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Actively representing the village



Members of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce have been actively representing the village in various government and council forums that were set up for the purpose of flood recovery and forward planning.

Our intention is to make local government and council aware of our village's concerns and to encourage resources and funding to be directed to key areas that will support Nimbin's recovery and march towards a sustainable future. The chamber will make a submission to council on the growth strategy Building Back Better.

The carnage of the floods is still fresh in people's minds. Lismore is only scratching



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

the surface of recovery with very few businesses and service providers having open signs on their doors. Residents are surveying the toll of the damage whilst considering housing options, which include but are not limited to land swaps, raising floor levels or simply refurbishing existing homes.

Commercial property-owners, business operators, council staffers, town planners are all negotiating the path towards protection

of commercial and industrial precincts, with the understanding that this will be by no means the last flood to hit Lismore and surrounds. Discussions about relocation of the CBD and industrial areas to higher ground, creating an art and community area in the centre of Lismore as well as expanding the flood levy are all on the table.

Locally the condition of the roads is front and centre of people's concerns, with many landslides, major road degradation, and countless potholes ready to take out a vehicle's suspension, a tyre or even worse--create a situation where lives are in danger due to attempts to avoid accidents with oncoming traffic.

The Chamber is 100% supporting the 50th Aquarius anniversary and has funded the appointment of David Hallett, a well-known and respected member of the Nimbin arts community, to compile a programme of entertainment and

information events for the upcoming celebrations. David is organising a meeting at the Town Hall for community input to the event on Thursday 16th June at 4.30 pm.

The Chamber sponsored the Council-funded "Illuminate Nimbin" event that was cancelled due to flooding. It has been reinvigorated and will go ahead on the 24th of June, and will include food tastings at local cafés and restaurants, as well as street performance and lighting entertainment in the Town Hall. Further details will be provided as they come to hand.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is very active in supporting the interests of stake holders in the village, which benefits the wider community. If you are a local person who has a business, please consider joining the chamber.

For details, visit our website: <https://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au>

Still stirring, 100 years on

by Kitty van Vuuren
CWA Far North Coast
Group Secretary

Floods, landslips and Covid didn't stop local CWA branches from sending delegates and observers to the 100th birthday of the CWA of New South Wales, held at Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney in early May.

About 800 people attended the AGM and Conference, including some 455 voting delegates, which opened with all the pomp and ceremony that befits the centenary celebrations of this highly respected charity.

Governor of NSW, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC opened the meeting, followed with a Welcome to Country by Auntie Lola Ryan. To Janet Henderson, president of the CWA Far North Coast Group, the keynote speakers Layne Beachley AO, and Resilience NSW Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AO AFSM – who led the NSW Rural Fire Service during the Black Summer bushfires –both gave inspirational presentations that showed true courage and leadership and kept the audience enthralled.

Janet Henderson points out that the Conference "serves to give women an opportunity to network and to share ideas," with "plenty of focus on our Group because of the recent floods resulting in an outpouring of good wishes, donations and offers of help to branches in our area."

It's also the premier event where Branch and Group



Margaret Seydel with Alison Kelly, President Lismore Day Branch

finalists participate in the Handicraft, Cookery, Cultural, International, Agriculture and Environment competitions. Ballina Branch members Sharon O'Meara achieved Champion of Show for her three items of Handicraft, and Lyn Davidson got a first for her painting in the Cultural competition.

Much of the focus of the AGM is the CWA's advocacy work. The AGM provides a structured forum, where members can debate issues, formulate policies, and instruct CWA State Executive to advocate on their behalf to governments and private organisations.

This year, Far North Coast Group branches tabled four motions, of which three were successfully ratified. These included: a call to members to hold discussions and a referendum to modernise the Association's Motto (Kyogle Branch); to advocate for amendments to the NSW Dividing Fences Act 1991 to give the Crown the same

responsibilities and rights as other landholders (Tabulam Branch); and to advocate for government action to develop a comprehensive re-development plan for renewal and upgrade of essential rural roads (Old Bonalbo Branch).

Uluru Statement

Lismore Day Branch tabled the motion that the CWA accept the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support constitutional change to give First Nations a Voice to Parliament.

A lengthy and emotional discussion followed, with the meeting deciding to 'not put the motion' to the vote. This means it can go back on the agenda the following year, giving members additional time to consider the issues.

If the motion had been put to the vote and then lost, CWA rules would prevent the issue from being put back on agenda for another three years.

A similar motion had been tabled at the 2021 CWA State AGM and was not put to the vote, with Branches

asked to consult with their local Indigenous communities to determine the extent of support for the Statement. Lismore Day Branch's motion was ratified by the Far North Coast Group at our October 2021 AGM, pointing to broad support for the Statement among our membership.

The Uluru Statement has two broad objectives. The first is the establishment of a First Nation Voice in the Constitution, which requires a referendum. The second proposes the establishment of the Makarrata Commission, which can be legislated to facilitate a process of truth-telling about Australian Indigenous history, as well as offer pathways towards making binding agreements.

Indigenous attempts to secure representation in parliament date back to 1937 and several more attempts were made before the close of the 20th century. The idea of a First Nations Commission is not new. In the late 1980s the Hawke/Keating Labor government established ATSIC: the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. It was abolished in 2005 by the Howard government.

Regardless of the criticism that ATSIC attracted, the ease with which it was abolished, points to the vulnerability of the absence of constitutional guarantees to ensure a permanent voice for Australia's First Nations.

This year's discussion at the State AGM indicates that still more work needs to be done to inform the CWA membership of the Statement's purpose and implications.

Council addresses Nimbin issues

by Gwen Trimble

The Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) had its first meeting of this Council's term on 26th May.

The NAG meets quarterly and its term coincides with that of Lismore City Council which calls for Expressions of Interest and decides which 10 community members will be offered NAG membership.

The NAG is serviced by Council staff, chaired by the Mayor or their nominee, and all Councillors are welcome to attend. This term, NAG members are Amy-Kate Dillon, Diana Roberts, Doug Pinch, Gwen Trimble, Megan James, Michael Balderstone, Natalie Meyer, Nicolas Linder, Sue Edmonds and Sue Stock.

The Mayor, Steve Krieg, chaired the meeting and Cr Big Rob also attended. Council's Assets Manager, Scott Turner briefed the meeting on local road repair schedules and the current situation with the Nimbin Water supply.

Road updates

Immediately after the flooding, the Federal Government made \$5 million available for emergency road repairs.

There is more Federal funding guaranteed, however LCC staff must now assess, identify and submit a report to the Federal Government in order to obtain a release of these grant funds for permanent repairs to be undertaken.

It is important to note that both the NSW and Federal Governments have committed to "Build Back Better" which will allow repairs to made to a standard better than existed before the disaster.

LCC anticipate that the extensive permanent road repair schedule will take around five years to achieve, and will need to be tendered to contractors.

Council is very aware that the repairs to the road between Nimbin and The Channon are a priority and will carefully manage resident access to limit inconvenience while those road works are being conducted.

After being asked whether it would be possible to provide warning signage at the sites of the now increasingly dangerous groups of pothole canyons developing on the Nimbin Road, Mr Turner said he would action that request.

Water supply failure and security

Mr Turner spoke to the water supply failure caused by the flooding in the upper part of Gungas Road, and acknowledged the remarkable job in reconnecting supply performed by Defence Force Engineers.

