

Nimbin School of Arts Inc President's report

by David Hallett

The School of Arts is 122 years old this year. Since it opened in 1904, the Town Hall has had many extensions and additions: new kitchen, grand piano, backstage studio, downstairs studios, etc.

The Town Hall was the first building in the village of Nimbin and initially it was needed for church services. The School of Arts was largely rebuilt in the 1930's and it continues to grow today.

In recent months, all the hall hire fees and rentals have increased, and this is the first increase in recent years.

This is largely due to the on-going expense increases especially in insurance but also generally. Much of the School of Arts is an old building with increasing call outs for electricians, plumbers and carpenters.

We are indebted to Sam Herren who continues to do emergency call outs for all manner of repairs. Also, to Dave Raval for his essential repair work on the deck and ramp.

The School of Arts has had another full year of cultural activities, with three Blue Moon Cabarets, Spring Arts exhibition, the Nimbin Art Fair (managed by the Nimbin Artists Gallery), and the annual MardiGrass festival (managed by the Hemp Embassy).

It was most pleasing to see a new theatre production from the new Nimbin

Theatre Troupe with further production for later this year. The Nimbin Fashion Show managed by NSA will also return later this year.

The Hall remains a critical venue for community meetings, small and large and most community agencies are able to negotiate discounted hire fees for these meetings.

The major endeavour of the past year has been the installation of air conditioning in the auditorium. For too long, some cabarets and other events have had the misfortune of being held on very hot nights. There have been years of complaints about this, so the School of Arts has dipped into our reserves of many fundraising cabarets to actually install the air conditioning units.

This is an essential action of NSA, and any contributions from the wider public and hall users will be gratefully received. The aircon in the auditorium opens up the use of the hall throughout the year; previously summer events were too hot and winter events too cold. So the hall was out of action for half of the year.

As ever the community is indebted to the wonderful volunteer management of the School of Arts; secretary Tony Gibson, treasurer Peter Brooker, vice president Tim Tonkin, and committee members, Carole Barrett, Mandi Raval, Samara Burcher, Caroline Todd and Sue Landers.

MardiGrass comedy laughs

Here we go again! The Great MardiGrass Comedy Show hits the Nimbin Town Hall stage on Saturday 2nd May at 8pm.

Hosted by S Sorrensen, this year's show will feature the witty talents of Mandy Nolan, Alan Glover and Matty B.

Well, what can you say about Mandy Nolan? Wil Anderson called her "the funniest non-famous comedian". Australian Stage wrote, "Mandy can make a rock laugh."

For the North Coast tribe, she is the queen of comedy, the princess of insight and a champion for justice. But we are not rocks.

It was 1983 when Alan Glover started his stand-up career at Sydney's Comedy Store. That means he's been trying to make a joke for over 40 years. He's been practising in clubs all over the world - in the UK, Singapore, Canada, The Netherlands - and with S Sorrensen in the comedy duo Glover &



S Sorrensen

Sorrensen. He reckons he's got the joke now. Let's hear it!

Newcastle-bred youngster Matty B is fast forging a formidable comedic reputation, making them laugh at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Sydney Comedy Festival



Matty B

and the Adelaide Fringe Festival. Is he ready for the MardiGrass audience? S Sorrensen needs to be liked. It's sad. And funny.

Entry is free if you have a MardiGrass armband, a few bucks if you don't.

MARDIGRASS CABARET

The annual Great Green Cabaret kicks off MardiGrass on Friday night 1st May with a BIG show.

Featuring music by Lil Flunk, Hannah Pearl, Broadwaters, Monkey and the Fish and a finale to dance the night away with The Trombone Kelli Gang, plus Nimbin's own Gunga Faeries, dance ensemble The Scarlet Ruffles and Nayikas.

There will also be acrobatics by Bronte of the Pitts, Hartje, The Sinderellas and Polecat Trudi; comedy with Greg Sullivan plus poetry from Biskit and compere David Hallett.

This is a huge show, not to be missed. Doors open 7pm.

There is very limited reserved table seating for \$40 upfront, and auditorium seating through the bulk of the Hall for \$30.



Trudi

Music to rock MardiGrass

by Brommers

The 34th Annual MardiGrass Protestival has drawn a variety of musical styles and performances, ready to ring out throughout our valley in support of the unfair cannabis laws, including reggae, dub, rock, folk, dance, hip hop, techno, psy trance, house... and some genre-defying stuff too!

Locals are well represented with Hannah Pearl, Red Belly Black, Sarah Stando and Maideneye, Brommers & Jalex, Josh Wright, K'Flunk and Eye N Eye, the internationally recognised multi-instrumentalist Lucy Gallant, ex-local Mick Daley and the ever-popular Hoochers.

As well as The Genes, Funkatu, Sky Eater, Billy & the Breakdowns, Croaker & the Honeybee.

The Oz Hip Hop Showcase will be vibing up the Skate Park with a truly impressive list of DJs and MCs.

And there's the Marijuana Music Awards for songs no longer than 4 minutes 20 seconds on the Saturday, 7-8pm at the Indica Stadium.

Look out for the Pot Papers programme for who's doing what, where and when, or check out the website: nimbinmardigrass.com for further details.



Funkatu Photo: Louay Howell



Hoochers Photo: Jodie Digney



K'Flunk Photo: Colleen Coy

Glimpsing the possibility of change

Lismore Theatre Company's second production for the year is *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, directed by Min Saxe.

Step back in time to 1937 St Louis as Tom Wingfield guides us through a fragile memory set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, where family expectations, love, heartbreak and hope collide.

Within a cramped apartment, a mother clings to dreams of a better future, a son longs for independence and escape, and a painfully shy daughter retreats into a delicate world her glass menagerie.

When a long-anticipated gentleman caller arrives with enthusiasm and encouragement, the Wingfields glimpse the possibility of change - yet what follows leaves



Jyoti Smith and Lachlan Hall

us suspended between heartbreak and hope.

Director Min Saxe describes the play as a love letter to her grandparents.

The cast is made up of some very experienced actors and some new faces to the Rochdale Theatre: Toni Forbes as Amanda Wingfield, Banyan Jay as Tom Wingfield, Jyoti Smith as Laura Wingfield

and Lachlan Hall as Jim O'Connor.

This is an immersive experience; the audience will be transported back to a dance hall in 1937 and the performances include ballroom dancers.

Lachlan Hall says, "It's a great glimpse into a different world and family. These interactions can hopefully give people a

better understanding on the importance of communication on the family dynamic."

Toni Forbes says, "It is a beautiful play, brilliantly written and so touching. It shouldn't be missed." This is truly a play not to be missed.

The play runs over two Acts with a 15-minute intermission between the acts. Total running time is two hours, including intermission.

The season starts on Friday 24th April at 7.30pm and will run over three weekends, finishing on Sunday 10th May. Tickets are \$30 adults and \$25 concession.

Book at: www.trybooking.com/DJMJK or contact Sharon Brodie at: admin@lismoretheatrecompany.org.au or by phone on 0423-308-063 to secure your tickets.

7 women, 7 decades, 7 stories of survival

There is something powerful about sitting in a room and hearing someone tell the truth about their life. Not the polished version, the real version that holds heartbreak, humour, grit and grace all at once.

That is the heart of 'A Small SHIFT - I Will Survive', an event that amplifies women's capacity not just to endure, but to thrive! The heart of Byron Bay's not-for-profit organisation, The Shift Project, that works after a crisis to build resilience, and that sustains safety and wellbeing for women, their kids and their family.

I will Survive showcases seven local women from different decades ranging from their 20s to their 80s, sharing a seven-minute story on something they have survived. There is a magic in hearing women from different stages of life speak openly and honestly beside one another.

Their stories come from different worlds, different eras, different turning points, and yet something runs through them all: the deep human act of enduring, adapting and continuing on anyway.

You'll hear from a woman who has been a banker, a nurse and a brothel manager.



Another who taught English to Burmese monks and now writes an astrology column.

Each woman brings her own history, her own voice and her own understanding of what it means to survive, adapt,

rebuild and begin again.

Some stories will make you laugh. Others may catch in your throat. All of them will leave you with something.

A Small SHIFT - I Will Survive will be held at the Byron Bay Golf Club on Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm, hosted by Mandy Nolan (pictured), local writer, comedian and advocate.

Tickets are \$40 and include a selection of delicious sliders. A full menu will also be available at the golf club for purchase, along with a cash bar. For details visit: <https://shiftproject.org.au/whats-on/event>

Fascinating ideas, inspiring stories, great conversations

Discover your next favourite author when Kyogle once again welcomes world-class writers and poets to town on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th May for this year's Literary Allsorts.

The Festival kicks off on Friday afternoon at the Roxy Gallery with 'Celebrating Home-grown Talent', a panel discussion featuring local authors Leanne Murner, Annie Barrett and Diana Jarman, chaired by indyNR's Susanna Freymark.

From Stage to Page, Writing the Story of Drag Legend Stan Munro follows, with Stan and his co-author William Brougha, and publisher Leanne Murner discussing the very long road to publication, sprinkled as it was with glitter and sequins.

Both of these panels show that with determination and a strong belief in their work, independent authors can get their stories published.

Kyogle audiences love poetry, and poets Carlie Daley and Maria van Neerven will be reading from their latest books, in company with Sarah



Temporal, just before the official launch of this year's Festival at 6pm. The winners of this year's ever-popular Kyogle Poetry Competition will also be featured during the evening.

Our Saturday programme in the KMI Hall will be as strong, enthralling and as diverse as past years have been.

For the first time we are offering what promises to be a fascinating panel on crime writing that we've called 'A Crime and a Place'. Guided by acclaimed crime and mystery fiction author, Maree Day (*Lambs of God*), Lisa Walker (*The Pact* and

Sex Lies and Bonsai), Georgia Harper (*What I Would Do to You*) and Mike Berge (*Tank Water and Dirt Trap*) will explore the intersections of crime, society and landscape.

Multi-award winning author and long-time supporter of the Festival, Melissa Lucashenko (pictured), will talk about her latest book, *Not Quite White in the Head* in conversation with ABC North Coast's Bridie Tanner.

This is Melissa's first nonfiction work, and the book is a collection of compelling essays and speeches that yes, embrace anger, but also hope and honesty.

Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Melbourne, Leslie Head, will then talk about her latest book, *Beyond Green, the Social Life of Australian Nature*, with environmental historian and festival favourite, Nancy Cushing.

Lesley's book is a culmination of her lifetime of researching the overlap between nature, culture and

society and it offers hope and optimism to deal with the very real challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change.

Our final session 'Truth and Story - Identity in a Changing Country' includes authors Miranda Riwoe (*Stone Sky Gold Mountain and Sunbirds*) and Tyree Barnette (*Stolen Man on Stolen Land*) and poet, Maria van Neerven (*Two Tongues*), exploring notions of belonging and identity in contemporary Australia, in contemporary Australia.

Oh and for the kids, we are programming a fabulous workshop, 'Finding Your Inner Creature', at Kyogle Library on the Saturday morning.

Go to our website: kraw.com.au where you can find more information about the Festival as well as buy tickets.

The Festival wouldn't go on without the fabulous residents and visitors to the town for buying tickets and coming along to enjoy the magic.

Friday Night Movies

NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE

5:00pm Kitchen opens | 6:30pm Film starts | \$15 / \$12

 EYES WIDE SHUT (R18+) 10/4/2026	 KANGAROO *Holiday Special 2pm* (PG) 15/4/2026	 Midnight Express (R) 17/04/2026
 When the River Rose *2PM special* 18/4/2026	 Downfall (MA1+) 24/4/2026	 Dude Where's My Car *MardiGrass* 1/5/2026

BECOME A BUSHIES BESTIE!

Bushies Bestie is our free membership program offering exclusive perks like discounted movie tickets, special event deals, occasional bring-a-friend free offers, early updates, and the chance to vote on upcoming films and events.



APRIL 2026 LOCAL GIGS		PLANET MUSIC
MAR	Lismore Supper Club Soul Band Lismore City Bowlo	THURSDAYS
08 APRIL	Monthly Irish Folk Jam Eltham Hotel	WEDNESDAY
08 APRIL	Open Mic Night Lismore City Bowlo	WEDNESDAY
08 APRIL	Open Mic Night Nimbin Bowlo	WEDNESDAY
10 APRIL	Age of Emergence, Thundergod + More Blah Bar Lismore	FRIDAY
10 APRIL	Jack Harlon & The Dead Crows Howl & Moan Records	FRIDAY
11 APRIL	Henry Wagons Eltham Hotel	SATURDAY
11 APRIL	Peter Simpson & The Infinite Mirrors Blah Bar Lismore	SATURDAY
12 APRIL	Unplugged Open Mic Jam Session Blah Bar Lismore	SATURDAY
16 APRIL	Eric Flu, Triple Nip + More Blah Bar Lismore	THURSDAY
17 APRIL	Dana Gerhman & Danny Widdicombe Eltham Pub	FRIDAY
17 APRIL	Media Puzzle, Turn, Feever + More Blah Bar Lismore	FRIDAY
18 APRIL	Hammers, Parhellen, Fly Agaric Blah Bar Lismore	SATURDAY
18 APRIL	Chalkfest Wandana Brewery Mullum	SATURDAY
19 APRIL	World Music Blah Bar Lismore	SUNDAY
19 APRIL	Helmet's The Northern Byron	SUNDAY
22 APRIL	Open Mic Night Hotel Metropole Lismore	WEDNESDAY
23 APRIL	DC Cross, Andrew Tuttle Eltham Hotel	THURSDAY
26 APRIL	No Bull, The Whiskys, Stone Rising Blah Bar Lismore	SUNDAY
30 APRIL	Monthly Bluegrass Jam Eltham Hotel	THURSDAY
30 APRIL	Old Time Appalachian Jam Night Blah Bar Lismore	THURSDAY

Submit your shows to giggguide@planetmusic.com.au to be featured on our weekly guide on Instagram!

Northern Rivers custom home and renovation specialists

Josh 0435 712 018 Kimberley 0425 218 948

www.ftbd.com.au
info@ftbd.com.au

figtree BUILDING & DESIGN License No. 303796C

DIANBUNG GARDENS

30 YEARS OF PERMACULTURE EDUCATION

Sat, April 18 from 5pm Celebrating Robyn Francis' 145th and final Permaculture Design Course (PDC) before she retires mid-year

Sat, April 25, 10am-2pm Special Garden Tour with Robyn Francis, includes lunch \$65, bookings essential

74 Cecil Street, Nimbin Phone 6689-1755
admin@permaculture.com.au

www.permaculture.com.au

New chapter for Cawongla general store

There's something special about a place that feels like it belongs to everyone – and in Cawongla, the general store has long been just that.

A meeting point, a lifeline, and a hub of everyday essentials, it's a place where conversations flow as easily as the coffee.

Now, the store begins a new chapter, with ownership recently passing into the hands of a returning local family.

Jorden Stanton, alongside his partner Alison Primrose and their six-month-old daughter Cassidy, have stepped into the role with a clear vision: to nurture what already exists while gently strengthening it for the future.

Just three months into their stewardship, the family has already made meaningful improvements.

A significant upgrade to the store's solar system reflects their commitment to reliability and sustainability – ensuring the store remains a dependable hub for locals, no matter the circumstances.

For the Stanton-Primrose family, this isn't about reinvention. It's about continuity.

"We really want to keep the spirit of the place," they say. "It's already something special."



The store now boasts a solar upgrade by Rainbow Power Company.

That means the post office, general store and café will continue much as they always have – familiar, welcoming and rooted in community.

Locals can also rest easy knowing that the much-loved wood-fired pizzas aren't going anywhere.

They'll still be firing up on Friday nights until late, and again on Saturday and Sunday evenings, bringing people together over good food and good company.

Looking ahead, the family has plans to slowly turn their attention outdoors.

With time, they hope to

enhance the surrounding grounds and gardens, creating a peaceful space where people can linger a little longer – somewhere that offers not just convenience, but a sense of calm and connection.

At its core, their vision is simple: a place for good times, familiar faces and community. And in a small town like Cawongla, that's exactly what matters most.

The store and café is located at 5329 Kyogle Road, Cawongla.

Contact it by phone (02) 6633-7090, or email: cawonglastore@gmail.com

New opening hours for NBM

Since relocating from Gungas Road to Sibley Street in mid-2024, Nimbin Building Materials has continuously expanded its stock to meet local demand.

This includes timber and steel; sand, gravel and cement; tools and accessories; safety equipment; plumbing and gas supplies; and gardening needs.

Brothers Ruben and Felix Mack have now extended business hours to meet further demand, and are now open from 6.30am-5pm Monday-Friday, and 9am-1pm Saturday.

They reckon that with the price of fuel what it is, you'd be mad to drive to Lismore without checking them out first.



Ruben and Felix with the sign that almost says it all.

Council transitions to electric vehicle fleet

Byron Shire Council has added five new electric vehicles (EVs) to its workforce fleet this year, supported by a \$31,000 Kickstart Grant from the NSW Government.

Council's team leader sustainability, Alicia Lloyd (pictured), said the purchase marks a significant milestone in Council's long term plan to phase out petrol powered fleet vehicles and move towards smarter, cleaner and more efficient council operations.

"The new EVs mark the beginning of our commitment to transitioning our fleet to cleaner energy and reducing our operational emissions," Dr Lloyd said.

"This is an investment in sustainable, environmentally responsible transport options for our workforce, and one that will deliver real environmental and financial benefits."

Council recently completed a comprehensive fleet transition study, working with specialist consultants to assess energy demand, vehicle suitability, charging capacity and overall economic feasibility. The study found that small to medium SUVs in Council's current fleet are well suited to electric alternatives and ready for immediate transition.

"The modelling shows a positive return on investment for this first stage, and we expect



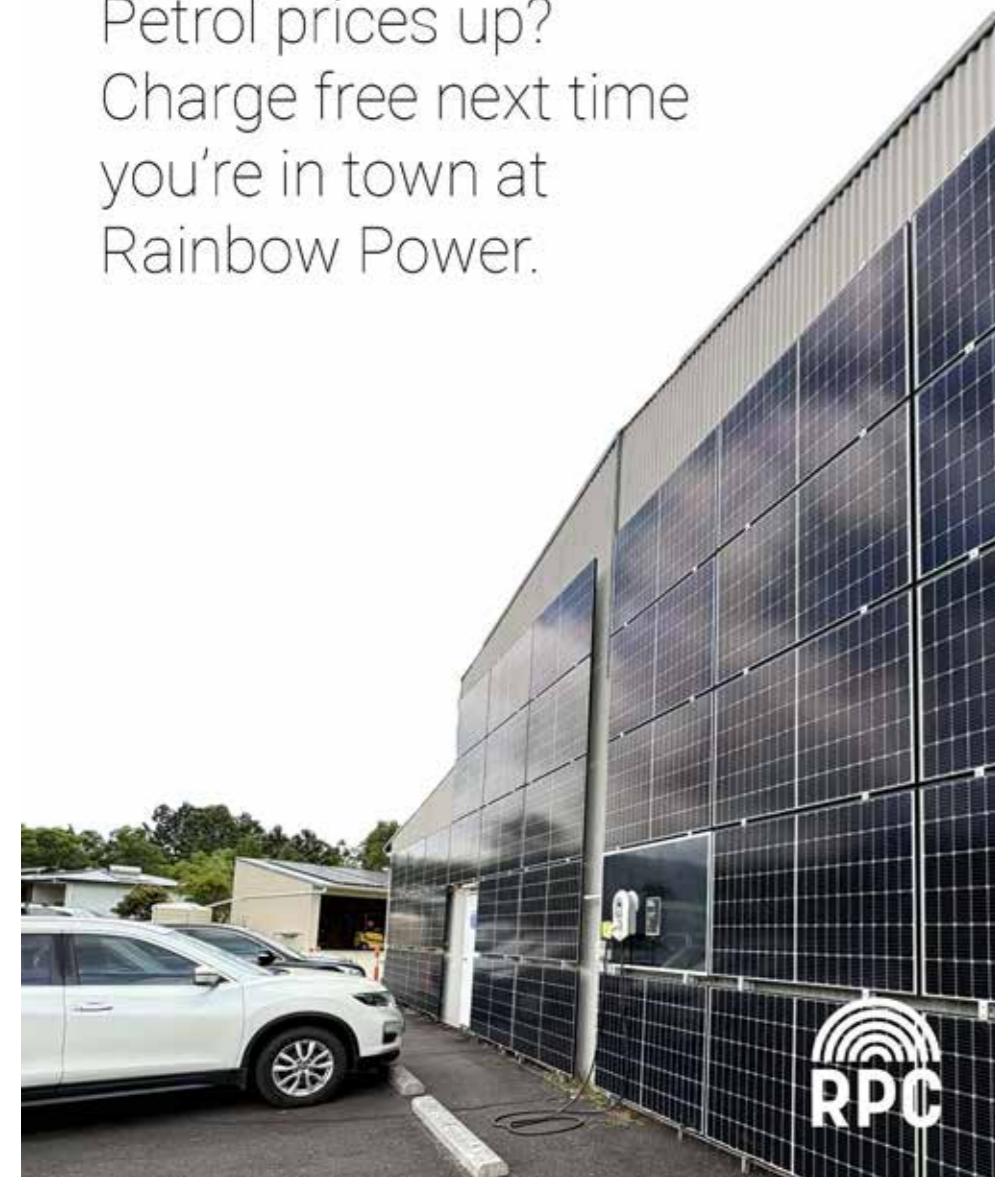
to save up to 14 tonnes of CO₂ each year. It's a win win for the environment and for Council's budget."

Five EVs and their associated charging infrastructure have now been purchased. Chargers will be installed at Council's Mullumbimby administration building and the Byron Depot to support day-to-day operations.

Looking ahead, Dr Lloyd said this first step would lay the groundwork for broader fleet electrification.

"Our goal is to continue our light vehicle fleet transition to electric at each replacement cycle, subject to funding and operational requirements," she said.

Petrol prices up? Charge free next time you're in town at Rainbow Power.



Energy price shock: The case for renewables

by Matthew Wittemeier
CEO Rainbow Power Company

Picture filling up your car or checking your power bill right now. Prices are spiking, and it's no mystery why.

Energy prices are rising, and the reasons are clear. Conflict in the Middle East has disrupted some of the world's largest gas supplies, with strikes on Iran's South Pars field and Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG hub.

Analysts warn LNG prices could stay elevated for three to five years as supply chains recover. Fossil fuels have always been exposed to global events, but the scale and frequency of these disruptions is increasing.

Australia is not immune. Despite being a major energy exporter, we remain tied to global pricing. Households and businesses are already seeing higher bills, with added pressure from storm damage and grid instability.

For businesses, this means rising costs and greater risk. When the grid fails, operations stop and diesel backup becomes expensive. For households it is the same story; higher costs with less control.

Renewables offer a different path. Solar and battery systems provide predictable, locally generated energy that is not tied to global markets.

In many cases, these systems now pay for themselves in three to five years, while



reducing long-term costs and improving reliability.

The transition to renewables is underway, but it will take time. In the meantime, energy independence is one of the most practical steps available.

The market may be volatile. Your power does not have to be. Contact: www.rpc.com.au

The NIMBIN GoodTimes Rainbow Region Property Guide

Picture-perfect farming playground with iconic views



219 Stony Chute Road, Nimbin
39.88 ha, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms,
6 car spaces, POA
Contact Suzy Moody 0429 492 477

Mossmead is one of Nimbin's premier 100-acre grazing properties, featuring north and east-facing cleared pastures and renewed fencing.

Set up for livestock or agribusiness, it's currently earning \$700/month from agistment and supports up to 40 breeders.

Water security is assured with dual large dams, a 5 megalitre licence for cropping, pump system, concrete header tank, and permanent creek frontage – ideal for irrigation or sustainable farming.

Infrastructure includes a powered machinery/storage shed, stockyards, old stables, and concrete-floored piggery with repurposing potential.

The layout also allows for tourism or eco-retreat ventures without compromising privacy.

The main residence is a renovated 1913 Queenslander offering four bedrooms, two bathrooms, an office, spacious living areas, a country kitchen, solar hot water, a new 10kW solar system, and a pool.

A fully rebuilt rustic cottage with separate utilities and a brand-new 6.5kW solar array adds further income potential, with possible rental of \$420/week after final touches.



Currently **2nd** Highest selling Agency in Northern Rivers

For properties SOLD on realestate.com.au
Data from 25 March 2025 to 26 March 2025

LAND LAND LAND

PERFECTLY POSITIONED SCENIC VIEWS AND UNBEATABLE CONVENIENCE
18 Noel Street Lismore Heights 620m² Contact Samara **\$220,000**



This well-positioned 620m² vacant lot offers the ideal blend of convenience and lifestyle, featuring an elevated building site with beautiful landscaping, terracing and expansive long-distance views. Fully serviced with power, sewer, rubbish collection, and mail delivery, this parcel also includes a prepared driveway, ensuring easy access to your future home. Perfectly situated near schools, the University, a lively shopping centre, local cafes, and sports fields, this property presents a unique opportunity to build your dream home in a location that balances natural beauty with urban accessibility.

MOTIVATED VENDORS- MAKE AN OFFER!
5 Magnus Court Goonellabah 1156m² Contact Samara **\$320,000**



Nestled on Goonellabah's picturesque northern ridge, this block is the perfect canvas for your dream home. Enjoy sweeping valley and range views, with sunrises to brighten your mornings. This elevated position offers natural light and is minutes from schools, shopping centers, and the Sports & Aquatic Centre. It's 4.5km from Lismore, 30km Ballina's beaches, and 48km to Byron Bay. The block includes professional concept drawings for a 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom house with detailed floor plans and elevations. Whether for a family home, retirement, or investment, 5 Magnus Court blends convenience, natural beauty, and lifestyle potential. Don't miss this incredible opportunity!



(02) 6689 1498
realestate@nimbinhills.com.au
www.hills2coast.com.au