



New contact details for Nimbin MPS

As a result of changes to NBN and telephone connections, Nimbin Multi-Purpose Service has new phone numbers.

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Community Health: new number (02) 6688 1433

These changes only apply to the main incoming numbers. There are no changes to extensions or other phone numbers within the facility.

You can also find these new contact details on our website: nswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au



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School of Arts president's report 2022

by David Hallett

Following on from the challenges of the previous year, 2021 proved to be another difficult year of lockdowns and cancellations, and strict rules about vaccinations and social distancing which meant that numerous events and classes could not be held.

Overall, this led to most major events being cancelled or postponed. The School of Arts has not held a Blue Moon Cabaret since November 2019, and this is a considerable loss to all the performing artists, and a major dent in the essential fundraising of the School of Arts.

The major annual exhibitions, the Spring Arts and the Artist Gallery's Nimbin Art Fair, were both cancelled in 2021, however the NSA was able to manage, for the first time, both a Summer Art Exhibition and a Winter Art Exhibition.

And while Queensland and Victorian visitors were not in the region during these events, the exhibitions attracted hundreds of visitors and considerable sales which benefited both the artists and the School of Arts.

Annual events such as the Nimbin Women's Dinner, Nimbin Roots Festival, Fashion Show and



Community Xmas Lunch were not held in 2021, however the annual Nimbin MardiGrass was held between lockdowns, and the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup was held after being postponed to December.

All major improvements and repainting are being delayed during this difficult period, and maintenance and cleaning have been kept to a minimum. Thanks to the diligence of hall cleaner Pat LaFleur and essential maintenance by Sam Herren for keeping expenditure to a minimum. The old hall has been very fortunate during the vagaries of various climate chaos to have not suffered any significant damage.

As with the previous

year, the NSA suffered a considerable loss of funds from cancelled hirings. And while there were various grants for organisations during the Covid pandemic the NSA, having no paid employees, was not eligible to apply for most grants. However, we were able to secure some funds from NSW Covid-19 Micro Business Grant for loss of income.

The School of Arts has managed to upgrade all the exhibition lighting with assistance from the Nimbin Artists Gallery. Also \$5,000 was donated towards the community's purchase of 11A Alternative Way. Faulty solar panels were replaced on warranty terms, and office computer problems necessitated expenditure on

repairs and data recovery.

Additional stage lighting equipment has been purchased. The loss of the NSA's original website was the trigger towards developing plans for a new website to promote the program of future events and exhibitions.

A long-serving member of the School of Arts management, Sue Edmonds, has recently resigned, and the NSA thanks Sue for her many years of voluntary work. The School of Arts also acknowledges our long-term tenants Perceptio Bookshop and Nimbin Artists Gallery, and thanks to the on-going management of Tony Gibson, Carole Barrett, Kylie Kingston, Peter Brooker, Samara Burcher and Tim Tonkin.

In memory of Helga Mimlich

27/01/1940 – 22/01/2022

by Garry Mimlich

Helga was born in Poland in 1940 and fled the country with her parents as refugees in 1945 to Dresden. The city was completely flattened by bombing as they left in the last train out of the city.

The family settled in a small German town called Liebenau, where Helga completed her schooling.

The family immigrated to Australia by ship in 1956, with the promise of warm weather and a better life.

Their first stop was a migrant hostel, named Bonegilla, then to Sydney in 1957 where they lived at the Westbridge (Villawood) Hostel until the family bought a house nearby.

She met another migrant, John Mimlich and they married on Christmas Day in 1960, their marriage lasting almost 35 years until John's death.

They had two sons, John and Garry. Helga was a terrific mum who lost many nights' sleep helping her boys live through asthma attacks and would then have to go to work. She was truly superhuman.

Helga was involved in the Chester Hill German Lutheran church, youth group and ladies auxiliary until the 1980s, but finished her life without any religion.

Helga mostly worked selling haberdashery, wool and fabrics. She was a natural at sales. Helga loved to

sew, knit and crochet, making her own clothes and craft items. There was nothing she couldn't do with a ball of yarn or a metre of fabric.

Living in the suburbs of western Sydney was tough, money was hard to come by, and she used to scrimp and save, so the family could have everything within reason. She taught her boys valuable lessons.

Her cooking was legendary. She mastered many cuisines and was always looking for new recipes. She baked the most superb strudels and cakes and everyone was always welcome at her table.

Helga loved to travel, and in 1973 with her husband she toured Europe and Hong Kong. It was the first of many trips in Australia and overseas culminating in a final holiday in Cambodia with son Garry and her brother Heinz in 2020. She had an adventurous spirit.

In 1995 Helga and John retired and moved permanently to Billen Cliffs. In December that year, her world was turned upside down with the sudden death of her husband John. She mourned him until she took her last breath.

She loved her grandsons Jonathon and Benjamin and playing board games with them.

For the last 26 years, Helga enjoyed a full life with her son Garry. She loved



the communities of Billen Cliffs and Nimbin, volunteering and raising funds, and was an advocate for the legalisation of cannabis.

She enjoyed a good and honourable protest. She was also an advocate for voluntary euthanasia, which she didn't get to enjoy.

In 2018 she started her fight with cancer. Helga slipped away at 8.36pm on 22nd January, aged 81.

Her family thank the palliative care team and community nurses, members of the wonderful Nimbin and Billen Cliffs communities for your love and support.

We will miss her terribly.

Nimbin bids farewell to Helliwells



Luncheon to farewell the Helliwells at Nimbin Hotel
Photo: Chibo Mertineit

by Rebecca Ryall

David and Sarah Helliwell, and their four cats, arrived in Nimbin in February of 1982 and now, almost 40 years to the day later, they are saying farewell.

They landed on our shores after meeting in medical school in the UK, David finishing his medical degree and Sarah completing nursing qualifications. David aspired to be a country GP, a position he saw as allowing a wholistic approach to medicine, a holder of local history, a privileged responsibility. They were young, eager and dedicated. They first moved into the Nurses' Home – which was situated where the current hospital is – while waiting for access to what would become the Nimbin Medical Centre (and their new home) in what is now known locally as the Green Bank building.

For three years they worked alone in the old bank building, living in the rooms out the back. David worked practically 24 hours a day at the clinic and on-call at the hospital. Sarah did the rest, managing reception, the nursing practice and also the cleaning. They were doing what they loved. Sarah describes Nimbin in 1982 as “a magic place, like a huge, open-air university”. They both loved the diversity, the mix of old country locals and new alternative lifestyle seekers. Kingsley Pearson joined David in the practice in 1985, and for the first time in a long while, Nimbin had stable quality medical care.

In the eighties, Nimbin accommodated many people with substance abuse issues. This era also saw the rise of the AIDS epidemic in Australia and the dangers accompanying injecting of drugs were becoming more apparent. In one week in 1988, the Nimbin Medical Centre treated 10 patients with hepatitis B. In a town with such a small population, these numbers were alarming. Questioning of local drug users revealed the dismal state

of needle hygiene amongst local injectors, and identified a need for accessible supply of injecting equipment.

And so the Needle Syringe Program was born, initially supplying clean equipment through an outreach service delivering directly to those in need, and later growing into the service that continues today out of the Nimbin Multi-Purpose Facility. This was the first needle exchange program in a rural area in NSW, outside of the capital cities.

Six months later saw the establishment of the first rurally-located Methadone Maintenance Program, a service which also continues today – 33 years later. Many locals remain unaware of their existence. To those in need, though, both the needle exchange and the methadone clinic remain a lifeline, improving safety for users and keeping them connected with local health and welfare services.

David is highly respected in the harm minimisation space in Australia, advocating for substance dependence to be decriminalised and treated as a health issue, as opposed to a matter dealt with by the criminal justice system. He is a clinical leader in his field of addiction medicine and an advocate for Harm Reduction Australia – a national organisation working towards more humane, effective and balanced drug policies in Australia and beyond.

