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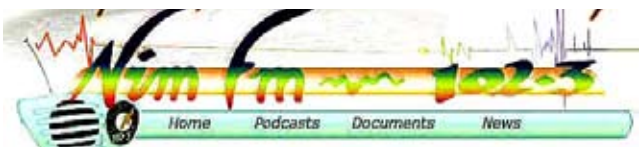
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## New enterprises revitalise Nimbin



Business confidence in Nimbin has not been quenched by the fire's hoses, with new traders set to start up during September.

The Armonica Caffè has opened at 50B Cullen Street after extensive renovations to the premises formerly housing the Grapevine Café, including the construction of an impressive wood-fired oven.

Their grand opening was held on 3rd September, with a rapturous response from diners to their menu of pizza, pasta and calzoni, and the café is sure to be a hit with locals and visitors alike.

Further down Cullen Street at 80A, the Nimbin Glass Studio will celebrate its opening with a party on Saturday 19th September.

Oscar and Chiara have converted the shop, last used as a pathology clinic, into a glass art workshop and retail space featuring glass art and jewellery, ethnic clothing, T-shirts and hats, and paintings by local artists.

Chiara learnt glass art techniques in Byron Bay, and will hold classes at the shop.

Further still down Cullen Street, the Bush Theatre lights are on again, with the Bringabong crew setting up there to begin trading again after their iconic shop was burnt out.

Along with retail space, the idyllic location above Mulgum Creek will boast an internet café and indoor and outdoor stages to feature local musicians.

Proprietor Dave Hyett said, "We want to provide a complete experience for people who come down here."

A grand opening is scheduled for Saturday 27th September, with a line-up of live bands. "We're really grateful for all the community support," Dave said.

Add to this the new community Food Co-op taking over the Nimbin Organic shop (see separate story), and it's easy to see the spark of entrepreneurial spirit is still alive and well in Nimbin.



## Forgotten origins

Steven Strong is an Australian-based researcher, author of five books, historian and former high school teacher with a background in archaeology. His son Evan has worked with him for many years assembling the facts from their archaeological discoveries.

This presentation will cover their extensive research on the archaeological finds at a variety of sites spread throughout the east coast of Australia, including the Northern Rivers.

Slides, artifacts, explorers' accounts, genetic information and traditional Australian Original mythology will demonstrate that earlier highly advanced civilisations existed in this area.

This is an invitation to explore the hidden history that rewrites everything we are led to believe about our identity and origins. It will challenge the fundamental notions that underpin all accepted versions of human pre-history.

The presentation will be held at Nimbin Town Hall on Sunday 7th September, 7-10pm. Admission is \$15 / \$10 concession; Ab/Original people free. Tea and coffee provided.

For more information, go to: <http://forgottenorigin.com>

## Costa goes to market



Costa Georgiardinis, from ABC Gardening Australia, will be at the Blue Knob Farmer's Market on Saturday 20th September and at Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show from noon.

by Jim Arachne

Well, Spring is upon us. It seemed the unseasonable rain in late August separated the last of the Winter from the beginning of Spring. So lots of greens and other bounty at the Market as they especially loved the rain followed by warmer weather.

It's also time for planting almost everything as well. It's too late for peas of course, as they'll run into the hotter weather of late Spring and not set pods – and too late for seeds of cool weather veggies like broccoli. The ground is still too cold in most areas for tomato, capsicum and eggplant seeds – they all prefer ground temperatures of over 20C and 25C is better. Eggplants like it even warmer. Seedlings of these plants are perfectly fine though.

### Costa at the market

A busy time towards the end of the month. For the Spring Equinox on Saturday 20th the Market will host Costa, the almost universally recognised host of ABC's *Gardening Australia*. To usher in Spring, Costa will be working with the Blue Knob Farmers Market to showcase our best produce and Market stall displays. We can also expect an inspired talk from Costa covering his key passion for all green, growing things.

However, his other enthusiasms are wide and varied. One is refereeing rugby, "incredibly relaxing" he calls it, and another is playing with a band, called the More Please Orchestra, of old schoolmates. "When I pan the river of my life, the gold chunks will be some of the More Please gigs," he reflects.

The ABC says of him, "Costa believes in

embracing and celebrating mother nature's cycles and seasons and nurturing her balance, beauty and bounty organically. His holistic approach is all about gardening the soil and the soul." So come down to the Market to meet him and say g'day.

### Costa at the Show

Also on the 20th and 21st is Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show. An initiative of the Blue Knob Market, Sustainability Alley is now presented by the new Nimbin Bioregion Food and Farming Hub, of which the BK Market is a member. After the Saturday market, Costa will be visiting Sustainability Alley as well – so if you can't make the Market, come along and meet him there instead. Some of our stallholders will be showing their wares or giving talks and demonstrations on their own passions.

To get up-to-date on the full program of talks, demonstrations and activities at the Alley (as well as the wider Show) visit the new Facebook site, Nimbin Show & Sustainability Alley or send an email to Jim at: [uloborid8@gmail.com](mailto:uloborid8@gmail.com)

### September workshops

i) Sat 6th & Sat 13th Sept. 10am to 4pm, 'Felting 1 & 2' - Catherine Dunham. Registration is necessary – please call Catherine on 6689-7101 or 6684-1262.  
ii) Sat 27th Sept. 'Basket Weaving Using Natural Fibres' with Cherie and Fiona Shadwell. Registration is necessary – please call Cherie or Fiona on 6632-2980 to register.

