

Ph: 6689-1010 fax: 6689-1210 email: nimcand@bigpond.net.au

CERES DELI & BULK FOODS



foods, tasty cheeses, olives and continental deli delights.

Come and have a browse and see for yourself! 59 Bridge Street North Lismore (opp. 20,000 cows) Phone: 6622-8352

VEGAN FUNKY PIES

Café owner / manager? Getting asked for vegan food? We have the answer

available at Nimbim Emporium **UKI General Store Bellingen IGA**

A delicious range of vegan food for cafes/restaurants/grocery stores delivered direct to your door chilled/frozen. \$500+ is freight free ecofunkydistributors.com.au

vegan pies - frozen ready to heat coconut ice-cream - for smoothies vegan melting cheese - for pizzas visit our website or email directly to sales@ecolunkydistributors.com.au



52 Cullen Street

• Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily

Sourdough bread and rolls including organic

Nimbin does NAIDOC







The big picture story

Lismore's beautiful Star Court Theatre is expected to be packed to the rafters when Michael Tellinger and Steve and Evan Strong hold an exclusive one-day intensive with their slide and talk presentations on our ancestral origins. The event is on Saturday 29th August, from 10am to 3pm.

Intrepid local explorers Steve and Evan Strong share the stage with the well-known South African new explorer and instigator of the Ubuntu movement, Michael Tellinger.

Michael, Steve and Evan will present slides and discuss recent discoveries of sites and artifacts from two continents that will present a compelling argument proposing that

Volunteer for Nepal

by Helen Simpson

My trip to Nepal to work in outreach has been postponed until September, so there's time for anyone interested in coming with me to plan. I will be working in the villages of earthquake affected Kirnetar and Manekhara in eastern Nepal. These villages had schools, health centres and residences destroyed. A Nepalese medical team from Dulekheil Hospital Kathmandu is regularly going to this region and we will be joining them. Fare, minimal accommodation costs and passport are required. Medical skills not essential, help needed in schools, and

construction and just general support. Please ring 6689-1417 (leave message) for more info. Please yourself how long you work and, as it will be a good time for trekking, get

ancient advanced civilisations

have existed on many

continents before now.

They will discuss findings in that challenges academic relation to a seemingly hidden story of human existence

boundaries and evokes more questions than answers.

Fun Run on again

This year's 5km Nimbin Fun \$15 per runner, adults \$20, Run will be held on the 30th children \$15. August at 11.30am. Sign on by 11am at the Nimbin

Showgrounds, Cecil Street. Over \$3500 in prizemoney fabulous prizes donated by

Everyone who enters receives a raffle ticket and

a chance to win one of the

- white and bio-dynamic spelt
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

Making our own "Hippie Bread" from local, bio-dynamic wheat, baked within hours of being ground at the Nimbin Community Grain Mill.

OPEN SUNDAY 9am - 3pm

Phone 6689 1769 Page 2 The Nimbin GoodTimes August 2015

your boots out. Fundraising is going well and I would like to thank all those who have donated. All funds will be going to medical supplies and building materials which I will ensure is directed to these areas. There is a bank account for donations under Nepal Relief Fund or NRF, Acc. No. 22305643; BSB 728-728 if transferring from another bank. Receipts on request. We will be holding raffles as well in Nimbin over the next few weeks.

is on offer:

- New team category, made up of five runners wins \$1000.
- 1st place male and female, open and over 45's category wins \$250. • 2nd place male and female open and over 45's category wins \$150 and + 3rd place male and female open and over 45's categories wins \$100.
- + 12-16 years girl and boy: 1st place \$150, 2nd place \$100, 3rd place \$70. Entry fees: Team \$80 /

local business. Prize for best dressed entrant. Under 12 years races and games commence at 12.30pm. \$5 for wristband. Prizes available.

This is a fundraising event, and all proceeds go towards equipment purchase and maintenance.

Please show your support and come along for a fun family day out, great food, cakes and coffee available. To volunteer please phone the organiser, Cassandra Jeffreys on 0428-439-526.

Development looks to build on Nimbin's eco-credentials

Proponents of a 32-bed motel development in Nimbin, John and Jill Seymour, say the thoughtfulness of the international green credentials of the town, Woodstock's sister city, is being reflected in thecubes.co plans for the grounds.

'We look forward to working with the local artists, artisans and general community to create an amazing experience for tourists, showing them the 'Spirit of Nimbin' in thecubes.co development," John Seymour said.

"We want the talent of Nimbin to work with us to create a world-class distinctiveness in the gardens, spaces and around the giant eucalypts inside the Cube's grounds."

Four two-storey blocks of eight units, constructed from re-purposed shipping containers, are proposed for the main street site, fronted by a single-storey reception building.

Plans also include the rejuvenation and fresh street presentation of the existing building at No.80, which houses the Oasis Cafe, Spangled Drongo and Glass Gallery, together with the lush green frontages at No.82, adding significantly to the Cullen Street landscape. The developers say thecubes.co



will create substantial extra local employment, use local businesses for construction, such as Rainbow Power Co for solar, and deliver much-needed overnight accommodation, benefitting all Nimbin people, businesses and visitors.

"We want thecubes.co to provide a real career path for local kids wanting to make a career in tourism and its related avenues of employment," John Seymour said.

All employees will be offered an opportunity to undertake a fully paid for tourism diploma course with Southern Cross University and will be 'first in line' for promotions within thecubes.co

staffing

John Seymour said, "AirBnB has changed the way travellers want overnight accommodation. No more sterile, overpriced hotel/motel rooms... they want quirky, personalised, homefurnished, fabulous, low-priced habitats that you really want to stay in.

"To compete, the hotel/motel must do the same, under \$100 per night, at a great location right in the middle of town, tomorrow's accommodation at yesterday's prices."

The DA is on public exhibition for comment until 2nd Spetember. More information at: *thecubes.co*

Rainbow Cafe re-building plans

by Megan James

It is now a year since the fire that destroyed the Rainbow Café, the Museum and the Tribal Magic and Bringabong shops. In that time, the land has been graciously empty of constructions, allowing for many ideas to surface and some fresh air to circulate through the centre of the village.

We at Tuntable Community continue to meet weekly to discuss plans, and we are almost ready to lodge a Development Application with Lismore City Council. Once the planning and design process is resolved, the D.A. will proceed in earnest. Part of that process will include a public meeting to discuss our final plans, for the community to respond and have input. Council has been very clear all along that, as the empty sites are so central to the village, a plan co-ordinated with both the Museum/Mingle Park owners and ourselves is

and Council continue to support us in this. Our neighbours on the Museum/Mingle Park site are continuing to draw up plans, research building materials and follow their vision for a thriving community hub and final receipt of their title will happen before the end of the year. Several meetings with them have assured the future of Rainbow Lane, which will be much wider at the street entrance than previously, allowing for streetside dining and mingling. The Rainbow's southern wall will adjoin the rear of several small shops there.

