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Green vision for railway restoration

by Dr Mehreen Faruqi
NSW Greens MLC

The Northern Rivers Railway Action Group recently held a successful community forum in Lismore, focusing on the campaign to not only save the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line from being ripped up but to reinstate the train services and expand public transport in the Northern Rivers.

The people of the Northern Rivers and across NSW are rightly frustrated by empty promises made by politicians. In opposition, the Nationals and Liberals repeatedly committed to re-opening the line that Labor closed in 2004. But once in Government, they changed their minds and issued a report that had massively inflated costs of reinstating the Casino to Murwillumbah rail service.

This bias against public transport is also apparent in Sydney, where billions of dollars are being pumped into building a network of motorways and road tunnels which will not solve traffic congestion problems. In fact, these toll roads will cause more congestion,



Green Scene

more air pollution and the destruction of green spaces. The government is pouring money into wasteful and ill-conceived motorways in the city while it cries poor on much-needed regional public transport.

This lack of vision in transport is symptomatic of a broader short-term, myopic agenda where climate change is being ignored as the green light is given to coal and coal seam gas mining expansion and the commodification

of our environment continues as the pursuit of economic growth becomes the overarching aim.

There also seems to be a real contempt for meaningfully involving communities in decision-making. While vested interests and power brokers get a seat at the table, community voices are locked out. Given this lack of “invited spaces”, communities are creating their own “insisted spaces”. Across NSW, more and more people are standing up to demand their democratic rights to be listened to and to be heard. It is these grassroots movements that will change the way politics is done in NSW. We must never forget that the power of the people is always much greater than those in power.

It is time to end corruption and clean up politics.

It is time to strongly assert our right to be at the decision-making table.

And it is definitely time to reimagine a NSW which is powered by renewable energy, connected by public transport, where our precious environment is protected and where we have justice and equality.

Tribute to Gough Whitlam

by Justine Elliot
MP for Richmond

Gough Whitlam is a true legend of our times, a Labor hero and a giant in our nation's political history. He believed so strongly in the power of governments to improve people's lives. Central to this belief was a strong agenda based on equity, social justice, and reforms that reflected a changing society. With that goal, he spent his entire political life striving to improve the lives of Australians. In doing so he redefined our nation and changed the life of a generation, and also changed the lives of generations beyond. He changed our country for the better into a more modern multicultural nation with so many more opportunities.

I was privileged to meet Gough Whitlam on a number of occasions and was always in awe of his incredible legacy. It is a legacy that many people of my generation were beneficiaries of, particularly, access to free university education, access to universal health care and the introduction of equal pay for women. Many people of my generation, particularly women, have had so many opportunities due to the vision, determination and courage of Gough Whitlam.

In leading the Australian Labor Party back into government, Gough Whitlam wasted no time in implementing the most ambitious government agenda in Australian history. In three short years, his government did so much including: introducing universal health care, through Medibank,



the precursor to Medicare; the introduction of a free university education, which meant that it was a student's merit rather than their wealth that determined their ability to access higher education; he also increased funding to all schools and introduced needs-based funding; he increased age pensions; he introduced indigenous land rights; Gough withdrew Australian troops from Vietnam and ended conscription; he abolished the death penalty; he introduced the one vote, one value system to democratize the electoral system; he introduced the Racial Discrimination Act; and he established diplomatic relations with China

Many of Gough's policies significantly improved the lives of women. He fought for equal pay for women; introduced the single mother's benefit; funded support services for women; instituted no-fault divorce; established the Family Court of Australia; and he appointed the first ever Women's Adviser to the Prime Minister. Importantly, the Whitlam government also funded and supported community based organisations that provided

specialist health and welfare services for women. These included support for women's health centres, refuges and crisis centres.

As well as his massive social justice reforms, Gough was also an incredible pioneer of environmental protection. The Whitlam government was the first to make protection of our natural world a key part of Labor's values. He ratified the World Heritage Convention, which gave the federal government a powerful tool to defend sites such as the Franklin River, in 1983. He also protected the Great Barrier Reef from oil drilling and created the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Since Gough's passing, we have heard so many stories about how his life and legacy touched the lives of so many. He inspired us all in different ways and will continue to inspire us. He meant so much to so many, which is why his dismissal was so devastating at the time. I was eight years old, and my recollection is of my mother and I going to a very large demonstration outside the Liberal Party headquarters in Brisbane city. I can certainly

recall the massive sense that an injustice had occurred—that the Prime Minister had been unfairly sacked.

Gough fought the good fight, and Labor will continue that fight in his honour. We will always fight to protect his legacy and continue the struggle for social justice in Australia. We have so much to thank Gough for, and naturally our thoughts and sympathies are with his family at this time, a family that has given so much to this nation. We especially remember Margaret, a remarkable and wonderful woman in her own right.

Gough Whitlam was a truly visionary prime minister who changed our country and improved our lives, and he will always be remembered. Thank you, Gough Whitlam, for an outstanding contribution to our nation. Because of your life and legacy, Australia is a much better country. Rest in peace.

If I can be of any assistance please contact me:

Email: justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au Facebook: www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP Twitter: @JElliottMP Instagram: justinelliottmp



From the mayor's desk

The November meeting was one of the most significant of the year, with several important items on the agenda and a full gallery of residents interested in the wide variety of the issues under consideration. Council's final formal meeting of the year will be held on December 9th at 6pm at Chambers.

GMS

Council has been consulting with residents throughout our Local Government Area (LGA) for a couple of years on where they would like to see growth and where it should be contained or densified. The Growth Management Strategy (GMS) was developed through forums, a discussion paper, direct communications with identified landowners and seven Council briefings. The Draft GMS is now ready for public exhibition and is available on line for comment and feedback until the end of January 2015. Go to the Council website: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and follow the link to On Public Exhibition.

Biodiversity Management Strategy

Council staff, a Councillor Feedback Group and a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) have been working for months to develop a draft Biodiversity Management Strategy (BMS) that builds on the strong message we heard in the Imagine Lismore process that our community values our natural environment and its diversity. In consultation with the SRG, staff has produced a Discussion Paper to introduce the concept

of biodiversity management. In conjunction with the draft BMS, the Discussion Paper raises the idea of a special rate variation that would raise \$500,000 per year to implement the BMS and provide incentives for farmers to voluntarily enhance the biodiversity on their properties. To access the Draft BMS, go to the Council website and follow the link to On Public Exhibition. The Draft BMS is on public exhibition until 24 February 2015

Village organics

Also at the meeting, Council approved the introduction of an organics collection service to our ten villages including Nimbin. The service is aimed at removing the high proportion of organic material that residents are placing in the red waste bin. The cost savings from the removal of those organic materials from the waste stream that goes to landfill allows Council to introduce the new weekly organics service from April next year at no charge to residents. Waste and Recyclables collections will be fortnightly. More information will be provided in the New Year.

Readers will be pleased to know that Lismore is the first Council in Australia to receive organic status for our compost.

Contamination and safety

Also on waste, Council is putting a call out to Nimbin to help keep contaminants out of recycling. Loads of recycling from Nimbin are taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Lismore for processing, however, staff are finding they are full of non-recyclable items. These include needles and syringes, garden and food waste, general bags of waste

and electrical appliances and large metal items. This contaminates any clean recycling and makes it very dangerous for MRF staff who have the job of sorting recyclables.

There is a free, 24-hour community sharps disposal unit located at the Nimbin Hospital and a sharps receptacle within the public toilets near the Nimbin Community Centre. For more information on what can and cannot be recycled, visit: www.northernriverswaste.com.au

Art gallery

Council also resolved at its November meeting to apply to the National Stronger Regions Fund for \$2.3 million for a \$4.6 million new gallery on the site of the old Lismore High School and incorporating an existing building known as C Block. It is significant that in the 60th anniversary of the always-regarded-as 'temporary' Lismore Regional Gallery, Council has its best chance of success in receiving funding. In my office I have ten years of plans that cover my decade on Council. Hopes have been raised and dashed over the years, but now we have a more modest proposal and, more importantly, community monetary support. Over the past two years, the Friends of the Gallery have mounted a pledge campaign that has raised more than \$700,000 in donations and pledges. When combined with existing funds and asset sales, Council may only be required to provide \$500,000 of the \$2.3 million required in Council's share of the cost.

10/50 review

In an urgency motion, Councillors supported a submission to the State Government review on recently introduced legislation

allowing property owners to remove trees within 50 metres of a dwelling and other vegetation within 10 metres. The 10/50 Code is designed to protect houses from bushfire but it is evident to Council that some residents have too readily used the legislation to start up chainsaws on trees that are koala habitat.

Nimbin Community Forum

Perhaps it is a sign that Nimbin residents are reasonably happy with Council or that the new Local Matters fortnightly newsletter together with the Nimbin Advisory Group, the Hook-Ups facebook page and the *GoodTimes* are keeping everyone informed of Council doings. Whatever the case, only nine residents joined the nine Councillors and four staff in the hall on November 17 for the annual Community Forum. It was a wide-ranging session with positive feedback, so thank you to the nine people who joined us.

Nimbin Advisory Group

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the NAG for their contribution in 2014. At our last meeting for the year on November 6th, we discussed the waste survey, the recent survey of businesses affected by the fire, village signage, proposals for the museum and funding for Peace Park. See a separate report for more details.

Blue Moon Cabaret

Hot! Hot! Hot! It wasn't just the acts that were streaming at the November 15th Blue Moon Cabaret. Despite the oppressive heat in the hall, only a few people in the capacity crowd left at interval but what a relief to step outside to a cooler breeze at the end of the night. Thanks again to



by Cr Jenny Dowell

David Hallett and his team for a fantastic night of new performers and familiar favourites with their new acts. It is always a brilliant night.

Aboriginal Advisory Group

Council has now held two meetings of our Aboriginal Advisory Group and is currently finalising its Terms of Reference. Nominations are open for more Aboriginal members who live in our LGA and who have a connection to country within the boundaries of Lismore Local Government Area. For more information, please contact Jodi Sampson at Council 1300878387.

Merry Christmas and festive seasons greetings

Thank you to Bob, Sue and all contributors to *Nimbin GoodTimes* for another magnificent year. The importance of the *GoodTimes* in this era of media concentration in a shrinking number of hands has never been more significant. May NGT continue to shine bright and independent for 2015 and many years to come.

Visit my own facebook page, email: Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au or phone 6625-0403.

Simon says...

As often happens towards the end of the year it seems everything is happening at once, magnified by the leap in temperatures. For all those who commented on my bike being stolen I'm pleased to say 'it has returned', thanks to Facebook and my sharp eyed friend, Renato.

The last Council meeting was chockers with important issues. Mayor Jenny Dowell put forward a Mayoral Minute proposing that Council make an application for \$1.6 million to the National Stronger Regions Fund to be matched by Council for the renovation of C block for a new regional art gallery. C block is opposite the library and there is also proposed the creation of a piazza between the buildings which involves moving the car park. The current gallery is totally inadequate from a fire safety perspective. It is overcrowded and puts the art collection at risk and regularly exposes staff to unacceptable risks. I'm very excited about a central piazza/square to be a

centrepiece for the city of Lismore.

Needless to say there was spirited opposition to this proposal with four Councillors determined to see any grant spent on the sewerage treatment plant upgrade. Fortunately the Council voted in favour of the library revamp.

The Bio-diversity Management Strategy (BMS) was approved for public exhibition which includes the proposal to set a special rate variation to fund specific projects. The average rate increase would cost 70 cents per week. During the Imagine Lismore consultation, the community said it wanted Council to provide environmental leadership and Council has responded by developing a BMS. The heart of the BMS is to protect our plants and animals bearing in mind that this region has 40% of the state's threatened species. Rather than the usual approach of imposing more regulation on landowners, especially in our rural areas, this strategy



by Cr Simon Clough,
Lismore City Council

seeks to reduce regulation and establish partnerships and collaboration with landowners by providing incentives to encourage the preservation and enhancement of important environments. The Council is also partnering with Southern Cross Uni to encourage landowners to manage biodiversity on their properties. Another significant feature of this strategy is that Council is committing to cleaning up its own act in terms of maintaining roadside vegetation and its own properties. If the community is supportive of the rate rise,

Council will decide whether to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for the Special Rate Variation. If approved, it would take effect from July 2016.

