

Support for Gwen Trimble

I'm not usually a political person but wanted to voice my support for Gwen Trimble as a Lismore Council candidate.

I believe Nimbin needs representation. Nimbin is the largest village in the Lismore LGA, but even if we all voted for a single local candidate, we are significantly shy of having the votes for successful representation.

It is very important that we can come together and recognise that a local representative is what we need and cast our vote to achieve that.

Gwen has campaigned for many years on various community issues. Through the Nimbin Advisory Group and on individual issues, like the fight to retain town water for the Rural Water consumers. Speaking up for us is her thing, so let's make it official and vote for her to speak for us on Council.

It is so important that we can come together and recognise that a local representative is what we need and cast our vote towards that.

Over the years that Gwen has worked in my business, I can wholeheartedly assure you that if she agrees to take on a task it is comprehensively understood, researched and completed. I believe that commitment to the task at hand, will be extended to any community commitment she makes as a Councillor.

Gwen is running for Lismore City Council at #2 with Elly Bird on the independent, grassroots "Our Sustainable Future Party" ticket. With your support, at that position, she has the best chance for election. We need Nimbin to have a voice. Elections are all about preference flows, so in order to get our candidate, Gwen, up I ask you to vote 1 above the line for Our Sustainable Future Party.

Sue Churchill
Nimbin

Ruth Miller
Nimbin

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin Good Times.

Nimbin voice on Council

It's been too long since Nimbin had a local voice on council, someone who lives here and knows the local issues.

Gwen Trimble is the person we need to elect to fulfil that role. Gwen cares about and understands the importance of business. She's a member and supporter of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, works for local businesses and has her own small business.

She also knows that if we don't address climate change in a truly serious way the future for our children and grandchildren looks depressingly bleak.

She's a no dam advocate – we have to reduce our water consumption and adapt.

She supports koala protection – the days when we spotted koalas are fast disappearing.

She's a renewable energy advocate – fossil fuels are not the future and local government has a key role here.

But, most importantly, I truly believe Gwen will represent Nimbin, the Nimbin we all want to protect.

She is the only candidate that has promoted Nimbin-specific policies at the time of writing this letter.

She's my friend and I know how ethical she is. She will be a great voice for our community. Please support her and vote for Elly Bird, Our Sustainable Future to give Gwen her best chance of being elected.



Political cycles

There's a fundamental weakness that all western democracies have in common. Short-term thinking, no long-term strategic planning.

We move from election cycle to election cycle and this is why we extrude incompetent leaders like Morrison, Trump, and that buffoon in the UK.

Listing the shortcomings of our current leaders is a way of cataloguing the defects of our would-be representative political system. It is a system which fosters short-term advantages for the individual politician and his/her adopted political organisation.

Our politicians have become throw-away products, simulacra of the bric-a-brac we consume and discard without thought and often without need. I tire of the lists of faults our politicians have. I look for an analysis of the political problems we have – they are systemic.

Our election/foresight is three years; USA is four years; China has a 40-year strategic plan. Which nation will be the world leader within four decades?

Michael Brooke
Kyogle

Words matter

What an exceptional piece by Aniko Papp in the October issue.

Perhaps Shakespeare should have written "perception is the root of all

evil".

When is a victim not a victim... when the narrative is weighted toward the negative instead of the facts, that often get in the way of a good story.

It is far easier to discredit the victim, regardless of circumstances, than to slander the culprit.

Extremely well written piece, Aniko. Have an amazing day.

Gem Payten
Hogarth Range

Art for art's sake?

I feel obliged to disabuse Anne Cook's erroneous claim/s made in her (attempted) art history lesson/discourse on page 18 of the October NGT.

Not only were Marcel Duchamp's 'found objects' referred to as readymades during the Dada movement, he was NOT responsible for 'Lobster Telephone'; in fact, it was created in 1936 by surrealist artist Salvador Dali (a simple Google search should prove that).

For someone in Ms Cook's position, one would not expect such misinformation.

Tony Baron
Kyogle

Clarification

In last month's front page real estate story, it was not reported that Barry Kuhnall purchased his 20-acre farm in Koonorigan from Yvonne Campbell of Leafy Lane Real Estate.

– Ed

Notices

To Let

One bedroom granny flat for rent in Nimbin. \$250 per week. References requested. Phone 6689-0517.

Position vacant

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and the Nimbin Community Centre are seeking Expressions of Interest for the position of a Website Administrator to keep their websites current and do any troubleshooting required.

This position will be paid at an hourly or pro rata rate. Please include your qualifications and experience in website management and maintenance and your hourly rate when sending your EOI. Please send any inquiries to the NCCI office 02 6689-0000 or email to: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au by 17th November.

Annual General Meetings

- Nimbin Hemp Embassy AGM: 11am on Saturday 20th November in the backyard garden, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, 51 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Nominations for an elected position on the executive committee must be received by the president at least one week before the meeting.
- MardiGrass Organising Body AGM: 12pm on Saturday 20th November in the backyard garden, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, 51 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Nominations for an elected position on the executive committee must be received by the president at least one week before the meeting.
- The 2021 AGM of Nimbin Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Wednesday 24th November, starting at 6pm. Refreshments will be served. Only financial members may vote.
- Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc AGM: Thursday 25th November from 4pm. Covid restrictions permitting, the AGM will take place in the Birth & Beyond room, otherwise this meeting will be held via Zoom All current and new members welcome. For further information or to RSVP, please contact: nimbinhealthandwelfare@gmail.com or phone 0423-596-368.

About us

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And find us on Facebook

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 26th November

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

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

Advertisement

Kevin Hogan!

What are you doing to

END COAL?

Funded by concerned citizens



Chamber Chat

by Diana Roberts, president

Annual General Meeting

The Chamber now has 60 members, a fantastic outcome for a small Chamber, and we sincerely thank Nimbin businesses and community organisations for your support.

Our AGM will be held at Nimbin Bush Theatre on 8th December at 6pm. This will be your chance to visit the new Visitor Information Centre, enjoy finger food from the Café, experience the beauty and tranquillity of the Bush Theatre setting and, most importantly, spend time together and elect a management committee to carry us through the next 12 months.

A meeting notice has been sent to all members, but everyone is welcome to attend. It's been a full-on two years for this committee but, as everyone is planning to stand for re-election, we've agreed to put it to members that we expand the committee to both lessen the load and encourage others to stand.

Details can be found from the home page on our website: www.nimbinaustralia.com.au If you would like to nominate for the committee, forms must be in by 1st December. Please contact us via email if you'd like a nomination or membership form.

Put a Nimbin village voice on Lismore Council

The Council elections are now scheduled for 4th December, with pre-poll starting on 22nd November. This is an opportunity to put a Nimbin voice on Council.

At time of writing there are two Nimbin people standing, Gwen Trimble who lives in Nimbin and Darren Butcher who was raised in Nimbin and owns the bakery.

Gwen is running alongside Elly Bird as #2 on the Our

Sustainable Future ticket.

Darren stood last election on Neil Marks' ticket but failed to get elected. This time he is #8 on a much bigger, business-based ticket and believes he's in with a chance.

Gwen Trimble's election platform includes:

- Focussing on failing infrastructure including lobbying for increased road funding and ensuring road maintenance better reflects best practise;
- Improving water security;
- Supporting smart water conserving measures rather than a new dam at Dunoon;
- Supporting both the Koala plan of management and Council's biodiversity management strategy;
- Ensuring growth is managed with a view to retaining our village character and heritage; and
- Supporting renewable energy initiatives.

Darren Butcher's election platform includes:

- Reducing Council red tape for those wanting to set up business;
- Supporting the Dunoon Dam;
- Fixing the roads;
- Managing our rates; and
- Bringing jobs back to town.

We will be voting for 10 councillors and a mayor. Please inform yourselves, vote wisely and put a Nimbin village voice onto Council.

The current Council had an appalling term, faced with cyclone Debbie, drought, bushfire and then Covid. It was an incredibly divided organisation that performed poorly. However, as a Council follower, I can assure you it has improved markedly this year following the appointment of a new general manager, a breath of fresh air, and the resignation of three Councillors.

The current Council is noticeably more team-focussed, essential if we're to get the best outcomes for our community.

Nimbin Tourism Destination Officer

Council recently appointed Dr Wil Polson (pictured)



to the position of Nimbin Tourism Destination Officer.

Wil was born and raised in Nimbin and will work alongside the Chamber to develop sustainable eco-experiences that encourage visitors to stay longer than a few hours. At a village workshop over a year ago, many fantastic ideas were generated, and we are optimistic Wil can turn some of those into realities.

