



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

I would like to remind all Nimbin rural water customers that the Nimbin Rural Network remains under Boil Water Alert.

This Boil Water Alert does not apply to customers within the village of Nimbin.

Last year's natural disaster caused significant damage to the landscape around Nimbin, which has reduced the quality of

Boil water alert for Nimbin Rural Network

water in Mulgum Creek. Because of this, Council cannot guarantee effective disinfection of the water.

Council is working to connect Nimbin rural customers to a new filtration plant. In the meantime, we are providing free bottled water to our Nimbin rural customers through the Nimbin Rural Bottled Water Delivery Program.

Information on how to apply was delivered to eligible customers late last month. If you are a rural customer and didn't receive the information, please call Council on 6625-0500.

Nimbin Place Plan

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend last month's Nimbin Advisory Group. However, I know there was a lot of positive discussion about the Nimbin Place Plan project.

Council recently started the Place Plan for Nimbin which is looking at improving the amenity and facilities on public land in the village area.

The scope of the project is still being finalised, but essentially it will take a long 20-year visioning approach, to identify the needs of the Nimbin Community.

Community engagement on this exciting project will start shortly, so stay tuned as we would love to get as much feedback from the community as possible.

Lismore CBD

I would also like to encourage all residents of Nimbin and surrounding areas to come into Lismore if they need anything that can't be found in Nimbin.

Council's Destination and Economy Team recently surveyed shopfronts and

upstairs premises around Lismore's inner CBD and found an occupancy rate of 70.1%. That's up from 60% from the January survey.

It's fair to say that the Lismore CBD is well and truly back in business, and we are on the way to our pre-disaster occupation rate of 90.2%.

It is very encouraging to see the increase in upstairs occupation rates, which are primarily professional services that have returned. When professional service industries invest in Lismore, it means our community can receive the services they need.

Fire ants

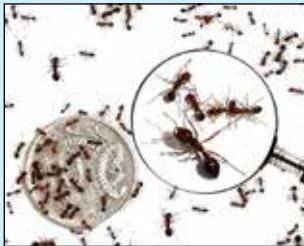
As many readers would have probably heard, fire ants have been found just across the border in Queensland, which has sparked a NSW Biosecurity (Invasive Ant

Carriers) Control Order 2023 prohibiting the movement of materials that could bring the ant into NSW.

Residents and businesses should check their properties as finding fire ants early and alerting NSW DPI will increase the chances of successful eradication.

Fire ants are dark reddish-brown with a darker black-brown abdomen and from two to six millimetres long. They look similar to other ants, but their ant nests are distinctive with mounds of loose, crumbly or fluffy looking soil with a honeycomb appearance, up to 40cm high, with no obvious entrance holes.

Red imported fire ants can damage electrical and agricultural equipment, sting people causing allergic reactions, sting pets and



livestock, kill native plants and animals as well as damage ecosystems beyond repair.

Please report any sign of fire ants to the NSW DPI on 1800-680-244.

Anyone bringing nesting materials into NSW, such as mulch, woodchips, compost, sand, gravel, soil, hay and other baled products from the red imported fire ant biosecurity zone in south-east Queensland, should check the measures being implemented before entering NSW.

Finally, on a much nicer note, I hope everyone enjoys the Nimbin Show on 23rd and 24th September. It's always a great day out!

by Kevin Hogan,
Federal Member for Page

New beginnings

Great to see two significant "re-openings" for Lismore and our region in recent weeks.

Lifeline Northern Rivers is a wonderful service in our community. Their buildings were damaged by the flood and it was an honour to help open their facility in Conway Street.

Their volunteers provide telephone counselling 24 hours 7 days a week. You can call Lifeline on 13-11-14. This has been particularly important for us over the past 18 months and will continue to be.

Also back in action is the Lismore Red Cross Tea Rooms in Keen Street. They are open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 2pm and always on the lookout for more volunteers. A much-loved Lismore institution of 64 years.

Turning sugar cane waste into gourmet mushrooms

Last year I was able to secure funding for Sunshine Sugar to look at ways to turn harvest cane waste into something of value. Today, it mostly goes in cane fires.

Harwood Mill and its research partner Sustinent have come up with a new prototype of mushroom



bags; little packages of cane compost containing spores to be sold to gourmet mushroom growers. It's early days, but looking very promising.

Good for the environment, good for the sugar industry and delicious for diners!

Northern Rivers Rail Trail

So exciting to see construction well underway on the Casino to Bentley section.

It is hoped it will be ready to use by the end of the year. Work should also begin soon on the Bentley

to Lismore section. The Tweed section opened in March and has proved hugely popular. More than 70,000 have already tried it out.

I obtained a total of \$16.5 million in funding for sections between Casino and Lismore. It is a significant project for our region. It will be fantastic for locals and bring a new form of tourism to our region.

Looking forward to the day the entire 130km from Casino to Murwillumbah is completed. It will be a world-renowned rail trail.

NSW picks up pace on plastics recycling

We all know the world has a problem with plastic, with 400 million tonnes of plastic waste produced each year and very little of this being recycled. We are literally drowning in the stuff, which is a health hazard to humans and animals.

The good news is, here in New South Wales the Government is accelerating efforts to rid our society of this scourge, and it is imperative we make every effort to stay the course.

The Australian Government has signed up to an international pledge to recycle all plastics by 2040, and in NSW the Environment Protection Authority is overseeing measures that are on track to remove 2.7 billion pieces of plastic litter entering the environment over the next 20 years.

Right now, NSW generates some 800,000 tonnes of plastic waste each year, with only 10% of that currently recycled. Most problematic are single-use plastic items and packaging, which still account for 60% of all litter in NSW.

Under the current NSW Plastic Action Plan, many single-use plastic items have already been banned – including lightweight



by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

shopping bags, plastic straws, plastic cutlery and cotton buds with plastic sticks. The new Government has brought the review of the Plastic Action Plan forward, and will soon launch a discussion paper on what the next steps should be.

In July this year the NSW and Federal Governments announced a series of new initiatives to ramp up the local recycling effort. The two governments are co-investing \$11 million into nine new projects that will boost NSW's ability to remanufacture plastic, paper, cardboard and tyres, and will increase waste processing capacity by more than 20,000 tonnes each year.

This funding has been strongly supported by industry which will contribute an additional \$18.5 million to the various projects, which together are forecast to create almost 100 jobs and reduce

pressure on landfill sites.

A further \$60 million has also been set aside for an Australian Government-backed grants program that is open to businesses across Australia. The Recycling Modernisation Fund Plastics Technology Stream, as it is called, provides grants of between \$1 million and \$20 million to projects that boost existing recycling infrastructure and uncover new methods of processing hard-to-recycle plastics.

This is in addition to a range of measures already underway in NSW, including the \$35 million Remanufacture NSW initiative that provides funds to turn plastic waste into useful products; \$5 million for trials and pilots of innovative ways to improve recycling and identify plastic alternatives; \$2 million for a Plastic Research Partnership with universities and research institutes; and \$500,000 to help plastic manufacturers install systems to prevent 'nurdles' (plastic resin pellets) from entering our waterways.

Combined, all these programs together with action by individual councils, should help NSW drastically reduce its reliance on plastic and support the state's progress towards its target of tripling the recycling rate by 2030.

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Act needs rewrite with nature positive environmental laws

At the end of August, the five-year statutory review of our State's biodiversity laws was tabled in Parliament.

