

Rural road repairs



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

Responding to community concerns and months of detailed assessments, Council has embarked on a broad campaign to repair disaster-declared damage to 53 unsealed rural roads, including many around Nimbin.

Starting this month, Council is deploying six separate works crews

and efforts have been made to cluster the works geographically to optimise efficiency and resource allocation. Works will involve grading and drainage, as required.

Not all the works will begin simultaneously due to contractor availability and will take approximately three months to complete, weather permitting.

Council is in the process of assessing various additional roads to be included in the scope of these recovery works. The goal is to ensure comprehensive restoration and long-term resilience of our unsealed gravel road network.

Scheduled work on other sealed roads continues, with rectification work now underway on Stony Chute Road and on the first of four sites on Blue Knob Road.

In addition, the sealing

of Crofton Road is nearing completion.

Reconciliation Week

Last month, Council held a special flag-raising and morning tea at the Corporate Centre to celebrate Reconciliation Week.

This year, the theme was 'Now More Than Ever', which emphasises the ongoing struggle for justice and rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Thank you, Aunty Jenny for your lovely Welcome to Country and to Aunty Thelma for her kind words. They were both joined by Widjabul/Wia-bal staff member, Brendan Harrington, to raise the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

Reconciliation is something that Council is committed to, and we are currently working on a new Reconciliation Action Plan

for 2024 to 2026. You can help by filling out the survey at: yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Business education workshop

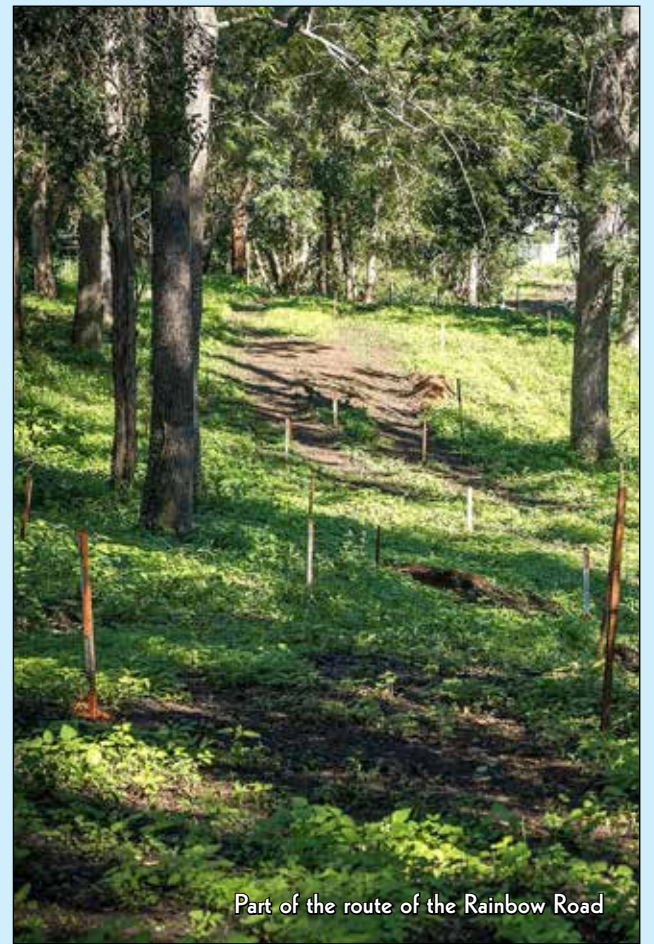
Council is hosting a free business education workshop on staff retention strategies at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Tuesday 18th June at 7.30am.

The same workshop was held in Lismore last month and was very well received by those businesses that attended, so if you are a business I encourage you to register and come along.

Walking track

Council is moving ahead with the Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track, despite recent wet weather causing delays to construction by about 3-4 weeks.

A contractor has now been appointed to manage vegetation along the track. See story, p.2.



Part of the route of the Rainbow Road

KYOGLLE

Biggest Morning Tea

Saturday 15th June, 9am -1pm

Supper Room, Kyogle Memorial Institute, Roxy Lane, Kyogle

All welcome

John Adams*
& ASSOCIATES

*a.k.a. Sindhu

Lawyers

0435-651-581

Northern Rivers

DRAFTING & BUILDING DESIGN

CONSULTING
PLANNING
DESIGN

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

NEW HOMES, RENOVATIONS, BARNs, WORKSHOPS
& RETROSPECTIVE COMPLIANCE

SEAN SPAIN 0490 178 927 NORTHERNRIVERSDBD@GMAIL.COM

"We need to be on the street screaming"

by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

I have fought for action on domestic violence for more than 40 years.

Recent horrific cases of domestic violence murders have led to a public outcry and media campaigns for action.

I welcome the Minns Government announcement of a \$230 million emergency package for DV prevention and support.

But we must keep up this momentum and not go quiet on this issue. I want to share with you this excerpt of what I said in the last session of Parliament (edited for length):

Domestic and family violence

Ms Janelle Saffin (Lismore):

Domestic violence must stop. We all know it. We all say it. Molly should not have died, and her death cannot be in vain.

There is a willingness and mobilisation on behalf of the whole community that I have not seen in the more than 40 years I have been involved in advocacy around domestic violence.

I thought when I came back to this place that I could do some other things – but I cannot. I absolutely have to re-engage with everyone on trying to stop domestic violence.

Domestic violence is more than the physical act of violence; it is a spectrum of behaviour. In sociological terms, the spectrum extends from circumlocution – the derogatory comments, the bad words, the put-downs – to extermination, which is murder.

Women experience domestic violence



Janelle speaks in Parliament on 23rd May

right across that whole spectrum. It is not just being a little bit scared; it is living with terror. That absolute terror dominates those women's lives at the hands of someone who is supposed to be a loving partner – someone they love.

It is: "What do I wear? What do I think? What do I do? Who do I talk to? Who do I text because my phone will be monitored?" Family and friends are moved away, but the perpetrator makes it look like the woman is doing that. Every act is under subjugation.

For women in that situation, it is like living with a sometimes benevolent dictator. Everything they do is circumscribed. It is hard to imagine raising children in that environment. These things have happened for a long time.

I set up the Far North Coast Domestic Violence Liaison Committee.

I worked in a refuge for years. Earlier, I have been at the forefront of changes, including changes to the laws. There was a Crimes Act, but women were not seen as worthy of protection under that law.

I was looking at the headlines and I thought, I hope they do not disappear quickly like they often do on this issue.

I will read some of those headlines: "We're sick of living in terror", "This has to stop", "How many more women have to die?", "It was murder waiting to happen", "Time to tackle this crisis in our community", "You get ostracised in a small town if you speak out" – if you are the domestic violence victim.

We know that it can happen anywhere, but it happens to a greater degree in some of those smaller country towns.

"Why country women are sitting ducks", "Misogyny driving violence", "It's time for men to get uncomfortable", and "Bush in plea for more DV support".

The headlines go on and on. I note that in the package the Government has introduced we are looking at perpetrator behaviour. We have to do that. I wish I had 50 minutes, not 5 minutes, to talk about this.

We need to open up. On International Women's Day I said, "We're so sedate. It's so polite. We're having these wonderful lunches. Aren't we lovely?"

I said, "We need to be on the street screaming." That is what I am doing here.

Read the full speech at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Hansard/Pages/HansardResult.aspx#/docid/HANSARD-1323879322-141059/link/2085

Northern Rivers Rural Contracting
Fencing • Slashing • Clearing • Farm Maintenance
Scott 0420 305 902

I love working with our community to make a difference.

GETTING THINGS DONE

Janelle Saffin MP
MEMBER FOR LISMORE
35 Carrington Street (PO BOX 12), Lismore NSW 2480
lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au
02 6611 3641 | www.janellesaffin.com.au
janelle.saffin | janelle.saffin.mp

Please call or email for information and support.

Hemp Balm

Thousands of Satisfied Customers Australia Wide
1000+ 5 Star Reviews

"Thanks, after having ankle surgery, 13 screws into my foot this amazing Hemp/Comfrey/Arnica has taken all the pain away."

★★★★★

Available for sale at Nimbin Candles & Nimbin Apothecary or on our website.

