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A job rich, renewable energy future

by Adam Guise

Jobs, jobs, jobs. It's the mantra of politicians at election time. It gets people's attention and it buys votes. This couldn't be truer for our region where youth unemployment sits at close to 20%, and cuts to services and education threaten further job losses to our region. But what price do we pay for such job losses, and where do we look for future employment?

Employment is important. Not just for the income it provides to individuals, but also for the social outlet, mental health benefits, and the productivity it creates in the community. After all, all of us buy goods or use services, so it's important for people to be rewarded for the work they do. The more localised and long-term sustainable the job, the better.

The gas industry doesn't provide that. It's a short term industry that will leave a legacy of destruction. Profits go overseas and most of the inputs are imported, including the workers. Instead, we need to be creating jobs for the future rather than allowing a few people to get rich off a dead-end resource. That's why I want the Northern Rivers independent energy retailer concept to get off the ground. This consortium of organisations will hopefully result in an energy retailer that will buy and generate renewable energy and sell it back to the community. Such collaborative and localized initiatives provide excellent opportunities for employment and keep investment in the community. The



Green Scene

very fact that it increases renewable energy generation means it is visionary and forward thinking. A win-win for the environment and the community.

As a region, the Northern Rivers has abundant opportunities for innovative and sustainable jobs. But this requires protecting our natural resources and investing in education. Both of these are under threat by the government's current agenda of gasfield industrialisation and ruthless cuts to education. The imminent privatization of TAFE and universities will mean further job losses to our already

high unemployment region, and less opportunities for people to retrain, get a trade and stay local. When the likes of Tenterfield are in the running to be powered by 100% renewable energy, we are squandering the opportunity to invest in TAFE and the next generation of tradies. With this project potentially saving \$10-15 m in electricity bills a year, and bringing up to \$20 m in new business to an ailing regional town, these projects should be the norm rather than the exception.

We are at a crossroads in where our employment future lies. The mining boom is in decline, and coal is in its death throes. We cannot continue to ride off the resource boom and expect 'business as usual'. Big challenges are yet to come, and it's only by building local, resilient communities that we can weather the storm. By strengthening our regional industries and investing in education, we can encourage people to stay within the region.

As the Greens candidate for the Lismore electorate, I will advocate for renewable energy projects that lead us towards the future we want. As a community we stood together to say no to invasive gasfields. Now we must stand together and say yes to the future we want. For me it's renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism. We've got the natural assets and ingenuity to make it happen. So let's say goodbye to dinosaur politics and embrace a renewable energy future. We'll be the richer for it.

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au



This month's mental well-being tip

"Surround Yourself with Good People"
People with strong family or social connections are generally healthier than those who lack a support network.

Make plans with supportive family members and friends, or seek out activities where you can meet new people, such as a club, class or support group. (www.ubs.umich.edu/tenthings)

Sibley Street fundraising

About \$3500 was raised at the Trivia Night on 17th October. Thanks to Cat for organising, to Gail for her tireless energy, to Max for super MC-ing, to Venessa for selling the door and raffle tix, to all the folks who helped out in the kitchen and to everyone who came along for another fabulous night out. Well done Nimbin!

Look out for the current Sibley Street raffle which is still running: 1st Prize is another gorgeous quilt handmade by Noreen McLean, 2nd and 3rd prizes are one year's subscriptions to *Renew* or *Sanctuary* magazines.

Community Drug Action Team

The next meeting will be at NNIC in the Elmo Room on Thursday 13th November at 1pm.

12th Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner

Wednesday 26th November
Tix are \$20 including dinner (drinks and cakes extra) – available at NNIC. Book early for this very popular annual event to avoid disappointment. Doors open at 6pm, show starts 7.30pm.

Featuring Mandy Nolan and Diana Anaid, and loads of great acts.

The dinner celebrates the start of the annual 16 Days of Activism, a global campaign to raise awareness about violence against women and its impact on a woman's physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being, which begins on 25th November on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends on December 10th, International Human Rights Day.

These two dates highlight that violence against women is a human rights abuse. Human rights cannot be universal without human rights for women.

Family Energy Rebate 2014-15

Up to \$165 towards annual electricity bills for NSW residents who are eligible for the Family Tax Benefit A or B in the 2013/14 year and have lodged their 2013/14 tax return. Applications close on 16 June 2015. To apply, go to: <https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au>

Food Equipment Library renewals

Are you a Food Library member? All memberships fell due on 1 July 2014. Please come into NNIC to renew your membership for \$27.50 inc GST and also your NNIC membership \$5.50. New members = a one off \$55 joining fee plus \$5.50 NNIC membership fee. See Jenny Creasy at the Farmers Markets or else drop into NNIC to pick up membership forms etc.

Food Library fees are charged on

a pro-rata basis, which means if you join in November you will only pay for 7 months' membership (eg \$16 for renewal) until 30th June 2015.

Join NNIC

Become a member and help support NNIC and our activities. It is important that we have a strong membership base to reflect and inform our involvement in the community. Your membership means a lot to us. Only \$5.50, renewable July each year.

Are you struggling with unpaid fines?

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

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

Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to disadvantaged community members. For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region, drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our Community Workers for referrals, support and assistance including material aid. If we can't help, we probably know who can.

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

From the mayor's desk



by Cr Jenny Dowell

Can you believe it's almost the end of the year? They say time is relative and when we get older, the years speed by- well for me they do anyway. I will remember when the Beatles song *When I'm 64* came out and wondering if I'd be around at that old age. Well this month I'm there - and very pleased to be too. The past month at Council has been relatively calm and steady with no major dramas. Among the significant tasks in October were shortlisting, interviews, presentations to Council and selection of a new Executive Director Infrastructure Services. Council has now offered the position to Gary Murphy, who will start in mid-December.

October meeting

The business of the meeting was largely routine Council matters with the main items being our decision to sign the Small Business Friendly Council Charter. We also opted to change our policy



on undetected water leaks and to waive the interest on excess water bills, providing some conditions are met. Often the first time a resident is aware of a leak is when they receive a letter from Council with the bill suggesting that the jump in consumption may be due to a leak. As readers can imagine, it is quite a shock to have to pay excess water charges so a 'time to pay' arrangement is often required. The interest can accumulate so this policy allows the interest to be written off if payments are maintained and the leak is fixed. Another successful motion was to investigate options for bike lanes in the CBD and to communicate the message to cyclists and skateboarders to 'walk your bike, carry your board' on the footpaths to make that space safer for all.

Closed sessions

Council only closes its meetings if there are items to debate that relate to ratepayer hardship, commercial in confidence matters or personnel. At the October meeting we had all three. Ratepayer hardship matters are regularly determined by Councillors and we usually hear directly from the claimant who is requesting consideration for hardship. It is a deeply personal matter and each Council can

struggle with his/her decision.

Regional

Readers will recall that I have previously written about the reform of local government and that change is inevitable. The six Councils of NOROC have put up our hands to be one of four pilots for a new structure known as a Joint Organisation. The pilot comes with some incentives such as a \$300,000 grant and external support. In the next issue I hope I can tell you we have been successful and we will then start the process of determining our own future as a group of Councils rather than have someone else's model thrust upon us. In other NOROC news, I have been elected interim President following the change of Mayor in the Tweed. Our AGM is on November 7 and I will re-nominate as the President for the year ahead.

Electric vehicle

The general manager and I really enjoyed our trip to Nimbin on Oct 29. It was our first trip in the new electric vehicle (EV) and came about on the invitation from the Rainbow Power Company. We drove it to RPC for a recharge and then parked it in Cullen Street to allow residents to look under the bonnet and talk about how it performs and operates. The EV is usually parked at the Wyrallah Road Resource Recovery Facility and is powered by the large solar panel array on the Materials Recovery Facility. It can also run off

a 15V power supply but we try and keep it fully powered by the sun.

Chamber of Commerce

The day after the deadline for *Good Times* I'm heading to Nimbin again for the Chamber of Commerce meeting. Peter Wise and his Chamber do a great job and work closely with Council on issues related to Nimbin's business community. In recent times, our staff have been working with the Chamber on a survey to identify the impacts of the fire with the aim of receiving financial assistance to meet the identified challenges.

Nimbin Advisory Group

On November 6, the Nimbin Advisory Group meets again to discuss a wide variety of issues including the draft waste report following the recent survey of residents and businesses and the Nimbin Recovery process after the fire.

Rural forum

Council's rural forums are held in various locations several times each year and generally have dwindling attendances by local residents. Each year on the third Monday in November, all Councillors attend the Nimbin Rural Forum where upwards of twenty residents meet to discuss local issues of concern. On Monday November 17th we will be in the School Of Arts at 7pm to meet with you all, so I hope you can join us.

Blue Moon Cabaret

On a personal note, Ron and I and a group of eight friends are looking forward to the last Blue Moon Cabaret of the year on Saturday November 15. All but one of our group has attended previous Cabarets and all of us are looking forward to a terrific night.

Cricket

Finally, Lismore is delighted to host 8 international teams competing in the ICC East-Asia Pacific Twenty20 Men's Trophy cricket tournament from November 19-23. The teams from Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Cook Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea are competing for a place in the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier in Scotland next year. If you are in Lismore, try and catch a game of this thrilling form of cricket at Oakes, Heaps, Blair and Mortimer Ovals. After the T20 tournament, there will also be some 50 over games.

Council questions

If residents have questions and concerns about Council matters, there are many ways to make contact. Phoning 1300-878-387 is the quickest but there is also Live Chat during office hours on the Council website: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au or email: Council@lismore.nsw.gov.au or facebook and twitter. You can contact me via Nimbin Hook Ups, my own facebook page, email: Jenny.Dowell@lismore.nsw.gov.au or phone 6625-0403.

Simon says...

by Cr Simon Clough, Lismore City Council

Council's annual Nimbin Community Meeting is coming up on Monday 17th November at 7pm. This will be my seventh Nimbin meeting and I'm looking forward to it as always.

At Lismore Council's last meeting, I put forward a motion requesting that Council express its concern over the government's proposed reduction or even abolition of the Renewable Energy Target (RET). Council is preparing a Renewable Energy Master Plan that aims at being energy independent by 2020. This plan is under threat if the RET is changed. Up front, the Council's Farming the Sun Project could lose \$73,000 if the RET is abolished. It is estimated that changes to the RET could cost the average homeowner \$3,000 extra to install solar panels to meet their needs. The impacts on the local solar industry will be disastrous. Already the renewable energy industry has had a 70% reduction in investment because of uncertainty. Unfortunately Councillors Scheibel, Meineke, Marks,

Bennett and Battista opposed the motion.

I recently spent seven days traveling around 3,000kms talking to seven community meetings at Mullaley, Bellata, Narrabri, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran, Coonamble and Wee Waa, with a team of four others. We talked about the threats of unconventional gas and the advantages of non-violent direct action. Our reception was generally excellent. A high proportion of people were prepared to take action to contribute to stopping the mining.

It's hard to understand the thinking which encourages invasive gas and coal mining in one of the most productive food producing areas in the world, the Liverpool Plains. Even if the farmers are not in close proximity to the mining they could be devastated by the drop in their underground water levels or even more critically, the possible contamination of the Great Artesian Basin, one of the largest underground water resources in the world. One farmer explained to me his whole 8,000-acre farm and hundreds of farms like it are totally dependent on bore



water. If that water is lost or contaminated they literally only have enough time to get their livestock off the land and to walk away.

Another farmer I talked to said that if the Shenhua coal project were to go ahead their water bore would drop 167 metres, according to the company's figures. This impact would make her farm totally unviable.

Under these circumstances, it's easy to understand why farmers who are traditionally conservative and who wouldn't normally think of 'rocking the boat' are prepared and in some cases eager to engage in non-violent direct action to stop the mining.

I've been at a number of forums lately, including the Local Government Conference where well informed people have been singing the praises of Lismore City Council's recycling efforts. If you

would like to see our new \$3.64 million Material Recovery Facility (MRF) there is an open day on Sunday, 9th November from 9am-2pm at the Recycling and Recovery Centre.

Amalgamation, or merging as the government refers to it, is definitely on the agenda with the government committing to no forced mergers at least up to the election in March. Call me simple, but I fail to see how merging two struggling Councils does anything other than create a larger struggling Council which is even more isolated from its community. To my mind, lack of resources is the overwhelming problem of local government. This is not a problem that will be solved by 'merging'.

Wishing you all a wonderful spring.

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

National's Petrol Tax will hurt



by Justine Elliot, MP for Richmond

As your local MP, I'll always stand up for you and your family against the National Party's unfair cuts and tax increases. We've seen the National Party cut pensions and introduce the unfair \$7 doctor tax.

Just recently we also saw the National Party put up petrol prices. This is another harsh tax that will hurt the people of our region and locals are rightly calling this the National Party Petrol Tax.

The Abbott Liberal National Government has bypassed Parliament to raise petrol prices in the latest attack on regional Australia.

This is an unfair \$2.2 billion petrol tax increase with no thought for regional and rural Australia and it will hit families on the North Coast the hardest.

Regional and rural areas like ours have limited public transport and people have to travel further for many activities. I will continue to stand with the community and fight against the National Party Petrol Tax.

\$100,000 University Degrees

Bill Shorten recently launched a national campaign to stop Tony Abbott and the Liberal National Party's \$100,000 university degrees from becoming a reality for Australian students.

I encourage local students, parents and grandparents on the North Coast to stand with Labor against the Americanisation of higher education. A university degree should depend on hard work and good marks, not your parent's bank balance.

Tony Abbott and the Liberal National Party want to take Australia down the path of a two-tier higher education system. The Americanisation of our universities will put a degree beyond the reach of many young people. That's not fair, and Labor will fight these changes.

A degree shouldn't be a debt sentence for students on the North Coast. Australia needs an education system that gives every young Australian the opportunity to fulfil their full potential. More information at: www.nodebtsentence.org.au

“Petrol prices to soar in November”

Source: Redland City Bulletin, 28 October 2014

NATIONALS
PETROL
TAX

HURTING
PEOPLE
LIVING IN
REGIONAL
AUSTRALIA

Authorised by Justine Elliot 107 Minjungbal Drive Tweed Heads South

**YOU'RE
PAYING FOR
THE NATIONALS'
LIES**

“MOTORISTS will be forced to pay up to \$325 more for petrol over the next four years after a sneaky \$2.2 billion tax grab by the Abbott Government”

Source: Abbott Government's fuel tax raid on drivers
Herald Sun, 28 October 2014

Revisiting Lagartillo (part 2)

by Warwick Fry

The people

In the Nicaraguan countryside the day starts early. The 5.30am bus leaves Aчуapa for Esteli, three hours away through the mountains. It makes a drop 20 minutes up the road at the turnoff to Lagartillo.

It was a cold-water-splash start to the day for me; at the bus in time for a seat. Nice, for a change to be watching others file on, eyes tracking for the free space. I'm in that 4.30am zone of still waking, half dreaming, inventing speculative histories to the parade of passengers. "If this were a movie," I thought through somnolent eyes, "... that brisk young woman with the wire rimmed glasses would be the local schoolteacher..." And so I passed the time.

The leather-faced, diminutive campesino with the high hat and the calico bag of who-knows-what... the adolescent nervously wearing an almost new faultlessly ironed jean... The overlap of history and fiction. Except that the fiction was mine. The history was theirs.

At the Lagartillo turnoff four or five passengers alighted with me. We milled around for a few moments. Me, to heft my backpack, the others to exchange news and gossip with people who had come to meet the bus, or to catch the ride to Esteli. Suddenly the young woman with the wire-rimmed glasses turned to me.

"Excuse me. Are you Vorig?"

'Vorig' was the way Nicaraguans said my name. 'Warwick' was a difficult one to explain. (Even English speakers have trouble with the second 'w').

I blinked a couple of times. "Umm... yes."

"Yo soy 'Balta.'" Then, seeing me still recovering from confusion, added "Baltazara".

Then it clicked into place. Balthazar – sister to Hermelinda, the other little girl, happily busying herself with kitchen duties, or playing jacks by the light of a kerosene lamp. Another rush of 25 years of memory. Faces lit up. And of course, she was now the local schoolteacher.

"Come, you must see Florentina. We will surprise her..."

There was a lot of catching up – who had married who, who had left the community, whose were the prolific, energetic teenagers that seemed to be everywhere. Balta herself had two sons about the age she was when I had last seen her.

But the older residents were unchanged. Florentina, some gray now in her long waist-length hair, her movements slow and deliberate. Still the same serene dignified

woman, the gentle soul of the place, calmly going about the tasks of her immaculately kept dirt floor kitchen, pausing occasionally to make an observation, or ask me what I thought about the new design of the clay wood-stove, or the large wooden bench someone had made for her, tilted at one end so that waste water would run off into a bucket.

Florentina's kitchen is still a quietly peaceful social space. Neighbors would drop in, exchange news, or buy some of Florentina's white cheese, that she made every morning. And Juan, the young boy crippled by polio, now sporting an impressive black beard, still sat up in his wheelchair, observing all, missing nothing.

Juan had survived the contra attack by crawling into the crudely camouflaged bomb shelter (at that time he did not yet have his wheelchair), where he hid for two days before the survivors came back to find him. Now he is the collective memory of the community, with an incredible ability to recall details of long past events.

"That was in the time of Klaus," he would prompt, as Florentina and I reminisced about some long past event; or "That was in the time of Mauricio, when..." It was Florentina's way of marking the historical time of the community – the 'internationalists' who came and stayed in the community for months, or even years.

I remember Juan was an avid reader of the rare newspaper that arrived. I asked him if he still liked reading, and he proudly told me that he was now the custodian of the small library in the new school.

Amancio too, had changed but little. A big, bear-like, slow-spoken man, he was looked up to as a kind of de-facto community leader. He was usually consulted on community issues, and his advice often sought. I noticed that he looked a little stooped as he rode up on his mule, but he swung off the saddle easily and I noticed that he hefted the 15 kilo bags of beans off the saddle one-handed.

He walked me around the community, pointing out the changes, the new dwellings, the lost corn crop blighted by this year's drought. Stopping off at his son's adobe house with the round windows for some cool water he pointed out gourd shells covering the earthenware pitchers. "We like to keep using the gourd shells to drink from. It reminds the younger ones of where we come from."

I recollected the family games and time of quiet conversation around the light of kerosene lamps after the evening meal.

"Some households still do



Amancio



Ermelinda's kitchen



Lagartillo Shrine



Amancio

that," he said. Then he smiled wryly. "Since we got mains electricity, a lot of families got television. So people don't talk about things, like politics, as much as they used to. You can hear the neighbours' television turned on all hours." I flashed to a memory of the men getting ready for guard duty (there were three four-hour shifts through the night, to prevent another surprise attack from the contras) leaning on their 'Ackas' (AK47s) and listening for the world news when I tuned in my shortwave transistor radio. Most of us were in bed by 9pm, for the 4am start to the day next

morning. On my last night, a surprise party in Florentina's kitchen was organised. The 'next' generation of the community had formed a talented acoustical musical group. "Los Rusticos", that had won prizes in Nicaraguan song competitions. The songwriter would soon be on his way to Venezuela on a scholarship. Alcides had ridden in from another community 20 kilometers away when he heard that I was visiting, and young Tingo, the voice of the band, hammered out powerful songs about protecting the environment with his 12-year old lungs.

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Blue Moon Cabaret

Nimbin School of Arts will present its final 2014 Blue Moon Cabaret on Saturday 15th November with yet another fantastic array of artistes covering an amazing range of the performance arts.

The big dance ensemble LaSalsa will share the stage with the hip hop Barkersvale Steppers, singer Sarah Stando will feature, along with Essie Thomas,

Siskin River (pictured), and the Renee Simone Trio.

Acrobats Hartje Hout and Emma McGovern will be doing aerial performances, and hopefully Darcy Grant, hot from the Berlin cabaret stage.

Uke maestro Azo Bell will be there along with Peter, Paul and Mandy, wild poet Lenno and stand up Sergio Banbullshit...and more.

The show, which is a major



fundraiser for the School of Arts, is fully catered by Loving Spoonful, and licensed (no BYO).

Tickets and table reservations are selling out fast, available at Perceptio, phone 6689-1766.

Steve Tyson and The New Felons



With a musical pedigree that includes playing in Chuck Berry's touring band, supporting legendary rockers Status Quo on a 31-date tour of the UK, plus six European tours and seven albums as guitarist/mandolin player with Australian folk-rock band Rough Red, Steve Tyson has mined his well of experience to create his second solo album *Green Side Up*.

For much of the inspiration

for this new record, Steve had to look no further than his family history and extensive travels, with stories of turmoil, war and murder intertwined with matters of the heart.

Steve delivers live with passion, humour and soul, accompanied by his fine touring band The New Felons. Catch him at the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 30th November.

The Swamps visit Nimbin



The Byron Bay two-piece The Swamps visit Nimbin Hotel on Friday 21st November.

Tarantino movie soundtracks, surf music, old gritty swamp blues sounds and hot rock'n'rollin' is the business these guys are in.

They've appeared at the 2014 Blues and Roots Festival, become resident crowd pleasers at the Great Northern Hotel, and their single, *Treating Me Good* is out now on Triple J unearthed.



Ukitopia Arts Collective and Ukind Healing Arts Collective are presenting a Dance Day in Uki.

Keep Sunday 16th November free for a spectacular dance event to be held at the Uki primary school in the Uki village.

The day will run as a series of 1-hour workshops with

something for everyone.

Individuals, couples... everyone over 12 is invited to participate. Cost will be \$5 per workshop or \$20 for the entire day. A real gift to give yourself.

The program is:
10am Sacred Circle Dancing.
11am Capoeira.
12pm Tango.
1pm Belly Dancing
2pm Sacred Fusion.
3pm Old Time Elegance (partner dancing)

Ukind Dance Day has been planned to coincide with our monthly Buttery Bazaar Market and the Images of Uki Art Exhibition and is part of the Ukitopia Creative Weekend (for info go to: www.ukitopia.org).

So why not come along and treat yourself to a taste of the creative community in Uki?

LEPERS & CROOKS + BAREFOOT ALLEY



Five-piece, anthemic rock outfit Lepers and Crooks have been blurring the lines of genre in Sydney's live music scene since forming in 2012.

Great mates who all went to boarding school together, their sound is a perfectly executed collaboration between cohesive vocal harmonies, contemporary metal riffs, funk rhythms and commanding rock drumming.

They are playing an extensive 30-date Australian tour with Barefoot Alley, a 'take-no-prisoners' rock duo. Though they are a two-piece, Brisbane siblings Hayden and Sophie play loud, heavy riffs that will shake you to your core, as well as soft melodic tunes. With a heap of stellar shows under their belt, Barefoot Alley create an energetic and eye catching performance that has stunned audiences all over Australia.

The two bands will be playing the Aussie Hotel, Ballina on Saturday 8th November; Nimbin Hotel on Thursday 13th; and the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay on Friday 14th.

The Acfields album launch

Acclaimed brother and sister duo, The Acfields are launching their self-titled album with a four-state tour of their sweetly rocking original songs, full of wry observations and emotion.

The Acfields started as a side project for Dan and Hannah, both of whom had successful solo careers as songwriters and performers. They've since received wide acclaim, including a spot in the 4ZZZ Hottest 100.

They are veterans of many national tours, and will be supporting Joan Armatrading



on 13th December at Twin Towns in Tweed Heads.

The Acfields are performing on Saturday, 8th November, 7.30pm at the New Tattersalls Hotel, Lismore. Entry is \$15 / \$10 as a Northern Rivers Greens fundraiser.

The Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre
 Invites You to
 The
**12th Annual
 Nimbin Women's Dinner**
 Wednesday 26th November
 Nimbin Town Hall

Raffles
 Music
 Comedy
 Door Prize

Featuring:
 Diana Anaid
 Mandy Nolan

Tickets for dinner and show \$20
 Dinner 6pm Entertainment 7.30

Celebrating 16 Days of Activism from Nov 25 to Dec 10

Tickets available at the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre



AKoVA

Utilising vocals, guitars, ukulele, Cajon, djembe, ankle bells and other percussive instruments, most played at once, AKoVA's signature blend of acoustic rhythmic roots comes from a life of music, with tribal drumming, driving rhythms and lyrics that make you glad to be alive.

AKoVA will be performing on 23rd November at Sphinx Rock Cafe, and on 12th December at Byron Bay Beach Hotel.



Eastwood

Watch out for the up and coming band, Eastwood, playing Nimbin Hotel on Friday 28th November.

This is a great live 4-piece band, very danceable, with all-original songs by lead singer Marc Fruean. They blend and fuse a range of genres – blues, soul, rock, pop, jazz, reggae and even a little disco – to create a

head-nodding, foot-tapping wall of grooves.

The band is gaining quite a following with its easy style and great charm, and is venturing out on tour after very successful performances in Brisbane and the Gold Coast as well as around the Tweed.

See you on the dance floor!



Come and feast your eyes on the best pole dancer in Australia, circus like you've never seen it, male erotic dancing, spectacular live projections, a fashion show and sexy pop-up shop of Raw Designs Fashion.

This year everything made from previous shows and new designs as well will be on sale. This might be your new evening glamour wear or New Year's Eve outfit.

A dazzling mega production from Tone Wonderland-Crystal Grid, with projections, sound and lighting – it's sensational.

If you want to strut your stuff on the catwalk, you have your chance with the exciting best dressed competition and naughty prizes to be won, compliments of The Pleasure Consultant (<http://pleasureconsultant.com>).

Last year's show in Nimbin Hall was brilliant and this year will be a dazzling spectacular. So don't miss out on the biggest and best show at Nimbin Town Hall, on Saturday 6th December. Get your ticket and seat booked in now.

Tickets available from 44 Cullen Street Nimbin or online at: <http://rawdesigns.bigcartel.com>

LILLIFIELD SOIRÉE A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER



Local singer songwriter and performer Andrea Soler is teaming up with well-known local favourites The Romaniacs and S Sorrensen to host a soiree at the Lillifield Community Centre in Wadeville on Saturday 6th December.

With a focus on music, comedy, food and festivity, this will be a wonderful evening under the full moon to celebrate this vibrant community. All funds raised will go towards exciting projects planned for Lillifield including a bush tucker and rainforest garden, a sculpted driveway entrance, and renovations to the community hall.

Opening the night will be S Sorrensen – his flashing wit and sense of being born into a world he never created (like Howard the Duck) have made his comedy as thoughtful as it is funny. Andrea Soler and James Ross (pictured) will be sharing stories and songs from their extensive travels and touring throughout Europe and Australia, evoking the spirit of the troubadour with an essence of joie de vivre. The Romaniacs will be bringing their Gypsy-flared, Latin and Celtic-fused grooves to the dance floor, which promises to be an energetic and passionate performance.

The Lillifield Soiree is on Saturday, 6th December. Doors open and food available from 6pm. Tickets: Adult \$15, kids over 10 years \$5, free entry for kids under 10 years. Numbers are limited. For ticket enquires and more information, please contact Andrea on: andreasolermusic@gmail.com



LUCKY WONDERS

With some heart-melting new songs and a gospel choir in tow, the Northern Rivers' favourite alt-folk all-stars The Lucky Wonders are back at their favourite cafe in the hills of paradise, Sphinx Rock Cafe.

Picked by world music label Putumayo as 'standout contemporary artists' along with Gurrumul, Paul Kelly, Archie Roach, The Waifs and Xavier Rudd, our lovely local Luckies are now featured on Putumayo's new

'Australia' compilation album, something we can all be proud of. Sunday 9th November sees The Lucky Wonders, with Tuntable bass legend Brent Calcutt, making their annual and much loved visit to Sphinx Rock Cafe from 1pm.

Be early to catch the amazing 40-strong gospel/eco-soul Raise the Roof Choir, featuring the moving and inspirational Lock the Gate adapted anthem *Do You Need Power?* by your local singing blockader, Mr Gaz Moore.



Trombone Kellie and the Muddy Roaders

Ms Kellie and her Muddy Roaders (Scrubby Pete on guitar and vocals, Michel Voets on bass and vocals, Hilton Fatt on banjo, Derek Siddon on trumpet and Matt Elliott on drums) are a 'must-see' live 6-piece band with a twist of Blues, Jazz/Swing, Gospel, Country, Rockabilly and much more.

The group features passionate vocals, raunchy horns and swinging guitar, their repertoire will lift and delight any mood. Young and old alike will find themselves singing and swinging to some classic familiar tunes and more.

Trombone Kellie and her



love affair with blues, jazz and swing, 'Blazz Swing' enchants audiences as she expresses both powerful and inspirational vocals alongside her sensual, melodic trombone. Enhanced by trademark rockabilly and blues styles, along with smart animated vocals and slick slide guitar, this band is one not to be missed.

Sunday November 30, 2pm-5pm at Lismore City Bowling Club. \$15 / \$10 Members.

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Sunday Gig Guide

November 1pm start

9th Lucky Wonders & Gospel Choir
Singer-songwriter duo Jessie Vintila and Emma Royle will warm your hearts with their gentle, melodic harmonies and folk-pop arrangements

16th CC the Cat
CC's addictive songs push genre boundaries from reggae, ska and dancehall to funk and soul, acoustic rock and twist of jazz

23rd Akova
This one man roots machine is adventurous and playful.

30th Steve Tyson
Inspired by a lifetime of extensive travels through exotic locations

Dec 7th Murray Kyle
Powerfully tender performances of this esteemed songwriter have established him in the roots music scene

Nimbin Hotel & Backpackers

53 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Ph: 6689-1246



November Gigs

Friday 7th	7.30pm	Bassix
Saturday 8th	6pm	A.Z.U.R
Sunday 9th	5pm	Brommers
Thursday 13th	6.30pm	Lepers and Crooks
Friday 14th	7.30pm	Broadfoot
Saturday 15th	6.30pm	Trevor Green
Sunday 16th	5pm	Vikki Grant
Thursday 20th	6.30pm	Bo Jenkins
Friday 21st	7.30pm	The Swamps
Saturday 22nd	6.30pm	Toni Swain
Sunday 23rd	5pm	Cisco Caesar
Thursday 27th	6.30pm	Surf Report
Friday 28th	7.30pm	Eastwood
Saturday 29th	6.30pm	TBA
Sunday 30th	5pm	Adam Brown

All Gigs are Free of Charge

JOKER POKER EVERY THURSDAY EVENING

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

Changing perceptions

Ironically Yours
by Dionne May

Nimbin. Never before have I lived in a town that reflects so many varied perceptions. One man's paradise is certainly another man's hell here. My friend recently told me that her niece from

Germany was arriving soon. My friend was anxious. "Should I warn her about Nimbin?" she laughed self-consciously as we stood in the warm sunshine on the colourful streets of our town, rainbow sarongs fluttering in the wind. "Why not let her come here

unhindered by other people's perceptions of Nimbin? Look around you, isn't our town beautiful? Let her experience what she finds. That's the magic of Nimbin!" I responded.

You see I love this town. To me she is like a big old dog. Sometimes cranky and irritable but sometimes so warm and loveable you could just melt into her. Sure she has fleas, lots of them. Sure she's more mutt than pedigree, a bit smelly, a few teeth are missing and dreadlocks have formed on her once glossy coat. But I love her as I gently brush the nastier ticks away, massage her aching bones and give the old girl a pat whenever I can. She's a little hard to handle, but left alone she will lie in the sun, tolerantly petted by tourists. Another day, another tourist gets bitten. That's life.

The next day a different dog appears... a sniffer dog! Accompanying him are sixty or more heavily armed police officers charging military style through our quiet "Oasis" cafe. "Hands on the tables where we can see them" they order our clearly traumatised customers. With the owner absent, I am



reluctantly served the search warrant. I am informed of my rights, made to read the warrant and with a police video camera in my face, identified for legal purposes. *Shit!* I just went to work to do my six-hour cooking shift. I feel sick in my stomach.

The whole process takes about two hours. The Medicine Man is brutally man-handled. The owner's 15-year old daughter and her friend are searched... "But my Mum isn't here," she protests in vain. All the food I've prepared for the day sits unsold. The town is deserted except for all the cops and a few stray, bewildered tourists

wandering the streets.


Interesting perceptions of Nimbin that day.

So when a Peace Protest Against Human Rights Violations was organised last week, I walked shoulder to shoulder with my vibrant community to reflect our own perceptions. What we have here is mighty. Our unity and tolerance as a community is easily and often experienced and is the true reason I believe that people love Nimbin. Unfortunately the media-tainted perception of Nimbin translated into our government deploying its police force against this small

community in a manner both frightening and shockingly disrespectful. Friends and their children's rights were totally ignored and everyone callously treated like criminals.

With time and experience, most perceptions change. This old hippy 'drug town' could, in the future, be renown as the producers of the finest medical tinctures and products in the world. That old dog might just be the most loyal friend you will ever know. And that old smoker's cafe might just be the most memorable Nimbin experience you will have.. depending on the day!

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Did you know?



All our links are clickable in the web edition. Visit www.nimbingoodtimes.com and click away!

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*Ixodes Holocyclus. Females responsible for Paralysis. Male non toxic

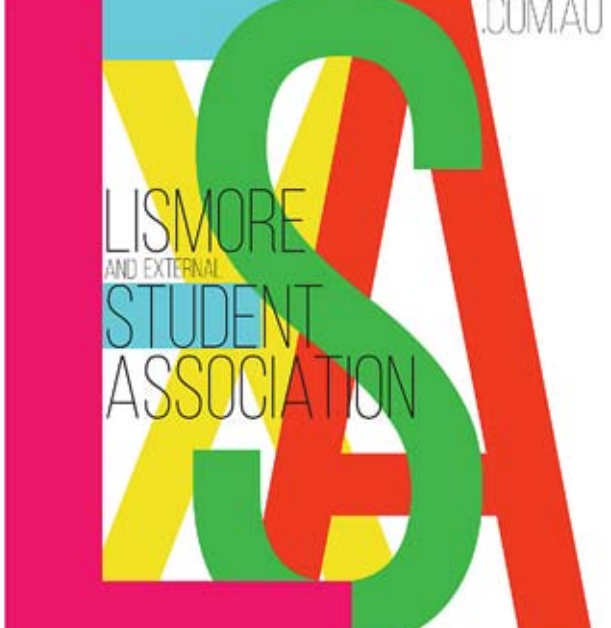



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From the Woodenbong hills



by Marilyn Scott

When a lot's happened it takes a while to catch up. It's really felt like that the last few days. When parts of your psyche start shifting you feel different, being neither here or there. But some place that's still unfolding... it's a strange kind of feeling.

I've been away a lot recently, but for years I rarely left my sacred space, it was needed. Then the forestry work began; a new chapter, new learning. It was great to be back in Adelaide, to experience the abundance of love and support; I've missed that here. Well, it's been a massive healing time, and time alone with the Sacred Mother has been my gift. But I can feel a new chapter has begun.

I'd planned to attend the Beyond Coal and Gas weekend and do a workshop there, but I got sick and had to cancel. I don't normally get flu, but whatever this was stopped me for a while.

I had to cancel my flight till I was well enough to fly. So much happened during those nine days; so many serendipitous moments, old, old memories surfacing, insightful visions and experiences of old painful emotions. Eclipse time! The day after the Eclipse I 'came back'. I hadn't realized where I'd been until then.

It was the last day. I'd rebooked my flight. I flashed on the ocean, 'I want to see the ocean again'. Next I was packed and on my way down the hill, on my way to Brighton beach. My friend met me at the station, we drove to her place. I was tired, still very weary from this virus thing... I had a nap. It was 5pm when I woke up. The beach, I wanted to go to the beach. Of course someone was leaving and driving that way, so I hopped into the car.

So wonderful to have my feet in the sand, even if the wind was furious and icy cold. There were a few brave walkers on the beach. I'd only taken a few steps when I saw him, huddled tightly on the sand, the wind almost blowing him away. It was a bird I didn't recognise; he was quite rounded, with black feathers and webbed feet. I stopped to ask him how he was. I wasn't sure



he was still alive, I gently touched him on the tail; was that a movement? Or was it just the wind? I stayed a while, then thinking there was nothing I could do, I continued to walk. Only a few steps when I realized I couldn't leave him. At least I can sit with him, he won't be alone, I thought. I went back and cradled my body around him to protect him from the wind. I held my hands over his body, giving him warmth and healing energy. For ages he didn't move. I continued to talk to him, asking him where he'd come from, where was his home. The wind was icy cold and blowing furiously. I asked people who walked by if there was a wildlife carer nearby... most just looked at me and shook their head.

I gently touched his head; he moved... he's alive, just. I phone my friend, to Google

wildlife carers for me... she texted me two numbers. The first told me the bird sounded like a mutton bird, a shearwater, a migratory bird, who flies great distances. She told me to ring the maritime wildlife carer, I did. He said he'd send someone but it might take a while. The wind was icy. I phoned my friend again, asked her if she could bring down a box for the bird. She did and he scrambled in all by himself. He's moving! Two hours later, no-one had arrived, my friend concerned I'd get pneumonia, we take the bird to the local vet.

The depth of love and heart connection I felt with that beautiful bird, I'll never forget. He responded fully to me, for a while we merged. It was powerful and real. He stayed with me all the way home. What an amazing finale to my trip. I've heard he's doing well.

Tamworth Cannabis Symposium presents a major opportunity

Nimbin HEMP Embassy recognises the Inaugural Australian Medical Cannabis Symposium in Tamworth as an excellent achievement by Lucy Haslam and her family.

"The event will provide a unique opportunity to share knowledge and for us all to move forward in understanding Cannabis and its potential as medicine. It's a terrific program", said HEMP President Michael Balderstone.

"So too in Uruguay, the government invited Cannabis experts from countries where it's legal and the whole nation was involved in the discussion. It could be similar in NSW and I hope the weekend has plenty of public involvement and Tamworth's regional entertainment centre will be filled," he said.

"A delegation from the HEMP Embassy will attend and we trust that everyone will be on their best behaviour! There is a lot of resentment about the criminal stigma associated with Cannabis use, but we are all pleased to see the issue on the political agenda."

"We are encouraging medical users to come along, as well as growers and breeders, in fact anyone involved in the Cannabis industry. Collectively we have learnt plenty in the last fifty years, but we will be all ears and it's a rare gathering of experts from countries where medical supply is legal."

"We believe we have plenty to offer as the actual consumers of the plant, but will not be pushing our agenda so much but still hoping to be heard at some point."

Topics that we would like to see included but are often missed, include the difference between hydroponic and outdoor organic Cannabis; smoking with tobacco, which is rife in Australia; and the dangers of synthetic cannabis, especially in mining camps where it evades drug testing."

The symposium will be held on 21st & 22nd November at venues in Tamworth. For details and bookings, go to: www.unitedincompassion.com.au



The Ton Run & other stories

by Lester Brien

Reviewed by Maxx Maxted

Lester Brien is the original surfer/lawyer with all the personal background details to make his own life as intriguing as his writing.

Brien was a finalist at the 1968 Australian Surfing titles and was for many years the lawyer of choice for many surfers busted under anti-cannabis laws. In 1979, the Wood Royal Commission into the drugs trade demanded his client list and records of 96 of his clients suspected of dealing in drugs, which he refused. He was sentenced to spend six months in prison, where Brien was seen as 'staunch' by criminals, an accolade not given to many lawyers.

His previous work, *Byron Connection* based on his some of his experiences, sold a healthy 25,000 copies. A best-seller by Australian standards.

This selection comprises a novella, *Ton Run*, and three short stories, *Trouble on the road to Manali*, an intrepid traveller's tale from the Himalaya, *Grunt*, a brief sketch of a bloke you'd want on your side in a stoush, and *Dingo Stalk*, a credible bush scenario which diverts to a short rave on Dieldren in the final paragraph for an unfathomable reason. They are all taste tests to Brien's preoccupations with surfing, fencing and the illegal cannabis trade.

The title of the main story, *Ton Run*, falls curiously on the eye, intriguing, rhyming perhaps with 'Fun Run'.

Ton Run is a fast-paced page-turner which deals with the growing cannabis market and a farmer's attempt to save the farm while providing for his son's future. The novella is peopled with characters whose names, Woodfield, Oldfield and Whitehouse, Harwood and Hargreaves, are too near together. I would have liked a Smith or Jones in there somewhere, to differentiate them.

Clunky phrasing and wavy-screened flashbacks are not to my personal taste. For example, "and our friend Carl Peterson, the timber worker

who we last saw bullying a new settler outside the Great Northern Hotel, was having a considerable influence on the game," does not help the suspension of disbelief necessary to the cohesive exposition of a drama.

Brien's use of 'cast members' names before their speech in the body of the piece is also off-putting. It is as emotionally distant as reading a court transcript of an event:

Michelle: "And you expect me to come with you?"

Hargreaves: "What else are you going to do?"

Michelle: "Great life, isn't it? On the lam with Mr Big." But she was already moving to get out of bed and dressed.

Michelle was a good-looking brunette in her early thirties. She slept nude, and as she moved around the room she displayed her innate athleticism.

Hargreaves slapped her on the bum.

Hargreaves: "Damn sight more exciting than the last fella you were with. What was his name? Edward Tosselhead the Third, wasn't it?"

Michelle (pouting): "He had plenty of money, honey."

Ton Run was a fun run for a few pages and might provide some insight to the uninitiated. For my personal taste, I was left with a feeling of observing from a safe distance, rather than being personally involved in the drama.

HEMP HEADLINES

It's doctor's orders: Haslam slams AMA as fears mount of medical marijuana delay [Northern Daily Leader]

A Tamworth medical marijuana crusader has launched a scathing broadside at the Australian Medical Association (AMA) amid fears cannabis medicine legalisation could be "many years away". The NSW government this month announced it would conduct clinical trials into marijuana's effectiveness in treating a range of conditions, a move some are viewing as a delaying tactic to legalisation due to pressure from the powerful doctors' lobby group. Just 10 weeks out from its trial report deadline, the government is yet to even publicly announce who is on its working party. The AMA is staunchly against legalising – or even trialling – the raw plant or any of its oils for medical use, instead backing only cannabis-based pharmaceuticals. In New Zealand, where cannabis pharmaceuticals are already available, an average prescription costs patients about \$1000 a month. Tamworth mum and medical marijuana advocate Lucy Haslam said she suspected the AMA was doing the bidding of large pharmaceutical companies. "I am extremely concerned by the AMA and I believe they are being unhealthily influenced by the pharmaceutical industry," Mrs Haslam said.

Undacuva: G420

The G20, or as the newly confident hempsters are calling it, the G420, is causing our TL quite a few headaches (that's Team Leader of course). There's been quite a few missives from the Russian Embassy over the last weeks, and every one of them has mentioned weed.

Seems the bear wrestler likes a toke or two himself, and ever since our TL's letter to Alan Jones, the Ruski's are teasing the hell out of Tony. The hardest bit is that no-one is too sure where the teasing begins or ends. Does Putin really smoke weed? Yes, he is being told by ASIO, but even they were grinning when they gave the advice.

Apparently for his birthday recently, the Russian leader was dropped off in the middle of nowhere with a few friends, no media, no food, plenty of hunting equipment and a big bag of weed. No-one quite knows what's true or not.

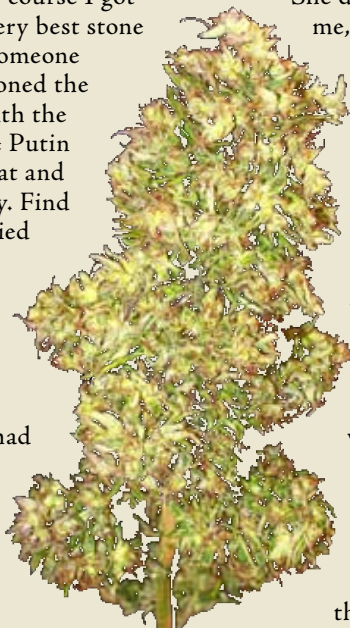
There are rumours he was hunting Anastasia herself, the Ringing Cedars forest nymph who is leading a back-to-the-earth quiet revolution in his homeland. Is she for real or not? It is a question that haunts him. He doesn't like uncertainty.

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

I know all this because of course I got the request to supply the very best stone I could lay my hands on. Someone has to do it! At first I reckoned the Afghani hash coming in with the troops was it, but of course Putin will have any amount of that and Tony himself said, "No way. Find me something he's never tried please. It has to be grown and bred here, dear."

I was in Parliament House as a drab middle-aged aunt for security reasons, but I think Tony had no idea I was dressed up. It was clearly top secret, and there were only five of us in the room. He turned to the others. "Am I on the right page here?"



She doesn't look like a dooper to me, team?"

"I'm Undacuva Sir," I blurted out.

"Oh, of course," he said, giving me the weirdest of looks. Like he really drilled into me and for a brief moment I saw, or I thought I saw, a totally paranoid little boy Tony, who had no idea what was going on, or who was who anymore. It was like he used to know, but now the whole train was unravelling and what was true or not was completely muddled. Was that little Tony looking for mummy?

So now I'm back around the fire that never goes out

at Pipe's camp, telling him the story, and wondering what he thinks we should give the Ruski's to smoke. "Skunk is skunk across the world," says Pipe. "Travellers send me seeds of the latest strains and they all do the magic, they all take you across the rainbow divide. We do have the Aussie sun though, which clearly no one else has."

So we decided on a Cleverman Black Orchid cross, and we used the very top bud to roll two big joints. One straight and one sprinkled with dry powdered gold-tops. Pipe carefully drew three mushrooms around the filter on one so there was no mistaking which was which.

HipiLeaks: Canberra, Nov 2014

Russian Consulate letter to PM. Our Team Leader is wondering if your Team Leader will have time to do a little hunting with him when he visits Brisbane next month? Mr Putin loves helicopters and would be equally happy shooting kangaroos (which he has never shot before) or hunting hippies growing pot plantations. Mr Putin is very fond of his evening pipe and asks if you would bring along some Aussie primo to compare with his Russian skunk?

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