Currently, the water pipe is laying on the ground. When the permanent repairs have been made to Gungas Road the water main will be moved underground again.

The planned new water treatment plant is still in design and development. We were assured that the water treatment would not involve fluoridation of the supply.

Once operational, this treatment plant would remove the current need to issue boil water notices to rural supply households when we experience serious rain events.

Nimbin Water Supply's secure yield was discussed. It will be impacted by several factors: the number of households connected and their individual water use; pricing of water as a means to limit waste; whether second dwellings built on an already connected block would be allowed to connect; access for water carters to fill from the Nimbin supply; and the reduction in water wastage due to mains flushing once the new water treatment plant is operational.

Cr Big Rob proposed that the option of connecting to the Rous Water supply should be considered to achieve a secure Nimbin water supply. He said this option would require the construction of a pipeline from Lismore.

Mr Turner advised that Council had considered a pipeline to Rous in recent years, but the option had been discounted due to the exorbitant cost. The point was made that an additional Nimbin reservoir could be constructed at less cost than a pipeline to Rous supply.

It was generally agreed that a large-scale community consultation process would need to be undertaken to find a community-supported way forward.

Rainbow Walking Track

The project is being managed by LCC staff and is currently in the design stage with the expectation that the community would be involved in more consultation in late June – July 2022.

Budget and Operational Plan

Council's Budget and Operational Plan for the next financial year is on public exhibition and can be found through "Your Say" at Council's website. Submissions close on 10th June.

On behalf of the Nimbin community, NNIC have lodged a submission for funds to be made available to build an amenities block between the pool and the playground.

Community Disaster Plan

The Nimbin Community Disaster Plan has been under review by the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group and a report is about to be written to reflect those changes and brought back to the community for comment/feedback.

Development contributions

Previously called Section 94 funds, Section 711 development contributions are paid by developers and collected by Council. The NAG has been asking LCC to clarify where and how these funds are spent.

Council has scheduled a meeting to consult on this matter with the Nimbin community on Wednesday 6th July at a venue yet to be decided.



The collapsed new roadway at The Cutting on Nimbin Road. Photo: PAC



Legalise Cannabis reaches new political high

by Michael Balderstone

"Australians know what they want and they don't need \$100 million to tell them," said the SMH political expert on the ABC *Insiders* the morning after the election.

He was commenting that the Legalise Cannabis Party got more votes than Clive Palmer's United Australia, despite him spending \$100 million on the campaign.

And that was the beginning of Legalise Cannabis getting a rush of media attention all week. Even Skynews was interested, and there was plenty of international coverage as well.

Many wanted to know how much we spent compared to Clive but the fact that a Legalise candidate might pinch Pauline's seat got everybody excited.

We spent all we had, about twenty grand on the campaign, and Bernie Bradley (Qld) put in half of that. It cost another thirty grand to register the candidates in every state and territory.

We always loved the idea that any stoner anywhere in Oz, no matter how vulnerable in their community, because of their love of the sacred weed, could vote for us safely in the anonymity of the ballot box.

So a huge thank you to the around half a million registered voters who put a 1 in the Legalise Cannabis box on the Senate long white paper. Almost double the votes we got last time.

The aim was to send a message to the government on how important the issue is for so many people, and I think we have. Whether it makes any difference remains to be seen.

I also must thank the handful of people who were unafraid to campaign publicly for us. People like Stuart in Byron who worked tirelessly at the pre-poll and on election day. If we had a few hundred of him, we would get people elected!

We wanted to ask Albo how much for an ounce of weed in Marrickville, but the chance didn't come up.

The suits have no real idea of how many cannabis users there are. Most people of



Michael being interviewed inside the Embassy for The Project. Photo: Paul Paul Below: Stuart's bike in Byron



course, keep their illegal activities extremely private, but in the secrecy of the cardboard voting booth no-one else knows where your pencil marks number 1.

It also needs stressing that many more voters will have marked us as number 2, or 3, 4, 5 or 6. Another indication of how many Australians are ready for the laws to change.

I look forward to preferences being allocated, and Bernie may well oust Pauline yet.

Bernie Bradley nominated to be a candidate only a couple of months ago and he made a huge impact. Virtually all the Legalise candidates are long time cannabis users, but his passion for change comes from a different direction, what he sees every day in court, as a lawyer.

Defending people, keeping them out of jail for growing their own medicine because the legal prices are prohibitive. Trying to help people keep their driving licence because their saliva had the presence of THC in it, nothing to do with being impaired.

Being allowed to grow our own and changing the driving rules, were the two prime issues that moved voters I think, and Bernie coming in from another angle like a breath of fresh air gave us new respectability.

We got virtually no publicity before the election but have had tons since, including terrific interviews Bernie did with Virginia Trioli and on *Radio National*.

Many people had not heard of us before they voted, but they have now and I dare say we would get even more votes if the election was next weekend.

In every state and territory our votes increased, but the Northern Territory and Queensland look like they have cracked the magic 4% of the primary vote along with Nigel Quinlan in Longman, the only House of Reps seat we competed in.

If all of them remain at over 4% we will receive generous funding from the Electoral Commission. Enough to run a much bigger campaign in three years, if Albo hasn't made some significant changes for cannabis users.



by Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

From the mayor's desk

It was great to attend the Nimbin Advisory Committee last week. I thank everyone who came along and gave their feedback and advice on the many topics discussed.

Naturally, the state of the roads in and around Nimbin and The Channon topped the list. Council and I are very aware of the poor state servicing both villages.

As everyone would know, our road network across the Lismore Government Area suffered extensive damage in

the 28th February natural disaster and the March flood.

This included massive landslips and roads simply giving way. Council is currently conducting numerous geotechnical investigations so that we can build these roads back better than they were before.

However, the on-going rain has prevented us from doing the work we need to do, particularly filling the potholes that have appeared on many roads.

The flood damage and on-going rain means the ground below our road pavements is extremely soggy.

This has resulted in new potholes appearing daily and the bitumen used to fill potholes in the continual wet weather does not have time to dry and seal properly, which reduces the effectiveness of temporary pothole repairs.

I understand the community's frustration, and all I can ask is for your patience as we are

determined to not only repair the roads but to improve them so they have more chance of withstanding the next flood.

The meeting also received an update on the Nimbin Walking Trail. Plans for the trail are still in the design stage. Once that's complete we will engage with the Nimbin community for its advice about the best way to get this popular project happening.

Pop-up Precinct

Council also announced that we have set up a Our Place: Pop-Up Precinct, so that The Channon Craft Market

(and the Lismore Car Boot Market) can get back into action in the Lismore CBD while works around the Channon Showground are yet to be completed.

As usual, Robyn Kelly is managing this market with the first one to be held on Sunday, 12 June. It will be held at the Harold Fredericks carpark, on the corner of Dawson and Magellan streets in Lismore.

It may have a slightly different feel in Lismore, but I know Robyn is hoping that all the regular stallholders are there.

steve.krieg@lismore.nsw.gov.au

CWA champions rural communities for a century

by Janelle Saffin MP,
State Member for Lismore

I'm proud to be elected as a Deputy Chair of the new Parliamentary Friendship Group for the Country Women's Association in the organisation's 100th year.

The Chair is The Honourable Leslie Williams MP and the other Deputy Chairs are Helen Dalton MP, Tamara Smith MP and Nicole Overall MP.