Along with Alex Wodak, David has more recently worked tirelessly for fair and ethical research into the use of E-cigarettes as a strategy for reducing harm associated with smoking tobacco. Alex credits David's warmth and authenticity, and his love for Nimbin, as contributing to his effectiveness as both a practitioner and an advocate. He also acknowledges David's influence on his own work in harm reduction.

Closer to home, David was an early supporter of the Nimbin MardiGrass. He committed time, energy and money to not only assist with



Preschool hospital visit 1986

the political side of things, but was often found manning the entrance gate. Both Michael Balderstone and Andrew Kavasilas are open in their admiration for David and grateful for the legitimacy that the input of David (and other leaders in the medical and criminal justice fields) lent to their campaigns in pursuit of cannabis law reform.

David's intellect and his professional networks are credited with helping to get the message heard in other, more conservative settings, and his authenticity and cheerful attitude with personally supporting and validating those directly involved in the fight.

David has never used his professional status to elevate him above the rest. Many people spoken to for this article mentioned his relatability, and how it made them feel better about themselves to see David's openness and honesty about his life-long dependence on nicotine.

Despite his level of respect and acclaim on the national stage, David has always loved Nimbin and its not-quite-normal folk. He credits growing up here with giving his children one third country values, one third alternative ethics, and one third street smarts. I have no doubt that his quiet and consistent presence in the background of all things Nimbin has contributed to the stability and sanity of the Nimbin community and all those individuals striving for well-being and a humane approach to substance use and abuse.

The couple raised three

kids in Nimbin, and when the eldest started school in the late 80's, Sarah began spending time helping out there, in the classroom, with the choir, and also running personal development groups for family life. Once she had all three kids in school, she decided to retrain as a teacher. She started her teaching career at Nimbin Central School in 1998, later moving on to Lismore High, and then Richmond River High, where she worked for 14 years.

She returned to Nimbin in the last few years, finishing where she started and rounding out a fulfilling career of inspiring in young people a love for science. She touched the lives of many during her time both nursing and teaching, and is remembered by students and parents alike as easy-going and kind.

David and Sarah are moving north to spend time with kids and grandkids. They will be missed by all who have benefitted from their quiet counsel and stable support. Through his tireless efforts, David has directly impacted the health and well-being of many individuals, their families and the community, informed generations of health care workers and acted as a beacon for advocates both local and further afield. His legacy will live on in Nimbin.

As they leave to begin this next chapter of their lives, David and Sarah take with them the sincere thanks and well wishes of all those involved in the Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc, the cannabis law reform crew, and the Nimbin community as a whole.



Nimbin Police and Community BBQ

by Eugenie Stephans

Police and community came together on Saturday afternoon 12th February over donated helpings of barbecued hamburgers and tofu.

Over 100 people came to Allsopp Park for the Nimbin Police and Community BBQ, despite the drizzly weather.

In attendance were Local Area Commander, Superintendent Scott Tanner, Inspector Nigel Howard, Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer Ros Sten together with Nimbin police Steve and Sam, managing the grill.

Also present were Aaron and Michael who took charge of the camera, taking good photos. All had a good time, meeting everyone.

Off-duty police officers took turns cooking on the grills. Allsopp Park was abuzz with people having an informal chat with police or just lazing around. Tourists were also welcome including the Veterans bikers who met some locals

before descending on the pub.

It was important for all to come together for a common cause, which is to have a good and happy community. The food and drinks were donated by police, Nimbin Bakery and Darcy's Five Loaves.

Thank you also to Heidi and Carolyn, to Inspector Howard for the use of his tents and fridge etc, and much gratitude to all who helped with the setting up and dismantling of the BBQ.

The event was suggested by members of the Police and Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) and finally came to fruition.

The PCCC gets together at their tri-monthly meetings “to figure out what can be done to make people's lives a little better”. The community is most welcome to table any correspondence at these meetings.

All being well, there will be more barbecues to look forward to – thank you all for sharing.

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Clive Palmer is not your friend

by Simon Thomas

One of my greatest follies is to spend my precious time and energy discussing scientific topics on Facebook with kind, well-meaning mates who have no affinity for the subject.

In a recent discussion about the on-going protests in Canberra, one of them mentioned that Clive Palmer (who he has certainly never met) is his friend, presumably because Clive Palmer is mouthing the words that resonate with this person's deeply held beliefs.

I think that a real friend is the one who has the courage to tell you the things you don't want to hear, secure in the knowledge that the friendship will endure.

Clive Palmer is a friend only of his own insatiable lust for power and money and will do or say anything that furthers that goal.

Clive Palmer does not care about your health. He obviously doesn't

even take care of his own health, what makes you think he cares about the health of any other person in the world?

Clive Palmer is not a friend of the ordinary person. How do I know that? Because he transferred millions of dollars out of his nickel refinery and into his phony political party.

He then cut the men and women who had slaved away at this dangerous and exhausting workplace loose with nothing. You the taxpayer had to bail them out. Meanwhile he parks his \$50 million yacht in a \$3000 per day parking spot so he can see the Opera House on the rare occasions that he is in Sydney.

Clive Palmer is not a friend of democracy. He sued the citizens of Western Australia for \$30 billion. Had he won, every man woman and child in the state would have been forced to pay this already obscenely wealthy person \$11,284.28.

Some of my friends promote Clive Palmer on their social media accounts because they believe that he is opposed to the LNP government. But at the last election, he spent \$60 mill to not win one single seat for his own party but to push Morrison and his odious clique over the line and back into power. This election, he has \$80 or \$100 million ready to do the same thing. It's monopoly money to him.

Every time you share a post from Clive Palmer between now and the election, you are promoting Scott Morrison. You are an unpaid worker staking your credibility to underwrite the most corrupt and incompetent government in our country's history.

Clive Palmer is not working for the benefit of Australians. His \$600,000,000 per annum royalty cheque comes mainly from Chinese companies which operate his mining leases. He moved his



operations to New Zealand to avoid paying tax to us.

Clive Palmer wants to open a massive coal mine only ten kilometres from the Great Barrier Reef.

Clive Palmer does not believe in human-induced climate change.

Clive Palmer's right-hand man is Craig Kelly, who chose to resign from the Liberal party rather than discipline his mate and co-worker who was accused by several young women of sexual misconduct. Yes, the police were involved.

Craig Kelly, while still in the LNP, spent years successfully sabotaging Australia's climate action agenda. Like Clive Palmer, he shows no regard for his own bodily health and sure as hell doesn't care about yours.

Clive Palmer has enough money to buy you and that is exactly what he is doing. He only needs to capture 10% of the vote to push the LNP back into another disastrous term of government. Our world cannot afford that. My grandkids don't deserve it.

Clive Palmer is not your friend.

Lessons from Kyogle Council

by Graeme Gibson

Levels of public trust in government and support for democracy have been waning for many years. I happen to believe that local government – the level closest to the people – presents real opportunities for democratic renewal.

It does however, require visionary and committed council staff and elected councillors, able to look beyond parochial and short-term interests. Of course the absence of this commitment may act as a handbrake on democratic renewal. Two incidents from Kyogle demonstrate this.

In mid-2021, Kyogle Council amended its Local Environment Plan (LEP), as all councils do from time to time. This required community consultation.

Council stated it would publish an article in its newsletter and run several 'talk to a planner' sessions. It did neither of these and also decided it was 'impractical' to notify the over 450 affected landowners.

I asked all nine councillors to explain their reasoning behind making the changes without meeting its commitment to the community. Only two responded, saying I should ask council staff.

Following the LEP amendment process, a request was made for copies of community submissions, with names and identifying details redacted, as is normal practice. Council declined. A formal request was then made through the *Government Information (Public Access) Act*, known as GIPA. Council responded with a quote of \$1,232 to provide these submissions.

Council's quote was referred to the NSW Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) who described the quoted fee as the highest they had seen. Council were asked to review. They did this, and as the IPC's powers are not binding or enforceable – toothless, you may say – council declined to amend its quote.

Similar submissions on a previous review in 2018 have been available without charge. Council have not explained why a hefty fee was now required. In August 2021, referring to the LEP amendment, former mayor Danielle Mulholland said council is "...open and transparent."

