

# Chamber Chat

## Small is beautiful

The NSW Business Chamber's Sky Board – with the campaign titled 'Small Business, Too Big To Ignore' – has been visiting towns and cities across the state in the countdown to polling day.

Nimbin Chamber president Peter Wise attended the pre-election campaign in Lismore, which stressed that the wellbeing of local communities is directly linked to a strong and vibrant local business community.

The campaign policy priorities are to cut down on red tape, simplify the tax system, make it easier to employ people and build better infrastructure.

According to Steve Cartwright, CEO of the NSW Business Chamber, there are two million small businesses in Australia, employing more than seven million people. Those small business operators have received little credit or respect for their hard work.

"There are some parts of Australia where youth unemployment has reached over 30% but nobody in

Canberra seems to connect this shameful fact with the regulations that make it so hard to give these kids a job," Mr Cartwright said.

"Small business such as the local bakery, cafe, grocery store, or newsagent for instance, are the ones that give jobs to local people – they are just looking for a fair go and need more support."

## Business after hours

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce welcomes networking at the next Business After Hours function to be held on Monday 16th September from 6pm at the Nimbin Hotel.

There is a very good reason why Business After Hours is so popular: it works! The business-focused event offers an effective environment for building working links and establishing that invaluable support network of business contacts in a laid-back environment.

The guest speaker is John Murray, from the NSW Business Chamber. There



will be an open business forum, and all business people are encouraged to share their stories. The chamber is also proposing to hold a future bi-annual local business sales event and Nimbin businesses are encouraged to participate. More information will be

provided on the night and feedback is sought.

Finger food and refreshments will be served throughout the evening. For more information and to register your attendance, please contact Peter Wise on 6689-1639 or email: [peterwise@live.com.au](mailto:peterwise@live.com.au)

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## In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre news

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

## Green Globe Awards

Environment and Heritage Minister Robyn Parker has announced the finalists for the 2013 Green Globe Awards. Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (and Nimbin) has made it to the finals in the Community Sustainability category...winners will be announced at Parliament House in Sydney on 24th September. Our fingers, paws and whiskers are crossed!

## Community sustainability survey

This will be the third such survey of Nimbinites since 2009. These surveys have been providing us with valuable community level data which has helped us attract funds and support for our community projects and the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan. There will be some new questions this time, in addition to those we have already been tracking through the last 2 surveys. The more Nimbinites (30km radius around Nimbin) who complete the surveys, the more valuable the data is. We will send the surveys out via mail plus we will have them at various community events and of course at NNIC. If you only do one survey all year...DO THIS ONE!!

## 7 Sibley Street updates

Check out the Master Concept plan in this edition of the *GoodTimes*. A feedback form is available on our website or at NNIC. All feedback welcome.

Thanks soooo much to everyone who helped out or donated books or other stuff and bought books or other stuff at the Big Book Sale and Auction. A great day once again. Extra special thanks to Cat for organising the Auction, and to Dave and Vanessa for organising the book sale.

Thanks also to everyone who came out for Spring Eve to celebrate the last

day of Winter and help raise funds for Sibley St. Another great night of fun and merriment and fundraising. Thanks a million to Amanda for organising it and for all the great bands, acts and DJs who performed on the night.

If you can help us raise the last funds we need to pay off the loan, please email us: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) We need all the help we can get to bring this baby home!!

## Nimbin Show 21-22 September

Make sure you get down to the show grounds and support our local show. There will be loads of stuff on this year including the new and improved Sustainability Alley – back bigger than last year, loads of talks and demonstrations, a Bush Dance on the Saturday night, plus we will be doing the Sustainability Survey there all weekend.

Remember to enter your own produce, crafts or cooking in the main pavilion – you have to drop your entries off at the showgrounds on Friday 20th.

## Other events for your diary

**1st September** – Living Earth Festival at Mullumbimby Community Gardens.

We will be there with our Sibley St stall.

**2nd September** – NBN Rollout community info session at the Nimbin Town Hall. Check our website for latest Q+As: [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)

**3rd, 4th and 5th September** – Youth leading the World at Nimbin Town Hall. See our website for details. All young people welcome!

**6th September** – Sustainable House Expo in Lismore – 4.30 pm until 8.30pm. Featuring trade show including Rainbow Power Co and 7 Sibley St, speakers from 5.30 pm including our very own Guy Stewart. At the Lismore

Workers Club Auditorium.

**15th September** – Green Day at Barkersvale school – we will be there with the sustainability survey.

**15th September** – Alstonville Country Fair – sustainability theme – we will be there with Sibley St stall. At 253 Wardell Rd Alstonville- Summerland House Farm.

**21st and 22nd September** – Nimbin Show – we will be there with bells on...

**28th and 29th September** – Nimbin House, Farm and Garden Open Weekend. This is your big chance to look around some of Nimbin's interesting homes, farms and gardens. Tickets are \$20 per day or \$40 for the whole weekend and are NOW available from Nimbin Apothecary.

## Nimbin Women's Dinner

Women who are interested in helping to organise this year's dinner, please contact Teena at NNIC. We will be back in the Town Hall this year and the date is 27th November.

## Waller's Bus consultation

We went along and the good news is that there are no plans to reduce any of the bus services between Lismore and Nimbin at this stage. There may be some future timetable and other changes though... so watch our website for updates. There is a real need to get more people using the buses more so we can address our biggest carbon footprint as a community, as well as secure our transport future while fuel prices continue to rise.

## NNIC website

Lots of stuff, updated weekly: [nnic.org.au](http://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.



## Controversial council

by Simon Clough, Deputy Mayor, Lismore City Council

What a Council meeting we had this month! It was a huge agenda with nearly 300 pages in the business paper. Items included fluoride, North Lismore Plateau and vaccination to name the more controversial matters.

The motion opposing the addition of fluoride to Council's water supply was put by Vanessa Ekins and seconded by me. We were the only Councillors to speak. Surprisingly the motion was won 6 votes to 4. Councillors Ekins, Clough, Battista, Bennett, Houston and Smith supported it and Councillors Dowell, Marks, Meineke and Scheibel opposed to it. But before anyone gets too excited there has been a rescission motion put forward which could overturn the decision at the next Council meeting.

I have heard comments about Council being taken over by "flat earthers and nutters" over its decision. For the record I think all of the Councillors who supported this motion have post graduate qualifications, hardly "flat earthers and nutters". I also have done a lot of research on the subject from reputable medical sources.

Fluoride is mass medication without individual consent. Medication without consent breaches both World Health Organisation and some state government guidelines. Additionally it is difficult to remove from drinking water and is not targeted or measured in dosage. For example someone doing strenuous physical work will consume significantly more than an office worker. Opposition to fluoride is often compared with opposition to vaccination as an indication that opponents



oppose science. Personally I agree with vaccination. It is voluntary, injected medically in prescribed doses to people who need it and adverse reactions can generally be traced to the vaccine. This is in complete contrast to fluoride.

Fluoride is an extremely toxic substance – less than 1/15 of a teaspoon full can kill a 60 kilo adult and 5 litres of water containing 1 part per million can have toxic impacts. Also we get fluoride from a number of other sources such as toothpaste, tea and many common medications contain significant amounts of fluoride. So there is no regulation of the fluoride dose.

And of course there are accidents such as happened in Brisbane in May 2009 when a fluoride plant overdosed two suburbs with 20 times the allowable amount of fluoride. Scores of people reported vomiting, nausea and the death of many pets all due to excess fluoride. This accident was only detected by a second water provider which happened to carry out a water test.

For those that endlessly quote dentists and medical authorities for the safety of fluoride it's worth remembering that many of the same people in the recent past were strenuously defending mercury amalgam

fillings, claiming that they were stable and would never leach into the body. I don't know of anyone today seeking out mercury amalgam fillings and the dental profession seems strangely silent on the subject.

Much of the research concentrates on fluoride's effects on tooth decay and not the impacts on the whole body. Nonetheless I do believe there is definitely a place for fluoride in the treatment of our children's teeth, especially for children from low socio-economic backgrounds. Fluoride should be voluntary and directly administered as a gel or varnish as well as information on correct use of fluoride toothpaste and brushing. The difficulty is of course that this is expensive and government is keen to avoid costs and chooses the "easy way out" with fluoride, despite its health risks and reduction of civil liberties.

The North Lismore Plateau development moved a step closer with the unanimous approval of the next stage in the process. I'm not a great fan of 'greenfield' development on environmental grounds, much preferring increasing the density of existing urban areas. However in this case I believe that 1300 house sites on the western side of the CBD will give much more balance to Lismore and will hopefully invigorate the CBD. It is estimated that the development will add \$25 million pa to Lismore. The development will also include over 200 affordable housing blocks which should be a great boon to homeownership in the city.

Spring seems to have started in August with the unseasonably warm weather and I and the others have been hard at work in the community garden, getting our plantings underway. Happy spring everyone.

## LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin community

### Sustainable House Day Seminar and Trade Show

Lismore City Council, Rous Water and the Lismore Workers Club have joined forces to present the Sustainable House Day Seminar and Trade Show on Friday, 6 September at the Lismore Workers Club.

Local businesses will be displaying their water and energy efficient products and services, from architects through to solar power, rain tanks and plumbing. There is also a workshop on home energy efficiency, understanding your bills and creating real dollar savings plus a warm supper.

The Sustainable House Day Seminar and Trade Show is on Friday, September 6 from 4.30-8.30pm at the Lismore Workers Club.

You can also pick up a brochure on Sustainable House Day and the houses you can visit on Sunday, September 8, to see energy efficiency in action in the homes of local residents.

People are welcome to visit the homes from 10am to 4pm on Sunday to see energy efficiency in action, share ideas and learn from people walking the talk.

### Landholders wanted for koala habitat restoration

Lismore City Council and EnviTE Environment are seeking expressions of interest from landholders who would like to be involved in restoring habitat for koalas on their properties.

There are several existing projects in the region and there will be others in the future that are seeking to improve koala habitat and enhance green corridors to link different populations of koalas.

This will help to improve genetic diversity amongst the region's koala populations which leads to better health and longevity for the species in the Northern Rivers.

If you would like to participate, please complete an Expression of Interest by 11 September 2013. You can download a form or complete it online at [www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.au)



Koala habitat restoration in Lismore Local Government Area is funded by NSW Environmental Trust, Office of Environment and Heritage and Norman H Johns Trust managed by Perpetual Philanthropic Grants. The project is supported by Friends of the Koala.

### Youth Activities Fund applications now open

Applications for Lismore City Council's annual Youth Activities Fund are now open to community groups wishing to undertake projects and activities for young people aged 12 to 25 years in the Lismore Local Government Area.

Council began the allocation of funds in 1995 and it has proved a great success, with many small projects getting off the ground. Projects funded in the last year include the Nimbin Skatepark second birthday celebration that was attended by more than 500 people recently.

The Youth Activities Fund offers one-off grants, up to \$5000, specifically for programs for young people. Grants are not available for capital or equipment purchase and priority will be given to projects that are coordinated between services.

This year Council is looking for projects that address the following:

- After-hours passive recreational facilities for young people.
- Recognition for young people's culture.
- Young people's sense of community belonging and sense of self-worth and value.
- Social isolation due to distance and lack of accessible transport.
- Information about young people's rights and services available to them.

All projects must address how they will be inclusive of young people from diverse backgrounds.

The deadline for submissions is 4pm on Friday, 13 September.

People can download application forms and guidelines from Council's website [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) by searching 'grants' or for a hard copy phone the Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

People who would like to discuss ideas for projects or have any questions should phone Lizette Twisleton on 1300 87 83 87 or email: [lizette.twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lizette.twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

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## CSG petition posted

At the Lismore Post Office on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, local MPs Justine Elliot and Janelle Saffin held a media conference prior to posting their Petition to Sydney.

Justine and Janelle posted their Petition with more than 12000 signatures to the NSW Parliament today, calling on them to declare the North Coast CSG mining Free.

Justine said, "Thanks to everyone who signed our Petition. Let's keep working together to keep the pressure on our State National Party MPs and demand they listen to the community and act to protect our region."

"To date, the National Party continue to ignore the people of the North Coast and instead pursue their pro-CSG drilling, fracking and expansion agenda."

# No help from Nationals on CSG

I notice my National Party opponent in Page is continuing the mantra that he would cross the floor to vote on CSG issues. He is reinforcing the fact that the National Party has the wrong policies and won't protect the community from CSG.

Mr Hogan is admitting that he would cross the floor to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, who put forward the legislative change to our environmental protection law to get protections from harmful CSG mining.

Why isn't he working hard on bringing his party around on this issue, securing things like that, such as I did?

To be opposed to something that is really harmful to our community and way of life, means you have to do some hard work and deliver, as I have done and will continue to do.

What is he doing to change his National Party's pro CSG and pro fracking policy? Nothing. If that is his answer to stopping CSG, we are in trouble.

## Janelle's Page

I have done the hard yards, changing policy and the law, and will continue to do so, to get CSG mining stopped here, and I will continue to put our State National MPs under the pump too, so that they begin to represent us in this area.

The choice is clear, someone with my track record or someone whose only answer is "to cross the floor".

### Abbot can't be trusted on school funding

The future of every local child demands 100 per cent commitment to the Better Schools Plan.

The Better Schools Plan is about more one on one, individual attention so for every child can reach their full potential.

It is about more help for regional and rural schools, for kids struggling with literacy and numeracy and support for



Photo: Omega Breakspear

high achieving student to do even better.

Mr Abbott and the Liberal National Coalition have opposed Labor's Better School Plan for the past three years.

They now say they will match the Commonwealth funding for schools committed by Labor. But they only commit to \$2.8 billion over four years.

To provide schools with certainty, Mr Abbott must commit to the \$10 billion extra over the next six years – nothing less.

The 'I Give a Gonski' campaign is getting the message out about what's at stake for local schools at this election: [www.igiveagonski.com.au](http://www.igiveagonski.com.au)

The Coalition cannot be trusted on education.

## Greens food plan increases farmer and consumer power

This week our local Greens candidate Desley Banks for Page, and candidate for the NSW seat for the Senate, Cate Faerhmann, supported Australian Greens Leader Christine Milne's announcement of an \$85 million plan to help farmers bypass the big two supermarkets and sell direct to consumers.

Desley visited the Lismore Organic Market in August and spoke to local growers about the Greens.

Local grower David Roby said, "What we need is for local people to get back to sourcing some of their food locally. What we have is a very limited number of people sourcing an appreciable amount of their food locally while the vast majority pay supermarkets to think for them. After decades of trying to make local food available I still don't know how to get locals to make use of it. However I do know that population growth, resource shortages and climate change all point to the necessity of local food security."

Desley Banks says that "The Lismore Organic Markets is a great place for people to source local fresh and organic food. Here in the Northern Rivers, people care about where their food comes from, they want it to be local and that local farmers can make a fair price from their hard work. The Greens aim to help farmers access infrastructure and markets by providing \$85 million over



Organic farmers Dave Coby and Carol Boomsma with Desley Banks

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four years to help set up more farmers markets, food box sales, farmers' co-operatives, regional marketing and food hubs."

"Regional food hubs are where small-scale farmers can store and share expensive equipment with other food producers thus bringing production costs down and improving their range of goods. Farmer co-operatives can enable farmers to band together to supply bigger contracts or start their own product lines."

"The Northern Rivers is already a major producer of high quality products such as milk, olives, rice, nuts, coffee, stone fruit, livestock and organic produce. The Greens initiative may enable us to further establish this area as a food hub, like the Margaret

River region. It gives farmers the opportunity to supply major customers in the area, like education, health care institutes, restaurants and to provide produce or value added products to other markets. All that, in turn, will create more jobs in this area."

"In 2009, the Obama administration created the 'Know your Farmer and Know your Food' program. That program has been hailed as a success in the USA, having wide ranging social, economic benefits – so this is a positive scheme with a proven track record of success."

For more info visit:

<http://greensmps.org.au/content/media-releases/greens-food-plan-increases-farmer-and-consumer-power>.

## So what is the HEMP Party about?

by Michael Balderstone

The Australian HEMP Party is twenty years old this year. It has always been hard for us to get registered with the Electoral Commission because of paranoia by members that their information is not kept private, understandably. It was actually our secretary Jim Moylan who recently suggested the AEC allow political parties to join members online and since that was installed we have a new lease of life and membership is currently around five thousand. Membership is free and if you have an email address you get a weekly HEMP Headlines newsletter.

We have also been able to get donations happening online which has made it possible for the first time to run HEMP candidates in every State. No one in Western Australia was keen to put their hand up (paranoia again!) so myself and 18-year old Tayla Moylan, Jim's daughter, are the WA candidates! The NSW candidates are both from the central coast and we are thrilled Ray Thorpe joined us as the South Australian No 1.

The HEMP Party was formed solely to try and get Cannabis law reform on the political agenda. Frustrated by the big parties refusing to raise our concerns we use the elections to not only give people a chance to have a say (anonymously in the polling booth!) but also to educate and get various political parties to not only support us but also make cannabis and hemp policies. Because they want our preferences it's the one time politicians are keen to talk to us, and at least they pretend they're listening!

It says a lot that Howard's Liberals snared thousands of pot smokers votes by forming a 'Marijuana Smokers Rights Party' and sending the preferences to themselves. They knew the issue is so important for so many people they could snare these primary votes from us cannabis lovers with their cunning name. That they continue to maintain the shocking prejudice that makes thousands of us hide an important part of our life is appalling. Prohibition breeds lies and hypocrisy.

Most politicians are in fact sympathetic in private, and especially if you use the word medical. It's no big deal to smoke a joint these days. They agree pot use is widespread across

the electorate. However, it is a big deal if you get caught and it's a very big deal if you are caught selling, no matter how small the amount is.

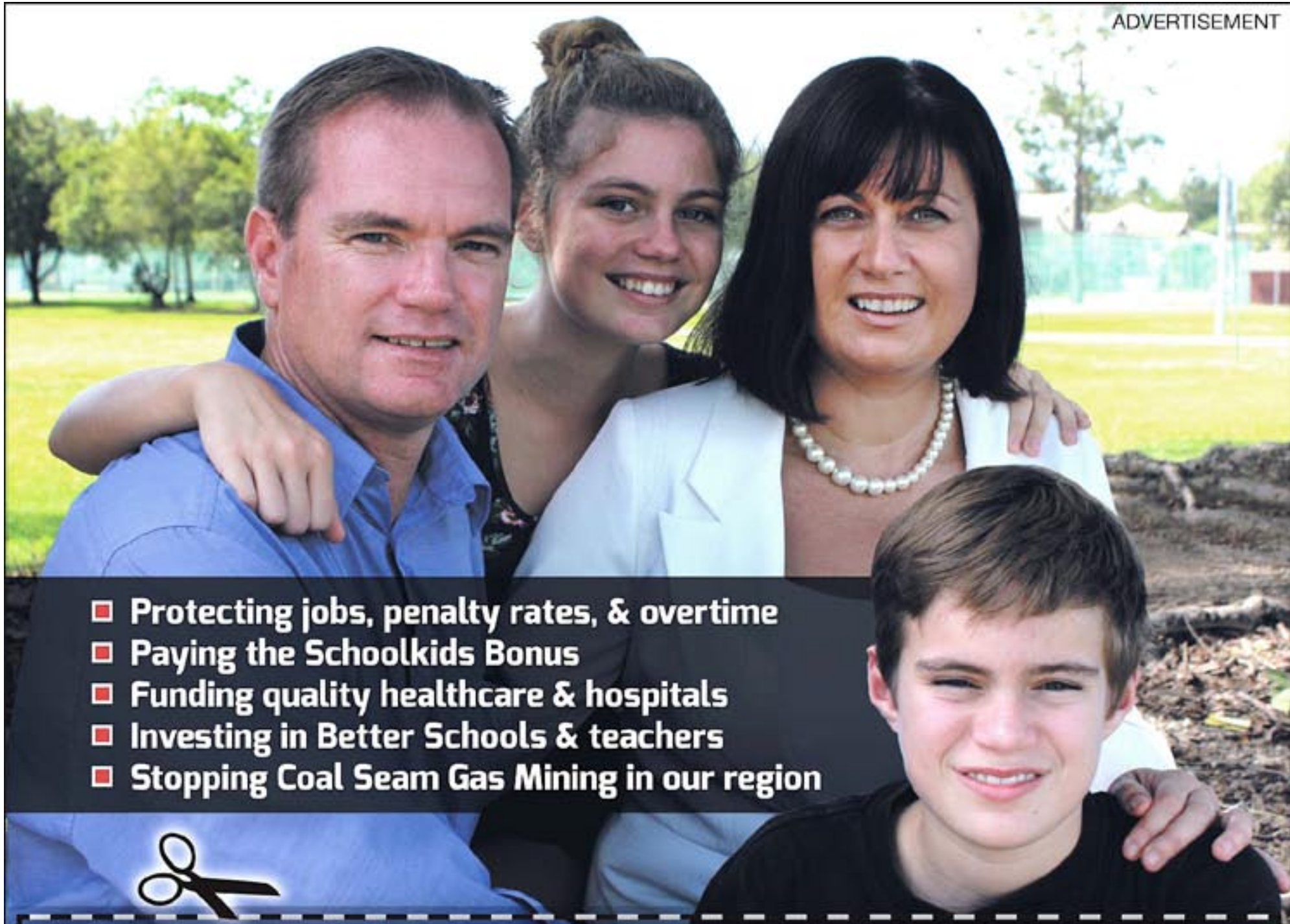
There is some movement. Last week the Greens announced a call for, 'a National Drug Summit to chart a way forward on illicit drugs policy'. Their words exactly. They called it "The Greens' new approach to the war on drugs" and promised they will immediately start work on getting the Summit happening after the election. The O'Farrell Government is also due to respond in September to findings by the NSW Senate Committee into the use of Cannabis for medical purposes, which achieved unanimous support from all committee members.

But meanwhile across Australia our jails are overflowing, one thousand people a week are busted for weed, and the police appear to be the drug experts as they have the biggest say when it comes to policy. They even blocked hempseed becoming legal in Australia despite all the experts saying lets do it.

They should be embarrassed as they increasingly realise they have been barking up the wrong tree for a long time and in fact have been hurting people rather than protecting them. And no doubt they have a lot of trouble letting go of the power they have over everyone being able to search anyone of us anytime with the 'reasonable suspicion' clause. They may well be afraid of losing their jobs as well as half their work is tied up with illegal drugs. Plus, of course, the pressure from various and not all reputable vested interests to maintain the status quo!

So we plan to "launch" our 2013 HEMP Party election campaign in Sydney, outside NSW Police Commissioner Scipione's office, on the Monday before voting.

Finally, few people it seems understand the complexities of preferencing and in the 24 hours parties are given to lodge their choices after the announcement of who is running, there are bound to be miscalculations. The road to hell is paved with good intentions and the preferencing system looks like it is past its use by date, just like the war on drugs! So, just to confirm, HEMP preferences in every state go to The Greens and Labor before the Shooters!



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- Stopping Coal Seam Gas Mining in our region



Small Green Ballot Paper

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- 5 SKINNER, Kev
- 6 FRASER, Matthew
- 1 ELLIOT, Justine  
LABOR**
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- 3 ALLEN, Charles  
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& Justine Elliot**

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Large White Ballot Paper

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**G**raeme Dunstan, of the Rockhampton Tiger Ploughshares, was found guilty in August of wilful damage to a Tiger Attack helicopter and given a two-year suspended sentence on a three-year good behaviour bond.

This includes \$2000 reconnaissance and \$162,000 in reparations – but payment was not expected, given Mr Dunstan's financial circumstances.

Mr Dunstan assisted the now deceased Bryan Law, who rode a large red tricycle across the Rockhampton airport tarmac and disabled an Australian Army Tiger Attack Reconnaissance Helicopter with a garden mattock.

Judge Samios stated that the costs were not insignificant and he would have to take this into account when sentencing Mr Dunstan, aged 71. The Tiger helicopter worth \$45 million was rendered inoperable for four months. Mr Dunstan said those four months were a blessing to the world.

The Prosecution made submissions for a custodial sentence because of Mr Dunstan's lack of remorse but also as a personal and general deterrent.

Mr Dunstan said: "It was an act of civil disobedience and I am not ashamed. Ploughshares actions are acts

## 'Swinging deuce' for Dunstan



of disarmament, transforming machines that kill in to objects that cannot kill."

Jury deliberations went into a second day after a unanimous decision could not be reached, with two of the 10 jurors unconvinced of Mr Dunstan's guilt. A guilty verdict was announced when court reconvened.

Mr Dunstan said, "We were successful in putting war on trial."

The jury had been shown footage, released by Bradley Manning – recently sentenced to 35 years in prison for releasing official secrets to Wikileaks – of a US helicopter killing civilians in Iraq.

Mr Manning – who now wishes to be known

as Chelsea Manning, and referred to as a woman – has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for her actions.

The jury also heard testimony from Australian peace activist Donna Mulhearn, who had travelled to Iraq as a "Human Shield" in 2003. Reverend Simon Moyle also testified about the Ploughshare movement and his personal experiences in Afghanistan.



## Snowden and the net nightmare

by Warwick Fry

News outlets that are on the money recognise that the fate of Edward Snowden is only part of the real story.

Edward Snowden is the NASA employee who came under the scrutiny of a media pack when he landed at Moscow after disclosing the extent of US intelligence agencies' surveillance of internet traffic, including traffic from other countries. The enabling legislation was slipped through in 2007 and creates immunities for private companies – internet giants like Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Skype – from legal action when they co-operate with US government agencies in intelligence collection.

In 2012 the act was renewed by Congress under President Obama for an additional five years, through to December 2017.

Snowden wisely left town and blew the whistle in Hong Kong, before skipping on to Moscow on the way to wherever. The media frenzy focussed on whether and where he could go after the US grounded the presidential plane of Bolivian President Evo Morales, who happened to be in Russia to discuss an oil and gas summit with Latin American countries that week.

The US had convinced itself that Snowden was on the plane which was forced to land in Austria. It created international outrage and further alienated a large bloc of Latin American countries.

The fate of Snowden is important, of course. He is one third of the iconic triptych of Julian Assange and Bradley Manning as challengers of US obsession with control and secrecy.

It is probably no coincidence that Snowden was granted one year's political asylum a day or two after the Judge's

**EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG, YOU'RE BEING WATCHED AND RECORDED. AND THE STORAGE CAPABILITY OF THESE SYSTEMS INCREASES EVERY YEAR CONSISTENTLY BY ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE... THEY CAN USE THIS SYSTEM TO GO BACK IN TIME AND SCRUTINIZE EVERY DECISION YOU'VE EVER MADE, EVERY FRIEND YOU'VE EVER DISCUSSED SOMETHING WITH AND ATTACK YOU ON THAT BASIS... TO DERIVE SUSPICION FROM AN INNOCENT LIFE AND PAINT ANYONE IN THE CONTEXT OF A WRONGDOER. – Edward Snowden**



decision on Bradley Manning was handed down (guilty of 17 out of 22 charges). Justice for Snowden was clearly not on the cards.

But so far only *Crikey*, *The Guardian*, and the *Huffington Post* (two of which are online publications) have recognised that the fate of the internet is the real story.

While the US has been huffing and puffing about Chinese espionage it has been quietly accessing communications between international companies since 2007.

Colombia has raised one of the loudest protests that the monitoring of its internet traffic is an outrageous breach of its national sovereignty, and Colombia is considered one of the US's strongest allies in the region.

It goes even further in Australia as one of the I-5 nations (the five English speaking countries who have an agreement with the US to share intelligence). Telstra, the semi-privatised government telecommunications company, secretly signed an agreement under the Howard government in 2003 that enabled the US government to tap

the intercontinental communications link.

Like the extension of ASIO powers legislation (that the *Good Times* reported several years ago) it slipped through almost unnoticed (except for the Greens on the Joint Intelligence Committee) and unremarked – like the legislation that enabled the PRISM program.

The Snowden/Assange/Manning cases include four interwoven issues: Internet security, whistle-blower legislation, the expansion of anti-terrorist powers by ASIO and ASIS, and the geo-political power games that we have already seen with the grounding of the Bolivian President's plane, threats to boycott Venezuela if the government there gave Snowden asylum, and the freezing of diplomatic relations with Russia for doing so.

Along with all the posturing about China's "cyber warfare" and Chinese restrictions on Facebook (how dare they!?) ...oh, and there was that 'business in confidence' agreement with Telstra in 2003 to share the traffic.

# HEMP HEADLINES

## The amazing health benefits of juicing raw Cannabis leaves [Raw for Beauty]

Contrary to popular belief, the marijuana plant is a whole lot more than just a psychoactive drug that “stoners” use to get high. In raw form, marijuana leaves and buds are actually loaded with a non-psychoactive, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anti-cancer nutrient compound known as cannabidiol (CBD) that is proving to be a miracle “superfood” capable of preventing and reversing a host of chronic illnesses.

## The straight dope: marijuana in NSW is among strongest in the world [SMH]

NSW has some of the highest-potency marijuana in the world, the first Australian research to measure the chemical composition of cannabis seizures has found. Drugs found to have the highest level of psychoactive chemicals, about 15 per cent THC, were seized in regional areas such as Byron Bay, Lismore and Tweed Heads.

## How prisons profit off the ‘war on drugs’ [MSNBC]

Corrections Corporation of America has told investors that its business may be hurt if new policies advance “leniency in conviction or parole standards and sentencing practices.” And in a 2010 report, CCA declared that “any changes” to harsh drug sentences could stem the flow of new prisoners in the U.S., reducing “demand for correctional facilities to house them.” Many criminal justice experts say that a business built on incarceration can’t help but support incarceration.

## Liu calls for legalized pot in NYC [Wall Street Journal]

New York City Comptroller John Liu is proposing a historic overhaul of the city’s marijuana laws, believing that legalizing medical marijuana and allowing adults to possess an ounce of pot for recreational use would pump more than \$400 million into the city’s coffers.

## Science for stoners: Here’s how pot works [Salon]

Last week, CNN’s Dr. Sanjay Gupta grabbed headlines for coming out in support of the validity of the medical use of marijuana, something he had opposed in the past. What changed his mind? Science. Just as there was a time when we didn’t know we had immune systems or hormonal systems, until 1988 we didn’t know that we had cannabinoid systems.

## Seattle cops to deal Doritos at Hempfest [Seattle Times]

They called it “Operation Orange Fingers.” Really. Seattle police handed out bags of Doritos and information at Seattle’s Hempfest last Saturday.

## Why I changed my mind on weed [CNN]

Most frightening to me is that someone dies in the United States every 19 minutes from a prescription drug overdose, mostly accidental. Every 19 minutes! It is a horrifying statistic. As much as I searched, I could not find a

documented case of death from marijuana overdose. It is perhaps no surprise then that 76% of physicians recently surveyed said they would approve the use of marijuana to help ease a woman’s pain from breast cancer.

## Study: passage of medical marijuana laws associated with reduced incidences of alcohol-related traffic fatalities [NORML]

The passage of medical cannabis laws is associated with a reduction in the public’s consumption of alcohol and with fewer incidences of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, according to data published in the Journal of Law and Economics. Investigators at Montana State University, the University of Oregon, and the University of Colorado assessed data regarding both alcohol consumption and traffic fatality rates for the years 1990 to 2010.

## SA police to use unmanned drones to spy on criminals [Advertiser]

South Australian police will use sophisticated remote-controlled drones to spy on suspects as it takes the war on crime to new heights. “The UAVs have excellent capability for use in areas of rugged terrain, especially during searches for missing people or for illicit drug crops.”

## Medical marijuana achieves ‘complete remission’ of Crohn’s disease [Medical Daily]

Published in the journal Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, the study examined the effects of consistent marijuana use on Crohn’s patients who suffered from severe cases of the disease. The results of the 21-subject study point toward the drug’s anti-inflammatory properties as being responsible for quieting symptoms in many patients, and even reaching total remission in others.

## Seeds planted by pro-pot activists sprout across German city [Headlines & Global News]

A group of pro-pot activists from the German university town of Gottingen found a unique way to protest against the new law that restricts the cultivation of marijuana plants, even ones with low levels of the psychoactive agent THC. The group planted several pounds of marijuana seeds across the city last month, which are now sprouting up everywhere.

## Holder goes after mandatory federal drug sentences [Excite News]

US Attorney General Eric Holder announced a major shift Monday in federal sentencing policies, targeting long mandatory terms that he said have flooded the nation’s prisons with low-level drug offenders and diverted crime-fighting dollars that could be far better spent. If Holder’s policies are implemented, they could mark one of the most significant changes in the way the federal criminal justice system handles drug cases since the 1980s. As a first step, Holder has instructed federal prosecutors to stop charging many nonviolent drug defendants with offenses that carry mandatory minimum sentences. His next step will be working with a bipartisan group in Congress to give judges greater discretion in sentencing.

## Long-term smokers sought for study

Jennifer Johnson (pictured) and researchers from the University of Sydney, with clinicians from Northern NSW Local Health District, have funding from NSW Health to study health outcomes associated with long-term cannabis use.

The aim of the study is to examine general health, endocrine, respiratory and cardiac functioning, and bone health, mental health (including depression and anxiety), and cognitive functioning outcomes.

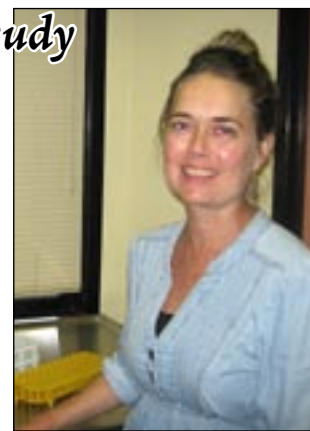
Two groups of participants are being recruited:

- Cannabis smokers aged 40

years or older, who have been smoking cannabis at least four times a week for at least 10 years.

- Tobacco-only smokers aged 40 years or older, who have been smoking tobacco at least four times a week for at least 10 years.

Participants will be asked to attend Riverlands Drug and Alcohol Centre (Lismore) for a research interview, to provide blood and urine samples, and have a lung function test. Participants will be reimbursed for their time and travel expenses, and the results of their clinical investigations will be



available to them.

If you are interested in finding out more about the study, contact doctor Jennifer Johnston on 1800-115-763.

All calls will be treated in confidence.

## Unda uncovers the Final Solution for the Bin

### STREET SKIFFLE

Journal of the North Coast’s longest serving covert

by Undacuva

“Declare Nimbin a National Park,” was the original and cunning proposition. I remember when it was suggested by someone at the back of the room I should have recognised as a fellow Unda, but the disguises these days using the latest laser technology, temporary tats and skin colouring is hard to pick.

The room laughed and I went along with them so as not to be noticed, but it never occurred to me it would be written in the minutes, nor did I realise what it really signified. Funny how things can play out for so long before you twig to what is actually unfolding. Letting the Shooters loose in Nimbin very very nearly happened.

It would have knocked the annual MardiGrass on the head, closed the Embassy and kept drug law reform at the bottom of the jobs pile for another decade. There is nothing that gets remotely near illegal drug use when it comes to keeping an issue off the agenda.

Few people understand how modern day corruption works. It’s not brown paper bags full of bank notes, it’s as simple as we know where you live. Or where your kids go to school. Or the gym your wife visits every Wednesday morning at ten. Or, do you really want to keep your job! You get what I mean.

There is so much money in drugs and so little respect left for the laws, corruption and horse-trading is a natural outcome.

Fortunately this blessed newspaper refused a takeover offer so big it was surely a joke from the Murdoch stable. They would never have got the cash anyway, as the phonetap recordings wouldn’t fit into a paper bag as big as a house.

The Greens/Shooters face-off is important and hemp of course is the key. The Greens who have already inhaled maybe need a reminder, while the Shooters I believe are actually planning huge crops deep in the National Parks where no hemp greenies would dare to venture now the guns are cocked and loaded.



The one weakness in the plan was the Hempsters knew how to grow the weed and the shooters needed their experience, and crucially, their seeds. They were happy to hand over buckets of seed I heard, but of course they wouldn’t help dig the holes, nor did they trust going deep into the woods with the Shooters which is quite undastandable for a bunch of hippies.

With a bit of luck the rednecks will smoke some of their own produce and we’ll all move forward a fraction more in the enlightenment stakes but you can all thank me and my love of weed and need to stay in this job for blowing the cover on the whole scam.

Not long ago, the Boss would threaten to sack anyone who didn’t vote for the Nats. Story is, he never spoke to his sister again after she voted for the Greens when she was at University. I’m a true swinger, in every sense a chameleon of the first order, but having worked in the Bin community for some decades now, I’m as confused as a blowfly on a windy day in a paddock full of horse shit.

Plus, the Boss has had me tailing synthetic weed addicts and I had to join in, so my mind is addled to bits. I can confirm the stuff is addictive and I’m in detox as I write this, so if it is a trifle confused you will undastand. While I’m in here I’ve been praying for the election day answer but the only message I keep getting is... Group G for God.

**HipiLeaks: AFT Copy, Washington; July 2013.**

Every effort must be made to stop the MCMC movement from launching online. We cannot have an invasion of stoners into America. (MCMC – Marry a Colorado Marijuana Mama)

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**What's On in September?**

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- Sunday 15th – Tweed District Past-Presidents Day
- Live Music Wednesday nights
  - Open Mike – 11th & 25th
  - Acoustic Folk Jam – 4th & 18th

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# Living Earth Festival @ Mullumbimby

The program for the Mullumbimby Community Gardens Living Earth Festival on Sunday 1st September, is shaping up to be the community gathering of the year, with a guarantee of something for everyone.

There are festivals within the festival: the massive RUKKUS Skate Comp in the adjacent Skate Park, the Biochar Festival with national experts, the cook-offs with local organic chefs, the ceremony and wonder in the four Sacred Spaces, a world of circus with Spaghetti stars, the Alternative Technologies and Transport exhibits, a magnificent Healing Centre, the Kids' Festival,



groovy music all day at the Kulchajam stage, and the evening concert on the main stage with Shai Shriki, *Fyah Walk* and more.

All proceeds of the Living Earth Festival go towards the

important aim of building the Mullumbimby Community Garden's educational centre on the site. There's an all day silent auction at the festival, with the draw at 3.15pm. The main prize is an electric

mountain bike, donated by Sapoty Brook and Beyond Oil!

Costa Georgiadis (pictured) and Jerry Colby-Williams, ABC TV's gardening maestros, have generously donated their time and expertise to help foster the gardening passions of our community. They'll both be involved in talks and heaps of hands in the dirt activities with adults and kids all day.

And it all kicks off with the Living Earth Parade, from 10am at the Council Chambers, all the way to the Community Gardens. Colourful floats, sounds and real revelry is ensured with the re-born parade. Don't miss it!

## Get Lucky and Raise the Roof

Indi folk four-piece The Lucky Wonders have some stunning new songs, recently topped the *Unearthed* chart, and are once again teaming up with Raise the Roof Choir.

The choir is gathering 50 beautiful voices from around the Northern Rivers to bring their uplifting gospel and earth-loving songs to Sphinx Rock Cafe.

Raise the Roof has been going from strength to strength, performing with Lisa Hunt, and at Mullum Music Festival, not to mention adding their harmony, passion and lyrics to a series of Lock the Gate events.

This fine line-up comes together at 1pm on Sunday September 8th. Come early or make a booking.



## Hip Operation play Ray Charles

Greg Lyon and the Hip Operation play the music of Ray Charles for the Lismore Jazz Club on Sunday 29th September at the Lismore City Bowling Club from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$10 for members / students, \$15 for non-members.

Greg Lyon (pictured) is one of Australia's finest musicians. He is a bassist, singer, pianist, composer, band leader and educator, and has performed with Crossfire, Jon Cleary, Georgie Fame, Ricky May, Renee Geyer, and many others.

"My love for the music of Ray Charles began in the 1960's, when I began to see



that he was a link to a lot of the music I loved. Jazz, Blues, Gospel, R'n B and Soul ... and his style greatly influenced so many singers, including myself."

Greg has put together an

A-list band featuring some of Australia's finest players and singers. As well as playing all the classics, they focus some attention on the Jazz and R'n B aspects of Ray's music as well.

Not a tribute show as such, but a loving re-creation and interpretation of the timeless music of the genius - Brother Ray.

The Hip Operation Band for this special show is:

Greg Lyon, bass, vocals; Shannon Marshall, trumpet, vocals; Wil Sargisso, piano; Scott Hills, drums; Jim Kelly, guitar; Martha Baartz, saxophone / flute; Mal Capewell, saxophone; and features the fabulous "Raelettes" on vocals: Vanessa Baker, Sheryl Black and Bridget O'Donahue.

The band loves it. The audience loves it. You will love it. Music for all ages.

## Make it a date for '3 + more'

The Kyogle and District Arts Council (KDAC) is hosting a Sunday afternoon of music on 15th September, 2pm at the Kyogle Memorial Institute.

Popular Nimbin-based piano trio, *Trio Continentale* will be performing works by Reinecke, Bohm, Faure and Piazzolla, along with a few light pieces from their Palm Court repertoire.

Trio Continentale are: Gerard Lynam on Piano, Julie Metcalfe on Violin, and on Cello, Lisa Cameron.

Also on the bill is the newly-formed local Barkers Vale choir, and a 'spectacular' afternoon tea will be put on by the KDAC.

Tickets are \$10 per person and will be available from the Roxy Gallery, at Gateway Office Supplies, Kyogle and at the door prior to performance time.



# Bohos roll into Nimbin

*Dinkum Bohos* are playing at Sphinx Rock Cafe Sunday 15th September at 1pm, and are also on the bill for the Blue Moon Cabaret at Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 7th September.

*Dinkum Bohos* are multi-instrumentalists Vasudha Harte and Jem Edwards in a saucy sonic tryst.

They set an intimate and interesting atmosphere with their blend of world-jazz-gypsy-flamenco-folk – dramatic, romantic Spanish guitar, tango inspired piano and sublime sultry vocals.

Vasudha and Jem play with artists such as singer-songwriter Kerriane Cox, Willy McElroy's original and traditional Irish band the *Wild Zinnias*, Doug Lord's rockin' outfit *'Til The Cops Come*, psychedelic and acoustic wizard Daevid Allen (Gong), phenomenal drummer Louis Burdett and in the Tent of Miracles at Splendour in the Grass.

In 2011 *Dinkum Bohos* recorded their first CD, *Stereognostic*, live in their hometown of Byron Bay then toured venues throughout the UK, Europe and Asia. The variety of stages they appeared on suggest their far-reaching appeal: folk, Buddhist, punk and world music.

Bookings for the Blue Moon Cabaret at Perceptio's, 6689-1766.



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# Jay's back in town

Fijian-born multi-instrumentalist Jay Hoad is bringing his unique show back to NSW, making his way around country as a one-man band extravaganza.

Hoad will be launching his new album *Home Is Where The Heart Is* in Mt Burrell at the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday September 22nd – 2pm.

It's already been a big year for Jay, who kicked off the year off in style with

performances at the Saarang World Cultural Festival in Chennai, India, followed by the Port Fairy Folk Festival in Victoria and supporting Jeff Martin of Teaparty.

Jay's relentless performance schedule over the past eight years has seen him perform at some of the world's most prestigious live music venues and music festivals throughout the Caribbean, Central and North America, Canada,



South-East Asia, Fiji, India, and Australia.

Some of Jay's most recent acclaimed performances include WOMAD, Uprising

Festival (Fiji), and of course supporting the Jamaican super-group, The Wailers, on their North-east American Tour.

# Double your fun

*A Song For Home* is a show presented by singer-songwriters Siobhan Corcoran and Imogen Pemberton.

The two artists tour together in September in a double-bill performance that showcases beautifully crafted songs, soaring vocals and open hearts.

Siobhan Corcoran (*colour pic*) offers a unique style of folk that's sometimes jazzy, sometimes achingly simple and often infused with a good dose of reggae and world spices.

She moves comfortably between her eclectic repertoire, supporting sweet vocals with a range of stringed instruments. A recent addition to the show is a loop pedal, inspired by the potential to improvise and create ambient layers of guitar, voice and violin.

Imogen Pemberton (*B&W pic*) is an



emerging singer/ songwriter who has a strong passion for music and life itself. After years of studying and performing in a huge range of styles including jazz, soul, world and experimental, Imogen tells stories through original folk songs and ballads.

*A Song For Home* is coming to the beautiful Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 29th September at 1pm.



# Organic folk at The Channon

The Open Mic in August unfolded organically, with regular performer, Glen taking the stage with some blues numbers on his slide guitar, supported by a few of the other early arrivals.

Within 20 minutes, the performer's blackboard had filled up, and the audience enjoyed a nice mixture of different styles of music during the afternoon, on the lawn next to The Channon Butterfactory Tavern.

The next Folk Club is on Sunday 22nd September. Performers and audiences are

welcome. The Tavern's snack bar will be open for lunch.

For a reminder of future Folk Club dates, email: [thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com](mailto:thechannonfolkclub2@gmail.com) to get on the mailing list.



Felicity Clifton and Paul Josef

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## Sunday Gig Guide

**September 1pm start**

**1st Hottentots**  
With Parissa's 'sweet, rich and soaring' vocals and Carl's warm rustic baritone.

**8th The Lucky Wonders & Raise the Roof Choir**  
The Fantastic Byron Bay based folk, Indie and pop duo with special guests.

**15th Dinkum Bohos**  
A sound that is diverse and intimately their own, drawing upon inspiration from around the world.

**22nd Jay Hoad**  
Lungs, hands and feet work in harmony as Jay fuses all genres of music, creating a sound that's difficult to believe comes from just one person

**29th A Song for Home**  
Siobhan & Imogen will be touring with their new material in an acoustic performance that showcases a great depth of expression, soul and musical integrity.

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## September Gigs

Sunday 1st	5pm	Tony Fallon
Thursday 5th	6.30pm	Richie Williams
Friday 6th	7.30pm	Burbon and Ink
Saturday 7th	6.30pm	Guy Kachel
Sunday 8th	5pm	Brian Watts
Thursday 12th	6.30pm	Kellie Knight
Friday 13th	7.30pm	Moondog Gypsy blues
Saturday 14th	6pm	KHANAGE
Sunday 15th	5pm	Matt Montez
Thursday 19th	6.30pm	Bill Jacobi
Friday 20th	7.30pm	Marie Wilson (she is Big)
Sat 21st & Sun 22nd		TBA
Thursday 26th	6.30pm	Loren Dent
Friday 27th	7.30pm	Bassix
Saturday 28th	6pm	TBA
Sunday 29th	5pm	Richie Williams

JOKER POKER starts Thursday 5th September  
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