

# Openings, warnings and repairs

It was great to officially open MardiGrass last month and to catch up with so many community members.

It's a very unique community event and I congratulate the organisers.

One thing that was raised with me while at Nimbin is the need for a public toilet at Peace Park. Council is currently looking at options to make this happen.

I am writing this column as the Bureau of Meteorology

has a minor flood warning for the Wilsons River, so now is a good time to let everyone know that from 1st October the SES is changing its warning alert system.

It is important to note that the BOM warnings will remain the same. Only the NSW SES warnings will change to the newer format, which will eventually be rolled out nationally.

There will be three levels of warning under the new system.

Advice – there is a heightened level of threat but no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Watch and Act – conditions are changing, and you need to start taking actions now to protect you and your family.

Emergency Warning – the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.

An Emergency Warning

will be issued when an Evacuation is required.

For more information about the Australian Warning System please go to: [www.australianwarningsystem.com.au](http://www.australianwarningsystem.com.au)

**Works program**

Despite the current poor weather, Council is continuing its works program to improve roads in and around Nimbin, with geotechnical investigations and designs underway at various landslips.

Heavy patching to

stabilise Nimbin Road is also continuing, and I ask residents to please drive with care through these sites.

Erosion protection works at Gungas Road are due to start from the week beginning 26th September, and finally Council has completed its investigation into how to repair Crofton Road, which has been submitted to Transport for NSW for funding.

There is a lot of work to be done, but we will get there.

[steve.krieg@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:steve.krieg@lismore.nsw.gov.au)



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

# Greens at MardiGrass

by Cr Adam Guise  
Lismore City Council

As we come off the high of a MardiGrass weekend at Nimbin, it's a good opportunity to reflect on the 30 years in which MardiGrass has been leading the campaign for drug law reform. It's no small feat to organise such an event over many decades and it shows the commitment of organisers and the community to bring an end to cannabis prohibition.

Although there are opinions about the event's preferred format and effectiveness, one thing remains constant, the case for drug law reform must be taken to the NSW Parliament, which is why the Greens had such a strong presence at this year's event.

Volunteers staffed the stall around the clock and the opportunity to march with the iconic parade was met with enthusiasm and gusto, including the presence of Senator David Shoebridge and NSW MPs Cate Faehrmann and Sue Higginson leading the call for drug law reform.

It goes without saying that the Greens grew from a party of protest, arising from historical events like the Franklin Dam blockade in Tasmania which threatened to flood World Heritage areas with ambitions for a megadam. The campaign to protect this iconic and precious area took years and was only won through a change in the Federal government.

Drug law reform has been a decades-long struggle, and similarly requires a change of guard in our Parliaments. That is what the Greens seek



to achieve.

Drug law reform can't happen without political action and only by electing MPs who want to change the currently broken and unjust system will this occur. Greens MPs have been at the forefront of leading these changes, by introducing laws to overturn nonsensical drug-driving laws which merely test for the presence of cannabis – not intoxication; by fighting to end the use of sniffer dogs, which get it wrong more than half the time and are used as the basis for humiliating strip searches; and seeking to legalise and regulate cannabis, which has more recently been legalised throughout the rest of the world and offers numerous therapeutic and recreational benefits.

Continuing to criminalise cannabis use empowers the police to persecute particular populations and communities such as Nimbin, and is a massive waste of taxpayers' monies, and props up corruption and organised crime which profit from a black market.

While MardiGrass was a welcome respite from Council business this month, we did at least manage to get through the entire business paper at September's meeting. It was

disappointing that a majority of councillors didn't see the urgency in divesting our \$120 million investment portfolio from fossil fuels, which has seen more than 70% of these monies invested in fossil fuel portfolios that drive catastrophic climate change and inflict further extreme weather events on our region. (Perhaps we could invest in hemp technologies instead?)

Likewise, our commitment to having council powered 100% by renewables by 2023 has fallen off the radar, and has been pushed out to 2025. This was a core promise to our community under our much-lauded Renewable Energy Master Plan, so it's a real shame this commitment to addressing the climate emergency is not being prioritised by the current regime.

But every meeting has a silver lining, and I secured the support of councillors to hold a public round-table forum on post-flood recovery with a focus on solutions and 'where-to-from-here'. to be held before the end of the year. Thanks to the passionate community speakers who spoke in support of it!

Feel free to get in touch: [adamguise@gmail.com](mailto:adamguise@gmail.com) or phone 0478-684-497.

# Lismore's post-flood recovery strategies

In May 2022, Lismore City Council released a discussion paper that presented a range of recommendations for growth and post-flood recovery.

A total of 327 submissions were received after extensive on-line and face-to-face engagement activities were undertaken.

Council has incorporated this feedback and produced a Draft Growth and Realignment Strategy that sets out potential growth areas for residential, commercial and industrial land, as well as recommending a long-term planned retreat from the most high-risk flood affected areas.

In 2021 Council declared an "emergency situation with respect to the lack of housing availability and affordability"; a situation that has been made significantly worse by the loss of houses as a result of the floods.

A Draft Affordable and Diverse Housing Strategy has now been prepared that identifies key housing data for Lismore and suggests measures Council can undertake to stimulate additional affordable and medium density housing projects.

These two strategies will guide both the location and type of housing that Lismore Council would like to see in the coming decades and will also ensure suitable flood-free employment land is available to support economic growth.

**Growth and Realignment Strategy**

The strategy identifies:

- Land suitable for future



by Cr Darlene Cook  
Lismore City Council

- residential development close to the existing urban area (Section 2.2)
- Areas suitable for increasing density (Section 2.3)
- Area for precinct redevelopment (Section 2.4)
- In-fill and fringe sites suitable for residential development (Section 2.5)
- Expansions to existing villages through large lot residential or eco-village development (Section 2.6)
- Land for retail, commercial and industrial development (Section 4)

**The Affordable and Diverse Housing Strategy**

The strategy looks at the current housing situation and the types of residential development needed for Lismore's future.

- Section 3 provides an overview of the key housing issues for Lismore.
- Sections 4 & 5 outline the mechanisms available to Councils to influence housing and the range of actions Lismore City Council will undertake.

Council is seeking ideas and feedback from the community to ensure Council is doing everything

it can to facilitate and deliver affordable and diverse housing. Ideas and other feedback can be submitted using the survey at: [https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/growth-and-housing/survey\\_tools/have-your-say-on-growth-and-housing](https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/growth-and-housing/survey_tools/have-your-say-on-growth-and-housing)

**Flood damage repairs**

A number of residents have been asking when Crofton Road will be repaired. I recently asked staff when this work would be scheduled and received the following news:

Crofton Road has been identified for major repairs due to the flood damage. The work includes pipe culvert replacement, re-establishment of table drains, pavement reconstruction, and a retaining structure adjacent Goolmangar Creek.

This work is in progress to be scoped, cost estimated and submitted for approval to the administering authority by 23rd September.

Once the flood restoration works have been approved (expected end of September 2022) Council will engage the community to discuss programming of the works. Any temporary measures that may be undertaken in the meantime will be assessed next week.

Further to the flood damage, Eaton Bridge has been submitted for replacement under the Fixing Country Bridges Round 2 Program. This is expected to be announced if successful in late 2022.

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



by Kevin Hogan, Federal Member for Page

**New grants for farmers**

The Critical Producer Grant has finally been announced. It is to help restock, replant and rebuild essential infrastructure. Applications are

now open, visit: [nsw.gov.au/criticalproducergrant](http://nsw.gov.au/criticalproducergrant)

Targeted Industries include:

- Agriculture – dairy, extensive livestock (sheep and cattle), intensive livestock (pork and poultry), apiculture and broadacre cropping
- Aquaculture – oysters, mussels and fisheries
- Horticulture – turf, vegetables, berries, cut flowers and plant nurseries, perennial tree crops (nut crops, tea tree etc)
- Forestry – private native forests and timber plantations.

This program is joint funded between the Federal and State Government. This is new funding on top of the \$75,000 grant already available.

**Nimbin walking track design phase**

Nimbin is an exceptionally important tourism icon for our whole region. The \$2.4 million I secured to fund the new Rainbow Road Walking Track is now in its design phase.

It will create a 1.1km track that will link to Nimbin's main street, which features heritage murals and colourful street life. This is an important addition to the Nimbin tourist experience. Great for locals as well.

This project is projected to create over \$3million in extra economic activity.