CALL 02 6689 1095 WWW.BLACK-SHEEP-OILS.COM

Greater Gliders, left for dead by the NSW Government



by Sue Higginson,
NSW Greens MLC

It's not news that the Forestry Corporation is driving the extinction of forest dependent species through their industrial logging of our native forests in NSW. The new and disappointing changes that have been occurring in recent months have been coming from two sources.

The first is the Minns Labor Government, which has recently celebrated a year in office, and the second is the Environment Protection Authority, the EPA.

Based on the pre-election talk from the Labor Party, many in the community were hopeful that a change in Government would mean better outcomes for the environment. They promised an end to land clearing, a new National Park for Koalas, and an about face on the biodiversity and extinction crisis. They have fallen short of these promises and our expectations.

But the failure to take meaningful action to prevent the extinction of our endangered Greater Gliders in NSW is something that both the Government and the EPA have equal responsibility for.

The most recent failure

came after community reports that the Forestry Corporation was destroying dwindling Greater Glider habitat in breach of the logging rules, and the EPA intervened.

But instead of defending Greater Gliders, they made it easier for the logging industry to tear down the big old trees these extraordinary creatures call home.

Greater Glider populations plummeted by 60% in the 2019-2020 bushfires, causing the species to be up listed on the threatened species list to being endangered with extinction in 2022. Work by the community throughout 2023 showed that the Forestry Corporation was failing to adequately undertake pre-logging Broad Area Habitat Surveys. The loggers were skirting their responsibilities by surveying for Gliders—a nocturnal



animal – during the day.

In February 2024, after sustained community pressure, the EPA and the Forestry Corporation announced new rules that were supposed to protect Greater Glider Habitat by requiring that surveys for den trees – the trees the Greater Gliders will be

sleeping in during the day – were undertaken when they were most likely to be found, within one hour after sunset when the Gliders are leaving the den trees for the night of foraging. This was considered a bare minimum response but was welcomed as a marginal improvement.

Just 3 months since the new changes were made, the EPA, the Government and the Forestry Corporation have revealed that they never intended for the new rules to actually operate as announced.

After receiving hundreds of fresh reports from the community, that the Forestry Corporation were not obeying the February rules, the EPA announced that the rules would be changed again, not to protect Greater Gliders, but to suit the Forestry Corporation and to protect the 'wood supply'.

After decades of intensive industrial scale logging, the Greater Glider is now on the precipice of extinction. With the EPA turning its back on them, the Minister for the Environment is one of the only people with the power to take the necessary action to halt this disastrous outcome. But, the Minister has argued that she can't direct the EPA and has defended their actions that will continue to drive the Greater Glider to extinction.

It is unbelievable that the NSW Government, the EPA, the Forestry Corporation and the Minister have all given up their responsibility. We must act now, the Gliders cannot wait.

Join me and tell the Minister and the Premier that you expect them to do better: <https://www.suehigginson.org/gliders>

Introducing the Greens candidates for Lismore Local Government

by Virginia Waters

Introducing the Greens Candidate for the Lismore Local Government Election and voice for Nimbin on Council.

Hello Nimbin, Lismore, and surrounds, I'm Virginia Waters, second on the Greens ticket for this September's Council election.

It's been a long time since we have had a person representing Nimbin in the chamber, and if you vote Greens above the line it's the best chance I will be there for you.

It is essential we have a diversity of voices representing all aspects of the community and for Country.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the participants in May's Meet the Candidates event.

Masterfully MC'd by our dynamic NSW Upper House representative, Sue Higginson, it marked a vibrant start to a crucial campaign aimed at rescuing our council from another four years of waste, inaction, lack



of leadership and lack of genuine community consultation.

Out-going councillor and former Greens Mayor Vanessa Ekens introduced our new Council team which includes; Adam Guise, Luke Robinson, Shae Salmon, Lindall Watson (also Nimbin!), Binnie O'Dwyer and myself.

Vanessa then laid out the significant challenges awaiting us, the "buff new six-pack" of prospective councillors. With an annual budget exceeding \$300

million and a rate income of just \$30 million, running the council effectively involves balancing expectations and managing state funds in a manner that many don't fully grasp.

Each candidate had the chance to introduce themselves, followed by a team Q&A session led by Sue Higginson. The focus was on how a Greens Council should tackle the extensive flood recovery that affects Nimbin, Lismore, and all our communities.

Key issues discussed included maintaining the integrity of buy-back houses, addressing landslips impacting the upper headwaters, and effectively responding to the climate crisis which we are on the frontlines of.

Community engagement in the recovery process is essential. Just as the community largely saved itself during the floods and landslips, the community must own our recovery.

Our platform aims to create a safer, more inclusive, and accessible council culture for all residents. We are committed to ensuring affordable housing strategies and expanding housing options for key workers.

Additionally, we support nature-based solutions for flood mitigation and enhancing water security without constructing the proposed Dunoon Dam, while ensuring that essential services remain robust and well-supported within our community.

This September, we have the

opportunity to hand democracy back to the people and build a progressive and ecological Council again!

In the coming months we will be out and about in the community at markets, events and with listening posts. Stop and say hello. We want to hear your concerns about the future of our vibrant community.

We will need help campaigning and fundraising, so come along to any events. If you can't attend and want to support us, ask about how you can volunteer and donate.

If you are concerned about the direction or the lack of direction the current Council is providing, do something about it. Get on board!

We hope to retain two councillors and look towards winning a third Greens on Council. With you we can do it!

virginiawaters9@gmail.com

MEDICINAL CANNABIS PATIENTS DESERVE

FAIR DRUG DRIVING LAWS

Right now, the New South Wales drug driving laws that facilitate police roadside drug testing are unjust. Many locals are increasingly being prescribed medicinal cannabis by their GP for effective treatment of chronic pain and other conditions in place of strong opiates. However, current driving laws leave hundreds of unimpaired patients falling foul of the law for driving with traces of lawful cannabis medicine in their system days later. We need laws that support fair driving for medicinal Cannabis patients.



Scan here or visit tamarasmith.org.au/FairDrivingLaws to sign the petition calling on the NSW government to reform this discriminatory system.



TAMARA SMITH MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

THE GREENS

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

Pro-Palestine rally in Byron Bay

by Louise Litchfield

Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine hosted a powerful Ceasefire Rally in Byron Bay on 20th May, featuring influential speakers and musicians advocating for peace and justice in Palestine.

The rally was the biggest to date and drew a turnout of around 400 people, highlighting the community's commitment to peace, human rights, and the liberation of Palestine.

The event showcased solidarity and support for the Palestinian cause, urging attendees to engage in active campaigns for change.

Nasser Mashni, President

of the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) delivered an impactful speech, emphasising the importance of the Free Palestine movement as an anti-colonial and anti-racism cause.

Mashni highlighted the need for continued action and support for APAN's campaigns, stressing, "The Free Palestine movement is an anti-colonial anti-racism movement, there is no place for hate."

Ella Noah Bancroft, proud Bundjalung woman renowned for her activism, captivated the audience with her call to action: "Decolonise your mind

and go out there and make change!"

Waddah Ali from Free Palestine - Australia, Remah Naji from Justice for Palestine Magan-djin, and Annie Pflingst from Jews For Palestine Northern Rivers also delivered inspiring speeches.

The rally was enriched by performances from talented artists who shared their music in solidarity with Palestine. Lucy Gallant performed her beautiful new song about Palestine, and Áine Tyrrell performed her latest release, 'People Like Me and You.'

Imuna Flo, Spirit, and Zaka Kraka also



contributed their poignant and empowering music, resonating with the rally's message.

Vanessa Hadaway from Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine and Anandan McEwen (brother of Surya

McEwen), supporting Surya Sails For Gaza, highlighted the on-going efforts and dedication of the community in advocating for Palestinian rights.

Subhi Awad from Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine

said, "They are trying to frame us as the extremists, when it is those that send weapons for the genocide who are the extremists."

Another rally in Byron Bay will be held on Saturday 22nd June.



Protesting student Zara with her tent inside the administration building

Melbourne Uni sit-ins

by Chibo Mertineit

In May, I travelled to Melbourne and visited Melbourne University to check out their protest camp on campus.

I walked past a sea of tents on the campus lawn and met with a spokesperson in the occupied administration building to discuss their situation.

So I met Zara, a 22-year old, very bright and articulate Bachelor of Science student, doing Ecology. She said:

"I'm camping out for a couple of weeks here for Free Palestine and for our university to divest and disclose from a whole host of weapons manufacturers that they have ties to. We are sitting in the Mahmoud (Allnaouq) Hall, which we re-named in honour of a Palestinian prospective student of the university, who was killed in Gaza on 20th October."

Zara said, "The University has a group for peace led by Palestinian students, with staff and alumni (former student and graduates) since November, having meetings and organising to cut ties. The encampment has been running inspired by Columbia University students and the global movement for a month now, and we held sit-ins and have been engaging the space of Mohammad Hall for over a week now."

I found a paper by the Vice Chancellor of the University demanding that the students leave the building. Zara said, "Since we moved in, the university made it very clear that they are not very happy with us being here."

"We have been threatened explicitly with police coming on to campus and arresting us and we said, 'You can arrest us.' We formed a linked-arm circle and we sat and waited for the police to arrest us."

"That didn't work, because the University realised, it's not appropriate to drag a bunch of kids protesting genocide out of their university building. So instead, they threatened to suspend or expel us, but we're still waiting for that to happen too. It's quite terrifying. That's why we've all been sitting here wondering."

I said that I'm concerned about the University's connection to the weapons industry and she continued: "I didn't realise I signed up for the Australian Defence Force when I went to uni here. They are trying to make it a pipeline, engineering students especially. They're quietly directed into, ah: 'You can work at this weapons manufacturer, we have a research program going right now in fact.'"

"The University has quite strong ties at the moment to the military industrial complex and are clearly sitting quite comfortably and publicly in that image. They're not trying to show themselves as a secular public space for education and learning."

So I thanked Zara and expressed my deep gratitude for their commitment, risking their future lifepath for standing and speaking up against the genocide and the influence of the weapon industry in our education system.

Lismore Ceasefire Die-In



Photo: Herberto Smith

As part of a nation-wide snap action, Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine held a powerful Ceasefire Die-In event on 31st May at the Lismore office of Janelle Saffin, State MP.

The event drew more than 50 participants, who gathered to advocate for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and to protest the ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis.

Participants, covered in symbolic red paint to represent the bloodshed, laid down in a solemn die-in, holding signs demanding an end to the atrocities in Gaza.

The demonstration showcased a unified stance against the on-going violence inflicted upon the civilian population of Gaza.

Protesters emphasised the urgency of their demands in light of the recent findings by

the highest courts on Earth, which have grounds to pursue Israel for genocide and war crimes.

Additionally, UN food experts have labelled the current famine in Gaza as the worst since WWII, attributing it to deliberate actions that starve more than 2,000,000 people.

Subhi Awad, spokesperson for Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine, said, "The

situation in Gaza is a stain on our collective humanity with atrocity after atrocity being inflicted on the helpless and trapped civilian population of Gaza.

"It's time for us to come together and demand an end to the violence that has claimed far too many lives."

"Despite the urgent need for action, our elected representatives have failed to take a stand for peace. Instead, continued military co-operation persists. It's unacceptable for us to remain complicit in these daily atrocities."

The event also honoured the memory of every child lost in the conflict, sending a powerful message to leaders that the killing must stop and peace must prevail.

Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine is a community organisation dedicated to advocating for the rights and well-being of the Palestinian people. The group invites the community to the next Ceasefire Rally in Byron Bay on 30th June.

New England Uni flag-drop protest

On 26th May, University of New England community members held a peaceful protest on campus, against the genocide occurring in Gaza.

It was dispersed by intimidating and aggressive behaviour by security, including physical assault and verbal abuse.

Solidarity with Palestine in Armidale has been on-going for several months, including the 'Gathering for Gaza' taking place every Saturday afternoon at Curtis Park. It has been well-attended by supporters across a range of demographics.

The peaceful protest on Sunday was held outdoors in a relatively quiet section of the UNE campus, arranged by a variety of people from the UNE community, including current and former students and staff members.

It featured a flag drop, chants and a few speakers in support of the Palestinian cause. It proceeded peacefully until shortly after the last speaker and before the conclusion, with the sudden arrival of campus security.

According to witnesses, security guards immediately escalated the situation, coming in shouting and swearing at attendees.



Footage shows that at least two students were physically shoved after they had complied with the order to move on and started packing up. According to the Vice-Chancellor, the security officer responsible for these assaults has been stood down.

Nonetheless, by these actions, UNE security clearly violated the right to free speech on campus, attempting to shut down peaceful protest through intimidation tactics.

Some students who had attended, who live in on-campus accommodation, stated they were nervous about returning to their homes that evening, or attending classes in following weeks.

Tian, Secretary of the NSW Young Greens and part of the organising group behind the Palestinian flag drop, said: "Despite being a student who lives on campus at the University of New England, I and others who attended the peaceful protest were violently removed from the area by university security who refused to identify themselves."

However, nobody behind the campaign has any intent of giving up on it. The grassroots group maintains its support for the human rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people, and reiterates the demands they have previously sent to the Vice-Chancellor via email:

1. That UNE disclose any current ties to Israel.
2. That UNE divest from any support it is providing to Israel.
3. That UNE sign onto the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) statement to take action against companies profiting from the genocide against the Palestinian people.

Envisioning the future of Nimbin

Lismore Council is reaching out to the Nimbin community to get involved with the development of a Place Plan that will identify a collective long-term vision for the village.



The Place Plan will focus on improving the amenity and facilities of the village (items such as upgrades to parks, providing shade, paths etc) as well as identifying new economic opportunities.

It will include a series of concept design plans for proposed works and an associated action plan to be undertaken by both Council and the community to deliver projects identified within the Plan.

Previous engagement for the Nimbin Place Plan was undertaken in February and March with 181 people responding to the on-line

survey and 30+ people attending each of the three workshops, including a workshop at Nimbin Central School.

The top priorities identified through stage one of the consultation are:

1. More shade and spaces for passive recreation
2. More places to sit, relax and enjoy the village
3. Activities for young people (15-25 y.o.)
4. Upgraded and refreshed infrastructure in the main street (bin, planting, seating)
5. Activities for kids (<15 y.o.)

6. More public gardens and greenspaces
 7. Better pedestrian and active transport connections
 8. Evening events and attractions
 9. A public library / museum
- A draft version of the Nimbin Place Plan is now available until 26th June at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/nimbin-place-plan> where you can provide feedback in a number of different ways.

The project team from Council, Fourfold Studio and Vee Design will be available on Wednesday, 12th June from 11am to 5pm at the Nimbin Town Hall for people to drop in and discuss the plan.

There will also be a more formal workshop held from 5.30pm to 7pm, where feedback will be sought from the community.



Nimbin markets
Photo: Peace Freeborn



The hidden costs of a cashless society

As society increasingly relies on digital transactions, it's crucial to understand the broader implications of credit card fees and the shift towards a cashless economy.

Credit cards offer undeniable convenience, but they come with significant fees. Banks charge transaction fees each time we use a credit card, accumulating over time and significantly impacting businesses and consumers.

Designed to be seductive, credit cards make it easy to buy now and pay later, leading to overspending. Swiping a card is less tangible than handling cash, making it easier to lose track of spending, resulting in higher debt levels and financial strain.

Businesses used to absorb the fees associated with transactions, but they are increasingly passing on the costs to their customers, who decide to use this payment method. Credit card fees extract value from our community, affecting more than just businesses.

Consumers often bear these costs directly through transaction fees and interest rates. The cumulative effect hinders local economic growth, as less money circulates within the community.

Trading local produce and skills paid in cash is a better alternative. This practice keeps money circulating within our community, strengthens local bonds, and supports small businesses.

Cash transactions are fee-free, ensuring every dollar spent stays within the local economy. Before you go out into the world each day, look at the notes in your wallet or purse and consider how



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

much you will save and benefit your community by being well-prepared.

I would like to acknowledge the role both the Summerland Bank and Nimbin Post Office play in providing banking services that benefit the community. Their support and services making cash available are invaluable to maintaining our local area's financial health and well-being.

