



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

Wayfinding Project kicks off

Great news with the highly anticipated Nimbin Wayfinding Project now under construction and, weather permitting, it will be completed by mid-January.

The project will establish a formal pedestrian link from 54 Cullen Street to the Western Carpark and a new Green Parklet at 39 Cullen Street.

Christmas treats

The Green Parklet construction will commence on the first week of January. During this time there may be some traffic and parking disruptions.

Traffic control will be in place, so please observe changes to traffic movement carefully during this time.

I understand that the construction work may cause frustration, but I ask for your patience as, once complete, this will be a wonderful project for Nimbin.

Draft tourism plan

Council's new Destination team were in Nimbin recently talking to people about the Lismore, Nimbin and Villages draft Destination Management Plan which is on public exhibition until Friday, 15th December.

The Plan provides a collective focus, strategic direction and actions for sustainably growing and

managing Lismore Local Government Area's visitor economy to 2028 and beyond. Its purpose is to maximise the benefits of tourism for the region, safeguarding and, enhancing its natural and cultural assets for local communities and businesses now and into the future.

If you would like your say, go to: www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Backing locals

As our community continues to recover, Council is asking for everyone to Back Lismore this Christmas, and that includes backing Nimbin.

Please take the time to check out all the potential Christmas presents stores in Nimbin have to offer. It's a great way of backing locals this festive season.

Christmas carols

I would also like to extend a warm invitation to everyone



to come along to Carols in the Heart that will be held at the recently repaired Oakes Oval in Lismore on Sunday 10th December between 4pm and 9pm.

Internationally renowned artists Paul Tabone and Mirusia are this year's headliners. This very talented duo performed at our recent Opera in the Gardens, and to say they were a hit with the audience would be an understatement.

The wonderful thing is, they asked to come back again to support our community as we continue our recovery.

There is also a great line-up of local talent at the free event, including The Buckleys, Pink Zinc, Luke Vassella, Megan Philips Dance Group, Trinity Catholic College Lismore and Isabella A Cappella, ensuring a dynamic and diverse musical showcase.

I am reliably told Santa will even make an appearance before the laser show that will close the evening of festive fun.

Wonderland and Lismore Delights

Don't forget the Jolly Big Man takes up his

Christmas residence at Santa's Wonderland until Christmas Eve. He can be found at 15 Woodlark Street, Wednesdays through to Sundays. Bookings for photos with Santa are essential, but it's as simple as going to: www.visitlismore.com.au

I encourage everyone to visit Santa's Wonderland, get some photos and while you are down there, do a bit of Christmas shopping and support our local businesses.

And make sure to amp up your festive spirit and join us for Lismore Delights on Saturday, 16th and 23rd December from 10am to 3pm around Lismore CBD.

Council is presenting an exciting program celebrating our extraordinary community, drawing together renowned performing artists, creativity, culture and family fun, with unique shopping and dining around the Block.

To find out more about what's on and how to Back Lismore this Christmas, go to: www.visitlismore.com.au

Time to tackle the high cost of home insurance



by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

The 2022 catastrophic floods across our region highlighted once again the problems that exist with home and commercial insurance: the rising cost of premiums; disputes and delays over payouts; the number of uninsured properties; and what to do when places are deemed uninsurable.

I welcome the initiatives at State and Federal level towards changing the way things are done.

The Minns Labor Government has announced a long overdue reform of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) to ensure a fairer, more sustainable way for funding our fire brigades, SES and Rural Fire Services.

As it currently stands, more than 73% of the ESL levy is paid

by insurers. This means those who take out insurance policies are carrying the increasing burden of funding emergency services through their insurance premiums.

The ESL adds about 18 percent to the average home insurance policy and an estimated 30 percent to commercial premiums.

This model is making insurance unaffordable for many, and people are opting out of insurance or underinsuring their properties, leaving them exposed to great risk.

Our emergency services provide critical services to protect lives and property from disasters including fires, storms, floods, and other emergencies and the Government is committed to ensuring their consistent funding adapted to future needs.

As natural disasters increase in frequency and intensity, costs will rise.

Currently NSW is the only mainland state that uses a levy on insurers to fund emergency services, and our state has the highest level of uninsured homes in Australia.

If we keep going this way there will be fewer people able to afford insurance, leaving a smaller pool paying the ESL, further increasing the cost. It just isn't sustainable.

Premier Chris Minns says reforming the ESL won't be easy, but it's the right thing to do. For

too long it has been left in the too-hard basket.

The Premier also announced there will be an insurance monitor to make sure insurance companies don't keep premiums high once the tax has been removed – and heavy penalties will apply to any that do.

The NSW Treasurer will lead consultations with industry and stakeholders on the best option to move toward a fairer model.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into insurance response to floods

Meanwhile in Canberra, a parliamentary committee is looking into the response of the insurance industry to major flood events across Australia in 2022.

I lobbied Financial Services Minister Stephen Jones about the need for an insurance inquiry to get us to a better place, and he acknowledged my advocacy when he announced the inquiry earlier this year.

The House Standing Committee on Economics is conducting the inquiry and investigating issues including the timeframes for resolving claims, the affordability of insurance and the preparedness of insurance companies for future major floods.

The committee invites people who had insurance issues related to the floods to do an on-line survey



Janelle Saffin MP celebrates the re-opening of NORCO in Lismore with Federal Agriculture Minister Murray Watt, NSW Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty, Kevin Hogan MP and Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg.

that takes about ten minutes to complete.

The committee is also accepting submissions from individuals, and I encourage anyone wanting to highlight flood insurance issues to put their case forward.

Go to: www.apf.gov.au/floodinsurance

Some of the issues that have been raised in submissions so far include the question of rewarding actions that lower risk, and how

to cover the gap between the insurance payout and cost of rebuilding.

There are so many issues to raise. Although the inquiry is about floods, the issues about insuring for disasters are also relevant to other disasters.

I welcome this spotlight on how the insurance industry deals with disasters because the old models are not going to serve us into the future.

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of Nimbin GoodTimes

My office will be closed between Christmas Day and 5th January

Janelle Saffin MP
MEMBER FOR LISMORE

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The People's Blockade of the world's largest coal port



by Sue Higginson,
NSW Greens MLA



Newcastle coal protest

Continued from p.1

On Sunday 26th November, it got really hot and around 4pm, the official time to end our blockade. Some kayaks came in while others went out to practise civil disobedience.

