

Soldiers thanked for assistance



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

Last month, I had the incredible honour of inspecting 200 soldiers from the volunteer 41st Battalion as they were given Freedom of Entry to the city. This is the highest honour a city can bestow on the defence forces, and is a way to thank the battalion which has come to our community's aid during

bushfires and floods.

Nimbin Place Plan

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to make a submission on the proposed Nimbin Place Plan. All up we received just over 80 submissions.

Staff will now finalise the report and present it to Councillors for adoption.

Road works

Council's road crews and contractors have been working hard to repair all the damaged roads from the 2022 natural disaster. I asked the team to provide the following update for the Nimbin community.

Blue Knob: Work is underway on the first of four landslip sites. Currently contractor CMC are working on the first site closest to Nimbin which includes the construction of two soil

nails walls. Once these are underway, they will move to set up the second site for excavation. The works is expected to take 10 months to complete the repair of all four landslips pending weather conditions.

Gravel Roads update: Works continue for grading of over 120km on 53 unsealed gravel roads which have been significantly damaged as a result of declared natural disaster events in December 2023 and April 2024. Roads with the most severe damage have been given the highest priority to ensure that critical routes are restored first.

In one of the biggest projects of its kind, Council is deploying six separate works crews, and efforts have been made to cluster the works geographically to optimise efficiency and resource allocation. Motorists will be



notified of road changes via roadside signage.

Newton Drive: Works have begun on a second minor upslope landslip further up Newton Drive. Crews have taken advantage of favourable weather conditions in June proceeding to the final clean-up and the rehabilitation phase. The remaining work requires sealing the road at the landslip site and the replacement of a single pipe culvert. We'd like to thank the community for their patience during minor

disruptions to traffic flow.

Stony Chute Road: Earthworks are now complete and site rehabilitation is underway. Drainage structures are on track to be completed by the end of the month. On completion of the drainage, the final works include resealing the road which will involve stop-go traffic control.

Terania Creek Road: Works on bridge 3 is now complete. On bridge 2 a side track is in place and concrete approaches and

steel placement is due for completion by the end of June. Remaining works include the installation of guard rails. On completion of bridge 2 crews will commence work on bridge 3.

Upper Tuntable Falls Road: Landslip remediation works are nearing completion, including minor grading and drainage works.

Once again, I would like to thank the community for its patience as we work our way through these significant repairs.



Photo courtesy ACF

Nuclear power will mean higher household bills and more pollution

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC), the state's leading environmental advocacy organisation, has criticised the Federal Coalition's "nuclear fantasy" as a commitment to higher energy bills for NSW households and more climate pollution.

The announcement of an un-costed plan from the Federal Coalition to build nuclear reactors at Liddell power station in the Hunter Valley and Mount Piper power station near Lithgow is a dangerous distraction from the renewable energy transition underway in NSW.

NCC Chief Executive Officer Jacqui Mumford said, "The announcement is nothing more than the Federal Coalition pandering to its mates in the fossil fuels industry.

"There's no plan to deal with harmful nuclear waste, and no indication of how the Federal government would get around state-based bans on nuclear.

"We should be replacing our polluting and ageing coal-fired power plants in NSW with renewable energy generation and storage, not with a nuclear fantasy.

"Renewable energy is the cheapest and most affordable form of energy, and NSW needs to get on with the job of scaling it up to deliver a sustainable future and sound economic growth prospects for our state."

International experience shows that it takes up to 20 years to build nuclear reactors, meaning that ageing coal fired power plants would continue to emit dangerous climate pollution for years to come.

Be Fire Safe: Ensure your smoke alarms are working

by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

As we move into the colder months, Fire and Rescue NSW has launched its winter safety campaign, with important messages about what you can do to be fire safe and save lives.

Last winter, nearly half of the 1080 homes that were impacted by fire in NSW did not have a working smoke alarm. This figure is far too high, especially considering approximately 20 people a year die in house fires in NSW that could have been prevented. Hundreds more people survive a fire but suffer life-changing health consequences.

In NSW, it's a legal requirement to have working smoke alarms on every level of your home. You are twice as likely to die in a home fire if you don't have a working smoke alarm.

Fire and Rescue NSW is urging the community to check they have a smoke alarm, test that it is working and if it isn't, contact them for a free safety visit: <https://fire.nsw.gov.au/safetyvisits>

When a fire takes hold, every second counts. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can turn into a major fire, that's why having a fire escape plan is crucial for every household. Without a plan, lives are at risk.

I encourage you to visit the Fire and Rescue NSW website, download the template and draw up your escape plan. It's recommended that residents practise their escape plan at least twice a year to ensure everyone knows what to do.

Remember, in case of fire: stay low, get out, and stay out! Ensure windows



Janelle Saffin with the Fire + Rescue NSW Commissioner Jeremy Fretwell and Member for South Coast Liza Butler MP at the launch of the Winter Fire Safety campaign.

and doors have quick-release devices. Protect your loved ones by planning and practising your escape plan.

Download your plan today: <https://fire.nsw.gov.au/befiresafe>

Budget boosts housing, incentivises bulk billing

The NSW Budget, handed down on 18th June, was a responsible one which importantly addressed the historic neglect of social housing supply and frontline health worker accommodation, and which incentivised GP clinics to bulk bill more than 70% of patients.

Lismore has been identified as a possible future location for some of the 120 new health worker dwellings, which may include building new accommodation, refurbishment of existing living quarters and possible purchase of suitable properties such as motels.

In Opposition, I successfully lobbied to keep the former Laurel Lodge in Lismore in public ownership, and had it repurposed as social housing units, so in Government, I'll strongly advocate for our fair share of this Budget's record investment in new housing, including public housing.

If GP clinics across our electorate take up the Government's new Bulk Billing Support Initiative (once legislated) it will help keep them viable, help reduce cost-of-living pressures on patients and take the pressure off hospital emergency departments.

Good news for community sector workers

The Minns Labor Government has delivered an historic reform for community service workers, more than 75% of whom are women, ensuring they get access to portable long service leave.

This will improve the lives of hard-working staff in domestic and family violence support, homelessness services, community housing and other community services.

Under the current system community sector workers can only gain long service leave after 10 years working for a specific employer.

They will now get long service leave based on their time in the sector rather than time employed by a single employer.

This reform will ensure these workers receive six weeks paid leave after seven years of employment in the sector, no matter how many times they change contracts. Part-time employees will have access to the entitlement after the equivalent time, on a pro-rata basis.

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Expensive, destructive and unsupported, Dunoon Dam cannot proceed

The Dunoon Dam is like a ghost that just won't quit.