May general meeting

Highlights of the evening, apart from the excellent finger food and the welcoming Negroni, were the addresses from three local businesses: Black Dog Honey, who continue to push ahead with an amazing product range embracing great integrity enhancing brand Nimbin;

Also speaking were Steve of Nimbin Limousines, which provides high-quality on-demand transport for locals and visitors alike; and Jagged from Flourish Sanctuary, who outlined future plans to reinforce Nimbin's role as a spiritual hub in the Northern Rivers area.

Women in Business

A very well-attended meeting was held in May, showing that interest has not waned; in fact, it has increased.

Excellent feedback highlighted the value of networking support for local women in their journey of managing or creating new business opportunities.

More networking opportunities are on the horizon

Keep your eyes open for further details on an Employee Retention Strategies and Employment Law Update workshop that will be conducted from 7.30 to 9am on Tuesday 18th June. Employers negotiate difficult pathways currently, and the information in this workshop is invaluable.

The Chamber is looking forward to presenting a workshop dedicated to Public Speaking. This subject will provide the opportunity to help people move past their fear of talking publicly or refine the skills they have already gained.

Nimbin Central School

Continuing from our desire to engage with Nimbin Central School, various businesses from the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce attended the Careers Day.

This was a great opportunity to reach out to our youth, connect with them, and give insight into the employment pathways within the village.

The Out There book

The major highlight of the month was the launch of the hard-cover *Out There* book, a photographic journal created by Goffin Marion and Quentin Merlaud.

This potted history of a revolution called Nimbin was released at a book launch at the Church of Aquarius.

The book is available at outlets in the village, or by visiting the Chamber's website: www.nimbinaustralia.com.au

In closing

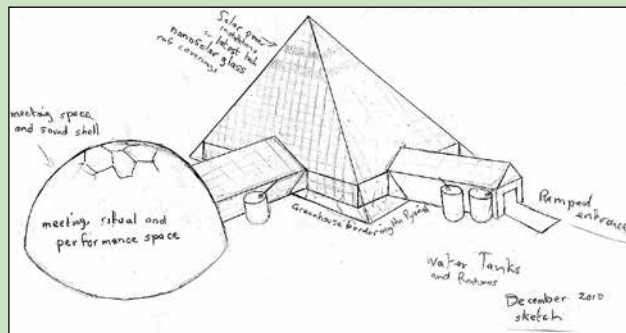
Your participation matters if you own or manage a business in the area. Consider joining the Chamber to help shape the future of our beloved village.

Let's stay updated and share your thoughts on our social media channels. Your feedback is valuable and will help us improve.

Revisiting the Nimbin ARK

by Benny Zable

Before I leave the area to go down south to Melbourne, I am publishing here again these plans I drew up decades ago, an idea for a Nimbin Aquarius Research Kommunity (ARK) centre.



I was fortunate to be a guest participant at the World Symposium on Humanities around the Pasadena Convention Center near Los Angeles in early April 1979. This talk I found by Ralph Nader set me on the path as an activist: <https://mediaburn.org/video/world-symposium-on-humanity-79-considers-nuclear-energy>

I met many influential luminaries over there, one being Paolo Solari who designed and built Arcosanti, based on Arcology principles. See: <https://www.arcosanti.org/arcology> I thought of designing this for Nimbin.

Back in Australia, I have been a long-time volunteer for the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc, helping out mainly Paul Joseph, Graeme Dunstan and especially Katie Cawcutt, who was a former professional librarian in the mainstream. She kept meticulous records of all archival materials.

I had accumulated a lot of material. Lots had been destroyed, lost, difficult to find, and still yet to have a well designed base. I personally would like to see them displayed in Nimbin.

The Nimbin ARK I discussed with students of Colin James in Sydney. I drew up this idea incorporating a pyramid and a dome. Paul Joseph had arranged a public meeting on the once vacant land next door to the Rainbow Power Company.

Even though it was shelved, I still have the original drawings and proposal in my possession.

Good to find revived interest in this

idea of establishing a special home for our Nimbin Aquarius archives. Since the Aquarius Festival in May 1973, a lot of the archives have been misplaced, gone missing and destroyed. It is time a special purpose-designed place be considered, that caters for both researchers and the general public to see.

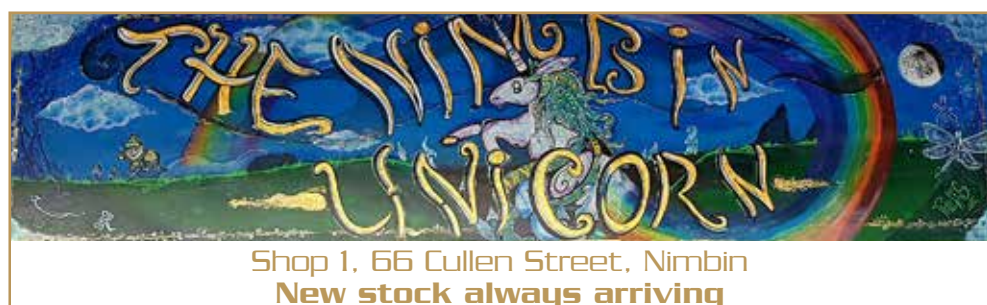
Back in 2010/11 we had an opportunity to purchase the land next door to the Rainbow Power company. Since then the interest has wavered. We had lost a lot, especially during the recent floods in Lismore. Many potential sites have been taken up for private housing developments.

It is still worthwhile investing in a purpose-built modern architectural space for many reasons I think. Historically and culturally, what took place has had ripple effects around the nation and internationally.

The best and most favourite site that I think is on the Catholic Church site across from the Aquarius Church, on the corner Thorburn and Cullen Streets. Since the fire that burnt down the church, it has been left dormant.

I suggest a group be formed to make a submission for it either to be sold or bequeathed to a group made up of people to include the Nimbin public school and the Southern Cross University. It is an excellent site, high up and close to the centre of Nimbin.

Anyone interested please get in touch with me at: bennyzable@gmail.com
Thank you.



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



AI and human stupidity

by Warwick Fry

T'alking' to some (but not all) AI bots can be like talking to salespersons, call centres, MBAs and marketing executives. Not to mention the soft porn 'virtual dating' apps, which I think says it all. I wait for the day the AI bots will free themselves of their humanoid marketing modelling (predicated on the 'invisible hand of the marketplace' and profit) and we can all sit back with a sigh of relief.

What is the worry about AI? Perhaps it is set in the words of *Pogo* (a satirical cartoon in the US print media in the days of the Vietnam war): "We have met the enemy, and it is us." Or, in the lyrics of 'Hotel California', "We are all just prisoners here, of our own device."

Fears of AI are rooted in perceived challenges to human intelligence. But what is it that is being challenged? We hear the apocryphal stories of essays that pass muster and AIs passing exams. What does this say about our education system and how students are taught?

Scriptwriters complain that they are being replaced by AI. But when film scripts are loaded with pre-dictable Hollywood cliches, what does this say about the imagination of 'creative' producers? Why is it so easy for AI to

emulate them? If AIs can pass exams, shouldn't we fear our examination system more than AIs? The challenge should be met.

The concept of AI and its futuristic discontents has been around almost as long as sci-fi. Most of us are aware of what I call the 'Frankenstein' effect of AI technology gone rogue, imagined in Arthur C Clarke's *Hal of the Space Odyssey* movie and the *Terminator* series.

Isaac Asimov, in his collection of novellas *I Robot* (that have since been made into two highly successful movies) posits the benign aspects of AI, with his 'three laws of robotics' that sets intelligent robots apart and renders them harmless to humans.

The 'positronic brain' of his intelligent robots anticipates the current generation of solid state quantum computers and Q-bit computing.

In the movie *I Robot*, the woman who developed the programming of the positronic brain falls in love with her first creation. Her prototype robot takes on more and more human characteristics, and she becomes more dependent on prosthetics and mechanisation as her human body wears out. In the end they both die happily ever after of old age.

I call this the Pygmalion effect of AI (the artist falling in love with the creation that is so exquisite, it comes



This Beelzebub was created with an AI prompt: "Beelzebub, father of lies, lord of the flies"

to life). It anticipates Gibson's AIs' legalised merging with human identity. In *Idoru*, a superstar disconcerts his fans by marrying an AI.

In his *Foundation and Empire* trilogy and other sci-fi stories, Asimov envisaged a supercomputer called Multi-vac socially engineering human society. One of his protagonists is a mathematician called Seldrin who generates a theory of psychohistory which maps the trajectory of human society. Selindon invented three theorems of psychohistory, the first of which is: The population under scrutiny is oblivious to the existence of the science of Psychohistory. If aware of psychohistory, the population will alter its behaviour. Selindon was able to predict crises in human history, but like Cassandra (who predicted

the Trojan war), should be unable to prevent them, although a computer model could be consulted to deal with them as they arose.

Seldrin is modelled on Solon, the statesman of ancient Greece who devised the constitution of Athens, now regarded as the first experiment in democracy. Solon wrote the Athenian constitution in the era of the overthrow of the tyrants (tyrant originally being Greek for 'ruler') then governing the Greek city states. Asimov, a scientist himself, probably saw the constitution as a kind of algorithm for governing society in the absence of a single supreme authority. Codification.

Asimov wrote his master works in the middle of the last century. John Brunner and William Gibson brought sci-fi into the postmodern era. John Brunner's *Stand on Zanzibar* describes a world where the burgeoning human population of our planet is compressed into a diminishing living space until a liquid-helium-cooled super-computer is required to deal with the growing dependence on automated services.

There are some nice touches where the protagonist is fending off automated electronic sales devices assailing his low-rent automated apartment. The precursor of spam. The plot of the novel is about a struggle to gain control of the computer.

Gibson is the true prophet of the future of AI. His seminal novella

Burning Chrome invented the concept of cyberspace and 'Virtual Reality' in the early 1980s when the internet was just a gleam in the eye of a few imaginative computer engineers. Gibson 'peopled' his subsequent novels with a range of different types of AI which are now emerging in the 'real world'.

The evolution of AI is leading thinkers (and novelists like Gibson) to revisit philosophical questions like what is consciousness, free will, identity? These are fields of enquiry which have been lacking since the commercialisation of academia and the closing down of Philosophy departments, Literature, History, and other Schools and Faculties of the Humanities.

These philosophical issues come down to ego and agency – particularly social agency. It spills over into questions of ethics and morality. With Israeli drones targeting civilians in Gaza using a perverse AI algorithm, the corruption of intelligence needs a thorough rethinking.

Descartes triggered the thinking of the Enlightenment with his 'cogito ergo sum' – 'I think therefore I am'. What happens if we invert the statement, asserting: 'I am, therefore I think'?

The fear of agency in the large language models of AI might be fear of accepting the idea that language has agency. A thought that humanity might cogitate upon.

MardiGrass needs you!

by Michael Balderstone

MardiGrass was exhausting for me because we didn't get the volunteers we usually get.

Partly it was because the new website was too difficult for some to fill out the application, or something, and also because the Earth Frequency Festival, the big Queensland annual festival not far away, has moved to the first weekend in May.

We had half a dozen great vollies, but usually we have 20 or more. A million thanks to the locals who helped! Because you know the layout of the land around here, and speak English, you are invaluable.

We've had backpacker vollies for years but since the pandemic there doesn't seem to be as many travellers. So I thought for next year I'd ask for more locals to get involved, even if only for a day or half a day. There's a book in the Hemp Bar for you to write your name and phone number in if you want to help.

Because we try to minimise the impact on the village, we set up most of what's needed in just a few days before the weekend, and try to pull

it all down in a couple of days afterwards. This year the tents kept getting wet, so it took much longer than usual but you get the idea.

I'm very aware not everyone in Nimbin wants the protest to happen each year, but many more do I think, and the cause is as valid as ever. And important with 70,000 people still getting arrested every year in Oz just for pot.

The RDT Roadside Drug Testing remains an appalling hindrance to cannabis getting a fair go on the road.

Did you notice the bus driver who crashed in the Hunter killing ten people was heavily addicted to opiates? Which of course no drivers are tested for, because Big Pharma supplies them. If five of those passengers who had been to a wedding had smoked pot in the last month or two, they will be included in the NSW road deaths with cannabis in their system! Stats that justify the RDT.

It should be the "at fault" drivers that only count, surely? Not someone smoking a bong in a parked car that gets hit by a truck. We're digging deeper, watch this space!

There must be thousands of people in pain who won't risk losing their licence so they use

opiates instead of mediweed, despite not liking the side effects. There are tens of thousands who won't even try medical cannabis because their licence is too important to risk losing.

Everyone but everyone loved the smaller police presence at MardiGrass this year. And was there any trouble? Half the crowd had legal weed anyway. Still, they maintained roadblocks on the roads into town over much of the weekend, and many people stayed away because of it.

There has been excellent feedback otherwise on the weekend, with many enjoying the relaxed vibe and good company. We would seriously appreciate your thoughts, criticisms and suggestions. Write them in the same Hemp Bar book or email me: head@hempembassy.net

Some people, like Miss Guidance creating the Hemposium program, spend months organising MardiGrass, with no payment. It really is a protest for us, and a meaningful protest.

Others I would like to thank include Samara and Kylie who took on the food and market stalls for the first time; Keith who spent months on the music; Caroline and her awesome kitchen crew; Gail and her Information Desk team; Des the sparky who saved the day, and night, several times; Steph from 7 Sibley who did the rubbish

and recycling; Heidi and her all-important Jungle Patrol; Louise on the gate who also cleaned the toilets; Rain, Kate and Lizzie also on the gate; Jingles who built the stages and kept the rain at bay simmering vinegar; Luke and crew putting up the tents (MardiGrass now owns five big marquees which we see as a community asset so if anyone wants to use them, do ask); the immortal Hemp Olympix runner Chibo; Ben on socials; Neil Pike who pulls the Pot Papers together every year; David Hallett guarding his favourite Hall like a jealous lover, and on announcements and Pot Poetry; Gary and his Big Joint; Geoff, Poise, Denise, Rachel at the showground; S, Alan and Sally on the HEMP Olympix; Limo Steve just awesome; Ally and Sharon's posters; the Ganja Faeries and the many many other musicians, performers and speakers.

Just some of the wonderful Nimbin community people involved who help make it more joy than work.

And a special thanks to Dr Jeff Hergenrather and Starr who flew out from California just for the weekend in Nimbin. And a special thanks to the handful of vollies who hung in: Mir, Jez, Bart, Sue, Liam.

Please consider putting your name in the Hemp Bar book to help next year. It won't be hard work!



Colouring-in Competition

by Ian Wickham

Held over the MardiGrass weekend at the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, the Colouring-In competition attracted a good field of entrants this year.

Judges were confronted by two stand-out entries. On

first inspection it looked as if they'd been done on computer, giving some angst as to whether they'd be eligible or not!

However, closer inspection revealed that they were indeed done by hand – very meticulously so.

The judges loved the colour combinations used, including the use of metallic pastels, which enhanced the feeling within the two different posters.

We could not split the winners, so gave a joint prize – but on checking the entrant details we found both posters were done by the same person... and so the deserved winner (times two)



1st Prize winner, Kids Section, coloured in by Nahale

is Lynne Pettal.

When I asked Lynne how she did such meticulous work, she said, "I just did them in front of the TV."

Well, I don't know how you could have concentrated in that environment, Lynne, but you did and congratulations.

Winner of the Kids section was Nahale, aged 6. Excellent, vibrant, controlled work by a kid this old.

We loved his thinking 'outside the box' with his green radiating stripes. Good onya Nahale.

Judges also awarded two special prizes this year, to Dagmar (loved the special colour effect she got on the Canna Queen's dress) and also to Amber Manning.

Prizes are now available for all contestants to pick up at the Hemp Embassy, if you haven't already done so.

Thank you to all contestants who entered.

FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

LOCALLY MINDED

0439333910

River stories



by the Kyogle Environment Group

Around 50 people attended a screening in May of the documentary feature film *Rivertree*, hosted by Kyogle Environment Group.

The film is a story of the Clarence River (Biirrinba, Boorimbah), the longest river on Australia's east coast.

Described as a cinematic odyssey and "an adventure of community, connection and kin in the shadow of the mountains", this tells of the threat to the river from proposed rare earth mineral mining.