Councils are often criticised for situations that are not of their making, and accused of poor management. Much of this criticism is unjustified, made by people who need to vent and find council an easy target.

However, in failing to meet its commitments Kyogle Council has added to those voices. It let the community down and it let itself down.

And now... at the council meeting in

February 2022, Cr Janet Wilson requested a report "...outlining the options, requirements, indicative costs and timeframe to allow the community to decide on a popularly-elected mayor at future elections." The mayor in Kyogle is currently elected by the councillors rather than voters.

While it has been noted several times in recent years that the community is broadly in favour of this change, there are pros and cons to both methods of election.

Any change can only be made following a referendum of voters which would need to be supported by an education campaign. This would not need to be complex and would have the strong advantage of raising awareness of local government – a good thing in itself. It may even lead to more nominations for the next council elections. In December 2019 there were just 12 nominations for nine positions.

The report was provided for the March meeting and led to a motion from Councillor Wilson that included "Proceed with a referendum to introduce a popularly-elected mayor," and surprisingly, "Reduce the number of Councillors from nine to seven."

Discussion over the next hour started with Councillor Wilson pointing out this was not about what individual councillors believed, but this was about asking voters to make a decision on the method of election of the mayor. This point was made repeatedly during the discussion but failed to make an impression on several of the councillors.

Listening to the questions asked, it is evident that some councillors had not read the report, or at least not absorbed its contents. One pointed out that the people he speaks with do not favour a change. Which is what happens in an echo chamber. Another stated people are more interested in the state of the roads than how the mayor is elected. With that sort of limited focus we would never have gone to the moon.

The sticking point may have been the proposed reduction in the number of councillors, which had not been as well canvassed as had the method of election of the mayor. The proposed change to councillor numbers could have been readily removed allowing the focus to return to the mayoral election method, but this was not to be.

But throughout, it seemed clear some councillors thought their preferences were more important than community preferences. An opportunity to engage constituents in an issue of importance was lost.

The common factor between these two snapshot incidents of Kyogle Council practices? In my view, a widespread disdain for the community. The handbrake is on.

Community spirit and resilience is a shining light



by Cr Jeff Johnson
Ballina Council

In these times of terrible sadness, loss and grief, our community spirit and resilience has shone through.

What a wonderful community we have. People opening up their homes or spare rooms to people they don't know, all the heroes who were out in boats rescuing people from flooded properties – including harrowing stories of grinding through tin roofs to get people out safely, the thousands of locals out helping their neighbours or heading into the flood areas or evacuation centres to help out.

I'm so proud to be a member of such a wonderful community and region. When you throw in the fact that at times there was a shortage of food, fuel, power (in many places) and internet connectivity for extended periods, the resilience and love shown fills me with great pride and hope.

It's hard not to link the recent floods to human-induced climate change. With a flood peak at over two metres above the previous maximum, I'm not sure what additional evidence is needed to see that our weather is changing.

The forecast of more intense weather events is already upon us. It's scary to think what we'll be experiencing in 20-50 years' time if we don't rapidly transition to a 100% renewable future.

Fossil fuel divestment initiative

I'm sure most know of the power of the fossil fuel lobby and the billions of dollars in subsidies that the industry continues to receive. That's why initiatives like the Fossil Fuel Divestment Initiative

fossil fuel aligned financial institutions.

This initiative has resulted in over \$50 million being diverted away from fossil fuel supporting institutions. If this was repeated in every Council across Australia, the impact would be even greater.

A few years back the above motion was clarified to state that if a fossil fuel free institution had an interest rate that was within a margin of 0.05% of the alternative, then Ballina Council would invest in the former.

I wasn't able to attend Ballina Council's March meeting on the 24th March as I wasn't feeling well (I have since tested positive to Covid). At that meeting a motion was put to Council, which was supported by Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, to amend Ballina Council's investment policy to no longer provide a preference for investing in clean energy investments/financial institutions.

That margin has now been removed, which could result in a shift back towards supporting the big banks that continue to support new developments like Coal Seam Gas and the expansion of the Newcastle Coal Port.

I plan on supporting a rescission motion at the April meeting to overturn this backward change under the 'leadership' of Mayor Sharon Cadwallader. If Ballina Council can help support the transition away from fossil fuels and runaway climate change, then that can only be a good thing for our region.

Surely the forgoing of a few thousand dollars of interest could be considered an investment in our future, and something that Ballina Council should reinstate.

How clean is “clean hydrogen”?

by George Pick

The prime minister has recently announced the export of “clean hydrogen” to Japan. A pilot project that is to produce three tonnes of liquid hydrogen has begun its first shipment.

It is being packaged as “clean hydrogen” despite the fact it is derived from dirty brown coal mined in Victoria. Its CO₂ emissions from the gasification process is supposed to be captured and stored – Carbon Capture and Storage (CC&S) – thus making it carbon neutral or clean.

This method of production is termed blue hydrogen as distinct from grey hydrogen that has no CC&S, and green hydrogen that is produced by electrolysis water, powered by renewable electricity and releases no CO₂ emissions.

The pilot project – the Hydrogen Supply Chain (HESC) – is supported by a large consortium of overseas investors and AGL, and is to spend \$500M with the Federal Government chipping in \$57M. It was launched in 2018. The pilot

project, like most pilots, could be called “proof of concept”.

For example, the transportation of liquid hydrogen by ship to Japan is the first of its kind as far as I know. It will be assessed along all points of the supply chain and if successful will go commercial with the aim of producing 225,000 tonnes per annum of liquid hydrogen.

The HESC has stated that on commercialisation of the project they would store CO₂ emissions at various geological locations around the Victorian coast. Yet it has been reported these sites need thorough investigation and won’t be available until 2030. If true, this would be a major hurdle.

The PM with great fanfare stated that this could be the start of a “new energy export industry”. The Minister for Energy, Angus Taylor heralded the project as a “major source of clean energy”. Expect to hear much of “clean energy” in the coming election campaign.

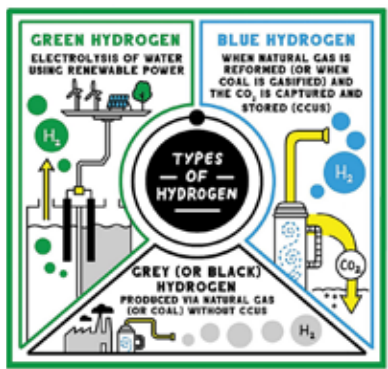
So what’s not to like? The key to the project’s success hinges on CC&S. Can it be made to work at scale? If it doesn’t, will the consortium be accountable, and

face among other things financial consequences? Are there examples in Australia that may give a clue?

Australia does indeed have a large CC&S operation, associated with the Gorgon LNG project in WA. It is a case worth studying as it may give a hint as to what happens when things go awry. The project approved by the WA government about a decade ago was conditional on stringent targets for the sequestration of its carbon emissions. This included that CC&S would commence at the same time as the LNG trains began production, and would achieve an 80% capture and storage rate of carbon emissions.

What actually eventuated? Production started in 2016. The commencement date for CC&S was delayed by three years due to technical difficulties and eventually began storing emissions in 2019. The WA government subsequently altered the terms of the agreement pushing the start-up to a later date for sequestration, so reducing Chevron’s liability.

Foregone sequestration of carbon emissions are estimated to be



worth \$100M at \$25/tonne of CO₂. Whether the government will enforce this penalty is unknown. Furthermore, only 40% of emissions have been captured and stored, versus the contract’s target of 80%.

There have been few if any successful CC&S projects globally, despite the fact that billions of dollars have been spent over at least a decade. It is generally regarded as too expensive and complex a proposition to make the use of fossil fuels carbon neutral. World-wide, the annual amount of successful CC&S projects run only into the tens of millions of tonnes of successful CO₂ storage. Compare that to the annual global CO₂ emissions of around 40 billion tonnes, and it’s clear, it’s barely making a dent.

The Morrison government is trying

to hitch its wagon to the “hydrogen revolution” via the production of “clean hydrogen”. For many of our overseas trading partners who have committed to a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030, this will be unacceptable in the medium to long term as it would be seen, quite rightly, as encouraging the continued use of coal /gas.

These countries have stated they want green hydrogen from us. In addition, it has been predicted that green hydrogen will achieve parity with blue hydrogen – presuming it can be made to work – around 2025-2030 at about \$2/GJ.

In conclusion the Federal government is promoting themselves as the purveyor of “clean hydrogen” – as long as the feed stock is coal or natural gas. So strong is the influence of the fossil fuel industry over the government.

No mention is made of the zero emissions afforded via the use of renewable electricity /electrolysis of water in their recent “new energy export (of hydrogen) industry” announcement. Of course their plan hinges on CC&S to make it “clean”. And as we have seen, these attempts have largely failed.

The case for the long-term commercial production of fossil fuel derived hydrogen is simply not there.

A money-hungry world that forgot about food

by Bernadine Schwartz

The deeper we fall, the more we seem to be in denial. No concrete plans, just a world preoccupied with making other arrangements for a future that’s still pending. But this is another day, another dollar world, so it’s business as usual.

We’ve got NASA making plans for two new missions to Venus by 2030, as part of their ambitious discovery program, and the Queensland government are putting preparations in place to host the 2032 Olympics. Then we have millions of individuals with such high hopes for the future but no long-term commitments to Mother Earth. They’re simply too busy hammering more nails in her coffin.

As I write, there are millions of people in many parts of the world struggling with unprecedented drought conditions, living hand to mouth and according to the SPEI Global Drought Monitor, the only continent that’s been spared is Antarctica.

In South America the situation is critical from coast to rainforest and no end in sight with Chile one of the worst hit, after 13 years of enduring the longest drought on record, with crop losses and power shortages, caused by historically low levels in their hydro-electric reservoirs.

Patagonia, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, Lima and Paraguay haven’t escaped, nor has Bolivia, where millions of acres were ravaged by wildfires, and

lakes that once provided drinking water are now completely dried up.

Droughts are crippling key agricultural regions of the world and analysts fear it’s becoming the new normal. In Argentina they’ve had consistently low yields and data from the World Bank shows corn and wheat losses were as high as 80% in some regions, in a nation long known as a global breadbasket.

Brazil is witnessing the worst drought on record, as water tables rapidly empty, along with extremely low levels in dams, causing power outages, with some major rivers now nothing more than a channel of cracked bare ground that runs for miles and miles.

The Piraña River is part of the second largest river system in South America, normally rising in Brazil and reaching the sea via the River Plate, that drains into a vast watershed, covering all of Paraguay, South Brazil and Northern Argentina, but today people in Argentina can be seen walking across the dry riverbed of this once mighty river.

There was a time when the Euphrates flowed through Syria but years of drought has turned it into parched ground and the Fertile Crescent in Turkey, the cradle of civilisation, has its people struggling to grow crops.

All these rivers carried a phenomenal amount of water, including the Piraña River. Normally, the volume of water flowing to the Atlantic from this one river was roughly the same as the



Exposed riverbed of the Old Piraña River, a tributary of the Piraña River, during a drought in Rosario, Argentina, 29th July 2021. The Piraña River Basin and its related aquifers provide potable water to close to 40 million people in South America Photo courtesy AP/Victor Caivano

entire Mississippi River, and a few good wet seasons isn’t going to get these rivers up and running again.

Tropical Taiwan is one of the wettest places on Earth, with annual typhoons and monsoons, but that was until 2020, when no typhoon came and still very little rain. Now the reservoirs have dropped below 20% capacity with some even falling below 10%. Taiwan is the world’s number one manufacturer of semiconductors for computer chips, including 90% of the world’s most advanced microchips, and this drought will have a significant impact on the electronics industry worldwide.

Countries within the Horn of Africa have always benefited from two wet seasons but they haven’t escaped; instead they’re experiencing the lowest rainfall on record. Ethiopia is in deep peril and

both Somalia and Kenya have declared a drought emergency, as millions face one of the worst famines in 35 years.

There’s a drought in the Philippines, and in Madagascar and Iran, with civil unrest escalating and food protests, as hundreds of thousands starve.

In Europe drought conditions are persisting in parts of the Alps, France, Malta, Cyprus, Spain, Lithuania, Portugal, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Austria, Sweden, Latvia, Germany and Finland, and a new study from the World Economic Forum is suggesting extreme droughts could occur as often as every second summer in some parts of Europe.

The Lindoso reservoir in north-western Spain provided hydro electricity, but today it’s completely dried up, exposing the entire

valley and the village that was submerged 30 years ago.

In India, the summer monsoons account for 70% of India’s rainfall but today they can’t be relied on, with 21% of the country experiencing extreme drought, particularly in the north-east, where the drought continues to spread outwards.

Over in the US, the crisis is worsening, in New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Montana, North Dakota, Colorado and Wyoming with no rain forecast.

For millions and millions of years Mother Earth’s climate has been kept in balance via a carbon cycle, always functioning as a thermostat and influencing the planet’s distribution of rainfall. Now this vital cycle is failing.

Here in our temporary safe haven, we’re receiving far more than our fair

share of rain, caused by La Niña global warming and no summer to really speak of, while Western Australia had wildfires and a record breaking hot summer with the West Pilbara region reaching 50.7 degrees Celsius, the highest temperature ever recorded in Australia.

According to the IPCC, the southwest of WA is predicted to be one of the first places on Earth to see a sharp decline in rainfall, and one of the only regions that the bulk of climate models agreed upon. And they’ve been proven correct.

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network has advised governments and relief agencies around the world to be prepared for a food assistance emergency. But what’s going to happen when those nations that once provided food relief have none to give?

Society is familiar with images of starving children in the third world but never their own and the prediction that two thirds of the world will have a severe shortage of water or none at all by 2025 is becoming a reality and this is the prelude.

When we started out as a species, we had no deadlines, no race to run, we really did have all the time in the world. We had everything we needed and more, but time became money and we did the minute mile when just running slowly would have gotten us there.

Well we’ve certainly got plenty of money, just like we always wanted, but now we’ve run out of valuable time to spend it all.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

LOCAL WOMEN giving the National Brands a run for their money!

IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, NIMBIN HILLS WOULD LIKE TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO TWO OF THEIR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL LOCAL WOMEN SALES AGENTS SAMARA BURCHER AND JACQUI SMITH



Left: Samara Burcher
Right: Jacqui Smith

Sam and Jacqui have consistently reached top ten status in 2021 -22 for agents in the Northern Rivers Region as recorded by CoreLogic - the leading Property data providers in Australia, out selling some of the top agents from Byron to Kyogle and are in the top 3 female agents for our region. This is something our small town can be proud of as our LOCAL WOMEN give the national brands a run for their money.

Both Sam and Jacqui have been with Nimbin Hills since its inception in 2015 and through long hours, tireless enthusiasm and belief in the natural beauty of Nimbin AND it's Community they are now both receiving the accolades they so deserve. These lovely ladies are clearly forces to be reckoned with.

To mark International Women's Day this month, we want to spotlight the accomplishments of women in real estate and keep discussing gender in a field still characterized by inequity at its highest levels and in the commercial arena. Recent years have demonstrated just how powerful the presence of women can be within the industry. Whilst there have been women in real estate almost since the industry's inception in 1923 it's been an age-old struggle trying to bring equality into the workplace. As studies repeatedly show, achieving financial equality is one of the keys to female empowerment. As well as improving the lives of individual women, it also has wide-reaching benefits for society and the economy. Yet even in relatively wealthy countries like Australia and New Zealand, women still haven't reached financial equality with men.

Real Estate has been a male dominated industry in the past, particularly in the regions however Sam and Jacqui have proven that they can achieve fantastic results for their clients BECAUSE they are women and care deeply about their clients. They have proven that they can do a fantastic job for their clients because they come from a nurturing feminine place rather than the pushy standpoint that estate agents are sadly renowned for.

In a mainly male dominated industry, Jacqui and Samara are both smashing it! We applaud our two leading ladies.

"Nimbin is a unique and rare community. A place where I feel comfortable and safe to be myself. And when I leave Nimbin, I long to get back home. Back home to where there is freedom of expression, healthy discussion and debate, acceptance of all people and their mindsets, creativity and a simple life in tune with nature. We are not perfect, but we are free to grow here.

There is no town like Nimbin, no region like the Northern Rivers. I am grateful that I'm here and grateful to all the people who have made this town what it is. It is a breath of fresh air. Selling Real Estate is easy when you love the land you're selling.

I am also committed to selling the ethos of our community as it is fundamental to my happiness. I am extremely happy to be a woman too!" - Jacqui



Left: Jacqui Smith Right: Samara Burcher

From left to right:



WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY?

Celebrating strong women across the globe...

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when all women are recognised for their achievements. International Women's Day was first born out of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe. Since those early days, International Women's Day has grown in prominence and now reaches women in every corner of the world. The growing international women's movement has helped make International Women's Day a central point for action, to build support for women's rights and their full participation in the economy, politics, community and in everyday life.



"SHE WORKED ENDLESSLY AND WITH GREAT FLEXIBILITY TO FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR OUR PROPERTY"

"Samara enabled the difficult task of selling our dream home full of memories so much easier. Samara's warm, easy going disposition not only with ourselves but with potential buyers whom she showed around made an impression with us. Her local knowledge of the area and surrounds were evident through her interactions with people as she showed them around. Samara was non intrusive yet confident in her task and she was prepared to answer any of our questions at any time of the day and also be flexible with clients by showing them the property on her time off during weekends. She worked endlessly and with great flexibility to find the right person for our property and the community. Samara possessed a real knack for providing solutions outside the box which led to the successful outcome. Without Samara's help, we would have found the selling of our home of 26 years difficult. We were highly impressed with Samara and have no hesitation in recommending her as an agent" - Rosa

RATE MY AGENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR NIMBIN & SURROUNDS 4 YEARS RUNNING

At Nimbin Hills we boast an almost entire female staff! predominantly a female run office and with our record of winning 'Rate my Agent Agency of the Year for Nimbin & Surrounds 4 years running and Jacqui Smith being awarded Agent of the Year 2020, 2021 The Nimbin Hills women prove that the movement of successful women in real estate is alive and well in the Northern Rivers.

To support your LOCAL WOMEN in real estate when buying or selling your next home call in and see Jacqui and Sam at the Nimbin Hills office
74a Cullen St Nimbin or simply call anytime to find out your new market value!

Poetry corner

A Poem about the Floods

by Layla Rose

My mind is filled with water
Yesterday it filled the streets
Tonight it fills my mind.
Like a slow creeping feeling
Like a sinking ceiling
Reeling
A calm threatening
To swallow all in its path.
With not even a whisper
Blink and you'll miss her
Reaching for your door.
The calm after a storm
Threatens to engulf us all.
Sitting on a wet floor
Knowing in my heart there's more
To come
In different forms.
And all the people
Weathering the storm
Holding close only
What they cannot bear to mourn.
And fleeing for their lives.

What kind of dream is this?
The silent scream
Of creeping water is

Our mother crying
Yes
And it is a destructive force.
Mountains cower in her wake
Because all we do is take
And it's breaking her body down
Right before our eyes
Right around
Homes
Watching our towns
Drown.
Looking to each other in profound disbelief.
Yet we're fearless now in reaching out a hand to our neighbour
Who was but merely a stranger
Yesterday.
And today we are one.
Meeting on the doorstep
Of futures told
A waking dream unfolds
As the screens lark on
With
Their songs of fear
And destruction.
An eruption of community
Like ants from their haven
Advance into action
Because we've all known this

was coming
But we didn't want to believe it was true.
Who are you?
And who am I?
As we stand beneath our Mother's
Reproachful eye.
I look to my own child
And I try
To imagine a world without this destruction.
And I choose to believe it exists.
Because I have to
But now I cry
In the tragedy of this
Moment in history.
Where the streets that we
Dreamed and grew on
Were drowned
And now before our doors lie mounds
Of the memories we held here
And the sound
Of people
Uniting in adversity
And praying
For blue skies.

The Voice from the Void

by John Stuart

Preaching reconciliation,
imprisoning innocent refugees.

Suffer the little children,
they will inherit.

Pseudo statesmanship,
creating conflicts with China,
praying for peace,
Lord have mercy!

Crusading for democracy,
buying votes with government grants.
The dinkum Aussie,
manufacturing mateship.

A champion of human rights,
murderous revelations
of Australian atrocities continue.
Hype and hypocrisy.

Floundering formalities for
flood victims,
ignoring cause and effect,
climate change,
the stench of decay.

Soothing smiles,
appeals to fear and greed,
mass media marketing,
echoing emptiness.

A psycho, using truth to tell lies,
nobility and honour of the lowest order.
Scott Morrison, brought to you by
the Australian government,
Canberra.

Anyone out there?



by Alex Manzi Fe

“The quest for alien life is perhaps the most fascinating challenge for 21st century science. Its outcome will influence our concept of our place in nature as profoundly as Darwinism has over the last 150 years.” This is a quote from *Our Final Century* by Martin Rees. The idea of thinking there is no other life out there, that this planet is the only place of life in the Universe is like trying to imagine a beach made of one grain of sand. This is a third dimensional planet, in that respect it is quite special. But there are, of course, other dimensionalities and frequencies ‘out there’ and that is one of the reasons why we have not been able to see them and the beings that exist within them.

Many have the power to shift dimension and appear before us as third dimensional perceptions. People often ask, “Why don't they come down to us, land upon the White House lawn, and put an end to all the doubts and problems down here on Earth?” Number One: if they did land on the White House lawn they would, of course, be shot down and announced as alien invaders. Number Two: It's not up to them to come down to us. It's up to the human race to raise its frequency – and go up to them, to be able to see beings from other places, communicate with them and learn about the true human history and our place within the Universe. The Earth at this time is undoubtedly in a process of transformation. The Earth itself is shifting its frequency, and all those who live on it must do so in harmony with it. If they are unable, they will have to leave their bodies and reincarnate later when they are ready to do so. It is a tremendous time, an amazing time to be alive. It is also the greatest test of consciousness to be able to let go of the delusional security of the 3D world, let go, and open ourselves to loving contact with our brothers and sisters, the extra-terrestrials.

Meat your maker?

Pyramids of several designs around the world indicate there were pre-ice age global civilisations, that moved and laid heavy stones in different styles and eras, aligning with another north pole. They were built on specific points in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Mexico, Turkey, The Americas, China, India, Indonesia, Pacific, Thailand, Bosnia, Peru, Bolivia, Galapagos, inscriptions in Gosford ... and so on, possibly pyramids in Australia. Made maybe to charge the landscape, as a bridge to a hypothesised afterlife, unify people with displays of power, inscribe sacred mathematics, ode to Gods; interstellar stations, maybe all these. It may indicate that alien giants from the 5th dimension helped people cut through rock with chemical tools or water lasers, lifting them with cranes, UFOs, or anti-gravity. Although some people think they were advanced human civilisations from Africa, like Egypt, Ethiopia, Somalia or Nubia, who made concrete from local sands and lime to pour fancy rocks, and whose stone noses later were destroyed in racist attacks. No aliens perhaps, just secret freemasons skills, but how did people build Stonehenge, Machu Pichu, Cheops, Göbekli Tepe and the like? If aliens exist, they possibly genetically

engineered humans years ago. Mind you, creation or evolution account for human progress without aliens, but assuming we are not alone is exciting. Speculation helps explain why human DNA is complicated, codes many skills. Floods, or tsunamis caused by asteroids, may have toppled these civilisations. If that was Atlantis, it may have been a world-wide state, not a mystical or drowned island, like the Azores. We may be its remnants, tuning in to our distant creators. There is an aligned dynamic: peaceful societies can initially be beaten by cruel ones. Earth may be a battlefield between ‘good and evil’, righteousness and opportunism, heart and brain. That was certainly what was taught by Christian Catholic dogma, that life is purgatory, where one has to learn lessons of purification. Buddhism and Hinduism also have confrontations between devils and gods. These may be internal battles, ego illusions. What does Aquarius foreshadow? How not to crap in one's own nest? Why perpetuate past problems? Life as apex predators sounds Neanderthal:

