



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

As everyone knows, the Northern Rivers is experiencing a housing crisis, which has been made worse by the 2022 natural disaster. The crisis is not just a statistic or a news headline, it's a current reality that affects countless individuals and families in Lismore and beyond. As we grapple with soaring prices, limited availability,

# Housing expo to help with challenges

and the stress of securing a stable place to call home, it's crucial we take steps to address this issue. This is why the Council is holding the Lismore Housing Expo.

The Expo will offer something to cater for the needs of everyone currently exploring housing options.

Navigating the available options and processes can sometimes be challenging, but having all this information along with expert guidance in one location is a valuable opportunity for our community.

Stallholders will showcase the wide range of services and resources available to help people through the challenges of the current housing situation.

From tiny homes and modular homes to house removals, house raising,

the two-rooms project and recovery support services.

It will be held on Saturday, 11th November from 10am to 2pm at the South Lismore Bowling Club.

For more details visit: [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) or call Council on 6625-0500.

## Roadworks

I am happy to report that works are proceeding well at the two landslip sites on Nimbin Road.

At the site about 1 km from the village, our road crews have recently completed the placement of fine concrete blocks and backfilled behind the retaining wall.

The next steps are to backfill the underside of the road pavement layers and complete the placement of the culvert outlet.



Once completed, the road pavement construction will start, along with earthworks

around the retaining wall. At the other major site about 4 km from the

village (pictured), 180 piles have been installed with the remaining piles to be completed at the beginning of November.

Concrete pouring for the first section of the pile cap was commenced late last month, with works currently underway for the first section of the 50m-long blinding layer.

## Nimbin walk

And lastly, senior Council staff and members of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce did their regular six-monthly walk through Nimbin last week.

It was a friendly and productive walk with lots of things discussed, including the new BBQ and water tap in Allsopp Park, as well as the now regular cleaning of bins.

## We want real climate action and we need it now

A group of international scientists released a State of the Climate Report last week that describes life on our planet as "imperilled", with 2023 set to be the hottest year in 100,000 years and 20 of 35 identified planetary vital signs in the extremes.

At the same time, the NSW Labor Government's climate change laws are before the Parliament that if passed as is, will take us backwards on the targets that are already set in the State. This is deeply saddening, but it's the truth.

Labor's climate change bill seeks to legislate a 50% reduction on 2005 emissions by 2030 and net zero increase in emissions on 2005 levels by 2050.

In budget estimates in October, I asked the Premier why his Government is seeking to legislate targets that don't include a mid-term target when the current regulations set by the former coalition government require a 70% reduction on 2005 emissions by 2035.

I was frankly alarmed when he disputed the existence of this target, despite it being written clearly in black and white! Net zero emissions by 2050 with no mid-term target



by Sue Higginson,  
NSW Greens MLA

is dangerous and does not set a trend for the transition that is consistent with human survival.

Fortunately, there is an inquiry into Labor's bill, which has heard evidence from witnesses that we need more ambitious targets and that the bill should go further than merely setting unambitious targets.

There has been clear and consistent evidence that you can't have a climate change law that doesn't mention the fossil fuel sector and a stop to any new coal or gas projects. The bill makes no mention of the new coal and gas projects in the pipeline or that we are industrially logging our public native forests.

One security and risk expert gave evidence that setting a net zero target by 2050 is institutionalising failure and kicking the can down the road. The scientific evidence is compelling, we need to set net zero targets that are proportional to the severity of the problems we face, not based on an election commitment or political convenience.

In reality, what the bill presents, as one legal expert suggested, is the establishment of ornamental net zero targets, that will allow the state of NSW to continue extracting, burning and exporting coal for as long as it pleases.

While the bill seeks to also establish a net zero commission which will provide advice and recommendations to the Minister on emissions reductions, the bill in its current form does nothing to actually reduce emissions or reach any targets.

NSW has very high per capita emissions and we are home to the world's largest coal port. Labor's climate bill is silent on this and doesn't contemplate the emissions being exported in coal which are almost the equivalent of our entire national domestic emissions combined.

The Narrabri coal seam gas project will still go ahead under the proposed law, despite it being labelled a climate bomb by leading scientists.

I feel like I am in a parallel reality. I am chairing the inquiry into Labor's climate bill. We are in a room with no windows to show the blaring hot October sun outside; there are no young people who will carry the burdens of the Government's lack of ambition and inaction.

October has seen an early start to the fire season at the same time we had a cyclone in the Coral Sea for the first time ever. It seems so disconnected to the reality on the ground.

Here in the Northern Rivers we know what is in store, when our rainforests caught fire, then our towns disappeared, our hillsides slipped and we lost so much and changed forever.

The Greens will do all that we can to make Labor go further and faster on climate action because we can and we must do much better.

You too can tell the Premier and Minister you want them to go further and faster on climate action here on my website: [www.suehigginson.org/labor\\_backward\\_on\\_climate](http://www.suehigginson.org/labor_backward_on_climate)

## Landslip recovery workshop in Mullum

by Ivy Young

Landslips can be a devastating experience for landholders, impacting not only the land but the emotional well-being of those affected.

In an effort to provide support, practical information, and a sense of community, Landcare networks from across our region are collaborating to present 'Reclaiming Stability: Navigating Landslip Recovery Together' on Saturday 25th November, 9.30am – 4pm at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall.

This unique event is a gathering of those who have faced landslips and wish to gather knowledge and strategies for their journey of recovery, repair, and resilience. Attendees will have the opportunity to:

1. Gain exclusive access to landslip prevention resources: The event will feature the launch of the Landcare NSW landslip prevention videos. These videos serve as comprehensive guides, offering practical insights into landslip remediation and prevention.
2. Connect with experts: Landholders will be able to engage with seasoned experts in landslip remediation during in-depth Q&A sessions. This provides an opportunity to receive tailored advice and solutions for their unique situations.
3. Real-life case studies: Real stories from those who are navigating landslip recovery will be shared, offering inspiration and practical wisdom to others facing similar challenges.
4. Find a community of support: Building a strong community is at the heart of this event. Attendees will have the chance to connect with others who understand the emotional and practical toll of landslips, sharing experiences and offering mutual support.

This event is an opportunity for attendees to expand their knowledge of landslip remediation techniques as well as meet and network with others who have shared similar experiences from catastrophic flood events.

Registrations are essential: <https://events.humanitix.com/reclaiming-stability-navigating-landslip-recovery-together>

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# Strengthening drug treatment and diversion programs

For years and years I have been advocating for a sensible approach to tackling drug use within our communities, and for just as long the issue was seen as a can to be kicked down the road for some future government to solve.