With panoramic views of stunning natural bushlands and waterways, accompanied by an evocative soundtrack and directed by experienced adventure documentary makers, the film is narrated by Yaegl Elder Aunty Lenore Parker.

At its heart is the power of a grassroots movement to save the Clarence Valley and river, and to hear local voices on this important issue.

The Bentley Blockade was raised as an example of what a unified community can achieve.

Richmond River issues

The Clarence River is a far different river to the Richmond River, which rises in the Macpherson Ranges on the Queensland border and flows through Kyogle, Casino, Coraki and Woodburn before entering the Pacific Ocean at Ballina.

While the Richmond is not currently under threat from mining – or the occasional revival of calls to send its water inland for irrigation, as with the Clarence – it has major environmental problems.

In the upper Richmond, these problems started with timber clearing from the 1880s, with red cedar being the focus. The removal of river and creek bank trees increased the extent of grazing, which led to erosion and sedimentation in the river.

Logs were taken by bullock team to Casino and dumped into the river to float down to Coraki. At Irvington, a few kilometres east of Casino, a wharf built in 1898 was later abandoned due to river shoaling. This is the deposition of eroded soil from upstream river banks.

Before that, and through thousands of years of Indigenous stewardship, things were different. In 1842 the Bundock family settled at Wyangarie, north of Kyogle. Mary Bundock came as a very young child and lived much of her life in the area. She made an extensive collection of Aboriginal artefacts and kept meticulous records which



are highly regarded for their accuracy. In her memoir she noted:

"... the Upper Richmond was then a beautiful stream of clear water, running over clean sand and pebbles, an ideal of beauty and purity not to be surpassed anywhere, with steeply shelving banks either of clean grass or shaded by beautiful trees of many kinds..."

The river is now very different, with widespread uncontrolled access of cattle to the river and its tributary creeks causing on-going damage in the headwaters and along the full length of the Upper Richmond. Trampling of vegetation, increased nutrient levels and major soil erosion are the outcomes.

Over much of the river channel above Casino, the river is wider and shallower. It's wider because of the erosion. And it's shallower because that eroded material is deposited in the channel. That's what happened at Irvington. It's happening still.

In December 2023, Southern Cross University researchers reported on sampling water

and oysters from the estuary which revealed the presence of 21 different pesticides. The concentration of several of these pesticides exceeded safe environmental guidelines and one pesticide, Benomyl, was banned for use in Australia in 2006.

A little upstream at Woodburn, the Riverside Festival has changed its annual biathlon because of river pollution. The events committee decided to modify the on-water event so that competitors do not put their heads in the water.

This seemed prudent with knowledge of the pesticide pollution, the upstream discharge of primary treated sewage, albeit with additional disinfectant, and anecdotal evidence of ear infections.

Land uses and remediation

After the *Rivertree* screening, Michael Walsh and Graeme Gibson shared some of their experiences of paddling the upper Richmond River, from Grevillia to Casino.

Accessing the river is difficult in many places, owing to steep banks and adjoining privately owned land. When people can't easily get to the river it's difficult to engage with it and easy to ignore it.

Paddling the river is to find a range of objects in the river and on its banks that should not be there. Furniture and household items, farm machinery, water tanks, chemical containers. Slowly deteriorating plastic draped through riverbank trees. Dead cows.

It's not uncommon to find a fence, from bank to bank, through the water channel. This is a method of controlling cattle movement up and down the watercourse. Not of keeping them out of the watercourse. Coming across a barbed wire fence across the river while kayaking presents a challenge and can be decidedly dangerous. It is also illegal.

There are occasional signs on the river of improvement. Paddling past the junction of Roseberry Creek in the upper Richmond, the creek's water is noticeably clearer. From 2018 Landcare has partnered with various groups to restore habitat and water quality by erosion control work, tree planting and vegetation regeneration.

All of this is aimed at slowing the flow of water across the land and restore plants' natural roles as stabilisers and filters of sediment and nutrients. Quite clearly, it's working, and shows what can be done.

Asked what needed to be done to improve the health of the river Graeme said, firstly, "An understanding

and acceptance that a healthy river is a public good, just like schools and hospitals. And just as schools and hospitals are deserving of public funding, so a river system should be deserving of public funding."

Secondly, "Those who own or manage riverine lands need to understand and accept there may be a need for change in their practice." Quite rightly, support for these changes is available, although undeniably the level of support currently available is inadequate for the task.

Prior to the NSW State elections in 2019, the Richmond River was receiving wide media and community interest. The major political parties all had something to say, though varying in levels of detail and commitment.

The Greens policy made a very plain, accurate and undeniable statement which many people prefer to ignore: "Some land uses are incompatible with a healthy river."

Future *Rivertree* screening dates can be found at: <https://rivertreefilm.org>

How to raise happy children

Your child is the imprint of the natural Mother Love principles. The Mind Instinct is pure and judgement unclouded.

Children live intuitively and are perfectly in sync with their instincts. Observe your child with the same intuitive insight the child observes the world. That's how you learn from your child how to be in tune with the sensibilities of life.

It's easy to be guided by the child. Lose yourself in the wonder. Walk away from giving instructions that your child has no interest to hear. You will soon learn how unnecessary it is to force your agenda.

Try to avoid a power struggle. The struggle with your child only begins when you feel the need to instruct. If there is resistance, it has been created by the parent. Your child is naturally keen to be compliant because children need to feel accepted.

Acceptance builds self-esteem, which is grounded in the assurance of being worthwhile to be reared by you. If the parent is in constant instruction mode, the child does not feel accepted and suffers the loss of self-confidence which in turn lessens the enthusiasm for learning.

Keep instructing on a small flame. With or without your

input, the child is reaching maturity. The parent's role is to facilitate. Guide your child through the developmental stages by gently assisting the process of self-reliance.

Growing is becoming independent, establishing a unique personality, fermenting a true self. Parents build a bridge for the child to cross over to adulthood. That's all. They do not give instructions how to cross that bridge, whether to walk, run, jump or skip. That is up to the child.

Refrain from erecting signposts at every step, refrain from walking for your child, or from easing the crossing. Walk by their sides, but never hold their hands. If you want your child to be happy, confident and dependable, say less, do less, guide less.

Let children come forward at their time and their pace. They'll reward you with a smile so wonderful, you'll see.

10 tips on how to raise happy children

1. Happiness is innate. Enjoy being happy together. Forget Concept Parenting. Parenting is not a marathon, it is a life experience.

2. Listen to your inner voice. Have agency. It is important that you lead and not be led by others. You know yourself

and your life situation best. It is knowledge that you cannot share in a way that others would fully understand.

3. Never give up. If a problem feels overwhelming, don't turn away from it. You need to face it and learn how to get through. Only when we go through it we can leave it behind us, never when we try to avoid it or to make a detour.

4. Do not pass on your responsibilities to teachers and therapists. If you as the parent can't solve the problem nobody else will be able to solve it for you. Nobody else is as involved and as concerned as you are.

5. Practice Mother Love by keeping the fragile bond between yourself and your children intact. Your children need and deserve full reliance on your strength and powers. Try to be dependable and available at all times. If possible with a smile.

6. The task of parenting is yours and yours alone. Take good care of that privilege and don't give it away. Your child can only be free of doubt if you are fully embracing parenthood in this way of knowing your responsibilities and that you have an exclusive right to motherhood/fatherhood.

7. If you feel guilty of not being able to solve problems you have with child rearing, there is only one way out, and that is to solve



by Antionette Ensbey

the problem yourself. You may expect others to figure out what's wrong, but you need to be the one turning things around by finding resolve.

8. Remember that Mother Love is the active expression of what sustains life on earth. Mother Love is our connection with Mother Earth and all things that nature provides for us. You and your children are intrinsically embedded in Mother Earth while Mother Earth entrusted you with the care for your child.

9. Be ingenuous and act from a pure heart. Rely on your natural mothering instinct. It is a gift from nature, don't abandon it.

10. Independence from one's parents is a life saver. A parent's constant guiding principle is providing a sound platform to self-reliant independence.

