

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.

Nimbin on council

It's been a pretty rocky few years for the Lismore council, and certainly not what the majority progressive elect was anticipating for their term. Bushfires, floods, pandemic, unpredicted deficits, a mass councillor resignation, new general manager, early retirement of the mayor and more.

But the fundamental message hasn't changed. Nimbin needs representation. I want to thank those that are putting in the (mostly thankless) time and efforts to keeping engagement through the Nimbin Advisory Group, and other networks. Their persistence and contribution to the local political decision-making further strengthens the case that we need our elected representative too.

I came within a whisker of being elected in the last election, getting 51% of the Nimbin booth. While Nimbin is the largest village in the Lismore LGA, we are just shy of having the number of voters to be certain of successful representation. It is so important that we can come together and recognise that a local representative is what we need, and cast our vote towards that.

I was running alongside another new entrant, Elly Bird. Elly succeeded, and has shown herself to be a committed ally to Nimbin and our values.

I will not be running again this election, but I am extremely happy to hear that Gwen Trimble is willing. I think she will be a superb representative, and I will be supporting her in any way that I can, up to and including casting my vote on 4th September.

The decision last election to run alongside Elly, on the Our Sustainable Futures party ticket was an obvious one for me. Joining forces and taking advantage of the reduced bureaucratic overhead allows more time to engage with the community direct.

I encourage Gwen to do the same, and hope that with Elly's increased profile across the region, and possible even election to mayor, enough votes will flow on to Gwen

for her to be elected this time.

Best of luck Gwen, I will see you on the campaign trail and look forward to success.
Guy Stewart
Nimbin

Support for Gwen

I have to say how delighted and appreciative I was when I heard our wonderful local woman Gwen Trimble had accepted an offer to run number 2 on Elly Bird's Our Sustainable Future ticket for the next Lismore council elections on 4th September.

I have have known Gwen for many years as a community member and friend. Many of us have known her through her work front of counter at our local mechanics workshop.

The reason I was so delighted is that I can't think of any local person who has more to offer at this time. Gwen is a great listener and has a very quick, clever, inquiring mind. She has excellent attention to detail and also has very good what I call 'big picture skills' – the ability to take all aspects of a situation and look at it, not only as it may be now, but also at how it may impact on the future.

On several occasions as a neighbour, Gwen has brought a number of significant local issues and their ramifications to my attention. This has always been done in a very practical, well researched and well communicated way.

Gwen has a strong, yet friendly demeanour. She is intelligent, capable and honest. She also has a strong sense of agency for our Nimbin community – not only as we are now, but also as we move forward into a bigger and more diverse future.

At this time of critical change, rapidly moving developments and an expanding population, I urge all of you who are able, to go to the ballot box on 4th September and vote for Nimbin's own Gwen Trimble.

Thank you Gwen. You already have the support of so many behind you – your voice at a council level would be of enormous benefit to us all.

Jane Mari
Nimbin

Council elections

On 4th September we are all going to have go and vote again, this time for our local council elections.

Local council elections are the time when we see our votes coming to fruition. Our councils impact us on a local level, so who we elect is especially important. It gives us a say on a micro level, as opposed to the State and



Federal votes which impact us on a macro level.

State and Federal policies are not as relevant to us as the Council Elections. When we go and vote we are not voting for Scotty, Albo, or Barnaby for Mayor are we?

So why is it that so many people stroll down to the polling booths, grab a how-to-vote card from one of the Federal Party candidates, number their preferences and leave?

Why do we have candidates that actually nominate and purport to stand for one of these parties? The answer is simple. They hang their name on a party and sit back and count the votes from the voters who vote without really thinking.

What we need is for all of us to vote for only independent candidates who have to stand up and announce their specific, locally-orientated policies. People who are committed to the community, to serve their community and not their party.

So on the 4th September let's all stroll down to

vote and vote for a true independent.

Let's make it 'Independents Day'

Gwyn Hooper
Uki

Free bowel cancer screening

I love our transcendental ruminations, ranging from retrograde Saturn via old-school exorcism to the Prophets of Lemuria hiding from the Great Flood under the foot of the Sphinx, as much as any open-minded resident of the Rainbow Region, keep them coming!

Yet when it comes to having "my ilio-cecal valve tickled" to recreate the "colonic vacuum pressure that pushes our waste down" to combat allergies, bad breath and shoulder-, neck- and back-pain amongst other ailments (NGT May 21, p.29), I wonder whether this is friend or *enema* talking?

Could the described "benefits of cynicism" extend to challenging this "interest in our inner stuff, the more shitty the better". Cynics could claim the proposed treatments, not

the free cancer screen, are "making someone lotsa money".

Now I'm not fully against esoteric approaches to medicine, illness, life and death, yet publicly rallying against a free cancer screening program that is proven to save lives of our over 50s in a disease that is curable if caught before symptomatic? Instead advertising a costly mix of privately-billed colonic-vacuum-restoring techniques might not produce quite the rectumification of our medical problems that therapy was suppositoried to deliver.

And I'm still ruminating how that inner-colonic vacuum can keep producing these massive amounts of stinky gas and distension in some of our less graceful and more cheerful and beanful fellows without poisoning their blood-stream and stomachs? Maybe a case for a bit of

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: Friday 23rd July

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.

Nimbin seaweed additive for methane reduction akin to our livestock and cattle, fighting emissions along the way?

A fart a day keeps the vacuum at bay – a free two-yearly screen picks up cancer unseen.

For further not-for-profit professional and scientific advice on Australia's free bowel cancer screening program, phone 1800-930-998 or visit: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-bowel-cancer-screening-program

Dr Ulf Steinworth
Dunoon

Correction

In our June edition (p.13), the photo of the Rainbow Power Company's 'Living With Solar' course co-ordinator was incorrectly identified as Andy Wilkinson. It was in fact Bruce Davis.

1930 Graham Ferguson 2021

Born in 1930, Graham (Dad) reached 90 years, and a full-throated-almost-91. He was an ever-vibrant, ever-determined man.

Nimbin was a passion, a place he fiercely loved until his very last drop of self-will. His most enduring wish during his last weeks and indeed days, was to be home at Blue Springs community.

A horseman, a writer, an artist and a thinker, Graham's life was a rich tapestry of experiences and adventures, but a love for the 'Nimbin Way' held him fast and true. His love never waned, only strengthened over his 30-odd years in the area, and 25 at Blue Springs.

On any day of the week, he could be found in any local cafe enjoying a 'long brown', writing new articles or podcasts on his favourite topic, the fatal flaws in our financial system.

Upon every visit, Dad would introduce us to countless friends. His



home is filled with the loving notes, letters, photos and cards of those who were touched by him through the years, not to mention the support and well-wishes of those acknowledging their sadness at his passing.

It was common for him to drive people to their destination, only to return to collect the hitchhiker he passed going in the opposite direction.

As a father, we were always proud of

his popularity among our friends. He was 'King of the Kids'. He knew just how to throw us around in gymnastic joy, knew how to throw a boomerang, fly a kite higher than you could imagine, took us swimming in freezing water and knew how to help with a school assignment. He knew how to do everything that made life joyous and memorable.

I'm sure there are many people who could recall meeting him with fondness, and many who have nurtured longer and closer relationships. The men's group, the writer's group, those involved at Blue Knob Hall, the Nimbin News and Nim-FM are among many other community groups that will remember him with great affection.

The Nimbin landscape looks different without him, and we know many others will notice the gaping, Graham-shaped hole that can never be filled.

Controlling development in and around Nimbin

How much is Nimbin growing? Since 2015, Lismore Council has approved 50 new dwellings in the Nimbin area – 34 of which are in the village.

In addition, there are some potentially large developments that will likely eventuate – the 33-lot residential subdivision opposite Nimbin Bush Theatre; a supermarket, specialty shops and 23-lot residential subdivision on Sibley Street; a further 60-plus residential lots on Alternative Way; a 20-lot subdivision on Gungas Road; the Cubes on Cullen Street; light industrial development along Sibley Street; and redevelopment of the Cullen Street ‘fire sites’.

One of the biggest constraints to further growth, from a Council and community perspective, will be the need for water security. While this is a great concern, so too is our desire not to lose the things we love about our village life and the beautiful environment that surrounds it. This should be enhanced, not destroyed. We also need to consider the impact of growth on infrastructure such as roads, footpaths/cycleways, parking etc, and the impact of tourism, a significant element of the local economy.

A new plan to control development in and around our village (the Nimbin DCP) will be put on exhibition for your comment by Lismore Council during July. This is a great opportunity for you to have input. Preliminary indications are that Council staff have incorporated lots of the feedback provided by you some months ago through the return of 111 surveys and 9 written submissions (the Chamber was one of these).



Chamber Chat

by Diana Roberts, president

However, community feedback was mixed, so if you did make a submission, your views might not be reflected in the document. Once the revised DCP is on exhibition, please take the time to read it and feedback to Council – even if you support what is in there. The DCP will guide village development for years in a way that whinging and moaning on Facebook won’t.

Council elections looming
On 4th September we will be electing 10 councillors and a mayor to represent us for the next three years on Lismore Council. To better inform you, on 18th August the Chamber is hosting an evening event in Nimbin Hall to enable you to meet the candidates.

Full details will be in our next Chamber Chat. We’ll also promote the evening on social media and posters in the village, so keep an eye out if you’re interested.

The Chamber would dearly love to see a Nimbin voice in that mix, so we urge you to support Gwen Trimble’s campaign. Gwen now has a facebook page (Gwen Trimble for Council) and is holding a major fundraiser on Sunday 25th July, 3-6pm in the Town Hall.

The fundraiser will consist of an art auction, high tea and trivia games. Entry will be \$20 and all funds raised will support Gwen’s campaign. For more information contact: gwentrimble@gmail.com or

ring Gwen on 0427-486-346.

Council reinstates tourism funding for Nimbin
Council recently adopted its 2021-2022 budget. After strong representation from the Chamber Council agreed to fund a tourism development officer in Nimbin full-time. Our preference would have been for the person to be employed by the Chamber, but Council were keen to establish the position as a Council employee.

While the Chamber loses autonomy with this decision, the advantages are that the salary will be a little higher, the position is more likely to be funded into the future, and the links between Nimbin and other tourism operators, including Lismore, will be stronger.

The Chamber will have input into the position description and the selection process, and the person will work full-time from Nimbin, most probably at the Bush Theatre alongside the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) being established there.

While Council will be contributing some funding to help the VIC get off the ground and become accredited, an enormous financial contribution is being made by the proprietor of the Bush Theatre. While there will be spin-off benefits for the existing café and shop from increased visitors, the personal financial outlay and support to provide this outcome is considerable and much appreciated by the Chamber.

More and more the Bush Theatre complex is being developed into a centre for art and creativity in an environment that locals love and visitors enjoy. A VIC in the only environment that can provide the

infrastructure for such a venture at present, will establish a peaceful haven in which visitors can obtain information about our village and surrounds, sampling creative enterprises before venturing up town or further afield.

So how is our tourism grant spending going?
We are currently producing a brochure for visitors which aims to provide an overview of those aspects of Nimbin we have reason to be proud of, including our Aboriginal history and an acknowledgement, our village history, our diverse community, and environmental protection. Thanks to those community members who provided input and feedback. The content is now being worked up, but will include links to websites for more detailed information. The brochure itself will also be available on-line.

The project also includes provision for new signage, including information plaques on a number of our historic buildings and places of interest, with usage and mural history. If you have relevant information about this, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Steph at: sibley@nnic.org.au

Minimum wage boost and superannuation increase
The national minimum wage increase applying to all awards has been set at 2.5% from 1st July and the superannuation guarantee levy also rises to 10% from the same date. If you have questions or comments on any of the above, please email: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au or drop into Nimbin Law and leave a message with our secretary, David Spain.

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Phone: 02 6689-7033

Successful bush regeneration projects

by Vanessa Pelly

Bush regeneration and riparian restoration has been undertaken in the Nimbin and Tuntab Creek valleys throughout 2020-2021, resulting in more than 3,600 trees being planted and many hectares of weed removal.

The project, known as The Nightcap Connector, received funding from the NSW Environmental Trust through an application by Tuntab Creek Landcare.

The Nightcap Connector project has not just planted trees but also targeted Weeds of National Significance and Bell Miner Associated Die-back (BMAD).

May and June have been busy months with the Landcare group hosting two workshops and one field day. The field day included a walk at Paradise Valley to look at dry and sub-tropical rainforest



forest types, and a presentation by Dr McCardell on soil types and water-holding capacity.

The day ended with a picnic beside Mulgum Creek for all landholders and bush regenerators involved in the grant project.

A bush tucker workshop was held at Ngulingah nursery at Nimbin rocks, and had the renowned Peter Hardwick as the guest speaker. Nursery manager Gordon Watershed gave the attendees a walk and talk through the bush tucker plantings and ended with a

morning tea which included some bush tucker samples.

Lastly, a Fire, Rainforest and Resilience workshop was held at The Channon. This was a collaborative effort with partners Lismore City Council and Richmond Landcare, and had two guest speakers, Oli Costello who gave us insight into cultural burning practices, and John Allen who gave us his perspective, having worked for the RFS during the 2019-2020 bushfires.

After a very inclusive and strong welcome to country

by Widjabul Wai-bul woman Cindy Roberts, The Channon community had the opportunity to reflect on the Mount Nardi fire of 2019. Key messages were the role of cultural burning in managing landscapes and ecological, social and personal resilience.

Landholders who had experienced trauma from the recent fire season were encouraged to keep up communication with family, friends and community and if further assistance was needed to talk to your General Practitioner about what other programs are available to help recover.

Also of note is the newly formed Websters Creek Catchment Landcare which had two meetings to kick-start more restoration works along our local waterways. If you are interested in joining Websters Creek Landcare, please contact: lcotterell58@icloud.com

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Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

I've almost recovered from the Lismore Lantern Parade which was a great success, held in a Covid-safe space at the Lismore Showgrounds and carefully managed according to the health orders at the time. With the restrictions just announced, it looks like we were very lucky with the timing.

It was so special to hold our treasured community event again, and I'm glad we were able to do so. With the Lantern Parade done and dusted, it's now full swing into the election campaign with two months until the Lismore Council elections on 4th September. I've been out on the campaign trail in Nimbin with Gwen Trimble (pictured) this week, and I will be out and about more in the coming weeks – Covid permitting of course!

As we head into the last few months of the council term, we have just appointed our new general manager. Council was unanimous in supporting Michael Donnelly to take up the role of general manager for a four-year term. Michael has been acting general manager for the last four months or so and has taken staff and Councillors through a very rigorous budget process.

He comes to us with significant experience in organisational management, infrastructure and engineering, which will be a valuable skill-set for working through our infrastructure maintenance issues – having just undertaken the budget process, he has a comprehensive understanding of the issues we have and he is already putting strategies in place to address them.

I look forward to his

leadership of Lismore City Council and working with him and with the new Council to build a better future for Lismore.

We have also just adopted our 2021-22 Budget which is the culmination of an extremely thorough and rigorous process. It is another tight budget with a number of strategies built into it to move us towards financial sustainability and towards better systems and internal efficiencies.

I'm also pleased that as part of the coming year's activities, Council will also be progressing the development of a Climate Resilience Strategy. It is the next step on our journey towards the implementation of projects.

We declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, then we adopted a Climate Resilience Policy last year, and now we will write the strategy which will identify priorities and operational activities to build operational activities into our delivery program and will allow us to seek specific funding for those identified projects.

It takes time to move through the processes of local government, and I am glad that I have been able to keep this work going and to have the support of my colleagues in order to do so. There will be some community consultation about the development of this strategy, alongside the community engagement that happens each term for our Community Strategic Plan.

You can sign up to our community engagement portal and receive emails that let you know when different policies and strategies are open for your input at: yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au

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

A busy month for Lismore's mayor

by Cr Vanessa Ekins,
Mayor, Lismore City Council

As Mayor of Lismore and your representative, I get to do many different things, such as:

- Take selfies with the Minister for Local Government while asking for money for roads. They say she is tough, but actually she's a school teacher just like me;
- Have afternoon tea with the Consul General of Japan because Lismore is the first city in Australia to form a sister city relationship with Japan after the war. Our Ikebana chapter is the oldest in NSW with the motto 'friendship through flowers' for 65 years. I get to hang out in art galleries with real artists and open the first ever Nimbin Winter Exhibition.
- Talking with lots of exciting people such as what men do in their sheds; eating and dancing with Italian migrants; judging eggs and admiring chickens, some of which are huge, at poultry club shows; and lighting up the mid-winter night sky with the Lismore Lantern Parade, a wonderful event by the community for the community.

Even official functions are fun. Conferring citizenship on eight new and very happy Australians. Advancing reconciliation by changing the language



Media scrum selfie with new GM Michael Donnelly.

we use to communicate from boring documents into exciting maps. Debating the importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and Dunoon Dam with colleagues. Meeting with passionate members of our community like the Nimbin Advisory Group in village halls.

All of this in one month, as well as the usual council meetings, workshops and site inspections. But most important is announcing council's new general manager Michael Donnelly who has acted in the role since February,

demonstrating his skills in finance and asset management. Now we can focus on the financial stability of council and providing services to our community.

It is a great honour to be your Mayor, and I am enjoying the role thoroughly. Please feel free to contact me on Council-related matters. I am particularly interested in affordable housing, waste re-use, roads, rivers and farms.

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

Tweed Greens council campaign launch

The Tweed Greens are holding their 2021 council election campaign launch on 11th July from 3-5pm at the Sheoak Shack Gallery Café in Fingal Head.

Greens supporters are warmly welcome to meet the candidates, mingle with like-minded locals and enjoy a sun-downer drink and nibbles overlooking the beautiful Tweed River.

The guest of honour will be esteemed Cr Katie Milne who'll be handing over the baton to Dr Nola Firth and her strong team of Greens candidates in a bid to carry on their pledge of 'Keeping Tweed Green' including support for climate action, sustainability, protection of endangered koalas, social justice and political transparency.

Nola says she's truly honoured and privileged to be taking over from Cr Milne, "Katie always stood up for the community and she has a deep love and understanding of our absolute dependence on a healthy environment", she said.

The Tweed Greens has an accomplished and inspiring team of council candidates. The lead candidate Dr Nola Firth is the founder of Hospital Hill Landcare in



Murwillumbah and an active member of the Caldera Environment Centre. She vows to "improve restoration of biodiversity in our internationally significant environment including water retention and soil regeneration initiatives and enhancing koala protection as well as greening and cooling of urban areas".

"We have the exciting opportunity and imperative to transform the challenges of climate change into economic and social benefit for all. We can create many new jobs by supporting industries

such as renewable energy and recycling, greening urban areas, regenerating rural lands and restoring bushland and waterways. Improving foot and bicycle paths, and advocating for better public transport and affordable housing will also be part of my vision", Dr Nola Firth said.

This event is free entry and COVID safe. Food and beverages will be available at the bar.

For more information and to register your attendance please go to: www.facebook.com/TweedGreens



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and our region

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Please contact me at:
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THE GREENS

An interview with Lismore Council candidate

by Sue Stock

What prompted you to run for Lismore Council?

After leaving a high-pressure Sydney job, I made the tree change to Nimbin in 1991. Driving through a double rainbow, I felt I had come home, and that welcome and connection has not left me, I'm with my people. Being a member of the caring and accomplished community that is Nimbin remains a joy and privilege.

Over the 30 years I've called Nimbin home I've tried to be proactive and involved with many of the ambitious projects our community has successfully delivered. I've served on the Nimbin Advisory Group (the NAG) for more than six years, so have had the opportunity to interact with Councillors and Council staff and, along with other NAG members, have spoken up for Nimbin in that capacity.

For some years though it's been clear that Nimbin and the other villages have been the poor cousins of Lismore, often overlooked by Council when decisions are made. It's obvious we need to get a rural village perspective at the Council table when policy is discussed and formulated.

As I'm now semi-retired, I have time to take on another



You can make a donation to Gwen's campaign here:
<https://chuffed.org/project/elly-bird-for-mayor>

community role and so, after careful consideration, have decided to offer myself as a candidate in the 4th September Local Government election.

Why have you chosen to run on a party ticket?

Unfortunately, Nimbin does not hold enough votes to elect a representative. I approached Elly Bird to run on her ticket, as she has now gained five years' experience and I've been really impressed with how she has handled a Council that has been extremely difficult, almost dysfunctional.

I will be second on Elly's ticket. If she is elected mayor I will most certainly be elected. If not, I will need a strong Nimbin vote to give me the best chance. Our Sustainable Future is a small and independent Party. I like what they stand for, and I'm certain Nimbin with its strong green credentials will feel the same.

How can the community support you?

You'll see me at markets and on the street ready to listen to voters' concerns and answer their questions. Please take time to share

your thoughts and to hear how I will represent you if elected. Your vote really counts in this election, especially to me.

Many of you may have changed address or may not be enrolled. Please take the time to check you are correctly enrolled. It's easy to do, just go to: www.aec.gov.au to update your details or enrol to vote.

Changes to the roll for this election will close on 21st August but, as there may be delays in updating data, you should make sure you are correctly enrolled by early August.

The election is on Saturday 4th September 2021 from 8am-6pm, and pre-polling will be available from 23rd August. If you are not able to vote in person, you can apply for a postal vote or an electronic iVote.

Unlike candidates for the major political parties, we have to raise our own campaign funds. So, I hope the community will be generous with their support for my major function, an Art Auction, trivia and high tea held in the Nimbin Hall, 3-6pm on 25th July. I am incredibly grateful for the generous donations of art, prizes, food, time, resources and expertise made by so many.

Ballina Council issues



by Cr Jeff Johnson,
Ballina Council

At the July meeting of Ballina Council, I put forward two proposals; one asking Ballina Council to acknowledge that there is an affordable housing crisis in the Ballina Shire, and the second, to make changes to the 4WD beach permit system for Seven Mile Beach at Lennox Head.

Affordable housing

A few weeks ago I attended a workshop with Council representatives and local housing providers, Social Futures and North Coast Community Housing.

It was clear that there is a worsening housing crisis in the Ballina Shire in terms of the increase in rents, a reduction in the security of tenure for long term tenants and an increase in homelessness. This crisis is obviously not limited to Ballina.

My proposal to firstly acknowledge that there is a housing affordability crisis was supported by all the Councillors who attended the meeting. The second request was for Ballina Council to work collaboratively with the State Government and local housing providers to convert suitable crown land within the Ballina Shire into affordable or community housing developments. This was also supported.

The State Government is a significant landowner within Ballina. If some of these allotments can be developed and be dedicated to affordable and/or community housing, this could play a key role in addressing this issue.

The proposal is not to offer the new dwellings for sale, as they would naturally be sold at the market rate; instead, the new properties would be managed by local housing providers and be offered as long-term rentals.

To highlight how bad things have got is the fact that many local businesses in the aged care, hospitality, service industries are unable to fill job vacancies due to there being no affordable housing available.

In a recent survey by SQM Research, the Ballina postcode (2478) recorded one of the lowest rental vacancy rates in the country at 0.2% in January 2021.

I acknowledge that this crisis is likely to get worse in the short term, and that a range of strategies need to be implemented as a matter of

urgency. With the NSW Government pocketing over \$9 billion in stamp duty revenue (a tax on property sales) this financial year, there should be plenty of money available from a revenue source that has gone up considerably as a direct result of the recent housing boom.

4WD beach permits

I've tried on a number of occasions over the last two years to make some positive changes to the 4WD permit system in order reduce the number of vehicles on the beach. The recent closure of South Ballina beach for all vehicles has led to a dramatic increase in the number of 4WDs accessing the beach at Lennox.

Council data shows that the number of permits issued increased from 2611 to 3721 over the last year. Importantly, the number of single day permits increased from 2086 to 3015 during the same periods. That's a massive 50% increase in just one year. What's also concerning is that recent surveys show that half of the vehicles on the beach haven't even bothered to purchase a permit.

My proposal was three-fold:

1. That Council only issues annual permits;
2. That these permits are issued from Council's administration office so that permit-holders have to show their driver's license and sign a code of conduct; and
3. That the existing gate is modified so that an electronic key or app is needed to access the beach.

I believe that these three measures would significantly reduce the number of 4WDs and largely put an end to 4WD tourism, while still maintaining access for local families, fishermen and surfers who want to access the remote parts of Seven Mile Beach.

By requiring permit holders to sign a code of conduct and having an electronic key/app to access the beach, driver behaviour would improve dramatically, and those found otherwise would be unable to access the beach.

Council elections

I will be once again putting my hand up for election at the forthcoming Council Elections. I have been on Ballina Council for three terms (13 years), and still feel passionate about representing my community.

I've been very consistent in the way that I approach Council. I will always put the community first over developers, but Council has to work within its prescribed framework, otherwise we would just end up in court all the time and waste money and Council resources. That can be frustrating, but as mayor I would take those decisions very seriously.



Left to Right: Shae Salmon, Dr Linda Banbury, Mayor Vanessa Ekins, Ivy Young, Cr Adam Guise, Kashmir Miller.

Lismore Greens launch council campaign

The Lismore Mayor, Vanessa Ekins and Councillor Adam Guise have launched their re-election campaign and introduced their vibrant team of community candidates in the lead up to the Council Election on 4 September.

Mayor Vanessa Ekins is seeking to be re-elected as Lismore's mayor. The Mayor says, "Having served on Lismore Council for 17 years and on Rous County Council for 13 years, I am the most experienced Councillor and I believe the best person to lead our Council and communities through the next term of Local Government. Since becoming Mayor earlier this year I have worked hard and collaboratively

to steer our Council out of the difficult financial position we found ourselves in and we now have a strong strategy for sustainability and success which I am committed to seeing through".

Mayor Ekins says, "Lismore is facing many emerging challenges including the homeless, the increase in extreme weather events, maintaining our complex road system and public infrastructure in the face of these events, water security, cost shifting of State Government onto Local Council and the increased pressures on our unique and important biodiversity, including our precious koala populations."

"These emerging issues require new

and innovative solutions. The key thread to addressing all of the problems we face is maintaining the heart and soul of our region and building our resilience. We do this by looking after the natural environment, our public infrastructure and each other," she said.

Mayor Ekins and Councillor Guise's team is made up of Kashmir Miller, Ivy Young, Dr Linda Banbury and Shae Salmon. Headed by the experienced steady hands of our current Mayor the Greens believe they are the most effective and representative team to take Lismore forward.

For more info visit: <https://lismoregreens.org.au>

Saffin secures major Budget wins from the backbench

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

I'm pleased and proud to report that I have secured major wins for local communities in our electorate of Lismore and across New South Wales in the NSW Budget 2021-2022, handed down in Parliament last month.

Firstly, the Budget includes an additional \$18.6 million for the Community Building Partnership (CBP) program over the next two years, meaning that the allocation for each State electorate will increase from \$300,000 to \$400,000.

Over the past two years, I have consistently advocated for a more generous \$600,000 to \$1million allocation per electorate, but \$400,000 is a good start and will ensure that more very worthy small grants projects will get the tick of approval.

Another major win is NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Paul Toole's announcement that the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card will be extended fully to eligible seniors on a Disability Support Pension or a Carer Payment from Services Australia.

Minister Toole kindly acknowledged my advocacy on this issue in the Chamber, and for me, this has always been about fairness and equity for all seniors. Early on, I successfully lobbied for veterans and war widows to be included, and then kept up the pressure for the most vulnerable of our seniors not to be shut out.

While the Government's two-year trial of Regional Seniors Travel Card has been extended by another two years, I shall continue my campaign to make this program a permanent one.

As co-patron of Lismore Parkinson's Support Group, I warmly welcome NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrotet's announcement of an \$8.6-million package over four years to boost specialist nurses and allied health staff to improve quality of life for patients with movement disorders such as Parkinson's Disease.

I have of course put in a bid for a Parkinson's nurse to be based here in Lismore, and will continue to urge NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard to lock in this vital resource for the growing number of locals diagnosed with Parkinson's.



Lismore MP Janelle Saffin makes a point during the Public Interest Debate on the state Budget

Parkinson's NSW will receive \$650,000 for training and teaching, and increased services.

These positive Budgetary measures prove that strong advocacy from the Opposition backbench. Advocacy which is determined, researched, evidence-based and sustained, can achieve solid results on the ground.

On the flipside, I led a Public Interest Debate on the State Budget and government charges, moving that this particular budget also delivers higher tolls, taxes, fines and fees, and is built on picking the

pockets of working families.

Here is an excerpt from my speech: "There is one key thing missing from the budget, and that is housing. We know a lot about housing and when we read the 2021-22 NSW Intergenerational Report – this is the one that the Treasurer really likes to tout and display – it tells us housing matters for the economy and for people's living standards.

"... We know that to attack and address housing in New South Wales we need 42,000 additional homes to be added to the housing

stock every year. I think there were 800 social housing dwellings provided in the budget, which goes nowhere near to addressing that need.

"It is not all the Government; it is also the private sector. But the Government has to own its role in housing supply, housing affordability and attacking homelessness. ... In my area alone we have a waiting list of up to 10 years for housing."

This month in Parliament, I lodged 17 Questions on Notice to NSW Housing Minister Melinda Pavey and NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian on housing supply and affordability, and moved that the Legislative Assembly notes that:

1. Rural and regional NSW is currently facing a housing crisis.
2. The waiting time for public housing in Lismore is between five and 10 years.
3. That the NSW Government only announced 800 new social housing dwellings in the budget.
4. This is not enough to meet the high demand for housing in rural and regional NSW.
5. Calls on the NSW Government to invest more in social housing in rural and regional NSW.

On the same Page



by Kevin Hogan, MP

I got vaccinated

Recently I received my first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine at Lismore Square.

The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner everything can get back to normal.

There are now seven million people who have been vaccinated.

While things are good in Australia, the pandemic is still raging around the world. Vaccinations along with social distancing, good hand hygiene and QR codes will keep us safe.

To book in for your vaccine or check your eligibility, visit this site: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility>

Lismore Vaccination Clinic at Lismore Square is open

Monday to Friday 7.30am-4pm. Phone 1800-438-829 to book.

No country I'd rather be

Australia's economy is now larger than it was pre-Covid. There are also more people employed today than before the pandemic.

In just over a year, Australia's economy has recovered what it lost, faster than any recovery from any major downturn in recent history.

This was driven by measures in our economic plan, including HomeBuilder and the expanded Instant Asset Write-Off.

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

Lismore Council appoints new GM

On Friday 25th June, Mayor Vanessa Ekins announced the appointment of Michael Donnelly as the new general manager for Lismore City Council.

This announcement comes at the end of a lengthy and in-depth recruitment drive which garnered a lot of applications from interested candidates. After review of the applications by all councillors, and interviews with short-listed candidates, councillors unanimously agreed to offer Michael the position.

Michael has been acting as interim GM since early February. He has a background of senior management in large private and public corporations, including as regional director of NSW Public Works. In the time he has been with Lismore Council, he has "steadied the ship", and engaged staff in the most rigorous examination of the foundations of our finances and budget processes.

Michael has extensive experience in asset investment and asset management and has foreshadowed a comprehensive review of Council's underperforming business units. I have found him to be a good listener, taking on board

councillors' wishes for a more open and honest conversation with our community, and for a more efficient and financially disciplined Council.

Council has offered Michael a four-year contract which will ensure stability and continuity for the organisation as well as giving Michael the time to make the necessary changes to improve Council's efficiency and long term financial sustainability.

Budget

During June, Council's budget was brought back for endorsement after public exhibition, where we received a number of submissions from Nimbin residents. The most pleasing consequence of those submissions was that councillors agreed to provide the requested additional \$46,000 to enable a full-time tourism officer to be engaged to work with the Nimbin community and the proposed Visitor Information Centre.

Also included within existing budgets is \$30,000 for a co-ordinator to assist with Covid requirements to keep the Nimbin pool open next summer; and \$50,000 to develop a climate resilience strategy which can then take

advantage of the current government funding on offer for projects to enhance community resilience to climate change impacts.

Regrettably the NSW government has hit local councils with yet another cost-shifting burden – withdrawing Council's ability to charge a compliance levy on development assessments from 1st January 2022. This decision has a \$300,000 per year impact on our budget, and severely reduces our capacity to monitor and enforce compliance with development consents, as well as investigating breaches of permitted activities within the different land use zones.

Future Water Plan

Rous Council's Future Water Plan public exhibition closed on 28th May following extensive publicity about the strategy and much activity by proponents and opponents of the Dunoon Dam as an option for the future water source.

Rous received input from over 13,000 people during the exhibition period, including formal detailed written submissions, completion of on-line surveys, and signed petitions. Councillors were given an overview of this data



by Cr Darlene Cook, Lismore City Council

on 23rd June, with a formal report to come to the Rous meeting on 21st July for a final decision on the full Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy.

If you wish to speak at that meeting, please contact Rous and book in to have your voice heard on the day.

Elections

I have been endorsed as the Country Labor candidate for mayor at the Lismore Council elections on 4th September. I am very pleased that four members of my team live in rural areas, in Dorrroughby, Repentance Creek, Boorie Creek and Goolmangar, and can 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

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BUDGET WINS FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Every electorate will be allocated \$400,000 under the Community Building Partnership (CBP) small grants program, allowing more worthy local projects to be funded this year and next year.



Our most vulnerable seniors on a Disability Support Pension or a Carer Payment from Services Australia or Department of Veterans' Affairs now will be eligible for the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card for two years from 2022.

“ I welcome these positive Budget announcements which show how my strong and sustained advocacy from the Opposition backbench can deliver real results on the ground. ”



GETTING THINGS DONE

Janelle Saffin MP

MEMBER FOR LISMORE

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A global plague of plastic

by Bernadine Schwartz

As a species we've always had this tendency to never think any further than our own lifetimes and it's become standard practice, so those reckless choices of the past had to eventually catch up with us. One in particular stands out from the rest and I think the hour of reckoning might have arrived.

It's that ubiquitous plastic, and like the grim reaper it's penetrating Mother Earth from the inside out.

Researchers estimate that more than 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced since the 50's and today it can be found in Arctic ice flows, synthetic fibres in ice cores from the Antarctic and the great lakes of the world.

It's even in that bottled water sitting on the supermarket shelf along with the world's tap water, after a study headed by Dr Jamieson of Newcastle University took samples and discovered 83% contained micro particles of plastic. They've also been found ten kilometres into the depths of the Mariana Trench, where 100% of the marine species tested had micro particles of plastic in their bodies.

A whopping eight million metric tonnes of waste plastic enters our oceans every year, adding to the 150 million metric tons that's estimated to already be there and it really is beginning to show.

There are five garbage patches in our oceans and to give you a perspective of size, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch covers a massive 1.6 million square kilometres, triple the size of France.

When we talk about plastic, synthetic fabric doesn't come to mind but it's contributing enormously. In 1950 there were two million tons of synthetic fabric produced and by 2010 it shot up to 50 million tonnes.

One load of washing with synthetic fibres sheds 91,000 to 138,000, then off they go to a water treatment plant, then out to the bottomless sea, where according to countless studies they're just as prevalent, with roughly four billion microfibrils for

every square kilometre on the ocean floor.

Then there's the very air we breathe in and out every day, that's full of micro particles, so there'll be no more stepping outside to take a breath of that fresh, clean air.

A study published by *Science* modelled the atmosphere above western America and discovered it was laden with 1,100 tonnes of micro plastic. It was in the air above the forests of Oregon, Yellowstone National park and the deserts in Utah, and surprisingly, wear and tear of tyres on roads accounted for 84% of these airborne particles.

A short term pilot study detected micro particles high above the French Pyrenees that were probably carried on the wind from Barcelona a hundred miles to the south.

Even more alarming, 11% of these micro particles blew in from the ocean, where there's now more plastic than on land, with continents receiving more than they're putting in.

Scientists set out to establish where all this plastic was in our oceans and could only account for 1%. The rest has seemingly vanished but there's a sinister explanation.

As plastic decomposes it becomes micro particles, breaking down further till they become nanoparticles, making them capable of penetrating pretty much anything, anywhere.

Scientists have confirmed the existence of billions of these micro particles throughout our oceans that are unknowingly eaten by the smallest of marine creatures.

According to Steve Allen, an environmental pollution scientist at the University of Strathclyde and Ecolab, these nanoparticles absorb anything they pass through and they stick like glue. They're also a vector for bacteria and pathogens, giving them the potential to transmit anything they may come in contact with.

These nanoparticles closely resemble those used in modern medicine to deliver drugs through the body and it's highly probable they can penetrate the blood, brain barrier in exactly the same way.

Countless studies are now underway researching the impact on the human body



Photo courtesy
marineconservation.org.au

and already they've found micro particles of plastic in faeces, BPA in urine samples, it lingers on in human tissue and found in the liver, lungs, kidneys and the spleen and the long term consequences are unknown.

So what are we to do when it's going to be here for another thousand years or more? The shocking truth is this industry has produced more plastic in the last ten years than all of the 20th century. They've also taken it upon themselves to radically shift away from durable plastic, with 50% of all plastic currently produced, specifically designed for one use only.

Every year 381 million tonnes of plastic waste is created, nearly the weight of humanity and predicted to double by 2034.

It's impossible to deny the crisis we're in. It's that prolific it's created a new rock formation called plastiglomerate and forming a new sedimentary layer, now recognised in scientific circles as a horizon marker for the Anthropocene Age.

Then there's the world's water that is fast running out, a priceless commodity. Bottled water requires twice the amount of water to produce the actual bottle than what goes into it and a million are sold every minute worldwide.

Of all plastic produced, 99% is derived

from fossil fuels and the latest news is Adani, intends to sell their coal to India for that very purpose.

This worldwide industry is worth more than a trillion dollars and when a world is founded on money, it's economy will always take precedence.

You can't feed this greedy economy without greedy consumers though and 24 hours in a day just isn't enough. So they need a stopwatch in their hands, that's inadvertently made convenience an absolute necessity.

Leo Baekland is the granddaddy of plastic, inventing Bakelite back in 1907 and he got that ball rolling. And rolling along it did, till Mother Earth resembled a big ball of plastic.

Leo never thought past his own lifetime, like so many before and after him and the grim reality is children grow up, and many will gladly step into those same shoes. Things are never gonna change, you can't stop it, it's as constant as perpetual motion.

We're racing down the track on this runaway train and it doesn't really matter which one comes first, plastic or global warming. Maybe they'll cross the line together, then we can go out in a blaze of glory!

rEVolution

by Paul O'Reilly,
Rainbow Power Company

The RPC factory has been abuzz with excitement this month, with the purchase of our first 100% electric vehicle (EV), a Tesla Model 3.

Transport is currently Australia's third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. This means that although Australian households are rapidly adopting Solar to save money and reduce their CO2 footprint, transitioning our transportation network away from fossil fuels is a critical piece to solving the climate change puzzle.

Around the world, car manufacturers are rapidly pivoting vehicle production over to electric vehicles. Every major manufacturer is releasing 100% electric models within the next two years. Some manufacturers such as Volvo have announced they will stop selling fossil fuel vehicles within five years.

This transition is coming not a second too late, as vehicles have an effective life of over 30 years. This means vehicles purchased today will still be in service in

2051! It therefore stands to reason that if we are to reach net zero emissions by 2050, then all new vehicles purchased need to be zero emissions vehicles.

RPC has been waiting patiently to make an EV purchase and this year a range of production EVs became available that fit our budget and meet our transportation requirements. The RPC sales team are often out on the road, and do a 250km round trip to the coast and back to conduct site inspections. RPC had identified that first generation EVs such as the Nissan Leaf did not meet our requirements, as it only had 150km range.

This year a new range of EVs became available at an affordable price. RPC reviewed models such as Hyundai Kona, Nissan Leaf 2, MG ZS and Tesla Model 3. This group of new-generation EVs have a range of 4-500kms and cost between \$55-65k. Although the Tesla Model 3 is more expensive than other similar-sized vehicles, the numbers become closer once fuel costs are considered.

Our current sales vehicle is a

diesel Hyundai i30. At the time of purchase, this was the most fuel-efficient people-mover on the planet. The i30 costs approx \$12.50 per 100km. The Tesla Model 3 will cost \$3.00 per 100 km. When we look at running costs over a 10-year period (20,000km/annum) the i30 costs \$25,000, the Model 3 only \$6000, a saving of \$19,000 annually.

Perhaps more importantly, RPC will also be using the vehicle to develop and test EV integration with both our On-Grid and Off-Grid solar power systems. We are looking to optimise charging of EV batteries, reducing costs for our customers and learning to channel 100% renewable energy into our customers' car batteries.

While EVs are still a relatively rare sight in our local area so far, we hope that this will change sooner rather than later, as car manufacturers develop electric vehicles more suited to our terrain and environment. The NSW Government's recent announcement of their updated EV Strategy offers further support, by providing incentives and phasing out stamp duty on eligible EVs, along with building a network of ultra-fast charging stations.

As part of our EV project, RPC will be installing a publicly



Scrapboy, Dirtgirl and Costa with the new car

available, 4-station EV charger. Charging during the day will be free to the public. We hope this helps encourage early adopters and reduces range anxiety.

We are patiently waiting for the release of other Commercial EVs

such as the Cyber Truck, Rivian Ute and electric F100 next year. At the current pace of development, we could potentially see RPC with a full electric vehicle fleet by 2025.

Long live the rEVolution!

There literally is no tomorrow. Don't delude yourself that in your dotage you can be the great painter, actor, director, writer or whatever you have dreamed of being.

Being any of those things must start now – right now. Many of you are already living your dreams, being the politician or the playwright – this is not for you.

This is a wake up call for the pipe dreamers, the lounge schemers, the work-yourself-to-death-on-someone-else's-dramas-and-Game-Boy/Nintendo/X-Boxers.

For the truth is that your chances of being physically and mentally well and wealthy and housed in your old age are extremely small and getting smaller – it is a highly privileged situation and for most of us it is a time



Revenge of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens

that will not come.

Now is the hour. Now is the time. You must seize the day. Knock on the door.

The majority of people who have transformed themselves and transformed humanity have done so before they turned 35. The percentage who have done so at 70... not so much.

If you love doing something be it a sport or practice or

profession throw yourself headlong into it. There is no other day but today.

Put aside your doubts, put aside other people's doubts and whole heartedly endeavour to be the best person and most successful person you've ever wanted to be.

You may well fail – we all fail in the end – we break and topple and die – that's the whole point – our time as this individual human is limited and our of departure is not specified on our birth certificate.

It might be today – one day it will be. It won't be tomorrow ... it can't be. There is no tomorrow.

Put aside your fears of failure – failure is inevitable – squeeze the juice out of it.

You just will never know when you can't squeeze ever again.

Dialogues

by S. Sorrensen

Here's your coffee. Everything else okay?

Not really. I just cancelled my trip to Cairns. Bloody restrictions.

You can still go to Cairns, can't you?

Yeah, but I may not get back, you know, with all these bloody changing Covid restrictions. How am I supposed to drink coffee with this bloody mask on?

It's okay to take your mask off to drink your coffee, sir.

Oh? You never know what the current rules are. They change all the bloody time.

Well, this new Delta variant is a problem. It's way more contagious and –

Don't believe everything you hear, mate. The government controls us with fear.

Okay, um... So what were you going to Cairns for?

Diving on the reef. Three-day tour. Fancy ship.

Expensive, but everything supplied. Was going with my son. He just got his diving certificate.

Ah, a bit of father-son bonding, eh?

Yeah. It would have been good. Thought all this Covid hype would have died down by now, but the government just keeps up the scare-mongering. Now, my son will miss out on the reef. That's criminal. Every Aussie has the right to enjoy the reef, right?

But Covid is a real thing, yeah? You don't want to get Covid, do you? Or your son. I've done the research, mate.

Look at the numbers. I got



more chance of being eaten by a great white shark than getting Covid.

Doesn't that mean the restrictions are working?

No. It means that Covid is less dangerous than the flu.

It's a beat-up.

Well, I'm booked in for a Covid jab tomorrow...

Oh no, sucked in. It's a bloody con, mate. It's the government; you can't trust them. You know John Adams?

Is he that guy with the face tattoo, works in the bakery?

No, he was a founding father of the United States.

Oh, him...

He wrote, "Fear is the foundation of most governments." The government is controlling you. It's making you inject god-knows-what into your body.

It's a vaccine...

So they say...

Well, what about all the scientists and the doc-Scientists gave us thalidomide...

And antibiotics... Anyway,

I hope you and your son get to see the reef soon. It may not be around much longer. UNESCO just recommended putting it on the 'in danger' list for World Heritage listed areas.

Oh mate. That's just more fear-mongering. Clearly, there were politics behind that announcement.

That's what our Environment Minister said too.

See? It's a bloody ruse. It's Aussie bashing by China. They're taking over the Pacific, you know.

So, you agree with the government now?

And you don't?

No. Reef scientists say the reef will disappear unless we do something quickly about climate change.

Oh yeah? I've done my own research. There's this Hungarian scientist who reckons –

I'm sad about your holiday disappointment, sir. But the reality is that all our children will miss out on the reef. And all children after that. Put your mask on now.

The kissing number

Shapeshifting

by Anand Gandharva

As humanity approaches Aquarius, linking head with heart, one may wonder how the top-down pyramid structure of society is replaced to stop abusing Earth? The answer is 'the kissing number'.

Since Newton, it is known that only twelve equal-sized billiard balls can touch a thirteenth at the centre.

Valuing twelve comes from Babylon (Baghdad). Maybe that's why Christ had twelve disciples, the clock twelve hours, the year twelve months, the zodiac twelve signs, a jury twelve members, etc.

The 'kissing' points are critical in determining merit hands-on. Even billions of democratic people can so relate. A person can progress from the perimeter of a sphere to the inside on proven skills. Merit is preserved. The global village is not managed by one tyrant on top of a throne, but people vote for twelve deserving folks at the helm.

A problem of today's pyramid organisation of society is that some humans are seen as better than others. Their will prevails. It isn't very democratic, or fluid, but is time-tried 'natural selection'. Wanting rights goes back thousands of years,

witness the female ISIS cult in Egypt, or Greek voting.

Every right granted has responsibilities attached.

In future, a fair economy encourages skills, looks after people, does not harm nature, is renewable. Egalitarian. All people are born with equal merit.

Humans recognise differences in capacity: someone being senior, or schooled. Saving for later, or instant gratification? One progresses, from young to old, fumbling to fine, inexperienced to experienced, etc.

Merit counts. Levels of education and virtue are not the same. Is the opinion of an oaf the same as a talented genius? The answer is clearly no. Why visit an incompetent doctor, or go back to a restaurant that serves lousy food?

The problem with opportunism is not just that it may be unfair and dangerous, but harms Earth: mankind fouls its own nest, exploits, uses what pleases, buys available products. Society acts predatory. Thankfully there are laws against harming, incest, theft, abuse, etc.

The problem seems that



Earth is overpopulated, but people can adjust habits. Population caps in a galaxy that can hold trillions makes no sense.

Harming other tribes and conscious animals allows this scarcity and abuse. They are DNA relatives. People need to eat, some say, but plant proteins can fill stomachs, are easier to digest, make the body healthy, the mind creative, are cheaper, tasty, etc.

Many teachers, like Buddha, Lao Tzu, Rumi, Zoroaster, Patanjali, Mahavira, Francis of Assisi, White, Tolstoy, Shaw, have urged people to become herbivore. Even folks as divergent as Albert Einstein, Rudolf Steiner and Paul McCartney saw the herbivore light. Taste is a habit. It can be destructive. Opportunism is for predators, but Earth runs out of a free lunch by 2100.

There may be a period where mankind is split between Homo Sapiens, who believe they have the freedom to harm environments, and Homo Universalis, who loves sustainable community.

Most people want to live on a renewable planet, but some may not realise that the environmental crisis may be fuelled by their own habits.

Strong state budget for climate action and nature

by Chris Gambian,
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

The NSW Government has delivered a strong budget for climate action and nature, investing significantly in clean energy and koalas and extending the Saving Our Species Program for another five years.

This is probably the best budget for climate and nature we have seen from the Coalition.

The government has already made a significant commitment to renewable energy, with the injection of \$380 million in energy infrastructure, and its new policy to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles with a \$500 million package is welcome.

The government has also allocated \$300 million to help ensure the sustainable future of coal mining communities, noting that these communities need support as the global economy moves away from carbon-based

energy options.

The extra \$193 million for koala conservation is also very welcome, even though it is unclear how the government will spend the money.

There's money to keep the Saving Our Species (SOS) program going, though funding is down \$25 million, but the government has committed to extending the scheme with another \$75 million over five years.

There is money for acquiring new national parks, and it would be good to see some more acquisitions on the coast, particularly the Great Koala National Park.

However, there has been a 25% funding cut to the Natural Resources Commission's operating budget. Over the past few years, the NRC has highlighted significant shortcomings in the design and delivery of the government's land-clearing laws and water-sharing plans.

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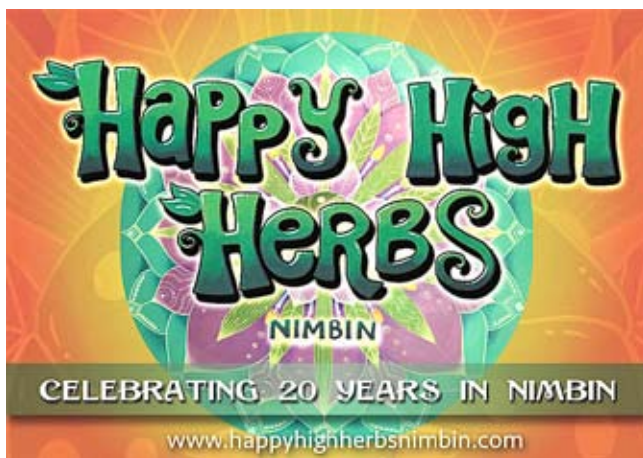
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Buy Back Nimbin Dreaming

by Michael Balderstone

It made me imagine what it might have been like 50 years ago. A bunch of idealistic dreamers sit down and start talking about an Aquarius festival.... a back to the Earth gathering.

And here we are dreaming of a new way again, sitting on the Rainbow Cafe land which was purchased because of those university student meetings back in 1971.

It's 2021 now and we are here dreaming this time of buying back a piece of land in the centre of the village, for a park. A motley crew of dreamers possibly quite similar to the 1971 meeting.

The fire seven years ago that razed the buildings which held the Rainbow Cafe, Museum, Bringabong and Tribal Magic is now a grassy patch with the majority up for sale, maybe even all of it.

A development has been approved for the Museum side of the land for multiple shops, cafes, a bakery and a medical centre.

But we've got used to the vacant land which after the fire we were shocked by.... the big space in the middle of the village. Like its two front teeth had been knocked out. Now many of us enjoy the open green space with trees growing in it. And a great view of Nimbin's sacred rocks.

And suddenly it's up for sale. The dreamers think, let's buy it. Leave it a park. Lucia made a poster and we had a meeting. Maybe 20 people came.

And we thought why not? Make a Go-Fund-Me appeal. Buy Back Nimbin.

Keep more green space in the middle of the village instead of more shops.

A thousand people putting in a thousand dollars each makes a million dollars, someone said, and nobody at the meeting thought they couldn't get a thousand together. In fact, everybody I asked said yep, I'll buy a share. Some said they'd buy a few, one said ten.

So we got our hopes up and thought, why not give it a go? They're asking \$1.5 million, but we may get it for less. We may get more in the Go-Fund-Me like the Flowhive did, and start an even bigger buy back Nimbin movement.

There are many suggestions on how we look after it. But to Keep It Super Simple... as in KISS, I guess we need a committee, though I'd love another word. A group of dreamers who agree the park is not about making a profit, but it has to be maintained and rates paid. To pay rates, small blanket stallholders could contribute 10% of takings. We'd find a way, no big deal.

A stage would be good. And helpful as a homeless shelter. If we could afford it, a toilet and shower. There is nowhere for the homeless or hopeless to have a shower like the Museum offered. Someone suggested a wishing well. I'd build it like a temple! If Nimbin was in India it would be a Holy Town.

I heard the Catholic church was sold recently and the Anglican church was auctioned today. Two and a half acres in the middle of town. Word is, a nice Sydney family who love gardening bought it for \$730K. Phew. Great!

"Buy Back Nimbin began as a group of locals who would like to prevent the

development of Mingle Park and keep it as Mingle Park," Lucia wrote. "We would like to set up a not-for-profit where we can receive money in an on-going crowd sourcing campaign to buy not only Mingle Park but maybe the Rainbow Cafe block owned by Tuntable..." if it becomes for sale, as is being discussed.

Nimbin is full of dreamers, but this idea has caught people's eye and got good support. Maybe it's over the top, but we the people, together, could really do something significant here. We actually probably need closer to \$2 million to do a good job of it, but maybe that is possible.

It did remind some of the beginning of the Tuntable Community when people scratched together \$200 to put into that dream. Maybe shares should be \$500, or \$1000, but clearly we need bigger contributors also.

And what do you get in return? A nice certificate and your name on a wall for your grandchildren to look up. Sure, but really you get to be part of the true Nimbin hippy dream of harmony between the people and the planet.

Not competing with each other like they would have us do, not playing Monopoly like nearly everyone else, but being genuinely alternative and walking the talk, putting our money where our mouths are, into community, the best thing we have.

Buy Back Nimbin meetings are held on Wednesdays in Mingle Park at 1pm, all welcome. By the next *GoodTimes* we should know how real or not it's become!

Leaving Australia for foreign shores

by Jazmin Theodore

I turned 30 at the end of 1968. I'd worked very hard and got myself together money-wise with my then boyfriend George.

We paid the money and left Australia on 16th February 1969 to go to Hong Kong via the Philippines, staying briefly at the Manila Hotel.

It was a very male-dominated town, filled with hooners driving the city streets screaming insults to people. We couldn't wait to leave and arrived at Honkers (everyone called Hong Kong 'Honkers' in those days) on the 18th February, feeling jet-lagged but happy.

Hong Kong was such an unbelievable place that we fell in love with it almost straight away. It was such a bustling city, despite the fact that Hong Kong and Sydney both had populations of around 3-4 million people at the time.

I left Sydney to go to Hong Kong intending to be away for six weeks but didn't return until nearly five years later.

I felt immediately at home in Hong Kong and within four days I could separate out all of the words when listening to people speaking Cantonese. It was quite interesting.

George and I lived in in



Jazmin and George when they arrived in Hong Kong in 1969.

Tin Mun Toy Do, which means Observatory Hill Road. I was so at home that I comfortably spoke Cantonese within six months of my arrival.

After being in Hong Kong for eight months, I took a contract to work in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand where I made enough money to go to London and have my operation, where I stayed for 10 months.

I missed Hong Kong and I found London quite hard. Finding digs was quite a hassle, and London wasn't as easy going as Hong Kong had been.

I arrived back in Hong Kong in early 1971 and immediately got work stripping and belly dancing all over Hong Kong, and had a very laid-back lifestyle.

I also went back to working in Malaysia and

Singapore. It was such a beautiful time to travel.

At this time, I saw the end of Somerset Maugham's world. A wonderful storyteller, Somerset Maugham travelled around the world documenting and publishing intrigue and glorious accounts of people's lives.

I once met a man whose nickname was the "Little Wolf". He spoke with an Oxford accent, despite having been found being brought up by a family of wolves.

Found as a toddler, he was adopted by well to-do plantation owners who brought him up and educated him beautifully.

I also met the Paramount Chief of the Dayak People, who had ears down to his shoulders. That whole area had been an area where head-hunting had been practised.

I was told that in the 1920s, the Raj had built a bridge across the river but no-one would use the bridge. Asked why, people said that they wouldn't cross the bridge because there were no shrunken heads displayed on the bridge, apparently a prerequisite for local tribes to cross.

In 1971, I was rowed up the river in Kuching in a dragon boat - delightful days.

Bowlo Music in July

by Mel Williamson

Nimbin Bowlo is hosting some musical happenings for July to tempt you out of your Winter fug:

- Thursday 8th July: Open Mic, 6.30pm;
- Friday 9th July: Sarah Stando, 6pm;
- Friday 16th July: The Artisans, 6pm;
- Thursday 22nd July: Open Mic, 6.30pm;
- Friday 23rd July: Mish Songsmith, 6pm;
- Friday 30th July: Dave & Michael, 6pm;
- Thursday 5th August: Open Mic, 6.30pm; and
- Friday 6th August: Sarah Stando, 6pm.

The warm and cosy Green Keepers Bistro is open for very tempting winter-



warming dinners Wednesday to Saturday, 5-8pm. Bookings on 6689-1473.

Check out: www.facebook.com/nimbinbowloopenmic where there are lots of photos.

Nim-FM fun(d)raiser and membership drive

On Saturday 17th July, 5pm – midnight at Nimbin Town Hall, your local volunteer run community radio station Nim-FM (102.3FM, programs/live-stream: nimfm.org) is hosting a night of music and fun for all.

Join your Nim-FM radio hosts and station volunteers for a smorgasbord of live music plus DJs – including some of our show presenters.

Some of our fabulous local musicians appearing include Nina Lotus, Johnny Gunja, Dave Barbara and Michael Skinner, Neil Amor (*Second Breakfast*, Tues 10am - 12pm), Brommers (*The Grubbs*, Thursday 10am -12pm), plus more to be announced.

Interspersed will be some of our local DJ's to get your boogie on, including WeRDNA (*Resilience is Fertile*, Thurs 4 - 7pm),



Toecutter (*Human Music*, Tues 1-3pm), and Harpradio (*Harp Radio*, Sun 2 - 5pm).

There will be lots of yummy food available, and lots of lucky door prizes too. Entry is \$25 which includes a free CD and your yearly subscription to Nim-FM! (Annual subscription rates normally \$33 full, \$22 concession.)

Come along and celebrate and support your one and only local community radio station Nim-FM. Face the music.

Old is new again

It is one year since Allira Cornell became the owner of The Regent in Murwillumbah. In that time she has refurbished and upgraded the venue to become a premier destination for the arts.

The Regent is an Art Deco masterpiece, built in 1947 as the cultural centre for Murwillumbah and surrounds. To celebrate the anniversary of this new era there is a special event that celebrates all things 1947.

Dress up in your finest 1947 attire for an evening or matinee of movie cocktails, retro fusion canapés and an exclusive show.

In 1947 the number one song on the hit parades around the world was Nat King Cole's 'For Sentimental Reasons', and we invite you to celebrate with us by presenting an exclusive Regent show, For Sentimental Reasons – Pat Powell sings Nat King Cole.

Nat King Cole was an American singer and jazz pianist. His incredible talent changed the music industry around the world, with a voice that could melt the coldest of hearts. He recorded over 100 songs that became major hits on the pop charts and was the first African-American man to host a US TV series.

There is no-one better to sing the songs of Nat King Cole with such mastery and magic than multi award-winning Pat Powell – one of Australia's most accomplished vocal talents. Growing up in a Jamaican family in the UK, his journey has led to extensive touring to some of the world's biggest stages with a plethora of musical giants. He's unforgettable.

Come and celebrate The Regent, and travel through time to the year of its genesis, to experience the heart-melting beauty that is For Sentimental Reasons.

Two shows only: Saturday 31st July at 7.30pm and Sunday 1st August at 2pm. Tickets \$40/\$35 at: www.the-regent.com.au/special-events/



Also on at The Regent

• **Hat Fitz and Cara – 7.30pm Saturday 10th July**
Hat Fitz & Cara's musical style is a combination of folk, roots and gospel blues. Hat Fitz is a "veteran" wild man of the blues scene and has a record 18 straight appearances at Byron's East Coast Blues and Roots Festival. Cara sings with a belting blues voice, and also plays drums, washboards, flute and tin whistle with flair. Tickets \$35/30/25.

• **World Music Sunday Sessions – Sundays 1-3pm**
From July you will have the opportunity to discover Afro Cuban Jazz with the Power Trio, sweet Brazilian Samba with My Bossa Nova Baby, Middle Eastern Grooves with Indian infusions with Ali Baba, (with belly dancer), the incredible guitarist SoLar, who blends the Blues with Middle Eastern and Latin Roots, Vasudha the Chanteuse will explore Gaelic Roots. Entry by donation.

• **Stand Up Comedy – 7.30pm Wednesday 4th August**
Second in a series of monthly live comedy nights welcoming local and touring comedians, and MC'd by Mandy Nolan or Ellen Briggs. Tickets \$25/20.
For all bookings, go to: www.the-regent.com.au/special-events/

Performance Briefs

Song & Dance 4 Forests

The North East Forest Alliance will be rocking the South Lismore Bowlo on Saturday 10th July to raise funds and awareness. Five bands plus S Sorensen. Meals by the Liberation Cafe and raffles. Entry \$15 / \$10 at the door.

LTC call-out for 2022

Directors wishing to stage a show with Lismore Theatre Company in 2022 are invited to submit a proposal by 30th July.

Proposals will include a budget, the name of a producer, acting, staging and other requirements, using forms available from the artistic directors Jennie Hicks: hicksanddickson@gmail.com or Bette Guy: betimagine@gmail.com

Brolga young person's writing prize

The deadline for entry has been extended to 31st July, to allow young people the time and space to think about and respond to this year's theme, 'Building Bridges'.

The competition is open to anyone aged 12-18 who lives in the Northern Rivers region. More details at: kyogletogether.org.au/kyogle-youth-action

The Loveys album launch tour

See and hear this great group of women deliver divine harmonies and sensational style in equal measure, on Sunday 1st August, 2pm at Kyogle Memorial Hall, presented by the Kyogle and District Arts Council.

Suitable for all ages, tickets available at the door from around 1.30pm: Adults \$15; Family (4) \$25.

Lismore's Eat the Street

The iconic food, art and music festival returns for its 7th year on Saturday, 21st August, along Magellan and Carrington Streets and in the newly refurbished Lismore laneways with two sessions: noon to 3pm and 4pm to 7pm.

Visitors must register to gain entry: www.eatthestreetlismore.com.au

SHINE light art festival

Eat the Street coincides with Lismore's SHINE light art festival of experimental large scale projections and immersive light installations, which runs after dark over four nights, from Thursday, 19th August to Sunday, 22nd August, along Molesworth Street and its laneways. Free.

Hanging Rock's Got Talent

Talent quest on Sunday 5th September from 1pm at Hanging Rock Hall. Junior, Open and People's Choice prizes. Registration required by 25th August.

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

Entry \$10 per adult, performers free.

Nimbin Roots Festival

Held in various venues around Nimbin village over the weekend of 11th – 12th September, Ross Wilson headlining. Weekend tickets \$140, or day ticket \$85. Free concert Friday night 10th.

Camping and other options are available. Go to: www.nrfest.com

National Circus Festival

The re-branded Mullum Circus Festival will be held over the weekend 24th – 26th September at Mullumbimby Showground, with a program of more than 50 events, plus a training program Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd September.

For further information and tickets go to: www.nationalcircusfestival.com

THE REGENT PRESENTS

For Sentimental Reasons

Pat Powell sings Nat King Cole

For our one-year anniversary we are celebrating

1947

the year The Regent was opened

7:30PM SATURDAY JULY 31ST AND
2PM SUNDAY AUGUST 1ST

Nat King Cole

Pat Powell

* Dress Up – 1947 Attire * Movie Cocktails * Fusion Canapés *

TICKETS \$40/\$35 @ WWW.THE-REGENT.COM.AU/SPECIAL-EVENTS/