attraction?

Ms Gisela made a big effort to put her point of view across to gain public sentiments in the vain hope it may excite a public outcry.

She mentions, "Some First Nation people want the mountain not to be climbed," then suggests regeneration at the summit is honourable.

There is nothing "fair enough" in the public ban to access Wollumbin. NPWS did not consult traditional owners on the future of Wollumbin.

It is a repeated process across the continent where Sacred Earthly locations, a direct ancestral lineage embedded into descendants' DNA, is overlooked and ignored.

Public and Government bodies acknowledge the traditional owners of Country and pay respects to elders past and present, with no clue what they are paying homage to or why.

Cross-cultural awareness died out in the 80s. Three generations ago.

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 Nimbin Good Times.

I have an established connection with Wollumbin. It is sad that people have died on the mountain. No person should be allowed at the summit apart from the tribal magic and medicine man.

I remember when the man died from a lightning strike. My first instinctive thought: no accident. The recovery of the body was a major operation. Wollumbin swallowed him.

If anyone has an opinion on banning public access to Sacred Sites, it is me. I have been fighting for decades to stop public access to nature shrines to Creation.

The buck stops here. It's about time people respect their backyards.

Lyn Bugal Wena Close
Tweed Heads

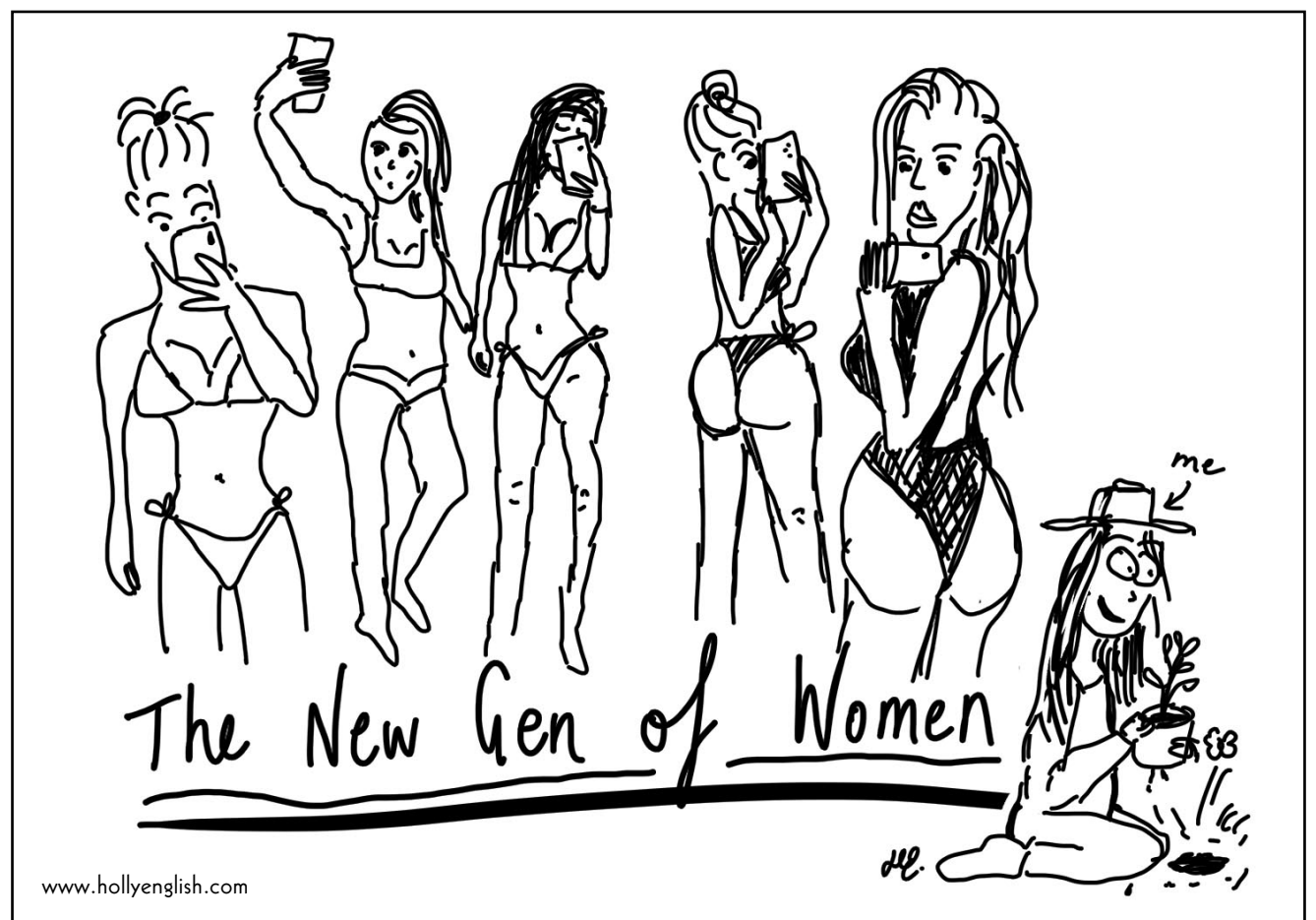
Business as usual?

Even though our new temporary mayor writes in her March NGT article that Lismore Council will continue to mow the parks and empty the bins, she neglects to mention that this council has just sacked its second general manager. Why?

After they blew out their last budget by over \$6 million, and as their famously disastrous fast-tracked mega-subdivision in North Lismore washes down the river, it is obvious that we must demand open and accountable representation on council.

Come on councillors, show us your true colours before the September elections, unless you would rather we didn't know.

G. Rosen
Nimbin



Sexual exploitation

With angry roars and tears, women have just demonstrated how the power of the masses can release them from patriarchal bondage.

The first component of this power was the revelation that nearly all of them had experienced sexual exploitation. Revelations fuel revolution. And it scares the hell out of rulers.

Secondly, shared suffering and trauma triggered the explosive power of empathy and rage.

The abundant leadership on display can take us into a new paradigm, where women are accepted as essential equals.

While empathetic rage drives the powerful support, the best leaders exhibited the vital ingredients of calm and compassion, also for the non-abused.

The heart-wrenching stories also triggered strong emotions in male allies.

Compassion combined with logic is the highest form of intelligence. Logic alone, based on say 'survival of the fittest', is detrimental to society - a cliché to justify exploitation.

Women are naturally more compassionate than men, so the change must be led by them. However, there are two major impediments to this change: government and capital.

The paternal political culture mightily resists change. It is manipulated by the paternal capitalist culture, that permeates and controls everything.

Thus, ask yourself, can sexual security be achieved without economic security? Isn't capitalism really a defective logic, based in fear, and a mistaken belief in

insufficiency? Inevitably, the system has broken.

Please pause to contemplate these points, and that ethics is central.

- Expand 2021's book of revelations to include all economic exploitation, particularly of women without a voice, and the children and elderly who depend on them. This will swell the rage and empathy.
- Meaningful change must occur in all interconnected aspects of society at once.

- Respect all religions. Embrace the good ethics, and debate/reject harmful truisms.
- Modern Capitalism was birthed in brutal colonial practices, behind a veneer of respectability and mistaken Christian ethics.

- Female politicians are moulded and influenced by patriarchal factional forces. It's hard for them to act compassionately, to team up.
- Without transparency laws, profits will be maximised, by fair means and foul.
- Colonial powers raped mother Earth and its peoples for free resources like slaves, mercenaries, and minerals.

- Colonial enforcers were conditioned/traumatised through boarding schools, and drunken bonding, suppressing loneliness and compassionate feelings.
- The fastest way to end relentless suffering is for community revolution, led by compassionate females.

