

CSG emerges as federal election issue



Justine visits Doubtful Creek



Richmond MP Justine Elliot recently visited Doubtful Creek, the site where test drilling for harmful CSG mining is starting on the North Coast.

Justine met with local residents (pictured), who are concerned about the impact of CSG drilling on our area. Justine spoke about the petition she's launched to make the North Coast CSG free.

"The State National Party MPs are behind the expansion of CSG mining on the North Coast," Justine said.

"When we get 10,000 signatures on the petition, the NSW government must debate our community's demand for a CSG-free North Coast in the State Parliament."

"Our community's view is clear, we don't want CSG mining on the North Coast."

Justine said that by signing the petition and sharing it with friends, the community can demand the National Party MPs make the North Coast CSG free.

Justine has a link to the petition on her Facebook page: www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP The petition is also available by calling Justine's office on 1300-720-675.

Federal Labor draws the line on CSG

by Justine Elliot MP

On 2nd February, the Prime Minister announced that I have relinquished my role as Parliamentary Secretary for Trade. I made this decision as I want to continue the fight to stop Coal Seam Gas Mining on the North Coast. This campaign conflicted with my obligations within the trade sector.

I'll always stand up for locals on the issues that are important to us: like calling for a moratorium on Coal Seam Gas mining in our region. In contrast all the National Party MPs and Candidates on the North Coast support harmful CSG mining in our area.

As I've said previously, it's time to draw a line in the sand on the important environmental issue of Coal Seam Gas mining. We know the community's view. It is clear. Our community does not want Coal Seam Gas mining.

The fact is the Nationals are just doing the bidding of the CSG Mining companies. These Nationals, including Fiona Nash, Matthew Fraser, Geoff Provest, Thomas George and Don Page all support the National



Party's 5 point plan to expand CSG Mining on the North Coast.

In terms of this year's election, my campaign is open to anyone who wants to help stop the National Party's CSG expansion plan for the North Coast.

I call on the National Party state MPs to tell the O'Farrell government that our community demands a moratorium on CSG.

The ball is totally in their court: the state government regulates and licenses coal-seam gas mining and they can stop it dead.

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

Know your boundaries



Nimbin is located in the south western corner of the electorate of Richmond. Neighbouring towns Lismore and Kyogle are in the electorate of Page. Both seats are currently held by Labor.

The *Nimbin GoodTimes* publishes monthly columns from the elected representatives from both electorates, as our distribution covers a lot of the Page electorate.

With an election scheduled for 14th September, it seemed timely to publish this map of the Richmond electorate.

As required by law, to be stated for the next seven editions, all responsibility for election comment in this publication is held by the editor, Bob Dooley, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Democracy is a beautiful idea. Let's help make it work.

Janelle's Page

Janelle Saffin MP

I have looked closely at what the NSW Premier, Barry O'Farrell, has said about CSG exclusion zones and I am in no way reassured.

O'Farrell's announcement of two-kilometre exclusion zones around urban areas and some wineries and horse studs, is a quick fix to shore up his political support in Western Sydney and the Hunter Valley.

This ignores the Northern Rivers community's concerns about CSG ruining our river catchments and prime agricultural land.

Clearly Barry O'Farrell knows that CSG poses a severe threat to our

agricultural industries, why else would he put exclusion zones around horse studs and wineries?

It's time that the local State National Party MPs stood up against the Liberal party and properly represented the interests of our community. They need to stand up for farmers like Don Knight of Doubtful Creek who has had Metgasco drilling next to his land. And good on Don for hosting the protester's concert recently.

People feel really let down by these MPs. I know I do. They are also my state representatives. Government is hard, but as MPs we have to stand up for our communities.



Janelle at Glenugie

Now the State Government has announced they will appoint a CSG community liaison officer for the Casino area. What a sop.

The only thing that will protect all local residents is to make our region CSG free, and until we get that legislative assurance from the NSW Government, I will continue to support the

community campaign to get that outcome.

Mr O'Farrell has shown that when pressured he can protect areas from CSG. I urge you to sign my petition demanding the NSW Government makes the Northern Rivers CSG free.

A target of 10,000 signatures means that the NSW Government must

debate the petition in State Parliament. Petition forms are available from my Electorate Office or can be downloaded from my Facebook page.

Gene patents

I was deeply disappointed in the recent Federal Court decision on patenting of human genes.

The court ruled to uphold the validity of patents on BRCA 1 and 2 gene mutations that are indicators for a high risk of breast and ovarian cancer. They have been patented by Myriad in the US and licensed in Australia to Genetic Technologies.

I have always found the idea that our genes can be patented rather obscene. Patent law is about inventions, and genes are

there to be discovered but are not invented.

If genes are patented, that can exclude health researchers and clinicians from having access to genes to diagnose disease or to develop new treatments.

It is time for us to turn our minds to a legislative remedy and there is a group of us in Parliament, from all sides, working to progress this issue.

The fundamental issue is that genes contain information about the human body that should not be locked up in the hands of private companies. It is commerce out of control.

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From the Mayor's desk



by Jenny Dowell

Are you sick of this wet weather? The second flood, just three weeks after the first for the year, arrived while many of us were still cleaning up after the Australia Day flood and storm. Council is still cleaning up the destruction from January too and the potholes, as you will have noticed, are getting bigger. Fortunately there was no loss of life locally but the damage on farms is significant and long-lasting while the ground is too wet to access. Council's damage bill from the January flood and storm is approximately \$1.4 million and about \$1 million from this latest flood. The long range forecast for the year predicts above average rainfall for April and July, so we may well face more floods in the months to come.

