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Lest we forget

"The times, they are a-changin'" I hear James' bagpipes...

The Nimbin ANZAC Day march and gathering had the significance that only time can bring. Lest We Forget.

Johnny at the Presbyterian pulpit on the Saturday before stopped our hearts in the telling of the story of the local Clark brothers, their sacrifice in WW1, and their memorial plaque in the wall: close to where he plays blues guitar. We gather to lift the atmosphere heavenward.

In the light of hard-won freedoms, MardiGrass comes.

Whether recreational, medical or part of personal history, it celebrates human pursuit too.

May the weather be kind, and people be kinder still in the spirit that was borne of Anzac: may we honour this land of the free and the brave. Respect to all: past, present and future.

Lois McWhinney
Nimbin

War is hell

There is nothing more horrific than to die in wars. RIP to all, soldiers and civilians who died in each and every war since 1914

to this very day, fighting in good faith for freedom from tyranny in their countries for what they believed to be the truth. The only thing missing then as now, is, where is the truth? What sparks one war after another, who or what is behind each and every war? Politics, the war arsenal industry, the financial power elite, inequality, the gap between the poor and the wealthy, Utopian ideologies,

religion, the insane lust and competition for power and control over the population? All sane people civilian and military alike, die in wars believing to fight for their country. But who or what are they really dying for?

Bob Oort
Nimbin

The decline of the West

The war on Iran is a tipping point in the shifting balance of power on the world stage. Superficially this war is the culmination of a decades-long effort by one man, the indicted war criminal and genocidal psychopath, Israeli prime minister Netanyahu. But of course, it's about much more than the crazed ambitions of that mass-murdering megalomaniac.

Over the last quarter of a century the world has watched as Western regimes violated the sovereignty of poor defenceless nations, spreading death and destruction in the name of freedom and democracy, without regard for civilian life, cultural heritage or the environment, and with utter contempt for international law.

This rogue behaviour has been tacitly tolerated by the rest of the world for decades,

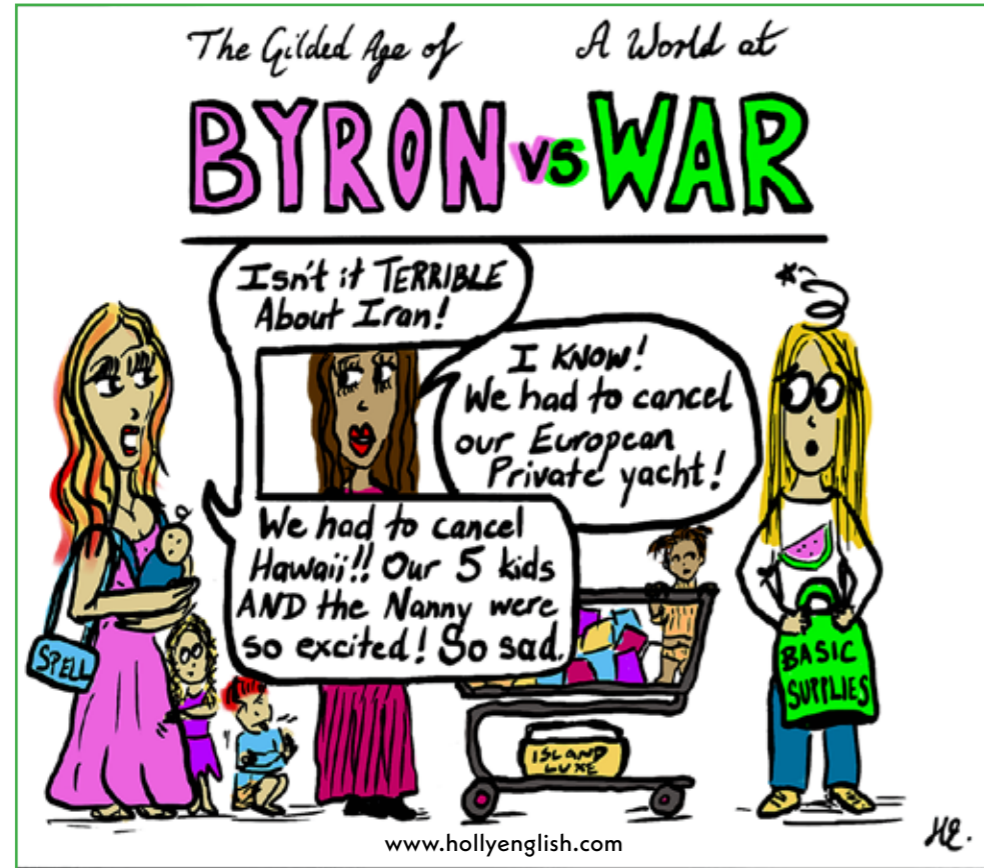
simply because they lacked the power to challenge Western hegemony, or even moderate the worst excesses of the West's supremacist conceit. But that status quo has been shifting slowly yet surely in recent years, as the US-led West's primacy has waned.

Russia, China and Iran have spent the last couple of decades preparing for precisely this moment in world history, and they know what they're doing, unlike Trump. This war will end US dollar dominance and the petrodollar system.

Iran has imposed restrictions on maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most vital choke point through which a quarter of the world's oil and gas supplies previously passed each day. Iran is now requiring transit fees and allowing oil shipments denominated in Chinese currency, while barring vessels associated with the aggressors.

Meanwhile Iran has used its vast arsenal of drones and missiles to systematically dismantle the archipelago of US and Israeli military bases across West Asia, from which this illegal unprovoked aggression was launched against Iran.

The bossy, arrogant and entitled US, high on hubris and contempt for others,



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having elevated miscreants, thugs and incompetents to the highest levels of authority, now faces the inevitable and predictable consequences, namely strategic defeat and economic collapse.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Absent bike helmets

Wow, hasn't the electric bike been taken up so readily by so many people? It's a great invention and is a directional change that is here to stay.

However, why are governments so slow to catch up with this change that has seen many people injured and killed? OK, it may be hard to catch up with the horse after it has bolted, but the police are to blame for not going for the obvious unchanged law – wear a helmet or be fined!

Byron Bay for years led the way for not wearing helmets and the local police failed to apply a basic safety law. We have to wear seatbelts, whether you're a local, a domestic visitor or an overseas tourist.

Adults should be setting an example and wear bike helmets, parents should be insisting their precious children wear them and kids riding on the road should show responsibility and commonsense and wear helmets.

So, let's see our police do their job NOW and enforce

Adam Johnson
Nimbin

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Environment Centre AGM will be held on Wednesday 13th May 2026, 6pm Community Centre School Room, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin. All Welcome. Nominations for executive and committee members will be accepted from the floor. Must be a financial member to vote. NB: General monthly meeting will be held at 5pm before the AGM.

Condolences

The volunteer staff at the Nimbin GoodTimes wish to express their sympathy for the families and co-workers of the two Marine Rescue NSW volunteers, Bill Ewens and Frank Petsch who lost their lives at sea when their rescue vessel capsized at the South Ballina bar while responding to a distress call from a stricken yacht. Their outstanding long service is appreciated by all.

helmet wearing, then when governments get their act together, the police can also sort out correct e-bike usage.

Richard White
East Ballina

Great festival

May I congratulate the Nimbin community and the Hemp Embassy in particular for another fantastic weekend of fun, information and nice weed.

I have one suggestion though. Perhaps the organisers could ban megaphones from the parade, as both myself and a coven of witches were forced to relocate due to the presence of a screeching, distorted amplification tube.

Unnecessary in my opinion, and once you let in one it will start a flood! (Pauline told me that).

Free the weed – change the law.

Bob Tissot
Nimbin

Groovy tunes

How good is it to have the village pumping with the sound of music! (And I'm not talking about the doof.)

I was fortunate to catch some of the great artists that performed over the MardiGrass weekend and couldn't help but think about how much value experiencing a great live music performance adds to our lives.

This little village punches above its weight when it comes to creative talent and it's great to see the locals mixing it with some of the great bands that joined us for the festivities whether it was on the temporary stages or at established venues.

Nimbin is pretty blessed to have some great little venues about town like the Bowlo and Oasis that regularly have live music, and the jams outside of Heart Connection are legendary.

Other venues like the pub, School of Arts and the Bush Theatre also have great gigs from time to time.

As things wind down over the winter months and gigs begin to thin out make sure you get out there and support our local musicians and venues.

Adam Johnson
Nimbin



Angel over Nimbin
Photo: Teresa Biscoe

Save our heritage community fruit forest

So where to begin, as once again the world spirals into yet another shock?

Whether it's climate change, fascism, war, pandemic... we can all see that things are unravelling.

With the worsening trajectory of climate disaster and lashings of knuckle-dragging fascist-adjacent race patriotism, there is no longer a 'normal' to return to.

Doesn't matter if it's fuel crisis, floods, social breakdown, mad inflation, or psychopathic war criminals waging genocides and wars, the basic infrastructure a community needs to survive is similar, and housing and food are at the centre of it.

Which brings me to the inspiring heritage fruit forest that is currently being unofficially bequeathed to future generations by the departing long-term residents of the flood zone.

Though we faced more floods than most people even noticed, and over many generations, floodies thrived, and planted gardens and grew families for generations.

People accepted buy-backs in the hope of escaping the pace of climate-fuelled flood catastrophes, but that does not mean we should accept the NSW government clear-felling our former homes and orchards.

It is insanity that the houses are being reduced to skip bin rubble by the inaptly named Reconstruction Authority. Beautiful old Big Scrub timbers, leadlight windows, seasoned hardwood members, all of it just treated just like a McDonalds wrapper in the wheely bin.

But beyond the houses, there's the magnificent community fruit forest; a collective, if unintentional resource, a diverse, established resilient fruit (and native tree) forest.

In these unstable times, it's community resilience that

keeps us safe, not our weekly pay packet and its dwindling purchasing power at a supermarket. It's how we as a community survive what we know are challenging times ahead.

There are hundreds of mature, productive and beautiful fruit trees across the former gardens and backyards of the flood zone. Fresh, spray-free, and unaffected by transport costs.

Every one of these fruit trees is not only a resilience resource, it also has a history. Someone planted that tree, maybe decades or more ago. Someone was patient enough and generous enough to plant something for future generations.

Recently, despite all the fine sounding words and reassurances, contractors employed by the Reconstruction Authority have been demolishing not only homes but also pointlessly destroying fruit trees.

Residents and former residents have been arguing ever since the buy-back scheme began that the former backyards should be managed as a community fruit forest (together with the native plantings) but are tired of the bureaucratic war of attrition, fine reassurances followed by intensified 'destroy and deny' policies.