- Devise a "compassion-ability" and character rating for all electoral candidates - federal, state, local - the fastest way to raise government intelligence levels.

Low profile, positive actions globally, suggest

Notices

Annual General Meetings

- Tunttable Falls Early Childhood AGM will be held on Wednesday 28th April, 9am at the Tunttable Falls shop. All welcome.
- Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc AGM, Friday 16th April from 4pm in the Comskool Room in the Nimbin Community Centre.

Free notices

Keep it short, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it for free.

a great advance in human evolution.

Reflect that advanced ancient cultures with great female balance and leadership, were naturally compassionate and inclusive. It was easy to identify people who were different as possible threats to the tribe.

As populations grew, and tribal connections were lost, differences spawned prejudice and hatred.

The next step is to put aside this immaturity, and to value difference.

I have no doubts superior compassionate intelligence

can redesign our economic structures to create a 'paradise' for all.

How to get there? To adapt a biblical metaphor, the issues are essentially about release from bondage in the land of Capital.

The old ways of thinking of Moses Morrison and the current crop of polities cannot lead us to the Promised Land.

Clever thinking outside the box requires heart-based intelligence, and a new generation.

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby

About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley

Assistant editor Sue Stock

Sub-editor S Sorrensen

Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley

Photographers Sue Stock, Chibo Mertineit

Distribution Peter, Coralie, Daniel, Sue, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Dominique, Aengus, Rosie, Trevor and Chibo

The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson
Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com
And find us on Facebook

NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 28th April

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



Why is a Nimbin village voice needed on Lismore Council?

Chamber Chat

by Diana Roberts, president

Following more than 12 years representing the Nimbin community on Council (1991-2004), I have first-hand experience of why a Nimbin voice on Lismore Council is so important, something we haven't had since my retirement 17 years ago.

There are so many Council issues and services that impact on our community and we need to hear a voice representing Nimbin in the decision-making process.

The issues listed below all involve local government (there are many more) and, judging by commentary on social media, on NimFM, in the *Nimbin GoodTimes* and in the many groups I am a member of, Council decision-making has not effectively engaged our community and has generated considerable concern:

- Water security – Council has finally acknowledged Nimbin has a problem
- Rural residential development – density and lighting have both been concerns expressed in recent times
- Growth management – how to do we want our village to grow, why do we still have a deserted fire site and how should rural growth be managed given failing infrastructure? Red tape and decision-making has caused incredibly anxiety for many developers in our community, including those doing developments we would welcome.

Meanwhile developments the community has opposed have been supported by Council.

- Tourism services – the sudden closure of the Visitor Information Centre and failure to update the VisitNimbin website were both very short-sighted Council decisions
- Sporting and recreation facilities – we had to find volunteers to keep the pool open this summer and facilities such as the Headers struggle to get any Council assistance.
- Affordable housing – all the talk has yet to result in outcomes on the ground
- Support for economic development is strongly focussed on Lismore. By example, in the first round of bushfire local economic recovery grants Council applied for a Lismore-based event (the Shine Festival). Lismore may be the major economic hub, but there are many small ways Council could better support Nimbin. Look at the state of our footpaths, the entry signs into our village – not to mention the state of our roads.
- Provision of mobile library services. There is a chance that, even though the Nimbin service is widely used, we could lose it in coming years

How does Council currently engage with Nimbin?

Community engagement with Council currently relies on the writing of submissions, lobbying Councillors and feedback Council receives from groups like the Chamber and the



Nimbin Advisory Group.

However, in my experience, it is one thing to give Council feedback, it is another to see that feedback acted on. Councillors who have been the most responsive to Nimbin issues and concerns are Elly Bird, Darlene Cook and Neil Marks.

In my opinion, to be truly representative of Nimbin one needs to be involved and engaged with the community. Often as a community we are reacting to Council decisions that we are not happy with. We often have no awareness that Council is making decisions that will impact on us until it's too late.

As a Lismore urban-centric Council, much attention is given to Lismore (where the bulk of the population resides) and, again in my opinion, the villages are not consulted unless we raise our voice.

So how do we get a Nimbin voice on Council?

Last election, a candidate needed around 2300 votes to be elected. 800 votes were cast at the Nimbin polling booth so it is obvious there are not enough votes in Nimbin (even if everyone voted for the one person) to elect a Nimbin councillor.

Remove around 180 voters who will vote conservative – whether a local candidate or not – and there are

around 620 progressive votes remaining to be had. Last election, Guy Stewart ran on an Our Sustainable Future ticket with Elly Bird and received around 482 votes – a great outcome, but not enough to get Guy elected. His votes eventually went to the Greens and elected their second Councillor.

For this election we need a strong, well-known Nimbin candidate and we need to run with someone who will draw votes in other polling booths – especially in Lismore. In my mind Our Sustainable Future again offers our best opportunity for a Nimbin voice on Council.

Our Sustainable Future is free from any political party affiliations and Elly Bird will head up that group on polling day. A Councillor for over four years, Elly has been a good supporter on Nimbin issues – listening to the community when requested and taking our issues up in Council.

Unfortunately, last election Elly did not poll well enough to see Guy Stewart elected. Elly now has a higher profile, is a solid sound voice in Council on many issues and has been involved in many aspects of Lismore life since her election, including in disaster relief and resilience-building following both flood and fire.

I have approached a few Nimbin people over the past six months to see if they would run for Council and I'm optimistic that in the next issue we will have an excellent Nimbin candidate to put forward for the Council elections to be held on 4th September 2021.

Nimbin Community Centre doings

by Teresa Biscoe, Co-ordinator

As we head into Autumn it is a relief to enjoy some sunny weather.

Our gardener and our wonderful volunteers will be busy cleaning up our gardens and grounds while we have this lovely dry weather to work in.

It's also wonderful to see the lifting of Covid restrictions and that our usual annual events (Weave and Mend, MardiGrass, Arts exhibitions, Roots Fest etc) are being organised and advertised.

Hopefully we can all enjoy a bit more normality.

11a Alternative Way

Fundraising continues for this exciting new project. The NCCI would like to recover another \$50,000 from our contribution to the project so our contribution sits at around the same level as the largest other community contributions.

Once we have achieved this target we will then start accumulating funds for work projects on the land. We have approached local businesses and organisations and asked them if they

would like to contribute.

We would like to thank all those businesses and individuals who have already donated or pledged to donate to this project, every bit helps. Current donors we would like to thank are:

Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, *Nimbin GoodTimes* Newspaper, Uri Ross Realty, Nimbin Environment Centre, Diana Roberts and Sam Herron, Topical Hemp Cream, Nimbin Candles, Rainbowlane, Rusty and Gitta, Nimbin Law Solicitors, Sledge and Daniele, Leslie Gary Kerr, Francisco Alvarez, Peter Cumming, Jacquie Williams, Alan Glover, Ian Dixon, Fiona Mari, Russell Preston, Mandie and Steve Hale, with Love, Mr Harry R O'Donovan, Mrs Meredith Arnold, Peter Mango Ulrick, Lil, Kitty van Vuuren, Funky Corner, Ruth Nielson, Lucy June Penhallow, Yvan Calvignac, Anthony Batchlo.

Anyone else wishing to make a contribution can deposit funds into our designated account: Summerland Credit Union BSB 728-728, Nimbin Community Centre Project A account 22269890.

You can also go into the Summerland Credit Union and ask for the Rainbow Road Account as well.

Please put your name with the deposit as we would love to keep a record of and acknowledge your generosity.

Fundraising Event

As part of our fundraising we are organising a Variety and Comedy Night at the Nimbin Hall on Saturday 6th June.