Imagine Lismore

Council is working towards the pointy end of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) process that is commonly known as Imagine Lismore (IL). For several days over many weeks, staff and Councillors have met separately and together to examine the community feedback from the IL forums and the reports we had commissioned or prepared internally on our long term finances and asset management.

The combination of this information is leading Council to some very tough decisions. We will be making significant cuts to our existing budget and program of works to redirect funds to improving our roads and into projects that the community has told us that it values.

For roads, there is likely to be a shift in focus from concentrating on the worst roads to maintaining the roads that are at risk of falling into that category. Money spent on high traffic roads before they fail, saves money later. It is a bit like repainting a wooden house before the paint is peeling off.

In the short term it may mean doing less pothole repairs on roads with limited traffic until we can catch up.

Tough decisions

The tough decisions Council has to make in the CSP are aimed at improving our long-term financial outlook over the next 10 years. These decisions are never easy but I am very pleased that Councillors are biting the bullet and setting aside their personal passions to make decisions on the big picture for the future.

One of the ways in which Council can make our and your dollars go further is to enter into partnerships with the community. That might mean sharing things such as mowing and maintenance of parks and sports grounds or facilitating a community to do something for itself. An example that was raised in Nimbin recently was the need for a toilet near the skatepark and pool. Let's keep talking.

7 Sibley Street

I had the great pleasure of observing the Design-In for 7 Sibley St for a couple of hours last month. The passion and great ideas on display were a joy to witness. I believe that there is no community like Nimbin in our LGA or indeed the region. Congratulations to the facilitators and all attendees. The fact that \$80,000 has already been raised is testament to that passion and self-

belief. I look forward to supporting you all to raise the additional \$70,000 that is required by the end of the year.

Nimbin Advisory Group

I chaired my first Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) last month too. We decided that each month there will be a report on NAG discussions published in the *GoodTimes* and the minutes will be posted on the notice board beside the hall but please feel free to contact me on NAG issues too if you wish. There are currently a couple of vacancies on the NAG so stay tuned for advertisement of those vacancies if you would like to lodge an expression of interest to join the NAG.

Roadworks

Rain has delayed the start of the much-needed reconstruction of Nimbin Road and the associated footpath from High St but the latest estimate is that works should start at the end of March.

RDAF Working track

Unfortunately Council was unsuccessful in its Expression of Interest for Round 3 of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) for the Nimbin Walking Track. Council also applied unsuccessfully for funding under Round 4 of RDAF for major works for a new Art Gallery and Library Square on the old Lismore High

School site. Advice indicates that there may be another funding round in May but with a Federal election due in September and a less-than-expected income stream from the mining tax, the future of this valuable fund is unclear. The RDAF and the previous Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Projects (RLCIP) fund previously provided Goonellabah skatepark and youth plaza, funding for rural halls, Nimbin Skatepark and Lismore City Hall. All much needed facilities that we would not otherwise have provided.

LG Reform

Local Government is currently undergoing a huge review for reform. The State Government, through independent panels, is reviewing the Local Government Act (1993) and the whole shape and structure of councils throughout the state. On the agenda are boundary adjustments, amalgamations, shared services and resources, the role of mayors and so much more. Council is discussing where we see Lismore City Council in the scope of possible massive upheavals including our relationship with neighbouring councils. I am interested in hearing your views and refer you to www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Contact Jenny via email to Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au or phone 6625-0404.



by Simon Clough
Deputy mayor, LCC

Council has resolved to put '87% of voters oppose CSG' in black on yellow at all the gateways to Lismore including the airport. These signs will be going up in the near future and will send a powerful message to all those supporting CSG. I have a strong feeling that the protectors against CSG are gaining in strength daily. O'Farrell's 'knee-jerk' decision to ban mining within two kms of residential housing and to protect horse breeders and wine growers smacks of desperation. Add to that the fact that Metgasco shares are below 10 cents and the picture for CSG miners is not looking too rosy.

I have been deeply inspired by and grateful to all those who have been blockading at Doubtful Creek. Just putting up with the difficult physical conditions of being

constantly damp and muddy is enough without doing the myriad things required to keep a blockade harmonious and functional. It has been so uplifting to see the Githabul people and other protectors standing shoulder to shoulder with local farmers and more urban folk. My thanks to all those who have locked on and delayed this terrible CSG onslaught.

This is a time of very significant change for Local Government in NSW. The 'Planning Act' is being reviewed with some reforms that seem very sensible in terms of removing unnecessary 'planning tape'. What I find most worrying is that the proposed changes make it easier for developers to develop while removing the right of objection from local communities and councils.

This theme of disempowering local communities seems to also be a part of proposed changes to the *Local Government Act*. It seems that proposed changes are aimed at further corporatisation of local councils with amalgamation and more executive roles for mayors and councillors. I do not know of any evidence anywhere that amalgamation

has ever saved any council money. These issues have not been finalised but I believe that such changes will limit the power of local communities to determine their future. I am passionately committed to local communities having the power to determine their future.

Councillors and staff have been working hard to reshape Council's budget and divert significantly more money to road expenditure. Fortunately Council has been able to isolate environmental issues such as development of the Biodiversity Plan of Management and implementation of the Koala Plan of Management from cuts. This is because these projects were rated so highly by the Community Strategic Plan.

