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Auntie Viv's scooter

Bunjalung elder Auntie Viv can now be seen riding around Nimbin in a shiny red mobility scooter, thanks to a remarkable fundraising initiative.

Donation tins were placed on the counters of several Cullen Street businesses for about a month, and funding raised from these was supplemented by a ride around town on the scooter by local artist Franco Girardi, who raised over \$600 in one day.

The second-hand scooter cost \$1200, of which Viv paid \$200. It was supplied and serviced by James Darvill of Summerland Scooters and Rehab, who also taught Viv how to ride it.

Viv is delighted with her new conveyance – she now drives up-town and then walks around – and is very grateful for the assistance she has received.

"I would like to thank the people of the Nimbin community and surrounding area for donating the scooter to me," Viv said.

Rose Cubis, from Nimbin Aged Care and Respite said, "This is a great effort, people putting energy and money into helping others in the Nimbin community."

Friends raise funds for Mookx Hanley

by Shae Salmon

On Sunday 5th October, the Lismore City Bowling Club resounded to some wonderful and heartfelt melodies when a gathering of musicians, friends and supporters filled the venue to raise money for well-known local (and NGT columnist) Mookx Hanley, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

The fundraiser, which was organised to assist Mookx travel to Sydney to get specialist treatment started off with a beautiful melodious ballad from Luke Vassella. Ray Sorrensen and Scott were next to perform, with Mookx and Shanto joining in to provide some

lovely harmonies. Many performers followed, with each volunteering their time and talents to help Mookx.

Altogether there were about 22 acts on the day, with each performer having 6-10 minutes each. A wide variety of entertainment was thus supplied, including some poetry, some dancing, and of course an array of music by the many artists such as Ted Tilbrook, Phil, Gabbi and long-time colleague of Mookx, Paul Joseph.

It became a family affair when son Mahdu joined Mookx and Shanto for a bit of ukulele fun. Neil Pike entertained with a moving song on love, friendship and family, as did Azo Bell with

Art auction fundraiser

by Mandie Hale

Many Nimbin residents will know well-loved Tuntable Falls resident Mick Parr, who has brightened up so many people's days with his friendly smile and great sense of humour.

Despite a disability that in recent years has confined him to a wheelchair, Mick has uncomplainingly responded to each challenge with determination and adaptability.

He's an inspiration; he's never let his disability stop him from travelling, building, lending a hand to others, cooking for crowds, parenting, dancing, teaching, painting, and creating beautiful furniture pieces and amazing assemblages from materials most people would regard as junk. He's given out heaps to other people and the community.

Now Mick needs a hand himself, as a rapid deterioration of his body has reduced his physical capacities, limiting his independence. In response, his friends have been fundraising to finance a specially adapted vehicle and alterations to his home that will make his daily life easier and enable him to



maintain his independence.

A fundraising art auction will be held at the Lismore Bowling Club and contributing artists include Ian Pearson, Rene Bolten, Harumi Hayashi, Steve Geise, and many others.

Mick will also be contributing a piece. It promises to be a great night; as well as the auction there will be some great entertainment, and food will be available. There will also be a DJ, so get out your dancing shoes.

Save the date: Friday 28th November from 6pm, and look out for the upcoming publicity which will have further details.

Donations to Mick can also be made via the link: www.mycase.com.au/page79362/ourmatemick



Mookx was delighted with the day, saying, "I was overwhelmed at the response and had no idea so many people cared. It has renewed my sense of faith in my ability to heal myself."

Chamber of Commerce looks to the future

by Eugenie Stephans

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce invited the business community to a special meeting on 30th October at Nimbin Bowling Club.

The meeting was well attended, with over 30 people present. John Murray from NSW Business Chamber and Tim Elliott from Tursa were guest speakers, as well as Mitch Lowe, representing council tourism, and Diana Roberts, representing business and community.

Tim Elliott from Tursa Employment and Training spoke about the new Australian Government initiative to

support businesses with a \$10,000 incentive, known as the 'Restart Programme', to help unemployed mature age Australians participate in the workforce. For further information, you can visit: www.employment.gov.au/Restart

Mitch Lowe, Lismore Council's Tourism Co-ordinator, gave an update on the recent business survey and recovery plan to promote business in Nimbin. He encouraged all businesses to complete the business survey as soon as possible, the link is: www.surveymonkey.com/s/NimbinFireImpact

John Murray, Regional Manager of NSW Business Chamber then spoke

about the advantages of being a member of the chamber of commerce and ways of exploring business funding, including the popular Energy Discount program.

Diana Roberts discussed the proposal for a museum on Community Centre land and integrated into the walking trail, as well as funding options.

Chamber president Peter Wise thanked all presenters and attendees for their valuable contribution.

Overall, this night was a great opportunity for everyone to do some networking, to learn about the many opportunities and plan the way forward for Nimbin.

Nimbin protest against police actions

Nimbin Action Group News

by Sophia Hoeben

The inaugural protest gathering of the Nimbin Action Group on Saturday 11th October turned out to be highly successful, even though police and mainstream media lacked the courage to attend.

The estimated 200 initial members of NAG led the way in a peaceful unified and spirited action on the day. It was a great example of what is needed to confront the police over their heavy-handed treatment of our town.

Success came in the form of our togetherness, a sense of oneness that is normally hard to find anywhere. It seemed everyone has grown tired of being raided and harassed by police in Nimbin. If not, then our survey throughout town failed to find them. The survey showed that shops in town, even Neville the fisho, had suffered drops in sales by 20-50% following every raid, and that visitors and locals stayed away for days following. Many had been frightened, or at least intimidated.

Despite all the opposition over the years, the community of Nimbin has proven itself as one of the strongest and most outspoken in Australia. We collectively do not take to tyranny and we will make our voices heard whenever there is need to do so. Whether the issue is one of protecting the Earth or human rights, it is all the same. We must cherish and defend what we have or we will lose it all.

Freedom of speech in Tasmania

Tasmania's Legislative Council is currently debating whether or not to pass laws which would see the right to



Photos: Garry Mimlich

protest be taken away from the people.

The Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Bill 2014 includes:

- Mandatory jail sentences (minimum 3 months for second offence)
- Disproportionately large fines, \$10,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for organisations.
- On the spot fines of \$2000.

If passed, this bill would affect anyone protesting about any issue at a business or public place, anyone speaking in support of such protests, workers taking industrial action and anyone taking part in a march or a parade.

It would set a dangerous precedent for the rest of Australia.

We can only hope their attempts to stifle the peoples voice in Tasmania will fail, otherwise we're all in for a fight for the most basic of all democratic rights, to right to voice our dissent.

Telephone Tree and Flashmob

All members are invited to record their phone no. (pref. mobile) in the Nimbin Action Telephone Tree book placed at



Kerriane Cox

the Hemp Embassy. Or phone 0428-685-698 and it will be recorded for you. This tree will be activated in the event of further raids on our village.

Investigations into Nimbin fire

After many failed attempts to pry a response from the police regarding any results from their forensic and other investigations, we were finally told by Inspector Bruce from Ballina Police that it could take up to 6 months before results are known.

One wonders if it would take that long if two historic buildings had burnt down in Lismore.

Lismore banks feel heat of fossil fuel divestment

by Scott Sledge

Lismore was one of the first Australian cities to participate in the Bank Divestment Day on Friday 17th October, with a gathering of about 40 residents outside the Lismore Environment Centre at Spinks Park. Many went from there to cancel their accounts, telling banks in the town centre that they are not happy with the \$20 Billion invested in fossil fuel projects since 2008.

Hundreds of account holders around Australia switched to banks and credit unions that have no investments in fossil fuels, to take a stand against the Big Four bank's financing of coal and gas expansion.

The National Day of Divestment affected 56 bank branches in 14 cities across Australia, and likely involved hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of business that moved from Westpac, CBA, NAB and ANZ to financial institutions that do not

finance fossil fuel projects.

Naomi Tarrant, spokesperson for the Lismore event said, "The Big Four banks play an essential role in supporting new fossil fuel projects, like the Abbot Point port expansion. Switching banks is a great way to align your money to your morals and to send a powerful message that it is no longer socially acceptable to profit from the destruction of the planet."

The event comes after a high profile public debate over moves by the Australian National University to divest from fossil fuel companies as part of a review of its socially responsible investment policy. Since 2013, the Big Four banks have lost an estimated \$200 million worth of business from customers joining the fossil fuel divestment movement.

The campaign has rapidly gained traction, with October divestment commitments from many institutions including Local Government Super, the



Perth Anglican Diocese, the Canberra Anglican Diocese, the Australian National University, Moreland City Council and Anglican National Super – the super provider for the Australian Anglican community. In the USA, the huge Rockefeller Foundation announced it would shift from fossil fuels to sustainable energy

investments.

Tori Bail of Eden Creek said that she closed her Commonwealth accounts to support her right to a clean energy future. "I will set up an information table at the Lismore Environment Centre every Friday to help other people understand how they can make a difference by changing banks," she said.

not greed and discrimination.

As well as the Conference, the week-long program includes rallies and marches, films, music, yarns, forums, workshops, poetry, dance and kids' activities, from 8th to 16th November.

Now is the opportunity to be heard. For more information, go to: <http://brisbaneblacks.com/g20>

First Nation response to G20 meeting

On 8th November, the world's media will be focused on Brisbane where the leaders of the top 20 richest countries in the world will meet for eight days, to discuss economic solutions to the global problems facing us all.

As a response to this meeting, a First

Nation Global Conference will be happening simultaneously.

While the richest countries leaders discuss how to destroy and enslave the world, First Nations people will be there to give voice to a culture based on social need and environmental sustainability,

Building for Rent



Figtree building at the Community Centre is available to rent. Internal area is 104.62m² comprised of large central room with kitchen, two offices, and bathroom. Would suit many different purposes. Rent from \$755.82/month for non-profit.

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National Park burns 'out of control'

by Ren Waterfall

In a desperate bid to prevent further inappropriate 'hazard reduction' burning of the Nightcap, two Nimbin community groups sent me as a representative to the UNESCO Head Office in Paris.

Mr Feng Jing, Chief of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Unit, affirmed that he will begin enquiries into the impacts of hazard reduction burning in Australian World Heritage areas.

It's been over a year since an area of old growth rainforest in the Nightcap National Park was intentionally and illegally burnt by the NPWS. Unannounced to the community and all but one neighbour, the paid protectors of this Gondwana Rainforest Reserve fired hundreds of incendiaries from a helicopter into climax rainforest above Mulgum Falls on Mt Nardi, killing most of the under-storey, over 40 large trees, and many endangered species.

One of the many documents presented to UNESCO was Mark Broomhall's account of the irreversible tragedy entitled, 'Who loves the smell of napalm in the morning?' (*Nimbin GoodTimes*, November 2013).

Local community groups and individuals have made numerous attempts to consult with the NPWS and other State and National government offices regarding the Mulgum Creek 'prescribed hazard reduction burn' and another burn planned for the Tuntable Falls/Wallace Rd area of the Nightcap NP. However, their concerns and questions have been ignored by NPWS and they have received no reassurance that the burning of rainforests and killing of endangered species will cease.

The burnt area includes a 'shield tree' and is sacred to the indigenous community who clearly stated at the opening ceremony for the park that it "should not be disturbed for all time", but were not consulted with by NPWS.

It is also in the catchment for the Council weir and may have caused degradation to the quality of Nimbin's water supply that will continue well into the future. Extra water treatment may be required, and people's health could be adversely affected.

Furthermore, the NPWS 'hazard reduc-



tion' burn has created a drier forest with an extreme fuel load, significantly increasing the potential wildfire hazard in this normally moist fire retardant rainforest. It has also produced vast quantities of carbon dioxide and has reduced the capacity of the forest and its soil to assimilate carbon and to produce oxygen.

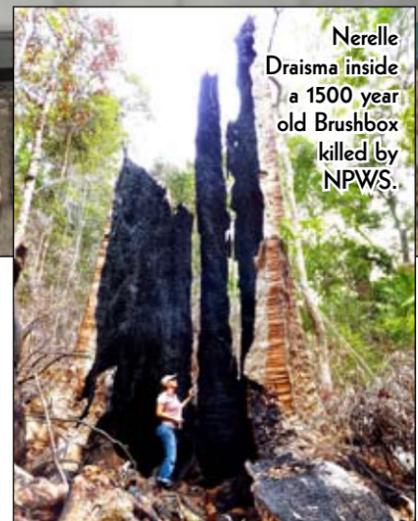
Weeds are moving into the area and over the decades may rehabilitate some of the damage, hopefully without further compromise to what remains of the rainforest.

The world-class Goorgana walking track through the rainforest to Pholis Gap was unnecessarily bulldozed (despite protest from neighbours) and is now a wide open road with trees pushed to the side, and is also becoming covered in weeds.

There is legislation to prevent such perverse outcomes, such as the prohibition of intentional burning of rainforest. On-ground surveys were required for the location and mapping of vegetation types and Endangered species, but these were obviously not undertaken, as the Prescribed Burn Plan and an expert botanist's Report of Impacts shows.

In fact, NPWS has not complied with many acts and plans, and is likely to be causing widespread harm to Australia's natural and cultural heritage in many areas.

For example, in the same fortnight as the Mulgum burn, 45 burns were carried out in NSW by NPWS, nine of these were in World Heritage listed National Parks, five of which are Gondwana Rainforest Reserves. It is highly likely that many of



these burns did not have the required assessments undertaken and also resulted in significant detrimental impacts to Endangered species and to the ecological processes in the Parks.

If NSW NPWS continues their current burning regime with disregard to forest types and endangered species, it is possible that the Nightcap and other World Heritage listed National Parks will be placed on the UNESCO 'World Parks in Danger List'. This will no doubt be very embarrassing for Australia, given that the International Union for Conservation of Nature 'once in every ten years' World Parks Congress is to be held this November in Sydney, with up to five thousand delegates from around the world attending.

Current NPWS actions are totally contrary to the three main aims of the IUCN Congress which are: valuing and conserving nature; fostering equitable governance of World Parks to empower communities (including indigenous peoples) to become involved; and to promote World Parks as natural solutions to global challenges such as climate change, food and water security, health and a green economy.

Rebirthing the Museum into Rainbow Road

by Diana Roberts

There's a new and exciting idea floating around to morph the Nimbin walking track, Rainbow Road, into a Museum as well. A largely outdoor Museum, accessed by everyone for free.

Our Community Centre has a large building recently vacated by Youth Connections, thanks to Mr Abbott's funding cuts. Figtree Building is well-positioned, next to the Fire Brigade. The Centre's management committee is keen to explore possibilities for turning this building into a local museum displaying our Aquarian history (there is extensive archival material), alongside our pioneer and Aboriginal history.

While it would be very different to the Museum lost to fire a few months ago, it's our vision that many of the fundamental ideas that were integral to the Museum would be retained.

We love the idea of free access, and would like to include external walls of buildings and walkways around the Centre into the Museum experience. The grounds could be used to display elements of our pioneer history and

we'd like to explore how the Aboriginal Cultural Centre itself could be a part. We could also incorporate 7 Sibley Street, Nimbin's Sustainable Living Hub into the project, now that the land is all but paid for.

Stage one of Rainbow Road is envisaged as an interactive, entertaining and educational experience showcasing highlights of life around Nimbin. Traversing the murals of the main street and incorporating the creek that winds from Cecil Street through to Sibley Street, Rainbow Road will wind around the village with points of interest and information boards along the way – a great visitor experience, but also a walking trail for local people. The Museum itself could be a starting point for the walk.

We are in the process of exploring funding opportunities for our ideas and have been encouraged by the support and interest received so far. There will be funding available next year, and we mean to position ourselves to be in with a strong chance.

While we do the work behind the scenes, we're keen to see if there are local people with the skills or interest to help

get a local Museum off the ground. We envisage a space of changing displays and information sharing. We need help designing good display facilities that also incorporate the latest technology in museum experience. We need people who enjoy sharing our past. We need people who enjoy creating displays. We need people familiar with the requirements for displaying varied materials in ways that engage people. Do we have curators amongst us?

We are also looking for someone familiar with the history of the Community Centre who might like to go through our archives and extract material for a display. We have someone who has offered to put it together if we provide the material and direction. In the meantime, we are in the process of digitising our archives for future generations.

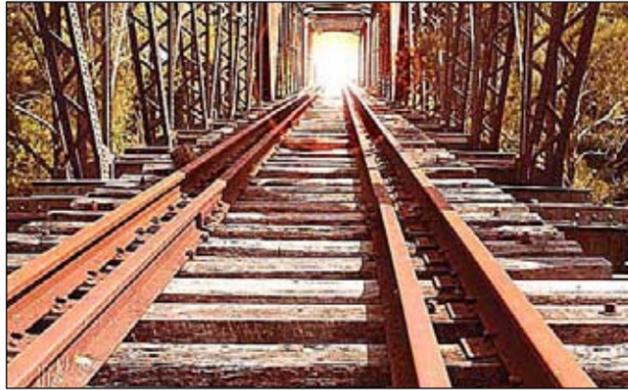
If you have any time for this project and can see yourself getting involved next year please email us at: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au or phone our office on 02 6689-000 and speak to Nina or leave a message or contact any one of the NCC committee (visit our website for details at: www.nimbincommunity.org.au).

'Save our tracks' forum in Lismore

The 'Save Our Tracks' Public Forum will be held in Lismore on 22nd November, and the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG) is looking forward to a big turn-up to show that there is indeed a strong desire in the community to have the rail line repaired and services resumed.

With over 50,000 vehicle movements in and out of Lismore daily, there are some powerful arguments why an efficient integrated public transport system with rail as its backbone would relieve pressure on our overly congested roads.

It would also relieve some of the financial burden on councils (i.e. ratepayers) to help maintain these roads, not to mention reduce the incidence of serious accidents in the Northern Rivers, which are the highest in the state. And of course it would greatly reduce the amount of fossil



fuel consumed and sent into the atmosphere as harmful greenhouse gasses.

The Greens, who stand alone as the only party to champion the reinstatement of the Casino-Murwillumbah rail service, will be well represented at the Forum with Federal Senator Lee Rhiannon and NSW Greens MLC, Dr Mehreen Faruqi. Other presenters include Neale Battersby, founding President of Northern Rivers Trains for the Future Inc

(NRTF), and Basil Cameron, Byron councillor and Trains on our Tracks (TOOT) spokesperson.

The Forum aims to send a clear direction from the community to agitate for the preservation of the rail infrastructure in the face of those who would rip it up to provide bike trails. NRRAG would like to see a proper independent survey of the 30km line between Casino and Lismore, which was costed in the ARUP

Rail Transport study at a ridiculous \$180 million to repair.

Local ex-railway workers, including a retired chief track inspector, have said this is 'complete bunkem' and the cost would be a mere fraction of this. Certainly if the Nationals can find \$75 million for Rail Trails (half of which is earmarked for ripping up the rails), then this would be better spent on restoring rail services to Lismore.

The Forum will be very much about information sharing, and there will be opportunities through the provision of survey questions and a Q&A session for everyone to have their say.

It will be held at Lismore Workers Club on 22nd November, 2-5pm. Please come along and add your voice.

See: www.facebook.com/nrrag for further updates.

Nimbin District Remembrance Day Service

Tuesday 11th November 2014 at 10.45am

The Nimbin District community is invited to attend this year's Remembrance Day Service at the Nimbin District Memorial. A small service and ceremony will be held at the memorial, with the Last Post, a minute's silence at 11am followed by the Rouse and the National Anthem.

Please bring flowers for the monument.

Paul Le Bars

11^{am} 11th 11th 2014
ay month



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New council car plugs into free energy



Mayor Jenny Dowell and GM Gary Murphy bring the car to Nimbin

Lismore City Council has an electric car. That's right, a 100% electric car.

The car – a Nissan Leaf – is a new Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre fleet car. It does not use any fossil fuels and plugs into the wall at the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre so it can charge straight from the rooftop solar panels.

The new car has lithium-ion batteries and can travel up to 170km on a full charge. It features a small solar panel on the rear spoiler, which powers many of the interior accessories via a 12-volt battery. Some of the car parts are even made from old products including water bottles and plastic bags.

"We are a running a car straight from the sun with zero emissions – we are really excited by that. It feels like the future has arrived," Waste Operations Coordinator Kevin Trustum said. "It's the way we want to be heading."

The electric car is another step toward Lismore City Council's bigger picture goal of generating all electricity from renewable resources by 2023.

Rainbow Cafe rising, slowly, from the ashes

by Megan James

There is not a lot to report about what is happening with the Rainbow Café site at this point. The last several months have been spent doing the necessary reporting and negotiating with the insurance company (much credit to our treasurer for her dogged pursuit of the many issues involved) – and the clean-up of the site to council requirements. Our insurance claim has been approved. At time of writing,

the last clean-up and removal of any contamination is due to occur shortly, by the time of reading it should have been completed. The site will then be gravelled over and the security fencing should be brought down.

Short-term, our wonderful Jodee Tichborne has taken over the lease of the old fish and chip shop premises and we can expect some small miracles to come out of that. Jodee has also been discussing the possibility of a temporary coffee cart on the Rainbow

site, which would require a development application to Council. At this point, discussions about the coffee cart are not conclusive, but fantastic Caffeind coffee will no doubt be available from Jodee's new shop, as well as the hot chips and milkshakes that many kids seemed to think were the best in town.

Tunable community has formed a Rainbow Committee, meeting every ten days and informing our members about clean-up progress, events and

ideas as they happen. This committee is in touch with several architects and Council planners, and expects to have various ideas and possibilities well-researched for discussion at a forum to be held late November with all interested Tuntable Co-op members.

Please bear with us as we embark on a creative journey to see what will rise from the ashes of the Rainbow, and be assured that such a diverse community of souls as we will be in tune with Rainbow spirit, however that manifests.

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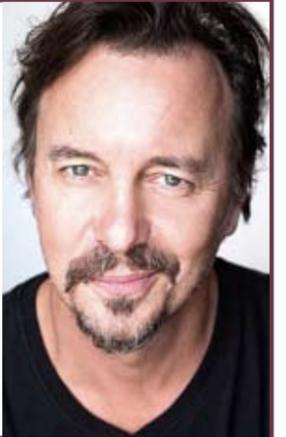
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Letters

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

Our police state

Firstly I must comment on the front page article of the October NGT. So well written, so spot on, and so relevant.

I was delighted to have a rare visit from my son and daughter-in-law from Sydney on that weekend of the Nimbin market. Enjoying a family outing in a colourful town, we observed a large police presence, then activity looking like a police crime scene on television.

Walking on a bit further in the street, my son was stopped by a police dog handler, who, after asking could he search my son, proceeded to do so. Even though he had no result, and I explained that we have several dogs, and maybe the police dog picked up their scent, another group of police took over and asked for address details, etc. They did explain that we had a choice, but, hello, what do you do?

Guilty until proven innocent! Luckily my son and daughter-in-law are tolerant, happy people, so we decided to chalk it up as a good story when my son returned to his job as a teacher in Sydney.

I cut out and posted your article to my son, who also commented how well thought-out it was, and great reporting. Keep up the good work, NGT.

**June Crawford
Koonorigan**

Rail Trail

I've noticed Garth Kindred appears to have a regular spot in your newspaper urging readers to support the return of trains on the Casino to Murwillumbah line. Maybe it's time for the supporters of the rail trail to have a say.

The train stopped running in 2004 due to poor patronage. Since then there has been a concerted effort (hats off)

to get them back, which culminated in the Transport NSW 2013 study by ARUP which can be viewed at: www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/b2b/projects/c2m-condition-assessment.pdf

This report found reinstating the line was not viable and would not meet the region's transport needs. Naturally, the report was discredited by those in favour of the trains' return. Having walked sections of the line and seen its current state, I can imagine it will cost a huge wad of cash to fix. The report estimated it would cost over \$900 million to reinstate the line. All this for a rail line which does not serve the major growth corridor between Lismore, Ballina, Byron Bay as well as the rapidly growing Tweed region and connections to South East Queensland.

What the report did recommend, which appears to be largely ignored by train supporters, was extra bus services for the region that can provide services to far more villages and towns than the train using the existing road network. Seems reasonable to me.

Another report was done into the feasibility of converting the line into a rail trail and it was found to be viable. Rail trails have been hugely successful in other states and countries. Their gentle gradients allow walkers, families, cyclists, horse riders, joggers, etc, a scenic and safe traffic-free way to travel between towns and villages and at

the same time encouraging eco-friendly and responsible tourism. Affordable electric bikes are also increasing in popularity and they could be used by those less able to ride a conventional bike. As a Uki local, I would access the trail from Stokers Siding to ride with my small children.

A trail does mean the rails have to be removed. Most of the line is single track, built in a narrow, windy, hilly and inaccessible corridor. The wooden sleepers and iron can be recycled and offset the cost of the trail. If trains were to run, most of the ballast and sleepers would have to be replaced anyway to meet modern safety standards. I was told by members of a MO near Burringbar that they could see a bridge actually swaying when the trains went over it at 20km/h just before the line closed!

The trails that have been built (Murray to the Mountains Vic, Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, The Riesling and Rattler SA and the Otago Rail Trail, NZ) both here and overseas have seen numerous spin-offs as a result, including farmstays, B&Bs, cafes, etc develop that employ locals and support communities. A lot of the villages in the region hardly see any tourism from the major centres like Byron, and a trail would bring healthy and respectful tourists to these smaller areas.

I know this is a very divisive issue for the community, but please look at all sides of the debate. The corridor has been deteriorating for the last 10 years. Please, let's not let it deteriorate for another 10 years! A rail trail will preserve the corridor and not sell it off to private developers. Vic., SA, Qld and WA all have very well used rail trails, which preserve the corridor for future generations. These corridors have not been sold off, so why would it be different in NSW?

**Damon Mitchell
Uki**

About us

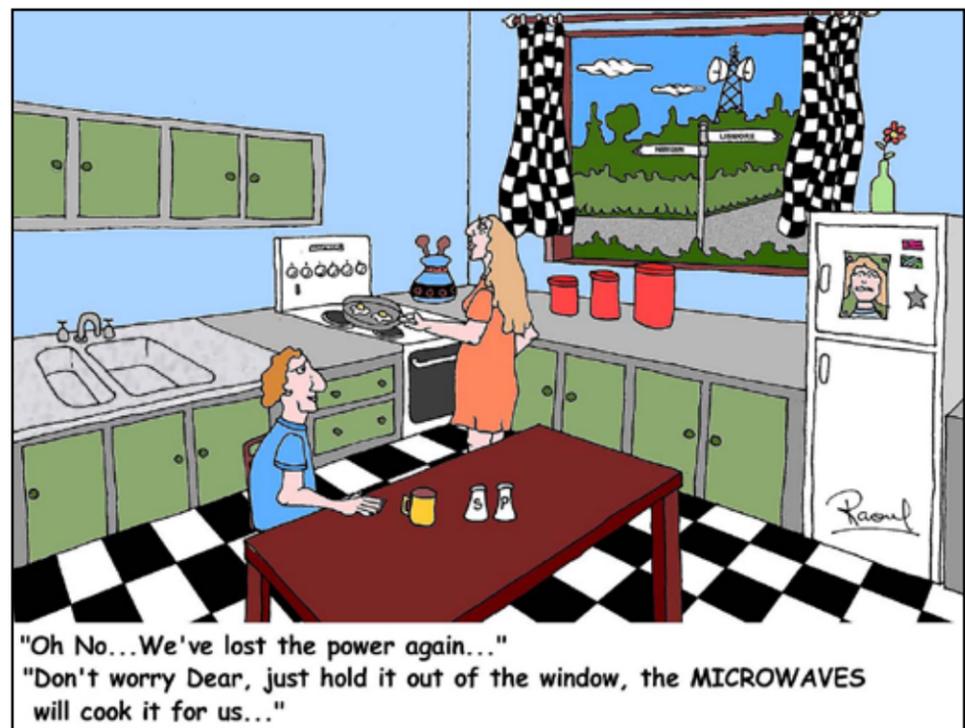
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**NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 26th November**

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



Open heart, open mind

Alan Roberts, please be careful that your scientific theory and models regarding EMR (Letters, NGT October 14) don't leave you blinded to the complexity and diversity of life. Life isn't a simple linear equation but an intricate web of causes and conditions coming together to create a multitude of effects.

Any biological organism is made up of a multitude of systems. These systems are all constantly interacting with external and internal influences in different ways. Each system is in varying states relative to an ideal model and is constantly being affected by all kinds of variables. There can be numerous organ systems involved, in varying states, affected by a multitude of other variables, and therefore a multitude of potential effects. EHS and cancer are not the only effects of EMR to consider.

It is this complexity and intricacy that creates diversity and it is diversity that enables natural selection and our survival. If biology operated as simply as you like to describe in relation to EMR, single systems in standard working order, then we would be as vulnerable as a monoculture. The notion to consider double blind experiments without understanding this complexity is of concern.

Scientific theories, like all of science, have evolved. To evolve, scientific theory takes open mindedness. Whether you are right or wrong is not so much the point, it is how you chose to apply your thinking. As understanding of EMR is clearly still evolving, your personal experiences and thoughts, as well as those of others, are all equally valid input for the extensive research you would need to do before ever considering experimenting using other people.

Spiritual and religious practice depends on an open heart, likewise science on an open mind; without these foundations we miss the point.

Ngawang Palter
Lismore

Refreshing rally

In my darker moments, I imagine fear is stronger than love. I imagine greed will always triumph over generosity and compassion. Yet thankfully, something always reinvigorates my faith in the human spirit.

On Saturday 1st November I attended the public rally in Lismore to keep our region free of invasive gas mining. The hollow of Riverside Park was filled to overflowing with people who care enough about our environment to mass in great numbers. People who feel they have to shout to be heard!

Looking out across the crowd, I wondered how big does something have to be, how many people have to gather and how passionately must we express ourselves, before our political representatives do just that and represent us?

The popular opposition to invasive gas mining has exposed a number of things. One of these is a corrupt political system that is indistinguishable from the large industrial forces it represents. Our politicians are interchangeable with big business because they are commonly the same person!

Yet, the opposition to the mining industry has also revealed something of the wider Australian community. Deep in our collective hearts we love this land. Inside of us lives an attachment to this place that is real and palpable. And we are overwhelmingly opposed to invasive gas mining.

Standing at the rally in Lismore, I saw a lot of people who don't want their health, or the health of their children to be exchanged for profit. I saw the human spirit moving and knew that love will triumph.

R J Poole
Lismore

Beyond basic needs

Geoff Dawe deplores our material abundance, attributing it "unambiguously" to the exploitation of resources and people ('Naturalising Reciprocation', NGT October 2014). He says technology causes more harm than good, and we should eschew a profit-based system with something that promises no more than "the basic economic needs of food, clothing and shelter." What an awful spectre. Gay was

Gay Lorraine Bransgrove

25/1/45 – 4/10/14

Obituary by Lis Miller

Our friend Gay left us too soon. Gay was a lover of good coffee, good food and good wine.

A Nimbin local of seven years, you knew her, she had a stately gait as she walked through the Nimbin Village with her beloved dog Barney on a lead. She was the keeper of all creatures great and small.

Gay was a former public servant who started working with Barry Unsworth (transport minister), until he became Premier in 1986. She worked for the NSW Government in the Political Reference Centre and then again in the NSW Parliament with treasurer Egan and Tony Kelly. Gay was doing Local Government policy and after Carr's departure, she went into Justice policy.

Gay retired in October 2006 and moved to Nimbin in July 2007, loving the north coast's beauty, climate and lifestyle. She volunteered with legal aid and in the local courts, maintaining an involvement in the



Photo: Sue Adler

community.

I knew her for only six years, and we became instant friends, enjoying similar likes. She was a generous spirit, politically minded, community volunteer, worldly and just plain fun.

My dear friend, rest in peace.

And yes... "The bar will still be open when you get there!"

Real life angels

About two years ago my partner, Christopher Marchant and I decided to leave Adelaide where we had lived for most of our lives. We loved it there, but also longed to live closer to nature where there were milder winters and rainforests, which we had always loved.

When our daughter told us she was intending to move to the Nimbin area, the scene was set. We searched the internet and eventually found our beautiful piece of paradise at Blue Knob.

We were made to feel very welcome by everyone that we met at Nimbin and Blue Knob, and settled into our lovely home with thirty acres of land consisting of a beautiful garden and forests. Alas, it was only a few months later that Chris became very ill and was given less than twelve months to live, which is my reason for writing.

I cannot speak highly enough of the expert and devoted care shown to Chris and myself. Firstly by Dr. John Mc Keirnan, Dr Dan Oxley, RN Debbie and the staff at Nimbin Medical Centre. As Chris became sicker, the fantastic District Nurses from Nimbin Hospital came to the house every day to help me care for Chris, as I was determined to keep him at home.

Both Chris and myself decided that we wanted him to die in our haven of peace, surrounded by nature. Without the help from the district nurses, Gayle, Helen, Craig

and John, I doubt this could have happened. Their compassion, excellent nursing skills and loving care were of the highest standard and I will be forever grateful.

Next to step in with more care, were the team from Homecare and the Palliative Care Team from St Vincents hospital in Lismore. They provided a hospital bed and various equipment that was necessary to make Chris as comfortable as possible. They also organised for Chris to receive care from the Silver Chain service that sent an enrolled nurse very morning and a registered nurse every evening who were trained in palliative care. Once again, such professional and caring people. All this while the Nimbin nurses were still calling at lunch-time each day, and the doctors each week.

I was so amazed at the amount of help that we were receiving in a reasonably remote and rural area. And as we are pensioners, all the services were free of charge!

Sadly, my darling man has passed and I shall miss him forever, but I will never forget the amazing care so expertly and lovingly given by the wonderful health professionals from Nimbin and Lismore. We are indeed blessed to have such dedicated people working with us and for us in our community.

So a giant thankyou to John, Dan, Debbie, Rachael, Helen, Gayle, Craig, John, Mariella, Christine, Melissa, Jo, Casey, Eleza, Larissa, Chris, and Christine. God bless you all.

Jan Hendrie

a Dawe's egalitarian and intrinsically socialist belief that people must be identical throughout society is perverse. In nature, the life forms that share the most similarities are the lowest of life forms. Humans, on the other hand, are arguably the highest of life forms because our species has the greatest diversity and the widest of individual difference.

This idea, that we should all traipse around as generously reciprocating and uncalculating tropical pixies, relies upon a falsely romantic interpretation of the past. Socialists who use such notions to attack markets or profits as unnecessary or unnatural ignore the evidence

that every human in every culture since the dawn of time has sought to improve their situation.

To say that technology has on the whole been a curse, beggars belief. Had caveman Geoff been there at the first unveiling of the technology called 'fire', no doubt he would have whipped down his pants to quickly douse the damn thing lest someone burn themselves, get smoke in their eyes, or cut down too much forest. Surely, nothing good could ever come of fire?

The greatest 'technology' of all – mankind's supreme invention and greatest gift to all human kind – is the division of labour. The ability to specialise is precisely

because of our inequality and diversity, and is a natural outcome of the multiplicity of natural conditions. All progress owes itself to our ability to deploy our diverse talents and localised information that only we can possess.

We should not deplore our material abundance. We should instead celebrate the opportunities we each have to engage daily in fulfilling, meaningful work which is not the result of exploitation, but is instead the result of the productivity and creativity of a competitive, profit-centric, technology-driven economic system.

Scott Barlow
Uki

Notices

Room for rent at Nimbin Community Centre

Small room (11.20m2) in Acacia House available December. This room is small but would make a perfect office, craft room or storage space. Great location and security. Rent is currently \$112.83 (including GST) per month, higher for commercial rentals. You will need to pay Bonds of 1 month's rent + electricity bond + key deposit. For further information, please contact Nina Boddenberg during office hours Tuesdays & Wednesdays on 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Ice cream

Having a party? Five-litre tubs of local organic ice cream available at half price until gone. Assorted flavours. Phone 0448-334-327.

Nimbin Flix

Saturday, 22nd November from 7pm at Birth and Beyond. Food and drink available. Also 13th December at 7pm.

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. Contact 0423-337-872.

Neptune and the Quest for Transcendence

Join Maggie Kerr and Tina Mews for an experiential Astrology day exploring the sublime realm of Neptune, Pisces and the 12th house. How does this journey through Pisces between 2012 and 2026 offer us the next stage in our evolutionary potential to re-union with our psycho-spiritual nature? We will examine its many pitfalls such as co-dependency, emotional instability, victimisation and others. Thursday, 27th November, 9.30am-4pm at the Lillifield Community Centre, \$80/\$70 conc. Enquiries, phone 0457-903-957 or email: star-loom@hotmail.com

Annual General Meetings

♦ Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc.

AGM will be held on Tuesday 25th November, 5pm in Comskool Room, Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

♦ Nimbin Health & Welfare Association (NH&W)

AGM will be held on Tuesday 25th November at 4pm. New members wanted (\$3 annual membership). Help maintain the Nimbin Interagency Forum and Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (including our activity programs, our Aboriginal Support Workers and the Broadband for Seniors Kiosk) and continue to assist people in our vibrant, diverse community to maintain connections and independence. Become part of this caring community association – attend our Annual General Meeting. Let us know you're coming along, phone Jenny on 6689-1709 or email: jenny@nacrs.com.au

Nimbin Environment Centre meetings

NEC meetings will be held once a month on the second Tuesday of every month, not fortnightly as previously advertised.

Al-Anon family groups

Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking? Al-Anon meetings are held at Ballina, Lismore, Murwillumbah and Grafton. For more details, go to: www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia or phone 1300-252-666.

Free listings

Keep it brief and to the point and if we think it's of interest to our readers, we'll run your community notice for free. Email us by deadline (see box on opposite page).

Gender politics

Mayor Dowell is constantly yapping, harping, and promulgating the need for, and how wonderful it would be with, more female councillors elected onto Lismore council. She specifically cited how great it would be if Nimbin once again had its own

representative, ideally female (NGT October 14, p9).

Then why doesn't she walk her talk? The past two elections have borne witness that the number two and three spots on her ticket who got elected have been male.

Paul Recher
Dorroughby