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Bush tucker garden takes shape

by Gudren Buhler

Wow, what amazing progress has been made in the garden at Nimbin's Aboriginal Cultural Centre! We have been very productive, and with much loving preparation of the soil, we are finally ready to plant.

There has been so much generosity from the community around the 'Edu-venture' Bundjalung Bushtucker project. Robin Francis loaned us the Gundaroo tiller, which did a fantastic job of lifting and aerating the soil, and Joy from the Gondwana Nursery contributed through sharing an amazing array of Bushtucker plants. A big thank you also to everyone who has come along to the Friday working bees, you are wonderful.

We welcome more busy bees, so if you wish to join in please come and meet us at the Cultural Centre, Fridays 11am to 2pm. A happy garden is a loved one!



Goodie and Sarah surveying plans for the garden.



Well-prepared garden beds

Snakes on the move

Diamond Pythons, *Morelia spilota*, are commonly seen throughout the Rainbow Region at this time of the year, now the females have finished incubating their eggs.

Mainly nocturnal hunters, feeding on small birds, lizards and mammals, they are not venomous to humans, but can still give a nasty bite.

This opportunistic specimen was snapped by Renata Dooley as it roamed around her verandah, following the birth of a litter of kittens.



In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre news



www.nnic.org.au

Farewell and Thanks

Farewell to Gordon (desk volunteer) and Sophie (vacation Care Co-ordinator) who are both leaving us for greener pastures (otherwise known as paid/better paid jobs). Both have contributed so much to NNIC and we wish them the very best in those new pastures.

Farewell also to Richard from Centrelink who has been coming out every second Monday to assist Centrelink customers with housing issues in particular. We have not heard who will be replacing him as yet. Richard has been great and will be missed.

Position vacant

Now that Sophie is leaving us we are looking for a new coordinator for the Nimbin Holiday Club (vacation care) service. The work is during school hols only and aims to provide safe and fun activities for 5-12 year olds. This is a casual position. Applications close on 28th April and applicants MUST address the selection criteria in the job kit, which is available on our website <http://nnic.org.au/pub> The job kit is also available at NNIC... just drop in and get one.

7 Sibley Street - working bee

If you would be willing to help out for a day, or if you have a trailer or a ute and would be willing to take a load to the Lismore tip once we are done, please contact Nat at NNIC: admin@nnic.org.au

Nimbin waste survey

Don't forget to do the waste survey. Nimbin residents (ie within the Lismore LGA) should have received yours in the mail by now. If the survey is relevant to you - eg you live outside of the Lismore LGA but use the waste transfer station or the bins in town - then you are also invited to do the survey. You can pick one up at the



Hemp building workshop in March

Nimbin Visitors Centre or at NNIC.

Community Sustainability Survey

Speaking of surveys, the report on the CS survey which many of you may vaguely recall filling out sometime between September and November 2013, is now available on our website - see About Nimbin > Survey Results.

Hemp workshop

Held the first weekend in March: Many thanks to Klara for so generously donating her time and sharing her amazing wealth of knowledge, Guy and Kirra for hosting it, Jenny for the yummy food, Joel for all the extra manual labour, Binna and Julia for their help with the mixer and other stuff, Vicki for the loan of her formwork and of course everyone who participated. We got most of the walls done for a small studio space and learned lots along the way and especially how we can use hemp at 7 Sibley Street. The demand for the workshop was high and places filled quickly... so we may do another one during this year... watch this space.

Beats 'n' bowls

\$500 was raised and thanks to Cat, the Bowlo, the Antibodies, DJs Gav, Fabien

and Rob, Ailsa (raffle-ticket seller extraordinaire) and everyone who came out on the day. There is talk of making this a regular event on the Nimbin calendar.

Are you struggling with unpaid fines?

You may be eligible to apply for a Work Development Order which enables you to pay your fines down by doing volunteer work at NNIC. Make an appointment with one of our community workers to find out if you are eligible.

7 Sibley St Master Concept Plan community consultations

The report on the outcomes from the two community consultations held in November and December 2013 are now available on the project website: www.sevenonsibley.com

This month's mental health tip

Get enough sleep! To have good mental and emotional health, it's important to take care of your body. That includes getting enough sleep. Most people need seven to eight hours of sleep each night in order to function optimally.

(Source: www.helpguide.org/mental/mental_emotional_health.htm)

Police roadblocks

Last year, a group of Nimbin locals formed 'Blockbusters', a community monitoring group set up to resist illegal activities by the police in blocking all roads into the Nimbin valley, then searching every vehicle, the occupants and their possessions.

In February 2011, the blockade comprised 60 uniformed police from around the region; the Tactical Response Group and the dog squad from Sydney.

After spending two days at their task, the net haul was 20 grams of cannabis leaf and

a bong, with 14 cautionary notices issued. Estimates of costs vary upwards from \$1.5 million.

Blockbusters don't want this to happen again, and seek your help in reporting any such roadblocks that you see around Nimbin.



If you are detained at a police roadblock on your way into Nimbin, there is a special form available at the HEMP Embassy to write your side of the story as to why you and dozens of others were held up by police.

Let's end the police siege of Nimbin. For further information, contact Dr Graham Irvine on 6689-1666.

Hospitals accreditation

Bonalbo, Urbenville, Nimbin and Kyogle hospitals recently gained their accreditation as Level 2 Rural Hospitals within the Northern NSW Health District, operating as approved satellites of Lismore Base Hospital until 2015.

Hospital accreditation is an assessment program that gauges hospital safety, staff competency and overall quality of patient care. Accreditation can help hospitals identify internal problems, and correct them before they become bigger issues.