The report is grim, our natural environment is in dire straits, we are in an extinction crisis and some of our most fragile ecosystems are on the brink of collapse. The scathing report provides a damning insight into the systemic failures that are pushing our State deeper into the biodiversity crisis.

The report, headed up by Ken Henry, economist and former public servant who has had many important review and advisory appointments, says that not only are our environmental laws failing, they are actively contributing to a worsening biodiversity crisis in NSW.

The report opens by saying, "The Review Panel found that the present *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* is not meeting its primary purpose of maintaining a healthy, productive and resilient environment, and is never likely to do so."

I was working with the Environmental Defender's Office when the former Coalition Government introduced the current biodiversity laws. As environmental law experts, we all knew what these laws meant for nature and the environment. It was so hard to witness; I knew the laws would fail the environment and further entrench the trajectory of biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse.

With the tabling of this report, the former Coalition Government's legislatively entrenched assault on nature can now be seen for what it is, and it must now end. The very laws that are supposed to arrest biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse are more than failing, they are facilitating this assault, at



by Sue Higginson,
NSW Greens MLA

unprecedented rates.

They are providing greater protection for developer interests and exploitation than for our precious environment, and in turn our survival.

The report is a clear clarion call for our precious environment. It is now or never for nature. The report spells out that we must prioritise protecting what is left and work to restore and regenerate nature before it is too late. The report provides a bright green shining light for the Minns minority Labor Government to turn this broken legislative framework around and to make our state "nature positive".

The report recommends that to do this, our environmental and biodiversity conservation and repair laws must take primacy over and above our development and exploitation laws. The report says we must move to a nature positive framework where our environment is protected and being repaired and regenerated rather than exploited and harmed because our economy and our very survival are inextricably linked to a healthy environment.

The report states that biodiversity across NSW

is at risk from a range of environmental disturbances:

- Clearing of native vegetation, intensifying land use, a growing population and associated infrastructure development has led to the destruction, alteration and fragmentation of habitat across the state.
- The effects of climate change are being felt, and are expected to become more pronounced. Projections show that extreme weather events such as bushfires, droughts, heatwaves, storms and floods will become more frequent and severe throughout NSW. Species and ecosystems are already being impacted, limiting their ability to adapt.
- Weeds are out-competing native plants and taking over large swathes of habitat, disrupting the natural balance of ecosystems and reducing species diversity.
- Feral animals are competing with native wildlife for resources, overgrazing native plants and preying on native animals.
- Some of the biggest fires in NSW have occurred since 2002. The 2019–20 bushfires had a profound impact on biodiversity. Estimates suggest the fires affected more than 5 million hectares of habitat in NSW. These burnt habitats are more prone to altered fire regimes, particularly large-scale fires that burn at high intensity.
- The state's major inland river systems continue to be affected by water extraction, altered river flows, loss of connectivity and catchment changes such as altered land use and vegetation clearing. These affect water availability, river health

and ecosystem integrity.

- Native forest logging is damaging forest ecosystems and the habitat of native species.

The report shows how conflicting legislation undermines the aims of our biodiversity laws. For example, our forestry, native vegetation and planning laws allow environmental destruction over genuine environmental protection because the thresholds of unacceptable harm at the local and landscape scale are too high, and impacts are often understated and justified.

Our system lacks strategic capacity because of a lack of data and monitoring on the effectiveness of the laws, which contributes to them being weak in the face of the massive challenge of protecting and restoring biodiversity.

The report sets out 58 recommendations to reform our environmental laws to turn all of this around.

It provides a new nature positive architecture for NSW through laws that commit to an overarching object of nature positive, where biodiversity is protected, restored and improving, ensuring the integrity of ecosystem services and cultural values, preserving opportunities for future generations.

The report states that: The Review Panel supports a nature positive framing of the Act, noting that this requires giving primacy to biodiversity considerations in a manner not previously contemplated.

The Review Panel recognises that achieving nature positive outcomes will pose significant challenges for government in balancing various priorities, for example, housing and associated infrastructure requirements to support a growing population.

A nature positive framing of the Act requires a substantial change in

mindset, policy and program design, and dedicated resourcing. However, the Review Panel considers that nature positive is not only an environmental necessity, but crucial for underpinning future economic growth and wellbeing.

The question now is: will the Minns Government do what is necessary and crucial? I am genuinely worried about whether this Government has what it takes, because it hasn't yet stopped logging the heart of the Great Koala National Park on the mid-north coast, which was their single environmental election commitment.

To get this right, the Minns Government will need to commit to the vision and stand up to those with vested interests that profit from environmental harm. Please see my website if you want to be part of rewriting our nature positive laws: www.suehigginson.org/campaigns

Kerry O'Brien speaks to The Voice

Kyogle Politics in the Pub will be hosting respected journalist and political commentator Kerry O'Brien at the Kyogle Bowling Club at 2pm on Sunday 24th September.

This event will be your opportunity to find the answers to your questions about the Voice referendum from a person well versed in the issues and the historical pathway taken to arrive at this point.

Kerry O'Brien is a Walkley Award winning journalist who presented *Four Corners* and the *7.30 Report* for many years on the ABC.

In his induction speech to the Logie Hall of Fame, in 2019, Kerry O'Brien voiced his support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

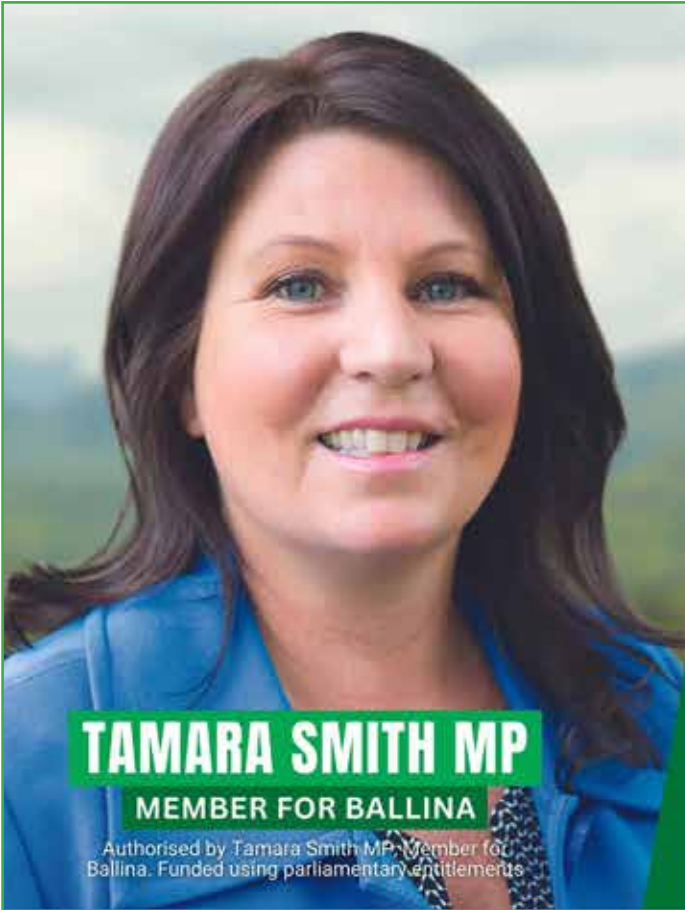
Together with Thomas Mayo he published *The Voice to Parliament Handbook* to answer the most commonly asked questions about why the Voice should be enshrined in the Constitution.

Kyogle Politics in the Pub formed in 2018 to provide an opportunity for community members to come together in a social atmosphere to discuss and learn about a wide range of issues.