There must have been over 120 people out on the water at 4pm. The police had a big boat, two big rubber boats and four jet skis and were surrounding the kayak flotilla. After talking to different groups, they started picking them off their kayaks and taking them to land.

At the same time, around 30 riot squad police came and closed the beach so that no kayaks could go into the water. There were 109 arrests, including seven from the Northern Rivers. Nearly all were released after a few hours and will have to attend court in January.

Among them were five juveniles and the 97-year-old grandfather of Alexa Stuart, one of the brilliant organisers, who said: "I'm doing this for my grandchildren and future generations, because I don't want to leave them a world full of increasingly severe and frequent climate disasters."

In the end, 2000 people participated in the climate action over the four days, blocking the harbour for 32 hours, and stopping 500,000 tonnes of coal exports.

The action has re-energised climate action with civil disobedience as a vehicle to save us from climate collapse.

The three demands from Rising Tide are:

1. Cancel all new fossil fuels projects immediately
2. Tax fossil fuel export profits at 75% to fund community and industrial transition and pay for climate loss and damage
3. End all coal exports from Newcastle by 2030.

On their website: risingtide.org.au you can do your climate defence pledge and find more information. They want to organise a 10-day festival with 10,000 people for next year.

I just attended the People's Blockade of the World's Largest Coal Port and it was amazing.

Over 32 hours, thousands of people took to the waters at Newcastle in kayaks and rafts and stopped coal ships from going in and out of the world's largest coal port.

It is hard to reconcile that NSW continues to export the climate crisis to the rest of the world, with complete disregard for the consequences.

Unsurprisingly, there was a wonderful Northern Rivers presence at the People's Blockade. It was a fun-filled weekend of working, learning, art, music, eating, networking, actioning hope and civil resistance.

The People's Blockade, organised by Rising Tide, a climate action group known for nonviolent civil resistance and focussed on the export of coal out of Newcastle, received a Police Authorisation for part of the event.

But members of the community spontaneously decided to continue their blockade beyond the authorised time. In a strong display of civil disobedience those people huddled together in their small vessels

on the water in the shipping channel to communicate to the world that coal is fuelling the climate crisis and climate breakdown must be avoided.

I assisted the community with police liaison, which I have done many times over decades on frontlines.

All in all, the police behaved as police should on the frontlines of peaceful but direct action and civil disobedience, with restraint and understanding.

There was talk of applying the absurd draconian anti-protest laws, but they did not, they applied marine safety, fine only, offences, handled people with care and assisted with collecting kayaks.

There were over 100 arrests and the People's Blockade of the World's Largest Coal Port received enormous national and some international media coverage.

Over the weekend we heard many incredible members of the community who are working to get better action on climate change and building resilience within their communities.

We heard from First Nations elders and young people, and Bob Brown gave a wonderful rousing talk to us all.

Greens MPs, members and supporters came from across the country as part of the People's Blockade. It was a strong display of hope.

After very little sleep, lots of sun and sore shoulders, from sharing the weight of the world with all of those wonderful folk on the frontline, I am on the train heading into Parliament for our last week of sitting for the year and will do everything I can to make Labor's climate laws better.

Last month the NSW Labor Government tabled their *Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023*, which sets targets to reduce emissions to 50% of 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.

It will also establish a new Net Zero Commission to provide advice and recommendations to the Government on how to achieve these targets.

The Bill was referred to be examined by a Parliamentary Inquiry, which I chaired. It was very time constrained, because Labor wants to get their pre-election promised climate law up and over the line before the end of this year.

Nevertheless, it was an excellent inquiry

with climate scientists, economists, conservationists, planners, unions, doctors and energy, risk and law experts and civil society all providing submissions and evidence.

The evidence was overwhelming. Labor's proposed climate laws were weak and lacked the design and function to actually drive emissions reduction in NSW.

After working across the Parliament for the past few weeks, and with pressure on the Government from members of the community, the Greens have secured significant amendments that will make our climate laws much stronger and with the mechanisms to drive emissions reduction and increase our ambition.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Together, we've achieved so much for our community in 2023.

In a new minority government, we've been able to deliver a 60-Day Cap on short-term holiday lets in Byron Shire, a real pay rise for public school teachers, a new public pre-school in Lennox Head, \$3.3 million in road repairs for the Ballina electorate, and so much more!

This is proof that together, we are being listened to in NSW Parliament - and we are delivering real results.

From my family to yours, have a very happy holidays and a wonderful new year. Here's to many more wins for our community in 2024!

With love,

Tamara Smith MP
Your local Member for Ballina

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Team Cadwallader's war on the environment continues

At the November Ballina Council meeting, Cr Bruem (Team Cadwallader's unofficial media advisor/spin-doctor) continued his attack on the environment by attempting to wind back several of Council's policies, including the release of balloons at events on public land, and supported the introduction of unrestricted 4WDs to the South Ballina Beach Crown Reserve.

His motion to seek an 'exemption' from Council's policy which prohibits the supply and releasing of balloons at community events on public land was thankfully not supported. The Our Kids Day Out event was seeking to have a performer whose only trick was to make animals and objects out of balloons and to then give them out to all the kids.

It's quite obvious that this type of 'entertainment' isn't appropriate at a riverside location where a good proportion of the balloons would have ended up in the river, as has been the case with previous events at this location.

It felt like a pretty obvious attempt to try and paint those that supported environmental initiatives like these as 'the fun police' and the classic catch phrase about "the radical Greens" were of course all part of the show and the subsequent



by Cr Jeff Johnson
Ballina Council

social media blitz.

The reasons for Council introducing this policy a couple of years ago was to reduce the amount of balloons (and plastic in general) entering our local waterways either through helium balloons floating over the river and ocean, or deflated or busted balloons blowing into the river or washed through the stormwater system.

Apparently, there was no other entertainer available, and the event would have to be cancelled without the balloon act. One of my Council colleagues did a bit of research and read off a list of about 20 alternative 'kids entertainers' that could be contacted who didn't have the releasing of balloons as part of their act. It was pleasing to see that the majority of the Council didn't buy into this deliberate wedge. Then there was the motion

asking Council to instruct Tamara Smith, the Member for Ballina, to convene a public meeting with Councillors and 'affected landowners' to ensure that "information provided to the community was factual" and to help "reduce the amount of incorrect information that is currently being circulated".

It was clarified in the meeting that the 'affected landowners' would be those who were against environmental zones being applied to part of their properties.