The project will feature the following:

- The majority of the walk will be on private property where pedestrians will have a right

- of footway.
- The track will be maintained by Lismore City Council.
- Interpretation signage will be discussed in the coming months, but may centre around the Nimbin locality, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and/or the Aquarius Festival held in 1973.
- The track will provide for a preferred route for pedestrians from Alternative Way to and from the CBD.
- A future artwork project to involve local artists.
- Make additional improvements to the creek line flora with weed control and native plantings.



Seeking regional health solutions

Raise the Age: the NSW coalition government is brutal and racist



by Tamara Smith MP

I continue to raise in parliament the fact that people living in rural and regional areas have for too long drawn the short straw when it comes to health outcomes and services.

Staff pay and conditions, and under-resourcing are at the heart of the problem. Difficulty in attracting qualified personnel and insufficient clinical resources were revealed to be at crisis point in regional areas like ours during the Covid pandemic, and starkly uncovered in the aftermath of this year's flooding disasters.

Right now, staff shortages of nurses and midwives in the Northern Rivers are serious. Many who were flood-affected have moved to Queensland where they can earn more and work in better conditions with mandated nurse-to-patient ratios.

Our local nurses employed full-time are working alongside "agency" casual nurses who get paid about \$10 per hour more than they do, but many tell me they don't care because they are just so glad that they do not have to work double shifts. Affordable housing for nurses, midwives, allied health staff and hospital administrative staff is an issue across the Northern Rivers.

Our small number of state local ambulance personnel and paramedics spend most of their

shifts taxi-ing non-critical patients to John Flynn Hospital on the Gold Coast. Or they're transporting them between hospitals because of simple problems like Ballina Hospital not being resourced to employ an on-call radiologist.

Having such a specialist available would allow for the very expensive and highly-prized CT scans at Ballina hospital to be used outside of business hours or on weekends.

Once our ambos take non-critical patients to other hospitals, they may have to wait for many hours for the Emergency Departments to be able to take carriage of their patient. This could be remedied with a roll-out of the Patient Transfer system that is in place in the Sydney metropolitan area that transfers patients who do not need a time-critical emergency ambulance.

That would free up our highly qualified paramedics to be available to assist life-threatening call-outs.

Our front-line nurses, midwives, paramedics and hospital staff tell me on a weekly basis that better pay that keeps up with inflation, the introduction of nurse-to-patient ratios to guarantee safety and better health outcomes for patients, applying Sydney's patient transfer system across the Northern Rivers, and employing on-call radiologists at all hospitals that have CT scans are what could make the difference for our communities.

I recently saw some shocking video footage of a 14-year old First Nations boy in Coraki being treated by ambulance officers after being violently arrested by police.

He sustained a bloody head injury, was incapable of speaking, appeared to become unconscious and was traumatised. As was his Auntie who was trying to help him. Witnesses say the boy was speared to the ground by one of the police officers.

He was taken to Lismore Base Hospital, under police guard, then released and taken to Lismore police station where he was denied bail. He was subsequently granted bail by the Court.

He was arrested with his friend, a 13-year old boy. The boys were charged with trespass and suspicion of possessing stolen goods. They are both such small boys. They are on the path to hell and the criminal justice system will make it worse.

As at 31st August, eight children under 14 years of age are in prison in NSW, two are just 11 years old and six of these eight children are First Nations children.

These are children that should be attending primary school who are instead away from family, away from any support network, are not accessing successful rehabilitation services and are now learning the ways of prison life, on the one-way path to recidivism.

Treating children under 14 this way is not working, it's wrong and harmful. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has called on countries to raise the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years old. China, Russia, Germany, Spain, Sierra Leone, Azerbaijan, Cambodia and Rwanda have taken this step

Raising the age of criminal responsibility does not mean taking away responsibility, it is about changing the criminal response to young offending, because the criminal justice responses are not



by Sue Higginson MLC

working, and actually do more harm than good.

Most children who come into contact with the criminal justice system go on to re-offend. They are less likely to continue their education and find employment.

It is rare for children aged 10-13 years to be charged with a serious offence of violence. They are mostly there for offences of theft, burglary and property-related crime, the root causes being poverty, disadvantage and disenfranchisement.

Where a child under 14 is alleged to have caused harm to another, it's because something has gone very wrong in their life. Violent actions or behaviour in young children are usually directly linked to experiences of trauma, neglect, and harm or unaddressed mental or physical health problems.

Rather than criminalise poverty, disadvantage and trauma, it is the responsibility of our governments to provide that child with the services needed to address the underlying causes of their behaviour and to set them onto a better path. The evidence shows, the worst place for a child to be is in prison.

It is costing over \$700,000 for each child, per year to be kept in prison. Currently that is around \$5.7 million a year to keep nine children

under 14 locked up and locked into a terrible system that will not heal them. This is not counting the policing and court costs.

In May 2021, 76 expert justice and youth organisations from around Australia called on the Council of Attorneys-General to raise the age from 10 to 14 as a matter of urgency. The ACT and Tasmania responded and committed to raise the age from 10 to 14, and now the NT to 12.

The NSW Coalition Government on the other hand said that we would wait and seek a nationally harmonised approach, through the Meeting of Attorneys-General. Clearly there will not be a harmonised approach given each state and territory is going alone.

In Budget Estimates last month, I asked questions and I was shocked to learn that we are not even trying to raise the age, that our Government's promised process of seeking a nationally harmonised approach through the Meeting of Attorney's-General had stalled.

This Coalition Government has no plans to raise the age in this term of Government and that is heartless, brutal and in light of the evidence, racist. Three out of four children under the age of 14 in NSW prisons right now are First Nations children. They shouldn't be there.

We need to be honest about this. We need to get them out. The experts have told us in no uncertain terms that these children will likely be locked into the criminal justice system for their lives and in the case of a First Nations child, they face a real and serious risk of becoming a black death in custody.

Instead of perpetuating the disadvantage and trauma of young offenders, we must divert those children and dedicate resources to healing and protecting them and prevent them from coming into contact with the justice system in the first place.

This starts by Raising the Age.

NSW Labor commits to 500 new regional paramedics

by Janelle Saffin MP  
State Member for Lismore

A Minns Labor Government will begin repairing and structurally reforming the delivery of healthcare services across New South Wales, beginning with a boost to rural and regional paramedics.

The first phase is a \$150-million commitment to fund an additional 500 paramedics in Labor's first term, to ease the burden of chronic paramedic shortages and the strain on our rural and regional health system.

This new workforce will be spread across areas with the most need, to be determined following significant consultation with healthcare professionals. Ambulance response times have been trending down in NSW for a decade. The latest data from the Bureau of Health Information for the April-June 2022 quarter found that patients waited longer even for an ambulance,



Janelle Saffin attended most sessions seminal to the Lismore Electorate at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

more than any time since reporting started.

This major investment will go a long way to repair our healthcare system and ensure people in NSW, no matter where they live, can access quality, universal healthcare. I will be making sure that local communities across our Electorate of Lismore get our fair share of these new paramedics.

**Focus on disaster risk reduction**

Late last month, I attended the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Brisbane, re-telling our region's experience of catastrophic flooding earlier this year and lobbying on the sidelines for a more comprehensive package to 'build back better' and to prepare for future floods.

Hosted by the Australian

Government and convened by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the conference attracted 3000 delegates from more than 40 countries.

The UNDRR aims to reduce the damage caused by floods, droughts, bushfires, cyclones and earthquakes.

Disaster risk reduction is everyone's business; how we grow our food, where and how we build our homes, how we invest, and what we teach in our schools.

These are all valid discussions we will be having on the Northern Rivers and Northern Tablelands in our flood recovery.

**Critical Producer Grant open**

The Critical Producer Grant has been announced and applications are now open until 30th June 2023. Funding amounts are between \$10,000 to \$100,000.

The program aims to help primary producers and primary production enterprises impacted

by the February and March 2022 NSW Severe Weather and Flooding events to rebuild and recover in the medium to longer term with the aim of supporting job security, future resilience and enabling future production.

Primary producers and primary production enterprises who have been approved for the full value of the \$75,000 Special Disaster Grant in the agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture industry sectors are considered eligible for additional recovery support through the Critical Producer Grant.

Forestry support is available for private native forestry leaseholders and timber plantation owners.