Areas of focus include:

- Researching and identifying new tourism product opportunities including Rainbow Road offshoots, self-guided walks and culture trails;
- Supporting promotion of events and development of a program of events for the 50th Aquarius Festival celebration in 2023;
- Identifying opportunities to support local businesses and industry to grow tourism product. As a community we have much to be proud of;
- Reviewing and rewriting the content of the Visit Nimbin website: www.visitnimbin.com.au to give it greater appeal to the domestic visitor market.

Much work has been done on this already and it should be completely rewritten, with new images, by early December.

Wil will be encouraging participation from businesses not currently identified on the website. He will also be ensuring information provided is current and serves the business well.

It's exciting to see this full-time position based in Nimbin, an outcome of extensive lobbying by the Chamber. Wil is currently working from home and the Community Centre office, but will shortly be based in a

newly renovated space at the Bush Theatre, alongside the Visitor Information Centre, which is scheduled for opening by 1st December.

Will visitors return?

I'm sure many of us are looking forward to borders opening, families being reunited and some semblance of the social contact that used to be so familiar. While there is some concern, even anxiety, around the inevitable exposure to Covid-19, the majority are simply keen to move on, whatever the consequences.

For many local businesses, opening up NSW will provide a welcome relief. Nimbin has sadly lost businesses over the past 20 months, but new ones have emerged or are emerging. Many in the main street are hoping for a busy summer trading period, something that has been denied the village for the past two summers.

While it's unlikely we'll see many international visitors, efforts are being directed to encourage Australians to holiday within their own country. We live in a beautiful part of the world and, with so much to enjoy, the Chamber is also directing energy to attracting the domestic visitor.

Alongside the website revamp, the Chamber's new brochure for visitors and a village map, designed and co-ordinated by Steph Seckold, is now completed and at the printer ready for distribution to local businesses for summer.

Shortly you will start to see new signs emerge around the village – the artwork is almost complete and locations being chosen. Due to Covid restrictions, the project has been delayed and it is unlikely all signs will be erected before the coming holiday period, but we'll do our best.

Contact us

Enjoy the freedoms that come to many this month. Please contact us if you have any feedback or questions: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au

NIMBIN BOWLO



BISTRO LEASE OPPORTUNITY

Applications to:
Nimbin Bowling Club
PO Box 20380
Nimbin 2480

Please include:

- Experience and work history
- Professional references

Enquires: 0482-429-412 James Straiton

Vote 1 Alison Waters



Animal
Justice
Party
NSW



The world needs to change, and we have to start with local government.

This December, we all have a chance to change things for the better, for people, animals and the environment.

Help create a compassionate community for all residents.

VOTE 1 ALISON WATERS AND THE ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

www.nsw.animaljusticeparty.org

Authorised by C. Ward L5 13/35 Buckingham St. Surry Hills NSW 2010

Nimbin Cultural Centre needs your support

by Megan James

Over the past few years, we have all survived many challenges.

The Wia-Bal Culture Centre, in the Nimbin Community Centre, is no exception. Despite having to stay unused due to Covid-19, the centre has survived – but only just.

The centre is totally reliant on regular donations to pay the NCC monthly rent of \$1150.

As a result of some confusion around changing bank accounts, several donations have unfortunately ceased and we need to ask again for community members and businesses who wish to support our local Aboriginal culture to help by paying the rent into a dedicated NCC sub-

account for the Wia-Bal Culture Centre.

The Wia-Bal Culture Centre is a hub for local Indigenous creative artists, as well as a venue for community get-togethers and meals. Tourists can drop in and learn about local culture here, which is a great attraction for many overseas visitors.

Occasional government grants allow for special events and workshops to be organised, but do not pay the rent. This is up to us, as beneficiaries of these events and workshops as well as occupiers of land that has been cared for by hundreds of generations of Bundjalung people.

The amount can be as small or large as you can afford. A regular direct debit payment helps the most, but any and all

contributions are welcomed.

Your reward is knowing that you have acknowledged the privilege of living on this beautiful rich Widjabal land and are supporting the continuation of the world's oldest living culture.

Bank account details are: BSB: 728728 Summerland Credit Union; A/C: 22269886 Nimbin Community Centre.

Please put your name and 'CC paytherent' as the reference so we can thank you.

For more information, please contact: ncci@nimbinculturecentre.org.au or drop in any time you see the doors are open.

Aunty Karen plans to celebrate with a big cook-up for a pre-Xmas gathering and hopes to see you there.

Mark Swivel

VOTE 1 for Mayor

Community Collaboration

MarkSwivelTeam.

for Byron Shire Council

Fran Hart Xavier Harckel-Spice Venella Scott Jessica Smythe

Authorised by Mark Swivel for Mark Swivel Team 42 Parkes Avenue Byron Bay NSW 2481

NIM-FM

102.3

FACE THE MUSIC

www.nimfm.org



Community-led campaign

Mark Swivel of Barefoot Law and Dustyesky fame is leading five community independents on a platform of competence, community and collaboration in the Byron Shire Council elections this December.

The Mark Swivel Team is aiming for mayor and seats on council to implement inclusive community-led government for the shire. Swivel is supported by a capable and experienced team – Fran Hart, business owner and refugee advocate, Venetia Scott, regenerative farmer, Jessica Smythe, educator, and Xavier Hanckel-Spice, a young locally-grown lawyer.

“We offer a better way forward - effective collaboration with other councillors rather than point scoring. We understand our community wants an environmental focus to inform how we develop and a compassionate response to community needs,” Mark Swivel said.

“We can provide professional skills and experience to get

better results from state government. We offer fresh energy and competent decision-making. Party politics and petty disputes don’t advance the community’s interests. Listening to locals and connecting with their concerns and aspirations are what we need.”

Top priorities for the Mark Swivel Team include action on opening up the rail trail, protecting our beaches and habitats, supporting small business, small scale farming and sustainable tourism, affordable housing and developing better public transport.

“I’d also like to see a regional art gallery in Byron and an Arakwal-Bunjalung cultural centre,” Swivel said.

You can learn more about the Mark Swivel Team at loads of campaign events before Election Day, Saturday 4th December – from community forums on business, tourism and our environment to Barefoot Bowls at Brunswick Heads Bowling Club on Saturday 13th November.

Last word before local government elections

I’m feeling reflective as I write my last column for this Council term, thinking back over the last five years and everything that has happened.

I started writing for the *GoodTimes* when I was first elected and I’ve been looking back over the columns I’ve written. It’s been a wild ride and definitely not what I imagined it was going to be.

I came on to Council bright-eyed and bushy-tailed with a vision that I was going to ride the energy of our winning Gasfield Free Campaign and use it to deliver exciting and innovative climate policies on a progressive Council, in a space in which Council was already a leader.

I quickly learnt that there are significant and complex internal and external constraints that make achieving meaningful change a slow and sometimes frustrating process. I’m not sure that any brand new councillor can really understand the complexities of local government and it’s often said that the first few years are one of the steepest learning curves around. It definitely has been for me. It takes a while to find your feet and when our Council was elected we had six new councillors out of eleven, and as a group it took us time to find our feet as well.

Early in my term this learning was happening in the aftermath of the 2017 floods. Those floods, the drought, the recent bushfires and the escalating disasters we are witnessing have really shaped

my term and my personal focus on climate resilience. I witnessed and was part of a truly inspiring community-led recovery during the clean-up after the flood and I have been engaged in community recovery, preparedness and disaster planning ever since.

On Council I moved a climate emergency motion, followed it with a climate resilience policy and most recently made sure that the we would deliver a climate resilience strategy early in 2022.

Alongside our multiple disaster recovery processes, we have had to manage significant financial issues at Council: restructures and the recruitment of two general managers as well as big changes in our executive staff; seismic shifts in recycling and waste management; and the significant impact of a serious fire at our waste facility.

When I was first elected I had no grasp of the financial situation facing our Council, and every year for the last five years I have sat down with my fellow councillors and made significant cuts across our activities, shrinking our budget wherever we can in order to ensure that we have enough money to pay for our essential services and at the same time to try to maintain service levels that our community expects.

To keep our pools open, to deliver library services, to maintain our roads and community assets and to work with state and federal governments to attract funding for community priorities.



Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

The next Council is going to have another significant change with at least six new councillors again. This time, with enough community support I will be a returning councillor leading the Our Sustainable Future ticket, and our team are doing everything we can to bring Gwen Trimble on to Council with me as a sorely needed Nimbin representative.

I’ve worked hard for Nimbin, with my proudest achievement being to protect the Rainbow Road Walking Trail which has recently been funded, but it’s not the same as having a Nimbin resident on Council. I know that Gwen will be an excellent Councillor, but we really do need your support to get her there.

I have learnt so much in my term on Council, and with that knowledge I am determined to continue to work to find solutions to the challenges we are facing, including the affordable housing crisis, water security, economic recovery from Covid and fighting to stop the Dunoon Dam.

I have learnt that it is critical to work collaboratively and to find pathways through complex matters by working together. It’s essential that this includes working with people who aren’t necessarily aligned with your politics or your worldview. Each of us is there as a representative of our whole community, and collaboration is key to getting good outcomes for our community.

I have strong leadership and collaboration skills and I am deeply committed to continuing to serve our community, which is why I am also running for mayor. I can bring the necessary balance and independence that a good mayor should have. As the only Gen X candidate, I have a long career ahead of me; I am only just getting started and there is so much more I want to do to build a future we can all be proud of and to make our home even better than it already is.

I encourage you to have a look at our policies at: oursustainablefuture.org.au or using the QR code on our front page ad in this edition and I hope that you will support me to become the next mayor of Lismore.

As with all elections, the Council election is optional preferential – this means it is absolutely critical to use your preferences if you want to retain a progressive Council. You can use the how to vote information from your preferred candidate to help you decide.

Happy voting and I will see you on the other side.

On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan MP

Shop local and support our community

It is wonderful to see our region is now out of lockdown.

I encourage everyone, as much as you can, to shop local. Local businesses are the ones that employ our young people and put money back into our communities.

I know it’s tempting to click and buy on-line, but please where you

can, shop local and support our small businesses.

Net zero emissions by 2050

The Nationals have agreed in-principle to the net zero 2050 emissions goal. It is a step towards protecting our children’s future and our way of life.

I was part of the subcommittee which put together our proposal for the Prime Minister. I wanted to make sure there was a range of support, protections and safeguards for regional Australia.

‘Net zero emissions’ means achieving a balance between the

greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out. This is done by investing in new technologies, while ensuring we have cheap and reliable power.

Australia is already playing its part in reducing emissions. Since 2005, Australia has reduced its emissions faster than Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the USA.

Australia also has the world’s highest uptake of rooftop solar, with one in four homes with rooftop solar panels.

Following our support of net zero, this matter will now be considered and determined by Cabinet.



Kevin at the Nimbin Bakery



COVID-19 has highlighted how much we need each other and how reliant we are on co-operation and compassion.

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

TAMARASMITH.ORG.AU

Here for you if you need help.

TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA

Please contact me at:
(02) 6686 7522
ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Shop 1, 7 Moon Street, Ballina NSW 2478

THE GREENS

Vanessa with Kashmir Miller, the Greens #3 candidate on their Lismore City Council ticket.



They say it takes 20 years to become a local in Widgee country, and my journey to mayor has taken 16 years. I first became interested in Lismore City Council when I lived southside near a fuel dump, an asphalt plant and a primary school. The chemical odours filled our homes and I approached Council to help.

An authorised officer was sent to smell the air, technical reports were written, air quality testing was done, years went by and eventually a report was presented to Council and I went and sat in the public gallery to watch the debate. It was so interesting.

I sat between a family who had

horses and their neighbours who were upset about manure and flies. They started shouting at each other and I was intrigued, does this happen every Tuesday night?

Loving the drama of Council meetings, I went regularly to see what issues were being discussed. They were surprisingly diverse but most of the councillors making these decisions were elderly men, some of them asleep, a lot of them uninformed. I knew I could do a better job of listening to the community and representing their views and I was elected as a Greens councillor in 2004.

Council needs to tell the story of the hard work it does looking after all our infrastructure. Lismore was

Why I love being Lismore's mayor

settled in the 1850's and our road network is older than Melbourne's and built for bullock teams to carry timber from the plateau to the river. We were one of the first towns to be sewered in Australia.

Until the 1950's when Rocky Creek Dam was built, we were drinking water straight from the river. This year Council is investing \$150 million in our local economy: this is jobs and roads and projects like the Nimbin water treatment plant. I am proud of the work councillors and Council staff have done on our quarry, roads, waste management and long-term financial strategy.

I have loved being your mayor this year and these are the priority issues I am progressing: providing affordable housing, closing the loop on waste, ensuring water security, improving farmland and river health and attracting funds for our roads.

First we need to provide affordable housing for our community. Lismore has over 500 blocks ready for houses and another 1500 in the planning stages, but at half a million dollars each, they are not affordable and not meeting our needs. I convinced council to work with builders and other stakeholders to identify what affordable housing looks like and where it will go. An affordable housing strategy will be ready early next year.



by Cr Vanessa Ekins
Mayor, Lismore City Council

We know rainfall patterns are changing and we need diverse water supplies including rainwater tanks on all houses. Another source of water that is constant even in drought, is the waste water from our homes. 98% of household water is used in the shower, toilet, garden and laundry, a resource we can recycle. I spearheaded the water authority shift in focus from an expensive, unnecessary dam to investigating purified recycled water. We lead NSW with plans for a purified recycled water plant in south Lismore.

Our beautiful natural environment and rural landscape is why many of us love living here. The Italians helped this place thrive when they arrived after the wars and brought their farming and food culture. This is an important part of our economy and definitely a strength during covid when our weekly farmers markets continued to supply fresh food.

I believe it is our future too, with a new generation of horticulturalists and food enthusiasts adding value to produce and setting up new businesses. I ensure council has policies to protect farmland from urban sprawl and actively support projects to rehydrate farmland, prevent soil loss and revegetate our riverbanks.

As someone who has lived here for nearly 30 years, raising my sons, working in our high schools as a science teacher, studying at Southern Cross University and currently completing a Diploma of Auslan at TAFE, playing my vinyl record collection at River-FM community radio, and planting trees on the riverbanks with Wilsons River Landcare Group, I know our community and am a safe pair of hands and strong voice for the future.

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

Lismore Council weathers crises

As this Council term draws to a close, I look back at just how many crises our community has been through in the past five years. We had the floods throughout the region in 2017 which damaged so much farming and community infrastructure as well as causing the devastation in Lismore itself.

We were just getting back on our feet when the drought and water shortages hit the region – especially in Nimbin where so many people who rely on rainwater tanks had to turn to the main fill station to get water for their homes and gardens.

And right in the middle of this drought, we saw something I never thought I would ever see in my lifetime: our rainforest on fire. Nimbin was at the heart of the fires in our region, with so many people and their animals evacuated to safe spaces at the showgrounds and in Lismore and with friends elsewhere. I salute the enormous courage and dedication of the volunteers who chose to work with the RFS and defend their homes, and their neighbours' homes.

I know people who are still very traumatised by these disasters; I know that thinking about them still brings tears to my eyes as I recall my terror that my home could be burned out. I drove for weeks on council business with all my precious papers and photos in my car; some days uncertain whether I



by Cr Darlene Cook
Lismore City Council

could get home that night.

What the floods, drought and fire did was bring out the very best in our community. There were so many people caring for strangers, opening their homes up to those people who were evacuated to safety. People came to the showground, bringing food, tents, blankets – whatever they could bring to help, and Nimbin businesses donated food and supplies.

Nimbin is a very unique place on this earth. Many communities rally around to help in a crisis, but Nimbin goes that extra step, and keeps on caring and checking on each other's well-being long afterwards.

This has been obvious during the Covid lockdowns. A quick check through Nimbin Facebook pages shows so many offers of help, to do shopping for those isolated; or to help someone whose car has broken down; neighbours checking on neighbours to ensure all were well.

Nimbin businesses did it

tough again with closures reducing their ability to survive and re-open. With NSW re-opening for business and soon for tourism, I know that you will all support your local shops and retail businesses to rebuild their resources, to keep trading and work their way back to financial stability again.

One way to do that would be to give friends and family a local gift card for Christmas – a gift that can only be spent at a local shop. Check out this opportunity at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/loving-local-gift-cards>

I have been very proud to be a part of this village's journey over the years; to have had the opportunity to stop for a while and talk with so many of you; and listening to your journeys, your lives, your love for this village, has greatly enriched my life. Thank you for your trust that I would do my best to represent you and ensure that you had a voice that would be heard at council for the past five years.

At the council elections I will be contesting the position of mayor, and with my team contesting for positions as councillors on council. Kevin Bell, Jasmine and Joy Knight-Smith, and I all live in rural areas – ensuring that our villages are represented. I ask you to consider giving me and my team your vote on 4th December.

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

Electioneering beckons

It feels like the end of an era with this extended Council term finally drawing to an end.

The 18 months of Covid lockdowns and restrictions are also likely to end soon, not with the virus conquered but just a realisation by governments that it's time to move on and to live with it.

It's been an interesting time on Council with face-to-face meetings being replaced with Zoom video conferencing. I've actually enjoyed 'attending' Council meetings via Zoom, as councillors generally had less tendency to 'grandstand' to an audience and make long and passionate speeches even when we all agreed on an issue.

It feels a bit strange to use this article to report on what issues I am bringing to the Council meeting this week, when everyone's about to go into full campaign mode (I should have been there for weeks).

There is so much to organise: flyers, corflutes, letterboxing, election day materials, pre-poll, registrations and compliance requirements, gathering and organising volunteers to help on about 17 polling booths, as well as the two weeks of pre-poll. It's no small feat, particularly for independents like myself who don't have the funding and party members trained up and ready to go.

It's been a nervous, and frankly quite an anxious



by Cr Jeff Johnson
Ballina Council

time. The decision to stand aside or to go again has been an emotional rollercoaster. The dream of leading a truly progressive Council is what really motivates me to stand again and to continue to be involved.

It feels like we are at the crossroads on so many issues that I am deeply passionate about.

For example, genuine recognition and empowerment of our Indigenous community through renaming culturally significant sites and a greater awareness of the long and enduring history of our first nations culture; real action on climate change and the push towards carbon neutrality for both Council and our communities; and practical ways of addressing housing affordability and the lack of affordable rental accommodation.

Plus, water security in a way that moves our region away from the 'single use,

just flush it down the creeks and rivers' approach; and improved community infrastructure and services for a growing population – the current urban sprawl and growth in the Ballina Shire is already putting a strain on all these things and it's not going to stop any time soon, unfortunately; and more.

Time to take a breath. It's family that's most important to me, and juggling my community/Council responsibilities with those of my family will always be a struggle. Having two young kids is actually a reason to continue with my Council aspirations.

To continue to push for positive social and environmental change, to strive for a resilient community in the face of so much negativity and noise. It's actually my beautiful wife Yolanda who has convinced me to stand again, and to nominate as a mayoral candidate.

Without that support I don't think I could do it. It's been 13 years now since I was first elected to Ballina Council. I didn't think I would still be there after this amount of time.

I actually still enjoy being involved, in trying to make our communities a better place to live. I also think it's time for a generational change on Ballina Council. Hopefully I can be a part of that, and as mayor, lead the Council forward in a positive and inclusive way.

Council's big green beating heart on Bundjalung country

This Council election is a big one for our region's big green beating heart. It represents the end of one of the longest terms of Council in NSW, having been extended due to Covid. It has also been one of the hardest terms of Lismore Council ever. Our current councillors, including Greens Vanessa Ekins and Adam Guise, have governed our beautiful region and amazing communities through the hardest of times: catastrophic fires, drought, floods, the pandemic and financial crisis. For some, this term was too much! Conservative councillors Gianpiero Battista and Greg Bennett vacated their elected positions during the term, then Labor mayor Isaac Smith followed. At the beginning of this year Vanessa Ekins was voted mayor. Vanessa has taken to her role of mayor like a platypus to a regenerated riverbank. She is the most experienced councillor, having served our communities on Council for 17 years, and she has been repairing our land and rivers for



by Sue Higginson

even longer. Her strong voice, safe hands, vision and compassionate heart have proved to be exactly what we need. As mayor, Vanessa has been a unifying force and has brought Council together delivering positive outcomes for our communities and our environment. Vanessa led the charge against the Dunoon Dam. With strong community support, she focused on the real issue: water security, which has put us on the right path of sustainable, smart and economically sensible water options.

She has represented our region on Rous County Council for the past 13 years and has a comprehensive understanding of our region's water needs and solutions. While she leads in innovation, she continues to be a staunch advocate for the scaling up of water tanks, and the funding of the Nimbin water treatment plant. After 20 years of dispute, Vanessa had the vision, heart and skill to unify councillors to return Banyam Baigham 'Sleeping Lizard Hill' on the North Lismore Plateau to its rightful owners, the Widjabul Wia-bal people. This was a real act of reconciliation and healing. Through Vanessa's leadership, Council is working with stakeholders to identify what affordable housing looks like and where it will go. The affordable housing strategy will be ready early next year, so she wants to hear from you about what housing solutions you need in Nimbin. It is vital that our housing challenge is guided through the Greens lens of innovation, sustainability, diversity

and resilience. Your Greens councillors are pursuing opportunities to leverage post-Covid government stimulus to re-invigorate Nimbin tourism and provide quality infrastructure to support its growing population. This is in addition to the development of the Nimbin Business Activation Plan. Through active participation in the Nimbin Advisory Group, Vanessa stays alert to your concerns. Council is on the path to financial sustainability, despite the impact of state government cost-shifting on to local councils, and the pandemic. This takes time and requires the continuity of experienced Councillors, such as Vanessa and Adam, who are working with the new general manager to transform Council into a modern, efficient and future-facing institution with the right technology and governance systems. Vanessa and Adam head up a Greens ticket of candidates who are all committed to providing strong, honest and progressive representation for our communities

and our environment. Council campaigns are usually community affairs, without the big spending hype of state and federal elections. But this time, it appears there is a big spending Clive Palmer-style campaign going on, but this one is blue, pushing a team with none of the experience that is needed to face the challenges ahead. Some big dollars, big blue advertising banners and a big ticket trying to sell us an unknown blue brand. We already have a strong, experienced mayor who has unified our Council, built bridges within the community and is delivering positive outcomes. Our mayor, a woman, is deeply connected to our diverse communities and our environment. She understands what is needed as we step forward together in our changing climate. This Council election is about our future directions. Continuing to build on the positive, kind and innovative achievements of our great Greens mayor, or buying a big blue brand with no track record.

Small grants programs need a boost

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

I'm encouraging local sporting clubs to apply for their share of \$50,000 under the NSW Government's Local Sport Grants 2021-22, a popular but under-funded program. Applications for the Local Sport Grant Program 2021-22 opened on Tuesday, 12 October and close on Friday, 19th November 2021. For more information visit: www.sport.nsw.gov.au/local-sport-grant-program The NSW Office of Sport is very professional in how it administers a wide range of sporting grants, but in my view is somewhat limited by the Local Sport Grant Program's (LSGP) paltry \$50,000 per electorate allocation. I've written to NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, suggesting that his new Covid and Economic Recovery Committee (formerly Crisis



Cabinet) review all of its small grants programs with a view to lifting the per electorate allocations to a more generous level. Two examples which immediately come to mind are the Local Sport Grant Program, which should be trebled from \$50,000 to \$150,000, and the Community Building Partnership Program, which could go from \$400,000 to \$600,000, or ideally, \$1 million per electorate. Pumping small amounts of stimulus into local economies is a good way of making a recovery statewide.

Inform yourself about Council candidates

by Gwen Trimble

When this edition of the *GoodTimes* is distributed, we will be one month out from the twice-postponed Local Council election. Election day is 4th December, 8am-6pm with pre-polling and iVote electronic voting commencing from 22nd November. The NSW Electoral Commission is discussing probable changes to the way candidates and their supporters can interact with voters at polling booths. It may, therefore, be helpful to have informed yourself about the various parties, their candidates and policies before election day. I am running as a candidate with the independent, locally focused, micro party 'Our Sustainable Future' headed by experienced councillor and mayoral candidate Elly Bird. Elly has been a good supporter on Nimbin issues



– listening to the community when requested, and taking our issues up in Council. With your support I hope to become a voice for Nimbin on Council. At the time of writing, there are a great many candidates announced, and there is time for even more to emerge. As a consequence, votes will be split, and preferences very influential. To put that in context, at the last Council election, a candidate needed 2300 votes to be elected. As only 800 votes were cast in Nimbin, I need Elly Bird to poll well, and her excess votes from Lismore voters will flow to me. Should Elly Bird succeed in being elected mayor, then my chance of election is guaranteed. Like the rest of life during the Covid pandemic, this

campaign has been difficult to conduct, and it's likely that this will continue to be so, right up to election day. The Covid restrictions have prevented any significant personal contact with voters and the opportunity to talk about their issues of concern. As we open up, I plan to be at the markets and on the street, available to talk with you. Come and have a yarn, maybe support me by buying a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$50 Nimbin Pizza gift certificate (kindly donated by Nimbin Trattoria). We are the only group that has Nimbin specific policies, which is why I'd appreciate your voting us number one. See our advertisement on the front page and use the QR code to access our website for detailed information, or go to: www.oursustainablefuture.org.au If you have any questions, please contact me on 0427-486-346 or email: gwentrimble@gmail.com



DARLENE COOK
FOR MAYOR

Labor

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

authorised by G. Ritchie 18 Panorama Rd, Lismore NSW 2480

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Self-interest

by Aniko Papp

I am now resident on Magnetic Island, a tropical island in Far North Queensland. The island is 75% national park and contained within the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

There is a huge problem on this lovely island, which is surrounded by coral gardens, with predators, namely, pet cats.

The native species on this island have long been ravaged by feral cats. Council has proposed a change to local laws covering the keeping of pets, especially domesticated cats, on the island. These proposed laws mean that ultimately, there will be no pet cats on Magnetic Island.

So, what has this to do with the Northern Rivers, my home? There is an immensely dividing debate about the rights of cat owners vs wildlife protection on Maggie. The debate is polarising. It has pitted cat lovers against those who want laws to change to stop cats being kept on the island.

I have noticed that the rhetoric here is very much like the debate in the Northern Rivers on issues around Covid. The language is remarkably similar to the debate on man-made climate change.

I must explain that each house on the island is within metres of the national park

or a crown reserve, which abound with wildlife. From koalas in our garden, to endangered skinks, to rock wallabies munching the fallen mangoes in our street, to very rarely sighted quolls and echidnas rummaging in the rocks of our driveway; to curlews and tiny sunbirds nesting; the island just abounds with wildlife.

Yet feral cats, who clearly didn't swim 8km here from the mainland, are decimating what wildlife is here. These ferals are the descendants of pet cats who, despite years of pet laws, roam the island, hunt, and breed.

Yet the cat lovers are passionately committed to keeping their particular cat and refuse to abide by the proposed new laws to control, keep contained and register/de-sex their pet cats.

Sentiments which are endlessly repeated by those opposed to the laws include: It's my right to keep my cat; I shall stop them coming into my house to take my cat; I am a responsible cat owner; it's not my cat (that hunts and kills native species).

The focus is on my wants, my desire to have a fluffy pet; my right to have a companion. I need this. How dare you impinge on my rights?

Climate change action opponents use similar language, and we have all seen this repeated in language used by anti-vaxxers or anti-mask wearers. Why should



A Magnetic Island resident wallaby

I change my lifestyle? I want to go out when I want. Why should I have to do something that I don't want to do or that might inconvenience me? I want a cheap car with cheap fuel.

The focus here seems to be on me. On my needs. On my feelings. This frankly narrow and selfish focus then becomes self-serving by framing it in terms of human rights. As if human rights are really not about the right to be free of prosecution by the State for political reasons or by reason of one's sex, race or religion: but about not having a cat or wearing a mask or reducing one's use of fossil fuel.

The altruism of those who advocate for, let's say, action on man-made climate change, or mask wearing, or indeed on cat ownership, is never recognised. What does a climate change advocate gain by pressing for action on this issue? What does your average Mullumbimby resident who advocates for mask-wearing or getting vaccinations gain by incurring the wrath of anti-vaxxers?

What does a Magnetic Island resident gain by

supporting no cats on Maggie? Nothing. What is the motive here, save for concern for society as a whole: dare I say it, the greater good?

The most vociferous voices seem to be those motivated by self-interest, by selfish desires. Those same voices seem all the louder by usurping the concept of my right. What is the question to ask? *Cui bono?* Who benefits?

How do I, as a climate change activist, or one who doesn't want any more domestic cats on Magnetic Island, benefit? I don't, not personally. I am motivated to protect wildlife or the planet.

As to those motivated by what I want, how it will affect just me, why should I do this or that, who benefits? They do of course. Then, such opposition to the greater good is then justified by recourse to one's human rights.

One of history's most powerful advocates for human rights for one of the most dispossessed, discriminated against, and persecuted peoples in the world, Martin Luther King, expressed this best: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

An open letter to cat lovers

by Janelle Saffin MP

Local people have contacted me about their desire for a cat containment policy. They expressed their concern about our domestic cats roaming at night and killing wildlife.

WIRES and other evidence tells us that feral cats eat 13 million animals each night – more than 20 billion mammals, reptiles, birds and insects a year.

WIRES further states, and it is an estimate, that there are 3.3 million pet cats nationwide, and that "it's difficult to estimate the impact on wildlife" but refers us to studies which "suggest that a suburban domestic cat can bring home anywhere from five to 30 invertebrates a year (including native and introduced species)".

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy has reported on the impact of feral cats and it included domestic cats as well. See: www.aph.gov.au/feralanddomesticcats

CSIRO found that the per capita kill rate for domestic cats is 25% that of feral cats.

What this points to is that there is a problem with the killing of wildlife. The issue, of course, is what should be done – what can be done – and who does it? Cat owners (I am one) take responsibility, as so many of us do.

In New South Wales, we must register and microchip or have a collar with an attached tag – but not desex – even though desexing is an option.

We can contain our cats, and if we do that from when they are kittens they quickly become accustomed to it. This is strongly encouraged but not mandated, and this can be done to give our beloved cats plenty of space and scratching opportunities.

My research, which was aided by the NSW Parliamentary Library Services, found that cat containment and control policies rest mainly with local government. I am not passing the buck, but simply stating the situation.

The provisions are within Part 4 of the NSW Companion Animal Act 1998 and Sections 29-32 are the primary sections that carry legal obligations for councils:

- Control responsibility and owner requirements;
- Nuisance cats (noise and damage); and
- Cats are prohibited near food preparation and food consumption areas and in local council-designated wildlife protection areas.

Of course, local councils should always be resourced to implement policy and to ensure compliance.

I am interested to hear from local people – what you think? Should our much-loved cats be kept contained by us?

GUNGAS ROAD VALLEY LANDCARE AND LISMORE CITY COUNCIL

Mulgum Creek Restoration Field Trip

 **HEALTHY LAND AND WATERWAYS**

Saturday 4 December 2021, 9.00am-12.30pm

Rural Landholders recently settled in the Nimbin area are invited to join landcare members working on private land fringing the World Heritage Nightcap Forests in the upper catchment.

Gungas Rd Valley Landcare and Tuntabale Ck Landcare are two local community groups working on weed control, strategic creek fencing, and restoring native habitat. This bus trip will take you on a journey with Rainforests, Waterways, and People working together for catchment health flowing from the top.

We will visit several properties along Mulgum Creek where lifestyle landholders and graziers are tackling environmental weeds, including the very invasive Barner Grass, Giant Devil's Fig, seeded banana and lantana. Learn about a range of control methods from low-chemical to standard water-sensitive practices. Hear from the landholders as well as professional bush regenerators on how they are restoring some very degraded sites to reestablish diverse ecosystems. Ask those questions and share your insights in an open space.

- 9am - Meet in Nimbin - RSVP for details. Travel by bus to project sites along Gungas Rd
- 10.30am - Morning tea break. BYO snacks, thermos and/or drink bottle.
- 12.30pm - Return to town by lunchtime.

For health and safety reasons, places are limited. Everyone is asked to wear closed in shoes, a hat and bring their own drink bottle and morning tea snacks. Some rugged slopes and rocky creeks may be encountered. This is a Covid-safe event. Social distancing will be observed.

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FOR LISMORE CITY COUNCIL
Authorised by Simon Clough 90 Beardow St West, Lismore Heights.



COP-out 26

by Simon Thomas

What would a man with a lump of coal be doing at a climate change conference?

You can't polish a turd. But you can varnish your coal to prevent it from polluting the hands of a subservient political lackey.

This is exactly what happened to the shameful prop that was paraded around parliament by the little-known slogan bogan who not-so coincidentally was shortly after anointed as this nation's leader by Murdoch-Mining coalition.

Likewise, our fossil fuel loving Prime Minister is being buffed up to be such a shiny supporter of climate action that his minders hope the rest of the world will be too dazzled by his sheen to do a Google search.

Are they really that easy to fossil-fool?

A recent BBC exposé divulged the disgraceful secret lobbying of

countries such as Australia and Saudi Arabia which aims to white-ant international consensus on reducing carbon pollution. "One senior Australian government official rejects the conclusion that closing coal-fired power plants is necessary, even though ending the use of coal is one of the stated objectives of the COP26 conference."

Gaslighting Glasgow

Despite having spent 250 mil of your hard-earned on refurbishing his public private jet, the Liar from the Shire has been reluctant to jump aboard and show his smirking face at COP26, possibly the last chance for humanity to seize any remaining opportunity to mitigate climate Armageddon.

Murdoch's mind-change

However, in the shadow of an apparent about-face on climate rhetoric from News-corpse, Engadine's favourite son has concluded that his presence at the



Photo courtesy Nick Haggerty, ABC News

climate Kaffeeklatsch is essential.

Are we to conclude from this that those who have so staunchly undermined global efforts to reign in emissions have suddenly decided to forego the millions in support that they enjoy from the mining lobby?

Are we to assume that the spoils so liberally showered upon recently retired parliamentary pawns is no longer a carrot that our politicians are drawn to?

Trojan horse

Might the truth be that the fossil fuel mafia have determined that the risk of non-attendance is too great, as the world might agree to meaningful targets in our absence?

Does Morrison think that seasoned world leaders will fall for his banal rhetoric while our backroom negotiators unleash maximum havoc?

Actions speak

Environment minister Sussan Ley has recently approved three new coal mines (there are currently 50 such projects under construction or in planning), after having struck down the gargantuan Asian Renewable Energy Hub, which was set to create 3000 jobs in the remote Pilbara.

The Nationals are revolting

While some pragmatic Liberal

MPs have realised that the public have grown wise to the lies, and are urging meaningful action on emissions, the Nationals appear trapped in psychotic delusion.

One might assume that the resources minister of a wealthy and educated nation would give enough of a shit about his job to have at least cursory familiarity with available technology.

On the contrary, when asked if he still believed that renewables don't work, Keith Pitt declared, "solar panels don't work in the dark," which is like saying that dams don't work when it's not raining.

Holding us to ransom

Although only a piddling 4.5% of Australians voted Nationals in the last election, their MPs are pissing on the will of the 78% who believe that we should adopt net zero carbon emission targets by 2050.

They have now delivered their ultimatum to Morrison outlining their demands should they agree to support Morrison's bogus net zero strategy.

Would you like to know what special favours are being extorted from you the taxpayer?

That black gold, Texas tea is going to keep on shining

by Bernadine Schwartz

Doesn't this world look absolutely fabulous? Cities of sculptured steel and glass. Smartphones and the Internet. Jet planes that defy gravity. We stuck a flag in the moon, sent probes into deep space and we've mapped the surface of Mars.

It all sounds very impressive, but if you stop and delve just a little deeper, appearances can be very deceptive.

How could any intelligent species claim to be advanced and be taken seriously, when their entire civilisation is only made possible using antiquated fossil fuels that are killing the entire planet?

And while they're blinded by all the glitz and glamour filthy fossil fuels have to offer, the world actually pays this deadly industry, \$11 million a minute in subsidies to get on with the job, according to the World Monetary Fund. This makes us more than just primitives, we're also utterly mad!

Filthy fossil fuels could never keep this world ticking over far into the future or sustain it, unlike fresh air, clean water and fertile soil. Particularly when you have a time bomb called global warming ticking alongside, which sooner or later is bound to detonate.

Our dependence began back in 1859, a fateful year, in Titusville Pennsylvania, the birthplace of the world's first commercial oil well

that triggered a global oil rush that never stopped, and today we're completely hooked.

The Paris Accord has failed and now the IPCC are calling on the world to intensify its efforts and investments into the development of Carbon Capture Systems (CCS).

They're suggesting if we're to have any chance of meeting net zero emissions by 2050, it's a necessary step, when renewables, electrification and trees alone can't possibly decarbonise the global economy. We also have the added burden of needing to go much further than net zero emissions.

Many critics point out that current technology and methods used for CCS, are far from operational globally and can only capture CO₂ from factory smokestacks, unlike Direct Air Capture (DAC).

There are only 15 DAC plants in operation worldwide and they're extremely costly and far from ready to be used on a global scale, and there are many hurdles to overcome, one being the lower the concentration of CO₂ becomes, the higher the expense.

The concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere is a mere .04% which is extremely challenging and makes the process far more intensive and costly.

There are different methods of CCS but they all require a plentiful supply of water needed for cooling, starting with the initial cooling towers, through to



the compression of CO₂ to a super critical condition, which generates an intense level of heat. Then the whole operation ends with the storage of the CO₂ which involves even more water. There are more water efficient systems, but water is still essential.

Jared Ciferno of the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), explains CCS emerged back in the 70's when there were no constraints on water, but today it's a world turned on its head. It's been predicted two thirds of the world will have a severe shortage of water or none at all by 2025, and it's shaping up to be the only target we're likely to meet.

Intentions for the foreseeable future are to have these systems operational worldwide, including DACs, but certain locations around the world lack sufficient

water to meet the demands of DAC and even CCS.

Those currently in operation are far from cost effective, yet Exxon is pouring \$3 billion into its research over the next five years, believing CCS will be a \$2 trillion market by 2040.

I've heard it mentioned many times over, that the world is nearing peak oil production, despite us still filling our cars up with the stuff, and consumption growing every year.

However, proven reserves of oil, coal and gas are only based on what you can extract in theory at the time, and are highly dependent upon the technology and methodology used.

Steven Grape from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) says more often than not, proven oil reserves are usually just the tip of the iceberg, and points out today's estimates are not a reflection of tomorrow's.

A wider knowledge of geological formations, plus improvements in technology have had a huge impact, including the development of the controversial horizontal drilling or fracking. In 1990 the number of proven barrels of oil in the US was thought to be 143.5 billion and in 2020 data from EIA showed there was 344.1 billion. So it's impossible to calculate oil reserves or when they might expire.

Clark Williams-Derry is an energy finance analyst for the

Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, an organisation whose primary purpose is to accelerate the transition to a diverse and sustainable energy economy, but also a profitable one.

"While the global oil reserves may be finite, asking how long it will last isn't necessarily the right question. The question should be, how long will we want it and at what price? So there will probably always be some way, to extract it from somewhere."

CCS or "clean coal" has always been the preferred option of fossil fuel companies and has been promised for decades, delaying and even preventing the development of renewables and climate action, and thereby giving hope to the coal, oil and gas industry.

Data from the World Monetary Fund has revealed the world's fossil fuel production is well on track to be double what's considered a safe climate limit, and this directly feeds the manufacturing of all the mindless, useless stuff that gives the consumer a momentary rush of gratification. And then they do it all over again.

The good news is we all have the power to keep those filthy deadly fossil fuels in the ground by simply not participating. All society has to do is take only what they need, not what they want.

Unfortunately, the bad news is, I don't think humanity will ever be up for the challenge.

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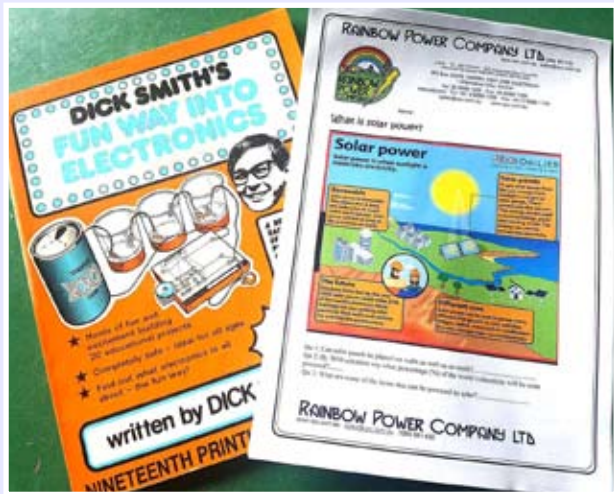
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NIMBIN HEMP EMBASSY



Young people learn solar basics with Nimbin's RPC



by Diana Gosper,
Rainbow Power Co.

We were thrilled to recently be asked to facilitate a workshop from our RPC educational trailer, at Nimbin Central School's 'Science Week'. To coincide with and as a 'take-away' for the youngsters, we did up a fun and informative 16-page free worksheet.

A lot of younger people come into the shop, and we have had enquiries from home-schoolers wanting to do a walk-through lesson at the RPC premises; the worksheet we have made would be a great start, and a great addition to, any kind of solar educational tour.

You can find it on our website, search 'young people', or pop in to 1 Alternative Way in Nimbin (RPC) and grab some copies from us.

With questions (and answers) like: What is solar power? How does solar power convert to electricity? How much power does my family use?

Introducing components i.e. panels, batteries, inverters and the like as well as some common terms in the renewable energy industry i.e. Grid Connect, Stand Alone, Watt Hours, Photovoltaic, and Self Consumption. A fun activity they can do is design a solar power system for their own home! And they also get an assignment to read their energy meter at home (with supervision), if they live on the grid.

Fun colouring in,

crosswords, quizzes, QandA, and freestyle drawing activities to entertain, involve and educate. Maybe the child in you would like to have a go at the worksheet? We all know the meditative qualities of colouring in and drawing and I have tested it out – it is a nice way to while away a few hours.

Doing it together with a youngster is a nice home-schooling addition, as well as a rewarding lockdown stay-at-home activity. The worksheet can be re-visited and done a second or third time to reinforce the lessons within.

There will come a time when electric bikes and cars are commonplace (RPC in fact now have our own Tesla Model 3 car and four of our employees arrive at work on their electric bikes), and now solar powered homes are becoming the norm and power from the sun is the accepted and encouraged number one source of energy.

So why not get youth to the front of the class by giving them a heads-up about renewable energy in one of the more fun and rewarding ways; learning together while colouring in and freestyle drawing your solar powered car, home or planet of the future!

The loveliest thing is seeing a whole bunch of tiny school youngsters perched on the little hill outside RPC, eagerly listening in to every word our class leader says, as they learn about solar power from the Australian forefathers of renewable energy.

I can only hope their faces are nearly as joyous and happy as they do the worksheet with a friend or family member. I hope this is a good addition to someone's learning/home-schooling or lockdown.

RPC are your local solar power specialists: powering on for over 34 years.



Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

Evil laugh

The blood has barely dried from his morning self flagellation before Domme Aperitif slipped on his singlet, white work shirt and went to face the media.

His predecessors had both suddenly resigned leaving him as the 'fanatic apparent'.

And it was certainly his time. The pressure to open the flood gates had grown intense. The science didn't support it though – the science was talking about the 'waning' effect of the viral

vector vaxxes.

Early vaxxed countries were experiencing big new waves of infection morbidity and mortality – the false dawn of the vector vaxxes was fast reverting back into the boiling tumult of new variant pandemic.

"I'm opening the state up. Double vaxxed can fly in from overseas without any quarantine," Domme proclaimed as he was bathed in flashes from the surrounding camera pack hungry for news of freedoms.

"And the godless will perish," he thought. "You sniffing masses; your spell at the edge of 'the world cleanse'

is over," he thought as he patted the spiked metal band around his thigh. The pain was exquisite.

"And when the new wave hits I will call it the 'pandemic of the unvaccinated' – the un and under vaccinated – so easy; a tiny minority already marginalised and persecuted who are at the greatest risk and the least likely to be asymptomatic carriers. Oh, the dire delightful irony."

"They're already divided; all I need do is conquer." Evil laugh.

He laid a cool pale finger on the blood seeping through his trousers and touched it to his lips. It was arousing.

Society becomes what it eats

Shapeshifting

by Anand Gandharva

'Sonnet II' (SS, NGT p.16 October 21) asks: "Don't know what makes this anger from within?"

An old quote: "We are what we eat".

Society becomes what it eats: daily chemicals from animals, like cow adrenaline anxiety at abattoirs.

Everybody knows that alcohol makes highs. Most people balance predatorial self-interest with morals, their inner dialogue, the brain with the heart. Standing straight in a storm, no matter what one consumes. But some people don't, or can't. Anger flows.

Many divisions in society are artificial, explained by what Machiavelli advised years ago: "Divide and rule". Disagreements between groups control debate. A stampede takes only a few nudges. No-one talks about who really benefits, because people are too busy running. Panic can be good for some large business.

It is a 'keep people arguing, and they can be led through the nose' powerplay. In Machiavelli's mafioso worldview, one had to be cruel to rule. News is a prime example. Is it fake? Are humans at the edge of destruction? Armageddon,



or peace in the valley? Meanwhile, someone is raking it in.

What can be done about these false dichotomies?

A person can drop out from the rat race. Not be a materialist. Look after one's private business, rather than worry if there's overpopulation, natural fluctuation, or a Deep State plot.

But Machiavelli is not all. He spelled out 507 years ago out how to befuddle predators. Herbivores are a different kettle. They confront, but are not opportunists. How big their group is, depends: a small bunch of horses, a ginormous load of bison. One still has to meritocratically earn to lead, but the social contract and daily nourishment is different.

The time to be a 'modern' apex predator is coming to an end. Land is scarce. Earth is denuded. With spreading mankind through solar system and Milky Way, the moment to be plant-based has arrived. Sure, people can extend predatory habits with GM-based artificial foods, but it feeds the

same predatorial chemicals. It still puts humanity at odds with nature.

There are laws against predators: consumer protection, family planning, contracts, personal behaviour, etc. But no matter how many rules protect community, some people still eat, feel and think, like predators. DNA shows all mammals are related.

This is not a diatribe against omnivores. Humans often repeat what they are taught to like in childhood. Most are beautiful people, enjoying life. There is too much discrimination and 'divide and rule' already.

But things must change for the environment to be cleaned up. The enemy of the left hand can be one's own right paw. To overcome Machiavelli's advice, it helps to switch from predator food to herbivore meals. It can be done.

There are at least 80 million herbivore humans on Earth today. If people are too old to switch likes, raise children that way. By 2100 humans either are herbivore and star bound... or going extinct. Now, individual behaviour pays enterprises and so finance the environmental crises.

There are herbivore civilisations: Zoroastrian, Taoists, Hindu, Jain, Pythagorean, Buddhist, Seventh Day Adventists, Franciscans, Agnostic Vegans, etc. Another seven billion humans have to stop being predators. It may start with sustainable purchases.

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Sonnet III

by S Sorrensen

He flies around the world to the summit,
(When Aussies overseas still can't fly back)
Climate change? He has already done it,
Adani's pollution plan is on track.

Nationals argue that jobs may be lost,
Boo hoo, there's heaps more in renewables,
Self-interest rules, the common good is tossed,
The rich grow fat, the world unlivable.

Billions of worlds spin in the Milky Way,
One has life – oh what serendipity!
Earth is evolution still underway,
But threatened by dumb greedy bastardry.

Much damage is done, but it can be fixed,
If Scotty gets real at Cop26.

Approval process underway for hemp leaf, sprouts and roots as food in Australia

Australian industrial hemp farmers can look forward to joining the trade in hemp plant products, as an application has been accepted by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ).

The application is to alter the Australian Food Code (the Code) to meet internationally accepted standards, opening new markets for Australian producers of industrial hemp.

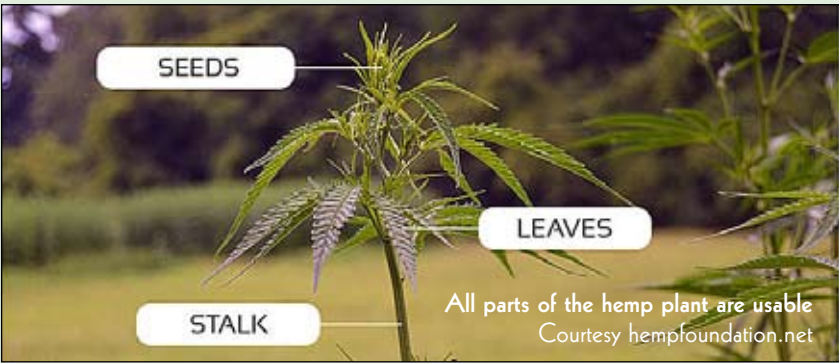
Cannabis law reformists and hemp industry pioneer Andrew Kavasilas has successfully lodged an application to request amendments to the Code that would permit the use and sale of low-delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) hemp leaf, seed sprouts and roots for human consumption.

The low-THC hemp leaf can be used in the same manner as dark leafy green vegetables such as spinach and kale, or even used as an adjunct to hops in beer. The fresh leaves can be used as a micro-green ingredient in salads and smoothies, and can be juiced and cooked.

Just like other similar produce, cannabis leaf contains folate, iron, calcium, vitamin K and vitamin C, magnesium and phosphorus. It's a good source of dietary fibre, enhanced flavonoids and unique terpenes which produce favourable tastes.

Low-THC hemp seed sprouts can be used in the same way as other bean and seed sprouts that are commonly sold in Australia and New Zealand.

Low-THC hemp roots can be uniquely prepared and used in a similar manner to ginger. The dried root can be used as an ingredient in tea blends, herbal infusion products



and coffee substitute products in a similar way to roasted dandelion root.

Australian super food connoisseurs and health-conscious consumers waited more than 17 years before local authorities allowed hemp seed food products to be legally sold.

Mr Kavasilas said, "Australian farmers need the opportunity to catch up with the rest of the world when it comes to the uses of hemp. I'm encouraging State Governments to support this application straight away and let's not waste another decade like the hemp seed food application."

On the path to commercialisation, Mr Kavasilas has joined forces with Hemp Fields, a leading industrial hemp producer, which operates one of the largest low-THC Cannabis (Hemp) research and development facilities in Australia.

Hemp Fields Managing Director, Arthur Wajs, who also serves on the Executive Board of the Australian Industrial Hemp Alliance (AIHA) said, "I believe that we will see an industry drive to fund and fast-track the path to FSANZ Assessment. "Australian hemp farmers need

the ability to capitalise on this commercial opportunity, especially when hemp foods demonstrate outstanding nutritional and health benefits. The farmers have an environmental responsibility to utilise all parts of the hemp plant.

"The economic impact of the whole plant utilisation will lead to job creation in rural areas, exponentially increasing the value of the hemp food industry in Australia."

Mr Kavasilas added, "Australian producers can be market-ready for domestic and international trade within months, we just need Australian Food Regulators to make the necessary approvals."

Watch 'Growing Pains' featured on ABC Landline, 22nd August: www.abc.net.au/landline/growing-pains-push-to-open-new-industrial-hemp/13509454

A1236 - Low-THC hemp leaf, seed sprout and root as food and food ingredients: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1236%20-%20Low-THC-hemp-leaf-seed-sprout-and-root-as-food-and-food-ingredients.aspx

We're poisoning our world and ourselves

by Michael Balderstone

Whatever we have done to the Earth, we have done to ourselves. Is there any argument about that? The question is: what do we do now? There's this frantic push to get back to normal as soon as possible. But normal is causing the problems on the planet, no?

Us hippies migrated here from the cities knowing our society was headed in the wrong direction and it had to hit the wall. There was no avoiding it. We took psychedelic drugs and had visions of the future. We tried to warn people. Go back to nature, live, grow and eat organically.

We've cut down the forests and cleared the land, but what I struggle with most is the endless poisons we keep pumping into the country.

Thousands of tons of pesticides and petrochemical fertilisers we

continue to pour into the land. We spew chemicals into the atmosphere with nary a thought until recently of how it might affect the whole.

Same with our bodies. The people who decide what medicines we can and should have are all representatives of pharmaceutical companies. This is the way now. Doctors trust the Big Pharma experts. This is modern medicine. They scarcely study diet, which is nothing short of moronic to me.

Hippocrates' famous advice, "Let food be thy medicine and medicine thy food" has been long forgotten.

Most people don't grow any of their food. It comes in shopping trolleys. Very little is wholefood as nature grew it for us, and the majority is processed to within an inch of its life.

And the nation is hooked on sugar, it's in food all over the shop. The

little sweet bit refined out of the cane, totally unbalanced. I read the three prime candidates to go down with Covid are obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. Sugar related, every one.

We have treated the Earth with the utmost disrespect and we wonder why it's reacting, biting back with a virus, trying to balance herself. And pretty much all the governments talk about is getting back to how we were as fast as possible. Growth and jobs is the endless yet impossible mantra.

We have to embrace change. We have to draw a line in the sand. For ourselves and our children and the Earth, which is in fact one and the same thing.

I want to believe Big Pharma and the TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) mean well, but when your job is to make as much

profit as possible it must be hard to not let that influence you.

And let's talk illegal drugs briefly, which the TGA is also in charge of. They are the experts, without I suspect, any experience. All the entheogenic plants are illegal. That is any and all plants that were used for centuries by our ancestors to enhance spiritual experiences.

Cannabis is one of them and recently they have been forced to accept it has medicinal uses, but can we grow a plant for ourselves? No way, we can only buy it with a doctor's prescription and then from a Pharma-related company that grows it inside giant greenhouses.

None of it is organic and if you grow your own, except for two plants allowed in Canberra, you are a criminal.

Even non-psychoactive CBD, available at the corner store in

England, now has to be approved here by jumping through the TGA hoops, and they are only allowing 98% or more isolates, no whole plant extractions. Refined and unbalanced, like sugar.

Finally psilocybin is being looked at by the TGA after being called breakthrough therapy in America for hitherto unsolvable mental health conditions, after extraordinary results often with only one dose, but only if it is used in "closely supervised clinical settings with intensive professional support," said the TGA. And it will be synthetic.

Is GOD now spelt TGA? They are our 'health experts', who determine what is safe and what is not. What is good for us and what is not.

Forgive them for they know not what they do? I'm not so sure any more.

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A gorgeous weekend of Balcony Sessions

The Regent Cinema in Murwillumbah reopens in December with an amazing weekend of music on offer on the alfresco balcony. First up on Friday 3rd December from 6 to 8pm are the Weekly Wind-Downs featuring earthy-folk Trobairitz Andrea Soler (pictured). Tickets are \$15/10.



Saturday 4th December from 6 to 8pm is the Sunset Soirée with Meraki, (formally known as Mykaela Jay) – a singer/songwriter with a distinctive voice, all dreamy swoops within a tight groove, sounding like Beth Gibbons (Portishead) and Elena Tonra (Daughter) jamming in a smoky jazz club. A frozen margarita (or your cocktail of choice) and a tray of tapas canapés are part of the ticket price of \$30.

On Sunday 5th December from 4 to 6pm is the world music session with Jolanda

Moyle's evocative cosmic, dreamy eastern-loops and divine-sweet vocals, tickets are \$15/10.

Children under 12 have free entry for all Balcony Sessions. A great SE Asian menu is on offer, plus pizzas and a licensed bar. Tickets are available at: www.the-regent.com.au/live-events

Harlequin Nights Comedy

Harlequin Nights Monthly Stand Up Comedy gigs at The Regent are curated by the brilliant Mandy Nolan, and in December the fantastic line-up features one of the most unique joke writers in the country, MC Matty B.

Matty B's dry and dark jokes have seen him becoming a crowd favourite; his perspective on life is one from a genuinely alternative perspective that simultaneously, somehow, maintains a grounding in the real world.

Matty B has performed at the Australian comedy performing at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Sydney Comedy Festival and the Adelaide Fringe Festival, and his critically acclaimed comedy has been described as "brilliant alternative art expertly performed".

Headliner Steve Allison has a casual approach, he grew

up in show business and is totally at home on the stage, with a natural sense of humour and quick wit. Steve's shows are a well-crafted mix of snappy one-liners, hilarious stories, funny home truths and current topics. It's Aussie humour at its best – Steve Allison is a genuine larrikin!

Supporting Steve is Bron Lewis who burst upon the national comedy scene like a fearless and very funny cyclone. She is a cool mum with too many kids, who does stand-up to escape them. Bron knows how to laugh at herself, and she knows how to make you laugh at her as well, which is lucky because that's basically the point of comedy.

Catch these comedians on Thursday 2nd December, 7.30pm. Ticket are \$25/20 and are available at: www.the-regent.com.au/live-events

Come early for dinner and cocktails. SE Asian food, pizza, licensed bar. 15+



New dates announced

Lismore Theatre Company is greatly relieved to have new dates for *Running Up a Dress* after having been postponed.

Written in 1986 by Australian playwright Suzanne Spinner, *Running Up a Dress* features 10 local women in numerous monologues and ensemble pieces telling the complex story of mother-daughter relationships through the language of sewing, fabrics and clothing.

Bookings for *Running Up a Dress* are open at: www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au There will be six performances over two weekends including Sunday matinees, from 18th to 27th February 2022 Rochdale Theatre.

Tickets are \$25 and \$20 concession. Rochdale Theatre is fully accessible and has a licensed bar.

11a Alternative Way Donations



The Nimbin Community Centre would like to publicly thank the various community organisations, businesses and individuals for their generous donations towards the purchase of the property at 11a Alternative Way.

They are: Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, Nimbin Jungle Patrol, Nimbin GoodTimes, Uri Ross Realty, Nimbin Environment Centre, Nimbin Hills Real Estate, Nimbin School of Arts, Nimbin Comskool, Co-ordination Co-operative Ltd Tuntable Falls, Nimbin Building Materials, Nimbin Show Society, Nimbin Artists Gallery, Topical Hemp Cream, Nimbin Candles, Rainbow Lane, Blue Knob Café, Nimbin Law, Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, Armonica Café, Teretre Cabins, Nimbin Emporium, Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, Funky Corner, Sledge and Danielle, Yvan Calvignac, Alan Glover, Meredith Arnold, Anthony Batchlo, Peter Ulrick, Lil, Rusty and Gitte, Jacquie Williams, Mandie and Steve Hale, Leslie Gary Kerr, Diana Roberts and Samuel Herren, Harry R O'Donovan, Ian Dixon, Lucy Jane Penhallow, Fiona Mari, Kitty Van Vuuren, Peter Cumming, Ruth Neilson, Francisco Alvarez, Russel Preston, Pauline Ahern, Karlin Bracegirdle.

The Community Centre would not have been able to manage this project without the generous support of our local community. This wonderful community asset will not only house the Rainbow Road walking trail, it will be a space for all the community to enjoy into the future.

Anyone else who wishes to donate to this great community project can go to our website at: www.nimbincommunity.org.au and find the donate link, or contact the NCCI office for deposit details.

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