We are planning a family-friendly night with performances from across the Nimbin community, and are still looking for variety acts (poetry, comedy, music, circus, magic etc.) for the night.

Anyone who would like to share an act with us for this very worthwhile project, or contribute in any way, can contact the Community Centre on 6689-0000, or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Your offer will be gratefully accepted.

Weave and Mend

This annual Festival will be held in the Nimbin Community Centre Grounds on the 28th, 29th and 30th May.

For enquiries and bookings, please call 66897-129.

THE NIMBIN DISASTER STEERING GROUP

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COMMUNITY
DISASTER PLAN**

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LEARN ABOUT LANDSCAPE RECOVERY
ROBERT KOOYMAN SESSION @ 11:00AM

This project is funded by the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund (BCREF) - a joint disaster recovery funding arrangement between the NSW and Commonwealth Government.

I love working with our community to make a difference.

GETTING THINGS DONE

Janelle Saffin MP
MEMBER FOR LISMORE
55 Carrington Street (PO BOX 52), Lismore NSW 2480
lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au
02 6621 3644 | www.janellesaffin.com.au
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Ballina Council re-jigs climate change policy

by Cr Jeff Johnson,
Ballina Council

The March Council meeting saw Ballina Council resolve to create a new Climate Change policy.

The draft policy will now be put on public exhibition for the next month or so. A report will then come back to Council taking into account the submissions received. The new policy is the culmination of a number of initiatives and resolutions in this area including the aim for Council to become carbon neutral and an acknowledgment that the world is indeed facing a climate emergency.

Climate Change considerations for Council's are focused on a number of areas including reducing CO₂ emissions and climate change adaption. With regards to CO₂ emissions, the vast majority come from electricity generation (80%), fuel consumption (18%) and waste management related emissions (2%). These are the figures contained in the Council report, however it is acknowledged that further analysis is needed to more accurately quantify these figures.

The good news is that large scale renewable investments (or purchasing green power or offsets) and the increasing use of electric vehicles would see Council well on the way to carbon neutrality in the future.

The other aspect is adaption and planning for climate change. Ballina has been identified as a high risk area due to it being built on a low-lying flood plain just inside the mouth of the Richmond River. Sea level rise and ocean surge is a considerable and growing risk factor. How coastal councils plan for and address climate change is one of the most complex and challenging areas of consideration.

I moved an amended proposal that Council employ a dedicated staff member to co-ordinate and implement our climate change aims



and policies, but this wasn't supported. This was despite the Council report stating that having a dedicated staff member would assist with an organisational-wide approach to this important area, and enable Council to apply for significant grant funding. I believe the small extra cost involved in having a dedicated staff member would have easily paid for itself financially, but also for Council to be taking (and be seen to be taking) a leadership role in our community on this important policy area. I will again push for a dedicated staff member when this matter comes back to Council for adoption.

Future Water Strategy

At the March meeting it was also resolved to invite Rous Water representatives to provide a briefing on 'the ramifications of using the Alstonville Aquifer as a major source of water supply to the region for the next 40 years'.

For a start there is not one but two Aquifers on the Astonville Plateau. There is the shallow one which Rous already has a license for and which is used by farmers, but there is also a deeper aquifer that is 180m below surface level which currently doesn't have any extraction licenses.

I totally agree with the need to bring in experts that can shed some light on alternative water supply options, but I'm not in favour of relying on groundwater as 'the' alternative to the Dunoon Dam.

There are a range of options available, including demand management, rooftop harvesting, recycled water reuse, rainwater tanks, etc.

What other water options are Rous investigating?

Affordable housing on the agenda

by Vanessa Ekins,
Greens Mayor of Lismore

Everything in the house is going green with mould, and I envy those among us who keep their homes dry with a wood fire.

But if I find it hard to do basic housework like sweep the floor, it is unlikely I can chop enough wood to keep the home fires burning.

I am lucky to have a house and must get some exercise with the mop and clove oil.

I spent the rainy weekend reading Lismore council's housing strategy. It has interesting statistics like 35% of people own their home, 30% are purchasing and 29% are renters.

This means 59% of our people are committed to mortgage or rent costs and are vulnerable to increases. Housing affordability is the big issue we face right now.

When over 60% of our homes are lived in by one or two people yet 85% of our housing stock is three bedroom plus size houses, there is a problem. We lack diversity and affordability.

I think we need medium density units, units that are close to shops, climate appropriate, private and sensitive to the streetscape, with shared gardens, rain tanks and solar systems.

This needs to be planned well, and council can take a lead in encouraging builders, but we all need to convince the

federal and state governments that housing requires significant investment.

And then we need to agree on where these homes can be built. If not next door to your place, then where?

Thinking about where we live, this rich fertile place, became real when I was conferring citizenship on ten new Australians.

The formal ceremony is all law and justice and rights and responsibilities and we made them listen to the dirge that is the national anthem, but they were so excited to end a long journey and belong to this place.

It must be a hard decision to leave family and birthplace and come to a new country promising to obey, however



the smiles were big and the occasion momentous.

Ten people said goodbye to places we dream of visiting, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Russia, Tanzania, a huge decision.

It was good to hold this ceremony on an ordinary day without the awkwardness associated with the 26th January, and to share stories about living in Bundjalung country.

We are so lucky to be here.

Contact Vanessa on 0417-245-502 or email: vanessa.ekins@lismore.nsw.gov.au



Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

Another day, another disaster. We are so lucky that this time we have missed out on the most significant impacts of this latest weather event, but as we well know it is only a matter of time before we see another big flood event in our catchment.

This latest event was huge – you could say it was the flood version of the bushfires of 2019/20. There are currently a staggering 65 councils across NSW listed on the Resilience NSW website with disaster declarations from this event – the bushfires had 62 councils disaster-declared. And, the distressing thing about this is that many, many communities appear on both lists.

The combined costs for infrastructure repair will be astronomical, and the social impacts immeasurable. While we have not been as badly impacted as other communities this time, the Lismore LGA has the dubious honour of

Planning for disaster risk reduction

being disaster-declared three times since December.

I've spoken in previous editions of the *GoodTimes* about a presentation I saw a few years ago by the former Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Dr Robert Glasser. He has written a report that explores the risks we are facing in 'an era of disasters'.

The compounding effects of disaster upon disaster upon disaster are significant across numerous parts of our society. Not just from a Council perspective, with the never-ending cycle of repairing damaged infrastructure; but also from a community resilience perspective with compounding effects of multiple recovery processes layered on top of one another; and also from a food and water security perspective.

Dr Glasser outlines a number of steps the Australian Government and the state and local governments should begin taking now to prepare for the unprecedented scale of these emerging challenges, including: scaling-up Australia's efforts to prevent the effects from natural hazards, such as from extreme weather, from becoming disasters through

greater investment in disaster risk reduction; increased planning for financial support to States for economic recovery following disasters and "fodder banks" and "land banks" to address the needs of communities in chronic crisis and the permanently displaced; strengthening disaster response capacity and planning at all levels, including in the military which will play an increasingly important role in transporting firefighters and equipment, fodder drops from helicopters and the provision of shelters etc; and ensure that flood and bushfire risk maps, building codes, planning schemes, infrastructure delivery and the supporting legislation fully embed consideration of climate change effects.

We need our governments to be proactive not reactive in this space, we need funding to be poured into preparation and preparedness initiatives in communities, we need funding to be poured into building adequate, disaster-resilient infrastructure like evacuation centres, and we need people to be enabled to rebuild homes to more resilient standards. And, of course, we desperately need to stop enabling fossil fuel projects.

