

Letters



Vote for my Kyogle home

I'd like to share that my father and uncle were Brisbane asbestos roofers in the 50s and 60s. Both suffered serious health consequences from the work.

My father died when I was ten days old, eight years before the first claim against James Hardie (JH). My uncle died when I was a teen.

If they were alive today, they would undoubtedly be helping me renovate my home (pictured).

Knowing that many readers would carry contempt for JH, I've entered their competition for a \$40K exterior transformation. I need your votes for my Kyogle home to win.

Cherie Bromley
Kyogle

Dead cat tactics

The term 'Dead Cat Strategy' is a political communication tactic used to divert attention from damaging issues.

The phrase means that if a politician is losing an argument, they should 'throw a dead cat on the table.' Everyone will talk about the shocking new subject, the 'dead cat,' and forget the original problem.

Extreme politicians, such as Trump regularly use this method to control the media narrative. When confronted with scandals, poor results, or criticism, he introduces a provocative or sensational topic to dominate public discussion.

This tactic doesn't solve the underlying issue but shifts focus, allowing Trump to regain control of the conversation.

Trump frequently uses this strategy to his advantage.

About us

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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.

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com



I've owned. In two years, I've managed to re-stump, update the electricity connection, polish floorboards and take out 30 square metres of internal asbestos sheeting.

However, the front façade requires community spirit!

You can vote for the house until Sunday 16th November, and you can vote five times daily.

Go to the JH competition page: www.jameshardie.com.au/the-block2025 and look

for the photo of my house, cast your votes for it and verify your email address.

JH will collect your email address... I'm sorry for that. If you vote for me, send a note of introduction c/- NGT, and if it comes to pass that I win, I'll invite you to the reno celebration. That's a promise!

Cherie Bromley
Kyogle

view all criticism of him as unfair or hysterical.

By combining distraction (dead cat tactics) with emotional framing (TDS), Trump effectively shapes public perception and controlled political debate.

These methods demonstrate how he has manipulated attention and emotion, turning public conversation away from accountability and toward spectacle.

If you have been paying attention, extreme political views are slowly making bigger waves here. The last thing Australia needs is sensational media manipulation by political figures. Or else we could end up with our own version of Trump.

Mark Pestell
Nimbin

UN walkout

Netanyahu and his Zionists were boycotted with a walkout by the delegates from the Middle East at their appearance at the United Nations General Assembly.

Netanyahu condemned the Palestinians and stated, "We must finish the job." Does that sound like the Nazi's Final Solution?

Now it's the Zionists'

www.hollyenglish.com

turn to commit genocide on Palestinians.

I'm sick and tired of writing about this. It's called venting the spleen, eh?

Paul Brecht
Maclean

Table talk

Countries' consultants
Presidents of power
Form forums for deliberation
Fickle fingers flick through facts
Delegates delight in delectation
As they sample a smorgasbord of stats

Everything is on the table
They digest data
Feast on info
Nibble on news
Sate themselves on surveys
Crunch on numbers

And when the feasting's over
And evidence digested
The members belch

Stuffed and sated with feedback
They disgorge outrage at the barn
The suffering, the famished and the underfed.
Sickened by pictures of emaciation
Express distress for the unpalatable

They plead in the strongest terms
And publish their frustration
Voice their condemnation

Des Field
Lismore



Whitlam's dismissal

50 years ago this November, the elected government of Gough Whitlam was 'dismissed' by the unelected representative of the British Monarch, Governor General John Kerr.

The dismissal arguably remains the most dramatic political event in modern Australian history. The turbulence of Armistice Day, 1975 threatened to turn violent.

As comedian Andrew Denton said, "Gough remains the only Prime Minister in Australian history who many Australians were willing to die for."

Within hours tens of thousands took to the streets. Swanston Street in Melbourne and Wynyard Station in Sydney were awash with civilians ready to take on anything the constitutional coup leaders threw at them.

The unions were on the brink of shutting down the nation with an indefinite general strike.

11th November 1975 was the only day in the peace-time history of Australia that the army was put on 'red alert'. Yet, the crisis was averted by Gough Whitlam himself.

Love him or loathe him, the Whitlam Government reshaped Australia.

Gough Whitlam remains the most recognisable Prime Minister in our national history and one who still arouses passion today, even amongst Australians who weren't then alive.

50 years after the dismissal, John Kerr is all but forgotten, but the legend of Gough lives on.

Long live Gough!

Simon Alderton
Byron Bay

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 Nimbin GoodTimes.

- Rural roads & driveways
- Dam building & clean outs
- Wastewater systems
- House & shed cuts
- Underground services
- Horse arenas
- Turf prep
- Trenching and drainage
- Stump grinding
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From Sicily to Palestine with love

by Julie De Lorenzo

From the healing sea of Salina, Isole Eolie to Caltanissetta, known as the town of the women, I began the cammino, La Via dei Frati (The Way of the Friars) on Monday 20th October.

This pilgrimage was originally the path that the Friars walked, from the heart of Sicily to the historical coastal town of Cefalù on their way to the Holy Land of Jerusalem.

The Friars' purpose is to serve the community and historically they would beg for alms, which modern day friars still do, and includes requesting donations to fund their charitable works and to help those in need.

The act of begging or seeking charity is still viewed as a way to embrace humility, poverty and a reliance on divine guidance, much like their founder, St Francis of Assisi.

St Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment, as well as one of two patron saints of Italy, the other is Saint Catherine of Siena. Both were great

advocates for peace.

With this in heart and mind, I walk this land of Sicily with such gratitude for the opportunity to feel my feet on the soil of my ancestors (the Eolian Islands, also part of Sicily), while

many Palestinians cannot return home, I journey to inspire, be inspired and to seek donations for Palestine, the Friars' pilgrimage destination.

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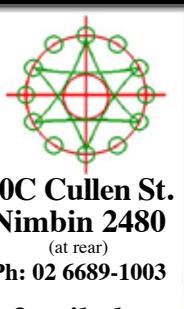
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Gaza. They treat all animals equally to humans and work around the clock to take care of every animal in need.

It is run by Saeed Al Err, and his son Saed Al Err who has worked very closely for two years with veterinarian Dr Mu'ath.

The day I arrived in Italy, 9th October, a ceasefire was announced. (Though this has not stopped the bombing and killing by Israel).

The next day Dr Mu'ath returned to Jabalia, a supposed 'safezone' to see if his house was still standing.

For another nine days he remained missing and on Sunday 19th October news came that he was murdered by Israeli soldiers. A tragic loss for his wife and two young children, for Sulala and particularly Saed.

Donations are very welcome for Sulala Animal Rescue and Dr Mu'ath's family.

You can donate via the links in Instagram @ juliedelorenzoart and Facebook post: Julie De Lorenzo, or with this link: <https://wise.com/invite/amc/julieanned95>

Elizabeth Wolf

We gathered on Bundjalung Country to demand an end to Australia's complicity in two years of genocide with a Nationwide March for Palestine which was held on Saturday 11th October at Cavanbah (Byron Bay) organised by Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine and Lismore 4 Palestine.

This was a powerful and heart-warming rally in Cavanbah demanding sanctions against the genocidal state, with passionate local speakers reminding us that two harrowing years of Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people and complete inaction from the Australian government must change.

Symbolic diplomatic gestures will not stop Israel's bombs. We need sanctions now! We need to stop arming Israel now!

We then marched with drummers from the Visitors Centre at Railway Park to Apex Park on Byron Main Beach chanting:

Brick by brick
Wall by wall
Israel's apartheid
Has to fall
One: we are the people
Two: we won't be silenced
Three: stop the bombing
Now! Now! Now!

Love and respect for everyone who performed and spoke so powerfully, and much love to each and every person who shared their solidarity.

Every single human can and does make a difference and when we organise together, we become change makers.

Freedom, justice and equality for all people everywhere – that's always the path to peace. Let's walk down it together.

We are still selling raffle tickets with four assorted prizes with two weeks to



The Byron March for Palestine



Some of the Nimbin crew at the Byron march

go, drawn Wednesday 5th November at 5pm-ish.

Proceeds will go to Olive Kids, an Australian Foundation dedicated to support the children of Palestine.

Our vision is a future where Palestinian kids can live free, full and safe childhoods.

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Next stage of roadworks underway

Council has announced the next stage of restoration works on Nimbin Road, targeting a section subjected to multiple landslips during past severe weather events.

The project aims to secure long-term, reliable access for residents, visitors and businesses travelling between Nimbin and Lismore.

Construction will take place from Monday 27th October to Friday 12th December, weather permitting, with operating hours between 6.30am and 6pm weekdays, and between 8am and 1pm on Saturdays.

Importantly, Nimbin Road will remain open to through traffic during the construction period. However, motorists should expect some temporary traffic management.

At certain stages, the road may be reduced to a single lane, managed by temporary traffic lights and trained controllers. Please allow

extra travel time and obey all signage for the safety of workers and road users.

Heavy machinery will be in use throughout the works, which may generate short-term increases in noise, dust and vibration.

Crews will also carry out essential vegetation management, ensuring environmental impacts are minimised while maintaining safe sightlines and access for vehicles.

Waste services

The Minister for Local Government Ron Hoenig was on hand last month when Council took

possession of the first of eight new state-of-the-art garbage trucks (pictured), thanks to a one-off \$5 million grant from the State Government.

Previous councils had not adequately budgeted for the regular maintenance of the fleet, so there was barely a day when at least one truck was not off the road being



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

repaired. The grant means we now have a modern fleet and we can improve our waste services while keeping jobs in-house.

The new trucks are fitted with more advanced technology that will help improve safety and maintenance, with features to track bin collections to provide a more efficient and cost-effective service.

Council delivers 15,500 residential and commercial waste services and collects

approximately 45,000 bins across the LGA every fortnight. The remaining trucks will progressively come into service over the coming months.

Eat the Street

We're now less than a month away from the return of Norco Eat the Street, and all food and beverage traders have been confirmed for this year's event, taking place on Saturday 15th November from 12pm to 7pm on Keen Street and in the Lismore Quad.

This year's event will showcase an incredible range of local and regional food and beverage offerings, with more than 20 food vendors on offer and 14 local drink suppliers set to feature in the Quad Bar area.

Visitors can expect a mix of alcoholic and non-alcoholic options, all proudly representing the Northern Rivers' vibrant food and drink scene.

We've given priority to traders within the 2480 postcode, ensuring local cafes, producers and hospitality businesses have a strong presence at the event. The food line-up promises something for every taste, from mouth-watering BBQ meats to Asian-inspired dishes, Mexican favourites, Italian classics, vegetarian delights and decadent desserts.

Beyond the food and drink, the day will be packed with



live entertainment and activities, including a pie eating competition, barista competition, waiters race, live music at the Planet Music Shop Show and music in the Quad curated by Holidaymaker Records. In line with the event's strong sustainability focus, this year's bar will operate a reusable cup system, with cups collected and washed on-site to reduce waste and keep the festival environmentally friendly.

Lismore hosts Rural Women's Gathering

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore



NSW Women's Safety Commissioner Dr Hannah Tonkin and NSW Minister for Women, Jodie Harrison at the NSW Rural Women's Gathering in Lismore.

Ready, set, go!



Northern Rivers Children's Services members celebrate their 20th anniversary.

On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan MP

Recently, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of a fantastic program in our community, Ready Set Go.

Managed by Northern Rivers Children's Services, Ready Set Go partners with early childhood centres, community organisations and families to ensure children receive the best possible services.

CWA AGM

The Country Women's Association Far North Coast recently held their Annual General Meeting.

The CWA continues to play a vital role in regional communities, supporting women, children, and families through advocacy, fundraising, and hands-on community service.

Thank you to the Far North Coast group for your on-going dedication and positive impact locally.

women trying to flee violence or access support. She said everyone has a role to play in challenging attitudes that normalise violence.

Advocate, author and educator Madeleine West spoke powerfully about safety in the digital age, sharing personal experiences and confronting truths about cyberbullying, sextortion and online predatory behaviour.

The dedication of the team behind this program is truly remarkable.

Over the past two decades, Ready Set Go has supported countless children to develop essential skills, social confidence, and a love for learning.

The program also plays a crucial role in supporting parents and carers, providing guidance, resources, and connection to

other families, strengthening the broader community network.

It is initiatives like this that make our region a wonderful place.

Our region is very lucky to have services like Ready Set Go, ensuring regional areas receive the best possible services.

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Thank you to the Far North Coast group for your on-going dedication and positive impact locally.



Time to act – cats are a threat to our native wildlife

Last month, I introduced a bill into the NSW Parliament that would finally give local councils the power to implement cat containment where it's most needed.

It is a small, practical reform, but it carries huge significance for our wildlife, our communities and the safety of beloved pets, and the response from the public has already been extraordinary.

More than four thousand people have taken the time to email the NSW Government, asking them to support the bill in a remarkable show of public support in just a few days.

It creates a general duty of containment, requiring cat owners to take reasonable steps to prevent their cats from escaping while providing a pathway for education.

The best available research tells us that pet cats alone kill up to 323 million native animals every year, with cats being major causes of the extinction of 27 native species since colonisation.

Across the Northern



Rivers, where we share our lives with threatened species and sensitive ecosystems, the stakes are even higher.

Every cat that roams free is a risk to possums, to small reptiles, to rare birds and to many other animals that make our home so precious. We can't afford to keep looking the other way.

Keeping cats at home is also better for the cats, with cats that are allowed to roam being likely to be hit by cars, injured by other animals, lost, or exposed to disease.

The evidence shows that contained cats live longer, healthier lives, up to ten years longer in fact. The introduction of mandatory containment is not about punishment, it's about care and responsibility.

The pressure from the thousands of people who have already signed up to this campaign is already working, with the NSW Labor Government announcing a \$6 million education package in partnership with the RSPCA



by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

to support voluntary cat containment.

That is a welcome step, but it only takes us part of the way. We also need to create a duty of care and give councils the tools to act where local wildlife is under pressure.

We cannot just rely on the good will of cat owners and voluntary schemes, we need clear rules that everyone understands and follows.

As a community, we've made this kind of change before – it wasn't even 30 years ago that we introduced

better rules for the control and registration of dogs – and now it's time to make sure domestic cats are at home where they belong. It should be a universal standard that animal ownership means supervision, containment and care. This bill gives us a way to do it.

If you are one of the many people who believe in this reform, now is the time to speak up because the more noise we make, the harder it will be for the Government to ignore.

We have a chance to do this and make a real difference to the number of native animals being killed by roaming cats, while setting a new standard of cat care that is better and kinder than what we have now.

It's time – let's not miss this opportunity. Please join this campaign. If you go to my website you can send an email to those who need to hear from you: [www.subbiggin.org/support_cat-containment_bill](http://subbiggin.org/support_cat-containment_bill)

continues to inspire, shaping the creative, inclusive spirit that runs through Nimbin and shines out.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to be speaking at Nimbin's Picnic in Nature, promoted by the Nature Conservation Council and hosted by the Nimbin Environment Centre, on Sunday 9th November from 11am at the Rainbow Walk track.

I'll be joining legend Dailan Pugh, whose knowledge and advocacy for koalas and forests always inspire. It's a beautiful community gathering that celebrates nature, action and connection, the perfect reminder of why I do this work. Come along!

As always, I'm inspired by the beauty and people of our LGA from our creatives to our tireless volunteers, from those protecting our environment to those caring for others.

I feel we are shining again, grounded in compassion, courage and connection.

Let's keep leading with heart and lifting each other up. Oh, and my beloved catchphrase: Plant more trees!

Please note, the opinions expressed here are my own and not those of Lismore City Council. Feel free to contact me at: Virginia.Waters@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Lismore Council October meeting matters

Greetings friends, I hope you enjoy this month's column. It's been another big few weeks in Council and across our community.

A few things of interest from the October Council Meeting – Council recently approved a 58-bed temporary accommodation facility in the former aged care building on McKenzie Street. This new space will provide much needed support for people experiencing homelessness.

It wasn't an easy decision as nearby residents raised concerns, but this is one of those difficult moments in public life where compassion and responsibility must meet.

With the on-going cost of living and housing crisis, it's a relief to see action and funding directed where it's needed most.

From what we've seen of other facilities managed by the organisation, it has been successful and there are many best practices in regards to staffing, privacy concerns and security being implemented.

I look forward to it bringing essential outcomes helping residents transition into stable housing.

At the same meeting, I brought an urgency motion concerning



by Cr Virginia Waters

the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025, currently before the State Parliament.

The Bill, while presented as addressing housing supply, is deeply troubling. It strips away key environmental protections, bypasses community consultation, and sidelines local councils from meaningful involvement in planning decisions.

It risks fast-tracking developments that could cause long term harm to Country, waterways and ecosystems and raises major corruption concerns. Both the EDO and ICAC have raised concerns about the Bill changes.

Unfortunately, the motion did not gain enough support from

fellow councillors and failed. But I want to acknowledge the Greens councillors across the state, including here in Lismore, who continue to fly the flag for proper consultation, environmental integrity and local democracy.

Other councils such as Ballina and Byron have passed similar motions, sending a strong message to the State Government that local voices and ecological values must not be erased under the banner of reform.

The Richmond River Historical Society remains without a permanent home to exhibit its incredible collection, a real loss for our city.

Lismore is the only regional centre in NSW without a museum, and this is something that must be addressed.

Council also discussed the future of the Richmond Tweed Regional Library.

For those unfamiliar, Lismore has historically acted as the Executive Council of the RTRL, carrying responsibility for all library staff and operations across the four partner councils of Lismore, Byron, Ballina and Tweed.

They were delighted by our colourful village, the market energy, community and the amazing local places like Nimbin Candles, the CWA, Markets, the Rainbow Walk and the Hemp Embassy.

It reminded me once again how much our countercultural history

continues to inspire, shaping the creative, inclusive spirit that runs through Nimbin and shines out.

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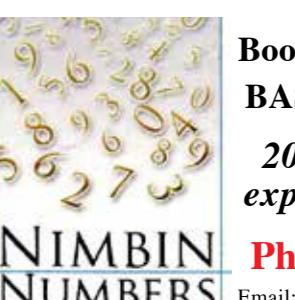
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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Community Xmas lunch

This big annual event will be held on Friday 19th December at Nimbin Town Hall. Doors open at midday and Santa comes at about 1pm with gifts for kids 12 years and under. Everyone welcome!

We are getting the annual hampers and cash donations for gifts for xmas hampers and Santa, together and any help we can get towards the costs of including quality gifts and items would be very much appreciated.

Changes to the NDIS

NNIC is looking to better understand the needs of families in our community in the context of the proposed changes to the NDIS, so that we can better advocate for services for families in the Nimbin area.

If you are likely to be impacted by the changes, we would love to hear from you! Please do the simple (and anonymous) survey which you can access at: <https://forms.gle/o9WtEz8eteNiDPV9>

Links are also available on our facebook page and website. (Note: there was a glitch in the survey link which has now been fixed).

Work experience

We have lots of different roles at NNIC, and right now are looking for Front Desk support volunteers. Certificate qualifications in community services or similar an advantage. IT skills also helpful.

We have so many different things to do – there is sure to be something that you will enjoy. Contact us on: admin@nnic.org.au or have a chat to Nicole at our front desk.

Sharps safe booklet

The booklet is available from NNIC and is aimed at primary school aged children and their parents/teachers around what to do if you



From the Sharps safe booklet

find discarded sharps in community settings. It is full of useful info for the adults and safe messaging for the kids.

Drop in or email us if you would like a copy. Complete the feedback survey to be in the running to win a pair of our cute handmade Superhero Dolls!

Prepare for summer

As the summer storm season approaches, now is the time to start preparing for events including heatwaves, storms with high winds and heavy rains and bushfires.

Book in with our community workers at NNIC for help making your personal disaster-ready plan if you need it.

There are a range of resources and info in the Disaster section of our website: <https://nnic.org.au/pub/index.php/disasters>

NNIC AGM

NNIC is holding its annual general meeting on Wednesday 26th November at 6pm at 71 Cullen Street Nimbin. All members welcome.

We are keen for some new Management Committee members. The minimum commitment is to attending MC meetings which are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 5.30pm. Beyond that you can

Did you know?

NNIC can help with digital device issues and those pesky on-line forms and documents.

We can also help with unpaid fines and electricity bills if you are experiencing financial hardship.

At NNIC you can access PCs, internet, copying, B&W and colour printing and appointment rooms.

NNIC services are available to any individuals and families in our community who need them. There are minimal eligibility requirements.

If you need help with something, drop in or call us and we will see what we can do. If we can't help, we probably know who can.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is committed to Cultural and Child Safety. See our website for our Statement of Commitment to First Nations People, and our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety.

Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services

We assist frail aged people and their carers remain living at home and staying connected

Home & Community Care – our friendly, local support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, insured

SOCIAL CENTRE with air-con and Veranda: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm drop in for a cuppa, info on support services, computers, air-con

DEVICE ADVICE: Weds 9.30am-12.30pm, seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea at centre

Garrimba Café Group twice monthly Thursdays, 11-2

Wise Ones, Koonungan Hall 4th Mon, bring plate to share

Bus Outings: 2nd & 4th Tues, scenic drives, cafes & site-seeing

All NACRS aged care activities and services require **MyAgedCare** registration and assessment – myagedcare.gov.au 1800 200 422

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Nimbin Hospital information



Child immunisation

By appointment, phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments, phone 6630-0400.

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next is 20th November. Phone 6688-1400 for an appointment.

Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm.

Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – leave a message, will return call swiftly.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. Referrals also from

Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

Scott Sledge, president

Nimbin's picnic in nature This annual event promoted by NSW Nature Conservation Council will be hosted by Nimbin Environment Centre on Sunday 9th November, 11am to 3pm at the Rainbow Walking Track between Headers ground and the swimming pool's new amenities.

We declare that we want peace while exporting weapons and parts of weaponry that will further damage our fragile environment. Australian voters rejected a Coalition campaign to expand our destructive capacity into nuclear power, yet the victorious Labor government allows new fossil fuel projects to add to the atmospheric carbon load.

There will be music, speeches and outdoor games, with chai available by donation. Bring your own food or food to share, picnic utensils, folding chair or blanket. All welcome: cancelled if raining.

