

### Parking fines

I had a great Mardis Grass this year, Saturday night was fantastic and everyone seemed to be beaming with happiness. The only downer was getting booked for parking near the easterly intersection of Thorburn St and Cullen St, on Cullen St.

I've never been able to understand why this little stretch of road couldn't be parked on, as it is on the other side of the road. I went to have a closer look at the sign and to my amazement found that the sign had been tampered with and plastic sticker arrows placed over the ends of the white single ended arrow to show no parking in either direction.

I pointed this out to the policeman who issued the ticket and got the predictably unsympathetic response, "That's how they make 'em in the factory," he told me. Unconvinced, I went to see if I could find another like it in the village. None. So I'm going to take it to court and get some satisfaction.

I'd encourage anyone who has EVER been fined there to stay tuned in because you



### Signs of age

Nimbin's murals are still amazing to look at from street level, but up close it is clear that they are in very poor condition, badly weathered on a disintegrating surface. The Murals sub-committee of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has been pro-active in trying to find a way to preserve and restore the murals, for their high cultural value. They have been calling for donations throughout the community for the upkeep of the murals, and have now developed a draft Strategic Plan, which is available for public comment (see details in Chamber Chat, page 6). Photo: Thorsten Jones

may be due for a nice little refund (+ interest??)

Stuart McConville  
Barkers Vale

### Damage control

I am writing to express my anger and utter contempt for Jennifer Bongiorno for the letter published in the warm afterglow of the recent Mardi Grass. Her

comments, despite being absolutely on the money were cruel and heartless.

She should have reminded herself of the great quote, "I will not engage in a battle of wits with an unarmed person", but in this case she took on an entire embassy. Some, despite claiming to represent peace, love and dope, are now glaring through their ganga-induced fog with hate at Ms Bongiorno.

I am very upset at her decision to throw caution to the wind and press the send button on her computer at the end of a long sleepless night of terminal insomnia, and go for the jugular of lesser beings. Despite the fact that I accept her claim to be the true, authentic Mayoress {charismatic leader} of Nimbin, I feel she has abused her power on this occasion.

It was unwise of this year's organisers to ignore her list of demands that would have kept her quiet and happy. Her modest request of insisting to lead the Sunday parade on a palanquin carried by the Naked Nim FM Friday morning Hemp hour crew was reasonable and easily achievable.

Demanding to walk away with this year's Cannabis

Cup despite only offering a mouldy bud in a matchbox, a demand that was totally outrageous, was an issue that could have been negotiated peacefully without handcuffs; a humiliation she suffered at the Town Hall gig on Sunday night.

Despite the unpleasant broadside from Ms Bongiorno, some meaningful and passionate analysis may be generated to ensure that Nimbin remains relevant and at the cutting edge of alternate culture. Remember, a rainbow has many colours, not just green.

Mark Jago  
Rock Valley

### Bogan hippy

Good to see some of your readers giving Mr Balderstone the comeuppance he deserves (NGT Letters February 11 and replies March 11).

I have never been able to understand how a town seeped (*sic*) in the traditions of the counterculture movement would allow itself to be stolen by this egotistical media tart. All the good intentions and philosophies have been drowned in a sea of self-absorbed hedonism.

Marijuana is often called 'dope' for good reason, and it has certainly made Nimbin look dopey... and (with Balderstone's help) created a new stereotype: the bogan hippy!

Ian Dutton  
Uki

### War memorial

Thank you to everyone who helped on Nimbin's



ANZAC Day observance this year, as well as those visitors and locals who took the time to be part of the commemorative services. Though the numbers in the parade are decreasing each year, the attendance by all was an overwhelming experience.

Thanks must also go to the staff and students of the Nimbin Central School for their participation and the very moving service at the school held on the Friday after Anzac Day. Thank you everybody.

However, I am utterly dismayed by the disrespect shown by the authorities at MardiGrass using the monument to lean and sit on, not six days after ANZAC Day! and to those who used the monument as a "prop" for their demonstration, how dare you desecrate this site. The peace you take advantage of to protest, was tempered and won with the blood those who fought and lost their lives in the name of peace.

It is a federal offence to desecrate a War Memorial, and strong penalties exist.

Paul Le Bars  
Nimbin

## Notices

### To let

3 Bedroom house, timber floors, gas stove, air con, ceiling fans, sep bath and toilet, SLUG, verandahs, rear lane access, lawn and garden maintenance included \$330 pw. Phone Michelle or Stacy, on 6621-3900.

### SLAA

From the start of June, SLAA meetings will begin at the Rainbow Temple, Rose Road, Rosebank on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8pm.

### Lost mate

I have been trying to make contact with an old school friend from Melbourne who moved to Nimbin for an alternative lifestyle back in 1973. His name is Kim Amos, and I understand he bought a property in the hills around Nimbin with his brother John. His parents were Frank and Joy Amos. I invite Kim and John Amos to make contact - Peter Newman 0408-008-743, email [pln@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pln@optusnet.com.au)

### Hemp funeral services

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Enquiries: 6688-6433

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[www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)

NGT is auspiced by the  
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Co-operative Ltd.

