

Village voice

I am not unhappy to see our local baker running for Council, but so far down the list on a long line of candidates that he won't have a chance.

I notice he's promoting his connection to Nimbin, but as a candidate without a chance – and he knows that – he is undermining the chances of a genuine Nimbin person who is in with a strong chance.

Gwen Trimble has been working hard for this community for many years, and I for one was delighted when she agreed to put her hand up and take her voice to Council on our behalf.

In many ways it's a thankless task being a Councillor. I know that only too well after serving Nimbin for over 12 years.

However, that voice in the decision-making arena makes a difference. It's a voice that lets us know in advance of things that might affect us so we can lobby; it's a voice that advocates for improvements in Nimbin; it's a voice that drives all the local roads; it's a voice that keeps us informed.

Our local baker might have a connection to someone who could well be elected, but we need much more than connections. We need a voice. Our villages need a voice. Gwen will be a strong voice for us so, Nimbin people, please support her when you go to vote.

Our Sustainable Future says it all.

Diana Roberts
Nimbin

Gwen for council

In the September council election, Nimbin village has an opportunity to have a say on council decisions by electing a local person to represent us.

Local resident Gwen Trimble has put her hand up to do just that. Gwen will be second on the Sustainable Future ticket after Elly Bird and if you go to their website: oursustainablefuture.org.au you can read what their platform is and what policies they endorse.

Nimbin hasn't had a voice on council since 2004, and in this time of rapid change and development in and around our village we need to have a say in the decision-making process.

People may ask, why not just vote Greens? Well, as critical as the Greens may be for big picture policies like climate change and renewables, I really don't think they have a policy for Nimbin village street lighting, roads, footpaths or water supply. This is where a local voice becomes so



important to our everyday amenities.

Gwen isn't new to this game; she has a lot of local experience having been a member of the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG); attended council meetings about the future of Nimbin's water supply; influenced council's policy on street lighting; and pushed for community consultation whilst developing its DCP.

I'm sure she has been involved in many more local projects over the years, but these are just the ones I'm aware of. Gwen has my endorsement and I hope others will take the time to chat with her and hear what she stands for.

Vanessa Pelly
Nimbin

Nimbin, you rock

I want to give my sincere thanks and express my gratitude to the many, many members of our Nimbin community who have offered their encouragement, expertise and practical support to my campaign for election to Lismore City Council in the NSW Local Government election on 4th December.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected, I acknowledge it is not my personal agenda I have been given the opportunity to progress, but instead to give official voice to the various and passionate voices of the Nimbin (and indeed wider Lismore) community.

My pledge to you all is to present your interests, concerns and aspirations, whatever they are, to the best of my ability.

I was very pleased to observe that the community's submitted concerns about over-development and water security have been addressed by Council in their Draft Nimbin Development Control Plan, now on

Yeah well, like, that's just your opinion, man...

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 GoodTimes.

exhibition. Please read it and give your feedback. Once adopted, it is a set

of standards which will affect planning in Nimbin Village for some years.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Nimbin Advisory Group are hosting a community meeting on Wednesday 18th August where Lismore Council's strategic planning co-ordinator, Paula Newman, will attend to present the Draft Nimbin DCP and take your questions.

By the time this edition of the *GoodTimes* is on the streets, the official election posters will be going up. If you are prepared to have one displayed on your property, that would be terrific, so please contact me on 0427-486-346 or at: gwentrimble@gmail.com

Gwen Trimble
Nimbin

Young voter alert

As a young Nimbinite having recently returned from a 12-year stint in Melbourne, I'm stoked to see Gwen Trimble running for the upcoming council elections.

While I think it's important to check the credentials of every candidate, to decide what's important for you and to inform your own decisions, I know that a vote for Gwen represents a vote for the village.

People are fatigued from a government that consistently ignores climate science in the interests of "economic development", and a vote for the Our Sustainable Future party is also a vote for the environment; something I think should be important to all young people as we navigate uncertain environmental futures.

I encourage my fellow young Nimbinites to engage with local politics, enrol to vote and help shape a sustainable future for our village.

Wil Polson
Nimbin

Ministerial influencer

Paul Toole, NSW Minister for Regional Transport is the Nationals MP for Bathurst, where we see the Oberon Heritage Railway with a Rail Trail next to the line.

This 6km section is part of a 24km branch line that climbs up from the main western railway at Tarana to Oberon. It was opened in 1923 and ceased operation in 1979.

The Oberon-Tarana Heritage Railway is proposing to run trains once again from Oberon on the line, hence the rail-side trail.

Oberon's population is 3,256. What you can get when you have a Minister as MP!

Beth Shelley
Bourie Creek

Notices

Blue Knob Writers Group

The group meet each Sunday, 10am at Blue Knob Cafe. New members welcome. To join, please contact Neil at: neilplim@hotmail.com

About us

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And find us on Facebook

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 27th August

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

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.

On the wrong page

Well hasn't Kevin Hogan had a busy month attacking the Greens on Lismore Council, and specifically our mayor, Vanessa Ekins?

First, he holds Vanessa responsible for a decision by Rous County Council to send up to 80 jobs all the way to Ballina. If Rous was run by his business mates, the jobs would surely all have been outsourced to a call centre in India.

Secondly, he baulks at Rous' sensible decision not to be bullied into reconsidering an

unnecessary and destructive dam to appease his his knuckle-dragging supporters. Again, the Greens are entirely to blame.

Thirdly, he is outraged by the handing back of the Sleeping Lizard land to the traditional custodians because to him, it's worth \$5 million.

Kevin must be terrified by the prospect of Vanessa being returned as mayor.

That's enough reason to put her #1 on the ballot.

Adrian Grainger
Larnook

To my Aboriginal neighbours

Your native voices fall across my fence
Pouring the warm water of your lives
Into a sorrow that swirls inside my heart
Because of what my people did to yours.

I came to this land blinded by not knowing
All the violent horror my folk poured out
Two hundred and thirty-three whole years ago
Like a poisoned rain upon your innocent people.

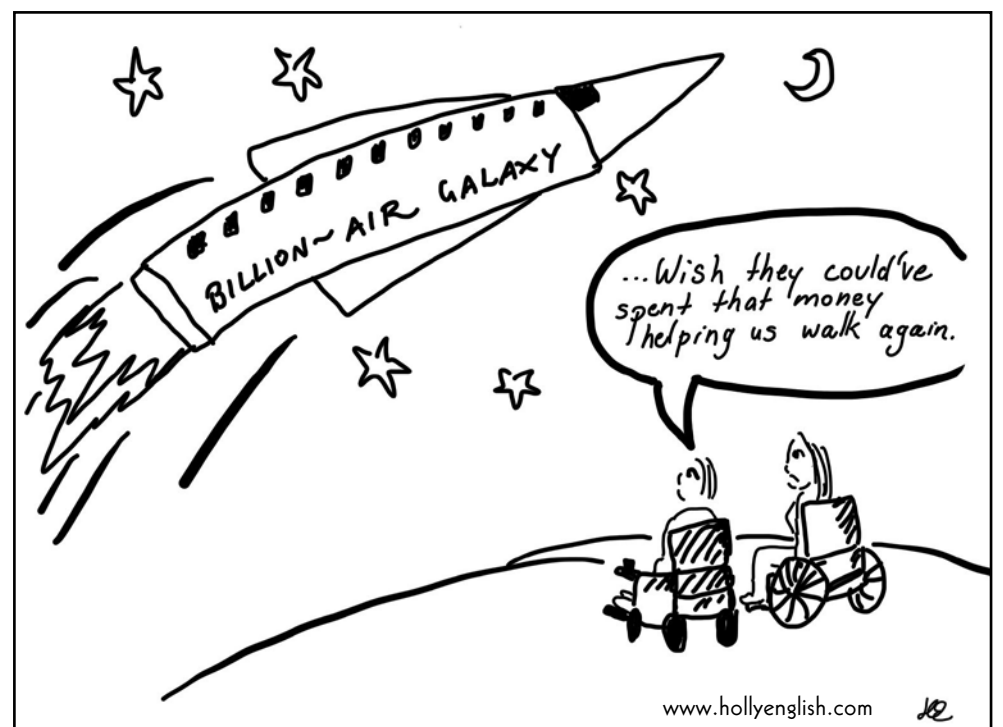
So deep inside me now I feel its throb,
That terrible loss, that stolen life,
Because cruelty still cuts long after
Bullets and swords have been put away.

Yet I also hear, as you happily work and play,
Your freedom now from poisons sold in pubs
Foisted upon you in our stupid ignorance
Of the real nourishment your native bodies need.

So in your beautiful shared laughter here
I sense a healing power that's growing strong
Among the bodies, minds and souls of each,
Deepening a joy that no invader now will ever reach.

Happy NAIDOC!

Melita Luck
Kyogle



www.hollyenglish.com

Festivals, gigs and events postponed by Covid

The extension of the Sydney lockdown, border closures and border uncertainty have made life difficult for everyone in our region, but especially for anyone organising live events.

Due to the challenges facing most event organisers and concern for the health and safety of their guests, many popular events in our region have been cancelled or rescheduled.

The mega-festivals have announced

new dates: Bluesfest Byron Bay has been postponed to Friday 1st – Monday 4th October, and Splendour in the Grass has been rescheduled to Friday 19th – Sunday 21st November.

The Nimbin Roots Festival also appears to have been rescheduled to 20-21st November.

NORPA's proposed performances of the Cheeky gender-bending cabaret in July were postponed, with no alternative date fixed as yet, and now Lismore's Eat the Street Festival and Shine Festival of Light, both due to be

held August, have been postponed, to be held sometime later in the year.

The LisAmore! Friendship Festival has been rescheduled to June 2022, and the Italian Film Festival has been set back to April 2022.

Many smaller gigs have also been cancelled this month, including the Lismore Jazz Club gig and the many Open Mic nights held in pubs and clubs around the region.

Performers and audiences alike can only patiently wait for life to return to a new normal.

A meeting for the future development in Nimbin



Chamber Chat

by Diana Roberts, president

The recent July meeting of Lismore Council resolved to put an amended development control plan (DCP) for Nimbin village on exhibition for community comment.

The Chamber, in partnership with Council's Nimbin Advisory Group, has organised for a community presentation of its contents, providing an opportunity to seek clarification, make comment and ask questions of Paula Newman, Council's Strategic Planning Coordinator, who has carriage of the DCP.

The meeting will be held at 6pm on Wednesday August 18th at Nimbin Bush Theatre. Unfortunately, numbers will be restricted to 65 due to Covid, so you must register your intention to attend. This can be done by email to: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au or leave your name and contact details at Nimbin Apothecary. This will be a Covid-safe event – QR code sign-in and masks.

The revised DCP has been prepared, after Council considered submissions from the community contained in 111 surveys and eight written submissions (a great response). Given the significant development activity around Nimbin in recent years, responses focussed on concerns that development will have a negative impact on the village qualities loved by residents and visitors.

The availability of reticulated water and the need to limit the extent of new development due to its impact on roads and other infrastructure were the most significant policy issues identified.

In response to these concerns there are some key recommendations:

- The reclassification of two large, undeveloped landholdings in Cecil Street from new residential to investigation zones not



Grant-writers Dr Kitty van Vuuren, Diana Roberts and Dr Wil Polson

dependent on the village water supply;

- Public lighting in the village and on large lot residential and rural subdivision to prevent, limit and reduce the impact of artificial light pollution on neighbouring properties and nocturnal wildlife;
- Removal of the potential large lot rural residential land in Gungas Road/ Tuntable Falls Road (the former Nimbin mill land) from the Lismore Growth Management Strategy; and
- Annual review of the situation with regard to secure yield of the Nimbin water supply and the need or otherwise for additional measures to meet water demand within the village whilst ensuring adequate environmental flows downstream of the weir.

A special thanks must go to those in the community who campaigned so hard to try and see environmental flows restored to Mulgum Creek and to the Councillors who unanimously supported this recommendation.

Meet Council candidates

The Chamber is inviting those running in the upcoming local government election in Lismore to attend the 18th August DCP meeting (a limitation of two people from each grouping).

We believe these people need to hear Nimbin concerns first-hand as the successful candidates will be representing us in the Council decision-making process, with the new DCP likely to be adopted early in the term of newly-elected Councillors.

After the meeting there will be an opportunity for you to talk to these people informally to canvas their views. This replaces

the Chamber's previously promoted 'Meet the Candidates' evening as we believe it will deliver more productive outcomes.

Rainbow Road track

It is only appropriate to formally acknowledge the Chamber's delight at seeing this project finally fully-funded. Much has gone into getting it to this point, both time and money over more than a decade.

Like many, the Chamber has long appreciated its value and has donated its own funds in the past to establish the feasibility of the project. The Rainbow Road walking track has the potential to transform Nimbin to the benefit of all. While I wrote most of the grant application, I would like to again acknowledge the support I received from Wil Polson, Kitty van Vuuren, Lois Kelly, and Tina Irish for her input at the end. Martin Soutar from Lismore Council was a fantastic support when it came to budgeting for the project, which is outlined elsewhere in this edition of the *GoodTimes*.

Do you know the history of our local buildings?

The Chamber is developing plaques that will be erected on local buildings telling their history to locals and visitors.

Do you have any knowledge you could share? Please contact us either via Steph at 7 Sibley Street or email: sibley@nnic.org.au Alternatively you can pop in and see Kylie at The Green Bank or Peter Hughes at Nimbin Tax & Accounting.

Our history is interesting. For instance, did you know that the Birth & Beyond building built around 1906, before the chemist and Emporium buildings, has

housed a barber's shop, a billiard room, a boot store and an auctioneer? The building later became the RSL and in 1973 was purchased to serve as a hub for the Aquarius Festival.

Since that time the building has provided a start-up home for many local businesses including Rainbow Power Co, Fashionating and Nimbin Apothecary, has birthed many community organisations including the Neighbourhood Centre and the Environment Centre, and was a home birthing centre for many years. This is the history we would like to share.

Chamber membership and VisitNimbin website

The Chamber is currently conducting a membership drive. Membership is \$75pa, \$50 if less than two full-time employees, and \$25 for stallholders. Membership fees are now due.

40 members will be chosen to be represented on the VisitNimbin website, with an associated professional photo shoot anticipated for early September. Please renew your membership or join via our online application-for-membership form as soon as possible if you wish to be included in this promotion.

Anyone providing something that might be of interest to visitors – cafes, restaurants, fuel, food, retail, accommodation providers, health services, visitor attractions such as galleries, community services, mechanics, community information etc – please think about joining. If your business currently appears on the VisitNimbin site and you are not a member of the Chamber, that representation will disappear in the revamp of the VisitNimbin website and you will be notified.

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by Gwen Trimble

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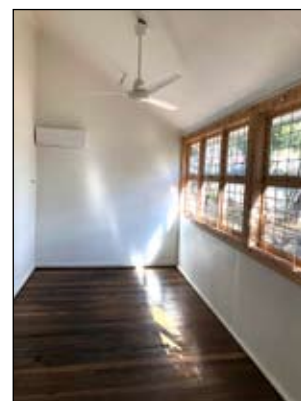
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www.carefreeceremonies.com
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Rental Vacancy at Nimbin Community Centre



Room A12

Small room (13.35m2) in Acacia House available, which would make a perfect office, craft room, massage room or storage space.

The room has been used as a healing/massage room for many years. It comes with a dual cycle air-conditioner (installed 2019), and has windows that run the length of the room.

Great location and security.

Rent will range from \$182.88 to \$600 (including GST) per month, depending on the use of the room. You will need to pay bonds of 6 weeks rent + electricity bond + key deposit.

If you are interested in renting this room, please direct a written Expression of Interest to the Nimbin Community Centre Management Committee at 81 Cullen Street Nimbin, or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au You will need to provide two rental references.

For further information on what to include in your Expression of Interest, please contact our co-ordinators during office hours, Monday to Thursday between 10am and 2pm on 6689-0000.

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On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan, MP

\$2.5 million for Nimbin tourism

I love Nimbin; it is an exceptionally important tourism icon for our whole region. Fantastic to announce \$2.4 million to fund a new Rainbow Road Walking Track.

It will create a 1.1km track that will link Nimbin's main street, which features heritage murals and colourful street life. This is an important addition to the Nimbin tourist experience. Great for locals as well.

This project is projected to create over \$3million in extra economic activity.

Queensland border

Unfortunately, the Qld State Government (Annastacia Palaszczuk) has announced

another hard border closure.

Given we have no community transmission in our region, this is exceptionally disappointing.

Residents who live in the border zone can only travel to Queensland for limited reasons, including healthcare, work, education, essential shopping and caring for vulnerable people.

If you need to enter for these reasons, you must complete a declaration.

These restrictions will remain in place for four weeks, with a possible earlier review pending the outcome of the current outbreak.

QLD Covid Hotline: For any questions regarding Covid-19 including hot spots, border passes, restrictions, testing or more, call the QLD Covid Hotline on 13-42-68.

Rainbow Road a transformational project for Nimbin

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

IT was great to be back in Nimbin last month for a busy day of engagements, kicking off with a muddy trek along the Rainbow Road walking track, which will be a truly transformational project for the village.

I had already announced that Lismore City Council had secured over \$2.5 million to manage this project under the NSW-Australian governments' Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund Stage 2.

Delivering a high-quality eco-tourism attraction within close proximity to Nimbin's CBD will support community resilience and economic recovery following 2019's Mount Nardi bushfire, that hit Nimbin really hard.

I congratulate my fellow bushwalkers – the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre committee – which, through its reserves and 30 generous donations, has purchased private land key to enhancing the precinct.

Joining me on the walk were president David Hallett, vice president Linnet Pike, secretary Michael Balderstone, treasurer Diana Roberts, committee and steering committee member Dr Wil Polson, committee member Dr Geoff Lynn and centre bookkeeper Helen Lynn.

It is envisaged that a new Landcare group will be formed to expand on the marvellous bush regeneration work done in past years and more recently.



Coffee and more

Denise and Owen Whitney were wonderful hosts later that day at their Mountain Top Estate, one of Australia's largest coffee plantations which last year produced 10 tonnes of product, mainly for Australia's domestic market.

Roaster and processor Bernie Rooney gave us a guided tour of the dry and wet mills he toils away in, and brewed up some Cascara (coffee fruit tea) to taste.

Cascara is the dried fruit of the coffee berry. It is common in some countries to use it as a tea, often spiced or used with ginger and lemon. Yum!

I was pleased to see that Lismore City Council outdoor crews had filled potholes on Mountain Top Road, which I had been lobbying for on behalf of local residents like Marie Cameron.

Council has also advised that Transport for NSW has approved funding to upgrade the flood-damaged sealed section of Mountain Top Road between Lodge Road and RH Smith Road.

Covid-19, public health measures and science

We know that with highly infectious diseases there are proven public health measures that work.

These public health measures prevent transmission, prevent deaths, and lessen the impacts of the disease if contracted.

We all want that for our families and friends, whatever our views and any scepticism.

With Covid-19, wearing masks fitted correctly, keeping our distance, hand washing and vaccinations are proven public health measures.

These measures are based on research, findings, evidence -- in summary, science. We value the science regarding Climate Change. It is the science that informs me about Covid-19.

Think of the lives saved and debilitating illness prevented by science-based vaccination programmes. Think Measles, Meningococcal, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Pneumonia, Polio, Rubella (German measles), Q Fever, Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Chickenpox (varicella), Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Influenza...

Yes, there can be rare side effects or contraindications, but we know this. There is no conspiracy of silence.

There has been a lack of an effective public education campaign that has left a vacuum, which has been filled by vaccine hesitancy and anti-vaccine commentary, further fuelled by the totally shambolic roll-out and lack of procurement of Pfizer and other varieties.

Thank God that more Pfizer started to arrive on our shores this week (from Monday, 19th July).

This maladministration rests entirely with the Prime Minister Scott Morrison but do not let his ineptness deter us from action. We have the information, we have the wherewithal, so we can do this.

As a local community leader, I am doing my best to represent all our views and to reassure us during the challenging times we have had with bushfires, drought, more bushfires, floods and Covid.

Please consider the proven approaches to tackle highly infectious diseases that now includes Covid-19.

I am asking our communities to consider the science and act accordingly.



DARLENE COOK FOR MAYOR

Country
Labor

"Lismore needs strong, honest and transparent leadership, and a council that listens to the people."

Authorised by G. Ritchie 16 Panorama Rd, Lismore NSW 2480

accountability | business | community

Simple slogans no help for postponed Council elections

We’ve just found out that the Council elections have been postponed and will now be held on 4th December. It’s a challenging thing for everyone involved.

Some Councillors who are stepping down now have an extended term, and with a number of vacancies on Lismore Council, we really do need to elect a new Council and the community needs to choose their mayor.

This pandemic is not going to be over any time soon with the slow roll out of vaccinations, so I am anticipating that the NSW electoral commission will ramp up their roll out of ‘iVote’, the on-line voting system, as a way to avoid gathering people together. This makes a lot of sense in the midst of a pandemic, but there is a negative side to it for

some of us who are contesting the election.

Campaigning is fundamentally about getting out and talking to the community. Usually we do that at markets, at events, at street stalls, at polling booths, and by door-knocking in the lead-up to the election. Obviously all of those activities are not possible during a pandemic – this means that a campaign can be skewed by the candidates and groups with the most money, which is what we so often see in other levels of government.

This puts our democratic processes at risk and allows simple slogans and slick ad campaigns to dominate the narrative. Council matters are many and varied, and there are complex and nuanced factors around most of the matters we consider. A three-word slogan that promises

simple solutions is not the conversation that we need to have as a community.

The fact that this election has been postponed for a second time is a stark reminder of the complex and challenging situation we are in as a community and as a society. The pandemic is far from over with its far-reaching economic and health impacts; our housing crisis continues to escalate with skyrocketing rents and property prices; and as we are seeing in other parts of the world with devastating floods, heat waves and fires climate change is rapidly escalating.

But locally in the Council elections, we have recently announced tickets with simple slogans promising everything but only putting forward simple solutions so far: “Build the dam, Expand the square, Fix the roads”.

The issues that face our community run much wider and are far more complex than that. We definitely need to fix our roads, on that one we do agree, and the issue is revenue. Council does not have enough money to do the level of work that is required – we are currently advocating strongly to the State Government for increased funding that we can put towards maintenance.

There is record infrastructure spending happening at the moment, but that money is not for maintenance, it is all for new infrastructure. State and Federal Governments need to recognise that there is a maintenance backlog issue and that only putting funding into ‘announceable’ projects is compounding the financial burden that Councils are carrying.

We do need to elect our new

Council, but this situation isn’t magically going to change with new leadership, no matter what promises are put forward during the extended campaign season we now find ourselves in. The simple rhetoric and complaints that are so often aimed at Council don’t understand or appreciate that there is very careful work being done, within the constraints of an incredibly tight budget and financial environment, to steer our Council toward financial sustainability.

That work is underway, it is absolutely the priority of the current Council, and it will be the on-going and focussed work required by the next Council when it is elected in December. Simple solutions and simple promises sound easy, but the reality is that complex and challenging issues require considered,



Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

Careful and consistent action over a number of years, and that work is already underway.

So, as a current councillor, my colleagues and I will be continuing to do that work, and perhaps with this extended campaign we will have the opportunity to engage in a more developed and informed conversation about where we need to go as a Council and as a community.

I can be contacted on 0418-639-927 or at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au



by Cr Vanessa Ekins,
Mayor, Lismore City Council

The Northern Rivers is famous for change making and we are still doing it. Forty years ago the Terania forest protests pioneered direct action and showed Australia the value of our

We are change makers with reason to be proud

Gondwanan rainforests that travelled for 17 million years to get here.

Twenty years ago we analysed our waste and diverted the 70% organic matter from landfill by introducing the three bin system, and now lead the region in recycling.

Nearly ten years ago 87% of our community voted no to coal seam gas and the yarned and dangerous Knitting Nannas spread throughout the world.

Last year we researched new techniques for reducing flood levels and velocities with green infrastructure, such as planting trees, increasing soil carbon and holding water in the upper catchment. The benefits of these nature based solutions to flood risk management also include increasing habitat, improving farmland,

preventing erosion into rivers and creating ongoing work and training opportunities. On ground grant funded trials are happening on farmland in the region already.

This year we are leading the water industry by investigating recycled purified water. At Rous County Council we decided to remove the Dunoon Dam as an option for future water supply because it is unviable for four reasons:

1. Impact on sites of significant cultural heritage;
2. Destruction of rare perched rainforest and platypus habitat;
3. Huge cost to current users although not needed for 40 years, if at all; and
4. Will not provide water security for the region because experts agree we need diverse sources of water

independent from rainfall.

Thank you to all the people who engaged with the technical information and made submissions.

And last week we demonstrated Lismore is part of the national native title process by handing back council owned land to the Widjabul Wiabal traditional custodians.

We are change makers and have good reason to be proud of our diverse community. From our strong Aboriginal people generously sharing their stories and culture to the Italian families who established farms and brought food and cafe culture to the region. The alternative university students, reinvigorating our villages with self-sufficiency and solar power. The LGBTIQI community, engaged, enthusiastic, colourful. African refugees adding more language and

food and costume to our streets.

Tree changers reminding us of our natural environment and healthy lifestyles. Retirees seeking convenient and affordable health services. And now the Covid refugees from the cities who realise they can raise their families in our safe region, at our excellent schools and work from home.

These are our points of difference, our diverse community, economy and environment. Please support your city councillors who value these differences and are willing to face the future with knowledge, open communication and positive solutions.

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

Lismore Council hands back land

I am very proud to have been a part of the decision by Lismore Council to hand back 34 hectares of land at the southern end of Sleeping Lizard Hill (North Lismore plateau) to the traditional custodians of that land.

Council was addressed by Uncle Mickey Ryan, Auntie Marie Delbridge, Auntie Thelma James, and several others who spoke of their connection to that land, to the stories of the Sleeping Lizard, to the ancestors who are buried there and those whose spirits are part of the landscape.

The decision by Council to hand back that parcel of land brought tears to the Elders. It was a part of Lismore Council’s recognition that NAIDOC Week’s theme of Healing Land also meant healing the people who connect to that land.

The land comprises the old quarry, some environmental protections zoned land, some environmental management lands and a small area zoned

for possible residential development. There will be ongoing consultations to identify the formal legal ownership of that land and set up the framework for the future management of it and legal access to it.

Rous Water Strategy

Another major decision in July was the confirmation by Rous County Council that the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCM) would go ahead without Dunoon Dam.

This decision, by five of the eight Councillors, supported the calls by many water scientists and the NSW Productivity Commission, for the future direction of water security to be in non rainfall dependent supplies.

Councillors also acknowledged that our decision reflected our belief that it was essential for the remnant of the Big Scrub in The Channon Gorge to be preserved; and that the native fauna of the area, especially the koalas whose genetic

makeup is very different from other colonies, must be left in peace.

Councillors paid particular attention to the Traditional Custodians of the land who addressed us by zoom and spoke of their grandparents and other ancestors who are buried on that land, and the sacred sites located in the valley, and their belief that these significant cultural artefacts must not be disturbed.

Our decision was not taken lightly. The public exhibition of the IWCM resulted in over 13,000 submissions and petition signatures, with overwhelming support for the dam to be investigated. We were addressed by several people who said that we must listen to those voices and reinstate the dam as the only source of permanent water.

In recognition of a request by NTSCorp, the legal firm representing many native title claims across Australia, that the land owned by Rous in the dam project area not be sold or disposed of until after



by Cr Darlene Cook,
Lismore City Council

meaningful consultation with traditional custodians, the motion called for the deferral of the disposal or sale of the land for at least 4 years.

While I hope this decision will end the debate on the Dunoon dam, I believe that some people will make it an election issue for Lismore and Ballina councils. I hope that those who also believe that a new dam at Dunoon is not the way forward, will support those candidates running for Council who voted against the dam.

Affordable housing

We are well aware that this region has a housing and homelessness crisis. Council is preparing an Affordable Housing Strategy to provide

clear directions and plans for future Council engagement with local housing providers to help alleviate the severe housing shortage we have on the north coast.

Council is also calling on the state government to release government owned lands in this area and make them available for social and affordable housing projects. Lismore is partnering with other local councils to provide a regional submission to the minister’s taskforce investigating housing shortfalls and identifying where to best spend the \$800M allocated in the recent state budget.

It is vital that our region, where so many people are being adversely affected by the rise in land values and rental charges, receive a substantial portion of those government funds.

Tourism officer

Included in Council’s budget for 2021-2022 was some additional \$46,000 which was allocated to enable a full-time tourism officer to be engaged to work with the Nimbin community and the

proposed Visitor Information Centre.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and Nimbin Advisory Group both called for this position to be located in Nimbin and for someone local to be recruited.

I am pleased to see that this full time position is currently being advertised. See: <https://lismore.applynow.net.au/jobs/LCC740-tourism-destination-officer-nimbin>

I encourage everyone who is passionate about Nimbin to take a look at this position description and see if this would suit you.

I have been endorsed as the Country Labor candidate for mayor at the Lismore Council elections on 4th December. I am very pleased that four members of my team live locally, in Dorrroughby, Repentance Creek, Boorie Creek and Goolmangar, and we will ensure that their local villages and communities have a voice that will be heard on council.

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

Making your progressive vote count in the coming Council elections

by Aidan Ricketts

It's soon going to be election time again, and this time for local councils.

We have different voting systems for different levels of government in Australia so it's worth a refresher on how to maximise your progressive vote.

The short answer is to use your power of preferencing and do not allow your vote to exhaust by selecting only one candidate.

Lismore has a process for a popularly elected mayor, as well as a vote for the council chamber. Let's start by looking at the mayoral race.

It has been a difficult term for the Lismore Council, and the last elected Mayor resigned before the term was completed.

Our new and current mayor is councillor Vanessa Ekins of the Greens. Vanessa is the longest serving councillor by a country mile, and if re-elected will become the longest serving woman councillor on record. She brings that wealth

of experience to the role as well her ongoing connections across the community.

In her short term as the serving mayor, Vanessa has shown herself to be a unifying figure (quite a feat with the history of Lismore Council), and not just a great negotiator but actually a skilled consensus builder.

Mayor Vanessa Ekins recently proved her strong leadership and negotiating skills by initiating and successfully negotiating the passage of the vote to hand back part of North Lismore plateau to the traditional owners. What could have been a potentially divisive vote in council was eventually passed with only one dissenting vote.

But events like these don't just happen easily, and they are not entirely safe from attempts at clawback by an incoming council if the political flavour of the next council is less progressive.

This is why it's very important for us to be very determined to deliver a progressive council. As

mayor, Vanessa has shown us that we can have a compassionate, unifying steady hand at the wheel but her re-election as mayor is in no way assured.

The mayoral race is going to be hotly contested with teams from or closely associated with the big major parties (Labor and Nats) as well as at least two other non-progressive mayoral teams likely.

Additionally, there is internal choice for progressive voters, with Cr Elly Bird also running for mayor.

Elly is known for her long history of community work, including with the Bentley campaign and Lismore Helping Hands after the floods. She has also been a councillor for the last term of council.

With these two strong and progressive women, who each have a personal following in our community contesting the mayoral vote, it is vital that regardless of which one you prefer that you make absolutely sure to preference the other at number two on

the mayoral ballot.

A number three for the Labor mayoral candidate Darlene Cook is also good insurance, should neither of your first two preferred candidates prove successful.

The voting for the more numerous council chamber is different to the mayoral vote, even though the mayoral candidate usually appears as the head of their respective team on the council ballot.

The council vote is similar to the voting system used in NSW state elections for the Upper House, in that the best and easiest way to make your vote count is to vote 'above the line' for a team AND to make sure you allocate preferences to several other teams.

Again, I would advise preferencing at least two or three teams to make sure your vote counts.

You can vote below the line for individual candidates rather than for teams, but it is more complicated, runs a higher risk of being declared an informal vote and does not operate as efficiently to assist the election of

progressive teams as voting and preferencing above the line for the teams.

There is a lot at stake at this council election and the outcome is unpredictable in the extreme. We already have a great mayor in Vanessa Ekins but all positions are spilling and it is anyone's guess what the outcome will be.

The last term of council was difficult for many reasons, including cost-shifting by state government impacting council's finances, mistakes made in relation to trying to develop the North Lismore plateau without approval of traditional owners, natural disasters and a pandemic.

Things have stabilised in recent months and this election will chart our course for another four years.

Will we continue to see progressive work in terms of environmental management, revitalisation of public space such as the very successful Lismore quad project, and a truly progressive Northern Rivers feel in our region's principal city, or will we see

a swing back towards a more reactionary and mercantile local politics?

At the time of writing this, I have no real idea of what preferencing recommendations any of the teams will be making on their how-to-vote cards; who knows what internal skulduggery will take place in preference negotiations, but remember, you don't need to follow their cards, you are the voter, and your preferencing power is how you maximise the value and power of your vote.

The decision to bolster the progressive cause by swapping ones and two between Mayor Vanessa Ekins and Councillor Elly Bird is your call.

Personally, I will be voting number one for Mayor Vanessa Ekins (and two and three for Elly and Darlene), as Vanessa has already proven herself to be a skilled, able and unifying mayor, has more experience than anyone else on council, and is our best chance at electing a strong progressive woman mayor from outside of the major parties.

Ballina Council to build affordable housing

It was great to see Ballina Council providing in-principle support for the construction of four community housing dwellings on a Council-owned block in the soon-to-be-completed Wollongbar urban expansion precinct.

Council, as the owner of the land, is in a unique position to support this project, and by doing so creating a pilot project for other Councils or developers to follow.

This project is specifically designed for women in the 55+ category who are either homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. The 2016 Census revealed that older women (55+) as the fastest growing cohort of homelessness in NSW, with an increase of 48% from 2011 to 2016.

While I put forward a proposal at the June Council meeting for the investigation of a much larger Affordable Housing strategy which would bring Council together with the State Government and local housing providers to look at opportunities to convert



by Cr Jeff Johnson, Ballina Council

suitable Crown Land within the Ballina Shire info affordable or community housing, that doesn't stop Council (or me) from supporting this proposal.

I'm very supportive of Ballina Council taking a much more pro-active approach to the affordable housing crisis that is facing the Ballina Shire. We are in the fortunate position that Council has significant land holdings that are zoned residential. Rather than Council's traditional model of developing these land holdings for sale as residential blocks, Council can look to develop these sites, with support from the State Government and local housing providers.

It's vitally important

that one and two bedroom dwellings are built that are not sold, but remain as long-term rental accommodation. The fact that we already have local businesses that are unable to fill staff vacancies due to there being no affordable rental accommodation available highlights how critical the situation has become.

While I support a Royal Commission into Housing, Council needs to be pro-active and force the State Government to come to the table. With over \$9 billion in revenue generated from Stamp Duty, which is a State Government tax on property sales, there is funding available, particularly given that only 12 months ago the budget predicted 'only' \$7 billion would be raised.

The State Government is looking to abolish this tax. I would strongly push for the tax to remain and a good proportion of the funds used to provide affordable and community housing. That would have the dual benefit of driving jobs and economic growth, as well as addressing the housing affordability crisis.



Covid-safe catch-up

Lismore MP Janelle Saffin (front, centre) with, from left, Mark Palmer (volunteer Device Advice Tutor), Jenny Martin (NACRS Manager), Cathie McIntosh (NACRS Receptionist/Support Worker), Martin Jansen (volunteer and NACRS service user) and Jacintha Duivenvoorden (NACRS Client Services Co-ordinator).

by Jenny Martin

We were delighted to welcome Lismore MP Janelle Saffin to the Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services centre of operations in July.

We had the opportunity to show Janelle our drop-in social centre, our computers for Seniors and the soon to be completed Aboriginal Elders veranda space.

We explained how our team provides over 75 rostered in-home support sessions every week to frail elderly people, NDIS participants, carers needing a break and

people needing help after hospital.

In addition, we organise bus outings and social groups for Seniors in Nimbin, Cawongla, Blue Knob, The Channon and Koonorigan.

We discussed the challenges of maintaining a Covid-safe service and the need for the highest standards of Covid protocols to ensure the safety of our vulnerable clients, our essential front line workers and the community generally.

Thank you for your interest Janelle, it was a pleasure to meet you.



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This planet wasn't meant for us

by Bernadine Schwartz

Campaigning for world climate action has been a long and frustrating journey for our scientists. They persevered up and down so many winding roads, only to end up right back where they started. It was always them versus the world.

All those precious years gone fighting a Cold War, trying to convince us all it wasn't a false alarm. Now global warming has Mother Earth in a stranglehold and nature's sirens are calling out in distress.

Extreme temperatures struck the Pacific North West of America, leaving behind the death of hundreds of people from unbearable temperatures, with many suddenly dying overnight from the oppressive heat.

In Canada, the small community of Lytton reached a once unimaginable 49.6°C, the highest temperature ever recorded, along with uncontrollable wildfires, that burnt the whole town to the ground the next day and the fires are still burning.

The heatwave took the lives of roughly a billion animals along Canada's Pacific coastline, with some stretches covered in millions of empty clam and mussel shells, left behind after they were cooked alive. The birds suffered greatly, with many heartbreaking incidents of fledglings too young to fly, jumping out of nests in a desperate attempt to escape the heat.

There are 80 major active wildfires across thirteen states, including California that's looking battle scarred after five consecutive years of drought and wildfires and according to Erik Wegner of the US Forest Service, most will only continue to expand, with many being fed by dense stands of dead or dying trees.

New research shows global warming is pushing an extreme positive heat – drought feedback in California and in other drought affected states, creating a vicious cycle of drier springs, that are now bringing hotter summers and the disturbing news is the rain won't be returning any time soon.



Massive fire wipes out 90% of Canadian village of Lytton. Photo courtesy Latestly

In Europe extraordinary floods left hundreds dead and thousands are still missing in Germany and Belgium, where they received 112mm in 24 hours, which doesn't seem excessive, except their average annual rainfall is usually 250 to 500mm.

Natural disasters aren't the world's only concern. Irreversible changes are taking place and rapidly. The Bering Strait has become warm enough to support algal blooms, that can easily turn the sea into a toxic soup and already countless animals are dead or dying.

In the Arctic, a year-long expedition (MOSAIC) discovered that as the Arctic warms, it's being matched by a colder vortex higher in the atmosphere, where long-lived chlorofluorocarbons and halons are now rapidly breaking down and destroying the Arctic's ozone layer, that shields it from intense ultraviolet radiation.

A study published in *Science & Technology*, tested the world's freshwater lakes and all are showing undeniable signs of a warming planet. They sampled the oxygen levels of four hundred lakes in Europe and the US and found all have been declining over the past 40 years, especially

in deeper waters where they were down by as much as 18.6% and 5.5% on the surface. They're also forming algal blooms and causing the death of fish.

Staying below that figure of 1.5°C, was the sole purpose of the Paris Agreement, yet most still believe it to be an imaginary line. Not for much longer.

The 2021 annual report from the World Meteorological Organisation has announced a 40% chance of the planet exceeding 1.5°C by 2025, twice the likelihood compared to the previous year. Plus, a 90% chance of breaking more temperature records, both high and low.

The month of June was the hottest on record, surpassing previous years. On 9th July in Death Valley, it reached an historic 134°Fahrenheit or 54.4°C, the highest temperature we have ever recorded on Earth.

Many of the world's big corporations pledged to fight global warming, but according to a new report from the Standard and Poor's Stock Index, most companies have done very little or nothing at all, with many busy trying to undermine the policies they initially agreed to. Our

governments are no better.

Not one has honoured their pledges or come close. As for Biden, the world pinned their hopes on a man who's not only the president of America but represents the heartland of capitalism. A nation that flogged their culture to the rest of us. It was called, The American Dream. Well, dreams are short lived.

A federal court judge has already overruled Biden's proposed suspension of new oil and gas leases in thirteen states and he's powerless to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, after a law passed by Republicans back in 2017 requires him to hold two lease sales before 2024.

Then we have the world's powerful coal industry that has as many as 432 new mining projects proposed, with an estimated annual output of about 25 billion tons, including Australian coal.

What's left after government and corporations is society, whose members I believe are the real culprits. They've allowed governments and industry to do all their dirty work for them and maybe they can't see blood on their hands but that doesn't make them innocent. And it seems what good traits society once had, have been shed like skin with the passing of each generation.

They really think Mother Earth was biding her time patiently waiting, with a big, shiny red ribbon and bow, ready to serve humanity. And a gift not to be shared.

Rescuing Mother Earth was never lost on our admirable scientists and when they point their finger squarely at the world and cry out, "I told you so!" Remember how many times they tried, 'til they were blue in the face!

Now all we can do is watch on as nature takes its destructive course. Will it be a long drawn-out process? Will it come in one foul swoop? Let your imagination run away with you for one moment, then times it by a thousand.

Pump up the dam, pump it up!

by Diana Gosper,
Rainbow Power Company

Dynamic head, flow, tank, speed, suction lift and dry run – sounds more like a marathon race at that time of month than professional pumping terms, but that's what they are, all terms to do with various pumps.

Firefighting, pool, bore, dam, 230V house and DC pumps, to move an ocean or just a drop, to get your water where you need it when you need it, for your plants, your animals and your humans, watering livestock, irrigation of crops/greenhouses, and water supply for homes/businesses etc.

Stop lugging around water! Let the sun do it for you.

When I needed a pump, I didn't let the big words daunt me. The design process for getting the right pump for my needs was easy with Rainbow Power Company (RPC) helping me, and I knew I could rely on their famous after-sales care, which we know some companies are better at providing than others.

A local company will always be more trustworthy, because they have to answer to their fellow townspeople!

A solar pump will do the environment a favour, being more carbon (and neighbour!) friendly with no pollution or noise, and most importantly, they are independent from the grid.

Note that since water can only be pumped during sun-shine hours, you need a header tank that is at least a few metres higher than your house. The pressure in your pipes is then supplied by gravity – simple, reliable and renewable!

Trusted brands Grundfos and Lorentz have reliable models in their range that include helical rotor as well as vertical centrifugal pumps. The former gives a high vertical lift (head), the latter high yields (volume), and solar pumps are built extra strong and dependable for off-grid, rural and often hostile environments.

Commercial or residential, surface or submersible, DC for motorhomes, boats and RVs, there is a pump for every use and every need. Water is universal and from weekenders to off-grid family farms, homes and businesses, all need reliable pumping solutions. And that's where RPC comes in.

You could change your own tyres but why would you? Let RPC design the exact pump for your



Grundfos bore pump

needs.

Modern pumps have corrosion-resistant motors, UV stabilisers, multiple outlets, stainless steel components, are highly energy-efficient and can pump extremely long, fast and high. Solar pumps can also be configured as 'hybrid' systems, incorporating an extra power source like a generator, allowing for night-time pumping.

RPC also have diaphragm kits and other repair kits for your pumps: O-rings, valves, pressure

switches, accumulator tanks, float switches, etc. Info on maintenance of your pump model is available on their website, in your manual or by phoning them – most good brands (the ones that RPC sell) are mostly maintenance free.

Water is life: don't waste it, don't let it pass you by, store it for when you need it and have the best defence against bushfires, drought and water insecurity.

Pumps have come a long way since 2000BC when the Egyptians

invented the water organ: a new type of air pump that had valves on the bottom, a receptacle of water in between them and a line of pipes on top that was the basis of the principal design, now known as the reciprocating pump.

These days it is not uncommon for customers to still be using the same pump 15 years later, which is why getting the design right at the start is of utmost importance.

All of the RPC off-grid power and grid-connect power systems are large enough to power a solar pump. Speak with our designers first of course to be sure your system can power all of your lifestyle needs.

Our experts have decades of combined experience that they are proud to put into their designs, sales and after-sales care; our product knowledge and dedication is second to none, with over 50% of our staff living themselves off-grid.

When you need a pump, and you want to get it right first time, call your local solar pumping specialists on 02 6689-1430.

Rainbow Power Company is ready to ship your complete solar pump kit, ready for installation anywhere in Australia, any day of the week.

Winter Solstice celebration at Tuntable Falls school

by Anna Lusty

I was so excited! The Tuntable Falls Community School and Tuntable Falls Early Childhood Centre Winter Solstice festival held on Tuesday 22nd June was truly magical.

My anticipatory excitement as a mother attending her oldest child's first preschool winter solstice event far outweighed my son's. He after all, had no expectations. I had attended similar events as an Auntie in the past, so now I would experience this as a mother.

There was a buzz of excitement as we all gathered at dusk on the hill behind the school, with the beautiful lanterns made by the children in the

previous weeks. My son's was orange with a translucent window that had a banksia leaf inlaid, so beautiful. Keeping the candle lit in his lantern became the main preoccupation of my 3½ year old son, a fire of his very own to attend!

As we descended upon the candlelit spiral set up in the school grounds, we became enveloped in the greater school community in the dizzying experience of the twilight. The excitement in my son continued to grow.

The preschool children then performed their fire dance they had been working on with their creative movement teacher, Miriam, who they have been expressing themselves with once a week for most of the year.



My son was reticent to join in, in this heightened atmosphere, but thanks to the doting guidance of some of his primary school buddies who joined the dance in support, he

made it through.

The primary school then performed and sang a variety of moving, symbolic seasonal songs full of verve and gusto and as

we watched and snuggled in the candlelit darkness, the magic of the community spirit only grew.

The lighting of the enormous bonfire was a sight to behold and we were then mesmerised by some fire dancing performance by some talented parents. Finally, we were treated to some warming tucker – pumpkin soup and lentil soup followed by apple pie and ice cream. This eclipsed everything in my son's mind and for him the true highlight of the evening, what a treat.

As I took him home, grubby and sticky from a big night of fun, he was pretty much asleep before we got home, which is less than five minutes away. No doubt his anticipation next year will be greater.

Herbivore laws by 2100

Shapeshifting

by Anand Gandharva

The Global Village unites before 2100. Better late than never. Telecommunications, travel, food, technology, drugs and economy are moving that way. Inter-marriage and migration help, fuelling the march to space, an egalitarian economy, recycling and renewable resources.

Ecumenicism unites all faiths, including Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Shintoism, Hedonism, Scientology, etc. Energy comes from plutonium and sunrays. Asteroids are mined.

The asteroid belt and planets, like Mars, Moon, Venus and Europa are terraformed, but the secret of interstellar travel hasn't been discovered yet. Spoiler: it lies in vibrating gravity near 5 hertz, close to dream headspace.

People are nine feet tall and swarm the galaxy.

Opportunism in the Pyramid Age gives way to sharing in the Space Age.

Homo Sapiens, 'wise man', is renamed Homo Universalis, or 'wise' will mean harmonising head and heart.

Nature is limping. Biology is rejuvenating species.

Old globes showing countries sell like hotcakes.

Since 2026, drones deliver food and goods to homes in rural areas.

Transport is in aircar taxis.

Dope is legal.

Lismore still looks ably

after Terania. Rates are cheaper, mainly because roads are not used (engineering departments have substantially been replaced by local air traffic control). Military budgets focus not on warring, but managing nature.

Nimbin is still the centre of an alternative universe thanks to the Aquarius Festival. A distant memory by then, but like the Eureka Stockade, it won't go away.

Areas like the Antarctic, Canada, North Europe, Chile, Alaska, North Asia, Kamchatka, Siberia, melt and grow in population.

The last of big animals like elephants, tigers, rhinos, and hippopotami die out.

Mankind goes underground, in waters, oceans, deserts, to accommodate more people. Elbowroom is at a premium. (Many homes are stackable, tiny prefab carbon apartments)

Somebody will wake up that it isn't smart to let hi-tech apex predators loose at exoplanets, where they may eat all local conscious life, so society turns herbivore. (Why create opportunist caveman chemicals?)

Now a fast-growing segment of 80,000,000 human herbivores, grows to two thirds of humanity to democratically outlaw fratricide. (Abusing DNA



related species) Genetics has progressed to the point, where humans realise that not only is every tribe related, but we are cousins of animals. Sibling rivalry is nature's way of natural selection. People buy bits of DNA like Einstein, McCartney, Steiner, Singer, even Tolstoy, Kennedy, Kafka, Singer, Da Vinci.

These changes stretch over three generations. If people are old enough to read this, they are too old to change. Don't freak out. One may probably be gone by then.

Life-extension pills are released.

This scenario may be bad for the environment, but is fair go to people who hold another opinion; making no retroactive changes.

Children's children may have to become herbivore to save billions of hungry mouths, and alter the industrial complex to rear animals in dreadful conditions to earn money.

Herbivore Laws are enacted.

Inheritances are modified to outlaw class.

Entrepreneurs, who save, can be four times wealthier than folk, who indulge in immediate gratification. Community rules. Earnings of some brilliant people are now ten thousand times the average wage. A mafia don would be proud.

Dialogues

by S Sorrensen

What's the point?
There is none.
Oh. Well, that's not helpful.
Sorry. I'm not Facebook.
So, I may as well just stay in bed all day.
You can do whatever you want.
Stay in bed. Get up. Or be half-in, half out.
I may never get up.
It's your choice. It's a nice bed.
You want to jump in?
No.
What are you going to do?
You got coffee?
Yes. Beans are near the grinder in the pantry.
Okay. I'm going to make a coffee and take it from there.
I have plenty of options for this day.
What keeps you going?
What's the point?
I like coffee.
No, yeah, coffee's good, but—
Yeah, coffee's good. And good's good enough, don't you reckon?
It's good, for sure, but that doesn't mean it has a point.
True. There is no point. Just one more cup of coffee before you die.
Yeah.
Yep... But does everything have to have a point? Is it possible just to do something because it's good to do? No point or purpose involved.
Like what?
Like, um, running because it feels good – not to get fit. Like learning because it feels good – not to get a job. Like talking to a friend because it's good to talk to a friend when you're sad – not to get her in your big fancy bed.
I loved her, you know.
I know. Was that good?



It was, yes. Not any more, though.
You don't love her any more?
No, of course not. She left me.
So, you loved her then but now you don't. But you did love her then, right?
Yeah. But what was the point of that? All those years, wasted.
Must have been a miserable time for you.
Oh, you're just being facetious now. Of course, it was great at the time. We loved each other. You know that. We did things.
You went to India. Rode an Enfield from Kerala to the Himalaya. I'd love to do that.
We had everything we needed on that bike.
Each other.
Ha! Yeah. It was good.
Good. Like coffee.
Yeah. Good like coffee. But, obviously, it was a waste of time.
Why?
Why? Because it's finished.

Jeez...
Okay, sorry. So, do you want coffee?
Are you going to make some?
Yes. I like coffee.
Me too. I love coffee.
Yes, but will you love it when it's finished. Or will you regret ever having had the coffee I'm going to make you because it will finish. If you enjoy it now, that is. Or will you –
What are you talking about?
Or will you just keep the coffee forever, just so you can love it, because possession is love. It will become pretty rancid after a few days, you know, but you'll love it anyway because, um, you still have it. Right?
Okay. I get the point: There is no point, to anything really, but there's still...
Coffee!
Yeah, coffee!
I'll make us some, dear friend. Sure you don't want to jump in here? It's reall–
No.

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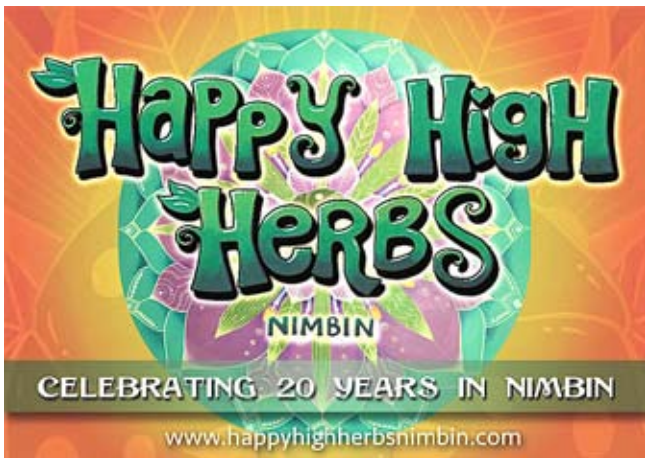
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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Sydney art excursion for Nimbin Central

by Cath Marshall, Principal

Before the outbreak of Covid in Sydney, we went on an adventure where senior students embarked on a trip to Sydney to enrich their cultural experiences and understanding of the wider world.

We caught the train down on Tuesday night, arriving in Sydney at 7am on Wednesday, and walked around Darling Harbour and Barangaroo Point.

We stopped to reflect on the rich indigenous history of the area with Mr Wheeler sharing knowledge about Bennelong and Barangaroo. We continued our wandering going through the Rocks and up on to the Harbour Bridge. While walking, we reflected on the First Nations' lives and the lives of colonial Australia.

Then we began our gallery tours, starting with the Museum of Contemporary Art – here we viewed the first part of an exhibition that ran across three galleries, called 'The National'. Students explored at their own pace and were able to build a strong understanding of the different ways art is created and interpreted.

From here we had a quick lunch stop and then walked through the Botanical Gardens on to the NSW



Art Gallery. Here we also viewed 'The National' and the Archibald Prize. Students were able to look at how different galleries use their spaces and curatorial discernment.

After a long day we wandered back to the YHA. We had walked a good 16kms. We went out for dinner, exploring a variety of different cuisines. Everyone had a great time seeing the variety of food and tasting up a storm. Everyone went to bed tired and with sore feet.

Thursday brought more galleries, first stop the Brett Whiteley Studio. Everyone was quite enthralled to see the space in which he lived and worked and a range of his print-making which was on display.

From there we ventured to White Rabbit Gallery, which shows a range of contemporary Asian art. This was by far every one's favourite as there were a number of works that were

interactive and pushed the boundaries of what we consider art to be.

After some lunch we resumed our walking and some more historical lessons as we passed through Redfern on our way to Carriageworks. Here we saw some very powerful video art that looked at different perspectives based within indigenous culture. From here we wandered through Newtown, exploring cool shops and cafes.

After another 16km day we had a quick rest, then out to see the Sydney Winter Solstice Festival – we ate, we danced, we had fake snow blowing in the wind, we saw fireworks, then we finished it with a walk around Darling Harbour and a ferris-wheel ride.

Friday was more leisurely yet still action packed – the markets, op shops, food, food and more food. Then off to have a behind the scene tour of the Sydney Theatre

Company.

This was an amazing experience and all of the students gained from seeing the different aspects that go into the production of a show including props, costume, set design, sound, lighting, rehearsal spaces.

Some students stayed to watch an archived performance of *Waiting For Godot* and the rest of us went back for a quick rest before heading out to the theatre to see the performance of *The 7 Stages of Grieving*, where we were all wowed with an amazing and very poignant performance by Elaine Crombie, giving all a deeper understanding of the harsh truths that Indigenous people have had to live through.

We ended Friday by getting ourselves ready for the early morning train, with very sore feet after another 16km day.

Saturday we were up and off on the long journey home with a 12-hour train ride – passing the time playing games, chatting, watching movies and catching up on schoolwork. I am proud to say that we have an amazing bunch of students who were open to new experiences, ideas and were happy to discuss all of the different aspects of the experiences we had along the way.

What a fantastic group of people we have here representing our school.

Working Overseas

by Jazmin Theodore

I was working in Bristol in England in 1976 and I was offered a good theatrical contract in Nairobi, but a work colleague and friend of mine had a breakdown and she didn't want to work travelling by herself, so she asked me to cancel the contract in Nairobi and come to Spain with her, which was a disastrous decision on my part.

When we got to Spain she was sent to the sunny south and I was sent to the freezing north. Then I was offered a contract in Nigeria after four months in Spain, which I accepted. The terrible thing was, for me to go from Spain to Nigeria, I had to have a vaccination against yellow fever, which also turned out disastrously.

When I arrived in Nigeria I came down, within a few days, with terrible hepatitis. I was so sick. I had a lucrative contract for two months in Nigeria, then I had a contract for Jaffa in Israel; and then one for the Madeira Islands. But I got so sick from the vaccination that after a month I had to cancel the contracts as I just couldn't go on. Also for Jaffa and the Madeira Islands, so I lost thousands and thousands of dollars due to that vaccination. And just let me say this: the food in Nigeria was the most hideous food I've ever known.

The owner of the nightclub in Nigeria was Egyptian, and I didn't want my mother to see me looking ragged and sick, so I spent a month in Egypt, arranged by the nightclub owner, before returning home.

I started to recover so much better in Egypt because I had access to beautiful organic food, but to cut a long story short, I arrived in the night. First thing in the morning, I started to go around all the souks, looking, and I noticed a very handsome young man in the first souk, and then I went to the second souk, saw him again, and then I went to the third souk, sat down to have a mint tea. He came up to me and said, "Excuse me, are you American?"

I said, "No, I'm Australian." He said, "May I sit down with you?"

We talked away and then he said, "May I take you to see a belly dance performance?", which was fantastic (I ended up doing four bellydance performances in Egypt myself).

Next morning he asked me to come and meet his mother, father and sister. I said yes, and he took me to this beautiful old building, in the oldest part of Cairo. It was over 2000 years old. It was mud brick if I remember correctly. It had been well maintained, and the old part of Cairo was just exquisite.

One day Karim said, "I want to take you over to the Hyatt hotel for coffee." It was right across the other side of the river, so he rowed me across the Nile in a rowboat. The Nile is a very big river and I thought it would be a romantic and wonderful thing. Up in Africa the Nile was flooding and the water was putrid, and the smell as we rowed across to the Hyatt was worse.

Then he and his sister and I went up to the Pyramids to ride the camels (see the photo with Rasheen, his sister, and me on the camel).



I was not as impressed with the Pyramids as I thought I would be, and because I was recovering from hepatitis they would not let me go below, due to the freezing temperature.

Then when we went across to the Sphinx I was just totally overwhelmed by it! I could see where the cannonballs had damaged it, but there were just a few dents, they had hardly made an impression. Napoleon was an idiot! The energy from the Sphinx was so strong it blew me away and I was telling a spiritualist a few years later, and she said the Pyramids were Egyptian but the Sphinx was Atlantean.

Even though I adored Egypt, and loved living in Penang, and Hong Kong, and the rest of the world, travelling, the most important place on earth for me is Nimbin.

Running up a dress

Lismore Theatre Company is pleased to announce its next show, *Running Up a Dress* will be on stage in September.

Written in 1986 by Suzanne Spinner, *Running up a Dress* is a play about mothers and daughters, a relationship that shapes young women.

Originally intended to be performed by two actors, the play will feature an ensemble cast. "This production will have 10 women playing 30 different roles," said Director Sharon Brodie, who is also President of LTC.

Suzanne Spinner used a series of interviews to create poetic and moving vignettes that explore the complexity of the relationships between mothers and daughters.

The multi-layered, multi-charactered, short scenes across the decades, create women's experiences and perspectives as a dress is constructed. The 10 monologues use the language of sewing to explore the experience of growing up and being shaped by mothers, and how daughters create their mothers too.

"I enjoyed studying this wonderful Australian play at university, and as a mother and a daughter I wanted to share these stories with others," said Sharon. "Hopefully my mother will be proud."



Sharon is excited to be working with choreographer, Deborah Ryan-Mills. Together they bring movement and energy to accompany the powerful dialogue of the play, and in doing so create a unique theatrical experience.

"The local women aged 18-65 who make up the cast are equally excited to bring these stories to life on the

stage," said Sharon.

Some of the actors are very experienced and will be well known to LTC audiences, while others are performing for the first time at Rochdale Theatre.

Running Up a Dress runs for six shows from 10th to 19th September. Bookings are open at: www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au (\$25/\$20).

HANGING ROCK'S GOT TALENT

Whether you are a gum leaf player, a ballet dancer or a rock band, come to Hanging Rock Hall and demonstrate your talent for a chance to win BIG prize money.

It will be held on Fathers Day, Sunday 5th September from 1pm at Hanging Rock Hall. Juniors are 8 to 15-year olds and Open is everybody else.

Open Section: First prize \$400, Second Prize \$100.

Juniors Section: First prize \$100, Second Prize \$50.

People's Choice prize: \$100.

Registration is compulsory with a deadline of 25th August.

There are limited performance time slots, so book now to avoid disappointment.

Send your name, contact details and a 25-50 word description or video of who you are and what you do. Email to: hangrockhall@gmail.com

Junior contestants kick off the talent show at 1pm sharp and prize-winners will be awarded at 3.30pm.

The Open section begins at 4pm and the winners will be announced at the completion of this section.

Entry is a \$10 per adult and performers are free.

Join us and celebrate local talent.

SEPTEMBER 25-26 NIMBIN SKATE JAM

Sponsored by Tribal Magic and Nimbin Unicorn

OVER \$3000 IN CASH AND PRIZES

Entry on the day. Safety gear mandatory

Local music continues in Murwillumbah

Balcony Sessions and World Music Sessions continue at a limited capacity at The Regent, Murwillumbah.

The Regent's Balcony Sessions are every Friday night from 6-8pm. The World Music Sessions are every Sunday from 1-3pm.

Due to the current covid-safe capacity of 50% a modest ticket price has been introduced to help cover the costs and to help keep the music going.

These are intimate, seated 'house-concert' sized events and the audiences are loving the alfresco balcony, the music and the food. It is worth noting that due to travel restrictions all the musicians presented in August are local to this region. The variety and range of local talent is phenomenal!

The Balcony Sessions present independent acoustic music, and coming up this month it's all about incredible women with something to say and the talent to say it well.

We have indie techno-folk with Mykaela Jay (pictured) on 13th August; low-fi jazz-soul-loops with Sarah Stando on 20th August; Welsh alt-folk with Sali Bracewell on 27th August; and the gritty blues of Mel Scarlett on 3rd September.

The World Music Sessions



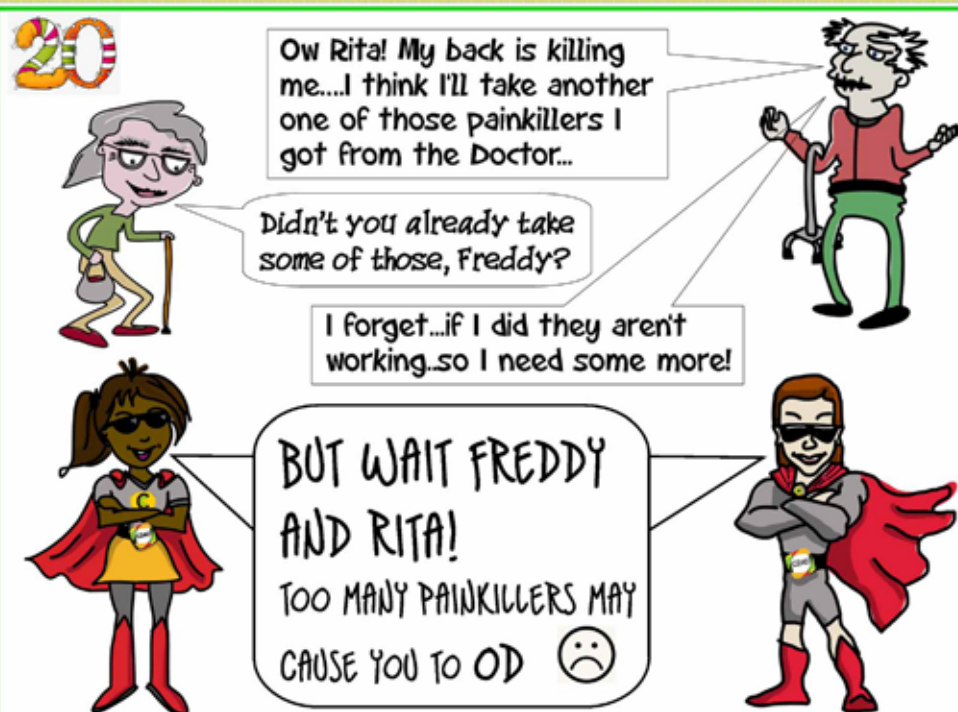
every Sunday are proving popular and are great family friendly gigs. This month experience Vasudha Harte explore Gaelic music with her harp on 8th August; Ali Baba's middle-eastern percussion with a special guest on 15th August; Persian Blues with SoLar on 22nd August; and Iranian songs in English and Farsi with Sahar on 5th

September.

Relax and unwind as you enjoy the SE Asian menu, sustainable pizzas, sweet treats and a licensed bar as your eyes and ears are delighted by beautiful music of local talents in a gorgeous Art Deco setting.

Tickets are \$15/10 and children under 12 are free. Booking advised at: www.the-regent.com.au

THE ADVENTURES OF OLD Reckless Rita & OLD Freddy Foolhardy Featuring: Clued-Up Claudelia & Captain Competent



The majority of overdoses in Australia are from prescription opiates. It is important to keep records of what you have taken and to NEVER top up beyond your recommended dose. Friends and family of anyone using pain medications should keep NALOXONE in your First Aid kit. Naloxone temporarily reverses the effects of an overdose and gives you time to get an ambulance. Available for FREE (by appointment) at Nimbin Neighbourhood & Info Centre, the Nimbin Pharmacy and the Nimbin NSP.

Brought to you by Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (Nimbin CDAT) c/- NNIC P.O. Box 20168, Nimbin NSW 2480. www.nnic.org.au