Council has also received advice that it needs to change its road maintenance strategy. Currently Council has a policy of repairing its worst roads first. The consultant's advice is that we need to spend more money on roads of high use in reasonable condition to prevent them deteriorating. His experience is that after a few years that this creates a 'breathing space' when poorer roads can be repaired.



by Cr Vanessa Ekins

NBN microwave towers

The big issue that is upsetting me is the National Broadband Network (NBN) rollout. It has been touted as fibre optics for the future but what the ads don't say is it's only for the cities. Everyone else is getting microwave towers. There are 20 planned in Lismore alone and 11 in Ballina. Sneaky deals are being done now with landholders in Clunes north and south, Bexhill, The Channon, Coffee Camp, Dorrroughby, Dunoon, Georgica, Goolmangar, two in Lismore, McLeans Ridges, Modanville, Rosebank, Tullerah, Wyrallah, Tregeagle, Gunderimba, Bagotville and two in Nimbin. You might want better internet access, but do you want a 40-metre high microwave tower or two in your village?

The plan is for a network of towers in line of sight of each other. Site specific consultation will only occur in 'sensitive' areas. If you are sensitive, phone 1800-881-816 or email info@nbnco.com.au or visit www.nbnco.com.au

I urge you to also contact your federal government representatives and ask for fibre optics instead of microwave towers, even though there are no 'established' health effects from electromagnetic radiation. This is like saying there is no evidence that CSG pollutes our water systems. Recent research identified by the Australian National University Medical School finds that people living less than 500 metres from a microwave base station have increased prevalence of adverse neurobehavioural symptoms or cancer, at exposures below accepted

international guidelines. This suggests the guidelines are inadequate in protecting human health. The researchers believe we need comprehensive epidemiological studies of long-term microwave base station exposure urgently.

Roads and swales

Council is trying to find extra dollars for roads by shelving plans for cycleways and footpaths. Why, when we already spend the majority of council's budget on roads?

We can fill potholes 'til the cows come home, but driving slower and with more care is better than pouring all council resources into asphalt. Unfortunately council roadworks do not just fill potholes, but turn perfectly good swales that cope with heavy rainfall into kerb and guttering that looks nice. I don't get it!

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The opening of Stringworks has been delayed due to the illness and much lamented passing of Phil Hatton, one of the partners in the business. We now expect to be open by the end of March.
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Top-notch trio



Three local music teachers have teamed up to form *Trio Continentale*.

The group, which made its debut in 2011, consists of Gerard Lynam (piano), Lisa Cameron (cello), and Julie Metcalfe (violin). Each has extensive performance experience, locally and Australia-wide.

Trio Continentale performs a diverse repertoire that includes jazz, classical, contemporary and Latin styles.

They tailor their music to suit any event, providing a real sense of occasion, atmosphere and a feeling of celebration.

For enquiries and bookings call 0428-897-438, or check the *Trio Continentale* Facebook page.

Rock the Cinema with Lil' Fi and guests



Blues mama Lil' Fi (pictured) will hit the stage on Saturday 23rd March at the Kyogle Cinema, headlining a fundraising concert to support the cinema, which needs \$55,000 for a digital upgrade.

The entertainment begins with a children's concert from 2-4pm, featuring Jurassic Joe, Krinkl Theatre, and Bush Ranger School.

Jurassic Joe presents a collection of songs for children of all ages, in a variety of musical styles. Sing-along, dance, count, laugh and learn to the sounds of Jurassic Joe's dinosaur songs.

Krinkl Theatre keeps its audience sitting on the knife-edge between the fantasy of animated objects and the reality of rubbish, by bringing recyclables to life.

Bush Ranger School is essentially children's entertainment through county music, with educational tips on living in the bush. The show is targeted at audiences aged eight and younger.

An evening concert at 7.30pm, hosted by Lil' Fi, one of the most entertaining and renowned female artists on the circuit today, will feature young local band Elemental, which has attracted rave reviews.

Blakboi, Lismore's acclaimed Indigenous performer, will enthral the audience with his unique blend of musical talents.

Brett Hamlyn, with Cynthia Denton, Courtney Macdade, Jessie Mac and Indigo Grame, will present several tracks from his album *Strange Apparition*, and Cynthia and Indigo will launch new singles at the show.

Kyogle's much loved youth band, The Maples, will reform for Rock The Cinema. Their mentor, Lil' Fi, will then bring the evening home with a sensational band flying from interstate for the event.

Entry to the children's concert is \$5 per person, or \$20 per family. The evening concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are \$25 per head.

Tickets can be purchased from the cinema or Macdade's, 68 Summerland Way in Kyogle; Music Bazaar, 60 Magellan Street in Lismore; Back to Basics, 99 Walker Street in Casino or online at www.trybooking.com/43376

Taking Jazz to the masses

The Lismore Jazz Club is hosting the Caxton Street Jazz Band at the Lismore City Bowling Club on Sunday 24th March from 2pm to 5pm.

The band was founded in Brisbane in 1977 and now, in its 36th year, presents hot, swinging jazz that gets crowds on their feet, whether dancing or applauding.

The band's name comes from the location of its first venue, the Baroona Hall in Caxton St, Brisbane, and it rose to prominence in the 1980s through its long-running stint at the famous "Jazz 'n Jug" sessions at Brisbane's Caxton Hotel, as well as appearances at Australian jazz conventions and festivals.

The Caxton Street Jazz Band is a six-piece that specialises in music that receives little public recognition or airplay – but is always enthusiastically received.



The pleasure the musicians get from performing it is matched by the enjoyment of the audiences.

Influences include big band swing, mainstream jazz, folk, country, rhythm and blues, and popular tunes of the '30s to '50s. The band's ability to stay true to its roots while still being able to entertain is testament to the quality of the music and musicians, and shows that jazz can have a wide public appeal.