Our new Rainbow Café will have improved natural lighting from the north and as much solar passive aspect as the block allows. As before, the café will lead to a deck at the rear overlooking the garden to the west. Excavation underneath the rear of the building will allow for another rentable space (similar to that of the Nimbin Law premises below Armonica). At our AGM in



out a mortgage to fund a bigger building. If our funds and LCC allow it, there may be studio space above the café. We are open to any suggestions for outside funding to assist with the rebuild also.

Rather than lodging successive D.A.s, it is more efficient to have a single, comprehensive Development Application setting out a holistic, long-term vision for the entire site. The D.A. for the Rainbow block will therefore include provision for a possible stage-two development at the end of the block (adjoining the Western carpark). There will also be provision for some garden and open space in the middle of the block.

development is currently a work-in-progress and more of a long-term vision. Whether stage two ever eventuates on-the-ground will very much depend on the success and viability of stage-one – the area adjoining the Cullen Street footpath and largely falling within the footprint of the former Rainbow Cafe site.

So – it's been a year of change, which has yet to manifest on the physical level. To move on to the next stage, it has been suggested that we have some sort of ceremony to mark the anniversary of the fire, which falls on Thursday 13th August. If you are interested in participating, please contact me on 0429-009-594



I PAINT HOUSES

NIMBIN & SURROUNDS

RING BEN'S PAINTING: 0409 352 102





New and used instruments String instrument repairs Upeyeled instruments Custom Guitars

Good prices for locals

6689-1264 stringworks@spin.net.au https://www.facebook.com/stringworksnim

crucial to a successful D.A. June, members voted to take

The "stage-two"

or 6689-1719.



www.nimbingoodtimes.com

August 2015 **The Nimbin GoodTimes** Page 3





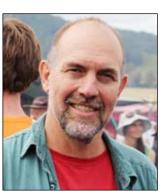
whatever you're looking for

Activism and social movements, an eternal part of human evolution

The march of history is complex and unpredictable and it is anything but linear. It is actually impossible to determine whether things are getting better or worse, some things are decidedly worse whilst in other areas we see great signs of positive change. Despite the temptation to indulge in measuring social progress, there's actually not a lot of value in doing so. The most intelligent and practical way we can influence the future is to grasp the opportunities for positive social change that present themselves and give them the hardest nudge we can.

We can reflect positively on the great shifts in social awareness on issues like feminism, the environment and sexual diversity since the 1970's or we can wring our hands in dismay at the destructiveness of neoliberalism over the same period. There is no end point to history, no place where we get to find out who won and who lost, it's not even about that, it's all just ongoing evolution for better or for worse however we each define those things. It can actually get better and worse simultaneously.

Whether we are aware of it or not we are all taking actions every day that contribute to changing the world into the future, so we



by Aidan Ricketts

may as well all consciously come to understand that we are all activists. The more we understand that all of our actions and choices are having an effect, however small, the more effective and empowered we can become.

The work of activists will never be finished, in every age there will be destructive and decaying power structures to struggle against and replace, and new opportunities for growth and social evolution to pursue. Strangely enough the solution to one problem will often also contain the seeds of the next challenge. Social movements are the

powerful collective vehicles through which we get to consciously influence our destinies and their work will never be over as well. If we were born into the 11th century, the 19th century, the 23rd century or the present, all would still not be right with the world and yet paradoxically there would still be great and inspiring movements capable of challenging the power holders of our time.

And so it is in this time that we the people not just in Australia but across the globe are facing off against the entrenched economic and political power of the decaying fossil fuel empire. We fight locally through Gasfield Free Northern Rivers, nationally through Lock the Gate and globally through a vast complex movement of people, organisations, scientists and even political and religious leaders to move us from the fossil fuel age into a more sustainable future.

The vast wealth and the massive wars of the American century were built upon a contest to control the fuel that supplied the energy that humanity relies upon. But the technological revolution of renewable energy is now disrupting the political economy of fossil fuel, in fact threatening to make fuel itself a largely redundant part of the energy equation.

It can look so bleak at times as we face the climate deniers, the Murdoch press and the desperate backward looking politics of our federal government. Coal mines are massively subsidised, renewable energy is being actively discouraged. The state governments are introducing new anti-protest laws to try to stave off the epidemic of protest against gas and coal projects.

Everywhere we look it's democracy and sustainability vs the fossil fuel industry, but the signs are actually quite hopeful. The fossil fools are falling into a protective phalanx of lies, denial, subsidies and counter attack, whilst outside their castle walls there is great activity, change and enthusiasm.

Society is ultimately an ecological system and change is constant. Our great social movements are at their best when they strategically disrupt dysfunctional old ways of being and spawn outpourings of creativity to bring about change. We can all play our part in this change as individuals and as social movements.

Survival can only ever be achieved through an enthusiasm for constant change. Conservatism and rigidity is a highway to obsolescence and senescence. We need to learn to feel comfortable in a life time of constant activism, in a millennium of constant activism for our work will never be complete, we are here to keep helping the collective to evolve and adapt.

Drew Hutton: The end of coal

Drew Hutton, President of Lock the Gate Alliance, talks to John Jiggens

We're not actually at the end of coal, but as Winston Churchill said, we are at the beginning of the end.

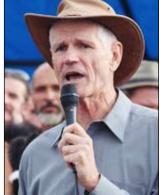
What the recent Four Corners program *The End of Coal?* brought together was research done over the past two or three years, which shows the price of coal is going down internationally. That's not cyclical, it's a longterm trend.

It's basically coming from China and the much reduced use of coal there and the increased use of renewables, and that is not just a Chinese trend: it's a world-wide trend. India wants to source 50% of its coal within India. What is happening in Australia is the direct opposite of the rest of the world. Coal is going nowhere. It's in terminal decline. Tony Abbott is attempting to frustrate the development of a renewable energy industry in this country for purely partisan reasons. For some strange reason the conservatives in Australia have come to the conclusion that renewable technology

is bad and politically unacceptable.

I can't understand why an efficient technology has political connotations attached to it. Coal and coalfired power represent pretty drastic health problem to those people who happen to live near a coal mine or in a suburb where coal trains pass through, or near a coal-fired power plant.

Critics argue that coal provides two-thirds of our power, employs more than 50,000 people and brings in more than \$40 billion a year from exports, but even if you are thinking of economics outside of global warming, which is a ridiculous thing to do, it's still going to be virtually impossible to get financing up for coal mines in greenfield sites or to get additional finance for existing mines, simply because markets are drying up. The International Energy Agency, which isn't a body hostile to coal-fired stations, estimates that we need to keep 80% of known reserves in the ground. So an organisation like that can make statements that fly in the face of government policy in this country and others.



It is a difficult and a sad situation.

The really sad thing is that in the 1990s we were ahead of the world in renewable energy research. We've gone backwards from there, and a lot of those researchers had in the renewable energy industry, despite attempts by the Abbott government to sabotage it, is still maintaining a good foothold; wind and solar are now financially competitive with coal-fired power.