In 100 years, the CWA has not only been a strong, consistent voice for rural women and families, but it has successfully brought about changes that have saved lives and greatly benefited rural communities.

If you look at what was on the CWA agenda when it was formed a century ago you see how much we take for granted in rural Australia.

It campaigned for: baby health clinics, maternity wards in public hospitals, ambulances and health centres in country towns, reduced rail fares and better berths for women and children, libraries in country towns, rest rooms where women could leave their children while they shopped, and activities to bring people together to stop the drift to the cities.

The CWA also actively

encouraged rural women to join public committees and boards.

And 100 years on it continues to focus on critical issues affecting rural women and communities, and what needs to be done.

In April, the NSW CWA donated \$500,000 to flood relief.

I have huge respect and admiration for the ongoing work of the CWA, including the wonderful Nimbin branch, the important social connections it provides for women and the continued advocacy for our rural communities

The Parliamentary Friends of the CWA will strengthen the connections with the organisation and ensure it has a strong voice to the NSW Parliament.

Fighting to make access to flood grants easier

Last month, I moved a Notice of Motion in State Parliament, calling on the NSW Government to make it easier and quicker for local residents and businesses to access flood relief grants on offer.

Everywhere I go locals and businesses come to me distressed about the process of applying for the flood grants they need.

It is too hard; people keep being asked over and over again for documents, being approved and



A November 2019 file photo of Lismore MP Janelle Saffin and then Federal Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese being briefed by CWA Nimbin president Linnet Pike on the Mount Nardi bushfire. Albo through his contacts arranged a white goods donation to the CWA branch for use during the emergency and for future community events.

unapproved, and having to jump through hoops constantly to get the support they need.

The system is not working and adding to increased stress.

That's why I moved a Notice of Motion in the Legislative Assembly, shining a spotlight on the problems locals are having. I'll keep fighting so our communities across the Lismore Electorate get the flood

help they need.

I moved: That this House:

(1) Notes that communities in the Lismore Electorate have been devastated from catastrophic floods and landslips in February and March 2022.

(2) Notes that the current onerous application process for disaster grants is distressing and re-traumatising many flood-affected

people and businesses.

(3) Calls on the Government to institute the efficient, timely, flexible, people-centred and compassionate administration of grants, and to fund government officials to be on the ground; walking the streets assisting people and businesses in need.

Resilience NSW's Mobile Recovery Street Teams soon after were on the ground doorknocking flood-affected residents in suburbs of Lismore, something I had advocated for since day one. This outreach needs to include all affected towns and villages in the Northern Rivers to ensure no-one is left behind.

Congratulations to PM Albo

Congratulations to my good friend Anthony Albanese on being sworn in as our 31st Prime Minister.

Albo is a friend of our area and is a man of integrity who will govern in the interests of all of us.

What a fantastic change for a better Australia. I have hope.

My message to PM Albo, which he loved, was: "From one Housing Commission kid to another. We can do anything, but you did the best thing for Australia and became our Prime Minister. Thank you. Love Janelle."



On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan,
Federal Member for Page

It is very humbling to be re-elected as our community representative in Canberra. I thank people for their support.

This one is personal,

the flood recovery task has only just begun, there is much more to do.

I will work with and push any government, State or Federal, both Coalition and Labor, and any bureaucrat to speed up our recovery.

The task is above

politics and needs continued urgency.

I look forward to continuing to deliver the infrastructure and services our growing communities need.

I acknowledge the other candidates, who were a great and interesting group of

people, all reflecting our wonderfully diverse community.

I thank all my helpers and supporters, I literally couldn't have done this without you; a swing to the Nationals locally reflects their great work.

To my staff, who go above and beyond in helping people in our community, they are a great team, thank you.

To my family, Karen, Bridget, Sean and Rosie, your love and support sustains me in this role.

We have a world leading democracy, I wish the new government well.

There are many challenges we face but I am always optimistic about our future due the character of the Australian people.

Lismore flood appeal

Residents in the Lismore Government Area who were impacted by flood waters during the 28 February natural disaster can now apply for a grant from the Lismore Flood Appeal.

Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg said the Council's Flood Appeal Committee has finalised its approach to the distribution of the \$1.3 million it has raised so far, to support Lismore's most flood-impacted community members.

"Our community has been hurting since the 28 February natural disaster and the March flood," he said.

"I would like to thank the generosity of all those from around the country who have donated to our Flood Appeal.

"After extensive discussions, the Flood Appeal Committee decided to focus on those most in need of assistance. We hope the distribution of these donations will go some way towards easing the financial and emotional cost of rebuilding homes."

Residents who have a home in the inundation zone and who suffered property damage or loss are eligible to apply for a Flood Appeal grant.

There will be two rounds of distribution with the first round allocating \$1 million out of the amount raised. This round is now open. It will close on Monday, 11 July 2022.

Round 2 will be distributed at a later date to ensure there is a safety net for those who are unable to apply during Round 1.

Council has made the application process as simple as possible, with Council staff available to assist people to complete their applications.

Council will continue to update our community with the latest Flood Appeal news and announcements.

The application can be completed online at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au, via mail or in person at the Council's Corporate Centre at 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah. Please do not hesitate calling Council on 6625-0500 if you have any questions.

Council reviews recovery strategies

Temporary housing

In order to assist local residents displaced by the floods find alternate temporary housing, Lismore Council has publicised the ability of farmers and rural dwellers to place one temporary movable dwelling on their property for up to two years, without any need to lodge a planning proposal or DA.

See: <https://lismore.nsw.gov.au/files/Fact-Sheet---Temporary-Accommodation.PDF>

At the May Council meeting, Cr Ekins proposed that a workshop be held to develop a planning proposal to permit multiple temporary movable dwellings and associated infrastructure in zone RU1 primary production in response to natural disasters.

Some properties have the capacity to place more than one temporary movable dwelling – caravan, pod, tiny home, for example – however the planning regulations do not currently permit this. Cr Ekins’ motion was supported by seven councillors and it is hoped that this change could be implemented within months.

Resilience NSW has commenced the roll-out of temporary accommodation pods in the affected regions. The first site to be used is at Wollongbar, with other sites identified near Southern Cross Uni, Lismore golf course, Wardell, Lindendale, Evans Head, Woodburn and Pottsville.

The government has committed to assisting around 25,000 households through their \$350 million housing response, including rental support, Disaster Relief Grants and the Back Home program.

Long term strategies

The uncertainty that so many affected people are facing post-flood is whether to rebuild their homes, or to wait and see if government funds become available for land swaps and relocation of homes that can be restored.



by Cr Darlene Cook
Lismore City Council

The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation has been created and tasked with co-ordinating planning, rebuilding and construction work of essential services, infrastructure and housing beyond the immediate response and recovery phase.

NRRC must have community input on our vision of the way forward. We must not let the future of our region’s housing and land use strategy be determined by the State government.

In order to have our communities’ wishes heard, Lismore Council currently has a consultation survey on its website seeking input from the public on the future growth management strategy.

Options include land swaps; voluntary house buy-backs; relocation of affected homes and businesses to higher flood-free ground including at the Lismore golf course, the University, North Lismore Plateau and Goonellabah; opening up new areas of industrial land in Goonellabah; engineered strategies to protect the CBD; abandonment of North and South Lismore as residential areas; and expansion of village boundaries.

Council held two public forums recently which were not well attended due to the weather. A number of people are calling for more community input and participation in this conversation than just one survey.

If you wish to have input

into this planning for the future of Lismore please go to: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/growth-management-strategy>
Submissions close on 10th June.

Rate assistance

Also at the May council meeting, Councillors voted unanimously on a resolution calling for the NSW government to pay the 2022/2023 land and water rates for all flood-affected properties. It is unreasonable to ask people to pay rates on homes that cannot be lived in or businesses that cannot operate.

Council has sought legal advice on whether it can simply waive rates, but have been told that it is legally obliged to issue rate notices.

We have hopes that the NSW government will provide this rate assistance for our affected ratepayers. The government did this for fire affected properties across the state in 2019/2020.

The Mayor and General Manager have both been to Sydney to speak to the Premier and Local Government Minister to seek their help in this matter.

Budget

Now on public exhibition seeking input from the community, is Council’s 2022/2023 Operational Plan (budget).

Highlights include that there will be zero increase in rates; zero increase in most fees and charges; an increase in council funding for roads and infrastructure maintenance and renewal; and no new borrowings.

The budget by program, revenue policy, and lists of fees and charges can be found at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/2022-23-operational-plan-and-budget>
Submissions close 10th June.

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

Flood protection planning

It was a full agenda at Ballina Council’s May meeting.

While there were no Councillor motions, which is unusual, there were a number of planning documents on the agenda including a Playground Upgrade Plan, Sports Facilities Management, Strategic Urban Growth Areas, Ballina Flood Protection and Feasibility Plan, Ross Lane Flooding, and the consideration of a regional Croquet Centre.

Given the recent events, I’ll focus on flood protection.

Over the last 14 years on Council, I’ve attended countless briefings on flood plain management and planning for climate change. This is obviously an issue that many, if not all of our communities are facing in one way or another.

The Ballina Flood Protection and Feasibility Plan is now on public exhibition. The key considerations for Ballina Island (yes it is a low lying island just inside the mouth of the Richmond River) is to ensure that in the event of a major flood it can be evacuated.

With a large elderly population including a number of nursing homes and other aged care facilities, as well as the hospital, getting those most at risk to safety is a key priority. The proposed way of achieving this is to raise key roads comprising the evacuation route. This is not without significant costs and complications.

The other key action is the option of building a levee around Ballina Island. This has been talked about for a number of years and now there are some preliminary costs and levee locations. The proposal would involve a significant number of property acquisitions and again, the feasibility of the proposal is certainly questionable at best.

While Ballina wasn’t immune from the recent flooding, particularly in areas like West Ballina and



by Cr Jeff Johnson
Ballina Council

Wardell, the flood levels experienced were nowhere near the modelled maximum flood levels.

Ballina’s major floods occur when heavy/extreme rainfall is concentrated in the North Creek catchment area and is combined with a storm surge, for instance from an east coast low or cyclone. This effectively raises the level of the ocean, trapping the water on the floodplain.

Our coast has not experienced a cyclone since the 1970’s, when there were three in relatively quick succession. They caused significant coastal erosion. The recent events over the last two years (drought, bushfires, flooding), culminating in the devastating flood in Lismore feels like a window into the future.

What’s plainly obvious is that the sooner the world moves to a net zero carbon economy the less likely the more extreme weather forecasts and SLR (Sea Level Rise) predictions will occur. It would be hard to argue that the recent weather events over the last couple of years aren’t linked to human-induced climate change.

Investment policy

Given this, I find it extraordinary that at Ballina’s March Council meeting Team Cadwallader Councillor, Rod Bruem, moved an amendment to our Investment Policy that removed the 0.05% interest preference given to financial institutions that don’t fund new or existing fossil fuel projects.

Councillor Bruem stated that this was in order to give council “more flexibility” to invest in fossil-fuel aligned institutions.

A rescission motion was put to the April meeting to overturn this decision but was narrowly defeated 6-4. As a result, the amended policy was put on public exhibition and will likely come back to Council for a third vote at the July meeting.

I feel it would be a massive backward step for Ballina Council to shift term deposits worth millions of dollars to financial institutions that continue to support new and existing fossil fuel developments.

The investment margin/preference that is proposed to be removed is only 0.05% and is predicted to cost Council/ratepayers approx. \$9000 per annum in forgone interest.

That’s about 40 cents per ratepayer per year on a term deposit portfolio worth \$100 million.

What has been notable in the two Council debates on this issue is that all four of “Team Cadwallader” Councillors have voted as a block in favour of greater support for fossil fuel aligned institutions.



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14th June—10am Becoming a Home Herbalist

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02 6686 7522
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Authorised by Tamara Smith Member for Ballina
Produced using parliamentary entitlements

DA approved for Byron Shire bioenergy facility

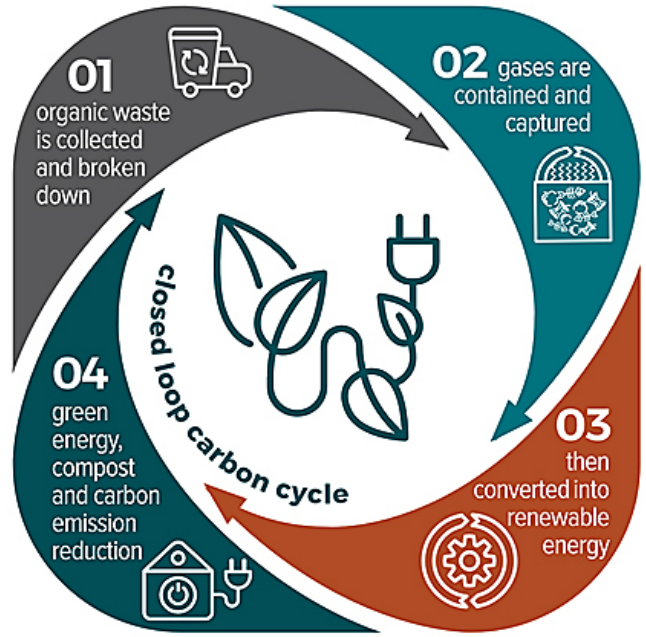
The Northern Rivers Regional Planning Panel has approved a development application (DA) for a bioenergy facility to be built at the Byron Shire Council's Byron Bay sewage treatment plant (STP).

The facility will process 28,000 tonnes of green waste per year and convert it into renewable energy, producing enough electricity to power the plant as well as the Byron Bay STP.

Excess energy will be exported into the grid and it will also produce a very high-quality compost for use locally by residents and farmers, as well as divert waste from landfill and reduce carbon emissions.

Project Manager, John Hart said the Panel's decision is an exciting and historic moment for Byron Shire, the Northern Rivers and Australia.

"While this technology is in use in other parts of the world, especially Europe,



this is the first time a dry anaerobic digestion facility of this kind has been approved for development in Australia," Mr Hart said.

"This is a fantastic project that will help our community increase its long-term

resilience towards climate change."

The project will be reviewed by Byron Council later this year, with grant funding options for the \$23.8 million project currently being explored.

Murwillumbah's World Environment Day Festival is on

Sunday 17th July 10am-3pm at Knox Park, Murwillumbah

The UN environmental Education theme this year is 'Only One Earth'

We unite with all environmentally minded people, especially the youth, in our choices and actions to Protect, Restore and Enhance our environment.

The program includes:

- Welcome to country and Aboriginal dance created by local elder
- Robert Kooyman, Forest Ecology
- Willow Hallgren, Impacts of Climate Change
- Lui Weber, Unique Local Plants
- Grant Periott, Local Water Flows
- Karina Miotto, Deep Ecology
- Rebecca Whan, Earth Walls
- Donovan Teal, Forensic Nature Photographs
- Electric Vehicles
- Local environmental groups will participate
- Tweed Shire Council stalls and Seed Library
- Sustainable business stalls
- Solar trailers and a solar van will provide power.
- First Nation Dancers



The grey-headed flying-fox has been declared a threatened species, but Tweed Shire Council's project to restore 6 hectares of flying-fox habitat is seeing great success, with 4 hectares now restored by control of highly invasive woody and vine weeds. Landholders at each property are learning about best-practice ecological restoration techniques and a little about the ecology of the grey-headed flying fox, which plays a critical role in ensuring the health and survival of iconic ecosystems such as tall sclerophyll forests and lowland subtropical rainforests.

- Kids Space, Hoopla Kids Circus and workshop
- Pitts Family Circus
- Tasty vegetarian food, coffee, tea, chai and cake
- Music from Luna Junction
- Felicity Lawless and Black Rabbit George (Winners, 2021 BluesFest Busking competition)
- Loose Content (Winners of the 2022 BluesFest Busking competition)

bottle and mug. This is a Free Family Friendly, Covid Safe "Wastewise Event" Sponsored by Tweed Shire Council, Enova Energy and Tyalgum Energy Project, SAE Group, Solo Resource Recovery, Murwillumbah Farmers Market, Mobile Stage Solutions, Stone & Wood, Gynea Eco Retreat

For more info, go to: <https://calderenvironmentcentre.org>



Will engineering solutions help Lismore?

by Nan Nicholson, WATER Northern Rivers

Engineering works have been proposed to mitigate the extreme flooding experienced in Lismore in February and March 2022.

Here are the suggested options:

1. Build a higher levee

The cost of raising the levee is as yet unknown but could be expected to be many millions, if not billions. The money is not yet sourced or assured.

Enormous disruption would be caused by the removal of existing infrastructure and houses, by the extensive excavations required for the site, and by the transport of earth and rock from other areas to provide fill for the levee.

The construction would devastate efforts to rehabilitate the current levee area.

The gross inequity involved in attempting to protect only the CBD and flood-prone parts of East Lismore is unacceptable. A higher levee would:

- (a) signal the abandonment of South and North Lismore, and significantly intensify their flood hazards and problems.
 - (b) speed up and magnify the flood effects on downstream farmers and townships such as Coraki.
- Now that climate change and its damaging consequences are beyond all doubt, we have to ask how high the next major flood will be. It could be 18m or 20m or 30m.

There is no known limit – all we know is that more frequent and bigger floods are assured. Spending huge amounts of money in an attempt to alleviate, but possibly worsen, a threat of unknown size is the height of poor planning.

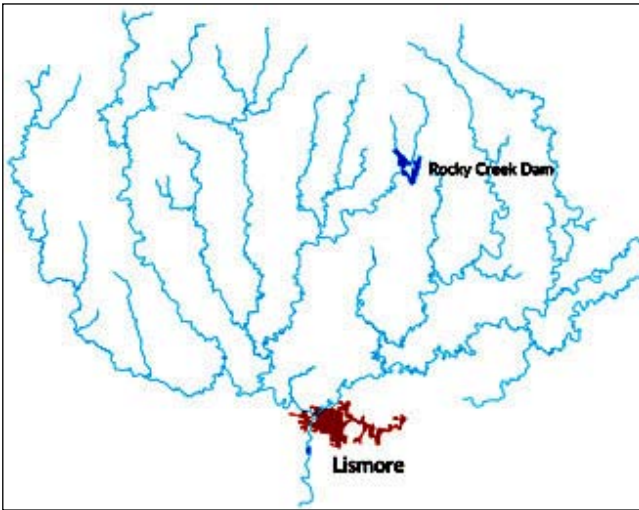
We need to admit that the existing levee was an expensive failure which merely protected parts of Lismore from small and medium floods. It has made major floods much more dangerous and destructive for both the "protected" areas and the remainder of Lismore.

We must not compound this blunder by repeating it and subjecting more people to greater peril and heartbreak.

2. Construct "containment ponds", aka dams, on upstream tributaries

The proposed Dunoon Dam (the DuD), below the existing Rocky Creek dam, has been advocated by some (although not Rous County Council) as the prime candidate for supposed flood mitigation in Lismore.

Apart from the intractable problems of destruction



Map of Lismore catchment Courtesy Dr Rob Garbutt

of nationally significant Indigenous heritage and internationally significant rainforest, this dam would provide no flood mitigation and would in fact increase risk to downstream residents.

As the map above shows, the catchment of Rocky Creek, on which the DuD would be built, contributes very little to the floodwaters that inundate Lismore.

Figures provided by Rous show that Rocky Creek catchment above the DuD is 50 km², or 3.57% of the 1400 km² catchment above Lismore.

Even in the extremely unlikely event that Rocky Creek Dam and the DuD were empty at the beginning of the rain event, they could not intercept more than 3.57% of the flood water heading for Lismore.

A second flood within a month, as happened in March 2022, would be even less able to be contained as there would be no possibility of emptying the DuD into an already flooded landscape.

This would be true of any other dams constructed on other tributaries with the aim of holding back floodwaters. They could not provide mitigation, their cost would be astronomical and their construction would entail large-scale loss of farmland and native vegetation.

The downstream risk from a large dam is explained in the 2012 Environmental Flows Assessment (EFA), commissioned by Rous CC. It states that the most extreme floods may be exacerbated in the 3 km immediately below the dam wall.

"Modelling shows that the magnitude of the largest floods may be increased, with the largest flows in the natural regime of 17,280 ML per day shifting to 20,456 ML per day with Dunoon Dam operating." This is an increase of 18.3% on the largest flood.

The additional impact is explained by the surface area of a large dam. "When full, the dam acts to increase catchment run-off

efficiency, with all rain that falls directly onto the water surface delivered directly into downstream flow when the dam is spilling.

This phenomenon results in increased peak magnitude of the modelled flood events when these conditions are met."

This phenomenon on Rocky Creek Dam already increases the flood peak downstream. On 28th February the following text was sent to all residents below Rocky Creek Dam, including The Channon village and parts of Keerrong:

"NSWSES Dam Failure Evacuation Order Rocky Creek Dam. People at your home address below Rocky Creek Dam should evacuate now to a higher ground."

What warning would the SES have to send if there were another dam with an even larger surface area located only 3 km above The Channon village?

And at 3.5x the volume of Rocky Creek Dam, what would happen if that dam did indeed fail?

3. Modify rivers by straightening bends, cutting diversion channels or deepening river beds

Any modification which hastens the flow of flood water past a town can only compound the problems for downstream people, towns, farms and land.

It is a moral issue. Prioritising one community for protection over another is intolerable.

Dredging the river, as done in the past to keep channels open for shipping, would have no effect on floods. The river at Lismore is tidally influenced, so a deeper channel will always be full of water and will have no capacity to hold floodwater.