The Track, opened this year is central to our village and is a good news story. We hope the new sign about the area's bird life will be installed by the day of our community picnic gathering. NB: The date was changed to 9th November to avoid conflicting with other local events.

The best we can do? Do we believe that we can have a happy lifestyle without a healthy environment? The environment is not some vague political luxury but it's where we live and breathe.

There are many people trying to do good things in our world, but these "reforms" will not help: they are designed to fast track and facilitate the rush to profit by multinational corporations.

What we do affects our lives and the lives of those around us: in our families, our communities and worldwide. How can we continue to

pretend that global disasters have nothing to do with climate change? Can we have progress and prosperity while approving new and more destructive projects?

development projects, saying this will speed up delivery of much-needed housing. Regrettably no consideration will be allowed for impacts on the environment or amenity for neighbours or the future. Assessment of risks such as flooding will be optional. Really?

CSIRO flood plan

One result of damaging our environment is increasing severity of natural disasters, such as the 2022 flood which surpassed all previous floodwater levels by several metres. Community action was swift and heroic, saving lives and some property.

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Katharina, Sledge, Paul and Ashoka at the October Nimbin Markets

population during normal times. What will happen when these detention basins overtop during increasingly heavy downpours I can only imagine.

I can't imagine what landholders will think, or who will pay for the enormous costs of digging these craters. Surely we could consider slowing floodwaters by fencing off riparian zones along waterways and replanting trees and bushes in the headwaters which held back the floods in earlier times.

Back to the drawing boards, I say.

Richmond River Koala Parks campaign

Forest protection remains high on our list of actions needed to preserve species and stop the spread of invasive weeds in our region. The Great Koala National Park will be centred around Coffs Harbour and will not be

adequate to protect our region which has unique habitat and wildlife, such as a genetically distinct type of koala. Riverfest celebrations

featuring the Richmond River held events all along the watercourse from Ballina to Lismore during September, including a seminar at the Lismore Art Gallery where speakers reminded the region to lobby for action to clean up one of the "world's worst" rivers to make it fishable, swimmable and drinkable for the benefit of all.

Older residents said they remember when the water ran clear over a pebble riverbed prior to drainage of wetlands for agriculture that resulted in blackwater run-off killing the fish.

Next meeting NEC meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 5pm in the Comskool Room at the Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street. All welcome. Next meeting is 12th November.

We are selling raffle tickets to help Benny Zable get a statue cast to remind people of the need for peace.

The NEC shop and Information Centre at 54 Cullen Street is open (usually) seven days a week from 10am to 4pm.

partnership from Kyogle Council, and additional contributions from Crown Reserve Infrastructure Grants and Fish Habitat Action Grants.

Kyogle Council has also administered grants, purchased trees and materials for recent projects, and committed \$10,000 over the next two years for maintenance by a bush regenerator working alongside Landcare volunteers.

In addition, Council is contributing more than \$60,000 in cash and in-kind support to the LGNNSW flying-fox project.

Fawcett's Creek stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through community commitment and environmental care. Its revitalisation is not just an ecological success story, but a celebration of collective action showing how, with dedication and collaboration, degraded landscapes can once again become vibrant habitats.

With continued care and support, Fawcett's Creek will remain a flourishing corridor for wildlife and a treasured part of Kyogle's natural heritage for generations to come.



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The scourge of sexual assault

Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

In the posthumously published last words of the revered naturalist Jane Goodall, "We are an inherently violent species". However, she also noted that the most successful and longest lasting of our leaders are the ones who best curb those tendencies and replace them with communication.

The Reclaim the Night global protest movement against sexual violence and gender-based violence began in the 1970s, and over the years I've been to several marches but is it working?

According to the government funded not-for-profit Our Watch, significant progress has been made in the last 30 years; rigid ideas of masculinity have changed.

The percentage of male partners murdering their female partners has decreased from almost 1 in every 100,000 to 0.33 per 100,000 and there has been a significant decrease in men-on-women violence.

Unfortunately, police statistics don't seem to bear that out at all. According to the Australian Federal Police records, the number of sexual assaults has increased 20% over the last ten years.

Perhaps this is because of greater reporting – I hope that is the case.

These anomalies seem to be on a fact-finding mission. It is important. Have decades of campaigning and marching had any effect, or should we go back to the drawing board?

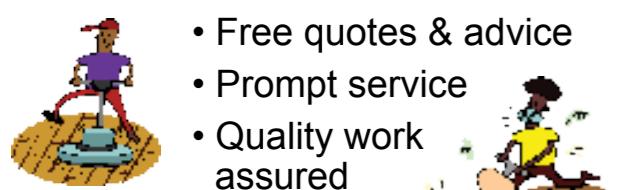
Stats are almost as boring as they are misleading, so I stuck with homicides as the best predictor of behaviour because they're the least open to debate... there aren't that many undisclosed homicides.

According to the Australian government, across the board the homicide rate has dropped 46% in the last 30 years but has levelled out in the last five years at around 1 per 100,000 in 2024, while intimate partner homicides against females has more than halved (55% decrease) since 1990!

That's down to 0.33 per 100,000. Which is pretty

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Why the world may be nearing its limits

by Mark Pestell

In 1972, a group of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the top five Universities in the USA, published a groundbreaking report that would shape the global environmental debate for decades to come.

Entitled 'The Limits to Growth', commissioned by the Club of Rome (clubofrome.org), the report presented a sobering possibility: if humanity continued to pursue unlimited economic and population growth on a planet with finite resources, global systems could begin to collapse around the year 2040.

Over the past fifty years, the model's predictions have been revisited and tested in 2002, and again in 2022, and the conclusion has remained broadly consistent.

Humanity, the data suggest, continues to follow a 'business-as-usual' exploitation trajectory that leads to a peak and decline of industrial civilisation within this century. While not a prophecy of doom, MIT's work remains a serious analytical warning about the consequences of overshooting planetary limits.

The research team, led by Donella Meadows, Dennis Meadows, Jorgen Randers, and William Behrens, constructed a computer simulation known as World3. This model incorporated five core interacting variables:

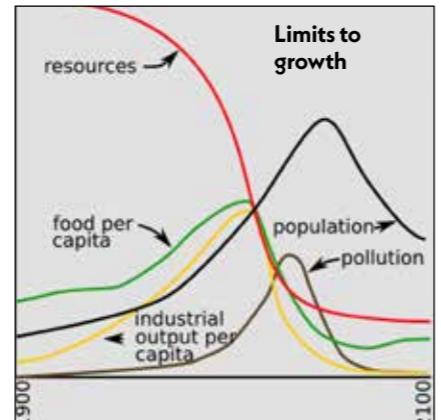
population growth (ageing and estimated to be over 9 billion by 2040), industrial output, food production, pollution accumulation, and resource depletion.

The model ran thousands of simulations using different assumptions about

technological progress, resource discovery, and policy intervention. The results were published in 'The Limits to Growth' (1972), and the most prominent scenario – often called the "business-as-usual" or standard run – showed the world reaching a period of overshoot followed by decline around 2040.

Human societies, according to MIT, had entered an era of exponential expansion: population, production, and consumption, all doubling at accelerating rates. Yet the Earth's capacity to supply raw materials, absorb pollution, and sustain ecological balance was limited.

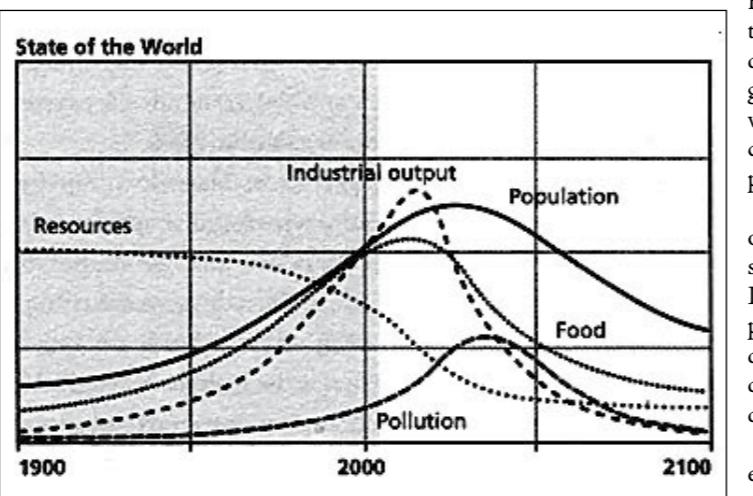
In the model, exponential growth eventually collided with these natural constraints. The researchers illustrated that even modest annual growth rates, compounded over time, lead to enormous increases in demand. By the 21st century, the model showed humanity's demands surpassing the planet's regenerative capacity. Around



2040 the cumulative stresses of overshoot would begin to trigger global decline.

A critical insight of the MIT model was that feedbacks in global systems are delayed. Pollution, for example, builds up gradually and may take decades to produce visible harm. Similarly, resource depletion is often masked by technological ingenuity, until the easiest and cheapest sources are exhausted.

These delays mean societies tend to overshoot ecological limits before recognising the danger. The model showed that by the time resource shortages and pollution effects became undeniable, the system would already be committed to decline.



This 'overshoot and collapse' dynamic was a hallmark of the World3 simulations and a key reason the researchers believed the crisis would emerge around mid-century, roughly 2040.

The MIT team tested scenarios that included major technological advances such as improved recycling, pollution control, and agricultural efficiency. While these delayed the collapse somewhat, they did not prevent it entirely. Each technological improvement tended to relieve one constraint while intensifying another. This finding led to one of MIT's most controversial conclusions: technology alone cannot solve an exponential growth problem.

If we understand why the system fails, we can still choose a different future before the collapse begins.

Let's hope future generations do not

look back and say, 'The years 1972 –

2025 were the 'Age of Stupid', when we

knew it could happen and very little was

done to stop it.'

Plenty of shorter walks for the less adventurous, with Morans Falls and Python Rock offering great views and

When resource extraction became more difficult, industrial output declined. Less industry meant less food production and higher mortality, while pollution further reduced agricultural yields. Once several variables turned downward, the feedback loops accelerated the overall collapse.

After publication, 'The Limits to Growth' faced intense criticism. Economists dismissed it as pessimistic, arguing that human ingenuity and markets would prevent such outcomes. Yet as decades passed, researchers revisited the model using real-world data.

In 2008, scientist Graham Turner at Australia's CSIRO compared 30 years of empirical data with the original MIT scenarios. He found that global indicators closely matched the 'business-as-usual' projection promoted by Trump, Putin, Banks, Saudi Arabian/Middle Eastern Oil, social media companies, etc, to mine it out, cut it down, grow as fast and as much as possible, and fish out the oceans.

In 2022, Gaya Herrington, a sustainability analyst and researcher at KPMG, conducted another comparison using updated data. Her results again aligned with the MIT forecast.

Herrington concluded that "if current trends continue, global economic growth will likely stop within the next two decades, followed by potential decline by 2040."

The repeated emergence of the year 2040 across studies is not arbitrary. It represents the period when delayed consequences of 20th-century industrialisation converge.

Resource depletion, ecological damage, and social instability begin to reinforce one another.

The model suggests that by this time, non-renewable resource extraction becomes prohibitively expensive, pollution and climate change impact food yields, industrial output stagnates, and population growth ages, slowing or reversing as living conditions worsen.

The 2040 forecast emerges not from mysticism but from the physics of systems that exceed their limits. Half a century later, the world still follows the trajectory MIT mapped. The significance of the 2040 warning lies not in predicting collapse to the exact year, but in revealing the structural logic of overshoot, the reason why exponential growth collides with ecological reality.

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Plenty of shorter walks for the less adventurous, with Morans Falls and Python Rock offering great views and

Watch for koalas!

by Kyi Van Hooff

October has been another busy month at the Northern Rivers Koala Hospital (NRKH).

Breeding season continues to lead our koalas into misadventure. In their efforts to find a mate they are often exposed to tragic risks.

Particularly perilous is a patch of the Bruxner Highway between Tatham Road and Figtree Lane, between Casino and Lismore.

In this one hotspot alone, we have seen nine koala fatalities since September. The deeper tragedy being that many of the koalas hit were also carrying joeys.

We have also had more than nine koala fatalities from dog attacks in the same period of time. It's a timely reminder to keep an eye on your dogs, especially at night, they are naturally curious and unfortunately just don't play well with koalas.

For us, it is still so important to be mindful when driving; even on familiar roads it's easy enough to be surprised, especially at dusk and dawn.

Lulu and Lemon
An eight-year old mother

After weeks of close



Tuesday volunteers

koala and her 12-month old joey were attacked by dogs in a backyard in Cawonga.

Despite intensive efforts to save her, Lulu's injuries were too severe, and she was humanely euthanised.

Orphaned Lemon sustained broken ribs, pneumonia, and internal bleeding. He is receiving intensive veterinary treatment and is currently being cared for by one of our experienced joey carers.

Azaliah sustained broken facial bones and baby Zali developed pneumonia from the impact. Both were admitted into intensive care to undergo treatment.

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Wriggles
This eight-month old joey was found in Tregagle entangled in a barbed wire fence. She sustained severe penetrating abdominal injuries and required emergency surgery to save her life.

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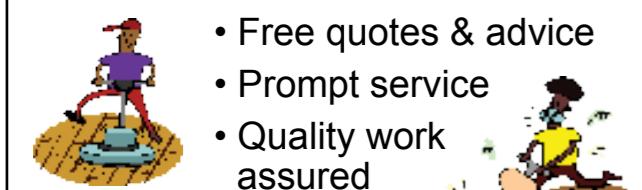
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