Members include John Braben (trumpet), Paul Williams (clarinet and tenor sax), Tom Nicolson (trombone, banjo and vocal), Bernice Haydock (piano and vocal), Andrew Shaw (double bass), and Bob Mair (drums and washboard).

Admission to see these masters of traditional jazz is \$10 for members and students and \$15 for non-members.

Luke makes dollars and sense

Local troubador Luke Vassella returns to play at the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Easter Sunday, 31st March, from 1pm.

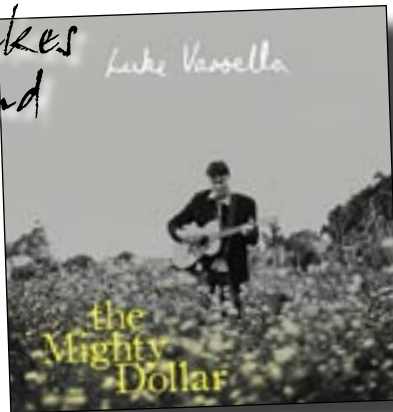
His latest five-track EP *The Mighty Dollar* is a reflection of his community's opposition to CSG development.

The songs exhibit an urgency which commands and persuades the listener's ear.

"I'm not usually a protest singer, but I'm compelled to be one because I love the

place and the people where I live," he says.

Luke's most recent album, *Great Expectation*, is a collection of 10 smooth alternative-country songs, including seven originals and covers of Ryan Adams, Julie Miller and Bruce Springsteen.



Open mike night

by WC Feelz

With the trepidation of a socially dysfunctional non-drinker, I approached the idea of going to the Nimbin Bowling Club for their Open Mike Night, an essentially social community gathering, carefully.

I packed my drums into a car clearly not designed for the purpose, and drove in from a nearby historical village to investigate this phenomenon of musicians jamming together for pleasure, and of course to get the benefit of drinking at bowler's prices.

The first time I went, I arrived at the club in time to hear Nimbin's own Imaginary Friends warming up the stage for the huge number of talented musicians that followed. With a mix of original pieces, and an eclectic mix of covers, this up and coming band has a big future, (and are available for gigs through David Hyett at Bringabong).

The night included an appearance by the talented Sarah who recently moved into the area from Cairns, among other places. Wow,

talk about powerhouse vocals, this brilliant performer had more energy than could be contained by the club's sturdy walls. The effects of her talent could be seen on the streets outside, as people danced their way to and fro in the course of their travels past this great local venue.

Another stand-out performer for me was Phil from Jarlanbah. A range of covers from Paul Kelly, INXS and others, ably backed by Ben Tait on drums, Bob Dooley and Dave Basten on bass, Rodney Davis on lead guitar, and one or two other musicians that came and went through the evening, was well received by the crowd.

The night was busy, the drinks flowed and the Bowl's Courtesy Bus was as busy as a one legged man at a bum-kicking contest as people chose the safety of sober drivers in droves.

On every second Wednesday from 7pm until close, the Open Mike Nights at Nimbin Bowling Club are another example of why Nimbin is such a great community.

Stokes at the Sphinx

Tim Stokes returns to the Sphinx Rock Cafe after a four-week tour of Sydney and the East Coast, promoting his album *MeXico*.

Stokes sound sits comfortably somewhere between John Butler/Ben Harper and Jack Johnson/Paul Kelly.

Natural local beauty is rich within the songs this Byron Bay-based troubadour writes, and he is now working on a new album.

"The direction I'm taking will be a little different to the last one," he says. "Until it's completed it's best not to speculate. I am excited for it and I have a lot of energy to put towards this next album to make it really true, honest and successful."



Come and capture the magic with Tim at the beautiful musical cafe grounds at Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 10th March, 1pm. Free.

For more information visit: www.timstokesmusic.com

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Local band Euphonix put the funk back into soul with their dynamic instrumental groove. Murray Kyle's vocal prowess is driven along with Bodhi Seed on guitar, Hugh Jones on drums and Jon Castille on bass. Conscious lyrics and hypnotic beats complete their sound.

The name Euphonix is a play on "euphonic", a sound that uplifts, and these groovers have just finished work on a new project called *Habitat*.

Drawing on syncopated swing grooves, afrobeat,

soulful flavours and some straight-up skank, Euphonix creates an inspiring pulse bringing inspiration through the magic of music.

On Sunday 7th April Murray Kyle and Euphonix return to Sphinx Rock Cafe and will be joined by Green, the frontman from the UK reggae outfit Avalon Roots.

This will be an afternoon of reggae, funk, soul grooves, and the usual awesome valley vibes and food.

Bring the family – and your dancing shoes.

Oh bluegrass, where art thou



Master mandolinist and music preservationist Mike Compton (*pictured*) brings traditional American music to the Kyogle Showground on Saturday 6th April, with supporting artists including The Company from Brisbane.

Grammy-winning Compton, who played with John Hartford on the soundtrack of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, is on tour from the United States, while The Company will be making their way home following the National Folk Festival.

These artists will cross paths in Kyogle for a grand meeting of bluegrass masters.

Compton's recent projects include a revisiting of pre-bluegrass music from the 1930-40's with banjoist Joe Newberry; and his solo album, *Rotten Taters*, in which Compton blends his original tunes within a fabric of old time, bluegrass, and delta blues.

Innovative Brisbane bluegrass band The Company is comprised of a host of Australian National Bluegrass Champions and finalists. They are hot young energetic players, who bring celtic and jazz roots to their original compositions.