For more than 30 years, the spectre of cultural and environmental destruction that would flow from this terrible prospect has haunted our region; it's time we buried it once and for all.

It's worth addressing upfront, that any dam would make no difference to the severity or length of serious floods. The catchment upstream of the site is just a fraction of a percent of the total area that is responsible for flooding in the Richmond River.

More broadly, for a dam to be used for flood mitigation, it has to be managed carefully and at a much-reduced storage level that would undermine its capacity to act as a water storage dam. Any claim that the Dunoon Dam is about flood mitigation is either poorly informed or actively misleading.

First proposed in 1993, the further flooding of Rocky Creek near Dunoon has been broadly refuted and put down as costly, unsuitable to



by Sue Higginson,
NSW Greens MLC

secure water supply, having massive environmental impacts and, crucially, would result in the complete erasure of significant First Nations heritage.

The Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung nation have a continuous connection with their country and the area that would be flooded by the Dunoon Dam would result in permanent destruction of sites that are part of this ongoing connection.

The nature and number of these sites demonstrate

that the inundation area is of critical cultural significance, with many types of cultural activities being undertaken and 25 burial places for the Widjabul Wia-bal within the footprint that would be flooded.

The Widjabul Wia-bal have made it unambiguously clear during multiple reports and consultations and over many years, that any level of disturbance of these sites is unacceptable.

Archaeological reports on the burial sites have indicated that they are likely from before European invasion and demonstrate the significance of the area to the Widjabul Wia-bal long before many of their sites were destroyed completely by colonisation.

The area that would be flooded is of such cultural importance that senior knowledge holders were reluctant to even reveal the extent of the heritage until it became clear that the sites were at imminent threat of being flooded.

The systematic destruction of cultural heritage and

identity, combined with sham consultation processes, has created a situation where the Widjabul Wia-bal people do not trust the integrity of consultation and do not accept that their cultural heritage is an acceptable loss. So many First Nations people and allies in our region wholeheartedly support their opposition to the Dunoon Dam proceeding.

In this light, it was shocking in the extreme to learn that once again there is a fresh push from the Nationals on Rous County Council who are perpetuating the bad and abusive colonial principles and systems against a living culture.

Disgracefully, Rous County Council has even selected a cultural heritage consultant, to look further at the potential destruction of culture and country, and it is a consultant who the Widjabul Wia-bal have publicly stated they cannot trust and will not engage with.

It is in this light that I wrote to the NSW

Government back in April of this year, and I finally got a response!

The Minister for Water made it clear that she was aware of the issue and agreed that the process underway by the Nationals on Rous County Council is distressing for the local community and the dam itself would have a massive cost and arguable benefits.

Tellingly, she made it clear that the NSW Government's strategic water plan does not include the Dunoon Dam, and that the Government couldn't stop Rous County Council from wasting time and money on this white elephant of a project. Only the Council can stop this pointless and harmful process.

This brings us to my point, and it's a political one (I know, how predictable)!

In September this year, we will be heading to the polls to elect local Councillors who will then be selected to be our representatives on Rous County Council. After the last election, some Northern

Rivers councils were taken over by the National Party in disguise as independents. We need to turn this around.

We need honest representatives on our Councils who aren't going to recklessly ignore 30 years of history, and tens of thousands of years of First Nations culture and connection, just so they can spend billions of dollars on bad and unnecessary infrastructure.

If you want to learn more about our campaign to stop the Dunoon Dam, and you love picnics, consider joining the Northern Rivers Greens at Rocky Creek Dam on 24th August. Our Greens community, including councillors, members, MPs and supporters, will be coming from across the region to meet on Country to discuss and plan.

It's a while away, but put it in your calendar now and I hope to see you there, so we can all talk about real water security and how we can finally move on from the ghost of the Dunoon Dam.

Lismore Greens consider Council issues, relocations, celebrations and campaigning

by Virginia Waters

This past month has been an exciting and productive time with great community events and engagement.

Operational Plan

The Extraordinary Council meeting on 25th June focused on the draft 2024-2025 Rates and Charges and the Operational Plan, including the Budget.

Greens Crs Vanessa Ekins and Adam Guise opposed the current form of the rates and charges due to several concerns. Particularly the 50% increase in waste fees, as it was felt there had been inadequate community consultation, insufficient repair in Council infrastructure post flood, lack of investigations of efficiencies and core business management.

Additionally, ratepayers had not been fully informed about the waste review. While efforts to restore

Council services post-flood are commendable, the direct imposition of a further fee rise on top of 4.7% rate increase is unconscionable in a cost-of-living crisis.

Flood recovery

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is showing a greater willingness to engage with the relocation community, reflecting a growing desire to find common ground with residents still living on the floodplain.

There have been some relocated house movements to Nimbin, a positive step, with more expected soon. We wholeheartedly welcome these new community members and advocate for their right to occupy their homes until the relocation process is complete.

Together, we can ensure a smooth transition and support for those awaiting relocation.

It is hoped that we see progress toward finalising a Landslips policy,



Virginia Waters with fellow Greens Kathryn Reid (L) and Deb Nicholls (R) at the Nimbin Markets stall

which will greatly aid the Nimbin community and others in moving forward with their recovery efforts.

The continued anguish for those impacted in our community is very concerning.

Celebrating 20 years

Former Mayor Vanessa Ekins is celebrating 20 years on council, and she would love you to join her. The fabulous Serpentine Community

Gallery is the venue for the party on the evening of 27th July.

Vanessa's 20-year commitment and contribution to the Council has been extraordinary. Vanessa is an exceptional politician, a champion of environmental and social justice, and an inspiration to all.

In her roles as Councillor and former Mayor, she has been diligent, collaborative, and compassionate in seeking the best outcomes for us all, for our vibrant, eclectic community.

The event will feature special guests, great music, wonderful company, and food and drinks available for purchase. An outdoor fire pit and some exciting campaign announcements will add to the evening's enjoyment.

The event is fully wheelchair accessible, with the venue on one level and convenient car parking nearby. All are welcome to this celebratory evening!

Please purchase tickets via Lismore Greens website or Facebook events.

The campaign trail

Our fantastic six-pack of candidates has been actively engaging with the community at markets and events.

You'll find us regularly at The Channon and Nimbin Sunday markets, and in the coming months, we'll be setting up pop-up listening posts in various community spots.

Look out for us at cafes near you and join us for a cuppa and a conversation about your concerns with local government. We want to hear from you and represent your voice.

To move towards a progressive council, we need your support in several ways: attend our fundraising events or consider making a donation, volunteer to hand out materials at pre-poll and on polling day, display a corflute, help out at markets or events, and spread the word about us to your friends.