A management committee from similar rural hospital areas in Victoria conducted the assessment for the Australian Council for Healthcare Standards (ACHS). The Assessors

	Patients admitted	Emergency presentations
Urbenville	146	1000
Nimbin	180	3500
Kyogle	845	5500

spent several days at the four hospitals and wrote a glowing report, which was included with their accreditation report for Lismore Base Hospital.

The report included details about the number of people serviced at three of the hospitals from January to December 2013 (see table above).

Nurses' tales

Joan Hunt has been a Registered Nurse (RN) at Kyogle hospital until she retired in early March after fifty years service.

Joan has some great stories – here are a few:

- The minimum height to get into nursing training used to be 5 feet tall (150 cms). Joan had to lie about her height because she is four foot eleven inches.

- Patients with gastric ulcers used to be given a glass of milk on the half hour and a shot of cream on the hour.
- There were little cots at the nursery for the nurses' babies. Nurses could feed them at work and would express their milk to give to other babies in the nursery.
- Nurses used to make their own cotton balls. They would sit the rolls of cotton wool on top of

the sterilizer pan so that it would fluff up and then make their own cotton wool balls.

- Every bed had a mosquito net. There were close on 30 beds in male, female and children's wards. The lights would be switched on at 4am and the nurses would swirl the nets up and around the top of the bed where they would remain until lowered in the evening.

NAG topics

The Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) meets quarterly. Our main purpose is to provide feedback to Council on engaging with the Nimbin community, to bring significant issues to the attention of Council and to provide feedback to Council where appropriate. Our most recent meeting covered a wide range of local matters.

Waste management around Nimbin

This issue affects all of us. By the time you read this many of you will have received a survey from Council designed to obtain your feedback so Council can make informed decisions for the future management of waste and recycling generated within our community.

The survey has been developed by members of the NAG and refined in consultation with Council staff. **Please complete the survey.** This is an opportunity for you to input your views and to tell us how you currently manage your waste and recycling.

Managing traffic around the village as new developments take place

The NAG had extensive discussion with Council's Strategic Planner, Paula Newman, about the impact of planned future growth on the amenity of local roads, particularly in relation to walking, cycling and parking, and the impact of increased traffic on intersections with poor visibility such as the Thorburn/Cullen Street intersection.

Council advised that there are no current plans to upgrade local village roads, although passing bays will be provided on Thorburn Street as a condition of approval for the planned supermarket complex off Sibley Street. It is also likely some traffic calming will occur in the vicinity of the skate park.

While engineering staff consider existing roads can cope with proposed developments, it was useful to bring community concerns to Council's attention.

Hutchinson Road

The NAG provided advice on options for consulting the community regarding the future of the Crown Road along Hutchinson Road. Disappointingly our advice has been superseded by a Council decision to no longer pursue the proposal from the Australian Long Forest Association.



Rainbow Road or Nimbin Walking Track

A Council workshop on this exciting Nimbin project was scheduled for 1st April. The NAG requested that Lois Kelly, who has developed a detailed plan of the track, be formally asked to present her work to Councillors.

Council grants to community groups

Council is currently reviewing policies that deliver Council funding to community organisations, with a view to ensuring equitable outcomes. The NAG is keen to see community organisations' input into this process and were assured this will occur once the review process is further progressed. The new process will not be in place until the 2014/2015 year.

Countrylink bus through Nimbin?

Submissions have been sent to the Minister of Transport to see if one of the daily Countrylink Murwillumbah/Lismore bus services can be redirected via our town on a daily basis. All lobbying support appreciated.

Next NAG meeting

Thursday 8th May, 6pm in the Elmo Room, Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre. Observers are welcome – enter by the back door of NNIC.

Help for eczema and dermatitis sufferers

For people with any skin condition, life can be full of suffering, depression, frustration, loss of confidence and self esteem, and it depletes the general enjoyment of life. This is often true for chronic Eczema and Dermatitis sufferers.

Over 25 years ago Dr Michael Tirant, a Medical Researcher and Practitioner based in Melbourne, became involved in the research of skin conditions and treatments. Although he specializes in the field of Psoriasis, Dr Tirant has broadened his research and treatment protocols to include many other skin conditions, such as Eczema and Dermatitis.

Over the years, Dr. Tirant has identified two groups of triggers, primary triggers which initiate the flare-up and secondary triggers which continue to exacerbate the condition for a lifetime.

In conjunction with the treatment of the skin symptoms, it is vital to address the secondary triggers which are unique to each

patient, if long term remission is to be achieved.

Dr. Tirant has also formulated his own range of topical (body gels and ointments) and oral medications that are only available from the Psoriasis & Skin Clinics.

When used together with his treatment protocols, Dr Tirant found that his patients were able to reach a state of remission and long-term management of their conditions.

The results show 89% of patients on the Good Skin Care program achieved a significant improvement after 8 weeks of treatment.

Other skin conditions that are also successfully treated by the licensed practitioners at the Good Skin Care Clinic include Psoriasis, Acne, Psoriatic Arthritis, Rosacea, Ichthyosis and Nail / Fungal Infections.

For further information, phone 1300-596-566 or visit our website: www.northernrivers.goodskincare.com.au

Skin Disease: Now Let's Make It Clear

While the rest of the world is still searching for the answer to serious diseases like psoriasis and many others, goodskincare by Psoriasis & Skin Clinic has been completely changing the lives of those who have been given no hope.



At Cathy's appointment, the first words spoken to me by Cathy were, "I know there is nothing you can do for this. I have had eczema on my fingers all of my life, and I can never remember a day in my life where I haven't had to wear band-aids on my fingers." Cathy now enjoys life without itchy, cracked and bleeding skin.

