

Nominations open for 2023 Australia Day awards

Time is fast running out to nominate someone you know for a Lismore City Council Australia Day 2023 Award.

Personally, I think these annual awards are really important. They give us a chance to acknowledge and thank members of our community who have been quietly working away in their own time to make our lives better.

I think we should be singing their praises from the rooftops.

There are lots of categories you can nominate someone for: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Aboriginal Citizen of the Year, Sportsperson (Senior and Junior), Services in

Community (group and individual) and Sports Team.

It takes less than a minute to nominate a local hero. Nominations close on Friday 12th December, so you haven't much time. Don't put it off, when you finish reading this column go to: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and nominate someone now.

Lismore Delights

Thanks to the natural disaster in February, it's been a very tough year for our community, and when you add in Covid-19 lockdowns and the bushfires, particularly in the Nimbin/Tuntable area, it has been a tough three

years.

It's time to forget about that and come together as a community to celebrate how far we have come by sticking together.

Council is hosting a month of festivities under the banner of Lismore Delights through December. From Carols and Santa's Wonderland to street performances, fun activities, art and markets, there is something for everyone.

I encourage everyone to take some time out in December and have a bit of fun at one or more of the events that we have planned. For more information, go to: www.cometothetheheart.com.au/Lismoredelights

Roadworks

Finally, an update on roadworks. As you would have noticed, there have recently been many road crews at work in and around Nimbin. Much more work needs to be done and our crews are hard at it.

Tuntable Creek Road, north of Rose Road to Beardow Road has been completely closed from Monday, 28th November. This includes no access for pedestrians, motorbikes, scooters or bikes.

Construction will commence on the temporary access, with possible pedestrian-only access reinstated by the end of December. One vehicular lane access under traffic

light control is planned to be complete in January.

Council will also be completing works to improve road conditions on Jiggi Road between November 2022 and February 2023, subject to weather, contractor and material availability.

Maintenance of a temporary road surface is also underway on Stony Chute Road.

Temporary fixes to Crofton Road have been completed, which included ripping up the worst damaged sections and filling with gravel. Materials used in the temporary fix will be utilised in the final repair.

These works will include a combination of full-depth pavement reconstruction and stabilising of the



From the mayor's desk
by Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

existing surface. Damaged stormwater pipes and open drains are also scheduled to be repaired.

For full updates, go to: www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au and look under the Maintaining Our Roads and Bridges section.

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Tweed named climate leader

Tweed Shire Council has been recognised by the Climate Disclosure Platform (CDP) as one of 122 cities across the globe for taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency, despite the pressures of a challenging global economic situation.

Designed to encourage and support cities to ramp up their climate action and ambition, CDP's Cities 'A-List' is based on environmental data disclosed by cities to CDP-ICLEI Track.

The momentum is building for city climate disclosure and action. In 2022 the CDP rated more than 1,000 cities for their climate action, compared to 965 cities in 2021. This year about one in 10 cities scored an A.

To score an A, a city must disclose publicly through the CDP-ICLEI Track questionnaire and have a city-wide emissions inventory. It must have a published climate action plan, complete a climate risk and vulnerability assessment, and have a climate adaptation plan to demonstrate how it will tackle climate hazards.

Many A-List cities are also taking a variety of other leadership actions, including political commitment from a city's mayor to tackle climate change, such as Tweed Shire councillors' declaration of a climate emergency.

A-List cities are demonstrating their climate leadership through concerted and effective action, just as national governments were asked to do at COP27 in Egypt last week. They are taking twice as many mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A-List cities.

Tweed and the other 121 cities on this year's A-List, are also celebrated for showing that urgent and impactful climate action – from ambitious emissions reduction targets to building



Banks of rooftop solar panels have been installed at TRAC Murwillumbah to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

resilience against climate change – is achievable at a global level, and in cities with different climate realities and priorities. However, this action needs to go further and faster.

The Tweed was just one of six cities in the Oceania region to achieve the highest score by the CDP, with the others being Yarra City Council, City of Adelaide, City of Sydney, and Canberra in Australia, as well as Wellington in New Zealand.

Tweed Shire Mayor, Chris Cherry, welcomed the announcement, saying the CDP platform was a great way for Council to be transparent about its progress in response to climate change.

"For a regional area like the Tweed to be keeping pace with major cities like Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide is a good demonstration of how hard this Council is working to gather data, follow best practice, and be proactive in our response to climate

change," Cr Cherry said.

"Participating in the CDP helps us to set and track our progress against an independent standard for the climate work we do.

"The information we provide keeps us accountable to the community who place such emphasis on working together to reduce our impact and protect the Tweed's internationally significant natural environment.

"We're also conscious of the social and economic toll of extreme weather events. There's a lot to motivate our climate action," Cr Cherry said.

"This award recognises Council for its ambition, leadership and transparency in responding to the threat of climate change. Never has this been more important as the world faces the final decade for concerted climate action in order to keep in line with a 1.5°C warmer future."

To find out more, go to: tweed.nsw.gov.au/environment/climate-sustainability/climate-change



by Cr Adam Guise
Lismore City Council

The problem of waste and what we do with it has become heightened in recent times. With China no longer the dumping ground for the world's waste, countries like Australia have been left in the lurch as to what to do with our waste and recyclables.

This has impacted councils across the Northern Rivers who are grappling with diminishing landfill capacities and the added impact of flood waste and damage to waste infrastructure.

But burning waste is not the solution. It's fossil fuel burning in disguise – likely more polluting than coal.

Therefore, the NSW government's proposal to establish a waste incinerator at Casino is short-sighted, dangerous to human and environmental health, and provides an excuse for burning rubbish rather than preventing it in the first place.

It goes completely against the commitment to a circular economy, and the hierarchy – avoid, reduce, refuse before other treatments.

The fact that this proposal has been inched along behind closed doors by a secretive Expression of Interest process, speaks volumes of the government's intentions to impose such incinerators on communities rather than genuinely engaging with them.

Pressing 'pause' on it a few months out from a state election can only be seen as cynical politicking, designed to

take the heat off a government clearly backing toxic industries. The regulations are in place and the sites have been identified; it's only communities' opposition that stands in the way.

Rather than imposing such facilities on residents, what's needed is a whole-of-government approach to waste, especially to prevent waste being generated in the first place. This ultimately requires mandatory product stewardship laws which make manufacturers responsible for their products' entire lifecycle.

This forces manufacturers to rethink their product in terms of durability, recyclability and end of life disposal. They will need to innovate and change their product or take responsibility for its disposal. Although this will ultimately be factored into a product's price, making un-recyclable or toxic products more expensive, it will act as a market disincentive for such products in preference for those that are more environmentally sustainable.

Vision workshops

On another front, the November council meeting was a torrid affair, with vision and compassion noticeably lacking. My motion to conduct vision workshops with the community in order to map a way forward post-flood was unfortunately not supported.

Engagement with our community post-flood has been sorely lacking. Such workshops would be an opportunity to re-imagine

our place in the landscape, the future of our CBD and floodplain businesses, and how we enable affordable house relocations and future housing as we grapple with climate change adaptation.

Starting this conversation now and having it community-led and co-designed is essential to generating just and equitable outcomes that takes the community with us, rather than leaving it to government to impose top-down 'solutions' which so far have failed to materialise.

The temporary housing debacle is a case in point. Once again a majority of councillors voted down a proposal for a much scaled-down version of temporary pod homes on Hepburn Park in Goonellabah. This stop-gap solution in no way goes far enough to meet the overwhelming need for affordable and safe housing post-flood, but would offer some emergency respite to the most vulnerable still sleeping in tents, caravans and other uncertain housing.

I've advocated repeatedly for the Reconstruction Corporation to acquire land for both temporary and permanent housing, as only this longer-term solution will give certainty to people in housing stress and avoid the conflict being imposed on our community by decades of government inaction.

Compassion and vision are needed now more than ever.

As always, get in touch at: adamguise@gmail.com or phone 0478-684-497.

