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# NAIDOC activities in Nimbin



Jennifer Williams



The local mob put on a fantastic party for Nimbin NAIDOC celebrating songlines and local culture on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July in Allsopp Park.

The day started with a poignant smoking ceremony and march through town, followed by Welcome to Country and an outstanding line-up of entertainment – TLK, Billy Smith, Blak Boi and friends, Jennifer Williams, and a variety of song and dance.

A couple of hundred people enjoyed an incredible feast, with roo stew, salad, BBQ and pumpkin soup put on by a dream team from the Cultural Centre, the NNIC Soup Kitchen and Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services.



Black Boi and friends

## Boost for Aboriginal Cultural Centre

New tenant Wandjarri Mali Media Arts and Language Aboriginal Corporation will be taking over the lease on Nimbin's Wai:bal Aboriginal Culture Centre in August. They will be operating a range of activities including Aboriginal art, culture and language, tourism and catering.

A media launch was held by Thomas George MP on 28<sup>th</sup> July to publicise the \$14,480 NSW Regional Aboriginal Arts Funding grant funding to run a 12-month arts and culture project at the Wai:bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Mr George said that the government is proud to invest in a vibrant and distinctive Aboriginal arts and cultural sector, supporting local artists in regional and remote NSW to tell the stories of their communities.

"This new project will help Aboriginal artists build on their abilities and talents, boost local economies and encourage a greater appreciation of Aboriginal culture in the broader community," he said.



Gilbert Laurie was selected by the steering committee to work as the part-time project officer for the duration of the project. There will also be roles for volunteers to assist. Training in curatorial skills will be provided for volunteers. Interested Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should

contact either Gilbert Laurie or Kerryn Liddell at NCC.

The project provides workshops for local Aboriginal people in dance, weaving and painting. As the project rolls out there will be more information about workshops, event, exhibitions and performances.

## Buttery services now available in Nimbin

by Kerryn Liddell

Rehabilitation centre The BATTERY, based near Bangalow, provides treatment for drug, alcohol and problem gambling addictions, and operates a number of community outreach services, which now include Nimbin.

Based in the Fig Tree building at the Nimbin Community Centre, the BATTERY offers two programs: Partners in Recovery and the b.well program.

Partners in Recovery (PIR) is a national program that aims to better support people with severe and persistent mental illness and complex needs, including their carers and families, by getting services and support

from multiple sectors they come into contact with (and could benefit from) to work in a more collaborative, co-ordinated and integrated way. Support facilitators are qualified and experienced mental health workers who bring a person-centred approach and work from a strong guiding belief in everyone's capacity to self-right and grow within and beyond their current circumstances.

Contact 1800-022-066 for more information. Abigail Brown is in Nimbin on Tuesdays.

The b.well service is free and confidential. The philosophy of the b.well team is to instil hope and understanding and to create a sense of belonging for people with the

dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse issues. The groups have a focus on well-being and include a range of approaches such as a free music and mindfulness course that uses a combination of mindfulness-based relaxation techniques, improvised drumming and a creative approach to promote a healthy mind to support achieving healthy changes.

If groups are not your thing, b.well offers individual counselling for people aged 18 and over. They can also provide support around families and carers. Contact: [bwell@buttery.org.au](mailto:bwell@buttery.org.au) or phone 6687-1658 or 0427-875-884 for more information. Arne Schaafsma is in Nimbin on Wednesdays.

# Lizards bite back at Roxby Downs

by Benny Zable

Several of us Nimbinites participated in the Lizards Bites Back Roxby Downs/ Olympic Dam uranium mine creative actions in July. We shut down Olympic Dam with a massive carnival of over 500 protesters, with performers creating an autonomous zone of music and mischief against the uranium industry.

This uranium mining operation is permanently poisoning the land in and around Roxby Downs, creating radioactive dust and mega-tonnes of tailings that have contaminated the groundwater and will be left on the surface of the land forever.

Once mined, uranium's destructive journey continues, from Fukushima to the depleted uranium shells that children play with in the streets of Iraq and Kosovo. We have a growing waste issue now, with talks for a dump site at the pristine Flinders Ranges. For more information on this and many other peace/environmental issues, check in with the Nimbin Environment Centre.

## Support needed

An appeal is underway to help Murray (Muzz) Drechsler, who broke down on the way back from the Lizards Bites Back actions. He went out of his way to carry a load of us from Nimbin and the North Coast region to South Australia.

The Muzz Blockadia rig is a travelling camp, fitted with kitchen and community shelter pop-ups. Even though the structural break is now reinforced, it has cost him quite a bit to fix.

Please send money to Beyond Bank BSB: 805-022, A/C: 03514689 for both paying for repairs and keeping this awesome set-up on the road which facilitates actions in defence of Mother Earth around the country.

The Rainbow Chai Tent crew would have gone to Lizards, if they had the funds to update their crumbling infrastructure. You can support them every second Sunday of the month at the Channon Market. Bank details are



Muzz (in red) and crew with the Blockadia rig at Roxby Downs

The Chai Tent, BSB: 062-580 A/C: 10278485.

A request from Megan Jack of the Rainbow Chai Tent crew... Nelly Paterson is a senior Lore Woman of Uluru, who is visiting Northern Rivers during August. She has a very important role in maintaining knowledge, balance and harmony within this country. Her ancient wisdom, bloodline, songs and stories strengthen our connection to kuntri from the old way into a New Way Dreaming through the Tjurkurrrpa.

She needs funds to get her and family around for this current tour. Donate to the Chai Tent's account, or at: [www.gofundme.com/newwaydreaming](http://www.gofundme.com/newwaydreaming)

## Keeping the dream alive

Once again I have taken flight to New York. My visit, as still current Ambassador of Peace for the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, is again to visit our Woodstock Museum friends Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton.

I'm going to discuss the 45th Nimbin Aquarius for 2018 and Woodstock 50th in 2019. There is an opportunity of collaborating in a combined alternative lifestyle village setting for the Woodstock 50th.

During the Nimbin Market Sundays the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation office runs its stalls. To keeping the dream

alive, please help out and become a member.

## Earth repair

Before heading overseas, I spent a week in Katoomba at the Earth Repair Foundation with Franklin Scarf, my great friend and inspiration in working for peace reconciliation and the environment. His inspiring 'Mind-Vitamin Thought-Seeds' (as he calls this artform he practices), continuously radiate inspiration. They cover the walls from within and around the Earth Repair Centre, the home he makes welcome to all who visit.

This visionary work of some 40-plus years is spreading on walls around the CBD centre of Katoomba. During my short stay he shared his knowledge of sprouting which he adds to these most potent health drinks, laced with herbs from his garden. He demonstrated his pioneering designed method of composting while working on designing a central hub for the community gardens nearby. Wonderful healing in these different forms he brings to the table, word-smithing the Earth Repair Charter and other dreamings for world improvement.

This work is done with love for humanity, with an attitude of gratitude, where optimism triumphs over pessimism. Check his website: [www.earthrepair.net](http://www.earthrepair.net) and Facebook pages.

# Biodiversity goes on the backburner

by Stewart James

You may often hear about the importance of biodiversity without really knowing what it means and why it's important.

Our natural environment of flora and fauna – of plants, animals, insects, birds and so on – has very complex and only partly understood interrelationships and interdependencies. In any ecosystem, each species plays a part in sustaining the system as a whole, and loss or removal of any individual species can have serious, far-reaching and unforeseen impacts. That's why it's important to try to maintain all the diverse species in the environment.

NSW Greens spokesperson on the environment, Dr Mehreen Faruqi says, "We need to end this race to the bottom before it's too late." By their actions, some people seem intent on reducing biodiversity. Why aren't they asking, 'How can we make things better?' Can't we leave something for the future generations or do we take the



lot and ask questions later?"

The NSW government is continuing with its efforts to re-write legislation governing native vegetation, land-clearing and biodiversity. Following a review in 2014, and largely at the bidding of the NSW Farmers Federation, the Baird government proposed a comprehensive revision to legislation, including scrapping of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. The Federation says current controls on land clearing are too restrictive and costly.

On 3rd May 2016, the NSW Government released a draft *Biodiversity Conservation Bill*, a draft *Local Land Services (Amendment) Bill* and supporting documents for public review and comment. Green, wilderness and

environmental groups were broadly dismayed with the new draft laws, which make it very much easier for farmers to clear large areas of their properties. The opportunity to make public submissions was open until mid-June and the NEC made a submission.

One of the key undesirable features of the draft laws is that they make significant use of offsets, which allow harm from clearing to be done in one place if improvements are made elsewhere, sometimes just by paying into a fund, with no guarantee the improvements will balance or exceed the harms. For example, in reality, the extinction of a species due to the clearing of the last remnants of suitable habitat in one place cannot effectively be offset by conservation

efforts somewhere else.

Whilst the government undoubtedly expected opposition from greens, I doubt they expected a backlash and strong opposition from farmers, who recently declared the new bills unworkable and still too onerous, and demanded they be withdrawn and re-written. Some commentators say this near unanimous rejection of the new draft laws by all stakeholders leaves the review process in tatters and possibly unable to proceed. We'll have to wait now and see what happens.

At a recent meeting in Nimbin, ALP Shadow Environment Minister Mark Butler said he would step in at a Federal level and change the states' land clearing laws because of the disastrous effect the Qld land clearing laws have had on that state.

Our government should be encouraging our communities, both farming and environmental, to work together to get the best negotiated outcome for our precious environment as well as for each other.

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# Age no barrier to fundraising challenge

by Bob Dooley

Gail Wallace of Blue Knob (pictured) is an unlikely participant in a fitness challenge, let alone one that involves walking 50km along the Great Wall of China.

"I've set myself a whopping challenge for 2016, to raise funds for Australia's Crohn's & Colitis Association (CCA)," Gail said.

The Great Wall Challenge, organised by Inspired Adventures, will take place from 6-16th October, with walkers covering 10km of the Wall each day for five days. Each walker is required to raise \$4000 for the charity, as well as pay over \$4000 for their travel and expenses.

"It's going to be tough, but I'm determined, excited and positively passionate about both the fundraising and the trek itself," said 62-year old Gail.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and no-one knows for certain what causes it. Symptoms include frequent and urgent need to use the toilet, abdominal cramps and pain, diarrhoea, fever,



weight loss and anaemia, and is treated by expensive medications and, if required, intestinal reduction surgery.

Gail's original motivation for taking on the Challenge came from seeing how the support from Crohn's & Colitis Australia helped her cousin's daughter, Sarah Michel, who was diagnosed with Crohn's disease at age 20.

Sarah said, "A lot of the reason people don't talk about Crohn's is that it's an

embarrassing disease - people don't want to talk about bodily functions."

Most of Gail's group of 20 trekkers have had Crohn's disease for many decades. Many have undergone multiple surgeries, resulting in full or part colectomies, so they will be pounding the pavement on the Wall wearing their colostomy bags.

Gail said, "I have 'met' online, most of my fellow trekkers, who spring from

all over Oz, and I can tell you, their stories are truly inspiring! All of them sound incredibly dedicated to the cause, and are so fit! Some do boot camps, half marathons, long distant walks and runs."

Their enthusiasm and vigour is infectious, and Gail has been training hard to keep up, training on the Byron Lighthouse Walk and setting herself goals such as climbing Mount Warning in her brand new hiking boots.

Gail said, "I very much want to support CCA by raising as much money as I can as part of my participation.

With the support of family and friends, and sponsorship from the Rainbow Power Company, I have managed to raise over \$3000 so far, and being so close to my target, I am reaching out for your support to bring me across the finishing line.

"Then, we can all do something together to change things for sufferers of these diseases."

Contributions can be made to Gail's on-line supporter page: <https://crohnsandcolitisaustraliachallenge2016.everydayhero.com/au/gail-wallace>

# Nepal rebuilding effort stalled, for now

by Helen Simpson

Recent news from the Village of Baruwa in Central Nepal, (near epicentre of 2015 earthquake) report heavy monsoon rains resulting in severe landslides, rendering the village inaccessible as the road is closed yet again.

This means we cannot get materials up at this stage. Volunteers were heading there in September to help rebuild, as 90% of houses were destroyed here and 1 in 4 people died, so we are busy fundraising, aiming for 50 houses at \$3000 per house. This will be an ongoing project.

Spokesmen from the village have asked that the volunteers postpone until the end of October/early November... the later the better.

The volunteers have been contacted, and two will be there in September and are planning to walk up to assess the



situation and look at the Government modules for rebuilding and do some more planning.

Contact Helen Simpson on 02 6689-1417 or email: [helensim7@gmail.com](mailto:helensim7@gmail.com) for more info, if you would like to donate, or volunteer or help with fundraising

activities.

There will be a fundraiser: a Nepali Thali Evening at Tuntable Falls Cafe on Friday 2nd September, 6.30pm

Nepali food, mulled wine or BYO, raffles - great prizes, photo exhibition by Yvan and Helen, live music... Sonic Bliss, Yvan and Nina, Biko and Doug, Bob Campbell, and lots more.

Come along for a fun night and support the rebuilding of Baruwa in Central Nepal, severely affected by the 2015 earthquake.

Entry is \$20 Adults, \$10 children (14 and under), \$45 family (four or more). All money goes directly to the village.

Tickets will be available early August at Truffula Seeds Cafe (near chemist) and Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services, Bottlebrush studio, or at the door.

Imagine, you can give a family the gift of a home by coming and contributing.

# Nimbin Garden Club notes

by Andrew Barton

Unfortunately, a late cancellation, with no time to find an alternative, meant no club meet for July.

As a club we are always looking for new and interesting properties. Whether it be a lovely garden, a great regeneration project, or you just want to share your labour of love. If you are interested in hosting the garden club, or know of a friend who might, feel free to email us: [nimbingardens@gmail.com](mailto:nimbingardens@gmail.com)

Our August visit will be to the property of Janna and Gerard at 336 Mountain Top Road, Georgica, on Saturday 20th August from 2 - 4pm. The property is approximately 12 kms from the Nimbin Post Office. Look for the garden club signs.

Visitors and new members are always welcome! We all bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share, and we

have a plant table that members bring cuttings/plants to, so that we can share with each other. If you enjoy a visit with us, you are welcome to join the club. Membership is just \$15 and helps cover things like insurance etc.

Our Monthly raffles are always a big hit with useful prizes for in and around the garden. A major part of this fundraising goes back into the community. We have recently committed to donations to the Nimbin Preschool, and to Friends of the Koala. We also have a big Christmas raffle, so if a friend asks you to buy some tickets, your generosity will be welcomed and you may just win something wonderful.

Until next time, happy gardening!

Photo: Nick Terakes, our fundraising coordinator, presenting a donation to Jharal Roberts-Cook at Nimbin Community Preschool.



# Fit for Nimbin

by Sue Edmonds

Outdoor exercise equipment has been installed in many public parks over the last five years and it has proven to be very successful and popular. This free equipment enables users to exercise at their own individual level in a time, which suits them. It is designed to be robust and safe for all weather, and can be constructed in various configurations.

Kyogle has recently installed equipment designed specifically for people with a physical disability so it can be utilised by wheelchair and wheelie walker users. Now they are able to wheel right up to the equipment and exercise shoulders and arms, areas that are particularly vulnerable when one is confined to a wheelchair. Concrete paths have been laid for easy access. This particular set of exercise equipment is thought to be the first of its kind. Congratulations to the community groups who had the foresight for this project.

Iluka has a fantastic set of equipment down by the river. It was manufactured by the company 'Fit For Parks', and is well used by locals and holidaymakers.

The revamped park in South Lismore has equipment positioned along the walking track so any time of the day it's possible to walk and exercise, stretch and strengthen, increasing flexibility and stamina.

I've used free exercise equipment in a National Park on an island 15 minutes ferry ride from Dubrovnik, Croatia; in a pocket park in the old walled city in Istanbul, Turkey; along the walkway in Nightcliff, Darwin; and along the beachfront on the Gold Coast. Currently there's a set being installed in Dunoon.

Two applications have been made to Lismore City Council, with 10 letters of support from community groups for a modest set in Peace Park, Nimbin. Unfortunately Nimbin is not mentioned in the 10-year Community Strategic plan,



Sue Edmonds in Istanbul

other than the completed work on the old skate park area. The skate park and basketball ring caters for young people, most often male; but presently there's nothing for people with a few years under their belt.

It's time to update the LCC 10-year plan to include free recreational equipment for all ages and abilities. What a wonderful asset it would be for the community in our recreational area near the children's playground, the skate park and our beloved free community swimming pool.

## Real estate rentals and pensioners

by Robin Stein,  
Healer and homeopath

This is a topic close to my heart, since my partner and I know what it's like to be homeless, with no hope of ever renting a home. In the words of Pig Fat and Bum Nuts on Nimbin radio (Nim-FM) last Saturday morning, the real estate agents have definitely conspired against pensioners. People find themselves homeless for all kinds of reasons, such as not being able to find a job or being retrenched. In our case, we were unable to work for some time after my gorgeous 27-year old son disappeared without a trace. I was unable to get out of bed for many years.

Pensioners form the largest group in Australia. So what gives real estate agents the right to refuse to rent any property to a person or family simply because they are on a pension? A few years ago, I asked an agent for an application form so I could apply for a house that was \$200 per week. "Are you a pensioner?" the real estate woman asked. I told her I was, and she answered that all pensioner applications are thrown into the bin. I asked why, and she told me that pensioners don't fill their criteria.

"What is your criteria?" I asked. And she replied that their criteria was two people working six full days a week, each earning in excess of \$1200 per week. What? Surely if two people are working six days and earning \$2400 between them, they would not rent a house for \$200 per week.

What we were told on Nim-FM last Saturday is the absolute truth! The real estate agents are deliberately preventing the highest group

of Australians from ever having a home, and I have no idea how the Australian Government permits them to continue to discriminate against the largest group in Oz to such an extent. I totally believe that pensioners need to take out a class action against the Real Estate Association of Australia, for discrimination of the worst order against fellow Australians. Companies only seem to listen when they think they may lose money!

We camped for a while at Mount Burrell and discovered a family who were camping there as well. They had five children who were the most beautiful, well-behaved kids. Yet they had been "on the move," on a monthly basis for many years, and the children were successfully prevented from going to school. The family constantly needed to set up and break camp because campgrounds will not permit pensioners to camp for longer than four weeks at a time. How completely exhausting and soul destroying!

We really need an immediate change. Ordinarily, if children fail to attend school, the authorities would step in. Yet no authority is intervening at all here, which makes me think the conspiracy is even wider than the real estate agents!

The comment was made on Nim-FM last Saturday that they would not advise anybody to damage property, but if somebody had the urge to urinate on the window of a real estate office, they would consider this action to be relatively fair... I wonder how many pensioners would also approve of such an extreme action? Does one extreme action deserve another? I'll let our readers decide.

robinstein@gmail.com

Abbie Cardwell  
Allison Forbes  
Benjamin Bunting  
Ben Wilson  
Buddy Knox  
Caitlin Harnett  
Chris Cavill & The Prospectors  
Cliff Fletcher  
Col Finley  
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# From the mayor's desk



**lismore**  
city council

by Cr Jenny Dowell  
Lismore City Council

## Council meeting

For the August meeting, two Councillors were absent. The most significant decision of the night was a 5/4 vote to restore the Lismore Lake Pool as a free pool with no lifesaver supervision. This vote was against the staff advice.

The new Council will receive a report on plans for the work at the Lake pool that will be funded by adjusting the budget rather than loan borrowings. There may well be moves to reduce council expenditure in other areas to fund the works.

The Councillor who moved this motion has made no secret of his wish to sack Council's ecologists, stop our sustainability initiatives, reduce council's community services team and privatise some Council facilities.

The Nimbin pool is a similar configuration to the Lake pool but is in better condition and as it is the only pool in the village, I would hope that a future council invests in keeping it open.

## Edible streetscapes

At the July meeting, Cr Vanessa Ekins successfully proposed that the Council hold a workshop on the Edible Streetscapes policy and plan that had been developed by the Sustainable Environment Advisory Panel. The workshop will be planned for the incoming Council.

## RDA

The Board of NR Regional Development Australia has asked all councils to put forward a list of projects for consideration for possible future funding. Lismore Council at its July meeting proposed five projects for which we can provide matching funds through other grants and partnerships. The projects are Albert Park baseball facility development, Lismore Park redevelopment, Oakes Oval expansion and Gordon Pavilion upgrade, the development of the Casino to Eltham Rail Trail and the duplication of the Bruxner Highway from the Pacific Highway to Lismore.

## Community grants

Each year Council calls for applications from community organisations for grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. This year we received 65 applications.

Councillors voted for their preferred projects and after the votes were collated, 26 organisations received funding totally \$85,329. Light'nUp, the organisation that brings us the Lantern Parade, received the largest amount of \$10,000 with the smallest grant of \$550 going to the Tregear Hall.

Seven of the recipients are from villages and 11 recipients service the whole of the Council area. One Nimbin recipient, the School of Arts, received \$4,415 for the Nimbin Youth Film Fest. Unfortunately the other application from the School of Arts for cooling for the hall (\$7000) was not successful. There was also the opportunity for three years funding and only one organisation was successful, Remembering and Healing, that organises multi-faith and multicultural peace gatherings predominantly around ANZAC Day will receive \$1,310 each year for three years.

All grants will be presented in Local Government week on August 3 at Council.

## Parking at Lismore Base Hospital

At the July Council meeting there was an unsuccessful attempt to quarantine some of the funds generated from paid parking around the hospital to subsidise some users. The motion did not address the key issue of inequity in parking fees paid by hospital staff.

Council and community have found it challenging to manage parking around the hospital for many years especially as the hospital expands. Any other new or expanding business must provide onsite parking for staff and users of the business or pay significant contributions to council to provide them. Unfortunately health is exempt, and neither does it make any contribution to council for the provision of infrastructure such as parking, contributions to roads, water or sewer services. All these have to be absorbed by council and our ratepayers.

We are fortunate that lobbying by council secured the multilevel carpark. We clearly need stage 2 to be built too.

Part of the agreement with health was for council to match the part subsidised \$7 (now \$5) day rate in the multilevel carpark. This has provided about 90 carparks in Dalziell Street.

Car parking that is close to the hospital and time limited with or without costs is provided for visitors and patients not for staff. There are no time restrictions or payment required on street after 6pm.

Council is not in control of how the hospital allocated highly subsidised spaces in the multilevel carpark. I think it was inequitable but that's not something that council can influence. Neither can council influence how the hospital

manages its own on-site parking.

Council will review its on street parking strategy within 12 months. That review will involve hospital staff and management, residents and visitors to the hospital and precinct.

## Joint Regional Planning Panel

On July 21, the Joint Regional Planning Panel met to determine the Development Application for the new Lismore Regional Gallery. I usually sit on the JRPP but as I have been closely involved in the fundraising, lobbying and planning for the gallery, I am too close to the project and therefore I declared an interest and stepped aside. I'm delighted to say that the DA was approved. The final step will be the 2 August meeting when the construction tender is expected to be awarded.

## Cubes development

The Development Application for Cubes on Cullen Street has been approved by the General Manager under delegation. The amended proposal with one less building than had been re-exhibited attracted 27 additional submissions. The DA as approved requires additional fence treatments, tree protection and artwork on the parapet of the administration building.

## Launch BMS

On 29 July Council will launch the Biodiversity Management Strategy that builds on our successful Rural Landholder Initiatives to invest in the improvements of our natural environment and its ecosystems. By partnering with willing rural landholders, we know that small monetary expenditure on labour or materials can be multiplies in its effectiveness. The Special Rate Variation that is paid by all ratepayers except our city businesses will raise \$500,000 each year to support the BMS.

## Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

I was delighted to be able to attend the Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary fundraiser 'Fashion in the Country' at Goolmangar Hall on 16 July. The company, food and fashion was wonderful, and it lovely to meet 101-year old Jean Stephens and many women who worked at the hospital in the 1950s and the decades following. Thank you for the invitation, Marceliena and Maureen. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend the Auxiliary's Annual General Meeting but was pleased that Cr Isaac Smith was able to represent me.

## August meetings

Council will hold three meetings in August. There will be an additional meeting on 2 August to consider the tender for the construction of the new Lismore Regional Gallery and the tender for the supply of solar photovoltaic systems for five council buildings and for a floating system for the East Lismore sewerage treatment plant.