Guidelines for each targeted industry and application information are available at: [www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and.../critical-producer-grant](http://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and.../critical-producer-grant)

This program will be administered by Department of Regional NSW. Email: [regionalsnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalsnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au) or phone: 1300-679-673, 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday.



Chamber Chat
by David Hyett, President

Spring has sprung and Nimbin has shown what a vibrant, creative and inclusive community we are. It's been a busy month!

MardiGrass

After being cancelled in previous years like many other events, MardiGrass reappeared in September rather than May. Despite impediments accessing the village by road, many still arrived with their protest and party hats on to enjoy the hospitality our community provides. A wonderful effort was made by Chamber member Mitch Hughes (Daily Printing Solutions) who, with an enthusiastic crew, put on an incredible event at the Skate Park which included bands, DJs, skate competitions and plenty of entertainment for the youth



Nimbin Fashion Show

The Nimbin Fashion Show filled the Nimbin Town Hall to capacity for both shows. An amazing array of fashion from kimonos to battle gear, underwear, swimsuits and beyond, the night was a buzz with amazing lighting and sound production. Congratulations to all involved.

Hanging Rock Talent

A smaller scale event but equally engaging was the Hanging Rock's Got Talent held at the beautiful community-built stone and timber hall. Many of the participants will go on to bigger and better things in the future if they stick to their chosen crafts.

Nimbin Performance World Cup

Boy Renaissance, the winner of the 2022 Nimbin Performance World Cup represented youth with an impassioned delivery of a thought-provoking piece of prose which would cut it on any stage in the world to take out the Cup.

Blue Moon Cabaret and the MardiGrass Great Green Cabaret

These two events curated by David Hallett of the Nimbin School of Arts were an outstanding success, displaying the depth of talent drawn to the Nimbin village.

Spring Arts Exhibition

If the cabarets weren't enough for David, he also curates the Spring Arts Exhibition which is now in full swing at the Town Hall and is not to be missed. There were many red dots on items at the Opening last week, indicating an appreciative audience. The exhibition runs through to 9th October.

Coming Up - Nimbin Roots Festival

On 15-16th October the village hosts the Nimbin Roots Festival, which attracts both artists and audiences from all over Australia. The headline acts this

year include Ross Wilson of Mondo Rock and Daddy Cool. Ross was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 1989, best remembered for the song 'Eagle Rock'. The other headliner, one of Australia's best loved new wave bands, The Eurogliders, is remembered for their hit single 'Heaven (Must Be There)'. One of the main takeaways for me from all this activity (apart from the cultural significance), is that every village event brings in dollars from the outside world. This influx of funds helps support local businesses and therefor the wider local economy. Fortunately, we have limited extractive businesses taking value out of our community as happens in larger centres.

New settlers

The other observation I have is that as we move forward and our village develops,

we are attracting a new generation of settlers. Many of these people have skills, energy and capital to employ locals and to help make our community stronger. The elders of this community will at some stage need to pass the torch on to a younger and more energetic generation who will maintain the values that makes Nimbin special and forge our path into a bigger, brighter future for all. The chamber welcomes new members Nic and Nicole Lindner, who, after purchasing their property five years ago on Gungas Road, have opened 'Contained in Nimbin', two much-needed holiday cabins for visitor accommodation. With our members' support we are looking forward to building a better, stronger and more vibrant village for our children and the community as a whole.

www.nimbinaustralia.com.au

A planning conundrum

Lennox Head has needed a new Rural Fire Service (RFS) shed for over 15 years. The current 'temporary' set up has been constructed on approximately 15 designated car parking spaces in the main parking area for the town centre (CBD) which are needed for their designated use. Furthermore, the time period is certainly not consistent with the 'temporary' approval given so many years ago. Lennox is also in desperate need of a new community preschool. The existing one is already at capacity and has a waiting list of over 40 kids. The preschool committee was successful in obtaining a \$600,000 NSW Government grant a few years ago but is still waiting for Council to allocate a site so that they can start the design and build process. Community donations and fundraising have added to the grant funding, however If a site is not found soon the grant funding could be at risk. Ballina Council was fortunate enough to purchase a large block of land, that was needed to provide an additional access road into the expanding new housing estate west of the coast road. As a result of this land purchase there is now room for both an RFS shed and a preschool on the remaining part of the block. A key issue is that a number of trees on that part of the block have been identified as belonging to a now much fragmented Littoral Rainforest. Council, as the developer (proponent) engaged an external environmental consultant to assess the level of impact that the proposed



by Cr Jeff Johnson
Ballina Council

development would have. The unusual situation with this proposal is that Council's environment officer has a conflicting view to both consultants (the main one and the additional one that was engaged to peer review the information). Council's environment officer has concluded that the impact will be greater than what the engaged consultants' collective view is. This is where the elected Councillors come in, with no formal planning or ecological experience between us, to determine the matter. With the experts at odds, which report do you go with? And what about the other considerations such as the community need to both have a properly equipped and approved RFS shed and a preschool for the many local kids that currently have no school to go to? Just to add to the conundrum, the other proposed location for the RFS shed is further out of town and the volunteers have made it clear that it is not suitable, and the alternative preschool site nominated by some Councillors is a public reserve that is needed for the ever-expanding population. At the end of the day, I felt the overall benefit to be gained from having a purpose

built RFS shed and a much-needed preschool outweighed the disputed environmental impact that removing some of the rainforest trees will have. I felt that given these trees were so fragmented, and isolated between two main roads on one side and suburbia on the other, that offsetting them at a ratio of 15 -1 at a suitable location adjoining other rainforest trees would provide an overall environmental benefit, although the benefit would take at least five years to be realised due to the time it takes for a new regeneration project to get established. I do wonder whether I would have come to a different conclusion about the perceived (or actual) environmental impact if the development was for a non-community use such as a row of town houses. Decisions like these (but different of course) come before the Council all the time. That is one of the key roles of being a Councillor, to make a judgement call on matters that either don't fully comply with the planning code or have competing interests for either the community, the environment or Council's finances. In this situation, all three were involved and the expert consultants' views on the matter were conflicting. At the end of the day, the decision was unanimous, after a long debate dissecting the 75 pages of technical reports. If anyone is interested, the agenda and minutes are on the Council website. It was the Finance and Facilities Meeting on the 14th September. It was the only matter being determined.

Albanese 'gets' biodiversity

by Susie Russell, Vice President, North Coast Environment Council

At last! A Prime Minister who understands there is a biodiversity crisis and who is prepared to make a public global commitment to reversing biodiversity loss. If Anthony Albanese follows through on this commitment, we should see revitalised and strong environmental laws and an end to Commonwealth support for the logging of native forests. Although the Prime Minister endorsed the World Leaders Pledge for Nature and has committed to reverse Australia's biodiversity loss by 2030, he'll need to get cracking! Everywhere we look, nature is coming last and more and more species are being pushed towards the extinction cliff from which there is no return. On the North Coast, iconic animals are on the brink, including the Koala, the Greater Glider, both now recognised as endangered.

The Glossy Black Cockatoo is considered vulnerable to extinction, and several frog species may be listed as endangered in the next month, including Pugh's Frog, named for North Coast conservationist, Dailan Pugh. The Commonwealth Government has the ultimate responsibility to ensure these species survive. Subsidies harmful to biodiversity should be removed and, combined with smart and strategic investment in nature protection and restoration, multiple benefits could flow to regional communities through job creation and disaster prevention. With the current government's contradictory position on emission reduction while at the same time enabling new fossil fuel developments, there is a concern that as with the previous governments, they may say one thing and do another. Too many years have been squandered already. Time is up for business as usual.

Shameful inaction on protection of koala habitat

by Cate Faehrmann MLC

The 30th September was National Save the Koala Day. It's also exactly two years and three months since the Koala Inquiry which I chaired handed down its grim finding: That unless the NSW Government takes urgent action to protect habitat and address all other threats, koalas will become extinct in the wild in NSW before 2050. Since then? Nothing. Despite the grandiose announcement that they will "double koala numbers by 2050" the government has sat back and done nothing while thousands of hectares of koala habitat continues to be logged and bulldozed across the state. It's our national shame. The only way to stop this now is by voting out the



Liberals and Nationals at the state election and electing more Greens into the NSW parliament. Because you know that we won't stop fighting until all koala habitat is protected and our koalas are saved.



# Demand Management is key to our future water

by Nan Nicholson

Rous County Council's new Demand Management Plan (RDMP) 2023-26 is extraordinary.