Encourage them to reach out if they want to learn more. Your support is crucial for our success!



Kevin Hogan MP with Jaelyn Pilbeam, Rachael Lane and Angie Bell MP

Cost of living is out of control. Childcare costs are unaffordable.

by Kevin Hogan,
MP for Page

I had discussions with parents and childcare providers in June. It can cost more than \$15,000 a year to have a child in fulltime day-care. And in our region, it can be an 18-month wait time to get a spot!

The Labor government do not seem to get the problems we are having in regional areas. Over the last two years, all we have seen are higher fees and longer waitlists.

Good to have Angie Bell MP, Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education here talking to families and

Early Education providers about what needs to change.

Salvation Army emergency services catering vehicle

The Salvation Army Northern Rivers gained three new emergency services catering vehicles for their fleet, a mobile walk-in cold room trailer, a catering trailer and a flagship catering vehicle.

All ready to go in minutes, these will make an incredible difference for their emergency services.

Thank you, Captain Phillip Sutcliffe and the Salvation Army Northern Rivers team, for your amazing work.

Lismore Lantern Parade 30th Anniversary!

Great to see the streets of Lismore light up! Amazing for the community.

Jyllie and her wonderful team have done another spectacular job! So many happy faces.

Rock Valley Hall

Great to get some funding for the Rock Valley Hall to assist in improving the safety of volunteers with new equipment and training.

The Hall volunteers have supported our community since 1914.

For more information on volunteering or booking the Hall, contact: rockvalleyhall@gmail.com

Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track

Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track is progressing well. The track will link Aquarius Park and the soccer fields to Nimbin's iconic town centre.

I was excited to obtain \$1.3 million in federal funding for this project.

Concrete pathways, boardwalks and bridges will all be included in the project, providing access to natural areas and landscape views, interpretive and wayfinding signage, local artworks, park furniture and native plantings.

The track will be over one km long and great for locals and tourists.

Rising Tide demand real climate action



On Friday 21st June, 40 climate activists descended on the Labor MP for Richmond Justine Elliot's

office with a very clear message: "It's time for Labor to take action on climate change!"

Earlier that day, members of Rising Tide held a kayak training session on the Tweed River in preparation for their blockade of the world's largest coal port later this year.

The colourful and noisy crowd then wheeled their kayaks down Minjungbal Drive to the Labor member for Richmond's office.

Local MP and staff inside the Labor office refused to talk to the protestors about their concerns. However, a rogue koala amongst the group (clearly upset by Labor's broken promises), decided it was time to help them change their ways.

So, with some crafty koala skills (and some mediocre spelling), the MP's new message was soon clear for all to see; "Let's stop Labor's fossil foolery".

A spokesperson for the koala has urged anybody who may know the motives for this action to contact their local Labor MP and ask them why new fossil fuel projects are still being approved and meaningful action still not being taken on climate change?

The Northern Rivers was the first stop on Rising Tide's national tour, as they gather momentum in the build-up to the People's Blockade of the world's largest coal port in Newcastle this November.

The following day, they joined around a dozen other local



environment groups for a Climate Community event at the Bangalow A and I Hall, where along with singers, speakers and stalls, they called on the Australian Government to:

1. Immediately cancel all new fossil fuel projects.
2. Tax fossil fuel export profits at 75% to fund community and industrial transition, and pay for

climate loss and damage.
3. End all coal exports from Newcastle, the world's largest coal port, by 2030.
For more information on Rising Tide, email the crew at: northernrivers@risingtide.org.au or follow Climate Justice Alliance NR to stay up to date on all things climate and environment-related in the Northern Rivers.

Lismore starts a global wave of Human Peace Signs

Lismore commenced a global wave of peace signs on Sunday 23rd June, with 50 locals turning up to support Northern Rivers peace group, Remembering and Healing and Peace in Our Lifetime to make a human peace sign.

Wearing white and waving coloured scarves, attendees spiralled, sang and danced in a creative event that was livestreamed across the world as part of the 24-hour global Peacewave.

Peace in Our Lifetime will be distributing the resultant film to movement facilitators and peace organisations across the world to encourage other communities to create and film their own human peace signs in time for International Peace Day.

"We were so pleased to see great support from Northern Rivers locals," said Sandra

Handley, Peace In Our Lifetime's Co-ordinator. "People are seeking hope and many are wanting to make a positive difference in the word to promote peace, especially in these times of war, violence and conflict.

"We marched in the Lantern Parade the night before and the response to the Peace In Our Lifetime group was wonderful – we had so many viewers calling out for peace and giving us peace signs. That response was reflected again today with such a great turnout for our human peace sign."

The event was supported by an engaged group of locals including Aunty Jenny Smith who performed the Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony; local movement facilitators, Tess Eckert and Miriam Torzillo from Flow Collective and Benny Zable; art



therapist and idea originator, Liz Dowling; drumming by Alex (Hilyte Freedom Band); film and photography by Tony Batchelor, Gwilym Summers and Duncan Wilson of Aerialpunkin.

Look out on Facebook for the film through: www.facebook.com/peaceinourlifetimesouthern or email: peaceinourlifetime.global@gmail.com



Photos: Gwilym Summers and Duncan Wilson



FINAL Community Workshop Dates July & August

Sat 27th July (Social and Political) 10.30am-2pm

Nimbin Town Hall **Vision** - A community that is autonomous, mutually inclusive and respectful of all life. (*How do we ensure our self determination and the ongoing management of community owned assets?... etc*)

Sat 3rd August (New!! WATER) 10.30am-3.30pm

Nimbin Town Hall (including lunch)

In 2019 the creeks ran dry, the trees lost most of their leaves and we faced down the Mt Nardi bushfire. It was clear that we can no longer take water security for granted and so we are adding this new Focus Area to the Plan.

Please note the extended time - since we are starting from scratch.

All folks living within 30 kms radius of the Nimbin village are warmly invited to attend the FINAL TWO Focus Area workshops. More info: sibley@nnic.org.au

BYO Brains. Free Food and Drinks provided.



Supported by the Northern Rivers Community Foundation

Presented by Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre



NSW budget neglects biodiversity

by Jacqui Mumford, Chief Executive Officer, NCC

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC), the state's leading environmental advocacy organisation, has today expressed disappointment that the NSW budget has again failed to deliver for nature.

In the middle of an extinction crisis, funding for ecosystem restoration and threatened species is going backwards.

NSW habitat is so degraded it can only support 29% of the plants and animals it once did. 1043 plants and animals in NSW are currently listed as at risk of extinction, a 50% increase in 10 years.

Without significant public investment to grow protected areas and restore degraded ecosystems, many of the ecosystems that make our state so special will simply collapse.

The NSW Labor Government is spending just

1.61% of the budget on the environment, which is even less than last year.

Labor came into power promising to turn the tide, and yet this is the second year in a row nature funding, as a percentage, has declined.

Without a seismic shift in nature investment NSW will see more extinctions and fail to meet our '30 by 30' Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

The nature deficit needs to be addressed by proper investment in NSW's biodiversity.

While Premier Chris Minns loves spruiking the beauty of NSW nature and posting selfies in pretty places, it's clear biodiversity isn't a priority for this government.

There is a substantial investment in renewables, but NSW needs to do a lot more to turn the biodiversity crisis around.

We need to recognise that we have a dual crisis and that spending on renewable

infrastructure will not in itself stop extinction and the tragic loss of biodiversity occurring all around us.

The number of listed threatened species continues to rise. However not even half (~40%) of these species are being managed under the Saving our Species (SoS) program. Clearly more funding is needed.

Taxpayers are again footing the bill for the horrific destruction of our native forests, with no plans to follow Qld, Victoria and Western Australia and save the budget millions of dollars a year by ending native forest logging.

Propping up the industrial logging of our native forests is an ongoing financial burden to NSW taxpayers. In the last three years, the native hardwood division of Forestry Corporation has lost \$44m.

NSW remains the only mainland state without a plan to phase out native forest logging. This must change.



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin
New stock always arriving

Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

June has been a month of both lingering dampness and, in the later stages, sunshine and joy.

Visitors from down south have been singing praises of our climate, and marvelling at the countless shades of green which continue to impress.

The Rail Trail

The much-anticipated Rail Trail project is making great strides. Lismore Council plans to integrate ways to leverage the Rail Trail with local businesses through educational workshops.

The Rail Trail promises to bring more visitors to our beautiful area, promoting regional tourism and business growth. Stay tuned for more updates on its progress and expected completion dates.

Nimbin Out There: A stylish photobook

The *Out There* book launch was a great success. This book celebrates our community's unique stories and culture through stunning photography.

If you missed the launch event, you can still get your copy on-line at the Chamber's website: nimbinaustralia.com.au

Women in Business event

Ladies, mark your calendars for the next Women in Business event, Harmony and Finance, on Friday 19th July, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street.

This is a fantastic opportunity to network, share experiences, and empower each other in our business endeavours.

Public speaking course

The Chamber is planning a two-day public speaking course.

Effective communication is vital to successful leadership, and this course aims to equip participants with the skills they need to make a substantial impact.

Further session details will be forthcoming.

The murals

Following a recent audit of the murals in Nimbin, it has become clear that managing



David Hyett and Vice-President Aline Binetruy presenting a copy of *Out There* to the Nimbin Central School Library.



One of the Nimbin murals in need of repainting

these beautiful artworks requires more resources and skills than the Chamber currently possesses.

We plan to hold a town meeting soon to address related issues and seek the involvement of all stakeholders, including business owners, artists, Lismore council and Nimbin community members.

Stay tuned for the meeting date, and join us in preserving this vital part of our town's heritage.

Visitor information packs

We are constantly updating our visitor information packs to ensure tourists have all the available information they need to enhance their stay.

We encourage local businesses to provide brochures for distribution at the Nimbin Bush Theatre, which is currently performing the functions of a tourist information centre without any funding from the council.

Your support will ensure visitors have a comprehensive guide to what our community offers while improving your business profile.

Nimbin School Community Fair Day

The Chamber attended the Nimbin Central School Community Fair Day on 21st June. It was a great day out for the whole family, with activities, stalls, and entertainment.

Congratulations to the school organisers. The event

was exceptionally well run, providing the student stall holders and the wider school community with exposure to the trading experience and its complexities.

School holidays

Queensland's school holidays run from 28th June to 13th July, and New South Wales's from 8th July to 19th July.

We can expect some extra activity in the village as families come to enjoy the beautiful landscapes and alternative lifestyle options of the Northern Rivers.

It's time to make sure our businesses are up to scratch, providing friendly and well-informed information for our guests.

Order of Australia Medal for Diana Roberts

Lastly and most importantly, congratulations to Diana Roberts on being awarded the Order of Australia Medal (AOM) for her outstanding service to the Nimbin community.

Diana's dedication and hard work have significantly impacted the village's development, and we are incredibly proud of her achievements.

Thanks to everyone for being a part of our community. We look forward to seeing you at these events and continuing to work together to make Nimbin an even better place.

Stay connected, stay engaged, and let's keep the Nimbin spirit alive!

Door knock survey in flood zone

How are we going, and how prepared are we for another flood event?

A number of support organisations are surveying residents currently living in the area that was flooded in 2022, to understand the state of housing, hear recovery stories, and identify on-going support needs.

"Your story is important. If you live in the flood zone, you may hear a knock on your door in July. We encourage you to participate in the survey," said Kathrin de Silva from Resilient Lismore. "This is also a chance for you to



let us know if you require additional support."

Resilient Lismore is working closely with several organisations including Red Cross, Uniting and Social Futures to gather valuable information, directly from people with lived experience.

This will enable us to inform all levels of government how to be better prepared for recovery and disaster management. Information collected will be anonymous in the survey.

The door knock survey will take place from 15th to 27th July, weekdays 10am-12pm and 2-4pm; Saturdays 10am-2pm.

Living Lab looks ahead

A revitalised floodplain that includes cultural land management, recreational trails, gardens and markets; commercial flood resilient retrofits in the Lismore CBD; new urban villages created above the floodplain; and a naturalised Brown's Creek forming the spine of a new greenway connecting the CBD and urban villages.

These are just some of the innovative ideas that Living Lab Northern Rivers presented to the local community at a public meeting in Lismore on Tuesday 4th June as part of Living Lab's ongoing Look Ahead co-design process.

The exciting scenarios for a future Lismore were formulated by a panel of international and local design experts, brought together by Living Lab Northern Rivers, who responded to the outcomes of previous community meetings, visits to the city and intensive workshops.

At the community meetings earlier in the year, clear opportunities for the future of Lismore emerged – a desire for safer and more diverse housing, greater connectivity, a vibrant CBD, active transport, increased food security, and a cleaner regenerated river and

surrounding environment. Importantly, there was the need for confidence in a clearer future.

"Look Ahead is a design process that brings together local knowledge and aspirations, with technical expertise to co-design a sustainable future for Lismore," said Elizabeth Mossop, Living Lab Northern Rivers Academic Director. "The Look Ahead project is run by Living Lab Northern Rivers and backed by the University of Technology Sydney, Southern Cross University and the NSW Reconstruction Authority. We hope these scenarios will guide and form the basis for future planning work."

Until 3rd August, Living Lab Northern Rivers will be sharing these future scenarios in their Lismore shopfront, and on-line at: www.llnr.com.au and welcomes everyone to access, explore and have their say.

Living Lab Northern Rivers staff are also on hand to explain the designs, answer questions and welcome feedback.

All responses to these scenarios will be collected and shared with local and state government for their official planning processes.

LOOK AHEAD

IDEAS FOR A FUTURE LISMORE

WHICH IDEAS ARE WORTH DEVELOPING? TELL US.



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Koala funding is inadequate in protecting species

The leading koala conservation and rehabilitation organisation in the Northern Rivers, Friends of the Koala, says despite the funding of the Koala Strategy, the NSW State Budget doesn't go far enough to protect the iconic species from extinction.

Friends of the Koala had called for an annual investment of \$500,000 to fund its Northern Rivers Koala Hospital to cover equipment costs, veterinary staff and the implementation of critical Chlamydia vaccination projects, and \$200,000 to fund the operation of their koala rescue and rehabilitation teams including increasing their capacity to respond during natural disasters.

It had also asked for a \$750,000 capital investment that would allow it to upgrade and extend its hospital and rehabilitation facilities, where the organisation treats and rehabilitates more than 350 koalas each year. The number of koalas entering care has increased by 20% in the past financial year.

General Manager at Friends of

the Koala, Silva Everaers, said the Northern Rivers Koala Hospital tended to more sick, orphaned and injured koalas than any other koala hospital on the East Coast of Australia and funds were vital to continuing its work.

"Research continues to show that koala populations in the Northern Rivers are of state significance and we are deeply concerned that delays in funding will jeopardise our ability to continue our vital work effectively.

"The Environment Minister acknowledged that the NSW Koala Strategy needs a review, and we appreciated the opportunity to attend the NSW Koala Summit and respond to the NSW Koala Strategy Discussion Paper to inform this review.

"But despite this public commitment to protecting koalas, this Budget fails to put these words into action with adequate funding," she said.

"The necessity to fund the vital work done by koala hospitals and rehabilitators cannot wait. The

survival of our organisation, and koalas, depends on it. We need the resources to continue the work we do to save koalas every single day – and we need them now.

"Given our significant contribution to koala rescue and rehabilitation efforts and meetings with the Minister, we had hoped for more immediate action. Our koalas can't wait another 12 months for funding to help ensure their survival."

Ms Everaers said it was time for the government to bolster the collective efforts of the community by funding critical koala conservation efforts.

"We couldn't do what we do without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, but the reality is that we can't expect generous individuals and businesses to fix this problem alone.

"It is so inspiring to see our volunteers and veterinary team's incredible commitment 24/7 to save koalas, but heartbreaking not to be able to provide them with the equipment and support they so desperately need."

As a not-for-profit organisation, Friends of the Koala is supported by 300 volunteers who contribute approximately 75,500 hours of unpaid volunteer work each year.

This represents over \$3.5 million saved on the cost of services, allowing the organisation to keep its running costs low and put all revenue towards the support, care, and conservation of koalas.

President of Friends of the Koala, Alison Kelly, said Friends of the Koala had worked for almost four decades to conserve koala habitat and protect koalas individually and as a species, rescuing more than 6000 koalas and releasing more than 2000 back into the wild to date.

"We founded and run the Northern Rivers Koala Network which is a collection of 23 different organisations including local councils, DCCEE and other not-for-profits to liaise, inform and work together to save koalas across the Northern Rivers region," Ms Kelly said.

"This year we joined forces with



Kookie and Moby

Port Stephens Koala Hospital and Koala Conservation Australia Ltd to form the NSW Koala Hospital Alliance to support each other's work and advocate for change across the sector.

"We are frustrated that our efforts and those of the whole sector are not acknowledged in this budget. The wildlife sector across the state gives the government and the people of NSW an army of passionate people working on Country who want to save and protect our wildlife for future generations.

"It's time this is recognised, applauded and funded properly."

Byron balloon ban to protect wildlife

Byron Shire Council has introduced a ban on the use of balloons and other single-use decorations in all Council buildings, parks and outdoor areas.

Byron Shire Mayor Michael Lyon said, "We know that balloons are one of the most lethal types of debris impacting Australian Seabirds and other marine life including turtles, who eat burst balloons because they look like jellyfish.

"If balloons and party decorations are ending up in our oceans and waterways and causing harm to our precious marine life, we have to take strong and immediate action to stop this happening – it's what our community expects and it's absolutely the right thing to do."

The move is the first



stage of a new Single-Use Packaging and Materials Policy for the Byron Shire which came into effect on 1st June and will help to phase out unnecessary waste from Council operations, facilities and open spaces.

The ban includes all balloons including biodegradable, helium, latex and water balloons, glitter, confetti, streamers and tinsel, party poppers and glow sticks and all other single-use party decorations.

"The ban will impact those organising events of all shapes and sizes in our halls, buildings and parks but we will be working closely with individuals and groups to make the switch to reusable alternatives," the Mayor said.

"Many local events and venues have already taken the step to eliminate some of these items, and this is just the next phase of Byron leading the way."

Council will be supporting the transition away from harmful single-use decorations through education campaigns, workshops, and on-line resources.

More information, helpful tips and advice is available on Council's website, or go to: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/balloonfreebyron

Locating vulnerable species on Richmond Range

by the Kyogle Environment Group

A small group of citizen scientists recently spent two days in the Richmond State Forest, Bundjalung Nation, focusing on Koalas, Gliders and Glossy Black Cockatoos.

The first day was spent locating likely Greater Glider hollows, which involved a bit of lantana rearranging. Two spots were identified with a few other big hollow trees close by.

Then we went back up there for the first two hours after sunset with red light Wolfeye torches, to watch for the emergence of these beautifully creatures.

Unfortunately, no Greater Gliders (listed as endangered) were spotted, as yet, but we were hugely entertained by the yapping of at least three Sugar Gliders and the weird shrieking of a pair of Yellow-Bellied Gliders (listed as vulnerable).

We were lucky in catching a short glimpse of a Yellow-Belly, who poised for a few moments to check out the red light before scrambling up the tree trunk.

A pair of Glossy Black Cockatoos (listed as vulnerable) were seen on their daily fly-over from roosting on the opposite ridge, to feast on the many Casuarinas within the forest. The ground beneath was checked for crushed cones as we went.

And there was of course, the replenishing camaraderie shared around the campfire, of a bunch of dedicated citizen scientists, sharing knowledge, experience and passion for our forests.

The forest has been very degraded from past logging, resulting in the invasion of lantana and Bell Miners and the loss of many Koala feed trees, and large hollow-bearing trees.

The Richmond Range State Forest abuts to the Richmond Range National Park,



which is rich in endangered and vulnerable creatures.

Kyogle Environment Group is a voluntary, not-for-profit grassroots collective, aiming to bring information to the public on local, national and international environmental and Climate Change issues.

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Lismore Lantern Parade celebrates 30 years

by Virginia Waters

The Lismore Lantern Parade, now in its 30th year, continues to illuminate our community with its vibrant celebrations.

This year's event showcased an incredible Parade and a breathtaking Fiery Finale, drawing together diverse cultural elements. The Widjabel Wia-bal fire letters symbolised 'connection', while runes spelled out 'compassion', embodying a message of unity and togetherness.

Among the enchanting lanterns and joyful faces, the spirit of the community shone brightly, sustaining our light until next year.

A special mention goes to Jyllie Jackson, artistic director and lantern visionary, whose roots in Nimbin post-Aquarius have infused the parade with creativity and heart.

As the parade manager, I'm grateful for the dedication of our volunteers and the Lantern crew. Coordinating 75 groups and nine bands – about 2,000 participants – was a challenge, but seeing the smiles and joy made it all worthwhile.

Kudos to Brett Haydon and crew for the Fiery Finale visuals and to Laila Page for this year's stunning finale painting, as well as the show creatives, Emma Newman and Katie Cooper-Wares. And thanks for the reprise of Dr Fred Cole's music from the early years, also thanks to Andy Downer for his recent musical contributions.

So many people made this magic happen – thank you to everyone involved.

If you were there and would like to complete the survey or make a small donation, head to our website: www.lismorelanternparade.com.au The links are on the home page.

We look forward to many more years of this magical tradition, keeping our community connected and inspired.



Photo: Lisa G



Photos: Natsky



Jyllie Jackson, centre.



Photo: Chibo

The secret formula to bonding

Some dog owners keep their dogs loyally at their heels without a leash. The bond between them acts as an invisible leash.

It is similar with young kids. I see parents who don't see the need to check on their kids who just follow them, walking in their footsteps. Other parents have to repeatedly play catch up to bring their stray toddlers back.

Is there a secret formula to bonding? Every parent thrives to create a strong bond with their child. A bond that withstands any storm and is the building stone for firm family ties and a life insurance for belonging.

Bonding is closely associated with attachment which is the foundation of happy relationships. You would think that the bond is already established by birth. Nothing to do here. So why do some parents have an issue with bonding, or attachment?

Bonding needs reassurance and a constant up-keep. Attachment

forms in the mind, and is directed by feelings. How safe the child feels conditions the bonding process. Whether your kids fall into your open arms without encouragement or need coaxing, regardless of temperament all children thrive on the assurance of the parental bond. It is up to the parent to provide this assurance without ever letting up or letting the kid down by some kind of punitive measure or rejection.

Maintaining the bond is pivotal. The relationship between parent and child is the primary attachment and if that is disturbed, the child cannot look elsewhere. If tempered with, that parent-child relationship will become the negative blueprint for all other relationships.

The child may have difficulties with romantic or any other forms of alliances, if the attachment to the parent has been problematic.

Bonding may be subjected to changing emotions like self-doubt, anger, or just not having the time (!) and is fragile, but by the same token, if you do get it right it's immensely

strong. And that's what you want.

A strong bond with your children makes family life smooth and trouble-free. That's because there is trust and at the base a loving bond, the invisible leash that holds you and the child in a mutually serene place. No matter what turmoils await that bond remains unshaken.

Bonding is the grease on the rough road to independence. Without the impregnable bond the loosening of ties in the adolescent is marred. The bond gives emotional security that the biological tie cannot give. Without that security, the process of becoming independent and self-reliant becomes a struggle.

For bonding to be effectual, children need nothing but the assurance of your unconditional love. It's perhaps not so much the bonding that needs focusing on, rather the response to needs.

The focal point is the responsiveness by the parent to the natural needs of the child. If a parent proves responsible to answer these needs by a parent's active response



by Antionette Ensbey

to the child's expressed physical or emotional needs, bonding happens. In later years responsiveness to the teenager's need to set sail by catching the breeze of freedom is the parent's ultimate duty. Here the parent walks a fine line between letting go of the child without ever letting up on the bonding.

In the early years when the closeness is most needed, the bond spells security. That's why it is problematic to leave young children to the care of others. There is something missing from the bonding process and the attachment receives a fracture. That's when children begin to have difficulty detaching,

start clinging or develop behavioural problems that spring from that insecurity of separation.

Reinforced bonding does not mean that you spend hours playing with the child. Just be around your child. Do your chores, your work. There is no expectation by your child of forever wanting to be entertained by you. The more you concentrate on your own tasks, the quicker the child learns to concentrate on their own activities that they are so good at inventing.

Savour that magical bond that comes from each following their own satisfying pursuits. It's deeply reassuring. It's being cocooned in togetherness and availability building the trust that things are in working order. What can weave a closer and more robust bond between child and parent, partners or between friends than that kind of gratifying affirmation of love?

To be a dependable and trustworthy parent, partner or friend makes for a lasting foundation sealing the bond for a lifetime. Give them love, repeat.

I'm currently out of town and available via email only: newpacificpublishing@gmail.com

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Imuna Flo and Shey Zo Ringham

Successful fundraiser film night in Nimbin

by Julie De Lorenzo

Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine held a fundraiser event at the Nimbin Town Hall with the viewing of the film *Where Olive Trees Weep* on Saturday 15th June.

Made by the producers of *The Wisdom of Trauma* film, Zaya and Maurizio Benazzo, *Where Olive Trees Weep* opens a window into the struggles and resilience of Palestinian people under the ongoing Israeli occupation.

Interspersed with interviews with Palestinian journalist and therapist Ashira Darwish, trauma therapist Dr Gabor Maté, grassroots activist Ahed Tamimi and Israeli journalist Amira Hass, the film is an emotional journey through the beautiful landscape and its people.

Dinner was served before the film.

The evening began with a riveting performance by Imuna Flo of her song 'Our Child' accompanied by Shey Zo Ringham on guitar.

There were heartfelt speeches made by Subhi Awad, who is the driving presence behind Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine, as well as words of support from Virginia Waters, Nimbin resident and Lismore Greens candidate for Council.

Thank you to all who contributed with donations and offerings, and to Richard from the Bowlo for the delicious Persian Love Cake, and the Nimbin Emporium for your donations of food.

Thanks to Wompy for providing a flawless sound experience, and to all of the volunteers who assisted in setting up the hall, making and serving food and packing down (special thanks to Elizabeth Aradia Wolf and Stephen Brooke). Thanks also to Heidi Awad for the beautiful Palestinian stall, and extra special thanks to the Nimbin community who came along with open hearts and minds to show your support.

What is happening in Gaza is not an easy situation to witness. I honour anyone who has the capacity to remain open to learn, and to stand by people who need it the most right now.

All in all, we had a successful night raising much-needed funds for two organisations: Olive Kids Foundation, assisting with medical supplies, generator fuel, bedding and food for children and families; and Surya Sails for Gaza.

Surya is a Northern Rivers resident who is aboard the Freedom Flotilla Coalition on a risky mission to bring aid into Gaza.

We plan to hold the next fundraiser with a film called *The Last Sky* on Friday 26th July. Details will be posted in the Facebook group, on Nimbin Hookups and on notices around town.

If you're interested in lending a hand for future events or connecting in solidarity for Palestine you can join the Facebook group Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine or email: juliedelorenzo@hotmail.com

LisAmore: A day of sunshine, smiles and Italian culture

by Luca Barbieri

On 16th June, the town of Lismore hosted a unique festival: LisAmore. Under a radiant sun, the Lismore Turf Club welcomed hundreds of visitors ready to celebrate Italian heritage and culture in an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.

Organised by the local Italian community, LisAmore provided a special opportunity to strengthen ties with the Italian cities of Conegliano and Vittorio Veneto, highlighting the positive impact of immigration in the region.

A program packed with activities

The day began at 10am with vibrant energy that could be felt in every corner of the festival. The early hours were dedicated to welcoming participants, who were able to prepare for the day's activities.

With the bar opening at 11am, the atmosphere warmed up even more, all while respecting some fundamental rules: no pets, food or alcohol brought from home, but plenty of enthusiasm for having fun together.

Participants were encouraged to bring a picnic rug, water bottles, and reusable cups, along with their dancing shoes and, of course, their loved ones. The Italian community had prepared a series of events that made the day unforgettable for both young and old.

Music, dancing and competitions

Among the most anticipated moments, the performance by Domenico and the Latin Mafia brought infectious rhythms that got everyone dancing. Serena Joy then engaged the participants in a traditional tarantella dance lesson, featuring dancers of all ages.

Another highlight of the day was the Tug-O-War at 1.30pm, sponsored by Summerland Bank. Teams competed enthusiastically, demonstrating strength and team spirit, under the amused and supportive gaze of the spectators.

An inclusive community event

LisAmore offered a varied and inclusive experience, where everyone could find something special. From children participating in the egg and spoon race to grandparents exploring the display of Italian cars and motorcycles, the event celebrated the diversity and richness of Italian culture.



LisAmore was much more than just a festival: it was a moment of celebration for the community, traditions, and friendship. A day of sunshine, smiles, and shared moments that left an indelible mark on the hearts of all participants.

With a rich and varied program, LisAmore demonstrated how Italian traditions can enrich community life, promoting values of inclusion and shared joy.

Promoting Italian culture

With the massive participation of Italian culture enthusiasts, the festival also provided an opportunity to promote further cultural initiatives. In this context, we are pleased to announce the start of an Italian language course for beginner adults in the nearby town of Kyogle. Classes will begin the week of 26th August. For more information, please contact the following email address: ilcibidi@gmail.com

A recipe to bring Sicily to your home: Arancini

To conclude in style, we share with you one of the most beloved recipes of Sicilian tradition: arancini. Perfect for

a party or a picnic, these delicious fried rice balls are a tribute to Italian cuisine.

Ingredients:

500g Arborio rice
1.5 litres meat broth
50g butter
100g grated Parmesan cheese
2 egg yolks
200g meat ragù (prepared in advance)
100g peas (optional)
150g mozzarella, cubed
100g cooked ham, cubed (optional)
Flour, for coating
2-3 eggs, beaten
Breadcrumbs, for coating
Vegetable oil, for frying
Salt and pepper, to taste

In a large pot, cook the rice in the meat broth, stirring frequently. Once cooked, add the butter, grated Parmesan cheese, and egg yolks. Mix well and let it cool.

If not already prepared, make the meat ragù. You can add peas if desired. Cut the mozzarella and cooked ham into cubes.

Take a portion of cooled rice (about a generous spoonful) and flatten it in the palm of your hand. Place a bit of ragù, a cube of mozzarella, and, if using, a cube of ham in the centre. Cover with more rice and shape into a ball or cone.

Roll each arancino in flour, then in beaten egg, and finally in breadcrumbs.

Heat plenty of vegetable oil in a deep pan. Fry the arancini until they are golden and crispy. Drain on paper towels to remove excess oil.

Serve hot, perhaps accompanied by a fresh tomato sauce.

Why not bring a bit of Sicily into your homes with delicious arancini? Enjoy!

We look forward to seeing you all again next year for another unforgettable edition of LisAmore!

Screenworks Regional to Global Screen Forum

Screenworks is bringing an impressive line-up of screen industry heavyweights to the Northern Rivers to connect with local filmmakers and to support taking regional stories global.

Their annual Regional to Global will be held in Lennox Head 31st July – 2nd August, and is an important calendar event for anyone creating screen content.

The packed three-day forum includes interactive panel sessions, inclusive forum discussions, workshops, and Regional to Global Connections, which is part of the program dedicated to giving participants opportunities to meet and mix with an impressive line-up of screen industry decision-makers and potential collaborators.



Margaret Ross (Screen Australia), Mitchell Stanley (Producer), Joseph Maxwell (SBS), Sam Moor (Ludo Studio), Paul Wiegard (Madman), Mark Morrissey (Talent Agent), Helen Bowden (Lingo Pictures), Pilar Perez (DCD Rights & Distribution)

One of these panel discussions will be on factual and documentary, facilitated by Northern Rivers-based award-winning producer Catherine Marciniak.

Another of these panel discussions will be on TV drama, facilitated by one of

Australia's most experienced producers Rosemary Blight.

Developing Slates for Global Audiences is a panel that brings together some of Australia's most innovative producers to talk about taking Australian content to the world.

Screenrights have

sponsored Perfect Match, a speed dating style session for creatives and writers to connect with producers.

In addition, there will be opportunities to book for one-on-one meetings with broadcasters, distributors and producers, and there will be roundtable discussions so participants can take a deeper dive into topics raised with a range of guest speakers.

Tickets are \$285 excl GST for members only, and \$450 excl GST non-members for a three-day pass.