Blue Knob Market runs Saturdays, rain, hail or shine, 8:30am to ~12noon, corner of Blue Knob & Lillian Rock Rds., 8km from Nimbin in the grounds of the Blue Knob Gallery.

# Don't panic, it's still organic!

After ten years in the Nimbin Organics shop, Anna King and David Sykes have decided to hand over the reins.

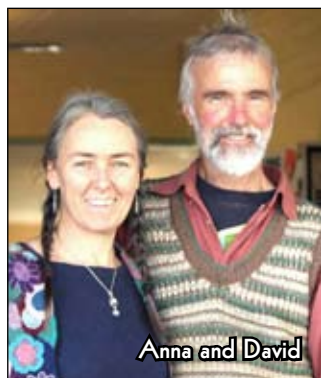
"We want to say a heartfelt thankyou to all the wonderful customers we have served," Anna said.

"Throughout the years we devoted our lives to giving people access to quality organic and local food, and as the business grew, so did the richness of our lives through the many rewarding relationships that developed.

"Expanding into the Grapevine Cafe was a natural progression, which enhanced accessibility to, and enjoyment of, organic food. But having sold the cafe, and stepped back a bit, we have realised it's time to reclaim our lives.

"This decision has created the space for an amazing new version of this long-loved little shop, as it goes back to its origins."

The newly formed Nimbin



Anna and David

Food Co-Op, a not-for-profit community group, has taken over the lease on the premises, and began trading from Monday 1st September, with trading hours and days staying the same as for Nimbin Organics.

Using an ethical buying policy, the Nimbin Food Co-Op aims to provide the community with local, organic, affordable fresh produce, as well as bulk foods and other necessities. Supporting local food producers is a key aim.



A co-op meeting in August

The business is owned and operated by the community, with membership costing \$25 per year. People wishing to help to help with the start-up and sustainability of the Co-Op are asked to pay \$100 founding membership, which counts as four years membership.

Also welcome are people interested in helping with the organisational set-up of the Co-Op, and volunteers

for staffing the shop. Further enquiries can be made at the shop, or by phoning the shop on 6689-1445, or liking the facebook page: Nimbin Food Co-Op.

Anna said, "We wish the community joy, abundance and longevity in, and through, the establishment of the Nimbin Food Co-op, and look forward to having a good rest and to being part of the new incarnation."

## Celebrate sunshine, sustainability and community spirit

Thousands are expected to gather on Sunday 7th September to celebrate Fathers Day with a twist, at the Mullumbimby Community Gardens annual Living Community Festival.

This year's festival will feature a host of educational, kid-friendly culinary and interactive activities, including hands-on workshops, seminars and general all-round fun, with a focus on some of the latest green technologies such as 3D printing and bio-char, alongside more traditional practices such as permaculture, biodynamics and composting.

The action starts from 10am, with a street parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, starting at the council chambers with floats and all manner of entertainment, brought to you by local organisations, schools, and businesses. Join in along the way to Burringbar Street and on to Mullumbimby Community Gardens, where the festival will officially kick off.

An event packed with learning and community connection, the festival will feature the Youth Future Generation Village, the Crystal Castle Healing Village and the Australian Bamboo Society's Bamboo Sculpture Competition, while the local food, arts and crafts market will deliver the quintessential Northern Rivers experience.

From midday to 5pm, The Positive Action Forum will be held, an interactive event that will discuss



creative solutions to local and global environmental issues, as well as how to integrate the wider community in implementing practical solutions to these wider shared problems.

The forum will be lead by keynote speakers: Professor Ian Lowe (Australian Conservation Foundation), Clive Hamilton (Australia Institute), Costa Georgiadis (ABC-TV's *Gardening Australia*), and Behrokh Koshnevis, (3D printing), and will conclude with an interactive Q&A forum exploring 'How to engage community in sustainability', featuring the keynote speakers alongside other local and national figures from within the sustainability sphere.

Mullumbimby Community Gardens principal co-ordinator, Jeanette Martin said, "This year's Living Community Festival has something for everyone,

from the most seasoned green thumb or activist, to those who are looking to learn more about the wonderful and abundant world of sustainability, gardening and general community."

Entry to the festival and its program is \$10, which includes parking at the Mullumbimby showgrounds and a magic bus transfer from the parking site to the gardens, which will be running from 9am to 7pm. Tickets can be purchased from the gate (cash and ATM) or at the showground (cash only).

Tickets to the Positive Action Forum are \$45 including entry to the Living Community Festival, can be purchased from: [www.mullumbimbycommunitygardens.org](http://www.mullumbimbycommunitygardens.org) or email: [mullumseed@gmail.com](mailto:mullumseed@gmail.com) All proceeds from ticket sales go to the Mullumbimby Community Gardens.

## Seed saving in spring with the NSX

Calling all home vegie gardeners. We need your help to get Nimbin Seed Exchange (NSX) off to a good start for Spring plantings.

The Nimbin Seed Exchange's long-term aim is to supply most of the seed needs of local home vegie gardeners. We aim to supply organically grown, non-hybridised, GM-free, locally adapted seeds for sale or swap.

We currently have donations of many varieties but we have some significant gaps in our young seed collection.

If you have seeds now, or later on in



the season that you have saved yourself, would you be willing to donate some seed to the Seed Exchange of the following varieties:

Root vegetables: daikon, carrot, radish, beetroot, parsnip, turnips and swede, burdock. Leafy greens - kale, broccoli,

cauli, Asian greens, alliums - spring onions, brown and red onions, leeks and elephant garlic, as well as cucumbers, melons and snow peas.

If you have seed to donate, we hold a stall at the Blue Knob Farmers Market monthly or you can contact us via Facebook: Nimbin Seed Exchange.

The NSX will be at the Nimbin Show on Sunday 21st September. If you would like to contact us, stop by our stall in Sustainable Alley. We will have information about saving seed plus some fun competitions with great prizes.



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## Poetry world cup



Tug and Rebecca

support from you all, this event would not be possible. Thanks also to the sponsors and this fab little local rag for its continual support and exposure of poetry throughout this region.

To all those wonderful people who step forward and do their bit in making the weekend happen, you know how precious you are, thank you.

Fundraising has already started for next year's event – keep an eye out for future fun events or better still, see you at Poetry @ Oasis, first Thursday of the month for our monthly raffle.

Much love, great respect, big smiles.

Gail M. Clarke  
Co-ordinator,  
Nimbin Performance  
Poetry World Cup

What an absolutely fabulous weekend of poetry we shared over the first weekend of August. Once again the village opened its hearts and purses to keep this very Nimbin event happening.

On behalf of all the 36 poets who signed up for the heats and the Nimbin Poets, a great big thank you. Without the continued

# Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) update

by Diana Roberts

The Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) meets quarterly. Our main purpose is to provide feedback to Lismore City Council (LCC) on engaging with the Nimbin community, to bring significant issues to the attention of LCC and to provide feedback to LCC where appropriate.

Our most recent meeting covered a wide range of local matters.

### Waste survey summary

In response to LCC's desire to review waste services in Nimbin, the NAG assisted in the development of a widely distributed waste survey that resulted in 217 responses. LCC considered this to be a good response rate that provided some valuable insights. Thanks to Greg Buckler from LCC for his analysis.

- 42% average over 3 shopping bags of waste a fortnight; 29% average 2-3 shopping bags of waste a fortnight. The remainder have one bag of waste a fortnight or less.
- Approximately one third of residents currently without a waste collection service would take one up if offered. 33% of respondents already had a kerbside collection.
- 93% of respondents were not interested in an organic collection service at additional cost. It should be noted that LCC has subsequently identified the service could be rolled out at no extra cost, so further consultation will be undertaken to gauge interest in this.
- Over 50% of respondents either never

use the Waste Transfer Station (26%) or only once or twice a year (27%). Approximately 75% of all regulars use it for recyclables or recoverable materials, both free services. Only 23% use the facility for waste disposal. Reasons for not using the facility were varied, including: use facilities in Lismore (39%), already have a kerbside collection (23%), cost (18%), use Nimbin street bins (6%). No respondent considered closing the waste transfer station an option, while many suggestions were made for improving the service.

- 17.5% of respondents identified using the street bins, primarily because there is no kerbside collection and the street bins are free and easy. Waste disposed of generally averaged one shopping bag or less although over 12% identified placing 2-3 bags or more into street bins at any one time.
- Many suggestions were made to improve the smell, visual impact, contamination and overloading of the street bins. The most popular suggestion (40%) was for better signage and/or colour on street bins.

### Actions:

1. LCC to explore the feasibility of providing further waste collection services, including recycling, along roads considered suitable for LCC trucks. Local residents will be consulted to gauge their interest. It was noted that the current run out to Nimbin is oversubscribed both in terms of driver

time and load.

2. LCC to speak with Jungle Patrol street cleaners to gain a better understanding of street bin contamination issues.
3. LCC staff will further study the survey findings and prepare a report with suggestions. Among the many issues to be considered, the report will canvas design options for street bins and the feasibility of other community-based activities operating alongside the waste transfer station. The report will be brought to the NAG meeting on 6th November for advice on further consulting the wider community. It is anticipated final recommendations will be costed and form part of Council's 2015 budget deliberations. If you would like to see the complete waste survey summary, please visit Council's website.

### Other issues discussed:

- Activities planned by Nimbin Chamber of Commerce funded by the special Nimbin business rate levy.
- Successful applicants for Section 356 community grants from LCC: Friends of the Pool to paint seats by the pool and Nimbin Community Centre Inc. for youth activities. This will be the last year for Section 356 grants, and a new format will be implemented for future years. Details to come.
- LCC's new community engagement strategy and what that could look like in Nimbin.
- LCC plans to produce guidelines around footpath trading.

## Eulogy

### Tansen (Norman) Stannard 1945-2014

by Graham Askey and Jeni Kendall

*"You are the Timelessness in which no death can enter, for where there is no time there is no death. That Timelessness is Now, and that is Being." – Papaji*

Carole Elliott and Norman Stannard came as the unofficial healers to the Aquarius Festival in 1973. Carole threw an I Ching for the upcoming event with gain (heaven) over kun (earth), which translates as peace or pervading, or the hermetic: as above so below.



Mira and Tansen

They settled in a hollow old gum tree shortly before the festival, hung bells, flowers and incense, and it became their faraway tree. At night they'd light a candle and look up to the diamond sky and feel a strong connection with the celestial sphere.

By day they treated all kinds of upsets and ailments, real and imagined, and after the festival they continued to practise treating those who were staying on, and quite a few of the locals as well.

Many of the new settlers believed in 'free-birthing' and said to Carole and Norman that they wanted them to become their birthing team. Carole felt that since these births were going to happen anyway, it would be safer and more reassuring if an old-fashioned midwife could be present at these hippy homebirths.

That is how Carole and Norman started birthing babies in our area.

The Healing Centre, renamed 'Birth and Beyond' was used to hold classes and pre-natal examinations. Carole and Norman helped more than a hundred post-Aquarian children to get born. They often worked for donations, sometimes being away for three days birthing a child and coming home with a pumpkin. Their generosity, skill and cosmic insight was profound.