That's why I was pleased by the Government's October announcement to expand and strengthen drug diversion programs in NSW by enacting the Justice Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, with the new arrangements expected to commence in early 2024.

Under this initiative, police will be given the ability to issue up to two on-the-spot Criminal Infringement Notices (CINs), which are \$400 fines, to adults for personal drug use and small quantity drug possession offences.

People who receive a CIN will be encouraged to complete a tailored drug and alcohol intervention, and if they do complete it, their fine will be regarded as having been paid.

Although it is still an offence to possess and use illicit drugs, most low-level drug offenders who attend court receive a fine, yet don't receive any incentive to take up health advice. It's just common sense that if you divert people early to health and education services, they are less likely to re-offend.

However, the scheme will not apply to those involved in supplying or trafficking drugs, producing drugs, who have large quantities of drugs in their possession or who have previously been convicted for dealing drugs.

The scheme will bring NSW into line with other



by Janelle Saffin MP  
State Member for Lismore

states and territories. It is anticipated the scheme will divert thousands of people away from our court system each year, including hundreds of First Nations people.

## Taking action on climate change

I often get asked what the NSW Government is doing about climate change, and my answer is that after a lost decade of inaction it takes time to turn the Titanic around, but we are now well on our way.

One of Labor's major election commitments was to set firm targets for cutting the state's greenhouse gas emissions as part of our contribution to keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

Not only did we introduce those targets – cutting emissions at least 50% by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2050 – but they are now set to be enshrined in legislation, following the recent introduction of the Climate Change Bill into NSW Parliament.

When passed, the *Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023* will mean that NSW will have to achieve those targets by law.

The Bill will also establish an Independent Net Zero Commission to monitor the state's progress towards hitting these targets. The Commission will report annually to ensure parliamentary transparency and accountability.

Another key part of the Bill is to set an explicit objective to make NSW more resilient to our changing climate, and to put in guiding principles for action to address changing climate.

This is a key consideration as we find ourselves in the midst of a fire season which has already spread its tentacles into the Northern Rivers.

## Get ready for bushfires

The Rural Fire Service has been urging households, landowners and businesses to get bushfire prepared, and that message is being backed up by a new preparedness campaign called Get Ready NSW.

The campaign addresses a range of scenarios including:

- Understanding bushfire risk;
- Preparing homes for a bushfire season;
- Preparing businesses for a bushfire;
- Managing pets and livestock;
- Finding evacuation centres;
- Understanding storm risk;
- Preparing homes for a storm;
- Information on heatwaves;
- Finding support after a natural disaster.

The Get Ready NSW website contains all the campaign information, along with links to emergency services, and can be accessed by visiting: [www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/get-ready](http://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/get-ready)

While back, I announced \$117,647 had been granted to the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

This helped upgrade and expand the Nimbin Chamber's website and the Visit Nimbin website.

It was for integrating both, to ensure consistency and remove duplication.

## On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan  
Federal Member for Page

The website promotes the interest of members and community by fostering the economic and cultural well-

being of the Nimbin area. It can be found here: [www.nimbinaustralia.com.au](http://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au) See also: [www.visitnimbin.com.au](http://www.visitnimbin.com.au)

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce aims to encourage, promote, support and assist local businesses, as well as events and workshops.

I'm always looking to support our local community.



The Green Bank's Kylie Cain currently features on the Chamber of Commerce home page

# Hogan secures \$72 million for Page but nil for Nimbin

by Andy Gough

Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan has welcomed the announcement of over \$72 million in funding for 26 projects in the Page electorate to repair or build back essential public and community assets damaged or destroyed by last year's flooding event.

Co-funded under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), the funding will be delivered through the Infrastructure Betterment Fund and Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package – Community Assets Program.

Mr Hogan said, "This funding will see many of our community assets including schools, parks, walkways,

community buildings and recreational facilities rebuilt and repaired to a higher standard, so we are better prepared for future floods.

"We can never forget that our region was hit by Australia's biggest natural disaster. And while this progress is welcome, there is much more work to be done."

"Thousands of people, 19 months on, are still not properly back in their homes. They are in caravans, staying with family or friends, or scraping together whatever they can. There is still no clear plan on what is going to happen for these families and/or their homes."

"The money promised for the Resilient Homes Program by the Federal and State Governments was

cut in half. Many of those hoping to get funding for a buyback, relocation, house raising or retrofit now do not know what the future holds."

"Funding intended for flood mitigation has been spent on projects that will not reduce the risk of future floods. We need a greater focus on engineering solutions to lower the height of future floods to keep our community and businesses safe," Kevin's media release said.

Projects funded in Hogan's announcement ranged from as large as \$9,974,747 for Lismore Ambulance Station and \$7,000,000 for Lismore/Goonellabah Fire Station down to \$120,000 for Bonalbo Pre-School.

But there was nothing in the announcement for Nimbin.



**TAMARA SMITH MP**  
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

# FULLY FUND THE FLOOD RECOVERY

State and federal Labor governments have found \$11.1 billion dollars to subsidise the fossil fuel industry over the last financial year.

And yet, thousands of flood survivors are still waiting for the promised \$0.7 billion for the Resilient Homes Program to pay for buybacks, retrofits and house-raises for flood-affected homes.

**If we can afford to waste billions of dollars on coal and gas, we can afford to fully fund the flood recovery.**



**SCAN HERE to sign**  
the petition or go to  
[tamarasmith.org.au/FloodFunding](http://tamarasmith.org.au/FloodFunding)



Authorised by Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina. Funded using parliamentary entitlements



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**Nimbin Central School reunion**



Over 110 people attended this year's reunion with a Sunday lunch at Nimbin Bowling Club. The former students expressed their delight at meeting up with old mates and enjoying reminiscences. So much so that there are plans to repeat it next year.

## Concerns over conflicts of interest and respect at Lismore Council

by Ros Irwin

Lismore Council's October meeting was, in my opinion, the worst I have seen, not only of this Council but any I experienced over my 18 years on Council.

Whilst there were differences that were difficult to experience during the Gates mayoralty in particular, never have I seen the disrespect and rudeness demonstrated by the majority of the Krieg team to both members of the public speaking on issues in public access and especially to Councillors Bird, Ekins and Guise.

I frankly fear for Lismore's future if five Krieg team councillors and Cr Rob are re-elected at the 2024 election.

It seems they're already preparing for this. I don't see it as a coincidence that in September the Lismore App refused to post my blogs, therefore preventing members of the community gaining deeper insights into what is really happening at Council.

Nor is the fact that in the mayor's last monthly report to Council there were photos of Crs Hall, Gordon, Bing and Jensen with him at several events he attended as Council's representative.