Many people attended and enjoyed coming together and hearing from a range of speakers, including Ruth Rosenhek on activism in a time of climate change, Charles Massy on regenerative agriculture, and Ian Rintoul on refugees and asylum seekers. It also ran a candidates' forum for the 2019 federal election.

Kyogle Politics in the Pub has been in recess for some time but there is a sense that many people want to hear more about The Voice referendum and we decided now was the time to reinvigorate.

This is an opportunity to come and hear from someone who is highly respected and able to answer questions regarding the referendum. Kyogle Politics in the Pub hopes to see you there.



TAMARA SMITH MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

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

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Our region is in a cost-of-living crisis. And yet, the NSW Labor government is cutting vital relief for our seniors.

1 million seniors across regional NSW have used the Regional Seniors Travel Card to go to the doctor, visit their families, or participate in social activities. Disappointingly, the NSW Labor government ended this program in July.

The government needs to step up and continue providing this critical relief to our seniors. In a cost-of-living crisis, our seniors need more support, not less.



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Thanh Tran, bakery owner
 Interviewed by Nic Margan

For several months of the period of post-flood house repairs, many people would have eaten at Bread Krums bakery in East Lismore, as it was one of the earliest food businesses to reopen.

The bakery is owned by Thanh Tran and his wife, who also own Millers bakery in the CBD.

Thanh was born in Vietnam, in Buon Ma Thuot, a city of half a million people. He was 24 when he and his wife moved to Australia. They got jobs in a meat works and worked there for four years. They migrated for better opportunities. "If you work hard for a day," Thanh explains of Vietnam, "you can just buy one kilo meat, something like that. It's day-to-day."

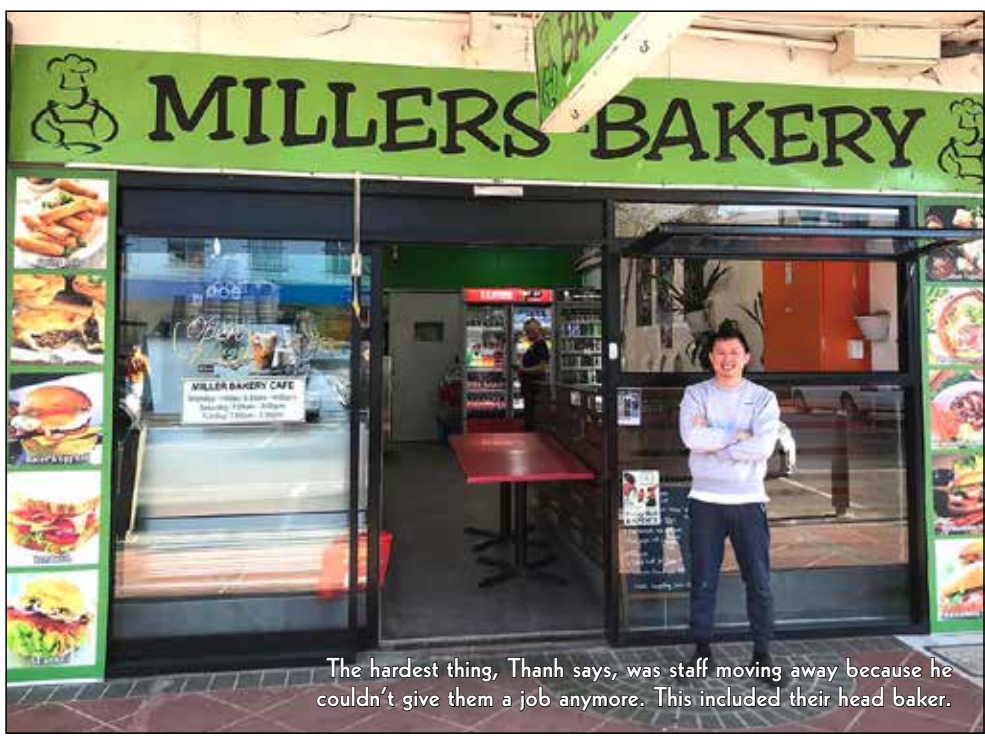
They received permanent residency and moved to Lismore where Thanh's parents and sister already lived. They got work in the bakeries for a friend and prepared to purchase the two businesses. Things were on the up-and-up, but a month after the sale went through, the flood hit.

"On the day before the flood, we had a note from the council to prepare and pack, something like that. We didn't know about the flood from 2017. Unluckily, that day there was a party for my aunty in Brisbane, so all my brothers and sisters went up to Brisbane. It was only me and my wife here."

"We're lucky because we had some guys who were going around asking, 'Do you need help?' and we said, 'yes'. They helped me lift some cabinets, display fridges, put them in the truck."

Some of the cabinets and fridges went up to Goonellabah, but others were moved to East Lismore, where they went under water.

"When I saw the news in the morning, I thought it was really horrible. It's really hard to say what my thoughts were that morning."



The hardest thing, Thanh says, was staff moving away because he couldn't give them a job anymore. This included their head baker.

After the flood

Almost all of Thanh and his wife's extended family work in the bakeries or the nail salon owned by his sister. When all three businesses were flooded, suddenly none of them had a job or any income. But before they could face that challenge, they had to clean up.

"Everything was really messy. All the glass doors were broken, so all the rubbish had come in, all the way to the back. There were rubbish bins throughout the shop. It took over ten days."

Thanh and his wife had no insurance and had just gone into a lot of debt to buy the businesses. On top of that, they had spent fifty-three thousand dollars on brand new display cabinets, which would cost twenty thousand dollars to get cleaned and fixed.

"We had to close for nine months here (Millers bakery), waiting for the landlord to fix the flooring and electricity. We're really lucky we had a good landlord. If they couldn't do anything it would be really hard to come back again."

Being located in Lismore

Central, the nail salon was also closed for an extended period. Luckily, Bread Krums bakery didn't need much work. Two months after the flood, they began buying rolls and sweet cakes from Alstonville and selling them from there. Finally, there was money coming in for the family again.

The hardest thing, Thanh says, was staff moving away because he couldn't give them a job anymore. This included their head baker. The family had stayed close by, though, having found temporary work at a nearby farm. With the addition of Thanh's brother, a baker who was living in Tamworth, Thanh and his wife were able to draw on their network to replace the people they'd lost.

The family survived by working together and finding creative ways to keep the business going despite it all. But the challenges haven't ended. Thanh has noticed a significant downturn in trade in the CBD.

"It was really busy in this road before the flood. But now not many people go around here. So it's really hard for us, because the price

of everything's going up. It's really horrible."

He hopes to generate new business by selling more Vietnamese-style food.

"We sell Vietnamese rolls, beef noodle soup, Vietnamese coffee. The way we make it here is the same as how I learnt to make it in Vietnam."

Businesses like Thanh's have sustained much of the effort needed to rebuild Lismore by keeping food in bellies. On either side of that Banh Mi roll, both serving and receiving, are people overcoming still yet to fully emerge from the disaster.

When I asked Thanh what he hopes to achieve, it immediately struck me as a dim question. Hope and achievement are at a distance, for now, to the necessity of keeping a roof over the heads of his wife, his parents, and their extended family. One thing he did say he looks forward to, though, is a good rest.

"I work hard seven days," Thanh laughs. "I'm here early, it's a bakery. After work we get dinner and then I go to sleep. One good thing is it's easy to go to sleep."

Graveside vigils honour Vietnam Diggers who gave their lives

by Janelle Saffin MP
 State Member for Lismore

On Wednesday 3rd August, cemeteries across the Northern Rivers witnessed quiet and solemn graveside vigils for our local Diggers who died during the Vietnam War.