I think the blockade movement has been absolutely crucial and I am very proud of my organisation Lock the Gate. When Lock the Gate began, apart from Friends of the Earth. who were very active in this area, no militant campaigns were taking on coal, gas or other fossil fuels. It really took a lot of farmers and rural communities to show the environment movement how to campaign. The yellow triangle US, wherever there was a campaign going on against fossil fuels, in particular unconventional gas. It is an international movement. I think people will start voting with their feet. People like the idea of renewable energy, they like solar panels on the roof, and I think we are going to see a revolution in energy policy in this country, regardless of the party in power.

we can help you find it nimbin nore than you can imagine nimbin visitor information centre 46 cullen street nimbin nsw 2480 02 6689 1388 nimbin@lismore.nsw.gov.au visitnimbin.com.au

to go overseas. We've lost so much in this country. All that began cropping up in was needed was a government England, Scotland, France to give some support to renewables and end the colossal, \$10 billion subsidy for the fossil fuel industry. The government props up the industry. The light at the end of the tunnel is a number of organisations coming on board with the divestment program, including universities and superannuation funds. There are hopeful signs

Page 4 The Nimbin GoodTimes August 2015

Fluoride-free forum

Newly-formed group, Fluoride Free Northern Rivers had a successful night at the Lismore Bowling Club on the blue full moon, 31st July. The forum was organised in response to the pending fluoridation of Lismore, Ballina and surrounding areas' water supplies.

Guest speakers included Cr Vanessa Ekins, Geoff Haycraft from the Goanna Bakery, and Merilyn Haines from Queensland Safe Water. Al Oshlack discussed a possible High Court challenge to the validity of the direction by the Department of Health, compelling Rous Water to undertake mass medication of the Lismore and Ballina water supply and concerns about the high incidences of fluoride-related health issues already in NSW.

"The truth is the high incidence of fluorosis in NSW amongst children and young adults has reached epidemic proportions," Al Oshlack claimed. "Bottle-fed babies, kidney and thyroid disease sufferers are particularly vulnerable. The community needs to be



informed of the amount of water they should consume so as not to overdose."

A petition opposing fluoridation with over 600 signatures was passed around the enthusiastic audience. Many participants also signed the My Will letters with 220 completed.

Music from Blackboi and Bo Khan entertained the crowd before everyone got into serious business, and there was yummy food donated by Rainbow Health Foods and Goanna Bakery. Everyone enjoyed a great night of community solidarity on this important issue.

Fluoride Free Northern Rivers is on Facebook if you want to find out more about the campaign.

NIMBIN VILLAGE LAUNDRY



YOUR LOCAL CLEAN & FRIENDLY LAUNDRY OPEN 7 DAYS 8am – 6pm phone: 040 3835 989 email: denisoldpirate@gmail.com

| Lismor | E to N Surro | I riers Nimbin | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| | Daily | | |
| Matt 0427205250 | & | Annmarie 0458464383 | |

Rainforest Panel Beating

All rust work & smash repairs Reasonable rates with free quotes

6689 1192

Mobile: 0418 258 834

Koala protest march in Pottsville

by Menkit Prince

The sleepy village of Pottsville was initiated with its first-ever political protest on Sunday 19th July. The protest was organised by Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) on behalf of the threatened koalas at Black Rocks.

Around 25 colourfully dressed people gathered with placards to march through the main street of town and past the local markets. The protesters carried signs with slogans calling for protection of koalas at Black Rocks for the sake of our children, demanding that a Men's Shed find a different home other than in the middle of a koala corridor, critical for the survival of coastal koalas, and warning certain councillors that if they didn't vote for koalas they would lose our vote at the next election.

They chanted 'No Men's Shed at Black Rocks oval,' 'Lock the Gate, Revegetate' and 'Save Black Rocks Koalas' accompanied by drums, cymbals, tin whistle and accordion. Alice, a handcrocheted art piece made into a puppet/beanie (now on her eighth protest) was there, as well as a number of stuffed koala toys that adorned people's bodies. All of the protesters were over 50 years old, coming from a range of professions and included a physician, an author, wildlife carers, a councillor, a book publisher, an artist, a physical education teacher, an electrician, a business studies teacher, a nurse - including retired Black Rocks residents -hardly your typical protesting types. But these people were upset enough about what is unfolding for koalas at Black Rocks to give up part of their Sunday on a beautiful sunny

they upset about? Four councillors (Barry Longland, Carolyn Byrne, Warren Polglase and Phil Youngblutt) voted 21st May, 2015 to remove the last protection Black Rocks koalas have i.e. the gate at the entrance to the sports field. There has been a long history of hooning and vandalism at the sports field creating stress for the koalas and then at Christmas last year there was a major fire that (according to ecologist and national koala expert Steve Phillips) may have wiped out 30-60% of their population and destroyed over 200 ha of the Pottsville wetlands. What the koalas need most is more protection, not less.

day to speak up. What were

By removing the gate, these four councillors went against the recommendations of Council's Koala Advisory Committee responsible for developing the Plan of Management to save coastal koalas, first by not locking the gate 24/7 (as recommended) and secondly by removing the gate altogether.

These four councillors then voted for council to progress a development application for a temporary Men's Shed right at the Black Rocks sportsfield when they already had a permanent location offered to them (Barry Shepphard oval) and are currently in a suitable temporary location at Pottsville primary school. Some pedestrians commented, "We can't understand why Council would want a Men's Shed in such a remote location. Why would they push it when they have already been offered a permanent location? We don't support it." However one of the protesters' biggest concerns was that of fire – having an

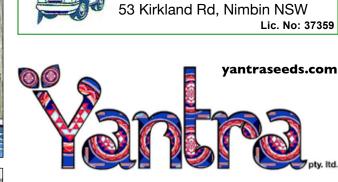


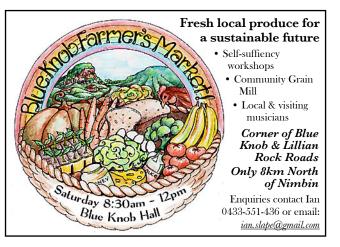


industrial-like facility which uses and stores flammable and explosive commodities in the middle of a koala corridor when there has already been a major fire recently. Wouldn't council want to eliminate the risk of fire, not promote it? The Men's Shed would be situated a mere 20 metres from the very bushland where koalas live. If there was a fire due to vandals breaking into the Men's Shed, it would not

their concerns. There was a very supportive response from passing traffic honking their horns and from pedestrians, many of whom were taking videos of the march on their mobile phones.

The highlight of the day was when the designated musician on the main stage at the markets spoke into the microphone complimenting the group protesting on behalf of the koalas. He then honoured them by inviting them to join around the stage while he sang 'Give Me a Home Among the Gum Trees', explaining to the crowds that it was Pottsville National Koala Day, a timely day to demonstrate! To view videos of the march go to: www.tinyurl.com/KoalaProtest If you are concerned about the survival of coastal koalas, please write to those four councillors and come to the next NRG rally. For more info contact Dave





PRIVATE CREMATION \$1980 includes GST

Loved one taken into our care 24 hours, 7 days All required mortuary attention and preservation Completion of all application and registration forms **Doctor's cremation certificates** Environmentally friendly cardboard coffin Private transport to crematorium and cremation fee Death registration and official BDM death certificate Return of ashes to loved one's family or friends

only wipe out the remaining koalas but force firemen to fight fire on three fronts – not to mention the threat of Black Rocks residents losing their homes to fire. The Black Rocks koalas

belong to one of three source koala populations on the Tweed Coast, and if the stressors which are driving them to imminent extinction are not removed, the fate of coastal koalas is doomed. For all these reasons and more, these people felt the need to take to the streets with Norris (02) 6676-0615.

Pre-Paid Plan Available – No Administration Fees

Locally owned by Ben & Emma Little Servicing Nimbin and surrounding areas

All Enquiries Welcome 1300 678 443 mail@dolphinfunerals.com.au



August 2015 The Nimbin GoodTimes Page 5

www.nimbingoodtimes.com

Grey Gum Lodge 2High Street Nimbin

www.greygumlodge.com stay@greygumlodge.com 02 6689 1713 – 0408 663 475





sphinx meck café

NEW TEAM MEMBER WANTED

To work Sundays

Ideally with previous Café experience, and your RSA.

Drop in your Resumé to the Café, email:

info@SphinxRockcafe.com

or phone 6679-7118.





Letters

Letters to the editor

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

Farewell Victor

For the last 12 months I have shared the privilege of knowing Victor, of sharing his keen intellect, his laconic wit and his vast knowledge. This 83-year old cultured gentleman, an ex-nurse, who had brought up a family, having worked hard and paid taxes all his life, had a probable 6-12 months left of life. In the same way that some elderly gentlemen enjoy a Scotch and pipe before retiring of an evening, Victor enjoyed a pint and a joint. As time went on, Victor became more dependent on the establishment health-wise, which thwarted his evening pleasures, berating him like an errant child and denying him independence.

On 20th July, while Victor was attempting to escape from an aged care institution in the Tweed Valley (a tribute to his spirit), he attempted to climb a high fence, lost his balance and fell, losing consciousness, contributing to his death.

The irony of the move towards 'medical' marijuana is not lost on me in this instance. Moreover this tragic incident represents an indictment on our culture, which strips the elderly of dignity, choice and respect, and patronises them.

Although I am opposed to cannabis use under the age of 20 years old, and no longer smoke, I believe that by the time the elderly reach a certain age, they have earned the entitlement of being able to make their own decisions and to be supported in a compassionate and respectful way by the society that they have helped create. We should be doing everything that can be done to ease their process of leaving this life. Roslyn Parry Fairbairn, Nimbin

telephone surveys.

A record 899 ratepayers bothered to say no to the recent Special Rate Variation which is a \$500,000 extra cash grab over and above the yearly 2.4% rate increase, but 125 people out of 209 contacted in a phone(y) survey said OK, so it was passed.

Our alleged local representative on council, Simon Clough, stands by this travesty.

Fluoride also met with massive objections, but thanks to another phone survey back in 2006, Lismorons will be drinking and gassing themselves in the shower with this toxic chemical, starting this month.

Council then decided to hand the matter over to the State Government so that we may never again discuss it on a local level. "Have your say" – what a joke.

We are now being told of a housing crisis. This will no doubt be met with yet more developer discounts, which is why we already have an acute lack of infrastructure.

"Imagine Lismore" – yeah, right. Imagine the bottlenecks when the 3000+ houses on the North Lismore plateau and 132 more in Goonellabah get approved. "Come to the heart" attack, where the arteries are always clogged and there's a multinational transfat takeaway on every corner.

If this is what our local pollies have to offer, then it's time they gave us back Terania Shire Council. Surely we couldn't do worse.

G Rosenswantz, Nimbin

Troubled by socialism

Doug Burt's constant harping for socialism ('Socialism Now!' Letters, NGT June 15) is interesting in the face of 150 years of European socialism currently playing out in Greece.

Europe's embrace of socialism has produced two world wars and, under Lenin, the slaughter and enslavement of hundreds of millions until it collapsed, mercifully without a third world war. Undeterred, Europe's socialists embarked on a new dream: a supra-national socialist organization called the EU. With the logic of Burt they must have figured if socialism fails in a single nation, maybe it will work in a multi-nation state? Instead, the socialist guarantee that no nation will be allowed to default on its bonds was taken at face value by the Greeks, and a handful of others, who then predictably spent their way to bankruptcy. Socialism is not an alternative economic system. It is a program for

consumption. Because each person's production must be distributed to everyone else, there is no economic incentive to produce or save. This is clearly evident in Greece where the labour participation rate is now 53%, which means for every productive person there is a non-producer to support.

Greece is evidence of the late Dr Adrian Rogers' observation: "When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them. And when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my friend, is about the end of any nation."

It's certainly the end of Greece and with it, we can only hope, the end of socialism. The only real alternative is of course, free market capitalism - a proven and 'actual' system of economic production, whereby each person owns the product of his own labour and, thus has great economic incentive to produce both for himself, his family, and to save surplus goods to trade for the surplus product of others. In this way, selfinterest and a pool of savings enriches the world and raises living standards.

We should reject socialism not only for the war and tyranny it produces, but because it steals from our children's future. The lesson is simple, you cannot multiply wealth by first dividing it. Scott Barlow

Scott Barlow Uki

Muddled weed-growers

An advertisement on page 17 of the NGT July edition points out that medicinal cannabis and a dope bush look identical. This highlights the fatal

flaw in the whole plan. Weed-growers will be able to operate undetected under the guise of 'medical' plantations.

I believe the muddled promoters have shot themselves in the foot, as they did when they took the big plastic joint to the medicinal hemp conference.

Many smokers seem to be

sisal, etc for the simple reason they don't get you addled.

Far better than intoxication is to experience God's spiritual power.

Vyvyan Stott Mullumbimby

Council voting

After reading through the minutes of all the ordinary Tweed council meetings this year (on council's website), I find that Councillor Byrne has voted against accepting Gary Bagnall's Mayoral minutes every month since January (7 times).

It is standard procedure for councillors to accept the Mayoral minutes (which are most likely vetted by staff), and I can't find any other instances from the past where the Mayoral minutes were rejected by a councillor.

I would like to publicly ask Cr Byrne why is she doing this? Many of us in the community are baffled by her voting patterns. Elizabeth Jack Tyalgum

Defer shed decision

Assessment of the Pottsville and District Men's Shed development application to construct a temporary facility at Black Rocks sports field has been outsourced to a private consultancy at ratepayers' expense. Councillors Longland, Polglase, Byrne and Youngblutt voted for the consultancy, as a matter of urgency, to return their assessment by 6 August 2015, when approval may be granted.

In a letter to Tweed Shire Council (19 February 2015), Office of Environment & Heritage requested that there be no changes to the access and use of the sports field until a study into Koalas, their habitat usage and the threats operating in the surrounding area is completed. This will ensure that decisions are based on accurate and up-to-date ecological data. However, a decision on the use of this sports field (ie Men's Shed) is on track to be made before this study has been completed.

There is no rush for the

Driveways

HOT MIX ASPHALT Laid and professionally rolled

CHEAP, permanent answer to your problem driveway "Does not wash away"

We have 4WD equipment to access steep driveways Gravel and Base work available – Free Quotes Ph Brian Perkins 66 888 354 Mobile 0438 624 175

Page 6 The Nimbin GoodTimes August 2015

Local democracy in crisis

"Have your say. Put in a submission." The dictionary says this means 'surrender, obedience, resignation, or to suffer without complaint'. Well, no matter, Lismore Council now prefers in need of medicine.

Needless to say, no-one is talking about industrial jute,



Editor Bob Dooley

Assistant editor Sue Stock Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy

Gough, Bob Dooley **Photographers** Sue Stock, Peter Chaplin. Peter Warne

Distribution Peter, Coralie, Andrew, Sue, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Stuart, Aengus, Elizabeth, Soul Kindle (Bellingen) Men's Shed to be approved as they have recently been able to set up a temporary

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com And find us on Facebook

NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin

NEXT DEADLINE: Wednesday 26th August

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

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Opinion

site at the Pottsville Primary School for 2-3 years or maybe indefinitely. Also a permanent site has been identified for them by Council staff at the Barry Sheppard sports field, but the Men's Shed refuse to go there.

I encourage your readers to contact Council (*tsc@ tweed.nsw.gov.au*) requesting a deferral of decisions regarding approval of the Men's Shed until the above study is completed.

> David Norris Pottsville

BUT... If they had called it a 'DUMB PHONE', would anyone have bought one?



The Nimbin Laneway Boys

The Faces of Cannabis Australia #2 by Dionne May

Supplying cannabis in Australia... let's face it, someone IS doing it and someone's gotta do it 'cos Australians love their weed, and now the sick and dying are adding to the steady flow of keen buyers.

Cannabis is big business and something that Nimbin was at the very least tolerant of, and at best proud of for socially normalising the smoking of recreational cannabis. An alternative lifestyle choice that was so remote from the cities and suburban Australia that over the years our town survived on its green industry.

From this rich social experiment sprang forth some of the next generation of born and bred Nimbin... the infamous Nimbin Laneway Boys, if not the most intriguing, definitely the most socially, politically and legally challenged of our close-knit community.

Everyone has a story. Nearly every offence or crime committed here is branded the work of the boys. Everyone has an attitude towards them from resolved indifference, contempt or condemnation to, perhaps surprising to many, absolute love and respect. Yep these boys have got some serious street cred.

Grown men spoke to me with tears in theirs eyes relaying memories of the boys unfailing generosity and bravehearted commitment to keeping our small town clean of ice and the ratbag tide of "fringe"sellers that stalk and rip off our tourists daily. Memories of large donations (I mean pounds, folks) for sick people. The Nimbin Laneway Boys care.

Running the gauntlet of outdated prohibition laws, these boys are breaking the law. Most of us in Nimbin are, actually. By choice or by circumstance, everyone in Nimbin is connected in some way to the cannabis trade. Either supplying, smoking or



sales and business.

My first obvious question to the group: "Why do you sell cannabis, boys?" "We were born into it. Literally I was

born just up the road..." "My parents dealt..." "It's an easy opportunity..." were the chorus of answers. "So with all this attention on medicinal

cannabis, how much of your trade do you think is for medicinal purposes?" I ask. They decide on a figure of about 60% and are all obviously proud of helping these sick people. Each boy starts relating one story after another of happy patients getting off pharmaceutical medicines, turning to cannabis.

"They are SO thankful. They bring us chocolates and cakes and congratulate us, and we get big kudos for good community work. Seriously, we get chocolates every week," they smile, big grins on their faces.

"And are these people scared of being busted? It's all pretty 'out there' now that the Museum and Rainbow have burned down? Lots of cops around, yeah?" I ask.

"Yeah, the cops are going hard. They only have theories and they are so dead wrong! If they came and sat down here and heard our opinions, they might change how they feel about us. But not now. They are using Association Laws against us – we are being targeted," one says.

A local businessperson declared, "The policing of this town is pathetic! If you call they don't come, and yet they spend all day chasing the boys and trying to exclude them from town. Their green money supports this town. I ask the boys, "How much do you think you all spend in town every day?" Again they get rowdy, counting up their costs of living, three meals a day and all their needs, this group of a dozen or so healthy young men easily spend about \$1000 each day, supporting local businesses, friends and street artists alike. My next question fires the boys up, and their energy changes. "And how do you think this community sees you?" I ask. "Everything gets blamed on us. Anything bad happens, they say it was the Laneway Boys. All the time, no matter what. One bastard locks his gate so the cops can catch us, and they try to

stop us from parking in town. And the new people that have come in the last four years have no understanding and just listen to the rumours and bullshit. They say we sell 'ice' – we run that shit out of town. We hate that shit and having nothing to do it. We deal with all the shit no-one wants to deal with. They have no idea what we do for this town." But they are not angels, I remind them.

"Not everyone gets a good reception from you guys. Like anyone who looks like an undercover these days, am I right?"

"Well our freedom isn't worth \$50! But no one gets ripped off with us. Sometimes we are over the top, too paranoid, smoking too much hydro, and we feed off each other's energy."

The older guard in town lament the fiery demise of the Museum, as it was a place that they could monitor and mentor the boys from. "We kept them in line. They may be little shit-bags, but they're our little shit bags. Besides, they are a necessary evil... like lantana.... pull them out and new ones come in."

I ask,"What would happen if the laws changed and you guys became the most successful businessmen of town? Would you hold grudges?"

"We don't hold grudges. No way! We're here for the money! And anyway, even if we do have a big arse shop we'd still have guys selling out the back... tax free! They can't catch us now, so they won't catch us then," one grins irrepressibly at me.

Trade starts warming up, and I can see they are keen to see to business, so I ask the group one last question, "If possible, would you guys like a voice in any agenda of the future of Nimbin?"

"We should have a big arse say! What the community doesn't deal with, we deal with!" is the emphatic reply.

If I play the devil's advocate here and imagine a Nimbin free of those outdated and discriminatory prohibition laws, then perhaps it's time Nimbin, if not embrace the work this group does for our town, then at least remember how damaging unsubstantiated rumours and malicious gossip are in a small town. There is a lot of shit that happens in this town that has nothing to do with this group, and continues unfettered while they continue to be blamed for everything. These local boys will live and die in these hills, having children of their own, growing old like the rest of us. The Nimbin Laneway Boys are not only an integral link in the cannabis chain and indeed iconic figures in the cannabis industry in Australia 2015, but ironically perhaps, form an historical part of the living web of acceptance and tolerance that the Nimbin community is proud of, and drew us all here in the first place.

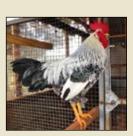
Notices

Therapies room available

In Birth & Beyond building, behind Nimbin Apothecary. Thursday and Sunday, \$32.00 one day / \$52.00 two days. Phone Tonia Haynes 02 6689-0240 Mobile 0439-794-420.

Free rooster

Urgently seeking kind NON-KILL home for "Ricky", a beautiful young bantam rooster. (*See photo.*) Needs large pen and hens to keep him happy. Phone 6629-8140. Will deliver up to 50km from Lismore.



Kyogle Reconciliation Group

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 13th August, 1-2pm at Kyogle Youth Action, 159-161 Summerland Way, Kyogle.

Nimbin Flix

The movie night for Nimbin Flix is on Saturday, 22nd August at Birth and Beyond. 6pm doors are open and 6.30pm the movie starts. Food and drink are available by donation. We can be found on Facebook or email: *nimbinflix@gmail.com*

Annual General Meeting

- Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group AGM Wednesday 2nd September, 10am in Community Centre grounds. All welcome.
- Nimbin Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club AGM Sunday 23rd August, 9am at the Club.

Collective garage sale

Nimbin Preschool is fundraising for some climbing equipment and is hosting a Collective Garage Sale on Saturday 8th August, 8am to 2pm at Nimbin Town Hall. Bring anything that you need to get rid of: furniture, brica-brac, clothing, kids stuff and plants to name a few. Cost: \$15 pre-booked, or \$20 on the day. Call Nicole on 0432-429-296 to book your space or ask any questions.

Open Learning Classes

Nimbin Community School is running classes in Creative Writing and Ukulele, accepting casual attendees at \$10 per session. Creative Writing is at 11am Wednesdays, and Ukulele 1pm Thursdays, both at the Community Centre.

Meditation with Jazmin

Centre your being and activate positive energy around you. By donation on Tuesdays, 11am at the Community School room at Nimbin Community Centre. "Become master of your mind and captain of your soul."

Weave and Mend

The 2015 Weave and Mend basketry weaving festival will be held as a three-day weekend camp in the Nimbin Community Centre grounds on 2nd, 3rd and 4th October. Organised by Wednesday Women Weavers, the festival will feature continual 2-hour workshops, food and acoustic music. For futher information, phone 6689-7129.



School Administrator/Business Manager

Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education is seeking an enthusiastic School Administrator/Business Manager to work parttime, 3 to 4 days a week, starting in term 4.

happily trading green money, whether consciously or not.

So I approached the boys at the end of the lane. On duty, business as usual, they were keen to answer my questions. I've worked beside these boys for about a decade and seen most of them cutting their teeth on the streets. Toughing up. The older boys back then perhaps

showed them a meaner style of trading. Pushy, sexiest, intimidating with females and aggressive and territorial with males. Locals usually found other avenues of trade rather than brave the Lane, unless you took your time to know who's who. But I've watched this younger generation get some real smarts. A loyal and tight team, they've learned the arts and craft of Rainbow Ridge has a shared leadership structure so the School Administrator works collaboratively with the Educational Administrator and the Board of Directors to guide and develop the school.

It is hoped that the School Administrator will have the following qualities and skills, or the ability to quickly acquire them:

- Administrative and management qualifications
- An interest in Steiner Education
- Ability to work in a team, to lead and to delegate tasks
- Demonstrated experience with office management programs and technology (eg word, excel, email etc.).

Time allocation: 0.6 FTE, 24 hrs/week (negotiated timetabling) Remuneration: MA-76 Level 8, \$64,838 (pro rata)

A job description may be obtained by contacting Anja Hunold on 02 6689 7033 or emailing: <u>admin@rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au</u>

Applications close: 26th August 2015. Starting Date: 5th October 2015.

Rainbow Ridge School, 279 Lillian Rock Road, Lillian Rock NSW 2480

August 2015 The Nimbin GoodTimes Page 7

www.nimbingoodtimes.com



by Cr Jenny Dowell

July meeting

It was pleasing to have 50 people in the gallery for the July 14 meeting. There were several items of interest on the Agenda including the planning proposal for North Lismore Plateau and two reports relating to developments of a quarry in Ruthven and a macadamia dehusking facility at Numulgi.

Readers might be aware that the Land and Environment Court determined that the rezoning application for North Lismore Plateau as proposed earlier differed from that advertised following the Department of Planning's direction to Council to remove environmental (E) zones. The land owners, Council and the Aboriginal Stakeholder Reference Group all want E-zones. We now hope that the Minister will agree to re-advertising the plan with the E zones included.

The quarry at Ruthven has been operating for many years but applied to alter its conditions to allow blasting to access solid layers of basalt. The site contains large numbers of koalas but there is little scientific research into the effects of loud noise on the species. Council decided to defer a decision and held a briefing with Sean Fitzgibbon from University of Queensland who described the colony as 'significant' and urged baseline studies and monitoring to determine the koalas'

From the mayor's desk

current status.

The Numulgi de-husking facility was visited by Councillors and there were concerns from neighbours but council was satisfied with the conditions of consent and approved the development unanimously.

Community Grants

Over the past 18 months, Council has reviewed and rewritten our Community Grants policy to make it fairer. This year was the first with the new process and we are delighted to have been able to fund 33 of the 46 applications for projects. This is in addition to the \$2000 given to all 29 of our rural halls. The successful applicants received funds ranging from \$750 to \$10,000 and totalling \$121,253. Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre will receive \$3500 and the School of Arts will get \$3209. The grants will be presented next month at a Local Government Week event.

Fit for the Future

Council has lodged its submission as required to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to be a stand-alone Council rather than one that merges with Kyogle. We believe we have the scale and capacity required for the future and have demonstrated that we meet all seven criteria by 2019/20. There seems to be a desire for amalgamations of councils but there appears to be no evidence to support the claim that larger Councils are more efficient or effective. The IPART will assess all Council's submissions and make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government, Paul Toole who met with Mayors and General Managers during a recent visit. There was nothing new announced but it seems inevitable that change is on the agenda. Towards the end

of the year we will know our fate and whether forced amalgamations will occur.

Roads

On several recent drives to Nimbin and Blue Knob, I noticed the much improved road both in terms of surface of the road itself but also from the installation of safety guardrails and the trimming of vegetation to give better sight lines and to make the warning signs more visible. There is still more work planned but the progress so far is a great improvement. Readers will have recently received a special newsletter in the mail with more information on roads.

TAC

Thank you for the feedback on recent improvements to the main pedestrian crossing on Cullen St. The Traffic Advisory Committee recommended some vegetation trimming, repainting lines and a LOOK sign to alert motorists. It would appear that some incidents of slow speed collisions or near misses are still happening perhaps by distracted motorists or perhaps by pedestrians who assume drivers will stop and step out suddenly. The most recent TAC agreed to install classifiers to accurately measure vehicle speeds but it is doubtful that speeds will be excessive.

Mardi Grass debrief

It was good to meet with representatives of the Mardi Grass Organising Body, Showgrounds, Jungle Patrol, NAG, Police and Council to discuss this year's Mardi Grass. The need for emergency accommodation in very wet weather and better information on parking changes were two of the suggestions for the future. Overall everyone was pleased with the event despite the heavy rain on Friday. Police were praised for their approach and they praised the organisers and Council adding that this was the best organised event to date with the requirements for a development application being so well met that Council granted a three year approval. Well done all.

Nimbin Advisory Group

The Nimbin Advisory Group met on July 9 and discussed the planned marketing campaign, the redevelopment of the fire sites, the cubes.co proposal and footpath trading. (See the full report on page 11.) The next meeting will be held 5 November, 6pm at the Neighbourhood Centre.

RFS Cadet Graduation

I'm disappointed that a change in date meant that I was unable to attend the graduation of 13 Rural Fire Service cadets from Nimbin Central School. Congratulations to students who have gained wonderful skills during their training and will keep their communities safe during emergencies. (See story, p.12)

Arts in August

Arts flourish in our community all year but in August we bring exhibitions and performances together under the Arts in August banner. When you are in Lismore, check out the Arts Northern Rivers Pop Up Shop in Magellan St old Council offices featuring work by local artists. Arts NR is the umbrella organisation for seven Councils and has been setting up these Pop Ups in each LGA over the past two years. I'm delighted that it's Lismore's turn and that it coincides with Arts in August.

Housing

Over the past twelve months I have been NOROC's representative on the North Coast Ageing Strategy

> such as waste management. However regional issues such as CSG, public transport, tourism management and of course, getting a better funding deal from state and federal governments, all require a more effective political voice.

NOROC, our existing collective of councils and voice of the Northern Rivers, needs to be built on to better reflect and represent our region's aspirations. There is a mood for change as reflected in NOROC's unsuccessful expression of interest to articipate in a pilot Joint Organisation (JO) initiative. Council general managers have since got together and agreed to a model JO that meets the needs of the Northern Rivers. Council endorsed the 'minimalist' model at a recent meeting, but also agreed to hold a councillor workshop to discuss the 'broader social, economic and cultural aspects of a future Joint Organisation'. While the proposal adds a councillor representative from each council to the



task force. My particular area of responsibility is Housing and I'm delighted that funding has been secured for Lismore Council to run a two day charrette on Housing for an ageing population in November. I recall that when Council hosted Imagine Lismore forum in Nimbin there was interest in multiple occupancy living for seniors within walking distance of the village. If you have ideas on how you'd like to live in your senior years, please email me: Jenny.Dowell@lismore. nsw.gov.au

Tip Free Day

Don't forget the next Tip free Day at the Wyrallah Road Resource Recovery Facility on August 16. Take proof of residency in our Council area and you can drop off as many loads as you like free of charge. There are limits on some items such as car tyres. Check the Council website for details.

Nimbin Fun Run

Best wishes to Cassandra and all participants in the Nimbin Fun Run on August 30. It is always a well organised event and lots of fun.

September 10

September 10 is the one-yearto-go date for the next Council election. I'm hosting an information session from 5-7pm at Council for women who might consider being a candidate in 2016. Please think about it for yourself or tap a female friend on the shoulder and tell her 'you'd be good at that'. We need more women in local government.... How about it?

> mayors who currently make up the NOROC board, the aspirations are limited 'initially at least' to regional 'strategic planning, advocacy and intergovernmental relations'. It is intended that regional priorities will be identified in a 'regional strategic plan' to be developed and adopted at a workshop of 'the board' and bureaucrats.

> This type of closed decisionmaking by NOROC has hindered its effectiveness because its voice often lacks any sense of broad community backing.

In short, communities need to consider the future beyond the minimalist model. What are regional priorities? What should a JO look like and how should it represent the region? How should a JO engage communities? How can a JO strengthen and support individual councils? Ultimately the effectiveness of a future JO will depend on the level of community ownership over its decision making.

Summit calls for crown land inquiry

by Janine Kitson

A community summit has called for a Parliamentary Inquiry into Crown Land, to ensure NSW's crown lands remains in public hands for the long term public interest.

The Parliamentary Summit on Crown Land was held at the NSW Parliament House on 24th June, hosted by Labor MP Mick Veitch and Greens MP David Shoebridge.

Speakers included representatives from the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Better Planning Network and community groups who are fighting to protect their public parklands and open space from development and privatisation.

The NSW Government is currently reviewing the management of crown lands. There are concerns that changes to the crown land management will focus

Amalgamation watch

Councils across the region have sent off their 'Fit For the Future' (FFF) proposals and so begins the wait to see how IPART, a government agency with a focus on pricing regulation, will handle the task of assessing the proposals. Getting across the complexity of stalled financial reform issues and how they impact future financial fitness will be difficult enough.

Rate pegging, federal funding formulas and lack of infrastructure support being the most obvious chokers on councils. Of greater concern is whether IPART has the necessary understanding of the people, communities and aspirations of individual councils. A formula based assessment without cultural context risks reducing FFF to a box ticking exercise for an amalgamation agenda. While Kyogle has already been placed on amalgamation watch, it appears that Sydney Metropolitan councils are the initial target. Councils outside this group who pass most of the seven financial standards may be given



by Cr Basil Cameron

a reprieve. Perhaps with approval dependent on further improvement. The bottom line however, is that amalgamations are a flawed band aid for councils in our growing region.

exclusively on raising revenue and reducing administrative burdens, without considerations on how these decisions impact on the natural environment.

The NSW Government's review includes recommendations to hand over large parcels of public land to private management and ownership. This would seriously reduce protections for high conservation land, including wilderness, as well as bushland and parkland.

The meeting called for a moratorium on the selling, leasing and private development of crown land until after the Inquiry reports and its recommendations are implemented. A Crown Land Action Group has been formed that will co-ordinate a community campaign to stop crown land mismanagement and sell-offs.

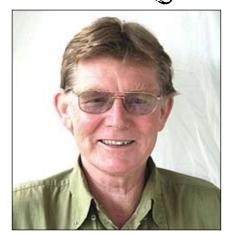
NSW Parliamentarians need to remember – they hold crown lands in trust for the citizens of this state – not to make quick profits at the cost of the environment.

Page 8 The Nimbin GoodTimes August 2015

Improved Northern Rivers representation? The Destination 2036 reform process that got us to FFF was much broader and contemplated many worthy ideas. How councils work together within a region being one. Rainbow region councils already work together on procurement, resource sharing and planning for regional issues

basil.cameron@cr.byron.nsw. gov.au

Simon says ..



by Cr Simon Clough, Lismore City Council

Trust you have all survived the cold/ wet spell. We decided to have a few weeks off and stay at a friend's place in Byron. I had the flu for the whole time. So much for holidays!

