



## Road artists and that corner

I'm sure that I speak for many when I say a huge thank you to the local road artists who help to keep us out of the potholes. It really is a great community service.

A big thank you also goes to whoever cut back the lantana etc on that corner on Gungas Road. It is greatly appreciated, and the corner is a lot safer.

Val Mace  
Nimbin

## Praiseworthy

I really enjoyed the letter from Magenta Appel-Pye (NGT Feb 12), and wholeheartedly agree with her praise for your excellent newspaper. Thanks for making it available in Lismore.

PS Love the Green With Envy Cheesecake!

Stan Doe  
Lismore

## Smoked out

Smoking. It is bad for your health. It is also bad for the health of those nearby a smoker. It is for these reasons both State and Local governments are currently reviewing their smoking ban policies. The LCC are considering banning it entirely from the CBD.

Nimbin once was seen at the forefront of social reform, trendsetters no less, but over the last couple of decades we have faltered. We are now seen as a one show town, and we all know what that show is. This review of smoking policies presents us with a chance to regain the front running, to set an example for other communities. Let's ban smoking from the village!

Have you noticed how many people smoke here? What's going on? That ain't early morning mist hanging in the valleys. I thought a major aspect of alternative lifestyle movement was healthy living. Tourists probably think all those tanned weather-beaten faces come from years of slogging it out in the veggie patch. Alas no. More like stained and wrinkled from years crouched over a coffee, cigarette in one hand and often with a joint in the other. Double smoked... like bacon.

And the children. Besides the passive inhalation, what sort of example are

we setting? Remember the CSN&Y hippy anthem, Teach your Children (well).

We can do much better. Have a discussion on that Nimbin facebook site I keep hearing about. Write a letter.

Adrian Williamson  
Nimbin

## Drug laws

Oh wow, the marijuana eradication program is working. Pot is harder to find and more expensive. Isn't that a good thing? The supplier just adds the price on to the consumer of added risk and difficulty. So now what's cheaper and easier to get is Speed and Ice and Alcohol. Yay. All drugs that are much more likely to encourage violent behaviour. Great. Well done to our police force in taking away a gentler drug and increasing more violent drug-related behaviour. Such a good idea.

Oh yes, and apparently the manufacture and sale of speed-related products is done largely by bikie gangs who believe it's a good idea to have a gun when facing difficulty. Like Mexico, this gun toting war on drugs can get very out of control with people dying all over the place. They proved in America with alcohol prohibition that these kinds of laws just create organised crime and more violence. Why do it all again?

Spare a thought for the poor pot smoker who gets paranoid easily, and how easy is it to get paranoid when you know the police are after you? For God's sake, stop this senseless war on 'drugs' before the bikies start shooting everybody.

Beth Shelley  
Booerie Creek

## CSG Lismore meeting

On Thursday 1st March, I and many hundreds of other people, all concerned with the impacts that Coal Seam Gas (CSG) will have on our local area, filled the auditorium of the Lismore Workers Club. Wow! What an incredible experience to be part of. Congratulations to the staff from the club and to all the people who organized the event.

Over 700 people listened to the guest speakers, who came from a diverse range of backgrounds and ages, who

spoke of their concerns of CSG and the impacts this industry will have on our way of life. Everything we enjoy and take for granted as just being so, will be under threat. From the way we work the land, to the water we use from our dams and creeks and rivers and then to the very air we breathe.

Every topic the speakers spoke on was backed up with facts and figures, which only made the outlook even more horrific.

The most frightening thing is that this industry is self regulated which means they make their own rules. They determine what information, regarding the impacts of their industry, we need to know.

Things like the safety of the chemicals they use. The CSG industry says they use safe household chemicals – No Way. These chemicals are incredibly TOXIC. A range of chemicals known to cause spontaneous abortions, birth defects, breast cancer, nasal and lung cancers, leukemia and many of these chemicals are persistent and build up in our bodies. Yet the CSG industry uses these chemicals every day and there are no rules or regulations to stop or monitor their use even though evidence of them has been found in the water, land and air surrounding the well sites both here and overseas. How many people, animals, livestock have already been contaminated by these chemicals?

Experts from all around are questioning this rush to explore and then produce CSG. This industry has set up in Queensland and vast areas of that state are dying. They even have CSG refugees. People who have had to walk off their land. They can't work their land and they certainly can't sell their land so they leave to try to save their health and maybe find a new life and a job.

The Northern Rivers is a beautiful clean green area to live and work. People from all over Australia and the world come here to see our amazing area full of wonderful unique wildlife, scenery, foods, beaches and people. Our wonderful way of life. Tourism is thriving and yet our governments are prepared to lose all this for the sake

of big overseas companies raping our land for gas at our expense. How many tourists will come to visit the Northern Gasfields?

Well I and I'm sure everyone one else at this event will back me and say No. No to CSG. We will only accept it if and when the entire industry of CSG is proven without a doubt it is and will be 100% safe. Safe for now and safe for our future generations. Who will be the first state to say no and tell the CSG companies to pack up and leave our regions, our state, our country Australia.

Jill Lyons  
Casino

## Advertorials misleading

Much as I enjoy *The Nimbin Good Times*, meandering through the alternative identity crisis that seems so popular in the area, I feel there have been some potentially dangerous and perhaps illegal alternative medicine claims in the paper over the last couple of months. The publishing of medical claims to be provable is part of the due diligence of an editor and a publisher. A complaint to the Therapeutic Goods Administration could see the paper in some trouble. What is disturbing is that it is not just advertising but rather articles that accompany advertising.

This blurs the line as to what is advertising and what is editorial. An editor has a responsibility to know and uphold the regulations. In January, the Blue Knob Markets promoted workshops in proven alternative therapies. Of course, no proof or research was presented. It would seem the point was to get people to come to the market by offering a free workshop. Marketing things that have no proof to the gullible, is the opposite of nurturing a smarter community.