They went on many spiritual journeys around the world, always following their brave hearts and passion towards enlightenment. They birthed hundreds more babies, spoke at conferences and held workshops, mixing with royalty, pop stars, gurus and fellow seekers.

In the 1990s they found their Master, Papaji, who loved them dearly, and they stayed with him until he died. He renamed them Mira and Tansen.

They lived for many years in Bali where they birthed babies, healed people from all over the world and gave laughter and good counsel to all who were lucky enough to befriend them. Wounded themselves in the Bali bombing, they nevertheless saved a man's life who is now forever in their debt.

Mira and Tansen moved back to live in Ballina to be nearer their family. They grew veggies, swam in the bollocky, and felt very blessed with their lives.

Tansen contracted cancer, and died on the morning of Wednesday 23rd July in peace and in the arms of his beloved Mira, surrounded by family and friends. He was born in the year of the Monkey and was 69.

A Ceremony and Celebration of Tansen's life was held at a headland above Shelley Beach, with many friends in attendance. We sang "May the long-time sun shine upon you" and as a woman friend called out for him to now be free, a whale jumped out of the water above her extended arms.



by Garth Kindred

It will get you to the heart of Brisbane quicker than a plane and you won't have to leave the ground. It could be a cheaper, safer and cleaner way to go from city to city. It's High Speed Rail (HSR) and it could be a reality in just 10 years if the 'Fly By Rail' project proposal gets funding.

"It's time to rail against dirty transport options, speed up our journey towards a clean economy and get on board with high speed rail" said Qld Greens Senator Larissa Waters in launching the 'Fly By Rail' report in Brisbane on August 18th. The report resulted from a collaboration between Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE), German Aerospace Centre (DLR) and the University of Melbourne's Energy Research Institute.

These HSR trains are seriously fast with an operating speed of 350km/hr and averaging 290km/hr. According to the sample timetable it will take you from Lismore to the Gold Coast (Nerang) in 23 minutes and to Brisbane in

46 minutes. It will only take 2hrs and 15mins to Sydney, and another 3hrs to get to Melbourne.

The line connects 18 cities, including 6 major and 12 regional cities and provides a station within 50km for 60% of Australia's population.

Of course it won't come cheap. \$84 billion will buy line construction, realignment, tunnels and electrification over 1800kms, station upgrades, staffing and a fleet of 87 trains.

Track reconstruction and electrification is majorly expensive. The Grafton to Lismore section runs at \$25 million/km, while the Lismore to Gold Coast is projected to cost \$40 million/km.

The promoters are confident that within 5 years of the HSR up and running there will be annual returns of \$7 billion, paying for itself over 40 years.

Of course the really exciting part of the plan is these trains will be powered by 100% renewable energy, enabling zero emissions travel. It's smart public transport that ad-



dresses climate change. It will significantly reduce demand on jetflights, further reducing air pollution and airport congestion into the future.

HSR has become very popular in China, Europe and America. So far they have proved fairly safe around the world. After nearly 50 years of operating the Bullet train in Japan there has not been one fatality.

It's a grand plan with great Nation Building capacity, which has so far been welcomed by all sides of politics. While it provides a big bright distraction to all our little local arguments about rail versus trails, it is certainly not what supporters of Trains on

our Tracks (TOOT) want first and foremost – an affordable and regular local commuter service. It does at least keep train talk topical and reminds us of the importance of preserving the rail corridor.

If it does eventuate it will provide that long sought after rail connection with SE Qld. Though with only one stop in Lismore, it is questionable how many Northern Rivers residents, particularly coastal ones, would make use of it.

For the full 'Fly By Rail' report and other HSR articles see the Northern Rivers Railway Action Groups' Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/nrrag](http://www.facebook.com/nrrag)

# Value-adding with industrial hemp

Spring is nearly here, and we have been blessed with good steady rain that will green the fields of the Richmond Valley and offer hope for hard-pressed farmers of a good crop.

With cattle prices down and more pressure coming from a plan to get even more cattle from outback Queensland at the Casino abattoir, it may be time for farmers to consider value-adding to their farms to make ends meet. Any value-adding must be sustainable and capable of servicing the needs of future generations. One must avoid at all costs falling into the trap of dodgy schemes such as the Aloe Vera, Paulownia trees, Ostriches and Emus ventures.

One of the crops that can bring benefits to this area is Industrial Hemp, a plant that has acquired a damaging reputation as a result of vilification by vested interests, but whose attributes have been of great service to humanity.

Hemp is one of the earliest domesticated plants known. Very early in human development the Chinese



used hemp to make clothing, shoes, ropes, and an early form of paper. The Europeans much later used it extensively in textiles, ropes and paper. In actual fact Henry the VIII of England decreed that for every sixty acres a farmer owned, a quarter acre was to be sown with hemp.

So what is Hemp?

Hemp is the commonly used term for high growing varieties of the Cannabis sativa. The herb has other variants which are widely used as a drug, commonly known as marijuana. One must not however confuse these variants, which have a higher content of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

and is illegal in Australia, with the industrial variety.

Industrial hemp produces strong fibre, oil, and seed that, although not legal for human consumption in Australia, have great nutritional value and contains omega 3, 6 and 9 which are beneficial for general health. In China, Canada and some European countries, hemp is refined into products such as hemp seed foods, hemp oil, wax, resin, rope, cloth, pulp, paper, and fuel and sold on the international market, while in Australia the Hemp industry is still in its infancy.

The benefits of a hemp industry in the fertile Richmond Valley are

enormous. The plant requirements for pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers are far below that of most crops, and there is at present a local need for hemp fibre for construction and other fibre intensive industries. Returns of \$1000 per tonne of fibre have been quoted.

A hemp industry in the Richmond Valley has the potential to boost the sagging economy of this region and, unlike gas mining, will bring real benefits without putting at risk our rivers and aquifers, which are the most precious resources of this valley.

To find out more, come and join other farmers and interested parties to visit a legal working hemp farm to learn more about the plant and separate facts from fiction. A weekend hemp-growing farm tour is being held 11th-12th October, costing \$195.00 incl transport, food and overnight accommodation. Nimbin, Lismore and Casino pick-ups. For enquiries and bookings, phone Binnah Pownall on 0447-135-391.

## Minister must stand with farmers, not gas industry

Greens Candidate for Lismore, Adam Guise, has called on the Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, to stand with farmers opposed to invasive gasfields, instead of promoting the myth of coexistence.

The Greens candidate was appalled to learn that the minister answered questions from Greens MP Jeremy Buckingham in Budget Estimates by reading coal seam gas company AGL's media release.

"Why is the minister who is meant to represent farmers, spreading the myth of coexistence by reading from an AGL press release during questioning in

Budget Estimates?" said Mr Guise.

"It is appalling that the Minister is siding with the coal seam gas industry rather than standing with farmers and the community who are opposed to industrialised gasfields,"

"In reality, gas drilling threatens our best farming land through contamination of water and industrialisation of the landscape,"

"Dairy farmer cooperative, Norco, has been vocal in calling for a gasfield free Northern Rivers. Its farmers recognise that industrialised gasfields pollute water and wreck farmland and are incompatible with clean, unpolluted dairy

produce,"

"Norco has just secured deals to export fresh milk to China, and this should not be jeopardised by this government's promotion of gasfields on agricultural land."

"I invite Minister Hodgkinson to visit the Northern Rivers and actually speak to farmers on the ground who face contaminated land and water if this toxic industry is allowed to expand,"

"The minister should be advocating for our farmers by protecting our land and water so that they can produce food and fibre long into the future," concluded Mr Guise.

## Sustainable House Day Expo and open homes inspire better living

To celebrate Sustainable House Day 2014, three days of events exploring the latest in sustainable design and energy efficiency are being held from 7th, 13th and 14th September.

The Sustainable House Day Expo on Saturday, 13th September will feature sustainable building product and service displays and presentations from speakers covering straw-bale building, a regional tiny house project and a carbon neutral eco-village. It will also include an award presentation and exhibition of entries in the Sustainable Granny Flat Design Competition.

The competition was open to professional architects and designers, the community and young people. Lismore City Council Environment Strategies Officer Vanessa Tallon said the entries are unique and provide clever insight into how to build small and sustainable.

"We were very impressed with the number and quality of entries and the Expo will be a great place to be inspired," Vanessa said.

"Council staff will be at the Expo with

information about our Community Energy Efficiency Program, which is improving energy efficiency at Council-owned facilities, and the new Section 64 and Section 94 Contributions Discount Policy. This can save eligible residents thousands of dollars if they build a secondary dwelling such as a granny flat."

The Sustainable House Day Expo is on Saturday, 13th September, from 1-4pm at Bangalow A&I Hall. Entry is free.

A free bus to the Expo from Nimbin and Lismore will be available if enough residents register by 9 September. Bookings are essential to Vanessa on 1300-87-83-87. If you plan to drive, consider carpooling with friends, as parking will be limited due to the Sample Food Festival also on at the Bangalow Showground.

### Open Houses

On 7th and 14th September, five local families will also open their homes and gardens for Sustainable House Day to share their ideas on sustainable living and food production, solar passive home design and retrofitting.

### Homes open Sunday, 7th September:

- Elaine Wood at 51 Cedar Drive, Dunoon, with her new solar passive steel frame design, 10am-4pm.
- Richard Swinton and Cindy Thummell at 24 Ryces Drive, Clunes, with a retrofitted 1980s project home, 9am-12pm.
- The Robinsons at 182 Bentley Road, Tullera, with a new low-cost sustainable home, 10am-4pm.

### Homes open Sunday, 14th September:

- Simon Hartley at 2/89 Figtree Drive, Goonellabah, with a retrofitted brick duplex and intensive food production including hydroponics, 10am-4pm.
- Vanessa Tallon at 9 Keith Street, Girards Hill, with a retrofitted 1940s weatherboard home, 10am-4pm.

The Sustainable House Day events are a partnership between Lismore City Council, Byron Shire Council, The Green Building Centre, Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre's 7 Sibley Street Project, Byron Region Community College, North Coast TAFE and Rous Water.

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## Letters

### RVC reversal on CSG

I wish to thank Richmond Valley Council for its decision to position itself against unconventional gas activities, especially fracking. The strong motion moved by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor Hayes, and carried by a majority of 5:2, was a long awaited vindication of community wishes.

Community surveys conducted across RV LGA have consistently indicated that between 85% and 93% of residents are opposed to invasive, industrial gasfields.

Mayor Bennett keeps repeating that 300 farmers have signed agreements with Metgasco. However, what is missing from that claim is Mr Henderson's admission to Andy Parks in the *Northern Star* (10/6) that, "We have approximately 50 land access agreements for wells, the remainder are associated with seismic programs."

Without this qualifying statement, the claim about 300 farmer agreements is very misleading, suggesting, as it does, that 300 farmers have agreed to have wells on their property. Furthermore, in those 'early days', farmers innocently agreed to allow seismic testing without understanding the real implications. It is clear that many have since become savvy to the enormous threats that fully developed gas fields pose for their families, livelihood and property values. It is therefore unlikely that they will now welcome gas corporations on their farms. So while I respect Mayor Bennett's right to a personal view on the industry, I would like to suggest that his stated desire to maintain a foot in both pro and anti unconventional gas camps, is likely to land him in an extremely uncomfortable physical position.

Beverley Crossley  
Tatham

### Perverse policies on CSG

I read with great amusement Justine Elliott and state Labor candidates falsely claiming that "only Labor will deliver a CSG free North Coast". The community hasn't forgotten that it was the Labor Party who originally allowed invasive gas mining across the North Coast in the first place.

The sudden move by Labor to 'ban' only CSG, and only in the Northern Rivers, is

sheer political opportunism, and ignores the fact that the Bentley campaign was against tight sands gas, not CSG. The sad reality is that at a policy level, the National Party and Labor are united. The recent decision to allow fracking within a few hundred metres of homes in Gloucester is supported by both Labor and the Nationals.

What our community wants is lasting, nationwide protection from industrial gas drilling – not short-term, political tricks. As a progressive voter, I can confidently say that only the Greens have consistently stood with the community to protect our farmland, water and towns from invasive gas fields across NSW.

Sharon Gibson  
Mullumbimby

### EHS diagnosed

I noted the recent article by Alan Roberts about electro hypersensitivity (NGT August p.13). I would recommend that Alan perform more research before he makes spurious claims about the validity of electro hypersensitivity.

As I am EHS (diagnosed by a specialist), I find his comment that "massive research effort could be better directed at the methods and motivations of those spreading what are seemingly unfounded fears" as disingenuous and offensive.

I am certainly not a fear-monger, and I am well aware of my condition and what sets me off. Providing a few studies as examples to support his case proves nothing except demonstrates the lack of objective research that he has performed to formulate his story.

He appears to be trying to perpetuate what the industry would have us believe – that it is likely to be a nocebo effect. Unfortunately many of the tests being conducted are based on provocation tests, which are very subjective and cannot be considered to be a biological test. The scientists who conduct these tests often have a poor understanding of EHS and so flawed testing protocols are usually the end result.

It is also unfortunate that some of the studies are conducted by psychologists who do not have sufficient expertise to be making any form of claim on the validity of EHS unless they also have

### About us

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**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
Wednesday 24th September

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

a suitable background in biological sciences.

Perhaps Alan could familiarise himself with the following:

1. A personal EHS case study that I have authored which can be found here: [www.es-uk.info/information/7-electrosensitivity-uk-case-studies.html](http://www.es-uk.info/information/7-electrosensitivity-uk-case-studies.html)
2. The website [www.powerwatch.org.uk](http://www.powerwatch.org.uk) which lists a total of 130 studies (last time I looked) relating to the topic of EHS and has categorised them as follows: 69 studies with positive findings, 27 studies with null findings and 24 studies that offered important insights but were neither a positive or a null finding. [www.powerwatch.org.uk/science/studies.asp](http://www.powerwatch.org.uk/science/studies.asp) [Electrical Sensitivity]
3. I recommend he take the time to watch this very informative video of Dr Erica Mallery-Blythe discussing EHS to the British Society of Ecological Medicine (BSEM - March 2014) <http://vimeo.com/100623585>
4. Finally, I recommend Alan read this book "black on white", [www.hese-project.org/hese-uk/en/papers/swedish\\_experience.pdf](http://www.hese-project.org/hese-uk/en/papers/swedish_experience.pdf) (I have a pdf copy that I can share).

You are welcome to share this email (and my email address) with Alan and more than happy to make myself available to talk with him about my EHS experiences if he is interested.

People who are EHS need support, not ridicule.  
Steve Weller B.Sc  
Mango Hill, Qld

### Debating EMR

It would be fair to say there is scientific evidence both for and against biological disorders due to electromagnetic radiation. However, a few points should be noted.

Studies funded by industry are statistically three to four times more likely to find in their favour. They often look at a short timeframe, when the latency period for many resulting ailments is decades. Also consider this. If there was a food product that had been found to be detrimental, in even 1 out of 10 trials, do you think it would be on the supermarket shelves? Would

you feed it to your children?

The debate on EMR is not about convincing people to give up helpful appliances. It is about informed use, as would be appropriate to any activity with a documented risk factor. If you hold a mobile phone touching your head, have a cordless phone next to your bed, or use a tablet PC on your lap, you are engaged in activities that many manufacturers and medical experts advise against.

These warnings are becoming more, not less. And yes, the term "electro-hypersensitivity" is not orthodox. It is word play by an increasingly nervous industry to make any resulting harm sound mild or self-induced.

Let's work together to educate our community according to best world practice, and help usher in a new era of safer technology.

Peter Nielsen  
(Electronics engineer)  
Byron Bay

### Hypersensitive

Alan Roberts' Electro-hypersensitivity article (NGT August p.13) shows that for most people it is extremely difficult to be conscious of the effects of microwave radiation.

The Russians, being aware of this, put this to effect during the Cold War to irradiate the American Embassy in Moscow with microwaves no different to what is used today in Wi Fi etc. Such was the effect that they had to change the entire staff every 18 months. Stealth warfare as such relies on the fact you don't know you are being attacked, well... until it's too late. Imperceptibility does not equate harmlessness, as history shows.

The above is well documented on the interweb by both ex-military British microwave expert Barrie Trower and Canadian Jerry Flynn. By 1972, the US Navy documented 120 diseases that could be induced by microwaves, and warned its personnel to reduce exposure.

Modern communications use microwaves because they travel through things. This means they travel through you, and as they do so they cause oxidative and genetic damage that is

### 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.

cumulative and irreversible. Safety standards rely on their imperceptibility to deceptively convey the illusion of safety.

As outlined in 'Wi Fi – a Thalidomide in the Making – Who Cares?' by Barrie Trower, children absorb 10 times more radiation than adults and the genetic damage they suffer is passed onto future generations.

If we do not look after our children there is no future.

Anton Vanderbyl  
Palmwoods

### EMR dogma

I have been a member of the Nimbin Environment Centre off and on for a few decades, and want to add a cautionary note to the debate about chemtrails and EMR towers and other controversial topics.

I know many people of good intent have differing views, and encourage all NEC members and supporters to treat each other with respect. It is important to have passion without intolerance and a commitment to action on issues we consider important, while supporting others who work for a better world in a different way. Our quest for knowledge and truth should not be blinded by dogma.

Please, good people, give others some room to be different: we are at different places on the journey. Sometimes we need to agree to disagree until a consensus is achieved with patient research.

Scott Sledge  
Lillian Rock

### More EMR feedback

Regarding Electromagnetic Radiation (letters and article NGT Aug 14), I'm not sure if people have heard of the Interphone study carried out by Dr George Carlo at a cost of \$28 million, funded by the mobile phone companies. I'd suggest people look it up for themselves, it found there were health dangers.

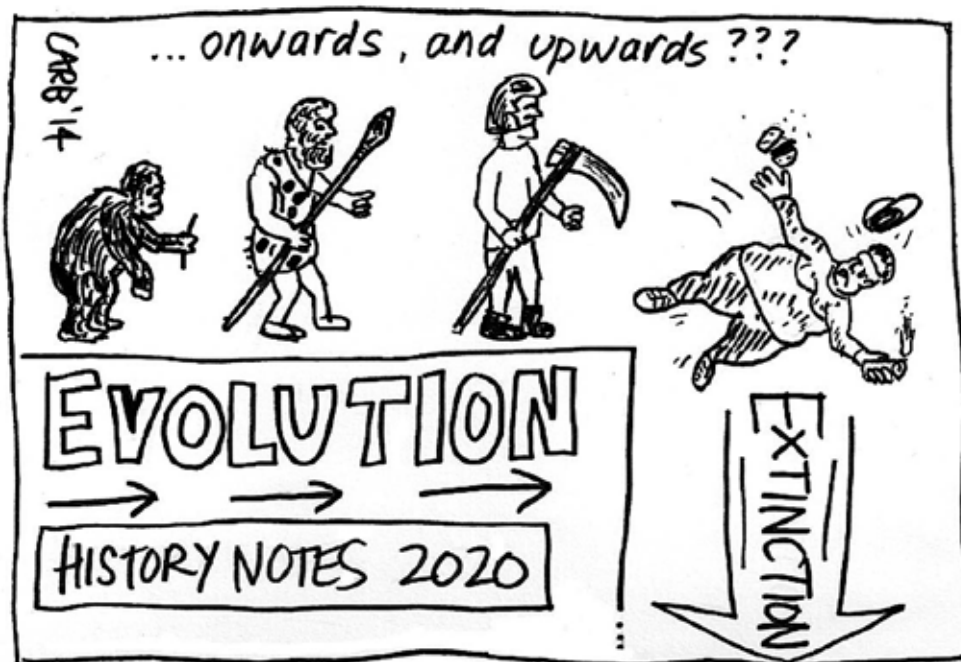
A book worth reading on the subject is *The Body Electric* by Dr Robert O Becker, who was nominated for the Nobel Prize in medicine. To paraphrase: the body runs on teeny-weeny micro currents. I agree, it's not scientific language, but descriptive and well worth a read.

Professor Andrew Goldsworthy's work is also worth looking up.

To the lady who said her hubby was a radio tech, it would be similar to a boatbuilder assuring you the Titanic is unsinkable.

Please look up the scientific data first, there is plenty of it if one looks, for instance the Bioinitiative Report: [www.bioinitiative.org](http://www.bioinitiative.org) Plenty of PhDs there, not running on fear but science.

Alasdair Burns  
Byron Bay



### Unity

On the issue of NBN towers, I must say that Nimbin needs and deserves a first class, high quality broadband service with speed and capacity that will take it into the future.

However, the proposal by NBN to locate wireless towers in the town is not acceptable, as the service will be of an inferior quality. In addition, most people don't want to live in or near a wireless tower for various reasons, and it is their right and as such must be respected.

Nimbin Environment Centre is a long standing organisation that has been instrumental in achieving significant outcomes on a broad range of issues, primarily because its members worked side by side, regardless of personal antagonism.

Let's keep the Bentley spirit alive.

Stewart James  
President, Nimbin  
Environment Centre

### Capitalism collapse

Watching briefly what is farcically called "news" in our mainstream media, I sense our capitalist masters, that own said media, are diverting our attention from where their capitalism is taking us. We're shown people stealing from a charity collection tin. Shocking. But how desperate are people becoming to do such a thing? Oh no, don't mention that. Just join the outraged throng, blame the "low lives", that's just what the capitalists want, no consideration of underlying reasons, heaven forbid.

Manufacturing is on the wane in China, our mineral boom is ending. "Investors are told to look to new sources of profit extraction, mostly in Australia.

Health, education, transport, energy, child and aged care are touted as good investment prospects for the future. All essential services once provided partly or fully by government to become

privately owned for profit.

Instead of profiteering from an economy supported by Chinese demand for our resources, the profits are to be extracted from the Australian people. Taken out of our pockets to be spread amongst the obscenely rich, worldwide.

As in Europe and America now, Australia's gap between rich and poor is wider than ever before and worsening. Further profit extraction will lead to further deprivation. Deprived people spend less, so jobs disappear, which further reduces spending. It's happening world wide and becoming more obvious by the day. The result will be massive unemployment, many people struggling, home and rent unaffordability, increased homelessness and soaring crime rates and drug abuse, due to desperation and despair.

When they show all that in the capitalist media, they'll demonise the "low lives" without a mention of the deprivation, hopelessness and suffering that drives otherwise law-abiding people to break the law.

Heavens no. People might start to realise that the seat of the problem is capitalism itself.

Doug Burt  
Kyogle

### Save our EDO

I would like to thank Yagia Gentle (NGT August 14, Letters) for bringing to our attention the situation the Environmental Defenders Office is in. The Abbott regime along with the mining industry is trying to sentence the EDO to death by cutting funding.

So folks it's up to us to help them out of the death knell. I for one, will be donating money to them so you can too. Just fill out a deposit form at your bank/credit union. Details are: BSB 814 282. Account no 30892173. Let the teller know it's to go into CUA Bank and reference your surname. That transfer should only cost you 60 cents.

I'm sure they'll be delighted by your donation.

Paul Brecht  
Mullumbimby

### Logging review

I am writing as an individual and as a member of the Caldera Environment Centre, which is under the umbrella of the Nature Conservation Council (NCC), in support of its decision to withdraw from the proposed NSW government logging review.

The trigger for this decision was the appointment to the review board of an official of the Forestry Corporation, which has been pushing strongly for the opening up of national parks to logging mature forest.

The Nature Conservation Council represents 120 community environmental organisations across the state. It has had a long-standing interest in forest conservation and regulation of forestry activities.

According to information contained in the submission by Dailan Pugh, from the North East Forest Alliance, also a member of the NCC, "The Forestry Corporation have proven time after time that they will not willingly provide the needed protection for threatened species and ecosystems, nor implement the requirements to limit soil erosion and stream pollution. More rigorous prescriptions and independent regulations are required, not less. The requirements for surveys and the identification of core habitats for threatened species and ecosystems need to be undertaken independently of the Forestry Corporation." (See full submission at: [http://nefa.org.au/2014/04/10/remake-logging-rules/foa-remake\\_nefa-submission/](http://nefa.org.au/2014/04/10/remake-logging-rules/foa-remake_nefa-submission/))

The submission details the importance of protecting our finite, sensitive natural resources rather than exploiting them for limited short-term financial gain.

I feel disheartened that hard won environmental

## Notices

### Rental Vacancy

At Nimbin Community Centre. Expressions of interest are sought for the Youth Club Building (Fig Tree). This building contains main room, 2 offices, kitchen, and toilet. Rent starts at \$755.82 per month (including GST) for non-profit rentals. You will need to pay bonds and provide references. For further information, please contact the co-ordinator Tuesdays and Wednesdays on 6689-0000 or email: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)

### Car parts wanted

Looking for a VW type 3 car parts for my son's mechanical learning/car making endeavour. Phone 0407-061-419.

### Nimbin Flix

Next movie night Saturday 20th September, from 6pm at Birth & Beyond. Movie at 6.30pm. Food and drink available by donation.

### Annual General Meetings

- The Nimbin Community Centre AGM will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 9th October in the Birth & Beyond room, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin. New members welcome. For further information please contact the co-ordinator on 6689-0000 or email: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)
- Nimbin Headers AGM and juniors trophies presentation, 14th September, 11.30am at the Headers field, 40 Cecil Street, Nimbin. All welcome. We are always looking for volunteers to help us grow bigger and better, so come down and get involved!
- The AGM for Nimbin Aquarius Landcare will be held on Wednesday 17th September at 10.30am in the grounds of the Community Centre. New members welcome.

### 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 meetings and times, check out: [www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia) or phone 1300-252-666.

### 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.

### Weave & Mend Festival

Basketry weaving festival, to be held at the Nimbin Community Centre grounds over 3rd, 4th and 5th October. Contact 6689-7129 for more information.

protection measures are being eroded again, and yet I am more determined to do what I can to work together with like-minded people for the protection of the environment.

Ari Ehrlich  
Tyalgum

### Self-interest & narcissism

With regard to my statement that "the economic system of civilisation has mostly been based on exploitation" (Scott Barlow's letter, NGT August 14), I am not confining myself to wages and profits.

Nevertheless wage exploitation would mostly reduce if the ABC announced each morning the average hourly rate for an Australian worker for the previous day, and reminded listeners that an egalitarian nation is dependent on those who have higher or lower rates, making peaceful overtures to have their rate

brought to the average. Skill levels need not be relevant, for they could be gained by taxation receipts.

The current exploitive economic system has brought humans to the edge of a dead planet because it excessively takes from the environment.

Although science knows about the law of return as far as organic matter goes for example, as a society we are unable to practise it.

Then there is the matter of stolen land and the exploitation of the people who were here before us. In Australia and the U.S., Indigenes and Afro-Americans are on lower average wages than whites, and incidentally they're in prison more often on a per capita basis.

Our culture is derived from this immaturity of gross exploitation.

Geoff Dawe  
Uki