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Facelift for Cawongla centre

by Nena Pollard

Cawongla Community Centre have used a \$25,000 capital works grant from the Public Reserves Management Fund to give the old building a much-needed makeover.

The building in the heart of Cawongla village has significant heritage value for the area. It was moved from Wadeville in 1952 to serve as the teacher's residence for the Cawongla Primary School, and after the school

closed in 1975 it became the Community Centre.

Since then it has been used for social and music nights, private functions, market days, meetings, classes, office space, dancing, singing groups, sewing days, visiting practitioners and hairdressers.

In recent years, rising maintenance costs and a decline in use and volunteers has seen the condition of the ageing venue deteriorate.

With a vision to revitalise the Community Centre, the volunteers of the Reserve Trust, who also serve as the management committee at the Cawongla pre-school, started to seek funding.

After receiving two successful grants – the other from Active Kyogle to



purchase kitchen appliances – the restoration process is underway.

Local building company Moonworks has been contracted to do the job, which includes painting inside and out, roofing, plumbing and carpentry work. Michael van Heiss, Mark Worrall and Stijn Claessens have been hard at work.

All major work was

completed and the building open for a very well-received public viewing on election day, 7th September.

The new look community centre is ready for hire. It is an intimate, medium sized venue with wide sunny verandahs and a huge backyard, great for a wide variety of events.

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Nena & Michael

Forgotten memorials

Wilson McClelland was born at Nimbin in 1952 and his family had strong links to the area and community until the death of his parents, Bruce and Marj McClelland.

He attended primary school at Lillian Rock Primary School in the early 1960s. The school was later closed and the land and school residence sold off.

There is a World War II memorial still on site (it is now private property) and as these photos show, it is in an overgrown condition.

Mr McClelland is a volunteer with the City of Lismore RSL sub-branch,

and is trying to arrange for the region's memorials to be cleaned up and maintained.

"Once this is achieved I would be looking at restoration work on the memorial and gates, but that is in the future," he said.

"I would be looking for a group or a business that could assist in the trimming and removal of the vegetation as a community volunteer service or at a reduced cost.

"There are still two living veterans that I know of whose names are on the memorial and they are Neville Bryen



and Vic Barnes. It would be great to have the area cleaned up as a mark of respect for their service.

"Also it would be good to know what happened to the WW1 and WW2 honour boards that used to be on display in the Nimbin Hall."

Mr McClelland can be contacted on 0400-252-119.

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Natural grace pays off

Shakira Jefferys started aerobic gymnastics at the beginning of 2013 after practicing floor, beam, vault and bar at the North Coast Academy of Gymnastics in Lismore.

She was selected to represent NSW at the National Australian Championships held in Brisbane, competing with gymnasts from NSW, WA, SA, Victoria and Queensland.

Competing against 24 girls in her category, Shakira won the title of Australian Champion in her individual event as well as in her pairs routine.

Shakira's natural ability and

determination saw her take first place in all NSW trials in individual and pairs routines, with her partner Charlotte McLaren.

Shakira then went on to Sydney for the NSW State championships, and again placed first in individual and pairs routines. Aerobic gymnastics are performed to music.

This is a skills-based floor routine, involving continuous, complex, high-intensity movement.

Shakira will now move into National Development to prepare for the international Circuit.



Chilly start to pool season

With the Nimbin pool open for the school holidays, the Friends Of Nimbin Pool met for their first breakfast this swimming season. It was a bit cool to actually swim, but we plotted and planned the next Olympics.

This season they will be held on Sunday January 26 (Australia Day) 2014 starting 10am. There will be the usual events of synchronised swimming, marathon floating, marathon swim (5 laps) longest distance swim underwater, fun things like "Save the Baby" and "Round Up the Ducks", a parade of pool-side fashion and a surprise event for everyone to enjoy. There will be fabulous trophies, sausage sizzle, cakes,



and tea/coffee/bonox for sale. All proceeds go to the pool.

The pool managers, Chris, John and Pete, have made some improvements, and turf has been laid on the muddy bits near the gate and under the seats, so hopefully not as much mud will be walked into the water. And there are some stones in the big, muddy puddle under the tap near the BBQ. A drinking fountain would be an asset

to the area, meantime the tap doubles, if you can bend down low enough.

The Olympics sub-committee has high hopes of a men's team entering the synchronised swim comp. We thought it would happen last season, now we realise we must address the vexed issue and discover exactly what is holding them back.