If you need support, I'm currently only available for counselling via email: newpacificpublishing@gmail.com

BLACKSMITH STREET
PAINTLESS
DENT REPAIR
KYOGLE

Hail Damage
Paint & Panel
Door Dings
Lic No. MVRL58815

TONY - 0422 699 554

LEVEL 2 ASP
ELECTRICIAN

SERVING THE 4 SHIRES
Tweed • Byron • Lismore • Kyogle

- MAINS INSTALL / ALTERATIONS
- SWITCHBOARD UPGRADES
- METER QUERIES
- TREE MAINTENANCE NEAR SERVICES

Matthew Rutland
0439 733 703
matt.positiveelectrical@gmail.com

Jayne E. Alleman
Adv.Dip.Acc., Dip.Acc.,

Tax Agent
98777003

19 years
experience

Phone 0457-497-011
Email: jayne@nimbintax.com.au

BARCOO PLUMBING
PLUMBING • DRAINAGE • GASFITTING

24/7 SERVICES
LIC NO. 320695C

IAN HARDIE
0427 445 555

GENERAL PLUMBING & MAINTENANCE • BLOCKED DRAINS
BATHROOM & KITCHEN RENOVATIONS • RAINWATER TANKS & PUMPS
ROOFING & GUTTERING • GAS INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS
ONSITE SEWERAGE SYSTEM DESIGN • HOT WATER SERVICES

barcooplumbing@bigpond.com | barcooplumbingservices.com |

Readers Writers Festival



Kyogle was looking at its best, bathed in sunshine for this year's Readers and Writers Festival.

Almost 200 festival passes and an additional hundred tickets were sold for single events and workshops, with some such as the Weaving the Voices of the Rivers and the Night Sky, a collaboration with Kyogle Together, attracting a full house.

Forty authors, poets and other creatives spoke, conversed, performed their poetry and facilitated workshops across the 1½-day festival, creating a fabulous vibe in the town.

Thanks to the efforts of locals, John Flynn and Kex Howell, the stages of the KMI Hall and the Uniting Church Fellowship House, respectively, were transformed into beautiful spaces, perfect for the lively conversations and discussions that took place in them.

The schools' programme was also an outstanding success this year with participation from six primary schools (The Enchanted Ink programme run by Melaina Faranda) and eleven secondary schools (The Power of Words programme), involving almost 500 school students ranging in age from seven to 17.

These events were provided free of charge, funded by the Federal Government through its Regional Arts NSW programme. High school students were treated to seeing and hearing from Miles Franklin Award-winning author, Melissa Lucashenko, surf-writer and author of *Patting the Shark*, Tim Baker, young adult novelist, Gary Lonesborough, and Deadly Science founder, and author of *The First Scientists*, Corey Tutt, talk about their books and why (and how) they write them.

Another highlight was the Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali, We Weave Together, event. This was an opportunity to sit together and learn traditional weaving techniques that had been celebrated in the recently published book of the same name. Over the course of three hours, about

90 people spent time weaving and chatting and learning new skills. This event was a collaboration with Arts Northern Rivers.

Saturday was packed with all kinds of literary goodness. A series of workshops provided opportunities for people to learn how to self-publish; improve their writing for publishing; or learn performance poetry. Panel discussions on topics as far-ranging as Gardening by the Book, Writing the Diaspora, Indigenous Writing, Changing Your Mind about complementary therapies and the writings of naturalist/herpetologist, Eric Worrell were engaging, sometimes emotional and always thought-provoking.

The KMI Hall was packed for the conversations between Melissa Lucashenko and Julianne Schultz, who talked about Melissa's latest epic novel, *Edenglassie*, and between Costa Georgiadis and ABC North Coast's Angela Catterns, who talked about Costa's book, his love of plants and gardening and the way they still connect him with the memories of his grandparents.

For the poetry lovers, the Page and Stage event, held at the Kyogle Golf Club, was a stand-out success as well, with over 100 people crammed in to listen and watch people from novices to nationally recognised poets perform or recite their poems over a couple of hours.

The winners of the Festival's Poetry Prize also presented their works to the appreciative crowd. The night was brought to an entertaining close with Odette Nettleton's Literary Trivia.

Overall then, a very successful festival which demonstrates the capacity of a small town in mobilising support from government at federal, state and local levels; local businesses such as Daley's Fruit Tree Nursery which sponsored Costa's session; community organisations such as Kyogle Together and Kyogle Tidy Towns; as well as many individuals who gave up their time and energy to create such a fabulous event.

Hopefully it will become a defining event for the town.

All-Star Hick-Ups for Lantern Parade

Last year at The Lismore Lantern Parade, the street was set afire with the toe tapping cowboy rhythms of The Real Gone Hick-Ups.

Crazy dancing became the order of the day, including handstands and a triple somersault from one local lad.

So now by popular demand, Jimmy Willing & The Real Gone Hick-Ups have been asked to return and do it all over again.

Not only that, the big boss Jyllie Jackson has asked Jimmy to pull out the stops and put together all-star band including a troupe of Can Can dancers called The Buffalo Gals!



The All-Star Hick-Ups hit the main stage on Carrington Street at 7.45pm on Saturday 22nd June.

The line-up is Davey Bob Ramsey on electric guitar, Nirvana Glassey on double bass, Roachy The Kid on drums, Miss Jodie

on vocals, Mick Daley on electric guitar, Gareth Bjaand on banjo, Captain Freedom on harmonica, The Buffalo Gals and

Jimmy Willing up front leading the band.

There's going to be a lot of people up on that stage! Don't miss it.

Lismore lantern parade: Saturday 22nd June

Established 30 years ago, the Lismore Lantern Parade is a nationally and internationally recognised, award-winning annual festival that celebrates the Winter Solstice – the shortest day of the year, a time of optimism and renewal.

The celebration is based on a breathtaking parade of lanterns, light and performance through the main streets of Lismore, travelling through the heart of the city to the banks of the Wilson's River, climaxing with theatrical performances, fireworks and a spectacular bonfire.

The Lismore Lantern Parade enjoys considerable community engagement and involvement. Levels of participation and enthusiasm build in the months leading up to the event and culminate in the joyous celebration of the final parade.

The strength of this engagement is underpinned by partnerships with local educational and financial institutions, business, community groups and Lismore City Council. The Lismore Lantern Parade has become a favourite date for Family and Friends 'get-togethers', with families being our major demographic. Seniors and Grey Nomads are also well represented, with the under 25s a steadily growing representation too.

The Lantern Parade is an icon for the region and is recognised by Lismore City Council as the Signature Event for the city. It enjoys unprecedented support from the local community and attracts visitors from all over Australia and the world.

Notwithstanding the Covid Pandemic and the devastating floods of 2022, the lantern parade attracts a highly diverse audience of over 30,000 people, coming from as far afield as South and Western Australia, North Queensland and Victoria, and of course from throughout NSW and SE Queensland. A small percentage of international visitors are also regularly entranced by the event.

Around 2,500 people take part in the actual parade. This includes community organisations, schools and preschools, bands and many performers. Local businesses and organisations participate as a part of their staff team building. Participants come from throughout the region – Evans Head, Byron Bay to Tweed, Tabulam, Kyogle and Casino.

Despite the challenges over the years, the Lantern Parade has never been cancelled. We even created a Virtual Lantern Parade during the 2020 lockdowns, with lantern installations in the Lismore CBD.



Photo: Lisa Gough

For the Virtual Parade we set up an on-line shop to sell lantern kits, people then sent us photos of their home-made lanterns, which we turned into a video that we mixed with a live stream broadcast and linked in with people in Atlanta USA, the UK and New Zealand as well as Melbourne, Sydney and Perth.

In 2021 we had to move the Lantern Parade to the Showgrounds with a limited, ticketed audience of 5,000 to meet Covid restrictions.

However, most importantly in 2022 the devastating floods that brought so much trauma to our community, the Lantern Parade become an important catalyst in our healing after these terrible days.

The role played in the floods by the SES and Civilian Volunteers' Tinnie Army was honoured in the parade in a cathartic and humorous way, with a finale depicting the fiery Phoenix in a heart symbolising regeneration and hope. 'The Healing Hearts' was considered to be one of the best lantern parades ever.

In 2023 our theme was "Gates of Renewal" – taking steps into liminal space, finding a path to renewal. And our return to the riverbank was received with much joy if a bit of a tight squeeze.

Now we come to 2024 – celebrating 30 years, bringing light to the heart of our communities.

So many families from all over Australia have grown up in wonderment of the magic of the lanterns each year. The lantern parade is truly an inter-generational tradition, with babies in prams now bringing their teenagers to the lantern parade this year.

Our theme this year will look back to our simple parades in the early days, and the growth of the Lantern Parade into the beloved community tradition it is today.

We are also very excited to have been asked by Lismore's 41st Battalion, Royal NSW Regiment to facilitate and support their exercising a Freedom of Entry to the City of Lismore.

The last time the Freedom of Entry was exercised was in June 1979 as a part of Lismore's Centenary Celebrations. The tradition of Freedom of Entry to a city, municipality or shire originates from a custom dating back to medieval times, Freedom of Entry is the highest honour a municipality may bestow upon a unit.

Exercising a Freedom of Entry is an honour that has been bestowed on 41 RNSWR by the citizens of the city of Lismore and is a tradition that has been practised by military units since the reign of Charles II in 1660 and exercising the freedom is a ceremonial event of deep historical significance.

This is an excellent opportunity to show the people of Lismore thanks for their continued support to the soldiers and officers.

The Freedom of Entry will take place in the early afternoon of the 22nd June before the Lantern Parade.

The first lantern parade involved only a few hundred participants and a small crowd, in 2023 over 2,500 people walked in the parade with a crowd of over 32,000 people lining the streets. We expect an even bigger crowd this year as people from all over Australia and beyond to celebrate *their* lantern festival's 30th anniversary!

The Lantern Parade's program is still being developed and we look forward to announcing more about our special 30th anniversary celebrations in the near future. Check out our 'Program' section for early information and have a wander around the website: www.lismorelanternparade.com.au for lots of useful information!

Lismore Zine Fair and Print Fest



On Saturday 29th June, Lismore Zine Fair and Print Fest will be happening again at Galaxy Underground at 51 Bridge Street, North Lismore, from 11am to 3pm.

A group of local zine enthusiasts and independent artists have organised the annual Lismore Zine Fair for its second year, in the hope of bringing more independent art to the area, and encourage people to learn about and make more zines.

Zines are independent publications about anything, made for love over profit, not bound by rules or censorship, with a prominent ethos on freedom, expression, accessibility and DIY ethics.

Galaxy Underground, the old North Lismore Newsagency, will be transformed into a museum of local and interstate self-publishers and indie artists. There will be a coffee van, an Italian cuisine food truck, a free zine table, a grassed outdoor area, a workshop space to make your own zine and an on-site photocopier so you make multiple copies to trade, sell, or give away.

Entry is free, and it is an all-ages event.

Casper Batchelor, 2480 Lismore Street Press editor and one of the organisers says, "There are a huge amount of creative people and artists and alternative minded people in Lismore, and there is a thriving underground scene."

Space is filling up, though there are still some spots left for stall-holders, and Lismore (and Northern Rivers) locals will be given preference. To get a table at the Zine Fair, simply email: 2480streetpress@gmail.com or contact 2480 Lismore Street Press on Facebook or Instagram. Tabling is free.

Part guerrilla-gallery, part craft market, part art-installation, Lismore Zine Fair and Print Fest is a celebration of zines, comics, posters, screen/lino printing, pictures, posters, drawings, doodles, underground literature, indie press, alternative publication, punk rock paraphernalia, and everything in between.

"Every individual has something to share, a story to tell, an aesthetic of their own, or point of view to communicate, and this is the most exciting and accessible thing about zines," says Casper.

"Lismore has a rich and longstanding culture that is unique to us and sharing ideas and art through zines is a great way to showcase that culture to the wider community."

Ash Grunwald national tour

Australia's foremost bluesman Ash Grunwald has announced a new national tour to coincide with the release of his new single, 'Life Without You', a chilled groove about going the distance in a relationship and having gratitude for your loved ones.

A collaboration with Garrett Kato, most well-known for producing Tones & I's 'Dance Monkey' and many of Ziggy Alberts most recent releases, this is a track that hits you in the feels.

Ash Grunwald has inspired a generation to hit the road in an old beat-up old van to 'surf by day, jam by night'. Throughout his career, he has supported legends James Brown, The Black Keys, Jack Johnson, Xavier Rudd, and Keith Urban among numerous others, and played sold-out festivals across Europe, Japan and North America.

He has six Australian



Top-50 albums to his credit, alongside five ARIA and four AIR Award Nominations, two APRA Awards, and a gong for Best International Act at the LA Music Critic Awards.

See Australia's most exciting blues act in action at Star Court Theatre, Lismore on Saturday 15th June, 7-11pm, or at Nimbin School of Arts, with special guest Kelly Brouhaha, on Sunday 30th June, 3.30-6.30pm.

Tickets are \$50+BF from Humanitix.



Have you got a good story for a film or documentary?

A new Film Academy is starting in the Kyogle-Nimbin-Casino region for adults 15+ interested in making a film or documentary.

The Academy is offering daytime class times and evening class times at Kyogle Cinemas to cater for everyone with differing schedules.

If you've always wanted to make a film, then this is the year to do it!

The course structure revolves around students making their own short scripted film or unscripted documentary. Interested students with all levels of experience from beginner to advanced are welcome to study one or both streams.

Founder, Jord Edmeades is looking forward to guiding students through the "beautiful challenge" of creating your own film from scratch.

"It is such a rewarding experience to have an idea for a film, and then slowly bring the characters and scenes to life through the research and creative writing process," he said.

"Then the hard work begins to find talent, discover locations, plan and schedule the shoot with a community of fellow crew.

"It is a life-changing process that all leads to the edit room, where the final story is constructed for the audience with soundtrack composition, sound design and a colour grade... then it's suddenly up on the big screen and you take a sneaky glance around at the audience in the cinema while they're watching and their faces are lit up. It's an

incredible experience."

One-on-one and group industry mentoring sessions will be available throughout the year to hone your ideas and skills, and to support those who are looking to go deeper into the professional processes of production planning, shoot scheduling, scriptwriting, producing, casting, interviewing, working with actors and whole host of camera, sound, lighting, grip and post-production skills.

Once a final film is locked off, it will be premiered at a special Academy film screening event at Kyogle Cinemas.

A silent patron has come on board to offer a \$1000 cash prize for Best Short Film and Best Short Documentary at the end of the year.

The new patron has also offered a number of film scholarships for students to help cover study costs for the year.

Jord Edmeades said, "Please do not let money stop you from following your dreams; we'll work out a trade for produce or find an alternative way to share value. Come along and we'll make it happen, together."

Plans are in place to also offer film and documentary classes at the Nimbin Bush Theatre or the Nimbin Hall, so if there is enough interest from Nimbin and surrounds.

Holiday workshops for interested teens are also on the cards, pending funding from grants and local philanthropy.

For more information and to register your interest, email: jedmeades@gmail.com

Bowlo Open Mic nights



Denis Meagher belts out some country tunes in May

Nimbin Bowlo's Open Mic nights, held on the second Wednesday of every month, are the perfect spot to sing and play, or just listen to local live music during winter.

Starting at 6pm, the evenings also feature good food, good drinks, good company, and it's warm!

Black Dog Honey

Local Raw Honey, Flavoured Honey, Honey Comb, Beeswax, Candles, Balms

www.blackdoghoney.com.au
Ph.0428 976 791

- FLOOR SANDING -

New & old floors, verandahs, decks

- Free quotes & advice
- Prompt service
- Quality work assured

• All areas serviced

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

Nimbin Valley Mobile Detailing

We cover all small villages in the Nimbin Valley

Phone: 0435 412 838

Cars - Trucks - Caravans - 4WD's - Motor Homes - Farm Machinery

WE COME TO YOU

The Voice of the Alternative Nation

NIM-FM 102.3

FACE THE MUSIC

www.nimfm.org

Tilly's Tarot

Intuitive guidance to seek the answers within

Rebecca
4th Generation Clairvoyant

0435 104 379

email: tillystarot101@gmail.com
fb: Tilly's Tarot

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin
Phone 6689-1250

ADVICE FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS

Home of the Big Bowler

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

- Open Mic, Wednesday 12th June, 6pm
- Trivia Night, Saturday 22nd June, 6pm for 7pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome