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Processing seeds at Blue Knob Farmers Market



Saving vegetable seeds from your garden can be tricky.

Not because it's that hard, but because finding time to get the dry stalks with seeds on them from the garden to the house, process them and put them in a packet, can be time-consuming.

Sometimes the weather is against us and it rains at a crucial time, so you wait for the seeds to dry again and before you know it, another month goes by and still no seeds sorted.

On Saturday 6th June, the Nimbin Seed Exchange is hosting a seed processing day at the Blue Knob Farmers Market, starting at 10am. This is a great opportunity to bring in those dry vegie plants with seeds attached that need to be processed, packeted and labelled.

Perhaps you have all your seeds in a shoebox and they just need sorting out? Bring 'em along and take the time to put some order into your

private seed bank. It will make it so much easier the next time you go looking for a particular seed variety to plant.

If you don't have any seeds to sort, but would be willing to help out, we would love you to come along – it's a wonderful communal activity and a chance to share seed stories.

If you have any queries about the day, please contact us on Facebook: *Nimbin Seed Exchange*.

The Goats gallop through Bush Theatre

by Mel Williamson

April was a mighty month of music at The Bush Theatre. Kicking off at the start of the month with a wonderful Easter weekend, featuring FNQ's The Hillbilly Goats, Sunshine Coasts David Flower and Caroline Trengrove, and Brisbane's Sian Evans.

Sian Evans (ex-Rusty Datsuns) started off the Saturday night show – just her, her banjo, and some beautiful tunes. Definitely not your average banjo music.

Following Sian was David Flower, performing in a fantastic duo with Caroline Trengrove. Their talents certainly shone through in a set that was nothing short of captivating. Guitar, violin, and vocals, combining in a unique blend of styles; alternately rocky/jazzy, mellow, funky, and sometimes just simply mesmerising music. Highly impressive.

To round off the night, the fabulous Hillbilly Goats with their 'Still in the Mountains' show. And indeed it was a show, the stage was set, the band was costumed (in one of their 12 outfit colours), tap boots were on, and their multi-instrumental talents, (including the bones), took the crowd on a journey through (their unique version of) Appalachian music history.

It's no wonder these guys are a hugely popular touring/festival band, and perhaps no surprise that fans (spontaneously) travelled from the Central Coast, Tamworth, and Brisbane just to see them play. Infectious, high



energy entertainment.

All three acts also played the next day outdoors at the Phoenix Rising Cafe – also all highly enjoyable performances – but (deliberately) not the same as the previous night. Those of you who didn't make the very memorable Bush Theatre show really missed out on a magic night of music.

A week later the theatre was packed for the fundraiser for Paul Joseph (aka Aquarius Songman) – a Tuntable and Bush Co-op founder. There could be nowhere more fitting to seek (and receive) support of friends, family, and community – than the place Paul helped create some 40 years ago (even cutting down the trees that form the foundation of the stage). A stage and theatre where Paul, with help from seasoned musician friends and family, showcased his rich, wry, humorous,

heartfelt, 45 years of song-writing history.

Then, the following weekend the Bush Theatre hosted a very special live album recording for Kerriane Cox – Jinki (pictured), with *Womyn of the Sun*. A wonderful night was had by all – the warmth of the music and thoughtful lyrics touching souls, and the energy and vibe getting the crowd up and dancing. There will be many looking forward to what is sure to be a very fine album.

Phew, what a month. The Bush Theatre is again a thriving venue, and one we are very fortunate to have in our small village. Keep your eyes peeled for what's coming up next (the hint is in the venue name) – and make sure you get down and support local, Australian, and further afield acts; so they'll keep coming to keep us both entertained and enriched.

One more cup of chai before I go...



by Benny Zable

Sunday 14th June is the last time I will be seen around the Rainbow Chai Tent at the Channon Market, before leaving the Northern Rivers area for a while.

Besides the move to Canberra, I will be flying out



to New York again to continue my usual activist cultural business there. Leaving does not mean I will not come back if agreeable circumstances change for my liking.

The Nimbin Bush Theatre is the best I have seen managed and developed in all my time around these parts. David Hyatt (Bringabong) has done a fantastic job in servicing and

developing this space. I was a bit grumpy at first, but since then I have seen this amazing transformation of the site in front of the theatre.

Most noticeable are the gardens and ongoing permaculture plantings to help stabilise the banks. The site is now very well sheltered from sun and rain exposure, and great food and drinks are on

sale, prepared from mainly local healthy produce.

To make this happen Dave had to bypass all kinds of regulations that makes it very difficult to do anything which affects the 'heritage' of this site. Please support him with these ongoing changes in creating an ecosystem for community engagement for all who visit.

Region 'counting on pollies' to finalise CSG buy back

Gasfield Free Northern Rivers is launching a celebratory countdown to the June 30 deadline set by the state government for the buy back of Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) 445, which covers most of the Lismore state electorate and parts of Clarence. They are hoping this is a unifying process for the region as it moves a step closer to a gasfield free future.

A rare political consensus emerged during the state election over the fate of PEL 445 with the National Party leader Troy Grant and local member Thomas George promising a buy back of the license if re-elected, whilst the Greens and Labor candidates were proposing a more comprehensive cancellation of all Northern Rivers gas licenses.

According to Gasfield Free Northern Rivers co-ordinator, Dean Draper, "The buy back of PEL 445 will represent a significant step towards the achievement of a gasfield -free Northern Rivers, particularly at a time when other National Party MPs, Chris Gulaptis and MLC Ben Franklin are also arguing for an eventual buy-out of the Metgasco licenses.

"Given the political consensus that exists in this region for the achievement of a gasfield region, the buy back of PEL 445 provides an early opportunity



for the state government, the National Party leader Troy Grant and local member Thomas George to make good on their election undertakings to the region," Mr Draper said.

"We hope Chris Gulaptis will also encourage the state government to investigate buying back the Metgasco gas licenses that cover most of his electorate of the Clarence before the deadline on June 30th."

The countdown was launched in conjunction with the Knitting Nannas regular Thursday knit-in at the local

members office, and featured a countdown clock to be publicly displayed in the Lismore CBD for the month of June.

