

# Nimbin Olympics 2013



Ideas are flowing for new events at this year's celebration of water and the pool which keeps it together.

The Nimbin Olympic Committee, a subgroup of Friends of the Pool, are taking submissions for events, rules, judging, life saving and the sausage sizzle.

There is great anticipation surrounding the Float Marathon. Come down to the pool anytime to catch a glimpse of a floater in training for the big day. There are rumours of champion floaters flying in from Sydney.

The Synchronised Swimming teams are keeping their routines under wraps, while another rumour stirs the spirit, maybe a team of mermen. The Nimbin Olympic Committee is determined to achieve gender equity in its programme, though to date men have been

reluctant to embrace the sophisticated art form of Synchronised Swimming.

Last year the Hawaiian Fashion parade showed the flowery flair of the pool-goers. The fashion section of the Olympics has expanded to include Muu Muus, swimming costumes and beach umbrellas.

A morning to remember: 26th January at 10am – a great way to plunge into Australia Day. It's a fundraiser for accoutrements for the Nimbin Pool.



# Big win for Youth



**Filmic (l-r):** Journey Naday-Ford, Darmin Cameron, Jamie Lacher, Ari McKinlay, Jenny Dowell, & Bodhi Schlippe-Star. Photo: Paris Naday

There were lots of surprises and big grins when the winners for the Nimbin Youth Film Comp 'It's My Life' were announced on Saturday 15th December at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. Thirteen films were shown to an audience who were at times in stitches with laughter and at other times moved to tears by the raw honesty of some of the films.

Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell presented the awards and said she was astounded by the high standard and variety of the films shown on the day.

Top prize was taken out by Richmond River High School student Ari McKinlay, for her powerful and confronting film *Imagine This*. Ari's award winning film is an intimate look at the effects and aftermath of suicide on those left behind.

The judges Paul Tait and Jeni Kendall of Gaia Films were highly impressed by the high standard of the entries and said this about Ari's film "It is a raw and extremely personal film, confronting, riveting and highly engaging, powerful, gripping, and evolves all the way through, without losing energy, it has many levels of meaning with a message of hope and compassion."

The second prize went to

Journey Naday-Ford and Jamie Lacher for their music video clip *Apocalypse* the judges said it was "A wacky, humourous, clever film right through to the last end credit, sophisticated and well done in every way. Also a film for the times with 21/12 upon us!"

The third prize went to Bodhi von Schlippe-Star from Nimbin with his film *Bohdi's Life*. The judges said "An intimate portrayal of a young person's life. This sweet film has a flavour that stays with you. The film followed the brief 'It's My Life' very closely. Classy camera work and great editing".

The competition was funded by Youth Connections North Coast (YCNC) with funding from the federal Community Builders program.

The Nimbin business and arts community got behind the competition with generous donations of cash and prizes. These included Nimbin School of Arts, Nimbin Bush Theatre, Nimbin Pizza and Trattoria, Nimbin Law, Nimbin Emporium, Grapevine Café, Rainbow Café, Nimbin Apothecary.

Organiser Darmin Cameron said the competition is growing yearly with more entries and a higher standard of production in evidence and next year will be bigger and better.



# Museum Birthday

Nimbin Museum celebrated its 20th Birthday on Boxing Day, sharing Christmas dinner leftovers and dressing up as characters from Nimbin's long and colourful history. Many came as themselves, but not everyone!

"We thought the Museum would only last a year," is how Michael Balderstone remembers its birth 20 years ago, on Boxing Day 1992. "I had a second-hand shop there, but lost heart for it when my family broke up. Byron was beginning to get popular and they sealed the rough road from Murwillumbah, so we started getting a lot of visitors, many of whom wanted an explanation of what happened in the village. We tried to give them some idea of how we viewed its history."

Visitors to the Museum follow a million-year timeline Rainbow Serpent path through the dinosaur, Aboriginal and European eras of Nimbin. "This piece of country has a long, long history of being carefully managed by the Aboriginal people with only very recent interference from us whitefellas who just didn't see the wisdom of the locals. They must have had a relationship with the country of such intimacy and knowledge we can only imagine what it was like. They lived here for thousands of years creating abundance, not just sustainability. In only 150 years, the forests are now largely gone, as is the wildlife. We've tried to show visitors that perspective and ask, just where did the hippies get it wrong?"

"Truly it's the paintbrushes of Burri Jerome and Elspeth Jones that have created the magic in the Museum, but it would never have survived 20 years without widespread support from many in the community, none more than Rod who has volunteered in the Cafe for years now, hardly ever missing a day. It's not what everybody expects of a Museum and some leave quickly, but others stay for hours and rave about it."

Elspeth says she thinks of it as a history of an attitude that extends from the first dreaming to the present. Beginning and ending in the same spot, the path of the Rainbow Serpent takes us on a journey from when "Our life was freedom", a quote from Uncle Eric Walker describing the time before the white settlement, to 'Freedom Now, the catchcry of the sixties.



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## Rail service promises: where's the study?

