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**In his own words**

Donald Trump used the occasion of his address last October at Israel's parliament, the Knesset, to laud the Zionist billionaires who purchased his presidency, chose his cabinet and set his agenda.

"Stand up, Miriam," he bellowed from the podium. "She's got \$60 billion in the bank, and she loves Israel."

Miriam Adelson and her late husband Sheldon made their billions from casinos in Las Vegas and Macau. According to Trump, they made more trips to the White House than anyone else.

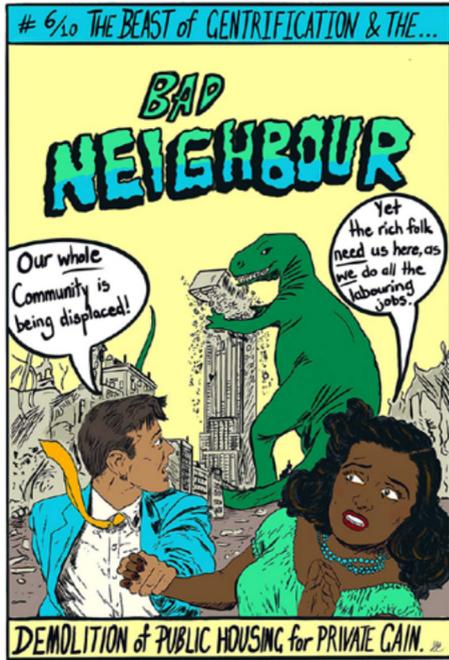
"Her husband was a very aggressive man, but I loved him. He was very aggressive, very supportive of me," Trump continued.

He explained how the Adelsons gave him \$250 million to do many things for Israel, such as moving the US embassy to Jerusalem, withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal and recognising Israel's annexation of Syria's Golan Heights.

Trump seems to think this was a praiseworthy arrangement, and an appropriate way for the US president to craft his foreign policy.

Trump delivered a similar speech at his White House Hanukkah party last December. He probably doesn't care that he might fuel "antisemitic conspiracy theories" by publicly and explicitly exposing the extent to which wealthy Jewish donors coerce, corrupt and compromise politicians and media pundits in the West.

Or maybe that's his intent.  
John Scrivener  
Main Arm



www.hollyenglish.com

**Major weed infestations**

WTF are we going to do about giant devil figs? What are we waiting for? They're not as friendly as camphor laurel and nothing seems to eat it, except the fruit.

No-one wants to spray Roundup along our waterways and now paddocks full of the thorny creature are starting to happen. Birds and flying foxes like the fruit and are spreading the seeds mercilessly.

I'm no expert on plants, but it looks like we have trouble in the wind with this one, so what do we do?

Karma for all the poisons we've put in the country I reckon.

Michael Balderstone  
Nimbin

**Shooters targeted**

As usual, politicians have rushed to pass draconian new laws that penalise lawful gun owners after the latest mass shooting at Bondi Beach.

These amendments to firearms legislation do little to prevent such tragedies happening again, but unfairly impact lawful firearms

owners such as farmers and sporting shooters.

Putting a limit of ten firearms per person might seem reasonable to non-gun owners, but ask a farmer or sporting shooter how many guns they require for various legitimate purposes/matches and it becomes fairly clear that a limit of ten can make things difficult for them.

But politicians don't really care about the impacts on these demographics, as long as they are seen to be doing something after failing to prevent a mass shooting.

Possibly the most draconian amendment is the removal of a shooter's ability to seek a review of a decision to revoke a firearms licence through NCAT. Now the police commissioner has the final say in who can possess legal firearms and can remove that privilege without any legitimate reason, with no right of appeal or review.

The last NSW crackdown came after John Edwards shot his two kids in 2018. Edwards was refused membership of several clubs before acquiring his firearms with a Commissioner's Permit, but they won't tell you about that.

Harry Callahan  
Stony Shoot

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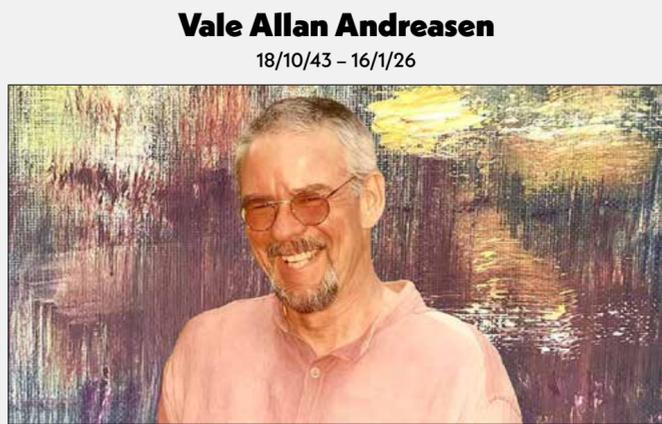
**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
Friday 20th March

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

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Managing editor Bob Dooley  
Assistant editor Sue Stock  
Sub-editor Kitty van Vuuren  
Layout Bob Dooley, Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Marty de Weerd  
Photographer Sue Stock  
Proof-readers Sue, Lynne, Kitty, Karen, Ken, Cath  
Distributors Coralie, Chibo, Sue & Cath, Gordon & Miriam, Rob & Lisa, Linda, Marty, Bob

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.