The Draft BMS is on exhibition from 26 November 2014 until 24 February 2015. It would be great if you would like to make a comment on the BMS. You can find it at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-MOK-03-77-58

You can also find Council's Growth Management strategy at this link which is another important document which proposes that Council go for a medium level of growth and sets out where growth can occur. Again it would be great should you like to comment.

Recent energy efficiency upgrades at two Lismore City Council sites are estimated to reduce CO₂ emissions by 77 tonnes per year and save Council almost \$20,000 per annum. The energy efficiency improvements at Council's Corporate Centre and Council-owned CBD building have been funded by Council and the Australian Government.

This year we also retrofitted

our public swimming pools with LED lighting, solar hot water and variable speed drives on the pool pumps, upgrades that are saving Council around \$124,000 each year.

There's good news for the Nimbin waste and recycling services:

Kerbside collection – Council will trial two roads for kerbside collection. Where roads are not wide enough or there isn't sufficient turning requirements Bin Banks at the end of roads will be trialled. Council has a number of roads that have requested kerbside pick-up and will approach these first. Information regarding the roads and when initiated will be sent out to the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG);

Street bins – The bins (like the Lismore bin design) can have artwork printed onto bins and refreshed when needed;

- Images from the walking trial could be incorporated onto the bins;
- Discussion still required about where bins are placed;
- Bins can be done straight away as Council has funding to do this.

The Waste Transfer Station is to be maintained.

The wooden sign heading into Nimbin has been removed as requested by the NAG. Council has recently upgraded Gateway signs into Lismore. Village signs will follow. There is a standard design but each village can incorporate a community tagline. The new Council sign would be on the same site and a new community sign could go near the Stony Chute Road where the wooden sign was.

Consultation is expected to start in early 2015 with village signage expected to be installed in mid - late 2015. It was suggested by NAG that the sign keep 'Home of the Aquarius Festival' be used as a tagline.

I spent the last weekend at the Gloucester blockade against the fracking of four CSG wells by AGL. It has just been revealed that Halliburton which is doing the fracking, is using Caesium, a highly radioactive product in its fracking activities. There is growing strength in the movement against AGL in Gloucester which is very gratifying.

Hoping for a kind summer for everyone.

Contact Simon: Mobile 0428-886-217, email: simonclough@internode.on.net

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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nmic.org.au



This month's mental well-being tip:

"Do something to help someone else."

There is plenty of research proving the link between mental health benefits and helping people. Not only will you be doing good – it feels good too!

Xmas Closures

NNIC will be CLOSED from Monday 22nd December and will re-open on Monday 5th January 2015.

The Centrelink Agency will be OPEN on Monday 22nd December to Wednesday 24th December. It will then be CLOSED over Xmas and New Year and will re-open on Monday 5th January.

NIS (Genevieve) will still be operating for limited hours during the closure period.

If you are in urgent need of assistance during this time, see our website for a list of phone numbers and help lines, in the Health section. <http://nnic.org.au/pub/index.php/health>

Annual Community Xmas Lunch

Town Hall, Friday 19th December

ALL WELCOME to the annual Community Xmas Lunch to share in traditional Xmas fare including pudding even! Doors open at midday. Santa will be dropping by at 1pm with gifts for the kids. Always a great end-of-year community gathering. This is a FREE event brought to you by Gail and the NNIC Soup Kitchen crew.

Donations for Xmas hampers for families in need, or gifts for kids, can be dropped off at NNIC during our opening hours. (Good condition please

and we are always short on gifts for older boys and girls eg 7yrs and over).

Raffle

Look out for the current Sibley Street raffle which is STILL running. Yes folks, it's a raffle with stamina. 1st Prize = another gorgeous quilt handmade by Noreen McLean, 2nd and 3rd prizes = one year's subscriptions to *Renew* or *Sanctuary* magazines.

12th Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner Wed 26th November

Another fabulous night, with Mandy Nolan leaving many of us incapacitated from laughter by the end of the night. Some women had to be carried home. Thanks to all the women who organised it – especially Teena and Cat and Gail and Venessa and Micaela, Heidi, Jenny, Jo, Sue and Pauline, to the women who baked cakes (and to the men who also baked cakes), did dishes, served the food and drinks and to Tunttable Falls School women for the very yummy food. Thanks to Diana and Mandy and the singing sisters for performing, Christine for MC-ing and Karen for the sound and lights. Many thanks to Auntie Dorrie for her welcome to country and Nancy Walke's excellent explanation of the history of White Ribbon Day and the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women. And of course, thanks to all the wonderful women of Nimbin who rocked up! Hope to see you all again next year.

Farwell to Venessa – and Izzi

This month we say farewell to Venessa

and Izzi (our AWOL cat), both of whom have run away across the street to Tribal Magic. It must really be Magic over there. Both Izzi and Venessa will be missed. Venessa will still be part of the NNIC team. Looks like Izzi has completely abandoned us though. Not even a goodbye letter. Nothing, zilch. After all we did for her. Typical cat.

Welcome to Ruth

The NNIC team is very pleased to welcome Ruth Shinn to our team as our new Centrelink Agency worker. We hope you will all make her welcome too.

Mobile Phone Tower

The proposed location details have been released. See our Face book page or Hook Ups for more info.

The NNIC team wishes everyone a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to another action-packed year in 2015.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals, and is funded by NSW FaCS as a Community Hub.

Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to disadvantaged 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 Community Workers for referrals, support and assistance including material aid. If we can't help, we probably know who can.

Nimbin Advisory Group meeting highlights

by Sue Edmonds

At the last meeting on 6th November, a representative from the LCC reported to NAG about the Nimbin waste transfer strategy. This included options of increasing kerb side collections, replacing the current street bins with new aluminium bins which will have art works, repositioning the bins so they don't intrude on outdoor diners and reducing the number of bins.

The survey showed that there is a need for a waste transfer station, which needs to be improved for safety. There will be improved security and a Revolve shop is under consideration. NAG gave general approval for the plan.

The signage at entrances to Nimbin is to be upgraded. The old wooden sign has been removed and LCC will be providing custom-made

signs, on frames similar to those erected at the entrances to Lismore. Ideas will be sought from the community on appropriate designs. Jenny Dowell raised the issue that presently the signs are covered with stickers and need cleaning. She has contacted LCC staff to do the necessary work.

Recovery from the fire. There is funding from the NSW government, the LCC and local businesses for a national publicity campaign which will highlight Nimbin's unique qualities. There is over \$50,000 available for this campaign. Many businesses have felt a negative impact since the fire, and it is hoped the publicity campaign will clarify current misconceptions that all of Nimbin was destroyed.

Lois Kelly reported on progress with the planned new home for the Nimbin Museum. It may be rebirthed

in the old youth centre in the Community Centre. Lois is working on a submission which includes the Museum/walking track/sustainable house. All the costings have been completed. The walking track will include some rainforest rehabilitation and good signage.

Questions were raised about the Sport and Recreation grants which were advertised for application from community groups for up to \$20,000. Some community groups received larger amounts with applications from the LCC Parks Department. Nimbin received \$10,000 for Peace Park which was applied for by the Parks department.

Lizette Twistleton from LCC Community Services explained that the only other application from Nimbin for an outdoor exercise station was not on the 10-year LCC Sport

and Recreation Plan 2011-2021. James Voght has since provided an explanation re funding criteria: "applications must clearly demonstrate that the project fits within Council's Imagine Lismore Strategy and that it assists with the implementation of the Lismore Sport and Recreation Plan 2001- 2021".

This is a difficulty for any projects from Nimbin, as the only one mentioned for Nimbin in the 10-year plan is the upgrade of Peace Park. There is no plan for Nimbin in the Imagine Lismore Strategy 2013-2022.

Concerns were raised about the drug dealing in the grounds around the Childcare Centre and Aged Care Centre in the Community Centre grounds, and people are encouraged to point out to dealers that it is not appropriate. The police have been notified of the drug dealing.

Support your Hospital Auxiliary

On 8th November, the Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary held its annual fundraising sale outside the Nimbin Multi Purpose Centre.

Amidst the heat, the flies, the unpacking, sorting and organising of volunteers (as well as partners and children), the Auxiliary showed their mettle again by raising over \$2000.

A massive thank you to all the citizens of our beautiful town for attending and purchasing the goods on sale and also

to Neil from the Newsagency who kindly donated a fruit basket for one of our raffles, the ladies from the Bowling Club who supplied and cooked the food for the BBQ.

The Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary has so far this year raised over \$16,000 and purchased a range of equipment for the Nimbin Hospital:

Funds are raised purely through raffles and donations to support the Nimbin



MPS to assist where there is no additional government funding. So, when you see those clearly labelled donation boxes in the Chemist, the Pub and the Post Office, please give generously towards your Hospital.

When the ladies are selling raffle tickets on the main street, or at one of our fund raising events, please buy one, buy a couple. Remember, this is your hospital and these donations will be going towards your hospital for your care.

Q
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local MP I'm
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you** on the issues that
are important to us. We've
achieved so much, **let's
keep working together**
to make our area an even
better place to live.



Justine Elliot
Member for Richmond

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Murray Kyle



Troubadour Murray Kyle returns to Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 7th December, joined by special guests. Murray has been bringing all-original music to appreciative audiences around the world for over 15 years,

and his powerfully tender performances have well and truly established him in the Australian roots music scene and beyond. Come and soak up the magic. www.murraykyle.com

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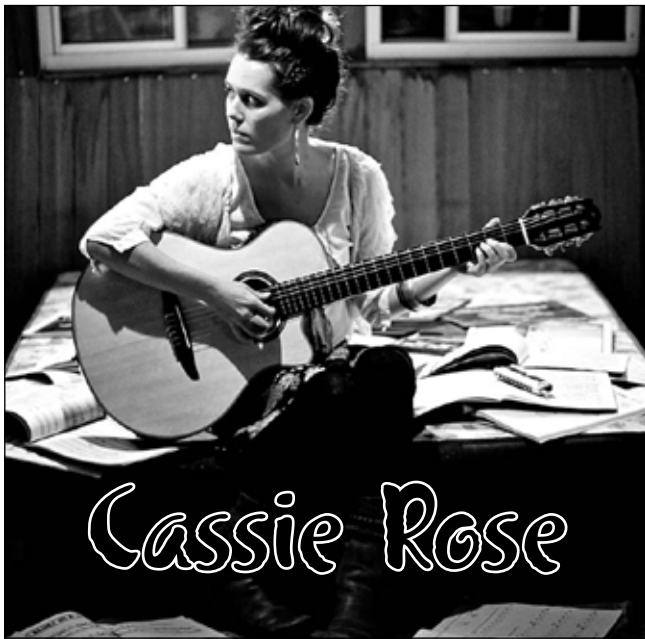
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Cassie Rose

The music of Cassie Rose takes you to a place not all dare to venture. A place of honesty and heart, enchantingly deep, yet sweet and soft, her sound is an alternative acoustic infusion of flavours. Cassie will be joined by some of her favourite musical friends for a dynamic afternoon of music to awaken the senses and liven the spirit at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 28th December.

Australia has a strong history of collaboration between Indigenous and white musicians, and in this spirit, GURIGURU has forged their own path with a new and different way to bridge the gap between cultures with music, and what better path to reconciliation can there be than one that is shared in celebration? Gary Kafoa comes from the rich cultural melting-pot of the Tweed Valley. Born and bred by the river, he spent 30 years as a



professional fisherman, and also has a long history as a local musician. Using a mixture of traditional and modern instrumentation, Gary sings of what was passed down to him by his father and other elders and contemporary issues that affect us all today. Trying to step outside traditional rock song structures has meant mixing didgeridoo with modern dance beats and his own funk percussion techniques. The

result is a new dimension in storytelling born in the unique musical culture of the NSW North Coast. Dr Greg is a veteran of over 40 years on bass with bands of every hue from deep funk to space-rock, and his lifelong interest in ethnic musical forms means he can supply unique groove assistance to the project. Nick Gruen from Germany via Alice Springs, who has played on top-selling world music albums in the USA and Europe, adds layers of tone to the exploration of funk and indigenous trance rhythms. GURIGURU will be at the Sphinx Rock Café on the 21st December. It's a unique show and not to be missed.



The way of the heart

Chad Wilkins is returning to the Sphinx Rock cafe to share his heart through song on Sunday January 4th. Following the release of his album *Show us the Way of the Heart*, multiple Australian tours and an epic three-month California tour in 2014, Chad is back in the Northern Rivers preparing for his East Coast tour in early 2015. Chad's unique blend of heart-soothing meditations and up-tempo grooves will draw you into your centre and make you move. Come along to the Sphinx Rock Cafe to enjoy a beautiful afternoon of enriching conscious music on Sunday 4th January at 2pm. www.ChadWilkinsMusic.com



The Jesse Morris Band

Byron Bay's very own blues, roots and reggae troubadours the Jesse Morris Band are back at the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday December 14th sharing their soul music and emanating positivity from 2pm. Jesse has been performing and travelling across the globe for just over 10 years and has recently laid roots back in Australia amongst the Byron hinterland. The Jesse Morris Band also features local artists Rob DeMasi (Rastawookie, Living Lab) on drums/percussion and Tom Kelly (Fyah Walk, Air Structure) on bass. Plus a list of guests on brass, MC's, percussion and samples from - Simon Kay (Salmonella Dub), Andrew

Hutchings (Kobra Kai), Lucille Wilson (FBI's - Foreign Dub Radio), Kakhand (foreign dub) and other beautiful like minded souls from the roots collective. The Jesse Morris Band will be releasing their third album in 2015 with proceeds being donated to an Island School in Cambodia where Jesse spent time writing and teaching in 2013. The Jesse Morris Band share uplifting songs about the earth, travel, change and growth. Positive sound vibrations and words to inspire love, freedom and kindness. Visit: www.jessemorrisband.com for details.

MULLUM MUSIC FESTIVAL 2014



by Mel Williamson

In its seventh year, the Mullum Music Fest was bigger than ever, while losing none of its charm. It is a festival that has a lot of heart and soul, with a relaxed, inclusive vibe that many a festival (overblown from its origins) has lost. Punters and performers alike comment on its mellow, easy nature and rate it as a festival highlight (even those jaded by years of festival circuiting).

The festival is musically diverse, always interesting and spread out among many venues in town (with much random street busking and jamming in between), creating an atmosphere of a big party within a small township – that everyone's

invited to. An atmosphere captured in the new late gig that ended each night – Harry James Angus & Band's (and guests) Jazz Party. A fabulous, unexpected highlight for many – musos and punters – as the Village Vanguard was transformed into a sultry, sweaty, swinging speak-easy / be-boppin' joint.

Highlights are many at Mullum Fest, my personal ones this year included bands that had the town swinging their hips – Bustamento, Declan Kelly and the Rising Sun, and the fantastic The Bombay Royale; music to move you in your more mellow moments – Suzannah Espie, Nai Palm, Nahko, and The Yearlings; voices that mesmerised like Mojo Juju, Marlon Williams, and South African Bongeziwe Mabandla – who raised the hair on my arms with his vocals.

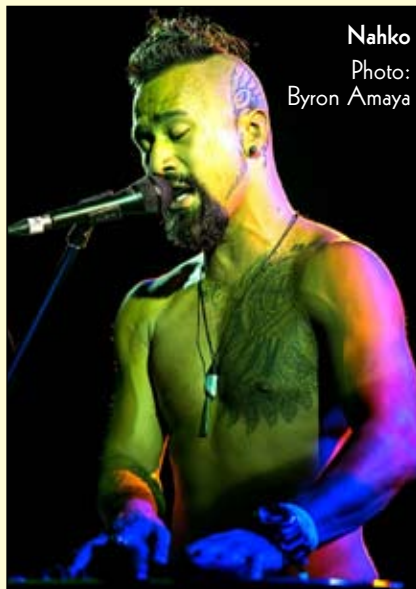
The Church was an interesting inclusion this year, their (new album) music was great while other aspects of their performance were maybe not a Mullum fit. An excellent stumble across was The Twoks – a duo with the energy and dance sounds of a much bigger band. The gig I'm most glad I caught was Canadian C.R Avery – a beat-box poet, singer extraordinaire, who plays both piano and harmonica, and had words both amusing and highly socially/politically/ecologically astute – the audience was transfixed.

Performances I should have caught (from feedback) and meant to but... Wild Marmalade with Paul George, Four Play string quartet, and American Kirsty Lee with The

Hussy Hicks. Such is the nature of Mullum Fest, you enjoy the expected, love the unexpected, miss out on some moments, but always have a good time.

As well as the music, there is much to enjoy outside of venues – roving street performances, circus acts, the expanded market area (that this year wonderfully surrounded the central hub of the civic hall), cafe performances, and of course the always uplifting street parade.

Yet again Mullum put on a fantastic festival, thanks in no small part to the hard working organisers and crew who make it all appear so seamless. The festival was sold out this year, so mark November 2015 in your calendar, when Mullum will be doing it all again with its own unique style.



Nahko
Photo:
Byron Amaya



Street parade
Photo: Tao Jones

House of Bliss Festival of Chant

Regular fortnightly chanting evening, House of Bliss, provides a place for lovers of chant and kirtan to come together and co-create sacred temple space right in the heart of Mullumbimby.

The evenings have offered local and interstate chant and kirtan artists the opportunity to lead and offer their special energy to the nights, supported by our delicious house band.

To complete the year, there is an end of year celebration Chant Festival, an all-day event on Sunday 7th December, from 11am to 8pm. Featuring many special guests from the year and the fantastic house band, the day is to gather one last time, to give thanks to our amazing community for their ongoing support and to build the energy of the day together.

Murray Kyle will be leading the first chant of the day at 11am, followed by other artists Lou Van Stone, Rama, Sangeeta, Sudeep, Elias Harmony, Lila & Mal, Sashini, Sivani, Alissa Nathaniel, Seriya, Premaladeva, Hielrick, Dinesh, and completing with the houseband and guest Fantuzzi. Sufiyo at RawEnerQi will be nourishing our bellies with her delicious raw treats.

Mantra, kirtan, or devotional chanting is about connecting to your divine essence. Participating in a group kirtan is a powerful experience as we are building a field of joyous, uplifting and peaceful energy to be experienced by all. Many people around the world are enjoying the benefits of this form of meditation. St Martins Anglican Parish Hall, Mullumbimby, Sunday 7th December, 11am-8pm, \$15/\$10 entry for the whole day. Phone 0428-539-232 for information.

www.nimbingoodtimes.com

Essie Thomas – making dreams Pozible



Northern NSW-based Contemporary Folk singer-songwriter Essie Thomas is pleased to announce the release of her new album 'Hearts on the Table', coming in 2015. But first, Essie is calling on her community to help make it possible.

In the recent years Essie has seen a phenomenal response from the release of her first studio album 'Pushing for Change', touring and appearing at many of Australia's favorite festivals along the way, Essie has built a strong foundation and worked tirelessly to share her music with the world.

For her second album, Essie is inviting everyone to be part of her crowd funding campaign through Pozible to raise a whopping \$10,000 to cover the plethora of

costs involved in the recording and release process.

The funds raised through the project will cover everything from recording, mixing and mastering, CD pressing, artwork and promotion and more.

Essie said, "The project will be so much fun, there are some great rewards for contributions, and I plan to take everyone on a step-by-step journey to show what's involved and keep them updated on the process."

The campaign will run until 31st January. You can pledge your support through Pozible and choose your reward by going to: <http://pozi.be/essietomas>

Watch Essie's Pozible video on: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOj3LtuIS8 and check out her website: www.essietomas.com

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Sunday Gig Guide

December 2pm start

7th Murray Kyle

Be inspired by the powerfully tender performance of this esteemed songwriter

14th Jesse Morris

Jesse plays acoustic reggae, roots and blues music; get ready for a fun afternoon

21st Guriguru

Guriguru describes themselves as an Indigenous roots/funk band, they are finalists of the Northern Rivers of ABC's Exhumed program

28th Cassie Rose

Gently weaving tales of life, love, travel and reflection

Jan 4th Chad Wilkins

A multi-instrumentalist combining many influences to create a blend that is folky, progressive, contemplative, mystical – but the point is the message

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December Gigs

Thursday 4th	6.30pm	David Knight
Friday 5th	7.30pm	Monster Guitars
Saturday 6th	6pm	Outside the Academy
Sunday 7th	5pm	Darklight
Thursday 11th	6.30pm	Eli Hugh
Friday 12th	7.30pm	The Hoochers
Saturday 13th	6.30pm	Mr Troy
Sunday 14th	5pm	Trombone Kellie
Thursday 18th	6.30pm	Nathan Kaye
Friday 19th	7.30pm	Pink Zinc
Saturday 20th	6.30pm	Vikki Grant
Sunday 21st	5pm	Method
Thursday 25th		CLOSED for CHRISTMAS
Friday 26th	7.30pm	Diana Anaid
Saturday 27th	6.30pm	Candice McLeod
Sunday 28th	5pm	Jock Barnes
Wednesday 31st	7pm	Diana Anaid
Thursday 1st Jan	6.30pm	Adam Brown

All Gigs are Free of Charge

JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING

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

Top cop impressed by Tamworth cannabis symposium

by Caroline Todd

Last weekend about 12 awesome people from the Nimbin area attended the Medicinal Cannabis Symposium held in Tamworth. The event was well organised by Lucy Haslam with over 300 people there each day. Speakers included doctors, scientists, politicians, police, advocates and parents from Australia, the USA, Israel, Czech Republic and Norfolk Island.

There were many examples of medical cannabis (MC) therapy (through raw juicing, hot and cold tinctures and oils) being successful with eradicating or massively reducing cancers, stopping epileptic seizures, reducing symptoms of MS and Parkinsons, helping to heal PTSD, anxiety, ADD, ADHD, restoring appetite during chemo and many other conditions, reducing pain, allowing people to live life and have quality of life, bringing joy really.

The conservatives want clinical trials and the doctors/advocates/parents/patients say the proof is here and what is the use of a placebo trial when we know it works? We heard that 80 per cent of Australians access their medical treatment through a doctor and 20 per cent of Aussies seek alternative therapies.

Liberal NSW Premier Mike Baird supported by Greens Senator Richard Di Natale and former WA backbencher Dr Mal Washer,



Photo courtesy NBN

is pushing a MC bill through parliament, hoping that next year an estimated 20,000-30,000 Aussies will have legal access to MC through doctors and pharmacies. So the allopathic system will service the most amount of people who may be happy to have a pharmacological product, but what about the other 20 per cent? I personally would like to be able to grow my own organic medicine, perhaps in a co-op where we can provide the medicine to those who cannot grow it, good quality at a reasonable price and without prosecution.

Apparently the medical fraternity as a whole is not really educated about MC. The AMA refuses to acknowledge any legitimate health properties even though the science and the patient cases suggest otherwise. In Israel hardly any doctors are prescribing it and it is legal there. My highlight (besides hanging out with awesome people) was when the Tamworth LAC Police Commissioner admitted he only heard of MC a few days before the symposium.

After he had seen the videos showing that MC relieves life threatening and

painful symptoms, he asked that every police person in Australia be shown this evidence and that we are not criminals to use medicinal cannabis! After years of misinformation, it is time to educate people about the amazing positive benefits of cannabis as a medicine.

Please take the time to google the Endocannabinoid System & tell your doctor/healer/local polmie/family/friends about it.

"Mother Nature has the answers" Here are some facts..

• Cannabis is the source of a unique set of compounds

known collectively as plant cannabinoids or phytocannabinoids;

• The three principle cannabinoids present in cannabis are THC, CBD and CBN

• The human endocannabinoid system supports the nervous system and the immune system

• Anandamide is a molecule that is similar in its structure and activities to THC. It is a natural compound found in many animals, including humans. This molecule is part of a group of chemicals known

as endocannabinoids.

We first encounter these chemicals in breastmilk.

• Endocannabinoid CB1 and CB2 receptors are found all over the body with much fewer in the brain stem which is why we cannot overdose on Cannabis.

• Those cannabinoids that bind to CB1 are thought to be responsible for the mood lifting and anti-convulsive qualities of the drug. The cannabinoids that bind to CB2 are thought to contribute to the anti-inflammatory, or anti-swelling, qualities of the drug that help to dull pain.

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HEMP HEADLINES

Medical marijuana bill before Senate [Sydney Morning Herald]

Senators from across the political divide have endorsed a bill to set up a regulator to oversee the farming and production of marijuana for medical use. Legislation has been introduced to the Senate to establish a Regulator for Medical Cannabis and create a tightly controlled farming regime for marijuana. The system is not dissimilar to poppy cultivation in Tasmania for medical opiates.

The bill has broad support, and was co-sponsored by Liberal senator Ian Macdonald, Labor senator Anne Urquhart, Australian Greens senator Richard di Natale and Liberal Democrat David Leyonhjelm. Senator di Natale read the names of those sponsoring the bill twice to stress the rare cross-party endorsement. "For the benefit of Hansard, that's not a mistake," he joked, prompting chuckles in the chamber.

The regulator would determine what conditions under which marijuana products could be prescribed to a patient.

But a doctor's discretion would still play a big part, and medical practitioners could choose not to prescribe such products.

Medical marijuana legalisation 'closer' [Brisbane Times]

The legalisation of medical marijuana is creeping closer – albeit "cautiously". Queensland Coalition Senator Ian Macdonald said he would co-sponsor the Regulator of Medical Cannabis Bill when it is introduced to the federal Senate on Thursday, but indicated he would not automatically support every part of the bill. Produced by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Group for Drug Policy and Law Reform, the bill seeks to introduce medical cannabis trials. Senator Macdonald said he believed attitudes were changing and the time was right to debate the issue.

NSW 'can lead world' in medicinal cannabis [Yahoo 7 News]

There is no reason why NSW can't lead the world in developing a system for supplying medicinal cannabis, Premier Mike Baird says. At a symposium in Tamworth on Friday, Mr Baird flagged three clinical trials of medicinal cannabis, saying they wouldn't be confined to the terminally ill. The announcement follows the decision by his government last month to decriminalise the usage of cannabis by terminally ill patients.

Nimbin Action Group News

by Sophia Hoeben

It has been pretty quiet in Nimbin recently, with no large squadrons of police since the large demonstration against police victimisation of the village.

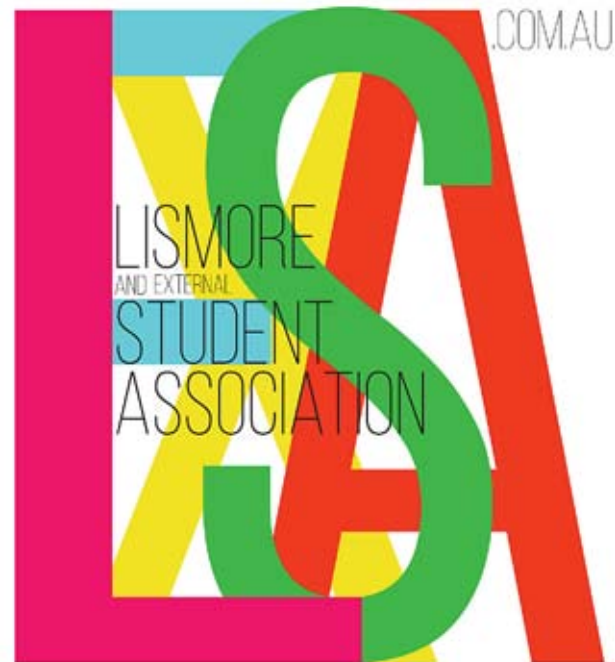
We did receive a letter from the Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Police with a mention that the last raids were initiated "in response to concerns expressed by members of the community about Nimbin's reputation as a drug supply centre."

These people walk among us, beware.

The letter goes on to say, "Police allege the eight people arrested were involved in the on-going supply of drugs including cannabis, LSD, MDMA and prescription medication (and) police believe, as a result of this operation, they have dismantled a criminal group."

With a total of only two kilograms of cannabis seized during the operation, it would seem to have been a rather minor criminal group, and possibly not worth the huge resources that were spent on the raids.

This information was a result of inquiries made on our behalf by the Greens in State Parliament.



Colorado dreaming

by Miss Guidance

As Nimbin HEMP Embassy ambassador I recently journeyed into the sticky heart of Denver Colorado to check out what a legal recreational cannabis city looks, smells, and feels like. In a nutshell, it's not too shabby.

Cannabis has been legal for those who enjoy it since November 2012 in Colorado. So what does a post-prohibition drug scene look like?

First, there was the vibe. The atmosphere was very relaxed and the locals helpful, polite and fun to talk with. "It's because we're all stoned," Was one offered explanation. The sweet smell of special herb wafted around at the most unexpected times. Coming from Nimbin, it made me feel very much at home. One of my fondest memories is a massive jar of the most sweet and succulent highland grown buds proudly displayed as a centrepiece on a coffee table in a friend's apartment.

Second, there was the revolutionary spirit and the excitement of effecting change within the monolith. "It's our constitutional right!" Unlike Australia, the US



constitution allows people within States to make laws through instigating and voting on propositions. This is how medical cannabis has spread through the Union over the last 20 years, with State propositions now passed for recreational cannabis in four states and one territory: Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and DC.

And thirdly, there was the economic side to the equation which is totally understandable since our rulers all agree on the supremacy of the market. From warehouse and outdoor grows through to the retail chain, there is a multiplicity of a business, jobs and space for the specialist boffins to play. There are specialist tour

businesses, cooking classes, DIY workshops, while artists create extraordinary works of glass art water pipes, the farmer experts are putting effort into growing amazing weed. The cannabis industry is sophisticated and switched on. The products it offers are top quality. Needless to say, Denver is a weed connoisseur's paradise.

Oh, and let's not forget the taxes generated for the State government.

Visitors can purchase up to a quarter of an ounce of pot, and in Denver you can do this at a variety of retail outlets. Some of these businesses also deal with medical cannabis patients. They ranged in style from non-descript looking buildings which, when you



first walk in, had a doctor's surgery waiting room vibe, through to zen like meditation centres and even the minimalist high tech look. Most of the outlets in the Denver downtown area were reasonably hidden – no obvious outside advertising – and most of them were in the basements of buildings. Other Denver outlets I visited identified themselves with the green cross, and I particularly enjoyed the ironic 'Starbuds'. Most of these outlets are running a "whole business model" whereby the grow and the strains produced are often exclusive to their shop. They all offer high grade cannabis – all distinctly labelled with

THC and other cannabinoid contents, as well as large assortments of edibles, drinkables, topicals and tinctures, and other speciality products like shatter, wax and dabs etc. These shops seem to be exclusively employing 20 somethings, and everyone I spoke with seemed very well informed about their products.

So this vibrant, exciting and happening culture and industry in Denver stands in contrast to prohibition which emphasises intimidation and humiliation of the people. It enhances the police state giving permission to raid quiet villages and properties in Australia, and to bring sniffer dogs to festivals,

train stations and sporting matches. It also allows for the persecution of very ill people. The only sensible way forward, as shown by the Denver experience, is to remove prohibition from the cannabis equation.

To me, though, Australia is like a poor country cousin. We're totally an outpost of the empire in a far-flung forgotten corner of the galaxy. The attitude of Australian politicians, police and media is so far from the types of attitudes on display in Colorado. Here in Oz, they all seem so blinkered, ill-informed and so bloody full of themselves, that the prospect of any sensible change seems aeons away.

On the drive up to Tamworth, the Premier wanted to talk marawana, in between phone calls. He's in kindergarten on the subject of drugs, but was keen to learn.

They really do live in another universe of endless meetings, words and appointments and rarely see the sunlight. I told him I was a daily stoner as part of my job and if he ever wanted a toke I could always help and no one would ever know. He was embarrassed and told me he inhaled at school and it scared the short pants off him. I took it as a yes.

"What frightened you?" I asked. He was slow replying after yet another phone call. "Somehow it made me strangely uncertain about a lot of things, everything really. So many questions popped up about so many things. I didn't want to drop out but I could see why others did. Scared me just thinking about it now."

The security guy next to me on the backseat raised his eyebrows fractionally and grinned just a little. Maybe for the first time this year I thought.

We talked about his supply problem and he said the cops insist on not allowing any stoners to grow and asked him to grow the medicine crop, or more specifically his government. Probably in Lismore at the Uni he said though they were terrified of being

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

too close to the dreaded Bin. Whatever happens he says the hippies must remain out of the picture.

"The cops have insisted on it," he told me, innocently having no idea he was talking about the only few real friends I have on the planet.

"Their TR, terrorist rating, is extremely high and the Bentley cost us a lot of money and powerful friends. The hippies and their dope crops and freedom ways are undamning our plans for the future that experts have spent a long time organizing."

"Did you know less than ten percent of hippies have a mortgage? Tony told me when he was insisting jobs and economic growth are the only way forward. Don't think about anything else he said."

I went for it. Not often you get a long drive with the Premier trapped inside a car with you. He was talking on the phone off and on but I sensed he didn't really agree with the PM so I grabbed my chance.

"I believe you should let them grow their crops premier. Pot is far far safer than the

ice and pills that are causing the trouble. Communities are starting to defend themselves from ice dealers sir, it's too big for the police. It's not the stoned hippies who are the terrorists, quite the opposite in fact."

He clouded over at that point. "No chance," he said. "The cops insist on keeping the hippies out of the picture. Not sure why they have it in for them but they sure do. They said no deal unless we agreed, so of course I did."

He didn't even consider the idea for a moment, but at least I can tell Pipe I asked him.

The drive back to Sydney after his speech was another matter. I was supposed to be helping him undastand medical pot but the conversation soon drifted, as BJ's cookie kicked in!

I couldn't believe he ate it. It was so obviously a home-made cookie and at a marijuana symposium, what did he expect?

In the middle of nowhere he started laughing out loud at one point. Lost in his

own mind's wanderings when the cursed phone left him alone for long enough. Then he looked like he wanted to cry, and for a long time too, staring out the window.

Finally he turned to me. "Did you know it was a dope cookie, or was it in the coffee?" "Is that what happened sir?" I lied effortlessly, which is frighteningly normal for me.

"I guess so. I sure feel different. I had a biscuit with the coffee, delicious too." He stared at the back of his hand for a long time it seemed. "Well, I must say I'm having a good time. Or I think I am. Not sure what's going on actually but I'm getting some great new ideas. It's fun, eh? And everything's so beautiful."

I just smiled at him and no kidding the silent hulk beside me was grinning ear to ear. Then the premier phoned and cancelled his evening appointments and the rest of our conversation must remain in the car as even I have some boundaries!

HipiLeaks: Sydney, August 2014. NSW Police Minister to Commissioner. Approval is granted for the CEU for immediate purchase of the peacock flock at the Indian guru's bankruptcy auction. If it proves to be true the birds love eating marijuana plants, then additional funding will be provided for a breeding program for the helicopters to drop.

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