Skin disease can be painful, humiliating and debilitating, but now the table has turned – there is a solution...

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NORTHERN RIVERS & THE GOLD COAST

Medical cannabis: taking NSW to compassion

Earlier this month Leon Ozolins, a 59 year old cancer patient from South Australia, was sentenced to two years in jail for cultivating cannabis he was using to cut the edge off his suffering. He'd previously been caught growing the plant to help his dying wife endure the side effects of chemotherapy for her lymphoma.

Leon is one of tens of thousands of Australians risking jail sentences because they are either patients seeking relief through cannabis, or carers showing compassion for their loved ones.

Despite growing evidence of its usefulness, medicinal use of cannabis remains illegal in every jurisdiction in Australia.

The O'Farrell government is complicit in holding the conservative line of Australian states and territories towards the compassionate use of marijuana. Even after all of its own Coalition MPs who served on the Upper House committee were persuaded by the evidence and recommended legalisation in limited circumstances.

That cross-party NSW Upper House committee made a series of unanimous recommendations relating

Green Scene

with Dr John Kaye,
Greens NSW MP

to the use of medicinal cannabis that the great majority of Australians, including a number of normally rabid radio shock jocks, found totally benign and non-controversial.

The Committee recommended that it be made lawful for patients with AIDS or another terminal illness to access and use a limited amount of cannabis plant material to relieve their pain and suffering. Only patients and carers listed on a NSW Health register would be exempt from prosecution.

As the Greens representative on the committee I was not able to extend this narrow recommendation, not even to include people suffering from multiple sclerosis, despite the evidence suggesting medicinal cannabis would be beneficial to more patients than just those who were dying.

Shamefully, Health Minister Jillian Skinner rejected even this limited recommendation, bowing

to the peddlers of cannabis-hysteria. She chose to ignore her Coalition colleagues on the committee who were sympathetic to the plight of patients with AIDS and other terminal illnesses.

Despite the rejection, the Greens want to push on and lay down the challenge to every member of the NSW parliament to respond to the evidence and the terrible plight of terminal cancer patients.

We have drafted a bill that implements the unanimous recommendation of the inquiry, with the aim of introducing it when parliament sits again in May.

We recognise that the range of conditions covered is far from complete and that the bill would look quite tame compared to where the rest of the world is moving on medicinal cannabis. We believe however that something is better than nothing.

At the very least it will send a strong message to the NSW government and other Australian jurisdictions that compassionate relief for patients is long overdue.

The Greens are also working with experts, doctors and families to establish another inquiry into the efficacy and safety

of the use of cannabis containing a high ratio of cannabidiol (CBD) to tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) for the treatment of Dravet's syndrome and other intractable childhood epilepsies.

These are kids as young as two whose catastrophic seizures do not respond to other medical treatment. All too often they die before they reach adulthood and in most cases they suffer appalling health consequences.

One 'white coat' report of a survey of parents who medicate their children with specially grown cannabidiol-enriched cannabis for treatment-resistant epilepsy found that 84% of parents reported a reduction in their child's seizure frequency.

Throughout April we will be working with advocates, parents and supportive medical professionals to lobby the other parties to ignore the false and misleading claims of the cannabis-hysteria lobby and back these very minor steps towards the legalisation of the compassionate use of cannabis.

A launch of the Greens bill in NSW parliament house is being organised, with details to be made public when finalised.



Cr Danielle Mulholland,
Mayor of Kyogle

Just as I promised, the first of my Mayoral outreach meetings was held in Woodenbong on 12th February with Councillor Passfield and it was great to see and meet the people who came along and let me know about their issues and concerns. I do appreciate your input.

The next meeting was held in Bonalbo on 12th March from 10am to 1.30pm and it was wonderful to meet everyone who came along and listen to your issues and concerns. I think the meeting was very successful and I thank Councillor Reardon, along with the Executive Managers for attending with me.

I think having everyone together means that our chances of addressing issues are so much better.

As promised, the next mayoral meeting will be held in Tabulam and Mallanganee (probably an hour or so in each depending upon demand) on Wednesday, 16th April, and I'd be very pleased to see you there. All I ask is that you ring and book a time

with Ms Janelle McLennan at Council on 6632-0214 so that you won't be kept waiting.

If you can also advise her of your issue and contact details (i.e. phone numbers, email, etc.) this will help me to make some background enquiries so that any information you receive is correct and up to date.

I like to meet as many of you as I can, but there's only one of me and there's a lot of you, so if you see me in the street, feel free to say hello. Alternatively, you can always phone, email or contact me on Facebook if there's something you'd like me to know about.

I'll always try and do my best to represent your needs in Council and to the various committees and levels of government that I encounter as part of the role of being Mayor. But remember, speak up and be heard and together we'll see what can be achieved.

A big congratulations to Kyogle Care Connections for the recent allocation of funds from the Commonwealth Government. The good people at Kyogle Care Connections do fine work and are deserving of all the support that our State and Federal counterparts can give them.

We all appreciate all that you do and wish you all the best for your continuing good services.

Kyogle Council: 6632-0214
Danielle.Mulholland@
kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Justine exposes cruel funding cuts to the North Coast

by Justine Elliot MP,
Member for Richmond

On Thursday 20th March in the Federal Parliament, Justine Elliot delivered a speech exposing the Liberal National Government's cruel funding cuts on the North Coast.

In Parliament, Justine highlighted how once again the Liberal National Party has abandoned regional Australia. "The fact is under the former Labor government the Regional Development Australia Fund delivered much needed vital infrastructure for the North Coast.

"I am proud to have delivered more than \$1.5 billion to the North Coast," said Justine.

In her speech, Justine outlined the community's concerns about these cuts and gave many examples of how the Liberal National Party continues to ignore regional areas.

SPEECH Date: Thursday, 20th March 2014 Source: House of Representatives Page 101 Speaker: Elliot, Justine, MP.

Mrs ELLIOT (Richmond) (11:21): I rise today to speak about the importance of regional infrastructure funding and the fact that the Abbott government has slashed regional funding, particularly through their very cruel cuts to the Regional Development Australia Fund, RDAF, round 5.

The Regional Development Australia Fund was a fantastic initiative for regional communities such as my electorate of Richmond, to gain access to much-needed funding for vital projects of



significance and infrastructure. RDAF was set up by the previous Labor government to fix the years of neglect of regional communities due to the Howard government's lack of funding.

The funding under round 5 of RDAF gave great opportunities for regional communities to address many of the challenges of growth whilst also providing economic activity and job creation. Unfortunately the Abbott government does not share my community's enthusiasm for the funding available to their area through RDAF round 5. That is why the Prime Minister—who quite ironically dubs himself the Prime Minister for infrastructure—callously froze and cut the funding for many ongoing and promised projects.

The most disappointing part of that is the fact that the National Party just sat back whilst all this all happened—not mentioning a word about these cuts, not fighting once for regional Australia and what these RDAF round 5 cuts meant to those people in regional Australia. But we all know the National

Party long ago sold out regional Australia—and they should hang their heads in shame now.

Many local government areas in my electorate would have benefited from these projects through round 5. One example is the more than \$149,681 worth of funding for Byron Shire Council for a fantastic cycle track that would have been located at the Byron Regional Sport and Cultural Complex centre. This was a shovel-ready initiative that cannot go ahead now that funding has been pulled. Also, Tweed Shire Council had a fantastic project that would have boosted jobs, productivity and business in an area where Tweed Heads really needs it. Under this program the Tweed Shire Council would have received more than \$613,000 to fund the rejuvenation of the Tweed Central Business District. This project was desperately needed for the Tweed Heads CBD area. It is currently very run down and in need of a major facelift.

This money was allocated for the street-scaping of Bay Street and primarily consisted of an upgrade of two sites to complement the earlier streetscape work undertaken on Wharf and Bay streets. The project would have involved planting more trees and beautifying existing pedestrian routes and outdoor dining options, which would have complemented some of the development at Coolangatta, just over the border. So it would have meant a lot to the Tweed Heads CBD. Unfortunately, the council have been forced to come up with the funding themselves.

This really is an appalling situation. They had entered into a contract with the government in good faith and, when it came time to cash in, the Prime Minister and the National Party just tore up the cheque and said, 'No, you can't have it.' So, because of the short-sightedness of this Liberal-National government, Tweed ratepayers now have to pick up the tab for this really fantastic project for our area. It is very disappointing to have that funding cut put in place. I question the government on their priorities when they now force struggling councils to pay for such important infrastructure projects. These projects would have brought with them great infrastructure improvements and economic growth.

Compare this with the previous government, the Labor government. In my electorate we invested more than \$1.5 billion, which included the single biggest ever infrastructure project on the North Coast—the Tintenbar to Ewingsdale Pacific Highway upgrade which is currently underway. We invested this massive amount because we knew the value of regional communities and we knew the value of investing in infrastructure projects, particularly the Pacific Highway upgrade but great community projects as well—our community centres, our school projects, the GP superclinic at South Tweed. There was a massive array of infrastructure investments that have made a very big difference to our community.

What is really concerning today

—this really reflects how little the Liberal-National Party care about regional Australia—is that the Abbott government has announced that the MyRegion website will be shut down next week. This website was a very useful tool for people in regions right across the country. I think that the shutting down of this website really puts into question how much the Prime Minister, Mr Warren Truss and all of the National Party value regional Australia. Obviously it is not too much, because they have proven that they are not prepared to listen to regional Australia and work cooperatively to get the best outcomes for their communities.

My concern is we have those cuts to RDAF 5 and now we have cuts to this really important MyRegion website. Is this the start of more cuts to come across regional Australia? People are very, very concerned, because the fact is: investment in regional Australia creates and supports thousands and thousands of jobs, and it also creates vital infrastructure for our future.

I think the move today to shut down this website, which is really appalling, does really reflect the fact that the coalition government just does not value or understand how important it is to have that investment in our regions. It is particularly appalling that the National Party are not only sitting back but also allowing and pushing this along and making it happen. It shows that the National Party does not value regional Australia and cannot represent the interests of regional Australia.

From the mayor's desk

by Cr Jenny Dowell

The March Council meeting was well attended by people interested in several topics on the agenda.

Hutchinson Road

A motion by Cr Neil Marks for staff to discontinue investigation of Council taking control of the unmade Crown road section of Hutchinson Road and negotiating a lease arrangement with a community based organisation for the road to be used as a walking and horse riding trail was carried 8/3.

While members of the Australian Long Forest Association (ALFA) and the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) were obviously disappointed in the decision, Council considered the costs of surveying, making and maintaining the trail, impacts on the landowners, risks and that the use of the road under Council's control would also allow motorised vehicles in making its decision.

Although investigation has ceased and NNIC and ALFA members feel their views were not considered, Council also resolved to facilitate a meeting of all interested parties to see if an alternate route can be found using voluntary landowner agreements.

Critical Industry Cluster

A motion by Councillor Simon Clough to seek Critical Industry



Cluster status for the dairy, beef and macadamia industries as protections from CSG was also carried 11/1. Currently only the vineyards and thoroughbred breeding area of the Hunter Valley have that status and it could be viewed that the state government puts more significance on those industries than the more important food production regions such as ours.

Nimbin Tennis Club

Council agreed unanimously to make a donation of \$2500 to Nimbin Headers towards the outstanding rates incurred by the old Nimbin Tennis Club.

Under Local Government legislation, we must advertise the donation for 28 days before it is approved. Pending objections, I expect Council will ratify the donation.

Waste survey

I hope that all Nimbin residents have now received one of 1500 copies of the Nimbin Waste Survey, clearly marked in envelopes, distributed through Australia Post. The Nimbin Visitor Information Centre (VIC)



also has copies and some have been placed at the post office.

The two page survey should be returned to the VIC, or posted or scanned and emailed to Council by the end of April. We want the survey to reach the widest possible audience of residents, business owners and ratepayers in Nimbin.

Please take time to complete the survey to guide Council and the community on the best and most sustainable waste management methods that meet Nimbin's needs.

Mardi Grass

Council staff have been working with the MardiGrass Organising Body and Police on this year's MardiGrass to be held from May 2- 4. Our Council Compliance team will also be working in Nimbin over that weekend.

There will be some changes to parking over the weekend, including the rules around new yellow lines.

Readers might recall that I wrote about the new yellow lines on the kerbside throughout Lismore Local Government Area, including Nimbin, indicating that there is "no stopping" at any time. The yellow line is the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) preferred replacement of No Stopping signs, and means that parking in these areas could result in a fine.

If residents have any concerns regarding the MardiGrass, please contact Council on 1300 87 83 87 to discuss your concerns prior to 16 April.

Review of Section 94 and Section 64 contributions

At the April Council meeting, we will consider some new policies that would result in a waiver or reduction in section 94 and section 64 charges on new developments. These significant changes to the fees payable by developers are aimed at encouraging Lismore CBD and in-fill housing, affordable housing, commercial CBD development and more.

Section 94 contributions are mostly for roads and section 64 monies go to water and sewer infrastructure. More details to come, but these policy changes, if adopted, will further encourage development in our urban areas and in particular in the CBD.

Section 356 donations

By publication day for NGT, many community groups that receive annual or regular donations under section 356 community grants will have received a letter informing

them of funding changes that will be recommended to Council to improve the equity of these donations.

In short, the group examining these donations will recommend that the grant to our 29 rural halls will increase from \$1000 to \$2000 and that all other regular grants will be reduced by 20%.

The review group recognises that a reduction of 20% may be disappointing to some organisations but we hope it will provide some comfort that the committee is at least recommending continued, albeit reduced, funding for the coming year.

As I outlined in the March edition, the changes in 2015/16 will be more widespread, but there is still a great deal of work to be done in the lead up to July 2015. As changes are considered, I will keep readers informed.

Jamie Oliver's Pop Up Kitchen

Despite huge community support, Lismore missed out to Albury-Wodonga as the State finalist for a Ministry of Food Pop Up Kitchen. Despite missing out, there is growing interest in activities around this concept, so stay tuned.

Local Matters

Finally I hope that all residents are receiving Local Matters, our fortnightly newsletter, via Australia Post. If you are not, please contact Council. If you would like to get Local Matters on line, you can subscribe via a link on the home page of Council's website at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Simon says...

by Cr Simon Clough, Deputy Mayor, Lismore City Council

During the last month, my time seems to have been pretty much consumed by unconventional gas drilling and its implications.

At its last monthly meeting Lismore City Council determined: "That Lismore City Council write to the NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Premier and Mr Thomas George MP requesting that the macadamia, dairy and beef industries of the Council area be given critical industry cluster status to protect our environment and economy from unconventional gas mining."

"A critical industry cluster (CIC) is a localised concentration of interrelated productive industries based



on an agricultural product that provides significant employment opportunities and contributes to the identity of the region. The CIC also needs to have potential to be substantially impacted by coal seam gas or mining proposals." (Department of Planning and Infrastructure) Currently there are only

two CICs in NSW; the horse and wine industries of the Hunter Valley. No conflict of interest for NSW parliamentarians there! The macadamia, dairy and beef industries of this region more than satisfy the CIC criteria.

In putting forward this motion, I was acutely aware that unconventional gas mining, which at the most has a 20-year life span, can damage and even destroy existing sustainable industries in our local government area.

It is particularly concerning that the huge future potential of these industries as 'clean and green' could be destroyed by the expansion of the unconventional gas industry. It is clear from industry leaders that product sourced from a clean environment is critical to export success.

Critical Industry Cluster status would also give these industries, particularly

dairying, the certainty that will encourage the large scale investment that is required to expand the industry particularly into Asia.

I'll keep you informed about the results of this resolution, but I have to say, 'Don't hold your breath.'

Rous Water has spent years developing its Future Water Strategy which has included a high level of community engagement. Many of you will be delighted to know that the Dunoan dam is definitely on the "back burner". The two major future strategies are, further reducing demand and utilising a number of high quality aquifers in our region.

As a Lismore Council representative on Rous Water, I put forward a motion that the NSW Government and all the relevant state members of parliament be informed

of the specific areas Rous Water has identified as potential future underground water sources for the Lismore, Ballina, Richmond Valley and Byron Shires.

Most importantly, the motion requested that the government not approve any exploratory or production gas wells in the vicinity of those aquifers under investigation until such time as Rous Water's future water strategy is fully determined.

There are two Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) 16, (Metgasco) and 445 (Dart), where drilling activity could adversely affect Rous' future water strategy.

I am deeply concerned about recent coal seam gas activities in the Pilliga area, which have seen Santos Mining fined for polluting an aquifer with uranium at 20 times acceptable

drinking water levels. There were also lead, aluminium, arsenic, barium, boron and nickel at levels 'elevated when compared to livestock, irrigation and health guidelines'. Not what we want in our water!

There are also numerous reports of significant groundwater drawdown and contamination of groundwater by methane gas and other pollutants, especially in SE Queensland.

I believe it is critical that the community's water resources are protected for the community's future use. It is absolutely unacceptable that this community resource for 100,000 people could be damaged or destroyed for private short-term profit before it can be fully investigated for the possible benefit of the whole community.

Great to see some rain, and may you all have a beautiful autumn.

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MardiGrass Colorado Dreaming

by Michael Balderstone

I wanted to call MardiGrass 2014 "Colorado Dreaming" because that's what everyone is doing. Here at the HEMP Embassy anyway! The annual first weekend in May Nimbin Protestival is set to go off this year, in an anticipatory nice peaceful way!

There's a whiff of change in the air. We have never had so many musicians and entertainers wanting to be a part of it. There will be comedy all over the place as well as music, and if the dream is not replacing anger with a sense of humour then tell me what is.

Miss Guidance has once again lined up four terrific Forums in the Nimbin Hall, and in Indica Arena next to Mullaway's bus there will be talks and workshops in all things cannabis, and everybody wants to know how to make tincture so that will get a lot of attention. The Cookie Queen is flying in from her sadhu hideout in the Himalayas, just for the show, and Dr Bob Melamede from the University of Colorado is our most treasured guest.

Amongst practical ways you can get involved and help is

to join Jungle Patrol which needs locals. Important job! Save-A-Mate Training is on Wed May 1st at the Bowling Club from 9.30am to 4pm. We need cooks and people-people as well as painters and practical fence erectors etc. And then there's the Polite Service, CLOG, PUSS and various other useful activities that enable you to enjoy everything as you 'work'.

MardiGarbos is a new creation this year, led by Caroline and we aim to recycle everything we can including food scraps, and all stalls have to use recyclable take-away stuff. Hopefully locals will if they can too. We hope to recycle from 7 Sibley Street and make it ongoing after MardiGrass as well, so there's a real and useful thing anybody can help with.

Please buy a Golden Bud armband if you can. That \$50 gets you into everything all weekend, plus you get a ticket to be in the raffle to be a judge in the Cannabis Cup! This year there's a special "Local Bud" pass for \$20, so bring proof you are local if we don't know you and these can be bought at the Embassy from Thursday 1st May. We again plan to march in Lismore that

day from the Court House to our local parliamentary representatives' offices to ask them why they NEVER stand up for us.

Waller's will be running extra buses to and from Lismore over the weekend and Council Rangers will be enforcing parking restrictions, so smart people might catch a bus, wave to the Winnebago, and camp at the showground! For the first time MardiGrass and the Government (NCPIC) are collaborating in a survey of cannabis users, so do take the time and do it, either in the Embassy over the weekend or at the Nimbin Hall Info Booth.

The parade will gather in the western carpark from 2pm on Sunday, and this year we will go all the way down the main street past the police station and enter Plantem Park through the Cecil Street gateway.

All the usual MardiGrass events are in the pipeline accompanying Sunday's rally for law reform. The Town Hall Forums, Kombi Konvoy, Million Marijuana March, Comedy in the Hall, Pot Poetry and Pot Art (bring entries to the Embassy from now on), Pickers and Harvest

Balls, Community Market and Stage, Mingle Park, Ganja Faeries, Parade Float awards and all kicked off Friday with Johnny Ganja and Aiti's wedding at the Oasis Cafe.

New events planned include the "Taxi Run", where you'll have to do the Pigloose Dash, and the "Colorado Flashmob" are back, we hear. Also a Growers Breakfast each morning so everyone gets a flying start to the day, ready for tincture and hash making workshops, hemp fashion in the field, a Pot Tattoo Show, a Beard Stash event or "What can you hide on your head?" There's a book launch and a recording of "Great Weed Stories" around the fire, where we aim to collect for a book of people's 'first time you got stoned' stories, or other fond memories you want to share.

Please contact the MOB if you would like to help, or even better come to the weekly MardiGrass Organising Body meetings every Friday at the Embassy from 5pm. Otherwise phone the HEMP Embassy on 6689-1842 or email: head@hempembassy.net

For latest program and tickets, go to: www.nimbinmardigrass.com

Nimbin MardiGarbos

MardiGrass is a month away and MardiGarbos are finalising the plan to upcycle Nimbin during MardiGrass.

Co-ordinator Caroline Todd said, "Some more local volunteers would be great, we have 10 MardiGarbos on board and we are aiming for 20. Duties include one 4-hour shift each day, Saturday and Sunday, sorting and collecting rubbish from the event."

Benefits include meals, free admission to all events and an awesome T-shirt!

"And of course being part of this protest event, to decriminalise and legalise one of Mother Nature's amazing remedies, is to stand up for our knowledge about what is right," Caroline said.

For more information email Caroline: carolinecat49@gmail.com or attend the weekly MardiGrass meeting on the back veranda of the Hemp Embassy at 5pm each Friday.

Ganja Faeries wanted

MardiGrass is on us again and we need to start getting our Faerie selves ready for the Parade. We are meeting at the Community Centre's market stage for rehearsals every Friday, 4pm to 5pm.

New Faeries are always welcome to join us – some costumes are available for hire from the Faeries, and we are happy to help as much as we can if you are making your own. Please check previous years' photos on the MardiGrass website for some inspiration.

The Faeries also accept donations, so if you have any old Faerie costumes, especially if you're not joining the MardiGrass Parade, drop them off at the Nimbin Community Centre at the faerie room door. We will put them to good use.

We are also on our annual quest for our Faerie Queen, so if any one has an idea where we can find this year's Queen, please let us know by talking to a Faerie or by emailing us at: nimbin.ganja_faeries@gmail.com

Absolutely Fabulous Medicine

by Biskit

This year on 1st March we had the honour of having our application accepted at the Sydney Mardigras to take the Nimbin Ganja Faeries, the Big Joint and some Polite Hempsters to join the parade promoting Medicinal Cannabis.

We called ourselves "Absolutely Fabulous Medicine" and I must say we had an absolutely fabulous time at the parade. This year it felt important to support the public celebration of this fantastic and diverse Rainbow Community more than ever, with the persecution of the Rainbow Community being enshrined in law in places around the world, and the election of a conservative and intolerant national government which refuses marital equality in our country.

Chibo first floated the idea around in January and it seemed that there was the energy amongst the crew to get it together to go, so Chibo sent in the application. When we finally got word that we were accepted in early February, it was all systems go. In the

usual organised chaos that seems to accompany every expedition to the Sydney Mardigras, though we had several meetings and a few Faerie rehearsals, the number and names of people going changed continuously. We got it all together in the end, and a whole crew flew or drove off to the big city with all our cozzies and the Big Joint in tow.

No matter how well you plan, there are often last minute stuff you have to do, and there always seems to be a big rush or some drama to get to the assembly area for the parade. But at last we all got there and it was totally worth it. To be among the floats while you're waiting for the parade to start at the Sydney Mardigras is the most wonderful experience, with the feeling of exuberant goodwill that seems to affect every person there.

Never have police been so cosy and friendly (weird but nice) – and talk about gorgeous – and nowhere else in Australia can you experience so many acres of fabulous, barely-dressed flesh in every shade of the Sydney Mardigras Rainbow. I had some lovely connections

with people who were part of other floats before the parade started, and some memorable hugs from some gorgeous people elegantly draped with lots of product, some strategically-placed butterflies, lots of glitter and not much else.

The Parade itself seemed over in minutes once it started, and my big regret is that we didn't have the chance to hang with the crew somewhere at the end, because we were all on a high from it all, and it's nice to share with each other.

The event totally inspired us and we would love to go back next year bigger and better than before. I was really proud of the contribution that all the people who came gave to our float – we were certainly appreciated by the crowds who roared as we went by. Thank you Johnny, Aiti, Doug and Biko for last minute banners and Chibo, Gary, Don, Chantico and the rest of the crew that organised the truck. Thanks also to our sponsors: the Nimbin Ganja Faeries, the Big Joint, the Hemp Olympix, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, the Compassion Club, and Mullaway.

HEMP HEADLINES

Father and Daughter Team Stand Together for the WA Senate [Australian HEMP Party]

The Australian HEMP Party has nominated a father and daughter, James and Tayla Moylan, to be their HEMP Senate Candidates in WA. James is a 51 year old solicitor who has been active in the cannabis law reform movement for many years. Tayla is his daughter, a 19 year old graphic arts student. Mr Moylan outlined the approach the HEMP Party is taking to the re-run of the WA Poll. "We did really well at the National Election and WA polled highest of all the six states. We averaged about 1% across all States and more importantly managed to get our message out to a huge number of interested Aussies. At this new poll, we will focus on the areas where all the political parties largely agree: on industrial HEMP, on HEMP for food, and on HEMP as medicine for the terminally ill and other indisputably needy patients. How long until the legalisation wave sweeping America reaches our shores?"

Spiff split: Why the HEMP Party and the Greens have fallen out [Sydney Morning Herald]

There is a common misconception that the Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP) Party wants to lay to rest. It does not just

want to see the cannabis plant used for industrial and medicinal purposes. It wants adults to be free to smoke it too. "Some people seem to think the HEMP Party is only about industrial hemp or medical marijuana," the party's website states. "Those people are incorrect. We are also about re-legalising recreational cannabis. We would like to see an end to the demonisation of cannabis in every way. And for very good reasons; food, fuel, fibre, medicine and recreation."

For much of its first decade, HEMP's main impact was as a preference feeder for the Greens, helping Greens senator Kerry Nettle get elected in 2001. But HEMP's relationship with the Greens has steadily soured. HEMP's lead WA candidate Jim Moylan blasted the Greens for walking "both sides of the fence" on cannabis law reform. "The Greens take votes away from us because people just assume they are for cannabis law reform," he told Fairfax Media.

Independent MP Andrew Wilkie pushes for opening up of hemp food products [ABC PM]

There's a new push in the long-running effort to legalise hemp for use in food products in Australia. Last month the United States lifted a ban on growing industrial hemp for human consumption and Tasmanian Independent Andrew Wilkie says Australia

should do the same because industrial hemp could help Tasmania. Supporters of hemp products are always quick to point out how versatile the plant can be. You can use it for medicine; you can use it for skin moisturisers; you can eat it, it is a food. You can use it for growing buildings. Current regulations allow the cultivation of low THC cannabis varieties in most states and territories under strict licensing conditions. However, it's still illegal to use hemp in food products.

Cannabis OK'd for treatment of epilepsy in children [Times of Israel]

Israeli children suffering from severe and frequent epileptic seizures and whose medication has proven ineffective will be eligible for medicinal cannabis, the Health Ministry ruled on Wednesday. The 15 families who had appealed to the ministry threatened to move to Colorado should their requests be denied.

Farmers high on hemp as returns beat canola [Manitoba Cooperator]

Hemp acres in Manitoba Canada are set to shatter records again this year as interest in the crop rises to an unprecedented level. Kevin Friesen, Hemp Oil Canada, told about 30 farmers meeting at the Food Development Centre here that he anticipates 90,000 acres of contracted production this spring, up from about 67,000 last year,



Colorado's first marijuana industry job fair saw a big turnout in Denver. In fact, a line had formed outside two hours before the fair opened and stretched around the block for much of the day. The CanaSearch job fair featured 15 large marijuana-related companies hoping to hire new employees for a range of multiple positions, from "budtender to bookkeeper." Other positions are available in accounting, technology, advertising and selling the drug. (Photo from video by KMGH, Denver Channel)

and way, way up from just 8,000 acres in 2007. The crop was approved for production in Canada in 1998. "Normally, people migrate towards hemp when it's about twice as profitable as canola," said Friesen, who estimated that a good crop of conventional hemp, at about 40 bushels to the acre contracted at 70 cents per pound will rake in gross revenue of \$700/acre compared to about \$240/acre for canola.

Marijuana study in veterans wins federal backing [Big Story]

The US federal government has signed off on a long-delayed study looking at marijuana as a treatment for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, a development that drug researchers are hailing as a major shift in U.S. policy. The Department of Health and Human Services' decision surprised marijuana advocates who have struggled

for decades to secure federal approval for research into the drug's medical uses. The proposal from the University of Arizona was long ago cleared by the Food and Drug Administration, but researchers had been unable to purchase marijuana from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The agency's Mississippi research farm is the only federally-sanctioned source of the drug.

Major Swiss cities set to back 'cannabis clubs' [The Local]

Adults may be legally able to seek out clubs in certain Swiss cities to buy state-certified cannabis, free of chemicals, for personal use under a pilot project being drafted. Lawmakers from at least five municipal governments are looking at participating in an experiment to regularize the use of marijuana through "user's associations". A multi-party working group in Geneva in December

presented a proposal for "cannabis social clubs" that would have even allowed minors to participate. The working group will submit its final proposal to authorities in June but changes to the federal narcotic law would be needed in order for to go ahead.

Three-year scientific study: Working memory unaffected in heavy marijuana users [Toke Signal]

A three-year study of heavy cannabis users and controls suggests that "sustained moderate to heavy levels of cannabis" use do not affect working memory. The longitudinal neuro-imaging study, published in the March 2014 issue of Addiction Biology, was investigating the relationship between substance use (alcohol, cannabis, nicotine, and illegal psychotropic drugs) and working-memory network function over time in heavy cannabis users, and in controls.

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

Unda Dopamina

It's with enormous sadness that I start writing these words to you. After almost 25 years as an Undacuva amongst you, whenever I am not on a mission that is, I genuinely feel part of your tribe, and have learnt to love and respect what you are on about.

During the mega-extensive and gruelling interview process I was given before being allowed to join the ranks of the hidden, they discovered my love of your favourite herb. Far from it being a negative, they immediately saw a use for it and after I signed my life away, they decided the Bin would

be my ABA (Appointed Base Area). Even Undas need a home!

So it's very hard to tell you this, because you've done all the hard work. You showed them the way. To the good oil you might say, and I'm not talking petrol. Or gas.

I'm talking Nyarndi oil, and tons of it. It seems that once the word got out (and don't blame me for this one) that you can extract oil out of your weed with alcohol, the Force pricked up its semi-sodden ears. It seems, and I'm so sad writing this, they have been keeping this information from me. Lying to me in fact, and for perhaps a decade.

You know I get the pick of any confiscated buds, and for as long as



I've been camped in this area, I've always had the best. Everything is bearable with good weed, as you know. I always thought the rest of the good weed found in raids went to the notoriously wild parties various coppers had, or got sold back into the market. Made sense to me. I did know that after me and anyone else had their pick, it got sent to Sydney, the Big Smoke.

But for "about a decade now"

I was told, it never got smoked, and in fact was turned into oil concentrate. Using alcohol! Also confiscated. Once they discovered their favourite magic juice could suck the goodies out of the weed they were frightened of, there was a whole new respect for the plant. So, from a long and trusted source I heard they now have a stash of tons and tons of the good oil. And believe it or not, the mad monk Abbot loves it.

My source showed me Top Secret papers detailing a massive plan to start introducing 'Dopamina' before the end of the year. All supplied by the government and on prescription from chemists. They estimate their 'stash' is enough for five years' supply to the old and dying, and anyone else expensive to maintain.

So, on one hand it looks like they'll let your crops grow, but only so they can keep raiding to keep the giant extraction vat in

business. Apparently it can use up to 100kg of weed at a time, making on average ten kilos of concentrate oil each batch.

Abbot apparently reckons he has checkmated you hippies, and that's the bit I'm so sad to tell you. The plan is a ramping-up of raids, and they'll be happy to let you do all the work growing the weed, but you can bet they'll be back for the harvest, and now you know why.

Our PM reckons the rest of the western world is "surrendering to the devil" in the weed war, and he's come up with a plan that the Saviour approves of. Nobody gets stoned in the unheated extraction, and the nation's GPL & GPC (Gross Pain Level and Gross Pain Cost) can be reduced by up to 40%, some are estimating.

I'm not sure if anyone has told him that if you heat his oil, the THC will come alive and it's a whole new ballgame. No doubt they'll find out soon enough.

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