**Vale Allan Andreassen**

18/10/43 - 16/1/26

by Wayne Somerville

The Nimbin and Northern Rivers communities recently lost Allan Andreassen. Allan was my friend, teacher, colleague and mentor. I am sharing memories of this dear man to celebrate his life and work as a clinical psychologist.

I first met Allan in 1971 as a fresh-out-of-high-school, first-year psychology student at Macquarie University in Sydney. Allan, ten years my senior, introduced himself as our tutor and made us students an offer: if we trusted him, we could have fun and, before the examinations, he'd tell us how to always get good marks on university essays. We had fun, and Allan delivered on his promise.

From 1971 to 1976, Allan was my psychology lecturer or tutor for various courses. Allan introduced me to Eastern psychology, the writings of Alan Watts and the scientific study of consciousness. To help with my honours year research, Allan taught me how to use an electroencephalogram to identify the stages of sleep onset in my experimental subjects.

In 1976, Allan moved to the Northern Rivers and established himself as a professional psychologist. About a decade later, our psychology paths crossed again.

The mid-1980s were a golden age of innovation in psychotherapy, and the so-called 'new hypnosis' fascinated me. Again, Allan was there to teach, inspire and direct me to must-read books; we shared many hours discussing hypnosis, psychotherapy and so much more.

After working for a few years as a hypnotherapist in Kyogle and Casino, I asked Allan how I could become a practising psychologist. Allan knew about the upcoming 1989 registration of NSW psychologists and advised me to undertake a Master of Clinical Psychology degree. I took Allan's advice and I'm glad I did; it made my career possible.

Allan was a wonderful supervisor of trainee psychologists. His 250 hours of supervision during my Masters degree was invaluable; he oversaw my work with clients and taught me how to run a professional practice.

But I was only one of many local psychologists fortunate enough to have Allan supervise them. Through us, Allan's wisdom and guidance improved the lives of thousands of people in our community.

From 1990, for the next quarter of a century, Allan and I worked in association as clinical psychologists in private practice. Allan seeded my long-term interest in the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder when he passed on a request from a local Vietnam War veterans group; their nearest mental health support was a psychiatrist in Newcastle.

It was soon clear that I could not meet the demand for such services. Allan and I began the process that led to the 1994 opening of a regional office of the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service — now known as Open Arms — in Lismore.

Clinical psychologists mostly work in confidential settings in which only the client and the therapist see what goes on. But it was my privilege to share countless discussions, peer supervision sessions and debriefing chats with Allan over the years.

Allan was an exceptional clinical psychologist. He was effective, creative, compassionate and always did the best he could for his clients. Allan was also a highly regarded forensic psychologist. Judges requested his pre-sentence reports when considering the fate of criminal offenders.

Victims of Crime tribunals, compensation courts, solicitors and others sought his advice on medico-legal cases. Allan was always keen to share some latest research or book he'd come across; his passion for life and psychology never faded.

When Allan first told me about his Parkinson's diagnosis, he showed me his symptoms of micrographia: the cramped handwriting that's common early in the condition.

He said that he'd take on the disease as he had every other adventure; curious about what lay ahead and determined to make the best he could of life.

Allan lives on in the hearts and minds of his beloved family, his friends and the many whose lives he touched. This world is so much better for his having lived in it.

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# Protesting against genocide



Surya McEwan, an Australian on the ill-fated flotilla to Gaza, speaking at the Lismore protest. Photo: Linda See

by Gwilym Summers

Because we have stood with Palestine, we have been called anti-semitic over and over. Just gaslighting to avoid responsibility for their genocidal actions.

Of course we would criticise a nation that has killed 72,000+ people, and continues to make the survivors' lives hell.

Some people just aren't feeling the pain of what has been live-streamed to us

daily. If we feel the pain of what is going on, we can also feel the compassion and love for other humans who are under siege, under extreme duress and demoralisation by Israel making them less than human. This is clearly a racist land grab.

Those who look the other way just can't feel one thing about what is happening for Palestine. In doing that, they have walked away from their own humanity.

Palestine is now rubble, the amount of explosives/

bombs dropped on Gaza is said to be equivalent to 14 Hiroshimas. Will anyone ever be able to grow food there again?

The greenhouse gases created by all the wars across the globe will surely be a part of signing our own demise as a species. Israel is just keen to kill more people and show utter contempt for mother earth.

To invite Herzog was just a grave mistake, given that he was part and parcel of the genocide of Palestine,

and Albanese and Minns response to the people who marched in Sydney was shocking.

Albanese said that people marching does not help their cause. Well, I think the cause is also part of a fair nation to make very strong sanctions.

If enough governments implemented sanctions and struck together, as happened in South Africa, it would lead to the end of these terrible apartheid actions.

## Israel protest in Lismore

by Linda Jones

Well, what a turnout. Lismore did us proud with a strong local show of Northern Rivers dissatisfaction at the government's ill-informed decision to invite Herzog to Australia. His presence felt uncalled for — and judging by the crowd, plainly unwelcome.

One of the most inspiring moments was hearing from Surya McEwen from Mullumbimby who was aboard the last flotilla that attempted to deliver food and medicines to a distressed Palestine, only to be turned back.

He's now calling for anyone able to join them in a few months, when a much larger flotilla intends to head back.

The display that hit hardest, though, was the long list of children's names and ages — all under 17, including many babies and toddlers — killed by the bombs of Zionist Israel's IDF.

The population of the West Bank and Gaza before October 7 was around 5.5 million — roughly the same as Sydney.

What also stood out was the tone: the



Photo: Daniel Param Berg

turnout was bigger than expected, yet the event remained calm, with no police presence in sight.

That contrast matters, especially when compared with Sydney, where videos circulating on social media appear to show police escalating tensions, then framing protestors as the problem.

People here aren't watching from the

sidelines. For local Rainer, his heart is well and truly with the Palestinians. He regularly attends the Nimbin Save Palestine presence at the Nimbin Markets on Wednesdays, quietly showing up, week after week.

Lismore turned up with a strong intent and a clear message that our community is paying attention and isXZ willing to act!

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



(L-R): Lismore City Deputy Mayor Jeri Hall, Lismore City Mayor Steve Krieg, Adelle Robinson (CEO of Fuzzy) and OllyArkins (MD of the Australian Festival Association)

As our community marks the fourth anniversary of the 2022 natural disaster, it's a good time to look back to see how far we have come.

While we still have a road ahead to full recovery, it's fair to say that Council and many of our local businesses have adopted state-of-the-art flood mitigation techniques to ensure we are climate-adaptable into the future.

Lismore is well and truly open for business, and over the next few months I will be talking with the State and Federal governments to ensure they fully fund the soon-to-be released CSIRO's flood-mitigation recommendations.

Since the flood, we have completed 126 flood-restoration projects, while continuing to deliver "business as usual" services and infrastructure, such as the popular Rainbow Walk.

This month, Council started road stabilisation works at six locations on Stony Chute Road, with completion expected by mid-March, weather permitting.

Stabilisation reuses the existing road surface by grinding it and mixing it with binders such as foamed bitumen and lime.

When rolled and compacted, it creates a stronger, more moisture resilient layer.

The work is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

#### Events

Late last month, Council announced two great national events coming to Lismore this year.

In April, we will host Rumble on the River at

Lismore's world class skatepark. This will be an Olympic-pathway event and is part of the national Rumble Pro Tour, featuring both Street and Park disciplines at Lismore's world-class skatepark.

More than 150 competitors from across the country are expected, with points on the line for national team selection and future Olympic opportunities.

The four-day event will also include live music, food trucks and the Rumble Roadshow, with learn-to-skate clinics and pro demonstrations for all ages.

And for music lovers, Groovin the Moo will be held at Oakes Oval, Lismore on 9th May, with the iconic regional music festival set to bring thousands of visitors to the city.

First established in

2005, Groovin the Moo was built on a simple but enduring idea: bring major contemporary music line-ups to regional centres and place those communities at the heart of the experience.

Over two decades, the festival has become deeply embedded in Australia's cultural landscape, shaping formative live music moments for generations of fans across the country.

Council has worked closely with festival organisers to bring the event to the city, recognising Lismore as the ideal location for the festival's return and highlighting our growing reputation as a regional events destination.

Line-up and ticket details will be released shortly. Stay tuned.

For more info to get early bird local tickets go to: <https://gtm.net.au>



## New robotic surgery in Lismore

### On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan MP

Lismore continues to lead the way in regional healthcare, becoming the first regional hospital in New South Wales to introduce the Medbot TOUMAI\* Surgical Robotic System at St Vincent's Private Hospital. The new technology will allow more

advanced procedures to be performed locally, reducing the need for patients to travel to metropolitan centres while delivering better outcomes closer to home.

The investment is also expected to attract more highly skilled surgeons to the region, representing a major win for the Northern Rivers community and a game changer for healthcare in regional Australia.

# Police violence and protest

You have probably seen the shocking scenes from Sydney Town Hall on 9th February, they were awful.

When the police moved with force against peaceful members of the community in the heart of the city, the images of the violence travelled around the country and globe.

While most of us were shocked and appalled, many of us were unsurprised that our democracy enabled the NSW Police to revert to beating innocent people in the streets again on behalf of political leaders.

Community members exercising their right to peaceful protest have been met with batons, physical restraint, chemical control and unwarranted aggression by the police many times in this state before.

From the brutal policing of Sydney's first Mardi Gras in June 1978, when hundreds of marchers were assaulted and loaded into police wagons, becoming a defining moment for the queer rights movement in NSW and Australia, through to more recent attacks by police on First Nations people like in the aftermath of the 2004 death of TJ Hickey, where police deployed collective punishment against a community in mourning for a teenage boy.

These historical examples of the NSW Police being deployed as attack dogs against the community live in infamy, and leave deep and corrosive wounds – just as this most recent brutal policing episode has. And just like then, we remain resolute in the face of the victim blaming that is now flowing from NSW Labor and their Premier, Chris Minns.

Not sure if you caught the part where Premier Chris Minns said of the images and footage of the police violence, "I'm not going to condemn the police for doing what we asked them to do, which is to keep the



Photo courtesy Facebook

public safe."

He also said there was some "context" within which the violence had to be seen. He was telling all of us not to believe our own eyes. Folks, that is some scary stuff, when a Premier seeks to victim blame and gaslight – it's what Trump does!

We have consistently warned that the anti-protest rhetoric of the Premier and his laws that have been successively rushed through the NSW Parliament would embolden police to escalate attacks against the community.

The Police 'Force' have unreasonable discretion in how and when they target lawful protests, and have again demonstrated just how violent they will be, emboldened by the anti-protest regime under NSW Labor led by Premier Chris Minns.

NSW has one of the most repressive protest regimes of any comparable democracy, something that legal observers, civil liberties groups and academics have all raised concerns about. But NSW Labor seems committed to introducing more laws intended to target a particular section of our community under the guise of "social cohesion".

As Bernard Keane wrote after the Town Hall attacks, "Nothing says social cohesion like a punch to the head."

Over the last three years, Chris Minns and his Labor Government

have intentionally created a situation that is actively anti-democratic, anti-dissent. Minns has labelled peaceful protest as dangerous, extremist and unlawful. He even tried to blame the peaceful pro-Palestine protests for the murders of Jewish people on Bondi Beach.

His words and actions have given police and other violent people in the community the permission and the impunity to go out and commit hateful and violent attacks against parts of the community that they disagree with.

The result of all of this is a collapse in trust between the police and the community, as well as between different sections of the community itself. That's the poisoned gift from Chris Minns to NSW.

Just a few weeks ago, I stood at a press conference calling out Minns and his authoritarian tactics with Jewish people, Muslim faith leaders, Blak Caucus members, queer advocates, and other representatives from civil society.

All of us together, peacefully calling out a premier who would destroy our relationships, tarnish us as extremists, and would deny the truth in front of him.

The truth is that the socially cohesive and peaceful society that he says he is protecting is the same community that he has set the police against, and passed laws to silence.



by Sue Higginson NSW Greens MLC

In the immediate aftermath of the police violence in Sydney, I called on the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) to establish a broad investigation into the entire police operation, allegations of police violence and a review of all charges of assault police.

In my many years as a lawyer, defending protestors, more often than not where a protestor is charged with resisting arrest and assaulting police, it is in fact the police who assaulted the protestor. The Premier was asked if he would support my call and he adamantly said no he would not and there should not be any investigation into the police violence.

Fortunately, the LECC is independent and clearly cares about the truth in policing and not what Premier Chris Minns thinks. They have heeded our call and announced the establishment of Operation Makalu, a broad and comprehensive investigation into what can only be described as a hellish and dangerously wrong policing operation.

What happened that awful night in Sydney is a symptom of an unhealthy democracy. While we are holding those bad actors that we can account, we must start

dismantling the laws that have been introduced by both Coalition and Labor governments which have specifically sought to suppress and punish people engaging in the act of peaceful protest. This must be a non-negotiable condition from the community to the government.

It has been a shock to me as a Greens MP to watch NSW Labor's anti-protest regime imposed upon us all. Labor carries a proud history rooted in social democracy and the defence of working people, environmental protection, a tradition built on collective action, civil liberties and the right of ordinary people to gather and be heard.

That history now sits uneasily alongside a legislative framework that restricts peaceful assembly and expands heavy-handed policing powers.

Premier Chris Minns has proved to be a threat to our democracy and his own Labor party. He owes everyone an apology, one that is delivered not just in words but through concrete actions that restore rights, repeal unjust laws and begin the work of rebuilding trust.

Democracy is sustained only through on-going care, vigilance and humility. Democracy is at its best when leaders recognise that protest is a vital organ within a healthy political system, and that when people gather in our streets, forests and town halls they are participating in one of the oldest and most fundamental expressions of collective democratic life, whether you agree with the protest or not.

Protest has delivered so much of what we love and take for granted about our world and way of life.

Protest strengthens our democracy, institutions and civil society, it does not threaten anyone except those who are fixated on control, order and power.

## Great news for the local entertainment and arts scene

by Janelle Saffin MP Member for Lismore

This year is shaping up to be a big one for arts and entertainment in the Northern Rivers. The standout news on the music front is that Groovin the Moo is back – and coming to Lismore for a one off event.

I'm always pushing for events in our region, so I'm delighted that the NSW Government, through Destination NSW, is providing major support to bring this much loved festival back. It's also great to see Lismore Council jump on board so enthusiastically.

This really puts Lismore on the live music map for 2026, and word is already spreading – even *Rolling Stone* has picked it up with a headline story.

Festivals have done it tough since Covid, and Groovin the Moo hasn't run for the past two years, so its return is a real boost. It's an all ages event with under 12s free, discounted teenage and concession tickets, and extra discounts for 2480 residents.

Music festivals aren't cheap, but with teen tickets at \$90 and most adult tickets at \$125, it's one of the more accessible festivals out there – and with a couple of months to save, it's within reach for many locals.

The line-up hasn't dropped yet, but Groovin the Moo is known for delivering big name acts, so expectations are high. I've put in my request to include a local band.

The Minns Government has also launched HEARTLAND: A Plan for Regional NSW Arts, Culture

and Creative Industries, the first strategy of its kind, backed by \$5.2 million.

It's the result of extensive consultation around the state, including communities in the Lismore electorate.

One of the exciting parts of the plan is a \$2 million Regional Night-time Economy pilot, supporting ten regional town business collectives to build stronger, more vibrant night time economies.

Regional communities repeatedly emphasised how important arts and culture are – for bringing people together, keeping young people connected to their towns, and helping communities recover from disasters like floods, fires and droughts.

The plan is designed to give local creatives better support, more opportunities



Norpa Chair Damian Kassabgi with Janelle Saffin

and a stronger platform to tell local stories and contribute to local economies.

Around \$3.2 million is being invested to build partnerships, strengthen investment and expand creative opportunities, including: \$1 million for the

- Regional NSW Strategic Partnerships Fund;
- \$500,000 to expand regional touring programs;
- \$400,000 to support First Nations arts and cultural practitioners;
- Paid internships to build skills and career pathways;
- Funding for producer roles to develop and deliver

touring programs; A First Nations Arts and Cultural Tourism Program; Investment in capacity building for regional touring framework organisations, starting with Music in the Regions.

Some funding applications are already open. Eligible organisations can now apply for the Regional NSW Strategic Partnerships Program.

This offers grants of up to \$150,000 to deliver programs that strengthen the arts, culture and creative industries in the focus areas of skills development, organisational capacity building, development of partnerships, investment sourcing, audience development and creative activation of spaces.

Applications close on 31st March at 2pm.



## What matters most: connection, community and care

The February Council meeting was a full one, with several matters drawing strong community interest, followed by a Reconstruction Authority meeting.

A key outcome from the council meeting was the successful rescission motion regarding Standing Street in The Channon. It was heartening to hear directly from local residents who spoke thoughtfully about their concerns.

I was pleased the motion gained support from several councillors, including myself, who had previously voted for the pathway. This is how local government should work – listening, reflecting and being willing to revisit decisions when communities feel unheard.

We had our Quarterly Budget Review presented to council, and financially, Council continues to track toward a surplus.

However, our structural deficit has increased this year and remains a real

challenge. With such a significant flood recovery portfolio, careful financial management is essential.

Any cost overruns have the potential to impact Council's business-as-usual services funded through rates, Special Rates Variation and grants, so diligence and transparency are critical moving forward.

It has been good progress that Council now also receives a monthly report on finances and investments.

A motion concerning future use of buyback land generated considerable debate. While I am not opposed to exploring possibilities, I hold concerns that the community has not yet had the opportunity to participate in the precinct planning process.

The matter appeared to stem from an unsolicited proposal; however the proponents were not identified within the business paper and the process did not reflect Council's own Unsolicited Proposals Policy, which



by Cr Virginia Waters Lismore City Council

is designed to ensure transparency, probity and clear governance pathways.

I did not vote in support of the motion, preferring to await the precinct planning process and community input. In my view, bringing this matter forward ahead of that work was procedurally out of order. For decisions of this scale, process matters.

Our community must have confidence that proposals are considered openly and that planning for buyback land is led collectively by the Federal, State, Council and community, with flood risk,

planned retreat and river health remaining central priorities.

Looking ahead, I have lodged two Notices of Motion. The first supports establishment of a Richmond River Commissioner to co-ordinate a whole catchment response to river degradation.

The Richmond River currently holds a C- rating, with some tributaries and estuaries rated as low as E, a stark reminder of the work ahead.

The Wilsons River and its tributaries form a vital part of this catchment, shaping both our landscape and our community. Caring for our waterways is not optional – water is life. Healthy rivers support biodiversity, cultural connection, farming, recreation and community wellbeing.

A Commissioner would provide leadership and co-ordination across councils, agencies, Traditional Owners and community groups, helping ensure restoration efforts are

connected, science-informed and properly resourced.

Encouragingly, Ballina Council, Byron Council and Rous County Council have already backed this call, and I hope Lismore City, Kyogle and Richmond Valley Councils will join them so we can move forward together for the health of our river system.

My second motion seeks the transfer of ownership of Bellevue Park to the Nimbin A&I Society, recognising their decades of stewardship and care of the land and its role within the broader Showgrounds precinct and community.

Locally, advocacy continues regarding the Western carpark near the school, which shares a fence line with the grounds.

Potholes have been filled, line-marking is scheduled and new signage will follow once the replacement school fence is installed.

On-going antisocial behaviour and public health concerns in the school precinct remain deeply

troubling and distressing to the school community, and are being actively pursued.

While Clean Up Australia Day has passed, it was wonderful to see The Greens host a riverside clean-up in Lismore and others in the LGA.

Caring for our environment doesn't need to be confined to one day – I encourage people to pick up rubbish whenever they see it and, where dumping is significant, to report it so action can be taken. Small acts of care add up, and help protect the places we love.

The past few weeks have brought some personal challenges for me, and it has been a gentle reminder to slow down, breathe and return to what matters most: connection, community and care. Be well and be kind to one another.

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](mailto:Virginia.Waters@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

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- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

**OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY at 5.30am,  
SATURDAY at 6am**

**Phone 6689 1769**

# In your neighbourhood...

## Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

**Volunteers awards**  
Coming up on 31st March is a brand new community event: Legends of Nimbin Volunteer Awards Night – at the Bowlo, 5.30pm.

There are so many deserving volunteers in Nimbin that the judges will likely be negotiating, flipping coins, checking the small print, and possibly arm-wrestling long into the night when they meet to choose the winners.

But never fear, hopefully this will only be the first year of this event and there will be plenty more chances to award our fabulous volunteers in the years to come.

And in all seriousness, it is not intended to be all that serious – but mostly a fun way to bring our community together to eat and make merry.

This initiative is brought to you by the Nimbin Community Organisations Interagency. Anyone who is a member of a volunteer-run org in Nimbin can nominate volunteers for the Awards. More info: <https://nimbin.org.au>

**Speaking of volunteers...**

Are you looking for work experience, or just to get involved in the community? We have lots of different roles at NNIC and right now are looking for Front Desk support volunteers. Certificate quals 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@nmc.org.au](mailto:admin@nmc.org.au) or drop by and chat to our front desk staff.

**Women's Dinner**

The 19th Annual Women's Dinner will be held on Thursday 5th March at Nimbin Town Hall, featuring a fabulous line-up and a great night to be had. Tix via Humanitix (see our website for the link) or at the door, unless sold out.

## 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 19th March. Phone 6688-1400 for an appointment.

**Wound clinic**  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

NIMBIN INTERAGENCY PRESENTS

**LEGENDS OF NIMBIN**

NOMINATE YOUR VOLUNTEER FOR AN AWARD

**VOLUNTEER AWARDS NIGHT**  
TUE 31st MARCH 2026 AT NIMBIN BOWLO

DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM  
STARTS 6PM

Celebrate our volunteers of [nimbin.org.au](http://nimbin.org.au)

**7 Sibley Street online**  
People can now join the 7 Sibley Street Patreon site to access on-line workshops and all sorts of tips and info and resources, plus book in and get discounts for on-site workshops.

NNIC members can join at less than half the price – just \$5 a month (non NNIC members: \$12 a month). An absolute bargain to access a wealth of knowledge and resources. See: [www.patreon.com/7sibleystreet](http://www.patreon.com/7sibleystreet)

**(Even more) things you may not know about us...**  
We are part of the biggest network of community development organisations in Australia. Our community development projects include:

- 7 Sibley Street workshops and activities;
- Nimbin Food Pantry;
- Monthly Food Swaps;
- NimBINchickens Plastics Recycling Project;
- Community-Led Planning and Consultations (eg Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan);

- Community Events (e.g. Women's Dinner, Big Community Xmas Lunch).
- All these projects are mostly

**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  
Garrima Café Group twice monthly Thursdays, 11-2  
Wise Ones, Koonorigan 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](http://myagedcare.gov.au) 1800 200 422

**Trustworthy** Respectful kind Reliable Healthy  
responsive Competent Boundaries  
Empathic personalised authentic  
Sensitive adaptive Supportive

Contact NACRS: 6689 1709 [enquiries@nacrs.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nacrs.com.au)  
or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen St  
[www.nacrs.com.au](http://www.nacrs.com.au)

self-funded and rely upon a dedicated team of volunteers, some innovative fundraising efforts, and donations from the community.

**Donate to NNIC**  
Help us support the community. Drop into NNIC or deposit directly into our gift fund account: Summerland Bank BSB 728 728; Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre – Gift Fund A/C no. 22205341; Ref: your name plus DON.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Email us at: [admin@nmc.org.au](mailto:admin@nmc.org.au) or drop in to ask for a tax receipt.

A million thanks to EVERYONE who has recently (or ever) donated to NNIC.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is committed to Cultural and Child Safety. See our website: [www.nmc.org.au](http://www.nmc.org.au) for our Statement of Commitment to First Nations People, and our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety.

## NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge

We can all do something this month to call attention to some big issues beyond the cost of living crisis: the state of our Richmond forests and the wildlife they sustain; the damage we do to our environment rebounds against us in the form of climate disasters such as floods and fires, which are becoming "unprecedented" and ever more costly.

**Forest Frontline forum**

On Saturday 21st March, 3-6pm at Whitebrook Theatre, Southern Cross University, Lismore, a special Richmond River Koala Parks (RRKP) event will bring together leading voices in ecology and conservation to explore what protection of these forests could mean for koalas, river health and future generations.

Dailan Pugh will outline the RRKP proposal and the opportunity it presents to protect high conservation value forests in the southern Richmond River valley and Richmond Range.

Koala experts Steve Phillips and Maria Matthes will speak about the status of koalas in the Richmond, and what genuine habitat protection requires.

Water and catchment health are central to the story. Andrew Brookes and Kristen den Exter will explore the importance of intact forests for river systems, while David Milledge will highlight the critical role of hollow-bearing trees – homes for gliders, owls, parrots and countless other species.

This is a chance to understand

what's at stake and how forest protection is possible when our community stands together.

**March in March for Forests**

Join the march on Sunday 22nd March, 10am at Lismore Quad and march past the offices of local politicians Janelle Saffin (ALP) and Kevin Hogan (Nats). This is one of the many March in March for Forests Australia-wide, led by the Bob Brown Foundation.

**The future of our forests**

In thinking about these March actions, please consider: what is the most rare substance in the universe? Is it gold, diamonds or rare earth minerals? Why are some people trying to discover water on the moon and oxygen molecules on other planets?

I have good authority (internet search) that suggests the most rare substance in the universe is that made by trees: wood! So why are humans so casual about clearing land of vegetation and cutting down forests, damaging incredibly complex environments developed over time immeasurably?

They provide us with clean air and filter our water, slow down flooding, and cool the planet with shade and they absorb carbon dioxide. Clever people use forests to restore mental health and create wellbeing. Some people harvest firewood and selected timbers without destroying the habitats of other animals. How can some others be so negligent and wasteful?

Currently state-owned public forests at Ewingar, Myrtle and

Cherry Tree State Forests are being logged, and very steep land at Mt Belmore is scheduled despite recent discovery by citizen scientists of endangered scrub turpentine trees there and at Ewingar, south of Casino.

Teams of activists from Nimbin and surrounds found 33 glider dens in trees where Forestry Corp had only found two! Trees containing hollows used for nesting must be protected from logging. If you want to join a citizen science project, contact Ashoka at the NEC shop or enquire at the NEC stall during the march at Lismore on 22nd March.

**Landclearing and waste burning**

NEC has donated funds for Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW and the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) to oppose the legal appeal by a group cynically calling itself Verdant Earth.

They are trying to restart an old coal-fired electricity generation plant near Singleton in the Hunter Valley which would burn biomass (trees, shrubs, etc.) for a radius of about 300 kms, creating a major land clearing.

I am told that the toxic waste incinerator proposed for Casino has been dropped due to concerns by meat producers that customers object to possible residue contamination.

Three other locations nearer to Sydney are still under consideration.

**Wallum**

There is no news yet on whether the Land and Environment Court will make permanent the Temporary Restraining Order on development of



Photos from a previous March for Forests in Lismore by Chibo Mertineit

sensitive land near Brunswick Heads.

**Nimbin water supply**

NEC is part of a group of residents concerned about the future of water supplies in the village and surrounds. Most village residents currently are supplied from the weir at the end of Gungas Road, but the yield is not monitored and the state government's Water Unit of Dept of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water (DCCEEW- whew!) has

undertaken a study. It expects to issue a discussion paper in the coming months on future options. We will keep a close eye on this!

**The shop**

The Nimbin Environment Centre shop is open seven days a week. Please drop in for a chat with the friendly volunteers there and buy a few local items. We have a good stock of clothing and books. All profits go to protecting our environment.

## New baseline model shows Kyogle is overrun with koalas

by members of KEG

If you are a resident of Kyogle, it may surprise you to learn that we are, apparently, living in one of the most koala-dense regions in New South Wales.

This may come as a shock to locals, who until now believed koala sightings were rare enough to warrant text messages, phone calls and the occasional celebratory cup of tea.

But fear not. The NSW Government's Koala Baseline model has reassured us that koalas are not merely present – they are, statistically speaking, everywhere.

In fact, if the map is to be believed, parts of the upper Richmond appear to rival the proposed Great Koala National Park for koala abundance.

Locals have responded with confusion. For years, Kyogle people have clung to the outdated belief that koalas prefer intact forest, old feed trees and connected habitat.

They've been distracted by things like heatwaves, clearing, drought and the slow disappearance of koala feed trees. Some even mistakenly thought koalas needed places where females could live and raise young.



Fortunately, the Baseline model has corrected this misunderstanding.

We now know that cleared paddocks, scattered trees and the occasional roadside gum are, in fact, prime high-density koala habitat. The cows may not have noticed, but the data has.

The breakthrough seems to lie in an innovative scientific technique: listening for male koalas bellowing.

As it turns out, if a lovesick male koala bellows while wandering through marginal country in search of a mate, this is strong evidence that the surrounding landscape supports a thriving, stable population. Who knew?

Ecologists have long fussed about the difference between "movement habitat" and "core breeding habitat," but the model has bravely streamlined this thinking. If a koala once walked past a place, that place is now apparently excellent koala habitat.

This is excellent news for Kyogle farmers, whose paddocks may soon qualify as wildlife sanctuaries without the inconvenience of containing wildlife.

More importantly, it is reassuring for the

rest of NSW. Because if koalas are doing brilliantly in cleared farmland, then perhaps all that worrying about endangered species, habitat loss and climate stress has been a bit over the top.

Nothing reduces conservation urgency quite like statistical abundance. When a species is officially endangered, what you really need is a map suggesting it's doing fine.

Of course, locals may continue to be confused by the absence of visible koalas, the silence in the trees, and the fact that most people can still name the handful of places where koalas might be hanging on. But this is the beauty of modelling: it frees us from the limitations of reality.

Why rely on what you can see, when you have what the computer says?

So, congratulations Kyogle. While you thought you were living in a fragmented landscape of stressed remnants and struggling wildlife, you were actually residing in a koala hotspot all along.

You just didn't know where to look.

**Postscript:** A statewide baseline should sharpen conservation effort, not blur it. If the model suggests koalas are thriving in cleared



Cleared land near Kyogle

landscapes, it risks creating false comfort – and the last thing an endangered species needs is a story that downplays how close to the edge it really is.

Please write to the NSW Government and ask for the Koala Baseline model to be independently reviewed and corrected where it clearly misrepresents habitat and densities – especially in heavily cleared landscapes like the upper Richmond.

Ask for transparency about how male-call acoustic data was used, and for future monitoring to focus on what matters most: protecting core breeding habitat, climate refuges and the corridors that keep Kyogle's remaining koalas connected.

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