The recent decision by the federal government, which was supported by the Labor party, to loosen the conditions for allocation of the Northern Australian Infrastructure Fund is one example of the ongoing fossil fuel enabling that this government continues to champion.

So, in this context it is so great to see that Nimbin and The Channon are close to completing their Disaster Plans. I encourage everyone to engage with those plans, and of course you should have a personal and household emergency plan in place. There are good resources available on the Red Cross, SES and RFS websites to help you develop your plans.

On another note, you may have read elsewhere in this edition that I will be campaigning alongside a Nimbin candidate in the upcoming Council elections. I firmly believe that we need a Nimbin resident elected to Council, and I will be working hard to make that a reality come September. Watch this space.

As always, I can be contacted for community or Council matters at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au or on 0418-639-927.

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Ballina Electorate Office
Shop 1, 7 Moon Street
Ballina NSW 2478

THE GREENS

Authorised by Tamara Smith Member for Ballina.
Produced using parliamentary entitlements.

Janelle shows solidarity with women's March 4 Justice

by Janelle Saffin MP,
Member for Lismore

It was my pleasure to attend International Women's Day events in Lismore (YMCA), Kyogle and Drake last month and note the large number of events across the electorate.

I would of course love to get to all, but did manage to attend some.

A weather-delayed flight to parliament meant that I could not attend March 4 Justice rallies in Lismore or Sydney, but I made sure I was there in spirit. I note that Mullumbimby also staged a successful rally.

I would like to share with Nimbin GoodTimes readers my statement, which was read out and well received at the rally outside Lismore's Transit Centre:

"Today we March 4 Justice, justice for women which makes for a just society. Today I thank Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins. They have both spoken out with a roar that has brought us out of our stupor, forcing us to challenge behaviour that does not treat women as equal."

Equality would deliver justice. Equality would stamp out predatory behaviour, and that would stamp out rape. However, at the current rate of change it will take 100 years.

We cannot wait 100 years. We should not have to endure one more sexual assault, one more sexual harassment, one more sexual act of discrimination.

I am travelling to parliament and will miss our local March in Lismore and the Sydney March as well, but I commit to take up the March 4 Justice call to action.

I commit to march with you in the halls of parliament, taking the voices of all into the caucus rooms, onto the floor of the parliament in debate, and to make the legislative and policy changes that will bring justice for women.

The Prime Minister Scott Morrison seems tone deaf to the current conversation, claiming that he is protecting the 'rule of law'.

The rule of law was not violated when the sexual harassment allegations against Justice Dyson Heydon were subjected to a High Court-instigated inquiry.

And the rule of law would not be violated if the Prime Minister instigated an inquiry into allegations against

Attorney-General Christian Porter.

I know what the rule of law is. I wrote 18 teaching modules on the rule of law. I taught the rule of law. The rule of law requires due process, and importantly, also accountability – accountability that is not being afforded here.

I entered public life to make the world a better place for all, beginning in my own backyard; to change behaviour through the political system through policy and law.

I recommit to work with you and for you to realise justice for women, starting with the 10 demands."

For more information go to: www.march4justice.com.au

Dine and Discover NSW vouchers

Nimbin is one of the State's most popular tourist destinations with more than 100,000 visitors seeking out its traditional roots and its progressive and inclusive Age of Aquarius vibe each year.

I encourage local businesses to register as a venue for the NSW Government's Dine and Discover NSW vouchers, and I encourage local residents, and indeed tourists, to apply for vouchers which can be

spent in the Nimbin economy.

Please support our local businesses!

NSW residents aged 18 and over can apply for four x \$25 vouchers, worth \$100 in total.

- 2 x \$25 Dine NSW Vouchers to be used for dining in restaurants, cafes, bars, wineries, pubs or clubs.
- 2 x \$25 Discover NSW Vouchers to be used for entertainment and recreation, including cultural institutions, live music and arts venues.

The vouchers can be used at participating NSW businesses that are registered as Covid-Safe, cannot be used on public holidays and are valid until 30th June, 2021.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/dine-discover-nsw or phone 13-77-88.

While I certainly welcome this short-term stimulus, I have asked NSW Tourism Minister Stuart Ayres what long-term Covid-19 economic support measures are in place to help tourism operators on the Northern Rivers to survive beyond 30th June.



Janelle Saffin attends a Save Our Koalas Day of Action in Murwillumbah, organised by Team Koala President and Tweed Shire Citizen of the Year Jenny Hayes and her Vice President Maria Smart. Janelle spoke at the Lismore rally, asserting that the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government's latest attempt at a State Environmental Planning Policy will do anything but protect koalas on the Northern Rivers. Photo: Jimmy Malecki.



On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

Fixing local bridges

As Nationals in Government at a Federal and State level we are doing record amounts of spending on infrastructure in our region.

Fantastic to be with my state colleague Ben Franklin recently as they announced over \$10 million to replace timber bridges in the Nimbin region.

This includes Greens Bridge at Nimbin, Henson Bridge at Nimbin, Walsh Bridge at Blakebrook, Dudgeon Bridge at Keerrong, Town Bridge at Terania Creek, and Ridgewood Bridge at Rosebank.

Great to be clearing this infrastructure backlog with all levels of Government.

Australia is the best place to be

The unemployment rate plunged from 6.3% to 5.8% in February, as the economy added 88,700 jobs in the month.

This is wonderful news. I thank all businesses who have kept trading, employed staff, and remained optimistic. This also shows that the government stimulus programs have worked.

We have more to do, but there is no country in the world you would rather be, on both a health and economic fronts right now.

One thing we can all do to ensure our economy continues to grow is to shop locally. We have some great businesses right across our community and it's important to support them.

Good news for local road users

Lismore Council has been successful in obtaining grants from both the State and Federal governments for major roadworks on Nimbin and Blue Knob roads.

The works are fully funded under the Federal and State Government Stimulus Commitment – Safety Works Program, Federal Government Black Spot Program and the NSW Government Safer Roads Program.

The works contract was awarded to CD Civil Pty Ltd on 12th March. The project includes safety works on various sections of Blue Knob Road and Nimbin Road and involves improving the sealed shoulder up to 2.5m on curves, installing curve alignment markers (CAMs), installing new curve and advisory speed signs and guideposts with reflectors.

Blue Knob Road works are for approximately 500m section starting north of Lillian Rock Road, and approximately 700m section on the curve outside 864-867 Blue Knob Road.

Nimbin Road works are at the intersection of Nimbin Road and Boyle Road, and the section of road just south of the village leading into Nimbin and four separate sites from Lismore to Shipway Road.

Work should start late

March (depending on the weather) and be completed by mid September.

Disability inclusion plan

Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2025 is now on public exhibition and we are seeking your input and feedback.

We want to hear from people with a disability, people with mental health conditions and people with carer responsibilities about how we can make Lismore and its villages more inclusive.

The new plan outlines Council's commitment to people living with disability to make our services and facilities more accessible. To fill in the survey, join a workshop or talk to us, please go to: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/disability-inclusion-action-plan>

Disaster plans

Council has been working in partnership with the Nimbin and The Channon communities following the bushfires in 2019/2020 to create community-led disaster plans for each community.

The project has been made possible with funding from the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund (BCRERF).

The aim of the project has been to build the resilience

of each community and create a clear and actionable plan for each community to implement to mitigate the risks and impacts of past and future natural disasters. It has also included building a shared understanding of disaster management and in particular, increasing the communities' understanding of the emergency management model used by State agencies.

The communities have been working incredibly hard over the past four months to understand their needs and identify actions they can take to recover from recent disasters and prepare for future ones. As the project is nearing completion, each community will have a tailored community disaster plan which reflects its priorities and needs.