Flood mitigation update

Getting on with flood mitigation is essential for us to feel safe in our homes and businesses.

I met with Brendan Moon, the coordinator-general of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) recently. We discussed flood mitigation modelling and possible recommendations.

I secured \$150 million for CSIRO to do a whole catchment study and to come back to us with flood mitigation proposals, both engineering and environmental.

The research and data collection are in full swing, such as an aeroplane with LiDAR sensors attached that has been flying over the region. You may also see boats in the rivers with



On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan,
Federal Member for Page

sonar equipment collecting accurate information on the cross-sections of the river network to inform the hydrodynamic model.

This modelling and recommendations will be delivered in stages, with

the final report due in May 2024.

I will support the recommended findings the CSIRO concludes. I will fight to ensure these recommendations are implemented.

This work is vital for everyone to feel safe in their homes and businesses.

On the road to recovery

Finally managed to attend a meeting of the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) for the first time this year.

I've been out of circulation with a fractured leg for a few months, so it was really great to catch up with old friends at the NAG, and to hear about issues and developments with local roads, the Nimbin Wayfinding Project, the Rainbow Walking Trail, and the Nimbin water supply.

Gwen Trimble has written a summary of the meeting which is elsewhere in the NGT (see p13 – Ed).

Road repairs

One very good outcome of the November Council meeting was the approval of a tender for works to commence on repairs to Tuntable Creek Road.

As part of the February and March 2022 flooding disasters, Tuntable Creek Road suffered catastrophic damage and remains closed to all traffic. This road is an important arterial route connecting Nimbin to The Channon and is one of two routes to the communications tower at Mt Nardi.

During the February event, both routes were closed by landslips which put emergency communications at risk. Tuntable Creek Road also serves as an escape route during emergency periods of flood and bushfire.

The community is currently transiting the main landslide area by foot and motorcycle. However, the slip area remains unstable and there are significant safety concerns with the current access arrangements.

A design solution for the temporary stabilisation of the landslide area and reinstatement of one traffic



by Cr Darlene Cook
Lismore City Council

lane is currently being developed by the project design partner. The solution will require the deployment of specialist soil nailing contractors to stabilise the up and down slope around the slip area.

These specialist contractors are currently in high demand across Regional NSW, and it is difficult to obtain their services at short notice. With the Christmas/New Year holiday period rapidly approaching, it is essential to commence the works as soon as possible and minimise further exposure to future rain events.

The permanent restoration of this road alignment will take more than two years. This temporary solution is intended to provide local resident access during this period. It's hoped the contractors will already be working on this site by the first week of December.

Employment opportunities

Council has a number of job vacancies in various departments – check them out on: <https://lismore.nsw.gov.au/positions-vacant>

Council has also created a new apprenticeship / trainee career pathway with their new Lismore Employment Acceleration Pathways (LEAP)

Program – apprenticeships, traineeships, school based traineeships, cadetships.

At Council we take great pride that we focus on employing our workforce from our local communities and beyond. We believe that the best way we can assist to improve the lives of our people is by offering greater opportunities for young people, new entrants and anyone seeking a career change. We hope to create new opportunities for you to work, live and play in the region while being able to reach your potential.

Our LEAP program offers a range of apprenticeships, traineeships (including school-based) and cadetships across Council which are a great way to LEAP into a career at Council, with combined formal learning and on the job experience.

If you are interested in applying for a position with council through the LEAP then email: people@lismore.nsw.gov.au to express your interest.

Australia Day Awards

Local Lismore Australia Day Awards nominations are open. If you know someone who has made a significant contribution to the community, or a great local sporting identity or team, then think about nominating them for an award.

Check out the categories and nomination form at: <https://forms.lismore.nsw.gov.au/forms/4927>

The end of the year is upon us; so, I will wish you all a very happy holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2023.

I can be contacted by phone on either 6626-0154 or 0427-895-316; or via email to: darlene.cook@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Saffin makes history with NSW Reconstruction Authority

by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

The seed of an idea I had during the flood disasters earlier this year became law last month, and a new body tasked with the prevention, preparation, recovery, and reconstruction for the impact of all disasters in New South Wales will be created.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is modelled on the successful Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

When the catastrophic floods hit the Northern Rivers region it was clear that we needed whole different way of what I call “doing disaster”.

Since day one I have advocated for a NSW Reconstruction Authority – an overarching agency to guide preparedness, response, recovery, reconstruction, mitigation and transformational adaptation.

For my community to have the best preparedness for and response to disasters – and there will be more – requires the State to have the best response to disasters.

This historic bill heralds a wholesale change to the way in which New South Wales will deal with all disasters, not just floods.

The Authority will have the following functions and powers:

- Facilitate the protection, recovery, and reconstruction of affected communities;
- Mitigate against the impacts of potential disasters on communities; and,
- Improve the resilience and adaptability of affected communities to potential disasters.

The Authority will deal with natural disasters such as bushfires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, heatwaves, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and tsunamis. Hazards caused by natural disasters, including air pollution, water and soil contamination and water insecurity will also be within the Authority's remit.

NSW Labor has supported the creation of the Authority and moved a series of amendments to improve the governance, transparency, and oversight arrangements associated with it.

Importantly, I got an amendment through to ensure the Authority was subject to Parliamentary scrutiny; a Joint Select Committee will review whether it is meeting the objectives of the Act, exercising its powers under the Act, as well as review every disaster.



South Lismore resident Harper Dalton chats with Janelle and planning and development expert Jamie Simmonds.

I have written to NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet to take stock of where the Northern Rivers region, and in particular the electorate of Lismore that I represent, stands in regard to our flood recovery.

I welcomed the Premier's joint announcement made with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on an \$800-million Resilient Homes Fund package for the Northern Rivers that I strongly advocated for since early days.

Options include voluntary house purchase (including relocatables), voluntary house raising and retrofitting to make homes more flood resistant.

I have let the community know that it is a start, not the end, and will take considerable time.

It is importantly the first in New South Wales as we embark on the transformational adaptation that is required to live with wild weather and climate change.

Now that this package is being put in place, it is imperative that a comprehensive Economic-Environmental Recovery Plan be rolled out for the Northern Rivers.

An Economic-Environment Recovery Plan needs to be shaped through the lens of what has happened here; that is we were hit by an event that was akin to an inland tsunami, leaving in its wake a humanitarian disaster on a scale not seen since Darwin's Cyclone Tracy in 1974.

We need economic and environmental plans for all seven local councils, as well as neighbouring Tenterfield Shire (Lismore Electorate) reviewed with detailed consideration given to transformational adaptation.

In Australia, there has been adaptation but to date it has been incremental which is why an Economic-Environmental Recovery Plan becomes more imperative with our rebuild, and in some instances, our staged retreat, which cannot simply mean abandonment.

The man who relocated Grantham shares expertise

Jamie Simmonds, the man who directed the relocation of the Queensland town of Grantham, shared his story with Lismore when I hosted him during a visit to the city last month.

This was a great opportunity for locals like South Lismore's Harper Dalton, who established the Relocate Lismore Homes Facebook group, to link with a planning and development expert who nowadays advises disaster-affected communities globally.

In 2011, Jamie was employed by Lockyer Valley Regional Council to run the Strengthening Grantham Project following devastating flash flooding which took the lives of 19 people.

This ground-breaking project created, planned and constructed a new residential estate and provided land through Australia's first land-swap process. Within 12 months of that flood event, 120 families were moving into their flood-free homes.

I arranged for Jamie to meet with Harper, Lismore City councillors, Resilient Lismore and with Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation chief executive David Witherdin.

In 2020, Jamie wrote a book, *Rising from the Flood: Moving the Town of Grantham*, and since then, he's been a regular media contributor and speaker with national and international audiences, discussing how to effectively plan and implement recovery strategies, including relocation.

He's spent time in Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States, including speaking at the National Academy of Science in Washington DC and with the Council on Environmental Quality within the Biden Administration.