Parts of it could have been written by WATER Northern Rivers, the lobby group which advocates for genuinely diverse water options and the permanent shelving of the proposed Dunoon Dam.

For example, the RDMP says:

*"A key driver of this RDMP is the economic benefit of deferring or downsizing new water supply works as much as possible. By reducing total water demand, the cost of building new water supplies and transferring and treating water are reduced and any capital investment required to meet the needs of growing communities may be deferred."*

Much of the RDMP supports this approach. It includes detailed residential and non-residential programs, it proposes innovative water education and behaviour change, and examines leakage reduction, smart metering, pricing, monitoring and more.

Surprisingly though, the RDMP has a peculiar lapse regarding the ever-popular

idea of tanks.

The RDMP acknowledges that tanks are widely supported in the community as a component of the region's water supply. But, Rous plans to gradually eliminate tank rebates on the grounds of cost-effectiveness.

Tank rebates might not be cost-effective in the short term for Rous. However, Rous' role in provision of water security goes far beyond cost-effectiveness.

It concerns changing the culture of water use over time towards active water-conserving attitudes, and a reduction of expectations that water resources are unlimited.

Tanks certainly change the culture of water usage, as any rural householder dependent on tank-water can attest. A water tank clearly demonstrates its limits and fits neatly with the reality that our water resources are finite.

The use of tanks reduces the drawdown on Rocky Creek Dam even if some refills by tanker are required in extended dry periods.

Tanks can be topped up by intermittent small rain showers in drought when the same amount falling on a dam's dry catchment has no runoff and cannot be

collected.

Tanks in this high rainfall region can easily catch all of a household's requirements. The average house roof area is 278m<sup>2</sup> and the average annual rainfall in Lismore and Ballina is a little over 1000mm.

This totals 278,000 litres that could be collected from an average house in a year. It would refill 18 times the 15,000 litre tank that is estimated to be sufficient for a household of three people (based on three people using 165 litres/day for 30 days without rain).

If encouraged or even mandated for all new housing developments, tanks could delay or avoid completely the need for risky expenditure on socially divisive infrastructure like dams or groundwater.

Water tanks or water bladders can be installed under-house or under-deck. They can be a scalable part of each development as it occurs, paid for by the developer, and do not require a large speculative outlay from distant ratepayers who will not benefit.

Lismore's population growth pre-flood was estimated to be stalled or negative (draft NSW Far

North Coast Water Strategy, 2021). Post-flood, its growth is even more uncertain.

The population growth in the Rous-supplied region is mostly on the coast, in Ballina and Byron. This is precisely where the water should be collected, following the basic water management principle of collecting water as close as possible to the point where it is used.

On-site collection of water has to be cheaper in the long run than transport over long distances, or pumping from below ground. That is, if triple bottom line accounting is used, as it should be.

Tanks provide diversity and back-up in the event of catastrophic failure of the main supply.

For instance, in the 2019-20 bushfires the water treatment plant at Rocky Creek Dam was in danger of being burnt down. This would have severely impacted Rous' ability to provide safe drinking water to the region.

In the 2022 floods, the dam water level came to within 600 mm of the top of the wall and Rous staff were sufficiently alarmed at the prospect of wall failure to order all residents immediately below the dam

to evacuate.

Also in the 2022 floods, Rous appealed for restrained use of water due to the huge demand for washing down, which threatened continuity of supply. More tanks, constantly filling from incessant rain at the time, would have made a useful contribution.

Large mains failures or algal contamination are infrequent but not impossible threats to a water supply overly dependent on surface water storage.

Tanks encourage a culture of self-sufficiency in the same way that solar panels encourage self-sufficiency in power.

They make householders more careful of the resource and proud to contribute to the community by reducing some of the demand.

Rous should not

underestimate the value of this community engagement - it is going to be needed as climate change bites.

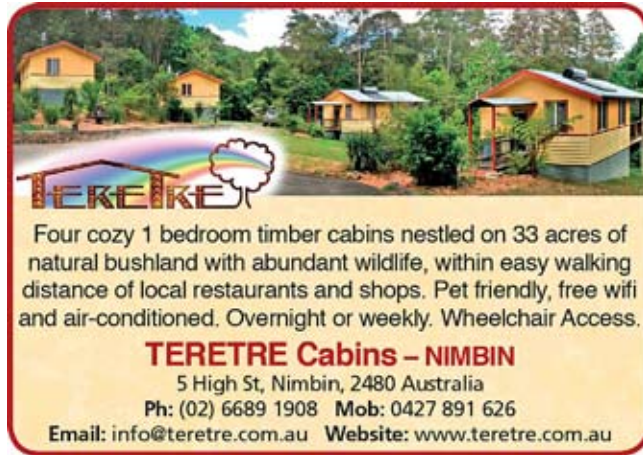
Has Rous quantified how much water has not been drawn from the reticulated system because of the tanks that are in use?

Has it quantified how many existing and future houses could fit tanks beside or under the house? And how much water could that save?

Tanks are no silver bullet, but they can have an important role to play.

The Rous Demand Management Program has much to admire but it needs to be more ambitious in its scope, especially regarding individual responsibility for water supply.

See the plan here: [www.rous.nsw.gov.au/on-exhibition](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/on-exhibition)



**TERETRE Cabins - NIMBIN**  
5 High St, Nimbin, 2480 Australia  
Ph: (02) 6689 1908 Mob: 0427 891 626  
Email: [info@teretre.com.au](mailto:info@teretre.com.au) Website: [www.teretre.com.au](http://www.teretre.com.au)

## Light at the end of the tunnel!

by Lydia Kindred, Secretary, Northern Rivers Rail Ltd

Our rail line being cut from the main line at Casino, and in Tweed Shire, for 'rail trails', has shocked many in the Northern Rivers at the destruction of this crucial infrastructure, but there is a plan to bring rail services back to our line again!

Several local railway companies are working together to extend the Byron Solar Train (the first in the world, putting 70% of power generated back into the grid and attracting 70,000 passengers a year) to Mullumbimby, Yelgun, Bangalow, then in both directions, streamlining movement, supporting workers and travellers, and lessening transport problems such as at Splendour this year. Local large buses do not run on public holidays, evenings, or on weekends but new train services would accommodate local needs.

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd, a not-for-profit railway company, supports rail with a bike trail beside the tracks as the best win/win option for everyone. The good news is that railway tracks can be put on the Tweed Shire's bike trail base. Only 3.5 metres is required between the track and a bike path so there is ample room for both in our railway corridor which measures a minimum of 32

metres wide.

Imagine day trips to the beach and hinterland for all, including the elderly, mobility constrained, youth, shoppers, employees, students, professionals, tourists, to access music festivals, theatres, markets, clubs/pubs and sporting events. Passenger rail is a backbone of mobility and a key driver for tourism, trade and regional economic activity and growth.

The passing through Parliament of the Transport Administration Amendment (Rail Trails) Bill 2022 means that just one state government minister, Sam Faraway, can now decide on the future of all regional railway lines. He has stated that Transport for NSW are liaising with Byron Council on options for future multi-use of the railway corridor in Byron Shire.

Victorian regional rail transport continues to expand every year to keep up with demand. Stations and routes are being reinstated and the Victorian Government recently invested \$250 million in 12 new VLocity trains, built in Victoria, for regional

lines.

Locally designed and manufactured trains, proven to be safe, comfortable and reliable for nearly two decades, "have helped provide a critical service for the State's regions, demonstrated by the vast distance the fleet travels on an annual basis.

In the past 12 months alone the VLocity fleet has travelled 39 million kilometres, or the equivalent of travelling to the moon and back more than 50 times."

Notably, the Gold Coast Light Rail was also predicted to be a failure with a push by its opponents to simply install bicycle lanes. Yet in the first 12 months of GCLR's operation it exceeded operational expectations by 50%.

GCLR's usage continues to grow with plans now funded to extend to the Gold Coast Airport with a further extension to South Tweed/Banora Point now agreed with NSW Government. Patronage on Stage 1 exceeded its 12 month projections within three months.

Switching to electric road



vehicles doesn't solve the challenge of traffic congestion and the wear and tear on regional roads. Replacing fossil fuel with electric or hydrogen buses does not address traffic congestion.


Last year transport ministers from 27 European countries met to work on how to take people and freight off roads, out of the air and onto rail, because of the many benefits with looming climate change!