TOOT and the whole Northern Rivers community is keenly awaiting the feasibility study on the Casino-Murwillumbah line.

According to the government, the report was due "by the end of the year".

"People keep asking me when trains will be running," TOOT president Karin Kolbe said. "People are asking if the local members are really committed to rail transport."

The NSW Master Plan for the Northern Rivers released 13/12/2012 simply states, "We will release the Casino to Murwillumbah rail corridor investigation and consider its recommendations."

"TOOT calls on the Minister for the North Coast, Don Page, to tell us when this report will be released and commuter trains will be running," said Ms Kolbe.

Local members have previously committed to rail services. For example, in September 2009 Don Page said in a media

release, "...the line should be upgraded, and used for a commuter and light rail service linking towns and villages in the Northern Rivers."

"The government allocated \$2 million for this study in its 2011 Budget, and we want to ensure that this report doesn't get buried over the holiday season. If the report has been delayed we want to know why," Ms Kolbe said.

Don Page, MP confirmed the study in his media release on 6 September 2011: "...there is \$2 million allocated to conduct a feasibility study into the reinstatement of train services on the Casino to Murwillumbah line, including the possibility of connecting to the Queensland rail system. This feasibility study will be conducted in the context of a wider integrated transport network for the North Coast area."

[www.toot.org.au](http://www.toot.org.au)

## Wildlife dying in Metgasco's ponds

WIRES (Wildlife Information and Rescue Service) was recently called to the aid of a dying kangaroo found in Metgasco's newest Pollocks Road 'produced water' pond, near Casino.

The young adult male Eastern Grey kangaroo, spotted in the heat of the day by Community Watch volunteers, was trapped in shallow water in the pond. "It was lying in the water and it couldn't get up - it tried and its legs just collapsed underneath it," said volunteer Sarah Antill.

"I'm still trembling, it was awful," said Angela Draper, another of the volunteers. "If Metgasco was serious about minimising the impact of their activities, they'd be putting fences around every pond, or making easily accessible escape routes for anything that gets trapped. But they're not."

Community Watch notified both Metgasco and WIRES. Two Metgasco employees arrived and attempted to shoo the kangaroo out of the pond.

"We asked them to wait until WIRES arrived but they ignored us," said Dean Draper, another of the volunteers. "Trying to shoo it out just caused it more stress. It was obvious that the roo was in no condition to cope with the slippery sides of the pond. It could hardly stand."

Kangaroos, like other

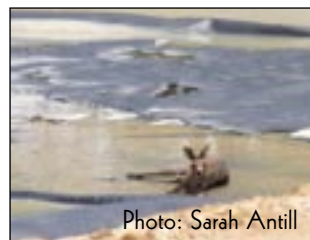


Photo: Sarah Antill

macropods, develop a condition called "capture myopathy" when stressed. Their muscles break down, and they die a painful death that can take up to two weeks.

Melanie Barsony, from WIRES, administered a sedative in an attempt to avert the condition, but wasn't optimistic about the roo's chances.

"From its rapid breathing and salivating, I'd say it's already showing myopathy. It doesn't look good."

CSG 'produced water' ponds have been nicknamed "toxic ponds". They are also lined with black plastic, which gets very hot and is too slippery for trapped animals to climb out.

Draper said, "This kangaroo is just the most recent in a long line of wildlife incidents in these ponds. Community Watch volunteers regularly see dead birds and lizards in the pond up the road. Mining companies say that their activities are safe, but tell that to this roo."

The kangaroo has since died.

## Best CSG quotes

Compiled by Sue Stock

"I want to place on record... that Metgasco is doing a wonderful job, and I congratulate Metgasco on what it is doing in the Northern Rivers. The eyes of Australia are on what is happening in the Northern Rivers area with Metgasco's operations and I call on the Government to look at what the organisation is doing and provide support rather than impediments."

- Thomas George MP, 10.3.10

Energy Minister Chris Hartcher said it would be "lights out" for NSW families if angry residents of southwest Sydney succeed in blocking coal seam gas exploration.

Accusing environmental lobbyists of spreading "untruths" about proposed drilling underneath homes around Campbelltown, Mr Hartcher said the state's gas supplies would begin running dry as early as 2014 without further development.

No one knows exactly what caused the ripple in the fabric of Cullen St on New Year's Eve. It may have been an aftershock of the Mayan apocalypse, a line-marking machine dodging potholes, or just Time slamming on the brakes in an attempt to avoid becoming a year older.

While it gave locals a giggle, the powers that be judged it a hazard to foreign tourists already confused by having to drive on the wrong side of the road.

As Police deployed industrial-strength sunglasses in order to avoid



eye contact with the public, a couple of grinning Lismore City Council workers went about the task of returning Cullen Street to something

approaching normal. We're sure if their smiles were the result of getting the joke or the fact that they were on overtime.

## Age of Aquarius Gig

As the world didn't end on 21<sup>st</sup> December, we were able to party in the Nimbin Town Hall on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and it was a great warm-up for the 40<sup>th</sup> Aquarius Anniversary.

Hippie love abounded, and a wonderful night was enjoyed

## Nimbin Aquarius Foundation

by all. A big thanks to the musicians and performers, PA and light show, and all the cooks and volunteers, also to our sponsors who paid for the Hall and donated raffle prizes, and to the designer of our great poster.

It was a very special and magical evening. If anyone took any photos, please send us a copy to [aquariusnetworking@gmail.com](mailto:aquariusnetworking@gmail.com) or bring in to the Aquarius Room at the Community Centre.

At 4.30pm, about 30 people joined hands on the blister in front of the Rainbow Cafe and sent out OMs for World Peace for five minutes, as part of one billion OMs from around the world.

Nimbin played its part with love and joy. May peace prevail on Earth.



## Welcome to Country

Nimbin Bundjalung Elders will welcome the 2013 Celebrations of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nimbin Aquarius Festival, from 11am on Thursday 17th January at the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

All Nimbin folk are invited for a very special event - the day will include children's craft activities, a shared lunch, followed by a Welcome to Country and story-telling by Aboriginal and Aquarius friends. Some music and films will follow, and Aboriginal Art and Crafts will be on display.



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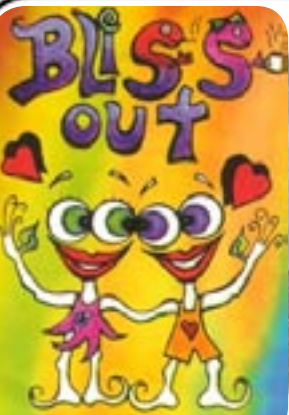
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# Lights, camera, action at Cawongla Playhouse

by Leanne Logan

Cawongla Kids – *Belonging, Being & Becoming* screened to a full house at its world premier at Cawongla Playhouse's twilight picnic on 13 December. This short film – co-created by Jamie and Marley and with an all-star cast of exuberant preschoolers – captured the essence of our little local preschool. It was fun, clever and moving – and as the credits rolled up the applause was rousing.

The film's screening was the climax to our end-of-year twilight celebration that drew the preschool's present-day community, folk from the past and future families together for an evening of mellow magic. We sat on picnic rugs and talked and shared food and stories. We watched our kids play under the glow of solar-powered fairy lights. We paid tribute to our previous director



Claire introduces Breanna to her little 'reindeer-goat'.

Sharon Pollard and listened as Sharon told us what she'd loved about her 30 years at Cawongla Playhouse.

After hearing Sharon speak, I was left with a clear message – that we have one very special little preschool here in this aptly-named 'Peaceful Place', and it's our job – as educators, parents, families and community members – to nurture it into the future.

So what will our new year



Sharon's thank you plaque

bring? We're going to slither into the Chinese Year of the Snake, with this theme leading into Indigenous studies and dreaming stories, plus a host of other related

experiences such as bush food, music, dance and all manner of investigative inquiry. We'll elaborate more on our 2013 curriculum in the next *GoodTimes* edition.

In the meantime, enrolments are open for this year. Fees for one or two days' enrolment range from \$15-20 per day, depending on income. Third and fourth days attract a flat-rate fee of \$10 per day. Term 1 starts on Wednesday 30th January. Open Monday to Thursday 9am-3pm. Phone 6633-7167.



## Community Xmas Lunch

What an absolutely fabulous Community Xmas Lunch we had last year, and, off course this would not have been possible without the help of so many.

Special thanks to all those in the community who have supported Soup Friday throughout the year, namely the Emporium and their wonderful staff, Darren and

his crew from the bakery and to those who have donated that extra cash to fill the food cabinet and freezer for the food parcels.

To Vera and friends thanks for the presents that our wonderful Santa and his helpers had the pleasure of giving, to one and all, blessed be, keep safe and look out for each other.

## Kids' art raises dough



Dianne Wilder, Darren Butcher and Kylie Kingston with kids from Nimbin Preschool.

Children at Nimbin Preschool drew designs for cakes during December, and presented them to Nimbin Bakery for professional appraisal.

Cake-meister Darren Butcher said, "They gave me a few ideas, especially for decorating our children's party cakes."

In fact, he was so impressed with their creations that he put the designs on show in his shop, along with a donation tin, which over two weeks raised \$172-40 for the preschool.

Co-ordinator Diane Wilder said the money will be used to purchase a bird bath for the new Cecil Street preschool facility, to be called the 'Bakery Birdbath'.

"Thanks to all who contributed," she said.



Dinosaur birthday cake design by Livio

### Nimbin Preschool

## Enrolments available now.

Preschool: Nimbin A&I Showgrounds, Cecil St.  
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### In your neighbourhood...

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

**Happy New Year**  
from everyone at NNIC!  
NNIC will be re-opening on Monday 7th January at 10am.

### Logging in the Nightcap and Whian Whian forests

Just as the Nimbin community recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of the successful Nightcap Forest campaign, the NSW Government announced that both the Whian Whian and the Nightcap are on the table for future logging. This is terrible news for a community which fought a long hard battle to protect these forests in the first place. Looks like we may have to protect them all over again. Not happy Barry!

### 7 Sibley Street updates

Funds raised at time of writing this: \$84,000. \$63,000 to go, plus interest at 6.25% If every reader of the NGT deposits a mere \$20 into our account, we will easily pay off the loan. You can help by spreading the word – and the new website – around as much as possible. [www.sevenonsibley.com](http://www.sevenonsibley.com)

**The Old House** – various options have been explored and we met with the Lismore City Council Planning team in the last week of December to look at the future development of the site.

Council staff was incredibly supportive and helpful. Check out the stuff up on the fence at 7 Sibley Street.

Thanks heaps to the *GoodTimes* for the December layout. Look out for the Board Game around town... we hope you all enjoy playing it!

**Community Planning Session and Forum on 7 Sibley Street** – Sunday 24th February 2013 at the Town Hall, from 10.30am to 3pm. We promise

it will be an inspiring day and a change for you all to get involved in the planning for the development of the site. So get this date into yer diaries folks!

### NNIC post harvest food equipment library

With mango and banana season coming up and lots of fruit ripening on the trees, now is the time to think about preserving your excess fruit and veges. You can join our equipment library and get FREE access to the post harvest equipment including dehydrators, Vitamix (seed mill and food processor), and honey harvesting gear.

Contact NNIC to join the library. Membership open to all NNIC members (\$5.50 per year) at the one-off Joining Fee of \$55 (inc GST) and then yearly membership of \$22 (inc GST). The more members we get the more gear we can add to the library, so join now!

### Animal welfare issues

If you have concerns about the welfare of an animal, the lesson we have learnt from the tragic death of Amber the mare last year, is to tell someone about it. If you don't know who to tell or what to do... tell us at NNIC and we will follow it up.

Don't forget to make sure your domestic pets have lots of water over the hot summer months. And you can help the local wildlife out during the heat by putting water out for them too. (Keep it away from the house though, in case the odd thirsty snake is attracted to it). WIRES Hotline is 6628-1898. (Note that some of our staff at NNIC are also registered WIRES carers).

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## What a Bahzoooley!

Great music, tasty food and a non-nuclear explosion of talent warmed the hearts of young and old at the Nimbin Central School annual concert.

The broader community showed great support for the young performers, giving them the encouragement to make next year's show even better.



Come to Tribal Magic at 62 Cullen Street Nimbin and meet Kota the dinosaur.

Have your photo taken with Kota and help raise funds for the Sustainability House.

## Holiday Club offers summer fun for kids

Date	Program	Cost
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Nimbin Youth Club</b> Bring protection and gear for a swim at Nimbin Pool and a play at the Skate Park. <b>Art workshop making owls.</b> Easy and fun! <i>Sophie and Gaz</i>	\$10
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Excursion to Lismore Skating Rink and Heritage Park</b> Skating followed by lunch at Heritage Park. <i>Sophie and Ajita</i>	\$18
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Nimbin Youth Club</b> Bring gear for a swim at Nimbin Pool and a play at the Skate Park. <b>Art workshop making 3D birds.</b> Easy and fun! <i>Sophie and Gaz</i>	\$10
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Excursion to Murwillumbah Pool</b> Bring food, water and swimmers. <i>Sophie and Alex</i>	\$15
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Nimbin Youth Club, Candle Factory and Mulgum Creek</b> Please bring food, water and swimmers for the creek. <i>Sophie and Alex</i>	\$10
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Excursion to Protestors Falls</b> Bring a drink, swimmers and towel, a change of clothes and walking shoes. Yummy vege lunch provided. Bush walk to bottom of falls. <i>Sophie and Gaz</i>	\$14
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Nimbin Youth Club</b> Bring gear for a swim at Nimbin Pool and a play at the Skate Park. <b>Art workshop using pipe cleaners.</b> Easy and fun! <i>Sophie and Alex</i>	\$10
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Excursion to Annie's Garden Café.</b> Friendly miniature farm animals for feeding and petting, 5 acres of garden paths to explore and monkey vines to climb. <b>A quality lunch is included</b> (Cost discounted for families of 3 or more). Bring a change of clothes. <i>Sophie and Alex</i>	\$22

The Nimbin Holiday Club program runs during January for children aged 5 – 12.

This year, the Holiday Club is operating from the Youth Connections Building. However, on excursion days, please meet us in the Nimbin Central School car park at 9am.

Please read the dates

and venues above carefully and book to avoid disappointment. The day runs between 9am and 3pm.

To book, phone Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre on 6689-1692 between 10am and 4pm. Please note that the basic fee is \$10 per day and more on excursion days.

Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing, covered shoes, brings a hat, sun block and has adequate food and drinks.

This program is administered by Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, funded by NSW FaCS, and is an OOSH service.

# LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin community

## Nimbin Water Supply upgrade gets green light

At its December meeting Council resolved to commit to the implementation of Stage 1 of the Nimbin Water Supply – Upgrade Option 3.

Extensive community consultation identified Option 3 as preferred by the majority of respondents. It includes construction of a new pump station, pipeline and reservoir to provide rural customers of the Nimbin Water Supply with water from the DE Williams Dam.

Council also resolved to implement a system of aerating and mixing water within the DE Williams Dam to improve water quality.

Council will undertake further community consultation prior to the implementation of Stage 2 of this project – investigation and construction of additional water treatment at the DE Williams Dam to treat water supplied to both rural and village customers.

Construction of Stage 1 is likely to begin in early 2014 while consultation for Stage 2 is likely to begin in mid-2013. The estimated total cost of the project is \$6.5 million.

## Nimbin MardiGrass DA on exhibition

Council is pleased to announce that the MardiGrass Organising Body (MOB) has lodged a DA for the 2013 event. The DA is now on public exhibition and people have until 21 January to comment.

Council's Planning staff said it was good to be working with the MOB to have the DA submitted in plenty of time to enable meaningful consultation with the community and marketing for the 2013 event. The main change in 2013 is the relocation of activities from Peace Park to privately owned land at the rear of the Nimbin Town Hall, which features a natural amphitheatre.

Copies of the DA are available for viewing at the Nimbin Visitor Centre, Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah and Council's CBD Office, 55 Magellan Street, Lismore from Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 4.30pm throughout the exhibition period from Thursday, 20 December 2012 to Monday, 21 January 2013 (excluding Council holiday closures). Alternatively, copies can be viewed online via the DA Tracking service.

The public is invited to make submissions by post to the General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A, Lismore, NSW 2480 or via email to [council@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lismore.nsw.gov.au). Submissions should state reasons for objection or support. The advertised DA can be viewed on page 9.

## Expressions of Interest for Draft Biodiversity Management Strategy

Lismore City Council is about to commence development of a Draft Biodiversity Management Strategy (Draft BMS). Council wants to involve the community in the development of the Draft BMS from the inception of the project.

To this end, a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) will be established with membership from a diverse range of industry and community interest groups. Members of the Stakeholder Reference Group will provide knowledge, information and help shape the Draft BMS.

Expressions of Interest are currently being sought from individuals as well as special interest groups. Preference will be given to those applicants who are members of, and endorsed by, a recognised industry or community interest group operating within the Lismore Local Government Area.

Expressions of Interest are due by 4.00pm on Friday, 25 January 2013. Copies of the Stakeholder Reference Group Charter, Procedures and Expression of Interest form are available on Council's website in the 'Have Your Say' section.

Should you wish to submit an Expression of Interest, please address your submission to the General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A, Lismore, NSW 2480. Late submissions will not be accepted.

If you require more detailed information feel free to contact Mr Nick Stephens or Dr Damian Licari on telephone: 1300 87 83 87.

Council is committed to making the best decisions for Lismore based on good information and community input. Your contribution will help set the direction for the management of biodiversity within the Lismore region into the future.

## Affordable fitness for Nimbin

Nimbin Physical Activity Centre is working with Move2Change to bring Lift for Life to Nimbin, offering \$2 strength training that's suitable for everyone regardless of fitness, age or ability.

The program can help prevent type 2 diabetes and involves two sessions each week in the gym. Everyone gets a health assessment so an individual program can be tailored for them.

Lift for Life is available for \$2 per session to adults who are unemployed, seniors, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, from a non-English speaking background, refugees, with a disability or carers. Workers can participate for \$5 per session.

Lismore City Council's Move2Change project is funded by the Australian Government's Healthy Communities Initiative.

Lift for Life sessions at Nimbin Physical Activity Centre will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11.00am, starting 4 February.

To get involved phone Tarryn on 6625 5377.

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### 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 elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

### Misguided AVOs

My fine regards to the young man from Billen whose letter gave me great comfort about the state of misguided AVOs.

I too, have lost my son due to this process of denial of a father's love due to lies and unforgiving selfishness.

Myself being gentle and non-violent, the instigation coming from my unexpected visits and unwanted gift-giving, for now I feel like I cannot prove my innocence, and am damned as a bad, violent, murderous father who shall receive no favour, and hung from the nearest tree... so to speak.

The process has left me degraded and futureless. I am left with a painful hole in my heart.

Mark Ronberg

### Christmas Blasphemy

I am absolutely appalled by the article written by Mookx Hanley in your December issue (p.24).

I haven't read your paper before, so I don't know if this is his usual style of writing or not, but when an angry, unhappy human being is allowed to air his views and then throw in quite a few unsavoury words as well, I guess this is the type of

disgusting nonsense you can expect.

We all know about the commercialisation of Christmas, the Chinese imports, etc. We all hate it.

However on the other hand, we also all know Christmas is meant to be a time of spreading love and peace around to others. Meant to be. We all know that doesn't happen with everybody. But I tell you what, when it happens, it is so good and when you feel it you wish it could last longer.

Adults are supposed to instil respect in children for God, country and family. I sincerely hope that children don't get to see drivel like this, because the writer obviously couldn't care less about such things.

If he used his clever way with words to do something smart or funny, he might do some good. For all I know, maybe he has followers who think he's hilarious, which doesn't say much for them either, I guess.

I enjoyed very much the rest of your newspaper, but there is a huge (and I do mean huge) group of us who abhor this kind of writing. Whether or not this matters to you, I don't know.

And Mr Mookx Hanley? I sincerely hope that this year something touches his heart in a way that he understands, and he finds the true meaning of Christmas.

Name and address withheld

### Appreciation

To the editor, your journals and everyone who helps to make it happen.

Thank you for your family-friendly, good-natured community paper, and the top news reporting.

Tony Paden, Ballina

### Floating fluke

I should have known there'd be a catch with the floating garden idea (NGT Nov 12). I thought the foam boxes might cause cancer but no, it could be a liver fluke trap.

As far as I know I haven't got it yet, but I now hear most cases of liver fluke appear to come from watercress. Maybe collected from a creek where cows shit, or sheep, or roos or rats or God only knows who carries the little snails who shed their cysts after climbing up out of the water. OK if you boil whatever you pick from your floating garden... but boiled lettuce just doesn't do it for me!

Meanwhile the garden on the dam is a raging success and no cows or sheep can get near it so I'm not too worried and enjoying the salads. But I had to tell you, and thanks to Peter Hardwick for setting me straight.

There is a remedy for liver fluke, a dose of sheep drench.

Michael Balderstone

### Pool chemicals

Please take note of my concern at the use of chemical toxins in our pool. At 3pm on Saturday 30th November, after a wonderful frolic in the pool with numerous friends celebrating a 4th birthday, I sat on the edge of the pool and played with the cool water jets that are presumably part of the normal water purification process, and suffered chemical burns that are still visible a month later on the skin inside both my ankles and lower shins.

I was homeless at the time, and I have the names of three other people, also homeless at the time, who witnessed my shin skin looking red and angry. One of my homeless friends also described symptoms of Giardia, a water-borne parasite that from time to time inhabits the water source that our community drinks from, out of their taps.

Diane Arthur, Nimbin

### Spin and indifference at City Hall

In September 2011 I told the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry that there was great anxiety and fear in the community about CSG. I

expressed my deep concern that if this industry were allowed to deliberately destroy the property, lifestyle, and prospects of country Australians, then the result would be widespread emotional distress, social disruption and political turmoil. Turning the Northern Rivers into gas fields would have severe physical and mental health impacts.

At the Lismore City Hall CSG meeting, Thomas George and Brad Hazzard demonstrated a disturbing inability to comprehend the level of distress that they are inflicting on this community. Like the emperor with no clothes, they believed that they were covered by the finest CSG policies, while the audience saw nothing but spin and indifference.

The audience was animated and loud, but never out of control. For two hours, intelligent, heartfelt questions failed to elicit a straight answer, and the audience could only express its disapproval.

Mr George and Mr Hazzard were not "intimidated" or "spat upon" during the meeting. The alleged trouble occurred after they had left via a back entrance when a small group of very angry people confronted Mr George and Mr Hazzard as they walked to their cars. Mr George has sought to use this incident to denigrate all the people who attended the meeting.

Mr George called the meeting and was responsible for ensuring the safety of the audience and the panel.

It is long past time for Mr George and all politicians who support the CSG industry to come to their senses and respond to the wishes of the community. CSG mining has no place in the Northern Rivers or anywhere that people live, work, or farm.

Dr Wayne Somerville, Clinical Psychologist, Lismore

### Did Mr Hazzard get what he wanted?

At the recent CSG meeting in Lismore, Mr Hazzard and Mr George relied on the agitated crowd to display their displeasure. It is clear that this was their intention:

they made claims to the media that they were jostled and spat upon, yet how many people were involved in this, 10, maybe 20? They don't refer to the other 750 people with legitimate questions. In spite of his knowledgeable panel, very few of these questions were answered.

Why has NSW Government generated major restrictions against anti-CSG movements, e.g. EDO, planning laws, LEP laws, heavily taxed wind farms, weakening of forestry protection? The USA is held up as a prime example of CSG mining, yet there is no mention of at least two States which have a total ban on CSG. USA landowners have rights, and those who agree receive lucrative compensation.

Why is CSG being hurriedly forced upon us without restraint, when there's undeniable proof that the USA, Russia and other countries are clearly experiencing fugitive emissions of methane gas? These have been reliably measured at 5% (Prof Anthony Ingraffea), continuing for the useful life of the bore, followed by indefinite ongoing losses as bores break down with age and ground movement – this will never stop.

Recent measurements conducted by Southern Cross University were refuted by Metgasco's CEO, in spite of SCU being acknowledged as one of the world's 10 top universities for environmental research.

It is claimed methane from CSG is 15 times worse than CO2 emissions. Australia has a Carbon Tax, yet these emissions are not taxable. This is a major omission on the part of the government.

Without doubt global warming is in effect, but there are numerous alternatives to fossil fuels: upmarket solar, captured wave action, controlled fusion and wind.

Alex Dugal, Bungawalbyn

### Quakers oppose fracking

The Kyogle Worshipping Group of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) recently received information about the New York Yearly

Meeting's opposition to Coal Seam Gas hydrofracking.

Kyogle Council is about to make a decision on this matter and we felt it important that it understands that opposition to Coal Seam Gas mining is global and not just local.

The carbon in fossil fuels was sequestered millions of years ago and the use of fossil fuels only compounds climate change. Even if the mining of coal seam gas was not a climate change problem, the local effects on water and soil toxicity and damage to quality of life of all members of the local community would be paramount for local government.

As the protestors' slogan says: you can't drink gas (or oil); you can't eat coal. Nor can you restore the living world when it is gone or only after a very long time.

We trust that Richmond Valley Shire will join the other shires in the North Coast and become CSG free. The planet needs us to take a stand and quickly. We hope it is not too late. Act now.

Ruth Haig, Kyogle

• At its yearly meeting in New York in November, the Quakers formally opposed the practice of high volume hydraulic fracturing, stating that the practice "is inconsistent with our faith and practices, which include a commitment to integrity, community, equality and care of God's creation."

– Ed

### "Fraudulent" Lismore CSG poll claim

I refer to Metgasco CEO Peter Henderson's claim that the Lismore Poll on CSG was fraudulent. When I was handing out how to vote leaflets at the Keen Street polling booth, almost without exception the community had already made up their minds on this question prior to casting their votes at the ballot box.

There were a few people who wanted CSG because they had jobs in the gas industry, but the majority did not want CSG. Many told me they had followed this toxic industry from inception in the Northern Rivers, had watched very informative documentaries on TV, and were not happy for it to be here.

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**Assistant Editor:** Sue Stock  
**Sub Editors:** Andy Gough, Dave Fawkner  
**Layout:** Peter Chaplin  
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**Next deadline:**  
**Wednesday 30th January**

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

Mr Henderson is casting aspersions on the highly intelligent and well informed local Lismore population, who are more than aware of the pros and cons of CSG. People are not prepared to be pushed around and stamped on by politicians and public servants, and if they say "no to CSG" they mean "no to CSG".

Metgasco's shareholders could hardly be impressed with shares being traded at 15.5 cents, and \$10,000 of shareholders' investment money being given to Richmond Valley Council for a Christmas tree and to the local school for a water tank. Metgasco hasn't generated any income and has posted a \$5million loss.

They always say that the buck stops at the top. Mr Henderson is trying to use the local community as his scapegoat.

Margaret Howes,  
 Empire Vale

### Glenugie Camp

Daniele and I just returned from the blockade site south of Grafton known as Glenugie. The camp suffered a big dump of rain on Christmas night and spirits were dampened but the gear is now mostly dry and sorted.

A dedicated group of volunteers maintains the vigil, with people dropping in for a few days or a few hours. Most are already knowledgeable and committed to the campaign against CSG but the info stall gets a steady trickle of inquiry from curious locals or passers by on holiday.

Our numbers are lower than usual because Metgasco announced that they would only commence operations again 'after the Christmas period.' Yesterday Stuart George and another man came to inspect the site and

took photos. Some of the earth defenders took the opportunity to try to convince them they could mend their ways and make a living without endangering the lives and livelihoods of others. They just laughed. We don't know when an attempt will be made again to get trucks through the gate at Glenugie, but the site will be peacefully defended. Please remember to have your gear packed to join the blockade if the alert comes.

We had previously intended to set up camp near Kyogle and fight gas mining there, but the Grafton locals have done a great job and support grows daily. This may well be the place where the Northern Rivers shows Metgascon – and the world – that we will not tolerate their vandalism.

Many Northern Rivers Guardians have contributed in a variety of ways.

NRG may still need to set up a camp kitchen near Kyogle, but for now all is in place at Glenugie. I encourage any who may want to visit to call in even if only on the way somewhere else. This is history in the making. The site is reached by passing Grafton going south on the Pacific Hwy. Turn left on 8 Mile Road (signs to Woolli). A few km towards the beach turn off onto The Avenue (left) You will see lots of signs there and as you reach the main camp. You will be warmly welcomed. For more info call the camp phone: 0447-652-085.

Glenugie's a great place for camping, communing, picnics and even swimming as the there is a great spot a few km away on the Coldstream River. I hope all are enjoying some time off from their usual concerns and we will see you early in the New Year.

Scott Sledge  
 Lillian Rock

### Polluting corporates

In the business of the future, 'Going forward' (in the new speak of the weasel-worded), the citizens of the Northern Rivers need to keep a wry eye on the outcomes of the doings of Macquarie Street. The North is not going to sit around as an impotent bystander on the matter of its welfare and community imperatives.

The US is fracking, bitumen-sand distilling and kidding its way, as it sees it, to the nirvana and myth of energy independence, never stopping for an instant to consider the rest of the planet, but then what hegemony ever has? The Northern Rivers, in spite of the naivety of both Washington and Macquarie Street, is still on the Earth.

Macquarie Street, in its usual referential brilliance on matters of its prerogatives, following the Exited States, has gone ga-ga on gas; substance dependency is what keeps the capital drip flowing through its paws and into its own and its big end of town mates.

This 30 years, nay 50 years of bloodletting of regional infrastructure is so obvious, you'd have to be blind Freddy not to notice.

We do, we live it, the y don't – their capital connect turnpikes, whizzing them past, impervious to our needs, gormless White Rabbits, in search of their causes.

We should devolve, resign from the Macquarie Street circus, build our own stuff, make our dough, tax our efforts, spend the common wealth on society's civil needs and buy an odd ticket in chook raffles to fund a conscript military, who will only spend that bread, after consulting with us and only with our permission.

How will we fund it? We do so already, the carbuncle, Macquarie Street steals that surplus wealth now! Our future must be to take back political and economic control, and use our resources for our needs, not those of Nose Bay and Vacluse.

These corporates and their media prestitutes, skills and bandits are about to pollute the land and water, steal the gas from our lands and give it away to strangers. Not on!

We will learn to manage these assets in the ways that consider all of our needs,

our local concerns and our imperatives. Together with all of the regional stake-holders!

Thom Culpeper,  
 Coraki

### In defence of free-market capitalism

Ignorance, as well as disapproval for the natural restraints placed on market excesses that capitalism and 'sound' markets impose, cause our present leaders and many ordinary and otherwise intelligent and well-meaning individuals to reject capitalism and blame it for all the problems we face (Doug Burt, "European crisis", NGT Letters, December 2012).

Capitalism means free enterprise, sovereignty of the consumers in economic matters, and sovereignty of the voters in political matters. Socialism means full government control of every sphere of an individual's life and unquestioning acceptance of the unrestricted supremacy of the government.

Capitalism should not be condemned, since we haven't had capitalism. A system of capitalism presumes sound money, not fiat money manipulated by a government decreed central bank. Capitalism cherishes voluntary contracts and interest rates that are determined by savings, not credit creation by a central bank. It's not capitalism when the system is plagued with incomprehensible rules regarding mergers, acquisitions, and share sales, along with wage controls, price controls, protectionism, corporate subsidies, international management of trade, complex and punishing corporate taxes, privileged government contracts to the military-industrial complex, and a foreign policy controlled by corporate interests.

Add to this centralised federal mismanagement of agriculture, education, health, superannuation, banking and welfare. This is not capitalism! To condemn free-market capitalism because of anything going on today makes no sense. There is no evidence that capitalism exists today. We are deeply involved in an interventionist-planned economy that allows major benefits to accrue to the politically connected.

By all means, condemn

the fraud and the current system, but please, call it by its proper names – Keynesian inflationism, interventionism, and corporatism.

Scott Barlow,  
 Uki

### Anti-litter strategy

I am writing to you all with the concern of so much rubbish littering our beautiful country.

As an example of how serious this issue is, I collected a pile of rubbish this morning on my daily beach walk from Portsville Beach to Hastings Point, consisting of many glass bottles, cans, plastics, cotton buds (??), coke containers, plastic bags from fishing bait and more.

When I was growing up we had campaigns such as Keep Australia Beautiful and Do the Right Thing – I haven't seen these for a long time, and I was hoping that this matter could be brought up with government officials and have a new campaign to re-

educate and educate the youth of our society. I spoke with a few people on the beach and they all agreed we need this campaign to be run again.

It is terrible to see the amount of litter, in particular McDonalds bags, etc – we don't even have a McDonalds here, it is about 20 minutes drive away. The young people throw their rubbish out of the car window, not the mention the damage to the environment and our wildlife – imagine all the marine life and birds that are being affected by mankind's recklessness, it is heart breaking.

I am writing with concern for the Tweed area, but I know this is far more widespread and would like to see an Australia-wide campaign launched as soon as possible.

Please can you help do something before this matter becomes any worse and we are living in a tip?

Lisa Smith,  
 Tweed Coast

## Notices

### Share farming wanted

We are growers and breeders of rare culinary vegetables, herbs and spice seeds, looking to establish in the Northern Rivers region a share farming arrangement for a period of approx. 5 years of breeding to complete selection of varied types. We require accommodation and work-shed facilities. Interests to: [thewholeearthveg@gardener.com](mailto:thewholeearthveg@gardener.com)

### Notice of AGM

Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc (NH&W) is holding its AGM at 2pm on Friday, 1st February at the Bottlebrush Studio in the Nimbin Community Centre.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the NH&W Committee to support the Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services, please let us know and come along. Enquiries, phone Bernadette Carter, 0427-163-533.

### Thank you from NRAS

The volunteers at Northern Rivers Animal Service would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful individuals, businesses, vet clinics and media for your support and generosity throughout the year. To contact NRAS, phone 6681-1860 or email: [nras@live.com.au](mailto:nras@live.com.au)

### Patricia Ann McGrath (Patti)



3/4/1936 – 20/12/2012

Passed away peacefully at palliative care, St Vincent's Hospital, Lismore after a short illness.

Dear to all who knew and loved her.

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