More information can be found on his webpage: www.jamiesimmonds.com

I look forward to working with Jamie more in future.

Another battle in the NSW Government's bloody koala-killing wars

Last month, during the final sitting of the 57th Parliament of NSW, the Liberal-National coalition had another go at delivering laws that would make logging koala habitat across the State even easier, this time on private land.

We saw the introduction of another 'Koala-Killing Bill' which reignited the 'Koala Wars' that have defined the last four years of this coalition government. This time the effort was to lock local councils and communities out of the planning and approvals process for native forest logging on private land.

Unforgettably, the NSW government was brought to the edge of collapse in 2020 by then Deputy Premier John Barilaro when Liberal member Catherine Cusack and Nationals member Leslie Williams were forced to challenge their colleagues on a plan that would decimate koala habitat across the state.

Catherine Cusack crossed the floor against her own Government that resulted in her demotion and eventual resignation from the Parliament, and Leslie Williams, member for Port Macquarie, home to koalas, was forced to leave the Nationals and apply for Liberal



by Sue Higginson MLC

party membership after she decided that the threats from John Barilaro to "blow up" the Coalition over the right to destroy koala habitat was a bridge too far.

Once again, the many good folk across NSW mobilised, and along with a few of us inside the parliament, after enormous pressure on the coalition, we killed the bill! Again, members of the Liberal party threatened to cross the floor and not support the koala killing bill and this time even a National party member said he would not support the bill. In parliament, we received a last minute announcement that the bill would be pulled from the

Government's final week of business.

Having only been in parliament for six months, when the government takes these harmful steps (and they do), the Greens ring the alarm bells and work around the clock to let everyone know and to mobilise the response. I long for the time when we have enough Greens in parliament that these things just don't happen anymore!

While we have killed this bill, the push for logging native forests on private land is alive and strong in the NSW National party. It is being touted by the National's Minister for Agriculture as an opportunity for farmers. He says logging native forests on private land is not logging, it is farm forestry.

This is an exercise in spin and it's dangerous. Logging native forests is not farming. Farm forestry is the intentional production of a timber forestry resource for the explicit purpose of harvesting it at a later date, you must plant it for the purposes of later harvest. Logging native forests on private land, like on public land, is the exploitation of native forests, like all natural resource exploitation.

Given the many decades of intensive and exploitative land management in NSW, the state of



our environment, rapidly declining biodiversity and climate change, all native forests across NSW need to be managed very carefully and their non-timber values properly reconciled. The fact is, all timber production should now be sourced from sustainable plantation forestry.

While short-sighted and poor forest management over decades means that we have under-invested in our public plantation estate, our softwood plantation estate is booming. According to the Forestry Corporation's annual report, just tabled, they generated \$47 million for the State and the resource was

used for building homes and other high value uses.

In contrast, across our public native forest estate, logging caused threatened species habitat loss, weed and feral animal infestation and landscape dehydration, and the resource was turned into low-value products such as woodchips for export, fence palings and pallets, and it cost the State (taxpayers) \$9 million.

So while, once again, we killed the Coalition's latest 'Koala-Killing Bill', it is just a stop-gap in a much bigger issue about the management of our native forests in NSW. To change the management of our native forests across NSW, so that they are managed, maintained and regenerated for their many life-giving properties, we need to change politics.

For too long our precious native forests have been seen by both the Liberal National Coalition and Labor as a resource to exploit. Forests will be featured in the upcoming State election. It is our chance to speak up for our forests. To continue to exploit our native forests, wherever they are, in the face of the extinction and climate crises is criminal.

Let's work together to stop this!



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

While the rest of the community is preparing for Christmas festivities, pudding, gifting decisions, fairy lights and the Christmas dinner invite list, the Chamber of Commerce is preparing for its Annual General Meeting.

A time for reflection on the year gone by and the new year ahead. What a year it has been and with the insights I have gained my life has been changed forever. The most important lesson which has been reinforced in my first year in the President's chair is – community is where it is at. Nimbin is the best place in the universe as far as I am

concerned. It is not perfect, but nothing is. What we do have over and above most of the world is an understanding of each other and a desire to create our own version of reality whilst considering the needs of the whole.

The Chamber is one of many community organisations that work tirelessly in the background of our village keeping the wheels turning – looking for opportunities to improve the lot of our residents, negotiating with Council, police, Federal Government, and other community organisations to get a fair piece of the pie for redistribution to our people.

Political engagement

The Chamber has engaged with our local standing Labor member Janelle Saffin, Steve Krieg (Mayor) and John Walker (GM) of Lismore City Council. These engagements have brought significant value to the village.

Each of the aforementioned now have a ground-level appreciation of the needs of our village, and can assist us to realise our desired outcomes.

Community engagement

A big shout out to all the other peeps who donate their time and energy for the better good of the village.

The fire brigade, the CWA,

the NAG, the Community Centre, showgrounds, Cultural centre, Nimbin Headers, Town Hall – the list goes on and on. Sorry if I missed you, but you know who you are and what you contribute, and we honour you for it.

This year we negotiated Covid, floods, road closures, landslips, boil water alerts and whatever else the universe could muster to keep us on our toes. We pulled together showing that we care for each other and we became stronger for it.

Who knows what next year will bring? Higher interest rates, inflation, a few more wars, grasshoppers, another pandemic? If we stick tight and look after each other and those further afield who need some help, we will overcome.

New settlers

Welcome to the new settlers and making Nimbin your home – we appreciate your fresh blood and thinking at the table. Participating in community is the fastest way to feel a part of it all and to gain a deeper understanding of your village.

Chamber funding

Nimbin is a vibrant village with a strong history of artistic and cultural events. The Chamber has always played a supportive role to assist with various levels

of financial assistance to cultural activities and this year was no exception.

The following events were supported by Chamber funding: Nimbin Poetry World Cup, Nimbin Fashion Show, Nimbin Youth Rocks, Illuminate Nimbin, Aquarius50, and the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Village signage

During the next week, Armsign will be installing the tourism signs created from grant funds secured by the Chamber to provide visitors with directional information in key locations.

In addition to this tourism theme, the Chamber has funded 4,000 brochures with a map of the village and information on the wider area and a further 4,000 will be printed in the next month.

Wayfinding Project

Work will also start next month on the Nimbin Wayfinding Project. This not only will create formal pedestrian access to the western carpark via the Apothecary laneway, but will provide beautification and seating upgrades for the blister.

Traffic concerns around the pedestrian crossing will be addressed, and a parklet outside the Green Bank will encourage foot traffic and provide seating for the

farmers market.

All this amazing work was the result of a \$500,000 Transport for NSW grant obtained by Council's Eco Dev team to beautify the village.

Mural restoration

The Chamber supports the artistic nature of the village. The general mural streetscape in Nimbin is iconic, a vital part of village identity and a major drawcard for tourists.

We are still looking for mural artists to update the above-awning artworks in the village. If you or anyone you know would like to be involved in this project, please let the Chamber know.

Aquarius50

The Chamber has recognised the value of our predecessors and the legacy they provided. The Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary will run from 12th to 21st May 2023. In order to do justice to the impact that the Aquarius festival had on the region, the Chamber has stepped up to auspice the event.

If you would like to contribute ideas, energy or funds, please don't hesitate to act. Donations can be made to Summerland Credit Union AQ50 account: BSB 728-728; account number 22340378.

Business awards

The Nimbin Apothecary and

The Green Bank, two local businesses, were nominated for the prestigious Business NSW Awards. We are awaiting notification of the results!

Accommodation


Accommodation remains an issue going forward. There is a big opportunity in this area for local people to house visitors via homestay by utilising unoccupied rooms or constructing a cabin. The lack of visitor accommodation in Nimbin is a major issue, as is housing generally.

The Chamber will be presenting a seminar on the nuts and bolts of providing short term visitor accommodation. Keep your eyes peeled for details.

Annual General Meeting

I have decided to run for office for the role of president of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce for a second year. Thank you, my fellow Chamber members, for your support over the last year. Those of you who have decided not to stand next year, thank you for all you have contributed to the community. Enjoy your time out, it is well deserved.

With our members' support we are working towards building a better, stronger and more vibrant future for our children and the community as a whole.



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Court to hear challenge to logging approval

Justice Sandra Duggan in the Land and Environment Court has directed the court will hear two challenges to the logging approvals over 800 hectares of old growth and critical habitat in the Cherry Tree State Forest.

The court cases first commenced in late 2021 are the first challenge of their kind to a logging approval in NSW. The matter is being brought by Wudjebal/Wahlubal Elder David Mundine.

The case has forced Forestry NSW to give undertakings to the court in lieu of an injunction to cease all logging

operations in Cherry Tree.

At a hearing on Monday, November 21, Forestry failed to have the case summarily dismissed on two matters which are determinative to having the harvest plans invalidated.

Mr Mundine, a lead Native Title applicant for the Western Bundjalung is claiming he has been denied procedural fairness by Forestry failing to consult with Traditional Owners as required under the Native Title agreement.

The court has ordered that Mr Mundine can cite expert evidence for

the case that the Harvest Plan for Cherry Tree will not deliver Ecological Sustainable Forest Management as required under the *Forestry Act*.

The precedent case is set down for five days commencing the 5th April, 2023 and is already causing controversy as it will impact on all logging approvals in NSW.

“Our extensive research has exposed Forestry approvals and practices are causing massive environmental damage including pollution, biodiversity loss and is a leading cause of the looming extinction crisis,” Al Oshlack said.

Nimbin Advisory Group hears reports on infrastructure

by Gwen Trimble

The Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) meeting held on 24th November was chaired by Cr Darlene Cook. Also attending were Cr Rob, Cr Bird and Council’s newly-appointed Manager Water and Wastewater, Matthew Potter. It was facilitated by Council’s community engagement co-ordinator, Elise Taylor.

Nimbin water supply

Mr Potter provided a very clear and comprehensive report on the water supply situation. Currently Council has several serious water supply issues that have forced them to impose restrictions

1. Turbidity (water having suspended matter in it): the flood caused landslips behind and above the weir and damage to the weir face, which created turbidity. NSW Health requires a boil water notice be issued when this occurs and this is where we are currently. Council staff are working to rectify this situation through de-silting the weir and the installation of a new meter monitoring the turbidity 24/7. The recent dry weather has also helped the situation. Once staff can show NSW Health that those levels are back in the target range for healthy water quality, they expect to be able to lift the boil water notice for the village consumers however, it should be noted, not for the rural consumers.

Through flood emergency funding Council has purchased a containerised membrane filtration system, which will filter the high levels of turbidity we are currently experiencing, to the accepted NSW Heath standard. This unit is intended to be installed before Christmas, will be located at the DE Williams dam and will provide a solution until the expected mid 2023 installation of the new permanent water treatment plant, currently in the design phase. Cr Rob spoke to the possibility of securing treated water via a water pipeline constructed from Rous Water storage, however this was identified by the group as being

previously investigated and identified as not cost effective.

2. Water supply pipeline: the flood destroyed the pipeline but the other plant and infrastructure remained operational. With the assistance of defence forces, a temporary pipeline, which is lying on the ground, was connected. Installation of the new, permanent pipeline is expected to commence in early 2023.

3. DE Williams Dam: we are on level 3 water restrictions because water level at the dam is currently 4.75m, (the dam is full at 5.95m) the water level needs to be close to 5.4m before those water restrictions can be lifted. The temporary pipeline is too small in diameter to achieve sufficient flow rates for staff to keep the dam topped. In order to maintain water levels in the dam, each evening to early morning, Council is restricting supply to the 80 rural connections and pumping directly into the dam. Rural customers will find they have no water pressure during this time and will have air in the pipes when they are using water in the morning. The opaque appearance of the water is only compressed air and will quickly settle to clear water. NAG members asked whether the construction of another reservoir could be part of Nimbin’s water storage solution.

4. The bore: due to poor water quality the bore, located at the caravan park, has been discarded as a viable water supply option.

5. Mulgum Creek: Mr Potter advised that, due to the dry weather, currently only one inch of water was flowing over the weir into Mulgum Creek. This prompted questions from members about how Council’s undertaking to return environmental flows to Mulgum Creek was planned to be achieved. He seemed to be unaware of this policy, but agreed to look further at the Council decision and report back.

6. Sewer: a sewer pump station to service the Alternative Way development has been constructed but is not yet on line.

Roadworks

Council assets manager, Scott Turner was unable to attend and provide an update, however NAG members made the following observations and asked Ms Taylor to pass them to Mr Turner.

1. Thank Council staff for the great job they have done repairing both Blue Knob and Crofton Roads.

2. Expressed serious concern for the condition of Tuntable Falls Road, near Nimbin Valley Dairy. The road surface has become so damaged that it cannot be driven over at some places, causing drivers to use the wrong side of the road. Before another major rain event, there is a also a need to reassess/reposition drainage, where a few years ago, water flow was diverted to accommodate roadworks along the lower ridge on Newton Drive. During the Feb 22 flood event that diversion channelled a torrent of water which contributed to a significant landslip and property loss.

3. Thorburn Street, between Cullen and Sibley Streets, has large potholes and, as there are no footpaths, a community member using a motorised wheelchair, is forced to travel on and negotiate the damaged road surface. Attention was also drawn to the need for additional footpaths, in particular the corner of Alternative Way and Sibley Street and the western section of Thorburn Street.

Rainbow Walking Track

We received a report from the stakeholder meeting held on 4th October. The detailed design is scheduled to be available early December. The route is a non-negotiable aspect of the track, following extensive negotiations with landowners. As a result of concerns from neighbours the route has been moved away from a couple of residences on Alternative Way. The lighting, signage, artwork and many other features are the subject of community input and discussion. The project’s completion date has been moved from May to Sept’23.

To find out more, walk the track or input your thoughts and ideas, come along to a

community open day and free BBQ, from 11-3pm Sunday, 11th December meeting at the Nimbin Headers ground.

Aquarius Festival

Planning is going ahead for a big programme of events for the 10-day Festival. The organisers will be inviting people to an information session on 20th January – look out for more information soon.

Wayfinding Project

This is a grant funded project of improvement to pedestrian access around the village. It will create improved access to the western carpark, a parklet green space near the Green Bank, trial a relocation of the pedestrian crossing and make improvements to the seating and appearance of the blister.

There is information on Councils “Your Say” page and a form to provide feedback.

Other business

The NAG members formally acknowledged the incredible value of the *Nimbin GoodTimes* to this community.

We recognised the commitment of the State Member, Janelle Saffin, to secure funding to construct a new toilet block for Peace Park if she is re-elected. It was suggested that a similar undertaking should be sought from the NSW National Party candidate. Cr Bird undertook to provide a means to contact the candidate.

There was a perceived problem that the number of peacocks in the village are creating a nuisance to people and other wildlife. Others felt they had value as a tourist attraction. To limit numbers growing the possibility of culling the females was floated. Ms Taylor will speak to Council rangers on this matter and report back.

Community opinion on the installation of temporary housing pods in Nimbin was discussed. We were advised the Recovery Group Housing Task Force had considered and rejected two sites, the whole of the Catholic church land and also the showgrounds.

Members identified another potential Council-owned site adjacent to the showground and leased to the Nimbin A & I Society.

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Whistleblower protection matters

by Warwick Fry

There is dog-whistling, and then there are ‘whistleblowers’. But rarely has a good whistle been blown without good reason.

Blow the whistles lads, and don’t let the bastards grind you down!

The Collaery trial, more than six years in the making was a politically motivated act of pure bastardry as we all know and have known from its beginning. There are more trials in the pipeline, with Boyle and McBride in the dock.

It is not just the fact that there has been an insufficient separation of ‘powers’ (political legislation and legal decisions), it is also the fact there are legalistic attempts to shut down the ‘fourth estate’ under false flag operations.