On Saturday 24th April, we will be celebrating the launch of the plans with the communities at the following times:

- Nimbin – 10am - 12pm at the Nimbin Town Hall
- The Channon – 2pm - 4pm at The Channon Hall

You are invited to attend these events to celebrate this significant milestone. The Mayor will open the event. Our State and Federal government members have also been invited.



by Cr Darlene Cook, Lismore City Council

Rous Water Management Strategy

Rous County Council's revised Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy will be placed on public exhibition from 1st April for a period of eight weeks.

The revised strategy sets out the proposed options to augment the regional water supply to ensure it is secure and resilient in the face of a changing climate, and can withstand the expected growth in water demands for at least the next 20 years.

The preferred options include groundwater supply from Alstonville, and Tyagarah and Woodburn bores, as well as investigations of direct and indirect potable reuse of waste water. The revised strategy will be on the website at: <https://rous.nsw.gov.au/future-water-for-our-region>

I can be contacted by phone on 0427-895-316 or email: darlene.cook@lismore.nsw.gov.au



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Global warming isn't our only enemy

by Bernadine Schwartz

Every day our lives are made possible courtesy of a highly sophisticated infrastructure, that's given us a standard of living our ancestors could only dream of and it's served us well. But it was never designed to withstand anything other than normal climatic conditions.

Yet despite global warming wreaking havoc more every year, we have made no plans and we've no preparations in place. Which makes us look like sitting ducks, as we helplessly watch on while Mother Earth puts it all to the test. And so far, it's failing abysmally and eventually it will be humanity's Achilles heel.

The Arctic blast that sent temperatures plunging to minus 25 degrees Celsius in parts of the US caused the death of a dozen people in Texas. Ordinary people who were desperately trying to warm their homes. Charity organisations were inundated with the homeless suffering from hypothermia and some had frostbite, while over a hundred million others were left to fend for themselves in sub-zero temperatures, with no power or water.

Every power plant was rendered useless, including wind turbines

that simply froze, along with the entire water supply for cities and households, and it forced the shutdown of a nuclear reactor in Texas.

Incidents like this can potentially lead to sinister consequences. Joan VanDervort is a former longtime US Defence Department climate expert and currently part of a think-tank for the Centre for Climate and Security, and this is what she had to say about the crisis in Texas:

"We have overseas eyes looking at our vulnerability and how we will respond and enemies who would certainly take advantage of it."

Humanity has always been its own worst enemy and war is a tradition and in keeping with history, no matter what the colour of your skin.

A report from The World Wide Threat Assessment has found global environmental and ecological degradation, will more than likely fuel competition for resources, that will cause economic distress and social discontent in the future.

US Military and National Security experts are in agreement and they've identified global warming as a "threat multiplier" that is already impacting military readiness, jeopardising military

installations and is an existential threat to national security. It will cause global instability and ultimately a tug of war between the United States and China for world domination.

Global warming is first and foremost dealt with inside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, but the security implications of global warming don't have an institutional home within the UN's system and therefore it remains largely unaddressed.

But behind closed doors, governments and security agencies are taking matters into their own hands, as they quietly prepare for one helluva of a future, that society is oblivious to.

A statement from The Union of Concerned Scientists emphatically warned that in the foreseeable future millions and millions of people's lives and livelihoods will be lost, cities are struggling to rebuild after devastating fires and hurricanes and freshwater is becoming harder to find.

Water will be the most precious resource on the planet and by 2025, which is less than four years away, two thirds of humanity will suffer from a severe shortage of



Desertification in northern Nigeria
Courtesy Sahara Green Company

water or none at all, that will lead to not only civil wars but wars between nations.

Most scholars believe the drought that preceded the civil war in Syria, contributed to civil unrest and then ended in war and similar circumstances are now occurring in drought stricken Nigeria and a preview of a future that awaits us all.

A new report from humanitarian groups revealed that in the last six months flooding and drought has displaced 10.3 million people and roughly another 2.3 million were displaced, due to internal conflict and violence.

At no time in the history of nations and territories have we

been at peace with one another simultaneously and some things will never change. The savage beast within has been hiding behind an advanced civilisation and it's about to rear its ugly head.

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm fascinated to know where those most responsible, the rich, intend to live after they've finished ransacking Mother Earth. It's not like they can pack a suitcase full of money, jump in their Lear jet and fly to the Bahamas. And how could they possibly enjoy their money if there are no poor to look on with envy?

So get your stopwatches out ready, because when it goes it will fall like a house of cards.

Learn to make Weedblocks and Hempstone

by Martin Ernegg

Weedblock and Hempstone are two renewable materials developed and made in Nimbin by Synergetic Systems.

Synergetic Systems is a non-profit association with a mission to develop, implement and teach subsistence, local, systems and technologies that process renewable resources and we ensure that the products we create add value to our society and our environment.

We believe that reason, holistic science, synergetic humanism and creative progress are the foundations of our path forward.

In order to meet the ever-increasing demand for affordable, renewable, energy efficient materials that can sequester CO₂ there is a need to adopt cost effective, environmentally appropriate technologies, upgrade traditional techniques and use local materials.

Hemp stalks, chopped into



small pieces and mixed with mineral binder (Magnesia Cement/Hydraulic Lime) make great building materials.

But what about the other "normal" weeds... these problem species that interfere with our natural habitat and agricultural productivity?

Look around, weeds everywhere, raw material for thousands of houses waiting to be built!

Many woody weeds (hemp included) have properties that make them highly suitable for building

applications. Lantana, Tobacco Tree, Giant Devils Fig, Coral tree, Camphor laurel, all can be used to create lightweight bricks, wall insulation, flooring composites, panels, etc.

Making Weedblocks utilises weeds, adding value, and is a viable way to help manage these plants.

Until now, the perception is that the merits of weeds score much less than the hazards. Time is ripe for bending this notion.

Our other focus is Hempsto-ne, an air-drying moulding material for the arts and crafts enthusiasts. It is made from hemp fibres, water and nothing else.

Cellulose fibrils and fibres "glue together" via OH bonds, to build the structures plants amaze us with. The same energies that create a tree are the ones that make hempstone super-strong.

Our special wet-milling process cuts and fibrillates the hemp fibres down to a



Above: Weedblocks, below: Hempstone didgeridoos

micro/nano scale, and with the increased surface area comes more natural bonding, no glues needed.

One of the products we create in Nimbin is the hemp didgeridoo, and in the meantime it is appreciated around the world by professional musicians.

We humans won't stop making stuff, so let's try to leave the smallest footprint possible.

Hempstone workshops are held every second Saturday and Weedblock workshops every last Saturday in the month, both start at 10.30am at 87 Cecil Street, Nimbin. Email: martinernegg@gmail.



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NIMBIN HEMP EMBASSY

SATURDAY NIGHT COMEDY

MardiGrass is back. So too is Saturday Night Comedy Live at Nimbin School of Arts (Town Hall) on MardiGrass Saturday night, 1st May. Spearheaded by the dynamic duo of Glover and Sorrensen, reinforced by Australia's funniest poet, Murray Hartin, made complete by the cerebral comedy of Steady Eddy, plus presenting a surprise guest (shh, don't tell Steady), Saturday Night Comedy Live will celebrate the MardiGrass return with more laughs than a stoned kookaburra.

Steady Eddy

Steady Eddy (pictured top) was diagnosed with cerebral palsy when he was nine months old.

Some people think this is the reason he didn't learn to walk until he was five, but, when asked about this, Steady shrugs his good shoulder and says, "I was just pacing myself."

Then Steady became a huge stand-up star. But he realised there must be more to life than fame, money and wild sex. He's started wearing tie-dye and hemp undies.

And now he just loves MardiGrass. So... he's back!

Murray Hartin

If you haven't heard the yarns 'Turbulence', 'The Yoga Incident' or the haunting 'Rain From Nowhere', you probably haven't heard of Murray Hartin (pictured right).

But the bloke from Moree has been part of the festival/poetry/entertainment scene "for a long time", including 13 years with his mad mates in the Naked Poets, and remains a favourite with audiences across Australia.

His rapid-fire, rhyming recitals create vivid and often hilarious



mental images that will stay with you forever.

Glover and Sorrensen

Two-handed stand-up comedy – where two comedians are onstage at the same time – is a bit of a trick.

It's also a rare thing. It takes a special comedic relationship.

That's Alan Glover and S Sorrensen, two blokes who, when they get together, explore the green alternative, giving the audience twice the laughs and a bag full of the unexpected, as they do.

Plus, they're the MardiGrass Hemp Olympix officials (IHOC-accredited) and commentators.



State of the Hempire

by Gerald Taylor

Terania Shire; the green cauldron, has finally embraced the revolution: the hemp industrial revolution.

Over the last year, the uptake of hemp growers' licences has been spectacular with many new growers putting a toe in the water and finding a market ready for their product.

Initially hemp production was heavily restricted by legal uncertainty; no-one knew what was and wasn't allowed. But as time passed and restrictions were better understood and those restrictions often relaxed, the market opened, giving small farmers the confidence to try a crop of hemp.

The turning point, so far as we farmers are concerned, was when we discovered that cosmetic use of the hemp plant was deemed industrial. This meant a small cottage farming enterprise could make a very good living from their small holding with very little outlay; no need of a pesky bank loan to get started. It meant a small farmer could produce a high value, high demand product without leaving the farm. Farming the way it used to be.

The cosmetic flower growers of Terania have barely scratched the surface yet the market is proving vast, especially when you add rejuvenation therapy to the cosmetic uses of hemp. Surprising as it may seem the cosmetic market is bigger than the recreational and medicinal hemp crops combined.

Adding fuel to the economic fire that is hemp: last month restrictions on stock feed and animal supplements were lifted, making hemp with a 2% CBD content acceptable in the marketplace. It may not seem like much, but what it means is that a farmer may now make whole plant stock feeds and supplements from what was a waste product. Furthermore, stock fed with



either seaweed or hemp as 10% of their dietary fibre produce 70% less methane during digestion than grain-fed animals.

So now we come to the crux of the matter, the true value of our burgeoning hemp trade... environmental sustainability. Although its comforting to know a small farmer may make a small fortune growing hemp, its far more comforting to know that hemp can do for us what our recalcitrant leaders cannot; hemp can save the day. Here in the green cauldron we have all the ducks lined up to make it so. We have the soil, the rain, the sunshine and the expertise to grow the worlds finest hemp, but also we have advanced knowledge on how to process our crops in a way that nurtures the planet

We have Klara Marosszeky from Hempcrete and Martin Ernegg from Synergistic Solutions, who are both expert in the art of turning hemp into a carbon sink. Klara and Martin show us two different techniques of turning hemp into building materials that absorb carbon like a sponge.

Over the next decade, carbon will become a currency; it must, there is no other option if our species would

survive. Which means carbon will have a price. It's been avoided by the fossil fuel lobby and their lapdog (the government), but luckily these forces no longer matter. When carbon becomes a global currency any poor farmer can mine it, and for mining carbon, hemp rules supreme.

Hemp captures carbon 50 times more efficiently than timber, and can be stored in bricks or building panels; perfect carbon sinks. Of course digging your crop back into the soil will capture the carbon in the soil and leave the farmer able to collect carbon credits but, as a brick or panel the farmer may be paid twice for the carbon content of his crop.

The next step in our hemp revolution will be broad acre; a high value crop of stockfeed, building materials and carbon capture/credits. When a farmer from Kyogle or Casino shire decides they want to give it a trial, we in Terania shire stand ready to assist with seed, expertise and the technology to process. Needed is a well-drained sunny aspect, farm sheds for processing and a decent tractor.

Interesting times in the Hempire of Terania Shire. Could it be this is the decade we overgrow the government?

MardiGrass Hemposium

by Michael Balderstone

2021 MardiGrass will be an all-Aussie affair showcasing an amazing collection of cannabis experts across medical, industrial, political, cultural fields and more!

Join us to learn and share knowledge about our favourite plant ally and healing herb. MardiGrass is an extraordinary chance to share and learn. A Weed University weekend, you might say.

In 2021 we are excited to host four Australian legal cannabis doctors to discuss legal medicine versus illegal. How would our outdoor organic homegrown "bush weed", as we call it, match up against the fancy indoor grown imported cannacorp weed? Are distillates and isolates any match for whole plant extracts? What ailments are doctors having the most success with using cannabis?

Professor Kylie O'Brien has been leading doctor education in medicinal cannabis in Australia, and set up the pathway for doctors to apply to become authorised prescribers of medicinal cannabis under the TGA Scheme.

Dr John Teh, from PlantMed Medicinal Cannabis, is an avid

organic farmer and permaculture expert, so treatment with natural whole plant products in conjunction with conventional medical treatment has always been a top personal priority.

Dr Teresa Towpick, Medical Director MediHuanna, will speak about her recent personal health journey, 'Cancer my greatest teacher' during MardiGrass. Dr Towpick is very concerned about the unfair laws on driving and wants to encourage the general public to facilitate change in a peaceful and assertive way.

Dr Jamie Rickord, Medical Director of Ananda Clinics, focuses on endocannabinoid medicine and developing new models to encourage healing and wellbeing. And revisiting MardiGrass, we welcome back veteran law reform campaigners, Dr Andrew Katelaris and Dr Deb Waldron.

Ex magistrate David Heilpern is returning to MardiGrass to chair a Q&A on drug driving, and explore how we find our way past this massive roadblock. Sure, mediweed is legal, if you can afford it, but you're not allowed to drive a car. Nothing is more infuriating than unfair drug driving rules

which have nothing to do with impairment but just the presence of minute traces of THC. Serious bullying.

Politics is also on the agenda for MardiGrass 2021 with Fiona Patten from the Reason Party in Victoria and Cate Faehrmann from the NSW Greens discussing their efforts in raising Cannabis Bills within their respective states. The HEMP Party and Legalise Cannabis are joining forces to register Legalise Cannabis state parties across the country.

Legendary Tony Bower from Mullaways Medical Cannabis returns to MardiGrass this year after his court cases and so does Steve Bolt for legal advice, while Ray Thorpe, founder of Happy High Herbs, will participate in the isolates versus whole plant debate.

As well as hemp superfood cooking demos, we're excited to announce a book launch of Eve Sinton's new edition of the weed classic: 'Australian Cannabis Cookbook'.

This year's Mardigrass HEMP Expo will promote global and local hemp solutions featuring Martin Ernegg workshops on hempstone, weedblock, and building native



Dr Teresa Towpick



Professor Kylie O'Brien

beehives with hemp, and learn how to make stone-age tools and weapons out of hemp with The Hemp Club!

On Sunday, Kog will share the truth about cultivating cannabis at his annual Grower's Circle, while Malcolm Lee will rove around breeding, gardening and healing.

MardiGrass will also focus this year on the difficulties veterans are having finding access to medical cannabis. There is a shocking suicide problem happening amongst their ranks and cannabis seems

to help enormously with PTSD, depression and anxiety problems. This is the issue that may well push President Biden to legalise cannabis across America federally later this year. A gathering of Vets telling their stories will be documented over the weekend.

To round off MardiGrass and to provide a forum for one of the most important issues for journalistic freedom against serious tyranny, John Shipton, Julian Assange's father, will speak in the Town Hall at 6pm on Sunday 2nd May.

Branching out: Rainbow Power extends its reach

by Diana Gosper,
Rainbow Power Company

Although I wouldn't exactly call it a branch, because we tried that in Brisbane in the 80's and it's not something we plan to replicate any time soon; it is more like we are out-sourcing super heroes, super agents, in places where we feel that we can make a difference and supply quality solar power and battery storage for grid-connect customers.

Yes, our off-grid stand-alone reach is Australia-wide and even into the South Pacific, but until now, our grid-connect services have stopped at a range of about Tweed Heads to Yamba. Not so anymore.

We welcome a new 'agent' to our team, Andy Wilkinson (pictured). Working out of Maclean, he covers from our base in Nimbin to Coffs Harbour and the Mid North Coast, capitalising and expanding on relationships that we have been building up and down the coast in the last few years with installers and suppliers.

Bellingen is one market that we particularly want into, where the sun shines plenty and the ethos is renewable, and for some reason there is a lack of qualified and experienced providers in that area. Again – not so anymore.

Andy has nearly 10 years' experience in solar power, working as a renewable energy surveyor, consulting for farmers in the UK, Ireland and Australia on large-scale renewable energy projects. Having first graced our shores in the mid 00's, he made a permanent home here several years ago.

He brings with him a mostly useless Masters in European Real Estate, and with enough beers in him he can rave to you in



German – although only about renewable energy and positive farming practices: "Solarenergie für landwirte!" (Solar energy for farmers!)

Apart from being a genuinely lovely guy and great salesperson, this balanced Libran is the typical great communicator, a charismatic gentleman who makes you laugh and will listen to your woes like a true friend; he also brings a wealth of knowledge and English enthusiasm (is that a thing?) to the team.

Make sure you go and say hello if you see him attending a trade event, market or pop-up shop (look for the big RPC logo). Andy is friendly and approachable, and has got the skills to help you pay your electricity bills.

Rainbow Power are the specialists in solar energy, powering on for over 34 years, and with after-sales service that is first-rate.

Give us a call to see how we can help you on your way with renewable energy, solar power and battery storage. 02 6689-1430, email: sales@rpc.com.au or visit: rpc.com.au

Public urination and the legal system

The legal system, I'd suggest, can be seen as that which creates and maintains the illusion of social control, of which justice and punishment are essential ingredients.

I'm chatting with a local businessman who tells me the CBD cameras only catch public urinators, when the conversation leads, inevitably perhaps, to the purported right of urination on the rear offside wheel of one's vehicle.

In NSW, if you try this, and happen to be "in or near, or within view or hearing from a public space or school", you may be charged with offensive conduct under section 4 of the Summary Offences Act 1988 and fined up to 6 penalty units (\$660) or locked up for three months.

Mercifully, it's a sufficient defence if you can satisfy the court you had a reasonable excuse.

What offends one may not offend another. You might expect an experienced police officer to be less easily offended than the proverbial maiden aunt. You might be wrong.

Irrelevantly, the next level up, obscene exposure, comes in the quaintly worded section 5: "A person shall not, in or within view from a public place or a school wilfully and obscenely expose his or her person", such person's "person" presumably being a part of said person not normally publicly exposed; maximum 10 penalty units or imprisonment for six months.

I knew that the old-growth banksia woodland I grew up in appreciated a bit of extra nitrogen. Innocent, as yet, of injustice, urinating in the long grass up the back of the school, I was seen by a prefect.

Shortly thereafter, the headmaster committed what would now be described as six counts of actual bodily harm on my obediently outstretched fingers, the weapon a thin cane. He, like police officers, had a



by John Adams

discretion about what should be punished. Unfortunately, human beings can be cruel. And some human beings are police officers.

A musician friend tells the story of how, after a gig at the Gollan, a hot night, a lot of beer, waiting for a cab, he was compelled to relieve the bladder. The pub was closed. The adjoining lane, with its bins and skips, seemed perfect; until a spotlight

caught him halfway through. The two officers didn't use their discretion. In the custody room, the empty holding cell next to his was furnished with a stainless-steel open-plan toilet. His pleas to be moved were in vain. The custody sergeant instead took her time about finding him a styrofoam cup.

Overfilled, again only part-way through, he spilled a few drops placing it on the floor. Back-up were immediately summoned and arrived, one of them kicking over the cup, calling my friend a filthy animal, throwing him a rag and making him clean it up.

Hours later, bladder screaming, formally charged and released as the sun came up, he made it to the toilets in the carpark, which were at that hour still locked. It was that sort of a night.

Against the wall round the back of the toilets, he could, at last, he thought, relax. Then, seconds later, the same police drove up and took him back to the station. Two charges. He told his story to the lawyer, who pleaded him out: "You don't fight the cops."

So what? Insecure people with a bit of power can be cruel. Happens all the time. But when our democracy itself, successive governments, is shown to be deeply cruel – see David Heilpern's article about hanging points in gaol cells, in the *Byron Echo* 24/3/21 – the illusion itself suffers.

For a society, this can't be good.

Feeling confused about MENTAL HEALTH and the NDIS?



Do you have long term mental health issues and need help working out if the NDIS applies to you?

Wondering about the NDIS eligiblilty requirements?

Unsure about how the NDIS works and what supports may be available?

Confused about the difference between DSP (Disability Support Pension) and the NDIS ?

Need help with the NDIS application process?



Then you are NOT ALONE!

Figuring out how to access the NDIS system can be tricky, especially if you have mental health issues.

BUT NEVER FEAR—We're here to help!

Drop on by to NNIC and make an appointment with a community worker who can help talk you through the NDIS system. You can also arrange a telephone appointment if you prefer.

Call 6689 1692 or just drop in at 71 Cullen Street, Nimbin between 10am and 4pm weekdays.



A project of Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, funded by the North Coast Primary Health Network



shapeshifting

by Anand Gandharva

The common good, like a clean park, water supply, or sustainable Earth, says that individualism must eventually lose out to collectivism.

Yet evolution relies on dialogue. In nature everything competes, like Koalas munching the leaves of a tree. Eventually it reaches an equilibrium: only so many survive. The balance of nature.

But for mankind there is now an additional question: how many of us? We can go from one planet to another. Not on our own, but as part of a collective. Individualism seems a deficit, since the community values we over I. Yet one of the worst values in history has been the idea that which is good for most, is therefore good. This reasoning may have caused dictatorship, tyranny, violence, genocide of minorities.

Three rules of a sustainable community: no violence, all people strive to be equal, recycle everything, so that life is renewable. In a free society one has the choice to save, or to spend, but should it allow anyone to become rich at the expense of others, or allow exploitation of human weakness? Example: warnings

against smoking in Australia.

Our economy and many achievements are often born of individual pursuit, when a person disagrees with common thinking, starts a new faith, makes a fresh discovery, invents a new process.

Common good does not work well, when freeloaders abuse the service, when contributions differ, or there is disagreement what is 'a common good'. Individuals can't even agree on what is a good life.

But the heating of Earth poses a common threat. To stop pollution, a smaller population using less materials seems better, but space travel opens the universe and thus offers population expansion. Exoplanets may give a chance to individuals, who like pioneer challenges, reject large communities, or like the fringes of society with plentiful nature. Like our area.

The question what one needs to survive becomes paramount: our impact on new planets? Do we need to gobble up our environment? Extinction seems a big price to pay for maintaining old cultures, yet the rules of community can become a straightjacket for free-spirited



individuals.

An example of common good is what is eaten to maintain a sustainable planet. One cannot get there by nurturing the next generation into foods a tribal warrior used to pillage.

Of course, brawn wins over brain in the short run, but 'might is not right'. There are laws, the dinosaurs died out, the sabre-tooth tiger went the same route. Being the toughest caveman is no guarantee in evolution. Win the battle, but lose the war. It is better to fill this empty universe with loving people than to limit mankind to pursue hunting. Millions (not billions) of tribal people could survive on Earth, harming the gifts of nature, but we reached a fork in the road; we must choose between common good and individual.

There may be people, who say there is an inexhaustible supply, but their hypocrisy is myopic selfishness, that deprives humanity for sake of the concept of individual rights.

Bowlo music in April

by Mel Williamson

The resumed regular fortnightly Open Mic nights will be on Thursday nights from 6.30pm: April 1st, 15th and 29th this month. All musicians welcome, along with poets and comedians.

Other music in April – ideal for dinner and a show – is the Friday night gigs from 6pm, with a plethora of local talent to support this month.

- Friday 9th Vincent will be playing some reggae grooves;
- Friday 16th Freowin Harper will be tinkling the ivories accompanied by his powerful soulful voice;
- Friday 23rd Mish Songsmith will be tinkling her ivories with her pop/roots feel;
- Friday 30th the lovely Sarah Stando will be doing her very fine thing;
- Saturday 1st May Josh Jaws will be performing.

Support local artists who have been doing it very tough the past year.

Music with an appreciative audience is always a good vibe, give them some love



and show them how much you've missed live music.

The Green Keepers Bistro is open for dinner Wednesday to Saturday from 5.30pm.

For bookings, phone 6689-1473.



Film screening with soundtrack performed live at the Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah

"Adorable, nearly-perfect modern folktale"
– Roger Moore, *Movie Nation*

Acclaimed guitarists Slava and Leonard Grigoryan have expanded their creative output by crafting and recording the soundtrack to the award-winning movie *A Boy Called Sailboat*.

This heart-warming movie, written and developed by Melbourne-based creative team Cameron Nugent and Andrew Curry, was filmed in New Mexico and stars Academy Award winning actor J.K Simmons, with Julian Atocani Sanchez in the title role.

Sailboat is a small boy who brings love and hope to a family who have forged a simple but proud life in the drought-ridden deep south. One afternoon he brings home a "little guitar".

From this moment, Sailboat and his little guitar are inseparable, and when his ill grandmother requests he write a song for her, Sailboat meanders through adversity to deliver the

unimaginable – the greatest song ever written.

The Latin-themed soundtrack is a key element to the movie and provides an opportunity for audiences to hear the Grigoryan Brothers play together live like never before, their music bringing an immediate emotional impact to this highly evocative film.

The licensed bar and cafe will be open with Khanthaly's authentic Asian street-market food, come early for a meal on our covered alfresco balcony and a glass of wine.

Screening at the Regent Cinema at 7.30pm on Friday 30th April.

Tickets \$40/\$35/\$25, available at: <https://the-regent.com.au/film/a-boy-called-sailboat-soundtrack-live-with-the-grigoryan-brothers/>

The Regent is a Covid-Safe business with socially distanced seating.

Part of the innovative M-Arts Precinct, the recently refurbished Regent is a growing hub for the arts, with a vibrant world-food cafe onsite, a licensed bar and an outdoor covered balcony with a view for dining guests.

Great Green Cabaret



Brisbane acrobat David Carberry

Nimbin has been culturally starved without its fantastic Blue Moon and Great Green cabarets for 18 months.

But there is some cabaret light on the horizon with plans for a Great Green Cabaret to be held at the Nimbin School of Arts on Friday 30th April, the opening night of MardiGrass.

The show will feature a fast-paced whirl of acrobatics, song, dance, poetry and comedy with popular headline act, the Hussy Hicks, doing the big finale. The full programme will be announced in April.

Entry by MardiGrass wristband or \$20, doors will open at 7pm and attendance will be Covid limited.

Tuneful open mics at The Channon

by Ray (Rayzor) Flanagan

After the lacklustre December Open Mic, January and February proved to be a highly successful start to 2021.

Many of our regular performers were back for the January Open Mic including Gaz (formerly Acapella Fella) who has been busy writing songs and has picked up his guitar again and sought Ray's assistance on drums (hey that's me).

Big thanks to Gaz and Andy who have been helping with setting up the gazebos and the PA the past two months. It's a big job for one person. We were so organised in January that we started a half-hour early – also because Andy was raring to hit the stage.

Andy was followed by the Tides, then came Neil with a few ukulele-accompanied songs, then regular guitar picking and sliding performer, Glen. The Open Mic wouldn't be complete without a few tunes by Toby, this time with Norm filling out the sound on drums.

Dullah made his Open Mic debut with some nice guitar playing and singing, and all original compositions too. Norm pulled out a few covers from his vast repertoire to get the feet tapping.

February was almost a re-run with The Tides, Norm, Gaz, Glen and Andy all backing up. This time Gaz had added Andy (guitar, keyboard and backing vocals) to his support team and Glen's session turned into a bit of a jam.

Paul Paitson came out from Lismore for (I believe) his first performance at The Channon. His \$25 garage sale guitar was sounding remarkably good. We then finished up with a couple of poetry performances from Judith and her carer.

Our March will have passed by the time you read this, then The April Open Mic session on the 25th reverts back to a 2pm start with the end



of daylight saving. Anyone on the mailing list will receive a reminder the week before.

If you want to receive a monthly notice email me at: thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com

The Tavern restaurant will serve meals from 11am to 3.30pm, and 5pm to 8pm and is a Covid-safe venue.

Amazingly awesome ...one for all the family



Clockwise from bottom left: Abbey, Reuben, Piper, Autumn and Bella (centre) Photo: Elysha Mitchell

Local children and teenagers from nine schools between Ballina and Lismore are ready to entertain other children and families from across the region during the Easter school holidays.

Puss in Thongs, an Aussie take on a traditional pantomime, is coming to Rochdale Theatre, Goonellabah in the school holidays for six performances, 15-17th April.

Well-known local drama teacher Danica Taylor,

who is directing *Puss in Thongs* says, "It has been an absolute pleasure directing these 22 local talented children and teens in *Puss in Thongs*."

"We are thrilled that we can now have 100% capacity too."

Jade Johnston is Producer and Katie Knowles is Assistant Director.

When asked why people should come to see the show, Abbey, who plays a Townie and a Nurse said, "Because we have worked our butts off and we are amazingly awesome."

Reuben who plays a Townie and a Bouncer said, "It's a fun play with lots of great characters."

Piper who plays a Lady and Townie said, "It's an interesting twist on *Puss in Boots*, more relatable to Aussies and funny."

Autumn, aged 9, the youngest cast member and Townie said, "Because we've been working very hard."

Bella, a Townie said, "Because it's funny and it has a cat – I love cats."

Puss in Thongs is on stage at the Rochdale Theatre in the April school holidays. Performing two shows daily at 11am and 2pm, 15-17th April.

Tickets are \$40 family, \$15 adults, \$12.50 concession, \$10 under-16 and are available through: www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au

Kyogle parties in the park

Come join Kyogle Youth Action for a Party in the Park on Friday 16th April, 3-6pm at 161 Summerland Way Kyogle, right next door to the pool.

There will be DJs, food, prizes, a mechanical bucking bull and heaps



of fun!

Jump onto our Facebook or email Paul at: kya@kyogletogogether.org.au for more info.

This is a free Youth Week event for anyone aged 12-25, their family and their community. See you in the park!