We are an equal opportunity organisation and want to encourage all minority groups, even if they wear Lycra and live in Nimbin.

Ice Breaker

The Ice Breaker award went to Jackson Bologna from Ipswich who braved the chill and won the fabulous prize. Jackson and his Father Vince were holidaying in the

caravan park, which Vince chose as an ideal location, near the pool and skate park, with friendly park keepers and camping by the creek.

A little bit of good news. The pool has opened for the school holidays. There have been problems with the surface, but hopefully the swimming season won't be affected. Hundreds of happy swimmers and waders have been at the pool in its first week and everyone is smiling.



Resurrection of 'Australia's Stonehenge'

by Steven Strong

A stone structure near Mullumbimby is being hailed as the lost "Stonehenge of Australia".

Frederic Slater, president of the Australian Archaeological and Education Research Society investigated the mound in 1939, but it has been lost for the last 63 years.

The notes of the research supervised by Slater were found two months ago by members of the Brunswick/Mullumbimby Historical Society.

This is much more than a collection of rocks, signs and symbols positioned on a mound. According to Slater, "the mound is one of

the oldest, I should say the oldest, forms of temples in the world and dates back to the ... advent of first man."

Not only was the mound the first temple, the narrative and wisdom it chronicled is as profound as it is sublime. Slater claimed it formed "the basis of all knowledge, all science, all history and all forms of writing".

These are bold claims to make, because modern humanity is assumed to have had its genesis in Africa. We are told a few restless inquisitive souls set foot outside African soil some 60,000 years ago and spread their culture and genes.

There is no room in this theoretical construct for Australia to be anything

other than an African colony peopled by mariners, who surely spoke before they set sail.

The First Sacred Language Slater claimed to have deciphered is very complex, multi-layered and at his last count of 28,000 words, far more diverse and complicated than what could be assumed in relation to the very first language spoken on Earth.

Viewed from a discreet distance, the hundreds of tonnes of sand, clay and sandstone that make up one mound deposited on top of this flat swampy plain does not seem to be part of the local geology.

The closest deposit of sandstone was more than 20 kilometres away in a country



Computer reconstruction of original site

which had no wheel, pulley, wheelbarrow or metal chisel to cut and move the rocks.

Slater was an eminent Egyptologist, and

president of the Australian Archaeological Research and Education Society. His opinions are obviously up for debate and alternative

explanations, but with the bounty of archaeology on site and Elders confirming Slater's translation, there seems to be nothing else on offer.

Fire season brings call for volunteers

by Marcus Mantscheff

On the eve of the 2013/14 fire season, out-of-control hazard reductions across Northern Rivers kept rural fire brigade volunteers busy. August in this region is notorious for land managers feeling unnecessary pressure to burn piles and paddocks before September, to avoid the free Fire Permit system.

Contacting the Fire District Office will result in an experienced Fire Permit Officer visit to your property, listening to what you want to achieve, assessing any risks and, if necessary, giving advice on how to safely get the result you want... a telephone call seems a small effort to value your own safety, that of your neighbours and RFS volunteers, who are all affected when your hazard reduction burn gets away. Fires that escape your property can also attract financial and legal penalties, so why take the risk?

There are twenty Permit Officers within a 20km radius of Nimbin. Phone 6663-0000 and talk with staff at Northern Rivers Fire Control Centre to find a local Permit Officer. Naturally, permits and conditions will



vary and can be suspended for high fire-danger days. Land managers and residents also need to be prepared to complete some groundwork to make your hazard/ fuel reduction burn safe. Visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au to check the facts about Fire Permits during the Bushfire Danger Period.

A busy fire season can put a lot of pressure on Fire Brigade volunteers. While Nimbin firefighter numbers increased in 2013, a few members have reduced their involvement to Reserve roles. Nimbin Brigade is made up of volunteers from all walks of life – men and women from different cultural

backgrounds, age groups and professions. Changes in people's circumstances and commitments are respected and met with support and friendship. We thank all our members for their contribution in whatever capacity they can give.

So... to increase our active membership, Nimbin Brigade seeks your involvement.