The latest offence against whistleblowers (after the Collaery trial) is the persecution of a Queensland copper who blew the whistle on racist comments in a Queensland Police Station: “... you’ve got to be embarrassed about being white,” and raising fears that Australia “will be fucking taken over” (*The Guardian*, 13th November, 2022).

The tapes led to a persecution of the whistleblower: “reprisal action

was swift and has been on-going for me. I learnt that I could not rely on my organisation or others to protect me.”

The Guardian (26th October, 2022) reports that a Commission of Enquiry found that officers who reported inappropriate behaviour “found dog bowls and dog food on their desks.”

This is in the national news context of the (alleged) murder of an Aboriginal youth by an (allegedly) racist copper (obsessed with SAS fantasies); the deliberate sidelining of a vicious racist and murderous attack on an 11-year old schoolboy in Western Australia: of 12-year old kids ‘strapped down’ in prisons that are by international conventions illegal; or the overflow sent to adult prisons. Not to mention deaths in custody over the last two years.

You have to stop and wonder. Are we becoming like the corrupt legal culture of the US where racist cops think that black lives don’t matter, or have we always been like that and don’t want to change? Who remembers Palm Island?

A lot of cop culture is about ‘loyalty’ to your mates. That’s understandable and admirable. But should it not extend to other cultures as well? One’s ‘mates’ do not have the privilege or excuse



of abusing another culture and victimising its people with legal impunity. And to challenge impunity is not a crime.

To know that is ‘civilization’.

I have dealt with good cops here in Australia. They do their job well and honestly (most of the time), without persecuting or seeking victims to add to their CV. Intelligent. There are others who just want to assert authority; follow the orders from ‘above’. And there are those who impose their position of authority because of their prejudices. These are the ones who make ‘mistakes’, which they assume will be excused by the legal system, especially, and all too frequently with ‘recalcitrant Aborigines’.

And therein lies the problem. The Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton revealed his own prejudices with his walkout from the National Apology speech to the Aboriginal people. His excuse was that having had to deal with domestic violence in Aboriginal communities as a former police officer had left him cynical and unsympathetic. He has walked back from that, but the attitude still carries over into the perverse culture of his former colleagues and ‘mates’.

Whistleblower protection matters. Not just for Witness K, Bernard Collaery, Richard Boyle, David McBride (not to mention Julian Assange). It matters too, for the honest coppers and prison personnel

who witness brutal actions and racist behaviour, that go too far beyond the call of duty and result in tragic consequences. It matters too, to a hell of a lot of Aborigines. And the legal system too, if you want to respect it.

It matters as well for those who have come around to exposing the (breaking) news that for the last thirteen years fossil fuel companies have been fudging laboratory results to justify the export of higher priced “cleaner” coal to other countries. Under the Morrison government, a lot of climate change critique and corruption went unmentioned for fear of persecution.

The Albanese government is packaging whistleblower laws with the Uluru referendum project, the ICAC legislation (which could take us back to the source of the robodebt travesty), and includes Aboriginal rights that seem to have been left behind the door at Mabo.

It might be an echo of the Whitlam era of Freedom of Information legislation (which has been massively clawed back by privatisation and ‘Business in Confidence’). Getting racist cops and lying accountants accountable for fossil fuel criminal behaviour will be a bloody good start.

Let us hope that it will be more than an echo.

Assange’s story in Nimbin

by John Jiggins

The persecution of Julian Assange is a story that has gone on for so long that I frequently find myself having to explain to young people who Julian Assange is, and what he did.

“He was the greatest journalist of the twenty-first century,” I tell them. “And he found a way to tell people the truth.”

Because of this ‘crime’ of truth-telling, on New Year’s Day Julian Assange will begin his fifth year locked away in solitary confinement in a tiny cell behind the bars of London’s Belmarsh Prison.

His ‘crime’ played a significant role in ending the war in Iraq, a crime of aggression launched by the US, the UK and Australia, the invasion of a sovereign nation that provided Putin with the model for the invasion of Ukraine.

So how do you tell the story of Julian Assange?

This is the problem filmmaker Ben Lawrence grapples with in his film *Ithaka*, which will be shown at the Bush Factory on Friday 9th December at 7pm.

Lawrence’s solution is to deliver an intimate view of the Assange persecution through the eyes of Julian Assange’s family – his father John Shipton, his wife Stella Assange, and their extended families – as his camera pursues them through the ordeal of Julian Assange’s 2020 extradition hearing.



Julian’s brother, Gabriel Shipton, is one of the producers of the film and Gabriel’s participation gave director Ben Lawrence intimate access to the family, helping to shape the storyline.

Ben Lawrence explained how he and Gabriel Shipton discussed how the film should tell the story. The film took some of the elements of the trial and wove it into video of John Shipton’s work campaigning as an advocate for Julian.

“It is a complex, decade-long story and we wanted to present a new entry point into this story, to humanise it through John, his father, and his journey to save Julian, to tell Julian’s story through the people who love him,” said Ben Lawrence.

“No doubt there will be more films on this subject, but this is a snapshot to tell a larger story. We wanted to humanise it by telling this very complex, geopolitical story about the battle for freedom of the press through one man’s journey

to save his son.”

John Shipton, Julian Assange’s father, will be in Nimbin for a Q+A about *Ithaka*. A retired builder, he now wanders the Earth as Julian’s avatar, pushing his ageing body around Australia, the UK, the US and Europe.

Towards the end of the hearing, when the judge unexpectedly denies Assange’s extradition, his supporters celebrate and we watch the family’s joy, hoping Julian is finally coming home.

It was not to be. The UK courts kept him behind bars while the US successfully appealed to the Supreme Court against the lower Court’s decision to deny extradition. Now it is the turn of Assange’s lawyers to appeal to the High Court as Assange’s torture by endless legal prosecutions continues.

Ithaka is a timely and important documentary, which manages to be simultaneously about a family and about the future of journalism.

Running to end extinction

by Chibo Mertineit

On 17th November I heard on the Lismore-based ABC radio morning show the story of a woman running 97 consecutive marathons (42.2 km) to end the extinction of our unique native animals.

She had just arrived in Byron Bay that morning on her way from Cape York to Melbourne.

I caught up with Erchana Murray-Bartlett (pictured) at the Macadamia Castle, where she was visiting Byron Bay’s mobile wildlife hospital.

“I played soccer for years as a young girl and went as an 18-year old to Iowa in the United States to play competitively. I didn’t start running ‘til I was 23,” the now 32-year old told me.

“Extinction is a choice, and we have to stop the extinction crisis in this country. Australia is a world leader in the loss of biodiversity, around 500 animals are on the endangered list.”

By aiming to run 150 consecutive marathons, she is trying to raise awareness for this issue and raise money for the Wilderness Society. The current record for consecutive marathons is 106.

She started in her first marathon at the Gold Coast in 2017, but didn’t finish. A few months later she finished the Sydney one and travelled the world for more, just missing out on qualifying for the Olympics.

Later she watched a documentary on Beau Miles, who ran the Victorian Alps, and the thought for ‘tip to toe’ started. She said she was always connected to nature and “loves native animals and national parks.” That’s how this idea started to grow more and more.

She started her 6200km run on 20th August and experienced a calf injury in the first days which made her change her running style, which caused another injury.

Then she got sunstroke running in 36 degrees heat in north Queensland, but she is such a committed woman, so she pulled through the first two weeks which were really hard.

“It’s the little things which count, plant more native trees, use less plastic etc. Around 50% of wildlife injuries are caused by cars, so slow down at dusk.”

If everything goes to plan and she “doesn’t twist an ankle in her sleep” she will arrive



in Port Melbourne on 16th January. She is running through the Blue Mountains to Canberra and the Victorian Alps and hope to raise \$62,000, ten dollars for every kilometer, for the Wilderness Society.

She chose them for their two-pronged approach: a) movement for life, which encourages volunteers in every local area to get involved; and b) they are the campaigning body working on the federal and state governments to stop the destruction of biodiversity.

What an amazing and inspiring person Erchana Murray-Bartlett is! My best wishes for her.

You can follow her and donate on: www.tiptotoe2022.com or ‘tiptotoe2022’ on Facebook, [instagram/@tip_to_toe_2022](https://www.instagram.com/tip_to_toe_2022) or under her name on [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com).

While I was waiting for her, I learnt that the mobile Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital has been running for over two years and needs \$1.5 million a year to function with all the specialist staff and equipment they have.

The average cost for each animal is around \$555, and in the past 48 hours they had 50 animals brought to them. They say they can’t charge the people who bring the animals in – 3000 animals a year – and they are totally dependent on donations from the public.

If you can help, go to: www.byronbaywildlifehospital.org

COP-out 27: a fossil fuel façade

by Kitty van Vuuren

Remember last year's images of the former prime minister, Scott Morrison at the Santos pavilion at the COP26 summit in Glasgow?

While the focus was on his refusal to support the global pledge to reduce methane emissions, the question of what fossil fuel companies were doing at the COP anyway, remained unanswered.

The core objective of the COP, the Convention of Parties that represents member countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (established 1992), is to work out how to stabilise the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

At last year's COP26, about 500 people linked to fossil fuel interests attended – more than the size of any of the national delegations, according to the BBC. At last month's COP27 in Egypt, the fossil fuel lobby numbered around 630! Coca Cola was there too as a major sponsor.

It's no surprise that Greta Thunberg, who addressed COP24 (Poland, 2018) as a 16-year-old, skipped last November's summit, since it had morphed into a fossil fuel trade fair.

It beggars belief that 32 years since the publication of *Our Common Future* by the World Commission on Environment and Development (a UNFCCC

precursor), the COPs have not produced a binding agreement to phase out fossil fuels and head off certain climate catastrophe.

In 1990, the WCED recognised the implications of increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere: global warming, climate change, air pollution, and acidification of soils and oceans. It warned of global disruptions to economic, social, and political structures and recommended that the highest priority be given to adopting renewable energy sources.

In 1980, atmospheric CO² concentrations had already reached 340 parts per million (ppm), up from 280 ppm pre-Industrial Revolution, and it would reach 560 ppm before the end of the 21st century. This year we reached 421ppm.

In his foreword to the Australian edition of *Our Common Future*, then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke anticipated a sustainable future, and his government's Commission for the Future (CFF) asserted that the most important legacy to give to future generations is a healthy natural environment.

The CFF also foreshadowed resistance from the mining industry. Mining interests 'vigorously' promoted the concept of "sustainable development", thus exposing the fluid interpretations attached to the term. They argued for more efficient use of coal, but also promoted increased coal exports because Australian coal burned 'cleaner' compared

to overseas coal resources. Today 'clean' gas is promoted with the same vigour.

Since its formation, two issues have dominated the COP agenda: reaching binding quantitative emission reduction targets and setting up a fund to assist poorer countries. On both counts, wealthy nations have tried to wriggle their way out of making meaningful commitments towards the global common good.

Hailed as a success, COP27 delegates agreed to a loss and damage fund, with initial contributions to come from developed countries. The details are still to be worked out, but past experiences suggest good intentions quickly erode. Opposition leader, Peter Dutton was quick off the mark to attack Labor's support for the fund, framing this as taking money away from Australian families.

Dutton conveniently ignored the harm done to Australians by rising energy costs imposed by greedy fossil fuel companies who pay little or no tax, employ few Australians, whose profits go offshore, and who receive billions of dollars in government subsidies – taxpayers' money.

Reaching agreements on binding emission reduction targets have proven elusive. Guy Pearce, author of *High & Dry*, which exposed the unparalleled influence of mining interests over the Howard government, also found that the earlier Hawke/Keating Labor

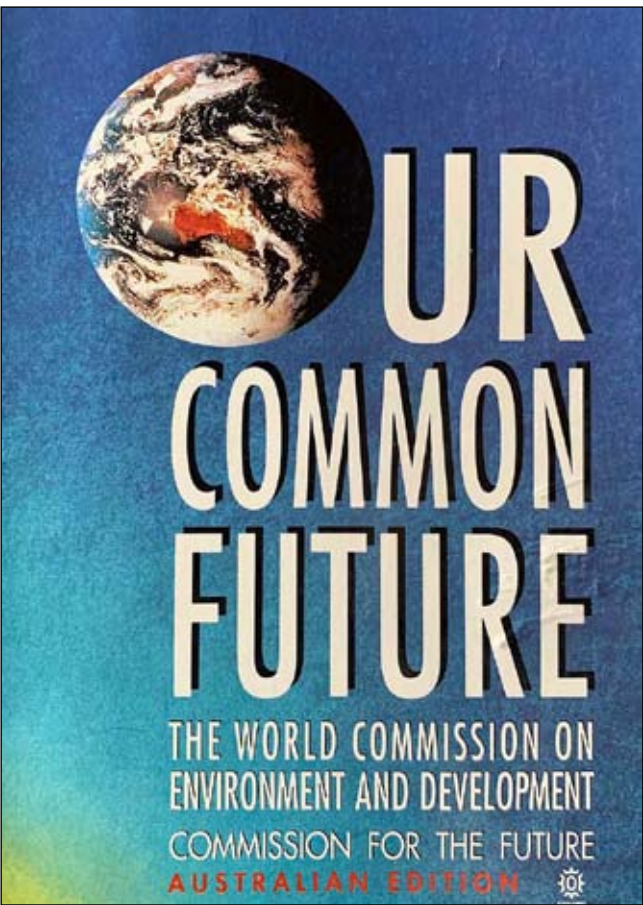
government had backed away from earlier pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 1997, The Kyoto Protocol (COP3) asked developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2%, to take effect a decade later. The Howard Government negotiated an increase in carbon emissions, while the United States and China refused to ratify the agreement.

The ugly climate debate that followed was marked by a campaign that sought to discredit the climate science with the help of right-wing think tanks and sympathetic mass media that resulted in a decade of political instability, ending with the Morrison Government's electoral defeat earlier this year.

In Australia, the manufactured opposition to the climate science followed the same song-sheet pioneered by the American 'merchants of doubt' who obscured the dangers of tobacco, the causes of acid rain, the ozone hole and global warming, as revealed by science historians, Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway in their 2010 book of the same name.

The current Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015) aims to limit global warming to below 2°C and requires reaching net zero emissions by 2030-50. Recent attempts to strengthen this agreement have also failed with many blaming this on the influence of the fossil fuel industry on member countries, as well as the crisis caused by the



Our Common Future, Australian Edition, by the World Commission on Environment and Development & Commission for the Future, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1990.

Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has raised demand for gas.

Australia is the world's largest gas exporter, and the second largest coal exporter, and intends to expand its coal and gas reserves. To the Australia Institute, it doesn't matter where the fuel is burned, it still puts the entire planet at risk.

It's no secret that both Labor and the Coalition parties accept donations from fossil fuel companies – nearly \$2M in 2019, excluding Clive Palmer's \$83.7m donation to his own party – and that past Labor and Coalition

politicians readily accept jobs in the fossil fuel industry.

At the last Federal election, the ABC's Vote Compass indicated that 79% of voters wanted more action on climate change. But how can ordinary Australians elect governments that are not beholden to the carbon lobby?

The State election scheduled for next March presents an opportunity to canvass candidates about their climate credentials. So far, the only political party that has declared its independence from the fossil fuel industry is The Greens.

It's a Kamikaze world

by Bernardine Schwartz

Well it's been another repetitious year, a dead end, finishing on a low note with another unconvincing climate summit, the COP27, where time was spent debating on how best to do nothing, while global warming stalks us all.

Most European nations' consumption of coal has risen dramatically, even more so since the Ukrainian war and critics attending the summit believe the flexibility now given to respond to the crisis "smacks of hypocrisy."

It's prompted governments to recommitment coal plants and many are actively sourcing new gas supplies in America, the Middle East and Africa, raising major concerns that fossil fuel production will be locked in for decades to come. A Kamikaze world that according to *Bloomberg Green Daily* is undergoing a revival in coal, with this year shaping up to be another

record breaker for coal power generation, the second year in a row.

The fight for dominion in the Arctic between the major powers is also intensifying, putting more unnecessary pressure on the Arctic Circle, a highly fragile ecosystem that's critical in mitigating global warming.

It's been a masquerade from start to finish, latest data presented in the Land Gap Report (landgap.org), which looks at countries' climate pledges for the years 2030, 2050, and 2060, found that most of these were "unrealistic and extensive," relying heavily on planting trees to remove carbon, when they should be making cuts to emissions.

It would require extra landmass roughly the size of America to accommodate these schemes and the report states it's impossible to "plant our way out of global warming," and "disingenuous to pretend that we can."

The Monarch butterfly is also disappearing – according to Friends of the

Earth in the last 20 years their population has sunk 90% and they're at risk of extinction; a species that has been in existence for nearly two million years. Over the years that magic potion Roundup ('a little dab will do ya') has been a key factor in their decline, decimating the only food Monarch caterpillars rely on, milkweed. It's made it virtually impossible for the young to survive, and not only them, but of other vital pollinators as well, and is already rippling through critical ecosystems. When they're gone, they're gone forever.

In the past 12 years the world's population has grown by a billion, with 15th November officially named the 'Day of eight billion' and the UN is predicting 10 billion by 2057, raising major concerns, when the planet is already buckling under the weight but we continue to breed like rabbits.

How we're all going to be fed is a mystery, but if we're going to have any chance



of feeding ourselves, the elimination of economic crops would be a good place to start. Take coffee, an industry worth \$469.9 billion last year, an addiction that's destroying the last remaining tropical forests on the planet and according to industry group, International Coffee Organisation, consumption is expected to spike 25% in the next five years alone.

Global demand and global warming is driving farmers to clear more forests to maintain and increase yields, in particular in the Andes, Central America and South East Asia, regions that Conservation International

say are of great concern. But society aren't to blame they only drink the stuff, it's all Nestle's fault.

So much has come to pass this year, but for me one event stands out from the rest, the year the "loneliest man on Earth" died. Nobody knew his name or age, other than he represented the fight for freedom, resisting the modern world 'til the very end. No-one knew anything of his people, all were massacred, their lands seized back in the 70s, by brutally greedy cattle ranchers, and since that horrific day this poor soul had been in fear of his life, on the run.

FUNAI, the National

Indian Foundation in Brazil, had been monitoring him from a distance for 26 years, but in August he was found dead in his hut. He was covered from head to toe in macaw feathers dressed waiting for death, the last inhabitant of the Tanaru Indigenous Land in the Amazon, and the last of his kind.

The outside world is the greatest threat to these people's secluded world and their very existence, and for thousands of years they've been content simply tending to Mother Earth. Their definition of life isn't clouded by religious dictatorships or a lust for money, but us. We've been running wild and free, conquering and dividing the entire planet. An all-or-nothing world. All for us, and nothing for everything else.

We might be intelligent, but that never guaranteed wisdom, and an inventive mind lacking foresight and restraint inevitably burns itself out. That's us and we can't back out now, we're trapped in our gilded cages.

So who's the cleverest here and the wisest? And you tell me, who's the savage?

Eating our way to extinction?

A reader recently contacted the NGT requesting that the paper review the British documentary *Eating Our Way to Extinction*, which was released last year.

As the title suggests, the film's focus is on the perils associated with mass industrial animal food production; the damage this does to the world's forests, oceans, the climate, and human and non-human communities.

Narrated by British actor, Kate Winslet, it opens with the (clichéd) felling of a massive rainforest tree in the Amazon; its replacement with hot, bleak pastures, and briefly touches on the violence that accompanies the enclosure of the forests.

The film then turns to the global fishing industry and covers the pollution of the oceans from fishing and fish-farming, especially of salmon.

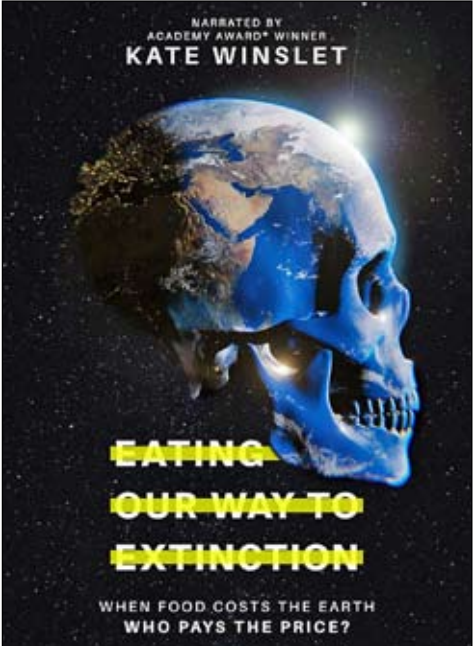
Predictably and convincingly, the film recommends that individuals take action by switching to vegetarian/vegan diets.

Eating Our Way to Extinction does briefly touch on the power of multinational agricultural organisations, their influence on politicians and multi-lateral organisations such as the FAO – the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization.

At this point, I need to declare that I am a baby-boomer and have seen numerous enviro-doco's since the 1970s. I have also observed levels of environmental concern wax and wane, although the recent climate-related disasters seem to be inducing a permanent societal shift towards greater concern for the environment.

The film's primary focus on the switch away from an animal-based diet ignores the 'elephant in the room': yes, factory farming of animal products is problematic and needs to change, but the luxury of switching diets is limited to the wealthy, a point not explored in the film.

Nor does the film mention the problem of food waste, which accounts for 30% of total global food production (FAO, 2016); nor does



Film review by Kitty van Vuuren

it address the pet food industry, which accounts to 25% of global food production (see Fleming, 'Pet food is an environmental disaster', *The Guardian*, 26/06/2018).

Neither does it address the problem of population growth (from 3.1 billion in 1961 – towards the end of the baby boom – to 8 billion in December 2022), and an economic system that knows no limits.

Eating Our Way to Extinction (2021, 81 mins) is directed by Ludovic Brockway and Otto Brockway, narrated by Kate Winslet, and features Sir Richard Branson (Virgin Group), Jeremy Rifkin (social theorist, economist and author), Sylvia Earle (former chief scientist with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The film can be viewed on Youtube and Amazon Prime.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

A full-house audience was treated to a marvellous evening with *The Dame: Vintage Drag in Mint Condition* at the KMI Hall on Saturday 5th November. It was an evening of stories and memories, lip-syncing and laughter, as well as a few tears.

Funded by Reconnecting Regional NSW, supported by Kyogle Council, and presented by Village Hall Players, *The Dame* told the story of local resident Stan Munro's incredible career as a glamorous entertainer that stretches across three continents and six decades – and counting.

Using a mix of projected images and videos onto a large screen, and a lively conversation between Stan and the show's co-producer, Kevin Markwell, the audience was quickly drawn into a remarkable life story that was captivating and, at times, quite emotional. This was an honest, no-holds-barred examination of a life well lived.

As a young man from a Welsh village, discovered by Australian acrobat and dancer, Neville Munro, Stan travelled around the UK for several years as part of the dance duo, The Munro



Brothers, performing on the same bill as The Andrews Sisters and Petula Clark.

Arriving in Sydney in 1963 as a Ten Pound Pom, Stan soon discovered the emerging drag scene and was employed initially as a male dancer at the newly-opened Les Girls restaurant in Kings Cross while working at the Dairy Farmers milk factory during the day.

Within a couple of years, he had been promoted to compere of the show before eventually taking it to Melbourne in 1970 where he starred and compered for the next eight years.

Throw in appearances in three movies including the role of Mrs Warren in the hit Australian movie *Alvin Purple*; riding a cantankerous elephant for a charity fund-raiser; leaving Bert Newton tongue-tied during Stan's appearance on *The Graham Kennedy Show*; compering and

performing drag shows in Hong Kong and Beirut; friendships with Cilla Black, Sir Robert Helpmann and Danny La Rue; dealing with, and recovering from, a nervous breakdown; and later touring the country as compere of Australia's first male strip show, *The Cheeky Chaps*, and you can see why the night was both entertaining and revealing.

The show was brought to an emotional end when Stan sang 'Fantasy', a song written for him by his musician friend, Tim Barton, which captures the essence of Stan's life as a performer whose use of illusion, masquerade and fantasy entertained and enthralled audiences across the decades.

Stan writes: "Drag has treated me very well and enabled me to do the things I love. I love performing, I love entertaining. I always have. This is my story."

House on the Lake at Uki

After three unsuccessful attempts to put on a production during Covid-19, the newly created Uki Moon Theatre is excited to officially present its first ever production – Aidan Fennessy's *House on the Lake* – at the Uki Hall in December.

House on the Lake is a layered psychological thriller so razor sharp that the audience is left reeling from the intellectual assault on the nervous system.

David, a rational, cool-headed criminal lawyer, emerges from his sleep in a small, meagerly furnished room, having lost his memory. With the help of his doctor, David's dark memories come to the surface, unfolding a shocking secret.

Director Penny Irving says, "*House on the Lake* is full of deception, twists and turns, which challenge the intellect and keeps you captured til the end. The crime narrative relies on what is said and not said.

"The task is to track the truth and lies: when, what, who, how and most importantly why? There are careful repeated setups of facts and clues that kept me intrigued to the very last line."

Yasir Assam, who plays David Rail, says: "It's a gripping yarn, the script is a real page turner. The first time I read it I couldn't put it down, I had to find out what happens next.

The play is deeply psychological and philosophical, yet isn't dry or boring. It entertains and makes you think in equal measure."

Jane Thornton, who plays Alice Lowe, says: "I've long been fascinated with why people do what they do, nature versus nurture and the influences that coerce us into positive and negative behaviours.

House on the Lake explores 'grande' themes of truth versus ties, and throws in complexities of the subjective/objective, interwoven with self-justification – the subtleties of the "shadow" at work."

House on the Lake is on at the Uki Town



Hall, 462 Kyogle Road, Uki, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th December. Doors open at 6pm for a 7pm start. Light refreshments and drinks will be available available at the venue.

For bookings go to: www.trybooking.com/events/landing?id=931211&

The Uki Moon Theatre aims to stimulate, celebrate and enhance understanding of ourselves and others through the shared experience of live theatre. We welcome donations and new members to support our productions.

For more information, visit: www.ukimoontheatre.com.au



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Silent orchestra in Nimbin

by Jonathan Arthur-Carter

I was once a classical musician: an orchestral violinist. So, not much talent in that scheme of things, but not an empty screen either. Conductors are better. But they come and go. Some, of course, are worse than others; a few are terrific and a handful appalling. It only takes moments to see what they are, to feel what they are, once they're on the podium at the first rehearsal.

Because all it takes is a single upbeat, the one that's used to start any piece or movement whatever, and you're enjoying yourself, or not, as may be. But what, instead, if you're a Silent Orchestra? I mean you, the audience. On your seat, you'll find the name of an orchestral instrument. And this is what you'll be for the concert: a violin or oboe, a trumpet or the bass drum. Then, as I give you a bit of rehearsal to explain how it works, off we go through whatever's on the program. I'm your conductor and you're my orchestra. So

you'll finally know just how it feels to be in one of those! Why or how? Because the Berlin Phil or the London Symph will be pumping through the sound system. Two concerts will be held at the Nimbin Town Hall, a Christmas Concert on Christmas Eve, and a New Years Eve Concert, both at 7.30pm. There's limited seating, so book early at Perceptio on 6689-1766. Entry is free, and pay what you want as you leave. Please come. And let's enjoy ourselves together!

Theatre Company's 2023 season

Lismore Theatre Company is pleased to announce its 2023 season. The program of plays will open in April with the premiere of *Hungry Ghosts* written by James May and directed by Junia Wulf. Lismore's James May's first full-length play, *Hungry Ghosts*, exposes the heart and soul of the gritty side of life on the fringe of an Olympic city. Compulsions, addictions and obsessions torture the lives of these often-misunderstood people. Director Junia Wulf says, "I feel honoured to bring James May's vision to life." James' short play, *Sissy*, recently reached the finals in the Drill Hall Theatre's Hot Shorts competition. Our second play, to be staged in August, is David Williamson's *Dead White Males*, an exploration into the importance of language and truth. Director Sharon Brodie says, "I love plays that make me think and question ideas long after I have left the play, and this one does it well." Williamson is Australia's most famous playwright, and in this play we follow a young woman at university as she learns how to critically think and challenge ideas. We also get to explore her family and re-evaluate the "truths" she has



Rochdale Theatre

always assumed about her family. "Nothing is as it appears at first and sometimes we have to be challenged to change," Sharon Brodie said. Rounding off the season in November is *Closer* by Patrick Marber, to be directed by Kylie Fuad. In *Closer*, a quartet of strangers is caught in a sexual square dance in which partners are constantly swapped, caught between desire and betrayal. This award-winning play by Patrick Marber is a brilliant exploration into the brutal anatomy of modern romance.

"I chose this play as it's an intense, dark and challenging work that allows me to work with four talented local actors to bring it to life," director Kylie Fuad said. LTC president, Sylvia Clarke, expects 2023 will again see Rochdale Theatre's calendar of performances augmented by external bookings for a variety of other events. "With many Lismore facilities closed as a result of the floods, our theatre was used in 2022 for music events, parties, workshops, drama classes, school performances, meetings, church services and many other events. "Those bookings provided welcome additional income to our theatre, and are sure to continue into the New Year," she said. Also in the New Year, the company will hold an open audition day. Anyone interested in acting can come and try out. Follow their Facebook page to keep up to date. The theatre always welcomes new members interested in any of the numerous on- or off-stage roles. Membership is open via their website: www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au and ensures members receive their regular newsletters and are covered by insurance.

Byron All Shorts – entries now open



Flickerfest and iQ Arts & Eco Centre are looking forward to this year's entries of our most creative and inspiring stories from our region's filmmakers, for Australia's biggest regional short film festival, Byron All Shorts, a dedicated locals only competition. Entries are now open for the Byron All Shorts 2023 competition, and will close on the 9th January, 2023. Flickerfest is Australia's only Academy

and BAFTA qualifying short film festival, and has supported Northern Rivers filmmakers for over 26 years. Byron All Shorts is an opportunity to showcase our incredible Northern Rivers filmmaking talent, alongside Flickerfest's best short films from Australia and the world. Entries will screen alongside Flickerfest's annual event at the Bangalow A&I Hall from Thursday 16th



Marlon Denning, writer-director-producer 'The Rock Pool Waltz' winner Best High School Short Film 2022 to Saturday 18th February. Visit: www.iQ.org.au for entry details.

TWO FOR ONE ENTRY
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81 Cullen Street

Non-residential Room for Rent

Size: 15.81m2. Room has a shared waiting room with two other tenants.
Great site for an office or studio space.

Contact the office on 02 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au if you are interested, and for further details.





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NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin
Phone 6689-1250

ADVICE FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS



Club Opening Hours:
Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close, Sun 8.30am to close
Sibley's Bistro open Wed-Sat 5 to 8pm, 6689-1473

- Open Mic night, Wednesday 14th Dec 6pm
- Trivia night, Saturday 17th Dec, 6pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome

Christmas Break:
Closed from 24th December, re-opening 4th January
Raffles: 9th, 16th and 23rd December – hams instead of meat trays, other prizes as usual.
Sibley's Bistro: Last day 23rd December, re-opening Wednesday 18th January

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL!