

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

## Policing Nimbin

I think the problem with policing is its orientation. Community are the people the police are asked to serve, with funding budgeted from Australian taxation. There meets the bottom-up/top-down dilemma.

Australian Institute of Criminology is there to guide policy and research. Ideals of POP + COP can be explored on-line. Ideally, Community-Oriented Policing is better than Problem-Oriented Policing.

Substance and family abuse have tragic consequences. Alcohol, opioids, and ice are abuse problems. Cannabis is relatively benign. The evidence of world research clearly speaks for itself.

Nimbin also has a voice, and I hope it can dialogue politely with police officers who suffer from all the social problems we have, and then have to deal with them too in their line of work.

I hope I don't have to call on the constabulary, but if I do I will need them to respond fairly. I hope not to be harassed by them either.

I live in hope, I think we must. And I believe in goodwill to all humankind. Yes, it's hard practise.

Lois McWhinney  
Nimbin

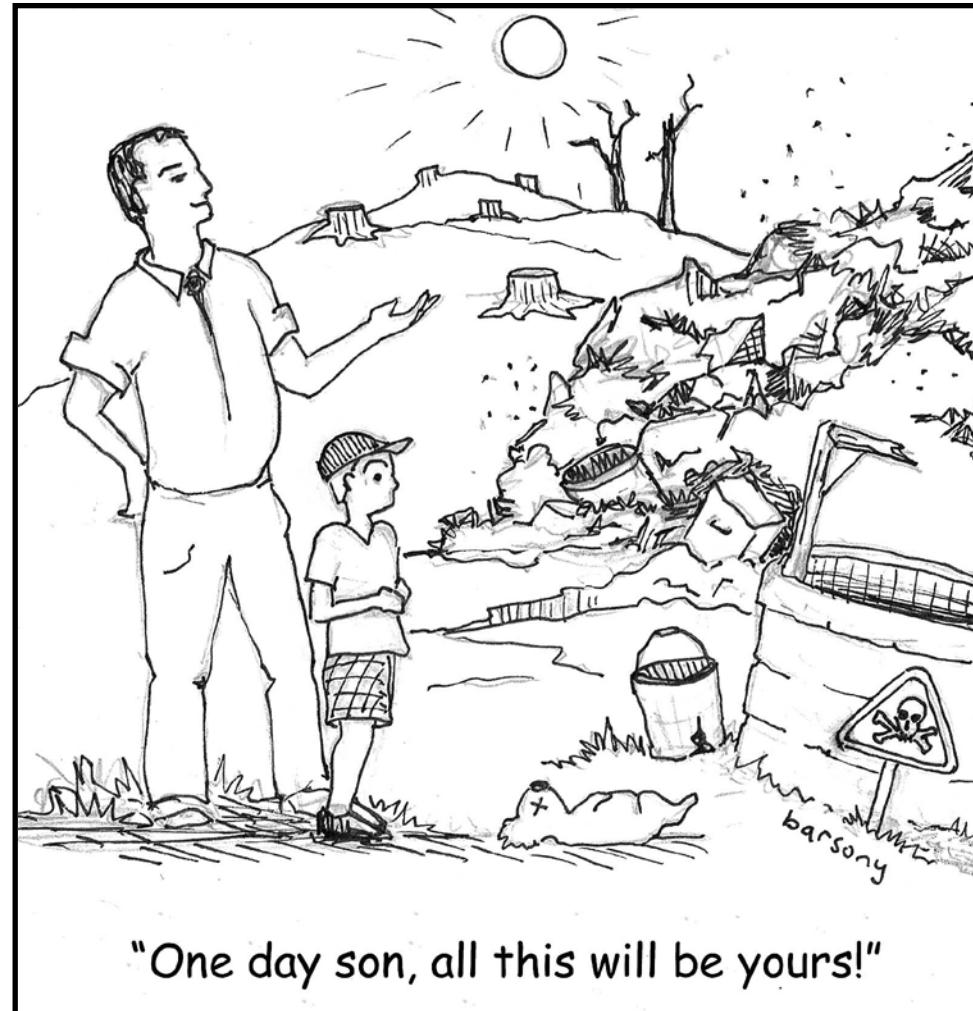
## Open letter to MP

Dear Ms Saffin,

Please look into the mode of police drug testing. It is not aligned with any quantitative analysis and is subject to unwanted and unsafe results.

Yesterday I picked up a woman hitching into Lismore to do her shopping. She told me she has two teenage sons and is a single mother. She was drug tested and found with marijuana in her system and lost her licence for three months. She had had a joint the previous night and was tested at midday the following day. The results of testing had nothing to do with her competence of driving ability as the effects of a joint dissipate within a few hours.

The police testing has a pretence of keeping the roads safe, yet forcing people to hitchhike is not a safe practice, and the testing does not include prescription drugs which may often affect cognitive response. A better system would be one that responds to ability rather



than some leftover indication of the previous night that has no alignment with driving ability.

Yagia Gentle  
Nimbin

## Cecil Street outrage

I wrote a letter to the General Manager at Lismore Council and got a response concerning the hit-and-run death of Tonia Jansen and injuries to her partner in Cecil Street.

I also read Diana Roberts' article in the June edition, and I'm pissed off with the attitude of Council's non-funding of safety infrastructure in Cecil Street.

The letter I received from Council is typical of an organisation that doesn't prioritise funding where it should go.

The mayor and GM should hang their heads in shame for not addressing the lack of safety in the village of Nimbin. As usual, there is money for pretty-ing up the Lismore CBD, but not enough for elsewhere.

I wonder why.

Paul Brecht  
Evans Head

## Regenerative culture

Aiden Ricketts' article 'Staying sane in the late Anthropocene' (NGT July 19) analysis is correct and provides a concise and disturbing picture of how the rapacious global capitalist system is destroying the global biosphere, and equally important the disconnect (alienation) of many people from the natural world and each other.

Aiden however, is very light on regarding details. What should be a call to action for activists, other than disruption and regenerative culture? Having political agency, is

imperative, by collective direct political action, to challenge the structural power of capitalism.

Our times of economic and political uncertainty and the ascendancy of Far Right authoritarian, populist political parties globally, necessitates action to turn around this insidious tendency, which thrives on apathy, cynicism, and unbridled individualism.

Engendering a politics of hope, based on realpolitik, as opposed to despair, in our increasingly fractured divided society, is more urgent than ever in human and global history.

Without doubt, global environment is under enormous threat, as the climate emergency accelerates, with global warming and potential loss of many plant and animal species.

To continue as business-as-usual economics and politics will fuel further disillusionment and hopelessness. People must reject this nihilistic view, and turn this into understanding as a species; humans are social animals that can and do collective good, based on democratic and humane principles.

Boyd Kellner  
Newrybar

## The science of 5G

It was strange that Dr Alan Roberts in his article ('5G is harmless', p12 NGT July) chose to only focus on breakage of molecular bonds including the weak hydrogen bonds. There are many energy resonances, especially in biological systems, that have lower energies than bond energies.

For example, the location of electrons on molecules and cellular structures such as ion

gates, rotation and folding of molecules, activation of enzymes, and many other biochemical interactions, have delicate roles in animal physiology.

One would expect that sub-bond-energy photons in 5G millimetre wavelengths are possibly or likely to disrupt some physiology in small animals and insects. That is rather frightening, since insects are already under extreme stress from climate change and artificial chemical exposures.

The precautionary principle should apply, particularly in rural areas.

Sapoty Brook  
Mullumbimby

## More 5G concerns

Is Alan Roberts unaware of the wealth of peer reviewed data confirming the biological effects that non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation (EMR) exposure has on people, plants, animals and insects?

Or does he just turn a blind eye, like the regulatory bodies ARPANSA and ICNIRP do? The Australian safety standard for exposure to non-ionizing EMR does not take all the data into account or protect people and the environment from harm.

The unrestricted use and unbridled expansion of wireless technology doesn't just pose risks to people, it is very much a threat to wildlife and the environment. Many creatures – bees, birds, butterflies and bats to name a few – rely on magnetoreception for survival.

This vital sense is disrupted by man-made EMR. The decline and disappearance of many species from the Nightcap National Park in the vicinity of the Mt Nardi towers has been documented

and reported to UNESCO by long time local, naturalist Mark Broomhall.

Ultimately, in light of what the available data has already shown, we ought to be reducing our EMR emissions, not increasing them dramatically via 5G, the Internet of Things and Smart Cities.

The recent raids on the media, the arrest of Julian Assange and the continuing sanctioned destruction of our environment, make me very wary of a technology that will give governments and their corporate cronies the ability to spy on us and control dissent like never before.

Tanina Millis  
Burringbar

## 5G debate continues

Alan Roberts claims 5G is not harmful to our biology (except for its power use).

Unfortunately he is a lone voice in an ocean of scientists, doctors and environmental organisations who strenuously disagree. Professor Emeritus Martin Pall said that 5G is "the stupidest idea in the history of the world." Telcos think they can make a lot of money, but for how long if 5G will kill the planet? At the very least it will destroy the ionosphere.

Last year Alan wrote that wi-fi was harmless in spite of over 10,000 independent studies showing harm from 1, 2, 3 and 4G. Findings from the Bioinitiative Report, the Ramazzini Institute and the National Toxicology Program all show clear evidence of harm. How much worse will 5G be when instead of 4G's 4 billion wavelengths a second, 5G will go up to 95 billion wavelengths a second?

The human brain operates at the same frequency as the planet i.e. 7.83 hertz (the Schumann resonance). In today's world with pervasive 4G, our background radiation is one quintillion (10 with 18 zeros after it) times more. As electrical/magnetic beings he doesn't think this is affecting us or the earth's delicately balanced electrical system, really?

There are hundreds of documentaries interviewing academics specialising in this field (Resonance; Beings of Frequency, 5G Apocalypse,

Why Stop 5G, Take Back your Power). In contrast, his article is gobbledegook, smoke and mirrors. Who can make sense of its highly technical but frankly unbelievable content?

Governments worldwide chopping down hundreds of thousands of trees, some hundreds of years old, because they block 5G signals is going to drive the existing biodiversity crisis over the cliff of mass extinctions. Apparently Alan is not too worried about the impact of accelerated tree loss on our climate either.

Anyone who supports 5G is an enemy of people, animals, plants, insects – all life on planet earth.

Finally, if he believes 5G is safe why doesn't he sacrifice himself to the holy 5G grail and allow himself to be exposed to unlimited testing? That way people worldwide who complain that 5G has not been tested as safe will have nothing more to complain about.

And why, Alan, do you think they are unable to prove that it is safe? Simple – it isn't.

Menkit Prince  
Uki

## Confine your cat

As Australian wildlife supporters, we grow many varieties of Australian native plants in our gardens plus some introduced species – mostly herbs since farmers are more efficient at growing vegies and we are not permitted to have chooks in suburbia.

Our native trees, bushes and shrubs not only supply us with oxygen to breathe and shade, but also feed a wide variety of Aussie birds and our dogs can keep cats away.

However, many cat owners let their cats wander day and night illegally and the result is many dead birds. Two birds killed in a garden last two days.

You can confine your cats to verandas, buy cat runs or get rollator fence tops and mesh gates so puss falls inside your property and does not wander into others' properties and kill their birds and native marsupials such as sugar gliders – really, really cute. Please save our Aussie natives species.

Anne Sutherland, Wildlife Queensland – Gold Coast  
Robina

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson  
Web [www.nimbongoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbongoodtimes.com)  
And find us on Facebook

NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

## NEXT DEADLINE:

Wednesday 28th August

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.



## Allan Grace

09/07/1950 - 14/07/2019

Guitarist, singer, songwriter and amazing wordsmith.

Wonderful musician, loving, thoughtful, caring, instantly forgiving, psychic/intuitive, clever, funny, all round beautiful soul and my soul mate of 24 years.

I took him to hospital with pneumonia on 14th June and sadly, he went downhill very fast from that moment, passing away with my arms around him exactly one month later.

A catastrophic loss in my life.

– Robin Stein



## Grant W. Myles

Passed away on the Winter Solstice 2019

'Conservation expedience' is our motto

to the "West Coast" to surf at Bells, Winkipop, Anglesea and Lorne. Those places had sandy roads and barely any houses back then and barely any surfers in winter.

Around this time, Grant fell in love and left his university dreams behind. He travelled to this region in the mid 1970's with Rosslyn, the youngest daughter of Bob and Hazel Hawke.

They drove up here from Victoria on their way up to the Daintree in their old red and white Morris van that they had named 'Wombles'. However, it needed a new engine before they even got over the border from Victoria, breaking down at Mallacoota.

Before leaving Victoria, both Grant and Rosslyn lived in a cute little old run-down house just down the street from Bob and Hazel's home in Sandringham. Bob back then of course, was the President executive of the ACTU and soon doubled up on his work as he became the executive leader of the Labor party as well.

Hazel was a wonderful woman and treated all of us with dignity and equality and listened to our wild ideas when she was home. We had some great times at that house, having saunas, swimming and playing pool.

It was the most beautiful time of our lives, carrying what we owned in one bag on our shoulders and trusting life would take care of itself. Hanging around Greville Street and Jim Billington and the Marijuana party, the Reefer Cabaret, Daddy Cool, Little River Band, Easybeats. Someone was always playing a guitar, and all of us singing or playing records and tapes.

I caught back up with Grant and Rosslyn when they arrived up here in the Northern Rivers in 'Wombles'. It was missing a couple of gears and if I remember right, had no brakes just the hand brake, by the time they had arrived. Also with them was Grant's trusted friend, Tim'. (Rosslyn, just for the record, has never owned a Kombi ever in her life, as others have claimed.)

Rosslyn told me that on their way they had stopped along the beaches and forests to camp at night, while Grant read the chapters out loud of *The Hobbit* under candlelight, Rosslyn tinkered with making the tea as she and Tim listened to Grant and the magnificent journey – *The Hobbit* and otherwise known as "There and back again".

Eulogy by Lil Myles

Throughout the 1960's into the early 70's Grant's (and our) family grew up around Monash University.

Our mother first worked at the University Dean's office; it was in this office and era of the 1960's where my mother unlocked the doors for the students who were protesting against the war in Vietnam and the anti-conscription campaign. The students took it over for a 'sit in' along with her brother, my uncle and our aunt, who were law students at the time.

As children, Monash Uni was our playground. Every corridor was explored in every building of the University, which was still being built, as many of the buildings were. The guards at the university knew my brothers and me quite well when we were children, mainly from all the antics we were caught doing around the place, especially Grant.

From a very young age, my brother Paul was fixated on wanting to do medicine, which he went on to achieve very successfully. Meanwhile, Grant intensified his interests in chemistry and mathematics. Both Grant and Paul had been academically selected and gained their scholarships into Melbourne High.

I would often tag along with my brothers when we stayed with our grandparents in Belgrave. We would spend hours walking on the train tracks listening to the steel for the vibration of the trains coming, placing coins onto the track to flatten them.

My brothers would make rope swings out of vines and swing off the old wooden bridge over the blackberries: seriously dangerous to think about it now. And like many other kids at that time they made their own billy carts, sold *Heralds* and often walked off for hours on weekend adventures.

As young teenagers, my brothers also surfed. They would both hitch-hike

As siblings and as friends, we were the "wild 60's children" a result of parents who were far beyond the average thinkers, parents who embraced true democracy and took on the establishment. Our freedom was not 'given to us' we just simply took it, created it as a matter of fact.

Our world became like many others, it was colliding into a musical patchwork, we were part of a worldwide shift into social awareness.

Young teenagers running loose; we jumped aboard and rode that bus with confidence and ego, nothing could harm us, it was wonderful and we were not afraid, and are still not.

A lot more happened both before and after Nimbin. The years at Tuntabawab Falls, roaming the forests up to the mountain and back down into the valleys, swimming the flooded creeks, our songs and music and love – and it was back here again, 10 years ago, where Grant came back to rest.

So here now, more than 42 years later since jumping into 'Wombles' and heading North and on this 2019 Winter Solstice night, Grant died in my arms in the early hours before dawn. Here at our family home, in Lillian Rock where he lived.

Our moon and candles were our light in this world, our bare feet were blessed with the feel of the earth, the moss and the sea – our hearts, Grant's heart, will always belong to the forest place.

His mathematical ability to trace our universe with such intellectual ease, his love and heartache for our environment and its creatures. His twinkling shining eyes will remain forever embedded within our hearts. We will always think of Grant, with love and appreciation.

Thank you, Jasper for your music, kindness and the years you cared for him as his nephew, he loved and respected you so much. Thank you, Paula and thank you Shelly for showing such compassion at a time when Grant needed it so much.

Love to you Grant, from your little sister, Lil' Lisa Myles and your loving family – Lucille, Paul, Donna, Sarah, Jasper, Jesse, Daniel, Dana, Freya, Esther, Marley, Jamie, Alako, Oscar, Penelope, Zachary, Michael and your other great nephews and nieces.

With our sister and mother, may you rest in peace.

"I am proud to call him my first true love, a truly gentle man" – Always, Rossi



## NIMBIN BOWLING, SPORT & RECREATION CLUB Pty Ltd

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 18th August, 9.30am

in club rooms at 25 Sibley Street, Nimbin

Business: Financial Report  
Election of Office-Bearers

Please bring your Membership Card

## Missing Person



### Paul Colin Jones

Also called Pablo, DOB 2/11/67  
Son of Carolyn Verco Jones, of  
Gulfview Heights, South Australia

Last known address Nimbin NSW

Please contact Bill Verco on 0403-578-560, or  
Michael Verco on 0431-596-655  
with any information

### Dutchs for dinner Friday and Saturday nights

Dutch  
AND  
Co.  
NIMBIN

Vegans, vegetarians and children catered for.  
Local, seasonal and organic where possible.  
Heated cosy space with music.  
Shop 2, 54 Cullen Street, Nimbin



whatever  
you're looking for

we can help you find it

nimbin  
more than you can imagine

nimbin visitor information centre

46 cullen street nimbin nsw 2480

02 6689 1388

nimbin@lismore.nsw.gov.au

visitnimbin.com.au

**TRIBAL MAGIC**  
Alternative Department Store  
MUSICAL ACCESSORIES IN STOCK



Come and see what the Nimbin Spirit has created  
74 Cullen St, Nimbin. Open: 10am - 6.30pm

# No support for water mining

by Janelle Saffin  
Member for Lismore

There is no desire for a water mining industry in the Northern Rivers region.

This prevails across the community and is evidenced in part by Labor and the Nationals both seeking reviews about the impacts of the industry on our groundwater.

Labor called for a comprehensive review, a halt to any more licences and support to the Local Governments not to process any development applications pending. The Nationals sought the Chief Scientist to undertake an *Independent Review of the Impacts of the Bottled Water Industry on Groundwater Resources in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW*.

The Chief Scientist has provided an Initial Report and the most telling finding in the Initial Report states: "It is evident that the availability of existing data sets is non-uniform and in some cases no data is yet available."

Given this key finding it is self-evident that the industry cannot be allowed to expand.

During the NSW State election, I secured a strong commitment from the State Parliamentary Leadership "That a Labor Government would undertake an immediate comprehensive review and support the Northern Rivers Local Governments in suspending the granting of DAs until such a review is completed." That commitment stands.

I further stated then that "I cannot support the granting of another licence for water extraction when there is no comprehensive assessment on the impact on the water table and aquifers here in the Northern Rivers and no comprehensive study on the impacts on communities."

Farmers can be assured their right to extract water for their farming activities is not part of the comprehensive review.

Prior to this at the September 2018 Country Labor Conference, delegates voted in favour of protecting our aquifers, recognising that we had huge gaps in both knowing where



Knitting Nannas Northern Rivers members with Janelle in the Lismore electorate office.

the aquifers were and the impact of various activities on them.

The first time I was approached during the election about this industry was when I was shopping in Murwillumbah. A long-term local farmer asked me to help stop it.

I attended a meeting in the Uki Hall organised by the Tweed Water Alliance, with approximately 300 people present. There was a large number of Greens supporters who of course did not support it, but other community members who also did not support it.

I got asked about the existing businesses and I said that they never should have been allowed to start but they are there.

The questions I considered at the time and that people sought answers for are:

1. Are there sustainable groundwater extraction limits in the Northern Rivers region, and are the current or proposed groundwater monitoring bores sufficient? **Unknown.** (Rous County Council's 2014 Future Water Strategy predicts that by 2024 demand for water will match what can be supplied and that by 2060 expected demand will exceed reliable supply by 6,500 megalitres each year.) The Save Alstonville Aquifer Community Group included this in

their submission in response to the Initial Report.

2. Given what we know about water need, water usage for the general population and farming needs, is this an industry that is sustainable? **No.**
3. How many plastic bottles are used to sustain this industry? The Initial Report found that the industry could not operate with glass bottles for inter alia the weight. [3. ...There are no viable alternatives to plastic bottles for water for large quantity markets, given the weight of glass (Sections 2.2.3 and 2.2.4).]

4. Is it therefore sustainable to expand an industry that is adding to plastic pollution on a large scale, with the NSW Government preparing a wholistic plastic waste plan, and the NSW Opposition introduction of a bill to prohibit single use plastic? **No.**
5. Is it desirable to have these truck movements traversing the same roads as farming and local families and school buses moving through small villages? **No.**

I have not seen any evidence to date that would cause my position to change. Water is allocated without knowing the full impact and that needs to change. It is treated as an endless supply, but it is a finite resource.

The Chief Scientist's Initial Report consolidates my position.



by Kevin Hogan MP  
Member for Page

I recently dropped in to wish Jean Stephens a happy 104th birthday.

Jean was born on a dairy farm in Bentley in 1915.

In 1939 she moved to Nimbin. She bought a house with her husband Horrie after the war.

They had four sons Ian, the eldest who turned 80 last month, Geoff, Robert and Philip.

Jean started nursing at the Nimbin Hospital in the early 1960s. It was wonderful to catch up with her, she is in amazing form.

Happy 104th Birthday Jean!

It was wonderful to attend the 2019 Bundjalung NAIDOC Awards and Ball in Lismore recently.

The night was to acknowledge the achievements of individuals and organisations within the Bundjalung community.

My congratulations to the Lismore NAIDOC Advisory

Group which put together the night and other events throughout the week.

Congratulations and thank you to all the nominees and winners. You have done great things in the community.

We are investing \$1 billion over the next four years to support Australians with diabetes to self-manage their condition. This will be done through the National Diabetes Services Scheme.

This includes \$277 million to ensure more than 37,000 people with Type 1 Diabetes can access fully subsidised continuous glucose monitoring products.

This is for children, young people, women who are planning on pregnancy, pregnant or immediately post-pregnant, and people with a high clinical need.

We are also funding the Insulin Pump Program to fully subsidise insulin pumps and pump consumables for financially disadvantaged children with Type 1 Diabetes.

On the same  
PAGE

**CANNABIS**  
THE NUMBER ONE PLANT

FOOD BETTER PROTEIN THAN BEEF  
FUEL CLEANER ENERGY THAN CRUDE OIL  
FIBRE STRONGER TEXTILE THAN COTTON  
MEDICINE SAFER EFFECT THAN PHARMACEUTICALS  
RECREATION HEALTHIER CHOICE THAN ALCOHOL

OPEN EVERYDAY 51 CULLEN STREET 02 6689 1842  
**NIMBIN HEMP EMBASSY**

**Happy High Herbs**  
NIMBIN  
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN NIMBIN  
www.happyhighherbsnimbin.com

**Sean Ardern**  
**ELECTRICIAN**  
0429 890 181

Lic. No. 238231C ABN 85716021096

**- 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

**TERETRE CABINS**  
Four cozy 1 bedroom timber cabins nestled on 33 acres of natural bushland with abundant wildlife, within easy walking distance of local restaurants and shops. Pet friendly, free wifi and air-conditioned. Overnight or weekly. Wheelchair Access.

TERETRE Cabins - NIMBIN  
5 High St, Nimbin, 2480 Australia  
Ph: (02) 6689 1908 Mob: 0427 891 626  
Email: info@teretre.com.au Website: www.teretre.com.au

# Climate emergency – what more can your local council do?

This morning I was part of the contingent to send off Ferris Gump on his barefoot run, all the way from Lismore to Brisbane.

It will undoubtedly be a long and painful journey that will test him mentally and physically. I really admire his dedication and commitment, there are very few people who would ever contemplate doing anything like it, and I wish him all the best over the coming days.

You can follow him on facebook at RunferrisrunN and find all the details you need to donate in support of his efforts.

I admire him because he has found his own unique response and has wholeheartedly committed to it. I also extend my admiration to all of you who are continually engaged in activism, finding what

## Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

you can do to help raise awareness, raise money, have conversations, and win hearts and minds.

There are so many facets to the climate movement, and I know that many of you are deeply committed to the fight. At Council's August meeting, I am bringing a motion to Council to declare a climate emergency, if the motion is successful Lismore will join over 700 Councils across 16 Countries who have declared that the world is in a state of climate emergency.

Local government has a significant role to play in responding to the climate crisis and Lismore Council is already active in this space, with our Renewable Energy Plan; our



Photo: Tony Bachelor

active participation in the Climate Councils Cities Power Partnership; and with our Biodiversity Management Strategy

which is a very successful solutions focussed initiative.

Council also has a significant role to play in disaster preparedness

and response, and in supporting community resilience initiatives.

While I am proud of what we already do, more needs to be done across all levels of government and community, and my motion will put Council on a pathway of looking closely at what more can be done.

In other Council news, we are currently undertaking community consultation to seek input into a new economic development strategy, it's a great opportunity to put forward your ideas and vision for our community.

You can complete a survey to be part of the engagement at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au>

As always, I can be contacted at: [elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or on 0418-639-927. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way.



Isaac Smith with prizewinners Bennett Constructions

by Cr Isaac Smith,  
Lismore City Council

It is great to celebrate the best of what we do. To see what we can make with our hands and envision with our minds. I see this at our many markets and some of the real local businesses that create, produce and support us.

But it is always nice to do something a little different, see things from a field you are not familiar with. I was able to attend the Master Builders Awards recently, which highlights the best trade and construction work from Tweed Heads to Port Macquarie and it really opened my eyes to some of what happens out around our region.

The big highlight for me is seeing the local projects and companies that feature heavily in such a competitive field and over such a big geographic area. Lismore itself boasts some wonderful older buildings which are getting some much deserved attention, but out in the villages and rolling hills (which I refuse to call the Byron Hinterland;-) there are opportunities to create sustainable living and innovative personal spaces.

One of Lismore's oldest builders, Bennett Constructions, took home awards in six categories including the wonderful work they did for Council

on Oakes Oval, picking up best sporting facility. They also won best medium density development for the new affordable housing apartments on Dibbs street near the base hospital. The other awards were in education facilities and an overall award for best commercial builder. And it all started in Lismore 70 years ago.

Sivbild is a great up and coming builder who is really doing some significant heritage work. They picked up three awards for a big heritage restoration project in Givards Hill. The beautiful house shows off our only heritage listed suburb in the LGA perfectly. Mark and his team also showed off their attention to detail, picking up a best bathroom category, up against all other projects across the region.

Restoration projects were all about Lismore this year as Greg Clark Builders also picked up the award for commercial restoration. Their work on the Uniting Church on Woodlark Street, badly damaged after the flood, is really worth a closer look. Just walk the fence line and you will notice that the metal and mortar work has brought this building back to life and back to a former glory not seen for some time.

Design Spec Joinery and Kitchens (known for most of the last 100 years in

Lismore as Dayal Singh's) picked up an award for a dramatic wood and stone kitchen in Richmond Hill. The kitchen is the heart of any home and this business have been doing it better and longer than anyone. We have an amazing ability to produce sustainable timber in our region and we need to make more of this resource in our homes as we see a very positive move away from plastics and intensive building techniques.

It was also great to see Ben Lamont from North Coast Cabinets awarded the best commercial subcontractor across the whole region. Ben has been featured in our Lismore prospectus after moving his business into our LGA 10 years ago and going from strength to strength.

He has grown the business to support more workers and projects and does amazing work for each of the clients

To me, these are all local heroes who run fantastic businesses and give our homes and businesses a look and feel that we should all be proud of. I hope you don't mind me going left field on this one, but so few people get to see these people at work. I believe if we work more closely with these locals, it will make sure future developments have a character that can only come from being a part of this community on a personal level.



## Where are the adults?

by Simon Clough,  
Lock the Gate Alliance

After the school strikes organised by School Strike 4 Climate in particular, but also after the rise of Extinction Rebellion, I heard a lot of muttering about how young people were being manipulated.

Prime Minister Morrison and several other senior coalition ministers were scathing about children being out of school and how school was best for them. I would suggest that when governments and adults (as a whole) fail future generations, our children have every right to start protesting and advocating for their future.

Young people have heard the truth from the 97% of climate scientists that the climate crisis is real and if anything has been underestimated. Young people have heard the redoubtable Sir David Attenborough speak about the crisis and they have heard their own Greta Thunberg's impassioned pleas for immediate action.

No doubt our youth have also seen the ever-increasing frequency and ferocity of extreme weather events. The International Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that the world should have no more coal mines. Is it any wonder that young people and some of us "oldies" are determined to stop the Adani mega mine?

What I want to know is what has happened to the concept of *parental responsibility*? I have been a mediator in the area of family law for 25 years. Parental responsibility and the best interests of the child are fundamental legal principles in considering the ongoing care of

children by adults. How can these principles be critically important in one area and totally ignored when it comes to protecting children and future generations from the climate crisis?

What would our world be like if those in power as business leaders and politicians carried out the relatively simple analysis of genuinely comparing their plans for the further exploitation of fossil fuels and other planet harming activities with the well-being of their own children and grandchildren?

For those without children or any connection to children the question could be, what is the future of a species that wilfully ignores the well-being of its own offspring in the face of imminent disaster and what should I do about it?

I don't pose these questions in a trite rhetorical way. I would sincerely like those in positions of power to cut through the insulation that these positions so often provide and sit quietly and give these questions and these situations the deep consideration they deserve.

For those of us in less 'powerful' roles perhaps we need to look more closely at our consumption with the same questions in mind. How much is air travel, cruising in ocean liners, or purchasing unnecessary items really worth in comparison to the well-being of our children and future generations?

When children and young people feel the need to protest to prevent a climate catastrophe, I am left with the overwhelming question of *where are the adults?* Where are those who have a sacred duty to nurture and protect future generations of our species?