In conclusion, it is clear that Lismore will continue to flood in ever-escalating cycles in the years ahead.

Whatever the solutions are, attempting to control with engineering remedies the colossal natural forces at work is at best childish and at worst criminally negligent.

Campaign to save oldgrowth trees in NSW

by Dailan Pugh,
NEFA spokesperson

North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has launched its Save Oldgrowth Trees campaign to convince the NSW Government to implement its own scientific advice to protect and restore old growth trees throughout State forests in response to the widespread losses of tree hollows in the 2019/20 wildfires that 174 of NSW's animal species depend on for dens, nests and roosts.

Before the 2019/20 wildfires, land clearing and logging had already decimated old growth trees, leaving large areas of forests without enough hollows to maintain populations of the most vulnerable hollow-dependent species.

The fires made this into a



housing crisis. Trees don't develop hollows until they are very old, so it will take a long time to restore the hollows lost in the fires,

necessitating urgent action to retain the oldest trees left so they can develop replacement hollows relatively quickly.

Hollows begin to form in trees when they are 120-180 years old, and it takes over 220 years before they develop the large hollows

required by many animal species.

In response to the extensive loss of hollow-bearing trees in the 2019-20 wildfires, in June 2021 the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) recommended to the NSW Ministers for Environment and Forestry that they urgently change the logging rules for State forests to begin restoring hollow-bearing trees.

The NRC recommended that where there are not eight hollow-bearing trees per hectare, retaining the next largest trees to make up the balance of the eight trees, and for each of these trees retaining two 'recruitment' trees that have the potential to become the hollow-bearing trees of the future.

Almost a year later, the NSW Government has done nothing to implement the NRC recommendations and address the urgent housing crisis for hollow-dependent animals.

NEFA's campaign is asking people to write to the NSW Ministers for Environment, James Griffin, and Forestry, Dugald Saunders, to immediately adopt the NRC post-fire recommendations.

With enough community support, NEFA's campaign to Save Oldgrowth Trees could convince the NSW Government to implement its own scientific advice.

NEFA have a webpage for its Save Oldgrowth Trees campaign with a video, background and Minister's details at: www.nefa.org.au/hollow_housing_crisis

Global Warming was always a lost cause

by Bernadine Schwartz

At long last I managed to finish Winston Churchill's book *History of the English Speaking Peoples*. I could only read it in small doses. A horrifying book full of barbaric, blood-thirsty wars from beginning to end, with a brief interruption here and there.

My first introduction to war was participating in Vietnam moratoriums and anti-war demonstrations with my father, and I've never forgotten the big poster he hung on our lounge room wall. The image, a field full of beautiful flowers, with a scarecrow in the middle, blue skies above and the words below: "What if they gave a war and no-one came?"

That was well over 50 years ago and during that time a war has been quietly brewing and now the enemy is ready to unleash itself on the entire planet. The only bloody war nobody came to. Yet wars of the past were fought for liberty and territory, the two things global warming is threatening to destroy and not just a nation here and there.

Now we're on the precipice of a fate all of our own design and all laid out in black and white, in the third part of the IPCC's landmark report.

Currently the planet is sitting on 1.1 degrees Celsius, edging ever closer to 1.5 and according to the World Meteorological Organisation's five-year climate outlook, the world will experience its first spike above 1.5 sometime during this period, exposing us to some of the worst consequences of global warming.

This sparked worldwide demonstrations in April, when scientists and researchers, more than a thousand strong from twenty-five countries, took to the streets declaring a war of their very own, representing a new international movement, Scientist Rebellion! No more taking a back seat and no more waving futile signs, instead they're denouncing the world's inaction and drawing attention to the reality and severity of this climate crisis.

They staged blatant acts of civil disobedience, with many arrested. Some chained themselves to banks and financial institutions all around the world, including the front doors of JP Morgan Chase bank in LA. Others blocked traffic on highway 1-395 in Washington DC, while some locked themselves to the gates of the White House. And in Spain, they threw fake blood at the

building of Congress of Deputies.

Tierra Curry is a senior scientist at the Centre for Biological Diversity and she has a folder full of research papers and studies that continue to pour in on a daily basis. She calls them her apocalypse papers.

She's one of a growing number of scientists worldwide calling for an immediate paradigm shift in the way humans travel, how we produce and use energy and how we grow our food and consume goods. And she believes it has to become a part of every adult's daily conversation.

A joint study from European and American scientists shows the pace of global warming is accelerating and intensifying and set to eliminate more than half of the planet's cactus species by 2050, an insight into what's to come. And a study published in *Nature* revealed 1,829 reptile species, more than 1 in 5 species, are in danger of extinction, including chameleons, king cobras and Komodo dragons.

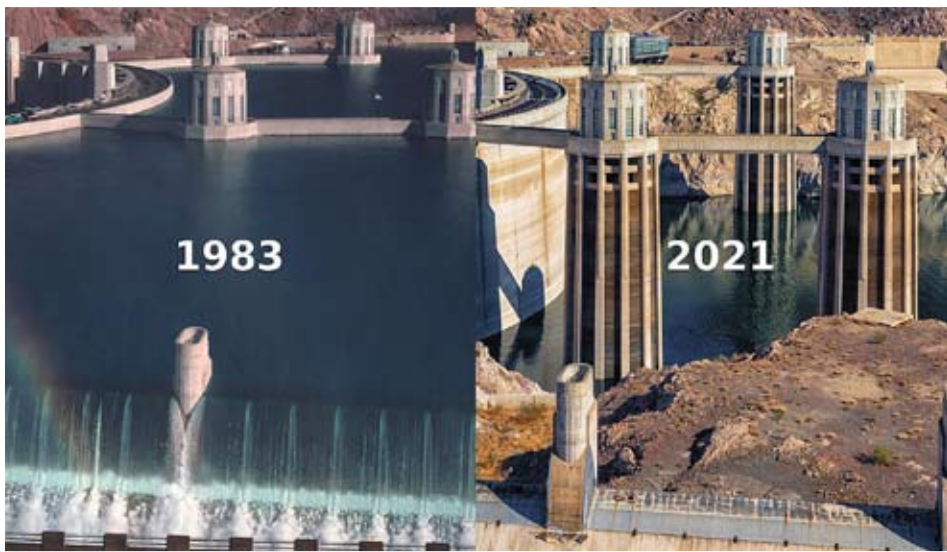
However, a major study published in the journal *Science*, a challenge to read, predicts global warming will bring about the greatest extinction of marine life since the Permian age, 250 million years ago, a time also known as the Great Dying when the worst mass extinctions in the history of the planet took place.

Overheated and acidic oceans plus declining oxygen levels, are thought to have caused the extinctions of more than 90% of marine organisms, also wiping out half of the planet's biological families, as well as 70% of land dwelling vertebrates, leaving behind an undeniable mark in the fossil records.

According to Curtis Deutsch, co-author of the study and geoscientist at Princeton University, the data suggests the current level of CO₂ is double what triggered the onset of the Permian age. Double! This is already threatening the existence of thousands of species, including ourselves.

A major study in *The Lancet Planetary Health* journal, shows air pollution alone is now an existential threat to the entire planet, rising by more than 50% since 2000. The ever-growing frequency of mega-fires around the world is compounding the problem with smoke columns now reaching the stratosphere and threatening our delicate ozone layer.

Government officials and forest experts met in South Korea to discuss the state of the planet's forests and they concluded that



Lake Mead: then and now. Courtesy lasvegasnevada.gov

international efforts to curb deforestation are critically underfunded. The underlying problem is that forests are considered more valuable dead than alive.

Giant agricultural corporations are to blame, especially the powerful meat industry and major chocolate companies. Yet the forests store and absorb more than 29% of all our greenhouse gases annually. From 1990 to 2020 more than a billion acres of tropical forests have been levelled and they account for roughly 10% of global emissions every year.

Up to now, we've taken more than 70% of the planet's land, and data from the UN Convention to Combat Desertification revealed that 40% is now degraded and already affecting half of the world's population, putting Mother Earth on another crisis footing. If we continue with business as usual an area the size of South America will become totally barren by 2050, adding roughly another 17% more emissions yearly.

Is it any wonder then that scientists are turning to desperate acts and individuals are making the ultimate sacrifice. Wynn Alan Bruce aged 50, an American climate activist and a Zen Buddhist, set himself alight this year on Earth Day at the foot of the US Supreme Court and died later in hospital. He wasn't insane and it wasn't suicide.

Kritee Kanko, his friend, a climate scientist and Zen Buddhist priest said this was a deeply courageous act of compassion, and a rare and controversial practice. She said it was understandable when Alan's home was

Colorado, where families are suffering from emotional distress on a daily basis.

For more than 20 years they lived side by side with drought conditions that have become so oppressive and now they're constantly in fear of menacing wildfires, no matter what time of year.

The water crisis has reached a critical stage throughout all the southwestern states with Lake Mead, once America's largest reservoir, at an all-time low.

Lake Mead would usually flow into the Colorado Basin that then feeds the Colorado river, but the mega drought has forced the Bureau of Reclamation to take emergency measures to prevent the river from running completely dry to hold off the crisis for a year.

One reservoir is so low, if it falls any further it will leave some six million people without electricity across seven states.

The Colorado river, supplies more than 40 million people with water and irrigates roughly five million acres of farmland but this grand river of the past, like so many others, is dying.

In evolutionary terms it wasn't that long ago when we were still swinging through the trees, then our feet touched the ground and the rest is history. We might be heading to an early grave, but hey, we can say we went to the moon and caught glimpses of the stars. And I'll die knowing how many rings Saturn has and the invisible world of quantum physics is just as real as you and I.

Isn't that comforting to know?

Literary cornucopia in Kyogle

by Rebecca Ryall

The second annual Kyogle Writers Festival took place in venues in and around Stratheden Street for three days between 13th and 15th May. Boasting a program of talks, interviews, workshops and readings, the festival brought together Australian writers from all genres, to discuss their own works and the cultural context in which they sit.

The Kyogle Writers Festival is a truly grassroots gathering with minimal commercial affiliations. This festival is really one of ideas, a platform for writers to engage with their readers, and each other, and for conversations with real world consequence. The advantage of a small-town festival such as this is the opportunity for meeting like-minded individuals.

This is especially important in these Covid times, when we have all fallen out of the habit of easy socialising, when our places of work and study have pivoted to remote participation and opportunities for incidental networking are few and far between. It is easy to feel alone in our intellectual ponderings, our ideas existing in silos.

This year's festival featured a schools program, taking authors out to smaller schools, and welcoming older students to the KMI



Bundjalung legend Mark Olive and Adele Wessell discussing all things bushfood in the KMI Hall. Photos: Ella Ellington/Biomio Photo

hall for a day of literary inspiration from teen activist Jean Hinchcliffe, filmmaker Ben Gilmour and local author Melaina Faranda.

Ben Gilmour was a standout presenter, easily engaging young people with gritty stories from his career as a paramedic, told with empathy and humour. The kids were truly spellbound, evidenced by their respectful behaviour throughout the day, but more specifically by their engagement with the authors after the event.

Some other highlights of the festival included the Poets Out Loud slam competition at the Roxy Gallery on Sunday night, and the Blackfulla BookClub panel featuring Melissa Lucashenko as mumma hen to young and upcoming Indigenous writers, including Jazz

Money and Ellen van Neerven.

Andy Spencer from Raised Ink Press did an incredible job of curating a weekend of entertainment in the Reader's Lounge, a new addition to this year's festival with a cabaret of poetry, music and performance for young and old.

The festival enjoyed considerable financial support from several government agencies and other organisations including the Australian Government through Regional Arts Fund and Festivals Australia, CreateNSW, Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal, Kyogle Council, Southern Cross University and University of Queensland Press.

If you missed the event this year, keep an eye out



Dave Shepherd providing entertainment during the opening party.

for next year's offering. We are so lucky to have an event such as this so close to home. Tickets are affordable, the venues are varied but all intimate, giving you an opportunity to run into friends new and old and even share a chai with someone famous.

Visit: www.kyoglewritersfestival.com to see what you missed and register your interest to volunteer at next year's event.



Bundjalung woman Jenny Fraser at the launch of Plant Power Sisterhood at the Roxy Gallery on Saturday night.



Jean Hinchcliffe with her debut activist guide Lead the Way, which she published aged 17.



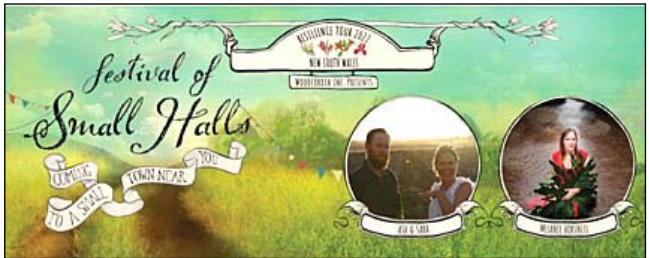
Among the countless volunteers were local poets Vincent Stead and Andrew Spencer.



Piano recitals

Nimbin School of Arts hosted a brilliant classical piano recital on Sunday 29th May featuring virtuoso Stephanie Hamlet playing works by Bach, Schubert and Scriabin. Stephanie will be performing another recital on Sunday 19th June at 2pm. If you have any special classical piano requests for the recital, please send them in.

Festival of Small Halls, last stop Collins Creek Hall



The Woodfordia Inc Festival of Small Halls is coming to Collins Creek Hall on Sunday, 12 June as part of the NSW 2022 Resilience Tour, which is targeting bushfire-affected communities at 15 regional small halls.

"Floods, a mouse plague, and of course the pandemic, the terrible bushfires of 2019/20 seem a lifetime ago" said Eleanor Rigden, Woodfordia Inc's Festival of Small Halls Producer. "While we do hope that the simple joy of gathering, celebrating community and immersing in a wonderful music show will play a part in communities bouncing back from every disaster," she said.

"One thing that disaster-impacted communities tell us they want is to be better prepared for the next disaster. So, each show will feature some form of education, a way to build key relationships, or raise funds for the local Rural Fire Service – all curated by local communities to suit their unique needs," Ms Rigden said.

The Collins Creek Hall concert is the last performance on this Tour with two touring acts: Ash Bell and Sara Tindley, and Melanie Horsnell, as well as local support act, ZAM (Bryan Valentijn Hall).

Hailing from the NSW south coast town of Candelo, Melanie Horsnell is known for her emotive melodies and powerful lyrics. Her band The New Graces was recently nominated for a Golden Guitar award.

This will be her first solo acoustic performance of all original material, delivered to living rooms and street corners, festival tents and

small bars, and theatre stages over the past 20 years.

Joining Melanie are Northern Rivers-based duo Ash and Sara whose musical collaboration was born out of a shared disillusion with the "music industry" and a love of singing together. Their debut EP *Going Out Clothes* landed them on stages across Australia, with only guitar and banjo in hand.

Their music is great storytelling, fine writing and bare bones instrumentation. At its heart, it is the magical interplay of two great vocalists stripping things back to only the essential.

Local act, ZAM (aka Bryan Valentijn Hall) is a 20 years old musician singer-songwriter based in Lismore. Guitarist, flautist and one-man band, his main genre is alternative indie-pop with different musical styles like jazz, surf rock, and dreamy acoustic pop vibes.

He's been performing for five years at different events and occasions around the Northern Rivers and around Australia.

The show will start at 4:00pm with doors open at 3:30pm and will conclude at around 6:30pm. This is a Covid-safe seated event and all tickets will be sold on-line at: festivalofsmallhalls.com/collinscreek-2022

The local Green Pigeon RFS will also give a short presentation and will hold a raffle with all proceeds to the brigade. Afternoon tea will be available during the interval for \$5.

The event has been organised by the Collins Creek Hall Land Managers and is sponsored by the Kyogle & District Arts Council and the Hall.

Friday June 24th
3:30pm - 9pm

A mid-winter celebration of the incredible culture & vivid street life of Nimbin

- Buskers & Street performers -
- Light displays -
- Free Bands & DJ's in the Hall -
- Nimbin Central School band -
- Kids zone with bubbles, face painting & activities -

An afternoon of FREE food tasting in the cafes!

Supported by NSW DPIE festival of place- summer night fund.

Nimbin really does rock!

by Branka Adlington and
Rohan Stewart

Over a hundred Nimbin youth hit the dance floor at the Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 14th May for Nimbin Rocks Youth Night.

The event provided a safe place for 12 to 17-year olds to come together, reconnect with friends, dance and have some fun.

Opening with a Welcome to Country by Mahlie Bales (Jnr), the night took off with live music and performances from local Nimbin teens, including an amazing trapeze act.

With chill spaces, great food, a very popular photo booth and even ping pong, the night had something for everyone. Feedback from the kids was overwhelmingly positive, with a definitive “Yes” when asked if they wanted more events like this.

The last few years have challenged many of us to the very core. Within our local communities we have witnessed fires, pandemic outbreaks, lockdowns and now the ravages of floods (and mud!). The youth of our region are growing up in a very different, and increasingly unstable world than the one many of us have known.



This has been taking its toll on our young; statistics confirm that the highest cause of death amongst young people aged 15-24 in Australia is not car accidents or drugs, but suicide. This is tragic! And speaks volumes about the type of society we have become.

This concern brought together a group of passionate Nimbin citizens to discuss how to create opportunities to support the physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing of our youth.

It has been heartening to see so many community members and organisations joining together to support the youth of the region. Excitingly, a flood Relief Grant was secured from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation with auspicing by the Nimbin Community



Centre.

Our next event is more ambitious: a one-day Youth Festival on Saturday 30th July. Utilising feedback from youth, we are planning a series of workshops and events at different venues around Nimbin, culminating in another Youth Night with live acts and a DJ. This is a community-enriching event.

If you want to support Nimbin youth, please connect with us.

We are keen to involve as many young people as possible, so if you are 12-17 years of age and are keen to get involved, have an act for the youth night, or have skills that you could share in a workshop during the day (we will help support you to put it on), we'd love to connect via Instagram page: Nimbin Youth; Facebook group: Nimbin Rocks for Youth; or call Branka on 0414-781-313 or Jacqueline on 0472-749-344.



Nimbin Central School band

NIMBIN BOWLO

Sibley's Bistro

Wednesday-Saturday, 5-8pm

Bookings for functions and special events please email:

sibleysbistro@hotmail.com or phone 6689-1473

Gluten-free and vegan options available



New chef Richard Kerr

Club opening hours:

Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close; Sun 8.30am to close

- Sunday social bowls, 10am all welcome
- Open Mic night, Wednesday 8th June, 5.30pm
- Trivia night, Saturday 18th June, 7.30pm

Take-away alcohol available during opening hours



one from the heart

“What a beautiful coming together of our communities to put the gum boots on and have some fun with absolutely amazing music from some Aussie legends,” said Dr Hanabeth Luke, who joined the crowd at Lismore’s truly special ‘One from the Heart’ event on Sunday 15th May.

Lime Cordiale (pictured), the band responsible for some of Climate 200’s youth focused election content, played an energy-filled set complete with wild outfits, and acknowledged the need for urgent action on climate.

“It was a real treat to meet the band,

as well as Paul Kelly, rapper JK-47 and Grinspoon. What a special and symbolic moment to have Lismore-born Grinspoon close the event!

“The first time I saw them was at the roller-skating rink in 1996. Just brilliant.

“The best part was seeing the joy on all the faces in the muddy crowd. Our communities really needed this,” Hannabeth said.

Dr Hanabeth Luke is an expert on Regenerative Agriculture, and ran as an independent candidate for Page at the recent Federal election.

THE LOWDOWN ON SAFE CANNABIS USE

Non medicinal cannabis use has risks which can be reduced by the community working together to support safe and responsible use

THC IN EDIBLES
Where will you be in TWO HOURS' time?

It can take 2 hours for effects to show, they can last for up to 8 hours and may be stronger than smoking it. Concentrations of THC in brownies and cookies are highly variable. Less is often best, and as with all cannabis use, try a small amount first to see if it's safe and has the desired effect.

Fizzy Drink ANYONE?

Anxiety, agitation, nausea, and paranoia are some negative effects of cannabis use. A sugary drink can help regulate blood sugar levels if this occurs, but always call 000 for medical help if you're concerned or you or someone else seems unwell from cannabis use.



3 SECOND ABSORPTION Holding cannabis smoke in does not increase its concentrations and doesn't get you higher, as cannabinoids are absorbed within the first few seconds. Using a non-dyed filter, also reduces harmful effects from chemical compounds released in smoking cannabis. Glass smoking ware is always better over plastic too, as this reduces the toxins released from plastics.

MIXING IT UP MIXES YOU UP

Avoid mixing cannabis with alcohol or other drugs, to prevent unintended effects

SHORT TERM GAIN FOR LONG TERM PAIN?

If you suffer from anxiety, or are having a bad day, cannabis might make you feel worse, not better. Proceed with caution.



NATURAL OR NOT?

Not all cannabis is organically grown and may contain pesticides and other chemicals. “Synthetic Cannabis” products are chemical compounds and can have nasty effects. Not all cannabis dealers are ethical. Know what you're buying, and always maintain your safety when buying...don't get into debt, avoid going alone and meet in a safe place.

TAKE ACTION KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Take action by educating yourself, friends, and family on safe cannabis use. If you're pregnant, prone to mental health problems, or your brain is still developing (up to 25 yrs old), cannabis is not a good choice. The use of any drugs, even cannabis, can be harmful. Reach out and seek support if your cannabis use is negatively impacting on your social, work or family life.



Choose mindfully - be aware of who you may be influencing. Kids look to adults to guide their behaviours and choices.

NIMBIN Community Drug Action Team