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As climate change accelerates, Expect more weird weather



The violent storms that have lashed the region in the past weeks may become a regular feature, according to CSIRO climatologists. Warnings of the increased incidence of extreme weather events around the planet were contained in the report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as a result of increasing world levels of greenhouse gas emissions. The super-cells and tornados that devastated Lismore and Dunoon during October are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology to continue through to March next year. However, Nationals candidate for Page, Chris Gulaptis told representatives of the Climate Action Network that climate change is not an issue for the people of the northern rivers.

Concern. This low pressure cell (above), photographed from Mount Nardi by Sue Stock on 30th October, dissipated, unlike the devastating storm (below) that hit Lismore on 9th October, snapped by Pam Bourne at Modanville.



Democrats make Nimbin skatepark an election issue

The Australian Democrats candidate for the seat of Richmond, Scott Sledge has identified the Nimbin skatepark as an example of inadequate government funding for community facilities in rural areas, and has promised to do something about it. "If elected I will use the opportunities available to an MP to get funding to finish the skate park in Nimbin," he said. Sledge challenged the other candidates for the seat of Richmond to make a similar commitment. Sledge has had a long-term involvement with the area since he bought land at Lillian Rock in 1979, was very active in fund-raising to buy the old school and turn it into the Nimbin Community Centre,

serving on its management committee for most of the last 10 years. He has addressed Lismore Council on the need for more public funding and been sometimes disappointed that governments at all levels rarely deliver. "To get facilities that other communities take for granted, Nimbin has to struggle," he said. "Not many communities are required to fund-raise to buy their own swimming pools or community centres as Nimbin has done." Sledge said that all levels of government seemed reluctant to commit funds for Nimbin. "During elections candidates routinely promise to help local causes," Sledge said. "The Prime Minister recently announced \$10

million Federal grant to build a rugby league Hall of Fame. Where's Nimbin's \$10 million?" "The people in and around Nimbin pay taxes and don't seem to get their fair share of public amenities. Maybe we can use this Federal election campaign to remedy this situation," he said. Nimbin's skate park cannot be opened without satisfactory noise abatement, estimated to cost up to \$200,000. "I'd like to see this project get funding support, no matter who is elected to represent this area," Sledge said. "If I am elected – or even do well – the existing power elites in Canberra will certainly take notice," he said.

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Commitment. Scott Sledge (right) with members of the working party Franco Girardi (left) and Aiden Thomas at Nimbin's still unfinished skatepark.



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