It's called building a profile for councillors who, with the exception of Cr Gordon, have been barely vocal at council meetings and possibly not widely known beyond their own networks.

There were several items on the business paper that raised questions for me, and overall I found some processes in the meeting deeply troubling, not just for me but for anyone who cares about due process, transparency and local democracy in Lismore, and I am concentrating on the Santin quarry as it exemplifies my concerns.

I advise those who are interested to access the archived video-streaming of the first October meeting at: <https://webcast.lismore.nsw.gov.au/archive/video23-1010.phps> to assess for themselves what happened.

Cr Gordon, in disclosing a conflict of interest on this issue said, "Everyone in Lismore knows that I have a friendship with Michael Santin going back many years, but it is not financial and not significant."

In doing this he ignored the Council's Code of Conduct, Clause 5(2) which states that "A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter."

I'm one of many people at the meeting and those who have contacted me since, who certainly perceived Cr Gordon had a significant conflict of interest and should have absented himself from the chamber when it was discussed. Crs Hall, Jensen, Bing, Rob and the mayor



Photo courtesy The Lismore App

then declared the same interest as not financial and not significant despite their acknowledging they knew him.

Possibly the most contentious aspect of this issue was that the staff recommendation, in the business paper was to refuse it, but when the residents who were to address the council arrived, they discovered that 2.5 hours before an alternative recommendation to approve the quarry for a further 12 years with 44 conditions had been provided to the Councillors.

Apparently it was because the planners became aware, in a private councillor briefing, that 'some councillors' wanted to approve the development. Whilst the planners still recommended refusal, they were concerned that if those councillors approved it anyway, it could be without any conditions, which would be detrimental to the residents and Council.

The public forum was therefore understandably tense, despite the mayor reminding everyone they should be respectful, and it boiled over with the last speaker. She said she had met with a councillor who said he had met with Mr Santin, as had other councillors, and started alluding to possible conflicts of interest.

Cr Rob called a point of order and, clearly concerned she would be closed down, her voice started to rise. She continued speaking, with Cr Rob saying "Blah, blah, blah" in a very loud voice.

At this point the mayor stood, told Cr Rob to be quiet and her to stop talking. This she didn't do but walked back to her seat thanking Cr Rob for "keeping them honest", at which point the mayor said he would order her to leave the room if she continued and, as she still said something after she sat down, the mayor said he would clear the gallery if anything else was said. She and her partner then left the chamber saying, "Blah, blah, blah."

The mayor doesn't have the right to clear the gallery, but only the individuals "misbehaving". Thankfully, this was the end of a public access almost guaranteed to be contentious, heated and in my

opinion not demonstrating respect and integrity by some Councillors.

When Council moved to discuss this issue Cr Gordon shot to his feet and said, "I want it noted that I am speaking for the motion" then sat down. Observers of Council would understand the intention by the Krieg team plus one to use the two speakers for and two speakers against the clause in the Code of Meeting Practice to silence those opposing their motions. They sometimes argue this is to save time but is, in my opinion, disrespectful and undemocratic.

The shenanigans on this attempt by particularly Crs Gordon and Rob really have to be seen to be believed. My entire blog is available at Lismore Council Watch on FB, but telling is the fact that not one of the Krieg councillors nor Cr Rob had the decency to explain to the residents, who have had to live with this quarry over the past 20 years, why they would approve it.

When Cr Ekins stood to speak against the application, she revealed she had received advice from the Governance Officer that she had received a copy of a donation Mr. Santin had made to the Green's campaign at the 2021 election.

While Cr Rob and the mayor attempted to prevent her discussing this 'allegation', she pointed out that as the Governance Officer had advised her of this there was evidence that it had occurred.

Indeed, since the meeting, Mr. Santin, who is not known for his Green credentials, confirmed this, clearly with the express purpose of having her and Cr Guise removed from any debate on this issue. If that was the intention, it certainly backfired, as they had been warned about it and the donation had been refunded. For me, such a grubby attempt to silence councillors should simply not be tolerated in a civil society.

The motion was approved by Crs Gordon, Krieg, Hall, Jensen, Bing and Rob and opposed by Crs Bird, Ekins, Guise and Colby, who has on several occasions voted differently to the Krieg team plus one. I found the discussion of this issue most concerning, as apart from being disrespectful, to me it demonstrated a lack of commitment to transparency by most of Lismore's current councillors.

Crs Bird, Guise and Ekins moved a rescission motion, but instead of following normal practice for it to be heard at the November meeting, it was to be heard on the following Wednesday, presumably because some councillors had already been approved not to attend.

It was then approved with Crs Krieg, Gordon, Jensen, Hall, Rob, Colby and Cook voting for it. In my mind this issue foreshadows exactly what the community can expect of this council in the future.



# Ballina Council delegates planning decisions to rural property owners

by Cr Jeff Johnson

The decision at the October Council meeting to effectively stop an on-going consultation process and to do away with environmental/conservation zones in the rural areas in the Ballina Shire goes against the advice from Senior Council Staff as well as advice provided by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

This decision will affect over 2300 hectares of land that includes wetlands, coastal areas, endangered ecological communities (EEC's), forested areas, scenic escarpment as well as rural farming properties.

This whole process started when a small group of rural land-owners (approximately 10) turned up at a previous Council meeting and questioned the need for environmental zones in the rural areas of the Ballina Shire and suggested an opt-in approach be implemented.

It was suggested that rural property owners know what's best for their land and are best placed to determine the most appropriate zone for their properties.

At the next meeting Cr Bruem (Team Cadwallader) moved this very proposal that was supported by the other three members of the Team Cadwallader group, as well as one other Councillor, who himself owned a rural property. That resulted in a 5-5 vote which meant that the chair of the meeting, mayor Sharon Cadwallader, gained an extra vote to break the deadlock.

This 'double vote' is called a casting vote. Traditionally, the casting vote has been



by Cr Jeff Johnson  
Ballina Council

used to support the staff advice or the status quo rather than be used to bypass existing Council processes and State planning laws.

This occurred despite Council's director of planning, Mr Matt Wood, clearly stating that existing farming areas wouldn't be adversely affected and that the primary use of the land would be protected.

As a former deputy mayor and a Ballina Shire councillor for over 15 years, it is my opinion that using a casting vote in this way is totally inappropriate and unprecedented in the Ballina Shire. It shows a total contempt for proper Council processes and the protection of the environment in the Ballina Shire.

The decision also highlights the poor leadership that Ballina Council is experiencing, and an increasingly divided Council. It shows the problems that can occur when there is a dominant group in control of the Council. Team Cadwallader only needs the support of one other Councillor to make decisions.

The advice provided from the DPE confirmed that the

application of appropriate zones for rural land is required to be consistent with the methodology contained within the North Coast E Zones Final Recommendations Report (NCEZR), ie based on the environmental attributes of the land or the Primary Land Use (PLU).

The DPE's advice was highly critical of the Council's proposed approach of only applying a conservation zone where a written request from a landholder is submitted to and accepted by Council. The DPE letter goes further to highlight that an undesirable precedent could be established if certain re-zonings are not being based on site attributes and planning merits, but instead on landowner agreement.

So despite the reassurance from Ballina Council's Director of Planning and the clear and unequivocal advice from the DPE, mayor Sharon Cadwallader used her powerful casting vote to effectively delegate planning decisions to private property owners irrespective of the existing use of those properties or the environmental attributes of the land.

This is a new low for Ballina Council, and a decision that I never thought that I'd see. This decision is a disaster for the environment and good governance.

Ballina Council has many environmental plans in place including a Biodiversity Strategy, a Koala Management Plan, and a Healthy Waterways program. All of those programs and strategies have the potential to be negatively impacted by this decision.



Another action-packed month in Nimbin, featuring the main event, the Nimbin Roots Festival, in the middle of the month – an absolute winner – accompanied by other musical activities on either side.

The Nimbin swimming pool has finally re-opened, and a big shout-out goes to the Nimbin Crystal Caravan Park for pushing the buttons at the Council.

I'd also like to thank Pauline Ahern and Sue Edmonds for making it happen. Love your work!

Succession planning is on my mind now, and I invite you to join me in this thought process.

Having attended the memorial tribute to Katie Cawcutt, a long-time resident and past president of the Aquarius Foundation, I am also acutely aware of other iconic Nimbin elders like Peter Pedals, founder of Rainbow Power, and Francis Moonshadow Hood of the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, all passing away during October.

It has opened my mind to think about how we, as a community, can encourage younger and newer members of Nimbin to take up the roles held by those who have been willing and able in the years gone by.

At the same time, we must secure the knowledge of many notable past actions and achievements to advance our causes into the future.

The key is for our community to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where established community members, newcomers, and

youth feel valued, heard, and encouraged to participate actively in community life.

My role as president of the Chamber is coming to an end in November after the statutory two years.

I want to express my gratitude to all members of the executive committee for their support and commitment. At the same time, I look forward to engaging with and supporting the new crop of participants who will take pivotal roles in the organisation.

I will miss being addressed as "el Presidente" by my cheeky friends and associates. While the position has undoubtedly enhanced my resume, I won't be pursuing another job beyond my life in Nimbin.

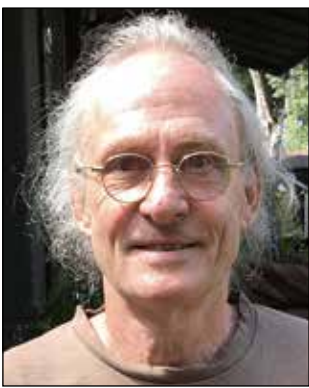
The 2023 AGM for the Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for 5.30pm on Monday 20th November, and will be attended by the mayor of Lismore, Mr Steve Krieg, as well as a member of staff from the Labor Party's sitting member Janelle Saffin's office.

All current Nimbin Chamber members and partners are invited to attend.

## Council walk-around

The General Manager of Lismore Council, Jon Gibbons, and his team participated in a walk around the village to review the action status of items on our list from the last visitation six months ago and to add new items.

Significant issues include the revamp of the blister area seating, the public toilet block for Peace Park, the old bridge over Mulgum Creek with a focus on pedestrian



## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

safety at the Murwillumbah end of town, Allsopp Park lighting, and water availability for cleaning the recently installed barbeque.

This biannual visitation keeps our village top of mind at the highest level of council, ensuring council resources are deployed most effectively.

## Murals

A big thanks to local mural artists for their solid response to an expression of interest in upgrading and enhancing Nimbin's iconic mural art.

More action on that front will be revealed in due course.

## AI course

The Nimbin Chamber collaborated with Lismore City Council to bring presenter Kylie Mobray-Allen to town for a one-day course on artificial intelligence and Canva (a graphic design program).

This course was free and accessible to our community; it was attended by more than 20 local businesses and community members wanting to upgrade their business skills.

To finish off, I would like to express my gratitude to all Nimbin and surrounding community members who contribute selflessly, giving their time and energy to enhance the value of living in one of the most amazing places on the planet.

*"May the long time sun shine upon you..."*

# Greens urge Albo to deliver more funding for flood survivors

State and federal Greens representatives have written to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, urging him to deliver a second round of funding for the Northern Rivers flood recovery.

The letter has been signed by state Greens representatives Tamara Smith MP and Sue Higginson MLC, as well as federal Greens Senators Mehreen Faruqi and David Shoebridge.

Recent data has revealed that less than 11% of buybacks have so far been delivered to Northern Rivers flood survivors, and zero raises or retrofits had been approved under the Resilient Homes Program.

NSW Cabinet was shown figures estimating that the total cost of the program would need to be \$1.5 billion – so far, just \$800m of that amount has been delivered.

Earlier in the year, Premier



Chris Minns committed to requesting further funds from the Commonwealth government after being questioned on the matter by Ms Smith in NSW parliament.

However, federal Richmond MP Justine Elliot recently said that

the federal government had not been asked for further funding, telling *The Guardian*, "In relation to additional recovery support, I'm advised that the federal government hasn't received a formal request from the NSW

state government... We stand ready to assist and work with them."

The Greens are calling on the federal government to honour the commitment and announce the remainder of the funding before the end of 2023.

"Our community was promised 6,000 buybacks, retrofits and raises for flood-affected homes – but 18 months on from the floods, and we still have a massive shortfall that has seen just 11% of buybacks offered and no retrofits for flood victims in desperate need," Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina and NSW Greens disaster relief spokesperson said.

"The Prime Minister has an opportunity to step up and contribute towards the original commitment of \$1.5 billion to support all flood impacted residents, in collaboration

with the New South Wales government.

"I share the community's disappointment that this process has dragged on for 20 months. The federal Labor government is spending more of taxpayers' money on subsidising coal and gas than it is on helping our flood survivors get back into their homes.

"This decision has a human cost – already, Byron Shire communities are battling bushfires, and yet only 4 people in the entire Byron Shire have so far been able to access a buyback after the floods under the Resilient Homes Program.

"We are in a climate catastrophe, and we cannot afford for our federal government to be asleep at the wheel on the issue of disaster relief. The Prime Minister needs to step up and act," Ms Smith said.



# AUSTRALIA'S MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL-EDUCATIONAL SPIDERWEB

by Bobbi Allan

Tackling climate change is about tackling power influence and the intertwined systems of governance, defence, media, finance and education that support them.

Australia is the third biggest exporter of fossil fuels in the world, behind Russia and Saudi Arabia. Our gas industry and the coal industry have enormous political power and the best PR money can buy. For decades they have successfully delayed and watered down policies that would reduce their profits or force them to reduce their emissions.

The ADF has promised a 43% reduction in emissions by 2030. That will take some creative accounting as all this military manufacturing ramps up, and there are still no alternatives to fossil fuels for the air force's F-35 jets and the navy's giant landing ships. However, Abrams tanks and other piston diesel engines used by the ADF can be modified to use Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

LNG is the great hope for replacing diesel in the event of any situation that restricts our fuel imports from the Middle East and Asia. The Defence Department supports the development of LNG fuel projects at the Middle Arm so-called 'sustainable' Manufacturing Hub (MASMH) on Darwin Harbour, which the Federal Government has just subsidised to the tune of \$1.5bn.

By following the money

and influence flowing into the MASMH, we find an 'old boys business club' that includes former politicians and departmental advisors.

A key player is Saudi gas giant, Saudi Aramco sitting in the middle of a spider's web of people who have or still work with defence/gas/mining/consulting/lobbying companies such as Santos, Dow Chemicals, Worley Parsons, Fortescue Metals, Strike Energy, Dragoman, BHP, United Petroleum and Bespoke Territory. (See: [www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jun/19/revealed-documents-detail-key-players-behind-vast-australian-fossil-fuel-expansion](http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jun/19/revealed-documents-detail-key-players-behind-vast-australian-fossil-fuel-expansion).)

In June the Albanese Government voted with the coalition to block an enquiry into the MASMH. Despite all the greenwashing, the MASMH is essentially a major LNG/petrochemicals manufacturing and storage centre, which will export methane gas to Asia and Saudi Arabia, causing significant emissions we won't report as ours.

It is designed to support the commercial viability of coal seam gas fracking in the fragile Betaloo Basin, threatening groundwater connecting the Roper River, Mataranka and Bitter Springs, and Daly Waters.

The Betaloo Basin projects will fuel the climate crisis by locking Australia into gas production for 50 more years and slowing the transition towards hydrogen and renewables.

Meanwhile, under the AUKUS agreement, US bases



in Australia, particularly in the North, will be 'enhanced' to support a build-up of US forces at short notice. These include runway improvements, parking aprons, fuel and explosive ordnance infrastructure and facilities to support the workforce. Increased locations are being identified for US army and marine corps to carry out exercises.

Military sites are generally exempt from environmental regulations, so they tend to be some of the most environmentally damaged sites on earth. While testing weapons and conducting training, these facilities produce large amounts of toxic substances and waste that contaminate the land and water.

The Department of Defence is currently upgrading the airstrip on the Cocos Keeling Islands at a cost of at least \$576.6M to take heavier

military planes to protect our oil imports and gas exports passing through the Malacca, Sunda and Lombok Straits.

### The Military Industrial web in schools

Conservative estimates of the costs of climate change over the next 40 years, published in the Treasury Department's 2023 Intergenerational Report show clearly that it is our children and grandchildren who will be paying the highest prices of climate change in so many ways. So, we might ask, is teaching them to build weapons of war the best we can do for them?

While ADF recruiters cream off many of the best and brightest in our high schools, the Defence Industries embed themselves in school curricula.

The \$368bn AUKUS pact between the US, Australia and the UK to

build nuclear-powered submarines for Australia is offering new avenues for defence manufacturers – and the defence force itself – to partner with primary and secondary schools.

BAE, the world's largest military contractor is a partner in some of the education programs in schools. BAE has sold at least £15 billion of arms and services to the Saudi government and is currently profiting from the war in Yemen. Through access to schools, BAE will influence students and parents while ignoring the company's global ventures of technological destruction.

In June this year our department of defence launched a 'Nuclear-Powered Submarine Propulsion Challenge' in high schools providing 'a new generation of STEM students the chance to win a trip to HMAS Stirling

in Western Australia to see first-hand how submarines work. Defence makes it clear it sees student entrants as future submariners and technicians.

More than 600 primary school students in four States are participating in a program called 'Beacon' run by tech company, Lumination, which collaborates with a number of defence industries, including BAE, which will play a key role in the weapons systems of the nuclear submarines. School children have already had tours of the Osborne shipyards in SA where the submarines will be manufactured.

The idea seems to be to get them young and normalise a future that involves war with China and associated weapons manufacturing.

The ethical implications for schools and education departments are significant, and some states are taking action. For example, the NSW education department has updated its policy to exclude partnerships and sponsoring arrangements with 'organisations promoting unhealthy food, tobacco, alcohol products, gambling products, weapons manufacturing or anything illegal'.

Other States' education department policies are more opaque about whether companies that profit from war and insecurity should market to children. Perhaps children should be taught the fact that in recent conflicts around the world, over 60% of casualties have been women and children.

## NSW Government fails to protect communities from waste incinerator plans

NSW community incineration opposition groups have launched an online petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly calling for an immediate stop to Waste-to-Energy (W2E) incineration in NSW.

The petition calls on the NSW Government to remove legislation introduced by the previous NSW Government that allows W2E incinerators in the four regional areas of Goulburn, Lithgow, Parkes and Casino. The legislation was introduced by the previous NSW Government after only minimal consultation with affected residents.

Initiated by regional incineration opposition groups in conjunction with long-standing Sydney incineration opposition groups, the petition represents a joint stand by residents across NSW to oppose the significant threat to human health, environment, agriculture and water that incineration presents.

Spokesperson for Residents Against the Richmond Valley



Courtesy NSW EPA

Incinerator (RARVI), Dr Liz Stops says "the communities are outraged." "Based on the advice of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the NSW Government has acknowledged waste incinerators are too dangerous for Sydney but is prepared to foist them onto regional communities where much of our food is produced and close to residential areas, meatworks, beef saleyards, schools and hospitals," she said.

"We had hoped the Minns Labor Government would listen to our concerns and introduce legislation to prohibit waste-to-energy

incineration anywhere in NSW and pursue other safe and scalable ways of dealing with waste," she said.

"To date, our requests for meetings with Penny Sharpe, the Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage, have been refused. It's a bad sign," Dr Stops said.

Regional groups in Richmond Valley, Tarago (Goulburn-Mulwaree) and Lithgow are fighting to protect the drinking water, agriculture, cattle and tourism industries as well as air quality, environment and health.

Standing in solidarity with them are the communities of Western Sydney, who won their campaign to stop projects in their neighbourhoods but now face the prospect of contaminated food and drinking water with incinerators proposed in Sydney's water catchment area and regions of significant food production.

There are also concerns for the

Parkes community where plans to build a waste incinerator are underway, and more broadly for all residents in NSW since the legislation has numerable exceptions that would allow waste-to-energy incinerators to potentially be approved in many other localities.

After visiting Australia in September, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, Dr Marcos Orellana reported that "incineration imposes heavy health and other costs on local communities and it is a significant source of greenhouse gases." He stated that "it's the end of the line for fossil fuels" and "reflects a linear process that is incompatible with a circular economy."

Waste-to-energy incinerators largely burn plastic waste, thus encouraging further production of plastics, which is made from fossil fuels. As such, it is ludicrous for the NSW Government to attempt to align waste incineration with a

circular economy or make claims about energy production.

"We have a human right to clean drinking water and an environment free of toxic load," Dr Stops said. "Dr Orellana reminded us that Australia has ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in 2004. Waste-to-energy incinerators were identified by the Convention as a major source of unintentional POPs pollutants such as dioxins. As a signatory, the Government is required to take measures to address those emissions. Waste-to-energy incinerators are incompatible with that requirement."

RARVI is calling on all NSW residents to support the livelihoods of farmers and protect the health of the population and the environment, by signing an online petition.

The link to the petition is: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/ePetition-details.aspx?q=rxOVguqv9WYSEVVTphFzag](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/ePetition-details.aspx?q=rxOVguqv9WYSEVVTphFzag)



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin





# \$1 million to jail a child for a year

by Sue Higginson,  
Greens state MLC and  
spokesperson for justice

212 of our young people are presently in custody in NSW. Of those, 129 are First Nations young people.

The Department of Communities and Justice have revealed in NSW Budget Estimate hearings that the daily cost of keeping a person under 18 in prison is \$2700, totalling an annual cost per child of \$985,500. The State is currently spending \$208 million per year on young people in prison.

It is alarming how much the State is spending to keep children locked up.

The millions of dollars spent on keeping children locked up is money that should be invested in the broad expansion of diversionary programs and wrap-around services that keep children out of prison.

Of the 212 young people in prison, just 51 had received a custodial sentence and the



rest are held on remand. The Department admitted that children are often denied bail because of a gap in services that would allow them to be released.

The system is failing. – Prison shouldn't be an alternative for community services, especially for our young people.

Support services for our most vulnerable young people should always be available

and fit for purpose. It appears that we have seen

no improvement in the youth justice figures in the last 12 months, in fact the situation has worsened.

The only improvement is that the number of children under 14 who are in prison right now is just four children – three of whom are First Nations children.

The case could not be stronger to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 without exception.

# Cannabis doctors still scarce

by Michael Balderstone

We were invited to Chloe and Dr John Teh's Australian Cannabis Summit Roundtable Luncheon, as it was called. The police sniffer dog unit were having a luncheon on the same day in the same Brisbane hotel. No kidding.

Ours was mostly medical cannabis prescribing doctors, pharmacists and the big growers, licenced suppliers, who were the majority of the annual summit's sponsors.

Dr John has spoken at many of our Medicans and MardiGrass for years. He is the best speaker I know at presenting the mediweed story. What did Einstein say? "The definition of genius is taking the complex and making it simple." John Teh does that.

He's the medical director and educator at PlantMed in Brissie which has half a dozen doctors now. He's been working within the medical cannabis industry in Australia since it became legal in February 2016, and he's also president of the Aussie and NZ College of Cannabis Practitioners.

He and his wife Chloe are a dynamic couple who actually live nearby in the Tweed Valley, and on top of the medical practice PlantMed they've now started PlantEd, on-line courses to teach anyone and everyone all about cannabis as medicine.

The luncheon went for four hours and they chaired the discussion throughout. It's like Australia has this massive health system but only a tiny handful of doctors who know anything about weed.

The lies and propaganda that began in the *Reefer Madness* days nearly 100 years ago now

have gone seriously deep. The stigma might be slowly eroding, but the suspicion remains. It's likely years before any doctors' syllabus mentions the endo-cannabinoid system.

Someone who would know told me maybe only 20% of people in the industry use cannabis. Our table was almost half of that at the luncheon!

John Howard's cannabis psychosis fearmongering caused immeasurable damage. People think, "Maybe I'll be the rare one that flips out and is never the same again. Might turn into a hippie!"

It's one thing for the doctors to learn on-line or listening to talks, it's quite another when they see for themselves the changes in patients using weed. As we often thought, it will be the plant itself which ends prohibition when enough people have discovered its benefits.

So the handful of doctors shared stories of patients experiencing remarkable pain relief and we discussed the ridiculous situation with saliva testing drivers for minute traces of THC. Meanwhile strong statistics are in from America which show car accident deaths are down by an average of 12%

in the three years following States legalising weed! Anyone listening?

But the big story at the luncheon was the TGA, Therapeutic Goods Administration,

making a new rule out of the blue stating that anyone under 18 cannot be prescribed anything stronger than CBD in a ratio of 50:1 against THC. No-one was advised of the change, chemists just stopped filling scripts.

Frustrated parents suddenly found their epileptic children started having seizures again. They usually need a 20:1 CBD ratio, more than twice as much THC. This is the CBD ratio of the famous Charlotte's Web strain, and even what the Victorian Government grew in its trial for safely treating epileptic children.

There were numerous shocking stories of parents being told they must get an appointment with a specialist child psychiatrist or a paediatrician or pediatric neurologist to get anything stronger than 50:1. Waiting time for appointments was from three to six months.

Now for us hippies used to the blackmarket, that's all easy but for average parents

whose doctor knows nothing about weed and is told it can only be prescribed when all other options have been exhausted, they go back on pharmaceuticals and suffer the shocking side effects to stop seizures.

Remember Tony Bower who started the ball rolling for medical cannabis in Australia with his remarkable results ending children's seizures? It was unheated THC as I remember it, THCa. This is what forced them to acknowledge cannabis really did have medical benefits.

It was instrumental in the laws changing back then, but now suddenly out of nowhere, they make the tincture so weak it doesn't work. There were shocking stories of broken-hearted parents being told to wait months for an appointment to maybe, just maybe be given permission to go back on the medicine that was stopping their child having seizures.

Dr John Teh is a very cool character, detached like doctors have to be, and I've never seen him emotional like he was over this. Me too. The TGA is funded by and made up of representatives from the pharmaceutical industry. They decide what medicines we can have and not have.

Can this really be just about profits?





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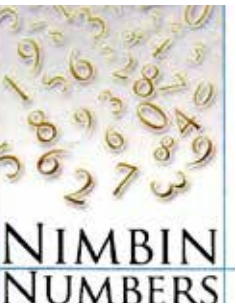
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# Albo's promise

Some people struggle to learn. I struggled to learn due to lead poisoning and pan sinusitis as a child.

These twin curses left me crazed for life and 50% deaf between the ages 3 to 7, before an operation cleared my sinuses and the jarring and horrible noises of our world came thundering in.

I have successfully fallen back on these excuses for being daft and incompetent throughout my life but what excuses do the strategists of the Labor party have?

Even the most daft and incompetent in our midst know that referendums without bilateral support fail.

There is no example, not one, of a referendum without major party support succeeding in our country's history.

So why run one?

Losing a nation-wide poll particularly by a majority of states and a massive majority of our nation's people will have significant deleterious effects on the cause they purport to support.

This recent referendum did little but throw the indigenous activists who requested it under a bus.

Legislated 'voice committees' that already exists in South Australia and Victoria must now be under existential threat once conservative governments are elected in those states, because the referendum has given them a mandate to



Revenge of the Loon  
by Laurie Axtens

destroy.

And surely the notion of a National treaty with First Nations people must now be off the table for the foreseeable future.

My Labor-leaning friends assure me that it was a promise that Albo made, so he had to go ahead.

I think they're almost as naive as I am daft and incompetent.

The only thing that running this doomed referendum has done for Labor is lock in Greens and Teal preferences for the next election.

Fortunately, Labor is a highly ethical team who would never be so expedient ... would they?!

## Quiche lovers alert



Lismore Theatre Company presents *Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche*, by Andrew Hobgood and Evan Linder, a witty, immersive theatre experience, in November at the Rochdale Theatre, Goonellabah.

With a talented local cast and a great script, this is sure to be a fun final show of the LTC 2023 season.

Step back in time with us to 1956 when the Susan B Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein are having their annual quiche breakfast.

When the Communists attack, the closet doors blow open as secrets, repressed desires and an insatiable hunger for quiche are

released.

*Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche* is a tasty recipe of hysterical laughs, sexual innuendoes, unsuccessful repressions, and delicious discoveries. A comedy for everyone to enjoy!

So, sisters of all genders, dust off your best frock, gloves, hat and handbag, and join us for our pinnacle event of the year.

Preview night on Thursday 9th November, is a fundraiser for the Red Cross, Lismore Branch, and is followed by eight shows from 9th to 19th November at the Rochdale Theatre.

Tickets for all shows are available now at: [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1116567](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1116567)

## A moment

by S Sorrensen

"Wow, look at that," she says, stopping in front of a huge brick and wood house with a large deck and swimming pool extending towards her. She rocks on her Crocs, pacifying a child strapped to her chest.

The man, whom I assume is her partner (just an assumption, I know), nods as he also stops to look into the property where a large statue of Ganesha squats on the perfectly trimmed lawn surrounding the pool. The statue squirts a stream of water from its trunk into a garden pond where bright-green plastic lilies float. "Wow, yeah. Wow," he says, knocking a shell from his Crocs. (Yep, he is her partner.)

A gust of sea breeze pushes the plastic lilies to one side of the garden pond. I smell salt and a whiff of rainforest.

The thing is, the house is awful. Ugly. An on-trend early-century architectural style lifted straight from some magazine. And it's enormous.

The child is not looking at the house. She is trying to fit her fist into her mouth,



which necessitates her closing her eyes, apparently.

Looking at the house, the trio has their backs to something that is truly beautiful: Mission Beach. Crystal-clear water blueing as it stretches from coastal rainforest to Dunk Island and into a hazy horizon.

The huge ugly house is separated from the beach by only a few-metre remnant of the original rainforest.

This house is one of many in a line of houses set close to the water, with a sandy walking track for the public running through that thin strip of remaining forest between houses and beach.

All the houses are new, awful and gigantic, each with its own style showing no harmony with the houses around it. That's not surprising, because these

houses also have no rapport with the environment they're in. They could have been lifted from inner Sydney or Melbourne or Las Vegas. These are the houses of the newly-arrived rich.

The child squirms and cries out. (I think she may have cried out "Wow", but that could just be me trying to make a good story.)

Years ago, when I was at Mission Beach, I thought it was the most beautiful place I'd ever seen. The lush rainforest grew right down to the beach. Set among the forest were some small wooden houses where families lived. They fished, had fires on the beach. They didn't have statues from Bali or a swimming pool or a lawn. They had a sandy track from their home through the forest to the

beach.

Those locals have long gone. The small, low-impact houses with their rusty water tanks are gone, replaced with an ugliness that is infecting every beautiful coastal area in the tropical north with a noisy, look-at-me insensitivity, whole mini-ecosystems buried under the third toilet.

These beautiful environments have become an acquisition, not a shared existence; an investment and a pretty view to fill the windows. The windows stay shut, of course – air-conditioning. The new settlers know this place is beautiful (they're people), so they want a part of it (they're rich), but they don't know how to be a part of it.

I'm going for a swim. From the water, the beach still looks beautiful, the thin veneer of rainforest mostly hiding the disfigurement of wealthy disconnect.

I walk past the trio. The woman turns to me.

"Hi."

"Hi."

The child has just fitted her fist into her mouth. She looks at me, her eyes bulging wide in triumph (just an assumption, I know; could be panic).

"Wow!" I say.

## New David Bradbury films screening

Veteran activist and filmmaker David Bradbury is having the North Coast premiere for his latest two films, *Gondwana Going* and *The Road to War*, in Lismore in November.

*Gondwana Going* chronicles where the forests of Northern NSW currently stand, 25 years after Bradbury made his first highly-praised forest film, *Loggerheads*. In one scene from his latest film, Bradbury, still in a state of shock after a giant tree fell on top of him, addresses his own camera, "This madness has got to stop!"

"I learnt in my first film, *Frontline* from the legendary Vietnam war cameraman Neil Davis, to keep the camera rolling no matter what... and that's what I do now instinctively 45 years later after I made that film," Bradbury says.

Bradbury's courage to go where angels fear to tread has won the crusty filmmaker a lot of enemies and admiring friends over the years. He made films in Nicaragua (*No Pasaran*) during the time of the Sandinista Revolution, and snuck into Chile's military dictatorship under the nose of the secret police to make his second most famous film, *Chile Hasta Cuando?*

*Gondwana Going* shows the bastardry that has brought the iconic koala and other unique species in northern NSW forests to the brink of extinction over the last two decades, since successive state governments have allowed the forestry industry under the mismanagement of NSW Forestry Corporation to tear up the RFA agreements of 25 years ago.

"What we're seeing in the forests now is carnage," says former NSW State



forests ranger and now world respected forest ecologist, Dr Robert Kooyman. "All the previous protections have been stripped back one by one. And the forests are bleeding as a result."

*Gondwana Going* documents forest activist actions in mid and far north coast state forests (including an action in Gibberagee near Lismore) over the last few years. It includes interviews on the frontlines with long-time activists and environmental elders of our tribe such as Nan Nicholson, Sue Higginson, Susie Russell and Sean O'Shannessy.

"There is an opportunity with the new state government of Chris Minns to get some serious reform happening with NSW State Forestry Corporation who for decades now have been hell-bent on turning a profit at the expense of our native wildlife," Bradbury said.

"If we don't get this last opportunity to reverse the looming catastrophe, we can kiss the koala and other iconic species goodbye. The only place you'll see them is behind wire in zoos."

*Gondwana Going* also exposes the scam where outfits like Cape Byron Power get a taxpayer subsidy to wood chip then burn native forests which then puts more carbon into the air than black coal-fired power plants.

Professor David Lindemeyer (ANU), also a highly respected world's best



forest ecologist says, "Burning forests to produce bio-fuel, so called 'green energy', is a crazy thing to be doing anytime, let alone in 2023."

*The Road to War* examines the likelihood of Australia being dragged into a nuclear war by the US in its contest with China. Bradbury interviews some of our nation's top alternative foreign policy and military strategy thinkers who rarely get a run in Murdoch's printing presses and Australia's conservative media outlets, including the ABC.

*The Road to War* says it's high time Australia stopped getting sucked into America's failed wars and took our own path as a mature, middle-power nation in Asia and the Pacific.

*The Road to War* and *Gondwana Going* are two very important films you must not miss. Get your friends along to support both films which also emphasise the urgent need for government to not just say words about combating climate change, but actually revamp their actions 100-fold from the current very tame carbon emission targets for 2030 and 2050.

*Gondwana Going* screens at the Star Court cinema in Lismore, on Saturday 25th November at 2pm, *The Road to War* screens on the same day at 4pm.

David Bradbury will be there with special guests to engage with the audience after each screening.



# RaH Inc presents music for peace



Orkeztar Lizmoré was featured at last year's Music for Peace concert, as well as Michael Merlin, Luke Robinson, Imogen Wolf & The Clunatics, Tilly Jones & friend, and Khatia Kovac.

by Manuela Matheson

Remembering and Healing Inc (RaH) will hold their annual Music for Peace fundraiser concert this month at St Andrew's Anglican Church. Last year's inaugural concert was well received, with the large audience filling the church from wall to wall. This year's program again promises to be just as diverse and colourful with local musicians Luke Vassella, Bob Dooley, Tilly Jones, Geraldine Loong, Harry Freeman, Pietro Fine, Imogen

Wolf's Wolfsong Choir, and others generously donating their time and sharing their musical offerings. There will be time to remember and honour victims of wars, and an opportunity for all to raise their voices in song to heal wounds of conflict. Also known as the Northern Rivers Peace Group, RaH is in its 15th year and going strong. They stand for a peace-orientated, compassionate, all-inclusive, just, humane society and for upholding human rights for all without exception. RaH works to inspire the wider

population to take a stand on these values. They promote non-violent conflict resolutions on all levels, interpersonal, in the community and internationally. They strive to prevent any glorification of wars at commemorations by offering models of all-inclusive, peace-orientated ceremonies. Join them on Sunday 19th November at 3pm at St Andrew's Anglican Church, 10 Zadoc Street, Lismore, and help with their work to promote peace through remembering and healing. Tickets \$15 or by donation. For more info, email: [RaHow@internode.on.net](mailto:RaHow@internode.on.net)

## 'I'm not dead yet' - Akmal Saleh



The hugely popular stand-up comedian Akmal Saleh has kindly offered to do a fundraising comedy show for Nimbin School of Arts, which has had some struggles recently coming out of Covid lockdowns with reduced hall hire and rising expenses in insurance, maintenance and everything else. Akmal is based in the region and after 30 years of comedy he particularly wanted to do a show for Nimbin, which will be based on the feature show that he's been touring in the past year titled 'I'm not dead yet'. Over the years Akmal has toured

internationally and starred on stage and screen, and most recently voiced a character in 'Night at the Museum 4'. He'll be joined by comedian Greg Sullivan who has performed at several Blue Moon Cabarets over the years as well as the MardiGrass comedy shows, and also Nick Penn, Nimbin's funniest bus driver. The show is on Saturday 18th November. Doors open at 6.30pm for dinner on the deck, the show starts at 8pm, first in/best seated. Tickets are \$30/\$20 concession available at Perceptio Bookshop. For information, call 6689-1577.



Trivia at the Bowlo

by Claire Delacey

The Nimbin Bowling Club and Sibley's Bistro host a community fundraising trivia night on the third Saturday of each month. Organised by the trivia team (Claire Delacey and Rene Norwie) October's fundraising partner was the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary. The Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary auctioned an autographed art piece by local artist Annette Miller. The trivia team and fundraising partner managed to fundraise \$736.00. Community businesses donated

some great prizes (thank you Nimbin Newsagency, Nimbin Emporium, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Aquarius Cafe, Sibley's Bistro and the Nimbin Bowling Club). A fun filled evening of trivia and raffles was had by all. A few tips for first time trivia players. Trivia teams can have a maximum of six players. You can either join a team who is short of a player, or you can put together your own team. Remember, you don't have to know it all yourself. Think of your friends, family, and colleagues. Do any of them have an interest in literature, music, geography, science, local knowledge, or word play? Or perhaps you know

someone who is always coming out with obscure and interesting facts. You can also try to include a range of ages to draw on their generational pop culture knowledge. The broader the collective knowledge of your teammates, the better. Alternatively, get your best friends together and have a crack at it. Next, find yourselves a witty team name. Teamwork, and putting your heads together, is what it's all about. That, and having fun! The next trivia is on the Saturday 18th November and the fundraising partner is to be announced. We look forward to seeing you there.

## David Bradbury films premiere in Lismore



The Road to War examines the likelihood of Australia being dragged into a nuclear war by the US in its contest with China. The Road to War says it's high time Australia stopped getting sucked into America's failed wars and took our own path.

Gondwana Going... documents forest activist actions in mid and far North Coast state forests over the last few years. Gondwana Going... shows how unique species have been brought to the brink of extinction over the past two decades.



Both films will be screening at Star Court cinema in Lismore on Saturday 25th November. Gondwana Going... at 2pm. The Road to War at 4pm. David Bradbury will be there with special guests to engage with the audience after each screening.

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