Rail travel is the future all around the world and our region should not miss out on the amazing potential for improving our connectivity for people in the Northern Rivers, while adding to our depleted local economies and addressing climate change with zero emissions travel.

[admin@northernriversrail.com.au](mailto:admin@northernriversrail.com.au)



**GREY GUM LODGE NIMBIN**  
+61 2 6689 1713



**John Adams\***  
& ASSOCIATES  
\*a.k.a. Sindhu  
Lawyers  
0435-651-581



**- FLOOR SANDING -**  
New & old floors, verandahs, decks

- Free quotes & advice
- Prompt service
- Quality work assured
- All areas serviced

**Rob Clark ph 6632-3342 or 0410-016-694**  
ABN 93 105 831 192



**Northern Rivers**  
DRAFTING & BUILDING DESIGN

CONSULTING  
PLANNING  
DESIGN  
ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

NEW HOMES, RENOVATIONS, BARNs, WORKSHOPS  
& RETROSPECTIVE COMPLIANCE

SEAN SPAIN 0490 178 927 NORTHERNRIVERSDBD@GMAIL.COM



# National Parks closures

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has confirmed the following details on park closures and proposed re-opening times within the Northern Rivers region following the 2022 flood and storm events.

## Nightcap National Park

The Historic Nightcap Walking Track in Nightcap National Park remains closed. The closure is expected to remain in place until at least June 2023.

NPWS awarded a contract for 2.6 kilometres of repairs, which is due to commence in April 2023. Further sections of the historic Nightcap Walking Track were affected by significant land slips and require specialist assessment prior to finalising the scope of works, which may require re-routing the track.

The Mount Matheson Loop is accessible from Newton Drive and open for public use. The Pholis Gap walking track remains closed.

Terania Creek picnic area and Protestors Falls walking track will remain closed until at least June 2023. The roadway and causeway within Nightcap National Park have been cleared and require repairs to make safe for vehicle traffic.

NPWS staff removed the damaged elevated boardwalk and are currently repairing the footbridge and clearing debris from the walking track. This work is time-critical to avoid impacts and disturbance to the endangered Fleay's barred frog.

Materials to reinstate the elevated walkway have been purchased. Work to complete an all-access crossing of Bat Cave Creek, which will provide access to the Protestors Falls elevated walkway, is scheduled for completion in 2023.

Big Scrub Loop Walking Track in Nightcap National Park is accessible from Rocky Creek Dam picnic area and open to the public.

## Mebbin National Park

Mebbin National Park is closed until further notice. Repairs have commenced on Mebbin



Photo: Sue Stock

Forest Road and Carell Road and are expected to take five weeks, weather permitting.

## Border Ranges NP

Repair work for Bar Mountain Circuit in Border Ranges National Park is complete, and the circuit has re-opened.

## Wollumbin National Park

Wollumbin National Park remains closed until 31st October 2022 due to the impacts of flooding and to allow further consultation on the future management of the site with the Aboriginal community and key stakeholders.

Further information on flood recovery works on the North Coast is available at: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/flood-recovery-on-the-north-coast/update-august-2022](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/flood-recovery-on-the-north-coast/update-august-2022)

# Big Scrub Rainforest Day is back

by Caroline Todd

Big Scrub Landcare, in association with Rous County Council, will hold the Big Scrub Rainforest Day at Rocky Creek Dam on Sunday 30th October.

This year's theme is 'Reconnecting community, healing ecosystems' and includes a series of rainforest-related presentations, workshops, walks, interactive displays, nature-based children's activities and a community planting of 1,000 rainforest trees.

President of Big Scrub Landcare, Dr Tony Parkes said, "Following all of the major challenges we have faced over recent years, including floods, fire and the Covid pandemic, we are delighted to be able to offer this well-loved event to reconnect our community with each other and with the beauty of the Big Scrub rainforest."

This year's event will be laid-back. People are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch, camp chairs or a blanket. There will be coffee and some food available on the day.

Well-respected rainforest



Dr Tony Parkes speaking at a previous Rainforest Day

ecologists, regenerators, scientists and conservation groups will lead the walks, workshops and presentations throughout the day.

"This year's event offers a fantastic opportunity to learn more about how we can work together to help heal our local ecosystems, particularly the Big Scrub

rainforest of which only one percent of its original expanse remains," Dr Parkes said.

The Big Scrub Rainforest Day will be held at Rocky Creek Dam, Dunoon, on Sunday 30th October between 8.30am and 3pm.

A full program is available at: [www.bigscrubrainforest.org](http://www.bigscrubrainforest.org)

# The Green Bank is not for sale



by Kylie Cain

The Green Bank – a Healthy Lifestyle Investment, was launched in 2012 by friends Kylie, Lishia and Rebecca, in the front rooms of the beautiful, heritage-listed building at 39 Cullen Street.

It had previously been used to sell sarongs, house part of the medical practice, and was, for many years, the Nimbin branch of the Bank of NSW, and then Westpac.

It was the bank that the new business took its name from, excited as we were by the large safe in the front room and heavy glass doors in the foyer, stamped with the bank's logo.

The Green part of the name came from our vision to bring quality, eco-friendly products to Nimbin.

The rest of the name was simply an annoying requirement imposed by Fair Trade NSW when we registered the business name, and they insisted that the name must always be rendered in full.

It is a sure sign of The Green Bank's success that, ten years later, it still occupies the same two front rooms of 39 Cullen Street.

The fact that everybody calls the entire building "The Green Bank building" is

further evidence of its enmeshment in the Nimbin streetscape.

Since the initial lease was signed with Mal Rothwell, the owner of the building in 2012, the building has changed hands once.

Many locals will have noticed that it has been on the market for a while and is now scheduled to be sold at auction on 1st October.

As the founding and continuing owner of The Green Bank, I would like to make it publicly clear (here in print, and also by word of mouth as all you readers tell your friends), that The Green Bank – a Healthy Lifestyle Investment is not for sale.

The business does not come with the building. The building is NOT The Green Bank building. It is a historic landmark in town which houses a number of tenants, of which The Green Bank is just one.

I am hopeful that the successful buyers will retain its heritage value and see the cultural capital in my beloved business so I can continue to offer the community quality eco and local products, as well as providing a space for the team of therapists here, to continue to work their magic with their clients.

### The Nimbin Agricultural and Industry (A&I) Society proudly presents:

## Nimbin Family & Community Day

### Saturday 29th October 2022

### FREE ENTRY

#### Featuring...

- Yummy Family BBQ
- The famous Nimbin Dog High Jump event (small, medium and large dog divisions) - enter your jumping dog!
- Lots of FUN Games and Activities for the Kids
- A+I canteen and yummy cakes by CWA
- and lots more...

### 10am-3pm

### At Nimbin Showground, Cecil Street, Nimbin

In partnership with the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group and NNIC

#### and Launching...

The Revised Nimbin Disaster Plan (including the NEW Community Response and Recovery Plan)

View the Plan, ask Questions & provide your Feedback

### Info Session/workshop

### 11.30am-1pm

Nimbin Community Care Team and the local emergency radio network

Introduction to the CCT model and radio network, Q&A Session

#### Plus:

- Flood Story Sharing Circle
- Family Disaster Preparedness Showbags

Page 14 The Nimbin GoodTimes October 2022

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com



# What will it take to get reaction?

by Bernardine Schwartz

When your hands are tied behind your back and you know there's no escaping the world, you stay put, or better yet, become a devout recluse. Because there's no better way to keep your sanity when you're tortured watching society back in the full swing of life. And all those planes off the ground again, heading to faraway places.

How easy it would all be if I could just say, "You lot stay on your side of the line and I'll stay behind mine," but I can't. Instead Mother Earth bleeds through all our lives as global warming surges forth outside our borders, breaking records left, right and centre and winning!

Most Australians find ignorance bliss, it's their own form of soma and they don't really want to know a damn thing about the here and now.

They don't care to know the planet is emitting methane at an incredible rate, filling up the atmosphere rapidly and possibly originating from a new source deep down in the seabed, triggered by warming oceans.

They don't want to read about the Thwaites glacier, nicknamed the doomsday glacier, one of the largest on Earth. In the past twenty years it's shed over a trillion tons of ice and could soon live up to its title when it's now hanging by a thread.