The date marked the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team in South Vietnam in 1963.

I ensured my office had a presence at the Lismore Memorial Gardens in Goonellabah, where a service was held in honour of the four men whose remains are interred there and whose name plaques are embedded on the memorial wall.

The vigils were part of a co-ordinated national effort to have someone beside the grave of each soldier killed in action.

This year also marks 50 years since



Soldiers stand vigil at the Lismore Memorial Gardens on 3rd August 2023, honouring local Vietnam veterans who died serving their country.

Australia withdrew its troops from Vietnam, with events to commemorate the final departure of Australian troops being held across our region on Friday

18th August.

Whatever one's thoughts about the war itself, our Diggers did their duty and I thank them for their service.

Coming home and contributing to Nimbin



by NCC management committee

Amy-Kate Dillon has recently joined the Nimbin Community Centre management committee – this is her story.

There it was, under some Nimbin show ribbons, my old stamp collections and diaries of childhood, a calendar that for some reason had made it into my ‘keep’ pile for more than two decades titled “Visions of Nimbin, 1998”.

As I flicked through the pages, I saw many faces I knew from growing up here, and many community projects, innovative and way ahead of their time, as I turned the pages.

Peter Pedals on a bike with a blender, a smiling bunch of children up at Tuntable Community School sitting on a big log, next to some official looking people in lab coats. Apparently, the school children had been tasked with collecting leeches for medical purposes.

A community-run recycling program with a photo of Diana Roberts and her little one in tow. A belly dancing Biko, a picture of Rainbow Power, the beginning of Alternative Way. I’d be surprised if Michael wasn’t in there somewhere in a haze of saloon-esque herbal vapour.

I was eager to show my children’s dad, a very reluctant recruit in my new plan – let’s move our kids to the green hills – for me, a return home.

I sold him on the value of living in a community, a real community, and his reluctance soon turned to



curiosity, and certainty. What a great place to see out the impending apocalypse!

We all have different stories of this place and placements in our hearts, as ‘home’ or otherwise. And of course, the acknowledgement of this place as Bundjalung country, of the Widjabul Wia-bal people, whose land on which I walk and find home in my heart. I would like to overtly acknowledge here that it always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

On my return, many familiar faces appeared. Many of those I went to high school with, smiled and greeted me. We met each other’s children, seeing in their faces the same peers we grew up with.

And new community members coming in. Seeking solace amongst the ‘come as you are’ vibe, and wanting to participate in positive new connection, being welcomed into the community, eager to participate and bring their skills and make a life here work.

I see many young people here in Nimbin who want to be of service to their community, and engage and participate actively in the continuation of a strong loving and idealistic community, including

building resilience to rising rates of mental ill health, resilience to the impacts of our changing climates and the deadly vulnerabilities we face in this, and to protect and hold guardianship over community assets for our own children to enjoy.

I see my peers already doing this, by parenting and nourishing their children beautifully with their time and efforts. By volunteering for the fire brigade. By learning community governance and sitting on boards. By stepping up, to learn and be a part of committees. By seeking grants for events and making it all happen. By running businesses to meet local needs and attract tourism. By the grassroots community response, supporting neighbours, when we are left by a government that can’t keep up.

And we stand with the generations before us, that brought the vision, who raised us here, who worked tirelessly for years to keep things going in little old Nimbin town.

I hope we can continue in this changing world, to keep the visions of Nimbin alive; and also forge some new parts in the future of Nimbin and take ownership over our home, for all to thrive.

It brings me great joy and a huge sense of responsibility to begin my journey of giving back as a committee member of the Nimbin Community Centre. While I am not certain I’ll ever be on a ‘Visions of Nimbin’ calendar, I am happy to play a role in the vision for the future in any way I can.



Nimbin fire sale avoided

Imagine no emporium, chemist, credit union, environment centre, bakery or organic store, to name a few of the businesses that nearly went up in flames if it had not been for a couple of quick-thinking individuals (Bennett Horsfield, Bec Cook and Jedda Bales) backed up by the Nimbin Bushfire Brigade.

On Thursday, 17th August, at 10.38pm, Nimbin experienced a fire event that could have taken out the whole town centre.

As a business owner, I was directly affected by the raging fire in 2014, which left a big scar in the centre of the Nimbin commercial precinct. The fire demolished iconic Nimbin businesses, Bringabong, the Nimbin Museum and the Rainbow Café.

An event of this nature impacts all of us: the owners of the premises, the operators of businesses, and the employees who had worked in the outlets, compromising utility, amenity, and beauty of the town centre.

The Chamber of Commerce held a general meeting at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Thursday, 31st August, where interested community members came together to discuss our options as a caring community to mitigate the chance of another event of this nature.

Details of the outcome of this meeting will be shared in the next issue of the *GoodTimes*.

On the brighter side

Some exciting developments have been occurring in the business community of Nimbin that need to be applauded.

The storage and industrial sheds constructed by Johnathon Spain provide much-needed space for local business owners; Nimbin Building and Hardware, the site opposite the servo, signalling their confidence in moving into the village; and

the recent development at the Nimbin Valley Dairy is promising to be a significant tourist attraction for Nimbin.

The owners of these businesses are showing confidence, a belief that Nimbin will prosper moving into the future.

As a community, it is in our interest to support these businesses to grow, each being able to provide jobs for the people of Nimbin, reduce travel costs to obtain services and supplies, and all attract dollars that will circulate in our community.

In the future, we cannot rely on the revenue generated from the curiosity of Nimbin’s reputation as the place to score.

Medical marijuana is now as easy to obtain as a flu vaccine. We need to reinvent ourselves, not throwing the baby out with the bathwater, but looking for opportunities to use what we have that much of the developed world does not.

Community is the No. 1 as people seek connection; somewhere they can feel valued and appreciated.

Natural beauty and environment are another; we have so much we sometimes take for granted that others will come to enjoy; we can guide them and provide the services that support their experience.

With interest in Nimbin from outside comes opportunity; we need to be ready to consolidate our future and that of the youth of our community by providing goods and services aligned with our ideals and valued by those drawn to this place.

Nimbin Women in Business

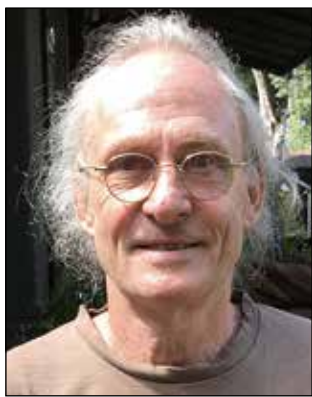
After a successful start with 20-plus members joining, NWiB has formed a sub-committee to discuss and plan the way forward for the group.

Moving beyond a networking opportunity, events will be designed to improve skills in every facet of business development.

If you are a woman already in business or looking for inspiration and support, check out the NWiB Facebook page.

Mural artists wanted

One of Nimbin’s most loved



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

attractions is the shopfront murals. There are over 25 in the village. The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce runs a mural renovation fund to renovate existing works and generate contemporary expression.

We have just undertaken an audit of murals. We currently need artists experienced in mural work for both the regeneration of existing artworks and the creation of new murals for the village.

If you or anyone you know is capable in this area, please get in touch with us at: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au

Event listings

Getting an event together, and promoting it, takes a lot of work. Social media plays a big part in attracting and keeping people up to date with what is happening.

If you are an event organiser or want to promote something special in Nimbin, Lismore Council can promote your event to a vast audience through their website: www.visitnimbin.com.au

The staff at the council’s media team are very co-operative and will be happy to help with your listing.

Aether Agency

Welcome to Wick and Rain, who now have a role in supporting the Chamber’s admin and marketing flow. We look forward to working with you both.

Membership Dues

The time has come again to renew memberships. Please visit the Chamber website for further details: nimbinaustralia.com.au Together, we are stronger.





FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

LOCALLY MINDED

0439333910



Trivia Night

Nimbin Bowling Club Welcomes you to a Night of Trivia in support of the Nimbin Community.

WHEN: Saturday, 9 September, 2023 (usually 3rd Sat of the month)

Great prizes to be won on the night as well as a raffle and lots of fun for all.

WHERE: Sibley's Bistro, Nimbin Bowling Club.

BOOKINGS are Encouraged. Priority Given for Meals in Bistro.

Nimbin Bowling Club 02 6689 1250 Sibley's Bistro 02 6689 1473

THEME: Best dressed – "rainbow" theme – on the night wins a prize!

TIME: 6:00 pm For 7:00 pm Start. **ENTRY:** 3 gold coins

Lismore rally calls for an end to logging of native forests



Violet CoCo voices her opinion
Photos: Sean O'Shannessy

by Shae Salmon

Power! People! The call to rally from one of the organisers Violet Coco, was echoed back by the large crowd at the recent Rally for Native Forests at the Lismore Quad on Saturday 12th August.

The Bob Brown Foundation instigated these events around Australia to heighten awareness of the devastation the constant logging has on our precious native trees and wildlife.

Critically endangered species such as the Koala, Greater Glider and Swift Parrot are in jeopardy from this heinous unnecessary destruction of their homes.

Logging degrades the surrounding soil and water supplies and as carbon storehouses, trees are vital



Shae with her sister Julie

to helping halt climate change.

The Lismore rally attracted many people, with around 400 attending throughout the day.

Informative speeches from guests such as the legendary Dailan Pugh, Nan Nicholson, Ruth Rosenhek and Mandy Nolan captivated the crowd with performers including Luke Robinson, Terri Nicholson, Jarrah and the young

Wijabul Wia-bal Dancers providing some much-appreciated entertainment.

Young Ryder Lloyd-Prins was a favourite with his impassioned plea to end logging.

The crowd took to the streets with banners and chanting before the last act, band The Seeding ended the day with some music to vibe to.

Many thanks to all those who assisted, and especially



Virginia White

the organisers including Violet, Valerie Thompson, Eddie Lloyd and Sean O'Shannessy.

It is imperative to save and nurture our forests and we must do whatever we can, as individuals or groups to stop this destruction.

Notes from Nimbin Advisory Group August meeting

by Megan James

A short and friendly meeting was held in August with seven community members plus Alison Souby and Councillor Darlene Cook in attendance and Councillor Big Rob via video link.

Thanks were extended to Nic Lindner who has now resigned from the group due to ill-health.

An update on Nimbin Development Applications June-August was provided. The LCC website has been made more user-friendly and all information is publicly available there, as well as in the printed leaflet 'Local Matters'.

NAG Community members also requested progress reports on larger or significant developments specifically affecting Nimbin be brought to meetings. An update on the status of the Cubes development application was requested.

The Developer Contributions Plan (formerly termed Section 94, now Section 7.11) has been intermittently stopped and restarted over past years and has now been recommenced. Staff will have a draft for exhibition and consultation before the end of this year.

Currently, contributions are allocated to three sections: Rural North, Rural South and Urban.

Contributions levied on developments in Nimbin must be spent in Rural North, with the exception of the development of Lismore Park and Tucki Tucki Creek embellishments, which are considered to benefit the whole community.

The revised Plan will be presented to the next Nimbin Advisory Group meeting in November. Community members requested a breakdown of funds allocated to Rural North which have been spent in Nimbin since the last review.

A 'Place Plan' for Nimbin is being developed by Council to look at amenity and facility improvements of public land

to cover the needs of the next 20 years. Community workshops in Nimbin to explore these will take place later this year, a very welcome development. The Chamber of Commerce will hold a general meeting to discuss the plan also.

A request was made for feedback regarding water supply arrangements when the dam is full and also about tankers taking water from village supply during drought. Amy-Kate will ask RFS about actions regarding a possible faulty fire hydrant.

Feedback was also requested about the possible location of EV charging stations, as discussed at last meeting.

Thanks were extended to Council for the safer pedestrian access to Alternative Way recently completed.

There is now a new pushbutton tap in Allsopp Park to complement the very much appreciated new BBQ.

The BBQ area near the pool also is in need of an additional new BBQ to replace the one removed long ago from the old shelter shed.

Once the new toilet block is completed near the pool, there will be taps and a drinking fountain installed at the rear. Nimbin Comskool's donation of a seat in the area is very much appreciated.

The tourism workshop conducted by Council was much appreciated and commended for very effective community engagement and participation.

The meeting requested a standing item on Rainbow Walking Track progress be included in future meetings. Diana gave an update to the meeting. Extensive negotiations with affected landowners slowed progress but are now finalised.

Consequently, the route is planned to change and negotiations are currently underway with the funding body.

Due to insurance liability issues for private landholders, the steering committee has decided to investigate removal of the stretch from Cullen Street through to the Headers sports

field, a steep section that required concrete stairs and an expensive bridge across the creek, seeking to replace it with a new section from Alternative Way through to Peace Park to improve access for the less abled.

Disability parking spaces will be provided adjoining this section of track and it is anticipated public toilets, a State government pre-election funding commitment, will be constructed in Peace Park serving the park, the pool, and the walking track.

Due to delays, project completion has been pushed out to June 2024, although it may be constructed before that date.

Following extensive engineering and design work, together with costings, and community consultation, a development application, signed by all landholders is currently with Lismore City Council for determination.

Lighting has been removed from the design. It was never favoured by the community and Council planners have now agreed it's not necessary.

Ross Wallace, a talented local designer, has been engaged to work on the way-finding signage, working up the ideas he originally presented to the community over 10 years ago.

Ross is 75% of the way through the redesign process and his creative talent is shining through. The extensive artwork proposed for the track has progressed following an expression of interest opportunity for local artists.

The work of a number of local artists was selected for further development and their detailed submissions are now being reviewed.

The project is being managed by Martin Soutar, Lismore City Council's project manager for infrastructure and open spaces, working alongside a steering group that includes Nimbin community representatives.

His dedication to getting the best outcomes for the community have been very much appreciated.

Railway outcomes from Council meeting



Steel sleepers on the Byron to Mullumbimby track

Lydia Kindred,
Secretary, Northern Rivers
Railway Ltd (NRRL)

The recent Byron Shire Council (BSC) meeting saw a debate last for what one councillor described as "the record time for an issue".

Deciding whether a 'rail trail' (actually a trail without the rail) should be given a go-ahead, produced an extremely emotional meeting. One councillor cried, others were angered and upset.

The debate centred on whether BSC should approve a rail trail only, on the railway line that passes through Byron Shire, or wait for the outcome of the current investigation into the condition of the line.

In the end a motion was passed favouring a rail trail, but the outcomes of the degradation study from Bangalow to Yelgun will be forwarded to Council for its consideration when it is completed in December.

The Northern Regional Railway Company has

been granted a licence by UGL and TfNSW to access the line, to ascertain the costs of fixing the tracks. Northern Rivers Railway Ltd has also been granted a licence to access the Lismore to Bangalow section.

The study so far is showing the tracks are in good condition and they will only need to have some sleepers replaced. Bridges and culverts have all previously had concrete foundations installed so it is just the top, less expensive, layers that will need to be renewed. This is exciting news for those needing train services to return.

We can see there is plenty of room for a bike/walking path on the side, within the railway corridor. Some areas are within beautiful natural environments.

As the study is completed, investment for returning services will be sought.

If you support the return of trains and would like to help with the clearing, please go to: www.northernriversrail.com.au



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin



Community Grants Round launched

The Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) is delighted to announce the opening of their annual Community Grants Round, with applications accepted until 29th September.

This year, for the first time in the grant's history, a funding stream to address the long-term planning required in the era of disasters has been added.

The Thriving Together three-year grant is a maximum total of \$120,000 in funding, which will be paid in three annual instalments of up to \$40,000 per year.

It is just one of four funding streams available in the NRCF's 19th Community Grants Program.

It is the first time the Foundation has offered a multi-year grant, with community organisations'

need for long-term funding and planning starkly highlighted in the NRCF's recent flood report: 'Research, Respond, Recover: A year on from disaster'.

The report surveyed 188 local community organisations, with an alarming community recovery ranking of just 4.8 out of 10.

It also identified dual pressures of a funding cliff due in August 2023, as much disaster funding runs out, alongside a caseload which swelled to meet the need for flooded communities.

The NRCF Community Grant 2023/24 funding streams are:

Local Impact: Small grants supporting grassroots organisations to strengthen and enhance our regional communities. Up to \$10,000 per grant, from a total



funding pool of \$265,000.

Housing and Homelessness: Funding to progress innovative models and/or provide locally appropriate housing outcomes for people on low to medium incomes. One grant up to \$50,000.

Recovery and Resilience: Supporting community in the recovery from recent disasters including Covid-19, bushfires

and floods. Four grants of up to \$25,000.

Thriving Together: A three-year grant, supporting a high potential, community-driven project in disaster impacted communities. One grant of up to \$120,000 total across the three years.

For more information, the Community Grant Guidelines are available on the NRCF website: www.nrcf.org.au

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Temporary halt to logging in Newry State Forest

After a successful application to the Land and Environment Court brought today by Gumbaynggirr Elder Uncle Micklo Jarrett, NSW Forestry Corporation has been forced to give an undertaking to briefly stop logging in Newry State Forest, near Urunga, to allow Gumbaynggirr Elders to survey the logged sites.

This landmark decision follows weeks of conflict in the forest which is part of the area the NSW Government promised to protect as part of the Great Koala National Park, its only environmental election promise.

Greens MP Sue Higginson said, "This is a huge and important moment in the on-going fight to protect the forest."

"Since late July at Newry we have seen Forestry



Corporation lock up the forest, throngs of NSW Police guarding the logging operations, koala habitat destroyed and First Nations Elders violently arrested and locked up for practising Ceremony on their ancestral lands.

"First Nations people should not be treated in this way, and they shouldn't have to commence legal action to stop the Government from doing what they promised

they wouldn't. "The environmental destruction and conflict that is happening in the forests of the Mid-North Coast is a result of political failure."

"I welcome this reprieve for Newry Forest, the Gumbaynggirr Elders and all the communities who want to protect our precious public native forests, but I am calling on the NSW Government to cease the logging operation in Newry

and the other forests critical to the Great Koala National Park altogether.

"It is time for the Government to make good on its promise, to end the conflict in the forests and do the right thing and stop destroying the forests of the Great Koala National Park immediately."

The Land and Environment Court has ruled that the temporary voluntary suspension of logging would be in place until 5th September to allow site inspections to take place.

A three-day hearing into the cessation of logging is set to begin on 14th November.

Alan Oshlack, an agent acting on behalf of Micklo Jarrett, said he hoped that the coming court action would bring harvesting operations in Newry State Forest to a complete halt.

NSW's coal power subsidies will fail climate targets

A report commissioned by the NSW government and written by former coal lobbyist Cameron O'Reilly is recommending that the NSW government spend hundreds of millions of dollars per year to extend the life of Eraring coal-fired power station beyond its current lifespan.

The report was leaked, which, according to Nature Conservation policy and advocacy director, Dr Brad Smith, "suggests factions within the NSW Labor government are attempting to lock in a yet-to-be-made decision to extend the life of Eraring coal-fired power station, in a deal that would result in millions of tonnes of climate pollution."

"This recommendation is an absolute disaster for the climate, energy affordability and the credibility of the NSW government when it comes to emissions reductions," he said.

"NSW climate targets rely heavily on closing coal, and for good reason – it's the largest source of climate pollution, and the easiest to phase out."

Current NSW government climate projections rely on emissions from coal power to be reduced from 49 million

NSW Coal-fired power station emissions versus climate targets				
Owner	Facility	Capacity (MW)	5 yr average emissions 2017-2022 (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	Value \$B ¹
AGL	Bayswater	2640	13,582,463	2.0
Origin	Eraring	2880	13,380,401	2.0
EnergyAustralia	Mt Piper	1440	5,743,332	0.9
Sev.en	Vales Point	1320	6,658,282	1.0
NSW passenger car fleet of 4.4 million cars			13,684,000	
NSW 2030 target for electricity generation			9,500,000	

1. based on EU ETS price

Source: Clean Energy Regulator, Electricity sector emissions and generation data 2017–22

tonnes in 2020, to 9.5 million tonnes in 2030, the equivalent of four power stations down to one.

"We cannot imagine a scenario where the NSW government reaches its own inadequate climate targets if they choose to extend the life of Eraring by even one or two years," Dr Smith said.

"The emissions impact of this decision is equivalent to Chris Minns buying everyone in NSW a solar-powered Tesla, which would offset the 13 million tonnes of CO₂ per year emitted by the power station each year," he said.

NSW's climate policy is way behind other states when it comes to low hanging fruit like putting solar on schools, incentivising homeowners to install batteries and solar panels, and banning new gas connections.

"We'd love to see the Minns Government show some vision and leadership when it comes to transforming our energy system; it is untenable to say that there are no other options when multiple energy experts have laid out actionable pathways," Dr Smith said.

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Still life painting prize

Kyogle's Summerland Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival Still Life Painting Prize 2024 is now open.

The organising committee are offering substantial prizemoney for local artisans in each age section of the art prize:

- Senior (adults): First prize \$500, second prize \$250, third prize \$100.
- Intermediate (high school): First prize \$200, second prize \$100, third prize \$75.
- Junior (primary school) First prize \$100, second prize \$75, third prize \$50.

A woodworking and a soft craft competition will also be held in conjunction with the painting prize. Woodworks will be judged on timber selection, craftsmanship, and technique by an established timber craftsman. Soft craft is any item made of fibre, they can be sewn, knitted, woven, crocheted, soft toys, rugs, wall hangings, and quilts.

Each craft competition includes a senior and junior section featuring substantial prize money. This year there will be three prizes awarded in each age section.

All the details are on the entry form available from The Nimbin Artists Gallery, Roxy Gallery, Clay Corner, Kyogle Crafts, Kyogle Farmers Market, via our Facebook page: Summerland Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival or contact Caroline on 0459-401-568.

Please submit your completed entry form to the Roxy Gallery, or Clay Corner retail, or PO Box 795 Kyogle, 2474, by December 15th to be accepted into the competition.

Opening of the door to Hades

In 1887 a meteorologist by the name of Clement Wragg started the practice of naming cyclones so he could differentiate between those catastrophic events during any particular year.

In 2022 the meteorological community started naming heatwaves due to significant increases in their number, length and lethal effect.

The most recent heatwave in Southern Europe has been named Cerberus, the three headed dog that guards the doors to Hades, the world of the dead. Cerberus has produced temperatures soaring into the high 40s. Simultaneously both in Europe and across the globe there has been an explosion of deadly wildfires, notably in Hawaii, Greece, Italy and Russia.

Here in Australia the Bureau of Meteorology's most recent long term predictive maps have assigned an 80% chance of above median temperatures from September into the new year. That's the highest possible predictive change they can assign. In short their entire map of Australia is coloured dark red.

As I write this, the temperature is 12 degrees above the average. If that trajectory were to continue it's not implausible that the median maximum temperature for September could be 37°C and by January 43°C. The median is the middle number of a set of data points.

I'm sure to be accused of fear-mongering but the warning signs are clear and action is required.

Now is the hour to clear away combustibles from near your home; clean your gutters and establish sprinkler defences. Now is the hour to install low-cost temperature



Revenge of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens

reducing measures on and in our dwellings. Don't wait till you're in the teeth of the hell hound. The chances of anyone putting whirly gigs on your roof this summer, or insulation in your roof space or installing aircon will be very small. They'll all be booked out and having to work at night to do any of it.

The simple measures I refer to and what I've already done on my own home is the installation of rollup external shade cloth blinds on all the western and northern windows, the installing of misters and industrial vans and installing of insulation in the ceiling space.

If you are caring for the aged, the very young or the ill or infirm, you have a duty of care to get temperature controlling measures in place before this spring/summer.

The heatwaves in Europe and America in 2022 killed over 60,000 people; how many Cerberus will kill we don't know yet.

Climate change is here, and although stopping the export of coal is now a necessity it won't save us for many years to come. What we need to do is ready ourselves right now to withstand the opening of the door to Hades. Good luck.

A reminisce

by S Sorrensen

Her eyes shone, reflecting firelight. The group sat around the fire, talking about the communal vegie garden – Centre Garden they called it – and the planting they would do tomorrow.

A joint glided around the circle, flaring and dipping, flaring and dipping. The woman with the shining eyes smiled at me. Her dark hair was piled on top of her head, secured by a stick. Or maybe it was a bone; hard to tell in the flickering light. She sat comfortably on her heels, swaying gently.

Even though we were in the rainforest, I could hear the the sea hissing. I could hear my heart beating. Life was full of promise.

It was 1976 and I was in Cedar Bay, North Queensland.

I'd been at Cooktown and had hitched a ride south on a clunky trimaran bound for Cairns. From Cairns, I would hitch up to the Atherton Tablelands where I was living with a tribe of other young refugees fleeing the suffocating culture of mainstream Australia.

Things were changing, we felt. The old ways were dehumanising and planet-wrecking. We were pioneers of a new age, we thought. A kinder future.

Maybe we were naïve, but naivete can take you places that you would never normally go. Naivete is hope in action.

After some days pushing into the prevailing southerlies, we reached Cedar Bay. A pod of dolphins escorted the boat into a shimmering world of blue water and green rainforest that stopped abruptly at the white sand. I stood on the bow, my hair and sarong flapping in the wind. I was 21.



Even before the anchor was set, I dived into the water and swam to the beach. Two men approached me as I lay, exhausted, on the sand. One was naked, the other wore khaki shorts. They both had long hair and thick beards. The man with shorts had a rack of three knives sheathed in a belt.

"G'day. You alright?" he said.

I was. I pointed to the boat. I asked him about the three knives he carried.

"I'm a pig hunter," he said. "They damage the forest, so we hunt them and eat them."

"Well, you might," laughed the naked bloke. "Not me, I'm vegetarian."

"Where do you live?" I asked.

"Come with us," the pig hunter said.

We walked towards the wall of rainforest, following a stream that flowed from the forest across the sand and into the ocean. We plunged from glare into darkness.

As my eyes adjusted, I saw elegant open homes set among the trees, the dappled sunlight fingering their roofs. A noisy and naked bunch of young children splashed in the stream. Two

women squatted near them, talking. They waved.

We walked to where a fire was being set. People were gathering. The sun would soon sink behind the range.

Around the fire tomorrow's gardening plans were finalised and food shared (with a pork option). A guitar and a dulcimer appeared. We sang Bob Dylan songs. The woman with the shining eyes danced, her arms curling like smoke.

Music spilled through the trees as darkness inked between the houses where, soon, kerosene lamps and candles created pockets of warm light. Life as art, I thought.

I was in awe that people could live in such a beautiful way. This was simple, graceful, human. It was a masterpiece.

The woman with the shining eyes sat down next to me. She smelled like the sea. She was warm like fire. We sang *Forever Young*, and I discovered it was a bone that held her hair.

A few weeks later, the police and navy came to Cedar Bay, arrested these people and burnt their homes.

Musical garden party in Tyalgum

Catch The Heart Collectors (pictured) for a spring garden party in the hinterland village of Tyalgum as they share their latest musical creations on Saturday 16th September.

The Heart Collectors' garden parties are an intimate seasonally-themed event held at the picturesque Garden of Light, Tyalgum. The event houses boutique gin and beer bars, chai and cake tents, and BBQ meals which complete the concert experience.

This bi-annual garden concert series, jointly hosted by Flutterbies Cottage Cafe and The Garden of Light, has drawn high praise from audience members since its commencement in 2016.

Internationally acclaimed, locally based folk group The Heart Collectors will be the main act. Now sought out by international festivals and events, they returned from the USA in May from their latest appearance at Folk Alliance International, following which they performed at Nimbin's 50th anniversary Aquarius commemoration this year.

"Being the only band to represent Australia at Folk Alliance International was a whirlwind to say the least,"



said Tristan Dafoe, banjo and mandolin player. "Some of the most magic moments were at 3am, when the halls of the hotel were filled with people, and the intimate stages showcased folk legends. We feel very lucky to have performed with some of our heroes."

For those new to The Heart Collectors' music,

they are a marriage of 60s and 70s-inspired Americana folk, with a fresh and vibrant energy that has given them the label of 'epic folk'. They have been compared to Fleetwood Mac and Peter, Paul and Mary by prominent American writer John T Davis, "...with more of an organic, Celtic-inflected lilt of vocals and melody."

The band is in the process of releasing its fifth album, with the first single 'Sirius B' out now on all streaming platforms. Its accompanying music video is a visually striking companion to this celestial song, filmed at White Sands National Park, in the deserts of New Mexico. The garden concert will be featuring this song, as well as performances of new tracks from the up-coming album.

"There is always a feeling of excitement as we prepare for these events," said Kymrie Henge, lead vocalist. "The garden is very much an inspiration for us as a band... We can't wait to share these new songs for the first time in a live setting."

The event will also feature the charming melodies of talented Sunshine Coast-based special guest, Anjali Leonard.

On 13th October, The Heart Collectors will be returning to Nimbin for an evening performance during the Nimbin Roots Festival at the Bush Theatre. More details soon.

To get your tickets for the Garden Party, and to stay up to date with the band's show at the Bush Theatre, go to: theheartcollectors.com

5 MONKEYS

Theatre review
by Twilight Marson

I was lucky enough to be an audience member at both the Thursday night's dress rehearsal and Friday night's opening night of Nimbin Players' latest venture.

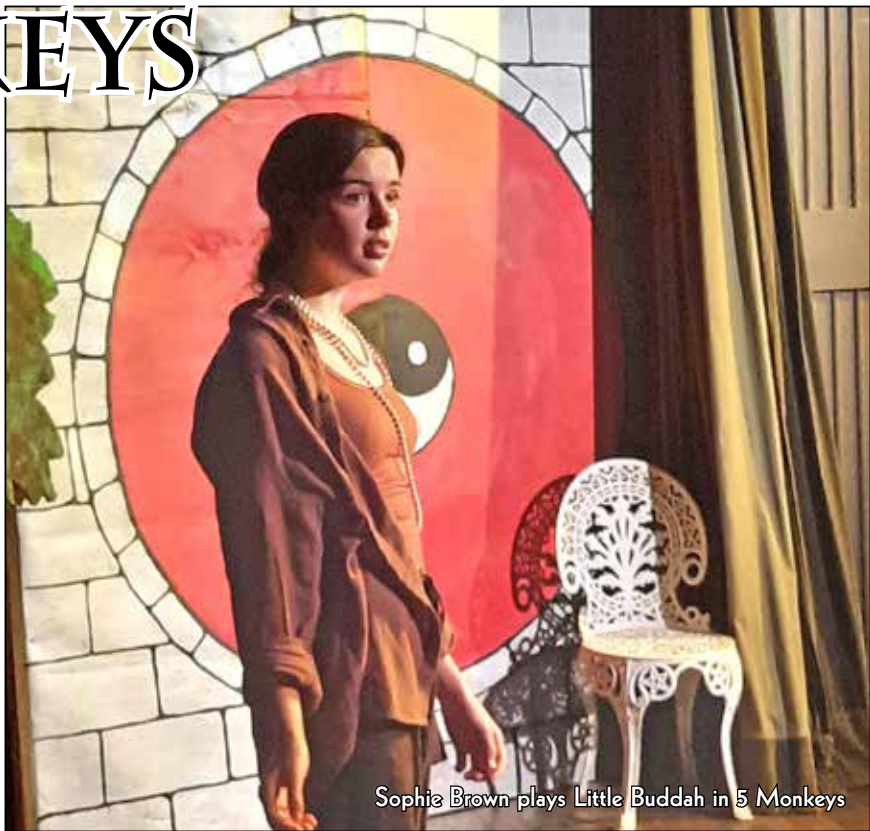
My first impression of the show was amazement at the detailed sets and props they created. Walking up to the stage and seeing the five different trees popping with colour and the beautifully crafted doors for entry and exit transported me into another world and another time.

The show opens with us being introduced to our Little Buddah, and what a star performer young Sophie is!

Each monkey gave us some laughs and some truths to ponder.

A few key stand-out themes that resonated with me from the monkeys which I am still thinking about a week later, still have me pondering my own journey. "We're all scared sometimes and we're all alone," articulates the point we can all be vulnerable and need love and approval and this is an okay state to be in. It is part of being human.

"As long as I've got more than them," says Monkey Four, and this is a trap that we all can fall into to fill the void inside us.



As Little Buddah decides to return to the garden tomorrow in the final poignant scene with Monkey Five – "There are many visitors to the garden that get lost. I will return to help them." – I found myself thinking that life is about joy and living, and that we can all find ourselves in traps of vanity, gluttony and greed.

If we work together and remember

that we are all experiencing this joy and pain as part of the human condition, perhaps we can create a new path of connection and understanding.

Five Monkeys was written and directed by Al Mustapha Al Shahid and performed by Sophie Brown, Kaara Stephens-Smith, Cath Smith, Jay Stephens, Andrew Mangan and Al Mustapha Al Shahid.

From behind the curtain, a personal perspective

by Christine Jones

Last weekend Nimbin Theatre Group presented *5 Monkeys* at the Town Hall.

I have been drawn to community theatre for the last eight years because it's the closest experience to being a part of a band that you can get without being a musician.

I am an artist, and I can organise things. So I jump into all the spaces that need to be filled: stage manager, prop maker, set painter, sound and lighting, green room manager, admin.

Most of the time I'm making it up as I go, but community theatre is a platform that allows for experimentation and failure. How do we grow without both? Anything I can do that will help the magic manifest, I will do.

We are still a fledgling company with only four shows under our belt. Most of us first met at rehearsals. We are always excited when a new person joins us in our journey. Some people leave us for a few years and then return. Our vision is to have a team of people that see the benefit of being a part of this company and will throw in a hand in a variety of capacities when they can.

The day before opening night we got to finally perform on the stage at Town Hall. All the disparate elements of the magic coalesced.

Lighting designs and cables wound around the hall's rafters. The separately constructed elements of the

set came together in one place. The costumes and choreography were finally seen in context with the tinted lights and the sets. The live music created a layer of personalisation to each character.

I love the "aha" moment when subtle elements of the design reveal themselves when they're all presented together. Director and playwright Al Mustapha Al Shahid (Mussie) had created a moment of magic.

Months before the performances began, Mussie was making sets with Dave Barbara and Sue Gumley (thanks Rainbow Power company for resources); Sian Evans was sourcing costumes and dreaming up canape recipes with Cath Greenwood who was feeding us all at weekly rehearsals.

Little Buddah (Sophie Brown), Monkey 1 (Kaara Stephens-Smith), Monkey 2 (Cath Smith), Monkey 3 (Jay Stephens), Monkey 4 (Andrew Mangan), Monkey 5, (writer and director Mussie), and musician Ren Waterfall all worked together to help make Mussie's story be told the best way we could.

Usually, I use photos of the actors for the posters and flyers. But I had a painting of a monkey version of the Green man that perfectly suited the background of the promo material.

Opening night was hectic and thrilling. We were adjusting sets, learning front of house routines and even sewing monkey ears onto costumes Mussie had made



at the last minute. I wasn't able to learn how to balance a tray of canapes, though others did.

This is the nature of community theatre. We all do what we can to make sure it is all right on the night. There are many roles that need to be filled in a company like ours, and we are always excited to connect with like-minded people with a passion for creating that moment of magic.

And the buzz we feel lasts for weeks afterwards.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks from all of us to the Nimbin School of Arts for such a warm welcome, and all those fabulous volunteers that love community theatre.

Stay tuned to Nimbin Theatre Group on Facebook if you are interested in being a part of our future adventures.

STILL LIFE PAINTING PRIZE

The Summerland Giant Pumpkin & Watermelon Festival Still Life Painting Prize pays homage to Margaret Olley. Marget Olley was born on June 24, 1923 in Lismore. At the time of her birth Margret's family lived on a property at Horseshoe Creek, Kyogle. The Painting & Craft Prizes aim to showcase the talented artists & crafters that live in the Northern Rivers and foster a love of the creative arts in our community. This Year's entries will be exhibited at The Roxy Gallery, Summerland Way Kyogle from the 17th of January

Entry forms available from Nimbin Art Gallery or through our Facebook page: Summerland Giant Pumpkin & Watermelon Festival.

SOFT CRAFT PRIZE

WOODWORK CRAFT PRIZE

The Voice of the Alternative Nation

www.nimfm.org FACE THE MUSIC

Nimbin Rural Fire Brigade 70th Anniversary

Sat 28th of October 11:00am

A day to celebrate 70 years of local Fire Fighting

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Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close, Sun 8.30am to 4pm
Sibley's Bistro open Wed-Sat 5 to 8pm, 6689-1473

- Open Mic, Wednesday 13th September, 6pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome