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# Performance Poetry World Cup

by Gail M. Clarke  
Co-ordinator

What an absolutely fabulous weekend of sharing, not only great poetry to inspire, excite and titillate but also the coming together of so many like-minded folk. From the old masters to the first timers, a combination of wonderful energy was shared.

To all who help make this weekend such a success, a huge thanks.

Without the ongoing support of you all this would not continue to be such an inspiring, positive draw card for this wonderful little village.

Words from the visiting poets always warm my heart, such positive experiences they take away with them and

share the positivity of this place, many of them will be returning.

For those who once again missed out, hopefully you now know what you have been missing, performance poetry is anything but 'boring' you can check out the filming (sponsored by Rainbow Power Co.) from Paris and Darmin of the finals on Youtube and soon the webpage: [www.nimbinpoetry.com](http://www.nimbinpoetry.com)

Fund raising for next year has already started, the usual monthly poetry night at the Oasis (first Thursday of each month) and the raffles are ongoing and keep an eye out for our future major money making event.

With sincere thanks and heaps of love.



# Pick up the ukulele at Open Learning

by Christine Strelan

The Nimbin Community School Open Learning Centre is nearing the end of term 3.

The final term for the year begins on 14th October, with enrolments open on 7th and 8th October. We'll be offering classes in ukulele, art, creative writing, bookkeeping and more.

If you have a skill or interest you'd like to share, we are always happy to find new tutors.

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Mookx at the Uke class.



# Let us imagine – weaving and mending

by Granny Breath Weaver

Let us imagine love, beauty and harmony around our world, around Earth Mother. Let us imagine a silken web of peace, woven with our hands, around our Mother Earth.

Challenging times are upon us all. Earth Mother's electromagnetic field (aura) is being upset, perhaps destroyed by our current technology. Millions of beings including humans are being visibly affected to the point of madness which leads to war – war with each other and war with ourselves.

When we sit and weave on Earth Mother we hold sacred ground. Stitch by stitch, row by row, we can mend the holes in our electromagnetic field and the gaping holes in Mother Earth's aura. As we weave we will dream the seeds of our future without madness, without poisons, without mining, without the technologies that are destroying life and lives.



For all our children we will weave a web of love, beauty, harmony and balance. This is what we imagine with our

minds. Mind before Matter is what matters.

Our Weave and Mend Festival is on again on

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) at the Nimbin Community Centre grounds.

It's a three day camp, entry by donation and continual two hour workshops. We have local and guest weavers using weaving techniques taught to us by the original traditional owners from Australia and other countries.

We will have natural dyeing demonstrations, music, a campfire, food and drink (and access to Nimbin village). Bring along a blanket to sit on, scissors and needles (metal and bone) are for sale, facilities close by. Visitors are welcome and if further information is required, ring Granny Breath Weaver on 6689-7129.

The Weave and Mend Festival is organised by Wednesday Women Weavers who meet on Wednesdays at the Nimbin Community Centre. Our festival is sponsored by the Nimbin School of the Arts.



# NBN arrives in Nimbin

by Dave Lambert

NBN fixed wireless has finally been activated. This is different technology than that used for the slower Satellite and 3G Mobile Phone networks. I am about 600m away from one of the two towers, with a few large gum trees in between, and am getting download speed of 47.84 Mbps and upload speed of 18.84 Mbps.

The advertised/ hoped-for download speed is 25 Mbps, but they are now trialling 50 Mbps and the tech said they hoped for 100 Mbps in future. You can check your speed here: [www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net)

The 'real' benefit of speed is a law of diminishing returns in most cases. If you get 12-15 Mbps now, the added benefit of 45 Mbps is not triple for most applications. If you get less than 10 Mbps now, there would be a big advantage to change if you use the net a lot.

If you are now on a Telstra ADSL2 plan there is little or no cost to switch over (not sure about other providers). Many customers in the past year had to wait four weeks or so for a technician to install – however at the moment there is only a one-week waiting list.

The NBN Tech will test your site before installing your system. Line of sight to a tower is good, but fixed wireless may still work well elsewhere, depending on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent was a bit like a volcano/ mushroom pattern.

They mount a white dinner-plate size dish on the roof (pictured) and a cable-connected pocketbook size receiver inside the house. The set-up needs 240w



power (I estimate 3 watts) 24/7. I asked about turning it off when not in use – the tech said occasionally you might 'lose the signal' and need to make a call to reconnect.

If we assume 100 Wh/ day, the cost is about \$1/ month if you are on the grid; if you are on solar it means your inverter needs to be on 24/7 and inverter loss could be somewhat significant, depending on inverter efficiency/quality, your usage now and system size.

I told them I wanted to keep my existing landline on copper as we had a lot of power interruptions; or you may not need any phone if you want to use VOIP/ Skype type phone for free, or rely on your mobile phone.

If you are fortunate enough to live in the NBN Fixed Wireless footprint, I'd suggest it is the best option for most if you are a moderate or heavy user of the internet. It also will provide a huge boost to those relying on the very slow and congested 3G Mobile Phone and Satellite networks.



## Roll up, roll up...

by David Fawcner

Entrants in the vegetable section at this year's Nimbin Show can expect stiff competition from some new kids on the block. The students at the Nimbin Preschool have started a garden in a corner of the showground this year and it's thriving.

This year's Show, which is in its 95th year, will be held on the weekend of 26th and 27th September.

Pavilion entries include fruit and vegetable, horticulture, apiculture, culinary, needlework, photography, art and craft, student works, teddy bears picnic, family exhibits and a brewers' corner.

Saturday's events will include beef cattle and

horse judging in the ring, a Champion Dog Show, a guinea pig pet show and poultry judging. There will also be an alpaca display.

Horse events will continue on Sunday with miniature and heavy horses, as well as show jumping. Other attractions on Sunday will include a children's pet show, novice whip cracking, a talent quest and the very popular dog high jump.

On both days there will be a range of sideshows, live entertainment, the Blue Knob Farmers Market, Sustainability Alley, a reptile awareness display and Mick Davis' Dog and Duck show.

Programs and entry forms are available from the Showgrounds and a number of Nimbin businesses.

# Keep on running – Nimbin's fun day in the sun



Mayor Jenny Dowell starts the race

The 2015 Nimbin Fun Run was held in beautiful conditions at the end of August, and while no records were broken, everyone had a great day.

Mayor Jenny Dowell sent the runners off on the 5km track, some jogging, some walking, but at the front was a small pack of young men who sprinted the course and were home around 18 minutes later.

On the way round, runners were encouraged by rousing cheers from the many spectators and shoppers along Cullen Street.

With the lead changing only once, on Heartbreak Hill, the trio of Joshua Faulkner, Lachlan Irvine and Tony Curtis took out the Men's Open prizes, while in the Women's Open, Serena Smith, Megan Williams and Chloe Dupreez took the first three places.

In the Over 45's division, David Sharpe, Phillip Cook and Mark Wright were the fastest men, and Gail Pierce, the elegantly attired Gwen Trimble and Shirley Everingham were the best women.

In the kids division the fastest were Dylan Wilson, Tiger Jefferys and Aden McLaughlin (12-16 years boys), and Amber Curtis and Lani Wright (12-16 years girls).

Many thanks are due to the organisers, headed by Cassandra Jefferys, the Showground committee and numerous volunteers for turning on a great day of healthy and rewarding fun for all.

Funds raised from the Fun Run will help develop the Showground's Physical Activity Centre.



The lead changes on Heartbreak Hill



Gail Pearce



Open mens placegetters, Joshua Faulkner, Lachlan Irvine and Tony Curtis, with race organiser Cassandra Jefferys.



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# Warning: facing rapid onset fascism

Everywhere we look at the moment the neo-conservative assault upon democracy is in full swing. It would be an understatement to say we are in the throes of early onset fascism, it's worse than that, it's rapid onset fascism.

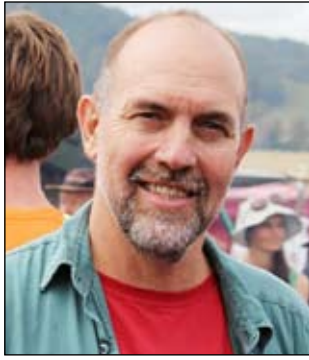
The Abbott government is undoubtedly the most aggressively anti-democratic federal government we have ever seen in this country, and the conservative states including NSW are also fellow travellers.

Where to start? Our refugee centres in Nauru and Manus Island deserve their full title, they are nothing less than concentration camps.

Places where vulnerable ethnic minorities are rounded up, detained and systematically abused. We are talking real abuse, mental, physical and sexual and our government's response is to pass laws to imprison health professionals who tell the truth about it.

The government is cynically escalating its involvement in Middle Eastern wars in order to distract attention from its harsh, unfair and utterly dysfunctional domestic policies. Money and services are being ripped away from the most deserving whilst the cigar smoking treasurer proposes more tax cuts for the rich and multi-nationals are allowed to get away with paying no tax.

The Attorney General is hell bent on attacking and silencing any remaining bastion of civil society with the hide to criticise the



by Aidan Ricketts

government. The ABC and SBS were easy targets. True to form for fascists the hit list just keeps going though, the Environmental Defenders Office was defunded and environmental groups that millions of Australians support and donate to are having their tax deductibility status attacked.

Even the rule of law is copping a bruising. The Human Rights Commissioner has been vilified just for doing her job, the Federal Court is being criticised for not towing the coal industry line, and we have serious questions about the impartiality of the Royal Commissioner employed by the government to conduct a trade union witch hunt.

In a longer term attack on democratic sovereignty, the government is pursuing the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement to give multi-national corporations a power to sue Australia if we ever have the audacity to make changes to our laws that hurt their business interests. Sovereign risk, it's the corporate word for democracy.

Then there is the fossil fuel industry, that good old boys club that has run our parliaments for over 60 years thrashing around like a cornered snake. It is not only democracy that has become a target of the fossil fuel lobby, now it's even pitting itself against the rule of law. The Federal Court had the audacity to strike down a coal mine approval that was unlawfully issued by the federal government and so now the government wants to fiddle with the procedural rules to prevent genuine community and environmental groups even having access to the courts.

What a bizarre creosote republic Australia has become. The rest of the world looks on astounded as our government, completely controlled by the coal lobby, resists action on climate change, subsidises fossil fuels, punishes renewables, pushes for the creation of giant new coal mines and shrieks about green vigilantes.

What's happening in the conservative states? NSW is introducing Ag-gag laws to punish anyone who produces evidence of animal cruelty in intensive livestock installations, Tasmania has laws to imprison protesters who gather outside businesses, WA has proposed anti-protests laws to target peaceful blockaders who use lock on devices, Mike Baird has promised a new wave of anti-protest laws in NSW.

We are faced with very real rapid onset fascism in this country. The sickly

combination of fuelled up racist and national security rhetoric, attacks upon democratic rights and civil society organisations, backlashes against court decisions, and clear advocacy on behalf of a heavily subsidised mining industry, it is all laid bare.

But all is not lost. Civil society is fighting back. We need more than ever to put our weight behind our trade unions, our environment groups, our community organisations, and our progressive political parties. This extremist government is actually in a state of utter chaos, their policies just don't make sense, not even to mainstream Australia, not even to most rational business people.

The Abbott government may have done us a favour. It may have revealed for a whole generation to know the true irrational anti-democratic underbelly of the Liberal National parties. Just as Campbell Newman did in Qld. Politics has changed, there are no longer two major parties of the centre in Australia, there is only the anti-democratic pro-corporate, pro fossil fuel LNP, and the conservative but rational Labor Party or the genuinely progressive Greens.

You don't get to choose whether you care about politics in times like these, it's become a matter of survival to get active, find the activists and the organisations that are fighting and help out, donate join in and kick this mob out.

## Do we want rail passenger services or not?

by Stewart James

One of the most contentious development issues in the Northern Rivers today is whether or not the railway line from Casino to Murwillumbah, closed by the Carr Labor government in 2004, should have a passenger service restored to it, or be put to some other use or sold off.

The controversial and unpopular closing of the daily XPT service from Sydney was justified on the (disputed) grounds that low patronage and high costs made it economically unsustainable.

The main proponents of reopening the passenger rail service are the NSW Greens, for whom the reopening is official policy, aligned to their advocacy of public transport and away from private motor cars, and local community organisations the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG), and the Byron loop, Trains On Our Tracks (TOOT).

The cost of rehabilitating the 130km line, which has not been maintained since closure, is disputed. An official government report by rail engineering consultants ARUP puts the cost at \$953M (which is \$7.25M/km), an amount the government says is prohibitive, but the per kilometre cost of the entirely new Alice Springs to Darwin railway was \$0.85M and it involved major engineering challenges.

Detractors of the proposal say

the heritage alignment, which was constructed in 1894, is difficult and intrinsically slow, and will never provide the fast services (compared to car and bus) expected in the modern era, and that anyway the line is 30km too far to the west and out of reach of the populated areas running just inland of the coast, and therefore will never achieve the patronage required to make it economic.

The Greens, with the support of NRRAG and the Casino Environment Centre, recently flew the length of the line by helicopter with a rail engineer on board, and reported that much of the line appears to be in near serviceable condition, while acknowledging some sections of track, especially a number of bridges just East of Lismore, need serious repair work and investment.

Still, they claim the ARUP estimate is absurdly high and a convenient excuse for government inaction. Senator Lee Rhiannon is developing a Integrated Transport Plan for Northern NSW with the rail line as its centrepiece.

There is widespread agreement that public transport on the Far North Coast is sadly lacking. Whether it be a regular commuter train service and/or buses. If the train was to be reinstated, it would need to be supported by complementary bus services, providing an integrated commuter service throughout the day that is supported and linked up with

mini bus services to connect existing stations to nearby localities; for example connecting the Lismore Railway Station to Southern Cross University and Bangalow to Tintenbar, Fernleigh and Federal; Bangalow to Ballina; Booyong to Clunes. The Greens propose to add two new stations North of Byron, partly to service the new festival precincts up there.

The biggest danger is that neither the rail trail nor restored passenger service will get up, and the rail corridor will instead be sold off to developers. Certainly parts of it would attract major income for the government, so that would have to be considered a real, serious and imminent risk.

Does the community want to preserve this rail corridor for a train service for future generations or does it want it sold off the highest bidder, never to be used for train passenger services again? Are we, the current custodians of this corridor, going to be the ones who allow it to disappear?

From Casino, Kyogle, Nimbin to Lismore, Byron to Brunswick Heads, Mullumbimby to Murwillumbah, this is an irreplaceable and essential part of the transport future for this region. While the cost of restoring the service will be quite significant, it's a small fraction of the money invested on motor expressways in the region, and should be given far higher priority in the transport mix.

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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.

### Medical service cuts

Like many in Nimbin, my family and I depend on our local medical services.

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August I phoned the hospital and enquired if there would be a nurse practitioner on duty some time over the weekend. I was told that there would not be. I could go to Lismore Base Hospital. The nurse on duty was not authorised to offer any treatment.

The previous time I attended Nimbin hospital, earlier this year, there was a NP on duty. The waiting room was full. Patients had a suspected fracture, a severe cut needing stitches, a bad reaction to a tick bite, acute post-operative pain, asthma, fevers and more. Almost all were treated at the hospital. Clearly this is a much-needed service, which I believe is not at present being sustained.

This is a rurally isolated community, with a constant flow of tourists swelling the population, transport difficulties, an abundance of snakes and ticks in season, an increasing number of aged pensioners, those with poor mental health, people living in substandard accommodation, and not least, a drug problem. I would expect the provision of health care to be a priority, especially as the local surgery only operates for four days a week.

This community, with its unique demographic, needs access to medical treatment seven days a week. I have written to Northern NSW Local Health and relevant politicians including Thomas George, Jeremy Buckingham and Justine Elliot. I hope others will do likewise.

Nathalie Buckland  
Nimbin

### Laneway Boys

I want to express my gratitude to Dionne May for her excellent article "The Nimbin Laneway Boys" in the August NGT.

She has rightly exposed a hidden asset of this town. A consensus is emerging regarding the medical benefits of marijuana, even among

former foes of the right to "get high." Nimbin's street traders are sometimes the only safe source for desperate people who come from many other towns to buy marijuana for sick relatives. I know of one woman from the Gold Coast whose six-year-old grandson is dying of cancer in Victoria and only pot keeps him free of pain. Without it he doesn't eat and has to be fed by a tube down his throat. Marijuana returns his appetite.

I have lived in Nimbin for more than three decades and have seen much of the cultural development in our town. The boys in Rainbow Lane represent a generation that grew up here. They exert a positive influence that helps to keep the peace in a town that has learned how to police itself. The marijuana trade is for the most part benign – even beneficial – and these guys keep organised crime away. For example, there seems to be a lot less crystal meth in Nimbin than in other towns. Sometimes police act aggressively towards peaceful people with pot!

Because the boys are local, they know what's going on and can help with regular social issues. They help to keep the streets safe. If I want to feel better about parking my car with a load on the trailer or roof racks, I park it where the lane boys can see it. Safest place in town! And when the gas ghouls tried to destroy our water and air last year at Bentley, some of these guys came to aid the people's blockade. They were a source of great pride for all associated with Nimbin.

Some of the lane boys play soccer for Nimbin and they seem to be mates rather than rivals. I saw some keeping the scene clean outside the Nimbin Hall during the latest Blue Moon Cabaret on 15th August.

I think Nimbin is blessed to have such a solid group of young men in town. We should be proud of them. I am.

Scott Sledge  
Nimbin

### Funny one

I'd like to offer my congratulations to your columnist, Mookx, for his brave, poignant and yet wickedly funny piece in the August *GoodTimes*. The very personal problems of pernickety prostrates are something most older gents are unfortunately only too aware of. Discomfort and embarrassment is often only the splash of a boot away. But when I read Mookx's observation that his "dick has been handled by more people than a bong at a music

festival", I just about pissed myself laughing. Articles like this and the conversations they engender are vital in helping blokes focus on their health, particularly the bits they'd rather forget. Sometimes it seems we only listen when someone is taking the piss.

Bob Tissot  
Nimbin

### European socialism

To suggest that Europe has been under the yoke of European 'socialism' for 150 years and produced two world wars is the most ludicrous distortion of modern history I have ever heard (Scott Barlow NGT Letters August 2015).

This hysterical rant is typical of the right wing paranoia that rears its head in times of uncertainty and political/economic/ecological crisis.

Greece's crisis is an accumulation of consecutive conservative government's New Democracy, Pasok failure to challenge the power of the institutions of capital – IMF, European Central Bank and the conservative European Union political powers of Germany, Finland etc – which have sought to impose savage austerity measures as part of the conditions for extending loans to Greece.

The current Greek government Syriza, a broad left political party, was elected on a platform of "anti-austerity" and is struggling to maintain credibility with the Greek people, especially after the referendum "no" vote got up. Huge internal political divisions are opening up within Syriza, as it tries to steer its way out of the political paralysis besetting the country.

Scott Barlow ignores many of the factors that have contributed to Greece's crisis – social relations, unregulated borrowing and flows of capital, and corruption, and most tellingly the draconian austerity reforms by the institutions of capitalism. All of these have led to growing social/economic inequalities and societal dislocation.

The dramatic influx of migrants from the Middle East and Africa is adding

to the tensions of social cohesiveness, with Golden Dawn, Greece's far right, openly xenophobic and violent fascist political party, threatening social stability and democracy.

Barlow's very biased critique of 'socialism' beggar's belief with vacuous assertions and untruths. He then proceeds to praise the merits and virtues of academic (read Ayn Rand), abstract free market capitalism.

Any political observer realises the whole edifice of capitalist democracy and global economics is undergoing huge structural shifts and changes to political power relations. As a result, the global capitalist world is grappling with all the contradictions of the system that created un- (under) employment, increasing global social/economic inequalities, redistribution of wealth (read privatisation of public assets/services to global corporations) housing affordability crisis, homelessness, poverty, child exploitation, human trafficking, modern day slavery, and devastating global climate change – all driven by the profit motive and extracted by naked exploitation.

This is why so many people are now openly questioning for good reasons, a political, economic system that delivers for the privileged few, what Barlow inadvertently calls "narcissistic untrammelled individualism" and fails abysmally for the world's majority, as humanity struggles to find solutions to these seemingly intractable global problems under the tyranny of capitalism.

Boyd Kellner  
Newrybar

### Keshe revelations

NGT readers will be interested in developments taking place in Italy, where the Keshe Foundation is based. Iranian Nuclear Physicist, Mehran Tavakoli Keshe has understood the entire spectrum of science. His revelations are about to change our world.

Mr Keshe seems to have a comprehensive understanding of the basic building blocks of the universe. He is able to take energy directly from the

## About us

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Mr Keshe is involved with the Japanese to decontaminate Fukushima and even the sea. The ability to repair ourselves is included in this technology.

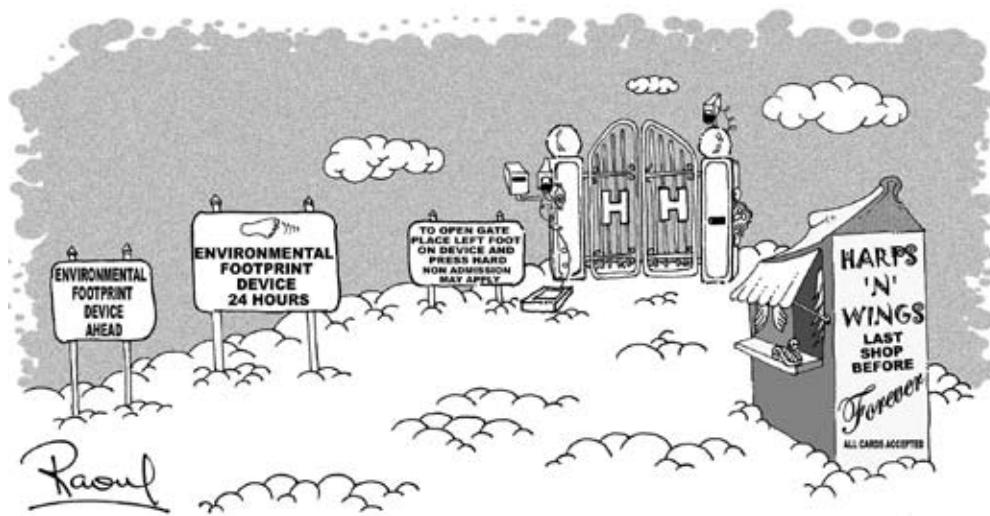
He has also provided the necessary technology for levitation. This assists with space travel, obviating rockets and the fuel. Mr Keshe admits to have captured an American drone using this technology.

Ultimately all energy and mining companies will collapse. Huge amounts will immediately be saved because no payment for these materials is needed. No minerals are mined; they are simply made – goodbye fracking.

Also through this elementary process it is possible to reverse GM. Monsanto is finished, Mr Keshe says.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June Mr Keshe phoned the White House and provided 90 days notice for America to disarm. That means 21<sup>st</sup> September. If Mr Keshe's request is denied by the US Govt, he claims to be able to remove the reason for the use of weapons. This we will have to wait to see, as he has not revealed how he is able to achieve this.

His knowledge extends to the realisation that we as a planet have a conscience. In the past, he says, governments



and the church have coerced to manage the wars that have killed so many of the young and not so young around the planet. The slaying of other creatures (eating meat) is included in weighing down of our planetary conscience.

Mr Keshe deserves our gratitude for bringing this knowledge to us all instead of the more fruitful choice of patenting his knowledge, as the corporations would have done. He also needs our support, as wealthy cartels exist to maintain the status quo. It's another Bentley with all the rewards.

Become a 'knowledge seeker' at [www.keshfoundation.org](http://www.keshfoundation.org)

Alex Pooley  
Tyalgum

### Selfish self-interest

The standard political mantra of "growth and jobs" is Orwellian double-speak. It covers up the thinking that the growth of technologies costs jobs.

CEOs go out of their way to introduce new technologies to displace workers. The Luddites warned of this in the

early 1800's.

Scott Barlow's (NGT, August 2015) quoting of an example where in an industrial society about half of the people in a society work for the other half who don't, is not an indication of the inadequacy of socialism. It is an example of where increasing technology dependence in a society, leads.

Technologies might be fine from a human equity level, if the people not working had the same wage as those working, or if the limited jobs were shared. But that presently doesn't happen.

Self-interest is a synonym for selfishness or narcissism. Capitalism unabashedly says self-interest is the motivation for economic activity. The incorporation of selfishness – a regressive influence in the personal growth of adult humans – into an economic system has led to the only place it could: the threatening of all life on this planet.

A cause of the growth of narcissism in Western society can be found in many civilized parents having not

experienced their parent's role-modelled allowance of narcissism or selfishness. Children need to go through selfishness as a natural developmental stage. Parents help pull children through to a more selfless life merely by role-modelling selflessness in front of them. Prevention of the natural selfishness of children locks them into the continuation of the unfinished business of selfishness into adulthood.

Neo-capitalism is information that parents are fearfully attempting to snap selfishness out of their children. Like the idea that industrialisation leads to jobs, it doesn't work. The system is broke.

Geoff Dawe  
Byrrill Creek

### What will Barry do?

With the Tweed annual mayoral election fast approaching, it's time to put the spotlight on Cr Barry Longland.

Originally elected on a progressive ticket the vote-swapping, fence-sitting,

## Notices

### Wanted: Hire-A-Hubby

Single mother requires handyman for minimum ONE day per month (5-8 hours) at \$30/hr (absolutely no payment in kind). Duties including but not limited to: maintenance of solar power system components; cleaning gutters; general repairs to house, yard and water infrastructure. If you are handy, sensible, reliable and interested in a little extra cash, and can provide character references, please apply via email to: [hrryall@gmail.com](mailto:hrryall@gmail.com)

### Chillingham Community Garden Open Day

Sunday 13th September: Markets 8am-1pm; Hoopla Circus for kids from 10.30am; Talks from 11am on Soil Health, Seed Saving, Composting; at Chillingham Community Centre, 1469 Numinbah Road Chillingham.

### Hanging Rock celebration

Vernal Equinox Celebration at Hanging Rock Hall, Saturday 26th September, 5-12pm. Music by the Hoochers Jam Band, ceremony, mystery play, dance. \$10 entry, kids free.

### Northern Rivers Greens Trivia Fundraiser

Great prizes. Sunday 20th September 2-5pm at South Lismore Bowling Club. \$10 per ticket. Make up a table of 10. Contact Aniko Papp on 0400-305-715 for more details.

### Bush Theatre Movie Night

*Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom* screening Friday 11th September, Dinner from 5.30pm for 7.30pm film, with music by Dinkum Bohos. Film entry \$10.

### Nimbin Flix

*Keeping Mum*, an English comedy starring Rowan Atkinson, Maggie Smith, Kristen Scott Thomas, and Patrick Swayze. Rollicking good fun! Saturday 19th September at Birth and Beyond. Doors open 6pm, movie starts at 6.30pm. Food and drinks available.

### 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.

about-face Barry will have to decide once and for all: who does he represent?

What will he do with his vote? Throw his hat in for Polglase, the former mayor dismissed after the notorious inquest into the Tweed Directions campaign in 2004,

or will he look deep into his soul and vote for the current progressive mayor for the people, Gary Bagnall?

Time will tell, but if you wonder what Barry will do, go and ask him yourself.

Trish Mann  
Burringbar

# Nimbin's costly connectivity - not in my backyard!

by Linda Gi – Video Art

NIMBY activism has long inspired thriving communities to value people before profits, yet there wasn't a whimper of concern in Nimbin on August 14 when a microwave tower in the backyard of Nimbin Preschool began bathing the town with radiation.

Nimbin's new NBN tower emits pulses of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) in the radio frequency band of the electromagnetic spectrum, peaking at 2300 MHz. 'Radio frequency' (RF) is a safe-sounding term for non-ionising microwave radiation. Safety standards cap public exposure to RF radiation at 1000  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  (microwatts per square centimetre). Telecommunications specialists claim Nimbin's towers will emit only 0.042% of the limit, and assure residents that no detectable biological damage will be caused by radiation from their towers. Sounds comforting, but the safety standard determined by telecommunications industry insiders at the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) was

evidently set to protect corporate profit more than public health.

The radiation safety standard only prevents cooking of tissue, and ignores adverse cumulative non-thermal effects.

Should you snuggle with your cellphone? One of many studies financed by the telcos to support claims that EMR is harmless was led by Dr George Carlo, but when results revealed that RF radiation actually damages the blood-brain barrier, harms genes and causes cancer, this research was suppressed.

Laboratory tests on rat brains in 1980 found that EMR damages DNA. Radiologist Professor Heyo Eckel at Göttingen University showed that pulsed, high frequency energy waves from microwave towers break molecular bonds and harm the nucleus of living cells. Decades of reputable research now confirms, even at levels far below international safety standards, that prolonged exposure to radiation from base towers adversely impacts all biological organisms within one kilometre. It is especially harmful to electromagnetic hyper-sensitive people and children.

When Professor Trevor Marshall exposed sick people to EMR at one millionth the power of a mobile phone signal, he found heightened immune dysfunction triggering chronic disease. He concludes, "The brain acts as a radio receiver." Blake Levitt, author of *Electromagnetic Fields* says, "A worse frequency could not have been chosen for the human anatomy." EMR is seen to break down the blood-brain barrier and disrupt the immune system's electromagnetic communications.

All living organisms are electromagnetic. A healthy person resonates harmoniously with the earth near 10 Hz, but exposure to RF radiation at higher frequencies is like putting your head in a microwave oven. Recent studies in Germany and Israel found that people living close to cellphone towers had greatly increased incidence of cancer. In one rural UK village, 34 people residing near a cellphone base tower got cancer and 14 died. This 'safe' tower beams RF radiation at 5,000 times below permitted limits.

A review by an international research team of 100 peer-

reviewed studies was published in *Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine* in July. The review summarises evidence that exposure to RF radiation does provoke incremental damage at a cellular level and is a significant health risk. Prolonged low-level exposure can cause diverse problems including cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurological disorders, miscarriage, depression, aggression and dementia.

Evidently Australia embraces a criminal corporatocracy where profiteering drives globalist legislation under a subterfuge of 'sustainability' and 'connectivity'. It's also relevant that microwave technology has been weaponised and telecommunications towers can facilitate military colocation for surveillance as well as smart meters.

Globally, many activists are trying to stop telecommunications industries ramping up public exposure to hazardous RF radiation and possible dubious colocation by preventing installation of microwave transmitters in residential areas, especially near hospitals and schools. In Byron Shire, Mullum Mac was restrained from irradiating the heart

of Mullumbimby, and installation of a base tower near Ocean Shores Primary School was stopped. Some communities have declared their airspace 'No Fry Zones'!

With a \$15 billion cost blowout on the National Broadband Network rollout, the fixed broadband plan for Nimbin includes two active towers located at Nimbin North and Tuntable Falls Road. Towers are ready to connect at Andersons Road and Blue Knob Road. Telstra, operating a base tower at Mt Nardi, says that demand for connectivity compels them to propose a sixth Nimbin microwave transmitter at Falls Road, alongside the new NBN tower near Nimbin Preschool.

Community health concerns are irrelevant to Councils' approval of NBN towers. Revenue from sales of carrier spectrum licences and regular \$4 billion licence renewals suggest the hidden health cost of irradiating the population is clearly worth it for Wabbar's Government. Foxes watch the chooks cook, as soothing NBN specialists suggest Nimbin could make their microwave transmitters look prettier by painting them rainbow colours.





by Cr Jenny Dowell

# From the mayor's desk



## Council meeting

The main items on the agenda at the August Council meeting related to a funeral home, a quarry and North Lismore Plateau.

Readers may know that Council agreed to permit a funeral home to open at 55 Magellan Street, the site that was the Council CBD offices. One condition of the approval was that no funerals are to be allowed on site to avoid the concerns of parking.

Council also permitted a Ruthven quarry to carry out a maximum of five blasts a year on the condition that there is a detailed study of koalas and their behaviour prior to, during and after the first blast to ensure there are no adverse impacts. The information gathered will add to the sparse research literature about the effects of noise on koalas.

The third major item related to a request by landowners for Council to facilitate agreements for access that is required for water and sewer lines across various properties. Council agreed to act as a broker for those agreements. Unfortunately a related but earlier decision by Council to upgrade South Lismore sewerage treatment plant to allow for future population growth became linked with the latest decision and there was some angst that Council was subsidising a developer. As is the

case for any expansion or upgrade of water or sewer infrastructure, the whole community pays through increased water rates so it is expected that the upgrade will add \$110 to the average residential water bill.

## Sibley Street crossing

The newly constructed refuge island in Sibley Street is complete. The crossing was not installed as it does not meet the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) warrants for such an installation. Refuge islands do not give pedestrians right of way and traffic is not required to stop at these facilities. The refuge island is there as a visible point where pedestrians can wait while traffic passes before proceeding to cross the road. It allows pedestrians to cross the road in two stages if required. Refuge islands are used in situations where the volume of pedestrians and/or traffic at the location is not sufficient to meet warrants for a marked crossing but there is a need to facilitate crossing of the road.

## Cecil Street

I received several reports of injured wildlife and possible speeding on Cecil Street. The matter was referred to the Traffic Advisory Committee. Council arranged for classifiers across the road to collect data on traffic volume and evidence of excess speeds. The recommendation from the committee is to install 50kph and wildlife advisory signs and refer the matter to Council's design team to investigate possible traffic calming devices to address the speeding that was evidenced by the data collected. Council will consider the recommendations from the Committee at its September meeting.

## Street trade

There is broad support in Council and in the Nimbin community for measures that ensure public safety and access on the footpaths on Nimbin. There is also an expectation that Council will ensure that rules and regulations are consistent across the Local Government Area.

It is a challenge however. Council wants to seek ways to allow itinerant traders to operate in conjunction with shopkeepers while maintaining the unique atmosphere of the Nimbin street scene. How that might be achieved is yet to be determined.

Some owners are happy to have traders outside their businesses, others are not. There had been a suggestion to relocate traders to the community centre, but that site only has approval for two markets per month. There is also a feeling in some sectors that the traders should stay in town as they add to the atmosphere.

As far as I am aware, there is no intention to use closed circuit TV cameras to crack down on traders. Those cameras are there as a deterrent for criminal activity and identification of perpetrators particularly after hours. Whatever the decision eventually, Council does not have the resources in the short to medium future to enforce regulation repeatedly and consistently to ensure compliance

## Removal of the seat

I am aware that there is some opposition to Council's removal of the seat outside the School of Arts. Through the Nimbin Police Community Consultative Committee, complaints were made that passers-by are periodically harassed in this area of the village. Council also received direct

requests from several businesses and individuals that the seat be removed.

Council raised the issue with the Nimbin Advisory Group that generally agreed on the removal of the seat. I am aware that temporary seating is now taken to the location and request that the people sitting there respect the rights of pedestrian and nearby businesses to safe movement with no obstruction or negativity.

Planning is currently underway for the Nimbin fire site that will include provision for public seating and gathering areas. As with many aspects of Nimbin life, the Council has a balancing role. It will require compromise but community safety must be paramount.

## New NAG Members

At the August Council meeting, two new members of the Nimbin Advisory Group were endorsed. Congratulations Gwen Trimble and Sabrina Brady. We look forward to welcoming Gwen and Sabrina to our next meeting in November.

## The Cubes

On 20 August from 4.30-6.30pm many interested people attended the consultation event to view and discuss the Development Application for a proposed tourist and visitor accommodation development at 80-82 Cullen Street. The development, commonly called the Cubes, proposes 32 accommodation rooms, a manager's residence, parking, landscaping, tree removal and other works. The Development Application will be reported to Council for determination.

## Your roads

All residents would have received a copy of Your Roads last month.

In the brochure, readers will note the works underway or planned for the 2015/16 year. Among the planned works are rehabilitation of sections of Tuntable Falls and Blue Knob Roads and resurfacing of 34 sections on Nimbin Road and 8 sections of Stony Chute Road. Residents in the vicinity of 2016 proposed works on Gungas Road near Tuntable Falls corner will have received a letter from Council about the works inviting comments.

## One year to go

September 10 marks one year until the next Council elections. Most readers will know that I am not standing for re-election and would very much like to encourage others to consider nominating. Like most NSW councils, Lismore has low representation by women and so I am again holding an information evening for women at Council (43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah) from 5-7pm. Please consider coming along if you would like to know what is involved. If you know a woman who might make a good representative, please encourage her. For catering, please register with me via email, phone 6625-0403 or Facebook.

## Community Grants

It was good to catch up with representatives of some of the 40 community organisations and 29 hall committees for the annual distribution of \$179,253 in grants from Council on 26 August. I look forward to hearing of the progress on the various community projects that received amounts ranging from \$700 to \$10,000.

# Green Scene

by Dawn Walker

The Greens are pleased that a review recommending the Murwillumbah District Hospital (MDH) birthing unit be reopened has been endorsed by the chief executive of the Local Health District and will be considered by the board at its next meeting.

The findings allow midwives at the hospital to be trained to implement emergency resuscitation procedures, setting in motion steps to reopen the ward.

The Murwillumbah birthing unit was shut down with little notice in May, with the claim that there were no doctors available for emergency situations. The community was told there would be no births at Murwillumbah District Hospital in the foreseeable future, with expectant mothers told to go to Tweed Hospital, a 30 km drive away.

The local community and the Greens rallied and sent a clear message to the decision makers and the National Party that Murwillumbah would not accept this savage cut to its beloved hospital. Many people attending the rally to reinstate the birthing unit represented generations of Murwillumbah babies born at the birthing unit.

As a result of the community agitation, two community representatives were included on the review team and they are credited for this positive outcome. They argued convincingly of the health benefits of continuous midwifery care for mothers and their babies and the need to actively promote the service, so more mothers can benefit from this model of care.

It was a great privilege for me to have been involved in this campaign and to stand up for local services and for our trained and highly



Murwillumbah obstetrician Dr Betty Marks with Dawn Walker

respected midwives to deliver local babies at the birthing unit. The Greens had a stall at the Murwillumbah market with a birth unit petition, and we were overwhelmed by the local support.

I am proud to stand with the community to protect regional services and oppose cuts to health and education budgets. Expectant mothers can once again make their birth plan to deliver their babies at Murwillumbah hospital, as they have for generations.

dawnwalkergreens@gmail.com

Improved accountability on confidential agenda items was achieved at the August Council meeting, but an attempt to restore questions from the public to the agenda was only partially successful.

Until recently, the ability to ask questions of staff and Councillors has been a feature of public access and has been used by council critics to seek information. Although usually met with "I will take the question on notice", the asking of the question in the public arena is a vital part of a healthy democracy. Some of our more seasoned watchers took to asking questions more rhetorical in nature to make their point. Result: some councillors demand the withdrawal of the right to question, and the Code of Meeting Practice is so amended.

This over-reach was to be rectified last meeting, until a late amendment to limit questions to matters on the current agenda. Residents can already make submissions that include questions about agenda items. Councillors regularly seek answers from staff on



## Byron Views

by Cr Basil Cameron

concerns raised by submitters during debate on agenda items. The reinstatement of limited questions adds nothing. It also makes a mockery of the provision that answers be published in the agenda of the next meeting, long after the relevant decision has been made.

One long standing theme of questions from the public had been about agenda items marked 'confidential' where the meeting is closed to the public during debate on such matters. To close the meeting to the public requires that a statement of the reasons in accordance with the *Local Government Act* (LGA) be included in the agenda. This

usually happens without debate, even though Council must decide to accept the reasons for closure prior to asking the public to leave.

Section 10A of the LGA provides that Council is able to hear submissions from members of the public as to why a meeting should not be closed. I believe the best practice is to actually ask if any member of the public wishes to make a such a submission prior to resolving to close a meeting. In part due to the inclusion of confidential items at the very end of an agenda, there is rarely any member of the public in the chamber by the time the matter is debated. An important improvement to the Code of Meeting Practice formalises the process by inviting any submissions on the confidentiality of items that can now be made during public access.

It seems more important than ever at the moment to set an example, given the increasingly secretive and patronising approach of the Federal Government to questions from the public and journalists.



# Simon says..



by Cr Simon Clough,  
Lismore City Council

Please, please good people of Nimbin, register to vote if you haven't already done so. I was speaking to Natalie Meyer, Neighbourhood Centre co-ordinator and sustainability champion, when she expressed her frustration about the large number of unregistered voters in the Nimbin area.

If we are to see the end of the Abbott regime and all its unfair and flat earth policies we need every vote we can muster as a community. Our previous Labor member Janelle Saffin has been preselected and would make an excellent local Federal member again.

It's worth remembering that Greens state candidate Adam Guise came agonisingly close to toppling local National Party rep, Thomas George. Imagine what an impact the election of another Green would have made on our determination to have a Gasfield Free Northern Rivers.

And don't forget there are local government elections next September. Hopefully everyone has noticed the improvement in the Nimbin – Council relationship. This significant

improvement has come about because the "progressives" have the majority on Council and it could quickly revert to Nimbin being ignored as when the "conservatives" had control. Yes, voting can make a difference, so please do it.

You can register to vote by picking up a form at the Post Office, Centrelink or on line at: [www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling\\_to\\_vote/index.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/index.htm)

## Landholder initiative

I was delighted last night to attend the Council's Landholder Initiative launch. At least 70 landholders attended the meeting and from the mood of the meeting and the number of comments I received they were excited by the prospect of being supported to improve the biodiversity and agricultural performance of their land. Lismore City Council is inviting rural landholders to be part of the Rural Landholder Initiative and apply for \$5000 of on-ground works.

The Rural Landholder Initiative is an integral part of Council's Biodiversity Management Strategy and is designed to conserve biodiversity hotspots on private land through education and incentives.

The project has been funded by a \$100,000 grant from the NSW Environment Trust and a cash contribution of \$50,000 from Council for landholder incentives.

This fund will be used to help landholders achieve practical outcomes including weed control, stock fencing and tree planting.

The Rural Landholder Initiative is a response to the 2012/13 Imagine Lismore community consultation process, which rated the environment as the most important aspect of life in Lismore and revealed that the community's vision was for Council to provide environmental leadership.

Council has partnered with Southern Cross University which resulted in the

University's Incentives Report, the result of a 12-month research project into the best ways to engage landholders through incentives. This included a landholder survey to find out what farmers wanted and how best Council could help them conserve natural assets on their land.

Council is seeking 10 landholders on active farms or hobby farms who will each receive materials and labour to the value of \$5000.

You can find the Expression of Interest form at <http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/file.asp?g=RES-PXU-04-78-50> and guidelines. Applications close on 16 September. For more information phone Council's extension officer Kate.

## 'The Cubes'

Council sponsored a community consultation session at Nimbin Hall in relation to 'The Cubes' on Cullen Street, Nimbin. The DA proposes construction of tourist and visitor accommodation. 41 people attended during the Q&A session on the development. The issues arising included the following:

- Concerns that the cube design does not fit into Nimbin and its character, feel, ambience and streetscape.
  - Concerns about losing the rear yard of 80 Cullen Street, which is currently a popular community space.
  - Were local architects invited to enter the design competition and were the entrants briefed on the character of Nimbin?
  - Concerns about the proximity to the Nimbin school and the type of fencing.
  - What is the development's energy rating and are solar panels proposed?
  - Concerns about the lack of on-site parking, and tree removal
- This DA will come before Council for decision and I'm happy to hear your comments.

Contact Simon: phone 0428-886-217 email: [simonclough@internode.on.net](mailto:simonclough@internode.on.net)

# Labor backs TAFE for the future

Labor understands how important TAFE is to providing the training and skills needed for the jobs of the future. A Shorten Labor Government will back TAFE by guaranteeing a portion of government funding for vocational education is dedicated to public TAFE.

We will make skills and training a national priority and give more kids the opportunities they need. We know that in regional areas TAFE and vocational training is vitally important. TAFE also provides access to critical courses, especially for apprentices. Under the previous Labor government, the number of people participating in government-funded training grew from 1.2 million in 2007 to 1.5 million in 2013.

Labor has always been the party of TAFE. Gough Whitlam instituted the Kangan Report into TAFE which resulted in additional Commonwealth investment for TAFE infrastructure, quality improvements, staff development and equity programs. The Hawke and Keating Governments strengthened TAFE through establishing a framework for an ongoing dialogue between industry and the training sector which has



by Justine Elliot,  
MP for Richmond

been a contributor in our two decades of uninterrupted growth.

In many parts of Australia, TAFE is the only vocational education and training provider that young people can access. Locals have told me how concerned they are about the Liberal Nationals government cuts to TAFE.

These cuts have meant reductions in staffing, ever increasing course costs, unscrupulous private providers and brokers preying on vulnerable people, even closures – this must not be allowed to continue. TAFE must be backed by governments, as it is critical to our future.

Shamefully, the Liberal Nationals government cut \$2 billion from TAFE and

vocational education, which includes \$1 billion from apprenticeships. These cuts have been damaging for local students and have been harmful to our economy.

In contrast, Labor is committed to maintaining TAFE in government through a guarantee that a portion of funding for vocational education is dedicated to public TAFE. Labor is backing TAFE and training because we believe every Australian – young or old, from the city or the bush – has an equal right to share in the jobs and opportunities of the future.

## Marriage equality

I spoke in parliament recently about the importance of marriage equality:

"Just last week I had a visit in my office from two constituents who are also very good friends of mine—Julie and Cas. They came to talk about how important marriage equality is to them and also to share the very exciting news that they had just gotten married in the United States.

Cas was born in America, and they had just returned from Florida, where the wedding took place. It was wonderful to hear all about the planning and the actual

wedding day; it looked like such a beautiful ceremony. One of the most exciting aspects for them was the fact that they received a congratulatory message from President Obama. They have asked me to read that message:

"Congratulations to you on your wedding day. May this special time be blessed with love, laughter, and happiness. We wish you all the best as you embark on your journey together, and we hope your bond grows stronger with each passing year."

Sincerely, Barack Obama and Michelle Obama

This meant so much to them—the President of the United States endorsing and congratulating them on being married. They contrast this with the current situation in Australia and simply cannot understand why the Prime Minister does not support marriage equality and their right to marry here. This is a very important issue in my electorate, and one that I have been clear about. I support marriage equality and will continue to fight for my constituents and, indeed, all Australians to have the right to marry the person they love. If the White House can turn rainbow, then surely this House can do it too."

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- Tax Preparation
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged BAS Agent: 98777003
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**Phone Jayne 0457-497-011**  
Email: [jayne@nimbintax.com.au](mailto:jayne@nimbintax.com.au)

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