

Launching the Nimbin web portal (left to right): Peter Wise, Nina Boddenberg, Diana Roberts and Paris Naday.

### Dob in an Artist

The new [nimbin.nsw.au](http://nimbin.nsw.au) web portal has a Nimbin Street Art Gallery, with photos of art found on and around the streets of Nimbin.

Webmaster Paris Naday needs to know who painted, sculpted or built the pieces featured in the gallery, and the titles of the works (if they have one).

Visit the gallery [www.nimbin.nsw.au/streetart](http://www.nimbin.nsw.au/streetart) and click on the comment symbols below each thumbnail picture to dob in an artist, or email Paris at: [paris.naday@gmail.com](mailto:paris.naday@gmail.com)

Stay tuned for the Nimbin Landscape Photography Competition sponsored by Nimbin Chamber of Commerce next month.

### Celebrating 25 Years

In 1987 a small group of dedicated activists formed Rainbow Power Company Ltd. with the aim to create, supply and teach sustainable means of generating electricity at a time when "renewable energy" was still a foreign word to many.

From being 'hippies in the hills' and 'energy eccentric' the Company has grown and developed to become the professional organisation it is in 2012, where 'energy-wise' is now more appropriate.

Come and celebrate with Rainbow Power Company at its open day on Saturday 1st September.

### Stress Down

Louise Cuthbertson and Vicki Hunter (pictured), from the Nimbin branch of the Summerland Credit Union took part in the annual Lifeline Stress Down Day. They raised money for Lifeline by wearing their pyjamas to work.

They wanted to thank the Nimbin Community for their generous donations to the cause.



## Protect your business with BizKeys

A recent spate of break-ins in Cullen Street has prompted the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce to remind businesses that the NSW Police BizKeys database is available in Nimbin.

At a recent meeting of the Chamber, Sergeant, Darren Wilson explained that under the system, businesses registered their key holder details with the NSW Police Bizkeys secure database in Lismore.

Should an incident, such as a smashed window, a break in, or a fire, occur at a commercial property

outside of business hours, BizKeys allows the Police to contact the appropriate person to come to the scene to make the premises secure and assist Police.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce president, Peter Wise, said the chamber has endorsed the system and was encouraging businesses to take part.

"Here's a simple way that business owners can help the Police respond quickly to any incidents," he said.

"Every business should be on the BizKeys database, in my view."

Businesses wishing to



Police investigations hit a snag: Sergeant Darren Wilson on the tongs at the Nimbin Police community BBQ in July, chatting with Museum curator Michael Balderstone.

participate in the BizKeys system can obtain the confidential information form by emailing [eugenie11@hotmail.com](mailto:eugenie11@hotmail.com)

The completed form can

be posted, faxed or dropped in at the Nimbin Police Station, 36 Cullen Street Nimbin (fax 6689-1144), or handed directly to staff at the Lismore Police Station.

## Nimbin Showtime's a-coming!



With Thomas George (centre) at the opening (L to R): A&I committee members Col, Ed, Nev, Phil, Mal, Len and Bevan

by Len Martin

Nimbin's 92nd Annual Country Show will be held Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd September.

While many other rural communities have long since lost their Agricultural Shows, Nimbin's has continued, largely because of the continuing efforts of a small group of locals committed to keep the show going.

The Nimbin A&I committee members work continuously to improve facilities, and have been much helped by three major grants, each close to \$30,000, from the NSW State Government's Community Building Partnerships Program.

Success in securing this funding is significantly dependent on the local state member's support, so it was fitting that Mr Thomas George was invited to officially open the new amenities block and refurbished Pavilion in July.

He was suitably impressed by what had been achieved at the showground, expressing his hope for its continuing success and his admiration for the team, before cutting the ribbon across the toilet entrance with a "bloody great knife" (a large carving knife from the A&I canteen).

This year's Show will feature entertaining displays including sheep shearing, guinea pigs, chooks, goats, alpacas, snakes, dogs, horses, and cattle on Saturday, along with the Blue Knob Farmers Market.

Sunday's events include the Talent Quest, dog high jump, pet show whip cracking and more horses big and small.

Entries for the pavilion section for all the artistic and creative people will be received on Friday 21st September between 7.30am and 10.30am. No late entries.

Don't forget to enter the competition to design the program cover for the 2013 show. Winner will receive \$50.



## Do you know who to vote for in the Council Elections on 8th September?

by Lydia Kindred

CAN is a not-for-profit community network, not aligned with any political parties.

In 1995 a group of concerned citizens in Byron Shire decided to assess local candidates on their commitment to environmentally sustainable decisions/developments, social cohesion, participatory democracy, a healthy, locally-based economy and maintaining ethical standards and integrity.

These citizens worked together under the banner of Community Action Network (CAN) – a not-for-profit community network that is not aligned with any political party. By making enquiries and using questionnaires, CAN then informed residents about the views of the candidates running for election. This information was disseminated through the local media, for the benefit of voters who shared the same ideals.

As a consequence of these campaigns during each election, the 'face' of Byron council has changed from an aggressively pro-development (Gold Coast) style to a more environmentally conscious council.

In 2008 the CAN process

expanded into the Lismore and Ballina Shires, helping more proactive councilors who expressed a commitment to these principles, being elected onto council.

For the coming election on 8 September CAN will again be providing a questionnaire to the top two candidates on each 'ticket', the results being published on our website.

CAN will also be holding a Meet the Candidates Forum on Wednesday 22 August at Lismore Workers Club from 6.30pm. Please come along to hear their views and ask questions.

We aspire to spread this process to all shires in NSW, so they can have the best possible councils. Locally, with more councilors ascribing to these principles, our beautiful region would remain a great place to live but could also become a model of economic, environmental and social sustainability.

So keep a look out for our ads in local papers to see which candidates CAN endorses as subscribing to these ideals, and if you do too, then you'll have a better idea of who to vote for.

See our website: <http://lismorecan.wordpress.com>

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## The Valleys Where We Live – Gasfield-free – Protected by Communities



by Len Martin

Nimbin will declare itself a CSG-Free Community in the presence of the Mayor of Lismore, Jenny Dowell in Peace Park at 2.30pm on Saturday 18th August.

By then, the Nimbin Community's survey teams will have effectively surveyed every adult resident on every road around Nimbin (43 roads and some 1400 residents so far), asking, "Do you want your road/land to be CSG free? Yes? No? Don't Know?" So far 98.9% have said Yes and 1.1% Don't Know". No one has said No.

There is massive opposition to CSG mining in our district, as has become apparent from similar surveys in neighbouring communities. With the completion of our survey, we can now declare the whole of the Nimbin Valley

Gasfield Free – Protected by Communities.

We can say the same for the main routes from Lismore to the Kyogle-Murwillumbah (K-M) road via Nimbin, viz: Terania Street in North Lismore; Nimbin Road from there to Nimbin; Nimbin's main Street (Cullen); Stoney Chute, Lillian Rock and Blue Knob Roads to their respective junctions with the K-M road in Kyogle and Tweed Shires.

All of this was achieved jointly with the communities of North Lismore, Boorie Creek, Goolmangar, Coffee Camp and Jiggi. We hope they will join us on 18th August with their road signs.

### Community rallies

Currently there is one community rally after another, in which communities are declaring themselves Gasfield Free.

Rock Valley celebrated on Saturday 21st July with Jenny Dowell. The next day, despite lousy weather, there was a great turnout for a Rocky Creek Dam spectacular organised by the Rosebank, Dorrroughby, and Whian Whian communities, which got great media coverage.

Jiggi Valley will hold theirs at the Jiggi Valley Fair, the day after ours, 19th August, at Jiggi Hall.

Everywhere in the Northern Rivers, community surveys show that opposition to CSG is massive – and the surveys continue to spread. Is it any wonder? People Power seems the only way to go for meaningful protection of our environment. Massive non-violent opposition that will make any CSG company think twice before they ravage our homelands – before they commit gross, irremediable environmental damage – and

just for a fast buck from selling off our resources to India and China.

The NSW Government seems to be blinded by the dollar signs in their eyes. Their proposed regulation of the CSG industry is a farce. It offers no real protection to our farming lands, our water or our communities. No wonder The NSW Farmers Federation is unhappy.

So, it's Rally, Rally, Rally in Nimbin on 18th August.

Register your road at [www.csgfreenorthernrivers.org](http://www.csgfreenorthernrivers.org) then download/print your road declaration to present to Jenny Dowell, and then you can have your big Gasfield Free Road sign.

The Bowlo will be there for us if it is wet, and if it's fine will be there for us for post-rally celebration. Offers of help etc to Len Martin on 6689-0254 or email: [pteropus42@smartchat.net.au](mailto:pteropus42@smartchat.net.au)

## 100% Renewables Group calls for investment in large-scale solar thermal plants

by Ivy Young

In July, two representatives of the local 100% Renewables Group met with Janelle Saffin, who applauded the effort of the 100% Renewables campaign as building renewable energy is a goal she shares, and said she would be happy to attend a Parliamentary briefing on renewable energy and power prices.

There are 2000 mega watts of coal fired power stations due to be retired this year, and the primary aim of the 100% Renewables campaign was to see this power be replaced with renewable energy, preferably concentrated solar thermal.

Janelle informed us that complex negotiations have taken place between the Government and the five generators and that the deadline for closure has had to be extended as "there are a number of commercial issues that are yet to be resolved." Whilst the Federal Government intends for these coal-fired power station to close as soon as possible, they expect it to be somewhere between 2016 and 2020.

In our meeting we called on Janelle to support the renewable power generated through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to be additional to the Renewable Energy Target, as the current target of 20% by 2020 is insufficient to address climate change,

and ought to be very easily achieved with a \$10 billion fund to support it. Janelle seemed to think that the CEFC would not be in addition to the Renewable Energy Target (RET). She did say that the CEFC will work alongside the carbon price, the Renewable Energy Target scheme and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency to drive renewable energy and clean energy investment.

The effectiveness of these measures in working together to achieve the Government's 20% renewables goal would also be relevant to the independent Climate Change Authority, and that it will be reviewing the operation of the RET scheme, and reporting back by the end of this year. Questions about the design and operation of the RET legislation should be considered in that process. We can hope that in that process the issue of whether 20% by 2020 is a sufficient goal will be addressed.

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation can work with both the Renewable Energy Target scheme and the carbon price to reduce the costs and enhance the effectiveness of both measures. By overcoming financial barriers that are inhibiting otherwise efficient investment and investing in projects that would not otherwise have gone ahead, the cost of renewable energy investment will be lowered. This would help put downward



Janelle Saffin and Ivy Young

pressure on wholesale electricity prices and renewable energy certificate prices.

She explained that the CEFC will offer various forms of assistance for solar projects, and other clean energy projects, and that access to this assistance would generally be by competitive application by groups or entities that would otherwise not have sufficient funds for their proposed project.

To sum up, while Janelle Saffin is a great supporter of renewable energy, and the Federal Government is putting in place bodies and policies to drive the renewable energy sector, what becomes of these measures will be largely up to the consumers and their pressure on the energy industry to utilise the incentives given by the Federal government.

## CSG protest at Rocky Creek dam



Mayor of Ballina Phillip Silver with Lismore Greens Cr Vanessa Ekins  
Photos: David Lowe, Leah Hobbs

Despite threatening weather, about 120 people from Dorrroughby, Whian Whian and Rosebank came to Rocky Creek Dam on Sunday 22nd July to declare their communities CSG-Free.

By doing so, they join the many local communities that have undertaken a similar pledge to protect their region. A recent road survey of residents in the area of Whian Whian, Upper Coopers Creek and Rosebank saw 97% reject CSG.

This declaration of community solidarity was made official when residents handed over a no-CSG declaration to Ballina Shire Council mayor and the chairperson of Rous Water, Philip Silver.

He was accompanied by Lismore councillors and representatives on Rous Water, Vanessa Ekins and David Yarnall. At a Rous Water meeting, David Yarnall had moved to ban coal seam gas exploration and mining on Rous land and Vanessa Ekins had amended

the motion to include all land in Rous water supply catchment. Cr Phil Silver had supported the amendment and it was passed.

Cr Ekins commented, "Being out at Rocky Creek Dam and seeing the beautiful environment really brought home the stupidity of awarding licenses to mine in water supply catchments."

"At a time when Rous Water is exploring the need for further water supplies to meet future demand, it doesn't make sense to put the water resources that we already have at risk."

Marchers were colorfully dressed and held banners with the various road names that represented which community members had surveyed.

The rally was organised by concerned residents, Georgie and George Whaley. George said, "We are being atrociously served by our leaders. It is encouraging that people from all walks of life are coming together against CSG and showing forcibly their determination to prevent it happening."

### Northern Rivers Greens Shop Launch

NSW State Greens Upper House MP's Dr John Kaye and Jeremy Buckingham will launch the Greens Lismore Council campaign and shop front on Thursday 9th August. The shop is located at 56 Magellan Street, in the heart of Lismore CBD.

John Kaye will be discussing local government initiatives in renewable energy in Australia, and Jeremy Buckingham is keen to talk about his insights from his very recent tour of the American fracking industry. The launch will precede the afternoon markets, and later, the ROCK THE GATE! film premiere at Star Court Theatre.

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## Cafe Central rocks

On the evening of Wednesday 25th July, a highly successful music / café / performance event was held in the MPU at Nimbin Central School.

Café Central saw the serving of yummy curries and pasta in a café style setting, followed by musical performances by 60-plus performers – both students and staff. These performances ranged from solo classical guitar to rock bands, choirs and hip-hop.

The evening was a great success as a fundraiser for the school, as well as a highly enjoyable social, community event. The funds will be used to acquire a drum kit and a video camera.

Principal Mary-Jane Pell said, "A huge thanks to all the parent helpers, staff and of course, our talented performers. "We look forward to future opportunities to display to all just how Nimbin Central School rocks!"



## Nimbin Spirit Dance

by Lisa Grant

I am constantly amazed at how life plays out on the dance floor. Patterns of behaviour show up to be seen and moved through. Dancing your authentic dance in spirit can reprogram these old ways if you are willing to keep moving in the face of them.

This can be uncomfortable or even emotional, but our dance floor is a safe and sacred space to explore. Letting go of all thoughts about 'shoulds' or 'coulds' has a profound effect on how we feel about ourselves.

Spirit Dance allows you to completely drop in to the sensations of your body



moving freely and to be perfect in this moment... and the next... Wherever you are at. Dance that.

Spirit dance is a movement meditation and ecstatic dance practice. An exploration into self and our connection with the divine. It is appropriate for all levels of fitness, as this is YOUR dance. There are no steps to learn. I simply provide the space for you to drop in and dance what feels good for you.

Every Tuesday 10am–12pm (school term time) and every second Saturday 2–4pm at Jarlanbah Community Centre. Cost: \$10. Drug, alcohol and child free. For more info contact Lisa on 0428-221-290.

# Enlightenment Intensives

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The Intensive is like a modern-day initiation, a journey of self-discovery that takes place with others. To be with others enquiring "Who am I?" offers potency through the group. Answering without judgement and simply stating how it is – is powerful! It leads to an unravelling of awareness, away from the habitual thinking patterns of the mind, to a state of pure being-ness and the possibility of knowing the real truth.

Enlightenment Intensives have been used since 1967, and have helped more than 100,000 people world-wide improve the quality of their lives, relationships, parenting, careers and connect with their spirituality. People attending intensives have experienced major breakthroughs, with consequent feelings of contentment, peace and freedom, clarity of attention, more energy and vitality, improvements in long standing physical conditions, and compassion for others, happiness and optimism.

Intensives are for everyday people who may or may not have used meditation or self-development practices in the past. It doesn't matter what level of experience (or none) that you may have. This is an open and pure practice of exploration for everyone seeking real authenticity from the very essence of their being. It stands free of any entangling alliances to any belief system, teachings or philosophical concepts.

Kaivalya Meru Retreat Centre at Lillian Rock is the venue for a fully inclusive, 3-Day Enlightenment Intensive – 6th-9th September, facilitated by Carmen Doyle.

Carmen has been running personal development intensives for seven years and is dedicated to understanding, revealing and living that which is true. She has a consulting practice in South Melbourne and works as a Naturopath and transpersonal counsellor. Carmen is registered with the leading Australian complementary therapy organisations ANTA and CMPAC.

Bookings are essential – there's a great special if you enrol with a friend, and an early bird price until 9th August. For more information, please visit [www.essentialdiscovery.com.au](http://www.essentialdiscovery.com.au) or phone Dana on 0428-539-232.

## Experience the magic



Experience the magic of the Rainbow Ridge Steiner School at our annual Spring Fair and Open Day.

A family fun day for everyone with a Maypole dance, children's games and crafts activities, delicious food, live local music, craft stalls with work from local artisans.

Discover Steiner Education as we open our classrooms with children's work on display, class performances and opportunities to meet the teachers.

It's happening on Saturday 1st September from 10am 'til 4pm at Rainbow Ridge Steiner School, 279 Lillian Rock Road, Lillian Rock. All Welcome.

For more information, please phone Rainbow Ridge Steiner School 02 6689-7033. [www.rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au)

## In your neighbourhood...



Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News  
Website: [www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

### 7 Sibley Street Updates

Funds raised to date: \$46,000. Many thanks to Elspeth for the sign on the fence. \$101,000 more to raise by December to avoid interest on the loan.

Are you reading this? If everyone who reads the *GoodTimes* was to put in \$100, we would easily raise the funds. You can donate funds by depositing them directly into the donations account – the account details are on our website.

The fundraising working group meets at 10.30 am every monthly Nimbin market at the rainbow seats in front of Nimbin Aged Care building (or at the Rainbow café if it's raining). To join the group contact NNIC or simply come along to the next meeting.

### Come along to the fundraising trivia night

On 17th August at Nimbin Town Hall. \$10 per head – pay on the night. Teams of 8 – who will be the champions of sustainability/eco trivia? To book a table or as an individual, contact NNIC. Email: [admin@nmic.org.au](mailto:admin@nmic.org.au)

Follow us on Community Engine – every follower attracts \$1 to a max of \$5000 (or until the funds run out). To follow us go to [www.communityengine.com](http://www.communityengine.com) and search for Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre or else go straight to us via this link: <https://communityengine.com.au> click 'follow' and it will ask you to register after which you can follow us. You can follow lots of other worthy causes there too. Funds raised will go towards the Sibley St loan.

### Nimbin Agricultural Show 22nd – 23rd September

Don't forget to Get Your Entries in for the 2012 Most Sustainable in Show exhibit category. Entries are free and close on Monday 20th August 2012. Last year's winner was Tutti Fruity Farm. Entry forms available from NNIC or our website.

And remember to save your very best produce for entry into the general exhibit categories at this year's show. Last year we saw an increase in the amount and quality of produce exhibited. Let's keep the Nimbin Show growing with even more entries this year.

### 2012 Year of the Farmer

To celebrate we are running a competition to find the Sexiest Farmer in the Nimbin bio-region (within approx 30 kms from the village). Be in the running for free family passes to the Nimbin Ag Show! Send your name, contact details and a photo of your nominee by 20th August, and explain in 500 words or less why you feel they (can be a man or woman) are Nimbin's Sexiest Farmer. Send your entries to NNIC at PO Box 20168 Nimbin 2480 or email: [admin@nmic.org.au](mailto:admin@nmic.org.au)

### NEW! Access to the grain mill

The Mill is available for community use on Saturday mornings at the Blue Knob Farmers market and NOW ALSO from Saturdays – arvos (from 2pm) – to Wednesdays (until 11 am) at Nimbin Organics, Nimbin.

### Food security meetings

Next meeting is Thursday 30th August. All meetings held at 6pm at NNIC's Elmo room. Come around the back steps and food is always welcome!

### Nimbin Soup Kitchen

Many thanks to Outward Bound for their regular donations of prepared meals for our freezer. Donations of non-perishable foods and fresh soup ingredients are always welcome and appreciated.

### NNIC wants you!

Join/Renew your membership of NNIC – Your memberships help us to attract funds which support our work in the community. Memberships are \$5.50, and fall due on 1 July each year. Membership forms available on our website or our front desk

## Nimbin Preschool



Enrolments  
available  
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Preschool: Nimbin A&I Showgrounds, Cecil St.  
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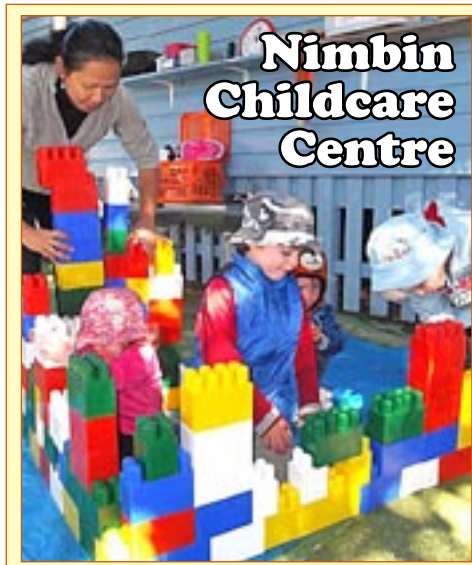
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This term we'll observe and learn about all sorts of animals. We want to find out about each other's pets, read a lot of books about wild animals and hope to have a pet week here at the centre. We'll learn the sounds that the different animals make, how they walk, what they eat, where they live and what relation they have to us. This will also teach the children respect for the different creatures and our aim is to bring an understanding of the whole circle of life to the children.

We continue to run our play sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays between 9.30 and 11.30am (these sessions are free of charge) and hope to see many new faces.

For more information just drop in at the Gumnut House in the Community Centre Complex or ring the service on 6689-0142.

## When it rains, rainbows grow

Fern has been painting and drawing rainbows periodically throughout the year at Nimbin Preschool, and continues to return to this interest and quest for new knowledge.

His investigations have included other children: Oki, Auri and Matilda. Through our conversations, the children have articulated their own theories about what forms a rainbow. The children respond to their teacher, Diane's questions:

D: I want to know more about why you like rainbows.

F: Cause I like to make them for Krissy, my Mum. She likes them so much.

M: My Mum likes rainbows because she loves the sun and the rain.

D: When do you find rainbows?

F: When it's sunny and rainy at the same time. Like today!

D: Are all rainbows the same?

A: You need yellow, violet and red.

F: Let me tell you. You need purple, blue, green, yellow, orange and red.

D: What makes the colours on the rainbow?

A: When it rains, rainbows grow with just rain!

M: Well, you need rain and sun to get them.

With sunshine and rain that makes the colours, and the rainbow.

F: It's the rain, the blue rain. Green and blue make the colours.

D: Does anyone have new ideas about rainbows and how they form?

O: I'm putting a pot of gold at the end of my rainbow. (He proceeds to draw a pot of gold and a little door at the base of his rainbow. Fern and Auri also draw pots of gold and magic doors).

A: Well, when the rain comes down, the rainbow grows.

F: No! It's the sun and the water that makes the rainbow. When the sun came in the rain, then the sun comes in the rain and that's how the rainbow comes.

A: No! When my Mum and I were driving along we saw the rainbow come.

D: Was it raining then?

A: Yes it was! The rain had stopped a bit.

F: No! When the sun goes behind a cloud, the dawn comes, and the rain comes, and then, rainbows come from the clouds.

O: This is a magic door on my rainbow. When you go through my magic door, you get to Fern's rainbow. And when you go through Fern's magic door, you get to Auri's rainbow.

F: And when you go through Auri's magic door you get to Oki's Place! (They all laugh).

# LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin Community

## Nimbin murals to receive Local Heritage Grant funding

Lismore City Council is pleased to announce that a restoration project for Nimbin's main street murals will be the main focus of this year's Local Heritage Fund round of grants.

The decision follows an application from the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre and the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce expressing the importance of the murals in maintaining the character of the town. Additional Council funds will be allocated from Nimbin's business levy. We will provide more information about the project over the next few months.

## Local Heritage Grants available for heritage projects

Council is inviting applications for Local Heritage Grant funding for projects involving conservation works on heritage listed items or items within conservation areas as identified in the Lismore Local Environmental Plan. A maximum of \$2,000 will be awarded to successful applicants and they will be required to match the allocated funding dollar for dollar.

Applications close Friday, August 31 and successful applicants will be announced in September. Application forms and brochures on the scheme are available from the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre, via Council's website [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) or for information phone Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

## Nimbin Physical Activity Centre update

The Nimbin Physical Activity Centre (NPAC) has been delivering services to the Nimbin community for the past four years. The facility was established after an allocation of start-up funding by the NSW Department of Sport & Recreation and through a collaboration between that Department, Lismore City Council, the North Coast Area Health Service, the Nimbin Health & Welfare Association and representatives of Nimbin community groups. Since its inception, NPAC has been under the auspice of the Nimbin Health & Welfare Association.

During a recent NPAC review and planning process which Council and the Health & Welfare Association conducted, it was agreed that the auspice of the NPAC would return to Council for a period of time, possibly six to 12 months. During this period Council will conduct an evaluation of the NPAC project; develop policies and procedures for the future; and provide governance training for the future management of the facility. Council will report back to the community, through this newsletter, at the conclusion of this process.

## Nimbin Community Swimming Pool update

Following a few ups and downs in the 2011/2012 season the pool is undergoing some maintenance works to ensure it is open on time and functional. These works include:

- Main pumps being serviced.
- Examining the pool base using an industrial x-ray to find out if any further leaks may be likely. The results showed that no further voids were found.
- Patching of the existing void is to be completed very soon and the surface will be repainted.

## Nimbin western car park solar lights

After vandalism and theft caused approximately \$15,000 worth of damage to the Nimbin western car park solar lights, local company Rainbow Power Company was engaged to undertake repairs, which have been completed.

The lights provide an important function for the Nimbin community and the mindless act of theft and vandalism has meant a great deal of inconvenience to shopkeepers and patrons.

## Drainage works in Cullen Street

Council has engaged a contractor to undertake drainage works in Cullen Street, with these works already underway. Throughout works, the allocated disabled parking in front of the Nimbin Bakery will be temporarily relocated to the eastern side of Cullen Street and the bus zone at the southern end of Cullen Street will also be temporarily relocated to the existing bus zone at the northern end of Cullen Street.

Council advises that temporary traffic control will be in place during the construction period, which is expected to be four weeks from commencement (July 23), weather permitting. Construction work is by its very nature, hazardous and dangerous to people not wearing appropriate protective clothing and therefore Council requests that, where possible, all persons stay well clear of the works and any construction equipment and vehicles. Lismore City Council wishes to thank the community for its patience during these essential works.

## Proposed upgrade to Nimbin Water Supply

Council has recently sought feedback from the Nimbin community seeking preferred options for the proposed upgrade of the Nimbin Water Supply. The deadline for receipt of feedback closed on Friday, July 20. Council has received a total of 29 submissions from members of the community and this feedback is currently being assessed. Council is now planning to meet with the Nimbin Advisory Group to advise them of the feedback received and discuss how to continue to engage with the community regarding implementation of the proposed upgrade to the water supply.

Following consultation with the Nimbin Advisory Group, it is anticipated that a community briefing will be held to advise the community of feedback received, the preferred option identified for upgrading the water supply, and details of further consultation with the community regarding this project.

Corporate Centre 43 Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH 2480  
CBD City Office 55 Magellan Street, LISMORE 2480  
Phone 1300 87 83 87  
Fax (02) 6625 0400  
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## Greens dig Nimbin

We had a Northern Rivers Greens meeting at Nimbin a couple of weeks ago and afterwards I walked outside in the misty night and the colours of the murals on the buildings glowed in the street lights through the mist and it was lovely. And I thought about how if you wanted to see Greens policies put into action Nimbin is the place.

Within the community pot has been decriminalised and it's one of the most tolerant, non-judgemental and friendly communities you can find anywhere.

Aboriginal people are accepted and respected members of the community. People with mental health issues are not avoided or ignored but instead find a place that makes them feel at home and cared about which is essential to their recovery.

Nimbin has great poets, comedians and musicians and is a centre for art and culture. It has the Blue Moon Cabaret and the Mardi Grass festival and of course it's the home of the amazing Aquarius festival. When I attended Southern Cross University I observed that young people just out of school would sit in tutorials and say nothing but if it was a young person from Nimbin they would be confident, articulate and expressive.

Nimbin is at the forefront of sustainable, environmental development and has probably had more successful funding submissions for community services programs and environmental projects than anywhere

in Australia. The Nimbin community owns a lot of its community buildings so that no politician hundreds of kms away can sell off their assets. They have put solar power on their community buildings and have bought a house for a sustainable house project.

Nimbin is a community that is vibrant and dynamic, with a powerfully connected heart and spirit where you find true, participatory democracy. People elsewhere may enjoy bagging Nimbin as the place where you get asked to buy pot but when you know Nimbin, you realise what a truly amazing and wonderful place it is. If the Greens got into power in government there would be more places like Nimbin and it would be a great thing.

**Beth Shelley**  
Boorie Creek

## Chemical cocktails

The Environmental Protection Authority's licence for the Richmond River Council to allow Metgasco to use the Council's sewage treatment plant as a way to dispose of 5,000,000 (million) litres of CSG industry waste water raises many questions. Questions that at the moment do not have answers.

What chemicals are in the CSG waste water? Metgasco CEO Peter Henderson says it is salt. Does he mean Sodium Chloride i.e. table salt? Are other salts involved, like Arsenic, Lead Strontium, Barium, Copper, Aluminium, Nickel and Chromium? Many

other harmful chemicals like Benzene have been implicated with CSG mining. What chemicals have been tested for? Who did the water testing - an independent water testing authority or Metgasco? Have the water-testing results been made public?

Does the RVC treatment plant have the ability to effectively remove or neutralise the chemicals involved? Or is it a licence to pollute? Metgasco have among their employees people with powerful political connections.

Has undue political influence been brought to bear on the EPA? It is only a month ago that the EPA said that it was inappropriate for the RVC to allow it's sewage treatment facility to be used for CSG industrial wastewater disposal and applied a \$5,000 fine to Metgasco.

Do other Industries use the RVC treatment plant to dispose of their industrial waste or is Metgasco being given special treatment? Will the EPA continue to allow Metgasco to use the public infrastructure to dispose of its effluent?

The 5,000,000(million) litres of CSG industrial waste water is the overflow product of around 10 CSG wells. Metgasco has announced plans for more than 1000 wells. That equals 5,000,000,000 (Billion) litres of CSG industrially contaminated waste water. What are Metgasco's plans for future disposal? Another question is the effect of such massive water use on the watertable. CSG wells require millions of litres each in their development. Where is this water coming from and where is it going?

Farmers, enterprises and communities living downstream from the RVC treatment facility need to be aware and informed of the situation that is developing around the CSG industry.

**Simon Chance,**  
Richmond Hill

## Show offs CSG

The North Coast National's recent decision to refuse sponsorship money from Metgasco is an incredibly courageous one to make, especially in this time of

financial uncertainty. Both the Show and the Lismore Lantern Parade need to be publicly congratulated for this.

The growing public support coming from all sections of the Northern Rivers against CSG shows how much our community does not want to take any chances with this industry. We must stop the gas industry in it's entirety until such time that it is proven without a doubt, to be 100% safe for our waterways, air, land, people and animals.

The growing list of problems caused by the gas industry include water contamination, air pollution, land crisscrossed with numerous gas wells and interconnected by pipes and roads, plus uncertainty over landowners rights and responsibilities for saying yes to a gas company.

Reports from Queensland and overseas of the health problems caused by gas wells and gas-fired powered stations include breathing difficulties, eye problems, depression, suicide, bleeding and cancers. They are just a few of the serious health concerns that should be more than enough reasons for our government to say no and err on the side of caution.

We need assurances and hard proof that this industry will not be a risk to everything we value here on the Northern Rivers, not only now, but for all future generations to come.

So I say thank you to the North Coast National and the Lismore Lantern Parade, for having the courage to stand tall and support the community that supports you.

**Jill Lyons**  
Casino

## Land management

Dear Triny, (Letters, NGT, July 12). The words, 'responsible land management' can be seen as just another expression for 'this is the prevailing opinion', and what exactly is 'a healthy balance of vegetation'? Who is to be the judge of this? Is it to be European consciousness with its current environmental CV?

Labelling species as aggressively competing

is tantamount to being annoyed at successful species. It is putting out for a world of unsuccessful species. Idol worship occurs when a particular part of nature is singled out as being the provisioner of one's comfort rather than noticing that it is the whole.

Small-leaf Privet may limit access to other plants now. But what about that land at a future date? Surely you don't think its effect on soil or the microclimate it provides, has no effect?

Nature has never been 'out of whack'. It responds completely appropriately to available conditions. Humans on the other hand, through their exercise of free will, have divorced themselves from the surrounding nature. An environment crisis is the eventual natural result.

Eroding creek banks occurred because of Euro-Australian settlement that cleared. Now the Privet has arrived on the banks to help stabilize, there is still complaint. The Privet is said to have roots too shallow and it blocks out native vegetation that has deeper roots. But the Privet is not there particularly to stabilize the bank but to improve conditions for all life, so that the creek bank will eventually stabilize with incoming species. It may not be in your lifetime. C'est la vie. Land clearing has consequences long into the future.

Koyaanisqatsi is an effect. Unless there is examination of causes, balance is withheld. To war with effects will cause the deepening of koyaanisqatsi.

In this society there is lack of welcome for exotic, naturalizing vegetation on creek banks because there is little consciousness that what one eats (and wears, for that matter) eventually effects creek banks.

Our eyes see imperfection in nature, but that is not because imperfection is in nature, but because our eyes do not see truly. They are coloured by conditioning. On a postcard is written, 'The real journey is not to other lands, but to see with new eyes'.

**Geoff Dawe**  
Byrrill Creek

## Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, the last Wednesday of the month. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will usually not be considered. Please include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

## DIY gravel roads

Council recently held a workshop on my proposal to examine the feasibility of volunteer workers assisting council to maintain our gravel roads.

Council requires double the \$1 million dollars it currently spends on 400kms of gravel road to provide an adequate service. Many residents put up with dangerous and substandard roads.

The process I envisaged would be based on a 'road care' format similar to Landcare where council would provide a one-off gravel drop and the community volunteers would use the gravel to repair the gravel roads in their neighbourhood.

This maintenance would not replace the normal gravel road maintenance program but act as a temporary solution.

Councillors were addressed by staff and representatives of council's insurance companies and work cover.

Essentially we were read the insurance version of the 'riot act'. Road maintenance volunteers would require training, induction, lolly-pop people and supervision under council. Anyone attempting to repair roads without proper authority could be held liable and run the risk of being sued.

The attitude was not 'how can we make this happen?' but rather 'how can we stop this happening?'.

Why is it that risk assessment dominates considerations rather than an adequate level of service? Ratepayers have to put up with dangerous roads but are not allowed to fix them because that would be



## LISMORE CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS SATURDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2012

### Thinking of nominating as a candidate for your local Council?

If you are considering nominating you should read this notice. As a candidate you have certain obligations and responsibilities under law. Check the website [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) and [efa.nsw.gov.au](http://efa.nsw.gov.au) for further details.

### How to nominate for election as a Councillor

To nominate as a Councillor, you must lodge a nomination form and \$125 nomination deposit by 12 noon Wednesday, 8th August 2012.

### How to nominate for election as a Mayor

To nominate for Mayor, you must lodge a nomination form and \$125 nomination deposit by 12 noon Wednesday, 8th August 2012.

### Where do I get a nomination form?

Nomination forms and other important nomination and electoral information are available from the Returning Officer or from the New South Wales Electoral Commission website: [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info)

**Candidate Information sheets:** Every candidate is required to lodge a candidate information sheet with their nomination.

**Grouping of candidates and group voting squares:** Two or more candidates may form a group. A group may, in certain circumstances, request a group voting square on the ballot paper. A request to form a group and have a group voting square on the ballot paper must be lodged with the Returning Officer by 12 noon Wednesday, 8th August 2012. See [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) for the publication 'Handbook - Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers at Local Government elections' for more details.

### Where and when to nominate

Your nomination form and deposit must be lodged with the Returning Officer at Clarence Region Returning Office, 15 Prince Street, Grafton NSW 2460 or at the office of the council for which you intend to stand as a candidate, during business hours from Monday, 30th July 2012 to 12 noon Wednesday, 8th August 2012.

### Returning Officer details

Clifford Mitchell  
Clarence Region Returning Office, 15 Prince Street, Grafton NSW 2460

### Information: [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or 1300 135 736

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# Business arising

'dangerous'.

Let me say that every employer has a 'duty of care' and as a small business owner in the building industry, I am very aware of this important rule.

We must protect our workers and volunteers from injury and litigation. Fair enough.

But restrictions to our way of life and our community's ability to organise and empower themselves are seriously threatened by the direction society is heading.

We seem more concerned with blaming others and wanting to sue than accepting responsibility for our own actions.

The result is that fear rules our lives and the sense of community is lost.

Society is rapidly moving to a point where you have to do a risk assessment to get out of bed in the morning

Something has got to change. We need to think creatively and find innovative solutions not just throw up our hands in despair and give up.

**Cr David Yarnall  
Dunoon**

## Keep abreast

I am writing to express my concern at the closing of the Northern Rivers Breastfeeding Clinic.

I have been a breastfeeding counsellor for 19 years. I have spoken with many women who have had poor breastfeeding experiences with one or more babies and who still aim to breastfeed with each new baby. Most women want to breastfeed and 92% of women initiate breastfeeding.

But the breastfeeding journey is not easy for all mothers. By three months there are only 56% still breastfeeding. This huge

decline in breastfeeding rates is often due to women not getting the right help and support when they need it.

The Breastfeeding Helpline 1800-686-268 operates 24/7. Trained volunteer counsellors take 1500 calls each week. Women need and want help with breastfeeding.

Is a volunteer-run Helpline enough to meet the need? No. The majority of breastfeeding issues such as mastitis, supply concerns and returning to work can be resolved via a phone call.

However, in cases where attachment is an issue it is often important for the mother and baby to be observed breastfeeding.

Over the past six years I have referred many women to the breastfeeding clinic. With the closure of the clinic I fear that women will not receive the breastfeeding help they need and will wean their babies early.

Is this a concern to our community? Yes. The NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council) Infant Feeding Guidelines recommend exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months with continued breastfeeding until 12 months and beyond.

Breastfeeding is the foundation of a healthy community. Our breastfeeding rates are already low. Do we want our rates to fall even lower and put more mothers and babies at risk of poor health outcomes? A small outlay on the clinic will result in huge health budget savings in the long term.

Let's get it right in Lismore. Let's find the funds needed to operate the Northern Rivers Breastfeeding Clinic.

**Ros Fleetwood  
Coffee Camp**

## RIP Sonia Atkinson

16th October 1923 – 13th July 2012

Sonia Atkinson was born in London, within the sound of Bow Bells, which – despite her sometimes highbrow manner – made her a Cockney.

After an unconventional education – she was the only female student at a boys' school where her father taught – she went on to take a degree at London University. Her father's friends included the WWII code-breaker Allan Turing, and Sonia recalled him often dropping by when she was in her teens.

She met her husband Jim in London on the day peace was declared and they immigrated to New Zealand in 1951 before moving to Australia in 1954.

Along with raising her sons Peter and Kevin, Sonia undertook further study at in the area of early childhood development at Macquarie University where she also worked as a tutor.

She moved to Tunttable Falls in 1975, and very quickly adopted the place as her own. In 1976, when Tunttable was invaded by 300 police with one search warrant Sonia rang her friend Kep Enderby QC – the Attorney General in the former Whitlam Government. Enderby took the matter to the Supreme Court pro bono where the warrant was ruled invalid. Shortly after, the charges against the first of 43 defendants were dismissed in the Lismore Court and the Crown case collapsed.

The many legacies of the Whitlam Government included a wave of funding for early childcare centres. This allowed Sonia, who was working for the Department of Community Services, to help set up some 70 playgroups on the Far North Coast, many of which evolved into preschools. But this was not her first childcare work. She'd already worked in an Aboriginal preschool at Weipa on the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Along with her DOCs work, Sonia was involved in Multiple Occupancy politics, which came to a head during the Terania Creek and Mt Nardi forest protests, and led to her election to the Lismore City Council in September 1980. She also spent a number of years on the Council of the Lismore CAE, which later became Southern Cross University.

Kerith Power, who worked with Sonia during her DOCs period, captured her essence in a letter read as part of her funeral service:

"Sonia's intellectual force was matched by a disregard for convention and ability to 'work the rules' in favour of her causes... She was a magnetic conversationalist, brilliant mentor, a fount of knowledge and inspiration, a kind of 'pied piper', challenging my naivety, assumptions and rather limited scope of personal, professional and community aspirations... Sonia's influence on me, and I imagine on many others, was to enable me to translate woolly-minded idealism into pragmatic action.

"She was one of our elders."



## Notices

### Share accommodation

Responsible adult sought to share spacious solar powered home on tranquil 2 acres at Billen Cliffs community ([www.billencliffs.org.au](http://www.billencliffs.org.au)). 30 mins to Lismore, Nimbin. Gardening opportunities, vegetarian kitchen, smoke and pet-free home. Wi-fi internet. Sharing with part-time dad. \$110 p/w. Phone 0458-727-141.

### Green Bank vacancy

The Green Bank is taking applicants to fill a vacancy in our consulting room at 1/39 Cullen St Nimbin (opposite the Visitors Centre). We are interested in meeting enthusiastic practitioners who are able to commit to a day or half day, and who share the Green Bank vision. If this is you please make yourselves known to us in the shop or email [thegreenbanknimbin@gmail.com](mailto:thegreenbanknimbin@gmail.com) for further info.

### CSG community meeting

A small group of Numulgi locals are organising a CSG meeting at Numulgi Hall on Saturday 11th August, 3pm.

### Aquarius calendar

Planning for Aquarius 2013 Calendar and Events, at the Nimbin Community School Room in the Community Centre, 2pm to 5pm Tuesdays. Please bring photos, illustrations and info. re events to up-load to computer, or send to: [aquariusnetworking@gmail.com](mailto:aquariusnetworking@gmail.com)

### Sewing machinists wanted

Wanted volunteer sewers for community plastic bag free project. Simple, straight lines only. Own machine and scissors preferred. Meetings Wednesday evenings. For more info contact Hilary on 0448-334-327.

### Knitting and crochet sessions

Thursdays 3pm at the Nimbin Community School Room in the Community Centre, gold coin donation.

### Weaving

Weave and Mend Festival, 5th-7th October (Fri-Sun) in the Nimbin Community Centre grounds. continual workshops, singing, dancing, music, campfire, chai tent, good food. For more info, phone 6689-7129.

### Art exhibition

Jimmy Malecki's exhibition, *Richmond Valley's Wetland Treasure* exploring one of Richmond Valley's unlikely treasures, the Bungawalbyn catchment, at the Casino Community and Cultural Centre until 18th September.

### Meet the Candidates forum

Lismore Community Action Network will hold a *Meet The Candidates Forum* at the Lismore Worker's Club from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Wednesday, 22nd August. Candidates will have the opportunity to present their platforms and answer questions from the audience, followed by tea and coffee. More information available at <http://lismorecan.wordpress.com>

### Unity Bhajans

Sunday 12th and 26th August and 9th September, 11am at Birth & Beyond, Nimbin. Enquiries Maria 6633-7261.

### Church services

Combined services held every 4th Sunday of the month, 10am at St Mark's Anglican Church, Cullen Street, Nimbin. All welcome for fellowship, discussions and morning tea. For more info call Faye on 6689 1440.

### In doggy heaven

RIP Peanut, beloved of Pluto. Spontaneous joy that left too soon. Au revoir little brown brother.

## About us

**Editor:** Bob Dooley

**Assistant Editor:** Sue Stock

**Down-table Sub:** Dave F.

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**Photographers:** Sue Stock, Len Martin, Thorsten Jones, Marie Cameron, Omega.

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**Website:** David McMinin

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

NGT is auspiced by the Nimbin Community School Co-operative Ltd.

**Next deadline:**  
**Wednesday 29th August**

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

Please limit contributions to 600 words or less.

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