Shapeshifting

by Anand Gandharva



small clans on an abundant Earth. Even life with GM foods, ‘domesticated’ and artificial animals, is a stone throw away from savagery, slavery and self-serving discrimination, abusing mammal consciousnesses. If it was necessary to survive it might be understandable, but proteins also come from plants. There are herbivore civilisations. The battle between good and bad confronts logic and empathy, right and left. It is intensified by chemicals consumed, an evolutionary marker of wildness. Stimulation of aggressive individualism that needs to be tempered by moral values. Those who say that food is a personal choice miss a point: there is lots of stuff a community has outlawed to strengthen, like driving drunk, duels, etc. Are animals so scarce and has society grown so large that it has to pass dietary laws to stop ingestion of mammals to stop unsustainable warfare on Earth, and a threat to the galaxy? Better cease warring and unite as a Race of Tan. Meet our maker this lifetime: oneself.

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A moment 2

by S Sorrensen

Those people in Ukraine – those people being bombed, being forced from their homes – they look just like you and me. (Well, not quite like me; I'm not seeing middle-aged men running for shelter in their sarongs.)

But you know what I mean: they are wearing clothes just like the ones I see in K-Mart and City Beach in Lismore; they are clutching Chinese-made backpacks quickly stuffed with passport, hard drive and underwear; they constantly check the iPhone in their hand, searching *The Guardian* and Facebook for news on the invasion of their town; the kids holding onto them tightly with wide wet eyes.

They are just like us. They listen to the same music, watch the same movies. (*Back to the Outback* is huge in Ukraine.) They work as baristas and tradies and teachers and shopkeepers. We're the same. Except that I'm sitting comfortably in my shack under the clouds, sipping freshly ground Mackellar Range coffee, searching *The Guardian* and Facebook for news on the rain that has flooded me in, and randomly coming across these photographs of Ukrainians fleeing Kyiv.

They are just like us. They have lovers and children and floods. Except that I know my family is safe from invading young blokes with severe haircuts and automatic rifles. Sure there may be some water invasion at the moment, but, though the water is dressed in khaki, it's carrying topsoil, not guns.

They are just like us. They want enough money to live

on, clean water from the tap, a future for their kids. They don't want a war. Why would they? War, except in a video game, hurts. My uncle went to a war. He wouldn't talk about it afterwards except to say it was awful. He refused to march on Anzac Day. "It's all bullshit," he'd say, and Auntie would slap his arm. "Language," she'd say.

War. What is it good for? (Yes, I heard you...)

No, it's not the people in Ukraine or Russia who want a war. Who would want a war?

People who are not like us, that's who. People whose clothes are tailored by artisans who charge more per hour than my weekly income. People who are not seeking refuge from an invading army, but are nestled in a penthouse in London or New York or Paris or Moscow. People whose families are safe, holidaying in Mallorca on the yacht.

They like war. War is their business; destruction its currency. In a culture where capitalism is the dominantism, bombing multi-million-dollar infrastructure with half-million-dollar missiles is big business. That, dear reader, is a mighty fine turnover for a three-minute transaction.

The US, all "OMG!" at Russia's invasion, is the biggest arms dealer in the world, supplying lethal weapons to anyone with the cash. Despite its protestations, it loves war. Russia is the world's second-biggest arms dealing country, fuelling other wars to finance this one. Sure, that's sick, but, hey, great business.

Who else would want a war?

Men whose power lust counters a fear of their own mortality. Men whose 'grand vision' masks a blindness to suffering. Men who use patriotism to fill that void where character should be. Men whose unearned entitlement eliminates empathy. Men with small hands.

As I grow older, I understand less about the world. It's a strange world. And getting stranger. Right now, my neighbour is brush-cutting in the pouring rain; the prime minister is spending \$500 million to extend Australia's War Memorial; and, in a land not so far away, people just like us are caught in the crossfire of ego and profit.

Byron Baes: Netflix unreality series



by Holly English

The newly released Netflix reality TV series *Byron Baes* is screening while we deal with our worst regional disaster in history, where people are struggling, homeless and sick. It is completely ill-timed and leaves a bad taste in my mouth.

When I first heard about the show, I didn't believe it was true. A good friend told me, and I actually thought she was joking and looked it up on-line. I couldn't believe it. It seemed ridiculous, annoying. This town doesn't need any more publicity. More tourism. More wannabes. More privilege.

Byron Bay is relatively small, but is one of the most expensive places to live in Australia. People still talk about options for affordable housing here, but I think that ship has sailed. Over ten years ago, people who had a disability, who were on a low income, or single parents and students were already priced out.

Personally, I became disabled after a car accident 17 years ago that left me with crippling chronic pain and limitation and I couldn't work. I ended up moving back in with my mother, who fortunately owns her home here in Byron Bay – humiliating, but my only option.

I've since built a tiny house onto the back of her home with a small mortgage, and it is certainly not ideal. But it is my only choice if I wish to stay in my community where I have friends and support.

However, over the last decade the chance to own your own home or even to simply rent in the Byron Shire or even in the Northern Rivers, has narrowed for most people to the point where only if you bought here before the boom (which was ages ago) or have a tonne of money, can you afford to live here.

Even locals who did buy here before the boom can feel lonely and excluded, as their good friends, family and kids can't afford to buy, rent or live here anymore.

On occasions they sell up to move closer to where people they love have moved or been displaced. They obviously sell to the new 'beige people' (as I call them) who are the only ones who can afford to buy here now.

And a lot of these 'beige people' buy houses here and rent them out



as holiday houses and Airbnb's. They don't even live here. It's a real problem. So many investment properties. It has destroyed this town. We used to be a very strong and united community.

Most of the 'beige people' don't get involved in any sort of sense of community, or support what is here. They just stick to each other and themselves and their own self-absorbed entrepreneurial and capitalistic ego-pursuits. They don't give a damn about anything or anyone but their own pleasure.

In response to the news of the Netflix series, I signed the petition – like everyone else did. And I don't subscribe to Netflix. I also don't follow narcissistic 'influencers'. It is not good for my mental health anyway.

Last week I watched the trailer for *Byron Baes* and it doesn't seem like an accurate depiction of Byron Bay... maybe a very small percentage of what it is... say, 2%. It kind of looks like *The Bachelor* crossed with *Big Brother*.

One of the 'spiritual' guys says, "You're just not Byron, man." And I'm thinking... "nor are you."

I've lived here for 30 years, since I was a teenager, have a tight community here and know a lot of people. I have never met any of these people. And what is Byron these days?

This is all about money and popularity, essentially. And neither will make you happy, in the end. It is a recipe for rehab (though there is nothing wrong with rehab!).

Byron Bay, and the true locals, I mean people who have lived here 15-20 years or more... families who have lived here for generations... the local indigenous peoples whose families are still live and survive here... we objected to this. This is not us.

We are real. We love our environment. We don't value tourism,

overdevelopment, beige-linen-expensive shops (all owned by the 'beige people').

We support each other. We love grassroots activism (just look at how we responded to the recent flood crisis), supporting the earth and taking care of our oceans and rivers. We are aware of the impact of human traffic on our delicate eco-systems. We are aware of the many people and businesses who have moved to Byron recently and want to develop it into a 'bling' town of celebrity influencers.

It all comes down to greed and money. We are losing our localisation.

People are living in their cars; people who have jobs! People who have lived here their whole lives. People are working double shifts –triple shifts – to survive. Mental health and suicide rates are high. Kids are cutting themselves feeling very distressed trying to keep up with the 'cool kids' who have 'everything' at school. It's all very messed up.