Celebrated local bluegrassers, The Barkers Vale Brothers, will team up with Lismore's old-time gospel outfit Black Train to support Compton and The Company, and Kyogle's local divas, including Jacqueline Elliot, Odette Nettleton, Kym Watling, and Kristelle Murray, will present cameo performances.

KAMS will host a raffle, featuring a major prize of a photographic shoot from Run&See Creative. A player's pack of vintage 1980s guitar magazines will delight the serious pickers.

Rotary and Twisted Tucker will be on board for food and non-alcoholic drinks, and good coffee will be available from the Xpresso van. Bring along any other beverages of choice.

The show will give an opportunity to camp over in the traditional bluegrass festival style, with many visitors spending a few hours after the show playing tunes around the fire before heading off to bed. Campers can take their instruments and hit the Kyogle eateries on Sunday for a musical breakfast or lunch.

Tickets are available online at www.trybooking.com/42740 also from Plum Vintage, and at the door unless previously sold. Doors open 5.30pm for a 6pm start. Adults \$20 / KAMS \$15 / Child \$10 / Family \$50 (two adults plus two kids).

KAMS is a friend of the Kyogle Showground Trust. For camping bookings, contact the Kyogle Showground on 0459-537-601. For general enquiries contact Kym Watling on 0409-534-233 or email: kymwatling@gmail.com



Byron Bay-based sisters Elen Evolve and Rebekah Ray bring *Spiritsong* to Uki for a one-day immersion for women at Gynea Eco Retreat, on Saturday 6th April, from 10-5pm.

Whether one is new to the discovery of the joy of singing, or has walked the path for many moons, the *Spiritsong* experience is created for all. All it takes for the magic to unfold is the gift of self-acceptance from each individual.

To experience a *Spiritsong* workshop is to be immersed in sound and song until every fibre of your being is humming like a bee. To participate is to surrender all mind and allow your facilitators to guide and nurture you to relax, unwind and allow authentic sound to move through you and ultimately harmonise in Spirit's Natural Song.

Nestled within a supportive and nurturing environment, participants are offered the gift of exploration and encouragement to let go of fears that inhibit the flow of creativity.

Each participant is offered an environment that is safe, non-judgemental and allows complete freedom to learn naturally, through creativity and experimentation.

Drawing from years of

professional training merged with teachings of the Mystical paths, *Spiritsong* unifies heaven and earth, bringing the divine into a tangible sensory experience.

By incorporating elements from the paths of Yoga, Tantra, Sufism, Shamanic healing and teachings from traditional Lore people, the participant is encouraged to experience the voice in dimensions beyond the senses, into the realms of the spirit, where the healing occurs.

The *Spiritsong* experience ripples through you in varied ways, ranging from an increase in overall confidence and ability to speak one's truth in any given moment, through to greater awareness and skill with singing and healing with sound to arriving into the ecstatic bliss of true harmony in song.

Give yourself the gift accessing your authentic voice in a supportive and inspiring space.

All you need is a willingness, and the muse will fuse with the music, and magic is made.

Enquiries and bookings: www.facebook.com/singspiritsong or email: singspiritsong@gmail.com or phone Elen Evolve 0428-377-794 / Rebekah Ray on 6684-0563.

Folk season launch

The Folk Club is back from its summer holiday and looking forward to a great season.

The 2013 season launch will be held from 2pm till dusk on Sunday 24th March at The Channon Butterfactory Tavern.

Opening act will be the accomplished singer/songwriter and musician, Zara Meow (*pictured*), Lismore's newest arrival on the folk scene.

Zara's style is punkesque, jazz and blues piano and she hails from the independent music scene in Sydney, playing many venues including the Vanguard and the Basement.

The Channon Folk Club is a local group of 'folk' who volunteer their time and talents and hold an open-microphone session on the fourth Sunday of each month. Our motto is 'folk and beyond' so we encourage



an eclectic mix of musical styles, but still with an acoustic feel.

Usually each performer plays three songs. Just write your name on the board on the day. If you really want to play, it's a good idea to get there early, as we can't always guarantee there'll be enough daylight or time to fit everyone in.

The opening act has a half hour slot, so if you are ever interested, let us know by email to thechannonfolkclub@gmail.com or at the session.

www.folkclub.thechannon.com

3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell NSW 2484 P (02) 6679 7118 www.sphinxrockcafe.com

Sunday Gig Guide

March 1pm start

10th Tim Stokes Band
Byron based singer/songwriter plays blues, roots and folk.

17th Andrew Morris
Acoustic, alt-country and rock originals from a fantastic Solo musician.

24th Jim Dowling
A story teller, who writes with the keen eye of a poet and whose music could be the lovechild of a sea shanty and a jazz standard.

31st Luke Vassella
Luke creates a unique atmosphere, blending guitar and harmonica.

April

7th Euphonix & Avalon Roots
Weaving their beautiful tunes and magic with Murray Kyle and UK band from Bristol, what a treat!

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in March?

- **Sunday 24th** – Club Visit Cudgen Butcher Birds
- **Good Friday 29th** – 2-Bowl Triples comp
- **Open Mic Nights** – Wednesdays 13th & 27th, from 7pm
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays, weather permitting
- **Big Raffles** – Fridays at 7.30pm
- **2013 Memberships** – \$5

CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Lunch & dinner Tues – Sun
- Friday Banquets
- Take-Aways

Phone 6689-1473

Home of the 'Big Bowler'

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246

March Gigs

Thursday 7th	6.30pm	Scott DayV
Friday 8th	7.30pm	Sabotage
Saturday 9th	6pm	Dr Baz
Sunday 10th	5pm	Run Dos Run
Thursday 14th	6.30pm	V Grant
Friday 15th	7.30pm	Moondog (Gypsy Blues)
Saturday 16th	5pm	Chris Aronsten
Sunday 17th	5pm	Brendan Leggatt
Thursday 21st	6.30pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 22nd	7.30pm	Tightrope Alley
Saturday 23rd	6pm	Two Rivers (Blues)
Sunday 24th	4pm	Bill Purnell
Thursday 28th	6pm	Adam Brown
Friday 29th	7.30pm	Khan and Ted (Locals)
Saturday 30th	6pm	Tony Fallon
Sunday 31st	5pm	Jesse Whitney

All Gigs are Free of Charge

Hummingbird Bistro

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

Rain hurts market traders

by Peace and Harmony Freeborn

It's been a soggy old start to the year, with the January market cancelled due to extreme weather and the February event much reduced by the very same cycle of sky-juice.

The Nimbin Hall is often booked out on Nimbin Market days, and this is frustrating for those stallholders who rely on the markets for their income.

The Nimbin Markets will go ahead in all weather conditions from now on. On very wet days, those who trade come rain, hail or shine will be inside the community building,

Despite the rain, the February market provided some great entertainment with new local act Imaginary Friends playing for the patrons who ventured out.

The line-up features Freowin Harper on keys and Dave Julian on bass. These guys bring an abundance of musical training, syncopation and life to the stage.

Freowin also took the opportunity to play solo. This young local has the benefit of many years of training, and his musical gift is appreciated by those in the know.

Also featured on the day was Steve, (of Sheik Yatoush fame) who played a great set on his unique and wonderful Oud, accompanied by the drummer from SHE. Leeandrah Young also brought a drummer, Alex, to accompany her Patti Smith-flavoured music, a great tonal and rhythmic treat for all.

Anyone interested in holding workshops, public speakers with a message for their local community, poets, debaters, or anybody with an interest in engaging with the community in a productive way will be welcome to perform at the markets.

If you've got an idea, please contact Harmony or Peace Freeborn, and they'll help you with facilitation and coordination. Next markets are on 24th and 31st March.

Nimbin Markets: great food, great music, great community. See you there.

Blue Knob Farmer's Market



Earthships the most versatile and economical sustainable green building design in the world. They're made chiefly from cheap materials and incorporate items considered "waste" – old tyres, bottles or local dirt.

WORKSHOPS PROGRAM

Sat 9th March

Performance: Inspiring

Inspiring is playing on the workshop verandah. This local band plays mostly original music with a laid-back and uplifting feel. For more info, check out Inspiring on Facebook.

Sat 16th March, 10am – Making Biogas

Would you like to join with other people who are interested in making their own Biogas?

Biogas is typically made from animal manures and kitchen or green waste. Waste material is piled into a 'digester' and gas is drawn off and used as needed.

Biogas is commonly used for cooking, heating water or lighting. In China around 30 million households generate their own biogas for use in cooking and lighting.

Come to this session if you'd like to try making a Biogas generator. People will pool their knowledge, ideas and resources, identify gaps in their knowledge and track down necessary information. The group will arrange ongoing get-togethers to move towards an actual working Biogas generator.

This first session will be facilitated by Rohan Stewart who participated in the building of a Biogas unit at a village in East Timor.

Sat 23rd March, 10am – Earthships and the Future

An Earthship is a type of passive solar house made of natural and recycled materials. They provide their own cooling and heating, generate their own electricity, harvest water, produce food and process their own grey water and sewerage. It is the integration of all of these systems that physically make up an Earthship. With no

need of any fossil fuels or connection to public utilities to run, they are very cheap to maintain and also cost less to build than a typical family car.

This talk will cover the first ever completed Earthship in Australia and its adaptation to a sub tropical climate. Hempcrete was used instead of Portland cement for a large portion of the build, the first Earthship built using hempcrete!

Duuvy Jester has worked and studied with Michael Reynolds, the founder of Earthships and Earthship Biotechture, and is passionate about spreading the word on this revolutionary building style.

Sat 30th March, 10am – Farming Alpacas

Alpacas are cousins of the larger llama and originate in South America. They are mainly farmed for their luxurious, soft fleece. Barbara Ransby will discuss raising, feeding, breeding, use as a meat animal and care and maintenance of alpacas in the sub-tropics. She'll also mention how she deals with the problem of wild dog predation. On display will be some carded alpaca fleece, spun wool plus hats and scarves made from this wool.

Barbara and partner Bruce Porter run a local flock of 60 alpacas and are members of the Australian Alpaca Association and the Australia Alpaca Breeding Association.

If you'd like to hear about seminars and events at the Blue Knob Farmers Market send an email to Jim at uloborid8@gmail.com The market runs Saturdays, rain, hail or shine, 8.30am to 12noon, corner of Blue Knob and Lillian Rock Roads, 8km from Nimbin, in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News



www.nnic.org.au

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is funded by NSW FaCS as a community hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to community members. For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our CWWs for referrals.

NNIC website

The rebuild is in process and we will be adding a brand new feature because you asked for it! In both the 2009 and the 2011 Sustainable Nimbin Community Plans an identified strategy was to create a service directory that lists all the health practitioners in the community – both western medicine and alternate/complementary practitioners – all in one place. So we are creating this as part of our new website and practitioners wanting to get listed there need to come into NNIC and fill out a form or else email us and we will send you one.

7 Sibley Street updates

Thanks to everyone who made it happen and everyone who gave up their Sunday to come along. (Sorry about the clash with the markets. Nat takes full responsibility for this stuff up.) The outcomes of the day are being collated and will be made available to everyone on the email list plus hard copies will be at NNIC. To get onto the email list, send us an email requesting to get onto the Sustainability list. If you missed out and want a go at designing the site, email us and we will send you the materials and tools.

In the meantime we need fundraising ideas that include the amount that could be raised, possible date/s for that strategy and person/s who will undertake it. NNIC can provide support such as promotions and coordination. As an example, there were over 60 people at the Design-In. If each one of those people took on one fundraising idea that would raise \$1000, then the loan would be pretty much paid down and we could get on with the project. Any ideas for Mardi Grass



for example? This is our main chance to attract funds from outside the community?

Note we have been given until the end of 2013 to pay back the loan, after which the Community Centre reserves the right to review its liabilities and assess whether the loan can continue to be carried. So we really need to get the loan off our backs.

Don't forget to plug the website: www.sevenonsibley.com We will adding a lot of new material in the next few weeks.

Rainbow Dreaming-Tales from the Age of Aquarius

Check out the website: www.pozible.com/archive/index/16363 and order the book! All profits will benefit 7 Sibley St and it's a lovely book to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Aquarius Festival.

New photocopier at NNIC

We now have a new photocopier with lots of extra features (we are hoping to program it to feed the cat on weekends for us!). It will take us all some time to get used to it so bear with us and remember to ask us for help if it stumps you when you come in to use it.

Solar Bonus Scheme

All of the households who signed up for our solar scheme, plus lots more of you, will be currently getting the Solar Bonus Scheme. The NSW Department of Trade and Investment recently sent us a letter advising that if a customer changes energy retailers they will still be guaranteed the Solar Bonus Scheme feed in tariff at the current rate of .60c/kWh, so don't let any retailer tell you any differently.



Groups at the Community Design-in for 7 Sibley Street

Alarming news


NSW Government has announced the following government contract for ERM Power (who have a large shareholding in Metgasco and also have taken over Red Sky Energy PEL here in the Northern Rivers):

"ERM Power Limited (ASX: EPW) will soon supply electricity to more than 10,000 sites in New South Wales after being awarded one of the state's largest energy supply contracts by the NSW Government.

ERM Power's electricity sales business, which trades as ERM Business Energy, has been contracted to supply electricity and green power for three years from July 2013 to all NSW Government agencies, community non-profit organisations, and public bodies like schools, hospitals and councils that consume less than 160 megawatt hours (MWh) per year each.

ERM Power Managing Director and CEO, Philip St Baker, said the contract win was worth more than \$150 million in revenue over three years and included supply to over 10,000 sites."

More at: www.asx.com.au



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MardiGrass turns 21

Across the planet, the tolerance and use of pot is on the move – and so is Nimbin's 21st annual MardiGrass cannabis law reform rally and gathering on 4th and 5th May.

The MOB (MardiGrass Organising Body) has a new venue on private land in the middle of the village. Weather is the biggest factor as usual, but the natural amphitheatre drains well and is next to the Town Hall for a wet retreat if needed.

Sibley Street will remain open but Peace Park won't be used, apart from gathering for the Rally on Sunday, which will then march up Sibley. Food and hemp-

related stalls will be on the bitumen car parks behind the Town Hall and the laundromat. The main entry will be on the road to these carparks beside the Hall.

The new venue is perfect for the Hemp Olympic Growers Iron Person Event and the Bong Throw. The amphitheatre around the outside stage (the Ganjadrome, or Cannabowl) should awaken a bit of the old Aquarius magic. It is part of the land used in 1973 and there are plans for an Aquarian Village of tepees and a dome as the 40th Aquarius celebrations flow on after MardiGrass.

The annual MardiGrass

Mind Candy forums, talks and workshops will deliver another astounding line-up of expert heads – and that includes you! Come to the Town Hall and imagine Nimbin after weed is legal at the Community Brainstorm.

Special guests Fiona Patten (Australian Sex Party), Alex Wodak (Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation), Matt Riley (Cannabis Law Reform), Cate Faerhmann (Greens NSW MP) and other speakers will lead discussions on campaigning for cannabis law reform.

Author John Jiggins will talk on the size of the Australian illicit drug trade, the cost of drug law

enforcement and the amount of money a tax on the illicit drug trade could earn. How many cones were smoked in Oz last year?

The Farmer's HEMP Tent will host sessions covering recent advances in hemp agriculture and commerce; building with hemp, and hemp seed uses and products. There will be displays and demos of building with hemp fibre and Mullaways Medical Tent will be holding workshops on making tincture, as well as hash.

On-line MardiGrass tickets are selling well and there is renewed belief in cannabis law reform thanks to the changes in America and the current NSW upper-house inquiry into Medical Cannabis. The report is due to come out shortly after MardiGrass and there is room for optimism that time for change may have finally arrived.

All the other usual



MardiGrass events, including the Kombi Konvoy, Million Marijuana March, Pickers and Harvest Balls, MardiGrass market and stage and Mingle Park will take place as usual.

New events planned include the Colorado Flashmob and the Mullers and Packers Bong Relay. Pot Poetry, compered by David Hallett, is on Sunday at 11 am and Pot Art this year will be hosted by participating

cafes and shop windows. Businesses are encouraged to adopt a local artist for the Pot Art Trail.

New suggestions and ideas are welcome at the weekly meetings from 5pm Fridays at the Embassy (enter through the Hemp Bar). Please contact the MOB if you would like to help in any way. Email: head@hempembassy.net or phone 6689-0326 or 6689-1842. Website: www.nimbinmardigrass.com

CSG unda the Boss's skin

by Undacuva

Anger management, known as AM in the Station, is the most avoided class in the Force, and it's compulsory. The book is full of signatures but the seats are cold. Like a lot of paperwork in the Force, things are not always as they are written.

To add to the widespread fracking of his department that is happening on several fronts, the Boss is in total conflict himself on CSG. The idea of water being poisoned or the grandkids getting rashes is nothing compared to the little farm near Bentley. His life's work, all his earnings have gone into these acres. It's his retirement plan. HIS PLAN! All his MONEY!

"I can't stop thinking about it", he says to me one day. "The CSG nightmare".

"That's the reason all those hippies are smoking weed Boss." He just stared at me, eyes wide. "To shut the voices up in their heads".

Because he knows I'm against fracking, like most of us, and anyone with half a brain, he confides in me about the farm, every time I come in to report.

"It's not just a farm, Bethany, it's my life. My decades in the Force. Every risk I took. Every Monday morning I made myself come in here, even if I hated the sight of the uniform. Every idiot I've had to lock up over 40 years, many of them just like your filthy lazy hippie type mates like Alex, who are out there right now in



Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

increasing numbers you tell me, devising new 'lock-ons' as you call them."

I haven't seen Alex for years, which shows how much it's getting to him ever since he read they can drill a kilometre sideways in every direction after they've drilled down two kilometres, and one of his neighbours has apparently signed with Metgasco. "I'll never know if they are unda the farm or not. What can I do? I'm spending the budget on these blockades when I'd almost rather join one."

The men are sick of it too, restless and frustrated. Copping an earful every day from Bin types they can't stand. Eating Twisties for lunch with a bottle of water while the ferals feast in front of them on cakes and pies brought by local farmers' wives. And it feels never-ending, like these protestors are not the normal rabble from the Bin with their homeless friends who get bored easily. This is for keeps.

Sydney insists on knowing who's in charge of the environmental terrorists at the blockades, but I can only tell him it's like the Bin where no-one will take orders. He's starting to get the picture. But how to explain that to HQ?

The Force system is like the Army, and needs to know exactly who the enemy is. It was a big problem with Vietnam and Iraq, and it's certainly a problem with the Actavista. And now this ragged bunch calling themselves "protectors" includes white-haired farmers and their wives, who bake for ferals and blackfellas they'd cross the street to avoid not long ago.

And he realises, like we all do, it's been building for a while, this anger, this general fury at being ignored and treated like fools for too long. A growing boil in the community that he is supposed to keep a bandaid on, just like the pressure he can feel, the pressure building unda his own skin, a little bit tighter every day.

I know better than to say a word, and quietly slip out the side door.

HipiLeaks; Sydney to CEU. Feb 2013. Styrofoam boxes full of cannabis seedlings left for the Eradication Unit are to be included in tallies and will not help gain extended funding. These seedlings must be burnt with any other captured plants.

HEMP HEADLINES

Medical marijuana a sensible step back from past paranoia [National Times]

The NSW upper house is considering legalising the medical use of cannabis. This reflects increasing recognition of the benefits of marijuana use in some cases, and comes after dramatic changes in the US where 18 states now allow it in certain circumstances – a milestone in undoing the catastrophic experiment known as drug prohibition.

Cannabis growers risk 'supply' charges [news.ninemsn.com.au]

People who grow cannabis for personal use could be risking criminal charges by inadvertently cultivating too much. An online survey by the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) found 44 per cent of 450 respondents were growing amounts that would be deemed commercial quantities. The number of plants considered a commercial quantity varies between the states. NSW and Northern Territory have a five plant limit, Victoria, the ACT, South Australia and Western Australia 10 plants, and Tasmania 20. In Queensland, the amount considered as 'for supply' is 500 grams or 100 plants.

Drug Policy Reform on the Move in Latin America [world-war-d.com]

Drug policy reform is progressing by leaps and bounds in the early phase of 2013, with Latin America taking the lead. Colombia created an Advisory Commission on Drug Policy in order to tackle drugs-related issues that have plagued the country at all levels of society for the past 30 years. The commission includes ex-president Cesar Gaviria, an ardent advocate of drug policy reform. It aims to design public policy with a holistic approach based on scientific and empirical evidence. The justice minister Ruth Stella Correa also introduced a new drug bill to legalize synthetic drugs such as ecstasy. Uruguay is starting a broad national debate

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– General Robert E. Lee (American Civil War 1861 – 1865)

about the government's project of marijuana legalization. Guatemalan president is taking a leadership position on the world scene, bringing his message about drug policy reform and requesting an open debate about drug regulation in international venues from the UN to the Davos World Economic Forum, to the first European-Latin America-Caribbean Summit with 43 heads of state in attendance.

Czech President Signs Medical Marijuana Bill [thedailychronic.net]

President Vaclav Klaus signed into law Friday a bill that legalizes medical marijuana in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic has some of the most liberal drug laws in the world, and is one of the most marijuana-friendly countries in Europe. Possession of up to 15 grams of marijuana, 1.5 grams of heroin, 1 gram of cocaine and 4 tablets of ecstasy and cultivation of up to 5 plants are a misdemeanor offence since January 2010.

Customs staff told to do in mates who smoke pot [Sydney Morning Herald]

Australian Customs wants its staff to do in colleagues who are seen smoking marijuana at parties outside work, leaked internal documents reveal.

WOULD YOU VOTE FOR...

HIM, HER or HEMP?

Authorised by James Meglari, 11 Fine Street, North Lismore, 2010, on behalf of the HEMP Party.

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