Robert Larter is a marine scientist with the British Antarctic



Pakistani worker carrying vegetables  
Courtesy PreventionWeb

Survey and he explains how warming seas are now eroding the grounding line, where the bottom of this enormous glacier meets the sea floor sitting on top of ice and rock. Eventually it will push the surrounding ice shelf towards an irreversible tipping point, destabilising the entire Western Antarctic Ice Sheet. Not by the turn of the century but within the next five years and raising sea levels by as much as three metres.

Society doesn't take kindly to the tragedies of the outside world if it spills into their lives, including the millions of people living amidst a savage drought in the Horn of Africa, starving or dying, and many are children. This historic famine is spreading fast after another failed rainy season and the fifth in a row, as the drought pushes the land to the brink and the people too, especially when the dry weather is predicted to persist into next year.

Food relief is going to be hard to come by when the bread baskets of the world are threatened, and many parts of Europe are still on fire plus dozens of states in the US.

Death Valley outdid last year's record, climbing all the way to 52.778 degrees Celsius and vicious storm cells swept through numerous states, causing serious flash flooding. While in Pakistan, 33 million people were displaced after unprecedented flooding submerged a third of the country and washed away roughly a million homes.

This summer has claimed another river, the Rio Grande that's bit the dust after one too many summers. A mighty river that was once a raging waterway, starting in the mountains and eventually reaching the sea. It carved its way through wild country for over 3,000 km and provided six million people with water along the way. Today it's

a sandy bed with a series of warm stagnant pools, and has surrendered to global warming like so many other natural treasures.

Tanya Plibersek is our brand new Environment Minister, holding a portfolio that comes with tremendous responsibility and already she's failed abysmally. She's masquerading as caretaker of the Australian environment, after giving permission for parts of the Gelorup corridor woodland in WA, to be bulldozed. A place where ancient trees and rare and endangered species call home, including the critically endangered Western ringtail possum and black cockatoo. Just for another invasive road!

She, like most Australians seem to have forgotten all about the catastrophic wildfires that incinerated 3 billion animals and turned 5.7 million hectares of forests into ash and most will never recover, meaning we can't afford to lose anymore.

But changes are taking place all across the continent, hidden from view and Northern Australia is one. It's home to some of the oldest tropical rainforests on the planet and a long term study published in Nature revealed they're in grave danger. For 35 years the study recorded and catalogued 81 key species of trees in 24 separate sites and revealed an extraordinary rate in deaths, and it's climbing in 70% of species studied, and includes the Moreton Bay chestnut, White aspen and the satin sycamore.

Rainforests are usually cloaked

in water vapour but rising temperatures and an atmosphere deprived of moisture, means these rainforests can't possibly survive long term alongside global warming.

So how can anything change when governments refuse to mend their ways and society too? All that's left is our mild mannered scientists and it's time for them to come out of the closet.

An article published last month in Nature was written by five climate scientists, arguing it is unethical to not act and necessary for the broader science community to forcefully advocate for immediate climate action from governments. It's the second time in less than a year and what's there to lose when the entire planet is in liquidation.

Maybe they'll look to Extinction Rebellion for inspiration. They've taken climate action to a new level with their latest campaign in New York. Brazen acts of retaliation, systematically slashing all tyres on SUVs throughout the city! And be prepared for more.

Honestly, what else can society expect when entire species are dropping dead like flies? Moving speeches and marching down the street with signs was never going to save them, not when typically that's where the cause began and ended. It couldn't be a hobby, dedication was the key, not hope alone. So the only thing remaining that's a certainty is, the sun comes up and the sun goes down, and we're all another day closer.

## Reducing power use and load demands for solar powered households

by Diana Gosper,  
Rainbow Power Co.

Although we prefer to quote and advise people on getting the exact amount of solar and storage for their needs and desires (with option to expand further even) we also realise that there is often still a need, for both off-grid and grid-feed customers, to curb their energy habits as much as possible.

Here are a few examples of household items that can take more power than necessary, and what you might be able to do to stop it.

TVs – they use a great portion of our household energy, particularly when left on all day and night as it often the case these days. A useful website: [www.energyrating.gov.au](http://www.energyrating.gov.au) lists all TVs, and you can check what each unit uses in run mode, on standby, per year etc before you commit to buy. The results can be filtered by manufacturer, the number of stars etc (all TVs now have a star label from 1to10).

Cooking – cooking with electricity substantially increases your power loads, but here are some solutions. Check our previous article on induction cookers that we tested and that are suitable for solar power systems. Some small appliances can be run, such as slow cookers and bread ovens that use under 500w; and for between 650w and 1400w you could run a coffee machine, snack oven, hot plate, frypan, toaster, microwave and

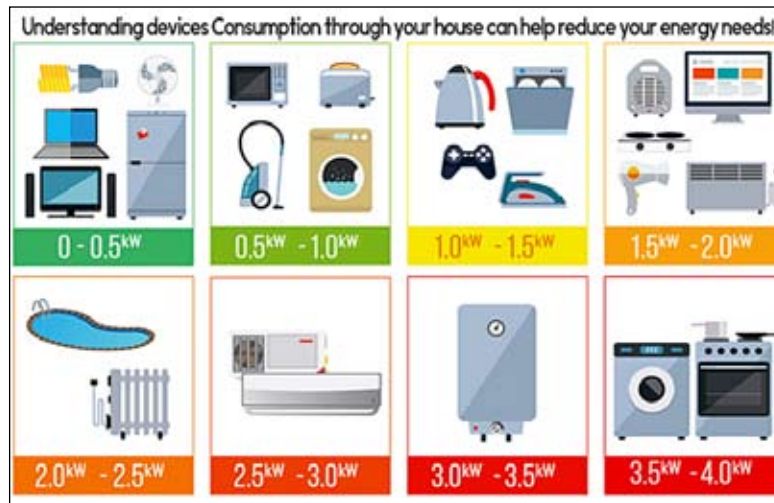
electric jug.

A medium stand-alone solar system of 1500w can power a widescreen TV, satellite dish, DVD/VCR, 5:1 surround music system, computer, laptop, bread maker, toaster, coffeemaker, microwave, vacuum, washing machine, fans, 420-litre family-size fridge, blender, power tools and lights. You would need a bigger system to run air-conditioning, an electric oven, 800-litre fridge, or to have a 56" Plasma TV on all day and night.

Another large energy puller is the fridge. Luckily new models with linear compressor inverters have good functionality and design, and, most importantly, they have a high star rating (see our previous article for the one that we currently recommend).

Computers – opt for a laptop instead of a floor unit, as not surprisingly they take barely a fraction of their larger counterpart.

Pumps – household domestic pumps take a lot of power, so it makes sense for them to be solar powered. Solar energy as a power source for water pumping is an ideal solution where water is required when the sun is shining, or where it can be stored in a high location (e.g. in a header tank). If you do not have a header tank you would need an alternative power source (e.g. batteries) to be able to access that water at night. In this case we usually recommend a 230V home pressure pump



which of course would also require an inverter of 700w or higher. (We would only ever suggest a DC pump – 12V or 24V – for households that use very little water).

OK, you have heard it a million times but here it is again, turn appliances off at the wall, don't leave them on standby. When using solar power this tiny draw on multiple items at once can actually affect the amount of power you can use later when you need it. So remember that a red light on standby is a wasted little ball of energy. You could get a power board with a single switch to turn off all your TV and computer peripherals at once. This will save power and in most cases will also prevent damage from power surges/brownouts from lightning, etc.

If you are on solar, phantom standby loads will use even more power than a regular grid connect house, because it will keep your inverter on run mode and at the lower end of its efficiency range.

If your inverter is not running an appliance (like your fridge) then turning it off will save up to 1.1kwh per day, the same as an efficient fridge, so quite a lot.

Victron MPPT regulators are a must to help you monitor how much power your system is taking at any given time, and is the product that has taken over from the popular Plasmatronics MPPT.

It's a given but if you can buy tools/items that have rechargeable batteries and charge them when you have excess power (or at work, or when the generator is on) that also reduces your overall loads.

Too far from 'society'? Quoted a

fortune to connect to the grid? Not a problem when you get an off-grid (stand alone) solar power system with battery storage. We design, supply and install reliable off-grid solar energy solutions, and have done so since 1987. Each system is unique and tailored to customer needs and location.

Connected to the grid? Then have your cake and eat it too. A grid connect solar system will reduce your power bill and cut your greenhouse gas emissions, and for an even greater impact upgrade the PV system with home batteries and use your own solar energy around the clock. Your house remains connected to mains power but only feeds back into the electricity grid when your own needs are covered and the batteries are charged. This is what I call a 'win-win' win.