The regular meeting on 9 August will be the last general meeting of this Council.

The caretaker period for Council starts on 13 August so after that date there are no briefings, interviews or meetings of regular council business.

On 23 August the Council will meet to present the required End of Term report that provides a summary of the four years of this Council. No other business will be on the agenda.

## Blue Moon Cabaret

I'm looking forward to joining friends at the 20 August Blue Moon Cabaret.

# Record high temperatures and the Lismore Lake pool

You may have noticed that the weather has been most unusual this year. We have had the occasional cold spell, but overall it has been remarkably warm.

On a global scale, we are heading into the 15th consecutive month of record high temperatures. In Kuwait this week the temperature of 53.9 degrees C was officially recorded. It may well be the hottest temperature recorded under normal conditions. I guess even hardened climate sceptics must be beginning to wilt under this reality.

Mind you, having a look at the US Republican Party's environment policy was very sobering. Not only does the party deny that human caused climate change exists, but it also states that "anyone concerned about the environment is an extremist."

So I've been branded an extremist yet again, but from



## Simon Says

Cr Simon Clough,  
Lismore City Council

the US Republican Party that's hardly surprising. Oh, I should add, these people also reject the theory of evolution.

On the Council front, Councillor Greg Bennett (Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party and climate change sceptic) has launched into his campaign for re-election with an

attempt to restore the Lismore Lake pool. Hard to oppose a free pool that has so many happy memories for Lismore people. Yet I am opposed. I do wonder if Councillor Bennett has had a close look at the pool infrastructure and the toilets etc? They are in an appalling state.

The Lake pool will cost \$787,000 to restore without lifeguards or \$956,000 with lifeguards. Running costs without lifeguards would be \$80,740 and \$206,120 with lifeguards.

When Councillor Bennett was asked how he intended Council to pay for this unplanned expenditure he replied that he would seek to abolish the Community Services and Environmental sections of Council as well as to not proceed with the new art gallery. I think it's important to look at the implications of these

proposals for a moment.

Firstly, of course Council would lose very experienced and highly valued staff. Closing Community Services would destroy Council's partnering program which has seen major benefits in terms of Council partnering with business, government departments and not for profits.

It would mean the loss of all the community consultative groups such as the Nimbin Advisory Group. Council's grants to community organisations totalling nearly \$100,000 would be hard to maintain. Loss of the Environment Section would close the Biodiversity Management Strategy, the Koala Plan of Management and the Rural Landholder Initiative.

Council's Renewable Energy Master Plan would also be lost, destroying any hope of being dependent

on renewables by 2023.

Losing the proposed new art gallery would be a huge disappointment, sentencing the existing staff to totally inadequate accommodation, not to mention putting Council's collection of over 1,000 paintings at risk.

Council would also forfeit almost \$3.5 million in grants and donations and the overall cultural plan for the site promises a vibrant cultural heart for our city.

The other main reason why I'm opposed to the reopening of the Lake pool is because I'm concerned about the future of the Nimbin pool. The Nimbin pool is the same construction as the lake pool and will need major work or replacement in the foreseeable future.

Put simply, Lismore Council does not have the funds for two free outdoor pools. It would seem grossly unfair if Council were to

spend nearly \$1 million on a pool where the community already has access to two Council pools, while a community that has only one pool would lose out altogether.

I believe the solution to this dilemma is for Council to put as much energy and resources as possible into the Lismore Park plan. This is the proposal for a regional recreational park on the land between Brewster, Dawson, Magellan and Uralba streets. Such a park could attract significant grant funding and could include a major water park, walking/cycling tracks, a playground, café and natural amphitheatre.

A water park would be free, safe, enjoyable and this park would also be easily accessible by public transport and would complement the new gallery and city centre and the CBD and Lismore Square.

## \$25 million jobs package for the North Coast

During the election campaign, I announced a \$25 million jobs package for the North Coast.

This follows the work of the Job Strategy Group I set up about two years ago with representatives from all of our local councils, including Lismore's general manager Gary Murphy, and local businesses.

The idea of the group is to attract city-based businesses to our community, which are looking to relocate or expand, and help local businesses to expand so they can create more local jobs for local people.

Thanks to the work of the Jobs Strategy group we already have a number of companies who are interested in moving here and bringing jobs to our community.



Kevin Hogan MP  
Member for Page

Our local North Coast Primary Health Network has been selected as one of four lead sites across Australia to implement a new \$192 million mental health programme.

This is exactly what I have been advocating for in our community.

Under this new program, the North Coast PHN will

receive millions of dollars in additional resources to develop localised methods to address mental health issues.

These local programmes across the North Coast will focus on community education, better integrating local services, and most importantly, ensuring better post-discharge follow up.

I congratulate the State Government for applying for a licence to grow cannabis for medical research trials.

As readers would know, I recently supported the passing of legislation in Federal Parliament to make cultivation of medicinal cannabis legal.

The NSW Government is currently running clinical trials for severe childhood epilepsy, terminal illnesses and chemotherapy-induced nausea.

## Community Voice conducts Tweed issues survey

by Scott Sledge

The dust has only just settled on the Federal election and now the local council elections are looming on 10th September. This might seem a small thing, but when something directly affects your backyard, your community or your local services, you will need good representatives in council.

Council is the level of government where many decisions affect our lives most directly. All too often, councils become dominated by the vested interests of business and property development with serious consequences to the homes and lives of ordinary people. Some candidates' campaigns are richly funded by people or corporations which expect to get privileged treatment in exchange. At election time you will be asked to choose between competing interests. Right now there is a community group with a survey asking 'What is important to you?'

In the next four years, Tweed Shire Council will make important decisions such as whether to support building a high school in the Pottsville area. Do we build more dams or conserve water resources... and our forests? How will we fund hospitals and health services? How would changes to the airport at Coolangatta affect the nearby neighbourhoods? Do we want to abandon building height restrictions to allow Gold Coast style development? Can we get a UN

Heritage listed biosphere conservation zone to promote nature-based tourism? What can we do to help the homeless? And of course, how can we get better roads and transport while preserving threatened species?

Some of these issues are decided mostly by State and Federal governments, but our local government can advocate for us to achieve better services and a higher level of resident satisfaction all around. What we need is a team of progressive councillors who will put aside personal differences to work for the benefit of all Shire residents, not just the wealthy.

Community Voice is an open and diverse network of concerned residents working for better political outcomes, and has represented common aspirations for the Tweed since 2009. We are currently running a survey asking people of the Tweed to say what are their current concerns. We intend to collate the responses.

We will then ask candidates to address residents' main issues, and also how they are connected to the community they hope to represent. From this information we will recommend candidates we think will be most responsive and accountable to community wishes.

Community Voice wants more input on current issues and invites all residents to visit Community Voice/Tweed Council Election 2016 on Facebook to download the survey.

## County Council mergers

A by-product of the Baird government's amalgamation agenda occurred in our region last month with the merger of Rous Water, Richmond River County Council and North Coast County Council, otherwise known as Far North Coast Weeds (FNCW).

A look back on eight years as a FNCW councillor shows up some big changes over the journey and highlights an important community resource that must not be lost in the new merged entity.

FNCW is still the regional local control authority for noxious weeds as it was when I began, however the work practices and culture of the council have transformed from an inspection-driven organisation to one that takes a more strategic approach.

Today the regional landscape comes before the local



Byron Views  
Cr Basil Cameron  
Byron Shire Council

paddock. Containing new and emerging weeds that impact on our ecology is a higher priority than weeds that are already widespread.

Education and support for land managers has proved to be as effective or better than a reliance on inspection. Technology has allowed field crews to produce and use information rich GIS mapping.

A modest budget has been

effectively doubled in most years through successful targeting of grant funding, while a shared administration with Rous has allowed for most of this to be returned directly to service delivery.

The regional footprint has allowed for highly effective co-ordination and great outcomes for our environment.

Under the new merged Council, the weed control function will no longer benefit from independent management. It is vital that the expertise and industry leadership developed over a long time is not diminished by competing priorities for action and funding.

Future delegate councillors to the new body need to keep the health of our ecosystem in front of mind to ensure we give native vegetation a fair chance and support our growing local food production.

# Guy seeks a sustainable future

by Guy Stewart

I've decided, with a bit of encouragement, to enter the world of local politics.

One of the main reasons is the retirement of our fabulous mayor Jenny Dowell. Her incredible dedication to active participation in community events and social networks in Nimbin is legendary.

Secondly is the encouragement I have received from Diana Roberts, who represented Nimbin on Council for 12 years, Simon Clough, retiring councillor of 8 years, Scott Sledge from the Nimbin Environment Centre and many others. They have all emphasised to me the importance for the village to have a representative who both lives and works in town to stand up for the spirit and values of Nimbin at the local government level. They have also all expressed their confidence that I am up to the job. This is reassuring considering the four-year commitment to a life in the public eye.

There are some pretty significant changes coming for Nimbin in the years ahead. A firm, clear, calm voice on Lismore Council will



help the kind of development we want to see.

I have been active for over five years now in the grass roots organisations that I see contribute to the colour and life of the village. I work at Rainbow Power Company, Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre and Djanbung Gardens.

I'm also active in groups such as the Blue Knob and Nimbin Farmers Markets, Nimbin Food Co-op, Northern Rivers Hemp Association, Sustainability Alley at the Show, the Sustainable Nimbin Community Planning Process, 7 Sibley St and most recently elected Chair of the Board at Rainbow Power.

I hope these experiences and networks have given me enough perspective

on the ambitious and slightly daunting goal of representing the aspirations of our amazingly diverse community.

I will be running as the number 2 candidate on the Our Sustainable Future party ticket with Elly Bird, Regional Co-ordinator for Gasfield Free Northern Rivers. This means if you want to give me a chance on 10th September you will need to vote below the line: Guy Stewart 1, Elly Bird 2 and so on.

We will have how-to-vote cards around Nimbin shortly that make this clear.

There are 10 council positions and well over 30 nominees. I need enough primary votes to stay in the game until the preferences get distributed to have a chance at being elected.

I'll need help to get the word out, so if you can contribute time, money or other resources please let me know. If you would like me to speak to a group or have a network you think might be interested please get in touch. Other creative ideas also welcome.

Best to email: [guy@wholistic.com.au](mailto:guy@wholistic.com.au) or leave a message on 0432-655-314.

## Strong and progressive council important for Lismore's future

The Northern Rivers Greens are pleased to announce their candidates for the Lismore City Council elections. Council elections are set for 10th September, and with a strong ticket, the Greens have a good chance of increasing representation on council.

The following Lismore City Council ticket was endorsed at the Greens' branch meeting: 1. Vanessa Ekins, 2. Adam Guise, 3. Desley Banks, 4. Heather Dunn, 5. Shae Salmon, 6. Trevor Achfeld.

Current councillor, Vanessa Ekins heads the Greens ticket, and will run for mayor. She said, "Lismore needs a strong and progressive new council to continue the good work of the last few years.

"Importantly, Greens councillors will implement the Biodiversity Management Strategy which provides much needed funds and expertise to landholders and creates habitat corridors in urban and rural areas.

"Another important project Greens councillors will progress is groundwater studies of our region's future water supply. Bringing small water sources on line when needed instead of constructing a \$120 million dam at Dunoon is our community's preferred option.

"With 12 years' experience as a councillor, I have a thorough understanding of local issues and a passionate commitment to see these projects completed in order to help Lismore transition to sustainability," concluded Ms Ekins.

Adam Guise said, "I'm proud to stand for Lismore City Council and to have the opportunity to represent our diverse community.

"My involvement in the Gasfield Free Northern Rivers campaign and my



Adam Guise and Vanessa Ekins

advocacy as a candidate at the 2015 State Election demonstrates my commitment to stand up for our community.

"With the undemocratic forced amalgamations of councils elsewhere in the state, it's important that Lismore City Council keeps its powerful voice as demonstrated throughout the Gasfield Free campaign.

"With the retirement of Jenny and other councillors at this election, it's essential that the council remains progressive and continues the good work currently underway," concluded Mr Guise.

Running third on the ticket is local school-teacher and former federal election candidate Desley Banks. Fourth on the ticket is midwife, nurse, rural landholder, wildlife carer and mother of four, Heather Dunn. Fifth on the ticket is university academic Shae Salmon, and sixth on the ticket is small business operator Trevor Achfeld.

For comment: Vanessa Ekins 0417-245-50  
Adam Guise 0497-851-305



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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

[www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)



## Vale Lesly Howard

The NNIC team was very sad to learn of the sudden passing of our longest serving staff member, Lesly, in July. Lesly has been a community worker at NNIC for 18 years, and in that time has assisted countless people through times of hardship. Our sympathies and condolences go out to her family and friends. RIP Lesly, you will be missed.



Guy Stewart gives a talk at the solar info session

## Life beyond the feed in tariff – fact checker & updates

Thanks to the 100 + people who came along on Sunday 24th July to find out about your options, and we hope you feel more informed as a result. Some updates...

**Smart meter signal strength**  
There was info given on the day regarding the strength of the smart meter signals. It has been pointed out to us that the information given is not supported by the research undertaken in Victoria, which indicates that smart meters have a similar power output to mobile phones, only transmitting every four hours instead of every 30 seconds, and much further away from the human body. The radiation is less than that produced by many other household appliances and less than some current analogue meters. See: [www.smartmeters.vic.gov.au/about-smart-meters/reports-and-consultations/ami-meter-em-field-survey-report](http://www.smartmeters.vic.gov.au/about-smart-meters/reports-and-consultations/ami-meter-em-field-survey-report)

Nonetheless, we understand that people have concerns about any radiation and the aggregated effect of more and more devices coming on line.

**Gross meter re-wires**  
Since the 24th July, we have been able to confirm that the rewiring of existing meters to make them into (non-smart) net meters will indeed be possible (for most meters) and Essential Energy will be releasing information about this soon. As soon as we have this to hand we will let you know.

**Alternative Technology Report**  
A handout has been provided from the Report on 'Life After FiTs' by the Alternative Technology Association, commissioned by the Total Environment Centre. The full report is available on the Solar Citizens website plus a one-minute video: [www.solarcitizens.org.au/life\\_after\\_fits](http://www.solarcitizens.org.au/life_after_fits)

There will be a roadshow coming around the region in relation to the findings of this report very soon. Watch the usual places for updates.

## Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

New members welcome to help us implement a variety of harm minimisation strategies arising from the findings of the survey we did last year. The next meeting is at 1pm on 11th August at NNIC.

## Lismore City Council elections

Many thanks to the outgoing Councillors for all their hard work during their terms of office. A special thanks to mayor Jenny Dowell, whose commitment and ability to get to multiple events and activities across the whole of the LGA in a single day has amazed us all.

Remember to vote in the upcoming Council elections. There is an opportunity this year to vote for a local Nimbinite, which would help ensure that our community has a voice on Council to represent us.

## Sustainable House Day Expo 2016

The Expo will be held at Mullumbimby on Saturday 17th September, and this year there will be the chance to "Speed Date a Designer". All the Design competition entries will be on display, plus loads of info on sustainable housing technologies. Not to be missed. Details are available on the website: [www.sustainablehousedaynr.org](http://www.sustainablehousedaynr.org)

## Sibley Street fundraiser

Preloved Art Auction Saturday 15th October. Save the date! Come along to turn pre-loved art into re-loved art.

## Nimbin Country Show 24th & 25th September

**Sustainability Alley**  
This year featuring DIY living skills. If you have skills to share which involve making stuff, (e.g. tool skills, weaving, electronics, anything!) please contact us on: [show@nnic.org.au](mailto:show@nnic.org.au) Updates, including the program for Sustainability Alley, will be posted on the Nimbin Show and Sustainability Alley facebook page, the NNIC website and facebook page, and around the village.

## Best Shop Display competition


We can't wait to see what our local main street businesses come up with this year for the 2016 Show-Themed Shop Display competition. Displays must be up by at least two weeks before the Show, for judging. Be in the running to take out the coveted Perpetual Pumpkin trophy!

Last year's winner was the Tourist Information Centre with its diaramas.

## Local Film Bytes Short Film Competition

Films must be local (i.e. shot within a 30kms radius around the village), max of 10 minutes long and have a sustainability theme. Prizes and accolades on offer. Entry forms available on our website.

*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. For appointments call 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.*



**NIMBIN NUMBERS**

- Book-keeping – Mobile service avail.
- Tax Preparation
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged BAS Agent: 98777003
- Tax returns lodged for Centrelink recipients

**Phone Jayne 0457-497-011**  
Email: [jayne@nimbintax.com.au](mailto:jayne@nimbintax.com.au)

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# Nimbin Hospital Information



## Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held on the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic 9th August. For appointments, phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

## 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 19th August. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6688-2401 to make an appointment.

## Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm. Phone 6689-1288. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home and co-ordination of aged care packages.

## Wound clinic

New service run by community nurses every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Referrals from Nimbin Hospital, GPs, self-referral. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288.

## Nurse practitioner clinics

- Diabetes clinic: 3rd Thursday of the month, next is 19th August
- Respiratory clinic: 2nd Tuesday of the month, next is 9th August. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

## Free health checks

In front of the Neighbourhood Centre every second Friday, 11.30am – 1.30pm. Cardiac, diabetic and stroke risk assessments, run by a Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse. Smoking cessation advice and assistance. Weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, cholesterol levels. Referrals to appropriate health professional, if required.

## Cannabis clinic

Every Monday. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

## Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

## Nimbin NSP

Open Monday to Thursday, 9.30am-12pm. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Health Nurse.

## Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. It's a 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to the emergency department at your MPS.

## Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next is 8th August.





### Chamber Chat by Teresa Biscoe, President

The Chamber is arranging a Meet the Candidates forum at 6.30pm on 7th September at the Nimbin Hall, and hope to have all the candidates for the next Lismore Council Election available to meet the Nimbin Community.

This meeting will be open to the whole community and will provide a wonderful opportunity to meet all the candidates, 11 of whom will represent you for the next four years and one of whom will be elected Mayor.

For 12 years we have not had a Nimbin voice on Council. The Chamber would love to see this reversed, particularly as Jenny Dowell and Simon Clough, regular contributors to the *Nimbin*

# Meet the candidates for Lismore council

*GoodTimes*, are not standing next election. Come and meet the people who will possibly represent us at a time of significant change for our village.

The Nimbin Chamber has had a very busy month. We are starting our street beautification project, beginning with the planter boxes. Jane Mari has plants that she can put into available planters, but first we are working on getting individual businesses to take on caring for each one of the planters so that they can be maintained.

We have decided to pursue our concerns with council regarding the proposed proliferation of mobile phone towers around our town. As a community and a region, we should not be afraid of taking a stand and seeking viable and reliable alternatives to this technology, like fibre optic cable etc. We are supposed to be alternative, sustainable and

environmental, after all.

In the wake of the recent police raids in Nimbin, the Chamber has decided to formally protest the manner in which the events were reported in the media, that not only made presumptions of guilt and criminality which have not as yet been established, but have also misrepresented and misrepresented our whole community in the process. We are also greatly disturbed by reports of excessive force being used with not only the targets of the action but also bystanders at the event.

These matters will be raised with the media and with the police at the Nimbin Police Community Consultation Meeting in August.

Kylie from the Green Bank provided an example of a Recycled Shopping bag from Yamba at the last meeting. Local businesses in Yamba sponsor the bag, which is

used throughout the town. The bag is printed with the names of all the local supporting businesses and promotes not only a clean green image for the community but also continues to advertise local businesses wherever the bags are taken.

The Chamber will follow up the on-going cost for such a project, as we would love to support more sustainable packaging that promotes the green image of our town and local businesses. Interested businesses should let the Chamber know if they want to be part of such a project.

We are disappointed that the NCC was unsuccessful in getting funding for the awning lighting project via the Safer Streets Funding program. However, NCC received valuable feedback from the grant review committee and the Chamber will continue to pursue this project and develop alternative funding strategies as this is a worthy

project to be facilitated by the Chamber.

Council has opened applications for Heritage Assistance Grants – applications will close on 2nd September. We encourage local businesses and community groups who are looking to restore or replace ageing murals to consider applying, as they can provide up to \$2000 in matched funding for such projects, and have in the past.

The Chamber has some limited funds that could be accessed on application to the Chamber, and is looking at ways to raise more funds to help maintain the iconic and beautiful murals that are part of our unique streetscape.

Our next Chamber Meeting in will be held at the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesday 17th August at 5.30pm, and all Chamber members are welcome to attend.

## Save our building's rainbow colours

Bottlebrush Studio, part of Nimbin Community Centre, is easy to find, given its unique and glorious rainbow colours that reflect the diverse and vibrant history of this well-worn building.

The iconic colours are much loved amongst locals and frequently photographed by visitors. But the paint is peeling and a make-over is required. To keep the rainbow colours, the local community needs to raise \$1000 in the next few months to cover the added cost of coloured paint. Without these extra funds, NCCI will paint the building white.

Home to Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS), for the last six years, this heritage building has provided a welcoming and comfortable meeting space. All local elders, carers, homeless people and people with a disability can come together and enjoy sharing company and food, use free computers, have a cuppa and access other activities, services and opportunities.

Please support the Save the Rainbow Colours fund raising effort. Look out for the Rainbow Raffle in the coming weeks and you can make a direct donation at Summerland Credit Union to



NACRS social group inspecting the peeling paint on their building

Nimbin Health & Welfare, BSB 728-728, A/c 22205588 Please put 'Rainbow' and your name in the reference to help with bookkeeping.

If we exceed our target, any additional money raised will go towards a much needed veranda extension on Bottlebrush Studio.

NACRS is a not-for-profit service auspiced by Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc

### August activities at NACRS

For all elders and carers in our local communities.

• **Nimbin Social Groups:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9.30am-1pm at Bottlebrush Studio, with morning tea and light lunch, small fee.

• **The Channon Social Group:** Thursday 18th August, 11.30am-

2pm, lunch at The Channon Tavern all welcome, phone for info.

• **Koonorigan Social Group:** Monday 22nd August, 11.30am-3pm, Bring a Plate Lunch, Koonorigan Hall, all welcome.

• **Bus Outing:** Tuesday 9th August, morning tea Phoenix Rising Café, lunch Riverview Pub, Mur'bah.

• **Home visits** for company or a break, phone to find out more.

• **Drop-In** at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, Monday-Friday 10am-2pm, for a cuppa, a chat, internet, computer, a quiet sit down.

• **Free Device-Advice Seniors Sessions:** need help setting up or using your phone or tablet? Ring Jenny to book a free tutorial. Phone 6689-1709, visit: [www.nacrs.com](http://www.nacrs.com) or find us on Facebook.

## The most neglected part of internet marketing

by Russell Lean

I have been guilty of it too in the past. Neglecting the most powerful, misunderstood and potentially bottom line changing strategy in the whole internet marketing arsenal. I don't do that anymore.

Imagine being able to tap into a resource online that guarantees immediate direct traffic to your website. That traffic bypasses all the other ways business owners use to get visitors to their website, including search engines (Google, Yahoo and Bing), Social Media marketing and online advertising.

Imagine a stream of visitors to your website, five times more likely to buy from you. A strategy that is 20% more effective than ANY Social Media campaign. A strategy that top internet marketing businesses say is the core of their profitability. A strategy the same marketers say is the most effective tactic for customer awareness, acquisition, conversion, and retention. A strategy that Google says if you invest a dollar in it will return \$44. A strategy that can be used by online businesses and town storefront businesses alike.

The strategy is Email Marketing. Your business may have a database of previous buyers. This database probably came via online sales, over the counter sales and responses to advertising. The problem is that businesses archive this information as a Customer Relationship Management tool, yet never market back to that database of customers. These people are by definition – your customers. Online statistics attest to the 5X principal that these people have already spent money with your business, and are five times more likely to spend again with you than try elsewhere. However, there is one condition to this. You MUST put your business in their face again. As outlined above, there are many online ways to do this including your website, social media, Google ads etc., and other offline ways including newspaper and magazine advertising, radio sponsorships and ads etc. The most effective way is email campaigns to that customer list.

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There are some great free email software platforms on the internet. The one we prefer is Mail Chimp. The Chimp is free for your first 2000 email recipients and you can send 12,000 emails a month. Not that I would email a list six times a month though. There are small charges if you have a bigger list. All you need to do is put the first name and email address of your list members into a spreadsheet and upload to Mail Chimp and the software will eradicate duplicates and order the list perfectly. You can build great, branded campaigns and then schedule them to be sent at the most appropriate time for your industry.

After millions and millions of campaigns that are all tracked, The Chimp can tell you when most recipients in your niche are likely to open the email, and so the best time of the day/week to send the campaign. The Campaign Reporting feature tells you how many people opened, how many clicked to the links on your site from the email, how many sales and all other important information you need to assess the success of the campaign. It is a smart and effective way to get an additional stream of qualified traffic to your website/facebook page/ online store elsewhere. There is also an unsubscribe button in every email so people can opt out of your list.

We have run many successful email marketing campaigns using Mail Chimp for our clients. It is part of the service we offer. You can do it yourself easily, as Mail Chimp have great learning resources. However, if you want to get started and need help – we are really good at it. Call Russell on 0468-382-600 or email us at: [web2trafficstrategies@gmail.com](mailto:web2trafficstrategies@gmail.com)

## Hospitals REACH out to assist patients

by Noelle Lynden-Way  
BUNK Community Representative

Have you ever wondered how our local hospitals in Kyogle, Nimbin and Urbenville maintain their standards of quality and safety for patients?

The answer is that they have to implement and continually improve systems developed to meet the 10 National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards.

These Standards are part of a National Accreditation scheme for Hospitals and Day Procedure Services introduced across Australia in January 2013. You can read more about this on the website: [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au)

The State Health Departments introduce programs to meet the 10 Standards. NSW Health has initiated a Partnering With Patients Program with a new system known as REACH to enable a patient, family or carer to escalate concerns about the condition of themselves or their loved one while they are in hospital. REACH was developed to meet part of Standard 9: 'Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration in Acute Health Care'.

The strength in this program is that it acknowledges that patients, family and carers can recognise other

signs of deterioration before they are clinically evident and that may not have been recognized by the medical staff on duty.

Patients, family and carers are encouraged to talk to the nurse if they are concerned "something is not right". If they continue to be worried they can then request a clinical review by calling the nurse in charge of the Emergency Department (the phone number is supplied on a brochure available at each of the hospitals).

The person simply says that they wish to implement the REACH procedure and immediately there will be an emergency response by the staff.

REACH stands for Recognise, Engage, Act, Call, Help is on its way.

A Director of Nursing gave this feedback from the REACH Pilot:

"There was a lot of apprehension to start with by all the staff, but now it's just part of normal business. All calls were genuine and for us we felt that REACH has provided another safety net for the patient.

"Everyone was apprehensive at the start – that we would get lots of nuisance calls – and in reality that hasn't happened. We have had exactly what the literature said, and that's been really good."



## 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.

### Hemp health claims

Well it's clear we won't need Medicare now as I've just read the list of illnesses etc which marijuana will cure (NGT July, p.13). And that's not even a full list!

Not only will Medicare be a thing of the past, we won't need psychologists, doctors, hospitals, even friends etc. We should all live in joy and love to be at least 150 years old.

David Ashton  
Mullumbimby

### Look what they've done

I can see clearly now the Rainbow's gone. The cops are the only obstacles in our way. Gone are the Laneway Boys that kept our town safe. There's gonna be some sad... sad, miserable days.

You would think you might find an Oasis at the end of the Rainbow, you might find yourself living in another part of the world, and you may ask yourself, "How did I get here? This is not my beautiful world."

Am I living in a coal mine going down down? I want to see the boys light up and some dancing in the street. There's a kind of hush all over the world. People from every nation and every generation want to be released. And everyone who wants to free the world wants to free the weed.

It's a beautiful world we live in, a sweet romantic place. I've been everywhere man and there's still no place like home. Nimbin. Bring the boys back home. Same as it ever was. To the green green grass of home. The age of Aquarius, harmony and understanding. This is the real thing.

Live and love life.

Ant  
Nimbin

### Four Corners revelations

During the *Four Corners* exposé of treatment of juvenile offenders in the Northern Territory, I found myself unable to breathe as I watched what many people know has been going on for over two hundred years in Australia.

It is called genocide, and those torturers, along with those who authorised and

legitimised such degenerate behaviour, should be brought to justice for their crimes against humanity.

This nauseating intentional policy of cruel abuse of Aboriginal children is clear proof that sadly when you scratch the surface of dear little Oz you will find a racist, fascist police state.

We are told that Australians should be proud of being a tolerant society, and it is true; most people for too long have tolerated this brutal and brutalising behaviour by the authorities towards Aboriginal people without complaint.

It's a sorry situation, so let's get rid of those sick, brutalised enforcers who clamour for 'tough love', and replace them with people who know how to behave with respect and simply use gentle love towards children.

David Huggett  
Nimbin

### More telco towers

As many in our local community have repeatedly warned, numerous telecommunications companies intend there to be a massive proliferation of telecommunications towers in the Nimbin valley. Many residents who naively supported the already erected and operational NBN tower did so under the mistaken belief that there would be no further proliferation of towers in our valley. This belief was perhaps well founded, given Lismore Council's publicly stated preference for 'co-location' of new equipment upon existing towers in order to prevent the proliferation of many towers.

However, despite Lismore Council's stated preference for co-location, they then approved a subsequent facility at Falls Road, the soon to be erected Telstra tower. Now residents in the Falls Road/High Street area and surrounds have been approached by yet another Telco. Optus now wishes to erect an entirely new tower. I myself have been petitioned by Optus (written correspondence 20th April 2016) inviting me to grant them a 20-year lease of my land to instal mobile telephone antennas and an associated equipment shelter.

Whilst I would never agree to any such offer, other land-holders in the area support the spread of this technology, and are likely to respond favourably to the Optus' offer. This is disingenuous of these land-holders, and will ultimately cost them, in economic and health terms, way more than they ever earn from the lease agreement.

Even the World Health organisation has now reclassified electro-magnetic radiation from telecommunications devices



and facilities as a probable carcinogen. A massive spike in the numbers of blood and brain cancers in children is now being witnessed worldwide.

As the technology becomes ever stronger (we are now up to a '4G' network), health consequences are only becoming more pronounced. Nimbin is far from the progressive beacon of responsible social justice activism that its image suggests, with many other communities Australia-wide demonstrating far more responsibility, awareness and activism in resisting the proliferation of this toxic technology.

Rob Lonetree  
Nimbin

### The great lies of war

Probably everyone in the Lismore electorate has received a glossy pamphlet from Thomas George MP about the 50th anniversary of the Long Tan battle... I felt compelled to send this response to him:

I received your pamphlet regarding the 50th anniversary of the Long Tan battle and I felt that I should send a response to you. There have been so many terrible war anniversaries lately: One hundred years since the Somme on 1 July (50,000 British casualties in one day), Fromelles on 19th July (5,553 Australian casualties in one night), then Pozieres shortly after with 11,000 Australian casualties.

There has been considerable media, many stories, interviews and memorials, but it is just so loaded to the service, the sacrifice and honouring the dead, and rarely is there a mention of the terrible culpability, the monstrous genocidal criminality, negligence and

stupidity of the political and military leaders.

The Somme was a disaster, the plan for Fromelles had previously been rejected as impossible, and the Australian soldiers marched out across open fields into machine guns and artillery... madness... yet we honour the dead and continue to perpetuate the myth and the pride of serving in the military, which continues to hide the glaring truth of the hopeless politics of war.

And the truth is terrible and getting worse: civilian deaths in World War 1 were 10%, in World War 2 it was 50%, in Vietnam 70%, in Iraq 90%... these are monstrous figures. In recent history for 13 years, Australian soldiers fought and died in the Uruzgan province in Afghanistan, since they withdrew in 2013 the region has fallen back into the hands of the Taliban... more wasted lives in the ongoing chaos that Australia has assisted in creating in the tragedies of Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, etc.

I lost a close family friend in Vietnam, a conscript, Peter Murray... another disaster, and once again we will honour the dead of the Vietnam conflict on 18th August, and there will be no truth hammered home about the politics and leadership and alliance that saw millions killed and then the Communist north marched into Saigon in 1975 anyway; and now all my friends go there for holidays.

There is quote from a digger in your Long Tan pamphlet which, in most cases, is the great lie of war, that "men and women, in all wars and conflicts, have fought and died for the freedom we have today".

David Hallett  
Nimbin

### Apathy v global warming

How much devastation do we need to witness before governments and the public take any notice?

We have our Great Barrier Reef being ravaged by warming oceans and now we have discovered a 700 kilometre stretch of totally dead mangroves on a remote stretch of coastline between NT and Queensland. The reason for this sudden loss, which only took one month to occur, is being blamed on global warming.

Up in the Gulf, the wet season has been very short-lived this year and instead of three to four months of rain, the area only received one month of rain, making the water too salty and so the mangroves died! Mangroves are breeding grounds for so much marine life and protect our coastline from savage storms. This is another example of how precarious our environment is becoming and how rapidly it can be destroyed.

State governments are putting in place protesting laws because we are reaching a tipping point, where soon those who weren't paying attention will realise that it's too late!

Rupert Murdoch has just bought every newspaper in the Northern Rivers, so now you can all be kept in the dark.

We are on the road to hell unfortunately and there is no return. I tried to do a petition about our new protesting laws and I discovered that apathy is just as big a problem as global warming!

My god, NRG is fighting a battle to save the last pocket of Koalas in Pottsville! Apparently a men's shed is more important than our highly endangered iconic Australian marsupial. How do you fight that kind of ignorance? All I know is I'm not winning, and I don't think anyone else is either!

Bernadine Schwartz  
Blue Knob  
• Edited for length

### Boarding school trauma

Nick Duffel, author of *Wounded Leaders*, speaking on ABC RN *Late Night Live*, provided a light bulb moment. Boarding school trauma creates dysfunctional boys and future problems. Elite UK schools have traditions of producing politically aggressive leaders with impaired capacity for compassion. Graduates also populate the leadership of law, religion, military, finance and business.

Old boy elites lead capitalist-political duopolies in many countries today. Similar hard-nosed men rise to the top of corporations. They hardly register emotion

## About us

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**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
Wednesday 24th August

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

## Rest in peace Lesly Howard, social worker

Lesly Howard passed away peacefully on 20th July at St. George Hospital, Sydney, aged 72 years. She was surrounded by her children and grandchildren to the end.

Loving mother of Keiran, Shelly and Colin, loved sister of Rayner and Laurie and beloved daughter of Don and Lorna Waites. Grandmother of Aleesha, Lilly and Nylah and

mother-in-law of Jodie.

She touched the lives of many people in her extended family and the Tunttable Falls and wider Nimbin community.

Relatives, extended family and friends attended a celebration of her life at Lismore Memorial Gardens on Friday 29th July, which was followed by a well-attended wake at the Nimbin Bowling Club.



Lesly in 1971 with partner Jacko Kevans and baby son Keiran.

at the growing demise of the weak who perish at the hands of competition.

Men serving in uniform must put aside compassion to wage war, to arrest, imprison children and refugees, or enforce unethical laws. Colonial traditions persisted, rarely noticed till now, in Australian prisons and refugee camps.

The globe lashes out at economic exploitation, prejudice and injustice under damaged leaderships. A clue to flawed thinking is the notion that there's not enough to go round. This somehow justifies that there must be winners and losers. It ain't necessarily so! Scarcity is the result of economic/financial numerical constructs. Only those willing to entertain this idea, will start to see the possibilities. That willingness will come more easily with a raised level of emotional intelligence. That means utilising love and affection to correct the generational problems of child raising.

Are there any signs of transition from patriarchy to

male/female balance? I think so. The number of female leaders is increasing globally. The progress of compassion for minorities from Hitler to Merkel is phenomenal. There have been no wars between European nations for 70 years.

Gradual acceptance of feminism and sexual minorities also suggests that we are experiencing a gradual change of consciousness.

But patience. The Biblical admonition 'the sins (ie errors) of the fathers will be visited on the children for generations,' suggests our hope lies with youth. Young Israelis and Palestinians can't wait for the warmongering old guard to die off. Likewise in Iran, Syria or North Korea.

To improve the planet we need to address the patriarchal capitalist-political duopoly and global leadership. More women at the top will soften the patriarchy. The glass ceiling in business and government that prevents their rise, is the invisible patriarchal fear of emotion. The few who make

it are made to fit a harsh mould, rather than exhibit their naturally attractive compassion.

Children boarding in schools and gaols are certainly quickly damaged, and inevitably produce another generation of inadequately loved children, to perpetuate the damage. They simply must be found loving homes urgently.

Hayo van der Woude  
Mullumbimby  
• Edited for length

### Tweed needs Katie

The Tweed Shire Council election is just around the corner (September 10), which means the opportunity to elect even more 'progressive' councillors is critical.

I am a mature voter from Murwillumbah who, along with thousands of others in the Tweed, supports our mayor Katie Milne and the unique Greens principles which only enhance and protect the future of the Tweed region, its people and the environment.

Katie Milne has a proven track record in Council over

eight years of introducing many strategies to protect us from the Gold Coast-style over-development, sell-offs to the big developers who feed the conservative side of Council and Katie's unrepentant approach to protect and promote local industries, eco-tourism and our ever-decreasing natural environment.

In this age of excessive climate heating, deforestation, pollution and loss of species bio-diversity, the good news is that if we all take action locally, we can make a very significant difference to our situation. First we must elect people who will make positive change to protect all that is important in our lives. To continue doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results is a fanciful notion.

I for one will be supporting Katie Milne and any other progressive thinker in Council, as it is time for action and protection of our wondrous Tweed Shire.

Andrew Bennett  
Murwillumbah

## 'Miracle' elixir inventor harrassed

'The elixir of life', that's what I call it. 'Hope' is another name I know it by, mainly because when all else fails, my simple formula of paw paw leaves and aloe vera gel is working wonders across the east coast of Australia.

I have your paper and the *Tweed Daily News* as well as the *Northern Star* to thank for the publicity but especially your *Nimbin GoodTimes* article (Jan 2015, p.11) that I cut out and sent all around our great country. Another person I should mention is Fiona Wiley, ABC presenter, who gave my simple formula a boost on drive-time radio.

Among the usual calls, I received two calls from Sydney stating it has cured melanoma. The tumor had shrunk to the size of a pea. I also got good news about curing bowel cancer, but it has to be caught early. In the Philippines, I kept a man alive for 10 months when he was told by doctors he had only a matter of weeks. Also over there, a chemist friend cured multiple cases of dengue fever.

When I heard that, I contacted Doctors Without Borders thinking if it worked on dengue fever it might work on ebola and zika, also malaria, that take millions of lives each year. These are all mosquito-borne viruses like dengue fever and for

the future of the human race should be investigated.

I would also like to thank the guy from Brisbane who kindly gave me about 100 plastic bottles and lids. He explained that his diseased liver was completely healed and giving me the bottles was his way of saying thanks, as I wasn't accepting money. It's worth noting that quite a lot of people have grouped together and are taking my mixture on a regular basis to ward off illness. This is a good idea, as I have read that one in three will get some sort of disease in their lifetime.

On one hand, I'm rapt to have been chosen as the messenger and the fame that has gone with that, but I could have done without the attention of a lowlife group of people that include a Tweed police officer and a mental case who believes his life mission is to break into my house, steal and destroy my goods, damage my cars and drain my water tanks. Having this police officer in their position means that this mental case can get away with it - for instance the week before Easter my house was broken into at 3am on a Thursday night and he jabbed me in the jaw with a syringe full of an unknown substance and put me in

intensive care for a week. The doctors told me I could have died.

Another time my house was broken into three times in four weeks and when I complained to the police, this police officer showed up at my residence with two civilians from the Tweed Valley mental home. She had me committed and it took me three weeks to convince them there was nothing wrong with me.

I have written to our local MP, the Minister for Police, Police Integrity Unit and the Ombudsman, all to no avail. My friends can't believe what is being allowed to happen to me. It just amazes me what a rogue police officer can do to an innocent member of the public and not be questioned. To show the contempt these people have for the law, I tried to take out an AVO against this man. He sent his older brother to the hearing in his place.

Currently I am doing trials for people with diabetes, motor neurone, leukemia and hernias to name a few. I need a dozen people of each who have been diagnosed and would like to participate. I have cured some of these before, but the results were not recorded. Please contact me on 07 5590-7497.

Brian O'Toole  
Murwillumbah

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