So rather than succumb, residents and former residents are forming a volunteer citizen science team to locate, mark and label, and digitally map the heritage fruit forest of the flood zone. It's like trying to save a library, we have to know what's there to prevent its destruction.

We have to make it 100% clear that the community wants this shared resource protected and drop the proof on contractors, public works department or our local state member. This heritage forest must be the table of the power holders so they can't say they didn't know.

As well as digitally mapping the heritage fruit



by Aidan Ricketts

forest, individual trees are being physically tagged with their common names. There will be no excuse for bureaucrats or contractors. These trees need to be protected now, with strong mandatory protocols.

Of course, the native trees need protecting too and there are people also attending to the much larger task of mapping those.

I lived in Vanuatu for over half a decade, and one of the important things I noticed was how native rainforest and local indigenous fruit propagation had produced a living forest where the rainforest would be punctuated by mango trees, coconuts and other fruit species.

The idea that a heritage fruit forest can grow native and fruit together as a living record of the dreams, aspirations and hard work of former occupants deserves respect.

Much like how the concept of 'pristine wilderness' often insults indigenous communities because of its implicit denial of long sustained human integration in the eco system, the Lismore heritage fruit forest can maybe help us understand how feeding the current population in crisis can sit very neatly with much-needed regeneration of native forest over the flood zone.

So, power to the Green Hornets who are swarming to the defence of our community's shared resilience asset. Let's push the government and bureaucrats hard to honour the vision, toil and forward sightedness of generations of flood zone residents.

Let's not add more secondary trauma to those who have fled their homes, by also demolishing the trees they or their grandparents planted. The trees under which lie the deceased family pet, or that generations of children have excitedly clambered to eat mulberries, mandarins or collect mangoes.

It's now a resource for everyone, let's not destroy it just because it was easier and cheaper one day in May 2026 for an excavator to just clear-fell our heritage when it could, with a tiny bit of respect and foresight, be saved.

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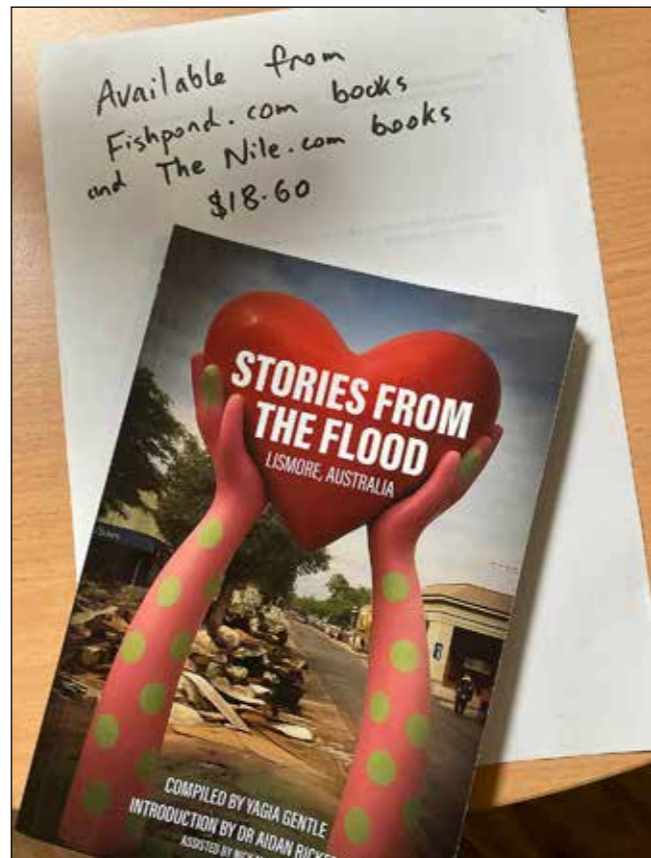
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Managing editor Bob Dooley
Assistant editor Sue Stock
Sub-editor Kirry van Vuuren
Layout Bob Dooley, Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Marty de Weerd, Neil Pike
Photographer Sue Stock
Proof-readers Sue, Lynne, Kirry, Katarina, Paul, Karen, Cath, Kerry
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The 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.

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Benefits of MardiGrass acknowledged



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

Nimbin over decades.

That mix of activism, creativity and community is what sets MardiGrass apart and continues to draw people from across Australia and beyond.

Over three days, Nimbin came alive with activity, from the iconic Kombi Konvoy rolling into town, to the Hemp Olympix, the Law Reform Rally and parade, and the Hemposium where experts, advocates and researchers shared knowledge and perspectives.

Alongside were live music, markets, workshops and performances, creating a diverse program that attracted a wide audience.

Importantly, that drawcard translates into real benefits for the local community. MardiGrass brings thousands of visitors into the region, providing a significant uplift for local businesses including cafes, retailers, accommodation providers and market stallholders. Many visitors extend their stay, exploring the wider Northern Rivers and contributing to the broader visitor

economy.

Beyond the economic impact, what stands out most is the sense of community behind it all. The energy that fuels MardiGrass does not disappear when the event ends. It carries through into the everyday life of Nimbin.

The village continues to thrive on its creativity, its openness to important conversations and the grassroots spirit that drives local activations and events throughout the year.

Council recognises how important that vibrancy is and remains committed to supporting communities like Nimbin to thrive, both culturally and economically.

Infrastructure

One of the key priorities I know is front of mind for many residents is the future of local infrastructure and road conditions, particularly on key access routes into and around Nimbin.

I am pleased to share that Council has secured \$4.86 million in funding for upgrades to the

Dunoon Road and Tweed Street corridor, an important route connecting communities across our local government area.

These works will improve safety, resilience and overall road condition and respond to long-standing community advocacy. We know there is more to do, particularly following recent weather impacts, and Council will continue to prioritise funding opportunities and advocate strongly for further investment in our road network.

Strategic planning

Another important piece of work currently underway is the development of Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement, a document that will guide how our region grows and evolves over the next 20 years.

We are now seeking community feedback, and it is an important opportunity for Nimbin residents to have their say. From housing and infrastructure to environmental protection and maintaining the unique character of our villages, the LSPS will help shape the future direction of our region.



Manager Infrastructure Services, Alan Madden, Mayor Steve Krieg and Director Roads and Infrastructure, Fiona Keneally at the intersection of Alexandra Parade, Dunoon Road and Tweed Street, North Lismore

I strongly encourage everyone to get involved and share their thoughts via Council's Your Say page.

Nimbin continues to be a place with a strong and passionate voice. That voice is essential, not only in celebrating what makes the community special, but in shaping what comes next.

Blakebrook Quarry - the region's rubbish dump - or NOT?

Waste management can be a messy subject. Here in the Northern Rivers we have been thought and practice leaders in resource recovery and circular economy.

Unfortunately, the 2022 floods seriously impacted our community infrastructure at the Wyrallah Road Waste and Recycling Centre, and our community's commitment to a more circular economy in the 2022-2032 Waste Strategy has been de-prioritised in favour of 'cheaper' solutions.

The 2022-2032 Waste Strategy was developed with extensive community consultation between the end of 2020 and the start of 2022. It was exactly the type of community endorsed plan our local area, region and planet needed to guide the future for waste.

Fundamental to the strategy was that circular economy principles of waste avoidance is the only realistic long-term strategy for Lismore, and that we must move away from the last step of disposal as a meaningful waste management strategy.

This community-guided and endorsed strategy was approved by Council after the floods and was part of our promised recovery pathway. But through 2025 and 2026, an alternate vision was being developed by Lismore City Council. You might not have heard yet, but we are now informed that plans are well underway for the Blakebrook Quarry, on the Lismore-Nimbin Road, to become a regional landfill site with an expected lifespan of 50+ years.

A massive new landfill to receive waste from all across our region is a controversial proposal; I doubt anyone would dispute this. Waste dumps are noisy, smelly, disrupt road networks, threaten water systems, risk regenerative agriculture, waste money and continue the most unnecessary harmful unsustainable aspects of a throwaway society.

But council staff have developed this concept and presented Blakebrook as the location. Chief among the reasons for this location are the 'lower costs' and the site being off the floodplain. Blakebrook was one of 30 possible sites for analysis, and one of six sites subject to a site inspection. There is no information about the other sites.

After speaking with many in the community about this proposed development, there is genuine criticism about the development process occurring largely behind closed doors, with enforced confidentiality and there is significant concern about the merit of the development and



by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

its proposed location.

Council took the approach of not coming out earlier or consulting on other options, to spare more of the community the anxiety of thinking their local environment may become the region's rubbish dump (along with the significant and harmful impacts that brings) and because they determined other options to be less economically feasible.

While this approach is understandable, it doesn't mean it was the better approach. The single most important element of industrial developments like these, in landscapes like the Northern Rivers and in communities like ours, is social licence.

Social licence is not like development consent or an environmental protection licence, where you just pay the consultants, have a few meetings with technocrats, jump the hurdles and pay the upfront fees. At its core, it is trust, respect, genuine dialogue, listening, learning and understanding the 'real costs' of impacts.

Social licence is not transacted, given or coercively taken, it has to be earned and it is never guaranteed. Metgasco, the CSG company that had all the state and local approvals in place to develop industrial gas fields here in the Northern Rivers learnt this at Bentley.

At the first information session held recently at the Goolmangar Hall, I saw and heard people who are worried, stressed and anxious about what it would mean to turn Blakebrook Quarry into a regional rubbish landfill operation. People coming together is a wonderful thing, it is cruel that we have to do it when we have harmful things thrown at us, and we enter a space with little to no agency and trust.

Many issues, impacts, rationales and questions were discussed. There were a few overarching themes: is the vision for Lismore really as the region's waste dump? Given the landfill is only economically feasible if it becomes the region's dumping ground, doesn't that encourage more waste not

less? What kind of legacy are we seeking in a world that is choking on waste?

Why would anyone think it feasible to site a landfill that will receive some of the region's most dangerous and toxic waste products just above Terania Creek, which becomes Leicester Creek, which then flows into the Heart of Lismore and Wilson's River?

Opposition to Council's shock proposal can be seen as something to fear or to steamroll over or it can be seen for what it really is – an opportunity for us all to turn to the real solutions to waste: avoid, reduce, reuse. The illusions of convenience and low costs associated with landfills – let alone new landfills – are just that, illusions.

Landfills have a recovery and on-going impacts legacy that can last for centuries, leaching toxic products into ground and surface water when lining materials inevitably break down and allow leaks. Then there are the real costs of the absence of social licence, these can be prohibitively costly.

Most importantly, they steal investment from current and future opportunities to achieve the circular economy that all evidence says is necessary for even our short-term future health and wellbeing.

We don't have to look far to see how things are changing for the better, with vision and the courage to invest and lead. Just last month, Bega Valley Shire Council were in the national spotlight for their plan to meet waste reduction and recovery minimum standards, with a comprehensive plan to see and use waste as a resource instead of a liability, or a money-making venture for their region.

Bega is setting an example that Lismore can still be part of. We have State and Federal Governments that recognise our waste crisis, that are willing to invest in Councils that are ready for change, our elected leaders just need to reach out and grab these opportunities – it's the only way we can truly and finally deal with the mess of waste.

Perhaps the most important thing right now, is that the people who will be most impacted by this idea are really pissed off about it, and they need your help. They are building a campaign of truth, transparency and accountability.

As always with our community, we need to be there for each other, so folks if you have a vision for Lismore, that is not being the region's waste dump, now is the time to get informed and involved.

New attraction for stargazers

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

In April, I officially opened the Mallangane Observatory-Lookout, a project I have backed from the start because of its tourism potential for the Kyogle community and the broader region.

Situated on the crest of the Richmond Range, no other outlook in the world can claim this unique positioning, underneath the centre of the Milky Way.

The facility was designed by award-winning firm 'Terrior' and features a striking armillary-like sphere of galvanised steel and pre-cast concrete.

At night, the sphere locates individual stars, constellations, galactic starfields and dark nebulae while also registering satellites passing overhead. Well worth the trip.

I thank Minister for Regional New South Wales, Tara Moriarty MLC for the NSW Government's \$2.067-million investment in this \$3.33-million landmark project under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund, and I also acknowledge Kyogle Council's contribution of \$1.267 million.



Celebrating the opening of the Mallangane Observatory-Lookout. Photo: Jimmy Malecki

Local Woman of the Year

While in Mallangane, I was delighted to be able to present Mallangane resident, Susanna Freymark with the award for Lismore Local Woman of the Year. This is in recognition of her long contribution to journalism and service to her local community and the cultural life of the region.

Easier access to the pill

Women will soon be able to have the oral contraceptive pill prescribed and resupplied by your pharmacist without a consultation fee.

This means that if you choose to use this service, you can skip the GP appointment, saving money and time, freeing up more appointments for people with other health needs.

In order to provide this service, pharmacists who have already completed a graduate certificate will need to undertake a NSW specific workshop.

This is all part of the Minns Labor Government's plan to make healthcare more accessible and affordable including:

- Allowing GPs to diagnose and prescribe for ADHD so you avoid high costs and

- long specialist wait times,
- Slashing emergency department wait times for emergency patients
- Introducing the FluMIST to make flu shots more accessible for young children
- Healthdirect – free health advice from a registered nurse, on 1800-022-222. This service helps you decide if you need to visit a GP or emergency. There is also the Mental Health Hotline on 1800-011-511.

Electric vehicle strategy

The Minns Labor Government has updated its EV strategy to make the shift to EVs easier by rolling out more chargers, getting more electric trucks on the road, and training the workforce needed to safely service vehicles and chargers.

The strategy includes:

- Getting fast chargers where they're needed most – plugging blackspots in regional, remote and suburban areas.

- Installing more kerbside chargers to help EV drivers who can't charge at home.
- Getting more electric trucks on the roads, by expanding support to include small and medium sized trucks.
- Training 2,000 mechanics in regional parts of NSW to service EVs and chargers.

On the same Page



Recognising our future leaders

by Kevin Hogan MP

We had a fantastic turnout of over 300 students and families at our School Leaders Event in Lismore recently.

We were joined by Scott Jones, whose journey from growing up in the region to leading the Lismore Turf Club, and overcoming a life-threatening gas explosion in 2017, was a powerful reminder of resilience, community and not taking a single day for granted.

It's always encouraging to see so many young people stepping up into leadership roles in their schools. This event was about recognising the important role our student leaders play, and I want to thank all the

students, teachers, families and supporters who came along.

Rumble on the River Lismore

Recently, Rumble on the River was held at Lismore's new skatepark. It was fantastic to see a national skateboarding event in our region and attracting competitors and visitors from across Australia.

The competition was a pathway to Olympic qualification. It was great to see some strong local talent competing on home ground.

These events are great for our local economy, cafes, accommodation, and surrounding businesses. A wonderful use of our new skatepark. Well done everyone.



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin



nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Lismore LGA highlights

MardiGrass was such a wonderful event this year. The feeling in Nimbin was so positive and joyful, people having a great time, respectful and connected.

Good to be at the Great Green Cabaret to kick things off – thanks David Hallet, another great curated event. Congratulations to the MardiGrass organisers, especially Michael and Kathleen, for the huge effort that goes into making it happen and for respecting the locals and village.

It was great to spend time on the Greens stall, I love our people-powered party, and to attend some really insightful panels. I caught Senator David Shoebridge speaking on federal drug law reform, as well as on a panel featuring the esteemed Alex Wodak and Steve Bolt.

A separate panel with State MP's Cate Faehrmann and Sue Higginson focused on roadside drug testing. Encouragingly, it sounds like we may see some changes very soon, according to one of the LCP panellists. My personal highlight was the women's hormone health panel with Bee Mohamed, Rachel Payne, Kyla de Clifford and Mel Wenzel – inspiring women keeping a focus on women, research and the importance of a women's lens in the industry. All with incredible care!

The parade was, as always, a hoot, booked by the Nimbin Environment Centre and the Nimbin Palestine Action Group – it does not get much better. See you all next year, hopefully celebrating real law reform.

Lismore Local Planning Panel (LPP)

At the last meeting, Council approved an EOI for a community representative on the panel. I remain opposed, along with a number of other councillors, to the model; state government reforms recently imposed on councils.

This means planning decisions are removed from the local council's elected body. Planning decisions should sit with elected councillors, not state-appointed panels. Although I do not agree with all the planning decisions in the chamber, I do believe it should stay local.

Rather than a panel of three – two state-appointed and one local representative appointed through a Council EOI process; decisions are made without full local accountability. In metropolitan areas where this system has been in place for some time, there has been a higher level of court action. Councils are still the consenting authority and are therefore left carrying the legal risk, likely increased, while local accountability is reduced

There will be weekly drop-in sessions at the

Lismore Library during the exhibition, with Council staff who will be able to help you navigate the documents.

I'll also be holding three Councillor Listening Posts alongside these sessions to hear directly from the community on the following dates; 10am-12pm Monday 11th May, 12-2pm Monday 18th May and 12-2pm Monday 25th May.

It's a vital time to share and discuss Lismore LGA's future.

Blakebrook Quarry – proposed Regional Waste Facility

I remain strongly opposed. This is a water catchment in a high rainfall area and not appropriate for landfill or co-location with the quarry or asphalt plant, as they would be operating concurrently.

There are serious community concerns raised about lack of transparency, impacts to landholders, and missing information such as a proposed new haulage road map that has reportedly not been released to the full community, as well as impacts to the local koala population.

Community meetings are happening every Wednesday, 5pm at Goolmangar Hall – they are open to all community members and councillors to attend.

Lismore Strategic Planning Framework

Council's long-term Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) planning for growth is now on exhibition.

Around 750 pages covering the LSPS, Employment Strategy, Biodiversity Management Strategy, Resilience and Adaptation Strategy (you'd be forgiven for thinking climate got left out of the title), and Rural Land Use Strategy.

These documents will shape the next 10 years across housing, land use, environment, jobs and infrastructure. Please take the time to read, ask questions and make a submission through Council's 'Your Say', which is open for eight weeks.

There will be weekly drop-in sessions at the



Council notebook
by Cr Virginia Waters
Lismore City Council

Advisory groups

I am on a number of Council's Advisory Groups and Committees, they are such an important conduit between the community and Council.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan is now on exhibition. Please go to 'Your Say' and help shape a more inclusive future for our community.

The Disability Inclusion Advisory Group has such strong advocates, including members with lived experience and supporters, working towards a more inclusive and accessible Lismore. It's always a highlight of my Council work.

The Koala Advisory Group went on a site visit to inspect fencing and wildlife crossings at Bruxner Highway corridor sites, including Durheim Road and Tatham (Tomki). We discussed wildlife strike risks, habitat protection and future works, then visited Friends of the Koala hospital and saw their incredible care in action. I think for most of us, the highlight was a joey being prepared for release. We spotted seven koalas across the day.

It was a reminder of the importance of habitat corridors and on-going regeneration, as trees age in a complex landscape.

Tree planting season

Council's Rainforest to River plantings are happening across May and June – please check out Council's website for locations and plant some trees and sedges.

A practical way to care for Country, restore habitat and connect with the community.

Happy May – a great time to get involved, speak up, and plant a tree.

Post script

Greens Bush Dance, 5.30-10pm on 13th June at Nimbin Hall, tickets available soon!


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

Congratulations Susanna Freymark
2026 Lismore Local Woman of the Year



Journalist, author and educator
In recognition of years of commitment
to telling local stories,
keeping people connected and informed
and enriching the cultural life of the
community.

Janelle Saffin MP
MEMBER FOR LISMORE
lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au
02 6621 3624 www.janellesaffin.com.au




0435 651 581 office@johnadams.com.au

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Be kind to all beings
- Richard Jones

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Walk ins welcome
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Open Wednesday til Saturday
10am - 4pm
(Sunday by app.) Find us on

Nimbin Bakery
52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread, including white
- A range of spelt breads baked daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
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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

Legends of Nimbin Volunteer Awards

The inaugural awards night was a great success and plans are already underway for next year. If you have any suggestions for fun Award categories for next year, please email them to: volunteer@nimbin.org.au

The NNIC team was thrilled to receive the Golden Gumboot Award, with the fabulous trophy made by local artist extraordinaire, Pauline Ahern, now adorning our mantelpiece.

The event was an initiative of the Nimbin Community Collective Intergacy - the next meeting of the group will be at 10am on Saturday 23rd May at Birth and Beyond. All volunteer-run organisations and groups of Nimbin are invited to attend.

Did you know?

7 Sibley Street - Sustainable Living Hub is owned and operated by NNIC. We employ the legendary Steph to activate the site and she contributes way more actual hours to the project than she is paid for.

Steph won the Special Jury Award at the Legends of Nimbin Volunteer Awards night for the volunteer nominated across the greatest number of categories (5 in all). Congratulations Steph - and thanks for all that you do for NNIC and the Nimbin community.

Neighbourhood Centre Week 11th - 16th May

Your Place to Connect Every week, more than 400,000 people across the nation walk through the doors of a neighbourhood or community centre. We are part of the biggest network of community development organisations in Australia.

Many of us have been operating for 50 years or more as grassroots organisations committed to the wellbeing of our local communities. At the



Medicinal cannabis point made at MardiGrass

core of everything we do is connecting people to one another.

NNIC is committed to addressing loneliness in our community. A report from Ending Loneliness Together shares that Australians who feel lonely are 4.6 times more likely to have depression and 4.1 times more likely to have social anxiety.

Surveys conducted by NNIC last year confirmed that this is a growing issue for our community.

If you are struggling with loneliness, reach out to us. We have lots of opportunities for you to connect in with activities, or various groups, volunteering in the community or maybe you have some ideas that would appeal to you.

You can email us at: admin@nnic.org.au or: tablia@nnic.org.au or call us on 6689-1692 or just drop in.

NNIC needs your help

Funding continues to dry up and we increasingly rely upon donations. Thanks sooooo much to everyone who donated to NNIC in the past month. We really appreciate it.

All donations, large or small make a difference to NNIC and our community. You can double your impact with a monthly donation.

We're not asking for your life savings. We're asking for:

keep the lights on (one bulb is currently flickering morse code).

So, dig deep. Or shallow. Or medium. Any donation helps. Together, we can keep Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre working for our community.

If you would like to donate, 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@nnic.org.au or drop in to ask for a tax receipt.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is committed to Cultural and Child Safety. See our website: www.nnic.org.au 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
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 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 or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, rainbrow building at Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen St www.nacrs.com.au

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

Service available 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 21st May. 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.

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

Nurse practitioner clinic

Diabetes clinics: Third Thursday of the month, next is 21st May.

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.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and syringe program is open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a community Registered Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week, free service. A registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to an emergency department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the conference room of the Nimbin MPS. New members always welcome.

NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge

Recent conflicts in other parts of the world have captured the attention of our elected leaders. Many columnists have reported their struggle to remain positive, optimistic and energised due to the parlous state of the world.

The best way to avoid becoming despondent may be to take action. We need to shift our focus to the environment.

In 2023 the people of NSW voted for a change from Coalition politics but the Minns-led ALP government has been slow to change how we do things. We have yet to prioritise ecology in land management or to protect our forests and the endangered flora and fauna.

We need enthusiasm for positive change on a continent where most change that has occurred in the past 200 years has damaged the environment. We need to work towards a sustainable future and support candidates who care in the next state election due before April 2027.

Already there is a grass-roots network of organisations both small and large with similar goals. Unhappy news that the Federal Labor government is promising to "fast-track" developments not only for housing but also for mining. The Opposition is hardly different with its new mantra: "Drill, drill, drill." (Reminds me of Trump!)

NEC continues to support the Stop Adani and the Save Wallum movements. We are also involved in Fridays4Forests and the local movement to create a new wildlife

sanctuary in the Northern Rivers region. Some NEC members are leading a citizen science effort to identify important wildlife habitats. So far, these people have not found the abundance of koalas the NSW government Koala Baseline model suggests.

Aquarius Talks

On Saturday 9th May, the Nimbin Environment Centre, combined with Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc and the Pan Community Council sponsored a one-day event. Titled 'Our Forests, Our People'.

The program in Nimbin's Town Hall followed the Aquarius Talks format of getting the community together for informal brainstorming, inspired by local luminaries such as Sean O'Shannessy, Sue Higginson, Dailan Pugh, Ian Gaillard, Hugh and Nan Nicholson. Terri Nicholson provided some inspiring songs, and so did the Blue Knob Singers, directed by Peter Walker.

The message was: "In our country we have a history of standing up for forests. Aboriginal custodians and alternative communities coming together in protection of land and life. From the spirit of the Aquarius Festival to this tipping point in time, where the last remains of shrinking forests remain under constant threat."

What can we do now? The primary course of action agreed upon was to lobby governments at all levels to preserve wildlife biodiversity hotspots starting with the Great Koala National Park (near Stop Adani) and including our local area public forests to be known as the Richmond River Koala Parks (RRKP).

Native forests logging must stop. The public is tired of subsidising the timber industry that violates all good practice and has its fines paid by us taxpayers when it breaks the rules. Timber should be plantation grown. Native forests should be supported with plenty of jobs in management for wildlife, tourism and recreation. Such protection would go a long way towards meeting the government's stated target of preserving 30% of NSW land and water in a natural state by 2030.

Water planning

NEC is auspicing community representatives working on water issues for Nimbin. The group, called Nimbin Water Collective (NWC), meets on Wednesdays 2pm at the Comskool's Green Room. The promised options discussion paper from the NSW government should be made public soon and then we'll need to comment!

And we will need to mobilise against the engineering "solution" to Lismore flooding proposed by CSIRO that would involve a monstrous amount of earth moving to create what are called "detention ponds," and a channel between Evans Head and Ballina cut to divert floodwaters out to sea... and seawater in!

Illegal blockade of Gaza

The Sumud Flotilla is sailing again, bigger than ever, because children in Gaza are being bombed and starved, while food, medicine and aid is being blocked by Israel. While a "ceasefire" in Gaza was announced months ago, the bombardment never stopped and more than 680



Palestinian people have been killed since.

The flotilla's mission is to break the naval blockade that has isolated Gaza since 2007 and deliver about 500 tonnes of critical aid including medicine, food and baby formula.

The flotilla is set to sail across the Mediterranean Sea from various ports expecting to reach Israeli patrolled waters in early/mid-May (the red zone) where previous flotillas have been intercepted and participants captured by armed Israeli military. Many hundreds of peaceful activists could be detained in acts of state-sponsored piracy.

Family of the participants and flotilla organisers are calling on Penny Wong, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to formally notify Israel that Australian citizens are aboard the flotilla and must be kept safe. Please add your voice.

The Australians aboard the Global Sumud Flotilla are: Anny Mokorow, Melbourne; Ethan Floyd, Sydney; Zack Schofield, Newcastle/Sydney; Gemma O'Toole, Melbourne; Helen O'Sullivan, Gold Coast; Violet Cocco, Melbourne; Madeline Habib, Tasmania; Surya McEwan, Brisbane; Robert Volker, Rockhampton; Sam Woripia, Watson, Brisbane; Bianca Pullman, Melbourne; Neve O'Connor, Melbourne; and two from the Northern Rivers; Juliet Lamont and

Isla Lamont.

MardiGrass

As usual, the NEC has marched in the annual MardiGrass drug law reform parade in Nimbin on the first Sunday in May. Thanks to all who made the event so colourful.

We can all do something to help preserve our marvellous planet and its complex ecosystems. Best action of all may be membership and support for the NEC, one of the longest-serving volunteer organisations in Nimbin.

NEC was nominated in the first-ever Nimbin volunteer appreciation awards in March, called Nimbin Legends. I was nominated for an individual award and so was our secretary, Triny.

Daniele Voinor walked away with the fashionista trophy, and Mark Palmer was recognised as tech wizard of the year.

AGM

We invite all members and friends to our AGM to be held Wednesday 13th May in the Green Room at the Nimbin Community Centre at 6pm, following the monthly meeting at 5pm. All welcome.

Membership can be renewed at the meeting, and only members can vote for next year's committee and officers. Refreshments follow the conclusion of the AGM.

More cows, fewer trees: What could go wrong?

by Kyogle Environment Group

It's easy to think of rampant land clearing as something that happened long ago - chainsaws and bulldozers carving up the landscape in another era. But the truth is far more confronting.

Research estimates that 29 million hectares of forests and woodlands that existed in NSW before 1750 have been destroyed - a staggering 54% of the state's original forest cover gone.

New findings released this year by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists reveal that between 2010 and 2023:

- More than 670,000 hectares of native vegetation was cleared in NSW;
- More than 33,000 hectares of riparian areas were cleared across NSW;
- More than 700 species listed as threatened or migratory under national environment law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, are likely to have occurred in the areas now cleared;
- For at least 12 threatened species, more than 5% of their total mapped NSW habitat is likely to have been destroyed. These aren't abstract numbers. They represent ecosystems unravelling - and with them, the future of species that depend on them.

Data from the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLAT) consistently shows that agriculture is the primary driver of canopy loss in NSW, with livestock grazing responsible for around half of that clearing.

That means millions of trees gone, along with the ecological communities, biodiversity, and riparian systems they support.

At the same time, beef production contributes significantly to climate change, accounting for nearly one third of Australia's reportable methane emissions through enteric fermentation and manure.

More cleared land. More cattle. Fewer trees. Hardly sounds like a nature positive. Becoming a vegetarian is looking good!

At the intersection of land use and conservation sits the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* - Australia's key piece of national environmental legislation. Recent reforms have sharpened its reach.

Since 1st December 2025, clearing vegetation that is at least 15 years old - where it involves a matter of national environmental significance - is now a strict liability offence.

In plain terms: not knowing the law, or misunderstanding it, is no defence. For example, if clearing has a real chance of significantly impacting an endangered species like the koala, including reducing habitat or fragmenting populations, a federal referral is required.

But here's the problem: many landholders don't know this. Some report being told by State agencies that no further approvals are needed - advice that can be incomplete or misleading when federal obligations still apply.

Even when breaches occur, enforcement is often light-touch - education, warning letters, or negotiated outcomes - with



prosecution rare.

While reforming the law is an improvement, laws alone don't protect forests.

Without clear, consistent guidance and proactive outreach, well-meaning landholders can find themselves on the wrong side of complex regulations - and ecosystems continue to be lost in the process.

The Albanese Government can update legislation and refresh departmental websites, but expecting compliance through osmosis is not a strategy. This is ultimately a question of priorities. Do we continue clearing land for short-term gain, while pushing species closer to extinction and weakening the systems that sustain us?

Or do we recognise that forests are not just scenery - they are infrastructure: filtering water, stabilising soils, storing carbon, and sustaining life.



Real protection will require more than policy reform. It demands collaboration across all levels of government, clear communication with landholders, and a genuine commitment to ending avoidable habitat destruction.

Because once the trees are gone, they are not easily replaced. And neither are the species that depend on them. We must avoid the path to extinction.

The choice is still ours - but the window to act is narrowing.

KEG will be showing the film 'Run for Country', with guest speakers on Wednesday 20th May at 12.30pm at KMI Supper Room. It is a powerful documentary that tells the story of communities standing together to protect one of Australia's most significant inland forests - the Pilliga - and the devastating impact coal seam gas has and will continue to have on Gomeri Country if the Narrabri Gas Project goes ahead.