

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.

Save our special places

It is the night of the full moon, I have just watched it rise up in the sky.

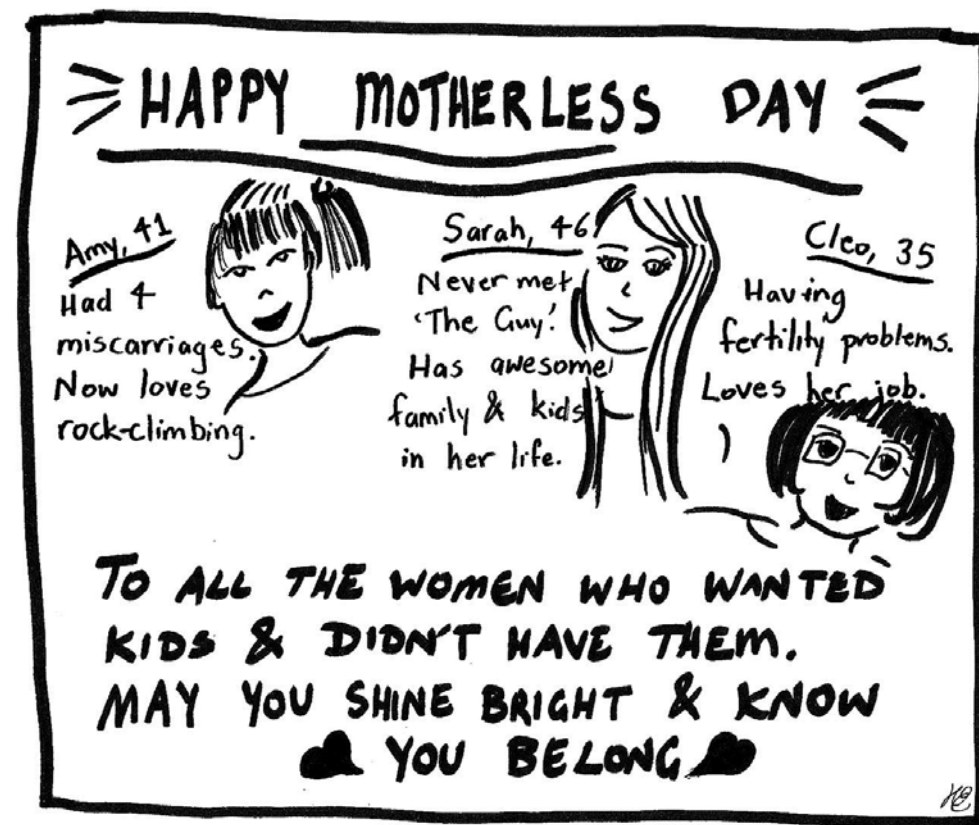
On the other side of my hilled horizon, the Rocky Creek carves its path toward the places where the three creeks meet: Rocky, Tuntable and Terania. I wonder how many moon cycles Rocky Creek has been witness to?

There is a special place along its path; a hidden gorge where the creek has cut its way through time and sandstone. I am imagining the thriving rainforest community in the hidden gorge and how alive it must be tonight. This place is so special, especially because there is so little left.

A continuous stretch of rainforest once covered an area here of 75,000 ha; now less than 1% left. Hills bare and soils eroding into rivers across an ancient landscape are a common sight. The campaign to build a dam in Dunoon would destroy this place forever.

The role of rainforests in the water cycle: rain pours down from the sky and makes its way to the ground, where trees inhale water from Earth and exhale it into a river of water in the sky, and so the cycle continues.

Looking to a future that is



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going to be drier for longer than we can remember, it seems insanity to replace this vital rainforest component from the water cycle with dead storage that has a high surface evaporation.

These small fragmented patches of bio-diverse forest are our last buffers against climate change. If constructed, the Dunoon Dam would be three times the size of the existing Rocky Creek Dam, relying on a catchment area half the size, and overflow from the existing dam to fill it.

Not only is the infrastructure extremely destructive, the logic that drives it is flawed. Destroying this pristine rainforest patch will only perpetuate the problem.

The Widiabul Wia-bal have been caring for this Country since time immemorial, and in turn it has cared for them. Their message is

clear: NO to the irreversible destruction of their remaining cultural heritage, the flooding of the graves of the Ancestors.

This Country here cares for us all – it nourishes us with soil to grow food and water to sustain us and gives us shelter, safety, joy, support, home. We have a responsibility to care for this place as it cares for us. Will you pay your respects and step up and protect it?

Respect for country, respect for each other.

Léandra Martiniello
Whian Whian

Pilloock Pezzullo

The Home Affairs Department Secretary, Michael Pezzullo, has warned of an increasing drumbeat to war, arguing "Australia should not avoid conflict at the price of liberty."

His stupidity, his

irresponsibility, his crass ignorance of the destructive power of existing weaponry that we are presently governed by fools like this, shames us all.

A war with China would be a nuclear war and that would be a tolling bell announcing the death of billions and the destruction of our civilisation.

Michael Brooke
Kyogle

Alternative water supply

There has been no discussion about alternative water supply for people to ponder. Putting up a dam is a disaster in the making, as has been the case in the recent flooding. Do you think we ever learn our lesson and explore alternatives? Recently Lewis Walker, Gubil Fred and myself met with some business people backed by the group Rock

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Environment Centre Inc AGM, Wednesday 12th May, 6pm at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Nominations for executive and committee members will be accepted from the floor. All welcome (there may be pizza). Must be a financial member to vote. NB: General monthly meeting will be held before the AGM at 5pm.

Variety / comedy fundraiser evening

Saturday 5th June, 5.30pm at Nimbin Hall. Come and be entertained by S Sorrensen, Andrea Soler, David Heilpern, David Hallet, Pagan Love Cult, Doug and Biko, Livvy, Jean Paul Bell, Harry Freeman and more... This event is in support of the Aquarius Park and Rainbow Road walking trail, which is a beautiful regeneration project for the delight of everyone for generations to come. \$20 at the door. Food and beverages available.

New publication dates

NGT will now be published on Mondays instead of Fridays, due to a change in arrangements with our printer. We hope it doesn't cause too much inconvenience for our loyal readership.

About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley

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

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

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

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

NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 28th May

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

Against Poverty. They showed a giant dehumidifier that was set up for a school around Moree. This supplies water to the school without needing any other input. Now, we live in an area of high humidity from the sea, where this becomes a sustainable resource rather than a threat to the future to anyone living downstream

from the dam. So speak to your council and advise them that a container-size dehumidifier will produce a steady stream of pure water going to its destination without affecting the groundwater. Considering the options, this is by far the greenest alternative.

Mybarnj Walker



On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan, MP

Northern Rivers School Leaders Event

It was great to be with 300 Northern Rivers school leaders and their family members at our annual event.

Student leaders play an important role in the life of their school community and it's important to recognise them and thank them.

The guest speaker for the event was Nathan Parker. Nathan was injured on the way to his dream job of being a fighter pilot that resulted in him having his left hand amputated.

Despite these injuries, Nathan has continued to pursue his dreams of being a pilot and was this year

named NSW Young Australian of the Year 2021.

Nathan is also a Veteran, an Invictus games gold medalist and a motivational speaker with an inspiring story and message of resilience, determining your own limitations and refusing to give up.

I would like to thank the students,

teachers, mums, dads, carers and grandparents who came along.

Australian economy continues to boom

Great to see the latest job and economic figures. They are very positive.

The unemployment rate has

dropped from 7.5 per cent at its peak to 5.6 per cent in March, job advertisements are at the highest level in two decades, and consumer confidence has hit a 12-year high.

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

Grant for community building

Support for community recovery

Here's some really good news – well we think it is!

Late last year the Chamber put in a grant application to the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund. Following extensive community consultation and feedback, our application focussed on building our community's resilience through information sharing and we are delighted to announce our application for \$117,647 was successful.

The project, funded by both the Australian and NSW governments, is multi-faceted but is primarily aimed at enhancing the experience of visitors to our village in the hope that visitors will stay longer and, while visiting, will learn more about our community, our history and ethos.

While the project is targeted to visitors, we will all benefit from sharing knowledge about much that is Nimbin.

Village signage

Perhaps the most exciting and visible element of the project is the extensive signage that will be installed throughout the village. The Chamber is intending to engage local artists and others in design, with an

emphasis on indigenous involvement and dual language signs. Our plans at this stage include:

- welcome to Nimbin signage at all village entry points;
- Five large signs (two undercover) containing information for locals and visitors;
- plaques attached to buildings telling some of our history;
- a solar-powered audio sign;
- signs identifying places that provide visitor information;
- points of interest signs to promote the Nimbin soundtrails app: www.soundtrails.com.au/soundtrails/nimbin and,
- a directional sign with 10 arms, similar to the sign erected in Allsopp Park during the 1973 Aquarius Festival.

Nimbin's virtual presence

An important element of the grant will update the visit Nimbin website: visitnimbin.com.au Council abandoned maintaining this site last year, and it's our intention to both update it and see it better targeted to the domestic visitor market.

At the same time, we are going to refresh the Chamber's website: www.nimbinaustralia.com.au to ensure its integration with the visit Nimbin website.



Chamber Chat

by Diana Roberts, president

We're also introducing an on-line shop showcasing 'Made in Nimbin' products, and plan to visually depict 40 local businesses or community organisations. The grant includes a photo shoot for each of these.

Importantly, we plan for the website to become a repository for the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan and provide a place to go to for information during any local disasters. A dedicated community website that is well-publicised, managed by the Chamber and supported by local businesses and community organisations will provide an excellent vehicle for resilience building and the information sharing that becomes critical during times of crisis.

Other elements of the grant include designing and printing a Nimbin map and brochure, training a local person to maintain both websites (a role the Chamber

will fund into the future), and developing a social media promotion strategy including content placement on Facebook and Instagram.

The Chamber Executive will all have a role to play in bringing this project to fruition. To assist we have engaged the incredibly creative and organised Steph Seckold, (Chamber Executive member and the driving force at 7 Sibley Street), to oversee the project. We will consult widely in the implementation of the project so please get involved when you see an opportunity.

We hope to have the project completed by the end of the year, so timing is tight. However, we want you all to love and value the outcomes, so we need to hear from you. If you have creative ideas, practical ideas, or strongly held opinions (relevant to the project), and would like to share your thoughts, either drop into 7 Sibley and speak to Steph direct or email us at: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au or snail-mail to c/- 81 Cullen St, Nimbin 2480.

We will keep you up-to-date through this monthly column, via email and Facebook but feel free to chat to us any time.

Bush Tucker Workshop – 29th May

Nimbin Community Market space, 10am-1pm

Led by local bush forager, Peter Hardwick.
Bring your water bottle and a notebook and pencil.



Limited numbers due to Covid-19 restrictions

Register your interest with Tumble Creek Landcare

Email: vanessaapelly@westnet.com.au Phone: 6689-7079

This project received grant funding from NSW Government's Environment Trust Program

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I love working with our community to make a difference.

GETTING THINGS DONE

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Please call or email for information and support.

Nimbin Community Centre doings

by Teresa Biscoe, Co-ordinator

11a Alternative Way

We are finalising the arrangements for a boundary adjustment with the Rainbow Power Company.

RPC approached NCC when the land went on the market, as they were keen to expand their light industrial zone, but only wanted a small portion of the site for this. They asked NCC if we would be interested in the rest of the site for a community park and a possible route for the Nimbin Rainbow Road walking trail project.

This is how we became engaged in the purchase of the site. They are trusted community partners and we are already working with them to organise maintenance on the site and share costs. Fundraising continues at the Community Centre for this exciting new project which will take ongoing funds to develop and maintain the site.

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

Please put your name with the deposit, as we would love to keep a record of and acknowledge the generosity of individuals from our community. You can also go into the Summerland Credit Union and ask for the Rainbow Road Account.

Fundraising Event: As part of our fundraising for 11a Alternative Way, we are organising a Variety and Comedy Night at the Nimbin Hall on Saturday 5th June. We are planning a family-friendly night with performances from across the Nimbin Community. The



event will start mid-afternoon (around 2.30pm) and we already have some great local acts lined up.

Events and bookings

Term 2 classes and events in the Nimbin Dance Studio, the Birth and Beyond meeting room and Centre grounds have started, and can be seen in our on-line calendar on the website: www.nimbincommunity.org.au/index.php/calendar/month.calendar/2021/05/30/

If you are looking to get fit, learn some dance, and participate in the Nimbin Open Learning Program, please check out their many great and affordable activities on offer.

Apart from the regular Sunday Markets (4th and 5th Sunday of the month) we also have three other events in the Centre Grounds.

The annual Weave and Mend Festival will be held in the Nimbin Community Centre Grounds on 28th, 29th and 30th May. A great opportunity to connect to the community and learn the ancient

art of basket weaving. For inquiries and bookings please call 6689-7129.

We have received a booking in the Centre grounds market space for a workshop in Local Bush Foods identification and preparation with the legendary Peter Hardwick on Saturday 29th May from 10am to 1pm. They are advertising the costs and booking information in this month's edition of the *GoodTimes*, (above right). Limited numbers, so book in early.

Quadrangle development

The Community Centre has been looking at the old assembly area in the heart of the Centre grounds, which has been earmarked for improvements for several years. The NCC are holding a NCC Quadrangle Development Community Consultation Event on Monday 31st May between 10am and 2pm.

We are inviting the Nimbin Community to attend and give their feedback and suggestions on how best to improve this site at the heart of our Centre. This feedback will provide the basis for the final design and inform any applications for funding made for this project.

We welcome your input to our Centre either as a tenant, member of NCC, volunteer or sponsor. We welcome your ideas and suggestions and if you wish to donate for a specific project, will put those funds to good use on the selected project.

If you wish to know more about contributing in any way to the Community Centre, please contact our office on 6689-0000 or at: nnci@nimbincommunity.org.au

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Local best bet for Council

by Teresa Biscoe

Long-time Nimbin resident Gwen Trimble will be standing for election to Lismore City Council.

Her decision, made after much deliberation, provides an opportunity for Nimbin to again have a voice in the decision-making body, something we have not had since 2004 when Diana Roberts retired after serving 12 years. During those years we saw many positive improvements in our village as a consequence of a spokesperson effectively representing our community's needs.

Gwen has been very engaged in the Nimbin community, loves our village and would do her utmost to represent your views and lobby for Nimbin and surrounds.

Gwen is running for council with Elly Bird on the independent, grassroots "Our Sustainable Future" party ticket. In the April 2021 edition of NGT, Diana Roberts outlined why this approach gives us the best chance of seeing a Nimbin representative and voice on Council.

Elly similarly supported Guy Stewart last election and, while Guy was not successful and only Elly was elected, Cr Bird has a much higher profile this election, having served five years as a respected and valued councillor, who has supported the Nimbin community.

Elly was elected to Council when cyclone Debbie devastated Lismore. Recovery and creating more resilient communities became a significant focus for her and she has done some amazing work in this area, work that was incredibly useful for Nimbin during the bushfires we experienced.

As number two on Elly's ticket, Gwen is in a good position to win a place on the new Council line-up and become an advocate for the often-overlooked voices of the rural and village communities in the Lismore LGA.

Gwen will be known to many for her work on the *Lismore Echo* and her work on the counter at Nimbin Motors and the Nimbin NRMA, where her husband, Carl, is renowned for his service as an NRMA mechanic and for his love of vintage cars.

Gwen is a marriage celebrant and has married many local couples. For over 10 years Gwen



has also worked in the bowels of the Emporium, managing their accounts.

Gwen has done much for our local community, working quietly (and sometimes not so quietly) behind the scenes. She has been a member of Lismore Council's Nimbin Advisory Group for almost six years.

Gwen drove the campaign for Nimbin's rural water consumers to retain their town water supply and she is currently working to reverse the Council requirement for the installation of street lighting in rural subdivisions.

Gwen was one of our Covid-safe swimming pool marshalls over summer, dedication that allowed the pool to remain open. She was also active volunteering in the 'No CSG campaign including Lock the Gate surveys.

Gwen is currently semi-retired and feels she now has the time to devote to the demanding role of councillor.

Both Gwen and Elly are passionate about taking a leading role in minimising and mitigating the effects of global warming while protecting and enhancing our environment. Gwen believes these should be key issues globally, nationally and locally.

They are also committed to seeing growth and development around our village managed in such a way that retains the Nimbin we love.

Other policy areas include ensuring we have water security for all; improving our sporting and recreational facilities (community run but deserving of greater Council support); maintaining our mobile library; supporting local businesses and, of course, maintaining and improving the condition of our roads.

Council elections are on 4th September, so please speak to Gwen in the street or contact her by email: gwentrimble@gmail.com

Planning for disasters

by Cr Vanessa Ekins,
Mayor, Lismore City Council

People in Nimbin have been talking about disaster recently – storms, landslips, floods, droughts, heatwaves, bushfires – and they have a plan, the 'Nimbin Community Disaster Plan'.

It is not just a big document with contact names, numbers and websites, it has goals!

The first is to be prepared and starts by asking questions: is there adequate access to water? Are there enough rainwater tanks? The answer is no! More rainwater tanks are needed and the village water supply is at capacity.

Council estimates another 45 houses can be hooked into the dam but 129 lots have been approved for

development. There is not enough water. The solutions include increasing sources such as groundwater or recycled water, and increasing storage such as another dam or rainwater tanks.

I suggest getting rainwater tanks, but this is a conversation we will be having over the next year while the treatment plant is being constructed.

The second goal is to connect, and one example is with Disaster Days at the Nimbin Show. I love this idea of holding workshops on water, mental health, what to pack, etc. The next goal is sharing, by providing people with mind-mapped information about what happens locally.

The final goal is to participate, and identifies teams and roles such as the very important Food Co-ordinator.

I am very impressed with this



Nimbin Community Disaster Plan. It says that Nimbin will keep working and doing things as a community because this is where strength and resilience is formed.

Well done, and I look forward to supporting the actions in the plan. A prepared community is a resilient community.

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



Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

It's budget season, and Lismore City Council has been deep in budget deliberations for a number of months now.

We have been working hard to deliver a bottom up, zero-based budget. This means that every item in the budget is interrogated and based on actual costs and projections rather than estimates or best-guess scenarios.

It's been the most rigorous process we have ever been through in my time on Council, and our staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure accurate and robust information to inform the budget. It's a big task.

Council's activities are substantial – we build and maintain infrastructure including roads, bridges, water, sewer, and buildings; we manage waste collection and disposal providing services regionally through our waste facility on Wyrallah Road and through the Nimbin Transfer Station; we manage potable water distribution and supply; we manage Blakebrook Quarry and the Lismore Airport; we manage the Lismore Art Gallery, the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre, the Lismore Memorial Baths and the Nimbin Pool.

We manage numerous sports fields and facilities including Oakes and

Budget on public exhibition

Crozier Ovals and the Albert Park Baseball Complex; we manage regional library services as the executive council for the Richmond Tweed Regional Library; we deliver and support community events; we oversee development applications in accordance with NSW planning legislation and then manage compliance with granted approvals; we manage ongoing compliance and regulation of business activities; and we play a significant role in managing the impacts of disasters and emergencies.

Often I see commentary about Council that is along the lines of "Why haven't they fixed the pothole on my street – where does the money go?" As you can see, the money has to stretch to cover a huge range of activities and expenses. As I have explained before in these columns, our revenue simply does not match our expenses and we can't do everything that we want to or everything we should do.

There is still a lot of work forecast for the coming year, and the budget has a significant grant component again this year, including \$11.4 million for roads and \$4.2 million for bridges. As other levels of government continue to put money into infrastructure as an economic repair strategy, we are likely to see more money coming to us for capital projects. Unfortunately capital grants of this kind do not address general maintenance, which is a real issue for us and for many other regional councils.

We continue to carry millions of dollars each year of expenses put onto Council by the state government which is known as 'cost-shifting', and because Council is a function of state government we have no choice

but to absorb those costs. We do get some untied funding from the Federal Government, known as the Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs), but these grants had a three-year freeze on indexation placed on them in 2014 which led to a significant comparative reduction, and they have not substantially increased since then. Perhaps in recognition of the pressures councils are under, the FAGs might be increased in the upcoming federal budget, but as usual I won't be holding my breath on that one.

The fundamental problem facing Local Government is that expenses continue to increase at a greater rate than revenue, which means that year on year we are falling behind, and as a result we aren't able to put the money required into maintaining our infrastructure. This has been happening for many years and is a serious, compounding issue. That said, with the hard work of staff, we have managed to deliver a budget for 2021/22 with a forecast cash deficit of around \$200,000.

By the time this is printed, the budget should be on exhibition on our website for public comment. I encourage you to have a look and to familiarise yourself with the full range of activities we cover.

In other news, I am delighted to be running in the upcoming election with Nimbin resident Gwen Trimble as my number two. With a strong campaign, I am optimistic that we will get her elected and at long last we will once again have a Nimbin councillor on Lismore City Council.

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

Goodbye Shenhua

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

News that the NSW Government has finally seen the light and struck a compensation agreement with Shenhua to not proceed with its Watermark Coal project at Breeza on the Liverpool Plains is a win for community and commonsense.

I know many locals, including the Knitting Nannas Against Gas, the Country Women's Association and farmers have been working tirelessly and in a united front, towards this welcome outcome, some for more than a decade.

Too often big money and influence wins out over the will of local people, but thankfully not in this case.

I'm sure that farmers and conservationists on the Liverpool Plains would have been buoyed by the consistent support from like-minded folk here on the Northern Rivers.

The \$100-million compensation deal negotiated with Shenhua is a relatively small price to pay for protecting our prime agricultural land and our groundwater.

Weak on cyber security

The Berejiklian-Barilaro Government has a moral responsibility to notify all 103,000 customers who were exposed to a Service NSW personal data breach by a State player a year ago.

To date it has cost you, the

taxpayer, \$35 million to remediate, and Service NSW has confirmed that only 42,000 customers have been notified that their personal information was accessed.

People have the right to know and that means to be contacted.

People have the right to know that our data has not been kept safe from prurient hackers, at best, criminals at worst.

The Government must implement the recommendations of the recent NSW Parliamentary Cyber Security Inquiry.

These include giving Cyber Security NSW powers in enforcing cyber security in government agencies, moving the responsibility of cyber security to the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and establishing a mandatory data scheme.

\$300,000 in grants up for grabs

Not-for-profit groups and Lismore City Council have until Friday 14th May to apply for the 2021 Community Building Partnership Program, the third such program I have assessed with an independent panel.

If they haven't already done so, I urge Nimbin district groups to apply for their share of a \$300,000 funding pool allocated to our Electorate of Lismore.

Since I was elected as Member for Lismore in March 2019, a total of 45 local projects have been funded under this program, all of which



Janelle Saffin has arranged access for the Knitting Nannas to Ministers and Shadow Ministers. Here Northern Rivers Nanna Judi Summers, seated, and Gloucester/MidCoast Nanna Dominique Jacobs meet with, standing, Rob Allen, secretary/research assistant to NSW Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy Adam Searle MLC, NSW Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Trish Doyle MP, and seated, NSW Deputy Opposition Leader Yasmin Catley MP and Ms Saffin.

have improved the quality of life for people living in local communities.

This is a great small grants program which is heavily over-subscribed; we're looking at an average of 60 applications a year, which to me suggests a huge community need is not being met by the whole gamut of State and Federal funding programs.

In February this year I moved a Notice of Motion in the Legislative Assembly requesting NSW Premier

Gladys Berejiklian to increase this year's allocation to between \$600,000 and \$1 million to ensure more local groups could benefit.

The team administering this program will not accept late applications. I am happy to be briefed on projects and can provide letters of support within this timeframe.

The Community Building Partnership Program has awarded more than \$362 million to over

16,600 projects since it was established by the then Labor government in 2009.

Applications opened from Monday 19th April and close at 5pm, Friday 14th May 2021. Applicants must read the program guidelines to ensure their club or organisation, and proposed project, are eligible.

For more information about the NSW Government's 2021 Community Building Partnership Program, visit: www.nsw.gov.au/cbp



by Cr Darlene Cook,
Lismore City Council

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable MardiGrass festival. I noticed the police presence was again a bit heavy-handed in places, but I hope that did not detract from visitors and locals having a wonderful time together.

I've been away for a week down on the mid coast area for a family get-together. This family event was planned for last year, but between Covid and a death in my family, was deferred until April this year.

I was hoping to explore some of the Myall Lakes National Park, but most of the park was closed because of

Road maintenance a massive issue

the heavy rains they received in March and April and many of the roads were still covered by water. So you could canoe down the road, but not drive!

I know we complain about the potholes here in our local roads, but I assure you the potholes are just as numerous, large and deep on the mid coast. At the entrance of one caravan park, drivers had to weave across the road very slowly for over 100 metres, as the entire road surface resembled moon craters.

They have the same issues we do with soaking wet road bases being undermined by springs and watercourses. It doesn't matter how much Councils spend on road maintenance, nature will find a way to move the road sub-base which will then cause another pothole.

Council budget

Council's budget will be debated on Tuesday 4th May

before going out on public exhibition. Included in that budget is close to \$10M for general road maintenance almost \$32M in new road constructions, re-seals and existing road reconstruction.

General rates have gone up by the state government cap of 2%; waste management rates by around 3.5 – 4%; waste water by 1.77%; and water charges by 8.5% – due to Rous County Council's future capital works program costs being passed onto local councils.

Council is predicting a Net Operating Result for the 2021-22 year to be \$16.6M, but if we exclude grants for capital works and only look at operating cost, we will have a deficit of \$19.4M and a cash shortfall of \$207,000.

Council's financial position remains challenging. Council's revenue base is insufficient to maintain its current asset base and to deliver target

service levels, which results in limited capacity to address asset maintenance backlogs (including road improvements) and deliver discretionary services and activities such as tourism and economic development initiatives.

Although Council has been successful in securing significant grant funding for FY21/22 and beyond, it does not address the issues associated with Council large infrastructure maintenance requirements and backlog.

Further action will be required by Council to address the long term sustainability of Council whilst addressing its infrastructure issues and delivery of the levels of service expected by the community.

Council's draft Operational Plan will also be placed on public exhibition. This plan details all the activities and projects Council commits to undertaking during the

next 12 months. The Plan shows this year's activities continuing on from the four-year Delivery Plan approved in 2017.

Once the budget and operational plan are on exhibition, the community has 28 days to comment on it and lodge submissions about it before it comes back to Council for further consideration in June.

I encourage you all to take time to look at the operational plan and the projects that relate to Nimbin, especially bridge replacements, road reconstruction and reseals and Stage 2 of the Nimbin water supply.

Water management strategy

Also on public exhibition at the moment is Rous County Council's revised Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy. The preferred options include groundwater

supply from Alstonville, and Tyagarah and Woodburn bores, as well as investigations of direct and indirect potable reuse of waste water

There are a number of groups in the community and on social media lobbying for submissions for and against the options in the strategy. Two groups are very serious about getting the Dunoon Dam back on the table as the preferred option and are using inflammatory language and scare tactics about potable water re-use.

I urge you all to take time and consider your position on the strategy to secure future water security for the region and let Rous know your opinion at: <https://rous.nsw.gov.au/future-water-for-our-region>

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

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Mother Earth gave us life, but for how much longer?

by Bernadine Schwartz

Throughout our history as a species there has never been this many people living together so closely, particularly here in Australia where according to the last census, 71% live in cities and suburbs and one in ten live in small rural towns.

I believe it explains a lot and that's why I want to grab them all by the shoulders and give them a bloody good shake. They've forgotten that they live on a planet!

What they see and what I see are two completely different worlds.

Every morning when I watch that sun poke its head above Blue Knob, I know exactly where I live and when the sun goes down, I'm ever so fortunate to see all those stars twinkle like glitter across the sky, reminding me there's more to life.

But those same stars have to compete with the bright lights of progress every night and they never succeed and there's no sunrise to be appreciated if it's hidden behind an overcrowded sky every morning.

A cold world, where trees are forced to live an unnatural, solitary life, their roots smothered beneath concrete and surrounded by acres more and Mother Earth is nowhere to be found. All that's left are a few pitiful remnants, and here lies the crux of the problem.

How can society grieve and mourn for something when it doesn't exist in their lives?

When I was a child, Christmas beetles filled the air. You would find them in the letterbox, on the window sills and they always managed to get inside the house, and there were cicadas too. Children couldn't get their hands on them quick enough and they even gave them names, Green Grocer, Yellow Monday, Tom Thumb, Double Drummer and the most prized possession, the Black Prince. There were cocoons of all shapes and sizes, tadpoles in the creek and even the occasional visit from a blue tongue lizard. It was a child's introduction to the wonders of nature.

You could be forgiven for thinking I grew

up in a rural town, when in actual fact I lived in Sydney, in the very heart of suburbia, but now that world isn't only a distant memory, it doesn't exist anymore.

Mother Earth has lost 50% of her insect species in the last 50 years and today 80% to 90% of the population has disappeared. A study published in the *Biological Conservation* journal suggests they could all completely die out in coming decades.

Of the million known species left, 41% are facing extinction, especially bees, butterflies, beetles and moths and according to Dr Latty, an entomologist from Sydney University, these little things have been running the entire planet.

Our amphibians are also in crisis and close to disappearing, with populations crashing at a much higher rate than suspected. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list has identified one in three amphibians as endangered or critically endangered, with predictions that Europe will lose every single species of frog and toad within the next 40 years.

In Australia there's been a dramatic decline in populations since 1980, with 15 species currently endangered, 12 highly vulnerable and 4 now extinct, a word that's becoming all too familiar in this country, where we currently have the highest rate of extinction for mammals in the world.

We have the largest number of bird species, 830 or nearly 1 out of every 10 on the planet, and the three primary species, the pigeon, the parrot and the songbird all originated right here, but we certainly can't brag about our love and care for them.

According to Birdlife Australia we have 67 species of birds currently endangered with only 11 having up-to-date recovery plans, and the catastrophic fires have only added to their decline. This includes the remaining 200 to 400 regent honeyeaters, which are now critically endangered.

All the males have a song that's vital to the survival of their species, not only for communicating but for attracting a mate, and there are only two major populations



Critically endangered Regent Honeyeater
Courtesy Southern Highland News

surviving, in the Blue Mountains and the Northern Tablelands.

Older males have always been there to teach the young males their song, but there are very few left and this has led to some creating their own version, while others have shortened it.

Alarmingly, some have adopted the exact call of the noisy friarbird, wattlebird, eastern rosella and the spiny-cheeked honeyeater, which is simply unheard of, and tragically the loss of their song will eventually bring them to extinction.

Our flying foxes are also in crisis, with whole colonies in the tens of thousands erased after the fires and thousands more lost to heat stress, something all flying foxes are highly susceptible to, which spells disaster in a warming climate.

They've always been treated as pests, when in fact they're highly specialised pollinators and contribute greatly to the dispersal of seeds, making them crucial to the survival of our forests, especially when most Australian trees need to be pollinated at night.

Our grey-headed flying foxes travel up to 40 kms each night and move hundreds of kilometres throughout the year, following flowers and fruit sources but they're now listed as vulnerable to extinction. Their numbers crashed from 153,000 in 1998 to 80,000 by 2000, nearly halving their numbers in just two years.

The spectacled flying foxes are faring no better, and struggling to serve the forests in the wet tropics and Gondwana Rainforests. In 2004 there were roughly 250,000, however by 2017 they'd fallen to only 75,000 and they've shown no signs of recovery since. Instead, in November 2018 another 23,000, or a third of the remaining population, died from heat stress.

Our native animals have enough to deal with, and society's unnecessary need for cats has their backs up against the wall.

A recent study conducted by the Smithsonian Institute revealed the enormity of the problem, with cats now inhabiting 99.9% of the continent and responsible for the death of 75 million native animals, not annually but every night! This isn't just the work of the 2.3 million feral cats in Australia but also the 3.3 million domestic cats living in 29% of households, where many irresponsible owners allow them to roam freely. Yet they claim to be animal lovers.

We have bred a generation of pedigree Homo sapiens and most have no intimate connection with nature at all, and they don't know any different. Instead they're parading about with logos emblazoned across their clothing that brings them status, but really they're like door-to-door salespersons or walking promos, and I can't help but question, who's really been raising our children?

Big Brother, in the form of Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat and much more, is invading our homes and our children's minds, and it's driving Mother Earth and us to extinction.

So who's going to run the show when she's all gone? It looks like it's going to be all those dangerous fools who voluntarily ostracised themselves from their sole provider, Mother Earth. Biggest mistake they ever made.

So now we're going to learn our lesson the hard way. I don't think any more needs to be said.

shapeshifting

by Anand Gandharva

The gap between individual and community may become toxic.

Our world seems to collapse: people are scrambling for safety, sheltering in nature: "every (hu) man for himself". Nimbin valley is an example. People searching for income may forget environment.

Yet community is the sum of all individuals, arbitrates between views, manages economies, taxes profits, protects nature, pays public servants, builds infrastructure, educates, heals, provides safety, makes laws, sets goals, creates common goods etc.

This same state is now distrusted. Are words encouraging, or

disparaging? Dictators seemingly cut the Gordian knot of different opinions. Forcing views on others is decisive, but is a temper tantrum. Alexander cut through rope, instead of untangling different views. Consensus is hard work.

People, no matter how self-reliant, cannot survive without community. And these days one's trail of life is recorded; ties with Nimbin, Terania, Mountaintop, The Channon, Tuntable, Coffee Camp, Goolmangar, Coraki, Alstonville, Brunswick Heads, Mt Barker, Cawongla, Meerschaum, Uki, Mt Nardi, Blue Knob, Lillian Rock, Eden, Mt Burrell, Rock Valley, Bexhill, Bangalow, Billen

Cliffs, Broadwater, Burringbar, Grevillia, Larnook, Roseberry Creek, Bonalbo, Woodburn, Woodenbong, Wollongbar, Wyrallah, Canabia, Ettrick, Suffolk Park, New Italy, Wardell, Drake, Eltham, Iluka, Ocean Shores, Tabulam, Dunoon, Federal, Clunes, Cawongla, Urbenville, Rappville, and other Northern Rivers population centres like Lismore, Grafton, Byron Bay, Casino, Kyogle, Ballina, Lennox Head, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Evans Head, Yamba, McLean, Tweed Heads, the Gold Coast, Tenterfield, Brisbane, Australia. Covid corralled on lands surrounding these places.

Nimbin is part of Lismore City Council, but one may contribute to greater collectives. Shopping at Coles, or Bunnings, supports NSW, Victoria, WA. Putting milk in tea create ties with dairy farmers, Asia. No matter how we live, we belong to

Earth. Our role is not to deny ties, but to guide sustainability.

That's the problem. Because no matter how neatly today's society is organised, it still caters to tribal virtues, class, people seeking to 'maximize opportunity'. We know nature is close to ruin and conflict has no virtue: we must change. Is mankind doomed for extinction?

Living is not easy. Take energy. Australia barely has the infrastructure to support electric cars. Besides, it costs a fortune. A cheap gas-driven car may offer a lifeline, but helps burn land. Sure, many jobs come from solar power, and there's much sun, but it takes time, tolerance, consumer power, visionary representatives,



voluntary simplicity, sustainability.

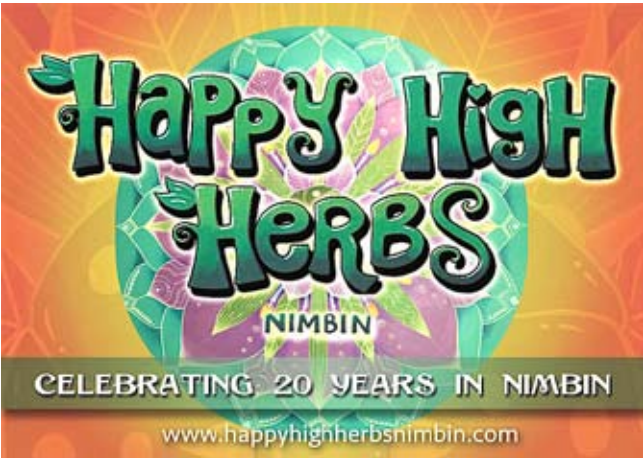
Faith in socialism, or capitalism, sharing and incentives to enjoy the fruits of labour, can drive humanity off the cliff. It is wrong to blame past generations. It is not that Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* was wrong, but times have changed; the 'Invisible Hand' is exposed.

We no longer have abundant nature, but a tired planet. We are no longer four hundred million class-ridden tribal people, but an intermarrying Global Village of eight billion.

Community needs common regulations, but we have so many now, it ties people in knots. We need something simple, but pertinent; like Gandhi, coat-hanger morals we can get our head around: doing more with less, equality and non-violent sustainability.

Green Temple Australia

Medical cannabis works best with education
Step by step dosage programs / Reduce & replace opioid usage
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SHELTER AND THE LAW

House prices rise. Old tenants are replaced by wealthier ones as a matter of course. It's easy to evict a tenant.

The owner of a comfortable home on a wide river moved into the boatshed after his wife threw him out. He didn't return after she left; not many good memories there. Later he granted a short-term lease to a contractor who moved a couple of his workers in on a temporary basis. When the tenant left the workers stayed on, then left. All seemed fine.

Except that a couple of their friends from church had been staying with them.

His ex-wife commenced family law property proceedings. The house valuation came in at a bit over half a million. One day he rang me to say someone had phoned him with an offer of a million and a half and asked for his lawyer's contact details.

When I said it sounded dodgy, he replied, "That's what I thought. Bloke says money's no object, wants to put it straight into my account, do the legals later. Reckons he needs the ocean access for his yacht."

"Can't be done. Not how conveyancing works."

"Why don't I give him your number and you can tell him?"

"No. Just email address. Keep it in writing."

The email didn't take long, but revealed that they were either insane or not very



by John Adams

bright scammers, so I didn't reply; then had to open a different file. The mystery purchaser and his girlfriend turned out to be the ones from the church. They now owned my client's house, citing me as the vendor's solicitor.

After first acknowledging "our Father God, for he is all things, especially the ultimate decision maker for all matter", the email goes on with colons at the wrong end of each sentence:

:Gratitude to Christian Porter and Scott Morrison for Court Orders, relevant to our Trust ownership of Land Selection, Title and Deed moroso, for [address of my client's house].

:At no time are :General Executors of these matters, Tenants of Property, owned by Discretionary Trust unencumbered, moroso when the Property was sold on the fifteenth day of January, 2021 by [my client], with the lawful engagement of John Adams, being the Solicitor for [said client].

He tried everything; contacted local police, cut off services, told their

friends from the church to stop bringing them food, then found section 95 of the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 which operates when squatters stay after the tenant leaves. Way to go.

First you serve them with a notice that they have to leave within "not less than 14 days", then prove to NCAT (the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal) that notice was given in accordance with the section, and the occupant hasn't vacated the premises, and the tenant no longer resides there.

Two weeks after serving them, my client's Urgent Application was heard and judgment delivered a few days later, when a sealed warrant for possession was sent to him by ordinary mail, with strict instructions to deliver it by hand, unopened, to the sheriffs.

These excellent people do all sorts of things, including security at court, which is where I took my client to meet one of my favourites. He told us that the warrant only lasts 28 days, that they're understaffed, and we just might have to go back to NCAT for another.

Weeks later the squatters remain. Bad neighbours are bad. These are far worse. But one day, eventually, we know that the sheriffs will arrive.

My latest email is an invoice for \$5.2 million for "inciting-Harm-Injury-to: General-Executors-then-Damage-to-Trust-Property." Payable in Bitcoin.

Introducing the Solva800

by Diana Gosper,
Rainbow Power Company

Rainbow Power Company is proud to be introducing the newest lovechild from its barefoot brains trust, the Solva800.

Notwithstanding the brilliant and innovative inventions and products that have come before it at RPC (wait for the coffee table book!), the Solva800 addresses a specific problem and comes at an important time in history as we push to quickly phase out non-renewable energy sources.

Perfect for people wanting portable and reliable off-grid (stand-alone) power, this new item can solve energy needs, anywhere, anytime. Energy-conscious consumers can expect to power a small DC pump, charge a laptop and phone, power a few lights and run a TV and stereo, possibly even run an efficient fridge.

Compliant with Australian safety standards, some of which RPC were instrumental in developing through the early days of renewable energy, the Solva is comparatively light, portable and durable, with readily available (short wait-time) power.

RPC have kept it as affordable as possible, starting at around \$2500 not including batteries. It is supported by hefty supplier warranties and RPC's famous after-sales care that is second to none



(all of RPC's stand-alone systems come with after-sales service for the life of the system).

The Solva800 is an instant off-grid power solution, whether it is for a bush block, farm shed, city backyard or your RV, boat, tent or tree house. It is also quite an attractive little unit, when it comes to electrical hardware, suitable for showing off to friends and family.

It is a 12Volt standalone unit that is solar panel ready (for 1-2 370W panels), and comes with an Anderson plug for 12Volt loads, a 650Watt inverter (for 240Volt output), a 50 Amp MPPT solar regulator and 30 Amp battery charger (charge from the mains or a generator when there is no sun), and a battery monitor to monitor the state of your battery at any time.

The power in the system can be accessed via either of the two USB sockets, the car/vehicle 12V outlet, the 50Amp DC outlet or the 650W inverter outlet

at the other end of the unit (for 240V appliances). Monitoring is done via your smart phone and Bluetooth 'Victron Connect' app.

One of the many great things about this product is you don't need a licensed electrician to install it; all of the legal safety and technical requirements have been done in the RPC workshop, to Australian standards.

Powerful, versatile and affordable, the Solva800 is a revolution in take-away DIY solar power, and is available now at Rainbow Power Company.

RPC has been around for 34 years and is accountable for its workmanship and workmanship, and staunchly uses only the best quality components with the longest warranties, from suppliers that are known solar companies with offices in Australia.

Phone 6689-1430 and enquire about how the Solva800 might just be the perfect off-grid power solution for 2021.



by Aniko Papp

Over the last few months, the news has been replete with stories of women at their workplaces being bullied, or harassed, or demeaned, or just not treated equally to their male counterparts.

Almost all of this has been against the law in some manner, for many years. Yet women are still subjected to this treatment. One would think that the legal profession would generally comply with such laws, after all, we are part of the judicial and legal system. Lawyers drafted those laws and implement those same laws supposedly protecting women.

Looking back over three decades of practising law, while the profession has improved, my experience is there is still a long way to go before female lawyers are treated equally to their male counterparts.

I recall my first day as a newly-admitted solicitor appearing in the Supreme Court in the early

1990s. With a pile of files before me, I nervously waited my turn at the bar table. I knew I was going to be last, given that senior lawyers preceded me as a matter of course. Yet, after a few hours and I was the only lawyer at the bar table, the Judge kept me waiting and male lawyers arrived after me and all were called to appear.

By the morning tea adjournment, even I noticed that the Judge was calling on self-represented parties rather than lonely little me at the bar table. The Judge's associate came down and murmured to me, "His Honour doesn't see you." Totally bemused, I stammered, "But I am right here."

Eventually the reason for my invisibility was made clear: I was wearing trousers. The Judge cannot see you is legal speak for, "You are inappropriately dressed." My male boss had to come down to Court to appear instead: apparently his trousers allowed him to be seen. Mine were nicer though.

One lawyer boss parted me on the bum. A barrister grabbed my waist and planted a wet sloppy kiss on me as an unwanted goodbye after a work function. Counsel leering at my covered-up cleavage. Being asked to make cups of tea for my fellow male lawyers. Pretty par for the course as a young female lawyer.

I hated appearing before a particularly cranky Judge in Byron



Bay local court who delighted in pretending not to see me at the bar table. He called on every male lawyer in the courtroom before me, even those not seated at the bar table. I would have to ask my male colleagues to point out that I was senior to them, or I was there first before the Judge would sigh and allow me to appear.

Another Judge enjoyed hurling irrelevant questions on obscure points of law at female lawyers, then barrage them with one-liners about their apparent incompetence until they were reduced to tears or shaking.

A female lawyer appearing in one Brisbane Court I was in was so humiliated by the Judge that

even one of the male barristers stood up to defend her and call the Judge out: only the once though. I dared not say a word defending my colleague to that Judge, as I would be subjected to the same terror tactics.

Older male lawyers failing to comply with Court deadlines, or filing documents incorrectly were let off by a Judge who then blasted any female lawyer who committed the same offence in the same courtroom. The treatment of female lawyers before the same Federal Court Judge in the same hearing room was stark. I recall one Judge was so anti-female that I would ask my male boss to appear in a few of my matters, just so my

client would be treated fairly.

Greeting clients at reception and seeing their look of surprise to be told that, "No, I am your lawyer, not the secretary." Going to Court, dressed well with my file in hand and being asked if I was a witness or a party, was also par for the course.

Male lawyers all having a day off work every couple of weeks to play golf with fellow male lawyers. Paid by the firm to drink all afternoon at the local golf club in the name of networking. Female lawyers never invited. Yet we female lawyers on our networking events often did so in our own lunchtime at our own cost: guess you cannot swing a club at a café.

Trying to work part-time after having a baby proved almost impossible at one firm. Failing to respond to emails or phone calls outside of shortened hours or on days off was frowned upon and if you did so, you were not paid anyway for those hours not in the office. Boss's eyes rolling if one had to leave the office early due to a sick child.

Only recently at a legal workplace, a female lawyer was offered \$10,000 less than an equally junior but less experienced male lawyer to work at the same firm.

Things are better now; I can wear trousers in Court. And I am no longer invisible.



The 2021 season kicks off

by Lucy White and Mark Wright

It has been a wet start to the season for our senior teams, making pre-season preparation quite difficult. Until recently, this meant no outdoor training at the club for some weeks.

Seniors, including the two women's teams (League 2 and 4) and three men's teams (League 1, 4 and 6), have been utilising the Nimbin Central School MPU. Many thanks to the school for the use of their facility, it is very much appreciated.

Although a lot of fun is had and we make the most of what's available, the indoor futsal style training is no substitute for the much needed outdoor on the grass preparation required for full field competitive games.

While the wet weather put the season's opening games in jeopardy, a few days of timely sunshine enabled the new season to get underway and football was gleefully played outdoors. The Women's League 4 kicked things off on Friday night 26th March with a hard fought 6-2 loss away to Goonellabah, followed by the Men's League 4, who lost 3-1 in Byron Bay, and the Men's 6ths rounded the weekend off with a convincing 5-0 victory at Alstonville.

The Women's League 2 game against Casino was postponed and the Men's League 1 had a bye.

Wet weather has continued to wreak havoc on the playing schedule, with games either moved or postponed, and at times played in heavy rain and on sodden pitches. Three weeks into season, the Men's League 1 finally got under, smashing 7 goals to nil against Alstonville at home, and the Women's League 2, defeated Workers 3-2 away from home in front of a large Headers crowd. Seniors are well into the season now, and all teams are doing the Headers proud.

The first round of games for Junior competitive and Minirooms teams was held on the weekend of 1st May. We are excited to have Grade 16, 15, 14 and 13 teams in the competitive age groups this season.

Our Grade 14s team is looking for a coach, so anyone who is willing to give this a go will certainly be rewarded by the satisfaction that comes with this task. Desirable skills include a willingness to learn and teach, enthusiasm and patience. In the meantime, our amazing technical director, Torsten, will be coaching the team.



Minirooms at training

Numbers in our 14s, 15s (all female team) and 16s teams are a little low, so new players are welcome, but time is running out and registrations will be closing soon!

We have Minirooms teams in Grades 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11. Minirooms train on Tuesdays from 4-5pm. There is no competition ladder in the Minirooms, and while all the kids are keen to acknowledge the end result of a game, Minirooms is about participation and nurturing a love of the game.

All players in a team are important, so we urge parents and carers to ensure that the ethos of participation is remembered on the sidelines. More numbers would be helpful in Grades 6 and 7, so please register before it's too late.

Big thanks to the many volunteers who contribute to the wonderful Nimbin Headers Sports Club. Thanks to your energy and enthusiasm, we continue to provide organised sporting activity in our community. Getting involved in the running of the Headers is a great way of meeting new people and developing new skills.

A big shout-out to the many local businesses that support our club, from sponsoring our team shirts to donating raffle prizes. We are so lucky to receive your generous contributions. We are excited that Wednesday raffles have recommenced at the Nimbin Hotel, and tickets are sold between 6 and 7pm, with the raffle being drawn at 7pm.

Our canteen will be up and running this season, and we encourage our amazing parents / partners / club supporters to step up and help our dedicated canteen manager, Vickiemaree, by offering your time in the canteen.

All funds raised by the canteen and through the raffles, contribute to the ongoing costs of running our community-owned facility.



Men's League 6 team, at their first match of the season against Alstonville

Men's League 7 champions chasing League 6 title

by Daniel Walsh

The men's 7th division champions have moved up to 6th division this year, and they're hoping to claim another title.

The side has started the year well with a 5-0 win against Alstonville. It was a great team effort, with five different goal scorers on the day.

Round 2 was meant to be home game, but due to heavy rain we were unable to play at fortress Nimbin.

However, our neighbours Dunoon were kind enough to let us use their grounds in the line-up against Pottsville, who proved to be a worthy opponent.

The scores were back and forth, but we came away with a 5-3 win in the end.

In round 3 we headed into Lismore to play Workers on a Friday night. We opened the scoring early and Workers were stunned as the Headers dominated and completely outplayed them in the first half, but the game wasn't over at half time and Workers came out hard in the second half.

It was a tough night in the office with some very tough and sometimes rough opponents in the Workers players. We came away with another win in the end 2-1.

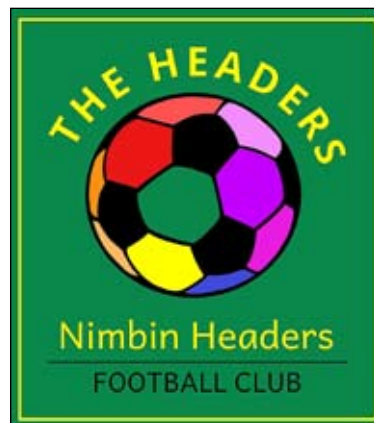
Round 4 was another Friday night game, this time all the way over the hills in Mullumbimby to face Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club.

With storms in the area, it was a wet night and we were down a few players due to injuries. It was going to be a hard game.

We started slow and they were on the ball, putting away a few goals on us early and leaving us to re-group.

We got a couple of goals back as the game went on, but in the end, we suffered our first loss since mid 2020, going down 3-2.

We are all keen to get back in the winner's circle, with our next game against Richmond Rovers back at the mighty fortress on Saturday 8th May at 1pm.



Meeting Annette Kellermann

by Jazmin Theodora

It's amazing how some circumstances bring such incredible change in one's life.

As I started living as a woman, each time I went out I had on a scarf and lipstick and was finding out about being a woman. My hair was just growing over my ears and I was living in a house with knockabouts and different people, and Bumper Farrell raided the place.

He said to me, "You! Get a job and get a haircut. I'm coming back here next week and if you're not working, I'm going to charge you with vagrancy, so get a job and a haircut."

So after living for five months as a woman, I got a job at Grace Brothers at Broadway. After a month or so, Miss Wilton, one of Mr Grace's secretaries, came to me one day and said, "Look love, a letter arrived for you and was opened by mistake and so here it is."

I said, "Who would write to me here?" And she said, "I'll give you two quid for the letter!" And I said "No, I'd better have it." I had won first prize with a



two-shilling raffle ticket, for the Lady Mayoress Relief Fund for the Maitland and Morpeth Flood Victims.

It was a return ticket to Coolangatta and a two-week stay at the Chevron Hotel at Surfers Paradise.

Outside the Chevron Hotel there was a lovely lady who had a stall selling 45 and

33 rpm records. I talked to her every day and one day she said, "I'm going over to Annette Kellermann's place, why don't you come over for a cuppa?"

I had no idea who she was, but we went over to her place and I met her and her husband Sam, who was an American man, a lovely and gentle soul. If Annette came to the Chevron we'd share time, and she told me of some of her life.

She'd swum the English Channel, and she was telling me about a movie she'd made with a storyline, and as we were talking, she said a couple more things, then I said, "I know who you are now... I saw that movie with Ester Williams playing you."

She said, "I boycotted that movie."

I very innocently said, "Why would you do that?"

She said, "Because they made out that my husband Sam was a gangster, just to give the story a bit more oomph and he wasn't."

I can certainly vouch he was a really lovely man.

We had the most amazing talks about Hollywood in the early days.

The MooNoChoo solution

The future of farming is mixed. Orchard establishment and grazing can complement and improve each other, if trees can be protected properly.

Unfortunately, most tree guards result in a twisted pile of scrap, time and money wasted, and a dead tree.

Moonchoo gives you the ability to grow your home orchard without fencing, destocking, mowing and losing income for several years of tree establishment. Moonchoo is then re-usable, over and over again.

Moonchoo is made on 100% human-powered machinery, and has no manufacturing carbon footprint. All materials are recyclable, Moonchoo is repairable and manufacture is zero-waste and uses zero chemicals.

Moonchoo is a family business near Coraki, and



aspires to create jobs for disadvantaged young rural people, and give farmers an effective tool for self-sufficiency, local food production, establishing habitat and helping rehabilitate degraded landscapes.

See the website: www.moonchoo.com or email: moonchoo@gmail.com

Dunoon Dam not a viable option

by Ros Irwin

An organisation called ‘Our Future NR’ is distributing and promoting information which is intended to have the Dunoon Dam, which was excluded from Rous Water’s 2020 Water Strategy, back on the agenda. They are committed to having this dam constructed.

Unfortunately, its article in support of the Dunoon Dam tells only a part of the story and seeks to frighten people with hoary old chestnuts that are at odds with their stated purpose of presenting fact-based evidence.

The spokesperson for the group is, as he says, a Tregagle farmer but is probably better known locally as the National Party endorsed candidate for the seat of Lismore at the last State election.

Our region has some of the highest rainfall in New South Wales, and alarmist suggestions that any option other than the dam below Rocky will not secure our water supply into the future is simply untrue. Indeed, it’s fair to say that the Northern Rivers region would be the least likely in the State to need another dam.

The closest Rocky Creek dam came to being unacceptably low was in 2002 when, at the end of the drought, it was at 22.8%. However, this should never have happened. The long-standing policy at Rous was that restrictions should be implemented when the dam was at

60% full, however this did not occur and, when restrictions were finally implemented, they were far more severe than would have otherwise been necessary.

In contrast, on 13th January 2020, after the Far North Coast had experienced its longest dry period on record (2018-2020) Rocky Creek Dam was 60.7% full.

It is certainly the case that Rous County Council’s bulk water and Casino’s drinking water systems are rated as having a very high risk. Given climate change and its potential impact on rainfall-dependent options for their water supply, as pointed out by the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA), an option which is dependent on surface water is in fact a risk to water security.

It says that “balancing supply and demand efficiently requires us to consider a diverse range of water supply sources, including traditional drinking water sources as well as new or alternative sources such as recycled water and stormwater reuse”.

I suggest that those interested in this issue familiarise themselves with *All Options on the Table*, which can be downloaded at: www.wsaa.asn.au/news/new-report-all-options-table-urban-water-supply-options-australia

Two options put forward by WSAA are indirect potable reuse, and direct reuse of purified water. Several councils in the region have already introduced the use of recycled water but have not yet



introduced purified recycled water for drinking water. The latter is described disparagingly by Austin Curtin and others involved with his campaign – as TTT – ‘toilet to tap’ recycled water.

As the WSAA document reports, “in Australia the primary limitations are not technical, but rather around public perception and political will. In practice it makes sense to have a portfolio of options available, which includes both supply and demand side opportunities, to ensure water resilience for cities and regions.

“In the case of purified recycled

water for drinking, experience globally and in Western Australia, has shown that any potential community concerns can be addressed through elective education and engagement.” (p.9)

The predicted cost of the Dunoon Dam is currently over \$200 million, and my experience in local government tells me that it will be far more than that if implemented. However, just some of the non-financial costs of the dam are inundation of 25 graves of the Widjabul Wai-bal people, for whom this is a sacred site. Needless to say, they oppose the dam.

Furthermore, the dam will intersect an important koala food tree corridor, which is used by koalas that are currently in a very healthy state due to their lack of proximity to an intensive urban area with all its dangers for koalas.

Removal of koala habitat, which is what will happen if the dam goes ahead, is the underlying cause of koalas being on the path to extinction. This is likely to accelerate, given the State Government’s SEPP Koala Habitat Protection, which does no such thing, but that’s another story.

Non-financial costs, including the cost to the environment, are absent from the ‘Our Future NR’ article.

I congratulate those five Councillors who voted against the dam for educating themselves about all the possible options as well as the non-financial impacts of the dam, and seeking alternative options which, unlike the proposed dam, are not reliant on rainfall.

It seems to me that trialling purified water reuse is a sensible way to start as regardless of rainfall it, combined with other appropriate options across the Rous region, would ensure Rous’ Water’s bulk water supply into the distant future.

To me this seems a far better set of options rather than ruling them out and proceeding with the dam which, apart from being dependent on rainfall and likely to increase water insecurity has, as discussed earlier, a number of obstacles that might prove to be insurmountable.

Day for biodiversity

by Philippe Dupuy

The Lismore Environment Centre is planning a special event for UN World Environment Day.

World Environment Day is the United Nations’ main drive for boosting awareness and action for the protection of the environment. Initiated by the UN in 1974, it holds the flag for all nations (after all, there is only one planet) to advance a campaign to redress the ills of modern society.

This year, the theme is biodiversity – a concern that is both urgent and existential. Recent events, from bushfires in Brazil, the United States and Australia, to locust infestations across East Africa – and now, a global disease pandemic – demonstrate the interdependence of humans and the webs of life in which we exist.

Some 143 countries participate every year, and this year will be the first time Lismore and environs is joining.

On Saturday 5th June, Lismore Environment Centre will be holding a commemoration of World Environment Day in Pride Square, adjacent to the old Transit Centre.

There will be stalls from a variety of social and



environmental organisations with fresh and innovative ideas such as sustainable, pleasant and attractive products; advice and support, motivational speakers, cool music, activities for kids and help to create your own planting and regenerative groups.

Let’s not allow this occasion to be only for major corporations, governments and celebrities. It must be for ordinary citizens to be engaged, drive and embrace it. All welcome. Keep an eye out for more information.

The Lismore Environment Centre has been running for seven years, located at the old Transit Centre which was closed by council some 10 years ago. With volunteers, it has managed to keep providing a basic service that has helped marooned travellers, as well as confused locals on basic info such as

timetables, directions and maps.

The Centre interacts with Indigenous communities, visitors, Council, State government and now the Business Chamber of Commerce to address awareness on increasing pollution in our share of this little part of the world, taking seriously the maxim ‘Think Globally, Act Locally’.

The Centre is a growing hub for discussion and action for the ever-increasing threats to our beautiful planet; climate change, plastic pollution, chemical waste, heavy metals and ballooning inequality. Its goal is to grow our membership, educate and enthuse the public

The doors are open from 10am to 4pm, five days of the week. They sell sustainable products and support local businesses.



INTERESTED IN CANNABIS RESEARCH? WE NEED YOU!

Researchers seek to understand the relationship between different cannabinoid compounds, and the overall well-being and brain health of long-term regular cannabis smokers

Why participate?

- Contribute to an Australian-first study into the different cannabinoid profiles of cannabis and their effects
- Receive a cannabinoid profile of the cannabis you are smoking, analysed using state of the art technology
- Compensation of up to \$170 for participating

Who can participate?

- 18-65 years old, whether you DO or DO NOT use cannabis
- Those with access to a computer or laptop with internet access
- Those able to attend 3 online assessments over approximately 4-5 months

How to participate?

Go to: <https://tiny.one/cannabis-components> or use QR Code

Email: cannabis.study@monash.edu

Call: 0414202371





by Ray (Rayzor) Flanagan

Our March Open Mic was a relatively quiet one with a late rush of entries. Jonathan from over Federal way volunteered to start us off. His very polished guitar picking and singing, and repertoire of mainly self-compositions was received with enthusiasm. He was so good, the audience wouldn't let him leave the stage.

ANZAC Day in April was the 13th anniversary of the Open Mic and

easily our busiest for the year. With a full player's blackboard, it was necessary to keep things rolling along, and towards the end we had to restrict performers to three numbers.

Apart from the usual suspects, we also heard from Alice, Terri, Paul, Keith and Joy and Jerry. The idea of a birthday cake seemed impractical so, to celebrate, we spread a dozen chocolate bars among the audience. The pack-up began at twilight,

but despite the many helpers it was pitch dark by the time the last items were loaded into the ute.

We are back to a 2pm start with the end of daylight saving. Anyone on the mailing list will receive a reminder the week before. If you want to receive a monthly notice, email me at: thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com

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

Travelling Film Festival features Gulpilil

The Sydney Film Festival is on tour to regional centres, and The Regent in Murwillumbah is proud to present this amazing collection of ground-breaking films.

"The mission of the Travelling Film Festival is to connect local audiences to Australia's wider film community," says festival manager, Sanam Rodrigues.

Headlining the TFF is *My Name is Gulpilil*, directed by Molly Reynolds and produced by Rolf de Heer, Peter Djigirr, David Gulpilil and Molly Reynolds. David Gulpilil is now nearing the end of his life, and in this powerful feature documentary he shares his own story with us, taking us on the journey that is his most extraordinary, culture-clashing life.

Gulpilil is known throughout the world for his unforgettable acting talent, from his breakthrough in *Walkabout* (1971) to *Storm Boy*, Peter Weir's *The Last Wave*, *The Tracker*, *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, *The Proposition* and his Cannes Best Actor award-winning role in *Charlie's Country*. Gulpilil is the only actor to appear in both of the two highest-grossing Australian films of all time, *Crocodile Dundee* and *Australia*.

To further celebrate Australian cinema, TFF is proud to showcase the local premiere of *Disclosure* by director Michael Bentham, a thrilling and telling story of parents who will try anything to protect their own, the program will also include Australian short film *Bama*, by local filmmaker Jahvis Loveday, following the reflections of a young Aboriginal boy after his first day at school in the big city.

Other stories from around the globe include: *Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom* – selected for Berlinale, this gem from Bhutan was beautifully shot in the high-altitude peaks of the Himalayas. France's Oscar entry for Best Foreign Film, *Two Of Us* and the delightful Academy Award nominated *The Mole Agent*.

World food meals available and a licensed bar on site. Subscribe and save over 30% on regular ticket prices – see all of the films for just \$9.50 per film (\$8.50 concession).

See the website for more details: www.the-regent.com.au



"I'm an actor, I'm a dancer, I'm a singer and also, a painter. This film is about me. This is my story of my story."
– David Gulpilil Ridjimiraril Dalaithngu

Coming up at The Regent

- Every Friday – Balcony sessions
- May 14th – Dustyesky
- May 15/16th – Flickerfest
- May 30th – Poets Out Loud: Super Slam!
- June 4-6th – Travelling Film Festival



FLICKERFEST AT THE REGENT

Flickerfest, Australia's largest short film festival, is excited to be bringing its National Tour back to Murwillumbah's Regent Cinema showcasing four programmes: FlickerKids, Short Laughs Comedy, Best of Australian Shorts and Best of International Shorts – presenting a selection of entertaining, inspiring and award-winning films hand-picked from the festival's 2,700 entries.

Highlights from the FlickerKids Shorts includes the entertaining *Dust Cloud*, the super engaging *Desert Racers* and the Oscar-shortlisted *To Gerard* from Pixar, about an elderly gentleman who brightens the day of a little girl through magic.

The Short Laughs Comedy programme features the heartwarming *Pawsea: the Melancholic Ruminations of a French Bulldog* and the hilarious *Smashed*, set in a Brisbane share house and directed by talented local Tyson Yates, who grew up in Casino.

The Best of International Shorts features *David*, starring comedy legend Will Ferrell, which had its world premiere at the Cannes

International Film Festival in 2020.

Highlights from the Best of Australian Shorts is the moving drama *This River*, shot in Lismore by locally grown director Naomi Fryer, awarded Best Direction at Flickerfest Bondi.

Bama, directed by emerging Indigenous filmmaker Jahvis Loveday, was awarded the Jury Award for Best Short Film and the Audience Award at the recent Flickerfest Byron. Jahvis's Nan and Great Nana lived in Murwillumbah, and he has a special connection to the place. His family was the inspiration for his acclaimed short film.

Jahvis Loveday will be at the festival screenings to introduce his film and will have a Q&A with festival director, Bronwyn Kidd on the Balcony at 4.15pm Sunday.

Join us for an amazing weekend of short film – our world food cafe and licensed bar await you.

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th May. Check the website for session times.

Full program \$55/\$40. FlickerKids: \$12, Adults \$17. Get tickets at: <https://the-regent.com.au>

Bowlo Music in May



by Mel Williamson

Regular entertainment is back on at the Nimbin Bowlo, with live music every Friday night, the (Thursday) fortnightly Open Mic, and other monthly events like the CWA trivia night.

Friday night music starts at 6pm, and Open Mic nights kick off around 6.30pm.

In May you can look forward to the following:

- Thurs 13th – Open Mic
- Fri 14th – Sonic Bliss
- Sat 15th – CWA Trivia Night

- Fri 21st – Vincent
- Thurs 27th – Open Mic
- Fri 28th – Mish Songsmith
- June 4th – Brommers

For more information on Open Mic nights and photos, check out the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/nimbinbowloopenmic

The Green Keepers Bistro is open for dinner Wednesday – Saturday, 5-8pm. For bookings, phone 6689-1473.

The courtesy bus is available to transport you safely there and home again, phone 6689-1250.

Saturday Early Bird
Latin Dancing
with Bob Oort
Samba!.. Rumba!..
Nimbin Oasis Café
Saturdays 10.30am – 12.30



Photo: Charlie Wood

Community Drug Action Teams work towards harm reduction

A personal view from a drug law reform activist of 44 years

by Chibo Mertineit

Australia is still fighting the war on drugs, with the Northern Rivers area probably one of the hardest hit in the country through the years, while many countries have changed their approach in the past years.

Now more and more US states have legalised the medicinal use first, as well as now the recreational use of cannabis.

Colorado cannabis sales exceeded two billion dollars last year, yet we are stuck with a Premier who refused the offer of a free pill-testing service for festivals to save young lives.

In October 2019, Premier Gladys Berejiklian ignored the recommendations by the deputy coroner to introduce pill testing at festivals. There is a methamphetamine pandemic happening all over the country and it seems like there is not enough funding to create enough rehabilitation places for people who want to get off it.

Now medicinal cannabis has been legal for a few years in Australia, which can help on so many levels; from anxiety and general well-being to cancer, epilepsy or pain relief.

But then there's the police with their German drug testing kit out on the road saliva testing drivers and taking licences away, ruining the lives of so many people who are then unable to get to their job.

The police are testing for miniscule amounts of cannabis, 10 nanograms, world-wide the lowest setting, and the police in NSW are not accepting prescribed medicinal cannabis use as a defence in court.

As former NSW magistrate David Heilpern said at the Medican workshop in the Nimbin Hall in March, it is the police who set what crimes will be targeted.

Most State police commissioners are actually against drug law reform, which is hindering any development in this country, compared to England, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and some states in the US, where the police see child sexual abuse or domestic violence as much more important than personal drug use.

When NSW Premier Bob Carr realised the huge impact heroin was having in the community

from infected needles being found on public places like the beach or backlanes, to the number of users overdosing and dying, he called and held a drug summit at the parliament in Sydney from 17th to 21st May 1999.

That was a very wise and much-needed decision, and parliamentarians were forced to listen to the reports of people working in the field, which resulted in a lot more understanding and compassion in the debate.

As the former NSW attorney general Jeff Shaw and solicitor of the NSW supreme court Jeff Smith wrote in *Choosing Life: The Drug Summit and Beyond*:

"[The summit] fostered an understanding of the issues, introduced the concept of compassion into drugs policy and, in some instances, drastically changed the view of delegates". It also "emphatically embraced the concept of an evidence-based approach".

Some of the great implemented results of the summit were the establishment of the first medically supervised injecting facility in the English speaking world in Kings Cross Sydney; and the cannabis caution system for first 'offenders', thanks to the Nimbin Hemp Embassy delegation.

As Matt Noffs, CEO of the Noffs Foundation wrote two years ago in an article in *The Guardian* newspaper: "The 1999 summit also prioritised treatment over punishment, particularly for young people."

It highlighted the inadequacy of the criminal justice system in addressing the complex nature of addiction, and furthered the principle of harm reduction with policies such as diversion programs and accessible rehabilitation facilities."

Community Drug Action Teams (CDAT) were created from the 1999 Sydney drug summit to allow local volunteer groups to work towards harm reduction in their specific drug situation.

The Nimbin CDAT is looking for new members to join the group. To find out more, please visit the CDAT page on the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre website: www.nmic.org.au or email: admin@nmic.org.au

by Michael Balderstone

A is for the Anarchy they worry will happen, but never does because weed is so chill. Imagine what it would be like as an alcohol festival!

B is for the Beauty which was everywhere in the Rally and Parade. Thankyou to everyone who came to protest.

C is for Cannabis users, of course, and the Courage of everyone who drove through the Crocodile-infested waters. Thank you again.

D is for David Heilpern who spoke so well about why we are so far behind other countries on drug law reform: the feeble non-opposition Labor Party, Murdoch media, police and Big Pharma, etc. And for Des who suffered for days not taking his usual medicine

so he could do all the electrics for us.

E is for the Endocannabinoid system, discovered not long ago which many learnt at the Hemposium they are carrying with them everywhere.

F is for the Fabulous Hemp Fashion show and the Funny people who have become such a huge part of MardiGrass. The Laugh Mob come from Sydney every year now and the Sorrensen Glover Hemp Olympix and Saturday night comedy show, with Mandy Nolan and Steady Eddy this year, was a highlight.

G is for the Grace that was ever present because the real Force is with us, not them! And Gail, and the Great Green Cabaret on Friday night. Thank you David Hallett, great art.

H is for the Hemposium

talks and panels in Nimbin Town Hall, possibly the best ever at MardiGrass. And Heidi's Jungle Patrol picking up rubbish all weekend. I is for the Introspection that weed so encourages, and I think that's what scares them most!

J is Julian Assange's father's extraordinary speech and gentleness.

K is for the terrible Karma the spit cops are creating for themselves. And the 42, truly, Kombis in the Konvoy.

L is for the live streaming of the talks which went worldwide and you could watch smoking joints on the couch at home. And for the Love which was everywhere.

M is for the Most people we've ever had in the Sunday Rally, reflecting the public support for the laws to change. So many people want to use cannabis as medicine but won't because they fear losing their licence. N is for the many more Normal people at MardiGrass this year who came to learn about what's likely to be proven the safest and best medicine on Earth when given a chance.

O is for the completely Over the top policing of drivers who might have a miniscule amount of THC in their system. Imagine taking the licence of anyone who'd drunk any alcohol in the last few days.

P is for Police and Pharmaceuticals Profit, who are working together and shouldn't be.

Q is for the big Question of how are we going to drug test drivers fairly for impairment not presence?

RDT was the biggest subject all weekend, as the list of casualties endlessly grew. How do those saliva cops sleep at night?

S is for the Sobriety test the police could use instead of taking our spit. And the awesome Suppositorium event on Friday at 4:20.

T is for all the Talks and talk at MardiGrass, a lot of knowledge sharing.

U is for the Undercovers we know are amongst us, but really, get a life.

V is for the volunteers who make the whole weekend possible as we couldn't pay wages! And for the great Vibe, thankyou again to everyone who came.

War is what it really is about, a war on us and a plant that could literally give so much joy and stop so much suffering. A War over who gets the profit from relieving our pain. A truly sick business.

X is what went on the Hemp Olympix world record for 3 papers and a filter in the Joint Rolling speed roll because Sal set a new one at 15 seconds.

Y is for YouTube where you can watch all the Hemposium talks, if not now very soon.

Z was the Zigzag skid marks the RDT cop left, weaving across the road doing a U-turn near the Bush Theatre dangerously chasing a hippy he thought might give him a positive drug test. Are they paid according to their catch, like fisherman?

Negatives of legalising pot

by Bob Hopkins

May is upon us, when MardiGrass fills the air with the sounds of songs of praise for the euphoric cannabis. Such is life in Nimbin 2021.

In order to balance the scales without spoiling the party, however, a little sacrilege from a devoted minority of one heretic.

"You may be a minority of one but the truth always remains the truth." – Gandhi.

It's interesting how quickly the PR for pot has changed from "Reefer Madness" to "The herb that can save the world".

Amidst the sounds of music, though, any mention of negative consequences accruing to the unaware user has been conspicuously absent, as though there was never any trace of valid concern anywhere that motivated prohibition in the first place.

Sadly, such is not my own personal experience. Cannabis is a powerful substance in its own right, demanding respect and caution which can deliver, in considerable measure, both negative and positive attributes.

We all exist within a capitalist empire... or is that the Capitalocene Era? And the dominating attributes

of such is the lure and hunger for financial profit (mostly always at the expense of others), plus a fatal belief in the notion of constant and endless growth in the marketplace.

Whereas much of the earlier opposition to prohibition lay in the aversion to the fact that the drug laws allowed aspiring autocrats a cudgel to attack annoying dissenters, now the primary motivation (if the financial sections of the media are to be believed) is an infatuation with the monetary windfalls lurking in the repeal of cannabis' illegality.

The prospect of cannabis being "owned" by the big end of town (the same people who kept it conveniently illegal); ramped up and commodified, then aggressively and irresponsibly promoted and marketed, with little concern for outcomes, and bearing no responsibility for any negative consequences, fills me with dread. It's like Scotty from Marketing refraining from mentioning the blood clots while still going flat out for any available political advantage.

Don't get me wrong – I'm a true believer in the repeal of ALL the drug substance laws. Along with the adoption of a creative, compassionate and courageous education program that provides a measure of fundamental knowledge, both of substance and approach

to; a users' manual for living with such concoctions as part of a viable culture (note: we haven't done very well with alcohol and this should not be used as a replicable model); and a detailed and achievable strategy for the avoidance of and relief from dependence and/or addiction.

Plus an all-important system of supply that works in accordance with all of the above, nips greed in the bud (pun intended), and saves users from sacrificing their lives and souls in order to get their fix. It can indeed cost us the Earth.

The Devil is in the details.

Pot can be a great way of making intolerable times appear tolerable; however it's of value to bear in mind that it doesn't, in the process, dispense with the causes of intolerance in anything other than a fleeting measure.

It's worthwhile considering though, the role that the adoption of and possession of a multitude of psychoactive drugs played in muddying the agape clear waters of the 1960's counterculture. Consider this a warning.

Hope you had a wonderful, safe, fun, educative, delightful and thoughtfully considered MardiGrass. Bear in mind we're a planet poised on the cusp of extinction for all forms of life, and that time is a precious commodity.