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## Bus re-route knock-back

The proposal to reroute any of the Countrylink buses through Nimbin has been rejected by the state government.

During January, Lismore mayor Jenny Dowell received a letter from Gladys Berejiklian, NSW minister for transport, in which she declares that there is no need to vary the 171 and 174 Countrylink bus routes, because Waller's buses provides the required connection to the Sydney and Brisbane XPTs.

The minister's letter reads in part, "I am advised current service levels meet the needs of customers."

Initiator of the proposal, Nimbin resident Ian Corr said, "Clearly she hasn't seen and thought about the Waller's 'solution' impossibilities!"

"There are no weekend or public holiday services, nothing direct to Casino as implied in her letter, only

very, very unrealistic and poor Lismore connections requiring an overnight wait in Lismore, or at best, sometimes hours of waiting, on only five days of the week."

A further appealing aspect of the proposal, not addressed in the letter, is the prospect of a direct route to Robina to link with the Brisbane metropolitan rail system.

Mr Corr said, "We are asking for no new buses, drivers, fuel, etc., but simply re-route just one of the three buses that travel from Murwillumbah to Casino Station every evening of the week, and then back to Murwillumbah after waiting for the arrival of the XPT from Sydney. It's even 5 to 15km shorter to travel via Nimbin!"

For those wishing to provide more advice to the Minister, her office can be contacted on 9228-5266, email: [office@berejiklian.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@berejiklian.minister.nsw.gov.au)



## New term at Open Learning Centre

Antonio will take Italian in Song



In term one this year, Nimbin Open Learning Centre is offering the return of established classes in Sewing, Ukulele, Creative Writing, Italian in Song and Small Smart Screens, as well as three new classes.

Julie de Lorenzo is offering two art classes: Drawing for Everyone covers the basics of drawing and technique; the other, Chaos in Art, looks at more experimental approaches to art.

Local plumber Nikki Turner will take Introduction to Home Plumbing, covering general skills and addressing students' particular questions.

Courses run for eight weeks, with fees of \$55 for one course, \$100 for two courses.

Classes start on 12th February, with enrolments on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th February, between 10am and 3pm at the Community School classroom at Nimbin Community Centre, phone 6689-1477.

For more information, look for the orange course programme around Nimbin.



## In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre news

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



Team leader, Natalie Meyer

*When you set a goal, direct your mind toward what you want to achieve, rather than what you want to avoid.*

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 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.

### Welcome on board to Cat!

No... not THE cat, or another cat (the pesky Izzi is enough!), but the person Cat, who has come on board as our brand new Front of House community worker. She will be at the front desk 4 days per week to assist you with info and referrals and all things NNIC and we are very pleased she has joined the NNIC team.

### 7 Sibley Street fundraising

Not much more to raise now and we are keen to hear from anyone who has any good fundraising ideas and especially from anyone who is keen to actually do some fundraising, so that Nat can move

### Sustainability survey results

We have almost completed the collation and the full results and analyses will be up onto our website by the end of February. In the meantime here are just some of the results of interest (there are way too many to print here):

- 240 people did the survey;
- Level of happiness: 36% of respondents said very high, and 38% high, only 3% low;
- 63% said they do at least 15mins of sustained exercise every day;
- 82% said they have internet access at home, with 64% happy with their current level of connection and 34% not happy;
- 30% have stand-alone solar power;
- 80% would be interested in investing in a community-owned solar project;
- 48% have composting toilets (could we be the composting loo capital of Australia?);
- 57% of respondents volunteer, with an average of 8 hrs per week;
- 56% are looking to build or renovate their home (= relevant to Sibley St Project);
- 93% are interested in sustainable building design and technologies (as above);
- Only 14% said they did not shop at either the Blue Knob Farmers Market or the Nimbin Farmers Market (a big change from last time we asked in 2011, and most likely a reflection of the success of the new Nimbin Farmers Market).

We are very glad to see how much wildlife respondents have observed within 500m of where they live (in the 6 month period prior to the survey), including some of the rarer or hard-to-see species as follows:

- Platypus – 18%
- Regent Bower bird – 33%
- Lyrebird – 5%
- Feather tail glider – 6%
- Birdwing butterfly – 8% (we will be investigating this further, since this butterfly is critically endangered, to see if there is scope to build on the existing population)
- Koala – 24%.

68% of respondents think that NNIC is doing a good job of consulting with the community (31% were unsure) – (looks like we can improve on this), and 60% think NNIC is doing a good job of overseeing the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (38% unsure... note that only 68% of survey respondents had actually heard of the SNCP anyway, so most of these folks think we are doing a good job. Still room for improvement though!).

These results will help inform our work in relation to sustainability issues, and info such as the wildlife stats will be sent on to relevant organisations and networks who are working on eg. regional biodiversity. Again, thanks to everyone who participated and a very good response rate from our little community!

### NNIC website

You can find local transport timetables, latest news, community events, directory of local health practitioners, stuff for young people including updates on happenings at the Sk8 park and heaps more. Updated on a weekly basis and always worth a visit. If you think something should be on there but is not, or for any other feedback, email us at NNIC: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

onto the DA for Stage One – which is moving the old house up to the front of the site. Please contact us at NNIC.

### 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.



# Locals help provide medical aid in Nepal



In a remote mountain village near Mount Everest there exists an annual free clinic, run by international volunteers and doctors from Kathmandu.

The camp was started in 2006 in response to a resurgence in tuberculosis. The outcomes have been heartening. People from surrounding villages walk up to three days to access this health service, which has seen as many as 4000 people over eight days.

Linda Hanna and Helen Simpson at Nimbin Hospital are both volunteering with the clinic in April and encourage locals to donate or

volunteer. They are seeking funds for medical supplies, equipment such as digital thermometers, oximeters and blood pressure machines and to fund some young Nepalese to go up to the mountains to translate.

This clinic is a great opportunity for medical personnel and young medical, nursing and allied health students to broaden their minds and experience and by incorporating a spectacular trek in the Himalayas as well.

If interested in donating or going, please see Linda or Helen at Nimbin Hospital or leave a message on 6689-1288.

# Are you living your dream?

by Laurelli Anderson

Rhiannon Rees (pictured, on right) and her son moved to the local area only seven months ago onto a property in Barkers Vale. In the normal Northern Rivers style, her local community welcomed them with open arms.

Rhiannon was so overwhelmed by the heart-felt generosity, warmth and friendliness of all of us that she wanted to give back to her community. She decided to give free seminars doing what she does best, sharing her gifts, her skills and her time to help people not only realise their dreams but to actually live them.

Rhiannon is an award winning life/elite coach, author of two books, the



first one a best seller, *How to Climb Mount Everest in Sandals*, homeopath, mother and humanitarian.

Those lucky enough to be in the audience of either of those two seminars would have witnessed a powerful, caring woman in a life-long quest to help people take control and change their lives forever. I for one feel so privileged and lucky to have worked with Rhiannon,

and to put it honestly, she has changed my life in six months.

People in this area don't realise how lucky we are to have a woman of this calibre and international stature living in our community. Rhiannon has been to hell and back, and then some. If you don't believe me just read her first book.

Now her passion, quest, destiny and soul's desire is to help people not only realise their dreams, but to help them with life skills so they can make changes forever to live their dreams.

Rhiannon's mission is to assist and empower people to live their lives full of happiness, meaning, fun and passion.

Do yourself a favour and come to the next seminar.

You may just go home a changed, or at least challenged person, with certainly a lot to think about.

The next 'Are You Living Your Dream?' seminar by Rhiannon Rees is scheduled for Thursday 27th February in Mullumbimby, at 6.30pm.

There will be a small cost of \$20/head for this one, as it is not in our local area. This will include a signed copy of her first book for the first 20 people to register and pay before the date.

For more information or to register, contact Rhiannon at: [yourlife@lovelivingthedream.com](mailto:yourlife@lovelivingthedream.com)

## Notification of Proposed NBN Co Radio Network Base Station Facilities

The National Broadband Network is a high speed broadband network that is intended to utilise a combination of fixed line, fixed radio (wireless) and satellite technology to offer advanced broadband services to premises across Australia.

As part of the fixed radio (wireless) component of the Network, NBN Co is proposing to establish a series of radio network base stations to provide high quality wireless broadband services to customers in the Nimbin area.

The facilities proposed will involve the installation of up to 2 panel antennas and up to 2 microwave dish antennas on the proposed structure in the locality described below:

• Nimbin North – 30 metre monopole – 99 Anderson Road, NSW 2480 (Lot 1, DP1115022).

Associated radio equipment will be housed in small cabinets or a single equipment shelter established adjacent to the monopole.

NBN Co regards the proposed monopole structure as Complying Development under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* and the associated antenna and equipment facilities as Low Impact Facilities under the *Telecommunications (Low-Impact Facilities) Determination 1997*. In the circumstances they do not require planning approval from Lismore City Council.

Further information on these specific proposals can be obtained from Richard Turner on 03 9258 5803 or email: [NBNwirelessNSW@visionstream.com.au](mailto:NBNwirelessNSW@visionstream.com.au)

Closing date for public comments is 28 February 2014.

For more information call the NBN Co Solutions Centre on 1800 687 626 email [info@nbnco.com.au](mailto:info@nbnco.com.au) or visit our website at [www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au)



### Did you know?

All our links are clickable in the web edition. Visit [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com) and click away!

## Market visitors

There's always plenty to delight the senses at the Nimbin Markets – you never know what you're going to see, hear or taste.

Nimbin Markets are held every fourth Sunday of the month in the grounds of Nimbin Community Centre – next is on 23rd February.

People interested in having a stall can phone the market co-ordinator, Currawong, on 0458-506-000.



## Notices

### Save TAFE campaign

On Tuesday 11th February, The Greens will launch a TAFE Moratorium bill to stop the budget cuts, job losses, fee rises and course closures that are threatening TAFE's future. Dr John Kaye, NSW Greens Upper House MP will be visiting TAFE campuses in Grafton (10am), Lismore (1pm) and Kingscliff (3pm). Free public forum hosted by Greens NSW MP and Arts spokesperson, Jan Barham at the Ballina RSL club from 6pm. Come and show your support.

### Headers sign-on

Nimbin Headers will be holding a soccer sign-on day at the Green Bank on Saturday 15th February from 9am to 1pm. Players, coaches and volunteers needed. You can also sign up online, go to the Facebook page: [Nimbin Headers Sports Club Inc](http://Nimbin Headers Sports Club Inc) for details.

### Jump Shake Dance

Enrolment day 16th February, 9am-12pm at the Nimbin Hall.

### Belly dancing classes

For fun and fitness, with Biskit, every Thursday 5.30-6.30pm at the Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio. \$10 per class, beginners welcome.

### Embroiderers' group

Meetings are 9.30am-2.30pm every 1st and 3rd Wednesday and every 3rd Saturday of each month in the function room at the rear of the Red Dove Centre, Keen Street, Lismore. Tutoring is available for new embroiderers, and workshops with local and visiting tutors are held throughout the year. Whether you are a traditional embroiderer or enjoy creating art works with embroidery, you are welcome. Contact 0423-337-872.

### WIRES course

The NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service is offering a weekend course on how to safely rescue and provide emergency care for injured and orphaned wildlife. The next course will be held on 15th and 16th February. Call the 24-hour hotline on 6628-1898 or go to: <http://wiresnr.org/Helping.html>

# SAVE TAFE NORTH COAST

## Rallies + Public Forum Tuesday 11 February

### RALLIES:

**10 AM:** Entrance North Coast TAFE Grafton Trenayr campus Trenayr Rd, **Junction Hill**

**12:30 PM:** Entrance North Coast TAFE Lismore campus 64 Conway St, **Lismore**

**3:00 PM:** Entrance North Coast TAFE Kingscliff campus, Cudgen Rd, **Kingscliff**

**WHO:** Greens NSW MP and Education spokesperson **John Kaye** + speakers from the **NSW Teachers Federation, PSA and TAFE Community Alliance**

### PUBLIC FORUM:

**6PM** Ballina RSL, 240 River St, **Ballina**

**WHO:** John Kaye + Greens NSW MP and spokesperson for the North Coast, Tourism and the Arts Jan Barham + other speakers TBC

All TAFE teachers, staff and students are invited to come and hear about the Greens plan to stop the budget cuts and privatisation agenda of the O'Farrell government that is threatening to destroy TAFE on the North Coast.

Learn how you can join the campaign to secure TAFE's future as the public provider of skills training and second chance learning and its vital role in creating a fair and cohesive society and a strong economy.



Authorised by Greens NSW MP John Kaye, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000. January 2014



## National Party legacy: Coal Seam Gas Mining



The State National Party MPs stand condemned for failing to deliver a Coal Seam Gas mining exclusion zone for the North Coast.

The NSW Government has finalised their Coal Seam Gas reforms and it completely ignores the

overwhelming concerns of North Coast residents.

Our community's view is clear – we want a CSG Free North Coast and the National Party MPs have failed to deliver because they're strong supporters of CSG mining and CSG mining companies in our region.

The legacy of the North Coast Nationals will be CSG mining across our region. Geoff Provest, Don Page, and Thomas George will be remembered only as the men who turned their backs on the people.

I stand with locals in opposing CSG mining, and will continue to fight the National Party's pro-CSG drilling, fracking, and expansion agenda. The only thing the National Party will ever deliver is harmful CSG mining – that is their legacy.

### The National Party will be punished for breaking NBN election promise

Tony Abbott and the Liberal National government have broken one of the most important promises it made before the election.

Before the election, the Prime Minister said: "Under the Coalition, by 2016... there will be minimum download speeds of 25 megabits... We will deliver a minimum of 25 megabits... by the end of our first term."

But they have now broken that promise.

Communications minister Malcolm Turnbull confirmed in the House of Representatives just before Christmas that the Government would not deliver download speeds of 25 megabits per second by 2016.

This Government has only been in office for four months and they've already broken promises on debt, on education, and now on the NBN.

Locals want Labor's NBN, not the Liberal National party's second rate copper "fraudband" network that we now know won't even meet the low expectations they set for it.

On the NSW North Coast this broken promise will hang like an albatross around the National Party's neck and they will be punished by locals for it.

Decisions like this make it impossible for locals to ever trust the Liberal National Party. Why would you believe anything they say?

**Justine Elliot MP, Member for Richmond**  
107 Minjunbal Drive, Tweed Heads South  
Phone 1300-720-675



by Aidan Ricketts

Whilst heartened by the bi-partisan opposition to invasive industrial gasfields displayed by both our Federal members for Richmond and Page (Justine Elliot and Kevin Hogan) the same cannot be said for the state members. Unfortunately the Feds have only a minor role in the approvals processes for the gas invasion so our eyes have to be on the state government.

This issue already does and should transcend party politics, so the blame can only lie with the incumbent state government and the sitting members for Tweed (Geoff Provest), Clarence (Chris Gulaptis), Lismore (Thomas

## Putting the blame where it lies

George), and very pointedly Ballina (Don Page) who as special minister for the North Coast has a clear responsibility to represent the 87%+ who don't want to have the region turned into a toxic industrial gasfield. Between them these four local MPs (the gang of four) are betraying us 24/7 as much by their inaction as by their actions. These four MPs could, if they chose, turn the ship around and secure our collective future.

We have all heard the lame excuse that it was the previous government that initially issued the exploration licenses but it just doesn't cut it. The relevant licences were all specifically extended and renewed in September 2012 by the current state government at a time when many of them could have been cancelled without any compensation payable. In that moment the current state government willingly took on full political responsibility for forcing invasive industrial gasfields upon the Northern Rivers against our clearly expressed wishes. Let's not forget that the licences were

renewed less than a week after the Lismore poll recorded 87% NO vote to invasive gasfields.

There is nowhere to hide for our local MPs. There are no excuses available. The legislative power exists to cancel all of Metgasco's licenses immediately on the grounds of public interest, and no issue of compensation would arise. The legislation could not be clearer on this.

Metgasco is merely a speculative exploration company that took a risk that hasn't paid off. Why, on any view of the facts should this community that is so united in its opposition to invasive industrial gasfields be held to ransom simply because of Metgasco's corporate desperation. Speculative exploration companies are pretty expendable in the big world of stock markets, and the rest of the unconventional gas industry has bigger fish to fry than the remaining stocks of the Richmond, Tweed and Clarence catchments.

The state government and the wider industry have very little to gain from forcing a confrontation at Bentley, so Metgasco is

becoming increasingly isolated, nevertheless we can't expect Metgasco to voluntarily back off, and we probably can expect deafening silence from the gang of four state MPs. So it appears that the community will be forced to fight to enforce what 87% clearly want yet again, the police will be handed the unenviable task of riding shotgun for the gas invasion and the community of Bentley will be turned into a conflict zone. And all for what? A company whose business model is fatally flawed by an extreme lack of social license.

The next state election comes in just over a year, and sensitivities will start to rise very soon. Keep on to your local state MPs (the gang of four) and also if you have time please write a personal letter to the new state Energy and Resources Minister, Andrew Roberts to let him know how you feel about the gas invasion.

The Hon. Anthony Roberts, MP, Level 37 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000 (02) 9228-5289, email: [office@roberts.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@roberts.minister.nsw.gov.au)

## Health practitioners face censorship and penalties

The NSW Health Care Complaints Committee has convened an inquiry into "The Promotion of False or Misleading Health-Related Information or Practices." The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this inquiry are sobering to say the least and read more like a pharmaceutical wish list than legislation that would benefit Australian citizens.

The Committee, which is responsible for the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC), defines information that is not supported by "accepted" medical practice as being "false and misleading" and seeks to punish and silence anyone who either publicly discusses, uses or dispenses non-mainstream remedies.

This inquiry appears to have been motivated by the HCCC's loss to the Australian Vaccination Network (AVN) in the Supreme Court in 2012. The HCCC sought to sanction the AVN for providing "dangerous, deceptive and misleading" information simply because that information was in contravention of "accepted medical practices." The Supreme Court stated that the HCCC had acted illegally in either

investigating or citing the AVN.

Since that embarrassing loss to a small, unfunded parents' support group, the HCCC has sought increased powers from Parliament specifically for the purpose of attacking the AVN and other individuals and organizations critical of current government health policy.

These actions are ironic since the original purpose of the HCCC was to protect the public from dangerous health practitioners. Today, it would appear to an informed observer that the real purpose of this body is to protect dangerous practitioners and practices from the general public.

The HCCC's sordid recent history includes its failure to act in the case of Graeme Reeves, known as the Butcher of Bega. Reeves was accused of mutilating and abusing over 500 women, many of whom filed complaints against him with the HCCC. Over more than a decade, they failed (or refused) to act any of these complaints.

Prior to the HCCC's court loss, that organisation was already one of the most powerful in Australia, being immune to either subpoena or GIPA (Freedom of

Information) claims.

In 2013 however, the HCCC was granted the right to file complaints against organizations or individuals – without any evidence of harm – and then investigate and punish those they themselves had complained about, making them judge, jury and executioner. If Parliament grants the HCCC the powers being discussed by this inquiry, then they may be able to stop anyone from discussing, practising or using natural therapies.

Submissions from the public are being accepted until February 7, 2014. Those who are interested in supporting and protecting health rights and freedom of speech are urged to write a brief submission (3-4 paragraphs) explaining why you believe that suppression of health discussions is not in the public interest.

The Committee website (<http://tinyurl.com/n8lp73d>) contains information on how to make a submission as well as the ToR for the inquiry and other important details.

This is an unprecedented attack on health rights, which must be strenuously opposed whether you live in Australia or elsewhere.



**GREEN SCENE**

by Dawn Walker,  
Tweed Greens

Every Christmas we pack the family wagon for the two day drive to Melbourne to visit the family. We often take the coastal route down the Hume highway, but this year I suggested we go inland and stop off at Leard State Forest to offer our support to the protectors who had launched a blockade at the site of Whitehaven's controversial Maules Creek coal mine.

The project, located in North West NSW near Boggabri, will clear-fell a large area of Leard State Forest, including nationally critically endangered woodland and the habitat for 28 different endangered species, and is opposed by members of the local farming community, traditional owners and environmentalists.

Coincidentally, the night before we headed off, there was a Leard Forest fundraiser evening being held in Murwillumbah. I went along and met Ahri and Alan, two blockaders who gave an informative presentation and helped me with directions. Early next morning we set off with a list of the country towns we needed to head through and more detailed instructions on how to reach the blockade site.

As we drove through Casino, we passed a roadside fruit stall selling a trailer load of plump juicy watermelons. Perfect for hardworking forest protectors. We did a u-turn and bought 5 for \$5 and the farmer threw in an extra 3 for nothing. So with 8 watermelons rolling around in the back, we resumed our journey. At Narrabri we picked up more useful supplies for the camp, like

UHT milk, toilet paper, canned food and water.

As we turned off the main highway, the road hugged spectacular glacial country and, as we crossed the Naomi River, we wondered out loud how anyone could risk polluting this beautiful country and majestic waterway. The instructions warned us to be careful when we came to the last cross road as coal trucks pass every 6 minutes. When we reached this junction, we all gasped – you can't prepare yourself for the oppressive site of a massive coal mine in the middle of farmland and forest. Trucks, noise, dust and loud red warning signage everywhere.

As we pulled up at the blockade camp, my family looked at me, "What have you got us into?" My 15-year-old son kept his seat belt on and said, "Off you go Mum." I got out of the car and was knocked back by the heat. The camp kitchen was in sight and I walked over, not really sure what to expect. There were a few people there making a cup of tea and one looked up, smiled, extended his hand and said, "Hi, welcome, I'm Jono."

Half an hour later, we were all on the

camp couch, eating watermelon and chatting about the blockade action. Jonathan Moylan was informed, articulate and very generous in bringing us up to speed on the Whitehaven project and the action to date. He showed us the critically endangered Grassy Whitebox woodland, and spoke of the cultural heritage sites of the Gomerioi people, the Traditional Owners of the Leard State Forest. He explained the history of the Whitehaven Coal project and the 12 to 1 strip rate for coal mining in this area.

We met farmers, environmentalists and traditional owners, each one determined to stop the destruction. As one of the protectors explained, "Whitehaven Coal thought they were ready to start clearing this forest, but they didn't reckon with the determination of people from far and wide to support the community here and protect this forest. We will not be moved on. We are the only thing standing between this forest and its annihilation."

I encourage anyone who is thinking of supporting this action to make the drive to Leard State Forest. You will be warmly welcomed.





by Cr Jenny Dowell

nationalism, excessive alcohol consumption and using the flag to mask racism.

### Celebration with respect

I recognise that many Aboriginal people are sad on January 26 and asked everyone to be respectful of those feelings of loss. For the Aboriginal people who embrace Australia Day, I thank them for being magnanimous. Together we can make this country better through reconciliation. Australia Day is a day for pride without arrogance, declaring our allegiance without extreme nationalism and celebration without excess.

We can celebrate respectfully or with fun but never with superiority or violence or excluding others. There is no rule to say we have to love beer and vegemite or that we must play tennis, cricket or surf. We do not define ourselves by beetroot stains on our shirt or the flag on our car window or by having it on our T-shirt or a towel. These things are OK but they do not define what it is to be an Australian. We are more than these symbols.

To be an Australian is to care for our community, our environment and our role in the world. To be like the volunteers recognised in our ceremony who do things because they care and they want to make the world, or at least a small patch of it, a better place. Perhaps you share my views, perhaps not. We do not have to agree, to be Australian.

As I write my first monthly column for another year, the regular activities of life have all recommenced. School is back, the construction industry and trades businesses have started up again and councillors are preparing to meet in the chamber for a new year.

### Australia Day

Australia Day is the first major event of the Council year and was celebrated by about 400 people at Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre. Aunty Thelma James gave a wonderful welcome to Country and set the scene for a respectful day of acknowledgement and reconciliation.

I spoke about Australia Day as a day for all of us to reflect and celebrate with respect and embracing our diverse community. It is not a day for red-necked



### Council Australia Day awards

This year we received 32 nominations for awards and presented these winners:

- Sustainable Environment** – Lismore High School Sustainability Festival Committee;
- Sports Team** – Lismore 12 yrs Representative netball Team;
- Junior Sports person** – Anna-Leeza Hull (cycling);
- Senior Sports person** – Dave McWhirter (basketball);
- Services to Community (Group)** – RED Inc. Signing Choir;
- Services to Community (Individual)** – Angela Mathew;
- Aboriginal Citizen** – Cindy Castella; and
- Citizen** – Cecil Harris.

There were no awards in young citizen or arts and culture categories this year.

### Lismore showgrounds

On the day before Australia Day, an historic event took place at Lismore Showgrounds where Uncle Micky Ryan and Kevin Hogan MP unveiled three interpretive panels that tell the story of the Banyam Baigham people's connection to the site over tens of thousands of years.

## From the mayor's desk

Next time you visit the Showgrounds, take time to read the panels and walk up towards the pavilions to see the magnificent murals being installed. The first, by Gilbert Laurie and Oral Roberts, is in place, with two more by Eric Ferguson and Rob Smith in preparation.

### February at Council

By the time readers receive NGT, Council will have held its first briefing for 2014. Topics to be covered include the sites of proposed NBN and Telstra towers, car parking considerations at 214 Molesworth St, Lismore, the quarterly budget review statement, Rous Water's future water strategy and Councillor representatives on the Biodiversity Management strategy steering committee. Please contact me if you need any details.

The first Council meeting of the year will be at 6pm on Tuesday February 11 and like the briefings, is open to the public. Items include a report on NBN tower locations in Fraser Road Dunoon, Nimbin Road Blakebrook and Gwynne Road Jiggi. The business paper is available on the website from Wednesday February 5.

### NAG

The year's first Nimbin Advisory Group meeting will be on Thursday February 6 at 6pm.

### Local Matters

By now, I would hope that readers are familiar with *Local Matters*, the Council newsletter that is delivered to all households in our Council area through Australia Post. You can expect to receive *Local Matters* fortnightly, so please let Council know if you are missing out.

You can also subscribe to receive an electronic version by going to the Council website and following the link in the middle of the page. At the same link you can also subscribe to our media releases, job alerts and other notifications.

Council decided to move to this form of advertising and announcements to ensure all our information to residents is in one publication, and to save council \$100,000 per year. It is a statutory requirement for Council to advertise development applications, rezonings, changes to our planning policies and many other decisions in print media, so *Local Matters* also helps us meet those requirements.

I encourage you to let Council know what you think about *Local Matters* and to tell us what you would like to see included.

### Website

In the coming months, Council will also revamp our website to make it more user-friendly and to align it with *Local Matters*. Stay tuned.



Simon says...

by Cr Simon Clough, Deputy Mayor, Lismore City Council

Council does not meet in January, so I thought I'd write about some of my musings on our recent two-week holiday in SA. Most our time was spent in the Adelaide hills, Adelaide itself and the surrounding areas.

After our arrival, we were taken directly to the Adelaide Central market in the middle of the city. Not only was the market huge, but the quality and quantity of local produce was stunning. Fruit and veggies were just the beginning with a dazzling array of local cheeses (yum),

wines (yummiier), olives, and exquisite chocolates. There was also a generous array of cafés and food outlets. What I found particularly heartening was the overwhelming emphasis on local products.

The next day we headed for the Willunga local produce market, which was brimful of local goodies including the best lime and date chutneys (thank you Spice Girls) I have ever tasted. We also bought gluten-free pasta, locally made, which tasted every bit as good as the glutenous variety.

Our trip to the Barossa Valley was a real highlight in terms of local self-sufficiency. Nuriootpa is the regional centre and it has a Co-op established by the original German settlers over 150 years ago. It costs \$2 to join the co-op, and each member gets a refund depending on the amount of their purchases during the year. The co-op owns a very large supermarket, an electrical goods store, a hardware store, a floor coverings business, a hotel and numerous sporting fields and facilities. In addition, the co-op

donates \$1,000,000 a year to community projects.

Several years ago, Coles was looking at opening its usual big shopping mall in Nuri. The co-op promptly took out a \$9,000,000 loan and built its own shopping centre. Coles magically disappeared and the co-op repayed the loan in four years. Our local guide added with great pride that unemployment in the area was less than 1% and that they were able to retain all their young people who wanted to stay. Wow, wouldn't that be fabulous for our area?

But of course, not only does this area having amazing wines, it also has people who have spent a lifetime promoting the area, including the likes of Maggie Beer. Maggie has an amazing farm/food production setup. Plenty of inspiration for local producers, perhaps there should be more field trips to the SA wine/food areas.

As I saw on a sign in an Adelaide café: 'Buy local or bye-bye local'.

Well, back to the fray in the new year. Wishing you all well.

### Village mayoral meetings

For some time now I've enjoyed the enthusiastic input of our residents at regular council meetings and at many other times, via email, telephone and in person, when you've been good enough to let me know what you think about how Council is doing and what needs doing in your local area.

In my November column, I hinted that there also seemed to be a lot of people we didn't hear from, and perhaps that's because you're really happy with Council, or maybe it's because you haven't had a chance to meet with your local Councillor yet and let them know how we can provide you with better facilities and services.

I'd like to change that. I'm very keen to work in partnership with all the community and Council, so I'm going to start mayoral meetings in one village each month, usually on the Wednesday following each Council meeting.

These will be in addition to all the usual scheduled meetings for various committees and working groups.



Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Kyogle

The first cab off the rank will be Woodenbong, and the meeting will be held between 10am and 12 noon on Wednesday, 19th February in the Woodenbong Public Hall to discuss residents' feedback, issues and concerns. (This isn't the Wednesday immediately following the Council meeting, but in this case prior meetings exist.)

Now, to make this work, I need you to play a part and book a time with Ms Janelle McLennan on 6632-0214 so that you won't be kept waiting.

If you can also advise her of your issue and contact details (ie, 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 also intend that, whenever possible, to bring along the relevant Executive Managers so

that they can answer any questions of an operational or technical nature. Even if we can't help you on the spot, at least we can be working on finding you an answer as soon as possible.

There's only one caveat. Obviously if there are no meeting times booked, there won't be any meeting so if you have an issue, please book a time so I can be there for you.

I hope you'll take advantage of this initiative and come along and let me know about your issues first hand.

I'd like to get to know as many of you as possible so come along if you can and say hello. The better we understand each other, the better the job Council can do on your behalf.

So that's the first of my new initiatives for 2014. Stay tuned as there'll be more to come.

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

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# What is the Pirate Party all about?

NGT: *Why the confrontational name?*  
SF: Anyone who file-shares gets called a pirate, even if they have never broken the law, so we've taken the Pirate name as a badge of honour.

*Why vote for a digital rights movement, when issues like global warming are much more pressing?*

Governments are using the changes brought about by digital technology as an excuse to strip back civil liberties. All your emails can be gone through without a warrant. Who has emailed you, when, the subject line. Last year there were about 300,000 metadata checks in Australia. That affects a large proportion of the population.

*With the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the ASIO revelations, internet filtering returning – are there any reasons for optimism?*

The TPP is just the latest attempt to get bad Intellectual Property laws passed in Australia. They tried it with the anti-counterfeiting trade agreement (ACTA), which was probably the first treaty the Australian government has signed, to have then been rejected by parliament. The TPP can be beaten the same way.

*What about people who say Pirates are spoilt brats; they want free movies and music, without paying royalties to artists?*

Back in the industrial age, to reach a large audience you needed factories, printing presses, or a huge movie studio. Now, distribution is a couple of clicks of a button. The TPP is being pushed by the movie studios. They want to take back their control over our culture. It's not about the individual artist's property.

*Pirates use 'delegative democracy'. Can you explain it? To a non-geek?*

Currently, PPAU runs policy development through committees which any member can join, in person or online. At conference, everyone gets a vote. But what we're building now, 'liquid democracy', is a platform where people can delegate their votes to each other in real time.

*You're aiming to prevent extroverts dominating discussion?*

That's the idea of our "Polly" liquid democracy system. I've played with the modelling it can do – I used it for our drugs policy, rating issues by importance,



Simon Frew is president of the Australian Pirate Party (PPAU). He was interviewed for NGT by Jay Stevens.

ordering them. It actually changed the way I viewed the proposals.

*Using the tool altered your opinions as you went?*

Yes, it makes you think about how you weigh things up and how you rate different issues' importance. It's good, but we'll have to see how it scales up.

*That's freakishly Marshall McLuhan – you're building a toolset that's going to change how people conceive of issues.*

Hopefully, yeah. When I said that we should go ahead with Polly, the developer actually quoted Marshall McLuhan to me!

*PPAU preferred the HEMP party near the top of their list. What's the PPAU position on cannabis prohibition?*

Legalise and regulate marijuana. Our health policy calls for a committee of drug and medical experts to examine the evidence for other drugs. Decriminalise possession. But if people are dealing illegal drugs, that will remain a crime.

*How are the developments taking place online changing society?*

Large organisations now easily track and monitor us. But social media lets us hold discussions without being mediated through News Ltd. So we don't need to listen to Rupert Murdoch anymore.

*If Facebook and its ilk replace mass media, how do we replace what professional news-desks used to provide – a pillar of democracy, holding politicians to account?*

We must crowd-fund for good research, and investigative journalism. When the government raised the cost of media visas to Nauru, independent journalists complained they couldn't afford them. Well, crowd-fund it! In the US, a journalist called Alexa O'Brien covered the whole Chelsea Manning trial. She raised the money to do that from crowd-funding.

*Should the US government have offered Edward Snowden whistle-blower protection?*

Most definitely. It's a textbook case of what whistle-blowing is. Going after him as they have, pulling down the Bolivian president's plane over Europe for example, shows how the US is becoming an oligarchical, two-party state.

*How can we bring ASIO and similar organisations under the democratic oversight that we thought they already were under?*

Vote out the major parties. Make this a big enough issue that they have to change their approach or be voted out. With the intelligence-sharing agreement between the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK, there's a lot of pressure from the US and UK for data to be shared, and for surveillance to be put in place for data collection. There's a culture of "get what we can, worry about the law later". Make it too politically costly for the major parties to keep defending it.

*The government was elected on a 'stop the boats' platform. Instead, they've stopped the media reporting boat arrivals. How would the PPAU ensure Australians can access information which affects them?*

Make government more transparent. Right now, you can access government responses to freedom of information (FOI) requests online – but 90% of every FOI request is blacked out. Politicians are meant to act on our behalf, yet we can't see what they are doing. Most documents should be online by default, though obviously some should remain secret – medical records for example.

*Anything you want to add, Simon?*

Brisbane readers, Melanie Thomas is our candidate in the Griffith by-election!

## Join Fukushima Wind choir for film clip

by Mookx Hanley

I am currently obsessed with Fukushima. I am aghast at the lack of (crucial) information in the media. I meet people who know absolutely nothing about it. My conscience is screaming at me, at the world, at the sky – "Do something!"

If you are concerned about your future, your kids, the fish, birds and animals... existence as we know it... and you are aware of Fukushima... then I am appealing directly to you.

If you're not aware of what's happening it's time to tune in. Helen Caldicott is a good place to start. Or go to Youtube or Fukushima Update on Facebook and look at the clips.

We need a miracle. It's time for a big one! I have seen them happen before... especially around community events: festivals, protests, big productions where people get together in almost tribal conditions to gain a result. Terania, Nightcap, Franklin River, Glenugie and Doubtful Creek are obvious examples. But even an event like the rock opera *Tommy* being staged in Nimbin all those years ago galvanised the town

into a bustling, creative hive of activity and cross-pollination. It was fabulous! People power multiplies like hell when we come together under one banner.

I want to see that happen again. This time I want to see the Region's most aware and creative souls unite to produce a clip for Youtube that involves community-sized input. The more people involved, who tell their families and friends etc. the more chance we have of going viral. A Rainbow Region message to the world.

I have re-jigged my 1979 3 Mile Island song *Pennsylvania Wind* to now be *Fukushima Wind*. I have had to write new verses to involve the ocean and a new final verse, so as to end on a hopeful tack.

You can hear and download it and the lyrics here: [www.reverbnation.com/mookxhanley/songs](http://www.reverbnation.com/mookxhanley/songs)

It's just a demo I made on my own, so don't expect Pavarotti. Just get into the song. Julie Oliver (Shanto) and her current singing partner Ginny have agreed to do the lead vocals on the recording, which is very good news to start off with. I would like to recruit a small choir of good voices to do the

answer bits in the verses and I would like a mass regional choir to do the big choruses.

So if you want to be in a big choir for the finale of the clip, download and learn to sing the choruses along with the MP3. I imagine the final shots in the clip in Cullen Street Nimbin and maybe another on the beach at Byron... big mobs of colourful people holding banners etc. singing to the world about Fukushima. You will be able to keep up with the progress of the clip, rehearsals, dates etc. at: <http://nimbinheart.com/fukushima.htm> (under construction).

I am hoping to get a band together soon and do several fundraising concerts which will be sound recorded and video for the clip. Other footage will have to be storyboarded and collated by experienced audio/visual people, whom I also hope will contact me. All this will need funding.

If you have some money and care about this issue, please contact me as well. Money is no good on a radioactive planet. This project cannot exist without a budget, so I am looking for some aware people-of-means to support and enable this project. I am on the aged pension.



# HEMP HEADLINES



A long line of buyers trails from a store selling marijuana in Colorado on 1st January 2014

## America's first recreational marijuana stores open [Sydney Morning Herald]

America's first retail stores selling marijuana have opened for business in Colorado, putting the state in the vanguard of the country's evolving attitudes on legalising the drug. The state has issued 348 retail marijuana licences – including for small shops – that allow for the sale of up to 28 grams of marijuana to people aged 21 or older from January 1.

## Legal California pot worth half-billion in tax revenue, court savings [Smell the Truth]

One flavour of proposed pot legalization in California in 2014 could save the state several hundred million criminal justice dollars and generate several hundred million more in taxes annually, the state concludes. The California Secretary of State issued the estimate today in the title and summary for *The Marijuana Control, Legalization and Revenue Act of 2014*.

## President Obama: Marijuana less dangerous than alcohol [USA Today]

In a profile published online, President Barack Obama continued his softening towards marijuana legalization. In the interview, the

president alluded to his own youthful marijuana consumption and clarified that, while he doesn't believe it to be a healthy pastime and has discouraged his daughters from its use, it is a less dangerous substance than alcohol. President Obama also stated that current moves towards legalization are important experiments that can help end discriminatory arrest practices.

## Legalising marijuana would have huge benefits for the Australian economy [Courier Mail]

Despite decades of an increasingly expensive war on drugs, the use and availability of marijuana, and other, so-called harder drugs, is as widespread as ever. In the US, conservative economic think-tank the Cato Institute estimates this war on drugs costs about \$US41 billion (\$46.05 billion) a year in terms of enforcement. At the same time Harvard economist Jeffrey Miron estimates the US Government is forgoing \$US47 billion in tax revenues that could be collected by legalising drugs. In Australia the cost of enforcement runs by some estimates as high as \$4.7 billion a year, again with little impact on availability or use.

# STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

by Undacuva

## Undacuva chews the weed

I'm wandering around Pipe's garden paradise eating fresh buds, half formed buds, tips really. The kids in his tribe all have laptops and constantly watch the web for the latest weedtalk, and it's all raw these days. Fresh green juices are the order of the day but Pipe, who eschews processed food like its poison, has everyone "chewin' weed" as he likes to say.

"Chew it with some of that ripe Persimmon or Pawpaw," he tells a girl who finds the taste too strong.

There is fruit everywhere, and nuts, the orchard is like a dreamworld where I wander around tasting and picking randomly from various colours and shapes and tastes. Many fruits I've never seen before, from Asia and South America, vines that curl and wind out of sight, often up into tangled treetops. Then there are sunny patches where weed patches are flourishing, colas starting to form on some, but mostly big fat tips slowly evolving into the sacred buds.

"A tip a day keeps the Doctor away is my new motto," he tells me, and clearly the tribe is following his example.

Then he headed back uphill, gesturing me to follow. Previously he had told me this was a no-go zone because of the Bunya forest. We had collected the giant pine cones there before, Pipe insisting I wear a crash helmet. He was only half joking, but I knew that if one landed a direct hit, that would be it. Roasted or boiled, the tribe loved them.

This time he walked right past the



Bunyas and onto a cliff face I had not seen before and as I could have predicted, pulled aside a low hanging branch and led me into a small perfect cave.

"This is my lab, my latest experiments with medicine making," he started explaining,

lifting up a brown bottle half full of extremely sticky dark treacle.

"Weed concentrate I'm calling it. The best buds make about four grams of oil from an ounce. I extract it with ethanol and when that evaporates off, this what is left."

He gave me a tiny speck, about half a rice grain, saying, "That's the best sleeping pill you'll ever find."

"I used to deliver butter to the aged care homes, but this is way easier."

Back around the campfire with the kids on their laptops, the conversation turned to healing. Pipe reckons when the world wakes up to the weed's potential, there will be fury at how it was kept from us for so long.

"If every city household had a patch, aspro sales would collapse and cancer rates too," he says, staring at the flames. "Mind you, they'd have to change a few other habits too, like diet and work obsession. Not much really, just a complete attitude change." There were a few chuckles and twitters, but not me, I knew it was true.

HipiLeaks: Jan 2014, Washington.

The study 'Cannabis as a substitute for alcohol and other drugs' indicates that under a medicinal cannabis regime, 40% of participants reported using cannabis as a substitute for alcohol, 26% as a substitute for illicit drugs and 65.8% as a substitute for prescription drugs.

# Mardigrass inspired by Colorado dreaming

by Michael Balderstone, HEMP Party President

Legendary Cannabis pioneer Dr Bob Melamede from Colorado University will be an important guest at this year's MardiGrass to tell us all about the changes in America and how we might get movement here sooner rather than later.

A few statistics are starting to emerge from the law changes in America. A team of economists who specialize in health and risk behaviours looked at the link between marijuana laws and traffic deaths, and found that roadway fatalities dropped significantly in states after they legalised medical marijuana. On average, deaths dropped 8 to 11% in the first full year after the law went into effect, and fell 10 to 13% by year four. Five years out, the results grew more varied, and faded in some cases. Figures are also showing alcohol use is significantly down.

It's hard to comprehend why the NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell ignored his Committee's recommendation to start allowing medical pot for the terminally ill if they want it. Certainly the alcohol industry is in one of his ears and Big Pharma in another. Would someone please tell him Pharmaceuticals kill more people in Australia now than car accidents? But I suspect the Police had the final say. They are so conservative and worried about change. Maybe of losing the power over everyone the laws give them and they may well be afraid of losing their jobs as well if this drug war is looked at too closely! The other player of course is the Church and who knows what deals the Premier makes to keep Fred Nile off his back?

It's hard to get excited about the Greens putting up the Committees recommendations again as it's such a tiny crack in the wall, but it is a crack, and perhaps we are destined

to stay two decades behind the US, which first got medical pot in California in 1996.

Maverick Queensland Politician Jason Woodforth has also confirmed he is coming. He is as passionate as a good hippy about cannabis law reform, and recently convinced the Qld Premier Newman to call for a medical cannabis trial. This followed publicity about epileptic children's seizures being stopped by cannabis tincture, reportedly coming from Nimbin! Which in turn has had the HEMP Embassy's phones running hot with people wanting help to get this "miracle tincture".



The Courier Mail reported Mr Woodforth was incensed the Federal Health Department had issued a

response highlighting the illegality of cannabis rather than one saying they would investigate Tara

O'Connell's

recovery further. "Why aren't we saying ... let's have a look at this, let's explore, let's research," he said. "But no, we just want to go and shoot it down. This madness has to stop. We can't just sit on our hands and say 'no, it's a fluke' because its not. There's lots of incidents in the US where people have been cured of things like cancer. As politicians, we need to have an open mind and listen. Too often we don't."

Couldn't have said it better ourselves, and he will be a popular

inclusion in the MardiGrass discussions this year. How to make your own medicine will be a major workshop due to popular demand, as well as building with hempcrete; hash, cookie and tincture making, legal advice and hemp politics.

In other MG news, Jungle Patrol is keen for locals to register – traffic controllers are always worshipped and wanted, comedians, performers, market stalls and musicians all need to get in touch soon if they want a spot, and any good ideas or events you think could be in the program, please let us know soon!

The very lively and entertaining MOB (MardiGrass Organising Body) meetings are happening every Friday evening on the HEMP Embassy back veranda from 5pm and everyone is welcome. We get any amount of backpacker volunteers, but we particularly need locals to show them the ropes and to make this big weekend go smoothly.

In exchange, we reckon you will have a great time! There's a message book in the Embassy, or phone 6689-0326.

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