The Gasfield Free Northern Rivers movement is reaching a critical stage. The Greens introduced the Bill, and the ALP is proposing amendments that could see it pass in the upper house. If passed, the Bill would:

• Impose an immediate and openended moratorium on coal seam gas and all unconventional gas that will apply everywhere except the currently producing gasfield in Camden. That means exploration in Gloucester and the Pilliga will have to stop. • Create no-go zones for unconventional gas that will have permanent bans, including all seven local Government areas in the Northern Rivers, Sydney and the Central Coast's drinking water catchment, recharge areas for the Great Artesian Basin, prime farmland and critical industry clusters, with the means to add to these.

Require the Government implement key recommendations by the Chief Scientist, like the public data repository and the Standing Expert Advisory Body.

• Not allow the moratorium to be lifted until these measures are in place, and two different bodies have certified that unconventional gas in the area targeted is safe and will not permanently harm water resources or any other environmental value.

We want as many people as possible to send emails to the Upper House members representing our region requesting support for the bill. You can find all the details on the Lock the Gate website at: www.lockthegate.org.au/nsw_ gasfield_moratorium

I wanted to write about roads. Hopefully everyone has seen Lismore Council's "YOUR ROADS" publication. It's great to see Council putting out the facts on the roads and explaining its strategy regarding roads and listing its roads schedule.

Roads soak up 24% of Council's budget and are obviously critical. However few people understand the very difficult financial position local councils are in regarding roads. In NSW councils are "rate capped" meaning that every year councils are told how much they can legally increase their rates. Usually this increase is around the inflation or consumer price index mark. This is fine for those items that increase in line with inflation, but it does not take into account the fact that the cost of roads and other capital expenditure increase at about double the rate of inflation. When you realise that year after year, councils only get less than half the increase in road costs, you can begin to appreciate why roads are such a challenge.

I must say I was glad to get back to Lismore after our holiday, where the road conditions are far superior to Byron's. Lismore City Council is currently organising a service level review. This review is an extraordinary exercise which lists and categorise all Council's services and activities from running an animal pound, through water, sewerage, road design and maintenance, libraries, planning, environmental issues, commercial services to community funding and with heaps more in between. The goal of this exercise is to then review each of these areas for efficiency and effectiveness and to finally do a presentation to a representative sample of the community so that they can allocate priorities between Council's various activities. While this process will not be final it will give Councillors a very strong indication of what the community most values in terms of Council's activities. Stay warm and well.

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

Stronger Communities Grants Programme

The Richmond Stronger Communities Grants Programme is making \$150,000 available for small capital projects which contribute to the vibrancy and viability of our community. Please phone my office on 07 5523-4371 for more information.

I'm encouraging community groups, sporting clubs, and other local organisations to consider applying for funding under the new Stronger Communities Grant Programme.

Our local Stronger Communities Programme will deliver funding across the Richmond electorate through small capital grants for projects that will contribute to the vibrancy and viability of our region.

Under the Stronger **Communities Grant** Programme, funding of up to \$150,000 per year will be made available in 2015-16 and in 2016-17 for each federal electorate to support small capital projects which impro local community participation. Applicants will be able to apply for funding from \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$20,000, but will need to provide matching cash or in-kind funding to be eligible. I look forward to working with local community groups to ensure we secure important funding for local organisations and I encourage organisations interested in applying for funding to contact my office to discuss projects. Examples of potential eligible projects that



by Justine Elliot, MP for Richmond

organisations may wish to consider seeking funding for under this programme could include sporting facility modernisation, kitchen upgrades, equipment purchases such as computers, furniture and fittings. Final applications will be assessed against the Programme Guidelines by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the wind farms. This act is only part of the Liberal National Government's war on renewable energy.

Labor understands that the ban on investing in wind farms has also been extended to solar energy, including rooftop solar.

Tony Abbott is broadening his assault on renewable energy technologies, putting thousands of Australian jobs and billions of dollars in investment at even further risk. This is the most blatant example of Tony Abbott's lack of vision for Australia's future.

The whole world is moving towards clean energy and Tony Abbott is pushing Australia in the opposite direction. Only Labor takes the challenge of climate change and the need to grow our renewable energy sector seriously.

Local awarded the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal

I spoke in Parliament recently about a remarkable and inspiring local woman: Registered Nurse, Elizabeth Bowell, known as Libby. This year Libby was the recipient of the Florence Nightingale Medal – an international award presented to nurses who display exceptional courage and devotion to victims of armed conflict or natural disaster. The award is also for exemplary service and a pioneering spirit in public health and nursing education. Only 36 outstanding nurses worldwide received this award in 2015. Libby is a veteran of about

20 Red Cross missions, which have seen her serve all over the world. Libby's work as an Australian Red Cross Aid worker has taken her to some of the worst humanitarian health crises in recent memory including the 2005 Boxing Day tsunami in Banda Aceh; the flood emergencies in Kenya and the Solomon Islands; earthquake relief in both Yogyakarta and Haiti; and cholera outbreaks in Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone. In September of last year,

Libby travelled to Liberia as an emergency health co-ordinator for the Ebola epidemic response. Prior to her arrival, the Ebola virus had spread across Liberia with more than 1,000 deaths.

It is hard to imagine the degree of selflessness and dedication it takes for an individual to put her life on hold – sacrificing everything, including her personal safety – to travel to often remote locations, all for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of

Zee Book Exchange

We sell and exchange:

- Old and New Books
- CDs and DVDs
- Jigsaws, Games and Toys

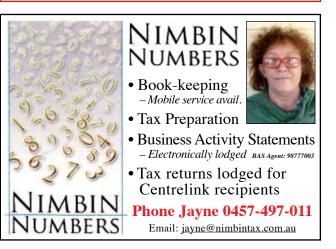
Nimbin Community Centre, Room A2 Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm Saturday & Sunday 10am – 4pm



Four cosy one-bedroom timber cabins nestled on 33 acres of natural bushland with abundant wildlife, within easy walking distance of local restaurants and shops. Overnight or Weekly – Wheelchair Access

TERETRE Retreat – NIMBIN

5 High Street, Nimbin NSW 2480 AUSTRALIA Ph: (02) 66 891 908 - Mob: 0427 891 626 Email: info@teretre.com.au - Web Site www.teretre.com.au





Programme Guidelines and the Frequently Asked Questions, available on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's website: www.infrastructure.gov. au/SCP

Abbott's war on windfarms spreads to solar

Many locals were rightly concerned about recent reports that Tony Abbott has instructed the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to stop investing in others. Libby is highly respected by her peers and regarded as an exceptional person and a role model for innumerable healthcare workers both here in Australia and abroad. Libby's life is one that has been dedicated to the greater good. I would like to congratulate her exemplary service. Libby is a very worthy recipient of the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal. Thank you for the wonderful work you do here and indeed right throughout the world.





Driveway & Landscaping Supplies

Sand & Gravels
Garden Soils & Mulches
Decorative Pebbles
Truck Hire

 Delivery to all areas

Mon-Fri 7:00am to 5:00pm
Sat 7:00am to 1:00pm
187 Casino Street, South Lismore
Phone 6622 8890

August 2015 The Nimbin GoodTimes Page 9

www.nimbingoodtimes.com