That's about it for our run-down of power saving ideas. If you have any suggestions, or ideas for articles, please pop them in the comments.

Rainbow Power Company design top quality solar power, solar battery, hot water and solar pumping systems. Our products are built to last, our installs backed by long warranties, and we are here to stay – 35 years and counting.

Contact us for an obligation free, customised quote on 02-6689-1430 email: [sales@rpc.com.au](mailto:sales@rpc.com.au) web: [rpc.com.au](http://rpc.com.au) or visit us and chat to the friendly and knowledgeable staff at number 1 Alternative Way, Nimbin (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm).



# Psychedelics and death on screen at Byron film festival



by Caroline Todd

*Dosed 2: The Trip of a Lifetime*, one of a number of amazing documentaries at the Byron Bay Film Festival this month, investigates the therapeutic value of psychedelics in the treatment of people with a life-threatening condition. It's a film about alternative approaches to illness, an exploration of the natural world's pharmacopeia, and also about being sick and dying, and finding healthier ways to approach these often devastating and terrifying realities.

Laurie, a 53-year-old mother of four in British Columbia, Canada, is facing death from colon cancer, a situation that surgery and chemo don't seem to be improving. She is afraid of dying, afraid of leaving her beloved husband and kids, and uncertain whether to undergo more operations, more being "sliced and diced".

She is given the opportunity of taking psilocybin as a possible means of lifting her out of her depression and disabling anxiety, and she does so with a strong dose taken under controlled circumstances. She is in good company, with experienced guides to support and reassure her when necessary.

It's a life-changing experience, one in which she cried and cried, and also felt she was in the presence of God. She emerged largely free of the overwhelming concerns she had for her family, comfortable in the knowledge that they would be fine after she died. "I'm OK, and everything is going to be all right," she realises.

The experience with "magic mushrooms" helped her, in the words of trauma and healing visionary Gabor Mate, who features in the film, to "fundamentally change the relationship she had with herself" – a shift that most people who recover from having a "terminal" illness seem to share.

As a result of the trip, Laurie was better able to live authentically with herself, "and in that way you could say cancer is a gift," she says.

The film is an extraordinarily intimate, heart-wrenching study of one woman's journey, and an uplifting celebration of the human spirit, the will not only to live, but to do so with full consciousness, and to prepare to leave life with the same fullness, appreciation, and dignity.

Other documentaries at the Festival include a shocking probe into the widespread corruption at the heart of the infamous Gloriavale Christian Community cult; a real-life space adventure that seeks to show our skies to be more than the exclusive playground of the military-industrial complex; the story of the area's most well-loved and unlikely political candidate – Mandy Nolan – in her bid for Federal parliament; immersion into a queer re-imagining of the traditional barber shop; and the genesis of the famous surfing film *The Endless Summer*.

For *Nimbin GoodTimes* readers, there's a special treat: a short made by Leif from Nimbin, featuring Jason from Nimbin and his take on housing affordability. Jason tells us he has a "unique mind", and his solution to the housing crisis is also unique, not to say unprecedented.

Such diverse films ensure the BBFF2022 program explores and celebrates a broad range of the human experience, from the day-to-day to the extraordinary and uplifting. A stimulating time is guaranteed.

The 16th Byron Bay Film Festival runs from 21st to 30th October, at Palace Cinemas Byron Bay, Byron Theatre, Lennox Head Cultural Centre and the Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah. To learn more about BBFF2022 and to purchase tickets, visit: [bbff.com.au](http://bbff.com.au)



# Music for the Soul

Following the success of her recent Queensland tours, British singer-songwriter, Emily Maguire is touring community halls in Northern NSW during November and December 2022, including Clovass McKees Hill Hall, Nimbin School of Arts, Pearces Creek Hall and Jiggi Hall.

A contemporary folk artist whose songs are described as 'music for the soul' by *Maverick Magazine*, Emily has released six albums and toured the UK extensively with American legends Don McLean, Dr Hook and Eric Bibb.

With a remarkable, inspiring story to tell, she has featured many times in playlists and interviews on BBC national radio, and her songs have been used in Hollywood films, as well as a worldwide Greenpeace climate change campaign.

Emily first came to Australia from London in 2003, for a three-week holiday and ended up living with music producer Christian Dunham in a shack made from wood, tin and potato sacks, on a goat farm in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

They set up their own record label to release Emily's debut album, which they financed by making and selling goats cheese on the farm.

In 2019, after 12 years away in the UK, Emily and Christian finally returned to the family farm in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. They have just finished Emily's seventh album 'A Light To Follow', due for release in February 2023.

Acclaimed as "a talent to be reckoned with" (*RnR Magazine*), Emily is a classically trained multi-



instrumentalist, composer and poet with four books to her name. She is also an award-winning mental health advocate and a patron of the UK mental health charity Restore. Her own experience of mental health recovery has strongly influenced her songwriting.

With thought-provoking lyrics, a hauntingly beautiful voice and songs "bathed in raw, emotional power" (*Guitarist Magazine*), Emily's live show, featuring her husband Christian Dunham on bass, is an intensely melodic and moving experience not to be missed.

Tickets are \$25/\$20 concession, available through: [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com)

# Kutchu tours region with new single: 'Mrs Edwards'

Proud Mutti Mutti songman Kutchu Edwards will bring focus back to his significant and wonderfully acclaimed album 'Circling Time' in October, when he travels to regional NSW and Sydney with his band to support his new single release. 'Mrs Edwards'.

Says Kutchu, "Imagine as a 6-year-old meeting your mother after being forcefully removed from her loving arms as a baby. 'Mrs Edwards' is about that moment when you're told the person standing before you is, in fact, your Mother."

The single release coincides with two new music video releases, one for 'Mrs Edwards' and another for the rousing 'Singing Up



Country', and a tour of NSW, followed by another in WA in November, and a handful of shows in Melbourne in December.

The tour comes on the back of the beautiful 'Circling Time Songs and Stories' production that Kutchu and his band presented across

regional Victoria. He played to sold out rooms, standing ovations, tears and laughter.

A Kutchu Edwards live experience takes you on a journey with stories from his life. The highs and the lows segue eloquently into each song, lifting your spirit. At its heart Kutchu's music is

pure soul. Kutchu will play at the Star Court Theatre, Lismore – the first major venue for musical and theatrical events in Northern NSW, first opened on 18th July 1921, with much fanfare. He'll also perform in the gorgeous Brunswick Picture Theatre and the Citadel in Murwillumbah.

## Tour dates

- Tuesday 18th October: The Citadel, Murwillumbah.
  - Wednesday 19th October: Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads.
  - Thursday 20th October: Star Court Theatre, Lismore.
- Tickets available from: <http://events.humantix.com>

# EnDanceMent Masquerade Ball – See ya on da dancefloor!

EnDanceMent invites you to a Masquerade Ball at the beautiful Hanging Rock Hall on 5th November, for the third instalment of our Ecstatic Dance Journey.

Join us in symphonic enchantment on a sonic escapade traversing through decadent frequencies delivered by our local talents, musos and DJ's at this boutique music event.

Bring your kiddies to run amok in the gorgeous grounds surrounding the hall for afternoon frolics. There will also be face painting by our amazing local artist Jen Harkness to decorate you and our kids' faces intuitively if you prefer.

Music will begin with slow enchanting vibes, Indian and Japanese Incantations, progressing thru folktronica, deep spacey/bassy grooves, to uplifting tribal-funkii-housey rhythms to get you up in spirit and down on the dance floor.

We will begin the day with Papa Richie, our local funk master, spinning old-school vinyl of funk/soul/ reggae and dub.

An interlude of a heart opening performance by Indian classical musician Mico Sundari serenading us with her voice, and Indian Tabla and



Tampula chanting to set the intention of the day.

We will then journey deeper into electronic beats of folktronica, bassy rhythms by our crew member, and sound engineer Faolan Phoxtro to organic house and downtempo all the way up to melodic house and techno by Gina La Fray, and get down to some tribal trap by our beloved Sita 'DJ Kali', and progressive and funky house by Glock n Speel to take us off into the dance abyss.

Delicious nourishment will be available from the kitchen from our local Nomadic Catering Company (vegan and gluten free options available), and refreshments of Chai and

Ceremonial Cacao to keep you grooving throughout the eve – a winning dancing combo!

