

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.

Nimbin accommodation

Having read with interest the submissions for – but mainly against – the proposed Cubes ‘over’ development in town, I have been concerned to learn that some local business owners are under the misapprehension that there are currently no ‘decent’, ‘suitable’ or ‘nice’ accommodation alternatives available within close proximity to the town centre.

Our feelings aren't terribly hurt here at Grey Gum Lodge, but we would certainly like to invite anyone who shares that view to have a tour through our accommodation or if they would prefer, to read the many favorable reviews we have received on Trip Advisor.

I'm sure our other accommodation provider friends within the town share our enthusiasm for correcting this mistaken view.

Stuart Wilson
Nimbin

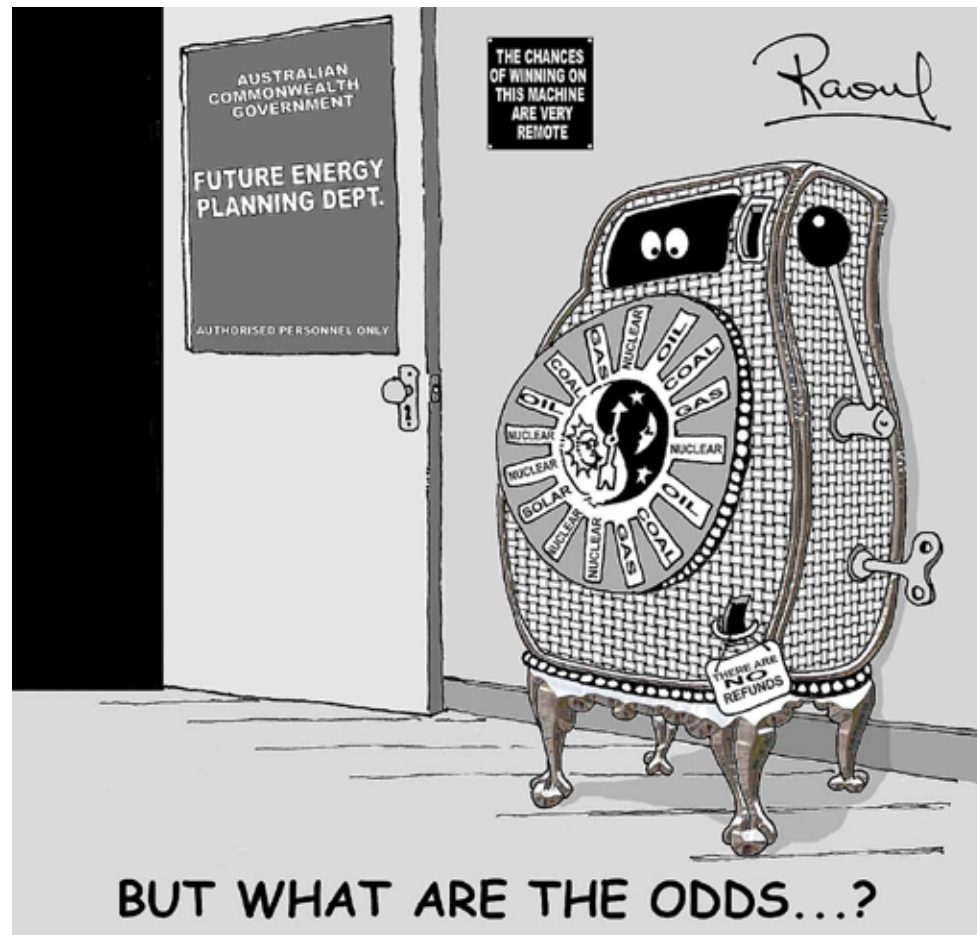
Gratitude for roadworks

Thanks to Lismore City Council (Bill MacDonald et al) and NSW Police for the completion of Nimbin Road audit and works undertaken that has made travel safer for our community and visitors. Thanks also to Peter Wise, President of Nimbin Chamber of Commerce for instigating the proposal.

Eugenie Stephans
Nimbin

No job no pay

The Commonwealth Government, through the states, intends soon to introduce legislation to end the conscientious objector exemption on children's vaccination for access to taxpayer funded Child Care



Benefits from 1st January 2016.

Irrespective of the rights and wrongs of vaccination, I would like to draw your attention to the referendum of 1946 when a clause was added to Section 51(xxiii) of the Constitution which prevents the government from forcing people to medicate.

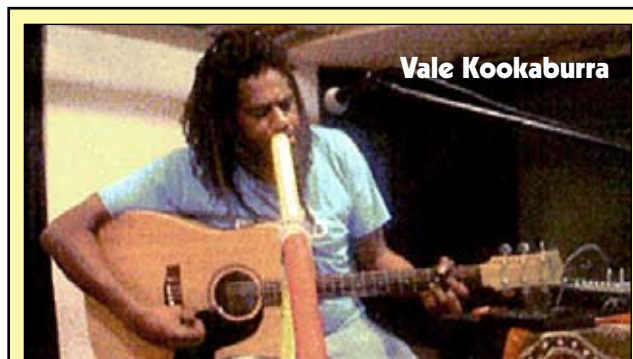
This amendment to the Constitution Sect.51(xxiiiA), allows for the granting of various social services but not so as to authorise any form of civil conscription. This means that government or those acting on its behalf, cannot force you to have a child vaccinated in order to maintain child benefit payments.