"It's no longer a protest but a countdown to a unifying event for the region. We take our local candidates at their word and the whole community is now counting on Thomas George and Troy Grant to see this election promise fulfilled. We look forward to being able to celebrate this important milestone by June 30, the date set by the government for the completion of this process," Mr Draper said.

Djanbung Gardens Open Day

A fun filled day of food, tours, presentations and workshops and the opportunity to explore the gardens of the world-class Permaculture training facility, Djanbung Gardens will be held on Saturday 13th June, 10am-4pm.

Come and learn about animal systems, sustainable energy, composting, appropriate technologies, edible weeds, tiny houses, alternate uses of unused animal parts and much more. There's something for everyone. Entry is by donation.

This year's theme, 'Abundance is bliss' will be an educational showcase empowering individuals to embrace the abundance nature provides through good permaculture design and an inclusive community.

The day is organised by the Permaculture College Australia students, who will be conducting workshops and tours to share what they've been learning with the wider community.

"I have learned things about our relationship with the earth I never imagined were possible and feel reconnected and excited to be a conscious and positive contributor," student Dominic Giblin said.

The Abundance Café will be open



all day selling delicious lunches and refreshments from local organic and garden produce. Plants, seedlings, tubers, produce and books will be for sale to raise funds for student resources.

The annual Open Day has been going since 2005 to give people the opportunity to reconnect with nature and it's systems to learn and grow together in a fun, practical and sustainable way. This year Djanbung Gardens celebrates its 21st year of operation, from a barren cow pasture to a showcase of permaculture in practice.

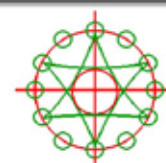
Djanbung Gardens is the home

campus of Permaculture College Australia, conveniently located within walking distance of Nimbin's village centre, at 74 Cecil Street, just 300m past the Nimbin Showground.

Further information contact 6689-1755 (Mon, Wed & Fri 10-3) or email: admin@permaculture.com.au Web: www.permaculture.com.au

Permaculture College Australia Inc. is a non-profit environmental education centre providing community and vocational training in sustainable practices and design.

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Australia in full spectrum dominance by the USA



by Graeme Dunstan
Peacebus.com



For nine years now I have been occupying public places on the fourth of July with Independence from America Day celebrations, artful preemptive strikes for peace. Next 4 July i will be doing it in Rockhampton as the US and Australian militaries gather there - 30,000 troops in all plus contingents from Japan and New Zealand - for the biennial Talisman Sabre military exercises at Shoalwater Bay 7 - 18 July. 'Exercise' is what the military call their occupation and bombing of Shoalwater Bay, its pristine wilderness and its coral reefs. We peace activists call it rehearsal for war.

Our political and military leadership say it is a training in "interoperability" by which they mean the seamless integration of Australian armed forces into the US imperial war machine in the name of national security.

We say it is a means by which they hijack our army, steal our taxes and pervert our foreign policy.

We say that it is the tribute paid by Australians generally in our role as a vassal state in the US empire in its endless wars in pursuit of full spectrum dominance of all nations and peoples on this Earth.

But so immersed are we in the matrix of full spectrum US imperial dominance, that to say so is to speak both the unspoken and also the unspeakable. The triumph of endless war is the normalisation of war.

And how has this come about? Because the Parliament itself has been infiltrated by US imperial ideology and its stooges. There was a time when the Liberal Party was the party gung-ho for the US alliance and "All the way with LBJ", the US president who ensnared us in the US war on



IndoChina. When the Labor Party came out against that war, and conscription for it, it won a landslide electoral victory which began the Whitlam era of progressive reform: Medicare, abolition of university fees, the Schools Commission, the Australia Council for the Arts and many others.

Gone now is the Labor opposition to US wars and gone with it are the Whitlam era reforms. Now the ALP is in lockstep with the Coalition on war and debate on war and national security in the Parliament has been stifled. Opposition Leader Shorten stands beside PM Abbott during war affirming media meets, grinning vacantly like a man lobotomized.

How has this happened? Well the US Embassy in Canberra has been conducting what it calls "Leadership Forums" and by this means has encouraged young and ambitious politicians in both the major political parties to become familiar and share information. As with the military and the intelligence communities, no one now advances to positions of power and influence in the major parties without a tick of approval from the US Embassy.

As the Abbott government slashes welfare programs claiming taxation shortfalls, in its current budget it quietly boosts military spending by more than \$2.5 billion to \$31.8 billion—a 7 percent rise on top of an 8 percent increase last year. Much of the extra cash is to pay for

Australia's participation in Washington's war in Iraq and Syria.

Capital spending of \$7 billion is allocated for new hardware focused on fighting in distant battlefields. This includes C-17 strategic heavy lift aircraft (\$261 million), E-A/18 Growler Super Hornet electronic warfare fighters (\$890 million), Air Warfare Destroyers (\$746 million) and vehicles (\$205 million).

This capital expenditure is to grow rapidly to \$11 billion in 2018–19. Among the acquisitions will be that flying lemon, the Lockheed Martin F35 strike fighter.

Those distant battlefields also include preparations for some closer to home. The US alliance has locked us into the "Asian Pivot", which includes a rotating base for US Marines in Darwin - which our taxes (\$1.3 billion) paid for - and maybe a B1 bomber base too. And what's the Asian pivot about? Containing China. In other words, war with China, our major trading partner. How crazy is that?

Perversely we peace activists welcome Talisman Sabre. We see it as an opportunity when, with all those boots are on the ground and the media of militarism is focussed, to be visible in resistance and to speak up and speak out for peace.

We do it with a Peace Convergence in the Rockhampton region. This is a mix of speak outs, debates, concerts, parades, blockades and non violent direct actions aimed at disrupting the war rehearsals and



creating counter narratives.

Intrusions on to the Exercise Area have become a regular feature of our resistance and these are styled as wilderness peace pilgrimages. In 2009 the late Bryan Law famously rode his tricycle onto the tarmac of the Rockhampton airfield and smote an Australian Army Tiger Attack Helicopter with a garden mattock and so put war on trial.

Hear this call to peace. Come to Rockhampton during Talisman Sabre season 4 - 18 July. Come for a weekend or a week or more, whatever time you can spare. Make contact: <https://peaceconvergence2015.org> or via FB: Peace Convergence 2015. Come prepared for action, creativity and challenge. Eureka spirit! Courage in the face of tyranny.

And not just in Rockhampton will the US Alliance be questioned. The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) is hosting a national conference with an opening public forum in Brisbane during Talisman Sabre at The Edge on 8 July. It will ask: Dangerous Allies? This is the career concluding question asked most pertinently by the late and lamented former PM, Malcolm Fraser.

More information: <http://www.ipan.org.au/#/>

Gasfield free region within our reach

Our region's struggle to fight off invasive industrial gasfields is a microcosm of the grander struggle between corporations and democracy the world over. We are the mouse that roared and the wider mining industry is very frightened by the Bentley effect. We have the power of the people with us, we have shown that our community will stand to defend itself and our government and politicians now find themselves struggling to find a way forward.

We are closer to achieving our gasfield free region than we have ever been, but now the frontline has moved from the blockade to state politics and it is a much less transparent forum. What we know is that we have the numbers. Not a single Northern Rivers candidate for any political party dared to resist the call for a gasfield free region leading into the election, whilst the Greens and Labor got fully behind the push to cancel licences without compensation the government has continued with its ambiguous gas plan.

Since the election and to their credit we have seen Chris Gulaptis, (National Party member for Clarence) and Ben Franklin (National Party MLC) speak strongly in favour of a gasfield free region and they are even aiming to push for policy change at the party level. We need to get behind this as the National Party remains very split on this issue.

The political split could not be more blatant than in the case of Thomas George in Lismore, who managed to



by Aidan Ricketts

pull off an extremely narrow victory by making lots of noise about the buyback of PEL 445 that covers most of his electorate, yet now following the election appears to be staging an inglorious retreat from his last minute opposition to industrialisation of the region by gasfields. Just last week he was sprouting the old industry line about CSG and farming co-existence, but we heard none of that during the election. Such backsliding is an abject failure to represent the wishes of the overwhelming majority of his constituents on this issue. But rest assured, the clock is ticking for Mr George.

Unfortunately, without a concerted effort by North Coast residents to hold all polities to account for their pre-election bluster, there remains a very great risk of government backsliding. Remember that behind the veil in Macquarie Street there is a veritable army of well-connected gas and

mining industry lobbyists with links to all the major parties, (including former staffers of the current premier), stalking the halls of parliament and whispering their poison into the ears of our parliamentarians. Like an army of worm tongues, they are constantly at work trying to persuade the government to ignore the people, ignore the protests, and press ahead with destructive mining. You can pretty much tell which politicians have been drinking too much industry Kool-Aid from the anti-democratic nonsense that starts pouring from their mouths.

The election of Greens Tamara Smith is a great outcome for democracy and a reminder of the seismic shift that is pulsing through our region, and despite looking resilient, the Nationals are shocked by the massive twenty percentile swings against them across the region.

If we are to avoid more confrontation, the work of everybody over coming months has to be to write to politicians, visit them and keep reminding them what a big majority we are.

The best way to keep up-to-date is to follow *Lock the Gate.org* and *Gasfield Free Northern Rivers.org* on twitter, email and/or Facebook and when asked to phone, email or write to a pollie, follow the instructions. Better still, if you donate to either (or both) you will become updated regularly by email about what you can do to keep up the fight.

The scales are finely balanced and we need to push on through to victory.



by Lydia Kindred

Many people have been disheartened since the release of the ARUP report at the end of 2013 on the potential for restoring the Casino – Murwillumbah Railway line. One of the conclusions that the state government came to was that it would cost almost a billion dollars, which equates to more than seven million dollars per kilometre for the upgrade. This flies in the face of the upcoming opening of the line between Sunrise beach and Byron Bay which is quoted as costing \$300,000 per km – even with some bridges to be refurbished along the way, the government's estimate is ludicrous, considering the whole line was upgraded to a very high standard just before it was closed in 2004.

Northern Rivers Railway Action

Group Incorporated (NRRAG Inc.) seriously question the 'facts' that so many councillors in our region have relied upon to come around to agreeing that the railway tracks should all be pulled up and a bike track be installed instead.

All local councils in the Northern Rivers have now agreed to this, even though none of them have actually asked any of their constituents if they also agree. Our understanding, from conducting many petitions throughout our region, is that the majority of locals, and visitors, would rather have a functioning public transport system, built around a commuter service that runs at the best times to serve the growing population, with an integrated network of mini buses connecting to and from our local towns to the 'backbone' of the system, the rail.

Lismore is the only city in NSW that

does not have a train service and in one of the fastest growing areas of Australia. This is a disgrace. It seems that our far distant Sydney-centric politicians are determined to keep us, in this enclave of radical thought and new wave innovation, as the 'poor cousins' of NSW.

NRRAG are holding public information evenings on the first Thursday of every month at the Lismore Workers Club, from 5.30 to 7pm, where you will hear the latest, see some interesting footage and find out how you can help bring the trains back, better than ever, to our wonderful Rainbow Region.

Also, check out our *facebook.com/nrraginc* page. We are also preparing a video and an informative website and we'll keep you posted on them. Let's save our tracks for a healthy public transport future.

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Letters

Letters to the editor

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

Open letter to Thomas George MP

Dear Mr George,
Thanks for an engaging conversation in Kyogle on May 18. I appreciate it must have been awkward for you to walk into a shop to find the only other customer (me) wearing a garish “No CSG” t-shirt.

I especially appreciate you taking the time to talk. I know you're very busy, because last time I tried to discuss unconventional gas (UG) with you, your receptionist refused me an appointment. Also, you've replied to my letters and emails with pro-formas that show you haven't had time to read what I've written. Sometimes you haven't had time to reply at all! It must be a relief, after the large swing against you in the election, to find you have more time to talk to constituents like me.

Thank you for informing me that Labor caused the whole UG mess, and that it's just some pesky legislation that prevents your government from cancelling gas licences.

I am writing to suggest an idea. From 27 Nov 2013 to 14 May 2014, while your party was in government, there existed a legal “public interest” grounds for cancelling licences (see the *Mining and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Public Interest) Act 2013* No 106). However, instead of taking advantage of it, your party successfully introduced a Bill to repeal that legislation. 100% of your party (that includes you) voted for the repeal.

A great way to start cleaning up the UG mess would be for you to vote for the upcoming Bill to re-introduce the “public interest” grounds for cancellation of licences, and to follow it with (you guessed it) cancellation of licences on public interest grounds. That is, if you're not too busy.

Dr Sarah Antill
Roseberry Creek

Alternative anarchist hippie's view

Floods and the flu kept me away from this year's MardiGrass.

So I was delighted to read the NGT's colourful and entertaining coverage of this iconic law reform rally in the May Hemp Edition. Also inspiring were the poignant articles 'Fukushima's Invisible Tendrils' and 'Bentley Blockade's First Anniversary'.

Nimbin is famous as the hub of alternative lifestyles and media. Political media, environmental media and social media have thrived in a maelstrom of anarchy and originality with creativity flowing down the streets setting a heady pace both envied and appropriated by the rest of Australia.

This stands for me in stark contrast to the pages in the *GoodTimes* featuring local politicians and LGA councils, particularly Lismore City Council.



The LCCs decisions to go ahead with the fluoridation of Rous Water supply using an S7 toxic industrial byproduct from China seems anything but alternative. So does the LCCs approval and investment in the North Lismore Plateau Development over the top of a significant wildlife corridor and Indigenous sacred site.

The LCC continues to

indiscriminately spray Roundup and a wide variety of other toxic pesticides and herbicides in our area. And there's the LCCs approval of a network of NBN towers in our otherwise picturesque rural landscape.

At the point in history where we need powerful alternatives, Lismore City Council is failing our community.

Omega Breakspear
Lismore

Dealers are healers

In response to Graham Irvine's disapproval of the MardiGrass poster titled 'My Dealer is my Healer' including the list of treatable or preventable conditions and with an image of Black Jesus, you know the one.

The poster is contentious, irreverent and was designed to attract attention, as a poster is intended. Too bad you don't like it as much as thousands of people do. Politics, religion and medical science are a heady mix. Thank you *Nimbin GoodTimes* for printing it again and continuing the discussion.

Claims that it 'makes a mockery of Cannabis research' are mere conjecture and an expression of opinion that demonstrates intolerance to those who enjoy the herb, naturally.

Loneliness, dysfunction and domestic abuse are indeed addressed with the responsible use of Cannabis, although a poster is not suitable for a detailed description. The word 'cure' does not appear on the poster so the 'mendacious' claim is also unfounded.

Clearly, Mr. Irvine needs to conduct further research, as we all do, to understand how the endocannabinoid system functions and the consequential effects of phytocannabinoids as a form of therapy.

Peace, love and cannabis.
James Kingsbury
Nimbin

Dealers and healers

Firstly, thanks to Naamah for the chemtrails exposé.

Sadly the believers won't accept this, as if you don't agree with them you are part of the conspiracy. Bless them.

Every day thousands smoke cannabis without agonising with their conscience that it is illegal. What's stopping an ill person from scoring like any recreational user? I don't smoke but am for the decriminalisation/ legalisation of cannabis, but this medical hype to further your cause has trivialised and demeaned sick people. Sure hope you “stoners” don't ever get cancer, RA, MS, ME etc.

If the medical profession and drug companies can peddle morphine, cocaine etc and justify the side effects of the wonder drugs, why oh why, wouldn't they jump on the cannabis bandwagon, create THC pills in measurable doses as with other therapeutic drugs and make squillions? Scientific researchers can make the data say anything. Neem has already been patented. Viagra is now a worldwide bestseller for a minor medical condition, “brewers droop” sorry, erectile dysfunction. If corporations could cash in on THC, why aren't they? Corporate America could exploit, sorry “economically develop”, some third world country, help alleviate unemployment in China, help shareholders and cure the sick. It's a win/win.

Wouldn't it be better for cannabis to be processed, available on the PBS (\$6.10 a script), a metered dose, no stigma, legal and available in hospital and the nursing

home until the day you die? Or would that be stepping on the toes of the “dealer healers”, too straight, not organic, not green: is it big brother, or simply effectively easing the suffering and helping the sick?

I've discussed the pros and cons with many doctors, both smokers and non-smokers for over 30 years, and was prepared to risk the legal consequences, but ultimately told “cannabis does not cure any disease in its own right, there are more effective and cheaper drugs that give better results, and there are no guarantees of purity; but from a recreational view, it's your choice.”

Karen Gail
Crystal Creek

Transport woes

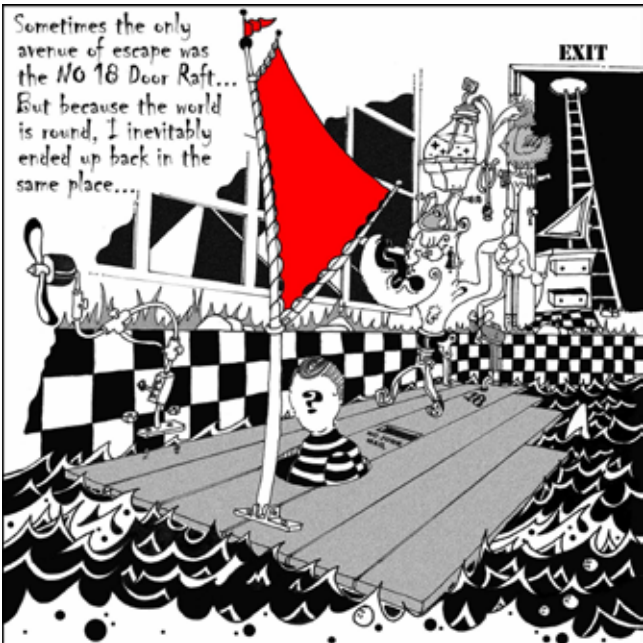
Our region's volunteer services are stretched too far. People with disabilities and medical conditions rely on elderly volunteers to drive people to Lismore, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Community transport is available, but it is restricted to medical appointments. For shopping, beach outings, family visits or seeing friends, Kyogle's bus services are extremely inadequate. Regular commuting to Lismore or further is impossible.

Bus services are inadequate for the elderly and people with disabilities who use wheelchairs or walking aids. Buses too, are limited in options for carrying bicycles. Rail, with its level platforms, wide entrances and aisles, caters for many people.

About us

Editor Bob Dooley
Assistant editor Sue Stock
Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley
Photographers Sue Stock, Peter Chaplin
Distribution Peter, Coralie, Philippe, Sue, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Stuart, Andrew, Faerie Laura's (Bellingen)

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



without certain forces being tossed out of the temple (all the corrupted gutless institutions) to allow truth and fairness, as opposed to corruption and pollution, to reign (*sic*) over us and an Apollo like project to be invoked, maybe.

Also, the *Ocean is Broken* article (www.theherald.com.au/story/1848433/the-ocean-is-broken) was about plastics, though probably really because of Fukushima, and Dana's proof of ecocide in BC does not yet prove Fukushima did it, though it is logical that this is so.

Eric Bazana's *From San Martino* is available (viewing only) at Lismore Library, a fascinating read. Those were the days... but where have all the whales gone... short times passing.

Peter Godden
Nimbin

Socialism Now!

The World Economic Forum (WEF), a think-tank of 700 global experts, has recently warned that the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor is the biggest threat to the global economy.

The richest 85 people in the world now have more wealth than the poorest half of world population. The wealthiest 1% now own close to the rest of the world's wealth, while poverty and homelessness continue to increase.

Unemployment, especially amongst the young, was said to be another high risk the world may face. Globally, and particularly in Europe, youth unemployment has risen to extremes. Greece and Spain have about 60% unemployment amongst under-25's.

In Australia, the demise of the mining boom, and the loss of associated revenue and jobs, has prompted our Reserve Bank to warn that we're about to enter into a recession. At the same time, there hasn't yet been credible evidence of replacement

export industries that could bring comparable revenue or jobs.

Apart from small business, the only new investments I've seen touted for the capitalists are in such areas as health, education, power, water, tollways, childcare and aged care, with many once government-owned industries becoming privately owned for profit, extracted from Australians.

Such profit extraction, as WEF warns, "has already squeezed the middle class in both developed and emerging economies."

As I've said, capitalists' profit extraction provides for the wealthy few, absurdly and obscenely, while overall, the rest are deprived in providing their wealth. That's capitalism.

Democratic socialism is the only alternative. Wealth shared amongst all, as did our Aborigines, Africans, American Indians... not bloody capitalists.

If Mr (Oligarch?) Barlow disagrees with any of my premises, logic or conclusions, could he please just elucidate, and refrain from personal abuse?

Doug Burt
Kyogle

Ever more chemtrails

On Sunday 31st May, I noticed the sky was a beautiful blue but marred by a massive long white streak stretching across the sky for miles (chemtrail). In the next 30 minutes another five chemtrails appeared. Within an hour or two the sky was overcast. This is the work of geoengineering in action whose purpose is to deflect the sun's rays and avoid global warming.

However, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there has been no warming for the last 17 years. Latest studies from the University of Southampton, UK, predicts the Earth is about to go through a major climatic shift that could mean decades

Notices

Maintenance Work

Expression of interest are sought for ongoing maintenance and repair work at Tuntable Community Hall, professional rates apply. Contact Teresa Biscoe at: info@coco.org.au for more details.

Therapies room available

In Birth & Beyond building, behind Nimbin Apothecary, available from 18th June. Thursday and Sunday, \$32.00 one day / \$52.00 two days. Phone Tonia Haynes 02 6689-0240 Mobile 0439-794-420.

Tuntable Bush Dance

There will be yet another wonderful Bush Dance at Tuntable Hall on Saturday 13th June. Dinner available from 5.30pm (a fundraiser for our fantastic Tuntable Preschool), dancing from 6.30. Come and get warm dancing or by the bonfire and help us celebrate another year of community... bring your kids and your dancing feet – see you there!

Nimbin Flix

Next screening is on Saturday 27th June at Birth and Beyond. Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm showing. Movie tickets are \$10 for non-members and can be purchased from the Apothecary or on the night. Memberships are still only \$50 for the year, and are due for renewal. New members are welcome and can join on the night or drop in at the Apothecary.

Mothers Day Raffle Winners

Thanks to the people of Nimbin for supporting the Mothers Day raffle to help with repairs at the Catholic Church of the Holy Family. Prizewinners were: 1st Dor Cullen; 2nd Evan at the gym; 3rd Rose Cubis.

Sound bath sessions

Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm upstairs at Nurture, 115 Keen Street, Lismore. Come and unwind with a relaxing Sound Bath, all you have to do is relax and let the sounds of chimes, bells, singing bowls and rainstick wash over you, taking you on your own journey, leaving you regenerated and balanced. Group sessions \$10.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon Family Groups meet in Lismore at 6.30pm on Tuesdays, at the Quakers Hut, Cnr Wyrallah Road and Dibbs Street and in Ballina at 6pm at West End Lions Club Hall, river end of Brunswick Street. If you are concerned about somebody else's drinking, Al-Anon can help. Go to: 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.

Free listings

Keep it brief and to the point and if we think it's of interest to our readers, we'll run your community notice for free.

On-board toilets are also essential for some people. The smooth motion and lack of engine vibrations are necessary for people who are nauseous with various health conditions.

Yesterday, to get to Brisbane, because of my health I could not take the 2.49am XPT, so instead spent 8½ hours in transit, using the NSW buses, which permit the use of the pensioner \$2.50 red ticket. This was a terrible experience.

The NSW government is "offering" \$50 million towards rail trails. This can be used to destroy our railway infrastructure by narrow interest groups. This is very distressing for people who have been waiting years to get usable or practical public transport. The \$50 million is enough to commence daytime railcar services from Lismore to Brisbane. Areas around Grafton, Lismore, Casino and Kyogle would have rail as the quickest, safest way to travel to Brisbane. Extending this to Byron Bay will make rail available to more than half of the Northern Rivers' 300,000 population, with integrated bus services connecting the smaller communities away from this central rail line.

I urge the community and advocacy groups to write to John Barilaro, NSW Minister for Regional Tourism, to inform him that there has been no proper community consultation. Most people support the imminent commencement of railway services, and do not want this precious asset jeopardised by the destructive use of taxpayers' money.

Lismore, the region's central point, has a railway line connecting the coast to the hinterland and beyond to Brisbane and Sydney. It has never been fully utilized. Let's use it, not destroy it.

Alan McGregor
Kyogle

Fukushima fallout

I can inform Gi Linda (NGT May 2015 p5) exactly who the Revelation style angels are that are responsible for Fukushima, though doing that directly would label

me a hater and make me liable for a possible prison sentence (look up Brendon O'Connell, Perth) or an 'accident' of my own like Jeff Rense just had, and whom I suspect Gi's good source is – see *Rense.com* on that and Fukushima and www.thenuclearproctologist.org for Dana Durnford's epic and tragic adventures. This other information, which the good Rense will have nothing of, will be found at www.jimstone.is and his Fukushima report there (also available in Japanese).

Whilst the nature and construction of nuclear power as we have known it is asking for oblivion (perhaps a setup job for nuclear blackmail), I challenge anyone to show me how an earthquake that was supposed to be 100 times stronger (9.1 Richter) in fact than Kobe (7.2), and only 40km off the coast, is consistent with all those videos, prior to the tsunami rolling in, and the total lack of significant let alone 'catastrophic damage within 1000km' according to the scales, which would have been Revelation style indeed. Much more in Jim Stone's report.

Also see Peter Daley (<http://sccc.org.au/archives/category/the-food-lab>) for local water testing reports and background air testing (again I think this is Gi's source), and as far as we can tell, it ain't so bad here yet, but with Fukushima's 10,000 Hiroshimas or five nuclear wars worth of unexploded deadly nuclear particles gone up or flowed out or waiting to (especially the amazing tilting fuel pools at Fukushima like Humpty Dumpty ready to fall) and two Amazons of flow from the north Pacific to the south Pacific continuously, the new term is not genocide or ecocide, but omnicide.

A tip for people who have springs is to test for Tritium. If none found, the Prime water theory has it that this is created deep in the ground and has not been contaminated by human pollution, useful when growing food under domes out of the toxic rain. Dr Bill Deagle's solutions might be possible, but not

of cooler temperatures due to the cooling of the Atlantic Ocean.

The problem is what these planes are spraying on us in the process of geoengineering i.e. heavy metals (barium oxide, aluminium oxide and 26 other heavy metals) nanoparticles, bacteria (anthrax, pneumonia), seven viruses, e-coli, four moulds and fungi, two cancers, two vaccines, artificial blood, thorium, boron etc causing a whole host of problems like Alzheimers, respiratory diseases, immune problems, Morgellons to name just a few, and widespread plant deaths.

Only aluminium will deflect the sun's rays so why

the other toxic ingredients? A more important question is: why are they still spraying when global warming has stopped? Is our beautiful world being ruled by demons whose agenda is to destroy us? And are they using global warming as a cover to do their dirty deeds?

It's time for us to stop talking about global warming (which no longer exists) as this justifies even more geoengineering (chemtrails).

A google or youtube search on chemtrails will leave you horrified...

Menkit Prince
Uki

• The chemtrail controversy continues on p16...



From the mayor's desk



by Cr Jenny Dowell

Growth Management Strategy

The Growth Management Strategy (GMS) adopted by council at the May meeting, identifies land that is potentially suitable for development for urban, village and rural residential housing in order to accommodate future population and support employment growth. The GMS is the culmination of many years work and anticipates an increase of up to 5,900 people over the next 20 years. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment projects that our Local Government Area needs 3,600 more dwellings to house the anticipated growth.

The already rezoned but undeveloped lands plus the new inclusions, will provide at least 5,035 dwellings in a variety of locations to allow for increased choice of housing.

Nimbin Transfer Station

Council has endorsed the Nimbin Waste Management and Waste

Transfer Station Action Plan and approved an allocation of \$132,700 from grant funds in the 2015-16 budget for an upgrade of the transfer station and to subsidise its continuing operations from our waste budget. There is also \$4,540 for public waste disposal. New street bins will be introduced in the village with a competition for designs on the bins.

Nimbin Water Supply

Council has accepted a proposal from GHD Australia Pty Ltd for the investigation and design of Stage 1 of the Nimbin water supply upgrade. Contracts for \$246,701 plus GST will be finalised to allow these initial design works to commence.

Traffic

The Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) meets monthly and its recommendations go to Council for endorsement. Two items from the May TAC meeting are Nimbin related:

• Blue Knob Road

The first came from a resident on Blue Knob Road and related to speed, noise and accidents on the bend at 162 Blue Knob Road. There is a 45kph warning sign at the bend and if a motorist drives at a higher speed it may result in loss of control. The request for a further speed reduction and a noise barrier are not supported but a guard rail will be installed. Having seen several references on Hook Ups to vehicles losing control on this bend, it is hoped that the guard rail may

act as a physical barrier as well as a reminder to slow down.

• Pedestrian Crossing

Also on Facebook, there have been many recent reports of accidents or near misses on the pedestrian crossing at the blister on Cullen Street. Whether motorists are distracted by the colour and footpath activity or whether there is a problem with design, markings or visibility issues including vegetation or street trade marquees, it is unclear which issues are contributing factors. After the TAC, Council's safety and emergency services officer was meeting with police to look at the crossing. Council is aware that previous trimming of vegetation resulted in the loss of an important vine so staff are aware of the need for communication with the community before significant changes are contemplated.

Community Grants

At the June meeting Councillors will consider a report on the Annual Community Grants Scheme. Readers might recall that there has been an overhaul of what was called Section 356 community donations to remove inequities and to reduce the dependency of a few community organisations on recurrent funding. The 18-month process of review included a transition round last year and now we are moving to the new policy and process. When the submission period closed on May 21, council had received 49 applications for the \$121,600 available. Council

has also set aside \$74,000 for rural halls for maintenance and rates, \$8,200 for Australia Day celebrations, \$4,000 for Sister City events, \$3,000 for the Mayoral Discretionary Fund and \$800 for ANZAC Day.

For the \$121,600 of contestable grants, councillors vote electronically for their preferred projects. Those projects might be for a one off project or for up to three years of funding. Amounts available range from \$500 to \$10,000, with increasing compliance requirements as the amount increases.

Councillors are mindful that grants for three years' funding will reduce the pool of funds available for the next two years. Following the vote, staff will tally and rank the projects and report the results to the June meeting for ratification. Successful applicants will receive their grants in the August Local Government Week.

Federal Stronger Regions Fund

Council received notification in May that our application for \$1.6 million for a new Regional Art Gallery and redevelopment of C Block was unsuccessful. While disappointing, there are nine more rounds of this Stronger Regions Fund so Council has more opportunities to apply. Feedback on our application from the federal government was very positive so I am confident we are on the right track. The next round is open now and council is able to lodge two applications. Of course councillors will need to affirm their support for whatever applications we lodge.

NAG

See elsewhere in this edition for a report of the recent Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) meeting but I also thought readers might like an update on the rehabilitation of the old skatepark site. News from our council parks' manager is that the contracted asphaltting works are expected to be done this month, with the site scheduled to be open in July.

Fibre

The most popular of Blue Knob Gallery exhibitions opened on May 22. The Fibre show highlights the depth of fibre arts in Blue Knob, Nimbin and surrounds. The annual exhibition includes felting, weaving, dyeing and many other techniques with a wide range of plant and animal fibres in decorative and wearable pieces. Congratulations to all concerned.

School visit

I was delighted to be able to meet students from Nimbin Central School and visiting local Public Schools at the Careers Day Expo on May 26. Congratulations to Anne Bowden, community liaison officer, for all her amazing organisational skills in getting so many local agencies and further education providers there for displays and information.

Tony Abbott's unfair budget

by Justine Elliot, MP for Richmond

I recently spoke in Parliament about the harsh impact of Tony Abbott's Budget. I highlighted a very cruel health cut to the IEM grants which directly effects Jayden Driussi in Bexhill. Find below an excerpt from my speech. You can find the full speech on my facebook page: [facebook.com/JustineElliotMP](https://www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP).

I am pleased to contribute to this debate on the appropriation bills. I start by saying: this is not a budget that is beneficial for families of the North Coast. In fact, it is a budget that will hurt the people of my electorate. The families, the seniors and the young people are all going to be negatively impacted by this budget. The Abbott government's cruel cuts, dishonesty and incompetence continue to hurt people in my electorate of Richmond as they hurt people in rural and regional areas. In fact, in those rural and regional areas it is the National Party that will be held responsible for all of these unfair measures that are really severely hurting people in country areas.

We have certainly seen some very cruel cuts from the government in relation to health, particularly with their many versions of the GP tax. I think we are up to about version 4 by now, and no doubt it will come up again. One of the nastiest health cuts in this budget that we have seen is the cut to the IEM grants, which are in the broad area of metabolism program grants. This funding provides financial support for special low-protein foods for those with metabolic protein disorders. These individuals are unable to properly

metabolise one of the amino acids in protein.

I would like to speak now about a young man in my electorate. He is a local teenager from Bexhill and his name is Jayden Driussi. He suffers from such an illness. Jayden is now 13 and at just nine months old he was diagnosed with this rare disease. He is treated with a very restricted low-protein diet using specially medically modified foods and a prescribed medical dietary supplement, which is designed to replace protein and nutrients that most people get from food. As well, he has prescribed medication. The fact is, his diet is also severely restricted.

The federal government had assisted families with a monthly food grant, the IEM grant, to help cover the cost of sustaining the complex and quite expensive diet that includes specialised low-protein foods. Until recently, individuals with these conditions were entitled to a modest but extremely helpful government grant of around \$250 a month to help with these costs. That is around \$3,000 a year. But that was cut in this budget. As a result of the budget cuts, this funding has just been totally slashed. It brings a saving of just \$3 million a year to cut what is really important funding for families, like the family of Jayden. Jayden's family has been calling on the federal government to urgently reconsider their decision. I join with them in asking the Abbott government to please reconsider these cuts to the IEM grants.

I was very disappointed yesterday in question time when the Leader of the Opposition asked the Prime Minister



specifically about these grants and the Prime Minister ruled out bringing these grants back in. In fact, I found it quite insulting when the Prime Minister said, 'Well, the cost of some of these foods has gone down.' That is completely untrue. These foods are very expensive due to the complex nature of what is required to be purchased for people who suffer from these illnesses. It was very disappointing to hear those words from the Prime Minister.

As I recently told the local newspaper, *The Northern Star*, the slashing of the IEM grant is a pathetic and cruel funding cut. It is that, and I implore the government to rethink this. It is important to those families that they have access to this funding to be able to provide for children like Jayden, who have these very complex conditions.

My support for marriage equality

I support marriage equality because people should be allowed to marry the person that they love. I voted in Parliament in 2012 to support marriage equality and will do so again. Our current law excludes some individuals – and that's wrong. I want to see that changed. By voting for marriage equality I want to send a strong message – I want locals to know your relationship matters and your love should be equal under the law.

Greens slam federal government's approval to clear Tweed koala habitat

by Dawn Walker,
Tweed Greens spokesperson



The federal government has recently approved for the Kings Forest developer, Leda Developments to clear almost 15 hectares of Kingscliff koala habitat and allow dogs on the proposed residential development, which is eventually expected to house 10,000 people.

Greg Hunt MP, the Federal Environment Minister has risked the extinction of koalas on the North Coast with this decision, and undermined the hard work of local environmentalists and Tweed Shire Council to ensure the koalas were protected.

The loss of this habitat will be a severe blow for the survival of koalas on the North Coast, with less than 140 koalas left in the Tweed and 60 of these living in Kings Forest.

The development was approved in 2013 by the State Government but needed federal approval due to the environmental impact, including its threat to the koalas.

What is most disappointing is that the federal government has ignored the scientific evidence and the wishes of the community and Tweed Shire Council to protect the koalas by keeping the development a dog-free precinct.

With our Tweed koalas already suffering from encroaching development, attacks by dogs, imported disease and road killings, it seems the Federal Government could have shown some support for the community and backed the Tweed Shire Council's call for a dog ban on the new estate.

Koala Beach in Pottsville already has a successful no dogs and cats policy, so we know it can work, but the federal government has seen fit to run rough-shod over the good sense of the local community, in favour of the developer. While some conditions have been put on the development, such as compensatory planting, koala grids and traffic calming devices, as part of the new suburb's construction, these measures do not stop the real threat of losing the remaining Koala population to dogs, dislocation and road killings.

It's a sad day for the Tweed koalas and the community that loves them.

Simon says...

Winter is definitely on the way the doonas are out at our place and the flannelette sheets are in place. I do miss our wood fire from the farm. It doesn't seem very friendly in every way pumping smoke into suburban Lismore.

A Gasfield Free Northern Rivers suddenly seems more achievable, with reports that National Party MPs Ben Franklin and Chris Gulaptis are reportedly working behind the scenes to have the Northern Rivers Petroleum Exploration Licences withdrawn. It's understood that the matter will be raised at the state conference in Pokolbin. It would be great if the Nats finally listened to their community. Unfortunately Lismore's Thomas George is missing in action on this critical issue, again.

Many of you may be concerned about the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). It is a secret trade agreement being negotiated between Australia, the US and 10 other Pacific Rim countries.

Although the details of the negotiations are secret, we know from government statements, industry submissions and some leaked documents that the agenda is being driven by the US, on behalf of its major industries and corporations. Unfortunately US industry interests do not often coincide with national and community interests in other countries.

Like most trade agreements the details of the TPP negotiations are secret, and Cabinet will make the decision authorising the Trade Minister to sign it. The text is published and reviewed by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties only after it is signed. The committee can only make recommendations without changing the text. Parliament cannot change the text, and can only vote on the legislation

required to implement the agreement. The text of the TPP should be released for public debate and discussion before the decision is made to sign it.

I will be putting a motion on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) to Council's June meeting:

1. That Council write to Mr Kevin Hogan MP to approach the Hon Andrew Robb Federal Trade Minister to request the release of the draft Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement for public consultation and parliamentary consideration prior to it being agreed to by Cabinet.
2. Request that the Trade Minister ensures that the TPP agreement does not contain provisions which:
 - a) Enable a foreign investor to sue governments for damages over policy, laws or regulations at the local government level;
 - b) Restrict local government policies which encourage local employment, support local economic and industry development and encourage good employment practices and initiatives;
 - c) Restrict local government policies which encourage good environmental practices and initiatives;
 - d) Restrict local government supply and regulation of services or require the commercialisation of services; and
 - e) Prevent local government procurement policy from giving preference to local suppliers
3. Write to LGNSW and the National General Assembly of Local Government seeking their support for the resolution and any assistance.

One of the major concerns is the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions, the right of foreign investors to sue governments for damages over domestic law or policy if they can allege it harms their investment. For instance, Philip Morris



by Cr Simon Clough,
Lismore City Council

is currently suing the Australian government over the plain packaging of cigarettes under ISDS provisions.

There have been examples of local governments being sued by foreign investors. For instance the US Metalclad company used ISDS provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement and was successful in suing a Mexican local government for US \$16.2 million. The local authority had refused Metalclad a waste dump permit. It was refused on the grounds that the dump would contaminate local water sources.

It is not clear whether local government procurement will be included in the TPP. If local government procurement is included, this means there can be no requirements for local content provisions and no preference for local firms in government procurement. Lismore Council currently has a 20% weighting favouring local goods and services.

Hoping you can keep warm and dry this winter and get those winter vegies in if you can.

Contact Simon: phone 0428-886-217

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Preparing a Coastal Zone Management Plan

Rocks...

Since 1988, Byron Shire has limited development along the Belongil sand spit. Shifting coastal processes are allowed to take their course with protection limited to 'soft' material such as sandbags.

Apart from the avoidance of expensive capital works such as rock walls, groins etc, this process means the beach is retained for the benefit of wildlife and people alike. Council is currently preparing a Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) that will give the community the opportunity to choose between continuing a 'planned retreat' policy or paying for 'hard' defences and sand pumping schemes.

Unfortunately, the conservative majority have rushed ahead with a \$1.2 million rock wall prior to the finalisation of the CZMP, snubbing the community in the process. Employee leave, open space and infrastructure renewal reserves have been raided to fund this ill-considered scheme. There are also risks that the wall will fail and create an environmental



Byron Views

by Cr Basil Cameron

hazard, costing a lot to remove.

The risk is higher as this isolated rock wall will create 'end effect' energy that is transferred onto surrounding properties, which may lead to compensation claims. This is also not good news for a number of threatened bird species that nest on the retreating sands.

Apart from the snub to the community, there is a real possibility that the wall will have to be junked if it does not fit with a final CZMP. The gallery was filled with concerned residents at our

last meeting and a rally is planned for 7 June to raise awareness as to the social, cultural and economic value of the beach to the community and how it might be lost. Council will consider a recision motion on 11 June.

...and rails

There has been tremendous enthusiasm to the news that the Elements resort plans to commence a rail motor shuttle between Ewingsdale and Byron town centre. A restored two-car heritage rail motor will be used. The original, somewhat noisy onboard motors have been replaced with the purr of clean-burning Cummins engines. A separate locomotive is not required.

The owners plan to make the most of the scenic beauty of the three kilometre run by rolling slowly and quietly in and out of town. Contrary to some comment, the fuel is the same as that used in cars and trucks and there is no asbestos used in the brakes.

The intention is to provide a service for the resort guests and residents as

an alternative to crawling traffic. Hopefully, the service can be incorporated into Council's park and ride trial over the summer period as well as providing a genuine Byron entry experience for day tripping visitors throughout the year.

Perhaps, it will also provide inspiration to others, private and government, of the value of retaining and using the tracks along the whole of the corridor. Already there are calls for festival organisers, market operators and the tourism industry generally to take a fresh look at the economic and environmental benefits of rail based visitor dispersal.



Basil Cameron can be contacted at: basil.cameron@cr.byron.nsw.gov.au or on Facebook

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