**Next deadline:**  
**Wednesday 29th June**

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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# From the Mayor's desk



by Jenny Dowell  
Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au

### New general manager

Mr Gary Murphy will be Lismore City Council's new general manager, succeeding Paul O'Sullivan who retires on June 30. The appointment follows a thorough recruitment process that resulted in 44 applications, interviews of shortlisted candidates by a recruitment panel and a final interview of two candidates by the whole Council.

Gary has an extensive background in local government in New Zealand and South Africa and in the private sector. He comes to Lismore from his position as Chief Executive of Buller District Council in New Zealand, a position he has held since November 2003.

Gary has a strong reputation for community development, is regionally focused and has solid commercial and marketing skills with an emphasis on sustainability. His staff leadership skills are also highly regarded.

He, a Chartered Professional Engineer with postgraduate qualifications in civil engineering, is 44 years old and looking forward to moving to Lismore with his wife Michelle and their school-aged daughter. The couple's other daughter will remain in New Zealand where she is a university student.

The Murphys spent a week in and around Lismore, including a trip to Nimbin. Gary will commence his new role on August 1, 2011. Our Finance Manager Rino Santin has been appointed Acting General Manager after Paul O'Sullivan retires until Gary starts.

Readers can be assured that the work of Council will continue smoothly throughout the changeover in General Managers.

### Council meeting

The May Council meeting was the shortest I can recall. Business concluded by 8.20pm and there were several comments about the surprise of family members when we arrived home unexpectedly early.

One of the decisions of the evening was Council's approval for a two year trial for the Night Owl

convenience store to open 24 hours on Friday and Saturday nights and up to five public holidays per year.

There was some concern from local Police on the possibility of anti-social and alcohol related violence as a result of patrons lingering in the CBD after they leave licensed venues but Council determined that, because three other food businesses are permitted to trade 24 hours, NightOwl, with its excellent security systems should be permitted to do so.

If readers would like to check other matters on the agenda, please access the Business Paper and the Minutes on the website.

### Champions Quarry

The Land and Environment Court announced on May 12 that it had dismissed the appeal by Champion's Quarry at Tucki for an expansion of its operations.

Readers may recall that Council refused the application for expansion in February 2009. The proposal would have quadrupled the extraction of sandstone from the quarry and Council felt that the resulting costs for impacts on our roads and the negative impacts on the amenity of surrounding properties were just two of the grounds for refusal. Following that refusal, Mr Champion chose to defend its position.

Unfortunately the year-long case has cost Lismore ratepayers about \$1.3 million, money that could well have been spent on delivery of services to our community. Mr Champion has 28 days in which to appeal the ruling and he also has a Part 3A application before the Minister for Planning.

### Roads

A considerable length of Blue Knob Road has reached the end of its life and requires reconstruction. Funds are not available to undertake all of the reconstruction required but several sections will receive attention.

A 1.4km section north of Symonds Road is scheduled for reconstruction in July. RTA funding has been confirmed and Council's 50% contribution is currently going through the 2011/12 budget process. Council has also applied for flood damage funding for a section of road near Noble Road. The success of this application will not be known before July.

A further section north of Blade Road, 0.6km in length, is scheduled for reconstruction in 2013/14.

Although these projects cover the worst sections of Blue Knob Road, there is little additional maintenance funding over the next four years. Historically regional roads, also known as main roads,

were the State Government's responsibility. Over time responsibility has evolved back to Local Government. Currently the RTA makes a contribution toward maintaining these roads and Council matches the funding.

Funds from the RTA for reconstruction or rebuilding of roads are limited and are allocated on a competitive basis across 12 Councils between Port Macquarie and Tweed Heads. Councils are responsible to match the RTA contribution for reconstruction works. For the past eight years Lismore City Council has obtained the maximum funds available for reconstruction works but even under these arrangements we have difficulty funding necessary works on Blue Knob Road.

When a road reaches the end of its life it becomes very expensive to maintain. Up to 20% of the reconstruction cost can be expended on maintenance works

on an annual basis; therefore after five years of extensive maintenance repairs, the road could have been reconstructed. Such are the challenges facing Council.

### Budget

The draft 2011-2012 Operational Plan, Budget and Fees and Charges is on public exhibition until Friday June 17. Given the constraints of the budget, 2.8% rate-pegging and the number of competing requests from the community, Council has done a good and fair job in bringing in a balanced budget for the year ahead. Fortunately, the community is well aware that all Councils have severe financial constraints so there were only 35 public submissions received.

Submissions for Nimbin works that are included in the draft budget include \$115,000 for Cullen St drainage, \$3,100 from the Business rate to go to the Chamber of Commerce, and \$300,000 for the redevelopment of the Waste

Transfer Station.

Submissions that are not included in the draft budget include \$35,000 for under awning lighting, \$25,000 for lighting of the blister, \$2,500 for a lighting assessment, \$25,000 for pedestrian crossing lighting, \$20,000 for Nimbin Caravan Park budget, \$40,000 for a driveway to the pool and caravan park and \$70,000 for the rehabilitation of the old skate park site.

Readers can provide further input prior to Council determining the final budget on June 21.

### Lismore Housing Strategy

Council is examining housing needs in our suburbs, villages and rural areas to consider affordability and where future housing should be built. Surveys will be sent to randomly selected households, but all residents are invited to participate in the on-line survey at Have Your Say on [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300-878-387 to request a hard copy.

## Simon says...



by Simon Clough  
Deputy Mayor of Lismore

Autumn is developing a bit of bite. I've had to resort to arm warmers while cycling.

Thinking of cycling, earlier this month local cyclists had a bloody weekend. Returning from a social ride with about 7 others I was one of 4 who piled up on V who went down travelling at about 35 kph. Bikes and bodies went everywhere we had to stop the traffic and call an ambulance. V was our main casualty. She had deep gashes in both knees and was in shock. On the same weekend another friend rode into the back of her husband's bike, came off and had significant concussion and another friend got caught in a crack on the Ballina ferry. He came off too hitting his head on a pole requiring 12 stitches above his eyebrow!

I have to say none of the above accidents involved potholes. Road conditions

at the moment are causing a lot of anxiety. Council staff, say they're the worst in 10 years. Thank you La Nina, which has apparently come to an end. I think there are a number of "facts" we have to bear in mind about the roads

- We have very poor soils and weather for road building,
- We will always have limited funds, even if we do nothing else but roads and rubbish,
- Short of using helicopters Council will always be ripping up roads with heavy trucks while repairing them. What to do? Council at my instigation has carried out a review of the Infrastructure Section. There are some 68 recommendations that need to be implemented, which should see some significant improvements. But, as a dear friend of mine said "When the going gets tough the tough get creative". I believe one of the keys to using our road resources more effectively is better communication with road users:

Road users often point out Council "fixes" the wrong piece of road. Locals know which bits of road will remain drivable and which will be a disaster and apparently

Council is very good at doing the drivable bits. We need to have a brief and effective consultation process with local road users when money is allocated to a road to establish the priority bits.

- Pothole reporting needs to become a new art form and thank you Peter, for your helpful and amazing road artwork featuring potholes. I believe that with smart phones (if you have coverage) you can take GPS co-ordinates of dangerous potholes and report them to Council for repair.

I also believe we need to find ways for community involvement in road repair. Many years ago when we lived near Terania Creek Road (known locally as pothole central) we organised Council to drop off road base at strategic points along the 15k road. It took the community less than a day armed with tractors, trucks and various hand tools to do a very adequate repair job on the road and clean the drains! Needless to say we had a shared lunch and a few drinks afterwards. It was great for community spirit. Unfortunately now that we are all so scared of insurance and litigation it may not happen.

But we do have to find a way through, because the current system is not working.

In the longer term we

will need to rationalise road transport. CSIRO predicts petrol could be as high as \$8 per litre in 7 years. This will not only impact vehicles but will have a major impact on the price of bitumen which is a petroleum product and a major element in road construction. I'm convinced Council needs to develop a plan to protect the community from the impact of oil shortages and significant price rises.

It was reassuring to see that Council was successful in the Land and Environment Court in the Champions Quarry case. Staff believe that Council costs would have been cut by about a third if Mr Champion had allowed the court to consider and determine the original application that Council considered in February 2009, instead of continually trying to change the proposal throughout the case.

I believe that Councillors' decision to stand up for the local community has been justified by the court's decision. The next move is up to Mr Champion in terms of a possible appeal and there is still an application under part 3A of the Act to be processed. So watch this space....

Contact Simon at [simondclough@internode.on.net](mailto:simondclough@internode.on.net) or by phoning 6624-2894

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# A win for North Coast despite tough budget

by Justine Elliot. MP

The Gillard Government's 2011-12 Budget will strengthen Australia's economy, creating jobs and opportunities on the ground in Richmond.

This is a responsible Budget that will get more Australians in jobs and spread the benefits of the mining boom.

This Budget will drive opportunities for families and young people in Richmond by investing in training, education and job creation.

The Budget recognises that training a bigger workforce is vital for the strength of our economy and the living standards of our community. For example, a \$1700 Trades Apprentice Income Bonus will be provided to up to 2510 apprentices in Richmond to encourage them to complete their critical trade qualifications.

I've always been someone who works to get the best deal for our local area. Although a tough budget in some respects, it still delivers quite a bit for our community.

Some benefits for locals include:



Member for Richmond  
107 Minjungbal Drive  
Tweed Heads South  
Phone 1300-720-675

- 5400 local families in Richmond could be eligible for an extra \$4200 per child aged between 16 and 19 years under significant changes to family tax benefit.
- The Education Tax Refund will also be extended to school uniforms to help education costs,

increasing the Government's investment by \$460 million.

- Payment advances of up to \$1000 will be provided to meet unexpected family expenses, and give parents the choice to receive child support fortnightly.

Bringing the Budget back to black in 2012/13 is a significant achievement. While many countries around the world are still struggling to pick themselves up from the Global Financial Crisis, Australia's economy is strong and unemployment is low.

Make no mistake; we would not be back in black by 2012/13 if it weren't for this Labor Government saving Australia from recession during the Global Financial Crisis.

In stark contrast to the 30 million jobs that were lost across the globe during in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis, 750,000 more Australians are in jobs today than when the Government took office.

The 2011/12 Budget further builds on Australia's strong economic record, with a continued focus on jobs, skills and opportunities.



## Government files case against Japanese whaling in the International Court of Justice

The Australian Government has filed its written submission in the Whaling Case against Japan at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

"The filing of the Memorial is the next step in the case to stop Japan's Southern Ocean whaling program for good," Justine Elliott said.

The Australian Government believes Japan's whaling activities are contrary to its international obligations particularly the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

Despite Australia repeatedly calling on Japan to cease its illegal whaling activities, Japan has refused to do so. That is why the Australian Government has taken this case in the International Court of Justice.

"The decision to commence proceedings was not taken lightly.

The Government disagrees with Japan's decision to continue whaling and this is the proper way to settle these legal differences," Justine said.

Australia will argue that Japan is in breach of the general prohibition under the Convention on commercial whaling and the prohibition on such whaling in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

Japan has sought to rely on an exception to the Convention concerning whaling 'for purposes of scientific research'.

The Government believes the whaling carried out by Japan is commercial, not scientific, and does not fall within that narrow exception.

The decision to take legal action demonstrates the Government's commitment to do what it takes to end whaling globally.



In May, Janelle announced an extra \$1 million in Federal Government funding for the Our House cancer patient accommodation project opposite Lismore Base Hospital. Janelle is pictured with (left to right) Dr Chris Ingall, Chair of Northern Rivers Community Cancer Foundation; Suzette Pearce, Vice-Chair of Our Kids; Rebekka Battista, Secretary/Director of Our Kids; and Malcolm Marshall, Patron of Our Kids.

### Child Care

From July, local families will be able to choose to have their Child Care Rebate paid fortnightly, and in many cases, weekly, following the passage of the Government's legislation on the child care rebate.

This means parents won't have to wait until the end of the quarter to receive their payments, which will help them pay for their childcare costs as they arise.

The Government has listened to parents about what would work best for them, and as a result of our legislation, families will have more choice than ever before in how and when they receive child care assistance.

### Mortgage Exit Fee Ban

The Gillard Government's ban on mortgage exit fees passed into law in March and will apply to all new home loans from 1st July this year.

The ban will help boost competition in the home loan market over time, by giving consumers greater freedom to walk down the road if their bank isn't doing the right thing by them.

This builds on the Government's existing

reform giving ASIC the power to pursue banks over unfair exit fees on both new and existing mortgages.

### Removing Red Tape

And there is good news for Australian builders and plumbers with the new National Construction Code to be rolled out in May.

This means for the first time Australia will have one set of building and plumbing regulations, giving consistency across the country.

This will reduce red tape and lead to multi-million dollar savings for the construction industry and the economy.

### Human Rights

The Australian Government is continuing its practical action in supporting and protecting human rights, through the Human Rights Framework Education Grants.

These grants provide funding for education campaigns that promote greater understanding within our communities.

In the local community we have a number of social justice groups including school and church groups, that do good work to

promote human rights and I encourage them to apply for funding.

Last year funding was provided for projects including education campaigns, online resources and interactive games for children and young people highlighting human rights and responsibilities.

A stronger understanding of human rights is fundamental to maintaining a safe and tolerant society.

While we enjoy rights like privacy, health, not having to incriminate oneself, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, it's important to remember that some within our community have experienced life where these rights are not respected.

There are many others worldwide seeking to join communities where these rights are automatic.

Information is available from [www.ag.gov.au/hrgrants](http://www.ag.gov.au/hrgrants) Applications close on 19th May.

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by Janelle Saffin, MP

There's a lot of speculation at the moment on what may or may not be in the Federal Budget.

We will have to wait until next month for those details, but in the meantime I can let you know about some welcome Government reforms that are now in place.

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# STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

## Unda bin Rabbiting

by Undacuvva

The Polites have completely embarrassed the Force with the hemp rope victory at Mardigrass. The YouTube clip has done the rounds of Oz police stations and guaranteed you won't win next year! And you won't win the weed wrestling they have in mind either ...

Almost unbelievably, I couldn't be at the big weekend, sidelined by a computer glitch.

We were laying around the front of the cave with the weed safely packed away when they arrived by chopper, and out of nowhere. The choppers fly over regularly on their way to Brissie or the Goldie, but suddenly this one dropped out of the sky right onto us. Never believe they can't find you when they really want to.

The near-naked girls fled into the bush and back towards the camp and their children. I scarcely moved as big black ants poured out of the chopper and down the rope.

"You must come now," was all the first man said. I knew better than to argue.

Back at Unda HQ no one was listening, and I couldn't stop thinking about how my cover with the Pipe Tribe was blown. All that beautiful weed I'd never get to smoke.

Turns out they wanted a symbolic Aussie in a UN assault team for a mission so special no-one knew what it was. And how was I picked? It was all done by computer apparently.

It was a combination of my expertise on weed, my experience with rabbits and (wait for it) the "bin" in the word "Nimbin". Stupid or too clever for themselves, computers. Added to that were the years I'd spent hashish training in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and my Unda experience with bearded hippies who they've started to call "mini-talib's" in their training manuals.

Who would have known the Bearded Bin was a rabbit lover. His compound was full of them, sent in by supporting Sheiks, all varieties and colours, in cages stacked six high. Apparently it was his favourite tucker in the sustainable fortress where he'd been



holed-up for years.

The Yanks had found his hideout months ago and introduced myxo into his rabbits in an effort to draw out their most wanted man, and that's where I came in. The Aussie rabbit expert I wasn't, but it was an easy Unda role for me to play.

He had superb rabbits and I did what I could for them – but what can you do with myxo? I'd tried every trick on the net and made no difference.

Then one morning by chance I was smoking the workers' hooker with the kitchen hands and we noticed a big old breeding rabbit sucking it in. He was clearly looking for the smoke so we gave it to him, all over his face, up his nostrils, down his ears, all over. The

next morning he could clearly see and came looking for it, and we did it again. Within three days his eyes were clear!

The Big Bin himself came down the next day to see for himself if it was true. There we were, surrounded by rabbits like an Aussie waterhole in summer, smoking the best hash on the planet. All the windows were closed so we were locked in with the rabbits and dense smoke. I could hardly see Bin, and it was surreal talking to such an important pair of sunglasses over a beard looming out of the smoke, but the voice was unmistakable. He handed over a lump of black Afghani which turned my brain into a blue sky for the rest of the week.

When the yanks found out hash was fixing the myxo I got pulled out of the job quickly, with a lot of sideways looks. I know no more about the rest than what appeared in the papers, but I can't help wondering what happened to the rabbit collection.

Back in Oz I'm on the trail of the CFIB, the Carbon Farming Initiative Bill. The Government is genuinely concerned the hippies are going to send them broke when their claims come in for all the trees they've let grow when the cows got shown the front door decades ago.

So far my research looks like their fears may be well-founded. Now they're thinking about a retraction, like they had to do on the solar payments. Slowly drowning in their own shit – just like the hippies kept telling me they would.

## Germany's unlikely champion of a radical green energy path

by Christian Schwägerl

German Chancellor Angela Merkel (pictured) is anything but a left-wing greenie. Her coalition government is decidedly pro-business. Often described as Europe's most powerful politician, Merkel's top priority is job creation and economic growth.

Yet if the Chancellor succeeds with her new energy policy, she will become the first leader to transform an industrialized nation from nuclear and fossil fuel energy to renewable power.

In mid-March, Merkel stunned the German public and other governments by announcing an accelerated phasing out of all 17 German nuclear reactors as an immediate reaction to the Fukushima disaster in Japan. The Chancellor now says she wants to slash the use of coal, speed up approvals for renewable energy investments, and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions drastically.

That means that the 81 million Germans living between the North Sea and the Alps are supposed to cover their huge energy needs from wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass within a few

decades. Indeed, by 2030 green electricity could be the dominant source of power for German factories and households.

"We want to end the use of nuclear energy and reach the age of renewable energy as fast as possible," Merkel said.

Merkel's administration plans to shut down the nuclear reactors — which in recent years reliably provided up to a quarter of Germany's huge needs as baseload electricity — by 2022 at the latest. It wants to double the share of renewable energy to 35% of consumption in 2020, 50% in 2030, 65% in 2040, and more than 80% in 2050. At the same time, the chancellor vows to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (compared to 1990 levels) by 40% in 2020, by 55% in 2030, and by more than 80% in 2050.

That makes Germany the world's most important laboratory of "green growth." No other country belonging to the G20 club of economic powers has a comparable agenda. Germany is Europe's largest economy. Making such a country a renewable powerhouse would transform it into the undisputed mecca for everyone on the planet concerned with the environment and green-tech



business.

Clearly, Angela Merkel has reacted to the Fukushima disaster completely differently from Barack Obama and other world leaders. In the past, Merkel too has been pro-nuclear. She was convinced that nuclear power was safe and clean, and that the Chernobyl accident was a result of Soviet inefficiency, not of the technology itself. Only last year, she fought to extend the operation time of Germany's reactors by 12 years on average, against fierce opposition from the left and environmental groups.

Then came the March disaster at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant, which made the chancellor realize that she had been terribly wrong about the probability of a nuclear catastrophe in a highly advanced nation. If this was possible, she reasoned,

something similar might happen in Germany, and as a self-described rationalist, she felt compelled to act.

"It's over," she told one of her advisers immediately after watching on TV as the roof of a Fukushima reactor blew off. "Fukushima has forever changed the way we define risk in Germany."

The new course is a huge challenge in terms of cost and feasibility. Of the current 82 gigawatts of peak demand, about half comes from coal, 23% from nuclear, 10% from natural gas, and 17% from renewables. That means three-quarters of Germany's electricity sources will have to be replaced by green technology within just a few decades, if the nuclear phase-out and the CO<sub>2</sub> goals are to be accomplished.

Germany is in a good starting position, though. Since the 1990s, the Renewable Energy Sources Act has paved the way for billions of Euros flowing to consumers and investors for green power projects. As a result, the share of renewable electricity in Germany has jumped from 5% in the 1990s to 17% today. Travelling through the country, it is easy to see signs of this change. In the north, wind

farms are now characteristic of many regions, particularly along the coastlines of the North and Baltic seas. In the south, which is richer in sunlight, photovoltaic cells cover the roofs of whole villages. The bright yellow of rapeseed is prevalent in many regions, as the plant is widely used for producing biodiesel.

Merkel's big hope for her "energy turn" is offshore wind energy. On 2nd May, Merkel proudly pressed a button at a ceremony on the Baltic Sea coast, setting in motion 21 huge offshore wind turbines 16 kilometers away at sea. Taken together, they can provide 50,000 households with renewable energy. Nothing could symbolize the new policy better than this offshore wind farm.

Merkel's big bet is that environmental technology will be one of Germany's most important sources of income. Already, the country's share in the green-tech world market is 16%, which means billions of Euros in business. Renewable energy has generated 300,000 'green collar' new jobs in the past decade.

In addition to the challenge of huge costs, a complete overhaul of the energy infrastructure is necessary. It is not enough to install wind turbines and solar panels. A new grid is needed, as are ways to store green electricity, which remains an unsolved challenge.

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# Jazz Club Notes

## Julius Hofstetter Quartet



On Sunday 19th June, the Lismore Jazz Club presents the Julius Hofstetter Quartet at the Lismore City Bowling Club, from an earlier start time of 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Admission is \$10 for members and students, and \$15 for non-members. Julius started to play recorder as a six-year-old, and switched to tenor saxophone

30 years ago. He has played in many ensembles and in many styles; he has been a member of Stipsky and The Big Band at the End of the Universe. Julius teaches at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium and conducts the Northern Rivers Youth Jazz Ensemble. For this concert he teams up with Pietro Fine on piano. Pietro has been playing modern jazz with trade and mainstream bands and makes a welcome return to the Lismore Jazz Club. Also in the band will be Mark Bromley, on bass, and young talent Ben Cox hitting the kit. Julius, Pietro and Mark have musical links going back over 20 years, and they are looking forward to playing originals, ballads and some of their favourites by Davis, Coltrane, McCoy Tyner and Keith Jarrett.

## Yeshe at Sphinx Rock

The Sphinx Rock Café, Mount Burrell, features a gig not to be missed on Sunday, June 5th. Yeshe, an internationally respected and critically acclaimed musician, has been exploring the terrain of world music since the 1970s. He has immersed himself in the world music culture, spending many years in Africa. His songs range from the gentle to the spirited,



fusing a complex percussion structure with layering of melody and lyrics. The music starts at 1pm. Licensed cafe.

## Straight from the Haight



Rainbow Region Gigs will present ‘The Songs of the Haight Ashbury’ at Stokers Siding, Dunbible Memorial Hall, on Friday the 10th July. This celebration of the music of Canned Heat, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Country Joe and the Fish, Jefferson Airplane, Joni Mitchell and others starts at 2pm. Haight-Ashbury is a street intersection in San Francisco, and a cultural icon. It was a slightly decrepit area in the 1950s, with cheap rents and a quaint bohemian ambiance. It attracted the artists of the Beat generation, such as Jack Keroauc and Allen Ginsburg, and a small artistic community began. Before long, the Haight Ashbury was a vibrant hive of cultural expression and rebellion. The famous phrase, “make love, not war” was born from this Utopian ideal. Radio embraced the psychedelic music and poetry of the Haight Ashbury and this music changed the World. Columnist, poet and comedian S Sorrensen will be the MC Ringmaster, interspersing the songs with the poetry and stories of the era. James T, who spent 10 years in Canned Heat, will play the songs he knows so well. Blues diva Lil’Fi will sing Janis Joplin with a unique authority that can only come from paying her dues and living the blues. Jonathan Harvey pays vocal tribute to Jimi Hendrix, as guitarist Pete Hurcombe plays his inspired melodies. Bill Jacobi’s well known and loved rootsy style will conjure Country Joe, Arlo Guthrie and Dylan. Songbird Andrea Soler will channel Joni Mitchell and Diana Anaid will sing Grace Slick as only one who has been down the rabbit hole can. Doors open at 1pm for a 2pm-4.30pm show. Tickets (\$20 pre-purchase) from Organic Revolution, Main St, Murwillumbah, or on the door on the day. Cakes and chai will be served. This is an all-ages event.

## Bluesvein pumps

Reviewed by Bob Dooley

It’s always exciting to see a duo morph into a band and it was no exception when *Bluesvein* decided to forsake their drum machine (sorry, percussion synthesizer) for a live drummer. Ian Rowe, guitar/vocals and Marcus Makin, keys/vocals are two of nature’s gentlemen, with a wealth of experience playing around the Northern Rivers and a versatile repertoire that they perform skillfully with great musicality. They have recently combined with drummer Sam d’Aprile for a series of gigs including Sphinx Rock Café and Nimbin Hotel because,

as Rowie said, “We thought it would be a bit more fun.” The *Bluesvein* duo were always very particular with their sound production, and the addition of Sam d’Aprile’s electronic drumkit, together with his sympatico, tastefully ornamented technique, have taken their tight, sweetly processed sound to new heights. At their outing in Nimbin it was obvious that here’s a blues band that knows what it’s doing, pumping out confident treatments of everyone’s favourite rhythm and blues tunes interspersed with tasty originals – in a blues vein, of course. They should be getting more work.



## Bring your dancin’ shoes to Billen



Meet old friends, make new ones and learn traditional bush dance at the fabulous Billen Cliffs Community Hall on Saturday 11th June. There will be food, a bonfire and outdoor entertainment from 6.30pm. With Thrillbilly Stomp (pictured) and dancing from 8pm to a midnight close. Entry is \$10, children are free (must be adult accompanied). If you have time on June 11 to lend a hand and help co-ordinate the event, please call Donny Tilbury on 6633-7153 or 0428-337-153. Free gig/food is on offer for Donny’s event team members. Find Billen Hall at the end of Martin Road in Larnook, off the Rock Valley Rd via Cawongla.

## Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

## June Gigs

Thursday 2th Friday 3th Saturday 4th Sunday 5th	<b>Khan &amp; Friends</b> <b>Bassix</b> <b>Gallie from Ireland</b> <b>Neil Anderson</b>
Thursday 9th Friday 10th Saturday 11th Sunday 12th	<b>Dan Hannaford</b> <b>The Hoochers</b> <b>Bill Jacobi</b> <b>Lissy Stanton Band</b>
Thursday 16th Friday 17th Saturday 18th Sunday 19th	<b>The Fairweather Freaks</b> <b>Papa Funk</b> <b>Robert Faric</b> <b>Compass Rose</b>
Thursday 23rd Friday 24th Saturday 25th Sunday 26th	<b>Adam Brown</b> <b>Left Lane Blues Band</b> <b>TBA</b> <b>Guy Kachel</b>

Gigs start: Thurs 6pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7pm, Sun 2.30pm

Accommodation • TAB facilities

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## Sunday Gig Guide

**1 pm Start**

**5th Yeshe**  
International muso plays World Music with Afro Beat

**12th Pacha Mamma**  
Micka pumps high energy reggae/blues/roots

**19th Snez**  
Multi-award winner delivers raw passion & soul

**26th Candice McLeod**  
Pop/folk pianist sings with hauntingly powerful voice

**3rd July Rebecca Ireland**  
Blues Fest roots singer plays acoustic guitar

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## What's On in June?

- Saturdays – Trivia Nights – 7pm – Cash Prizes**
- Sunday 12th – State of Origin Bowls – 9am**
- Sunday 19th – Burringbah Bush Ticks visit**
- Sunday 26th – Club Visit: Yamba**
- Social Bowls every Sunday**
- Courtesy Bus – Book at bar**
- Free Broadband – Over 50’s**

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Home of the 'Big Bowler'





The opening 'Of Fibre', at Blue Knob Hall Gallery on Friday 20th May, was a huge affair. Forty artists (including a few from interstate) displayed their incredible works in felt-making, basket weaving, fibre, furniture making, tapestry, wire work, knitting and crocheting.

to see just how stunning these fashion pieces are on real people! In fact, it was first in best dressed, after the show as all the garments were brought out on a rack for people to try on and buy. 'Of Fibre' will be on show until Sunday July 10th, so don't miss out on a visual feast of fibre talent.



#### Yum Cha

Continues every Saturday after the Farmer's Market. Six courses of delicious Chinese delicacies, with an endless pot of green tea for only \$15 per person. Bookings are absolutely essential - so phone the Gallery on 6689-7449 to book your place and let us know whether you have any special requirements (i.e. vegetarian or non-vegetarian etc).

#### Mahjong Club

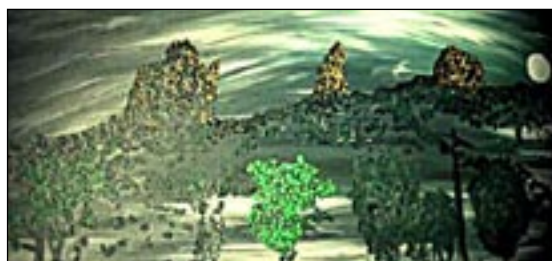
This continues on the second Sunday of each month, so bring your friends for a lovely day out on the verandah overlooking the beautiful Blue Knob Mountain. \$10 will get you a plate of yummy Chinese treats and a pot of green tea. For bookings, phone the Gallery on 6689-7449.

Featured Feltmakers: Angela Carroll, Christine Burgess, Myfanwy Stirling



Open Art Exhibition - exciting new artworks by Judy Who, Ant Art Anthony, Julie DeLorenzo - opening Friday 3rd June at 4pm until Sunday 5th June at 44 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

Touch Me  
Feel Me See Me



Works by Judy Who (left), Ant Art Anthony (below).

## RENT, ART AND AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

Nimbin Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Centre is booming - and it's largely thanks to the renewed support from Nimbin community members and businesses who have pledged their support to pay the rent at Nimbin Community Centre.

Nim-FM, Nimbin Museum, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Nimbin Apothecary, Tuntale Falls Community, Tribal Magic, Bringabong, Geneva Building, Scott Sledge, Rebecca Ryall and Nicola Garnsey have all pledged more than \$900 a month.

Not to be forgotten are those working behind the scenes to support the continued growth and development: ACE North Coast, Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council, Nimbin Rocks Project, Arts Northern Rivers, Rainbow Power Company, Nimbin Health and Welfare, and First Sun Employment Agency.

There's been a hive of activity over the past month, with the doors flung open to the intermittent sunshine and to welcome the wider community. There have been exhibitions of local Aboriginal artists, community meetings, open days with local Elders and regional Aboriginal women sharing their wisdom and understanding of Bundjalung land, and live music over Mardi Grass.

Pop in and have a look and a yarn with Gilbert, Burri or Maria, who have been the driving forces behind the revitalised centre. This is an ongoing legacy to our children. This is an ongoing legacy to the whole community, an ability to work together in making

centre staff are preparing for future training workshops and exhibitions. A project to beautify the surrounding gardens with native plants, sourced from the Nimbin Rocks Projects, is due to get underway.

With the recent dissolution of 3 Rivers Aboriginal Arts Space in Lismore, the Centre's role is central in supporting the development of regional Aboriginal artists. An official opening exhibition is being planned, dates to be announced and the Centre is seeking expressions of interest from innovative Aboriginal artists and craftspeople to be involved.

The Centre is grateful for support, and seeking further pledges from community organisations and individuals to realise its full potential.

Nimbin Community Centre will collect and manage funds and donations in a separate account held at Summerland Credit Union with the following details: Nimbin Community Centre BSB 802 222 Account No 22269889. The Nimbin Summerland Branch has all the necessary information.

Nicola Garnsey from Nimbin Community Centre (6689-0000) or Burri Jerome from the Nimbin Aboriginal Arts and Culture Centre (6689-0088) are happy to discuss this further. They are usually available on Fridays.



Artist Gilbert Laurie

Nimbin a sustainable village for all. It is a precedent for the whole of Australia, a village committed to giving voice to diversity with respect and homage to the Bundjalung people and the land in which we reside.

With the rent covered for this year, the centre can look at new ways to advance. Nimbin Community Centre has applied for several grants in the hope of improving the existing infrastructure. While waiting to hear if these grants are successful,

## The fine art of fund-finding

Arts Northern Rivers and Regional Arts NSW are presenting two funding workshops, exploring some of the major arts grants available and how to apply.

The workshops will provide an overview of funding programs, including Regional Arts NSW's Country Arts Support Program (CASP) and Regional Arts Fund (RAF), the Australia Council's Community Partnerships Fund, and some of the funding programs offered by Arts NSW.

They will also include a hands-on session, dealing with writing and assessing applications based on the Regional Arts Fund's suggested process.

The workshops will be presented by Ben Sibson (pictured), funding officer for Regional Arts NSW, who has years of experience of arts funding processes as an applicant, a member of assessment panels, and an administrator of funds.

Both sessions are free, but spaces are limited. Bookings required; email [info@artsnorthernrivers.com.au](mailto:info@artsnorthernrivers.com.au) or phone

6628-8120.

These workshops will be most beneficial to representatives from local arts organisations, but individual artists are welcome to attend.

The sessions will be held at the Brunswick Heads Community Centre, on Wednesday 22nd June, from 10am to 2pm, and at the Maclean Uniting Church Hall on June 23rd, from 10am to 2pm.



## ART AS THERAPY



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