More disturbing, in February, was Leannndrah's spruicking of alternative cancer cures and therapies. These sort of claims are not only illegal but morally bankrupt. The idea of targeting cancer patients who are extremely vulnerable and often desperate is shameful. Much as Leannndrah seems well meaning and genuine, she is just trying to make

## 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.

a living out of what she believes. She does not offer any number of successes due to the treatments she recommends. The standard quack marketing of "it will work if you believe, you have the freedom of choice", seems all the proof offered.

I know of many people who have had their cancer cured, or had it go into remission, due to medical treatments in hospitals. There are scientific journals dedicated to such studies. What is known to work is extensively researched and tabulated and peer reviewed by qualified doctors and scientists all over the world. If Leannndrah wants to contribute to this world-wide body of knowledge, all she needs to do is demonstrate the dedication and ability to study medicine or science. Rather, it seems she is more interested in marketing towards a mistrust of provable medicine and science.

Much of Leannndrah's article was plagiarised from a document circulating the Internet credited to Rick Cantrell. This document has been widely recognized as a fraud. Other sources that she quotes seem to be supplier's advertising blurbs. She also offers products that she explains including "the cure for all cancers" that had another use before it was sold to gullible and desperate cancer patients. We are also told of Essiac Tea that does not appear to have cured anybody of anything, according to any medical literature. We also are informed of Cansema, that "seeks and destroys cancer cells." If it is a cure why keep it a secret? Medicine likes things that work. The answer is marketing, as I am sure Leannndrah can supply all these products and books she recommends.

I congratulate Mr Cameron from surviving secondary cancer, I wonder what his story would be without the chemotherapy and

surgery? The dangers of holistic anti-cancer choices was highlighted on a double episode of *Australian Story* viewable at: [www.abc.net.au/austory/specials/desperateremedies/default.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/austory/specials/desperateremedies/default.htm)  
Derick Grimditch  
Lismore

## Of food and cancer cures

The anti McDoodles (The Economics of Happiness) movie night at the Muwillumbah Regent Cinema was well attended (sold out... line ups) but unless we can find a decent lawyer, it seems the bloodsoaked golden arches will be obscuring the view of Wollumbin as thousands of alternative types pass through Muwillumbah.

We have a solid legal argument, the non-corrupt Tweed council approved the DA but there are extenuating facts – please contact Roxy or Kipp at the Caldera Environment Centre if you have gung ho pro bono legal eagles with ideas.

The inspiring news is that the pawpaw leaf cancer cure, gifted by Koori folk to a lung cancer bookie on the Gold Coast in 1962, is once again making people think differently. It's also saving lives, so if you care, plant a thousand pawpaws – could be a school project? Nimbin barefoot doctors! Viva. How many paw paws can the little township of Nimbin plant, and how quickly? Guerilla gardening from the Bunjalung nation to the world, and the mainstream perception of Nimbin as a drug town might become Nimbin: the place that gave the world the cancer cure.

It's bunya or bonyi season, my heart is full of gratitude and love – I just gathered enough food (bonyi shells are on the floor of the museum) for the family for the year and bonyipark.com planted about five thousand trees. We also attended the bunya dreaming festival up near Maleny, did

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# Letters

## About us

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

**Next deadline:**  
**Wednesday 28th March**

**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.

a lot of crying, 15 nations used to gather there, contact Burung landcare, so moving and so beautiful.

So this sovereignty year, how about planting 100 bunya trees, you can say sorry in a way that will feed thousands of people for generations, honour the Law and help in the healing of the nations?

**Kim Thompson,  
 Murwillumbah**

### Give peace a chance

When I read letters and submissions of people objecting to the Bodhi Tree Retreat or the Vipassana Meditation Retreat in Rosebank on the grounds that they are taking away prime agricultural land, I feel like crying.

Driving around here and other areas, where there is good soil and country, all I see is endless acres of unused land. Let's face it – Australians are not really gardeners. Farmers maybe?

How many farm houses I see around the country without even a tree for shade close to the house... much less a variety of fruit trees and a veggie garden.

Even in the so-called 'alternative scene', most of us just clear around the house for fire protection. We don't usually cut down trees except if they shade our solar panels.

Wake up my friends – big changes are coming and the 'shop locally' and sustainability movement are a great start!

But the greatest changes are and will be happening in the mind. Our minds and humanity have become global – the 7 billion of us and all the countless other species and plants (many now extinct or threatened with extinction due to our activities) hurtling through space on spaceship Gaia!

The challenge now is to

quieten and open the mind to more consciousness, so that we feel our oneness with all humans – all beings and nature. Our modern minds are so busy, so overcrowded, so stressed and unfocussed.

Finally, some peaceful places are opening here, where we can experience solitude and the healing power of nature and find peace that comes from a still mind that is tuned into consciousness.

And that's why I feel like crying – reading and hearing small-minded stuff.

All the Retreat Centres I know, including Bodhi Tree, have great fruit and veggie gardens. They know the value of growing your own... you are what you eat. On my last visit to Bodhi Tree on Thai New Year, I saw big plantations of mixed native trees that are still expanding.

I myself am vegetarian, and all that meat market and the endless land that is taken up by it doesn't go too well with me. I do feel for the poor animals... and is it good karma?

Where are we going? Maybe the only way out is the way within. Let's find our peace.

**Govinda Sailer  
 Larnook**

### Of weeds and Rome

In discussion of weeds, Omar Kat Hart and I are merely taking different roads to Rome, as Omar suggests. All well and good, it is just a refining of what 'Rome' looks like.

Omar asks again about "the persons doing nothing". Many humans feel overworked. To load them up with the work of spreading the bush as well, work formerly done by birds and bats, can be seen as a backward step. It feels backward because to think that the primary way to reverse habitat reduction is by

bush regeneration is a mistake that society has been making for 30 years.

The primary way of reversing habitat destruction is by attempting to grow and eat human food. Hippies have said for 30 years that their offering to sustainable agriculture is a veggie garden/fruit tree response. They have never been wrong in this regard, and are in solidarity with Russia, whose gardeners supply more food (and wool) than their industrialised agriculture. It was not realised that the hippy response had far more repercussions than first thought.

If one grows a tomato in a pot on an apartment balcony or at a gardening level and is prepared to keep doing that, even though the economic (especially labour) cost is far more than a tomato from Woolworths, one has begun to pay the social and environmental costs, so one is on the path to sustainability. (The 'weeds' are the materials to grow the tomatoes.)

The effect of that at national levels, especially as population ruralises, causes habitat to return.

**Geoff Dawe  
 Byrrell Creek**

### Enough Geoff

Ho Hum, another month and another letter by the self appointed 'Guru of the earth', Mr Geoff Dawe.

I'm personally getting tired of reading his self-righteous waffle. His way of doing things is not the only way, or the 'best' way, there are many ways, and if done correctly, they all work.

Geoff's bibleque style of preaching in his letters is becoming so very tiresome and nauseating to read. How about leading by example Geoff, instead of berating people doing good work?

**Andrew Thompson  
 Wadeville**

### GoodTimes, bad times

Please end the menage a trois that is the Roe/Hart/Dawe show.

This dirty little tit for tat dominance of the letters section is a waste of print space and has become a long-winded tirade of personal attacks and rhetoric, it doesn't make for good reading.

The slander it contains is an abuse of the term 'freedom of

speech and expression', besides that, they are preaching to the converted. Personally, some editorial discretion is required on this one, more so as Trinity is a contributing writer for NGT.

Mr Dawe really needs to start his own paper/newsletter or blog, there is a great internet term for Mr Dawe – he is nothing more than a troll. Any net savvy person knows the golden rule, "Don't feed the trolls".

OCH's contribution on the other hand has been insightful and entertaining over the past issues of NGT, but now seems to be caught in the trolls' lair. Please help him/her escape to the surface again. Maybe a column for OCH would be appropriate as they appear to have some intelligent, witty observations on a wide range of subjects. "The Cats Whiskers", "Cats Eyes" or "From the Cats Mouth" for example. Whilst I abhor cats, and dogs, whether they be feral or domesticated, OCH gets a chuckle out of me, when they are not caught feeding the troll that is.

Q: Why is so much space given to Justine Elliot, Janelle Saffin, Mayor Dowell and Cr Clough? Do they pay for their "air time"? Is it a tax deduction for the Labour Party?

I understand that they can use their space to pedal the Propaganda and convince the masses they are in touch, but give us a break. It's bad enough that the other fine publication *Northern Rivers Echo* gives them the space but NGT? Justin and Janelle are using the good old copy/pasta to spread the Gillard Govt's Gospel. It's bloody word for word for fracks' sake. As for Dowell/Clough well same same, more rhetoric, more photo ops. to let the masses know just how well they are doing, whilst having a dig at their relevant rivals. A good government or council for that matter doesn't need to keep reassuring the constituents that it's doing its job. I note the Mayors and Councillors absence from previous MardiGrass and related events, but they are quite happy to pimp out Nimbin and its global "brand", so that they can glean some of the dollars that Nimbin Tourism brings to the area.

**Dave Hood  
 Lismore**

*Edited for length – Ed.*

## Notices

### For Sale: Nimbin

Funky Art Supply Shop/Gallery. Own website. Lease in place. Approx 1 year of supplies. \$30,000. Call Suzanne 0418-522-720.

### Cottage for rent

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### Tenant wanted

'Ourspace' small business hub, located at the Community Centre, seeks new tenant/s to share this cooperative space (in the old CTC room). Rent will be share of \$370/month plus electricity. Expressions of interest to [kcainedit@yahoo.com.au](mailto:kcainedit@yahoo.com.au) or [brryall@gmail.com](mailto:brryall@gmail.com)

### Felting workshop

Learn how to felt and make a nuno felted scarf, a wall hanging, warm winter slippers or a vest. Saturday 10th March, 9am to 5pm, and Sunday 11th March, 9am to 5pm. \$80 incl. all materials, at 'Black Sheep Farm' Nimbin. For bookings and informations please phone 6689-1095 or go to [www.blacksheepfarm.com.au](http://www.blacksheepfarm.com.au)

### Tuntable Falls Early Childhood Centre

AGM will be held at Tuntable Falls Community Hall on Wednesday 14th March at 9am. Phone 6689-1179 for info.

### Volunteer interviewers needed

Are you a good communicator? Volunteering Northern Rivers seeks volunteers to interview potential volunteers for the community sector and refer them to appropriate organisations that best suit their talents and desires. Training is provided. For more information please phone Jeannette Tyler on 6621-7397.

### Poets wanted

Enter the Bello Poetry Slam as part of the Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival March 23-25. The Slam is on Friday March 23 at the Bello Memorial Hall at 7pm. 3 minute poems, 3 rounds, 3 judges. 1st prize \$500, Runner up \$150, people's choice \$250. Register at [lizr71@bigpond.com](mailto:lizr71@bigpond.com).

### Kyogle Women's Dinner

The Kyogle Women's Social Group first met in April 2006 and since that time, many women have come to these dinners, made new friends and enjoyed the social atmosphere of the evening. If you would like to join us on Thursday 29th March, 6.30pm at Kyogle Golf Club please contact Joan, phone 6633-9143 by Friday 23rd March. Cost \$32 per head for two courses.

### Nimbin Skate Co-op

New co-op has begun, with intentions of raising funds for competitions, equipment and fun days. All skaters welcome to join. Contact Chris at the Rainbow Café.

### Lismore (& Northern Rivers) Group Against Gas (GAG)

The first meeting of the Lismore GAG has been scheduled for Thursday 8th March at the Lismore Workers Club at 6.30pm. New members are encouraged to volunteer their energy and expertise. Email Simon at: [chances-are@bigpond.com](mailto:chances-are@bigpond.com) or Wanda on 0427-302-725.

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# Janelle's Page



Janelle Saffin and Senator Jan McLucas at the NDIS forum.

by Janelle Saffin, MP

## Gonski review of funding for schooling final report

Prior to the 2007 election, the Federal Labor Party agreed, if in Government, to do an independent review of school funding; something not undertaken since 1973. A number of candidates, including me, signed a pledge recognising that more funding was needed in public schools. I also pledged to come to understand the complex school funding formula, and to ensure that students with disabilities and suffering disadvantage got a better deal.

In 2010 the then Minister for Education, Julia Gillard commissioned the Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling. Its final report was released last week and the response has been favourable.

The report identified twenty-six findings, and forty-one recommendations, and provided evidence about a system that was marked as not fair, not financially

sustainable, nor effective in securing educational outcomes across the board.

I have written to my schools, parent bodies and teacher unions, offering to come and discuss the review with them. This is one way I can find out our local response. I also invite anyone with a keen interest to contact me for a copy of the report (also on my website: [www.janellesaffin.com](http://www.janellesaffin.com)) and to give feedback.

The Government's high level response is a sensible one recognising that parents, teachers and their respective representative organisations, need time to digest and discuss the report and respond, and the Government concomitantly needs time to consider the report in tandem with the community's response. Equally, the Federal Government is not the main funder of school education and changes to the funding structure require detailed discussions among the Federal, State and Territory Governments. To sum up, I see that we now

have the evidence that proves what we knew to be wrong about the funding model, and a roadmap that can chart a fairer and more equitable way to ensuring that every child gets a good education and I would say world class. Let us use this opportunity to have a wide ranging discussion and have input into changing the current system to one that is fair, transparent, with appropriate funding, and gives our children a world class education.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme

I was pleased to have the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas as the guest at community forums I held in Grafton and Casino on the National Disabilities Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Senator McLucas' visit helped me keep the community informed as I had promised. She outlined the Government's work to progress the NDIS and the detailed work needed to be done over the next few years with the states and territories.

There is very strong local support for the NDIS, being something that can touch us all, and of major benefit to all Australians.

Please visit the website [www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au) and sign on showing your support for an NDIS. I thank all the disability service organisations and others who helped organise the forums, which ensured their success.

Member for Page  
63 Molesworth Street Lismore  
Phone 1300-301-735



Exiting the caucus room after the leadership ballot. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen, courtesy Aust Fin Rev

## Janelle Saffin's statement on the leadership ballot

Today the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party held a leadership ballot. The Caucus chose Julia Gillard, who will continue to lead our party in Parliament and lead the country as Prime Minister of Australia.

I have worked in the past with both Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard as Labor Prime Ministers, and have done so to the benefit of the Page electorate. Both have been good friends to our electorate and this relationship will continue.

Like Kevin Rudd, I've been a member of the Australian Labor Party for 30 years. I believe the ALP is the best vehicle to achieve fairness and justice in Australian society and I'll continue to represent the people of Page in an effective, strong and independent way.

I am heartened by the comments of both Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard today after the vote, and their gracious recognition of each others' strengths, abilities and achievements.

I know people may be disappointed, as like me, we all get to love our leaders. I know some would like to directly vote for leaders but we don't. It is not our law or tradition. The party that secures government does so.

I congratulated Prime Minister Gillard on her success and I congratulated former PM Kevin Rudd for his contribution to Australia and the Labor Party.

As Prime Minister, Kevin did Australia proud and is widely recognised as being right up there with the best. I want to say that he has left us a great legacy -- leading us through the Global Financial Crisis, the Apology, the pension increases, paid maternity leave and more.

Julia as Prime Minister built on these and is building her own leadership legacy.

For me, I can say I am relieved that this is over as I stepped in a small way on to the national stage through the media as this was an important discussion.

I had declared publicly my support for Kevin Rudd and I stated my reasons. I pleased some and disappointment others, but I spoke truthfully as I do with my electorate.

I thank all the thousands of people who made their views known to me, and say that I shall now continue to do what I do best -- be a feisty local Federal Member and in my words, get things done, for the people of Page.

## Richmond schools encouraged to save on electricity and water

Local MP Justine Elliot is encouraging local schools to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to use energy and water by installing solar and other renewable power systems, rainwater tanks and implement a range of energy efficiency measures.

Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Mark Dreyfus, has opened a new round of grants that form part of the Gillard Government's \$420 million National Solar Schools Program.

Justine said that National Solar Schools Program presents a great opportunity for local schools to take positive steps to reduce their energy and water costs, while reducing their carbon footprint.

Justine said, "Local schools realise that we need to respond to climate change by becoming smarter with their energy and water use.

"By taking action on climate change now, we are securing a clean energy future for the next generation."

More than 4600 schools across the nation have already been funded under the National Solar Schools Program, and more than 90 per cent of those projects included solar power systems.

Merit-based criteria are used when assessing applications, meaning schools need to demonstrate value for money, as well as environmental and educational benefits. Applicants who were not successful in the 2011-12 NSSP round are eligible to re-apply.

Further information about the National Solar Schools Program is available on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website: [www.climatechange.gov.au/nationalsolarschools](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/nationalsolarschools)

The 2012-13 application round will close on 4 May 2012.

## Support for Richmond veteran community

Justine welcomed the Veterans' Affairs Minister's announcement that Lismore City Council would receive \$1,390 in Australian Government funding as part of the *Saluting Their Service* commemorations program.

"*Saluting Their Service* supports local projects that commemorate those who have served Australia in wars, conflicts and peace operations," Justine said.

"This grant will help Lismore City Council to upgrade the surrounds and access to the Nimbin War Memorial.

"Community and ex-service organisations can apply for funding to support a range of activities including building a community war memorial where none exists; improving security at existing memorials or repairing vandalism;

or even recording the experiences of local veterans.

"*Saluting Their Service* also helps fund special activities commemorating significant wartime anniversaries, which this year include the 95th anniversaries of the battles of Bullecourt, Messines and Polygon Wood, and the 70th anniversaries of the Bombing of Darwin and Australian service in Malaya and Singapore, the Coral Sea, Milne Bay and Kokoda, and El Alamein during the Second World War.

"I am pleased the Australian Government has been able to support this project and I congratulate Lismore City Council for its efforts in ensuring the contribution of our servicemen and women is honoured and remembered."

For more information about *Saluting Their Service* and how to apply for funding, visit: [www.dva.gov.au/grants](http://www.dva.gov.au/grants)



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**NIMBIN COFFEE SHOP**

# From the Mayor's desk

by Jenny Dowell

Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au



The Council year commences seriously after Australia Day, so by the time we hold our first formal Council meeting in the second week of February, we have forgotten we've been on holidays!

The meeting that commenced at 6pm, ended earlier than any previous ordinary meeting at 8.40pm. I'm sure that the early mark will prove to be the exception for the year ahead.

## Funding for Nimbin

One of the best pieces of news for Nimbin in the February meeting was the granting of \$42,040 for two projects under the Rural Sports Facilities Fund. The total amount available was \$50,200 so Nimbin did very well.

Under the recent expansion of the funding Policy to allow applications by sporting clubs that own their facilities, Nimbin Headers will receive \$20,000 for drainage of their grounds. The Nimbin Community Centre was granted \$22,040 for Stage 1 of the Peace Park Beautification Project which is aimed at finding a design for the old steel skatepark site to make it more useable. The other successful

applicant for the fund was Tullera Tennis Club that receives \$8,160 to improve its clubhouse.

## Land Acquisition Blue Knob Road

Council will give the General Manager authority to finalise negotiations with land owners to purchase small sections of land for the realignment of Blue Knob Road that are required for the new Southwell and Cullen bridges.

## Bowlo

We also agreed to adjust the boundary at the Nimbin Bowling Club without requiring the Bowlo to pay for the additional land. The new boundary provides the Bowlo with better viewing opportunities and ownership of the carpark land to allow the club to make improvements to the amenity for patrons.

## Sale of properties

Readers will know that Council has had a Policy for the sale of land for unpaid rates. Council is entitled to take action by a forced sale if rates remain in arrears for more than 5 years but we must also be mindful of the circumstances of the land owner.

To ensure Council does not repeat the experience we had last year with a sale of a home in South Lismore, Council has re-written our Policy inserting a requirement that Council is to meet shortly before any public auction to consider any arrangement that may not be regarded as satisfactory for the payment of outstanding rates. In other words, if the owner has not entered into an arrangement to pay, the decision to proceed to auction is made by the Councillors.

The new draft policy is on exhibition for public comment.

## Financial Position

The most sobering report in the business paper was our December Quarterly Budget Review. There is no way to sugarcoat a deficit of \$10.59 million, largely as a result of depreciation of assets. Our cash position also shows a deficit of \$187,800.

This Council must return the cash position to neutral as soon as possible but it will be for both this Council and the next to seriously address the growing gulf between our income and our expenditure particularly in relation to management of our assets.

## 7 Sibley Street

The Nimbin community sent numerous emails to Councillors requesting that Council bid at auction for the property at 7

Sibley Street, which was due to be auctioned by the bank on March 3.

Councillors considered these requests but regretfully had to decline the request. We simply could not afford it. However, I wish the community well with its endeavours to secure the site adjacent to Peace Park.

## Community Strategic Plan

The most important document to guide any Council is its Community Strategic Plan, a blueprint for 10 years that is developed with the community. The process for Lismore's CSP includes surveys and forums both on-line and face-to-face. The forums will commence in April and I encourage all readers to become involved and share with Council your hopes and vision for the Lismore of the next 10 years. Stay tuned for more details.

## Transport Forum

One of the biggest challenges for our region is the lack of public transport. As Mayor, I have met with the Deputy Director General for Planning and Programs in NSW Transport. The first step is the development of a Long-term Transport Master Plan and then the rolling out of regional Plans.

The regional forum for our area will be held at City Hall on Wednesday March 21 6pm-8pm. If you wish to attend, RSVP to: [masterplan@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:masterplan@transport.nsw.gov.au) or

call 02 8202-2611.

The NSW Long Term Transport Masterplan discussion paper is available at <http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/transportmasterplan>

## Women's Day

March 8 is International Women's Day, and I can't let the opportunity pass without urging women to celebrate and to consider standing for Council elections in six months.

Yes, September 8 is election day for all NSW local government. I'd love to see a doubling of the numbers on Lismore Council – and I don't think an increase from 2 to 4 of the total of 11 Councillors, is unrealistic. If any woman would like to discuss this further, please email or call me 0402-651-394.

## Seniors Week

This year's Seniors Week (March 19-25) is celebrated via the Postcard project. Over 50s have been invited to send a postcard to their younger selves giving a message of hope, wisdom or advice. The postcards will be launched on March 19, 10 am at 56 Magellan Street.

If you haven't made your postcard, there is still time. Just get them back to Council officers by March 12. On March 21, we celebrate Harmony Day – another day to appreciate our community's diversity. In these and at all times, we can embrace the differences that make us interesting



# Simon says

funds and a say in the special business levy and of course we have the assertively named NAG, the Nimbin Advisory Group, which was established by one of my motions. I believe this has been quite a change for Nimbin and reflects the fact that Council is much more involved with our largest village.

I'm sitting in a local watering hole having a glass of wine writing on my iPad. Yes, Council has given us iPads! They claim it will make us paperless and save Council \$10,000 a year in printing our business papers. And I have a new toy. There is of course a shadow side. I will now be able to work wherever I go, though I think Trish will have one or two things to say about that.

With the local government elections coming up on September 8th, there's certainly more of an edge in the council chamber. At the last meeting the developer Jeff Champion, who is seeking to increase his quarry by a factor of 8.5, accused some Councillors

of breaches of our Code of Conduct because we had put in submissions opposing his plans. I could have sworn Councillors and other citizens have a right to opinions.

Nonetheless Council voted in favour of my notice of motion for Council to put a submission to the Department of Planning having regard to the evidence and outcomes of the recent Land and Environment Court proceedings initiated by Mr Champion. These proceedings were lost by Mr Champion with the précis of the judgment stating "There are insufficient public benefits to outweigh the adverse impacts and thus the quarry expansion is rejected".

I lost my motion to have council put in a submission asking the Department of Planning to reduce its very tough draft guidelines for Wind Farms. It really irks me that a coal seam gas (CSG) miner can virtually force landowners to have a CSG well 200 metres from their home, whereas those wanting to develop a renewable energy wind farm are forced to go through all sorts of hoops to build within 2 kilometres of a

residence. I can't help feeling that yet again it's the power of the fossil fuel (excuse the pun) lobby at work!

While I am on the topic of poor decisions, I had a tantrum when I heard the Federal government has scrapped the solar hot water scheme which gives a \$1,000 to those replacing their electric hot water system with a solar system. This gives the lie to two of the Labor government's stated concerns. Firstly, that they care about jobs, this decision will mean thousands of Australian workers in the renewable energy field will be sacked. Secondly, that the government is at all serious about the catastrophic impacts of climate change. It is hard to imagine that the state and federal governments could have done more to destroy the insulation and renewable energy sector if they tried. Between them both these levels of government have destroyed any certainty which is the cornerstone of developing sustainable industries.

On a brighter note, I was incredibly heartened on Saturday when 120 locals turned up at The Channon

Hall to see the DVD 'Keep the Northern Rivers CSG Free' and to organise themselves to doorknock every road in the area with a CSG questionnaire. If sufficient residents oppose CSG mining, the community will be erecting appropriate signs stating "This road is CSG Free, by authority of the local community". Then on the Sunday 150 people came to Spinks Park to distribute brochures and advertising for an anti CSG meeting in the auditorium of the Workers Club on Thursday 1st March. I

arrived at 10.05am on the Sunday morning to be told I was too late and all the leaflets were gone! Wow, Lismore (and Nimbin) is a great place for community energy!

It's marvellous to see summer even in autumn. I've already cycled 130 kms so far this week, and I'm hoping for at least 150 by week's end. It is fabulous being out in these beautiful and slightly cool mornings.

You can follow me on Facebook – Cr Simon Clough, Lismore City Council. Phone 02 6624-2894 Mobile 0428-886-217

by Cr Simon Clough

I've been reviewing Council's activities in Nimbin over the term of this Council. First and foremost of course is Council's decision to allocate a Federal grant to the new skate park. There has also been the provision of the solar lighting in the western car park, the allocation of over \$100,000 to rectify the Cullen Street drain and at the last Council meeting the allocation of \$42,040 to the Nimbin Headers for drainage and to the Community Centre for Peace Park.

In addition, the Chamber of Commerce is getting more

## NNIC still hopeful for sustainable house project


The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is in the process of raising funds from the public in a bid to purchase land to build a model sustainable community building to further the aims of their newly-developed Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan.

A suitable site bordering Peace Park has become available, of which NNIC team leader Natalie Meyer has said, "We may never get the chance to get hold of such a perfect site in the village again."

So far, over \$30,000 has been pledged towards the purchase price of around \$150,000, in little over a week, and Natalie is optimistic that more people will come on board.


Those interested, please contact her at NNIC, phone 6689-1692 or email: [admin@nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:admin@nimbinnic@yahoo.com.au)

### NIMBIN NUMBERS



- Bookkeeping – MYOB, Quickbooks
- Payroll – Wages and Salaries
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged

BAS Agent No: 98777 003  
Phone Jayne 6689-0314  
Mobile 0457-497-011  
Email: [nimbin.numbers@bigpond.com](mailto:nimbin.numbers@bigpond.com)



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# MardiGrass cometh...

by Michael Balderstone

It has now been 20 years since Bob Hopkins, dressed as a court jester, knocked on the doors of the Nimbin Police station and demanded he be arrested for breaking a bad law.

2012 is going to be MardiGrass' 20th anniversary, to be celebrated on May 5 and 6.

There have been some half-measures taken in the past decade or so: cannabis cautioning systems, the introduction of industrial hemp legislation around the country, and medical cannabis now being viewed as an alternate medicine. We believe that discussions should be initiated in relations to these half-measures and how, in many ways, they have made a bad situation worse.

Australia's unique 'fibre only' industrial hemp legislation is akin to allowing wheat to be grown only for the chaff. Australia and New Zealand remain the only countries in the western world in which hemp seed foods are not permitted. Agriculturally, hemp seed farming provides the impetus for hemp fibre production.

Medical cannabis products are now available to most in the western world. The Canadian government supplies and permits cannabis to be grown



for medical purposes. In the USA the majority of citizens now live under legal regimes that allow access, cultivation and supply of cannabis for medical use.

Why is no western country currently trying to make cannabis more illegal? The answer is simply that harsher laws are not only ineffective, they are also counterproductive. In countries that have modernised their cannabis laws, use is falling as the 'forbidden fruit syndrome' disappears. Just as alcohol prohibition failed dismally, cannabis prohibition mimics the most undesirable aspects experienced by American law and order during the alcohol ban.

### Protests Planned

MardiGrass will be more clearly a protest this year, with a rally for law reform in Lismore on Tuesday 1st May as well as the Sunday 6th MardiGrass Rally

marching to the Nimbin Police Station, rather than away from it as in previous years.

Now that Peace Park has the skate park, we have brought more events back to the Town Hall for this year, which makes it actually similar to last year when it was too wet to use the park.

Can you imagine a MardiGrass beyond prohibition? The Mardi Grass Mind Candy forums featuring an array of national and international thinkers and speakers to discuss the past, present and future of cannabis law reform from many different angles, will do its best to see it happens. On Saturday afternoon of the protestival, we'll be exploring issues from cannabis and spirituality through to cannabis and sex, the tough love of prohibition, imagining and creating regulated cannabis markets, advances in cannabis science and cannabis as both medicine and food.

We'll also hold a special two-hour forum on Sunday to give voice to various drug law reform groups and individuals to share visions and ideas for future change. Leading these discussions will be Lisa Kirkman from Canada (activist, journalist and author), Dr Alex Wodak (President of Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation), Prof Paul Wilson (Criminologist, Bond University), Ann Symonds

(founder of the Australian Parliamentary Group on Drug Law Reform) and Annie Madden (Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League). They will be joined by a wonderful array of local activists, media provocateurs and other movers and shakers who would like to see an end to prohibition.

There will also be discussions/workshops on the value of hempseed as food and medicine, hash making, vapourizer use, pot and politics, legal advice, industrial hemp farming and building with hemp, growing low and high the pot, and more... anyone who wants to be involved or has a subject they wish to talk about, please contact the Embassy soon. Same for musicians and performers and anyone with a spare room for hire or lend, and anyone who wants to volunteer for Jungle Patrol, the Polite Service, Polite Undercover, CLOG, or help in any other way. Do get in touch in the Embassy or on the phone 6689-1842.

There is a first class music line-up gathering, including Rapskallion, Fyah Walk, Anarchist Duck, Andrea Soler, DUBLO, The Flumes, Elektrik Lemonade, The Floating Bridges, Diana Anaid, Pagan Love Cult, Healing Earth, Essie Thomas, Emma Turnicliiff, Manju & Express and Kaliba. Check: [www.nimbinmardigrass.com](http://www.nimbinmardigrass.com) for the latest program.

# Blockbusters' D-Day inches closer

Since June 2011, local academic lawyer Graham Irvine has been asking the police to explain their reasons for setting up roadblocks on 25th and 26th

February 2011 at the Lismore and Stony Chute Roads intersection, and on the Blue Knob and Tuntable Creek roads.

Graham, who estimates that hundreds of vehicles were pulled over, wrote to the Police requesting copies of the police authority to conduct the two-day operation, and was sent a contradictory reply stating in one part that they didn't need one, and in another, that they'd lost it.

So Graham made an application for review of the case by an internal police procedure again resulting in a denial of his request. He then took his case to the Information Commission which once again found for the police. Now the matter is to be heard by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal sometime in 2012.

The police have stated in their submission that their Operation Yagan was simply a random breath testing operation, and did not amount to a roadblock. However the Act governing roadblocks defines a roadblock as "any appropriate form of barrier or obstruction preventing or limiting the passage of vehicles on any specified road".

Graham is seeking as many witnesses as possible to the barriers used by the police on either of those two days, who would like to sign a formal statement that what they witnessed was a roadblock. Photos would also be of assistance.

If you can help, please phone Graham on 6689-1666 or email him at: [grairv@yahoo.com.au](mailto:grairv@yahoo.com.au) The statements must be in by 30th March.



NGT front page, March 2011

# STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

## Leech City Down Unda

Pipe looks wild and primitive. I've never seen him quite like this, flushed and so furious one minute, in tears the next.

The Boss sent me up into the hills for a break away from the pub to find out how the

season's crop is shaping up. It's a long walk up to Pipe's camp and suddenly I was there, eyes wide open. It looked like an orgy but he was angry as and that didn't equate, even for me. To be fair, he was naked on all fours with three golden nymphs climbing all over him.

It took me a very long breathless moment to work out what was happening. "42", cried Tinkerbell.

"43", chirped the gorgeous pregnant fairy with her head between his legs.

"44", "45", "46".

They were pulling leeches off him. On and on, they finished at 74. Pipe said the record was 112.

"You could dress like the chopper squad, sealed from head to toe", I told him and should have known better. "Die of suffocation," he grunted, as they dragged several from between his toes.

Some of the weedcops do collapse on the job, from heat exhaustion, it's true.

While they are picking him clean like tickbirds on a buffalo, Pipe's busy with what he calls his RAD (Repressed Anger Disorder). Today it's suing Her Majesty the Prime Minister, as he calls Julia, for his average of "about fifty" leech bites a day which has



started to deeply affect him. His blood is so thin he can't stop the flow some evenings and says he feels weaker by the day.

"I never get sick," he fumes. "And it's all because of her war on weed otherwise I could grow the crop in the front yard." He looks extraordinary covered in ash trying to stem little red trickles flowing from more than a dozen holes. I keep thinking of seeping refugee boats.

After a while he gives me all the info I need for the Boss. "Forget the leeches, it's the mould that's merciless. What the wallabies and bandicoots don't ruin, the mould is consuming this year.

the mountain. All the way, I thought it was hard to work out the Yanks and undastand why I was still employed here in the weed war they started, while it's legal over there for them.

**HipiLeaks:** Feb 2012, classified. The fallout from the "Class C" Canberra terrorist attack, as it was called on the day, continues. Apparently Julia really did want to go out and sing Happy 40th Birthday to the Tent Embassy Mob but the Force, as our name implies, cannot operate on trust and hastily deciding it was a 'C', which means 'escape no matter what'. Brian then got so excited by The Big Moment he knocked Julia off her feet when he should have swept her into his arms and made a decent job of it.

**HipiLeaks:** March 2012, Canberra to all States. Time to begin the previously discussed nicotine sniffer dog training programs. It is expected the dogs should be up and running by early 2013. The public need not be informed yet.

## NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street  
Phone 6689-1250

### What's On in March?

- **Sunday 11th** – Ballina Rabbit Trappers club visit
- **Friday 16th** – World's Geatest Shave, 2 bands – 7.30pm
- **Sunday 18th** – Leukaemia Benefit social bowls – 9.30am
- **Trivial Pursuit** – Every Saturday, from 7pm
- **Courtesy Bus** – Book at bar
- **Free Broadband** – Over 50's

### CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner Tues – Sun
- Friday Banquets
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The Lismore Jazz Club presents local group Casino Street. They will be performing at the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday 25th March from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is members and students \$10 and non members \$15.

Casino Street (pictured) is led by Sally Gwynne on vocals. Sally has had a long association with the jazz scene, first in Sydney where she has worked with some of the greats of Australian jazz, most prominently jazz legends Julian Lee and Craig Scott whom she regularly performed with in trio and quartet lineups.

She has performed at most of the well known jazz venues in Sydney including The Basement, Soup Plus, Strawberry Hills Hotel etc., as well as doing many performances at Jazz festivals such as the Manly Jazz Festival, Thredbo Jazz



Festival and Parramatta Jazz Festival, to mention a few.

Since relocating to the North Coast several years ago, Sally has sought out well known local musicians and has been doing gigs around the local circuit. For this gig, Sally will have Frank Williams on sax, Don Peterson on bass, John Derkley on keyboard, Zoom on guitar and Tim Burrell on drums.

Casino Street will be playing some of the great standards of the past as well as some iconic songs from more recent times, which are given a distinctly jazz flavouring.

Come and listen to the warm and luscious vocals of this beautiful chanteuse – unforgettable!



Sally Gwynne

“Bring a song, bring a verse, bring a friend”



Serinna and George

for and effective communication with the sound engineer; what you need to know about your own equipment and its limitations, microphone technique and audience communication, song crafting and dynamics.

The participants, Tobi, Serinna, Jaeden and Glen, regularly

perform at The Channon Folk Club Open Mic.

The Channon Folk Club ran a stagecraft workshop recently, designed for a small group of participants, to enable one-on-one tuition with George Urbaszek. The workshop was a very successful afternoon, with all participants learning lots of new skills to finetune their performances such as getting on and off stage, set-up techniques, including what to listen

The next Channon Folk Club Open Mic is on Sunday 25th March, from 2pm 'til dusk at The Channon Tavern. The courtesy bus is now available for the Folk Club, but you need to book it by ringing The Channon Tavern on 6688-6522.

Email: [channon@lis.net.au](mailto:channon@lis.net.au) to be informed of what's happening at the Folk Club.

## Hempseed food

Nimbin's world-famous Hemp Bar is a community-run enterprise that serves a delicious range of hempseed snacks, including burgers, cakes, cookies and truffles, and flavoursome Caffeind coffee, milkshakes and smoothies.

But now they need more healthy foods to sell, but it must contain hempseed (no THC). If you can help with supply, see Jak (pictured) in the Hemp Bar during the day.



## Bush Theatre screen previews

Reviewed by Belinda Marsh

### WEEKEND

Friday 9th and Saturday 10th March at 7.30pm  
MA, 90mins

What can happen in just one weekend? After going to a party with his straight mates, Russell continues on to a gay club where he meets Glen... but the one-night stand both are expecting turns into something more, something special.



### VINCENT WANTS TO SEA

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm

MA, 96 mins German

Young Vincent (who has Tourette's Syndrome) decides to fulfil his mother's dying wish. With the help of his anorexic colleague Marie and their obsessive-compulsive pal Alex, Vincent's heartfelt race to freedom is an adventure fraught with both calamity and charm.



### THE ILLUSIONIST

Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th March at 7.30pm  
PG 80 mins French/English

In the late 1950s an out-dated and ageing magician

travels the globe in search of work. In Scotland, his gloom is lifted when he encounters Alice; an innocent young girl who will change his life forever



### LATE BLOOMERS

Friday 30th and Saturday 31st March at 7.30pm



PG, 188 mins

This romantic comedy stars Isabella Rossellini and William Hurt, who play a couple whose 30-year marriage is starting to run into trouble. It shows a portrait of marriage as well as the realities of getting older.

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**Sunday Gig Guide**

**March 2pm Start**

**11<sup>th</sup> Faye Blais Band**  
Canadian indie folk artist says farewell to Australia

**18<sup>th</sup> Songbirds**  
Seven-part female vocal group singing beautiful songs and lush harmonies

**25<sup>th</sup> Osmosis**  
Fantastic local musicians with awesome tunes, vibes and energy

**April**

**1<sup>st</sup> Noam Blat**  
Born and raised in Israel, Noam's music has been shaped by his years of travel around the world



## Toot Toot! Wonder at Lismore station

In March, NORPA will premiere *Railway Wonderland*, a spectacular original theatre work that will be performed live at Lismore train station. Dance, theatre, live music, a choir and stunning video projections all combine to take the audience on a magical ride across time from the 1940s to the present day.

All the action will take place on the beautiful, dis-used station platform with the audience on special undercover seating that has been constructed across the railway tracks.

“Train stations are such evocative and romantic places where a thousand hellos and goodbyes resonate across time,” said the show's director and NORPA's artistic director Julian Louis.

Two years in the making, *Railway Wonderland* is one of the largest and most dynamic theatre works to be created in the Northern Rivers region. The highly collaborative work is a central piece in NORPA's *Generator* original works program, and brings together an exceptional line-up of local artists and theatre practitioners from

across Australia, including playwright Janis Balodis, choreographer Emma Saunders and a 'super-choir' led by Peter Lehner, comprised of choir leaders from across the region.

*Railway Wonderland* started in 2009 with a call-out to local writers to submit short stories that were then performed at the 2010 Byron Bay Writers Festival. The production is also informed by engagement with historians and researchers at Southern Cross University and the Richmond River Historical Society, Rail Corp staff, the general public, enthusiasts and lobby groups.

“Some of the most fascinating, beautiful material has come out of *Railway Wonderland*'s development process. That spirit of exchange, collaboration and discovery has informed the work from the very beginning,” said Julian Louis.

All aboard from Tuesday 27th March – Saturday 31st March, at 8pm. Lismore Train Station, Union St, Lismore. Tickets are \$37 for adults, \$30 concession, Under 18: \$16.50 Bookings: [www.norpa.org.au](http://www.norpa.org.au) or call Norpa's Box Office Mon – Fri on: 1300-066-772.

## Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246



## March Gigs

Thursday 8th  
Friday 9th  
Saturday 10th  
Sunday 11th

Thursday 15th  
Friday 16th  
Saturday 17th  
Sunday 18th

Thursday 22nd  
Friday 23rd  
Saturday 24th  
Sunday 25th

Friday 30th  
Saturday 31st  
Sunday 1st April

Ian Rowe  
Broadfoot  
Luna Junction  
Patrick Curley

Robert Saric  
The Romaniacs  
DJ  
Ted & Khan

Bill Jacobi  
Pappa Funk  
The Liquid Search  
Surf Report

Khanage  
The Velocity of Salvation  
J. Mo & the 3 Beans

Gigs start: Thurs 6.30pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7pm, Sun 4pm

## Hummingbird Bistro

Bistro Specials: Mon \$10 pasta;  
Thurs \$10 steak 250g