Becoming a volunteer firefighter is easier than you might think. If you want to be involved in an active, healthy community organization, develop some valuable life skills and gain some emergency service experience; now is the time to get in touch. A few meetings to determine your interest, is the first step. In partnership with Blue Knob Brigade, Nimbin has a proactive training schedule, promoting skills, camaraderie, and mutual respect while accessing training in bush firefighting, village firefighting and first aid. Getting involved now will reduce delays to accessing training early in 2014.

Meet your brigade at Nimbin Fire Station on the first Thursday each month from 6.30pm or Blue Knob Fire Station on the first Monday from 6pm.

Something for everyone as Nimbin Open Learning Centre kicks off Term 4

The Nimbin Community School Open Learning Centre is beginning term four on 16th October.

Enrolments are on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October from 10am to 3pm in the Com School room.

This term we're offering a new art class with Julie de Lorenzo, and computer and tablet classes with Paris. We also have old favourites creative writing, Cat's sewing club, Italian in song, ukulele, and book-binding.

For more info, phone the Comskool on 6689-1477.



Ukelele class in Term 3

Lessons from Whian Whian

by Sally Baxter

I live in the Channon valley, neighbouring Whian Whian and Dunoon – only a kilometre away, as the crow flies. Yet, strangely enough in this era of hyper-communication, I was completely unaware of the looming environmental disaster that is now apparent.

Purely by chance, an affected resident informed me of their dilemma. How many other locals are unaware of the story unfolding in their backyard: the removal of 1000 trees without adequate environmental impact assessment, and the State Government cutting 'tape' to enable private land logging.

The repercussions of this seemingly innocuous isolated incident could indeed be extensive.

At 7am on Wednesday 26th September, residents' cars block access into 789 Whian Whian Road. Logging vehicles drive up the embankment and circumvent the obstacle. Locals stand in front of the vehicles, and some lie down on the dirt road in an effort to stop the logging vehicles continuing.

Two police vehicles containing officers intervene and calmly insist the protestors allow the vehicles through.

Protestors, who are by and large the neighbours of the offending property owner, ask the police why are they laying the red carpet out for this individual who is operating outside of the legal constraints that everyone else is beholden to. The police reiterate that they are upholding the road and transport Act to ensure road access is clear for all vehicles. However, they then drive on up into the offending property along with the logging vehicles shortly after, looking very much like a security attaché for the logging entourage.

I begin asking these residents for their understanding of what is happening here. The stories sound similar to what is voiced world over when people are forced to protest – stories of disempowerment, disrespect, deceit, injustice and essentially greed by the few at the expense of the many. Against the backdrop of a capitalist consumer culture, economic expansion is paramount... bloody nongs don't realize that the economy depends on a healthy environment!

As one of the neighbours insisted, "We need to recognise that the environment does have limits. Without the environment there is no economy. Respect for each other, community, nature, other property owners, neighbors – it's all about listening and hearing, responding and recalling..."

Mikko Helle however, has not treated this neighborhood with the respect required. A



Photo: Marie Cameron

Gold Coast-based businessman, he purchased the property over a year ago, with the intention of profiteering. He has never actually lived there, but used the local community facilities, such as Landcare, to value-add to the sale of the property. That is, after the trees have been removed and sold to Forestry NSW. A clever little adjunct, because state government law overrides local government requirements around deforestation.

Neighbours spoke about the industrial noise of chainsaws and bulldozers starting at 6.30 each morning, and the saddening noise of trees crashing. The visual sight of destruction, and of course, the road being rapidly degraded from the number of vehicles used in the logging operation, are evident. The property borders Whian Whian creek, and the trees are being logged to the watercourse... ultimately silting up the beautiful Whian Whian falls... which will definitely fall foul of summer swimmers. The neighbours use the creek for domestic water use, and understandably are very concerned about the polluting effects on their home water supply.

Essentially the legislation needs to change. The fact that governing bodies elsewhere can override our local agreements established through council is not ethical, or democratic. The EPA assured the protestors that restrictive buffer zones have been applied – but for the new road to be dozed – only! There are no checks and balances. Qualified individuals have presented GPS located sensitive zones. These include more than 70 vulnerable plant species and homes for Koala, rare birds, and other voiceless critters. The red bopple nut tree is a rare and endangered native species that hasn't changed since the dinosaurs roamed the earth, and there is a grove identified on the logging site. In fact, the rough road that Forestry is creating to remove the logs from the property, scours through this grove.

Forestry NSW has their focus on logging and obtaining 'timber' without respect for the fact that these structures house innumerable inhabitants who don't have human voices and are therefore ignored.

Actually, even those with human voices are still ignored.

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Kids' reel life adventure

The major prize of \$400 for best film in the Nimbin Youth Film Competition 2013 went to *Stolen By Stone Demons*, by Liv Emmett, Amete Baume, Savannah and Odessa Smith and Jemima Zahari.

The film is an eclectic mix of fantasy, drama and comedy. The five young filmmakers from the Nimbin region were very surprised and excited to win. It was a tough competition.

The judges, Paul Tait and Jeni Kendall, from Gaia Films, made their choice based on pre-production values, and a strong script that helped to define a complex story. The narrative was maintained, and it had a twist at the end.

The judges mentioned Odessa Smith as a stand-out actor for someone so young. *Stolen by Stone Demons* was a well thought-out film and the judges said they looked forward to seeing more from these young filmmakers.

Second prize went to Tarquin Watt for his documentary, *Hedin the Flyer*, and third prize was won by Ella Viet-Prince for *Brian And Jenny*. Journey Naday-Ford won Best Comedy for *How To Make An Omelet Like A Boss*, and Jamie Lacher won Most Courageous Filmmaking for his film about having a large splinter extracted from his toe; it was called *The Drama*.

More than 125 people jammed into the Nimbin Town Hall, where the filmmakers from the Nimbin



region astonished them with their creativity and technical prowess.

Girlmaniac Attack, which won the best SFX and Blockbuster awards, was a 12-minute film that took viewers on an inter-galactic journey from the planet *Girlmania*, whose inhabitants come to earth to enslave girls and kill all boys.

It had a cast of about 30, and was made by the young people of the Billen Cliffs Community at Larnook. The judges were highly impressed by this film.

Organiser Darmin Cameron said imagination and creativity was "off the Richter Scale".

The competition is an initiative of Youth

Connections North Coast funded under Our Villages Rocks Community Builders Fund.

The organisers wish to thank Nimbin Artist's Gallery, Rainbow Power Company, Nimbin Pizza & Trattoria, Nimbin Emporium, Grapevine Café, Rainbow Café, Nimbin Newsagent and Charters Hardware.

Grant helps the flow

The Nimbin Community Centre has received a Sports and Recreation Participation Grant on behalf of local circus and flow arts group, Rainbow Flow Arts, which has been organising weekly circus skills workshops and meets since 2012.

The grant will be used to purchase equipment, pay for venue costs, and assist group volunteers in accessing further training.

Rainbow Flow Arts is a community-run group that has been developed by a dedicated team of Nimbin locals who love all things "circus".

They have been doing performances around Nimbin over the last six months and you can check out their Fire Show and roving performances at the Nimbin Roots Festival.

The group will also be at the Nimbin Markets each month, hosting a circus and flow play space.

Rainbow Flow Arts started the current Circus Project in early 2013, organising weekly circus meets and workshops.

The grant is only a portion of the overall cost of the project, which will run until December 2014 and includes volunteer hours and funding contributed by Rainbow Flow Arts, but it has strengthened morale and the sense of purpose within the group.

The idea behind the project was to provide free weekly



workshops/skill-shares for all members of the Nimbin Community, in particular those who struggle to afford sporting or recreational activities.

All members of the community are invited to attend, with all ages and abilities catered-for. The project aims to enhance participants' physical health, fitness and skill level, which will lead to greater self-confidence and empowerment.

Skills taught include hoop, poi, staff, juggling, skipping, ribbon-dance, slack line, and various fire twirling disciplines. They will be learning more skills thanks to the grant funding, and everything they learn will be passed onto the Nimbin Community for free.

Currently there are three free weekly activities:

- Tuesdays every week until 22nd October 7pm – 8pm

in the Dance Studio: Energy Movement and Flow with Bernard.

- Thursdays in the Community Centre grounds from 4.30pm-7pm. This is a free-flowing skill-share space, with lots of circus toys to play with and skilled people. Drug- and alcohol-free event. The skill-share goes until dark, usually followed by a free fire show.

- Fridays 5pm - 7pm in the Dance Studio. From 5pm-6pm is a beginner hula hoop workshop; from 6pm – 7pm it becomes an open jam/skill-share. Come along and learn to hoop and spin, learn new skills or share your skills, and increase your fitness and muscle tone in a fun and relaxed environment. Children welcome.

For more information visit: www.facebook.com/groups/nimbincircusco

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Inspirational Nimbin properties

A wonderful time was had by all who participated in the Nimbin House, Farm and Garden open weekend. Many people came from far and wide, and all commented on how much they'd enjoyed the whole event and hoped it would be repeated.

The houses, farms and gardens on show were outstanding examples of what Nimbin has to offer, depicting Nimbin at its best and serving as inspiration to others. They reflected passion and energy, incredible resourcefulness and labours of love created over many years.

Gardens were interesting, beautiful, well-maintained, often with spectacular views and contributed to inspiring a love of gardening and gardens in others. The open houses, ranging from modern to retro, showcased unique architecture, extraordinary craftsmanship and sustainable features that combined with creative and beautiful interiors to reveal a rich quality of life. Many visitors took advantage of the great food to be had in beautiful settings.

Very popular farm tours included Tutti Fruitti Farm food gardens, Nimbin Valley Dairy cheese making,



Mandy and Steve Hale's house

White Beech Farm hardwood plantation and a small organic farm where kids of all ages (and adults) could play with baby goats, a beautiful calf and chicks.

It was also fun to see a very engaged group of people poking their way around village streets on a sustainable wild food foraging tour.

The event was extremely successful, raising over \$5000 for 7 Sibley Street. While many people contributed to this fantastic outcome, special thanks must go to the organising committee: Mandie Hale, Diana Roberts, Jim Sinclair and Cat Anderson.



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Markets get more eco-friendly

Reusing cups

Don't be a mug, enjoy your next Market coffee, tea or chai the way nature intended – out of an easily re-useable ceramic cup!

Each year it is reported that Australians throw away over 1 billion disposable coffee cups – some of which are virtually impossible to recycle due to the materials used in their construction – and thus end up in landfill, producing over 17 tonnes of greenhouse gas as they slowly decompose, a process which may take decades.

Further, it takes 40 litres of water to manufacture a paper cup and a plastic lid, which translates to 16 billion litres of fresh water per year to make takeaway coffee cups.

To do its part to help reduce our dependence on

disposable coffee cups, the Byron Shire Markets are aiming to replace them with re-useable, washable, ceramic mugs for people to enjoy their favourite hot beverage from.

Byron Markets Manager Tess Cullen said that over 200 ceramic mugs have been collected for the cause, and during September they were creatively adorned and specifically identified by enthusiastic folks from the community.

"The idea is to reduce and eventually remove all disposable coffee cups from the Byron Markets," Tess said.

The coffee mug program is timed to coincide with the first Byron Living Earth Market on Sunday 6th October, which will bring together a wide range of sustainable and

informative groups to create a super market of ideas and inspirations about how to live in greater harmony with the Living Earth.

Recycling jars

Why not take your glass containers back to the seller? And get a refund!

The Blue Knob Farmers Market and the Nimbin Farmers Market are both big on sustainability.

Both market organisations are starting a drive to encourage local shoppers to return jars and bottles to the original seller.

Many of the sellers are offering a refund on their jars and bottles. There will be a small sticker on the jars that will be colour-coded so they can be returned to the original stallholder.



Please jump aboard and recycle jars! For more info contact: jamescreagh@hotmail.com

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Hive of activity for Show

A total of 126 children recently sharpened their pencils for a colouring-in competition at the Nimbin Show.

The competition was organised by Rob and Rikki Fisher, of the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers Group.

Children could enter one of three categories, with prizes for first, second and third placegetters in each. Four Highly Commended awards were made.

The overall winner was Hannah, from Barkers Vale Public School. Hannah also won first place in the Grades 3 and 4 category (*Her entry pictured*).

Hannah's major prize is an opportunity to participate in harvesting honey from a beehive. Protective clothing will be supplied and the harvest conducted by an experienced beekeeper.

Schools from Nimbin,



Barkers Vale, Coffee Camp, Jiggi, Goolmangar, Tuntable Creek, The Channon and Lillian Rock were represented.

Thanks to Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate for photocopying the entry forms, and to Tutti Fruitti Farm, Annie's Country Tea House & Gardens and Alan Snell for donating prizes.

Anyone interested in

keeping bees is invited to learn more about bees with the Nimbin Natural Beekeepers.

This friendly group meets on the first Sunday of each month to share their knowledge and experience. Further information can be obtained by emailing: nimbin_naturalbeekeepers@yahoo.com.au or telephoning James on 6689-7575.

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Letters

Election blues

All day my mind wavered, not between political parties, as they are all the same, but about why and what I was doing or not doing and how much I was being influenced by the masses, people, acquaintances and of course the media.

I sat down close enough to hear people express their viewpoints on which party they supported. They all sounded strong and sure of themselves, so much so that my mind started to waver again: "I should vote," I thought.

I really wanted to join in, and then I realized, that was it, all it was. I just did not like this feeling, called 'standing alone', not part of the group.

I continued to listen and watch people's body language. They appeared confident on their way in, but this had changed on their way out. Most people appeared dejected, depressed or annoyed. Many were saying their vote didn't count; they had filled it in incorrectly or mucked it up on purpose, "Because it's all just bullshit anyway."

This statement I heard at least four times while sitting there. It made me ask questions: How many of you voted just so you would not get fined? How many of you think it's bullshit, but still voted anyway, and why?

This experience has made me hold fast to my new understandings of the government and the laws of our country. I have spent the last year researching the law, the government and all our other institutions. They are not as they seem. They are illegal and do not have our best interests at heart. The fact is, they have no heart, and where there is no heart there is only control.

Knowledge is power and government is unnecessary, and no, I did not vote.

Susan Gumley
Nimbin

Dishonourable candidate

Matthew Fraser, your strategy to discredit the Greens economic credentials has backfired. You underestimated the intelligence of the Richmond voters, who dismissed your deceptive full-page newspaper ad and letterboxed glossy green leaflet two days before the election as Nationals' scaremongering.

Greens economic policies were fully costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office and provide a positive solution for the challenges of the future, not a short-term fix to feather the pockets of the privileged.

But you were right about

one thing. It was a strong Green vote (17.7%) that got Justine Elliot over the line. A word of advice: if you are intent on winning office in future elections, you do it by honourable means and not by spreading lies about others.

Lyn Dickinson
Pottsville

Hogan's hero

Congratulations to Kevin Hogan for his win in Page last Saturday.

I would like to thank Kevin Hogan along with the other four candidates, Janelle Saffin, Stephen Janes, Desley Banks and Rod Smith for running in Page and representing your many diverse views with courage and commitment.

Thank you to Pastor Robyn Peebles, Christian Democratic Party's Number 1 Senate candidate and all our supporters who served with dedication and personal sacrifice. I am personally very grateful to each of you, and trust that all our efforts will serve for Australia's greater good.

To everyone who trusted us with your number 1 vote, thank you. You have made your voice heard.

Carol Ordish

Christian Democratic Party
candidate for Page

Real hemp dangers

Wow, you may have been hard on the Hemp party in a previous issue but you made up for it big time in the September issue of NGT. Everyone singing the same tune!

And the advert on page 13: "My dealer is my healer." Try telling that to the mentally ill, psychotic, paranoid people and their long-suffering families who have been and still are seriously affected by this not so pleasant drug.

Maybe a reminder of the real and present dangers?

David Ashton
Mullumbimby

Seven Sibley Plans

Regarding "The Wall" concept plan for 7 on Sibley (NGT Sept 13, p2), it's completely out of character with the village. It looks like we've stepped into placation for Lismore Council architects.

I wonder about the shadow cast by the monstrosity; the concrete, the steel, the glass, the carbon miles for all this, plus builders. I feel the project might be trying hard to fill everybody's expectations without achieving anybody's hopes.

Here are some thoughts: renovate the cottage, make disability access, celebrate the persons that lived there before, use plantation timber locally sourced, and do this

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Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

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via a training scheme for young tradies and engineers (equal numbers of girls and boys). Use locally produced hemp – nurture a new cottage industry by example.

Make the site a home away from home for visiting educators/activists/gurus and a garden for the weavers who are no longer welcome at the Anglican church, where they can hold their yearly festivities, and make it available for artists residencies, nationally or internationally offered, to obscure art schools or 'craftisans' such as bamboo builders, earthship builders, stonemasons, painters, writers, musicians... and give the cottage a great mural.

Andrea Numi
Green Pigeon

Fluoride backflip

Okay Lismore City Council. We all know the reason for the 'flipside' on the fluoridation of the water decision. We were with you when you intelligently pointed out the folly of poisoning our water supply, particularly when less than 5% is actually ingested and the rest of is flushed down the loo, sink, shower etc and ends up in the river system... and the fact that the legislation it was based on is ancient, and we've come a long way since the 1950s with science, knowledge and understanding.

We also know, dearly beloved council, that the state and federal governments have said no \$ for you unless you do as you are told. You know what – that is bullying, intimidating and threatening – it goes against the major law in this country regarding workplace health and safety.

Get with the other intelligent, local shire councils who don't want to poison the water supply and stand up to these bullying powermongers. Sock it to them baby! If they cut funding – which are our taxes – well bugger them. Let's just pay our taxes to our local councils and then see how our shire blossoms.

Don't kowtow to the threats and intimidations by the bullying bureaucrats. This is our home and we choose to live here for the health and

wellbeing that the Northern Rivers lifestyle offers us.

Please keep our water clean of the toxic industrial waste known as fluoride.

Moi Kenny,
Tunttable Creek

RVC and CSG

I asked the Richmond Valley Council at a council meeting earlier this year if there would be a report about their trip to the Queensland gas fields. The general manager replied that the council's position statement on coal seam gas would be the only response to that trip.

At a later council meeting the councillors voted to abandon the position statement on CSG on the grounds that there were no gas companies active in the area. Several councillors leafed through their business papers and did not pay attention while one of their ratepayers, a member of Richmond Valley Group Against Gas, outlined reasons that the position statement should be retained. The reason the council used for abandoning the position statement is not valid, because Metgasco were still in operation, decommissioning wells, and had always stated that they were only suspending operations, not ceasing, and that they would recommence at a later date.

Only a couple of weeks after the council abandoned the position statement, Metgasco placed advertisements in the *Northern Star* and the *Express Examiner*. A company which is not active would not do this. They have not relinquished their petroleum exploration licences. They are telling shareholders in their current statement to the ASX that they will recommence their operations.

So now, conveniently, the council has abandoned a position statement, which recommended baseline testing be carried out before any drilling commenced. I think the council is letting its residents down, and individual councillors need to take a long hard look at this issue for themselves and not be led by the GM, who was not elected by the people of the Richmond Valley.

When asked at the last council meeting about the incident that occurred at the Kingfisher E01 well near the Casino airport during decommissioning, where the drill string and 18 pipes were unexpectedly expelled high into the air, alarming people who live nearby, the general manager told the meeting that there was no need for concern, the incident was just a normal release of gas.

It turns out that this has been deemed a high risk incident by the mine Safety Investigation Unit. It was lucky no workers were injured as the pipes fell on their equipment. There are also problems with the integrity of this well, with gas under pressure able to migrate between the inside and outside of the casing.

When asked at a council meeting to reinstate the council's position statement on coal seam gas, the general manager replied that this statement is dead and buried. I do not accept this, and ask

that the position statement that was abandoned on false grounds be reinstated and renamed to include all forms of invasive gas mining.

I also ask that this council insist on the 2km exclusion zone, to protect the people who live in Casino. This council is the only one in the region that does not have any policies to protect their water, air, farmland, people and wildlife from the gas industry.

Angela Froud
Doubtful Creek

Fossil fools

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on 27th September, page 8, that Federal Energy Minister, Ian Macfarlane accused opponents of coal seam gas mining of being anarchists.

The accusations of the minister more appropriately fit the coal seam gas industry more than they do the rural communities and farmers opposed to the invasive and parasitic CSG industry. CSG miners can impose themselves

on unwilling landholders against the landholders' wishes. This is land theft and destroys our ancient land rights and ownership.

Coal seam gas mining is a sprawling, invasive industrialisation of rural landscapes that overrides the rights of existing landholders and their enterprises, CSG is incompatible with many existing land uses i.e. many types of farming, beef, dairying, orcharding, cropping, vintnering and horse breeding.

Tourism and the environment are also adversely affected. Who wants to holiday in an industrial landscape with the associated problems of air and water pollution, the massive heavy traffic increases and the destroyed road networks? The NSW Chief Scientist's interim report found that there are many unknowns on the effects on aquifers and water tables and air quality, as well as a lack of studies on the health effects on people,

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, usually 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.

animals and plants and has urged caution.

Multiple surveys are returning results of 85% plus of the NSW population are opposed to this destructive industry. It would be sensible for the federal and state governments to put their efforts into developing clean and safe renewable energy than chasing the diminishing rewards of more fossil fuels.

Simon Chance
Richmond Hill



Frackin' in the free world



by Benny Zable

At 94, the legendary Pete Seeger recently added a new verse to Woody Guthrie's alternative USA anthem *This Land Is Your Land*, ending it with "New York was made to be frack-free".

The drilling for unconventional gas is on hold in the New York State, as governor Andrew Cuomo investigates the effects of fracking on the Masala Shale underground water supply.

I attended a showing of *Gaslands 2* in New Jersey. They have a Republican mayor to deal with over there. There is a growing movement in opposition to these issues, with celebs of all kinds coming out of the woodwork and connecting the dots from climate change to health issues.

I began my journey to New York with designing and decorating for ECOFEST 25th annual at Times Square, which was dedicated to Toshi Seeger, who passed away at 91.

An active and committed Pete Seeger was driven for over four hours by his daughter Tinya, from a festival that day, to play with us.

I also took part in a number of rallies and marches over President Barack Obama's threat to bomb Syria, and also attended the Woodstock Museum Film Festival, which showed highlights from the Nimbin Aquarius 40th anniversary.

A highlight of my journey so far is being arrested three times in three



Benny with 'Gaslands' filmmaker Josh Fox and friend

minutes during the second anniversary of Occupy Wall Street. I was picked out by the white shirts and removed by the NYPD officers from the march out of Zuccotti/Liberty Park along Broadway to Washington Square park. My stay in a NYC lock-up was an eye-opener.

Since my release from jail, I have decorated and performed at the Vigil for International Peace and Ecology in Central, and joined the Keyline XL pipeline rally and march through the Wall Street financial district.

I had the privilege to be photographed with *Gaslands* filmmaker Josh Fox. I also caught up with Earth First legend Mike Roselle, who was passing through on his way back to the front lines of protests against the mountain top mining of coal in West Virginia.

The rally was organised by the Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Gospel Choir.

On my birthday, 1st October, I will be seeing Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton again to attend a gathering in up-state New York of the Iroquois nations. Thank you all for your good wishes and encouragement on this journey,



Pete Seeger and friends

especially Peter Wise (Nimbin Chamber of Commerce), and Katie Cawcutt (Nimbin Aquarius Foundation).

Don't forget to drop into the Nimbin Environment Centre to help out. We need your help more than ever now, with this further shift to the right – nationally and locally – after the Federal elections.

For up-to-date reports on my journey, check me out on Facebook.

May peace prevail on Earth.

Notices

For Sale – Motor Home

2003 Mercedes Sprinter, 2.7 l turbo diesel, 4-seat, solar equipped, fridge, TV, microwave oven, sink, awning; new tyres, ball-joints, shocks, 12 months rego, \$24,000. Phone Peter on 0487-259-582.

Beautician wanted

The Greenbank is seeking a beautician to work in our consultation room for a couple of Saturday afternoons each month. Room rental is \$25 for a half day. If this is you, please drop by the shop to meet Kylie or Lishia or call us on 6689-1881.

Rainbow Ridge Kindy orientation

If you have a child that is turning 5 or 6 next year and you would like to experience our beautiful kindergarten, then please come to our Kindy Orientation morning on Saturday 9th November from 9.30-11.30am at 279 Lillian Rock Road, Lillian Rock. You and your child will enjoy a morning of play, craft and songs, followed by a shared morning tea. Please bring along two pieces of fruit to share. If you are planning to come, please ring the school and let us know: 02 6689-7033. www.rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au

NCC Annual General Meeting

The Nimbin Community Centre AGM will be held at 6pm Thursday 14th November in the Birth & Beyond room, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin. New members welcome. For further information please contact the Co-ordinator on 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Nimbin Health & Welfare Assoc Inc

Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday 21st November, 5pm at Bottlebrush Studio, NCC. The NH&W Management Committee auspice Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services and facilitate the NH&W Interagency Forum. In particular, we are looking for a new volunteer Treasurer to work with the NH&W Management Committee, the NACRS Coordinator and the NACRS Book-keeper from late November. If you would like to make a contribution to this thriving, caring service, have relevant financial experience and can attend short monthly meetings, please contact Rose Cubis, NACRS Coordinator, on 6689-1430 or email: rose@nacrs.com.au

Nimbin Mystical Fair

Next fair will be held 13-14-15th December. Anyone interested in stalls or any info about the event, please phone Jazmin on 0427-822-128. "Altruistic, magical, loving."