They are available at: <https://screenworks.glueup.com/event/regional-to-global-2024-106293/#home>

Bookings open at 1pm on 10th July.

The event is supported by Screen NSW, sponsors and Ballina Council.

Vinod Prasanna and Bobby Singh in concert



Nimbin welcomes Bansuri (Indian flute) maestro Vinod Prasanna along with Tabla (Indian drum) virtuoso Bobby Singh to the Church of Aquarius on Sunday 28th July for a late afternoon concert.

The concert will showcase the subtleties, beauty and hypnotic expression of Indian Classical Music. An ancient artform from the Indian subcontinent, North Indian Classical, or Hindustani music, is a blend of traditional Indian temple music with imported Mughal influences.

This particular form creates an array of sound vibrations – from the meditative, to uplifting and fast-paced – as the music progresses through the development of the Raga, the basis of Indian Classical Music.

As professional artists, Bobby and Vinod's musical journey both began at a young age, with Bobby spending a great deal of his childhood in Mumbai studying at Sangeet Mahabharati, an institute of music started by the great tabla maestro Pandit Nikhil Ghosh.

Similarly, Vinod spent much of his early years in Delhi under the tutelage of his Guruji and Grandfather Vishnu Prasanna, and is now learning with his esteemed uncle Pandit Rajendra Prasanna.

An award-winning bansuri (flute) virtuoso from the Benares Gharana, Vinod shines as an outstanding performer of authentic traditional and contemporary Indian music.

Vinod's emotive melodies, exquisite improvisations and divine flute song distinguish his performance of Indian classical, world and meditation music. Simply, Indian music at its finest. Vinod currently resides in Melbourne and has 25 years of international performing and teaching experience.

Bobby was recognised with a great talent at a young age, becoming the student of Ghosh's senior disciple Aneesh Pradhan, now one of the most sought-after tabla players in the world.

Through Aneesh's guidance, Bobby (Farukhabad Gharana) has nurtured into a mature and internationally renowned tabla player, both in traditional Indian classical music and cross-cultural genres. He has won an ARIA award for his collaborative work on the album *Djan Djan* with Jeff Lang and Mamabou Diabate. Most recently a documentary on his musical life was recorded and shown on SBS titled *Viva, I Belong Everywhere*.

We hope you will join us from 3.30pm, after the Sunday markets, for this delightful concert of melody and rhythm – pre-sale tickets (\$30) are available via Humanitix (Vinod Prasanna with Bobby Singh in Concert) or door sales (\$35) on the day, if available.

For further information, phone 0428-539-232.



Tameika Watts and Isaac Smith on stage. Photo: Daniel Cohen

Life Without Me

"My life just seems to go on, but... without me in it."

From the Production Team that brought *Dead White Males* by David Williamson in 2023 and *Running Up a Dress* by Suzanne Spinner in 2022, to the Rochdale Theatre comes the latest Australian production for Lismore Theatre *Life Without Me* by Daniel Keene.

If you don't know who you are and you don't know where you're headed, you might find yourself spiralling in ever-tightening circles until you come to rest in a nondescript part of town; in a crummy two-star hotel, where the service is churlish, the lift doesn't work, the toast is burnt and the pot plants set off your allergies.

But! Keep your expectations low, really low, and who knows? You might be pleasantly surprised by how everything works out.

Life Without Me is a funny, honest and heart-warming story, set in the lobby of a two-star hotel. The audience follows the journey of the characters, from the less-than-competent hotel manager, to the strange guests who drift in and out in search of happiness and meaning.

This thought-provoking play invites you to consider the absurdity of life.

Lismore Theatre Company

brings you *Life Without Me* directed by Sharon Brodie with a fabulous local cast of both familiar and new faces. This play is included as part of the HSC syllabus.

Daniel Keene is one of the most performed Australian playwrights outside the country.

During the 30 years in which he has written for the theatre, his plays have earned critical praise and sell-out seasons in theatres and at festivals in Australia, the United States and across Europe.

His plays, which include *All Souls*, *Cho Cho San*, *Silent Partner*, *Low*, *Terminus*, *The Architect's Walk* and *The Ninth Moon*, have received numerous literary awards.

His collaboration with director Ariette Taylor – the Keene/Taylor Theatre Project – was critically acclaimed both locally and overseas.

The show will be performed over three weekends from 9th August to 24th August.

Tickets can be purchased at: www.trybooking.com/ CSJAW or from the Lismore Theatre Company website: lismoretheatrecompany.org.au for \$25/\$20 concession.

Special arrangements can be made for groups who want to purchase more than 10 tickets. Call Sharon Brodie on 0423-308-063 to make your group booking.

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Byron Writers Festival full program released

Byron Writers Festival 2024 (9th-11th August) has finalised an inspiring program, packed with literary luminaries and new voices to discover.

Themed 'From the ground up', the festival will feature more than 150 writers, experts and storytellers over three days at the beautiful Bangalow Showground.

Included on the program are: best-selling author Trent Dalton in conversation with Julia Baird; actor-turned-novelist Bryan Brown in conversation with Jennifer Byrne; and novelist Charlotte Wood in conversation with memoirist Ailsa Piper.

Take a deep dive into the wonder of the ocean with James Bradley, marvel at the beauty of forests with Professor David Lindenmayer and learn more



about Indigenous cultivation from Bruce Pascoe.

Be inspired by AFL legend Nicky Winmar, environmentalist Bob Brown, Booker Prize winner Richard Flanagan and brilliant poet Ali Cobby Eckerman.

Gain insight into international politics with ABC Global Affairs editor John Lyons, former BBC

correspondent Nick Bryant and Indian academic Meena Kandasamy.

Get behind the scenes with *Midnight Oil's* Jim Moginie, singer-songwriter Kate Ceberano, and Suzie Miller, whose smash-hit play *Prima Facie* has been adapted into a novel.

The festival also offers workshops, a program for children and feature

events in venues across the Northern Rivers region.

A single day pass gives you access to more than 30 different sessions on your chosen day for you to wander between as you choose.

Multi-day passes are also available.

All sessions are under the cover of big marquees or in the A&I Hall.

There's delicious food and coffee stalls, an artisan market and a large festival bookstore where authors will be signing their books.

There's also family and kids' tickets for the Kids Big Day Out program that takes over one of the marquees on Sunday 11th August.

Byron Writers Festival will be held 9th-11th August at Bangalow Showground. Tickets and full program at: www.byronwritersfestival.com

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- Open Mic, Wednesday 10th July, 6pm
- Trivia Night, Saturday 20th July, 6pm for 7pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome

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