We all feel the pain and void and magnetism of the influencer culture here, we all feel the 'take over'. We all have a bit of FOMO, because we are not rich, we are not beautiful, we are not privileged like these people. Yet, we are privileged, beautiful and fortunate in other ways.

In a sense, it is like a hologram. *Byron Baes* is pasted on top of a town that values completely different things than the show depicts. And we are not just shallow spiritual hippies either. Yes, that scene is here, but that scene is in most locations these days eg. yoga studios and spa, wellness centres.

I won't be watching it. It will make me too sad and angry. I'd rather hang out with my friends around the fire in the backyard, sharing a potluck and having a laugh.

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Cabaret returns to Nimbin

MardiGrass has been postponed until September, but the Great Green Cabaret on Friday 29th April is definitely on.

Instead of being a MardiGrass gig it will be a much-needed fundraiser for the Nimbin School of Arts, and a much needed-performance opportunity for a fantastic array of performance artists.

The wonderful globe-trotting Hussy Hicks will headline the show, along with singers Cass Eleven and Ash Bell, stand-up comedian Alexandra Hudson, the fabulous Pitts Family Circus, Coalescence dance, Nimbin



Poetry Cup winner Thomas Bailey, acrobat Michele Jean, plus a mini fashion show and poet/host David Hallett.

Entry is \$30 and tickets and table reservations are available at Perceptio Bookshop (phone 6689-

1766).

Doors open 6.30pm, show starts 7.30pm. Finger food and snacks will be available as well as the Cabaret bar (no BYO).

For any more info, phone 6689-1577.

iron woman strikes again



by Pauline Ahern

The Hubaphone has been polished and now sports the latest fashion of rainbow-coloured rubber bands to support the tuned hubcaps.

The Hubaphone was invented by Sue Edmonds during her time as Musician in Residence with the South Coast Labour Council in Wollongong in 1985. Now Sue is busy preparing to appear at the National Folk Festival this Easter in Canberra.

The first *Australian Womens Song Book* will be launched at a grand concert with well-known songwriters, Judy Small, Robyn Archer and Faye White.

Faye and Sue have two workshops to present their individual work, Songs From The Grass

Roots. Sue started writing songs with her Hobart band The Ovarian Sisters, writing all the music and eight of the songs for their one and only album *Beat Your Breasts*.

It's a busy time for the soon-to-be great-grand mother, but Sue has added another song to her repertoire, with piercing lyrics. This time the topic is climate change and the war in Ukraine.

Named twice in the Senate as a waste of taxpayers' money, Sue has a lot to live up to. Still, undaunted she keeps on striking a light. Break a leg Sue.

Disclaimer. I will be Sue's support team in Canberra. This is not a paid position, I do it because she promised me a free ticket.

Rochdale Theatre available for hire

In light of the recent flood, Lismore Theatre Company is making its Rochdale Theatre in Goonellabah available for functions and meetings for community organisations at very reasonable hire rates.

The theatre is accessible, has a kitchen (with a wall urn, tea and coffee making facilities, dishwasher) and a supper room (with some seating and tables).

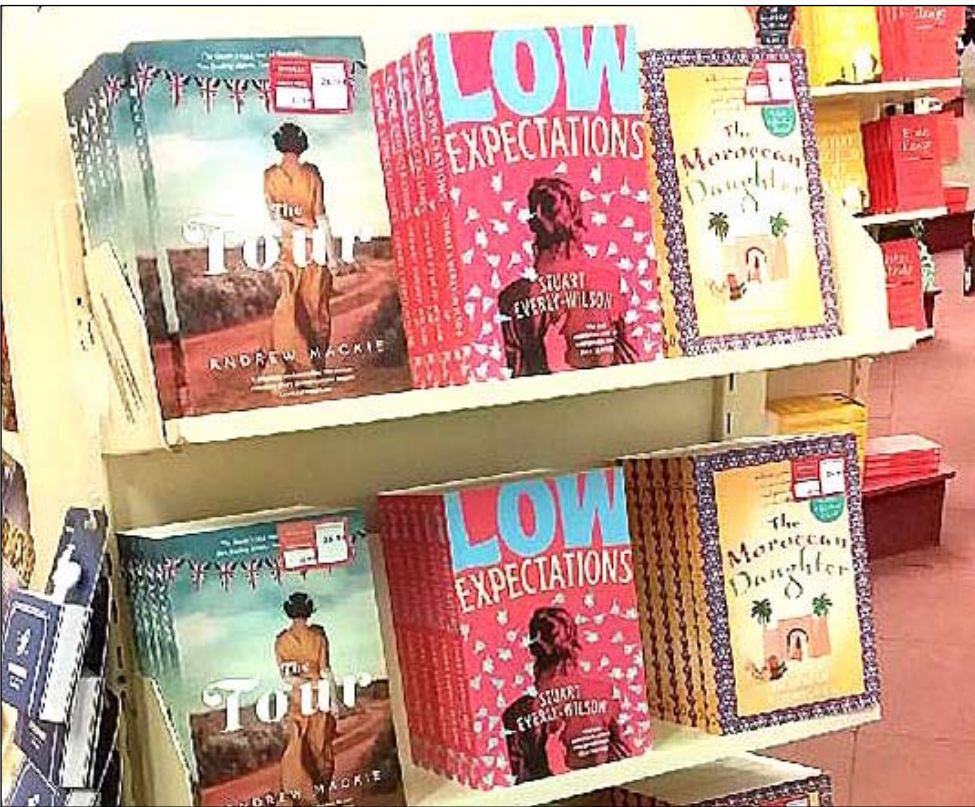
The theatre has raked upholstered seating for 88 people, with sound and lighting available.

Please contact us with the name of your group or organisation, certificate of



public liability cover, dates and times required and what parts of the theatre you're interested in hiring.

For further information, call Luke on 0423-106-177 or apply via email to Luke at: lightingman@live.com



Nimbin author long-listed for major Dublin literary prize

Nimbin local, Stuart Everly-Wilson, has had his debut novel, *Low Expectations* nominated by the State Library of South Australia for inclusion in the long-list of one of Europe's biggest literary awards.

He began writing his novel, set in 1970's western Sydney, shortly after moving to Nimbin with his partner in 2012.

"I really wasn't expecting it would even get published," Stuart said. "I have been writing since my early twenties, with no success, and I believed I was deluded, putting so much time and energy into the book. But I guess persistence paid off in the end."

The novel had already been selected as

'Pick of the Week' in the *Sydney Morning Herald* book section.

"That was incredible to me," the 61-year old author said, "but to be long-listed for this award, and to be included with 2021 Miles Franklin winner, *The Labyrinth* by Amanda Lohrey, is absolutely the best thing that's happened to me – apart from being picked up by a major publisher to begin with!"

The short-list for the award was revealed on 22nd March and he wasn't included, but Stuart had kept his expectations low.

"Inclusion on the long-list is an amazing boost for me! I'm supa-happy with that!"

Towards a Healthy Cannabis Culture A Community Conversation



Featuring: A short vox pop filmed in Nimbin, Expert Panel and YOU! (and a yummy Arvo Tea)

Nimbin Town Hall
Saturday 7 May 2022
At 11 am–1pm
All Nimbinites Welcome

Brought to you by the Nimbin Community Drug Action Team

New album from Nimbin's rockers

by Jason Gough

I recently had a great catch up with Antibodies singer and front person Richie Burer to talk about the band's new album *Same City Different World*. Being a fan of the band, I have been waiting for this release with keen anticipation.

For those who don't know Antibodies they are a proudly Nimbin-based band which I have always considered to be punk. To me the raw punchy sound, punctuated cadence of the vocals and two to three minute songs fit this genre. Attending several Antibodies gigs and experiencing first-hand the good spirited, raucous shenanigans involved only strengthens this belief.

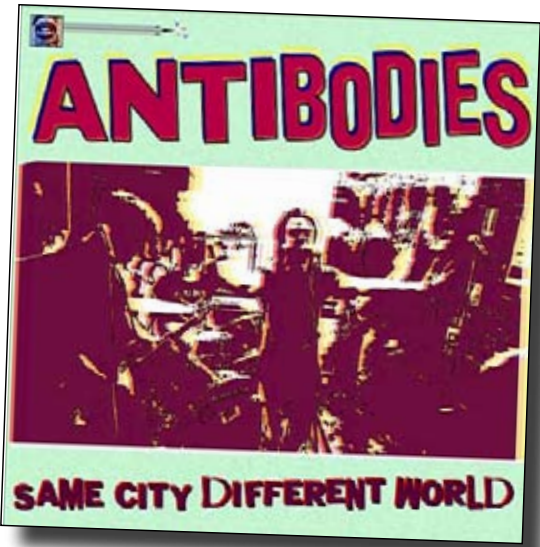
When I asked Richie if Antibodies is indeed punk he admitted definite punk roots but also introduced terms such as power pop, thrash, pub rock and even alt-country into the mix.

As Richie says, this variety of styles reflects what bands working in rural Australia and in small venues have to play to

survive. A level of wider appeal is needed to reach a diverse audience, and in doing so educate them on new sounds. He chooses the label 'Independent Rock'. Whatever the label, Antibodies are a high energy, top quality band well worthy of a listen.

Same City Different World is a great example of the variety that Richie spoke of. To my mind this is a more diverse offering than their previous self-titled debut album, and is likely to appeal to a wide audience. There is still a very strong and welcome pogo hop towards punk, but the ten years between albums has refined and perhaps mellowed the Antibodies sound. There is, as they say on *Australian Idol*, "light and shade".

I love the cruisey surf vibe coming through on a number of the tracks. *Broken Bay* in particular makes me feel like I'm in a beer commercial. My partner, who unlike me grew up in Australia, says that this song



reminds her of driving around the surf beaches in the Wollongong/Nowra region as a teen. The guitar lead sets an unmistakably Australian surf sound.

Although all four members of Antibodies contribute to song creation, Richie is the lyricist and story-teller. He describes his process as a reflection of the world around him from a local level to current events on the world stage. This is well seasoned with stories

and scenes from his own fruitful imagination.

The album's title track is a prime example. The hard-hitting rocker is a topical blast at the steady erosion of freedom in our lockdown state, juxtaposed against Australia's easy-going past.

Sun in my Eyes is a lovely alt-country track taking the listener on a reflective journey from the luxury and privilege of the coast steadily West. The warmth and realness of the people increases as the stars increase in the night sky. I could go on. I've warmed to every song on this well-curated collection. At my house we are singing along after just a few days playing.

Antibodies have found another musical gear. It's like they have relaxed into a more cohesive unit. All four members' sounds are emphasised in a complementary balance. Listening, I almost feel like I am at one of their shows. I'll never forget my first Antibodies gig. I'm not sure what

I was expecting, but having the lead singer leap into the crowd to crash tackle an enthusiastic fan out of his wheelchair and wrestle them while still singing into his microphone was not it.

If you haven't been to an Antibodies gig, put it on your bucket list. It is a whole lot of loud fun and not to be missed. Hopefully there will be a chance to see them soon. They are likely to have dates in the near future at the Nimbin Bowling Club and with luck, in September we may see them do a repeat of last year's epic Friday night of MardiGrass gig at the Nimbin Pub.

Same City Different World will be available on vinyl at Music Bazaar in Lismore and Perceptio in Nimbin this month, with a CD pressing to follow. Thumb drive copies like the one I am enjoying can be obtained by contacting the band via their Facebook page. Streaming service access to the album will also be available in the near future.

Kudos to Antibodies for this excellent offering and continued service to independent rock.

Help replace musical instruments

The Lismore-based Northern Rivers Conservatorium, which has been critically impacted by the floods that have devastated Lismore, is partnering with Resound – a program of The Music Trust – and Create NSW to provide free replacement instruments for musicians young and old across the Northern Rivers.

It is clear from the extent of the NSW floods that many of the Con's students, teachers and other musicians have lost their instruments, with most uninsured, and the Con has worked to quickly explore immediate support options for staff, students and the wider musical community impacted by this crisis. The Con itself has also lost much of its musical equipment and not all is fully covered by insurance.

The Conservatorium's Executive Director Anita Bellman said "The Con lost all of

its musical equipment including orchestral instruments such as strings, brass, woodwind, percussion, a xylophone, a marimba, a vibraphone, timpanis, congas, bongos, claves, pianos, electric and acoustic guitars, bass guitars, drum kits, ukuleles, amps, leads, mics, music stands and an entire sheet music library including orchestral scores and big band music.

"Our Con community includes over 500 students and 25 teachers, who are impacted either by losing their instrument, or their tuition, or both. There are musicians in the wider community who have also been impacted in a similar way and we all need help to enable music to return to the Northern Rivers."

Over the last 13 years, Resound has helped musicians impacted by natural disasters through replacement of musical instruments. Resound was originally established for the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, matching donated musical instruments with affected musicians, schools and music students.

Also stepping forward to support this important recovery process is the Sydney Symphony Orchestra which is liaising with the Con and other community groups directly about their needs and are committed to supporting an instrument campaign to assist with the replacement of instruments.

The Sydney Symphony is happy to partner on this initiative to assist with the replacement of instruments for distribution across flood-affected areas of the Northern Rivers.

To pledge a good quality instrument or make a tax-deductible donation, please go to: www.resound.org.au

For those musicians affected by the recent floods, please apply for an instrument at: www.resound.org.au

Resound is a program of The Music Trust, an organisation that works with energy, imagination and authority for music in Australia.



Rest assured – Bluesfest is on

The Bluesfest site experienced flash flooding during the Northern Rivers rain event at the end of March. Thankfully, the event site area where the music occurs escaped and did not have major flooding.

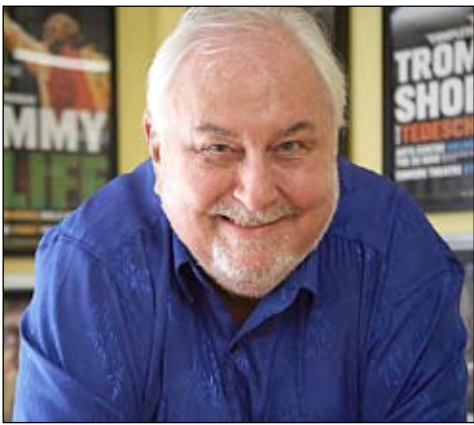
Bluesfest Director Peter Noble (pictured) said, "Some car parks and camping grounds did experience flash flooding, but the water is subsiding quickly."

Bluesfest will take place over five days from Thursday 14th April to Monday 18th April at the Byron Events Farm, Tyagarah, after two years of cancellations due to Covid restrictions.

The load-in has started, the tents are ready to be raised, and the forward weather report is good, with plenty of sun forecast daily. In any case, all the stages and food halls will be under big canvas tent tops.

"We are optimistic that our grounds will dry out, and our site will be ready to welcome you," said Peter.

The Bluesfest publicity machine says that this will be the greatest gathering of Australian artists in the history of Australian music, plus notable international guests.



So consider planning your Bluesfest adventure for Easter now.

Check the Bluesfest 2022 playing schedule and see who is playing on what day, on which stage and at what time: <https://www.bluesfest.com.au/artist-lineup>

All ticket options plus camping, parking and VIP are on sale now at: https://www.bluesfest.com.au/tickets/?utm_source=presser&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=playschedule

Best festival vibes ever!

MUSICIANS AFFECTED BY FLOODS NEED YOUR HELP.

PLEDGE AN INSTRUMENT.

MAKE A DONATION.

Find out more at www.resound.org.au

In partnership with the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, Lismore.

Resound our towns

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OzKat Clothing is still available in Nimbin!

at T.H.C - The Heart Connexion - (opp The Green Bank).

Ask Xenia ...she will get it in for you!