This related to the Team Cadwallader approach to land zoning which is advocating for (and pushed through Council on the casting vote of the Mayor) rural landowners to determine their own zoning, irrespective of the environmental attributes or the primary use of the land. Cr Bruem, who owns a rural property in the Lismore Shire, always references the so-called successful 'Lismore Model' when promoting their approach to rural land zoning.

I seem to be saying it a lot lately, but in almost 16 years there hasn't been a motion presented to Council that was designed to put the local member of parliament before an angry mob and for this public meeting to be used as part of the Team Cadwallader push to increase their numbers at the coming Council elections

(September 2024). It certainly signals a highly orchestrated misinformation campaign is being formulated.

The motion designed to re-introduce 4WDs to South Ballina Beach was obviously going to fail as Ballina Council doesn't even manage this vast stretch of beach and Crown Reserve.

Council was flooded with emails from local fishing and 4WD club members who were clearly led to believe that there was a chance that this beach would suddenly be opened to 4WDs.

If Council were to become the Crown Reserve manager for the section of beach within the Ballina Shire, the estimated costs, provided by Council staff at the meeting, were in the hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. Probably not the best way to spend millions of dollars of ratepayers money over the next decade.

Reading through the widely-spaced lines, it's clear that all this is just the usual 'Green bashing' from Team Cadwallader as they once again appear to be building up for another divisive and misleading election campaign.

No doubt the Dunoon Dam and those radical Greens who want everyone to drink 'toilet water' will be high amongst their list of political wedges and undeliverable priorities.

Bridging cultures

by Jagad Samuel

Bridging Cultures: Flourish Sanctuary's Enriching Cultural Spiritual in Japan

In a remarkable spiritual exchange that transcended borders and fostered deep connections, Flourish Sanctuary recently embarked on a transformative journey to Japan.

This two-week immersive experience, held from 1st to 17th November, aimed to build a bridge of understanding between Flourish Sanctuary and the rich tapestry of Japanese spirituality, traditions, and values.

The primary goal of the exchange was to create a platform for a meaningful exchange of spiritual insights. Jazmin L J Tassell and Jagad, both passionate supporters of Flourish Sanctuary and its values, undertook this adventure using their own funds and enthusiasm.

Jazmin's dedication added a personal touch to the cultural immersion. Anticipating the trip, she learned Japanese using the DuoLingo app on her phone, underlining her commitment to engaging authentically with the culture.

This initiative was not an isolated event; it evolved from the collaborative

efforts initiated during the Aquarius50 Festival in May when Seiko Kobayashi, a vital support from Osaka, Japan, played a pivotal role in Flourish Sanctuary's Aquarius Offerings.

Diverse explorations

The journey unfolded across iconic Japanese locations, including the Ryoanji Temple, Sinjuku Gyoen National Garden, Neduinja Shrine, NEZU museum, the Imperial Palace, Senso-ji Zen Temple, Osaka Castle, and Shitennoji Temple.

The participants immersed themselves in the beauty and significance of these spiritual and cultural places, each holding a unique story and contributing to the mosaic of Japan.

A highlight of the journey was the visit to Ryoanji Temple, famed for its karesansui, or dry rock garden. This garden, whose fame soared after Steve Jobs declared it his favourite place in the world, is a manifestation of enlightenment through the seemingly random placement of rocks.

The experience left an indelible mark on the participants, inspiring Jagad to bring a touch of Zen to Flourish Sanctuary's retreat accommodation and

adding rocks to the sandpit, hopefully bringing some of the tranquillity of a karesansui (rock garden) to Nimbin.

The spiritual exchange extended beyond sightseeing, encompassing active participation in an ancestor worship ceremony and Zen meditation sessions and more. The participants explored a trove of Buddhist artifacts, including the renowned Five Horses by Li Gonglin, paintings that are believed to encapsulate the essence of enlightenment.

Despite challenges posed by Jagad's torn ankle ligament, the warmth and support of the Japanese people prevailed. Their willingness to assist, whether by carrying bags, pushing a wheelchair, or making way for him on crutches, underscored the kindness that defines the Japanese way.

Both Jazmin and Jagad described the exchange as profoundly enriching and inspiring. The exposure to Japanese spirituality and traditions left a lasting impact, contributing to a deeper understanding of spiritual diversity and shared humanity.

Future plans

During the exchange, Jagad engaged in one-to-one discussions about his profound experience whilst dead and the insights it gave him for living. Plans are underway for his return to Japan, where he will



Shitennoji Temple, Osaka

offer talks on this unique topic and engage with monks and other religious practitioners to explore the complementary aspects of Buddhist insights into Bardos and his own experience.

Looking further ahead, Flourish Sanctuary envisions expanding its spiritual exchanges. Julian, a key figure in the Flourish community, is looking to raise funds to offer Social Dharma in future spiritual exchanges, extending the hand of spiritual friendship in other countries.

Flourish Sanctuary's spiritual exchange with Japan transcended the boundaries of a mere visit. It became a transformative journey, intertwining the threads of two cultures to create a tapestry of shared experiences and understanding.

As we reflect on this enriching chapter, the spiritual exchange stands as a testament to the power of human connections, the beauty of diversity, and the potential for a more harmonious global community.



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

between two essential local organisations – the Nimbin Community Centre and the Nimbin Environment Centre.

This commitment underscores our dedication to supporting vital community causes.

A visit from Mayor Steve Krieg

We were honoured to have Mayor Steve Krieg from Lismore join us at the AGM. His high regard for Nimbin and gratitude for being invited to significant village events solidified our appreciation of Steve's commitment to his role.

The Mayor fearlessly addressed questions from our members, highlighting the remarkable confidence Lismore's business community has displayed following the recent floods.

We acknowledged the importance of supporting Lismore businesses in the lead-up to Christmas and beyond.

Aether's role in digital communications

Recently appointed Aether Agencies play a crucial role in our community by managing

digital communications.

They help us with internal organisation while managing social media on our behalf, along with that of the Nimbin Community Centre.

Their expertise is instrumental in promoting our community most effectively.

Nimbin businesses' remarkable achievements

Local accommodation providers 'Contained in Nimbin' deserve special recognition for taking out regional and State awards.

This commitment to quality in their field has put Nimbin in a positive light in the tourism world.

We also congratulate Mountain Top Coffee for winning national Silver and Bronze medals for their locally-produced and internationally distributed-coffee.

Visit by key regional tourism industry contacts

Destination North Coast's General Manager Michael Thurston and Jackie Burnside, Industry Engagement Manager, along with members of the economic development division of Lismore Council, will be visiting local Nimbin businesses to gain insight into the quality of Nimbin's offerings to the tourism market.

The businesses selected to highlight Nimbin's ability to provide an enlightening visitor experience are:

- Arcadia Nimbin is a boutique combination of farm-stay experiences and workshops.
- Contained in Nimbin, a multi-award-winning eco-

accommodation business.

- Nimbin Valley Dairy, a whole farm experience
- Nimbin Bush Theatre Café, garden to a plate dining experience
- Nimbin Candle Factory
- Djanbung Gardens, home of Permaculture College Australia

Upcoming Women in Business event

It's heart-warming to see our women in business thrive, with 74 members on the Facebook page – an impressive achievement for a village our size.

The Women in Business event is scheduled for 2nd February 2024, at The Church of Aquarius, from 5.30 to 7.30pm.

The Draft Destination Management Plan

Lismore Council are embarking on a strategic development plan for the Lismore local government area to 2028 and beyond.

The intent is to maximise the benefits of tourism for the region, safeguarding its natural and cultural assets for local communities and businesses of Lismore Nimbin and villages now and into the future.

Councils are seeking comments from businesses and the broader community. Council will be available for further discussion at a Business Engagement and Feedback Session on Tuesday 5th December, 8.30 to 10.30am at Birth and Beyond, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin.

Before this session, the full outline of the DMP is available for public viewing and comment on Review the Strategy on Lismore City

Council's Your Say page: www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Supporting youth transitioning into the workforce

Recognising the importance of guiding our youth into the workforce, we recently met with Nimbin Central School.

Our discussions revolved around work experience opportunities and education programs designed to introduce students to roles that align with their interests. This initiative aims to provide valuable experience and support our young talent.

Planning for the holiday season

As the Christmas and the holiday season approaches, I offer a friendly reminder to assist in avoiding last-minute stress. Start planning your celebrations early, and consider supporting local businesses.

Nimbin's circular economy ensures that the dollars you spend will return to our community. So, let's all make a conscious choice to shop locally this season. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Our journey in Nimbin involves collective growth and community spirit. We're excited about the future and respectful of the past as we work together to shape our destiny. I encourage you to participate in the Chamber's upcoming events and initiatives, provide feedback on the Draft Destination Management Plan (DMP), and continue supporting local businesses.

Together, we can build a brighter tomorrow for Nimbin.

Nimbin Community Centre President's Report 2023



Community Centre AGM in November

by Wil Polson

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM, it was a great turn-out this year.

2023 presented itself as a year of significant change for the Nimbin Community Centre.

We reviewed our lease and rental structures, changed the way we do business, bid farewell to much-valued staff, and welcomed some fantastic new people into the NCCI fold.

Change is often met with resistance, and we've had to navigate these changes with the hope that our community will see the long-term value in what we have implemented.

A recent article in *The Guardian Australia* outlined that between 2006 and 2019 there was a 10% decrease in community and civic participation across the country.

Encouraging active participation from young people in our community has been, and continues to be, one of our biggest challenges.

Increased costs of living, unstable housing and varying economic strains have all added to the complexity of asking young families to find time to volunteer for an onerous, albeit rewarding job.

Despite these challenges, we have attracted some fantastic new committee members, many of whom were born and raised here, each of

whom are committed to raising their own children in our community.

They are enthusiastic about the future of the Centre and see the potential and possibilities it provides for our community. We are extremely grateful to have them on board.

We have achieved some fantastic outcomes for Nimbin Community Centre, and the broader community, too many to list in this article, but they can be viewed in detail in the President's Report on our website.

It has been a busy year for NCCI. Our small team of dedicated volunteers and staff have shown tremendous commitment to ensuring that our Centre remains a

viable and welcoming space for all members of our community now, and into the future.

Thank you to our tenants, those who've left and the new tenants we've welcomed over the year. Your contributions make the Centre what it is, and we are extremely proud to represent such a diverse and valued group of businesses and community organisations.

It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Biko, Robyn, Sam and Helen from the Community Centre staff and extend our deepest gratitude and thanks for everything that they have contributed to the Centre for so many years. Your passion and dedication have given the Centre its heart and your care for community is an inspiration. Thank you.

There comes a time in every community organisation where the baton needs to be passed and new life welcomed. It is no big ask, as many of our own existing committee members have dedicated years of their lives to community building.

Each cares deeply for Nimbin and all have contributed to the character, spirit and life of our village. You've kept it magic, despite all the implications of late-stage capitalism, and are a testament to the Aquarius vision.

The newly-elected executive is: Wil Polson - President; Darren Maxwell - Vice President; Billi Bourne - Treasurer; Laila Jensen - Secretary;

Amy-Kate Dillon - Committee member.

The incoming executive committee holds the upmost respect for you after seeing all that is involved in keeping this ship afloat, and we take tremendous comfort knowing that you are all just a phone call away and are happy to help.

While each of our out-going committee members have contributed significantly to the Centre, it would be amiss of me to not give special mention to Diana Roberts. Your work and dedication to the Community Centre has been tireless, inspiring and fundamental in shaping the fabric of this community.

Your contribution extends beyond what could possibly be listed in this report, but rest assured, your legacy will be remembered and your work ethic aspired to (no promises though).

On behalf of both the Nimbin Community Centre and the broader Nimbin community, we thank you for all that you have done in a voluntary capacity for our village. We love you and we appreciate you.

Lastly, thank you to our members and all those who found the time to be here tonight to reflect on the past year and celebrate our achievements.

Our future depends on engagement and support from our community, and we appreciate your trust in managing and maintaining such an important asset for our village.

Thank you.

CLIMATE CHANGE – THE REAL SECURITY THREAT TO AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC

by Bobbi Allan

“Climate change is a more real and present danger to the security of Australians than an over-hyped threat of war with China.”

This is the assessment of Admiral Chris Barrie, retired chief of the Defence Force who heads the Australian Security Leaders’ Climate Group (ASLCG).

In September last year, our Office of National Intelligence completed a ‘Whole-of-Nation Climate and Security Risk Assessment.’ The Albanese Government has been sitting on this report ever since, refusing to release even a declassified version.

This refusal led to the publication of the ASLCG’s 2023 paper, ‘Climate Security Up Front: transparency, security risks and the Government’s Duty of Care’.

It says, “The furore about China and imminent war is being stoked by a group of national security influencers, several with links to institutions who receive a benefit from the arms industry.”

It continued, “But barely a word has been said by those influencers recognising that climate disruption, not China, is the greatest threat to global, regional and human security. Talking loudly about the China threat whilst lips are sealed on climate threats is a catastrophic and irresponsible failure in security analysis.

“The balance of all security risks must be assessed, including recognising that what China does or does not do will not drown small island states, nor desertify the dry subtropics, nor drive a global decline in crop yields, kill the Barrier Reef, salinate Kakadu or force the displacement of tens of millions of people. But a hotter climate will,



Climate activists call on Pacific Islands leaders to endorse Vanuatu’s push for the International Court of Justice to issue an advisory opinion on climate change in Suva, Fiji on July 9, 2022.

Photo courtesy Greenpeace Australia Pacific

probably in significant measure even before a full fleet of nuclear submarines has been commissioned in the 2040s.”

Can the Military do both Defence and Climate Emergency Response, including in the Pacific?

The Albanese Government’s Strategic Defence Review, released in April this year devoted an entire chapter to warning that the acceleration of climate change risked “overwhelming” Defence, as nations increasingly grew reliant on defence forces for humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR)."

Admiral Barrie agrees: “If you could imagine concurrent events, like the black summer bushfires and a call from another country in our region for help, we’re going to be really stretched in setting priorities and managing those pressures.”

The review goes on to say that as climate change accelerates over the coming decades it will significantly increase risk in our region. “It could lead to mass migration,

increased demands for peacekeeping and peace enforcement and intrastate and interstate conflict.”

Senator Tony Sheldon, the government’s special envoy for disaster resilience, said the Review recommends that State and Local Governments must be prepared to respond to “all but the most extreme domestic disasters” themselves, with Defence available ‘as a last resort’. Otherwise HADR threatens to detract from Defence’s ‘primary objective’, defending Australia.”

He said, “natural disaster responses are reportedly hampering the Defence Forces’ ability of attract and retain staff, given this is not the main reason many enlist in the armed forces; ADF personnel have been heard to say, ‘I didn’t join to mop up; I joined to serve.’”

From Lismore to the Torres Straits Islands, to Vanuatu to Fiji and Tonga where ADF forces’ HADR work has been an essential part of recovery, these are disturbing words.

Admiral Barrie concludes, “for Defence military disaster relief to be sustainable, the only effective forward defence is a stronger Australian commitment to reduce greenhouse gases.”

Australia’s bid to host COP 31, 2026 needs the support of the Pacific Nations.

As this edition of NGT hits the streets, COP28, the 28th meeting of the decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, will be underway in Dubai Expo City in the United Arab Emirates. The European Parliament will be moving several motions in favour of mandatory reporting of military emissions to the IPCC.

Australia will be there, lobbying other nations to support its first-ever bid to host a COP – COP 31, in 2026. Our bid will be conditional on the Pacific Islands nations agreeing to co-host this major event. While this seems likely, their support cannot be assumed.

The Alliance of Small Island States, which includes Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Solomon Islands and 36 others, met in March this year to call for a faster phase-out of fossil fuels and a ramp-up of renewable energy. This resulted in the ‘Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific’.

In August, the Pacific Elders group (PEG), including former national leaders, took out a full-page ad in the Fiji Times calling on their countries not to support Australia’s plan to host COP31 until it ends subsidies and approvals for the 116 NEW coal and gas projects currently in the pipeline. The ad was timed to coincide with a visit to Fiji by the Australian climate change minister, Chris Bowen.

The PEG asserts “Australia has ignored our pleas for years. The response to our natural disasters, sea level rise, heat [and] food insecurity has been to pursue more gas and coal projects – the very thing driving the climate crisis... Why, then must Pacific leaders be in such a hurry to show support for Cop31? What is the rush?”

The statement also suggested that Australia’s security ties with its neighbours were contingent on genuine climate action, noting that our government’s plans to counter China’s interests in the region made Pacific Island nations feel “less like players and more like the chessboard”, saying that “perhaps it is time for the Pacific ... to upend the chessboard entirely.”

The calls for Australia to end subsidies for fossil fuels and stop opening new coal and gas projects continued at the UN’s Climate Week

Conference, held in New York in September, and at the recent Pacific Nations Forum in the Cook Islands.

One of the many demands the Pacific Nations should and are making of us, in return for supporting our COP31 bid, is to refuse consent for the weapons manufacturers and the coal and gas companies to have information booths and lobbyists at the event. That includes Santos and its very dodgy carbon-capture-and-storage project, which featured at last year’s COP gathering.

They are also concerned about the potential undermining of the Treaty of Raratonga, the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, if US and UK nuclear-armed warships are stationed in Australian ports or at the planned new Tindal based in the NT that will be able to accommodate up to six US B-52 bombers.

Pacific island nations will also expect Australia to contribute to a new global fund to address loss and damage from climate change. The budget for subsidising coal and gas companies should directly be transferred to this fund.

The next three years provide an excellent opportunity for all of us to support our Pacific Island neighbours by holding Australian politicians accountable for dramatic cuts to emissions

The Pacific nations deserve more than our condescending weasel words. They quite rightly demand that Australia acknowledge that we really are “family”, that they face immediate existential threats and that our geopolitical sabre-rattling is making matters worse.



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Drugs are good, we need them!

by Michael Balderstone,
President Nimbin HEMP
Embassy & Legalise Cannabis
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I quit the cushy job with a stockbroker in London because I had to find out if there was a God or was it just dog eat dog. The company had flown me to London with a stopover in Bangkok, which was a mistake on their behalf as it was a total eye-opener for me.

Next I was in London helping Suisse Banks make even more money. It's easy for the rich to get richer while the poor are just focussed on surviving. The inequality stalked me, and as well, I was waking up to the environmental train crash capitalism was leading us into.

Most of the next decade I wandered the East searching for the answer. Drugs were critical in the search. Not that I looked for them, more they found me along the way. Drugs have always been critical I learnt, in the old cultures, religions, rituals and spiritual searches, possibly behind all religions!

Drugs were used in the old cultures for meeting God. There was never a question about whether God existed or not back then!

Firstly hashish in Afghanistan which had me hallucinating as well as landing me in a state of mind I had no idea of before. Then mushrooms in Bali which blew

all the covers off and showed me Jesus was talking about exactly that, a state of mind, a state of being. And we don't need to worry about dying!

I had mescaline in Mexico and everyone turned into extraordinary cartoon characters of themselves. I discovered Walt Disney and his brother did the same then came home and started drawing the characters they saw.

I kept going back to wandering in India which was accepting of strange Englishmen looking for spirituality. God was obvious to them it seemed, as well as karma and reincarnation, but they'd been taught that. I'd been taught do the wrong thing and you burn in hell forever.

I hung out with sadhus smoking chillums, did Vipassana courses in the jungle of Ceylon, trekked to all the legendary Himalayan pilgrimage sights, visited multiple gurus, dropped amazing acid coming in from California to hippies who burnt their passports when they landed in India. Those were the days!

It wasn't all about drugs at all, and I didn't take them casually, but they were critical in changing my mind, in helping me see that everything is connected and showing me Love! Drugs showed me I had to learn how to love.

It seems drugs are critical in showing people the Truth



and have been for as long as we have any history on. Hence the importance of ending prohibition and the drug war which is less than a century old, tiny in the big picture.

Hence my passion for the drug laws to change as they seem critical in changing consciousness, which in turn might save our existence on the planet!

On one trip I was hanging out in Colombo at the Buddhist Temple and got to know an old monk who spoke good English which of course made all the difference. One day he says to me, "Do you want to see how Buddha got enlightened?"

Of course I did. He leads me down into the bowels of the temple, pulls out an ancient key, opens a cupboard and lifts out an enormous heavy old book.

He reads me the Sanskrit writing I guess it was, about Buddha fasting. Not sure how long he'd been fasting but I knew fasting. I'd fasted for

thirty days once and it was transforming. Your body stops getting hungry after a couple of days and then starts throwing out the worst toxins first in an amazingly clever healing process. I used enemas to get out black gooey disgusting stuff that I guessed was chemicals. At the end of it I had no chance of fitting into our society. My mind was full of blue sky. I went back to India again.

There were simple drawings in the book to go with the story. Buddha is under the Banyan fig tree which is dropping fruit all around him as he sits cross-legged meditating. Some stories say he sat for 49 days!

There are many birds in the drawings, eating the figs, blackbirds. They're getting drunk on the fermented fruit, falling over, carrying on. Buddha picks up some of the figs, eats them, and gets enlightened.

It always made sense to me how he realised his true nature, as the Buddhists call it.



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Where is my jolly self?

by Antoinette Ensbeey

With Xmas just around the corner, we may hear a jingle in our hearts that sounds not as joyful as expected.

The festive season is not a jolly time for everyone. Can we really look forward to something that brings with it the reality of family situations and relationships, the remembrance of people no longer with us, the memory of failed celebrations in the past, or just the burden of getting it all together in time? Let alone the gift-giving!

Christmas can wear on our emotions. In fact, it is a sensitive time because of the great expectations we attach to it.

The dictate of the Consumer Culture makes it hard to focus on values that can't be bought with money. We know well that fulfilling all our kids' material dreams isn't the way to true happiness. We are aware that if we could, we'd rather have our wish for peace in this world granted than buying gifts to buy short-term harmony, at least within our own families. What gives real and deep satisfaction?

It's a struggle to be responsive to the outer demands that this time of year brings if we have our own inner needs pulling at our souls. The mountain of tasks and chores before us leaves us incomplete and



perhaps restless especially if our personal outlook is somewhat compromised.

For many reasons this was not an easy year. Overwhelm is a word that comes to mind and I personally feel the growing need for restful moments and relaxed times.

What's helpful is to cultivate the art of self-reliance. In the midst of chaos, our excellent ability to fully rely on our own prowess is a steadfast anchor. Don't worry, you've got it! Just shake off the confused thinking and take to the steering wheel of your own life.

Even in small batches, self-reliance does wonders. It can lift your feeling of powerlessness.

Practise self-reliance and you're less sensitive to criticism. You learn to appreciate your responsible self.

That brings us to faith. By orchestrating your life with everything and everyone in it, you regain faith in your abilities. Follow your heart and stay clear of the tangles of the daily routine. If you muddle things up, you will always feel you're behind the time and all your newly-found self-reliance flies out the window. Take on less and move step by step.

Another magic word is self-worth, not to be confused with selfishness. Recognise and admit your worthiness as a valuable human being. It strengthens your character and makes you more resilient against stress. Self-worth also confirms the right to be treated with respect, and as a welcome side effect you treat others with due respect.

Always stick to your inner core and never forget your worthiness. You can start by fulfilling your natural needs from enjoying a lovely cuppa to writing a letter to a long-lost

friend to taking your partner/kids/dog/self to a great spot in nature.

Wholesome experiences in the middle of the Christmas preparations and beyond are a way to cultivate self-affirmation of who you really are and what you want most in life.

In our Influence Culture we are not much encouraged to innately trust in our own capabilities though these are an immense resource for building resilience, the springiness of our minds and elasticity of our brains. Self-doubt can numb the mind and can create brain fog because we switch off.

You are called on to be the leading person of your own life. You are encouraged to fall comfortably back on yourself and fully embrace your worthiness. Nurture that feeling and have a jolly good time.

If you feel the need to talk, I'm offering low-cost counselling sessions this month. For more info, go to: healing.echo.net.au/listing/mother-love-therapy

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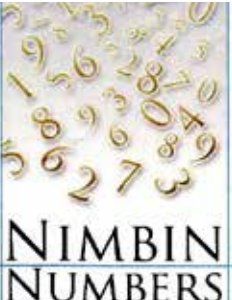
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The conundrum

The conundrum which is the home buy-back scheme continues to perplex advocates and critics alike – with house offers for virtually identical cases varying by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

As an example, I have it on the best authority that one two-bedroom house was purchased for \$610k while I know of another six-bedroom house offered just \$470k.

In some streets the offers have been denied to one neighbour and given to another on the same flood height.

The divide and conquer attitude that has besmirched this endeavour since its inception was cloaked in a “case by case” individually-tailored lie; with people required to sign non-disclosure agreements... and they’ve proven as watertight as the very housing they’ve purchased.

Also it appears that some of the agreements have extra clauses and some don’t. Some people have kept an option of moving the home they’ve already sold – and if you’re in the process of selling up, make sure you include that in your agreement.

The million dollar question is, will affordable lands become available for these flood affected homes, or will they be demolished or and this is actually happening – will the houses just be rented out as public housing.



Revenge of the Loon by Laurie Axtens

It could be just moving out one set of people and popping in another set of even lower economic level renters. Ones who don’t own their own rescue boats.

Anyway, so some people have adored this scheme while others have their noses seriously out of joint. And some are at greater risk than before the scheme started. And I don’t see that it’s rectifiable.

However, we should learn from it... we need to take charge of this if there is another catastrophic flood in the near future.

We need it to be dealt with in a class action style; to ensure a just outcome for all. No smoke, no mirrors.

A moment

by S Sorrensen

The news is always bad. Gaza, the referendum. It’s heart-breaking to hear children screaming louder than exploding bombs. It’s painful to see Dutton trying to do sincere.

The news makes me depressed, and when I’m depressed I find refuge in drinking. I’m not talking kombucha; I’m talking a lively Hunter Valley shiraz with subtle cinnamon notes.

Drinking gives respite. Spending time with friends also depressed by the news and also sheltering in a lively shiraz is happy time away from the awful reality. We tell stories, make jokes, make incredible sense, shrink the universe to a spinning galaxy of luck and privilege, and stumble to bed.

Next day, the stories and jokes are forgotten as sobriety winces at me from a rising sun, but the bad news lingers like a headache, exacerbated by my compulsive on-line look at *The Guardian* or *Al Jazeera* or *ABC News*.

(Despite its attractions, I avoid getting my news from social media – I’m not yet convinced reconciliation is divisive, wind turbines kill babies, smart cities are



stupid, or the world is flat.)

The depressing morning news only encourages another evening’s respite with a lively shiraz. But alcohol is a depressant. Adding cinnamon-noted depression to your bad-news depression just makes for a more complex depression requiring even more lively respite. Oh dear. What to do?

Maybe, if the news is depressing, just turn it off, right? The bad world disappears, right? It’s just noise. So, this morning, I woke up, made coffee, grabbed my phone and didn’t check the news. I listened to JJ Cale instead: ‘Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide’.

I’m in Cessnock, which is in the Hunter Valley, which is a huge coal pit with a grapevine around it. Over 10 million tonnes of coal a

month pass through the Port of Newcastle and out to the world. Ugly. Immoral.

No, wait. Today, I’m not doing negative. It’s lovely. The pretty Hunter vineyards have trendy restaurants and chic bars and organic cuisine and EV charging stations and lively shiraz and happy people – it’s a wonderful world.

Without news, I’m re-crafting my own special, um, reality. I’m almost feeling happy. (Yes, in Cessnock.) The sun is shining, potential afternoon rain tinting the few clouds. (Or is it coal dust?)

Walking down Vincent Street to the coffee joint, I avoid looking into the newsagent’s – a headline might jump out at me: ‘Oil company CEO to host climate summit’ or ‘Trump re-elected’. That would

puncture my bubble. What does one do in Cessnock? Coffee and pie, of course. In a little café I find a table and order both. As I sit down, my hand automatically reaches to the rear pocket of my jeans to extract my phone. It’s an automatic thing, a fluid well-practised motion: sit, phone, news. But wait. It’s no-news day, so, just in time, I stop myself reaching for my phone as I sit – and I sit on it. A young woman appears with my coffee and pie. I smile at her, pretending I’m not an idiot sitting on his phone. But looking at her, I see a TV behind her, lurking next to the pie menu. Oh no. The news has found me. “Three degrees global heating predicted” says the banner running across the bottom of the screen. Nowhere to hide. The grapevine cannot conceal the coal pit. Three degrees? The crisis is real. And there’s not enough shiraz in all the Hunter to drown the sorrow. What to do? Nowhere to run. I rescue my phone from under my bum. I look up ‘People’s Blockade of the World’s Largest Coal Port.’ Okay. I’m going to Newcastle for that. I order a kombucha.

Muddy tracks

by Theresa Mason

Students of TAFE Lismore’s Diploma of Ceramics course recently held an exhibition of their work this year.

The exhibition title, *Muddy Tracks*, is an acknowledgment of the physical and emotional journey of students, following last year’s devastating record-breaking flood.

It also marks the course’s first full year of operation at Southern Cross University.

The exhibition features work from first and second year students, highlighting the passion and exploration each student has followed in their ceramic practice.

With around 15 exhibiting students, *Muddy Tracks* includes wheel-thrown, slip cast, sculpture, slab work, *kurinuki*, functional ware and mixed media work.

Decorative techniques include *sgraffito*, *neriage*, *obvara*, *saggars*, textural and colour experimentation with oxides, stains and glaze.

From traditional and contemporary functional ware to *wabi sabi* and *Skangarooovian* funk-like protest ceramics, *Muddy Tracks* represented an innovative, playful and creative approach to ceramics in the Northern Rivers.



'Pierced light' by Paola Zlatar

by Jagad Samuel

Flourish Sanctuary, nestled five minutes from the Nimbin township, continues to be a thriving place for spiritual exploration and growth. We are dedicated to fostering mindfulness, sustainability, and a deep connection.

Japan Cultural Exchange: Bridging Cultures, Building Connections

From 1st to 17th November, two members of the Flourish Sanctuary community took part in a Spiritual Exchange, an initiative that transcended borders to exchange insights. For a detailed look into this cultural immersion, refer to the separate article.

Grail Rites retreat

A highlight in recent weeks was the Grail Retreat organised by the remarkable team at SheMatrix on 21st and 22nd October.

The weekend offered participants a journey of self-discovery, weaving together elements of spirituality and personal empowerment.

On-going activities

• *Monday Morning Meditations with Jagad* (10 to 11am): Jagad, a guiding figure at Flourish Sanctuary, leads participants through meditations that set the tone for a harmonious week. These sessions provide a

sacred space for reflection and inner peace.

• *Social Dharma* (Thursdays 8 to 10am): At the heart of Flourish is the quest for mindful living. Social Dharma sessions offer a dedicated time for individuals to explore mindfulness and compassion within community.

• *Healing Sounds with Michael Deanshaw* (Thursdays morning, 10.30 to 11.30am): Michael offers rejuvenating sound healing sessions. These gatherings offer participants a profound sense of relaxation and well-being. Don’t miss the chance to recharge your spirit.

• *Sustainable Garden Project*: Flourish Sanctuary is on a mission to create a sustainable food supply from its garden. Join in this eco-conscious effort and be a part of the community’s commitment to environmental stewardship.

• *Jagad’s NimFM Show*: Tune in to Nim-FM (102.3 FM) every Monday from 7.30 to 9am to catch Jagad’s spiritually inspired show. Featuring his favourite music and intriguing beliefs, it’s a unique opportunity to listen to the spiritual heartbeat of Flourish.

• *New community member opportunities*: Flourish Sanctuary is still on the look-out for passionate individuals interested in



At the Raga Retreat

spirituality, sustainability and community. Joining the community as a resident or a WWOOFer will provide a hands-on opportunity to contribute to Flourish’s mission.

What’s on the horizon?

Flourish Sanctuary isn’t just a snapshot of the present; it’s a vision for the future. Here’s a sneak peek at what lies ahead:

• *New Year Festival for World Peace in 2024*: See separate article in this month’s *Nimbin GoodTimes* for details on Flourish’s ambitious New Year Festival dedicated to global harmony.

• *Raga Music Retreat* (27th December to 3rd January): Embrace the transformative power of music at the Raga Music Retreat, curated by Shivam Rath. Details of this immersive experience on the website.

• *Social Dharma Retreat* (19th-

22nd January): In the spirit of communal harmony, Flourish Sanctuary will host a Social Dharma Retreat in January. Participants can expect a unique opportunity to learn and practice the art of living harmoniously within a community.

Flourish Sanctuary invites all those seeking spiritual enrichment, community connection, and a sustainable way of living to explore the diverse offerings. It’s a haven for those seeking mindfulness, compassion, and connection. Join us on this path of self-discovery and communal growth.

For the most current information and to express your interest in upcoming events, visit: www.flourishsanctuary.com.au Your journey of flourishing awaits!

Please also feel free to make contact if you would like to run your own event or retreat.

Jimmy Willing & The Real Gone Hick-Ups – off to the South Pacific

This December, Jimmy Willing & The Real Gone Hick-Ups are off to the South Pacific to entertain passengers on a cruise ship called *The Brilliance of The Seas*.

The gig is a floating festival called *Cruisin’ Country* and they are the first Country Punk band to have ever been allowed up the gangplank.

Jimmy and his band are performing on a bill with country music legend John Williamson and up-and-coming stars The Buckleys, among many others.

This comes hot on the heels of a performance at *The Dashville Skyline* festival in the Hunter Valley, where they wowed the crowd and caused jaws to drop when Jimmy – now an old man with a snowy white beard – dropped to his knees like James Brown and pogoed like Sid Vicious.

Some of the press photos show him airborne four feet



At Dashville Skyline Photo: Swamp House



‘Banksias in a Blue and White Vase’

above the stage!

Says Jimmy, “We are a tiny little act from rural Australia but we made that crowd scream and shout. It was our second go at Dashville, having played there in 2019 and it was a delight to realise that we had made friends and fans.

“One eleven-year old boy in particular made my day. In 2019 his mother had bought him a Real Gone Hick-Ups T Shirt, which he had now

outgrown so he spent his pocket money on a flash new one announcing to his mum, ‘Jimmy Willing is Iggy Pop crossed with Ned Kelly’.

“I couldn’t pay a professional publicist for publicity that good.”

Not only is Jimmy’s band going places, but his painting career is blossoming too. Willing’s paintings are now selling for large sums of money and he’s having trouble keeping up with the

popular demand.

Willing entered the arts arena at age 16 and he is now 59, so after 43 years of toil it’s a wonderful thing to see one the Northern Rivers’ hardest working artists being given a go.

If you want to see what all the fuss is about, Jimmy Willing & The Real Gone Hick-Ups are playing the Hanging Rock Hall on New Years Eve, Sunday 31st December, 2023.

Arts-A-Fair – a celebration of 2480 creativity



Flourish Gallery/ Studio will throw open its doors for its first Arts-A-Fair 2480 Art Market on Saturday 9th December.

With more than 20 stalls showcasing local talented artists and artisans from all around the 2480 postcode, the event is an opportunity to support creative from Lismore and surrounds while seeking unique and ethical Christmas gifts.

“This art market promises to be a delightful blend of artistic creations, Christmas cheer, and the relaxed vibes of summertime,” said Flourish Director and South Lismore Artist, Jeht

Burgoyne (pictured). “Don’t miss the opportunity to support local artists while enjoying a festive evening at Flourish Gallery/Studios. Make sure to mark your calendar for this unique event!” she said.

The event will run between 3 and 7pm on Saturday, 9th December indoors and outside Flourish Studio/Gallery at 15 Casino Street, South Lismore.

The market is free to

enter and there will be live buskers, delicious Mexican food, artisan gelato and authentic cannoli also available.

All are welcome. For more information check out the Facebook event page or follow Flourish Art on the socials.

For more information, please contact the Director at Flourish Gallery/Studio, Jeht Burgoyne on 0427-545-398 or email: jehtburgoyne@yahoo.com.au

New album released



Local songwriter David Davies (pictured) has released a new album of his original songs, backed by a wonderfully eclectic and highly talented group of musicians.

The album, *Liberate Your Blues* was recorded in the foothills of the Border Ranges at Cooe Studio in Barkers Vale.

This body of work reflects a range of musical styles from blues/rock to folk. Every song tells a story, with passion. Some are personal, some have a strong social justice theme, and all have driving rhythms, great vocals and a brilliant variety of instrumentation.

Lyrics, such as “Looking for my soul in the lost and found” present a visual image we can all relate to in these troubled and often confusing times. Others express a deep need for real and creative social/political change.

The band, The SKP’s is comprised of David Davies, Roo Friend, Simon Dundon, Phil Levy, Gareth Bjaaland, Sarah Stando, Bob Dooley, Daniel Szklarz, Joe Landers and Gahan Gilfedder.

Liberate Your Blues says it all, as the SKP’s have escaped the isolation inflicted by the global pandemic, and come together to record a great original album.

Listen to it at: daviddavies1.bandcamp.com



by Mon

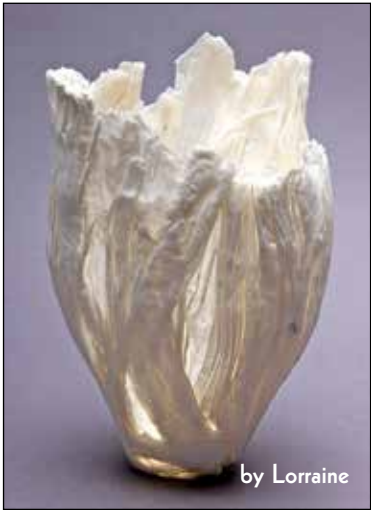
Vitrifying

Experience the artistic evolution of Northern Rivers TAFE Diploma of Ceramics graduates with their exhibition *Vitrifying*.

Six students showcase an array of wheel-thrown, sculptural, slip-cast, and slab-built ceramics.

The exhibition runs from Thursday, 14th December until Friday, 22nd December at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery at 44 Cherry Street, Ballina. Doors open at 10am.

Opening night is Thursday, 14th December, 5–7pm.



by Lorraine

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