Also Sect 28 of the Federal Crimes Act (1914) states: "Any person who, by violence or by threats or intimidation of any kind, hinders or interferes with the free exercise or performance, by any other person, of any political right or duty, shall be guilty of an offence"

The penalty is up to three years imprisonment.

Currently, the Senate is calling for submissions by 16th October, prior to the legislation being voted on.

See: www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/No_



R.I.P. Lewis Parter, who died suddenly, aged 54 years.

Jab_No_Pay

More detail can be had at: www.knowyourrightsgroup.com.au/radio-show at 1hr 9m 45s into the Podcast on 18/8/15. There are also template letters that you can send to your local Federal Member and Centrelink.

Also on this website you can learn about your rights when having to deal with government, courts, police, traffic fines, banks, debt collectors, tax and councils.

John Carter
Kyogle

Who's gonna stand up?

I was listening to a new Neil Young track called 'Who's gonna stand up and save the Earth?' There were no poetic lyrics or cryptic messages, just the honest truth about what we have to do to save this wondrous planet.

Many people seem to have become desensitised to the issues that we confront now and accept it all too easily, and this is disturbing. How are we going to even attempt to turn this around when the majority of people are apathetic!

Many choose to be ignorant of the facts, then they can continue their unsustainable lifestyles without any feelings of guilt. When I calmly and kindly point out to people

(eg. shopping bag instead of plastic) an alternative way that would be more friendly to our planet, the reaction is a rude reply or they look at me like I'm a lunatic on a rant.

I must point out that I am a woman in her late 50's, small in stature and there is nothing threatening or aggressive about my appearance.

Nothing has a higher priority than saving our planet, so I continue on regardless. I don't give a damn if it's not socially acceptable. It's not morally acceptable to disrespect our Mother Earth and squeeze every last drop out of her with no regard for future generations. So don't just stand by and ignore the public's behaviour, this is an emergency, so be brave and stand up and save the earth!

Bernadine Schwartz,
Blue Knob

Artificial intelligence

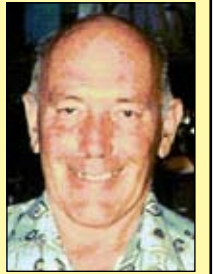
All this talk of artificial intelligence (AI) has me wondering about consciousness. What is consciousness? How does it begin or end? What act must I perform to become self-aware?

Having been unaware of my entire life, I feel confident in talking about the negative.

RIP Kevin Soward 4/5/1937 – 12/9/2015

Kevin was born at Bonny Doon Private Hospital, Nimbin and spent his entire life living in and around the village.

He attended Nimbin Central School up to Year 8, and started his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic at age 16 at Jack Pearce's garage in Nimbin, where he met his future wife, Judy Pearce, whom he married at St Mark's church in 1959.



When Jack Pearce moved to Hervey Bay, Kevin ran the business in partnership with him and later bought him out, running the garage until he sold it in 1989, after which he continued to fix small machinery. It was said that Kevin could repair anything from a wrist-watch to a Mack truck, and if he couldn't fix it, it wasn't worth fixing.

Kevin was a keen aviator as a member of the North Coast Gliding Club, and gained his Private Pilot licence with the Northern Rivers Aero Club. In later years he pursued an interest in radio-controlled helicopters.

While he was in business, Kevin became President of the Nimbin Progress Association, and was later an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, and a founding member of the board of the Nimbin Community Centre Co-operative.

Kevin became a member of the Bush Fire Brigade in 1960, and was President of the Nimbin brigade for 51 years. He was awarded life membership of the RFS.

Jack Pearce suggested that Kevin take up Lawn Bowls in the early 1970s, as a way to get in good with the customers, and this became his passion in life. In 21 years he did not miss a bowls trip, which took him around the country with the Northern Rivers Bowling Tour group.

He was President of Nimbin Bowling Club for many years, where he was awarded life membership, becoming a National Accredited Coach and Umpire, and in recent years Vice President and President of the NRDBA. He was a current board member of the South Lismore Bowling Club.

Kevin and Judy travelled extensively overseas, and he died while enjoying a European cruise that they had been planning for years.

Kevin will be well remembered by the many people he has helped, and for his outstanding service to the Nimbin community over many years.

Notices

Tunable Bush Dance

Saturday 17th October, Tuntable Falls Community Hall. Dinner available.

Live life for the benefit of all

Learn the beneficial power of authentic human nature, using the balanced view four mainstays lifestyle approach. Meetings: Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October, 12-1pm; Training Sunday 25th, 2.30-4.30pm, at Cook Pioneer Hall, Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Enquiries: www.balancedview.org

'Not' being conscious has a lot to do with lacking empathy. A lack of compassion for the suffering of others is definitely a plus if you want to avoid higher consciousness.

Not giving a toss is easy and requires no special skill or talent – just a willingness to look the other way!

Another indicator of non-consciousness is imagining you know it all. Knowing everything about a given topic means the artery pumping blood to your brain has been blocked by a swollen ego. This creates a 'feeling' of higher consciousness, but like all forms of self-delusion, the high soon passes and leaves you standing alone at the party!

So rather than being special, consciousness might

simply be an absence of false impression. Like cleaning our car's wind-shield, it affords us a better view of the road ahead instead of the squashed bug in the foreground.

Perhaps consciousness is not that hard to mimic. Maybe designing a program that recognises how unaware most of us are is just around the corner and AI is on the brink of making humanity redundant.

Could it be that higher consciousness has ultimately led us to self-destruction, and the first human who put down their banana and stood upright, should in hindsight have been tackled to the ground!

Would that have been a conscious act?

RJ Poole
Lismore

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

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 25th October

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



RAILWAY WONDERLAND

Take your seat under the stars as NORPA's *Railway Wonderland* brings Lismore's train station back to life. Drama, dance, song combine to tell a story inspired by the region that transports you across time from 1940s to the present day. Presented by NORPA, a spectacular outdoor theatre event on the platform of Lismore's iconic train station, October 22 – November 7. Tickets: www.norpa.org.au or 1300-066-772

The last train left the platform of Lismore in May 2004. Like so many regional towns in Australia, the train station was a thriving centre of activity and the lifeline of the community.

The history of the region is written on its tracks – from the arrival of early settlers, the Italian immigrants, the Aquarius hippies, the returning soldiers and young people leaving the town in search of adventure in the big cities. Lismore's train station is steeped in the stories of regional Australia.

Lismore's iconic train station will be brought back to life in October with a spectacular outdoor theatre event *Railway Wonderland*, created by local theatre company NORPA. Combining drama, dance, live music and a full choir, *Railway Wonderland* is a magical ride across time from the 1940s to the present day. All the action unfolds on the station platform, with the audience in specially constructed seating across the old railway tracks.

"Train stations are such evocative and romantic places where a thousand hellos and goodbyes resonate across time,"

says the show's director and NORPA's Artistic Director Julian Louis.

"*Railway Wonderland* continues NORPA's strong tradition of creating dynamic, fun and highly entertaining works that take people out of the theatre and into the heart of our cities and towns. The disused Lismore train station is the perfect site for this production, it is a place that is steeped in the stories of our community."

"When you stand on the no-longer-used train tracks at night and look back over the platform into the lit-up waiting room, it is easy to imagine the romance of rail," says writer and co-devisor Janis Balodis. "The hiss and pant of steam trains, the throb of giant diesel engines conjures up the wonder and promise of departures and arrivals, of journeys beginning and ending. This is the wonderland we create on the platform."

Railway Wonderland started in 2009 with a call-out to local writers to submit short stories about train stations that were then performed at the Byron Bay Writers Festival. The stories, along with the region's rich history of post-war

migration, act as inspiration points for *Railway Wonderland*. Local historians, university researchers, Rail Corp staff, the local community, train enthusiasts and lobby groups have all contributed to the show's development.

"A spirit of exchange, collaboration and discovery has informed *Railway Wonderland* from the very beginning. That feeling carries through to the audience when they experience it – it's a celebratory event that resonates with people for many different reasons. We're thrilled to be putting it back on the tracks for everyone to enjoy."

NORPA have created an entire experience around the show, with an outdoor bar and street diner. *Railway Wonderland* pulls into Lismore station on Thursday 22nd October and departs on Saturday 7th November (except Sundays) at 8pm, at Lismore railway station. Enjoy street diner and bar at the station from 6.30pm. Seating is limited and under cover in case of rain. Adults \$49, seniors \$44, concession \$42, Under 18s \$22. Bookings: www.norpa.org.au or phone 1300-066-772.

Two Discworld plays to please Pratchett fans

Mort: A tribute to Terry Pratchett

Terry Pratchett was the acclaimed creator of over 40 bestselling 'Discworld' novels, written between 1983 and 2013. His books have been widely adapted for stage and screen, and he was the winner of multiple prizes, including the Carnegie Medal, as well as being awarded a knighthood for services to literature. He died in March 2015.

Adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs, the play tells the story of Mort, Death's apprentice. He gets board and lodging and free use of the company horse, and doesn't even need time off for his grandmother's funeral. The trouble begins when instead of collecting the soul of a princess, with whom he has become infatuated, he kills her would-be assassin, and changes history.

The show is directed by Gray Wilson, long time actor and director with the company and produced by Jason Smith, who has been



gracing the Rochdale stage for over 10 years.

Mort will be playing at the Rochdale Theatre, Lismore on October 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31 at 8pm, plus two Sunday matinees on October 18 and 25 at 5pm. Tickets are \$20/15, except for October 31, which will be a special Halloween costume night: all tickets \$30, including a complimentary drink and light refreshments.

Tickets can be booked online at: www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au or purchased at the door.



Wyrd Sisters by James Straiton, director

The creative happenings at the Nimbin Bush Theatre are coming along marvellously, with a boon of new resources and talented creative people interested in theatre.

It's with a great deal of welcome, and I'm sure, no small amount of trepidation, that the local crew of thespians currently rehearsing in the Bush Theatre would like to announce the dates for our production of *Wyrd Sisters* (novel by Terry Pratchett, adapted for stage by Steven Briggs), and invite everyone to come.

We shall put on for you a wonderful little out-of-this-world experience for families to enjoy; full of witches, regicides, subtle and not-so-subtle magicks and mysteries. There should be something for everyone.

Performances will be held on Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th October at 7.30pm with a matinee on Sunday 25th at 2pm. Children are welcome – all tickets are only \$5.

Tickets are available either at the door or directly from the Bush Theatre's website: www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events Phone 6689-0095 for enquiries.

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Saffin to stand again



Former member for Page, Janelle Saffin has announced she will fight to win back the seat she lost in 2013, describing the incumbent as nice but ineffectual.

She cites the National's backflip on CSG, handing water trigger powers back to the state, as but one example of his indifference towards local issues, and his inability to influence those within his party.

The former member was encouraged to run again by her many supporters who started a local campaign

called Bring Back Janelle.

Ms Saffin said, "Many people contacted me in person or online to express their misgivings about the current member. They have voiced their support for me loud and clear and I look forward to answering their call".

Ms Saffin says she thought hard and long about running again, amid offers to work overseas, but is ready to take the fight up to the Nationals.

"The Nationals are failing us at every level, siding

with the Liberals on cuts to education, health services and the environment. They can no longer lay claim to looking out for regional Australia".

Ms Saffin says her campaign will focus on local jobs, health services, local infrastructure, renewable energy and the environment, and education and fairness for all.

Janelle Saffin was recently named as one of the most influential women in Australia, a nod to her advocacy throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Trains on track

Byron Bay Railroad Company's planned rail shuttle can now proceed following Council's approval of two new stations. At this stage, the train is expected to begin operation in late January 2016 on an hourly timetable and a \$3 fare for the picturesque trip from West Byron to the town centre. Bicycles, surfboards and prams can be carried.

Residents, resort guests, day visitors and Arts and Industry workers are all likely to benefit from the service. This is an important first step and will provide an alternative to car transport through the congested Ewingsdale corridor. In addition to the investment in public infrastructure, there are further opportunities to increase the public benefit. Perhaps a park and ride partnership with Council during peak holiday periods for starters?

Take note festival operators and others involved in the visitor economy who want to reduce impacts. As with this small scale example, combining a public transport need with an annual movement of 4.7 million visitors through our region



Byron Views
by Cr Basil Cameron

suggests a unique business model exists that could encourage investment in infrastructure and return trains to our tracks.

Rural land use

Stage 2 of the vegetation mapping update is now out on exhibition. This covers hinterland areas and will be used to inform a number of policies such as the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. Landholders are encouraged to view the mapped vegetation classifications applying to their land and make submissions by October 15, particularly in relation to any inaccurate classification.

Meanwhile the draft Rural Land Use Strategy (RLUS) moves into the next stage with draft Site Suitability

Criteria and Mapping Methodology to go before Council on 8 October prior to exhibition. Together these documents will underpin the final RLUS expected to go on exhibition early next year. The RLUS will update and review all future rural land use including residential settlement and tourism.

Hospital sell off

Mullumbimby residents have plans for the Mullumbimby Hospital site that will close when the new Byron Hospital opens. The Health Department have stated an intention to sell the site off. It appears a community based trust that had custodianship of the site for over 100 years was quietly dissolved in the last few years with the freehold being held by the NSW Government. The community's relationship with the land and hospital runs deep with countless hours and constant efforts to raise funds for the purchase of equipment and expansion of services. For many, the hospital is symbolic of a shared desire to look after their own and a big part of the town's identity.

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



by Cr Jenny Dowell

From the mayor's desk

art work telling the Lions' story.

The matter will be reported back to Council hopefully for the December meeting.

Deputy Mayor

Annually at the September meeting, Councillors elect a deputy mayor. Congratulations Cr Simon Clough on being elected and thank you Cr Isaac Smith for your assistance and support as deputy in the past year.

Cecil Street

Council has accepted the recommendation from the Traffic Advisory Committee to install 50kph and wildlife advisory signs and ask Council's design team to investigate possible traffic calming to address the speeding that was evidenced by the data collected. If residents note a repeat offender driving at excessive speeds on this or any other road, please get the registration details and report the vehicle to police.

Housing for life

I've been fortunate to be the Chair of the Environmental Working Party for the implementation of the North Coast Ageing Strategy. The Working Party's focus is predominantly to facilitate an increase in supply of housing for older residents. If you are a Nimbin Hook-Ups Facebook user, you'll recall that I asked people to tell me what kind of housing they'd like in their senior years. The responses were many and varied including an interest in co-housing, ageing in the community, downsizing, adaptable housing and multi-age housing.

The State Government through the Family and Community Services has now announced funding for the Lismore City

Council to host a two day Charrette on Housing for Life with 40 invited participants to come up with actions and plans to build more housing for older people. Participants will include government agencies, Councils, planners, developers, builders, financiers, and of course older people themselves.

Nimbin Show

This year's Nimbin Show was as wonderful as usual but the pavilion display deserves special mention. The flowers, fruit and vegetables were spectacular and well flanked by the school display, photographs, handicrafts, baking and preserves. There seemed to be good entries in the horse competition in the arena and the cattle competition too. I'm sorry I missed the preschool tour, but I did spend time in Sustainability Alley with its variety of stalls and talks. Well done to the hard working Show committee.

While I was out in Nimbin, I took the opportunity to visit the Blue Knob Gallery for the latest exhibition and to see the works Council undertook at the old skatepark site. I also saw the winning show-themed window display at Council's Visitor Information Centre. Congratulations Andrew Walker!

Spring Arts

I was very pleased to open the 25th Spring Arts exhibition at the School of Arts at the start of the school holidays. This annual show is always of a high standard with the works beautifully displayed. Alongside many regular artists furthering their arts practice often in new ways, there are works by first timers and emerging artists.

Camping

Council continues to receive complaints about illegal camping in and around Nimbin. Despite some signage, campers continue to stay overnight in viewing areas and in the Western carpark. As you can imagine, there are health concerns that arise from toileting behaviours. The current legislation in NSW limits the enforcement options available to local councils to deal with the problem effectively. The main issue is gathering admissible evidence of camping and how that may be differentiated from Stop Revive Survive activity, even if proper signs are erected. This issue has been raised in many other council areas across NSW, resulting in representations to the state government to review existing legislation and improve the ability to enforce areas where camping is not allowed. It would be preferable if campers stayed at the Caravan Park or at Nimbin Showgrounds that offers overnight camping for \$10pp for up to 7 nights.

Sustainable House

The recent Sustainable House Day Expo at City Hall was a great success. Nimbin continues to be a beacon of sustainable practices in our region and featured at the Expo with sponsorship and displays. 7 Sibley Street is progressing with the help of Council through funding for a shipping container for the site for storage of tools and materials.

Roadworks

Recently I drove between The Channon and Nimbin via Tunttable Falls Road. It was very pleasing to see the potholes I'd noticed a month earlier had been filled. Drivers will also note the extensive works on



Nimbin Road. While there is more to do, I think the road has never been in better condition overall. Much of the change has occurred since Christmas when we appointed a new Executive Director – and we've been lucky with the weather.

Kevin Soward

It was with great sorrow that we heard the news of the death on September 12 of Kevin Soward while he was holidaying in Germany with his wife Judy. Kevin is remembered as a highly-respected community member and an active volunteer in many organisations. On behalf of Council and our community, I offer deep condolences to Judy and family and to Kevin's many friends in Nimbin and beyond.

Metgasco

As I write, Metgasco has announced that it will commence seismic testing on Rock Valley Road in the Lismore Council area. They have also flagged recommending work at the Rosella site in Bentley. Whether this announcement is a red rag to the State Government to increase compensation or whether it is a serious attempt to re-start unconventional gas exploration and extraction remains to be seen but the company can be assured that the local opposition has not dissipated. Council had previously refused permission for seismic testing and our position has not changed. Our signs say '87% voted No to CSG'. What part of that is unclear?

Turnbull can't be trusted

by Justine Elliot,
MP for Richmond

Within one day of his being elected leader of the Liberal Party and being sworn in as Prime Minister, we have seen some major sell-outs by this new leader. What this shows is that changing the leader changes nothing about this government's policies on climate change or the environment, but it goes right to the heart of this new leader and the fact that he will sell out, any chance he gets, any opportunity he gets.

The Prime Minister promised 'traditional cabinet government' that included making decisions in a 'thoughtful and considered manner'. Yet, within hours of being sworn in, the new Prime Minister had already bypassed his own cabinet, and he was making desperate deals—with who? With the Nationals, who are in fact the greatest environmental vandals we have ever seen.

Handing the Nationals the water portfolio and refusing to take real action on climate change are the some of the dirty deals the Prime Minister has done to get his job. It is a very serious blow to the Prime Minister's credibility on the environment, and it shows that in fact he is just a hypocrite—a hypocrite who would do any deal to become Prime Minister. The fact is that he just cannot be trusted, and Australians know that he cannot be trusted.

We have a situation now where the Nationals, the greatest environmental vandals, have the greatest say about climate change policy and environmental policy. We also know that the Prime Minister has promised the right-wing extremists in his own party and the National Party that he will not change the former Prime Minister's policy on climate change. We know that.

The now Prime Minister once called direct action a 'farce' and a 'recipe for fiscal recklessness on a grand scale', but, yesterday, what did he do? He pledged to support it. He sold out on climate change action to become prime minister, and now he is paying big polluters to pollute.



It is truly shameful.

When asked about direct action in question time, the Prime Minister reiterated his support, saying, "The policy we have in place is very clearly costed and calibrated, and it is effecting reductions in emissions now and at a very low cost."

Well, according to RepuTex, under 'direct action', Australia's biggest polluters will increase their pollution levels by 20 per cent over the next 15 years. That is the fact. Having previously acknowledged how hopeless 'direct action' is, the Prime Minister now is clearly pushing it. What a change. What a hypocrite.

Also, today in question time we had the Leader of the Opposition asking the Prime Minister about renewable energy and asking him to support our policy of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. What was his response to that? It was a 'reckless proposal'. He just disregarded it. Well, he has sold out again. First of all he sells out on climate change, then he sells out on renewable energy.

In looking at some of the motions at the Nationals federal conference, that there was one in relation to renewables. They actually voted down a motion to support renewables and projects in regional centres. The National Party voted down a motion to support renewables and projects in regional centres. It sounds a bit like what the

Prime Minister was saying, echoing what the National Party were saying, voting down and disregarding any action on renewables.

As I have mentioned many times before, we have Liberal and National parties who, at every level, whether it is federal or state, are absolute and complete environmental vandals. Nothing has changed about that.

When the now Prime Minister was the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources in 2007, he had a plan to build a massive dam at Tyalgum, a lovely small village in my electorate of Richmond, on the New South Wales North Coast. This would have destroyed the village and surrounds, and it would have been an environmental disaster.

In 2007, I put questions to the minister calling on him to rule out the proposal for this huge dam and he responded by saying, "All options should be on the table in order to find the most cost-effective means to supply this water."

He ignored the concerns of our community, and the community were outraged at the environment minister and they have never forgotten this betrayal. It was only the election of a Labor government that stopped these cruel, harsh plans, but locals remember what happened, they blame the now Prime Minister for that and they also blame the National Party for wanting to build that huge dam.

If our new Prime Minister is willing to sacrifice on climate policy, what else has he sacrificed; what other price has he paid; who else has he sold out? Clearly he has also sold out on marriage equality. That is another disgraceful act by this Prime Minister, a disgraceful act of betrayal by not allowing a free vote on marriage equality. It just shows one thing: it is the same old Liberal-National party, the same old policies. The same old environmental vandals are here. What we have now is, yes, a new Prime Minister but a Prime Minister who has sold out. What else has he sold out on?

The fact is he cannot be trusted, and Australians know that.

Simon says..

Metgasco's Peter Henderson is making noises again about seismic testing on Rock Valley Road and returning to Bentley to drill the Rosella well. Our sources in Sydney assure us that contrary to Mr Henderson's claims, Metgasco and the government are still in discussions about a financial settlement that will see all the Petroleum Exploration Licences removed from the Northern Rivers.

So it seems that Henderson's aim is to put pressure on the government for a bigger financial settlement and stir up the local community in the hope we will do something silly showing ourselves to be extremists.

Nonetheless Gasfield Free Northern Rivers is ready to deal with any eventualities with nearly 5,000 phone numbers on its call out list. Perhaps the government needs to be reminded that the seat of Ballina was lost to the

Greens and Thomas George nearly lost his seat, and on a Federal level, Kevin Hogan is at risk of losing his seat.

Lismore City Council already has a policy to not allow seismic testing on any of its road reserves. The Council has power to prevent activities on its improvements under s38 of the Onshore Petroleum Act and also to refuse activities under s138 of the Roads Act. It will be interesting to see which Councillors support the ban on seismic testing.

Last Sunday I had the privilege of unveiling Graham Knowles' amazing "peace sign" statue outside the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre. I was delighted to be a part of this ceremony for a number of reasons. As one of the Bentley co-ordinators, the camp and blockade were a huge part of my life for three months. It was so good and so unusual to see a community honouring its environmental activism from Terania Creek



by Cr Simon Clough,
Lismore City Council

to Bentley.

In many ways the Bentley camp/blockade showed the maturity of our community. People worked incredibly hard organising a grassroots response to the threat of drilling with over 30,000 people were surveyed. Over 96% of them opposed unconventional gas drilling. Our community was able to reach out to each other over this issue of protecting our land water and future. It was so powerful to see long-term members of the National Party rubbing shoulders with committed environmentalists and both realising that they had more in common than they had ever imagined.

It was not hard to see the

impact of the intentional communities movement at Bentley. Intentional communities have been a feature of our area since the Aquarius Festival in 1973. Not only were there many people experienced in living communally, but there were people with extraordinary practical skills. For instance, administering a camp of a couple of hundred people with 43 separate "departments", or designing and building a camp focus with kitchens, a café (complete with large espresso machine), children's area and elder's tent. The practical skills were also evident in the construction of a fresh water system, a grey water system, provision of electricity and of course the numerous bender buildings which were used for so many purposes.

What an amazing spring we are experiencing: warm soft days (so far) and just the right amount of rain. Needless to say it's perfect cycling weather, so please be careful on our roads when you see a cyclist. We are very vulnerable.

You can contact me on: simonclough@internode.on.net or phone 0428-886-217.

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au



Anti-Poverty Week

Look out on social media for our fact-finding mission during anti-poverty week, October 11-17, this year.

NR bio-hubs

Nimbin consultations: Thursday 15th October, 6pm at Birth and Beyond
 Come along to find out more about the industry and discuss the benefits and risks. A free event but please register for catering purposes (yummy food provided) by searching for 'bioenergy' at: www.eventbrite.com.au

You can also find a basic fact sheet which we put together as a conversation starter, on our website: www.nnic.org.au

Sustainable planning

Town Hall Sunday 22nd November
 The SNCP was developed in 2009 and belongs to the Nimbin Community. A lot has happened since we last all came together in 2011 and there are more changes on the horizon. So it's time to get back together to revise and update our goals to keep our community headed in the direction we want. It is important for the diversity of the community to be represented in the plan, so please come along... **All welcome!**

The SNCP has already led to many outcomes for Nimbin, e.g. the Nimbin Solar Farm; Food Security outcomes – Farmers Markets, Food Equipment Library, Grain Mill, Food Co-op; 7 Sibley Street Project; Sustainability Alley; Biogas – funds attracted for feasibility research into a biogas tri-gen plant at Nimbin Valley Dairy – and more.

NNIC regularly refers to the SNCP as evidence of the goals of the Nimbin community, when planning projects and when making submissions to all levels of government, in relation to e.g. Nimbin Waste Transfer Station; CSG; NBN roll-out; Federal Government's Renewable Energy Target and the Energy White Paper; Reserve Roads divestment; Imagine Lismore planning process; Lismore



LEP and Growth Management Strategy (especially re sustainable housing and the MOs); Proposed developments in Nimbin – eg the Cubes.

We are currently collecting information from the community about what has been achieved to date. We know a fair bit but we don't know it all... To add what you know, go to our website for the feedback documents.

Sibley Street Raffle

Tix \$2 or 3 for \$5, available at NNIC. Great prizes include: Sundaya T-lite 2 light solar pack (thanks to Rainbow Power Co), Energy Efficiency pack and a large Richmond Birdwing Butterfly plant. Proceeds to Stage One Sibley St project.

Enova Energy

Having reached over \$1million in just a few weeks, the Enova share offer has been extended to the 27th November. If you missed the initial close date, it is still not too late to get on board to support our own community based energy retailer. NNIC is proud to be a supporter of this great initiative.

Nimbin Country Show

Well done to everyone who exhibited at this year's show, and especially to all the ribbon winners.

The winner of the 2015 Best Show-Themed Shop Display was the Nimbin Visitors' Centre for their fabulous diorama (pictured). Second place went to the Nimbin Food Co-op for their food miles display and third place to the St Vinnies team who always put up a great entry. Well done and thanks to everyone who participated.

The Show Must Go On, and so it did in spite of underwhelming weather. Thanks to everyone who made Sustainability Alley happen: Nat, Guy, Jim and James for co-ordinating, the



stallholders and speakers who braved the conditions, Blue Knob Farmers Market for the lend of tables and the PA, the Abundance Cafe crew, Australian Solar Trailers for the power and everyone who came along and participated.

Thanks also to the dedicated NNIC team, especially Reg, Rob, Ruth, Fran, Heidi, Chris and Anna. Mega-thanks to Wan, Lee and Mal for building the front gate, to Micaela, Fran and Heidi for starting off the Community Knits (and to Sue Cook for the wool) and to all the fantastic crew from the A&I Society for their support. We will see you all again next year.

Sustainable House Day

Photos from the day and details of the design competition winners and where you can see their entries, are available on the Sibley Street website: www.sevenonsibley.com

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help, we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website.

Nimbin Hospital Information

Immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic: Tuesday 13th October. For appointments: 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health)

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. For appointments, phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Women's Health Nurse Services

Third Thursday of the month. Next clinic, October 15th. Confidential Pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post natal checks, general health information. For appointments phone 6688-1401.

Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm, for assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy. Provision of Palliative Care in the home and co-ordinated Aged Care Packages.

Free health checks

In front of the Neighbourhood Centre, every second Friday, 11.30am

1.30pm, run by a Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse. Cardiac, Diabetic and Stroke risk assessments, weigh, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, Cholesterol levels. Referrals to appropriate Health Professional, if required.

Free respiratory clinic

With Specialist Respiratory Nurse and a nurse Practitioner. Second Thursday of the month. Next clinic: 8th October. For appointment phone 6688-1401.

Free diabetic clinic

Every third Thursday of the month. Next clinic: 15th October. For appointment, phone Leanne Boothe 6630-0488.

Cannabis clinic

Confidential counselling, every Monday. Phone 1300-664-098.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday, Phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.



Nimbin NSP

Open Mondays to Thursdays, 9-30am – 12pm. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Health Nurse through NSP.

Health Advice Line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. It's a 24-hour, 7 days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will speak to you and assess whether or not you need to go to the Emergency Dept. at your local MPS.

Read more information about this service at: www.healthdirect.org.au

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next meeting: 9th October.



Nursing roles demystified

by Noelle Lynden-Way,
BUNK Quality & Safety Committee

When you initially enter the emergency department (ED) at our local MPS (Nimbin, Kyogle, Urbenville) you meet the nursing staff who will attend to you during your stay there. There are three ED beds at Nimbin, four at Kyogle and one at Urbenville MPS.

The staff are RNs (Registered Nurses) and EENs (Endorsed Enrolled Nurses) wear a similar uniform and an ID badge showing their name and credential. The EEN uniform has a pale blue band around the sleeve.

The difference between these two roles in ED are that RNs complete three years or equivalent of tertiary study in a Bachelor of Nursing and the EEN completes a two-year or equivalent Diploma of Nursing at a vocational education training centre.

The RN graduates from university with training that enables them to critically think and assess patient care needs. In 1990 the First Line Emergency Care (FLEC) course was developed for rural and remote Registered Nurses in NSW. It is a six-month course that trains RNs to ensure the early appropriate management of acute and life threatening conditions and to relieve pain and discomfort for patients at hospitals. FLEC accreditation is only for 12 months and has to be renewed annually to ensure that RNs are up-to-date and familiar with new procedures and



Erika Bordin and Peter Doyle

treatments.

Nimbin has 8 FLEC trained nurses, Urbenville 11 and Kyogle 13.

The Endorsed Enrolled Nurse (EEN) works under the supervision of the RN. The EEN graduates with a competency-based practicality. Their duties range from providing physical and emotional support to patients to the administration of medications and more complex care.

If there is no doctor present when you arrive at ED because they are on call, the FLEC RN and EEN can initiate treatment for pain relief and administer fluids, antibiotics and aspirin.

Aged care and respite available

Stay connected, stay active with Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services – for all elders, for people with a disability and all carers in our local communities.

- **Bus Outing:** Tues 13th October, morning tea at Sphinx Rock Cafe, lunch Flutterbyes Café, Tyalgum, relax and enjoy our beautiful region;
- **Drop-In** at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, Mon-Fri 10am-2pm, for a cuppa, a chat, free internet, computer, a quiet sit down;
- **Nimbin Social Groups** every Tues & Weds, 9.30-1.00pm at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, with morning tea and light lunch;
- **The Channon Social Group:** Thurs 22nd October & every 3rd Thurs, 11.30am-2.00pm, variety of locations, phone for info;
- **Koonorigan Social Group:** Mon 29th October & every 4th Mon, 11.30am-3pm, bring-a-plate lunch at Koonorigan Hall;
- **Home visits** for all carers and your cared for person;
- **Craft Group** every first Monday at Bottlebrush Studio

Phone 6689-1709 for more information.



Centenarian Jean Stephens pictured at Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services helping Helen Simpson with her raffle to raise funds for medical supplies for Nepal

Health & Welfare Association seeks new members

Join the Nimbin Health & Welfare Assoc Inc (NH&W) and contribute to this caring organisation in the heart of Nimbin. It's an opportunity to give back to your community.

NH&W is the governing body for Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS) and the Nimbin Interagency Forum, two services supporting people to maintain well-being and connection within local communities.

There are various ways you can help: become a NH&W member (annual membership \$3), volunteer at the NACRS social centre, join the NH&W management committee or become a community transport driver.

Give us a call on 6689-1709, or drop in to see Rose or Jenny at Bottlebrush Studio at the Nimbin Community Centre and come along to our AGM on Tuesday 17th November.

Open learning classes

The Nimbin Open Learning Centre begins term 4 on 14th October. This term we offer classes on Meditation, Exploring Art, Creative Writing, Rag Rug Making, Computer Competency, Tai Chi and Ukulele.

Enrolments will be open from 10am to 3pm on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th October, at the classroom in the Community Centre. Come in person to enrol, or call us for enquiries on 6689-1477.

Ukulele Band

Mookx uke classes this term at NCC will be in the form of a band rehearsal and hopefully some performances down the track. Anyone wishing to be part of this band, please sign up for the term.

You will need a uke, a music stand and A5 notebook for chords (preferably indexed). A guitarist and bass player would be welcome additions. Lots of fun guaranteed!



Computer class image

Nimbin Goes Queer Gala Cabaret Event

Starring Lismore's
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Saphira Von Wilde

MC and performances by
Lismore's Drag legend
Maude Boote



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Saturday 14th November

7.30 PM Sharp

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25 Sibley Street, Nimbin

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Menu available to go

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Group Bookings welcome

PHONE 6689-1473 FOR BOOKINGS

ENTERTAINMENT

Every Thursday, 6-9pm

Joey and friends

Friday 9th Oct, 6-9pm

Mish

Saturday 10th Oct, 6-9pm

Bob Oort

Friday 16th Oct, 6-9pm

Lady Writer

Saturday 17th Oct, 6-9pm

Neil Diamond Show

Wednesday 21st Oct, 7-11pm

Open Mic Night

Friday 23rd Oct, 6-9pm

Smiles & Ink

Saturday 25th Oct, 6-9pm

Rob Cass

Friday 30th Oct, 6-9pm

Beetle Juice

Saturday 31st Oct, 6-9pm

Sarah Stando