A mini-market of local artisans and collectors will be set up for a feast for your eyes and to tinker through treasures, so be sure to bring extra mula if you'd like to support our lovely marketeers!

Step into our realm of rhythms of freestyle flow and movement medicine.

Let your creative expression unfold in this inclusive environment for all sorts and ages.

We invite you to share our intention for community kinection and collaboration. Unfurl your wings this spring and let your inner dancing freak fly free!

EnDanceMent Vol 3 starts at 1pm and goes until 11pm.

Ticketing: Early Bird (50 Tix) \$20 / Pre-Sale \$25 / Door Sales \$30

Tickets can be purchased at Humanitix: [events.humanitix.com/endancement-vol-3](http://events.humanitix.com/endancement-vol-3)

For further info and updates check out: <https://www.facebook.com/EndanceMent/>

For a preview, see EnDanceMent Vol 2 VDO at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMTSJwuN-t0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMTSJwuN-t0)



Dracula says give blood!

Lismore Theatre Company's Count Dracula is urging Lismore people to give blood.

"While the doors of Lismore's Red Cross Lifeblood are closed, donors need to fly down to Ballina to donate," said Count Dracula "but we will be back here in December to take your blood."

The original Dracula is a character from the Gothic novel by Bram Stoker written in 1897. This play is a dramatic adaptation of Stoker's story by playwright Crane Johnson.

Since the publication of the novel and various film adaptations, Count Dracula has become a cult-like figure in modern life yet few know the full story behind the character.

Seven local actors play the roles in this play with no role dominating. The character of Professor Van Helsing is, interestingly, written for a woman in Johnson's adaptation.

"We say 'Like leaving Dracula in charge of the Blood Bank' when we describe an inappropriate appointment to a position of power and of course

there are all the stories of drinking blood," says Dracula Director, Sylvia Clarke. "So it was an obvious decision to select this location for a publicity photo," she said.

After the floods, the Lismore Red Cross Lifeblood centre in Bounty Street moved to Ballina Library, but will be back in the Lismore centre in December. "Floods, fire and Covid do not diminish the need for blood supplies so we are always looking to our regular donors and to attract new ones" said Northern NSW Lifeblood Group Account Manager, Scott Morrison, "but perhaps not Dracula."

Dracula will be staged at Rochdale Theatre in Goonellabah for four shows only, from Friday 28th to Monday 31st October. The final show will have a Halloween theme and the audience is invited to come in dress up.

Tickets can be booked via the website: [www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au](http://www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au) (\$25/\$20) Booking enquiries and a special deal for groups of 10 or more, please phone Jenny on 0402-651-394.



Live storytelling comes to Nimbin

New Nimbin resident, René Norwie fell in love with live personal narrative storytelling when she lived in Sydney.

"I loved live storytelling so much, I decided to start a new regular event here," she said.

To get things started, she has invited professional award-winning storyteller, Jenni Cargill-Strong to offer a one-day workshop in Nimbin!

Jenni is nationally recognised for her award-winning story albums and teaches storytelling at Southern Cross University.

In 2015, Jenni won ABC Radio National's Now Hear This Queensland Story Slam with her story, 'The Mulberry Tree', a must-listen delight.

Live storytelling experienced a revival in the 1970s with the National



Jenni Cargill-Strong  
Courtesy ABC Radio National

Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. It launched a storytelling movement that evolved in the early days from folktales and myths to include a wider variety of genres, like fiction, humour, and personal narrative.

Live personal narrative storytelling brings people together around a proverbial campfire; where storytellers get up and share authentic experiences from their lives, and where audiences rediscover the idiosyncrasies of our common humanity.

Unlike at a comedy show, or even a theatre production, the audience is invited to connect directly with the person on stage; to imagine themselves in their shoes.

In this humble exchange of sharing and receiving lived stories we cultivate a sense of community connection.

This simple principle has inspired dozens of live storytelling groups to spring up all over the globe, including homegrown groups like Barefaced in Perth, SPUN Stories in the NT, Life Out Loud in Brisbane, and Queerstories.

At its heart, live storytelling believes that every person has lived a life filled with stories worth telling, and therefore, the storytelling stage is essentially for everyday people from all walks of life.

Telling Your Story

If you have ever wanted to learn how to tell your story, join René and Jenni on Saturday, 15th October from 11am to 5pm for a fun, participative day at the Nimbin Community Centre. Jenni will gently guide you to fossick for a personal story, then teach you how to polish it and tell it from the heart.

To hear Jenni's story, book in for her very affordable workshop. Visit: [www.nimbinstorytellers.com](http://www.nimbinstorytellers.com) or contact René at: [nimbinstorytellers@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinstorytellers@gmail.com) or send text messages to 0432-483-264.

Daylight robbery

by Sue Edmonds

At 75 she was ready to turn her hand to a new job.

Becoming a Roadie, with its serious advantages and unforeseen disadvantages, turned out to be quite a challenge. It required carrying heavy, unwieldy instruments with unwieldy support frames, from the car to the food stalls at the folk festival, then upstairs to the small workshop venue, then backstage in the largest venue, sell a few tapes and books after the performance, then finally, trek back to the car.

No applause or bright lights for the Roadie, just the promise of a free ticket and dinner.

At 75 she found the frame and heavy stuff a grind, staggering along, avoiding happy festie goers clutching ukuleles or long sticks for clacking together while Morris dancing.

She decided to future-proof and add wheels to the frame. It should fit nicely in a shopping buggy. So, between festivals, she scoured op shops, buying doilies and other stuff, but no shopping buggies.

Elvis, the film, was screening close

to two op shops, so on the way to the movies, for active research into Elvis' Roadie, she gave it another try.

There it was, no price tag, but looked perfect for the job. She gladly paid the \$6 and lay the buggy across the back seat of her little car and motored off, feeling satisfied with her persistence.

20 metres down the road a mobile phone started ringing. She didn't recognise the call signal, and followed the sound, there it was, sounding an alarm in the shopping buggy. The mobile phone was fully charged and had been used recently.

The Roadie returned the phone to the op shop. The woman at the counter grabbed the phone and ran out onto the street, looking east and west, but the owner had disappeared. An offer to return the buggy was refused as the shop assistant had furnished the bereft woman with a replacement.

She'd been in shock, just turned away for a few minutes to study the books, then she discovered her buggy, phone and shopping bags had been sold from under her nose. A serious case of daylight robbery in the local op shop.

The mobile phone was reunited with



its owner. She was a regular in the op shop. At 75 the new Roadie was a tad embarrassed. The new challenge of being a reliable Roadie had proven to have whiskers on it, now she was questioning her op shop etiquette.

She's happy the frame fits sweetly in the buggy, and is now practising moving along at a clip. She's looking forward to the next festival, free ticket and dinner guaranteed.

Nimbin Community Centre  
81 Cullen Street

**Three Non-residential Rooms for Rent**

1) Size: 16.27m2. Room opens out into the Cullen Street carpark. Great site for a pop-up shop.

2) Size: 25.91 m2. Next door to the NimFM studios, 2nd floor of the Casuarina Building. Great site for an office, studio or small business, contains a sink and water connection.

3) Size: 15.81m2. Room has a shared waiting room with 2 other tenants. Great site for an office or studio space.

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

**A WOVEN LIFE**  
honouring the earth & the stars

An OEUVRE...  
by **Granny Breathweaver (AKA Moksha)**  
Sculptures created from foraged & found fiber

Opening night  
Friday 14th October  
5pm to 9pm

Wine & nibbles available  
Live music - Healing Rhythms  
@ Flourish Gallery  
15 Casino Street, Sth Lismore

Exhibition runs from  
Wed 12th Oct - Fri 28th October

The Voice of the Alternative Nation

**NIM-FM 102.3**

FACE THE MUSIC

[www.nimfm.org](http://www.nimfm.org)

**NIMBIN AQUARIUS**  
foundation inc

Planning to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Nimbin Aquarius Festival over 10 days in May 2023. Any ideas for events in our 12 focus areas welcome. Contact: [aquariusnetworking@gmail.com](mailto:aquariusnetworking@gmail.com)

**NIMBIN BOWLO**  
25 Sibley Street Nimbin  
Phone 6689-1250

**ADVICE FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS**

*Home of the Big Bowler*

**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 12th Oct 5.30pm
- Trivia night, Saturday 22nd Oct, 6pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome